

The effect of external Ca^{2+} and Ca^{2+} -channel modulators on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts of *Phaseolus radiatus* L.

LONG CHENG¹, XIAO JING WANG, RUI CHI PAN
*Department of Biology, South China Normal University,
Guangzhou 510631, China*

ABSTRACT

Red-light-induced swelling of the protoplasts isolated from hypocotyl of etiolated mung bean (*Phaseolus radiatus* L.) was observed only when Ca^{2+} ions were present in the medium. The optimal CaCl_2 concentration was 250 μM . Swelling response declined when Ca^{2+} was supplied into the medium after red light irradiation. The Ca^{2+} -chelator EGTA eliminated the red-light-induced swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation in the protoplasts. In contrast, A_{23187} , a Ca^{2+} -ionophore, could mimic the effect of red light in darkness. These results indicate that Ca^{2+} may play a role in light signal transduction. In addition, swelling response was prevented by TFP and CPZ (both are CaM antagonists), implying the involvement of CaM in red-light-induced and Ca^{2+} -dependent protoplast swelling.

Key words: *Calcium ions, red light, protoplast swelling, $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation, Phaseolus radiatus*

INTRODUCTION

Most of the processes in plant growth and development depend on the presence of calcium ions. During the past few decades, it has been demonstrated that cal-

1. Present address and to whom correspondence should be sent: Department of Biology, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200062, China. Fax: 021-6257 6217, E-mail: biol1@ecnu.edu.cn

Abbreviations: R, red light; D, darkness; CaM, calmodulin; CPZ, chlorpromazine; TFP, trifluoperazine; MES, 2-(N-morpholine) ethanesulphonic acid; EGTA, ethylene glycol-bis(β -aminoethyl ether) N,N,N',N'-tetracetic acid

The dependence of calcium on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts

cium, as a 'secondary messenger', participates the transduction of environmental signals[1-5]. The hypothesis that a phytochrome-induced increase in intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration is necessary for the promotion of some phytochrome responses was supported by two best characterized phytochrome responses: light chloroplast rotation in the alga, *Mougetia*[6] and spore germination in the fern, *Onoclea*[5]. In monocot plants such as *Avena sativa*, *Triticum aestivum*, *Zea mays* and *Vallisneria*, etiolated leaf protoplasts swelled in response to red light[7-9]. Red light increased the rate of $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake by corn leaf protoplasts, and the response was reversed by far-red light[7]. Recent evidence has shown that this physiological response was preceded by a transient increase in cytosolic free calcium[10] and *illumination* of the protoplast increased the open probability of ion channel[11]. Little evidence has been obtained so far in dicot plants, except that chloroplasts and protoplasts from spinach leaves exhibited a light-induced Ca^{2+} influx using the metallochromic indicator arsenazo III[12, 13]. In our previous reports[14, 15], we have shown that phytochrome induced swelling of protoplasts of mung bean hypocotyls. The study reported here was designed to elucidate the role of calcium ions in the red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts of *Phaseolus radiatus* L.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

Seeds of mung bean (*Phaseolus radiatus* L.) were surface sterilized with 70% ethanol for 1 min and 0.1% HgCl_2 for 5 min, then washed with sterile water (3 changes). Sterilized seeds were grown in darkness at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. Etiolated seedlings were harvested after 64 h.

Protoplast isolation

Hypocotyl segments (5 mm in length) were excised from 3 mm below the hook, then cut transversely into 0.5 mm slices, and plasmolysed (1 h) in a solution of 13% (w/v) mannitol containing KH_2PO_4 27.2, KNO_3 101, $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1480, $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 240, KI 0.16, $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.025 mg/L, (pH 5.6). Plasmolysed tissue from 50 hypocotyls were incubated on a rotary shaker (50 ~ 60 r/min, $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$) for 5 ~ 6 h in an enzyme solution containing 2% (w/v) cellulase, 1% (w/v) hemicellulase, 0.5% pectinase, 5 mM MES, 9% (w/v) mannitol and the other salt components as used for plasmolysis (pH 5.2). The enzyme-protoplasts mixture was filtered through a nylon sieve (64 μM pore size), and centrifuged (100 \times g, 10 min). The pellet was suspended in a 21% (w/v) sucrose solution (other salt components were same as plasmolysis solution) and centrifuged (100 \times g, 5min). Floating protoplasts were washed twice with a solution of 9% mannitol containing MES 5 mM, with or without CaCl_2 250 μM , pH 5.6. The final pellet was suspended to the desired concentration (10^5 to 5×10^5 cells per ml) in a suspension medium containing 9% (w/v) mannitol, MES 5 mM. Protoplast quantification was performed using haemocytometer and all protoplast suspension used showed > 95% viability as assessed by fluorescein diacetate (FDA) staining[16]. All manipulations were performed under a dim green light ($<0.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$).

