

THE RESPONSES OF ANURAN METALLOTHIONEIN TO ZINC OXIDE NANOPARTICLES ARE DISTORTED IN COMBINE EXPOSURES

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Nanonized Zinc oxide (nZnO) is an expected constituent of contemporary environmental pollution. In the polluted environments, the combination of various stressors including typical pesticides and climate changes can complicate the interpretation and assessment of biological responses to engineering nanoparticles. We studied the effects of nZnO (3.1 μM), combinations of nZnO and fungicide Tattoo (Ta, 91 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) at 18 °C, and nZnO at 25 °C (nZnO+t°) on the male marsh frog *Pelophylax ridibundus* after 14 days of exposure. Characteristics of metal (Zn, Cu, Cd) distribution with the participation of metallothionein (MT) and signs of toxicity were evaluated. Decomposition of nZnO was proved only in the exposure to nZnO alone due to the elevated levels of Zn uptake and Zn-MT in the liver and vitellogenin (Zn carrier) in blood plasma. In the combine exposures the level of metalated MTs was decreased with the increase of nonmetalated MT portion. The combine effect of nZnO and heat stress decreased the level of immunoreactive MT and affected Cathepsin D. Both combine exposures increased hepatic GSH&GSSG and DNA fragmentation levels. All exposures caused up-regulation of CYP-450 and caspase-3 activities.

Keywords: nanoparticles, zinc, metallothionein, *Pelophylax ridibundus*.

Zinc oxide nanoparticles (nZnO) are widely used in the industry and personal care products. The biological effects of n-ZnO can be caused by specific physico-chemical properties of nanosized particles and their interactions with the cellular structures and/or on the biological activity of the released metal [2, 6]. In the polluted environments, the combination of various stressors including typical pesticides and climate changes can complicate the interpretation and assessment of biological responses to engineering nanoparticles. For this study, we have selected commonest agricultural thiocarbamate fungicide Tattoo. Our earlier study has shown that Tattoo has negative impacts on frogs, particularly on the habitants from polluted area [3]. The thermal stress was shown to distort typical molecular responses to pollutants in freshwater mussels [6].

Materials and Methods

Adult males of marsh frog *Pelophylax ridibundus* (8-10 cm long) out of the breeding season were collected from a pristine area and transported to the laboratory. Experiments were performed in accordance with the national and institutional guidelines for the protection of animal welfare with permission of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, No 466/17.04.2013 Committee on the Bio-Ethics at TNPU (No 2/10.06.2013). Frogs were randomly distributed into five groups (15 individuals per group). One group was exposed to the aquarium water only and was considered control (C). Other groups were exposed to nZnO (3.1 μM), combinations of nZnO and fungicide Tattoo (Ta, 91 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) at 18 °C, and nZnO at 25 °C (nZnO+t°) during 14 days with the replacing of water medium each two days. The isolation and quantification of total metallothionein (MT) protein (MT-SH), metalated MT (MT-Me) and immunore-

active MT (MTi), determining of metals (Zn, Cu, Cd) in the tissue of liver and in corresponding MT as well as concentrations of reduced & oxidised glutathione (GSH&GSSG), and activities of caspase-3 (EC 3.4.22.56) and Cathepsin D (EC 3.4.23.5) [total and free (released from lysosomes)] in the liver was described in details in [4]. Level of vitellogenin-like protein (Vtg-LP) was determined as it was described in [5]. The 96-well-plate *semi-quantitative* Biomarker ELISA Kit (Biosense, Norway) was used to determine of vitellogenin (Vtg) in the blood serum and CYP450 in the liver according to the manufacturer's protocols. For analysis of MT-Me, sample size was 3 per group, each biological replicate consisting of pooled tissues from five frogs. For all other traits and all experimental treatment groups, sample size was 8. The data are presented as means \pm standard deviation (SD) unless indicated otherwise. All statistical calculations were performed with Statistica v. 10.0 and Excel for Windows-2010.

