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Ca²⁺-independent Cytosolic Phospholipase A₂ from Macrophage-like P388D₁ Cells

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION*

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A novel form of an ATP-regulated, oligomeric, Ca²⁺-independent phospholipase A₂ (iPLA₂) has been purified from the cytosol of the murine macrophage-like cell line P388D₁. The purification procedure included ammonium sulfate precipitation and sequential column chromatography on octyl-Sepharose, ATP-agarose, Mono Q fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC), and hydroxyapatite FPLC. The resulting enzyme preparation was purified over 400,000-fold with a final specific activity of approximately 5 μmol/min/mg using a mixed micelle assay system of Triton X-100 and dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine (PC). The purified enzyme was Ca²⁺-independent and did not show a preference for either *sn*-2 arachidonic acid or *sn*-1 alkyl-ether containing phospholipids when utilizing mixed micelles as substrate. It was found to hydrolyze dipalmitoyl-PC ~4-fold faster than 1-palmitoyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC and ~15-fold faster than 1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC. Triton X-100 increased the P388D₁ iPLA₂ activity with optimal activity found at a Triton/phospholipid molar ratio of 4:1. The purified enzyme was activated 2–6-fold by ATP as well as other di- and triphosphate nucleosides. This activation was sensitive to the concentration of Triton X-100 present in the assay. SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis carried out on the purified enzyme yielded a single major band at a molecular weight of about 80,000. However, radiation inactivation experiments, carried out on the cell homogenate, demonstrated a target size of 337 ± 25 kDa, indicating that the catalytically active iPLA₂ exists as a large oligomeric complex, either through self-aggregation or association of the enzyme with other proteins.

As part of our continuing study of phospholipid metabolism, its regulation, and subsequent involvement in the release of important biological mediators, we have attempted to identify and characterize the many different phospholipases that exist in the macrophage-like cell line P388D₁. Early on, we identified at least four different phospholipase A (1) and two very active lysophospholipase (2) activities in this single type of cell. Two of the phospholipase A activities are optimal at alkaline pH. They include a membrane-associated Ca²⁺-dependent phospholipase

A₂ (PLA₂)¹ and a Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂ (iPLA₂). The other two phospholipases are active at acidic pH, and at least one has PLA₁ activity (1). In addition, through polymerase chain reaction cloning,² we have demonstrated that the recently discovered 85-kDa, low [Ca²⁺] requiring cytosolic PLA₂ (cPLA₂) (3, 4) is also present in these cells. Of the enzymes listed above, the membrane-associated PLA₂ (5–7) and the two lysophospholipases (2, 8, 9), have been purified and characterized. In the present study, we report the purification and characterization of a cytosolic iPLA₂ from these cells.

iPLA₂s have been shown to exist in a variety of tissues (10, 11) and species (10, 12), and they have been implicated in a number of important cellular processes (13–15). However, unlike their Ca²⁺-dependent counterparts, very little is known about these enzymes and only a few iPLA₂s have been purified to date (16–19). Of those purified, the most extensively studied is the plasmalogen-specific iPLA₂ from canine myocardium (18, 20, 21).

The data reported herein on the P388D₁ iPLA₂, which is obtained from a single cell source, demonstrate that it and the myocardial iPLA₂ are unique among known PLA₂s in that they are both modulated by ATP, and they both form high molecular weight complexes of roughly 400,000. Furthermore, we show using radiation inactivation techniques that an active form of the P388D₁ iPLA₂ is oligomeric. These interesting characteristics suggest that the P388D₁ iPLA₂ may play a key regulatory role in lipid metabolism as well as a presumed role in arachidonic acid release for eicosanoid production.

While these characteristics suggest regulatory similarities of the P388D₁ and the myocardial iPLA₂s, the P388D₁ iPLA₂ is distinct from the myocardial iPLA₂ in that it remains sensitive to ATP activation throughout the purification, and the formation of its high molecular weight complex is necessary to maintain full catalytic activity. It is not known at this time whether these differences reflect unique regulatory properties of two distinct enzymes or if they reflect purifications of similar enzymes that are present in two distinct states: the canine myocardial iPLA₂ as a labile, homogenous, catalytic protein and the murine P388D₁ iPLA₂ as a stable, functional, regulatory/catalytic complex. In either case, the characteristics of P388D₁ iPLA₂, including phospholipid preference, positional specificity, pH optimum, and detergent sensitivity, are different from those reported for the purified myocardial iPLA₂. This suggests that the P388D₁ iPLA₂ has unique properties; a preliminary report of these results has been presented (22).

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¹ The abbreviations used are: PLA₂, phospholipase A₂; iPLA₂, calcium-independent PLA₂; cPLA₂, cytosolic PLA₂; PLA₁, phospholipase A₁; ATP(PCP), adenosine 5'-(β,γ-methylene)triphosphate; PC, phosphatidylcholine; PE, phosphatidylethanolamine; FPLC, fast protein liquid chromatography; PAGE, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis; DPPC, dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine; DTT, dithiothreitol; LS-1, low speed supernatant; LS-P, ammonium sulfate precipitate.

² S. J. Barbour and E. A. Dennis, unpublished results.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Materials

1-Palmitoyl-2-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine and other radiolabeled phospholipids were purchased from DuPont NEN. The unlabeled phospholipids were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids, except for 1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine, which was purchased from Biomol (Plymouth Meeting, PA). The octyl-Sepharose CL-B, Mono Q HR 5/5 FPLC, and Superose 6 HR 10/30 were from Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology Inc. Adenosine 5'-triphosphate agarose (attachment at N-6, catalogue No. A-9264) and rabbit muscle phosphofructokinase were purchased from Sigma. Dithiothreitol (DTT) was ultragrade from Calbiochem. The 8–16% Tris-glycine gradient gels, SDS-PAGE molecular weight markers, and the hydroxyapatite column were purchased from Novex (San Diego, CA). All other reagents were analytical grade or better.

