

(of berb_eJ'ine on L- and T_t channels in guinea pig ventricular myocytes)

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KEY WORDS Myocardial ion channels; Berberine; Heart; Arrhythmias; Ion channels

INTRODUCTION The effects of berberine (Ber) on L-type calcium channels in guinea pig ventricular myocytes were studied. Using whole cell patch-clamp technique. RESULTS: 30 pmol L⁻¹ Ber inhibited the inward current of L-type calcium channels (n=5 cells of 5 guinea pig papillary muscle, P<0.05) and non-voltage-dependent calcium current (n=5, P<0.01). The relative relationship between the inhibition of L-type calcium current and non-voltage-dependent calcium current was 1:1. The relationship between the inhibition of L-type calcium current and non-voltage-dependent calcium current was 1:1. The relationship between the inhibition of L-type calcium current and non-voltage-dependent calcium current was 1:1.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Single myocytes were isolated from guinea pig ventricular myocytes by enzymatic digestion. The aorta was cannulated and perfused with Tyrode's solution. The cells were loaded with fura-2/AM and dialyzed with Tyrode's solution containing 100 μM BSA for 5 min. The cells were then dialyzed with Tyrode's solution containing 100 μM BSA for 5 min. The cells were then dialyzed with Tyrode's solution containing 100 μM BSA for 5 min. The cells were then dialyzed with Tyrode's solution containing 100 μM BSA for 5 min.

Chemicals and solutions: Berberine hydrochloride was purchased from Sigma. Tyrode's solution was prepared with distilled water. The solutions were prepared with distilled water. The solutions were prepared with distilled water. The solutions were prepared with distilled water.

RESULTS The effects of Ber on L-type calcium channels in guinea pig ventricular myocytes were studied. The effects of Ber on L-type calcium channels in guinea pig ventricular myocytes were studied. The effects of Ber on L-type calcium channels in guinea pig ventricular myocytes were studied.

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Measurement of I_{CaL} was performed in a 500 μ m chamber with a $2EP$ amplifier (CEZ 23, Nihon Kohden, Japan) and had a resistance of 2-3 MO when filled with electrode solution. Seal formation and rupture were prevented by external solution containing Na^+ free solution in

was also inactivated at E_h of -40 mV and blocked by TTX. K^+ currents were eliminated by substituting K^+ by CS^+ . Data were analyzed by Student's t -test. The frequency-dependency of I_{CaL} was analyzed by analysis of covariance and group t -test were used.

RESULTS

L-type Ca^{2+} current L-type Ca^{2+} currents in guinea pig ventricular myocytes was evoked by a depolarizing step pulse from the holding potential (E_h) of -40 mV to 0 mV at the frequency of 1 Hz. The step pulse duration was 3 ms. Ber 10 and 30 μ mol L^{-1} inhibited the amplitude of I_{CaL} from 247 pA (control) to 97.8 \pm 20.4 pA ($n=5$ cells of 5 guinea pigs $P < 0.01$) and 66.4 \pm 17.9 pA ($n=5$, $P < 0.01$) respectively (Fig 1). The inhibitory effect was concentration-dependent and was difficult to be recovered by washout with control solution for 10 min.

Current-voltage relationship of I_{CaL} and action of Ber Current-voltage ($I-V$) curve of L-type current was obtained by a number of depolarizing step pulses (3 ms) from E_h of -40 mV to test potentials between -30 mV and 0 mV. The step pulses were delivered in 10-mV increments. I_{CaL} was activated at -30 mV and the peak amplitude at potential of 0 mV. Ber 10 and 30 μ mol L^{-1} upshifted the $I-V$ relationship. The peak current at 0 mV was decreased from 14.9 \pm 3.2 pA/pF to 9.4 \pm 3.0 pA/pF and 6.4 \pm 1.1 pA/pF ($n=5$ cells of 3 guinea pigs) (Fig 2).

