

Induction of riboflavin-carrier protein in the immature male rat by estrogen: kinetic and hormonal specificity

C. V. RAMANA MURTY and P. R. ADIGA

Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012

MS received 3 March 1982

Abstract. The kinetics of estrogen-induced accumulation of riboflavin-carrier protein in the plasma was investigated in immature male rats using a specific and sensitive homologous radioimmunoassay procedure developed for this purpose. Following a single injection of the steroid hormone, plasma riboflavin-carrier protein levels increased markedly after an initial lag period of approximately 24 h, reaching peak levels around 96 h and declining thereafter. A 1.5 fold amplification of the inductive response was evident on secondary stimulation with the hormone. The magnitude of the response was dependent on hormonal dose, whereas the initial lag phase and the time of peak riboflavin-carrier protein induction were unaltered within the range of the steroid doses (0.1-10 mg/ kg body wt.) tested. Simultaneous administration of progesterone did not affect either the kinetics or the maximum level of the protein induced. The hormonal specificity of this induction was further adduced by the effect of administration of antiestrogens viz., En and Zu chlomiphene citrates, which effectively curtailed hormonal induction of the protein. That the induction involved *de novo*-protein synthesis was evident from the complete inhibition obtained upon administration of cycloheximide. Passive immunoneutralization of endogenous riboflavin-carrier protein with antiserum to the homologous protein terminated pregnancy in rats confirming the earlier results with antiserum to chicken riboflavin-carrier protein.

Keywords. Riboflavin carrier protein; radioimmunoassay; estrogen induction; specificity; kinetics; amplification; antiestrogens; secondary stimulation; immunoneutralization; pregnancy termination.

Introduction

In the chicken (and presumably in other oviparous species also), adequate deposition in the egg of water-soluble vitamins like riboflavin (Rhodes *et al.*, 1959; Murty and Adiga, 1977), thiamin (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1981), biotin (Eakin *et al.*, 1940; White *et al.*, 1976; Murthy and Adiga, 1980) etc. for utilisation by and proper development of the prospective embryo, is accomplished by the obligatory participation of the high-affinity carrier proteins specific to each of these vitamins. Earlier, we showed that all these egg proteins are inducible specifically by estrogen (Murty and Adiga, 1978; Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980a; Ramana Murty and Adiga, unpublished) either in the adult male or immature animals of either sex.

Abbreviations used: RCP, riboflavin-carrier protein; TCP, thiamine carrier protein; BCP, biotin carrier protein.

Notwithstanding the marked difference in the patterns of embryonic development in the oviparous species *vis-a-vis* the mammals, we could demonstrate recently that in the pregnant rat also, a similar gestation-specific, high-affinity carrier-protein with immunological cross-reactivity to the purified chicken riboflavin-carrier protein (RCP), mediates the transplacental transport and foetal accumulation of riboflavin (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b; Murty and Adiga, 1981). The rodent RCP was purified to homogeneity (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980c) and its functional importance in foetal development demonstrated. For example, it was shown that immunoneutralisation of this maternal protein in the pregnant rat by specific antiserum to chicken RCP precipitates acute flavin deficiency in the developing conceptus with a resultant marked foetal wastage followed by termination of pregnancy (Murty and Adiga, 1981). During attempts to understand the endocrine basis of the elaboration of this protein in the rat, we found using heterologous radioimmunoassay, that RCP levels in the cycling female rats were modulated in synchrony with the changing estrogen levels and that the steroid hormone could induce this protein *de novo* in ovariectomised female rats (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b). In the present paper, we report a homologous radioimmunoassay for estimating RCP and provide information on the kinetics of its induction by estradiol-17 β in the immature male rat in response to both primary and secondary stimulation as well as the influence of specific hormonal antagonists and other factors thereon. Availability for the first time of the potent antiserum to the rodent protein prompted a reinvestigation of the effect of passive immunoneutralisation of RCP on the course of pregnancy in this mammal.

