

1 **NADPH oxidase-mediated Rac1 GTP activity is necessary for non-genomic actions of the**
2 **mineralocorticoid receptor in the CA1 region of the rat hippocampus**

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13 **Running title:** Non-genomic action of MR in the brain

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 Mineralocorticoid receptors (MRs) in the central nervous system play important roles in spatial
26 memory, fear memory, salt sensitivity, and hypertension. Corticosterone binds to MRs to induce
27 presynaptic vesicle release and postsynaptic α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic
28 acid receptor aggregation, which are necessary for induction of long-term potentiation under
29 psychological stress. On the other hand, cognitive dysfunction is an important problem
30 clinically in patients with hypertension, diabetes, and cerebral infarction, and all of these
31 conditions are associated with an increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation.
32 Oxidative stress has been shown to modify the genomic actions of MRs in the peripheral
33 organs; however, there have been no reports until now about the relation between the
34 non-genomic actions of MRs and ROS in the central nervous system. In this study, we
35 investigated the relationship between ROS and the non-genomic actions of MR. We examined
36 the non-genomic actions of MR by measuring the slope of the field excitatory postsynaptic
37 potentials and found that ROS induced an additive increase of these potentials, which was
38 accompanied by Rac1 GTP activation and ERK1/2 phosphorylation. An NADPH oxidase
39 inhibitor, apocynin, blocked the non-genomic actions of MRs. A Rac1 inhibitor, NSC23766,
40 was also found to block synaptic enhancement and ERK1/2 phosphorylation induced by
41 NADPH and corticosterone. We concluded that NADPH oxidase activity and Rac1 GTP activity
42 are indispensable for the non-genomic actions of MRs and that Rac1 GTP activation induces
43 ERK1/2 phosphorylation in the brain.

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45 **Keywords:** corticosterone, reactive oxygen species, field excitatory postsynaptic potentials

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48 **Introduction**

49 The mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) is a member of the nuclear receptor superfamily mainly
50 known for its actions in controlling sodium transport across epithelial cells, such as the
51 epithelium of the distal portions of the nephrons and the colonic epithelium. The genomic
52 actions of MRs have also been implicated in pathophysiological effects, such as inflammatory,
53 fibrotic, and hypertrophic changes in the peripheral tissues. For example, MR activation has
54 been shown to induce hypertrophy and fibrosis of the cardiomyocytes (17, 43). MR inhibition
55 mitigates myocardial fibrosis and apoptosis by reducing oxidative stress without affecting
56 systolic blood pressure (22). Interestingly, Yanomamo Indians, members of a Brazilian tribe
57 with very low salt intakes and high serum aldosterone levels, are predisposed to neither
58 hypertension nor arteriosclerosis (31). High salt loading in obese, spontaneously hypertensive
59 rats induced the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which improved with the
60 administration of an MR blocker (29). Rac1, which is downstream of the ROS production,
61 induces actions of MRs independent of ligand binding (41). These findings suggest that organ
62 damage associated with MRs might be independent of ligands, but closely related to ROS
63 production.

64

65 The brain is one of the key targets of glucocorticoid actions (25, 39). MR expression is localized
66 to specific regions and is important for cognitive memory, fear memory, and salt preference (3,
67 37, 40). Corticosterone (CS) is known to bind to both MRs and glucocorticoid receptors (GRs)
68 (35). MRs have a 10-fold higher affinity ($K_d=0.5-1$ nM) for CS than GRs ($K_d=2-5$ nM) (6, 35),
69 and under normal conditions, CS binds preferentially to the MR. With increases in the
70 production of CS under conditions of stress, CS binds to low-affinity and membrane-bound
71 MRs in the hippocampal region (33). MR activation can exert rapid non-genomic actions and

72 enhance long-term potentiation induction (1, 13), while blockade of MRs, which can pass
73 through the blood-brain barrier (37), attenuates memory consolidation (2, 18). Meanwhile, GRs
74 mediate slow, long-acting effects through transcriptional pathways (genomic actions), and
75 long-term potentiation is conserved even after the levels of CS have returned to baseline, normal
76 levels. GR actions also facilitate long-term depression by inducing sustained elevation of CS
77 production (7, 8). Thus, MRs and GRs can cope with stress by coordinating memory formation
78 through both non-genomic and genomic actions. Furthermore, it has recently been reported that
79 cerebral ischemia induces MR expression and ROS production in the cortex and that MR
80 blockers reduce ROS accumulation (32). MR expression has also been found to govern the fate
81 of neurons in ischemic areas (23). Although a number of studies have shed light on the
82 intracellular signaling associated with the non-genomic actions of MRs in the central nervous
83 system (3, 19, 30), and some reports have shown ROS involvement in MR signaling in the
84 peripheral organs, the relationship between the non-genomic actions of MR and ROS in the
85 brain remains unknown.

86 The aim of this study was to determine whether acute increases in ROS production might
87 modulate the non-genomic actions of MRs in the hippocampal region, and which MR signals
88 might be affected by ROS.

