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A THESIS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHYLLOSOPHY

**Antioxidant activity of  
5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde from  
*Polysiphonia morrowii* Harvey**

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**JEJU NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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**Antioxidant activity of  
5-bomoprotocatechualdehyde from  
*Polysiphonia morrowii* Harbvey**

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Master of Science

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## 국문초록

현대 사회는 환경, 식품, 또는 생활 습관에 의한 다양한 산화스트레스에 노출되어 있다. 대부분의 생물은 정상적인 호흡 과정에서 산소를 체내로 받아들여지게 된다. 체내로 들어온 산소는 물질대사과정에서 활성산소를 생성하는데, 신체 내에 병원균이 침투했을 때 백혈구가 작용하게 되는데, 이 때 적당한 양의 활성산소는 이에 도움을 주어 병원균을 제거하여 신체를 보호하는 기능을 한다. 하지만 과도하게 축적이 되었을 경우, 세포에 손상을 줌으로써 여러 가지 질병을 일으키는 원인이 되기도 한다. 이 때 우리 몸에서 생성되는 superoxide dismutase, catalase, 그리고 glutathione peroxidase (GPX)와 같은 항산화 효소에 의해서 대사과정 중에 생성되는 활성산소를 제거가 됨으로써 신체 내에서 ROS가 일정한 양으로 유지된다. 하지만 자외선, 대기오염, 흡연 등과 같은 환경적인 요인에 의해서 과도하게 발생된 활성산소는 항산화 효소 기전만으로 완전히 조절을 할 수 없기 때문에 결국 다양한 질병을 유발한다. 그렇기 때문에 이를 억제할 수 있는 효과적인 항산화제가 필요한 실정이다. 항산화제는 합성항산화제와 천연항산화제로 나뉘어 있는데, 합성항산화제는 변이성과 암을 유발할 수 있는 독성이 있기 때문에, 보다 안전한 천연물 유래의 항산화제에 대한 연구가 많이 이루어지고 있다. 최근 해조류 유래의 소재들을 이용하여 기능성 소재로서의 후보물질을 탐색하는 연구가 많이 이루어지고 있다. 본 연구에서 선택한 해조류는 홍조류인 *Polysiphonia mnorrowii* Harvey이며 part 1에서는 in vitro와 in vivo 상에서 *Polysiphonia* sp. 에서 분리한 단일물질인 5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde (BPCA)의 항산화 활성을 평가하였다. 그 결과 in



*vitro* 상에서 항산화 효소의 발현 증가, Bax와 NF- $\kappa$ B 기전 억제를 통해 산화스트레스에 의한 apoptosis를 억제하였으며, *in vivo* 모델인 zebrafish에서 산화스트레스에 의한 ROS, cell death, 그리고 지질과산화 발생을 억제함으로써, *in vitro*와 *in vivo* 상에서 BPCA가 항산화 활성이 뛰어난 것을 확인할 수 있었다.

최근 전 세계적으로 인구 고령화 현상이 빠르게 진행되고 소득 수준 높아지면서 삶의 질에 대한 관심이 증가하면서 의약시장과 항노화 산업이 부상하고 있으며, 국가 사회적 중요성도 높아지고 있다. 노화는 시간의 흐름에 따라 신체의 구조와 기능이 저하되고 질병과 사망에 대한 감수성이 증가하여 쇠약해지는 과정이다. 노화는 크게 내재적 노화와 외재적 노화로 나눌 수 있다. 내재적 노화는 유전적인 요인이 원인인 반면, 외재적 노화는 환경적인 요인이 원인이다. 이러한 환경적인 요인에 의해 발생한 ROS가 노화를 일으키는 중요한 인자이다. 과산화수소에 의해 발생한 산화스트레스는 세포 노화를 일으키는 요인으로 잘 알려져 있기 때문에, 노화연구에 과산화수소가 많이 사용되고 있다. 하지만 노화가 일어나는 기전이 아직 명확히 밝혀지지 않은 실정이다. Part 2에서는 *in vitro*와 *in vivo* 상에서 BPCA의 항노화 활성을 평가하였다. 그 결과, *in vitro* 상에서 BPCA가 노화의 중요한 표지로 알려진 senescence-associated  $\beta$ -galactosidase의 활성을 억제하였다. 또한 노화와 cell cycle arrest의 관련성을 확인한 결과, 과산화수소를 처리하였을 때 G2기가 arrest 되는 것을 확인하였다. 하지만 BPCA를 같이 처리하였을 때 arrest를 억제하지 못함으로써 본 실험의 노화억제와 관련이 없음을 확인하였다. ROS 조절에 있어서 중요한 역할을 하는 항산화 효소의 작용을 확인한 결과 과산화수소를 처리하였을 때 GPX가 감소하는 것을 확인하였으나 BPCA를 같이 처리하였을 때 증가하는 것을 확인하였다. 이와 같은

결과는 BPCA가 항산화 효소 발현을 증가시킴으로써 산화스트레스를 줄여 노화 억제에 관여하는 것으로 예측되었다. In vivo 모델인 zebrafish에서도 senescence-associated  $\beta$ -galactosidase의 활성이 억제됨으로써 BPCA가 zebrafish에서도 노화를 억제할 수 있다는 것을 확인할 수 있었다.

그러므로 BPCA는 항산화 및 항염증 활성을 가진 기능성 소재로서 이용이 가능할 것으로 보여진다.

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**Fig. 2-6. Effect of BPCA on SA- $\beta$ -gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish**

## Introduction

Modern society is exposed to various types of oxidative stress by environment, diet, or lifestyle. Highly reactive molecules such as reactive oxygen species (ROS) and free radicals such as hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ), superoxide anion radicals ( $O_2^-$ ), hydroxyl radicals ( $HO^\cdot$ ), and singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ) are generated by oxidative stress in body. ROS produced in body is eliminated by the antioxidant defense mechanisms. However, when these defense mechanisms do not work properly, ROS causes damage to the constituent parts of the cell (Alfadda et al., 2012; da Silva et al., 2010; Baek et al., 2015). It causes oxidative stress resulting in damage of DNA, lipid, protein and other molecules that lead to harmful effects such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, liver injury, cancer, inflammation, and aging (Barbara S. Berlett and Earl R. Stadtman, 1997; Hong et al., 2011; Kang et al., 2012; Heo et al., 2006). The study of antioxidants has been done from long ago and currently, there are a number of used chemical synthesis antioxidants such as BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene). It requires development of more secure and active natural antioxidants due to function as mutagens and tumor promoters at high dosages (Kasuga et al., 1988; Branen, 1975; Song et al., 2000). Therefore, recently there is a lot of researches about antioxidants derived from natural products. (Kasuga et al., 1988; Kim et al., 2005; Choi and Lee, 2014).

Recent changes in the standard of living and the development of medical technology have been accompanied by an aging population as the lifespan has been extended. The entry of an aging society, it is growing interest in improving the quality of life and health, not simply extending life expectancy. Accordingly anti-aging markets are rapidly increasing and anti-aging research is progressed actively (Manosroi et al., 2009; Satoh et al., 2005). Aging refers to the process of increasing the risk of death due to change in the body according to the

passage of time. When aging happens, there is the reduction on adaptive capability about stress such as decreasing physiological functions and increasing susceptibility to diseases (Harman, 2006; Marieke et al., 2007; Cutler and Mattson, 2006; Harman, 2001; Vijg and Wei, 1995; Kwon, 2007). The theory of aging is divided into two categories. Intrinsic aging is the theory of genetic etiology that there is the information determining the lifespan preserved in the gene and according to the information, aging is progressed. On the other hands, extrinsic aging is the theory of environmental etiology, which is progressed by various barriers or aging materials. In particular, the ROS produced by UV and respiration is considered to be the most important factors of the aging (Farage et al., 2007; Hong, 2009). Among ROS, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is widely used to aging research because it is known to lead to aging of cells (Choi et al., 2012; Suo et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2011). When the cells were treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, it is known that cellular aging is induced after cell cycle is leaded (Zhou et al., 2005; Duan et al., 2005; Choo et al., 2014). Therefore, in this study, we identified effect of anti-aging using the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

For the past, marine algae traditionally have been used as food and therapeutic agent for various diseases. Marine algae are broadly well-known that produce a various compounds and some of them have biological activity of therapeutic value. (Fujihara and Nagumo, 1993; Konig et al., 1994; Farvine and Jacobsen, 2013) Research at marine algae is focused according to finding biologically active compounds. Recently, interest in natural physiological materials of natural organisms is continuously increasing. And the studies of biological active substances from marine algae are being carried out by many researchers, not only nutritious aspects but also treatment of diseases and health maintenance (Cha et al., 2006). Marine algae-derived compounds have been proven to many functions such as antiviral, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticoagulant activities (Radonic et al., 2011; Spitz et al., 2005; Matsui et al., 2003; Jung et al., 2001). In previous studies, various function of *Polysiphonia* sp. have been reported such as antioxidant, antiviral, antimycobacterial

activity (Kim et al., 2011; Saravanakumar et al., 2008). However, There is a lack of research about anti-aging activity of *Polysiphonia* sp.. Expecially, studies on antioxidant and anti-aging activity of 5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde (BPCA) from *P. morrowii* Harvey has not been conducted.

Therefore, the purpose of the present study was to examine the antioxidant activity and anti-aging of BPCA from *P. morrowii* Harvey in hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)-stimulated cell and zebrafish.

**Part 1**

**Evaluation of antioxidant activity of  
5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde from  
*Polysiphonia morrowii* Harvey**

## 1. Abstract

We investigated the protective effects of 5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde (BPCA) from *Polysiphonia morrowii* Harvey against hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)-induced apoptosis in Vero cells. BPCA exhibited scavenging activity for 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), hydroxyl, and alkyl radicals. BPCA also inhibited H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death and apoptosis in Vero cells by inhibiting the production of ROS and lipid peroxidation. Regarding the antioxidant enzymes in the cells, there were no significant changes in superoxide dismutase and catalase levels but a marked decrease in glutathione peroxidase (GPx) following treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Pretreatment with BPCA prevented the reduction in GPx. To investigate the molecular mechanisms of apoptosis inhibition, the expression of Bax/Bcl-xL and NF-κB was assessed by western blot assay. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced the cleavage of caspase-9 and poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) and increased Bax levels. However, BPCA significantly inhibited the cleavage of caspase-9 and PARP and reduced Bax levels. In addition, BPCA suppressed the activation of the phosphorylation of NF-κB and the translocation of p65 in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cells. Furthermore, we evaluated the effect of BPCA on ROS production, cell death, and lipid peroxidation generation in a H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish embryo model. The results indicated that cell death and ROS production were significantly inhibited by BPCA in zebrafish embryos. Taken together, BPCA has excellent antioxidant activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*.



