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Citation	Aquaculture, 308, S140-S144 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2010.05.041
Issue Date	2010
Doc URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2115/44225
Type	article (author version)
File Information	arai.pdf



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**Restoration of the loach, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, from
cryopreserved diploid sperm and induced androgenesis**

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Running title: Androgenesis using cryopreserved diploid sperm

ABSTRACT

In the present study, we evaluated the feasibility of using cryopreserved diploid sperm as a repository genebank for the loach, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, along with a rederivation strategy utilising induced-androgenesis. Firstly, we evaluated three types of media for egg inactivation: Hank's saline solution + 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA), Ringer's solution + 0.5% BSA, and masu salmon seminal plasma. Haploid and diploid sperm were taken from diploid and tetraploid loaches, respectively. Fresh and cryopreserved haploid or diploid sperm were then used to fertilize intact or UV-irradiated eggs from wild diploid females. The irradiation media evaluated here successfully maintained the egg quality over 2 hours. Fertilization and hatching rates of eggs fertilized with cryopreserved diploid sperm were $11.68 \pm 6.74\%$ and $7.14 \pm 6.29\%$ respectively, compared to $63.51 \pm 10.68\%$ and $45.19 \pm 16.2\%$ for intact eggs fertilized by fresh haploid sperm. All-male inheritance was confirmed by determination of larval morphology, ploidy status and microsatellite genotypes of putative androgenetic progeny.

Keywords: Cryopreservation, sperm bank, androgenesis, loach, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, teleost

1. Introduction

The cryopreservation of sperm in liquid nitrogen is a promising tool for gene banking because it permits a long-term storage of the genome. Consequently, cryopreserved fish sperm may be used as a long term gene bank for endangered strains or species. At the beginning of this century, protocols for sperm cryopreservation had been successfully established for more than 200 fish species (Billard and Zhang, 2001). Most of these protocols aimed to establish a gene bank for the maintenance of genetic diversity as well as a source of sperm for *in vitro* fertilization. In order to re-derive extinct or endangered species from cryopreserved sperm, it is necessary to use genetically-inactivated eggs to achieve successful androgenesis, providing only paternal inheritance. Although the combination of cryopreserved sperm and androgenesis protocols have already been discussed as a means to restore endangered genomes (Gwo et al., 1999; Urbányi et al., 2004), optimised protocols have only been established for a limited number of species thus far (for reviews, see Komen and Thorgaard, 2007; Pandian and Kirankumar, 2003).

Viable androgenesis includes detrimental stages such as the genetic inactivation of the egg nucleus and diploidization of paternally derived chromosomes. In recent years, research has improved the observed survival rates of androgenotes. The first stage is to develop an irradiating medium for the eggs. This type of solution must maintain the viability of unfertilized eggs during the period of irradiation. In order to do this, such a medium should be inexpensive, easy to obtain, and should present low viscosity and toxicity for the gametes. Natural solutions such as seminal plasma or ovarian fluid were successfully used as an irradiating medium in the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*, Corley-Smith et al., 1996), muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*, Lin and Dabrowski, 1998),

common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*, Rothbard et al., 1999) and also for the loach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, Fujimoto et al., 2007). However, the content of such solutions may differ due to seasonal variation and are not promptly available around the year.

Another focus for improving induced-androgenesis was to evaluate the optimum irradiation dose for genetic inactivation of the egg nucleus, and this has successfully been achieved for several species (Komen and Thorgaard, 2007). However, when genetically-inactivated eggs are fertilized by normal haploid sperm, the resultant haploid progeny die during the early stages of embryogenesis, due to so-called haploid syndrome. Therefore, in order to achieve viable androgenesis, it is necessary to duplicate the paternal chromosomes to obtain viable diploid androgenotes.

