FEATURE ARTICLE

Distribution of glutamic acid decarboxylase immunoreactivity within the brain of oval squid Sepioteuthis lessoniana

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ABSTRACT: Coleoid cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish, and octopus) have the largest and most complex brains of all invertebrates and show behavioral abilities similar to those of vertebrates. Among the coleoids, the oval squid Sepioteuthis lessoniana forms well-structured schools that are indicative of sociality. These behaviors are reflected in aspects of the well-developed brain. In this study, we focused on the role of the cephalopod brain in complex behavior. In order to reveal the network of γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in coleoids, we examined the immunohistochemical localization of glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), which is the synthetic enzyme of GABA, in the brain of young S. lessoniana. We found that GABAergic neurons and their axons were distributed throughout the brain. GABA neurons were abundantly localized in the inferior frontal lobe, which is involved in controlling arm motions, and in the subesophageal masses, which are lower and intermediate centers of action. GABAergic fibers were abundantly localized in the tract that runs from the superior frontal lobe to the vertical lobe. These results suggested the involvement of GABA in both cognitive behaviors (such as learning and memory) and in movement.

KEY WORDS: Glutamic acid decarboxylase · Neurotransmitter · Brain · Oval squid · GABA · γ-aminobutyric acid

INTRODUCTION

The coleoid cephalopod mollusks (squid, cuttlefish, and octopus) have elaborate sense organs and central nervous systems (CNS) that are the most complex among invertebrates (Budelmann 1995). The relative volume of the coleoid cephalopod CNS is larger than that of phylogenetically lower vertebrates such as fishes and reptiles, but smaller than that of higher vertebrates such as mammals and birds (Packard 1972). The complex and large CNS enables these animals to adapt to various oceanic environments. Cephalopods are competitive counterparts of fish,
and live in various types of marine environments where they are active predators and migrants, capable of moving quickly. Cephalopods’ remarkable behavioral and cognitive abilities include learning processes (e.g., reversal, observational, and spatial learning) that are equivalent to those observed in many vertebrates (Hanlon & Messenger 1996). In spite of their short lifespan (from 1 to 2 yr) cephalopods are equipped with major sense organs, including human-like lens eyes. These advanced features are considered to be a consequence of coevolution with their rivals—marine vertebrates such as fish (Packard 1972). Considering these characteristics, the cephalopod brain has been the subject of many investigations of brain mechanisms that underlie behavioral plasticity (Hochner et al. 2006).

The oval squid Sepioteuthis lessoniana is a nektonic animal that is widely distributed throughout the shallow waters of the Indian and West Atlantic Oceans. Oval squid have 2 specific behavioral characteristics that other cephalopods do not have. One of these unique characteristics is that they form a well-structured school. It has been reported that the Caribbean reef squid, S. sepioidea, which is phylogenetically close to S. lessoniana, exhibits social interactions within schools in which each member is arranged in a definite order with one individual acting as a sentinel (Moynihan & Rodaniche 1982). A similar type of schooling behavior appears in S. lessoniana up to 2 months after hatching, at which age squids are thought to become capable of recognizing schoolmates (Sugimoto & Ikeda 2012). The second characteristic unique to the oval squid is the capacity to change its body color (termed ‘body pattern’) very quickly. Body patterns are involved in many aspects of coleoid life, including courtship, communication, camouflage, and predator–prey relationships (Hanlon & Messenger 1996). These characteristics indicate the possibility that S. lessoniana have sociality. Previous studies have demonstrated the cytoarchitecture of the CNS of adult and embryonic squids and paralarvae (Meister 1972, Young 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, Messenger 1979, Marthy 1987, Shigeno et al. 2001a,b, Shigeno & Yamamoto 2002, Kobayashi et al. 2013). Although some biochemical and immunohistochemical studies have identified the main neurotransmitters and neuromodulators present in the cephalopod brain (Tansey 1979, Messenger 1996), little is known about the neuronal mechanisms that underlie these complex behaviors in S. lessoniana.

