

## Electrophoretic studies on esterase banding patterns in parotoid gland secretion and its extract of Indian toad *Bufo melanostictus*

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**ABSTRACT:** The present study has been carried out to investigate the electrophoretic studies on esterase banding patterns of parotoid gland secretion and its extract of common Indian toad (*B. melanostictus*). The qualitative analysis of esterase isozyme banding patterns were examined on 7.5% native polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) stained with  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate as substrate. In parotoid gland secretion 3 esterase bands named as Est-1 (27.50); Est-2 (25.00); Est-3 (21.62), where as in parotoid gland extraction 6 esterase bands named as Est-1 (27.50); Est-2 (25.00); Est-3 (21.62); est-4 (35.58), Est-5 (48.50) and Est-6 (50.00) were observed with different relative mobility. The results revealed that the activity of individual esterase band was not completely inhibited by pCMB and Physostigmine (Eserine). However a complete inhibition was observed (in both parotoid gland secretion and its extract) in the presence of paraoxon (an organophosphate). Thus our present investigation reveals that all the enzymes were classified as carboxyl esterases.

**KEYWORDS:** *B.melanostictus*, parotoid gland secretion,  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate, paraoxon, pCMB, Physostigmine, carboxyl esterase.

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### I. INTRODUCTION:

Amphibians are important components of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by means of their sensitivity towards environmental changes ( Dullmen and Trueb, 1986; Pull et al., 2000; Marco AD et al., 2001). Amphibian skin is characterized by the presence cutaneous glands spread over the body. Basically toads have two types of alveolar glands in the epidermal layer of their skin i.e. i) mucus glands and ii) granular glands (Toledo and Jared 1995; Jared et al., 2009). Mucus glands secrete mucus substance functioning as a lubricant in the water to keep skin moist and protect the skin from the mechanical damages and prevent microbial settlement on the skin. These glands secrete glycoprotein rich material, which plays an important role in defense mechanism. The granular glands are associated with chemical defense. These gland secretions contain biogenic amines, steroids, peptides, protein, bufotoxins, oligopeptides, alkaloids in terms of pharmacological effects ( Toledo et al., 1995; Eraspmer 1994; Lyttle 1996; Maciel 2003; Daly 2007; Gomes et al., 2007a). In toads these granular glands are form the parotoid glands located besides eyes and tymphanum. The venomous secretions of these parotoid glands of the toad *Bufo* species are known to contain several bioactive compounds (Habermehl 1995) and were used by Chinese and Japanese physicians for centuries as folk medicine (Lyttle et al., 1996; Abhishek garg 2007, Smith et al., 2005).

Preliminary survey on the venomous secretions and the extracts of gland reveal that the gland secretions contain good amount of hydrolytic enzymes, esterases. Esterases represent a diverse group of hydrolases catalyzing the formation and break down of ester bonds which are sensitive to organophosphate compounds, and play a vital role in biotransformation and detoxification of the pesticides, and are useful in bioremediation of organophosphate sensors. In present study we investigate on the electrophoretic studies on esterase banding patterns of parotoid gland secretion and its extract of common Indian toad *B. melanostictus*.

### Materials and Methods:

The toads (5cm to 8cm in length, weighed about 50-75grams) were collected from the vicinity of Kakatiya University hostel buildings, Warangal, Telangana State. The parotoid glands were gently pressed to release the secretions (Linde & Myer-1971). The secretions were collected in ice-jacketed containers. After collecting the secretions, the gland was dissected out and blotted free of blood clots and other adherent tissues and weighed to the nearest milligram. The gland as well as the secretions were homogenized in (10%) 0.01M Tris-HCL Buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.9% NaCl.