Diploidization may be achieved by preventing the first cell cleavage by temperature or pressure shocks, but this process frequently results in very low survival rates (Komen and Thorgaard, 2007). The fertilization of eggs by two sperm cells (dispermy) or fused spermatozoa was used by some authors in order to avoid the diploidization stage (Araki et al., 1995; Clifton and Pandian, 2008; Grunina et al., 2006; Kirankumar and Pandian, 2004a). For the rainbow trout, Thorgaard et al. (1990) produced diploid androgenotes by fertilizing genetically-inactivated gamma-irradiated eggs with diploid sperm of artificially produced autotetraploid males. In the loach *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, Arai et al. (1995) further reported the production of diploid androgenotes using fertile diploid sperm from spontaneously occurring tetraploid individuals. However, the successful production of diploid androgenotes using fresh haploid sperm followed by duplication of paternally derived chromosomes by inhibiting first mitosis is still difficult to achieve, largely due to very low survival rates (Masaoka et al., 1995). In the loach, some populations present natural clonal individuals and polyploid individuals, which

conveniently represent a source of diploid sperm (Arai, 2001, 2003; Yoshikawa et al., 2008). Nonetheless, such individuals normally represent only a small fraction of the natural population, emphasizing the need of establishing cryobanks. The application of diploid sperm for gene banking in the loach may thus be facilitated by recently developed techniques regarding sperm cryopreservation (Yasui et al., 2008, 2009), egg inactivation (Arai et al., 1992; Fujimoto et al., 2007) and the production of neo-tetraploid individuals induced by the fertilization of normal eggs from diploid wild type females with diploid sperm from spontaneously occurring natural tetraploid males followed by inhibition of second polar body release (Fujimoto et al., 2010).

Considering the aspects mentioned above, the aim of our present study was to develop the restoration of individuals by integrating the cryopreservation of rare diploid sperm with induced androgenesis.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Gamete sampling, sperm cryopreservation and fertilization

Adult female loaches were obtained from Iwamizawa city (Hokkaido Island, Japan). Neo-tetraploid males were obtained by crossing sperm from natural-occurring tetraploid males (Arai, 2001, 2003) with eggs from normal wild type diploid females, followed by retention of the 2nd polar body release by heat shock (42°C for 2 min; 5 min after activation) (Fujimoto et al., 2010). Spawning was induced by the injection of a single dose of hCG (100 I.U. for males and 500 I.U. for females). After 10-12 hours at 27°C, the fish were anesthetized in 0.1% 2-phenoxyethanol and the gametes were collected by stripping.

Sperm was collected using a capillary glass tube. For cryopreservation, we used the procedure described by Yasui et al. (2008) with some modifications. Due to the

small volume of sperm collected from neo-tetraploid individuals, the sperm content in the capillary tube was placed in a 1.5 ml microtube containing 500 μ l of cryo-solution (163.5 mM NaCl, 24mM NaHCO₃, 10% methanol, pH 8.3) and gently vortexed. The sperm was then placed in three French straws (250 μ l), adjusted to 140 μ l by cutting and then sealed with straw powder. The samples were frozen at $-33.3 \pm 2.09^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ from 0 to -50°C using a cooling tube introduced in powdered dry ice (Yasui et al., 2009), and then plunged into liquid nitrogen for storage. The minimum storage duration was 6 h before the fertilization trials. Thawing was performed in water bath at 25°C for 10 s. The thawed straw content was placed in a 1.5 ml microtube and gently vortexed before insemination.

Eggs were stripped into Petri dishes (85 mm diameter) covered by a polyvinylidene chloride film (SaranWrap: Asahi Kasei Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). Insemination using fresh or cryopreserved samples was performed using 50 μ l of sperm which was directly pipette onto the egg mass. Sperm activation was performed by a 20-fold dilution in dechlorinated tap water. After 5 min, the fertilized eggs were transferred to another Petri dish containing approximately 50 ml of water.

