

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase/6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase ratio and the glucose-6-phosphate, 6-phosphogluconate and fructose-6-phosphate contents in tobacco plants infected with potato virus Y

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Abstract

The ratio of activities of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (G6P DH/6PG DH), and the contents of glucose-6-phosphate (G6P), 6-phosphogluconate (6PG) and fructose-6-phosphate (F6P) were studied at various stages of potato virus Y (PVY) multiplication in *Nicotiana tabacum* cv. Samsun. G6P DH/6PG DH increased through the experiment from 0.42 to 0.53 in leaves of healthy tobacco, and up to 0.59 in PVY systemically infected leaves. However, these ratios in the ruptured protoplast preparations, and the chloroplast and cytosol fractions of healthy protoplasts were similar to that from infected ones. The ratio lower than 1, found in the healthy and/or PVY-infected leaf tissues and in the infected protoplasts as well, confirms the assumption that G6P DH is the control enzyme of oxidative pentosephosphate pathway not only in the healthy but also in the infected plants. The contents of G6P, 6PG and F6P in the period of the highest PVY multiplication were strongly decreased (to 30 - 50 % when compared with control healthy leaves) and were negatively correlated with the G6P DH and 6PG DH activities.

Additional key words: protoplast, chloroplast, cytosol, regulation, oxidative pentosephosphate pathway, *Nicotiana tabacum*.

Introduction

It has long been recognized that the plant has the capacity to metabolize free, storage and transport saccharides through the pentose phosphate cycle, the pathway representing a functionally significant alternative route for saccharides utilization. The oxidative pentose phosphate pathway metabolizes glucose-6-phosphate to ribose-5-phosphate necessary for the *de novo* biosynthesis of purine and pyrimidine nucleotides of viral RNA. Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (D-glucose-6-phosphate: NADP⁺ oxidoreductase, EC 1.1.1.49; G6P DH) and 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (6-phospho-D-gluconate: NADP⁺ oxidoreductase, EC 1.1.1.44; 6PG DH) play an important role in the regulation of the flux through this pathway at the level of its first enzyme G6P DH. This together with 6-phosphogluconolactonase hydrolysing 6-phospho-D-gluconate lactone to 6-phospho-D-gluconate forms a suitable irreversible enzyme system (Turner and Turner

1980). The physiological significance of this enzymatic regulation during virus-RNA replication is given by the variable requirements of NADPH necessary for pentoses essential for nucleotide synthesis. G6P DH and 6PG DH catalyse the two-stage, NADP⁺ dependent, oxidation of glucose-6-phosphate, thereby constituting the direct oxidative pathway of saccharide metabolism.

G6P DH and 6PG DH are present in plant tissues in the form of two main isozyme complexes, one of which is located in chloroplasts and the other in cytosol (Eichhorn and Corbus 1988, Wendt *et al.* 2000). Both isozymes show similar properties: nearly the same pH optima, relative molecular mass, kinetic constants K_M and V_{max} , etc. (Schnarrenberger *et al.* 1973). Mechanisms of their coarse and fine regulation by some intermediates (NADP⁺, NADPH, AMP, ADP, erythrose-4-phosphate, phosphoenolpyruvate) and the effect of light (inhibition) or darkness (activation) are partially known (Heber *et al.*

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Abbreviations: F6P - fructose-6-phosphate; G6P - glucose-6-phosphate; G6P DH - glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase; 6PG - 6-phosphogluconate; 6PG DH - 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase; p.i. - post inoculation; PVY - potato virus Y.

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1967, Anderson *et al.* 1974, Ashihara and Komamine 1974, Anderson and Duggan 1976, Ben-Bassat and Anderson 1981, Srivastava and Anderson 1983, Fickenscher and Scheibe 1986, Graeve *et al.* 1994, Rogoshin 1996, Signorini *et al.* 1995, Wendenroth *et al.* 1997).

