Hanan S. Amer¹, Doaa Soliman², Wael S. Abdel-Mageed³, Shimaa A.Mo'men², Tamer Roshdy³ and Nadia M. Lotfy²

1- Ain Shams Univ. Specialized Hospital, Cairo, Egypt

2- Entomology Department, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams Univ.

3- Molecular Biology Department, Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Research Institute,

Sadat Univ., Menoufia, Egypt

4- Corresponding Author E-mail: <u>Hantoosh27@yahoo.com</u>

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ABSTRACT

The effect of the Phenoloxidase (PO) on bacterial culture and its bioactivity is a big concerns nowadays because of the movement towards natural antibiotics instead of the chemical ones. In this study the prophenoloxidase (PPO) was activated to PO in *Spodoptera littoralis* by injection of series concentrations from *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (BT) (3200 IU/mg, AGERIN- wettable powder) $2X10^{10}$, $2X10^{20}$, $2X10^{30}$, $2X10^{40}$, $2X10^{50}$ and $2X 10^{60}$ cells/ml. 10 µl of each bacterial concentration was injected into groups from 10 larvae each, with a total 656 larvae. 519 of the injected larvae were live and 137 died. It was found that the stock concentration $2X10^{60}$ was the LC20 concentration. After the injection and inoculation for 24 hrs, the larvae had been disinfected and the haemolymph separated. Purification for PO from the haemolymph had been done using HiTrapTM CM FF 1ml column. After assuring the presence of PO by SDS gel, it was cultured against six types of bacteria, two gram +ve (*Staph. aureus, Enterococci*) and four gram –ve (*E. coli, Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter* and *Klebsiella*). It was effective against the gram positive bacteria and against *E. coli* only from the gram negative bacteria. Therefore, it could be concluded that the PO has bioactivity toward the gram positive bacteria more than the gram negative ones.

Keywords: Spodoptera littoralis, haemolymph, Phenoloxidase, Bacillus thuringiensis, gram +ve bacteria, gram -ve bacteria, bioactivity.

INTRODUCTION

Insects combat disease by mounting capable immune reactions that are interceded by hemocytes, the fat body, the midgut, the salivary organs and other tissues (Hillyer, 2016). They depend exclusively on a well-developed natural resistant framework to protect themselves against microbial diseases (Franssens, 2006). Insects need a procured immune depend exclusively system and on the intrinsic safe framework to combat

microbial disease. Upon microbial infection, a course of action of small peptides and proteins are conveyed and released into the haemolymph (Prasad et. al. 2020). In insects, antimicrobial peptides/ polypeptides are synthesized mainly in a fat body (functional analogue of mammalian liver) and are released into haemolymph where they play a crucial role in innate immune systems and host defense mechanisms, and having a broad spectrum of activity against both Gram +ve and Gram -ve bacteria and against fungi (Hoffmann, 1995; Hoffmann et al., 1996; Januszanis et The era of Antimicrobial al.. 2012). peptides (AMPs) is exceedingly inducible taking after a microbial contamination, the levels of AMPs modify from by and the large intangible in uninfected insects to micromolar concentrations in haemolymph of damaged ones. Expression of these AMPs comes essentially from fat body in show toward of the reality that disdain well contribute hemocytes as to their generation (Rosales. 2017). The components of AMP activity are thought of as an interaction with the bacterial cell membrane (Kumar et al., of activity might relate to 2018). Mode targeting metabolic forms within the bacteria including cell divider blend, nucleic corrosive or protein blend, which are crucial to the organism (Ebbensgaard et. al., 2015).

Antimicrobial resistance is rising to hazardously tall levels in all parts of the world. Unused resistance components are developing and spreading universally, threatening our capacity to treat common irresistible illnesses. A developing list of diseases such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, blood harming, gonorrhea, and foodborne infections are getting to be harder and now and then incomprehensible, to treat as antimicrobial gotten to be less successful (WHO, 2018). AMPs are conceivable candidates for the plan of unused antimicrobial agents since of their common antimicrobial properties and a low penchant improvement of resistance for by microorganisms. This composition surveys the current information of the fundamental science of AMPs and their applications in non-ruminant nourishment. Antimicrobial peptides not as it were have broad-spectrum movement against microscopic organisms, parasites, and infections but moreover have the capacity to bypass the common resistance instruments that are putting standard antimicrobials in risk (Wang *et al.*, 2016). The present study aimed at evaluating the resistant of different gram negative and gram positive bacteria against one of the AMP component, Phenoloxidase, in order to examine the antimicrobial activity as a primary step for new antibiotic era.

