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CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS NATURAIS E EXATAS
PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS BIOLÓGICAS:
BIOQUÍMICA TOXICOLÓGICA**

**CARACTERIZAÇÃO DOS GENES QUE CODIFICAM
SELENOPROTEÍNAS EM PEIXE-ZEBRA (*Danio rerio*)**

DISSERTAÇÃO DE MESTRADO

Gabriel Teixeira de Macedo

Santa Maria, RS, Brasil

2020

CARACTERIZAÇÃO DOS GENES QUE CODIFICAM SELENOPROTEÍNAS EM PEIXE-ZEBRA (*Danio rerio*)

Gabriel Teixeira de Macedo

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Santa Maria, RS, Brasil

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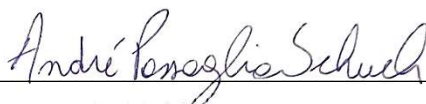
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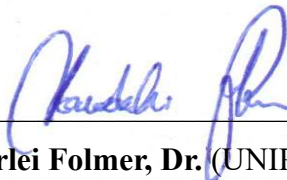
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DEDICATÓRIA

À minha vó Elba.

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Agradeço a minha orientadora Nilda, pela ajuda em todas as horas, também ao meu coorientador Daniel, aos meus colegas de laboratório, aos colegas da Bioquímica. Agradeço à minha família e a meus amigos. Por fim, agradeço à Universidade Federal de Santa Maria pela oportunidade de ter uma educação gratuita e de qualidade.

Há uma teoria que indica que sempre que qualquer um descobrir exatamente o que, para que e porque o universo está aqui, o mesmo desaparecerá e será substituído imediatamente por algo ainda mais bizarro e inexplicável... Há uma outra teoria que indica que isto já aconteceu.

- Douglas Adams (1985)

RESUMO

Dissertação de Mestrado
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas: Bioquímica Toxicológica
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CARACTERIZAÇÃO DOS GENES QUE CODIFICAM SELENOPROTEÍNAS EM PEIXE-ZEBRA (*Danio rerio*)

AUTOR: Gabriel Teixeira de Macedo
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As selenoproteínas são proteínas contendo selenocisteína (Sec) que exibem inúmeras funções fisiológicas, incluindo manutenção da homeostase redox, metabolismo dos hormônios da tireóide, transporte de selênio e atividades do tipo chaperona. Comparado a outros vertebrados, o peixe-zebra apresenta o maior número de genes codificadores de selenoproteínas identificados até o momento, e quase todas as selenoproteínas encontradas em humanos estão presentes nos peixes. Apesar disso, a variedade de selenoproteínas no peixe-zebra é pouco explorada. Para identificar alvos em potencial para estudos translacionais, foi analisado o *status* transcricional dos genes de selenoproteínas em diferentes tecidos e estágios da vida do peixe-zebra. Usando o conjunto de dados RNA-seq dos experimentos em Sequence Reads Archive (SRA) publicados no DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), foram determinados os níveis transcricionais das 37 sequências codificadoras de selenoproteínas em cérebro, coração, brânquias, fígado e músculo esquelético, comparando-os ao longo de diferentes idades. Os genes que codificam as selenoproteínas de peixe-zebra foram confirmados pela presença da estrutura SECIS na região não traduzida 3' dos mRNAs que codificam a selenoproteínas. Dos 37 genes das selenoproteínas analisados aqui, não foi encontrada uma sequência SECIS para o gene da selenoproteína J (*selenoj*). No geral, as consultas ao transcriptoma mostraram que todos os genes de selenoproteínas são ativamente transcritos nos tecidos analisados, com exceção do gene para selenoproteína E (*selenoe*). A pesquisa com RNA-seq revelou também que o cérebro é o tecido com maior diversidade de selenoproteínas, e que a transcrição de 20 genes varia de acordo com a idade, atingindo um pico no nível de transcrição no cérebro de peixe-zebra aos 16 meses de vida. Coletivamente, os dados do presente estudo identificam o peixe-zebra e, especialmente, o cérebro de peixes-zebra adultos como potencial tecido modelo para estudos sobre selênio e selenoproteínas, focando particularmente nos genes *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot2* *selenow1* e *selenow2a* como alvos em futuros estudos translacionais.

Palavras-chave: Transcriptoma, SECIS, selenocisteína, selênio.

ABSTRACT

CHARACTERIZATION OF SELENOPROTEIN CODING GENES IN ZEBRAFISH (*Danio rerio*)

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ADVISOR: Dra. Nilda Berenice de Vargas Barbosa

CO-ADVISOR: Prof. Daniel Mendes Pereira Ardisson-Araújo

Selenoproteins are selenocysteine (Sec)-containing proteins that exhibit numerous physiological functions, including redox homeostasis maintenance, thyroid hormones metabolism, selenium transport and chaperone-like activities. Compared to other organisms, zebrafish presents the highest number of selenoprotein-coding genes identified to date, and almost all selenoproteins found in human are present in the fish. Despite this, the variety of selenoproteins in zebrafish is little explored. In order to identify potential targets for translational studies, herein we analyzed the transcriptional status of selenoprotein genes in different tissues and life stages of zebrafish. Using RNA-seq data set from Sequence Reads Archive (SRA) experiments published at the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), we determined the transcriptional levels of the 37 selenoproteins-coding sequences in brain, heart, gills, liver and skeletal muscle, comparing them throughout aging. Zebrafish selenoprotein-coding genes were confirmed by the presence of 3'-UTR SECIS structure in selenoprotein-coding mRNAs. Out of 37 selenoprotein genes analyzed here, we were unable to find a proper SECIS sequence for Selenoprotein J gene (*selenoj*). Overall, our transcriptome queries suggest all selenoprotein genes are actively transcribed in the tissues, with the exception of Selenoprotein E gene (*selenoe*). Finally, RNA-seq search revealed brain has the highest selenoprotein diversity and the transcription of 20 genes varied accordingly to age, with a peak at 16-month-old zebrafish brain. Collectively, the data from the present study support zebrafish and specially zebrafish adult brain as potent model organism for studies towards selenium and selenoproteins, focusing particularly on *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot2* *selenow1*, and *selenow2a* genes as targets for future translational studies.

Keywords: Transcriptome, SECIS, selenocysteine, selenium, zebrafish.

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APRESENTAÇÃO

No item **INTRODUÇÃO** está descrita uma revisão bibliográfica sucinta sobre os temas abordados nesta dissertação. No final deste item estão apresentados a **justificativa** do trabalho e os **objetivos geral e específicos**.

O **DESENVOLVIMENTO** está disposto na forma de um manuscrito, o qual se encontra no item **MANUSCRITO**. As seções Introdução, Materiais e Métodos, Resultados, Discussão e Referências Bibliográficas encontram-se no manuscrito e representam a íntegra deste estudo.

No item **CONCLUSÕES** são apresentadas as conclusões gerais do presente trabalho.

As **REFERÊNCIAS BIBLIOGRÁFICAS** apresentadas no final da dissertação referem-se somente às citações que aparecem ao item **INTRODUÇÃO**.

1 INTRODUÇÃO

1.1 SELÊNIO

O selênio como elemento foi descoberto em 1817 por Jöns Jacob Berzelius enquanto examinava um sedimento de uma mineração de ácido sulfúrico em Gripsholm, Suécia. A escolha do nome foi em referência à deusa grega da lua, Selene; contrastando com a nomeação do elemento com características semelhantes, Telúrio, o qual referencia a deusa grega do Planeta Terra, Tellus (TROFAST, 2011). O elemento foi descrito a partir de um mineral conhecido como "telúrio sueco", e suas características elementares entre enxofre e telúrio foram documentadas (OLDFIELD, 1974). O selênio está localizado no grupo 16 da tabela periódica e faz parte da família do oxigênio, enxofre, telúrio e polônio (HOUSECROFT & SHARPE, 2012).

A toxicidade do selênio foi reportada ainda no século XIV (JAPHA, 1842); no entanto, somente após um século observada em animais de criação pecuária diagnosticados com "doença de álcali", depois caracterizada como um tipo de selenose. Diversos sintomas foram relacionados ao consumo de selênio em altas concentrações em cereais de cultivo, forrageio animal e plantas acumuladoras de selênio (ROBINSON, 1933). Perda de pêlos e danos nos cascos eram alguns dos efeitos adversos da ingestão contínua de selênio orgânico (ROSENFELD & BEATH, 1964).

Algum tempo após a definição do selênio como um elemento tóxico para os seres vivos, houve uma mudança de paradigma e os estudos se voltaram para os benefícios fisiológicos da ingestão do selênio como microelemento essencial. O caráter essencial do selênio foi descrito pela primeira vez em *Escherichia coli* (PINSENT, 1954) depois em ratos que apresentavam necrose hepática e deficiência de selênio (SCHWARZ & FOLTZ, 1957). Pesquisas quanto à deficiência de selênio levaram à ligação entre o elemento e diversas doenças em animais (TAN et al., 1979). A Doença de Keshan foi descrita em humanos como um tipo de cardiomiopatia associada com a deficiência

de selênio (TAN et al., 1979). A disponibilidade natural de selênio no solo tem uma grande variabilidade dependendo da região (DUMONT et al., 2006). Para combater a Doença de Keshan e Kashin-Beck em áreas com baixo teor de selênio no solo, na China há a adição de selenito de sódio no sal de mesa (KESHAN DISEASE RESEARCH GROUP, 1979). A inclusão de selênio em fertilizantes é obrigatória na Finlândia por suspeita de que o alto índice de doenças cardiovasculares no país esteja relacionado com os baixos níveis de selênio encontrados na população (KOIVISTOINEN & HUTTUNEN, 1986).

Estudos sobre a toxicidade do selênio evidenciaram, pela primeira vez, a presença do elemento em proteínas e em um composto similar ao aminoácido cisteína (Cys) (FRANKE & PAINTER, 1935). Flohe et al. (1973) confirmaram a importância do selênio quando o identificaram como parte essencial da glutathione peroxidase (GPx), tratando-a como uma selenoenzima por usar o selênio como um "co-fator". Pouco depois, Cone et al. (1976) publicaram a descoberta do 21º aminoácido selenocisteína (Sec). O papel fisiológico do selênio está associado aos grupamentos selenois (-SeH) no aminoácido Sec inserido em proteínas chamadas selenoproteínas. O selênio em -SeH mimetiza parcialmente o enxofre em grupamentos tíois (-SH) encontrados no aminoácido Cys (ROCHA et al., 2017).

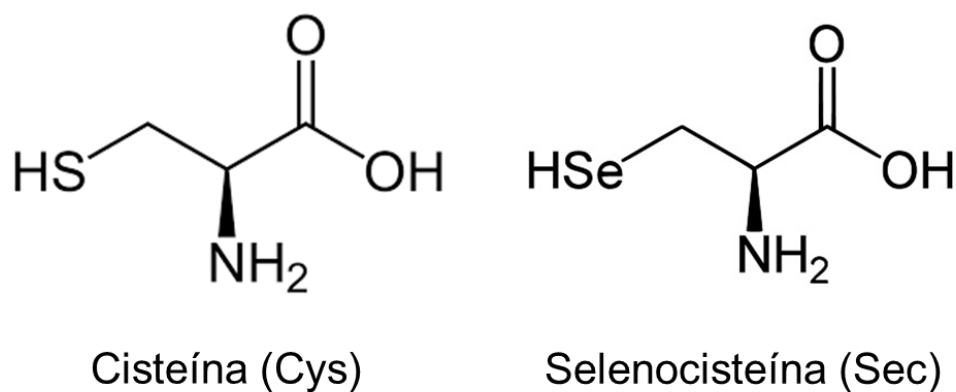


Figura 1. Estrutura química dos aminoácidos Cys e Sec.

1.2 SELENOPROTEÍNAS

A biossíntese de selenoproteínas é essencial para a vida (BÖSL et al., 1996), e requer primeiramente a conversão do selênio da dieta para seleneto (Se^{2-}). Formas inorgânicas como selenito (SeO_3^{2-}) e selenato (SeO_4^{2-}) são convertidas através das vias glutathiona-glutarredoxina e tioredoxina. Formas orgânicas como selenometionina e selenocisteína são metabolizadas a Se^{2-} pela selenocisteína liase ou por trans-selenação. Somente Se^{2-} pode, então, ser fosfatado pela enzima selenofosfato sintetase-2 (SEPHS2), e formar selenofosfato (SePO_3^{3-}) que irá doar selênio para Sec. O RNA transportador (tRNA) que irá transportar Sec está, originalmente, ligado a uma serina (Ser), que é fosforilada pela enzima fosfoseril-tRNA quinase, convertida a Sec e desfosforilada pela enzima O-fosfoseril-tRNA[Sec] selênio transferase. O produto é o selenocisteinacil-tRNA de selenocisteína (Sec-tRNA[Ser]Sec) que é posteriormente recrutado durante a tradução. O processo de síntese de selenoproteínas, como descrito por Labunsky et al. (2014), está representado na Figura 2, adaptada de Cardoso et al. (2015).