Materials and methods

Thirty day old male rats (Wistar) of our Institute Colony were fed a pelleted diet (Hindustan Lever Products, Bombay) and water *ad libitum* and exposed to a 14h:10h light-dark schedule. The purification of RCP from pregnant rat serum was accomplished according to the published procedure (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980c). The antiserum against the purified rat RCP was raised in rabbits by subcutaneous injections of the protein (100 μ g) emulsified with Freund's complete adjuvant, once in a week, for 3 weeks followed by a booster dose of the protein (200 μ g) in saline. A week after the booster, blood was collected through the ear vein, and the serum prepared and kept frozen at -20°C . Na ^{125}I for iodination of the protein, was purchased from the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, Bucks, U.K. The sources of other chemicals and reagents were the same as described earlier (Muniyappa & Adiga, 1980). The female rats used in passive immunoneutralisation experiments were 80-100 day old, and day 1 of pregnancy was the day on which the sperms were detected in the vaginal smear. Antiserum (0.5 ml) was injected intraperitoneally on the 11th day of pregnancy, after inactivating the complement in the serum by warming in a water bath at 52°C for 5 minutes. Laprotomy was performed on day 8 to count the number of implantation sites on their uterine horns. Hormones and antiestrogens in propane-1,2-diol were injected intramuscularly, whereas cycloheximide in 0.15M NaCl was administered intraperitoneally.

Homologous radioimmunoassay for riboflavin carrier protein

The iodination of RCP was carried out at 4°C by the procedure of Greenwood *et al.* (1963). Briefly, 2.5 µg of the protein in 25 µl of 100 mM-sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.2 was treated for 45 s with 0.25 mCi of carrier-free Na ¹²⁵I in the presence of 25 µl of chloramine T (1 mg/ml) and the iodination was terminated with the addition of 25 µl of sodium metabisulphite (10 mg/ml). The iodinated protein was separated from the free iodine using a column (0.6 cm × 20 cm) of Sephadex G-75 pre-equilibrated with 0.15 M NaCl in 10 mM-sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5 containing 0.5% (w/v) gelatin. The presence of gelatin ensured the complete recovery of the protein from the column. Small portions (25 µl) from each fraction (1 ml) were counted for radioactivity in a gamma counter (Packard Autogamma, Model 2002). The iodinated protein was stored frozen in small batches in the presence of 2% (w/v) bovine serum albumin until use.

Immunoassay procedure

An antiserum dilution capable of binding 25-40% of the labelled protein was selected. The assay was performed in glass tubes (Moudgal and Madhwaraj, 1974) at 37°C in a water bath. Rat RCP (1-200 ng) standards duplicates, and 0.05-0.1 ml portions of unknown samples were incubated with antiserum (0.1 ml) along with non-immunised rabbit serum as controls, for 10-12 h. Labelled protein (*Ca* 50,000 cpm) was added to all the tubes and the incubation was continued for another 12 h and the antigen-antibody complex was precipitated by the double-antibody method (Murthy and Adiga, 1978) in the presence of a carrier viz. 0.1 ml of 1:50 diluted normal rabbit serum. The precipitate was sedimented by centrifugation at 2000 g for 20 min and the radio activity measured. The amounts of RCP in the unknown samples were calculated by extrapolation from the standard curve (figure 1) that was constructed using various known amounts of unlabelled protein

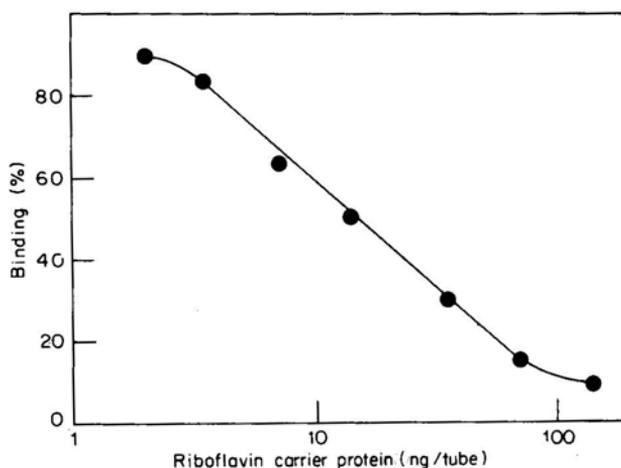


Figure 1. Standard curve for the radioimmunoassay for rat riboflavin carrier protein. The dilution of the antiserum used was 1:5000. For other details see the text.

to inhibit the binding of the labelled protein. The total bound radioactivity in the protein refers to the amount of specifically-bound radioactivity in the absence of unlabelled protein. The non-specific binding (to non-immunised rabbit serum) was 5-10% of the total input radioactivity and this was always subtracted.

