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Zatylny-Gaudin

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-Omic analysis of *Sepia officinalis* white body: new insights into multifunctionality and haematopoiesis regulation

Louis Benoist^{1,2}, Erwan Corre³, Benoit Bernay⁴, Joel Henry^{1,2}, Céline Zatylny-Gaudin^{1,2,*}

¹NORMANDIE UNIV, UNICAEN, CNRS, BOREA, 14000 CAEN, France

²Laboratoire de Biologie des Organismes et Ecosystèmes Aquatiques (BOREA) Université de Caen-Normandie, MNHN, SU, UA, CNRS, IRD, Esplanade de la paix, 14032 Caen Cedex, France

³Plateforme ABiMS, Station Biologique de Roscoff (CNRS-Sorbonne Université), 29688 Roscoff, France

⁴Plateforme PROTEOGEN, SF 4206 ICORE, Normandie Univ, Esplanade de la Paix, 14032 Caen Cedex, France

*Corresponding author: celine.gaudin@unicaen.fr

Abstract

Cephalopods, like other Protostomes, lack an adaptive immune system and only rely on an innate immune system. The main immune cells are haemocytes, able to respond to pathogens and external attacks. First reports based on morphological observations suggested that the white body located in the optic sinuses of cuttlefish was at the origin of haemocytes. Combining transcriptomic and proteomic analyses, we identified several factors known to be involved in haematopoiesis in Vertebrate species in cuttlefish white body. Among these factors, members of the JAK-STAT signalling pathway were identified, some of them for the first time in a molluscan transcriptome and proteome. Immune factors such as members of the Toll/NF-κB signalling pathway, pattern recognition proteins and receptors, and members of the oxidative stress responses were also identified, and support an immune role of the white body. Both transcriptome and proteome analyses revealed that the white body harbours an intense metabolism concurrent with the haematopoietic function. Finally, a comparative analysis of the white body and haemocyte proteomes revealed many proteins in common, confirming previous morphological studies on the origin of haemocytes in cuttlefish. This molecular work demonstrates that the white body is multifunctional and provides bases for haematopoiesis regulation in cuttlefish.

KEYWORDS: Sepia officinalis, mollusc, white body, haematopoiesis, JAK-STAT pathway

Introduction

Protostomes only rely on their innate immune system to protect themselves against pathogens, whereas Vertebrate species possess both an innate and an adaptive immune systems. The innate immune system includes the cellular response and the humoral response. The cellular response involves circulating cells – haemocytes (Hct) – in Protostomes. Hct play a key immune role and are involved in antimicrobial factor release, melanisation, pathogen encapsulation or phagocytosis.

The different types of haemocytes among Protostomes are classified according to the degree of granulation, cytochemical staining and/or morphology. In Insects, six types of Hct have been described: prohaemocytes, plasmatocytes, granulocytes, cystocytes, spherulocytes (or adipohaemocytes) and oenocytoids (called crystal cells in *Drosophila*)¹. Granulocytes and plasmatocytes are involved in phagocytosis, cystocytes in clotting and cell aggregation, and oenocytoids in prophenoloxidase (proPO) synthesis^{2,3}. In Crustaceans, Hct are involved in phagocytosis, clotting, viral defence and proPO production. Three types of Hct have been described, namely the hyaline, granular, and semigranular cells^{1,4}.

In Molluscs, the second largest phylum of Protostomes, one to four types of haemocytes have been described depending on the species and the descriptive criteria. Three types of Hct have been found in the gastropod *Biomphalaria glabrata*⁵. In the two marine snails *Aplysia californica* and *Megathura crenulate*, and the freshwater snail *Viviparus ater*, only one type of Hct able to perform phagocytosis has been described^{6,7}. In the Bivalves *Crassostrea virginica*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis* and *Scrobicularia plana*, three types of Hct have been identified, namely agranular hyalinocytes, basophilic granulocytes, and eosinophilic (acidophilic) granulocytes have been observed¹¹, and granulocytes showed higher phagocytic activity than hyalinocytes^{8,11}.

Few studies have been performed on Cephalopod Hct. In *Octopus vulgaris*, two types of granulocytes have been described^{12–14}. In *Sepia officinalis*, only one type of Hct, capable of phagocytosis and possessing acid phosphatase, lysozyme and proPO system enzymes has been described^{15,16}.

The haematopoietic organ (HPO) is the seat of Hct production and maturation. It is highly variable among Protostomes and has mainly been described by cytological and immunohistochemical studies. In Insects, the HPO or lymph glands are located along the anterior portion of the dorsal vessel^{2,17–19}. In Crustaceans, the HPO is generally composed of gland-like lobules located on the dorsal portion, surrounding the ophthalmic artery⁴. HPO localisation differs in Molluscs. In the gastropod *B. glabrata*, the HPO is called the amebocyte-producing organ (APO) and is located at the basal surface of the pericardial epithelium^{20,21}. In Bivalves, immunohistochemistry staining revealed that a stem cell marker (sox2) and an Hct-specific enzyme (the Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD)) were co-expressed in the irregularly folded structure (IFS) found in the gills of the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*²². The authors suggested the involvement of this structure in haematopoiesis.

Knowledge on the drivers of haematopoiesis in Protostomes remains limited and restricted to only a few models such as *Drosophila melanogaster*^{23–25} and *Pacifastacus leniusculus*^{26,27}. However, hardly any homologues of signalling pathways and factors involved in haematopoiesis have been identified in Molluscs. Cytokines are involved in many functions including haematopoiesis in Vertebrates; some of them have been identified in gastropods, such as IL-like and TNFα-like molecules²⁸ or the macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF)^{29,30}. MIF, an evolutionarily conserved multifunctional protein, has been characterized in both *Haliotis diversicolor supertexta*³⁰ and *B. glabrata*²⁹. In *B. glabrata, Bg*MIF seems to be necessary for Hct activation in response to the parasite *Schistosoma mansoni*²⁹. In *Crassostrea gigas*, GATA3, a haematopoietic transcription factor homologue^{31,32}, is expressed in the gills and in Hct, and overexpressed in the gills following a secondary challenge with the pathogenic bacteria *Vibrio splendidus*, suggesting a role in haematopoiesis^{33,34}. The transcription factor Tal-1/Scl (Stem Cell Leukemia) is involved in embryonic haematopoiesis in human cells³⁵; it was identified in *Crassostrea gigas*, where it is involved in the regulation of Hct-specific genes, such as *Integrin*, *GATA3*, *c-Myb*, *c-kit* or *EcSOD*³⁶.

In cuttlefish and octopus, the white body (WB), located in the optic sinuses and composed of interconnected lobes, has been defined as the HPO, from on morphological and cytological observations^{37–39}. Claes studied the morphology of the WB in cuttlefish. The WB is a paired organ organized in interconnected lobes surrounding the optic tracts. High vascularization has been described, and is ensured by two branches of the cephalic aorta, the left and right ophthalmic arteries. Claes described four cell types according to cytomorphological properties: haemocytoblast, primary leucoblast, secondary leucoblast, and haemocyte. Based on cytological differences between these cell types, Claes concluded that they represent different stages of development and proposed a pathway for Hct maturation from a stem cell-like entity - the haemocytoblast - to a mature Hct, supporting the haematopoietic function of the WB³⁷. Only two molecular studies have been performed on the WB in Euprymna tasmanica⁴⁰ and Octopus maya⁴¹. Based on transcriptomic and gene ontology (GO) analysis, Salazar and collaborators identified 8 transcripts with homology to genes involved in haematopoiesis in other organisms, and 16 transcripts involved in the immune response⁴⁰. Juárez and collaborators confirmed the occurrence of haematopoietic transcripts in O. maya white body and the downregulation of immune genes in fertilized females⁴¹. These results suggest a dual role of the WB in the regulation of the immune system and haematopoiesis. However, no complete signalling pathway underlying haematopoiesis has been identified so far.

