A hybrid NMR/SAXS-based approach for discriminating oligomeric protein interfaces using Rosetta

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Supplementary Methods

Sample preparation

The Aha1 protein from *Colwellia psychrerythraea* including a C-terminal His₆ tag (LEHHHHHH), was cloned, expressed, and purified following standard protocols of the Northeast Structural Genomics Consortium (NESG) in order to prepare $[U^{-13}C,^{15}N]$ - and $[U-5\% - ^{13}C,100\% - ^{15}N]$ -Aha1 samples for NMR spectroscopy¹. Briefly, the 146-residue coding sequence of the gene locus CPS_1688 of *Colwellia psychrerythraea* (UniProtKB/TrEMBL ID, Q484T9_COLP3; NESG ID, CsR251; hereafter referred to as Aha1) was cloned into pET21_NESG vector containing a C-terminal His₆ affinity tag (LEHHHHHH) to yield the plasmid CsR251-21.1 (deposited into the PSI Materials Repository; http://psimr.asu.edu/). The triple-labeled with the methyl groups of Val, Leu, Ile (δ1) selectively protonated, {[U-²H,¹³C,¹⁵N]; Ileδ1- $[{}^{13}CH_3]$; Leu,Val- $[{}^{13}CH_3]$ }-Aha1 were prepared using $({}^{15}NH_4)_2SO_4$ and $[U^{-13}C]$ -D-glucose with addition of [U⁻¹³C₄, 3,3⁻²H₂]- α -ketobutyrate (50 mg/L), [U⁻¹³C₅, 3⁻²H]- α -ketoisovalerate (CIL Inc.) (100mg/L) in D₂O medium² . The CsR251-21.1 plasmid was transformed into codon-enhanced BL21(DE3) pMGK *Escherichia coli* cells, and cultured in MJ9 minimal medium³ containing $(^{15}NH_4)_2SO_4$ and U-¹³C-glucose as the sole nitrogen and carbon sources. Natural abundance Aha1 was produced in LB media following the identical protocol. Initial cell growth was carried out at 37 °C and protein expression was induced at 17 °C by 1 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) at mid-log phase growth. Expressed proteins were purified using an ÄKTAxpress[™] (GE Healthcare) two-step protocol consisting of HisTrap HP affinity chromatography followed directly by HiLoad 26/60 Superdex 75 gel filtration chromatography. The final yield of purified isotopically enriched Aha1 was approximately 20 mg/L of culture. Samples of [U-¹³C,¹⁵N]-, {[U-²H,¹³C,¹⁵N]; Ileδ1-[¹³CH₃]; Leu,Val-[¹³CH₃]}-, and [U-5%-¹³C,100%-¹⁵N]-Aha1 for NMR spectroscopy were concentrated by centrifugation to 1.3, 0.7 and 1.1 mM, respectively, in 10 mM TRIS-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 50 μ M DSS, 10% ²H₂O at pH 7.5. Sample purity and molecular mass were confirmed by SDS-PAGE and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

[U-5%-¹³C,100%-¹⁵N]-Aha1 was first aligned in 12.5 mg/mL Pf1 phage medium (ASLA biotech⁴). For the second set of residual dipolar couplings, the protein was aligned in 4.2 % $C_{12}E_5$ polyethylene glycol bicelles (PEG, Sigma Aldrich) using previously published protocols⁵.

NMR spectroscopy and resonance assignments

All NMR data were collected at 25 °C on Bruker AVANCE 800 MHz and Varian INOVA 600 MHz spectrometers equipped with 5-mm cryoprobes, processed with NMRPipe 6 and visualized using SPARKY⁷;

