

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE FOR THE FUNCTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE HEME DOMAIN MOBILITY IN FLAVOCYTOCHROME b2

K. H. Diêp Lê, Florence Lederer, Béatrice Golinelli-Pimpaneau

▶ To cite this version:

K. H. Diêp Lê, Florence Lederer, Béatrice Golinelli-Pimpaneau. STRUCTURAL EVI-DENCE FOR THE FUNCTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE HEME DOMAIN MOBILITY IN FLAVOCYTOCHROME b2. Journal of Molecular Biology, 2010, 400 (3), pp.518-530. 10.1016/j.jmb.2010.05.035 . hal-03282526

HAL Id: hal-03282526 https://hal.science/hal-03282526

Submitted on 9 Jul 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE FOR THE FUNCTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE HEME DOMAIN MOBILITY IN FLAVOCYTOCHROME b_2

K. H. Diêp Lê¹, Florence Lederer^{1,2} and Béatrice Golinelli-Pimpaneau¹

From ¹Laboratoire d'Enzymologie et Biochimie Structurales, CNRS, 1 avenue de la Terrasse, 91198 Gif-sur-Yvette, France, ²Present address: Laboratoire de Chimie Physique, CNRS, Université Paris XI,

91405 Orsay, France

Running head : Heme domain mobility in flavocytochrome b_2

Address correspondence to: Béatrice Golinelli-Pimpaneau, Laboratoire d'Enzymologie et Biochimie Structurales, CNRS, 1 avenue de la Terrasse, 91198 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France

Tel: 33 1 69 82 42 35; fax: 33 1 69 82 31 29; E-mail: beatrice.golinelli@lebs.cnrs-gif.fr

Yeast flavocytochrome b_2 (Fcb2), is an L-lactate:cytochrome c oxidoreductase in the mitochondrial intermembrane space participating in cellular respiration. Each enzyme subunit consists of a cytochrome b_5 -like heme domain and a flavodehydrogenase (FDH) domain. In the Fcb2 crystal structure, the heme domain is mobile relative to the tetrameric FDH core in one out of two subunits. The monoclonal antibody B2B4, elicited against the holoenzyme, recognizes only the native heme domain in the holoenzyme. When bound, it suppresses the intramolecular electron transfer from flavin to heme b_2 , hence cytochrome c reduction. We report here the crystal structure of the heme domain in complex with the Fab at 2.7 Å resolution. The Fab epitope on the heme domain includes the two exposed propionate groups of the heme, which are hidden in the interface between the domains in the complete subunit. The structure discloses an unexpected plasticity of Fcb2 in the neighborhood of the heme cavity, in which the heme has rotated. The epitope overlaps with the docking area of the FDH domain onto the heme domain, indicating that the antibody displaces the heme domain in a movement of large amplitude. We suggest that the binding sites on the heme domain of cytochrome c and of the FDH domain also overlap and therefore that cytochrome c binding also requires the heme domain to move away from the FDH domain, so as to allow electron transfer between the two hemes. Based on

this hypothesis, we propose a possible model of the Fcb2·cytochrome c complex. Interestingly, this model shares similarity with that of the cytochrome b_5 ·cytochrome c complex, in which cytochrome cbinds to the surface around the exposed heme edge of cytochrome b_5 . The present results therefore support the idea that the heme domain mobility is an inherent component of the Fcb2 functioning. **Keywords:** Flavocytochrome b_2 , Electron transfer, Domain mobility, Monoclonal antibody, cytochrome c.

Introduction

Flavocytochrome b_2 (Fcb2) (EC1.1.2.3.) is a natural soluble complex of electron transfer proteins that has attracted much attention as a model for more complex membranous systems. Fcb2 is an L-lactate dehydrogenase present in the intermembrane space of yeast mitochondria participating in cellular respiration. It enables yeast to grow on L-lactate as sole carbon source, by mediating electron transfer to oxygen *via* cytochrome *c* and cytochrome *c* oxidase. Each subunit of the tetrameric enzyme is composed of an N-terminal heme-binding domain carrying protoporphyrin IX with a cytochrome b_5 fold (residues 1 to 99) and a C-terminal flavodehydrogenase (FDH) domain, which binds FMN at the C-terminal end of a $B_8\alpha_8$ barrel (residues 100 to 511)¹. The core of the enzyme structure is formed by the packing of four FDH domains while the heme domains lie at the periphery. The asymmetric unit of the Fcb2 crystal structure contains a dimer. The heme domain is observed in only one of the two subunits, indicating it is mobile. NMR data show it is also mobile in solution ². In the complete subunit, the relative orientation of the heme and FDH domains appears suitable for intrasubunit electron transfer ^{1,3}.

During the catalytic cycle, L-lactate donates two electrons to FMN (F) (step a in Scheme 1). The reduced FMN (F:) transfers the electrons one by one to protoheme IX (H) in the same subunit (steps b and d); heme b_2 is reoxidized by the physiological electron acceptor cytochrome c (steps c and e)⁴. Experimental evidence about the docking area of cytochrome c on the enzyme is lacking. The non physiological acceptor ferricyanide normally accepts electrons both from heme and the flavin

semiquinone (F•). It can accept electrons from reduced flavin (F:) only when the flavin to heme intramolecular transfer (step b) is slowed down $^{5, 6, 7}$.

Miles et al. ⁸ have obtained a monoclonal antibody (B2B4), raised against the Fcb2 tetramer, that prevents electron transfer between FMN and protoheme IX and hence inhibits cytochrome *c* reduction, but has no effect on flavin reduction by L-lactate (Scheme 1, step a) and reoxidation by ferricyanide. Antibody B2B4 recognizes the native heme domain as well as tetrameric Fcb2 with a K_d lower than 10^{-7} M and has no affinity for the recombinant FDH domain. The location of the antibody epitope on Fcb2 was previously analyzed by site-directed mutagenesis of residues of the heme ligand His66, as well as one or both heme propionates, were shown to belong to the surface of interaction between the flavin and heme domains. This suggested that the antibody can displace the heme domain from the FDH domain and, once bound, acts as a wedge between the domains, thus maintaining the prosthetic groups in a relative orientation improper for interdomain electron transfer.

In order to further elucidate the structural basis for the uncoupling between the flavin and heme domains by the antibody, we have solved the crystal structure of the antibody Fab fragment in complex with the isolated Fcb2 heme domain at 2.7 Å resolution. The structure confirms that the antibody displaces the heme domain from the FDH domain and highlights the importance of heme domain mobility in the enzyme functioning. In view of the present results, we have used the docking program *HADDOCK* to propose a new model for the Fcb2-cytochrome c complex, in which the heme domain has moved away from the FDH domains in order to interact with cytochrome c.

Results

Amino acid sequence of Fab B2B4. The heavy and light chains of antibody B2B4 were shown previously to belong to the IgG1 and λ classes, respectively ⁸. Amino-terminal sequencing of the whole immunoglobulin yielded the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain only, up to residue 29 with

gaps at positions 22 and 28. Amino-terminal sequencing of the individual chains separated by SDS gel electrophoresis confirmed that the light chain had a blocked N terminus. The cDNA of the Fab was cloned and sequenced using consensus sequences for the two chains. The deduced protein sequences are given in Fig. S1A and S1B for the light and heavy chains, respectively. For the mature 213 residue-long light chain, the expected amino acid sequence begins at position 20 of the deduced sequence with a glutamine, in agreement with the expectation that the blocked N terminus is a pyroglutamic acid. For the 225 residue-long mature heavy chain, the nucleic acid sequence confirms the results of N terminal sequencing.

Overview of the crystal structure of the heme domain in complex with Fab B2B4. The structure of the heme domain-Fab complex was determined at 2.7 Å resolution by molecular replacement (Table 1). The crystal belongs to space group P2₁ and contains two molecules in the asymmetric unit that are related by a 179.3° rotation and a 36.1 Å translation with an overall rmsd for C α atoms of 0.38 Å for the heme domains and 0.25 Å for the Fabs. The two molecules have nearly identical structures and very similar *B* factors. The head to tail arrangement of the two complexes (Fig. 1A) results in the heme domain being sandwiched between the combining site of one Fab and the constant light chain of the other one. Region H128-H133 in CH₁, which belongs to a loop that is disordered in most Fab crystal structures, was not modeled. The *B*-factors of the heme and heme domains in complex with the Fab (40.5 Å² and 45.3 Å², respectively) are similar to those of the native (33 Å² and 52 Å²) ¹ or recombinant (41 Å² and 63 Å²) Fcb2 ¹⁰. As in these two proteins, residues 6 and 7 have relatively high *B*-factors, indicating they are poorly ordered. Residues 98 to 100 of the heme domain, which were not observed in the electron density, were not modeled.

