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# Characterization of PIGoxB, a Flavoprotein Required for Cysteine Tryptophylquinone Biosynthesis in Glycine Oxidase from *Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea*

Kyle J. Mamounis<sup>1</sup>, Zhongxin Ma<sup>1</sup>, Antonio Sanchez-Amat<sup>2</sup>, Victor L. Davidson<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL 32827 United States;

<sup>2</sup>Department of Genetics and Microbiology, University of Murcia, Murcia 30100, Spain

# Abstract

LodA-like proteins are oxidases with a protein-derived cysteine tryptophylquinone (CTQ) prosthetic group. In *Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea* glycine oxidase (PlGoxA), CTQ biosynthesis requires post-translational modifications catalyzed by a modifying enzyme encoded by *goxB*. The PlGoxB protein was expressed and shown to possess a flavin cofactor. PlGoxB was unstable in solution as it readily lost the flavin and precipitated. PlGoxB precipitation was significantly reduced by incubation with either excess FAD or an equal concentration of prePlGoxA, the precursor protein that is its substrate. In contrast, the mature CTQ-bearing GoxA had no stabilizing effect. A homology model of PlGoxB, was generated using the structure of Alkylhalidase CmIS. The FAD-binding site of PlGoxB had significant solvent exposure, consistent with the observed tendency to lose FAD. This also suggested that interaction of prePlGoxA with PlGoxB at the exposed FAD-binding site could prevent the observed loss of FAD and subsequent precipitation of PlGoxB. A docking model of the putative PlGoxB-prePlGoxA complex was consistent with these hypotheses. The experimental results and computational analysis implicate structural features of PlGoxB that contribute to its stability and function.

# Keywords

Flavin; flavoprotein; quinoprotein; protein-protein interaction

# Introduction

Quinoproteins are enzymes that utilize a quinone cofactor in the active site. The quinone species is either sourced exogenously, as with pyrroloquinoline quinone-dependent enzymes [1, 2], or produced endogenously through post-translational modifications of active site residues [2–4]. These modifications form redox-active catalytic species groups derived from tyrosine or tryptophan residues [5]. The protein-derived tryptophylquinone cofactors

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup>Corresponding authors: Victor L. Davidson, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida, 6900 Lake Nona Blvd., Orlando, FL 32827 Tel: 407-266-7111. Fax: 407-266-7002. victor.davidson@ucf.edu;.

described thus far are tryptophan tryptophylquinone (TTQ), which is present in amine dehydrogenases, and cysteine tryptophylquinone (CTQ), which is found in dehydrogenases and oxidases [6] (Figure 1). In each of these tryptophylquinone cofactors, two oxygens have been inserted into a tryptophan side-chain, which is also covalently linked to either another tryptophan or a cysteine side chain. These post-translational modifications are catalyzed by modifying enzymes that are encoded by genes in the same operon as the genes for the precursor proteins. The topic of this study is a modifying enzyme, PIGoxB, which is required for the post-translational modifications to form CTQ on a glycine oxidase from *Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea* CPMOR-2 (PIGoxA).

A family of CTQ-dependent oxidases has been designated LodA-like proteins, as the first one to be characterized was an L-lysine-e-oxidase (LodA) from the marine bacterium Marinomonas mediterranea [7, 8]. The second was a glycine oxidase from the same bacterium (MmGoxA) [9]. These CTQ-bearing oxidases are a class of enzymes distinct from other amino acid oxidases that utilize a flavin cofactor for catalysis. Phylogenetic analysis of LodA-like proteins described five different major groups, I-V, and subgroups [10]. LodA is in Group I and MmGoxA is in Group IIB. The post-translational modifications required for production of the mature active LodA-like proteins requires modifying enzymes specific for each protein, LodB [11, 12] and MmGoxB [13], respectively. Expression of *lodA* or MmgoxA alone, without the gene for the modifying enzyme, yielded an inactive precursor protein (preLodA or preMmGoxA) that lacks the quinone functional group [14]. Analysis by mass spectrometry revealed that these precursor protein did have a single hydroxyl group present on the tryptophan side chain, but no additional modifications [14]. This initial hydroxylation is thought to be an autocatalytic event requiring copper [15]. In fact, for all of the *lodA*-like genes that have been identified, a *lodB*-like gene is present in the same operon, usually downstream of the IodA-like gene [10]. Recombinant expression of only the Histagged *lodB* or MmgoxB gene from *M. mediterranea* did not yield any detectable protein. However, co-expression of *lodA* or MmgoxA with *lodB* or MmgoxB, respectively, did yield the mature enzymes [13, 16]. Thus, LodB and MmGoxB must be getting expressed in the system, and the lack of recovery of either LodB or MmGoxB when expressed alone is possibly due to rapid degradation of the protein. Furthermore, the expression of the inactive precursor proteins, preLodA and preMmGoxA, exhibited much lower yields when expressed alone, than the yields of the mature proteins that were expressed in the presence of their respective modifying enzyme. This suggests that the interaction between the proteins and the modifying enzymes may exert stabilizing effects on each other [13].

