

Mechanism of inhibition of bovine F_1 -ATPase by resveratrol and related polyphenols

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The structures of F_1 -ATPase from bovine heart mitochondria inhibited with the dietary phytopolyphenol, resveratrol, and with the related polyphenols quercetin and piceatannol have been determined at 2.3-, 2.4- and 2.7-Å resolution, respectively. The inhibitors bind to a common site in the inside surface of an annulus made from loops in the three α - and three β -subunits beneath the “crown” of β -strands in their N-terminal domains. This region of F_1 -ATPase forms a bearing to allow the rotation of the tip of the γ -subunit inside the annulus during catalysis. The binding site is a hydrophobic pocket between the C-terminal tip of the γ -subunit and the β_{TP} subunit, and the inhibitors are bound via H-bonds mostly to their hydroxyl moieties mediated by bound water molecules and by hydrophobic interactions. There are no equivalent sites between the γ -subunit and either the β_{DP} or the β_E subunit. The inhibitors probably prevent both the synthetic and hydrolytic activities of the enzyme by blocking both senses of rotation of the γ -subunit. The beneficial effects of dietary resveratrol may derive in part by preventing mitochondrial ATP synthesis in tumor cells, thereby inducing apoptosis.

mitochondria | oxidative phosphorylation | rotary mechanism | crystal structure

A range of beneficial effects has been attributed to the ingestion of the phytopolyphenol resveratrol (trans-3,4',5-trihydroxystilbene) found in grapes, peanuts, berries, and various medicinal plants and to related polyphenols. They include protection against cardiovascular disease, ischemia, osteoporosis, cancer, and aging by means of mechanisms that include removal of reactive oxygen species, inhibition of mitosis and inflammation, and estrogen mimicry (1–10).

One of the many *in vitro* biochemical effects of resveratrol is to inhibit ATP hydrolysis and synthesis by the ATP synthase (F_1F_0 -ATPase) found in mitochondria (11), as do the related natural products quercetin and piceatannol (12–14). Also, they inhibit ATP hydrolysis by its separate F_1 catalytic domain (15). The ATP synthase is a multisubunit assembly found in the inner membrane of the organelle. It is composed of the F_1 catalytic domain (subunit composition $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_1\delta_1\epsilon_1$) attached by central (16) and peripheral stalks (17, 18) to a membrane-embedded proton-translocating domain known as F_0 (19–21). The synthesis of ATP from ADP and phosphate is coupled by a mechanical rotary mechanism to a transmembrane proton-motive force generated by oxidative metabolism. This mechanism is driven by the passage of protons from the intermembrane space to the mitochondrial matrix, which impels the rotation of a ring of hydrophobic c-subunits in the F_0 domain and the attached central stalk (subunits γ , δ , and ϵ) (22, 23). The rotating central stalk penetrates into the F_1 domain through an asymmetrical α -helical coiled-coil in the γ -subunit, around which the three α - and the three β -subunits are arranged alternately (24, 25). The three catalytic sites of the enzyme, formed mainly from residues in the nucleotide-binding domains of the β -subunits, have different conformations and different affinities for nucleotides imposed by the asymmetry of the central stalk. Two catalytic subunits, known as β_{DP} and β_{TP} , bind either ATP (or nonhy-

drolyzable analogues) or ADP, but the binding to the β_{DP} site is stronger, and it is likely that catalysis occurs at this site and not at the β_{TP} site (25, 26). The third catalytic subunit, known as β_E , is forced by the curvature of the central stalk into an “open” or “empty” conformation, which has little or no affinity for nucleotide. During ATP synthesis, the clockwise rotation of the central stalk (as viewed from the membrane) takes each catalytic site through a cycle of each of these three states, and each 360° rotation produces three ATP molecules (24). In the detergent purified F_1F_0 -ATPase uncoupled from the proton-motive force, or in the separate F_1 -ATPase domain, ATP hydrolysis energizes the rotation of the central stalk in the opposite sense to the synthetic direction of rotation (27–29).

The rotary mechanism of the mitochondrial F_1 -ATPase is inhibited by the binding of a range of natural products to various sites. Two molecules of the antibiotic aurovertin B bind simultaneously to equivalent sites in a cleft between the nucleotide-binding and C-terminal domains in both the β_E - and β_{TP} -subunits and appear to block catalysis by preventing closure of the catalytic interfaces (30). The efrapeptins bind in a site in the central cavity of the enzyme, thereby preventing the closure of the β_E subunit during the rotary cycle (31). The natural inhibitor protein IF_1 binds to a catalytic interface between the C-terminal domains of the β_{DP} - and α_{DP} -subunits and makes additional contacts with the γ -, β_{TP} -, and α_E -subunits (32). It blocks the rotary mechanism during ATP hydrolysis but not during ATP synthesis.

