Supplementary Information Appendix for

Molecular mechanism of the chitinolytic peroxygenase reaction

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1. Complete experimental and computation details

Materials. Most of the chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. β -chitin extracted from squid pen was purchased from France Chitin (Orange, France). Ascorbic acid (AscA; 100 mM) stock solutions was prepared in metal-free water (Trace SELECT®, Sigma-Aldrich), aliquoted and stored at -20 °C and thawed in the dark for 10 min just before use. H₂O₂ (35%) was purchased from Merck, aliquoted and stored at -20 °C, and its concentration was systematically controlled for each experiment by measuring the absorbance at 240 nm (extinction coefficient of 43.6 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹).

Site-directed mutagenesis. The plasmid pRSETB containing the gene encoding for *Sm*AA10A-WT was used as template for site-directed mutagenesis using the QuikChange II XL site-directed mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies) and PCR primers listed in *SI Appendix*, Table S2. Mutated plasmids were verified by sequencing and thereafter used for protein expression and purification in the same way as for the wild-type enzyme (see below).

Production and purification of recombinant LPMOs. The recombinant LPMO10A from Serratia marcescens (SmAA10A or CBP21) and mutants thereof were produced and purified according to previously described protocols (1). All LPMOs used in this study were prepared in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), copper-saturated with Cu(II)SO₄ and desalted (PD MidiTrap G-25, GE Healthcare) before use (2). The concentration of SmAA10A-WT and Glu60 mutants thereof was determined by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm and using an extinction coefficient of 35,200 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹. The concentration of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) was determined by measuring the absorbance at 403 nm and using an extinction coefficient of 102,000 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹.

SmAA10A activity test. Reactions were carried out in 2 mL Eppendorf tubes and the reaction volume was 200 μ L (for final time point analysis) or 500 μ L (for time-course monitoring). Typical reactions contained the LPMO (1 μ M) and β -chitin (10 g.L⁻¹), mixed in sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0, 50 mM) and were pre-incubated during 20 min at 40 °C in a Thermomixer (1000 rpm). Then, the reaction was initiated by adding AscA (to a final concentration of 1 mM). Experiments carried out to evaluate the effect of HRP were prepared as described above except that HRP (0-730 nM final concentration) and AmplexRed® (200 μ M final concentration) were added to the mixture before initiation of the reaction by addition of AscA (1 mM). In control reactions, *Sm*AA10A was replaced by Cu(II)SO₄ (1 μ M). For time course monitoring, 55 μ L samples were taken from the reaction mixtures at regular intervals and soluble fractions were immediately separated from the insoluble substrate by filtration using a 96-well filter plate (Millipore) operated with a vacuum manifold. Samples were then frozen (-20 °C) prior to further analysis.

Quantitative product analysis was performed by incubating the soluble products with 2 μ M of a chitobiase from *Serratia marcescens* (also known as *Sm*GH20A) at 37 °C overnight in order to convert the LPMO products to *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) and chitobionic acid (A2^{ox} or GlcNAcGlcNAc1A). The hydrolyzed samples were analyzed by high performance anion exchange chromatography (HPAEC) coupled to pulsed amperometric detection (PAD) using a Dionex Bio-LC equipped with a CarboPac PA1 column as previously described (3). To quantify A2^{ox}, a standard was produced in-house by treating chitobiose (Megazymes) with a chitobiose to chitobionic acid (2, 4). All chromatograms were recorded using Chromeleon 7.0 software.

Chitin binding assay. The capacity of *Sm*AA10A-WT and mutants thereof to bind β -chitin was tested by suspending 10 mg/mL of substrate in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) in a total volume of 600 µL in 2 mL Eppendorf tubes. Reactions were started by the addition of *Sm*AA10A (1 µM final concentration) and were incubated and stirred in an Eppendorf Comfort Thermomixer (at 40 °C, 1000 rpm). Samples were taken (100 µL) after 15, 30, 60, 120 and 240 min and immediately filtrated using a 96-well filter plate (Millipore) operated with a vacuum manifold to obtain the unbound protein fraction. In order to assess the percentage of bound proteins to the substrate, control samples with only enzyme and buffer were included, representing the maximum quantity of protein present in the samples (i.e. 100% unbound). The protein concentration in each sample was determined using the Bradford assay (Bio-Rad, Munich, Germany).

*H*₂*O*₂ *consumption experiments.* H₂O₂ consumption by *Sm*AA10A-WT and mutants thereof was measured according to a previously described protocol (5) using conditions that were slightly different from the standard reaction conditions described above: in order to be able to monitor the H₂O₂ consumption within a reasonable timescale the enzyme concentration had to be reduced and EDTA was added to reduce the background reaction of free metals-catalyzed H₂O₂ reduction (see *SI Appendix*, **Fig. S2**). After optimization, a standard reaction mixture contained the LPMO (50 nM) and H₂O₂ (100 µM) and EDTA (50 µM), without or with β-chitin (10 g.L⁻¹), in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), and the mixtures were incubated at 40 °C in a thermomixer (1000 rpm). The reactions were initiated by addition of AscA (20 µM final concentration). At regular intervals (t = 3, 6, 9, 12, 30 and 60 min), 70 µL of the reaction mixture was sampled, filtered as described above and 25 µL of the filtrate was mixed with 75 µL of a pre-mix of HRP (5 U.mL⁻¹ final concentration) and Amplex® Red (ThermoFisher) (100 µM final concentration) in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM pH 7.0). H₂O₂ concentrations was reten determined spectrophotometrically by measuring the absorbance at 540 nm in a microtiter plate reader. An H₂O₂ standard curve was prepared in the same conditions.

Bioinformatics analysis. The sequence of the chitin-binding protein from the fern *Tectaria macrodonta* (Tma12; GenBank ID AFR32946.1) together with the sequences of the catalytic domains of 19 selected LPMOs were aligned using the T-Coffee Expresso online tool (6). The structures of *Sm*AA10A (PDB 2BEM) (1), of the AA9A from *Thermoascus aurantiacus* (*Ta*AA9A, PDB 2YET) (7), and of the AA13A from *Aspergillus orizae* (*Ao*AA13A, PDB 4OPB) (8) were supplied as additional structural data input to the T-Coffee algorithm. The resulting multiple sequence alignment (MSA) was employed as input to build a phylogenetic tree, using PhyML (bootstrapping procedure with default substitution model and 100 bootstraps) available via the online platform Phylogeny.fr (9). The phylogenetic tree was visualized using the iTOL platform (10). A structural model of Tma12 was generated using the online Protein Homology/analogY Recognition Engine V 2.0 (Phyre2) (11).

Isolation of LPMO-Cu(I). In a typical experiment, solutions of AscA (100 μ L at 100 mM) and *Sm*AA10A (300 μ L at 75 μ M) were submitted to 3 cycles (10 min/2 min) of vacuum/N₂ using a Schlenk line before being transferred into an anaerobic chamber (Whitley A35 anaerobic workstation). All buffer and water solutions were extensively flushed with N₂. Following this first O₂ removal, all solutions were placed in the anaerobic chamber for at least 16 hours to ensure complete O₂-free conditions (the lids of the vessels were slightly loose). In the anaerobic chamber, the LPMO was reduced by adding 20 eq. of AscA (i.e. 4.5 μ L of the 100 mM solution) to the LPMO solution, followed by incubation for 10 min. The excess of AscA was then removed by desalting the reduced enzyme on a PD MidiTrap G-25 column (GE Healthcare) that had been equilibrated beforehand with anaerobic sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0). This procedure yielded 1 mL of a ca. 40 μ M LPMO-Cu(I) solution. An aliquot (20 μ L) of the latter solution was then sampled to determine the exact enzyme concentration by measuring absorbance at 280 nm.

Monitoring reduction of LPMO-Cu(II) by AscA. Prior experiments had established that changes in intrinsic fluorescence of SmAA10A can be used to monitor the oxidation state of the Cu center, with the Cu(I) form of the enzyme having greater fluorescence intensity than the Cu(II) form (12). Fluorescence was measured using a KinetAssyst stopped-flow spectrometer (TgK Scientific, Bradford-on-Avon, UK) in single mixing mode with fluorescence detection using an excitation wavelength of 280 nm and a bandpass filter that allows for fluorescent light above 320 nm to be detected at the photomultiplier tube with an applied voltage of 600-750 V. The protein sample was sealed in an airtight tonometer interfaced with the stopped flow sample handling unit. Deoxygenated buffer and ascorbate were prepared in the anaerobic chamber, sealed in gastight syringes, and then introduced to the sample handling unit of the stopped-flow spectrophotometer for reaction. Anaerobic SmAA10A (5 μ M, 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.0,) was rapidly mixed (< 5 ms) with an equivalent volume of variable concentrations of degassed

anaerobic ascorbate (5 –500 μ M after mixing), at 25 °C, and fluorescence changes were then monitored over time.

Re-oxidation of LPMO-Cu(I) by H_2O_2 . Most kinetic experiments for measuring changes in fluorescence emission upon re-oxidation of LPMO-Cu(I) were carried out using a SFM4000 stoppedflow spectrophotometer (BioLogic Science Instruments, Grenoble, France). Data were measured using a KinetAssyst stopped flow spectrometer (Hi-Tech Scientific) in single mixing mode with fluorescence detection using an excitation wavelength of 295 nm and a bandpass filter that allows for fluorescent light above 320 nm to be detected at the photomultiplier tube (PMT) with an applied voltage of 650 V. Prior to measurements, the spectrophotometer was made anaerobic by flushing the entire system with a dithionite solution (large excess) and, subsequently, anaerobic sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0). In the anaerobic workstation, the isolated LPMO-Cu(I) (see above) was diluted into anaerobic sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) to prepare 5 mL of a 4 µM LPMO-Cu(I) solution, which was transferred into a sealed gastight syringe. H₂O₂ solutions were made via serial dilution of the 35% (ca. 10.8 M) H₂O₂ stock solution in anaerobic buffer to generate working stock solutions with concentrations of $10 - 800 \mu$ M. H₂O₂ solutions were prepared in gastight syringes in the anaerobic chamber, and then introduced to the sample handling unit of the stopped-flow spectrophotometer for reaction. Following rapid stopped-flow mixing of the reduced protein with oxidant, the reactions with H₂O₂ were monitored via time resolved fluorescence. The concentration of prepared H₂O₂ solutions was systematically controlled spectrophotometrically as described above. Note that the reactivity with O_2 was so slow (up to 120 min) that an alternative, simpler method was developed (see below).

Re-oxidation of LPMO-Cu(I) by O₂; alternative method. Solutions of O₂ with different concentrations were prepared by sparging solutions of sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) for 10 min with variable N₂/O₂ gas mixtures (at 200 mL/min total gas flowrate) in glass bottles (20 mL), which were sealed at the end of the sparging period. The actual O₂ concentration was then measured using an oxygen sensor (a micro fiber optic oxygen transmitter, OXY-4 micro, PreSens, Germany) as previously described (5). The O₂ concentration in each bottle was controlled before each set of experiments and bottles were re-sparged when necessary. Initially, re-oxidation experiments were performed using the stopped-flow spectrophotometer similarly to experiments described above for H₂O₂. However, given the slowness of the reaction we developed a simpler approach. In the anaerobic workstation, the isolated LPMO-Cu(I) (see above) was diluted into anaerobic sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) to prepare 500 μ L of a 4 μ M LPMO-Cu(I) solution, which was transferred into a sealable fluorescence Quartz cuvette equipped with screw cap and septum (Hellma). The sealed cuvettes were then inserted into a Cary Eclipse Fluorescence spectrophotometer (Agilent Technologies). Excitation and emission wavelength were set to 280 and 340 nm and the PMT detector voltage was set to 600 V. The reaction

was initiated by adding into the cuvette, via a Hamilton syringe, 500 μ L of an appropriate O₂ solution (final O₂ concentrations after mixing were 0-600 μ M)). The change in fluorescence was monitored over a period of 180 min, with data points recorded every 10 sec. With this method, we could run simultaneously 3 replicates and 1 control in which anaerobic buffer was added instead of the O₂ solution.

Kinetics data analysis. Fluorescence data were expressed as normalized fluorescence, i.e. as $1 - \frac{\Delta F}{\Delta Fmax} = 1 - \frac{F_{max} - F(t)}{F_{max} - F_0}$, where F_{max} and F_0 are the fluorescence signals of fully reduced and ground state LPMO, respectively. Note that $1 - \frac{\Delta F}{\Delta Fmax} = \frac{LPMO - Cu(I)}{LPMO_{tot}}$ when considering LPMO-Cu(I) and LPMO-Cu(II) as the two main fluorophores and provided that the fluorescence signal of both species is linear with concentration (as is indeed the cases; *SI Appendix*, Fig. S9) (see Bissaro et al. (12) for further details concerning these equations). Single exponential decay functions with a baseline correction factor ($y = a.e^{-kobs.t} + c.t + d$) were fit to the data (with an in-house Matlab script) to determine first order rate constants (k_{obs}) for re-oxidation of LPMO-Cu(I) by either O₂ or H₂O₂. Data describing reduction of LPMO-Cu(II) to LPMO-Cu(I) were fitted with a single exponential function ($y = a + b.e^{-kobs.t}$) using the Kinetic Studio (Hi-Tech Scientific) software. For each experimental condition, all data were measured at least in triplicate and averaged. Plots of k_{obs} versus AscA, O₂ and H₂O₂ concentrations were fit with linear least squares regression analysis to determine second order rate constants (using an in-house Matlab script). O₂ re-oxidation experiments performed for *Sm*AA10A-WT using the stopped-flow approach or the conventional fluorimeter gave equivalent results, both yielding second order rate constants of 3.3 M⁻¹ s⁻¹.

Electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy

EPR spectra were recorded using a BRUKER EleXsys 560 SuperX instrument equipped with an ER 4122 SHQE SuperX high sensitivity cavity. Spectra were recorded using 20 mW microwave power and 2 G modulation amplitude at room temperature. All samples were prepared with 0.2 mM spin trap probe CAT1H (1-Hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-4-yl-trimethylammonium chloride). The CAT1H stock solution was kept on ice, under an inert N₂ atmosphere, and the signal of CAT1H in buffer was measured at the beginning and the end of the experiment. Typically, all sample contents were mixed in less than 10 seconds, drawn into a 50 μ L capillary (Brand gmbh) that subsequently was sealed by haematocrit (Brand gmbh), and measured exactly after 4 minutes. Spectra were imported into Matlab using Easyspin (13) and integrated using Matlab functions. Sample composition is shown with the results in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S16.

Molecular dynamics simulations (classical only). The starting model for investigating the *Sm*AA10A reaction mechanism was taken from an experimentally informed enzyme- β -chitin model (~150,000

atoms, SI Appendix, Fig. S4) that had previously been equilibrated for 272 ns (14). Force field parameters for H₂O₂ were derived using Paramfit (15) and Gaussian 09 (16) (SI Appendix, Table S1) while the Cu(I)-histidine-brace force field parameters were taken from a previous study (14). A water molecule ~ 3 Å away from the Cu-atom was replaced by a H₂O₂ molecule and the new model was equilibrated applying the following procedure. The model was first subjected to 2,500 steps of energy minimization with 5 kcal.mol⁻¹·Å⁻² positional restraints on all atoms but the introduced H_2O_2 molecule. Then, a 50 ns equilibration step was carried out in the NVT ensemble at 300 K using the weak coupling algorithm and a time constant of 10 ps to regulate the temperature. In this step, 2 kcal·mol⁻¹·Å⁻² positional restraints were applied to the C1 atoms of the lowest layer of NAG chains of the chitin model (the "highest" layer being the one interacting with the LPMO). Throughout the MD simulation, a onesided harmonic potential of 5 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻² was applied to one of the H₂O₂ O-atoms to keep it between 2.0 and 3.5 Å from the Cu-atom. A time step of 2 fs, periodic boundary conditions with a 12 Å cutoff for non-bonded interactions, and particle mesh ewald treatment of long-range electrostatics were applied, while hydrogen atoms were constrained by the SHAKE algorithm (17, 18). All MD-simulations were conducted using the CUDA version of PEMEMD included in AMBER16 (19). Analysis of trajectories was performed using the *cpptraj* module included in AmberTools (20).

Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations (with QM-region). A snapshot of the *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I)-H₂O₂- β -chitin MD-trajectory with an active site geometry similar to what is observed in the crystal structure (PDB ID 2BEM:C) (1) and a Cu-H1 distance of 3.8 Å (the average distance observed in the ensemble) was selected from the 50 ns trajectory. The QM-region included the H₂O₂ molecule, Cu(I), the enzyme residues H28, H114, and E60, and two NAG units (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S5 for the definition of link atoms and QM- and MM-regions). The QM/MM interface of AMBER16 (21) was utilized to execute the QM/MD simulations while ORCA (22) provided energies and gradients externally (UBP86/Def2-SVPP). The MD parameters listed in the previous section were also applied to the QM/MM/MD simulation, except that the time step was reduced to 0.5 fs. After a few hundred steps, the H₂O₂ O-O bond began to elongate (>0.2Å), and the restraint keeping H₂O₂ in the reaction cavity was immediately turned off after which the reaction continued to form an oxyl-intermediate. Another 5 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻² restraint was then applied to pull the oxyl O-atom closer to the substrate H1-atom that was approximately 2 Å away. When the Cu-oxyl bond started to elongate (>0.2Å), the restraint was turned off, after which H-abstraction and hydroxyl rebound happened spontaneously. The complete reaction is summarized in *SI Appendix*, Movie S1.

QM/MM calculations. The simulation in the previous section did not provide any information on the energetics of the reaction path, thus a QM/MM approach was chosen to estimate transition state energy barriers. A snapshot from the QM/MM/MD simulation taken before H_2O_2 reacted with Cu(I) was minimized using the same AMBER parameters as listed above and by applying the three step QM/MM

minimization scheme described previously (14). The minimized system, containing an intact H₂O₂ molecule ~3 Å from the copper ion, was truncated from ~150,000 to ~24 000 atoms, only keeping water, NAG units, and amino acid residues closer than 40 Å from the copper ion (Fig. 3A). This initial truncated model was subjected to geometry optimization using ChemShell (23) in combination with ORCA, selecting an extended QM/MM-region (SI Appendix, Fig. S5B) and a large active-region (the part of the model that is allowed to move) that allowed the active site environment to relax (SI Appendix, Fig. S5C). This geometry optimization yielded the QM/MM starting model, named state 1. In all further calculations a smaller active-region was employed (SI Appendix, Fig. S5D) to avoid potential nonrelevant changes of hydrogen bonding patterns in the MM-region far from the enzyme active site. To generate models of the oxyl intermediate and final hydroxylated product, the initial positions of the corresponding H₂O₂ derived atoms were estimated from the QM/MM/MD simulation, replacing the H_2O_2 coordinates in state 1, and then subjected to geometry optimization. To test the Poulos-Kraut mechanism, where H_2O_2 is heterolytically cleaved, a model where both H-atoms of the H_2O_2 molecule were bound to the O-atom distal to the Cu(I) was built from state 1 and then geometry optimized. The resulting 3PK structure Cu(I)-OOH(H) displayed an unexpectedly long Cu-O distance of 2.94 Å. To anneal the high energy 3PK structure, it was re-optimized with Cu in the Cu(II) state instead of Cu(I), and it was observed that the peroxide moiety and the Glu60 side chain had altered their positions in the resulting structure. This strategy was selected because we assumed that OOH(H) has higher affinity to Cu(II) than Cu(I). The Cu(II)-OOH(H) distance was 1.98 Å (instead of 2.94 Å), and one of the H₂O₂ protons was associated with one of the oxygen atoms of the Glu60 carboxyl group (Glu60-COO-H distance of 1.01 Å). The distance between the proton on the Glu60 carboxyl group (Glu60-COO-H) and the distal peroxide oxygen atom was 1.64 Å. When this Cu(II)-peroxide structure was re-optimized with Cu in the Cu(I) state, the distance between the proton on the Glu60 carboxyl group and the peroxide moiety was reduced from 1.64 Å to 1.49 Å (Glu60-COO-H distance 1.07 Å). The resulting Cu(I)-OOH(H) distance was 2.30 Å, i.e., shorter than the initial distance of 2.94 Å. However, the energy of the 2.3 Å Cu(I)-OOH(H) intermediate was 5.5 kcal/mol higher than the 2.94 Å Cu(I)-OOH(H) intermediate (calculated by TPSSh and def2-TZVPP). Thus, we selected the initial 2.94 Å Cu(I)-OOH(H) structure as the 3PK intermediate in the subsequent calculations.

The minimum energy path from state 1 to state 5, passing through this Poulos-Kraut like intermediate was calculated using the methods described below.

Typically, all calculations were carried out utilizing the unrestricted functionals BP86 (24, 25) B3LYP (26) and TPSSh (27), applying the Def2-SVP basis set for all atoms except the copper ion, which was described by Def2-TZVP.

All final single point energies were calculated by B3LYP or TPSSh and Def2-TZVPP (see Results section for details). For all states of the system potentially containing unpaired electrons (i.e. all states except states 1 and 9), calculations were carried out assuming open shell singlets, triplet states, or broken

symmetry states. Dispersion was included through the Grimme's DFT-D3 (28) approach with Becke-Johnson dampening (29), and the RI (30) or RIJCOSX approximation (31) was used to speed up the calculations. The DL-find optimizer in ChemShell was applied to calculate nudged elastic band (NEB) minimum energy paths, carry out geometry optimizations to obtain energy minima, ad to apply the dimer method to locate transition states (32, 33). All transition states were subjected to frequency analysis to confirm a single imaginary frequency. Note that the frequency analysis of TPSSh transition state **6** resulted in two imaginary frequencies. Also, note that the geometry of the first transition state of the H₂O₂ heterolytic cleavage path (state 2_{PK}) was taken from the climbing image of the converged NEB path (subsequent frequency analysis confirmed a single imaginary frequency for this state). Molecular coordinates and AMBER force field parameters were imported directly into ChemShell, securing consistency between the programs. The QM/MM electrostatic interactions were handled by ORCA, including charges from the MM-region in the QM-calculation. For calculations with O₂, the model named state 1 was taken as the initial model. The H-atoms of H₂O₂ were deleted and dummy AMBER parameters were generated for O₂. When imported into ChemShell, these dummy parameters were ignored.

Free energy calculations of H_2O_2 *diffusion into the reaction cavity.* To investigate how accessible the confined reaction cavity is to small molecules such as H_2O_2 , and to assess the energetics associated with the transport process, biased MD simulations (umbrella sampling) were carried out. Two start models were generated from the previously equilibrated *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I)-H₂O₂- β -chitin complex containing H_2O_2 , one with H_2O_2 located at the entrance of the tunnel suggested by Bissaro et al. (14), and one with H_2O_2 in the reaction cavity. A biasing potential of 5.0 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻² was applied in all simulations, and when necessary (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S22) resampling was carried out using a biasing potential of 10.0 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻². The multistate Bennett acceptance ratio method (34) as implemented in PyMBAR was used to estimate the free energy associated with H_2O_2 diffusion in and out of the reaction cavity.

2. Supplementary results

Detailed analysis of the electronic structures of states 1-9. The corresponding orbital transformation (COT) method was used to generate unrestricted corresponding orbitals (UCOs) (35), and the orbital overlaps calculated for UCOs indicate how the outer shell electrons interact. An UCO overlap value close to 1 indicates doubly occupied orbitals, values in the range ~0.85-0.05 indicate spin-coupled pairs within an orbital, and an UCO overlap equal to 0 indicates two orbitals, each occupied by one electron having parallel spins (36). An example is state 2 that yields an UCO overlap of 0.82 for the HOMO, indicating a borderline case of doubly occupied orbitals and spin coupled pairs. However, the open shell singlet and broken symmetry approaches yield the same energy, indicating that the broken spin (BS) solution has collapsed to the closed shell state due to strong coupling between the two spins (J = 7940 cm⁻¹), a phenomenon previously described in the literature (35). The UCO overlaps and the corresponding coupling constants are shown in *SI Appendix*, Table S3.

Modelling of H-abstraction from chitin by SmAA10A copper-superoxide. Even though previous computational studies have all found hydrogen abstraction by Cu-superoxide less feasible than with Cuoxyl (37-39), all these studies have utilized cello-oligosaccharides as model substrates. Thus, it was of interest to investigate the potential of superoxide to perform hydrogen abstraction on crystalline chitin substrate. The state 1 model from the H_2O_2 mechanism was used as a starting point, in which H_2O_2 was replaced by O_2 . We probed several initial models where O_2 was placed at different places in the reaction cavity and they all resulted in the same final Cu-superoxide geometry (SI Appendix, Fig. S7). When comparing this complex with a SmAA10A-Cu-O₂ complex that was geometry optimized in vacuum without substrate or solvent, it became apparent that the presence of substrate induces a different conformation of O_2 as a result of steric clashes with the chitin substrate (SI Appendix, Fig. S7A). This difference in conformation does not appear to change the nature of the molecular bonding orbital of the SmAA10A-Cu-O₂ complex (SI Appendix, Fig. S7A). Compared to H-abstraction by a Cu-oxyl species (barrier of 10.6 kcal/mol, TPSSh functional), the corresponding reaction with Cu-superoxide is unfavorable (35 kcal/mol transition state energy barrier, TPSSh functional) (SI Appendix, Fig. S7D). Thus, provided that O_2 can access the active site cavity and form a Cu-superoxide complex, we conclude that H-abstraction by superoxide is thermodynamically plausible by 16 kcal/mol, but kinetically very unlikely.

