Controlling a Structural Branch Point in Ergot Alkaloid Biosynthesis

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Supporting Information

Table of Contents

- S1. General materials and methods
- S2. Cloning, overexpression, and purification of *Neotyphodium lolii* EasA
- S3. Cloning, overexpression, and purification of *Aspergillus fumigatus* EasG
- S4. Endpoint assays for EasA and EasG
- S5. Supporting Table and Figures
- S6. Supporting References

S1. General materials and methods

General recombinant DNA cloning procedures were performed using pGEM-T vector (Promega) propagated in *E. coli* Top10 (Invitrogen). Protein expression for *N. lolii* EasA was conducted in *E. coli* Rosetta (DE3) pLysS (Novagen). Protein expression for EasG was conducted in *E. coli* BL-21(DE3) (Invitrogen). PCR amplification utilized Platinum Taq DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen). Recombinant DNA plasmids were prepared using Qiaprep Spin Miniprep and Qiaquick Gel Extraction kits (Qiagen). Restriction enzymes and T4 DNA ligase were purchased from New England Biolabs. Primers for cloning were synthesized by Integrated DNA Technologies and DNA sequencing was conducted by the MIT Biopolymers Laboratory (Cambridge, MA).

LCMS analysis was conducted using an Acquity Ultra Performance BEH C18 column with a 1.7 mm particle size, 2.1 x 100 mm dimension, with a gradient of acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid in water mobile phase(10:90 to 20:80 from 0-5 min, 20:80 to 90:10 from 5-6 min, and 90:10 to 10:90 from 6-7min at a constant flow rate of 0.5 mL/min). The column elution was coupled to MS analysis carried out using a Micromass LCT Premier TOF Mass Spectrometer with an ESI source (Waters). Accurate mass data were acquired using reference compound leucine enkephalin for lock mass correction. A Varian Cary 50 Bio Scanning Spectrometer was used to acquire UV-Vis spectra.

The chanoclavine-I aldehyde 1 substrate was isolated from the $\Delta easA$ deletion strain of *A*. *fumigatus* as previously described.¹

S2. Cloning, overexpression, and purification of Neotyphodium lolii EasA

The *N. lolii easA* gene was PCR amplified using *N. lolii* genomic DNA. Primers were designed based on the nucleotide sequence of *N. lolii easA* from the NCBI database

(EF125025.1). The following pair of oligonucleotide primers were used to amplify the *easA* gene: forward primer 5'- TTGGC**CATATG**TCAACTTCAAATCTTTTCACGCCGC-3' (with NdeI restriction site in bold) and reverse primer 5'-

GACTCGAGTGCTAGAACTGCCTGCTTCTTGTTC-3' (XhoI restriction site in bold). The PCR amplified *easA* gene was inserted into pGEM-T vector (Promega) for propagation and sequencing. Subsequently, the *easA* sequence was excised from pGEM-T by restriction digest and ligated into the NdeI/XhoI site of pET-24a(+) (Novagen) expression vector as a C-His₆ tagged construct.

The F176Y mutant of *N. lolii easA* was constructed using the Quickchange II Site Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Qiagen). The following pair of oligonucleotide primers were used: forward primer 5'-TCCACGGTGCCAATGGATATCTCATCGATCAGTTT-3' and reverse primer 5'-AAACTGATCGATGAGATATCCATTGGCACCGTGGA-3'. Expression of EasA_AfY178F was conducted according to previously published methods described for expression of EasA_Af.¹ The Y178F mutant of *A. fumigatus easA* was constructed using the Quickchange II Site Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Qiagen). The following pair of oligonucleotide primers were used: forward primer 5'-CATGGTGCCAATGGGTTCCTCATCGACCAGT-3' and reverse primer 5'-ACTGGTCGATGAGGAACCCATTGGCAACCATG-3'.

