SURFACE ANTIGENIC PROFILES OF VIRULENT AND AVIRULENT INDIAN STRAINS OF *LEISHMANIA DONOVANI*

D. SARKAR

Leishmania Division and Department of Cell Biology,
Indian Institute of Chemical Biology,
Calcutta 700 032,
India.

Surface labelling with ^{125}I using Iodogen method showed differences in surface antigens between virulent and avirulent promastigotes of *Leishmania donovani*. Immunoblotting with anti gp63 cross reacted with 63 and 60kDa antigen respectively in different subcellular fractions of the virulent and avirulent promastigotes. Virulent and avirulent cells were grown in presence of

varying concentrations of tunicamycin and immunoblotted with anti gp63. It has been observed that 63kDa of virulent and 60kDa of avirulent cells both gradually shifted to 57kDa with increasing concentration of tunicamycin. This suggests that glycosylation may play an important role in antigenic variation between virulent and avirulent parasites.