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論 文 名 「Functional characterization of thioredoxin specific glutathione

peroxidase isoenzymes of Arabidopsis thaliana

シロイヌナズナにおけるチオレドキシン依存型グルタチオン

ペルオキダーゼアイソエンザイムの機能解析」

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論文要旨

The production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) occurs under normal metabolic conditions but enhanced in response to various types of biotic and abiotic stresses. However, not only the source of damage, ROS are also utilized as signaling molecules by living organisms to adjust the metabolic processes to the changing environmental conditions and to bolster the defence mechanism in response to stress. The redox homeostasis of ROS is vital for sustenance of normal function. The sessile nature of plants implies that they must attune to extreme environmental conditions to keep ROS at threshold levels. Thus plants, like other living organisms, have evolved a complex antioxidant defence system to keep ROS in check and maintain cellular redox homeostasis. All the sub-cellular compartments have the potential to produce ROS. Plants contain families of ROS-scavenging enzymes localized in different sub-cellular compartments to check any increase in ROS at the site of production.

The glutathione peroxidase (GPX) isoenzymes play a key role in the protection of the mammalian cells against oxidative damage. GPX isoenzymes have been isolated from different plant species; however, their exact function in plants is not well understood. Eight genes (AtGPX1-8) encoding proteins with significant homology to the mammalian GPX isoenzymes have been identified in Arabidopsis thaliana. Like the other GPX isoenzymes obtained from plant and photosynthetic organisms, these isoenzymes are well conserved in the characteristic GPX domains but lack the amino acids necessary for dimerization or GSH binding. Based on the putative aminoacid sequences, it is predicted that these isoenzymes were directed to different sub-cellular

compartments. They are ubiquitously expressed throughout the life cycle of plants and in different plant tissues. In silico analysis of the transcripts exhibited that three isoenzymes, AtGPX1, 2 and 6 were highly expressed at different growth stages and plant tissues. The transcript abundance of AtGPX3, 5 and 8 was one third that of the highly expressed GPX genes, whereas, AtGPX4 and 7 had very low expression. The expression of the various GPX genes at different growth stages and plant tissues is consistent with their sub-cellular localization. The transcripts and protein levels of these isoenzymes increased significantly after exposure of Arabidopsis plants to various types of stress conditions, surmising involvement in cellular protection.

Four mature GPX isoenzymes, AtGPX1, 2, 5, and 6 were over-expressed in Escherichia coli and characterized. Interestingly, these proteins can reduce H₂O₂ and lipids hydroperoxides using *E. coli* thioredoxin, but not glutathione as an electron donor. The reduction activities of the recombinant proteins with H₂O₂ were 2-7 times higher compared with cumene hydroperoxide. Lower reduction activities were recorded with PUFAOOH and PCOOH. However, these isoenzymes were not able to reduce hydroperoxides with the two cytosolic types of thioredoxins from A. thaliana. Similarly, it was found that the three Cys residues conserved in the GPX isoenzymes from plants and photosynthetic organisms are necessary for disulfide bond formation and reduction of hydroperoxides using Trx. The Km values of the recombinant proteins for Trx and H₂O₂ were 2.2~4.0 μM and 14.0~25.4 μM, respectively. Though they are weakly homologous, they may form a new group of Prx in plants and photosynthetic organisms due to their similar reaction mechanism, substrate specificity, affinity and catalytic efficiency. Due to the three conserved Cys residues, it is suggested that the GPX isoenzymes from plants and photosynthetic organisms may be classified into a distinct group of 3-Cys Prx. These findings suggest the possibility that GPX isoenzymes function to detoxify H_2O_2 and are also involved in the regulation of cellular redox homeostasis by maintaining thiol/disulfide or NADPH/NADP balance.

