

## Optimization of the $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabeling Assay for Detecting Benzo(a)pyrene-induced DNA Adduct Formation in *Zacco platypus*

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:**  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabeling assay is the most sensitive method of detecting DNA adduct formation. However, it is limited by a low sample throughput and use of radioisotopes (RI). In this study, we modified it to minimize these limitations and applied it to *Z. platypus* exposed to Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) in order to investigate DNA adduct formation (effect biomarker for pollutants) in *Z. platypus* for assessing risk of waterborne BaP exposure.

**Methods:** DNA hydrolysis was performed only with Micrococcal nuclease (MNase), RI reduction test was performed and the overlapping steps between thin layer chromatography (TLC) and radioisotope high-performance liquid chromatography (RI-HPLC) were omitted. The application of a modified method to *Z. platypus* exposed to BaP was performed.

**Results:** The results revealed that the amount of RIs used can be reduced roughly 10-fold. Because the analysis time was shortened by 8.5 hours, the sample throughput per hour was increased compared with the previous method. The results of applying modified  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabeling assay to *Z. platypus*, DNA adduct formation in *Z. platypus* showed dose-dependency with the BaP concentration. Only BPDE-dGMP was detected as a DNA adduct.

**Conclusion:** These results demonstrate that the modified  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabeling assay is a suitable method for detecting DNA adduct formation in *Z. platypus* exposed to waterborne BaP and will be useful in risk assessment of carcinogenic effect in aquatic environment due to BaP.

**Keywords:**  $^{32}\text{P}$ -postlabeling assay, Benzo(a)pyrene, *Zacco platypus*

### I. Introduction

Freshwater minnow (*Zacco platypus*) has been used as a model organism in toxicological studies at the population and individual levels.<sup>1-5)</sup> Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) formed from the incomplete combustion of gasoline and organic matter.<sup>5,6)</sup> It is a ubiquitous environmental contaminant and classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a group I agent, labeling it as a human carcinogen.<sup>6,7)</sup> Furthermore, BaP has a high  $K_{ow}$ ,

resulting in its biomagnification up trophic levels, in fish.<sup>5)</sup>

BaP is metabolized first by microsomal cytochrome p450s (CYPs) to several arene oxides, which undergo hydration to dihydrodiols via epoxide hydrase and epoxidation to diol epoxides.<sup>8)</sup> These intermediate metabolites can become conjugated to nucleotides. One intermediate metabolite of BaP is BaP-r-7,t-8-dihydrodiol-t-9,10-epoxide (BPDE), which can bind to nucleic acids and become DNA adduct.<sup>8-10)</sup> Generally, guanine is the primary DNA binding site of PAH intermediaries. DNA adducts are pre-

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mutagenic; they can cause DNA replication errors if not detected and repaired by cellular repair mechanisms and thus, DNA adduct formation has been used as effect biomarker which can be recognized as associated with an established or possible health impairment or disease.<sup>9-11)</sup>

Carcinogenic DNA adducts can be detected and identified by several methods. One of the most sensitive is the <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay, developed in the early 1980s.<sup>10,12)</sup> For some aromatic adducts, it has a detection limit as low as 1 adduct/10<sup>10</sup> nucleotides, using a sample as small as 10 µg.<sup>10)</sup> However, the use of <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay is limited by a low sample throughput and using large amount of radioisotopes.<sup>9,10,13,14)</sup> In the present study, we developed the modified <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay method to increase sample throughput and to reduce radioisotope, comparing with the existing method.<sup>10,12)</sup> DNA adducts formed in the liver of *Z. platypus* exposed to waterborne BaP were detected using modified <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay. This study will facilitate the carcinogenic effect study for pollutants exposure such as BaP in aquatic environment of Korea.

## II. Materials and Methods

### 1. Chemical reagents and instruments

Proteinase K was purchased from Roche (Renzberg, Germany). Acetonitrile (ACN), ethyl acetate (EA), dichloromethane (DCM), and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)-grade tetrahydrofuran (THF) was purchased from Burdick & Jackson (Muskegon, MI, USA). Benzo(a)pyrene-*r*-7,*t*-8-dihydrodiol-*t*-9,10-epoxide (±) (anti) (BPDE) was purchased from NCI Chemical Carcinogen Repository, Midwest Research Institute (Kansas city, MO, USA). 3000 Ci/mmol γ-<sup>32</sup>P-ATP ([<sup>32</sup>P]ATP) was purchased from Perkin-Elmer (Waltham, MA, USA). Other chemicals including BaP were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA). To analysis DNA adduct formation in the liver of *Z. platypus* which was exposed to waterborne BaP, UV-detector (Hewlett Packard, series 1100 G1315A DAD, CA, USA), RI-detector (PerkinElmer, Flow Scintillation Analyzer Radiomatic 610TR, Waltham, MA, USA), and mass detector (Hewlett-Packard, Series 1100 G1956B, CA, USA) were used.

