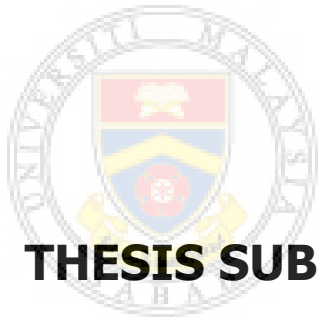


**PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN C57BL/6J MICE
DURING SPATIAL LEARNING IN THE
MORRIS WATER MAZE**

SEYEDEH ZEINAB TAHERI MIRANI



UMS

**THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT FOR
THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE**

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH
2012**

DECLARATION

I herein declare that the material in this thesis is my own effort except for quotations, excerpts, equations, summaries and references, which have been duly acknowledged and cited clearly it sources.

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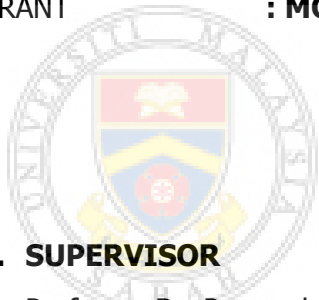
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I dedicate this thesis to my parents.

ABSTRACT

PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN C57BL/6J MICE DURING SPATIAL LEARNING IN THE MORRIS WATER MAZE

Learning and memory are two important physiological and biochemical processes that enable a living organism to adapt to the challenging environment. During learning there are changes in behaviour based on experience which consequently can lead to changes in memory. The mechanism of laying down learning and memory involves synaptic plasticity and long-term potentiation (LTP). These processes involve changes in the protein chemistry in different parts of the brain including the hippocampus which plays an important role in spatial cognition and memory. These processes are believed to be dependent on synthesis of new proteins which form the basis of memory. The protein synthesis underlying memory mechanism consolidation takes place in the hippocampus. Memory formation involves a number of signalling pathways associated with activation of many synaptic plasticity-related proteins, such as N-Methyl-D-Aspartic Acid (NMDA) Receptor, Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII), mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), glutamate dehydrogenases and many other proteins in the brain. This study was undertaken to investigate the role of the hippocampus in the formation of the spatial learning and memory in C57BL/6J mice undergoing spatial learning in the Morris Water Maze. The mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation and the total protein in the hippocampus extracted and subjected to 2-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The proteins involved in the spatial learning process were identified and comparison was made between proteins expressed in the hippocampus of control and trained mice and also changes in the morphology of hippocampal dendritic arborisation were studied. The proteins were separated according to their isoelectric points and molecular weights. Twenty-six spots were chosen based upon ANOVA statistical analysis. The proteins expressed were analysed using LC/MS Mass Spectrometry. The study indicated high performance of learning in Morris water maze (MWM) and changes in the length and number of dendritic branches in cornu ammonis CA3 pyramidal cells and proteins identified in the mice which is known to be specially involved in, signal transduction and transport. In summary, using a proteomics approach, this study showed that spatial training affects network of proteins involved in energy metabolism and synaptic plasticity in the hippocampus, a brain region central to cognitive function. Further studies can help to identify the proteins and pathways of learning and memory mechanisms and changes of dendrite arborisation during spatial learning.