Phospholipase Assays

Phospholipase A₂ Assay—The standard iPLA₂ assay contained 400 μM Triton X-100, 100 μM dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine (PC), 5 mM EDTA, and 100 mM Hepes (pH 7.5) in a final volume of 500 μl. In addition, 0.8 mM ATP was present in all assays unless otherwise indicated and described in the legends. Assays were initiated by the addition of enzyme to the substrate mixture and were incubated at 40 °C for 15–60 min with agitation.

Because the Triton X-100 was used throughout the purification to stabilize the enzyme, its subsequent addition in the assay was unavoidable. Therefore, the substrate was prepared such that a final concentration of 400 μM Triton X-100 was maintained in the assay. This was typically achieved by preparing the substrate as described below with 300 μM Triton X-100 and assaying with 50 μl of the column fractions (containing 1 mM Triton X-100).

The substrate was prepared by evaporating the required amounts of dipalmitoyl-PC and 1-palmitoyl-2-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine (200,000 cpm per assay) to dryness under a stream of N₂. The dried phospholipids were resuspended with 450 μl of a buffer containing appropriate amounts of Hepes, EDTA, and Triton X-100. Mixed micelles were formed by a combination of heating (above 40 °C), vortexing, and water bath sonication until the solution clarified. In assays that used vesicle substrates, the phospholipids were resuspended in assay buffer without Triton X-100, and vesicles were formed by sonication at room temperature in a MSE probe sonicator until the solution clarified (about 5 min).

The reaction was stopped by adding 2.5 ml of the Dole reagent (24), (2-propanol:heptane:0.5 M H₂SO₄:400:100:20, v/v/v) and vortexing. The product mixture was subsequently processed according to the modified (23) Dole extraction system (24) as previously described (5). Data are presented as the rate of hydrolysis of substrate (adjusted for the rate of hydrolysis in a control lacking enzyme).

In a few experiments, the TLC extraction method was utilized instead of the Dole extraction method. In these experiments, the standard assay was quenched by the addition of 1.0 ml of chloroform:methanol:acetic acid (2:4:1, v/v/v), followed by the addition of 0.5 ml of chloroform and 0.5 ml of water. The reaction was subsequently processed as previously described (5). Briefly, the organic layer containing the reactants and the products was dried, resuspended in 30 μl of chloroform:methanol (2:1, v/v), and spotted onto a Silica Gel G plate (Analtech). The lipids were separated by a solvent composed of chloroform:methanol:acetic acid:water (25:15:4:2, v/v/v/v). The lipids were visualized with I₂ vapor, and the zones corresponding to fatty acid, lyso-PC and, dipalmitoyl-PC were scraped and counted.

Lysophospholipase Assay—The lysophospholipase assay contained 100 μM 1-palmitoyl-2-hydroxy-*sn*-glycerol-3-phosphorylcholine (200,000 cpm of [1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-2-hydroxy-*sn*-glycerol-3-phosphorylcholine), 400 μM Triton X-100, 5 mM EDTA, 0.8 mM ATP, and 100 mM Hepes (pH 7.5). The substrate was prepared as described under "PLA₂ assay" and assayed according to Zhang and Dennis (2) using the modified Dole extraction method.

Protein Purification

Preparation of Homogenate—P388D₁ cells obtained from the American Type Culture Collection were grown to confluency and harvested as described by Ross *et al.* (1). The cells were washed once in serum-free media and adjusted to a concentration of 3.3 × 10⁷ cells/ml with homogenization buffer (10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, and 0.34 M sucrose). The cells were lysed using nitrogen cavitation at 650 p.s.i., in a Parr cell disruption bomb (Parr Instruments). This whole cell lysate was immediately centrifuged at 1,000 × *g*, 5 °C, for 30 min, to

remove unbroken cells and debris. The resulting low speed supernatant (LS-1) was utilized for the purification and was routinely stored at –20 °C for up to 6 months without any significant loss of activity. All of the following steps in the purification were carried out at 4–8 °C.

Ammonium Sulfate Precipitation—Typically, the LS-1 derived from 6 × 10⁹ cells (190 ml) was thawed, and sufficient solid ammonium sulfate was added to bring its concentration to 40% of saturation. This solution was stirred slowly overnight and centrifuged the following day (12,000 × *g*, for 30 min). The resulting supernatant was discarded, and the pellet (LS-P) was resuspended in 190 ml of buffer A (10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM ATP, and 1 mM Triton X-100).

Octyl-Sepharose Column—The LS-P was loaded directly onto an octyl-Sepharose column (5.0 × 10.0 cm), at a flow rate of 6 ml/min. Prior to addition of the protein, the column was equilibrated with at least 10 column volumes of buffer B (buffer A + 350 mM NaCl), to ensure the equilibration of the Triton X-100. After the LS-P was loaded, the column was washed with buffer B at 10 ml/min until the A₂₈₀ rose slightly, typically 3–4 column volumes, and eluted with buffer C (10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, and 1 mM Triton X-100). The eluent was collected in 15-ml fractions. The active fractions from the octyl-Sepharose column were pooled (approximately 250 ml) and concentrated (to about 15 ml) using an Omega stirred cell (from Filtron) with a 10,000 molecular weight cut-off membrane. The concentrate was resuspended with 200 ml of buffer C and concentrated again (to about 25 ml). This procedure was carried out to remove ATP from the sample which would otherwise interfere with the affinity column used in the following step.

ATP-Agarose—After the second concentration step, the sample was immediately applied to an ATP-agarose column (1.0 × 6.0 cm), which was previously equilibrated with buffer C at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. After loading, the column was washed with buffer C (10 ml), followed by buffer D (buffer C + 10% glycerol), until the A₂₈₀ leveled off. The iPLA₂ activity was eluted from the column at a reduced flow rate of 0.5 ml/min with buffer D containing 1 mM ATP and was collected in 5-ml fractions.

