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Molecular Basis of Iterative C-H Oxidation by Taml, a Multifunctional P450 Monooxygenase from the Tirandamycin **Biosynthetic Pathway**

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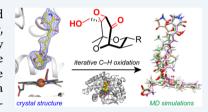
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ABSTRACT: Biocatalysis offers an expanding and powerful strategy to construct and diversify complex molecules by C-H bond functionalization. Due to their high selectivity, enzymes have become an essential tool for C-H bond activation and offer complementary reactivity to small-molecule catalysts. Hemoproteins, particularly cytochromes P450, have proven to be effective for selective oxidation of unactivated C-H bonds. Previously, we reported the in vitro characterization of an oxidative tailoring cascade in which TamI, a multifunctional P450, functions co-dependently with the TamL flavoprotein to catalyze regioand stereoselective hydroxylation and epoxidation to yield tirandamycin A and tirandamycin



B. TamI follows a defined order including (1) C10 hydroxylation, (2) C11/C12 epoxidation, and (3) C18 hydroxylation. Here, we present a structural, biochemical, and computational investigation of TamI to understand the molecular basis of its substrate binding, diverse reactivity, and specific reaction sequence. The crystal structure of TamI in complex with tirandamycin C, together with molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and targeted mutagenesis, suggests that hydrophobic interactions with the polyene chain of its natural substrate are critical for molecular recognition. Quantum mechanics calculations and MD simulations of TamI with variant substrates provided detailed information on the molecular basis of sequential reactivity and pattern of regio- and stereoselectivity in catalyzing the three-step oxidative cascade.

KEYWORDS: natural product, biosynthesis, cytochrome P450, enzyme structure, molecular dynamics, antibiotics

INTRODUCTION

Selective functionalization of C-H bonds to form C-X or C-C bonds is a powerful strategy for the synthesis of complex organic compounds and other high-value chemicals. Although the past decade has seen extensive applications of C-H functionalization for chemical synthesis, controlling regio- and stereoselectivity remains a significant challenge. Most research studies have focused on catalyst-controlled methods for selectivity in C-H functionalization. While several effective small molecule catalysts have been developed in the past few years, nature has utilized selective C-H functionalization throughout evolution via enzyme-mediated catalysis. In various metabolic pathways, enzymes perform diverse C-H functionalization reactions such as halogenation, hydroxylation, alkylation, and amination with high regio- and stereoselectivity; therefore, biosynthetic enzymes are an excellent resource to access biocatalysts that can be harnessed for efficient C-H functionalization with high selectivity over a broad range of substrates.

Most biological site-selective C-H functionalizations are catalyzed by cytochromes P450 (P450s) with high chemo-, regio-, and stereoselectivities. P450s are found in all domains of life, including viruses,2 and catalyze a broad range of oxidative transformations such as aliphatic and aromatic bond

hydroxylation, double bond epoxidation, C-C bond formation, decarboxylation, desaturation, oxidative rearrangement of carbon skeletons, and other transformations.³ These P450s are frequently integrated into biosynthetic gene clusters and perform oxidative tailoring of complex substrates to produce secondary metabolites.⁴ The remarkable versatility of P450s has driven increased applications for synthetic biology⁵ and for late-stage functionalization of several natural products including nigelladine A, juvenamicins, vancomycin, mycinamicin, and thaxtomin D.6 Taking advantage of inherent evolvability of these P450s, researchers have engineered P450s to catalyze new and non-natural reactions including C-Si, C-B, and anti-Markovnikov alkene oxidation for which no enzymes exist in nature.7-11 The continued discovery, characterization, and engineering of novel biosynthetic P450s provide new insights for biocatalyst development, thus

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Figure 1. TamI oxidations. TamI catalyzes iterative oxidation of the bicyclic ketal of 1. The C10 hydroxyl of 2 is oxidized to a ketone by the TamL flavoprotein while subsequent steps are catalyzed by TamI only.

expanding the toolbox for addressing the challenges of C–H functionalization.

TamI is a multifunctional cytochrome P450 from Streptomyces sp. 307-9 that catalyzes late-stage oxidation at three positions on the bicyclic ketal moiety of tirandamycin C (1),12 which is a required modification for bacterial RNA polymerase targeting by the tirandamycins. 13 In distinction from flexible enzymes that act on a variety of substrates, multifunctional P450s catalyze a stepwise sequence of reactions on a particular substrate. This uncommon reactivity has been studied in bacterial enzymes MycG¹⁴ and AurH, ¹⁵ as well as in other fungal¹⁶ and plant¹⁷ P450s. Previously, we reported in vitro functional characterization of TamI, and a partner flavin adenine dinucleotide-dependent oxidase, TamL, and established their roles in the installation of the C10 keto, C11/C12 epoxide, and C18 hydroxyl groups on native substrate 1 (Figure 1).12 TamI catalyzes initial hydroxylation of 1 at C10 to form tirandamycin E (2); subsequently, TamL catalyzes oxidative conversion of C10 hydroxyl to carbonyl to yield tirandamycin D (3). Further epoxidation and hydroxylation catalyzed by TamI complete the oxidative catalytic cascade to yield antibiotics tirandamycin A (4) and tirandamycin B (5), respectively (Figure 1). Despite detailed functional studies, the molecular basis of the iterative nature of TamI remained unexplored, which we were motivated to pursue using structural biology and computational approaches. A key hypothesis that we sought to interrogate was whether TamI uses a discrete substrate-binding mechanism in which the tetramic acid moiety anchors 1 in a position appropriate for the iterative oxidation reactions to occur. Substrate anchoring has notably been observed in the TamI homologue PikC (47% sequence identity), where presence of the dimethylamino sugar desosamine or a suitable surrogate drives substrate recognition, thus enabling oxidation of non-native substrate scaffolds bearing this recognition element.¹⁸ Presence of such a feature in TamI could provide additional opportunity for a tetramatebased anchoring strategy for oxidative tailoring of diverse chemical scaffolds.

