Ecto-phosphatase Activity on the Cell Surface of *Crithidia deanei*

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In the present work we have partially characterized an ecto-phosphatase activity in Crithidia deanei, using viable parasites. This enzyme hydrolyzed *p*-nitrophenylphosphate at a rate of 3.55 ± 0.47 nmol Pi/h $\times 10^8$ cells. The dependence on *p*-NPP concentration shows a normal Michaelis-Menten kinetics for this phosphatase activity and the value of the apparent K_m for *p*-NPP was 5.35 ± 0.89 mM. This phosphatase activity was inhibited by the product of the reaction, the inorganic phosphate. Experiments using classical inhibitors of acid phosphatases, such as $ZnCl_2$ and sodium fluoride, as well as inhibitors of phosphotyrosine phosphatase, such as sodium orthovanadate and ammonium molybdate, showed a decrease in this phosphatase activity, with different patterns of inhibition.