Supplementary information

Scavenging of superoxide by a membrane bound superoxide oxidase

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Supplementary Table 1: Measured rate constants for reaction with superoxide.

Supplementary Table 2. Crystallographic data and refinement statistics

*Values in parentheses are for highest-resolution shell.

Supplementary Fig. 1. Purification of CybB. (**a**) Absorbance "heat map" (wavelength vs. time) from size exclusion chromatography of CybB with diode array detection. In addition to the standard protein UV range absorbance (i.e. tyrosine/tryptophan absorbance at 280 nm), the deep red CybB protein also absorbs in the visible light range, notably at the ~420 nm (Soret) and ~560 nm heme *b* absorbance peaks. (b) SDS-PAGE gel of purified CybB_{His}. The protein runs as a single band at its expected molecular weight (~21,8 kD). This experiment has been repeated more than 10 times with similar results.

Supplementary Fig. 2. Reduction of CybB by a combination of NADH/NDH-2 and ubiquinone Q₂. NADH, NDH-2, and ubiquinone Q₂ were pre-incubated for 1 min leading to efficient production of both superoxide and reduction of ubiquinone Q₂. Mixing of the solution with detergent solubilized CybB rapidly and completely reduced the CybB (rate limited by mixing). The kinetic trace shown is a representative of at least 3 independent measurements.

Supplementary Fig. 3. Stopped-flow kinetics of CybB reduction. Stopped-flow kinetic analysis showed that reduction of CybB with ubiquinol Q_2H_2 and NADH/NDH-2 is a fast and specific process with time constants of 40-50 ms. The kinetic trace shown is a representative of at least 3 independent measurements.

Supplementary Fig. 4. Superoxide-production assay with NADH/NDH-2. Superoxide-production was monitored by following the reduction of WST-1 at 455 nm. NADH/NDH-2 (black trace) together with ubiquinone Q₂ and *bo*₃ oxidase (black trace) leads to a linear production of superoxide, which is depleted by further addition of CybB (red trace). The kinetic trace shown is a representative of at least 3 independent measurements.

Supplementary Fig. 5. (**a**) Cartoon representation of protein structure B-factors. The highest Bfactors are observed in the termini and the loop structures protruding from the membrane on the periplasmic side. The RSRZ score (14%) for the protein is worse than average for a structure at this resolution. The main reason for this is the dynamic loop structures on the periplasmic side comprising residues 106-136 where most of the residues with high RSR reside. (**b** and **c**) Electron density around hemes 1 and 2 respectively. 2Fo-Fc electron density map contoured at 2σ (blue) and 10σ (purple).

Supplementary Fig. 6. Electrostatic properties of the periplasmic surface of CybB. Electrostatic potential mapped onto the solvent accessible surface of CybB (blue positive, red negative). Electrostatic field lines are indicated. Electrostatics were calculated using $APBS^{54}$ including both hemes and displayed using the APBS plugin in PyMol.

Supplementary Fig. 7. Docking of quinone headgroups. (**a**) 2D structures of quinone headgroups representing ubiquinone (1), menaquinone (2), and demethylmenaquinone (3). (**b**) The three quinone headgroups were seeded into a database of 4.6 million commercially available compounds that was docked to the crystal structure. Enrichment of the quinones by the binding site was quantified using a receiver operator characteristic curve (ROC) based on the docking energy scores. The number of quinones (actives or true positives) identified (y-axis) versus the ranking of the compounds in the database (x-axis) is shown. A strong enrichment of quinones (green line) compared to random selection (purple line) was obtained.

Supplementary Fig. 8: Structure-docking model comparison. (**a**) The structure of the suggested quinone-binding cavity of CybB with bound glycerol. Three waters in the cavity coordinate the glycerol molecule (all other waters were removed for clarity). It should be noted that there is some residual unmodeled density in the proximity of the modeled glycerol suggesting that there may be a larger ligand with low occupancy or a mixture of ligands bound at this site. (**b**) *In silico* generated docking model of ubiquinone-3 binding to CybB. The position and binding mode of the docked ubiquinone shows striking resemblance to the glycerol from the crystal structure. Notably, the glycerol is in approximately the same position and orientation as the upper edge of the ubiquinone ring, with two oxygens from each molecule positioned almost identically, including the quinone carbonyl oxygen coordinated by the heme-binding histidine. Moreover, the glycerol-coordinating waters occupy a similar space in the pocket as the ubiquinone "arms" do in the docking model.

Supplementary Fig. 9. (**a**) **Relative mRNA levels of cybB under different growth conditions.** Relative mRNA levels of *cybB*, normalized to the mRNA level of a housekeeping gene (*idnT*), was determined by RT-qPCR of *E. coli* BW25113 grown under aerobic (AE) and anaerobic (AN) conditions. Shown are *cybB* mRNA levels of samples taken during exponential (exp) and stationary phase (stat). As control, *cybB* transcript levels of a *cybB* knock-out strain (KO) was determined. Shown are the mean values and the individual data points from n=2 biologically independent experiments (each measured in technical replicates).

(**b**) **Superoxide production from respiring** *E. coli* **wt and** *cybB* **knockout membranes.**

Superoxide production from respiring *E. coli* membranes normalized to NADH consumption. Membrane vesicles from the *E. coli* control strain BW25113 expressing wild-type levels of CybB compared with membranes isolated from the *cybB*-knockout strain. Shown are the mean values and the individual data points from n=2 biologically independent experiments (each measured in technical triplicates). (**c**) **Superoxide production from respiring** *E. coli* **wt and CybB overexpressing membranes.** Membrane vesicles from *E. coli* strain BL21 pLysS expressing the wild-type CybB compared with membranes isolated from CybB-overexpressing cells. Addition of SOD to the vesicles did not affect the superoxide detection by WST-1 under aerobic conditions. Shown are the mean values and the individual data points from n=3 biologically independent experiments.

Supplementary Fig. 10. Sequence alignment of diverse CybB homologues. Sequence

alignment of a number of diverse representative sequences belonging to the COG3038 and PRK11513 groups of the Cytochrome b N Superfamily (NCBI accession number cl23723). Arrows indicate heme Fe-coordinating residues, red oval indicate residues potentially involved in proton transfer from the cytoplasm.

Sequences are denoted with their NCBI accession numbers. The top sequence represents E. coli SOO (NP_415935). The other sequences are homologous proteins from the following organisms: Agrobacterium fabrum NP_354489; Brucella melitensis NP_542019, NP_542051; Enterobacter cloacae YP_003612579; Escherichia coli NP_416483, NP_287191; Mesorhizobium loti NP_105468, NP_105780; Pasteurella multocida NP_246256; Pseudomonas aeruginosa NP_249113, NP_249609, NP_252265; Ralstonia solanacearum NP_518320, NP_520840; Salmonella enterica NP_460129, NP_460220, NP_460598; Shigella dysenteriae YP_403372; Sinorhizobium meliloti NP_385543; Vibrio cholerae NP_232647, NP_232928; Xylella fastidiosa NP_298617; Yersinia pestis YP_002348217, WP_002211010 WP_002211611. It should be noted that the eukaryotic B_{561} ³⁷ belongs to different protein families (but also within the Cytochrome_b_N Superfamily). Compared to SOO, the eukaryotic B_{561} family has a different number of TM helices and opposite membrane insertion topology of the heme-coordinating helices. They also show no quinone binding site. Still, since they display strikingly analogous heme architecture and positively charged patch with an exposed heme edge, studies on their reactivity with superoxide would be interesting.