composed of all the valence electrons of the specimen. In this case, the electrons of the metal are coupled via the photon gas; their actions are not completely independent. Such a situation is not the case in the usual photosynthetic system; equilibrium or quasi-equilibrium ideas may not be applied. In this situation each photosynthetic event is completely independent of the other events taking place at other sites in the material.

Although in such a complicated system as the photosynthetic unit there could conceivably be a number of events which would use up the electronic energy imparted by photon absorption (such as fluorescence, radiationless transition, etc.), the individual photo-electron interactions are beyond the region of applicability of the second law of thermodynamics and are limited only by the conservation of energy and momentum.

FORMATION OF SUCROSE FROM MALATE IN GERMINATING CASTOR BEANS

I. CONVERSION OF MALATE TO PHOSPHOENOL-PYRUVATE

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It has been established that the enzymes phosphoenol-pyruvate (PEP) carboxylase (reaction i), PEP carboxykinase (reaction ii), and malic enzyme (reaction iii) are widely distributed in plants (3, 9, 16) and are present in tissues capable of an active dark CO₂ fixation (8, 17).

\[
\text{Phosphoenol-pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Mg}^{++}} \text{oxalacetate} + \text{iP} \quad (i)
\]

\[
\text{Phosphoenol-pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{ADP} + \text{iP} \xleftrightarrow{\text{Mg}^{++}} \text{oxalacetate} + \text{ATP} \quad (ii)
\]

\[
\text{Pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{TPNH} \xleftrightarrow{\text{Mg}^{++}} \text{malate} + \text{TPN} \quad (iii)
\]

The finding (9) that malic acid and aspartic acid are early products of dark CO₂ fixation is in accord with the operation of these enzymes during organic acid accumulation. The question of which of these enzymes is operative during acid accumulation is unresolved (9, 17) but there is general agreement that during dark CO₂ fixation the direction of these enzymatic reactions favors malic acid accumulation. In the following light de-acidification period there is some evidence (8) which suggests carbohydrates are synthesized at the expense of organic acids.

In germinating castor beans which carry out a net synthesis of sucrose from acetate units (4, 6)
an analogous problem exists since malic acid is a major early product of acetate utilization, and it has been shown that it is an intermediate in sucrose synthesis from acetate (6). Additional information is described in this paper which confirms that malate in the endosperm is converted to sugar.

In deciding which of the above reactions may be of importance in converting malate to carbohydrate it is of interest that an active malic dehydrogenase is present in extracts from germinating castor beans (7), so that oxalacetate formation may be regarded as a likely first step. It should also be noticed that reaction (i) is not reversible and that free pyruvate is the substrate for reaction (ii). Since it has been shown previously that pyruvate is not an intermediate in the conversion of acetate to sucrose (11) it seems reasonable to suggest that PEP carboxykinase is the enzyme responsible for the production of a glycolytic intermediate from oxalacetate. In this paper we describe the properties of this enzyme from germinating castor beans and other results which are in harmony with this suggestion.

Materials & Methods

Endosperm Slices: Endosperm slices of germinating castor beans for C$^{14}O_2$ fixation studies were prepared as previously described (11). The slices were placed in KH$^+\cdot$O$_3$ and 0.05 m KH$_2$PO$_4$ buffer pH 7.2. The reaction was stopped by boiling 80% ethanol. The slices were then extracted successively with 80%, 50%, and 20% ethanol and the combined extracts were concentrated under reduced pressure at 40°C. The dry residue was washed with ether, dissolved in water, and passed successively through 1 cm columns containing 6 cm Dowex 50 (X8) in the hydrogen form and 6 cm Dowex 1 (X8) in the formate form. The amino acids were eluted from the Dowex 50 resin with 50 ml 1 M NH$_4$OH. The acidic fraction was eluted from the Dowex 1 resin with 50 to 60 ml 8 N formic acid. The radioactivity of the fractions was determined by transferring 0.5 ml aliquots to nickel plated planchets and counting on an aluminized mylar gas-flow counter.

