

The Structural and Functional Connection between the Catalytic and Proton Translocating Sectors of the Mitochondrial F₁F₀-ATP Synthase

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The structural and functional connection between the peripheral catalytic F₁ sector and the proton-translocating membrane sector F₀ of the mitochondrial ATP synthase is reviewed. The observations examined show that the N-terminus of subunit γ , the carboxy-terminal and central region of F₀I-PVP(b), OSCP, and part of subunit *d* constitute a continuous structure, the lateral stalk, which connects the peripheries of F₁ to F₀ and surrounds the central element of the stalk, constituted by subunits γ and δ . The ATPase inhibitor protein (IF₁) binds at one side of the F₁F₀ connection. The carboxy-terminal segment of IF₁ apparently binds to OSCP. The 42L-58K segment of IF₁, which is *per se* the most active domain of the protein, binds at the surface of one of the three α/β pairs of F₁, thus preventing the cyclic interconversion of the catalytic sites required for ATP hydrolysis.

KEY WORDS: F₁F₀-ATP synthase; adenosine triphosphatase-inhibitor protein; synthetic peptides; OSCP.

INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the structural and functional connection between the catalytic F₁ sector and the proton-translocating F₀ sector of the mitochondrial ATP synthase. The globular F₁ sector, which protrudes in the inner aqueous space (B side), is connected to the membrane integral F₀ sector, by a stalk (Senior, 1990; Cox *et al.*, 1992; Collinson *et al.*, 1994a; Papa *et al.*, 1999). The stalk, which is essential for energy coupling between catalysis in F₁ and proton translocation in F₀, is comprised of F₁ and F₀ subunits (see Table I). Bovine F₁ was resolved at atomic level by X-ray crystallography in 1994 (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994). More recently, the X-ray crystallographic structure of a subcomplex of yeast mitochondrial ATP synthase,

showing F₁ connected by γ subunit to 10 copies of subunits *c* has been published (Stock *et al.*, 1999).

Contrary to a previous general view, based on electron microscopy (Fernandez-Moran, 1962; Gogol *et al.*, 1987; Capaldi *et al.*, 1994; Walker and Collinson, 1994), according to which the stalk subunits were conceived to be assembled in a single structure connecting the centers of F₁ and F₀, cross-linking results (Capaldi *et al.*, 1994; Ogilvie *et al.*, 1997) and average analysis of electron microscopy images (Wilkins and Capaldi, 1998; Bottcher *et al.*, 1998; Karrasch and Walker, 1999) indicate that in addition to a central stalk there is a second lateral one connecting the peripheries of F₀ and F₁. In the V-type ATPase there are, apparently, two lateral stalks (Boekema *et al.*, 1999).

The crystal structure of isolated bovine-heart mitochondrial F₁ shows a stem protruding out of the bottom center of the spherical body, which is comprised of hexamer of alternating 3 α and 3 β subunits (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994; Stock *et al.*, 1999). The stem represents part of the γ subunit. The N- and C-termini of this subunit form a coiled-coil, which penetrates the central cavity in the 3 α 3 β hexamer. The lower

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Table I. The Membrane Topology and Cysteine Residues of F₁F₀-ATPase Subunits from Bovine Heart Mitochondria^a

Subunits	No. copies	Location	Mass (Da)	N-terminus	C-terminus	Cysteines
F₁						
α	3	External exagon	55164	M	M	C201/C251
β	3	External exagon	51595	M	M	0
γ	1	Internal cavity and stalk	30141	M	M	C91
δ	1	Stalk	15065	M	M	0
ε	1	Stalk	5652	M	M	C18
IF ₁	1	Surface	9582	M	M	0
F₀						
F ₀ I-PVP(b)	1	Stalk-membrane	24670	M	M	C197
ATP6(a)	1	Transmembrane	24815	?	?	0
OSCP	1	Surface F ₁ and stalk	20968	M	M	C118
d	1	Stalk-membrane	18603	M	M	C100
g	1	Transmembrane	11328	M	C	0
f	1	Transmembrane	10209	M	C	C72
F ₆	1	Stalk-membrane	8958	M	M	0
e	1–2	Transmembrane	8189	M	C	0
c	9–12	Transmembrane	7608	C	C	C64
A6L	1	Transmembrane	7964	C	M	0

^a The information given in the table represents a summary of data from Walker *et al.*, 1987, Houstek *et al.*, 1988, Oda *et al.*, 1989, Joshi *et al.*, 1990, Guerrieri *et al.*, 1991, Heckman *et al.*, 1991, Belogradov *et al.*, 1996, and publications quoted therein. M, matrix side, C, cytosolic side.

central part of γ extends throughout the stalk and contacts the polar inner loop of *c* subunits (Stock *et al.*, 1999), whose hydrophobic N- and C- α-helices span the membrane (Watts *et al.*, 1995; Fillingame, 1997).

Mutational analysis, cross-linking experiments, and X-ray crystallography (Stock *et al.*, 1999) show that γ, together with ε in the *E. coli* (Aggeler *et al.*, 1997) and δ in the mitochondrial ATP synthase (Karasch and Walker, 1999), constitute the central stalk, which would represent the rotary shaft in the proposed motor of the synthase (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994; Boyer, 1997; Engelbrecht and Junge, 1997; Elston *et al.*, 1998; Oster and Wang, 1999).

The structural and functional organization of F₁ and F₀ subunits in the stalk of mitochondrial ATP synthase have been studied with different approaches: limited proteolysis of F₀ and F₁ subunits, immunodecoration by subunit specific antibodies, crosslinking of near-neighbor subunits, and *in vitro* assembly of stalk complexes from F₀ and F₁ subunits.

