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Ca²⁺ Binding to Porcine Pancreatic Phospholipase A₂ and Its Function in Enzyme-Lipid Interaction[†]

A. J. Slotboom,* E. H. J. M. Jansen, H. Vlijm, F. Pattus, P. Soares de Araujo,[‡] and G. H. de Haas*

ABSTRACT: In addition to the Ca²⁺ ion bound in the active site, porcine pancreatic phospholipase A₂ has been assumed to possess a second metal-ion binding locus, also specific for Ca²⁺, which enables the enzyme to interact with organized lipid-water interfaces at alkaline pH [van Dam-Mieras, M. C. E., Slotboom, A. J., Pieterse, W. A., and de Haas, G. H. (1975), *Biochemistry* **14**, 5387-5394]. Because this interaction in the absence of Ca²⁺ is governed by the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group of the N-terminal L-Ala¹ residue, the binding of this latter Ca²⁺ ion and its effect on the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group were studied. Titration studies of protons released during tryptic activation of the zymogen and of the ¹³C chemical shift of a ¹³C-enriched N-terminal L-Ala¹ residue in phospholipase A₂ showed that, specifically, Ca²⁺ ions increase the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group from 8.4 to 9.3. The pK values of the α-NH₃⁺ groups of [D-Ala¹]phospholipase A₂ and DL-Ala⁻¹-phospholipase A₂, however, decreased considerably upon the addition of Ca²⁺. Ultraviolet difference spectroscopy suggested

that the second Ca²⁺ ion binds close to the single Trp³ residue and a K_D ≈ 20 mM was estimated at pH 7.5. In the presence of micelles of the substrate analogue *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine, it was found by equilibrium dialysis that at pH 8 phospholipase A₂ binds two Ca²⁺ ions/mol of enzyme, whereas 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ binds only one Ca²⁺ ion/mol of protein. Similar experiments at pH 6 revealed binding of only one Ca²⁺ ion/mol of native phospholipase A₂, whereas no Ca²⁺ binding could be measured for 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂. Moreover, a strong synergistic effect of the micellar lipid on the binding of both Ca²⁺ ions was observed. Finally, the observations from microcalorimetry that at pH 10 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂, lacking the first Ca²⁺-binding site, only binds to micelles in the presence of Ca²⁺ are in good agreement with the existence of a second Ca²⁺ binding site on phospholipase A₂.

Phospholipases A₂ (EC 3.1.1.4) from different origins catalyze the specific hydrolysis of fatty acid ester bonds at the 2

position of 3-*sn*-phosphoglycerides. The pancreatic enzyme shows an absolute requirement for Ca²⁺ ions which bind in a 1:1 molar ratio to the protein. Although Ba²⁺ and Sr²⁺ bind with the same affinity, these metal ions are pure competitive inhibitors and no hydrolytic activity is found. Mg²⁺ ions do not bind at all. The unusually high specificity of phospholipase A₂ for Ca²⁺ points to a specific function of this metal ion in the catalytic event. Spectroscopic evidence has been reported for the perturbation of histidine and tyrosine residues upon Ca²⁺ binding (Pieterse et al., 1974a). Active-site-directed irreversible inhibitors such as the halo ketones *p*-bromophenacyl

[†] From the Laboratory of Biochemistry, State University of Utrecht, Transitorium 3, "De Uithof", Padualaan 8, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Received April 25, 1978. These investigations were carried out under the auspices of the Netherlands Foundation for Chemical Research (SON), with financial aid from the Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research (ZWO), and from the Fundação de Amparo a Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (Brazil) (P.S.d.A.).

[‡] Present address: Department of Biochemistry, Institute of Chemistry, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

bromide and 1-bromo-2-octanone specifically react with His⁴⁸¹ and this inactivation reaction is strongly inhibited by Ca²⁺ (Volwerk et al., 1974). Moreover, the inactivated enzymes, though conserving their binding capacity for organized lipid-water interfaces, are no longer able to bind Ca²⁺. Therefore, it has been concluded that Ca²⁺ binds close to the active-site residue His⁴⁸.

The enzyme is secreted by the pancreas in a zymogen form which is activated by trypsin. It has been shown that the active center, where Ca²⁺ and monomeric substrate are bound and hydrolysis occurs, preexists in the zymogen (Pieterse et al., 1974b). The main difference between phospholipase A₂ and its zymogen is the presence of a so-called "interface recognition site"² (IRS)² in the active enzyme (Verger et al., 1973; Pieterse et al., 1974b). From spectroscopic studies and protection experiments against specific tryptic hydrolysis, it has been demonstrated that at least the rather hydrophobic N-terminal sequence of the enzyme Ala¹-Leu-Trp-Gln-Phe-Arg⁶ is part of the IRS (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). This surface region, which is topographically distinct from the active center, allows the enzyme to penetrate into organized lipid-water interfaces. A consequence of this interaction is a reorganization of the active-center structure and an increase in the catalytic power of three to four orders of magnitude. It has been proposed that a functionally active IRS is stabilized by a specific ion pair between the α -NH₃⁺ group of the N-terminal amino acid Ala¹ and a buried carboxylate function (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). Direct binding studies have led to the hypothesis that the enzyme can exist in at least two conformations E and E'. At neutral or slightly acidic pH, form E is present. This conformation, possessing the above-mentioned salt bridge and therefore an intact IRS, is able to interact with organized lipid-water interfaces. Form E', which predominates at alkaline pH, where the α -NH₃⁺ group is deprotonated, lacks the ion pair and no IRS is present. This form is unable to penetrate into lipid-water interfaces.

In certain kinetic studies (Verger et al., 1973; Pieterse, 1973), however, a high interface activity of the enzyme has been reported at pH values well above the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group where the salt bridge would be expected to be disrupted. These studies were performed at rather high Ca²⁺ concentrations, indicating the possibility of an additional metal-ion binding site on the enzyme at alkaline pH. Two hypotheses have been discussed to explain the stabilizing effect on the IRS by binding of this second Ca²⁺ ion (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975): (1) The binding of Ca²⁺ causes an effective shielding of the salt bridge in a hydrophobic region. Such an apolar environment would shift the deprotonation of the α -NH₃⁺ group to higher pH values, and the salt bridge would remain intact at alkaline pH. (2) The binding of Ca²⁺ stabilizes the conformation of the IRS even at pH values where the α -NH₃⁺ group is deprotonated. In this hypothesis, the second Ca²⁺ ion is supposed to take over the stabilizing effect of the ion pair on the IRS.