In all experiments, performed in the present work, protoplasts were maintained in darkness or irradiated with 3 min red light (10.5 Wm^{-2}), then incubated for 30 min in darkness at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ before volume measurement.

Light sources

The red light source was obtained as described by Long et al[14] with some modification. Briefly, monochromatic light was selected from six 40-W red fluorescent lamps in a custom-built projector using a red interference filter ($\lambda = 660$ nm, 25 nm half bandwidth) (Roscolene No. 823 Kliegle Brothers, USA). The fluence rate was 10.5 Wm^{-2} and was measured with Kettering Radiant Power Meter.

Protoplast volume measurement

The size of protoplasts was determined by photographing $100 \mu\text{l}$ protoplast suspension that was revolved at random by a disposable pipette from the treated population after an incubation period of 30 min in darkness at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, and placed on a haemocytometer. At least 100 intact protoplasts were measured for each datum of the protoplast volume of each experiment.

$^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ transport assay

Accumulation of $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ in protoplasts was determined as described in the previous report[15]. $194 \mu\text{l}$ of protoplast suspension was incubated with $6 \mu\text{l}$ of $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ (74 MBq/ml), the reaction was stopped by adding 5 ml of cold washing solution containing 9% (w/v) mannitol, 5 mM MES and with or without $250 \mu\text{M}$ CaCl_2 . The protoplasts were collected immediately on glass fiber filters and washed with 10 ml of fresh cold washing solution and counted in a G-M counter.

Protein content

The content of protein was determined by Folin-phenol assay.

Chemicals

Hemicellulase H-2125, pectinase, EGTA, verapamil, A_{23187} , CPZ, TFP and Folin-B were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO, USA. Cellulase Onzuka R-10 was purchased from Kinki Yakult Manuf. Co. Ltd. Japan. MES was purchased from Serva Feinbiochemica Heideberg, New York. $^{45}\text{CaCl}_2$ was purchased from Institute of Atomic Energy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. All other chemicals were analytical grade.

The data presented represent mean \pm S.E. of three independent experiments. Statistical analysis was based on a one-way analysis of variance and significant differences at the 5% level were calculated.

RESULTS

Effect of Ca^{2+} concentration on red-light-induced protoplast swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation in protoplasts

We have demonstrated previously that red-light-induced protoplast swelling occurred only when Ca^{2+} ions were present, other divalent (Ba^{2+} , Mg^{2+} and Zn^{2+}) and monovalent (K^+) cations had no visible effects on protoplast swelling[14]. To investigate the effect of different external CaCl_2 concentration on swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation, protoplasts were suspended in the media containing 0 (plus EGTA), 100, 250, 500 and 1000 μM of CaCl_2 , separately, and were irradiated with red light. Protoplast volume were determined after 30 min of incubation in darkness. As shown in Tab 1, both the volume and the accumulation of $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ of the protoplasts increased when CaCl_2 was present in the medium. The most effective concentration was 250 μM . the protoplast volume was 30.83% larger than that incubated in calcium-free control (+EGTA), while $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation was 61.09% higher than

The dependence of calcium on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts

dark control in the same medium. Therefore this concentration was used in all subsequent experiments.

Tab 1. The effect of different CaCl_2 concentration on red-light-induced protoplast swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation in protoplasts. Standard errors are shown for all data.

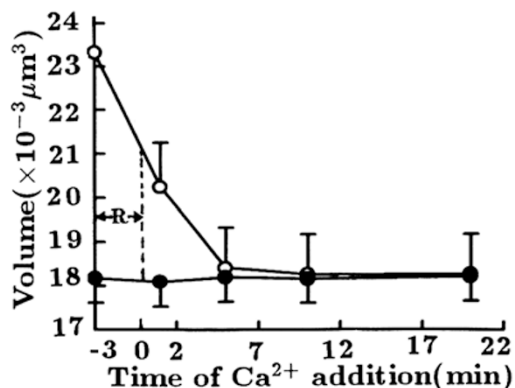
Medium	Light regime	$^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation	Volume
		(cpm μg^{-1} protein)	($\times 10^3 \mu\text{M}^3$)
CaCl_2 (1 M)	D	165.78 ± 5.98	20.19 ± 0.47
EGTA (1000 mM)	R	ND	19.72 ± 0.59
CaCl_2 (100 mM)	R	241.39 ± 10.14	22.41 ± 0.62
CaCl_2 (250 mM)	R	271.37 ± 11.43	25.80 ± 0.68
CaCl_2 (500 mM)	R	263.34 ± 10.50	25.47 ± 0.73
CaCl_2 (1000 mM)	R	258.66 ± 9.57	24.95 ± 0.66

ND = not determined, D = dark, R = red light irradiation.