Papa and co-workers (Zanotti *et al.*, 1988; Papa *et al.*, 1989) found that, after F₁ removal, trypsin digested a substantial part of the F₀I-PVP(b) subunit from its C-terminus. Collinson *et al.* (1994b) confirmed this and showed that the digestion could reach the Lys120–Arg121 bond, the remaining N-terminal part apparently being shielded from trypsin digestion.

The trypsin digestion of F₀I-PVP(b) in F₁-depleted inside-out vesicles of the inner mitochondrial membrane resulted in inhibition of proton conduction in F₀ and loss of oligomycin inhibition of this process (Zanotti *et al.*, 1988). Both processes were completely restored by the addition of the isolated native F₀I-PVP(b) protein to the digested F₀ membrane vesicles. These observations indicate that the membrane-extrinsic C-terminal part of F₀I-PVP(b) has a critical role in the functional organization of the membrane-intrinsic components of the proton channel in F₀ (see also Paul *et al.*, 1992; Schneider and Altendorf, 1984, 1985) and is responsible for the oligomycin inhibition of proton conduction in F₀. The facility with which the isolated F₀I-PVP(b) could be reconstituted with mitochondrial F₀ vesicles in which the endogenous subunit had been truncated by trypsin (Zanotti *et al.*, 1988), indicated that F₀I-PVP(b) is associated with its N-terminal hydrophobic region at the membrane periphery (see Schneider and Altendorf, 1987; Fillingame, 1997) and not in the center of the bundle of the α-helices of *c* subunits, as previously proposed (Cox *et al.*, 1992). Subsequently atomic force microscopy (AFM) of the *E. coli* ATP synthase provided images showing directly that the *b* subunit is located at one side of the ring of the *c* subunits (Takeyasu *et al.*, 1996; Singh *et al.*,

1996; see also Birkenhager *et al.*, 1995; Fillingame *et al.*, 1998; Capaldi *et al.*, 2000).

Immunodecoration with subunit specific antibodies, of the bovine ATP synthase in mitoplasts and inside-out vesicles of the inner mitochondrial membrane, show that the F₀ subunits F₀I-PVP(b), *d*, F₆, and OSCP are exposed at the matrix, but not at the cytosolic side of the inner mitochondrial membrane, while subunits *c* and *a* are occluded to their antibodies on both sides (Heckman *et al.*, 1991). A6L appears to be anchored to the membrane with its N-terminal region, the C-terminal part being exposed at the matrix side (Heckman *et al.*, 1991) (see Table I). Subunits *f* and *g* were found to be both exposed with the N-terminus at the matrix side and the C-terminus at the cytosolic side of the membrane, while the *e* subunit appeared to be exposed essentially at the cytosolic side (Belogrudov *et al.*, 1996).

Collinson *et al.* (1994a) overexpressed in *E. coli* the entire F₀I-PVP(b) subunit, as well as its C-terminal domain, F₆, OSCP, and the *d* subunit and studied their association *in vitro*. They obtained an assembly of a stoichiometric quaternary complex of OSCP–F₆–*d* and the entire or C-terminal part of subunit F₀I-PVP(b). This quaternary complex produced a stoichiometric pentameric complex with the isolated F₁-ATPase. It was concluded that the quaternary OSCP–F₀I-PVP(b)–*d*–F₆ complex obtained *in vitro* constitutes the essential part of the stalk in the native F₁F₀-ATP synthase.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE N-TERMINUS OF SUBUNIT α TO THE F₁, F₀ CONNECTION

In the *E. coli*, the *b* subunit extends with the central and carboxy-terminal part throughout the stalk and is apparently connected by the δ subunit to the N-terminus of the α (Dunn *et al.*, 1980; Mendel-Hartvig and Capaldi, 1991; Ogilvie *et al.*, 1997; Wilkeus *et al.*, 1997) or of the α and β subunits (Wilkeus *et al.*, 2000). It has been proposed that in the mitochondrial ATP synthase the F₀I-PVP(b) subunit would have a similar location (Hundal *et al.*, 1983).

In the X-ray crystallographic structure of the bovine F₁, the N-terminal regions of subunits α and β detect a dimple at the top of the $\alpha\beta_3$ hexagon, which is opposite to the contact side of F₁ with F₀ (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994). Electron microscopy analysis shows that in mitochondrial (Karrasch and Walker,

1999), as well as in the *E. coli* F₁F₀ complex (Wilkeus and Capaldi, 1998; Wilkeus *et al.*, 2000), this dimple is occupied by a cap (see Fig. 1).

Limited trypsin digestion of isolated F₁, selectively removes, under mild digestion conditions, 15 and 7 amino acids from the N-termini of the α and β subunits, respectively (Walker *et al.*, 1985; Xu *et al.*, 1998). The cooperativity for ATP hydrolysis by soluble F₁ was impaired by this trypsin digestion, but the affinity for AMP–PNP and GTP hydrolysis were not influenced. The inhibition of ATP hydrolysis by ADP was attenuated by trypsin digestion. Trypsin digestion of F₁ did not affect its capacity to bind to F₀ nor did it alter the sensitivity of ATP hydrolysis in the F₁F₀

