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**Structure and function of the eukaryotic  
ADP-dependent glucokinase**

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## Abstract

The ADP-dependent glucokinase enzymes (ADPGK) are the first new glycolytic enzymes to be discovered in over 40 years. This class of enzymes was first described in thermophilic archaea in 1994. A decade later, an ADPGK from a eukaryote was also identified and characterised. The ADPGK enzymes catalyse a phosphorylation reaction converting glucose and ADP to glucose-6-phosphate and AMP. The enzyme is well studied in extremophilic archaea, where ADPGK is part of a set of glycolytic enzymes that use ADP instead of ATP for the phosphorylation of various sugars. However, ADPGK has also been found in the genomes of mesophilic species and higher eukaryotes, suggesting that the enzyme is not necessarily an adaptation to high temperatures. In eukaryotes, ADPGK has been linked to a modified glycolysis pathway that is required for T-cell activation. While crystal structures of the archaeal ADPGKs are known, no structure of a eukaryotic ADPGK had been solved before the work undertaken in this thesis. In this thesis, the kinetic analysis of a recombinant form of *Homo sapiens* ADPGK and the crystal structure of a truncated form of *Mus musculus* ADPGK are presented. Both enzymes were expressed recombinantly in *E. coli* and purified in soluble form. The kinetic parameters determined for *H. sapiens* ADPGK proved to be comparable to the mouse enzyme, which had been published earlier. In addition, the phosphoryl acceptor specificity of *H. sapiens* ADPGK was extensively tested by  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR, where the enzyme proved to be highly specific for D-glucose. Residues important for catalysis have been modified by site-directed mutagenesis and the variants of *H. sapiens* ADPGK were purified and kinetic parameters determined. A single crystal was obtained from a truncated variant of *M. musculus* ADPGK, which diffracted to 2.1 Å. The structure of *M. musculus* ADPGK could be solved by molecular replacement using the known crystal structures of the archaeal ADPGKs for initial phasing. It proved to be quite similar to the archaeal, ADPGKs, despite the low sequence identity. The combined data in this work improves our understanding of the conservation of the structure-function relationship of eukaryotic ADPGKs.



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## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>ADP-dependent glucokinases .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.1	Introduction to ADPGK .....	1
1.1.2	ADPGK and the evolution of glycolysis .....	1
1.1.3	Regulation of glycolysis .....	4
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Structural and functional features of the ribokinase superfamily.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.2.1	ADPGK and the ribokinase family of proteins.....	7
1.2.2	Structure and function of archaeal ADPGK .....	9
<b>1.3</b>	<b>ADPGK in eukaryotes.....</b>	<b>15</b>
1.3.1	ADPGK in eukaryotes .....	15
1.3.2	ADPGK and hypoxia in eukaryotes.....	15
1.3.3	ADPGK and T-cell activation in eukaryotes .....	17
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Aims of this work.....</b>	<b>21</b>
1.4.1	Structural and functional characterisation of eukaryotic ADPGK .....	21
<b>2</b>	<b>Materials and Methods .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Equipment and reagents .....</b>	<b>23</b>
2.1.1	Water .....	23
2.1.2	Chemicals.....	23
2.1.3	cDNA source material.....	23
2.1.4	<i>E. coli</i> strains for cloning and protein expression.....	24
2.1.5	Primers .....	24
2.1.6	Expression vectors .....	25
2.1.7	Crystallisation supplies and screens.....	25
2.1.8	Chromatography columns and system .....	26
<b>2.2</b>	<b><i>In silico</i> analysis of proteins.....</b>	<b>27</b>
2.2.1	Alignments .....	27
2.2.2	Homology modelling and structure predictions.....	27
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Recombinant protein expression in <i>E. coli</i>.....</b>	<b>29</b>
2.3.1	Growth media for <i>E. coli</i> .....	29
2.3.2	Cryo-stocks of <i>E. coli</i> cells .....	29
2.3.3	Preparation of chemically competent <i>E. coli</i> cells.....	29
2.3.4	Transformation of chemically competent <i>E. coli</i> cells .....	30