chemical shift referencing is conducted with 50 μM DSS internal standard and the assigned $C\alpha$, Cβ and C' CS were adjusted for ${}^{2}H$ shift using TALOS+ 8 . First, backbone and selectively protonated methyls were assigned using a $\{[U^2H, {}^{13}C, {}^{15}N]\}$; Ile $\delta 1-[{}^{13}CH_3]$; Leu,Val- $[{}^{13}CH_3]\}$ -Aha1 sample and the data acquisition and processing strategies follow the previously published work by Lange, Rossi and co-workers⁹. Additional assignments were determined manually starting from the existing triple labeled assignments using two complementary 3D HCCH-TOCSY experiments, with the chemical shift of ¹H and ¹³C indirectly recorded respectively, and $3D^{13}C$ - and ¹⁵N-edited NOESY spectra acquired on a [U- ^{13}C ,¹⁵N]-Aha1 with initially simulated peak lists following a previously published strategy of Liu and coworkers¹⁰. The complete initial NOESY peak list were simulated from the existing triple labeled assignments for assigned atoms and averaged chemical shifts from the BioMagResBank (BMRB) for all remaining assignable sidechain resonances. Stereospecific isopropyl methyl assignments for all Val and Leu residues were deduced from characteristic cross-peak fine structures in high resolution $2D⁻¹H⁻¹³C$ HSQC spectra of [U-5%-¹³C,100%-¹⁵N]-Aha1¹¹. Complete datasets that include ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁵N resonance assignments, raw FIDs, and peak lists for *C. psychrerythraea* Aha1 were deposited in BMRB (BMRB ID 19235). Dynamics and oligomerization states of Aha1 were assessed by gradient and sensitivity-enhanced 2D $\{^1H\}$ -¹⁵N heteronuclear NOE and 1D¹⁵N T_1 and T_2 relaxation experiments¹². 3D¹³C- and ¹⁵N-edited NOESY spectra on $[U¹³C₁¹⁵N]$ -Aha1 sample were acquired with a mixing time of 120 ms. A 300 ms mixing time was chosen for NOESY acquisitions on $\{[U^2H, ^{13}C, ^{15}N];$ Ile $\delta 1 -[^{13}CH_3];$ Leu,Val- $[^{13}CH_3]\}$ -Aha1 sample.

Automatic NOESY cross-peak assignment and initial structure calculations of monomeric Aha1 units were performed with an automated CYANA 3.0 run^{13} as previously described by Lange, Rossi and coworkers⁹ using 23 manually determined restraints and carrying two sets of peak lists and chemical shifts assignments from double and triple labeled Aha1 samples. The initial run yielded 3463 upper limit distance restraints per protomer. The initial NOE set was trimmed back to the 1493 long-range ($|i-j| \ge 5$) restraints set and used for the RASREC-Rosetta run. No experimental intermolecular contact information was present prior to Rosetta structure calculations.

For further structure validation, intermolecular protein-protein NOE contacts were obtained using a double half-filtered (3D F1-¹³C/¹⁵N-filtered, F3-¹³C-edited) NOESY experiment¹⁴ on a 1:1 mixed sample of unlabeled and $[U^{-13}C^{15}N]$ -Aha1 acquired with 120 ms mixing time (Table S3). Assignment of the 3D double half-filtered NOESY was straightforward from the existing sidechain assignments that were highly resolved in the ¹H-¹³C HSQC for the majority of the interchain peaks. All spectra were acquired on the same spectrometer to insure consistent peak positions. Amide backbone one bond ¹H-¹⁵N residual dipolar coupling (RDC) values $(^1D_{NH})$ for Aha1 were measured using $^1J_{NH}$ -modulated HSQC experiments¹⁵ on isotropic and two partially aligned samples of $[U-5\% -^{13}C, 100\% -^{15}N]$ -Aha1 in Pf1 phage (12.5 mg/mL) and polyethylene glycol bicelles (4.2%) as previously described^{4,5}. A high degree of linear dependence was obtained for the two RDC datasets, manifested in a correlation coefficient of 0.8 in 5-dimensional tensor space¹⁶. Dihedral angle predictions were computed using TALOS+ 8 .

Rosetta structure calculation and analysis

The ensemble of Aha1 monomeric structures were modeled using the RASREC CS-Rosetta method¹⁷. In summary, CYANA 3.0 upper distance restraints were first separated into the restraints with highest reliability ($SUP = 1$), and those with lower reliability ($SUP < 1$) and then converted into ROSETTA flatbottom restraints using an exponential penalty function with a variable upper limit¹⁸. RASREC combines the lower reliability distance restraints into random pairs of ambiguous restraints at the start of each individual structure calculation trajectory. All RASREC stages were terminated as soon as the acceptance rate for new conformers into the structural pool drops below 10% , as described previously⁹.

