

THE EFFECT OF AL³⁺ AND HG²⁺ ON GLUCOSE 6-PHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE FROM *CAPOETA UMBLA* KIDNEY

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Abstract. Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.49; G6PD) is an important enzyme found in all mammal tissues, and produces NADPH in the metabolism. NADPH provides a reductive potential to maintain a balanced redox state within the cell. The aim of this study was to purify G6PD from *Capoeta umbla* kidney and determination of inhibition or activation effects of aluminium and mercury on enzyme activity. In this purpose, glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase was purified from *Capoeta umbla* kidney by using preparation of homogenate, ammonium sulphate precipitation and 2',5'-ADP Sepharose 4B affinity chromatography. Molecular weight of the enzyme was determined on sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and the purified enzyme showed a single band on the gel with a molecular weight of 75 kDa. Moreover, K_i constants of Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺ were found as 0.98 ± 0.084 and 0.57 ± 0.019 mM, respectively. In conclusion, affinity of the Hg²⁺ to the enzyme was higher than Al³⁺

Keywords: *Capoeta umbla*, fish, glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD), purification, metals, inhibition.

Introduction

Heavy metals are readily released to agricultural ecosystem causing an opposite effect due to widespread human activities. Agricultural ecosystem has a close relation with human health; hence, heavy metal pollution of agricultural ecosystem has been of attention throughout the world (Pandey and Pandey, 2008; Bermudez et al., 2012). Heavy metals are extremely toxic, non-degradable and bio-accumulative. Although some heavy metals such as zinc (Zn) and copper (Cu) are necessary elements for plants and humans as catalytic components of proteins and enzymes, a great majority of them do not have any useful physiological function, and their extreme accumulation in the human body can cause many diseases (Godt et al., 2006). For instance, accumulation of cadmium (Cd) in the human body can give rise to kidney, bone and pulmonary damage (Godt et al., 2006); lead (Pb) can harm the central nervous system, kidneys and blood system (Tong et al., 2000), etc.

Heavy metal pollution is constantly caused by waste water irrigation, solid waste disposal, vehicular exhaust, fertilisation, industrial activities, etc. (Khan et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2012). Among these pollution sources, industrial activities are the dominant

sources of heavy metals near factories. Kabala and Singh (2001) reported that, in the vicinity of a Cu smelter in Poland, the concentrations of Cu, Pb and Zn in the surface soils were significantly higher than their concentrations in the subsurface soils. It has reported that industrial waste can give rise to heavy metal pollution of the surrounding soils and water.

Mercury (Hg) is found in comestible seafood, such as fish. Hg is a neurotoxin which can give rise to numerous effects in humans such as memory loss, disrupted coordination, sight disturbances, cardiovascular problems, etc. It also influences the thyroid gland, digestive system, liver and skin (Nigam et al., 2009). The toxicity of Hg exposure is partly a function of enhanced oxidative stress (OS). Enhancement of OS probably arises from the inhibition of antioxidant enzymes and the consumption of thiol compounds (especially GSH) (Franco et al., 2007) giving rise to cell injury, damage to biomolecules, and lipid peroxidation (Leonard et al., 2004).

Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.49; G6PD) is the first enzyme of the pentose phosphate metabolic pathway (Beydemir et al., 2003). It catalyses the conversion of glucose 6-phosphate into 6-phosphogluconate (Ciftci et al., 2007). The most important function of this enzyme is the production of ribose 5-phosphate and NADPH which are necessary for membrane lipids synthesis, reductive and nucleic acid synthesis (Kuo et al., 2000; Ceyhun et al., 2010). In addition, NADPH is a coenzyme which is involved in the synthesis of some amino acids, fatty acids and steroids, protecting the cells against the oxidant and detoxification of xenobiotics through the glutathione reductase peroxidase system (Ceyhun et al., 2010; Guler et al., 2013).