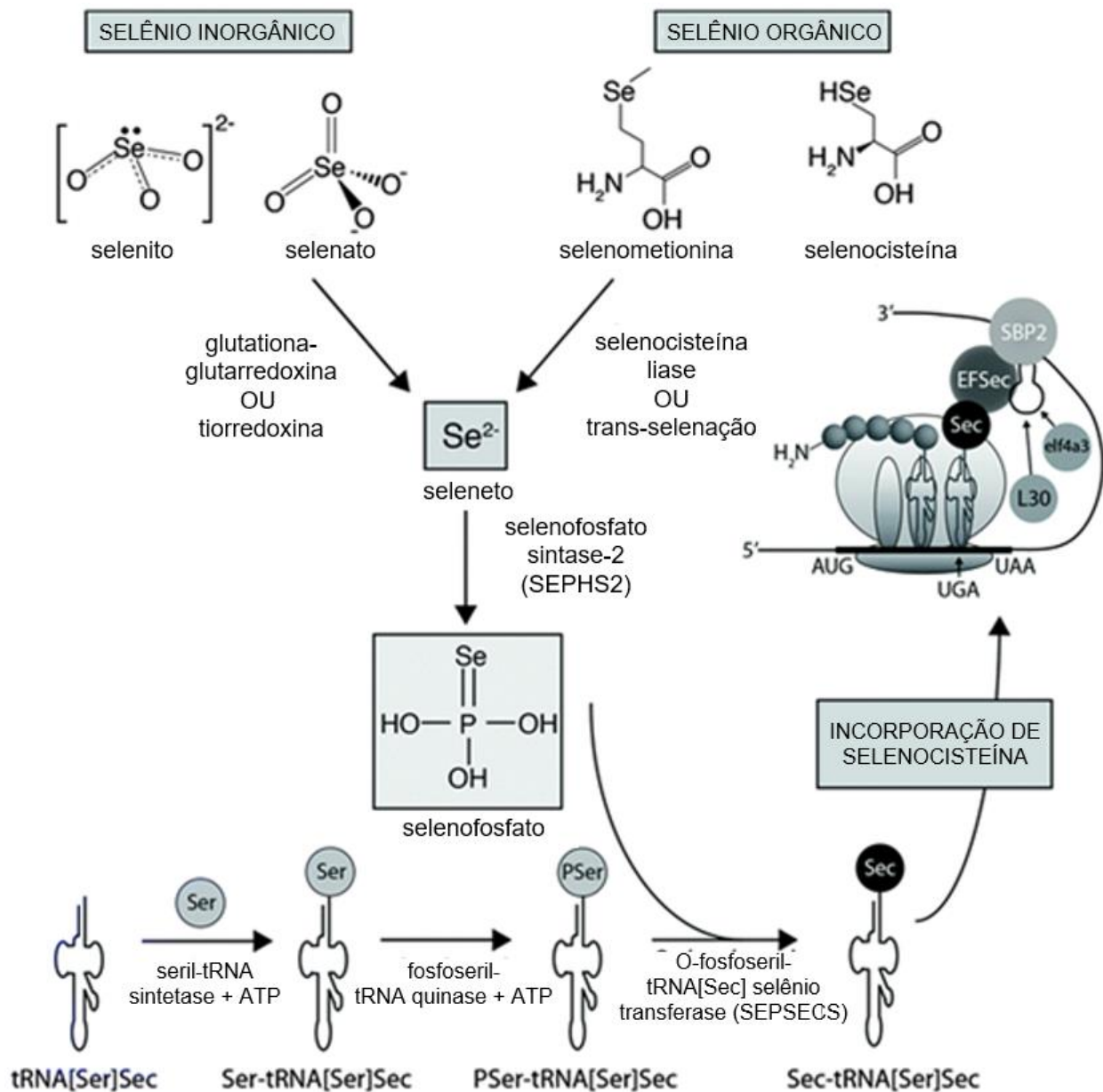


Figura 2. Via da síntese de selenoproteínas. Fontes orgânicas e inorgânicas de selênio transformadas em seleneto, que é fosfatado pela SEPHS2 e doa Se ao tRNA. Sec-tRNA[Ser]Sec é recrutado pelas proteínas que interagem com o elemento SECIS do mRNA modificado para a incorporação de Sec na tradução. Adaptado de Cardoso et al. (2015).

Para a tradução de selenoproteínas ocorrer, o resíduo Sec deve ser codificado através do códon UGA, um dos três códon que indicam terminação da tradução em situação normal. Para que a terminação não aconteça onde Sec deve ser introduzido, o RNA mensageiro (mRNA) transcrito por genes de selenoproteínas deve conter um elemento com sequência de inserção de Sec

(SECIS) na região não traduzida 3' (3' UTR) que funciona como uma plataforma para proteínas que se ligam ao RNA (HATFIELD & GLADYSHEV, 2002).

Os elementos SECIS são sequências de nucleotídeos que adquirem uma estrutura secundária chamada stem-loop, por conta da ligação entre as bases nitrogenadas na região stem (haste) e a não-ligação de bases na região loop (laço). A sequência de SECIS em eucariotos mantém duas regiões conservadas: o núcleo SECIS, composto pelo quarteto não-Watson-Crick após o primeiro loop, e uma dupla ou trio de adenina no segundo loop. As diferenças entre as sequências nucleotídicas nas regiões stem e/ou loop podem modular a eficiência de inserção de Sec e um elemento SECIS pode ser milhares de vezes mais eficaz que outro (LATRÉCHE, et al., 2009). Elementos SECIS podem ser divididos em dois tipos como demonstrado na Figura 3, adaptado de Latréche et al., 2009. O elemento SECIS irá se complexar com o fator de alongação específico para Sec (EFSec) e com a proteína de ligação a SECIS 2 (SBP2). Logo, EFSec interage com SBP2 para recrutar o Sec-tRNA[Ser]Sec e mediar a inserção do aminoácido no peptídeo em formação (HATFIELD & GLADYSHEV, 2002). Outras proteínas que interagem com SECIS foram encontradas como a proteína ribossomal L30 (BIFANO et al., 2013) e um fator de iniciação eucariótico (eIF4a3) que está relacionado com o status de selênio e com a expressão diferencial de selenoproteínas (BUDIMAN, 2009). A nucleolina também se liga ao SECIS e provavelmente participa da ligação com o ribossomo (WU et al., 2000). O processo de incorporação da selenocisteína está representado na Figura 2, adaptado de Cardoso et al. (2015).

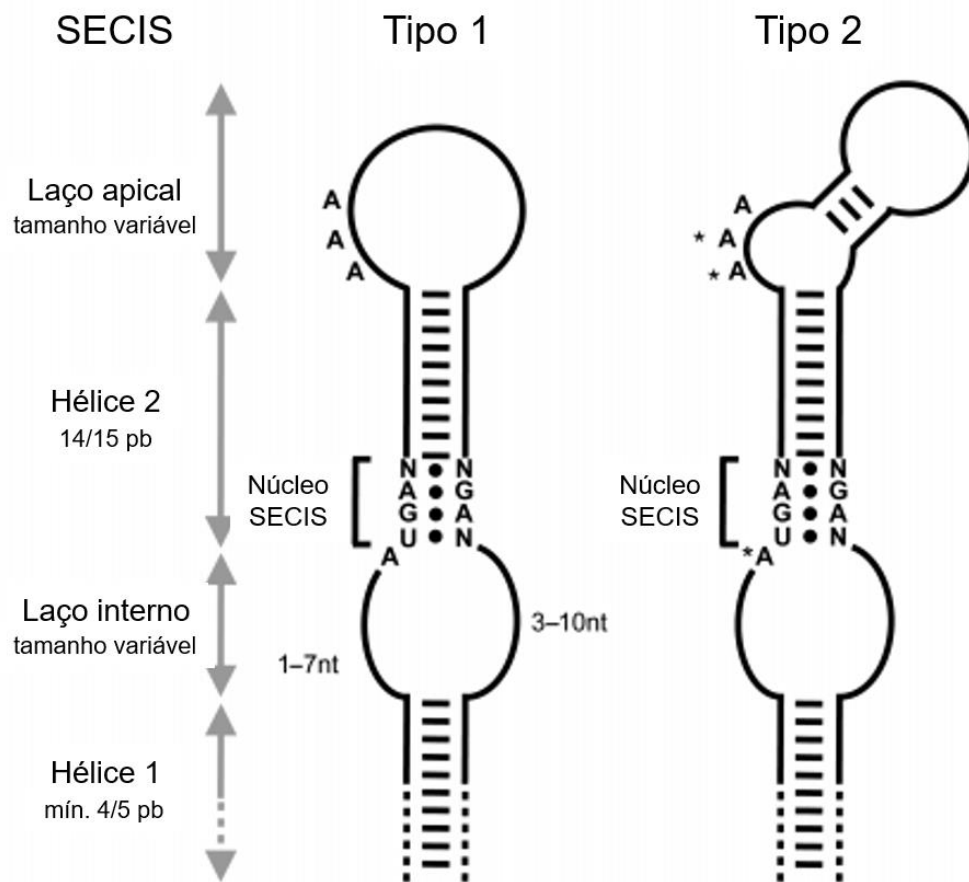


Figura 3. Estrutura secundária formada pela sequência nucleotídica em elementos SECIS. Divisão em laços e hélices com destaque para estruturas conservadas: o núcleo SECIS e o tamanho dos elementos internos.

O status de selênio no organismo altera a expressão de selenoproteínas, e existe uma hierarquização entre as selenoproteínas que são mais ou menos afetadas, assim como os tecidos. Sob restrição de selênio, a expressão de genes não é igualmente afetada para todas as selenoproteínas (SUNDE et al., 2009). A célula possui mecanismos complexos para destruir mRNA de selenoproteínas através da degradação de mRNA mediada por mutação sem sentido (NMD, do inglês nonsense-mediated decay) evitando a tradução com um códon de terminação prematuro (KERVESTIN & JACOBSON, 2012). Esses mecanismos estão relacionados com a afinidade entre a SBP2 e o elemento SECIS (LOW et al., 2000). Portanto, a posição do gene na

hierarquia de selenoproteínas pode estar codificada na sequência do seu elemento SECIS. A regulação de selenoproteínas também depende do tecido. Em situação de escassez de selênio, o fígado e outros tecidos se esgotam do elemento antes do cérebro, indicando que pressões evolutivas modularam a preferência de certos órgãos (BURK & HILL, 2015).

Até o final do século XX, a descoberta de novas selenoproteínas era realizada por experimentos de bancada, e 12 selenoproteínas de mamíferos haviam sido caracterizadas (HOLBEN & SMITH, 1999). A descrição de novas selenoproteínas em diferentes organismos aumentou com o avanço das ferramentas computacionais e da quantidade de dados acumulados no começo do século XXI. Lescure et al. (1999) descreveram três novas selenoproteínas utilizando metodologias de predição de estruturas secundárias de mRNA, ao mesmo tempo que Kryukov et al. (1999) desenvolviam SECISearch, um software para procura de elementos SECIS termodinamicamente estáveis em mRNA. Pela primeira vez, um genoma completo foi analisado em busca de elementos SECIS e códons de terminação foram anotados corretamente por Martin-Romero et al. (2001) e Castellano et al. (2001) no genoma de *Drosophila melanogaster*. O método foi aplicado a medida que os genomas humanos e de roedores foram publicados, e foi constatado uma variação grande de selenoproteínas entre as espécies. Diferentes espécies de *Drosophila* têm entre 0 e 3 selenoproteínas (CHAPPLE & GUIGO, 2008). Selenoproteínas estão presentes nos três domínios da vida, mas há grupos inteiros de organismos sem selenocisteína como plantas terrestres, Lepidoptera e a maior parte dos fungos (LOBANOV et al., 2008). A alga unicelular *Aureococcus anophagefferens* é o organismo com mais selenoproteínas, com 59 proteínas diferentes contendo Sec (GLOBER et al., 2013).

As selenoproteínas em vertebrados apresentam diversas funções e estão distribuídas em diferentes famílias. Algumas das selenoproteínas com funções melhor elucidadas são: glutionas

peroxidases (GPX) e tioredoxina redutase (TXNRD), com função antioxidante; iodotironina desidrinases (DIO), reguladoras da síntese de hormônios tireoidianos; selenoproteína P (SELENOP), transportadora de selênio e SEPHS2, que participa da síntese de Sec (PAPP et al., 2007). Entre as proteínas menos conhecidas, algumas são antioxidantes, sinalizadoras de oxidorredução (ou redox), ou ainda com função tipo-chaperona (PAPP et al., 2007). A biodisponibilidade de selênio varia entre o ambiente terrestre e aquático, pois o selênio do solo acaba acumulando em corpos d'água e bioacumulando através da cadeia trófica aquática (SELINUS et al., 2005). A medida que os vertebrados evoluíram para fora da água, a deficiência de selênio se tornou um potencial fator seletivo, e a persistente conservação de Sec mostra que o resíduo não é facilmente substituído por Cys, apesar de acontecer em mais de uma ocasião (CASTELLANO et al., 2009).

1.3 PEIXE-ZEBRA

Entre os teleósteos, o peixe-zebra (*Danio rerio*) é um organismo modelo amplamente utilizado em pesquisas das mais diversas áreas. O peixe-zebra tem o genoma totalmente mapeado, apresenta grande sensibilidade a fármacos, um rápido metabolismo, e genes evolutivamente conservados com alto grau de similaridade comparado a genes humanos e de camundongos (BARBAZUK et al., 2000; GOLDSMITH, 2004; HOWE et al., 2013). Fácil manipulação, baixo custo, comportamento facilmente observado em um ambiente controlado e rápido desenvolvimento e ciclo biológico também são vantagens importantes do uso do animal em experimentação (SHIN & FISHMAN, 2002; LIESCHKE & CURRIE, 2007).

