Supporting Information for

Structural disruption of Ntox15 nuclease effector domains by immunity proteins protects against type VI secretion system intoxication in Bacteroidales

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This PDF file includes:

Supporting text Figures S1 to S6 Tables S1 to S3 SI References

Extended Methods

Protein purification

Ntox15 domains, immunity proteins, and Ntox15/immunity complexes were expressed and purified from *E. coli* with a uniform strategy unless otherwise indicated. Hexahistidine-tagged protein expression from pET-Duet plasmids was induced with 1 mM IPTG for 3 hours at 37°C in BL21 *E. coli* grown to an OD₆₀₀ of 1.0 in LB supplemented with 1% w/v additional glucose. After lysis and centrifugation, hexahistidine-tagged proteins were isolated by NTA affinity chromatography in N1 buffer (30 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 30 mM imidazole), and eluted in N1 with 300 mM imidazole. Eluents were applied to a gel filtration column (Superdex 200) in X1 buffer (30 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 200 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT). Gel filtration eluents were concentrated to 1-50 mg/mL and snap frozen for storage at -80 $^{\circ}$ C. DNA binding mutant Tde1 $^{\text{tox}}$ proteins exhibited gel filtration chromatograms and Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gels similar to the T de1^{tox} H279A/D282A comparator.

For nuclease activity assays, hexahistidine-tagged Tde1^{tox} domain was expressed and isolated in complex with untagged Tdi1 by NTA affinity chromatography as above. The Tde1^{tox} /Tdi1 complex was denatured in N1 buffer with 6M guanidine HCl to remove the immunity protein. Tde1^{tox} was refolded on the NTA column by linear gradient reduction of guanidine concentration, eluted in N1 with 300 mM imidazole, and further purified by gel filtration.

For NTA BLI experiments, untagged Tde1^{tox} H279A/D282A domain alone was produced by cleavage of the N-terminal hexahistidine tag using tobacco etch virus protease (TEV) after isolation by NTA chromatography. A second NTA chromatography step was used to remove hexahistidine tagged TEV and uncleaved Tde1^{tox} , prior to gel filtration.

For crystallization of the hexahistidine tagged Tde1^{tox} H279A/D282A domain alone, reductive methylation with dimethylamine-borane complex and formaldehyde was performed as described previously (1). The reductive alkylation reaction was quenched with Tris-containing buffer over gel filtration (50 mM Tris pH 8, 200 mM NaCl). The resulting N-terminal amine- and lysine-methylated Tde1^{tox} H279A/D282A domain protein was concentrated to 10 mg/mL and snap frozen.

Crystals of lysine-methylated T de1^{tox} H279A/D282A domain were obtained at 5 mg/mL in X1 buffer, mixed 1:1 with crystallization solution (2 M ammonium sulfate, 200 mM sodium acetate pH 4.5). Rod shaped crystals grew to $300 \times 100 \times 100$ µm over 5 days. Crystals were cryoprotected in crystallization solution with 25% saturated sucrose and plunged into liquid nitrogen. Diffraction data were obtained at 1.0 Å wavelength from a single crystal at 100 K temperature at the BL822 beamline (ALS, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory). Data were processed using HKL2000 (2). Structure solution was by molecular replacement using an AlphaFold2 (3) predicted model and Phaser (4). After placement of 8 models, the Phaser log likelihood gain was 3315 with a translation function Z-score of 42. Refinement was carried out using phenix.refine (4) interspersed with manual model revisions using the program Coot (5) and consisted of conjugategradient minimization and calculation of individual atomic displacement parameters; noncrystallographic symmetry restrains were applied in the initial refinement cycles.

