

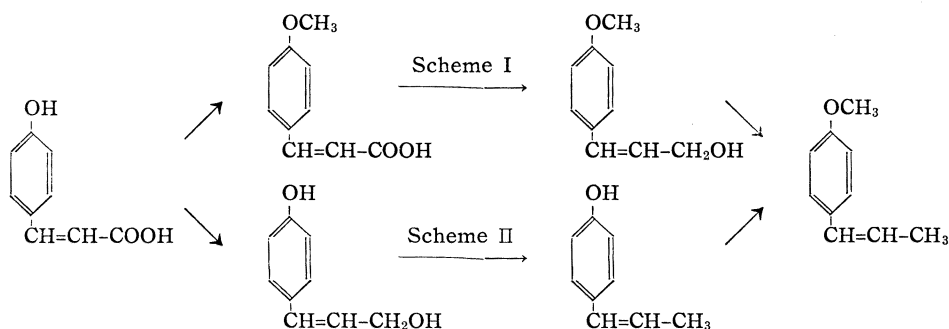
176. **Ko Kaneko** : Biogenetic Studies of Natural Products. VIII.¹⁾
 Biosynthesis of Anethole by *Foeniculum vulgare*. (4).

(Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University*¹⁾)

In the previous papers²⁻⁴⁾ of this series on the biosynthesis of anethole by *Foeniculum vulgare*, it was shown that anethole was synthesized from a phenylalanine path through phenylpyruvic acid, cinnamic acid and 4-hydroxycinnamic acid. These results, when estimated by isotopic and enzymatic methods, were in good agreement with those obtained from the biosynthesis of other phenylpropanoids, such as lignin and flavones.⁵⁻⁷⁾

It was from this point of view that the author was interested in the relationship between the reduction of the carboxyl group and the transmethylation of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid.

As regards the reduction and the transmethylation of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid, two possibilities are to be conceivable.



In this paper, an attempt was made to ascertain the actual route by the use of the inhibition method, as described previously.³⁾

Experimental

Cultivation of Plant, Extraction and Isolation of Enzyme System—They were conducted in the same manner as described in the previous paper.³⁾

Assay of Enzymatic Synthesis of Anethole and its Assumed Intermediates—The condition of incubation was described in a previous paper.³⁾

The change of the enzymatic reactions was measured at the end of every hour. The aliquots of the reaction mixture were acidified with 10% HCl, treated with 20 mg. of pure anethole, 4-methoxycinnamic acid, 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol and cinnamyl alcohol, and extracted with Et₂O for 5 hr. They were then treated in the same manner as described in the previous paper.³⁾ 4-Hydroxycinnamic acid and 4-methoxycinnamic acid obtained from the reaction mixture were purified by paper chromatography,³⁾ the R_f values of which were 0.35 and 0.27, respectively.

*¹ Kita 12-jo, Nishi 5-chome, Sapporo, Hokkaido (金子 光).

1) Part VII : This Bulletin, **10**, 1119 (1962).

2) K. Kaneko : *Ibid.*, **8**, 611 (1960).

3) *Idem* : *Ibid.*, **8**, 875 (1960).

4) *Idem* : *Ibid.*, **9**, 108 (1961).

5) S.N. Acerbo, W.J. Schubert, F.F. Nord : J. Am. Chem. Soc., **80**, 1990 (1958).

6) S.A. Brown, A.C. Neish : Can. J. Biochem. Physiol., **34**, 769 (1956).

7) D.R. McCalla, A.C. Neish : *Ibid.*, **37**, 537 (1959).

Also, 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol and anethole were purified by silica gel chromatostrip,³⁾ and the Rf values were 0.17 and 0.74, respectively.

Preparation of 4-Methoxycinnamyl Alcohol—Ethyl 4-methoxycinnamate was reduced by LiBH_4 , as described by Kollonitsch.⁸⁾

A solution of 1.55 g. of the ester, 2.6 g. of LiI and 0.7 g. of NaBH_4 dissolved in dehyd. tetrahydrofuran was heated at 60° for 2 hr. with vigorous stirring. Then the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness dissolved in H_2O and extracted with Et_2O . After the Et_2O extract was evaporated, the resulting oily residue was hydrolysed with 5% NaOH for 2 hr. and extracted with Et_2O . After evaporation of Et_2O , the resulting oily residue was distilled in a reduced pressure and the fraction of b.p. $132\sim 138^\circ$ was collected; yield, 0.6 g. This fraction was separated by silica gel chromatography into the original ester and 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol, which were further submitted to silica gel chromatostrip.³⁾ The Rf values obtained were 0.45 and 0.17, respectively. The lower spot was extracted with Et_2O . Yield, 0.2 g. (18%); its phenylurethane melted at 46° . *Anal.* Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3\text{N}$: C, 72.06; H, 6.05. Found: C, 71.97; H, 6.21.