For chromatographic resolution of the acidic fraction, the eluate was dried under reduced pressure at 40°C. The residue was then dissolved in 0.5 ml water. This was applied to paper and the components were separated with butanol-propionic acid-water [equal volumes of (1) 620 ml propionic acid & 790 ml water & (2) 1,246 ml butanol & 84 ml water] as the solvent for 20 hr. The propionic acid was removed by suspending the chromatograms over a steam outlet; the phosphate esters and acids were located by Hanes-Isherwood and brom-cresol green spray reagents, respectively. The phosphate esters, which stayed near the origin, were eluted with water, concentrated, and applied to filter paper and developed with MeOH-NH$_4$OH-H$_2$O (60/10/30) (v/v/v) at 3°C for 18 hours as described by Bandurski and Axelrod (2). The separated phosphate esters were cut out and eluted from the chromatogram and co-chromatographed in the same solvent with known phosphate esters. The chromatograms were then exposed to x-ray film and the radioactive areas and sprayed phosphate esters were compared for coincidence.

Cytoplasmic Particles: 4 day old germinating castor beans were used as the source of cytoplasmic particles and supernatant enzymes which were prepared as described previously (5). Soluble enzyme extracts of these particles were prepared as follows:

I. The particles from the first 18,000 × g spin were homogenized in cold 0.08 M KH$_2$PO$_4$ buffer pH 7.2. The insoluble residue was removed by centrifuging and the supernatant used as the source of enzymes.

II. The particles were homogenized in cold distilled water and lyophilized. The lyophilized powder was dissolved in 0.08 M KH$_2$PO$_4$ buffer pH 7.2, centrifuged, and the supernatant used as the source of enzymes.

Barium-alcohol Precipitation & Chromatographic Separation of P$^{32}$-Phosphate Esters: The phosphate esters produced in the enzyme experiments with P$^{32}$ were separated by the method of Umbreit, Burris, and Stauffer (14) with this modification. The barium salts of the phosphate esters were dissolved and the barium removed with 1 M H$_2$SO$_4$ and the supernatant lyophilized. The lyophilized powder was dissolved in water and applied to filter paper. The chromatography and identification procedures were those described above.

Enzymatic Assays: The PEP carboxykinase ATP-exchange reaction was assayed in castor bean extracts by the methods of Mazelis and Vennesland (10), and Utter and Kurahashi (15). The C$^{14}O_2$ released from oxalacetate-4-C$^{14}$ by citrate treatment was collected in 0.1 M barium hydroxide. The BaC$^{14}O_3$ was plated on microporous porcelain planchets and counted on a windowless gas-flow counter. All figures are corrected for self-absorption and background. The blank which is carried throughout all the exchange reactions is subtracted from the sample values and unless the blank is low, of the order of 50 to 100 cpm, the experiment is discarded.

Reagents: Oxalacetic acid was obtained from the Sigma Chemical Co. and adjusted to pH 6.5 with KOH prior to use. L-Malic acid was obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. Adenosine-triphosphate (ATP), and adenosine-diphosphate were obtained from Pabst Laboratories and adjusted to pH 6.5 with KOH before use. Phosphopyruvic acid-tricyclexylamine salt was obtained from California Corp. Diphenophyllidine nucleotide (DPN) was obtained from Pabst Laboratories.

Radioactive Compounds: Phosphorus 32 was obtained in the form of H$_3$P$^{32}$O$_4$ from Oak Ridge

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Radioactive Compounds: Phosphorus 32 was obtained in the form of H$_3$P$^{32}$O$_4$ from Oak Ridge
National Laboratory. BaC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} was obtained from Tracerlab in isotope concentrations of 0.044 and 0.24 mc/mg. BaC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} was converted to KHC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} by acidifying with lactic acid and trapping the C\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{2} in KOH.

RESULTS

Formation of Sucrose From Malate in Vivo. It is already known that castor bean endosperm tissue, like that of other seedlings rich in fat is able to fix CO\textsubscript{2} into the carboxyl groups of organic acids, preponderantly malic, in the dark, and that sucrose, with C\textsuperscript{14} largely confined to carbons 3 and 4, emerges as the principal product of the fixation (12, 13). In order to demonstrate that the tissue is indeed capable of forming sucrose from malate, endosperm slices were exposed to HC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} in two types of experiment. In the first, samples were withdrawn at intervals and the C\textsuperscript{14} incorporation into organic acid, amino acid, and neutral fractions was determined. The results are shown in figure 1. From this it is clear that incorporation into organic acids (& amino acids) is a primary event and that the form of the curve for C\textsuperscript{14} in sugars is that expected if they had arisen in a subsequent reaction with the organic acids acting as precursors. In view of the suggestion that PEP is an intermediate in these reactions, it is significant that a minor component of the C\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{2} incorporated into the acid fraction was identified by chromatography and co-chromatography as PEP-C\textsuperscript{14}. In a further experiment, it was shown that when slices which had been exposed to HC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} for 10 minutes were transferred to water, the C\textsuperscript{14} in the acid fraction decreased during the subsequent 6 minutes and there was a corresponding increase in the C\textsuperscript{14} content of the sugar fraction. The above relationships would hold true if sucrose was being synthesized from malate (with C\textsuperscript{14} in the carboxyl groups) by reactions which included a single decarboxylative step and a reversal of glycolysis.