We applied a penalty term that is proportional to the root-mean square deviation between experimental and calculated RDCs, during Rosetta scoring and gradient-based minimization. For a given structural model and input RDC data, the five alignment tensor parameters were fitted using the non-linear Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm. The three Euler angles that define the orientation of the alignment tensor in the molecular frame were optimized while keeping the axial (D_a) and Rhombic component (R) of the alignment tensor fixed. The D_a and R-values used for peg were 7.4 Hz, 0.33 and for phage 12.7 Hz, 0.18, respectively. These values were estimated from the powder pattern distribution of the RDC data¹⁹. The contribution of each RDC dataset was weighted according to the inverse of the magnitude of the alignment tensor, D_a .

The dimeric structure of Aha1 was modeled using the RosettaOligomers²⁰ protocol that involves Monte-Carlo-based search of the rigid body degrees of freedom using a coarse-grained representation of the system, followed by symmetric, all-atom optimization of the rigid-body, backbone and sidechain degrees of freedom. Briefly, starting from an ensemble of 10 monomeric structures provided by RASREC, we generated 40,000 full-atom conformations using a symmetric docking protocol that samples the 4 rigidbody degrees of freedom that uniquely define a dimer orientation in the molecular frame globally using a low-resolution docking stage followed by symmetric all-atom refinement (phase I). In a first step, we selected the phase I dimer models having the lowest 10% Rosetta energy and 20% interface interaction free energy (*ΔΔG* or DDG) (800 models). From this set, we further selected 28 models showing good fits (below the average score values in the full set) to both the RDC and SAXS data that were used as starting structures for additional localized docking calculations, that involve random perturbations of the four rigidbody degrees of freedom, using Gaussian displacements and rotations between the two subunits with a standard deviation of 3 Å and 5^{0}, respectively (phase II). From these runs, conformations having below

6

75% Rosetta all-atom energy, RDC and SAXS penalty and with solvent exposed surface area (SASA) greater than 800 \AA^2 were kept for further analysis. Finally, we selected with the top 10 structures according to DDG as the final ensemble. The model with the lowest interface interaction score was used as a reference structure to compute RMS (excluding the flexible C-terminal loops at residues 132-148). A high degree of convergence to the reference structure was obtained, suggesting that the restrained search of conformational space leads to a global minimum in Rosetta's energy landscape (Fig. S8 and Fig. 5). All generated dimer models were further rescored according to an independent dataset of 23 inter-subunit NOEs (Table S3) not applied as calculation restraints, using a flat-bottom potential with a 5.5 Å upper limit and an exponential penalty function. The final 10 Rosetta structures are highly consistent with the intermolecular NOEs as well as all other available NMR and SAXS data (Table S2).

We used a reduced SAXS dataset, consisting of 10% of the original points (this was done by only including every 10th data point from the low-noise region of the experimental profile up to Q values of 0.35 Å^{-1}) during Rosetta structure calculations. This did not affect model discrimination, but led to a much faster computation of the SAXS score, performed using a coarse-grained representation of the system as described previously. The CRYSOL fits to the experimental SAXS profile in Figures 3, 5, and S8 were carried out using the full experimental dataset.

Additionally, to evaluate the agreement of the dimer orientations observed in the available Xray structures of the bet-V1 superfamily with the NMR and SAXS data, we performed local perturbation calculations (same as phase II above), where conformational sampling is carried out in the vicinity of the rigid-body degrees of freedom extracted from the homologous dimeric structures SSP2350 (PDB ID 3Q6A), MM0500 (PDB ID 1XUV), and MLL2253 (PDB ID 3Q63). The models generated from these calculations were found to be largely inconsistent with the RDC, SAXS and intermolecular NOE data.

Structural statistics and global structure quality scores for Aha1, presented in Table S2, were computed using the PSVS 1.4 software package²¹. The RDC statistics were computed using PALES²². The final coordinates (excluding the C-terminal 6-His polypeptide segment) for the ensemble of 10 structures and NMR-derived restraints for Aha1 were deposited to the Protein Data Bank (PDB ID 2M89). All structure diagrams were made using PyMOL ver. 1.4 (www.pymol.org).

