ツチガエルを用いた変態試験法の開発

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Development of Rana metamorphosis assay (RAMA) using Rana rugosa

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Metamorphosis assay using anurans is considered to be one of the effective methods for examining thyroid hormone disruption induced by a variety of chemical substances, and is in preparation in many countries including Great Britain and Germany. The South African clawed toad, *Xenopus laevis*, is generally used as the animal in such metamorphosis assays. Hence, *X. laevis* has few disadvantages; it has an allotetraploid genome, and it has a relatively long lifecycle ranging from 1.5 to 2 years, we have started to develop the metamorphosis assay using wildness kind. The wrinkled frog (*Rana rugosa*) with a wide distribution in Japan, has a diploid genome, a relatively short generation time of 1 year, and is therefore better suited for use in the metamorphosis assay. To the development of metamorphosis assay using *R. rugosa*, it is necessary to optimize the following conditions; (1) concentration of positive and negative control substance, (2) population density, (3) temperature. Thyroid hormone (T_4) and PTU (6-Propyl-2-thiouracil) were chosen as a positive and negative control substance, respectively. For the optimization of these conditions; (1) 0.25, 1, 4 mg/l of T_4 and 18.75, 75, 150 mg/l of PTU, (2) 5, 10, 20 animals kept in 3.31 of tapwater, (3) 22, 25, 28°C. Among the tested conditions, 1 μ g/l of T_4 , 18.75 mg/i of PTU, 5 to 20 tadpoles per 3.31, and 25 to 28°C were suitable for the tadpoles of R. *rugosa*.