The Janus kinase-signal transducer and activator of transcription (JAK-STAT) signalling pathway is involved in haematopoiesis in Vertebrates^{42,43}, and has been described in *Drosophila melanogaster*^{25,44}. The JAK-STAT pathway is a membrane-to-nucleus mechanism allowing rapid regulation of gene transcription; it is activated by cytokines through cytokine receptors⁴⁵. Four JAK and seven STATs have been described in mice⁴³, while only one JAK and one STAT

have been identified in *Drosophila melanogaster*⁴⁶. In Molluscs, several STATs have been identified in Bivalves, Gastropods and Cephalopods^{41,47–50}. In *Hyriopsis cumingii*, three STATs have been identified, and are involved in antimicrobial peptide expression⁴⁸. In *Pinctada fucata*, a STAT homologue is expressed in several tissues including heart, gonad, gill or muscle. Overexpression was observed in the haemolymph after polyinosinic-polycytidylic acid (poly(I:C)) injection, suggesting a role in the immune response⁴⁹. In *B. glabrata*, several transcription factors, including two STATs (STAT1 and STAT2) have been identified; they were up-regulated in Hct 12h and 6h after challenge with *S. mansoni*, respectively⁴⁷. In *Haliotis discus discus*, a STAT5 homologue was expressed in all tested adult tissues, and upregulated in gills and Hct after challenge with *V. parahaemolyticus*, *Listeria monocytogenes* or poly(I:C) injection⁵⁰. Altogether, these results suggest that STATs are involved in the immune response of Molluscs. However, no complete JAK-STAT pathway has been identified in Molluscs, and only a few JAK-STAT pathway components have been described in Cephalopods⁴¹.

The aim of this study is to characterise the transcriptome and for the first time the HPO proteome of the cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*). A proteomic analysis coupled with transcriptomic data provides essential information to (1) further investigate the molecular processes involved in haemocyte formation, and (2) identify other additional functions of the WB.

Materials & Methods

Animals

All cuttlefish were trapped in the Bay of Seine between January and June 2017. They were maintained in 1,000-L outflow tanks at 16°C at the Centre de Recherches en Environnement Côtier (CREC, marine station of the University of Caen, Luc-sur-Mer, France).

Ethical statement

This research followed the guidance given by Directive 2010/63/EU, and French regulations regarding the use of animals for experimental procedures. It was approved by the Regional Ethical Committee Cenomexa (Committee agreement number 54; project agreement number 03145.03). The experiment was designed to decrease animal distress by minimising the number of animals. Moreover, the tanks were modified so as to provide hiding places for cuttlefish.

Cuttlefish were anaesthetised with ethanol 3%. After exsanguination, the white bodies were dissected, frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C until mRNA isolation and protein extraction. Hct were separated from the haemolymph by centrifugation. Pellets were frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until mRNA and protein extractions.

Illumina sequencing

RNA extraction was performed as described by Cornet and collaborators⁵¹. Briefly, total RNA from five white bodies from male cuttlefish was extracted using TriReagent (Sigma-Aldrich). After RNA analysis, library preparation and sequencing were conducted by the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre (Montréal, Québec, Canada) following the manufacturer's instructions (Illumina, San Diego, CA). The detailed protocol is available in the supporting experimental section. These data were submitted to SRA Bioproject PRJNA599385, Biosample SAMN13747092, with Accession number SRR10843375.

Bioinformatic analysis

Bioinformatic analysis (transcriptome assembly and annotation) was performed on RNA sequencing data from the white body organ. Raw sequencing data corresponded to a total of 43,361,848 paired-end reads with a maximum read length of 150bp. The raw dataset was filtered and cleaned using Trimmomatic v $(0.36)^{52}$, using the following parameters:

ILLUMINACLIP: adapt.fa: 2: 30: 10, LEADING: 5, TRAILING: 5, SLIDING WINDOW: 4: 5, MINLEN: 25. The overall sequence quality was checked using FastQC (v 0.11.5) (https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc). Overall assembly was done with Trinity 2.4.0.⁵³, a package dedicated to *de novo* transcriptomic assembly. A normalisation step was performed according to the kmer coverage (25 nt kmer, maximum coverage 30) proposed by the Trinity package. Relative abundance was estimated using the pseudo aligner Kallisto $v0.43.1^{54}$.

The transcriptome using Trinotate annotated the protocol was (https://github.com/Trinotate/Trinotate.github.io), as described by Bryant and collaborators⁵⁵. **Proteins** were predicted using TransDecoder software (https://github.com/TransDecoder/TransDecoder). The search for similarity (blastx of the transcripts and blastp of the predicted proteins) was performed against the uniprot-swissprot database (version 2017-01). Signal peptides were predicted using the signal P utility v4.1⁵⁶. Transmembrane domains were detected using TMHMM v2.0c⁵⁷. The protein domain search was performed using hmmscan of the hmmer suite v.3.1b1 against the Pfam-A database⁵⁸. Finally, the functional annotation of the transcriptome was performed using the Trinotate pipeline. An annotation-based search was performed to identify relevant transcripts involved in several functions such as haematopoiesis or the immune and stress responses. Additionally, a manual search for conserved domains and patterns of known Invertebrate factors involved in haematopoiesis and the immune response was performed using a homemade software program called Peptraq as previously described by Zatylny-Gaudin and collaborators⁵⁹. The presence of other relevant proteins from NCBI nr database was considered by using them as query sequences for the BLAST search against the WB transcriptome. For some proteins, molecular weights (MW) were calculated with the ExPASy ProtParam tool (https://web.expasy.org/protparam/). Specific domains were predicted using the InterPro

(http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/)⁶⁰ and SMART (http://smart.embl-heidelberg.de/)⁶¹ tools. Multiple sequence alignment was performed using CLC Main Workbench 8 (CLC BIO). KEGG annotation was performed using the KAAS (KEGG Automatic Annotation Server) tool for transcriptome analysis⁶² and the BlastKOALA (KEGG Orthology And Links Annotation, version 2.2) tool for proteome analysis⁶³.

Protein extraction

Whites bodies (n=3) and Hct pellets (n=3) were crushed in liquid nitrogen and then resuspended in PBS (phosphate buffered saline) with a cocktail of protease inhibitors (Sigma P2714). Extracts were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 20,000g at 4°C, and supernatants were recovered. Protein concentrations were determined using the BCA (bicinchoninic acid) assay⁶⁴.

SDS-PAGE-MALDI-MS proteome analysis

Each white-body protein extract ($60\mu g$) was separated on a sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) gel (Tris-HCl 4-12%) for 3h at 120V in Tris–HCl migration buffer (25 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.3, 192 mM glycine, 0.1% SDS) with a broad-range protein molecular weight marker (Promega V8491). Gels were stained with a methanol 40% - acetic acid 10% solution containing 0.1% Coomassie blue. High-intensity spots were cut off into slices to analyse highly abundant proteins. After discolouration, slices were reduced with 50mM dithiothreitol (DTT), alkylated with 55mM iodoacetamide (IAA) and hydrolysed with 0.006 μ g/ μ l trypsin solution. MALDI-MS experiments were performed as described in Cornet and collaborators⁶⁵.

NanoLC ESI-MS analysis of the white body and haemocyte proteomes

For a comparative study between the WB and Hct extracts, $10\mu g$ of each whole WB and Hct extract (n=3) were reduced with 10mM DTT, alkylated with 20mM IAA, and hydrolysed with 0,006 $\mu g/\mu l$ trypsin solution.

For nanoLC fragmentation, the resulting peptide samples were first desalted and concentrated onto a μ C18 Omix column (Agilent) before analysis. The chromatography step was performed on a NanoElute (Bruker Daltonics) ultra-high-pressure nano flow chromatography system (nanoLC). Two hundred nanograms of peptides were concentrated onto a C18 pepmap 100 (5mm x 300 μ m i.d.) precolumn (Thermo Scientific) and separated at 50°C on a reversed-phase Reprosil column (25cm x 75 μ m i.d.) packed with 1.6 μ m C18 coated porous silica beads (Ionopticks). Mobile phases consisted of 0.1% formic acid in 99.9% water (v/v) (A) and 0.1% formic acid in 99.9% ACN (v/v) (B). The nanoflow rate was set at 400 nl/min, and the gradient profile was as follows: from 2 to 15% B within 60 min, followed by an increase to 25% B within 30 min and further to 37% within 10 min, followed by a washing step at 95% B and reequilibration.

