SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Steps for *Shigella* Gatekeeper Protein MxiC Function in Hierarchical Type III Secretion Regulation

A. Dorothea Roehrich, Enrica Bordignon, Selma Mode, Da-Kang Shen, Xia Liu, Maria Pain, Isabel Murillo, Isabel Martinez-Argudo, Richard B. Sessions and Ariel J. Blocker

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SUPPLEMENTRAY FIGURES, LEGENDS AND TABLES

Figure S1. Structure of *Shigella* **MxiC and its** *Yersinia* **homologs YopN & TyeA**. (A) Top, MxiC structure 2VJ4 (chain A) coloured from blue at the N-terminus, where MxiC74 is the first residue in the first crystallised helix, to red at the C-terminus. Therefore, N-terminus and most of CBD are not shown. (B) Same MxiC rotated by 90° about its long axis. (C) Schematic showing MxiC's 3 α -helical X-bundles. (D) MxiC coloured in cyan & blue and (E) YopN (1XL3) coloured in green & TyeA in red to show the relation between their homologous domains/proteins.

Figure S2: Reduced secretion of MxiC mutant proteins has different causes. Several of the *mxiC* mutants are only poorly secreted. We wondered whether their secretion was deregulated or whether the mutant proteins were not "secretable". To test this, the relevant mutants were combined with *ΔipaB*. The *ΔipaB* mutant is a constitutive secreter that also constitutively secretes MxiC (1,2). If the MxiC mutant proteins are not secreted or secreted at much lower levels than the wild-type protein, then we can conclude that they have an intrinsic secretion defect, i.e. the mutation affects the "secretability" of the protein. If, however, they are now secreted at levels similar to the wild-type protein, then their secretion is solely deregulated. Expression levels of MxiC in whole culture lysates (*bottom panel*) were compared to the amount of MxiC secreted after CR induction (*top panel*). Samples from *Shigella* wild-type, *ΔipaB* and *ΔmxiC* or *ΔipaB ΔmxiC* deletion mutants containing plasmids expressing either wild-type *mxiC* or *mxiC* mutants were prepared as described in the Materials and Methods, Western-blotted with an antibody against MxiC. Cultures were grown with 25 µM IPTG except for the strains containing *mxiCΔNterm* where 100 µM IPTG was used. Results shown are representative of two independent experiments. We do not know why MxiC secretion in *ΔipaB* and *ΔipaB ΔmxiC*/*mxiC+* is not equivalent but, all mutants should be compared to *ΔipaB ΔmxiC*/*mxiC+*.

Figure S3: Alignment of the C-terminus of MxiC. Alignment of the C-terminal helix of MxiC (helix 13) with its homologues. The alignment was cropped from Figure 8 of (3). Residues with more than 40% similarity are coloured: red for acidic, blue for basic, yellow for polar/uncharged and green for hydrophobic/nonpolar residues. "Sf_MxiC" is *S. flexneri* MxiC and Ec_SepL is EPEC SepL.

Figure S4: The extreme C-terminus of MxiC is critical for function. (A) Protein secretion in response to the artificial inducer Congo red (CR). *Shigella* wild-type, *ΔmxiC* mutant, complemented strain (*ΔmxiC*/*mxiC+*) and *mxiCΔCterm* (in the *ΔmxiC* background) were grown with 25 µM IPTG where required. Samples were collected as described in the Materials and Methods, Silver stained (*top panel*) and Western blotted with the indicated antibodies (*bottom panels*). **(B)** Exponential leakage. Samples were collected as described in the Experimental Procedures and Silver stained. **(C)** Total protein expression levels in whole culture lysates. Samples were collected as described in the Materials and Methods and Western-blotted with the indicated antibodies. Data shown are representative of two independent experiments.