MATERIALS AND METHODS Insect rearing and pathology assays

The adult leaf-worm *Spodoptera littoralis* was obtained from the Central Agribusiness Pesticides Investiagate Office (CAPL), Dokki, Giza, Egypt. Larvae were reared in insectarium on an artificial diet (Poitout *et al.*, 1970) at $23\pm1^{\circ}$ C, with a photoperiod of 16 hrs light:8 hrs darkness and a relative humidity of $40\pm\%$.

Bacterial suspension

Pathogenicity experiments were performed by injecting a suspension of *Bacillus thuringiensis* kurstaki (BT) bacteria in the exponential growth phase (2 X10¹⁰ cells/ml of LB broth) into fifth instar larvae (Bisch *et al.*, 2015). Six independent pathogenicity assays were performed for *Bacillus thuringiensis* in the *S. littoralis* pathoassay to obtain the sublethal dose. 10 larvae were used for each concentration.

Haemolymph Collection:

The living infused and uninjected (control group) cotton leaf worms were expelled from the raising cages, and submerged in hot water shower at 60°C for 2-5min, then permitted to dry on paper towel. The living larvae were severed at the rear coxa with fine scissors. the haemolymph was gotten with a fine-tipped calibrated glass capillary, which was kept at -20°C for further use in detecting the antimicrobial peptides (Miranpuri and Khachatourians, 1993)

Antimicrobial peptide purification:

The refinement of the enzyme had been done utilizing HiTrap TM CM FF 1ml

column bought from GE Healthcare. CM Sephrose Fast Flow, is based on a vigorous, 6% highly cross-linked beaded agarose matrix with excellent stream propert ies and tall stacking capacities. Two groups of haemolymph (injected and control) had been centrifuged at 12,000 for 10 mins, the additives were washed out by filling the syringe with 5ml buffer (bis-tris PH 5). At that point washing with 5 ml of elution buffer (buffer with 1 M NaCl) (Jae-Joon and Woo-Yeon, 2013). Equilibrate with 5 ml start buffer. Apply the supernatant of the haemolymph to the column by the syringe, washed with start buffer with the same amount of connected haemolymph eluted with 5 ml solution buffer.

Haemolymph proteins were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel (Laemmli, 1970) method. Concentration of the protein in the injected and uninjected sample had been tested by NANODROP 2000c spectrophotometer from Thermo SCIENTIFIC.

Preparation of microbial cells A standardize bacterial suspension (0.5)McFarland) obtained from was microbiology unit, central lab, Ain Shams Specialized Hospital and prepared and measured by densitometer "BIOME RIEUX, DensiCHEK plus". Two gram positive bacterial suspensions had been prepared; Staphylococcus aureus, and Entero cocci, negative and four gram bacterial suspensions had been prepared; Escherichia coli. Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, and Klebsiella pneumonia. All bacterial cultures were grown overnight at 37° C in rich nutrient media until reaching a stationary phase.

Antibacterial activity of collected haemolymph: Microbial growth inhibition was tested using agar well diffusion method (Magaldi *et al.*, 2004; Valgas *et al.*, 2007). In this procedure, agar plates were inoculated with a standardized inoculum of the test microorganism. Then, adding 10μ /drop from the purified haemolymph on the agar surface. The Petri dishes are incubated under suitable conditions. Generally, antimicrobial agent diffuses into the agar and inhibits germination and growth of the tested microorganism and then the diameters of inhibition growth zones were measured.

RESULTS

Haemolymph purification:

Concentration of the protein in the injected and uninjected samples had been tested by "NANODROP 2000c spectrophotometer from Thermo SCIENTIFIC", $2\mu g/ml$ from the sample, the concentration of the injected sample was $106\mu g/ml$ and the protein concentration in uninjected sample was $190\mu g/ml$.