Estudos realizados com selenoproteínas de peixe-zebra reportam uma variabilidade dependente de cepa e sexo (BENNER et al., 2010; DREW et al., 2012). Também há evidências que há resposta na expressão de selenoproteínas dependente do status de selênio e balanço redox (BENNER et al., 2013; PENGLASE et al., 2014a; PENGLASE et al., 2014b; BETANCOR et al.,

2015; DOLGOVA et al., 2019). Em peixes ósseos, houve uma abundância de duplicações gênicas junto a um aumento da dependência ao selênio ambiental, indo na contra-mão do observado em vertebrados terrestres (REICH & HONDAL, 2016). Apesar disso, a variedade de selenoproteínas que o peixe-zebra apresenta é pouco explorada, não sendo foco de estudos a diferenciação de função em duplicações de genes com homólogos em mamíferos e/ou genes exclusivos de peixes. O aprofundamento de estudos sobre os genes que codificam selenoproteínas de peixe-zebra pode fortalecer o uso do peixe-zebra como modelo interessante para o estudo do metabolismo de selênio em vertebrados.

2 JUSTIFICATIVA

Embora o selênio seja um elemento traço essencial, é muito estreito o limiar entre a janela considerada terapêutica e tóxica; e seus efeitos ora tóxicos, ora benéficos ainda fazem com que seja entendido como um “veneno essencial” (JUKES, 1983). Neste cenário, o estudo das selenoproteínas representa um campo altamente importante para o delineamento de pesquisas com enfoque no elemento tanto em termos farmacológicos como toxicológicos. Como mencionado anteriormente, ao contrário dos vertebrados terrestres, os teleósteos tornaram-se mais dependentes de selênio, característica que pode servir como plataforma para o estudo do elemento e das selenoproteínas. Este estudo de diferentes selenoproteínas irá mapear, pela primeira vez juntos, os genes, transcritos e proteínas de peixe-zebra. O conjunto de dados poderá fornecer informações específicas que podem ser usadas para delinear estudos experimentais com foco em selênio em nível de entidade biológica e/ou translacional.

3 OBJETIVOS

3.1 Objetivo geral

Caracterizar em nível molecular selenoproteínas em peixe-zebra a fim de identificar na espécie potenciais genes, tecidos e idades alvos para estudos translacionais.

3.2 Objetivos específicos

- Analisar a distribuição cromossômica de genes que codificam para selenoproteínas no genoma de peixe-zebra;
- Identificar e comparar os elementos SECIS de cada gene de selenoproteínas em peixe-zebra;
- Analisar por RNA-seq a transcrição de genes de selenoproteínas em diferentes tecidos de peixes adultos, incluindo cérebro, coração, brânquias, fígado e músculo esquelético em diferentes fases do peixe, aos 2, 7, 16 e 39 meses de vida;

4 MANUSCRITO

O manuscrito resultante desta dissertação será submetido a um periódico internacional e encontra-se abaixo em sua integralidade.

TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROFILE OF SELENOPROTEIN-CODING GENES IN FOUR DIFFERENT ZEBRAFISH TISSUES THROUGHOUT AGING

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TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROFILE OF SELENOPROTEIN-CODING GENES IN FOUR DIFFERENT ZEBRAFISH TISSUES THROUGHOUT AGING

ABSTRACT

Selenoproteins are selenocysteine (Sec)-containing proteins that exhibit numerous physiological functions, including redox homeostasis maintenance, thyroid hormones metabolism, selenium transport and chaperone-like activities. Compared to other organisms, zebrafish presents the highest number of selenoprotein-coding genes identified to date, and almost all selenoproteins found in human are present in the fish. Despite this, the variety of selenoproteins in zebrafish is little explored. In order to identify potential targets for translational studies, herein we analyzed the transcriptional status of selenoprotein genes in different tissues and life stages of zebrafish. Using RNA-seq data set from Sequence Reads Archive (SRA) experiments published at the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), we determined the transcriptional levels of the 37 selenoproteins-coding sequences in brain, heart, gills, liver and skeletal muscle, comparing them throughout aging. Zebrafish selenoprotein-coding genes were confirmed by the presence of 3'-UTR SECIS structure in selenoprotein-coding mRNAs. This work presents, therefore, the most comprehensive selenoprotein genes and transcript characterization up to now. Out of 37 selenoprotein genes analyzed here, we were unable to find a proper SECIS sequence for Selenoprotein J gene (*selenoj*). Overall, our transcriptome queries suggest all selenoprotein genes are actively transcribed in the tissues, with the exception of *selenoe* gene. Finally, RNA-seq search revealed brain has the highest selenoprotein diversity and the transcription of 20 genes varied accordingly to age, with a peak at 16-month-old zebrafish brain. Collectively, the data from the present study support zebrafish and especially adult brain as potent models for studies towards selenium and selenoproteins, specifically targeting *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot2* *selenow1*, and *selenow2a* genes in future translational studies.

Keywords: Transcriptome, SECIS, selenocystein, selenium, zebrafish.

1 INTRODUCTION

The element selenium (Se) is located in the group 16 from periodic table, along with oxygen, sulfur, tellurium and polonium (HOUSECROFT & SHARPE, 2012). The essential characteristic of Se for life was firstly described in *Escherichia coli* (PINSENT, 1954) and, later in rats that developed liver necrosis due to Se deficiency (SCHWARZ & FOLTZ, 1957). Nowadays, Se is recognized as a trace element for animals due to its inclusion in the 21st amino acid selenocysteine (Sec), which is incorporated in proteins called selenoproteins.

The biosynthesis of selenoproteins primarily requires the conversion of dietary selenium to selenide (Se^{2-}), which is phosphated by the enzyme selenophosphate synthase-2 (SephS2) to form selenophosphate (SePO_3^{3-}) that will donate selenium to Sec. For selenoprotein translation, the Sec residue is encoded using the UGA codon, one of the three codons that indicate termination of the translation in a normal situation. For the termination not happens where Sec is introduced, the messenger RNA (mRNA) transcribed by selenoprotein genes contains an element with Sec insertion sequence (SECIS) in the 3' (3' UTR) untranslated region that functions as a platform for proteins that bind to RNA (HATFIELD & GLADYSHEV, 2002).

It is known that Se status can alter the selenoprotein expression pattern, and that there is a hierarchy among the selenoproteins that are more or less affected, as well as the tissues (SUNDE et al., 2009). In a situation of scarcity of selenium, brain has higher priority for Se than the peripheral tissues, indicating that evolutionary pressures modulated the preference for certain organs (BURK & HILL, 2015).

Until the end of the 20th century, the discovery of new selenoproteins was carried out by bench experiments, and 12 mammalian selenoproteins had been characterized (HOLBEN & SMITH, 1999). The description of new selenoproteins in different organisms has increased with the advancement of computational tools and the amount of data accumulated in the beginning of the 21st century. Lescure et al. (1999) described three new human selenoproteins using methodologies for predicting secondary mRNA structures and, in the same year the SECISearch, a software for searching for thermodynamically stable SECIS elements in mRNA was developed by Kryukov et al. (1999).

Currently, it is known that selenoproteins are present in the three domains of life, but there are entire groups of organisms without selenocysteine such as terrestrial plants, lepidoptera and most fungi (LOBANOV et al., 2008).

25 different selenoproteins with varied functions are present in humans and are classified in different families. The selenoproteins with well elucidated biological role include the glutathione peroxidases (GPx), and thioredoxin reductases (TxnRd) with antioxidant functions; the iodothyronine deiodinases (Dio) regulating the synthesis of thyroid hormones, the selenoprotein P (SELENOP) as selenium transporter, and the Sephs2, that participates in the synthesis of Sec (PAPP et al., 2007). Among those with less recognized functions there are redox regulators and chaperone-like proteins (PAPP et al., 2007).

Se bioavailability varies between the terrestrial and aquatic environment, since the element in the soil ends up accumulating in water bodies and bioaccumulating through the aquatic food chain (SELINUS et al., 2005). As vertebrates evolved out of the water, selenium deficiency became a potential selective factor, and the persistent conservation of Sec shows that the residue is not easily replaced by Cys, despite occurring on more than one occasion (CASTELLANO et al., 2009). Among teleosts, zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) is a model organism widely used in the most diverse research areas. Zebrafish has a fully mapped genome, a great sensitivity to drugs, a fast metabolism, and evolutionarily conserved genes with a high degree of similarity with human and mouse genes (BARBAZUK et al., 2000; GOLDSMITH, 2004; HOWE et al., 2013).

Studies conducted with zebrafish selenoproteins report that the variability is strain and sex dependent (BENNER et al., 2010; DREW et al., 2012). There is also evidence that the selenoprotein expression depends on Se status and redox balance, but we have no knowledge of aging influence on selenoprotein transcription (BENNER et al., 2013; PENGLASE et al., 2014a; PENGLASE et al., 2014b; BETANCOR et al., 2015; DOLGOVA et al., 2019).

Differently of terrestrial vertebrates, in bone fish there was an abundance of gene duplications with an increased dependence on environmental selenium (REICH & HONDAL, 2016). Despite this, the variety of selenoproteins present in zebrafish is little explored, and the differentiation of function in gene duplication with homologues in mammals and/or exclusive fish genes is not usually focus of studies. So, researches on genes that encode zebrafish selenoproteins may strengthen the use of zebrafish as an interesting model for studying Se homeostasis in vertebrates. With this in mind, the aim of this study was to characterize selenoproteins in zebrafish at the

transcriptional level in order to identify potential targets for translational studies. Firstly, we identified the zebrafish genes that code for selenoproteins and the presence or absence of homologues in other organisms. Then, we analyzed the transcriptional status of selenoprotein genes in different tissues of adult zebrafish by RNA-seq, including brain, heart, gills, liver and skeletal muscle. To ascertain the impact of aging on selenoprotein-coding gene transcription levels, we also analyzed selenoprotein transcripts in 2-, 7-, 16- and 32-months old zebrafish. Our results indicating that the transcriptional status of selenoprotein genes is higher and more diversified in zebrafish brain, along with an overall higher transcription in adult phase, make adult brain a potential tissue to investigate the effects of dietary selenium on selenoproteins modulation. Considering identity to human sequences, transcription level and known function, we point *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot2* *selenow1*, and *selenow2a* as potential targets for future selenoprotein studies in zebrafish.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 RNA-seq acquisition

Transcriptome data of dissected zebrafish tissues at different development stages were generated by Kijima et al. (2018). Each group consisted of five fish and the experiments were performed by Illumina HiSeq 2000 paired end sequencing method. The RNA-seq data were obtained from the Japanese DNA data bank (DDBJ) in fastq format (Access Number: PRJDB7713). The files were imported into Geneious 9.0 software and trimmed to remove low-quality regions with more than 5% base error chance. The deep-sequencing analyses included brain, gill, cardiac muscle (heart), liver, and skeletal muscle (muscle) of five different zebrafish individuals at 2, 7, 16 and 39-months-old. Importantly, zebrafish sex distribution and strain were not specified and the heart samples were not collected from 2-months-old fishes due to dissection difficulties. In total, each paired-end sequence generated two different technical replicates. For brain, the influence of the age on selenoprotein transcription were analyzed in larval, adult, and senescent fishes. Zebrafish selenoproteins and their functions are listed in the Table 1. This paper follows nomenclature as agreed by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (GLADYSHEV et al., 2016), which settle *Seleno* as common prefix instead of *Sel* or *Sep*. In addition, zebrafish default nomenclature was employed to proteins with uppercase and to genes with lowercase italic.

2.2 Transcriptomic analysis

Coding DNA sequence (CDS) for 37 zebrafish selenoprotein transcript sequences (Table 1) were utilized as target to quantify the selenoprotein transcription. In genes with multiple variants, the varying exons were analyzed separately. Two housekeeping gene sequences were used as transcription control for each group: *rpl13a* (Ribosomal Protein L13a) and *uba52* (Ubiquitin A-52 Residue Ribosomal Protein Fusion Product 1). These genes have been utilized as reference in selenoprotein transcription studies and recommended as reference genes in multiple species (Sadritdinova et al, 2014; Bian et al, 2015). Geneious 9.0 ‘Map to Reference’ function was used to map each trimmed RNA-seq to a reference sequence. Mapping sensitivity was set as 99% minimum overlap identity and 20% maximum mismatches per read. Fine tuning iterated the process three times and utilized the repeat with more matches. Abundance of transcripts was quantified as the number of aligned nucleotides between each selenoprotein gene CDS and RNA-seq sequences. The normalization by control data was carried out by dividing the total matched nucleotide by the total nucleotides in the experiment sequences and the target sequence size to avoid size bias.

2.4 Prediction of SECIS sequences and chromosome loci identification

We analyzed the SECIS element for each zebrafish gene with at least one Sec residue. For each selenoprotein encoding mRNA sequence, the SECISearch3 search method (Mariotti et al., 2013) was applied using SECISearch3.0 / Sebastian online tool for prediction of eukaryotic SECIS elements (available at: <http://sebastian.crg.es>). The predicted SECIS was compared with previously noted regions in the reference genome assembly. The sequence of SECIS elements for all genes was aligned with Multiple Alignment using Fast Fourier Transform (MAFFT) (Katoh et al., 2002) and conserved regions were described. The graphic visualization of genes localization in the zebrafish genome was produced using the mapping tool available in the genomic browser Ensembl 92, considering nucleotide proportions.