*Possible off-pathway reactions occurring with the flexible and soluble NAG*⁶ *substrate.* We note that the evolution of the fluorescence signal in the presence of substrate may appear in contradiction with the proposed mechanism (**Fig. 1**) since experiments shown in **Fig. S20** indicate that, in the presence of NAG⁶ and in excess of H_2O_2 , the Cu(I) was not regenerated at the end of the catalytic cycle. The Cu(I) state was however regenerated to a certain extent when lower, sub-stoichiometric amounts of H_2O_2 were

used (SI Appendix, Fig. S15; e.g. 80% of Cu(I) is observed when LPMO-Cu(I) is reacted with 0.5 eq. H₂O₂ in the presence of NAG₆, where only 50% Cu(I) would have been observed if Cu(I) was not regenerated). These results indicate that there is a partition between Cu(I) regenerating and nonregenerating reactions. Given the putatively poor binding of NAG_6 , a simple first hypothesis could be that LPMO-Cu(I) molecules, not associated with NAG₆, react with H₂O₂ to form LPMO-Cu(II). In such a scenario, and in agreement with the proposed global mechanism, the fraction of substrate-bound LPMO-Cu(I) would have to complete several catalytic cycles since we observed a LPMO-Cu(I):NAG6 ox stoichiometry of ca. 1:1.4 in presence of excess of H₂O₂ (> 10 eq.; *SI Appendix*, Fig. S19). A second hypothesis is that the reaction derails along the productive pathway preventing re-generation of the Cu(I) species while still allowing NAG₆ oxidation to occur. It is noteworthy that we had previously shown by EPR, mutagenesis and product profile analysis that NAG₆ is bound to SmAA10A in a manner that is similar to β -chitin binding (40). However, as detailed below, this does not ensure that the reaction goes along the path predicted by our calculations (which were done with chitin). Indeed, as shown in SI Appendix Fig. S21A, one can envisage a scenario where a partition of reactions at the [LPMO-Cu(II)-OH-NAG₆) stage (state 7 in Fig. 3) occurs. As detailed above, in the Cu(I)-regenerating productive pathway, an oxygen rebound mechanism between LPMO-Cu(II)-OH and NAG₆ $^{\bullet}$ (in a crystalline chitin context) is predicted to occur. However, it is also conceivable that in a less stringent context (i.e. soluble NAG₆ as a substrate rather than chitin) the NAG₆ radical reacts with an extra H₂O₂ molecule, successfully yielding NAG4^{ox} (+NAG2) but failing in regenerating the Cu(I) species (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S21A). To test this hypothesis, we compared the LPMO-substrate interaction of a SmAA10A-NAG₆ complex to a SmAA10A-chitin complex using molecular dynamics simulations. The SmAA10A-NAG₆ complex displays a longer Cu-H1 average distance, with a wider distribution, than the SmAA10A-chitin complex (SI Appendix, Fig. S21B). Also, the NAG₆-moiety is much more flexible in the SmAA10A-NAG₆ complex compared to the SmAA10A-chitin complex since it is exposed to solvent in the former whereas embedded in the chitin lattice in the latter (SI Appendix, Fig. S21C). From these comparisons, it is clear that the lack of geometric constrains when using soluble NAG_6 as substrate yields a much less confined active site and less tight control on the oxidative chemistry, which likely allows off-path reactions to occur. Furthermore, calculations indicate that the reaction of NAG6° with H2O2 is spontaneous ($\Delta G^{\circ}_{reaction} = -45.7$ kcal/mol) and associated with an energy barrier of only 5.9 kcal/mol (TPSSh) (SI Appendix, Fig. S21D&E). Thus, when using NAG₆ as substrate, it is possible that both scenarios presented above are at play, which limits regeneration of the Cu(I) state.

 H_2O_2 access to the active site. We have previously revealed the existence of a water tunnel, formed in the enzyme-polysaccharide complex interspace, connecting bulk solvent to the monocopper active site (14). Here, we investigated the energetics associated with H_2O_2 diffusion into the active site by MD simulations combined with umbrella sampling, estimating free energy profiles of H_2O_2 moving in this

interspace. Different from our previous work (14), where the tunnel and its accessibility were assessed primarily using steric criteria, the methodology applied here is founded on assessing non-covalent interactions between H_2O_2 and the enzyme-substrate complex in a dynamic environment. During the course of the simulations, Glu60 and Asn185 appeared to play a gating role, restricting H_2O_2 access to the active site cavity (see *SI Appendix*, Figs. S19 and S22 and Movie S2). Asn185 points away from the copper ion and do not swing into the active site cavity like Glu60. While it is apparent from our simulations that H_2O_2 can move around freely within the reaction cavity, one main entrance route stood out as the most feasible. This preferred route is indicated by a blue tunnel in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S22*A* and described by the blue potential of mean force (PMF) curve in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S22*B*. The free energy profile was obtained by translocating H_2O_2 into the reaction cavity from the bulk solvent. The second tunnel shown in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S22 (red tunnel, red PMF) indicates a dead end, where the H_2O_2 molecule is restricted from escaping into bulk solvent by residues Asp182 and Ser115 and the protein main chain. The free energy barrier associated with diffusion of H_2O_2 into the reaction cavity from the bulk solvent was estimated to be less than 2 kcal/mol, indicating that this process is far from rate limiting.

3. Supplementary discussion

On the positioning of H₂O₂ in AA9 LPMOs

The second-sphere residues Gln162 and His147 in *Ls*AA9A (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S26), highly conserved within the AA9 family (40), could potentially play a role similar to that of Glu60 in *Sm*AA10A, which is conserved in all AA10 C1-oxidizers. The equivalent histidine in another AA9 has been shown to be important for enzyme catalysis (41). Surprisingly, His147 was not included in the QM-region by Wang et al. (42), and we speculate that, depending on the protonation state of its side chain, His147 may either hydrogen bond (as proposed by Hedegård and Ryde) (43) with the distal O in H₂O₂ or possibly bind H₂O₂ in a strained conformation resembling state **1** in this work (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S26 for an explanatory illustration).

On the interpretation of the LPMO fluorescence signal

We previously reported the change in fluorescence of SmAA10A upon addition of reductant and oxidant (12). Here, we detailed the kinetics of both reduction and re-oxidation steps under conditions resulting in single oxidative events (i.e. using isolated LPMO-Cu(II) or Cu(I) species). While the reduction step is rather straightforward to analyze and translates into an increase in fluorescence upon formation of the LPMO-Cu(I) species, the re-oxidation steps entails more complex reactions and we would like to detail our interpretation of data and openly address some unanswered questions that warrant further investigations.

When LPMO-Cu(I) reacts with H_2O_2 in the absence of substrate, one could expect the formation of Fenton reaction-like products, namely hydroxyl radicals and hydroxide ions. In agreement, we have previously shown that the copper-coordinating histidines are heavily oxidized when an LPMO is exposed to excess of reductant and H_2O_2 in the absence of substrate, suggesting the formation of oxidizing species that do damage within a diffusion-limited range. Under such conditions, total enzyme inactivation is observed (5, 44, 45). Here, we show by spin-trap experiments that radicals (potentially hydroxyl radicals) are indeed formed (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S16). Nonetheless, it is important to note that the formation of such hydroxyl radical under conditions resulting in single oxidative events leads to very little loss of activity of *Sm*AA10A (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S17), indicating that multiple turnovers in absence of substrate are required to modify the enzyme active site or active site surroundings so that inactivation is achieved.

On relating experimental constant rates, energy barriers and electron transfer rates

Attempts to relate energy barriers derived from QM/MM studies to experimental apparent catalytic constants should be considered with caution. Notably, setting the pre-exponential factor (A) in the Arrhenius equation $(k_{cat} = A.e^{\frac{-E_{TS}}{R.T}})$ is complicated since this factor is meant to reflect productive collisions between reactants, a parameter likely to be greatly affected by the confined nature of the active site when the enzyme is in complex with the polysaccharide. This point is well illustrated by the constrained diffusion of H_2O_2 towards the active site through a tunnel access. A common value of A = 10¹² has been selected in recent LPMO work (43). Using a supposedly similar value (deduced by us, not stated by the authors), Wang et al. have concluded that the rate constant of 0.11 s⁻¹ reported by Frandsen et al. (46), and determined under ambient O2 (i.e. without control of potential H2O2 levels) would correspond to a barrier of approximately 18 kcal/mol ($E_{TS} = -RT * \ln(k_{cat}/A) = -8.3145 * 298 *$ $\ln(0.11/10^{12})$), which is much higher than the highest energy barrier coming out of their calculations on H₂O₂-driven catalysis (6.9 kcal/mol) (42). This difference led the authors of that study to suggest that the rate-determining event of the apparent LPMO rate is a step not intrinsic to the LPMO catalytic cycle, namely the hydrolysis of the hydroxylated product. Following the same logic (with $A = 10^{12}$), we calculate that an energy barrier of 6.9 kcal/mol would translate into a rate constant $> 10^7$ s⁻¹ for the Habstraction reaction, which seems unlikely. Importantly, it has been claimed that in standard reaction conditions, where H₂O₂ is generated in situ at low, non-harmful concentrations, the rate of H₂O₂ generation determines the overall LPMO apparent rate (5, 45, 47). Therefore, apparent LPMO rates, as in Frandsen et al., 2011, may reflect the probability of encounters between H₂O₂ and a reduced substratebound LPMO rather than any intrinsic reaction of the LPMO cycle, which complicates the comparison of experimental and theoretical rates. H₂O₂-driven catalysis by *Sm*AA10A yielded a k_{cat} of 6.7 s⁻¹ (at 25 °C) on chitin nanowhiskers (45), which can be translated into an energy barrier of ~13.0 kcal/mol (i.e. the highest energy barrier calculated here between states **5** to **6** (**Fig. 3***D*) only when considering a collision factor 40-fold lower (i.e. A = 0.23 x 10¹¹) than the A value used by others.

In the frame of the Marcus theory, we can estimate the outer sphere electron transfer rate, knowing the reduction potentials of the half-oxidation $SmAA10A-Cu(I) \rightarrow Cu(II)$ and half-reduction $O_2 \rightarrow O_2^{-}$ (see calculations below). Regarding re-organization energies, we followed the approach outlined by Kjaergaard et al. (48):

Marcus' theory equation: $k_{\rm ET}=Z.e^{\frac{-\Delta G^{\neq}}{R.T}}$

Where Z (frequency factor) = 10^{11} M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (according to Kjaergaard et al.) (48) $\Delta G^{\neq} = (\lambda + \Delta G^{\circ})^2 / 4\lambda$ R = 8.3415 J.K⁻¹.mol⁻¹ T = 298.15 (K) (experiments performed at 25 °C)

 λ (total reorganization energy) = ($\lambda_{Cu-SmAA10A, donor} + \lambda_{O2, acceptor}$)/2 = 1.74eV, where $\lambda_{O2, acceptor}$ =1.89 eV (experimentally determined, taken from Kjaergaard et al.) and $\lambda_{Cu-SmAA10A, donor}$ = 1.58 eV (taken from Kjaergaard et al.; note that experimentally determined value for LPMO-Cu is lacking so we use the reorganization energy for a Cu(I/II)-complex with a (tris(2pyridyl-methyl)amine ligand as best approximation).

 $\Delta G^{\circ} = -nF\Delta E^{\circ} = 65,467 \text{ J/mol (eq. 15.7 kcal/mol)}$ *Where* $\Delta E^{\circ}_{(with 02)} = E^{\circ} (O_2/O_2^{-}) - E^{\circ} (Cu(I/II)-SmAA10A) = -0.440 \text{ V}$ n = 1 F = 96485 C/moles *With* $E^{\circ} (Cu(I/II)-SmAA10A) = 275 \pm 6 \text{ mV } vs \text{ NHE, determined at pH 6.0 (49)}$

 $E^{\circ}(O_2/O_2^{-}) = -165 \text{ mV } vs \text{ NHE, at pH 7.0 (50).}$

With these parameters, Marcus theory predicts a $k_{\text{ET}, O2}$ of **3.39** M⁻¹ s⁻¹, a value that is remarkably similar to the second order rate constant resulting from the experiments described here, $k_{O2} = 3.33$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹.

4. List of Supplementary Figures, Schemes, Tables and Movies

Figure S1. Structural model of Tma12 and phylogenetic location of Tma12 within the LPMO superfamily.

Figure S2. Screening of reaction conditions to monitor H₂O₂ consumption by *Sm*AA10A.

Figure S3. Underestimation of H₂O₂ levels due to competing AscA-peroxidase activity of HRP.

Figure S4. The equilibrated *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I)-β-chitin complex.

Figure S5. QM-region and active-region definitions.

Figure S6. (*A*) Molecular geometries along the reaction coordinate represented by 9 main reaction states (homolytic cleavage of H_2O_2) and (*B*) first states assuming heterolytic cleavage of H_2O_2 **Figure S7.** QM/MM models of O_2 bonding to *Sm*AA10A and H-abstraction by Cu-superoxide.

Figure S7. QM/MM models of O₂ bolding to *Sm*/AA10A and H-abstraction by Cusuperoxide. **Figure S8.** Illustration of LPMO reduction and re-oxidation reactions and expected related changes in intrinsic fluorescence.

Figure S9. Relationship between the fluorescence signal and the concentration of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) and *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II).

Figure S10. Kinetics of the reduction of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) to *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) in the presence of soluble substrate, NAG₆.

Figure S11. Fitting of data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I), acquired at low O₂ concentration (47 μ M), using several simple models.

Figure S12. Fitting of data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) at high O₂ concentration (578 μ M), using several simple models.

Figure S13. Fitting data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) to a model describing the dimer hypothesis.

Figure S14. Fitting data for H_2O_2 -mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) to a single exponential model.

Figure S15. Titration of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) with H₂O₂.

Figure S16. Spin-trapping of reaction products generated when incubating *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) with H₂O₂.

Figure S17. Monitoring *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) decay upon aging with H_2O_2 by measuring the residual oxidative activity.

Figure S18. Residual activity of *Sm*AA10A after treatment of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) wild-type with different H_2O_2 concentrations.

Figure S19. NAG₆ is a suitable substrate to monitor single catalytic events.

Figure S20. Re-oxidation of SmAA10A-Cu(I) by H₂O₂ in presence or absence of 0.5 mM NAG₆.

Figure S21. A possible alternative reaction path with the soluble substrate NAG₆.

Figure S22. Diffusion of H_2O_2 from bulk solvent to the copper active site of *Sm*AA10A in complex with β -chitin.

Figure S23. Quality evaluation of umbrella-sampling data.

Figure S24. Time-courses for binding of *Sm*AA10A wild-type and mutants to β -chitin.

Figure S25. Reactivity between H₂O₂ and SmAA10A-Cu(I) wild-type and mutants.

Figure S26. Hydrogen bonding patterns involving H_2O_2 in the active site cavity of *Ls*AA9A.

Scheme S1. Proposed reaction scheme of SmAA10A-Cu(I) with O₂ involving LPMO dimerization.

 Table S1. AMBER force field parameters for H₂O₂

Table S2. PCR primers used for site-directed mutagenesis of SmAA10A

Table S3. Population and spin parameters along the calculated reaction pathway

Table S4. Second order rate constants of the re-oxidation by H_2O_2 of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) wild-type and mutants thereof

Movie S1. QM/MM simulation of the proposed chitinolytic peroxygenase mechanism.

