

gauche est féminisé, au moins en partie; groupe 6: embryons femelles où les 2 canaux de Müller manquent en tout ou en partie.

Seuls les embryons des groupes 5 et 6 peuvent être considérés comme intersexués (Figure 2). La présence de tronçons müllériens chez un hôte mâle, si elle n'est liée à la féminisation, au moins partielle, du testicule gauche, n'est pas un caractère intersexuel, l'absence du canal de Müller du seul côté opéré, chez un hôte femelle, non plus^{1,3}.

A l'intérieur de ces 6 groupes, selon l'espèce du transplant, selon qu'il a été retrouvé ou non ou selon son sexe, les hôtes se répartissaient comme l'indique le Tableau II.

On voit que les 37 hôtes intersexués étaient tous porteurs d'un transplant, sauf 4 – les intersexués mâles porteurs d'un transplant ovarien, excepté 3, les intersexués femelles porteurs d'un transplant testiculaire, excepté 1. En ce qui concerne ces 4 hôtes intersexués sans transplant, nous savons, grâce aux transplants correspondants retrouvés, que 2 d'entre eux, les 2 mâles, avaient reçu un transplant ovarien. Nous pouvons donc penser – et notre expérience antérieure^{1,3,4}, ainsi que celle de WOLFF⁵, nous y encourage – qu'un transplant ovarien était présent chez le troisième hôte mâle intersexué et un transplant testiculaire chez l'hôte femelle intersexué, même si nous n'avons pas su les découvrir. Il nous faut encore signaler que les transplants retrouvés chez les hôtes intersexués n'appartenaient pas tous à la catégorie de ceux qui étaient parfaitement sains.

Conclusion et discussion. Nous établissons donc qu'un transplant testiculaire d'embryon de Perdrix ou de Pintade masculinise l'embryon de Poulet femelle et qu'un transplant ovarien d'embryon de Perdrix, Caille ou Pintade féminise l'embryon de Poulet mâle. Nous démontrons ainsi l'activité hormonale des gonades embryonnaires des 2 sexes de Perdrix et de Pintade et de l'ovaire embryonnaire de Caille. Les hormones sexuelles embryonnaires des 4 espèces de Phasianidés étudiées, Poule, Perdrix, Caille et Pintade, étant douées d'activité inter-

spécifique, on peut penser qu'elles sont chimiquement identiques. Grâce à l'extrême sensibilité des méthodes radiochromatographiques⁶⁻⁸, le problème pourra être abordé expérimentalement. Signalons, pour terminer, que l'activité hormonale de l'ovaire embryonnaire de Caille avait déjà été démontrée par HAFFEN⁹, grâce à la culture in vitro.

Summary. When indifferent gonads from red-legged partridges, Japanese quail or pintado embryos were transplanted into the coelomic cavity of early chick embryos, they differentiated into ovaries and testes, regardless of the sex of the host. Testicular transplants brought about the retrogression of both Müllerian ducts in female hosts, and ovarian transplants the feminization of the left testis in male hosts. This demonstrates hormonal activity of the embryonic gonads in the 3 species under study. Since the embryonic sex hormones show inter-specific activity, they may be of identical chemical nature.

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⁸ Avec la collaboration technique de A. ZEIS.

Mouse Hemoglobin: Chain Composition Multiple Electrophoretic Bands

The generally available inbred strains of mice are divisible into 2 groups, depending upon whether their hemoglobin exhibits a single or a multiple banded electrophoretic pattern^{1,2}. Previous investigations have confirmed that the difference between these groups is determined by a single genetic locus, designated the Hb locus³. The 2 different genes at this locus are known as 'single' and 'diffuse'¹. The hemolyzate prepared from mice homozygous for 'diffuse' has been variously reported as containing from 2 to 5 or 6 different hemoglobins⁴⁻⁹. The interest inherent in the situation where an apparently individual genetic locus is capable of controlling simultaneously several different hemoglobins prompted this investigation of the 'diffuse' hemoglobin pattern.

DBA/1J and C57BL/6J mice were used as the source of 'diffuse' and 'single' hemoglobin specimens respectively. Hemolyzates were prepared within 24 h of the time of blood letting and stored at 4°C for periods up to 2 weeks. Immediately prior to electrophoresis (either in starch block or starch gel), the hemolyzate was converted to the cyanmethemoglobin form.

Electrophoresis of the whole hemolyzate from DBA/1J in starch gel (Tris-EDTA-Borate buffer, pH 8.9¹⁰) demonstrated the presence of 4 bands, of which the slowest was unusually broad, as if composed of several overlapping zones (Figure 1, pattern 4). These 4 bands will be referred to here as A, B, C and D, in order of decreasing anodal mobility. When dithiothreitol (DTT),

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a potent reducing agent, was added to the hemolyzates, band D disappeared and band A decreased in relative intensity (Figure 1, pattern 5). This behavior of band D is consistent with that reported by others; band D presumably results from the polymerization (dimerization?) of hemoglobin molecules through the formation of disulfide bonds¹¹. The persistence of 3 definite bands in the presence of reducing agent suggested that there might be 3 genetically different hemoglobins in these animals, despite the identification of only 2 components after resin column chromatography⁸.