It is the purpose of this study to demonstrate that at alkaline pH porcine pancreatic phospholipase A₂ possesses, indeed, an additional low-affinity Ca²⁺-binding site, distinct from the active-center locus. Binding of this second Ca²⁺ ion shifts the

pK of the N-terminal α -NH₃⁺ group to higher values and stabilizes the enzyme form E at alkaline pH.

Experimental Section

Materials and Methods. Porcine pancreatic phospholipase A₂ was purified from porcine pancreas and converted into phospholipase A₂ by limited proteolysis as described by Nieuwenhuizen et al. (1974). ϵ -Amidated phospholipase A₂ (AMPREC) and phospholipase A₂ (AMPA) were prepared as described previously (Slotboom and de Haas, 1975). [D]- and [L-[3-¹³C]Ala¹]AMPA and DL-[3-¹³C]Ala¹-AMPA containing 90% enriched ¹³C were prepared as described previously (Slotboom et al., 1977). *n*-Hexadecylphosphorylcholine was prepared as described (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). 1-Bromo-2-octanone was synthesized essentially according to the procedure as described by Visser et al. (1971) and Mangold (1973). By using 1-bromo-2-[2-¹⁴C]octanone, it was shown that upon complete inactivation of phospholipase A₂ 1 mol of the inhibitor/mol of enzyme was incorporated with the concomitant loss of 1 His residue. Just as for *p*-bromophenacyl bromide (Volwerk et al., 1974) also 1-bromo-2-octanone specifically reacts with His⁴⁸. Radioactive ⁴⁵CaCl₂ and [1-¹⁴C]heptanoic acid were obtained from the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, England. Bovine trypsin was purchased from E. Merck AG, Darmstadt, Germany. All the other chemicals used were of the highest purity available.

Protein concentrations for phospholipase A₂ (and AMPA) and phospholipase A₂ (and AMPREC) were calculated from the absorbances with an $E_{280\text{nm}}^{1\%,1\text{cm}}$ of 13.0 and 12.3, respectively. For the N-terminally modified as well as for the 1-bromo-2-octanone blocked phospholipase A₂ analogues a value of 13.0 was used. Enzyme activities were determined using the titrimetric assay procedure with egg-yolk lipoproteins as substrate (Nieuwenhuizen et al., 1974) or with short-chain lecithins (de Haas et al., 1971). Phospholipid concentrations were determined by phosphorus analysis according to the Fiske and Subbarow (1925) method, as modified by Bartlett (1959).

Fluorescence Measurements. Fluorescence spectra were recorded at 25 °C with a Perkin-Elmer MPF 3 spectrofluorimeter using 1-cm cells as described previously (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975).

Ultraviolet Difference Spectroscopy. Ultraviolet difference spectra were obtained at 25 °C by means of a Shimadzu UV 210 double-beam spectrophotometer or an Aminco DW-2a spectrophotometer as described previously (Pieterse et al., 1974a; van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). In order to avoid possible absorption due to the high metal ion concentrations, tandem cells (2 × 1 cm light path) were used. By using AGLA micrometer syringes a metal ion solution was titrated in the protein solution of the sample compartment and in the buffer solution of the reference compartment. The same volume of buffer was titrated in the protein solution of the reference compartment (to correct for dilution of the chromophore) and in the buffer solution of the sample compartment.

¹³C NMR Spectroscopy. All ¹³C spectra were obtained with a Bruker HX-360 spectrometer operating at 90.5 MHz equipped with a variable-temperature unit (accuracy ± 1 °C) (SON Facility, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands). By using quadrature detection, 1000–2000 transients were accumulated with a repetition time of 0.82 s and a spectral width of 10 000 Hz. An exponential multiplication of the free induction decay corresponding to a line broadening of 6 Hz was applied to improve the signal to noise ratio. Chemical shifts were measured at 25 °C from benzene

¹ Numbering starts from the N-terminal L-Ala residue of phospholipase A₂.

² Abbreviations used are: IRS, interface recognition site; AMPREC, fully ϵ -amidated phospholipase A₂; AMPA, fully ϵ -amidated phospholipase A₂; Hepes, *N*-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-*N'*-2-ethanesulfonic acid; CMC, critical micellar concentration; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; Tris, 2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol; EGTA, ethylene glycol bis(β -aminoethyl ether)-*N,N'*-tetraacetic acid.

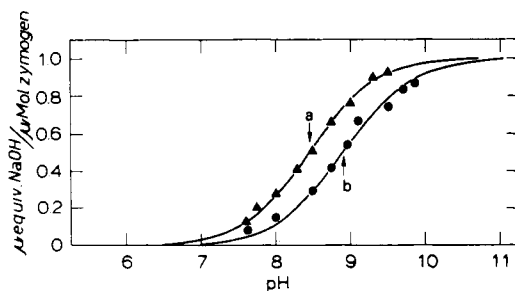
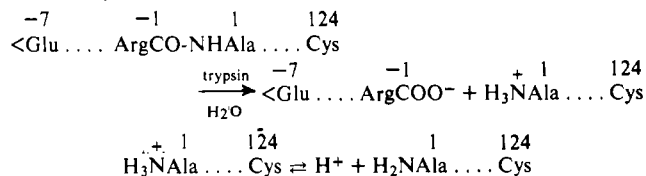


FIGURE 1: Titration curves of protons released during tryptic activation of phospholipase A₂:



Data obtained at 25 °C from the amount of standardized NaOH solution required to neutralize the protons released after the addition of trypsin to porcine pancreatic phospholipase A₂: curve a, no Ca²⁺; curve b, 50 mM Ca²⁺. The drawn lines are calculated curves for pK values of 8.45 and 8.9, respectively.

(capillary). Routinely, 1.5 mL of 1.0–1.5 mM protein solutions in 50 mM Hepes or Tris buffer containing 10% of D₂O was measured using 10-mm diameter tubes equipped with a plug to prevent vortexing. The pH was measured with a Radiometer pH meter (PHM 62) equipped with a Radiometer electrode (GK 2321C) before and after each measurement. Adjustment of the pH was performed with 2 M NaOH or HCl in 10% of D₂O.

