Note

Structure of the O-polysaccharide of Pseudomonas mandelii CYar1 containing 3,6-dideoxy-4-C-[(S)-1-hydroxyethyl]-D-xylo-hexose (yersiniose A)

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Article info

Article history:
Received 15 May 2013
Received in revised form 22 July 2013
Accepted 14 August 2013
Available online 25 August 2013

Keywords:
Pseudomonas mandelii
Lipopolysaccharide
O-Antigen
Bacterial polysaccharide structure
Yersiniose

Abstract

The O-polysaccharide isolated by mild acid hydrolysis of the lipopolysaccharide of Pseudomonas mandelii CYar1 was studied by sugar analysis and 1D and 2D 1H and 13C NMR spectroscopies. The following structure of the O-polysaccharide was established:

\[
\alpha\text{-Yer} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{4}} \quad \text{3,6-dideoxy-4-C-[(S)-1-hydroxyethyl]-D-xylo-hexose (yersiniose A)}
\]

Lipopolysaccharide is the major component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria and has been known as a pathogen-associated molecular pattern recognized by receptors of the immune system. The O-specific polysaccharide chain of the lipopolysaccharide (O-antigen) is expressed on the cell surface and defines the serospecificity of bacteria. The O-antigen is the most variable cell constituent, and its structural diversity is believed to be important for adaptation of bacteria for specific niches.

Pseudomonas mandelii is a fluorescent, Gram-negative, rod-shaped psychrotrophic bacterium, which has been placed into the Pseudomonas fluorescens group based on 16S rRNA analysis. As opposite to many other pseudomonads, lipopolysaccharide of P. mandelii has not been studied yet. In this work, we report on the structure of the O-polysaccharide of P. mandelii strain CYar1, which was isolated and re-grown from Siberian repeated cavernlode ice.

The lipopolysaccharide was isolated from dried bacterial cells by the phenol–water procedure and degraded with dilute acetic acid. The resultant high-molecular mass polysaccharide was isolated by GPC on Sephadex G-50. Its 1H and 13C NMR spectra showed a structural heterogeneity owing to an incomplete substitution (~50%) with, or a partial loss of, a lateral monosaccharide. Hydrolysis under milder conditions at pH 4.5 afforded a polysaccharide, in which incomplete oligosaccharide units were only minor.

Full acid hydrolysis of the polysaccharide followed by GLC of the alditol acetates revealed the presence of rhamnose, glucosamine, and glucose in the ratio ~2:0.6:0.4. GLC analysis of the acetylated (S)-2-octyl glycosides showed that Rha has the L configuration whereas Glc and GlcN have the D configuration. Further studies showed that the polysaccharide also includes a branched monosaccharide, 3,6-dideoxy-4-C-[(S)-1-hydroxyethyl]-D-xylo-hexose (yersiniose A, Yer). Glucose was not confirmed to be a constituent of the O-polysaccharide and could originate from the lipopolysaccharide core or/and a contaminating glucan.

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The $^1$H NMR spectrum of the O-polysaccharide showed, inter alia, signals for four anomic protons at $\delta$ 5.16, 5.07, 5.00, and 4.73, a CH$_2$ group at $\delta$ 1.80, four CH$_3$ groups at $\delta$ 1.33, 1.27, 1.16, and 1.14, and an N-acetyl group at $\delta$ 2.02. The $^{13}$C NMR spectrum (Fig. 1) contained signals for four anomic carbons at $\delta$ 103.8, 103.2, 101.8, and 99.2, a nitrogen-bearing carbon at $\delta$ 55.8, an HOCH$_2$–C group at $\delta$ 61.9, a C–CH$_2$–C group at $\delta$ 31.8, four CH$_3$–C groups at $\delta$ 18.1, 17.9, 16.5, and 13.9, other sugar carbons in the region $\delta$ 65.9–81.6, as well as an N-acetyl group at $\delta$ 23.7 (CH$_3$) and $\delta$ 176.0 (CO). Therefore, the O-polysaccharide has a tetrasaccharide repeating unit.

