Specific Association of the Proto-Oncogene Product pp60<sup>c-src</sup> with an Intracellular Organelle, the PC12 Synaptic Vesicle

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Abstract. The protein product of the proto-oncogene c-src is a membrane-associated tyrosine kinase of unknown function. Identification of pp60<sup>c-src</sup> target membranes may elucidate the function of the c-src protein. The available evidence indicates that pp60<sup>c-src</sup> associates with distinct membranes within single cell types and has different distributions in different cell types. Our experiments demonstrate targeting of pp60<sup>c-src</sup> to an isolatable and biochemically identified membrane fraction in the neuroendocrine cell line PC12. The c-src protein was found to be specifically associated with synaptic vesicles since: (a) the pp60<sup>c-src</sup> immunofluorescent pattern overlapped with a synaptic vesicle marker, synaptophysin; (b) a significant proportion (44%) of the pp60<sup>c-src</sup> from PC12 but not fibroblast postnuclear supernatants was recovered in a small vesicle fraction; (c) an anti-synaptophysin cytoplasmic domain antibody immunodepleted all of the pp60<sup>c-src</sup> vesicles in this fraction, and (d) pp60<sup>c-src</sup> copurified during a 100-fold purification of PC12 synaptic vesicles. These results suggest a role for the c-src protein in the regulation of synaptic vesicle function.

The gene responsible for the transforming activity of Rous sarcoma virus was derived from a normal cellular gene, c-src (Stehelin et al., 1976). Both genes encode membrane-associated tyrosine kinases. The c-src protein, pp60<sup>c-src</sup>, has been well characterized but its physiological function remains unknown. Although pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is expressed in all cell types of the mouse, loss of the gene by targeted disruption does not lead to a defect in general cell viability (Soriano et al., 1991). The presence of other tyrosine kinases related to src may make pp60<sup>c-src</sup> function unessential except in unusual circumstances.

Most tyrosine kinases are localized to the plasma membrane, whether they are integral membrane proteins such as the growth factor receptors, or peripheral membrane proteins that complex with integral plasma membrane proteins. This makes sense for proteins that are signaling receptors themselves or transducers for cell surface receptors. The c-src protein is also associated with the plasma membrane. In fibroblasts, for example, pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is recovered in subcellular fractions enriched in plasma membrane markers (Courtenedge et al., 1980) and it or its substrates may interact with gap junction components (Azarnia and Loewenstein, 1987; Azarnia et al., 1988). In some cell types, pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is associated with the attachment of the actin-based cytoskeleton to the cell surface, for example at adherens junctions (Tsukita et al., 1991) and at growth cones of extended neurites (Maness et al., 1988; Sobue, 1990). The location of pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is not restricted exclusively to the cell surface, however. In platelets and chromaffin cells pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is associated with secretory granules in addition to the plasma membrane (Ferrell et al., 1990; Parsons and Creutz, 1986; Grandori and Hanafusa, 1988), and in neurons, fractions enriched in synaptic vesicles contain pp60<sup>c-src</sup> (Hirano et al., 1988; Barnekow et al., 1990). In fibroblasts pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is recovered from intracellular membranes associated with the nuclear envelope (Resh and Erikson, 1985), and if pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is overexpressed it shows both plasma membrane localization and accumulation in puncta throughout the cytoplasm (Kaplan et al., 1990; David-Pfeuty and Nouvian-Dooghe, 1990). The colocalization of pp60<sup>c-src</sup> and endocytosed Con A in fibroblasts overexpressing the c-src protein suggests that pp60<sup>c-src</sup> may be associated with endosomes (David-Pfeuty and Nouvian-Dooghe, 1990). It is possible that the intracellular localization reflects mis-sorting of a protein intended for the cell surface. If, on the contrary, pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is selectively targeted to the intracellular organelles it becomes less likely that pp60<sup>c-src</sup> is exclusively part of a conventional signaling receptor.