### 2. Fish maintain

*Zacco platypus* were purchased from Damsunara Husbandry (Gyeong-gi Province, South Korea; 1-year-old juvenile fish; length = 10.28±0.69 cm, weight = 9.88±2.56 g). The fish were bred in the laboratory for 6 months. They were fed 1% of their total weight of a commercial food every morning and evening (Powertechno®, Woosung Feed Co., Daejeon, South Korea). Dechlorinated tap water was used and fish were maintained at 22±1°C for breeding according to the OECD test guideline.<sup>15)</sup>

### 3. BaP exposure and <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay

We used liver as the test organ, because compared with other organs, fish liver has relatively high CYP1A specific activity, which is important in DNA adduct formation. Moreover, the liver has been proposed as the major site of CYP1A-catalyzed biotransformation in fish.<sup>16-18)</sup> A previous study revealed that low levels (1.2 and 0.4 µg/L) of homogeneously dispersed BaP in water did not cause DNA adduct formation, while high levels (60 µg/L) of homogeneously dispersed BaP induced DNA adduct formation.<sup>19)</sup> We selected 20 and 100 µg/L as the lower and upper concentrations, considering 60 µg/L as the median concentration.

Three fish were exposed to each BaP concentrations: the control, 20 µg/L, and 100 µg/L. Liver tissue from the fish was subdivided for DNA isolation. The BaP concentrations were maintained with a flow-through exposure system. Dimethylformamide (Junsei, guaranteed grade, 0.01% (v/v)) was used as the organic BaP solvent. BaP stock solution (100 mg/100 ml) was supplied at 20 µl/min with syringe pumps which was purchased from Kloeohn Co. Ltd. (Las Vegas, NV, USA) into a mixing chamber where carbon-filtered dechlorinated tap water was supplied at 200 ml/min. The mixture was supplied to the treatment tanks. As a result, the tank water was changed once every 6 h during the 96 hour of BaP exposure.

The photoperiod and water conditions were maintained based on OECD test guideline.<sup>15)</sup> BaP exposure was performed during 96-hour (4-day). BaP concentrations in control and BaP exposure water were measured 0, 2, and 4 d. The exposure water was condensed by 500 fold as follow method: 500 mL water of each group was eluted

with one volume of dichloromethane (DCM), and DCM was evaporated with nitrate gas. And the BaP was dissolved in 1 mL Acetonitrile (ACN). This ACN solution was analyzed with LC. The LC conditions were as follows: the column (phenyl-modified phase column, Zorbax Eclipse XDB-Phenyl, Agilent, Santa Clara, IL, USA) was eluted with the mobile phase (acetonitrile/Diluted Water (DW) [8:2, v/v]) at 245 nm and the isocratic elution ran for 15 min with a flow rate of 1 ml/min. We used a UV-detector (series 1100 G1315A DAD, Hewlett Packard, Santa Clara, IL, USA), a pump (series 1100 G1311A QuatPump, Hewlett Packard), and Chemstation for LC 3D software (Rev. A. 10.02 [1757], Aligent) for the LC. DNA was isolated using proteinase K followed by phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol and precipitated with ethanol. The DNA was stored at -80°C. For the analyses, we placed 10 µg of DNA in a 1.5-mL tube and boiled the sample in a heating block for 30 min, until it had completely evaporated. Then, we added 1 µL of 50 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 µL of 100 mM bicine (pH 9), 2 µL of Micrococcal Nuclease (MNase) (0.2 units/µL), and 1 µL DW, in a total volume of 5 µL. This was incubated at 37°C for 12 h.<sup>9,20,21</sup> The DNA adducts were enriched and labeled according to previous studies.<sup>10,12</sup>

