

1 **Glutamate optimizes enzymatic activity under high hydrostatic pressure in *Desulfovibrio* species:**
2 **effects on the ubiquitous thioredoxin system**

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17
18 **ABSTRACT**

19
20 In piezophilic microorganisms, enzymes are optimized to perform under high hydrostatic pressure. The
21 two major reported mechanisms responsible for such adaptation in bacterial species are changes in
22 amino acids in the protein structure, favoring their activity and stability under high-pressure
23 conditions, and the possible accumulation of micromolecular co-solutes in the cytoplasm. Recently,
24 the accumulation of glutamate in the cytoplasm of piezophilic *Desulfovibrio* species has been reported
25 under high pressure growth conditions. In this study, analysis of the effect of glutamate on the
26 enzymatic activity of the thioredoxin reductase/thioredoxin enzymatic complex of either a
27 piezosensitive or a piezophilic microorganism confirms its role as a protective co-solute. Analysis of the
28 thioredoxin structures suggests an adaptation both to the presence of glutamate and to high
29 hydrostatic pressure in the enzyme from the piezophilic strain. Indeed, the presence of large surface
30 pockets could counterbalance the overall compression that occurs at high hydrostatic pressure to
31 maintain enzymatic activity. A lower isoelectric point and a greater dipolar moment than that of
32 thioredoxin from the piezosensitive strain would allow the protein from the piezophilic strain to
33 compensate for the presence of the charged amino acid glutamate to interact with its partner.

34
35 **KEYWORDS:** hydrostatic pressure, co-solute, glutamate, thioredoxin.

36 INTRODUCTION

37

38 High hydrostatic pressure impacts all cellular components of microorganisms and modifies the activity
39 of numerous key processes, such as enzymatic activities, eventually leading to the cell death of
40 piezosensitive organisms (Abe 2007). As a general rule, secondary and tertiary structures of proteins
41 remain stable at hydrostatic pressures below 500 MPa (Robinson and Sligar 1995). Within the
42 physiologically relevant pressure range, the most important pressure effect is on the solvation of the
43 core protein, which is enhanced with increasing hydrostatic pressure, leading to protein inactivation
44 (Robinson and Sligar 1994; Robinson and Sligar 1995). Hydrostatic pressure may also induce protein-
45 protein complex dissociation by weakening electrostatic and hydrophobic contacts which stabilize the
46 complex (Gross and Jaenicke 1994). However, enzymes of high-pressure-adapted bacteria have been
47 found to be more functional under high-pressure conditions than at atmospheric pressure (Le Bihan
48 et al. 2013). Only a few enzymatic activities of piezophilic microorganisms have been studied.
49 Regarding the 3-isopropylmalate dehydrogenase of *Shewanella benthica*, pressure adaptation has been
50 attributed to a single amino acid substitution affecting the activity of the enzyme by modifying water
51 molecule penetration into the active site, thus decreasing the hydration structure of the enzyme at
52 high hydrostatic pressure (Hamajima et al. 2016). Dynamic simulations of the dihydrofolate reductase
53 of *Moritella profunda* have indicated that atomic fluctuations of the loops, which are important for
54 enzyme function, were increased with pressure by weakening hydrogen bonds (Huang et al. 2019).
55 These intrinsic molecular adaptations have led to proteins that are more resistant to high hydrostatic
56 pressure than their shallow-water counterparts (Yancey and Siebenaller 2015).

57 Another important finding in piezophilic organisms is the cellular accumulation of micromolecular
58 osmolyte-type co-solutes, called “piezolytes” (Martin et al. 2002), that counteract the pressure effect,
59 corresponding to extrinsic adaptation (Yancey and Siebenaller 2015). For example, trimethylamine N-
60 oxide (TMAO), a well-known osmolyte suspected to interact indirectly with the protein through the
61 surrounding water (Fedotova et al. 2017), has been reported in marine eukaryotes (Yancey et al. 2015).
62 β -Hydroxybutyrate has been shown to accumulate at 20-30 MPa in *P. profundum* (Martin et al. 2002),
63 and similarly, the intracellular concentration of ectoine has been shown to increase with pressure in
64 *Alcanivorax borkumensis* (Scoma et al. 2016).

65 The role of piezolytes is to aid in maintaining protein function as well as macromolecule interactions
66 within the cell at high hydrostatic pressure. The mechanism of action of these molecules is still largely
67 unknown, but one can imagine that they act on protein solvation by helping to resist pressure-driven
68 water penetration in the protein/complex core (Sarma and Paul 2013). It has been proposed that
69 stabilization of proteins by ectoine is linked to its high hydration and exclusion from the water-protein
70 interface. According to the Le Chatelier principle, this should tend toward a minimization of the area

71 of the water-protein interface obtained when the protein is in its native state and thus stabilizes the
72 native structure through the “preferential exclusion model” (Arakawa and Timasheff 1985; Eiberweiser
73 et al. 2015). Among the co-solutes of interest, glutamate has been shown to intracellularly accumulate
74 in piezophilic *Desulfovibrio* species, *D. piezophilus* and *D. hydrothermalis*, under high hydrostatic
75 pressure up to 100 mM and 200 mM at 26 MPa for *D. piezophilus* and *D. hydrothermalis*, respectively
76 (Amrani et al. 2014; Amrani et al. 2016). On the other hand, neither the biosynthesis pathways of
77 ectoine nor that of TMAO are present in the genomes of these strains. Glutamate has also notably
78 been shown to be important for osmoregulation and survival during osmotic stress in several bacterial
79 species (Saum and Müller 2007; Kang and Hwang 2018).