Mono Q FPLC—The active fractions eluted from the ATP-agarose column were pooled and passed over a Mono Q HR 5/5 FPLC column (flow rate 1 ml/min, 2-ml fractions) that had been pre-equilibrated with at least 60 ml of buffer containing 5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM ATP, 1 mM Triton X-100, and 10% glycerol. The enzyme was eluted with the same buffer, and the active fractions in the first peak were pooled.

Hydroxyapatite FPLC—The pooled fractions from the Mono Q column were loaded onto a hydroxyapatite FPLC column (7.5 mm × 8.0 cm, 0.3 ml/min) which was previously equilibrated with buffer consisting of 10 mM KH₂PO₄ (adjusted to pH 7.5 with NaOH), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM Triton X-100, and 10% glycerol. The column was washed with 2 volumes of equilibration buffer and eluted with a linear gradient of 10–300 mM KH₂PO₄ (pH 7.5) containing 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM Triton X-100, and 10% glycerol.

SDS-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis—SDS-PAGE was routinely carried out following the method of Laemmli (25), and the bands were visualized by silver staining according to Hancock and co-workers (26). Molecular weight markers were from Novex.

Protein Determination—Protein concentrations were determined using the Bio-Rad Protein Assay Kit for steps 1–3. Because of the low levels, Quantigold (Diversified Biotech) was used for steps 4–6. Bovine serum albumin from Bio-Rad was used as the standard.

Radiation Inactivation

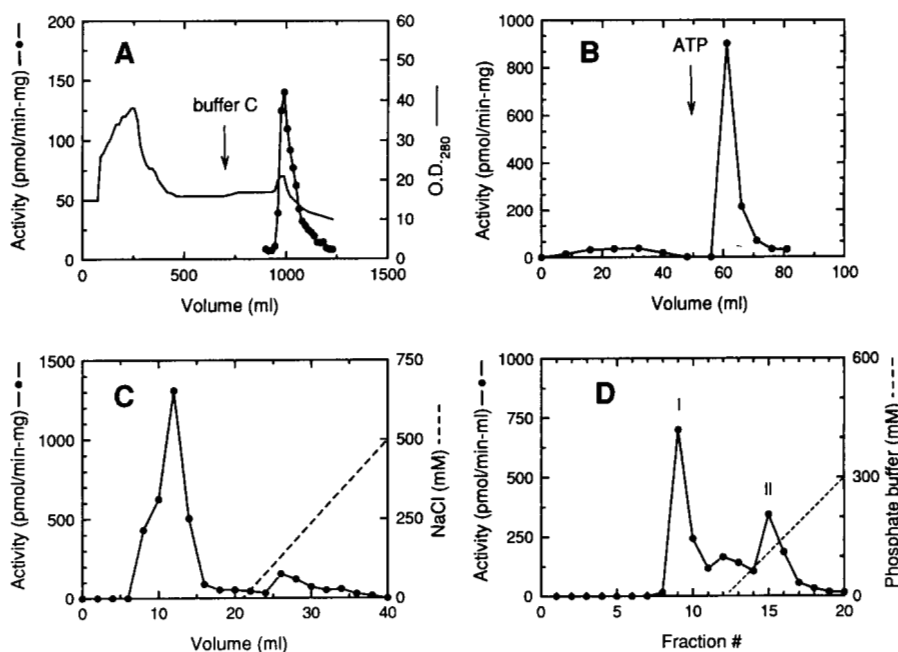
P388D₁ crude cell homogenate (LS-1) was prepared as described above. Aliquots (500 μl, approximately 2 mg of protein) of LS-1 were placed in glass ampules (Kimble LAB-12012), frozen at –70 °C, and sealed using an oxygen-gas flame. The samples were maintained at –70 °C except during irradiation, which was carried out at –135 °C. Irradiation of the samples was performed using high energy electrons as previously described (27). After irradiation, the vials were opened and purged with nitrogen prior to thawing. The iPLA₂ activity was determined using the standard assay conditions.

Target analysis of the radiation inactivation data was performed as previously described (27). Target sizes were determined from the slope of the inactivation curves using a least squares fit. The target size is reported ± the standard deviation, which represents the variation between experiments.

Phosphofructokinase Affinity Elution

The affinity elution of phosphofructokinase from the ATP-agarose column (attachment N-6) was carried out following the method of Hazen

FIG. 1. Typical column chromatography profiles of the Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂ from P388D₁ cells. A, octyl-Sepharose CL-B; B, ATP-agarose; C, Mono Q-FPLC; D, hydroxyapatite FPLC. The first active peak from this column is referred to as peak I and was taken as the purified Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂. The optical density of the protein was not recorded in column profiles shown in B–D due to absorption interference by the Triton X-100.



and Gross (21). Approximately 0.6 mg of rabbit muscle phosphofructokinase (previously exchanged into buffer E which contains 10 mM imidazole (pH 8.3), 25% glycerol, and 1 mM DTT) or 20 ml of LS-P (resuspended in buffer E) were loaded onto the column (0.8 ml) at a flow rate of 2 ml/min. The column was then washed with 60 ml of buffer E followed by sequential washes of buffer E with the following additions; 50 μ M fructose 6-phosphate (12 ml), no addition (5 ml), 50 μ M ADP (12 ml), no addition (5 ml), a mixture of 50 μ M fructose 6-phosphate and 50 μ M ADP (12 ml), a mixture of 10 mM fructose 6-phosphate and 100 μ M ADP (12 ml), and 1 mM ATP (12 ml). The elution profile of the phosphofructokinase was followed by SDS-PAGE, and the iPLA₂ activity was followed utilizing standard assay conditions.

