



AMINOACETONE SYNTHETASE OF LIVER  
MITOCHONDRIA

Thesis submitted for the degree  
of  
Master of Science  
by  
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STATEMENT

This thesis contains no material previously submitted for any other degree or diploma in this or any other University. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis does not contain any material previously published or written by any other person, except where due reference is made in the text.

Robert L. Walsh.

### PUBLICATIONS

Walsh, R. L. and Elliott, W. H. (1969) Aminoacetone synthetase of liver mitochondria; its isolation and properties. Proc. Aust. Biochem. Soc., P.86.

Irving, E. A., Elliott, W. H., Whiting, M. J. and Walsh, R. L. (1970)  $\delta$ -Aminolevulinic acid and amino-acetone synthetases from liver mitochondria. J. Biol. Chem. (accepted for publication 1970).

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## SUMMARY

1. An assay procedure for the determination of aminoacetone synthetase activity is described. The method depends upon the generation of acetyl Coenzyme A from acetyl phosphate and Coenzyme A by E. coli phosphotransacetylase.
2. High levels of the enzyme have been found in the mitochondria of the livers of guinea pig, ox, sheep, pig, lamb and calf.
3. Aminoacetone synthetase was found to be located on the inner mitochondrial membrane.
4. Aminoacetone synthetase from sheep liver was solubilised.
5. The solubilised enzyme is stable in concentrated protein solution but very unstable in a diluted form. The enzyme can be stabilised by the addition of pyridoxal-5-phosphate, ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid and inexplicably by serine or aspartic acid.
6. A partial purification procedure is described which achieves an almost eighty-fold purification of the enzyme from the mitochondria.

7. Partial purification of the E. coli phosphotransacetylase resulted in a loss of aminoacetone formation when it was included in the reaction mixture containing partially purified aminoacetone synthetase. However, partially purified phosphotransacetylase was active with crude preparations of aminoacetone synthetase. No explanation for these results has been found.

8. Aminoacetone synthetase is inhibited by coenzyme A. The non-linear time course of aminoacetone formation obtained, when using added acetyl coenzyme A as substrate is almost certainly due to the coenzyme A released in the assay inhibiting the enzyme.

9. A number of agents were examined in their effect on aminoacetone formation in an assay using added acetyl coenzyme A. Aminoacetone synthetase was rather surprisingly inhibited by heme.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AA	aminoacetone
AA pyrrole	2, 4-dimethyl-3-acetyl pyrrole
AlA	allyl isopropyl acetamide
ALA	$\delta$ -aminolevulinic acid
ALA pyrrole	2-methyl-3-acetyl-4-propionic acid pyrrole
AMP	adenosine monophosphate
ATP	adenosine triphosphate
cm	centimeter
CM	carboxymethyl
CoA	coenzyme A
DEAE	diethyl amino ethyl
DDC	3,5-dicarbethoxy-1,4-dihydro-collidine
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EDTA	ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid, disodium salt
gm	gram
GDP	guanosine diphosphate
GTP	guanosine triphosphate
M	molar
mg	milligram
ml	millimeter
mM	millimolar

ug	microgram
umole	micromole
NAD	nicotine adenine dinucleotide
NADH	nicotine adenine dinucleotide, reduced
PO <sub>4</sub>	phosphate
RNA	ribose nucleic acid
TCA	trichloroacetic acid
tris	Tris (hydroxy methyl) aminomethane
UDP	uridine diphosphate
UTP	uridine triphosphate



## INDEX

	page
<u>CHAPTER I</u>	
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
A. AMINOACETONE BIOSYNTHESIS AND METABOLISM	1
(a) Pathways of Aminoacetone Biosynthesis	1
(i) Threonine Dehydrogenase	2
(ii) Aminopropanol Dehydrogenase	4
(iii) Aminoacetone Synthetase	5
(b) Aminoacetone Metabolism	8
B. $\delta$ -AMINOLEVULINIC ACID SYNTHESIS AND METABOLISM	12
(a) $\delta$ -Aminolevulinic Acid Biosynthesis	12
(i) Succinyl CoA Biosynthesis	12
(ii) $\delta$ -Aminolevulinic Acid Synthetase	13
(b) The conversion of $\delta$ -Aminolevulinic Acid to Heme	15
(c) Regulation of $\delta$ -Aminolevulinic Acid Synthesis and Metabolism	16
(i) General	16
(ii) Regulation of Heme Biosynthesis in Animals	16
(iii) The Biochemistry of Experimental Porphyria	18

