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Citation	琉球大学理工学部紀要. 理学編 = Bulletin of Science & Engineering Division, University of Ryukyus. Mathematics & natural sciences(20): 51-59
Issue Date	1975-09-01
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12000/23533
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The Isolation of Photoactive Chloroplasts from Leaves of the
Mangrove, *Kandelia candel* Druce

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Summary

A method for isolating photoactive chloroplasts from mangrove leaves was investigated. Chloroplasts with the Hill reaction activity (photoreduction of ferricyanide) were isolated from the leaves of a mangrove plant, *Kandelia candel* Druce, by employing PEG** in the grinding medium. Some characteristics of these chloroplasts are presented in this paper.

Grinding medium for isolating photoactive chloroplasts is consisted of 1 M sucrose, 10% (W/V) PEG 4000, 0.025 M sodium iso-ascorbate, 0.05 M magnesium chloride and 0.05 M histidine buffered at pH 6.5 with HCl.

Chloroplasts isolated without PEG reduced ferricyanide considerably in the dark. However, ferricyanide reduction in the dark was decreased by addition of PEG in the grinding medium. A possibility of tannins as the reductant is examined.

1. Introduction

There are numerous reports on the studies on the Hill reaction in isolated chloroplasts from the leaves of herbaceous plants such as spinach.¹⁻³ In woody plants, however, only a few work has been done on the Hill reaction because of difficulties in isolating photoactive chloroplasts, probably due to the high content of resins, tannins and some other substances which affect the activity of the Hill reaction *in vitro*.

Oku and Tomita⁴) has recently demonstrated that photoactive chloroplasts could be isolated from resin-rich pine leaves by employing PEG in the isolation medium. Chloroplasts with higher activities have been also isolated from cotton leaves by 10% (W/V) PEG instead of 0.5 M sucrose isolation medium.⁵) On the other hand, Clendenning *et al.*⁶) has improved a method for isolating photoactive chloroplasts from tannin-bearing leaves (*e.g.* *Rhus typhina*) with the aid of PEG. Thus, it is possible to obtain photoactive chloroplasts from the leaves of woody plants when some polymers such as PEG are added in the isolation medium.

Received: April 30, 1975

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**Abbreviations: PEG, polyethylene glycol; DCMU, 3-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethyl urea.

denatured protein by centrifugation the amount of ferricyanide reduced in supernatant was determined. Chlorophyll concentrations were determined in 80% acetone extracts using the absorption coefficients reported by Mackinny.¹¹⁾

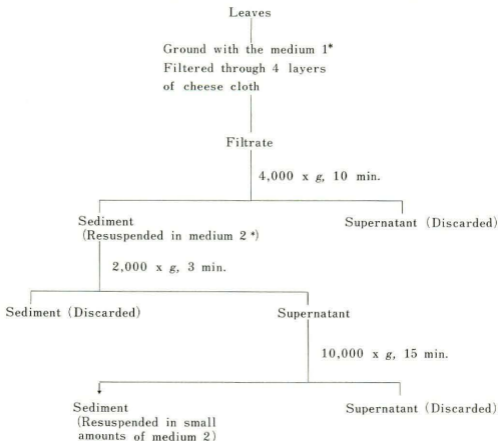
3. Results and Discussion

McClendon¹²⁾ has shown that polyethylene glycols, linear polymers of formula $\text{HOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, are beneficial in isolating chloroplasts having higher and more stable Hill reaction activity from marine algae and higher plants. Recently, Oku and Tomita⁴⁾ has also shown that the use of PEG 4000 (average molecular weight 2,400) was effective for the preparation of photoactive chloroplasts from the leaves of woody plants, conifers.

Then, we attempted to isolate photoactive chloroplasts from the leaves of mangroves which have a capacity to grow in their maritime habitat. However, there are some difficulties in isolating photoactive chloroplasts from mangrove leaves in buffered sucrose solution ordinarily used. They are (i) the coagulation of chloroplasts with other cytoplasm, (ii) the enzymatic browning in leaf macerates and (iii) the abundance of tannins in leaf. These phenomena, in general, inactivate the biochemical activities of chloroplasts, for instance, tannins are irreversible inhibitors of the Hill reaction.⁶⁾

It has been shown that enzymatic browning in leaf macerates is resulted from the action of polyphenol oxidase upon tannins and related compounds, and this phenomenon is inhibited by PEG which have considerable affinity for tannins.⁶⁾ Clendenning *et al.*⁶⁾ has also shown that PEG removes tannins from the leaves.

