

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Macroscopic and microscopic study of tongue in Wistar rats

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was to investigate the structure of the tongue in rat since tongue is an important organ in taking food. For this purpose, the tongue of 8 adult male and 8 female rats (wistar) was dissected from the root. Their weight, length and wide were measured. Then, they were fixed in formalin (10%) and prepared by tissue processing (fixation, dehydrated, clearing and impregnation). The serial sections (5 μ) were obtained and subjected to Haematoxylin and Eosin stains. The morphology and morphometric study of the tongue were studied by light microscope and progress capture soft ware. The results showed that the epithelium of muscular tongue in male and females were keratinized stratified squamous. It's length and width in both sexes were similar approximately with 2.67 ± 0.02 cm and width of its apex, body and root were 0.58, 0.66 and 1.2 cm respectively. Deep median sulcus was seen on midline of tongue and four types of lingual papillae with different distribution and density were observed on its dorsal surface. Filiform papillae with the highest density and distribution were whole of tongue, a few fungiform. p with taste buds were on midlateral and two circumvallate with many taste buds were on posterior of tongue mucous and serous glands were in ventral surface of tongue. The results showed that the morphology and structure of tongue in both sexes are similar and related to diet pattern.

Key words: Papillae, Taste bud, Diet

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INTRODUCTION

The morphology and microscopic structure of the tongue was investigated in vertebrates [1,2] and many rodents as mouse [3, 4], rat [3,5], mice [6,3] and rabbit [7,8].

The tongue is muscular organ with three layers including mucosa, submucosa and muscularis. Mucosa is covered by pseudostratified squamous epithelium with variation in the keratinization. Six types of the lingual papillae with different density and distribution were known in mammals [9, 10]. These papillae are divided to mechanical (filiform.P, fungiform.P, conical.P) and gustatory papillae (vallate. P, foliate. P, lentiform. P). Filiform papillae are needle shape and they were oriented to pharynx. They were divided to three distinct types as type I which are needle like and covered with thin keratinized stratified squamous epithelium and they were located on apex and anterior of body [11]. The bifid or trifid filiform papillae (type II, III) were shorter and thicker than type 1, and placed on posterior area [5]. Fungiform. P less than filiform. P and are on the apex of the tongue [1]. These papillae In addition mechanical function, are gustatory duo to have a taste bud which is on their conical surface. Lamina propria like to many mammals is thin in filliform. P and very thick in fungiform. P [12].

The purpose of this study was to determine anatomy of tongue especially lingual papillae on light microscopy in female and male rat (wistar) and compared in both sexes.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The tongue of 8 adult male and female rats (Wistar) was dissected from the root. Their weight, length and wide were measured. Then, they were fixed in neutral buffered formalin (10%) for 48 hours and prepared by tissue processing (dehydrated with alcohol 70 – 100%, clearing by xylol and paraffin impregnation. The serial sections (5 μ m) were obtained by microtome and subjected to Haematoxylin and

Eosin stains. The morphology and morphometric study of the tongue were studied by light microscope and progress capture soft ware.

RESULTS

The tongue of wistar rat in both sexes was composed of three layers as follows: Mucosa was covered by stratified squamous epithelium and thick keratin, thick submucosa with blood vessels and glands (almost serouse) and thick muscularis layer (Fig. 1). The tip of the tongue is flat with a deep median sulcus on dorsum and three parts (apex, body and root) were distinguished (Fig. 2). Length and width of these pares were different (Table 1). Frenulum was from apex to posterior of body. Three types of papillae include filiform, fungiform, and circumvallate papillae were observed on the dorsum [1]. The density and distribution of papillae were different and decreased from the apex to root of tongue (Table 2). Filiform papillae have a pointed needle shape with high density were placed in the anteriolateral of the tongue and their orientation forward to pharynx (Fig. 1, 3). Fungiform papillae less than filiform papillae and were on the tongue apex (Fig. 4). These papillae has mechanical and gustatory function because they have one taste bud which is on their conical surface. In this study, foliate papillae were not observed on the contrary [13].