Specific targeting of pp60<sup>c-src</sup> to intracellular organelles could require an interaction with a component enriched in that organelle. Membrane association of both the viral and cellular forms of the src gene product is dependent in part
on covalent attachment of the 14-carbon fatty acid myristate to the amino terminus of the src proteins (Buss et al., 1986; Garber et al., 1985; Cross et al., 1984; Kamps et al., 1985). However, certain deletions of amino-terminal sequences result in myristylated but nonmembrane-associated pp60	extsuperscript{src} (Garber et al., 1985; Krueger et al., 1982; Kaplan et al., 1990). These observations suggest that sequence elements within the amino-terminal portion of the protein function together with the myristyl moiety in membrane association. That the membrane association may be mediated by interaction with a membrane receptor is further suggested by the finding that membrane fractions contain saturable binding sites for myristylated src protein (Resh, 1989). Furthermore, a 32-kD polypeptide present in fibroblast membrane fractions and several proteins present in platelet membrane fractions can be specifically cross-linked to myristylated amino-terminal src peptides (Resh and Ling, 1990; Feder and Bishop, 1991).

To learn if the c-src protein is indeed targeted to intracellular organelles and to estimate the selectively of targeting, we have quantified the enrichment of pp60	extsuperscript{src} in synaptic vesicles isolated from the neuroendocrine cell line, PC12. We chose synaptic vesicles because pp60	extsuperscript{src} is naturally enriched in neural tissue (Cotton and Brugge, 1983; Brugge, 1985). A previous attempt to examine the subcellular distribution of pp60	extsuperscript{src} activity in the brain found similar levels of enzymatic activity associated with all membrane fractions (Hirano et al., 1988). Enrichment was found in crude microsomal and crude synaptic vesicle fractions but the tyrosine kinase activity in these fractions was only 30% greater than the starting homogenate. Brain synaptic vesicles (Buss et al., 1990). These observations suggest that sequence elements within the amino-terminal portion of the protein function together with the myristyl moiety in membrane association. That the membrane association may be mediated by interaction with a membrane receptor is further suggested by the finding that membrane fractions contain saturable binding sites for myristylated src protein (Resh, 1989). Furthermore, a 32-kD polypeptide present in fibroblast membrane fractions and several proteins present in platelet membrane fractions can be specifically cross-linked to myristylated amino-terminal src peptides (Resh and Ling, 1990; Feder and Bishop, 1991).

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**Materials and Methods**

**Immunofluorescence**

PC12 cells were grown in media containing nerve growth factor (100 ng/ml; Calbiochem Corp., La Jolla, CA) for at least 5 d before plating on coverslips coated with poly-L-lysine and laminin. The cells were fixed with 3% paraformaldehyde for 30 min, washed twice with PBS, and two times with PBS-glucose (20 mM), and then permeabilized for 20 min with PBS-glucose-saponin (0.1%) (Schweizer et al., 1988). The coverslips were then inverted on 15 µl PBS-saponin containing either none, one, or both of the primary antibodies for 30 min. The primary antibodies used were 327 (anti-src mouse mAb) (Lipsich et al., 1983) at 5 µg/ml and an anti-synaptophysin rabbit polyclonal serum at 1:500 (Linstedt and Kelly, 1991). After five washes with PBS-saponin the coverslips were inverted on 15 µl PBS-saponin containing one or both of the following antibodies: FITC-labeled sheep anti-rabbit (dilution 1:400) (Cappel Laboratories, West Chester, PA), or biotinylated horse anti-rabbit antibody (dilution 1:40) (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA). The biotinylated antibody was detected with streptavidin—rhodamine (dilution 1:100) (Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR). After five final washes with PBS-saponin the coverslips were rinsed with water and mounted on glass slides.