The $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR signals for three sugar spin systems were assigned using 2D $^1$H,$^1$H COSY, TOCSY, ROESY, $^1$H,$^{13}$C HSQC, and HMBC experiments (Table 1). The TOCSY spectrum showed H-1/H-2, H-2/H-3, 4, 5, 6, and H-6/H-5, 4, 3 cross-peaks for each of two rhamnose residues (Rha$^a$ and Rha$^b$), and H-1/H-2, 3, 4, 5 cross-peaks for GlcNAc. The signals within each spin system were assigned using the COSY spectrum. GlcN was confirmed by a correlation of H-2 to a nitrogen-bearing carbon (C-2) at $\delta$ 3.89/55.8 in the $^1$H,$^{13}$C HSQC spectrum.

The forth sugar component (Yer) was represented by three isolated spin systems for H–1–H–3, H–5–H–6, and H–1–H–2. There, H-3 corresponded to a CH$_2$ group (Rha$^a$ 1.80, GlcNAc 1.33, Rha$^b$ 1.16, GlcNAc 1.14), and H-6 and H-2' to a CH$_3$ group each ($\delta$H 1.14, Clc 13.9; $\delta$H 1.16, Clc 16.5). Protons of both CH$_2$ groups displayed correlations to a tertiary carbon signal (C-4) at $\delta$C 78.0, and those of the CH$_3$ group to carbons C-2 and C-5 in the $^1$H,$^{13}$C HMBC spectrum (Fig. 2). Although the J$_{2,3ax}$ coupling constant could not be measured exactly owing to a coincidence of the H-3ax and H-3eq signals at $\delta$ 1.80, it is evidently large (>9 Hz) as the H-2 signal is wide, and hence the H-2 proton is axial. The axial orientation of H-3 and H-5 followed from a strong NOE observed between these protons in the ROESY spectrum. Therefore, yersinioside has the xylo configuration, most likely, α-xylo configuration as in all other known Yer-containing bacterial polysaccharides.

Analysis of the $^{13}$C NMR chemical shifts indicated that the polysaccharide contains the (S)-1-hydroxyethyl isomer of yersinioside called yersinioside A (compare the chemical shifts $\delta$ 16.5 for C-2’ and 76.0 for C-4 in the O-polysaccharide with published data$^a$ $\delta$ 16.7 and 76.6 in yersinioside A and $\delta$ 18.0 and 77.4 in yersinioside B, respectively). To confirm the absolute configuration of Yer, the O-polysaccharide was subjected to Smith degradation to convert yersinioside to a 3,6-dideoxyhexose, which was identified as paratose (α-ribo isomer, Par) by GLC of the acetylated (S)-2-octyl glycoside.

The $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR chemical shifts (δ, ppm) of the O-polysaccharide from *P. mandelli*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sugar residue</th>
<th>Nucleus</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>1’</th>
<th>2’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→3)-α-r-Rha$^b$ (1→</td>
<td>$^1$H</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→3)-β-r-Rha$^b$ (1→</td>
<td>$^1$H</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→3,4)-β-r-GlcNAc (1→</td>
<td>$^1$H</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→3,4)-β-r-GlcNAc (1→</td>
<td>$^1$C</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>α-Yer (1→</td>
<td>$^1$H</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→2)-α-r-Rha$^b$</td>
<td>$^1$H</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>76.0</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Therefore, the O-polysaccharide of *P. mandelii* has the following structure:

\[ \alpha-\text{Yer} \]

\[ \downarrow \]

\[ \rightarrow 3)-\alpha-1-\text{Rhap}^1-(1 \rightarrow 3)-\beta-1-\text{Rhap}^\text{II}-(1 \rightarrow 3)-\beta-\text{d-GlcpNAc}(1 \rightarrow \]

where Yer indicates 3,6-dideoxy-4-C-[(-S)-1-hydroxyethyl]-D-xylo-hexose (yersiniose A). This sugar or its (R)-1-hydroxyethyl isomer (yersiniose B) has been reported as a component of lipopolysaccharides of *Yersinia* and *Legionella* species, *Burkholderia brasiliensis*, *Budvicia aquatica*, and *Vibrio fischeri*, but, to our knowledge, none of them has been hitherto reported in lipopolysaccharides of pseudomonads.