Inter assay and intra assay variations:

Aliquot from a single pooled serum sample was analysed 4-8 times for intra-assay and 4 times for inter-assay variation and the data were analysed statistically (Mulholland & Jones, 1968). Coefficients of intra and inter-assay variations were 2-6% and 3-5% respectively and the assay method had a sensitivity of 3.5 ng/tube. The homologous radio-immunoassay reported here had approximately 2 fold higher sensitivity compared to the earlier heterologous radioimmunoassay (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b).

Results

The preliminary evidence (Muniyappa & Adiga, 1980b) that the rat RCP, like its avian counterpart, is inducible in the mammalian liver by estrogen was based on the measurement of circulating levels of this protein in the steroid-treated ovariectomized female rats using a heterologous radioimmunoassay which reflected only the relative concentrations of the protein in the plasma. To assess the absolute content of this vitamin-carrier following estrogenization, a sensitive radioimmunoassay was evolved after the purified rat RCP and its specific antiserum became available. Having accomplished this, a detailed investigation of the time course of accumulation of this protein in the plasma after hormonal dosing was undertaken. The time-course of accumulation and disappearance of RCP during both primary and secondary stimulations with the steroid (10 mg/kg body weight) in 30-day old male rats is depicted in figure 2. The plasma levels of the vitamin-carrier measured prior to hormone treatments represented the respective base-line values which were low (30-50 ng/ml). The increments, if any, in these

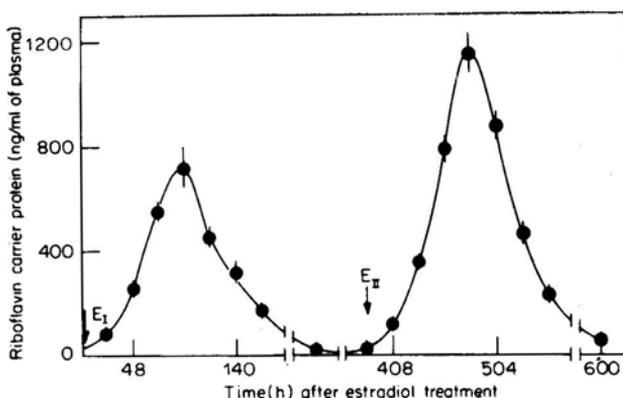


Figure 2. Time course of accumulation of riboflavin carrier protein in the plasma after sequential injections (E_I , E_{II}) of oestradiol-17 β in propane-1,2-diol (10 mg/kg body wt). The values represent means and vertical bars represent S.D. ($n=5$).

levels were not significant for nearly 24h after estrogen treatment. Beyond this initial lag period, the RCP concentrations rose gradually with time reaching a peak value of approximately 750 ng/ml at around 96h in conformity with the earlier data (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b). This was followed by a steady decline and by day 10, the levels returned to the preinjection base-line values.

Sixteen days after withdrawal of the steroid, when the same animals were again challenged with a second dose of estradiol-17 β (10 mg/kg body weight) the circulating concentration of RCP exhibited a similar kinetic pattern except that the response was considerably magnified; in fact, a typical 'memory effect' observed earlier during the elaboration of vitellogenin (Gruber *et al.*, 1976), RCP (Murthy and Adiga, 1978), thiamine-carrier protein (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980a) and biotin-carrier protein (Ramana Murty and Adiga, unpublished observations) in estrogen treated chicken liver was clearly evident. During this secondary stimulation, the amplification of the estrogenic response in terms of RCP induction was more than 1.5 fold. Though the peak plasma concentration of RCP was enhanced by a similar order of magnitude during the secondary stimulation, the time-course of accumulation and disappearance of the protein in circulation exhibited qualitatively the same pattern following the two hormonal stimuli. However, a comparison of the slopes of the respective ascending phases of RCP accumulation clearly shows that the rate of induction, especially during early phases, is significantly enhanced after secondary stimulation *vis-a-vis* primary stimulation.

Hormonal dose-dependency and time-course of RCP elaboration during primary stimulation

Varying doses of estradiol-17 β were administered to young male rats during the primary stimulation to quantify the corresponding changes in the rates and the magnitudes of plasma accumulation and disappearance of RCP. It is evident from figure 3 that as low a dose as 100 μ g/kg body weight (i.e., less than 10 μ g/animal) of the steroid could induce a measurable response which progressively increased with the hormonal dose. However, the time taken to reach the maximal protein levels following hormonal dosing remained the same within the range of the steroid dosage tested (0.1-10 mg/kg body weight). But the rates of accumulation and disappearance from circulation as well as the peak levels reached exhibited a dose-dependent phenomenon.

