obtained when the precipitates from any trichloroacetic acid concentration were treated once with dioxane prior to extraction with the other lipid solvents. RNA recoveries are also inferior when mixed solvents are used directly on the acid precipitates, except with acetone-ether (2:3) which gives almost 100% recovery of RNA from precipitates obtained with trichloroacetic acid of more than 5% concentration.

Precipitates obtained by treating cytoplasmic fraction at 0 °C with cold 2.5–5% trichloroacetic acid, are finer in texture forming rather loose and voluminous sediments apparently containing much acid. Appreciable portions of these precipitates readily go into solution in ethanol, acetone or even water. On the other hand, the precipitates obtained at higher acid concentrations (15–20%) are extensively aggregated forming rather hard pellets on centrifugation. These pellets contain much less water and are fairly insoluble in the lipid solvents or water. Therefore, in addition to the loss, into the lipid solvents, of that fraction of RNA associated with the lipoprotein complex[4,5], greater losses of RNA due to solubilization of nucleoprotein itself could also occur if low concentrations of acid were used for precipitation (low concentrations of acids are usually preferable for precipitation in order to avoid the risk of hydrolysis of RNA by high acid concentrations[3]).

Since solubilities of proteins in organic solvents depend on the dielectric constants produced in the medium[7], the choice of the first solvent for treatment of the acid precipitated proteins should be such as to produce low dielectric constant when added to the nucleoprotein precipitates containing appreciable amounts of acid. Dioxane is very soluble in water and produces much lower dielectric constant than acetone or ethanol. Moreover, its interaction with water causes extensive dehydration of the protein and denaturation of the lipoprotein complexes resulting in a quantitative precipitation of the nucleoprotein. Thus the loss of RNA into the lipid solvents could be completely abolished by treating the dilute acid precipitated samples once with dioxane prior to extraction with the other lipid solvents.

Résumé. La perte de RNA dans les solvants tels que l'éthanol et l'acétone, au cours de la délipidation des nucléoprotéines précipitées par l'acide, peut être évitée en traitant le précipité (obtenu à une concentration quelconque d'acide trichloracétique) par le dioxane avant d'extraire avec les autres solvants délipidants usuels.

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[7] A. A. GREEN and W. L. HUGHES, *Methods in Enzymology* (Academic Press, New York 1955), vol. 1, p. 67.

CONGRESSUS

Czechoslovakia

Symposium on Experimental Gerontology

in Prague, November 29–December 1, 1967

The European Section of Experimental Gerontology, the Czech. Medical Association J. E. Purkyně and the Physiological Institute of the Czech. Academy of Sciences in Prague are organizing a Symposium with the following topics: Aging of macromolecules, subcellular structure and cells, collagen structure, aging of different tissues and organs, effect of aging on different regulation mechanisms in organs and systems with regard to their metabolic functions, adipose tissue and lipid metabolism in aging.

Further information and preliminary registration by MUDr, Eva Stuchlíková, IVth Medical Clinic, Charles University Hospital, U nemonice 2, Praha 2 (Czechoslovakia).

CORRIGENDUM

L. MUSAJO, P. VISENTINI, F. BACCICHETTI and M. A. RAZZI: *Photoinactivation of Ehrlich Ascites Tumor Cells in vitro Obtained with Skin-Photosensitizing Furocoumarins*, Experientia 23, fasc. 5, p. 335 (1966). On page 336 the name of the third author reads as follows: F. BACCICHETTI.