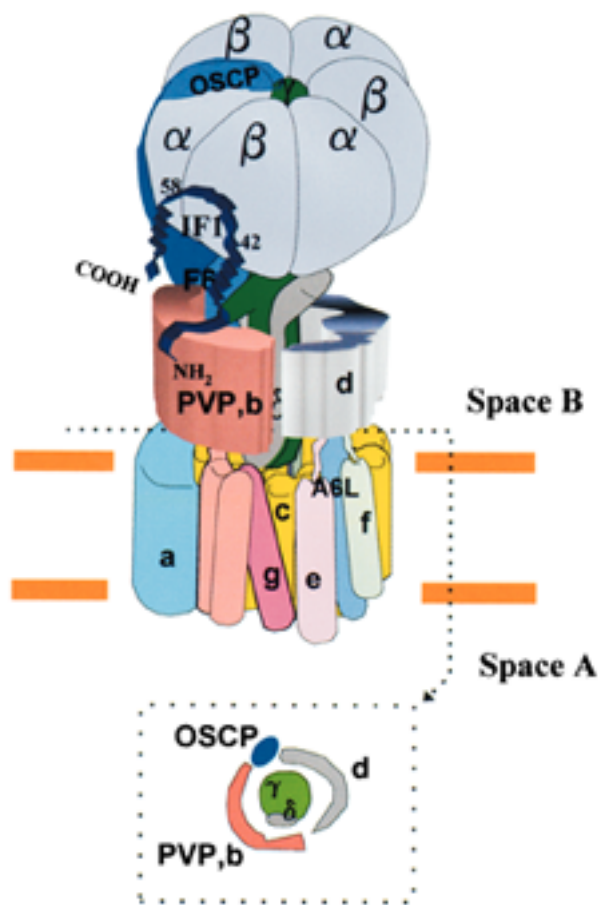


Fig. 1. Tentative oligomeric structure of the mitochondrial F₁F₀-ATP synthase complex. The F₁ structure is a sketch based on the crystal structure of bovine F₁ (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994). The structure of F₀ and stalk(s) is drawn on the basis of the observations reviewed and their interpretation in this paper. The model shows also the IF₁ protein on the surface of the F₁-F₀ connection, bound to OSCP and at an α – β interface.

reconstituted system to oligomycin and *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCCD). The cleavage of the α and β subunits did, on the other hand, impair the ATP-driven proton pumping in the reconstituted F_1F_0 complex, the inhibition by F_1 of passive proton conduction in F_0 , and the inhibition of passive proton conduction in F_0 by AMP-PNP binding to F_1 . These results (Xu *et al.*, 1998) show that the limited cleavage of the N-termini of the α and β subunits, located at the top of F_1 , results in decoupling of catalysis from proton transport.

In MgATP-submitochondrial particles, which consist of inside-out vesicles of the inner mitochondrial membrane with a functionally competent F_1F_0 -ATP synthase, as well as in the isolated F_1F_0 -ATP synthase complex from bovine heart, the N-terminus of the α subunits was found to be shielded against digestion by mild treatment with trypsin, while the N-terminus of the three β subunits was still cleaved off (Xu *et al.*, 2000). Under these conditions, there was no impairment of the ATPase activity, of its oligomycin sensitivity, and of ATP-driven proton pumping (Xu *et al.*, 2000).

It is conceivable that in the F_1F_0 complex, F_0 subunit(s) cover and/or induce a close configuration of the N-terminus of the α subunits, thus establishing interactions essential for energy coupling in the ATP synthase. The N-terminal region of subunits α could contribute to hold the C- and N-terminus of γ in the functional central position and/or provide a docking site for F_0 subunit(s), which contribute the lateral stalk (see Fig. 1).

THE CONTRIBUTION OF F_0 SUBUNITS TO THE STALK STRUCTURES

After removal of F_1 from the F_0 sector in the membrane, in addition to the F_0 I-PVP(b) subunit, also OSCP and F6 can be cleaved by trypsin (Houstek *et al.*, 1988; Heckmann *et al.*, 1991; Collinson *et al.*, 1994b), with loss of oligomycin sensitivity of proton conduction in F_0 and of the ATPase activity of F_1 reconstituted with the digested F_0 sector. While oligomycin sensitivity of the first reaction was restored by the addition of F_0 I-PVP(b) alone, restoration of the oligomycin sensitivity of the ATPase activity required, in addition to F_0 I-PVP(b), also addition of OSCP and F6 (Guerrieri *et al.*, 1991). OSCP, rather than being by itself responsible for the oligomycin sensitivity of ATP hydrolysis appears, thus, to contribute to this

effect by promoting correct assembly in the stalk of other F_0 proteins, like the hydrophilic portion of F_0 I-PVP(b).

Cleavage of subunits α , OSCP, and d , produced in MgATP-SMP by more drastic treatment with trypsin, did not impair the ATPase activity, but suppressed ATP-driven proton pumping (Xu *et al.*, 2000). OSCP was easily and completely digested by trypsin in inside-out vesicles of the inner mitochondrial membrane, containing F_0 deprived of F_1 . Addition of F_1 to these vesicles protected OSCP from trypsin digestion. The protective effect was abolished if, before reconstitution, the N-termini of subunits α and β were cleaved by trypsin in the soluble F_1 (Xu *et al.*, 2000). Since there are dozens of trypsin cleavage sites distributed all over the OSCP sequence (Ovchinnikov *et al.*, 1984), it is unlikely that the short N-terminal segments of subunits α and β , cleaved off by trypsin, can cover all OSCP. It is possible that interaction with these domains induces assembly of OSCP in the F_1F_0 complex in a position or configuration, which prevents trypsin digestion.

