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## HOMOLOGY MODELING AND STRUCTURAL STUDIES OF CWP- FMN-REDUCTASE FROM NEUROSPORA CRASSA

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cell wall encompasses the cells of all fungi. Walls are composites of an assortment of parts. Commonly, the wall contains fibrillar materials bound together by sugars, proteins, lipids and an assortment of polysaccharides. While the fibrillar material of the cell wall is to great extent inactive, the structure of the cell wall changes with time. The practical segments are vital in supplement transport, digestion system of non-porous substrates, correspondence, and cell wall alterations. **Methods:** The stereo chemical quality of the protein model was checked by using insilico analysis with PROCHECK and QMEAN servers. The metal binding sites were determined by CHED. **Results:** In this paper the protein with 4 metal binding sites shows highest metal binding probability for the metal namely calcium in sites 1, 2 & 3 with the metal probability of 0.398702, **0.627722 and 0.627722;** magnesium in site 4 with the probability of 0.571190 were showed. The 97.8% residue in the core region of Ramachandran plot showing high accuracy of protein model and the QMEAN Z-score of -2.69 indicates the overall model quality of protein. **Conclusions:** The result of the study may be a guiding point for further investigations on **Flavo protein** and metal binding sites.

**KEYWORDS:** Flavo Protein, Cell Binding Protein, *Neurospora Crassa*, Homology Modeling, Metal Binding Sites.

## INTRODUCTION

The unbending cell mass of organisms is a stratified structure comprising of chitinous microfibrils installed in a framework of little polysaccharides, proteins, lipids, inorganic salts, and shades that gives skeletal support and shape to the encased protoplast. Chitin is a  $(\beta 1-4)$  connected polymer of N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (GlcNAc). It is created in the cytosol by the exchange of GlcNAc from uridine diphosphate GlcNAc into chains of chitin by chitin synthetase, which is situated in the cytosol in organelles called chitosomes. The chitin microfibrils are transported to the plasmalemma and along these lines incorporated into the new cell wall.<sup>[1]</sup> The dynamic type of the purged catalyst has all the earmarks of being a dimer comprising of two 33-kDa subunits with noncovalently bound FMN as a cofactor. Hypotonic treatment of mitochondria uncovered that the NADH dehydrogenase is situated in the inward film/grid part confronting the lattice.<sup>[2]</sup> FMN domain, ferredoxins or cytochrome b5 serve as the electron transport halfway between the FAD space and P450. The atomic advancement of both P450-containing frameworks and of every specific part does not take after phylogeny when all is said in done. Quality combination and flat quality exchange occasions can prompt to the presence of novel redox chains in a similar way that fake chimeric proteins can be built by human.<sup>[3]</sup>  $Mg^{2+}$  is crucial to all growths. It is a cofactor in enzymatic responses, settles the plasma layer, and its take-up is ATP subordinate. Fe is additionally fundamental to all fungi and it's a piece of the structure of cytochrome and cytochrome oxidase. Just hints of Zn, Mo, Mn, Cu and S were identified. Ca<sup>2+</sup> can assume a roundabout part in fungi development byaltering inward Ca<sup>2+</sup> which controls the cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> angle, vesicle relocation to the tip and the movement of contagious proteins required in cell wall extension.<sup>[4]</sup> The outflow of a few proteins is connected with the morphological development type of the organism and may assume a part in morphogenesis. At last, surface mannoproteins are solid immunogens that trigger and tweak the host insusceptible reaction.<sup>[5]</sup>

#### **METHODS**

**2D gel analysis of cell wall proteins:** It is a proteomic examination approach, in light of two dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis was utilized to recognize and portray the cell wall related proteins.

**BLAST P, multiple sequence alignment and phylogenetic tree construction:** The amino acid sequence of Flavoprotein, obtained by MALDI-TOF/MS analysis of flavor protein kinase isolated from the cell

walls of *Neurosporca crassa*. The protein sequences are scanned by using the BLAST P algorithm we can obtain the homologous protein sequences from the available protein sequences of various organisms. Template search with Blast and HHBlits has been performed against the SWISS-MODEL template library. Overall 754 templates were found (Table 1a). The target sequence was searched with BLAST against the primary amino acid sequence contained in the SMTL.<sup>[6]</sup> Models are built based on the target-template alignment using ProMod3. Coordinates which are conserved between the target and the template are copied from the template to the model. Insertions and deletions are remodeled using a fragment library. Side chains are then rebuilt. Finally, the geometry of the resulting model is regularized by using a force field. In case loop modelling with ProMod3 fails, an alternative model is built with PROMOD-II<sup>[7]</sup> or MODELLER<sup>[8]</sup> in case of reoccurring failure. Phylogenetic tree was then constructed using phylogeny.fr (http://www.phylogeny.fr/) to determine the evolutionary relationships.<sup>[9-10]</sup>