Western Blotting

Western analysis was carried out using conventional methods. Proteins were separated on 10% SDS-PAGE and transferred to an Immobilon-P membrane (Millipore), and immunoblots were carried out according to Hazen and Gross (21). The phosphofructokinase antibody utilized was a generous gift of Richard Gross, Washington University School of Medicine.

RESULTS

Protein Purification—Initial attempts to purify the iPLA₂ from P388D₁ cells were frustrated by the low abundance and instability of the enzyme. The instability problem was overcome by including Triton X-100 in the column buffers. We found that Triton X-100 stabilized the iPLA₂ activity and increased recoveries of the enzyme during each chromatography step. Additionally, Triton X-100 increased the observed iPLA₂ activity in a concentration-dependent manner when included in the assay (see below).

Typical column profiles are shown in Fig. 1, A–D, and data from the purification of a single enzyme preparation are shown in Table I. The first chromatography step utilized an octyl-Sepharose column where roughly 95% of the contaminating protein eluted in the load and wash fractions. The majority of the iPLA₂ activity was retained by the column and was eluted in a low salt buffer (buffer C) (Fig. 1A). Typical recoveries from this column ranged from 50–90%. The iPLA₂ fractions from the octyl-Sepharose column were pooled, contaminating ATP was removed, and the protein was applied to an ATP-agarose affinity column. A sharp peak of iPLA₂ activity eluted from this column in the presence of ATP, yielding an 800-fold purification step (Fig. 1B). We routinely found that at least 10–20% of the

iPLA₂ activity passed through the ATP column without binding. These fractions also failed to bind the ATP affinity column when reapplied, indicating that this is a distinct pool of iPLA₂ activity or iPLA₂ with tightly bound ATP.

The iPLA₂ activity that was eluted by ATP from the affinity column was chromatographed over a Mono Q FPLC column. A broad peak of iPLA₂ emerged in the wash fractions (Fig. 1C). This step achieved a 4-fold purification with recovery of roughly 70–90% of the loaded iPLA₂ activity. Finally, the Mono Q fractions were applied to a hydroxyapatite FPLC column. Two peaks of iPLA₂ activity consistently eluted from this column. Peak I eluted in the isocratic wash of 10 mM phosphate, represented ~50–80% of the loaded activity, and was apparently homogenous. Peak II eluted between 10 and 300 mM phosphate along with other proteins (Figs. 1D and 2), and comprised ~10–20% of the loaded activity. Therefore, the iPLA₂ in peak II was discarded, and the purified iPLA₂ in peak I was characterized further. This iPLA₂ was purified over 400,000-fold with a final specific activity of roughly 5 μ mol/min/mg. It was fairly stable and could be stored at –20 °C for at least 2 weeks.

Assessment of purity was carried out using SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions. In three separate purifications, peak I from the hydroxyapatite column displayed a single major band near $M_r = 80,000$ when standard silver staining techniques were utilized. SDS-PAGE carried out on the individual fractions from the hydroxyapatite column (Fig. 2) demonstrated that the intensity of this band correlated with the elution profile of the iPLA₂ activity from this column (Fig. 1D). In some preparations, we observed a few other minor bands, but they did not correlate with iPLA₂ activity. Attempts were made to elute the purified iPLA₂ from a native gel in order to determine if the $M_r = 80,000$ band represented the iPLA₂, but these were unsuccessful.

Dependence of iPLA₂ Activity on Triton X-100 and ATP—Early in our studies, we discovered that both Triton X-100 and ATP stimulated the iPLA₂ activity from P388D₁ cells. In addition, the extent of ATP activation was sensitive to the concentration of Triton X-100 present in the assay. The ammonium sulfate precipitate (LS-P) was assayed with 100 μ M phospholipid vesicles alone and then in the presence of increasing amounts of Triton X-100, forming mixed micelles with molar ratios ranging from 2:1–12:1. These assays were carried out in

TABLE I
Typical purification of the iPLA₂ from the macrophage-like cell line P388D₁

The data are taken from a single enzyme preparation starting with 6×10^9 cells and carried through each purification step. For steps 5 and 6, only a portion of the material was utilized, and the table entries were adjusted accordingly.

Step	Total protein	Total activity	Yield	Specific activity	Purification
	mg	nmol/min	%	nmol/min/mg	-fold
1. LS-1	1,130	13.6	100	0.012	1
2. LS-P	547	15.2	112	0.028	2
3. Octyl-Sepharose	26	10.3	76	0.40	33
4. ATP-agarose	0.02	6.4	47	320	26,000
5. Mono Q-FPLC	0.0036	4.8	35	1,300	110,000
6. Hydroxyapatite-FPLC	0.0002	1.1	8	5,500	460,000

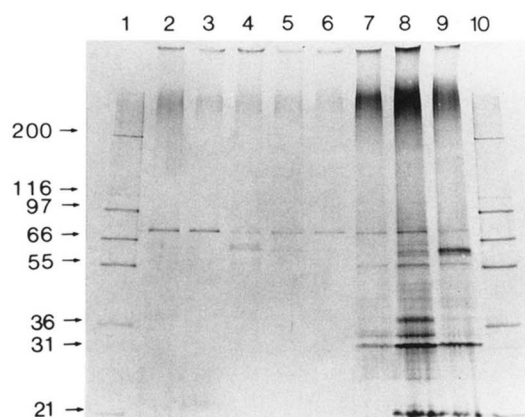


FIG. 2. SDS-PAGE of hydroxyapatite column fractions. 1.0-ml aliquots from the hydroxyapatite column fractions (Fig. 1D), were exchanged into water using a Centricon 10 (Amicon), lyophilized, and resuspended in 15 μ l of reducing sample buffer. The samples were loaded on a 8–16% gradient gel, separated by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions, and visualized by silver stain. Lanes 1 and 10 are molecular weight markers, and lanes 2–9 contain hydroxyapatite fractions 9–16.