As described here, resveratrol, piceatannol, and quercetin (see Fig. 1) inhibit the rotary mechanism of F_1 -ATPase by binding to a fourth independent site involving the C-terminal tip of the γ -subunit, where the upper extremity of the central stalk fits into the hydrophobic annular sleeve of the “bearing” formed by loop regions below the “crown” made from β -strands in the N-terminal domains of the α - and β -subunits.

Results and Discussion

Structures of the F_1 -ATPase-Inhibitor Complexes. The structures of the F_1 -resveratrol, F_1 -quercetin and F_1 -piceatannol complexes were solved by molecular replacement using data to 2.3-, 2.4- and 2.7-Å resolution, respectively. The statistics for data processing and refinement are summarized in Table 1. The crystals of all three complexes belong to the space group $P2_1$, with two F_1

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Abbreviation: AMP-PNP, adenosine-5'-(β , γ -imino)triphosphate.

Data deposition: Coordinates and structure factors of the F_1 -resveratrol, F_1 -quercetin, and F_1 -piceatannol complexes were deposited in the Protein Data Bank, www.pdb.org (PDB ID codes 2jiz, 2jj2, and 2jj1, respectively).

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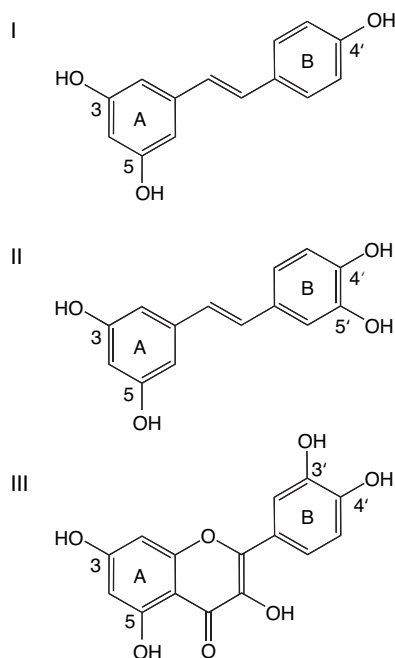


Fig. 1. Structures of polyphenol inhibitors of bovine F_1 -ATPase. (I) Resveratrol. (II) Piceatannol. (III) Quercetin.

complexes per crystallographic asymmetric unit, whereas all other crystals of bovine F_1 -ATPase that have been described belong to the space group $P2_12_12_1$, with one F_1 complex per asymmetric unit (16, 25, 26, 30, 31, 33–37). Crystals of yeast F_1 -ATPase also belong to the $P2_1$ space group, with three F_1 complexes per asymmetric unit (38, 39). In the resveratrol- F_1 , quercetin- F_1 , and piceatannol- F_1 structures, the two F_1 -ATPase complexes are virtually identical, with overall r.m.s. deviations in

$C\alpha$ positions of 0.09, 0.09, and 0.14 Å, respectively, and in the following text, no attempt has been made to distinguish between the two F_1 complexes in each structure. Each F_1 assembly in the refined resveratrol- F_1 structure consists of residues α_E 24–510, α_{TP} 23–401 and 410–510, α_{DP} 16–510, β_E 9–474, β_{TP} 9–474, β_{DP} 9–475, γ 1–47, 67–90, 105–116, 127–148, 159–173 and 201–272. In the refined quercetin- F_1 and piceatannol- F_1 structures, each F_1 structure contains residues α_E 24–510, α_{TP} 23–401 and 410–510, α_{DP} 16–510, β_E 9–474, β_{TP} 9–474, β_{DP} 9–475, γ 1–47, 72–89, 106–115, 129–140, 161–173, and 206–272. In all three structures, the electron density for the δ - and ϵ -subunits was too weak to allow them to be modeled.

The overall architectures of the three complexes are very similar to the “reference structure” of F_1 -ATPase (24) and to the majority of the structures of bovine F_1 -ATPase inhibited in various ways (25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33–37). The reference structure superimposes well with the resveratrol- F_1 , quercetin- F_1 and piceatannol- F_1 structures, with r.m.s. deviations in $C\alpha$ positions of 0.42, 0.51, and 0.44 Å, respectively. In all three inhibited complexes, an AMP-PNP molecule is bound to the β_{TP} -subunit and to all three α -subunits, ADP and azide are bound to the β_{DP} -subunit, and there is no nucleotide bound to the β_E -subunit. There is also electron density associated with the P-loops in the β_E -subunits, which was interpreted as a sulfate (or phosphate) ion as in other structures of bovine F_1 -ATPase.