ABSTRAK

Pembelajaran dan ingatan adalah dua aspek penting dalam proses fisiologi dan biokimia yang membolehkan organisma hidup dan menyesuaikan diri dengan persekitaran yang mencabar. Dalam proses pembelajaran apabila terdapat perubahan dalam tingkah laku berdasarkan pengalaman yang seterusnya boleh membawa kepada perubahan dalam ingatan. Kajian ini berkaitan dengan mekanisme pembelajaran dan ingatan yang melibatkan keplastikan sinapsis dan Potensi jangka panjang (LTP). Proses-proses ini melibatkan perubahan kimia di dalam protein di bahagian-bahagian berbeza otak termasuk hipokampus yang memainkan peranan yang penting dalam kognisi ruang dan memori. Proses-proses ini dipercayai adalah bergantung kepada sintesis protein baru yang menjadi asas memori. Sintesis protein dan mekanisme penyatuan memori yang mendasari proses pengikatan berlaku dalam hipokampus. Pembentukan memori melibatkan laluan isyarat spesifik yang berkaitan dengan pengaktifan pelbagai protein-berkaitan keplastikan sinapsis, seperti Asid N-Methyl-D-aspartik (NMDA) Reseptor, Ca^{2+} / calmodulin-bergantung protein kinase II (CaMKII), mitogen-diaktifkan oleh protein kinases (MAPKs), dehidrogenase glutamat dan pelbagai protein yang lain di dalam otak. Kajian ini dilakukan untuk menyiasat peranan hipokampus dalam proses pembelajaran ruang dan memori dalam C57BL/6J, tikus yang diberikan latihan pembelajaran ruangan dalam "Morris Water Maze" (MWM). Tikus tersebut dikorbankan melalui kaedah kehelan serviks dan jumlah protein dalam hipokampus itu diekstrak dan tertakluk kepada 2-gel elektroforesis dimensi polyacrylamide. Protein yang terlibat dalam proses pembelajaran ruang telah dikenal pasti dan perbandingan dibuat antara protein yang dinyatakan dalam hipokampus kawalan dalam tikus yang terlatih dan juga melihat perubahan dalam morfologi pangoboran dendritik hipokampal. Protein dipisahkan mengikut titik Isoelektrik mereka dan berat molekul. Dua puluh enam tempat telah dipilih berdasarkan analisis statistik ANOVA. Protein yang diungkapkan dianalisis menggunakan liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS). Kajian ini menunjukkan prestasi pembelajaran dalam (MWM) dan perubahan dalam panjang dan bilangan cawangan dendritik dalam cornu ammonis CA3 sel protein dan piramid yang dikenal pasti dalam tikus yang dikenali terlibat secara khas dalam transduksi isyarat dan transmisi. Secara ringkasnya, dengan menggunakan pendekatan proteomik, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa latihan ruang menjejaskan rangkaian protein yang berkaitan dengan metabolisme tenaga dan keplastikan sinaps dalam hipokampus itu sekitar rantau otak pusat kepada fungsi kognitif yang berbeza. Kajian-kajian yang lebih lanjut boleh membantu untuk mengenal pasti protein dan laluan pembelajaran dan mekanisma ingatan dan perubahan dendrit arborisat semasa pembelajaran ruang.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE	i
DECLARATION	ii
CERTIFICATE	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ABSTRAK	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xvi
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPH	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xxi
CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Learning and Memory	1
1.2 Objectives of the Research	2
1.3 Hypothesis Formulation	3
CHAPTER 2: LITREATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Structure of The Brain	4
2.2 The Hippocampus Structure	6
2.3 Why Use Animal in Behavioral Experiments	8
2.4 Brain Cells	8
2.4.1 The Glial cell	8
2.4.2 The Neuron	9
2.5 How does the brain process information?	9
2.6 Chemical Messengers and Cell Communication	10
2.6.1 Synapse and Transduction	10
2.6.2 Neurotransmitters	12
2.6.3 Ion channels and Receptors	13
2.6.4 Voltage-gated Ion Channel	13
2.6.5 Transmitter-gated Ion Channels	15
2.6.6 G-protein-coupled Receptors	15
2.6.7 The Second Messengers	19
2.7 Discovering the Process of Learning and Memory	22
2.8 Memory Formation	22
2.9 Role of Hippocampus in Learning	24
2.10 Classification of Memory	24
2.10.1 Implicit Form of Memory	25
2.10.2 Explicit or Declarative Memory	26
2.10.3 Memory in the Insect and Mammal	26
2.10.4 Genes Involved in Learning and Memory	27

2.11	Protein Involvement in Learning and Memory	28
2.12	Mechanisms of Memory	30
2.13	Effect of Stress on Learning	32
2.14	The Morris Water Maze (MWM)	33
2.15	The Morris Water Maze Limitation	34
2.16	Two-dimensional Electrophoresis	34
2.16.1	Iso-electric Focusing	35
2.16.2	SDS Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)	36
2.16.3	Principal of Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF)	36
2.17	Sholl Analysis	38