Equilibrium Dialysis. Equilibrium dialysis experiments were performed at 25 °C with a Dianorm dialysis apparatus (Diachema, Zürich, Switzerland) equipped with 10 two-compartment twin cells. Both compartments (0.2 mL) were separated through a dialysis membrane (molecular weight cutoff 5000). Stock solutions of ^{45}Ca were prepared by adding 10 μL of the $^{45}\text{CaCl}_2$ solution (4–30 mCi/mg of Ca) to 10 mL of CaCl_2 solutions ranging from 0.05 to 40 mM Ca^{2+} in 0.05 M buffer in 0.1 M NaCl [Tris (pH 8.0) and acetate (pH 6.0)]. Each of the different $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ stock solutions (0.2 mL) of known concentrations (containing 2×10^6 cpm) is added to one compartment and 0.2 mL of the protein solution in the same buffer to the other compartment. In the experiments with lipid micelles, *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine was present in both compartments at the same concentration. After 3 h of dialysis when equilibrium has been reached, the content of each compartment is recovered and 50- μL aliquots were added to 10 mL of a liquid scintillation cocktail (Packard Instagel). Radioactivity was determined in a Searle Isocap 300 liquid scintillation system (Nuclear Chicago Division). The experimental data were treated in the Scatchard representation according to the method of Klotz and Hunston (1971). The lower affinity constants were then calculated by successive readjustment to have the best fit between theoretical and experimental curves.

Microcalorimetry. Microcalorimetric measurements were performed as described by Rosseneu et al. (1974) and Donner et al. (1976) using a LKB batch microcalorimeter Type 2107, equipped with gold-plated cells and thermostated at 25 °C. Calorimetric cells were charged using Gilson P 5000 pipets which were gravimetrically calibrated to deliver 2.0 and 4.0 mL of the solutions used. In all the experiments, 2.0 mL of a 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ solution (1.5 mg/mL) in 0.05 M buffer in 0.1 M NaCl [acetate (pH 6.0)]

and glycine (pH 10.0)] was placed in the compartment of the reaction vessel. The glycine buffer contained either 1 mM EGTA or different concentrations of Ca^{2+} . In the other compartment of the reaction vessel, 4.0 mL of an *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine solution at various concentrations in the same buffer was delivered. The reference vessels were charged in the same way, except that no protein was added. Separate dilution experiments were made with the reactants.

Proton Titrations. Ten microliters of freshly prepared trypsin solution (16.8 mg/mL) was added to a magnetically stirred solution of 2.7–3.4 μmol of prophospholipase A₂ in 4.0 mL of boiled distilled H₂O in an N₂ atmosphere. The protons released were titrated with standardized 0.0152 N NaOH solution at 25 °C using a Radiometer pH stat (Titrator TTT2, Titrigraph REA 300, and Autoburette ABU 12) equipped with a 0.25-mL burette and a combined electrode GK 2321 C. At the end of the reaction, the pH was lowered to 4.0 by the addition of acetic acid and the various batches were pooled. Upon chromatography on CM-cellulose (Nieuwenhuizen et al., 1974), only one symmetrical peak with a constant specific activity over the peak is obtained, indicating a complete activation without cleavage of other peptide bonds.

Results

Proton Titration. Figure 1 represents the proton release as a function of pH during the tryptic conversion of the porcine zymogen into active phospholipase A₂. Because trypsin specifically cleaves the peptide bond between Arg⁻¹ and Ala¹, protons which are released upon the increase of pH originate exclusively from the α-NH₃⁺ function of the N-terminus Ala¹. Without Ca²⁺ or in the presence of 2 mM Ca²⁺, which is sufficient to saturate the high-affinity site in the zymogen and in the active enzyme (Pieterse et al., 1974a), one proton per mol of zymogen is released upon activation (Figure 1, curve a). The midpoint of the titration curve, representing the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group, is at pH 8.4, which is in good agreement with previously determined values (Janssen et al., 1972; Pieterse et al., 1974b). A similar zymogen activation but now in the presence of 50 mM Ca²⁺ still shows the release of one proton per mol of precursor (Figure 1, curve b). The midpoint of this titration curve, however, shifts to pH 8.9. Apparently, the pK of the proton-releasing group increases upon additional Ca²⁺ binding to phospholipase A₂ at alkaline pH.

¹³C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. A more direct determination of the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group can be obtained by ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The chemical shift of ¹³C probes is known to be sensitive to changes in charge around the ¹³C nucleus (Gurd and Keim, 1973). Figure 2A shows the ¹³C NMR titration of AMPA³ in which the N-terminal amino acid L-Ala¹ has been replaced by a 90% enriched L-[3-¹³C]Ala¹ residue (Slotboom et al., 1977). In the absence of Ca²⁺ or with Ca²⁺ concentrations just sufficient to saturate only the catalytic site (2–3 mM), the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group is 8.4 in agreement with the results of the proton titration. Increasing the Ca²⁺ concentration up to 200 mM gradually shifts the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group to 9.4.⁴ This increase in pK is very spe-

³ Chemical-modification studies of phospholipase A₂ involving the N terminus require protection of the ϵ -NH₂ groups of all lysine residues (Slotboom and de Haas, 1975). It has been shown that phospholipase A₂ in which the ϵ -NH₂ groups are transformed by acetamidination (AMPA) behaves in all respects very similar as compared to the native enzyme (Slotboom and de Haas, 1975).

⁴ It has to be remarked that, in contrast to the curves in Figure 2B, the continuous lines drawn in Figure 2A are too steep for theoretical titration curves. Most probably, the enzyme forms E and E' are in slow exchange on the NMR time scale (Bendall and Lowe, 1976).

