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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF  
PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE AND TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE KINASE  
FROM STREPTOCOCCUS LACTIS

A THESIS PRESENTED IN PARTIAL  
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
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## ABSTRACT

In the lactic streptococci glucose is metabolised to lactic acid via the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas (EMP) pathway. Metabolism of lactose and galactose in these organisms involves participation of the D-tagatose 6-phosphate pathway in which galactose 6-phosphate is metabolised to triose phosphates via tagatose derivatives.

Phosphofructokinase (ATP : D-fructose 6-phosphate 1-phospho-transferase, E.C. 2.7.1.11) catalyses the ATP-dependent phosphorylation of fructose 6-phosphate in the EMP pathway. The analogous reaction in the tagatose 6-phosphate pathway, phosphorylation of tagatose 6-phosphate with ATP, is catalysed by a specific enzyme, tagatose 6-phosphate kinase. While phosphofructokinase (PFK) is known to be a major regulatory enzyme in carbohydrate metabolism in most organisms, little is known of the regulatory properties of tagatose 6-phosphate kinase (T6PK).

PFK and T6PK were purified from *Streptococcus lactis* C<sub>10</sub>. PFK was purified to homogeneity (364-fold purification) by affinity chromatography on Blue-dextran-Sepharose. Unlike PFK, T6PK did not bind to Blue-dextran-Sepharose : a 136-fold purification was achieved using ammonium sulphate fractionation, gel filtration, and ion exchange chromatography.

A study of some of the properties of PFK and T6PK from *S. lactis* C<sub>10</sub> showed that these two enzymes are distinct proteins with different physical and kinetic characteristics.

*S. lactis* PFK is a tetramer (MW 145,000 daltons) of identical subunits of molecular weight 33,500 daltons. It therefore appears structurally similar to other bacterial PFKs.

T6PK from *S. lactis* has a molecular weight of approximately 114,000 daltons, a value similar to that of *Staphylococcus aureus* T6PK which is a dimer.

*S. lactis* PFK exhibited the co-operative binding of F6P and inhibition by high concentrations of ATP relative to F6P which is typical of most bacterial and mammalian PFKs.  $F_{0.5}$  and  $K_m$  (MgATP) values were 0.28 mM and 0.18 mM respectively. ADP stimulated PFK activity, shifting the sigmoidal saturation curve to a more hyperbolic form, with a corresponding decrease in  $n_H$ . Ammonium and

potassium ions also activated PFK, while activity was inhibited by AMP, PEP, FBP, T6P and inorganic phosphate. In contrast to PFK, T6PK showed no co-operative binding of sugar phosphate substrate and was less sensitive than PFK to ATP inhibition.  $K_m$  values for T6P and MgATP were 0.16 mM and 0.4 mM respectively. Apart from ammonium and potassium ions, no activators of T6PK were found. Activity was inhibited by ADP, PEP, and FBP. PFK and T6PK could catalyse phosphorylation of both F6P and T6P although the enzymes showed a much greater affinity for their natural substrate. Maximum velocities attained were higher with the natural substrate than when the other sugar phosphate was used as substrate.

Both enzymes showed similar pH optima and divalent cation requirement.

Levels of PFK, T6PK, and Galactokinase (Gal K), enzymes of the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas, Tagatose 6-phosphate, and Leloir pathways respectively, were measured in strains of *S. lactis*, *S. cremoris*, *S. diacetylactis* and *S. faecalis* grown on different sugars. Growth on lactose and galactose induced increased levels of T6PK and Gal K activity, galactose generally inducing higher levels of T6PK than lactose.

In most strains, addition of glucose to media containing lactose or galactose resulted in lowered activities of Gal K, comparable to those in glucose-grown cells. In contrast, T6PK activity was generally not suppressed by growth on glucose plus lactose, while in growth on glucose plus galactose, T6PK activity was approximately 50% of the activity in cells grown on glucose alone.

PFK activity was generally unaffected by the sugar in the growth medium.

In spite of changes in specific activities of PFK and T6PK throughout the growth period of *S. lactis*, the ratio of PFK : T6PK remained fairly constant.