Small angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS)

SAXS data were collected on Beamline 4-2 of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource $(SSRL)^{23}$. The data were integrated with SSRL and in-house software Sastools²³ and analyzed using the Primus package²⁴. Three protein concentrations were used that were $\times 0.5$, $\times 0.375$ and $\times 0.25$ the starting 1.4

mM Aha1 (CsR251) stock solution with eight 1s exposures of each. There was no evidence of radiation damage within each concentration series and no aggregation or concentration dependent effects seen. Twenty independent *ab initio* molecular envelope reconstructions were carried out yielding a mean normalized spatial discrepancy of 0.540 with a variation of 0.023 (Fig. 2). CRYSOL²⁵ was used to examine the fit to the lowest energy Rosetta structure, a dimer, which gave a χ^2 of 1.71.

Analytical ultracentrifugation

Analytical ultracentrifugation experiments were carried out in an Optima XL-I ultracentrifuge using an An-50 Ti rotor (Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA). Aha1 was equilibrated in a pH 7.5 buffer containing 10 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl and 2 mM TCEP. Buffer density, buffer viscosity and the partial specific volumes of the proteins were calculated using the program SEDNTERP²⁶. All analytical ultracentrifugation experiments were conducted in epon charcoal-filled double-sector centerpieces and quartz windows. Sedimentation velocity (SV) experiments were conducted at 25 ºC and the samples were spun at 50,000 rpm using seven different protein concentrations (40, 20, 10, 5, 3, 1.5, and 0.75 μM). Protein gradients were monitored using either the interference optical system (40 μM Aha1) and at either 280 nm (20 and 10 μM Aha1) or 230 nm $(5, 3, 1.5,$ and 0.75 μM Aha1) using the optical absorbance system. Approximately 50 SV scans for each protein concentration were fit simultaneously to calculate a *c*(s) distribution that was generated using the program SEDPHAT²⁷. During the $c(s)$ analysis, the frictional ratio and meniscus position were treated as floating parameters. After optimization of these parameters, the final distribution was calculated using a resolution setting of 200, in a range from 0-10 Svedberg (resolution 0.05 S, 10/200) a confidence interval of 0.8. For the sedimentation equilibrium (SE) experiments, 4 different protein concentrations (5.0, 2.5, 1.5, and 0.25 μ M) at three different speeds (15,000, 23,000 and 29,000 rpm) were analyzed at 25 °C, with protein gradients being monitored at both 280 and 230 nm. Profiles of Aha1 were globally fit to a monomer-dimer self-association model using the program SEDPHAT (v 4.0)²⁷ with the monomer molecular weight fixed at 17550 Da. Error limits, which represent the 95% confidence interval, were determined using F -statistics²⁸.

Software use (command lines)

These command lines are compatible with ROSETTA3 SVN version 51540 https://svn.rosettacommons.org/source/trunk/rosetta/rosetta_source. A full description of the use of the program can be found at www.csrosetta.org

Step 1: Generate monomer models from ILV NOE data using RASREC CS-Rosetta protocol.

Please refer to the supporting information in Lange, Rossi et. al.⁹ for the exact command lines used to generate models of the monomeric subunit.

Step 2: Global symmetric docking (Phase I)

minirosetta.static.linuxgccrelease \ -run:protocol symdock \ -database rosetta_database \ -symmetry:symmetry_definition C2.symm \ -symmetry:initialize_rigid_body_dofs \ -packing:ex1 \ -packing:ex2aro \ -use_input_sc \ -ignore_unrecognized_res \ -out:nstruct 200 \ -out:file:silent phaseI.silent \ -out:file:silent_struct_type binary \ -out:file:fullatom \ -use_incorrect_hbond_deriv false \ -docking:dock_lowres_filter 15.0 20.0 1500.0 \ -docking:high_min_patch patch_high_min \ -score:weights score12_full \ -restore_pre_talaris_2013_behavior \ -in:file:s monomer_input_rasrec.pdb