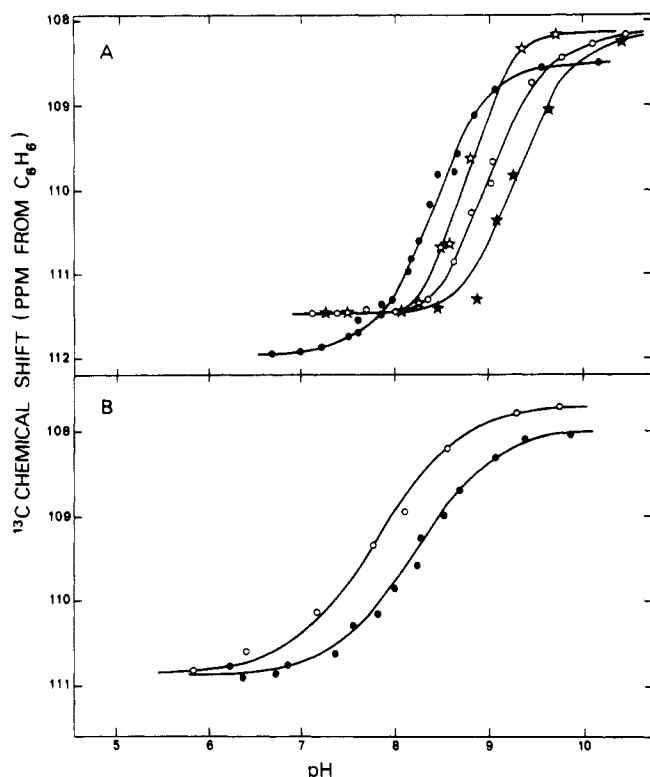


FIGURE 2: Plot of the chemical shift (ppm from C_6H_6) of the 90%-enriched ^{13}C nucleus in [L-[3- ^{13}C]Ala¹]AMPA (A) and [D-[3- ^{13}C]Ala¹]-AMPA (B) as a function of pH: (●) no Ca^{2+} ; (☆) 25 mM Ca^{2+} ; (○) 50 mM Ca^{2+} ; (★) 200 mM Ca^{2+} . Data were obtained from spectra recorded at 90.5 MHz (1000–2000 transients) at 25 °C using 1–2 mM protein solutions.

cific for Ca^{2+} . Similar salt concentrations obtained by the addition of $BaCl_2$, $MgCl_2$, or $NaCl$ do not change the pK value of the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group of L-Ala¹. Figure 2B emphasizes that the increase of the pK value of the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group of the N-terminal amino acid L-Ala¹ upon binding of a second Ca^{2+} ion is a highly specific phenomenon for the native enzyme. AMPA, in which the N-terminal L-Ala¹ residue is replaced by 90% enriched D-[3- ^{13}C]Ala¹, is a protein which lacks the IRS (Slotboom and de Haas, 1975; Slotboom et al., 1977) and most probably cannot form the salt bridge essential for interface activity. In the presence of high salt concentrations of $CaCl_2$ as well as of $NaCl$, $BaCl_2$, or $MgCl_2$, the pK of the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group of D-Ala¹ in this protein decreases from 8.2 to 7.8. The same phenomenon is observed with phospholipase A₂ in which the polypeptide chain has been elongated with an additional amino acid, viz., DL-[3- ^{13}C]Ala⁻¹-AMPA. Again the pK of the N-terminal amino acid, DL-Ala⁻¹, drops from 8.0 to 7.5 upon an increase of the ionic strength (cf. Table I). Such a behavior would be expected for a charged, exposed $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group in an aqueous surrounding and, therefore, indicates that in the native enzyme the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group of L-Ala¹ must be located in a very specific microenvironment. Most probably, only this very particular conformation characterized by an ion pair between the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group and a buried carboxylate function allows the enzyme to bind a second Ca^{2+} ion. In this respect, the behavior of the enzyme in which the active site is switched off by blocking of His⁴⁸ with 1-bromo-2-octanone is of considerable interest (Table I). In the "native" [L-[3- ^{13}C]Ala¹]AMPA specific modification of His⁴⁸ results in a protein which has lost its binding properties for Ca^{2+} in the active site and is devoid of catalytic power (Pieterse et al., 1974b). This modification, however, does not destroy the

TABLE I: pK Values^a at 25 °C of the N-Terminal α -Amino Group of ϵ -Amidated Phospholipase A₂ (AMPA) and Some Analogues from ^{13}C NMR.

	[Ca ²⁺] (mM)	
	0	50
[L-[3- ^{13}C]Ala ¹]AMPA ^b	8.4	9.0
[D-[3- ^{13}C]Ala ¹]AMPA ^c	8.0	7.8
DL-[3- ^{13}C]Ala ⁻¹ -AMPA ^c	8.0	7.5
1-bromo-2-octanone inhibited:		
[L-[3- ^{13}C]Ala ¹]AMPA	9.0	9.4
[D-[3- ^{13}C]Ala ¹]AMPA	8.0	7.8

^a The pK values reported were measured in 0.1 M NaCl in 10% of D₂O and have an accuracy of ± 0.05 pH unit. ^b In the presence of 200 mM Ca^{2+} , a pK value of 9.4 was observed. 50 mM Ba^{2+} or Mg^{2+} had no measurable effect on the pK value. ^c In the presence of Ba^{2+} or Mg^{2+} (50 mM), the pK values drop to 7.8 and 7.6, respectively.

lipid-binding properties of the protein (Pieterse et al., 1974b) and the IRS and salt bridge remain intact. Therefore, at alkaline pH the inhibited protein is still able to bind the second Ca^{2+} ion, and again an increase in the pK of the N terminus is observed. The diastereoisomeric [D-[3- ^{13}C]Ala¹]AMPA whose catalytic site is very similar to that of AMPA (Slotboom and de Haas, 1975) and which is inhibited in a comparable way by 1-bromo-2-octanone is known to have no lipid-binding properties because of the absence of the IRS. In this protein lacking both Ca^{2+} -binding sites, the pK of the $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group of the N terminus is lowered by any increase in ionic strength.

Fluorescence Spectroscopy. The different conformation of the N-terminal part of the polypeptide chain, at least the different microenvironment of Trp³ in the diastereoisomeric proteins [L-Ala¹]- and [D-Ala¹]AMPA, becomes evident also from their behavior in fluorescence spectroscopy as a function of pH. Figure 3 (curve A) demonstrates that Trp³ in [D-Ala¹]AMPA must be located in a surrounding very similar to that of Trp in the zymogen of amidated phospholipase (AMPREC) (Figure 3, curve B), a protein which lacks a free $\alpha-NH_3^+$ group (de Haas et al., 1970; Puyk et al., 1977). This environment is different from that of Trp³ in the active AMPA (curve C).