80 To better understand the effects of glutamate in the cell, we analyzed the structure of the model
81 enzyme thioredoxin and the effect of glutamate on its activity at high hydrostatic pressure.
82 Thioredoxins are small thiol:disulfide oxidoreductases (~12 kDa) ubiquitous in all domains of life that
83 play a central role in the control of the thiol/disulfide redox balance of the cytoplasm as part of the
84 NADPH-dependent thioredoxin reductase (TR)/thioredoxin (Trx) system. They have a highly conserved
85 fold consisting of a central β -sheet surrounded by four α -helices and an active site with two cysteine
86 residues that specify the biological activity of the protein (Martin 1995). Our study specifies the effect
87 of glutamate on the enzymatic activity of TR/Trx complexes from the piezophile *Desulfovibrio*
88 *piezophilus* C1TLV30 and the piezosensitive *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* Hildenborough sulfate reducers
89 (Pieulle et al. 2011). This study shows that the structure of the TR/Trx system from piezophilic species
90 is adapted to the presence of glutamate. Factors of this adaptation are discussed in light of the NMR
91 structure of the *D. vulgaris* thioredoxin solved for this study and the structural modeling of the *D.*
92 *piezophilus* thioredoxin.

93

94 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

95

96 **Cloning of *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30^T TR/Trx system.** BN4v2_10319 (*trx1*) and BN4v2_10320 (*trB*) coding
97 sequences were amplified by PCR by using the Taq-& LOAD™ Mastermix 5xC (MP Biomedicals Europe),
98 with *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 genomic DNA (GenBank accession n°FO203427) as the template, using
99 primers pairs *trx1*-10319-fwHis and *trx1*-10319-rev, and *trB*-10320-fwHis and *trB*-10320-rev,
100 respectively. Forward and reverse oligonucleotide primer sequences are listed in Table 1. A cloning
101 procedure was designed to introduce one N-terminal His-tag as already published (Pieulle et al. 2011).
102 The resulting amplicon was purified using the Wizard SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System from Promega
103 and digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes purchased from New England Biolabs (Table 1).
104 The *trx1* and *trB* amplicons were cloned into pJF119EH and the vector was screened by PCR using

105 primers p119+ and p119-, as previously described (Pieulle et al. 2011), to generate plasmids p319 and
106 p320, respectively.

107
108 **Protein production and purification.** *E. coli* TG1 was used for heterologous expression of both TR- and
109 Trx-encoding genes as previously described (Pieulle et al. 2011). Recombinant *E. coli* TG1 strains were
110 grown in either Luria-Bertani (LB), 2YT, or M9-glucose medium (Sambrook et al. 1989) with ampicillin
111 (100 µg/mL). For *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 Trx1 (DpTrx1) production, *E. coli* TG1 (p139) was grown
112 overnight in LB medium at 37 °C; this culture was used to inoculate 1 liter of 2YT medium (1% vol/vol).
113 The culture was incubated at 37 °C until the optical density at 600 nm (OD_{600nm}) reached 0.6. DpTrx1
114 production was then induced by adding a final concentration of 0.5 mM isopropyl β-D-1-
115 thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). Cells were further grown for 4 h and harvested by centrifugation (20 min
116 at 7,000 x g, 4 °C), and the pellet was stored at -80 °C. For *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 TR (DpTR1)
117 production, *E. coli* TG1 (p320) was grown overnight in LB medium at 37 °C; this culture was further
118 used to inoculate 1 liter of M9-glucose medium (1% vol/vol). Cells were grown at 37 °C until the OD_{600nm}
119 reached 0.8. TR production was then induced by adding a final concentration of 1 mM IPTG, and the
120 cells were further grown for 16 h and then harvested by centrifugation (20 min at 7,000 x g, 4 °C). The
121 pellet was stored at -80 °C. His-tagged DpTrx1 and DpTR1 were purified as previously described for
122 DvTrx1 and DpTR1 (Pieulle et al. 2011). Production and purification of recombinant Trx1 (DvTrx1) and
123 TR1 (DvTR1) from *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough was performed as previously described (Pieulle et al.
124 2011). The purity of the proteins was checked by SDS-PAGE on a 12.5% polyacrylamide gel using the
125 Instant Blue (Coomassie Blue) staining procedure (Expedon, UK). Trx1 concentrations were measured
126 using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific), and TR1 concentrations were calculated
127 using the ε_{451nm} value of 11,300 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹.

128
129 **Steady state kinetics analysis for optimization of the experiments at 0.1 MPa.** The reaction mixture
130 was composed of 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTNB, and 1 mM
131 NADPH complemented with different volumes of sodium glutamate solution to reach a final
132 concentration of 0, 10, 50, 100 or 500 mM glutamate for a final reaction volume of 200 µL. A final
133 concentration of 10 µM Trx1 and 0.1 µM TR1 reductase from either *D. piezophilus* or *D. vulgaris* was
134 added to initiate the reaction. As controls, water replaced the enzyme and/or glutamate. Kinetic
135 experiments were recorded by measuring the optical density at 412 nm (OD_{412nm}) with a Shimadzu UV-
136 1601 spectrophotometer under constant stirring. The DTNB reduction spectroscopic signal was
137 converted into µM concentration by using the Beer-Lambert law (ε^{DTNB}_{412nm}=14,150 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹). Each
138 experiment was performed in triplicate.