Movie S2. Diffusion of H_2O_2 through the tunnel that leads from bulk solvent to the copper active site of *Sm*AA10A in complex with β -chitin.

5. Supplementary Figures

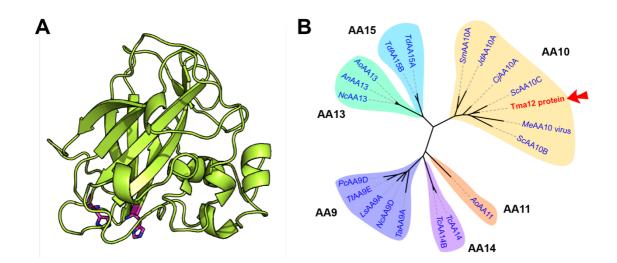


Figure S1. (A) Structural model of Tma12 and (B) phylogenetic location of Tma12 within the LPMO superfamily. (A) Phyre2 was used to predict a structural model (shown as green cartoon) of the mature chitin-binding protein from Tectaria macrodonta (Tma12; GenBank ID AFR32946.1). 96% of residues were modelled with > 90% confidence, according to Phyre2 criteria. The two conserved and surface-exposed histidines coordinating the copper atom in functional LPMOs are shown as magenta sticks. (B) Phylogenetic tree of Tma12 and 19 characterized LPMOs spanning all families hitherto reported (i.e. AA9 to 11 and 13 to 15). On the basis of a previous analysis of the structural diversity of LPMOs (40) we selected a set of LPMOs sequences that represent various structural clusters. The selected sequences include the following: for AA9s, AA9D from Phanerochaete chrysosporium (PcAA9D, PDB 4B5Q) (51), AA9D from Neurospora crassa (NcAA9D, PDB 4EIR) (52) AA9A from Lentinus similis (LsAA9A, PDB 5ACF) (46) AA9A from Thermoascus aurantiacus (TaAA9A, PDB 2YET) (7) AA9E from Thielavia terretris (TtAA9E, PDB 3EII) (53); for AA10s, AA10A from Serratia marcescens (SmAA10A, PDB 2BEM) (1), AA10B and AA10C from Streptomyces coelicolor (ScAA10B, PDB 40Y6 and ScAA10C, PDB 40Y7) (54), AA10A from Cellvibrio japonicus (CjAA10A, PDB 5FJQ) (55), AA10A from Jonesia denitrificans (JdAA10A, PDB 5AA7) (56), insect poxvirus fusolin (MeAA10 virus, PDB 40W5) (57); for AA11s, the only hitherto characterized AA11, from Aspergillus orizae (AoAA11, PDB 4MAI) (58); for AA13s, AA13 from Aspergillus orizae (AoAA13, PDB 40PB), AA13 from Aspergillus nidulans (AnAA13, Uniprot ID Q5B1W7), AA13 from Neurospora crassa (NcAA13, Uniprot ID Q7SCE9) (8); for AA14s, AA14A and AA14B from Trametes coccinea (TcAA14A, GenBank ID AUM86166.1, TcAA14B, PDB 5NO7) (59); for AA15s, AA15A and AA15B from Thermobia domestica (TdAA15A, PDB 5MSZ, TdAA15B, GenBank ID SIW61373.2) (60).

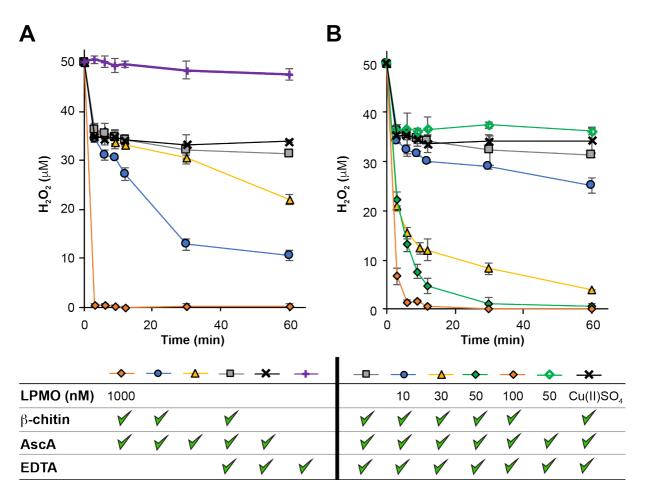


Figure S2. Screening of reaction conditions to monitor H_2O_2 consumption by *Sm*AA10A. (*A*) Assessment of the impact of reaction components on H_2O_2 consumption and (*B*) screening of the enzyme concentration. All reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) at 40 °C in a thermomixer (1000 rpm) and contained H_2O_2 (50 μ M initial concentration). As indicated below the graphs (green ticks = presence in mixture), reactions varied in terms of the presence of *Sm*AA10A (in nM; no number means no enzyme), β -chitin (10 g.L⁻¹), EDTA (50 μ M) and AscA (20 μ M). The reactions were initiated by addition of ascorbic acid. Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

Reactions shown in **panel** (*A*) show that using 1000 nM of enzyme (orange squares) leads to extremely fast H_2O_2 consumption and is thus not a suitable condition for monitoring purposes. We also see that in absence of enzyme a significant background reaction between AscA, H_2O_2 and other compounds contained in β -chitin (likely free metals) occurs (blue circles). Removing β -chitin from the mixture reduces non-enzymatic H_2O_2 consumption (yellow triangles). The addition of EDTA leads to a more moderate non-enzymatic background reaction in presence of β -chitin (grey squares), confirming the presence of free metals in the β -chitin suspension. This background reaction cannot be further minimized since a similar profile is obtained in reactions with only AscA and EDTA (black crosses). This "minimal" background H_2O_2 consumption is thus mainly due to the presence of AscA since H_2O_2 in presence of only EDTA is relatively stable (purple crosses). We show in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S3 that this "background" is related to the competing AscA-peroxidase activity of HRP leading to underestimation of H_2O_2 levels. We decided to use a concentration of AscA of 20 μ M, as a compromise between efficient enzyme reduction and not too high background reactions.

Panel (*B*) shows enzyme concentration-dependent consumption of H_2O_2 (from 0 to 100 nM of *Sm*AA10A), which is consistent with H_2O_2 consumption being an enzyme-catalyzed reaction. 50 nM of enzyme allows to reach complete consumption of H_2O_2 while initial time points are still measurable

(filled green diamonds). Therefore, 50 nM was chosen as a working enzyme concentration for further experiments. A control reaction in absence of β -chitin and presence of 50 nM of *Sm*AA10A leads to a background-like H₂O₂ consumption profile (empty green diamonds). A similar profile was observed when the enzyme was replaced by 50 nM of Cu(II)SO₄ (black crosses). Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

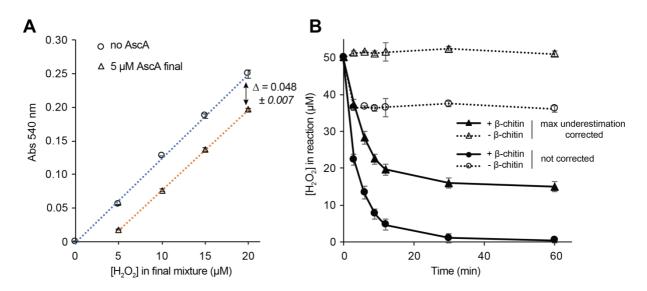


Figure S3. Underestimation of H_2O_2 levels due to competing AscA-peroxidase activity of HRP. (A) Effect of residual AscA on H₂O₂ standard curve as measured by absorbance of resorufin at 540 nm. The AmplexRed/HRP assay is based on the oxidation of AmplexRed (colorless) to yield resorufin (pink color, absorbing at 540 nm) by HRP using H_2O_2 as oxidant with a 1:1 stoichiometry. In all experiments related to H_2O_2 consumption 20 μ M of AscA was employed in the reaction mixture. In such reactions, as a standard procedure, 25 µL of reaction mixture was mixed with 75 µL of a pre-mix of HRP (100 nM final), AmplexRed (100 µM final) and sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), resulting in a final maximum concentration of AscA of 5 μ M (assuming no consumption of AscA in the preceding LPMO reaction, which obviously, is not true and will vary). In panel (A), 25 μ L of a solution of H₂O₂ (0-80 µM) was mixed with 75 µL of a premix of HRP/AmplexRed/buffer with or without AscA (5 µM final concentration). The graphs show the absorbance measured at 540 nm. One can observe that when residual AscA is present a lower absorbance is measured, due to the AscA-peroxidase activity of HRP scavenging a fraction of the H_2O_2 (61). Therefore, in reactions containing AscA a fraction of H_2O_2 will not translate into the absorbance measured at 540 nm, leading to an underestimation of the actual levels of H_2O_2 . (B) The graph shows the time-course of H_2O_2 conversion in reactions containing SmAA10A (50 nM) in the absence (empty circles) or presence (solid circles) of β -chitin (10 g.L⁻¹), in reactions containing 50 µM H₂O₂ and 20 µM AscA at t₀ (reproduced from Fig. 2B in the main article). The absorbance is at maximum underestimated by 0.048 AU (see panel (A)) if 20 μ M of AscA from the initial reaction (i.e. 5 µM in final assay) are carried over into the AmplexRed/HRP assay. Correcting the raw absorbance data by the maximum underestimation values yields the data points shown as solid triangles (with β -chitin) and empty triangles (without β -chitin). The rapid decrease in the H₂O₂ concentration observed in the reaction without chitin (empty circles), i.e. a condition in which AscA is not consumed significantly, is mainly due to AscA carry over. Thus, we provide here an explanation for the abrupt drop in the H₂O₂ concentration and also point out limitations associated with the assay. Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

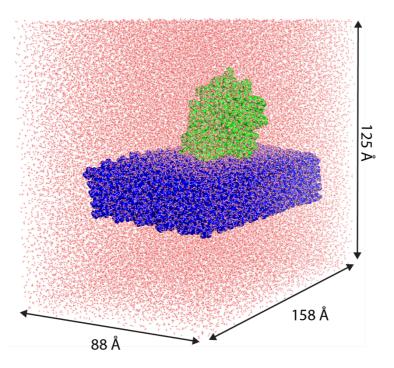


Figure S4. The equilibrated *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I)- β -chitin complex. The complex, consisting of ~150,000 atoms, was initially assembled in an experiment-guided approach (14). *Sm*AA10A and β -chitin are shown with green and blue surface, respectively. Water molecules are shown as white and red sticks.

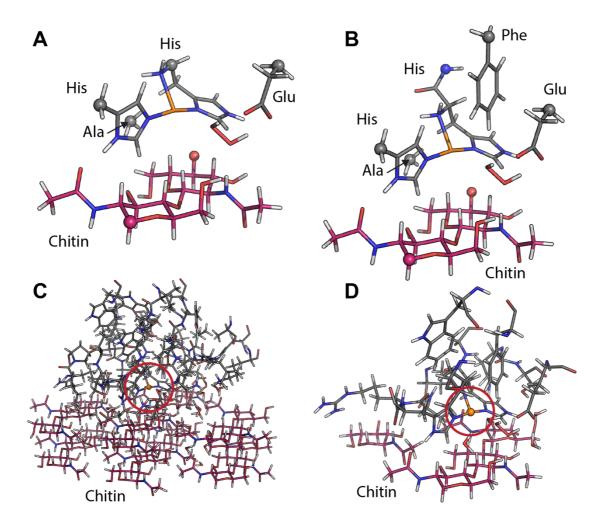


Figure S5. QM-region and active-region definitions. (*A*) QM-region of the QM/MD simulation (AMBER/ORCA) and (**B**) QM-region of the QM/MM calculations (ChemShell/ORCA). The linkatoms are connected to the C, N or O-atoms displayed as spheres in panel (*A*) and (*B*). (*C*) The (large) part of the LPMO-chitin complex that was allowed to relax in the initial ChemShell QM/MM geometry optimization. (*D*) The smaller active-region that was allowed to move in subsequent QM/MM calculations. Residues marked as Ala, His, Phe, and Glu are Ala112, His28 (N-terminus) and His114, Phe187, and Glu60.

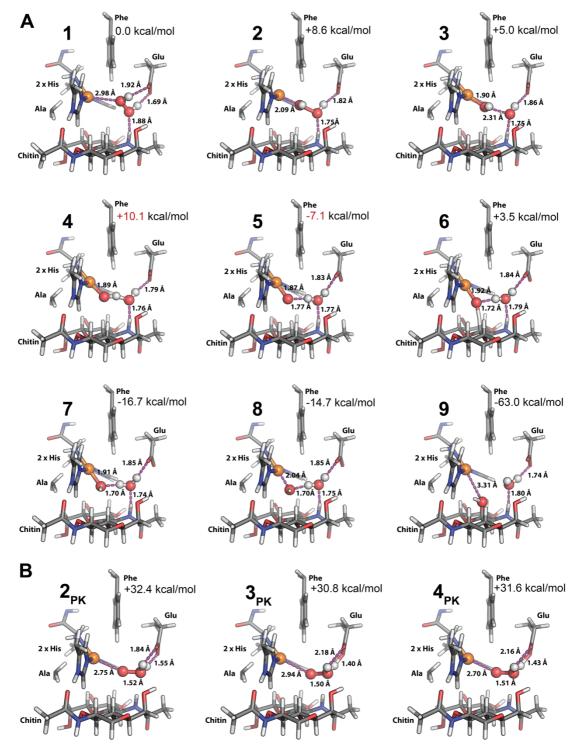


Figure S6. (A) Molecular geometries along the reaction coordinate represented by 9 main reaction states (homolytic cleavage of H_2O_2) and (B) first states assuming heterolytic cleavage of H_2O_2 . For each reaction state (1 to 9 and 2_{PK} to 4_{PK}), the hydrogen bonding network involving H_2O_2 and derived species is shown by pink dotted lines. Residues marked as Ala, 2x His, Phe, and Glu are Ala112, His28 (N-terminus), His114, Phe187 and Glu60. The displayed energies were calculated using the TPSSh hybrid meta-functional and the basis set def2-TZVPP. Energies written in black indicate singlet states and energies written in red indicate triplet states. For the sake of clarity the molecular mechanics-region is not shown.