Ultraviolet Difference Spectroscopy. Figure 4 shows in a qualitative way how binding of Ca^{2+} to the first and second binding site influences the ultraviolet difference spectrum of the enzyme. Addition of small amounts of Ca^{2+} sufficient to saturate only the catalytic site results in a pure tyrosine perturbation spectrum⁵ (curve 2). Upon further increasing the Ca^{2+} concentration, the difference spectrum gradually changes and shows additional Trp perturbation (curve 3) (Donovan, 1969). A similar titration using 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ is shown in Figure 4, curve 5. The His⁴⁸-blocked phospholipase A₂ has lost its high-affinity Ca^{2+} -binding site, and in the presence of 2 mM Ca^{2+} no difference spectrum is observed (curve 4). However, 80.6 mM Ca^{2+} produces a clear Trp perturbation spectrum (curve 5), which confirms the results obtained with native phospholipase A₂ and indicates that binding of the second Ca^{2+} ion perturbs the microenvironment of Trp³. Double-reciprocal plots of the ul-

⁵ The height of the 242-nm peak relative to that of the peaks in the 280–290-nm region indicates a contribution at 242 nm of other residues than tyrosine (Donovan, 1969). It has been proposed by Pieterse et al. (1974a) that upon Ca^{2+} binding perturbation of His⁴⁸ contributes also to the amplitude of the 242-nm band (cf. Donovan, 1965).

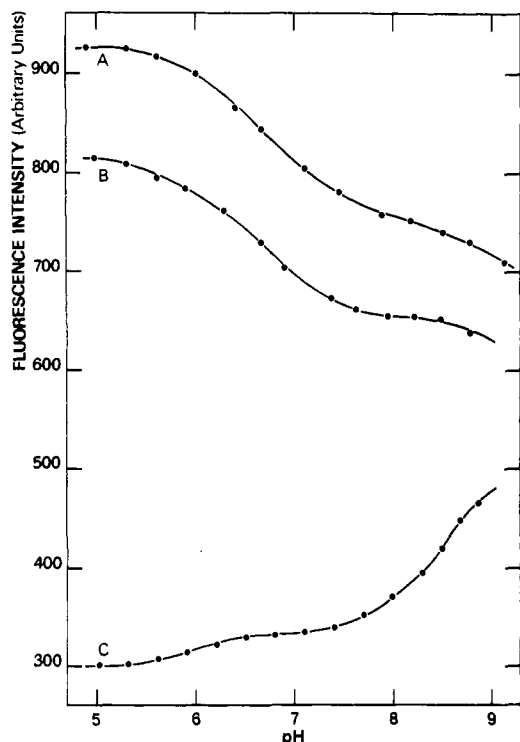


FIGURE 3: pH dependence of fluorescence intensities of [D-Ala¹]AMPA (A), AMPREC (B), and AMPA (C). Experimental conditions: 0.01 M sodium acetate, 0.01 M Tris, 0.1 M NaCl, 13.1 μ M protein; excitation at 295 nm; intensities were measured at the maximal emission wavelengths (347, 347 and 342 nm, respectively) at 25 °C.

traviolet difference absorptions at 242 nm⁶ against Ca²⁺ concentrations show two straight lines with different slopes from which the dissociation constants for the first and second Ca²⁺ binding sites can be calculated. The results are summarized in Table II. With the exception of the His⁴⁸-blocked enzyme, which has lost its first Ca²⁺ binding site, the other proteins are characterized by a dissociation constant of 0.3–0.5 mM for the first Ca²⁺ binding site at pH 7.5. This value agrees favorably with values reported earlier (Pieterse et al., 1974a). As regards the Ca²⁺ binding constant for the second site, weak affinity was observed only for native phospholipase A₂, AMPA, and the His⁴⁸-blocked enzyme. The zymogen as well as [D-Ala¹]AMPA do not possess a second Ca²⁺ binding site. It is of interest to remark that the Ca²⁺ binding ligand of the second site, which most probably is a carboxylate group, ionizes at a rather high pH. Already at pH 6.0 it was difficult to detect the second site in phospholipase A₂ and in its His⁴⁸-blocked derivative. A rough estimate of the pK of the Ca²⁺ binding ligand can be obtained from the Dixon plot given in the inset of Figure 4.

Equilibrium Dialysis. From the above it is evident that the affinity for Ca²⁺ of the second binding site is very weak and difficult to measure accurately in the lipid-free enzyme. In the presence of organized lipid–water interfaces, however, such as the micellar substrate analogue *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine, not only does the Ca²⁺ affinity of the first site improve (Pieterse et al., 1974a) but there is an even stronger synergistic effect on the second site (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). This allows us to determine an apparent Ca²⁺ binding constant of the second site in the presence of saturating lipid with better

⁶ This wavelength was chosen because of the larger difference signal. It has been checked that the variations at 242 nm correspond to the changes in absorption in the more specific aromatic region between 270 and 295 nm.

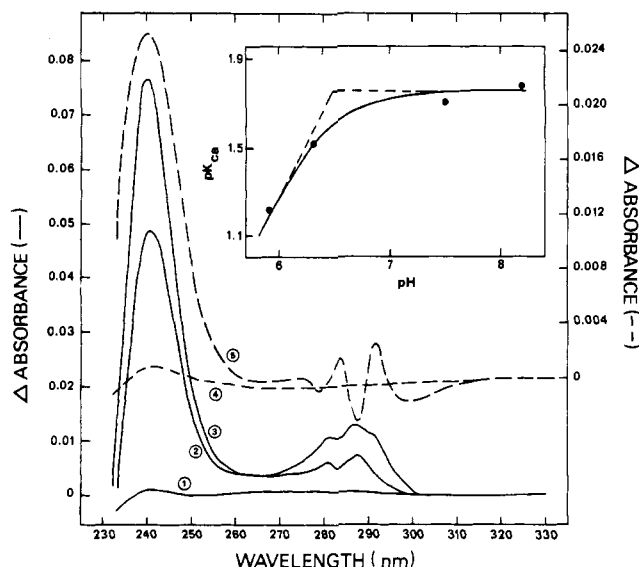


FIGURE 4: Ultraviolet difference spectra produced by the interaction of phospholipase A₂ (—) and 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ (---) with Ca²⁺. Experimental conditions: 0.05 M Tris, 0.1 M NaCl (pH 7.5) at 25 °C. 33.7 μ M phospholipase A₂ (—): curve 1, no Ca²⁺; curve 2, 2.9 mM Ca²⁺; curve 3, 73.6 mM Ca²⁺. 40.2 μ M 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ (---): curve 4, no Ca²⁺ and 3.0 mM Ca²⁺; curve 5, 80.6 mM Ca²⁺. Inset: Dixon plot of the effect of pH on the interaction of 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ with Ca²⁺ obtained from ultraviolet difference spectroscopy.