The properties of *S. lactis* PFK and T6PK are compared to those of these enzymes in other bacteria, and the possible role of T6PK in regulation of carbohydrate metabolism in *S. lactis* is discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

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	PAGE NO	
2.2.5	PROTEIN DETERMINATION	27
2.2.6	PFK ASSAYS	28
	i Aldolase assay system	28
	ii Pyruvate kinase - LDH assay system	28
	iii Reversibility of PFK Activity	30
2.2.7	DETERMINATION OF KINETIC PARAMETERS	32
2.2.8	GEL ELECTROPHORESIS	32
	i Discontinuous Gel electrophoresis : Non Denaturing conditions	32
	ii SDS Gel Electrophoresis	33
2.2.9	MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION	34
	i Gel Filtration	34
	ii SDS Gel Electrophoresis : Protein Subunit Molecular Weight Determination	36
2.2.10	LOCATION OF PFK ACTIVITY ON POLYACRYLAMIDE GELS	36
	i Activity Stain	36
	ii Assay of Gel Slices	38
	iii Gel Scanning	38
2.2.11	PREPARATION OF PFK FROM <i>S. lactis</i> C <sub>10</sub>	38
	i Breakage of Cells	38
	ii Removal of Nucleic Acids : Protamine Sulphate Treatment	39
	iii Ammonium Sulphate precipitation	39
	iv Blue-dextran-Sepharose Affinity Chromatography	39
2.2.12	CRYSTALLISATION OF PFK	50
2.2.13	OPTIMISATION OF ASSAY CONDITIONS	50
	i Effect of Ionic Strength	50
	ii Effect of NADH concentration	50
2.3	PROPERTIES OF THE PURIFIED PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	55
2.3.1	DEPENDENCE OF ACTIVITY ON PROTEIN CONCENTRATION	55
2.3.2	STABILITY OF THE PURIFIED PFK	55
2.3.3	EFFECT OF pH ON PFK ACTIVITY	59
2.3.4	MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION	61
2.3.5	EFFECT OF ATP CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	61
2.3.6	EFFECT OF Mg <sup>2+</sup> CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	65
2.3.7	SPECIFICITY OF DIVALENT CATION REQUIREMENT	67
2.3.8	DEPENDENCE OF PFK ACTIVITY ON MgATP CONCENTRATION	71

	PAGE NO	
2.3.9	DEPENDENCE OF PFK ACTIVITY ON F6P CONCENTRATION	76
2.3.10	REVERSIBILITY OF PFK ACTIVITY	83
2.3.11	EFFECTORS OF PFK ACTIVITY	83
2.3.12	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY	87
2.3.13	THE EFFECT OF T6P ON PFK ACTIVITY	92
2.3.14	PHOSPHORYLATION OF T6P BY PFK	92
2.3.15	THE EFFECT OF PEP ON PFK ACTIVITY	100
2.3.16	THE EFFECT OF AMP ON PFK ACTIVITY	104
2.3.17	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY	107
2.3.18	THE EFFECT OF MONOVALENT CATIONS ON PFK ACTIVITY	107
2.3.19	THE EFFECT OF $P_i$ ON PFK ACTIVITY	112
2.3.20	THE EFFECT OF $NH_4^+$ AND FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER INHIBITORS	117
2.3.21	SUMMARY	120
<u>CHAPTER 3</u>	<u>TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE KINASE</u>	122
3.1	INTRODUCTION	123
3.2	METHODS	125
3.2.1	INTRODUCTION	125
3.2.2	PREPARATION OF TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE	125
3.2.3	CHARACTERISATION OF THE T6P PREPARATION	127
	i Enzymatic determination of purity	127
	ii Thin Layer Chromatography	127
	iii Assay with PFK	128
3.2.4	T6PK ASSAYS	128
	i Pyruvate kinase - Lactate dehydrogenase linked Assay	128
	ii Aldolase-linked assay	130
3.2.5	LOCATION OF T6PK ACTIVITY ON POLYACRYLAMIDE GELS	133
3.2.6	PURIFICATION OF T6PK	133
	i Blue-dextran-Sepharose 'affinity' chromatography	135
	ii Gel filtration on Sephacryl S200	135
	iii Ion exchange chromatography	135