To reveal the functional network in the CNS that underlies brain functions linked to complex behaviors, we focused on one of the major neurotransmitters in the CNS: γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA). GABA is the major inhibitory neurotransmitter in both vertebrates and invertebrates (Jackson et al. 1990, Lunt 1991, Nishimura et al. 2008), and is highly conserved in evolution; it has been suggested that GABA plays a role in various higher functions in the brain of the common cuttlefish Sepia officinalis and common octopus Octopus vulgaris (Tsukada et al. 1964, Cornwell et al. 1993, D’Aniello et al. 1995). In adult vertebrates, GABAergic neurons play important roles in a variety of states and physiological processes, including inhibition of anxiety, walking, circadian rhythms, and emotional responses (Stork et al. 2000, Miczek et al. 2002). Physiological and pharmacological studies have reported that GABA is both excitatory and inhibitory for neurons in the CNS and is involved in activating feeding movements via buccal and cerebral ganglion neurons in mollusks (Cooke & Gelperin 1988, Richmond et al. 1991, 1994, Arshavsky et al. 1993, Hernádi 1994, Hatakeyama & Ito 2000, Elliott & Susswein 2002). The presence of GABA was investigated in cephalopods by Tansey (1979) and Cornwell et al. (1993), and conflicting evidence has been presented regarding the presence of GABA in the cephalopod CNS (Tansey 1979). Cornwell et al. (1993) demonstrated widespread GABA-like staining in the many brain lobes of the Eledone. In the present study, we re-examined the existence and distribution of GABAergic elements in the CNS of Sepioteuthis lessoniana. To detect the GABAergic system, we performed immunohistochemistry for glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), which is the synthetic enzyme of GABA and a marker protein of GABA neurons in young squid.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Egg collection and rearing of paralarvae**

Egg capsules of Sepioteuthis lessoniana spawned on set nets were collected from Nago Bay of the Okinawa Islands, Okinawa, Japan. The egg capsules were transferred to the laboratory at the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Marine Sciences in the University of the Ryukyus, as described in a previous study (Kobayashi et al. 2013). These egg capsules were maintained in a 180 l circular polystyrene tank consisting of a closed seawater system (OPEN-FIELD tank, Aqua, 726 × 1065 × 303 mm, 60 l filtration tank with a condenser and sterilizer). Hatchlings were isolated in a 20 l circular tank consisting of a closed seawater system (Multi-hydense® Aqua, 300 mm diameter, 180 l filtration tank) and reared for 100 to
112 d. The date on which the largest number of squid hatched was defined as Day Zero. Water temperature was maintained between 24.0 and 25.0°C throughout the experiment. Salinity was adjusted to approx. 35 and pH was maintained above 7.8. Water quality and environmental factors were as follows: temperature 24.1 to 24.7°C; salinity 34.0 to 36.5; pH 7.53 to 8.1 (pH was >7.8 during the majority of the experiment). Squid <14 d old were fed live prey (adult mysids *Neomysis japonica*, guppy fry *Poecilia reticulata*, nauplii of brine shrimp *Artemia salina*). Squid >14 d old were fed frozen organisms (sakura shrimp *Sergia lucens*, anchovy *Engraulis japonicus*, common prawn *Palaemon paucidens*) 3 times per day. New hatchlings were fed 4 times per day at approx. the same time each day.

### Animals

Five young male *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* (100 to 112 d old) reared in captivity were used in this study. The dorsal mantle length and wet body weight of the squid were in the ranges of 61.2 to 93.1 mm and 32.5 to 53.6 g, respectively. According to criteria reported by Segawa (1987), the stage of all animals used in this investigation was ‘young 2,’ and the shape of their bodies was nearly identical to that of adults.

### Tissue preparation

All animals were anesthetized in 2% ethanol in seawater, after which dorsal mantle length (ML) and wet body weight (BW) were measured. The animals were then killed by decapitation, and the brains were rapidly removed and fixed in 10% neutralized formaldehyde in seawater (pH 7.4). Brains were dehydrated using a graded series of ethanol, and were then embedded in paraffin wax. The paraffin blocks were cut into 10 µm thick sagittal sections, and the sections were mounted on glass slides pre-coated with silane.

### Immunohistochemistry

After removing the paraffin in xylene and the graded series of ethanol, sections were treated with 3% normal goat serum in phosphate buffer (PB, 0.1 M, pH 7.4) for 30 min, and were reacted in the antiserum against GAD 65 and 67 (diluted to 1:2000, AB1511, Millipore-Chemicon) overnight at room temperature. Sections were rinsed 3 times with PB for 10 min, visualized using the avidin-biotin-peroxidase complex (ABC) method, and counter-stained by hematoxylin. We discriminated immunostaining and hematoxylin by the obtained colors—purple for hematoxylin and brown for immunostaining. The specificity of the immunoreaction was checked by the antibody-absorption test using GAD antigen peptide (GAD, control peptide for AB1511, Millipore-Chemicon). Primary antibody was added to the antigen peptide (10 µg per ml of diluted antibody). No specific staining was obtained.