Interactions of the heme domain with the antibody combining site. The heme domain and the Fab interact tightly via complementary surfaces with a total contact area on the heme domain of 1456 Å² (Fig. 1C). The heme domain and protoheme IX bury 13 % and 48 % of their accessible surface upon Fab binding, respectively. Nine H-bonds as well as extensive hydrophobic interactions, mainly with aromatic residues of the Fab hypervariable loops, contribute to the binding between the two proteins but there are no direct ionic interactions (Fig. 1B, Table 2). The epitope consists of Asn30, residues 63 to 65 (Glu-Pro-Leu) and 67 to 70 (Ala-Pro-Asn-Val), Asp72, Tyr74 and the two heme propionate

groups, which are in van der Waals contacts with loop H2. Furthermore, the CA-propionate group is involved in a hydrogen bonding interaction with SerH52, whereas the CD-propionate group interacts with a lysine in the constant light chain of the second Fab molecule. This interaction is probably the result of crystal packing. Altogether, all hypervariable loops except the L2 loop provide interactions with the antigen.

Site-directed mutagenesis of Fcb2 previously showed that the mutations E63K, A67Q or L and N69K in the neighborhood of the second heme ligand His66 decreased the affinity for antibody B2B4 by more than three orders of magnitude ⁹. From the crystal structure, it is clear that these mutations, which introduce bulk and charge, must disrupt the interactions with the antibody. The P64Q or R, L65A and V70M mutations led to 2- to 8-fold decreases in affinity for the antibody. The relatively loose interactions between residues 64 or 70 and the Fab (van der Waals but no H-bonding interactions) are in agreement with the weaker effects of their mutations to the bulky Gln, Arg and Met groups. The L65A mutation disturbs the van der Waals contacts but probably not the H-bond that occurs through the main chain carbonyl group. Replacing protoheme IX with its dimethyl ester resulted in an affinity decrease for the Fab of more than one order of magnitude. This suggested that at least one heme propionate belongs to the epitope, which is the case as described above. The D72A, K73A and Y74F mutations in the heme domain had no effect on its affinity for the antibody. The lack of effect of the latter mutation is understandable, since the van der Waals interaction of the phenyl ring can be preserved by the substitution with Phe. The situation is less clear for the mutations at positions 72 and 73 since, according to the structure of the complex, these residues form the edge of the epitope. Asn30 and Pro68 had not been substituted.

Structural comparison between the heme domain in complex with Fab B2B4 and in the holoenzyme. The crystal structures of the heme domain in the native and recombinant holoenzyme refined at 2.4 Å (PDB code 1FCB) and 2.3 Å (PDB code 1KBI) resolution, respectively, are highly similar ^{1, 10}. The Fab-bound heme domain and that in the holoenzyme (1FCB) can be superimposed with an rmsd of 0.96 Å over 97 C α atoms (Fig. 2A). The regions in which the polypeptide chain differs most significantly are the N-terminus (residues 6 to 10), residues 20 to 24, residues 65 to 74 and the C-terminus (residues 88 to 97). But differences at the N and C termini as well as in the 20 to

24 region are also observed between the two holoenzyme structures. Thus, only the chain modifications from residues 65 to 74 are specific to the complex with the Fab. The C α largest displacements occur at positions 67 (1.8 Å), 68 (1.9 Å) and 72 (1.5 Å). The chain displacement results from the interaction of these residues with the Fab. The most striking difference between the heme domain in the complex and the holoenzyme is shown by the heme, which undergoes a rotation, more or less in the same plane, of 20° and a translation of 0.3 Å (Fig. 2A and B), as indicated by the clearly defined electron density of Protoheme IX (Fig. 2C). This movement does not affect the heme ligation by the histidines. The hydrophobic interactions of the pyrrole rings substituents undergo small modifications, with slight shortening or lengthening of distances to hydrophobic groups that line the heme cavity. The ring B methyl group is displaced by 2.8 Å and loses an interaction with Val70, while the ring D methyl group is displaced by 1.6 Å and loses an interaction with Ile61. The ring B vinyl group loses close contacts with Phe39 and forms new interactions with with Ile29 and Leu36. The other interactions are maintained. The fact that Protoheme IX can adopt significantly different orientations, depending on the interacting protein partner, reveals its dynamic behavior inside the cavity. The alterations in the heme position are concomitant with the movements of residues 65 to 74 and could be the result of the interaction with the antibody.

The binding sites of the FDH domain and antibody B2B4 on the heme domain overlap. Although antibody B2B4 was elicited against intact, tetrameric Fcb2, the Fab affinity for the heme domain is identical within error with that for the holoenzyme ⁸. Furthermore, the recombinant FDH domain is not recognized by the antibody, either alone or in the presence of the independently expressed heme domain. Therefore, the epitope should be equally accessible on Fcb2 and on the heme domain alone. However, since several residues defining the epitope (Table 2) are also involved in the recognition of the FDH domain (Fig. 2D, ^{1,3}), binding of the antibody to Fcb2 must involve a movement of the heme domain in complex with the Fab and in the Fcb2 subunit (Fig. 3A) leads to severe steric clashes, indicating that the Fab cannot bind if the heme domain is docked to the FDH domain as observed in the Fcb2 crystal structure. A minimal movement, for example around the 98-99 peptide bond, necessary to push aside the heme domains for Fab binding is illustrated in Fig. 3B, and the resulting rotation of the heme

domain relative to the FDH domain in Fig. 3C. Other movements of larger amplitude can also be simulated. The extended overlap of the binding sites of antibody B2B4 and the FDH domain on the heme domain thus constitutes an additional piece of evidence for the mobility of the heme domain and suggests that it can undergo movements of reasonably large amplitude.

Modeling the interaction of the heme domain with cytochrome c. Cytochrome c takes electrons exclusively from heme b_2 ^{5,6}. Two models were previously proposed for the complex of cytochrome c and Fcb2, in which cytochrome c interacts with both domains ^{11, 12}. In these models, the relative orientation of the two domains observed in the Fcb2 crystal structure was maintained. Since Fcb2 can accommodate a molecule as large as an antibody on its interdomain surface, then it should also be able to accommodate a smaller cytochrome c molecule without any interference by the FDH domain. This idea led us to attempt to model an Fcb2·cytochrome c complex, using the program *HADDOCK*, based on the idea that the epitope of antibody B2B4 may be part of the interaction area with cytochrome c.

HADDOCK uses information from identified or predicted protein interfaces for defining unambiguous or ambiguous interaction restraints (AIRs) to drive the docking process, which consists of three stages: randomization of orientations and rigid body energy minimization, semi-rigid simulated annealing in torsion angle space and final refinement in Cartesian space ^{13, 14}. We first modeled the interaction of yeast iso-1-cytochrome *c* and the isolated Fcb2 heme domain. For this modeling, we used the residues defining the Fab epitope as active residues (directly involved in the interaction) in unambiguous interaction restraints. In the absence of mutagenesis data to define cytochrome *c* residues involved in the interaction with Fcb2, we used the comparison of the predicted interactions surfaces of eukaryotic cytochromes *c* on mammalian cytochromes b_5 (Fig. 5 in ¹⁵), determined using site-directed mutagenesis or NMR data coupled with modeling ^{15, 16, 17}. It appears that cytochrome *c* residues 13, 16, 72, 86 and 87 (mammalian cytochrome *c* numbering) are involved in the interaction with cytochrome b_5 in all models. Therefore, these residues were chosen as active residues in the modeling.

Two clusters were identified on the basis of pairwise backbone rmsd values using a 2.5 Å cutoff criterion. Their statistical analysis is summarized in Table S2. The first cluster, which contains by far the largest number of structures, has the lowest intermolecular energy and the highest buried surface area. The best solution from this cluster has an intermolecular energy of -561.5 kcal mol⁻¹, an rmsd

from the starting structures of the heme domain of Fcb2 and cytochrome *c* of 0.74 Å and 0.62 Å, respectively, and a buried surface area of 1037.9 Å² (Fig. S2A). Such a relatively small interface size is compatible with a relatively weak binding between the two redox partners, which allows an easy dissociation of the complex necessary for efficient electron transfer ¹⁸. The minimal distance between the heme porphyrin rings of heme b_2 and cytochrome *c* (methyl groups of rings A and C, respectively) is 9.4 Å, which appears compatible with intermolecular electron transfer.

The modeling of one complete Fcb2 subunit in complex with cytochrome c (Fig. 3D) was carried out by superposing the heme domain in the best solution for docking on cytochrome c (Fig. S2A) and that in the minimal model that would allow binding of the Fab (as shown in Fig. 3B). In the present model, four cytochromes c can be accommodated on the Fcb2 tetramer, with each cytochrome c forming interactions with only one subunit. In spite of early controversies, it appears that in solution the stoichiometry is indeed one heme c per heme b_2 , as reviewed in ¹⁹.