2.2 Evaluation of irradiation media

Eggs from three diploid wild type females (~1000 eggs each) were stripped in 2 ml microtubes, and the volume completed using Hank's saline solution (137mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 0.25 mM Na₂HPO₄, 0.44 mM KH₂PO₄, 1.3 mM CaCl₂, 1mM MgSO₄, 4.2 mM NaHCO₃, 0.5% bovine serum albumin-BSA) (Sakai et al., 1997), modified Ringer solution (128.3 mM NaCl, 23.6 mM KCl, 3.6 mM CaCl₂, 2.1 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% BSA) or masu salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou*) seminal plasma. The eggs were maintained in an incubator set at 20°C .

Groups of 150 eggs were taken from the microtubes at 10, 30, 60 and 120 minutes after storage, and fertilized with fresh haploid sperm. The inseminating dose was higher than $687.65 \text{ spermatozoa egg}^{-1} \text{ ml}^{-1}$ in order to ensure fertilization (Yasui et al., 2009). One batch of “dry” eggs (without previous contact with irradiating media) was fertilized at the beginning of the experiment and served as intact control group. Hatching rates were measured after 40-50 hours post fertilization. Data were expressed as a percentage of the control group.

2.3 Androgenesis and fertilization trials

For genetic inactivation of nuclei in eggs, we used the procedure described by Fujimoto et al. (2007). Groups of ~800 eggs from three females were stripped into 2.1 ml Hank's saline + 0.5% BSA and then UV-irradiated at 150 mJ/cm^2 .

Groups of ~150 irradiated and intact eggs were pipetted directly into plastic Petri dishes covered by a plastic film (saran wrap). One drop of irradiation media was added on the egg mass to prevent dehydration. Intact and inactivated eggs were then inseminated with cryopreserved haploid or diploid sperm and fresh haploid or diploid sperm. Fertilized eggs were then maintained at 20°C and fertilization (at blastula stage) and hatching rates were measured, as well as the percentage of normal and abnormal larvae.

2.4 Ploidy status and genotyping

A small piece of fin was removed and processed using the standard protocol for nuclear staining with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) and the relative DNA content was determined using a Partec Ploidy Analyzer PA-II (Partec GmbH, Münster, Germany).

In order to confirm paternity, PCR products from the parental fish, androgenotes ($n=19$) and triploids ($n=10$) derived using cryopreserved diploid sperm from neo-tetraploids, were amplified following the procedure described by Morishima et al. (2008), using the primers *Mac37*, *Mac45*, *Mac47*, *Mac229* and *Mac449*. Electrophoresis was carried out using an automated sequencer ABI3130xl (ABI) and genotyping was performed using the GeneMapper program Ver.3.7 (ABI).

2.5 Statistical analyses

Data are shown as mean \pm SD. All experiments were performed in triplicates using different egg sources. A general factorial design was used in order to study the effect of sperm (fresh haploid, cryopreserved haploid, fresh diploid and cryopreserved diploid) and egg source (normal or inactivated) upon fertilization, hatching and the percentage of abnormal larvae. Data were checked for normality using the Liliefor test, and then compared using ANOVA followed by Student-Newman Keul's multiple range test ($P>0.05$). Arcsine transformation was used for the percentage data regarding abnormal larvae in order to fit a normal distribution.

3. Results

The irradiation media evaluated in this study reduced hatching rates only after 60 min of storage (Fig. 1). Differences between the solutions were observed only at 120 min of incubation. After 10 min, the relative hatching rates were $85.59 \pm 7.14\%$, $70.78 \pm 18.15\%$ and $65.43 \pm 23.28\%$ for Hank's saline solution, Ringer and seminal plasma, respectively. After 120 min of storage, these values decreased to $32.01 \pm 18.55\%$, $15.10 \pm 9.73\%$ and $21.19 \pm 4.67\%$, respectively. The hatching rate of the control group was $54.29 \pm 14.9\%$.