Step 3: Local symmetric perturbation with rdcs and saxs

This step starts from selected monomer models from step 2 based on their RDC and SAXS scores (generating sel_monomer_from_global_docking.pdb)

minirosetta.static.linuxgccrelease \

-run:protocol symdock \

-database rosetta_database \

-symmetry:symmetry_definition C2.sym \

-symmetry:perturb_rigid_body_dofs 3 5 \

-packing:ex1 \

-packing:ex2aro \

-use_input_sc \setminus

-ignore_unrecognized_res \

-out:nstruct \$1 \

-out:file:silent phaseII.silent \

-out:file:silent_struct_type binary \

-out:file:fullatom \

-use_incorrect_hbond_deriv false \

-docking:low_patch patch_rdc_saxs \

-docking:high_patch patch_rdc_saxs \

-docking:high_min_patch patch_high_min_rdc_saxs \

-docking:pack_patch patch_rdc_saxs \

-docking:dock_lowres_filter 15.0 20.0 1500.0 \

-docking:kick_relax \

-default_max_cycles 200 \

-relax:default_repeats 2 \

-jump_move true \

-score:weights score12_full \

-restore_pre_talaris_2013_behavior \

-score::patch patch_relax_rdc_saxs \

-rdc:fit_method nls \

-in::file::rdc rdc_ medium1.txt rdc_ medium2.txt \

-rdc::fix_normAzz 0.001 0.001 \

-residues:patch_selectors CENTROID_HA \

-score:saxs:ref_spectrum saxs_sparse.dat \

-in:file:s sel_monomer_from_phaseI.pdb

Inspection of the DDG, Rosetta energy and SAXS and RDC score terms in the phase I/phase II output models can be performed by extracting the score lines from the silent output file: eg. grep SCORE: phaseI.out > scores.txt

Patch files

 $\text{fastsaxs}=0.05$

Patch files are used to set weights of the score function. Four different patch files are used to control sampling (low resolution, all atom) and selection into the pool of structures.

==> patch_high_min<== fa_rep *= 4.22 ==> patch_rdc_saxs <== $rdc = 20.0$ $fasts$ axs = 1.0 ==> patch_high_min_rdc_saxs <== $rdc = 20.0$ $fasts$ axs = 1.0 fa_rep *= 4.22 ==> patch_relax_rdc_saxs <== $rdc = 10.0$

10

Symmetry definition files

 \Rightarrow C2.symm \leq

symmetry_name paolo_dimer__2

 $E = 2*VRTO_base + 1*(VRTO_base:VRT1_base)$

anchor_residue 93

virtual_coordinates_start

xyz VRT0 -0.9971370,0.0568482,0.0498606 -0.0569190,-0.9983788,0.0000000 14.2107039,-4.3937104,-0.3663004 xyz VRT0_base -0.9971370,0.0568482,0.0498606 -0.0569190,-0.9983788,0.0000000 26.1198784,-5.0726689,-0.9618041 xyz VRT1 0.9971370,-0.0568482,-0.0498606 -0.0756160,-0.7488722,-0.6583864 14.2107039,-4.3937104,-0.3663004 xyz VRT1_base 0.9971370,-0.0568482,-0.0498606 -0.0756160,-0.7488722,-0.6583864 2.3015295,-3.7147518,0.2292032 xyz VRT 1.0000000,0.0000000,0.0000000 0.0000000,1.0000000,0.0000000 15.2107039,-4.3937104,-0.3663004 virtual_coordinates_stop

connect_virtual JUMP0_to_com VRT0 VRT0_base

connect_virtual JUMP0_to_subunit VRT0_base SUBUNIT

connect_virtual JUMP1_to_com VRT1 VRT1_base

connect_virtual JUMP1_to_subunit VRT1_base SUBUNIT

connect_virtual JUMP0 VRT VRT0

connect_virtual JUMP1 VRT0 VRT1

set_dof JUMP0_to_com x(11.9433682565431) angle_x

set_dof JUMP0_to_subunit angle_x(0:360) angle_y(0:360) angle_z(0:360)

set_jump_group JUMPGROUP2 JUMP0_to_com JUMP1_to_com

set_jump_group JUMPGROUP3 JUMP1_to_subunit JUMP0_to_subunit

Data files

For each input data, we only print the first 10 lines each to familiarize readers with the file-format.