Here, we report the molecular characterization of TamI to understand in detail its structure, substrate molecular recognition, and the basis for its regio- and stereoselectivities. Surprisingly, we found that the TamI structure together with molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and subsequent mutagenesis experiments indicate that hydrophobic interactions with the central polyene chain region of 1 is the critical element for substrate recognition and catalysis. Quantum mechanics (QM) calculations, together with MD simulations, provide detailed information on the molecular basis of regio- and stereoselectivity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Structural Analysis of Taml in Complex with Tirandamycin C. The structure of Taml in complex with 1 was solved by molecular replacement at 2.7 Å resolution using the ligand-free structure as a search model (Figures S1 and S2). The overall structure exhibits the characteristic P450 fold with a single heme cofactor covalently bound via a Cys359 heme-thiolate (Figure 2A). The asymmetric unit is composed

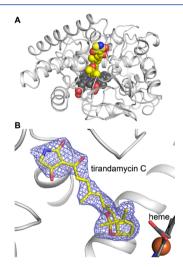


Figure 2. Structure of TamI in complex with 1. (A) Cartoon representation of the complex. 1 is shown in yellow space-filling model; heme is shown in black. (B) Omit map (Fo–Fc) for 1. The bicyclic ketal is proximal to the heme.

of eight unique chains which are differentiated by their crystal packing environment and show high conformational similarity (rms deviations < 0.3 Å) (Figure S3); therefore, the best-ordered chain (chain A, average B-factor 50 Ų) was used for analysis and interpretation. Structural analysis revealed CYP267B1 (6GK5), CYP154C5 (4J6C), CYP245A1 (2Z3U), and CreJ (5GWE) as the closest homologues with an average rms deviation of 2.1 Å (DALI). These enzymes are involved in oxidation of medium-chain fatty acids, steroids, alkaloids, and alkylphenols. $^{20-23}$

Tirandamycin C is unambiguously bound in the active site with well-defined electron density for the entire molecule (Figure 2B). The bound substrate is enveloped completely within the enzyme without evidence of direct access to bulk solvent. Tirandamycin C makes close contacts with the enzyme throughout its structure (Figure 2B). The tetramic acid moiety is bound in a pocket composed of segments of four distinct loop regions of the protein: the β 1-1/2 loop (residues Val42, Pro43, and Val44), the BC loop (Phe92), the FG loop (Val185), and the β 3-3/2 loop (Ser 397, Thr398, and Leu399) (Figure 3A). Tetramic acid binding is mediated by several

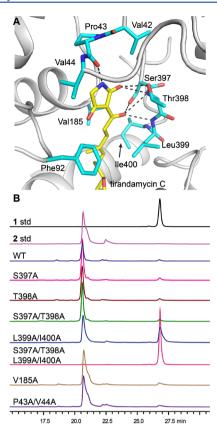


Figure 3. Tetramic acid-binding site. (A) Stick representation of key contacts proximal to tetramic acid. (B) HPLC traces for endpoint assays with TamI mutants. Signal is UV absorbance at 340 nm. 2 shows peak shoulder due to tautomerization in methanol.

direct polar interactions via the carbonyl oxygen of Pro43, the amide nitrogen of Thr398 and Leu399, and the side chain hydroxyls of Ser397 and Thr398, and by hydrophobic contacts with the side chains of Val44 and Phe92 (Figure 3A).

In addition to the tetramic acid component of the substrate, there are several interactions along the length of the polyene chain and the bicyclic ketal. The linear polyene predominantly contacts residues from the β 3-3/2 loop region (Leu399 and Ile400), FG region (Val185), and BC loop (Phe92). These hydrophobic side chains constrict the binding site in this region and lead to a hydrophobic pocket adjacent to the heme center in which the bicyclic ketal is bound. Numerous hydrophobic side chains line the binding site of the bicyclic ketal (Leu101, Leu244, and Leu295) in addition to other residues (His102, Gly248, Thr252 and Thr299) (Figure 4A). Consistent with the observed order of oxidation by TamI in which C10 is first hydroxylated to form 2, the C10 atom distance to the heme iron is 4.1 Å, which is suitable for hydroxylation upon redox partner binding and iron-oxo formation. The conserved I-helix residues Glu250 and Thr251, which have been implicated in proton delivery during dioxygen activation²⁴ are also found in this region adjacent to the bicyclic ketal moiety.