Discussion

Structural alterations of the heme domain bound to Fab. The crystal structure of the Fab-Fcb2 heme domain complex presented here confirms the outline of the epitope defined by site-directed mutagenesis ⁹. Altogether, the epitope is located somewhat asymmetrically on one side of the heme crevice, that corresponding to the second heme ligand His66. Interestingly, the heme domain adopts a conformation different from that observed in the crystal structure of the holoenzyme, with a slight movement of the peptide chain segment encompassing His66, as well as a surprising rotation of the heme in its cavity, without any alteration of the heme ligation. There are other examples in the literature of structural modifications of protein antigens incurred upon binding to antibodies, without speaking of alterations between free and complexed antibodies ²⁰. Deformations of the antigen can occur in particular when the epitope is in a flexible part of the structure. In the present case, the alterations are observed between two bound forms of the heme domain in two different redox states (reduced in the Fcb2 crystal structure, oxidized in the complex with the Fab). One may wonder if there exists for the Fcb2 heme binding domain a limited number of interconvertible conformations in the

upper part of the heme cavity, such as that observed in the interaction with the FDH domain and that bound to the Fab. Alternatively, the area surrounding the heme could be highly dynamic, with the antibody and the FDH domain each selecting a different conformation of the heme domain in an induced fit mechanism. While this question may receive experimental answers from future studies of the free heme domain, it immediately raises the problem of the possible functional significance of the observed conformational changes, and this will be discussed below.

Displacement of the heme domain from the FDH domain by the antibody. Strikingly, the epitope encompasses residues, which interact with the FDH domain in the crystal structure of the complete subunit ¹ (Fig. 3A and 2D). The importance of these residues in the flavin to heme electron transfer process has recently been evaluated by site-directed mutagenesis³. In particular, the small size of the A67 side chain was found to be critical for electron transfer to take place, hence for productive docking of the heme domain to the FDH domain. It is also critical for antibody binding, since replacing the A67 methyl group by Gln and Leu side chains decreased the antibody affinity by at least 3 orders of magnitude ⁹. It is clear therefore that the antibody can bind only when the heme domain is not docked to the FDH domain. Moreover, it can be easily understood that the capping of residue 67, and those surrounding it, with the bulk of the antibody prevents electron transfer between the prosthetic groups, whatever the mechanism of this transfer, through bond or through space. In the minimal model of Fcb2 in complex with the Fab (Fig. 3B), the shortest distance between the isoalloxazine and heme b_2 rings is 17.2 Å (between the 7 methyl group and the ring D methyl group, respectively). The distances of the flavin N5 atom with the heme ring A C2 atom and with the iron are 18.7 Å and 20.2 Å, respectively, compared to 9.7 Å and 13.9 Å in the Fcb2 crystal structure, respectively. The relative orientation of the two cofactors is different from that in the Fcb2 crystal structure and all the interactions between the domains shown to be important for flavin to heme electron transfer to occur are broken¹. The crystal structure of the Fab heme domain complex therefore provides an explanation to the observation that binding of the antibody inhibits the intramolecular electron transfer⁸, especially if one considers that the heme domain mobility may have a larger amplitude than the minimal one modeled in Fig. 3C. The domain displacement shown in Fig. 3C was obtained by a rotation around the 98-99 peptide bond. These residues belong to the polypeptide linker joining the two domains, commonly called the hinge region. The crystal structure of the subunit indicates, for residues 85 to 99, a loose interaction with the heme domain, apart from two hydrogen bonds between the peptide amido and carbonyl groups of Asp57 and the carbonyl and amido groups of Leu92 and Cys94, respectively. In addition, tryptic proteolysis of native Fcb2 yields a domain, which ends at Lys95 and has all the physical properties of the heme domain in the intact enzyme ⁴. Thus, the hinge region likely contributes to the domain mobility, an idea also supported by the properties of the variant enzymes in which the hinge length has been manipulated ^{21, 22}.

Interaction between Fcb2 and cytochrome c. The interactions between Fcb2 and cytochrome c, its physiological acceptor, have been the object of many studies (reviewed in ¹⁹). A 1/1 ionic strength-sensitive complex is formed before the electron transfer process, which is itself independent of ionic-strength. Altogether the results indicated that the electron transfer itself occurred via the same mechanism and the same pathway in the presence or the absence of the FDH domain. The interaction of cytochrome c with its other redox partners is also well known to be sensitive to ionic strength ²³. Crystal structures have been determined for its complex with cytochrome c peroxidase ²⁴ and the cytochrome bc_1 complex ^{25, 26}. In these complexes, hydrophobic and van der Waals interactions predominate and the non polar interface is surrounded by oppositely charged residue pairs, which are not in close contact. This situation is now considered to be that prevailing in other transient complexes between redox proteins ^{18, 27}.

It is known that the complexes of redox proteins are difficult to crystallize, because of the weak affinity between the partners hence the short lifetime of the complex. In the absence of crystallographic data, modeling was used to predict the interactions between Fcb2 and cytochrome c. A first model of the Fcb2-cytochrome c complex was proposed, which involved interactions of cytochrome c with both Fcb2 domains, a 1/1 stoichiometry and contacts of one cytochrome c with two Fcb2 subunits ¹¹. After this model was shown not to be consistent with subsequent mutagenesis studies ²⁸, new attempts to model the complex were guided by the fact that the Glu63 and D72 mutations to Lys decreased the rate of electron transfer between reduced Fcb2 and cytochrome c ¹². Although no one single best configuration was obtained, two representative models were described. Both models involved Glu63 and Asp72 of the heme domain as well Glu237 of the FDH domain and basic residues

at positions 13, 27 and 79 of horse cytochrome c. In this complex, cytochrome c was interacting with only one Fcb2 subunit, straddling its two domains.

Does the structural similarity between the Fcb2 heme domain and cytochrome b_5 extend to the the electron transfer function? The Fcb2 heme domain is homologous to cytochrome b_5 , with 29 % sequence identity and a highly conserved fold ^{1, 29}. The interaction between cytochrome b_5 and cytochrome c has been extensively studied after an initial model of the complex was proposed by Salemme ³⁰ (for reviews see ^{23, 27, 31, 32}). Their interaction has been shown by a number of methods to be ionic strength-dependent and highly dynamic. No crystal structure of the cytochrome b_5 , have provided evidence that the two proteins interact essentially *via* residues around the solvent-exposed heme edges ^{15, 17, 33}. Moreover, the interactions of both cytochrome c and cytochrome b_5 with their other redox partners also appear to involve this area ^{24, 26, 34, 35}.

Despite this information and the known mobility of the Fcb2 heme domain, only one group suggested that the heme b_2 domain interface with the FDH domain could also take part in the interaction with cytochrome c^{-36} . This hypothesis is supported by the consideration that, in the native Fcb2 subunit crystal structure, the interface between the domains is characteristic of transient complexes, with a small buried surface area (850 Å²) and a prevalence of hydrophobic interactions ^{1, 3}. The hypothesis that the heme domain surface around the exposed heme edge interacts both with the FDH domain and cytochrome c is now also supported by the present structure of the Fab-heme domain complex. It may appear in contradiction with the fact that ELISA tests failed to detect a competition between cytochrome c and the Fab for Fcb2 binding, which suggests that cytochrome c and the Fab bind to different sites on the heme domain ⁸. Yet, since the dissociation constants of the Fab and of cytochrome c for Fcb2 differ by three orders of magnitude (due to the expected high cytochrome c dissociation rate necessary for turnover) ^{19, 28}, cytochrome c may not have been able to displace the Fab.

We thus decided to use the program HADDOCK for modeling possible complexes between the heme domain and yeast iso-1 cytochrome c. In all calculations, the same cytochrome c side chains were used as active residues. The best model (Table S2) was obtained with the structure of the heme domain

from the complex with the Fab, assuming that the epitope residues were involved in the interaction with cytochrome *c*. In this model, yeast iso-1-cytochrome *c* occupies asymmetrically the side of the heme b_2 crevice corresponding to the epitope. Besides van der Waals interactions, it forms ionic bonds with Glu63 and Asp72, in agreement with site-directed mutagenesis results ¹², as well as with the two heme propionates. The iron-iron distance of 18.5 Å is close to the value of 17.4 Å observed in the complex of yeast iso-1-cytochrome *c* with the cytochrome *bc*₁ complex ²⁵ and the inter planar angle of the heme groups is 168°. This model of the Fcb2-cytochrome *c* complex is similar to those of the cytochrome *b*₅-cytochrome *c* complex ^{15, 17}. Indeed, in addition to Arg13, Gln16, Lys72, Lys86 and Lys87, which were used as active residues to guide the docking, Asn70, Phe82 and Gly83 of yeast iso-1-cytochrome *c* were found to belong to the interface with Fcb2. All these residues were also predicted to interact with cytochrome *b*₅. Therefore, although the electrostatic pairing between residues is different, the interaction of cytochrome *c* with Fcb2 and cytochrome *b*₅ is similar in the models calculated with different constraints, originating from different experimental methods, such as NMR or epitope mapping,

One essential difference between the present model and that proposed by Short et al. ¹² for the Fcb2 complex with horse cytochrome c is that our model requires that the heme domain moves relative to the FDH domain in order to interact with cytochrome c. This entails in particular a participation of the Fcb2 heme propionate carboxylates in the interaction, while these are hidden in the interface with the FDH domain in the holoenzyme crystal structure. The present most stable model may not exactly describe the interactions that enable electron transfer. It should possibly be considered as an approximation of an encounter complex ^{18, 27}, in which a series of small reorientations could promote the interactions required for electron transfer between the hemes. Indeed, it is thought that the interaction of cytochrome b_5 with cytochrome c results in a flexible association complex that samples alternative interheme geometries and molecular orientations ^{15, 17, 37}.