Frequency-dependency of I_{CaL}

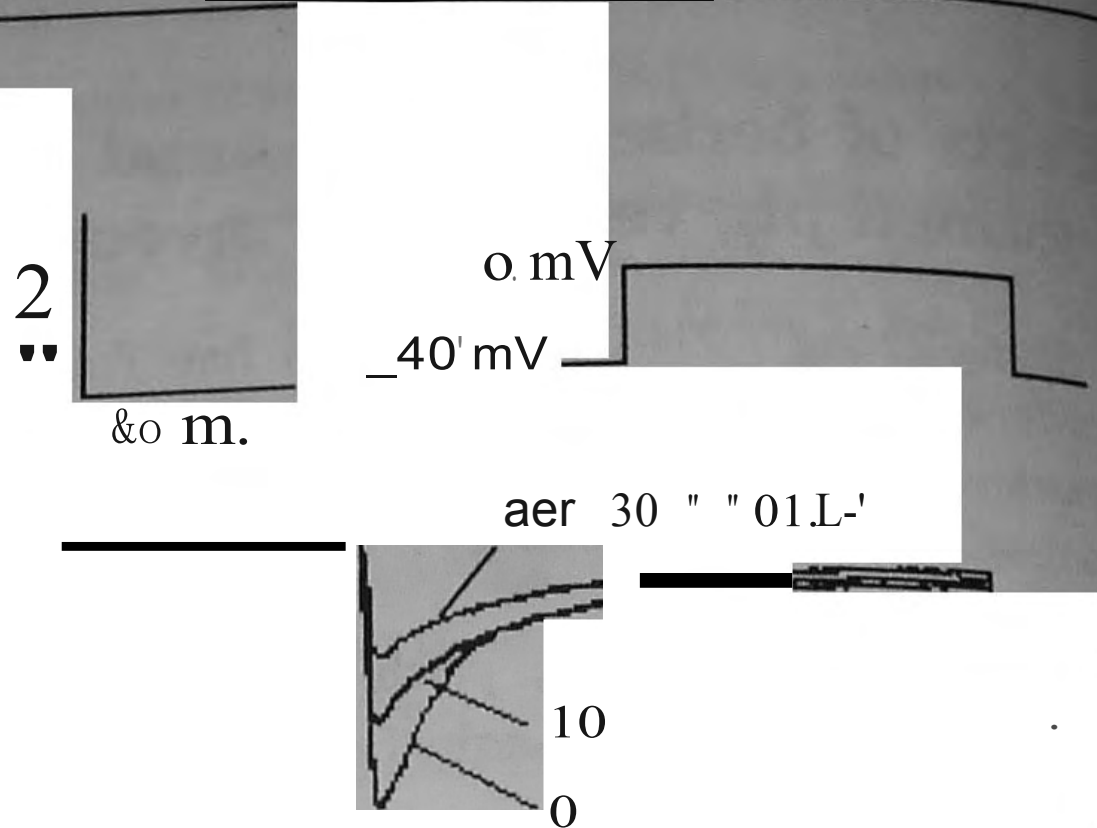


Fig 1. Effect of berberine (Ber) on L-type Ca^{2+} current in ventricular myocytes of guinea pig.