### RESULTS

#### General structure of oval squid CNS

We identified the structure of the *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* CNS according to previous reports using the same species (Shigeno et al. 2001b) and the squids *Loligo pealeii* and *L. vulgaris* (Young 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, Nixon & Young 2003). The CNS of *S. lessoniana*, consisting of an optic lobe and central cerebral mass, is located between the eyes (Fig. 1A). As in other modern cephalopods, the central mass surrounds the esophagus and is divided into the supra- and subesophageal masses by the esophagus (Fig. 1B). The central mass consists of several lobes; these lobes are the basic unit of invertebrate organization and consist of an outer cell body layer and an inner neuropil layer containing dendrites, axons, and synapses (Fig. 1B). The neural pathways in the CNS are shown in Fig. 1C,D.

#### Localization of GAD-positive neurons

GAD-positive neurons were detected throughout the brain of the oval squid. The relative densities of GAD-positive cell bodies in each lobe are summarized in Fig. 2 and Table 1. Many GAD-positive neu-
rons were distributed evenly in the subesophageal mass. In contrast, the distribution of GAD-positive neurons was not equal in the supraesophageal mass, where the highest density was detected in the inferior frontal lobe. The anterior-superior frontal lobe sends fibers to the subvertical lobe and the subesophageal mass. The posterior-superior frontal lobe contains numerous small cells running to the vertical lobe. The inferior frontal lobe serves as a main output and input between arms and lips and the vertical lobe system. (D) Main pathway in the basal lobe system and the subesophageal mass. The anterior-anterior basal lobe is further divided into the lateral part, which contains large efferent cells with axons running to the oculomotor and other subesophageal motor centers, and the antero-median lobule, which sends axons back to the optic lobes and the parallel fiber region. The subesophageal mass contains motor neurons that run to the muscles of locomotors. A: anterior; P: posterior; opt: optic lobe; vl: vertical lobe; frs: superior frontal lobe; fri: inferior frontal lobe; frp: post-frontal lobe; prec: precommissural lobe; ba.a: anterior-anterior basal lobe; ba.p: posterior-anterior basal lobe; b.d: dorsal basal lobe; b.med: median basal lobe; msa: anterior subesophageal mass; msm: middle subesophageal mass; msp: posterior subesophageal mass; o.l: optic lobe; SBM: subesophageal mass

were detected in the superior frontal lobe. Large-sized GAD neurons (26 to 80 µm diameter) were detected in the subesophageal mass and around the tract, connecting the precommissural lobe and the inferior frontal lobe. Other GAD-positive neurons were in the size range of 10 to 30 µm diameter. All animals had a similar distribution of GAD-positive neurons.
Localization of GAD-positive fibers

GAD-positive fibers ran through all lobes of the Sepioteuthis lessoniana brain, but with unequal intensity. The ranges of GAD-positive fibers in each lobe are summarized in Fig. 2 and Table 1. In the subesophageal mass, many GAD-positive fibers were distributed equally in each region. In contrast, the distribution of GAD-positive fibers was not equal in the suprasophageal mass. In particular, GAD-positive fibers were abundant, with high density, in the tract that exhibited a matrix-like formation of afferent fibers connecting between the superior frontal lobe (input) and the vertical lobe (output) (MSF tract) (Young 1971, Hochner et al. 2003, 2006, Shomrat et al. 2010). Among 5 animals used in this study, there was no variation in the distribution of GAD-positive fibers between animals.

Suprasophageal mass: vertical lobe complex

The vertical lobe complex consists of vertical, subvertical, superior frontal, inferior frontal, post-frontal, and...
precommissural lobes (Fig. 1C, Young 1979) and has been implicated in learning ability and memory (Sanders & Young 1940, Young 1965, Dickel et al. 1997, Nixon & Young 2003). In the vertical lobe complex we detected numerous GAD-positive neurons in the subvertical and the inferior frontal lobes; GAD-positive neurons were not localized in the superior frontal lobe. GAD-positive fibers were scattered throughout all lobes of this complex.