Recently, another LodA-like protein was characterized. It is a glycine oxidase from *Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea*, PlGoxA [17]. It was assigned to Group IID of the LodA-like proteins. In contrast to *M. mediterranea, P. luteoviolacea* only possesses this LodA-like protein and does not contain a LodA with L-lysine-e-oxidase activity. Again, expression of mature active PlGoxA requires co-expression of Pl*goxA* with Pl*goxB*. In contrast to what is describe above for LodB and MmGoxB, expression of Pl*goxB* alone did yield the PlGoxB protein, which possessed a flavin cofactor. While the protein was unstable and prone to precipitation, in this study it was possible to characterize some of its physical properties and identify factors that enhanced the stability of the protein. A homology model was also

constructed to provide insight into the structural features of PlGoxB that contribute to its stability and interaction with prePlGoxA.

# Materials and Methods

#### Expression and purification.

Mature PIGoxA [17] and preMmGoxA [13] were expressed in *E. coli* and purified as previously described. PIGoxB and prePIGoxA were expressed in *E. coli* Rosetta cells. In each case, cells were transformed with a pET15 plasmid containing the gene to be expressed with a hexa-histidine tag at the N-terminus. Cells were grown overnight at 30° C to an OD of 0.8, at which point they were induced with 1 mM IPTG for four hours at the same temperature. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and lysed through sonication in 50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, on ice. The cell lysate was centrifuged and the supernatant was applied to Ni-NTA affinity column. The column was washed with an imidazole gradient in the same buffer. PIGoxB and prePLGoxA eluted between 30 and 150 mM imidazole, with the majority of each protein eluting at about 60 mM.

#### Analytical techniques.

Purity and size of proteins was determined by SDS-PAGE and size exclusion chromatography using a HiPrep 16/60 column packed with Sephacryl S-300 HR collected in an ÄKTA Pure FPLC system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Pittsburgh PA, USA). Absorption spectra were recorded using an HP 8452 Diode Array spectrophotometer controlled with Olis Globalworks software (Olis, Bogart, GA). Protein precipitation studies were monitored by measurement of light scattering at 550 nm. These studies were performed 50 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, at 30 °C. Staining to identify the Histagged peptide of the cleaved prePlGoxA on SDS-PAGE was performed as follows. Postelectrophoresis, the gel was incubated for one h in three 100 mL exchanges of H<sub>2</sub>O. It was then incubated in 50 mL of 6xHis Protein Tag Stain (Thermo Scientific, Rockford IL, USA) for 5 min followed by incubation in H<sub>2</sub>O as before. This was followed by incubation in 50 mL of 6xHis Protein Tag Developer (Thermo Scientific) for 15 min. A third water incubation was performed, at which point the gel is exposed to 300 nm light to observe fluorescence from the His tag.

#### Homology modeling of GoxB.

Homology models of PlGoxB were generated using the Swiss-Model Homology modelling online software (swissmodel.expasy.org) [18]. Template searches with BLAST [19] and HHBlitts [20] were performed against the Swiss-Model template library which includes the PDB. A docking model was constructed with using the ZDOCK software and server (zdock.umassmed.edu) [21]. Figures were prepared using Pymol (https://www.pymol.org).

# Results

#### Physical and spectroscopic properties of PIGoxB.

The yield of PlGoxB from the recombinant expression system was approximately 3 mg per liter of cultured cells. However, after isolation the PlGoxB had limited stability and

precipitated over several minutes from solution. The pure PIGoxB yielded a single band on SDS-PAGE at a position consistent with the mass of the protein predicted from the sequence of 41.4 kDa (Figure 2A). When subjected to size exclusion chromatography, PIGoxB eluted in the void volume most likely to due to precipitation and aggregation that occurred during the procedure. Thus, the native molecular weight could not be determined. The absorbance spectrum of PIGoxB clearly showed the presence of flavin with two peaks at approximately 360 and 440 nm (Figure 2B). After the spontaneous precipitation of PIGoxB from solution followed by centrifugation, the pellet was white and the spectrum of the supernatant contained the flavin (Figure 2C), consistent with it being non-covalently bound.

