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# Effects of high fat diet intake and a mitochondrial antioxidant (MitoQ) on liver mitochondrial activity and cardiolipin content in rats



cfeillet@supagro.inra.fr

C Feillet-Coudray<sup>1</sup>, G Fouret<sup>1</sup>, E Tolika<sup>2</sup>, J Lecomte<sup>3</sup>, M Aoun<sup>4</sup>, MP Murphy<sup>5</sup>, C Ferreri<sup>2</sup>, E Dubreucq<sup>6</sup>, C Coudray<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>INRA UMR 866 DMEM, Montpellier, Fr, <sup>2</sup>ISOF Bio Free Radicals, Bologna, Italy, <sup>3</sup>CIRAD, UMR IATE, Montpellier, Fr, <sup>4</sup>INSERM U1046, CNRS UMR9214, Université de Montpellier, Fr, <sup>5</sup>MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit/MRC Building, Cambridge UK, <sup>6</sup>Montpellier SupAgro, UMR IATE, Montpellier, Fr.



## A-Introduction

Excessive intake of dietary fat is one of the major cause of appearance and progression of metabolic syndrome features, such as liver steatosis. These features are associated with structural and functional alterations of mitochondria. Recent studies indicate that some of these alterations are related to the content and quality of cardiolipin (CL), a phospholipid that occurs mainly in the inner membrane of mitochondria and is involved in the organization and functioning of the mitochondrial respiratory chain complexes [1]

## B-Protocol and methods



24 rats  
Sprague Dawley

1-control (40g soybean oil/kg diet)

2-HF (4% Soybean oil + 31% lard)

3-HF + Mito-Q (375 µmol/kgdiet)

T0

8 weeks

### 2-Liver mitochondrial lipid content

•Mitochondrial PL, including CL, were separated by TLC (Merck plates) revealed with Mb blue spray and quantified using Scanner 3 CAMAG [3]

•Fatty acid content of mitochondrial PL was determined by GC after separation of the PL fraction by TLC

•Reverse transcription q-PCR analyses were performed to evaluate gene expression of enzymes involved in CL synthesis and remodeling

### 3-Liver mitochondrial characteristics

•Membrane fluidity was assessed by ESR using 16-NS [2]

•Membrane potential and ROS production were monitored using respectively Rhodamine (RH-123) and 2',7'-Dichlorofluorescein diacetate

•Respiration was monitored in thermo-stated chambers of high resolution Oxygraph (Oroboros Oxygraph2k, Autriche)