Figure S5: The chaperone binding domains of MxiC homologues are conserved. Alignment of the N-terminal chaperone binding domains of MxiC homologues. The alignment was cropped from Figure 8 in (3). As the published alignment only starts at residue 43 of MxiC (Sf_MxiC), the sequences were extended to show the poorly aligned N-terminal part (tinted area) of the chaperone-binding domain of YopN (Ye_YopN). The disordered region of YopN and its regions contacting the chaperones SycN (green dots) and YscB (blue dots), respectively, are highlighted. Residues with more than 40% similarity are coloured: red for acidic, blue for basic, yellow for polar/uncharged and green for hydrophobic/nonpolar residues. Residues mutated in MxiC in our work are marked with arrows.

Figure S6: For different proteins, different percentages of the total protein pool are secreted. Wild-type *Shigella* was grown to exponential phase, resuspended in PBS to an OD600 of 15 and secretion was induced by addition of 200 µg/ml CR. After 8 min at 37**°** C, the amount of protein in the supernatant was compared to whole culture lysates by Western blotting. Intensities were quantified using Odyssey software (Li-Cor) and a linear fit of the dilution series was calculated. Results from two independent experiments are shown, error bars indicate standard deviations. Statistical analysis was performed using an ANOVA with a Tukey's post hoc test. There is an overall difference between proteins ($p \le 0.01$) and in the pairwise comparisons, significant differences were observed between MxiC and IpaB or IpaC $(p < 0.01$ and 0.05, respectively) and between IpaD and IpaB ($p < 0.05$).

Figure S7: Secretion and expression of MxiC is unaffected after deletion of Class I chaperones. (A) and **(C)** CR secretion samples from wild-type *Shigella* and indicated deletion mutants were collected as described in Experimental Procedures, Silver-stained (top panel) and Western-blotted with an antibody against MxiC. All samples in the same panel were analysed on the same blot. **(B)** and **(D)** Total protein expression levels in whole culture lysates. Samples were collected as described in Materials and Methods section 2.7.1 and Western-blotted with an antibody against MxiC. Data shown for the double mutants are representative of two independent experiments. Data shown for the triple mutant are representative of three independent experiments, partly performed in duplicates/triplicates. Secretion and expression of MxiC was quantified on Western blots and normalised for a wildtype analysed on the same blot. Neither secretion $((90 -/443)\%$ of wild-type) nor expression $((93 -4 + 23)\%$ of wild-type) of MxiC is significantly affected by the deletion of all three known Class I chaperones. As additional bands were observed in the *ΔipgE Δspa15* double deletion mutant, we analysed the proteins secreted in the *ΔipgE Δspa15* double mutant by mass spectrometry (4). As expected for a strain lacking *ipgE* and *spa15*, secretion of IpgD and several Osp proteins (e.g. OspC1, OspD2, Osp4) was reduced. We also found that secretion of several IpaH late effector proteins (IpaH4.5, IpaH9.8, IpaH7.8) was significantly increased. As these proteins have a molecular weight between 61 and 65 kDa, this could account for the additional bands observed in panel A. It is possible that reduced stability of the anti-activator OspD1 in the absence of its chaperone Spa15 liberates the transcriptional activator MxiE (5) leading to expression of IpaH late effector proteins.

Figure S8: MxiC was modelled to resemble the "bent" conformation of YopN/TyeA. (A) Crystal structure of YopN/TyeA (*top*), the bent MxiC model (*middle*) and the MxiC crystal structure (*bottom*). The YopN/TyeA crystal structure (PDB code 1XL3, chains A and C, (6)) is depicted in green (YopN) and red (TyeA). The broken helix that leads to a bend in the molecule is shown as yellow "pipe". MxiC (PDB code 2VJ4, chain A, Deane et al. (2008b)) is displayed in cyan (N-terminal region, residues 64 to 253) and blue (C-terminal region, residues 254 to 355). Helix 9 that is extended in the crystal structure (orange, bottom) and bent in the model (purple, middle) is displayed as "pipe". Residue V256 where a proline was introduced in MxiC is highlighted in red. **(B)** Alignment of the helix 9 of MxiC with its homologues. The alignment was cropped from Figure 8 in (3). Residues with more than 40% similarity are coloured, red for acidic, blue for basic, yellow for polar/uncharged and green for hydrophobic/nonpolar residues. "Sf_MxiC" is *S. flexneri* MxiC, "Ye_YopN" is *Y. enterocolitica* YopN. Helices observed in the protein crystals of MxiC (PDB code 2VJ4) and YopN (PDB code 1XL3) are displayed below the alignment. The secondary structure was predicted for the MxiC sequence using Quick2D (http://toolkit.tuebingen.mpg.de/quick2_d), a server combining multiple prediction methods: PSIPRED, JNET and Prof. The resulting predictions are displayed at the bottom. "H" stands for α -helix and "E" stands for β -sheet.