The three-banded pattern noted in starch gel (Figure 1, pattern 5) could be reproduced by starch block electrophoresis¹² using *Tris*-EDTA-Borate buffer¹⁰ to which DTT was added (10 mg/l). The 3 bands were individually eluted and concentrated by pressure dialysis at 4°C¹³. After repeat starch block electrophoresis of the isolated fractions, components of high purity were obtained, as judged by starch gel electrophoresis. No interconversion of components A, B, and C during the second electrophoretic run was detected, contrary to the findings of a previous report¹⁴.

The purified components were next examined by urea-starch gel electrophoresis¹⁵ using the *Tris*-EDTA-Borate buffer. The hemoglobins were converted to globin by precipitation with zinc acetate (final concentration of Zn^{++} was 20 mM/l) followed by extraction of the heme (and zinc) from the precipitate with acid-acetone. Com-

ponents A, B, and C each showed the presence of 2 major bands, presumably corresponding to α and β chains. The α chain bands were of identical mobility in all 3 components.

The β chain of each component was isolated by chromatography of the globin on carboxymethylcellulose at pH 6.8, using a linear gradient of sodium phosphate (0.003–0.035 M) in 8 M urea containing DTT (100 mg/l)¹⁶. The urea was removed from the effluent fractions by passage through a column of Sephadex G-25 and the isolated chain was recovered by lyophilization. The isolated β chain of component A had the same mobility in urea-starch gel as that of B (Figure 2). The similarity of the β chains of components A and B was further tested by examination of the peptides obtained by cleaving the chains at the methionyl residues with cyanogen bromide¹⁷. The peptides were precipitated by the addition of acid-acetone. The precipitate was dissolved in 8 M urea containing β -mercaptoethanol (2%, v/v) and subjected to

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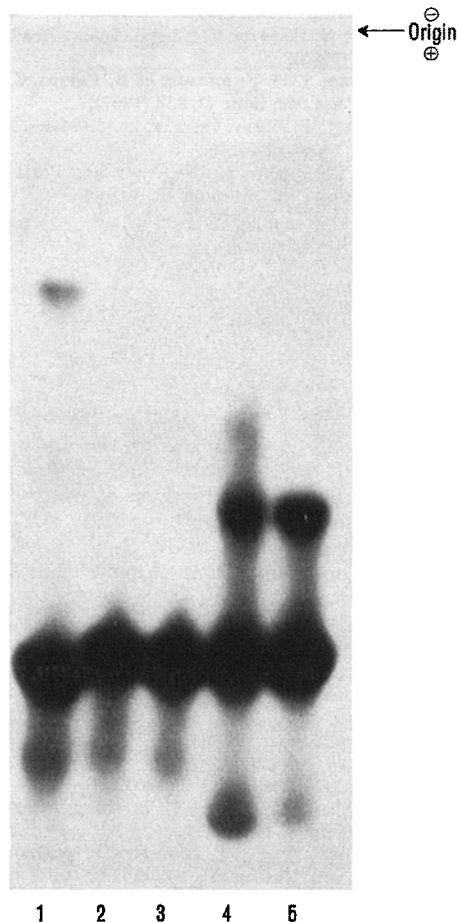


Fig. 1. Electrophoretic pattern in starch gel at pH 8.9 of whole hemolyzates (1) human, (2) C57BL/6J, (3) C57BL/6J, with added dithiothreitol, (4) DBA/1J and (5) DBA/1J, with added dithiothreitol.

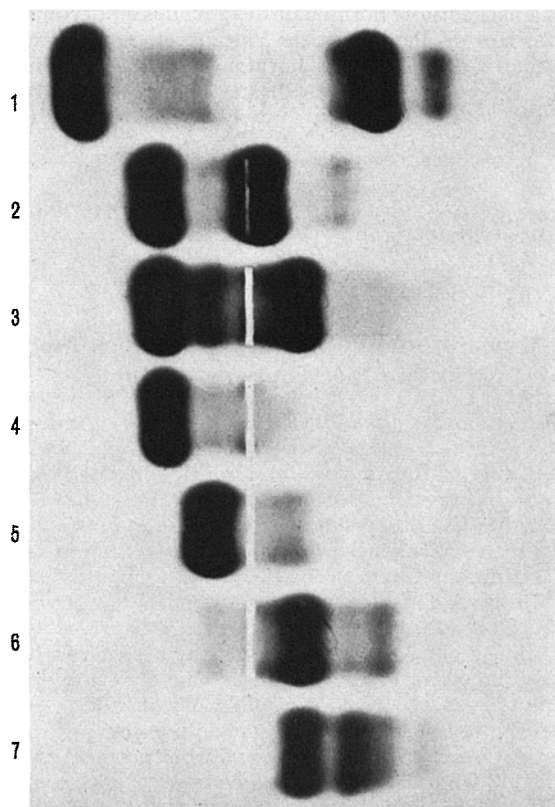


Fig. 2. Electrophoresis in urea-starch gel of globins. (1) Whole human, (2) whole C57BL/6J, (3) whole DBA/1J, (4) isolated α chain, DBA/1J, (5) isolated β chain from band C, DBA/1J, (6) isolated β chain from band B, DBA/1J and (7) isolated β chain from band A, DBA/1J.

