Title: OXA-66 structure and oligomerisation of OXAAb enzymes

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15	Keywords: Beta-lactamase, carbapenemase, Acinetobacter, antibiotic resistance
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17	Repositories: The crystal structure of OXA-66 has been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB)
18	with the PDB ID: 6T1H.
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31 Abstract

32 The OXA β -lactamases are responsible for hydrolysing β -lactam antibiotics and contribute to the 33 multidrug-resistant phenotype of several major human pathogens. The OXAAb enzymes are intrinsic 34 to Acinetobacter baumannii and can confer resistance to carbapenem antibiotics. Here we determined 35 the structure of the most prevalent OXAAb enzyme, OXA-66. The structure of OXA-66 was solved at 36 a resolution of 2.1 Å and found to be very similar to the structure of OXA-51, the only other OXAAb 37 enzyme that has had its structure solved. Our data contained one molecule per asymmetric unit, and analysis of positions responsible for dimer formation in other OXA enzymes suggest that OXA-66 38 39 likely exists as a monomer.

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41 Data Summary

The crystal structure of OXA-66 has been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) with the PDB ID:
6T1H. The coordinate files, diffraction data and validation report can be downloaded from the PDB,
DOI: 10.2210/pdb6t1h/pdb.

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46 Introduction

47 The OXA-type β -lactamases are enzymes that hydrolyse the β -lactam antibiotics. They are commonly 48 found in Gram-negative bacteria that cause serious infections in humans, including Pseudomonas 49 aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Acinetobacter baumannii (1). While some 50 groups of OXA enzymes, such as OXA-48, have been mobilised on plasmids and become globally 51 spread in highly successful multidrug-resistant bacterial lineages, others represent intrinsic enzymes 52 belonging to specific bacterial species and are encoded on the chromosome. One such group are the 53 OXAAb enzymes that are intrinsic to A. baumannii. It has recently been shown that these intrinsic 54 enzymes are capable of conferring resistance to the carbapenem antibiotics (2), and it is therefore 55 important to understand the molecular mechanisms behind this. To date, only the structure of the 56 OXAAb enzyme OXA-51 has been solved (3). However, by far the most prevalent OXAAb enzyme is 57 OXA-66 due to its association with the predominant A. baumannii Global Clone 2. We therefore 58 sought to determine the structure of OXA-66 and compare it to OXA-51.

60 Although the OXA-type enzymes have been reported to have a high degree of structural similarity 61 despite their divergence in sequence, there have been contradictory reports suggesting that the oligomerisation of these enzymes may not be universal. For example, some enzymes have been 62 63 reported to be monomers such as OXA-1 where an elongated Ω-loop is postulated to inhibit the 64 process of dimerization (4), or OXA-25 where an inward bend of the β -3 strand is suggested to 65 destabilise dimerization (5). In contrast, OXA-48 was determined to be a dimer with a series of salt 66 bridges stabilising an alternative dimeric interface (6, 7). A third group, including OXA-10 and OXA-67 14, are only dimeric in the presence of metal ions (8). Furthermore, for those enzymes that require 68 metal ions for dimerization, it has been determined that the dimer form is more active than the 69 monomeric form, but dimerization is destabilised by the presence of the substrate (8). Currently there 70 has been no report of any OXA-51-like enzymes having their oligomerisation state confirmed, with 71 only the N-terminal fragment of OXA-58 from A. baumannii being classed and found to be a 72 monomer, although there is no evidence of the oligomerisation state of the full length enzyme (9). 73 74 Here we present a new structure of the most prevalent OXAAb enzyme, OXA-66, and compare it to

75 the previously solved structures of OXA-51. Additionally we propose, based on similarity and 76 structural models, that this sub-group of enzymes is of a monomeric nature.