Figure S9: Predicted distance distributions for spin labels attached to Cys247 and Cys290 differ between the predicted extended and "bent" MxiC forms. (A) and **(C)** Predicted rotameric distribution of MTSL spin labels attached to Cys247 and Cys290 in MxiC(Cys). The simulation was made using MMM software (7) and is based on the MxiC crystal structure (A, PDB code 2VJ4 chain A, (8)) and our "bent" MxiC model (Figure S6). The different rotamers of the spin labels are shown in yellow and the midpoints of the N-O bond are shown as red dots whose radii correspond to the rotamer population. The C-termini of MxiC are on the right side of the molecule. **(B)** and **(D)** Predicted distance distributions (P(r)) for the conformational models presented in **(A)** and **(C)**. The predicted major peak for extended MxiC **(C)** is close to 3 nm, while a peak close to 1 nm was predicted for the "bent" form **(D)**.

Figure S10: Introduction and removal of cysteines does not affect MxiC function. (A) Protein secretion in response to the artificial inducer Congo red (CR). *Shigella ΔmxiC* mutant, complemented strain (*ΔmxiC*/*mxiC+*) and *mxiC(Cys),* i.e. *mxiC(C184A/C233S/A247C/S290C),* mutant (in the *ΔmxiC* background) were grown with 25 µM IPTG for *ΔmxiC*/*mxiC* or 50 µM IPTG for *mxiC(Cys)*. Samples were collected as described in Experimental Procedures and Silver-stained. **(B)** Total protein expression levels in whole culture lysates. Samples were collected as described in Experimental Procedures and Western-blotted with an antibody against MxiC. Results shown are representative of two independent experiments.

Figure S11: Purification and labelling of proteins for EPR and DEER analysis. The success of the different purification protocols and steps is shown on the SDS-PA gel montages. All gels were stained with Coomassie blue. **(A)** Purification and MTSL labelling of $MxiC(Cys)$, i.e. $MxiC_{C184A/C233SA247C/S290C}$. The His-tagged protein was purified recombinantly from *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) carrying pDR104 *mxiC(C184A/C233S/A247C/S290C)*. **(B)** Purification of His-Spa15. The His-tagged protein was purified recombinantly from *E. coli* B834 (DE3) carrying pET-28b*spa15.* **(C)** The His-tagged protein was purified recombinantly from *E. coli* BL21 (DE3)pLysS carrying pET15b*his6-ipaDΔ15-332(C322S).* **(D)** Purification of IpgC/IpaC. The His-tagged protein complexes were purified recombinantly from *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) carrying pACYC*ipaC* and pET15bhis6-*ipgC.* F, number of eluted fraction. Those labelled in red were pooled, concentrated and used for the subsequent purification/labelling steps.

Figure S12. Comparison of the His-MxiC(Cys) experimental distance distributions with those simulated based on the seven different MxiC crystal structures. In the left column, $V(t)=V(0)$ is the primary DEER data, in the right column, $P(r)$ is the probability for the different distances. The red dotted lines show the simulation by MMM using the indicated chains from the crystal structures (8), the black lines show the experimental data for labelled His-MxiC(Cys).

Table S1: Strains used in this work

Table S2. Plasmids used in this work

Table S3: Primers used in this work

Start codons are shown in green, stop codons in red. Restriction enzyme sites are in italics. Mismatches in mutagenesis primers are indicated in lower case letters. In internal deletion primers the missing sequence is indicated by a dash. The pKD4 priming sites are shown in blue.

Table S4: Variables in protein purification conditions

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