## 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

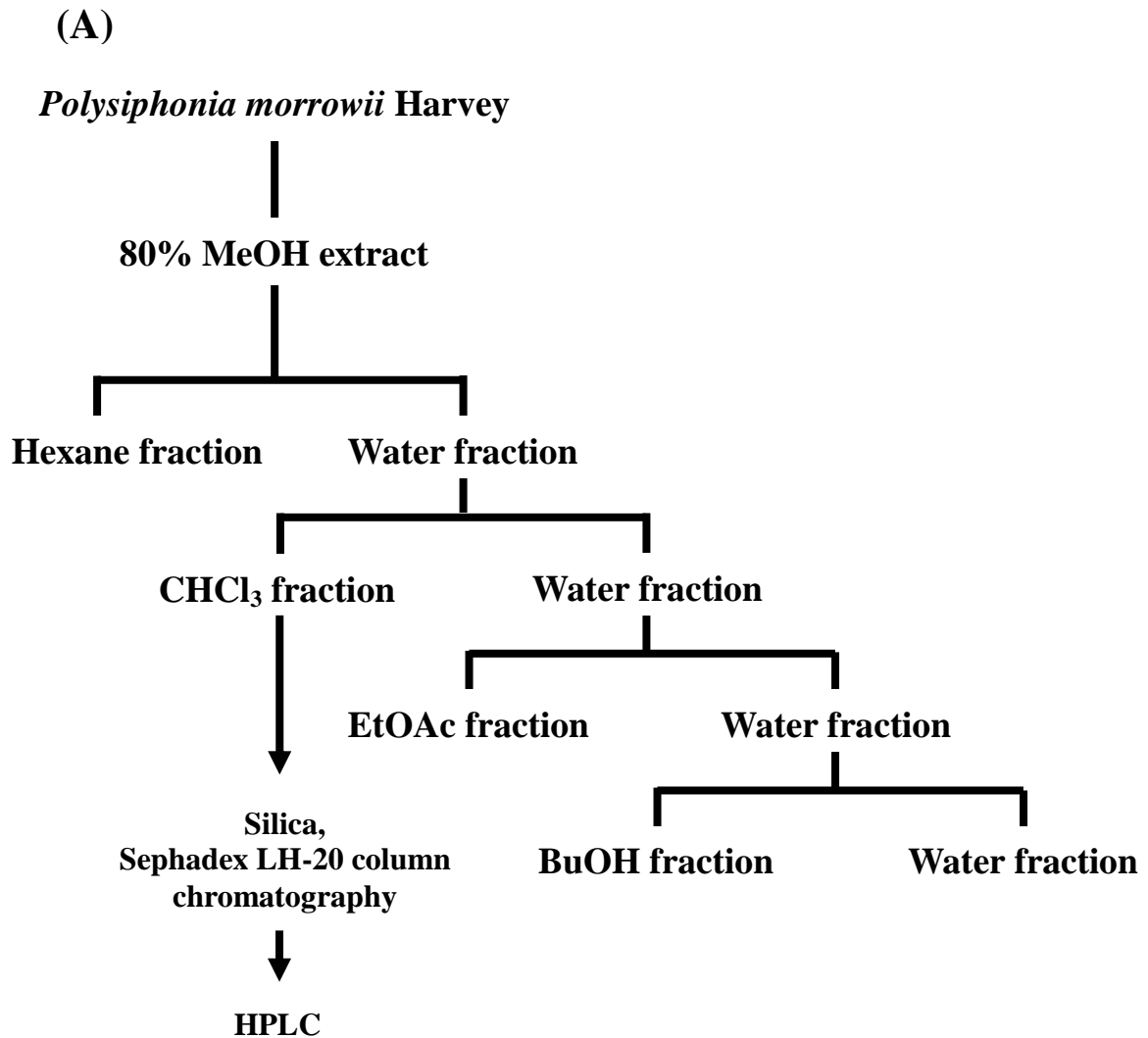
### 2. 1. Materials

Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI)-1640, phosphate buffered saline (PBS), antibiotics, and trypsin-EDTA were purchased from Gibco/BRL (Burlington, Ont, Canada). Fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Welgene (Daegu, Korea). Dimethyl sulfoxide, 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCHF-DA), diphenyl-1-pyrenylphosphine (DPPP), acridine orange, *N*-acetyl-*L*-cysteine (NAC), Hoechst 33342, propidium iodide (PI), and RIPA buffer were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) was purchased from Amresco (Solon, OH, USA). RNase A was purchased from Roche (Canada). NUPAGE 4~12% Bis-Tris gel and iBlot® Transfer Stack, PVDF Regular were purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). Primary antibodies against Bax, Bcl-xL, cleaved caspase-9, PARP, phospho-NF- $\kappa$ B p65, phospho-NF- $\kappa$ B p105, NF- $\kappa$ B p65, superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1), SOD2, catalase, and glutathione peroxidase 1 (GPX1) and secondary antibodies against anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked antibody and anti-mouse IgG, HRP-linked antibody were purchased from Cell signaling Technologies (Bedford, MA, USA). Primary antibodies against  $\beta$ -actin were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). SuperSignal West Femto Trial kits were purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). Vectashield mounting solution was purchased from Vector (Burlingame, CA).

### 2. 2. Extraction and isolation of BPCA from *P. morrowii* Harvey

The red alga *P. morrowii* Harvey was collected along the coast of Jeju Island, Korea.

The sample was washed thrice with tap water to remove salt, sand, and epiphytes attached to its surface, followed by careful rinsing with fresh water and freezing in a medical refrigerator at -20°C. Thereafter, the frozen sample was lyophilized and homogenized with a grinder prior to extraction. All chemicals and reagents used were of analytical grade and sourced from trusted commercial sources. The dried *P. japonica* powder was extracted thrice with 80% aqueous methanol at room temperature. The liquid layer was obtained via filtration, and the filtrate was concentrated using an evaporator under reduced pressure. The extract was suspended in water, and the aqueous layer was partitioned with chloroform. Then, the chloroform fraction was fractionated by silica column chromatography with stepwise elution with a chloroform-methanol mixture (30:1→1:1) to separate the active fractions in the chloroform extract. A combined active fraction was further subjected to a Sephadex LH-20 column saturated with 100% methanol and then purified by reversed phase high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) using a Waters HPLC system (Alliance 2690; Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA) equipped with a Waters 996 photodiode array detector and C18 column (J'sphere ODS-H80, 250 × 4.6 mm, 4 μm; YMC Co., Kyoto, Japan) by stepwise elution with a methanol-water gradient (UV range, 290 nm; flow rate, 1 ml/min). Finally, the purified compound was identified by comparing their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data with those in the literature (Mikami et al., 2013). The chemical structure of the purified compound is indicated in Fig. 1-1. The compound was dissolved in 100 % ethanol and employed in experiments in which the final concentration of 100 % ethanol in the culture medium was adjusted to <0.01 %.



(B)

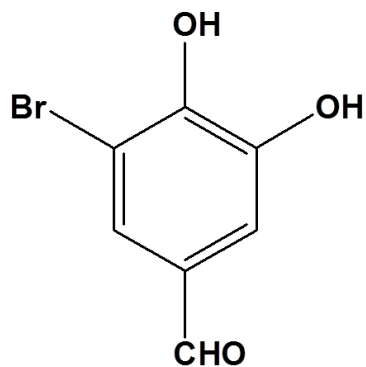


Fig. 1-1. (A) Isolation scheme for BPCA from the algae *Polysiphonia morrowii* Harvey and (B) chemical structure of BPCA

### 2. 3. Cell culture

Vero cells, kidney cells from African green monkeys, were purchased from the Korean Cell Line Bank (KCLB, Seoul, Korea). The cells were grown at 37 °C in a 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> humidified atmosphere incubator using RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10 % FBS and 1 % antibiotics.

### 2. 4. DPPH radical scavenging activity

First, 60 µl of BPCA (or ethanol as a control) was added to 60 µl of 60 µM 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). The mixture was vortexed and incubated for 2 h and then transferred to a 100 µl capillary tube, which was fitted into the cavity of an ESR spectrometer (JES-FA machine, JOEL, Tokyo, Japan). The measurement conditions were as follows: power, 1 mW; amplitude, 5 × 100; modulation width, 0.8 mT; sweep width, 10 mT; sweep time, 30 s; and time constant, 0.03 s.

### 2. 5. Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity

First, 20 µl of BPCA (or ethanol as a control) was added to 20 µl of 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM FeSO<sub>4</sub>, and 0.3 M DMPO. The mixture was vortexed and incubated for 3 min and then transferred to a 100 µl capillary tube, which was fitted into the cavity of an ESR spectrometer (JES-FA machine, JOEL, Tokyo, Japan). The measurement conditions were as follows: power, 1 mW; amplitude, 1 × 1000; modulation width, 0.1 mT; sweep width, 10 mT; sweep time, 30 s; and time constant, 0.03 s.

## 2. 6. Alkyl radical scavenging activity

First, 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of BPCA (or ethanol as a control) was added to 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of 40 mM AAPH and 40 mM POBN. The mixture was vortexed and incubated at 37 °C for 30 min in a water bath and then transferred to a 100  $\mu\text{l}$  capillary tube, which was fitted into the cavity of an ESR spectrometer (JES-FA machine, JOEL, Tokyo, Japan). The measurement conditions were as follows: power, 7~8 mW; amplitude,  $5 \times 100$ ; modulation width, 0.2 mT; sweep width, 10 mT; sweep time, 30 s; and time constant, 0.03 s.

## 2. 7. Measurement of cell viability

The cells were seeded in a 96 well plate at a concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, the cells were pre-treated with 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  BPCA and 1 M *N*-acetyl-*L*-cysteine (NAC) for 2 h at 37 °C. Then, 500  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added for 24 h at 37 °C. The cells were incubated with 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) dissolved in PBS for 3 h. After the supernatants were removed, formazan was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The absorbance was read at 540 nm using a spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices, USA).

## 2. 8. Measurement of intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) production

The cells were seeded in a 96 well plate at a concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, the cells were pre-treated with 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  BPCA for 2 h at 37 °C. Then, 500  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added followed by incubation for 30 min at 37 °C. Then, the cells were treated with DCHF-DA (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 30 min at 37 °C in the dark. DCHF-DA was detected at an excitation wavelength of 485 nm and an emission wavelength of 535 nm using a

spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices, USA).

## 2. 9. Nuclear staining with Hoechst 33342

The nuclear morphology of cells was studied using the cell-permeable DNA dye Hoechst 33342. The cells were seeded in a 24 well plate at a concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, the cells were pre-treated with 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  BPCA and 1 M NAC for 2 h at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, 500  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added followed by incubation for 6 h at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, 2  $\mu\text{l}$  of Hoechst 33342 (10 mg/ml) was added to cells followed by incubation for 10 min at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ . The cells were observed using a fluorescence microscope (Zeiss, Iena, Germany).

## 2. 10. Cell cycle analysis

Cell cycle analysis was carried out to determine the rate of apoptotic sub- $\text{G}_1$  cells. The cells were seeded in a 60 mm dish at a concentration of  $2.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, the cells were pre-treated with 50  $\mu\text{M}$  BPCA for 2 h at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, 500  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added followed by incubation for 6 h at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$ . After the media were removed, the cells were washed with PBS. The cells were collected using trypsin-EDTA and washed twice with PBS. The cells were then fixed using cold 70 % ethanol at 4  $^\circ\text{C}$  before use. The fixed cells were washed with PBS and incubated in PBS-2 mM EDTA containing 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  PI and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  RNase for 30 min at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$  in the dark. Flow cytometry was performed using a Beckman Coulter CytoFLEX flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter, Miami, FL).