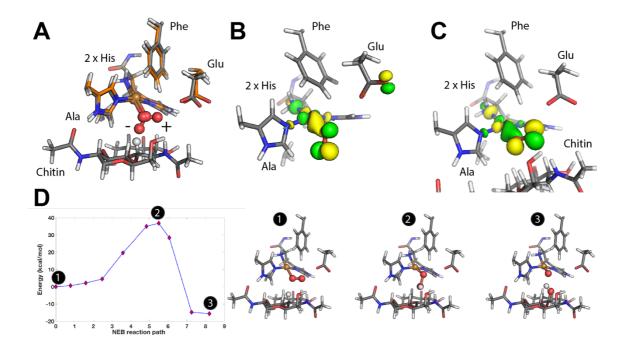


Figure S7. QM/MM models of O_2 bonding to SmAA10A and H-abstraction by Cu-superoxide. (A) Superimposed models of O_2 binding to the active site Cu in the presence (grey carbons) or absence (orange carbons) of chitin. In absence of substrate, the O_2 moiety adopts a downward orientation (indicated by "-" sign in panel (A)) whereas it lies parallel to the substrate plane in the presence of chitin (indicated by "+"). This indicates a strained conformation for O_2 in the presence of substrate. The quasi restricted orbital describing binding of O_2 is shown for the models (B) without chitin substrate and (C) with chitin substrate. (D) Energy landscape of H-abstraction by Cu-superoxide, indicating a transition barrier of ~35 kcal/mol. The starting (1), converged climbing image (transition state) (2) and product (3) geometries are provided in panel (D). For the sake of clarity the MM-region is not shown. Residues marked as Ala, His, Phe, and Glu are Ala112, His28 (N-terminus), and His114, Phe187 and Glu60.

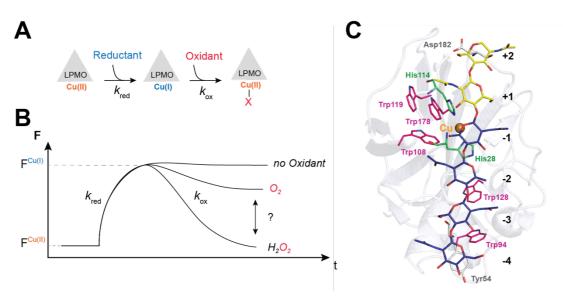


Figure S8. Illustration of LPMO reduction and re-oxidation reactions and expected related changes in intrinsic fluorescence. (*A-B*) Upon reduction, the intrinsic fluorescence (F) of the LPMO increases rapidly and then decreases back to a re-oxidized Cu(II) form (written as LPMO-Cu(II)-X where X can be $O_2^{\bullet,\bullet}$, OH, O[•] or H₂O; see main text for further explanations) upon re-oxidation by an oxidant (e.g. O_2 or H₂O₂) (12). The rates of the increase (k_{red}) and decrease (k_{ox}) in fluorescence are expected to reflect the efficiency of the reduction and re-oxidation steps, respectively. Such rates were determined in the present study under conditions resulting in single oxidative events. (*C*) Top-view of a predicted model of *Sm*AA10A in complex with NAG₆ (14) showing the location of the histidines (green sticks) coordinating the single copper atom (orange sphere) and the five Trp residues (magenta sticks) responsible for the fluorescence. The figure shows the experimentally determined principal binding mode, where NAG₆ occupies subsites -4 to +2, leading to a product profile where A4^{ox} (i.e. C1-oxidized chitotetraose) is the main oxidized product (14).

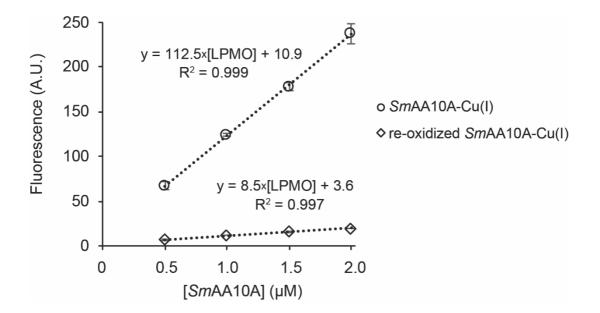


Figure S9. Relationship between the fluorescence signal and the concentration of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) and *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I). *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I), at different concentrations was prepared anaerobically in a screw-cap quartz cuvette and the fluorescence signal was measured (excitation 280 nm, emission 340 nm). Then, H₂O₂ (4 μ M final concentration) was added to each preparation to obtain the fluorescence signal of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) (i.e. fully re-oxidized *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I), see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S15). All reactions were performed at 25 °C in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0). Error bars show ± s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

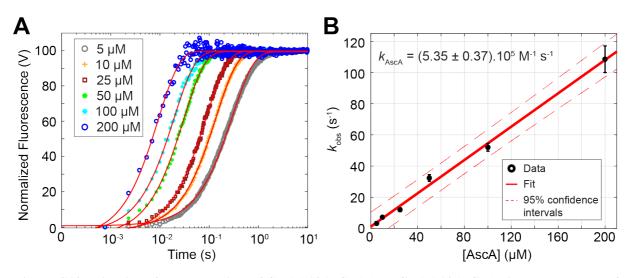


Figure S10. Kinetics of the reduction of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) to *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) in the presence of soluble substrate, NAG₆. (*A*) Anaerobic solutions of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) (final concentration, 5 μ M) and NAG₆ (1 mM final) were anaerobically mixed with varying concentrations of AscA and the changes in fluorescence associated with reduction of the Cu(II) were monitored as a function of time. The reactions were carried out in potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.1) at 25 °C. The final concentrations of AscA are indicated in the figure. Data were fit with single exponential functions (red lines; $y = a+b.e^{-kobs.t}$) to give observed rate constants (k_{obs}) at each AscA concentration. Each experiment was performed in triplicate. For the sake of clarity, only the trace of one replicate is shown for each condition. (*B*) Plot of pseudo-first order k_{obs} as a function of AscA concentration. Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

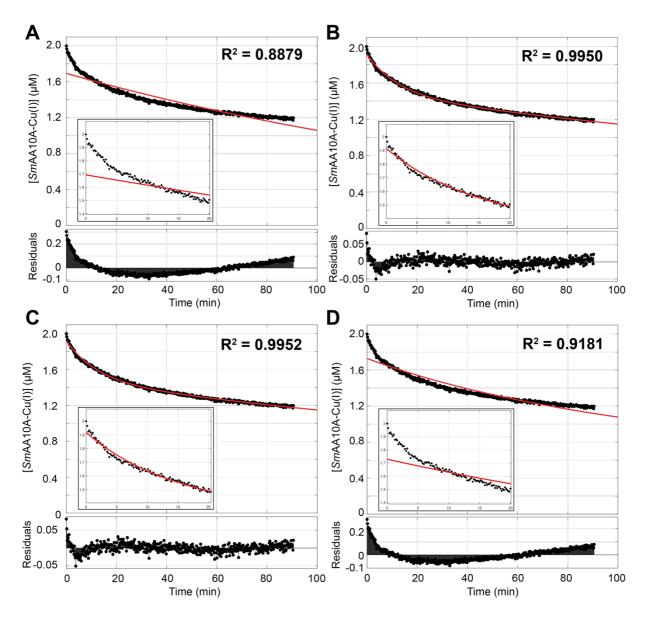


Figure S11. Fitting of data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I), acquired at low O₂ concentration (47 μ M), using several simple models. The graphs show experimental data (black dots) and best fit (red line) for the re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (2 μ M) by O₂ (47 μ M) over time. The inset shows a zoom-in view of the 20 first minutes. Reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) at 25 °C. See Fig. 5 in the main article for full set of experiments (i.e. for all O₂ concentrations). Different models were tested to find how to better describe the data: (*A*) a single exponential function (y = a.e^{-bt} + c.t + d), (*C*) a double exponential function (y = a.e^{-bt} + c.e^{-dt}) and (*D*) a function corresponding to a second order reaction ($1/y = 1/y_0 + a.t$). See *SI Appendix*, Fig. S13 for an alternative modelling of the data. For the sake of clarity, only one replicate is displayed. The residuals are plotted below each corresponding graph. Fitting was performed with the Matlab "Curve Fitting" application.

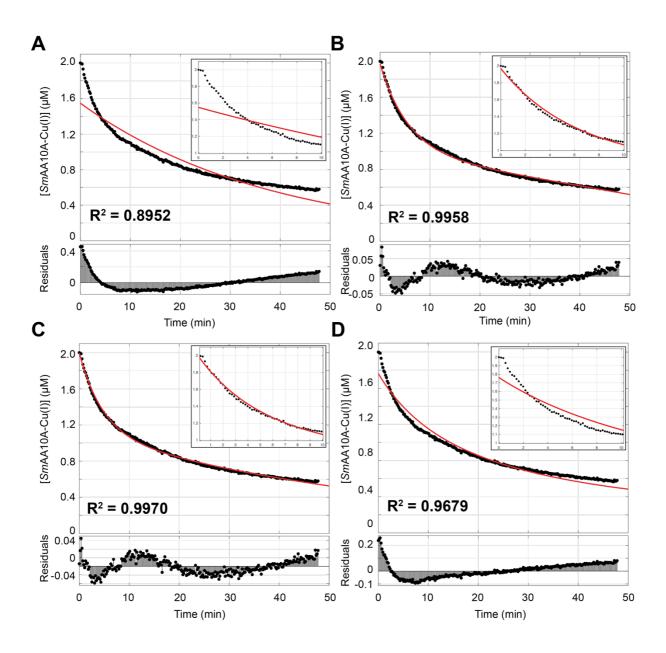


Figure S12. Fitting of data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) at high O₂ concentration (578 μ M), using several simple models. The graphs show experimental data (black circles) and best fit (red line) for re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (2 μ M) by O₂ (578 μ M) over time. See Figure S11 for details.

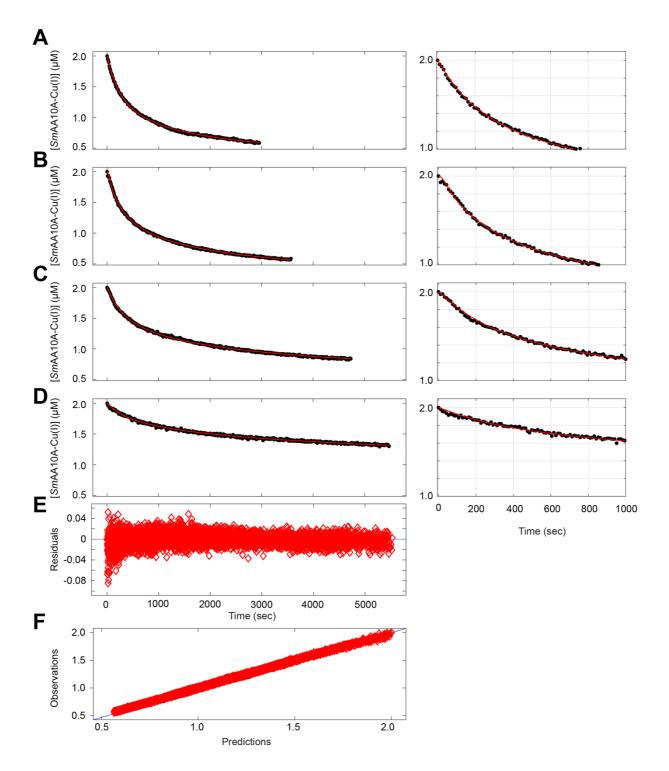


Figure S13. Fitting data for O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) to a model describing the dimer hypothesis. (*A-D*) The graphs show experimental data (black circles) and best fit (red line) for re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (2 μ M) by O₂ over time using (*A*) 578 μ M, (*B*) 422 μ M, (*C*) 172 μ M and (*D*) 47 μ M of O₂. The fit corresponds to a system of differential equations describing the reaction scheme depicted in *SI Appendix*, Scheme S1. Simulations were performed with Matlab-Simbiology application. All reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) at 25 °C. For the sake of clarity, only one replicate is displayed. A zoom-in view of the first 1000 sec is provided on the right-hand side. (*E*) Residuals and (*F*) plot of observed *vs* predicted data, taking into account the entire data set, i.e. all O₂ concentrations, in triplicates.