The Inhibitor-Binding Site. The ($F_o - F_c$) difference electron density maps of resveratrol- F_1 , piceatannol- F_1 , and quercetin- F_1 each contained a region of positive electron density near to the C-terminal tip of the γ -subunit. The shapes of these regions of density agreed with the structures of the respective inhibitors, and they were built into the structural models [see supporting information (SI) Fig. 4]. The resveratrol and piceatannol molecules both have internal pseudosymmetry, and rotation about their long axes, and about axes orthogonal to them, produces views with similar shapes. One of these possible orientations of resveratrol fitted the initial positive ($F_o - F_c$) difference density

Table 1. Crystallographic data for bovine F_1 -ATPase complexed with various polyphenol inhibitors

	Resveratrol- F_1	Quercetin- F_1	Piceatannol- F_1
Space group	$P2_1$	$P2_1$	$P2_1$
Unit cell dimensions, Å (a, b, c)	106.8, 277.4, 137.8	106.4, 282.0, 138.1	107.0, 281.2, 138.8
Unit cell angles, ° (α, β, γ)	90.0, 90.2, 90.0	90.0, 90.4, 90.0	90.0, 89.6, 90.0
Resolution, Å	2.30	2.40	2.70
No. of unique reflections	299,020 (40,061)	297,401 (40,583)	201,334 (30,153)
$R_{\text{merge}},^*$ %	6.4 (23.6)	8.2 (40.3)	8.7 (34.9)
Completeness, [†] %	84.7 (77.5)	94.3 (88.1)	90.3 (92.5)
Multiplicity	1.4 (1.4)	2.1 (2.0)	1.4 (1.3)
$\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$	7.8 (2.1)	7.2 (2.3)	7.3 (1.9)
Wilson B factor, Å ²	38.6	40.5	54.2
Inhibitor atoms [‡]	34	44	36
Water molecules	3,847	2,202	1,113
Glycerol molecules	12	12	12
R factor, [§] %	16.0	18.8	20.2
$R_{\text{free}},^{\parallel}$ %	21.7	23.8	26.9
rms deviation bonds, Å	0.010	0.009	0.010
rms deviation angles, °	1.2	1.2	1.3

Values for the highest-resolution bins (2.42–2.30, 2.53–2.40, and 2.85–2.70 Å, respectively, for the resveratrol- F_1 , quercetin- F_1 , and piceatannol- F_1 complexes) are given in parentheses.

* $R_{\text{merge}} = \sum_{hkl} \sum_i (|I(hkl)| - I_i(hkl)) / \sum_{hkl} \sum_i I_i(hkl)$, where $\langle I(hkl) \rangle$ is the mean weighted intensity for multiple recorded reflections i after rejection of outliers. Measurements with intensities differing $>3.5 \sigma(I)$ from the weighted mean were rejected.

[†]The overall completeness for the resveratrol- F_1 data and piceatannol- F_1 data is slightly low because only 60° of data were collected.

[‡]Hydrogen atoms were excluded.

[§]The R factor is defined as $\sum_{hkl} |F_o(hkl) - F_c(hkl)| / \sum_{hkl} |F_o(hkl)|$, where F_o and F_c are the observed and calculated structure factor amplitudes, respectively, and was determined by using 95% of the data.

^{||}The free R factor is the R factor calculated for the residual 5% of the data set not included in the refinement.

pyran, guanidine, and benzodiazepines (69–71). Similarly, oligomycin, which inhibits F_1F_0 -ATPase through its F_0 domain, preserves ATP and protects against or postpones injury during ischemia (72). However, it is difficult to envisage how inhibition of mitochondrial F_1F_0 -ATPase by dietary resveratrol and related polyphenols could have a similar effect and so contribute to the cardiovascular protective effects associated with dietary polyphenols.