**Vertical lobe.** This lobe is divided into 2 sections: the central and peripheral parts (Fig. 2A). The central part is covered by a monolayer of large neurons, whereas the posterior part is covered by a thick cell layer containing numerous small amacrine cells and a few large cells (Young 1979).

GAD-positive neurons were detected in central and peripheral parts of the vertical lobe. Their diameter was 10 to 20 µm, larger than that of amacrine cells (Figs. 3B,C). GAD-positive fibers were detected throughout the neuropil layer in the vertical lobe and were more abundant in the peripheral part than in the central part. In the central part, GAD-positive fibers ran into the neuropil from the dorsal to the ventral direction. Many granular GAD-positive elements and GAD-positive fibers were distributed in the peripheral part.

**Subvertical lobe.** This lobe is localized under the vertical lobe (Fig. 1B), is continuous with the precommissural lobe, and is divided into 2 parts: anterior and posterior. GAD-positive fibers were more abundant in the posterior than in the anterior part and GAD-positive neurons were scattered throughout the cell layer of this lobe. In the dorsal side of the cell layer of the anterior subvertical lobe, GAD-positive neurons lay in 1 or 2 rows (Fig. 3F). The size of these neurons varied from 10 to 30 µm in diameter. GAD-positive neurons were gathered in the cell layer of the posterior subvertical lobe, and the size of these neurons was almost uniform (approximately 20 µm diam.). The axons of GAD-positive fibers ran into the neuropil of the subvertical lobe.

**Superior frontal lobe.** The superior frontal lobe is divided into 2 parts, anterior and posterior (Fig. 1C). GAD-positive fibers were detected in both the anterior and posterior parts, and ran through the neurons of the outer cell body layer. The interweaving plexus of the posterior-superior frontal lobe in particular contained a greater abundance of GAD-positive fibers. However, there were no GABAergic neurons...
in either the anterior- or the posterior-superior frontal lobes (Fig. 3D).

**Inferior frontal lobe.** The inferior frontal lobe is located at the most anterior part of the supraesophageal mass (Fig. 1C). In the inferior frontal lobe, GAD-positive fibers were abundantly observed in the neuropil, and these fibers diverged in various directions. GAD-positive dots were clustered in high density. GAD-positive neurons, the diameter of which ranged from 10 to 30 µm, were detected in superficial parts of the cell layer (Fig. 3E). Axons of these neurons did not project into the neuropil of the inferior frontal lobe, and ran in various directions. The density of GABA neurons was highest in the supraesophageal mass.

**Post-frontal lobe.** The post-frontal lobe is a set of cells grouped around the superior frontal lobe (Fig. 1B, Nixon & Young 2003). Few GAD-positive cell bodies were found (Fig. 3G; 10 to 15 µm diameter) and GAD-positive fibers were scattered in this lobe.

**Supraesophageal mass: basal lobes**

The basal lobes are higher motor centers that may control movements, and are divided into an anterior and a posterior region (Fig. 1B, Boycott 1961).

**Anterior basal lobe.** The anterior basal lobe consists of 2 lobes: the anterior-anterior basal lobe and the posterior-anterior basal lobe (Fig. 1B) GAD-positive neurons were most abundant in the antero-median lobule. There were few GAD-positive neurons in the other parts of the anterior basal lobes. The abundance of GAD-positive fibers was unequal among regions.

**Anterior-anterior basal lobe.** The anterior-anterior basal lobe is further divided into the lateral part and the antero-median lobule (Fig. 4A, Young 1977). Numerous GAD-positive neurons (10 to 35 µm diam.) were detected in the antero-median lobule that sends axons to the optic lobe (Fig. 4B), and a few GAD-positive neurons (10 to 15 µm diameter) were detected in the lateral part (Fig. 4C). In the neuropil of the lateral part, we found 2 layers of GAD-positive fibers (Fig. 4C). These fibers ran in an anterior-posterior (tangential) direction (Fig. 4C). One layer on the anterior side of the neuropil contained abundant GAD-positive fibers, while a different layer contained few fibers. GAD-positive fibers were scarce in the spine region (Fig. 4C). However, some tracts of GAD-positive fibers ran parallel between the anterior-anterior and anterior-posterior lobes (Fig. 4C).
Posterior-anterior basal lobe. The posterior anterior basal lobe is divided into the spine region and the lateral part (Young 1977). GAD-positive neurons were not detected in the spine region, and GAD-positive fibers were few. The lateral part of the posterior-anterior basal lobe contained many GAD-positive fibers (Fig. 4D), but relative to other lobes their numbers were low. The lateral part of this lobe did not contain GAD-positive neurons.

