CONTENTS

abbreviations iv-v
list of figures vi-vii

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE STUDY 1-2

Chapter 2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE 3-30

2.1 Epidemiology 3
2.1.1 Leishmaniasis in India 4
2.2 The Leishmania parasite 5
2.2.1 Life cycle of Leishmania parasite. 6
2.2.2 In vivo and in vitro maintenance of Leishmania parasite. 8
2.2.2.1 In vivo infection model 8
2.2.2.2 In vitro infection models 9
2.2.2.3 Promastigote culture 10
2.2.2.4 Axenic amastigote culture 10
2.3 Leishmania-macrophage interactions. 11
2.3.1 Uptake of Leishmania parasite 11
2.3.2 Development of parasitophorous vacuole 12
2.3.3. Modulation of macrophage effector functions 13
2.3.3.1. Leishmanicidal mechanisms 13
2.3.3.2 Impaired antigen presentation 13
2.3.3.2 Impaired cytokine production 14
2.3.3.4 Inhibition of macrophage apoptosis 14
2.3.3.5 Impaired signal transduction 15
2.3.3.6 Down regulation of gene expression 16
2.4 Target molecules of Leishmania parasite 16
2.4.1 Lipophosphoglycan 17
2.4.1.1 Structure 17
2.4.1.2 Functions 17
2.4.2 Glycoprotein 63 (gp63) 20
2.4.3 Proteophosphoglycans 21
2.4.4 Cysteine Proteinases 23
2.4.5 A-2 proteins 23
Chapter 3  MATERIALS AND METHODS 31-41

3.1 Materials 31
3.1.1 Parasite, Animals and Cell lines 31
3.1.2 Biochemicals and Immunochemicals 31

3.2 Methods 32
3.2.1 Parasite Culture 32
3.2.1.1 Promastigotes 32
3.2.1.2 Axenic amastigotes 33
3.2.2 Amastigote isolation and purification 33
3.2.2.1 Isolation of amastigotes from lesion and spleen. 33
3.2.2.2 Isolation of amastigotes from in vitro infected cells. 34
3.2.3 In-vitro infection of peritoneal macrophages 34
3.2.4 Membrane preparation 35
3.2.5 Generation of ascitic fluid and purification of mAbs. 35
3.2.6 Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) 36
3.2.7 Immunofluorescence assay (IFA) 37
3.2.8 Flow Cytometry 37
3.2.9 Sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis 38
3.2.10 Immunoblotting 38
3.2.11 Periodate oxidation 39
3.2.12 Preparation of infected tissue sections for IFA 39
3.2.13 Antibody mediated invasion inhibition 40
3.2.14 Antibody mediated inhibition of intracellular survival of Leishmania parasite.

Chapter 4  RESULTS 42-55

4.1 In vitro and in vivo infection models of L. donovani 42
4.1.1 In vitro infection model 42
4.2.2 In vivo infection with L. donovani.
4.2 Recognition of *L. donovani* infected macrophages and identification of membrane associated antigens by MAbs.

4.2.1 Recognition of *L. donovani* infected macrophages by MAbs.

4.2.2 Identification of infected macrophage membrane associated antigens.

4.2.3 Identification of *L. donovani* parasite secretory antigens

4.2.4 Origin of infected membrane antigens

4.2.5 Partial characterization of identified membrane associated antigens.

4.3 Recognition of *L. donovani* infected tissues and amastigotes.

4.3.1 Recognition of parasites/antigens in the infected tissues

4.3.2 Recognition of isolated amastigotes

4.3.3 Comparison of antigenic determinants in, tissue-derived, axenic and in *vitro* cell derived amastigotes

4.4 Inhibition of intracellular growth by MAbs

4.5 Cross-reactivity of the MAbs

Chapter 5 DISCUSSION

Chapter 6 SUMMARY

BIBLIOGRAPHY