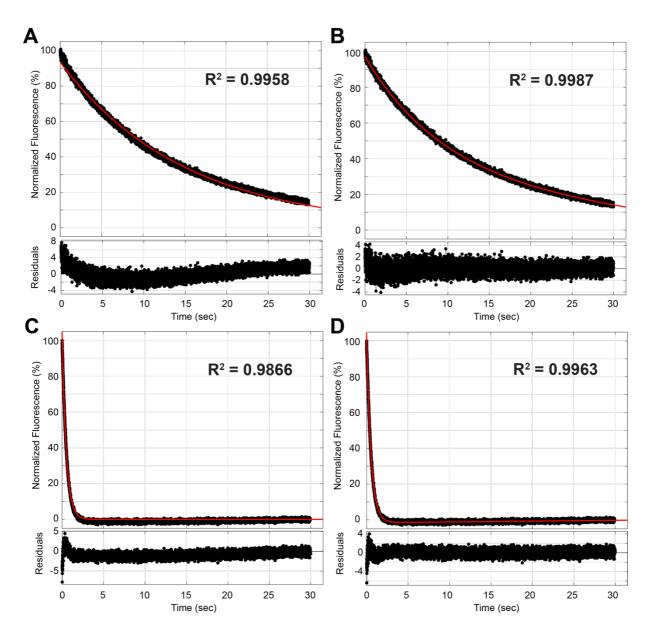


Figure S14. Fitting data for H₂O₂-mediated re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) to a single exponential model. The graphs show experimental data (black dots) and best fit (red line) for re-oxidation of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (2 μ M final) by H₂O₂ over time using (*A*-*B*) 5 μ M (i.e. low) [H₂O₂] and (*C*-*D*) 400 μ M (i.e. high) [H₂O₂]. In panels (*A*) and (*C*) show fitting to a single exponential function (y = a.e^{-bt}), whereas in panels (*B*) and (*D*) show fitting to a single exponential function with a baseline correction factor (y = a.e^{-b.t} + c.t + d). In agreement with usual practice related to stopped-flow data analysis, the latter procedure has been used for fitting all data presented in this study. For the sake of clarity, only one replicate is displayed. The residuals are plotted below each corresponding graph. Fitting was performed with the Matlab "Curve Fitting" application.

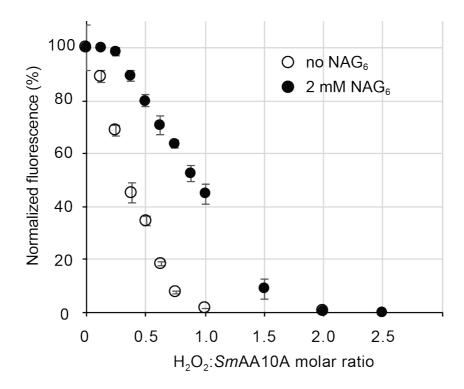


Figure S15. Titration of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) with H₂O₂. *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (2 μ M final) was prepared anaerobically in a screw-cap quartz cuvette, with (black filled circles) or without (empty circles) NAG₆ (2 mM final) and mixed with H₂O₂ (0 to 5 μ M final) before measuring the residual fluorescence (excitation 280 nm, emission 340 nm). The y-axis shows the relative variation in fluorescence, indicating the amount of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (see material and methods). All reactions were performed at 25 °C in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0). Error bars show ± s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

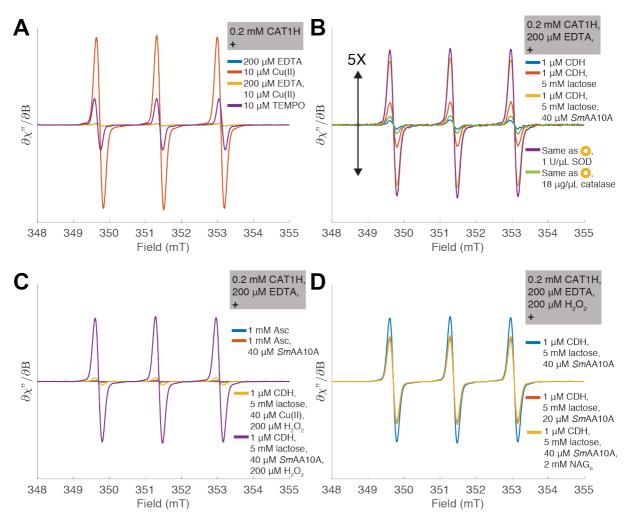


Figure S16. Spin-trapping of reaction products generated when incubating SmAA10A-Cu(I) with H_2O_2 . The spin probe cyclic hydroxylamine (CAT1H, 200 μ M final) was used to monitor radical formation in different reactions (all performed in aerobic conditions), using either CDH/lactose or AscA (panel (C) only) as reductant (CDH, cellobiose dehydrogenase). The amount of radical formation is reflected by the intensity of the EPR spectra we see in the graphs. Note that the ordinate axis of panel (B) is magnified 5x relative to the other panels. 10 μ M TEMPO was used as the standard for all experiments (^apurple) when double integrating the spectra to quantify radical formation. Panel (A) shows that the presence of EDTA (200 μ M) is required to quench unspecific spin probe radical formation (^ablue and ^ayellow, $< 1 \mu M$ radical, note that both spectra are overlapping spectra) arising from reaction of free Cu(II) with CAT1H (^ared, 43 µM radical). Panel (B) shows that CDH alone contributes to minor amount of radical signal (^bblue, $< 1 \mu$ M radical) (similar to the background signal (^ablue/^ayellow) in panel (A)). After the CDH substrate (lactose, 5 mM final) was added, only a small amount of radical was formed (^bred, 2.3 µM radical), perhaps from H₂O₂ derived at the CDH flavodomain. In contrast, when SmAA10A-Cu(II) was added to the reaction (40 µM final), a higher amount of radical was observed (^byellow, 6.6 µM radical, partly overlapping with purple spectrum), originating from reaction between H_2O_2 produced by CDH and SmAA10A-Cu(I) (reduced by CDH)(62). Addition of SOD did not alter the amount of formed radical significantly (^bpurple, 7.4 μ M), *indicating that* H₂O₂ in these conditions does not originate from putative superoxide disproportionation in solution. H_2O_2 is indeed thought to be directly produced by a two-electron reduction of O_2 at the CDH flavin domain(63, 64). Accordingly, addition of the H_2O_2 -scavenging catalase led to almost complete suppression of radical formation (^bgreen, 1.1 μ M radical). Panel (C) shows that ascorbic acid in buffer (^cblue) or

ascorbic acid with SmAA10A (^cred) produced less than 0.5 µM radical (low intensity, overlapping spectra). This control experiment is in agreement with the very low apparent production capacity of H₂O₂ by LPMO in presence of AscA (65) and indicates that, in contrast to the CDH/lactose system, the use of AscA is not appropriate to generate efficiently H₂O₂ in situ and/or that AscA scavenges the produced H_2O_2 . Adding an excess of H_2O_2 (200 μ M final) to a mixture of Cu(II) (40 μ M final) mixed with CDH and lactose showed little formation of radical (2 µM, ^cyellow). In contrast, replacing Cu(II) with the same amount of SmAA10A-Cu(II) (i.e. 40 µM final) resulted in 32 µM radical (^cpurple), indicating that SmAA10A-Cu(II) reduced to SmAA10A-Cu(I) by CDH reacts efficiently with H₂O₂. Panel (D) shows that in presence of excess H_2O_2 (200 μ M final) about 35 % less radical was detected in the presence of 2 mM NAG₆ (^dyellow, 22 µM radical, overlapping with red spectrum) than in absence of substrate (^dblue, 32 µM radical). Reducing the amount of SmAA10A-Cu(II) by 50 % (i.e. 20 µM final) had a similar effect (dred, 21 µM radical). All samples contained 0.2 mM CAT1H and were recorded exactly after 4 minutes incubation at room temperature. The CAT1H in buffer controls, prepared as first and last experiment were identical (not shown), verifying a stable stock solution of the spin probe. All reactions were performed in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) at room temperature.

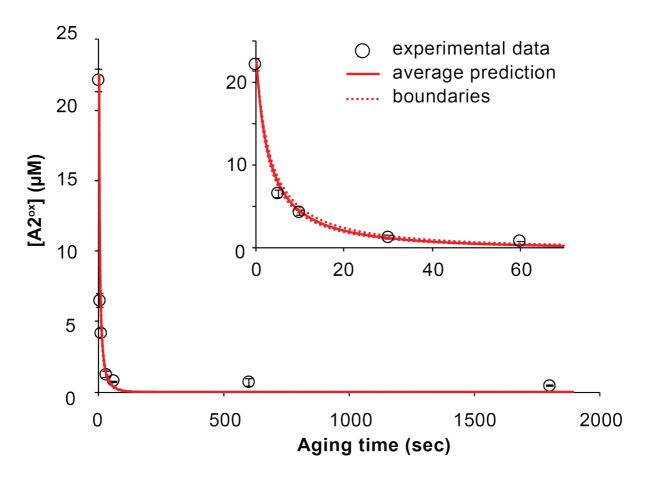


Figure S17. Monitoring *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) decay upon aging with H₂O₂ by measuring the residual oxidative activity. *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (50 μ M) was mixed with 0.9 equivalent of H₂O₂ (i.e. 45 μ M) for varying amounts of time (5 s, 10 s, 30 s, 60 s, 10 min and 30 min) before addition of NAG₆ (2 mM final), under anaerobic conditions. After addition of the substrate, the reaction was incubated for 10 min, after which *Sm*GH20 was added to convert oxidized products to chitobionic acid (A2^{ox}). The graph shows the concentration of oxidized products detected in the final reaction mixture (expressed as A2^{ox}, black circles). The inset shows a zoom-in view of the first 60 seconds. The aging time "0 sec" was obtained by adding H₂O₂ after NAG₆. In negative control reactions, either H₂O₂ was replaced by anaerobic buffer or *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) was replaced by stoichiometrically reduced CuSO₄. Both negative controls showed < 1 μ M A2^{ox} (not shown).

Using the second order rate constant of $6851 \pm 597 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the reaction between *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) and H₂O₂ as determined by stopped-flow kinetics (see *SI Appendix*, Table S4), we can predict the amounts of residual reduced LPMO, i.e. *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I), and H₂O₂ available after a given aging time and, thus, the maximum amount of oxidized NAG₆ that can be expected (assuming that once NAG₆ is added, *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) and H₂O₂ engage into NAG₆ oxidation). We show here that the predicted (red solid line) and measured (black circles) residual LPMO activity are in good agreement.

All reactions were performed at 25 °C, anaerobically, in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0). Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

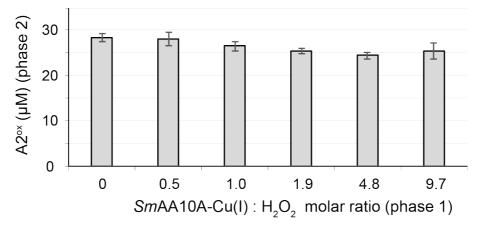


Figure S18. Residual activity of *Sm*AA10A after treatment of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) wild-type with different H_2O_2 concentrations. This experiment was composed of two phases: during phase 1, *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) was isolated and mixed (10.3 µM final) with varying concentrations of H_2O_2 (0 to 100 µM final) during 20 min. Then, in phase 2, (NAG)₆ was added to the mixture (1.33 mM final), the H_2O_2 concentration was adjusted to 200 µM final concentration, AscA was added as reductant (50 µM final) and the reaction was further incubated for 30 min. Both the pre-treatment reaction (phase 1) and activity test on (NAG)₆ (phase 2) were carried out in anaerobic conditions, in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), at 25 °C. The reaction mixture was then hydrolyzed with the chitobiase *Sm*GH20 to yield chitobionic acid (A2^{ox}) as single final product, the quantity of which is shown in the graph for each pre-treatment condition. Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments).

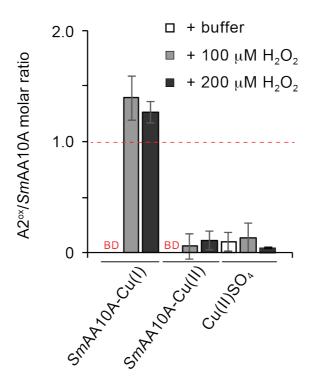


Figure S19. NAG₆ is a suitable substrate to monitor single catalytic events. *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) (10.6 μ M final) or *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) (9.7 μ M final) or CuSO₄ (10 μ M final) was mixed in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) with NAG₆ (2 mM final). After 15 min pre-incubation, H₂O₂ was added (0, 100 or 200 μ M final) and the reaction was further incubated for 20 min before addition of the chitobiase *Sm*GH20 to yield chitobionic acid (A2^{ox}) as single final product. The graph shows the molar ratio of A2^{ox}/*Sm*AA10A (or CuSO₄) measured in each condition. Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments). Abbreviations: BD, below detection limit.

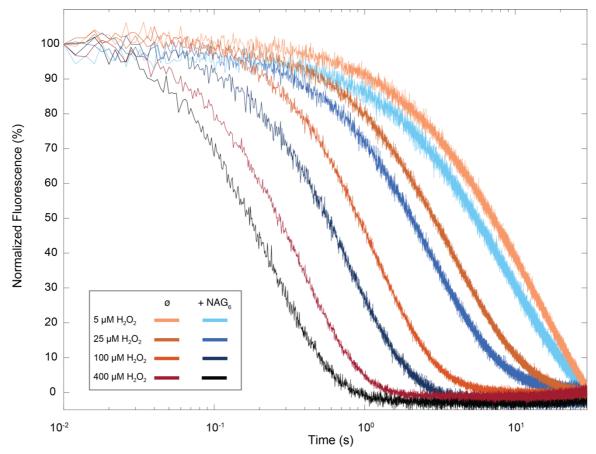


Figure S20. Re-oxidation of SmAA10A-Cu(I) by H_2O_2 in presence or absence of 0.5 mM NAG₆. SmAA10A-Cu(I) (final concentration 2 µM) was anaerobically mixed with buffer (lines with shades of orange) or with buffer containing NAG₆ (lines with shades of blue; final NAG₆ concentration 0.5 mM) and rapidly mixed in the stopped-flow spectrophotometer with various amounts of H_2O_2 . The final H_2O_2 concentrations and corresponding color codes are indicated in the figure. Changes in fluorescence associated with re-oxidation of the Cu(I) were monitored as a function of time. All reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), at 25 °C. Data were fit with single exponential functions to give observed rate constants (k_{obs}) at each H_2O_2 concentration and plotted versus the latter in Fig. 6B of the main manuscript. For the sake of clarity, the trace of only one replicate for each condition is shown in the figure. All experiments were performed at least in triplicate.