The fertilization rates were highly variable, especially when inactivated eggs were employed (Table 1). No significant differences were observed between normal and inactivated eggs and no interaction was observed for any of the sperm and egg sources. Fertilization decreased significantly when inactivated eggs were fertilized with cryopreserved diploid sperm. Using fresh haploid sperm, the fertilization rate was $63.51 \pm 10.68\%$, decreasing to $28.80 \pm 20.06\%$ when irradiated eggs were employed. For fresh diploid sperm, the fertilization rate was $53.20 \pm 2.71\%$ for normal eggs and $34.92 \pm 27.12\%$ for inactivated eggs. When cryopreserved haploid sperm was used to fertilize normal eggs, a fertilization rate of $41.83 \pm 17.88\%$ was recorded. The same sperm source resulted in a fertilization of $28.35 \pm 15.01\%$ when inactivated eggs were utilized. Cryopreserved diploid sperm resulted in a fertilization rate of $21.33 \pm 7.14\%$ when normal eggs were used. Using the same sperm source, the fertilization rate of UV-irradiated eggs was only $11.68 \pm 6.74\%$.

Hatching rate data followed similar trends as the fertilization rates. No interaction was observed when using different sperm and egg sources. Significant reductions in hatching rates were observed only in the cross between UV-inactivated eggs and cryopreserved haploid sperm ($14.12 \pm 9.08\%$) and in UV-inactivated eggs crossed with cryopreserved diploid sperm ($7.14 \pm 6.29\%$). Hatching rates following the fertilization of normal eggs with fresh haploid sperm and fresh diploid sperm were $45.19 \pm 16.20\%$ and $48.14 \pm 5.76\%$, respectively.

As expected, the percentage of abnormal fry was significantly higher in treatments that generated haploid androgenotes (crosses between haploid sperm and inactivated eggs). In these treatments the interaction between egg and sperm sources was significant and the percentage of abnormal fry was 100%. Other treatments revealed hatching rates of abnormal fry ranging from 7.97 to 15.94%.

As shown in Table 1, flow cytometry analyses revealed that haploid progeny were created when UV-inactivated eggs were fertilized with fresh or cryopreserved haploid sperm. Diploid progeny were obtained when UV-inactivated eggs were fertilized with fresh diploid sperm, when UV-inactivated eggs were crossed with cryopreserved diploid sperm, when normal eggs were crossed with fresh haploid sperm and when normal eggs were crossed with cryopreserved haploid sperm. Triploid individuals were resulted from the crosses between normal eggs and cryopreserved diploid sperm, and between normal eggs x fresh diploid sperm.

All-male inheritance of the androgenotes was confirmed by paternally derived alleles at five independent microsatellite loci (Table 2). Female alleles were not observed among androgenotes. Male and female alleles were observed in the triploid progeny.

4. Discussion

The type of irradiating media used is a key factor when using UV-irradiation for inactivating the egg nucleus. Several types of media have been used for this purpose such as ovarian fluid (Lin and Dabrowski, 1998; Rothbard et al., 1999), synthetic ovarian fluid (Bongers et al., 1994, 1995), water (Myers et al., 1995), seminal plasma (Corley-Smith et al., 1996; Fujimoto et al., 2007) and Ringer's solution (David and Pandian, 2006b). In the present study, Hank's saline solution was effective in irradiating eggs from the loach, and also in prevent egg dehydration during fertilization trials. Although fertilization could be achieved until 120 minutes of storage, the time taken to inactivate the egg nucleus and fertilize a batch of eggs was usually less than 10 minutes.

Fertilization rates using different sources of gamete were highly variable. Irradiated eggs yielded the most variable results, as reported for other teleosts (Babiak et

al., 2002b; David and Pandian, 2006a), and our as described in our earlier studies involving the same species (Arai et al., 1992, 1995; Fujimoto et al., 2007; Masaoka et al., 1995). In most cases, irradiation reduces fertilization ability due to physical and genetic damage of the eggs (Kirankumar and Pandian, 2003; Lin and Dabrowski, 1998; Nam et al., 2002).

