

水母毒素蛋白凝聚现象的初步研究*

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提要 通过测定水母毒素的凝聚速度,来初步研究水母毒素蛋白的凝聚现象,这为水母毒素蛋白的提取利用及研究毒素蛋白的结构、稳定性、生物活性等提供重要参考依据。实验结果表明,在0.01mol/L, pH 6的磷酸缓冲溶液中,0.003mol/L的Vc、EDTA、苯甲酸均能降低水母毒素蛋白的凝聚速度;蔗糖对水母毒素的抗凝聚现象不明显。

关键词 水母,毒素蛋白,凝聚现象

中图分类号 Q518.4

水母(jellyfish)属于腔肠动物门,因其细胞开始分化出简单肌肉、神经组织和特有的刺细胞,故又称为刺胞动物(Cnidaria)。水母在我国分布广,种类多,从海南岛、广东、山东,一直到辽宁沿海均有分布,在我国海域,已记录的水母约有400种,占全球已记录种类的10%左右(洪惠馨,2002)。无论从分布,还是从种类,水母均可称为资源丰富的生物类群,但对水母资源的利用,现阶段只是经简单加工后,作为食品,附加值不高。特别是水母触手中的毒素物质,能使人的皮肤红肿、疼痛,甚至致人死亡,所以有必要对水母毒素进行研究,变害为利,使其像蛇毒、河豚毒素那样为人类的健康造福。

水母毒素是一类结构新颖、独特的蛋白,具有多种生物活性,包括溶血性、酶活性、神经毒性、皮肤坏死、肌肉毒性、肝脏毒性以及心脏毒性等(张奕强等,1999; Chung *et al.*, 2001; Gusman *et al.*, 1997)。但由于水母种类的差别,毒素的热不稳定性、蛋白自身的降解、蛋白之间的互相结合以及与介质之间的结合等使得水母毒素的研究受到限制(Radwan *et al.*, 2001; Torres *et al.*, 2001)。目前对水母毒素的研究进行的不多,且主要集中在结构鉴

定、生物学活性测定以及对人类蛰伤的治疗等方面,但对水母毒素完整的一级结构还未见报道,只有Nagai等(2000a, b)等报道过箱水母 *Carybdea rastoni* 和 *Carybdea alata* 的部分一级结构片断,生物学活性测定也仅处于动物试验阶段。对水母毒素蛋白凝聚现象的研究还未见报道,水母毒素蛋白的凝聚,会伴随分子和分子间二硫键的形成,而二硫键是维持毒素蛋白三维结构的作用力之一,所以水母毒素蛋白凝聚,会使之变性,失去部分生物学活性。因此,研究水母毒素的凝聚现象,是进一步研究利用水母毒素的前期、重要的基础性工作。本文中作者采用测定蛋白凝聚速度的方法,通过近1000h的连续观测,研究了不同的浸取剂对水母毒素蛋白凝聚现象的影响,探寻水母毒素稳定存在的最佳条件,对今后开展水母毒素蛋白的提取利用及研究毒素蛋白的结构、稳定性、生物活性等,提供重要参考依据。

1 实验材料

1.1 水母

水母(*Rhopilema esculentum* Kishinouye)于2001年9月采集于沙子口附近海域,扇形带刺丝囊的触手沿水母口腕人工切除后,立即于-20℃冷冻

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收稿日期: 2004-03-11, 收修改稿日期: 2004-09-18

保存备用。

1.2 主要试剂

以浓度为 0.01mol/L, pH6 的磷酸缓冲液作

对照, 11 种均为在上述磷酸缓冲液中, 加入了不同的物质, 所添加的物质及浓度见表 1, 所用的试剂均为分析纯。

表 1 不同浸取剂中所含物质的浓度

Tab.1 Concentrations of substances in different soaking solvents

物质 浓度 (mol/L)	维生素 C			乙二胺四乙酸二钠			苯甲酸		蔗糖		
	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.001	0.003	0.1	0.3	0.5

2 实验仪器及方法

2.1 仪器

超声波细胞粉碎机(JY92-II 上海新芝生物技术研究所), 高速冷冻离心机(GL-20B II 上海安亭科学仪器厂), 72S 分光光度计(上海精密科学仪器有限公司)。