**Differential Centrifugation**

Cells were removed from the plates by scraping in buffer A (150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM MgCl2, and 10 mM Hepes, pH 7.4) and collected by centrifugation at 300 g for 7 min. Homogenization was in buffer A, usually 0.8 ml, containing a protease inhibitor cocktail (pepsatin, chymostatin, leupeptin, and apro tinin at 10 ng/ml; 1 mM PMFS, 1 µg/ml o-phenanthroline; 10 µM benzamidine) using a Cell Cracker (European Molecular Biology Laboratory) with 10 strokes and a 12-µm clearance. The homogenate was separated into a nuclear pellet (P1) and postnuclear supernatant (SI) by centrifugation at 1,000 g for 5 min in a SS34 rotor (Sorvall Instruments, Newtown, CT). The SI was centrifuged at 27,000 g for 35 min in the SS34 rotor to obtain a pellet of large membranes (P2) and a high speed supernatant (S2). The S2 was fractionated into small membranes (P3) and cytosol (S3) by centrifugation at 127,000 g for 60 min in an air centrifuge (Beckman Instruments, Palo Alto, CA). Pellets were resuspended and assayed for pp60	extsuperscript{src} and synaptophysin by immunoblotting, protein content by Pierce assay (Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, IL) with BSA as a standard, and membrane protein content by Pierce assay after extraction with Triton X-114 as described (Bordier, 1981).

**Organelle Immunisoalisation**

Aliquots of 20 mg of Dynabeads M-450 (DYNAL, Inc., Great Neck, NY), magnetic polystyrene beads coated with sheep anti-mouse IgGl, were incubated with 20 µg of either anti-synaptophysin (SY38) or mouse 7-globulin (PeproTech, Ltd., London, UK) overnight at 4°C then rinsed with buffer A. Three aliquots of the S2 fraction prepared from two 15-cm plates of PC12 cells were used. One aliquot was added to the SY38 beads, one was added to the control beads, and the final was left untreated. Each sample was rotated for 60 min at 4°C. Using a magnet to retain the beads, the S2 fractions were removed and centrifuged for 60 min at 127,000 g in the air centrifuge. The resulting pellets (P3) were lysed and analyzed by immunoblotting for pp60	extsuperscript{src} and synaptophysin. The isolated beads were subjected to sequential washes in buffer A and after each wash a fraction was extracted with 1% SDS and the extract was assayed for the presence of pp60	extsuperscript{src} by immunoblotting.

**Velocity and Flotation Gradients**

For velocity gradient analysis, the SI fraction from either unlabeled or metabolically labeled cells was layered on 4.4 ml linear 5-20% sucrose, or 70% sucrose solution and underlayered on 4 ml linear 20-40% sucrose gradients containing 10 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, and 1 mM EGTA and centrifuged in the SW55 rotor at 4°C overnight at 48,000 rpm. All gradients contained 70% sucrose solution and underlayered on 4 ml linear 20-40% sucrose gradients containing 10 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, and 1 mM EGTA and centrifuged in the SW55 rotor at 4°C overnight at 48,000 rpm. All gradients contained the protease inhibitor cocktail (see above). Fractions were collected from the bottom of the tube. Protein content in fractions from unlabeled cells was determined with BSA as a standard using either the Pierce assay or the Quantigold assay (Diversified Biotech, Newton Centre, MA). Scintillation counting was used to determine protein content in fractions from labeled cells. Antigen content was assayed by immunoblotting from unlabeled cells or immunoprecipitation from labeled cells.

**Labeling and Immunoprecipitation**

For metabolic labeling, cells were incubated overnight in DMEM—H21 media depleted of cysteine and methionine but supplemented with 2% FCS and [35S]Translabel (ICN K&K Laboratories Inc., Irvine, CA) at 100 µCi/ml. Synaptophysin immunoprecipitations were carried out in buffer containing 1% NP-40, 0.4% deoxycholate, 0.3% SDS, 66 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris, pH 7.4, with an anti-rat brain synaptic vesicle serum that recognizes synap-
topophysin (Clift-O’Grady et al., 1990). Immunoprecipitation of pp60<sup>src</sup> was in RIPA buffer with mAb 327 as described previously (Kaplan et al., 1990).

**Immunoblotting**

Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE (10% gels) and transferred to nitrocellulose using a semi-dry electrophoretic apparatus (E&K, Saratoga, CA). Proteins were visualized by staining in Ponceau S for several minutes followed by rinses with water. Blocking was for 60 min followed by incubation with ST28 (20 ng/ml) and 327 (3 μg/ml) for 60 min, three 5-min washes, incubation with 125<sup>l</sup>-goat anti-mouse IgG (Cappel Laboratories) for 60 min and three final washes. All incubations were in PBS containing 5% non-fat dry milk and 0.05% Tween 20. The nitrocellulose was exposed to x-ray film at -70°C with an enhancing screen. Autoradiograms were quantitated using a phosphorimager (Molecular Dynamics).

