



Protective effect of adjuvanted attenuated *Platyedon grandiflorum* against *Brucella abortus*

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ABSTRACT

The adjuvanted attenuated *Brucella abortus* (HBsA) vaccine was evaluated for its protective effect against *Brucella abortus* infection in mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly reduced the bacterial load in the spleen and testis of mice. The protective effect of PD was significantly higher than that of the non-adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (P < 0.05, P < 0.01, P < 0.001). PD also significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice.

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1. Introduction

Heat-killed *Brucella abortus* (HBsA) is a common vaccine against *Brucella abortus* infection in mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly reduced the bacterial load in the spleen and testis of mice. The protective effect of PD was significantly higher than that of the non-adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (P < 0.05, P < 0.01, P < 0.001). PD also significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice. The results showed that the adjuvanted HBsA vaccine (PD) significantly increased the number of CD4⁺ T1 and CD4⁺ T2 cells in the spleen of mice.

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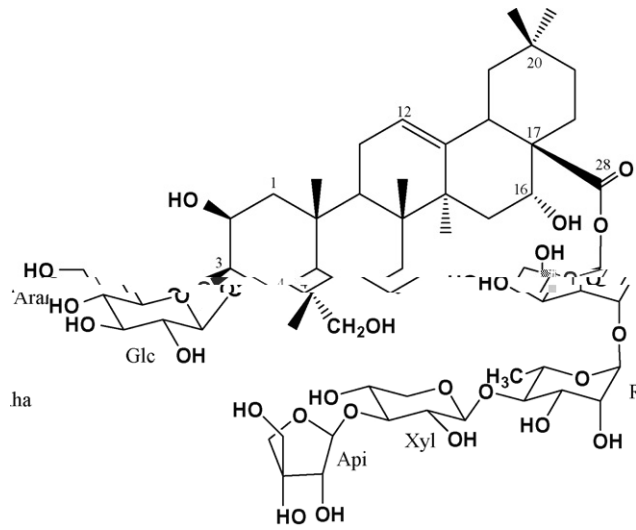


Fig. 1. Chemical structure of compound 1 (PD, $C_{57}H_{92}O_{28}$, MW: 1224.5854) from the roots of *P. grandiflorum*. Its structure was elucidated on the basis of the ¹³C-NMR data and the mass spectrometry data. The glycosylation sites are indicated by arrows. A, β-D-ara-f, a.s.; Ara, α-L-ara-b, a.s.; Glc, β-D-gluc-p, a.s.; R, α-L-rha-p, a.s.; X, β-D-xyl-p, a.s.

... at ... HBsA [10]. In addition, A ... es ...
 ... ca ... ca ... eact ... at the site of infect ... a da ... e ta

2.6. Splenocyte proliferation assay

Spleen cells from HBsAg-exposed mice were cultured in HBSS (Sigma), supplemented with 5% fetal calf serum (FCS) and antibiotics (penicillin 100 IU/ml, streptomycin 100 µg/ml, and nystatin 40 IU/ml). After centrifugation at 380 × g at 4 °C for 10 min, the cells were washed in PBS, and resuspended in complete medium. Cells were seeded into a 96-well plate (0.8 × 10⁶ cells/well) at 37 °C in 5% CO₂. After 48 h of culture, the cells were harvested and labeled with [³H]-thymidine (1 µCi/well) for 4 h. The cells were then harvested and analyzed for [³H]-thymidine incorporation by scintillation counter. The results are expressed as mean ± SD. Statistical significance was determined by Student's t-test. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

2.7. Measurement of HBsAg-specific antibody

HBsAg-specific IgG, IgG1, IgG2a, and IgG2b antibodies were detected by indirect ELISA. In brief, 96-well plates were coated with 100 µg HBsAg in 0.05 M carbonate buffer, pH 9.6 for 24 h at 4 °C. The plates were washed with PBS containing 0.05% Tween 20 (PBST), and blocked with 5% FCS/PBS at 37 °C for 2 h. After washing, 100 µl of serially diluted sera were added to each well. The plates were incubated for 2 h at 37 °C, followed by washing. Antigen-coated plates were then incubated with 1:20,000 dilution of anti-IgG1, anti-IgG2a, or anti-IgG2b diluted in 0.05% FCS/PBS. The plates were washed. The plates were incubated for 2 h at 37 °C. After washing, the plates were incubated with 100 µl of streptavidin-biotin-peroxidase complex (1:1000 dilution) for 1 h at 37 °C. After washing, the plates were incubated with 100 µl of 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine tetrahydrochloride (TMB) substrate (1:1000 dilution) for 10 min at 37 °C, and the reaction was terminated by adding 50 µl of 2N H₂SO₄. The optical density was read at 490 nm. The results are expressed as mean ± SD. Statistical significance was determined by Student's t-test. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