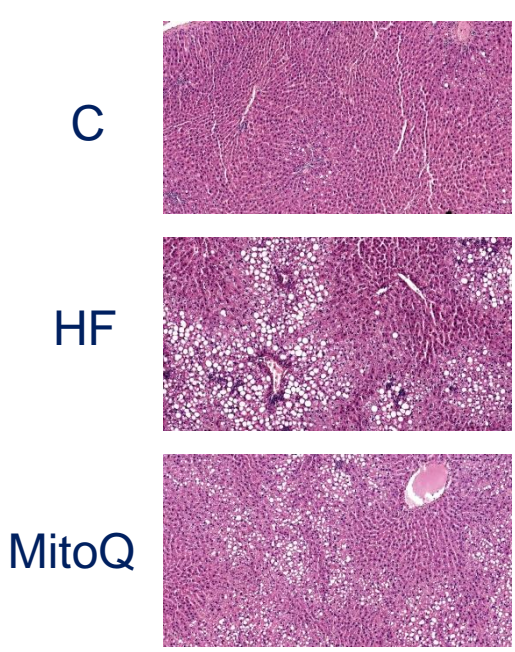
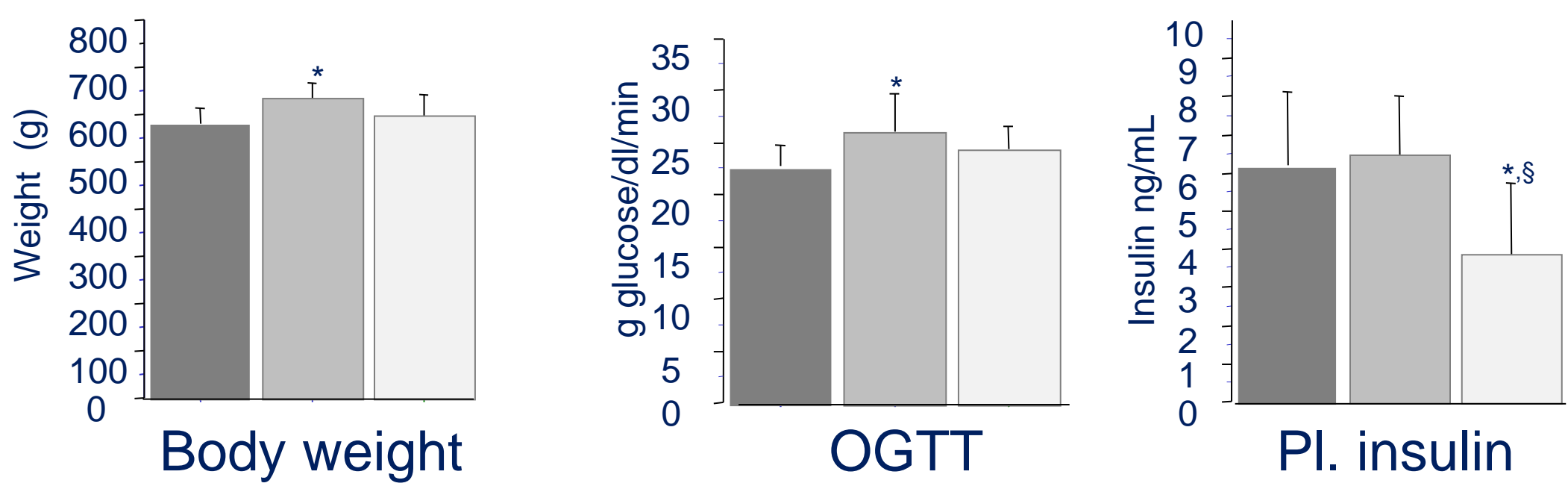
•ATPase activity was determined spectrophotometrically

### 1-Characterisation of rats

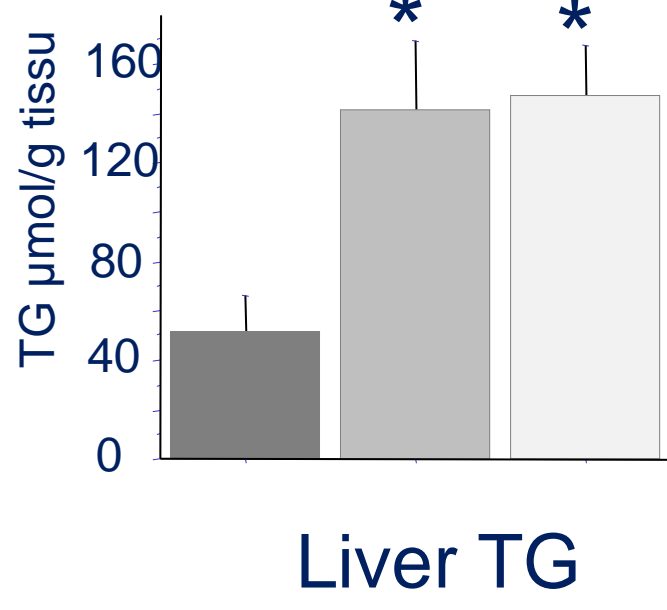
- Oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was completed 4 days before rat sacrifice.
- Plasma insulin was quantified with ELISA kits (Merck Millipore, Allemagne).
- Liver TG levels were quantified by enzymatic methods (TG PAP kit, Biomerieux, Fr)