2.3.5	Large scale protein expression in <i>E. coli</i> .....	30
2.3.6	Lysis of bacterial cells for soluble protein extraction .....	31
2.3.7	Isolation of ADPGK inclusion bodies for refolding .....	31
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Molecular cloning of nucleic acids .....</b>	<b>33</b>
2.4.1	DNA sequencing .....	33
2.4.2	Polymerase chain reaction .....	33
2.4.3	Agarose gel electrophoresis .....	33
2.4.4	Restriction digest of DNA for cloning .....	34
2.4.5	Ligation using T4 DNA Ligase .....	34
2.4.6	Ligase-free TOPO® cloning .....	34
2.4.7	Colony PCR .....	34
2.4.8	Procedure for <i>in vitro</i> site-directed mutagenesis .....	35
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Protein purification and analysis .....</b>	<b>37</b>
2.5.1	Protein quantitation .....	37
2.5.2	SDS-PAGE .....	37
2.5.3	Native PAGE .....	38
2.5.4	Coomassie Blue staining of protein gels.....	38
2.5.5	Western blotting.....	38
2.5.6	Procedure for expression trials .....	39
2.5.7	Immobilised metal ion affinity chromatography .....	40
2.5.8	IMAC purification of denatured protein for refolding.....	40
2.5.9	Ion-exchange chromatography .....	41
2.5.10	Size-exclusion chromatography.....	41
2.5.11	Enzymatic assays and biochemical characterisation of ADPGK .....	42
2.5.12	Dye assay for ADPGK activity.....	43
2.5.13	NMR-based ADPGK enzyme assays .....	44
2.5.14	Circular dichroism spectroscopy .....	45
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Protein crystallisation and structure determination.....</b>	<b>47</b>
2.6.1	Protein crystallisation .....	47
2.6.2	Limited proteolysis .....	47
2.6.3	Reductive methylation .....	47
2.6.4	Data collection of ADPGK crystals.....	48
2.6.5	Phasing, refinement and molecular graphics software .....	48

<b>3</b>	<b>Results .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b><i>In silico</i> analysis, construct design, molecular cloning and expression analysis of eukaryotic ADPGK.....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.1.1	Introduction .....	49
3.1.2	Sequence similarity and the prediction of sequence motifs of eukaryotic ADPGKs .....	50
3.1.3	Structural models for eukaryotic ADPGK .....	51
3.1.4	Construct design: Choosing sites for truncations and mutations .....	54
3.1.5	Subcloning into expression vectors .....	59
3.1.6	Mutants of human ADPGK .....	63
3.1.7	Optimisation of expression of human ADPGK from pBAD vector .....	64
3.1.8	IPTG-inducible expression systems for ADPGK .....	66
3.1.9	Expression in Origami hosts .....	67
3.1.10	The effect of auto-inducing media on soluble expression of ADPGK ..	70
3.1.11	Expression trials for zebrafish ADPGK in pBAD and pET vectors .....	72
3.1.12	Summary .....	73
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Purification and refolding of eukaryotic ADPGK.....</b>	<b>75</b>
3.2.1	Introduction .....	75
3.2.2	Purification of soluble rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 .....	75
3.2.3	Refolding rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 from inclusion bodies .....	78
3.2.4	Refolding optimisation of rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 with the iFold2 screen .....	80
3.2.5	Purification of soluble rhADPGK.....	82
3.2.6	Purification of soluble rhADPGK $\Delta$ 151 .....	85
3.2.7	Purification of rhADPGK functional mutants .....	87
3.2.8	Purification of soluble rmADPGK.....	92
3.2.9	Purification of soluble rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51 .....	96
3.2.10	Purification of soluble rzADPGK.....	96
3.2.11	Summary .....	97
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Activity of ADPGK.....</b>	<b>99</b>
3.3.1	Introduction .....	99
3.3.2	Determination of kinetic parameters for rhADPGK .....	99
3.3.3	Determination of kinetic parameters for functional mutants .....	103
3.3.4	Alternative substrates for rhADPGK .....	107

