Supporting Information for:

Probing the Mechanism of 1,4-Conjugate Elimination Reactions Catalyzed by Terpene Synthases

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1. Materials. Recombinant (E)- β -farnesene synthase (EBFS) from *Mentha* x *piperita* was produced as previously described for aristolochene synthase (PR-AS)¹ using competent cells of *E. coli* XL1 Blue and BL21-CodonPlus-RP. The QIAprep spin Miniprep was used for plasmid purification. Protein expression was induced with isopropyl-thio-D-galactopyranoside (IPTG). The pre-packed DEAE Sepharose Fast Flow anion exchange resin was used for protein purification. A prestained protein size marker (14.4-116) kDa was used to identify proteins by 10% SDS-gel. The Amicon-YM30 membranes were used for protein concentration. [1-³H]FDP (20 Ci/mmol) was purchased from American Radiolabeled Chemicals. Unlabelled FDP was synthesized following Poulter's two steps (chlorination/diphosphorylation) protocol² with modifications³ from commercially available all *trans*-farnesol. Commercial [1-³H]FDP was diluted by adding cold FPP to give a final specific activity of 30 mCi/mmol. For synthetic procedures, all chemicals and solvents were obtained from commercial vendors and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether, toluene and acetonitrile were obtained from a MBraun SPS800 solvent purification system. Dichloromethane, and triethylamine were distilled from calcium hydride and KOH under nitrogen respectively. EtOH was distilled from calcium oxide.

2. General Methods. Protein concentrations were determined by the Bradford method⁴ using commercial reagents and commercial bovine serum albumin as the calibration standard. GC-MS analysis of incubation products was performed on a Hewlett Packard 6890 GC apparatus fitted with a J&W scientific DB-5MS column (30 m x 0.25 mm internal diameter) and a Micromass GCT Premiere detecting in the range *m/z* 50-800 in the EI⁺ mode with scanning once a second with a scan time of 0.9 s. The program uses an injection port 100 °C; split ratio 5:1; initial temperature 50 hold 1 min, ramp of 4 °C/min to 150 °C hold 15 min, ramp of 20 °C/min to 250 °C hold 3 min. High resolution ES⁻ mass spectra were measured on a Micromass LCT premiere XE spectrometer fitted with a Waters 1525 Micro binary HPLC pump. ¹H, ¹³C, ³¹P and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on 500, 400 or 300 NMR spectrometers as specified and are presented in parts per million (δ scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane (TMS), 85% H₃PO₄ or CFCl₃. The following solvents and reference values in ppm were used in obtaining the NMR data: CDCl₃ (¹H, 7.26, ¹³C 77.0), D₂O (¹H, 4.79). The purity of purified compounds was judged to be > 95% by TLC and/or GC analyses and NMR spectra analysis. High resolution ES⁻ mass spectra were measured on a Micromass LCT premiere fitted with a Waters 1525 Micro binary HPLC pump

Thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated aluminium plates of silica G/UV₂₅₄. TLC visualizations were performed with 4.2% ammonium molybdate and 0.2% ceric sulfate in 5 % H_2SO_4 , or 0.1 % berberine hydrochloride in EtOH or UV light. Flash

chromatography was performed according to the method of Still.¹ Reverse phase HPLC was performed on a system comprising of a Dionex P680 pump and a Dionex UVD170U detector unit.