A 10×10 Whatman no. 1 paper wick was stapled to the top edge of a 10×10 PEI-cellulose TLC sheet (Catalog No 1.05579.0001; Merck, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA). Each sample was spotted onto the origin of the sheet, which was developed for 18 h with the wick hanging outside the tank in D1 buffer of 2.3 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6). The adduct origin spot was cut from the TLC sheet and the TLC sheet origin powder was placed with 500 µL pyridinium formate (pH 4.5) in a 2 mL brown glass tube. This was shaken gently for 16 h at room temperature and centrifuged (5 min, 3000 g) to remove the TLC powder. The supernatant was decanted into a 2 mL glass tube. Quantification was performed with RI-HPLC under the conditions as follows. Solvents A and B were 0.5 M phosphate buffer (sodium, pH3.5) and acetonitrile (ACN)/tetrahydrofuran (THF) (5:5, v/v), respectively. The column (phenyl-modified phase column) was eluted with liner gradient of sol. B (from 30 to 55%) for 70 min in sol. A. The specific activity of the ATP was determined by

[<sup>32</sup>P]-labeling 300 fmol of 2'-deoxyadenosine-3'-monophosphate (dAp). The dAp was labeled with 2.5 µCi of [<sup>32</sup>P]ATP at 37°C for 30 min and the 10-µL reaction mixture was diluted to 1 mL with DW. Next, 10 µL of the diluted solution were spotted onto a PEI-cellulose TLC sheet, developed with 0.5 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6), and quantified with RI-HPLC. The relative adduct level (RAL) was calculated by dividing the modified nucleotide dpm by the total nucleotide dpm.

#### 4. *In vitro* synthesis of BPDE-dGMP

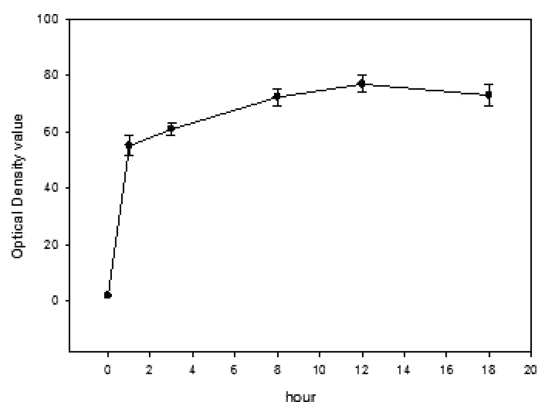
*Zacco platypus* genomic DNA diluted to 10 mg/10 mL of DW was boiled for 30 min, and then hydrolyzed to deoxyribonucleosides using MNase (0.08 unit/µL) at 37°C for 12 h. Other procedures followed the previous method.<sup>22</sup> To confirm BPDE-dGMP synthesis, the BPDE-dGMP solution was analyzed with liquid chromatography electrospray mass spectroscopy (LC-API-ES-Mass). The following LC-APCI-Mass conditions were used. Solvents A and B were 0.5 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH3.5) and acetonitrile (ACN)/tetrahydrofuran (THF) (5:5, v/v), respectively. The column (phenyl-modified phase column) was eluted with liner gradient of sol. B (from 30 to 55%) for 70 min in sol. A with a flow rate of 0.2 ml/min, the mass detector was a Hewlett-Packard series 1100 G1956B, and the injection volume was 20 µl (ion mode: positive). The instrumentation and software were the same as those used in the chemical exposure experiment. The synthesized BPDE-dGMP was used as a standard material for *in vivo* DNA adducts.

The synthesized BPDE-dGMP was labeled with [<sup>32</sup>P]ATP. The <sup>32</sup>P-labeled BPDE-dGMP was analyzed with RI-HPLC.

#### 5. Radioisotope reduction

We reacted 300 fmol dAp with [<sup>32</sup>P]ATP in three conditions: 0.9 µCi + 300 fmol dAp; 2.5 µCi + 300 fmol dAp; and 25 µCi + 300 fmol dAp. There are 300 fmol in 0.9 µCi of [<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, equimolar to dAp; 2.5 µCi and 25 µCi have 840 and 8400 fmol, respectively. The reaction product, 2'-deoxyadenosine-3',5'-diphosphate (pAp), was analyzed using TLC with 0.5 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6) and the pAp dpm was measured with RI-HPLC.