77

78 <u>Methods</u>

79 Macromolecule production

For crystal structure determination, OXA-66 was amplified by PCR without its signal peptide, using 80 81 the OXA-66-BamHI forward and reverse primers (Table 1). The signal peptide was predicted using 82 the SignalP 4.1 Server (10, 11). The insert was subcloned into pGEM-T Easy (Promega, United 83 Kingdom) and confirmed by sequencing with the universal T7 Promoter primer. For expression of 84 OXA-66 fused with a glutathione S-transferase (GST) tag, the insert was digested with BamHI, ligated 85 into the protein expression vector pGEX-6P-1 (GE Healthcare, United Kingdom) and transformed into 86 E. coli DH5a. Transformants were selected with ampicillin (100 mg/L) and confirmed by PCR using 87 pGEX Sequencing Primers (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, United Kingdom). The recombinant 88 plasmid was transformed into E. coli BL21 (DE3) (Bioline, United Kingdom) following manufacturer 89 guidelines.

91 **Table 1:** Macromolecule production information

Source organism	Acinetobacter baumannii
OXA-66-BamHI Forward primer	AAAGGATCCATGAATCCAAATCACAGC
OXA-66-BamHI Reverse primer	AAAGGATCCCTATAAAATACCTAATTGTTC
Cloning vector	pGEM-T Easy
Expression vector	pGEX-6P-1
Expression host	E. coli BL21 (DE3)

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- 93 BL21 (DE3) pGEX-6P-1 OXA-66 was grown at 37 °C to an OD600 of 0.8-1.0 in LB broth before
- 94 inducing with a final IPTG concentration of 0.1 mM for 6 h. A total of 11.5 g of cell pellet was yielded
- 95 for purification. OXA-66 was purified according to the column chromatography method outlined by the
- 96 GST-Bind Kit (Novagen, United Kingdom), up to the first flow through fraction collection.
- 97 Subsequently, the manufacturer protocol for PreScission Protease cleavage of GST-tagged protein
- 98 bound to the column (GE Healthcare, United Kingdom) was followed to remove the GST-tag and elute
- 99 OXA-66. Homogeneity of the purified protein was confirmed by running the eluted sample on a 10%
- 100 Bis-Tris SDS-PAGE gel (Life Technologies, United Kingdom). The purified protein appeared as a
- 101 single band (data not shown).

102 Crystallization

- 103 Octahedron crystals were grown under conditions described in table 2. Crystals used for X-ray
- 104 diffraction experiments were harvested at 8 days in the precipitant supplemented with 26% (v/v)
- 105 ethylene glycol with liquid nitrogen.

106 Data collection and processing

The X-ray diffraction dataset was collected a wavelength of 1.5418 Å using a copper rotating anode
X-ray diffraction system equipped with confocal mirror monochromator, a kappa geometry
goniometer, and Platinum 135 CCD detector (PROTEUM X8, Bruker AXS, Ltd) at a temperature of
100K (Oxford Cryosystems, Ltd). The exposure time was set to 60 sec for a single phi-oscillation
image of 1 degree, and the total of 1,398 oscillation images were collected in 8 different kappa
geometry orientations. The dataset was indexed, scaled and merged using PROTEUM2 data
processing software (12). The resultant data-collection statistics are summarized in table 3.

Table 2: Crystallization conditions

Method	Sitting drop	
Plate type	MRC crystallisation plates (SWISSCI, Wokingham, UK)	
Temperature (K)	292	
Protein concentration (mg ml-1)	22	
Buffer composition of protein	20 mM HEPES, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.5	
solution		
Composition of reservoir solution	0.1 M MES pH 6.5, 22.85% (v/v) PEG MME 550, 10 mM	
	ZnSO4	
Volume and ratio of drop	400 nl 1:1	
Volume of reservoir (µI)	70	

Structure solution and refinement The OXA-66 crystal structure was solved by the Molecular Replacement (MR) method. The crystal structure of OXA-51 beta-lactamase (PDB-ID: 4ZDX) was used as the MR search probe. The sequence identity between the search probe and OXA-66 is 97%. All MR calculations were performed in PHASER, part of the PHENIX crystallographic software suite (13, 14). The obtained model was subjected to several rounds of alternating manual rebuilding performed in the molecular graphics software suite COOT and crystallographic refinement calculations in PHENIX crystallographic software suite (13, 15). Final refinement and validation statistics are summarized in table 4. All molecular graphics and structural analyses were carried out within the CCP4MG and CCP4 suite (16).