Close connection between increased activities of G6P DH and 6PG DH and the contents of viruses was reported by Tien and Tang (1963), Merrett and Sunderland (1967), Simons and Ross (1971), Huth (1973). Our earlier studies also confirmed such an increased activity of the oxidative

pentosephosphate pathway including ribosephosphate pyrophosphokinase, the key enzyme of purine and pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway (Šindelář 1986, Šindelář and Šindelářová 1987a,b, Šindelářová *et al.* 1997, 1998, Šindelář *et al.* 1999).

This paper presents the study of regulative changes in the activities of G6P DH and 6PG DH, G6P DH/6PG DH ratio and the content of G6P, 6PG and F6P found in tobacco leaf tissues and mesophyll protoplasts upon potato virus Y infection.

Materials and methods

Plant cultivation and virus inoculation: Two-month-old tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L. cv. Samsun) plants grown under constant conditions in Hoagland No. 3 nutrient solution, at an irradiance of $100 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (16-h photoperiod) and average temperature of 25 °C, were used in experiments. The lower leaf, approximately 5 cm in length, was mechanically inoculated with purified potato virus Y^N (necrotic strain of PVY, Leiser and Richter 1978) at a concentration of $100 \mu\text{g cm}^{-3}$; the corresponding leaf of control plant was mock-inoculated with distilled water. The day of inoculation was day zero (0 d p.i.).

Preparation of homogenate: Crude homogenate was prepared from the systemically infected and/or corresponding control leaves by grinding in a mortar with fine silica sand, 10 % (m/m) insoluble polyvinylpyrrolidone and TEMM buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl buffer, 1 mM EDTA, 2.5 mM MgCl₂, 30 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, pH 7.0) in a ratio of 1:5 (m/v). The resulting homogenate was squeezed through Miracloth and nylon sieve 100 mesh and centrifuged for 10 min at 20 000 g.

Preparation of protoplasts and the fractionation of cell organelles: Protoplasts were prepared 7 d p.i. according to Šindelářová and Šindelář (1994). Their disintegration and subcellular fractionation was performed according the methods described in Šindelář *et al.* (1999). Ruptured protoplasts were named the crude homogenate S₀. The pellet (P₁) containing the substantial part of chloroplasts was obtained by 5 min centrifugation at 1 000 g and was resuspended in TEMM medium. Supernatant was centrifuged for 15 min at 15 000 g and the supernatant (S₁₅) was used in experiments. The fractions were used for estimation of total protein content, chlorophyll content and NADP⁺-triosephosphate dehydrogenase (markers of chloroplasts), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (marker of cytosol), G6P DH, and 6PG DH activities. All steps of these procedures were carried out at a temperature from 0 to 4 °C. Under these conditions the activities of the enzymes did not change for more than 5 h.

The number of protoplasts was determined in a haemocytometer and the number of viable protoplasts by staining with methylene blue according to Hooley and McCarthy (1980). The percentage of infected protoplasts was determined by an immunoenzymatical method according to Šindelář and Šindelářová (1994).

Determination of PVY content: PVY content was determined by the quantitative DAS-ELISA method (Clark and Adams 1977) using rabbit anti-PVY antibodies and alkaline phosphatase labeled antibodies prepared from our isolates of PVY (necrotic strain).

Determination of chlorophyll, G6P, F6P and 6PG content and enzyme activities: Chlorophyll content was determined according to Arnon (1949).

D-glucose-6-phosphate and D-fructose-6-phosphate were determined by using glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and phosphoglucose isomerase (Pohorst 1963a) and D-6-phosphogluconate by using 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (Pohorst 1963b) after extraction of these metabolites by 0.6 M HClO₄.

G6P DH (EC 1.1.1.49) and 6PG DH (EC 1.1.1.44) activities were determined spectrophotometrically, NADPH generation was monitored at 340 nm (Šindelář 1986, Šindelář and Šindelářová 1987a). Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase activity (EC 4.1.1.31) was determined according to Downton and Slatyer (1971), NADP⁺-triosephosphate dehydrogenase activity (EC 1.2.1.9) according to Heber *et al.* (1963).