## 2. 11. Western blot analysis

After the media were removed, the cells were washed two times using PBS. RIPA buffer (Sigma Aldrich) was added followed by incubation for 10 min at 4 °C. Then, cell lysates were collected, vortexed 6 times for 1 h, and centrifuged at 13,300 rpm at 4 °C for 25 min. After the protein concentration was determined using Protein Assay Dye Reagent Concentrate (BIO-RAD), the protein samples were electrophoresed and transferred to PVDF membranes (Invitrogen). The membranes were blocked for 2 h at room temperature and incubated with the primary antibody (anti-bax, anti-bcl-xL, anti-PARP, and anti-cleaved caspase 9, anti-GPX1, anti-SOD1, anti-SOD2, anti-catalase, anti-phospho-NF-κB p65, anti-phospho-NF-κB p105, and anti-β-actin) overnight at 4 °C. The membranes were washed using TTBS (20 mM Tris, 137 mM NaCl, 0.1 % tween 20) and incubated with the secondary antibody (anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked antibody and anti-mouse IgG, HRP-linked antibody) at room temperature. After 2 h, bands were detected using a SuperSignal West Femto Trial kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

## 2. 12. Immunofluorescence staining

The cells were seeded on a confocal slide at a concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, the cells were pre-treated with 50 μM BPCA for 2 h at 37 °C. Then, 500 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added followed by incubation for 45 min at 37 °C. The cells were fixed using 4 % formaldehyde for 10 min at room temperature and permeabilized with 100 % methanol for 10 min at -20 °C. After the cells were rinsed three times using PBS, the cells were blocked with 1 % BSA in PBS at room temperature for 1 h. After the cells were rinsed two times using PBS, the cells were incubated with 4 % Triton X-100 at room temperature for 30 min. The cells were rinsed three times using PBS and incubated with the primary antibody p65

(1:200, Cell signaling) overnight at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Next, the cells were rinsed three times using PBS and incubated with Alexa Fluor488-labeled Rabbit IgG (1:500, Invitrogen) for 1 h at room temperature. The cells were rinsed three times with PBS and then stained with DAPI using Vectashield mounting solution. Fluorescence was analyzed using an LSM 780 Zeiss confocal laser microscope (Zeiss, Iena, Germany).

## 2. 13. Origin and maintenance of zebrafish

Zebrafish were kept under the following conditions:  $28.5\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  with a 14/10 h light/dark cycle. The zebrafish were fed two times a day, 6 days a week. Zebrafish were selected for mating at a female-to-male ratio of 1:2. Embryos were obtained via mating and spawning. After spawning, the embryos were transferred to a petri dish containing 1 mg/ml methylene blue solution. After disinfection for 1.5 h, the methylene blue solution was changed to fresh embryo media (600 mg/L red sea salt in distilled water).

## 2. 14. Effect of BPCA on $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced ROS generation in zebrafish

ROS production in zebrafish was analyzed using the oxidation sensitive fluorescent dye 2,7-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA). After fertilization, 7-9 hours post-fertilization (hpf) zebrafish embryos were transferred to a 12 well plate. The embryos were pre-treated with various concentrations of BPCA (6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 2 h and then treated with 5 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  for 3 dpf. The zebrafish larvae were transferred to a 24 well plate, and 4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  DCFH-DA solution was followed by incubation for 1 h in the dark at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After incubation, the zebrafish larvae were rinsed twice using fresh embryo media and anesthetized using 0.03 % ethyl 3-aminobenzoate methanesulfonate before observation. The



zebrafish larvae were photographed under a microscope equipped with a CoolSNAP-pro color digital camera (Olympus, Japan). The fluorescence intensity of zebrafish larvae was quantified using ImageJ software.

## 2. 15. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death in zebrafish

Cell death in zebrafish was measured using a nucleic acid-selective metachromatic dye, acridine orange, which interacts with DNA and RNA. After fertilization, 7-9 hpf zebrafish embryos were transferred to a 12 well plate. The embryos were pre-treated with various concentrations of BPCA (6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu$ M) for 2 h and then treated with 5 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 3 day post-fertilization (dpf). The zebrafish larvae were transferred to a 24 well plate, and 7  $\mu$ g/ml acridine orange solution was added followed by incubation for 30 min in the dark at 28.5°C. After incubation, the zebrafish larvae were rinsed twice using fresh embryo media and anesthetized using 0.03 % ethyl 3-aminobenzoate methanesulfonate before observation. The zebrafish larvae were photographed under a microscope equipped with a CoolSNAP-pro color digital camera (Olympus, Japan). The fluorescence intensity of zebrafish larvae was quantified using ImageJ software.

## 2. 16. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced lipid peroxidation in zebrafish

Lipid peroxidation in zebrafish was detected using the fluorescent dye DPPP to detect cell membrane lipid peroxidation. After fertilization, 7-9 hpf zebrafish embryos were transferred to a 12 well plate. The embryos were pre-treated with various concentrations of BPCA (6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu$ M) for 2 h and then treated with 5 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 3 dpf. The zebrafish larvae were transferred to a 24 well plate, and 25  $\mu$ g/ml DPPP solution was added

followed by incubation for 30 min in the dark at 28.5°C. After incubation, the zebrafish larvae were rinsed twice using fresh embryo media and anesthetized using 0.03 % ethyl 3-aminobenzoate methanesulfonate before observation. The zebrafish larvae were photographed under a microscope equipped with a CoolSNAP-pro color digital camera (Olympus, Japan). The fluorescence intensity of zebrafish larvae was quantified using ImageJ software.

## 2. 17. Statistical analysis

All data are expressed as means  $\pm$  S.D. Significant differences among groups were determined using the unpaired Student's t-test. A value of  $p < .05$  was considered to be statistically significant.

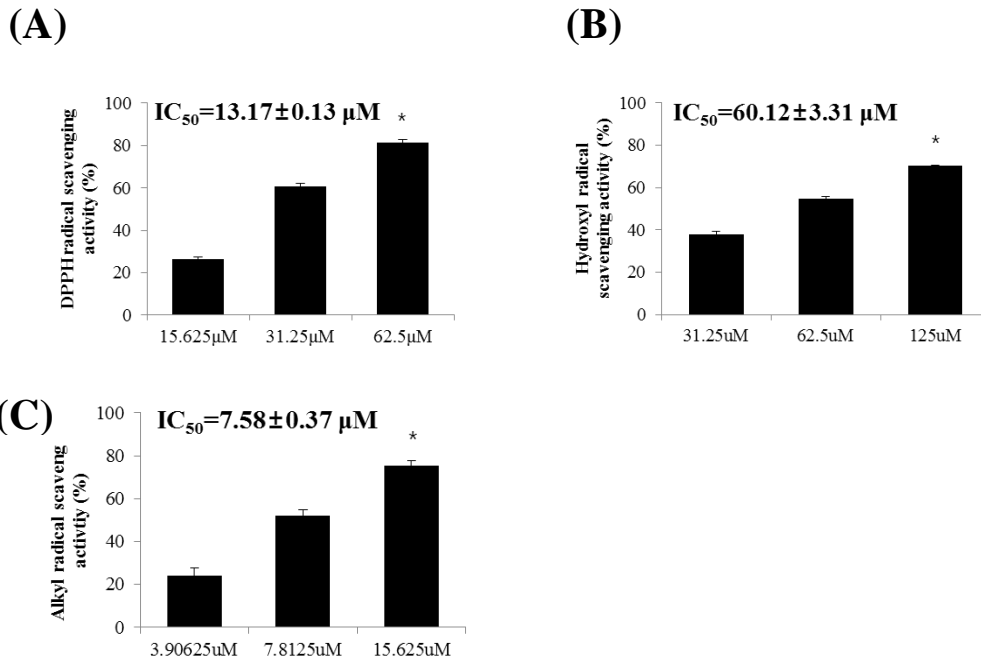
### 3. RESULTS

#### 3. 1. Free radical scavenging activities of BPCA

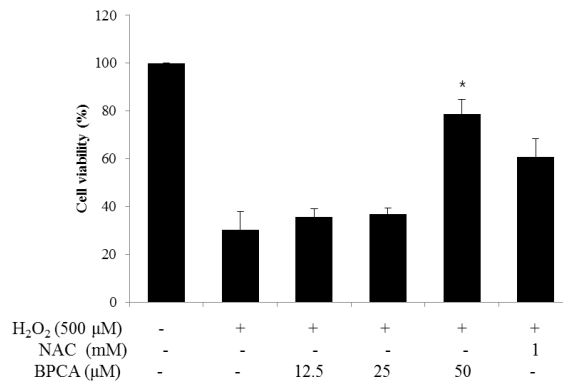
We measured the protective effects of BPCA against DPPH, hydroxyl, and alkyl radicals (Fig. 1-2). BPCA exhibited profound scavenging activities for DPPH, hydroxyl, and alkyl radicals in a dose-dependent manner. The  $IC_{50}$  values for DPPH, hydroxyl, and alkyl radical scavenging were  $13.17 \pm 0.13$ ,  $60.12 \pm 3.31$ , and  $7.58 \pm 0.37$   $\mu$ M, respectively. These results indicate that BPCA has excellent protective effect against DPPH and alkyl radicals.

#### 3. 2. Effect of BPCA on $H_2O_2$ -induced cytotoxicity in Vero cells

We measured the effect of BPCA on cell viability using the principle that MTT reacts with the mitochondria in living cells and produces formazan (Fig. 1-3). Vero cells were pre-treated with BPCA and NAC for 2 h and then treated with 500  $\mu$ M  $H_2O_2$  for 24 h. After the cells were treated with  $H_2O_2$ , cell viability decreased to 30.15 % compared to the control. However, when the cells were treated with 50  $\mu$ M BPCA and 1 mM NAC, cell viability increased up to 78.8 % and 60.8 %, respectively.



**Fig. 1-2 (A) DPPH, (B) hydroxyl, and (C) alkyl radical scavenging activities of BPCA were measured by ESR spectrum. All results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \* $P < 0.05$ .**



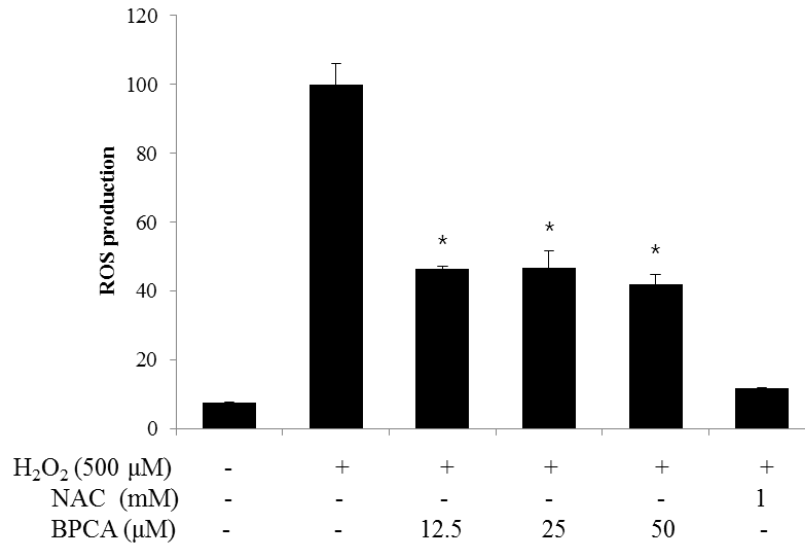
**Fig. 1-3. Effect of BPCA on cell viability in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells. The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (12.5, 25, 50 μM) and NAC (1 mM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 24 h. Cell viability was assessed with the MTT assay. All results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \* $P < 0.05$ .**

### 3. 3. Effect of BPCA on ROS production in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells

We measured the intracellular ROS scavenging activity of BPCA and NAC using the principle that DCFH-DA reacts with the reactive oxygen in cells and is oxidized to a fluorescent substance, DCF (Fig. 1-4). Vero cells were pre-treated with BPCA and NAC for 2 h and then treated with 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. After 30 min, ROS scavenging activity was approximately 54% for 12.5 and 25  $\mu$ M BPCA and approximately 59% for 50  $\mu$ M BPCA. These results indicated that BPCA protects against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cytotoxicity by scavenging radicals and ROS.