The yield of prePlGoxA was approximately 1.5 mg per liter of cultured cells. When the protein was subjected to SDS-PAGE, two bands were observed at approximately 72 and 20 kDa. In contrast, mature PlGoxA migrates as a single band at the predicted mass of 91 kDa (Figure 2A). This result suggests the prePlGoxA may have been cleaved during expression or purification, but that the two segments remained tightly bound since they co-purified. The sum of the molecular weights of the two components of the isolated prePlGoxA are approximately equals the expected size of mature PlGoxA protein. Fluorescent His tag staining of the gel after SDS-PAGE indicated that the 72 kDa peptide was at the N-terminus and the smaller 20 kDa species was the C-terminal peptide. It is noteworthy that in previous studies [14], preLodA and preMmGox were isolated as intact proteins of the expected molecular weight with no evidence of cleavage.

#### Factors affecting the stability of PIGoxB.

The rate of precipitation of PlGoxB was monitored and quantitated by the rate of increase in absorbance at 550 nm due to light scattering. As stability of flavoproteins is often an issue, several different buffer conditions were tested for enhancement of stability. TRIS and HEPES buffer were used as an alternative to potassium phosphate. Values of pH from 6.5 to 9.0 were tested. Addition of up to 300 mM NaCl or 12% glycerol were examined. None of these modifications to the buffer significantly reduced the rate of precipitation. As the flavin detached from the protein during this process, the effects of added FAD and FMN to the solution on the rate of precipitation were examined (Figure 3A). The presence of FAD significantly retarded the rate of precipitation of PlGoxB. In contrast, addition of FMN had no effect. This is consistent with FAD being the flavin cofactor for PlGoxB. This result also suggests that loss of FAD is the initial step in the precipitation process, and that after loss of FAD the apoPlGoxB molecules then precipitate.

Since PIGoxB must interact with prePIGoxA *in vivo*, the effect of addition of prePIGoxA on the rate of precipitation of PIGoxB was examined. The presence of prePIGoxA significantly reduced the rate of precipitation of PIGoxB (Figure 3B). In contrast, addition of mature PIGoxA did not stabilize the PIGoxB. The precursor protein of MmGoxA was also tested and incubation with the preMmGoxA significantly reduced the rate of precipitation. As a control two unrelated proteins, albumin and thioredoxin, were added to the solution and these did not significantly decrease the rate of precipitation of PIGoxB (data not shown). Thus, the stabilizing effect is specific for the protein precursors of GoxA.

#### Homology modeling.

Homology modelling was performed with the Swiss-Model Homology online software [22]. The software scanned the PDB data base and filtered 3140 templates. Table 1 displays the four templates with the highest QMEAN Z-scores. The QMEAN Z-score [23] provides an estimate of the quality of the structural model. Scores around zero indicate good agreement between the model structure and experimental structures of similar size, and scores below -4.0 are considered low quality. These were the only four models that scored higher than -4.0. The highest scoring template, Alkylhalidase CmIS [24], is a much larger protein, having 566 residues compared to 358 for PIGoxB, so the agreement is actually higher for the overlapping portions than the score indicates.

The homology model of GoxB is superimposed with the structure of Alkylhalidase CmlS in Figure 4A. The FAD ligand was not present in the GoxB model. As such, the FAD from the Alkylhalidase CmlS structure was introduced into the GoxB model at the same position. The major distinction in the overall structures of GoxB and Alkylhalidase CmlS is the unusual C-terminal domain of Alkylhalidase CmlS that extends from the domain, which is highly similar to that in PlGoxB (Figure 4B). The homologous domains contain several  $\alpha$ -helices and  $\beta$ -sheets that overlay nicely (Figure 4 C and D).