**Secondary structure prediction:** Secondary structure of FMN\_ red family protein was predicted using SOPMA (https://npsa-prabi.ibcp.fr/cgi-

bin/npsa\_automat.pl?page=npsa\_sopma.html) tool in Expasy.

**Homology modeling:** The sequence of Flavoprotein was downloaded from the universal protein resource<sup>[11]</sup> (Uniprot KB) (http://www.uniprot.org/) (entry ID: F7VLA6). The suitable template for homology modeling was identified through searching Flavoprotein on PDB using the BLAST P algorithm.<sup>[12]</sup> The 3D structure of Flavoprotein was downloaded from PDB (PDB ID: 3b6k.1.A) as the template structure.

**Model validation:** The quality of the homology model was validated by assessing the stereo chemical quality of the model using Ramachandran plot obtained from the RAMPAGE

(http://mordred.bioc.cam.ac.uk/~rapper/rampage.php) server.<sup>[13]</sup> Verify 3D<sup>[14]</sup> and ERRAT<sup>[15]</sup> were used to assess the amino acid environment from the UCLA-DOE server (http://www.doe-mbi.ucla.edu/services).

**Metal binding sites:** Metalloproteins account for almost half of all proteins in biology. Protein metallic-binding sites are liable for catalyzing probably the most difficult and but important functions, including photosynthesis, respiration, water oxidation, molecular oxygen reduction, and nitrogen fixation. In this paper the protein shows highest metal binding probability for metal namely calcium & magnesium (Table 3).

**Model Quality Estimation:** The global and per-residue model quality has been assessed using the QMEAN scoring function.<sup>[16]</sup> For improved performance, weights of the individual QMEAN terms have been trained specifically for SWISS-MODEL.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** 2D gel analysis of cell wall proteins



Fig. 1: 2D gel analysis showing protein under study.

Scanning of protein sequence databases using BLAST P with the sequence obtained by MALDI-TOF/MS analysis of the purified lipase revealed that the protein is a hypothetical protein from Flavoprotein with an entry ID: F7VLA6 was shown in (Fig. 2). A phylogram constructed based on multiple sequence alignment using phylogeny.fr revealed that FMN\_reductase was closely related to a conserved hypothetical protein from *Sordaria macrospora* was shown in (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2: Search for the Flavoprotein sequence in UNIPORT KB revealed that the sequence is FMN\_reductase protein from *Sordaria macrospora*.



Fig. 3: Α phylogenetic tree of Flavoprotein, constructed using phylogeny.fr showing that Flavoprotein is closely related to Sordaria macrospora.

Secondary structure of the target protein was predicted by using SOPMA tool in Expasy (Fig.4). The results indicate that FMN\_reductase has 40.49%,  $\alpha$ -helix thus making it stable for homology modeling.<sup>[17]</sup>





Fig. 4: (a-b) secondary structure of Flavoprotein (a) Sequence length: 205; Alpha helix (Hh): 83 is 40.49%, Extended strand (Ee): 32 is 15.61%, Beta turn (Tt): 24 is 11.71%, Random coil (Cc): 66 is 32.20% and (b) Distribution of Secondary structure elements of Flavoprotein. Blue line-Alpha Helix, Red-Extended strand, Green-beta turn, Orange-random coil.

Table. 1.

Template	Seq Identity	Oligo-state	Found by	Meth od	Resoluti on	Seq Similarity	Coverage	Description
3b6k.1.A	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.99Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein wrbA
5f12.1.B	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.50Å	0.44	0.95	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)
3b6k.1.A	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.99Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein wrbA
3b6m.1.A	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.85Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein wrbA
2r97.1.A	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	2.00Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein WrbA
2r97.1.B	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	2.00Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein WrbA
2rg1.1.A	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.85Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein WrbA
2rg1.1.B	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.85Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein WrbA
4dy4.1.A	50.26	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.20Å	0.44	0.95	Flavoprotein wrbA
3b6m.1.A	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.85Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein wrbA
2r97.1.A	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.00Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein WrbA
2r97.1.B	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.00Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein WrbA
2rg1.1.A	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.85Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein WrbA
2rg1.1.B	47.72	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.85Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein WrbA
4la4.1.A	44.28	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.07Å	0.41	0.98	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)
4laf.1.D	44.28	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.76Å	0.41	0.98	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)
4dy4.1.A	47.96	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.20Å	0.43	0.96	Flavoprotein wrbA
5f12.1.B	47.96	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.50Å	0.43	0.96	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)
4la4.1.A	44.00	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	2.07Å	0.41	0.98	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)