### 3. 4. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced apoptosis in Vero cells

We assessed the protective effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced apoptosis via nuclear staining with Hoechst 33342 (Fig. 1-5 (A)). When the cells were treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, we observed nuclei shrinkage, membrane blebbing, and apoptotic bodies. However, when the cells were treated with 50  $\mu$ M BPCA, we observed a significant reduction in apoptotic bodies. Moreover, to study the role of BPCA in cell cycle progression under oxidative stress, we performed cell cycle analysis using flow cytometry (Fig. 1-5 (B)). The sub-G<sub>1</sub> DNA content of the control cells was 14.5 %. On the other hand, the sub-G<sub>1</sub> DNA content of cells treated with 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was 27.17 %, indicating the induction of apoptosis. However, when the cells were treated with 50  $\mu$ M BPCA, the sub-G<sub>1</sub> DNA content decreased to 21.89 %. Therefore, these results indicate that BPCA prevents cytotoxicity by inhibiting apoptosis in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced Vero cells.



**Fig. 1-4. Effect of BPCA on ROS production in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells. The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (12.5, 25, 50 μM) and NAC (1 mM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 30 min. ROS production was measured by DCFH-DA methods. All results are expressed as the mean ± S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.**

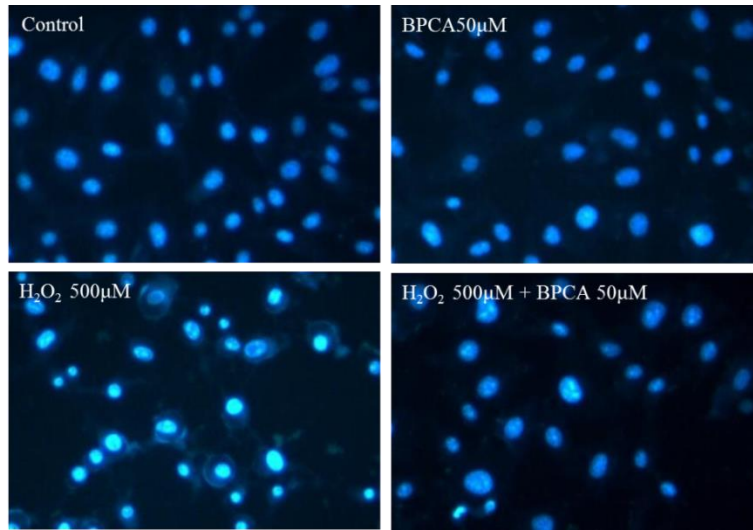
### 3. 5. Effect of BPCA on antioxidant enzymes in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells

Because we found that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment induced ROS in Vero cells, we confirmed the expression levels of antioxidant enzymes in Vero cells exposed to 500 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in presence or absence of BPCA (Fig. 1-6). When cells were treated with 500 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 6 h, the expression of GPX1 was inhibited compared to the control, whereas there was little change in the expression levels of catalase, SOD1, and SOD2. However, the 50 μM BPCA treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased the expression of GPX1. This result indicates that BPCA has an antioxidant effect by increasing the levels of GPX1 in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced Vero cells.

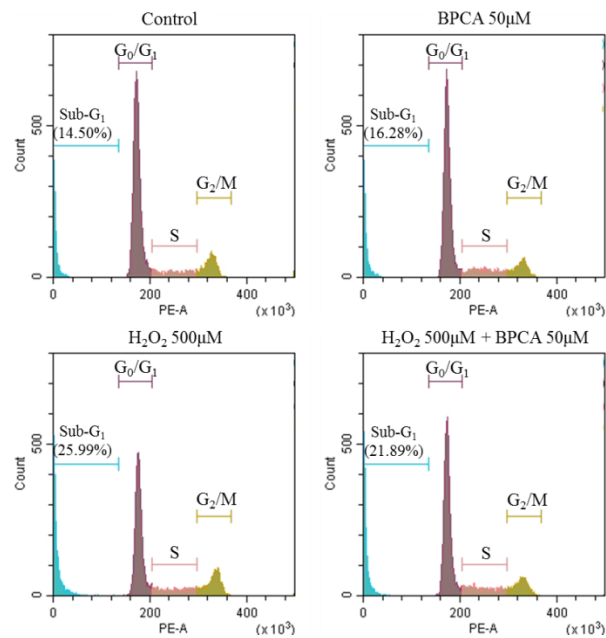
### 3. 6. Effect of BPCA on reduction of Bax and cleaved caspase-9, and PARP cleavage activation in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells

We evaluated the expression of Bax, cleaved caspase-9, and PARP in Vero cells exposed to 500 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in presence or absence of BPCA (Fig. 1-7). The expression levels of Bax and cleaved caspase-3 were increased by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment. However, when cells were treated with 50 μM BPCA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the expression levels decreased. The expression level of PARP was decreased by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, but after treatment with 50 μM BPCA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, protein expression increased. The results demonstrated that BPCA inhibits apoptosis by decreasing the expression of Bax and cleaved caspase-3 and increasing the expression of PARP.

(A)



(B)



**Fig. 1-5. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced apoptosis in Vero cells. The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 6 h. (A) Apoptotic bodies were observed under a fluorescent microscope after Hoechst 33342 staining. (B) Apoptotic sub-G<sub>1</sub> phase cells were assessed using flow cytometry after PI staining.**



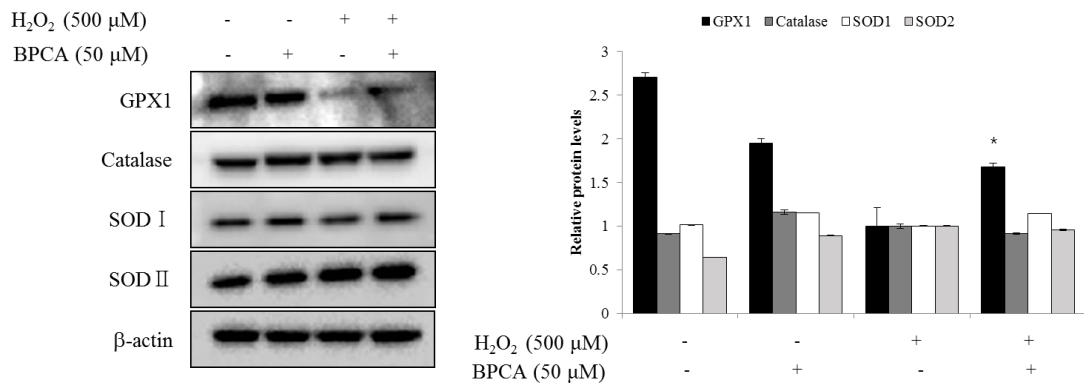
### 3. 7. Effect of BPCA on activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells

We evaluated the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in Vero cells exposed to 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in presence or absence of BPCA (Fig. 1-8). When cells were treated with 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 45 min, NF- $\kappa$ B was activated. However, the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B was reduced after treatment with 50  $\mu$ M BPCA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 1-8 (A)). The nuclear translocation of p65 increased when cells were treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, but BPCA inhibited the nuclear translocation of p65. (Fig. 1-8 (B)). These results demonstrate that BPCA inhibits the activation and translocation of NF- $\kappa$ B in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells.

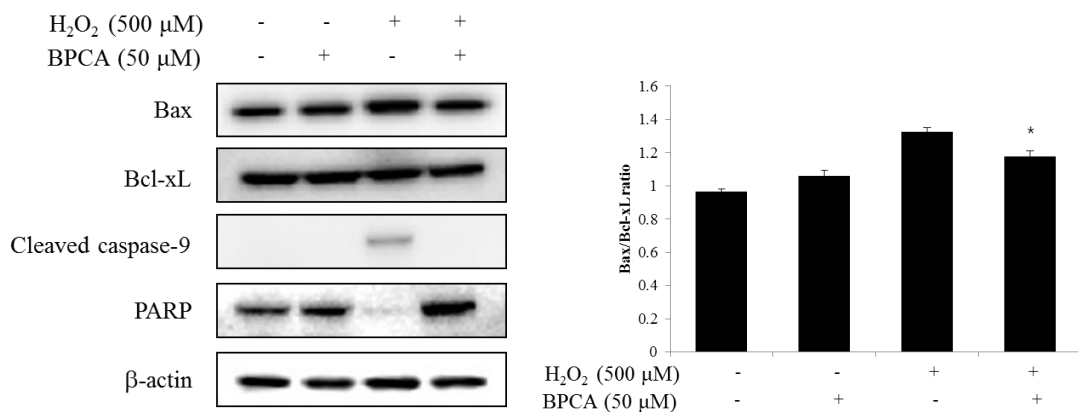
### 3. 8. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in zebrafish

To confirm the protective effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in zebrafish, we analyzed survival rates, ROS production, cell death, and lipid peroxidation (Fig. 1-9). The survival rate was more than 80 % for all concentrations compared to the control, thus indicating that all tested concentrations of BPCA were non-toxic in zebrafish (Fig. 1-9 (A)). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced ROS production in zebrafish was 214 % compared to the control group. However, treatment with 6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu$ M BPCA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> considerably reduced H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced ROS production to 98.6 %, 95.4 %, 66.3 %, and 67.8 %, respectively. These results indicated that treatment of zebrafish embryos with BPCA markedly suppressed H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced ROS generation (Fig. 1-9 (B)). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death in zebrafish increased more than double compared to the control group. However, treatment with 6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu$ M BPCA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> significantly reduced H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death in a concentration-dependent manner. Thus, these results indicate that BPCA significantly inhibits H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death in zebrafish embryos via inhibition of ROS production (Fig. 1-9 (C)). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced lipid peroxidation in zebrafish was 115.5 % compared to the control group.

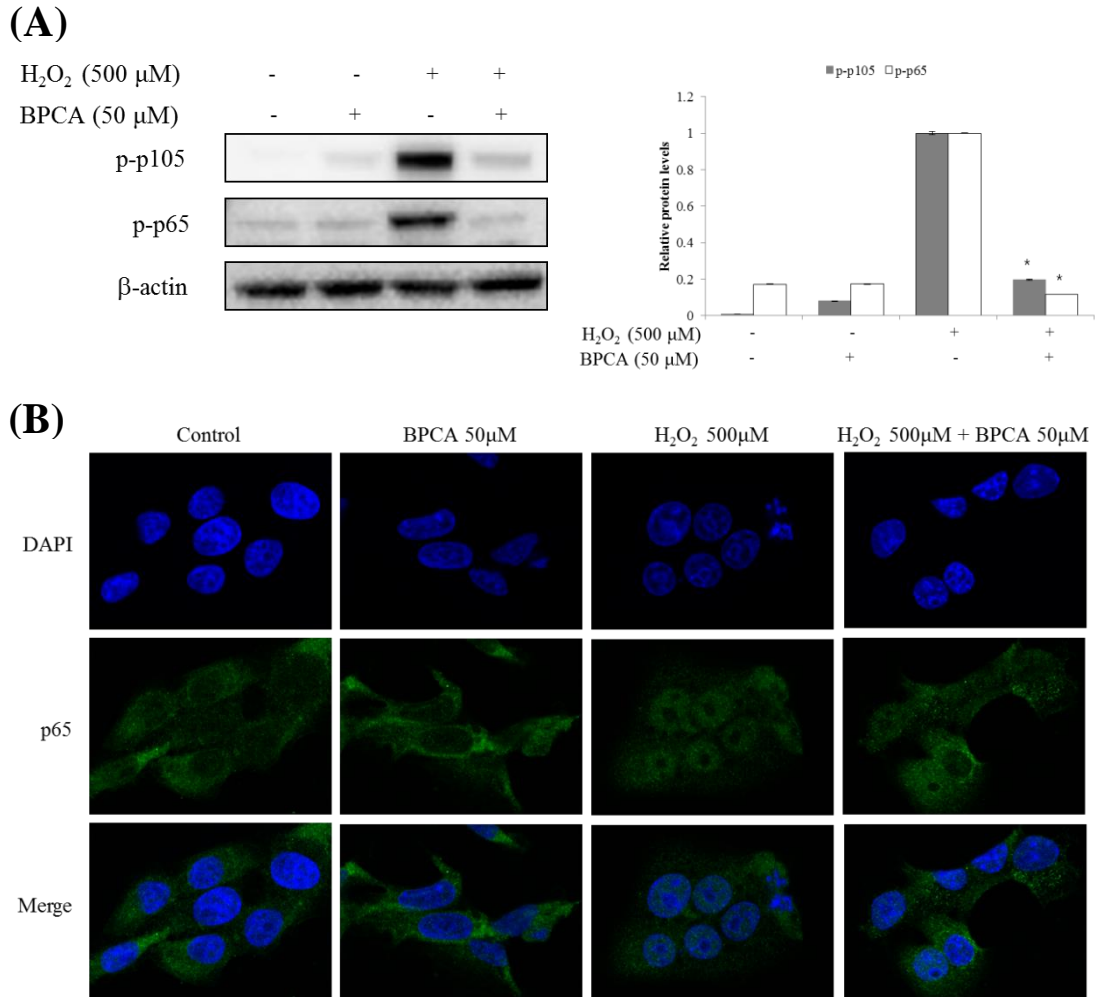
Lipid peroxidation was dose-dependently reduced by BPCA, but there was no significant difference, and treatment with 50  $\mu$ M BPCA resulted in a similar value as in the control group (Fig. 1-9 (D)). Taken together, these results demonstrate that BPCA has a protective effect on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in zebrafish.