In each structure, the interactions of the host protein are primarily with the tail of the FAD cofactor (Figure 5). There are few stabilizing interactions between the proteins and the isoalloxazine ring of the flavin. However, in each interaction with a Ser residue is common. Several residues in the two proteins that interact with the FAD are conserved or have similar functional groups. In Figure 5 the residues of Alkylhalidase CmIS that are with 3Å of FAD are shown with the corresponding residues in the PlGoxB model superimposed. A major distinction between the Alkylhalidase CmIS structure and the PlGoxB model with regard to interaction with FAD is the unusual type of covalent bond between the flavin and the protein in the former. A covalent bond between the side-chain of Asp277 and a carbon on the flavin ring is present in Alkylhalidase CmIS. There is no Asp in this position in the PlGoxB model, and experimental data indicates that the FAD in PlGoxB is not covalently bound. This may explain why the FAD of PlGoxB readily dissociates in solution, leading to precipitation. The members of the family of flavin-dependent halogenases, which includes Alkylhalidase CmIS, share a structural motif of D(W/Y)SY. The Asp residue in this motif is the one that is covalently bound in Alkylhalidase CmIS. However, other members with this motif do not necessarily have the covalent link to the cofactor [24]. Interestingly, the only members of this family that lacks this motif are tryptophan halogenases, which exhibited the second best QMEAN Z-score (Table 1) during the modelling. That particular structure (PDB entry 2pyx) was not used in the modeling because FAD was not present in its flavin-binding site in that crystal structure.

**Docking model of the prePIGoxA-pIGoxB complex**—In order to gain insight into the nature of the protein-protein interface within the prePIGoxA-PIGoxB complex, a docking model was constructed with the ZDOCK software and server [21]. The homology model of PIGoxB was used as ligand and the structure of a PIGoxA monomer from the structure of the homotetramer (PDB entry 6byw) [17] was the receptor. The highest ranking docking

model is shown in Figure 6A. In this model, the portion of PlGoxB where the FAD resides faces a groove in PlGoxA that leads to the active site tryptophan of CTQ (Figure 6B). This conformation is consistent with the observation that interaction with prePlGoxA prevents the loss of FAD from PlGoxB. Interestingly, the Tyr766 and His767 of PlGoxA interact with Ser155and Asp174, respectively, of PlGoxB via hydrogen and ionic bond. In the mature homotetramer, which does not stabilize PlGoxB, Tyr766 and His767 of PlGoxA stabilize the bound glycine substrate in an unusual manner[17]. The residues on one subunit point towards the active site of an adjacent subunit and interact with the carboxyl group of the glycine substrate. This suggests possible roles for these residues in both interaction of prePlGoxA with PlGoxB and catalysis by mature PlGoxA.

Since the preMmGoxA was also able to stabilize prePlGoxB in solution, it was of interest to determine whether a similar interaction could be inferred for that protein. The crystal structure of MmGoxA has not been obtained. As such, a homology model was generated of the MmGoxA monomer using the MmGoxA sequence and the PlGoxA monomer structure. This MmGoxA model was then docked to PlGoxB. A similar result was obtained (Figure 6c) with the portion of MmGoxA that interacts with PlGoxB aligning very closely with that of PlGoxA. The Tyr and His residues discussed above are in an identical position in the docking model using MmGoxA. Comparison of the sequences of MmGoxA and PlGoxA shows 29% identity. However, much of the difference is due the 20 kDa larger mass of PlGoxA relative to MmGoxA. As seen in the structural model, the core structure of the proteins in which CTQ resides shows extensive homology between the two proteins, especially in the active site.

#### DISCUSSION

This study describes the first expression and purification of a flavoprotein that is required to catalyze the multiple post-translational modifications that generate CTQ on a LodA-like protein. The limited stability of PlGoxB allowed for only a partial characterization, but the experimental results and determination of a reasonable structural model of the protein provide significant insights into the structure and function of this enzyme. The presence of non-covalently bound flavin was demonstrated. It was observed that the flavin was loosely bound and lost, leading to precipitation of the protein. The presence of external FAD, but not FMN, significantly decreased the rate of precipitation of the protein. Furthermore, it was shown that the stability of both PIGoxB and prePIGoxA are enhanced by the presence of the partner protein. Expression of prePlGoxA in the absence of PlGoxB yields a cleaved protein product. Expression of PlGoxB in the absence of prePlGoxA yields PlGoxB that is unstable and precipitates unless prePIGoxA is also present. It is noteworthy that while prePIGoxA stabilizes PIGoxB, the presence of the mature PIGoxA exerted no stabilization at all, a result replicated with other unrelated proteins. Only preMmGoxA had a similar stabilizing effect. These results suggest that prePIGoxA and preMmGoxA each have a similar site that interacts with PlGoxB, and that is accessible in the precursor but not in the mature protein. The prePlGoxa precursor is a monomer and the mature protein PlGoxA is a tetramer [17], so it is likely that this site is at the subunit-subunit interface in the mature protein, and thus inaccessible.