Influence of cycloheximide

One possibility that the rapid accumulation of RCP in the plasma after hormone administration, merely reflects an interference with the altered metabolic clearance rate and not necessarily *de novo* synthesis was tested by administration of cycloheximide, a powerful inhibitor of protein synthesis. When this (drug was injected intraperitoneally (0.8 mg/kg body weight) 30 minutes prior to steroid administration a drastic decrease in RCP levels was observed at 72h, i.e., at a time when many fold increase in RCP concentration was otherwise encountered (table 1).

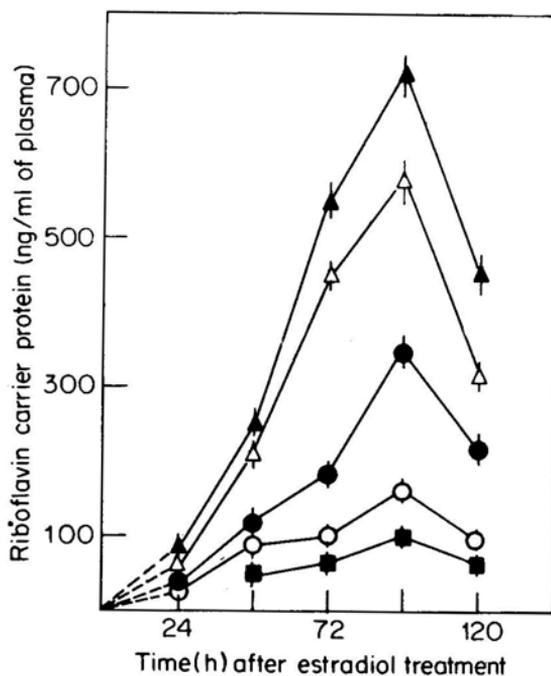


Figure 3. Hormonal dose-dependent reponse of the plasma riboflavin carrier protein during primary stimulation. Time course of plasma riboflavin carrier protein accumulation with increasing concentrations of oestradiol-17 β (mg/kg body wt.): ■, 0.1; ○, 0.5; ●, 1; △, 5.0; ▲, 10.0. The values represent means and vertical bars represent S.D. (n=5).

Table 1. Effect of administration of cycloheximide on estradiol-induced riboflavin carrier protein accumulation in the plasma.

Treatment (mg/kg body wt)	ng RCP/ml plasma at 72 h
Control	25 \pm 8
Estradiol (10)	480 \pm 84
Estradiol + cycloheximide (0.8)	32 \pm 6
Cycloheximide (0.8)	29 \pm 10

Cycloheximide (0.8 mg/kg body wt) was administered intraperitoneally 30 min prior to injection of estradiol 17 β and plasma riboflavin-carrier protein levels estimated at 72 h after oestrogenisation. Data expressed as means \pm S.D. (n=4).

Effect of progesterone and antiestrogens

Earlier observations with the chicken oviduct system that there exists an antagonism between estrogen and progesterone in terms of ovalbumin induction

during primary stimulation (Palmiter and Wren, 1971) could not be demonstrated with the estrogenized chicken liver system elaborating RCP, thiamine- and biotin-carrier proteins (Murty and Adiga, 1978; Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980a, Ramana Murty and Adiga, unpublished results). It was therefore of interest to investigate whether RCP induction in rat by estradiol is modulated by progesterone administered either alone or in combination with estradiol. From the data of figure 4, it is unequivocally clear that progesterone did not exhibit any discernible influence on the kinetics of estrogen-induced RCP production in the rodent with regard to either the initial lag phase or the subsequent rates of RCP accumulation and decay in the circulation or the peak levels of the protein reached at around 96 h after estradiol treatment.