2.5 Statistical analysis

Transcription results were expressed in fold-change from both reference sequences averages. Analysis were performed in the GraphPad Prism 7 software. Results were expressed as average \pm mean standard error and analyzed through ANOVA followed by Tukey multiple comparison test. Significant difference was considered when $p \leq 0.05$.

Table 1. Selenoprotein family classification, function, genes and reference numbers

Putative Function	Protein Family	Human Gene	ZF Gene	ZF Transcript Reference #
Hormonal (Guo et al., 2014)	Iodothyronine deiodinase	<i>dio1</i>	<i>dio1</i>	NM_001007283
		<i>dio2</i>	<i>dio2</i>	NM_212789
		<i>dio3</i>	<i>dio3a</i>	NM_001256003
			<i>dio3b</i>	NM_001177935
Antioxidant (Dikiy et al., 2007; Mariotti et al., 2012; Mendieta-Serrano et al., 2015)	Glutathione Peroxidase	<i>gpx1</i>	<i>gpx1a</i>	NM_001007281
			<i>gpx1b</i>	NM_001004634
		<i>gpx2</i>	<i>gpx2</i>	NM_001329759
		<i>gpx3</i>	<i>gpx3</i>	NM_001137555
		<i>gpx4</i>	<i>gpx4a</i>	NM_001007282
			<i>gpx4b</i>	NM_001030070
		<i>gpx6</i>	-	
	Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase B1		<i>msrb1a</i>	NM_178288
		<i>msrb1</i>	<i>msrb1b</i>	NM_001105128
	Thioredoxin reductase	<i>txnrd1</i>	<i>txnrd2.2</i>	NM_007116
		<i>txnrd2</i>	-	
		<i>txnrd3</i>	<i>txnrd3</i>	NM_007117
	Thioredoxin- like (Rdx) family	<i>selenoh</i>	<i>selenoh</i>	NM_178133
			<i>selenot1a</i>	NM_178290
		<i>selenot</i>	<i>selenot1b</i>	NM_178292
<i>selenot2</i>			NM_001098487	
<i>selenov</i>				
		<i>selenow1</i>	NM_178287	
	<i>selenow</i>	<i>selenow2a</i>	NM_194417	

			<i>selenow2b</i>	NM_174418
	Selenoprotein N	<i>selenon</i>	<i>selenon</i>	NM_001004294
	Selenoprotein O	<i>selenoo</i>	<i>selenoo1</i>	NM_001044871
			<i>selenoo2</i>	NM_001348085
	Selenoprotein U	-	<i>selenou1a</i>	NM_001354553
			<i>selenou1b</i>	NM_001076713
Chaperone-like (Ferguson et al., 2006; Shchedrina et al., 2007; Mariotti et al., 2012)	SEP15/	-	<i>selenoe</i>	NM_001195784
	selenoprotein M family	<i>selenof</i>	<i>selenof</i>	NM_178294
		<i>selenom</i>	<i>selenom</i>	NM_178286
	Selenoprotein I	<i>selenoi</i>	<i>selenoi</i>	NM_001329437
	Selenoprotein K	<i>selenok</i>	<i>selenok</i>	NM_001004681
	Selenoprotein L	-	<i>selenol</i>	NM_001190382
Selenoprotein S	<i>selenos</i>	<i>selenos</i>	NM_001045334	
Structural (Castellano et al., 2005)	Selenoprotein J	-	<i>selenoj</i>	NM_001193469
Transport/storage (O'Leary et al., 2016)	Selenoprotein P	<i>selenop</i>	<i>selenop</i>	NM_178297
			<i>selenop2</i>	NM_001353911
Sec biosynthesis (Kryukov et al., 2000)	Selenophosphate synthetase	<i>sephs2</i>	<i>sephs2</i>	NM_001004295
Reference genes	-	<i>rpl13a</i>	<i>rpl13a</i>	NM_212784
	-	<i>uba52</i>	<i>uba52</i>	NM_001037113

3 RESULTS

3.1 Characterization of selenoproteins in zebrafish

Danio rerio presents 37 selenoproteins distributed along 25 chromosomes (Figure 1B). The proteins play different functions described so far (Table 1), including hormonal metabolism, antioxidant, chaperone-like, and selenium-related protein biosynthesis. Almost all selenoproteins found in human are present in zebrafish, with the unique exception in SELENOV. SELENOV likely originated in Placentalia and is expressed in mammal testis (KRYUKOV et al., 2003). The abundance of selenoproteins in fish is related to the chromosome duplication, event that took place

secondary structure predicted for *selenoh* SECIS element (representative). (C) SECIS sequence logo produced with all SECIS sequences found using SECISearch 3.0 for zebrafish selenoprotein-coding gene. Large nucleotide letters indicate high nucleotide consensus.

The zebrafish selenoprotein-coding genes were confirmed by the presence of 3'-UTR Secis structure in selenoprotein-coding mRNAs. Eukaryotic SECIS elements share conserved sequences such as SECIS Core and a tridimensional structure with a characteristic loop and stem regions (Figure 1B). These characteristics in the mRNA sequences were searched using SECISearch3.0 and the results are in Supplemental Figure 1. The set of all sequences found was illustrated using WebLogo 2.8.2 (Crooks et al., 2004) (Figure 1C). We found sequences classified as type 1 SECIS element for 36 of 37 genes analyzed. No SECIS element was found in the mRNA sequence of *selenoj*. An extra SECIS sequence was found in the mRNA sequence of *dio1*. All selenoprotein transcripts size, from Start codon to SECIS location, were mapped and are represented in Supplemental Figure 2.

3.2 Transcriptome assessment in zebrafish tissues

We analyzed the selenoprotein transcriptional panorama in five different tissues of 2-, 7-, 16-, and 39-months-old zebrafish, which included brain, gill, heart, liver, and skeletal muscle. The genes *rpl13a* and *uba52* were used as controls to normalize the selenoprotein gene transcription for each tissue.

In order to identify a target age, we analyzed the number of transcripts that mapped against the 37 selenoprotein-coding transcripts along the different stages of development in zebrafish brain (Figure 2). 2- and 39-months old fishes did not present statistical difference, and the abundance of reads that mapped against the selenoprotein-coding transcripts were similar.

The abundance of reads that mapped against 7-month old fishes was higher than 2-month group and 16-months old fishes had statistically higher transcription than the other ages; therefore, we selected 7- and 16 months old for further analysis.

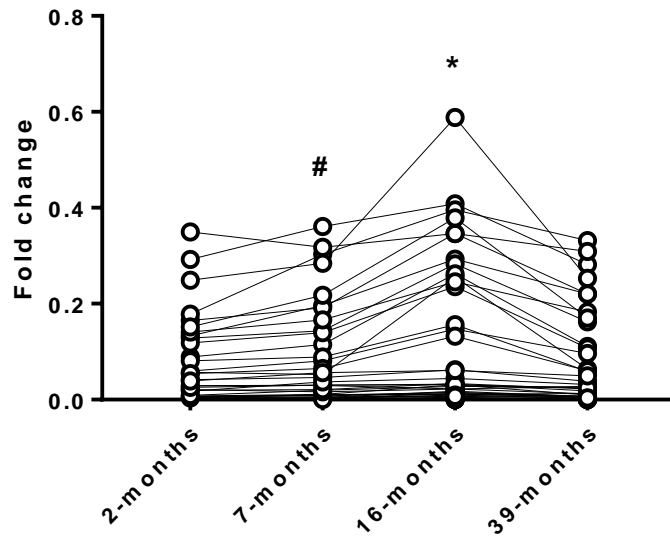


Figure 2. Zebrafish brain selenoprotein gene transcription levels at different ages in each tissue. Each point represents an average of 10 replicates for gene. *indicates significant difference from the other groups, #indicates significant difference from 2- and 16-month groups (Two-way ANOVA, $p \leq 0.05$).

Considering only 7- and 16-month old fishes, the 37 selenoprotein-coding gene transcription levels were classified as very low (0.05-fold or lower than the control), low (between 0.05 and 0.2-fold from the control) and high level (higher than 0.2-fold from control), and are presented as heat map (Figure 3). The relative selenoprotein transcription among the tissues in 7 and 16-months old zebrafish is showed in Figure 4 with the determined levels.

	BRAIN		GILL		HEART		LIVER		MUSCLE	
	7M	16M	7M	16M	7M	16M	7M	16M	7M	16M
<i>dio1</i>	0.017	0.015	0.007	0.005	0.009	0.016	0.052	0.136	8E-04	0.002
<i>dio2</i>	0.028	0.266	0.003	0.002	4E-05	0	0.047	0.293	2E-04	1E-03
<i>dio3a</i>	0	3E-04	0.001	0	4E-06	0	0	0	2E-04	0.001
<i>dio3b</i>	0.002	0.011	5E-04	0	1E-04	0	7E-06	0	0	0
<i>gpx1a</i>	0.202	0.301	0.056	0.108	0.073	0.157	0.462	0.691	0.031	0.062
<i>gpx1b</i>	0.01	0.007	0.032	0.003	6E-04	8E-04	0.014	0.012	8E-04	0.001
<i>gpx2</i>	0	4E-04	0	0.001	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>gpx3</i>	0.008	0.005	1E-04	3E-04	2E-04	0	0.013	0.014	0	1E-04
<i>gpx4a</i>	0.338	0.291	0.026	0.023	0.018	0.055	0.953	1.809	0.007	0.012
<i>gpx4b</i>	0.366	0.419	0.057	0.06	0.041	0.105	0.024	0.062	0.039	0.074
<i>msrb1a</i>	0.005	0.01	0.002	0.004	0.004	0.013	0.011	0.017	0.004	0.007
<i>msrb1b</i>	0.117	0.271	0.008	0.011	0.002	0.012	0.007	0.011	0.001	0.001
<i>selenoe</i>	0	0	3E-05	5E-05	0	0	0.002	4E-04	2E-04	0
<i>selenof</i>	0.142	0.243	0.033	0.04	0.023	0.058	0.035	0.036	0.011	0.014
<i>selenoh</i>	0.034	0.033	0.01	0.012	0.007	0.009	0.005	0.009	0.025	0.009
<i>selenoi</i>	0.017	0.023	0.001	0.002	4E-04	0.002	0.002	0.003	5E-04	3E-04
<i>selenoj</i>	0.083	0.151	0.012	0.024	0.014	0.046	0.014	0.018	0.007	0.013
<i>selenok</i>	0.031	0.023	0.017	0.007	0.015	0.005	0.008	0.006	0.02	0.026
<i>selenol</i>	0.019	0.034	0.002	0.003	0.007	0.007	0.004	0.004	0.001	0.005
<i>selenom</i>	0.047	0.064	0.008	0.007	0.002	0.003	5E-04	5E-04	0.003	0.002
<i>selenon</i>	0.037	0.046	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.001	4E-04	0.001	0.001
<i>selenoo1</i>	0.011	0.011	0.004	0.002	9E-04	0.002	0.003	0.005	0.002	0.003
<i>selenoo2</i>	0.002	0.002	3E-05	4E-05	3E-06	0	9E-05	4E-05	5E-05	2E-05
<i>selenop</i>	0.368	0.406	0.085	0.052	0.107	0.109	0.196	0.343	0.078	0.197
<i>selenop2</i>	0	0	0	6E-05	0.004	0	0.288	0.111	0	0
<i>selenos</i>	0.028	0.014	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.007	0.006	0.002	0.002
<i>selenot1a</i>	0.168	0.253	0.022	0.028	0.008	0.033	0.025	0.045	0.014	0.022
<i>selenot1b</i>	0.09	0.161	0.01	0.011	0.005	0.023	0.03	0.042	0.004	0.004
<i>selenot2</i>	0.288	0.464	0.008	0.046	0.003	0.015	0.009	0.013	0.013	0.028
<i>selenou1a</i>	0.22	0.136	0.006	0.004	0.011	0.011	0.057	0.028	0.013	0.008
<i>selenou1b</i>	0.004	0.021	0.001	0.002	7E-05	0.002	5E-05	3E-04	0.004	0.004
<i>selenow1</i>	0.321	0.355	0.327	0.607	0.24	0.531	0.071	0.093	0.101	0.156
<i>selenow2a</i>	0.22	0.391	0.009	0.017	0.011	0.042	0.015	0.017	0.012	0.018
<i>selenow2b</i>	0.002	0	0.076	0.123	0	3E-04	4E-05	3E-04	0	4E-04
<i>sephs2</i>	0.043	0.032	0.004	0.005	0.003	0.004	0.011	0.012	0.004	0.005
<i>txnrd2.2</i>	0.006	0.005	0	2E-04	2E-04	3E-04	1E-03	7E-04	4E-04	5E-05
<i>txnrd3</i>	0.057	0.062	0.018	0.019	0.007	0.016	0.026	0.02	0.016	0.009

Figure 3. Heat map for transcriptions in 7- and 16-month old group. Transcription levels were classified as very low (0.05-fold or lower than the control), low (between 0.05 and 0.2-fold from the control) and high level (higher than 0.2-fold from control). Each transcription level is represented by a different color. Simple averages of 10 replicates were used for the heat-map.