Both egg and sperm sources presented a significant interaction for data regarding abnormal larvae in treatments that generated haploid progenies (fresh haploid sperm x irradiated eggs and cryopreserved haploid sperm x irradiated eggs). This fact was expected due to haploid syndrome presenting in the resultant embryos, in which all the progeny possessed body malformations.

The combination of cryopreserved diploid sperm and irradiated eggs reduced the fertilization rates when compared with controls (haploid sperm and intact eggs). In fish, the usage of cryopreserved sperm to achieve androgenesis presents variable results, with reduction in survival rates (David and Pandian 2006b; Grunina et al., 2006; Kirankumar and Pandian, 2004b; Scherer et al., 1991) or no effect upon survival rates (Babiak et al., 2002b; Bercsenyi et al., 1998). In our case, such problems may have occurred due to egg irradiation combined with poor sperm quality from tetraploid males, since we observed lower sperm content in such tetraploid individuals. Sperm content may affect fertilization success if the resulting inseminating dosage is lower than $689 \text{ spermatozoa egg}^{-1} \text{ ml}^{-1}$ (Yasui et al., 2009). In our study, the survival rate of androgenotes derived from cryopreserved diploid sperm ($7.14 \pm 6.29\%$), was higher than those obtained in other teleosts described previously (Araki et al., 1995; Babiak et al., 2002a; Paschos et al., 2001) although our survival data was lower than that described previously (David and Pandian, 2006a, Kirankumar and Pandian, 2004b; Nam et al., 2002). As observed here, other studies have focused in eliminating the diploidization step in order to

improve the survival of the androgenotes. Sun et al. (2006) obtained 4.1% of diploid androgenotes using diploid sperm obtained from allotriploid hybrids in order to achieve interspecific androgenesis, similarly to Kirankumar and Pandian (2004a) using dispermic fertilization (~15%). In sturgeon *Acipenser stellatus*, Grunina et al. (2006) performed dispermic androgenesis and obtained survival rates of 17% androgenotes using fresh sperm and 7% for cryopreserved sperm. These data are similar to that observed in the present study.

Our data regarding survival rates and genotyping indicates that the cryopreservation of diploid sperm followed by induced androgenesis may be applicable for gene banking. However, it is necessary to obtain fertile diploid sperm. As demonstrated in our study, neo-tetraploid males were produced when a diploid female was crossed with a natural tetraploid male followed by inhibition of second polar body release (Fujimoto et al., 2010). This may be useful as a source of diploid sperm. Another source of diploid sperm is from an artificial tetraploid, induced by inhibition of the first cleavage. However, induction of tetraploid individuals is generally very difficult to achieve, largely due to very low viability (Arai, 2001; Sakao et al., 2006). Furthermore, a large number of artificial tetraploids were reported to produce haploid and other unexpected gametes in the loach (Nam and Kim, 2004). In the loach, however, other sources of diploid sperm may be obtained from masculinized clonal individuals (Morishima et al., 2002; Yoshikawa et al., 2007, 2009) and diploid-triploid mosaics (Morishima et al., 2004).

In the present paper, we have attempted to restore diploid individuals by induced-androgenesis using cryopreserved diploid sperm. Thus, the cryopreservation of diploid sperm is feasible to use as a repository gene bank in the loach and also for other

teleost fish, as long as diploid sperm can be readily obtained from spontaneously occurring or artificially induced tetraploids, or other sources.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported in part by Grants-in-Aid for the 21st Century COE (Center of Excellence) Program (K-2, 2004-2008 fiscal year) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), and Scientific Research (B) (no.18380108) and Scientific Research (B) (no. 21380114) from the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS).

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Figure legends:

Fig. 1. Hatching rates of loach eggs stored in Hank's saline solution + 0.5% BSA, modified Ringer solution + 0.5% BSA or *Oncorhynchus masou* seminal plasma. Average hatching of the control group (intact eggs) was $54.29 \pm 14.9\%$. Identical superscript letters above the columns denote non-significant differences as determined by the Student Newman-Keuls test ($P > 0.05$).