The genus *Capoeta* of Cyprinids is distributed in southern China, northern India, Turkmenistan, Lake Aral, the Middle East and Anatolia (Turkmen et al., 2002). The species diversity of *Capoeta* was last revised by Karaman (1969). While textbooks such as Geldiay and Balık (2007) recorded 7 species in *Capoeta* (plus five subspecies) from Turkey, Ozulug and Freyhof (2008) recorded 17 species from this area. In the last years, five new *Capoeta* species have been described from Turkey (Turan et al., 2006; Ozulug and Freyhof, 2008; Turan et al., 2008). Turkey is clearly the centre of diversity of this genus which comprises about 23 species (Kucuk et al., 2009). One of the well known species is *Capoeta umbla* (*C. umbla*). *C. umbla*, Transcaucasian barb, inhabits Euphrates-Tigris River Systems. It is also known as “lake fish or stream fish” locally and it is the most commercially valued fish for the local people (Coban et al., 2013) around Murat River. Murat River is one of the most important large and long (722 km) tributary of the Euphrates River in South East Anatolia of Turkey. The distribution area of Murat River is upper basins systems of the Euphrates and Tigris River (Koyun, 2011).

In the present study we have purified G6PD from *C. umbla* kidney and determination of inhibition or activation effects of aluminium (Al³⁺) and mercury (Hg²⁺) ions on enzyme activities.

Materials and Methods

Chemicals

2',5'-ADP Sepharose 4B was purchased from Pharmacia. NADP⁺, glucose-6-phosphate, protein assay reagent, and chemicals for electrophoresis were purchased from Sigma. All other chemicals used were of analytical grade and were purchased from Merck.

Animal and experimental procedure

Ten *C. umbla* (healthy, adult fish weighing 150-250 g) were caught from Murat River (Turkey, Bingöl). All procedures were conducted in strict compliance with the guidelines established by the Animal Care and Use Committee. The fish were decapitated and their kidneys were extracted and stored at -80°C.

Preparation of the homogenate

For analyses, the frozen kidney was thawed and cut into small pieces by using a scalpel. Kidney samples (10 g) were washed three times with 0.9% sodium chloride solution. These samples were homogenized gently for about 45 sec. and suspended in standard homogenizer buffer, containing 50 mM KH₂PO₄, 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM EDTA and 1 mM DTT. The homogenate was centrifuged for 2 h at 13,500 rpm. The supernatant was collected and kept for analysis.

Activity determination

In accordance with the Beutler (1971) method, enzyme activity was spectrophotometrically measured at 37°C. This method is based on the fact that NADPH, which is formed as a result of reducing NADP⁺, yields absorbance at 340 nm. One enzyme unit was described as the enzyme amount reducing 1 μmol NADP⁺ per minute.

Ammonium sulphate fractionation and dialysis

G6PD enzyme homogenate was exposed to ammonium sulphate precipitation at 0–20, 20–30, 30–40, 40–50, 50–60, 60–70, 70–80% ranges; and the precipitation range of the enzyme was determined. During each precipitation process, centrifugation was carried out at 13,500 rpm for 15 min. After ammonium sulphate, the precipitate was obtained and dissolved in 50 mM KH₂PO₄ (pH 7.2) buffer. Enzyme activity was measured in the precipitate and supernatant for each time. Then, the enzyme solution was dialysed at 4°C in 10 mM KH₂PO₄ including 1 mM EDTA (pH 7.2) for 2h with two changes of buffer (Ninfali et al., 1990).

2',5'-ADP Sepharose 4B affinity chromatography

For 10 ml of bed volume, 2 g of dry 2',5'-ADP Sepharose 4B was washed several times in 400 ml of distilled water. During several washings, the impurities were removed and the gel was conditioned. After the removal of the air in the gel, it was resuspended in the buffer (0.1 M K-acetate + 0.1 M K-phosphate, pH 6.0) at a ratio of 25% buffer to 75% gel and was packed in a column (1 x 10 cm). Precipitation of the gel, it was equilibrated with the same buffer by means of a peristaltic pump (flow rate: 50 ml/h). After the dialyzed enzyme solution was loaded on the column which was equilibrated with buffer (0.1 M K-acetate + 0.1 M K-phosphate, pH 6.0) and the flow rate was regulated to 20 ml/h. The column was respectively washed with 25 ml of 0.1 M K-acetate + 0.1 M K-phosphate (pH 6.0) and 25 ml of 0.1 M K-acetate + 0.1 M K-phosphate (pH 7.85). Eventually, the enzyme was eluted with a solution of 80 mM K-phosphate + 80 mM KCl + 0.5 mM NADP⁺ + 10 mM EDTA (pH 7.8). The enzyme activity was measured, and the activity-containing tubes were collected together (Ninfali et al., 1990).