 \Rightarrow rdc_medium1.txt \le =

3 H 3 N 9.279 151 H 151 N 9.279 7 H 7 N 0.396 155 H 155 N 0.396 15 H 15 N 8.252 163 H 163 N 8.252 16 H 16 N 15.043 164 H 164 N 15.043 17 H 17 N 12.097 165 H 165 N 12.097

 \equiv > rdc_medium2.txt < \equiv

3 H 3 N 10.360 151 H 151 N 10.360 7 H 7 N -16.609 155 H 155 N -16.609 15 H 15 N 18.553 163 H 163 N 18.553 16 H 16 N 24.677 164 H 164 N 24.677 17 H 17 N 23.681 165 H 165 N 23.681

==> saxs_sparse.txt <==

0.00771096 7554.24 70.6635 0.017006 7253.15 9.33698 0.0263011 6830.58 7.28595 0.0355961 6285.76 6.17379 0.0448912 5670.72 5.27 0.0541862 4985.43 4.56433 0.0634813 4285.38 3.83601 0.0727763 3587.02 3.27892 0.0820714 2926.51 2.97787

Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Aha1 SAXS data collection summary.

Table S2. Summary of NMR Structural Statistics for Aha1 ensemble.*^a*

^a Structural statistics were computed for the ensemble of 10 deposited structures (PDB ID 2M89)

b

Computed for residues 1-148, using the AVS software²⁹. Resonances that were not included were exchangeable protons (Nterminal NH₃⁺, Lys NH₃⁺, Arg NH₂, Cys SH, Ser/Thr/Tyr OH) and Pro N, C-terminal carbonyl, side chain carbonyl and nonprotonated aromatic carbons.

^c Calculated for protein using the PSVS 1.4 program²¹. Average distance constraints were calculated using the sum of r^6 .

d Not used during Rosetta structure calculation. Used only for validation of the models.

e Ordered residue ranges [*S*(φ) + *S*(ψ) > 1.8] : 1-134 (chain A), 1-134 (chain B). Secondary structure elements: 2-10 (β1, β1ʹ), 34-36 (β2, β2ʹ), 44-48 (β3, β3ʹ), 55-62 (β4, β4ʹ), 66-72 (β5, β5ʹ), 83-90 (β6, β6ʹ), 95-104 (β7, β7ʹ), 14-22 (α1, α1ʹ), 24-27 (α2, α2ʹ), $109-130$ (α3, α3').

f RDC quality scores ³⁰ averaged over 10 lowest energy Aha1 Rosetta structures.

g
^gSAXS validation score for lowest energy Aha1 Rosetta structure computed with Crysol²⁵.

Assigned Interchain atoms						$\text{upl} [\AA]$
Chain A			Chain B			
Number	Residue	Atom	Number	Residue	Atom	
6	His	HA	116	Thr	HG2	5.50
8	Ile	HD1	116	Thr	HG ₂	5.50
116	Thr	HG2	6	His	HA	5.50
116	Thr	HG ₂	8	Ile	HD1	5.50
116	Thr	HA	119	Ala	HB	5.50
116	Thr	HG ₂	122	Leu	HG	5.50
116	Thr	HG ₂	123	Leu	HG	5.50
116	Thr	HG ₂	123	Leu	H _D 2	5.50
119	Ala	HB	119	Ala	HB	5.50
119	Ala	HB	116	Thr	HA	5.50
119	Ala	HB	120	Val	HG ₂	5.50
120	Val	HG1	123	Leu	HD2	5.50
120	Val	HG ₂	123	Leu	HD2	5.50
120	Val	HG1	123	Leu	HD1	5.50
120	Val	HG ₂	123	Leu	HD1	5.50
120	Val	HG ₂	119	Ala	HB	5.50
122	Leu	HG	116	Thr	HG2	5.50
123	Leu	HD1	120	Val	HG1	5.50
123	Leu	HD1	120	Val	HG2	5.50
123	Leu	HD2	120	Val	HG1	5.50
123	Leu	HD2	120	Val	HG2	5.50
123	Leu	H _D 2	116	Thr	HG2	5.50
123	Leu	HG	116	Thr	HG ₂	5.50