138 **Table 3:** Data collection and processing

Diffraction source	In-house, Copper rotating anode.
Wavelength (Å)	1.5418
Temperature (K)	100
Detector	Platinum 135 CCD (PROTEUM X8, Bruker AXS, Ltd)
Rotation range per image (°)	1
Total rotation range (°)	1398
Exposure time per image (s)	60
Space group	P4322
a, b, c (Å)	87.54, 87.54, 90.12
α, β, γ (°)	90, 90, 90
Resolution range (Å)	45.06 – 2.10 ¹ (2.20-2.10) ²
No. of unique reflections	21092 (2689)
Completeness (%)	100 (100)
Redundancy	75.4 (45.7)
< // σ (/))	28.17 (3.36)
R _{p.i.m.} (%) ³	1.9 (11.2)
Overall <i>B</i> factor from Wilson plot (Å ²)	29.1
Number of molecules per asymmetric unit	1
Matthews Coefficient (Vm)	2.82

¹The resolution cut-off criteria was based on the data strength, i.e. only the resolution shells with (I/ σ (I)> > 3 were included. ²Values for the outer resolution shell are given in parentheses. ³ $R_{p.i.m.} = (\Sigma$ (I/(N-1))^{1/2} $\Sigma_i | I_i(hkl) - I_{mean}(hkl)|) / \Sigma_{hkl} \Sigma_i I_i(hkl)$, where N is redundancy (p.i.m. – precision-

indicating R-factor).

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144 **Results and discussion**

145 We present here the crystal structure of the most prevalent member of the OXAAb group, OXA-66, at 146 a maximum resolution of 2.1 Å, solved by molecular replacement using the OXA-51 structure (PDB 147 ID: 4ZDX) as the molecular replacement model with an amino acid sequence identity of 97%. As 148 expected, there is as high degree of structural similarity between these enzymes, with an R.M.S.D 149 value of 0.48 Å on 239 c-alpha atoms with the 4ZDX apo structure of OXA-51. OXA-66 differs from OXA-51 by 6 amino acids - T5A, E36V, V48A, Q107K, P194Q, D225N (17), but this variation in the 150 151 observed sequences does not appear to affect the main chain or give rise to any significantly altered 152 charge interactions in or near the active site (Figure 1). This is consistent with the very similar levels

- 153 of phenotypic resistance to the carbapenem antibiotics that these two enzymes have been shown to
- 154 confer (2).
- 155
- 156 **Table 4:** Structure solution and refinement

Resolution range (Å)	43.7720-2.1000 (2.1526-2.1001) ¹	
Completeness (%)	99.5 (99.5)	
σ cutoff	<i>F</i> > 1.43σ(<i>F</i>)	
No. of reflections, working set	18,970 (1,316)	
No. of reflections, test set	1,990 (140)	
Final R _{cryst}	0.188 (0.2470)	
Final R _{free}	0.224 (0.2954)	
No. of non-H atoms		
Protein	1,917	
Ligand	0	
Solvent	229	
Total	2,150	
R.m.s. deviations		
Bonds (Å)	0.007	
Angles (°)	0.843	
Average <i>B</i> factors (Å ²)		
Protein	27.2	
Ligand	29.1	
Ramachandran plot		
Most favoured (%)	98.33	
Allowed (%)	1,67	

¹Values for the outer resolution shell are given in parentheses.

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Similar to the active site in the Apo OXA-51 structures (5ZKH and 4ZDX), we observe that the tryptophan at position 222 lies in a conformation disfavouring the substrate from binding in the active site (supplementary figure 1) (3, 18). However, an alternative conformation is observed in the Doripenem bound OXA-51 structure (5L2F) whereby the tryptophan adopts a position pointing away from the substrate coordinating with a water molecule to the substrate to enable binding (18). This has previously been suggested as an explanation into the weak activity of this sub-class of enzymes (3).