Protein determination

Quantitative protein determination was spectrophotometrically measured at 595 nm according to Bradford's method, with bovine serum albumin used as a standard (Bradford, 1976).

Sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

The control of enzyme purity was carried out using Laemmli's procedure (Laemmli, 1970) in 3% and 8% acrylamide concentrations for running and stacking gel, respectively. Gel was stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250.

In vitro effects of metal ions

Al³⁺ (5, 8, 10, 12.5 and 20 mM) and Hg²⁺ (0.5, 1, 2, 5 and 8 mM) were used as inhibitors. Assays were carried out under standard conditions with varying concentrations of Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺ metal ions. The inhibition of enzyme by Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺ was further examined by varying G6-P concentrations at a fixed NADP concentration and at six different constant concentrations of each metal ion. The activity of control cuvette in the absence of an inhibitor was taken as 100%. All compounds were tested in triplicates for each concentration. For each inhibitor, an activity %-[Inhibitor] graph was drawn. Metal ions concentrations that produced 50% inhibition (IC₅₀) were calculated from the regression graphs.

To determine the K_i values, three different inhibitor concentrations (Al: 7, 10 and 12.5 mM; Hg: 0.5, 2 and 5 mM) were tested for each metal ion. In these experiments, G6-P was used as substrate at five different concentrations (0.03, 0.06, 0.09, 0.15 and 0.27 mM, respectively). Inhibitor (metal ions) solutions were added to the reaction medium, resulting in three different fixed concentrations of inhibitors in 1 ml of total reaction volume. All assays were repeated three times. Lineweaver-Burk graphs (1934) were drawn by using 1/V vs. 1/[S] values. K_i constant and the inhibitor type were calculated from these graphs.

Results and Discussion

In this study, G6PD was purified from *C. umbla* kidney tissues by using ammonium sulphate precipitation and 2',5'-ADP Sepharose 4B affinity gel chromatography. As a result of the two consecutive steps, the enzyme was purified 402.14-fold in a yield of 22.7% with a specific activity of 11.26 U/mg (Table 1). Purity of the enzyme was determined by SDS-PAGE and showed single band on the gel (20 µl of the sample was loaded onto SDS-PAGE gel) (Fig. 1). R_f values were calculated for standard proteins and G6PD according to Laemmli's procedure from R_f-Log MW graph and molecular weight of protein was 73.8 kDa. For each metal, Lineweaver-Burk graphs were drawn and are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. K_i constants were determined as 0.98 ± 0.084 and 0.57 ± 0.019 mM from the graphs for Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺, respectively (Table 2).

In addition, [Metal] vs. activity % graphs were drawn for the metals and are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. IC₅₀ values were calculated as 7.22 and 3.12 mM from the graphs for Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺, respectively (Table 2). Both Al³⁺ and Hg²⁺ inhibited the G6PD activity *in vitro* and showed competitive inhibition (Figs. 2-5). Hg²⁺ was a stronger inhibitor than Al³⁺. Furthermore, Hg²⁺ had higher affinity for G6PD than that of Al³⁺.

Table 1. Purification scheme of G6PD from *C. umbla* kidney

Purification Step	Activity (U/ml)	Protein (mg/ml)	Total Volume (ml)	Total Activity (U)	Total Protein (mg)	Specific Activity (U/mg protein)	Purification Factor	Yield (%)
Hemolysate	0.274	9.78	31	8.494	303.18	0.028	1	100
Ammonium Sulphate Precipitation and Dialysis	0.462	14.2	6	2.772	85.2	0.033	1.18	32.6
2',5'- ADP Sepharose 4B Affinity Chromatography	0.642	0.057	3	1.926	0.171	11.26	402.14	22.7