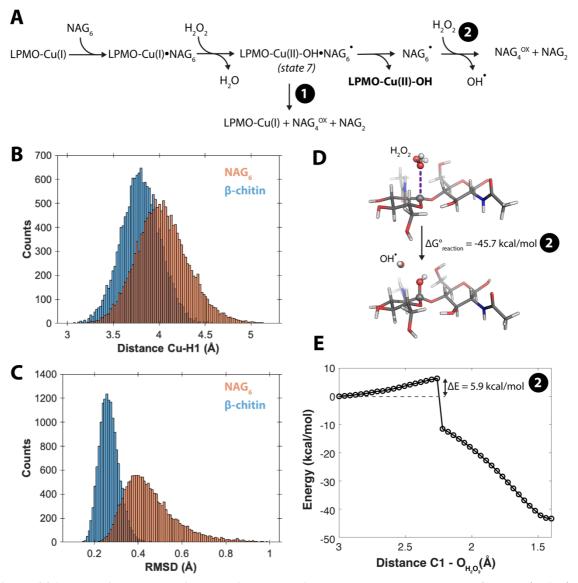


Figure S21. A possible alternative reaction path with the soluble substrate NAG₆. Panel (A) shows a possible reaction scheme that can explain why only about one turnover is observed when SmAA10A-Cu(I) reacts with NAG₆ and excess of H_2O_2 . The productive path where SmAA10A-Cu(I) is regenerated at the end of the catalytic cycle is marked 1, while the derailed reaction, where the NAG₆ \cdot radical reacts with a second H_2O_2 molecule is indicated by 2. Panels (B) and (C) show the results of MD simulations of the SmAA10A-Cu(I)- β -chitin complex (300 ns) performed in (14) and a new 1 μ s simulation of the SmAA10A-Cu(I)-NAG₆ complex. The SmAA10A-Cu(I)-NAG₆ complex was equilibrated for MD simulations as described hereinbefore in the section Complete experimental and computation details, with the exception that no restraints were applied to keep the NAG_6 molecule in place. The NAG_6 molecule did not dissociate from SmAA10A-Cu(I) during the simulation. Panel (B) shows the distribution of distances between the Cu atom and the hydrogen atom to be abstracted, H1, and panel (C) shows the overall flexibility of the NAG₆ molecule, represented by the RMSD of the C- and Oatoms in the NAG moieties, when either exposed to the solution while associated to SmAA10A or embedded in the solid chitin that interacts with SmAA10A. Panel (D) shows the result of DFT calculations, indicating that the free energy of the reaction between NAG₆ \cdot and H₂O₂ is -45.7 kcal/mol and panel (E) shows that the energy barrier associated with this reaction is 5.9 kcal/mol. The DFT calculations (panels (D) and (E)) were carried out in ORCA using the hybrid meta-functional TPSSh and the basis set def2-TZVPP.

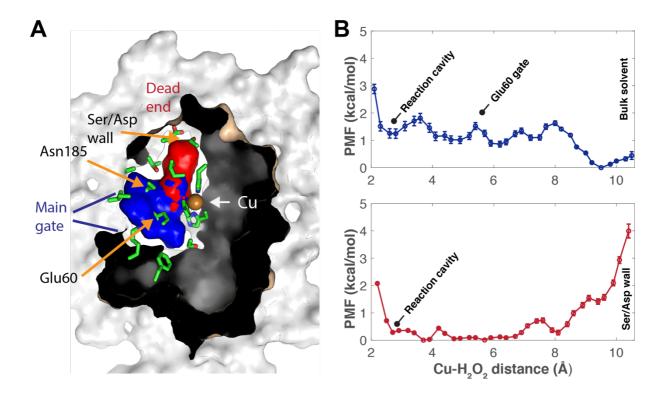


Figure S22. Diffusion of H_2O_2 from bulk solvent to the copper active site of *Sm*AA10A in complex with β -chitin. Panel (*A*) shows a top-down view of the complex where the enzyme is on top of the chitin block. The blue (pulling H_2O_2 into the reaction cavity from bulk solvent) and red (pushing H_2O_2 out of the reaction cavity) tunnels overlap in the reaction cavity and extend towards bulk solvent and a dead end, respectively. Amino acid side chains lining the two tunnels are displayed in green. The crystalline chitin surface is shown in light grey. The corresponding free energy (potential of mean force, PMF) profiles of pulling in (blue line) or pushing out (red line) H_2O_2 are shown in panel (*B*). The position of the reaction cavity, bulk solvent, gating residues (Glu60/Asn185) and residues blocking the red tunnel are indicated along the profiles. Quality evaluation of the umbrella sampling data is provided in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S23.

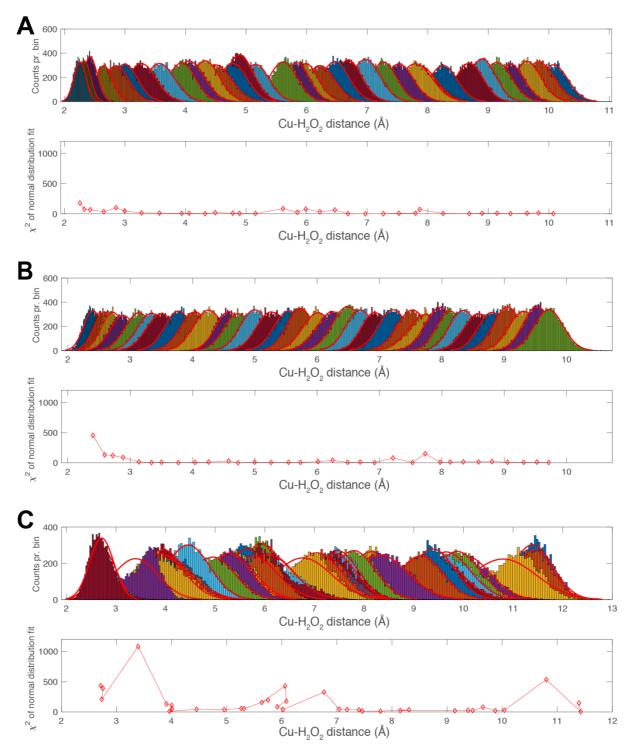


Figure S23. Quality evaluation of umbrella-sampling data. To provide properly sampled data for free energy integrators such as pyMBAR and WHAM, umbrella sampling should be carried out using an appropriate biasing potential (here 5.0 kcal/mol Å²). Panels (*A*) and (*B*) show the histograms of the measured distances for the "pulling in" and "pushing out" experiments, respectively. All the histograms were fitted by the normal distribution function, and the corresponding χ^2 values, indicating the quality of the fit, are shown directly below the histograms. In panel (*A*), histograms in the range 1.75-2.5 Å were resampled using a higher biasing potential (10.0 kcal/mol Å²), resulting in lower χ^2 values at that interval. An example of using an inappropriate biasing potential (1.0 kcal/mol Å²) is shown in panel (*C*), where high χ^2 values can be observed.

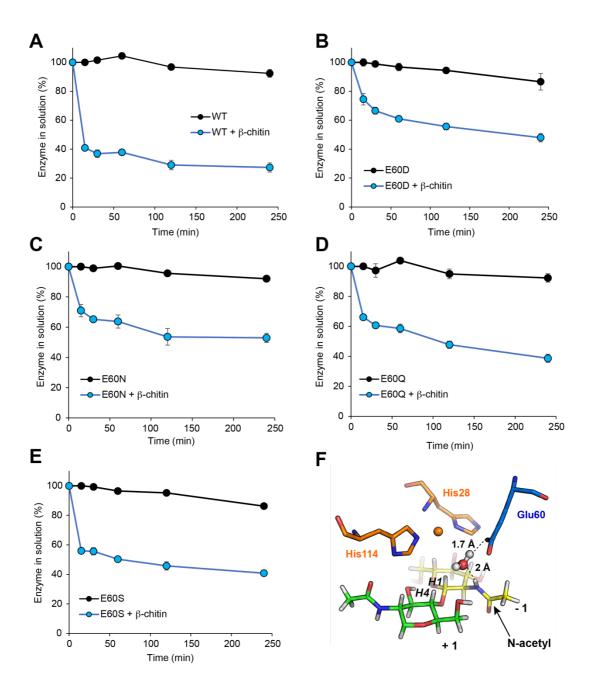


Figure S24. Time-courses for binding of *Sm*AA10A wild-type and mutants to β -chitin. For each experiment, a suspension of β -chitin in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0) was incubated at 40 °C in a thermomixer (1000 rpm). After 20 min of pre-incubation, (*A*) *Sm*AA10A-WT, (*B*) E60D, (*C*) E60N, (*D*) E60Q or (*E*) E60S (1 μ M) were added to the substrate suspension as starting point of the binding time-courses (blue circles). The protein content in solution was determined after 15, 30, 60, 120 and 240 min of incubation. A control without β -chitin was carried out for each enzyme (black circles). Error bars show \pm s.d. (n = 3, independent experiments). (*F*) View of *Sm*AA10A active site model showing a "water bridge" connecting the N-atom in the *N*-acetyl moiety of the -1 NAG unit and the Glu60 side chain (14).

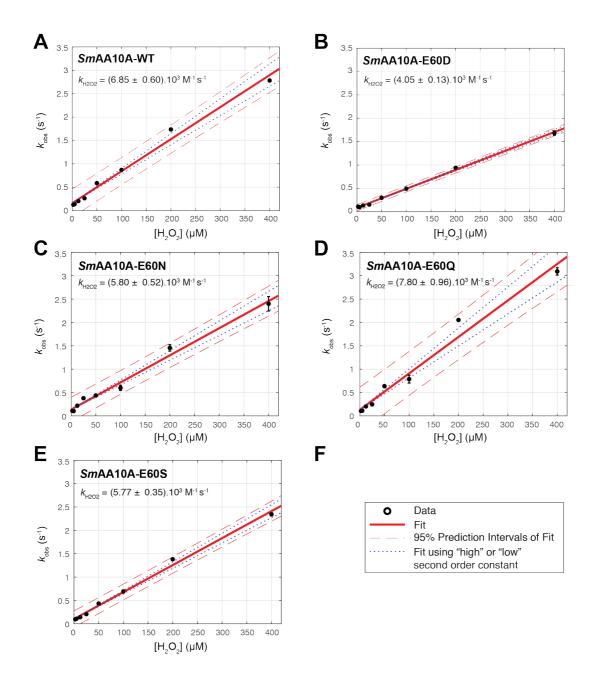


Figure S25. Reactivity between H₂O₂ and *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) wild-type and mutants. Under anaerobic conditions, *Sm*AA10A-Cu(II) was reduced by addition of 20 eq. of AscA and desalted on a PD-10 column to yield *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I). *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) was then rapidly mixed (2 μ M final) with anaerobic buffer containing varying concentrations of H₂O₂ (2.5 to 400 μ M final) and the subsequent change in protein fluorescence associated with Cu(I) re-oxidation was monitored as a function of time (See Fig. 5 in main article for examples of traces). All reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), at 25 °C. Time-course data were fit with single exponential functions with baseline correction factor (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S14), yielding values for observed pseudo first-order rate constants (k_{obs} , s⁻¹). Panels (*A*) to (*E*) show the plot of k_{obs} values as a function of the H₂O₂ concentration, for *Sm*AA10A-WT, E60D, E60N, E60Q and E60S, respectively. The plots were fit to a linear equation, yielding the second order rate constant k (M⁻¹ s⁻¹) (see *SI Appendix*, Table S4). Panel (*F*) provides the legend code of panels (*A*) to (*E*): average k_{obs} values are shown as black dots, the best fit of the plot is shown as a red solid line and its associated 95% confidence interval as red dashed lines. The fits calculated using a slope of (k+error) ("high") or (k-error) ("low") are also shown as blue dotted lines. Error bars show \pm s.d. ($n \ge 3$, independent experiments).

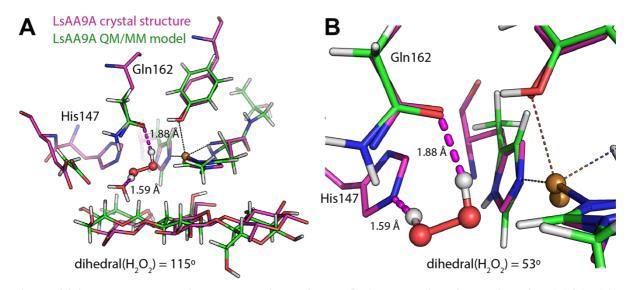
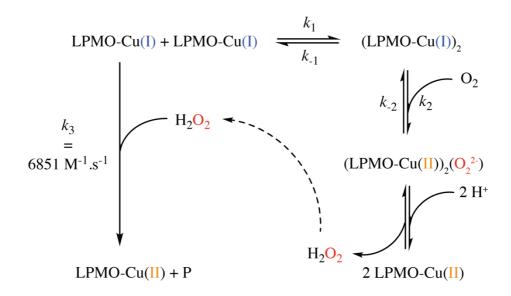


Figure S26. Hydrogen bonding patterns involving H₂O₂ in the active site cavity of *Ls***AA9A. (***A***) Superposition of the crystal structure of the fungal** *Ls***AA9A (magenta carbons), PDB ID 5ACF(46), with a cellotriose molecule bound close to the active site and the QM/MM model, named ¹RC1, generated by Wang et al. (green carbons) (42), where H₂O₂ is included in the active site. The H₂O₂ molecule assumes a relaxed conformation in the ¹RC1 model, displaying a dihedral angle of 115°. In panel (***B***), we have adjusted the dihedral angle of the H₂O₂ molecule in the ¹RC1 model to 53°, which is the value that we observed for the analogous state 1** presented in this study. After altering the dihedral angle, the H₂O₂ is hydrogen bonded to His147 (HID state), a highly conserved residue not included in the QM/MM model. We suggest that His147 is involved in activating H₂O₂ for reaction with Cu(I), and that the Gln/His pair in AA9s provides the functionality provided by Glu60 in *Sm*AA10A. This would require His147 to be in the HID protonation state. We speculate that H₂O₂ reactivity with AA9s is controlled by the His147 protonation state, i.e. being predominantly protonated at the ε-position (HIE) while in solution and at the δ-position (HID) when interacting with substrate (see *SI Appendix*, *Supplementary Discussion*).



