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Exogenous and Endogenous Cytochrome *c*

By C. L. TSOU*

Molteno Institute, University of Cambridge

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Keilin (1930) first suggested that extracted cytochrome *c* might be different from the cytochrome *c* existing in the living cell. Later, Keilin & Hartree (1940) showed that exogenous cytochrome *c* is much less active catalytically than the endogenous form. This has been re-emphasized by Keilin & Hartree (1945, 1949) and by Slater (1949*b*, 1950*b*). Keilin & Hartree (1940) also pointed out that their heart-muscle preparation contained a cytochrome system in a very high degree of organization comparable to that existing in the living cell, and this was later demonstrated quantitatively by Slater (1949*b*). In the present investigation, the quantitative difference in catalytic activities between exogenous and endogenous cytochrome *c* is further examined, a qualitative difference between the two forms is demonstrated and it is also shown that by suitable means the soluble exogenous form of cytochrome *c* can be transformed into a bound form which is identical with the endogenous form in every respect. Some of the findings have been briefly reported elsewhere (Tsou, 1951*c*).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cytochrome *c* of iron contents of 0.34 and 0.43% was prepared by the methods of Keilin & Hartree (1945). Unless otherwise specified, the preparation with 0.34% iron was used.

Dihydrocozymase. Cozymase was obtained by an unpublished method of Ochoa and reduced enzymically as described by Slater (1950*a*).

Light absorption in the visible and ultraviolet regions was measured with a Beckman photoelectric spectrophotometer.

Heart-muscle preparation containing the complete cytochrome system and the enzymes responsible for the reduction of cytochrome *c* by succinate and dihydrocozymase was prepared according to the method of Keilin & Hartree (1947) as previously described (Tsou, 1951*a*).

Extraction of cytochrome c from washed heart-muscle mince. Samples (6 g.) of heart-muscle mince, well washed with water until haemoglobin-free, were weighed into a series of test tubes to which were added 6 ml. portions of the extracting solutions of known concentrations. The water content of the same washed muscle mince was determined by drying a separate 6 g. sample to constant weight at 100°. The mixtures were allowed to stand at room temperature overnight, filtered, and the cytochrome *c* content of the filtrates was determined as follows: to 3 ml. of the filtrate was added 0.1 ml. of diluted (1:10) heart-muscle preparation in 0.25 M-phosphate buffer, pH 7.3, thoroughly mixed, and the optical density (D_e) at 550 m μ . read in a 1 cm. cell against a blank containing 3 ml. of 0.1 M-phosphate buffer, pH 7.3, and 0.1 ml. of the same diluted heart-muscle preparation; 0.1 ml. of a solution containing 0.4 M-succinate and 0.05 M-cyanide was then added to both the cytochrome *c*-containing solution and the blank. After mixing, the optical density was again read until a steady value (D_r) was reached. The concentration of cytochrome *c* in the extract was given by the formula

$$\frac{D_r(3.2/3.0) - D_e(3.1/3.0)}{1.92} \times 10^{-4} \text{ M},$$

* Present address: Institute of Physiology and Biochemistry, Academia Sinica, 320 Yo-Yang Road, Shanghai, 18, China.

in which the difference ($D_r - D_e$) is corrected for dilution by the added reagents and divided by the difference between the

Table 1. *Relation between various colloidal heart-muscle preparations*

molecular extinction coefficients of reduced and oxidized cytochrome c (1.92×10^4).

Cytochrome c-deficient heart-muscle preparation was obtained as follows: heart-muscle mince, 150 g., well washed with water, was stirred with 2 l. 0.15M-phosphate buffer, pH 7.3, for 2–3 hr. The mince was collected on muslin, squeezed hard to remove the phosphate buffer which contained extracted cytochrome c, and the process repeated three times. During the last extraction, the stirring was carried out at 0° overnight. Next morning the mince was collected and squeezed as before, and washed once with water, and the cytochrome c-deficient muscle mince was then treated in the same way as for a normal heart-muscle preparation.

Incorporation of exogenous cytochrome c into the cytochrome c-deficient muscle mince. Heart-muscle mince (50 g.) was thoroughly washed with water and made deficient in cytochrome c by repeated extraction with phosphate buffer as described above. After the last extraction, the muscle mince, washed once again with water, was incubated 3 hr. at room temperature with 100 ml. of a solution containing 0.01M-phosphate buffer, pH 7.3 and 3×10^{-5} M-cytochrome c. The mixture was then ground with sand and treated as for a normal heart-muscle preparation except that the precipitate obtained at pH 5.5 was washed once with water before the final suspension in phosphate buffer. The relation between various colloidal heart-muscle preparations is summarized in Table 1.