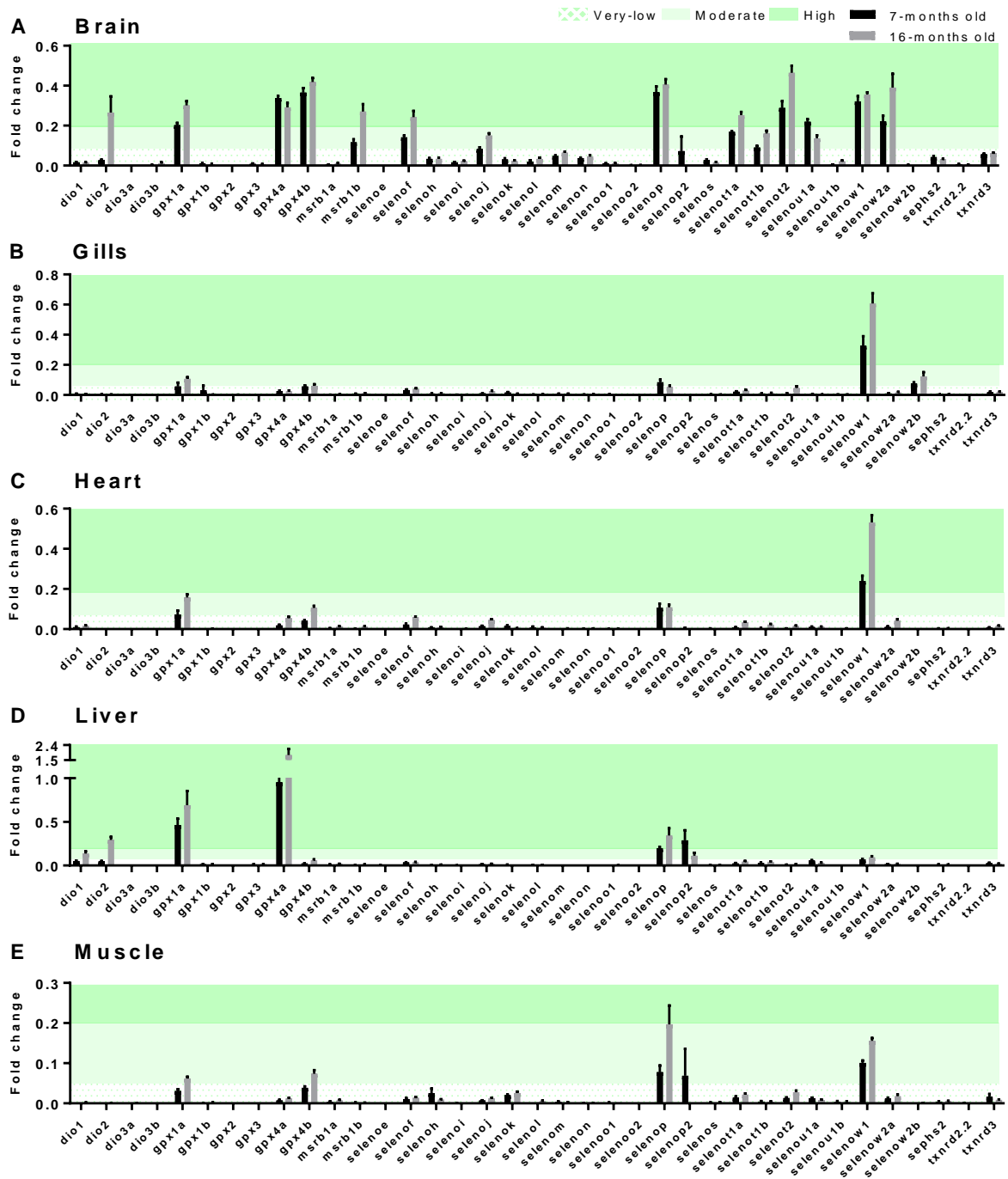


Figure 4. Tissues relative transcription of selenoprotein genes in 7-month-old (black) and 16-month-old (gray) zebrafish. Data were normalized by the target gene size and RNA-Seq experiment size. Transcription levels are expressed in relative fold changes from an average of *uba52* and *rlp13a* transcription in brain (A), gill (B), heart (C), liver (D) and muscle (E). Results are expressed as average of 10 replicates \pm mean standard error. Color indicates

categories of very low level (0.05-fold or lower than the control), low level (between 0.05 and 0.2-fold from the control) and high level (higher than 0.2-fold from control).

Brain

We found 36 selenoprotein-coding gene transcripts in both 7- and 16-months old zebrafish brain at different transcriptional levels (Figure 4A). Only *selenoe*, a chaperone-like-coding gene, and *selenop2* were not transcribed at any group. Both *dio3a* and *gpx2* were not transcribed in fishes at 7-month stage, whereas *selenop2* and *selenow2b* were not transcribed in fishes at 16-month.

In 7-months old we found 19 selenoprotein-coding genes transcribed at very low (*selenow2b*, *dio3b*, *selenoo2*, *selenou1b*, *msrb1a*, *txnrd2*, *gpx3*, *gpx1b*, *selenoo1*, *dio1*, *selenoi*, *selenol*, *selenos*, *dio2*, *selenok*, *selenoh*, *selenon*, *sephs2*, and *selenom*), six at low (*txnrd3*, *selenoj*, *selenot1b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, and *selenot1a*) and eight at high transcriptional level (*gpx1a*, *selenoula*, *selenow2a*, *selenot2*, *selenow1*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, and *selenop*).

In 16-months old group, 18 selenoprotein-coding genes were found to be transcribed at very low level (*dio3a*, *gpx2*, *selenoo2*, *txnrd2.2*, *gpx3*, *gpx1b*, *msrb1a*, *dio3b*, *selenoo1*, *selenos*, *dio1*, *selenou1b*, *selenoi*, *selenok*, *sephs2*, *selenoh*, *selenol*, and *selenon*), five at low level (*txnrd3*, *selenom*, *selenoula*, *selenoj*, and *selenot1b*), and 11 at high transcriptional level (*selenof*, *selenot1a*, *dio2*, *msrb1b*, *gpx4a*, *gpx1a*, *selenow1*, *selenow2a*, *selenop*, *gpx4b*, and *selenot2*). Interestingly, *selenop* presented the highest transcriptional level in 7-month-old fishes with 0.37-fold when compared to the mRNA control, whereas the highest transcribed gene in 16-months old fishes was found to be *selenot2* with 0.46-fold when compared to the mRNA control. The main difference between 7- and 16-months old fishes was observed in *dio2* that had an increase of 9-fold (from 0.03 to 0.27-fold).

Gills

The 37 selenoprotein-expressing genes were found to be transcribed in adult fish gills, besides the transcription varied in presence and levels depending on the life stage (Figure 4B). While *gpx2*, *txnrd2*, and *selenop2* transcripts seemed to be not transcribed in 7-months old fishes, *dio3b* and *dio3a* transcripts were lacked in 16-month fish.

In 7-months old group, we found 29 genes transcribed at very low level (*selenoe*, *selenoo2*, *gpx3*, *dio3b*, *dio3a*, *selenoi*, *selenou1b*, *msrb1a*, *selenon*, *selenol*, *selenos*, *dio2*, *selenoo1*, *sephs2*,

selenou1a, *dio1*, *msrb1b*, *selenom*, *selenot2*, *selenow2a*, *selenot1b*, *selenoh*, *selenoj*, *selenok*, *txnrd3*, *selenot1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx1b*, and *selenof*), four at low level (*gpx1a*, *gpx4b*, *selenow2b*, and *selenop*), and only one at high transcriptional level level (*selenow1*).

In 16-months old group, 30 genes were transcribed at very low level (*selenoo2*, *selenoe*, *selenop2*, *txnrd2*, *gpx3*, *gpx2*, *selenoi*, *dio2*, *selenoo1*, *selenou1b*, *gpx1b*, *selenos*, *selenol*, *selenon*, *msrb1a*, *selenou1a*, *dio1*, *sephs2*, *selenok*, *selenom*, *msrb1b*, *selenot1b*, *selenoh*, *selenow2a*, *txnrd3*, *gpx4a*, *selenoj*, *selenot1a*, *selenof*, and *selenot2*), four at low level (*selenop*, *gpx4b*, *gpx1a*, and *selenow2b*) and none at high transcriptional level. Similar to that observed for 7-months old fish, *selenow1* presented a high level of transcription when compared to the control group (0.6-fold), and its transcriptional rate increased 1.81-fold from 7- to 16-months old fishes (0.33 to 0.6-fold).

Heart

For the dissected heart tissue, we found 35 selenoprotein-coding genes transcribed in adult zebrafish considering the two analyzed life stages (Figure 4C). Only *gpx2* and *selenoe* were not transcribed at all. *Selenow2b* were not transcribed at 7-months old stage and *selenoo2*, *dio3a*, *dio2*, *dio3b*, *gpx3*, and *selenop2* were found to be not transcribed at 16-months old.

In 7-months old group, we found 30 genes with very low level of transcription level (*selenoo2*, *dio3a*, *dio2*, *selenou1b*, *dio3b*, *txnrd2*, *gpx3*, *selenoi*, *gpx1b*, *selenoo1*, *selenom*, *selenon*, *msrb1b*, *selenot2*, *selenos*, *sephs2*, *msrb1a*, *selenop2*, *selenot1b*, *selenol*, *txnrd3*, *selenoh*, *selenot1a*, *dio1*, *selenou1a*, *selenow2a*, *selenoj*, *selenok*, *gpx4a*, *selenof*, and *gpx4b*), two with low level (*gpx1a* and *selenop*) and only one (*selenow1*) with high levels of transcription. In 16-months old group, 23 genes were found to be transcribed at very low level (*txnrd2*, *selenow2b*, *gpx1b*, *selenos*, *selenou1b*, *selenoi*, *selenoo1*, *selenom*, *selenon*, *sephs2*, *selenok*, *selenol*, *selenoh*, *selenou1a*, *msrb1b*, *msrb1a*, *selenot2*, *txnrd3*, *dio1*, *selenot1b*, *selenot1a*, *selenow2a*, and *selenoj*), five at low level (*gpx4a*, *selenof*, *gpx4b*, *selenop*, and *gpx1a*), and only one at high transcriptional level (*selenow1*).

Interestingly, *selenow1* was found to be highly transcribed in heart tissue for both 7- and 16-months old fishes with 0.24-fold and 0.53-fold, respectively; in a similar fashion as that observed for gills.

Liver

For the dissected liver tissue, we found 35 selenoprotein-expressing genes transcribed in adult zebrafish considering the two analyzed life stages (Figure 4D). Neither *dio3a* nor *gpx2* were transcribed at all, whereas transcription of *dio3b* was lacked only in 16-months old fishes.

In 7-months old group, we found 28 genes with very low level (*dio3b*, *selenow2b*, *selenou1b*, *selenoo2*, *selenom*, *txnrd2*, *selenon*, *selenoe*, *selenoi*, *selenoo1*, *selenol*, *selenoh*, *msrb1b*, *selenos*, *selenok*, *selenot2*, *msrb1a*, *sephs2*, *gpx3*, *selenoj*, *gpx1b*, *selenow2a*, *gpx4b*, *selenot1a*, *txnrd3*, *selenot1b*, *selenof*, and *dio2*), four with low level (*dio1*, *selenou1a*, *selenow1*, and *selenop*), and four with high levels of transcription (*selenop2*, *gpx1a*, and *gpx4a*).

In 16-months old group, 26 genes were found to be transcribed at very low level (*selenoo2*, *selenow2b*, *selenou1b*, *selenoe*, *selenon*, *selenom*, *txnrd2*, *selenoi*, *selenol*, *selenoo1*, *selenok*, *selenos*, *selenoh*, *msrb1b*, *sephs2*, *gpx1b*, *selenot2*, *gpx3*, *selenow2a*, *msrb1a*, *selenoj*, *txnrd3*, *selenou1a*, *selenof*, *selenot1b*, and *selenot1a*), four at low level (*gpx4b*, *selenow1*, *selenop2*, and *dio1*), and four at high level of transcription (*dio2*, *selenop*, *gpx1a*, and *gpx4a*). The highly transcribed gene in liver was found to be *gpx4a* with 1.8-fold higher when compared to control gene mRNA.

Skeletal muscle

In dissected skeletal muscles we found 35 selenoprotein-coding gene transcripts considering both 7- and 16-months-old zebrafishes (Figure 4E). Neither *dio3b* nor *gpx2* were transcribed. Transcripts of both *gpx3* and *selenow2b* were lacked in 7-months old fish tissue, whereas transcripts of *selenoe* was lacked in 16-months.

In 7-months old group-derived muscle tissue, we found 30 genes transcribed at very low level (*selenoo2*, *dio3a*, *dio2*, *selenoe*, *txnrd2*, *selenoi*, *dio1*, *gpx1b*, *selenon*, *selenol*, *msrb1b*, *selenoo1*, *selenos*, *selenom*, *msrb1a*, *selenou1b*, *sephs2*, *selenot1b*, *gpx4a*, *selenoj*, *selenof*, *selenow2a*, *selenou1a*, *selenot2*, *selenot1a*, *txnrd3*, *selenok*, *selenoh*, *gpx1a*, and *gpx4b*), two genes at low level (*selenop* and *selenow1*), and no gene at high levels of transcription.

