catalyzed by different way among species. Higher eukaryotes, such as human, and some archaea use a single enzyme, AIR carboxylase (class II PurE). Other organisms such as plants, yeasts and prokaryotes use two enzymes, N^5- aminoimidazole ribonucleotide (N5-CAIR) synthetase (PurK) and CAIR mutase (class I PurE). N^5-CAIR synthetase converts AIR, ATP and bicarbonate to N5-CAIR, ADP, and Pi. Here, we determined crystal structures of PurK of *Aquifex aeolicus VF5*, *Thermus thermophilus* HB8 and *Sulfolobus tokodaii* strain7. The space group, maximum resolution and *R*-value (free *R*-value) for each structure is as follows: *A. aeolicus* (2Z04), $P1$, 2.35 Å, 23.2% (26.2%), *T. thermophilus*, $P4_1$, 2.51 Å, 23.2% (28.2%) and *S. tokodaii*, $P6_3$, 2.00 Å, 19.4% (22.8%). The structures for *T. thermophilus* and *S. tokdaii* were solved as complex with AMPPNP. We compared these three structures and *E. coli* structure, which has already been determined [1], to each other. These four PurK share similar overall structure, including dimer conformation, and consist of three domains, A, B, and C. However, PurK of *A. aeolicus*, *T. thermophilus* and *S. tokodaii* have extra α-helix and β-sheet in A-domain compared with that of *E. coli* and it is possible that this extra α-helix and β-sheet are responsible for thermostability of these proteins.

[1]Thoden, J.B., Kappock, T.J., Stubbe, J., and Holden H.M. Biochemistry, 38, 15480-15492 (1999)

Keywords: nucleoside metabolism, N5-CAIR synthetase, thermophilic proteins

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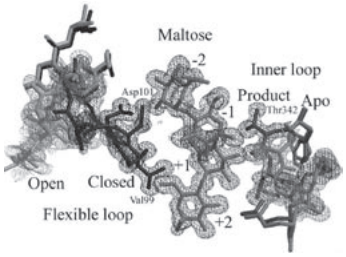
Structural titration of two mobile loops in trigonal soybean β-amylase crystal with maltose

Bunzo Mikami, Aiko Tanabe, Youna Kang, Shigeru Utsumi
Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Division of Applied Life Science, Gokasho, Uji, Kyoto, 611-0011, Japan, E-mail：mikami@kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Soybean β-amylase has two mobile loops in the active site, a flexible loop (residue 96-103) and an inner loop (residues 340-346). The flexible loop moves about 11 Å from open to closed form to make interactions with substrate. Though the movement is relatively small (about 3 Å), two different conformations of the inner loop (apo and product forms) have been found. In the trigonal β-amylase crystal, these two loops can move without symmetry interactions. In order to elucidate the relationship between the structural states of these loops and the catalytic mechanism, the structures of the wild and mutant (D101E and D101N) soybean β-amylases were refined in the different maltose concentration (0-200 mM) at 1.0-1.5 Å resolutions with SHELXL. The refined structures of wild enzyme showed that the conformational changes of the flexible and inner loops correspond to the binding of maltose at subsites +1 to +2 and -2 to -1, respectively. It was found that the flexible loop of the inactive mutants moved abnormally without maltose binding to subsites -2 to -1. These results were in good agreement with the solution experiments of the enzyme.



Keywords: beta-amylase, enzymatic structure-activity relationships, enzyme ligand complexes

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The structure of the exo-arabinanase complex with arabinobiose

Yuri Sogebe, Takayoshi Kinoshita, Asako Yamaguchi, Tatsuji Sakamoto, Toshiji Tada
Osaka Prefecture Univeresity, Graduate School of Science, 1-1 Gakuen-cho, Naka-ku, Sakai, Osaka, 599-8531, Japan, E-mail：sogabe06@b.s.osakafu-u.ac.jp

Penicillium chrysogenum exo-arabinanase (Abnx) hydrolyzes the α-1,5-L-arabinofuranoside linkage of arabinan which is widely distributed in plant walls. The crystal structures of three arabinanases have revealed that the enzymes have a common unique fold consisting of five β-sheets, each of which is made up of four antiparallel β-strands. However, Abnx has a completely different primary structure from other arabinanses so far isolated. We have initiated an X-ray structure analysis of Abnx to clarify the three-dimensional structure and molecular mechanisms of the novel enzyme. The recombinant Abnx was expressed in *E.coli*. The purified enzyme was crystallized by 1.8 M MPD as a precipitant using the hanging-drop vapor diffusion method. The crystal of Abnx complexed with arabinobiose was obtained by soaking method and diffracted up to 1.04 Å resolution using synchrotoron radiation at PF. The crystal belong to $P2_12_12_1$ with unit cell parameters of a = 67.0, b = 77.1 and c = 79.6 Å. The structure of the complex was solved by the molecular replacement. The enzyme forms six-bladed β-propeller fold. Arabinobiose is located in the cleft formed across one face of the propeller. The center of the cleft is surrounded by three acidic residues, Glu42, Glu152 and Glu224, which are estimated to be active residues of Abnx.

Keywords: exo-arabinanase, complex, arabinobiose

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Crystallization and preliminary X-ray analysis of D-arabinose isomerase from *Bacillus pallidus*

Kosei Takeda[1,2], Hiromi Yoshida[1], Goro Takada[2], Ken Izumori[2], Shigehiro Kamitori[1]
[1]Kagawa University, Life Science Research Center, 1750-1, Ikenobe, Miki-cho, Kita-gun, Kagawa, 761-0793, Japan, [2]Kagawa University, Rare Sugar Research Center, 2393, Ikenobe, Miki-cho, Kita-gun, Kagawa 761-0795, Japan, E-mail：k_hornet0711@hotmail.com

Rare sugars are referred to as sugars which exist in an extremely scanty amount in nature and they have significance not only in food industries but also pharmaceutical industries. *Bacillus pallidus* D-arabinose isomerase (B. pallidus D-AI) can catalyze the isomerization between rare sugars, D-arabinose and D-ribulose. B. pallidus D-AI has a broad substrate specificity and it can also catalyze various sugar conversions. Therefore, it is very useful for the production of rare sugars from natural sugars. Recombinant *B. pallidus* D-AI was successfully overexpressed using Escherichia coli and purified. Crystals of B. pallidus D-AI were grown by the vapor diffusion method using a protein solution (10 mg/ml *B. pallidus* D-AI in 10 mM HEPES (pH 8.0)) and a reservoir solution (20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol 3,000, 100 mM citrate buffer (pH 6.0), 1 M potassium sodium tartrate). X-ray diffraction data were collected on the BL-5A beam line in the Photon Factory (Tsukuba, Japan) at a resolution of 2.3 Å. The initial phases were successfully determined by molecular replacement method using the structure of E. coli L-fucose isomerase (PDB code: 1FUI).