RESULTS

The cytochrome c-cyanide complex. The light absorption of the ferricytochrome c-cyanide complex in the visible region of the spectrum was determined by Potter (1941) and by Horecker & Kornberg (1946). The results obtained by these workers have been confirmed in the present study, and measurements have extended to the ultraviolet region. Incubation with 0.01M-cyanide for 20 min. at room temperature shifts the Soret band of ferricytochrome c at 408 mμ. by more than 5 mμ. towards the red (Fig. 1). Cytochrome c preparations of both 0.34 and 0.43 % iron were used and identical results obtained.

Potter (1941) found that unlike cytochrome c itself, the cyanide complex is not reduced either by succinate or by dihydrocozymase in presence of the appropriate enzyme systems. It has now been found that the complex is not perceptibly reduced by *p*-phenylenediamine, ascorbic acid, cysteine, quinol or adrenaline, all of which readily reduce the untreated pigment.

Fig. 1. The absorption spectrum of the ferricytochrome c-cyanide complex (A) compared with that of ferricytochrome c (B). Cyanide concentration, 0.05M; readings taken after 20 min. incubation at room temperature.

The ferricytochrome c-cyanide complex is stable throughout the pH range 2.5–14 with the same absorption spectrum persisting. At very low pH, no change in the absorption spectrum of ferricytochrome c can be observed despite prolonged incubation with strong cyanide.

Behaviour of endogenous cytochrome c towards cyanide. Although the catalytic activities of endogenous and exogenous cytochrome *c* are of very different order, no qualitative difference between them has been reported. It has now been shown that whereas exogenous cytochrome *c* combines with cyanide to form a stable complex which is not reduced by the succinic dehydrogenase system, by the dihydrocozymase-diaphorase system, or by simple organic reducing agents such as *p*-phenylenediamine or ascorbic acid, endogenous cytochrome *c* is not affected by prolonged incubation with cyanide. The absorption spectrum of endogenous ferricytochrome *c* as present in the heart-muscle preparation cannot easily be seen. Consequently, any small changes in its absorption spectrum on incubation with cyanide cannot be detected spectroscopically. The lack of effect of prolonged incubation with cyanide on endogenous cytochrome *c* was demonstrated by the experiments set out in Table 2. It must be pointed out that: (1) In all cases when cytochrome *c* was in a partly oxidized and partly reduced state (tube no. 5) both exogenous and endogenous cytochrome *c* were present. Moreover, the intensity of the α -band of reduced cytochrome *c* corresponded exactly with the intensity of that of the endogenous cytochrome *c* had there been no exogenous cytochrome present, whereas the intensity of the band at 537 m μ . corresponded to that of the cytochrome-cyanide complex had there been no endogenous cytochrome present. Therefore, it was concluded that cyanide had combined exclusively with the exogenous form. (2) The addition of three

drops of heart-muscle preparation to a total volume of 2 ml. makes no difference to the absorption spectrum as viewed in the microspectroscope. A mixture of buffer (2 ml.) with three drops of heart-muscle preparation plus a little solid sodium dithionite showed no absorption bands whatsoever when examined in the microspectroscope. (3) The absence of reduction of endogenous cytochrome *c* by succinate in tubes 5 and 7 was not due to the combination of cyanide with endogenous cytochrome *c*, but to the inactivation of succinic dehydrogenase by cyanide (Tsou, 1951*b*). (4) The reduction of endogenous cytochrome *c* by succinate plus three drops of untreated heart-muscle preparation was rather slow. This was expected because succinic dehydrogenase is destroyed on long incubation with cyanide (Tsou, 1951*b*), and the amount of active succinic dehydrogenase in three drops of heart-muscle preparation was much less than was originally present. In any case, the succinic dehydrogenase added was situated on one set of particles which, naturally, would react with the endogenous cytochrome *c* situated on another set of particles with some difficulty (see Keilin & Harpley, 1941).