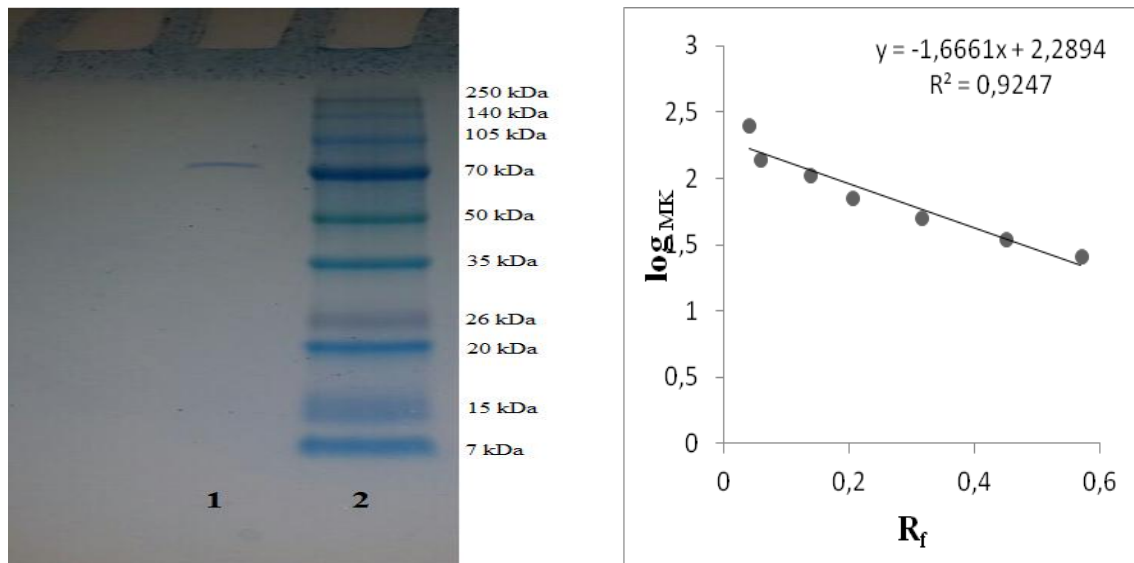


Figure 1. SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of purified G6PD. Lane 1: standard proteins and Lane 2: *C. umbla* kidney G6PD.

G6PD has been purified previously with chromatographic methods from many different sources, such as, humans (Yoshida, 1966; Cho and Joshi, 1990; Ozmen et al., 2005), animals (Beydemir et al., 2003; Erat, 2005), plants (Coban et al., 2002; Esposito et al., 2005; Wei-Fu et al., 2007) and microorganisms (Heise and Opperdoes, 1999; Ibraheem et al., 2005). Inhibitory effects of many metal ions on G6PD enzyme activities in different animal species have been reported in many investigations (Velasco et al., 1994; Comaklı et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2013).

