

# Activity of SASPase in Stratum Corneum and Aging of Skin

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The epidermis layer of the skin is composed of basal, spinous, granular, and cornified cell layers. Skin aspartic protease (SASPase) is expressed primarily in the granular layer of human and mouse stratified epithelia. In a previous report, we used high throughput *in situ* hybridization screening to identify the mouse homolog of SASPase. We recently reported that SASPase-deficient hairless adult mice showed characteristic dry-skin like phenotype. In this study, we analyzed the relationship between the mode of activation of SASPase and the aging of skin. In addition, we identified profilaggrin, as one of endogenous substrates of SASPase. Profilaggrin processing activity by SASPase would be an important hallmark of aging of skin.

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