The activity of platelet activating factor-acetyl hydrolase (PAF-AH) in the salivary glands of *Rhodnius prolixus*

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In this work we investigated the activity of the platelet activating factor acetyl hydrolase (PAF-AH), in the salivary gland homogenates and saliva of *Rhodnius prolixus*. PAF-AH activity in the salivary gland homogenates was lower than in the saliva. Preliminary characterization of the enzyme demonstrated that it hydrolyzed the substrate 2-thio-PAF, was detected linearly from homogenates containing 1 pair to 50 pairs/0.5 ml homogenates of salivary glands, and was stable under several conditions. PMSF, TPCK, TLCK, pepstatin A and p-BPB all inhibited the PAF-AH activity. Enzyme specific activity in salivary gland homogenates diminished immediately after feeding of 5th-instar larvae, was stable in intermolt period, and increased after feeding by adult insects. 2-thio-PAF induced platelet-aggregation that was inhibited by previous incubation of the substrate with salivary gland homogenates and saliva. The relevance of PAF-AH for facilitating *Rhodnius* up take of a high volume of blood meal in a short period is demonstrated.

Word Keys: *R. prolixus*, salivary gland, PAF-AH.
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