Statistical treatment: The results are presented as arithmetical means \pm standard deviation of the mean of 3 to 7 determinations in 3 independent experiments. The *t*-test was employed to characterise the differences.

Chemicals: Protoplasts releasing enzymes were obtained from *Serva* (Heidelberg, Germany), alkaline phosphatase from *Boehringer* (Heisenhofen, Germany) and all other fine biochemicals were purchased from *Sigma Chemical Company* (St. Louis, USA).

Results and discussion

The G6P DH and 6PG DH activities of leaf tissue are significantly increased through the period of PVY multiplication (when compared with leaf tissues of control tobacco) (Table 1, Fig. 1) and the courses of these curves correlate with the multiplication curve of the

6PG DH activity (3 - 7 d p.i.) in infected leaves of tobacco, the strong decrease to 30 - 50 % of G6P, 6PG and F6P, the substrates of oxidative pentosephosphate pathway, was found in the period of the culmination of multiplication curve of PVY (Table 2, Fig. 1).

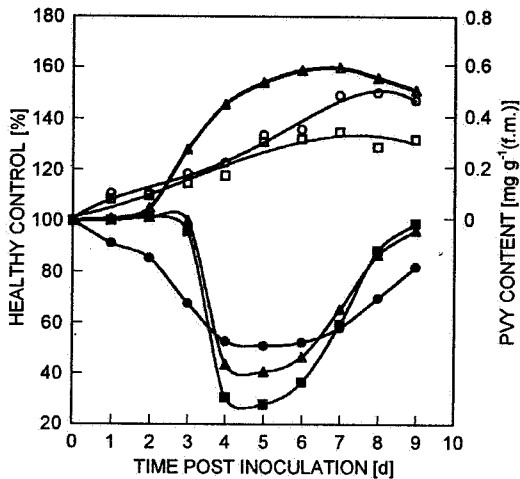


Fig. 1. The G6P (closed circles), 6PG (closed squares) and F6P (closed triangles) contents and G6P DH (open circles) and 6PG DH (open squares) activities in PVY infected leaf tissues of *Nicotiana tabacum* L. cv. Samsun expressed in % of healthy control. PVY content - open triangles.

PVY^N (G6P DH: $r = 0.983^{***}$ for $n = 43$; 6PG DH: $r = 0.971^{***}$ for $n = 32$). This is in good agreement with the results obtained by Tien and Tang (1963), Merrett and Sunderland (1967), Simons and Ross (1971), Huth (1973) and with our previous studies (Šindelář *et al.* 1990, 1999, Šindelářová and Šindelář 1991, Šindelářová *et al.* 1997).

In accordance with the increased G6P DH and

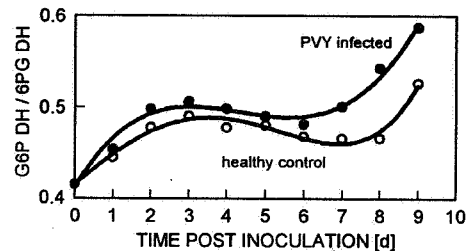


Fig. 2. The G6P DH / 6PG DH activity ratio in healthy and PVY infected leaf tissues of *Nicotiana tabacum* L. cv. Samsun.

It seems to be generally accepted that the rate of the oxidative pentosephosphate pathway is regulated at the level of its first enzyme, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (Turner and Turner 1980). The activity of this enzyme seems to be determined either by the ratio $\text{NADPH}/\text{NADP}^+$ or by its specific effector ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate in the chloroplasts (Turner and Turner 1980). To provide reliable efficiency for regulation of the pathway, the higher content of G6P DH than 6PG DH must be established, thereby the ratio of G6P DH activity to 6PG DH must be lower than 1. This regulative mechanism has evidently a common validity because of its observation also in animal tissue (Farnararo and Bruni 1982). Our results obtained at leaf tissue confirm this (Fig. 2). In spite of the significant increase of both enzyme activities in infected tissues, the G6P DH/6PG DH ratio was only insignificantly changed.