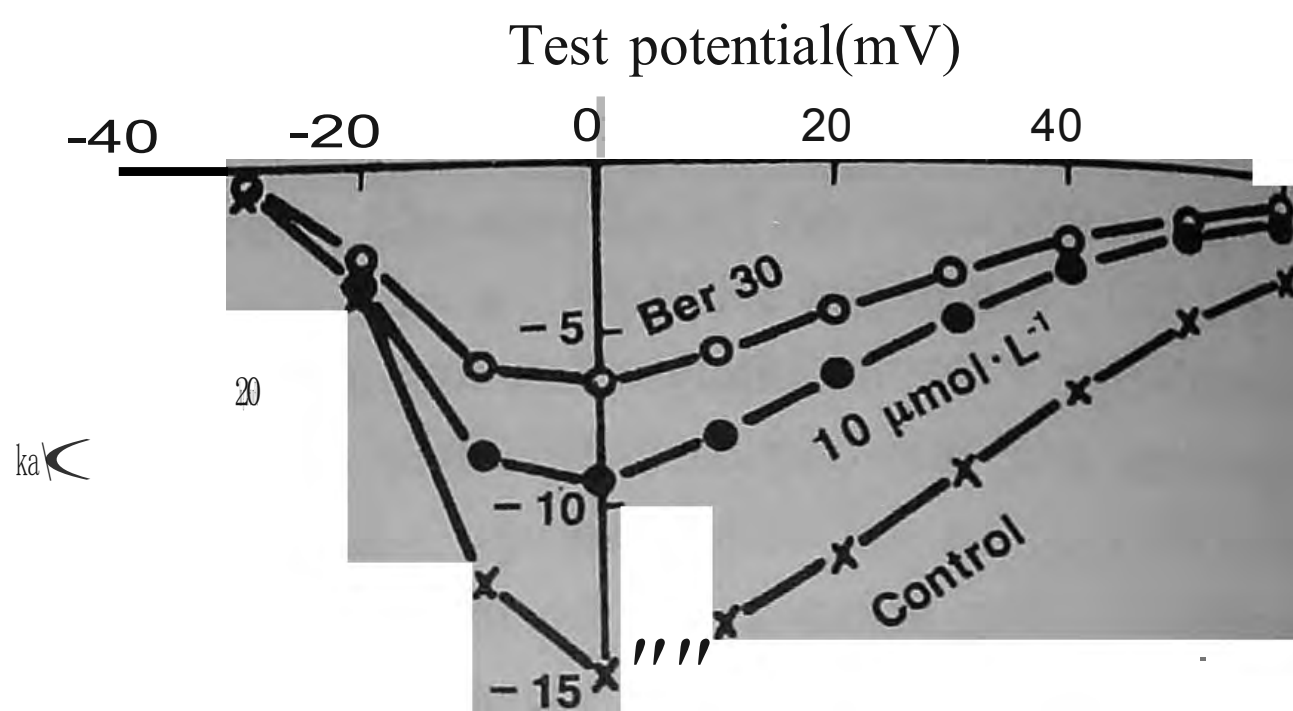


Fig 2. Effect of Ber on $I-V$ relationship of L-type Ca^{2+} current in myocytes ($n=5$ cells of 3 guinea pigs).

was tested by changing the stimulating frequency to 0.5, 1, 2 and 3 Hz. Each train frequency contained 20 pulses. The interval between 2 trains of different frequencies was 2 min. I_{CaL} was decreased as the stimulating frequency increased. After exposing to Ber 10 μ mol L^{-1} , I_{CaL} was markedly reduced at each frequency. But the slope of the frequency-dependency curve was not changed by Ber. This was tested by analysis of covariance (Fig 3).

Activation and inactivation kinetics of I_{CaL} The activation and inactivation curves were fitted according to the Boltzmann equation: $I/I_{max} = 1 / \{1 + EXP[(V - V_{0.5})/k]\}$. Ber 10 μ mol L^{-1} did not influence much the activation curve (half activation potential ($V_{0.5}$) from -15.3 mV to -17.2 mV, the slope factor (k) from 3.41 to 3.40 ($n=5$ cells of 2 guinea pigs $P > 0.05$). However, Ber 10 μ mol L^{-1} shifted the $V_{0.5}$ from -27.8 mV to -34.2 mV