Mutagenesis and Biochemical Characterization to Probe the Molecular Basis of Substrate Binding and Anchoring Mechanisms. Based on the PikC crystal structure in which a salt—bridge interaction distal momentum the site of oxidation provided substrate anchoring, ^{18,25,26} we sought to investigate whether the tetramic acid moiety of 1 could have an analogous role in TamI. Numerous polar interactions about

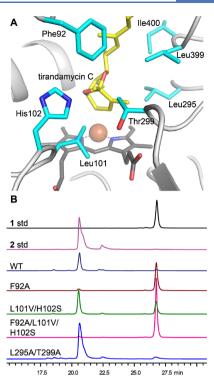


Figure 4. Bicyclic ketal-binding site. (A) Stick representation of key contacts proximal to the tirandamycin bicyclic ketal. (B) HPLC traces for endpoint assays with Taml mutants. Signal is UV absorbance at 340 nm. 2 shows peak shoulder due to tautomerization in methanol.

the tetramic acid moiety in the TamI active site appear consistent with a mechanism that permits iterative oxidation of the distal bicyclic ketal, which we probed experimentally and computationally (see below). Mutagenesis of TamI active site residues in proximity to 1 was performed to assess their specific roles in catalysis. TamI mutant assays were conducted using an optimized three component system composed of TamI, spinach ferredoxin, and ferredoxin reductase. To probe whether the dienoyl tetramic acid moiety of the native substrate 1 plays a role in substrate anchoring, we performed mutagenesis of active site residues (Ser397, Thr398, Pro43, Val44, and Val185) (Figure 3). Based on the complex structure, we hypothesized that the polar interactions mediated by the side chain hydroxyl groups of Ser397 and Thr398 could be required for proper substrate binding and perhaps could act as a substrate anchor similar to the desosamine sugar of narbomycin/YC-17 and Asp50/Glu85 in PikC. 18,25,26 Therefore, we prepared single (S397A, T398A, and V185A) and double (P43A/V44A) amino acid variants. Analysis of these mutants, however, revealed no evident changes in the product profile or abundance compared to wild-type TamI in an endpoint assay. Furthermore, these variants showed minor perturbations in K_d measured by the UV spectral assay where addition of the substrate was used to displace the axial water ligand (Table S2, Figure S4). This demonstrated that these polar side chain interactions near the dienoyl tetramic acid moiety have no direct influence on the TamI-mediated 1 to 2 conversion and refuted a tetramic acid-based anchoring mechanism. Considering the array of backbone-mediated interactions with the tetramic acid moiety, and also the numerous close contacts along the full substrate molecule, we expanded our analysis to alternative active site interactions with bound 1.

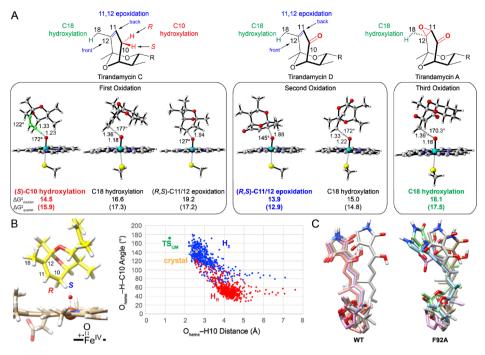


Figure 5. Computational analysis of TamI iterative oxidation. (A) Intrinsic energy for each of the three oxidation steps in tirandamycin biosynthesis. (B) MD simulations showing TamI interaction with 1. The pro-S hydrogen resides closer to the QM ideal transition-state (green dot) geometry in the crystal structure (orange dot) and throughout the simulation. (C) Overlays of top five occupied clusters for 1 with WT and F92A TamI.

Thus, we examined a cluster of hydrophobic and aromatic residues (Leu399, Ile400, and Phe92) located near the polyene region of the substrate. Substitution of Phe92 with alanine resulted in complete loss of catalytic activity in an end-point assay. The double mutant L399A/I400A demonstrated significantly reduced activity (Figure 3B). In these cases, the spectrophotometric assay showed no shift for these mutants (Figure S5) likely indicating perturbed substrate binding. These data indicated that the aromatic and hydrophobic residues surrounding the substrate are critical for C-10 hydroxylation.

Finally, we probed the active site residues (Leu101, His102, Leu295, and Thr299) proximal to the bicyclic ketal moiety for their role in substrate binding and product profile. We created a double mutant (L101V/H102S) to examine the impact of increasing the active site volume. However, we did not observe any change in the product profile that would indicate relaxed site selectivity for the first oxidation event; instead, we observed a significant decrease in 1 to 2 conversion. Presumably, the Leu101 and His102 side chains are important for substrate binding through interactions with the C14 methyl group, which is evident in the crystal structure. Specifically, the $C\delta$ atom of Leu101 is at ~3.4 Å and $N\varepsilon$ of His102 is at ~4 Å in relation to the oxygen atoms of the bicyclic ketal moiety in 1. These interactions may be required for proper positioning of the bicyclic moiety with respect to the heme iron for C10 hydroxylation. We also generated alanine substitutions at Leu295 and Thr299, which are located on the opposite side of the active site and in proximity of the bicyclic ketal moiety. However, this TamI double mutant displayed wild-type activity in its ability to convert substrate to 2 (Figure 4).

In summary, mutagenesis studies revealed that the hydrophobic residues in proximity to substrate 1 (Leu399, Ile400, and Phe92) are essential for C-10 hydroxylation. These data further suggested that the polyene chains of tirandamycin

substrates are a critical component and that appropriate substrate orientation is achieved through hydrophobic and steric interactions with nonpolar residues (Leu399 and Ile400) and the aromatic ring of Phe92.