3. Synthetic Procedures. (2*Z*, 6*E*)-FDP (cis-3) and (2*Z*, 6*E*)-2F-FDP (**2F-3**) were synthesized from the corresponding primary allylic alcohol as previously described.^{6,7} 3CH₂F-FDP (**3CH₂F-3**) and 3CF₃-FDP (**3CF₃-3**) was prepared exactly as described by Dolence and Poulter.⁸ The final diphosphorylation reactions were carried out according to the method developed by Poulter and coworkers.⁹ (3*RS*)-*trans*-nerolidyl diphosphate (NDP)¹⁰ was prepared from commertial (±)-*trans*-nerolidol following the Cramer-Danilov protocol¹¹ as described by Karp et at¹² with modifications.¹³ The resulting silica gel purified (Bu)₄N⁺ form of NDP was converted to the NH₄⁺ salt by ion change chromatography (Dowex 50W-X8). (2*Z*, 6*E*)-2F-[1-³H]Farnesyl diphosphate (activity 1.41 mCi/µmol) was synthesized following standardprocedures^{10,14} via (2*Z*, 6*E*)-2F-[1-³H]farnesol, prepared from 2F-farnesal and sodium borotritide (5 mCi, activity 15Ci/mmol) similarly as described for 2F-[1-³H]geraniol,¹⁵ and [1-³H]-*trans*-trans-farnesol.^{10,14} The diphosphate¹² (activity 0.76 mCi/mmol) was prepared from (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]nerolidyl diphosphate¹² (activity 0.76 mCi/mmol) was prepared from (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]nerolidyl following the Cramer-Danilov protocol¹¹ as described by Karp et at¹² with modifications.¹³ (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]Nerolidyl diphosphate¹² (activity 0.76 mCi/mmol) was prepared from (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]nerolidyl following the Cramer-Danilov protocol¹¹ as described by Karp et at¹² with modifications.¹³ (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]Nerolidyl diphosphate¹² (activity 0.76 mCi/mmol) was prepared from (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]nerolidyl following the Cramer-Danilov protocol¹¹ as described by Karp et at¹² with modifications.¹³ (1*Z*)-*trans*-[1-³H]Nerolidyl model was synthesized essentially as described by Cane¹⁶ via the γ -*cis*-vinylic metallation procedure first described by Julia¹⁷-using ³H₂O (activity 100 mCi/mL).¹⁸

An authentic sample of (E)- β -farnesene (6) was prepared from geranyl bromide according to Poppe *et al*¹⁹ with modifications.²⁰ In addition, an authentic sample of (E)- β -, (Z)- α - and (E)- α -farnesenes was generated as a mixture exactly as recently described.²¹ Commercial farnesol, nerolidol and (-)- α -bisabolol were also used as authentic standards in GC-MS measurements.

An authentic sample of 2F-farnesenes (3 isomers including (*E*)- β -2F-farnesene) and β -2F-bisabolenes (5 isomers) was generated by solvolysis [2,4,6-collidine in acetone/H₂O (7:3), room temperature, overnight] from 2F-farnesyl methanesulfonate.²² An authentic sample of (*E*)- β -2F-farnesene and β -2F-bisabolene as a 1:7 mixture respectively was obtained by preparative TLC AgNO₃-silica purification of the original hydrocarbon mixture.

4. Expression and purification of recombinant (*E*)- β -farnesene synthase (EBFS) from *Mentha x piperita*. Individual *E. coli*. BL21-CodonPlus-RP colonies harboring cDNA plasmids for wild-type EBFS were grown overnight in 100 mL of LB medium containing 0.1 mg/mL ampicillin. The resulting culture was used to inoculate more LB medium (6 x 500 mL, 0.1 mg/mL ampicillin) and the cells were grown at 37 °C to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.6. After cooling to 16 °C, protein expression was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG and left with gentle shaking (150 rpm) overnight.

Cells were harvested by centrifugation (4500 rpm, 15 min at 4 °C). The cells were suspended in 40 mL of cell lysis buffer (6 mM EDTA, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 20 mM MOPS pH 7.2) and disrupted by sonication (2-3 min Amp 40%, pulse 5 s on followed by 10 s pulse off) at 0 °C. The resulting suspension was centrifuged (15000 rpm, 4 °C, 20 min) and the supernatant discarded. Protein was then extracted from the inclusion bodies²³ and purified by FPLC (Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography) using DEAE Fast Flow. Fractions containing the terpene synthase (purity < 95% pure as judged by SDS-PAGE) were combined, dialyzed against dialysis buffer (20 mM MOPS, 5 mM, β -mercaptoethanol, pH 7.2) and concentrated to a final volume of 6 mL using an ultracell YM30 filter. According to the Bradford protein assay⁴ the yield was 5 mg protein/L of LB media. The protein was aliquoted and stored at -20 °C.