#### 6. DNA hydrolysis test

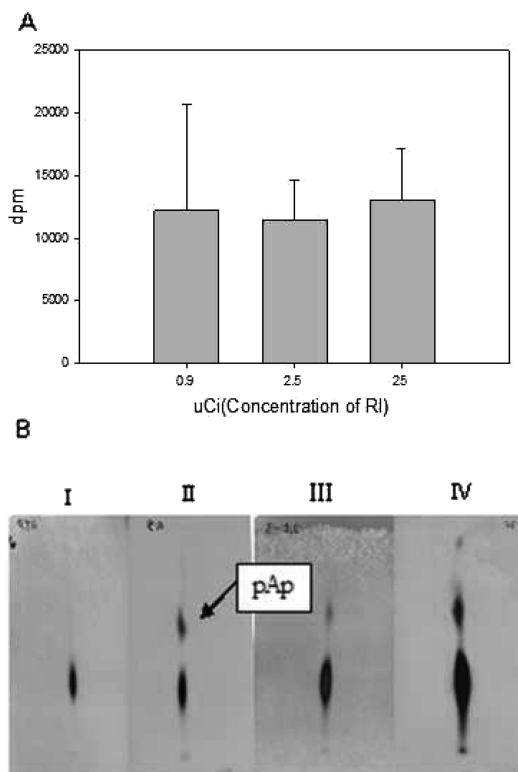


**Fig. 1.** Optical density at 260 nm for DNA digested with MNase. A one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test was used to detect significant difference among optical density (OD) values. Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SD. From 8 h to 18 h, significant increase of OD value was not observed.

We used MNase to digest the *Z. platypus* genomic DNA. To determine the optimal digestion period, the optical density (OD) of the DNA samples was measured at 260 nm throughout the digestion. The previous study recommended overnight DNA digestion (over 16 h).<sup>12)</sup> According to the reference, the DNA had a high OD in proportion to the digestion level.<sup>21)</sup> The *Zacco platypus* genomic DNA was digested by placing 10  $\mu$ L in 15 test tubes with MNase alone. The conditions were the same as for the <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay. At 1, 3, 12, and 18 h, the digested DNA in three test tubes was measured with a spectrophotometer (NanoDrop, Bioprince Mini-Spectrophotometer SD-2000, China).

### 7. Statistical analysis

*t*-Tests were used to detect significant effects between 100  $\mu$ g/l BaP exposure and the corresponding control groups.<sup>5)</sup> A one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test was used to detect significant differences among species or BaP treated groups. Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SD. All data were analyzed using Minitab<sup>®</sup> for windows software (Minitab Inc., State College, PA, USA). Normality test for data was performed with Anderson-Darling test of Minitab<sup>®</sup>. The *p*-value of below 0.05 was considered statistically significant.



**Fig. 2.** Results of the study of the reduction test of the radioisotope material. (A) the dpm value of pAp, resulting from reacting 300 fmol of dAp with 300 (0.9  $\mu$ Ci), 840 (2.5  $\mu$ Ci), and 8400 (25  $\mu$ Ci) fmol of RI. (B) X-ray film showing the results of the reaction of 300 fmol dAp with [<sup>32</sup>P]ATP. (I) <sup>32</sup>P- $\gamma$ -ATP; (II) 0.9  $\mu$ Ci + 300 fmol dAp; (III) 2.5  $\mu$ Ci + 300 fmol; (IV) 25  $\mu$ Ci + 300 fmol.

## III. Results

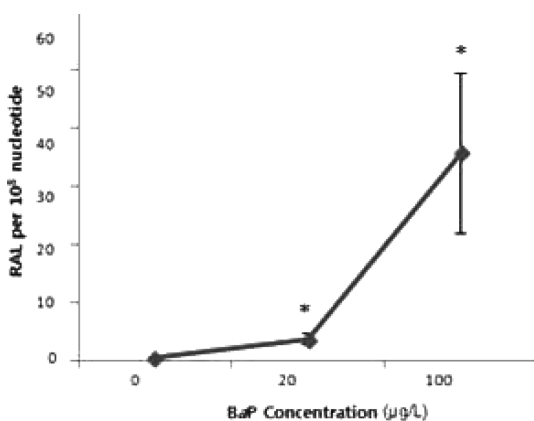
### 1. Modifying the <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay

In the result of using MNase alone digestion, OD value reached the maximum level at 12 h after MNase treatment start (0 h) (Fig. 1). And then until 20 h, the OD value had not been changed. The OD value at 12 h was similar with dNTP mixture value. Therefore, in this study DNA digestion was performed for 12 hours. This new digestion period was short than nature protocol by 4 hour.

