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## Gambierol effects on k<sup>+</sup> currents and catecholamine release in single rat fetal adrenomedullary cultured chromaffin cells

Evelyne Benoit **1**, Sébastien Schlumberger **2**, Jordi Molgó **1\***, Makoto Sasaki **3**, Haruhiko Fuwa **4**, Roland Bournaud **2**

**1** : Service d'Ingénierie Moléculaire pour la Santé (SIMoS), Université Paris-Saclay, CEA, Département Médicaments et Technologies pour la Santé (DMTS), Institut des Sciences du Vivant Frédéric Joliot, ERL CNRS 9004 , F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette - France

**2** : Laboratoire de neurobiologie cellulaire et moléculaire, CNRS UPR9040, F-91198 Gif-sur-Yvette - France

**3** : Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University, 980-8577 Sendai - Japan

**4** : Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Chuo University, 112-8551 Tokyo - Japan

\* : Auteur correspondant

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The purpose of this work was to study the action of the polycyclic ether gambierol on K<sup>+</sup> currents and catecholamine secretion in single rat fetal adrenomedullary cultured chromaffin (AMC) cells using perforated whole-cell voltage-clamp recordings, and current-clamp and electrochemical recordings. From the several types of voltage-gated K<sup>+</sup> channels (KV) contributing to the total outward current of rat fetal AMC cells, gambierol only partly inhibited the total K<sup>+</sup> current, when added after or before K<sub>Ca</sub> and K<sub>ATP</sub> blockers, and affected neither K<sub>Ca</sub> nor K<sub>ATP</sub> channels. After blocking of Nav and K<sub>ATP</sub> channels, and preventing the activation of K<sub>Ca</sub> channels, gambierol blocked 50% of the maximal K<sup>+</sup> current fraction with an inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of  $5.8 \pm 1.56$  nM (n = 9). In marked contrast to ciguatoxins, gambierol slowed the kinetics of K<sup>+</sup>-current activation by  $75.4 \pm 10.1\%$  (n = 4) with respect to controls (p = 0.031). Hence, before and after gambierol the activation time constants of K<sup>+</sup> current were  $3.82 \pm 0.39$  ms (n = 4) and  $6.80 \pm 1.02$  ms (n = 4), respectively. Simultaneous current-clamp and single-cell amperometry recordings revealed that gambierol did not modify the membrane potential following 11-seconds depolarizing current-steps, in both quiescent and active cells displaying repetitive firing of action potentials, and it did not increase the number of exocytotic catecholamine release events, with respect to controls. The subsequent block of K<sub>Ca</sub> channels, both depolarized the membrane and enhanced by 2.7 and 3.5-fold the exocytotic event frequency in quiescent and active cells respectively, highlighting the key modulatory role played by K<sub>Ca</sub> channels in the control of exocytosis from rat fetal AMC cells

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Mots-Clés : gambierol ; potassium currents ; calcium ; activated K<sup>+</sup> channels ; ATP ; sensitive K<sup>+</sup> channels ; catecholamine release

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