Table 1. Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6P DH) and 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (6PG DH) activities in healthy and PVY systemically infected tobacco leaves (* - the differences statistically significant at $0.01 \leq P < 0.05$; ** - at $0.001 \leq P < 0.01$).

| Time [d p.i.] | G6P DH [nmol g ⁻¹ (f.m.) min ⁻¹] | | 6PG DH [nmol g ⁻¹ (f.m.) min ⁻¹] | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | healthy | infected | healthy | infected |
| 0 | 55.07 ± 1.41 | 55.07 ± 1.32 | 132.62 ± 1.87 | 132.62 ± 1.96 |
| 1 | 60.01 ± 1.53 | 66.31 ± 1.51 | 134.81 ± 2.15 | 146.04 ± 1.87 |
| 2 | 64.94 ± 1.55 | 74.25 ± 1.63 | 136.04 ± 2.08 | 149.19 ± 1.90 |
| 3 | 64.94 ± 1.43 | 76.58 ± 1.57* | 132.48 ± 2.11 | 151.39 ± 2.06** |
| 4 | 63.71 ± 1.38 | 77.82 ± 1.46** | 133.44 ± 2.06 | 156.18 ± 2.12** |
| 5 | 63.43 ± 1.40 | 84.26 ± 1.61** | 132.21 ± 2.10 | 172.07 ± 2.41** |
| 6 | 68.64 ± 1.51 | 92.61 ± 1.83** | 146.73 ± 2.12 | 192.49 ± 2.37** |
| 7 | 82.20 ± 1.73 | 121.79 ± 1.92** | 176.59 ± 2.46 | 243.59 ± 2.57** |
| 8 | 90.97 ± 1.86 | 135.63 ± 1.96** | 195.36 ± 2.65 | 250.03 ± 2.48** |
| 9 | 102.20 ± 1.91 | 149.33 ± 1.91** | 194.27 ± 2.54 | 254.41 ± 2.39** |

Table 2. Glucose-6-phosphate, 6-phosphogluconate and fructose-6-phosphate in healthy and PVY systemically infected tobacco leaves (* - the differences statistically significant at $0.01 \leq P < 0.05$; ** - at $0.001 \leq P < 0.01$).

| Time [d p.i.] | Glucose-6-phosphate [nmol g ⁻¹ (f.m.)] | | 6-Phosphogluconate [nmol g ⁻¹ (f.m.)] | | Fructose-6-phosphate [nmol g ⁻¹ (f.m.)] | |
|------------------|---|---------------|--|---------------|--|----------------|
| | healthy | infected | healthy | infected | healthy | infected |
| 0 | 15.0 ± 0.36 | 15.0 ± 0.28 | 1.50 ± 0.03 | 1.50 ± 0.03 | 3.53 ± 0.05 | 3.53 ± 0.05 |
| 1 | 16.8 ± 0.41 | 15.3 ± 0.31 | 1.91 ± 0.04 | 1.91 ± 0.03 | 3.54 ± 0.05 | 3.54 ± 0.05 |
| 2 | 27.0 ± 0.43 | 23.1 ± 0.33** | 2.07 ± 0.04 | 2.76 ± 0.04 | 7.97 ± 0.06 | 7.14 ± 0.06 |
| 3 | 37.3 ± 0.46 | 25.3 ± 0.40** | 2.38 ± 0.04 | 2.76 ± 0.04 | 8.67 ± 0.06 | 7.15 ± 0.06* |
| 4 | 67.5 ± 0.87 | 35.5 ± 0.63** | 6.91 ± 0.05 | 2.07 ± 0.03** | 24.76 ± 0.16 | 10.61 ± 0.07** |
| 5 | 142.7 ± 1.19 | 71.4 ± 0.71** | 7.60 ± 0.06 | 2.07 ± 0.03** | 35.37 ± 0.23 | 14.15 ± 0.06** |
| 6 | 156.0 ± 1.27 | 80.0 ± 0.76** | 7.00 ± 0.05 | 2.50 ± 0.04** | 33.00 ± 0.26 | 15.00 ± 0.07** |
| 7 | 137.0 ± 1.25 | 78.0 ± 0.71** | 6.00 ± 0.05 | 3.50 ± 0.04** | 28.00 ± 0.22 | 18.00 ± 0.07** |
| 8 | 108.0 ± 1.17 | 74.3 ± 0.64** | 5.53 ± 0.04 | 4.84 ± 0.04* | 24.76 ± 0.20 | 21.22 ± 0.12* |
| 9 | 105.0 ± 1.22 | 85.0 ± 0.69** | 5.00 ± 0.04 | 4.90 ± 0.05 | 22.00 ± 0.16 | 21.00 ± 0.11 |