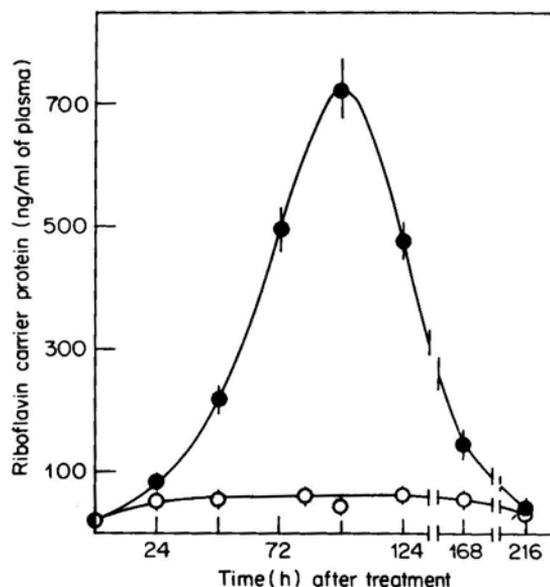


Figure 4. Time course of appearance of riboflavin carrier protein in the plasma on treatment with estradiol-17 β (10 mg/kg body wt) + progesterone (10 mg/kg body wt) (●), and progesterone (10 mg/kg body wt) alone (○).

The values represent means and the vertical bars represent S.D. (n=5).

In order to further substantiate this hormonal specificity of RCP induction in the rat, the potent antiestrogens viz., En- and Zu-clomiphene citrates were administered to the animals 30 min prior to the estrogen treatment and the plasma RCP levels were quantified at 72 h. From the results presented in table 2, it is clear that both the antiestrogens have effectively curtailed the estrogenic response besides being ineffective by themselves to elicit even weak estrogen-like activity with regard to RCP induction.

Passive immunoneutralization with homologous antiserum and effect on pregnancy progression in the female rats -

The previous observation (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b) that RCP is vitally involved in transplacental flavin transport to supply vitamin to the growing

Table 2. Influence of antiestrogens on the estradiol-17 β stimulated plasma riboflavin carrier protein content.

Anti estrogens (mg/kg body wt.)	ng RCP/ml plasma at 72 h	
	-E ₂	+E ₂
Control (none)	15 \pm 6	510 \pm 94
E Clomiphene citrate (10)	23 \pm 5	58 \pm 15
Z-Clomiphene citrate (10)	21 \pm 10	69 \pm 12

En- and Zu-clomiphene citrates (10 mg/kg body wt) were administered 30 min prior to estradiol-17 β administration and plasma riboflavin carrier proteins were estimated at 72 h after oestrogenisation. Data are expressed as means \pm S.D. (n=4).

foetuses, was based on the observation that passive immunoneutralisation with the antiserum to the chicken RCP led to foetal wastage followed by termination of pregnancy. With the availability of a potent antiserum to the homologous protein, it was desirable to study the influence of neutralization of endogenous RCP by this antiserum on the progression of pregnancy in the rodent. The data of table 3

Table 3. The influence of the specific antiserum to the rat riboflavin carrier protein on pregnant rats.

Treatment	No. of animals	nT/T	Autopsy on day 18	Remarks
NRS treated	5	40/8	40/8	Normal
A/s to ovomucoid	5	48/9.6	47/9.4	Normal
A/s to rat RCP	5	43/8.6	0/0	Slight vaginal bleeding during 24-48 h.
A/s to rat RCP neutralised with rat RCP	5	51/10.2	50/10	No bleeding Normal pups

The pregnant rats (11 day) were treated with either the non-immune rabbit serum (NRS) (0.5 ml), or ovomucoid antiserum or antiserum to the purified rat riboflavin carrier protein raised in rabbits (0.5 ml/rat). nT=total number of implantation sites; T=average implantation sites/animal determined at lapotomy. The sera were incubated at 52°C for 5 min to inactivate the complement and were administered intraperitoneally. A/S=antiserum.

provide unequivocal evidence that intraperitoneal administration to pregnant rats of adequate quantities of the antiserum to the homologous RCP on day 11 of gestation proved deleterious and resulted in 100% termination of pregnancy within

24-28h after antiserum administration. It was also found that this phenomenon was preceded by slight vaginal bleeding in these animals. In contrast, pregnant animals treated with either non-immunised rabbit serum or with antiserum to a highly immunogenic protein viz. ovomucoid were unaffected in terms of suppression of pregnancy.