While future studies are required for improving the model, experimental evidence already exists that is compatible with it, such as the lowering of the electron transfer rate between the Glu63Lys and Asp72Lys Fcb2 variants and cytochrome c^{12} . Moreover, Capeillère-Blandin showed that the electron transfer between the Fcb2 heme domain and cytochrome c occurs *via* the same mechanism and the

same pathway in the presence or the absence of the FDH domain 38 . This conclusion supports the idea that cytochrome *c* binds when the heme domain has moved away from the FDH domain.

Finally, mobility of the heme domain may also be required for L-lactate to bind to the active site. Indeed, in the structure of the complete Fcb2 subunit ¹, Tyr143 in the FDH domain forms a hydrogen bond with a heme propionate, which appears to facilitate the interdomain electron transfer ³⁹. Since this residue also plays a role in L-lactate binding, competition between the substrate carboxylate and the heme propionate for Tyr143 may likely correlate with a movement of the heme domain ⁷.

Is the heme domain flexibility functionally important? When the modeling was done using the structure of the heme domain in the holoenzyme (PDB code 1FCB) rather than its structure in complex with the Fab, the calculated complex presented a different relative orientation of the two cytochromes and was less stable. This relative orientation of the heme domain and cytochrome c is mainly due to the different heme orientations in the two Fcb2 heme domain structures. These observations raise the question of the possible functional importance of the flexibility of the Fcb2 heme domain. Does cytochrome c bind to the heme b_2 domain in a conformation different from that recognized by the FDH domain? Could it bind to the same heme domain conformation as the Fab or still to another one? Does electron transfer between the two proteins require the rotation of heme b_2 in its cavity? Further experimental work is needed to answer these questions.

Conclusion

The present experimental results provide concrete evidence for an important degree of freedom of the Fcb2 heme domain relative to the FDH domain, to which it is attached by a covalent bond and a probably flexible linker. In view of all the evidence in the literature, we suggest that in solution the heme domain is constantly sampling space and interacts alternatively with the FDH domain, and cytochrome c when present. The interactions that are favorable for electron transfer implicate in both cases the participation of a number of residues around the exposed heme edge as well as one or both heme propionates. This proposal is strongly supported by a comparison of Fcb2 with a number of redox enzymes, which require large domain movements for the interaction of two or more electron

transfer partners. Such well characterized systems include a series of homologous diflavin reductases, either isolated ones such as cytochrome P450 reductase ^{40, 41, 42} or included in more complex structures, such as cytochrome P450 BM3⁴³, nitric oxide synthase^{44, 45} and sulfite reductase⁴⁶. Electron tranferring flavoprotein (ETF) is another example with a mobile flavodoxin-like domain ^{47, 48}. In cytochrome bc_1 , the iron-sulfur cluster-containing domain is endowed with intracomplex mobility ⁴⁹. In the family of cytochrome b_5 homologues, microsomal cytochrome b_5 itself is connected to its transmembrane segment by a flexible linker: the latter enables cytochrome b_5 to interact alternatively with its reductases and its diverse electron acceptors, all of them attached to the endoplasmic reticulum $^{32, 50}$. Sulfite oxidase is the system with most similarity to Fcb2, in that the b_5 -like heme domain is covalently attached to its reductase, a molybdopterin domain, and transfers electrons to cytochrome c. In this case, the crystal structure of the chicken liver enzyme is not considered as that of an electron transfer-competent complex, and the flexible peptide loop must allow the orientation changes necessary for shuttling electrons between the molybdopterin domain and cytochrome $c^{51, 52, 53}$. In all structural and modeling studies with cytochrome b_5 mentioned above, the surface that interacts with electron acceptors is that around the exposed heme edge. Thus far, Fcb2 is the only system for which both crystallographic and functional details exist concerning the electron transfer-competent interaction of a b_5 -like cytochrome with its reductase, an interaction which again implicates the area around the exposed heme edge 1,3 . Cocrystallization of Fcb2 and cytochrome c remains therefore a challenging goal.

Material and methods

Proteins. The production and purification of the B2B4 monoclonal antibody and the generation of the Fab fragment by proteolysis with papain were described in ⁸. The recombinant Fcb2 heme domain, encompassing residues 6 to 100, was produced according to ⁵⁴.

Amino acid and nucleotide sequence determination. N-terminal amino acid sequencing was carried out with an Applied Biosystems 476A microsequencer. The antibody mRNA was prepared from 2.10^7 ascites cells using the QuickPrep mRNA Purification Kit (Pharmacia Biotech). The mRNA (1 µg) was reverse-transcribed using the First-Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Pharmacia Biotech). The cDNA was

amplified by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), using Pfu polymerase and the first four oligonucleotides given in Table 4 as primers. The sequence was determined with an ABI Prism sequencer using all the primers given in Table 4, following the instructions of the dRhodamine Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit (PE Applied Biosystems).

Crystallization and structure determination. Crystals were grown at 18 °C in hanging-drops by vapor diffusion. 1 µl of the 1:1 heme domain Fab complex (10.2 mg ml⁻¹ in 0.1 M sodium phosphate pH 7.2) was mixed with 1µl of a 1 ml reservoir solution (20 % PEG 4000, 0.1 M MES pH 6.5, 0.2 M MgCl₂). Soaking was performed for a few minutes in a solution of the mother liquor containing 15 % glycerol. Crystals were flash frozen in a cold nitrogen stream at 100K. Diffraction data were collected on beamline ID14EH1 at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (Grenoble, France) and processed with MOSFLM and SCALA 55, 56. Table 1 summarizes the data collection and processing statistics. Molecular replacement with AMoRe⁵⁷, using the structure of a single chain variable domain Fv Se155-4 as a model (PDB code 1MFA)⁵⁸, allowed to position the two Fab molecules. After partial refinement of the Fab structures, further molecular replacement with Phaser 59 using the Fcb2 heme domain as model (PDB code 1FCB)¹ successfully positioned one of the two heme domains. The other heme domain was generated by using the NCS symmetry of the crystal. Refinement was carried out with CNS⁶⁰ and REFMAC5⁶¹ using manual model adjustments with O⁶². During the refinement, tight NCS restraints for the two light and heavy chains of the Fab and the two heme domains were used until the last cycle of refinement. Superposition of the structures was done with SUPERPK (Alzari, P., personal communication) and calculations of the accessible surface areas with ASA.

Calculation of a cytochrome c-heme domain complex. The *HADDOCK* web docking site (http://haddock.chem.uu.nl/) in the expert mode was used with the default parameters except that distance restraints between the hemes and their ligands were included, and the rmsd cutoff for clustering was set to 2.5 Å. The docking of yeast iso-1-cytochrome c (pdb code 1YCC) and the Fcb2 heme domain used the following restraints. Ten Fcb2 residues (30, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72) and 5 residues (29, 60, 62, 66, 73, 74) were used as active and passive unambiguous intermolecular restraints, respectively. Heme b_2 was treated as passive, except that the carboxylate oxygens of the CA and CD-propionate groups were treated as active. Residues 13, 16, 72, 86 and 87 of cytochrome c

were treated as active, and heme c as passive. Yeast iso-1-cytochrome c with non methylated Lys72 was used in the modeling but very similar results were obtained with the trimethylated cytochrome (mammalian cytochrome c numbering).

Accession numbers

Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank with accession number

3KS0.

Acknowledgements

We thank Djemel Hamdane for critical reading of the manuscript.