**Fig. 1-6. Effect of BPCA on antioxidant enzymes in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 6 h. GPX1, catalase, SOD1, and SOD2 protein levels were determined using western blot analysis. All results are expressed as the mean ± S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.

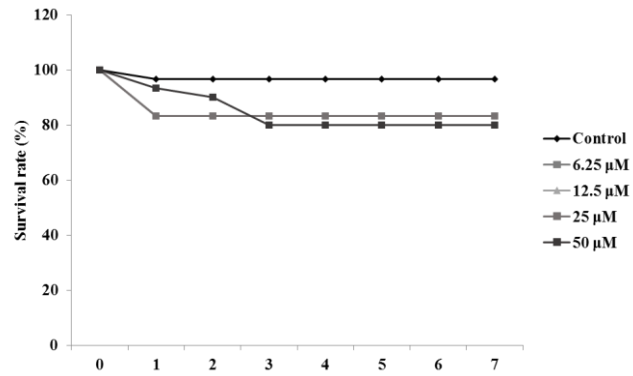


**Fig. 1-7. Effect of BPCA on the reduction of Bax and cleaved caspase-9 and PARP cleavage activation in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 6 h. Bax, Bcl-xL, cleaved caspase-9, and PARP protein levels were determined using western blot analysis. All results are expressed as the mean ± S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.

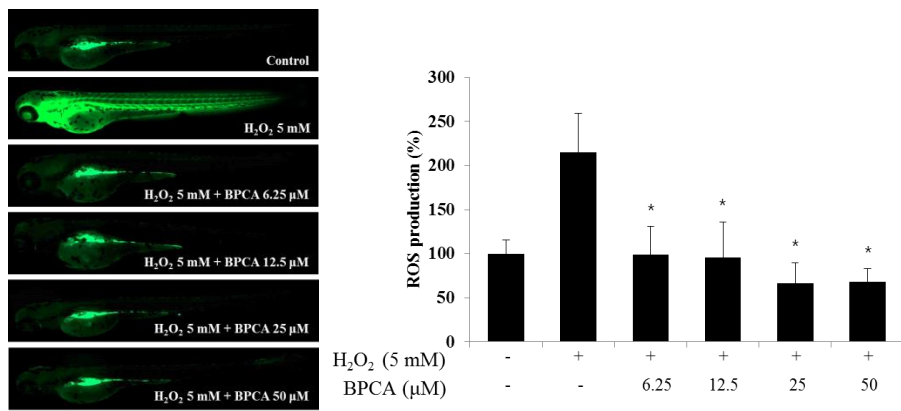


**Fig. 1-8. Effect of BPCA on the activation of NF-κB in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells. (A)** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 6 h. The expression levels of p-p105 and p-p65 were analyzed by western blot analysis. **(B)** The nuclear translocation of p65 in Vero cells was observed with an anti-p65 and Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-rabbit antibody by confocal laser microscope (LSM 780).

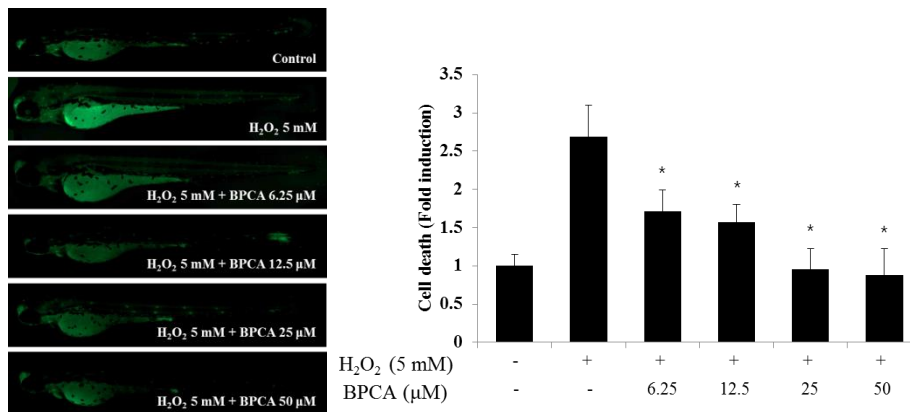
(A)



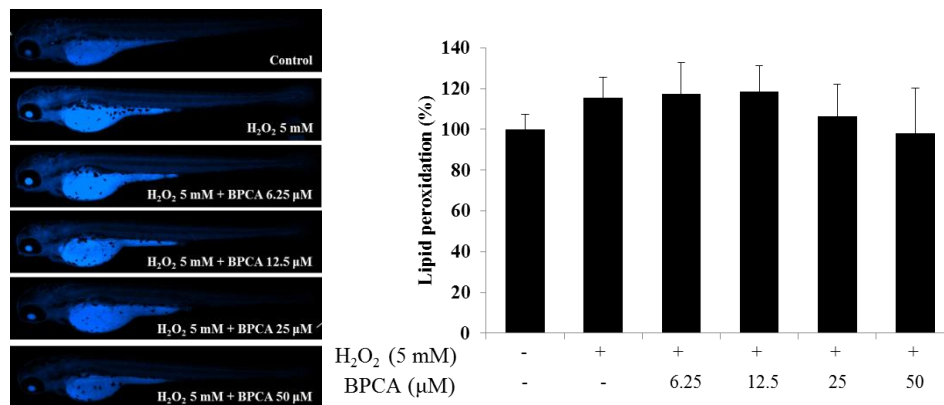
(B)



(C)



(D)



**Fig. 1-9. Effect of BPCA on survival rate and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced ROS production, cell death, and lipid peroxidation in zebrafish. (A) Survival rate of zebrafish embryos was measured for 7 dpf after treatment with BPCA (6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50 μM). Zebrafish embryos were pre-treated with BPCA (6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50 μM) and then treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (5 mM). Imaging of (B) ROS production, (C) cell death, and (D) lipid peroxidation generation was performed using fluorescent microscopy. The fluorescence intensity of zebrafish was quantified using ImageJ software. All results are expressed as the mean ± S.E. from more than three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.**

#### 4. Discussion

ROS cause cellular and tissue injuries by inducing oxidative damage in DNA, RNA, proteins, and lipids (Aybek et al., 2008; Li et al., 2013). The overexpression of ROS promotes apoptosis via various mechanisms (Tang et al., 2008; Li et al., 2013). Therefore, suppressing free radicals such as DPPH, hydroxyl, and alkyl radicals is important to prevent apoptosis. In this study, BPCA was shown to significantly protect against DPPH and alkyl radicals and to considerably suppress intracellular ROS production. The results indicated that BPCA has a strong scavenging activity for free radicals and ROS that protects against oxidative damage in cells.

Apoptosis, or programmed cell death (PCD), is a naturally occurring cell death process that is vital for the normal development and homeostasis of multicellular organisms (Schwartzman and Cidlowski, 1993; Kannan and Jain, 2000). The morphologic pattern of cell death is characterized by the shrinking of the cell, membrane blebbing, production of apoptotic bodies, and chromatin condensation, concluding in cell fragmentation (Kerr et al., 1972; Hockenbery et al., 1993). The phenomenon can be induced by various factors, including receptor-mediated signals such as those from ROS, metals, and pathophysiologic conditions. Regarding these factors, recent studies have demonstrated that ROS and oxidative stress play a critical role in apoptosis. In this study, Vero cells exposed to 500  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  exhibited distinct features of apoptosis, including the presence of apoptotic bodies and an increased sub-G<sub>1</sub> DNA content. However, BPCA considerably inhibited the formation of apoptotic bodies and decreased the sub-G<sub>1</sub> DNA content, resulting in a lower percentage of apoptotic cells. BPCA also protected against  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced cell death. Thus, the results show that BPCA protects against cell death by inhibiting  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced apoptosis.

The Bcl-2 family of proteins plays major roles in apoptosis, and Bax, a member of the

Bcl-2 family, is a pro-apoptotic factor (Adams and Cory, 1998; Jones et al., 2000). Bax induces the release of mitochondrial cytochrome *c* and causes caspase activation. Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL prevent Bax-regulated cytochrome *c* release and cell death (Finucane et al., 1999; Jones et al., 2000). Caspases, a family of cysteine proteases, including caspase-3 and caspase-9, play an important role in the execution stage of apoptosis and are involved in many changes associated with apoptosis (Cohen, 1997; Sun et al., 1999, Ham et al., 2012). These caspases cleave intracellular substrates, such as poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) and lamins, during the execution stage of apoptosis (Sun et al., 1999). Cleaved caspase-9 processes other caspase members, including caspase-3 and caspase-9, to begin the caspase cascade, which leads to apoptosis (Sun et al., 1999; Ham et al., 2012). PARP plays a critical role in the maintenance of cell viability. However, the cleavage of PARP promotes cellular degradation and is widely used as a marker for apoptotic cells (Oliver et al., 1998; Ham et al., 2012). In this study, we performed western blot analysis to reveal the mechanisms of apoptosis in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells. When the cells were treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the protein levels of Bax, cleaved caspase-9, and PARP increased; however, BPCA inhibited the expression of Bax, cleaved caspase-9, and PARP, demonstrating that BPCA significantly affects the mechanism of apoptosis by regulating Bax.

NF- $\kappa$ B is a transcription factor thought to play an important role in the onset of cell apoptosis (). The transcription factor NF- $\kappa$ B exists as heterodimer of p50 and p65 and is bound in the cytoplasm by I $\kappa$ B (Baeuerle, 1998; Stark et al., 2007). In previous studies, it was shown that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in several types of cells (Schreck et al., 1991; Meyer et al., 1993), and ROS were found to stimulate the NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway directly (Chen et al., 2011; Morgan and Liu, 2011). Moreover, the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B is inhibited by the antioxidants (Schenk et al., 1994). In this study, we confirmed the effect of BPCA on the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-exposed Vero cells. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced the



activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in Vero cells; however, BPCA markedly inhibited this activation. In addition, when Vero cells were exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the nuclear translocation of p65 increased, but when cells were pre-treated with BPCA, the translocation of p65 was considerably suppressed. These results suggest that BPCA inhibits H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced apoptosis by regulating the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway.