CHAPTER 3: MATERIALS AND METHOD

3.1	Introduction	39
3.2	Materials	40
3.2.1	Sigma Chemicals (Sigma-Aldrich Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, Riedel-de Haën, Germany)	40
3.2.2	Amresco Chemicals (Ohio, USA)	40
3.2.3	Amersham Chemicals (GE Healthcare Bio-science, USA, Sweden)	41
3.2.4	Bio-rad Chemicals (USA)	41
3.2.5	Ajax Chemical (SERLE Co. Sydney, Australia)	41
3.2.6	J.T Baker Chemicals (Mallinckrodt Baker Inc., Philipsburg NJ, USA)	41
3.2.7	Merck Chemicals (KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany)	41
3.2.8	British Drug Home, BDH (provided by EC-EMB)	41
3.2.9	Allchem Chemicals (Sweden)	42
3.2.10	Fulka Chemicals (Fluka Chemical GmbH, Buchs, Switzerland, USA)	42
3.2.11	Whatman® Paper (Whatman International Ltd. Maidstone, England)	42
3.2.12	Experimental Animals	42
3.2.13	Mouse Diet	42
3.3	Equipment	42
3.4	Preparation of Solutions	43
3.4.1	Protein Extraction Buffer	43
3.4.2	Rehydration Solution for Immobilized pH Gradient Strip(IPG)	44
3.4.3	Iso-electric Focusing	44
3.4.4	Equilibrium Buffer (A and B) for IPG strip	45
3.4.5	SDS-PAGE Gel Electrophoresis Buffer	45
3.4.6	Sealing Solution	46
3.4.7	SDS-PAGE Running Buffer	46
3.4.8	Silver Staining	47
3.4.9	Rapid Golgi-Staining	48
3.5	Animals	49
3.6	The Morris Water Maze (MWM)	49

3.7	Experimental procedure	50
3.7.1	Experimental Animals	50
3.7.2	Hippocampus Dissection	51
3.7.3	Sample Preparation	53
3.8	Protein Determination	53
3.9	Principles of 2D Electrophoresis	54
3.9.1	Rehydration of the Immobilized pH Gradient (IPG) strips	55
3.9.2	Iso-electric Focusing-Run the First Dimension	55
3.9.3	Equilibration of IPG strips	55
3.9.4	The Second Dimension-SDS-PAGE Electrophoresis	55
3.9.5	Visualization 2D Electrophoresis (Silver Nitrate Staining)	57
3.9.6	Detection of Protein	57
	a. Gel Scanning	57
	b. Analyzing of Protein Spots	58
	c. Spot Detection	60
	d. Matching Gels	60
	e. 2D-Gel Analysis (pick up the spots)	63
3.10	Picking up the Spots	65
3.11	Statistical Analysis	65
3.12	MALDI-TOF/Mass Spectrophotometry Analysis	65
3.13	Experimental Procedure of Neuron Morphology	67
3.14	Tissue Preparation	68
3.14.1	Rapid Golgi-Staining	68
3.14.2	Tissue Slicing	68
3.15	Morphometric Analysis	68
3.16	Statistical Analysis	69

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

4.1	Behavioral Study (Training in Morris Water Maze task)	70
4.2	The Protein Content of the Mice Hippocampus	74
4.2.1	Signal Transduction Proteins	82
4.2.2	Transporter Protein	88
4.2.3	Protein Folding (Chaperons)	90
4.2.4	Cytoskeletal Proteins	92
4.2.5	Energy Metabolism Proteins	94
4.3	Dendritic Morphology of Training and Control in MWM	100
4.3.1	Intersection of Apical and Basal Dendrites	101
4.3.2	Branching of Apical and Basal Dendrites	104

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

5.1	Behavioral Studies (Training in the MWM)	106
5.2	Protein Synthesis	106
5.2.1	Protein Involved the Transduction	107
5.2.2	Protein Involved in Transporter	108
5.2.3	Protein Folding (Chaperons)	109

5.2.4	Cytoskeletal Proteins	109
5.2.5	Protein Involved of Energy Metabolism	110
5.3	Gene, Proteins and Neurotransmitter Interaction in Learning	110
5.4	Dendritic Morphology of Trained and Control Mice in the MWM	111
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS		113
REFERENCES		115
URL		128



UMS
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LIST OF FIGURES

		page
Figure 2.1:	The main parts of the brain in the human central nervous system.	5
Figure 2.2:	Comparison of the anatomy of the human and rodent brains.	6
Figure 2.3:	Indicating the pattern of hippocampus information pathway	7
Figure 2.4:	Typical neuronal structures.	10
Figure 2.5:	The three common types of synaptic contacts.	11
Figure 2.6:	Diagram of ions and neurotransmitter exocytosis into the postsynaptic area.	14
Figure 2.7:	Diagram of a G-protein coupled receptor with seven membrane-spanning regions.	16
Figure 2.8:	G-protein activation.	18
Figure 2.9:	Diagram of the second messengers that start molecular cascades in the cell.	21
Figure 2.10:	Type of learning and pathway for consolidation.	23
Figure 2.11:	The Molecular pathway of learning and memory.	31
Figure 2.12:	The charge of a protein changes with the pH of its environment.	35
Figure 2.13:	Diagram of a pyramidal cell drawn with Sholl analysis method.	38
Figure 3.1:	The schedule of training experiments in the Morris water maze.	50
Figure 3.2:	The starting point for training in the Morris Water Maze. The hidden platform is located in North-East (NE) of the pool. Starting point for each session was East, South, West, or North.	51
Figure 3.3:	The schematic diagram of hippocampus location in the mouse brain.	52
Figure 3.4:	Dissection of the hippocampus.	52

