

**Trial for determination of antigenic relationship  
between *Schistosoma mansoni* and its intermediate snail  
host**

**THESIS**

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### Abstract

Intestinal schistosomiasis is a serious health disease, caused by *Schistosomamansoni*. *Biomphalariaalexandrina* snail is the intermediate host of *S. mansoni* in Egypt. Antigenic relationship between *S. mansoni* and *B. alexandrina* snail both infected and noninfected with *S. mansoni* was studied. *S. mansoni* crude antigen was prepared from adult stage of *S. mansoni* collected from experimentally infected mice. Crude antigens from both infected and non infected *B. alexandrina* snail were also prepared after dissecting each animal snail into two parts foot and visceral hump. These antigens were fractionated using Sodium dodecyl sulfate Poly acrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS PAGE). Common bands were detected among adult worm antigen (AWA) and both infected and non infected *B. alexandrina* visceral hump antigens at 22,30 and 58 KDa, while a common band among AWA antigen and both infected and non infected foot antigens was detected at 40 KDa. Specific mice hyper immune serum (HIS) was prepared against each prepared antigen that was used in western blot. WB revealed that HIS of AWA is reactive to infected snail more than non infected snail. HIS of AWA identified a common band in non infected snails both foot and visceral hump at 70 -75 KDa and identified a common band at 45 KDa in AWA and both infected and non infected visceral hump snail antigens. HIS of *B. alexandrina* Infected foot detected a common band at 68 KDa among both infected and non infected foot antigens and AWA. HIS of *B. alexandrina* non infected visceral hump detected a common band at 35 KDa among both infected and non infected visceral snail antigens and AWA.

**key words** : *Schistosomamansoni*, *Biomphalariaalexandrina*, antigens, Western blot, SDS PAGE.

محضر  
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# List of Content

<b>List of Content</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Aim of the work</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Review of literature</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Material and methods</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Results</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Conclusion and Recommendation</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Arabic summary</b>	

## List of figures

No.		Page
<b>Figure (1)</b>	Diagram of <i>Biomphalaria</i> shell	5
<b>Figure (2)</b>	Anatomy of <i>Biomphalaria</i> snail animal	7
<b>Figure (3)</b>	Difference in shell diameter between <i>Biomphalaria</i> species. <i>B. alexandrina</i> , hybrid and <i>B. glabrata</i>	8
<b>Figure (4)</b>	Intramolluscan cycle of schistosomes	11
<b>Figure (5)</b>	<i>Schistosoma</i> life cycle	16
<b>Figure (6)</b>	Diagram showing the steps of western blot	34
<b>Figure (7)</b>	Animal of <i>B. alexandrina</i> after removal of shell	38
<b>Figure (8)</b>	Dissected <i>B. alexandrina</i> animal into foot and visceral hump	38
<b>Figure (9)</b>	Homogenizer	40
<b>Figure (10)</b>	Sonicator	41
<b>Figure (11)</b>	Photograph showing general view of the fractionation process	48
<b>Figure (12)</b>	Photograph showing the transfer blot set	52
<b>Figure (13)</b>	SDS-PAGE fractionation of the tested antigens (visceral hump)	53
<b>Figure (14)</b>	SDS-PAGE fractionation of the tested antigens (foot)	55

<p><b>Figure (16)</b></p>	<p>Specific protein fractions resulted after treatment of different fractionated antigens ( visceral hump) with <i>S. mansoni</i> HIS using EITB technique:</p>	<p>58</p>
<p><b>Figure (18)</b></p>	<p>Specific protein fractions resulted after treatment of different fractionated antigens with Infected <i>B.alexandrina</i> visceral hump HIS using EITB technique</p>	<p>60</p>
<p><b>Figure (19)</b></p>	<p>Specific protein fractions resulted after treatment of different fractionated antigens versus non-infected <i>B.alexandrina</i> visceral hump HIS using EITB technique</p>	<p>62</p>

# List of Abbreviations

<b>APO :</b>	Amebocyte producing organ
<b>AWA :</b>	Adult worm antigen
<b><i>B. alexandrina:</i></b>	<i>Biomphalaria alexandrina</i>
<b><i>B. glabrata:</i></b>	<i>Biomphalaria glabrata</i>
<b>BSA :</b>	Bovine serum albumin
<b>C:</b>	Celsius
<b>CA :</b>	Cercarial antigen
<b>CAA :</b>	Circulating anodic antigen.
<b>CCA :</b>	Circulating cathodic antigen
<b>DNA :</b>	De oxy ribonucleic acid
<b>ELISAs :</b>	Enzyme-linked immune sorbent assays
<b>EITB:</b>	Enzyme linked immune transfer blot
<b>FREP:</b>	Fibrinogen related protein
<b>g:</b>	Gram
<b>HBV :</b>	Hepatitis B virus.
<b>HCV :</b>	Hepatitis C virus.
<b>HIS :</b>	Hyper immune serum
<b>Hsp70:</b>	Heat shock protein 70
<b>Hr:</b>	Hour
<b>IFATs:</b>	Immune fluorescent antibody tests
<b>Ig:</b>	Immunoglobulin.
<b>IgA :</b>	Immunoglobulin A.
<b>IgE:</b>	Immunoglobulin E.
<b>IgG:</b>	Immunoglobulin G.
<b>IgM:</b>	Immunoglobulin M.
<b>IHAs:</b>	Indirect haemagglutination assays

