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Properties of Androsterone-Sulfating Sulfotransferase in Female Rat Liver*

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Some properties of androsterone (AD)-sulfating sulfotransferase (ST) present in female rat livers were characterized. Based on the substrate specificities of the enzyme preparation obtained by anion exchange chromatography and 3'-phosphoadenosine 5'-phosphate (PAP)-agarose affinity chromatography, AD-ST was supposed to be among isoenzymes of hydroxysteroid STs. The identity of the AD-ST with the isoenzymes of hydroxysteroid ST, however, remains unclear at present. The enzyme preparation revealed a wide range of native molecular weight with a major M_r of some 600000. The AD-ST did not appear to have a homogeneous isoelectric point, because the enzymatic activity was spread over a wide range of the pH gradient, centering around pH 6.6 on chromatofocusing. On sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, the AD-ST showed a subunit with M_r of 30000, which was similar to the hydroxysteroid STs purified previously. Under denaturing conditions the subunit was demonstrated to be composed of three protein species containing distinct pI values (pI 6.1, 6.7 and 7.2). The AD-ST was thus supposed to be an oligomer with high molecular weight, in which the subunits of different pI values are assembled in various association numbers.

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