Results and Discussion

Results are represented in Table. Only nZnO in the exposure alone provoked the elevation of Zn concentration in the tissue and in MT without the changing of MT metal composition. In the complex exposure, the up-regulation of MT-SH (by nZnO+Ta) or its down-regulation (by nZnO+ t^o) was accompanied by the impairment in the metal-binding capacity (MT-Me) and even by the loss of typical immunoreactive properties (MTi) of MT (by nZnO+ t^o). The determining of the level of Zn-carrier protein vitellogenin confirmed this vulnerability of Zn-dependent processes. The elevated GSH&GSSG level jointly with the increase in the nonmetalated and partially oxidized MT portions [(MT-SH)-(MT-Me) and MTi correspondingly] confirmed the activation of oxidative stress response, particularly by the heat effect. Elevated levels of CYP-450 activity and DNA fragmentation had shown high sensibility of frog to the impacts even in the applied low environmentally realistic concentrations. However, the lysosome dependent Cathepsin D activity and the sensitivity of its release from lysosomes detected the particular deleterious effect of heat stress and dysregulation of apoptotic cascades.

Effect of nZnO alone and in combine exposures with fungicide Tattu or elevated temperature on the zinc-dependent characteristics and toxicity in the liver and blood of *P. ridibundus* (M \pm S.D., n=3 for MT-Me, n=8 for all other data)

Parameters	Groups			
	Control	nZnO	nZnO+Ta	nZnO+ t^o
Liver				
MT-SH, $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ FW	78.2 \pm 9.7	98.5 \pm 10.2*	155.4 \pm 18.2*	55.3 \pm 6.2*
MT-Me, $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ FW	73.5 \pm 8.4	108.9 \pm 11.2*	24.2 \pm 2.1*	21.3 \pm 2.2*
MTi, RU g^{-1} FW	7.2 \pm 0.5	7.9 \pm 0.8	6.5 \pm 0.7	1.2 \pm 0.1*
GSH, $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ FW	3.4 \pm 0.5	3.9 \pm 0.4	8.3 \pm 0.7*	12.3 \pm 0.6*
GSSG, $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ FW	0.44 \pm 0.08	0.52 \pm 0.05*	1.2 \pm 0.2*	1.7 \pm 0.1*
Total Cu, mkg g^{-1} FW	25.6 \pm 2.4	12.2 \pm 1.7*	13.6 \pm 1.5*	10.5 \pm 0.6*
Total Zn, mkg g^{-1} FW	60.6 \pm 5.2	94.7 \pm 9.4*	133.1 \pm 5.6*	67.6 \pm 5.0
Total Cd, mkg g^{-1} FW	2.9 \pm 0.3	4.4 \pm 0.7*	3.3 \pm 0.4	0.8 \pm 0.1*
Cu-MT, mkg g^{-1} FW	1.4 \pm 0.1	2.1 \pm 0.2*	2.3 \pm 0.2*	0.4 \pm 0.05*
Zn-MT, mkg g^{-1} FW	8.7 \pm 0.9	12.9 \pm 1.4*	1.6 \pm 0.2*	2.3 \pm 0.2*
Cd-MT, mkg g^{-1} FW	0.1 \pm 0.01	0.1 \pm 0.01	0.3 \pm 0.04*	0.43 \pm 0.04*
CYP 450, RU / g^{-1} FW	1.1 \pm 0.2	3.1 \pm 0.1*	2.1 \pm 0.3*	2.5 \pm 0.2*
Caspase-3, pmole min^{-1} mg^{-1} proteins	24.9 \pm 5.4	31.6 \pm 3.9*	47.9 \pm 6.0*	82.8 \pm 11.7*
Cathepsin free, pmole min^{-1} mg^{-1} proteins	0.36 \pm 0.09	0.13 \pm 0.03*	0.22 \pm 0.03*	0.48 \pm 0.05
Cathepsin total, pmole min^{-1} mg^{-1} proteins	1.1 \pm 0.2	0.8 \pm 0.2*	0.7 \pm 0.1*	1.2 \pm 0.1
DNA fragmentation, RFU mg^{-1} protein	101.7 \pm 16.9	132.2 \pm 29.8	143.2 \pm 29.0*	173.3 \pm 36.0*
Blood plasma				
Vtg-LP, $\mu\text{g P}_i\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}$ proteins	47.3 \pm 8.6	69.5 \pm 7.8*	52.3 \pm 5.4	49.2 \pm 5.3
Vtg (ELISA), RU $\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ plasma	1.5 \pm 0.1	2.0 \pm 0.2*	0.5 \pm 0.04*	1.5 \pm 0.2

Note: the asterisks indicate that the values are significantly different from the respective control values ($p<0.05$).