## C-Results

### 1-Characteristics of the rats



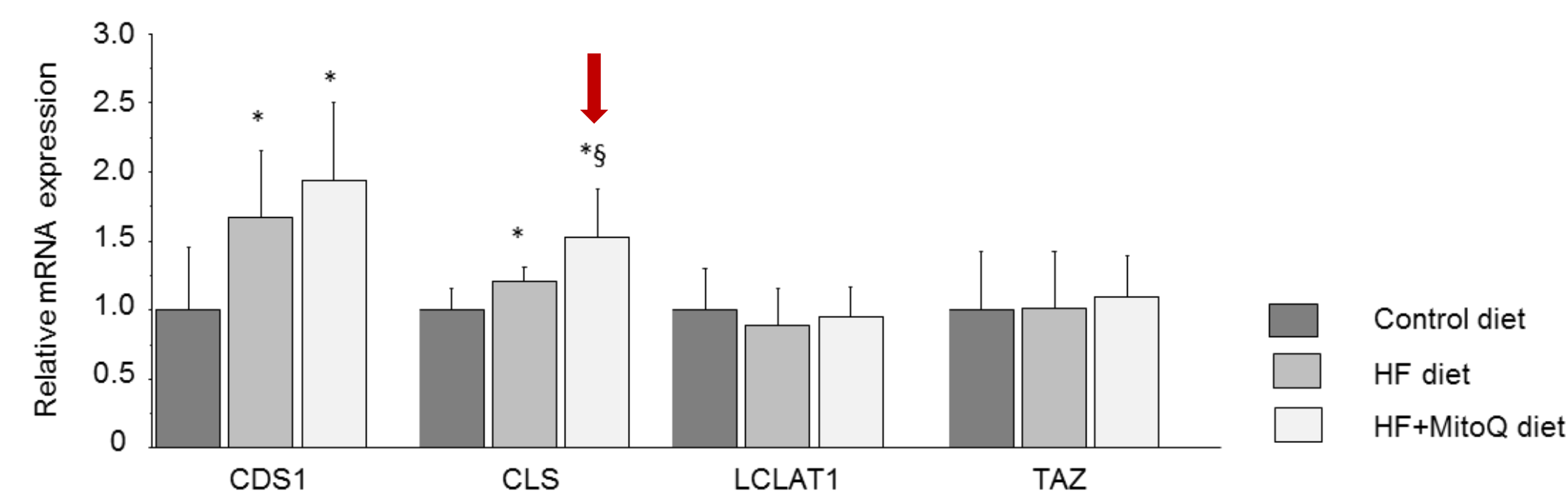
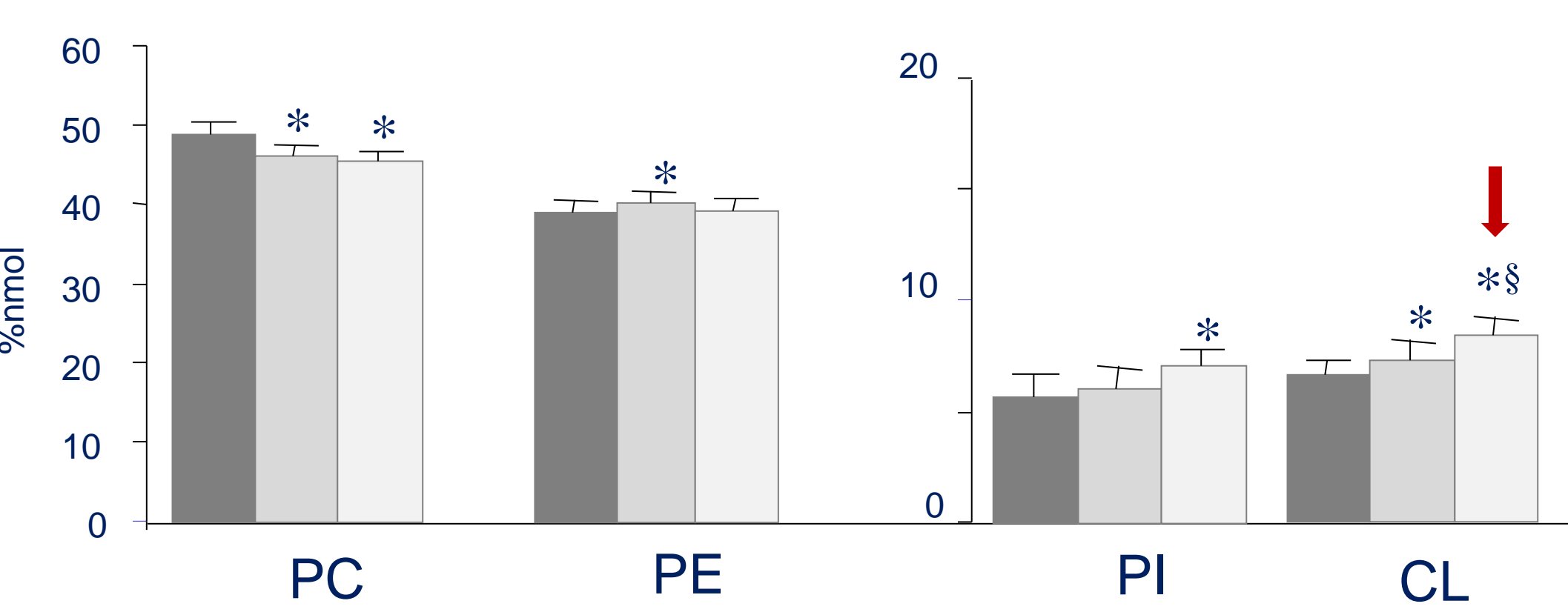
Liver histology  
(haematoxylin/eosin)