From these results, it is clear that incubation with cyanide does not interfere with the reduction of endogenous cytochrome *c* by chemical or enzymic reactions. Under the same conditions, as shown above, the reduction of exogenous cytochrome *c* would be blocked completely within 20 min. It will also be noticed that the presence of denatured protein does not protect exogenous cytochrome *c* from the action of cyanide. Moreover, when both

Table 2. *Effect of incubation with cyanide on exogenous and endogenous cytochrome c*

(The filling of each tube is listed in the first part of the table. The final concentration of cyanide in all cases was 0.02M which would suffice to convert practically all the exogenous cytochrome *c* into the complex within 20 min. Immediately before the experiments the cytochrome *c* used was acidified to pH 3, aerated to ensure complete oxidation and reneutralized. The tubes were allowed to stand at room temperature for 24 hr. Portions (2 ml.) were then removed from each tube, treated as described in the second part of the table and examined in the microspectroscope. The results are denoted by +, - and $\pm$ signs showing that the cytochrome *c* was in a reduced state, oxidized state and a partly oxidized and partly reduced state respectively.)

Filling of the tubes (ml.)	Tube no.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HMP 1 in 0.1M-phosphate buffer, pH 7.4	-	-	-	8	8	8	8
Cyt. <i>c</i> , 0.5 mM, in 0.5% NaCl	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
KCN, 0.12M	-	2	2	-	2	-	2
NaCl, 0.5%	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
KCl, 0.12M	2	-	-	2	-	2	-
0.1M-Phosphate buffer, pH 7.4	8	8	8	-	-	-	-
Denatured globin, mg.	-	-	50	-	-	-	-
Treated with	Observed reduction						
Three drops Co I H ₂	-	-	-	+	$\pm$	+	+
Three drops Co I H ₂ and 3 drops of HMP 1	+	-	-	+	$\pm$	+	+
Three drops 0.4M-succinate	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
Three drops 0.4M-succinate and 3 drops HMP 1	+	-	-	+	$\pm$	+	+
Small crystal <i>p</i> -phenylenediamine	+	-	-	+	$\pm$	+	+
Three drops 0.5M-sodium ascorbate	+	-	-	+	$\pm$	+	+

HMP 1 = heart-muscle preparation, 1 (Table 1) undiluted. Cyt. *c* = cytochrome *c*. Co I H₂ = dihydrocozymase.

exogenous and endogenous cytochrome *c* are present, cyanide acts exclusively on the exogenous form.

As the activity of the heart-muscle preparation is rapidly destroyed at low and high pH (Keilin & Hartree, 1940), it has not been possible to determine within what pH range endogenous cytochrome *c* is resistant to the attack of cyanide. However, experiments carried out as above at pH 6.2 and 8.4 yielded identical results, hence it is concluded that endogenous cytochrome *c* does not combine with cyanide within the pH range where the colloidal succinic system is active.

Fig. 2. Extraction of cytochrome *c* from heart-muscle mince (for method see text). ●, KCl; ○, NaCl; ◐, LiCl; ◑, KNO₃; phosphate buffer: ■, pH 6.2; ▤, 7.3; □, 8; ×, Na₂SO₄; △, boric acid titrated to pH 7.3; ▲, sucrose.

Extraction of cytochrome c from water-washed heart-muscle mince. In spite of very thorough washing of the heart-muscle mince with water, very little, if any, cytochrome *c* is removed, although it is well known that exogenous cytochrome *c* is extremely soluble in water. However, the bound cytochrome *c* which is present in the heart-muscle mince could be extracted by salt solutions as is shown in Fig. 2. (The bound cytochrome *c* in the final colloidal preparation was, however, not extracted by similar treatment, nor was it extracted by trichloroacetic acid in the pH range 1.5–5.) All the salt solutions tested had the same order of effectiveness except borate buffer which was completely non-effective. Non-electrolytes, such as sucrose, were without effect. It appears that the extent of extraction is mainly dependent on the anion concentration of the extracting solutions. Cytochrome *c* thus extracted has the same activity in biological systems as the pigment prepared in the usual way and, like the latter, it is also susceptible to the attack of cyanide.

Cytochrome c-deficient heart-muscle preparation and the difference in activity between endogenous and exogenous cytochrome c

The study of the effect of added cytochrome *c* on respiration has been somewhat handicapped by the fact that the most active cell-free preparation

Fig. 3. Effect of added cytochrome *c* on the succinic oxidase activity of a cytochrome *c*-deficient heart-muscle preparation. Succinic oxidase activity measured at 38° as described by Slater (1949*b*). The point (○) shows the effect of added denatured globin. (QO₂ = μl. O₂ uptake/mg. fat-free dry wt. of heart-muscle preparation/hr.)