Expression for both wild type and mutant N. lolii EasA was carried out in LB medium supplemented with kanamycin (50 µg/mL) and chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL). Rosetta (DE3) pLysS cells were grown to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.7 prior to induction with IPTG (1 mM) and grown for 30 hours at 15°C prior to harvesting. Cells were resuspended in buffer (20mM Tris-HCl, 300 mM NaCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, pH = 8.0) and incubated on ice for 30 minutes with added lysozyme (1 mg/mL) and DNAseI (10 µg/mL) and lysed by sonication. Cellular debris were pelleted by centrifugation (15,000 x g for 1 hour). EasA enzyme was purified through Ni-NTA agarose (Qiagen). Previous work established that all Old Yellow Enzyme homologs, as well as EasA from A. fumigatus co-purifies with an FMN flavin cofactor.¹⁻⁸ The yield of active (holo) EasA from *N. lolii* wild type and mutant was estimated to be 0.3 mg per liter culture by measuring the UV absorbance of flavin at 446 nm (FMN extinction coefficient of 12,200 M⁻¹cm⁻ ¹).⁹ Assays were conducted with enzyme that eluted in the 50 mM imidazole fractions from the Ni-NTA column (Figure S1). The enzyme in these fractions co-purified with flavin cofactor. Final EasA NI enzyme stock concentration was at 6 µM. Enzyme eluted in the 150-300 mM imidazole fractions lacked the flavin cofactor as evidenced by UV-Vis spectra (Figure S3). These fractions were also shown to convert chanoclavine-I aldehyde 1 to agroclavine 3 when assayed with added FMN (1 μ M) and apo-enzyme EasA Nl (0.1 μ M).

S3. Cloning, overexpression, and purification of Aspergillus fumigatus EasG

The *easG* gene from *A. fumigatus* was PCR amplified using *A. fumigatus* cDNA. Total RNA was extracted from *A. fumigatus* mycelia tissue using the Trizol RNA extraction procedure (Invitrogen). Using Creator SMART MMLV reverse transcriptase (Clontech), cDNA was constructed from the extracted total RNA. Primers were designed based on the nucleotide sequence of *easG* from the NCBI database (XM_751041). A pair of oligonucleotide primers were used to amplify the *easG* gene: forward primer 5'-

TTGGCCATATGACTATCCTCGTGCTGGGTGGCCGCG-3' (with NdeI restriction site in bold) and reverse primer 5'- GAAAGCTTATGCCGCATCCAGCGCGCTTTTTCC -3' (HindIII restriction site in bold). The PCR amplified *easG* gene was inserted into pGEM-T vector (Promega) for propagation and sequencing. Subsequently, the *easG* sequence was excised from

pGEM-T by restriction digest and ligated into the NdeI/HindIII site of pET-24a(+) (Novagen) expression vector as a C-His₆ tagged construct.

Expression was carried out in *E. coli* BL-21(DE3) cells grown in LB medium supplemented with kanamycin (50 µg/mL). Cells were grown to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.7 prior to induction with IPTG (5 µM) and grown for 60 hours at 15°C prior to harvesting. Cells were resuspended in buffer (20mM Tris-HCl, 300 mM NaCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, pH = 8.0) and incubated on ice for 30 minutes with added lysozyme (1 mg/mL) and DNAseI (10 µg/mL) and lysed by sonication. Cellular debris was pelleted by centrifugation (15,000 x g for 1 hour). Crude EasG enzyme was purified by incubating with Ni-NTA agarose in batch (Qiagen). Fractions containing pure EasG, as demonstrated by SDS-PAGE (Figure S2), were collected and buffer exchanged (50 mM K₂HPO₄, 100 mM NaCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, pH = 7.0). The yield of EasG was estimated by Bradford assay as 6 mg per liter culture. Final purified EasG enzyme stock concentration was 20 µM.

S4. Endpoint assays for EasA and EasG

Endpoint assays incubated EasA (0.1 μ M, final concentration), EasG (0.1 μ M, final concentration), chanoclavine-I aldehyde (10 μ M, final concentration), and NADPH (500 μ M, final concentration) in 100 mM K₂HPO₄ buffer (pH = 7.0) at 25°C for 30 minutes. Aliquots (3 μ L) were quenched by dilution in 0.1% formic acid (in water) and analyzed by LCMS.

S5. Supporting Table and Figures

Figure S1. SDS-PAGE of EasA (N. lolii) (42 kDa)



- *. NEB Broad Range Protein Ladder (2-212kDa)
- 1. column flow-through
- 2. buffer wash 10 mM imidazole
- 3. 25 mM imidazole
- 4-6. 50 mM imidazole
- 7. 100 mM imidazole
- 10-12. 150 mM imidazole
- 13. 300 mM imidazole

Figure S2. SDS-PAGE of EasG (A. fumigatus) (32kDa)

* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14







- *. Invitrogen BenchMark Pre-Stained Protein Ladder
- 1. column flow-through
- 2-3. buffer wash 10 mM imidazole
- 4. 25 mM imidazole
- 5-11. 50 mM imidazole
- 12-19. 100 mM imidazole
- 20-23. 150 mM imidazole



Figure S3. Flavin absorbance spectrum (300 nm to 550 nm).

