54ASM-0359 | Cytotoxicity of potassium salts of terpenic acids conifer oleoresins

A. Lyubina; S. Gumerova; N. Sharonova; A. Ermakova; D. Terenzhev; E. Shatalina; K. Bushmeleva
Federal State Budgetary Institution of Science Federal Research Center "Kazan Scientific Center of Russian Academy of Sciences", Laboratory of Plant Raw Materials Processing for Organic Agriculture, Kazan, Russia C.I.S.

Background: Terpenes are the largest and the most diverse class of natural plant products with a wide range of biological activity. A number of studies provide data on the antitumor activity of terpenes, their effectiveness in chemoprophylaxis and cancer chemotherapy. Given the high potential of terpenes as drug components, a comprehensive study of the toxicity of different terpenes and their derivatives in respect to normal and tumor cell lines is needed.

Materials and Methods: Norway spruce (*Picea abies L.*), Siberian stone pine (*Pinus sibírica Du Tour*), Siberian fir (*Abies sibirica Ledeb.*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris L.*) were used as starting materials. Samples of oleoresin were taken using the sedimentation method in the Zmeinogorsky District of Altai Krai (Russia). Depending on the oleoresin used, odourless crystalline products ranging from light yellow to light brown were obtained. The salts obtained were hydrolytically stable.

Results: According to GC-MS analysis, the main component of oleoresin in the studied plants was abiotic acid: its content was 50% or more of the total number of identified compounds.

Toxicity of potassium salts of terpenic acids was investigated using the Cell Viability BioApp protocol of the Cytell cell imaging system in relation to conditionally normal cell line Wi38 VA 13 subline 2RA (cells of a human lung embryo) and tumor lines - MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma cell line), M-Hela - (human cervical carcinoma cell line). In a wide range of studied concentrations of 0.000225-0.125% potassium salts of terpenic acids of oleoresin showed high cytotoxicity against conditionally normal cell line and relatively low cytotoxicity against tumor lines. Thus, the viability of cells of the lung embryo, after treatment with a solution of Siberian fir potassium salt at a concentration of 0.0019% was more than 4 times lower than the studied tumor cells.
Conclusions

Potassium salts of terpenic acids of oleoresin of a number of coniferous plants did not show specific cytotoxicity in relation to the investigated tumor cell lines. It is advisable to continue research on the biological activity of drugs and the prospects for their use as disinfectants for external use.

S8 – CLINICAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY: TIPS & TRICKS

54ASM-0405 | Rat prostate: practical tips for ultrasonographic monitoring

A. Faustino[1]; R. Ferreira[2]; M.J. Pires[3]; M. Fardilha[4]; P.A. Oliveira[3]; M. Ginja[3]
[1]CITAB, Veterinary Medicine, Vila Real, Portugal;
[2]University of Aveiro, Chemistry, Aveiro, Portugal;
[3]UTAD, Veterinary Sciences, Vila Real, Portugal;
[4]University of Aveiro, Medical Sciences, Aveiro, Portugal

Background: Prostate is the largest accessory gland of the male reproductive tract. The prostate of men over 40 years-old is frequently affected by several pathologies, like benign prostate hyperplasia and cancer. Rats have been used as model to study prostate cancer. This study intended to address the usefulness of ultrasonography for rat prostate monitoring.

Materials and Methods: Eight male Wistar Unilever rats were acquired from Charles River Laboratories and maintained under controlled conditions of temperature, humidity, air system filtration and light/dark cycle. The prostate was evaluated by ultrasonography in awake animals. The animals were restrained by a researcher and placed in supine position. The skin of the inguinal region was shaved using a machine clipper (AESCULAP® GT420 Isis, USA). A real-time scanner (Logic P6®, GE, USA) and a 12 MHz linear transducer were used. Acoustic gel (Parker Laboratories Inc., USA) was applied. A complete transverse scan using B mode was performed from the cranial to the caudal region of the prostate, and a sagittal scan was performed moving the probe from the right to the left side. Procedures were approved by the Portuguese Ethics Committee (no.021326).

Results: Prostate was easily evaluated by ultrasonography in all animals. In the transverse scan, the urinary bladder presents as a round to oval shape filled with urine (anechoic structure) and the prostate lobes were visible around it. The ventral prostate lobes appear as hypoechoic elongated structures (one right and one left) with a hyperechoic capsule, placed ventrally to the urinary bladder. In this scan, the dorsal prostate was observed close to the urinary bladder neck, as a round hypoechoic structure with a hyperechoic capsule, dorsally to the urinary bladder. In the sagittal scan, the urinary bladder was observed as an elongated structure filled with urine (anechoic content). The ventral prostate lobes were occasionally observed ventrally to the neck of the urinary bladder, as previously described. The dorsal prostate was observed dorsally to the neck of the urinary bladder, presenting as a round to elongated shape, with a hypoechoic appearance and a hyperechoic capsule.