139

140 **Enzymatic activity assays at 0.1 and 25 MPa.** Reactions (200 μ L final volume) were performed in 2 mL
141 borosilicate glass syringes (Socorex Dosys, Swiss). For the experiments at 25 MPa, syringes were
142 inserted into 250 mL-volume high-pressure bottles (HPBs), and the hydrostatic pressure was controlled
143 using a manual manometer. A reaction mixture of 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, 2 mM
144 EDTA, 1 mM DTNB, and 1 mM NADPH was prepared with or without 100 mM glutamate. Each reaction
145 mixture was separated into four 200 μ L samples. For each pressure condition (0.1 and 25 MPa), one
146 sample was prepared by adding 10 μ M Trx1 and 0.1 μ M TR1, and a control was prepared by replacing
147 the enzymes with H₂O. All buffers, enzyme stocks and reactive were kept on ice. Incubations were
148 performed at 0.1 or 25 MPa at 25 °C for 45 min. Then, the HPBs were quickly depressurized, and the
149 OD_{412nm} of each reaction mixture was measured. OD_{412nm} of blank reactions were subtracted from the
150 reaction sample OD_{412nm}, and the Beer-Lambert law was applied to calculate the molar quantity of
151 DTNB hydrolyzed in 45 min ($\epsilon^{\text{DTNB}}_{412\text{nm}}=14,150 \text{ M}^{-1}.\text{cm}^{-1}$). Each experiment was performed in triplicate.

152

153 **DvTrx1 structure calculation.** The NMR sample contained 1 mM DvTrx1 (10% D₂O, 90% H₂O) in 50
154 mM phosphate buffer and 100 mM NaCl, pH 5.5. The spectra were analyzed with CARRA (Keller 2004)
155 based on the resonance assignment previously deposited at the BMRB under accession code 17299.
156 For structure calculations, 84 restraints were used for backbone hydrogen bonds, 170 backbone ϕ and
157 ψ dihedral restraints derived from TALOS (Cornilescu et al. 1999) and 2071 nOe (nuclear Overhauser
158 effect). The 20 lowest energy structures were water refined using the Amber 4.1 force field. The
159 structural coordinates have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank under accession number 6ZOM.

160

161 **DpTrx1 structural model.** A homology model of oxidized DpTrx1 was generated with the Swiss-Model
162 server (Waterhouse et al. 2018) based on the template structure of the oxidized thioredoxin DvTrx1
163 (pdb 6ZOM). The internal cavities and the ribbon models were generated with PyMOL (PyMOL
164 Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.0 Schrödinger, LLC). Volume cavities were measured with the
165 CastP server, with a radius probe of 0.9 Å (Tian et al. 2018) and with Void protein (Cuff and Martin
166 2004). Electrostatic potentials were calculated with the APBS module of PyMOL.

167

168 **Data Analysis.** Statistical analyses were performed with XLSTAT (Addinsoft) using the Student's t-test.
169 Values were considered different at the $\alpha=0.01$ significance level.

170

171

172 **RESULTS and DISCUSSION**

173

174 **Sequence properties of the *D. piezophilus* thioredoxin system.** *D. piezophilus* Trx1, encoded by the
175 *trx1* gene (BN4v2_10319), contained the classical WCGPC active site motif; in addition, the two
176 residues Asp-24 and Lys-55, found in Trx1 of the piezosensitive *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough strain, that
177 have been suggested to deprotonate Cys-32 and to contribute to proton uptake accompanying the
178 reduction of Trx1 (Pieulle et al. 2011), were conserved in DpTrx1 (Fig. 1a). Amino acid sequence
179 alignment of DpTrx1 and DvTrx1 showed 84 identical residues (78.50%), 10 strongly similar residues
180 (9.35%), 5 weakly similar residues (4.67%) and 8 different residues (7.48%) (Fig. 1a). The thioredoxin
181 reductase of *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30, encoded by the *trB* gene (BN4v2_10320), exhibited the signature
182 motifs vxxxHRRDxxRA and GGGxxAxE required for NADPH binding and the GR/KG and FF motifs for the
183 thioredoxin binding site and the CxxC active site (Fig. 1b). These sequence elements show that the
184 thioredoxin reductase of *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 belongs to the TR1 group, as defined by Valette and
185 coworkers (Valette et al. 2017). Overall, these findings show that the *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 genome
186 encodes one classical TR/Trx system homologous to the *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough TR1/Trx1 system.

