

Cairo, Egypt, for supplying us with the animals used in this investigation.

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Carbon Dioxide Assimilation by *Leishmania donovani*

WHILE studying the glucose metabolism of *Leishmania donovani*, the protozoan organism causing visceral leishmaniasis, it has been found that cell suspensions of this organism in a saline-bicarbonate buffer containing glucose can assimilate a measurable amount of carbon dioxide along with the formation of different acidic end products¹.

L. donovani, strain 81, cultured on Ray's medium² at 22–24° C. and recycled every three weeks from the Nicolle-Novy-McNeal medium, was used in this study. After growth for three days on Ray's medium, the organism was scraped from the surface of the agar, washed twice with ice-cold isotonic saline by centrifugation at 3,000 r.p.m. for 10 min. and finally resuspended in isotonic saline.

Standard conditions used for the measurement of carbon dioxide assimilation were as follows: 3.0 ml. of the complete reaction mixture contained 15 μ moles of sodium bicarbonate (pH 7.3), 30 μ moles of glucose, 1 ml. of cell suspensions in isotonic saline containing 1.5–2 mgm. protein nitrogen. Incubations were carried out for one hour in conventional Warburg manometric vessels at 37.2° C. in an atmosphere 95 per cent nitrogen and 5 per cent carbon dioxide.

Results from three typical experiments showing the carbon dioxide balances during anaerobic glucose breakdown by cell suspensions of *L. donovani* are presented in Table 1. It will be seen that the amount of carbon dioxide assimilated by the organisms under these conditions varies from 32 μ l. to 80 μ l. The variation in the amount of carbon dioxide fixation was afterwards found to be due to the different growth stages of the culture used. Table 2 represents figures for the stoichiometric relationship between glucose utilized, acid produced and carbon dioxide fixed in three typical experiments carried out under standard experimental conditions. It will be seen that nearly 0.30–0.36 mole of carbon dioxide is incorporated per mole of glucose consumed. Results using growing culture indicate that the amount of carbon dioxide fixed varies with the age of culture; with two days old growing culture the molar ratio of carbon dioxide fixed per mole of glucose utilized is nearly one. From Table 2 it will also be seen that an average of 1.5 moles of acids are formed per mole of glucose metabolized. Chemical analysis of the different acids that are formed indicated that the major products were non-volatile in nature, and among them succinic acid predominated although malic acid formation has also been noted.

Table 1. CARBON DIOXIDE BALANCES DURING ANAEROBIC BREAKDOWN OF GLUCOSE BY *L. donovani* SUSPENSIONS

No. of Exp.	Total available carbon dioxide (μ litre)	Carbon dioxide liberated due to acid formation	Residual carbon dioxide	Carbon dioxide fixed
	a	b	c	a-(b+c)
1	262	144	74	44
2	267	150	37	80
3	126	82	12	32

Table 2. CARBON DIOXIDE ASSIMILATION BY *L. donovani* SUSPENSIONS

Expt. No.	Glucose consumed (μ mole)	Total acid formed (μ mole)	Carbon dioxide fixed (μ mole)	Carbon dioxide fixed/Glucose used
1	3.1	4.4	1.1	0.36
2	6.1	8.6	1.9	0.31
3	5.3	7.8	1.6	0.30

When glucose was replaced by glycerol, ribose or pyruvate, no measurable amount of carbon dioxide fixation was noticed. Of the various inhibitors tried, DNP (10^{-4} M), α - α' -dipyridyl (10^{-3} M) and 8-hydroxy-quinoline (10^{-3} M) were found to have marked inhibitory effects on the glucose utilization as well as on the carbon dioxide assimilation. It seems that the carbon dioxide assimilation by this protozoal organism is in some way related to the glucose metabolism. The high rate of carbon dioxide assimilation may also be complementary to the very active transaminase system reported to be present in this organism³.

Detailed studies on the biochemical basis for the carbon dioxide requirement of this protozoal organism are in progress and will be reported elsewhere.

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HÆMATOLOGY

Hæmolytic Properties of Immune Chicken Antibody

IN the course of a study of immunological responsiveness of chickens to foreign red blood cells our interest was attracted by the observed discrepancy between high agglutination titres of immune chicken sera and their inability to show lytic properties in the presence of complement. It is well known that different antibody-antigen systems exhibit different abilities to fix guinea pig complement when mammals are used as antibody producers¹. The failure of immune bird sera to show a significant complement-fixing activity was mentioned by Meyer² and by Rico³ in birds infected with ornithosis virus and *S. pullorum*. It was postulated that avian antibody formed with antigen non-complement-fixing aggregates⁴, and that avian antibody lacked some character that was important for combining with complement⁵. This problem, however, was not further explored, and all available data were based on the experiments made with guinea pig complement. It seemed, therefore, reasonable to investigate in a preliminary way whether or not chicken antibody hæmolyses red cells in the presence of complement from different animal species.

Hæmolytic sera were prepared by inoculating intravenously Rhode Island Red pullets with 5 per cent suspension of duck and rabbit erythrocytes (two series of three injections each, followed by re-injection after 20 days). The diluent for all reagents was sodium chloride-veronal buffer pH 7.3–7.4 containing