Posterior basal lobe. The posterior basal lobe is located at the back of the supraesophageal mass (Fig. 1B), and is divided into the dorsal basal, median basal, lateral basal and subpedunculate lobes (Young 1977). We identified the dorsal basal, median basal and subpedunculate lobes.

Dorsal basal lobe. This lobe is one of the least understood parts of the cephalopod brain and is thought to control actions of defense and avoidance (Nixon & Young 2003). GAD-positive neurons (15 to 25 µm diameter) were clustered along the edge of the posterior basal region (Fig. 4E). Axons of the GAD-positive neurons ran through the neurons and projected into the neuropil layer. GAD-positive fibers were scattered in the dorsal basal lobe; their density was constant through both the anterior and posterior regions.

Median basal lobe. This lobe is located on the posterior side of the supraesophageal mass (Fig. 1C) and joins the middle subesophageal mass at the sides. Some GAD-positive neurons were detected (Fig. 4F). GAD-positive fibers were observed and their density and abundance were to the same degree as that observed in the dorsal basal lobe. Axons of these neurons projected into the neuropil of the median basal lobe (Fig. 4F).

Subpedunculate lobes. These lobes are divided into 3 regions: subpedunculate lobes 1, 2, and 3. GAD-positive neurons were mainly detected in the edge of subpedunculate lobe 1 (Fig. 4G), and few were detected in subpedunculate lobes 2 and 3. GAD-positive fibers were detected in each of the subpedunculate lobes.

Subesophageal mass

The subesophageal mass of coleoid cephalopods can be divided into 3 regions: the anterior, middle, and posterior subesophageal masses (Fig. 1B, Young 1976).

Anterior subesophageal mass. The anterior subesophageal mass is composed of the brachial lobe (Nixon & Young 2003). GAD-positive fibers were detected throughout the neuropil and their intensity was strong (Fig. 5B). Many GAD-positive neurons (15 to 25 µm diameter) were detected (Fig. 5C).

Middle and posterior subesophageal masses. These masses consist of several lobes (Young 1976). Most neurons of these lobes expressed GAD, parti-
ularly the more outer neurons (Fig. 5D,E; 15 to 80 µm diam.). The axons of these neurons projected into the neuropil layer. GAD-positive fibers were detected throughout the neuropil of both masses subesophageal masses. In the outer neuropil of both masses, the intensity of GAD-positive fibers was strong compared to that of the inner neuropil.

**Optic lobes**

The 2 optic lobes are located on each side (laterally) of the CNS (Fig. 1A). Each optic lobe consists of 2 regions: a cortex (outer section) called the ‘deep retina’ and a medulla (inner section).

**Cortex.** The cortex primarily consists of 2 cell layers (the outer and inner granular layers). These layers are separated by a plexiform zone containing several layers of tangential fibers (Young 1974). In the outer granular layer a few GAD-positive neurons (8 to 15 µm diam.) were detected (Fig. 6A), although their cell bodies were small (5 to 8 µm diameter). A few large GAD-positive neurons (approximately 25 µm diameter) were detected in the inner granular layer (Fig. 6B). GAD-positive fibers were abundant in the plexiform zone, particularly in the outer part of this zone.

**Medulla.** The medulla consists of many clusters of cell bodies separated by neuropils. Some GAD-positive neurons (8 to 15 µm diameter) and fibers were detected (Fig. 6C).