C.	AIMS OF THE WORK IN THIS THESIS	page 21
 <u>CHAPTER II</u> <u>MATERIALS AND METHODS</u>		 23
A.	<u>REAGENTS</u>	23
	(a) Chemicals	23
	(b) Buffers	24
	(c) Ehrlich Reagents	25
	(i) For colorimetric assays of AA and ALA	25
	(ii) For the detection of AA and ALA Pyrroles on chromatograms	25
B.	<u>CHROMATOGRAPHIC MATERIALS</u>	25
C.	<u>ANIMALS</u>	26
D.	<u>PREPARATION OF ENZYMES</u>	27
	(a) Bacterial Phosphotransacetylase	27
	(b) Bacterial Succinyl CoA Synthetase	28
	(c) Ox Heart Nucleoside Diphosphokinase	28
E.	<u>DETERMINATIONS</u>	28
	(a) Estimation of AA in the Assay System using Acetyl phosphate as Donor	28



	page
(i) Effect of protein concentration on the stability of AA synthetase.	40
(ii) Effect of dilution of Sonicated Extract in the presence of various Ions on the stability of AA synthetase.	42
(iii) Effect of Amino Acids on the stability of AA synthetase.	43
(d) Effect of Dialysis, Freeze Drying and Freezing and Thawing.	44
(e) Effect of Thiol Agents.	45
C. <u>Discussion</u>	45
<u>CHAPTER V</u>	<u>THE PARTIAL PURIFICATION OF AMINOACETONE</u>
	<u>SYNTHETASE</u>
	47
A. <u>The Initial Purification of the Mitochondrial Extract Prior to Column Chromatography</u>	47
B. <u>Column Chromatography of Partially Purified Mitochondrial Extracts</u>	48
(a) Sephadex G-100	48
(b) Sephadex G-200	49
(c) Hydroxyapatite	50
(d) CM Cellulose	50
(e) DEAE Cellulose	51

	page
(f) DEAE Sephadex	52
(g) Final Purification Procedure	52
C. <u>Discussion</u>	55
<u>CHAPTER VI</u>	<u>A STUDY OF THE PROPERTIES OF PARTIALLY</u>
	<u>PURIFIED AA SYNTHETASE</u>
	56
A. <u>Properties of AA Synthetase using Acetyl CoA</u>	
<u>Generated in the Incubation Mixture</u>	56
(a) Determination of Optimum Reaction Conditions for the Partially Purified Enzyme.	56
(b) The Effect of Enzyme Concentration on AA Formation.	57
(c) The Effect of Incubation Time on AA Formation.	58
(d) The Effect of pH on AA Formation.	58
(e) The Effect of Sonicated Mitochondrial Debris on the AA Synthetase Assay.	58
(f) The Effect of Purified Phosphotransacetylase on the AA Synthetase Assay.	59
B. <u>Properties of AA Synthetase using Added Acetyl CoA</u>	61
(a) Determination of Optimum Assay Conditions for the Partially Purified Enzyme.	61
(b) The Attempted Substitution of N-S-Diacetyl Cysteamine for Acetyl CoA in the Incubation	62

	page
Mixture.	
(c) The Inhibition of AA Synthetase by CoA.	64
(d) The Inhibition of AA Synthetase by Heme.	65
(e) Effect of Various Potential Inhibitors on AA Synthetase Activity.	67
C. <u>Discussion</u>	68
<u>CHAPTER VII</u> <u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u>	70
<u>REFERENCES</u>	
<u>APPENDIX: THE ROLE OF SUCCINIC THIOKINASE IN THE CONTROL OF HEME BIOSYNTHESIS IN MICE</u>	1A
A. <u>Introduction</u>	1A
B. <u>Methods</u>	2A
C. <u>The Induction of Succinyl CoA Synthetase Activity in Mice with Experimental Porphyria</u>	3A
D. <u>Attempts to detect the Presence of an Inducible Form of Succinyl CoA Synthetase</u>	5A
(a) <u>High Voltage Electrophoresis of CoA Synthetase</u>	5A
(b) <u>The Effect of pH on Succinyl CoA Synthetase Activity</u>	7A
E. <u>Discussion</u>	9A