Figure 3.5:	Schematic diagram of 2D Gel-electrophoresis. The equilibrated IPG strip and protein markers were placed on top of the gel. The strip was sealed using agarose solution. The electrophoresis was run until the bromophenol blue tracking dye reached 1cm from the bottom of the gel.	56
Figure 3.6:	The calibration of gel scanner using Kodak photographic tablet No. 2. The Kodak film could recognize the intensity of the spots by using different densities.	57
Figure 3.7:	Spot adjust contrast. All gels after scanning to the subfolders were adjusted to match with other features of gel analysis.	59
Figure 3.8:	Spot detection. Three parameters, smooth, Min area, saliency that was needed to be set for spot detection. The smooth parameter was set to 2, the minimum area was set to 5 and the saliency parameter was set between 50-100.	61
Figure 3.9:	Matching the Gels. Automatic matching (Edit> Matches> Match Gels) was selected from the menu. The landmarks were used for purpose of spot matching.	62
Figure 3.10:	Pick up of the spots with ID numbers. All matched gels were added to the class folder according to their classification. The inter class analysis in ImageMaster 2D-platinum was used to compare different samples.	64
Figure 3.11:	A typical mass spectrum of MALDI-TOF/ MS output of protein analysis.	66
Figure 3.12:	A typical Bar-chart of probability-based Mowse score.	67
Figure 4.1	The escape latencies decrease clearly across the days during training ($F_{8,32}=4.7371$; $P= 0.004$).	71
Figure 4.2:	The distance of mice movement to find the hidden platform during the learning progress.	71
Figure 4.3:	The mean time spent in the four quadrants of the pool. The same letter following the figures indicates no significance at $\alpha=0.05$.	72
Figure 4.4:	The effect of the mice performance on spatial learning and memory in the MWM. Track plot in the Water Maze showed that mice took shorter paths to find the hidden platform by the end of training days.	73
Figure 4.5:	The BSA protein standard curve for determination of mice	74

hippocampus protein with the 2-D Quant kit. The absorbance was read at 480 nm.

Figure 4.6:	Protein concentrations in mice hippocampi using the 2D-quant kit.	75
Figure 4.7:	Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis of mouse hippocampal and spots were identified by MALDI-MS/MS and proteins were assigned using MASCOT software.	74
Figure 4.8:	The identified proteins were categorized into five functional groups.	81
Figure 4.9:	Representation of dihydropyrimidinase related protein 2 which belongs to the transduction proteins category (A) and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	82
Figure 4.10:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse brain. A 62kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 62kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	83
Figure 4.11:	Representation of the ADP-ribosylation factor 2 which belongs to signal transduction protein category (A), and 3-Dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	84
Figure 4.12:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 20kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel with trypsin. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 20kDa molecular weight. (B) Graphical representation of the database.	85
Figure 4.13:	Representation of calmodulin protein kinase IV which belongs to signal transductions protein category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	86
Figure 4.14:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 17kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel with trypsin. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 17kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	87
Figure 4.15:	Representation of the voltage-dependent anion channel protein which belongs to signal transporter category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the	88

	intensity (B).	
Figure 4.16:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 32kDa band was subjected to trypsin digestion in the gel. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 32kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	89
Figure 4.17:	Representation of the heat-shock 60 kDa protein which belongs to the chaperon protein category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	90
Figure 4.18:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 60kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel with trypsin. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 60kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	91
Figure 4.19:	Representation of the α -internexin protein which belongs to cytoskeletal protein category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	92
Figure 4.20:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 55kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 55kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	93
Figure 4.21:	Representation of the glutamate dehydrogenase which belongs to energy metabolism proteins category. Display of the spot in the gel (A), and 3-Dimensional display of spot that shows the intensity (B).	94
Figure 4.22:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 61kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel with trypsin. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 61kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	95
Figure 4.23:	Representation of the fructose bisphosphate aldolase C which belongs to energy metabolism protein category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	96
Figure 4.24:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 39.2kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel. (A) The mass spectrum for the spot with 39.2kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical	97

