

## CORRIGENDA

Horvath, I. P. Zabos, Gy. Szabados and P. Bauer, In vitro synthesis of guanosine polyphosphates in rat liver mitochondrial preparations (1975) FEBS Letters 56, 179–183, and Zabos, P., P. Bauer, J. Schlotthauer and I. Horváth, Stringent factor-independent synthesis of pppGpp in *Escherichia coli* strains (1976) FEBS Letters 64, 107–110.

The authors would like to make the following corrections to their articles:

After publication of the results reported in the above two articles, it was observed in the course of investigations carried out in the same laboratory with GDP preparations of different origin that the data concerning the amount of pppGpp were incorrect. This was due to the contaminations present in the GDP preparations that had been used in the work reported in these two papers.

The product obtained using contaminated GDP preparations could not be resolved from pppGpp produced by the stringent reaction of *E. coli* on a PEI thin-layer chromatographic plate if cochromatographed in 1.5 M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , pH 3.4, and 3.3 M ammonium formate + 4.2% borate (adjusted to pH 7.0 with  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ ) as solvent (M. Cashel et al., J. Chromat. 40, 103, 1969). On the other hand, the  $R_F$  value of at least the bulk of the product was different from that of pppGpp, if the system was run in the presence of 1.6 M LiCl (adjusted to pH 3.4 with acetic acid). Results obtained with DEAE-cellulose (Whatman DE-52) chromatography (J. Sy and F. Lipmann, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 70, 306, 1973) were similar.

So far it is not clear whether the appearance of this product was due to direct phosphorylation of the contaminant present in some GDP preparations. In our previously published chromatographic experiments the actual presence and amount of pppGpp also needs further investigations.

(The unidentified phosphorylated product of contaminated GDP preparations can also be obtained with acetate kinase (Boehringer-Mannheim) and  $^{32}\text{P}$ -labelled acetylphosphate. Therefore, it may be an unknown byproduct of kinase enzyme reactions.)