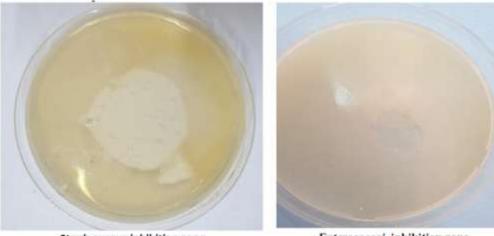
SDS-PAGE Profiles:

Concerning the total cellular proteins of hemolymphs isolates, 14 bands of hemolymphs were fractionated in denaturing gel electrophoresis (SDSPAGE) MW 200, 150, 120, 100, 85, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 kDa (Fig. 1). Comparison of protein patterns from marker and purified hemolymph isolates indicated that there was 1 common band MW 65 kDa (Fig. 1).

Bacterial susceptibility against AMP'S:

antibacterial activity The of hemolymph of S. litorallis against different strains of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria is indicated in Table (1). The Collected hemolymph injected was immediately after isolated. The inhibition zone with the gram positive bacteria Enterococci was (1, 1.1 and 0.9cm) and with Staph aureus was (2, 2.2 and 1.8cm) (Fig. 2). In case of gram negative the inhibition zone with E.coli was (1.5, 1.7 and 1.4cm). For other gram negative no inhibition zone was found (Fig. 3). In case of hemolymph tested after 60 minutes and

uninjected hemolymph there was no inhibition zone with gram positive or gram negative bacteria and there were no statistically significant difference between Gram positive and Gram negative Bacteria (Table 1).



Staph aureus inhibition zone

Enterococcoi inhibition zone

Fig. 1. Protein bands of marker and purified haemolymph of *Spodoptera litorallis* adults determined from SDS- PAGE.

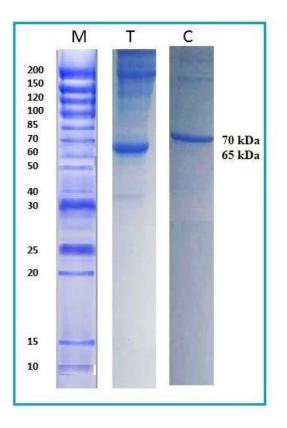
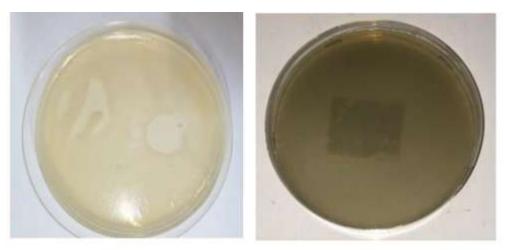


Fig. 2. inhibition zone with gram positive bacteria



E.coli inhibition zone



Acinetobacter inhibition zone

Pseudomonas inhibition zone



Klebsiella inhibition zone

Fig (3): Inhibition zone with gram negative bacteria

Table (1): Antibacterial activity of the haemolymph of S. li	itorallisagainst different strains of
Gram-positive, Gram-negative bacteria	

Collocted homelymph	Inhibition zone (cm) (mean ± SE)		t toat	n volue
Collected hemolymph	Gram +ve Bacteria	Gram -ve Bacteria	t-test	p-value
Immediately isolated	1.53±0.09	1.50±0.07	0.374	0.714
After 60 min	0±0	0±0		
Uninjected sample	0±0	0±0		