89 **Materials and Methods**

90 **Slice preparation**

91 Experimental procedures involving live animals were conducted with the approval of the Tokyo
92 University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Male Sprague-Dawley rats (6-7
93 weeks of age) were decapitated under diethylether anesthesia. The decapitations were performed

94 at a fixed time (10:00-11:00 AM). After quickly isolating the hippocampi, transverse slices
95 (350- μm thick) were prepared with a tissue slicer (Leica VT1000 S; Leica Microsystems,
96 Barcelona, Spain) in an ice-cold artificial cerebrospinal fluid solution composed of (mM): NaCl
97 119, KCl 2.5, NaH_2PO_4 1.0, NaHCO_3 26.2, glucose 11, CaCl_2 2, and MgCl_2 1.0 in pH 7.2 to 7.3
98 aerated with a 95% O_2 and 5% CO_2 mixture. The slices were incubated for at least 60 min in a
99 humidified interface holding chamber at room temperature (22-28°C). After incubation, the
100 slices were submerged in a recording chamber held by a platinum grid attached with nylon
101 strings, and superfused (at 2 ml/min) with the artificial cerebrospinal fluid solution, as
102 previously described (28).

103 **Recording and data analysis**

104 A bipolar tungsten electrode was placed in the CA1 (stratum radiatum), and synaptic responses
105 were evoked at a stimulus frequency of 1/15 Hz. Field excitatory postsynaptic potentials
106 (fEPSPs) in the CA1 region 200-400 μm distal to the stimulus site were recorded with a glass
107 pipette filled with 2 M NaCl. The fEPSPs were recorded and filtered (4 kHz low-pass filter)
108 with an Axopatch 700A amplifier (Axon Instruments, CA), and digitized with pClamp 8 (Axon
109 Instruments). All experiments were carried out at 25-27°C. All data were obtained in the
110 presence of 500 nM actinomycin D to confirm the data as representing non-genomic actions.

111 **Drug treatment and experimental procedure**

112 In the electrophysiological experiment, hippocampal slices were preincubated with blockers for
113 at least 30 min, except for NSC23766, a Rac1 inhibitor, which was applied to the slices 2 hr
114 before the electrical stimulation; 1 μM NADPH was applied for 5 min and washed out thereafter,
115 and 100 nM CS, 1 nM aldosterone (Ald), or 10 nM dexamethasone (Dex) was applied for 20
116 min.

117 Spironolactone (Spi), mifepristone (RU486), NADPH, 4-hydroxy TEMPO (Temp), actinomycin
118 D, Dex, and Ald were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (MO). CS was procured from Tocris
119 (Bristol, UK) and BSA-conjugated CS was from Steraloids (PO). NSC23766 was purchased
120 from Merck (Germany), EGF from Cell signaling (MA), apocynin (Apo) from WAKO (Japan),
121 and eplerenone (Epl) from Pfizer (NY). We diluted DMSO at least 10000-fold when applying
122 drugs to the slices, because it is known that 1000-fold DMSO does not change synaptic
123 response.

124 **Western blotting**

125 Hippocampal slices were prepared as described above, and each sample for protein extraction
126 was collected from three or four of these slices. The slices were stimulated with drugs by adding
127 them to artificial cerebrospinal fluid aerated with a 95% O₂ and 5% CO₂ mixture. After
128 stimulation, the samples were quickly frozen on dry ice, and the CA1 region was dissected.
129 These samples were lysed in ice-cold magnesium-containing lysis buffer composed of 25 mM
130 HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 1% igePAL CA-630, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EDTA, 2% glycerol, 25 mM
131 NaF, and 1 mM NaVO₄, supplemented with a phosphatase inhibitor (Phosstop®, Roche, Basel,
132 Switzerland). A 10-µg amount of total protein was separated by 10% SDS-PAGE, and the
133 proteins were transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride membranes. Western blot analysis was
134 performed using rabbit polyclonal phospho ERK1/2 antibody and rabbit polyclonal ERK1/2
135 antibody (Promega, Madison, WI) as the primary antibodies.

136 **Rac1 GTP pull-down assay**

137 We used the Rac1 activation assay kit (Millipore, Billerica, MA), which leverages the affinity to
138 the p21-activated-kinase-1 protein binding domain peptide, to measure the active form of Rac1,
139 i.e., the GTP-bound form of Rac1, as previously reported (40, 41). Hippocampal slices were

140 lysed as described above, and 10 μ g total protein was used to measure the total Rac1. To
141 measure the GTP-bound form of Rac1, a 1-mg sample was incubated with 10 μ g
142 p21-activated-kinase-1 protein binding domain beads for 1 hr. After washing adequately with
143 lysis buffer, the beads were boiled for 5 min in Laemmli sample buffer. The lysates were
144 resolved by 15% SDS-PAGE, and the proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting with
145 anti-mouse monoclonal Rac1 antibody.

146 **Statistical analysis**

147

148 Data were expressed as means \pm standard error. Differences in values between groups were
149 tested for significance by the *t*-test or ANOVA and the Tukey or Scheffé *post hoc* test. A
150 probability level of <0.05 was accepted as evidence of statistical significance.

151 **Results**

152 **Non-genomic actions of corticosteroids in CA1 synapses are mediated by MR**

153 First, we confirmed that the non-genomic actions of corticosteroids in the CA1 region were
154 mediated by MRs, as previously reported (19). CS rapidly increased the slope of the fEPSPs
155 ($124\pm 2.3\%$, $n=7$, Fig. 1A and 1B), and this effect was blocked by the MR antagonists Spi
156 ($106\pm 4.5\%$, $n=6$, Fig. 1A and 1B) and Epl ($n=4$, $96\pm 6.4\%$), but not by the GR antagonist
157 RU486 ($118\pm 4.9\%$, $n=5$, Fig. 1A and 1B). Furthermore, the effect of 1 nM Ald ($121\pm 1.4\%$, $n=5$,
158 Fig. 1C), 1/100 dose of CS, which is thought to be distributed in the hippocampal tissue (44)
159 and binds selectively to the MR at this concentration, was comparable to the effect of CS,
160 whereas 10 nM Dex did not significantly increase the slope of the fEPSPs ($104\pm 3.6\%$, $n=4$, Fig.