Table 3. G6P DH, 6PG DH activity [nmol (10⁶ living protoplasts)⁻¹ min⁻¹] and G6P DH/6PG DH ratio in protoplasts and cell organelles from healthy and PVY infected tobacco leaves (7 d p.i.). The symbols S₀, P₁ and S₁₅ represent the ruptured protoplast preparation, the 1 000 g pellet (chloroplasts) and 15 000 g supernatant (cytosol), respectively, (* - the differences statistically significant at $0.01 \leq P < 0.05$; ** - at $0.001 \leq P < 0.01$).

| Fractions | Healthy protoplasts | | | Infected protoplasts | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | G6P DH | 6PG DH | G6P DH/6PG DH | G6P DH | 6PG DH | G6P DH/6PG DH |
| S ₀ | 3.40 ± 0.02 | 8.95 ± 0.05 | 0.38 | 4.08 ± 0.04* | 10.20 ± 0.12** | 0.40 |
| P ₁ | 0.47 ± 0.01 | 2.40 ± 0.02 | 0.20 | 0.86 ± 0.01** | 4.29 ± 0.03** | 0.20 |
| S ₁₅ | 2.72 ± 0.02 | 7.16 ± 0.03 | 0.38 | 3.45 ± 0.03* | 8.21 ± 0.08* | 0.42 |

To verify this finding, the ratio of G6P DH/6PG DH was also studied in chloroplast and cytosol fractions derived from the healthy and PVY-infected tobacco protoplasts. Protoplasts were prepared from leaves on 7 d p.i. when the multiplication curve of PVY and the curves of activities of G6P DH and 6PG DH culminated (Fig. 1). Protoplasts contained 4.83 µg PVY per 10⁶ living protoplasts and 57.1 ± 9.7 % of the protoplasts were infected. Almost all intact chloroplasts (chlorophyll and NADP⁺-triosephosphate dehydrogenase were used as markers) occurred in P₁ pellet (healthy - more than 94 %, infected - more than 92 % of total chloroplasts). Supernatant S₁₅ contained more than 96 %, (or 93 % in infected protoplasts) of the cytosol as estimated by using phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase as marker. The ratio of

G6P DH/6PG DH activity was not significantly changed in ruptured protoplast preparations (S₀), chloroplasts (P₁) and cytosol (S₁₅) by PVY infection (Table 3).

Conclusion: The value of G6P DH/6PG DH ratio lower than 1, found in the healthy and PVY-infected leaf tissues and also in infected protoplasts, is a biochemical feature which confirm the assumption that G6P DH is the control enzyme of oxidative pentosephosphate pathway regulation not only in healthy but also in infected plants. The content of G6P, 6PG and F6P in the period of the highest PVY multiplication was strongly decreased to 30 - 50 % when compared with control healthy leaves and was negatively correlated with the G6P DH and 6PG DH activity.

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