ESI-MS experiments were carried out on an TIMS-TOF pro mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) with a modified nano electrospray ion source (CaptiveSpray, Bruker Daltonics). The system was calibrated every week, and mass precision was better than 1 ppm. A 1400 spray voltage with a capillary temperature of 180°C was typically employed for ionizing. MS spectra were acquired in the positive mode in the 100 - 1700 m/z mass range. The mass spectrometer was operated in PASEF mode with exclusion of single charged peptides. A number of 10 PASEF MS/MS scans were performed within 1.25 seconds from charge range 2-5.

Peptide Sequencing and Protein Precursor Identification

The fragmentation pattern was used to determine the sequence of each peptide. Database searching was performed using Peaks X software. Using a homemade software programme called Peptraq, each transcript from the WB transcriptome was translated in all six reading frames, with a cut-off to delete sequences < 40 amino acids. This database, which possesses 361,796 entries, was used for MS identifications. The variable modifications allowed were as follows: C-carbamidomethyl, K-acetylation, methionine oxidation, and deamidation (NQ). "Trypsin" was selected as semi-specific. Mass accuracy was set to 40 ppm and 0.05 Da for the MS and MS/MS modes, respectively. Data were filtered according to an FDR of 1%, 2 unique peptides and the elimination of protein redundancy on the basis of proteins being evidenced by the same set or a subset of peptides. iBAQ (Intensity-Based Absolute Quantification) analysis was performed by normalising MS intensities with putative average molecular weights. The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE⁶⁶ partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD017509.

Results & Discussion

Transcriptome analysis

The *Sepia officinalis* WB transcriptome comprised 155,614 transcript sequences including isoforms of 92,295 genes (according to the "gene" definition provided by Trinity assembler) with an average length of 609 nucleotides. Ninety-five percent of the global expression of the transcriptome corresponded to 22,208 transcripts, including a lot of slightly expressed transcripts. Based on the presence of a blastx hit against the uniprot-swissprot database, 19% of all transcripts included in the WB transcriptome were annotated. KEGG annotation using the KAAS annotation tool led to the functional annotation of 21,779 predicted protein sequences representing 5,354 unique K numbers. The low level of annotation of the WB transcriptomes

of *Sepia officinalis* and other cephalopods^{40,41} – around 20% – revealed a lot of unknown genes. Such a low level of annotation is commonly found in a special model like the cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis*, as already reported for the central nervous system (CNS) transcriptome with only 28%⁵⁹, accessory nidamental gland with 34% or posterior salivary glands (PSG) with 45%⁶⁵. The higher level of annotated transcripts in the PSG causing neurotoxic saliva is explained by previous studies carried out on venoms of invertebrates and snakes.

Besides, 7 of the 10 most expressed transcripts were not annotated. These genes may possess relevant functions, highlighting the need for novel works on Cephalopod genomes. The 20 most expressed transcripts in cuttlefish included histone H1, hephaestin-like protein, ribosomal proteins, peptidoglycan recognition protein 2 (PGRP2), elongation factor $1-\alpha$, poly(rC)-binding protein 3, and tubulin α chain. Interestingly, 29,281 proteins were predicted by transdecoder, and 21,323 of them had a blastp hit against the uniprot-swissprot database, corresponding to an annotation level of 73%.

Proteome analysis

To complete the WB transcriptome analysis, we conducted a double proteome analysis on the WB extract. First, separation on SDS-PAGE coupled with a fast MALDI-MS analysis was performed to provide an overview of the most abundant proteins in the WB extract. Secondly, separation by nanoLC coupled with ESI-MS analysis allowed us to access to a large number of proteins, including low abundant proteins in the WB proteome, but also to compare the WB and Hct proteomes.

MALDI-MS analysis allowed us to identify the most abundant proteins for each molecular weight (Figure 1, Table S1). We identified twenty-four proteins, ranging from 15 to 160 kDa, including enzymes, proteins associated to general stress (heat shock protein 90) or to oxidative

stress (glutathione S-transferase, peroxiredoxin-1). The thioester-containing protein 1 (CD109), whose function remains unclear in Cephalopods, was also identified. Numerous cellularprocess-related proteins like proteins involved in the energy or calcium metabolisms (e.g., glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (G3PD), malate dehydrogenase or calmodulin) complete this analysis, along with translation factors (e.g. elongation factor 2), GTPase activators (e.g. Rab GDP dissociation inhibitor beta and Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 2), proteasome subunits (e.g. proteasome subunit α 2-like and proteasome subunit α 1-like) or actin and actin-related proteins (e.g. actin II, radixin and actophorin-like).

M(kDa)	WB	
225 150	15	15 Thioester-containing protein 1 (CD109) / Ubiquitin-like modifier-activating enzyme 1
100	14	14 Elongation factor 2
75	13	13 Heat shock protein 90
	12	12 Transketolase / Radixin
50	11	11 Enolase / Rab GDP dissociation inhibitor beta
	10	10 Isocitrate dehydrogenase
	9	9 Actin II
35	8	8 Protein disulfide isomerase
	7	7 Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
	6	6 Malate dehydrogenase / Proteasome α 1-like
	5	5 Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 2 / Proteasome α 2-like / Triosephosphate isomerase
25	4	4 Glutathione S-transferase / Peroxiredoxin-1
	3	3 Nucleoside diphosphate kinase
	2	2 Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase A2
	4	
15	1	1 2-iminobutanoate/2-iminopropanoate deaminase-like / Actophorin-like / Calmodulin
10		
	• •	

Figure 1. Proteomic analysis of *Sepia officinalis* white body extract. Gel lanes of white body extract (WB) and protein standard (M). Numbers represent gel slices subjected to trypsin digestion and MS/MS identification. The list of proteins identified by MALDI-TOF MS/MS from gel slices is represented on the side of the gel.

To study the WB proteome further and compare the WB and Hct proteomes, nanoLC ESI-MS was performed in triplicate on WB and Hct extracts. Totals of 4,049 and 2,095 proteins were identified, respectively. A comparative study of the WB and Hct proteomes, illustrated by a Venn diagram (Figure 2), highlighted 1,870 proteins in common, 2,179 proteins specific to the WB extract, and 225 proteins specific to the Hct extract. Among the 10 most abundant proteins in the WB extract, five were also identified by fast MALDI-MS, i.e., G3P, calmodulin, Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor, nucleoside diphosphate kinase, and protein disulphide isomerase. Two of the ten most abundant proteins in the WB extract were in common with the Hct extract, namely nucleoside diphosphate kinase and COMM domain-containing protein 9 (COMD9). Besides, COMD9 was the most abundant protein in the Hct extract and the third most abundant protein in the WB extract. Among the other most abundant proteins in the Hct extract, three proteins involved in cell shape such as profilin-2, myosin regulatory light polypeptide and myosin-2 essential light chain were represented. Finally, 1 of the 10 most abundant proteins remained unknown in both extracts.

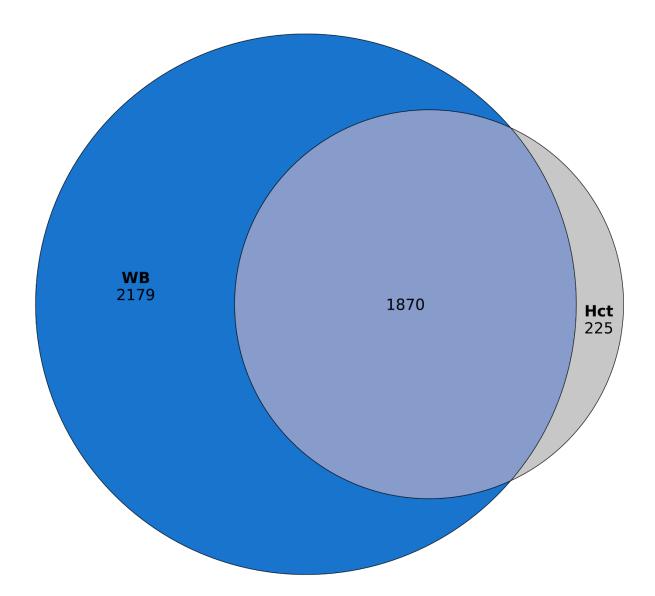


Figure 2. Venn diagram showing the distribution of proteins identified by Tims-TOF nanoLC-MS in the white body (WB) only, haemocytes (Hct) only, and in both the white body and haemocytes.