187
188 **Comparative enzymatic activities of the thioredoxin systems:** DTNB reduction by the TR1/Trx1
189 complexes from *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 and *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough was studied at both
190 atmospheric pressure (0.1 MPa) and high hydrostatic pressure (25 MPa), with or without 100 mM
191 glutamate (Fig. 2). Experiments were based on final DTNB reduction over a 45 min time period. In the
192 absence of glutamate, the amounts of DTNB reduced by the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1 complex were
193 higher at 25 MPa ($29.4 \pm 6.4 \mu\text{M}$) than at 0.1 MPa ($5.8 \pm 2.4 \mu\text{M}$) ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$) (Fig. 2a). The activity
194 of the *D. vulgaris* TR1/Trx1 complex was higher at atmospheric pressure than at 25 MPa (36.4 ± 4.5
195 μM versus $15.1 \pm 4.6 \mu\text{M}$ of reduced DTNB, respectively ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$)) (Fig. 2b). Thus, both complexes
196 showed the highest activity under the hydrostatic pressure that the cells usually encounter, *i.e.*, high
197 hydrostatic pressure for *D. piezophilus* and atmospheric pressure for *D. vulgaris*. When the complexes
198 were placed under unfavorable hydrostatic pressure for the corresponding cells, their activity was
199 lower, as the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1 complex lost 85% of its activity at 0.1 MPa, and the *D. vulgaris*
200 TR1/Trx1 complex lost 58% of its activity at 25 MPa. This shows that the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1
201 complex is adapted to high hydrostatic pressure conditions, in agreement with the piezophilic nature
202 of *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30, while the *D. vulgaris* TR1/Trx1 complex is better adapted to atmospheric
203 pressure, in agreement with the piezosensitive nature of *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough.

204 To assess the effect of glutamate as pressure co-solute, the activities of both TR1/Trx1 complexes were
205 measured in the presence of glutamate. To first evaluate the diffusion effect of the substrate toward
206 the enzymes, the initial velocity under steady-state conditions for DTNB reduction by the *D. vulgaris*
207 TR1/Trx1 complex was measured at different glutamate concentrations under constant stirring (Fig.
208 3). No significant change in the initial velocity was recorded from 0 to 100 mM glutamate (p -

209 value>0.01), meaning that the increase in density due to glutamate could be easily compensated by
210 gentle mechanical stirring. When the glutamate concentration increased to 500 mM, the velocity
211 decreased from approximately 8 $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ to 6 $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$. It should be noted that the pH (~7.5) was not
212 modified by the addition of glutamate until 100 mM and slightly increased to 7.8 in the presence of
213 500 mM glutamate. The decrease of approximately 20% in the velocity in the presence of 500 mM
214 glutamate may thus be related to a decrease in the capacity of the substrate to diffuse through this
215 viscous environment, despite constant stirring. Since intracellular glutamate accumulation was
216 estimated at approximately 100 mM in *D. piezophilus* cells grown at 26 MPa (Amrani et al. 2014) and
217 since our results showed a very close kinetic behavior from 0 to 100 mM glutamate and therefore no
218 inhibitory effect, this latter concentration was kept for further experiments.

219 In the presence of 100 mM glutamate, the amount of DTNB reduced by the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1
220 complex increased significantly at 0.1 MPa, from $4.4 \pm 2.4 \mu\text{M}$ without glutamate to $21.6 \pm 6.5 \mu\text{M}$ with
221 glutamate ($p\text{-value}<0.01$) (Fig. 2a). In contrast, no significant difference in the activity of the *D. vulgaris*
222 TR1/Trx1 complex at 0.1 MPa was observed with or without glutamate (Fig. 2b). At 25 MPa, an upward
223 trend in the activity of the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1 complex in the presence of glutamate was noticed
224 ($37.1 \pm 6.9 \mu\text{M}$ versus $29.4 \pm 6.4 \mu\text{M}$ of reduced DTNB with and without glutamate, respectively) (Fig.
225 2a). Similarly, an increase in the amount of DTNB reduced by the *D. vulgaris* TR1/Trx1 complex was
226 observed in the presence of 100 mM glutamate ($43.7 \mu\text{M}$ versus $15.1 \mu\text{M}$ without glutamate (mean
227 values)) (Fig. 2b). However, the standard deviations observed for the experiments performed with the
228 *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1 complex in the presence of glutamate at both 0.1 and 25 MPa were much
229 lower than those obtained with the *D. vulgaris* TR1/Trx1 complex. It should be noted that these
230 experiments were performed using a single point activity measurement after 45 min of incubation
231 without stirring and thus were highly dependent on the turnover of the enzymes. Because the largest
232 standard deviations were observed for the Dv TR1/Trx1 complex in the presence of glutamate, it
233 suggests that this latter affects especially the turnover of this enzymatic system. To understand this
234 effect, the structures of the Trx1 from both species were determined.

235

236 **Structures of DvTrx1 and DpTrx1.**

237 To obtain more insights into the structural adaptation of the *D. piezophilus* TR1/Trx1 complex to high
238 hydrostatic pressure and to the presence of glutamate, comparison of the three-dimensional structure
239 of the thioredoxins from *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough and *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 was performed. First,
240 the three-dimensional structure of DvTrx1 in the oxidized state was determined. The resulting
241 ensemble of solutions, consisting of the 20 lowest energy structures of DvTrx1, adopted a typical
242 thioredoxin fold: a five-stranded twisted central β -sheet surrounded by four α -helices, with $\alpha 2$ and $\alpha 4$
243 helices on one side and $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 3$ helices on the opposite side (Fig. 4a). The N-terminal motif

244 $\beta 1\alpha 1\beta 2\alpha 2\beta 3$ was connected by the loop comprising the $\alpha 3$ helix to the C-terminal motif $\beta 4\beta 5\alpha 4$. The
245 active site (CGPC) was formed by a protruding loop between strand $\beta 2$ and the N-terminus of helix $\alpha 2$.
246 The proline of the catalytic site generated a distortion in the $\alpha 2$ helix, separating the CGPC consensus
247 from the rest of the helix. The electrostatic surface of DvTrx1 exhibited a charge repartition similar to
248 that of canonical thioredoxins. Overall, the protein displayed high three-dimensional similarities to
249 known thioredoxins such as *E. coli* Trx1 (Katti et al. 1990).

