for which a much higher concentration of (+)-amphetamine (1mM for mouse brain) is needed to inhibit oxidation by 90% than would be expected from the concentration inhibiting by 50%. This apparent heterogeneity appeared alike in both mitochondrial and microsomal fractions.

Thus, although amphetamine unquestionably affects brain function in other ways besides monoamine oxidase inhibition, any interpretation of the stimulant action that ignores monoamine oxidase inhibition may be incomplete. For example, the ability of amphetamine to cause motor stimulation in reserpine-treated animals (Smith, 1963) could depend on such inhibition being present.

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substrate for 15min. Amphetamine (0.1mM), a substrate analogue that cannot be oxidized (Blaschko, 1952), was therefore preincubated with clorgyline (concentration above) and monoamine oxidase. Samples were removed over a period of 1 h for assay with the oxygen electrode.

Under these conditions a time-dependent inactivation was observed. The enzyme was finally inhibited 48% at 1 μ M-clorgyline and 67% at 0.1 mM-clorgyline. Amphetamine is therefore able to increase clorgyline inhibition of monoamine oxidase to a value approaching that obtained in the presence of substrate. The possibility that this is a result of amphetamine binding at the active site requires further investigation.

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The Inactivation of Monoamine Oxidase by Clorgyline (M&B 9302)

By C. J. COULSON. (*Research Laboratories, May and Baker Ltd., Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS, U.K.*)

Rat brain mitochondrial monoamine oxidase [monoamine-oxygen oxidoreductase (deaminating) EC 1.4.3.4] has been assayed by using the oxygen electrode (Tipton, 1968; Sweetman & Weetman, 1969). Mitochondria were prepared from the brains of ten rats and were made up to a final volume of 4ml with 0.1M-triethanolamine buffer, pH 7.4, containing 0.1 mM-EDTA and 0.1 mM-dithiothreitol. A 0.1 ml portion of this suspension was assayed with 2mM-substrate in 0.1M-triethanolamine buffer, pH 7.4, in the presence of 2mM-KCN in a total volume of 1ml. The assay was carried out in an oxygen-electrode assembly (Rank Bros., Cambridge, U.K.) and the rate of oxygen uptake was recorded on a Honeywell 10mV strip-chart recorder.

This initial rate assay has revealed an interesting feature of the reaction of clorgyline (M&B 9302) with monoamine oxidase. The inhibition of tyramine oxidation observed at clorgyline concentrations of 1 μ M and 0.1 mM, with or without preincubation of enzyme and inhibitor, was 25 and 42% respectively. Previous work (Hall, Logan & Parsons, 1969) has shown that the equivalent values for inhibition obtained with radioactive tyramine are 60 and 95% respectively.

This latter assay involves incubation of monoamine oxidase and clorgyline in the presence of

A Monoamine Oxidase-Tetrazolium Reaction for Locating Aromatic Amino Acid Decarboxylases in Electrophoretic Media

By K. N. ANTONAS, W. F. COULSON and J. B. JEPSON. (*Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London W1P 5PR, U.K.*)

The involvement of aromatic amino acids and aromatic amines in the biochemistry of neurological conditions such as Parkinsonism (Calne & Sandler, 1970) and migraine (Smith, Kellow & Hanington, 1969) suggested that a study be made of the enzymes involved in the decarboxylation of aromatic amino acids. The most sensitive procedures presently available for the detection and assay of aromatic amino acid decarboxylases depend on the use of 14 C-labelled substrates (see, e.g., Murali & Radhakrishnan, 1969). However, such procedures are too time-consuming for locating decarboxylases in electrophoretic media, and so we have devised the following colour localization of the enzyme(s) that can be applied to whole electrophoretic media (e.g. a micro-gel) without sectioning.

The basis of the reaction is the enzymic decarboxylation of an appropriate amino acid to the corresponding amine, which is then oxidized by added monoamine oxidase, the hydrogen acceptor being a tetrazolium salt that forms an insoluble coloured product as it is reduced. Because the customary substrate 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (dopa) is very susceptible to atmospheric oxidation,