5. Steady-State kinetic parameters of EBFS. Kinetics assays were carried out according to the standard, linear range, micro-assay procedure developed for limonene and bornyl diphosphate synthases with modifications.¹² This protocol involved the incubation of varying amounts of [1-³H]FDP (specific activity 30 mCi/mmol), (2Z, 6E)-2F-[1-³H]farnesyl diphosphate (activity 1.41 mCi/µmol) or (3RS)-(1Z)-trans-[1-³H]nerolidyl diphosphate (activity 0.76 mCi/mmol) at pH 7.5 with fixed concentrations of purified EBFS (60-300 nM) in 20 mM MOPS buffer containing 1 mM DTT and 5 mM MgCl₂ at pH 7.2. The reaction mixtures containing buffer, FDP and protein were prepared on ice in a total volume of 250 µL and were overlaid with ca 0.85 mL of HPLC-grade hexane prior to incubation. The assay mixtures were incubated at 30 °C for 12 min. The reactions were immediately ice-cooled and quenched by addition of 200 µL of 100 mM EDTA (pH 8.5) and brief vortexing. The hexane overlay and two additional 1 mL hexane extracts were passed through a short pipette column containing silica gel. The column was washed with additional hexane (1 mL) and the combined filtrates were analyzed by liquid scintillation counting using 15 mL of scintillation cocktail. The observation of non-enzymatic tritiated products arising from incubations of (3RS)-(1Z)-trans- $[1-^{3}H]$ nerolidyl diphosphate in the absence of enzyme requires a mandatory background substation for accuracy of the measurement. Steady-State kinetic parameters for wild-type EBFS were obtained by direct fitting of the data to the Michaelis-Menten equation by nonlinear least squares regression in conjunction with the graphical procedures developed by Lineweaver-Burk²⁴ using the commercial SigmaPlot package (Systat Software). The calculated values for $K_{\rm M}$, $k_{\rm cat}$ and $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ of $1.79 \pm 0.16 \,\mu\text{M}$, $0.028 \pm 0.002 \,\text{s}^{-1}$ and $(1.56 \pm 0.17) \times 10^4 \,\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ when using $[1-^{3}\text{H}]$ FDP are in good agreement with those parameters obtained earlier for EBFS.^{25,26} For (2Z, 6E)-2F-[1-³H] farnesyl diphosphate the following kinetic parameters were obtained $K_{\rm M}$, $k_{\rm cat}$ and k_{cat}/K_M of $1.63 \pm 0.18 \ \mu M$, $0.0002 \pm 0.00005 \ s^{-1}$ and $(0.012 \pm 0.003) \times 10^4 \ M^{-1} s^{-1}$. For (3RS)-(1Z)-trans-[1-³H]nerolidyl diphosphate the following kinetic parameters were obtained $K_{\rm M}$, $k_{\rm cat}$ and $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ of 25.01 ± 4.2 μ M, 0.023 ± 0.001 s⁻¹ and (0.092 ± 0.011)x10⁴ M⁻¹s⁻¹.

Michaelis-Menten plot for (2E, 6E)-FDP and EBFS



Michaelis-Menten plot for (2E, 6E)-FDP and EBFS



Michaelis-Menten plot for (2E, 6E)-FDP and EBFS





Michaelis-Menten plot for (2Z, 6E)-2F-FDP and EBFS



Michaelis-Menten plot for (2Z, 6E)-2F-FDP and EBFS



NDP-EBFS Calibration Plot accounting for the Non-Enzymatic (Hydrolysis) Products observed under Incubation conditions with no enzyme.BACKGROUND



Michaelis-Menten plot for (3RS)-trans-NDP and EBFS



Michaelis-Menten plot for (3RS)-trans-NDP and EBFS

(3*RS*)-*trans*-NDP-EBFS-Kinetics With Background Subtraction All points.