161 1C). To confirm that the non-genomic action of MRs is through membranous MR, we used
162 membrane-impermeable CS (BSA-conjugated CS, 400 nM) and observed fEPSPs responses
163 similar to CS (Fig. 7A).

164 **NADPH oxidase activation has additive effects on the non-genomic actions of MRs**

165 ROS have been reported to induce synaptic enhancement in the hippocampus (21). To determine
166 whether this ROS action might influence the non-genomic actions of MRs, we simultaneously
167 applied NADPH (1 μ M) and CS (20 to 100 nM) and compared their effect with the effect of CS
168 alone. NADPH alone increased the slope of the fEPSPs ($138\pm 12.0\%$, $n=6$, Fig. 2A and 2B), CS
169 increased fEPSPs dose dependently (Fig. 2C), and coapplication of NADPH and CS increased
170 the fEPSP slope markedly (1 μ M NADPH and 100 nM CS $163\pm 10.0\%$, $n=6$) as compared with
171 CS application alone (Fig. 2B and 2C) at each concentration. Further, we examined the effect of
172 another ROS mediator, EGF, on the non-genomic action of MR (Fig. 8); 10 ng/ml EGF also
173 enhanced the non-genomic action of MR. Therefore, it was indicated that ROS production
174 enhanced non-genomic MR action. To clarify the additive effect of NADPH oxidase activity on
175 the MR signaling, we examined the effect of Apo (100 μ M, Fig. 3A, 3B, and 3E), a blocker of
176 the NADPH oxidase. Surprisingly, Apo blocked the effect of both CS ($102\pm 4.0\%$, $n=5$, Fig. 3A)
177 and Ald ($107\pm 6.4\%$, $n=5$, Fig. 3E). These findings indicated that the non-genomic actions of
178 MR require ROS via NADPH oxidase.

179 **MR and NADPH oxidase have an additive effect on ERK1/2 phosphorylation**

180 The increase in presynaptic glutamate release in response to the non-genomic actions of the MR

181 has been reported to be mediated by ERK1/2 phosphorylation (19). We investigated whether
182 ERK1/2 is also phosphorylated by MR activity and ROS, and whether MR and ROS might have
183 an additive effect on ERK1/2 phosphorylation. Simultaneous application of CS and NADPH
184 significantly increased the level of phosphorylation of ERK1/2 (1.88 ± 0.33 , $n=7$, $p < 0.05$) in
185 comparison with application of CS (1.29 ± 0.13 , $n=7$) or NADPH (1.44 ± 0.17 , $n=7$) alone (Fig.
186 4A). We investigated whether the ERK1/2 phosphorylation by CS and ROS could be suppressed
187 by Spi, RU486, Apo, and the ROS scavenger Temp. ERK1/2 phosphorylation induced by CS
188 was blocked by Spi, Apo, and Temp, but not by RU486 (Fig. 4C; CS, 1.32 ± 0.06 ; RU486,
189 1.29 ± 0.04 ; Spi, 1.04 ± 0.04 ; Apo, 0.92 ± 0.92 ; Temp, 0.81 ± 0.04). Furthermore, Apo and Temp, but
190 neither RU486 nor Spi, blocked the effect of NADPH (Fig. 4E; NADPH, 1.53 ± 0.24 ; Spi,
191 1.64 ± 0.23 ; Apo, 1.37 ± 0.12 ; Temp, 1.24 ± 0.27 ; $n=7-9$). These results indicate that the MR and
192 NADPH oxidase actions share a common signaling pathway, and that NADPH activation is
193 required for the non-genomic actions of the MR.

194 **Rac1 activation is additively induced by MR and NADPH oxidase activation**

195 We next investigated what signal underlies the need for NADPH oxidase-induced ROS for the
196 non-genomic actions of MR. It is known that certain subfamilies of NADPH oxidase, namely
197 NOX1 and NOX2, are regulated by small GTPase Rac1 (26, 27). It was recently reported that
198 prolonged exposure to Ald also activates Rac1 and enhances ROS generation, probably by
199 genomic actions, in vascular smooth muscle cells (15), and that Rac1 GTP enhances MR
200 translocation to the nuclei of the renal podocytes via the p21-activated-kinase pathway (34, 40).
201 We postulated that Rac1 activation is the key to the additive effect of ROS and MR signaling.
202 We measured the changes in Rac1 GTP activity in the CA1 region of the hippocampus

203 immediately after the application of CS and NADPH. As shown in Figure 4B, application of CS
204 or NADPH immediately increased the Rac1 GTP activities (CS: 1.29 ± 0.13 , $n=8$; NADPH:
205 1.44 ± 0.17 , $n=8$), and when both were applied concomitantly, an even greater degree of Rac1
206 GTP activation was observed (1.81 ± 0.33 , $n=8$, $p < 0.05$). Rac1 GTP activation by CS was also
207 reconfirmed using membrane-impermeable CS (BSA-CS, Fig.7B). We next investigated the
208 effect of each blocker on the Rac1 GTP activation induced by CS and/or NADPH. Rac1
209 activation induced by CS was blocked by Spi, Apo, and Temp, but not by RU486 (CS,
210 1.27 ± 0.07 ; RU486, 1.26 ± 0.06 ; Spi, 1.03 ± 0.07 ; Apo, 0.79 ± 0.06 ; Temp, 0.65 ± 0.08). Activation
211 induced by NADPH was blocked by Apo and Temp, but not Spi. These results are comparable
212 to ERK1/2 phosphorylation, confirming that the non-genomic actions of MRs require NADPH
213 oxidase activity, and NADPH oxidase activation is at least in part via membranous MRs.