In 16-months old group-derived muscle tissue, 29 genes were found to be transcribed at very low level (*selenoo2*, *txnrd2*, *gpx3*, *selenoi*, *selenow2b*, *dio2*, *dio3a*, *selenon*, *msrb1b*, *gpx1b*, *dio1*, *selenos*, *selenom*, *selenoo1*, *selenot1b*, *selenou1b*, *sephs2*, *selenol*, *msrb1a*, *selenou1a*, *txnrd3*, *selenoh*, *gpx4a*, *selenoj*, *selenof*, *selenow2a*, *selenot1a*, *selenok*, and *selenot2*). Low transcript levels were found for four genes (*gpx1a*, *gpx4b*, *selenow1*, and *selenop*). No gene exhibited a high

transcription pattern in muscle of 16-month fish. The highest transcribed gene was found to be *selenop* (0.2-fold from control group), presenting from 7- to 16-month an increase from 0.07 to 0.2-fold.

The sum of all transcripts in relation to control for each tissue is presented in the Figure 5A; and the contribution of each gene for selenoprotein diversity in the tissues is represented in Figure 5B. Taken together, the results show that brain of adult zebrafish contains greater number and diversity of selenoproteins compared to other tissues (Figure 5A and 5B). Although the relative level of transcripts had been elevated in liver, it is represented mainly by *gpx4a* and *gpx1a* genes and the diversity of selenoproteins was lower compared to the brain (Figure 5B).

The selenoprotein diversity profile has not changed so much among the ages in most of tissues; however, it is interesting to note the prevalence of *selenop* at 16-months old in relation to the 7-months, where it had smaller and similar transcription levels as *selenop2* (Figure 5B).

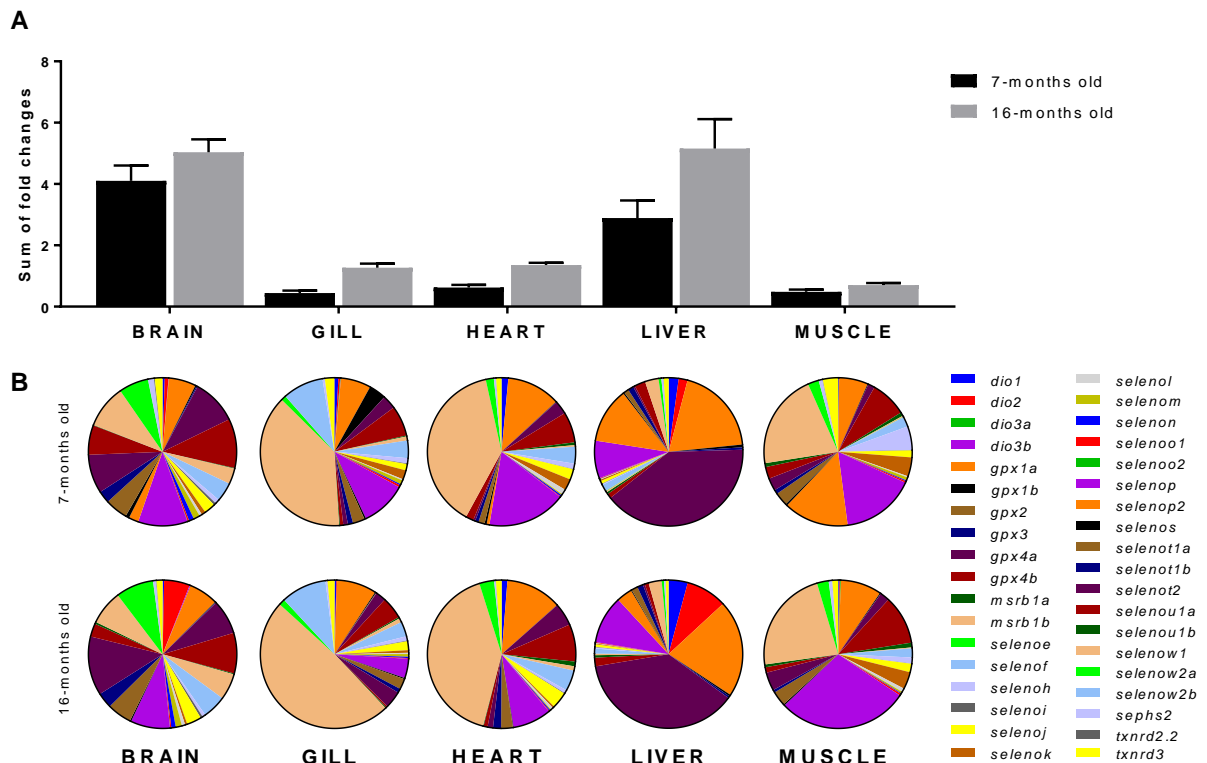


Figure 5. Sum of relative selenoprotein transcript levels among the tissues in 7- (black) and 16-month-old (gray) zebrafish. (A) Results from previous figures are summarized here and represent the sum of relative selenoprotein transcription levels from an average of *uba52* and *rlp13a* transcription in brain, gill, heart, liver and muscle. Results are expressed as average of 10 sums \pm mean standard error. (B) Graphs representing the tissue selenoprotein

diversity and the individual gene contribution for the total sum of transcripts. The colors are coded by the legend and distributed clockwise.

3.4 Pattern of brain selenoprotein transcription among the ages

Since brain exhibited the highest and more diverse content of transcribed selenoprotein-coding genes, we chose this organ to ascertain the influence of age on selenoprotein gene transcriptional status.

There is no statistical difference in the transcript levels of genes *dio3a*, *dio3b*, *gpx1b*, *gpx2*, *gpx3*, *msrb1a*, *selenoe*, *selenoh*, *selenoi*, *selenok*, *selenol*, *selenop2*, *selenos*, *selenow1*, *selenow2b*, *sephs2*, or *txnrd2.2* among the ages (Supplemental Figure 3). On the other hand, we found 20 selenoprotein genes were differently transcribed through ages, all of them with higher transcript levels in adult phase (*dio1*, *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenoj*, *selenom*, *selenon*, *selenoo1*, *selenoo2*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot1b*, *selenot2*, *selenou1a*, *seleno1b*, *selenow2a*, and *txnrd3*), having a peak of upregulation mainly at 16-month old (Figure 6).

Except for *selenoo1*, which had more transcription at 39-month old, similar middle transcript levels were found in 7- and 39-month groups.

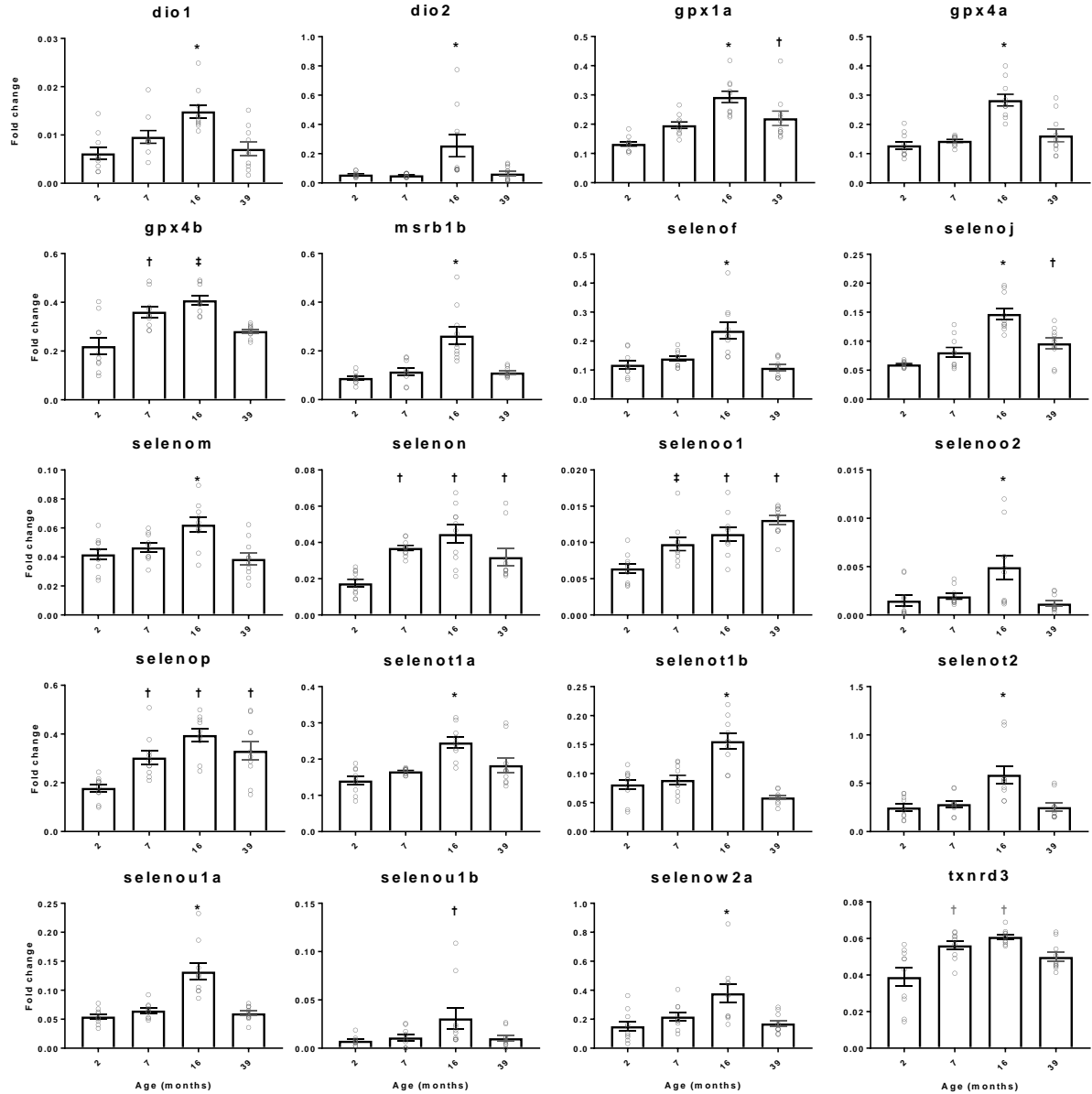


Figure 6. Transcription of selenoprotein genes in zebrafish brain during the different life stages that were significantly altered during aging. Gene transcription was quantified by number of read nucleotide matches with each selenoprotein gene CDS. Data were normalized by the target gene size and RNA-Seq experiment size. Transcription levels are expressed in relative fold changes to an average of *uba52* and *rlp13a* transcription. Results are expressed as average of 10 replicates \pm mean standard error and analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey multiple comparison test. * indicates significant difference from all other groups, † indicates significant difference from 2-month group, and ‡ indicates significant difference from 2- and 39-month groups.

4 DISCUSSION

In order to denote zebrafish as a powerful organism for translational studies on selenium and selenoproteins, this study described, for the first time, the transcription profile of all 37 selenoproteins from specie. Zebrafish transcriptome data available in literature helped us compare the transcript levels of zebrafish selenoproteins through different life stages and tissues. We found that most queried genes vary in transcription accordingly to age, and tissue. Brain highlighted as tissue with the largest number and diversity of selenoproteins. Zebrafish is the vertebrate with most selenoproteins identified to date, and from these results adult brain can be indicated as an optimal target for studying selenium and selenoprotein modulation.

Zebrafish genome shares approximately 70% identity with human genome. The genome is distributed in 25 autosomal chromosomes with regular centromeres and telomers. It has no sexual chromosome since zebrafish sexual determination is influenced by chromosomic regions (HOWE et al., 2013). Firstly, we localized each selenoprotein-coding gene in the zebrafish genome map, and then confirmed the selenoprotein genes by searching for SECIS sequences. We found an extra SECIS element in the *dio1* gene, and no sequence matched a SECIS element in *selenoj* gene. These results are in conflict with Castellano et al. (2005), that described *selenoj* and reported SECIS region in zebrafish and other fish. They utilized SECISearch 1.0; however, the sequence found was not published or annotated in the genome. SECIS localization within the transcript was also assessed.

Regarding to the specific selenoproteins, there are those with well-known functions as DIO, GPX, and TXNRD families as well as MSRB1B, SELENOP, and SEPHS2; more recent categorized families as SEP15/selenoprotein M and Thioredoxin-like family; and protein families with less characterized functions, including SELENOL, SELENON, SELENOO, SELENOK, SELENOS, SELENOI, SELENOU, and SELENOJ.

GPX represent the largest family in vertebrates. It is the only family to present two conserved gene duplications in zebrafish, with two isoforms for GPX1 and GPX4 (MARIOTTI et al., 2012). Proteins from this family exhibit antioxidant function, detoxifying inorganic and organic peroxides. Although GPX activity is an oxidative stress marker used in various studies (BETANCOR et al, 2015), comparison among isoform expression are scarce. In this study, we found no transcripts for *gpx2* and only discrete levels of *gpx3*. This finding is consistent with mammal counterpart

localization in gastrointestinal tract and plasma, respectively (MOGHADASZADEH et al., 2006). Erickson et al. (2015) reported *gpx2* expression in zebrafish embryo. According to previous works (ZHENG et al., 2013), *gpx4a* in liver samples was the only gene to surpass the control levels of transcription. *gpx1a* was also abundant in most tissues, while *gpx4b* had a strong presence only in brain. Mendieta-Serrano et al. (2015) found zebrafish *gpx4b* shares more sequence similarities with mammal *gpx4* than zebrafish *gpx4a*. Also, *gpx1b* shares synteny similarities with mammal *gpx1*, while *gpx1a* appears to be derived from duplication of the ancestral gene. Among different zebrafish life stages, we found all GPX transcription with higher transcription levels in the 16-month old group.