The first step in homology modeling involves identification of a suitable template. This was met by performing a BLAST P search against known protein structures deposited in PDB. The investigations of Rost<sup>[18]</sup> and Yang and Honig<sup>[19]</sup> proved that 3D structures will be similar if the sequence identity between target and template proteins is higher than 25%. Generally, a target which shares a sequence similarity of 30% or more to an experimentally solved protein structure (template) can only be employed for homology modeling. The crystal structure of Flavoprotein (3b6k.1.A) with a sequence identity of 47.72% to the target sequence was selected based on BLAST P search against PDB database (Table 1a). Overall 754 templates were found (Table 1a). The sequence alignment between the template (3b6k.1.A) and the target was shown in (Fig.5a).

#### Table.1 and Fig. 5

BLAST P search against PDB and Target-Template alignment, (a) BLAST results of target sequence of FMN\_reductase against PDB for the identification of template for homology modeling and (b) Alignment between target (FMN\_reductase) and template Flavoprotein (3b6k.1.A) (Fig.6) Overall 754 templates were found.

4laf.1.D	44.00	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	1.76Å	0.41	0.98	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)			
5f4b.1.A	39.70	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.50Å	0.40	0.97	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone			
5f51.1.A	39.70	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.53Å	0.40	0.97	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone			
5f4b.1.A	41.62	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	2.50Å	0.40	0.96	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinon			
5f51.1.A	41.62	homo-tetramer	BLAST	X-ray	2.53Å	0.40	0.96	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase (quinone)			
4c76.1.A	11.11	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.96Å	0.25	0.83	FMN REDUCTASE (NADPH)			
1czr.1.A	16.56	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.90Å	0.29	0.80	FLAVODOXIN			
1yob.1.A	20.25	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.25Å	0.29	0.80	Flavodoxin 2			
1yob.2.A	20.25	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.25Å	0.29	0.80	Flavodoxin 2			
2gsw.1.A	11.18	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.92Å	0.25	0.83	yhdA			
20ys.1.A	14.46	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.00Å	0.27	0.81	Hypothetical protein SP1951			
1sqs.1.B	14.46	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	1.50Å	0.27	0.81	conserved hypothetical protein			
1sqs.1.A	14.46	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	1.50Å	0.27	0.81	conserved hypothetical protein			
1czk.1.A	16.67	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.90Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
10bo.1.A	16.05	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.20Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
1d04.1.A	15.34	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.85Å	0.28	0.80	FLAVODOXIN			
1ftg.1.A	15.43	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.00Å	0.28	0.79	APOFLAVODOXIN			
1d03.1.A	16.05	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.85Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
2v5u.1.A	15.43	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.99Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
3eyw.1.B	18.99	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.40Å	0.30	0.77	regulated potassium-efflux system protein kefC fused to full length Glutathione-regulated potassium- efflux system ancillary protein kefF			
3eyw.1.A	18.99	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.40Å	0.30	0.77	C-terminal domain of Glutathione- regulated potassium-efflux system protein kefC fused to full length Glutathione-regulated potassium- efflux system ancillary protein kefF			
319x.1.A	18.99	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.10Å	0.30	0.77	Glutathione-regulated potassium- efflux system protein kefC, linker, ancillary protein kefF			
1dx9.1.A	14.81	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.05A	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
1dx9.2.A	14.81	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.05Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
1dx9.3.A	14.81	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.05Å	0.28	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
1nni.1.A	10.71	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	2.50Å	0.25	0.82	hypothetical protein yhda			
3gfq.1.A	11.38	homo-dimer	HHblits	X-ray	3.00Å	0.25	0.81	FMN-dependent NADPH- azoreductase			
3esx.1.A	15.53	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.31Å	0.28	0.79	Flavodoxin			
3esx.2.A	15.53	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.31Å	0.28	0.79	Flavodoxin			
3esy.1.A	14.20	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	2.39Å	0.28	0.79	Flavodoxin			
3gfs.1.A	11.38	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	2.11Å	0.25	0.81	FMN-dependent NADPH- azoreductase			
3esz.1.A	14.20	monomer	HHblits	X-ray	1.94Å	0.27	0.79	FLAVODOXIN			
1rli.1.C	15.76	homo-tetramer	HHblits	X-ray	1.80Å	0.26	0.80	Trp Repressor Binding Protein			



Fig. 5a.