KEGG annotation using the BlastKOALA annotation tool was performed to obtain a functional annotation of the proteins identified in the WB and Hct extracts. KEGG annotation of the WB proteome led to the functional annotation of 2,943 protein sequences representing 1,315 unique K numbers. KEGG annotation of the Hct proteome led to the annotation of 1,557 protein sequences representing 631 unique K numbers. Seventy-two and 74% of the protein

sequences identified in the WB and Hct extracts were annotated, respectively, corresponding to the annotation level obtained by transdecoder with predicted proteins.

The white body harbours intensive metabolic activity

Table 1 represents the distribution of the KEGG annotations of the annotated transcripts of the WB transcriptome in relevant categories, representing 27% of all KEGG annotations obtained for the WB transcriptome.

Table 1. Distribution of functional annotations into relevant pathways of the WB transcriptome

 using the KEGG Orthology (KO) database.

	ID pathways	Pathway description	Number of matches in gene list
	ko01100	Metabolic pathways	720
	ko03013	RNA transport	115
Cellular	ko03010	Ribosome	115
processes	ko04141	Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum	107
	ko03022	Basal transcription factors	32
Call	ko04151	PI3K-Akt signalling pathway	100
Cell proliferation	ko04010	MAPK signalling pathway	88
promeration	ko04110	Cell cycle	81
Haamatanajasis	ko04630	JAK-STAT signalling pathway	17
Haematopoiesis	ko04330	Notch signalling pathway	23
	ko04620	NF-κB signalling pathway	34
Immunity	ko04064	Toll-like receptor signalling pathway	30

The most represented category was metabolic pathways, with 720 matches (Table 1). Other cellular processes involved in transcription (RNA transport with 115 matches, basal transcription factors with 32 matches) and translation (ribosome with 115 matches, protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum with 107 matches) were also represented. In addition, elongation factor $1-\alpha$, tubulin α chain and ribosomal proteins were some of the most expressed transcripts. Both -omic approaches demonstrated that the WB had an intense metabolic activity

partly associated to haematopoiesis. Indeed, 19 of the 24 proteins identified by fast MALDI-MS analysis of WB extract (G3P dehydrogenase, malate dehydrogenase, triosephosphate dehydrogenase, or calmodulin) were found involved in metabolic processes. The proteome of PSG of the cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* was established using the same MALDI-MS analysis⁶⁵. Out of the 23 proteins identified in PSG extracts, most of them were toxins and toxic enzymes such as cephalotoxins, cystein-rich secreted protein (CRISP), peptidases S1, or phospholipases A2. Only 5 proteins were involved in metabolic processes, i.e. glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, chitinase, cytochrome c subunits (I and III) and ATP synthase beta subunit, whereas 19 out of 24 proteins identified in the WB were found involved in metabolic processes. Comparatively, the fast MALDI-MS analysis allowed us to see that the WB seems to possess a different metabolism than PSG in cuttlefish.

ESI-MS analysis of the WB proteome evidenced that 5 of the 10 most abundant proteins were involved in cellular processes such as energy, calcium or amino acid metabolism. Table 2 represents the distribution of the KEGG annotations of the proteins identified by ESI-MS analysis of WB extracts in relevant categories, representing 40% of all KEGG annotations obtained for the WB proteome. **Table 2.** Distribution of functional annotations into relevant pathways of the proteins identified by nanoLC ESI-MS in WB extracts, Hct extracts, or both, using the KEGG Orthology (KO) database.

	ID pathways	Pathway description	WB extract	Hct extract	Common
	ko01100	Metabolic pathways	241	117	116
	ko03010	Ribosome	74	27	27
Cellular	ko03013	RNA transport	52	15	15
processess	ko04141	Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum	38	22	22
	ko03022	Basal transcription factors	6	0	0
	ko04151	PI3K-AKT signalling pathway	30	17	17
Cell proliferation	ko04010	MAPK signalling pathway	35	18	18
promeration	ko04110	Cell cycle	21	8	8
Haematopoiesis	ko04630	JAK-STAT signalling pathway	5	2	2
Immunity	ko04620	Toll-like receptor signalling pathway	15	4	4
Immunity	ko04064	NF-kappa B signalling pathway	7	3	2

Most of these proteins are involved in cellular processes such as metabolic pathways (241 matches), transcription (RNA transport with 52 matches, basal transcription factors with 6 matches) and translation (ribosome with 74 matches, protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum with 38 matches). Moreover, MAPK signalling, cell cycle and PI3K-AKT pathway members were identified by transcriptomic and proteomic analysis (Figures S1 - 3). In Mammals, the MAPK and PI3K-AKT pathways are involved in cell proliferation and the cell cycle^{67–69}. These two pathways may therefore play a role in the regulation of cell proliferation in the cuttlefish WB. Finally, DNA replication licensing factors mcm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were identified in the WB proteome as they were in *Pacifastacus leniusculus* haematopoietic lineages⁷⁰, confirming the high proliferative rate of WB cells.

The white body is involved in haematopoiesis

A comparative study of the WB and Hct proteomes (Figure 2) recovered 1,870 proteins in common. Proteins involved in the calcium metabolism or the regulation of Ca²⁺-dependent signalling pathways such as calreticulin, annexin A7 or calmodulin were identified in the cuttlefish WB and Hct proteomes as well as in the Hct proteomes of other Protostomes^{71–76}. Two other proteins 14-3-3 proteins zeta and epsilon, previously identified in the Hct proteomes of *Pomacea canaliculata*⁷¹, *Armadilidium vulgare*⁷³ and *Penaeus monodon*⁷⁷ were identified in the WB and Hct proteomes of cuttlefish. Moreover, 90% of the Hct proteome was identified in the WB proteome (Figure 2), confirming the morphological observations of Claes³⁷ regarding the presence of Hct or Hct-like cells in the WB.

Transcriptomic analysis revealed the presence of eighteen haematopoiesis-related transcripts; they are reported in Table 3. The occurrence of WB proteins encoded by seven transcripts was confirmed by proteomic analysis (Table 4).

Transcript	TR length (bp)	PR length (aa)	Name	Putative function	TPM
DN18877_c5_g6_i1	1638	432	Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-4 (erB4)	Positive regulation of receptor signalling pathway via JAK-STAT	0.75
DN18468_c4_g1_i1	3015	891	Janus kinase (JAK)	Phosphorylates STAT	1.19
DN19189_c7_g1_i2	3248	757	Signal transducer and activator of transcription-1 (STAT-1)	Transcription activation	8.84
DN19938_c3_g1_i10	2260	696	Signal transducer and activator of transcription-2 (STAT-2)	Transcription activation	0.46
DN4958_c0_g1_i2	2127	489	Suppressor of cytokine signalling-1 (SOCS-1)	STAT inhibition	0
DN18015_c1_g1_i1	1374	319	Suppressor of cytokine signalling-2 (SOCS-2)	STAT inhibition	0.67
DN18952_c6_g1_i10	1991	554	Signal transducing adapter molecule 1 (STAM-1)	IL2 signal transduction – JAK interaction	0.029
DN18544_c1_g1_i4	2041	445	STAM binding protein (AMSH)	Zinc metalloprotease – STAM1 binding	2.11
DN6680_c0_g1_i1	821	140	Transcriptional activator Myb (Myb) (partial)	Transcription activation	0.24
DN19493_c9_g3_i1	1359	328	Fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) (partial)	FGFR signalling	16.13
DN41498_c0_g1_i1	793	156	Myeloid leukemia factor (MLF) (partial)	Enhances myeloid formation	0.48
DN18311_c4_g1_i1	2971	830	Cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor subunit 1 (CPSF-1) (partial)	mRNA polyadenylation	19.15
DN16050_c0_g1_i1	4427	1407	Thioester-containing protein 1 (CD109)	Endopeptidase inhibitor	5.25
DN18752_c1_g2_i1	1750	396	E3 ubiquitin-protein transferase MAEA (Emp)	Erythroblast maturation	14.01
DN4830_c0_g1_i1	1111	114	Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF)	Haemocyte activation	26.21
DN18927_c3_g1_i11	1460	429	Interleukin enhancer-binding factor 2 (NF45)	Regulation of transcription – Proliferation	415.06
DN18551_c3_g1_i3	1097	179	Myeloid-derived growth factor (MYDGF)	Endothelial cell proliferation/angiogenesis	16.76
DN19181_c2_g4_i4	2228	434	GATA-binding factor 3 (GATA3)	Transcription activation –	8.52e-
DN15952_c0_g1_i1	1728	452	Cytokine receptor-like factor 3 (p48)	Differentiation Regulation of cell cycle – Differentiation	05 38.84