The homology modeling of PlGoxB yielded several interesting results. It is noteworthy that the three best hits in the search for a template structure are different flavin-dependent halogenases. While there is no indication that PIGoxB exhibits such an activity, the mechanism of action of these halogenase may share common features. During the reaction mechanism of these halogenases [25, 26], it is proposed that Cl<sup>-</sup> reacts with a FAD-C4a-OOH intermediate to generate a reactive HOCl species. However, the site of halogenation of the substrate is at a site distant from the flavin. For tryptophan 7-halogenase the substrate tryptophan binding site and the FAD are separated by a 20 Å long tunnel [27]. Similarly, for PlGoxB, the FAD must somehow catalyze the oxidation of amino acid residues located inside the prePIGoxA protein substrate, distant from the FAD. The PIGoxB model structure reveals that the FAD is relatively exposed, consistent with the observation that the bound FAD is easily lost in solution. The structural model of PIGoxB also shows that the pocket in which the flavin resides is large enough to allow for FAD binding and still leave room for significant solvent exposure. Although FMN can fit into this pocket, the interactions between protein residues and FAD primarily involve the portion of the FAD tail, which is not present in FMN. This would explain the inability of FMN to stabilize the protein in solution, as the excess FMN is not likely to stay bound to the protein. The stabilization of PlGoxB in solution by prePlGoxA could be a consequence of FAD being present at the PlGoxB-prePlGoxA interface. If so, then the protein-protein interaction could prevent the loss of the flavin. This would also make sense mechanistically, as this would minimize the distance from the FAD to the residues that are modified in in prePIGoxA. It is also possible that the substrate channel in the prePIGox could be positioned so that it serves as a tunnel connecting FAD to the active site. The features of the docking model of PlGoxB with the PlGoxA monomer (Figure 6) are consistent with these ideas.

These results raise the question of why PlGoxB, as well as MmGoxB and LodB, are so unstable. The latter two could not be isolated at all when expressed alone in the recombinant system. One must consider that these enzymes somehow generate a sufficiently highpotential state of FAD to oxidize amino acid residues on the substrate protein. One reason that these enzymes have a short lifetime may be that they have the potential to damage other proteins in the cell if they persist in the absence of their natural substrate. That the operons of LodA-like proteins all contain genes for both LodB-like proteins as well, strongly suggests that the LodB-like proteins are meant to be single-use in a short time frame. A similar observation was made concerning MauG, the diheme enzyme that catalyzes posttranslational modifications on a precursor protein to generate the TTQ cofactor of methylamine dehydrogenase. It is present in the same inducible operon as the structural protein. The reaction mechanism of MauG involved generation of a high potential bis-Fe<sup>IV</sup> species [28] that oxidized the residues on the substrate protein by long-range electron transfer via radical intermediates [29, 30]. Although the resting form of MauG was relatively stable, if the bis-Fe<sup>IV</sup> state was generated in the absence of the natural substrate then the protein oxidized residues on itself and became inactive [31, 32].

In the case of most other protein-derived cofactors, the post-translational modifications that form the active site are autocatalytic events that do not require a modifying enzyme. The formation of topaquinone in copper amine oxidases requires the insertion of two oxygen atoms into the phenyl ring of a Tyr residue [33]. The mechanism of biosynthesis is an

autocatlytic event that requires copper and  $O_2$  [34–38]. The same is true for the autocatalytic biosynthesis of lysine tyrosylquinone, in which one atom of oxygen is incorporated into the phenyl ring of a Tyr, and a covalent bond is formed between Tyr a Lys residue [39, 40] The formation of the reactive carbonyl moieties of the pyruvoyl cofactor [41] and 4methylideneimidazole-5-one (MIO) cofactor [42, 43] are also autocatalytic events. Thus, the presence of a potentially damaging modifying enzyme is not a concern for the post-translational modifications that form these protein-derived cofactors. In contrast, such modifying enzymes are a central part of the biosynthesis of the tryptophylquinone cofactors.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

СТQ	cysteine tryptophylquinone			
PlGoxA	glycine oxidase from Pseudoalteromonas luteoviolacea			
LodA	L-lysine-e-oxidase			
MmGoxA	glycine oxidase from Marinomonas mediterranea			
ТТQ	tryptophan tryptophylquinone			

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

GoxB, the enzyme required for CTQ biosynthesis in the glycine oxidase (GoxA) is a flavoprotein

GoxB interacts specifically with the GoxA precursor protein that lacks CTQ and not with mature GoxA

Interaction of GoxB with the precursor of GoxA stabilizes both of these unstable proteins

A homology model of GoxB reveals structural features that contribute to stability and function



Figure 1.