214 **Rac1 activity is indispensable for synaptic enhancement mediated by the non-genomic**
215 **actions of MR and NADPH oxidase activation**

216 To determine whether Rac1 activation is required for synaptic enhancement induced by MR
217 activity and ROS, we investigated the effect of a Rac1 inhibitor (NSC23766; NSC) that blocks
218 the interaction between Rac1 and guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF), such as Tiam-1
219 (10), and might also block the synaptic enhancement. Since preincubation with NSC for 2 hr
220 blocked the synaptic potentiation induced by both CS (1.01 ± 0.08 , $n=6$, Fig. 3C) and NADPH
221 (0.94 ± 0.11 , $n=5$, Fig. 3D), the results indicate that Rac1 activation is also necessary for
222 non-genomic MR signaling.

223 **Rac1 GTP activation induces ERK1/2 phosphorylation**

224 Next, we used a MEK inhibitor (U0126) and measured the Rac1 GTP activity to determine
225 whether the Rac1 signal is upstream of ERK1/2. Preincubation with 20 μ M U0126 for 30 min
226 reduced the ERK1/2 phosphorylation level (Fig. 5B), but failed to block the Rac1GTP
227 activation induced by CS (U0126 1.71 \pm 0.48 vs. U0126+CS 2.36 \pm 0.65, n=7, p<0.05, Fig. 5C).
228 On the other hand, ERK1/2 phosphorylation induced by CS and/or NADPH was completely
229 blocked by NSC (NSC, 1.00 \pm 0.01; NSC+CS, 0.98 \pm 0.09; NSC+NADPH, 0.94 \pm 0.11; n=6, Fig.
230 5A). Thus, our findings showed that CS rapidly activates Rac1 via MR activation, followed by
231 ERK1/2 phosphorylation.

232 **Discussion**

233 The non-genomic action of MR is known to occur in various organs other
234 than the brain, such as vascular smooth muscle cells, endothelial cells, and heart. It acts
235 quickly and in a GRE-independent fashion when CS and/ or Ald level are elevated, and it is
236 supposed to be responsible for the quick reaction under the stress (24). As previously noted, the
237 genomic action of MR is associated with ROS (15). But little is known about the precise
238 relationship of between non-genomic action of MR and ROS (42).

239 The results of this study demonstrate for the first time that NADPH oxidase activity is
240 indispensable for the non-genomic actions of the MR, which is likely induced by membranous
241 MR, and that it exerts an additive effect on the non-genomic actions of the MR in the
242 hippocampus. We further demonstrate that Rac1 activation mediates both MR activation and
243 ERK1/2 phosphorylation (Fig. 6).

244 The non-genomic actions of corticosterone mediated via the MR in the hippocampal region,
245 affecting both pre- and postsynaptic responses, were recently clarified (5, 30). Synaptic vesicle
246 release is enhanced by L-type Ca channels and is mediated by Src and ERK1/2 phosphorylation
247 (4, 19). Postsynaptic K channel (I_A current) suppression and lateral diffusion and insertion of the
248 postsynaptic AMPA (α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid) receptor (8, 20,
249 30) are also enhanced. These actions might contribute to enhanced induction of long-term
250 potentiation by CS under conditions of stress.

251 Since we evaluated the non-genomic actions of the MR by measuring fEPSPs, Rac1 GTP
252 activity, and ERK1/2 phosphorylation ratio in slices of the CA1 region of the hippocampus, we
253 could not separate the presynaptic effects from the postsynaptic effects. Paired-pulse ratio (PPR)
254 usually reflects presynaptic release probability, but a postsynaptic I_A current would also change
255 the PPR, and the PPR cannot indicate the release probability precisely. It has already been
256 shown that ERK1/2 phosphorylation acts both pre- and postsynaptically (8, 30). Further, Rac1
257 GTP activation mediates PSD95 phosphorylation, which recruits surface AMPA receptors (20).
258 Thus, the actions of the MR affect both pre- and post synaptic processes through Rac1 and
259 ERK1/2 activation.

260 There is another possible mechanism by which ROS mediates the non-genomic actions of the
261 MR: ROS may change the intracellular amounts of CS by increasing the activity of
262 11β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11β -HSD) 1 (9). 11β -HSDs are enzymes that metabolize
263 glucocorticoids, and consist of two isozymes, 11β -HSD 1 and 2. Expression of 11β -HSD2 is
264 confined to certain areas of the brain, including the paraventricular nucleus and nucleus of the
265 solitary tract (11, 45), where they contribute to salt preference (12, 40). In the hippocampus,

266 11 β -HSD1 is dominantly expressed (37). 11 β -HSD1 has both dehydrogenase and hydroxylase
267 activity that is activated by NADP⁺. Therefore, it is possible that local CS concentration
268 (internal CS) might be increased by ROS via the 11 β -HSD1 activation. However, in the present
269 study, synaptic enhancement by NADPH was not blocked by Spi, and Apo preincubation, which
270 may decrease the internal CS concentration through inhibition of 11 β -HSD1, neither changed
271 the synaptic response nor the ERK1/2 phosphorylation ratio (Fig. 9), and further Apo
272 completely blocked the synaptic enhancement induced by additional CS application. These data
273 indicate that the NADPH pathway is downstream of the MR and that alteration of 11 β -HSD1
274 activation cannot explain the acute, additive effect of ROS and CS in our preparation.