250 The homology model of DpTrx1, performed with the Swiss model, indicated a global model quality
251 estimation (GMQE) of 0.66/1.00, resulting in good reliability of the model (Fig. 4b). Only 0.4 Å rmsd
252 was evidenced between both thioredoxin three-dimensional structures, resulting in a typical
253 thioredoxin fold of DpTrx1. Interestingly, the less conserved part of the protein was localized at the
254 opposite side of the active site, in the $\alpha 1$ helix, which contained 2 additional glutamic acid residues at
255 positions 13 and 18 that were replaced by serine and alanine, respectively, in DvTrx1. Two additional
256 acidic residues were also found in DpTrx1: a glutamic acid at position 45 in the $\alpha 2$ helix, replaced by
257 alanine in DvTrx1, and an aspartic acid at position 81, replaced by asparagine in DvTrx1 (Fig. 4a-d) (Fig.
258 1a). These structural features confer a more acidic calculated isoelectric point ($pI = 5.0$ for DpTrx1
259 versus 4.6 for DvTrx1) and a different dipolar moment, 21.4° angle deviation and +104 Debyes for
260 DpTrx1 (Fig. 4e). In addition, DpTrx1 had larger surface pockets than DvTrx1 (2003.5 Å³ versus 1878.5
261 Å³, respectively). Overall, the structure of DpTrx1 was 2% larger than that of DvTrx1.

262 This structural comparison revealed two way of adaptation of DpTrx1. First, the surface pockets, which
263 are larger than those in DvTrx1, could be compressed to compensate for the lack of flexibility under
264 high pressure in the region of the cysteines. Second, the larger number of acidic residues in DpTrx1
265 compared to DvTrx1 could be linked to the adaptation of the protein sequence to the presence of
266 glutamate in the cytoplasm of the cell; the resulting dipolar moment of the protein would
267 counterbalance its presence by conferring an optimal orientation of Trx1 for TR1/Trx1 complex
268 formation.

269 It can be postulated that glutamate protects the protein core from pressure-driven water penetration
270 and thus stabilizes the native conformation of the protein through either the “preferential exclusion
271 model” (Arakawa and Timasheff 1985) or the “water replacement theory” (Crowe et al. 1990), which
272 proposes that the molecule binds directly to the protein by replacing water molecules in the hydration
273 shell of the protein. The activity of the TR1/Trx1 complex of *D. piezophilus* was greater at atmospheric
274 pressure in the presence of glutamate than without glutamate, supporting the concept that the
275 enzymes have adapted to the hydrostatic pressure and thus to the presence of glutamate, as glutamate
276 accumulates at high hydrostatic pressure (Amrani et al. 2014). Structure of *D. piezophilus* Trx1
277 highlights peculiar features like a larger structure and surface pockets than its homologous protein

278 isolated from the piezosensitive *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* strain. This could counterbalance the overall
279 compression that occurs at high hydrostatic pressure to maintain enzymatic activity. Additionally, *D.*
280 *piezophilus* Trx1 exhibits a relatively lower isoelectric point and a more pronounced dipolar moment
281 than those of DvTrx1, which could allow for the protein to compensate for the presence of intracellular
282 glutamate to interact with its partner. Altogether, the enzymatic data and the structural analysis of
283 Trx1 allow us to conclude that the Dp TR1/Trx1 system may be adapted to the presence of glutamate,
284 as opposite to the Dv TR1/Trx1 system. On a physiological point of view, antioxidant defense
285 mechanism has been shown to be an important mechanism to cope with high hydrostatic pressure in
286 the deep-sea bacterium *Shewanella piezotolerans* WP3 (Xie et al. 2018). In the same way, the TR1/Trx1
287 complex plays a key role in maintaining the redox homeostasis in the cell (Pieulle et al. 2011).
288 Adaptation of the *D. piezophilus* TR1/trx1 to the presence of glutamate is thus an advantage to
289 maintain antioxidant defense mechanism active under high hydrostatic pressure.

290 Overall, these data pointed out the protective role of glutamate in maintaining the enzymatic activity
291 of the TR1/Trx1 complex. Thus, adaptation to high hydrostatic pressure appears to be a complex
292 mechanism involving glutamate overproduction to protect the cell and the enzyme from pressure, and
293 structural changes to adapt to both hydrostatic pressure and the presence of glutamate.

294

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384 **Figure Captions:**

385

386 **Fig. 1** Sequence alignment of a) the thioredoxin from *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 (DpTrx1) and *D. vulgaris*
387 Hildenborough (DvTrx1) (active site motif and residues important in the catalytic reaction are
388 highlighted in gray) and b) the thioredoxin reductase from *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 (DpTR1) and *D.*
389 *vulgaris* Hildenborough (DvTR1) (conserved motifs for thioredoxin binding (Trx1 bind.), active site
390 (Active site), pyrophosphate group of NAD(P)H binding (PP binding) and phosphate group of NADPH
391 binding (2'P binding) are highlighted in gray). The alignments were generated using the ClustalW
392 program from the IBPC server (npsa-prabi.ibcp.fr). Identical (*), strongly similar (:) and weakly similar
393 (.) residues are indicated.

