

First Crystallographic Structure of a Xylanase from Glycoside Hydrolase Family 5: Implications for Catalysis^{†,‡}

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ABSTRACT: The room-temperature structure of xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) from the bacterial plant pathogen *Erwinia chrysanthemi* expressed in *Escherichia coli*, a 45 kDa, 413-amino acid protein belonging to glycoside hydrolase family 5, has been determined by multiple isomorphous replacement and refined to a resolution of 1.42 Å. This represents the first structure of a xylanase not belonging to either glycoside hydrolase family 10 or family 11. The enzyme is composed of two domains similar to most family 10 xylanases and the α -amylases. The catalytic domain (residues 46–315) has a $(\beta/\alpha)_8$ -barrel motif with a binding cleft along the C-terminal side of the β -barrel. The catalytic residues, Glu165 and Glu253, determined by correspondence to other family 5 and family 10 glycoside hydrolases, lie inside this cleft on the C-terminal ends of β -strands 4 and 7, respectively, with an O_ε2...O_ε1 distance of 4.22 Å. The smaller domain (residues 31–43 and 323–413) has a β_9 -barrel motif with five of the strands interfacing with α -helices 7 and 8 of the catalytic domain. The first 13 N-terminal residues form one β -strand of this domain. Residues 44, 45, and 316–322 form the linkers between this domain and the catalytic domain.

Glycoside hydrolases are enzymes that cleave polysaccharides at the glycosidic linkage between furanose or pyranose rings by either a configuration-retaining or a configuration-inverting acid-catalyzed mechanism. They have been classified into 91 family groupings based on sequence similarity (1–9).

Xylanases are glycoside hydrolases with specific activity toward xylan, the hemicellulosic fraction of plant tissues composing one-third of all renewable organic carbon available on earth (10). Study of xylanases in an effort to understand the basis of catalysis and specificity, therefore, has a twofold purpose: (1) to engineer more efficient enzymes for utilization in industrial processes that take advantage of this plentiful, renewable resource and (2) to develop inhibitors to protect this resource and economically important crops from attack by microorganisms that utilize these enzymes to destroy the same.

Xylanases, like all β -1,4-glycan hydrolases, utilize a general acid mechanism of catalysis promoted by two acidic amino acid residues, an acid or base and a nucleophile. In

the case of xylanases, only glutamic acid residues have been identified as the catalytic amino acids. Specific recognition of substrate depends on the active site topology and a series of binding subsites on the surface of the enzyme (7–9).

Xylanases have been placed predominantly in families 5, 10, 11, and 43 in the glycoside hydrolase (GH)¹ family classification scheme (1–3). However, only three-dimensional structures of xylanases from families 10 and 11 have been reported. Glycoside hydrolase families 5 (GH-5) and 10 (GH-10) are members of a superfamily or clan GH-A, which also includes GH families 1, 2, 17, 26, 30, 35, 39, 42, 51, 53, 59, 72, 79, and 86. The clan concept demonstrates a broader relationship between GH families that suggests a more distant common evolutionary ancestor (11).

The family 11 xylanases are low-molecular weight proteins of 184–207 amino acids that fold into a β -sheet motif. Structures have been reported for enzymes from bacteria [e.g., *Bacillus circulans* (12–15), *B. circulans* strain D3 (16), and *Bacillus agaradhaerens* (17)] and fungi [e.g., *Paecilomyces variotii* (18, 19), *Thermomyces lanuginosus* (20), *Trichoderma reesei* (21–23), *Aspergillus niger* (24), and *Aspergillus kawachii* (18)].

Structures have been reported for family 10 xylanases from both bacteria [e.g., *Cellulomonas fimi* (25–29), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (30, 31), *Streptomyces lividans* (32, 33), *Streptomyces olivaceoviridis* (34, 35)] and fungi [e.g., *Penicillium simplicissimum* (36, 37) and *Thermoascus aurantiacus*

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¹ Abbreviations: GH, glycoside hydrolase; GH-5, glycoside hydrolase family 5; GH-10, glycoside hydrolase family 10; GH-30, glycoside hydrolase family 30; CD, catalytic module; CBM, carbohydrate-binding module; XBM, small module or putative xylan-binding module; XynA, xylanase from *E. chrysanthemi*; MIR, multiple isomorphous replacement; rms, root-mean-square.

(38–40)]. These enzymes are considerably larger, at more than 400 amino acids in most cases, and generally contain a catalytic domain or module (CD) and a smaller carbohydrate-binding module (CBM). The xylanase from *P. simplicissimum* lacks a CBM. Of the GH-10 structures reported to date, all but one (*S. olivaceoviridis*) contain only the isolated catalytic domains. Although the xylanase from *S. olivaceoviridis* was crystallized with both the CD and the CBM, the connecting Gly/Pro-rich linker between the two modules was not evident in electron density maps, which suggests the possibility that the CBM is loosely attached to the CD and that the position of the CBM in the crystal structure may be determined more by packing than by interactions with the catalytic domain.

As previously reported by Keen et al. (41), xylanase from *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (designated XynA in this paper) is significantly homologous to vertebrate cerebrosidases, which are members of family 30, and to family 5 glycoside hydrolases. XynA has since been classified in GH-5 (1). A BLAST search of the PIR-NREF database at the PIR website (42), utilizing the full 413-amino acid sequence of XynA, found 13 GH-5 sequences with levels of identity in the range of 25–82% and levels of homology in the range of 44–90% and 18 GH-30 sequences with levels of identity in the range of 20–27% and levels of homology in the range of 36–45%. The endoxylanase from *Pectobacterium chrysanthemi* is 82% identical to XynA. All 13 GH-5 proteins possessing some level of sequence identity with XynA have been identified as having xylanase activity. No structures of these 13 enzymes have been determined to date. GH-5 enzymes contain seven invariant residues in five conserved stretches corresponding to five of the eight β -strands of the β -barrel. Four of the five stretches containing six of the seven invariant residues are found in XynA. On the basis of this sequence similarity, the catalytic residues were postulated to be Glu165 and Glu253 (41). These structural studies have confirmed these assignments.

XynA was first isolated from cultures of *E. chrysanthemi* SR120A, obtained from corn, and characterized as having xylanase activity by Braun and Rodrigues (43). Subsequently, Keen et al. (41) cloned the gene in *Escherichia coli* and obtained the secreted protein from the bacterial periplasm. Recently, XynA was found to be most active on xylan substrates substituted with α -1,2-linked 4-*O*-methyl-D-glucuronic acid, cleaving the substrate between the first and second xylose units from the glucuronic acid-substituted xylose on the nonreducing end (44). Despite these studies, no experimental determinations of the catalytic mechanism, the catalytic residues, or the function of the small domain have been reported. In the absence of such determinations, we can only speculate about these issues by analogy to homologous structures. Thus, since GH-5 enzymes operate through a configuration-retaining mechanism with glutamic acids on β -strands 4 and 7 acting as catalytic residues (1–9), XynA is expected to function by the same mechanism.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Production, Preparation, and Crystallization of the Enzyme. Xylanase from *E. chrysanthemi* was cloned and expressed in *E. coli* and purified as previously described (41). As reported elsewhere, the purified enzyme crystallized

Table 1: Data Statistics^a

total no. of observations	206521
total no. of reflections	58915
resolution range (Å)	1.42–44.57 (1.42–1.52)
redundancy	3.51 (1.91)
R_{sym} (%)	6.56 (13.2)
$\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$	10.17 (3.14)
completeness (%)	90.6 (61.9)

^a Data for the highest-resolution shell in parentheses.

reproducibly by vapor diffusion as mechanically sturdy parallelepiped-shaped crystals belonging to monoclinic space group $P2_1$ (No. 4) with the following cell dimensions: $a = 39.4$ Å, $b = 49.6$ Å, $c = 91.0$ Å, $\beta = 101.7^\circ$, and $Z = 2$ molecules/unit cell (45).