**DISCUSSION**

**GABAergic neurons in the CNS**

In many lobes, GAD-positive fibers ran through the interval between neurons of the outer cell body layer in addition to the neuropil layer. These may be projection fibers, because the majority of GAD-positive neurons were medium to large in size and sent long axons toward many sources. In rat brains, the available evidence indicates that GABA is present mostly in local circuit neurons (Todd et al. 1994). However, it has been reported that GABAergic innervation of the locus coeruleus arises from the epifascicular nucleus (Ennis & Aston-Jones 1989). The regions known to project to the supraoptic nuclei (e.g., the periventricular preoptic area and the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis) also contain GABAergic neurons (Paxinos 2004). In the striatum, major projections are GABAergic and send axons to the globus pallidus (Paxinos 2004). Kudo et al. (2012) revealed that most of the projection between the ventral tegmental area and the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis was GABAergic. Among invertebrates, neurons projecting to the lobster stomatogastric ganglion are known to be GABAergic (Cournil et al. 1990). GABA appears to have effects on the neural circuit of the *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* CNS.
GABAergic roles in the CNS

Feeding behavior. The density of GAD-positive neurons was highest in the inferior frontal lobe. The inferior frontal lobe of squid serves as a main input and output between the arms and lips and the higher cerebral centers (Nixon & Young 2003). Stimulation studies have revealed that the inferior frontal lobe is involved in movement of the buccal mass, progressive opening of the arms, and grasping behavior, all of which are related to feeding (Boycott 1961, Chichery & Chichery 1991, Nixon & Young 2003). In other mollusks (e.g. Lymnaea, Helix, Helisona, and Aplysia spp.) GABA is found in the buccal and cerebral ganglia and plays a role in activating the feeding pattern (Richmond et al. 1991, 1994, Hernádi 1994, Díaz-Ríos et al. 1999, Hatakeyama & Ito, 2000, Elliot & Susswein 2002). From these reports, and because Sepioteuthis lessoniana is an active predator (Lee et al. 1994), it is suggested that GABA may be involved in feeding behavior in S. lessoniana.

Swimming behavior. Another presumed function of GABA is in controlling movement related to free swimming. GAD-positive neurons were abundant in the neuropil layer of the subvertical lobe, antero-median lobule, and subesophageal mass. The antero-median lobule is part of the anterior basal lobe, which functions as a higher motor center that controls and regulates intermediate and lower motor centers (Boycott 1961, Messenger 1983). Lesion experiments suggest that the anterior basal lobe inhibits fin movements (Boycott & Young 1950, Nixon & Young 2003), and that the antero-median lobule causes rolling movements during acceleration (Chichery & Chichery 1987, Nixon & Young 2003). Furthermore, the each mass in the subesophageal mass is related to the animal movements. The anterior subesophageal mass is involved in movements of the arms and suckers (Nixon & Young 2003). The middle subesophageal mass is the intermediate and lower motor center that controls many animal movements. The posterior subesophageal mass contains lower motor neurons to the fins and to cells involved in movements of other organs including the mantle, head, and collar. Medium- and large-sized GAD-positive neurons (15 to 80 μm diam.) were detected in the subesophageal mass. Past studies have described large neurons that innervated the skin, head, and arms, localized in the subesophageal mass (Young 1976, Nixon & Young 2003). These results suggest an important role of GABAergic neurons in movement of young Sepioteuthis lessoniana. Because S. lessoniana is nektonic, controlling movements seems to be more important for them than the planktonic or benthic cephalopods such as octopus.

Body pattern. The middle and posterior subesophageal mass contain the anterior and posterior chromatophore lobes where the majority of chromatophore neuronal somata are located. GABAergic neurons and fibers were detected abundantly in these masses. Because the cephalopod skin-color system is controlled by muscles that are innervated from these neurons (Messener 2001, Williamson & Chrachi 2004) and Sepioteuthis lessoniana changes its complex body pattern very quickly, GABA may be involved in controlling body pattern in this species.

GABA in learning and memory

According to Bullock & Horridge (1965), the vertical lobe complex and the optic lobes may be consequences of evolutionary innovation in mollusks, and these lobes are concerned with learning ability. We demonstrated that GAD-positive reactions were most numerous in the tract of the vertical lobe from the superior frontal lobe in Sepioteuthis lessoniana, which corresponds to the MSF tract of octopus. Various researchers have suggested that this tract, which shows a matrix-like organization between the vertical lobe, appears to be analogous to vertebrate brain structures involved in learning and memory (e.g. the hippocampus and cerebellum) (Young 1995), and to insect mushroom bodies (Young & Boycott 1955, Young 1991, Hochner et al. 2006, Hochner 2010). Among cellular processes, a robust, activity-dependent long-term potentiation (LTP) underlying the physiological basis of learning and memory that resembles some aspects of vertebrate LTP is shown in this tract.