The one circumvallate papillae is suited on front of root. This was observed without microscope and was seen as papillae which surrounded by narrow canal in cross section (Fig 5).

Epithelium and keratin in ventral surface were thinner than dorsal surface. Many glands (serous and mucous gland), thick lamina propria and more muscular mass (circular and longitudinal) was observed in this surface. The most of muscle were transverse bundle and longitudinal bundle were between them (Fig 6). Collagenous fiber was in front and many lymphoid cells in posterior of tongue.

Table1. Comparatives characteristic of tongue in female and male of rat (wistar)

Parameter	Female	Male
mean of length	2.65 Cm	2.69 Cm
mean of width (Apex)	.058 Cm	.058 Cm
Width (Body) mean of	0.69 Cm	0.64 Cm
(Root) width mean of	1.00 Cm	1.20 Cm

Table2. Comparatives characteristic of lingual papillae in female and male of rat (wistar)

Female	Male	mm (Size)	Density	Distribution	Papillae
0.310	0.261	Altitude	low	Apex, midlateral	Fungiform. P
0.150	0.160	width			
0.310	0.333	Altitude	High	Whole of dorsum	Filiform. P
0.131	0.114	width			
0.811	0.761	Altitude	1 number	Posterior of body	Vallate.P
3/83	3/20	width			

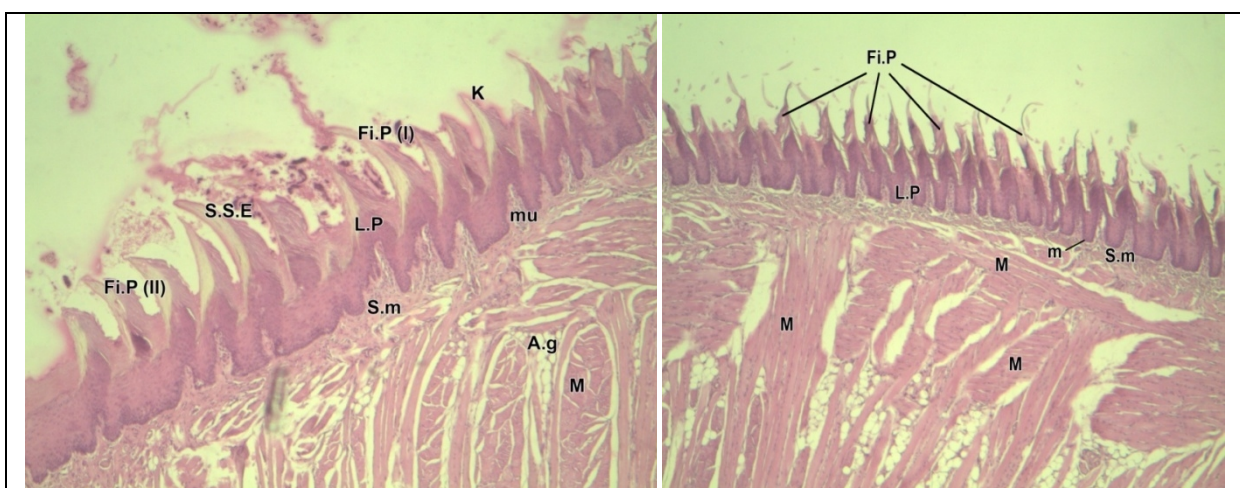


Fig1 . Apex of tongue in male Rat (wistar)
 (10x- H&E)
 Stratified squamous epithelium (S.S.E); lamina propria (L.P); muscle bundle (M); keratin (K); mucosa (mu); submucosa (S.m); vessel (V); **filiform papilla (Fi.P1, 2)**; adipose gland (A.g),