Using: Independent Sample t-test; p-value >0.05 NS

DISCUSSION

Multidrug resistant bacteria are a global threat to the human health and abusing of antibiotics is the main cause of this problem. Research for new natural antibiotic is the new era those days. Insects resist the bacterial infection by mounting powerful immune responses that are intervened by hemocytes, the fat body, the midgut, the salivary glands and other tissues (Hillyer, 2016). Phenoloxidase is the authoritative of invaders' PAMPs on PRPs actuates the mix of antimicrobial proteins or starts the proteolytic incitation of phenoloxidase cascade (Yu XQ et al., 2002; Marmaras and Lampropoulou, Marmaras, 2010). 2009: Tsakas and Spodoptera littoralis was the insect chosen in this study, since it had demonstrated a great success in this kind of immunelogical thinks (Paterson et al., 1987; Seufi et al., 2011; Basiouny et al., 2016). This comes from the reality that they can be easily reared with cheap media and materials, can up in huge numbers, easily be kept identified, have a quick lifecycle and they have huge blood volume. According to Gholami et al., (2013), the Phenoloxidase (PO) microbial activity may decrease by 50% after mins. This is why three samples had been tested and it has been supported by this study as the sensitivity showed in the immediate phenoloxidase had been disappeared after 1hr. The antimicrobial impact of responsive intermediates deliverd in the phenol oxidase-catalyzed responses. After being treated with Manduca sexta phenoloxidase and dopamine, tiny examination appeared melanin testim ony on cell surface, accumulation of bacteria, and misfortune of cell versatility. Viability tests uncovered the major diminishes within the bacterial colony counts and since the diminish remained noteworthy after scattering of the clumps, the receptive cell compounds were derived to have amassed and killed E. coli and B. subtilis cells. Beneath the exploratory conditions, 60-94% of the Gram-negative microscopic organisms (E.coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Salmonella typhimurium) and 52-99% of the Grampositive microscopic organisms (Bacillus cereus, B. subtilis, Micrococcus luteus, and *Staphylococcus* aureus) were killed. wWithin the nearness of phenol oxidase (Zhao et al., 2007). While in this study the

effect of PO on gram positive bacteria (Staph. aureus and Enterococci) was greater than the effect on gram negative bacteria, as long as on the gram negative it affect only the growth of the *E.coli* and this may be due to the weakness of the E. coli as a strain, while on the remaining strong pathogenic gram negative tested strain (Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter and Klebsiella) it showed no effect on their growth. The results mentioned in this study indicated that the PO has an antibiotic activity toward the bacteria, specially the gram positive and may have effect on the weak gram negative bacteria.

Referring to Gonzalez-Santoyo and Cordoba-Aguilar (2011)PO are expressed as dormant zymogens (proPOs) insects and are changed in all over to active PO when required. ProPOs are polypeptides with a total weight of 50and 60 70-80 kDa in their active and inactive frame.

In this study, PO was purified with purification protocols. different The molecular weight of PO was estimated on SDSPAGE with a single band of approximately 70 kDa. The molecular mass of PO from other markers has been reported as follows: protein markers were separated into 14 bands with molecular weights (MW) 200, 150, 120, 100, 85, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 kDa. These marker proteins used as a reference for the apparent separated protein bands. Schnepf et al. (1998) and De Maagd et al. (2001) reported that Delta-endotoxins from the sporeforming bacterium, Bacillus thuringiensis, are toxic to a variety of insect species with a very high specificity. Susceptibility of pests to these toxins is influenced by the accomplishment of many steps such as crystal solubilization, protoxin activation by midgut proteases (Lightwood et al., 2000; Rausell et al., 2004), and binding of the toxin to the receptors located on the brush border membrane vesicles (BBMV) (Schnepf et al., 1998). An alteration in one of these steps may be a cause of larvae modification or sensitivity resistance emergence (Ferré and Van Rie, 2002). Abdelkefi et al. (2011) reported that B. thuringiensis toxin has a higher LC50 when tested against S. littoralis larvae. The authors demonstrated that B. thuringiensis was active against first instar larvae of the polyphagous S. littoralis with an LC50 of about 305 ng/cm².

In the present study the susceptibility tests of S. litorallis adult indicated that the mortality percentages were recorded after 24 hr for B. thuringiensis post-injection. The estimated LC50 value, at 95% probability, was 2 x 10^7 cells/ml. The estimated LC20 was $2x10^6$ cells/ml. This concentration was found to stimulate the immune response of larvae and at the same time did not cause high mortality rate. Therefore, this concentration $2x10^6$ cells/ml was used as sublethal concentration to investigate the subsequent experiments.