Table 3. Haematopoiesis-related transcripts identified in *Sepia officinalis* white body extracts.

TR: transcript, bp: base pair, PR: protein, aa: amino acid, TPM: transcript per million

	Protein		Mass	wB extract				Hct extract			
_	name	Transcript	(kDa)	Score	#Pep	% Cover	iBAQ	Score	#Pep	% Cover	iBAQ
	STAT-1	DN19189_c7_g1_i2	88	133.37	10	19.42	81.48	ND	ND	ND	ND
is	STAM1	DN18952_c6_g1_i10	60	160.26	11	25.63	204.51	51.24	2	6.32	22.28
oies	AMSH	DN18544_c1_g1_i4	50	116.18	8	22.7	53.81	101.73	5	12.13	31.80
top	CD109	DN16050_c0_g1_i1	158	429.21	296	63.8	7947.57	396.48	193	53.34	4465.78
Hematopoiesis	MYDGF	DN18551_c3_g1_i3	21	71.93	2	8.38	130.75	43.21	2	8.38	32.91
Η	NF45	DN18927_c3_g1_i11	47	231.89	36	51.75	2298.56	145.56	8	13.05	449.17
	p48	DN15952_c0_g1_i1	50	190.35	15	55.97	480.16	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Tollip	DN18451_c8_g2_i2	25	88.07	2	13.06	206.45	NI	NI	NI	20.52
e.	IRAK4	DN17586_c2_g4_i1	35	106.79	5	17.19	110.49	ND	ND	ND	ND
Immune response	NF-кВ p105	DN17588_c10_g1_i11	62	99.58	3	9.65	73.84	ND	ND	ND	ND
le re	PGRP-2	DN19986_c8_g1_i3	30	91.75	3	11.41	40.07	NI	NI	NI	17.94
nur	Galectin-1	DN16917_c6_g1_i2	63	110.3	6	16.09	112.36	NI	NI	NI	7.13
Im	Mx1	DN18954_c2_g1_i6	81	186.94	27	27.77	550.57	ND	ND	ND	ND
	DMBT1 (partial)	DN19666_c3_g1_i2	NA	44.1	3	13.02	30.14	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SOD Cu/Zn	DN19183_c4_g1_i1	16	181.34	13	92	3046.39	94.87	6	90.67	887.37
	SOD Mn	DN19447_c0_g1_i1	26	86.09	2	17.87	77.24	ND	ND	ND	ND
	PRX1	DN12991_c0_g1_i1	28	281.46	53	90.44	6111.43	140.54	13	58.57	426.38
se	PRX4	DN11617_c0_g1_i1	29	55.88	2	10.08	12.40	ND	ND	ND	ND
pon	PRX5	DN16455_c1_g1_i3	21	169.02	18	59.47	149.47	162.07	18	59.47	1080.04
Stress response	PRX6	DN16601_c0_g1_i2	29	258.91	82	81.64	3792.89	224.28	60	79.69	4802.00
	GST	DN17393_c4_g1_i4	25	225.04	40	84.33	4687.56	149.18	14	52.07	770.67
	HSP70	DN19855_c3_g3_i1	96	271.28	48	61.16	767.97	144.1	9	15.11	42.98
	HSC71	DN19063_c5_g1_i1	71	319.81	102	69.34	1329.63	255.69	50	52.85	161.13
	HSP78	DN17831_c5_g2_i1	74	287.58	70	61.3	2876.24	274.07	50	55.87	1417.87
	HSP90	DN18504_c4_g1_i2	83	363.47	191	81.83	10588.07	290.16	73	64.91	1252.74

Table 4. Proteins identified by nanoLC-MS/MS in *Sepia officinalis* white body and haemocyte

extracts.

Score: -log10 P-value, NA: non available, ND: not detected, NI: not identified, #Pep: peptides number, iBAQ: Intensity Based Absolute Quantification.

KEGG annotation of the WB transcriptome (Table 1) and proteome (Table 2), retrieved 17 transcripts and 5 proteins related to the JAK-STAT pathway (Figure 3).

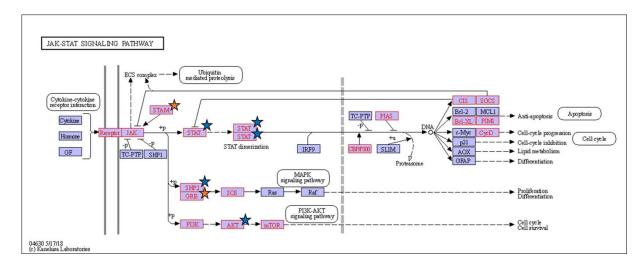


Figure 3. JAK-STAT signalling pathway. Red boxes represent proteins identified in the WB transcriptome, blue stars represent proteins identified in the WB proteome, and orange stars represent proteins identified in both the WB and Hct proteomes.

These JAK-STAT pathway members were aligned with human (*Homo sapiens*) and mouse (*Mus musculus*) homologues. *So*-JAK possessed 27% homology with both human (O60674.2) and mouse (Q62120.2) JAK2. *So*-STAT-1 and *So*-STAT-2 possessed 39% and 27% homology with human (P51692.2) and mouse (P42232.1) STAT5B, respectively. *So*-STAT-1, the most expressed member of the canonical JAK-STAT pathway in the transcriptomic analysis, was detected in the WB protein extract, suggesting a correlation between transcription and protein abundance. *So*-SOCS-1 and *So*-SOCS-2 possessed 52% and 51% homology with human (O14512.2) and mouse (Q8VHQ2.1) SOCS7, respectively. Annotation of protein domains revealed that *So*-STAT-1, *So*-STAT-2, *So*-SOCS-1 and *So*-SOCS-2 possessed the Src homology 2 (SH2) domain, while *So*-JAK lacked this domain. *So*-JAK possessed the protein kinase domain and the catalytic domain of protein kinase (TyrKc domain) also found in mammal homologues. *So*-STAT-1 and *So*-STAT-2 possessed the STAT protein interaction domain (STAT int), the STAT DNA-binding domain (STAT bind) and the STAT alpha domain. *So*-SOCS1 and *So*-SOCS-2, like their mammal homologues, possessed the SOCS box domain.

The JAK-STAT pathway is involved in haematopoiesis in Vertebrates, with four JAKs and seven STATs identified in Mammals^{42,43}. It is also found in one Protostome, *Drosophila melanogaster*, with one JAK, called Hopscotch (HOP)⁷⁸, and one STAT, called STAT92E^{79,80}. In *Drosophila melanogaster*, JAK is coupled with a transmembrane receptor named Domeless (DOME)^{81,82}, which is activated by three ligands: Unpaired (UPD), UPD2, and UPD3^{83–86}. In Mammals, numerous cytokine receptors are involved in the activation of the JAK-STAT pathway⁴⁵. In *Sepia officinalis*, no definitive receptor or ligand related to the JAK-STAT pathway has been identified. Nevertheless, a receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-4 homologue involved in the regulation of JAK-STAT signalling in humans was identified in cuttlefish⁸⁷. Considering the low level of annotation, unknown genes may also be involved in JAK-STAT activation but may have slipped through our search, proving the need for further studies. However, a Janus kinase was identified for the first time in a cephalopod species. Moreover, a STAT homologue was identified for the first time in a protein extract from a molluscan species. These results reinforce the involvement of JAK-STAT signalling in the regulation of haematopoiesis in all animal species.