Fig 2 . Apex of tongue in female Rat (wistar)
 (10x- H&E)
 stratified squamous; **filiform papilla (Fi.P)**; lamina propria (L.P); mucosa (m) ; submucosa(S.m); muscle bundle (M)

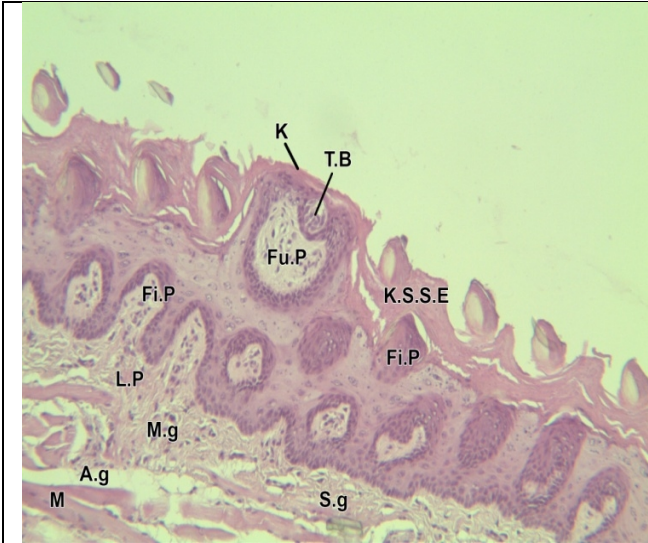


Fig 3 . Body of tongue in male Rat (wistar)

(10x- H&E)

Keratinized stratified squamous epithelium (K.S.S.E); lamina propria(L.P); **fungiform papillae (Fu.P)**; taste buds (T.B); muscle fibres (M); keratin (K); filiform. papillae (Fi.P); mucus gland (M.g); serouse gland (S.g)

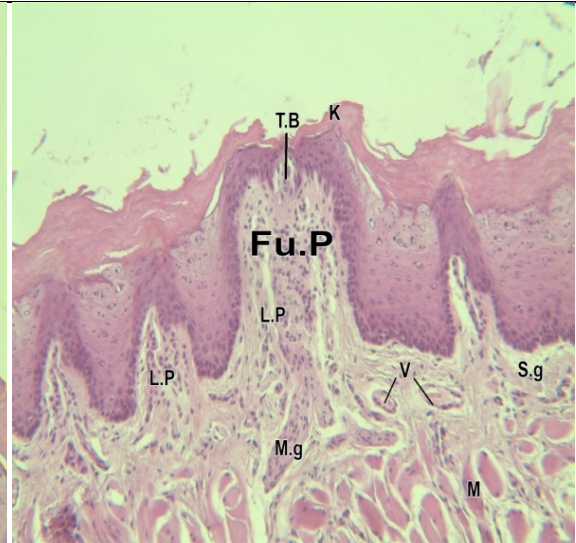


Fig 4 . Apex of tongue in Female Rat (wistar)

(10x- H&E)

lamina propria(L.P); **fungiform papillae (Fu.P)**; taste buds (T.B); muscle fibres (M); keratin (K); vessel (V); mucus gland (M.g); serouse gland (S.g)