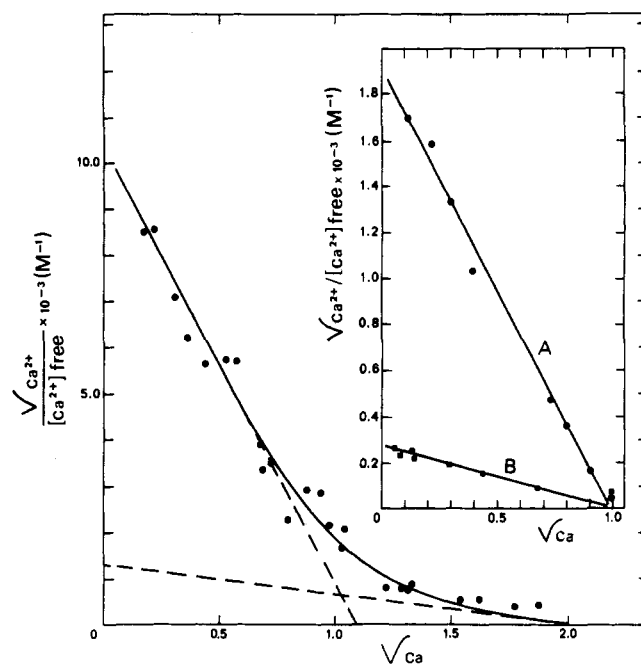


FIGURE 5: Scatchard plots for binding data of Ca²⁺ to phospholipase A₂ at pH 8.0 (●—●) and 6.0 (inset, curve A, ●—●) and to 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ (inset, curve B, ■—■) from equilibrium dialysis at 25 °C in the presence of micellar *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine. Experimental conditions: 0.05 M buffer in 0.1 M NaCl [Tris (pH 8.0) and acetate (pH 6.0)]. Initial Ca²⁺ concentrations varied from 0.05 to 40 mM (one compartment). Protein concentrations (other compartment): 164 μ M, 1400 μ M (inset, curve A), 921 μ M (inset, curve B). *n*-Hexadecylphosphorylcholine concentration (both compartments): 37.6 mM, 37.6 mM (inset, curve A), 94 mM (inset, curve B).

accuracy. Figure 5 shows a Scatchard plot of Ca²⁺ binding to native phospholipase A₂, obtained by equilibrium dialysis in the presence of micelles of *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine. At pH 8.0, the Ca²⁺ binding curve to native phospholipase A₂ and

TABLE II: Spectroscopic Parameters of the Interaction of Phospholipase A₂, Its Zymogen, and Some Modified Phospholipases A₂ with Ca²⁺.

	pH	$K_{Ca^{2+}}$ (mM) ^a		ΔA_{max}^{242} (cm ⁻¹ M ⁻¹)	
		1st site	2nd site	1st site	2nd site
phospholipase A ₂	7.5	0.4	20	1730	890
phospholipase A ₂	6.0	3.6	≥50	2150	
prophospholipase A ₂	7.5	0.5		1770	
ε-amidated phospholipase A ₂	7.5	0.3	20	1760	740
ε-amidated [D-Ala ¹]phospholipase A ₂	7.5	0.3		1100	
1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A ₂	7.5		25		870
1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A ₂	6.0		≥50		

^a The reported $K_{Ca^{2+}}$ values have an accuracy of ±8% and ±25% for the first and second site, respectively. In those cases where no $K_{Ca^{2+}}$ values are reported, no measurable interaction could be detected.

TABLE III: Dissociation Constants for the Interaction of Phospholipase A₂, Fully ε-Amidated Phospholipase A₂, and 1-Bromo-2-octanone-Inhibited Phospholipase A₂ with Ca²⁺ from Equilibrium Dialysis in the Presence^a and Absence of Micellar *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine.

	pH	[protein] (μM)	[<i>n</i> -hexadecylphosphorylcholine] (mM)	$K_{Ca^{2+}}$ (mM) ^b	
				1st site	2nd site
phospholipase A ₂	8.0	1478	0	0.3	+ ^c
phospholipase A ₂	8.0	164	37.6	0.1	3
phospholipase A ₂	8.0	278	18.8	0.1	3
phospholipase A ₂	6.0	1400	37.6	0.5	+ ^c
ε-amidated phospholipase A ₂	8.0	286	18.8	0.1	4
1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A ₂	8.0	1400	0		+ ^c
1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A ₂	8.0	921	94		3
1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A ₂	6.0	286	18.8		

^a $K_{Ca^{2+}}$ values reported in the presence of micellar *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine have to be considered as apparent values. ^b In those cases where no $K_{Ca^{2+}}$ values are reported, no measurable interaction could be detected. The reported $K_{Ca^{2+}}$ values have an accuracy of ±8% and ±25% for the first and second site, respectively. ^c From the Scatchard plots it could be concluded that at high Ca²⁺ concentrations a second metal-ion binding site becomes evident. However, the experimental points do not allow an estimation of the exact number of binding sites nor the calculation of the average dissociation constant of these sites.

AMPA is biphasic, and apparent dissociation constants for the first and second site are 0.1 and 3 mM, respectively. With this technique, no quantitative value of the second Ca²⁺ binding constant could be determined at pH 6.0 notwithstanding high protein concentrations (inset Figure 5, curve A), which is in agreement with the extremely weak Ca²⁺ binding as found by the ultraviolet difference technique. The 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ has lost its first Ca²⁺ binding site, but its lipid-binding properties are very similar to those of the native enzyme. At alkaline pH the second Ca²⁺ binding site in this His⁴⁸-blocked protein is intact and in the presence of micellar lipids again an apparent dissociation constant for the binding of Ca²⁺ to the second site is found to be 3 mM (inset Figure 5, curve B). The results of these measurements are summarized in Table III.