Crystals of selenomethionine *P. vulgatus* dnLKV7 Tde2^{tox} domain in complex with cognate immunity Tdi2 were obtained at 10 mg/mL in X1 buffer, mixed 1:1 with crystallization solution (15% PEG 3350 (w/v), 200 mM NaCl, and 100 mM sodium citrate pH 5.0). Crystals grew to 300 \times 300 \times 300 µm over 4 days. Crystals were cryoprotected in crystallization solution with 20% (v/v) ethylene glycol and plunged into liquid nitrogen. Highly redundant anomalous (SAD) data were obtained at 0.9795 Å (peak) wavelength

from a single selenomethionine crystal at 100 K temperature at the BL502 beamline (ALS, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory). Data were processed using HKL2000 (2). Heavy-atom searching using phenix.autosol (4) identified 26 possible sites, and refinement yielded an estimated Bayes correlation coefficient of 23.4 to 2.7 Å resolution. After density modification, the estimated Bayes correlation coefficient increased to 49.5. Approximately 70% of the selenomethionine model was constructed automatically, and the remaining portion was built manually. Refinement was carried out using phenix.refine (4) with Bijovet pairs kept separate, interspersed with manual model revisions using the program Coot (5) and consisted of conjugate-gradient minimization and calculation of individual atomic displacement parameters.

Crystals of Tde1^{tox} domain in complex with cognate immunity protein Tdi1 were obtained at 10 mg/mL in X1 buffer, mixed 1:1 with crystallization solution (15% PEG 3350, 200 mM lithium sulfate, 100 mM Bis-Tris pH 5.5). Crystals grew to 500 \times 400 \times 200 μm over 3 days. Crystals were cryoprotected in crystallization solution with 20% (v/v) ethylene glycol and plunged into liquid nitrogen. Diffraction data were obtained at 1.0 wavelength from a single crystal at 100 K temperature at the BL502 beamline (ALS, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory). Data were processed using HKL2000 (2). Structure solution was by molecular replacement using the immunity protein model from the experimentally phased *P. vulgatus* Tde2^{tox}/Tdi2 complex. After placement of 2 models, the Phaser log likelihood gain was 13824 with a translation function Z-score of 108.5. Approximately 75% of the remaining models were constructed with phenix autobuild (4). Refinement was carried out using phenix.refine (4) interspersed with manual model revisions using the program Coot (5) and consisted of conjugate-gradient minimization, calculation of individual atomic displacement parameters, and translation/libration/screw parameters (6).

Cloning, plasmids, and Bacteroidales genetics

For allelic exchange, homologous regions of 500-1000 base pairs were amplified from isolated genomic DNA (DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit, Qiagen) using PCR with high fidelity polymerase (Phusion). Ntox15 and immunity genes were synthesized with native Bacteroidales sequences and C-terminal VSVG epitope tags for transposon insertion, or codon optimization for expression in *E. coli*. Plasmids were constructed with Gibson assembly in DH5a *E. coli* (pET plasmids) or EC100D *pir* (pNBU2, pLGB30 plasmids). Mutagenesis was accomplished with an identical gene synthesis and assembly strategy, confirmed by Sanger and/or next generation sequencing.

Immunity proteins were inserted into *P. vulgatus* ATCC 8482 on the pNBU2 transposon with anhydrotetracycline inducible control as previously described (7). Briefly, immunity protein open reading frames were cloned into pNBU2 erm P1T_DP-B1 and delivered to *P. vulgatus* by conjugation with S17-1 λpir *E. coli* (7). Insertion at *attB* sites was confirmed with PCR and Sanger sequencing. Markerless gene deletion by allelic exchange in strains MSK 16.10 and MSK 16.2 was achieved with and pLGB30 plasmids (8), confirmed with PCR and Sanger sequencing.