**Results**

**pp60<sup>src</sup> and Synaptophysin Immunofluorescent Patterns Overlap in PC12 Cells**

Analysis of the intracellular localization of pp60<sup>src</sup> in PC12 cells by immunofluorescence microscopy revealed a punctate distribution of immunoreactivity. The cells shown in Fig. 1 were grown for 5 d in nerve growth factor (to promote neurite extension) and plated on poly-D-lysine and laminin-coated coverslips, then fixed with formaldehyde, saponin permeabilized and double stained for pp60<sup>src</sup> (Fig. 1 B) and synaptophysin (Fig. 1 C). Puncta of pp60<sup>src</sup> immunoreactivity were scattered throughout the cytoplasm (Fig. 1 B). Intense staining of the plasma membrane was not apparent, which contrasts with the staining pattern seen in fibroblasts overexpressing pp60<sup>src</sup> (Kaplan et al., 1990; David-Pfeuty and Nouvian-Dooghe, 1990). Staining was present in neuritic processes, particularly in the growth cone area, consistent with previous reports of pp60<sup>src</sup> localization to growth cones (Sobue, 1990). This pattern was very similar in overall appearance to the synaptophysin pattern (Fig. 1 C). Synaptophysin staining was more intense overall, and slightly more intense throughout the processes. Many pp60<sup>src</sup> puncta, particularly in the processes and growth cone areas, were in alignment with synaptophysin puncta. Similar antibody-specific distributions were obtained using other monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies directed against either antigen. The coincidence of pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin staining suggested that pp60<sup>src</sup> may be localized to membranes that participate in synaptic vesicle recycling (such as endosomes or synaptic vesicles or both).

**pp60<sup>src</sup> Is Highly Enriched in Fractions Containing Small Vesicles**

To begin to test whether pp60<sup>src</sup> associates with PC12 synaptic vesicles we used a simple differential centrifugation scheme that has proved useful for studying the distribution of synaptophysin-containing membranes (Clift-O’Grady et al., 1990; Linstedt and Kelly, 1991). Synaptophysin is recovered in both the pellet (P2) and supernatant of a 27,000-g centrifugation of PC12 lysates. The synaptophysin in the supernatant, which can be concentrated in a 127,000-g pellet (P3), is mostly in synaptic vesicles, while that in the P2 is present in larger membranes (Clift-O’Grady et al., 1990; Linstedt and Kelly, 1991). In contrast, an endosome marker, the low density lipoprotein receptor, is recovered in the P2, with only minor amounts remaining in the supernatant (Linstedt and Kelly, 1991).

Paralleling the distribution of synaptophysin, a substantial amount of the sedimentable pp60<sup>src</sup> present in the post-nuclear supernatant was recovered in both the P2 and P3 fractions (Fig. 2 A). The pp60<sup>src</sup> recovered in the P3 fraction accounted for 44 ± 9% while in the same fraction 40 ± 10% of the synaptophysin was recovered (n = 4). In

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Figure 1. Localization of pp60<sup>src</sup> (B) and synaptophysin (C) in PC12 cells by double label immunofluorescence. Both pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin immunoreactivity are dispersed throughout the cytoplasm and processes in very fine puncta. A Nomarski image of the stained cells is also presented (A).
marked contrast, only an insignificant amount of pp60<sup>src</sup>, 3 ± 3% (n = 3), was recovered in the equivalent P3 fraction from CHO fibroblast cells (Fig. 2 A). The absence of small, pp60<sup>src</sup>-containing vesicles in fibroblasts correlates with their lack of synaptic vesicles. Synaptophysin in transfected fibroblasts is targeted to endosomes and recovered primarily in the P2 fraction (Linstedt and Kelly, 1991). The distribution of pp60<sup>src</sup> between P2 and P3 fractions was no different in CHO cells transfected with synaptophysin. Therefore, a substantial portion of pp60<sup>src</sup> cosediments with a slowly sedimenting membrane population present in PC12 cells, but presumably absent in CHO cells.