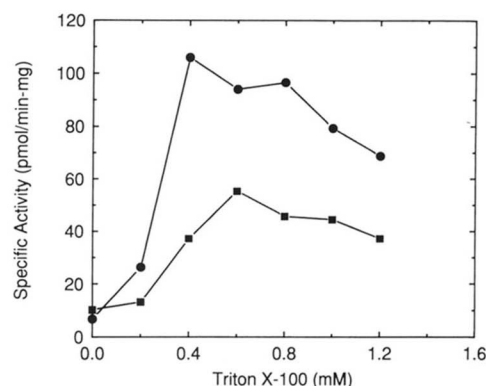


FIG. 3. Effects of Triton X-100 and ATP on Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂. LS-P was prepared as described under "Experimental Procedures," and the pellet was resuspended in a buffer consisting of 10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, and 1 mM DTT. LS-P was assayed with 100 μ M DPPC vesicles (the data point lacking Triton X-100) and Triton X-100/DPPC mixed micelles in the presence (●) or absence (■) of 0.80 mM ATP.

the presence or absence of added ATP (Fig. 3).

In both cases, the LS-P displayed an initial increase in activity with increasing amounts of Triton X-100 followed by a decrease. In the absence of added ATP, maximal activity was found at a Triton X-100 concentration of \sim 0.6 mM (molar ratio 6:1) and was about 5-fold greater than that observed with vesicles. In the presence of added ATP, the iPLA₂ activity displayed a second increase above that observed with Triton X-100 alone. This additional increase varied at different Triton X-100 concentrations. In this experiment, there was a 2.8-fold activation due to ATP at a Triton X-100 concentration of 0.4 mM. At higher concentrations of Triton X-100, the ATP activation fell to about 1.8-fold. Interestingly, in the absence of Triton X-100 (vesicle assay), no ATP activation could be observed.

Maximal iPLA₂ activity was observed with the combination of 0.4 mM Triton X-100 and 0.8 mM ATP and was roughly 10-fold greater than the iPLA₂ activity observed with vesicles of DPPC. Experiments carried out with either whole cell lysate, LS-1, or partially purified iPLA₂ from the ATP-agarose column resulted in similar trends.

Nucleotide Activation—In seven separate experiments, we found that the purified iPLA₂ (peak I, hydroxyapatite column) was activated 2–6-fold by the addition of 0.8 mM ATP under standard assay conditions. To investigate the specificity of this activation, the purified enzyme was assayed in the presence of various nucleotides, shown in Table II. The iPLA₂ showed little specificity for nucleoside triphosphates; roughly equal activations were observed with ATP, GTP, CTP, and UTP. iPLA₂ activity was also activated by a nonhydrolyzable analogue of ATP (ATP(PCP)), indicating that a classic phosphorylation reaction was not required. In addition, ADP activated the enzyme while

TABLE II
Nucleotide activation of the purified iPLA₂
iPLA₂ activity was determined in triplicate using the standard assay conditions with 2.2 ng of the purified iPLA₂

Nucleotide (0.8 mM)	Activity	% control
	μ mol/min/mg	
None	7.0	100
AMP	8.6	120
ADP	19	270
ATP	19	270
GTP	18	260
CTP	19	270
UTP	14	200
ATP(PCP)	19	270

AMP did not, suggesting that a di- or triphosphate moiety is required for activation.

In some enzyme preparations, there was no detectable ATP activation of the purified enzyme. This was apparently caused by some ATP eluting with the enzyme from the hydroxyapatite column. This problem was overcome by either rechromatographing the enzyme on the hydroxyapatite column or concentrating the sample once and diluting the concentrate back to the original volume in buffer devoid of ATP. Under these circumstances, a minimum 2-fold activation was achieved.

Molecular Size of Active iPLA₂—Although SDS-PAGE experiments carried out on the purified enzyme suggested a molecular weight of 80,000, several other experiments utilizing both crude and purified iPLA₂ yielded molecular weight estimates of 300,000–400,000. In one experiment, the iPLA₂ from the cell homogenate was first clarified by centrifugation at 100,000 \times g and then filtered through a 300,000 molecular weight cut-off membrane. 80% of the total iPLA₂ activity (assayed in the presence of ATP), was retained upon filtration,

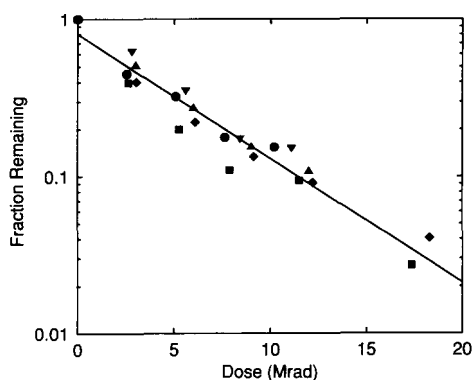


FIG. 4. **Radiation inactivation.** LS-1 was irradiated as described under "Experimental Procedures" over a range of 1–23 megarads. The results of five separate experiments are shown. The activity of the irradiated samples was measured and compared to that of unirradiated controls, which represent 100% activity. The remaining enzyme activities were plotted against the radiation dose received. The assay conditions were varied as described. ▼, 4:1 mixed micelles, 100 μ l of protein/assay; ▲ and ●, 6:1 mixed micelles, 100 μ l of protein/assay; ◆ and ■, 6:1 mixed micelles, 200 μ l of protein/assay. Each point represents the average of either duplicates or quadruplicates.

while only 17% passed through the membrane. The retentate was activated 4-fold by ATP, while the filtrate was not. In a second experiment, the molecular weight of the purified iPLA₂ was estimated under nondenaturing conditions, by using a Superose 6 FPLC gel filtration column. The enzyme activity eluted in a very broad peak, centered at $M_r = 400,000$, and it maintained its ATP activation.