Computational Investigation of Regio- and Stereoselectivity for Sequential Reactivity and Pattern of Oxidation. A notable feature of the TamI enzyme is its ability to selectively oxidize multiple positions of tirandamycins in a specific and sequential manner. We used computational methods of density functional theory (DFT) and MD simulations to characterize the intrinsic reactivity of these competing oxidations on the tirandamycin substrates and classify how the enzyme influences the regio- and stereoselectivity.

Using a truncated model of the tirandamycins C, D, and A containing the bicyclic ketal moiety and the reactive Fe(IV)oxo radical cation, we used DFT methods to calculate the transition-state barriers for all competing oxidations, C10 hydroxylation, C11/12 epoxidation, and C18 hydroxylation (Figure 5A). For the first substrate in the oxidative cascade, 1, the lowest energy barrier is at the C10 position for allylic hydroxylation with no difference between abstracting the R or S hydrogen as they both have C-H abstraction barriers of 14.5 kcal/mol (Figures 5A and S6). This matches the experimentally observed regioselectivity, but it indicates that the active site environment of TamI is essential for distinguishing the selectivity between these diastereomeric transition states. For 3, the second substrate in the TamI oxidation cascade, the front facing epoxidation at C11/12 is lowest in energy by 1.9 kcal/mol, which matches the experimentally observed stereoselectivity and reaction specificity (Figures 5A and S7). Last, we calculated the transition-state barriers for the final substrate, 4, which has a barrier of 17.5 kcal/mol. These calculated energetic barriers through the oxidation cascade match the trend reported for the TamI-RhFRED fusion protein, where $k_{\rm cat}$ drops significantly (0.11 min⁻¹) for the final oxidation of 4 compared to the first oxidation of 1 (40.5 min⁻¹) or the second oxidation of 3 (83.8 min⁻¹).¹² These energetic trends match the order of sequential reactivity without accounting for the effect of the enzyme environment on the activation barriers. Thus, we analyzed more of the stereoselectivity and how TamI biases toward the experimentally observed reactions, particularly for the C10 allylic hydroxylation step.

MD simulations were performed to analyze the influence of TamI on the regio- and stereoselectivity within the oxidative cascade. We performed the simulations beginning from the cocrystal structure of 1 with TamI. To ensure these simulations were representative, the tautomeric state of the tetramic acid was examined computationally (Figure S8) with the enol tautomer 1 having the lowest relative energy. The distances of key atoms of the 1 bicyclic ketal (C10-C11-C12-C18) from the reactive Fe(IV)-oxo radical cation were tracked to explore the regioselectivity of the first oxidation event. Both C10 and C11 remained within ~4 Å throughout the 500 ns simulation, consistent with initial C10 hydroxylation (Figure S9). We next analyzed how the enzyme orients the substrate geometry at C10 relative to the Fe(IV)-oxo radical cation and compared to the ideal transition-state geometry calculated with QM. By plotting the O_{heme}-H10 distance and O_{heme}-H-C10 angle for both the S and R hydrogens relative to that of the ideal transition-state geometry, we find that TamI controls the orientation of 1 such that the S hydrogen is closer to a transition-state geometry for the duration of the simulation (Figure 5B). This suggests that TamI controls the stereoselectivity for this C10 allylic hydroxylation step, which is likely due to the hydrophobic interactions according to the experimental mutational analysis, and is consistent with the isolation of a single C10 stereoisomer from the fermentation broth of *Streptomyces* sp. 307-9 $\Delta tamL$. ¹² MD simulations were similarly performed on both 3 and 4, which revealed that the orientation of the tirandamycin substrates changed upon increasing oxidation. The geometry of the substrate throughout these simulations, including a dihedral angle for epoxidation of 3 and the angle for C-H abstraction of 4, was compared to those of the ideal transition-state geometry (Figure S10), which reveals that the tirandamycins can occupy the appropriate geometry for the expected reactivity in the enzyme active site. This is also demonstrated in visualizing the top occupied clusters of the MD simulations, which when overlayed, show different substrate-binding modes as the oxidation cascade progresses and reveal that the expected reactive position for 3 and 4 (C12 and H18, respectively) to be closest to the reactive Fe(IV)-oxo radical cation in the corresponding simulations (Figure S10).

As reported, mutagenesis experiments highlighted the importance of the hydrophobic residues within TamI's active site: F92, L399, and I400. We analyzed the influence of these residues on the substrate orientation by performing MD simulations of WT TamI with 1, as well as the single point mutants, F92A, L399A, and I400A. We found that the root-mean-square deviation of 1 within these various simulations is much lower in the WT relative to the mutants, which shows that the substrate maintains a more stable geometry within the active site (Figures 5C and S11). However, 1 occupies many different positions in the active sites of the F92A, L399A, and I400A mutants, suggesting that these residues are essential for generating the proper geometry for catalysis.