275 We used CS as the main MR agonist in our preparation because relatively low levels of
276 aldosterone cross the blood-brain barrier *in vivo* (6, 44), and CS is the main modulator of MR
277 activity in the brain. In this study, both application of CS at 100 nM and Aldo at 1 nM, induced
278 synaptic potentiation, consistent with previous reports (35). Further, we evaluated ERK1/2
279 phosphorylation of hippocampus induced by intrapenetril CS injection *in vivo*
280 (Fig. 10). This suggests that physiological concentrations of corticosteroids can affect the
281 synaptic intensity and cognitive functions.

282 Our study clarified that MR activation induces Rac1GTP activity (non-genomically, at least in
283 part via membranous MR, Fig.7), and this pathway is mediated by NADPH oxidase.
284 Additionally, we demonstrated that simultaneous exposure to CS and NADPH enhances
285 synaptic response. Considering that NADPH activity induces glutamate toxicity (14), CS can
286 also enhance glutamate toxicity via the NADPH pathway. Therefore, it is possible that excessive
287 psychological stress and oxidative stress may cause glutamate toxicity in an additive manner. In
288 conclusion, the present study revealed that non-genomic action of MR in the brain regulates

289 ROS and Rac1, and that the Rac1-ERK1/2 pathway is the intracellular signaling pathway of

290 MRs.

291

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295

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430

431

432 **Figure Legends**

433 Figure 1. CS quickly increased fEPSPs via MR. A. Representative fEPSP traces in CA3-CA1
434 synapses. Exposure to 100 nM CS for 10 min increased the slope of the fEPSPs; 1 μ M
435 spironolactone (Spi) blocked this effect, while 500 μ M RU486 did not. B. Time course of
436 changes in the slope of the fEPSPs after CS application. C. Exposure to 1 nM Ald also
437 potentiated the fEPSPs. Dex, which can bind to the GR, did not potentiate the fEPSPs.

438 Figure 2. NADPH and CS additively enhanced fEPSPs. A. Representative fEPSP traces after
439 exposure to 1 μ M NADPH and 100 nM CS + NADPH are shown. B. Exposure to NADPH for 5
440 min increased the slope of the fEPSPs. Simultaneous application of NADPH + 20-100 nM CS
441 had an additive effect in increasing the slope of the fEPSPs.

442 Figure 3. Involvements of NADPH oxidase and Rac1 in non-genomic action of MR.A.
443 Pretreatment with 100 μ M Apo blocked the non-genomic actions of the MR. B. Apo also
444 blocked the increase of the slope of the fEPSPs induced by 1 μ M NADPH. C. Summary of the
445 actions of CS, Ald, and NADPH in the presence of Apo. The fEPSPs (%) increased after the
446 drug application. Effect of 50 μ M NSC 23766 (Rac inhibitor) on the fEPSP amplitude following
447 exposure to 100 nM CS (C) or 1 μ M NADPH (D) F. Summary of the actions of CS, Ald, and
448 NADPH in the presence of NSC23766.

449 Figure 4. A. ERK1/2 phosphorylation ratio after application of CS, NADPH, and NADPH + CS.
450 B. Simultaneous stimulation with CS + NADPH significantly increased Rac1 GTP activity. C
451 and D. The actions of CS were blocked by Spi, Apo, and Temp, but not by RU486. E and F.

452 NADPH actions were blocked only by Apo and Temp. (* $p < 0.05$, C and D, significant
453 difference was shown vs. CS application vs. NADPH application.)

454 Figure 5. A. Pretreatment with NSC23766 blocked ERK1/2 phosphorylation induced by CS and
455 NADPH. MEK inhibitor (100 μM U0126) decreased the ERK1/2 phosphorylation ratio (B) but
456 did not block Rac1 GTP activation by CS (C).

457 Figure 6. Schematic diagram of the non-genomic actions of MR and NADPH oxidase
458 activity. Figure 7. Membranous MR induced not only fEPSPs increase but also Rac1 activity. A.
459 The effect of 500 nM CS-BSA on field EPSPs. Membrane-impermeable CS quickly increased
460 fEPSPs. B. Rac1 activation by 500 nM CS-BSA. Rac1 was also activated by CS-BSA.

461

462 Figure 8. Another ROS mediator, EGF increased fEPSPs. EGF (20 ng/ml) also quickly
463 increased fEPSP slopes, and application both EGF and CS further increased fEPSP.

464

465 Figure 9. Changes in the ERK1/2 phosphorylation ratio when the hippocampal slices were
466 preincubated with Spi or Apo. We rearranged the sample gel though they were run on the same
467 gel. There were no significant differences between the groups. Changes of normalized fEPSPs
468 after application of Spi or Apo. There were no significant changes.

469

470 Figure 10. The hippocampal ERK1/2 phosphorylation was evaluated *in vivo*. Ten minutes after
471 intraperitoneal injection of 10 mg/kg CS, rats were immediately sacrificed and hippocampi were
472 removed. PBS/DMSO was used as vehicle.

Fig.1 F Kawakami-Mori et al.

