

## Table of Contents

<b>ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>10-25</b>
1.1 The Endothelin System.....	10
1.1.1 Endothelin peptides.....	10
1.1.2 The Endothelin receptors.....	11-13
1.1.3 Tissue distribution of ET and its receptors.....	14-16
1.1.4 Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells .....	17-18
1.1.5 Physiological role of endothelin in the vasculature .....	18
1.1.6 Plasma levels of endothelins.....	19-20
1.2 Pathophysiological role of endothelin in vasculature.....	20
1.2.1 Human hypertension .....	20-21
1.2.2 Endothelin in animal models of hypertension.....	21-23
1.3 Vascular interactions of the Endothelin receptors.....	23
1.4 Transgenic animal models.....	24
1.4.1 Transgenic technology.....	24
1.4.2 Transgenic model of the human endothelin receptor.....	24-25
1.4.2 Transgenic models of endothelin-1 and of endothelin-2.....	25
<b>AIMS OF THIS DISSERTATION.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2 MATERIALS AND METHODS.....</b>	<b>27-43</b>
2.1 Materials.....	27
2.1.1 Chemicals and kits.....	27-29
2.1.2 Solutions and buffers.....	29-31
2.1.3 Technical equipments and instruments.....	31-33
2.1.4 Software.....	33
2.1.5 Animals.....	34
2.2 Methods.....	34
2.2.1 Generation of transgenic rats.....	34
2.2.2 Genotype analysis .....	34-35
2.2.3 Hemodynamic monitoring using radiotelemetry.....	35-36
2.2.4 <i>In vivo</i> hemodynamic measurements.....	36
2.2.5 Non-invasive blood pressure monitoring (tail vein plethysmography).....	37
2.2.6 Analysis of <i>ex vivo</i> mesenteric artery function.....	37-39
2.2.7 Histologic analysis of arteries.....	39-40

2.2.8 Carotid artery balloon Injury .....	40
2.2.9 Membrane preparation for receptor binding analysis.....	40-41
2.2.10 Saturation binding analysis.....	41
2.2.11 Isolation of RNA .....	41-42
2.2.12. Reverse transcription and polymerase chain reaction.....	42
2.2.13 Statistical analysis.....	42-43
<b>3 RESULTS.....</b>	<b>44-71</b>
3.1 Blood pressure.....	44
3.1.1 Noninvasive blood pressure measurements.....	44
3.1.2 Invasive blood pressure measurements.....	45
3.1.2.1 Radiotelemetric blood pressure analysis in L6351.....	45-46
3.1.2.2 Blood pressure analysis in pentobarbital-anesthetized rats.....	46-47
3.1.2.3 High blood pressure induction in young tg rats by S-ketamine/xylazine anesthesia.....	47-51
3.2 Analysis of <i>ex vivo</i> mesenteric artery function.....	52
3.2.1 Mesenteric artery contractile response to KCl.....	52-53
3.2.2 Mesenteric artery contractile response to ET-1.....	53-55
3.2.3 L6878 mesenteric artery contractile response to phenylephrine.....	55-56
3.2.4 L6351 mesenteric artery contractile response to TXA2 agonist.....	56
3.2.5 Endothelium-dependent and -independent vasodilatation.....	57-58
3.3. Analysis of <i>ex vivo</i> mesenteric artery function - Effect of S-ketamine/xylazine.....	58
3.3.1 Contractile response to KCl.....	58-59
3.3.2 Contractile response to ET-1 - Effect of S-ketamine/xylazine.....	59-60
3.3.3 Contractile response to phenylephrine - Effect of S-ketamine/xylazine.....	60-61
3.3.4 Contractile response to TXA2 agonist.....	61-62
3.3.5 Endothelium-independent vasodilatation - Effect of S-ketamine/xylazine.....	62-63
3.3.6 Vascular ET <sub>A</sub> and ET <sub>B</sub> receptor binding.....	63-65
3.4 Histomorphometric analysis.....	65
3.4.1 Morphometric analysis of histologic artery sections.....	65-67
3.4.2 Morphometric vessel wall analysis of isolated perfused mesenteric arteries.....	67-68
3.4.3 Heart weight.....	69
3.4.4 Morphometric analysis of kidney weight.....	69-70
3.5 Expression of the transgene was not induced by vascular injury.....	70-71
<b>4 DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>72-85</b>
4.1 Blood pressure phenotype of the transgenic lines.....	73-74
4.2 Blood pressure phenotype in L6351 under NO inhibition.....	74
4.3 Structural Phenotype.....	74-77

4.4 Heart and kidney morphology.....	77-78
4.5 Induction of acute hypertension in young transgenic rats by S-ketamine/xylazine anesthesia.....	78-80
4.6 Contractile responses of isolated perfused mesenteric arteries.....	80
4.6.1 Contractile response to KCl.....	80-81
4.6.2 Contractile response to ET-1.....	81-82
4.6.3 Contractile response to phenylephrine.....	82-83
4.6.4 Contractile response to U46619.....	83-84
4.7 Vasodilative mechanisms.....	84
4.8 Expression of the transgenic human ET <sub>A</sub> receptor was not induced by vascular injury.....	85
<b>5 SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>86-87</b>
<b>6 OUTLOOK.....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>89-109</b>
<b>CV.....</b>	<b>110-117</b>