		PAGE NO
3.3	PROPERTIES OF THE PARTIALLY PURIFIED T6PK : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	148
3.3.1	DEPENDENCE OF T6PK ACTIVITY ON PROTEIN CONCENTRATION	148
3.3.2	STABILITY OF PURIFIED T6PK	148
3.3.3	THE EFFECT OF pH ON T6PK ACTIVITY	151
3.3.4	MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION	153
3.3.5	THE EFFECT OF ATP CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	155
3.3.6	THE EFFECT OF Mg <sup>2+</sup> CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	159
3.3.7	SPECIFICITY OF DIVALENT CATION REQUIREMENT	159
3.3.8	DEPENDENCE OF ACTIVITY ON MgATP CONCENTRATION	163
3.3.9	DEPENDENCE OF ACTIVITY ON T6P CONCENTRATION	167
3.3.10	EFFECTORS OF T6PK ACTIVITY	167
3.3.11	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	170
3.3.12	THE EFFECT OF F6P ON T6PK ACTIVITY	176
3.3.13	PHOSPHORYLATION OF F6P BY T6PK	176
3.3.14	THE EFFECT OF PEP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	180
3.3.15	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	180
3.3.16	THE EFFECT OF MONOVALENT CATIONS ON T6PK ACTIVITY	185
3.3.17	SUMMARY	185
<u>CHAPTER 4</u>	<u>THE EFFECT OF CARBOHYDRATE COMPOSITION OF MEDIA ON ACTIVITIES OF PFK, T6PK, AND GALACTOKINASE IN LACTIC STREPTOCOCCI</u>	188
4.1	INTRODUCTION	189
4.2	METHODS	191
4.2.1	MAINTENANCE OF ORGANISMS	191
4.2.2	CULTURE OF BACTERIA	191
4.2.3	PREPARATION OF CELL-FREE EXTRACTS	193
4.2.4	ENZYME ASSAYS	193
4.2.5	REDUCING-SUGAR DETERMINATION	193
4.3	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	194
4.3.1	COMPARISON OF ENZYME LEVELS IN SOME LACTIC STREPTOCOCCI	194



LIST OF FIGURES

<u>FIGURE</u>		<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.2.1	THE LELOIR PATHWAY	7
1.2.2	THE TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE PATHWAY	8
2.2.1	PFK ASSAYS	29
2.2.2	ASSAY FOR FORMATION OF F6P FROM FBP BY PFK	31
2.2.3	STAIN FOR PFK ACTIVITY ON POLYACRYLAMIDE GELS	37
2.2.4	BREAKAGE OF CELLS OF <i>S. lactis</i> C <sub>10</sub> IN THE FRENCH PRESSURE CELL	42
2.2.5	KCl GRADIENT ELUTION OF PFK FROM BLUE-DEXTRAN-SEPHAROSE	45
2.2.6	ATP GRADIENT ELUTION OF PFK FROM BLUE-DEXTRAN-SEPHAROSE	47
2.2.7	LOCATION OF PFK ACTIVITY ON POLYACRYLAMIDE GELS	48
2.2.8	THE EFFECT OF IONIC STRENGTH ON PFK ACTIVITY	51
2.2.9A	THE EFFECT OF NADH ON PFK ACTIVITY	54
2.2.9B	THE EFFECT OF NADH ON THE LAG PERIOD IN THE PFK ASSAY	54
2.3.1	THE DEPENDENCE OF PFK ACTIVITY ON PROTEIN CONCENTRATION	56
2.3.2	THE EFFECT OF BUFFER COMPOSITION ON THE STABILITY OF PURIFIED PFK	57
2.3.3	COMPOUNDS AFFECTING THE STABILITY OF PFK	58
2.3.4	THE EFFECT OF pH ON PFK ACTIVITY	60
2.3.5	MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION OF PFK BY GEL FILTRATION ON SEPHACRYL S200	62
2.3.6	SDS GEL ELECTROPHORESIS OF PFK	63
2.3.7	THE EFFECT OF ATP CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	66
2.3.8	THE EFFECT OF Mg <sup>2+</sup> CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	68
2.3.9	PFK:DIVALENT CATION SPECIFICITY	69
2.3.10	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOTS FOR DETERMINATION OF CATION-BINDING CONSTANTS	70
2.3.11	THE EFFECT OF MgATP CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	72
2.3.12	HILL PLOTS : THE EFFECT OF MgATP CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	73
2.3.13	THE EFFECT OF THE Mg <sup>2+</sup> :ATP RATIO ON THE MgATP SATURATION PROFILE	74