3.3.5	Determination of kinetic parameters for rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 .....	109
3.3.6	Determination of kinetic parameters for rzADPGK .....	111
3.3.7	Summary .....	112
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Crystal structure determination of mouse ADPGK.....</b>	<b>115</b>
3.4.1	Introduction.....	115
3.4.2	Crystallisation of ADPGK .....	115
3.4.3	Data collection and indexing .....	119
3.4.4	Phasing and refinement of the <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK structure .....	121
3.4.5	Structure of mouse ADPGK .....	131
3.4.6	The active site of the <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK .....	135
3.4.7	Summary .....	146
<b>4</b>	<b>Discussion and future outlook.....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Recombinant expression and crystallisation of ADPGK.....</b>	<b>147</b>
4.1.1	Expression, refolding and purification of eukaryotic ADPGKs .....	147
4.1.2	Crystallisation of eukaryotic ADPGKs.....	152
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Structure and function of eukaryotic ADPGK.....</b>	<b>157</b>
4.2.1	The structure of eukaryotic ADPGK .....	157
4.2.2	Enzymatic characterisation of eukaryotic ADPGK .....	161
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Outlook and future experiments .....</b>	<b>169</b>
4.3.1	Outlook and future experiments .....	169
<b>5</b>	<b>References .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Appendix .....</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Primers .....</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>cDNA sequences.....</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Standard and calibration curves.....</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Signal peptide and transmembrane domain predictions.....</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Sequence alignments .....</b>	<b>199</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Overview of glycolysis. ....	4
Figure 2: ADPGK from <i>T. litoralis</i> . ....	7
Figure 3: Selected members of the ribokinase superfamily of proteins. ....	8
Figure 4: Sequence alignment of members of the ribokinase family. ....	10
Figure 5: Catalytic site of archaeal ADPGK. ....	11
Figure 6: Reaction catalysed by <i>T. litoralis</i> ADPGK. ....	13
Figure 7: T-cell activation and ADPGK. ....	18
Figure 8: Phobius predicted positions of signal peptides. ....	51
Figure 9: Model of <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK. ....	53
Figure 10: Model of <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK. ....	54
Figure 11: ADPGK sequence alignment for selection of truncation and mutation sites. .....	55
Figure 12: Truncations of <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK. ....	57
Figure 13: Selection of sites for functional mutants. ....	58
Figure 14: PCR products for TOPO cloning. ....	60
Figure 15: Cloning human ADPGK into pProEX HTb. ....	61
Figure 16: Colony PCR screening for selection of positive clones. ....	61
Figure 17: Optimisation of expression: Inducer concentration. ....	64
Figure 18: Optimisation of expression: Time and temperature. ....	65
Figure 19: Expression test of pET101-rhADPGK. ....	66
Figure 20: Expression of pProEX-rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50. ....	67
Figure 21: Expression test of pGEX-rhADPGK in <i>E. coli</i> BL21(DE3). ....	68
Figure 22: Expression test of pGEX-rhADPGK in <i>E. coli</i> Origami (DE3). ....	69
Figure 23: Expression test of pProEX-rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 in <i>E. coli</i> Origami B (DE3). ....	69
Figure 24: Expression test of pET-32a(+) constructs in auto-induction media. ....	71
Figure 25: Expression test of pBAD constructs in auto-inducing media. ....	72
Figure 26: rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 IMAC purification. ....	76
Figure 27: rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50 size-exclusion chromatography. ....	77
Figure 28: Purified rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50. ....	78
Figure 29: IMAC purification of solubilized inclusion bodies. ....	79
Figure 30: rhADPGK IMAC purification. ....	83
Figure 31: rhADPGK ion-exchange purification. ....	84