The Hemolymph PO has been implicated in resistance to a range of pathogens, including nucleopolyhedro viruses (NPVs), fungi, nematodes and parasitoids (Rowley et al, 1990; Ourth and Renis, 1993; Hagen et al., 1994; Hung and Boucias, 1996; Washburn et al., 1996; Bidochka and Hajek, 1998; Reeson et al., 1998). However, PO in other parts of the body may also play an important role in immunity. NPVs enter the body via the midgut and proceed by infecting the associated tracheal cells (Washburn et al., 1996). The authors showed that in refractory Helicoverpa zea, these infected cells were encapsulated and melanized, halting the spread of the virus. This suggests a possible role for midgut PO in viral resistance. In Anopheles gambiae, Plasmodium cynomolgi ookinetes are encapsulated between the

midgut epithelial cells and the midgut basal lamina. It has been shown that refractory individuals have higher midgut PO levels than susceptibles after an infective blood meal. This suggests that their refractoriness may, in part, be due to phenoloxidase activity (Paskewitz et al., 1989). PO has also been used as an indicator of immune function, for example, Reeson et al. (1998) showed that larvae of the African armyworm, Spodoptera exempta, that had been reared at high densities had significantly higher haemolymph PO levels and higher NPV resistance than those reared solitarily. However, a direct link between PO activity and intra-specific variation in parasite resistance has yet to be conclusively demonstrated and it is important to examine the association between PO and pathogen resistance, and to determine any associated costs of pathogen resistance (Wilson et al., 2001).

Hassan et al. (2012) reported that the present findings showed that, larval hemolymph of untreated and treated samples of S. littoralis had 18 bands of proteins. The protein patterns had Rf ranged from 0.02 to 0.74. Also, there were differences in the protein patterns between treated and untreated larvae. The treatment with novaluron and pyrialyl caused disappearance of normal bands and /or appearance of abnormal bands as compared to the control samples.

Ashida and Brey (1997) reported that PO are expressed as inactive zymogens (proPOs) in all insects and are converted to active PO when required. ProPOs are polypeptides that contain two copper atoms per protein molecule, with a total weight of 50–60 and 70–80 kDa in their active and inactive forms, respectively.

In this study the larvae of *S. littoralis* were more susceptible to gram positive bacterial than gram negative bacterial. This

difference in pathogenicity came from the presence of an outer membrane in the cell wall of G -ve bacteria, made up of LPS and acted as an endotoxin, which was absent in gram positive bacterial (Sewify *et. al.* 2017).

The normal insects exhibited a very weak antibacterial activity towards virulent bacteria without receiving any antigenic challenge, because of naturally occurring antimicrobial substances found in the food. Indeed, a weak antibacterial response to water challenge (control) was observed and may be due to either a lower sensitivity or a higher induction-specificity of the larval immune system. The bacterial virulence (SEA) induced the factor strongest antimicrobial activity in larval hemolymph against all the studied bacterial species.

Hemolymph of bacteria-injected *S*. *littoralis* larvae recorded drastic changes in both the total protein content and the protein banding patterns following injections.

The PO antimicrobial activity decreased significantly after 1 h postinjection. This can be attributed to the intensive consumption of plasma proteins during multiplication and growth of bacteria. Also, some hemolymph sticky and soluble proteins may be involved in the attachment of the injected pathogens to the hemocytes or some native proteins might be converted into glycoproteins or lipoproteins after injection (Gholami *et. al* 2013).

Demir et al. (2002) reported that Klebsiella spp. and Enterobacter spp. are closely associated with many insect species and species belonging to these genera and they are not generally insect pathogens. They probably play roles in the digesting processes in the insect gut and in the physiological developments of S. littoralis larvae (Ademolu and Idowu. 2011). Klebsiella species (SL2 and SL5) and 2 Enterobacter (SL3 and SL4) strains were isolated from S. littoralis. The Enterobacter isolates did not show good activity against S.

littoralis, while the *Klebsiella* species caused significant mortalities in *S. littoralis* larvae. (Demir *et al.*, 2002; Ademolu and Idowu, 2011).

Staphylococcus species have been isolated from different insect species (Ince et al., 2008), although Bucher (1981) indicated that *Staphylococcus* species are rarely associated with insects. In the current study Staphylococcus sp. was isolated from SL9 S. littoralis larvae, but this isolate did not show significant mortality in the pest. Ravensberg (2011) indicated that all larval stages of S. littoralis were susceptible to the isolate Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. Kurstaki (MnD) at the same rate, except for the second-instar larvae. The second-instar larvae were also infected with MnD, but they were found to be more resistant than the other development stages. In most cases, all larval stages of insect pests are susceptible to pathogens; therefore, often the larval stage is the preferred stage in field studies (Ravensberg, 2011).