<u>FIGURE</u>		PAGE NO
2.3.14	THE EFFECT OF F6P CONCENTRATION ON PFK ACTIVITY	77
2.3.15	HILL PLOTS : DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT MgATP AND VARYING F6P CONCENTRATIONS	78
2.3.16	SUBSTRATE SATURATION PROFILES OF PFK ASSAYED IN CELL-FREE EXTRACT	82
2.3.17	THE EFFECT OF pH ON THE F6P SATURATION PROFILE	84
2.3.18	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT F6P CONCENTRATIONS	88
2.3.19	HILL PLOT OF THE EFFECT OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY	90
2.3.20A	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT MgATP CONCENTRATIONS	93
2.3.20B	LINEWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT MgATP CONCENTRATIONS	93
2.3.21A	THE EFFECT OF INCREASING CONCENTRATIONS OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY	94
2.3.21B	LINEWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF INCREASING CONCENTRATIONS OF ADP ON PFK ACTIVITY	94
2.3.22	THE EFFECT OF T6P ON PFK ACTIVITY	95
2.3.23	LINEWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF T6P ON PFK ACTIVITY	96
2.3.24A	THE EFFECT OF T6P ON PFK ACTIVITY: HILL PLOTS : DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT MgATP AND VARIABLE F6P CONCENTRATIONS IN THE PRESENCE AND ABSENCE OF T6P	97
2.3.24B	DETERMINATION OF $K_i$ (T6P) : $\frac{1}{V}$ VS [T6P] PLOT	97
2.3.25	PHOSPHORYLATION OF T6P BY PFK	101
2.3.26	THE EFFECT OF PEP ON PFK ACTIVITY	102
2.3.27	THE EFFECT OF AMP ON PFK ACTIVITY	105
2.3.28A	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT F6P CONCENTRATIONS	108
2.3.28B	HILL PLOT : DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT MgATP AND VARYING F6P CONCENTRATIONS IN THE PRESENCE AND ABSENCE OF FBP	108
2.3.29A	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT MgATP CONCENTRATIONS	109
2.3.29B	LINEWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY	109
2.3.30	THE EFFECT OF MONOVALENT CATIONS ON PFK ACTIVITY AT SATURATING (A) AND NON-SATURATING (B) MgATP CONCENTRATIONS	110
2.3.31	LINEWEAVER-BURK PLOT FOR DETERMINATION OF $K_m$ ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ )	113
2.3.32	THE EFFECT OF $P_i$ ON PFK ACTIVITY	114
2.3.33	THE EFFECTS OF $P_i$ ON PFK ACTIVITY AT SATURATING AND NON-SATURATING MgATP CONCENTRATIONS	116

<u>FIGURE</u>		PAGE NO
3.2.1	SYNTHESIS OF D-TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE	126
3.2.2	ASSAY SYSTEMS USED FOR T6PK ASSAYS	129
3.2.3	LOCATION OF T6PK ACTIVITY ON POLYACRYLAMIDE GELS	134
3.2.4	ELUTION PROFILE OF T6PK ON SEPHACRYL S200 : FIRST SEPARATION	139
3.2.5	ELUTION PROFILE OF T6PK ON SEPHACRYL S200 : SECOND SEPARATION	141
3.2.6	ION-EXCHANGE CHROMATOGRAPHY OF T6PK ON DEAE-SEPHADEX	143
3.3.1	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN T6PK ACTIVITY AND PROTEIN CONCENTRATION IN ASSAYS USING CELL-FREE EXTRACT (A) AND PURIFIED T6PK (B)	149
3.3.2	STABILITY OF PURIFIED T6PK	150
3.3.3	THE EFFECT OF pH ON PFK ACTIVITY	152
3.3.4	MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION OF T6PK BY GEL FILTRATION ON SEPHACRYL S200	154
3.3.5	THE EFFECT OF ATP CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	156
3.3.6	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF ATP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	157
3.3.7	THE EFFECT OF $Mg^{2+}$ CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	158
3.3.8	HILL PLOT OF DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT ATP AND VARYING $Mg^{2+}$ CONCENTRATIONS	160
3.3.9	THE EFFECT OF DIVALENT CATIONS ON T6PK ACTIVITY	161
3.3.10	THE EFFECT OF $MgATP$ CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	164
3.3.11	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : DETERMINATION OF $K_m$ ( $MgATP$ )	165
3.3.12	THE EFFECT OF $Mg^{2+}$ :ATP RATIOS ON THE $MgATP$ SATURATION PROFILE	166
3.3.13	THE EFFECT OF T6P CONCENTRATION ON T6PK ACTIVITY	168
3.3.14	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT FOR THE DETERMINATION OF $K_m$ (T6P)	169
3.3.15A	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT T6P CONCENTRATIONS	171
3.3.15B	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF ADP ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT T6P CONCENTRATIONS	171
3.3.16A	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT $MgATP$ CONCENTRATIONS	172
3.3.16B	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF ADP ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT $MgATP$ CONCENTRATIONS	172
3.3.17A	$\frac{1}{V}$ VS [ADP] PLOT OF DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT T6P AND VARYING $MgATP$ CONCENTRATIONS	173