2.2 水母毒素的制备

称取一定量冷冻的水母触手, 在冷冻状态下匀浆, 然后加入不同的浸取剂, 质量体积比为 1:2, 超声波破碎(4 次, 15s, 每次间隔 30s), 然后高速冷冻离心(13000r/min, 4℃, 20min), 所得到的上清液为粗毒, 残渣弃除。

2.3 粗毒中总蛋白的测定

以牛血清白蛋白(BSA)作标准, 用 Bradford (1976) 法测定, 得到水母毒素蛋白的初始浓度 C_0 (mg/ml), 即粗毒中蛋白的总浓度。

2.4 水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的测定

将上述不同的浸取剂提取得到的粗毒, 4℃下放置不同的时间, 使蛋白自然凝聚, 然后高速冷冻离心(16000r/min, 20min, 4℃), 用 Bradford 法, 以 BSA 为标准, 测定上清液在 595nm 处的吸光度, 根据朗伯比尔定律求得浓度 C_t (mg/ml), 然后根据公式: $V(\text{mg/ml} \cdot \text{h}) = (C_0 - C_t)/t$, 求出凝聚速度。公式中 C_0 (mg/ml) 为水母毒素蛋白的初始浓度, C_t (mg/ml) 为水母毒素放置一段时间后的浓度, t 为放置时间。

3 实验结果

3.1 Vc 对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

不同浓度的 Vc 对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响见图 1a。实验结果表明, 与对照相比, 浸取剂中 Vc 的浓度为 0.003mol/L 时, 水母毒素蛋白的凝聚速度较小。

3.2 乙二胺四乙酸二钠(EDTA)对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

不同浓度的 EDTA 对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响见图 1b。实验结果表明, 与对照相比, 浸取剂中含有 EDTA 时, 水母毒素蛋白的凝聚速度降低, EDTA 的浓度为 0.001mol/L、0.003mol/L 和 0.005mol/L 时, 效果相差不大。

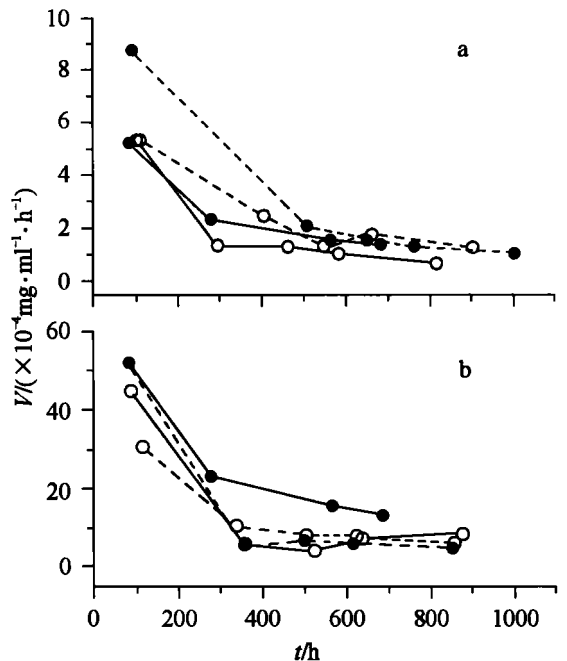


图 1 Vc 和 EDTA 对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

Fig.1 Effects of Vc and EDTA on agglomeration velocity of jellyfish venom

a. Vc; b. EDTA

—●—对照; ---●--- 0.001mol/L;

—○— 0.003mol/L; ---○--- 0.005mol/L

3.3 苯甲酸对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

苯甲酸对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响见图

2a, 因苯甲酸的溶解度较小, 所以实验中只选取了两个浓度 0.001mol/L 和 0.003mol/L。实验结果表明, 浸取剂中含有苯甲酸时, 凝聚速度降低。

3.4 蔗糖对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

不同浓度的蔗糖对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响见图 2b。实验结果表明, 与对照相比, 浸取剂中含有蔗糖时, 效果不明显。