Results and Discussion

The previous paper³⁾ of this series demonstrated that the cell free enzyme system from *Foeniculum vulgare* synthesized anethole from phenylalanine-[2- ^{14}C] in the presence of ATP, DPN, phosphate, and ascorbate. In this study, the enzyme system was also shown to synthesize anethole from 4-hydroxycinnamic acid-[1- ^{14}C], and these results coincided with those of the previous one⁴⁾ using phenylalanine-[2- ^{14}C]. The change of radioactivity of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid-[1- ^{14}C] in this enzyme reaction is shown in Fig. 1, which shows clearly that after 3 hours the radioactivity of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid-[1- ^{14}C] distributed to 4-methoxycinnamic acid in a large quantity, and to anethole and 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol in a minute amount. This was followed by the rapid decrease in the radioactivity of 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol and anethole showed a gradual increase and reached its maximum value after 8 hours. From the data given in Fig. 1, it seems to indicate that 4-hydroxycinnamic acid is methylated with methionine and ATP at the first stage in which the rate of reaction is relatively high. And then, the amount of 4-methoxycinnamic acid reduced gradually resulting in the formation of 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol and anethole.

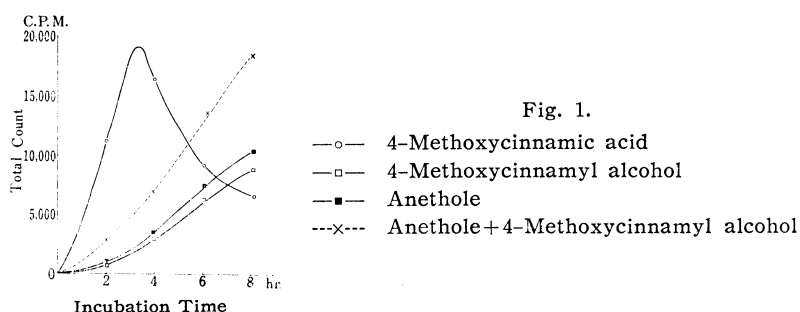


Fig. 1.

Experiments were made to observe the effects of 4-methoxycinnamic acid and 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol on the synthesis of anethole from 4-hydroxycinnamic acid-[1- ^{14}C] by the inhibition method, as described previously.³⁾

From Table I, it is apparent that 4-methoxycinnamic acid and 4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol have strong dilution effect of the radioactivity which incorporated into anethole from 4-methoxycinnamic acid-[1- ^{14}C] hence these compounds have an inhibitory action on this reaction.

8) J. Kollonitsch, O. Fushs, V. Gabor: *Nature*, **173**, 125 (1954).

TABLE. I.

Exp. No.	Addition	Concentration (M)	Radioactivity	
			c.p.m./mmole	Ratio
1.	None		8,870	100.0
	4-Methoxycinnamic acid	0.015	3,017	34.1
	4-Methoxycinnamyl alcohol	0.015	2,359	26.6
	Cinnamyl alcohol	0.015	7,896	89.0
2.	None		14,805	100.0
	4-Methoxycinnamic acid	0.015	4,250	28.6
	4-Methoxycinnamyl alcohol	0.015	3,892	26.6

The incubation mixture contained 10 μ c of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid-[1- 14 C]. The assay conditions were described in the previous paper.³⁾ In Exp. 1, each incubation tube contained 135 mg. of protein and in Exp. 2, each tube contained 182 mg. of protein. Both tubes were incubated at 30° for 6 hr.

Scheme II was not examined under an identical condition but it may be concluded that Scheme I will furnish an important route of anethole biosynthesis in *Foeniculum* plant.

Sincere gratitude is expressed to Prof. H. Mitsuhashi of Hokkaido University for his kind encouragement. A part of the expenses of the present work was defrayed by the Grant-in-Aid for Institutional Research of Education and Rockefeller Foundation Grant which are gratefully acknowledged.

Summary

The anethole biosynthesis, using the cell-free enzyme system of *Foeniculum* plant was established as follows: 4-Hydroxycinnamic acid→4-methoxycinnamic acid→4-methoxycinnamyl alcohol→anethole.

(Received September 2, 1961)

UDC 547.314.07 : 547.853.4

177. Yasuo Yura : Studies on Acetylenic Compounds. XXV.*²

Ring Closure. (5). New Synthetic Method of Heterocyclic Compounds from α -Amino- and α -N-substituted Aminoacetylenic Compounds.

(Takamine Laboratory, Sankyo Co., Ltd.*¹)

In the previous paper^{1,2)} the author reported that 2-aminothiazole, 2-thiazolethiol, and 2-aminoimidazole derivatives were easily synthesized by refluxing alcoholic solution of α -haloacetylenic compounds with thiourea, ammonium dithiocarbamate, and guanidine, respectively. As a general application of this reaction to another new ring closure, α -haloacetylenic compounds were allowed to with urea, amide, thioamide, or S-benzyl-isothiurea to obtain derivatives of imidazole, oxazole, or thiazole, respectively. In these

*¹ Nishi-shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (由良靖雄).

*² Part XXIV. I. Iwai, T. Konotsune : Yakugaku Zasshi, 82, 601 (1962).

1) Part XXI. Y. Yura : This Bulletin, 10, 372 (1962).

2) Part XXII. Idem : Ibid., 10, 376 (1962).