Ca^{2+} -dependence of protoplast swelling induced by red light

To investigate further the relationship between Ca^{2+} effect and the light signal, CaCl_2 (250 M) was added into calcium-free medium before or after red light treatment. It was shown that when the calcium was added 1 min after red light irradiation, swelling response decreased about 60% comparing to that added before light treatment. No significant swelling response occurred when CaCl_2 was supplied 5, 10, 20 min after red light irradiation (Fig 1).

Fig 1. The effect of Ca^{2+} addition before or after red light irradiation on red-light-induced protoplast swelling. D (●); R (○). The final concentration of Ca^{2+} was $250 \mu\text{M}$. Values and error bars were the mean and standard error of three replicate samples.



The specificity of Ca^{2+} on red-light-induced protoplast swelling

EGTA enter the cell membrane with difficulty, but it can chelate Ca^{2+} in the medium and specifically reduce the efficiency of external Ca^{2+} [17]. When 0.25, 0.5 or 1 mM EGTA were added into Ca^{2+} -containing medium, the red-light-induced protoplast swelling was inhibited. The stimulatory effect of red light was totally nullified at the concentration of 0.5 mM EGTA (Fig 2). In our experiments, EGTA at concentrations higher than 1.5 mM led to protoplast rupture.

Effect of verapamil on swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake of protoplasts

Verapamil as a Ca^{2+} -channel blocker can prevent selectively the influx of Ca^{2+} across the plasma membrane in some plant systems[8]. When 1, 5 and 10 μM verapamil were added, respectively, into the Ca^{2+} -containing medium, $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake was reduced and protoplast swelling was inhibited even though the protoplasts was irradiated with red light. At the concentration of 10 μM verapamil, 84.26% $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake and 81.57% swelling response was inhibited (Fig 3).

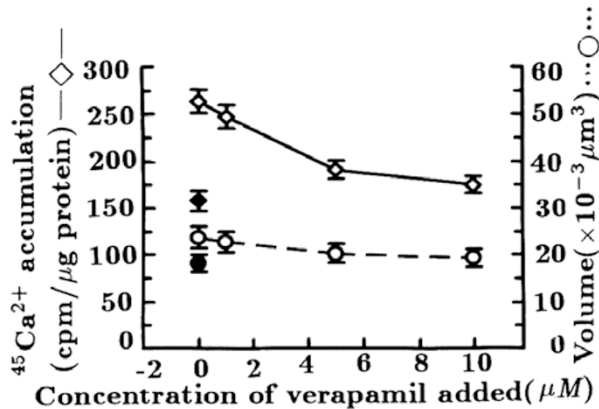


Fig 2. The effect of EGTA on red-light- induced protoplast swelling. D (●); R (○).

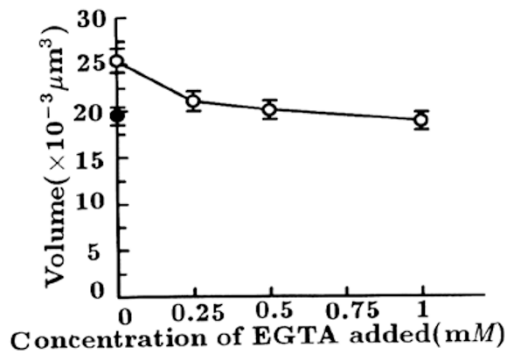


Fig 3. The effect of verapamil on red-light-induced protoplast swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ accumulation in protoplasts. D (●, ◆); R (○, ◇).

Effect of LaCl_3 on swelling and $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake of protoplasts

La^{3+} , an inorganic Ca^{2+} -antagonist, can not enter plant cell, but it inhibits the movement of Ca^{2+} through the plasma membrane[18]. Treatment of the protoplasts with 10, 50 or 100 μM LaCl_3 did indeed inhibit $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake and swelling response of protoplasts irradiated with red light in the Ca^{2+} -containing medium. At the concentration of 100 μM of LaCl_3 , 89.35% of $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake and protoplast swelling was totally inhibited (Fig 4).