Data Collection. Room-temperature diffraction data for both native and derivatized crystals were collected at a wavelength of 1.54 Å with a San Diego Multiwire Systems dual-detector system equipped with a Rigaku RU-200 rotating anode X-ray generator. Two crystals were used for the native data set. The native R_{sym} was 0.066 for 206 521 observations, yielding a unique set of native data containing 58 915 reflections with a redundancy of 3.5 observations per reflection (see Table 1).

Structure Solution. Attempts to solve the structure by molecular replacement using GH-10 xylanase models found in the Protein Data Bank (46) proved to be fruitless. Therefore, the focus was diverted to obtaining experimental phase information by multiple isomorphous replacement (MIR). Heavy atom-soaked crystals were prepared by adding to the crystallization drops containing native crystals a solution of a heavy atom compound. Crystals were mounted by conventional means in quartz capillaries and data collected at room temperature as for the native crystals described above. A total of 33 heavy atom derivative data sets were collected, each from a single crystal.

All 33 derivative data sets were input individually to the program SOLVE (47–51) which produced prospective heavy atom sites for 27 of the derivatives (resolution range of 3–11 Å). Analysis of the phasing power and R_{cullis} from heavy atom site refinement and cross phasing of derivative difference maps reduced the number of useful derivatives to four. The heavy atom sites of these four derivatives were refined at resolution ranges of 7–11, 6–11, 5–11, 4.5–11, 4–11, 3.5–11, and 3–11 Å. On the basis of the phasing power and the refinement stability, the useful resolution ranges of these four data sets were identified as indicated in Table 2. Thus, 3–11 Å data were used for the $\text{HgCl}_2/\text{AuCl}_3$ derivative, 4–11 Å data for two other derivatives, and 7–11 Å data for the fourth derivative. The overall figure of merit for this final MIR phase set was 0.49.

Early in our efforts, the $\text{HgCl}_2/\text{AuCl}_3$ derivative was identified as an excellent single-site derivative producing a phasing power of >1.0 down to a resolution of 3 Å. Therefore, this derivative was used as a monitor for phase quality. Any phase set in question, whether derived from a model, a solvent-flattened MIR map [using the program PHASES (52)], or phase combination of MIR and model phases (also using the program PHASES), was used to phase a $\text{HgCl}_2/\text{AuCl}_3$ – native difference density map for 3–11 Å data. The peak height of the Hg/Au site (in σ units) served as an indicator of the quality of the phase set. The final MIR

Table 2: Derivative Data and Phasing Statistics^a

	native	HgCl ₂ / AuCl ₃	HgCl ₂	K ₂ PtCl ₆ Pt	benzoate
no. of reflections	58915	8598	14387	15201	12575
no. of reflections (3–11 Å)	6841	6227	6063	6483	5533
no. of common reflections	—	6176	6019	6408	5471
R_{sym}	0.066	0.074	0.071	0.050	0.061
$R_{\text{der-nat}}$	—	0.134	0.174	0.060	0.109
no. of sites	—	1	1	2	2
phasing resolution (Å)	—	3.0–11.0	4.0–11.0	4.0–11.0	7.0–11.0
R_{Cullis}	—	0.49	0.56	0.59	0.52
centric phasing power	—	1.34	1.04	0.83	1.74
acentric phasing power	—	1.53	1.20	1.17	1.33
site 1					
Q	—	0.63	0.62	0.23	1.04
X	—	0.167	0.172	0.963	0.409
Y	—	0.000	0.005	0.232	0.515
Z	—	0.089	0.088	0.500	0.401
B (Å ²)	—	23.6	23.5	33.1	459.0
nearest residue	—	C175	C175	M347	H336
site 2					
Q	—	—	—	0.25	0.26
X	—	—	—	0.243	0.236
Y	—	—	—	0.117	0.145
Z	—	—	—	0.462	0.460
B (Å ²)	—	—	—	191.8	2.0
nearest residue	—	—	—	M360	M360

^a Data sets for 29 other derivatives were collected. For the resolution range of 3–11 Å, the $R_{\text{der-nat}}$ values ranged from 0.051 to 0.324. No sites were unequivocally identified for any of these derivatives.

phase set produced an Hg/Au peak of 67 σ . The phase set obtained by solvent flattening of the MIR map produced a peak of 51 σ . Phase extension to 2.5–20 Å produced a phase set that yielded a peak of only 34 σ .

The model was built [using the programs O (53) for building and MAPMAN (54) for converting XPLOR (55–57) maps to O maps] according to the MIR, density-modified MIR, and phase-extended density-modified MIR maps, producing a model whose phase set produced a peak for the Hg/Au site of only 24 σ . This served as a baseline for model comparison. The model phases were combined with the MIR phases, and new maps were generated at various resolutions and with solvent flattening and phase extension. The model was rebuilt to these maps, resulting in a phase set that produced an Hg/Au peak of 27 σ in the monitoring map. Attempted refinement of this model (using XPLOR) gave model phase sets that produced smaller peaks for the Hg/

Au site. Phases from the best models (based on peak heights of the Hg/Au site) of successive rebuilds were combined with the MIR phases followed by solvent flattening (with PHASES) until the model was satisfactory for producing relatively unbiased model-phased $2F_o - F_c$ maps for model building. This occurred when the model alone resulted in a phase set that gave an Hg/Au peak of 29 σ . It was also at this point that a small six-residue sequence (residues 286–291, YVW-WYI) was identified in the maps from which the entire sequence could be fitted to the map with minimal subsequent modifications of the sequence assignment. The final model phase set produced an Hg/Au peak of 41.5 σ in the monitor difference map.

Structure Refinement. The structure was refined isotropically with XPLOR to an R of 0.149 ($R_{\text{free}} = 0.182$; $1.42 \text{ Å} < d < 50 \text{ Å}$ and $F > 4\sigma_F$) with 271 water molecules in the model and a bulk solvent correction applied. Refinement was continued with the program SHELXL-97 (58) with all fully occupied non-hydrogen atoms treated anisotropically, partially occupied non-hydrogen atoms refined isotropically, and hydrogen atoms riding in ideal positions with B factors equal to 1.2 or 1.5 times the thermal parameter (B/B_{eq}) of the atom to which they were bound. Water molecules were automatically picked by the SHELWAT routine and then confirmed by difference density maps [$nF_o - (n - 1)F_c$ maps] and hydrogen bonding considerations. For $F > 4\sigma_F$, the final $R = 0.095$ and $R_{\text{free}} = 0.151$; for all data, $R = 0.102$, $R_{\text{free}} = 0.161$, and $S = 1.49$ (see Table 3).

