

Contents

Index of abbreviations	
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Acid-sensing ion channels belong to the degenerin/epithelial Na ⁺ channel family	1
1.2 Expression sites and functions of ASICs and BASIC	3
1.2.1 Expression sites	3
1.2.2 Physiological functions and pathophysiological roles of ASICs.....	3
1.3 Structure of ASICs and BASIC	4
1.4 Electrophysiological properties of ASICs and BASIC	5
1.5 Neuropeptides and venom toxins modulate ASICs	7
1.5.1 FMRFamide and related neuropeptides.....	7
1.5.2 Endomorphins and dynorphins.....	9
1.5.3 Venom toxins	10
2 Aim	11
3 Materials and methods	12
3.1 Materials.....	12
3.1.1 Standard chemicals.....	12
3.1.2 The neuropeptides.....	12
3.1.3 Molecular biological materials	17
3.2 Molecular biology	17
3.2.1 Preparation, linearization and purification of plasmid DNA.....	17
3.2.2 Synthesis and purification of mRNA.....	18
3.3 Electrophysiological recordings	18
3.3.1 Preparation of oocytes.....	18
3.3.2 Injection of oocytes.....	19
3.3.3 The two-electrode voltage clamp technique	20
3.3.4 The TEVC set-up.....	21
3.3.5 Solutions for two-electrode voltage clamp recordings	21
3.3.6 Experimental protocols	22

3.3.7 Choosing the conditioning and activation pH for ASIC1a, ASIC1b and ASIC3	24
3.3.8 Data analysis	25
4 Results.....	27
4.1 Experiments on ASIC4 and BASIC expressing oocytes	27
4.1.1 There is no direct agonist for ASIC4 among the 109 screened neuropeptides	27
4.1.2 There is no direct agonist for BASIC among the 109 screened neuropeptides	29
4.2 Experiments on ASIC1a, ASIC1b and ASIC3 expressing oocytes	31
4.2.1 Dynorphin A(1-13) and dynorphin A(1-17) pre-application increased currents of ASIC1a	31
4.2.2 YFMRFamide pre-application decreased current amplitude and slowed desensitization of ASIC1b	37
4.2.3 Endomorphin-1 and YFMRFamide pre-applications slowed ASIC3 desensitization	42
4.3 Comparing RPRFamide's, FMRFamide's and YFMRFamide's effect on ASIC3 desensitization	50
5 Discussion.....	52
5.1 The search for direct agonists	52
5.1.1 Discussion of the results	52
5.1.2 Limitations	53
5.2 The search for new modulators	53
5.2.1 Discussion of the results	53
5.2.2 Limitations	54

5.2 Conclusion.....	56
6 Summary	57
7 References	58
Auflistung eigener Publikationen.....	65
Danksagung	66
Erklärung § 5 Abs. 1 zur Datenaufbewahrung.....	67
Eidesstattliche Erklärung über den Eigenanteil gemäß § 5 Abs. (1) und § 11 Abs. (3) 12. der Promotionsordnung	68