The dependence of calcium on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts

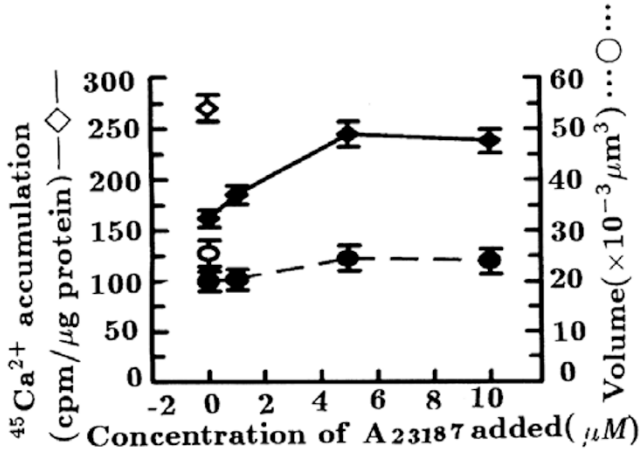


Fig 4. The effect of LaCl₃ on red-light-induced protoplast swelling and ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ accumulation in protoplasts. D (●, ◆); R (○, ◇).

Effect of A₂₃₁₈₇ on swelling and ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ uptake of protoplasts

A₂₃₁₈₇, a compound transporting Ca²⁺ across membrane down the concentration gradient[19], was a kind of carboxylic antibiotic Ca²⁺ ionophore. In darkness, when 1, 5 or 10 μM of A₂₃₁₈₇ were supplied into the Ca²⁺-containing medium, ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ uptake was improved, and protoplasts swelled. The volume and ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ uptake in protoplasts were 82.91% and 90.62% ,respectively, as those of red light treatment when 5 μM of A₂₃₁₈₇ was added to medium (Fig 5).

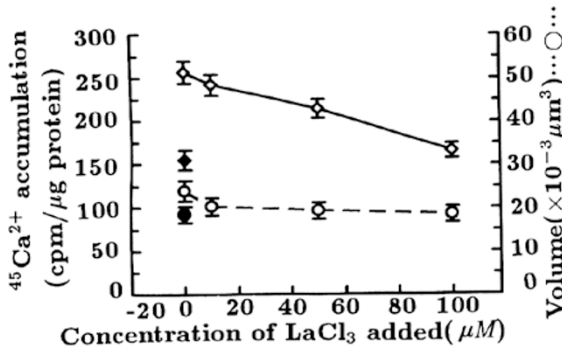


Fig 5. Effect of A₂₃₁₈₇ on swelling and ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ uptake of protoplasts. D (●, ◆); R (○, ◇).

The involvement of CaM in protoplast swelling

It has been shown that Ca^{2+} may act as secondary messenger, and combine with CaM in cytoplasm. The Ca^{2+} -activated CaM then activates enzymes which regulates the physiological processes of plants[3]. To identify whether or not CaM involves in physiological modulation, CaM antagonists are generally used to test their inhibitory action. The previous results showed that treatment of protoplasts with 1, 5 or 10 μM of trifluoperazine (TFP) or chlorpromazine (CPZ), antagonists of the Ca^{2+} -CaM complex, did indeed abolish the swelling of protoplasts irradiated with red light, and it was strongly blocked at the dose of 5 μM (Tab 2). Protoplasts rupture was observed at the concentration higher than 20 μM .

Tab 2. The effect of TFP and CPZ on red-light-induced protoplast swelling. The concentration of CaCl_2 was 250 μM

Medium	Light regime	Volume($\times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^3$)	Δ Volume($\times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^3$)
CaCl_2	D	18.63 \pm 0.55	0
CaCl_2	R	24.03 \pm 0.63	5.4
CaCl_2 + TFP (1 μM)	R	19.54 \pm 0.38	0.95
CaCl_2 + TFP (5 μM)	R	19.55 \pm 0.57	0.92
CaCl_2 + TFP (10 μM)	R	18.54 \pm 0.43	-0.09
CaCl_2 + CPZ (1 μM)	R	19.25 \pm 0.36	0.62
CaCl_2 + CPZ (5 μM)	R	18.65 \pm 0.39	0.02
CaCl_2 + CPZ (10 μM)	R	18.12 \pm 0.41	-0.51