The homogenates were centrifuged and the supernatants were diluted 1:1 with 20% sucrose containing 0.01% bromophenol blue as tracking dye. An aliquot of 0.1ml of these solutions were loaded directly on to the separating gel. Esterase patterns were separated on thin layer (1.5mm thickness) polyacrylamide gels (7.5%,

10X10 cm). The gel mixture was prepared according to the procedure of Clarke. Gelling was allowed for 45 minutes. After loading on to the gel, the samples were overlaid with electrode buffer and gel plates were connected to the electrophoretic tank. Tris (0.05M), Glycine (0.38M), buffer (pH 8.3) was used as the electrode buffer. A constant current of 50 volts for the first 15 minutes followed by 150 volts for the rest of the run was supplied during electrophoresis. The electrophoretic run was terminated when the tracking dye migrated to the distance of 8 cm from the origin. Esterases were visualized on the gels by adopting the staining procedures of Holmes and Masters, (1967) and described by Reddy and Lakshmi pathi, (1988). Physostigmine ( $10^{-4}$ M), pCMB (Parachloro Mercuric Benzoate) ( $10^{-3}$ M) and Paraoxon (0, 0-di-ethyl-4-nitrophenyl phosphate) ( $2 \times 10^{-3}$ M) were used for inhibitor sensitivity studies. The gels were pre-incubated in the buffer containing the above concentrations of inhibitors for half an hour. Then they were stained for esterase activity with 1-naphthylacetate as substrate. The inhibitors in concentrations used for **pre incubation** were added to the stain buffer to prevent reversal of inhibitory action of the compounds. The relative mobility ( $R_m$ ) activity of zone was determined according to Klebe (1975). The esterase activity of the different bands obtained from parotoid gland secretion and its extract was arbitrarily measured based on eye estimation of staining intensity, categorized into deep stained (DS), medium deep stained (MDS) and faint stained (FS).

**Characterization of enzymes in parotoid gland secretion and its extract of B. melanostictus**

**II. RESULTS :**

The results obtained on the electrophoretic studies on esterase banding patterns in parotoid gland secretion and its extract of toad Bufo melanostictus are presented, the details about Relative mobilities ( $R_m$  values) of individual esterase zone, visual end points and classification of these esterases are presented in Table.1, fig.1. and table.2, fig. 2.  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate was used as a substrate to score the intensity of esterase bands.

The results indicated that the parotoid gland secretion (ta.1 & fig.1) contained 3 hyperactive slow moving cathodal bands named as Est-1, Est- 2, Est- 3 with  $R_m$  values 27.50 , 25.0 and 21.6 respectively. Est-2 was deep stained in pCMB (+++), Est-3 was medium stained (++) and Est-1 was faint stained (+). The parotoid gland extract contain six bands (tab.2 & fig.2 ) named as Est-1, Est- 2, Est- 3, Est-4, Est- 5 and Est- 6 with  $R_m$  values 27.50, 25.0, 21.62, 35.58, 48.50 and 50.00 respectively. Est-1, Est- 2, Est- 3 were deeply stained in pCMB (+++); Est- 5 was medium stained in pCMB and Eserine; Est-6 was faint stained in pCMB and Eserine, both were slow moving bands. Three were fast moving anodal bands and two were slow moving cathodal bands and remaining one band **were** found in middle zone band in the parotoid gland extract.

From the observation of esterase inhibition study, reveals that the parotoid gland secretion of toad esterase bands had heavy deposition and completely inhibited by pCMB and Physostigmine (Eserine), but not effected by Paraoxon so they are classified as Carboxyl esterases. In parotoid gland extract the heavy deposition of esterase bands classified as Carboxyl esterases because the total inhibition was not observed in presence of pCMB and Eserine. Paraoxon inhibited the activity of all esterases found in the gland secretion and its extract of B. melanostictus.

The inhibition **patterns suggest** that the enzymes are sensitive to organophosphate, paraoxon. So all the enzymes are classified as Carboxyl esterases

**Tab.1 Classification of individual esterase zones in parotoid gland secretion of B. melanostictus**

	Est-1 (27.50)	Est-2 (25.00)	Est-3 (21.62)
<b>PGS</b>	+++	+++	+++
<b>pCMB</b>	+	+++	++
<b>Eserine</b>	+	+++	++
<b>Paraoxon</b>	-	-	-
<b>Classification</b>	C.E	C.E	C.E

PGS=Parotoid Gland Secretion, CE= carboxyl Esterase  
pCMB= Para Chloro Mercuric Benzoate