Conclusions: The ultrasonography is a non-invasive and accessible tool for prostate monitoring in the rat model.

S9 – BIOINFORMATICS & COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY FOR BIOMEDICINE

54ASM-0249 | Rotation and propulsion in 3d active chiral droplets

L.N. Carenza[1]; G. Gonnella[1]; D. Marenduzzo[2]; G. Negro[1]
[1]*Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Bari – INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy;* [2]*University of Edinburgh, School of Physics and Astronomy, Edinburgh, UK*

Background: Bio-inspired materials play a fundamental role in the development of novel devices for drug-delivery. Such systems are usually composed by a large number of constituents capable of converting energy coming from ATP hydrolysis into motion. The mutual interaction between the collective behavior of active agents (such as microtubule bundles activated by means of kinesin motors) and the hydrodynamic feedback of the underlying fluid gives rise to a plethora of collective behaviors, not observable in absence of activity. In the last decade a number of experiments have shown that both dense bacterial suspensions and cytoskeletal suspensions can develop a dynamical ordered state commonly addressed as 'spontaneous flow' where the constituents are able to autonomously generate self-sustained flows.

Materials and Methods: In this seminar I will focus on the Physics of active fluids -for instance bacterial or cytoskeletal suspensions- making use of the theory of active liquid crystal. This is a well validated approach to capture the dynamics of active suspensions and consists of describing the hydrodynamic state of the system with continuous fields. By means of numerical simulation, we investigated the behavior of a droplet of intrinsically chiral active Liquid Crystals suspended in a passive background matrix varying the intensity of active forcing -a quantitiy experimentally related to the concentration of ATP.

Results: First, we found that active forcing is able to sustain a stable rotational motion of droplets with low or vanishing cholesteric strength. As the chirality is increased, the feedback effect between elasticity and activity push the droplet into an asymmetric configuration, known as Frank-Pryce structure, enabling a new motility mode, where the rotational motion of surface defects is converted into propulsion. The velocity of the migration can be triggered by varying the intensity of the active forcing. Second, by considering an active chiral stress, we found the mirror rotation of two pairs of disclination lines exhibiting a *coiling and relaxing* dynamics leading to periodical behavior. Furthermore we explore the effects on the flow and the chiral pattern as the ratio between the radius of the droplet and the cholesteric pitch increases.

Conclusions: Here we present a study the effect of activity on a droplet of chiral matter, finding a surprisingly rich range of dynamical behaviours, ranging from spontaneous rotations to screw-like motion. The phenomena we uncover require both chirality and activity that may be exploited for the development of new smart materials and devices for drug-delivery.

54ASM-0280 | Non-supervised analysis of neurotoxicity of mitochondrial poisons 6-OHDA and rotenone

R. Simoes[1]; T. Cunha-Oliveira[1]; P.J. Oliveira[1]; F.B. Pereira[2,3]
[1]*Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology, UC-Biotech, Cantanhede, Portugal;* [2]*Department of Informatics Engineering- University of Coimbra, CISUC – Centre for Informatics and Systems, Coimbra, Portugal;* [3]*Coimbra Institute of Engineering, Coimbra Polytechnic, Coimbra, Portugal*

Background: Neuronal cells are highly dependent on mitochondria-generated ATP for cell growth, survival and function, and small disturbances on mitochondrial activity and morphology could lead to a phenotype of neurodegeneration and cell death. To understand the causes and consequences of neurodegeneration, and since to assess the crosstalk between different measures, conventional statistical analysis is often insufficient, our aim was to use unsupervised machine learning tools. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and clustering methods are nowadays pivotal to unveil hidden patterns and to find groups with similar properties.

Materials and Methods: To induce different levels of neurodegeneration, differentiated human SH-SY5Y neuroblastoma cells were treated with increasing, non-lethal concentrations of either rotenone or 6-hydroxydopamine. Mitochondrial superoxide anion was evaluated by following Mitosox Red oxidation, while Mitotracker Red fluorescence area and intensity were used to assess mitochondrial morphology and membrane potential. Cell death was followed with Caspase-Glo 3/7 Assay. Exploratory data mining was carried out using