	representation of the database.	
Figure 4.25:	Representation of the triosephosphate isomerase which belongs to energy metabolism protein category (A), and 3-dimensional display of the spot that shows the intensity (B).	98
Figure 4.26:	MALDI peptide map and identification of a protein from C57BL/6J mouse hippocampus. A 26.7kDa band was subjected to digestion in the gel with trypsin. (A) The mass spectrum peptide for the spot with 26.7kDa molecular weight. (B) A graphical representation of the database.	99
Figure 4.27:	Drawing neuron dendrites from camera lucida	101
Figure 4.28:	The apical dendrite intersection for the control groups is higher than the other groups.	102
Figure 4.29:	The basal dendrite intersection for the control groups is higher when compared to the other groups.	103
Figure 4.30:	Apical dendrite branches analysis. For day 3, there is reduced number of apical dendritic branching distance soma at 60 μm ($p < 0.05$) and 100 μm ($p < 0.05$) when compared to control group.	104
Figure 4.31:	The basal dendrites branching for control groups is higher when compared to the other groups.	105
Figure 5.1:	The schematic representation of CaMKIV and activation of CREB during memory formation. Neurotransmitters are released and the membrane depolarization activates intracellular signaling that causes activation of CREB dependent cascade. Calmodulin phosphorylates the CREB ser ¹³³ .	108

LIST OF TABLES

	Page	
Table 2.1	Chemical classes of neurotransmitters	12
Table 3.1	The amount of chemicals for different concentrations of SDS-PAGE Gel	46
Table 3.2:	The preparation of protein standard curve	53
Table 4.1:	The ratio values for 24 spots identified with intensity of 1.2 with significance $p < 0.05$	76
Table 4.2:	The ratio values for 9 spots identified between trained and quiet controls with intensity of 1.5 with significant $p < 0.05$	77
Table 4.3	The ratio value for 9 spots identified between trained and swim controls with intensity of 1.5 with $p < 0.05$. significance	77
Table 4.4:	Showing the closest probability in each protein spot by MS/ MALDI-TOF	79
Table 4.5:	Identity of signaling proteins in the C57BL/6J mice hippocampus	80



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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

		Page
Photograph 2.1:	The Morris Water Maze was used to train the C57BL/6J mice.	33
Photograph 2.2:	Iso-electric focusing the first step of the 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis.	35
Photograph 3.1:	The C57BL/6J mouse	49
Photograph 4.1:	Tthe schematic diagram of hippocampus with three different regions and diagram the CA3 pyramidal neuron of the hippocampus from the control training.	100



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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AC	Adenylcyclase
Ach	Acetylcholine
AD	Alzheimer disease
AMPA	α -amino-3 hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole propionic acid
Arc	Activity-regulated cytoskeleton associated protein
ARM	Anesthesia-resistance memory
ATF-1	Activating transcription factor 1
BDNF	Brain-derived neurotropic factor
bZIP	Basic leucine zipper
CA3	Cornu ammonis
Ca²⁺	Ion calcium
Cabin1	Calcineurin-binding protein 1
CaMK	Calodulin-dependent protein kinase II
CaMKIV	Calodulin-dependent protein kinase IV
cAMP	Cyclic adenosine monophosphate
c-fos	proto-oncogene
cGMP	Cyclic guanosine monophosphate
ChAT	Choline acetyltransferase
CNS	Central nervous system
CO	Carbon monoxide
CREB	cAMP response element binding
CREM	cAMP response element modulator
C-S	Conditioned Stimulus

DA	Dopamine
DAG	Diacylglycerol
DHB	Dihydrobenzoic acid
DRP2	Dihydropyrimidinase related protein 2
DTT	Dithiothreitol
E-LTP	Early-long term potential
GABA	γ -aminobutyric acid
GAD	Glutamic acid decarboxylase
Glu	Glutamate
Gly	Glycine
GTP	Guanosine triphosphate
GDP	Guanosine diphosphate
HDAC4	Histone deacetylase 4
HPETE	Hydroperoxyeicosatetraenoic acid
Hsp60	Heat shock 60 kDa protein
IEF	Isoelectric focusing
IP₃	Inositol-triphosphate
IPG	Immobilized pH gradient
K⁺	potassium Ion
LTM	Long-term memory
LTP	Long-term potentiation
MALDI-TOF	Matrix-assisted Laser Desorption Ionization- Time of Flight
MAPKs	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging