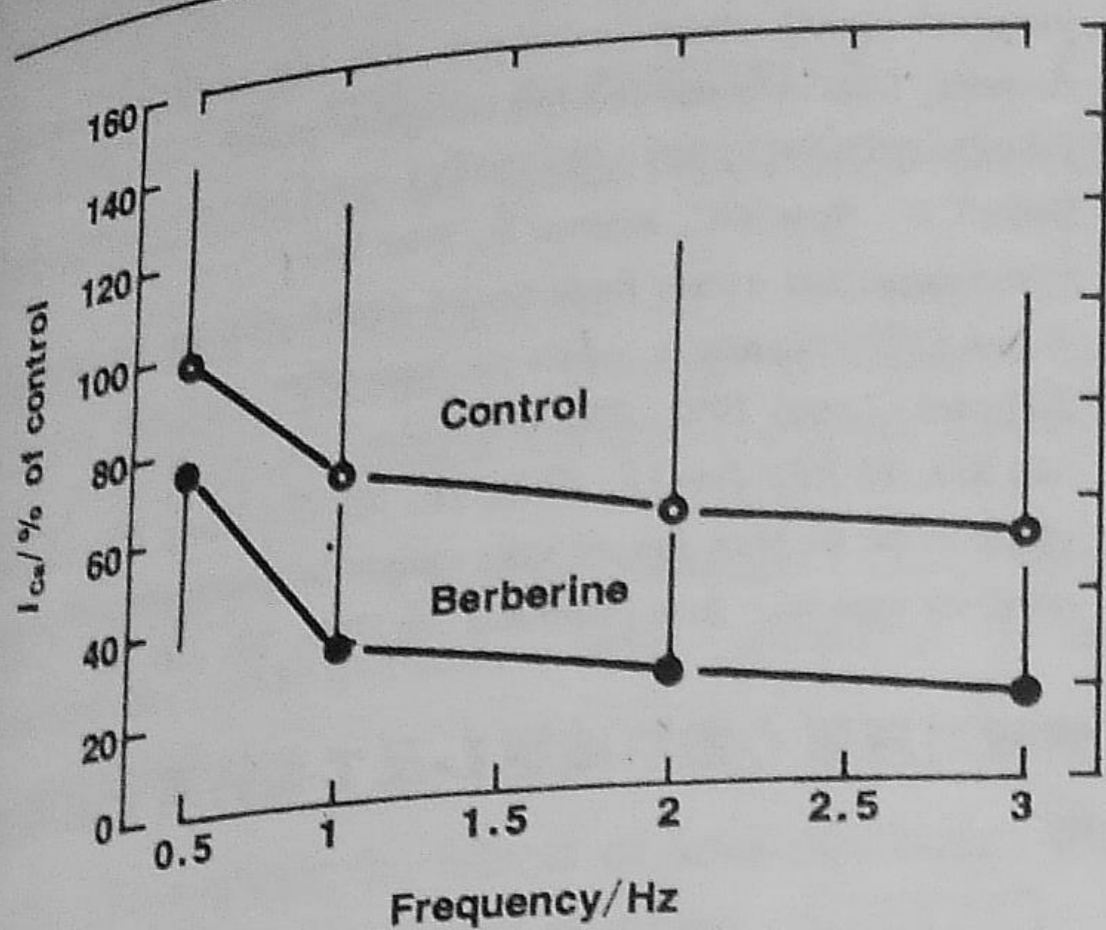


Fig 3. No use-dependent block of berberine on L-type Ca^{2+} channel in myocytes.

and κ from 9.22 to 13.03 ($n = 5$, $P < 0.01$) (Fig 4).