Table S3. Aha1 Assigned Experimental Interchain NOEs. *^a*

a The intermolecular distances listed are based on manually assigned peaks (chain A→B and symmetric B→A). A qualitative 5.50 Å upper limit distance was used to determine the restraint scores shown in Figure 5. These NOE derived distance restraints were not yet available when the structure was solved, and thus were not used during the structure calculation.

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1. Static light scattering results for Aha1 (CsR251).

The NMR sample (30 ml) of [U-5%¹³C-100%¹⁵N]-Aha1 at 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 1X Proteinase Inhibitors, 5% D₂O was injected onto an analytical gel-filtration column (Protein KW-802.5, Shodex, Japan) with the effluent monitored by refractive index (black trace, Optilab rEX) and 90° static light-scattering (blue trace; miniDAWN TREOS, Wyatt Technology) detectors. The resulting experimental molecular weight of isotopically labeled Aha1 is 40.3 kDa (red), the expected Aha1 molecular weight including affinity tag is 17.8 kDa.

Figure S2. Sedimentation velocity analysis of Aha1.

A-G) Interference (A and B), absorbance at 280 nm (C), and absorbance at 230 nm (D-G) across the centripetal field for solutions of 40, 20, 10, 5, 3, 1.5, and 0.75 µM of Aha1, respectively. Data recorded in 1 min intervals. For clarity of presentation only every fifth point is plotted. Residuals are shown in bottom panels. **H**) Normalized c(s) distribution plots each depicting a single sedimenting species of 39 ± 3 kDa generated from the plots A-G, respectively. Data generated from 40, 20, 10, 5, 3, 1.5, and 0.75 µM of Aha1 are indicated by black, red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, and dark yellow, respectively.

Figure S3. Concentration dependence of sedimentation equilibrium for Aha1.

A-D) Absorbance at 280 nm (A) or 230 nm (B-D) at equilibrium across the centripetal field for solutions of 4, 2, 1 and 0.25 µM Aha1 (A-D respectively). The black, red, blue circles represent data collected at 15,000, 23,000 and 29,000 rpm, respectively. For clarity only every third measured point is plotted. Fitted lines represent the global best fit of the data to a model for a monomer to dimer equilibrium with the upper limit for the dimerization constant (K_D) being 80 nM. Residuals are shown in bottom panels.

Figure S4. Analysis of experimental SAXS data and model fits.

A) The calculated fit to the lowest energy Rosetta structure (black line, $\chi^2 = 1.71$) overlaid onto the experimental SAXS data (red squares). The residuals of the fit are shown in the bottom panel. **B)** P(r) distributions (histogram of interatomic scattering vectors) derived from the raw data (red) versus model fitted values (blue). **C)** Guinier plot (showing no aggregation). **D)** Kratky plot demonstrating that Aha1 is folded in solution.

Figure S5. Two-dimensional HSQC spectra.

A) ${}^{1}H^{-15}N$ and **B**) ${}^{1}H^{-13}C$ HSQC spectra of *C. psychrerythraea* {[U- ${}^{2}H, {}^{13}C, {}^{15}N$]; Ileδ1-[¹³CH₃]; Leu,Val- $[{}^{13}CH_3]$ }-Aha1 in 10 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 50 mM DSS, 90% H₂O / 10% ²H₂O, pH 7.5 buffer collected at 25 °C on a Bruker AVANCE 800 MHz spectrometer. Backbone amide, side chain resonances of Trp as well as selectively protonated Ile, Leu and Val methyls are labeled with one-letter amino acid codes followed by their sequence numbers.

Figure S6. NMR chemical shifts connectivity map.

