



Sulfated Agar from Seaweed *Gracilaria cornea* Protects Rats Against Behavioral And Neurochemical Alterations Induced by 6-OHDA

Souza, R.B.¹

ricardobastosouza@gmail.com ¹BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ, FORTALEZA - CE - BRAZIL
 Carbolec.webnode.com

Parkinson disease model in rats: Neuroinflammation and Behavior

Neuroinflammation is implicated in the Parkinson's disease (PD) progression (Collins et al. 2012). Studies have confirmed that elevated proinflammatory response occurs early in this disease and these processes contribute to the nigrostriatal degeneration (Mosley et al. 2006; Maia et al. 2012). In the animal model of PD induced by the neurotoxin 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA), occurs neurodegeneration through oxidative and inflammatory process (Dexter & Jenner, 2013). In this model we observed motor problems, behavioral alterations and increase of nitrite levels in cerebral areas (Bové & Perier, 2012; Zhang et al. 2006).

Anti-inflammatory effect of the Sulfated agar from red seaweed *Gracilaria cornea*



Sulfated agaran (SA) is a polysaccharide with sulfate groups found in the red seaweed *Gracilaria cornea* (J. Agardh, 1852) (Melo et al. 2002). Recently, a study with SA showed anti-inflammatory effects and absence of toxic effects *in vivo* (Coura et al. 2012).

Purpose of this work

Thus, the aim of this work is to evaluate the effects of SA in the modulation of locomotor and neurochemical alterations induced by 6-OHDA in rats.

METHODS



Male Rats *
Rattus albinus novergicus
 Wistar
 (250-300 g)

* This study was approved by Ethics Committee of Animal Research of the Federal University of Ceará - CEPA (n° 45/13)

All animals were randomly divided in five groups (n=10 animals per group). Animals were maintained under *ad libitum* feeding conditions.

The seaweed was collected from Flecheiras beach, Brazil. SA was obtained as previously described by Coura et al (2012).

Lesion Induction by 6-OHDA in striatum following to treatment



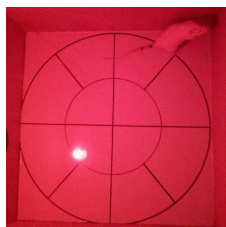
Experimental Groups

- Sham (Saline 0.9%) **
- 6-OHDA (20 µg) **
- 6-OHDA + SA (15, 30 or 60 µg ##) **

** All treatments were realized through stereotaxic injection into right striatum (Paxinos & Watson, 1986) and solutions were prepared in saline (0.9%; with 0.01% ascorbic acid).

Behavioral tests

Open-field test (Acher, 1973)



Author's photography

Rotational test induced by apomorphine (3 mg/Kg, i.p.) (Kim et al. 1998)



Contralateral rotation
 Ipsilateral rotation

Analysis of nitrite levels in hippocampus, prefrontal cortex and striatum (Green et al. 1981)



RESULTS

Locomotor activity

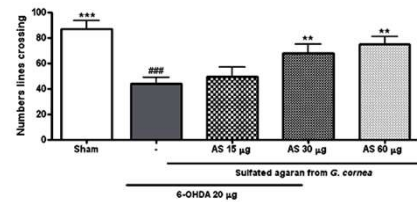


Fig 1: Open-field test of rats submitted to 6-OHDA-induced lesion and/or treated with sulfated agaran (SA) (15, 30 or 60 µg, intrastriatum). Data are expressed in \pm S.E.M. ### indicates statistical differences ($p < 0,001$), in relation to Sham. ** and *** indicate statistical differences ($p < 0,01$ and $p < 0,001$, respectively), in comparison to 6-OHDA group. ANOVA, Bonferroni test.

Rotational test induced by apomorphine

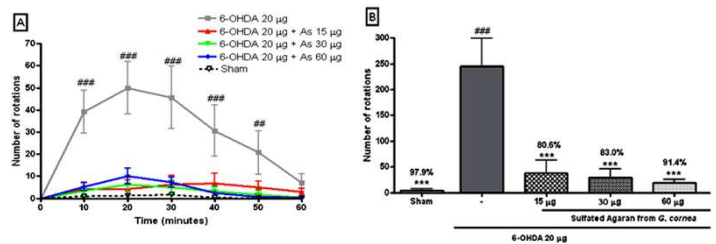


Fig. 2 A and B: Rotational test induced by apomorphine (3 mg/Kg, i.p.) of rats submitted to 6-OHDA-induced lesion and/or treated with sulfated agaran (SA) (15, 30 or 60 µg, intrastriatum). Data are expressed in \pm S.E.M. ### or *** indicate statistical differences ($p < 0,001$), in relation to Sham and 6-OHDA group, respectively. ANOVA, Bonferroni test.

Determination of the Nitrite levels

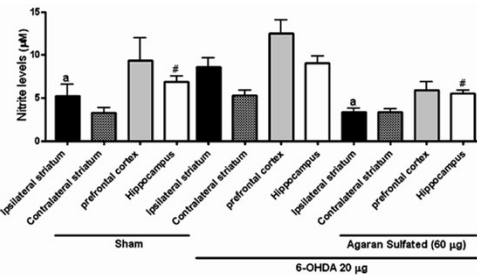


Fig. 3: Nitrite concentration in prefrontal cortex, hippocampus and (ipsilateral and contralateral) striatum of rats submitted to 6-OHDA-induced lesion and/or treated with Sulfated agaran (SA) (60 µg, intrastriatum). Data are expressed in \pm S.E.M. (a, b and c) indicates statistical similarities ($p < 0,05$). ANOVA, Bonferroni test.

CONCLUSION

Sulfated agar from seaweed *G. cornea* presented neuroprotective effects against motor alterations induced by 6-OHDA injection into striatum and recovered the nitrite levels in the rat cerebral tissues.

Bibliography

- ARCHER, J. *Anim. Behav.*, v.21, n.2, p.205-235, 1973.
- BOVÉ, J.; PERIER, C. *Neuroscience*, v.21, p.51-76, 2012.
- COLLINS, L. M et al. *Neuropharmacology*, v. 62, p. 2154-2168, 2012.
- COURA, C. O. et al. *Basic. Clin. Pharmacol. Toxicol.*, v. 110, p. 335-341, 2012.
- DEXTER, D. T.; JENNER, P. *Free Radical and Medicine*, p.1-13, 2013.
- GREEN, L. C.; TANNENBAUM, S. R.; GOLDMAN, P. *Science*, v. 212, p. 56-8, 1981.
- KIM, Y. S. et al. *Neuroreport*, v. 9, p. 2387-2390, 1998.
- MAIA, S. et al. *Synapse*, v. 66, p. 573-583, 2012.
- MELO, M. R. S. et al. *Carbohydrate Polymers*, v. 49, n. 4, p. 491-498, 2002.
- MOSLEY, R. L. et al. *Res.*, v. 6, p. 291-311, 2006.
- PAXINOS, G.; WATSON, C. *New York: Academic Press*, 2nd Edn, 1986.
- ZHANG, L.; DAWSON, V. L.; DAWSON, T. M. *Pharmacol Therapeutics*, v. 109, p. 33-41, 2006.

Acknowledgments