Figure 32: rhADPGK size-exclusion chromatography. ....	85
Figure 33: rhADPGK $\Delta$ 151 ion-exchange chromatography. ....	86
Figure 34: rhADPGK-D481E ion-exchange chromatography. ....	88
Figure 35: rhADPGK-R228A IMAC purification. ....	89
Figure 36: rhADPGK-R228A ion-exchange chromatography. ....	90
Figure 37: rhADPGK-H264A ion-exchange chromatography. ....	91
Figure 38: rhADPGK-R228A size-exclusion chromatography. ....	92
Figure 39: rmADPGK ion-exchange chromatography. ....	94
Figure 40: rmADPGK size-exclusion chromatography. ....	95
Figure 41: Purified rmADPGK for crystallisation. ....	96
Figure 42: Comparison of CD spectra of purified eukaryotic ADPGK. ....	98
Figure 43: Determination of dependence of enzymatic activity on pH for rhADPGK. .....	100
Figure 44: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK, $K_m^{app}$ for glucose. ....	101
Figure 45: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK, $K_m^{app}$ for ADP. ....	101
Figure 46: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK, product inhibition by AMP. ....	102
Figure 47: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK-H264A, $K_m^{app}$ for ADP. ....	104
Figure 48: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK-H264A, $K_m^{app}$ for glucose. ....	105
Figure 49: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK-R228A, $K_m^{app}$ for ADP. ....	106
Figure 50: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK-R228A, $K_m^{app}$ for glucose. ....	106
Figure 51: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK, $K_m^{app}$ for GDP. ....	107
Figure 52: Alternative substrates tested for <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK. ....	108
Figure 53: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50, effect of salt concentration. ....	110
Figure 54: Enzyme kinetics of rhADPGK $\Delta$ 50, $K_m^{app}$ for glucose. ....	111
Figure 55: Determination of dependence of enzymatic activity on pH for rzADPGK. .....	112
Figure 56: Limited proteolysis of mouse ADPGK. ....	116
Figure 57: Reductive methylation of mouse ADPGK. ....	117
Figure 58: Crystals of ADPGK. ....	119
Figure 59: X-ray diffraction image of the ADPGK crystal. ....	120
Figure 60: Molecular replacement with Phaser. ....	123
Figure 61 Ramachandran plots for rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51. ....	126
Figure 62: Contents of one unit cell. ....	127

Figure 63: B-factor analysis of the <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK structure. ....	128
Figure 64: Electron density around the disulphide bond.....	129
Figure 65: Crystal contacts in the rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51 crystal.....	130
Figure 66: Ribokinase-like fold of <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK.....	132
Figure 67: Structural superposition of archaeal and eukaryotic ADPGK. ....	133
Figure 68: Sequence alignment of the region differing between the isoforms of ADPGK.....	134
Figure 69: Difference between isoform 1 and 3 of <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK.....	135
Figure 70: Structure-based sequence alignment.....	136
Figure 71: Electrostatic surface of mouse ADPGK.....	137
Figure 72: Inferring the binding of $\alpha$ -D-glucose from positions of ordered water molecules. ....	139
Figure 73: Proposed nucleotide binding of rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51.....	141
Figure 74: Conserved interactions between small and large domain of eukaryotic and archaeal ADPGKs.....	145
Figure 75: Comparison of homology modelling and experimentally determined structure: Overall structure. ....	148
Figure 76: Comparison of homology modelling and experimental structure: Active site residues targeted for mutation. ....	149
Figure 77: Domain folding of eukaryotic ADPGK. ....	150
Figure 78: Crystal contact specific for of <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK isoform 3.....	153
Figure 79: Crystal contacts of the truncated N-terminus of rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51.....	155
Figure 80: Sequence alignment of C-terminal region of ADPGK. ....	158
Figure 81: A putative cholesterol-binding site of eukaryotic ADPGK. ....	160
Figure 82: Phosphoryl donor selectivity of eukaryotic ADPGKs.....	164
Figure 83: Standard curve for Bradford protein assay. ....	195
Figure 84: Calibration curve for Superdex S200 size-exclusion chromatography column.....	195
Figure 85: <i>D. rerio</i> ADPGK signal peptide prediction from SignalP 4.1. ....	196
Figure 86: <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK signal peptide prediction from SignalP 4.1. ....	196
Figure 87: <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK signal peptide prediction from SignalP 4.1.....	197
Figure 88: <i>D. rerio</i> ADPGK transmembrane domain prediction from TMHMM2.0. .....	197

Figure 89: *H. sapiens* ADPGK transmembrane domain prediction from TMHMM2.0.  
..... 198