Reconstitution of soluble F_1 with inner membrane vesicles containing F_0 devoid of OSCP (AUSMP), but possibly also of other peripheral subunits, left the N-terminus of subunit α easily accessible to trypsin digestion. Adding back OSCP protected, but only part of the N-termini of subunits α against cleavage by trypsin (Xu *et al.*, 2000). Evidently, in the native F_1F_0 complex, other F_0 subunits, in addition to OSCP, are also anchored to the N-termini of subunits α and contribute to the lateral stalk. In the isolated F_1 , trypsin can cleave subunit γ in smaller fragments (Xu *et al.*, 1998). The trypsin cleavage sites of subunit γ can be located, on the basis of crystallographic data (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994; see also Hausrath *et al.*, 1999) and predicted folding (Garnier *et al.*, 1996; Watts *et al.*, 1996), in a position intermediate between the N- and C-termini and the contact region of γ with the peripheral loop of c subunits. In the ATP synthase complex in inside-out MgATP particles, as well as in the isolated F_1F_0 complex, subunit γ , is completely inaccessible to digestion by trypsin (Xu *et al.*, 2000). This finding seems difficult to be reconciled with structural models in which the $\alpha_3\beta_3$ hexamer of F_1 is connected to F_0 by a single lateral stalk, confined at one side of the complex, leaving most of the central part of the (rotating) subunit γ uncovered (Junge *et al.*, 1997; Wilkens and Capaldi, 1998; Elston *et al.*, 1998). It is conceivable that OSCP, the carboxyl region of F_0 I-PVP(b), the trypsin cleavable part of subunit d , and eventually

other F₀ subunits, like A6L and F6 (Collinson *et al.*, 1994c; Papa *et al.*, 1999; Xu *et al.*, 2000), which are, in part, exposed at the F₁ side of F₀ (Papa *et al.*, 1999), constitute a single (Wilkins and Capaldi, 1998; Bottcher *et al.*, 1998; Karrasch and Walker, 1999) or more (Boekema *et al.*, 1999; Ubbink-Kok *et al.*, 2000) lateral stalk(s), surrounding the γ and δ subunits located in the central stalk (Fig.1). Such a ring structure, which can correspond to the collar structure seen in average electron microscopy images to constitute the foot of the stalk sitting on the membrane sector (Karrasch and Walker, 1999), could be formed in the *E.coli* by the lobes of the carboxyl region of the two *b* subunits. It is possible that the recent average analysis of electron microscopy images of ATP synthase and V-ATPase has so far revealed only part(s) of the lateral stalk.

FUNCTIONAL IMPACTS OF CROSSLINKING OF STALK SUBUNITS

Cysteine residues in the mitochondrial F₁F₀ subunits are very limited in number (see Table I) (Papa *et al.*, 1999). Diamide, which oxidizes vicinal thiol groups with the formation of disulfide bridges, can be conveniently used to analyze the nearest-neighbor relationship of cysteine domains in the F₁F₀ subunits and the functional impact of their relative immobilization by disulfide crosslinking (Zanotti *et al.*, 1985, 1988; Gaballo *et al.*, 1998).

Diamide treatment of the F₁F₀-ATP synthase in inside-out submitochondrial particles, containing the full complement of F₁F₀ subunits (ESMP), in the absence of a respiratory $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$, as well as of isolated F₀ reconstituted with F₁ or γ subunit was found to result in disulfide crosslinking between cysteine 197, in the carboxy-terminal region of the F₀I-PVP(b) subunit, and cysteine 91, at the carboxyl end of a small α -helix of subunit γ (Gaballo *et al.*, 1998). In submitochondrial particles respiring with succinate, the F₀I-PVP(b) and γ crosslinking caused dramatic enhancement of oligomycin-sensitive decay of the respiratory $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ (Table II), which was associated with decoupling of respiratory ATP synthesis. It can be noted that diamide did not exert any inhibitory effect on respiration and on the H⁺/e⁻ ratio for proton pumping, which was rather enhanced (see Gaballo *et al.*, 1998). These effects are consistent with the view that F₀I-PVP(b) and F₁- γ are components of the stator and the rotor of the proposed rotary motor, respectively. The fact

that the carboxy-terminal region of F₀I-PVP(b) and the short α -helix of F₁- γ can form a direct disulfide bridge shows that these two protein domains are, at least in the resting state of the enzyme, in direct contact.

When submitochondrial particles were treated with diamide in the presence of $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ generated by respiration, no crosslinking between F₀I-PVP(b) and γ subunits (Gaballo *et al.*, 1998), nor the associated effects on proton conduction and ATP synthesis were observed (see Table II). Crosslinking was restored in respiring ESMP by $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ collapsing agents as well as by DCCD or oligomycin. These observations indicate that $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ decay through F₀ induces a relative motion and/or a separation of the F₀I-PVP(b) subunit and γ , which places the single cysteine residues, present in each of the two subunits, at a distance at which they cannot be engaged in disulfide bridging.

Treatment of isolated F₀ with diamide produced crosslinking of OSCP with subunit *d*. Diamide-induced crosslinking of OSCP with subunit *d* had no significant effect on transmembrane proton conduction in F₀ reconstituted in liposomes (Xu *et al.*, 2000).

Extending the study of the impact of diamide on the functions of the F₁F₀ complex in ESMP, it was found in our laboratory that the disulfide cross-linking of subunits γ and F₀I-PVP(b), had no effect on the ATPase activity and proton translocation from the F₁, B side to the opposite A side, when the latter was driven by either ATP hydrolysis or a diffusion membrane potential (Gaballo *et al.*, 1999).

The experiments summarized in Fig. 2 show that anaerobic diamide treatment of ESMP, under conditions in which it induces disulfide crosslinking of γ and F₀I-PVP(b), resulted in marked enhancement of the oligomycin-sensitive proton translocation from the A to the B space, induced by a positive membrane potential inside the vesicles. Oligomycin-sensitive proton translocation through F₀ in the opposite direction from the B to the inner A space, induced by K⁺ diffusion potential of an opposite sign was, on the contrary, unaffected by diamide treatment.