(Keilin & Hartree, 1940), which behaves almost exactly like the natural complex oxidation system of the cell, already contains enough cytochrome *c* for its normal function. For instance, under optimal conditions, the addition to such preparations of an excess of cytochrome *c* only raises the rate of oxidation of succinate by about 40% (Slater, 1949*b*). Although exogenous cytochrome *c* is freely soluble in water, the particle-bound endogenous pigment of the heart-muscle preparation survived thorough washing with water and remained firmly attached to the particles. So far it has not been possible to remove the bound cytochrome *c* from the heart-muscle preparation without harming the latter.

By extraction with phosphate buffer, it has now been found possible to remove the greater part of the bound cytochrome *c* from heart-muscle mince (HMM 1, Table 1) without affecting the ability of the final preparation (HMP 2, Table 1) to oxidize succinate when cytochrome *c*, extracted and purified in the usual way, is added. On reduction with

succinate, such a preparation (*HMP* 2) shows strong *a* and *b* bands but a very weak *c* band. The cytochrome *c* content, estimated as described by Slater (1949*b*), is about 0.1 $\mu\text{mol./g.}$ fat-free dry weight of heart-muscle preparation as compared with 0.76 of a normal preparation. The Q_{O_2} ($\mu\text{l. O}_2$ uptake/mg. fat-free dry wt./hr.) of this preparation (*HMP* 2) in the oxidation of succinate with different concentrations of added cytochrome *c* is given in Fig. 3.

It will be seen that the cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation, in presence of excess added cytochrome *c*, has a $Q_{O_2} = 565$, which is of the same order as that of a normal preparation. Although the addition of denatured globin has little effect on the activity of the cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation, the addition of $6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ -cytochrome *c* to this preparation caused a more than 10-fold increase as compared with 1.3- to 1.4-fold in a normal preparation which in absence of any added cytochrome *c*, already has a Q_{O_2} about 450. The addition of about $2.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ -cytochrome *c* is necessary in order to raise the Q_{O_2} of this preparation (*HMP* 2, Table 1) to about 450 which is the activity under the same experimental conditions of a normal preparation containing about $2.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$ -endogenous cytochrome *c*. These results are similar to those obtained by Keilin & Hartree (1949) while using certain modified types of preparation and support their conclusion that cytochrome *c* acts as a specific oxido-reduction catalyst and not as an indifferent protein in the succinic oxidase system.

The cytochrome oxidase activity of the cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation was about double that of a normal heart-muscle preparation (Table 3). This is probably due to the removal of a considerable amount of indifferent protein by phosphate buffer

extraction. However, the succinic dehydrogenase activities of these two preparations were about the same (Table 3), which indicates that besides indifferent protein, part of the dehydrogenase had also been removed or destroyed.

Table 3. *Comparison of a normal and a cytochrome c-deficient heart-muscle preparation*

(The succinic oxidase and succinic dehydrogenase activities were measured as described by Slater (1949*b*). The cytochrome oxidase activities were measured by both the Keilin & Hartree method (1940) and the Slater method (1949*a*). $Q_{O_2} = \mu\text{l. O}_2$ uptake/mg. dry wt. of enzyme preparation.)

	Heart-muscle preparations	
	Normal	Cytochrome <i>c</i> -deficient
Succinic dehydrogenase (Q_{O_2})	250	290
Cytochrome oxidase (Q_{O_2}):		
Keilin & Hartree	1470*	2800*
Slater	3300	6550
Succinic oxidase (Q_{O_2})	590	565

* These values are based on total dry weight, whereas the others are based on fat-free dry weight of the enzyme preparations.

Transformation of exogenous cytochrome c into the bound form

By incubation of the cytochrome *c*-deficient heart-muscle mince (*HMM* 2, Table 1) with cytochrome *c* as described above, a final colloidal preparation (*HMP* 3, Table 1) was obtained into which cytochrome *c* was re-incorporated (Table 4). This cytochrome *c* was firmly bound to the colloidal particles and could not be removed by thorough washing with water, it therefore behaved like endo-

Table 4. *Relation of cytochrome c content and succinic oxidase activity of different heart-muscle preparations*

(Three different preparations* were used: a normal preparation (normal), a cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation (*c*-def.) and a preparation with re-incorporated cytochrome *c* (*c*-re-incorp.). The determination of cytochrome *c* content and the measurement of succinic oxidase activity were carried out as described by Slater (1949*b*). The amount of enzyme preparation used per flask and the concentration of added cytochrome *c* in each case are listed in the table.)