2.8. Assay of natural killer (NK) cell activity

The NK cell cytotoxicity was determined by ⁵¹Cr release assay. 96R NK cell target cells (Assay Kit (Pierce)) YAC1 cells were seeded into 96-well plates at 4 × 10⁴ cells/well in RPMI 1640. The cells were cultured in 5% FCS/PBS for 24 h. The cells were then washed and labeled with [⁵¹Cr]-methyl thymidine (1 µCi/well) for 4 h. The cells were then washed and resuspended in 5% FCS/PBS. The cells were then cocultured with 10⁶ NK cells for 4 h. The supernatant was collected and analyzed for [⁵¹Cr] release by gamma counter. The results are expressed as mean ± SD. Statistical significance was determined by Student's t-test. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

Table 1

Sequences of primers used for real-time RT-PCR.

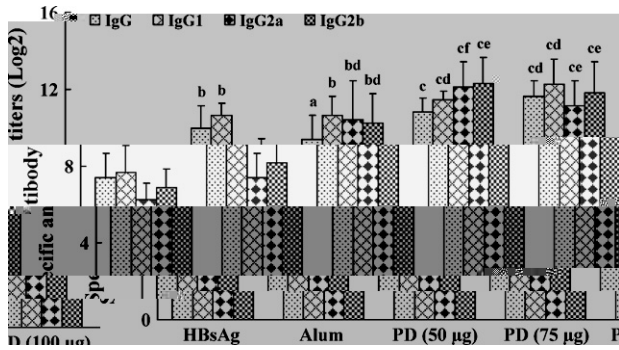
Gene	Primer sequence	Product size (bp)	Accession
GAPDH	5' AAATGGTGAAGTCCGGTGTG 3' 5' TGAAGGGGTCGTTGATGG 3'	108	NM.001001303
IL-2	5' GCACCCACTTCAAGCTCCA 3' 5' AAATTTGAAGGTGAGCATCCTG 3'	174	NM.008366
IFN- γ	5' CGGCACAGTCATTGAAAGCCTA 3' 5' GTTGCTGATGGCCTGATTGTC 3'	199	NM.008337

GAPDH, glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase.

cells (ABC). After incubation for 30 min, plates were washed and developed with tetraethylbenzidine (TMB) at 37°C for 15 min. The reaction was stopped by adding 100 μ l of 2 M sulfuric acid. The absorbance was measured by ELISA reader at 450 nm.

2.11. Real-time RT-PCR for cytokine gene expression

Supernatants were collected and centrifuged as described before seeding into a 24-well flat-bottomed culture plate (Nunc) at 5×10^6 cells/ml. Cells were cultured, and after 48 h of infection (at 4 μ g/ml) as added, a final concentration of 2 μ g/ml. The plates were incubated at 37°C and analyzed at the end of 5% CO₂.

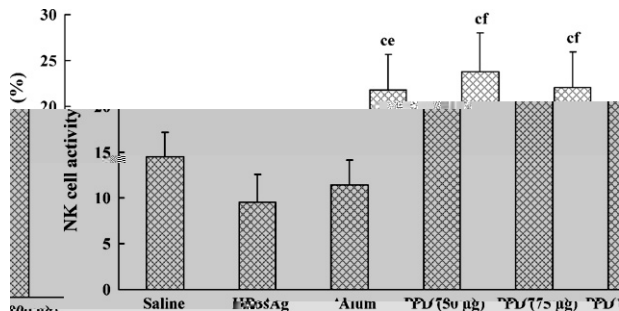


F. 3. Effect of adjuvant (PD) on HBsAg specific IgG, IgG1, IgG2a, and IgG2b antibody titers in mice immunized with HBsAg. Specificities were assessed by ELISA as described. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.E. ($n=5$). Significant differences between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.05$, ^b $P < 0.01$, ^c $P < 0.001$; t-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^d $P < 0.05$, ^e $P < 0.01$, ^f $P < 0.001$.