References

- 1. Xia, Z. X. & Mathews, F. S. (1990). Molecular structure of flavocytochrome b_2 at 2.4 Å resolution. *J Mol Biol* **212**, 837-63.
- 2. Labeyrie, F., Beloeil, J. C. & Thomas, M. A. (1988). Evidence by NMR for mobility of the cytochrome domain within flavocytochrome *b*₂. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **953**, 134-41.
- 3. Lê, K. H. D., Boussac, A., Frangioni, B., Léger, C. & Lederer, F. (2009). Interdomain contacts in flavocytochrome *b*₂, a mutational analysis. *Biochemistry* **48**, 10803-9.
- 4. Lederer, F. (1991). Flavocytochrome *b*₂. In *Chemistry and Biochemistry of flavoenzymes*. (Müller, F., ed.), Vol. 2, pp. 153-242. CRC press, Boca Raton, FL.
- 5. Iwatsubo, M., Mevel-Ninio, M. & Labeyrie, F. (1977). Rapid kinetic studies of partial reactions in the heme-free derivative of L-lactate cytochrome *c* oxidoreductase (flavocytochrome *b*₂); the flavodehydrogenase function. *Biochemistry* **16**, 3558-66.
- 6. Balme, A., Brunt, C. E., Pallister, R. L., Chapman, S. K. & Reid, G. A. (1995). Isolation and characterization of the flavin-binding domain of flavocytochrome *b*₂ expressed independently in *Escherichia coli*. *Biochem J* **309**, 601-5.
- 7. Rouvière, N., Mayer, M., Tegoni, M., Capeillère-Blandin, C. & Lederer, F. (1997). Molecular interpretation of inhibition by excess substrate in flavocytochrome b_2 : a study with wild-type and Y143F mutant enzymes. *Biochemistry* **36**, 7126-35.
- 8. Miles, C. S., Lederer, F. & Lê, K. H. D. (1998). Probing intramolecular electron transfer within flavocytochrome *b*₂ with a monoclonal antibody. *Biochemistry* **37**, 3440-8.
- 9. Lê, K. H. D., Mayer, M. & Lederer, F. (2003). Epitope mapping for the monoclonal antibody that inhibits intramolecular electron transfer in flavocytochrome *b*₂. *Biochem J* **373**, 115-23.
- 10. Cunane, L. M., Barton, J. D., Chen, Z. W., Welsh, F. E., Chapman, S. K., Reid, G. A. & Mathews, F. S. (2002). Crystallographic study of the recombinant flavin-binding domain of Baker's yeast flavocytochrome b_2 : comparison with the intact wild-type enzyme. *Biochemistry* **41**, 4264-72.
- 11. Tegoni, M., White, S. A., Roussel, A., Mathews, F. S. & Cambillau, C. (1993). A hypothetical complex between crystalline flavocytochrome *b*₂ and cytochrome *c. Proteins* **16**, 408-22.
- 12. Short, D. M., Walkinshaw, M. D., Taylor, P., Reid, G. A. & Chapman, S. K. (1998). Location of a cytochrome *c* binding site on the surface of flavocytochrome *b*₂. *J. Biol. Inorg. Chem.* **3**, 246-252.
- 13. Dominguez, C., Boelens, R. & Bonvin, A. M. (2003). HADDOCK: a protein-protein docking approach based on biochemical or biophysical information. *J Am Chem Soc* **125**, 1731-7.

- 14. de Vries, S. J., van Dijk, A. D., Krzeminski, M., van Dijk, M., Thureau, A., Hsu, V., Wassenaar, T. & Bonvin, A. M. (2007). HADDOCK versus HADDOCK: new features and performance of HADDOCK2.0 on the CAPRI targets. *Proteins* **69**, 726-33.
- 15. Deep, S., Im, S. C., Zuiderweg, E. R. & Waskell, L. (2005). Characterization and calculation of a cytochrome *c*-cytochrome *b*₅ complex using NMR data. *Biochemistry* **44**, 10654-68.
- Northrup, S. H., Thomasson, K. A., Miller, C. M., Barker, P. D., Eltis, L. D., Guillemette, J. G., Inglis, S. C. & Mauk, A. G. (1993). Effects of charged amino acid mutations on the bimolecular kinetics of reduction of yeast iso-1-ferricytochrome *c* by bovine ferrocytochrome *b*₅. *Biochemistry* **32**, 6613-23.
- 17. Volkov, A. N., Ferrari, D., Worrall, J. A., Bonvin, A. M. & Ubbink, M. (2005). The orientations of cytochrome c in the highly dynamic complex with cytochrome b_5 visualized by NMR and docking using HADDOCK. *Protein Sci* 14, 799-811.
- 18. Crowley, P. B. & Carrondo, M. A. (2004). The architecture of the binding site in redox protein complexes: implications for fast dissociation. *Proteins* **55**, 603-12.
- 19. Capeillère-Blandin, C. (1995). Flavocytochrome b_2 -cytochrome c interactions: the electron transfer reaction revisited. *Biochimie* **77**, 516-30.
- 20. Sundberg, E. J. & Mariuzza, R. A. (2003). Molecular recognition in antibody-antigen complexes. *Adv Protein Chem* **61**, 119-60.
- 21. White, P., Manson, F. D., Brunt, C. E., Chapman, S. K. & Reid, G. A. (1993). The importance of the interdomain hinge in intramolecular electron transfer in flavocytochrome *b*₂. *Biochem J* **291**, 89-94.
- 22. Sharp, R. E., White, P., Chapman, S. K. & Reid, G. A. (1994). Role of the interdomain hinge of flavocytochrome *b*₂ in intra- and inter-protein electron transfer. *Biochemistry* **33**, 5115-20.
- 23. Mauk, A. G., Mauk, M. R., Moore, G. R. & Northrup, S. H. (1995). Experimental and theoretical analysis of the interaction between cytochrome *c* and cytochrome *b*₅. *J Bioenerg Biomembr* **27**, 311-30.
- 24. Pelletier, H. & Kraut, J. (1992). Crystal structure of a complex between electron transfer partners, cytochrome *c* peroxidase and cytochrome *c*. *Science* **258**, 1748-55.
- 25. Lange, C. & Hunte, C. (2002). Crystal structure of the yeast cytochrome *bc*₁ complex with its bound substrate cytochrome *c. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **99**, 2800-5.
- 26. Solmaz, S. R. & Hunte, C. (2008). Structure of Complex III with Bound Cytochrome *c* in Reduced State and Definition of a Minimal Core Interface for Electron Transfer. *J Biol Chem* **283**, 17542-9.
- 27. Prudencio, M. & Ubbink, M. (2004). Transient complexes of redox proteins: structural and dynamic details from NMR studies. *J Mol Recognit* **17**, 524-39.
- Daff, S., Sharp, R. E., Short, D. M., Bell, C., White, P., Manson, F. D., Reid, G. A. & Chapman, S. K. (1996). Interaction of cytochrome *c* with flavocytochrome *b*₂. *Biochemistry* 35, 6351-7.
- 29. Lederer, F. (1994). The cytochrome b_5 -fold: an adaptable module. *Biochimie* **76**, 674-92.
- 30. Salemme, F. R. (1976). An hypothetical structure for an intermolecular electron transfer complex of cytochromes *c* and *b*₅. *J Mol Biol* **102**, 563-8.
- 31. Guillemette, J. G., Barker, P. D., Eltis, L. D., Lo, T. P., Smith, M., Brayer, G. D. & Mauk, A. G. (1994). Analysis of the bimolecular reduction of ferricytochrome c by ferrocytochrome b_5 through mutagenesis and molecular modelling. *Biochimie* **76**, 592-604.
- 32. Vergères, G. & Waskell, L. (1995). Cytochrome *b*₅, its functions, structure and membrane topology. *Biochimie* **77**, 604-20.
- 33. Shao, W., Im, S. C., Zuiderweg, E. R. & Waskell, L. (2003). Mapping the binding interface of the cytochrome *b*₅-cytochrome *c* complex by nuclear magnetic resonance. *Biochemistry* **42**, 14774-84.
- 34. Worrall, J. A., Liu, Y., Crowley, P. B., Nocek, J. M., Hoffman, B. M. & Ubbink, M. (2002). Myoglobin and cytochrome *b*₅: a nuclear magnetic resonance study of a highly dynamic protein complex. *Biochemistry* **41**, 11721-30.
- 35. Wheeler, K. E., Nocek, J. M., Cull, D. A., Yatsunyk, L. A., Rosenzweig, A. C. & Hoffman, B. M. (2007). Dynamic docking of cytochrome *b*₅ with myoglobin and alpha-hemoglobin: heme-

neutralization "squares" and the binding of electron-transfer-reactive configurations. *J Am Chem Soc* **129**, 3906-17.