RESULTS

The Model. The final model consists of 383 amino acids (residues 31–413 in the enzyme sequence), 522 water molecules, and one acetate ion. The rms deviations from geometrical ideality are as follows: 0.010 Å for bonds, 2.13° for angles, 17.7° for dihedral angles, 1.40° for improper angles, and 3.8° for the deviation in ω from planarity. The estimated average error in the coordinates is 0.06 Å, as determined by the method of Luzzati (59). Electron density maps around the segment of residues 198–203 containing the *cis*-Ala201 in β -strand 5 of the catalytic domain are shown in Figure 1. A Ramachandran plot (61), produced with the program PROCHECK (62), shows 90.4% of non-glycine and non-proline residues in the most favored regions, 8.7% in the additionally allowed regions, and three residues (Glu165, Asp257, and Trp289) in the generously allowed regions; there are no residues in the disallowed regions. Asp257 is in the coil region between β -strand 7 and

Table 3: Refinement Statistics

resolution shell (Å)	no. of reflections	R factor (all data)	R factor ($F > 4\sigma_F$)	no. of reflections	R_{free} (all data)	R_{free} ($F > 4\sigma_F$)
∞ –3.06	5904	0.123	0.122	716	0.163	0.163
3.06–2.43	5737	0.097	0.095	619	0.154	0.151
2.43–2.12	5845	0.078	0.074	663	0.134	0.128
2.12–1.93	5828	0.092	0.082	655	0.150	0.133
1.93–1.79	5519	0.078	0.073	618	0.155	0.147
1.79–1.68	5415	0.085	0.076	587	0.166	0.154
1.68–1.60	5302	0.099	0.083	606	0.173	0.150
1.60–1.53	5222	0.111	0.088	588	0.186	0.162
1.53–1.47	5123	0.130	0.098	580	0.202	0.171
1.47–1.4207	3048	0.146	0.100	340	0.211	0.184
∞ –1.42	52943	0.102	0.095	5972	0.161	0.151
∞ –1.42	58915	0.108	0.100			

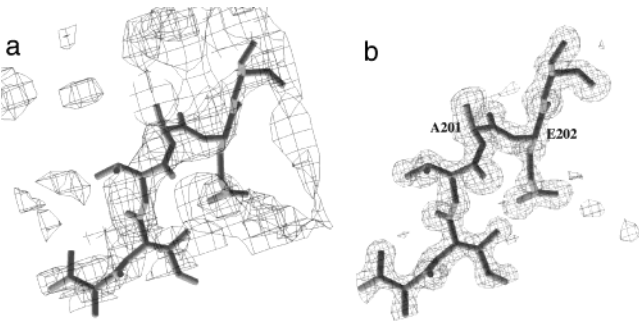


FIGURE 1: (a) MIR map (3 Å) contoured at 1.3σ. (b) Powell-minimized omit map (1.42 Å) with the displayed segment omitted and contoured at 3.1σ. The density clearly shows Ala201 is a *cis* peptide. This figure was produced with the program SETOR (60).

Table 4: Discretely Disordered Residues

residue	position	residue	position
Asn40	XBM β ₁	Lys90	CD α ₂
Lys107	CD β ₃	Asn127	CD β ₃ α ₃ -loop
Ser137	CD α ₃	Ser141	CD α ₃
Asp145	CD α ₃	Ser147	CD α ₃
Thr152	CD α ₃	Asp171	CD β ₁ α ₄ -loop
Ser184	CD α ₄	Ser195	CD α ₄ β ₅ -loop
Lys197	CD β ₅	Leu204	CD β ₅ α ₅ -loop
Lys216	CD α ₅	Ser218	CD α ₅
Ser221	CD α ₅	Val256	CD β ₇ α ₇ -loop
Lys259	CD β ₇ α ₇ -loop	Asn264	CD β ₇ α ₇ -loop
Lys303	CD β ₈ α ₈ -loop	Gln326	XBM β ₂
Ser333	XBM β ₂ β ₃ -loop	Asn334	XBM β ₂ β ₃ -loop
Asn364	XBM β ₅	Ser389	XBM β ₇
Ser395	XBM β ₇ β ₈ -loop	Val411	XBM β ₉

Table 5: Temperature Factor Analysis for the Final Model and Distribution of Water Molecules (3025 hydrogen atoms not included)

	atoms	count	min <i>B</i>	max <i>B</i>	mean <i>B</i>
protein					
all protein atoms		3047	2.8	97.8	13.6
all main chain atoms		1149	2.8	46.0	10.2
all backbone atoms [poly(Ala)]		1909	2.8	60.9	11.2
all side chain atoms (with CB and O)		1898	3.5	97.8	15.6
all side chain atoms (no CB or O)		1138	3.5	97.8	17.5
water					
all water O atoms		522	6.2	69.8	36.5
first-shell water (all)		430	6.2	69.8	35.1
first-shell water (<i>Q</i> = 1.0)		291	6.2	69.8	36.4
first-shell water (<i>Q</i> = 0.5)		48	26.7	63.1	40.3
first-shell water (disordered)		78	8.0	54.1	27.2
first-shell water (disordered)		13	20.7	50.3	34.7
second-shell water (all)		92	26.2	65.7	43.0
second-shell water (<i>Q</i> = 1.0)		28	27.1	65.7	47.0
second shell water (<i>Q</i> = 0.5)		60	26.2	63.2	41.5
second-shell water (disordered)		4	29.6	47.6	38.6
acetate					
acetate ion		4	13.6	28.9	23.4

α-helix 7. Glu165 and Trp289 are conserved residues in GH-5 enzymes. The first is the catalytic acid or base, and the second is positioned near the end of β-strand 8 spatially adjacent to the catalytic nucleophile, Glu253. There are 28 disordered residues that have been modeled with multiple conformations, 21 in the catalytic domain and seven in the small domain. These are listed in Table 4. The mean *B*/*B*_{eq} values for the main chain and side chain atoms are 10 and 16 Å², respectively. Thermal parameter statistics are given in Table 5. In Figure 2, the enzyme is colored according to *B*/*B*_{eq} value, with blue corresponding to the lowest and red

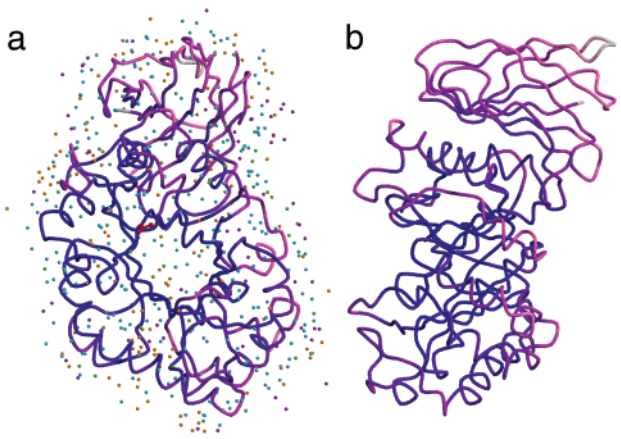


FIGURE 2: (a) Ribbon diagram of xylanase from *E. chrysanthemi* (XynA) colored by *B* factor (low *B* is blue and high *B* red to white) showing the toroidal shape of the catalytic domain (CD), the secondary structure, and the distribution of solvent. The acetate ion is red. The water molecules are color coded according to hydration shell and occupancy: cyan for first shell and full occupancy, orange for first shell and partial occupancy, green for second shell and full occupancy, and purple for second shell and partial occupancy. (b) Side view of XynA illustrating the disposition of the XBM toward the back side of the catalytic domain and the interface between α-helices 7 and 8 of the CD and the β-sheet of the XBM. This figure was rendered with the programs MOLSCRIPT (63) and RASTER3D (64).