Enzyme (300 nM); NDP (0.0-0-120 $\mu\text{M});$ 20 min @ 30 $^{\circ}\text{C}$



Michaelis-Menten plot for (3RS)-trans-NDP and EBFS



Michaelis-Menten plot for (3RS)-trans-NDP and EBFS comparisons



7. Inhibition studies using the fluorinated diphosphates. Kinetics assays were carried out according to the standard, linear range, microassay procedure developed for limonene and bornyl diphosphate synthases with modifications.¹² This protocol involved the incubation of varying amounts of $[1-{}^{3}H]$ FDP (specific activity 30 mCi/mmol) with fixed concentration of purified EBFS (60 nM) in 20 mM MOPS buffer containing 10 mM MgCl₂, and 5 mM DTT at pH 7.2. The reactions mixtures containing buffer, inhibitor, FDP and protein were prepared on ice in a total volume of 250 µL, and initialized by the addition and overlaid with 0.8 mL of HPLC-grade hexane prior to incubation. The reactions were initiated by addition of the enzyme and the resulting mixtures were incubated at room temp (22 °C) for 15 min. The reactions were immediately ice-cooled and quenched by addition of 100 µL of EDTA (100 mM, pH 8.5) and brief vortexing. The hexane overlay and two additional 1 mL hexane extracts were passed through a short pipette column containing silica gel and MgSO₄. The column was washed with additional hexane (1 mL) and the combined filtrates were analyzed by liquid scintillation counting using 15 mL of Ecoscint O. Steady-State kinetic parameters were obtained according to the graphical procedure developed by Lineweaver-Burk.²⁴ 8. Lineweaver-Burk Plots.

Inhibition Studies with (2Z, 6E)-2F-FDP. Lineweaver-Burk Plot



Strong competitive inhibition

Inhibition Studies with (2Z, 6E)-2F-FDP.

(E)- β -Farnesene Synthase (60 nM) No Inhibitor (lower) vs 5, 20 and 50 μ M 2F-FDP @ 0.5-25 μ M FDP. Interception Zoom In



Inhibition Studies with 3CH₂F-FDP. Lineweaver-Burk Plot



Strong competitive inhibition

Inhibition Studies with 3CH₂F-FDP

(E)- β -Farnesene Synthase (60 nM) No Inhibitor (lower) vs 5, and 20 μ M 3CH₂F-FDP @ 0.1-10 μ M FDP.Interception Zoom In



Inhibition Studies with 3CF₈-FDP. Lineweaver-Burk Plot





Strong competitive inhibition

Inhibition Studies with 3CF₃-FDP

(E)-β-Farnesene Synthase (60 nM) No Inhibitor (lower) vs 5, 20 and 50 μ M 15CF₃-FDP @ 0.1-10 μ M FDP. Interception Zoom In



9. Analytical Incubations of EBFS with FDP and FDP analogues. The prenyl diphosphate (25 μ L, 10 mM) was added to assay buffer [350 μ L, 20 mM MOPS, 5 mM DTT, and 5 mM MgCl₂ (pH 7.2)] follow by addition of EBFS (125 μ L, 40 μ M). The aqueous layer was overlaid with HPLC grade pentane (0.5 mL) and the resulting micture was incubated (18-24 h) at 25 °C. The enzymatic hydrocarbons were extracted with pentane (3 x 0.5 mL), and the resulting organic layer was through a short pad of silica gel (< 500 mg). The incubations were repeated without enzyme as negative controls. The filtered pentane extracts are then analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) according to General Methods.