Discussion

Consistent with our earlier observations with ovariectomised female rats (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b), the data presented above amply substantiate that a single injection of estradiol-17 β induces RCP in a dose-dependent manner in immature male rats as well. A comparison of these kinetic data with those obtained earlier with chicken (Murthy and Adiga, 1978) reveal several interesting similarities in the induction of RCP in the two species of animals. Quantitatively, these extend from initial lag phase during which no significant protein accumulates in the plasma, through the patterns of rapid rise and decay in plasma concentrations during primary induction, to significant amplification of the inductive response during secondary stimulation with the steroid. Quantitatively, however, the rodent liver responding to the hormone in terms of RCP induction seems kinetically more sluggish as judged from the relatively protracted initial lag phase (of nearly 24 h compared to 4-5 h in the chicken, (Murthy and Adiga, 1978), an extended duration of both ascending and descending phases and relatively lower magnitude of amplification during secondary stimulation. Nonetheless, overall similarity in the pattern of RCP induction in the two species is clearly evident. That the underlying mechanism may also be analogous is supported by the finding, that as in the chicken liver (Lazier & Haggarty, 1979), specific, high-affinity cytoplasmic estrogen receptors capable of rapid nuclear translocation and functional interaction with chromatin acceptor sites exist in hepatocytes of both the male and female rats (Atew *et al.*, 1978) and that hormone administration brings about marked changes in the composition and function of the mammalian liver (Seal and Doe, 1969).

The characteristic 'memory effect' with attendant amplification of the inductive response (figure 2) seen during secondary stimulation with the hormonal steroid has also been observed earlier with the estrogenised liver synthesizing RCP (Murthy and Adiga, 1978), TCP (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980a) biotin binding protein (Ramana Murty and Adiga, unpublished observation) and in chicken (Gruber *et al.*, 1976) and amphibian (Tata, 1976) liver systems elaborating vitellogenin. Though the intricacies of exact molecular mechanism involved need further elucidation, more pronounced transcription presumably due to permanent changes in chromatin (Jost *et al.*, 1978) and rapid translation due to stabilization of mRNAs during this period have been definitely established as dominant parameters responsible for more efficient induction of these proteins. Furthermore, recent investigations with *X. laevis* (Hayward *et al.*, 1981) have shown that enhanced synthesis as well as marked redistribution of available estrogen receptors between nuclear and cytoplasmic components of the hepatocytes with resultant availability of relatively more cytoplasmic receptors for rapid nuclear translocation of the hormone during secondary stimulation may also be an important contributory factor in this regard. Whatever the underlying mechanism, it is clear from the

results of figure 2 that the amplification of estrogen-induced specific gene expression during secondary stimulation is not confined to oviparous species, but extends to mammals also. The only other instance of this kind demonstrated hitherto in mammals is related to enhanced production of prolactin mRNA (but not its translation product) in the pituitary of male rats repeatedly treated with estrogen (Seo *et al.*, 1979). However, it is pertinent to point out that prolactin, unlike RCP, is a normal constituent and secretory product of the pituitary tissue and that the steroid only enhances the expression of its gene and does not induce its synthesis *de novo*.

It is now well documented that estrogen administration brings about the modulation of synthesis of several plasma proteins in the mammalian liver (Seal and Doe, 1969); the plasma renin substrate is notable among these in that its levels can be enhanced by the steroid hormone in a dose-dependent manner in the adult rat though not in prepubertal rats, which have limited population of hepatic estradiol receptors available at this stage (Dickson and Eisenfeld, 1979). The reasons for age-dependant difference in inducibility between plasma rennin substrate and RCP are not clear at present. It may be related to the fact that different threshold concentrations of estrogen-receptor complex may be needed at nuclear chromatin acceptor sites for the induction of different proteins (Palmiter, *et al.*, 1981). Based on this premise, it is reasonable to surmise that relatively lower levels of estrogen-receptors available in prepubertal rat liver are sufficient to induce RCP, but not plasma renin substrate. The proof of this hypothesis however awaits further study.

Another intriguing facet of analogy between the rat and the chicken systems with regard to RCP induction is the hormonal specificity as exemplified by complete lack of response to progesterone, either alone or in combination with estrogen (figure 4). Further support for this specificity stems from the data in table 2 regarding complete blockade of RCP induction by anti-estrogens. Again as opposed to the findings with rat uterus (Mohla and Prasad, 1969) these antihormones failed to exhibit any discernible estrogen-like activity by themselves in terms of RCP induction in the rodent liver.

