a-Methyl Acyl CoA Racemase Provides Mycobacterium tuberculosis Catabolic Access to Cholesterol Esters

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Materials and Methods

Materials, strains, media, and general methods. Ferricenium hexafluorophosphate and ATP were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Coenzyme A was purchased from MP Biomedicals (Solon, Ohio). HEPES and TAPS were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA). MALDI mass spectra were acquired on a Bruker Autoflex II TOF/TOF. UV-visible spectra were acquired on a Shimadzu UV2550 UV/visible light spectrophotometer. (25*R*, 25*S*)-3-OCS-CoA was synthesized as previously described.¹ MCR² and ChsE4-ChsE5¹ were obtained as purified proteins as previously described.

MCR activity assay. (25*R*, 25*S*)-3-OCS-CoA was used as a 1:1 25*R*:25*S* mixture. The MCR activity was monitored in a continuous coupled assay in which the dehydrogenation reaction catalyzed by ChsE4-ChsE5 was followed at 300 nm. 3-OCS-CoA (2.5 - 60 μ M), 250 μ M ferricenium hexafluorophosphate and 1 μ M ChsE4-ChsE5 were incubated in 100 mM TAPS buffer (pH 8.5) at 25 °C. 22 nM MCR was added when the 300 nm absorption was stable. Initial velocities were obtained for the first 10-15% of the reaction. The rates of product formation were fit to the Michaelis-Menten equation to determine K_M and k_{cat} . Controls were run without MCR or without substrate, and both showed negligible decreases in absorbance at 300 nm.

Synthesis of (25S) Δ⁷-dafachronyl CoA and ChsE4-ChsE5 stereochemistry assignment. (25*S*)-Δ⁷dafachronic acid (12.5 µg, AdipoGen AG-CN2-0014 Lot No. A00075, contaminated with ~30% (25*R*)-Δ⁷dafachronic acid) was dissolved in 30 µL 25% (w/v) 2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin aqueous solution to obtain a stock solution of 1 mM acid. Thioesterification of (25*S*) Δ⁷-dafachronic acid (0.25 mM) was performed in 100 mM HEPES buffer (100 µL, pH = 8.0) with 1.5 mM ATP, 1 mM CoA, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 2 µM FadD19 at 30 °C for 1 h. Formation of the reaction product (25*S*)-Δ⁷-dafachronyl-CoA was confirmed by MALDI-TOF spectroscopy. After confirming the product was formed, 20 µL of the reaction mixture was mixed with 20 µL DDI water, 5 µL 1M HEPES pH = 8.0, 3 µL 10 mM ferrocenium hexafluorophosphate and 2 µL 52 µM ChsE4-ChsE5. The reaction mixture was analyzed by MALDI-TOF after 1, 2 and 24 h. After 24 h, 20 µL of the dehydrogenation reaction mixture was mixed with 1 µL 3.6 µM MCR to test the racemase activity. The MCR reaction mixture was also analyzed by MALDI-TOF spectroscopy. Substrate and product ratios were calculated based on the integrations of respective m/z peaks.

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