In this study, reducing test of RI amount was performed by reacting 300 fmol of dAp with various amounts of the RI [<sup>32</sup>P] ATP. There were three reaction conditions: 0.9  $\mu$ Ci ([<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 300 fmol) + 300 fmol

**Table 1.** Comparison of the modified <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay method. In parentheses, the percentage represents reduction level relative to original protocol

	DNA purification	DNA digestion	Enrichment	<sup>32</sup> P-postlabeling	TLC analysis	RI-HPLC analysis
Original protocol (Nature protocol)	phenol purification	SPD & MNase used,	nuclease P1	25–50 μCi	4 <sup>th</sup> development	70 min, gradient
Modified protocol	unmodified	MNase alone, (Analysis time reduced by 25%)	unmodified	2.5 μCi (RI amount reduced by 90%)	1 <sup>st</sup> development (Analysis time reduced by 20%)	unmodified

**Fig. 3.** The relative adduct level (RAL) value; the DNA adduct number per  $1 \times 10^8$  total nucleotides and the BaP exposure concentration. The data were represented as mean  $\pm$  SD. Asterisk indicates values that are significantly higher than control values (\*  $p < 0.05$ ;  $t$ -test,  $n=3$ ).

dAp, 2.5 μCi (<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 0.84 pmol) + 300 fmol dAp, and 25 μCi (<sup>32</sup>P] ATP, 8.4 pmol) + 300 fmol dAp. The results revealed that using 2.5 μCi and 25 μCi (<sup>32</sup>P] ATP, 8.4 pmol and 8.4 pmol) showed non-significant difference (one-way ANOVA,  $p < 0.05$ ). When Using 0.9 μCi (<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 300 fmol), standard deviation is too high relative to the others. This result suggests that at least 10 fold reduction of RI did not significantly influence in DNA adduct detection (Fig 2). The modified results were shown in Table 1.

## 2. Results applying the modified method and characterizing the DNA adduct synthesized *in vitro*

The only observed DNA adduct was BPDE-dGMP, which was found at average concentrations of 52.3, 5.6, and 0.63 fmol in the groups exposed to 100 and 20 μg BaP /L and the control, respectively.

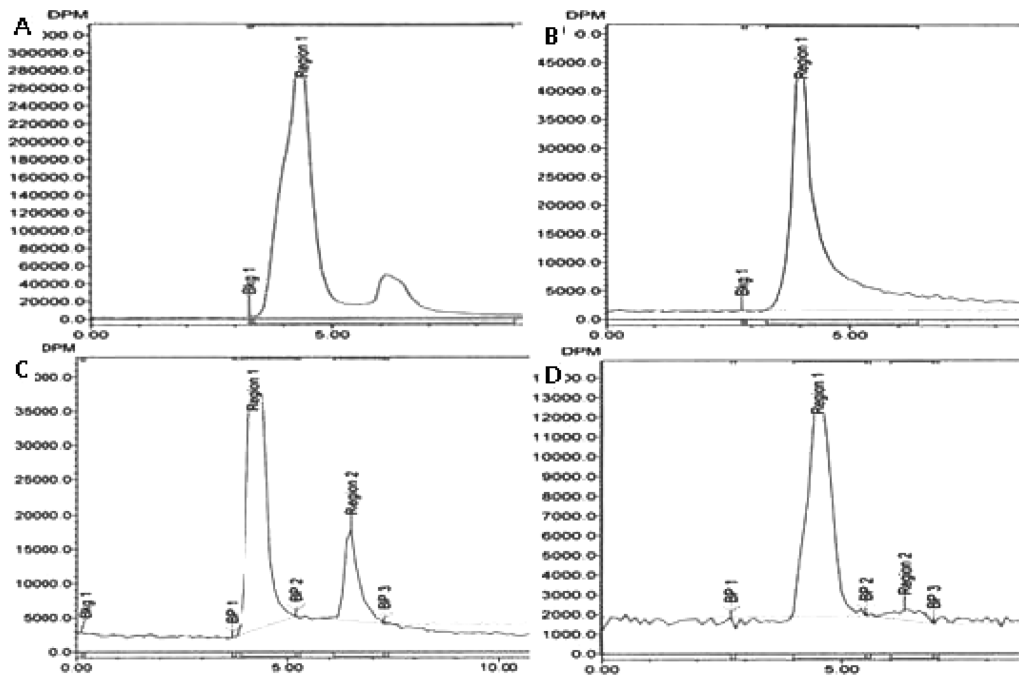
The amount of BPDE-dGMP observed revealed does-dependency with the BaP exposure concentration (Fig. 3). The mass spectrum of LC-Mass analysis for synthesized BPDE-dGMP showed  $m/z$  650.3 ion and  $m/z$  303 ion peak, revealing BPDE-dGMP and BPDE, respectively (Figs. 4 and 5). The same types of DNA adduct were observed both *in vivo* and *in vitro* production (Fig. 5).