- 36. Tollin, G., Hurley, J. K., Hazzard, J. T. & Meyer, T. E. (1993). Use of laser flash photolysis time-resolved spectrophotometry to investigate interprotein and intraprotein electron transfer mechanisms. *Biophys Chem* **48**, 259-79.
- 37. Wendoloski, J. J., Matthew, J. B., Weber, P. C. & Salemme, F. R. (1987). Molecular dynamics of a cytochrome *c*-cytochrome *b*₅ electron transfer complex. *Science* **238**, 794-7.
- 38. Capeillère-Blandin, C. & Albani, J. (1987). Cytochrome b_2 , an electron carrier between flavocytochrome b_2 and cytochrome *c*. Rapid kinetic characterization of the electron-transfer parameters with ionic-strength-dependence. *Biochem J* **245**, 159-65.
- 39. Miles, C. S., Rouvière-Fourmy, N., Lederer, F., Mathews, F. S., Reid, G. A., Black, M. T. & Chapman, S. K. (1992). Tyr-143 facilitates interdomain electron transfer in flavocytochrome *b*₂. *Biochem J* **285** (Pt 1), 187-92.
- 40. Hubbard, P. A., Shen, A. L., Paschke, R., Kasper, C. B. & Kim, J. J. (2001). NADPHcytochrome P450 oxidoreductase. Structural basis for hydride and electron transfer. *J Biol Chem* **276**, 29163-70.
- 41. Hamdane, D., Xia, C., Im, S. C., Zhang, H., Kim, J. J. & Waskell, L. (2009). Structure and function of an NADPH-cytochrome P450 oxidoreductase in an open conformation capable of reducing cytochrome P450. *J Biol Chem* **284**, 11374-84.
- 42. Ellis, J., Gutierrez, A., Barsukov, I. L., Huang, W. C., Grossmann, J. G. & Roberts, G. C. (2009). Domain motion in cytochrome P450 reductase: conformational equilibria revealed by NMR and small-angle x-ray scattering. *J Biol Chem* **284**, 36628-37.
- 43. Sevrioukova, I. F., Li, H., Zhang, H., Peterson, J. A. & Poulos, T. L. (1999). Structure of a cytochrome P450-redox partner electron-transfer complex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **96**, 1863-8.
- 44. Garcin, E. D., Bruns, C. M., Lloyd, S. J., Hosfield, D. J., Tiso, M., Gachhui, R., Stuehr, D. J., Tainer, J. A. & Getzoff, E. D. (2004). Structural basis for isozyme-specific regulation of electron transfer in nitric-oxide synthase. *J Biol Chem* **279**, 37918-27.
- 45. Stuehr, D. J., Tejero, J. & Haque, M. M. (2009). Structural and mechanistic aspects of flavoproteins: electron transfer through the nitric oxide synthase flavoprotein domain. *Febs J* **276**, 3959-74.
- 46. Gruez, A., Pignol, D., Zeghouf, M., Covès, J., Fontecave, M., Ferrer, J. L. & Fontecilla-Camps, J. C. (2000). Four crystal structures of the 60 kDa flavoprotein monomer of the sulfite reductase indicate a disordered flavodoxin-like module. *J Mol Biol* **299**, 199-212.
- 47. Leys, D., Basran, J., Talfournier, F., Sutcliffe, M. J. & Scrutton, N. S. (2003). Extensive conformational sampling in a ternary electron transfer complex. *Nat Struct Biol* **10**, 219-25.
- 48. Toogood, H. S., Leys, D. & Scrutton, N. S. (2007). Dynamics driving function: new insights from electron transferring flavoproteins and partner complexes. *FEBS J* **274**, 5481-504.
- 49. Zhang, Z., Huang, L., Shulmeister, V. M., Chi, Y. I., Kim, K. K., Hung, L. W., Crofts, A. R., Berry, E. A. & Kim, S. H. (1998). Electron transfer by domain movement in cytochrome *bc*₁. *Nature* **392**, 677-84.
- 50. Clarke, T. A., Im, S. C., Bidwai, A. & Waskell, L. (2004). The role of the length and sequence of the linker domain of cytochrome *b*₅ in stimulating cytochrome P450 2B4 catalysis. *J Biol Chem* **279**, 36809-18.
- 51. Kisker, C., Schindelin, H., Pacheco, A., Wehbi, W. A., Garrett, R. M., Rajagopalan, K. V., Enemark, J. H. & Rees, D. C. (1997). Molecular basis of sulfite oxidase deficiency from the structure of sulfite oxidase. *Cell* **91**, 973-83.
- 52. Feng, C., Tollin, G. & Enemark, J. H. (2007). Sulfite oxidizing enzymes. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **1774**, 527-39.
- 53. Johnson-Winters, K., Nordstrom, A. R., Emesh, S., Astashkin, A. V., Rajapakshe, A., Berry, R. E., Tollin, G. & Enemark, J. H. (2010). Effects of interdomain tether length and flexibility on the kinetics of intramolecular electron transfer in human sulfite oxidase. *Biochemistry* **49**, 1290-6.

- 54. Brunt, C. E., Cox, M. C., Thurgood, A. G., Moore, G. R., Reid, G. A. & Chapman, S. K. (1992). Isolation and characterization of the cytochrome domain of flavocytochrome b_2 expressed independently in *Escherichia coli*. *Biochem J* **283**, 87-90.
- 55. Leslie, A. G. W. (1992). In *Recent changes to the MOSFLM package for processing film and image plate data. Joint CCP4 + ESF-EAMCB Newsletter on Protein Crystallography.*, Vol. 26.
- 56. Evans, P. (2006). Scaling and assessment of data quality. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* 62, 72-82.
- 57. Navaza, J. (1994). AMoRe: an automated package for molecular replacement. *Acta Cryst.* **A50**, 157-163.
- Zdanov, A., Li, Y., Bundle, D. R., Deng, S. J., MacKenzie, C. R., Narang, S. A., Young, N. M. & Cygler, M. (1994). Structure of a single-chain antibody variable domain (Fv) fragment complexed with a carbohydrate antigen at 1.7-Å resolution. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 91, 6423-7.
- 59. McCoy, A. J., Grosse-Kunstleve, R. W., Adams, P. D., Winn, M. D., Storoni, L. C. & Read, R. J. (2007). Phaser crystallographic software. *J Appl Crystallogr* **40**, 658-674.
- 60. Brünger, A. T. (2007). Version 1.2 of the Crystallography and NMR system. *Nat Protoc* **2**, 2728-33.
- 61. Murshudov, G. N., Vagin, A. A. & Dodson, E. J. (1997). Refinement of macromolecular structures by the maximum-likelihood method. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* **53**, 240-55.
- 62. Jones, T. A., Zou, J. Y., Cowan, S. W. & Kjeldgaard, M. (1991). Improved methods for building protein models in electron density maps and the location of errors in these models. *Acta Crystallogr A* **47**, 110-9.

Figure legends

Fig. 1: Structure of the complex between Fab B2B4 and the Fcb2 heme domain. **A** Stereoview of the asymmetric unit of the heme domain-FabB2B4 complex contains two heme domains (Cα trace in yellow, protoheme IX in tan stick, iron in red) and two Fab molecules. The Cα trace for the light and heavy chains for one Fab molecule are shown in blue and brown, respectively and for the other Fab molecule in cyan. Loops L1, L2, L3, H1, H2 and H3 are shown in magenta to visualize the antibody combining site. In the crystal structure, one heme domain interacts with the combining site of one Fab molecule and with the constant light chain of the other. This figure was drawn with O^{62} . **B** Stereoview of the interactions between residues 63-72 and 30 of the heme domain and the hypervariable regions of Fab B2B4. Cαs of hypervariable regions H1, H2, H3, L1, L2 and L3 are indicated in red, tan, green, blue, cyan and magenta, respectively. The H-bonds between the heme-domain and antibody are indicated as dashed red lines. **C** Molecular surface of the interaction site of the heme domain are shown in transparent blue, green and orange, respectively. Protoheme X is shown in orange for the buried atoms and yellow for the accessible atoms, the iron atom is shown as a red sphere. The residues belonging to the epitope are indicated as sticks. This figure was drawn with *PYMOL* (www.pymol.org).

Fig. 2: Comparison of the heme domains from the Fcb2 crystal structure and in complex with the Fab. **A** Stereoview of the superposition of the heme domains from the Fcb2 crystal structure (PDB code 1FCB) (in cyan, protoheme IX in blue sticks, iron in blue) and in the Fab-heme domain complex (in yellow, protoheme IX in tan sticks, iron in red). **B** Comparison of the orientations of Protoheme IX in the heme domain-Fab structure (yellow) and in the holoenzyme (blue) after superposition of the C α positions of the heme domains. **C** Stereo view of the Fobs-Fcalc electron density map of the Protoheme IX region omitting Protoheme IX calculated at the level of 1.5 and 8 standard deviations (green and blue colour, respectively) in the heme domain-Fab structure. **D** Surface representations of the heme domain interfaces with Fab B2B4 (left) and with the FDH domain (right). The flavin-binding site is as defined (Table 10A in ¹). The heme group is orange or green and its accessible atoms are yellow. The residues involved in the

interaction with the Fab and the FDH domain are indicated as red and blue spheres, respectively. This figure was drawn with *PYMOL* (www.pymol.org).

Fig. 3: Fab B2B4 binding prevents normal docking of the heme domain onto the FDH domain (Stereoviews). The orientation of the FDH domain is identical in all figures. **A** Residues 6 to 97 of the heme domain of the Fcb2 structure (PDB code 1FCB) were superimposed on the same residues of the heme domain in the complex with Fab B2B4 (rmsd=0.92 Å). The heme domain in the Fcb2 structure is shown in cyan and the FDH domain (residues 98 to 511) in magenta, with FMN in red sticks. The heme domain in the complex with the Fab is shown in yellow with protoheme IX in tan sticks and iron in red. The light and heavy chains of FabB2B4 are shown in blue and brown, respectively. **B** A possible minimal movement (62.5° rotation and 0.058 Å translation) of the heme domain relative to the FDH domain in one Fcb2 heme domains before (in cyan) and after the rotation allowing Fab B2B4 binding (in yellow). **D**. Model of one Fcb2 monomer in complex with cytochrome *c*. The FDH domain (in magenta, FMN in red sticks) has been added to the model of the heme domain-cytochrome *c* complex with the orientation relative to the heme domain shown in Fig. 3B, showing that the movement of the heme domain relative to the FDH domain figures.