Figure S4. Alignment of partial EasA sequences from several ergot alkaloid-producing fungi. Names of fungi that produce festuclavine derivatives are shown in blue; names of those that produce agroclavine derivatives are in red. The Tyr-Phe mutation that correlates with production of festuclavine **2** (blue) versus agroclavine **3** (red) is indicated. Numbers correspond to the position, in *A. fumigatus* EasA, of the last residue in each row. The symbol * marks residues implicated in the mechanism of 10YA of *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis* (Brown et al., 1998; Brown et al., 2002; Kholi et al., 1998; Meah et al., 2001; Xu et al., 1999). Accessions: *A. fumigatus*, XP_756133; *C. africana*, HM535795; *C. gigantea*, HM535794; *N. lolii*, ABM91449; *Epichloë festucae*, scaffold 00549 http://lims.ca.uky.edu/2368blast/blast.html; *C. purpurea* strain P1, CAG28312; *C. purpurea* A2 (strain ATCC20102), HM535793; and, *C. fusiformis*, ABV57819.

A.fumigatus	HRMIMAPT T RFRADGQGVPLPFVQEYYGQRASVPGTLLITEATDITPKAMGYKHVPGIWS
C.africana	HKIVLSPMTRIRADDDGVPLPCVQTYYAQRASVRGTLLITEAVAICPRAKGIPNIPGIWN
C.gigantea	HKTVL SPMTRTRADDHGVPL PYVKTYYAORACVRGTLLTTEAVAVCPRAKGLPNTPGTWS
N lolii	HKI VI SPMTRERADNEGVPI PYVKTYYCORASI PGTI I I TEATATSRRARGEPNVPGTWS
E festucae	HKI VI SPMTRERADNECVPI PYVKTYYCORASI PCTI I I TEATATSRARGEPNVPCTWS
C nurnurea Pl	
C. fuciformic	
C. TUSTFORMIS	
	<u>^</u>
A.fumigatus	EPQREAWREIVSRVHSKKCFIFCQLWAIGRAADPDVLADMK-DLISSSAVPVEEKGPLPR
C.africana	HDQMVAWKEVVDQVHARG C F1W VQ LWATGRASEMETLRRNGFELESSSDVP1AAGDAVPR
C.gigantea	DSQIAAWKDVVDEVHSMGCSIWIQLWATGRASEMETLSSLGFELESSSDVPIASGDPVPR
N.lolii	QEQIAGWKEVVDAVHAKG S YIW LQ LWATGRAAEVGVLKANGFDLVSSSAVPVSPGEPTPR
E.festucae	QEQIAGWKEVVDAVHAKG S YIW LQ LWATGRAAEVGVLKANGFDLVSSSAVPVSPGEPTPR
C.purpurea Pl	KDQIAAWKEVVDEVHSKG S FIW LQ LWATGRAADLEALTSQGLKLESSSEVPVAPGEPTPR
C.purpurea A2	KDRIAAWKEVVDEVHSKG S FIWLQLWATGRAADLEALTSRGLKLGSSSEVPVAPGEPTPR
C.fusiformis	QDQIAAWKEVVDEVHSKG S VIWLQLWATGRASDADTLKESGFHLESSSDVPVAPGEPVPR
	<mark>*</mark>
	200
A.fumidatus	AI TEDETOOCTADEAOAARNATN-AGEDGVETHGANGYI TDOETOKSCNHRODRWGGSTE
Cafricana	PI SDODTOAYTREYAOAARNAVHCACEDCVETHCAHCYOVDOELOSSCNRRTDCWCCSTP
C gigantoa	
N lolii	
N. TOTTT	
E.Testucae	
C.purpurea PI	
C.purpurea A2	
C.fusiformis	PLSEDEIESYIRDYVIGAINAVQGAGFDGIEIHGANGFLVDQFLQASCNIRADQWGGSIE
	n na se
	260
A.fumigatus	NRARFAVEVTRAVIEAVGADRVGVKLSPYSQYLGMGTMDELVPQFEYLIAQMRRLDVAYL
C.africana	ARSRFGLDVVRSVIDAVSKDRVGVKLSPWSTFQGMGTMDDLVPQFQHFISRLREMDVAYL
C.gigantea	GRSKFGLDITQSIIDAVGKDRVGMKLSPWSTFQGMGTMVDLLPQFQHFITCLREMDIAYL
N.lolii	NRSRFGLEITRRVIDAVGKDHVGMKLSTWSTFQGMGTMDDLIPQFEHFIMRLREIGIAYL
E.festucae	NRSRFGLEITRRVIDAVGKDHVGMKLSTWSTFQGMGTMDDLIPQFEHFIMRLREIGIAYL
C.purpurea P1	NRSRFGLEITRGVVDAVGHDRVGMKLSPWSTFOGMGTMDDLVPOFEHFITCLREMDIAYL
C.purpurea A2	NRSRFGLEITRGVVDAVGHDRVGMKLSPWSTFOGMGTMDDLVPOFEHFITCLREMDIAYL
C.fusiformis	NRSREGLETTRRVVDAVGKDRVGVKLSPWSTEOGMGTMDDLVAOEEHETSRLREMDTAYT
	316
A fumidatus	
Cafricana	
C ajaantoa	
N lolij	
F fostusza	
C numero Di	
C.purpurea PI	
C.purpurea A2	
C. TUSITORMIS	HLVN I KWLEEEEPGIK I HPDVDNQ I FVRMWGNK I PILLAGGYDADSARRLVDE I YSD-QN
	340
A.fumigatus	NVAIAFGRYFISTPDLPFRVMAGI
C.africana	NVLVAFGRHYISNPDLPFRLKMGI
C.gigantea	NVLVAFGRHYISNPDLPFRLKMGI
N.lolii	NIGVVFGRHYISNPDLPFRLKMGL
E.festucae	NIGVVFGRHYISNPDLPFRLKMGL
C.purpurea Pl	NVLVVFGRHYISNPDLPFRLRMGI
C.purpurea A2	NVLVVFGRHYISNPDLPFRLRMGI
C.fusiformis	NIMVVFGRHYISNPDLPFRLRLGI