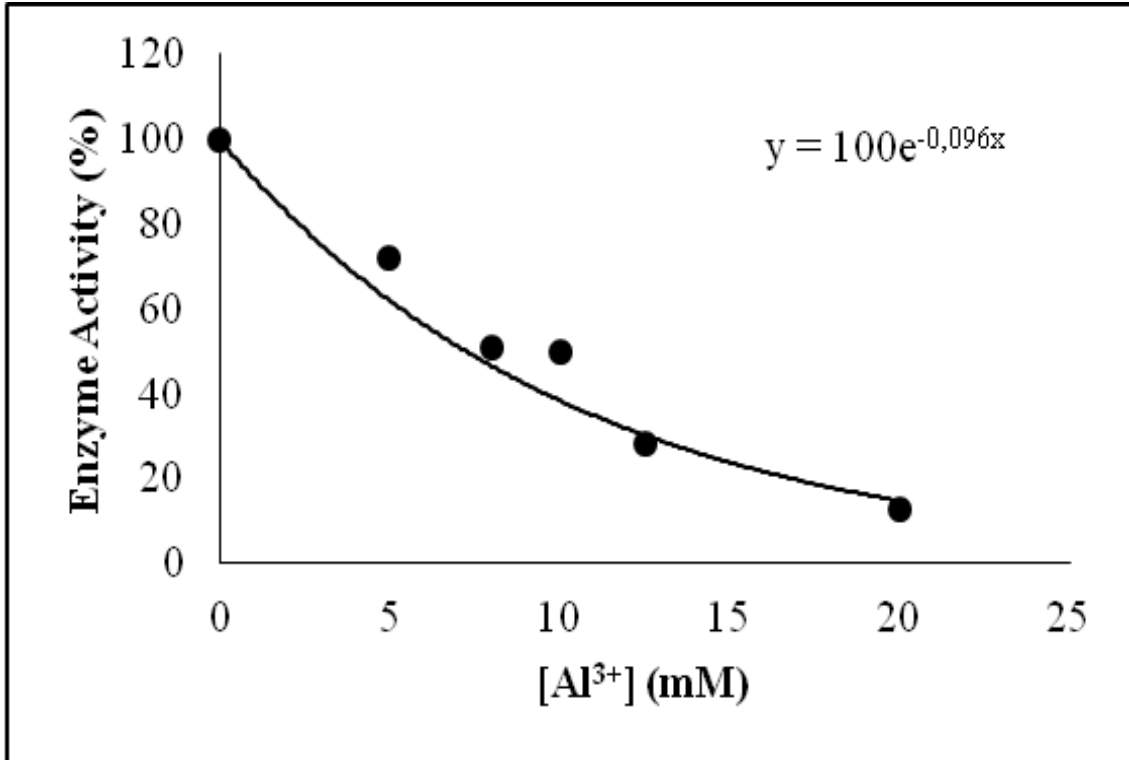


Figure 2. Effect of Al^{3+} at five different concentrations on *C. umbla* G6PD activity

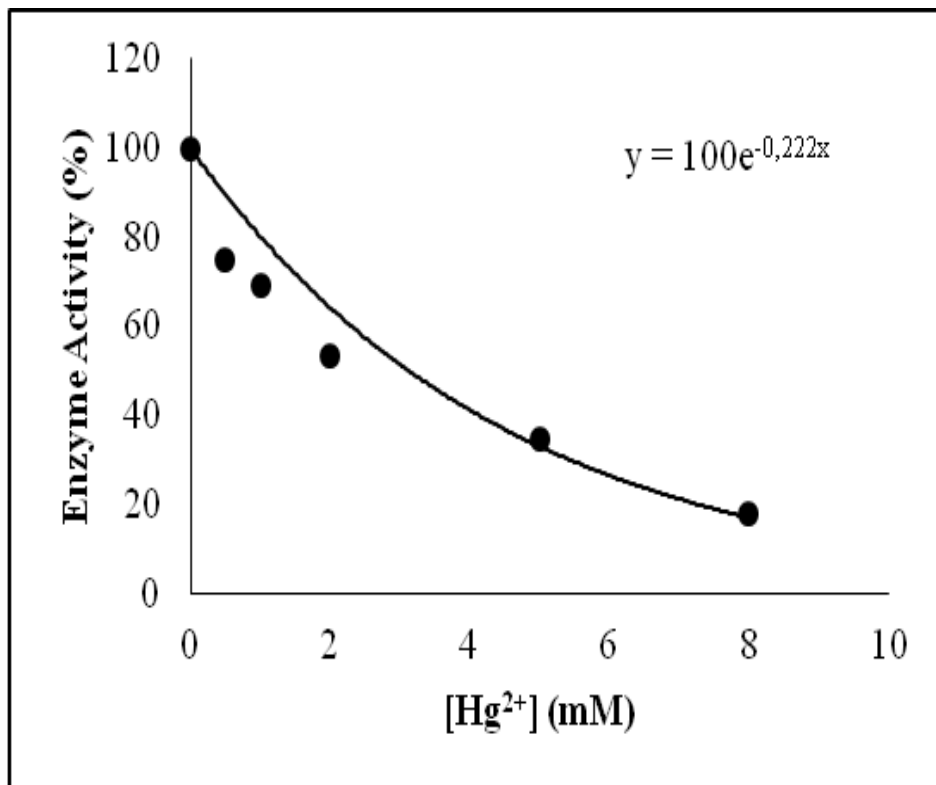


Figure 3. Effect of Hg^{2+} at five different concentrations on *C. umbla* G6PD activity