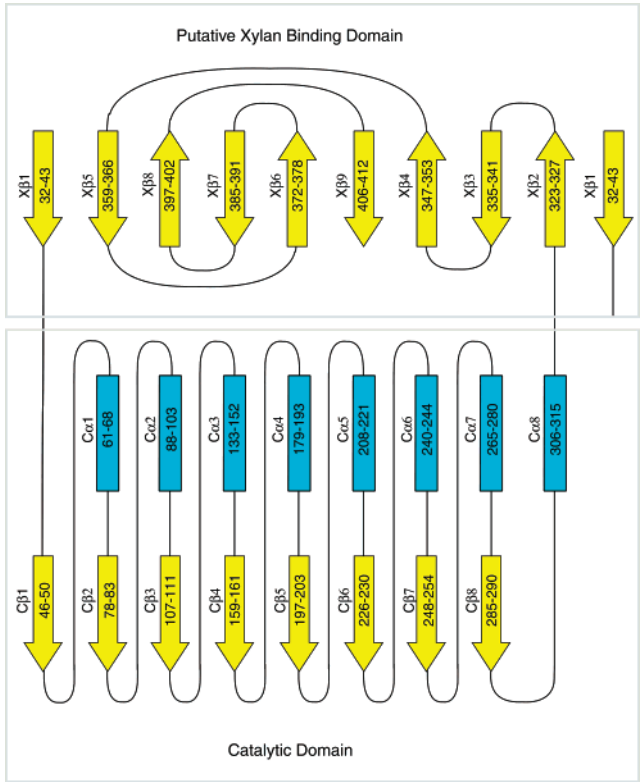


FIGURE 3: Schematic topological diagram of the secondary structure illustrating the involvement in the β-sandwich of the XBM of the first 10 residues of the N-terminus. This figure was produced with Adobe Illustrator 8.0 (65).

to white corresponding to the highest values of *B*/*B*_{eq}. The water molecules and acetate ion have been included.

Overall Structure. A topological diagram of the xylanase secondary structure is shown in Figure 3. XynA is composed of a catalytic domain (CD) and a small domain with two linker peptides connecting them. The function of the small

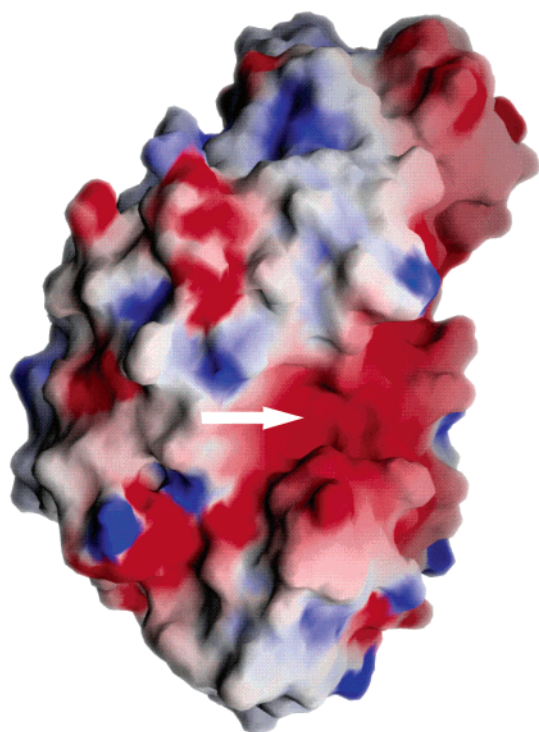


FIGURE 4: Illustration of the electrostatic potential of the enzyme surface with negatively charged regions colored red and positively charged regions colored blue. The large red region near the middle of the catalytic domain, marked by the arrow, is the catalytic binding cleft in which the negatively charged catalytic residues reside. This figure was generated with the program GRASP (66).

domain has not been determined, but by analogy to GH-10 xylanases, it is probably a carbohydrate-binding, or more specifically, a xylan-binding module. In this paper, it will be termed the small domain or module but abbreviated as XBM. The first 30 residues (the leader peptide) are missing from the structure due to cleavage by *E. coli* during secretion to the bacterial periplasm (41). Figure 2 illustrates the secondary structure and the molecular shape. The enzyme is approximately 68 Å long by 45 Å wide by 38 Å thick.

Catalytic Domain. The catalytic domain has the common (β/α)₈-barrel folding motif consisting of residues 46–315. The β -barrel is elliptical in shape, and the connecting loops to the α -helices are generally shorter on the N-terminal side of the barrel (~4.5 residues/loop) than are the loops on the C-terminal side (~11.2 residues/loop; subsequently termed the back side and front side of the barrel, respectively). As is generally the case in clan GH-A glycoside hydrolases, the longer loops of the C-terminal side of the β -barrel take part in the formation of the binding cleft around the active site.

Catalytic Binding Cleft. The active site residues, Glu165 and Glu253, are positioned on opposite sides of the catalytic binding cleft at the C-terminal ends of β -strands 4 and 7. Glu165 is actually situated in the loop following β -strand 4 and, by analogy to related structures, serves as the acid or base. Glu253 is the nucleophile during catalytic hydrolysis. The carboxyl oxygen atoms of closest approach of the catalytic residues are 4.22 Å apart. The cleft is decidedly negative as shown in Figure 4. However, the binding cleft contains a number of aromatic residues that can serve as the scaffolding for the docking of the pyranose rings of the substrate. These include Trp55, Tyr172, Trp168, and Tyr232.

Trp113, Trp289, and Tyr290 are buried and accessible only as possible hydrogen-bonding donors.

Small Domain. The XBM has nine β -strands forming an elliptical β -barrel. The first strand is composed of residues 31–43, the first 13 residues of the secreted enzyme. The last 91 residues in the sequence form the other eight β -strands (see Figure 3). Both linker peptides connect the XBM to the CD on the back side of the catalytic domain. As seen in Figure 2b, the XBM is positioned somewhat to the back side of the CD. Strands 2–4, 6, and 9 of the small module form the interface with α -helices 7 and 8 of the CD. The interface is distributed between hydrophobic and hydrophilic residues and includes 11 hydrogen bonds between α -helices 7 and 8 and the adjacent β -sheet. Approximately 1200 Å² of each domain is buried by the formation of this interface with only 10% contributed by charged residues. Interactions involved in this interface are listed in Table 6.

Water Molecules and the Acetate Ion. The water structure is quite extensive. There are 319 water molecules with full occupancy, 108 water molecules with 50% occupancy, and 95 disordered water molecules (defined as sharing space with other atoms in the model). There are 430 waters in the first hydration shell and 92 waters in the second hydration shell of the enzyme. The distribution of modeled waters is listed in Table 5.

The acetate ion, which has an average B_{eq} of 23 Å², is bound to Arg293, bridging atoms N_ε and N_ε1 while also interacting with the OH group of Tyr295.

Molecular Packing. Xylanase molecules have 10 neighbors in the unit cell. Table 7 lists the hydrogen-bonded interactions between the reference molecule and its neighbors. This list includes salt bridges between Glu176 and Arg99 and between Glu181 and Arg99. The XBM in XynA has possibly eight stabilizing hydrogen bonds with neighboring molecules, all but two of these being formed with XBMs of neighboring molecules. There are 41 water molecules involved in intermolecular interactions (within 3.5 Å of two xylanase molecules).

DISCUSSION

Comparison to Family 5 and Family 10 Glycoside Hydrolases. Comparison of XynA to the known GH-5 and GH-10 structures identifies Glu165 and Glu253 as the catalytic residues. This confirms the originally proposed assignments (41). Unlike many GH-5 and GH-10 enzymes, XynA contains no disulfide bonds. Most disulfide bonds serve to stabilize floppy loops, but the shorter loops of XynA apparently need no such stabilization.