These results suggest that the iPLA₂ is present as a high molecular weight complex. This could be due to an aggregation of the iPLA₂ protein alone or it could also be due to aggregation of the iPLA₂ with other proteins. In either case, it is not clear whether the aggregation plays any role in the catalytic activity of the iPLA₂. To help clarify this point, radiation inactivation experiments were carried out on LS-1. Radiation inactivation determines the molecular size of the catalytically active unit (28). LS-1 was irradiated over a range of 1–23 megarads and assayed under standard assay conditions in the presence of 0.8 mM ATP. The average of five separate experiments gave a target size of 337 ± 25 kDa (Fig. 4). This implies that a 340-kDa complex is required for the ATP-activated iPLA₂ activity. This complex could be formed through either self-aggregation or association of the enzyme with other proteins.

Cellular Distribution of the iPLA₂ in the Cytosol and Membrane Fractions—To determine if the iPLA₂ activity is associated with the soluble or membrane fractions of P388D₁ cells, the low speed crude homogenate was centrifuged at $100,000 \times g$. The resulting supernatant (the cytosolic enriched fraction) and pellet (the membrane/organelle enriched fraction) were assayed using standard assay conditions in the presence or absence of ATP (Fig. 5). 80% of the total activity (measured in the presence of ATP) was found in the cytosolic fraction, while the other 20% was associated with the membranes and organelles. The cytosolic activity was activated by ATP, approximately 3.2-fold, while the membrane-associated activity was not. These data indicate that the purified iPLA₂ in peak I from the hydroxyapatite column is a cytosolic protein.

Also shown in Fig. 5 is the total activity of the starting material (homogenate). The total activity detected in the homogenate was less than the combined cytosolic and membrane-associated iPLA₂ activities. This is probably due to the dilution of the radiolabeled phospholipid in the assay by the endogenous cellular phospholipid present in both the homogenate and membrane fractions, but reduced in the cytosolic fraction.

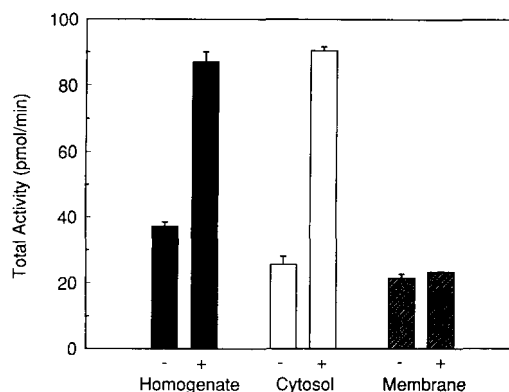


FIG. 5. **Subcellular distribution of the Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂ activity in P388D₁ cells.** LS-1 was subjected to ultracentrifugation ($100,000 \times g$, 1 h, 0–5 °C) to separate the cytosol and membrane fractions. The resulting pellet was resuspended to its original volume with homogenization buffer. Assays were carried out in the absence (–) or presence (+) of 0.80 mM ATP using standard assay conditions.

The presence of a non-ATP-sensitive membrane-associated iPLA₂ correlates with the other observations that a fraction of the P388D₁ iPLA₂ did not bind to the ATP affinity column (Fig. 1B) and that a fraction of the P388D₁ homogenate passed through a $M_r = 300,000$ membrane and was insensitive to ATP. Collectively, these results suggest the presence of at least two Ca²⁺-independent PLA₂ activities in P388D₁ cells.

Substrate Specificity—When the purified iPLA₂ was assayed under standard assay conditions using mixed micelles of 100 μ M phospholipid and 400 μ M Triton X-100, the enzyme showed no preference for either *sn*-2 arachidonic acid- or *sn*-1 alkyl-ether-containing phospholipids. It hydrolyzed dipalmitoyl-PC roughly 4-fold faster than 1-palmitoyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC and roughly 15-fold faster than 1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC (Table III). The enzyme also showed little preference for either choline- or ethanolamine-containing phospholipids, since it hydrolyzed both arachidonoyl-PC and arachidonoyl-PE at roughly the same rates.

Preliminary studies were also carried out with partially purified iPLA₂ utilizing vesicle substrates as well as mixed micelles. With vesicles, the apparent substrate preference was reversed with 1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC and 1-palmitoyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC > dipalmitoyl-PC, even though the specific activity of the P388D₁ iPLA₂ using 1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC vesicles was only 20% the specific activity using dipalmitoyl-PC mixed micelles. Because it has been well established with the extracellular PLA₂s that the nature of the substrate interface can greatly affect the enzyme activity observed, caution should be used in reaching a conclusion about the true substrate preference for any such enzymes.

To determine if the purified enzyme was specific for the hydrolysis of the *sn*-2 position of phospholipids, we checked for both lysophospholipase activity and phospholipase A₁ (PLA₁) activity. As shown in Table III, the enzyme demonstrated a small activity toward [1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-lyso-PC; however, it was 20-fold lower than the iPLA₂ activity. The positional specificity of the iPLA₂ was determined by following the release of radiolabeled products from both 1-palmitoyl-2-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine and 1-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-2-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine under standard assay conditions utilizing the TLC extraction method. Using a set amount of purified iPLA₂, the apparent rate of release of the *sn*-2 radiolabeled fatty acid from the single labeled phospholipid was found to be about 540 pmol/min, while the concomitant rate of formation of 2-[1-¹⁴C]palmitoyl-lyso-PC, due to PLA₁ activity, was found to be about 87 pmol/min. Thus, it would appear that the PLA₁ activity is about 15% of the PLA₂

TABLE III
Specificity of iPLA₂ toward various substrates

Peak I from the hydroxyapatite column was assayed with 100 μM indicated phospholipid (in the presence of 0.8 mM ATP) using standard assay conditions. Activities were normalized to that of dipalmitoyl-PC.