	Heart-muscle preparations		
	Normal	<i>c</i> -def.	<i>c</i> -re-incorp.
Fat-free dry wt./ml. (mg.)	19.2	22.6	17.4
Cytochrome <i>c</i> content ($\mu\text{mol./g.}$ fat-free dry wt. of preparation)	0.76	0.092	0.62
Amount of preparation/flask (mg.)	0.96	1.13	0.87
Concentration of endogenous cytochrome <i>c</i> under experimental conditions (μM)	0.22	0.031	0.164
	Added cytochrome <i>c</i> (μM)		
Succinic oxidase (Q_{O_2})	0	62	355
	5	200	470
	15	370	—
	60	555	605

* All these three preparations were made from the same batch of heart-muscle mince (see Table 1).

genous cytochrome *c* in a normal heart-muscle preparation. Moreover, like the normal, but unlike the cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation, this preparation with re-incorporated cytochrome *c* (HMP 3, Table 1) already contained enough cytochrome *c* for the near optimal functioning of the whole succinic oxidase system. Thus the addition of excess cytochrome *c* raised the succinic oxidase activity from a Q_{O_2} of 355 to 605, as is shown in Table 4.

The turnover number, i.e. the oxygen uptake/min./oxygen equivalent of cytochrome *c* (Keilin & Hartree, 1940), of bound cytochrome *c* can be calculated from the data given in Table 4. It was obtained by dividing the succinic oxidase activity without added cytochrome *c* (in $\mu\text{l. O}_2$ uptake/min./mg. fat free dry weight) of the preparation by its bound cytochrome *c* content (in oxygen equivalent/mg. fat-free dry weight of the total preparation). The values were 1780 and 1710 for the bound cytochrome *c* present in the normal preparation (HMP 1) and in the preparation with re-incorporated cytochrome *c* (HMP 3, Table 1) respectively. The turnover number of exogenous cytochrome *c*, on the other hand, was 24 (obtained from Table 4 by dividing the increase in oxygen uptake of the cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation by the oxygen equivalent of cytochrome *c* added). Similar results were obtained with dihydrocozymase as substrate. The activity of the re-incorporated cytochrome *c* is thus of the same order as that of endogenous cytochrome *c* but far greater than that of exogenous cytochrome *c*. Experiments similar to those of Table 2 also showed that the re-incorporated cytochrome *c*, like endogenous cytochrome *c*, does not combine with cyanide.

DISCUSSION

In the preparation with re-incorporated cytochrome *c* (HMP 3, Table 1), and in the normal preparation (HMP 1, Table 1) the activity of bound cytochrome *c* is lower than the figure given by Keilin & Hartree (1940) for the cytochrome *c* of yeast cells, i.e. turnover number, 3850. This is understandable, since it can hardly be expected that the heart-muscle preparation has retained completely the high state of organization and efficiency of the living cell (Slater, 1949*b*), or that cytochrome *c* present in the heart-muscle preparation is entirely in the endogenous form. In support of this view, the reducible fraction of cytochrome *c* in the heart-muscle preparations, after prolonged incubation with cyanide, is always somewhat less than the total cytochrome *c* present.

Quantitative differences between exogenous and endogenous cytochrome *c* have been previously pointed out. Keilin & Hartree (1940) showed that even under optimal conditions, the exogenous pigment is only about one-third as active as the endo-

genous form. Keilin & Hartree's results on the exogenous pigment were obtained by adjusting the concentrations of heart-muscle preparation and of added cytochrome *c* so as to make the latter the limiting factor. On the other hand, the activity of the endogenous pigment was measured under such conditions that there was no reason to suppose that cytochrome *c* was the limiting factor. In the present work, it is demonstrated that using approximately the same amount of heart-muscle preparations (Table 4) the difference in activities of the two forms of cytochrome *c* is far greater. Slater (1950*b*) has shown that exogenous cytochrome *c* is reduced by succinate or dihydrocozymase in presence of the appropriate enzyme systems at least 1200 times more slowly than the endogenous pigment. In addition, exogenous cytochrome *c* is reduced by cysteine (Keilin, 1930) or ascorbic acid (Slater, 1949*a*) more readily than the endogenous enzyme. However, their different behaviour towards incubation with cyanide seems to be the first record of any qualitative difference. In view of the fact that cytochrome *c* occupies an important position in the electron transferring chain of biological oxidation, and since it is the only component of the cytochrome system so far prepared in a soluble and pure form, a considerable amount of work has been done to link various oxidative enzymes to the cytochrome system via exogenous cytochrome *c*. It would appear, therefore, that the demonstration of any qualitative difference between the two forms of the pigment might assist towards a clearer understanding of the part played by cytochrome *c* in biological oxidation. The present work emphasizes the necessity for caution in interpreting results obtained with exogenous cytochrome *c*, and for confirmation of the results, whenever possible, with an enzyme material, such as the heart-muscle preparation of Keilin & Hartree, where the cytochromes are in a more organized state. Experiments with a cytochrome *c*-deficient heart-muscle preparation indicate that it is much more difficult to 'saturate' the oxidase with exogenous cytochrome *c* than with the endogenous form (Fig. 3). In other words, the presence of $0.22 \mu\text{M}$ -endogenous cytochrome *c* in the manometer flask is already enough for the near optimal function of the succinic oxidase system of a normal preparation, whereas a far greater concentration of exogenous cytochrome *c* was necessary before the curve in Fig. 3 (where a cytochrome *c*-deficient preparation was employed) approached an asymptotic value.