Figure 3 shows that anaerobic treatment of ESMP with diamide has no effect on proton translocation from the B (F₁-side) to the A space driven by ATP hydrolysis, under conditions in which the treatment accelerates the subsequent backflow of protons from the A to the B side. Kinetic analysis of ATP-driven proton translocation in ESMP monitored by ACMA fluorescence or neutral red absorbance showed that diamide treatment had no effect on the V_{max} and apparent K_m for proton translocation driven by ATP hydroly-

Table II. Differential Effects of Diamide on Succinate Respiratory Rate, Rate of $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ Decay, H^+/e^- and P/O Ratios in ESMP, and in MgATP-Submitochondrial Particles^a

	Respiration Rate (ng O/min/mg)	Rate $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ decay ng H^+ /mg/min	H^+/e^-	ATP synthesis nmolATP/mg/min	P/O
ESMP	115 ± 9.6	69.5 ± 5.8	1.22 ± 0.20	29.3 ± 2.3	0.26 ± 0.04
ESMP + diamide ^b	129 ± 12.9	195.0 ± 19.5	3.09 ± 0.61	20.6 ± 1.3	0.16 ± 0.02
ESMP + diamide ^c	114 ± 8.8	71.9 ± 5.5	1.27 ± 0.19	30.3 ± 1.1	0.27 ± 0.03
MgATP – SMP	103 ± 7.8	34.0 ± 2.6	0.67 ± 0.10	71.4 ± 4.1	0.70 ± 0.09
MgATP – SMP + diamide ^b	114 ± 8.3	46.8 ± 3.4	0.83 ± 0.12	25.6 ± 3.2	0.23 ± 0.04
MgATP – SMP + diamide ^c	95 ± 5.9	30.3 ± 1.9	0.64 ± 0.08	63.2 ± 3.8	0.67 ± 0.08

^a ESMP (3 mg protein/ml) or MgATP-SMP (3 mg protein/ml) were incubated in the succinate-reaction mixture containing: 200 mM sucrose, 30 mM KCl, 20 mM succinate, pH 7.4 at 25°C. Anaerobic or respiring particles were incubated 2 min with 2 mM diamide. To measure respiration-driven proton uptake and the following anaerobic relaxation of the respiratory proton gradient, the particles suspension was supplemented with valinomycin and catalase and respiration activated with pulses of H_2O_2 . To measure P/O ratios of oxidative phosphorylation, particles (1 mg protein/ml) were incubated in a mixture containing: 200 mM sucrose, 10 mM K-succinate, 3 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM K-phosphate (pH 7.4), 20 mM glucose, 5 units hexokinase, and 300 μM $\text{p}^1, \text{p}^5\text{-Di}$ (Adenosin-5)-pentaphosphate (to inhibit adenylate kinase), 300 μM MgADP was added and the respiratory rate measured for 5 min. The values reported in the table are the means of four experiments ± S.E.M.

^b Submitochondrial particles pretreated with diamide in the anaerobic state.

^c Submitochondrial particles pretreated with diamide in the succinate respiring state.

sis. Furthermore, direct spectrophotometric analysis of the kinetics of ATP hydrolysis showed that diamide treatment had no effect on the apparent V_{max} and K_m of this process (Gaballo *et al.*, 1999). It was concluded that diamide-induced disulfide crosslinking of $\text{F}_0\text{I-PVP(b)}$ and $\text{F}_1\text{-}\gamma$, separate components of the stator and rotor of the proposed ATP synthase motor, respectively, results, as expected, in promotion of diffusion through F_0 from the A side to the B, F_1 -side of the respiratory proton gradient, and decoupling of oxidative phosphorylation. The lack of any apparent effect of diamide-induced crosslinking of these two subunits on the ATPase activity and ATP-driven proton translocation from the B to the A side was, on the same grounds, unexpected. The finding that proton translocation from the B to the A side was unaffected by diamide treatment of ESMP, also when driven by a K^+ diffusion potential, in the absence of catalytic activity of F_1 , shows that the promotion of H^+ release from the F_0 channel into the B space, caused by $\text{F}_0\text{I-PVP(b)}$ and $\text{F}_1\text{-}\gamma$ crosslinking, does not affect proton translocation in the reverse direction from the B to the A side. It can be mentioned, in this respect, that mutation of Leu156 to Arg in the a subunit (ATPase 6) in NARP patients has been found to be associated with decoupling of oxidative phosphorylation, in the absence of any effect on proton pumping driven by ATP hydrolysis (Baracca *et al.*, 2000). It is conceivable that there are different rate-

limiting steps in the two directions of proton translocation through F_0 .

Chemical crosslinking in the F_1F_0 complex (Duncan *et al.*, 1995; Aggeler *et al.*, 1997) and photochemistry experiments in the isolated F_1 sector have provided definite evidence showing that ATP hydrolysis promotes rotation of γ (Sabbert *et al.*, 1996; Noji *et al.*, 1997) and ϵ (Kato-Yamada *et al.*, 1998), relative to the $\alpha 3\beta 3$ hexagon with generation of a torsional force (Cherepanov *et al.*, 1999). Evidence showing also ATP-driven rotation of c subunits in the isolated F_1F_0 complex has more recently been presented (Sambongi *et al.*, 1999; Panke *et al.* 2000; see, however, Tsunoda *et al.*, 2000).