The MD simulations provided insights into the binding mode of tirandamycin C in comparison to other P450s regarding substrate anchoring, which has been a key component of substrate engineering efforts with biocatalytic P450s. Surprisingly, the extensive polar interactions about the tetramic acid observed in the crystal structure (Figures 2 and 3) rapidly relax within the first few nanoseconds of the MD simulation (Figure S12), while proximity of the bicyclic ketal to the heme center is maintained. Consistent with the experimental data, this observation also indicates that hydrophobic interactions around the polyene region are most critical for productive substrate binding and catalysis in TamI. These combined biochemical, structural, and computational analyses reveal key determinants for binding and catalysis that are distinct from the homologous P450 PikC (47% seq id) in which electrostatic interactions between carboxylate side chains and the desosamine dimethylamino groups are paramount. This was unexpected, given the similarity between the active site architecture and apparent substrate-binding mode in the complex structures (Figure 6). Given the work

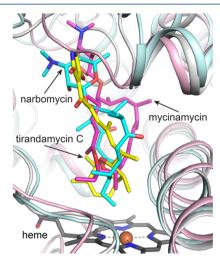


Figure 6. Overlay of TamI with PikC and MycCI. Despite the evident similarity in the binding mode of their respective substrates, different factors drive molecular recognition in TamI (gray) compared to PikC (cyan, 2C7X) and MycCI (magenta, 5FOI). 1 is colored yellow.

from related macrolide oxidizing P450s MycC1²⁷ (41% seq id-TamI) and TylH1²⁸ (35% seq id-TamI), we observe that natural product biosynthetic P450s employ a variety of strategies to accommodate substrates, and that subtle differences can have pronounced functional outcomes. In the case of TylH1, mutation of a few key residues in the BC and FG-loop region was sufficient to convert a "specialist" enzyme with a narrow substrate scope into a "generalist" that could accommodate a variety of glycosylated (e.g., macrolide) and nonglycosylated (e.g., macrolactone) substrates' reminiscent of its homolog MycC1. Future exploration of substrate scope and protein engineering in TamI will be enabled by the conceptual basis established in this work.

CONCLUSIONS

The current structural and computational investigation of TamI demonstrated the overall structure, molecular basis of substrate binding, and pattern of sequential oxidation of 1. Comparison of these structures highlights the conformational movement upon substrate binding. The substrate-bound form

of TamI adopts a closed state in which 1 is buried inside the protein core consistent with previous reports of substrateinduced conformational changes in P450 enzymes. The tirandamycin C-bound structure of TamI revealed key residues responsible for catalysis. TamI mutational analysis demonstrated that steric and hydrophobic interactions mediated by Phe92, Leu399, and Ile400 are critical for 1 oxidation. These experimental observations were further verified by MD simulations of the alanine mutants of Phe92, Leu399, and Ile400 in which we observed that the substrate samples diverse binding orientations due to the loss of hydrophobic and π - π interactions. Overall, these data reveal the dominance of hydrophobic interactions with the entire substrate for adequate positioning in the active site. QM calculations describe the inherent preference of C10 (secondary allylic carbon) hydroxylation of 1 in the first oxidation step but displayed no energetic preference for the stereoselectivity in C10 hydroxylation. MD simulations demonstrate that TamI orients the substrate in a specific geometry where the pro-S hydrogen is closer to the ferryl oxygen for abstraction. This observation verifies the single stereoisomer isolated from the fermentation broth of Streptomyces sp. 307-9 ΔtamL.¹² QM calculations provide further insights into the energetic preference for the subsequent reactions in the cascade that match the experimentally observed order of oxidation. MD simulations with 3 and 4 demonstrated that the substrate binding orientations consistent with idealized geometries are preferred in the active site environment. Together these results provide detailed information on physiochemical principles that control substrate binding, specificity, and selectivity of TamI in catalyzing iterative multistep C-H oxidation of tirandamycin intermediates to produce increasingly potent antibiotic molecules.²⁹ This investigation further underscores the importance of identifying and exploring multifunctional natural product biosynthetic tailoring enzymes that catalyze late-stage C–H functionalization of complex organic compounds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials and General Experimental Procedures. Unless otherwise noted, chemicals, reagents, and solvents were purchased from EMD Millipore, Sigma-Aldrich, and Thermo Fisher Scientific. Agarose for gel electrophoresis was purchased from BioExpress (VWR). Kanamycin sulfate, isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG), and dithiothreitol (DTT) were obtained from Gold Biotechnology. Tris-HCl, ampicillin disodium salt, and NADP+ were purchased from Amresco. Chloramphenicol was obtained from Roche. Thiamine and NADPH were purchased from Chem-Impex. δ -Aminolevulinic acid was purchased from Oakwood Chemical. Lysozyme was purchased from RPI. Imidazole was purchased from AK Scientific. Amicon Ultra centrifugal filters used for protein concentration were purchased from EMD Millipore. PD-10 columns were purchased from GE Healthcare. Glucose-6-phosphate was purchased from Biosynth, and glucose-6phosphate dehydrogenase (yeast) was purchased from Alfa Aesar.

Deionized water was obtained from a Milli-Q system (EMD Millipore) using Q-Gard 2/Quantum Ex Ultrapure organex cartridges. Media components for *Escherichia coli* growth were purchased from EMD Millipore, Sigma-Aldrich, and Thermo Fisher Scientific unless otherwise specified. Glycerol was purchased from BDH (VWR). LB broth (Miller) and LB agar (Miller) were obtained in pre-made granulated form from

EMD Millipore. TB broth was made from individually purchased components and consisted of 4% (v/v) glycerol. Media and solutions were autoclaved or sterile filtered before use. For bacterial culture, all media solutions, buffers, and other solutions were autoclaved, and pH was monitored using a VWR sympHony SB70P pH meter calibrated according to the manufacturer's specifications. When specified, room temperature (rt) was \sim 22–23 °C.