<b>IDS:</b>	Internal defense system
<b>kDa:</b>	Kilo Dalton.
<b>LMW:</b>	Low Molecular Weight
<b>L:</b>	liter
<b>ml:</b>	milliliter
<b>Min:</b>	Minute
<b>MAbs :</b>	Mono clonal antibodies
<b>M:</b>	Mole
<b>MA:</b>	Milli ampere
<b>mm:</b>	milli meter
<b>M.W:</b>	Molecular Weight
<b>MWS:</b>	Molecular Weight Standard
<b>N.C.:</b>	Nitrocellulose
<b>PCR:</b>	Polymerase chain reaction.
<b>PBS:</b>	Phosphate buffered saline
<b>PEPCK:</b>	Phosphoenol pyruvate carboxy kinase
<b>PoMuc :</b>	Polymorphic mucins
<b>RNA:</b>	Ribonucleic acid
<b>r.p.m:</b>	Revolution per minute
<b>SEP :</b>	Secretory-excretory products
<b>SDS:</b>	Sodium dodecyl sulfate
<b>PAGE :</b>	Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis
<b>SEA:</b>	Secretory egg antigen
<b><i>S. haematobium :</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma haematobium</i>
<b><i>S .m</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>
<b><i>S. mansoni :</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>
<b><i>S. japonicum :</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma japonicum</i>
<b><i>S. mekongi:</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma mekongi</i>
<b><i>S.intercalatum:</i></b>	<i>Schistosoma intercalatum</i>

<b>SBSP:</b>	Schistosome Biological Supply Program Unit
<b>Spp:</b>	Species
<b>SWAP :</b>	Soluble adult worm antigen preparation
<b>V:</b>	Volt
<b>WHO :</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WB:</b>	Western blot
<b>4C1N:</b>	4-chloro-1-Naphthol
<b>μ l:</b>	Micro liter

# Introduction

Schistosomiasis is a public health problem in many developing countries, *S.mansoni* is the most widespread species of the causative trematode parasite (WHO, 2002). After malaria and intestinal helminthiasis, schistosomiasis is the third most devastating tropical disease in the world, being a major source of morbidity and mortality for developing countries in Africa, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Asia. (WHO, 2010). The prevalence of this parasite in human population depends on the number of infected snails in the area. The specificity of host parasite interactions has received great attention by parasitologists and evolutionary biologists (Blair *et al.*, 2001). Common antigen fractions had been demonstrated to be shared between schistosomes stages miracidia, sporocysts, cercariae and adult and their intermediate hosts (De Santana *et al.*, 1992).

Numerous genetic and physiological factors in both the snail and the parasite are critical for determining the interaction between *S.mansoni* and *Biomphalaria*, the most important of which is the internal defense system (IDS) of the snail (Negrão-Corrêa *et al.*, 2007 and Abou El Naga *et al.*, 2010). The parasite can escape the IDS by two mechanisms, molecular mimicry and antigenic masking. In the molecular mimicry, the parasite expresses glycoprotein epitopes on its surface that mimic host molecules. Common antigens between different species of *Schistosoma* and their intermediate hosts have been reported (Lehret *et al.*, 2008). These molecules could be used in the diagnosis of schistosomiasis (Chacón *et al.*, 2000).

## **Introduction**

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The presence of common antigenic fractions between snail host tissues and Schistosomes directed many researchers to focus their work on the vaccination of the final host of *S.mansoni* with the constituents of its intermediate host (snails); these constituents include protein, nucleoprotein, lipid and carbohydrate (**Tolba *et al.*, 1995**).

## **Aim of the work**

To demonstrate of antigenic similarity between *S.mansoni* and its intermediate snail host *B. alexandrina* using SDS PAGE and Western blot technique.

These common antigens could be used as candidates for the serodiagnosis of schistosomiasis and possible vaccination of final host of *S.mansoni*

### *Biomphalaria alexandrina* snail

#### **History and Taxonomic Classification:**

*Biomphalaria alexandrina* is specific aquatic snails in a wide variety of fresh water habitat. It is an air breathing snails. It serves as an intermediate host of *S.mansoni* in Egypt (**William and Hunter,1968 and Abuo El Naga, 2013**). *B.alexandrina* snails are prevalent in both upper and lower Egypt, but during the last decade. It becomes the most dominant species in the Nile Delta forming a main threat for schistosomiasis transmission in the north of Egypt (**WHO, 2002**).

**Taxonomy:** according to **Van Damme and Ghamizi (2010)**

Kingdom:	Animalia,
Phylum:	Mollusca,
Class:	Gastropoda (cuvier1797),
Order:	Hygrophila,
Family:	Planorbidae (Rafinesque1815),
Genus:	<i>Biomphalaria</i> (preston1910),
Species:	<i>alexandrina</i> (Ehrenberg1831)

#### **Morphology**

##### **1-Shell of *Biomphalaria alexandrina***

In *Biomphalaria* species, the shell is discoid, sinistral with a rounded to oval aperture. Identification of *Biomphalaria* shell needs to know several quantitative parameters including (a) shell height and diameter taken at their largest size (**Mandahl-Barth, 1957**) ;(b) whorl number(c)shape of whorls and aperture.