The mechanism by which rotation of γ will make the c ring rotate, during ATP-driven proton pumping and by which $\Delta\mu_{\text{H}^+}$ -driven rotation of the c ring induces rotation of γ during ATP synthesis, is not known. It can be speculated that electrostatic, acid-base interactions between polar residues in γ and ϵ are involved in the coupling process (Fillingame, 1997; Cherepanov *et al.*, 1999). It might be possible that in the cross-linked enzyme, at least, the electrostatic interactions elicited by ATP hydrolysis directly promote injection of protons into the B side of the F_0 channel and their translocation to the A side, with possible promotion of rotation of the c ring.

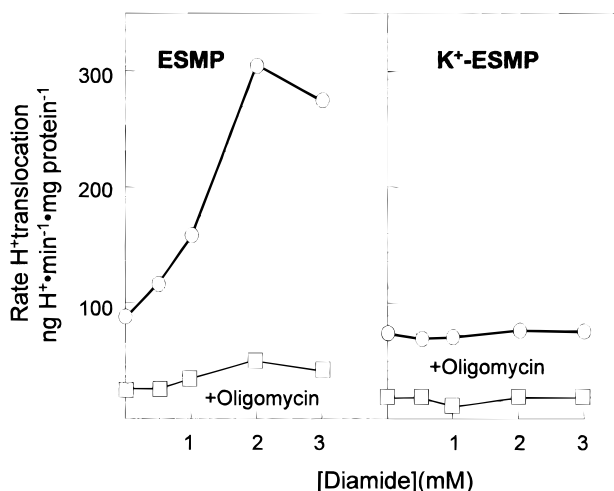


Fig. 2. Differential effects of diamide treatment on proton conduction in inside-out bovine submitochondrial particles (ESMP) and ESMP loaded with KCl (K^+ -ESMP). ESMP (3mg/ml) were incubated in a succinate reaction medium, pH 7.4, in the presence of a constant stream of N_2 . K^+ -preloaded ESMP were incubated under the same conditions in the succinate reaction mixture without KCl. Once anaerobiosis was reached, diamide was added at the concentrations reported in the figure and, after 2 min, the reaction was stopped by centrifugation at $105,000 \times g$. ESMP and K^+ -ESMP were resuspended in the same medium. ESMP, treated with diamide (○), were incubated for 2 min in 150 mM KCl. K^+ -ESMP, treated with diamide (●), were incubated for 2 min in 250 mM sucrose. H^+ release in ESMP and H^+ uptake in K^+ -ESMP were initiated by the addition of 2 μ g/mg particle protein valinomycin. ESMP or K^+ -ESMP treated with diamide (□) were incubated for 2 min with oligomycin (2 μ g/mg particle protein) before adding valinomycin. Redrawn from Gaballo *et al.*, 1999.

THE DOCKING SITES OF THE ATPase INHIBITOR PROTEIN

In mitochondria, the F_1F_0 complex is made to function essentially as ATP synthase by natural protein inhibitors, the best known of which is the ATPase inhibitor protein, IF_1 (Harris and Das, 1991; Lebowitz and Pedersen, 1996; Green and Grover, 2000). IF_1 associates reversibly in a 1:1 stoichiometry with the F_1F_0 complex in the membrane, as well as with the soluble F_1 moiety (Harris and Das, 1991). IF_1 is displaced from the complex in the membrane by the respiratory transmembrane electrochemical gradient (PMF) (Pedersen *et al.*, 1981; Harris and Das, 1991). The ΔpH component of the PMF, in particular, the matrix pH appears to be the critical factor for the binding and the inhibitory activity of IF_1 . Thus IF_1 inhibits ATP hydrolysis, but is without significant effect on oxidative phosphorylation. In our laboratory it has been

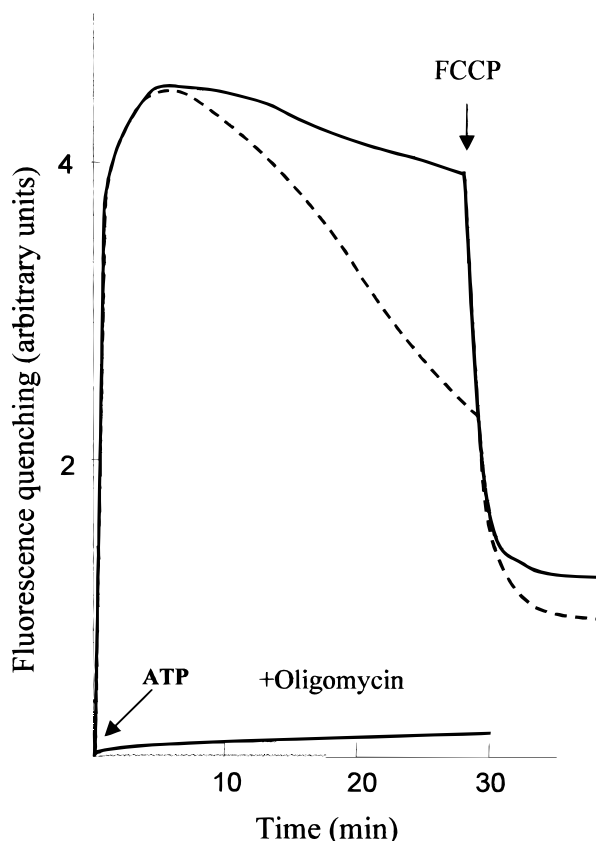


Fig. 3. Effect of diamide on ATP-driven H^+ uptake. Proton translocation driven by ATP hydrolysis was monitored by ACMA fluorescence quenching in ESMP preincubated for 2 min, under a constant stream of N_2 in the succinate medium in the absence (continuous trace) or presence (dashed trace) of 2 mM diamide. Where indicated, oligomycin (2 μ g/mg particle protein) and FCCP (2 μ M) were added. Reproduced with permission from Gaballo *et al.*, 1999.