## IV. Discussion

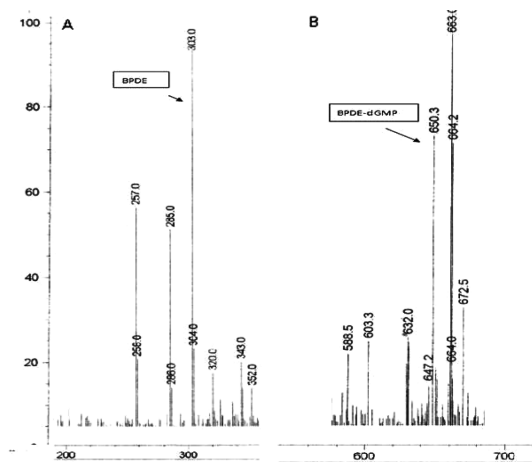
### 1. Modified method and *in vivo* and *in vitro* application

MNase digests DNA into mononucleotides and dinucleotides carrying 5'-hydroxyls and 3'-phosphates, and Spleen phosphodiesterase (SPD) digests oligonucleotides with 5'-hydroxyls into mononucleotides,<sup>20,23)</sup> and thus using two enzymes might be more efficient than using MNase alone. However, in case of Korea, the obtaining and use of SPD is difficult, because of the law of Livestock Epidemics Prevention, 32-1 that noted the region (34 nations including USA) in which the importing of hydrolyzed protein from ruminant livestock was banned.<sup>24)</sup> And thus, we tried to digest DNA with only MNase. The results revealed that MNase alone digested DNA almost completely for 12-hour when comparing with the dNTP mixture which was fully separated into mononucleotides (Fig. 1). Analysis time was reduced by at about 4-hour relative to nature protocol recommending over 16-hour.

During development 1 (D1) and 2 (D2), DNA adducts remain at the origin but aqueous electrolytes (unreacted RIs, unreacted DNA monomer) migrate from the origin, and DNA adducts will migrate from origin in D3 and D4.<sup>12,25)</sup> The previous study<sup>10)</sup> mentioned that the origin after D1 could also be cut from the PEI-cellulose TLC sheet. This study



**Fig. 4.** The analysis results of DNA adduct formation. A: RI-HPLC chromatogram of the BPDE-dGMP standard. B: Chromatogram of ATP. C: chromatogram of BPDE-dGMP from livers of *Z. platypus* exposed to 100 µg/L B(a)P. D: chromatogram of BPDE-dGMP from livers of *Z. platypus* exposed to 20 µg/L B(a)P.



**Fig. 5.** The analysis results of DNA adduct formation. A: Ion spectrum of standard BPDE from LC/APCI-MS analysis. B: Ion spectrum of standard BPDE-dGMP (*in vitro* synthesized).

performed only D1, since D2, D3 and D4 were redundant, because firstly, D1 is sufficient for eliminating aqueous electrolytes, secondly, the

purpose of RI-HPLC analysis was overlapped with D3 and D4 which separated DNA adducts.