167 One of the interesting features of the OXA enzymes is the varying reports of these highly similar 168 enzymes being either monomeric or dimeric, although at present no OXAAb enzyme has currently 169 been classified as either a dimer or monomer. We therefore compared our OXA-66 structure with 170 confirmed monomeric and dimeric enzymes to determine the possible oligomeric state. Three 171 schemes of salt bridges have been identified as being important for dimerization previously with 172 several key residues identified (7, 19, 20). These three systems have been identified in OXA-10, 173 OXA-13 and OXA-48. Comparing the sequence of OXA-66 with each of these systems we observe 174 the likely absence of most or all the salt bridges in OXA-66. Both OXA-13 and OXA-48 form native 175 dimers utilising 5-6 salt bridges on an interface distant to the active site (6, 7, 19). Comparison to the 176 OXA-66 sequence suggests that these salt bridges are likely to be abolished or significantly 177 weakened throughout, suggesting OXA-66 may be monomeric. For example, the glutamic acid at 178 position 86 in OXA-13 forms salt bridges to both Lys182 and Asp176, and the equivalent Glu89 in 179 OXA-48 forms interactions with Arg189. However, in the OXA-66 structure a threonine is present at 180 this position in 3D-space which is much shorter and cannot reach across the gap efficiently to form a 181 salt bridge, especially as the alternative position for Arg189 is a negatively charged aspartic acid 182 residue hence there is likely repulsion at this site (Figure 2). Likewise, any conserved charges present 183 around this region do not appear to be in a position that would enable salt bridge formation.

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185 OXA-10 differs from OXA-13 and OXA-48 in that the OXA-10 salt bridges require the octahedral 186 coordination of a metal ion to enable dimerization. Comparing the sequence and structure of OXA-66 187 to that of OXA-10, the hydrophobic interactions that help to promote dimerization are not present in 188 OXA-66 (Figure 3). Additionally, OXA-10 requires the presence of a divalent metal ion coordinating in 189 an octahedral orientation with E190 and E227 from one chain and H203 from the other alongside 190 several water atoms (20). Although our structure contains two zinc ions, these are not bound at the 191 expected dimer interact and the arrangement of charges for co-ordinating a metal ion at the dimer 192 interface is not conserved in OXA-66. Instead, a serine, tyrosine and valine are present at this site 193 resulting in disrupted charge interactions suggesting that OXA-66 may not form dimers in the 194 presence of metal ions (Figure 3). Previously, it was thought that the β -3 and Ω -loops played an 195 important role in the dimerization process (4, 5). However, on comparing this interface and the salt 196 bridges, we conclude that these reports are unlikely to affect the overall dimerization of the enzyme

197 and instead are more likely to play a mechanistic role. Previous crystal structures of OXA-51 have 198 been crystallised with 1 or 4 molecules within an asymmetric unit (3, 18), while our structure contains 199 just one molecule per asymmetric unit which corresponds to Matthews Coefficient of 2.82 and 200 crystal's solvent content of 56.4%. In contrast the asymmetric units of dimeric OXAs such as OXA-10, 201 OXA-13 and OXA-48 commonly contain multiple copies of the respective enzymes (19-21). While not 202 definitive, this suggests that dimerization may be less favoured in the OXAAb enzymes. Further work 203 using appropriate analytical methods such as size exclusion chromatography with multiple angle light 204 scattering (SEC-MALS), or dynamic light scattering (DLS), is needed to determine the true oligomeric 205 state of this group of enzymes.

206

Overall, we demonstrate that the most prevalent OXA*Ab* enzyme OXA-66 has structural similarity to
OXA-51. On the bases of sequence and structural analyses, we also suggest that resides at the
dimeric interface suggest the OXA*Ab* enzymes may exist as monomers.