Phosphoenol-pyruvate Production in Cytoplasmic Particles. Mitochondria from castor bean endosperm are known to be able to carry out the reactions of the TCA cycle (5) and to produce ATP efficiently during the oxidation of α-ketoglutarate (1). The ability of such particles to produce PEP under these conditions was demonstrated by incubating with α-ketoglutarate, ADP, and KH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4}. The radioactive compounds were isolated from the incubation mixture by the barium-alcohol precipitation method and chromatographed. The P\textsuperscript{32}-phosphate ester which showed up as a clear band running ahead of the other P\textsuperscript{32} labeled products was eluted and co-chromatographed with known PEP. The two compounds coincided nicely. This suggests that ATP\textsuperscript{32} generated during the oxidation of α-ketoglutarate had reacted with oxalacetate to produce PEP.

![Fig. 1. Dark fixation of HC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} in castor bean endosperm slices. ▲ neutral fraction (sugars); O, amino acids; △, organic acids.](image1)

![Fig. 2. PEP carboxykinase exchange reaction. The reaction mixture contains micromoles: Oxalacetate (OAA), 100; sodium fluoride, 15.0; ATP, 15.0; MgCl\textsubscript{2}, 7.5; KHC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3}, 10(1.10 × 10\textsuperscript{6} cpm); 0.5 ml particulate enzyme (solubilized in 0.08 m KH\textsubscript{2}PO\textsubscript{4} buffer pH 7.2) and 0.5 ml supernatant enzyme in 200 micromoles potassium phosphate pH 7.2. Total volume 5.2 ml. Incubation at 25 C.](image2)
Properties of PEP Carboxylase & PEP Carboxykinase: If oxalacetate (OAA) is an intermediate in the formation of PEP by the cytoplasmic particles, the enzymatic reaction converting OAA to PEP should be directly demonstrable. To study this reaction soluble particulate extracts were used (see Materials & Methods). In the exchange reaction, the oxalacetate is phosphorylated and decarboxylated by PEP carboxykinase to give PEP which then reacts with HC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} to generate OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14} by the action of PEP carboxylase. A determination of the activity of overall reaction of the combined enzymes is made by measuring the amount of C\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{2} liberated from the OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14}. Neither enzyme can be assayed individually in a crude extract using this method.

A large pool of OAA is added to the reaction mixture to assure saturation of the PEP carboxykinase, to offset possible losses of OAA through decarboxylation by Mg\textsuperscript{++} or OAA decarboxylase and to provide a trap for the incoming OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14}.

The results in table I show that incorporation of HC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} into the \(\beta\)-carboxyl group of OAA does indeed occur when ATP is provided. At higher ATP levels than those shown in table I, there was a progressive inhibition of the overall reaction. The results in table I establish that Mg\textsuperscript{++} stimulates the overall reaction in accordance with its known effects on PEP carboxykinase and PEP carboxylase.

The total incorporation of C\textsuperscript{14} into OAA in the presence of ATP and Mg\textsuperscript{++} increases with time up to 30 minutes (fig 2).

An attempt to localize the enzymes, PEP carboxykinase and PEP carboxylase, using the exchange reaction showed that the supernatant solution remaining after sedimenting the mitochondria was more than three times as active (on a protein basis) as the particles. However, since in the exchange reaction two enzymes are assayed and there is no reason to expect an identical distribution, the only conclusion from these results is that neither the PEP carboxylase nor the PEP carboxykinase is confined to the particles.