Microcalorimetry. The role of Ca²⁺ ions in the binding process between phospholipase A₂ and micellar lipid-water interfaces at alkaline pH can also be shown by microcalorimetry. In order to obtain specifically information on the second Ca²⁺ binding site of the enzyme, 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂, which has lost its high-affinity Ca²⁺-binding site, was studied. Just like native phospholipase A₂, also the His⁴⁸-blocked inactive protein interacts with micelles of *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine at pH 6.0 in the absence of Ca²⁺, and the binding process is exothermic (Figure 6, ● - ●). At pH 10 and in the absence of Ca²⁺, addition of lipid micelles to the protein does not produce a measurable heat effect (Figure 6, ▲ - ▲). However, upon the addition of increasing amounts of Ca²⁺ to a mixture of 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ and lipid micelles at pH 10, a growing heat release is observed and at 20 mM Ca²⁺ the heat effect is very

similar to that produced at pH 6.0 in the absence of Ca²⁺ (Figure 6, ▲ - ▲). A double-reciprocal plot of heat release vs. Ca²⁺ concentration is shown in the inset of Figure 6 from which an apparent Ca²⁺ dissociation constant of 4 mM could be calculated. This value competes favorably with the dissociation constant found for the second Ca²⁺ binding site by equilibrium dialysis (3 mM).

Discussion

At neutral or slightly acidic pH, porcine pancreatic phospholipase A₂ strongly interacts with micellar lipid-water interfaces even in the absence of Ca²⁺. This binding is caused by a hydrophobic interaction between the IRS, involving the apolar N-terminal sequence of the enzyme, and the fatty acyl chains of the lipid substrate. A high ionic strength of the medium improves the lipid-protein binding, and a considerable exothermic heat effect is observed. Under these conditions, a high catalytic activity is found when a single Ca²⁺ ion is bound to the active site of the enzyme close to His⁴⁸. This metal-ion binding locus is called the high-affinity site. Irreversible blocking of His⁴⁸ by active-site-directed inhibitors such as 1-bromo-2-octanone prevents this Ca²⁺ binding and the hydrolytic activity is lost, but the lipid-binding properties of the protein (IRS) remain fully intact. A functionally active IRS owes its stability most probably to an internal salt bridge between the α-NH₃⁺ group and a buried carboxylate function (Fersht, 1972; Mavridis et al., 1974; Kossiakoff et al., 1977). The pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group of Ala¹ is 8.4. Therefore, at alkaline pH values, deprotonation of the α-NH₃⁺ occurs, the salt bridge is disrupted, and the IRS is destroyed. Under these conditions, the enzyme is no longer able to penetrate into or-

ganized lipid-water interfaces.

Previously it has been reported that high Ca²⁺ concentrations enable the enzyme to interact with micellar lipids also at alkaline pH, and it was suggested that binding of a second Ca²⁺ ion to the enzyme stabilizes the IRS at higher pH values (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). The present results of the proton titration (Figure 1) and in particular those of the ¹³C NMR (Figure 2) clearly show that a low Ca²⁺ concentration, just sufficient to saturate the catalytic, high-affinity site (2–3 mM), has hardly any influence on the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ group. However, in the presence of higher Ca²⁺ concentrations (up to 200 mM), the pK of the N terminus gradually shifts from 8.4 to 9.3. Comparable concentrations of Ba²⁺, Mg²⁺, or Na⁺ have no effect, whereas the slightly modified proteins [D-Ala¹]AMPA and DL-Ala¹-AMPA do not show this shift upon the addition of Ca²⁺. The fact that this shift is very specific for Ca²⁺ and is observed only with the native enzyme strongly suggests that pancreatic phospholipase A₂ possesses a second low-affinity Ca²⁺ binding site located close to the N terminus of the chain. Most probably the Ca²⁺ liganding groups are carboxylates, and from the Dixon plot given in the inset of Figure 4 one would expect that they are located in a rather hydrophobic microenvironment close to the salt bridge. Ionization of these carboxylates makes binding of a second Ca²⁺ possible and drives the salt bridge into a more apolar surrounding. In this respect, it is of interest to note that recent studies on specific carboxylate modification of phospholipase A₂ showed that 2 out of the 16 carboxylates present in the enzyme are accessible only after complete oxidation of all disulfide bridges (E. A. M. Fleer, personal communication). Minor changes in the N-terminal sequence of the enzyme, such as D-Ala¹ replacing L-Ala¹ or chain elongation with an additional Ala, perturb the three-dimensional conformation of the N terminus (cf. Figures 2 and 3), the salt bridge is no longer possible, and no second Ca²⁺ binding site is present. Any increase of ionic strength with these latter proteins results in a lowering of the pK of the N terminus, and this phenomenon is not specific: Ca²⁺ as well as other bi- or monovalent cations have the same effect.

From Tables II and III it is clear that irreversible blocking of the active-site residue His⁴⁸ prevents binding of Ca²⁺ to the catalytic site. However, the His⁴⁸-modified protein in which the IRS is intact (Pieterse et al., 1974b) still possesses the second Ca²⁺ binding site: addition of Ca²⁺ increases the pK of the α-NH₃⁺ in the L-Ala¹ protein, whereas in the D-Ala¹ protein the pK drops (see Table I). It is of interest to compare the pK values of the α-NH₃⁺ group in the native enzyme and the His⁴⁸-blocked protein: 8.4 and 9.0, respectively. Although the active-site area around His⁴⁸ and the IRS (N-terminal region) are known to be topographically distinct (Pieterse et al., 1974b; van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975) the presence of an apolar C-8 chain on His⁴⁸ apparently induces a more hydrophobic environment around the α-NH₃⁺ group. This means that, in the active enzyme, His⁴⁸ and the N terminus most probably are not far apart. This tentative conclusion is sustained also by the fluorescence increase around pH 6.0 (Figure 3, curve C). The increase in quantum yield disappears upon acylation of His⁴⁸ with 1-bromo-2-octanone. The results obtained by ultraviolet difference spectroscopy in Figure 4 indicate that binding of a second Ca²⁺ ion in phospholipase A₂ perturbs the microenvironment of Trp³ and confirms the tentative conclusion from the ¹³C NMR that the second Ca²⁺-binding site must be located close to the N-terminus of the polypeptide chain. Notwithstanding the fact that weak dissociation constants are experimentally difficult to quantitate, the NMR results of Figure 2 and the ultraviolet results of Figure