210

211 Authors and contributors

- 212 Conceptualisation BAE; Methodology YT, DYC, PJW, BAE; Investigation YT, DYC; Formal
- 213 Analysis SRH, DYC; Visualisation SRH; Writing Original Draft Preparation SRH, BAE; Writing
- 214 Review and Editing YT, SRH, DYC, PJW, BAE; Supervision PJW, BAE; Funding PJW, BAE.

215

216 Conflicts of interest

217 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

218

219 Funding information

220 The experiments described in this paper were funded by Anglia Ruskin University. SRH was funded

by a grant from the Wellcome Trust awarded to BAE (grant reference 213979/Z/18/Z).

222

223 Acknowledgements

224 We thank Dr Shintaro Aibara (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Gottingen) for valuable

discussion on protein purification.

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 Scaffolds for the Antibiotic Resistance Oxacillinase-48 (OXA-48) through Surface Plasmon Resonance
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- 281 Figure 1: Structural alignment of our OXA-66 structure (blue) with the apo OXA-51 structure 4ZDX
- 282 (gold), displaying the key active site residues.
- 283
- Figure 2: View of part of the dimer interface of (left) OXA-13 (pink, PDB ID: 1H8Z) and (right) OXA-48
- 285 (grey, PDB ID: 5DTK) aligned with 2 copies of OXA-66 (blue). Ionic interactions and bonding
- distances are represented. No ionic interactions were found at the OXA-66 interface.
- 287
- 288 Figure 3: Top: Metal coordination forming dimer interaction in OXA-10 (green), overlaid with 2 copies
- of OXA-66 (blue), where no salt bridge or metal co-ordination is observed in comparison to the OXA-
- 290 10 metal coordination. Numbering refers to OXA-10 structure. Bottom: Sequence alignment of OXA-
- 291 66-Ab with OXA-10-Pa demonstrating the absence of charge conservation at key residues involved in
- 292 metal coordination.
- 293
- 294







OXA-66-Ab	MNIKALLLITSAIFISACSPYIVTANPNHSASKSDVKAEKIKNLFNEAHTTGVLVIQQGQ 60
OXA-10-Pa	MKTFAAYVIIACLSSTALAGSITENTSWNKEFSAEAVNGVFVLCKSS 47
	: :* .* ** . * * .: . :: ***:*: :
OXA-66-Ab	TQQSYGNDLARASTEYVPASTFKMLNALIGLEHHKA-TTTEVFKWDGKKRLFPEWEKDMT 119
OXA-10-Pa	SKSCATNDLARASKEYLPASTFKIPNAIIGLETGVIKNEHQVFKWDGKPRAMKQWERDLT 107
	:: ******.**:*****: **:**** . :****** * : :**:*:*
OXA-66-Ab	LGDAMKASAIPVYQDLARRIGLELMSKEVKRVGYGNADIGTQVDNFWLVGPLKITPQQEA 179
OXA-10-Pa	LRGAIQVSAVPVFQQIAREVGEVRMQKYLKKFSYGNQNISGGIDKFWLEGQLRISAVNQV 167
	* .*::.**:*::**::* *.* *.* :*:*** :*. :*:*** * *:*: ::.
OXA-66-Ab	QFAYKLANKTLPFSQKVQDEVQ <mark>S</mark> MLFIEEKNGN <mark>-</mark> KIYAKSGWGWDVNPQVGWLTGWV <mark>V</mark> 23€
OXA-10-Pa	EFLESLYLNKLSASKENQLIVK <mark>E</mark> ALVTEAAPEYLV <mark>H</mark> SKTGFSGVGTESNPGVAWWVGWV <mark>E</mark> 227
	:* .* :.* *:: * *:. *. *
OXA-66-Ab	QPQGNIVAFSLNLEMKKGIPSSVRKEITYKSLEQLGIL 274
OXA-10-Pa	KET-EVYFFAFNMDIDNESKLPLRKSIPTKIMESEGIIGG 266
	: :: *::*:::: : :**.* * :*. **:

Supplementary Material

Figure S1: Active site of OXA-66 (blue) and the previously solved OXA-51 structure (gold) cocrystallized with Doripenem (green) (PDB ID: 5L2F).

