

ACTIVITY OF SARCOPLASMIC RETICULUM OF FAST AND SLOW RABBIT SKELETAL MUSCLES

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SUMMARY

The sarcoplasmic reticulum vesicles were isolated from the three metabolic types of muscles from rabbit. The yield of sarcoplasmic reticulum from both types of fast-twitch muscles (the psoas major and the gastrocnemius medialis) was almost three times as high as from slow twitch red muscles (the semi membranous proprius). Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis profiles of sarcoplasmic reticulum from fast and slow muscles showed a significant difference in the protein pattern. The calcium dependent ATPase activity and calcium uptake capacity of the fast twitch white muscle (the psoas major) were higher than in fast twitch red muscle (the gastrocnemius medialis). Such kinetic measurement could not be carried out in slow twitch red muscle because of their relatively low calcium content in sarcoplasmic reticulum.

INTRODUCTION

Significant difference has been demonstrated to exist between the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) of fast and slow twitch mammalian skeletal muscle. Morphometric studies revealed a two to three fold higher volume fraction of sarcoplasmic reticulum in fast than in slow twitch fibers (TOMANEK, 1976). In accordance with this, biochemical studies demonstrated that yield of vesicular protein state and capacity of Ca^{2+} transport, Ca^{2+} dependent ATPase activity are considerably lower in sarcoplasmic reticulum from slow twitch muscle (HEILMANN et al., 1981 ; ABDUL WAHAB, 1988). The present study was undertaken to examine some properties of rabbit fast twitch SR and compared with the beef slow muscles SR, in view of the importance of the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) and Ca^{2+} in the transformation of muscle to meat.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

New Zealand breed rabbits were used in this study, sampling of muscles began immediately after death from the psoas major as fast-twitch white muscle, the gastrocnemius medialis as fast-twitch red muscle, and the semi membranous proprius as slow twitch red muscle. Muscles studied were chosen according to available information on metabolic characteristics (ABDUL WAHAB, 1984). The sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) vesicles from the three muscles were prepared according to the method described by LEE et al. (1979). However, modification in the process of homogenization was made in this study. The medium contained 20 mM Hepes, pH 4, 15 mM EGTA, 5 mM $MgCl_2$ and 1% bovine serum albumin.

Protein content was determined according to LOWRY et al. (1951). Using bovine serum albumin as standard. The Ca^{2+} dependent ATPase activity was determined according to the technique described by HEILMANN et al. (1977), modified ATPase activity was measured in the presence of 5 mM sodium azide as inhibitors of mitochondrial ATPase. The Ca^{2+} uptake of SR and the Ca^{2+} accumulation capacity of SR were determined by the method of MARTONOSI and FEROTOS (1964) modified by KIM et al. (1981). The reaction was started by addition of the SR suspension and stopped by filtration reaction medium on 0.22 mm pore size Millipore filter at selected time intervals.

Radioactivity of the filters was measured in a scintillation counter Beckman LS 9300. ^{45}Ca utilized from Radio Chemical Center Amersham England, specific activity 10-40 mCi/mg calcium. SR proteins were analysed by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (HEILMANN (1970)). The same method was used to examine the purity of SR preparation by comparing the mitochondrial proteins with SR proteins.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The method utilised in this study for isolating the SR facilitated a good quantity of SR (Table 1). No contamination was observed with mitochondrial proteins (Figure 1).

TABLE 1
Yield of SR from rabbit muscles

SR Yield	PS	GM	SM
	0,301	0,238	0,094
	± 0,070	± 0,031	± 0,020

Results expressed as mean ± standard error. Yield was expressed as mg protein per g fresh muscle.

The yield of SR from both types of fast-twitch muscles was almost three folds that from slow twitch red muscles HEILMANN et al., 1981 ; ABDUL WAHAB, 1989). Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis profiles (Figure 2) of SR from fast and slow muscles showed a significant difference in the protein pattern between the fast and slow muscle vesicles concern not only the presence of additional proteins but also relative amounts.