Using the Smith–Waterman algorithm (42), pairwise alignment of the XynA sequence with sequences of family 5 glycoside hydrolases found two xylanases of *Aeromonas caviae* to be more than 40% identical for 275 residues of the XynA catalytic domain sequence. Attempts to align the XynA CD sequence (275 amino acids) with a number of other family 5 sequences and with family 10 xylanases never resulted in a simultaneous match of both catalytic residues. Clearly, the fact that GH-5 and GH-10 families are members of the GH-A clan implies that they share some common features, namely, a common fold, the same type of catalytic mechanism, and several conserved residues (11). Since the level of sequence similarity is low, we compare XynA with

Table 6: (A) Accessible Surface Area [calculated with the algorithm of Lee and Richards (67) as implemented in XPLOR (55–57)] of Xylanase XynA and Its Domains and Buried Surface Area in the Catalytic Domain–Xylan Binding Module Interface Showing that the Interface Is Dominated by Hydrophobic and Neutral Hydrophilic Residues and (B) Possible Hydrogen Bonding Interactions between the Catalytic Domain and the Small Module

domain	total area	(A)			
		hydrophobic	aromatic	neutral hydrophilic	charged hydrophilic
XynA	14229	3146	1414	5266	4402
% by residue type		22	10	37	31
CD (in the presence of XBM)	9645	2360	1016	3174	3095
% of total ASA of XynA	68	75	72	60	70
XBM (in the presence of CD)	4584	786	398	2093	1308
% of total ASA of XynA	32	25	28	40	30
CD (in the absence of XBM)	10905	2829	1362	3509	3206
% of total CD ASA		26	12	32	29
XBM (in the absence of CD)	5777	1336	496	2519	1426
% of total XBM ASA		23	9	44	25
buried surface area					
CD	1260	469	346	335	111
% of total buried ASA of CD		37	27	27	9
XBM	1193	550	98	426	118
% of total buried ASA of XBM		46	8	36	10

		(B)		
CD residue		XBM residue	distance (Å)	location
CD α_7				
265 NE1	→	405 O	2.85	$\beta_8\beta_9$ -loop
276 ND2	→	329 OE1	2.94	$\beta_2\beta_3$ -loop
279 O	←	324 NE	3.01	XBM β_2
CD α_8				
306 NZ	→	379 O	2.85	$\beta_6\beta_7$ -loop
306 NZ	→	380 O	3.38	$\beta_6\beta_7$ -loop
306 NZ	→	382 O	3.24	$\beta_6\beta_7$ -loop
306 NZ	→	383 OD1	2.74	$\beta_6\beta_7$ -loop
313 OE1	←	378 N	3.10	XBM β_6
313 OE1	←	378 OG1	2.70	XBM β_6
313 NE2	→	376 O	2.94	XBM β_6
313 NE2	→	409 OG1	2.89	XBM β_9
313 O	←	409 OG1	2.80	XBM β_9

Table 7: Intermolecular Hydrogen Bonding in Xylanase XynA

reference	symop ^a	bonded atom	distance (Å)	reference	symop ^a	bonded atom	distance (Å)
Thr32 OG1	7	Asn244 OD1	2.77	Trp177 O	2	Ser103 OG	3.28
Lys34 NZ	7	Asn244 O	2.95	Glu181 OE1	2	Arg99 NH2	2.86
Asn38 OD1	10	Ser389 N	2.87	Glu181 OE2	2	Arg99 NH1	2.76
	10	Ser389 OG A ^b	3.09		2	Arg99 NH2	3.48
Asn57 ND2	5	Tyr118 OH	3.27	Ser191 OG	4	Gln260 NE2	2.89
Asn65 ND2	1	Asp167 O	3.37	Ser191 O	4	Asn264 ND2 A ^b	2.96
Ser88 OG	6	Arg293 NH1	2.99		4	Asn264 ND2 B ^b	3.10
	6	Arg293 NH2	3.00	Asn244 OD1	8	Thr32 OG1	2.77
Ser89 OG	6	Ser294 OG	2.98	Asn244 O	8	Lys34 NZ	2.95
Pro96 O	1	Lys169 NZ	3.28	Gln260 NE2	3	Ser191 OG	2.89
Arg99 NE	1	Glu176 OE1	2.82	Asn264 ND2 A ^b	3	Ser191 O	2.96
Arg99 NH1	1	Glu181 OE2	2.76	Arg292 NH1	5	Tyr118 OH	3.20
Arg99 NH2	1	Glu181 OE1	2.86	Arg293 NH1	5	Ser88 OG	2.99
	1	Glu181 OE2	3.48	Arg293 NH2	5	Ser88 OG	3.00
Gln100 NE2	1	Asp167 O	2.87	Ser294 OG	5	Ser89 OG	2.98
Ser103 OG	1	Trp177 O	3.28	Glu300 OE1	5	Tyr118 OH	3.12
Tyr118 OH	6	Asn57 ND2	3.27	Thr343 O	10	Ser399 OG1	2.85
	6	Arg292 NH1	3.20	Asp358 OD2	9	Asn369 ND2	2.69
	6	Glu300 OE1	3.12	Asn369 ND2	10	Asp358 OD2	2.69
Arg130 NH1	2	Thr152 O	3.20		10	Asn403 OD1	3.03
Thr152 O	1	Arg130 NH1	3.20	Ser389 N	9	Asn38 OD1	2.87
Asp167 O	2	Asn65 ND2	3.37	Ser389 OG A ^b	9	Asn38 OD1	3.09
	2	Gln100 NE2	2.87	Thr399 OG1	9	Thr343 O	2.85
Lys169 NZ	2	Pro96 O	3.28	Asn403 OD1	9	Asn369 ND2	3.03
Glu176 OE1	2	Arg99 NE	2.82	Asn264 ND2 B ^b	3	Ser191 O	3.10

^a Symmetry operators: $x + 1, y, z$ (1); $x - 1, y, z$ (2); $x, y + 1, z$ (3); $x, y - 1, z$ (4); $1 - x, y + 1/2, -z$ (5); $1 - x, y - 1/2, -z$ (6); $1 - x, y + 1/2, 1 - z$ (7); $1 - x, y - 1/2, 1 - z$ (8); $2 - x, y + 1/2, 1 - z$ (9); and $2 - x, y - 1/2, 1 - z$ (10). ^b Alternate conformations.

GH-5 and GH-10 enzymes by a structural alignment with those structures that have been determined crystallographically.

A simple structural alignment of XynA with models of GH-5 and GH-10 enzymes is summarized in Table 8. Coordinates were obtained from the Protein Data Bank (46).