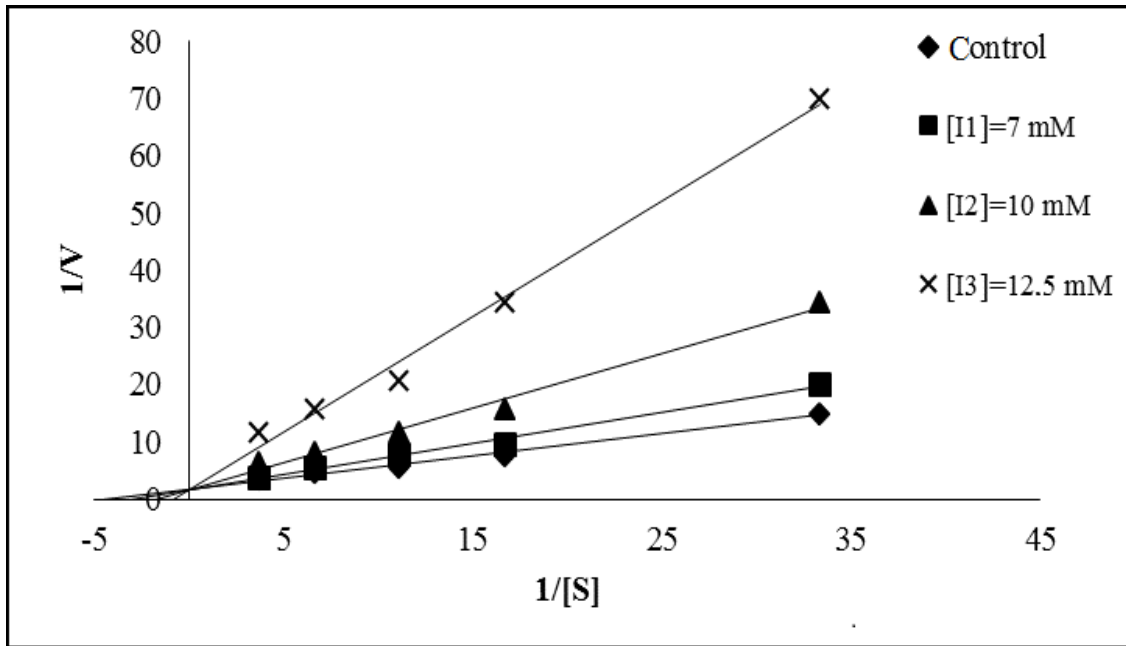


Figure 4. Lineweaver–Burk graph in five different substrate concentrations and in three different Al^{3+} concentrations for the determination of K_i .

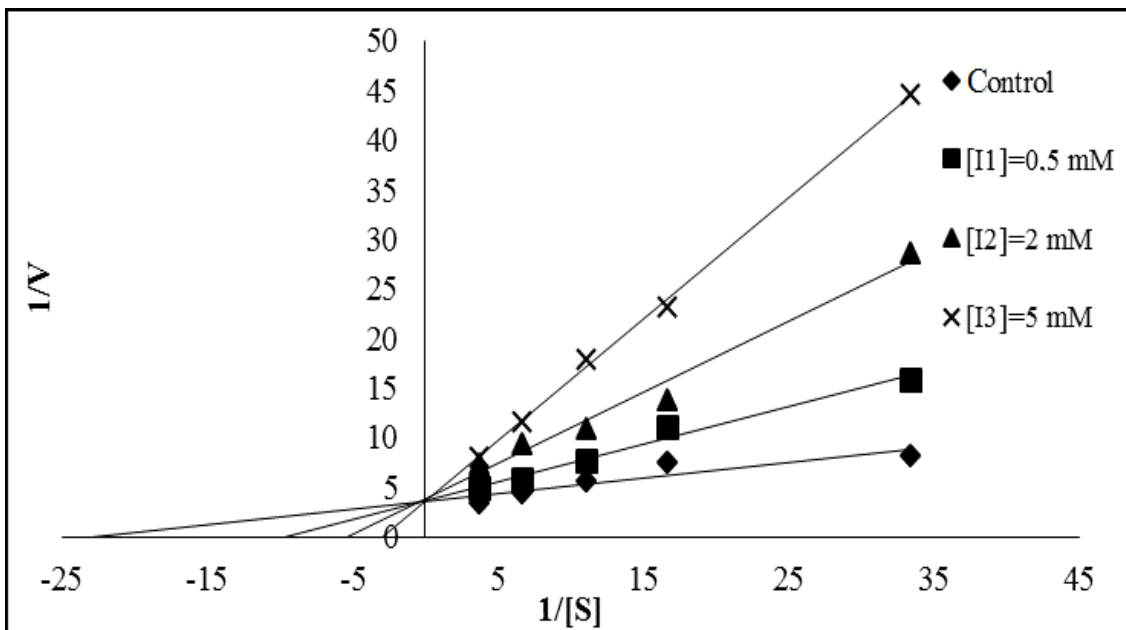


Figure 5. Lineweaver–Burk graph in five different substrate concentrations and in three different Hg^{2+} concentrations for the determination of K_i .