Iodothyronine Deiodinases (DIO), are selenoproteins involved in thyroid hormone production in vertebrates. Thyroid secretes pro-hormone 3,5,3',5'-tyroxine (T4). DIO2 activates T4 to 3,5,3'-triiodothyronine (T3). DIO3 inactivates T4 and T3 removing inner iodine rings. DIO1 catalyzes deiodinase reactions on outer rings (MORENO et al., 1994; BIANCO & LARSEN, 2006). In zebrafish, *dio3b* present similar function to mammal DIO3, whereas *dio3a* codifies a fish-specific protein capable of deiodinating reverse-T3 outer ring (GUO et al., 2014). Houbrechts et al. (2016) reported *dio3a* presence in heart and liver of adult zebrafish. In contrast, herein we did not find high *dio3a* and *dio3b* transcripts, suggesting higher importance of them to earlier life stages since both isoforms are required for zebrafish embryo and larvae development (HEIJLEN, 2014). *dio1* and *dio2* presented a high transcription in 16-month old zebrafish brain.

The Thioredoxin Reductases (TXNRD) are flavoenzymes that reduce thioredoxins and other substrates, with critical role in redox homeostasis (MOGHADASZADEH et al., 2006). While zebrafish do not present a gene ortholog to mammal TXNRD1, *txnrd2.2* code for a protein with high identity to mammal TXNRD2 and *txnrd3* is ortholog to testis localized TXNRD3. Here, genes for TXNRD proteins did not presented high transcription levels in any tissue, but *txnrd3* had high transcription levels at 7- and 16-month old brain.

Methionine-R-Sulfoxide Reductases B1 (MSRB1) are repair enzymes with action against oxidative damage, catalyzing reduction of methionine-R-sulfoxide to methionine (MOGHADASZADEH et al., 2006). Zebrafish have two isoforms of MSRB1, with *msrb1a* presenting higher identity to the ancestral gene than *msrb1b*. In our study, only brain *msrb1b* had high transcripts levels, with a peak at 16-month-old.

Selenophosphate Synthase 2 (SEPHS2) is a catalyzing enzyme for mono selenium phosphate (MSP) production from a selenite and ATP. It is involved in Sec biosynthesis because MSP is the only Se donor for selenoprotein production. This enzyme is common to all vertebrates (O'LEARY et al., 2016). In zebrafish, we found low levels of *sephs2* transcripts in all tissues, with no difference in brain transcription throughout life stages.

Selenoprotein P (SELENOP) is the protein with more Sec, with 10 Sec residues in humans. It is ancestral to all vertebrates and is responsible for distribution of Se through tissues, with abundance in plasma (BURK, 2010). Zebrafish have two homologs to the ancestral gene, *selenop1* gene has 17 Sec residues and a second SECIS element at 3'-UTR to optimize Sec insertion. Meanwhile, *selenop2* lost the larger N-terminal domain with 16 Sec, maintaining homology with ancestral C-terminal domain, where only one Sec is conserved (KRYUKOV et al., 2000). In our study, we show high transcription of *selenop1* in liver, as well as abundance in other tissues. *selenop2* had significant transcription levels only in liver. High SELENOP presence in zebrafish liver was previously reported (BETANCOR et al., 2015). Although *selenop1* brain transcription has been statistically higher in adult phase, it did not differ between 7-, 16-, and 39-month old zebrafish.

SEP15/selenoprotein M family is a group of proteins with similar structure and thiol-disulfide oxidoreductase predicted function (FERGUSON et al., 2006). In zebrafish, this family is represented by Selenoprotein F (SELENOF), Selenoprotein E (SELENOE), and Selenoprotein M (SELENOM). SELENOF is known to interact with UDP-glucose:glucoprotein glucosyltransferase, playing a role in protein folding (VYACHESLAV et al., 2009). SELENOE probably evolved from SELENOF coding gene and is exclusive to teleosts, but its function is not clear (NOVOSELOV et al., 2006). In our study, *selenoe* transcription was null in all groups analyzed while *selenof* had a marked presence in all tissues. SELENOM is present in all vertebrates and seems has a role in neuroprotection and cytosolic calcium regulation, but its function still not well elucidated (REEVES et al., 2010). Corroborating with the suggested role in neuroprotection, the largest *selenom* transcription found in our study was in zebrafish brain. Both *selenof* and *selenom* presented higher levels of transcription in the 16-month-old zebrafish brain.

Thioredoxin-like (Rdx) family is a group of proteins with conserved Rdx fold. Rdx folds are two cysteines separated by two amino acids (CxxC), selenoproteins from this family substituted a cysteine for a selenocysteine, forming a CxxU motif (DIKIY et al., 2007). In zebrafish, the family

is represented by Selenoprotein H (SELENOH), and three forms of both Selenoprotein T (SELENOT) and Selenoprotein W (SELENOW). SELENOH is known to protect DNA damage and plays a role in redox homeostasis (COX et al., 2016) and zebrafish development (AMSTERDAM et al., 2004). In our study, we found very low transcript levels of *selenoh* in all tissues, that also did not vary in brain through the life stages analyzed. SELENOT is known to have cellular adhesion function (SENGUPTA et al., 2019) and the ancestral *selenot* gene in zebrafish was duplicated in two different occasions. Herein, *selenot1a*, *selenot1b*, and *selenot2* were highly transcribed in zebrafish brain when compared with to the other tissues, having a similar transcription pattern throughout ages, with a higher peak in 16-month old zebrafish brain. SELENOW is a group of proteins with GSH-dependent antioxidant role (NOH et al., 2010). SELENOW1 and SELENOW2 are ancestral proteins to all vertebrates. While a second gene for SELENOW2 originated in fish, terrestrial vertebrates lost him in evolution. In our results, we found *selenow1* to be the most transcribed selenoprotein in gill, heart and muscle tissues, representing between 20 and 53% of total selenoprotein transcription. The duplicates *selenow2a* and *selenow2b* differed drastically in our results. The first was present in all tissues while the later had a significative presence only in zebrafish gill. Also, *selenow2a* was the only to show difference in transcription by aging, with significantly higher presence in 16-month-old zebrafish brain.

Selenoprotein L (SELENOL) is classified within thioredoxin superfamily and is exclusive to fish. It is the only selenoprotein that uses two Sec residues in a motif UxxU (SHCHEDRINA et al., 2007). Selenoprotein N (SELENON) is a protein important to cell protection against oxidative stress and zebrafish muscle development and differentiation (JURYNEC et al., 2008). We found that *selenol* and *selenon* have very low transcription in the samples analyzed, with the highest presence in the brain. *selenon* has a significative increase in 7-, 16-, and 39-month fish brain. Selenoprotein O (SELENOO) is a protein with redox activity common to all vertebrates (HAN et al., 2014), with a gene duplication in zebrafish lineage. Dudkiewicz et al. (2012) suggested that the SELENOO function might be linked to ABC transport regulation. Our data showed a very low transcription of both *selenoo1* and *selenoo2* in all samples analyzed. We found a difference in relation to the duplicate responses to aging, where the *selenoo1* had a lower brain transcription in the 2-month-old group and *selenoo2* higher levels at 16-month-old group.

Selenoprotein K (SELENOK) is a transmembrane protein involved in endoplasmic reticulum protein folding (chaperone-like). It has a role in cell protection against apoptosis and is important

to protein palmitoylation (SHCHEDRINA et al., 2011; LEE et al., 2015; FREDERICKS et al., 2015). Selenoprotein S (SELENOS) is involved in protein degradation in plasmatic reticulum and might also be involved in inflammation control (MOGHADASZADEH et al., 2006). Selenoprotein I (SELENOI) is a protein predicted to be involved with lipid synthesis and protein folding (HENNEBERRY et al., 1999). In the present work, *selenok selenos* and *selenoi* showed very low transcription in the tissues.

Selenoprotein U (SELENOU) is a protein predicted to be involved in redox processes with homology to human peroxiredoxin-like 2A (PRXL2A) (CASTELLANO et al., 2005). In our study, both duplicates of the gene were more expressed in zebrafish brain rather than other tissues, with a higher presence of *selenou1a* than *selenou1b*. Both duplicates also had a peak in transcription at 16-month old brain.

Selenoprotein J (SELENOJ) is a protein ancestral to all vertebrates, but nowadays conserved only in fish. It is preferentially expressed in embryo optical lens and shares similarities to crystallin proteins (CASTELLANO et al., 2005). Its structural role is unique among the selenoproteins studied here and the role of a Sec residue is unknown. We found very low *selenoj* transcription but it had a significative increase in 16-month-old zebrafish brain. Searching for SECIS sequences, we found no match for a proper sequence using the available tools.

Recently, five new proteins were indicated as first potential selenoproteins translated with no SECIS element present in the transcript (GUO et al., 2018). Among the candidates, zebrafish possesses genes that code proteins homolog to FXD2, ATP5B, and MT2; but no homologs for SCGB1A1 or MUP. Studies with these proteins might highlight other ways for which the organisms incorporate Se into proteins.

The lack of determination of neither sex distribution nor zebrafish strain utilized by the original research group was a limitation for our study. Previous works have shown the importance of both factors on zebrafish selenoprotein expression and Se status alterations (BENNER et al., 2010; DREW et al., 2012). Additionally, we made a choice to study this set of transcriptome data which had different age and tissues groups in the same laboratorial conditions, but there are transcriptome data encompassing more life stages – like embryonic phase – and/or other relevant tissues. In this sense, in a further work we intend to broad the knowledge of zebrafish selenoprotein transcription profile. In fact, only with broader studies we can ascertain whether genes with no transcription found in the groups analyzed here are considered non-functionals or just specifically localized in

the organism/life stage. Indeed, SECIS prediction absence for *selenoj* is intriguing and more studies must be made to clarify the specific region that coordinates Sec insertion in the transcript.

Under an evolutionary perspective, Lobanov et al. (2007) postulated that aquatic organisms maintain a higher number of selenoproteins than their terrestrial counterparts due to the availability of selenium in the environment. It is yet to be determined whether this influence can also explain the larger selenoproteomes in fish compared with terrestrial vertebrates, since vertebrates are less affected by environmental conditions. From our results, we suppose that zebrafish has maintained most of its duplicated selenoprotein gene active, suggesting the environment is not leading to loss of Se use.

Collectively, the data from the present study support zebrafish and especially adult brain as potent platforms for studies toward selenium and selenoproteins.