Table 8: Structural Alignment of Xylanase with Other Family 5 Glycoside Hydrolases and Family 10 Xylanases^a

		1A3H	1BQC	1CEC	1CZ1	1ECE	1EDG	1EGZ	1QNP	1B31	1CLX	1T*X	1XYF	1XYZ	2EXO
no. of residues		300	302	331	394	358	380	291	344	301	345	302	427	320	312
family		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	10
XynA	eq	114	114	99	125	122	119	112	124	123	110	120	123	119	123
	id	19	20	10	18	21	11	19	17	21	14	19	18	12	20
	rmsd	1.33	1.28	1.42	1.27	1.26	1.19	1.34	1.34	1.55	1.47	1.51	1.41	1.46	1.41
1A3H	eq		168	154	142	183	153	271	132	120	112	115	110	100	116
	id		31	19	32	32	25	117	21	13	18	10	9	8	12
	rmsd		1.22	1.30	1.32	1.27	1.21	0.81	1.33	1.43	1.42	1.30	1.39	1.41	1.49
1BQC	eq			159	141	170	146	159	159	105	119	120	106	102	96
	id			31	28	41	35	32	28	10	18	17	13	10	12
	rmsd			1.17	1.21	1.26	1.33	1.38	1.28	1.43	1.31	1.31	1.34	1.40	1.45
1CEC	eq				203	183	224	153	167	86	103	98	97	85	88
	id				46	38	47	29	29	11	12	9	13	8	10
	rmsd				1.10	1.16	1.12	1.19	1.22	1.41	1.40	1.41	1.32	1.44	1.42
1CZ1	eq					171	187	152	166	110	125	119	115	128	120
	id					35	42	27	39	14	16	14	13	14	14
	rmsd					1.23	1.19	1.38	1.29	1.37	1.41	1.37	1.41	1.35	1.34
1ECE	eq						176	176	182	117	144	127	124	126	122
	id						42	40	41	23	21	21	15	20	17
	rmsd						1.23	1.31	1.30	1.36	1.39	1.45	1.41	1.37	1.40
1EDG	eq							155	166	123	129	121	121	100	124
	id							30	28	22	15	18	16	14	16
	rmsd							1.30	1.41	1.36	1.38	1.38	1.42	1.46	1.40
1EGZ	eq								128	117	119	122	120	121	118
	id								29	15	17	16	18	17	15
	rmsd								1.42	1.42	1.39	1.33	1.42	1.32	1.34
1QNP	eq									101	122	104	132	111	100
	id									17	11	14	20	17	14
	rmsd									1.47	1.43	1.37	1.35	1.43	1.42
1B31	eq										244	300	268	254	263
	id										98	219	129	112	107
	rmsd										0.99	0.62	0.92	0.98	1.01
1CLX	eq											247	256	252	250
	id											112	117	96	115
	rmsd											0.98	1.01	1.08	1.05
1T*X	eq												272	260	263
	id												138	118	119
	rmsd												0.87	1.03	0.91
1XYF	eq													277	287
	id													122	153
	rmsd													0.92	0.93
1XYZ	eq														292
	id														127
	rmsd														1.01

Average Values of Spatially Equivalent Residues, Identical Residues, and rms Deviations for Various Structural Groups of Glycoside Hydrolases (standard deviations are given)

	XynA—family 5	XynA—family 10	family 5—family 5	family 5—family 10	family 10—family 10
eq	116 ± 8	118 ± 6	169 ± 28	114 ± 12	266 ± 16
id	17 ± 2	16 ± 3	36 ± 17	15 ± 4	125 ± 29
rmsd	1.31 ± 0.07	1.47 ± 0.07	1.25 ± 0.12	1.40 ± 0.05	0.95 ± 0.11

^a Except for XynA, the PDB entries for the various structures are used to identify the representative GH-5 and GH-10 glycoside hydrolases used in this analysis.

The alignment was determined by three-residue superpositioning followed by rigid body refinement using XPLOR in which the distances between C_α atoms of equivalent residues were minimized. During this process, “equivalent residues” were defined as those residues having C_α distances of ≤2 Å. The subset of equivalent and identical residues and the rms deviation of the C_α atoms of the equivalent residues are listed. The averages of the individual superpositions, at the bottom of Table 8, reveal that xylanase from *E. chrysanthemi* is about as structurally similar (or not similar) to the family 5 glycoside hydrolases as it is to the family 10 xylanases. Its level of structural similarity to the family 10 xylanases is about the same as the average of the other GH-5 glycoside hydrolases to the GH-10 xylanases. However, in terms of

the average number of equivalent (115 vs 169) and identical (17 vs 36) residues, xylanase XynA is less similar to the group of family 5 glycoside hydrolases used in this study than that group is to itself, although the average rms deviation between C_α atoms of equivalent residues is similar. In general, family 5 glycoside hydrolases are a more structurally diverse family than the family 10 xylanases as indicated by the average number of equivalent residues (169 vs 266) and identical residues (36 vs 125) and the average rms deviation of equivalent C_α atoms (1.25 Å vs 0.95 Å). This observed diversity has prompted a further classification of the GH-5 family into at least nine subfamilies (68). Figure 5 shows the superposition of a representative from each of the family 5 and family 10 glycoside hydrolase families onto XynA.

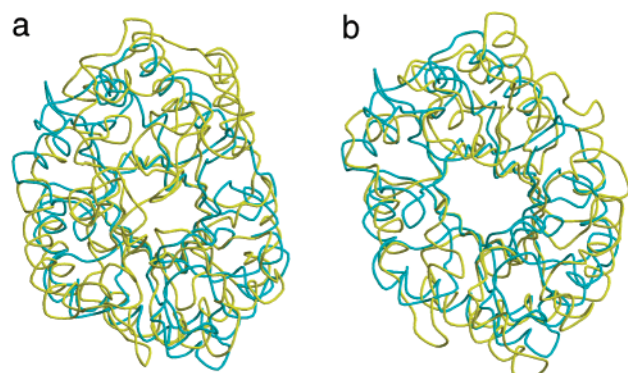


FIGURE 5: Superposition of catalytic domains of XynA (colored blue) onto (a) the GH-5 endoglucanase of *E. chrysanthemi* (PDB entry 1EGZ) and (b) the GH-10 xylanase of *P. simplicissimum* (PDB entry 1B31). The excellent fit of the XynA β -barrel to both is apparent; the differences in the front side loop structure and the α -helices are also obvious. All conserved residues are either in the β -strands of the barrel or near the beginning of the loops extending from the β -barrel strands. This figure was rendered with the programs MOLSCRIPT (63) and RASTER3D (64).

In each case, the β -barrels of the catalytic domains align well. There is little correlation in the positioning, orientation, and length of the helices surrounding the β -barrel; the wide variation in loop size, especially on the C-terminal side of the β -barrel, produces a broad spectrum of diverse loop structures.

Catalytic Residues. Generally, both the GH-5 and GH-10 families have a narrow range of $C_{\alpha}\cdots C_{\alpha}$ and $O_{\epsilon}\cdots O_{\epsilon}$ distances between catalytic residues in the uncomplexed structures. Except for the apparent anomaly of the endoglucanase of *Clostridium thermocellum* [PDB entry 1CEC (69)] in the GH-5 family, the $C_{\alpha}\cdots C_{\alpha}$ distances of the catalytic residues in this family range from 9.67 to 10.77 Å and the $O_{\epsilon}\cdots O_{\epsilon}$ distances range from 3.13 to 4.20 Å. In XynA, these quantities are near this range: 10.01 and 4.22 Å, respectively. The *C. thermocellum*, on the other hand, has distances of 12.74 and 10.05 Å for the $C_{\alpha}\cdots C_{\alpha}$ and $O_{\epsilon}\cdots O_{\epsilon}$ distances, respectively. However, once the substrate binds, the loop containing Glu140 (the catalytic acid or base) moves 3 Å with rotation of the Glu140 side chain by $\sim 90^\circ$, resulting in an $O_{\epsilon}\cdots O_{\epsilon}$ distance of 4.3 Å, consistent with the other GH-5 enzymes (70). The corresponding ranges for the GH-10 xylanases are 12.50–12.72 and 5.08–5.62 Å, respectively, which are very distinct from the GH-5 ranges.