There are two possible explanations for the differences between exogenous and endogenous cytochrome *c*. (1) During extraction, cytochrome *c* was slightly modified so that the soluble 'pure' cytochrome *c* obtained was chemically different from the endogenous pigment present in the living

cell. (2) The difference in activity between the two forms of cytochrome *c* was purely a matter of proper orientation of the cytochrome *c* molecule in relation to other components of the cytochrome system (Keilin & Hartree, 1940). Exogenous cytochrome *c* may be less active because, unlike the endogenous form, it is not firmly linked to the colloidal particles and therefore not so readily accessible to the other components of the succinic oxidase system.

The observation that cyanide, although a small molecule, can react only with the exogenous form favours the first explanation, so does the observation that non-enzymic reducers such as ascorbic acid and cysteine reduce the two forms of cytochrome *c* at different speeds. These facts are difficult to understand if the second explanation is accepted. The finding that under suitable conditions the transformation of the endogenous to the exogenous form of cytochrome *c* can be reversed favours the second explanation. It also seems to be unlikely that the very mild treatment of phosphate buffer extraction can have modified the endogenous molecule to any appreciable extent.

However, these two views are not actually mutually incompatible. Keilin & Hartree (1940, 1949) and Slater (1949*c*) have shown that the colloidal structure of the enzyme-carrying particles in the heart-muscle preparation is of paramount importance. As far as cytochrome *c* is concerned, its proper orientation within a highly specific spatial arrangement of the respiratory pigments is essential for its optimal activity. In other words, endogenous cytochrome *c* is so situated on the colloidal carrier particles that it is readily available to its electron donors and acceptors. It can also be assumed that this orientation is realized through a linkage which binds cytochrome *c* to its proper place in the colloidal carrier particles of the heart-muscle preparation. By disruption of this linkage with salt solutions or trichloroacetic acid treatment, not only is cytochrome *c* released from the colloidal particles and the very specific spatial arrangement of the respiratory pigments disturbed, but also the resulting pigment,

exogenous cytochrome *c*, is then made susceptible to the attack of cyanide.

SUMMARY

1. The absorption spectrum of the ferricytochrome *c*-cyanide complex, given by Horecker & Kornberg for the visible region, has been extended to the ultraviolet region and was found to be substantially different from that of ferricytochrome *c* itself. The complex is stable in all but very acid solutions (pH 2.5).

2. Spectroscopic observations showed that the cytochrome *c* as present in the Keilin & Hartree heart-muscle preparation (endogenous cytochrome *c*) does not combine with cyanide at physiological pH.

3. Cytochrome *c*, as present in the heart-muscle mince, can be transformed into the soluble exogenous form by extraction with salt solutions. By removing cytochrome *c* from a water-washed heart-muscle mince with phosphate buffer a cytochrome *c*-deficient heart-muscle preparation was obtained. Experiments with this preparation showed, in agreement with earlier results, that exogenous cytochrome *c* is catalytically much less active than the endogenous form.

4. The transformation of endogenous cytochrome *c* into the exogenous form is reversible; when the exogenous pigment is again incorporated into the colloidal particles of the heart-muscle preparation by suitable means, it then assumes the characteristic properties of the endogenous form.

5. The relation of the spatial arrangement of the respiratory pigment to the activity of cytochrome *c* has been discussed. It is suggested that endogenous cytochrome *c* is bound to the colloidal carrier particles through a linkage which cannot be disrupted without causing profound changes in the catalytic and other properties of endogenous cytochrome *c*.

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