DNA oligonucleotides for cloning and mutagenesis were purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies. PCR was performed using a Bio-Rad iCycler thermal cycler system. Restriction endonucleases and other associated molecular biology reagents were purchased from New England Biolabs. Invitrogen PCR cleanup/gel extraction and plasmid miniprep kits were purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific. All DNA manipulations were accomplished following the manufacturer's protocols. DNA concentrations and protein purity indexes were measured using a NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer. The DNA sequencing was performed at the University of Michigan DNA Sequencing Core. E. coli DH5 α was used for plasmid preparation and maintenance while *E. coli* BL21(DE3) was used for protein overexpression. Chemically competent E. coli cells were prepared using the method of Inoue.³⁰ Optical density (OD₆₀₀) was measured using an Eppendorf BioPhotometer.

Protein purifications were performed manually using prepacked Ni²⁺-NTA columns with GE peristaltic pump P1 and automatically with GE columns and AKTA Pure FPLC machine, Reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) purification was performed using Luna C18 columns with the following specifications: dimensions, 150 \times 4.6 mm; particle size, 5 μ m; pore size, 100 Å; and a solvent system of acetonitrile and H_2O supplemented with 0.1% formic acid.

All protein figures were generated using PyMol software.

Cloning, Site-Directed Mutagenesis, and Preparation of Recombinant Enzymes. The tamI_pSJ2 expression vector was constructed, as described previously. For crystallization, tamI was subcloned into a modified pET28 vector containing a tobacco etch virus (TEV) protease cleavable N-terminal His₈ tag using the "Quikchange" cloning protocol ("tamI_pET28H8T"). Site-directed mutagenesis of TamI was performed by PCR using Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase and a standard site-directed mutagenesis protocol. All constructs and mutations were verified by Sanger DNA sequencing at the University of Michigan DNA Sequencing Core.

Overexpression and Purification of Taml and **Recombinant Mutant Proteins.** Expression and purification of TamI from the tamI_pSJ2 expression vector were conducted, as described previously. 12 The construct tamI pET28H8T was used to transform E. coli BL21(DE3) for protein overexpression. Individual colonies were selected for overnight growth (37 °C) in 10 mL LB containing kanamycin (50 μ g/mL). 6 × 1 L of TB (2.8 L Fernbach flasks), supplemented with kanamycin (50 μ g/mL), and glycerol (4% v/v) were inoculated with 10 mL overnight cultures and incubated at 37 °C (200 rpm). When the OD₆₀₀ reached 0.6-1.0, the cultures cooled in an ice-water bath (10-20 min)before IPTG (0.2 mM) and δ -aminolevulinic acid (1 mM) were added to induce protein expression and to promote production of the heme cofactor in E. coli, respectively. The cultures were grown at 18 °C for 18-20 h before the cells were

harvested by centrifugation and stored at -80 °C. The following purification steps were performed on ice or at 4 °C. The cells were thawed and resuspended in 30 mL of lysis buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4 at rt, 50 mM NaCl, 10% (v/ v) glycerol, 1 mM PMSF, 0.5 mg/mL lysozyme, 2 mM MgCl₂, 5-10 U/mL benzonase nuclease] per 1 L of original overexpression culture (i.e., 2-3 mL per 1 g of cells). The cell suspension was incubated on a nutating shaker for 1 h prior to sonication using a model 705 Sonic Dismembrator (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and centrifugation at 50,000g for 30 min to remove cellular debris. To the resulting clarified lysate, 4 M solutions of NaCl and imidazole were added to final concentrations of 300 and 10 mM, respectively. The lysate was filtered through a syringe-operated 0.45 µm filter (Corning) before loading onto a prepacked column containing 7 mL of Ni-NTA resin (Qiagen) using peristaltic pumps (GE Healthcare). The loaded material was washed with 5 column volumes (CV) of wash buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole, 10% (v/v) glycerol] followed by 10 CV of wash buffer containing 5% elution buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 300 mM NaCl, 300 mM imidazole, 10% (v/ v) glycerol] to remove additional protein contaminants. TamI was eluted with elution buffer and the fractions containing pure material were assessed by sodium dodecyl sulphatepolyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and by monitoring absorbance A_{420}/A_{280} . Pooled fractions were concentrated using 30 kD molecular weight cut-off (MWCO) centrifugal filters. Concentrated protein was dialyzed against storage buffer [50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM DTT, 10% (v/v) glycerol]. Aliquots of purified protein were flash frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at -80 °C. The concentration of functional P450 was assessed by obtaining CO difference spectra according to the established protocol.³¹ For crystallization, the His-tag was removed after Ni²⁺-NTA purification by incubation with purified TEV protease (1:30 molar ratio) during dialysis in storage buffer overnight. Uncleaved TamI and the His-tagged TEV were removed by applying the digest to a Ni²⁺-NTA column equilibrated with loading buffer. Cleaved TamI was collected in the flow-through fractions and concentrated using an Amicon Millipore concentrator (30 kD MWCO). The concentrated TamI solution was subjected to size exclusion purification via an AKTA FPLC system (GE Healthcare) with Superdex 200 Increase 10/300 GL column in storage buffer [50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM DTT, 5% (v/v) glycerol]. Purified fractions were flash frozen in liquid N_2 and stored at -80 °C. To obtain a crystal structure of the TamI·tirandamycin C substrate complex, TamI was incubated overnight with 0.2 mM TirC at 4 °C.