Conserved Residues. Perusal of the literature reveals some confusion concerning the conserved residues in the GH-5 glycoside hydrolases. Some references state that there are eight conserved residues (71–73), while others claim that there are seven (74, 75). The seven consensus residues are (1) an arginine in β -strand 2, (2) a histidine in the $\beta_3\alpha_3$ -loop, (3 and 4) the asparagine-glutamic acid catalytic pair at the end of β -strand 4, (5 and 6) a His-X-Tyr tripeptide at the end of β -strand 6, and (7) the other catalytic glutamic acid at the end of β -strand 7. In those papers that claim there are eight conserved residues, the eighth residue is a tryptophan in β -strand 8. Table 9 demonstrates that there is good alignment of the conserved residues among the known family 5 glycoside hydrolases. However, it is clear that XynA has a tryptophan in the place of the histidine in the $\beta_3\alpha_3$ -loop. The sequence alignment between XynA and nine family 5 glycoside hydrolases that are more than 25% identical and

Table 9: Conserved Residues and Distances between C_{α} Positions in the Family 5 and Family 10 Glycoside Hydrolase Structures^a

structure	R	H	N	E	H	Y	E	W
Family 5								
XynA	R81	W113	N164	E165	H230	Y232	E253	W289
1A3H	R62	H101	N138	E139	H200	Y202	E228	W262
	0.15	1.93	1.28	0.71	0.69	3.61	0.63	1.05
1QNR	R54	H102	N168	E169	H241	Y243	E276	W306
	0.47	24.75	1.76	1.58	0.61	2.38	0.69	1.08
1ECEA	R62	H116	N161	E162	H238	Y240	E282	W319
	0.63	1.85	0.37	0.35	0.53	3.39	0.70	1.20
1CZ1	R92	H135	N191	E192	H253	Y255	E292	W363
	0.63	1.32	0.17	0.16	0.62	3.27	0.77	0.71
1EDG	R79	H122	N169	E170	H254	Y256	E307	W340
	0.31	1.14	0.42	0.99	0.59	3.12	0.68	0.54
1CEC	R62	H90	N139	E140	H198	Y200	E280	W313
	0.15	2.38	2.38	1.01	3.50	6.93	2.59	2.06
1EGZ	R57	H98	N132	E133	H192	Y194	E220	W254
	0.42	1.95	1.16	0.74	0.41	4.05	0.53	0.65
1BQC	R50	H86	N127	E128	H196	Y198	E225	W254
	1.08	0.68	0.15	0.47	0.58	2.94	0.53	0.35
Family 10								
1B31	T45	W88	N131	E132	Q208	H210	E238	W268
	0.72	3.71	2.37	2.50	1.50	2.79	0.22	1.31
2EXO	V41	W84	N126	E127	Q203	H205	E233	W273
	0.61	3.90	2.81	2.76	1.11	2.50	0.31	1.45
1E0W	T42	W85	N127	E128	Q205	H207	E236	W266
	1.41	3.38	1.51	1.41	1.60	3.79	1.41	2.10
1TAX	T44	W87	N130	E131	Q207	H209	E237	W267
	0.72	4.05	2.92	2.79	1.54	3.07	1.58	2.80
1XYF	T42	W85	N127	E128	Q205	H207	E236	W266
	0.30	4.63	2.75	2.53	1.06	2.62	0.49	1.58
1CLXA	T41	W83	N126	E127	Q213	H215	W246	W305
	0.60	3.23	2.23	2.57	1.30	2.88	0.34	1.09
1XYZ	T557	W600	N644	E645	Q721	H723	E754	W795
	0.83	4.49	2.65	2.69	1.03	2.02	0.23	1.26

^a Except for XynA, the PDB entries for the various structures are used to identify the representative GH-5 and GH-10 glycoside hydrolases used in this analysis.

a tryptophan corresponding to Trp113 in the $\beta_3\alpha_3$ -loop of XynA were all identified as xylanases. However, there are no three-dimensional structures of any of these enzymes to confirm the identical positioning of their tryptophan residues. One interesting anomaly to these correspondences is the β -mannanase from *T. reesei* [PDB entry 1QNR (71)]. Sequence alignment and hydrophobic cluster analysis identify His102 as the conserved histidine residue; there are no other histidine residues between position 102 and the catalytic acid or base, Glu169, in the sequence. However, the C_{α} atom of His102 is ~ 24 Å from the generally observed position of the corresponding conserved histidine residues. Instead, Asn112 lies near this structural position. Thus, although the sequence suggests His102 is conserved, structurally it is not conserved. Unfortunately, no structure of β -mannanase from *T. reesei* having substrate bound in site -1 has been determined. Therefore, the residue, if any, that plays the role of the conserved histidine (i.e., binding $O3'$ of the mannose at the -1 site) remains a mystery. This question arises: is the deposited sequence correct? If not, does the density at residue 112 in the 1.5 Å electron density maps suggest the presence of a histidine residue?

The putative conserved histidine in the GH-5 enzymes is replaced with a conserved tryptophan in the family 10 xylanases. Clearly, XynA and the other GH-5 xylanases mentioned above are similar to the GH-10 xylanases in this sense. This would suggest an important role in xylose

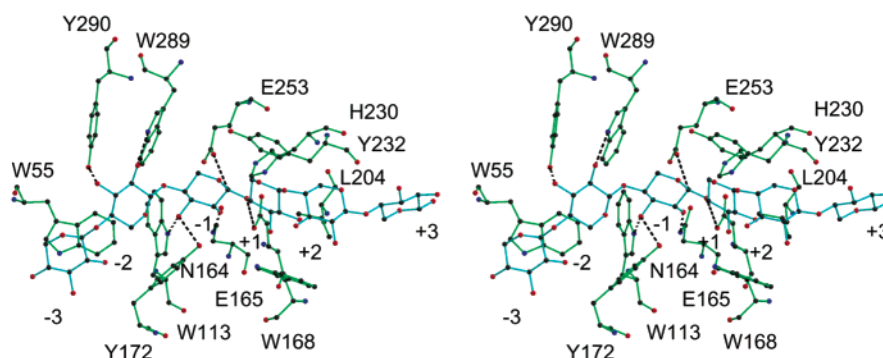


FIGURE 6: Stereoview of a postulated model of xylohexaose (blue) binding to XynA (green). Only the side chains of residues that would interact with the carbohydrate are included. The enzyme residues and all carbohydrate sites are labeled. Interactions between the protein and the xylohexaose are represented by black dashed lines as follows (protein to xylose): Y172 OH–O3 (–1 site), W113 N ϵ –O3 (–1 site), N164 N δ 2–O2 (–1 site), E165 O ϵ 2–O4 (+1 site), E253 O ϵ 1–C1 (–1 site), W289 N ϵ 1–O2 (–2 site), and Y290 OH–O3 (–2 site). The pyranose ring at the –3 site lies flat against the indole ring of Trp55. Leu204 sits in the channel formed by Trp168 and Tyr232, forcing the reducing end of the xylohexaose out of the channel and perhaps distorting the molecular structure at the –1 and +1 sites, thus facilitating bond breakage. This figure was rendered with the programs MOLSCRIPT (63) and RASTER3D (64).