IgG, IgG2a, and IgG2b antibody titers were significantly increased 2 weeks after the last immunization. Specificities of HBsAg specific IgG, IgG1, IgG2a, and IgG2b antibody titers were assessed by ELISA as described. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.E. ($n=5$). Significant differences between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.05$, ^b $P < 0.01$, ^c $P < 0.001$. Mean values of IgG2a and IgG2b antibody titers were significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P < 0.01$, $P < 0.001$). Moreover, IgG2a and IgG2b antibody titers were significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P > 0.05$). T-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^d $P < 0.05$, ^e $P < 0.01$, ^f $P < 0.001$.

3.3. Effects of PD on NK cell activity in mice immunized with HBsAg

The effects of PD on NK cell activity in mice immunized with HBsAg are shown in Figure 4. PD significantly increased NK cell activity in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant.



F. 4. Effect of adjuvant (PD) on NK cell activity in mice immunized with HBsAg. Specificities were assessed by ⁵¹Cr-labeled target cell cytotoxicity assay as described. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.E. ($n=5$). Significant differences between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.001$; t-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^b $P < 0.01$ and ^c $P < 0.001$.



F. 5. Effect of adjuvant (PD) on CTL activity in mice immunized with HBsAg. Specificities were assessed by gelatin diffusion assay as described. CTL activity was assessed by LDH release as described. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.E. ($n=5$). Significant differences between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.001$ and ^b $P < 0.001$, respectively.

Moreover, NK cell activity was significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P > 0.05$). T-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^d $P < 0.001$, ^e $P < 0.001$, ^f $P < 0.001$, ^g $P < 0.001$, ^h $P < 0.001$, ⁱ $P < 0.001$, ^j $P < 0.001$, ^k $P < 0.001$, ^l $P < 0.001$, ^m $P < 0.001$, ⁿ $P < 0.001$, ^o $P < 0.001$, ^p $P < 0.001$, ^q $P < 0.001$, ^r $P < 0.001$, ^s $P < 0.001$, ^t $P < 0.001$, ^u $P < 0.001$, ^v $P < 0.001$, ^w $P < 0.001$, ^x $P < 0.001$, ^y $P < 0.001$, ^z $P < 0.001$.

3.4. Effects of PD on specific CTL activity in mice immunized with HBsAg

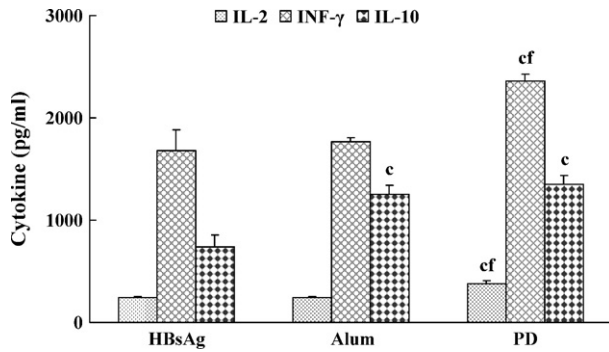
The effects of PD on specific CTL activity in mice immunized with HBsAg are shown in Figure 5. PD significantly increased specific CTL activity in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P < 0.001$). T-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.001$, ^b $P < 0.001$, ^c $P < 0.001$, ^d $P < 0.001$, ^e $P < 0.001$, ^f $P < 0.001$, ^g $P < 0.001$, ^h $P < 0.001$, ⁱ $P < 0.001$, ^j $P < 0.001$, ^k $P < 0.001$, ^l $P < 0.001$, ^m $P < 0.001$, ⁿ $P < 0.001$, ^o $P < 0.001$, ^p $P < 0.001$, ^q $P < 0.001$, ^r $P < 0.001$, ^s $P < 0.001$, ^t $P < 0.001$, ^u $P < 0.001$, ^v $P < 0.001$, ^w $P < 0.001$, ^x $P < 0.001$, ^y $P < 0.001$, ^z $P < 0.001$.