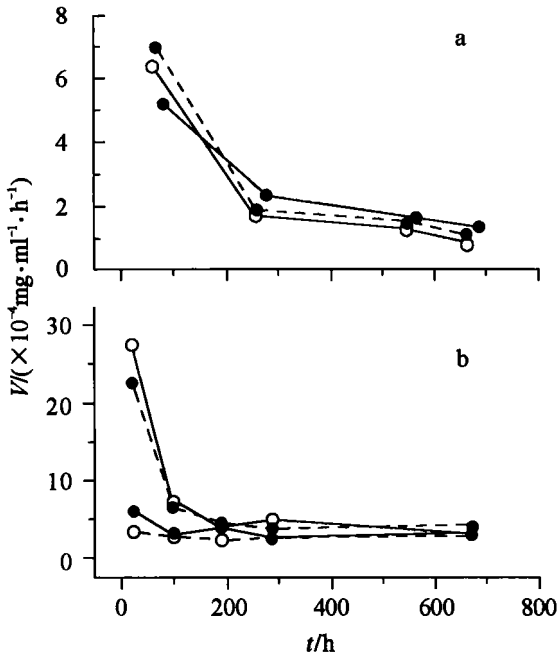


图2 苯甲酸和蔗糖对水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度的影响

Fig. 2 Effects of benzoic acid and sucrose on agglomeration

velocity of jellyfish venom

- a. 苯甲酸: —●—对照; --●-- 0.001mol/L;
—○— 0.003mol/L;
b. 蔗糖: —●—对照; --●-- 0.001mol/L;
—○— 0.3mol/L; --□-- 0.5mol/L

4 讨论

蛋白质的凝聚和沉淀现象, 往往是由于蛋白质肽链伸展而暴露出内部的巯基, 巯基之间生成二硫桥的缘故。此外, 蛋白之间形成的很稳定的链间非共价键也可以使蛋白凝聚或沉淀。0.003mol/L的Vc使毒素蛋白的凝聚速度降低, 可能是由于Vc中的 H^+ 使毒素蛋白中的 $-\text{SH}$ 处于还原状态, 阻止了 $-\text{S}-\text{S}-$ 的形成, 延缓了毒素蛋白的变性, 对于Vc与毒素蛋白的作用机理, 有待于进一步探讨。EDTA是一种被广泛应用的氨基酸螯合剂, 除碱金属离子外, 其余的金属离子大多数能与EDTA形成螯合物。水母触手中含有多种金

属离子, 如 Mg^{2+} 、 Ca^{2+} 和 Mn^{2+} 等, 而有些金属离子是金属蛋白酶活性的辅助因子。此外, Mg^{2+} 、 Ca^{2+} 能够降低蛋白构象的稳定性。EDTA可与金属蛋白酶所需的二价金属阳离子螯合, 封阻金属蛋白酶的活性, 同时提高蛋白质构象的稳定性, 防止蛋白变性。EDTA能使水母毒素蛋白的凝聚速度降低, 一方面是由于水母的触手中含有金属离子, 另一方面, 可能毒素蛋白中含有金属蛋白酶。三种浓度的EDTA在降低凝聚速度方面相差不大, 这很可能是蛋白溶液中金属离子浓度较低, 0.001mol/L的EDTA就足以使其完全螯合。苯甲酸具有消毒防腐和对抗真菌的作用, 苯甲酸使水母毒素蛋白凝聚速度降低, 主要是抑制细菌和真菌的生长, 延缓毒素蛋白的变性。蔗糖是一种共溶剂, 共溶剂的加入可以改变溶液的热力学性质, 在蛋白质表面完全水化和共溶剂完全结合之间建立一种平衡, 使得天然蛋白质的稳定性增强(冯小黎等, 2000), 但在降低蛋白质凝聚速度方面, 效果不明显。

5 结语

本文中作者采用测定凝聚速度的方法, 研究了水母毒素蛋白的凝聚现象。实验结果表明, 0.003mol/L的Vc、苯甲酸、EDTA对降低毒素蛋白的凝聚速度均有一定的作用, 从而在一定程度上阻止毒素蛋白的变性, 提高水母毒素蛋白的稳定性。对于水母毒素蛋白凝聚现象的研究, 从凝聚速度入手, 简便可行。而对其凝聚现象, 今后还应从机理方面作更进一步的研究, 为探讨水母毒素蛋白的变性机理, 建立测定水母毒素变性的简捷方法及对水母毒素蛋白的分离提纯, 结构鉴定, 生物活性测定及其应用打下基础。