These results confirm the previous experience of our research of cellular specialized thiols in different animal models started in 1970-1980s [1, 3-6]. In our present vision, we place the inability of MT to keep Zn in the centrum of the explanation of irrelevant responses to the environmental challenges and the exhausting of typical responses in complex exposures.

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РЕАКЦІЇ МЕТАЛОТІОНЕЇНУ ЖАБИ НА ВПЛИВ НАНОЧАСТИНОК ОКСИДУ ЦИНКУ СПОТВОРЮЮТЬСЯ У КОМПЛЕКСНИХ ВПЛИВАХ

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Наноформа оксиду цинку (nZnO) є прогнозованою складовою сучасного забруднення середовища. Оцінка біологічних реакцій на вплив техногенних наночастинок у забрудненому середовищі реакції може ускладнюватися поєднаним впливом різноманітних стресорів, зокрема, типових пестицидів і змін клімату. Ми

вивчали вплив nZnO (3,1 мкМ), поєднання nZnO та фунгіциду Татту (Ta, 91 мкг Л⁻¹) за 18 °C та nZnO за 25 °C (nZnO+Ta) на самців жаби озерної *Pelophylax ridibundus* після 14 діб експозиції. Оцінювалися характеристики розподілу металів (Zn, Cu, Cd) за участю металотіонеїну (MT) та ознаки токсичності. Було доведено, що лише вплив nZnO спричиняє біодеградацію nZnO зі збільшенням рівня акумуляції Zn і Zn-MT у печінці та вітелогеніну (Zn-транспортного протеїну) у плазмі крові. За спільногоВпливу рівень металлованого MT зменшувався у поєднанні зі зростанням рівня неметалльованого MT. Комбінований вплив nZnO та теплового стресу викликав зменшення вмісту імунореактивної форми MT і зміни активності катепсина D. Обидва комбіновані впливи збільшили рівень GSH і GSSG та фрагментації ДНК у тканині печінки. Зростання активностей CYP-450 та каспази-3 відзначалось у всіх експериментальних групах.

Ключові слова: наночастинки, цинк, металотіонеїн, *Pelophylax ridibundus*.

РЕАКЦИИ МЕТАЛЛОТИОНЕИНА ЛЯГУШКИ НА ВЛИЯНИЕ НАНОЧАСТИЦ ОКСИДА ЦИНКА ИСКАЖАЮТСЯ В КОМПЛЕКСНЫХ ВОЗДЕЙСТВИЯХ

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Наноформа оксида цинка (nZnO) является прогнозированной составляющей современного загрязнения среды. Оценка биологических реакций на воздействие техногенных наночастиц может усложняться совместным влиянием различных стрессоров, в частности, типичных пестицидов и изменений климата. Мы изучали влияние nZnO (3,1 мкМ), сочетания nZnO и фунгицида Татту (Ta, 91 мкг Л⁻¹) при 18 °C и nZnO при 25 °C (nZnO+Ta) на самцов озерной лягушки *Pelophylax ridibundus* после 14 суток экспозиции. Оценивались характеристики распределения металлов (Zn, Cu, Cd) с участием металлотионеина (MT) и признаки токсичности. Было доказано, что только влияние nZnO вызывает биодеградацию nZnO с увеличением уровня аккумуляции Zn и Zn-MT в печени и вителлогенина (Zn-транспортного протеина) в плазме крови. При совместном воздействии уровень металлизированного MT уменьшался при увеличении уровня неметаллизированного MT. Комбинированное влияние nZnO и теплового стресса приводило к уменьшению содержания иммунореактивной формы MT и изменению активности катепсина D. Оба комбинированных воздействия увеличивали уровень GSH и GSSG и фрагментации ДНК в ткани печени. Во всех экспериментальных группах отмечалось возрастание активностей CYP-450 и каспазы-3.

Ключевые слова: наночастички, цинк, металлотионеин, *Pelophylax ridibundus*.