Table 10: Results of a BLAST Search of the PIR-NREF Database Using the 94 C-Terminal Residues of XynA

no.	organism	total no. of amino acids	CBM residues	CBM identity (%)	CD residues	CD identity (%)	identified activity ^a
0	<i>E. chrysanthemi</i>	413	320–413	100	45–319	100	XynA
1	<i>E. chrysanthemi</i>	413	320–413	84	45–319	84	xylanase
2	<i>X. campestris</i>	405	313–405	44	39–312	62	xylanase
3	<i>B. subtilis</i>	422	330–419	39	48–329	41	xylanase
4	<i>A. punctata</i>	528	327–417	39	44–326	41	xylanase
5	<i>A. punctata</i>	564	332–422	38	49–331	41	xylanase
6	<i>C. acetobutylicum</i>	588	328–419	37	47–327	42	xylanase
7	<i>C. acetobutylicum</i>	586	327–417	35	48–324	42	xylanase
8	<i>R. albus</i>	726	336–427	31	53–335	40	xylanase
9	<i>X. axonopodis</i>	109	17–107	46	—	—	truncated xylanase

^a Identified in the PIR-NREF database search.

specificity for this tryptophan. However, in the GH-10 enzymes, this tryptophan is hydrogen bonded to the catalytic acid residue, whereas no such bond is established in XynA. Instead, the tryptophan N ϵ 1 superimposes nicely on the N ϵ 2 atoms of the equivalent histidine residues of the GH-5 glycoside hydrolases.

Active Site Residues and Substrate Binding. Analysis of the structures of substrate- and/or inhibitor-bound glycoside hydrolases from both GH families 5 and 10 suggests a mode of binding of polyxylose to XynA, at least in nonreducing sites –1, –2, and –3. This postulated structure is illustrated in Figure 6. In the model, the xylose in site –1 interacts with Trp113, Asn164, Glu165, Tyr172, and Glu253; the xylose in site –2 is hydrogen bonded to Trp289 and Tyr290 and in contact with Tyr172, and the xylose ring in site –3 lies across the face of the indole ring of Trp55.

The path of the reducing end of a polyxylose substrate is difficult to discern. The aromatic rings of Trp168 and Tyr232 are parallel, forming a channel approximately 7.5 Å wide into which a polyxylose chain could be accommodated comfortably except for the presence of Leu204 in this channel. The presence of this leucine may assist in distorting the glycosidic linkage between the –1 and +1 moieties which would facilitate bond breakage. On the other hand, there is space into which the Leu204 side chain could rotate to allow more penetration of the polyxylose into the Trp/Tyr channel. According to Hurlbert and Preston (44), XynA has specificity for xylan containing an α -1,2-linked 4-O-methyl-D-glucuronic acid substituent attached to the xylose moiety in the +2 binding site. They state that the specificity

is a result of carboxylate group recognition by the enzyme; how this recognition is achieved is unclear from modeling.

Carbohydrate-Binding Modules. Whether the apparently strong interface between the catalytic domain and the small domain is maintained in solution cannot be determined from these studies. The fact that there are two linkers between the domains may reduce the probability that the domains would separate in solution. As seen in Figure 2b, the linkers could conceivably act as a hinge to allow the XBM to swing out away from the CD. The substrate modeling studies presented here provide no insights into possible substrate–XBM binding because of the ambiguity of the interaction at the reducing end of the active site cleft. There are two aromatic residues (Tyr386 and Trp401) with significant solvent (and, hence, substrate) accessibility in the XBM. Either one or both of these residues may provide a binding platform for a carbohydrate substrate.

To our knowledge, the XBM module of XynA has not been classified. Table 10 lists the results of a BLAST search of the PIR-NREF database (42) using the last 94 amino acids of the XynA sequence. Nine unique proteins were found to match the XBM segment with levels of identity in the range of 31–84%, and all were identified as GH-5 enzymes with xylanase activity. This circumstantial evidence suggests that XBM is probably a xylan-binding module. Match 9 is only a fragment almost entirely composed of the XBM-like sequence. For the other eight matches, the results of the alignment of the catalytic domains with XynA are also included. For these eight matches, there is good alignment with both the XBM and the CD of XynA. Match 1 comes

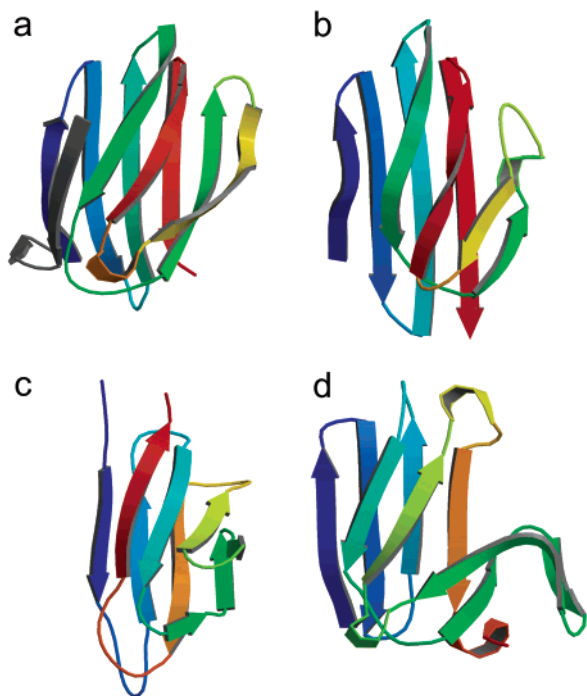


FIGURE 7: Representative carbohydrate-binding modules containing approximately 90 amino acids. In panel a is the XBM of XynA. In panel b is a representative of CBM-20 from *B. circulans* strain 251 (PDB entry 1CDG). In panel c is a representative of CBM-2 from *C. fimi* (PDB entry 2XBD), determined by NMR. In panel d is the CBM from pig pancreatic α -amylase (78). The structures in panels a, b, and d have a similar folding pattern, whereas that in panel c has a different pattern despite having approximately the same number of amino acids. This figure was rendered with the programs MOLSCRIPT (63) and RASTER3D (64).

from the same species as XynA, but from a different strain, which is clearly evident in the high level of identity between the two. Matches 2 and 3 obviously are similar to XynA, having approximately the same overall length; matches 4–8, on the other hand, appear to have at least a second C-terminal module of approximately 100–170 amino acids. In comparison to matches 4–7, match 8 appears to have a third C-terminal module. To our knowledge, none of the modules of matches 1–8 that align with the XBM have been classified in the CBM classification scheme.

We were able to identify three CBM families containing CBMs of approximately 100 residues, namely, CBM-2, CBM-20, and CBM-21. We found no three-dimensional structures for members of CBM-21. CBM-2 is represented only by NMR structures. Figure 7 offers a visual comparison between the XBM and representatives of CBM-2 (76) and CBM-20 (77), as well as porcine pancreatic α -amylase [PPA (78)] (whose CBM appears to remain unclassified at this time, but could very well belong to CBM-20). Coordinates of both the CBM-20 and CBM-2 representatives are from the Protein Data Bank (46). Clearly, XBM has the same topology as CBM-20 and PPA, while the CBM-2 model has a different topology.

Conclusion. The high-resolution three-dimensional structure of xylanase XynA from *E. chrysanthemi* has been determined. By analogy to GH-5 and GH-10 structures in the Protein Data Bank (46), the catalytic residues are identified as Glu165 and Glu253. Seven aromatic amino acids are involved in the formation of the active site binding cleft. The structural alignment data show that GH-10

xylanases make up a very closely related family with a high percentage of spatially equivalent and identical residues and small rms deviations between equivalent residues. The GH-5 glycoside hydrolases are a more diverse group of enzymes but still possess greater self-equivalency than is seen between GH-5 and GH-10 structures. XynA, although it has been classified as a family 5 glycoside hydrolase, is no more structurally equivalent to GH-5 than it is to GH-10, and in fact, it is approximately as equivalent to the GH-5 structures as the GH-5 structures are on average to the GH-10 structures.

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