Many researchers have described the relationship between the GABAergic system and learning and memory in vertebrates; in invertebrates, including the cricket Acheta domesticus, GABA and GABA receptors are distributed in brain regions that are known to be involved in these processes (Strambi et al. 1998). In the honeybee, the involvement of GABA receptors impaired olfactory learning and memory (El Hassani et al. 2009). Many studies have been conducted on LTP of GABAergic synapses in the hippocampus (Stelzer et al. 1987, Grunze et al. 1996, Mclean et al. 1996, Gaiarsa et al. 2002). From these reports, phylogenetically remote animals with advanced learning ability have acquired similar cellular pro-
cesses during evolution (Hochner et al. 2003), and the results of the present study suggest that GABA might be involved in learning and memory systems in Sepiotheuthis lessoniana.

Possible role of GABA in sociality

Sepiotheuthis lessoniana exhibits specific behavioral characteristics (such as well-structured schools and communication) that suggest sociality (Moynihan & Rodaniche 1982, Hanlon & Messenger 1996). Social interaction tests examining the relationship between sociality and the brain induced changes in release and uptake of GABA from the hippocampus in mammals (File et al. 1993). Furthermore, aggression, and possibly other social behaviors, may be particularly prone to regulation through GAD65-mediated GABA synthesis (Stork et al. 2000). Sustková-Fiserová et al. (2009) suggested that the GABAergic system represents an important neuronal substrate for the selective attenuation of anxiety and aggression and that it plays a role in sociable behavior. Reports of relationships between sociality and neuronal mechanisms in invertebrates are scarce. However, the GABAergic system expressed in the tract between the superior frontal lobe and the vertical lobe may play a role in cognitive behaviors such as social interaction, because there are similarities between the hippocampus of the vertebrate brain and the vertical lobe of the cephalopod brain in which abundant GABAergic elements were detected (Young 1991, Hochner et al. 2003).

Distribution of GABAergic elements in Sepiotheuthis lessoniana and Eledone cirrhosa

In the present study we examined the presence of GABAergic elements in the S. lessoniana CNS. A previous study reported the distribution of GABA-like immunolabeling in the brain of octopus E. cirrhosa (Cornwell et al. 1993). The expression of GABA (E. cirrhosa) and GAD (S. lessoniana) within the brain is compared in Table 2. The results of Cornwell et al. (1993) correspond fairly well to the results of the present study, with some differences. The main differences in the distribution of GABAergic elements in the E. cirrhosa brain were detected in the vertical lobe complex and in the anterior and posterior suboesophageal masses. GABAergic elements were abundant in the vertical lobe complex of S. lessoniana. However, GABA-immunoreactivities in the vertical lobe of E. cirrhosa are weak compared with other lobes, particularly in the neuropil layer. Numerous experiments have shown that lesions in the vertical lobe system impair visual discrimination tasks (Young 1961, 1965). Cephalopods possess sophisticated sense organs that enable them to solve complex problems in their environments. Furthermore, GABAergic elements were very abundant in the anterior, middle, and posterior suboesophageal masses of the S. lessoniana brain concerned with lower and intermediate motor center functions; in the E. cirrhosa brain, these elements are distributed abundantly in restricted regions in the anterior (the pre- and post-brachial lobes, which are concerned with control of the arms) and middle suboesophageal mass (the lateral pedal lobes constituting an oculomotor center). The differences in distribution of GABAergic elements between E. cirrhosa and S. lessoniana may relate to differences in the animals’ movements. Cephalopod lifestyles are highly varied. Octopuses are benthic and solitary whereas squids are free-swimming and form schools (Mather 1995).

### Table 2. Expression of GAD-positive cell bodies and fibers within the CNS of Eledone cirrhosa (Cornwell et al. 1993) and Sepiotheuthis lessoniana (--: no detected staining; +: sparse positive staining; ++: moderate positive staining; +++: high positive staining, ++++: extensive positive staining)

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<td>Dorsal basal lobe</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subpedunculatleobes</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optic lobes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic lobe: medulla</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic lobe: plexiform layer</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peduncullobe</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olfactorylobe</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interspecific differences in neural systems might also account for species-specific properties (Kanda et al. 2003, Takuwa-Kuroda et al. 2003). The neuro-anatomical differences demonstrated in the present study may be linked to differences in lifestyle.

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