The AtGPX6 is strongly expressed during the whole life cycles of plants and in various plants tissues. Similarly, application of various abiotic stress conditions has resulted in a significant increase in its expression. Thus, this isoenzyme and AtGPX3, also putatively localized in mitochondria, were selected to clarify the physiological role of the GPX in plants. A homozygous knock out plant of AtGPX3 with complete loss of transcripts was identified in the Salk T-DNA insertion mutants. Plant with significantly low AtGPX6 transcripts and double mutants were created using RNAi approach. The mutants plants had significantly higher level of lipids hydroperoxides and sustained more membrane damage after exposure to various abiotic stress conditions. There was also a significantly more decrease in the total respiration and alteration in the O2 consumption by Cyt C and AOX-dependent pathways in the AtGPX3 mutant plants. The mutant plants had thus accumulated more ROS, suffered a higher extent of membrane damage and there was a redox shift in the activities of the two terminal

oxidases after exposure to abiotic stress conditions. These results demonstrate an important role for GPX proteins in the protection against oxidative stress in plants and other photosynthetic organisms

審査結果の要旨

反応性の高い活性酸素種 (ROS) の生成は普通の代謝過程で、生体内や外部環境からのストレスにより常に生成している。しかしながら、生体への損傷だけでなく、生物の代謝機能の調節による環境適応のための情報伝達や、ストレスからの防御のためのメカニズム発動の引き金として ROS が重要な機能を持つことも知られている。

ROSの酸化還元応答は生体の一般機能の維持保全のためには必須であり、植物が極限環境下で適応するためにも ROS のレベルが一定に維持される。故に植物は他の生物と同様、細胞内酸化還元機能の維持のために、すなわち ROS の影響を避けるために複雑な抗酸化機能発現機構を発達させている。全ての細胞内局部で ROS を生成する高い機能を持っているので、植物はそれに対応する強い ROS 消去機構を各々の細胞内局部に有している。

グルタチオンペルオキシダーゼ (GPX) アイソエンザイムは酸化ストレスからほ乳動物 細胞を守るために中心的な役割を持つ酵素であり、いくつかの植物でも GPX アイソザイム の存在は確認されているが、それらの正確な機能についてはまだ不明である。そこで、高 等植物での ROS 消去系に働く GPX について検討し以下の成果を得た。

生育段階の違い、異なる植物組織での GPX 遺伝子の発現はそれらの細胞内局在と一致し、シロイヌナズナを種々のストレス条件下に置くとこれらのアイソザイムの転写とタンパク質レベルの急激な上昇が認められ、細胞防御機構が働くことを示唆している。

そこで、GPX アイソザイム 4 種、AtGPX1, 2, 5, 6 遺伝子を大腸菌に導入して過剰発現させて、これらのタンパク質の機能解析を行った。興味深いことに、これらの発現タンパク質は大腸菌チオレドキシンを電子供与体として、H202 とリピドヒドロペルオキシドを分解することが判明した。このときグルタチオンは電子供与体とはならなかった。

AtGPX6 は植物の全ライフサイクル中に種々の組織で強く発現し、特に環境ストレスに対して強く応答した。このアイソザイムと AtGPX3 はミトコンドリアに局在するので、植物における GPX の生理的機能を明らかにするためにさらにこれらのアイソザイムについて、AtGPX 遺伝子のノックアウト変異種を作製して検討した。さらに、AtGPX6 の低転写活性変

異とのダブル変異種も得て、これらの植物が高いヒドロペルオキシドレベルを示すこと、環境ストレスを与えると膜に高い頻度で障害が生まれることを証明した。さらに、AtGPX3変異種はミトコンドリアでの酸素消費(呼吸)活性の低下、アドレノドキシン依存性の代謝活性の変化が認められた。そして変異植物は著量の ROS を蓄積し、より高度な膜障害を生じて、環境ストレスの増大と共に、酸化系に大きなストレスを生み出すことが明らかになった。これらの結果は、GPX が植物を始めとする光合成生物において、酸化ストレスからの防御機構に大きな役割を持つことが明らかになった。

以上の成果は、植物生理学、生化学、分子生物学および比較生物学の分野に大きく貢献するものであり、本論文の審査並びに、最終試験の結果と併せて、博士(学術)の学位を授与することを適当と認める。