Figure 2 (A) presents the profile of the SR from semi membranous proprius (SM) as slow red muscle. Five major proteins bands were distinguishable (80, 57, 55, 47, 19 kd) and sixteen minors bands in particular, the bands (100, 63, 44, 12 kd). (B) profile presents the SR from gastrocnemius medialis (GM) and (C) profile presents the SR from semi membranous proprius (SM). Three major bands were distinguishable, the first one was more than 100 kd, the other were 100 and 63 kd. As well as 15 minor bands (57, 55, 47, 44, 25 and 12 kd). The major band of 100 kd represent the Ca²⁺ dependent ATPase of SR (SARZALA et al., 1981) while the 63 kd band probably represent the calsequestrin (ZUBRZYCKA-CAARN et al., 1982). The minor band of 55 kd represent probably the polypeptide namely M55 observed by MICHALAK et al. (1980) and IKEMOTO (1982).

The Ca²⁺ dependent ATPase activity (Table 2) of fast-twitch white muscles PS were higher than of fast-twitch red muscles GM. The present results agree with those of NEWBOLD and TUME (1981) and ABDUL WAHAB (1989).

Table 3 represents Ca²⁺ accumulation and Ca²⁺ uptake of PS and GM muscle. The initial rate of Ca²⁺ uptake of SR from fast white muscle (PS) measured in the presence or absence of oxalate was always higher than that found under similar conditions in fast red muscle (GM). The total Ca²⁺ accumulation capacity was also higher in the former muscles than in GM muscles, in accordance with KIM et al. (1981) and NEWBOLD and TUME (1981). The PS represent an accumulation capacity equal to 23,325 mmole Ca²⁺/mg protein in 1 mM Ca²⁺ concentration but the GM represent only 15,75 mmole Ca²⁺/mg protein. This accumulation is 11,358 and 6,98 mmole Ca²⁺/mg protein respectively in 0,4 mM Ca²⁺ concentration.

TABLE 2
Ca²⁺ dependent ATPase activities of SR from rabbit muscles.

	PS	GM
Ca ²⁺ dependent ATPase	1,749 ± 0,48	0,416 ± 0,070
ATPase activities are expressed in μmoles Pi/mn/mg protein		
- PS Psoas major	- GM Gastrocnemius medialis	

TABLE 3
⁴⁵Ca²⁺ accumulation of SR from rabbit muscles

	PS	GM
Ca ²⁺ uptake kinetics		8,00 ± 0,54
Initial velocity - 10 mM oxalate	9,708 ± 0,404	0,616 ± 0,128
Initial velocity without oxalate	0,900 ± 0,008	3,864 ± 0,512
Initial velocity - 10 mM oxalate + EGTA	4,56 ± 0,32	15,75 ± 1,35
⁴⁵ Ca ²⁺ accumulation - ⁴⁵ Ca (1 mM)	23,325 ± 2,90	6,98 ± 1,67
capacity - ⁴⁵ Ca (0,4 mM)	11,358 ± 0,371	

Initial velocity was expressed as μmole Ca²⁺/mg protein/min ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ accumulation capacity was expressed as μmole Ca²⁺/mg protein. The free calcium concentration was calculated using an apparent binding constant of 1 mM EGTA.

CONCLUSION

The results of this experiment have shown that the yield of sarcoplasmic fast twitch muscles was almost three times as high as those from slow twitch red muscles. Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis profiles of sarcoplasmic reticulum from fast and slow muscles showed a significant difference in the protein pattern. The Ca²⁺ dependent ATPase activity, Ca²⁺ uptake and Ca²⁺ accumulation capacity of the fast twitch white muscles (PS) were higher than in the fast twitch red muscle (GM).

Such kinetic measurements could not be carried out in the slow twitch red muscles (SM) because of their relatively low content of sarcoplasmic reticulum.