With the aid of PEG 4000, we succeeded in the isolation of chloroplasts having Hill reaction activity (photoreduction of ferricyanide) from the tannin-bearing mangrove leaves. The method for isolating photoactive chloroplasts were shown schematically in Fig. 1. In order to maintain the osmotic environment, sucrose concentrations in the media increased to 1 M. This is prospected by the facts that the leaf sap of *K. candel* showed higher osmotic pressure (about 20-24 bar) than other land plants¹³⁾ and that bursting of chloroplasts in the leaves of mangrove, *Avicennia nitida*, could be avoided by 1 M sucrose.¹⁴⁾ The addition of 10% (W/V) PEG could greatly prevent the enzymatic browning in leaf macerates, but not completely. Further peroxidation could be avoided by adding ascorbate or isoascorbate. Coagulation of chloroplasts could also be avoided by PEG. These conditions gave active preparations for assay.



*See text for details.

Fig. 1. Scheme for the isolation of chloroplasts from mangrove leaves.

When the leaves were ground in PEG containing sucrose medium, cytoplasm is precipitated on the chloroplasts (*salting-out*) as reported by Clendenning.⁶⁾ However, suspending this chloroplast-cytoplasm sediment in PEG free sucrose medium reversed this phenomenon, and made it possible to isolate active chloroplasts by differential centrifugation of suspension as shown in Fig. 1.

Table 1 shows the activity of ferricyanide reduction by illumination of mangrove chloroplasts isolated in different grinding media with or without PEG. The chloroplasts of this plant exhibited considerable reduction of ferricyanide when these were isolated with the aid of PEG. However, the rates of photoreduction were small in comparison with that in spinach chloroplasts (*ca.* 400 μ moles/mg Chl·h). PEG 6000 was also effective in this respect. Fig. 2 shows the typical kinetics of ferricyanide

Table 1. Effects of different media on the Hill reaction in mangrove chloroplasts.

Medium	Ferricyanide reduced
	$\mu\text{moles/mg Chl}\cdot\text{h}$
Sucrose-succinate (pH 6.0)	—
+ PEG	60.8
Sucrose-histidine (pH6.5)	5.5
+ PEG	266.0
Sucrose-tris (pH7.5)	—
+ PEG	103.4

Reaction conditions are described in Materials and Methods. Chlorophyll concentration, 100 μg per 2 ml volume.

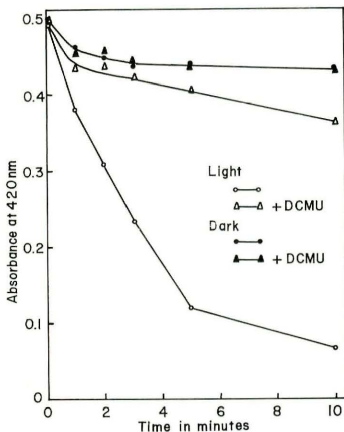


Fig. 2. Time course of ferricyanide reduction in the light and dark. Reaction conditions are the same as in Table 1. Chlorophyll concentration, 100 μg per 2 ml volume. 10 μM of DCMU were added when indicated.

reduction in mangrove chloroplasts. The rates increased linearly up to 5 min illumination. The activity of photoreduction was inhibited by DCMU (10 μ M) which is known as potent inhibitors of the Hill reaction. Ferricyanide reduction also occurred in the dark which ceased within 3 min, suggesting the presence of endogenous reductant as discussed below.

Chloroplasts isolated without PEG exhibited coagulation and did not show any photochemical activities, but greatly reduced ferricyanide in the dark (Table 2). The rates were not influenced by light, and by DCMU (Fig. 2). Even the boiled preparations exhibited the dark reduction. The photoactive chloroplasts isolated with the aid of PEG as described above also showed a weak reduction of ferricyanide in the dark (Fig. 2), and the rates were closely dependent on the concentrations of chlorophyll. These results suggest the presence of an endogenous reductant such as gossypol in the cotton chloroplasts suggested by Fry.⁵⁾ This endogenous reductant could be partially removed by employing PEG in the grinding medium as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Effect of polyethylene glycol on the dark reduction of ferricyanide in mangrove.