Another possible way in which inhibition of mitochondrial F_1F_0 -ATPase by dietary resveratrol might be beneficial is by induction of apoptosis selectively in tumor cells. Resveratrol induces cell death in tumor cells via pathways that depend on mitochondria (2, 73), and oligomycin, a specific inhibitor of mitochondrial F_1F_0 -ATPase, has similar effects (74), possibly by marking tumor cells for cell death by CD14, while allowing commitment to differentiation to occur in the surviving population (75). The benzodiazepine Bz-423 also inhibits the mitochondrial F_1F_0 -ATPase, possibly by binding to the oligomycin sensitivity-conferral protein, a component of the peripheral stalk. In mouse models of systemic lupus erythematosus, this drug suppresses autoimmunity by selective induction of apoptosis through inhibition of the F_1F_0 -ATPase in the disease-causing lymphocytes (76). Unlike other potent ATP synthase inhibitors such as efrapeptin and aurovertin, which are highly toxic, Bz-423 acts, not by significant depletion of ATP, but by converting the mitochondria from an actively respiring state (state 3) to resting respiration (state 4). This effect results in the production of reactive oxygen species, which triggers the apoptotic signal leading to cell death. Normal cells appear to be unaffected by the drug, but the autoimmune lymphocytes, which have altered mitochondrial bioenergetics, are sensitized to Bz-423-mediated inhibition of ATP synthase (77). Thus, it may be possible to exploit the altered bioenergetics of cancer cells in a similar way with inhibitors of ATP synthase, including resveratrol, quercetin, and piceatannol to target tumor cells selectively without affecting other cells.

Materials and Methods

Crystallization and Data Collection. Crystals of bovine F_1 -ATPase with maximum dimensions of ≈ 0.3 mm were grown by microdialysis, as described (37). An ethanolic solution of resveratrol or piceatannol (20 mM) or a 100 mM solution of quercetin in dimethyl sulfoxide was added to the outside solution [final concentrations: 1 mM resveratrol, 5% ethanol (vol/vol); 0.2 mM piceatannol, 1% ethanol (vol/vol); 5 mM quercetin; 5% dimethyl sulfoxide (vol/vol)], and the samples were kept in the dark for 2 days at 23°C. Then the crystals were cryoprotected by adding 5% (vol/vol) glycerol to the outside buffer, which contained 14.5% (wt/vol) polyethylene glycol 6000 and 1 mM resveratrol or 0.2 mM piceatannol or 5 mM quercetin. The concentration of glycerol was increased in 5% steps to 20% and then to 22% (vol/vol) with 30 min at each concentration. Crystals were

harvested with cryoloops, plunged into liquid nitrogen, and stored at 100 K. Diffraction data were collected at 100 K to 2.3-Å resolution for F_1 -resveratrol and 2.7-Å resolution for F_1 -piceatannol with a charge-coupled detector (Area Detector Systems, Poway, CA) Q4 on beamline ID14-2 ($\lambda = 0.933$ Å) at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Grenoble, France. Diffraction data for F_1 -quercetin were collected to 2.4-Å resolution under similar conditions on beamline ID14-1 ($\lambda = 0.934$ Å). They were processed with MOSFLM (78) and with programs from the Collaborative Computational Project Number 4 (CCP4) suite (79).

Structure Solution and Refinement. The structures were solved by molecular replacement with AMoRe (80). The starting model was the structure of F_1 -ATPase inhibited with ADP and beryllium fluoride ($\text{BeF}_3^-F_1$) (26) with water and glycerol molecules deleted from the model, and the BeF_3^- groups deleted from the β_{TP} - and β_{DP} -subunits. After rigid-body refinement with AMoRe, the R-factor and correlation coefficient for all data from 20.0- to 4.0-Å resolution were 28.2% and 77.6%, respectively, for the resveratrol- F_1 structure, 29.0% and 76.7% for the quercetin- F_1 structure, and 28.8% and 74.9% for the piceatannol- F_1 structure. Further refinement was carried out alternately with REFMAC5 (81) and manual rebuilding with O (82). Noncrystallographic symmetry restraints were applied during refinement of the two F_1 complexes in the asymmetric unit. The coordinates for resveratrol and quercetin were taken from the crystal structures of human quinone reductase 2 (PDB ID code 1SG0) (40), quercetin 2,3-dioxygenase (PDB ID code 1H11) (47), and flavanoid glucosyl transferase (PDB ID code 2C9Z) (45) and built into the structural models. The coordinates for piceatannol were derived from an energy-minimized model generated by PRODRG (83). The mean B-factor for resveratrol was 35 Å², and the surrounding residues had similar B-factors. Therefore, the occupancy for the resveratrol molecule was set at 100%. The γ -phosphates for bound AMP-PNP molecules were built into the structural model by using the coordinates from the reference structure (24). An azide ion was built into the β_{DP} -subunit.

For the calculations of the R_{free} value, 5% of the diffraction data were excluded from the refinement. The stereochemistry was assessed with PROCHECK (84). For resveratrol, quercetin, and piceatannol, respectively, 92%, 91.7%, and 89.9% of the residues were assigned to the most favored region of the Ramachandran plot, 7.8%, 8.2%, and 9.8% to allowed regions, and 0.2%, 0.1%, and 0.3% to generously allowed regions. There were no residues in disallowed regions. Figures were produced with PyMOL (85).

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