T6SS gene quantitation in human intestinal metagenomes

Bacteroidales protein sequences from the Tde1-Tdi1 encoding genomes were used as query sequences for BLAST to obtain homologs. Hidden Markov models were constructed from the resulting alignments using Hmmer (9). Shotgun metagenomic sequencing data and metadata corresponding to inflammatory bowel disease patients and controls included in the Human Microbiome Project (10) were obtained from the NCBI SRA (BioProject accession PRJNA389280). Relative species abundances were obtained using Metaphlan3 (11) with default settings. T6SS homolog sequences were

identified by translating DNA sequence reads into 6 possible reading frames and applying the *Bacteroides* T6SS derived hidden Markov models with Hmmer. Default settings for determination of hits were retained for simplicity and reproducibility. Data analysis was performed with HMM hit counts transformed into base 10 log scale. As expected, linear correlation between *Bacteroides* abundances and T6SS HMM hits was observed (Figure S1A), and hit numbers across T6SS structural proteins were highly correlated. To decrease the risk of detecting T6SS sequence differences due to differential Bacteroidales abundance, data were analyzed as ratios of HMM hits (log base 10) to relative Bacteroidales abundance (fraction). Data were also analyzed without correction for Bacteroidales abundance (data not shown), and similar trends were identified.

Identification of T6SS, Ntox15, and immunity homologs

Bacteroidales *hcp*-*Ntox15* fusions were identified in multiple genomes derived from an intestinal commensal strain collection (12). T6SS structural genes, Ntox15 domains, and immunity genes were used as query sequences to identify homologues in a larger collection of commensal genomes (13) using BLAST. T6SS genetic architecture classification was based on a previously published scheme. Genomic context, up to 10000 bp, surrounding immunity gene candidates were extracted and annotated by individual BLAST of ORFs against NCBI's nr protein database. Multiple sequence alignments were constructed with Clustal omega (14).

Fig. S1. Bacteroidales *T6SS structural genes are positively correlated in human intestinal metagenomes and increase with time in ulcerative colitis.* A) A correlation matrix generated with all samples used in this study highlights strong positive (blue) linear correlation of Hmmer hits per read among the T6SS structural genes in intestinal metagenomes. Ntox15 domain hits were also positively correlated to T6SS structural genes. Weak or no significant correlation was observed to Ntox15-related immunity genes or relative abundances of Bacteroidota or Bacteroidales taxa. B) A subset of subjects had time course samples available. Individual subjects are plotted as thin lines, while thicker lines with shaded confidence intervals represent linear fit of the aggregated data. T6SS structural gene Hmmer hits normalized to Bacteroidales abundance were significantly associated with ulcerative colitis, and changes over time differed by diagnosis. Ntox15 domain hits were also related to diagnosis, but time course data did not show a significant interaction. C) T6SS structural protein hits were consistently highest in samples in subjects with ulcerative colitis (UC), followed by Crohn's disease (CD), and controls without inflammatory bowel disease (non-IBD). D) In subjects with UC, Ntox15 domain hits were enriched in samples with high T6SS structural protein (TssB) hits. In contrast, Ntox15 domain hits were relatively depleted in Crohn's disease subjects with high TssB hits.

Fig. S2. Structural features of Tdi1 and Tde1^{tox}, cofactor and substrate interactions. A) Tde1^{tox} with active site mutations interacted with double-stranded biotinylated oligonucleotides of random sequence, measured with biolayer interferometry. B) Superposition of an AlphaFold2 model and the experimental crystallographic structure demonstrates high similarity. C) Each of the 8 monomers in the Tde1^{tox} structure were aligned to AlphaFold2 model with a mean C α r.m.s.d. of \sim 1 Å. D) The crystal structure model of Tdi2 was aligned to the Ntox15-associated immunity protein from Agrobacterium tumefaciens (PDB 6ITW). The overall immunity structures were similar (C_{α} r.m.s.d. 1.2 Å), although several loops and secondary structure elements are shorter in the Bacteroides protein, such as β 8- α 5 and α 6- α 7. E) Coulombic surface rendering of Tde1^{tox} highlights relative positive surface charge surrounding the active site pocket, consistent with favorable electrostatics for interaction with negatively charged DNA. F) Mutation of several basic interaction residues at the predicted DNA binding surface reduced interaction with biotinylated dsDNA in the H279A/D282A background, as measured with biolayer interferometry. Charge reversal substitutions at positions 229 and 298-299 eliminated detectable specific binding. Mutant Tde1^{tox} affinity constants could not be accurately assessed because equilibrium binding saturation was not reached at 10 µM.