The UV-visible spectrum of the purified substrate-free TamI exhibited a major (γ) Soret peak at 417 and the smaller α and β bands at 567 and 533 nm, respectively, indicating that the TamI protein exists in its low spin state. The dithionite reduced spectrum of TamI displayed the absorption maximum of the Soret band at 410 nm. The reduced carbon monoxide bound form of the protein showed a typical peak maximum at 450 nm.

Expression and Purification of Other Proteins. The plasmid (pMAL-c, New England Biolabs) encoding spinach ferredoxin reductase linked to the C-terminus of *E. coli* maltose-binding protein was obtained as a gift from Dr. Giuliana Zanetti. This construct was transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells, and proteins were expressed and purified, as

described previously.²⁷ Spinach ferredoxin was expressed and purified as noted elsewhere.³²

Structure of Substrate-Free Taml. Initial efforts to determine the TamI crystal structure were conducted using a tamI-pSI2 expression vector containing an N-terminal Hiss tag. 12 Crystals grown with this construct were used to solve the TamI structure by molecular replacement and revealed a single polypeptide chain in the asymmetric unit; however, the P450 active site was occupied by 16 N-terminal residues of a symmetry-related protomer (Figure S1). The bound Nterminal segment was derived from the linker region between the Hiss tag and the EcoRI restriction site and prompted us to prepare a TEV-cleavable construct (tamI-pET28H8T) where the affinity tag and linker could be removed by digestion. Crystals of substrate-free TamI were grown by vapor diffusion at 20 °C with a well solution composed of 3.5 M sodium formate, pH 7.0, and 0.1 M strontium chloride. Crystals were harvested using nylon loops and vitrified by rapid plunging into liquid nitrogen. Substrate-free TamI crystallized in the space group *I*422 with unit cell dimensions of a = 154.5, b = 154.5, c = 154.5= 91.8 Å and one chain in the asymmetric unit. X-ray data were collected at 100 K on the Advanced Light Source 8.3.1 beamline in Berkeley CA, USA. Diffraction data were integrated and scaled using MOSFLM³³ and SCALA.³⁴ The structure of TamI was solved by molecular replacement with Phaser-MR³⁵ using PikC (PDBid: 2X5W, chain B) as a search model. Three rounds of autobuild using Buccaneer³⁴ were used to provide initial model. Iterative rounds of manual building in Coot³⁶ and refinement with Refmac³ Phenix.refine³⁸ were used to furnish the final model. Data collection and refinement statistics are given in Table S2.

Structure of Tirandamycin C-Bound Taml. TEVcleaved TamI in the presence of tirandamycin C gave a different crystal form with eight chains in the asymmetric unit and substrate bound in each active site (Figures 2 and S2). Crystals of tirandamycin C-bound TamI were grown by vapor diffusion by mixing 2 μ L of 7 mg/mL tirandamycin C-bound TamI with 2 μ L of a well solution composed of 1.6 M ammonium sulfate, 0.9 M sodium chloride, 0.1 M bis-Tris, pH 6.5, and 2.5% ethylene glycol. Narrow, rod-shaped crystals were cryoprotected by the addition of well solution containing 9% ethylene glycol, 0.2 mM tirandamycin C, 2% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) directly to the sitting droplets. Crystals were harvested using nylon loops and vitrified by rapid plunging into liquid nitrogen. TamI-tirandamycin C complex crystallized in the space group C2 with unit cell dimensions of a = 224.6, b = 57.2, c = 282.7 Å, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 90.9^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ and eight chains in the asymmetric unit. X-ray data were collected at 100 K on beamline 23ID-B at the General Medical Sciences and Cancer Institute Structural Biology Facility at the Advanced Photon Source in Argonne, IL, USA using helical data collection along the long axis of the rod-shaped crystal. Diffraction data were integrated and scaled using X-ray diffuse scattering.³⁹ The structure was solved by molecular replacement with Phaser-MR³⁵ using substrate-free TamI as a search model. To generate the initial model, Phenix.autobuild³⁸ was performed using an eightfold-NCS averaged map. Iterative rounds of manual building in Coot³⁶ and refinement with Phenix.refine³⁸ were used to furnish the final model. Data collection and refinement statistics are given in Table S1.

UV-Visible Absorption Spectroscopy. Measurement of UV-visible spectra for TamI and mutant protein were measured at rt on Molecular Devices SpectraMax M5 UV-

visible spectrophotometer. Proteins dissolved in 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, were used for the measurement of spectra of the oxidized and the reduced form of TamI. The mutant proteins were reduced with a few grains of sodium dithionite, and the concentration of the active P450 form of TamI was confirmed by CO-difference spectroscopy using $\varepsilon(450-490) = 91 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. After CO bubbling of the solution for 30-40 s, the spectrum of CObound reduced P450 species was recorded using the previously reduced spectrum for the same sample as a reference (Figure S13). The spectral shifts induced by tirandamycin binding were assayed at rt under aerobic conditions. Using a parent stock of tirandamycin C in DMSO, serial dilutions were prepared to obtain stock solutions of varying concentrations of substrates for binding experiments. Purified P450s were diluted in storage buffer to a final concentration of 1 µM and transferred to a 1 cm quartz cuvette (Beckman). Varying concentrations of substrates were independently titrated into the solution in small aliquots ($<2 \mu L$) to achieve the desired final concentrations. Scans were recorded from 365 to 429 nm (2 nm steps) until the P450s became saturated. The starting spectrum was subtracted from subsequent experimental spectra, and average absorbance differences ($\Delta A = A_{\text{peak}}$ - A_{trough}) were plotted against concentrations of substrates. The dissociation constant (K_d) for the P450s was calculated by fitting data points to either a nonlinear tight-binding quadratic equation (Equation 1) for high-affinity ligands ($K_d \le 5 \mu M$) or a rectangular hyperbolic function (Equation 2) for low-affinity ligands ($K_d \ge 5 \mu M$) using the GraphPad Prism 8 software. All titrations were performed in triplicates, and the K_d values reported represent the average of the three sets of data.