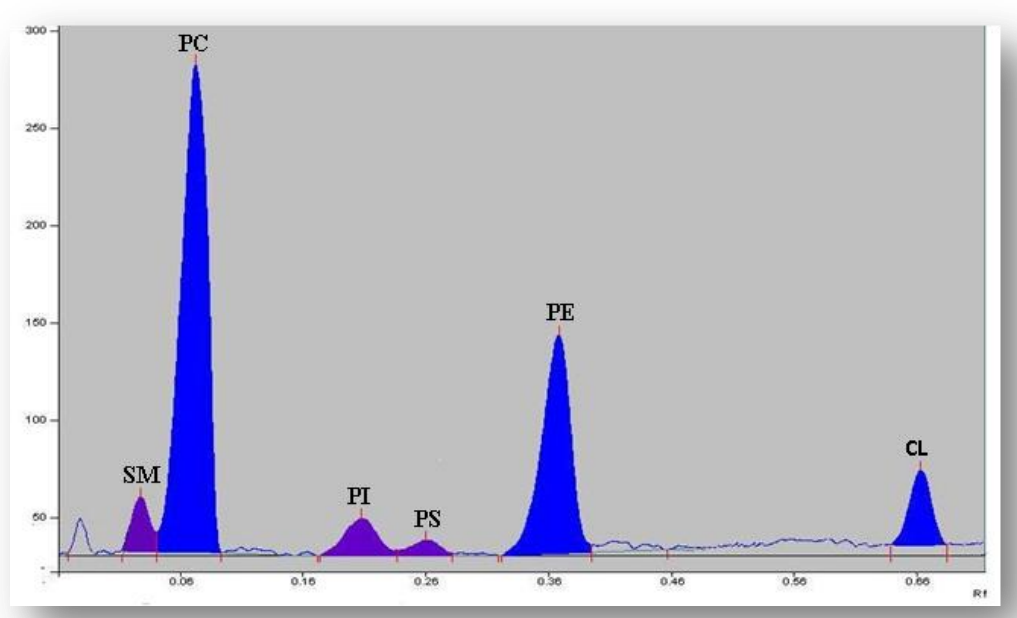
Liver TG

High-fat diet induced major features of the metabolic syndrome, and MitoQ intake ameliorated the associated weight gain and glucose intolerance.