Protein-derived tryptophylquinone cofactors. Tryptophan tryptophylquinone (TTQ), cysteine tryptophylquinone (CTQ)



# Figure 2.

Physical properties of proteins and cofactors. **A.** SDS-PAGE of prePlGoxA, PlGoxB and PlGoxA. The positions of molecular weight markers are indicated on the left. **B.** Visible absorbance spectra of PlGoxB. **C.** Visible absorbance spectra of the flavin released from PlGoxB during precipitation.

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#### Figure 3.

Factors that influence the stability of PlGoxB in solution. **A.** The effects of externally added FMN and FAD on the rate of precipitation of PlGoxB as monitored by the rate of increase in absorbance at 550 nm. The concentration of PlGoxB was 5  $\mu$ M and the concentrations of FMN and FAD were 60  $\mu$ M. **B.** The effects of externally added GoxA precursor proteins and mature PlGoxA on the rate of precipitation of PlGoxB as monitored by the rate of increase in absorbance at 550 nm. The concentrations of all proteins were 5  $\mu$ M.



#### Figure 4.

Homology model of PlGoxB. A. The model of PlGoxB is in orange and the crystal structure of the template, Alkylhalidase CmIS (PDB entry 3i3l) is in light blue. The FAD ligand is represented in stick form. **A.** A view of the model of PlGoxB superimposed the crystal structure of the template, Alkylhalidase CmIS with the FAD binding site facing forward. **B.** A view of the superimposed structures from a different angle rotated 90° that highlights the large C-terminal domain, which is present in the template but not in PlGoxB. **C. and D.** Comparison of PlGoxB model (C) and Alkylhalidase CmIS structure (D) which highlights the conservation of positions of  $\alpha$ -helices and  $\beta$ -sheets in the main flavin-binding domain of the proteins.



#### Figure 5.

Interactions between FAD and amino acid residues in the FAD-binding site. The FAD and residues within 3Å of FAD in the Alkylhalidase CmIS structure are displayed with the corresponding residues in the PIGoxB model superimposed. The interactions with the FAD that are inferred in the Alkylhalidase CmIS structure are shown as dashed lines. The covalent bond between Asp277 of Alkylhalidase CmIS and FAD, which is not present in PIGoxB is also shown. Three additional residues within 3.5 Å, which are not shown for clarity, are V42/L45, S306/S292 and G307/G294. Black lettering indicates the Alkylhalidase CmIS residues and the green lettering indicated the PIGoxA residues. The carbons in FAD and the residues from Alkylhalidase CmIS are grey, and the carbons of the residues of PIGoxB are green. Oxygens are red, Nitrogens are blue and Phosphorus is orange.



# Figure 6.

A. Docking model of the PIGoxA-PIGoxB complex. B. Interface between PIGoxA and PIGoxB in the docking model. C. Docking model of the MmGoxA-PIGoxB complex (blue) superimposed with the model of the PIGoxA-PIGoxB complex (green).

#### Table 1.

Highest scoring template structures for modeling the structure of GoxB

Protein	PDB entry	Coverage	Sequence similarity <sup><i>a</i></sup>	QMEAN Z-score <sup>b</sup>
Alkylhalidase CmlS	3i31	0.95	0.31	-2.90
Tryptophan halogenase	2pyx	0.92	0.28	-2.99
Halogenase	3e1t	0.95	0.34	-3.37
Kynurenine 3-monooxygenase	5mzc	0.94	0.27	-3.47

<sup>a</sup>The similarity between the target and template sequences is calculated from a normalized BLOSUM62 substitution matrix [44].

bThe QMEAN Z-score [23] provides an estimate of the quality of the structural model. Scores around zero indicate good agreement between the model structure and experimental structures of similar size and scores below -4.0 indicate models with low quality.