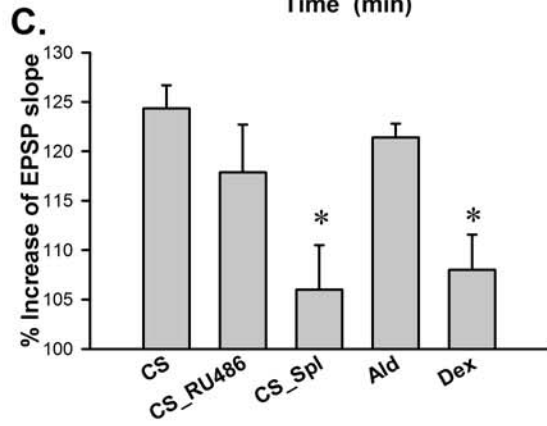
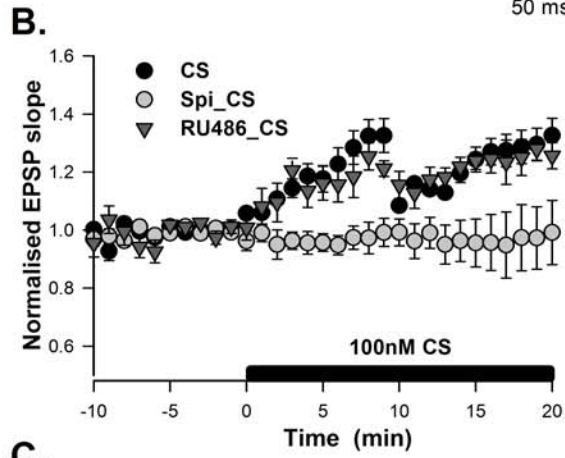
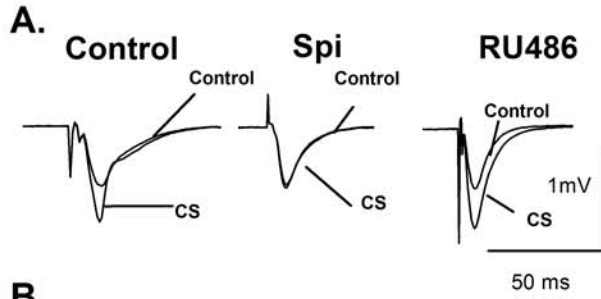


Fig. 2 F Kawakami-Mori *et al.*

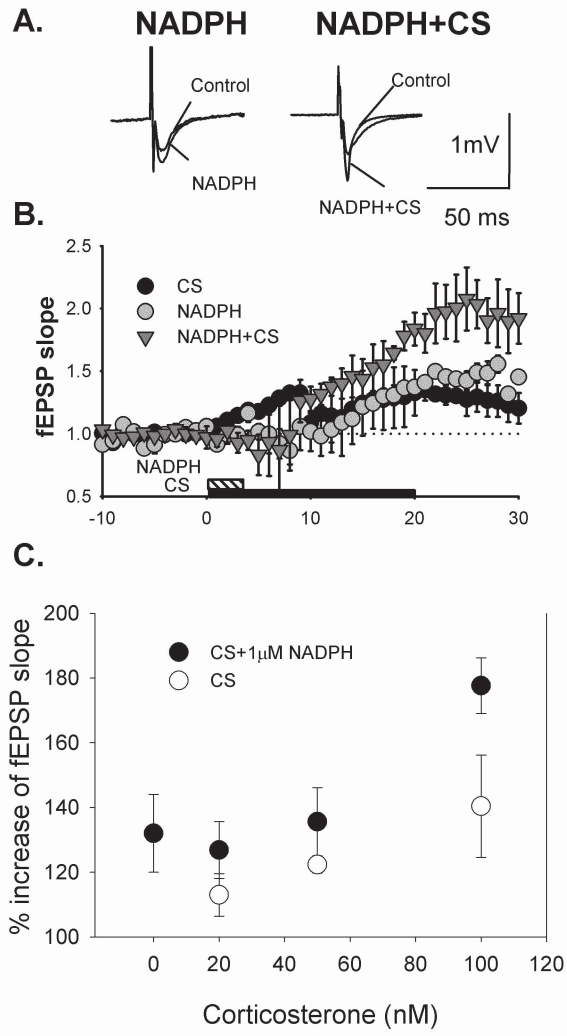


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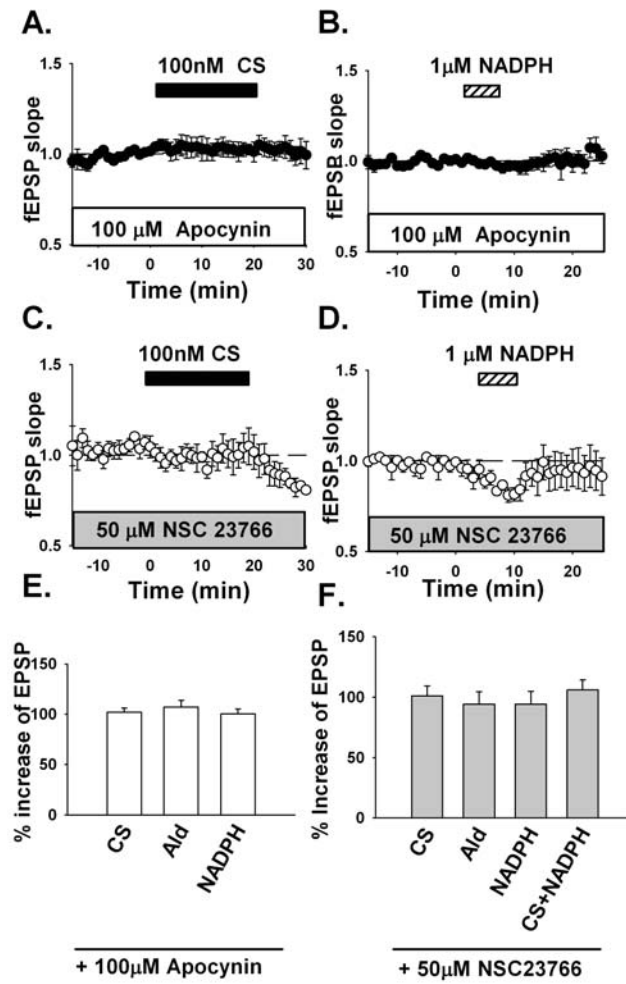