From the foregoing, it is clear that despite marked differences between the rat and the oviparous species in the patterns of embryonic development, the carrier-protein-mediated vitamin delivery mechanism is conserved during evolution of species. The similarity is not only in some structural and functional features of the carrier protein but also with respect to the pattern of hormonal inducibility in the liver. Since the data of table 3 clearly reinforce the earlier postulation that RCP is vitally concerned with embryonic development in both the species (Muniyappa and Adiga, 1980b; Murty and Adiga, 1981), it is clear that estrogen-induced specific protein synthesis in mammalian liver is not merely an evolutionary vestige and that in the female mammal some of these proteins may have an important function during pregnancy as nutrient carriers for embryonic development. Viewed from this angle, it would appear that the mammalian liver, like its avian counterpart (Gruber *et al.*, 1976) can also be considered as an accessory sex organ.

Acknowledgements

Financial assistance from the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged. Our thanks are due to Prof. N. R. Moudgal for helpful discussions and for providing facilities for radioimmunoassay.

References

- Atew. R. F., Weinberger, M. J. and Eisenfeld, A. J. (1978) *Endocrinology*, **102**, 433.
- Dickson. R.B. and Eisenfeld, A. J. (1979) *Biol. Rep.*, **21**, 1105.
- Eakin, R. E., Shell. E. E. and Williams, R. J. (1940) *J. Biol. Chem.*, **136**, 801.
- Greenwood, F. C., Hunter. H. M. and Glover, J.S. (1963) *Biochem. J.*, **89**, 114.
- Gruber, M., Bos. E. S. and AB. G. (1976) *Mol. Cell Endocrinol.*, **5**, 41.
- Hayward, M. A., Mitchell, T. A. and Shapiro, D. J. (1981) *J. Biol. Sci.*, **255**, 11308.
- Jost. J. P., Ohno, T., Panyim, S. and Schuerch, A. R. (1978) *Eur. J. Biochem.*, **84**, 355.
- Lazier, C. B. and Haggarty, A. J. (1979) *Biochem. J.*, **180**, 347.
- Maw, A. J. G. (1954) *Poult. Sci.*, **33**, 216.
- Mohla, S. and Prasad, M. R. N. (1969) *Acta Endocrinol (Copenhagen)*, **62**, 489.
- Moudgal, N. R. and Madhwaraj, H. G. (1974) in *Methods in Hormone Radioimmunoassay*, eds. B. M. Jaffe and H. R. Behrman (New York: Academic Press) pp. 57-85.
- Mulholland, H. and Jones, C. R. (1968) *Fundamentals of Statistics*, (London: The English Language Book Society and Butter-Worths) pp. 139-156.
- Muniyappa, K. and Adiga, P. R. (1980a) *Biochem. J.*, **186**, 201.
- Muniyappa, K. and Adiga, P. R. (1980b) *FEBS Lett.*, **110**, 209.
- Muniyappa, K. and Adiga, P. R. (1980c) *Biochem. J.*, **187**, 537.
- Muniyappa, K. and Adiga, P. R. (1981) *Biochem. J.*, **193**, 679.
- Murty, C. V. R. and Adiga, P. R. and Adiga, P. R. (1980) *Indian J. Biochem. Biophys.*, **17**, 102.
- Murthy, C. V. R. and Adiga, P. R. (1981) *FEBS Lett.*, **135**, 281.
- Murthy, U. S. and Adiga, P. R. (1977) *Indian J. Biochem. Biophys.*, **14**, 118.
- Murthy, U. S. and Adiga, P. R. (1978) *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **538**, 364.
- Palmiter, R. D., Mulvihill, E. R., Shepherd, J. H. and McKnight, G. S. (1981) *J. Biol. Chem.*, **256**, 7910.
- Palmiter, R. D. and Wrenn, J. I. (1971) *J. Cell Biol.*, **50**, 598.
- Rhodes, M. B., Bennet. N. S. and Feeney, R. E. (1959) *J. Biol. Chem.*, **234**, 2054.
- Seal, U. S. and Doe, R. P. (1969) in *Metabolic Effects of Gonadal Hormones and Contraceptive Steroids*, eds. H. A. Salhanick, D. M. Kipsis and R. L. Vande (New York: Wiley-Plenum Press) pp. 277-318.
- Seo, H., Refetoff, S., Vassart, G. and Brocas, H. (1979) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)*, **76**, 824.
- Tata, J. R. (1976) *Cell*, **9**, 1.
- White, H. B., Dennison, B. A., Ferra, M.-A.D., Whitney, C. J., McGuire, J. C., Meslar, H. W. and Sammelwitz, P. H. (1976) *Biochem. J.*, **157**, 395.