Scheme S1. Proposed reaction scheme of *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) with O₂ involving LPMO dimerization. In the proposed reaction, O₂ reacts with the dimerized form of LPMO-Cu(I), allowing a two-electron reduction leading to a peroxo intermediate, which is rapidly protonated at pH 7.0 yielding H₂O₂. Such an O₂ reduction mechanism is analogous to what has been described for some organic dimers of mono-copper complexes (66), and, potentially, to what is observed in binuclear coupled type-3 copperenzymes such as tyrosinases (67). The H₂O₂ produced *in situ* may react in a 1:1 stoichiometry with LPMO-Cu(I) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S15), with a second order rate constant of 6851 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (*SI Appendix*, Table S4), yielding LPMO-Cu(II) and oxidative species denoted as P (e.g. HO' + HO') (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S18). *SI Appendix*, Fig. S14 shows predictions of the time-course evolution of LPMO-Cu(I) using this proposed reaction scheme (modelled with the application SimBiology from Matlab). Nb. In the presence of substrate, the H₂O₂ produced *in situ* is preferentially used for hydroxylation of the substrate (45).

Bond stretching ^a				
		r_{0} (Å)	k_r (kcal mol ⁻¹ Å ⁻²)	
0-0		1.448	322.0	
О-Н		0.969	530.0	
Bond angle bending ^a				
		$ heta_{ heta}\left(^{\circ} ight)$	$k_{ heta}$ (kcal mol ⁻¹ rad ⁻²	
Н-О-О		60.55	101.5	
Dihedral angle param	eters (H-O-O-H) ^a			
	k_{θ} (kcal mol ⁻¹)	Dihedral periodicity	Dihedral phase	
1	1.577	101.7	-1	
2	-2.164	171.1	-2	
3	-0.406	67.1	3	
Charges ^b				
Ο		-0.36		
		0.36		

Table S1. AMBER force field parameters for H_2O_2

^b Taken from Akiya et al. (68)

-	-
Introduced mutation	Primer sequence 5' to 3' *
E60D-forward	accgcagagcgtcgatggcctgaaagg
E60D-reverse	cctttcaggcc <u>atcg</u> acgctctgcggt
E60N-forward	gaaccgcagagcgtc <u>aatgg</u> cctgaaaggcttc
E60N-reverse	gaagcettteaggee <u>attgaegetetgeggtte</u>
E60Q-forward	ccgcagagcgtc <u>cag</u> ggcctgaaag
E60Q-reverse	ctttcaggcc <u>ctg</u> gacgctctgcgg
E60S-forward	gaaccgcagagcgtctcgggcctgaaaggctt
E60S-reverse	aagcettteaggeeegagacgetetgeggtte

Table S2. PCR primers used for site-directed mutagenesis of SmAA10A

* the target codon ("gag" in Sm*aa10a-wt*) is underlined and the introduced mutation(s) are shown as bold letters.

				Re	eaction sta	ates ^b			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Atom ^a				Löwdi	n spin pop	ulations			
Cu	0.00	0.30	0.60	0.64	0.61	0.50	0.60	0.39	0.00
O _{per-ox}	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.64	1.11	-0.32	0.13	0.14	0.00
O _{per-wat}	0.00	-0.35	-0.78	0.43	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.14	-0.61	-0.43	0.00
			Unrestrici	ted corresp	ponding or	rbital (UCC	D) overlap	S	
	1	0.82	0.33	0	0	0.55	0.22	0.64	1
			Broke	en symmetr	ry coupling	g constants	(cm^{-1})		
	0	7940	1253	0	0	1990	420	3546	0
^a Cu: con	nor: O	· H.O. de	mizzad O at	om that ha	acomes the	ovulinter	madiata ar	ad that is	

Table S3. Population and spin parameters along the calculated reaction pathway

^a Cu: copper; O_{per-ox} : H₂O₂ derived O-atom that becomes the oxyl intermediate and that is incorporated in the product ; $O_{per-wat}$: H_2O_2 derived O-atom that ends up as water ; C1 : carbon atom from which the H-atom is abstracted. ^b Numbers correspond to the reaction states indicated in **Fig. 3** of the main manuscript.

	k _{H2O2} ^c				
SmAA10A variant	average (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	$\frac{\text{error}}{(M^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})}$	rel. $k_{\rm H2O2}$ (%) ^d		
WT	6851	597	100		
E60D	4047	133	59		
E60N	5799	518	85		
E60Q	7800	962	114		
E60S	5768	347	84		

Table S4. Second order rate constants of the re-oxidation by H₂O₂ of SmAA10A-Cu(I) wildtype and mutants thereof ^{a,b}

^a All reactions were carried out in sodium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), in anaerobic conditions, with 2 μ M (final concentration) of the SmAA10A-Cu(I) variant.

^b Each experiment has been carried out at least in triplicate ($n \ge 3$, independent experiments). ^c The second order rate constant ($M^{-1} s^{-1}$) corresponds to the slope of the plot of pseudo-first order rate constants (s⁻¹) as a function of H_2O_2 concentration (see *SI Appendix*, Fig. S25).

^d Value of the second order rate constant relative to that of *Sm*AA10A-WT.

Movie S1. QM/MM simulation of the proposed chitinolytic peroxygenase mechanism.

The movie shows the reaction of H_2O_2 with *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I) in complex with β -chitin, as simulated by QM/MM. For the sake of clarity, the movie only includes one chitobiose unit from the chitin surface. The copper-coordinating histidines (His28 and His 114) and Glu60 (on the upper right hand corner) are shown are grey sticks. See *SI Appendix*, Fig. S4-5 for a complete description of the QM and MM regions, and Fig. 3, *SI Appendix*, Fig. S6 and Tables S1 and S3 for fine details of the simulation results. In short, H_2O_2 reacts with Cu(I) inducing homolytic cleavage of the O-O bond and formation of Cu(II)-OH and HO'. The resulting "precision-guided" HO' abstracts a hydrogen atom from Cu(II)-OH leading to release of a water molecule and formation of a [CuO]⁺ core, which then catalyzes hydrogen atom abstraction from chitin. This yields a Cu(II)-OH species and a substrate radical (on the C1 carbon), which will merge via a re-bound mechanism (37), yielding a C1-hydroxylated product. This orthoester is unstable and induces glycosidic bond cleavage (not shown here) (42, 69).

To help the viewer, the movie has been paused (indicated by a "pause" sign in the upper left hand corner) at key steps of the mechanism.

The movie has been prepared with Pymol and Adobe After Effects, and represents 0.5 ps of simulation.

Movie S2. Diffusion of H_2O_2 through the tunnel that leads from bulk solvent to the copper active site of *Sm*AA10A in complex with β -chitin.

The movie shows the diffusion of H_2O_2 in the active site cavity in the *Sm*AA10A-Cu(I)- β -chitin complex, as simulated by Amber 16.

The enzyme active site is shown as beige sticks with surface, and sits on top of the upper layer of the chitin surface (only 3 out of 5 chitin chains are shown as blue sticks with surface). A side view (top panel) and a top view (lower panel) of the system are provided. The copper atom is shown as an orange sphere, and the gating residues, Glu60 and Asn185, are shown as blue and green sticks respectively. H_2O_2 is shown as red and white balls. See *SI Appendix*, Fig. S22 and S23 for more details.

The movie has been prepared with Pymol and Adobe After Effects, and represents 24 ns of simulation.

6. List of abbreviations

AscA: Ascorbic acid AR: AmplexRed® A2^{ox}: Chitobionic acid or GlcNAcGlcNAc1A GH: Glycoside hydrolases HAA: Hydrogen atom abstraction HRP: Horseradish peroxidase LPMO: Lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases LsAA9A: LPMO9 from Lentinus similis MD: Molecular dynamics MM: Molecular mechanics NAG₆: Hexa-N-acetyl-chitohexaose NEB: Nudged elastic band QM: Quantum mechanics SmAA10A (or CBP21): LPMO10 from Serratia marcescens SmGH20: Chitobiase from Serratia marcescens EPR: Electron paramagnetic resonance SOMO: single occupied molecular orbital HOMO: highest occupied molecular orbital LUMO: Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital

7. Supplementary references

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Coordinates for the QM-region of QM/MM optimized states 1 to 9 and 2_{PK} - 4_{PK} . These structures were optimized using B3LYP (TPSSh for 2_{PK} - 4_{PK}), def2-SVP for non-Cu atoms and def2-TZPP for Cu.

state1

N 66.455002 49.006001 85.014999 C 66.655998 49.043999 86.461998 C 67.652000 47.966999 86.899002 O 67.500999 46.787998 86.594002 C 65.333000 48.861000 87.238998 C 64.487000 50.089001 87.212997 C 64.070999 50.848999 88.280998 N 64.099998 50.730000 86.045998 C 63.492001 51.859001 86.401001 N 63.455002 51.962002 87.745003 H 67.055000 50.034000 86.720001 H 64.803001 47.987000 86.842003 H 65.557999 48.631001 88.287003 H 64.202003 50.701000 89.347000 H 63.118000 52.616001 85.714996 H 63.000000 52.709000 88.264000 H 66.400002 48.042000 84.662003 H 67.227997 49.466999 84.532997 N 68.707001 48.453999 87.607002 H 68.703003 49.424999 87.928001 C 66.919998 55.962002 85.206001 C 66.663002 55.995998 83.696999 C 65.237999 55.566002 83.323997 O 64.323997 55.736000 84.195000 O 65.031998 55.087002 82.180000 H 66.818001 54.929001 85.564003 H 66.160004 56.566002 85.724998 H 66.797997 57.009998 83.277000 H 67.355003 55.335999 83.151001 C 63.498001 46.766998 85.001999 H 62.872002 46.758999 85.903000 H 64.155998 47.639999 85.011002 H 62.862000 46.841000 84.109001 C 65.938004 48.125000 79.294998 C 65.156998 48.433998 80.528000 C 65.535004 49.078999 81.684998 N 63.805000 48.205002 80.660004 C 63.401001 48.702000 81.847000 N 64.429001 49.243000 82.498001 H 66.969002 48.471001 79.455002 H 65.535004 48.693001 78.439003 H 63.221001 47.752998 79.933998 H 66.519997 49.443001 81.966003 H 62.362000 48.666000 82.163002 C 71.223000 52.724998 84.686996 C 69.713997 52.585999 84.681000 C 68.991997 52.438999 83.483002 C 69.001999 52.604000 85.891998 C 67.596001 52.362000 83.491997 C 67.607002 52.507000 85.903999 C 66.897003 52.405998 84.703003 H 71.691002 52.033001 83.973000

H 71.608002 52.493999 85.694000 H 69.529999 52.384998 82.531998 H 69.545998 52.709000 86.834999 H 67.042000 52.278000 82.553001 H 67.068001 52.530998 86.855003 H 65.807999 52.374001 84.696999 C 64.468002 50.020000 84.275002 C 60.987999 45.410999 77.806999 C 60.187000 50.123001 77.781998 C 60.695000 49.083000 78.792999 C 61.421001 46.797001 78.231003 N 60.464001 47.729000 78.322998 O 62.620998 47.051998 78.444000 C 60.028999 49.291000 80.158997 O 60.501999 48.320999 81.069000 C 60.292999 50.721001 80.635002 O 59.549999 51.014999 81.820000 C 59.870998 51.745998 79.556000 O 60.441002 51.439999 78.283997 C 60.265999 53.168999 79.928001 O 61.643002 53.221001 80.248001 H 59.098000 49.970001 77.639999 H 61.780998 49.200001 78.914001 H 58.937000 49.174000 80.035004 H 61.369999 50.848000 80.833000 H 58.764000 51.720001 79.484001 H 60.888000 45.363998 76.710999 H 60.019001 45.131001 78.245003 H 59.486000 47.460999 78.193001 H 61.764999 44.700001 78.112999 H 59.763000 48.091999 81.668999 H 60.015999 53.820999 79.070000 H 59.638000 53.473000 80.779999 H 61.925999 54.140999 80.432999 C 59.681000 55.507000 82.815002 C 60.151001 50.841999 83.057999 C 59.650002 51.914001 84.030998 C 59.147999 54.243999 83.450996 N 60.021999 53.221001 83.545998 O 57.974998 54.154999 83.819000 C 60.188999 51.680000 85.466003 O 59.595001 52.571999 86.377998 C 59.999001 50.233002 85.931999 O 60.890999 49.890999 87.019997 C 60.412998 49.251999 84.815002 O 59.792999 49.571999 83.583000 C 60.083000 47.801998 85.122002 O 58.686001 47.598000 85.123001 H 61.256001 50.898998 82.962997 H 58.551998 51.873001 84.055000 H 61.277000 51.841999 85.426003 H 58.943001 50.051998 86.197998 H 61.516998 49.334000 84.721001

H 60.764999 55.473000 82.643997 H 59.421001 56.363998 83.452003 H 61.009998 53.375999 83.329002 H 59.166000 55.646000 81.852997 H 60.132000 53.405998 86.376999 H 60.574001 47.182999 84.348999 H 60.541000 47.554001 86.095001 H 58.528000 46.681000 85.449997 O 63.924000 52.750999 83.224998 O 62.841999 53.555000 83.726997 H 63.292000 54.417999 83.967003 H 64.306000 53.341999 82.538002

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