NMR Chemical shift are used to determine resonance assignments and secondary structure for Aha1 (BMRB ID 19235). The final six unassigned histidines in the C-terminal tag have been omitted. Intraresidue (i) and sequential (s) connectivities and sequential C', C^{α} , and C^{β} resonances are shown as horizontal red and yellow lines, respectively. The complete inter-residue CYANA-derived NOE connectivities are shown as thin, medium, and thick black lines, corresponding to weak, medium, and strong NOE interactions. Bar graphs of $\{^1H\}$ -¹⁵N heteronuclear NOE data is shown in blue. The secondary structural elements in the final Aha1 NMR structure (PDB ID 2M89) are also shown.

Figure S7. Backbone amide ¹⁵N T_1 and T_2 relaxation data.

1D ¹⁵N T_1 and T_2 relaxation data for *C. psychrerythraea* [U-5%¹³C,¹⁵N]-Aha1. Data were acquired on a Bruker AVANCE 800 MHz spectrometer at 25 °C using pseudo-2D ¹⁵N T_1 and T_2 gradient experiments¹². T_1 spectra were acquired with variable delays ranging from 0.05 to 2.5 s and a relaxation delay of 5 s. T_2 spectra were acquired with CPMG time ranging from 16 to 240 ms and a relaxation delay of 1.5 s. (Top): ¹⁵N T_1 and T_2 values were extracted by plotting the decay of integrated ¹H^N intensity between $\delta \approx 7$ to 11 ppm and fitting the curves with standard exponential equations using the program 't1guide' within TopSpin 2.1 (Bruker BioSpin). (Bottom): Plot of rotational correlation time, τ_c (ns), versus protein molecular weight (kDa) for known monomeric NESG targets (red) of ranging size (taking into account isotope enrichment as well as affinity tags in the sequence). ¹⁵N T_1/T_2 data for all monomeric proteins used for the τ_c vs. MW plot were obtained at 25 °C, and analyzed as described above. For each protein, the τ_c was calculated from the ¹⁵N T_1/T_2 ratio using the following approximation of literature relaxation equations^{31,32}:

Eq. 1
$$
\tau_c \approx \left(\sqrt{\frac{6T_1}{T_2}-7}\right)/4\pi\nu_N
$$

where v_N is the frequency of ¹⁵N in Hz. The Aha1 τ_c value point matches the approximate value for dimeric MW, confirming the dimer association in solution. The ¹⁵N T_1 , ¹⁵N T_2 , and τ_c for Aha1 are 1.9 sec, 39 ms and 17.0 ns, respectively.

 $\bar{\mathbf{I}}$

Figure S8. Comparison of alternative Phase II dimer conformations.

Experimental data score terms, structure quality terms and Rosetta energies vs. RMSD plot for all models generated in the Phase II/local refinement calculations after filtering (900 conformations – green points). As a reference structure, we used the model with the lowest interface interaction score (1st model in the submitted PDB ensemble, residues 1-131). The 10 conformations with lowest predicted $\Delta\Delta G$ values were selected as the final ensemble ("cluster A"- blue points), while an alternative cluster of conformations is further highlighted in the plots ("cluster B"). In detail: **A)** Peg RDC score computed as RMS(DEXP-DCALC) /DA, where DA is the alignment tensor magnitude. **B)** SAXS score: RMS(IEXP-ICALC). **C)** Phage RDC scores. **D**) Rosetta score12 all-atom energy (in Rosetta Energy Units) **E**) SASA (Å²). **F**) Interface free energy (ddg or ΔΔG) defined as: ΔG_{dimer} - 2 * $\Delta G_{monomer}$. **G)** Structural superposition of the 10-dimer conformations in cluster A, also the final ensemble. **H)** Structure superposition of the 10-lowest ΔΔG structures in cluster B. Overlay of SAXS profiles computed independently for each member in cluster A (**I)** and cluster B **(J)** alongside the experimental profile (grey).

Figure S9. Final hybrid structural ensemble.

Final Rosetta ensemble of the *C. psychrerythraea* Aha1 dimer (PDB ID 2M89), computed using the sparse intra-residue NOEs, RDCs and SAXS data. The two subunits are colored blue and orange and the location of C-termini are labeled. An average value of 0.6 Å backbone RMSD was computed relative to the 1st structure for the ordered region, res. 1-134 (chain A and B), indicating a highly converged ensemble.

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