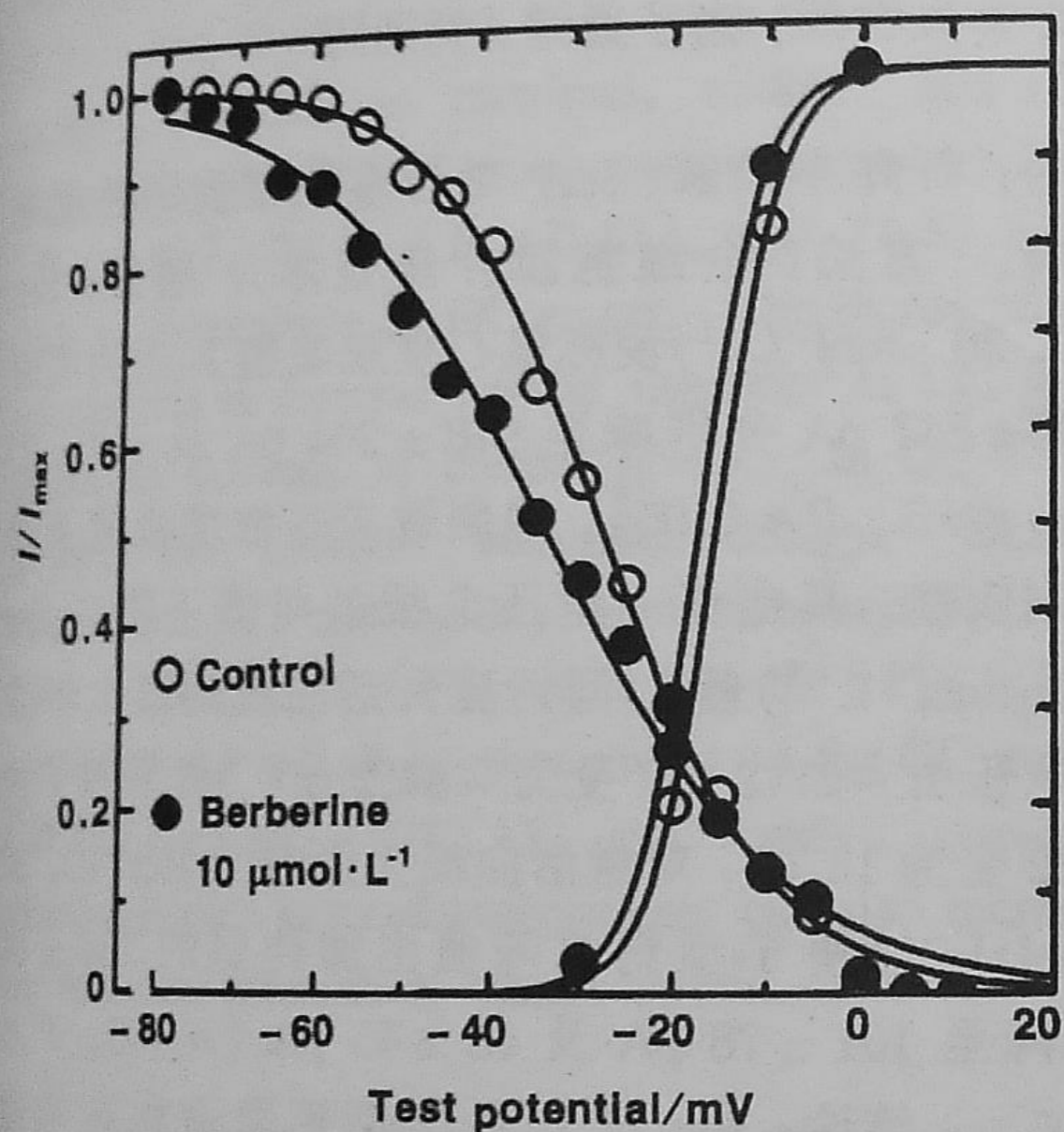


Fig 4. Effects of Ber on steady-state activation and inactivation kinetics of L-type Ca^{2+} current in myocytes.

$I_{\text{Ca,T}}$ $I_{\text{Ca,T}}$ was obtained^[11]. The perfusing solution contained TTX $30 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ and nitrendipine $3 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ to block I_{Na} and $I_{\text{Ca,L}}$. Ber reduced the $I_{\text{Ca,T}}$. The peak amplitude of $I_{\text{Ca,T}}$ was decreased from $154 \pm 80 \text{ pA}$ to $101 \pm 78 \text{ pA}$ ($n = 8$, $P < 0.05$) with Ber $10 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$, and to $48 \pm 18 \text{ pA}$ with Ber $30 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ($n = 8$ cells of 5 guinea pigs, $P < 0.05$) (Fig 5).