MWM	Morris Water Maze
Na⁺	Sodium Ion
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
NMDA	N-methyl-D-aspartic acid
NO	Nitric oxide
pI	Isoionic point
PKA	Protein kinase A
PKC	Protein kinase C
PLC	Protein lipase C
PNS	Peripheral nervous system
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
SDS-PAGE	Sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
S-R	Stimulation-Response
S-S	Stimulation-Stimulation
STM	Short-term memory
TEME	N,N,N',N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine
TrKB	tyrosine kinase receptor
UR	Unconditioned response
US	Unconditioned stimuli
VDCC	Voltage-dependent calcium channels
VDAC	Voltage-dependent anion channels

LIST OF SYMBOLES

m	Meter
cm	Centimeter
mm	Millimeter
µm	Micrometer
nm	Nanometer
µl	Microliter
kg	Kilogram
g	Gram
mg	Milligram
µg	Microgram
M	Molar
mM	Millimolar
Min	Minute
s	Second
°C	Degree Celsius
MΩ	MegaOhm
mA	Milliampere
V	Volt
W	Watt
Vhrs	Volt-hours
kDa	KiloDalton
%	Percentage



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is designed to act as a synopsis comprising a brief introduction to the study, objectives and an overview of this thesis.

1.1 Learning and Memory

The brain has been the subject of countless scientific enquiries for the last two centuries. Research has been carried out to find out about brain's special structures and functions; most of the information being obtained from studies performed on patients suffering from brain injuries either through accident or illness, as well as experiments on animals. The findings offer rigorous scientific evidence for new ways of conceptualizing the complex executive control mechanisms in the brain, while many researchers are more focused on understanding the learning and memory mechanisms.

It goes without saying that learning and memory are essential processes for all multi-cellular animals. Memory is essential to recall facts and experiences. Definition of the processes involved consists of encoding and storing information for future retrieval. Observations and experiences leave "engrams" as traces in the brain that can fade with the passage of time, leading to forgetting is strengthened by constant recall recapitulation (lay down memory). An engram is the term given to a hypothetical memory trace. Memory can be reinforced by paying attention and making associations with previous knowledge. This can sometimes lead to permanency of the stored memory.

Learning, unlike memory, is not a process of storing information. Learning is defined as demonstration from a change in behavior as a result of the acquisition of knowledge or new information due to experience (Kandel et al., 1995). Learning is a process, and memory is the record of that process, stored in the brain.

Both in humans and rodents, the hippocampus is involved in spatial memory consolidation. Memory can be divided into two forms according to its temporal and biochemical properties: short-term memory (STM), which exists for less than a few hours, and long-term memory (LTM), which lasts from several hours to days, or even longer. Learning and memory are not singular processes. They involve a number of distinct processes, each with its own role, that work together. Memory can further be divided into two categories: declarative memory, which is the conscious recall of information about places, people, facts, ideas, etc; and non-declarative, or procedural, memory which is non-conscious recall. These two types of memory seem to involve different neurological structures within the brain (Noback et al., 1996).

Many theories and hypotheses about the mechanisms of memory consolidation and the components that are involved in learning and memory have been proposed. Even though many proteins have been proved to be involved in the process of learning and memory, there are many other proteins yet to be discovered that may be involved in memory consolidation. It is an objective that by using two-dimensional gel electrophoresis, some of these important proteins can be identified, and their roles in the process of learning and memory established.

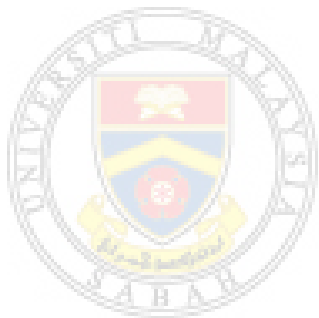
1.2 Objectives of the Research

The main objective of this research project is the study of spatial learning in Morris Water Maze with 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis technique to identify proteins which are involved in learning consolidation.

- I) To develop the 2-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis technique for the identification of proteins.
- II) To determine the differential proteins expressed in the hippocampus of trained, swim and control.
- III) To investigate the proteins identified with the consolidation of spatial learning and memory.

1.3 Hypothesis Formulation

Protein synthesis is an important component of memory formation. The proteins expressed in the hippocampus tissue differ between trained and swim control C57BL/6J mice. Specific hippocampal proteins are involved in memory consolidation. The differences in protein expressed are identified by 2-D polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and individual proteins may be identified by MALDI-TOF MS/MS.



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