Polyethylene glycol (%)	Dark reduction
	μ moles/mg Chl·h
0	226
5	63
10	23
20	25

Reaction mixture contained the following components in μ moles: histidine-HCl, pH 6.5, 100; $MgCl_2$, 50; potassium ferricyanide, 2 and chloroplasts equivalent to 100 μ g of chlorophyll in a volume of 2 ml. Histidine-HCl buffer (pH 6.5) was used for isolation of chloroplasts.

At concentrations 10 to 20% (W/V), PEG in the medium adequately removed dark reductant indicating the optimum concentration of PEG for isolating photoactive chloroplasts being at 10%.

Although it was not positively proved, tannin can be considered as the reductant. The reasons for this are that PEG removes leaf tannin which is known as one of the inhibitors of the Hill reaction, and that it also inhibits tannin absorption by chloroplasts through its affinity for tannin.⁶⁾ On the other hand, PEG is known to cause precipitation of some proteins in solution.¹⁵⁾ Hence, it is possible that a part of tannins in the leaf may be bound to the proteins during isolation of chloroplasts,

and then precipitated on the chloroplasts by the action of PEG.⁶⁾ This tannin-protein complex subsequently resulted in a weak dark reduction of ferricyanide. The use of polyethylene glycols make it possible to isolate photoactive chloroplasts from the leaves of the mangrove plant by relieving some inhibitory factors such as tannins and related compounds during the isolation of chloroplasts.

It has been suggested that PEG also resulted in the uncoupling of photophosphorylation in chloroplasts.¹⁶⁾ Satoh *et al.*¹⁷⁾ reported that in the *Euglena* chloroplasts in which phosphorylation is uncoupled from electron flow, divalent cations such as Ca^{2+} caused pH-dependent acceleration of Hill activity, being optimum at pH 6.5. These results prompted us to study the effects of divalent cations on the ferricyanide reduction in the mangrove chloroplasts isolated in the medium containing PEG. Effects of the salts, CaCl_2 and MgCl_2 on the rates of ferricyanide reduction in the mangrove chloroplasts were shown in Fig. 3. Both CaCl_2 and MgCl_2 caused Prominent

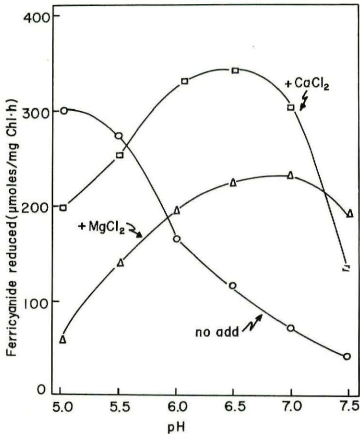


Fig. 3. Effects of CaCl_2 and MgCl_2 on the Hill activity at various pH. The reaction mixture contained following: potassium ferricyanide, 2 μ moles and chloroplasts containing 100 μ g chlorophyll in volume of 2 ml. 100 mM of CaCl_2 or MgCl_2 was added.

acceleration of the rates at pH values higher than 6.0; the optimum pH of the acceleration being at 6.5 and 7.0 for CaCl_2 and MgCl_2 respectively. It is well known that chloride ion stimulates the Hill reaction in isolated chloroplasts. However, it is unlikely that acceleration of Hill activity by CaCl_2 or MgCl_2 in the mangrove chloroplasts is caused by the stimulating effect of chlorine, since addition of NaCl or KCl to this reaction mixture did not change the rates of ferricyanide reduction. These results agree well with those of the *Euglena* chloroplasts isolated by Satoh *et al.*¹⁷⁾ This indicates a possibility that the mangrove chloroplasts isolated with the medium containing PEG are probably uncoupled as suggested by Miflin and Hageman for the maize chloroplasts.¹⁶⁾ However, for the reasons that the uncoupling action of PEG was not complete in the cotton chloroplasts⁵⁾, another possibility that prominent acceleration of Hill activity by Ca^{2+} or Mg^{2+} in chloroplasts is related to the activation of ATPase activities in chloroplasts¹⁸⁾ is also considered. The finding that $\text{Na}^+-\text{K}^+-\text{ATPase}$ activities in the leaves of *Avicennia nitida* were largely stimulated by Mg^{2+} at pH 5.5 and 6.75 is of interesting in this respect. More detailed studies on the photoactivities in the mangrove chloroplasts isolated with PEG, however, are necessary in order to confirm these possibilities, and such studies are in progress.

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