In the present study, specific activity of the enzyme was determined as 11.26 U/mg protein, which was lower than those in chicken erythrocytes (20.86 U/mg protein, Yilmaz et al., 2002), rainbow trout liver (36.25 U/mg protein, Cankaya et al., 2011), rat kidney (32 U/mg protein, Adem and Ciftci, 2012), grass carp (18 U/mg protein, Hu et al, 2013), but higher than that in sheep lens (0.15 U/mg, Charlton and Heyningen, 1971)

and bovine lens (2.64 U/mg, Ulusu et al., 1999). The observation of different specific activities for G6PD from different sources was not uncommon, depending on several factors such as NADP, salt, etc.

Table 2. The results of the activity of G6PD; K_i , IC_{50} values and inhibition types

Metals	IC_{50} (mM)	K_i (mM)	Inhibition Type
Al ³⁺	7.22	0.98 ± 0.084	Competitive
Hg ²⁺	3.12	0.57 ± 0.019	Competitive

A molecular weight of G6PD was 75 kDa with SDS-PAGE in this study, which was similar to that reported in chicken erythrocytes (73.2 kDa, Yilmaz et al., 2002), but higher than bovine lens (69.2 kDa, Ulusu et al., 1999), human placenta (54 kDa, Ozer et al., 2001), dog liver (52.5 kDa, Ozer et al., 2002), buffalo erythrocyte (67.6 kDa, Ciftci et al., 2003), rainbow trout (60 kDa, Erdogan et al., 2005), rainbow trout liver (48.5 kDa; Cankaya et al., 2011), rat kidney (68 kDa, Adem and Ciftci, 2012) and grass carp (71.85 kDa, Hu et al., 2013).

Inhibition of some significant enzymes, which play a key role in a metabolic pathway, may give rise to pathologic conditions or disorders. In the literature, effects of various drugs and chemical substances on the catalytic activity of the G6PD enzyme were investigated. K_i values of these substances are higher than the values calculated for the coumarin derivatives. K_i values of isepamicin sulphate, omeprazole, morphine sulphate, vancomycin, magnesium sulphate, metamizol and granisetron hydrochloride were reported as 1.7 mM, 8.2 mM, 25.9 mM, 2.71 mM, 13.2 mM, 6.3 mM, 4.5 mM, respectively (Ozmen and Kufrevioglu, 2004; Ozmen et al., 2005).

Hopa et al. (2014) investigated the inhibition effects of IC_{50} and K_i parameters of coumarin derivatives for G6PD. IC_{50} values of OPC (6,7-Dihydroxy-3-(2-methylphenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one), MPC (6,7-dihydroxy-3-(3-methylphenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one) and PPC (6,7-dihydroxy-3-(4-methylphenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one) were 0.305, 0.769 and 0.790 mM and the K_i constants were 1.37 mM, 0.734 mM 0.269 mM, 0.835 mM, respectively.

Hu et al. (2013) purified G6PD from grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and determined the inhibition effects of Zn, Mn, Al, Cu and Cd on G6PD activity *in vitro*. They found IC_{50} values as 0.42, 0.54, 0.94, 1.20, and 4.17 mM, respectively. K_i constants were determined as 0.52, 1.12, 0.26, and 4.8 mM, respectively. Cankaya et al. (2011) reported that the IC_{50} values of Fe, Pb, Hg, Cu, Zn, and Cd on the purified G6PD activity of trout liver was 0.39, 0.78, 0.87, 1.19, 1.97, 2.16 mM and the K_i constants were 0.197, 0.213, 0.542, 1.721, 2.034, 2.770 mM, respectively.

Fish meat is a precious food of animal source for human depletion. Accumulation of metals in fish may be considered as an important warning signal for fish health and human consumption. Metal ions accumulated in fish as a toxic concentration will be hazardous for human health. For this reason, great efforts and cooperation between different authorities are need to protect the aquatic resources from metal pollution. To avoid the aquatic life loss there is need to use the advanced technologies generating less metal pollution to environment. Briefly, concentration of metal ion in contaminated lakes and rivers must be decreased.

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