The enzymatic antioxidant defense system includes SOD, catalase, and GPX (Chen et al., 2009; Melegari et al., 2012). SODs are the most important factors in antioxidant defense system against ROS and superoxide anion radicals (Zelko et al., 2002), and they convert superoxide anions to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Wijeratne et al., 2005; Fridovich, 1997). There are two types of SOD, Cu/Zn-SOD (SOD1) exists mainly in the cytoplasm and mitochondria, and Zn-SOD (SOD2) exists mainly in mitochondria (Zelko et al., 2002; Jeon et al., 2007; Wijeratne et al., 2005). In previous studies, SOD1 and SOD2 were shown to play a protective role against ROS in cells (Fridovich., 1995; Bannister J. V., 1987). Catalase catalyzes the degradation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to water and oxygen (Weydert and Cullen, 2010; Chelikani et al., 2004). Catalase activity is mainly located in the subcellular organelles peroxisomes (Weydert and Cullen, 2010). It is important factor in protecting cells from oxidative stress induced by ROS, and one catalase molecule can convert millions of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> molecules to water and oxygen (Weydert and Cullen, 2010; Chelikani et al., 2004). GPXs are a family of enzymes that reduce of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to water or reduce lipid hydroperoxides to the corresponding alcohols using glutathione (Chen et al., 2009, Brigelius-Flohe, 2006). Among the GPXs, GPX1 exists in the cytoplasm of many mammalian tissues and is considered the critical enzyme in the removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Weydert and Cullen, 2010). Moreover, antioxidant enzymes control ROS to ensure that metabolic processes can function in organisms. Therefore, in this study, we evaluated the effect of BPCA on the protein expression levels of antioxidant enzymes such as SOD1, SOD2, catalase, and GPX1 in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated Vero cells. When cells were treated with

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the expression levels of SOD1, SOD2, and catalase did not change compared to those of the control. However, the expression level of GPX1 was suppressed by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and BPCA treatment increased GPX1 protein expression. Thus, BPCA suppresses oxidative stress damage by restoring the antioxidant enzyme defense system, particularly GPX1, in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced Vero cells.

The zebrafish model has been used in a variety of research fields, and it has many benefits such as a small size, rapid development, optical transparency, and easy handling in experimental settings (Kim et al., 2015; Lan et al., 2013; Zou et al., 2017). In particular, researchers used zebrafish as animal models in drug discovery studies investigating oxidative stress (Kim et al., 2015; Du et al., 2017; Kobayashi et al., 2009). Therefore, we evaluated the effect of BPCA on survival rate, ROS generation, cell death, and lipid peroxidation using H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in the zebrafish model. All concentrations of BPCA were non-toxic in zebrafish. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced ROS generation, cell death, and lipid peroxidation in zebrafish embryos. However, treatment of zebrafish embryos exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with BPCA significantly reduced ROS generation and cell death. BPCA reduced lipid peroxidation, although the difference was not significant. Therefore, these results demonstrated that BPCA can protect against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in the zebrafish model.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that BPCA decreased H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in Vero cells by decreasing ROS levels and restoring endogenous antioxidant enzymatic activities, such as GPX. Furthermore, BPCA blocked H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced apoptosis via the regulation of Bax and NF-κB. Moreover, BPCA significantly suppressed ROS production and cell death in response to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in a zebrafish model. Taken together, BPCA protects against oxidative stress *in vitro* and *in vivo*, demonstrating that BPCA may be an alternative to more toxic synthetic antioxidants for use as an additive in food and pharmaceutical preparations.

**Part 2**

**Evaluation of anti-aging activity of  
5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde from  
*Polysiphonia morrowii* Harvey**

## 1. Abstract

We investigated anti-aging activity of 5-bromoprotocatechualdehyde (BPCA) from *P. morrowii* Harvey in human dermal fibroblasts (HDF). HDF cells were subjected to treatment of BPCA and then treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to induce premature senescence. . Treatment of HDF with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased senescence-associated  $\beta$ -galactosidase (SA- $\beta$ -gal) activity but BPCA resulted in reduction of SA- $\beta$ -gal activity. Also, BPCA significantly reduced H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) production. To investigate the relation of aging and cell cycle, we performed the cell cycle analysis. Treatment of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is arrested the G<sub>2</sub>/M phase, but BPCA was not suppressed the G<sub>2</sub>/M arrest on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, the aging and cell cycle arrest was not related each other. Also, we demonstrated the effect of BPCA on antioxidant enzymes against oxidative H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF. Among the antioxidant enzymes, when the 400  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were treated in the cells for 6 h, the expression level of GPX1 inhibited. However, 50  $\mu$ M of BPCA increased considerably. Furthermore, we evaluated the effect of BPCA on SA- $\beta$ -gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish model. Treatment of 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> significantly induced the SA- $\beta$ -gal activity than 600  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased the SA- $\beta$ -gal activity and treatment of NAC suppressed the SA- $\beta$ -gal activity in zebrafish. Also, BPCA decreased the SA- $\beta$ -gal activity in zebrafish. Taken together, BPCA has the excellent anti-aging activity in *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

### 2. 1. Materials

F12 media (Ham's F-12 Nutrient mix), phosphate buffered saline (PBS), antibiotic, and trypsin-EDTA were purchased from Gibco/BRL (Burlington, Ont, Canada). Fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Welgene (Daegu, Korea). Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) was purchased from Hyclone (Logan, Utah, USA). Dimethyl sulfoxide, 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCHF-DA), 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl  $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (X-gal), potassium hexacyanoferrate (II) trihydrate, potassium hexacyanoferrate (III), propidium iodide (PI), and RIPA buffer were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). Magnesium chloride was purchased from Biosesang (Seongnam, Korea). 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) was purchased from Amresco (Solon, OH, USA). RNase A was purchased from Roche (Canada). NUPAGE 4~12% Bis-Tris gel and iBlot® Transfer Stack, PVDF Regular were purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). Primary antibodies against phospho-p53, p27, p21, phospho-Rb, Rb, CDK4, cyclin B1, cyclin D1, SOD1, SOD2, catalase, and GPX1 and secondary antibodies against anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked antibody and anti-mouse IgG, HRP-linked antibody were purchased from Cell signaling Technologies (Bedford, MA, USA). Primary antibodies against  $\beta$ -actin was Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). SuperSignal West Femto Trial kit was purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, Massachusetts, USA).

### 2. 2. Cell culture

Human dermal fibroblasts (HDF) were purchased by Korean Cell Line Bank (KCLB,

Seoul, Korea). The cells were grown at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> humidified atmosphere incubator using F12 media (Ham's F-12 Nutrient mix) and Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) mixture (1:3) included 10 % fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1 % antibiotic.

### 2. 3. Measurement of cell viability

The cells were seeded in 96 well plate at a concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^4$  cells/ml. After 24h, 125, 50, and 100 μM of BPCA were pre-treated for 2 h at 37 °C. Then 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added for 72 h at 37 °C. The cells were incubated with 3-(4,5-Dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) dissolved in PBS for 3 h. After the supernatant were removed, formazan were dissolved in Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The absorbance was read at 540 nm.

### 2. 4. Senescence-associated β-galactosidase (SA-β-gal) staining

The cells were washed once with PBS and fixed using 4 % formaldehyde for 15 min. After the cells were washed twice, the cells were incubated SA-β-gal staining solution containing 1 mg/ml X-gal, 5 mM potassium hexacyanoferrate (II) trihydrate, 5 mM potassium hexacyanoferrate (III), and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> in 40mM citric acid/sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) for 24 h at 37 °C in a CO<sub>2</sub> free atmosphere in the dark. The SA-β-gal stained cells were observed using inverted microscope (Olympus, Japan).

## 2.5. Measurement of intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) production

The cells were seeded in 96 well plate at a concentration of  $8 \times 10^4$  cells/ml. After 24 h, 25 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA were pre-treated for 2 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . And 400  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added for 20 min at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . Then the cells were treated 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCHF-DA, 20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) for 30 min at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  in dark. DCHF-DA was detected at an excitation wavelength of 485 nm and an emission wavelength of 535 nm, using a spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices, USA).

## 2. 6. Cell cycle analysis

Cell cycle analysis was carried out to determine the rate of apoptotic sub- $G_1$  cells. The cells were seeded in 60 mm dish at a concentration of  $2.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA were pre-treated for 2 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . And 500  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were treated for 6 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . After the media were removed, the cells were washed phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The cells were collected using trypsin-EDTA and washed twice with PBS. And the cells were fixed using cold-70 % ethanol at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  before using it. The fixed cells were washed with PBS and incubated in PBS-2 mM EDTA containing 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  PI and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  RNase for 30 min at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  in dark. Flow cytometry was performed using Beckman Coulter CytoFLEX flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter, Miami, FL).

## 2. 7. Western blot analysis

The cells were seeded in 60mm dish at a concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. After 24 h, 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA were pre-treated for 2 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . And 400  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were treated for 6 h

at 37 °C. After the media were removed, the cells were washed two times using phosphate buffered saline (PBS). RIPA buffer (Sigma Aldrich) was added and incubated for 10 min at 4 °C. Then cell lysates were collected, vortexed 6 times for 1 h, and centrifuged at 13,300 rpm at 4 °C for 25 min. After protein concentration was determined by Protein Assay Dye Reagent Concentrate (BIO-RAD), protein samples were electrophoresised and transferred to PVDF membrane (Invitrogen). The membranes were blocked for 2 h at room temperature and incubated with primary antibody (anti-GPX1, anti-SOD1, anti-SOD2, anti-catalase, and anti-β-actin) for overnight at 4 °C. The membranes were washed using TTBS (20 mM Tris, 137 mM NaCl, 0.1 % tween 20) and incubated with secondary antibody (anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked antibody and anti-mouse IgG, HRP-linked antibody) at room temperature. After 2 h, bands were detected using SuperSignal West Femto Trial kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

## 2. 8. Origin and maintenance of zebrafish

Zebrafish was kept under following conditions: 28.5±0.5 °C, with 14/10 h light/dark cycle. The zebrafish were fed two times a day, 6 days a week. Zebrafish was selected for mating in the female-to-male ratio of 1:2. Embryos were obtained via mating and spawning. After spawning, the embryos were transferred into the petri dish containing 1 mg/ml of methylene blue solution. After disinfection for 1.5 h, methylene blue solution was changed to fresh embryo media (600 mg/L red sea salt in distilled water).

## 2. 9. Effect of BPCA on SA-β-gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish

After 3 hdf, zebrafish larvae were rinsed once time using fresh embryo media and



anesthetized using 0.03 % of ethyl 3-aminobenzoate methanesulfonate. After anesthetization, they were rinsed two times using PBS and fixed using 4 % formaldehyde at 4 °C for overnight. The fixed zebrafish larvae were rinsed three times using PBS (pH 6.0) for 1 h and they were stained using SA- $\beta$ -gal staining solution containing 0.75 mg/ml X-gal, 5 mM potassium hexacyanoferrate (II) trihydrate, 5 mM potassium hexacyanoferrate (III), and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> in PBS (pH 6.0) for 24 h at 37 °C in a CO<sub>2</sub> free atmosphere in the dark. The SA- $\beta$ -gal stained cells were observed using inverted microscope (Olympus, Japan).

## 2. 10. Statistical analysis

All data are expressed as means  $\pm$  S.D. Significant differences among groups were determined using the unpaired Student's t-test. A value of  $p < .05$  was considered to be statistically significant.