394

395 **Fig. 2** Enzymatic activity assays at 0.1 and 25 MPa in the absence (white) or presence (gray) of
396 glutamate. a) TR1/Trx1 complex from *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30; b) TR1/Trx1 from *D. vulgaris*
397 Hildenborough. Mean values and error bars were obtained from at least 3 independent experiments.
398 Significant differences between samples are indicated by an asterisk (Student's t-test, p-value<0.01)

399

400 **Fig. 3** Initial velocity under steady-state conditions for DTNB hydrolysis by the TR1/Trx1 complex of *D.*
401 *vulgaris* Hildenborough at various glutamate concentrations

402

403 **Fig. 4** a) NMR Lower energy structure of oxidized DvTrx1 (active site WCPGC in ball and stick colored
404 in gray, S_γ atoms in orange). b) Cartoon model of oxidized DpTrx1 (active site WCPGC in ball and stick
405 colored in gray, S_γ atoms in orange); additional acidic functions compared to DvTrx1 are represented
406 by red spheres. c) and d) Surface charges of DvTrx1 and DpTrx1, respectively. e) Superposition of
407 DvTrx1 and DpTrx1 with their corresponding dipolar moments; angle variation is indicated

408

409 **Fig. 1**

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411

412

413 **a**

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414           10           20           30           40           50           60
415 DpTrx1  MAHQITDGTDFDQEV LQSEIPVLIDFWAPWCGPCRAMGPVIDELSEEYADQVKIVKMNVD
416 DvTrx1  MAAQITDATFEASVLKSAIPVLIDFWAPWCGPCRAMGPVIDELAAEYEGKVLIVKMNVD
417          **  ****.**: .**:* *****: ** .:* *****:
418
419           70           80           90           100
420 DpTrx1  NSATPGKYGIRAIPTLILFKDGEVVDQSTGAVSKSSIKEMITKKAL-
421 DvTrx1  NPATPSKYGIRAIPTLILFKNGEVVEQVTGAVSKSSIKDMIAQKALG
422          *.***.*****:****:* *****:***:***

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424 **b**

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425           10           20           30           40           50           60
426 DpTR1   MKSYDAVVIGGGPAGMTAALYLLRAGVKTAMIEK LAPGGQVLMTAEIENYPGFPEGLQGW
427 DvTR1   MQQFDAIVIGGGPAGMTAALYLARSGVSVAMVERLSPGGQVLMTSEIENYPGFPGKIQGW
428          *:.*:***** *:*..**:*:*****:*****:*.***
429
430           70           80           90           100          110          120
431 DpTR1   ELADKFAAHIENDELDRINDEVRSIELGTSLHTIHVGEQVVQTKMIILATGSRYRKLGI
432 DvTR1   ELADLFAAHLEGYAITRFNDEVREIVPAPADNRVRVGGDDWISGRTLILCSGARYKRLGLP
433          ****  ****:* . : *:*:*.* .. : : ***: . . : :*:*:*:*:*:*
434
435          Trx1 bind.  Active site  Trx1 bind.  PP binding  2'P binding
436          130      140      150      160      170      180
438 DpTR1   GEERILGKGVSYCALCDGNFFRGQDVAVIGGGNSALEEALYLARLVNKKVYLIHRRDAFRG
439 DvTR1   DEERITGKGVSYCALCDGNFFRGQVVGIVGGGNSALEESLYLSKLVKLLHLIHRDDDFRA
440          .****  ***** ***** ***** *.*:*****:***:***:***:***** **
441
442           190          200          210          220          230          240
443 DpTR1   LLCYQDKCLNHEKIEVVRNTVVNEIEGADEVESLALCNVKSKESSHLKIDAAFVVFVGFEP
444 DvTR1   AKCYQDKVCIMPDI DVVRSSVVEAIHGDDRLTGVTVRNVKTGETSFLELDGLFIFIGFEP
445          ***** .*:***:***: *. * *.: .::: ***: *:*:*:* . *:*:****
446
447           250          260          270          280          290          300
448 DpTR1   IMDFVPVEVERDKNG-IITDVEMRTNIPGVFAAGDIRSKLCRQVASAVGDGATAANAAFT
449 DvTR1   VGGFLPGGIERDEQGFVITDGMERTNLPGIFAAGDIRSKMCRQVTTAVGDGATAANAAFV
450          : .*: * :***:* :*** *****:***:*****:*****:*****:*****

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451

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453 DpTR1 YLQQFGI

454 DvTR1 YLEQLDA

455 **:***.