Substrate	Activity
	%
Dipalmitoyl-PC	100
1-Palmitoyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC	27
1-Palmitoyl-2-arachidonoyl-PE	43
1-O-Hexadecyl-2-arachidonoyl-PC	6
Palmitoyl-lyso-PC	5

activity. However, the sequential action of a PLA₁ followed by a lysophospholipase would have underestimated the PLA₁ activity observed in this experiment. Therefore, an identical experiment was carried out utilizing the double-labeled phospholipid. In this case, the combined apparent rate of release of fatty acids from both the *sn-1* and *sn-2* positions was found to be about 630 pmol/min. This rate is the same as the combined rate of the PLA₂ and the PLA₁ activity observed with the single-labeled phospholipid ruling out a significant contribution from sequential PLA₁ and lysophospholipase activity.

Comparison to Myocardial iPLA₂ Model—Of particular relevance to the data presented in this paper was the report that the crude myocardial iPLA₂ enzyme ($M_r = 40,000$) is modulated by a high molecular weight, ATP binding, regulatory protein (20) suggested to be phosphofructokinase (21), a tetrameric enzyme composed of $M_r = 85,000$ subunits. Accordingly, we tried to determine if the $M_r = 80,000$ P388D₁ iPLA₂ is actually a phosphofructokinase regulatory subunit that is associated with a $M_r = 40,000$ iPLA₂ catalytic subunit.

In some of the enzyme preparations, SDS-PAGE of peak I samples gave a very lightly stained $M_r = 40,000$ band. Using the catalytic/regulatory model, this band could represent the iPLA₂. It appears that the majority of this band elutes in peak II, which contains only a small fraction of the iPLA₂ activity (Figs. 1D and 2). However, it is possible that an $M_r = 80,000$ regulatory protein dissociates from the catalytic iPLA₂ on the hydroxyapatite column and elutes in peak I, while the majority of the catalytic iPLA₂ elutes in peak II. The low amount of iPLA₂ activity observed in peak II would then be due to a limited amount of the regulatory protein. To investigate this possibility, peak II from the hydroxyapatite column was examined in more detail. We found that the magnitude of ATP activation (2–6-fold) and the nucleotide specificities of peak II were identical with peak I. Gel filtration chromatography of peak II resulted in a profile similar to peak I, giving a broad peak centered at $M_r = 400,000$. When fractions from peak II were added to fractions from peak I, no additional increase in iPLA₂ activity was observed. Furthermore, the total recoveries observed for the hydroxyapatite column were typically 76% ($n = 13$), which is inconsistent with the separation of two proteins that are necessary to support full catalytic activity. Therefore, it is unlikely that a regulatory and catalytic subunit separate on the hydroxyapatite column. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that the iPLA₂ elutes as a functional regulatory/catalytic complex in both peaks I and II, and the $M_r = 40,000$ band observed in peak II is a contaminating protein.

In order to determine if the $M_r = 80,000$ protein is phosphofructokinase, Western analysis was carried out utilizing rabbit muscle phosphofructokinase antibody kindly provided by Richard Gross, Washington University School of Medicine. Under the conditions employed, no cross-reactivity was observed with ~100 ng of the purified P388D₁ iPLA₂ even though ~5 ng of rabbit muscle phosphofructokinase did cross-react with the antibody. Of course, this is not definitive because there could be

species or isoform differences to prevent cross-reactivity (29–31).

Alternatively, attempts were made to elute the P388D₁ iPLA₂ from the ATP-agarose column using affinity elution conditions unique to phosphofructokinase isoforms (32) and which were used by Hazen and Gross (21) to demonstrate the association of the catalytic myocardial iPLA₂ with the $M_r = 85,000$ phosphofructokinase. Utilizing conditions shown to bind the phosphofructokinase/myocardial iPLA₂ complex, rabbit muscle phosphofructokinase bound to the ATP-agarose column and the majority eluted with a combination of ADP and fructose 6-phosphate as expected. However, under these conditions, the P388D₁ iPLA₂ activity failed to bind to the column. When 1.0 mM Triton X-100 was added to the buffers, ~21% of the iPLA₂ activity did bind to the affinity column. After sequential washes of fructose 6-phosphate, ADP, fructose 6-phosphate + ADP, and ATP, we found that ~9% of the iPLA₂ activity eluted with ADP alone, and the remaining 12% eluted with ATP. Finally, the column was run under the standard conditions employed in the purification of the P388D₁ iPLA₂ utilizing octyl-Sepharose fractions and again the iPLA₂ activity did not elute with the combination of ADP and fructose 6-phosphate, but did elute with 1 mM ATP. Thus, the P388D₁ iPLA₂ does not appear to behave identically with the myocardial phosphofructokinase/iPLA₂ complex, even though the existence of a P388D₁ phosphofructokinase/iPLA₂ complex cannot be excluded.

DISCUSSION

Macrophage iPLA₂—The purification of a cytosolic iPLA₂ from the macrophage-like cell line P388D₁ is reported. We have found that it is activated by nucleoside di- and triphosphates and is stabilized by and shows maximal activity in the presence of Triton X-100. Interestingly, the observed nucleotide activation is sensitive to the concentration of Triton X-100 present in the assay with no activation observed in the complete absence of Triton X-100. Additionally, the P388D₁ iPLA₂ will not bind to the ATP affinity column in the absence of Triton X-100. One explanation for these results is that Triton X-100 is stabilizing or facilitating a conformational change in the enzyme that is necessary for nucleotide binding. However, independent of nucleotide activation, Triton X-100 alone increased the observed iPLA₂ activity in a concentration-dependent manner. The apparent activation by Triton X-100 implies that the P388D₁ iPLA₂ prefers mixed micelles over vesicles, with the decrease in activity observed at higher concentrations of Triton X-100 consistent with surface dilution kinetics. Thus, the lack of ATP activation observed with vesicles may suggest that the nucleotide activation is sensitive to the physicochemical structure of the substrate. Because we are dealing with an enzyme that acts on a lipid-water interface, it is very difficult to distinguish between enzyme-detergent solubilization and substrate conformational effects. In fact, both of these factors may contribute to the observed phenomenon.

