

centration of silicic acid in the urine of all but one of the calves not receiving the supplement was above saturation.

There were calculi both in the kidneys and bladders of all but one of the calves that did not receive salt, but there were none in those of calves that did receive salt. The silica content of calculi in the bladder was 74.0 percent and of those in the kidney 67.4 percent. The presence of the salt in the ration did not have a significant effect on the growth of the calves.

There were large variations in the total amounts of calculi present in the calves in the group that did not receive salt (range 0 to 188 mg). Four of these calves had more calculus material in the bladder than the average amount (about 50 mg) contained in stones that had previously caused urethral obstruction in ten similar calves. The amounts of calculi present were not related to the concentration of silicic acid in the urine. Therefore, other factors must also have affected the amounts of calculi formed. These factors are of considerable practical significance because they determine which animals are likely to develop urethral obstruction when on a diet of prairie grass.

It is suggested that sodium chloride prevented the formation of siliceous calculi in cattle given prairie grass hay by increasing water intake and urine volume and consequently reducing the concentration of silicic acid in the urine. Whether the administration of water to cattle in amounts greater than those they normally drink when consuming prairie hay will also prevent calculus formation remains to be determined.

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## Protein Subunits: A Table

Table 1 is a list of proteins in which subunits are held together by non-covalent bonds. The entries are listed approximately in the order of increasing molecular weight of the macromolecular unit normally isolated from its natural source.

Individual polypeptide chains, held together by disulfide linkages, have not been individually classified as subunits; in insulin, for example, the subunit

weight listed is 6000, that of the A and B chains together, since these chains are linked by disulfide bonds.

In many instances the subunit listed may not be the minimal subunit obtainable. The entry listed in Table 1 contains the minimal subunit that has been unequivocally obtained under environmental conditions that raise no suspicion of cleavage of peptide bonds. For some proteins, two (or more) stages

Table 1. Subunit constitution of proteins. Parentheses indicate doubt.