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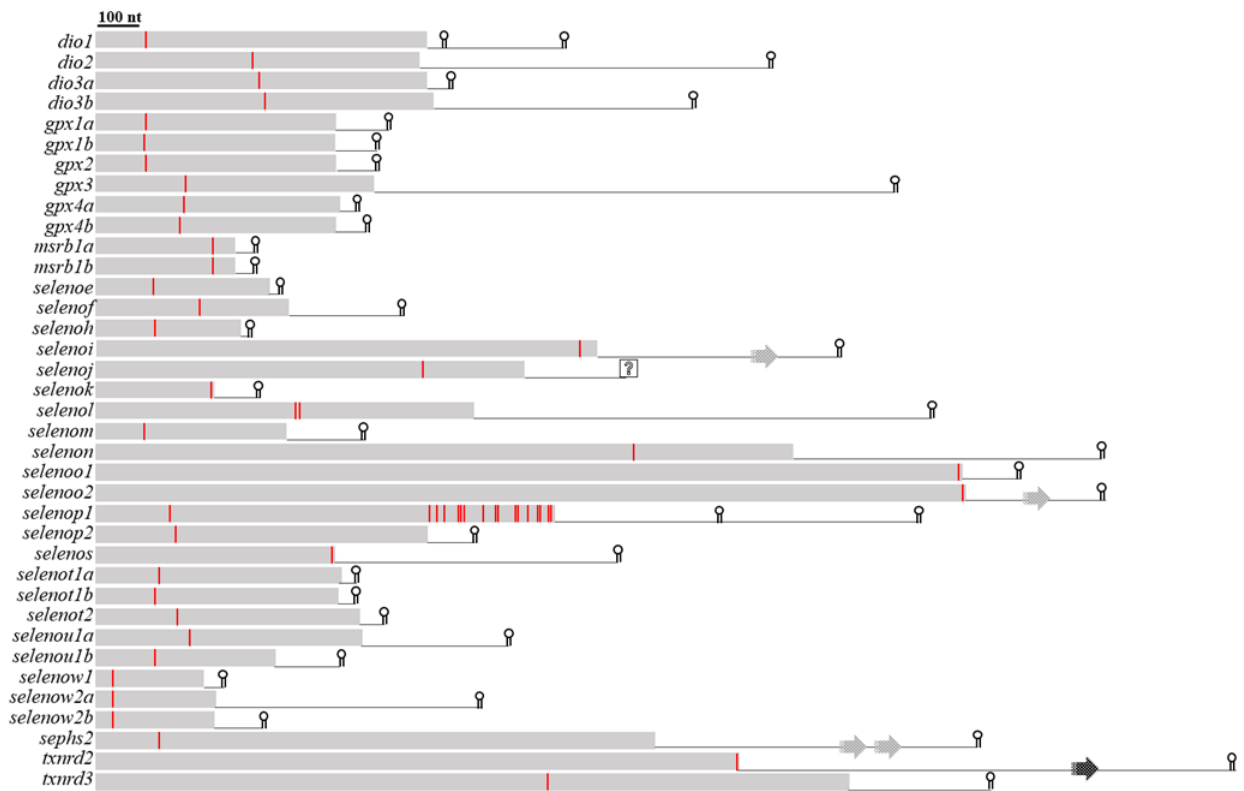
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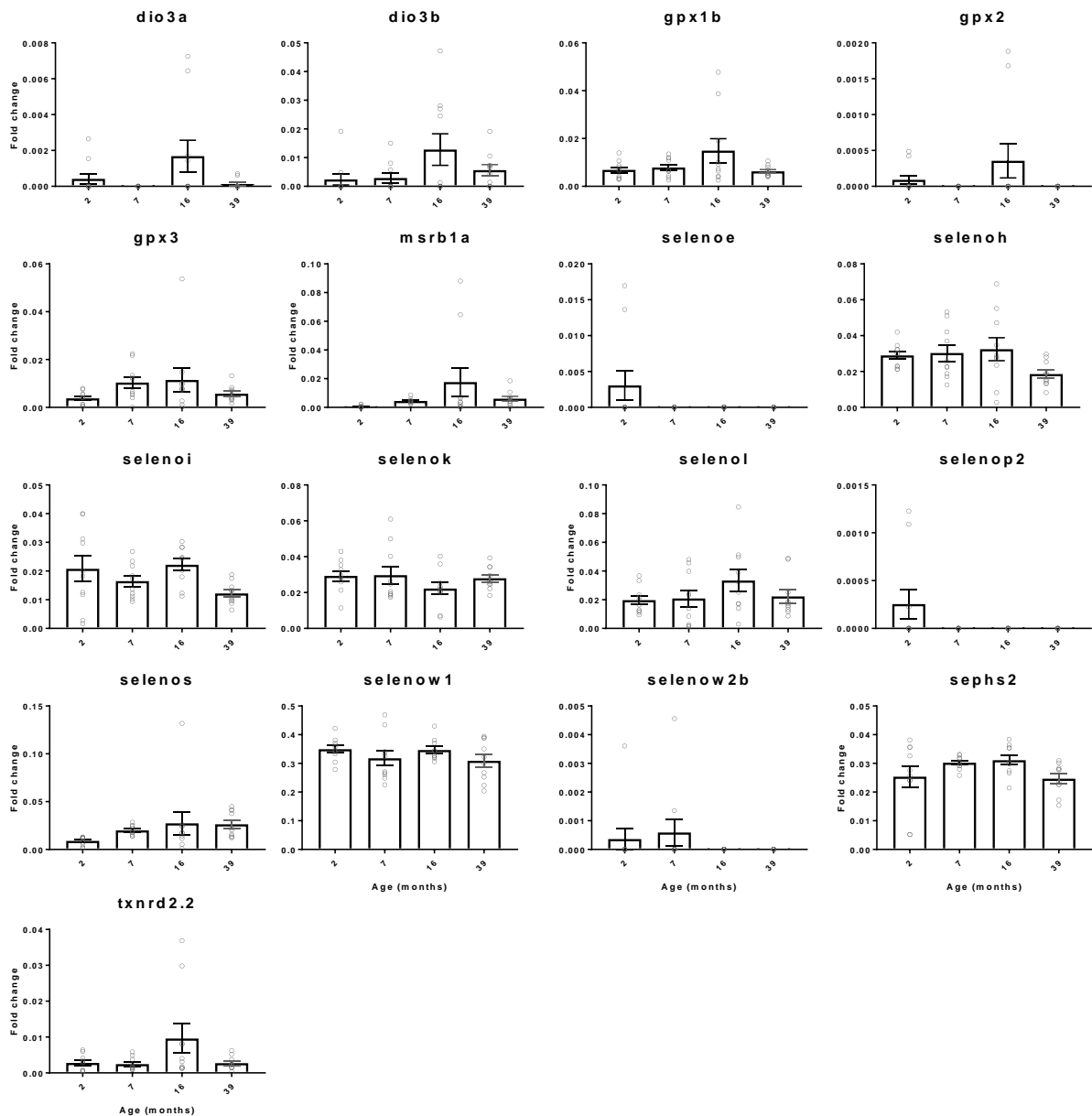
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	1	10	20	25	30	40	50	60	66			
dio1 '1	UCUGUGUG	UGCC	GGAUACAGAU	AA	-----	CUGAACA	UCUC	-UAA	UGAUG	UCAAACAUG		
dio1 '2	ACUGUAAA	AligA	UCUACAGGGUA	AA	-----	GUGUGAA	CUGUG	UAAA	UGAUG	AUCAGUCAU		
dio2	UGUGCAC	AligA	AAAUCACAGAU	AA	UGGUCCC	-CUGUCU	UCUC	-UGGUG	UGAUG	AGAGACCA		
dio3a	AUUCUC	UGA	GUCGGUCUUU	AA	AGCGGUGAC	-UCCAGCA	CA	CC	-ACU	UGAUG	UCUGAAUA	
dio3b	AGUUUUUG	UGA	AUCGGUUUUU	AA	AGGAUUUU	AACCAGAAA	CC	-AUA	UGAUG	UAAUUUGAC		
gpx1a	UGUACUA	AligA	AUGUCUCCUAA	AA	CC-----	UCUGAGGG	G	-AGU	UGAUG	GAUGUAAA		
gpx1b	ACUACUC	AligA	AUGUCUCCUGU	AA	CAUGCU	---GUCUGUC	GGAG	-CAG	UGAUG	CCCUGCAA		
gpx2	UUACUUA	AligA	AAGUGACGCCCU	AAU	-----	GUAACGG	GUUG	-CAC	UGAUG	GACUGUAUA		
gpx3	AUGGC	AUG	UGACGGCUGA	AA	CAGACG	---CUCUGUG	UG	CCGGAC	UGAUG	CCGUGGGUC		
gpx4a	UGGACUG	AligA	UGUGG	---	AA	CCCCUGU	-GAGGAAA	AA	CA	-GAC	UGAUG	UGUGCGUG
gpx4b	CAGACGUG	UGA	UCUGAUCCU	AA	CCUGU	---GUCAGGU	GGUC	-GGC	UGAUG	UCCCGACGU		
msrb1a	AUGGCCGA	AligA	AAAGUCUGAAGA	AA	AGCCCAGC	-GAGGAACA	UACAG	CGAG	UGAUG	UGUAAAA		
msrb1b	UCAGCUC	AligA	UGGUCUAGGA	AA	AGCCCUGGA	-AAGAGGG	UCCUG	-UCAC	UGAUG	UAUGACCAU		
selenof	AGCUGGU	AligA	UCAGAUUCU	AA	AGCCG	CAGACACGGACA	CA	UCUGGA	UGAUG	AAACAACA		
selenoh	UGCACUAG	UGA	CCUGACUGU	AA	CCA	CUCUCUGGC	AUGUCAG	-CCUGAA	UGAUG	CCUGUACA		
selenoi	GAUGC	AU	UGAAUGGACU	AA	UGGGAAA	AUCUCCCC	UCUGUA	---	UGAUG	ACCGACUCU		
selenok	UGCUUAA	AligA	AGUGCGCUUC	AA	CCCAGAC	-CAGGAGA	GGC	-CACU	UGAUG	GAGUGAGCGAGU		
selenol	CACACUC	AligA	CUACUCUGG	AA	CCUGCA	-CCGAGGGGG	CAG	-AGUC	UGAUG	CAUGGCAGCC		
selenom	UGCAUGG	AligA	GAU	-GACUC	GAUCU	-----	AUAUACGA	AG	-UCU	UGAUG	GGAAUACA	
selenon	GGACGUA	AligA	UCCACAGCGU	AA	AGCC---	UGAGAGC	AGCUG	CGGA	UGAUG	AUCCCGCUC		
selenoo1	AGGCAGUG	UGA	UCUGGUUA	AA	CCCCUA	-AGGGCGU	AGCA	-GGC	UGAUG	UGUGUCAGU		
selenoo2	ACUGGUA	AligA	UCUGACCAG	AA	GUCUGC	-----	AUGACAG	UCUC	-AGU	UGAUG	AAAGCAGAGU	
selenop1 '1	CUGAUAA	AligA	CAUCGAGAU	AA	UA	-GUGAA	-CUGGCC	UCUG	-AGUU	UGAUG	AAAGCAAGGAG	
selenop1 '2	GUGGUUCU	AligA	GCAGGUGC	AG	AA	CUAUGC	---ACUAGUG	UGCC	-UGU	UGAUG	UGGCCUAUA	
selenop2	UAUACUA	AligA	GUUCUGG	---	UAUCUGUAUC	---	ACCU	GAAGA	CCCGA	AAACUGUAUGGA		
selenos	AUGUCUA	AligA	UGUACACU	AA	CCUGAGAC	AGGGGUCU	UAUG	-CGGA	UGAUG	AAACAAGGA		
selenot1a	GCUCAG	AligA	CCUCUCACC	AA	AGGUAUUU	UUACUCC	CGAGG	-CGG	UGAUG	AGUUUCAGU		
selenot1b	AUGGC	AU	UGUGCUGAA	GU	AGCA	-----	ACUACUA	CA	CA	-CAC	UGAUG	UCUGCGCUC
selenot2	UGGC	AUA	UGCGGCACUG	AG	GAGU	---	GUCUGCU	UGUA	-GACUG	UGAUG	UCCAGCCUC	
selenou1a	UGGC	AUA	UGCGGCACUG	AA	CAGCA	---	CACUGUG	CA	CA	-GGCUG	UGAUG	UCAGCCA
selenou1b	GUGU	AUA	UAGUCUGACUC	CA	CUCA	---	GUGUAGA	AAAG	G	-CAG	UGAUG	UCAAACA
selenow1	GUAGUUG	AligA	CAGACCGACUCU	AA	CUCA	---	GAUGAAG	AGUC	-GUCU	UGAUG	UUUCA	
selenow2a	UGCAACA	AligA	UGGACGUCCA	AG	U	-----	UCCG	-GC	CA	UGAUG	UGCUGAUGC	
selenow2b	GACG	UAA	UACCGUAA	CCUCU	AA	UAAG	---	CAGUAUG	UAUG	AGAA	CUA	AGUCCA
sephs2	GUC	CCUCU	UACCCUCUCU	UA	CCCCAGCUA	-AUGGGACG	GGUG	-AGGUG	AUGU	AGAAAGGAAU		
bxrd2	CCAGC	UA	UGCACUA	AA	CCCCAAAA	---	GUGGAGA	GGC	-AGU	UGAUG	UACCCUGGC	
bxrd3	CUGCUC	GGUGA	CUAAC	---	CCAU	UCCA	CUAUC	AGUGGC	GGUA	C	-AUGAUG	UCUGCA

Supplemental Figure 1. Alignment of SECIS elements for each zebrafish selenoprotein transcript. Green background indicates identity among conserved base pairs. '1 and '2 indicate first and second SECIS downstream to the translated region.



Supplemental Figure 2. Characterization of selenoprotein mRNA in zebrafish. Grey bar: nucleotide size, red marker: Sec codon, loop: SECIS element, thin grey line: untranslated 3' region, grey arrow: 500 nucleotide jump, black arrow: 6000 nucleotide jump.



Supplemental Figure 3. Selenoprotein genes expression in zebrafish brain with no difference during the different life stages. Gene transcription was quantified by number of read nucleotide matches with each selenoprotein gene CDS. Data were normalized by the target gene size and RNA-Seq experiment size. Transcription levels are expressed in relative fold changes to an average of *uba52* and *rlp13a* transcription. Results are expressed as average of 10 replicates \pm mean standard error and analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey multiple comparison test.

5 CONCLUSÃO E PERSPECTIVAS

- O conjunto de dados deste trabalho é a mais atual revisão deste tipo de gene em peixe-zebra a nível de transcrito.
- Entre os tecidos, o cérebro apresentou maior diversidade na transcrição de selenoproteínas.
- A pesquisa demonstrou pela primeira vez uma tendência a altos níveis de transcrição de selenoproteínas em cérebro de peixe-zebra adulto.
- Entre os genes para selenoproteínas, destacam-se *dio2*, *gpx1a*, *gpx4a*, *gpx4b*, *msrb1b*, *selenof*, *selenop*, *selenot1a*, *selenot2*, *selenow1* e *selenow2a* como bons genes alvos para estudos translacionais de selenoproteínas.
- Ainda é necessário determinar o efeito da distribuição sexual sobre a transcrição de genes que codificam selenoproteínas, assim como a diferença entre cepas.
- Trabalhos futuros devem explorar a ausência de elemento SECIS na sequência anotada para *selenoj*.
- A ativação de genes em outros estágios de vida e tecidos poderá elucidar mais alvos e indicar funções de genes pouco presentes nos transcriptomas estudados neste trabalho.

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