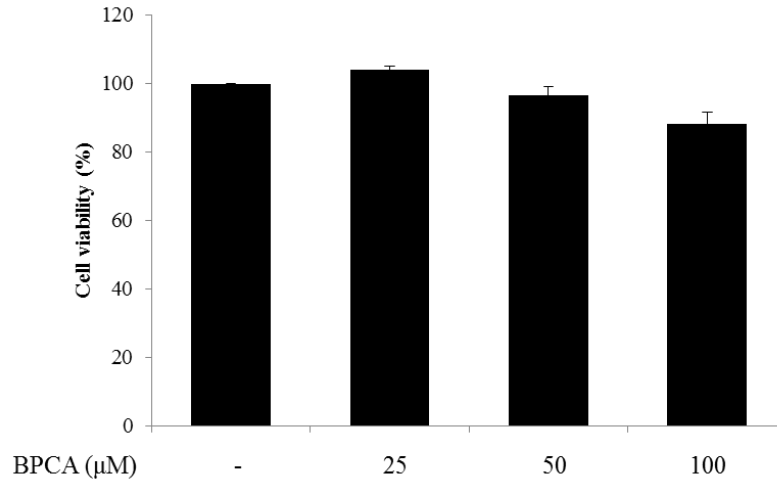
### 3. Results

#### 3. 1. Effect of BPCA on cell viability in HDF

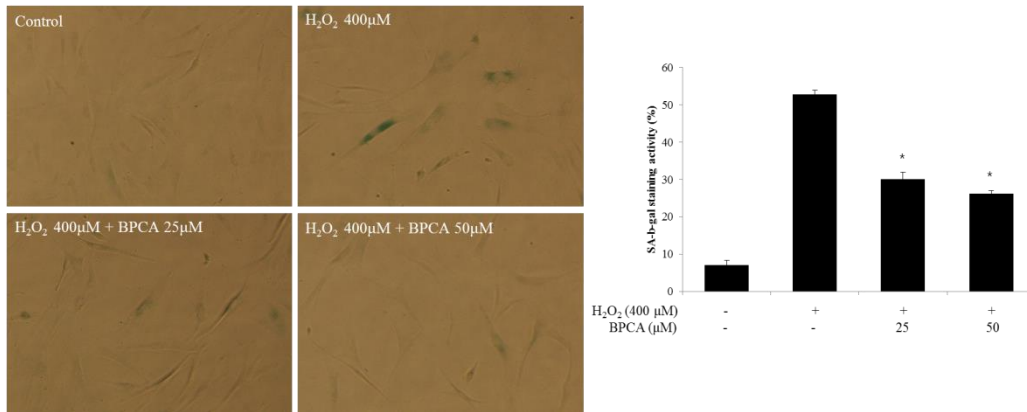
We measured the cell viability of BPCA using the principle that MTT reacts to the mitochondria in living cell and produces formazan (Fig. 2-1). HDF cell was pre-treated BPCA for 2 h and treated 400  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  for 72 h. 25 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA was non-cytotoxic but 100  $\mu\text{M}$  were a little toxic compared to control. When the cells were treated  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , cell viability was decreased to 79.52 %. However, when the cells were treated 25 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA, cell viability was increased until 87.5 % and 88.76 % each other. The results are indicated that BPCA has protective effect against  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in HDF.

#### 3. 2. Effect of BPCA on $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced aging in HDF

We observed the SA- $\beta$ -gal expression in HDF exposed to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in presence or absence of BPCA (Fig. 2-2). HDF cells were pre-treated BPCA for 2 h and treated 400  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  for 72 h. When 400  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  treated, SA- $\beta$ -gal activity increased to 52.87 % and induced morphological enlargement. However, SA- $\beta$ -gal activity reduced to 30.08 % and 26.19 % at 25 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  of BPCA each other. The result is show that BPCA inhibits the cellular aging  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -stimulated HDF.



**Fig. 2-1. Effect of BPCA on cell viability in HDF.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (25, 50, and 100 μM) and for 72 h. Cell viability was indicated by MTT assay. All the results were expressed as means ± S.E. of over three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.



**Fig. 2-2. Effect of BPCA on SA-β-gal activity against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced aging in HDF.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (25, 50, and 100 μM) and treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (400 μM) for 72 h. The cells were then stained with X-gal to observe SA-β-gal activity and photographed under the inverted microscope. All the results were expressed as means ± S.E. of over three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.

### 3. 3. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced ROS production in HDF

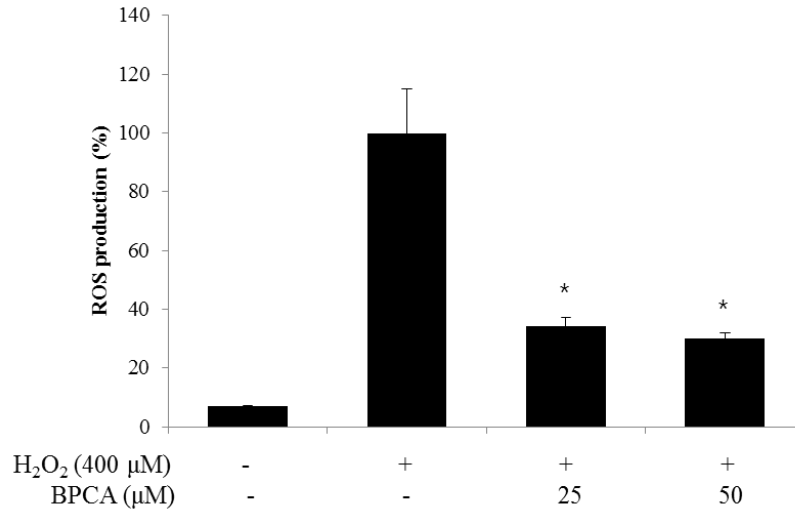
We measured the intracellular ROS scavenging activity of BPCA using the principle that the DCFH-DA reacts to the reactive oxygen in the cells and is oxidized to fluorescent substance DCF (Fig. 2-3). HDF cells were pre-treated BPCA for 2 h and treated 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. After 30 min, ROS production was reduced to 34.16 % and 30.06 % at 25 and 50 μM of BPCA. The result shows that BPCA has intracellular ROS scavenging activity against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in HDF.

### 3. 4. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell cycle arrest in HDF

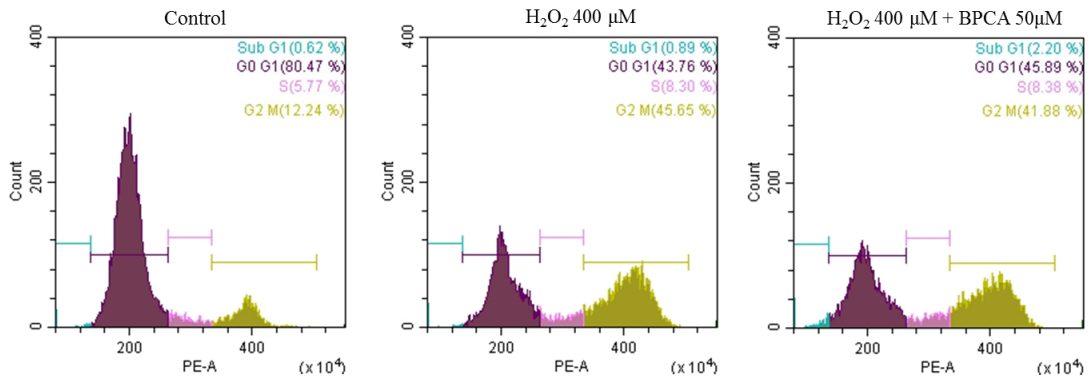
To study the role of BPCA on cell cycle arrest in oxidative stress, we performed cell cycle analysis using flow cytometer (Fig. 2-4). HDF cells were pre-treated 50 μM of BPCA for 2 h and treated 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. When 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treated, G<sub>2</sub>/M DNA content increased to 45.65%. Nevertheless, the cells were treated with 50 μM of BPCA, G<sub>2</sub>/M DNA content almost not reduced. The results indicate that BPCA can't inhibit G<sub>2</sub>/M cell cycle arrest in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF.

### 3. 5. Effect of BPCA on antioxidant enzymes in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF

Because we found that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment was induced ROS in HDF, we evaluated the expression levels of antioxidant enzymes in HDF exposed to 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in presence or absence of BPCA (Fig. 2-5). When 400 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were treated for 6 and 12 h, expression of GPX1 was inhibited compared to control. However 50 μM of BPCA treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased expression of GPX1. The expression levels of Catalase, SOD1, and SOD2 except to GPX1 was not much difference. Therefore, the result indicates that BPCA induces expression levels of GPX1 inhibited by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> among the antioxidant enzymes in HDF.



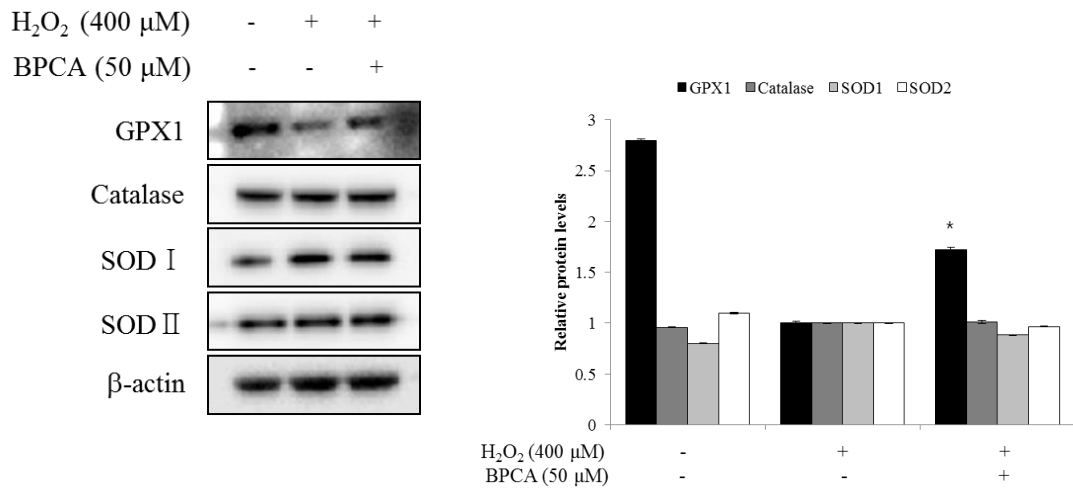
**Fig 2-3. Effect of BPCA on intracellular ROS production in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (25, 50, and 100 μM) and treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (400 μM) for 30 min. ROS production is measured using 20 μg/ml of DCFH-DA. All the results were expressed as means ± S.E. of over three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.