| Protein                                          | Molecular weight  | Subunits |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                  |                   | No.      | Molecular weight |
| Insulin (2)                                      | 11,466            | 2        | 5,733            |
| Thrombin (3)                                     | 31,000            | (3)      | (10,000)         |
| $\beta$ -Lactoglobulin (4)                       | 35,000            | 2        | 17,500           |
| Avidin (5)                                       | 53,000            | 3        | 18,000           |
| Hemoglobin (6)                                   | 64,500            | 4        | 16,000           |
| Glycerol 1-phosphate dehydrogenase (7, 8)        | 78,000            | 2        | 40,000           |
| Alkaline phosphatase (9)                         | 80,000            | 2        | 40,000           |
| Enolase (10)                                     | 82,000            | 2        | 41,000           |
| Liver alcohol dehydrogenase (11)                 | 84,000            | 2        | 42,000           |
| Procarboxypeptidase (12)                         | 87,000            | 1        | 34,500           |
|                                                  |                   | 2        | 25,000           |
| Firefly luciferase (13)                          | 92,000            | 2        | 52,000           |
| Hexokinase (14)                                  | 96,000            | 4        | 24,000           |
| Hemerythrin (15)                                 | 107,000           | 8        | 13,500           |
| Tryptophan synthetase A (16)                     | 29,000            | 1        | 29,000           |
| Tryptophan synthetase B (16)                     | 117,000           | 2        | 60,000           |
| Mammary glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (17)   | 130,000           | 2        | 63,000           |
| Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (8, 18) | 140,000           | 4        | 37,000           |
| Aldolase (19)                                    | 142,000           | 3        | 50,000           |
| Lactic dehydrogenase (20)                        | 150,000           | 4        | 35,000           |
| Yeast alcohol dehydrogenase (7, 21)              | 150,000           | 4        | 37,000           |
| Ceruloplasmin (22)                               | 151,000           | 8        | 18,000           |
| Threonine deaminase (23)                         | 160,000           | 4        | 40,000           |
| Thetin homocysteine methyltransferase (24)       | 180,000           | 3-4      | 50,000           |
| Fumarase (25)                                    | 194,000           | 4        | 48,500           |
| Serum lipoprotein (26)                           | 200,000           | 6        | 36,500           |
| Tryptophanase (27)                               | 220,000           | 2        | (125,000)        |
| Pyruvate kinase (28)                             | 237,000           | 4        | 57,200           |
| Catalase (29)                                    | 250,000           | 4        | 60,000           |
| Phycocyanin (30)                                 | 266,000           | 2        | 134,000          |
|                                                  | 134,000           | 3        | 46,000           |
| Mitochondrial adenosine triphosphatase (31)      | 284,000           | 10       | 26,000           |
| Aspartyl transcarbamylase (32)                   | 310,000           | 2        | 96,000           |
|                                                  |                   | 4        | 30,000           |
| Lipovitellin (33)                                | 400,000           | 2        | 200,000          |
| Apoferitin (34)                                  | 480,000           | 20       | 24,000           |
| Urease (35)                                      | 483,000           | 6        | 83,000           |
| Phosphorylase (36)                               | 495,000           | 4        | 125,000          |
| Fraction I protein, carboxydismutase (37)        | 515,000           | 24       | 22,000           |
| $\beta$ -Galactosidase (38)                      | 520,000           | 4        | 130,000          |
|                                                  | 130,000           | 3-4      | (40,000)         |
| Myosin (39)                                      | 620,000           | 3        | 200,000          |
| Pyruvate carboxylase (40)                        | 660,000           | 4        | 165,000          |
|                                                  | 165,000           | 4        | 45,000           |
| Thyroglobulin (41)                               | 669,000           | 2        | 335,000          |
| Propionyl carboxylase (42)                       | 700,000           | 4        | 175,000          |
| Lipoic reductase-transacetylase (43)             | 1,600,000         | 60       | 27,000           |
| Glutamic dehydrogenase (44)                      | 2,000,000         | 8        | 250,000          |
|                                                  | 250,000           | 5        | 50,000           |
| Hemocyanin (45)                                  | 300,000-9,000,000 |          | 385,000          |
|                                                  |                   |          | 70,000           |
|                                                  |                   |          | 35,000           |
| Chlorocruorin (46)                               | 2,750,000         | 12       | 250,000          |
| Brome grass mosaic virus (47)                    | 4,600,000         | 180      | 20,000           |
| Turnip-yellow mosaic virus (48)                  | 5,000,000         | 150      | 21,000           |
| Poliomyelitis virus (49)                         | 5,500,000         | 130      | 27,000           |
| Cucumber mosaic virus (50)                       | 6,000,000         | 185      | 21,500           |
| Alfalfa mosaic virus (51)                        | 7,400,000         | 160      | 35,000           |
| Bushy stunt virus (52)                           | 9,000,000         | 120      | 60,000           |
| Potato virus X (53)                              | 35,000,000        | 650      | 52,000           |
| Tobacco mosaic virus (54)                        | 40,000,000        | 2130     | 17,500           |

of dissociation can be clearly recognized; in such instances the entry includes two (or more) rows specifying the relations between the different aggregates.

In some instances an arbitrary decision has been made regarding the "natural" molecular weight, since some proteins form aggregating as well as disaggregating systems. Some such systems, such as the seed proteins, have been omitted entirely from Table 1 because it is still difficult to decide what is their "natural" state.

The most accessible references are given for each entry; they do not necessarily include the source most deserving of credit for establishing the subunit interrelations; such sources are mentioned in the cited works. Certain reviews (1) give less-complete compilations with more details for individual proteins.

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## Activity and Responsivity in Rats after Magnesium Pemoline Injections

**Abstract.** Rats injected intraperitoneally with magnesium pemoline avoided a buzzing sound (conditioned stimulus) associated with an electric shock to the feet (unconditioned stimulus) more frequently than controls. Drug-injected rats did not avoid the foot shock more frequently than controls, although the experimental rats did have shorter response latencies in the active avoidance task. In subsequent experiments which measured activity changes and response to the buzzing sound alone, it was found that magnesium pemoline caused a lesser decrease in activity level and a more sustained responsivity to the buzzer's sound than did control injections of tragacanth. This may account for the latency differences observed in the avoidance task.

Recently, Glasky and Simon (1) reported that magnesium pemoline, a mild stimulant of the central nervous system, also stimulates the synthesis of brain RNA polymerases in the rat (2). Plotnikoff (3, 4) investigated the effects of oral administration of magnesium pemoline on the subsequent active

avoidance behavior of rats. In the first of these behavioral studies (3), it was reported that rats receiving this drug had shorter response latencies after the first trial in an active avoidance task, and that this difference was still present 24 hours later during a retention test. Plotnikoff concluded, on the basis of