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PRELIMINARY STUDY ON AGGLOMERATION OF JELLYFISH VENOM PROTEIN

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Abstract Jellyfish belongs to coelenterate and is also called Cnidaria whose cells have been differentiated into simple muscle, nerve tissue and unique nematocysts. Jellyfish widely distributes from the South China Sea, the Yellow Sea to the Bohai Sea. About 400 species of jellyfish have been recorded in China. Jellyfish is a rich source of marine biology in distribution and species. However, it has been used only as food after being simply processed. Jellyfish stings human body and releases venom, causing burning pain, erythematous eruptions and itching. Syndromes include fever, fatigue, muscle aches, tight breath, dropsy, blood pressure depression and even death. So, it is essential to study jellyfish venom to turn harmful venom into beneficial medicine for human health purpose, as scientist did for snake venom and balloonfish venom.

Jellyfish venom is a special type of protein; it has many bioactivities such as enzymatic activities, hemolysis, hepatocyte toxicity, myotoxicity, cardiac toxicity and neurotoxicity. However, further study on jellyfish venom has been complicated by many factors such as thermal instability, aggregation of heterogeneous proteins and peptides, the presence of protease during purification, and different species. Up to present, the study on jellyfish venom has been mainly focused on purification, structure characterization, bioactivity determination, and the cure of the sting to human being. The integrated primary structure of jellyfish venom protein (JVP) has not been reported so far, and regarding bioactivity assay is currently in animal experiment stage. Study on agglomeration of JVP has not been reported yet. During the venom agglomeration, disulfide bonds form between molecules. Because disulfide bond is one of the action forces that maintain the tertiary structure of JVP; the JVP would degenerate with protein agglomeration resulting in some bioactivities loss. In this paper, the effect of different solutions on the agglomeration of JVP was studied by measuring agglomeration velocity; and the optimal conditions for JVP stabilization was explored.

Jellyfish *Rhopilema esculentum* kishinouye used in the experiment were collected from a pier in Shazikou area, Qingdao City, Shandong Province, China, in September 2001. Tentacles were manually excised *in vivo*, and frozen immediately at -20°C . The frozen tentacles were homogenated and then sonicated in different cold (4°C) solutions for four times at 15s each at interval 30s. The resultant fluids were centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 20 min at 4°C ; and the supernatant was used as JVP solutions. The JVP solutions were deposited at 4°C for protein agglomerating. Then

centrifuged it at 16000 rpm for 20 min at 4 °C and determined the concentration of protein in the supernatant. Agglomeration velocity V ($\text{mg}/\text{ml}\cdot\text{h}$) = $(C_0 - C_t) / t$, C_0 : the JVP concentration at time zero, C_t : the JVP concentration at test time, t : deposition time.

The results show that agglomeration velocity of JVP was reduced in phosphate buffer solution (0.01 mol/L, pH 6) containing vitamin C (0.003 mol/L). Perhaps H^+ in Vc made-SH reductive in JVP and prohibited disulfide bond from forming, while the role of the Vc needs future in-depth study. EDTA in three concentrations (0.001 mol/L, 0.003 mol/L, 0.005 mol/L) can reduce the agglomeration velocity. It was due to two reasons. One was that EDTA chelated with metal ions such as Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Mn^{2+} , resulting in decrease in stabilization of the tertiary structure. The other is that the activity of JVP-bearing metalloprotease was inhibited due to EDTA chelating with metal ion that is essential for metalloprotease activity. No obvious difference in the effect among the treatments in three concentrations of EDTA. It is probably that the concentrations of metal ions in JVP were so low that 0.001 mol/L EDTA could chelate them completely. Benzoic acid could also reduce the agglomeration because it sterilized the JVP solution. However, sucrose is a co-solvent and can change the thermodynamic feature of a solution. A balance can be established when hydration of protein surface completes and combines the co-solvent entirely. The balance would stabilize the natural protein but for reducing protein agglomeration, the effect was weak.

Key words Agglomeration, Jellyfish, Venom protein