3.5. Effect of PD on cytokine secretion by splenocytes from HBsAg-immunized mice

In order to assess the effect of PD on cytokine secretion by splenocytes from HBsAg-immunized mice, cytokine levels were determined by ELISA. The cytokines IL-2, IFN- γ , and IL-10 were significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P < 0.001$). T-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.001$, ^b $P < 0.001$, ^c $P < 0.001$, ^d $P < 0.001$, ^e $P < 0.001$, ^f $P < 0.001$, ^g $P < 0.001$, ^h $P < 0.001$, ⁱ $P < 0.001$, ^j $P < 0.001$, ^k $P < 0.001$, ^l $P < 0.001$, ^m $P < 0.001$, ⁿ $P < 0.001$, ^o $P < 0.001$, ^p $P < 0.001$, ^q $P < 0.001$, ^r $P < 0.001$, ^s $P < 0.001$, ^t $P < 0.001$, ^u $P < 0.001$, ^v $P < 0.001$, ^w $P < 0.001$, ^x $P < 0.001$, ^y $P < 0.001$, ^z $P < 0.001$.

3.6. Effect of PD on mRNA expression of cytokines in splenocytes from HBsAg-immunized mice

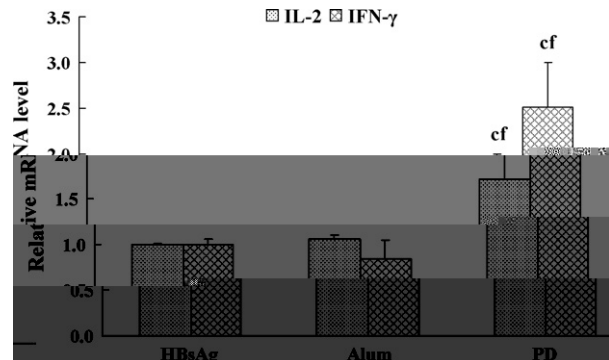
Since PD significantly increased IgG2a and IgG2b antibody titers, we assessed the effect of PD on mRNA expression of cytokines in splenocytes from HBsAg-immunized mice. The mRNA levels of IL-2, IFN- γ , and IL-10 were significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P < 0.001$). Real-time RT-PCR analysis showed that the mRNA levels of IL-2, IFN- γ , and IL-10 were significantly increased by PD in mice immunized with HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant ($P < 0.001$). T-test between HBsAg/A and HBsAg/A + adjuvant are indicated as ^a $P < 0.001$, ^b $P < 0.001$, ^c $P < 0.001$, ^d $P < 0.001$, ^e $P < 0.001$, ^f $P < 0.001$, ^g $P < 0.001$, ^h $P < 0.001$, ⁱ $P < 0.001$, ^j $P < 0.001$, ^k $P < 0.001$, ^l $P < 0.001$, ^m $P < 0.001$, ⁿ $P < 0.001$, ^o $P < 0.001$, ^p $P < 0.001$, ^q $P < 0.001$, ^r $P < 0.001$, ^s $P < 0.001$, ^t $P < 0.001$, ^u $P < 0.001$, ^v $P < 0.001$, ^w $P < 0.001$, ^x $P < 0.001$, ^y $P < 0.001$, ^z $P < 0.001$.



F .6. Effects f at c d d (PD) . HBsA d cedc t e d c t s e . c tes f t e HBsA . ed ce. S e c tes e e e a ed 2 e e safte t e ast at a d c t e d t HBsA (f i a c c e t a t 4μ /) f 48 . T e c t e s e a a t s e e c t e d , a d t e c t e s f c t e s IL 2, INF γ, a d IL 10 e e d e t e d b ELISA. T e a e s e e s e t e d a s e a ± S.E. (n=5). S i f i c a t d f f e e c e s t HBsA a e a d HBsA /A s e e d e s at e d a s c P<0.001 a d f P<0.001, e s e c t e .

5, IL 10 a d IL 13. F t e c t e e t t e c e t a . f e c t s d s e a s e d f f e e t a d c t . f T 1 T 2 e s e s e s b t s e . e d .