Nineteen members of the Notch signalling pathway including Notch, Fringe, Delta Deltex, as well as co-activators and co-suppressors of the pathway, were identified in the WB transcriptome by KEGG annotation. Three proteins (Notch, Deltex and HDAC) were detected by proteomic approach in cuttlefish WB (Figure S4). The Notch signalling pathway is involved in haematopoiesis in *Drosophila*⁸⁸ and Mammals^{89,90}, suggesting that this pathway is involved in haematopoiesis in cuttlefish.

Other annotated transcripts corresponding to potential markers of haematopoietic cells well described in Mammals were identified in cuttlefish WB, e.g., the myeloid leukaemia factor (MLF), the E3 ubiquitin-protein transferase (MAEA), the erythroblast macrophage protein (Emp) or the thioester-containing protein 1 (CD109) (Table 4). In human, MLF is expressed in

CD34+ haematopoietic progenitor cells of the bone marrow and plays a role in the early stage of haematopoiesis⁹¹; it may also contribute to the maintenance of haematopoietic stem cells (HSC)⁹². Emp mediates erythroblast-macrophage interactions and the terminal maturation and enucleation of erythroid cells *in vitro*⁹³, and its expression suggests a function in bone marrow haematopoiesis⁹⁴. CD109 identified in cuttlefish, a member of the thioester-containing protein family, possesses sequence identity levels of 30.06% with human CD109 (Q6YHK3.2) and 58.87% with Euprymna scolopes thioester-containing protein (AFV94409.1), and differs from the α 2-macroglobulin previously identified in PSG extracts⁶⁵. In human, CD109 is expressed by CD34+ cells^{95,96} and during neutrophil and monocyte maturation⁹⁷, making it a putative marker of HSC. A CD109 transcript is also present in *Euprymna tasmanica* WB⁴⁰, suggesting a putative role in Hct production in Cephalopods. However, CD109 is involved in immune processes like those described in human T-cells⁹⁸ or in *Euprymna scolopes*⁹⁹. The expression of Es-CD109 is down-regulated in the light organ of symbiotic juveniles as compared to aposymbiotic juveniles, suggesting that the cephalopod immune system is modulated in the presence of bacterial symbionts in the light organ⁹⁹. The identification of these homologs of haematopoiesis markers in the cuttlefish WB confirms the presence of HSC in the WB, previously morphologically described and called "haemocytoblast" by Claes³⁷.

Two transcription factors, one partial sequence of the transcriptional activator Myb (Myb), and GATA-binding factor 3 (GATA3) were identified in cuttlefish. Myb is a major regulator of haematopoiesis in mouse and is involved in red blood cell and T cell development^{100,101}. Moreover, Myb mutation induces a decrease in the number of red blood cells, B cells and T cells, and an increase in haematopoietic cells¹⁰². In cuttlefish, Myb may be a regulator of Gata3, as described in mouse¹⁰³. Gata3 was found mainly expressed in the gills of *Crassostrea gigas*³⁴ and up-regulated in gills during secondary challenge with *Vibrio splendidus*³³. *So*-GATA3 has

the DNA-binding domain YxKxHxxxRP described by Shinnakasu and collaborators¹⁰⁴ (Figure 4). In cuttlefish, it may be involved in Hct production and regulated by Myb.

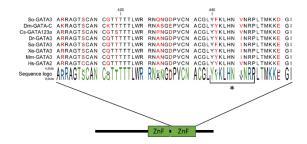


Figure 4. Sequence alignment of GATA transcription factors from various species. *So*-GATA3: GATA-binding factor 3 (*Sepia officinalis*), Dm-GATA-C: GATA-binding factor C, P91623.1 (*Drosophila melanogaster*), Cs-GATA123a: GATA transcription factor 123a, ADC35037.1 (*Chaetopterus sp.*), Dr-GATA3: Transcription factor GATA-3, Q91428.1 (*Danio rerio*), Sa-GATA3: Partial transcription factor GATA-3, AMD33522.1 (*Sparus aurata*), Xe-GATA3: GATA-binding factor 3, P23773.1 (*Xenopus laevis*), Mm-GATA3: Trans-acting T-cell-specific transcription factor GATA-3, P23772.1 (*Mus musculus*), Hs-GATA2: Endothelial transcription factor GATA-2, P23769.3 (*Homo sapiens*). Asterisk: DNA-binding domain. ZnF_GATA: zinc finger binding to DNA consensus sequence.

Two proliferation factors – interleukin enhancer-binding factor 2 (NF45) and the myeloidderived growth factor (MYDGF) – were identified in cuttlefish. In human, MYDGF promotes endothelial cell proliferation *in vitro*¹⁰⁵, while NF45 binds to NF90 and stimulates the regulation of gene expression¹⁰⁶. Disruption of both NF90 and NF45 impaired endothelial stem cell proliferation, suggesting that NF45 and NF90 are involved in the regulation of cell proliferation¹⁰⁷. A mammalian negative regulator of the cell cycle cytokine receptor-like factor 3 (p48)¹⁰⁸ was identified in cuttlefish, where it may be involved in Hct proliferation and differentiation with MYDGF and NF45. These factors may be involved in haemocyte proliferation and differentiation in cuttlefish WB and in the maturation process previously proposed by Claes³⁷. Moreover, a cytokine macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) was identified in cuttlefish, as described in two other molluscs^{29,30}. In *B. glabrata*, knock down of the MIF gene induced a decrease in the number of Hct, suggesting that it is involved in Hct activation²⁹. The cuttlefish MIF homologue may be involved in Hct production and activation.

Finally, signal-transducing adapter molecule 1 (STAM-1) and the STAM-binding protein (or AMSH) were identified in WB protein extracts (Table 4). These two proteins are involved in signal transduction mediated by IL-2^{109–111}, while IL-2 is involved in HSC maintenance and normal haematopoiesis in mice¹¹². Two other factors putatively involved in haematopoiesis and described in the transcriptome of the *Euprymna tasmanica* WB were identified in *Sepia officinalis*, i.e., partial sequences of subunit 1 of the cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor (CPFS1) and of the fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR)⁴⁰. Disruption of the CPFS1 gene induced defective polyadenylation of snrnp70, a splicing factor required for HSC development in *Danio rerio*¹¹³. FGFR2 is the receptor of fibroblast growth factor 2, which is involved in haematopoiesis by enhancing HSC numbers¹¹⁴. This way, these factors could be involved in HSC maintenance in *Sepia officinalis*.

In addition to the annotation-based search on the WB transcriptome, a manual search for additional factors like Invertebrate drivers or putative previously identified drivers of haematopoiesis such as astakines from *Pacifastacus leniusculus*^{26,27} or Tal-1/Scl from *Crassostrea gigas*³⁶ was performed, but did not yield relevant results.

Involvement of the white body in immunity and the stress response

In addition to haematopoiesis-related transcripts, several immune-related transcripts were identified in cuttlefish WB (Table 5), as previously reported in other cephalopods^{40,41}. KEGG annotation of the WB transcriptome and proteome revealed the presence of 30 and 15 factors

involved in the Toll-like receptor signalling pathway, respectively (Figure 5), and 34 and 7

factors involved in the NF-κB signalling pathway (Figure S5).

Table 5. Immune-related transcripts identified in *Sepia officinalis* white body extracts.