82

Figure S5. Alignment of EasG sequences. Accessions: *A. fumigatus*, XM_751041; *N. lolii*, EF125025.1.

EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	MTILVLGGRGKTASRLSLLLDNAGVPFLVGSSSTSYV MVQIYLPRLSMRLGYHDKNNKMTILLTGGRGKTASHIASLLQAAKVPFIVASRSSDPSSS ****: ********::: **: * ***:*.* *: *	37 60
EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	GPYKMTHFDWLNEDTWTNVFLRASLDGIDPISAVYLVGGHAPELVDPGIRFINVARAQGV SPYYQNCFDWLDEKTYGDVLTSKDSMQPISTIWLVPPPIFDLAPLMIKFVDFASRKGV .** . ****:*.*: :*: * *.::***::** :*. *:**	97 118
EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	NRFVLLSASNIAKGTHSMGILHAHLDSLEDVQYVVLRPTWFMENLLEDPHVSWIKKED KRFVLLSASTIKKGGPAMGQVHEYLASLGGIEYAVLRPTWFMENFSYPQELQRLAIKNEN :***********************************	155 178
EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	KIYSATGDGKIPFISADDIARVAFSVLTEWKSQRAQEYFVLGPELLSYDQVADILTTVLG KIYSAAGDGKLPFVSVADIARVAFRTLTDEKS-HNTDYVLLGPELITYDQVAETLSTVLG *****:****:**:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:	215 237
EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	RKITHVSLAEADLARLLRDDVGLPPDFAAMLASMETDVKHGTEVRNSHDVKKVTGSLPCS RTITHIKLTEEELVKRL-ENSGMPAEDAKMLAGMDTSISDGAEDRLNNVVKHVTGADPRT *.***:.*:* :* :: * :: *:*: * ***.*:*.:.*:* * .: **:***: * :	275 296
EasG_Af_XM_751041 EasG_N1_EF125025.1	FLDFAEQEKARWMRH 290 FLDFATHQKATWG 309 ***** ::** *	

Figure S6. Endpoint Assays of EasA_Nl, EasA_Af, and EasA_Nl F176Y in combination with EasG (30 minute reaction).

LCMS chromatograms showing selected ion monitoring of chanoclavine-I aldehyde 1 ($[M+H]^+$ 255), cyclized iminium intermediate ($[M]^+$ 239), agroclavine 3 ($[M+H]^+$ 239), and festuclavine 2 ($[M+H]^+$ 241).