The enrichment of pp60<sup>src</sup> in the PC12 P3 fraction was twice that of the P2 fraction when compared with total protein present in each fraction (Fig. 2 B). Consistent with the absence of synaptic vesicles in CHO cells, pp60<sup>src</sup> was not enriched in the CHO P3 fraction after normalization to protein content. When the PC12 P3 fraction was analyzed on a flotation gradient very little protein (<5%) was associated with membrane fractions. The amounts of membrane protein in the P2 and P3 fractions were compared directly by measuring the amount of protein that could be extracted into the detergent phase of Triton X-114. Since almost all of the total membrane protein in the postnuclear supernatant was recovered in the P2 fraction (data not shown), the protein in the P3 fraction must be due largely to nonmembranous complexes. When normalized to membrane protein rather than total protein, the pp60<sup>src</sup> associated with the P3 fraction was ~75-fold more enriched than the pp60<sup>src</sup> in the P2 fraction (Fig. 2 C).

**Isolation of pp60<sup>src</sup> Vesicles with an Anti-synaptophysin Antibody**

To test directly for association of pp60<sup>src</sup> with PC12 synaptic vesicles, vesicle immunoisolation experiments were carried out using magnetic immunobeads, coated with a mAb that recognizes an epitope in the cytoplasmic tail of synaptophysin, at concentrations sufficient to deplete the membranes containing synaptophysin (Fig. 3). After removal of the immunobeads, membranes remaining in the supernatants were collected by centrifugation and assayed for the presence of pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin by immunoblot. As a control for nonspecific adsorption, beads coated with mouse gamma globulin were used. A comparison of the recoveries of pp60<sup>src</sup> or synaptophysin membranes in nontreated (N) and control bead-treated (C) supernatants indicated that there was no significant depletion by the control beads (Fig. 3, compare lanes 1 and 2). In contrast, treatment of a PC12 27,000 g supernatant with the anti-synaptophysin beads (S) depleted all synaptophysin-containing membranes (Fig. 3, lane 3). Immunoblots of this same material with antibodies against pp60<sup>src</sup> demonstrated that removal of synaptophysin membranes depleted membrane associated pp60<sup>src</sup> (Fig. 3, lane 3). The isolated beads were extracted under conditions that allowed recovery of pp60<sup>src</sup> but prevented solubilization of the mouse antibodies coating the beads. This allowed an immunoblot assay of the bead fraction using a mouse mAb against pp60<sup>src</sup> that demonstrated that pp60<sup>src</sup> was recovered from the isolated anti-synaptophysin beads (Fig. 3, lane 3), but not from the control beads (Fig. 3, lane 4). Analysis of synaptophysin recovery in the bead fraction required solubilization conditions that disrupted antibody binding and thus also solubilized the mouse antibodies that coat the magnetic beads. In parallel experiments using a rabbit polyclonal antibody that recognizes synaptophysin, the bead fraction was assayed by immunoblot and synaptophysin recovery was shown to be quantitative and specific (Linstedt and Kelly, 1991).
The Triton X-114 partition assays presented in the previous section indicated that of the total protein in the P3 fraction most was not membrane protein. Consistent with this finding, removal of synaptophysin membranes by immunodepletion did not significantly reduce the amount of total protein recovered in the P3 fraction (Fig. 3, compare lanes 7 and 8). The depletion of pp60<sup>src</sup> by the anti-synaptophysin bead treatment indicated that pp60<sup>src</sup> in the P3 fraction was membrane associated (not part of a cytosolic protein complex) and that the membranes in the P3 were highly enriched in pp60<sup>src</sup>. Furthermore, since a large fraction of the synaptophysin present in the PC12 27,000-g supernatant is in synaptic vesicles, the depletion of pp60<sup>src</sup> by removal of synaptophysin-containing membranes suggested that pp60<sup>src</sup> in this fraction is associated with the synaptic vesicles. These data verify that pp60<sup>src</sup> in the PC12 synaptic vesicles. Based on the enrichment presented above (Fig. 2 C) a unique membrane population (e.g., plasma membrane) in the P2 would have to comprise <2% of the total membranes present to contain pp60<sup>src</sup> with the same enrichment as PC12 synaptic vesicles.