The previous study mentioned that the combination of full TLC development steps and RI-HPLC will increase the resolution discriminating the difference among DNA adducts.<sup>10,12)</sup> The purpose of this study was to investigate DNA adduct formation as effect biomarker for *Z. platypus* exposed to BaP and increase the sample throughput. In this study, the information for the DNA adduct amount formed from BaP exposure was more important than for DNA adducts discrimination. And thus, we eliminate D 2, 3, 4 TLC steps. Since after D1, the origin of TLC plate, in which DNA adducts remained was eluted with organic solvent, there was no loss of any kind of DNA adducts. Omitting TLC steps, analysis time was reduced relative to original method by 4.5 hours.<sup>10,11)</sup>

The previous study noted that phage T4 polynucleotide kinase will catalyze the exchange of a 5'-phosphate in a single-stranded oligonucleotide for a gamma-phosphate of ATP.<sup>26)</sup> We examined the effect of reducing the quantity of RI used. <sup>32</sup>P-

postlabeling assays typically use 25–50  $\mu\text{Ci}$  per sample.<sup>10,12-14,27,28</sup> The previous study mentioned that the measured amount of DNA adducts in the field ranged from 0.03 to 17 fmol,<sup>28</sup> this amount was lower by 500–1000 fold than 25–50  $\mu\text{Ci}$  which nature protocol recommended. Radioisotopes are the limiting reagent in bulk sampling.<sup>14</sup> Thus, we tried to reduce RI required in <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assays.

We observed the same dpm values when various concentrations of [<sup>32</sup>P] ATP were reacted with one dAp concentration in ratios from 1:1 to 30:1. At the result, there was no significant difference of dpm value between 300 fmol dAp+2.5  $\mu\text{Ci}$  ([<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 8.4 pmol) and 300 fmol dAp +25  $\mu\text{Ci}$  ([<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 84 pmol). The dpm value was not significantly different between the two conditions. From this, we determined that previous studies used excessive amounts of RI to detect unknown amount of DNA adducts. We determined at about 2.5–5  $\mu\text{Ci}$  was sufficient to detect unknown amount of DNA adducts in the field. The results revealed that the amount of RIs used can be reduced by about 10-fold.

Following BaP exposure, the hepatic DNA adduct analysis revealed that *Z. platypus* formed pollution-related adducts, which can induce DNA damage. Only one type of DNA adduct, BPDE-dGMP, of which the chemical structure and characteristics are well known, was observed (Figs. 4 and 5). This result suggested that the DNA adduct expression pattern of *Z. platypus* was useful for study of waterborne BaP exposure, because it provided information for exposure level and source.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Species comparison and conclusions

The DNA adduct pattern formed in *Z. platypus* is similar to that in carp, which belongs to the same family<sup>27</sup>) but different in rainbow trout, which belongs to a different order, Salmoniformes.<sup>19</sup>) Carp produce more than 92% BPDE-dGMP.<sup>27</sup>) But rainbow trout do not produce BPDE-dGMP. This suggested that there was the different capacity among species in forming BaP reactive intermediates. In the study for rainbow trout, fish were exposed to constant low BaP levels averaging 0.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for 15 days, followed by a brief pulse of 60  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , declining to 2  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for 15 days.<sup>19</sup>) During the pulsed exposure, rainbow trout produced 1.3 adducts /10<sup>7</sup>nucleotides.<sup>19</sup>) Interpolating this DNA adducts value between 20 and 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in our data, 1.3 adducts/10<sup>7</sup> nucleotides fell in the middle. Thus,

we hypothesize that while the mechanism which determines DNA adduct type differs between species, the mechanism that controls DNA adduct amount is similar across species. Finally, because only the pulsed exposure induced DNA adduct formation, the DNA adduct formation might be controlled by the BaP exposure level, not duration. In the field, there were various pollutants and environmental conditions. And thus, further DNA adduct study for various pollutants and conditions is needed.

## V. Conclusions

In this study, modified <sup>32</sup>P-postlabeling assay reduced the RI amount used by about 10 fold that of existing method and overcame the limitation of low sample throughput, by reducing analysis time. 8.5 hours was reduced relative to original protocol and thus, total analysis time, 42 hours (2 days) was reduced into 34 hours. This result suggested that sample throughput per hour was increased. At the results of application of modified method to *Z. platypus*, only one DNA adduct, BPDE-dGMP, of which the chemical structure and characteristics are well-known, was detected both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. This result suggested that the DNA adduct expression pattern of *Z. platypus* was useful for study of waterborne BaP exposure, because it provided information for exposure level and source if the standard materials was prepared. These results will facilitate the carcinogenic effect study to detect DNA adducts made by *Z. platypus* exposed to waterborne BaP in the habitat of *Z. platypus* including South Korea.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest with the material presented in this paper.

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