Fig. 6: Target-Template Alignment showed overall 754 templates out of them the selected templates of family Flavoprotein (3b6k.1.A) were used to build this model.



Fig. 7: Modeled protein image.

The stereo chemical quality of the 3D model (Fig.7) was validated by Ramachandran plot using RAMPAGE server. **Fig.8a** and **Table 2** shows that around 2.2% residues were present in the allowed regions and 97.8% residues in the favored region indicating that the quality of the model was good.



Table. 2: Ramachandran plot statistics.

Amino acid residues and regions (%)	Percentage			
Residues in most favored regions [A,B,L]	97.8%			
Residues in the allowed [a,b,l,p]	2.2%			
Residues in the outlier regions	0%			

Ramachandran Plot statistics for FMN\_reductase homology model using RAMPAGE server

The quality of estimated model is based on the QMEAN scoring function were normalized with respect to the number of interactions.<sup>[20]</sup> The QMEAN score of the model was 0.59 and the Z-score was -2.69, which was very close to the value of 0 and this shows the fine quality of the model, because the estimated reliability of the model was expected to be in between 0 and 1 and this could be inferred from the density plot for QMEAN scores of the reference set<sup>[21-22]</sup> (**Fig.9A**). A comparison

between normalized QMEAN score (0.40) and protein size in non-redundant set of PDB structures in the plot revealed different set of Z-values for different parameters such as C-beta interactions (-1.43), interactions between all atoms (-2.33), solvation (-2.94), torsion (0.71) (**Fig.9B**).





Fig.9: (A) The density plot for QMEAN showing the value of Z-score and QMEAN score (B) plot showing the QMEAN value as well as Z-score.

Metalloproteins are proteins capable of binding one or more metal ions, which may be required for their biological function, for regulation of their activities or for structural purposes. Metal-binding properties remain difficult to predict as well as to investigate experimentally whole-proteome level. at the Consequently, the current knowledge about metalloproteins is only partial. In this paper the protein with 4 metal binding sites shows highest metal binding probability for the metal namely calcium in sites 1,2 & 3 with the metal probability of 0.398702, 0.627722 and **0.627722**; magnesium in site 4 with the probability of 0.571190 were showed in (Table 3).

Duotoin	Metal	Metal binding probability									Metal Binding Pockets	
FIOtem	Sites	CA	СО	CU	FE	MG	MN	NI	ZN	Amino acids	Position	
Cell wall protein FMN- Reductase from N.crassa	Site-1	0.39870 2	0.01387 7	0.01665 2	0.34527 7	0.058975	0.03989 5	0.00797 9	0.11864	Y*	83	
										G*	84	
										N	85	
										G	122	
										G	123	
	Site-2	0.62772	0.01675	0.02010	0.06323	0.071190		815 0.00963 1	0.14321 6	S	172	
							0.04815 7			P*	180	
										E*	184	
										L	185	
	Site-3	Site-3 0.62772 2	0.01675	0.02010	$\begin{array}{c c} 02010 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{array} \qquad 0.06323 \\ 3 \\ \end{array}$	0.071190	0.04815 7	0.00963 1	0.14321 6	A*	67	
			1	1						K*	70	
										E*	71	
	Site-4	Site-4 0.12772 0.0		0.02010 1	0.06323 3	0.571190	0.04815 0.00 7 1		0.14321 6	D*	65	
			0.01675					0.00963		Α	67	
			1					1		Ι	68	
										E*	71	

#### **Table 3: Metal Binding Sites.**

## CONCLUSION

Communicable cell wall comprises of complex fibrillar material inserted in polysaccharide and different complexes, and utilitarian multi-functional proteins and glycoproteins. The cell wall might be highly protective, or generally exposed to the environment, as a result of different constituents in the signaling system. The cell membrane further permits the cell to communicate with the environment, empowering production, identification and assembling the cell constituents in a proper manner.

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