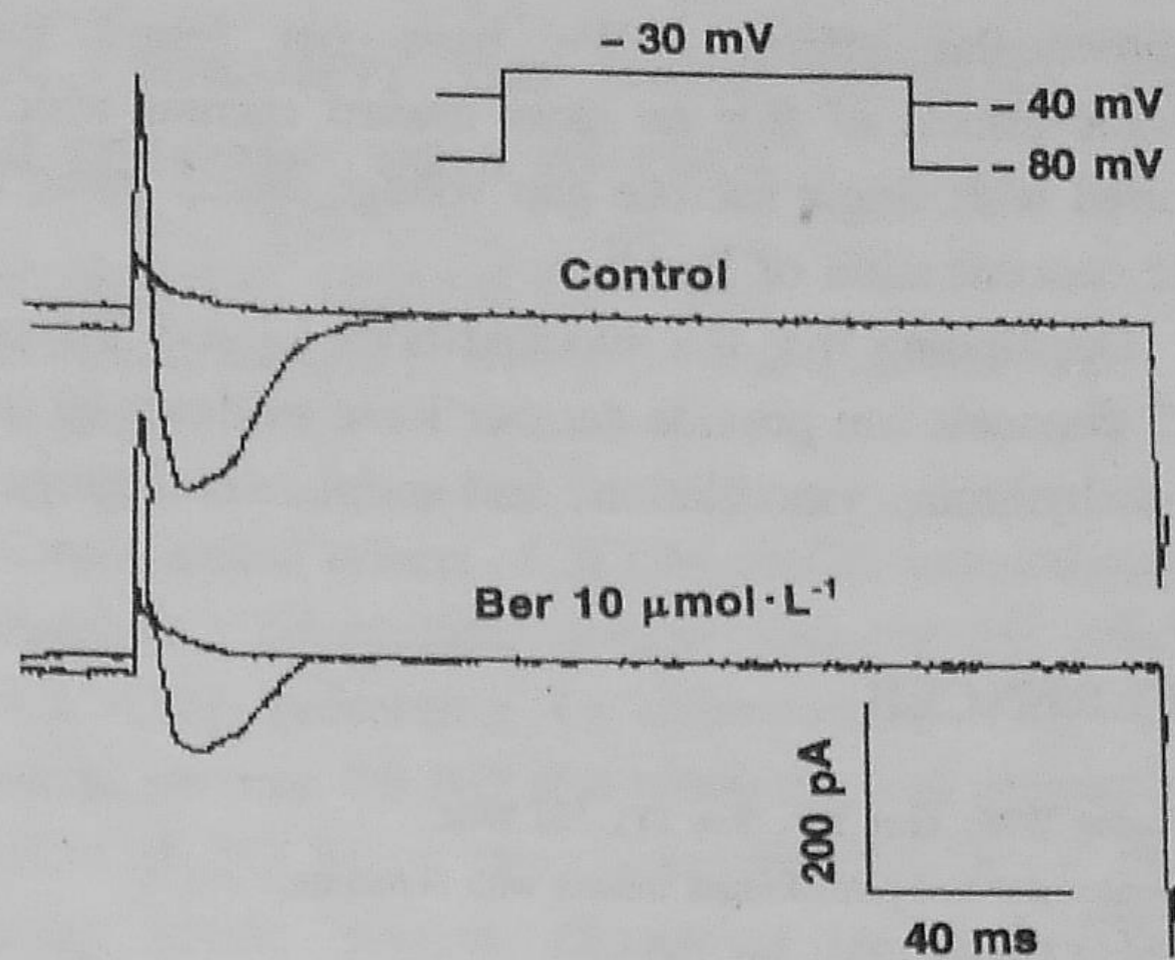


Fig 5. Effects of Ber on T-type Ca^{2+} current in myocytes.

DISCUSSION

Although the beneficial effects of Ber on cardiovascular and other systems have been extensively investigated, the studies on its ionic mechanism are rare. The inhibitory effect of Ber on I_{k} was first reported in 1992^[7] and recently confirmed by others^[8, 9]. In this study, we found that Ber significantly decreased the L- and T-type Ca^{2+} currents. The inhibitory effect on $I_{\text{Ca,L}}$ was non-frequent dependency. The inactivation kinetics of $I_{\text{Ca,L}}$ were changed. It indicated that Ber blocked Ca^{2+} channel by its influence on the inactivation kinetics.

Two type calcium channels have been distinguished on the basis of differences in gating, pharmacological sensitivity in guinea pig ventricular cells. The physiological significance of L-type calcium channel is much more clear than that of T-type. It is related to the formation of action potential plateau, excitation-contraction coupling of muscle and the release of Ca^{2+} from sarcolemma reticulum. T-type calcium channels might be participated in the spontaneous activity of cells and some abnormal impulse formations. To eliminate the possibility of contamination by Na^{+} current, we have worked in Na^{+} free solution. This strategy has the additional virtue of disabling the electrogenic process of Na^{+} - Ca^{2+} exchange. The concentration of Ber we chose in this study was a low-to-middle one that could exert blocking actions on potassium currents and other

cardiovascular effects. We have not found evidence of a slow inward current in ventricular myocytes from guinea pig isolated hearts using a voltage clamp using a toxic concentration of Ba²⁺. Our findings are consistent with the Landry-type Ca²⁺ channel provide further ionic evidence of anti-muscarinic vasodilation and its participation in aggregation.