**Tab.2 Classification of individual esterase zones in parotoid gland extract of B. melanostictus**

	Est-1 (27.50)	Est-2 (25.00)	Est-3 (21.62)	Est-4 (35.58)	Est-5 (48.50)	Est-6 (50.00)
<b>PGE</b>	++	+++	+++	+	++	+
<b>pCMB</b>	+++	+++	+++	+	++	+
<b>Eserine</b>	+	++	++	+	++	+
<b>Paraoxon</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Classification</b>	C.E	C.E	C.E	C.E	C.E	C.E

PGE=Parotoid Gland Extract Est= Esterase  
CE= Carboxyl Esterase pCMB= Para Chloro Mercuric Benzoate

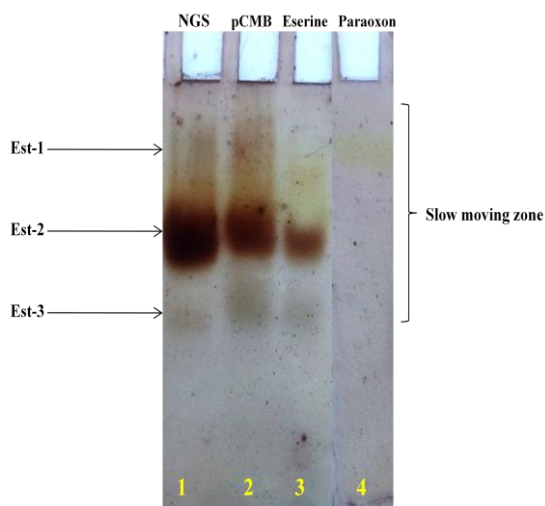


Fig.1. Parotoid gland secretion in presence of three inhibitors (pCMB, Eserine, Paraoxon)

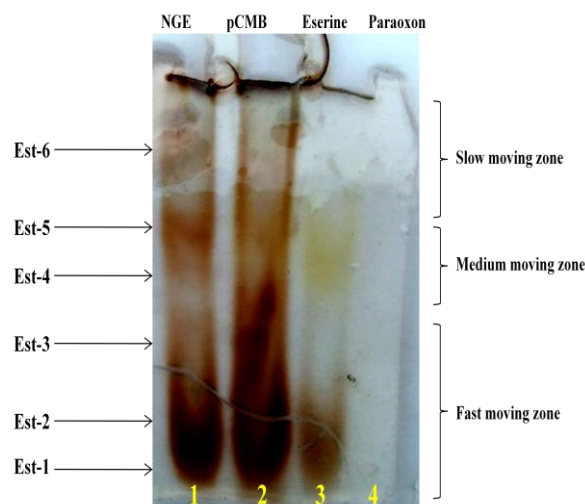


Fig.2. Parotoid gland extract in presence of three inhibitors (pCMB, Eserine, Paraoxon)

### III. DISCUSSION:

Earlier reports indicated that the esterases from vertebrates and invertebrates exhibit higher level of polymorphism. Similar types of inhibition patterns were revealed from the studies on esterases of fishes and also from other organisms like crustaceans, insects, mollusks and amphibians (Bheem Rao, 2018; Swapna Ravinder Reddy, 2015, 2017, Venkaiah et al., 2013, Pranavi et al., 2012).

The investigations on esterases are not clear. So far, Bufodienoloids found in the skin and glandular secretions of toads exist as multiple conjugate forms of dicarboxylic acid esters and as arginyl-dicarboxylic esters (Schmiada and Wanbara 1979).

The inhibition pattern suggests that these esterase enzymes are sensitive to organophosphate (OP) compounds, Paraoxon and Physostigmine and are classified as Carboxyl esterases (Reddy and Pathi, 1988), which are actively involved in enzyme metabolism responsible for insecticidal resistance and also in detoxification of allelo chemicals, as earlier reported.

Esterases can show post-translational modifications and formation of hybrid polymers. The band pattern also exhibits profound variation with varying electrophoretic conditions (Gopalakrishnan, A. et al., 1997). As a consequence of these problems, substrate specificity studies become inevitable for characterization and genetic interpretation of esterase zymograms and use of inhibitor techniques.

### IV. CONCLUSION:

The esterases are implicated in biotransformation and detoxification of the pesticides they have importance in biotechnological applications as antidotes against poisoning and are useful in bioremediation of organophosphate sensors

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### Conflict of interest:

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest that would prejudice the impartiality of this scientific work.

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