found that IF_1 inhibits also passive proton conduction by the F_1F_0 complex (Papa *et al.*, 1996) (see Table III). In the light of the new findings on the structure of the central and lateral stalks and of the proposed rotary mechanism of ATP synthase/hydrolase, knowledge of the binding site(s) of IF_1 is of particular interest. Crosslinking studies in yeast mitochondria show that the binding site of IF_1 to the F_1F_0 complex encompass both the α and β subunits (Mimura *et al.*, 1993) and probably includes the DELSEED sequence at residues β -394–400 (Jackson and Harris, 1988). This sequence of the three β subunits of F_1 is supposed to establish contact with the γ subunit during catalysis (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994).

As shown from the data summarized in Table III, the binding and inhibitory affinity of IF_1 is considerably higher in the particulate F_1F_0 complex than in the

Table III. Inhibitory Activities of ATP Hydrolysis and Passive Transmembrane H⁺ Conduction in F₁F₀ Complex Exhibited by Natural IF₁, Synthetic IF₁ Peptide, and Recombinant IF₁^a

Peptides activity	<i>I</i> ₅₀ (μM) ^{<i>b</i>}				
	F ₀ F ₁ -SMP			F ₁	
	ATPase activity ^{<i>d</i>}		H ⁺ conduction	ATPase ^{<i>d</i>}	
	(21 °C)	(37 °C)	(21 °C) ^{<i>e</i>}	(21 °C)	(37 °C)
IF ₁ -(1–84)(n) ^{<i>c</i>}	0.64	0.036	0.46	1.25	0.84
IF ₁ -(1–84)(r) ^{<i>c</i>}	0.64	0.027	0.51	1.15	0.76
IF ₁ -(22–46)(cs) ^{<i>c</i>}	No effect	No effect	No effect	1.43	1.51
IF ₁ -(42–58)(cs) ^{<i>c</i>}	0.22	0.009	1.56	0.81	0.66

^a The recombinant IF₁ was a generous gift of Prof. John Walker, Cambridge, U.K. From Papa *et al.*, 1996 and unpublished data.

^b *I*₅₀, concentrations of peptides giving half-maximal inhibition of ATP hydrolysis and H⁺ passive conduction.

^c n, natural; cs, chemical synthesis; r, recombinant.

^d IF₁ depleted submitochondrial particles (1 mg/ml) or soluble F₁ (0.1 mg/ml) were incubated in a mixture containing: 200 mM sucrose, 10 mM Tris/acetate, 1 mM K-EDTA, 6 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM ATP, pH 6.7 in the absence or presence of IF₁ in the concentration range 1 nM and 3 μM for 10 min at 21°C or 37°C. An aliquot of the suspension containing 50 μg particle protein (or 5 μg soluble F₁) was then added to 1 ml of ATPase assay mixture. ATP hydrolysis was determined by measuring the decrease in the absorbance of NADH at 340 nm. For experimental details see Papa *et al.*, (1996).

^e Particles (10 mg/ml) were incubated in the above mixture in the absence or in the presence of IF₁ in a range of concentrations between 0.1 μM and 3 μM for 10 min at 21°C. An aliquot of the suspension containing 3 mg particle protein were diluted in a mixture containing: 200 mM sucrose, 30 mM KCl, 20 mM succinate as respiratory substrate, 0.5 μg valinomycin/mg particle protein, 0.2 mg/ml purified catalase, pH 7.5, followed by incubation in a glass vessel, under a constant stream of N₂, at 21°C. H⁺ conduction was determined by following potentiometrically the anaerobic release of the respiratory proton gradient activated by repetitive pulses of H₂O₂.

purified F₁ moiety (Papa *et al.*, 1996; van Raaij *et al.*, 1996). The same applies to the synthetic peptide with the 42L–58K sequence of IF₁, which was found in our laboratory to be the segment with the highest inhibitory activity for ATP hydrolysis (Table III) (Papa *et al.*, 1996). It can, on the other hand, be noted that the peptide with the sequence 22F–46K of IF₁, which was proposed to represent the active domain (Stout *et al.*, 1993), while exhibiting in the isolated F₁, an inhibitory affinity comparable to that of IF₁ was ineffective on the membrane bound F₀F₁ complex (Papa *et al.*, 1996; Van Raaij *et al.* 1996). These findings suggest that F₀ subunit(s) can contribute and/or promote the binding of IF₁ to the ATP synthase. In order to identify this (these) subunit(s), EDC-induced crosslinking of IF₁ with F₁F₀ subunits was analyzed in our laboratory, following, with specific antibodies, the native subunits and their cross-linking products (Raho *et al.*, in preparation). The results of these experiments (Fig. 4), show that EDC induces crosslinking of IF₁ with both the α/β subunits and OSCP. At saturating concentration of EDC, all IF₁ was crosslinked to the α/β subunits, whose initial amount was reduced by one third, and to OSCP, whose level was reduced by two-thirds, respectively (Fig. 4). EDC-induced crosslinking of IF₁ was found to be associated with inhibition of the