Figure 90: *M. musculus* ADPGK transmembrane domain prediction from  
TMHMM2.0. .... 198

Figure 91: Alignment of sequence of rmADPGKΔ51 and sequence from the PDB file.  
..... 199



## List of Tables

Table 2.1: List of ADPGK genetic source material.....	23
Table 2.2: <i>E. coli</i> strains used.....	24
Table 2.3: Expression vectors used. ....	25
Table 3.1: ADPGK expression constructs.....	62
Table 3.2: Mutant constructs of ADPGK.....	63
Table 3.3: Successful refolding conditions for ADPGK.....	81
Table 3.4: Overview of the kinetic parameters of ADPGK and functional mutants.	113
Table 3.5: Dataset statistics for the rmADPGK $\Delta$ 51 dataset.....	121
Table 3.6: Crystallographic data.....	125
Table 3.7: Crystal contact analysis with PISA. ....	130
Table 6.1: Primers.....	189
Table 6.2: Nucleotide sequence of optimised <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK.....	193
Table 6.3: Nucleotide sequence of <i>H. sapiens</i> ADPGK (wt).....	193
Table 6.4: Nucleotide sequence of <i>M. musculus</i> ADPGK.....	193
Table 6.5: Nucleotide sequence of <i>D. rerio</i> ADPGK.....	194



## Abbreviations and symbols

°C	Temperature in centigrade
Å	Ångström ( $10^{-10}$ m)
aa	Amino acid
ADP	Adenosine diphosphate
ADPGK	ADP-dependent glucokinase
ADPPFK	ADP-dependent phosphofructokinase
Amp	Ampicillin
AMP	Adenosine monophosphate
AMPCP	Adenosine 5'-( $\alpha,\beta$ -methylene) diphosphate
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BLAST	Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
bp	Base pair (of DNA)
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
BTP	Bis-tris propane buffer
Cam	Chloramphenicol
CD	Circular dichroism
cDNA	Complementary DNA, experimentally derived from messenger RNA
cv	Column volume (geometric column volume of a chromatography column)
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DTT	Dithiothreitol
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetate
g	Gram, unit of weight
g	Gravitational force
GK	Glucokinase

h	Hour
HK	Hexokinase
HRP	Peroxidase from horseradish
IMAC	Immobilised metal ion affinity purification
IPTG	Isopropyl $\beta$ -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside
K	Temperature in Kelvin
Kan	Kanamycin
kDa	Kilodalton
$K_i$	Dissociation constant for an enzyme inhibitor
$K_m$	Michaelis-Menten constant
LB broth	Luria-Bertani broth
LB/Amp	Luria-Bertani broth with ampicillin selection marker
m	Metre
M	Molar
min	Minute
MTT	Thiazolyl blue tetrazolium bromide
NAD <sup>+</sup> or NADH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (oxidised or reduced)
NADP <sup>+</sup> or NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (oxidised or reduced)
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
OD <sub>600</sub>	Optical density at wavelength of 600 nm
PAGE	Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
pdb	Protein data bank file format (*.pdb)
PDB	Protein Data Bank for protein structures
pH	Measurement of acidity or basicity of an aqueous solution
P <sub>i</sub>	Inorganic phosphate

pI	Isoelectric point
PMS	Phenazine methosulfate
PP <sub>i</sub>	Pyrophosphate
psi	Pounds per square inch
RMSD	Root-mean-square deviation
RNAi	RNA interference
rpm	Revolutions per minute
SAXS	Small angle X-ray scattering
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
sec	Second
Str	Streptomycin
TAE	Tris-acetate-EDTA buffer
TBS	Tris-Buffered Saline solution
TBST	Tris-Buffered Saline solution with additional Tween 20 detergent
TCEP	Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine
Tet	Tetracycline
U	Enzyme unit, 1 U = 1 μmol min <sup>-1</sup>
U/mg	Specific enzyme activity, 1 U/mg = 1 μmol min <sup>-1</sup> mg <sup>-1</sup>
<i>v</i>	Enzyme velocity
(v/v)	Volume per volume
<i>V</i> <sub>max</sub>	Maximum enzyme velocity
(w/v)	Weight per volume