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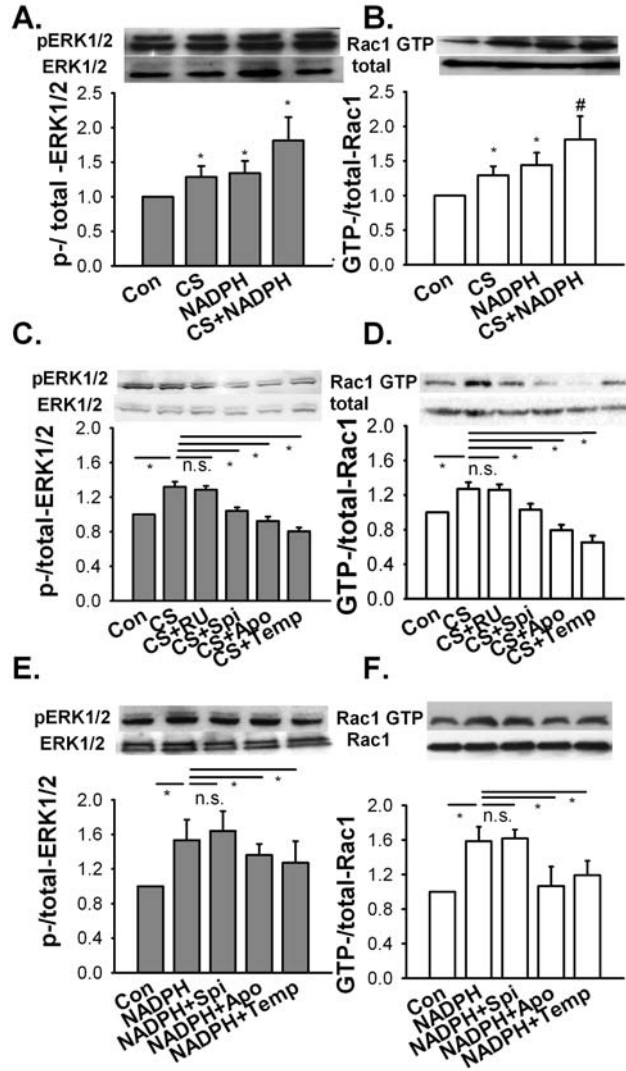


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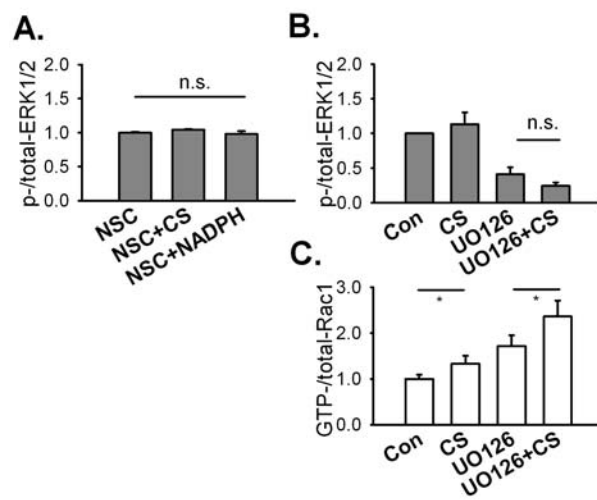