Transcript	-	PR length	Name	Putative function	TPM
DN12467_c0_g1_i1	(bp) 2823	(aa) 833	Toll-like receptor γ (TLRγ)	Toll signalling	1.54
DN18158_c7_g2_i3	1385	338	Myeloid differentiation factor 88 (MyD88)	Toll signalling	15.98
DN18451_c8_g2_i2	955	222	Toll-interacting protein (Tollip)	Toll signalling	0
DN17586_c2_g4_i1	1111	319	Interleukin-1-receptor-associated kinase-4 (IRAK-4)	NF-κB signalling	0
 DN17182_c1_g3_i2	2158	649	Interleukin-1-receptor-associated kinase-1 (IRAK-1)	NF-κB signalling	20.45
DN10923_c0_g2_i1	1821	498	TNF receptor-associated factor 3 (TRAF3)	NF-κB signalling	0.77
DN15884_c0_g1_i1	2990	703	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TRAF7 (TRAF7)	NF-κB signalling	2.65
DN19803_c7_g1_i3	2661	644	Inhibitor of nuclear factor κ -B kinase subunit α (IKK α)	NF-κB signalling	0
DN17661_c4_g2_i1	2680	746	Inhibitor of nuclear factor κ -B kinase subunit ϵ (IKK ϵ)	NF-κB signalling	6.86
DN16830_c5_g1_i2	2278	337	NF- κ B inhibitor α (I κ B α)	NF-κB signalling	10.24
DN17588_c10_g1_i11	3391	546	Nuclear factor NF-κB p105 subunit (NF-κB p105)	NF-κB signalling	0.35
DN25378_c0_g1_i1	915	187	Calcineurin subunit B type 1 (CnB)	Multifunctional protein	2.48
DN18721_c3_g1_i1	2066	537	Bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein (BPI)	Bacteria binding	6.51
DN17974_c6_g1_i14	1146	271	Peptidoglycan recognition protein 1 (PGRP-1)	Bacteria recognition	15.11
DN19986_c8_g1_i3	1209	263	Peptidoglycan recognition protein 2 (PGRP-2)	Bacteria recognition	3512.24
DN16917_c6_g1_i2	2631	547	Galectin-1 Glucan recognition		52.79
DN18092_c4_g1_i1	1280	310	Galectin-2 Glucan recognition		1.24
DN18954_c2_g1_i6	2561	695	Interferon-induced GTP-binding protein Mx1 (Mx1)	Antiviral activity	4.53
DN19666_c3_g1_i2	2145	624	Deleted in malignant brain tumor 1 (partial) (DMBT1)	Bacteria binding	9.29
DN3551_c0_g1_i1	1716	408	Laccase domain-containing protein	Oxidation	0.69
DN19183_c4_g1_i1	407	153	Superoxide dismutase Cu/Zn (SOD Cu/Zn)	Oxidative stress protection	217.35
DN19447_c0_g1_i1	1076	235	Superoxide dismutase Mn (SOD Mn)	Oxidative stress protection	91.71
DN12991_c0_g1_i1	1292	251	Peroxiredoxin 1 (PRX1)	Oxidative stress protection	17.23
DN12443_c0_g1_i1	936	250	Peroxiredoxin 2 (PRX2)	Oxidative stress protection	16.29
DN11617_c0_g1_i1	842	245	Peroxiredoxin 4 (PRX4)	Oxidative stress protection	111.41
DN16455_c1_g1_i3	1044	190	Peroxiredoxin 5 (PRX5)	Oxidative stress protection	103.37
DN16601_c0_g1_i2	1072	256	Peroxiredoxin 6 (PRX6)	Oxidative stress protection	822.45
DN17393_c4_g1_i4	784	217	Glutathione S-transferase (GST)	Cellular detoxification	1353.19
DN19855_c3_g3_i1	3837	847	Heat shock protein 70 (HSP70) Stress response		15.95
DN19063_c5_g1_i1	3248	649	Heat shock cognate 71 (HSC71)	Stress response	85.79
DN17831_c5_g2_i1	2822	664	Heat shock protein 78 (HSP78)Stress response		12.51
DN18504_c4_g1_i2	2684	721	Heat shock protein 90 (HSP90)	Stress response	71.39

TR: transcript, bp: base pair, PR: protein, aa: amino acid, TPM: transcript per million

Among the members of the Toll/NF- κ B pathway, we identified the following factors: one Toll-Like Receptor (*So*-TLR γ), Toll-interacting protein (Tollip), myeloid differentiation factor 88 (MyD88), interleukin-1-receptor associated kinases (IRAK-1 and -4), TNF receptor-associated factor 3 (TRAF3), and the E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TRAF7 (TRAF7). Two subunits of the inhibitor of the nuclear factor kappa-B kinase (IKK α and IKK ϵ), the NF- κ B inhibitor α (I κ B α), and the nuclear factor NF- κ B p100 subunit were also identified.

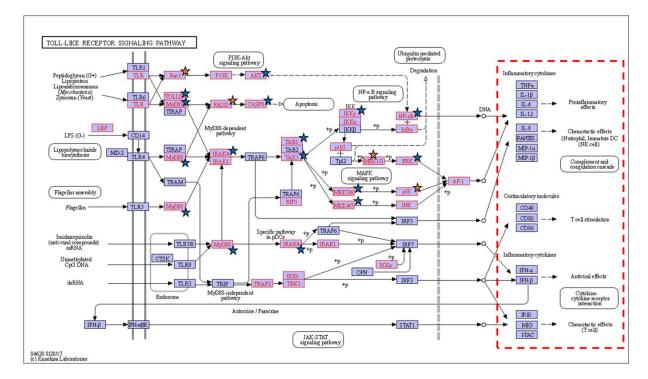


Figure 5. Toll-like receptor signalling pathway. Red boxes represent proteins identified in the WB transcriptome, blue stars represent proteins identified in the WB proteome, and orange stars represent proteins identified in both the WB and Hct proteomes.

Members of the Toll/NF- κ B pathway are present in bilaterian species^{115–117}, including Molluscs^{40,118–122}. Five TLRs, as well as MyD88, IRAK4, TRAF 6, TRAF 4, I κ B kinase ϵ , I κ B kinase γ , inhibitor of NF- κ B and REL/NF- κ B can be found in cuttlefish accessory nidamental gland (ANG)¹²⁰. By contrast, only one TLR was identified in the WB. *So*-TLR γ , previously identified in ANG¹²⁰ contains one signal peptide, eleven LRRs (leucine rich repeats), one transmembrane domain, and the TIR (Toll interleukin-1 resistance) domain. *So*-TLR γ possesses 28

31% identity with TLR4 of the oyster *Pinctada imbricata*, whose expression was significantly up-regulated 6h after LPS injection¹²³. So-MyD88 (myeloid differentiation factor 88), previously identified in ANG¹²⁰, possesses both Death and TIR domains, and displays 97% sequence identity with Sepiella japonica MyD88, another cephalopod MyD88 significatively up-regulated in the liver 24h after LPS injection¹²⁴. So-Tollip was identified in the WB proteome (Table 4); it possesses 68% sequence identity with Mizuhopecten yessoensis Tollip, which was up-regulated after bacterial challenge¹²⁵. So-Tollip may be involved in TLR4 signalling in cuttlefish, as described in human cells¹²⁶. Finally, NF- κ B p105 subunit was identified in both the WB transcriptome and proteome; it possesses the Rel homology domain (RHD), involved in DNA binding. So-NF-kB p105 subunit possesses 48% homology with human NF-kB p105 subunit. NF-kB p105 subunit is part of the Rel/NF-kB transcription factor involved in the activation of immune genes in both vertebrate and invertebrate species¹²⁷. Finally, as represented by the dotted rectangle in Figure 5, all the effectors of the TLR signalling pathway, including inflammatory cytokines and homologues of costimulatory molecules, were not found in the cuttlefish WB transcriptome. As previously discussed, these effectors may have slipped through annotation, confirming the need for further analyses.