Scheme 1



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 3



Table 1: Data collection and refinement statistics.

Data collection	
Space Group	$P2_1$
Cell dimensions a, b, c (Å)	72.58 83.68 92.16
α, β, γ (°)	90.0 96.8 90.0
Resolution (Å)	25.0-2.7
(Outer resolution shell) (Å)	(2.85-2.7)
No unique reflections	29267
R _{merge}	0.16 (0.66)
$I/\sigma(I)$	9.1 (1.7)
Completeness (%)	97.0 (94.6)
Redundancy	3.5 (3.3)
Refinement	
Resolution (Å)	25.00 - 2.7
(Outer resolution shell) (Å)	2.82-2.7
R _{free} (%)	28.9 (39.3)
R (%)	21.4 (27.6)
Average B-factors (Å ²)	
Fab (chains LH/JK)	44.2/43.8
heme domain (chain A/B)	45.0/45.6
Heme (chain A/B)	39.7/41.4
Water	34.2
No. atoms	
Protein	7810
heme	86
Water	132
rmsd	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.015
Bond angles (°)	1.82
Ramachandran statistics (%)	
Most favored	82.5
Additionnally allowed	15.5
Generously allowed	1.5
Disallowed	0.5

Heme domain position	Type of interaction	Fab position (loop)	$d^1(Å)$
Asn30	van der Waals	ThrL29 (L1)	3.4
	van der Waals	SerL30 (L1)	3.6
	van der Waals	TyrL32 (L1)	3.9
Glu63 OE2	H-bond	TyrL32 OH (L1)	2.4
Glu63 OE1	H-bond	TyrH102 OH (H3)	3.1
Glu63 O	H-bond	AspH101 O	2.5
Pro64	van der Waals	PheH96 (H3)	3.7
	van der Waals	TyrH99 (H3)	4.4
Leu65	van der Waals	$ProL155 (CL)^2$	4.0
Leu65 O	H-bond	TyrH53 OH (H2)	3.0
Ala67 N	H-bond	TyrH33 OH (H1)	3.1
	van der Waals	TyrH50 (H1)	3.8
Pro68	van der Waals	TrpL91 (L3)	3.6
	van der Waals	TyrL32 (L1)	4.0
Asn69 OD1/ ND2	H-bond	TyrH50 OH (H2)	3.0
	van der Waals	AsnL94 O (L3)	3.5
	van der Waals	TrpL91 (L3)	3.8
	van der Waals	TyrH58 (H2)	3.5
Val70	van der Waals	TyrH50 (H1)	4.3
	van der Waals	Tyr H33 (H1)	3.7
Asp72 OD2	H-bond	AsnL94 OD1 (L3)	3.3
	H-bond	AsnL94 ND2 (L3)	3.4
Tyr74 OH	van der Waals	Ser H56 OG (H2)	4.1
Heme CA-propionate	van der Waals	TyrH53 (H2)	3.3
	van der Waals	SerH56 (H2)	3.9
	H-bond	SerH52 OG (H2)	2.9
Heme CD-propionate	van der Waals	TyrH53 (H2)	4.2
O1D	long range ionic	LysL150 ^{\neq} NZ (CL) ²	3.7

Table 2. Intermolecular contacts of 4.5 Å or less in the heme b_2 domain Fab structure.

¹ The average of two distances measured for both complexes in the asymmetric unit is listed ² CL: constant light chain. These residues belong to the second molecule in the asymmetric unit or to a symmetric molecule so that their interactions probably result from crystal packing.

Supplementary data

Supplementary discussion

Other modeling trials of the heme domain \cdot cytochrome *c* complex.

The starting structure of the heme b_2 domain used for the calculation presented in the main text was that in complex with the Fab. In view of its differences with the domain in the 1FCB and 1KBI structures, in particular the heme rotation, we also attempted to model the heme b_2 cytochrome c complex using the domain coordinates from the original 1FCB structure. The results (Table S2, Fig. S2B) show that the intermolecular energy and the buried surface area are higher than in the previous model. In addition, we also tested, as active residues, amino acids that lie on the other side of the exposed heme edge, some of which also belong to the interface with the FDH domain (Table S2, Fig. S2B). Again, the complexes in these models are less stable and have a buried surface area that is higher than in the first model. In addition, although the distance between the irons of the two hemes is reasonable (13.3 to 19.6 Å), a protein loop from cytochrome c separates the two heme groups.

Table S1: Oligonucleotides used for cloning and sequencing the mouse Fab cDNA

LCNB2B4: 5'-ATG GCC TGG A (CT)T TCA CTT AT-3', consensus mouse λ chain leader sequence

LCCB2B4 : 5'-GA(AG) ACA (GT)TC TGC A(GC)G AGA CAG ACT CTT-3',

mouse λC_L domain 3' terminal sequence

HCNB2B4 : 5'-GAG GT(GT) CAG CT(GT) CAG (GC)AG TC(AT) GGR (GC)C(AT)-3',

corresponding to the amino acid sequence (Fig. S1)

HCNHRB2B4 : 5'-TAT GCA AGG CTT ACA ACC ACA-3', class G1 hinge region sequence.

B2B4Ln05: 5'-ACA CTC ACT TGT CGC TCA AG-3' (light chain)

B2B4Ln06: 5'-CTT GAG CGA CAA GTG AGT GT-3' (light chain)

B2B4Ln07: 5'-CTG GGT TGT CTC CAT ACC CTG-3' (light chain)

B2B4Ln08: 5'-CAG GGT ATG GAG ACA ACC CAG-3' (light chain)

B2B4Hc 01 :5'-TGA GCT GCT CAG AGT GTA GAG-3' (heavy chain)

B2B4Hc02 : 5'-CTC TAC ACT CTG AGC AGC TCA-3' (heavy chain)

B2B4Hc03 : 5'-ATG GGG TAC ATA AGC TAC GGA-3' (heavy chain)

B2B4Hc04 :5'-TCC GTA GCT TAT GTA CCC CAT-3' (heavy chain)

Table S2: Statistical analysis of the lowest energy structures for the model of the Fcb2 heme domain in complex with iso-1-cytochrome c

Model	heme	docking	clusters	n° of	$rmsd~(\text{\AA})^a$	Einter	E _{elec}	E _{vdw}	E _{AIR}	buried surface
number	domain	restraints	number	structures	3	(kcal mol ⁻¹) (kcal mol ⁻¹)	(kcal mol^{-1})	(kcal mol^{-1})	area (Å ²)
1	Fab	Epitope ^c	2	192	0.6 ± 0.3	-553.5	-616.7 ± 19.2	-17.9 ± 3.0	81.1 ± 4.67	1088.7 ± 36.4
				6	9.0 ± 0.3	-248.6	-353.5 ± 34.4	-17.1 ± 5.8	122.0 ± 1.84	944.4 ± 69.1
2	1FCB	Epitope ^c	1	200	0.5 ± 0.3	-325.7	-383.6 ± 22.1	-38.4 ± 0.8	96.3 ± 10.21	1260.7 ± 45.5
3	Fab	d	2	190	0.8 ± 0.6	-424.3	-479.7 ± 16.0	-27.8 ± 1.6	83.2 ± 24.35	1209.3 ± 58.4
				7	1.0 ± 0.1	-276.9	-431.7 ± 23.2	-22.0 ± 5.1	176.8 ± 20.19	1052.9 ± 86.7
4	1FCB	d	2	83	0.5 ± 0.3	-304.9	-498.5 ± 26.4	-26.7 ± 1.5	220.3 ± 9.11	1085.5 ± 54.9
				115	4.2 ± 0.0	-239.0	-342.3 ± 20.3	-41.2 ± 3.3	144.5 ± 2.85	1354.2 ± 46.3
5	Fab	e	3	144	0.7 ± 0.4	-414.9	-490.0 ± 56.9	-22.9 ± 3.2	98.0 ± 12.97	1078.5 ± 40.0
				48	4.8 ± 0.1	-498.0	$\textbf{-524.0} \pm 47.4$	-25.7 ± 1.3	51.7 ± 11.81	1112.2 ± 44.7
				5	9.4 ± 0.3	-416.9	-487.9 ± 35.9	-25.3 ± 6.7	96.3 ± 21.59	1089.6 ± 27.9
6	1FCB	e	1	199	0.5 ± 0.3	-381.4	-471.3 ± 32.8	-26.5 ± 5.0	116.4 ± 14.86	1058.1 ± 94.9

^a rmsd from the lowest energy structure

^b E_{inter} is the intermolecular energy. It is the sum of E_{elec} (electrostatic energy), E_{vdw} (van der Waals energy), and E_{AIR} (energy of the intermolecular restraints).

^c Residues 30, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72 of the heme domain and the O1A et O1D heme propionate atoms were used as active. Residues 29, 60, 62, 66, 73, 74 and heme b_2 were used as passive.

^d Residues 44, 45, 46, 48, 52, 53, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69 of the heme domain and the O1A et O1D heme propionate atoms were used as active. Residues 47, 60, 62, 66 and heme b_2 were used as passive.

