

With this approach, the presence in the cell nucleus of (+)PSTV monomers, which accumulate as end products of replication, and of oligomeric (-)PSTV intermediates was unequivocally established. In addition to these expected forms of PSTV we found two additional bands of (+)PSTV, which migrate more slowly than the (+)PSTV monomers. They correspond in size to molecules of two and three times viroid unit-length, and consist exclusively of RNA, because they are DNase-resistant and RNase-sensitive. Through analysis under fully denaturing conditions, it could be established that these molecules represent single-stranded oligomers of (+)PSTV, and not double-stranded complexes of different monomeric forms. Our results indicate that from the large (-)PSTV intermediates of PSTV replication (+)PSTV oligomers are transcribed, which could be the precursors of the covalently closed circular (+)PSTV monomers accumulating in infected cells.

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Ellen Spiesmacher, Hans-Peter Muhlbach, Martina Schnolzer and Heinz L. Sanger, Max-Planck-Institut fur Biochemie, Abteilung Viroidforschung, D-8033 Martinsried bei Munchen.

F. Spillecke, H. Schindler and E. Neumann

The Acetylcholine Receptor: Double-Channel, Noncovalent Interactions and a Possible Role for the δ - δ -Disulfide Bridge

Specific protein-protein interactions appear to be a special dynamic element in cell membrane functions. Ultracentrifugation and Sepharose-4B experiments revealed that isolated monomers of the acetylcholine receptor (AChR) of *Torpedo californica* electric tissue can associate to specific noncovalent dimers. Evidence is presented that the AChR has an inherent tendency to noncovalent association in artificial bilayers as well.

These and additional experiments demonstrate that the interactions between monomers in AChR dimers are not limited to the native covalent δ - δ -disulfide bridge. Planar bilayer studies of monomeric and dimeric AChR revealed characteristic differences between the two forms. The most important one is that dimers exhibit single channel conductance approximately double that of monomers. The investigation showed that the AChR dimer consists of a synchronized double channel and behaves like the receptor molecules in microsacs, which suggests that the dimer is the predominant form in vivo. Monomers, at sufficiently high lateral surface pressures, are able to associate to dimers and oligomers up to the size of decamers. The dimer associates behave similar to native dimers in planar bilayer experiments. Thus, noncovalent interactions mediate positive cooperativity and synchronization of double channels. The δ - δ -disulfide bridge is not required for these properties; it rather appears to play a structural role.

Frank Spillecke, Max-Planck-Institut fur Biochemie, D-8033 Martinsried bei Munchen.

W. Stammel, H. Thomas und J. Veser

Trennung von Dopamin und Tetrahydroisochinolininen durch Reversed-Phase- und Kationenaustausch-Chromatographie

Ein Gemisch aus Dopamin (2-(3,4-Dihydroxyphenyl)-ethylamin) und einigen von Dopamin abgeleiteten Tetrahydroisochinolininen, deren Biogenese und Stoffwechsel im Saugetierorganismus noch nicht hinreichend geklart sind, laßt sich mittels der Reversed-Phase-Hochleistungs-Flussigkeits-Chromatographie mit chemisch gebundenem Octadecylsilan (LiChrosorb RP-18) als stationarer und einem mit Methanol versetzten Citrat/Ammoniumphosphat-Puffer, pH 4.5, als mobiler Phase in der Reihenfolge Salsolinol-1-carbonsure (1), Dopamin (2), Salsolinol (3), 7-Methylsalsolinol-1-carbonsure (4) vollstandig auftrennen. Wenn man die gleiche mobile Phase unter Zusatz des „Ionenpaarbildners“ Natriumoctylsulfonat benutzt und das Substanzgemisch in konstanten Abstanden von 25 min auf die Saule bringt, so erhalt man Chromatogramme, deren Bild sich mit der Zeit dadurch verandert, da die Retentionszeiten und somit die Kapazitatsfaktoren von Dopamin und Salsolinol zunehmen und die von 7-Methylsalsolinol-1-carbonsure abnehmen. „Steady-state“-Bedingungen werden in unserer Versuchsanordnung erst 8 h 45 min nach Beginn der Chromatogramm-Serie erreicht: Erst nach diesem Zeitraum bleiben die Retentionszeiten konstant. Die Trennung der Substanzen erfolgt nun in der Reihenfolge 1, 4, 2, 3.

Aus unseren Beobachtungen kann geschlossen werden, da sich die stationare Phase des ursprunglichen „Rever-