In attempting to determine the molecular mass of the iPLA₂, we obtained two different estimates. The purified enzyme preparation yielded a single major band on SDS-PAGE at $M_r = 80,000$ using standard silver staining techniques. The fact that the intensity of the $M_r = 80,000$ band correlated with the iPLA₂ activity in each of the fractions from the hydroxyapatite column suggests that it is likely to be associated with iPLA₂ activity, either as a regulatory protein or as a catalytic protein. However, Superose 6 FPLC gel filtration chromatography and membrane filtration indicated a $M_r = 300,000$ – $400,000$ for the iPLA₂. The radiation inactivation studies also indicated a size of 337,000 for the catalytically active form of the enzyme and not 80,000. Since the irradiated samples were assayed under activating conditions (*i.e.* in the presence of Triton X-100 and

ATP), the single exponential inactivation curve reflects the survival of the highly active form of the enzyme. Thus, the 337-kDa target size must be interpreted as the mass required for the expression of this activated state. The simplest interpretation of the above findings would be that the P388D₁ iPLA₂ functions as a tetramer of homologous M_r = 80,000 subunits. This would also mean that the M_r = 80,000 peptides are responsible for the observed nucleotide activation. However, alternative interpretations include a complex containing four M_r = 80,000 regulatory peptides and one M_r = 40,000 catalytic peptide. In either case, it is possible that the mechanism of nucleotide activation is the functional coupling of these individual monomers into a more efficient oligomeric structure, and that Triton X-100 may play some role in these processes.

Other iPLA₂s—The P388D₁ iPLA₂ appears to be distinct from the other iPLA₂s that have been reported in the literature. The majority of these other enzymes can be easily distinguished from the P388D₁ iPLA₂ by their substrate specificities and enzyme characteristics. For example, Chap and co-workers (17) have reported the purification of an iPLA₂ from guinea pig intestine which has equal amounts of both PLA₂ and lysophospholipase activities, efficiently removing both fatty acid chains thereby converting diacyl-PC to glycerol phosphorylcholine. This enzyme was tightly associated with the membrane and appears to be a M_r = 97,000 protein. Another iPLA₂ has been reported in hamster heart (16). This cytosolic enzyme hydrolyzed both *sn*-1 and *sn*-2 fatty acids at equal rates, was inhibited by detergents, and migrated on SDS-PAGE as a M_r = 14,000 protein. Horrocks and co-workers (19) have reported two iPLA₂s from bovine brain, which displayed similar sensitivities to Triton X-100 as the P388D₁ enzyme. However, these enzymes were purified only 1,000-fold, with no reported substrate specificity studies or conclusive molecular weights, making it difficult to ascertain their relationship with the enzyme reported in this study.

The best characterized iPLA₂ is the plasmalogen-specific canine myocardial enzyme reported in an intriguing series of papers by Gross and co-workers (18, 20, 21). They have purified an ATP-insensitive, highly active iPLA₂ that is a M_r = 40,000 protein by SDS-PAGE using iodination techniques (18). This enzyme has a substrate preference for plasmalogen > *sn*-1 alkyl-ether PC > diacyl PC, and it displayed a fatty acid preference for arachidonyl > palmitoyl. The myocardial iPLA₂ is inhibited by various detergents including Triton X-100, and, therefore, assays using mixed micelles were unsuccessful. In contrast, mixed micelles of DPPC and Triton X-100 seem to be the preferred substrate for the P388D₁ enzyme. Positional specificities of the two enzymes also differ. The P388D₁ iPLA₂ displayed ~5% lysophospholipase activity and ~15% PLA₁ activity, while the myocardial iPLA₂ had less than 1% lysophospholipase and no detectable PLA₁ activity. Finally, the P388D₁ iPLA₂ has a pH optimum of ~7.5, while the myocardial iPLA₂ pH optimum is ~6.5. Thus, it appears that the P388D₁ iPLA₂ and the myocardial iPLA₂ have distinct properties.

In addition, several experiments were carried out in order to ascertain whether the reported phosphofructokinase regulatory/iPLA₂ catalytic model proposed by Hazen and Gross (21) was relevant to the P388D₁ iPLA₂. Attempts to identify a phosphofructokinase protein in our preparations through Western analysis and specific affinity elution were unsuccessful. Although this model cannot be ruled out, we have been unable to obtain any direct evidence for the presence of separate catalytic and regulatory proteins in our system. However, it is intriguing to speculate that the data reported herein represent the purification of an enzyme similar to the purified myocardial iPLA₂, but which exists in a stable, functional complex with phosphofructokinase. If this is the case, our data demonstrate

that, in P388D₁ cells, the formation of this complex is necessary for the full expression of the iPLA₂'s ATP-activated state and that it has a functional size of about 340 kDa. In addition, our data raises several interesting questions as to the true substrate specificity of this enzyme, the importance of Triton X-100 in the stability and in the observed nucleotide activation, and the exact relationship between it and the myocardial iPLA₂.

Conclusion—Obviously, a better understanding of the mechanisms and components involved in nucleotide activation and oligomerization of the P388D₁ iPLA₂ is required. Such insight may help us better understand the mode of regulation utilized by this enzyme and its importance in modulating the iPLA₂ catalytic activity. In addition, because PLA₂s are thought to be responsible for the release of arachidonic acid and the subsequent formation of many important secondary messengers as well as to play a vital role in lipid metabolism, understanding the control mechanisms that may be relevant to these processes is of great interest. Indeed, the complex regulation observed with the P388D₁ iPLA₂ suggests that it may play a central role in phospholipid metabolism.

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