<u>FIGURE</u>		PAGE NO
3.3.17B	$\frac{1}{V}$ VS [ADP] PLOT OF DATA OBTAINED AT CONSTANT MgATP AND VARYING T6P CONCENTRATIONS	173
3.3.18A	THE EFFECT OF F6P ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT T6P CONCENTRATIONS	177
3.3.18B	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF F6P ON T6PK ACTIVITY AT DIFFERENT T6P CONCENTRATIONS	177
3.3.19	PHOSPHORYLATION OF F6P BY T6PK	178
3.3.20A	LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : DETERMINATION OF $K_m$ (F6P) OF T6PK	179
3.3.20B	HILL PLOT : T6PK ACTIVITY WITH F6P	179
3.3.21	THE EFFECT OF PEP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	181
3.3.22A	THE EFFECT OF PEP ON T6PK ACTIVITY: LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT : THE EFFECT OF PEP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	182
3.3.22B	$\frac{1}{V}$ VS [PEP] PLOT : DETERMINATION OF $K_i$ (PEP)	182
3.3.23	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON T6PK ACTIVITY	183
3.3.24A	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON T6PK ACTIVITY: LINWEAVER-BURK PLOT	184
3.3.24B	$\frac{1}{V}$ VS [FBP] PLOT : DETERMINATION OF $K_i$ (FBP)	184
3.3.25	THE EFFECT OF MONOVALENT CATIONS ON T6PK ACTIVITY	186
3.3.26	THE EFFECT OF $K^+$ ON T6PK ACTIVITY	187
4.2.1	RELATIONSHIP OF OPTICAL DENSITY TO CELL MASS	192
4.3.1	ACTIVITIES OF PFK, T6PK, AND GALACTOKINASE, <i>S. lactis</i> C <sub>10</sub> GROWN ON LACTOSE	202
4.3.2	ACTIVITIES OF PFK, T6PK, AND GALACTOKINASE IN <i>S. cremoris</i> AM <sub>2</sub> GROWN ON LACTOSE	203

\* \* \* \* \*

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE</u>		PAGE NO
2.1.1	ALLOSTERIC EFFECTORS OF MAMMALIAN PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE	19
2.2.1	PROTEINS USED FOR CALIBRATION OF SEPHACRYL S200 COLUMN FOR MOLECULAR WEIGHT DETERMINATION	35
2.2.2	PURIFICATION OF <i>S. lactis</i> PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE	41
2.3.1	DEPENDENCE OF $V_{MAX}$ , $n_H$ AND $K_m$ (MgATP) ON F6P CONCENTRATION	75
2.3.2	DEPENDENCE OF $V_{MAX}$ , $n_H$ AND $F6P_{0.5}$ ON MgATP CONCENTRATION	79
2.3.3	THE EFFECT OF VARIOUS METABOLITES ON PFK ACTIVITY	86
2.3.4	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON $V_{MAX}$ , $n_H$ AND $F6P_{0.5}$ VALUES	91
2.3.5	THE EFFECT OF ADP ON $n_H$ AND $F6P_{0.5}$	98
2.3.6	THE EFFECT OF T6P ON $n_H$ AND $F6P_{0.5}$	99
2.3.7	THE EFFECT OF PEP CONCENTRATION ON THE $F6P_{0.5}$ AND HILL COEFFICIENT	103
2.3.8	THE EFFECT OF AMP ON $F6P_{0.5}$ AND HILL COEFFICIENT	106
2.3.9	THE EFFECT OF FBP ON $F6P_{0.5}$ AND HILL COEFFICIENT	111
2.3.10	EFFECT OF FBP ON PFK ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENCE OF AMP, $P_i$ AND PEP	118
2.3.11	EFFECT OF $NH_4^+$ ON PFK ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENCE OF PEP, AMP, $ADP$ AND $P_i$	119
3.2.1	ACTIVITY OBSERVED IN T6PK ASSAYS IN WHICH VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE ASSAY MIXTURE WERE OMITTED	131
3.2.2	PURIFICATION OF T6PK FROM <i>S. lactis</i> C <sub>10</sub>	144
3.3.1	DIVALENT CATION REQUIREMENTS OF T6PK FROM <i>S. lactis</i> AND <i>S. aureus</i>	162
3.3.2	THE EFFECT OF VARIOUS METABOLITES ON T6PK ACTIVITY	174
3.3.3	THE EFFECT OF VARIOUS CONCENTRATIONS OF METABOLITES ON T6PK ACTIVITY	175