C₁₆H₁₈N₂O [M+H]⁺ 255

C₁₆H₂₀N₂ [M+H]⁺ 241

H, NMe HN 3



H, H, NMe HN iminium ion

C₁₆H₁₉N₂⁺ [M]⁺ 239

(a) Peak intensities for this set of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present.

EasA NI boiled + Eas G (negative control): only m/z 255 observed

EasA_Nl + EasG boiled (negative control): negligible products observed (see also Figure S9) EasA_Nl + EasG: only m/z 239 observed Agroclavine **3**: only m/z 239 observed

Festuclavine 2: only m/z 241 observed



(b) Peak intensities for this set of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present.

EasA_Af boiled + Eas G (negative control): only m/z 255 observed EasA_Af + EasG boiled (negative control): only m/z 239 observed EasA_Af + EasG: only m/z 241 observed Agroclavine **3**: only m/z 239 observed Festuclavine **2**: only m/z 241 observed



(c) Peak intensities for this set of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present.

EasA_NI F176Y boiled + Eas G (negative control): only m/z 255 observed EasA_NI F176Y + EasG boiled (control): m/z 255 and m/z 239 (iminium ion) observed EasA_NI F176Y + EasG: m/z 239 (agroclavine **3**) and m/z 241 (festuclavine **3**) observed Agroclavine **3**: only m/z 239 observed Festuclavine **2**: only m/z 241 observed



Figure S7. Endpoint Assay (30 minutes) of EasA_Af Y178F and EasG showing only formation of festuclavine 2. Assay conditions are described above in the methods. Peak intensities for this set of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present.

EasA_Af Y178F + Eas G: only m/z 241 (festuclavine 2) observed; product at m/z 239 (expected for agroclavine 3) is not observed



Figure S8. LCMS chromatograms showing accumulation of agroclavine 3 for EasA_NI in the presence of EasG, chanoclavine-I aldehyde 1 and NADPH. Assay conditions are described above in the methods. Peak intensities for this of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present. Selected ion monitoring of agroclavine 3 ($[M+H]^+$ 239)

 $EasA_Nl + EasG$, time = 0.5 hour $EasA_Nl + EasG$, time = 12 hours Agroclavine **3** standard



Figure S9. LCMS Selected ion monitoring chromatograms comparing the intermediates produced by EasA_Af and EasA_NI. Selected ion monitoring of hypothetical cyclized iminium intermediates ($[M]^+$ 239 and $[M]^+$ 237). Peak intensities for this set of chromatograms have been normalized to allow relative comparison of compound masses present.

Selected ion monitoring at m/z 239 of EasA_Af + boiled EasG Selected ion monitoring at m/z 237 of EasA_Af + boiled EasG Selected ion monitoring at m/z 239 of EasA_Nl + boiled EasG Selected ion monitoring at m/z 237 of EasA_Nl + boiled EasG Selected ion monitoring at m/z 239 of EasA_Nl F176Y mutant + boiled EasG Selected ion monitoring at m/z 237 of EasA_Nl F176Y mutant + boiled EasG

NMe н iminium ion HN

NMe н iminium ion HN-

C₁₆H₁₉N₂+ [M]+ 239

C₁₆H₁₇N₂+ [M]⁺ 237



Compound	Observed Mass	Theoretical Mass	Deviation of Theoretical from Observed Mass (ppm)	Molecular Formula
EasA_Af + EasG Product Festuclavine $[M+H]^+$	<i>m/z</i> 241.1695	<i>m/z</i> 241.1705	-4.1	$C_{16}H_{21}N_2$
EasA_NI + EasG Product Agroclavine $[M+H]^+$	<i>m/z</i> 239.1541	<i>m/z</i> 239.1548	-2.9	$C_{16}H_{19}N_2$
EasA_NIF176Y + EasG Product Agroclavine [M+H] ⁺	<i>m/z</i> 239.1556	<i>m/z</i> 239.1548	3.3	$C_{16}H_{19}N_2$
EasA_NIF176Y + EasG Product Festuclavine [M+H] ⁺	<i>m/z</i> 241.1708	<i>m/z</i> 241.1705	1.2	$C_{16}H_{21}N_2$

Table S1. Exact Mass of Compounds Determined by High Resolution MS

S6. Supporting References

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