The results in table II show the effect of adding malate and DPN, rather than oxalacetate to the exchange reaction mixture. C\textsuperscript{14} is incorporated into the large malate pool under these conditions, and C\textsuperscript{14} was also present in oxalacetate after 30 minutes. The enzymes in the particulate preparation are therefore capable of establishing an equilibrium between malate, oxalacetate, and phosphoenol pyruvate.

### Table I

**Effects of ATP & Mg\textsuperscript{++} on PEP Carboxykinase Exchange Reaction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) ATP added (micromoles)</th>
<th>CPM/mg BaC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} from OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14}/ml</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>239.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>324.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(b) MgCl\textsubscript{2} added (micromoles)</th>
<th>CPM/mg BaC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3} from OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14}/ml</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>62.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>81.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>125.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the reaction mixtures contained, in micromoles: oxalacetate (OAA), 100; sodium fluoride, 37.5; KHC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3}, 50 (5.5 x 10\textsuperscript{6} cpm); 5 ml of lyophilized particulate powder in 200 micromoles potassium phosphate pH 7.2. Total volume 7.6 ml. Time of incubation at 25 C, 30 minutes.

In (a) the MgCl\textsubscript{2} was held at 18.7 micromoles/ml and the ATP varied as shown.

In (b) the ATP was held constant at 48.6 micromoles/ml and the MgCl\textsubscript{2} varied as shown. The lyophilized enzyme preparation was held in storage for several days between experiments (a) and (b).

### Table II

**Effects of Malate on PEP Carboxykinase Exchange Reaction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPM in OAA-4-C\textsuperscript{14}/ml</th>
<th>CPM in Malate-4-C\textsuperscript{14}/ml</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>269.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reaction mixture contained, in micromoles: malate, 50; sodium fluoride, 15; KHC\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{3}, 50 (5.5 x 10\textsuperscript{6} cpm); DPN, 11.2; 1.0 ml particulate enzymes in 160 micromoles potassium phosphate pH 7.2. Total volume 4.1 ml. Time of incubation at 25 C, 30 minutes.

Discussion

In germinating castor beans the reactions of the glyoxylate cycle when coupled to the production of acetol-CoA from the fatty acid spiral convert fatty acids to malate and then to sucrose (6, 7). The results presented in this paper show that PEP carboxykinase is present in extracts from this material, so that it is now reasonable to invoke the action of this enzyme in the sequence by which malate is converted into a glycolytic intermediate and thence to sucrose. The demonstration that radioactive PEP is one of the early products of dark C\textsuperscript{14}O\textsubscript{2} fixation and the production of PEP\textsuperscript{32} from \(\alpha\)-ketoglutarate and ATP\textsuperscript{32} in the cytoplasmic particles is in accord with the operation of these enzymes in the castor bean endosperm. By studying the combined reactions of PEP carboxykinase and PEP carboxylase it has been shown that given the necessary conditions such as sufficient substrate and ATP, the PEP carboxykinase reaction is easily reversed in the direction of PEP formation from oxalacetate.

It will be noted that in addition to possessing the mechanism bringing about a net synthesis of oxalacetate from acetol units, tissues such as the endosperm of the germinating castor bean generate reduced flavins and pyridine nucleotide in the act of
producing these acetyl units from long chain fatty acids. ATP formed during the subsequent oxidation of these coenzymes would provide the other condition essential for an efficient entry into the glycolytic sequence at the level of PEP. In the somewhat analogous situation of light deacidification in succulent leaves (8) both elements of the assimilatory power required for the production of sucrose from preformed acids arise no doubt from the light reactions in photosynthesis.

Summary

Both phosphoenol-pyruvic carboxylase and phosphoenol-pyruvic carboxykinase are present in castor bean extracts. When ATP was provided the conversion of oxalacetate to PEP was strongly stimulated. Magnesium ion is required as a cofactor in this reaction. P32-labeled phosphoenol-pyruvate was produced when cytoplasmic particles were provided with P32-labeled phosphate and \( \alpha \)-ketoglutarate, and C14 labeled phosphoenol-pyruvate was detected when slices of castor bean endosperm were converting malate-C14 (produced in vivo from \( \text{C}^{14}\text{O}_2 \)) to sugars. The results presented support the suggestion that phosphoenol pyruvic carboxykinase is one of the enzymes involved in the conversion of malate to carbohydrate which occurs in germinating castor beans.

Literature Cited