**Copurification of pp60<sup>src</sup> with Endocrine Synaptic Vesicles**

Since the experiments presented above indicated that the pp60<sup>src</sup> was associated with the PC12 synaptic vesicles we sought to purify the vesicles with the src protein associated. We first analyzed the behavior of pp60<sup>src</sup>-containing vesicles on velocity gradients. When the postnuclear supernatant was analyzed, synaptic vesicle membranes were clearly detectable as a peak of synaptophysin (Fig. 4 A, fraction 8) distinct from the larger membranes that collected on a pad at the bottom of the tube (Fig. 4 A, fraction 2). Coincident with the synaptic vesicles was a peak of pp60<sup>src</sup>. Comparison of the recovery of pp60<sup>src</sup> associated with small and large membranes after velocity gradient analyses reproducibly indicated that the enrichment of pp60<sup>src</sup> in small vesicles was greater than that for synaptophysin (e.g., compare fractions 2 and 8 in Fig. 4 A). Separation of Rat1 fibroblast post-nuclear supernatants yielded a peak of pp60<sup>src</sup> only at the bottom of the gradient (data not shown). This finding, consistent with the results shown in Fig. 2, suggests that the pp60<sup>src</sup> association with synaptic vesicle-sized membranes found in the neuroendocrine PC12 cells does not occur in fibroblasts.

Fractions encompassing the synaptic vesicle-sized membranes on sucrose velocity gradients were pooled and analyzed on sucrose flotation gradients. A peak of pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin antigenicity co-migrated with a peak of protein at a density of 1.13 g/ml (Fig. 4 B). It was observed that nearly 100% of the synaptophysin was recovered in the fractions containing buoyant membranes, while only 60–80% of the pp60<sup>src</sup> was similarly recovered. We assume that the pp60<sup>src</sup> that did not float together with the synaptic vesicles was the result of dissociation from the synaptic vesicles for the following reasons. The recovery of pp60<sup>src</sup> with synaptic vesicles on density gradients varied depending on which isolation conditions were used. The pp60<sup>src</sup> did not co-migrate with soluble proteins on the flotation gradients, but trailed from the synaptic vesicle peak toward the position where the sample was applied, suggesting dissociation during sedimentation. Also, up to 50% of the pp60<sup>src</sup> associated with synaptic vesicles isolated on immunobeads slowly dissociated during prolonged buffer washes (data not shown).

Comparative SDS-PAGE of the pooled fractions at each purification step is presented in Fig. 5. The position of pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin was determined by immunoblotting (lanes 1-3).
Figure 4. Cosedimentation of pp60<sup>src</sup> and PC12 synaptic vesicles. (A) PC12 postnuclear supernatant separated on a linear 5-20% sucrose gradient underlaid with a dense sucrose cushion and centrifuged at 48,000 rpm for 60 min. (B) Material from the peak of the sucrose velocity gradient (fractions 7 and 8 in A) was adjusted to 50% sucrose and applied under a linear 20-40% sucrose gradient and centrifuged at 48,000 rpm for 12 h. Each fraction was assayed for protein (×), synaptophysin (●), and pp60<sup>src</sup> (○) as described in Materials and Methods.

Figure 5. Polypeptide composition of subcellular fractions. Material from the homogenate (lane 1), S1 (lane 2), velocity peak (lane 3), and density peak (lane 4) was subjected to SDS-PAGE (2.4 μg protein/lane; 10% gel) and stained with silver. Part of the gel was subjected to immunoblotting to determine the position of pp60<sup>src</sup> and synaptophysin (lane 5). The position of molecular weight markers (205, 116, 97.4, 66, 45, and 29 kD) is indicated.