### 2-Liver mitochondrial cardiolipin content



Scan of TLC plate



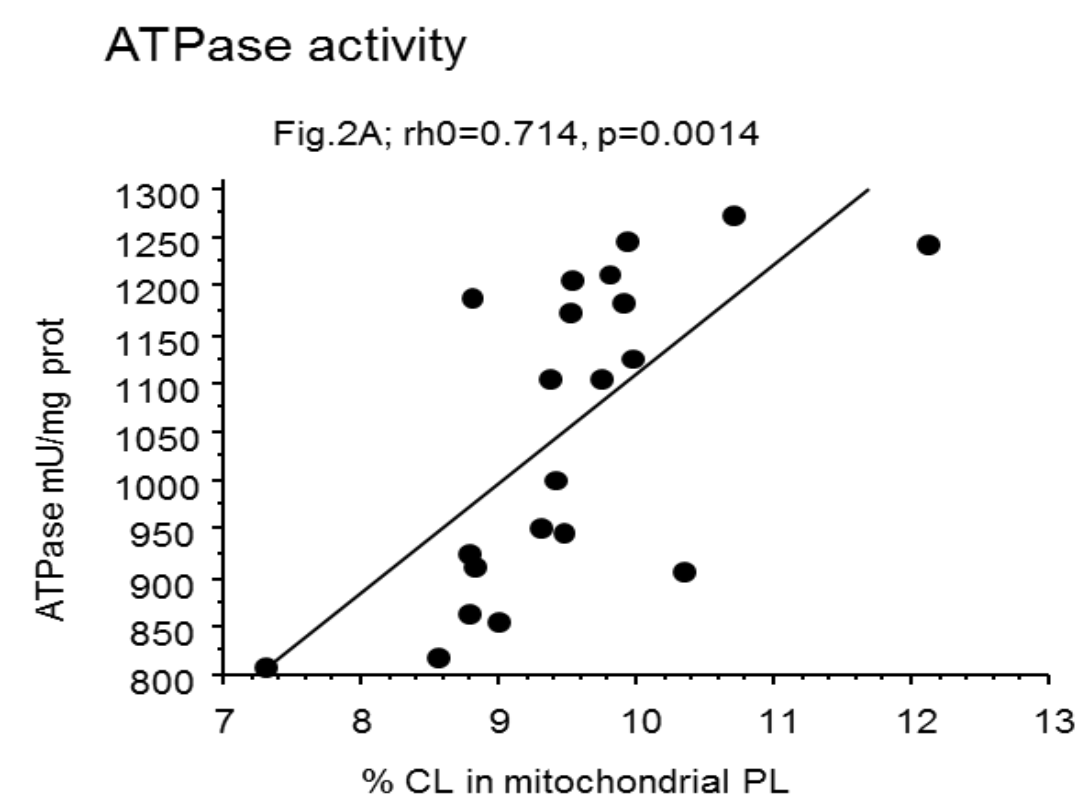
Results are mean ± SD; n=8. Unpaired t-test. Significance was set at p<0.05.\* vs control; §vs HF