Fig. 6 F Kawakami-Mori *et al.*

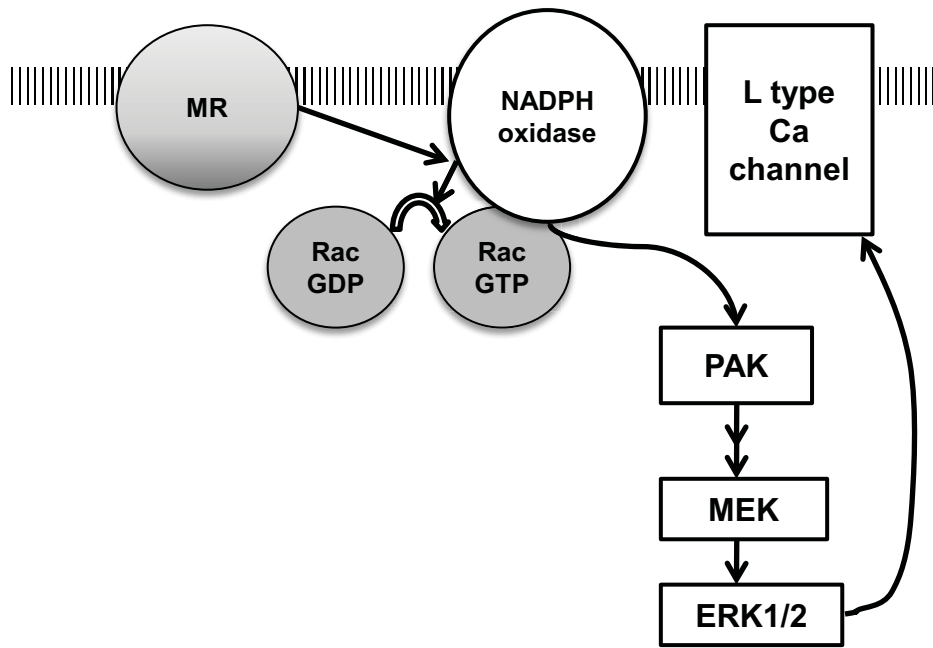


Fig. 7 Fumiko K Mori *et al.*

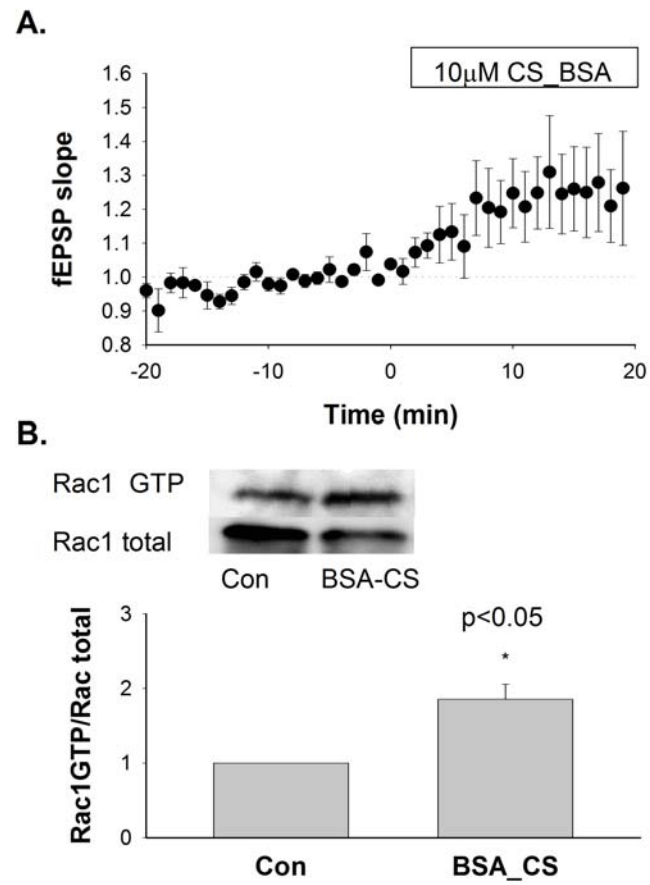


Fig. 8
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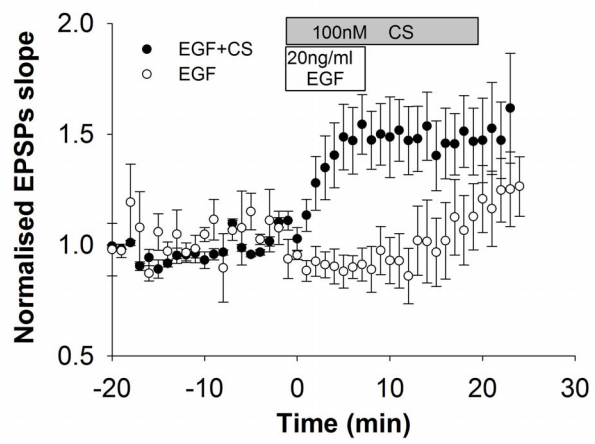
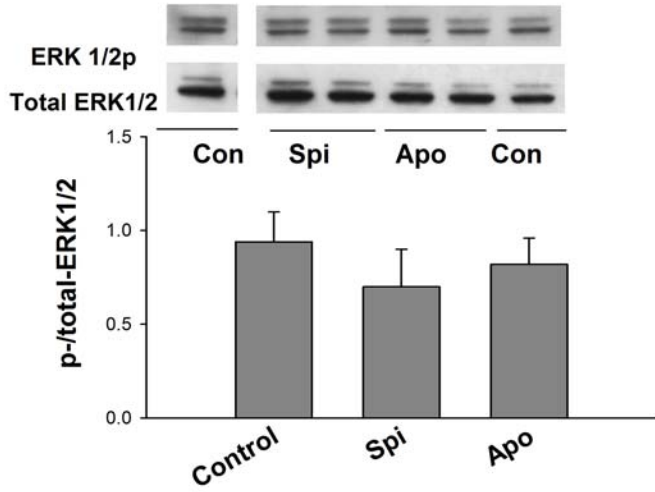


Fig. 9

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A.



B.

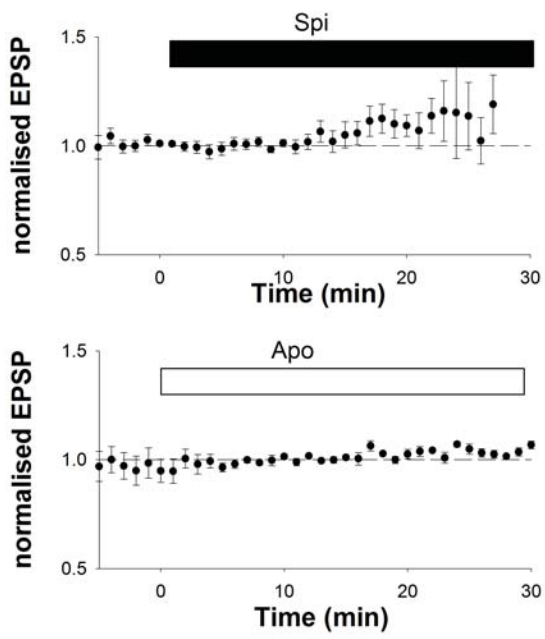


Fig. 10
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