<u>TABLE</u>		PAGE NO
4.3.1	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF PFK, T6PK AND GAL K IN SEVERAL STRAINS OF STREPTOCOCCI	195
4.3.2	ALDOLASE LEVELS IN STRAINS OF <i>S. lactis</i> AND <i>S. cremoris</i>	197
4.3.3	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF PFK, T6PK AND GAL K IN SEVERAL STRAINS OF STREPTOCOCCI GROWN ON A MIXTURE OF SUGARS	199
4.3.4	DOUBLING TIMES OF <i>S. lactis</i> C <sub>10</sub> AND <i>S. cremoris</i> AM <sub>2</sub> GROWN ON DIFFERENT SUGARS	201
4.3.5	RELATIVE ACTIVITIES OF PFK AND T6PK, AND FBP ALDOLASE AND TBP ALDOLASE IN LACTIC STREPTOCOCCI GROWN ON DIFFERENT SUGARS	205

\* \* \* \* \*

LIST OF PLATES

<u>PLATES</u>		PAGE NO
I	<i>S. lactis</i> PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE : GEL ELECTROPHORESIS OF THE UNDENATURED PROTEIN	49
II	CRYSTALLINE <i>S. lactis</i> PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE	52
III	<i>S. lactis</i> PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE : SDS GEL ELECTROPHORESIS	64
IV	<i>S. lactis</i> TAGATOSE 6-PHOSPHATE KINASE	136

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ABBREVIATIONS

$A^{280}, A^{540}$	absorbance at 280 nm and 540 nm
ADP	adenosine 5'-diphosphate
AMP	adenosine 5'-monophosphate
ATP	adenosine 5'-triphosphate
bisacrylamide	N, N'-methylene bisacrylamide
$\beta$ -gal	$\beta$ -D-galactosidase
$\beta$ -P-gal	phospho- $\beta$ -D-galactosidase
BPB	bromophenol blue
BSA	bovine serum albumin
cAMP	3', 5' cyclic AMP
CM	carboxymethyl
CTP, GTP, TTP, ITP, UTP	5'-triphosphates of cytosine, guanine, thymine, inosine, and uracil
DEAE	diethyl aminoethyl
DHAP	dihydroxy acetone phosphate
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
ED	Entner-Doudoroff
EDTA	ethylene diamine-tetra acetic acid
EMP	Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas
F6P	fructose 6-phosphate
$F6P_{0.5}$	concentration of F6P giving half maximal velocity
FBP	fructose 1,6-bisphosphate
$\Delta G^\circ$	change in free energy
G3P	glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate
G6P	glucose 6-phosphate
G6PDH	glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase
GBP	glucose 1,6-bisphosphate
Gal	galactose
Gal 6P	galactose 6-phosphate
Gal K	galactokinase

Glu	glucose
$\alpha$ -GPDH	$\alpha$ -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase
HEPES	N-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-ethanesulfonic acid
HMP	hexose monophosphate
$K_i$	inhibitor constant
$K_m$	Michaelis-Menten constant
Lac	lactose
LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
MES	2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid
MW	molecular weight
$NAD^+$	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
NADH	reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
$NADP^+$	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
NADPH	reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
NBT	nitroblue tetrazolium
ND	not determined
$n_H$	Hill coefficient
ox	oxidised
PEG	polyethylene glycol
PEP	phospho-enol pyruvate
PFK	phosphofructokinase
PGA	phosphoglyceric acid
PGI	phospho glucose isomerase
$P_i$	inorganic phosphate
PK	pyruvate kinase
PMS	phenazine methosulphate
$PP_i$	inorganic pyrophosphate
PS	protamine sulphate
red	reduced
R5P	ribose 5-phosphate
$R_F$	relative mobility

$S_{0.5}$	concentration of substrate required to give half maximal velocity
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulphate
Sn	supernatant
T6P	tagatose 6-phosphate
T6PK	tagatose 6-phosphate kinase
TEMED	N, N, N', N' - tetramethylene diamine
TPI	triose phosphate isomerase
Tris	tris (hydroxymethyl) amino methane
Tris-glycerol buffer	50 mM Tris HCl containing 20% (v/v) glycerol, 5 mM EDTA, 5 mM $MgCl_2$ , and 10 mM 2-mercapto ethanol
$u$	In all figures, $u$ represents the Greek letter $\mu$ , the symbol for 'micro'
$V_{max}$ , $V_m$	maximum velocity

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