### 3-Fatty acid composition of mitochondrial PL

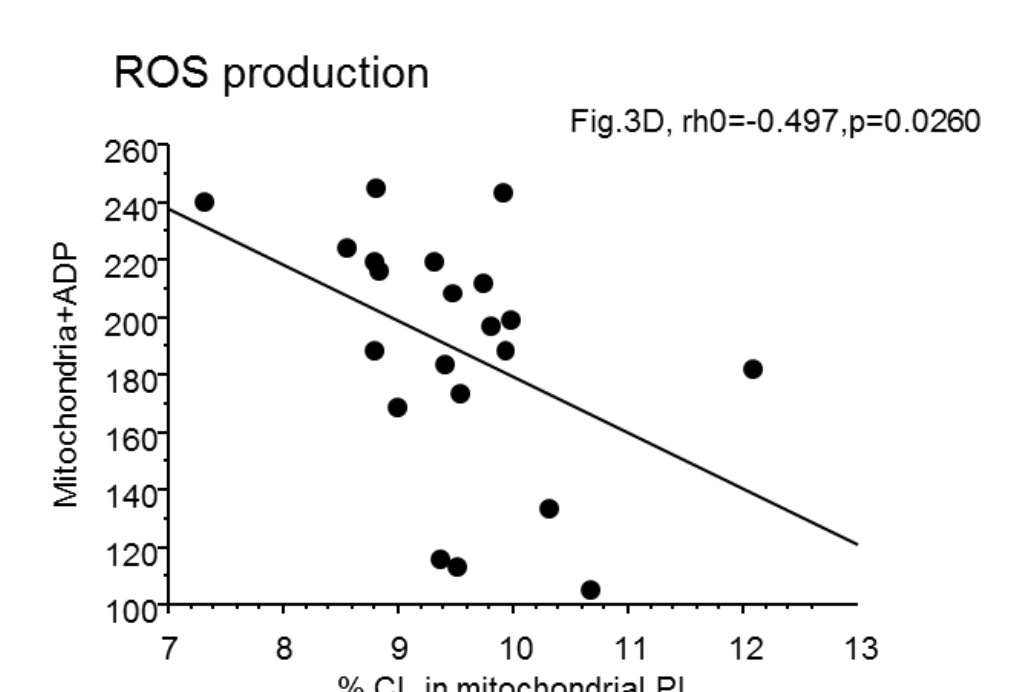
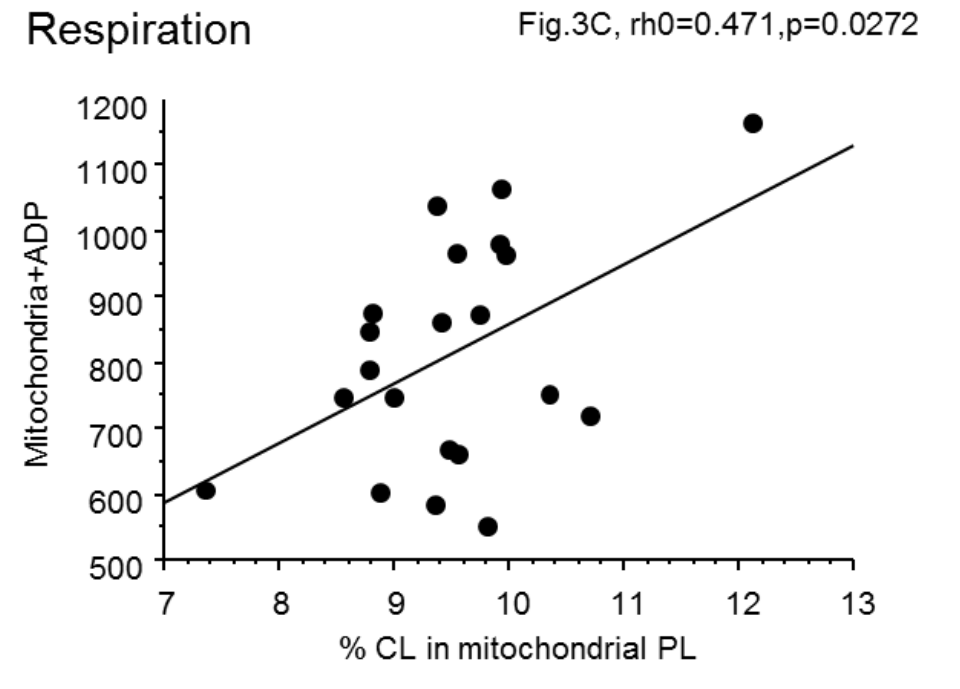
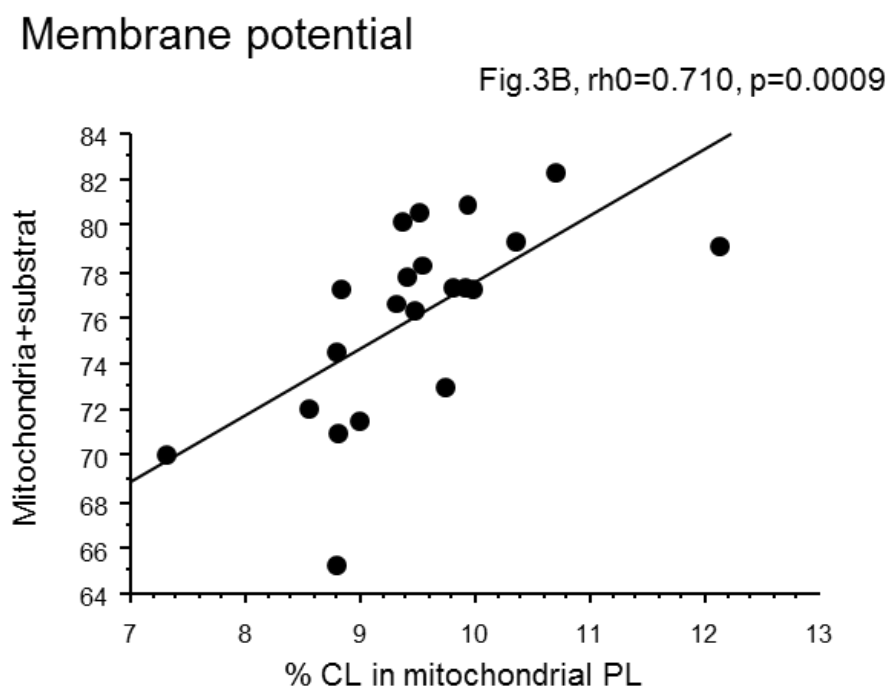
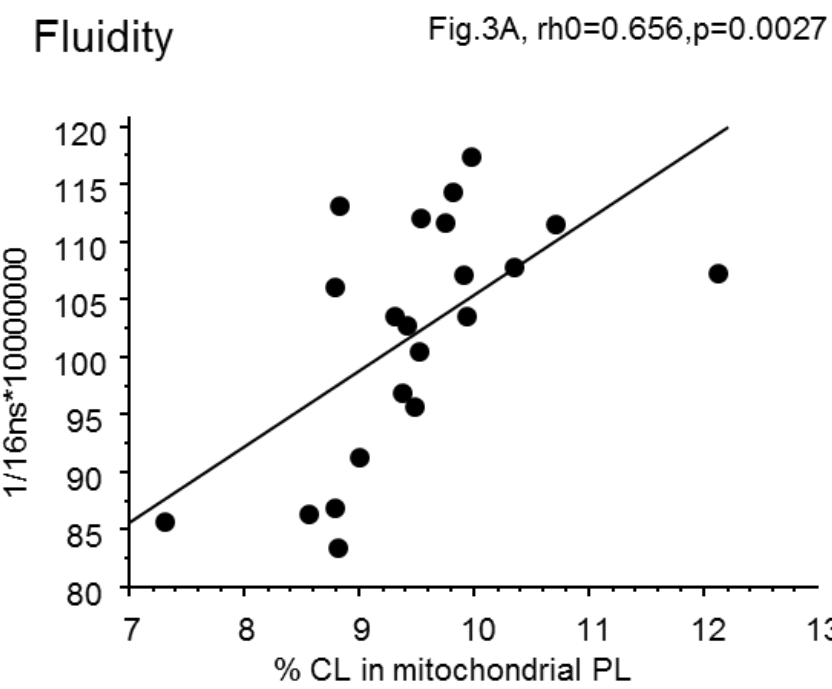
MitoQ increased 18:2n-6 (linoleic acid) percent in the mitochondrial phospholipids.