Discussion

We have studied the distribution of pp60<sup>src</sup> in PC12 cells and compared it with that of a synaptic vesicle membrane protein, synaptophysin. In PC12 cells pp60<sup>src</sup> was found to be specifically associated with the endocrine synaptic vesicles. In cells simultaneously stained with antibodies that recognize either pp60<sup>src</sup> or synaptophysin the pp60<sup>src</sup>-immunofluorescence pattern extensively overlapped with the synaptophysin pattern. Nearly 50% of the membrane-associated pp60<sup>src</sup> was recovered in a slowly sedimenting frac-

Table 1. Copurification of PC12 Synaptic Vesicles and pp60<sup>src</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein</th>
<th>Synaptophysin</th>
<th>pp60&lt;sup&gt;src&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent total</td>
<td>Percent total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postnuclear supernatant</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velocity pool</td>
<td>5 ± 1</td>
<td>34 ± 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flotation pool</td>
<td>0.2 ± 0.1</td>
<td>24 ± 6</td>
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The numbers indicate average ± SD of four independent experiments.
dissociation of the known synaptic vesicle-enriched periph-

eural membrane proteins, rab3A, synapsin, and pp60^src^, is

eral synaptic vesicles using antibodies directed against

membrane protein. When this fraction was prepared from a

fibroblast cell line only an insignificant amount of pp60^src^ was

present. All of the pp60^src^ recovered in the PC12 small

vesicle fraction was removed by immunodepletion of the en-
docrine synaptic vesicles using antibodies directed against

synaptophysin. Furthermore, pp60^src^ copurified with the

endocrine synaptic vesicles through a 100-fold purification.

Our experiments demonstrate targeting of pp60^src^ to an

isolatable and biochemically identified membrane fraction.

A straightforward hypothesis, as suggested by the work of

Resh and Ling (1990) on fibroblasts and Feder and Bishop

(1991) on platelets is that the targeting of pp60^src^ to PC12

synaptic vesicles is mediated by a specific membrane pro-
tein. Cross-linking and co-immunoprecipitation experiments

using the purified synaptic vesicle fraction may identify such

a protein. Since pp60^src^ is associated with other mem-

branes, including endosomes, in addition to synaptic vesi-
cles in PC12 cells (our own unpublished observations) it may

be that PC12 cells express more than one "src receptor." 

Kaplan et al. (1990) have suggested that different domains

within the src amino terminus may mediate targeting to
different cellular compartments. This could be tested in

PC12 by comparing the targeting to the synaptic vesicle

membrane of transfected proteins lacking or containing dif-

ferent pp60^src^ domains.

As the integral membrane proteins cycle from synaptic

vesicles through plasma membrane and endosome, synaptic
-vesicle-specific peripheral membrane proteins can associate

and dissociate. The synapsins, major substrates in the nerve
terminal for cAMP-dependent and calcium-calmodulin-depen-
dent protein kinases, are phosphorylated during exocy-
tosis, which promotes their dissociation (Schiebler et al.,
1986; Sihra et al., 1989). If exocytosis is stimulated by the
venom a-latrotoxin in the absence of extracellular calcium,
the synapsins are found in association with the plasma
membrane (Torri-Tarelli et al., 1990) suggesting that dissociation
comes after exocytosis. The small GTP-binding protein, rab
3A, which is restricted to synaptic vesicles (Fischer von
Mollard et al., 1990a; Mizoguchi et al., 1990), also disso-
ciates from synaptic vesicles on exocytosis (Fischer von
Mollard et al., 1990b).

Although pp60^src^ association with PC12 synaptic vesi-
cles was somewhat unstable in vitro, we recovered equal
amounts of pp60^src^ in synaptic vesicle fractions from

cells unstimulated and those stimulated with either high potas-
sium, phorbol esters, or nerve growth factor (data not
shown). These experiments are hard to interpret since it is

not known what conditions are required to stimulate the ex-
cytosis of PC12 synaptic vesicles. A comparison of pp60^src^ and

synaptophysin distribution across a velocity gradient of the
postnuclear supernatant (Fig. 4 A) suggested that pp60^src^ is

even more enriched in the synaptic vesicle fractions

than synaptophysin. The compartment other than synap-
ptophysin in which large amounts of synaptophysin are
recovered is the endosome (Johnston et al., 1989; Linstedt
and Kelly, 1991). If most of the synaptophysin membranes
that collect at the sucrose pad are indeed endosomes, then it
would be necessary to postulate that synaptic vesicle mem-
branes lose their pp60^src^ as they cycle through the endo-
some. At present, therefore, it is plausible that association and
dissociation of the known synaptic vesicle-enriched periph-

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