DISCUSSION

It has been demonstrated in plants that the environmental signals outside-cell are transduced to relative processes inside-cell via the change of Ca^{2+} concentration in cytosol. However, it is very significant but rather difficult to measure static or activated Ca^{2+} concentration in cytosol. So the participation of this well defined cellular signalling molecule in light signal transduction has been tested inside plant cells by using agonists or antagonists to examine their effects on light-mediated responses[20]. Ca^{2+} influx into or efflux from plasma membrane or organ has been reviewed[3]. Hepler and Wayne[5] showed that the changes of Ca^{2+} transport system meant the change of the concentration of intracellular Ca^{2+} when the spores of *Onoclea* were stimulated by red light. Recently, by means of laser scanning confocal microscopy, Fluo-3 was used to examine red-light-induced cytosolic free Ca^{2+} changes[10]. In our experiments, red-light-induced Ca^{2+} influx into protoplasts has been measured using $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$. When CaCl_2 was at the concentration of 250-1000 μM , swelling response and the $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake were positively correlated to concentration within certain limit, and the optimum concentration of external CaCl_2 on red-light-induced swelling response of protoplasts was found to be 250 μM (Tab 1). The results demonstrated that Ca^{2+} was absolutely required for red-light-induced swelling

The dependence of calcium on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts

of protoplasts. Moreover, full response was only observed when Ca^{2+} was added to the medium before red light treatment (Fig 1). Reduced response occurred when Ca^{2+} was added 1 min after light treatment and the swelling was totally prevented when Ca^{2+} was added to the calcium-free medium 5 min after red-light-irradiation, implying a pre-request of Ca^{2+} in red-light-induced swelling and this request is time dependent. Shacklock et al.[10] reported that a transient rise in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ lasting no more than 1 min was sufficient to elicit the prolonged physiological response of a change in cell volume.

If Ca^{2+} was chelated by EGTA, no protoplast swelling after red light-irradiation occurred (Fig 2). When the agents such as verapamil and LaCl_3 were used to block the Ca^{2+} -channel, the red-light-induced $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ uptake and protoplast swelling were inhibited significantly. There was a good dose-relationship between percent of inhibition and concentrations of channel blockers (Fig 3 and 4). In darkness, A_{23187} could partially mimic red-light-induced swelling and promoting $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$ influx in the presence of Ca^{2+} (Fig 5). All these facts indicates that protoplast swelling is a consequence of a rise in cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentration, and its inhibition by various inhibitors imply opening of Ca^{2+} channel stimulated by red light. Therefore our results support the hypothesis that red light induces an entrance of Ca^{2+} into protoplasts. Takagi and Nagai[8] found that La^{3+} inhibit Ca^{2+} influx through Ca^{2+} channel in the cell membrane of protoplasts from *Vallisneria mesophyll* cell. Akerman et al[21] observed that A_{23187} enhanced net Ca^{2+} accumulation by protoplasts. Mehta et al[22] suggested a role of ion channels and pumps in phytochrome-controlled Ca^{2+} fluxes and that modulation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ is likely to be achieved through changes in the activity of Ca^{2+} channels. These data suggested that dico and monoco plants share a common biochemical mechanism for at least part of protoplast swelling. Broad similarities between swelling of protoplasts induced by red light in mung bean and more well-studied monoco plants were apparent. However, there also existed considerable differences in detail, such as initial time, level and maintaining period of Ca^{2+} influx and protoplast swelling.

The participation of well-characterized cellular signalling molecules in light signal transduction has been tested as inside plant cells by using agonists or antagonists and by examining their effects on light-mediated responses[20]. Ca^{2+} influx or efflux in plasma membranes or organs were studied[3]. The ability of TFP and CPZ to inhibit red-light-induced protoplast swelling (Tab 2) indicates that CaM might be involved in the transduction of light signal. When CaM is activated by Ca^{2+} , it may then activate other target enzymes and physiological processes which result in the swelling of protoplasts. These drugs at higher concentrations may lead to disruption of protoplasts. In this case, their action is due to a non-specific disruption of membrane function rather than a specific CaM antagonism. These actions were highly similar to those found in monocotyledons. Similar phenomena have been noted by others[23].

In summary, this study provides a strong demonstration of calcium acting as a

signaling molecule for phytochrome action in dico plants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The project was supported by grant from National Science Foundation of China (No. 39170038).

