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Report:

Stromelysin-3 (ST3) belongs to the family of matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) which are zinc-dependant extracellular enzymes. The ST3 is implicated in both physiological and pathological processes such as amphibian metamorphosis, mammalian embryonic development, mammary gland apoptosis, wound healing and invasive carcinomas.

We crystallised a fragment of 20kDa that contains the catalytic domain of the mouse ST3 plus some additional amino-acids on the C-terminal part. The crystals ($20\mu m \times 20\mu m \times 50\mu m$) were obtained by the hanging-drop vapour-diffusion method at 4°C in the presence of an inhibitor. They were cryoprotected in liquid ethane in the presence of ethylene-glycol. We are trying to improve the crystal size.

A partial data set has been measured on ID14-EH2 with a resolution of 3Å (resolution limit of 2Å). The crystals belong to the orthorhombic space group and have following cell constants: a=139.63Å, b=140.00Å, c=91.44Å, a=90°, b=90°, g=90°.

In order to determine the structure of the crystallised fragment, we will need derivatives because there are between 6 molecules (Vm=3.9Å²/Da with 68% solvent) and 12 molecules (Vm=1.98Å²/Da with 38% solvent) per unit cell.

For this project, we will need 3 shifts to collect a full native data set up to 2Å and heavy atoms (Pt) derivatives. If we improve the crystal size, we could use MAD for phasing (ST3 contains 2 zinc atoms).