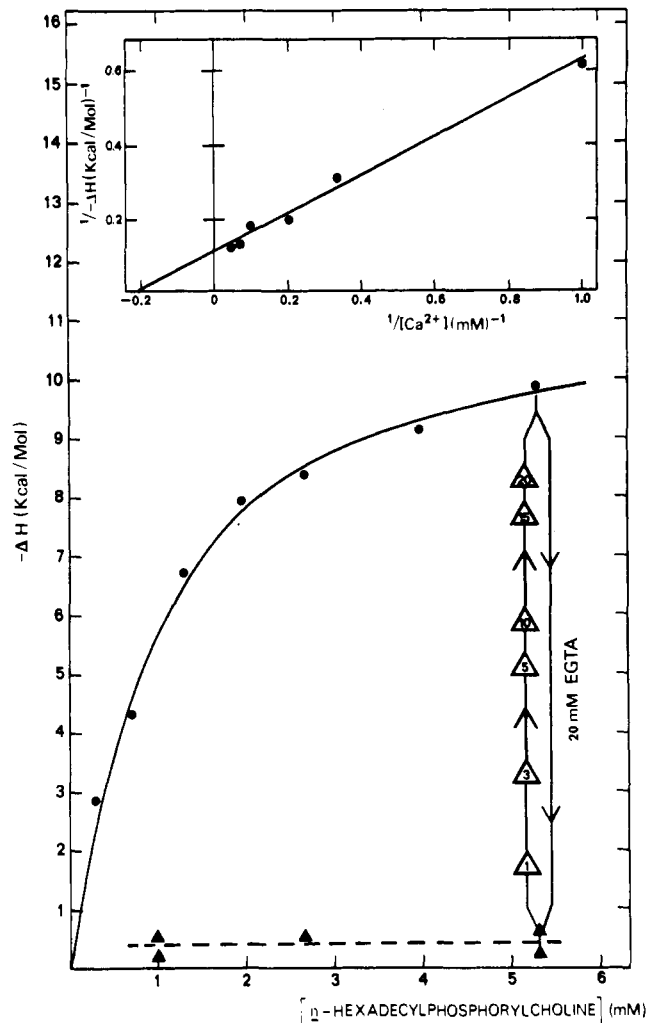


FIGURE 6: Enthalpy change of binding of micellar *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine to 1-bromo-2-octanone-inhibited phospholipase A₂ at pH 6.0 (●—●) and 10.0 (▲—▲). Experimental conditions: 35.7 μM protein, 0.05 M buffer in 0.1 M NaCl [acetate (pH 6.0) and glycine (pH 10.0)] at 25 °C. At pH 10.0, EGTA (1 mM) was present (▲) or increasing concentrations of Ca²⁺ [(▲) 1 up to (▲) 20 mM]. Inset: Double-reciprocal plot of the change in enthalpy vs. Ca²⁺ concentration in the presence of 5.33 mM *n*-hexadecylphosphorylcholine at pH 10.0.

4 are in reasonable agreement and point to a dissociation constant for the second Ca²⁺ binding site in lipid-free phospholipase A₂ of about 20 mM at pH 8.0. In the presence of organized lipid-water interfaces, however, the affinity of the enzyme for binding a second Ca²⁺ ion considerably increases (Table III and Figure 6) and this allows the enzyme to bind its substrate and perform effective catalysis at alkaline pH.

Acknowledgments

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UDP-Glucuronosyltransferase: Phospholipid Dependence and Properties of the Reconstituted Apoenzyme[†]

Jeffrey P. Gorski[‡] and Charles B. Kasper*

ABSTRACT: The effect of membrane lipid on the stability and catalytic activity of microsomal UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (EC 2.4.1.17) from rat liver was examined. Ninety-eight percent of membrane phospholipid was separated from total microsomal protein by gel filtration on a deoxycholate-equilibrated Sephadex G-50 column. Lipid removal reduced transferase activity, using *p*-nitrophenol as acceptor, to 0-6% that of a deoxycholate-treated control preparation. Incubation of the apoenzyme with liposomes, prepared from microsomal lipid, restored 30-44% of the original activity. Synthetic and naturally occurring lecithins as well as lysolecithin also reconstituted transferase function; however, dioleoyl- and bovine lecithins were more active than either dipalmitoyl- or plant lecithins. Bovine phosphatidylserine was without effect. *p*-Nitrophenol conjugation catalyzed by the reconstituted

transferase exhibited similar responses to ionic strength, temperature, and pH as did the nondelipidated deoxycholate solubilized enzyme, although the reconstituted enzyme displayed a more restricted pH range (7.3-7.6 vs. 7.3-8.2) over which maximum activity was expressed. Ability to reactivate the apoenzyme decreased rapidly upon storage with a half-life of approximately 1 day. Storage in the presence of ethylene glycol markedly stabilized the apoenzyme; however, even in the presence of glycol, capacity of the apoenzyme to be reactivated decayed at a faster rate than did the activity of the fully reconstituted enzyme. Collectively, our results establish the phospholipid requirement of microsomal UDP-glucuronosyltransferase for maximal catalytic activity and implicate the involvement of lipid in the stabilization of the active enzyme.

Since the demonstration by Fleischer and Klouwen (1961) of the lipid dependence of mitochondrial electron transport, many other membrane-bound enzymes, such as glucose-6-phosphatase (Garland & Cori, 1972), cytochrome oxidase (Hinkle et al., 1972), β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase

(Nielsen & Fleischer, 1973), cytochrome *b*₅ reductase (Rogers & Strittmatter, 1973), lipopolysaccharide glycosyltransferases (Rothfield & Romeo, 1971), adenosine triphosphatase (Kimmelberg & Papahadjopoulos, 1972; Hilden et al., 1974), and cytochrome P-450 (Lu et al., 1972), have been shown to require association with phospholipid for enzymatic function. A similar characterization of rat liver microsomal UDP-glucuronosyltransferase, *p*-nitrophenol as acceptor, has been hampered due to its inactivation upon membrane disruption. As a result, the bulk of current knowledge is based upon work utilizing particulate, microsomal membrane as a source of transferase activity. A number of investigations have shown that digestion of intact microsomes with phospholipase A or

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[‡] Current address: Department of Molecular Immunology, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, La Jolla, California 92037.