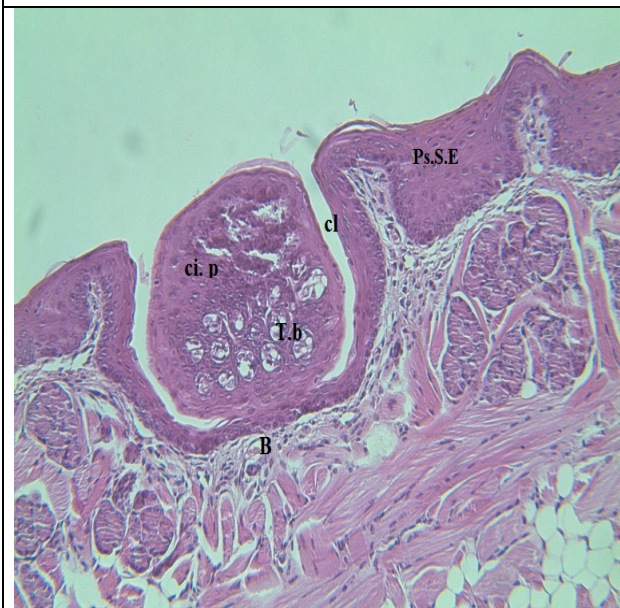


Fig 5 . posterior of tongue in male Rat (wistar)

(10x- H&E)

Circumvallate papillae (ci,p); taste buds (t.b); blood vessel (B); Cleft(Cl); pseudostratified squamous epithelium (Ps.s.E)



Fig 6 . posterior of tongue in male Rat (wistar)

(10x- H&E)

stratified squamous epithelium (S.S.E); lamina proprian(L.P); circular muscle (C.M); longitudinal muscle (L.M); keratin (K); **collagenous fiber (col)**; **serous gland (S.g)**

Discussion

In present study, anatomy of tongue especially lingual papillae was observed with light microscope and compared in female and male rat (wistar).

According previous study [3, 8], stratified squamous epithelium and thick keratin on filiform.P was necessary for protection against damage due to taking hard food.

Observation of different types of papillae on dorsal surface of tongue in male and female rat (wistar) suggests that their tongue is specialized for digestion. Filiform.P have a similar structure and localization as those of rats and mice [6,12]. Since rat (wistar) and mice are similar in food source, this result is expected.

Long and biforked filiform.P which were placed in the apex, aid to take food particles and orientation of them (toward to posterior) facilitate swallowing [10]. The distribution, structure and morphology of these papillae were adapted to gallinaceous diet. Although these papillae were on the whole of dorsal surface of tongue but high density of them was on apex and decrease to posterior are. This finding was unlike previous finding about mice's tongue [13].

Although foliate papillae were observed on tongue in some vertebrates [14, 15] and were seen on the lateral surface of the rat's tongue [13] but in this survey, it wasn't seen. Further research is suggested about this papillae

Gustatory papillae include fungiform and circumvallate papillae because they have taste bud. Despite fungiform.P have mechanical role in some vertebrates [16] but obtained results showed that they have both roles (gustatory and mechanical) in this species. Presence obvious keratin on the surface and a few taste bud (one) in these papillae showed that their mechanical role is preferable (Fig.3, 4). The number of taste bud is vary in mammals and placed on conical surface [16].

The one circumvallate papillae is suited front of root [6]. This papillae have many taste buds in lateral walls epithelium and tubular canal is around it [17]. The serous and mucous glands which were in submucosa and related to taste buds via its canal and aid to gustatory (Fig.5). This papillae is oval and big as seen without microscope (Fig.6).

Thick epithelium and keratin in dorsal surface especially on apx and filliform papillae are useful for contacting hard food. Although the oral epithelium covered by keratin in all of mammals but keratinization is variable and related to their diets [6].

Thick lamina propria with blood vessel and collagenous fiber supported mucosa well. (Fig 6). Density of muscle and collagen aid to movement of tongue and mastication . A few vessel in lamina propria This may be relate to low absorption in oral cavity. Because food consumed by rat is hard and is not digested in the mouth [18]. On the other presence of taste buds in fungiform and vallate papillae confirm to begging of food digestion. Presence of fungiform.P on epithelium of apex aid to take food whereas this papillae almost pleased on middle or posterior of tongue [7, 19]. Its taste bud (one) were exposed to food, masticated and facilitated to swallow food particles [13].

CONCLUSION

Obtained results showed that morphology and microscopic anatomy of tongue are similar in both sexes of rat (Wistar). Their structural specifications are taxonomic and adaptations to their feeding patterns.

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