	Control diet	HF diet	HF-MitoQ diet
Total SFA	41.0±1.64	42.7±0.9	41.7±1.8
16:0	18.3 ± 0.6	17.0 ± 0.9*	16.2 ± 0.6*
18:0	22.7 ± 2.1	25.7 ± 1.0*	25.5 ± 1.8*
Total MUFA	8.39±0.82	6.37±0.76*	5.96±0.44*
16:1 n-7	1.28 ± 0.17	0.33 ± 0.05*	0.22 ± 0.04*§
18:1 n-9	2.99 ± 0.28	4.00 ± 0.60*	3.87 ± 0.30*
18:1 n-7	3.98 ± 0.79	1.92 ± 0.18*	1.75 ± 0.16*
Total PUFA	50.6±1.05	50.9±1.16	52.3±1.68
18:2 n-6	9.94 ± 1.53	11.5±1.16	12.8 ± 0.81*
18:3 n-6	0.106 ± 0.044	0.047 ± 0.023*	0.054 ± 0.023*
18:3 n-3	1.021 ± 1.541	0.426 ± 0.198	0.314 ± 0.102
20:3 n-6	0.881±0.304	0.892±0.119	0.865±0.184
20:4 n-6	27.4 ± 1.3	28.0±0.5	28.6±1.11
20:5 n-3	0.114±0.037	0.099±0.058	0.082±0.015
22:5 n-3	0.761±0.044	0.954±0.047*	0.975±0.199*
22:6 n-3	9.75±1.21	8.56±0.57*	8.36±0.41*

### 4-Liver mitochondrial characteristics



CL content is positively correlated with ATP synthase activity, mitochondrial membrane fluidity, membrane potential, respiration and negatively correlated with mitochondrial ROS production.



Correlations were performed with the Spearman method.

## D-Conclusion

Our studies show that the high fat diets impair liver mitochondrial functions and modify membrane structure and characteristics. MitoQ ameliorates some metabolic syndrome features, and in particular increases mitochondrial cardiolipin content. Antioxidant-independent mechanisms of MitoQ may be involved in addition to its own antioxidant action.

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