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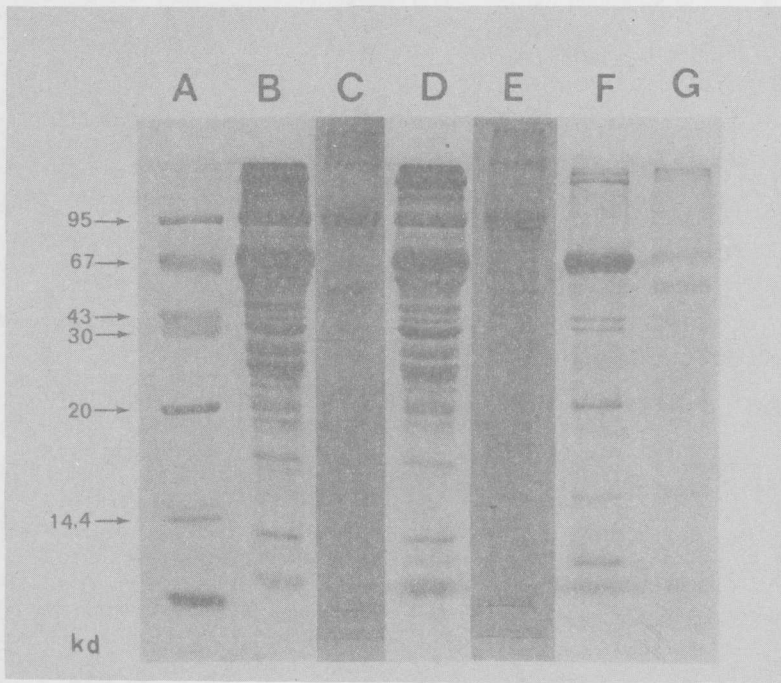


Figure 1: Polyacrylamide gel electrophoretic profiles of SR and mitochondrial proteins of rabbit muscles.

- A - Standard proteins : phosphorylase b (95 Kd), BSA (67 Kd), ovalbumine (43 Kd), carbonic anhydrase (30 Kd), soja trypsin inhibitor (20 Kd), α lactalbumin (14,4 Kd).
 B - Psoas major mitochondria
 C - Psoas major SR
 D - Gastrocnemius medialis mitochondria
 E - Gastrocnemius medialis SR
 F - Semi membranous proprius mitochondria
 G - Semi membranous proprius SR

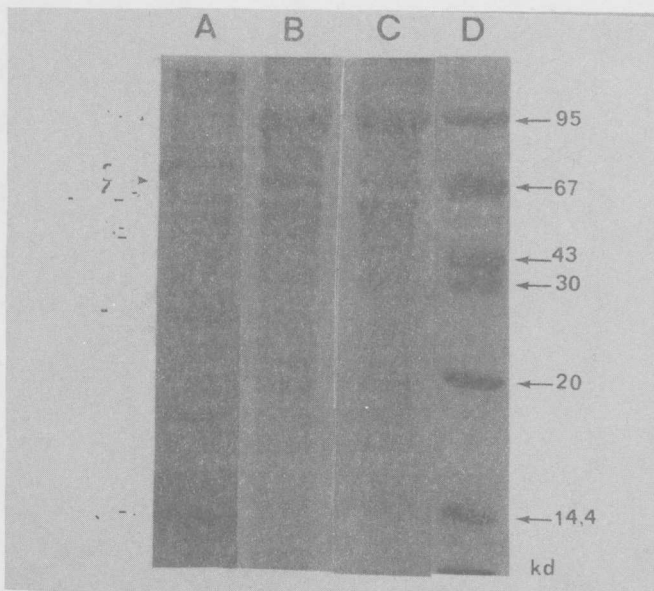


Figure 2: Polyacrylamide gel electrophoretic profiles of SR from rabbit muscles.

- A - Semi membranous proprius
 B - Gastrocnemius medialis
 C - Psoas major
 D - Standard proteins : as same as in Fig. 1-

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 - Ca^{2+} dependent ATPase | 5 - 47 Kd |
| 2 - Calsequestrin | 6 - 44 Kd |
| 3 - M55 - protein | 7 - 25 Kd |
| 4 - 57 Kd | 8 - 12 Kd |

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