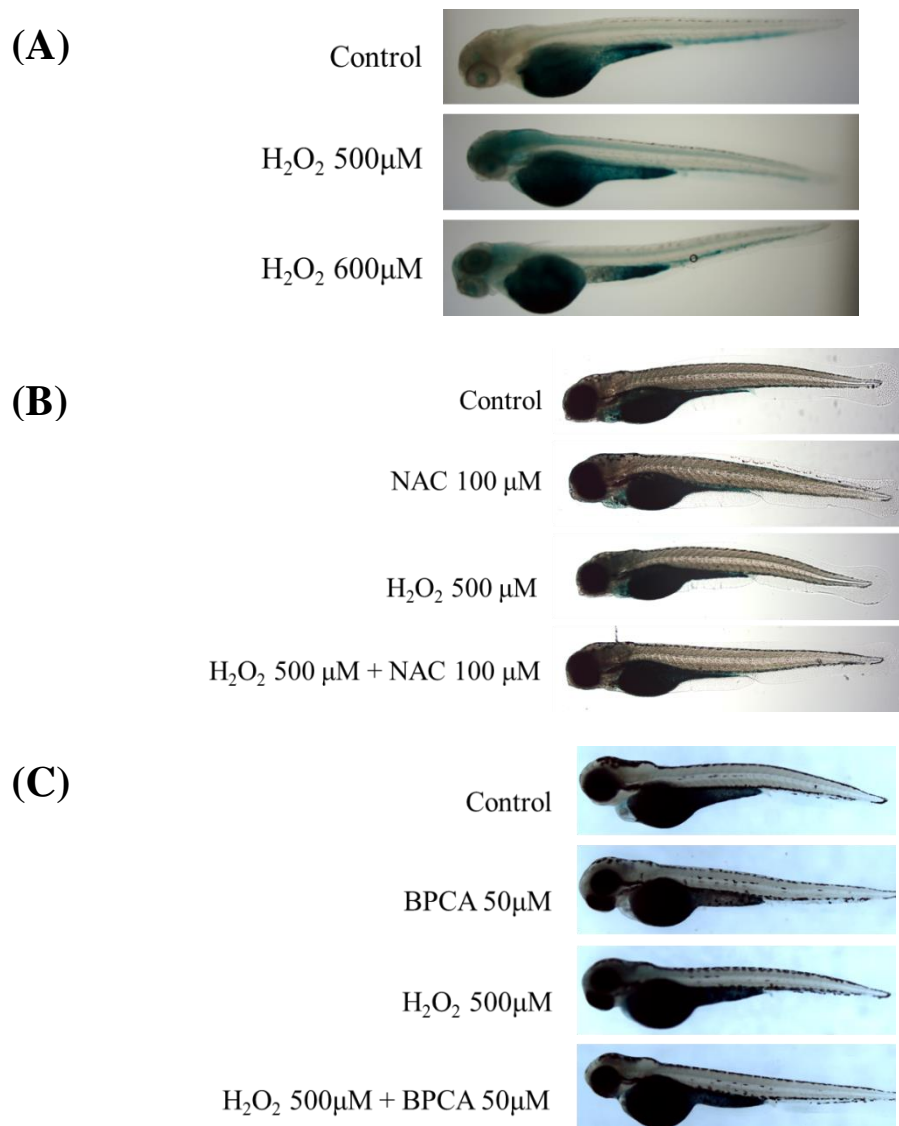
**Fig. 2-4. Effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell cycle arrest in HDF.** The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (400 μM) for 24 h. Cell cycle arrest was measured using flow cytometry analysis.

### 3. 6. Effect of BPCA on SA- $\beta$ -gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish

We observed the expression of SA- $\beta$ -gal in zebrafish exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and effect of BPCA and NAC on expression of SA- $\beta$ -gal in zebrafish exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 2-6). When 500 and 600  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were treated, SA- $\beta$ -gal activity significantly increased compared to control group. Treatment group of 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was more increased than treatment group of 600  $\mu$ M. The result show that 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> more induces the aging in zebrafish than 600  $\mu$ M. Therefore, we determined the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration of aging induction at 500  $\mu$ M (Fig. 2-6 (A)). Next, to confirm the relationship between aging according to oxidative stress and antioxidant NAC in zebrafish, we treated the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and NAC and carried out the SA- $\beta$ -gal staining in zebrafish. As previous results, 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced the aging in zebrafish. However, treatment of 100  $\mu$ M of NAC preserved against the oxidative stress-induced aging. Therefore, aging and oxidative stress are related and antioxidant NAC can suppress the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced aging in zebrafish. (Fig. 2-6 (B)). Also, we observed the effects of BPCA on oxidative stress-induced aging in zebrafish. When 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were treated, SA- $\beta$ -gal activity considerably increased compared to control group. However, 50  $\mu$ M of BPCA suppressed the SA- $\beta$ -gal activity. Therefore, it is demonstrated that BPCA can inhibit the oxidative stress-induced aging in zebrafish (Fig. 2-6 (C)). Taken together, these results identify that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induces the aging in zebrafish, oxidative stress-induced aging can inhibit using NAC, and BPCA can protect against oxidative stress-induced aging in zebrafish.



**Fig. 2-5. Effect of BPCA on antioxidant enzymes in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> -stimulated HDF. The cells were pre-treated with BPCA (50 μM) and treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (400 μM) for 6 and 12 h. GPX1, catalase, SOD1, and SOD2 protein level were determined using Western blot analysis. All the results were expressed as means ± S.E. of over three individual experiments; \*P < 0.05.**



**Fig. 2-6. Effect of BPCA on SA-β-gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish. Zebrafish was fixed and stained using SA-β-gal solution after treatment of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and BPCA. Imaging was performed using the inverted microscope. (A) Zebrafish embryos were treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 and 600 μM) for 3 dpf. 500 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced SA-β-gal activity (B) Zebrafish embryos were pre-treated NAC (100 μM) and then treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 3 dpf. NAC suppressed the SA-β-gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated zebrafish. (C) Zebrafish embryos were pretreated BPCA (50 μM) and then treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (500 μM) for 3 dpf.**



#### 4. Discussion

The overexpression of ROS leads the injury of organisms due to oxidative damage of DNA, RNA, protein, and lipid, and hinders damaged nucleus and mitochondrial DNA repair, contributing to cellular imbalance (Aybek et al., 2008; Li et al., 2013; Weyemi and Dupuy, 2012). Eventually, it leads the cellular and tissue damage and finally causes the various diseases such as Parkinson's disease, cancer, inflammation, and aging (Barbara S. Berlett and Earl R. Stadtman, 1997; Hong et al., 2011; Kang et al., 2012; Heo et al., 2006). In previous studies, it is demonstrated that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> accelerates the aging by inducing oxidative stress (Yu et al., 2010; Satoh et al, 2005). For that reason, in this study, we evaluated the anti-aging effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced premature senescence in HDF. We first examined the cytotoxicity of BPAC in HDF cells and found that it was not cytotoxic at the highest concentration (50 μM). Thus doses without cytotoxicity were chosen to determine the anti-aging effect of BPCA via regulation of antioxidant enzyme. . Next, we confirmed that BPCA significantly inhibited the intracellular ROS production. The results show that BPCA can protect from oxidative stress in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF.

SA-β-gal is the β-galactosidase activity and widely used as biomarker of cellular aging (Dimri et al., 1995; Lee et al., 2006). It can detect at pH 6.0 in cultured cells and mammalian tissues at the moment of replicative or induced aging and the origin is known as the lysosome (Dimri et al., 1995; Kurz et al., 2000; Debaq-Chainiaux et al., 2009). Previous study reported that the higher the induction of the aging in cells, the greater the expression level of SA-β-gal. Therefore, we measured of SA-β-gal activity to confirm that BCAP has an aging effect. In this study, HDF treated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased the SA-β-gal expression thus it can know that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can induce the aging in HDF. However, when the cells were treated with BPCA, aging marker SA-β-gal was significantly inhibited. Therefore, the result identifies

that BPCA can inhibit oxidative stress-induced aging.

The relationship of aging and cell cycle arrest has not yet been clarified clearly. In previous study, it demonstrated that cell cycle arrest is not aging (Blagosklonny, 2011; Blagosklonny, 2012). However, in other study, aging and cell cycle arrest is related each other and cell cycle arrest induces the aging (Deursen, 2014; Dulic et al., 2000; Mao et al., 2012). It is identified that treatment of  $H_2O_2$  induces the  $G_2/M$  phase cell cycle arrest (Li et al., 2009). Therefore, to identify the relationship of aging and cell cycle arrest, we evaluated of effect of BPCA on  $H_2O_2$ -induced the cell cycle arrest using flow cytometry analysis. When  $H_2O_2$  were treated in HDF,  $G_2/M$  DNA content considerably increased. However, the treatment of BPCA not inhibited  $G_2/M$  cell cycle arrest. Thus, the result is demonstrated that  $H_2O_2$  induces the cell cycle arrest but BPCA has not effect on  $H_2O_2$ -induced cell cycle arrest in HDF. These results suggest that the inhibitory effect of BPCA on cell senescence is not related to cell arrest.

In previous study, the enzymatic antioxidant defense system is related to aging (Inal et al., 2001; Tian et al., 1998). The important factors of enzymatic defense system against ROS and superoxide anion radicals, SODs convert the superoxide anion to  $H_2O_2$  (Fridovich, 1997; Inal et al., 2001). In the previous research, SODs preserve against the ROS in the cells (Tian et al., 1998; Fridovich., 1995; Bannister J. V., 1987). Catalase plays the role of the decomposition of  $H_2O_2$  to water and oxygen (Tian et al., 1998; Weydert and Cullen, 2010; Chelikani et al., 2004). It is also important enzymes in preserving the cell from oxidative stress by ROS (Weydert and Cullen, 2010; Chelikani et al., 2004). GPXs are family of enzymes that decrease of  $H_2O_2$  to water or reduction of lipid hydroperoxides to corresponding alcohols by glutathione (Chen et al., 2009, Brigelius-Flohe, 2006). GPX1 is also the critical factor to remove the  $H_2O_2$  and control ROS for metabolism in the aerobic organisms (Weydert and Cullen, 2010). Therefore, we researched the effect of BPCA on

antioxidant enzymes in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF. The treatment of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is impeded the GPX1 expression, but BPCA promoted the expression levels of GPX1. The expression levels of SOD1, SOD2, and catalase were not changed by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and BPCA treatment than control. . Therefore, these results indicated that BPCA can protect the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-stimulated HDF via increase of GPX1 expression. Also, we predict that BPCA can inhibit the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced aging via antioxidant enzyme mechanism.

The zebrafish is a good vertebrate model to study a variety of fields. It has many advantages such as small size, similar genome to human, rapid development, and easy handling in experiment (Kim et al., 2015; Lan et al., 2013; Zou et al., 2017; Arslan-Ergul et al., 2016). Also, because it lives on average between 3 and 5 years and has an optical transparency, it is appropriate for aging animal model (Arslan-Ergul et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2015). In previous study, the zebrafish had used as aging models (Gilbert et al., 2014; Gerhard, 2003; Kishi et al., 2003). Therefore, we evaluated the effect of BPCA on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> - induced SA-β-gal activity, an aging maker using zebrafish. First, we treated 500 and 600 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and conducted the SA-β-gal staining in zebrafish. As a result, the treatment of 500 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> significantly induced the SA-β-gal activity than treatment of 500 μM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. So, we determined the treatment concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 500 μM. Next, to confirm the direct role of ROS in aging induction, we investigated the effects of NAC (a specific inhibitor of ROS) on increasing of aging marker SA-β-gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced zebrafish embryos. We found that NAC inhibited the SA-β-gal activity in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced zebrafish embryo. These results suggest that the aging and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress is related each other in zebrafish embryo. Furthermore, we confirmed the anti-aging effect of BPCA on oxidative stress-induced premature senescence in zebrafish. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> increased the SA-β-gal activity, however BPCA decreased the SA-β-gal activity in zebrafish. We predict that BPCA can inhibit the aging by suppressing oxidative stress in zebrafish.

In conclusion, the present study suggests that BPCA inhibits premature senescence by inhibiting ROS production by restoring GPX antioxidant enzyme in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced HDF cells. Also, BPCA inhibited the oxidative stress-induced aging in zebrafish embryos. Taken together, BPCA can suppress the oxidative stress-caused aging in *in vitro* and *in vivo*. These results demonstrated the potential of BPAC, providing a basis for further studies on applying it to combat aging related diseases.

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