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463 **Fig 2**

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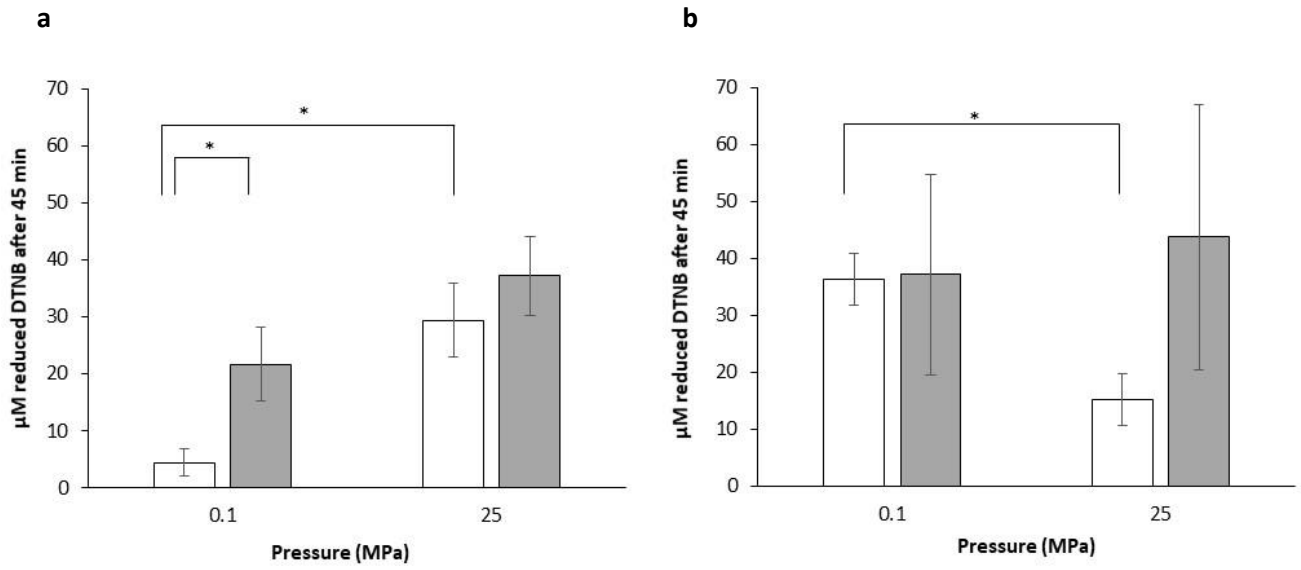
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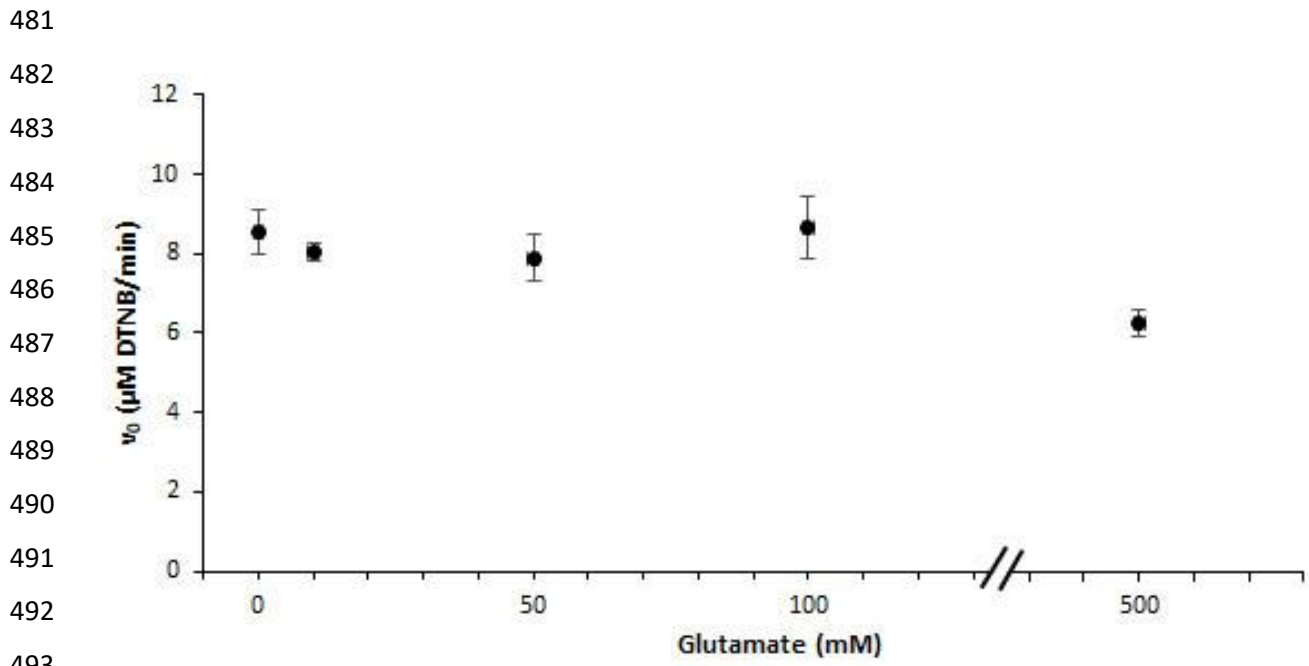
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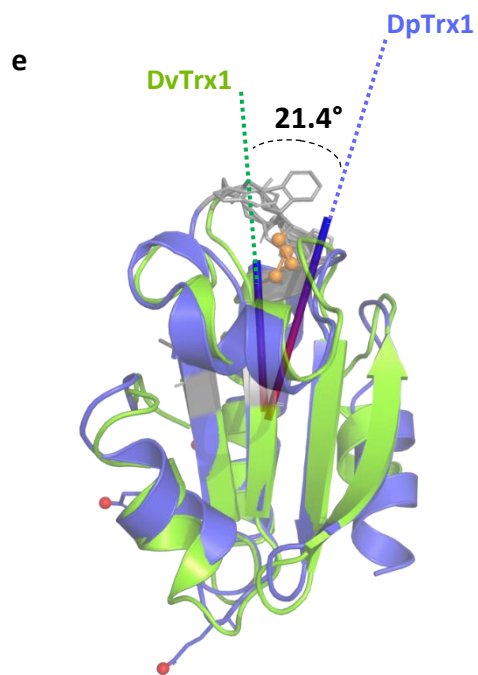
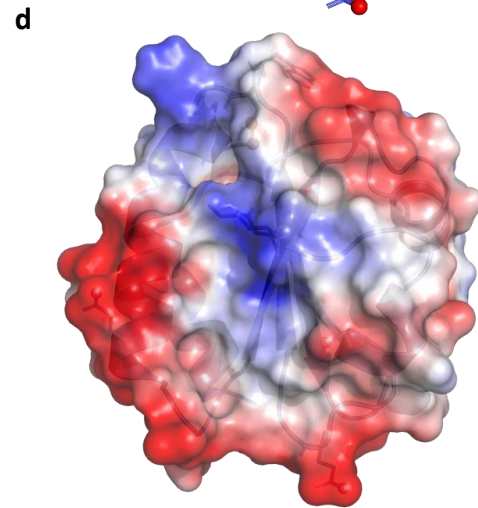
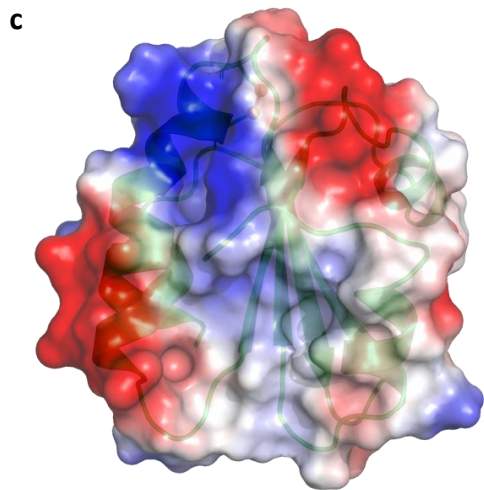
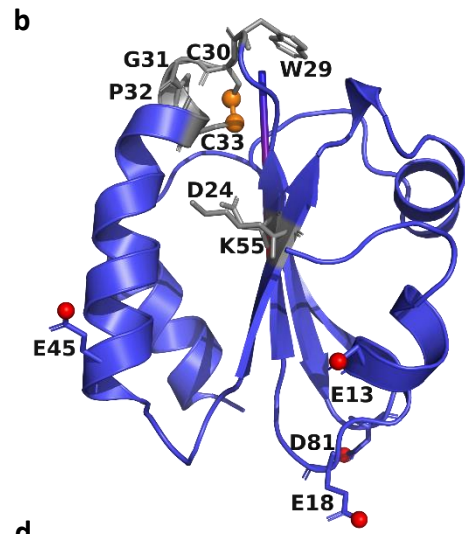
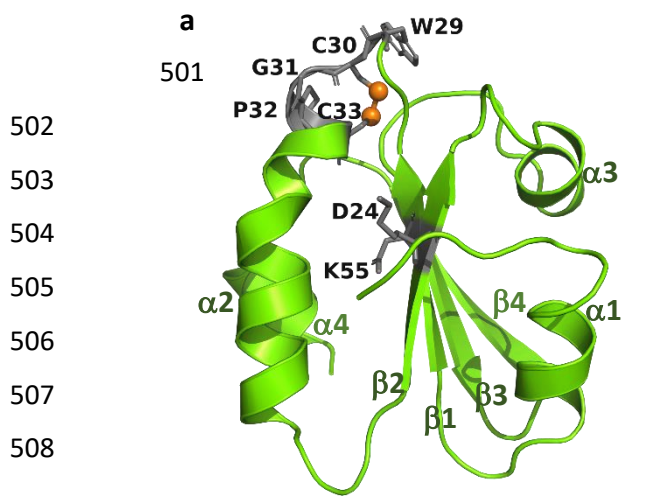


479
480 **Fig 3**



498 **Fig 4**

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TABLE 1: Oligonucleotide primers DNA sequence used for specific amplification and cloning of the *D. piezophilus* C1TLV30 TR1/Trx1system coding sequences.

Name	Sequence 5'-3'	Restriction enzyme
trx1-10319-fwHis	G <u>GG</u> AATTCATGC ACCACCACCACCACCAC GCACATCAGATTACGGAC	<i>EcoRI</i>
trx1-10319-rev	TTGGATCCCTACAGCGCCTTCTTGGT	<i>BamHI</i>
trB-10320-fwHis	TTGAATTCATGC ACCACCACCACCACCACA AAATCATATGACGCTGTA	<i>EcoRI</i>
trB-10320-rev	TTGGATCCCTAAATACCGAACTGTTGG	<i>BamHI</i>
p119 +	GTTCTGGCAAATATTCTGAAATG	
P119 -	GCTTCTGCGTTCTGATTTAAT	

512 The restriction enzyme recognition site is underlined in the sequence, and the six triplets encoding His-tagged
513 domain for convenient purification are shown in boldface.

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