In addition to members and regulators of the Toll/NF-κB signalling pathway, other immune factors were identified in the cuttlefish WB transcriptome (Table 5), and the occurrence of several proteins was confirmed by proteomic approach only in WB extract (Table 4). The absence of identification of immune response proteins in the Hct extract could be explained by their low abundance in this sample. Using the "match between run" algorithm in PeaksX to compare Hct analyses with WB analyses, we detected 3 of these immune response proteins (tollip, PGRP-2 and galectin-1) in the Hct extract. By comparing several runs, this algorithm can detect peptides with identical m/z, retention times and ionic mobility even if MS/MS results are unexploitable because the intensity of the signal is too low. As showed in

Table 4, the signal for these three proteins was much lower in the Hct extract, so that MS/MS results were unexploitable for identification. These different signals/abundances may reflect the different amounts of biological material available in an organ or tissue for the WB vs. in isolated cells for Hct, as illustrated by the SDS-PAGE gel (Figure S6).

Among proteins associated to immunity, we identified in WB transcriptome Calcineurin subunit B (CnB), which possesses 4 EF-hand domains involved in Ca²⁺ binding. The Ca²⁺-dependent CnB is involved in the innate immune response in *Drosophila* larvae¹²⁸ or Chinese mitten crab¹²⁹. *So*-CnB possesses 96% homology with the oyster *Pinctada fucata* CnB, which mediates the immune response of haemocytes through activation of NF- κ B¹³⁰. Besides, *So*-CnB possesses 91% homology with human CnB, where it may act *in vivo* as an immune response regulator *via* regulation of NF- κ B¹³¹. Finally, calcineurin-B homologous protein (CHP), which possesses 69% homology with mouse CHP, was also identified in the WB transcriptome. In mouse cells, CHP inhibits CnB¹³². This way, *So*-CHP may mediate *So*-CnB action in the regulation of the cuttlefish immune system. We cannot rule out a role of other Ca²⁺ binding proteins like *So*-calreticulin or *So*-calmodulin in the immune response either, as described for calreticulin identified in the sea urchin (*Heliocidaris erythogramma*)¹³³ or for calmodulin in Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*)¹³⁴.

The interferon-induced GTP-binding protein Mx1 was identified in both the WB transcriptome and proteome. Mx proteins are known to be involved in the response to a broad range of viruses¹³⁵. Four transcripts involved in the bacterial response were identified including two PGRPs, one Bactericidal/Permeability Increasing Protein (BPI), and a partial sequence of the Deleted in Malignant Brain Tumour protein (DMBT1). PGRP2 and DMBT were identified in WB protein extracts, and PGRP2 was one of the 20 most expressed proteins in the WB transcriptome. PGRP and BPI are known to possess antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* in two species of Bivalves^{136,137}. Moreover, in *Drosophila*, PGRPs are involved in the

activation of the Toll signalling pathway¹³⁸. Both WB PGRPs possess the conserved peptidoglycan-binding type-2 amidase domain involved in bacterial peptidoglycan hydrolysis¹³⁹. DBMT1 is a secreted Scavenger Receptor Cysteine-Rich protein (SRCR) which binds bacteria in humans^{140,141} and is involved in the coelomocyte response to *Escherichia coli* challenge in the blue bat star (*Patiria pectinifera*)¹⁴². As for haematopoietic factors, a manual search of the WB transcriptome was performed to complete the annotation-based search and look for additional immune factors, especially antimicrobial peptides (AMPs). Only two AMPs were identified in a cephalopod during a thorough *in silico* search on transcriptomic data of cuttlefish PSG, reproductive organs and central nervous system, revealing the complexity of the manual search and identification of factors from unannotated transcripts¹⁴³. No AMP was identified in the WB proteome (Table 4). Galectin-1 possesses 44% identity with a galectin identified in *Haliotis rufescens* gills, haemocytes and mantle, which is overexpressed in haemocytes after challenge with *Vibrio anguillarum*¹⁴⁴. All these factors may be involved in bacterial recognition by and elimination from the cuttlefish WB.

Among the factors involved in the immune system response, we also detected four heat shock proteins (HSPs) (HSP 70, 71, 78 and 90) (Table 4) in the cuttlefish WB and Hct proteome. Only two were identified in the *E. scolopes* Hct proteome (HSP22 and HSP70)⁷⁵ or the *Pomacea canaliculata* Hct proteome (HSP70 and HSP90)⁷¹. Many proteins involved in the oxidative stress response were also found. The occurrence of most of these proteins was confirmed in WB and Hct extracts (Figure 1 and Table 4), like peroxiredoxin-1 (Prx1) or glutathione S-transferase (GST). These two proteins could act as antioxidants, as described for SmPrx1 in *Sepiella mandroni*¹⁴⁵ and for GST in the bivalve *Thais clavigera*¹⁴⁶. The Zn/Cu superoxide dismutase (SOD), up-regulated during *Sepiella mandroni* challenge with *Vibrio harveyi*¹⁴⁷ and described as an Hct marker in *Crassostrea gigas*^{22,148}, was also identified in cuttlefish WB.

Most of the proteins involved in the oxidative stress response possessed a high iBAQ in WB extracts coinciding with their expression levels, e.g., GST had a TPM value of 1,353 and a WB iBAQ of 10,588, peroxiredoxin-6 had a TPM value of 822 and a WB iBAQ of 3,792, or Zn/Cu SOD had a TPM value of 217 and a WB iBAQ of 3,046 (Tables 4 and 5).

Interestingly, none of the putative effectors of enzyme activities observed in cuttlefish Hct by Le Pabic and collaborators¹⁵ were identified in the WB transcriptome or the WB or Hct proteomes. However, our manual search of the WB transcriptome allowed us to identify a laccase domain-containing protein (Table 5) which possesses a copper oxidase domain (aa 175 – 405) involved in the oxidation of phenol and non-phenol compounds. Several immune factors involved in the bacterial and viral response, such as PGRP2, Mx1 or Tollip, were identified in the WB proteome but not in the Hct proteome (Table 4). These factors are WB-specific and argue in favour of the involvement of this organ in the immune response, as suggested by Juárez et collabators in fertilized females⁴¹. It would be interesting to study the WB response to a bacterial challenge to confirm this hypothesis.

Conclusion

-Omic analyses demonstrated for the first time that the cuttlefish WB is involved in haematopoiesis as well as in the immune and stress responses. For the first time, the JAK-STAT signalling pathway was clearly identified in a Mollusc Cephalopod by -omic approaches and identified as a potential key regulator of haematopoiesis. Our comparative analysis of the WB and Hct proteomes tended to bring molecular evidence confirming the previous morphological study by Claes³⁷ indicating that the WB is at the origin of Hct. Besides, the WB harbours intense metabolic activity in line with its haematopoietic function. Considering the low level of annotation, numerous factors involved in these functions may have gone unnoticed. Further

analyses will be needed to confirm the involvement of the JAK-STAT pathway in haematopoiesis and the involvement of the white body in the immune response.

Supporting Information

The following supporting information is available free of charge at ACS website http://pubs.acs.org

Supporting experimental section. Figures S1-5: The KEGG pathways with transcripts and proteins identified in the WB transcriptome and WB and Hct proteomes are highlighted. Figure S1: MAPK signalling pathway. Figure S2: Cell cycle. Figure S3: PI3K-AKT signalling pathway. Figure S4: Notch signalling pathway. Figure S5: NF- κ B signalling pathway. Figure S6: Photograph of the entire SDS-PAGE gel. Table S1: Supporting data regarding proteins identified by SDS-PAGE separation coupled with fast MALDI MS analysis. Table S2: Protein sequences of relevant factors presented in Tables 3, 4 and 5. Table S3: Sequences and corresponding BLAST hits against the NCBI nr database of haemocyte-specific proteins identified by nanoLC coupled with ESI-MS/MS.

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Author contributions

The manuscript was written by L.B, with the following contributions from the other authors: All authors have given approval to its final version. C.Z.G played an important role in designing and performing -omic approaches. J.H. collect cuttlefish and performed the transcriptomic approach with C.Z.G.. E.C. assembled and annotated the WB transcriptome. L.B. performed dissection with C.Z.G and prepared all samples for mass spectrometry. B.B. performed mass spectrometry analyses. L.B. analyzed and discussed the results with C.Z.G, E.C., B.B..

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