Supplementary Materials for

Article

In *Escherichia coli* Ammonia Inhibits Cytochrome *bo*³ but Activates Cytochrome *bd*-I

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Supplementary Figures



Supplementary Figure S1. O₂ consumption traces showing the effect of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ on the respiration of *E. coli* in respiratory mutants at pH 8.3. **A)** The addition of 13 mM $(NH_4)_2SO_4$, but not 13 mM K₂SO₄, increases O₂ consumption by cell suspensions of the mutant strain expressing cytochrome *bd*-I as the only terminal oxidase (400 µl cells with OD₆₀₀ = 2.3). **B**) Neither 13 mM $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ nor 13 mM K₂SO₄ affects respiration in the mutant strain expressing cytochrome *bo*₃ as the sole oxidase (300 µl cells with OD₆₀₀ = 2.15).



Supplementary Figure S2. Effect of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ on the respiration of *E. coli* in respiratory mutants. The respiratory activity measured increased after the addition to mutant *E. coli* cells of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ at increasing the ligand concentrations ranging from 1.75 mM to 27 mM. Data (mean ± standard deviation, n = 3) refer to the control activity measured before the addition of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ (taken as 100%). Addition of K₂SO₄ in the same range of concentrations does not affect the respiratory activity of both mutants.

Supplementary Methods

Bacterial strains and growth conditions

The *E. coli* respiratory mutant strains used, derived from the K-12 derivative MG1655 (RKP5416), were TBE025 (MG1655 Δ cydB nuoB appB::kan) and TBE037 (MG1655 Δ appB nuoB cyoB::kan), respectively expressing cytochrome *bo*₃, and *bd*-I as the only terminal oxidase (mutants kindly given by Alex Ter Beek and Joost Teixeira de Mattos, University of Amsterdam).

E. coli cells were grown in 50 mL-Falcon tubes in 5 mL Luria Bertani (LB) medium supplemented with $30 \mu g/mL$ kanamycin at $37 \degree C$ and 200 rpm.

Assay conditions

The respirometric assays were performed at 25 °C in 100 mM Tris-phosphate (pH 8.3).