Fig. S3. *Ntox15-associated immunity proteins are associated with T6SS or acquired interbacterial defense systems in human intestinal commensal genomes.* A) Bacteroidales Tdi protein sequences are aligned with distant homologs from *Tyzzerella nexilis* and *Roseburia intestinalis*. Dots correspond to Tde1 contact residues in the Tde1/Tdi1 structure. B) Genomic context is shown for the most highly similar BLAST hits among a collection of intestinal commensal bacteria genome sequences. Several strains encode an hcp-Ntox15 domain fusion protein with cognate immunity in the context of a T6SS locus. Other Tdi proteins were frequently encountered in the context of additional annotated T6SS immunity genes and/or mobile element-related genes, compatible with AIDs, and absence of an adjacent Tde.

Fig. S4. *Orphan immunity proteins co-migrate with Tde2tox.* Orphan immunity proteins were expressed alone or with *P. vulgatus* dnLKV7 Tde2^{tox} domain in *E. coli* and complex assembly assessed with size exclusion chromatography. Tde2^{tox} co-migrated with each orphan immunity protein, eluting at a volume compatible with 1:1 Tde^{tox} / Tdi complex molecular weight. Chromatography fractions were sampled for SDS-PAGE and Coomassie stain.

Fig. S5. *Immunity proteins disrupt the active and DNA-binding sites of Ntox15 domains by* forming extensive contacts with hydrophobic core residues. Hcp-Ntox15 domains fusion proteins from several Bacteroidota are aligned. Secondary structural elements of Tde1^{tox} alone are mapped in green, and hydrophobic core residues indicated with orange dots. Secondary structure (gray) and Tdi1 contacts (black dots) are also mapped for the Tde1^{tox} / Tdi1 structure. The largest predicted DNA binding site (purple, ProNA2020 (15)) spans β 2 and α 6 in the Tde1^{tox} only structure and is disordered in the complex with Tdi1 (dashed lines).

Fig. S6. *Current neural network-based complex modelling does not accurately predict Tde^{tox} / Tdi* structures. A) Crystal structures of Tde1^{tox} / Tdi1 and Tde1^{tox} alone are superimposed with a sequence-only based Tde1^{tox} / Tdi1 prediction using AlphaFold2-multimer. B) Although an experimental structure of Tde2^{tox} alone is not available, the crystal structure of Tde2^{tox} / Tdi1 and a sequence-only based AlphaFold2-multimer are superimposed. Both predictions reflect docking of the individual Ntox15 domain and immunity folds at the α 4- α 5 interface. The Tde^{tox} conformational changes and secondary interface are not predicted.

aValues in parentheses are for the highest resolution shell

Table S1. *Crystallographic data*

1JCH	11741540	colicin E3	imm.	Escherichia coli str. K-12 substr. W3110
4UHP	26215615	pyocin AP41	imm.	Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1
4QKO	N/A	pyocin S2	imm.	Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1
6W0V	32817098	pyocin S8	imm.	Pseudomonas aeruginosa
4QLP	26237511	TNT	IFT	Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Rv
6ZN8	33096014	vapD	vapX	Haemophilus influenzae 86-028NP
7RT7	N/A	RhsP2	Rhsl2	Pseudomonas aeruginosa UCBPP-PA14
8BD1	N/A	Rhs	imm.	Vibrio parahaemolyticus
7ZHM	34255843	Rhs1	TriTu	Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica serovar Typhimurium
3PNT	21300288	NAD glyc	imm.	Streptococcus pyogenes
8GUO	36307446	EsaD	EsaG	Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus NCTC 8325

Table S2. *Polymorphic toxin structures analyzed for solvation energy calculations*

Table S3. *Materials, deposited data and software.*

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