A s s e d a s a d i a t s t e e a t t s B a c c e s c e t c e e c a e d . A a d s b e d a c c e s a e e e s t e c t e s e t a T 2 e e e s e s , a d t e d c e e d a t e d t . I t a s e t e d t a t T 2 a d i a t , s c a s A , s t e f f i c a s s e c e s t s e s e d . a t , e a a d i a t d c a b a a c e d T 1 / T 2 e s e s e a a s t HBsA a s a b e t e c e e s e s e e s s t HBsA B10.M ce. M e a e e , c e a



F .7. Effect f at c d d (PD) . RNA e e s s . f c t e s IL 2 a d IFN γ s e c tes f t e HBsA . ed ce. S e c tes e e e a ed 2 e e safte t e ast at a d c t e d t HBsA (f i a c c e t a t 4μ /) f 24 . T e RNA e e s s e e , f GAPDH, IL 2, a d IFN γ e e d e t e d b e a t e r T P C R s i s e c i f e s . T e g a t e RNA e e s s e e e a e e s e t e d a s e a ± S.E. (n=5). S i f i c a t d f f e e c e s t HBsA a e a d HBsA /A s e e d e s at e d a s c P<0.001 a d f P<0.001, e s e c t e .

t s e t e HBsA a e a d HBsA /A s (P<0.001). T e e e e e , s i f i c a t d f f e e c e s (P>0.05) t e IL 2 a d IFN γ RNA e e s s s b e t e e e e s e d t HBsA /A a d HBsA a e . T s , f i d s f t e c f i e d t a t P D s i f i c a t d c e d T 1 c t e s e c t e b s e c t e s f t e HBsA . e d ce.

4. D c

E d e c e e s t s t c e a s e s t t a t T 1 T 2 e s e s e , e e a t e a t e c s t a t , c a b e d a t e d d e e d . t e a d i a t s e d f . [15,16]. T e d f f e e t T 1 a d T 2 e e e s e f i e s c e s d t e a c t a t f t d s t c t a i s b e t s f T c e s c a a c t e d b t e a t t e f c t e d c t . [17]. T 1 e s e s a e a s s a t e d t IFN γ, IL 2 a d IL 12 d c t . a d e a c e e b s t e s t c t I G 2 a, I G 2 b a d I G 3. T e T 1 e s e c a b e c e a t e d t t e d c t . f c e e d a t e d t [18], c a s b e e d e s c b e d a s b e e g a t e d f t e e a t f s d . f e c t . [19,20]. T 2 e s e s , c c t t e e a e e s e t t e t e e f B c e f e a t a d d f f e e t a t [21], a e c a a c t e d b e e s f c c a t a t b d e s , f a I G 1 s t e , a d t e s e c t e f t e c t e s IL 4, IL

de st ated t at PD d ated t e a t f e es ses, a de cted a ba a ced T 1/T 2 e es set HBsA ce as ass cated se ste t a e a ce e t f I G2a, I G2b a d I G1 e es.[29].

J de t cea estab s t at T ce de ed c t es e e ed t e ad a t act t f PD, e a a ed t e T 1/T 2 c t e sec et fies HBsA ed ce s ELISA. PD t s fca t ceased t e d ct f T 2 c t es IL 10, b t as st e a ced t e d ct f T 1 c t es IL 2 a d IFN γ f s e c tes t e HBsA ed ce. H IL 2 sec et c eated t t e d ct f a a t e s ec fic ce a fe at e es se, e t e e e f IFN γ s c s ste t t t e cease f I G2a a d I G2b a t b des. S a t e ce ed t A a d PD ad e e f IL 10 a d c es ded t t e e es f I G1 t te s t e ce. T et e, t e HBsA s ec fic a t b d s t es a d c t e fies c f i t at t e PD ted a ba a ced T 1/T 2 t e e es se, e A as ass cated t ed a t T 2 t e e es ses. I de t f t e e c date t e ec a s es s b e f t e c a es t e a ts f T 1 c t es, e t ed ea t e RT PCR t a a s ste RNA e ess t 1.5(54)3. (d) 1.5(54)3. b e54I .5(54)3.PD545454 b a t 54PD5454 T asT a. T ad: T a () 3177(T

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