

## Kinetics and Specificity of *Drosophila melanogaster* Molybdo-Flavoenzymes towards Their Substrates

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**Abstract :** Aldehyde oxidase (AO) and xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) catalyze the oxidation of many different N-heterocyclic compounds as well as aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes to their corresponding lactam and carboxylic acids respectively. The present study examines the oxidation of dimethylamino-cinnamaldehyde (DMAC), vanillin and phenanthridine by AO and xanthine by XOR from *Drosophila* cytosol. Therefore, the results obtained in the present study showed the DMAC, vanillin and phenanthridine substrates used were found to be good substrates of *Drosophila* AO and xanthine is the preferred substrate for *Drosophila* XOR. Km values of AO substrates were observed with DMAC ( $50 \pm 5.4 \mu\text{M}$ ), phenanthridine ( $80 \pm 9.1 \mu\text{M}$ ) and vanillin ( $303 \pm 11.7 \mu\text{M}$ ) respectively for *Drosophila* cytosol. The Km values for DMAC and phenanthridine were ~6 and ~4 fold lower than that for vanillin as a substrate. The Km for XOR with xanthine using NAD<sup>+</sup> as an electron acceptor was  $27 \pm 4.1 \mu\text{M}$ . Relatively low Vmax values were obtained with phenanthridine ( $1.78 \pm 0.38 \text{ nmol/min/mg protein}$ ) and DMAC ( $1.80 \pm 0.35 \text{ nmol/min/mg protein}$ ). The highest Vmax was obtained from *Drosophila* cytosol with vanillin ( $7.58 \pm 2.11 \text{ nmol/min/mg protein}$ ). It is concluded these results that AO and XOR in *Drosophila* were able to catalyse the biotransformation of numerous substrates of the well-characterised mammalian AO and XOR. The kinetic parameters have indicated that the activity of AO of *Drosophila* may be a significant factor the oxidation of aromatic aldehyde compounds.

**Keywords :** aldehyde oxidase, xanthine oxidoreductase, dimethylamino-cinnamaldehyde, vanillin, phenanthridine, *Drosophila melanogaster*

**Conference Title :** ICSRD 2020 : International Conference on Scientific Research and Development

**Conference Location :** Chicago, United States

**Conference Dates :** December 12-13, 2020