REFERENCES

- [1] Bush DS. Calcium regulation in plant cells and its role in signaling. *Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol* 1995; **46**:95-122.
- [2] Gilroy S, Trawavas T. A decade of plant signals. *Bio Essays* 1994; **16**:677-82.
- [3] Sun DY, Gao YL. Intracellular signal Ca^{2+} . In *Signal system in cell*. Ed: Liang SW, Science Press: Beijing **1993**:140-203
- [4] Hao LL, Yu SW. *Messenger and function in plant cell*. In: *Plant physiology molecular biology*. Ed: Yu SW, Science Press: Beijing **1992**:123-40.
- [5] Hepler PK, Wayne RO. Calcium and plant development. *Annu Rev Plant Physiol* 1985; **36**:397-439.
- [6] Serlin BS, Roux SJ. Modulation of chloroplast movement in the green alga *Mougeotia* by the Ca^{2+} ionophore A_{23187} and by calmodulin antagonists. *Proc Nat Acad Sci USA* 1984; **81**:6368-72
- [7] Das R, Sopory SK. Evidence of regulation of calcium uptake by phytochrome in maize protoplasts. *Biochem Biophys Res Comm* 1985; **128**:1455-60.
- [8] Takagi S, Yamamoto KT, Furuya M, Nagai R. Cooperative regulation of cytoplasmic streaming and Ca^{2+} fluxes by Pfr and photosynthesis in *Vallisneria mesophyll* cells. *Plant Physiol* 1990; **94**:1702-8.
- [9] Tretyn A, Kendrick RE, Bossen ME. The effect of a calcium-channel antagonist, nifedipine and agonist, Bay K-8644, on the phytochrome-controlled swelling of etiolated wheat protoplasts. *Physiol Plant* 1990; **78**:230-5.
- [10] Shacklock PS, Read ND, Trewavas AJ. Cytosolic free calcium mediates red-light-induced photomorphogenesis. *Nature* 1992; **358**:753-5.
- [11] Deng XW. Fresh view of light signal transduction plants. *Cell* 1994;**76**:423-6.
- [12] Heimann K, Kreimer G, Melkonian M, Latzko E. Light-induced Ca^{2+} influx into spinach protoplasts. *Zeitschrift Naturforschung* 1987; **42C**:283-7.
- [13] Kreimer G, Melkonian M, Latzko E. An electrogenic uniport mediates light-dependent Ca^{2+} influx into intact spinach chloroplast. *FEBS Lett* 1985; **180**:253-8.
- [14] Long C, Wang XJ, Pan RC. Regulation of phytochrome on swelling of protoplasts isolated from hypocotyl of etiolated mung bean seedlings. *Acta Bot Sinica* 1994; **36**:765-72.
- [15] Long C, Wang XJ, Pan RC. The role of calcium ions red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts of mung bean. *Chinese Sci Bull* 1995; **40**:248-51.
- [16] Larkin PJ. Purification and viability determinations of plant protoplasts. *Planta* 1976; **128**:213-6.
- [17] Gilroy S, Hughes WA, Trewavas AJ. The measurement of intracellular calcium levels in protoplasts from higher plant cell. *FEBS Lett* 1986; **199**:217-21.
- [18] Thomson WW, Platt KA, Campbell N. The use of lanthanum to delineate the apoplectic continuum in plants. *Cytobios* 1973; **8**:57-62.
- [19] Reed PW, Lardy HA. A_{23187} : a divalent cation ionophore. *J Bio Chem* 1972; **247**:6970-7.
- [20] Elzenga JT, Van Volkenburgh E. Characterization of a light-controlled anion channel in the plasma membrane of mesophyll cells of pea. *Plant Physiol* 1997; **113**:1419-26.
- [21] Akerman KEO, Proudlove MO, Moore AL. Evidences for a Ca^{2+} gradient across the plasma membrane of wheat protoplast. *Biochem and Biophys Res Comm* 1983; **113**:171-7.

The dependence of calcium on red-light-induced swelling of protoplasts

- [22] Mehta M, Malik MK, Khurana JP, Maheshwari SC. Phytochrome modulation of calcium fluxes in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) protoplasts. *Plant Growth Reg* 1993; 12:293-302.
- [23] Gilroy S, Hughes WA, Trewavas AJ. Calmodulin antagonists increase free cytosolic calcium levels in plant protoplasts *in vivo*. *FEBS Lett* 1987; 212:133-7.

Received Aug-27-1997. Revised Jan-22-1998. Accepted Feb-18-1998.