Table 1. Percentages of fertilization, hatching and abnormal larvae derived from combinations of gametes sources. Identical letters within columns denotes non-statistical differences as determined by the Student Newman-Keuls multiple range test ($P>0.05$)

Crosses		Fertilization (%)	Hatching (%)	Abnormal (%)	Ploidy status				
Egg	Sperm				<i>n</i>	Haploid	Diploid	Triploid	Aneuploid
Normal	x Fresh haploid	63.51 ± 10.68 ^a	45.19 ± 16.20 ^{ab}	7.97 ± 3.87 ^b	60	-	60	-	-
Inactivated	x Fresh haploid	28.80 ± 20.06 ^{ab}	17.88 ± 12.28 ^{abc}	100.0 ± 0.00 ^a	60	60	-	-	-
Normal	x Fresh diploid	53.20 ± 2.71 ^{ab}	48.14 ± 5.76 ^a	7.90 ± 7.47 ^b	60	-	-	60	-
Inactivated	x Fresh diploid	34.92 ± 27.12 ^{ab}	23.83 ± 18.84 ^{ac}	15.94 ± 20.95 ^b	60	-	60	-	-
Normal	x Cryop. haploid	41.83 ± 17.88 ^{ab}	23.82 ± 14.24 ^{abc}	8.14 ± 6.77 ^b	60	-	60	-	-
Inactivated	x Cryop. haploid	28.35 ± 15.01 ^{ab}	14.12 ± 9.08 ^{bc}	100.0 ± 0.00 ^a	60	60	-	-	-
Normal	x Cryop. diploid	21.33 ± 7.14 ^{ab}	19.12 ± 6.79 ^{abc}	09.17 ± 3.87 ^b	60	-	-	57	3*
Inactivated	x Cryop. diploid	11.68 ± 6.74 ^b	07.14 ± 6.29 ^c	8.76 ± 10.90 ^b	60	-	60	-	-

Fertilization was measured at blastula stage.

* hyper 3n individuals.

Table 2. Microsatellite genotypes of androgenotes and triploids derived from cryopreserved diploid sperm.

Sample	Loci									
	<i>Mac37</i> (10)	<i>n</i>	<i>Mac45</i> (10)	<i>n</i>	<i>Mac47</i> (3)	<i>n</i>	<i>Mac229</i> (3)	<i>n</i>	<i>Mac449</i> (14)	<i>n</i>
Male	84 / 92	-	110	-	128 / 146	-	210 / 220 / 242 / 262	-	233 / 253 / 260	-
Female	<u>101</u> / <u>109</u>	-	<u>91</u> / <u>106</u>	-	<u>148</u>	-	<u>194</u> / <u>222</u>	-	<u>272</u> / <u>280</u>	-
Inactivated eggs	84 / 92	19	110	19	146	13	210 / 220	1	233 / 260	13
x	-	-	-	-	128 / 146	6	210 / 242	4	253 / 260	6
Cryopreserved diploid sperm	-	-	-	-	-	-	210 / 262	2	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	220 / 242	4	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	220 / 262	8	-	-
Normal eggs									233 / 260 / 272	
x	84 / 92 / <u>101</u>	5	110 / <u>106</u>	4	128 / 146 / <u>148</u>	4	<u>194</u> / 210 / 242	2	<u>272</u>	3
Cryopreserved diploid sperm									233 / 260 / 280	
	84 / 92 / <u>109</u>	5	110 / <u>91</u>	6	146 / <u>148</u>	6	<u>194</u> / 210 / 262	1	<u>280</u>	2
									253 / 260 / 272	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>194</u> / 220 / 242	2	<u>272</u>	3
									253 / 260 / 280	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>222</u> / 220 / 242	3	<u>280</u>	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>222</u> / 220 / 262	2		

Underlined alleles originated from the female. Number in parenthesis indicates the linkage group (Morishima et al., 2008).