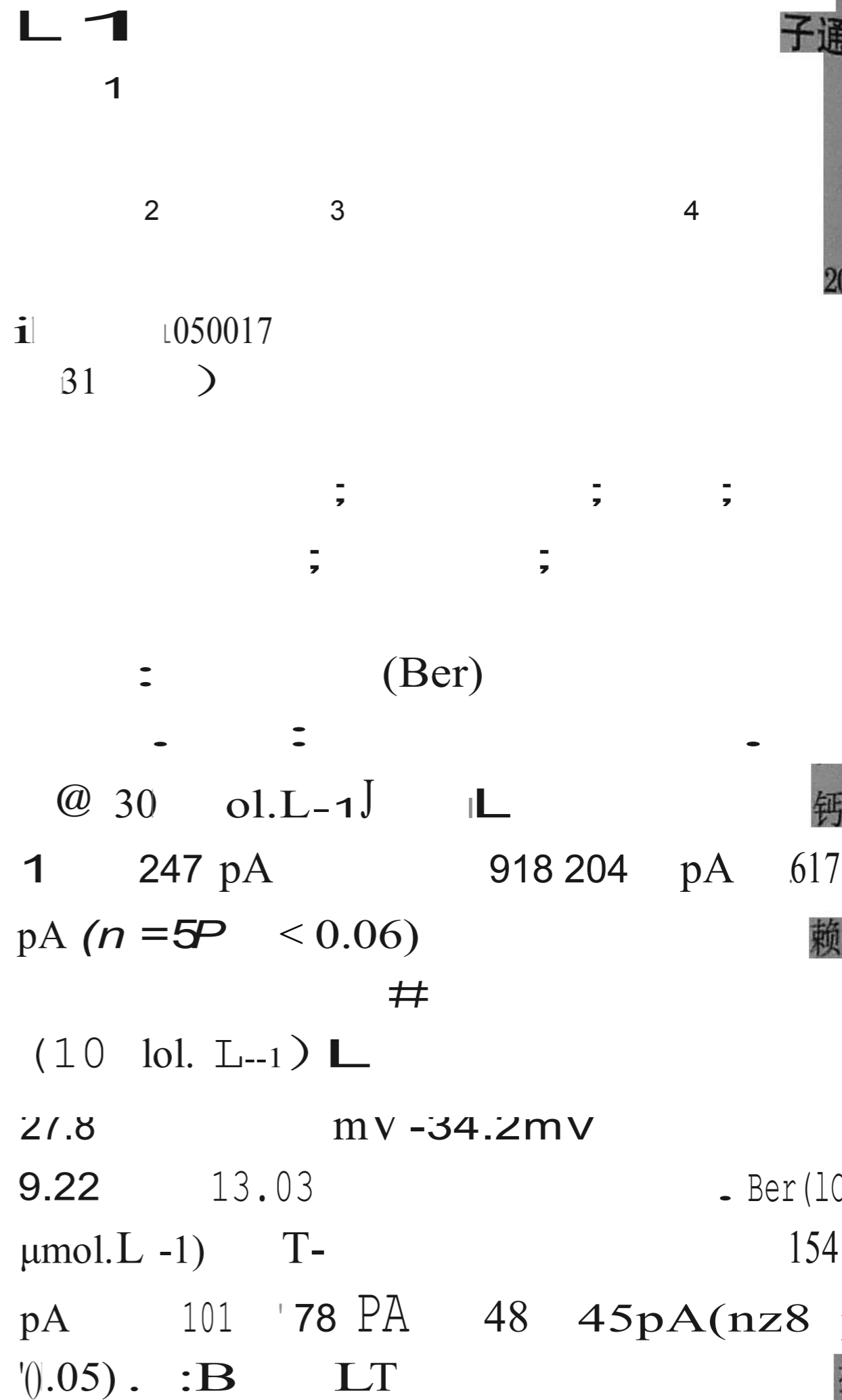
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