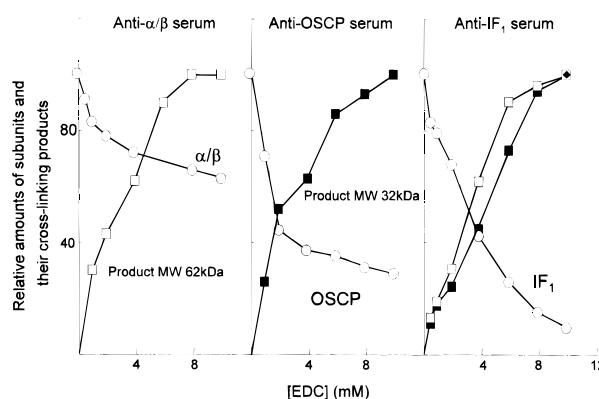


Fig. 4. Immunoblotting analysis of EDC-induced crosslinking of IF₁ with α/β and OSCP in MgATP submitochondrial particles. MgATP-SMP (2 mg/ml) were treated at 25°C at pH 7.4 with increasing amounts of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC), which catalyzes intermolecular crosslinking with amide formation (Packer *et al.*, 1979), at the concentrations reported in the figure. After 10 min of incubation, the reaction was stopped by centrifugation at 105,000 × *g*. Control and EDC-treated materials were subjected to SDS/PAGE on a 12–15% gradient polyacrylamide, electrotransferred to nitrocellulose and immunodecorated with rabbit anti-F₁, OSCP, and IF₁ IgG's. Symbols: ○ amount of subunits (% of the control); □ cross-linking products between IF₁ and α/β subunits (presented as % of the maximum amount of the product produced); ■ cross-linking product between IF₁ and OSCP subunit.

ATPase activity and enhancement of proton conduction by the F₁F₀ complex. These results, which are in perfect agreement with the reported stoichiometry ratios of 3 α , 3 β , 1-OSCP, 1-IF₁ (Walker *et al.*, 1985), show that IF₁ can bind, through two distinct domains, simultaneously to one of the three α / β pairs and to OSCP. Selective trypsin digestion of the carboxy-terminal region of IF₁ associated to the membrane-bound F₁F₀ complex showed that this domain was involved in the crosslinking of IF₁ with OSCP. EDC-promoted crosslinking of IF₁ with the α / β subunits was, on the other hand, unaffected by trypsin digestion of the carboxy-terminal region of IF₁, indicating that the central and/or NH₂ terminus are involved in the binding of IF₁ to the α / β subunits.

CONCLUSIONS

The data reviewed show that the N-terminus of subunit α , OSCP, the central -C-terminal region of F₀I-PVP(b), and part of subunit *d* constitute a continuous structure, the lateral stalk, which connects F₁ to F₀ and is peripherally located with respect to the central stalk contributed by subunits γ and δ (Fig. 1). The N-terminus of subunit α is located at the distal pole of the α 3 β 3 hexamer of F₁. OSCP extends from the F₁F₀ junction along the lateral surface of the α 3 β 3 hexamer to cover the N-terminus of subunit α . The latter can provide an anchoring site for OSCP. A number of observations reviewed here indicate that the lateral stalk is extended around and covers the central stalk. A ringlike structure will optimize the rotation of the central stalk along the main axis, perpendicular to the plane of the membrane, preventing its disordered tumbling.

The inhibitor protein IF₁ is located at one side of the lateral stalk (Fig. 5). In the absence of PMF, IF₁ binds with the carboxy-terminal segment to OSCP and with the 42–58 segment and the N-terminus to one of the three α / β pairs, thus blocking the cyclic interconversion of the three catalytic sites required for ATP hydrolysis. The superficial location of IF₁ could allow simultaneous binding of dimeric IF₁ to dimeric F₁F₀ complexes (Arnold *et al.*, 1998) as proposed by Cabezon *et al.* (2000).

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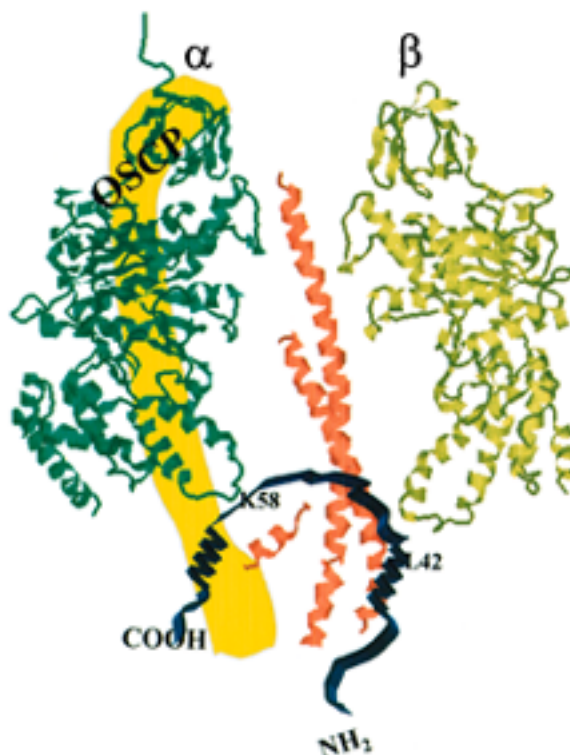


Fig. 5. Details of the location of the IF₁ protein in the ATP synthase. The three-dimensional structures of α , β , and γ are drawn from the PDB coordinates of the crystal structure of the bovine F₁ (Abrahams *et al.*, 1994) using the RAS Mol 2.6 Program. The mass of OSCP, ∞ yellow, is shown to extend from the stalk along the surface of an α subunit to cover its N-terminus. The IF₁ protein with long extended segments, which predominate in the absence of PMF (Lebowitz and Pedersen, 1996), is shown to be attached at the surface of F₁ and OSCP, with the carboxy-terminus bound to the latter and the L42-K58 segment located at an α - β interface in the empty configuration.

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