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تقييم النشاط المضاد الحيوى للهيموليمف المنقى من حشرة دودة القطن سبودوبترا ليتور اليس ضنيم النشاط المضاد الحيوى للهيموليمف البكتيريا الممرضة

حنان سيد عامر¹, دعاء سليمان²,وانل سعد عبد المجيد³, شيماء احمد مؤمن²,تامر رشدى³,نادية محمد لطفى² 1 - مستشفى عين شمس التخصصى , القاهرة, مصر . 2 - قسم الحشر ات-كلية العلوم جامعة عين شمس القاهرة,مصر . 3-قسم البيولوجيا الجزيئية معهد ابحاث الهندسة الوراثيا والبايوتكنولوجي , جامعة السادات, المنوفية,مصر .

المستخلص

تاثير وفاعلية المضاد الحيوى للفينول اوكسيدز هو محل اهتمام كبير هذه الايام بسبب الاتجاه للبحث عن مضادات حيوية طبيعية بدلا من المضادات الحيوية الكيميائية . فى هذخ الدراسة تم تفعيل البروفينول اوكسيدز الى فينول اوكسيدز داخل حشرة دودة القطن سبودوبترا ليتور اليس عن طريق حقن سلسة من التركيز ات المختلفة من بكتيريا الباسيلس (3200 ميكروجرام – بودرة) 2010 (2010 ميكروجرام – بودرة) 2010 ميكروجرام ميكروجرام – بودرة) 2010 ميكر 2000 كالكتار 2000 كالا 2000 كالا كولي معن كل ميكروجرام – بودرة مان من يرقات حشرة دودة القطن (10 يرقات فى المجموعه) بمجموع 656 يرقة تم حقنه من كل تركيز داخل مجموعات من يرقات حشرة دودة القطن (10 يرقات فى المجموعه) بمجموع 656 يرقة تم حقنه ما ميكرلتر من كل تركيز داخل مجموعات من يرقات حشرة دودة القطن (10 يرقات فى المجموعه) بمجموع 656 يرقة تم حقنه م. تم بقاء 199 على قيد الحياة و ماتت 107 يرقة وجد ان تركيز ما 200 كالا 200 ميكروجرام معود الحقن والتحضين ب 24 ساعة تم على قيد الحياة و ماتت 107 يرقة. وجد ان تركيز ما 2000 كالا 2000 ميكروجرام معود محموعات من يرقات حشرة دودة القطن (10 يرقات فى المجموعه) بمجموع 656 يرقة معرون والتحضين ب 24 ساعة تم على قيد الحياة و ماتت 107 يرقة. وجد ان تركيز ما 2000 كالا 2000 وكسيدز من الهيموليمف تمت عن طريق عمود فصل هاى على قيد اليون اليرقات الحية وتم سحب و فصل الهيموليمف . تنقية الفينول اوكسيدز من الهيموليمف تمت عن طريق عمود فصل هاى تراب عمود 10 لي بعد التاك من وجود الفينول اوكسيدز عن طريق جل الس دي اس تم زرعه مع ما انواع من البكتيريا المرضة, نو عين من موجبين الصبغة (ستاف اوريس, انتيروكوكاى) و اربعة أنواع من سالبة الصبغة (اى كولاى (من المرضة, نو عين من موجبين الصبغة (ستاف اوريس, انتيروكوكاى) و المعروبية المربغة وفقط مع بكتيريا الاى كولاى (من المرضة, نوبولي اليكتيريا الموجبة للصبغة وفقط مع بكتيريا الاى كولاى (من المرضة, المينة بلصبغة) وولد كانت النتائج ايجابية ضد البكتيريا الموجبة الصبغة وفقط مع بكتيريا الى كولاى (من المر منة بلومبغة) وولان الموجبة الصبغة المضاد الحيوي الفينول اوكسيدز توثر على البكتيريا الموجبة للصبغة وولاى من الترروجري الموجبة الصبغة (من الموجبة المصبغة) وولاى وكسيدي الموجبة الم