GC-MS profile of EBFS with (*E*, *E*)-farnesyl diphosphate (FDP). Incubation of purified EBFS with FDP in assay buffer gave (*E*)-β-farnesene (95%) as the dominant product, along with small amount of three other acyclic sesquiterpenes, (*Z*)-β-farnesene (1.5%), (3*Z*, 6*E*)-α-farnesene (1.3%) and (3*E*, 6*E*)-α-farnesene (0.2%) (Figure S8). The identity of the peaks for (*E*)-β-farnesene, (3*Z*, 6*E*)-α-farnesene and (3*E*, 6*E*)-α-farnesene was confirmed by comparing the GC retention time and MS spectrum of the enzymatic products with those obtained for authentic standards (Figure S9 and S10).^{19,21} Enzymatic (*Z*)-β-farnesene was tentatively identified by comparing its mass spectrum with that provide in the NIST database. Another 5 sesquiterpene products (<2% in total) were also detected by GC-MS (Figure S8). The current product profile differs somewhat to that obtained previously from a partially purified preparation of recombinant EBFS and FDP, which was reported to yield (*E*)-β-farnesene (85%), (*Z*)-β-farnesene (8%), and δ-cadinene (5%) plus other minor sesquiterpene hydrocarbons.²⁵



Figure S1. Left: GC trace for pentane-extractable products following incubation of 10 μ M EBFS with 0.5 mM FDP in the presence of 5 mM Mg²⁺. Peaks 1 to 5 are unknown sesquiterpene products. Right: Overlay of GC chromatograms for EBFS incubation products (blue) and synthetic (*E*)- β -farnesene, (*Z*)- α -farnesene and (*E*)- α -farnesene samples (red).



Figure S2. EI-mass spectrum of (*E*)- β -farnesene (enzymatic (A) and standard (B)), (*Z*)- α -farnesene (enzymatic (C) and standard (D)), and (E)- α -farnesene (enzymatic (E) and standard (F)).

11. Analytical Incubations of DMADP and isoprene synthase (IS). Enzymatic reactions were performed in 0.3 mL ReactiVials (Thermo Fisher, Waltham, MA) sealed with PTFE/silicone septa (SUPELCO, USA). Each reaction was initiated by adding 0.6 µmol unlabeled DMADP, (*Z*)-[4,4,4- 2 H₃]DMADP, or (*E*)-[4,4,4- 2 H₃]DMADP to a 30 µL reaction mixture containing 1 nmol ISPS in ISB buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.5), 20 mM MgCl₂, 5% glycerol, and 2 mM dithiothreitol]. After the reaction vial was incubated for 60 min at 35 °C, the reaction was stopped by removing the solution with a gas tight syringe (SGE Analytical Science, Australia) and washing the vial with 50 µL ISB buffer. A 10 µL sample of headspace gas was manually injected into a Thermo Scientific ISQ single quadrupole GC-MS system (Waltham, MA) equipped with a Stabilwax column (Restek, Bellefonte, PA) using helium as the carrier gas at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The injection port was held at 230 °C with the following GC settings: 35 °C hold for 4 min, ramp to 230 °C at 50 °C/min. The MS parameters were as follows: ion source temperature = 200 °C using electron impact ionization (70 eV), scanning frequency = 4/s from m/z 45 to m/z 300. Isoprene is a very volatile organic compound (bp = 34 °C) and its elution time from the GC column is 1.7 - 3.0 min.

GC-MS profile of IS with (DMADP) and analogues



Figure S3: GC trace (upper panels) and the EI mass spectrum (lower panels) of isoprene produced by ISPS-catalyzed reactions using DMADP or its deuterated isomers; the small peak with retention time of \sim 3 min obtained from substrate (*E*)-[4,4,4-²H₃]DMADP is believed to be an impurity. Regardless of whether (*Z*)-[4,4,4-²H₃]DMADP or (*E*)-[4,4,4-²H₃]DMADP or (*E*)-[4,4,4-²H₃]DMADP is utilized as a substrate, both deuterated isoprene products with mass 70 and 71 are detected (along with the corresponding lower molecular weight fragments), which is consistent with the non-regiospecific elimination pathway

10. Collection of GC-MS





























TIC incubation of WT EBFS and 3CH₂F-FDP









11. Collection of NMRS

























































$^{19}\mathsf{F}$ NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3). Solvolysis. TLC AgN0_3-Silica Fraction 1





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