^e Residues 39, 44, 63, 65, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74 of the heme domain and the O1A et O1D heme propionate atoms were used as active. Heme b_2 was used as passive.

Supplement Figure legend

Fig. S1: **A** cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence for the light chain of Fab B2B4. The sequence has been deposited at the EMBL Data Bank (accession number AJ290388) **B** cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence for the heavy chain VH and CH₁ domains. The sequence has been deposited at the EMBL Data Bank (accession number AJ303449). The underlined sequence was determined at the protein level as described in the text. Numbering of the antibody residues follows the Kabat nomenclature ¹ and the definition of the hypervariable regions is from Chothia et al. ^{2,3}.

Fig. S2: Models of the Fcb2 heme domain interaction with yeast iso-1-cytochrome c calculated by HADDOCK. A Stereoview of the lowest-energy model of the Fcb2 heme domain (in yellow, Protoheme IX in tan, iron in red) in complex with yeast iso-1-cytochrome c (in blue, heme c in cyan, iron in blue). The residues of the heme domain belonging to the epitope were used as docking restraints (model 1, Table S2). The heme domain is oriented as in Fig. 3B. All the residues from cytochrome c chosen as active in the modeling and all the residues of the heme domain belonging to the epitope (except Asn30) participate in the interactions with cytochrome c. In addition, Asn70(c), Lys73(c), Phe82(c) and Gly83(c) are involved in Hbonds and van der Waals contacts with Fcb2. Besides van der Waals and H-bonding interactions, the molecular interface of the complex consists of several salt bridges: between the carboxylates of the heme b_2 propionate groups and Arg13(c) and Lys87(c), between Glu63(b₂) and Lys73(c), and between Asp72(b₂) and Lys72(c). The iron-iron distance is 18.5 Å. **B** Stereo view of the superposition on the heme domain of the lowest-energy solutions of each cluster for the Fcb2 heme domain cytochrome c complex models analyzed in Table S2. Only the heme domain of model 1 is shown in yellow. Cytochrome c for models 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 is shown in blue, steel blue, green, tan, magenta and orange, respectively. After superposition on the heme domains, the overall rmsds for Ca atoms of cytochrome c between model 1 and models 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 are 25.5 Å, 33.5 Å, 26.6 Å, 2.5 Å, 6.6 Å, respectively.

- Kabat, E., Wu, T. T., Perry, H. M., Gottesman, K. S. & Foeller, C. (1991). Sequences of proteins of immunological interest (US Department of Health and Human Services, P. H. S., National Institute of Health, Ed.), Bethesda, MD, USA.
- 2. Chothia, C. & Lesk, A. M. (1987). Canonical structures for the hypervariable regions of immunoglobulins. *J Mol Biol* 196, 901-17.
- Chothia, C., Lesk, A. M., Tramontano, A., Levitt, M., Smith-Gill, S. J., Air, G., Sheriff, S., Padlan, E. A., Davies, D., Tulip, W. R., Colman, P. M., Spinelli, S., Alzari, P. M. & Poljak, R. J. (1989). Conformations of immunoglobulin hypervariable regions. *Nature* 342, 877-83.

Figure. S1

A

1	atg M	gcc A	tgg W	att I	tca S	ctt L	ata I	ctc L	tct S	ctc L	ctg L	gct A	ctc L	agc S	tca S	G ggg	gcc A	att I	tcc S	cag Q 1
61	gct A	gtt V	gtg V	act T	cag Q	gaa E	tct S 9	gca A 10	ctc L	acc T	aca T	tca S	cct P	ggt G	gaa E	aca T	gtc V	aca T 20	ctc L	act T
121	tgt C	cgc R	tca S	agt S	act T 27	ggg G a	gct A b	gtt V c	aca T L1	act T	agt S	aac N	tat Y	gcc A	aac N	tgg W	gtc V	caa Q	gaa E	aaa K
181	сса Р 40	gat D	cat H	tta L	ttc F	act T	ggt G	cta L	ata I	ggt G	ggt G 50	acc T L2	aac N	aaa K	cga R	gct A	cca P	ggt G	gtt V	cct P
241	gcc A 60	aga R	ttc F	tca S	ggc G	tcc S	ctg L	att I	gga G	gac D	aag K 70	gct A	gcc A	ctc L	acc T	atc I	aca T	ggg	gca A	cag Q
301	act T 80	gag E	gat D	gag E	gca A	ata I	tat Y	ttc F	tgt C	gct A	ctg L 90 [tgg W	gac D	agc S L3	aac N	cat H	ttg L	gtg V	ttc F	ggt G
361	gga G 100	gga G	acc T	aaa K	ctg L	act T	gtc V	cta L	ggc G	cag Q	ссс Р 110	aag K	tct S	tcg S	cca P	tca S	gtc V	acc T	ctg L	ttt F
421	cca P 120	cct P	tcc S	tct S	gaa E	gag E	ctc L	gag E	act T	aac N	aag K 130	gcc A	aca T	ctg L	gtg V	tgt C	acg T	atc I	act T	gat D
481	ttc F 140	tac Y	cca P	ggt G	gtg V	gtg V	aca T	gtg V	gac D	tgg W	aag K 150	gta V	gat D	ggt G	acc T	cct P	gtc V	act T	cag Q	ggt G
541	atg M 160	gag E	aca T	acc T	cag Q	cct P	tcc S	aaa K	cag Q	agc S	aac N 170	aac N	aag K	tac Y	atg M	gct A	agc S	agc S	tac Y	ctg L
601	асс Т 180	ctg L	aca T	gca A	aga R	gca A	tgg W	gaa E	agg R	cat H	agc S 190	agt S	tac Y	agc S	tgc C	cag Q	gtc V	act T	cat H	gaa E
661	ggt G 200	cac H	act T	gtg V	gag E	aag K	agt S	ctg L	tct S	cct P	gca A 210	gac D	tgt C							

1	gag <u>E</u> 1	gtg <u>v</u>	cag <u>Q</u>	ctt <u>L</u>	cag <u>Q</u>	gag <u>E</u>	tca <u>S</u>	gga <u>G</u>	cct <u>P</u>	agc <u>S</u> 10	ctc <u>L</u>	gtg <u>V</u>	aaa <u>K</u>	cct <u>P</u>	tct <u>s</u>	cag <u>Q</u>	act <u>T</u>	ctg <u>L</u>	tcc <u>s</u>	ctc <u>L</u> 20
61	acc <u>T</u>	tgt C	tct <u>s</u>	gtc <u>V</u>	act <u>T</u>	ggc <u>G</u>	gac <u>D</u>	tcc s H1	atc I	acc T 30	agt S	ggt G	tac Y	tgg W	aac N	tgg W	atc I	cgg R	aaa K	ttc F 40
121	cca P	ggg	aat N	aaa K	ctt L	gaa E	tac Y	atg M	G ddd	tac Y 50	ata I	agc S	tac Y	gga G H2	ggt G	agc S	act T	tac Y	tac Y	aat N 60
181	cca P	tct S	ctc L	gaa E	agt S	cga R	atc I	tcc S	atc I	act T 70	cga R	gac D	aca T	tcc S	aag K	aac N	cag Q	tac Y	tac Y	ctg L 80
241	cag Q	ttg L B2	aat N a	tct S b	gtg V c	act T	act T	gag E	gac D	aca T	gcc A	aca T	tat Y 90	ttc F	tgt C	gca A	aga R	ttg L	ttt F	ggt G
301	tct s H3	tac Y	tac Y 100	ttt F a	gac D	tac Y	tgg W	ggc G	caa Q	ggc G	acc T	act T	ctc L	aca T 110	gtc V	tcc S	tca S	gcc A	aaa K	acg T
361	aca T	ccc P	cca P	tct S 120	gtc V	tat Y	cca P	ctg L	gcc A	cct P	gga G	tct S	gct A	gcc A 130	caa Q	act T	aac N	tcc S	atg M	gtg V
421	acc T	ctg L	gga G	tgc C 140	ctg L	gtc V	aag K	ggc G	tat Y	ttc F	cct P	gag E	cca P	gtg V 150	aca T	gtg V	acc T	tgg W	aac N	tct S
481	gga G	tcc S	ctg L	tcc S 160	agc S	ggt G	gtg V	cac H	acc T	ttc F	cca P	gct A	gtc V	ctg L 170	cag Q	tct S	gac D	ctc L	tac Y	act T
541	ctg L	agc S	agc S	tca S 180	gtg V	act T	gtc V	ccc P	tcc S	agc S	acc T	tgg W	ccc P	agc S 190	gag E	acc T	gtc V	acc T	tgc C	aac N
601	gtt V	gcc A	cac H	ссд Р 200	gcc A	agc S	agc S	acc T	aag K	gtg V	gac D	aag K	aaa K	att I 210	gtg V	ccc P	agg R	gat D	tgt C	ggt G
661	tgt C	aag K	cct P	tgc C	ata I															

B

Figure S2