$$\Delta A = (A_{\text{max}}/2[E])(K_{\text{d}} + [E] + [S]) - (K_{\text{d}} + [E] + [S])^{2} - 4[E][S]^{1/2}$$
(1)

$$\Delta A = A_{\text{max}}[S]/(K_{\text{d}} + [S]) \tag{2}$$

where ΔA = average absorbance difference (peak-to-trough) at each titration point; A_{\max} = maximum absorbance difference at substrate saturation; [E] = total enzyme concentration; and [S] = substrate concentration.

Enzyme Assays. Isolation of 1 has been described previously.²⁹ The *in vitro* enzymatic conversions of tirandamycins were performed in a total volume of 250 µL of conversion buffer (50 mM NaH₂PO₄, pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM dithioerythritol, 10% glycerol) containing 500 μ M substrates, 2 μ M TamI, 4 mM spinach ferredoxin, 2 μ M ferredoxin-NADP+ reductase, 1mM MgCl₂, 5 mM glucose-6phosphate, and 1 U/mL glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase in storage buffer [50 mM NaH₂PO₄, pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM DTT, 10% (v/v) glycerol]. Reactions were incubated at 30 °C (100 rpm) for 3 h before quenching by extraction using 2 × 200 mL of CHCl₃. The resulting organic extract was dried, redissolved in 120 mL of methanol, and analyzed by the addition of 100 μ L of methanol with HPLC. All reactions were performed and analyzed in triplicate. HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent 1100 Series HPLC system with UV detection at 354 nm using a Phenomenex Luna C18 column with the following specifications: dimensions, 150×4.6 mm; particle size, 5 μ m; and pore size, 100 Å. For analysis of reactions, HPLC conditions we used were as following: mobile phase (A = deionized water + 0.1% formic acid, B = acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid) and the gradient 10% B for

1 min, 10 to 75% B over 35 min, 95% B for 1 min, and 10% B for 2 min.

Computational Methods. QM: conformational searches were performed with the Merck molecular force field in Spartan. All QM calculations were performed with Gaussian 09. 40 Geometry optimizations and frequencies calculations were performed at the B3LYP level with LANL2DZ 41 for iron and 6-31G(d) for all other atoms. Transition structures contained one negative frequency. Enthalpies and free energies were computed at 1 atm and 298.15 K. A correction to the entropy was applied in accordance with the work of Zhao and Truhlar. 42 Single point energy computations were performed at the B3LYP-D3(BJ) level with LANL2DZ for iron and 6-311+G(d,p) in the gas phase for all calculations, except for the tetramic acid tautomer comparison, which included a conductor-like polarizable continuum model for water.

MD Simulations. The heme iron(IV)-oxo complex involved in the cytochrome-catalyzed oxidative hydroxylation and epoxidation cycle (compound I) was used to model the active form of the cofactor. Simulations were performed using the GPU code (pmemd)⁴³ of the Amber 12 package,⁴⁴ The Amber-compatible parameters developed by Cheatham et al. were used for compound I and its axial Cys ligand.⁴⁵ Parameters for tirandamycin substrates were generated within the antechamber module using the general AMBER force field (gaff), 46 with partial charges set to fit the electrostatic potential generated at the HF/6-31G(d) level by the RESP model.⁴⁷ The charges were calculated according to the Merz-Singh-Kollman^{48,49} scheme using Gaussian 09. Each protein was immersed in a pre-equilibrated truncated cuboid box with a 10 Å buffer of TIP3P^{50*} water molecules using the tleap module, resulting in the addition of around 11,370 solvent molecules. The systems were neutralized by addition of explicit counter ions (Na⁺ and Cl⁻). All subsequent calculations were carried out using the widely tested Stony Brook modification of the Amber 99 forced field (ff99sb).46 The substrate and enzyme were optimized for total 1,000,000 steps, with 750,000 steepest descent steps and 250,000 conjugate gradient steps. The systems were gently heated using six 50 ps steps, incrementing the temperature by 50 K for each step (0-300 K) under constant volume and periodic-boundary conditions. Water molecules were treated with the SHAKE algorithm such that the angle between hydrogen atoms were kept fixed. Long-range electrostatic effects were modeled using the particle-mesh-Ewald method.⁵¹ An 8 Å cutoff was applied to the Lennard-Jones and electrostatic interactions. Harmonic restraints of 30 kcal/(mol Å²) were applied to the solute, and the Andersen equilibration scheme was used to control and equalize the temperature. The time step was kept at 1 fs during the heating stages, allowing potential inhomogeneities to self-adjust. Each system was then equilibrated for 2 ns with a 2 fs time step at a constant volume. Production trajectories were then run for an additional 500 ns under the same simulation conditions.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acscatal.0c03248.

Crystallographic coordinates and data for TamI substrate free (PDB: 6XA3) and TamI in complex with tirandamycin C (PDB: 6XA2) through the Worldwide Protein Data Bank (PDF)

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