1. **Experimental**

1.1. **Bacterial strain and cultivation of bacteria**

Samples of repeated cavern-lode ice were collected in the Mamontova Gora section located on the left bank area of the Aldan River (Central Yakutia, Siberia) in July 2009. The samples were transported from the sampling site in the frozen state and stored at $-18^\circ\text{C}$. The ice for isolation of microorganisms was recovered from the central core of the surface sterilized samples and exposed...
to room temperature. *P. mandelli* strain CYar1 was isolated in December 2009.

Meltwater was used for the inoculation of solid culture medium (g/L): peptone 0.5, yeast extract 0.25, glucose 0.1, agar–agar 15, pH 7.0. Inoculated Petri dishes were incubated aerobically at 24 °C for 2 weeks. The biomass of *P. mandelli* CYar1 was obtained on liquid culture medium (g/L): peptone 5, yeast extract 3, pH 6.8–7.2, after constant shaking (150 rpm) at 28 °C for 16 h.

Preliminary identification of bacterial isolates was based on the 16S rRNA gene sequence data. The level of 16S rRNA sequence similarity was 99.0% between strain CYar1 and type strain of *P. mandelli*.

### 1.2. Isolation of the lipopolysaccharide and O-polysaccharide

Lipopolysaccharide was isolated from dried bacterial mass (3 g) by the phenol–water procedure followed by dialysis of the extract without layer separation. After removal of insoluble contamination by centrifugation, the solution was freed from proteins and nucleic acids by treatment with cold (4 °C) aq 50% CCl3CO2H; the precipitate was removed by centrifugation, and the supernatant was dialyzed against distilled water and freeze-dried to yield a lipopolysaccharide preparation (84 mg).

A lipopolysaccharide sample (33 mg) was heated with 0.1 M NaOAc buffer pH 4.5 at 100 °C until precipitation of a lipid sediment, which was removed by centrifugation. The carbohydrate-containing supernatant was fractionated by GPC on a column (60 × 2.6 cm) of Sephadex G-50 Superfine (Amersham Biosciences, Sweden) in pyridinium acetate buffer (4 mL pyridine and 10 mL conc HOAc in 1 L water) and monitored using a differential refractometer (Knauer, Germany) to give a high-molecular-mass polysaccharide (4 mg).

### 1.3. Sugar analyses

For monosaccharide analysis, a polysaccharide sample (1 mg) was hydrolyzed with 2 M CF3CO2H (120 °C, 2 h), dried under a stream of nitrogen, and reduced with NaBH4 (10 mg) in water. After adding conc HOAc, evaporation and co-evaporation with 10% HOAc in MeOH (2 × 1 mL), the sample was acetylated with Ac2O (0.5 mL, 100 °C, 20 min) and analyzed by GLC on an Agilent Technologies 7820A instrument with a HP-5 ms capillary column using a temperature gradient of 160 °C (3 min) to 290 °C at 7 °C min⁻¹.

To convert Yer to Par, a polysaccharide sample (3 mg) was oxidized with 0.1 M NaIO4 (1 mL) in the dark for 72 h at 20 °C; after adding ethylene glycol (0.03 mL), the resultant modified polysaccharide was reduced with NaBH4 (35 mg) and desalted on TSK HW-40 as above.

The absolute configurations of Par, Rha, and GlcN were determined by GLC of the acetylated (S)-2-octyl glycosides under the same chromatographic conditions as in sugar analysis.

### 1.4. NMR spectroscopy

A polysaccharide sample was deuterium-exchanged by freeze-drying twice from 99.9% D2O and then examined as a solution in 99.95% D2O at 30 °C on an Avance II 600 NMR spectrometer (Bruker, Germany) using internal sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)propanoate-2,2,3,3-d4 (δH 0.00) and acetone (δC 31.45) as references for calibration. 2D NMR spectra were obtained using standard Bruker software, and Bruker TopSpin 2.1 program was used to acquire and process the NMR data. Mixing times of 200 and 100 ms were used in TOCSY and ROESY experiments, respectively. Other NMR parameters were set essentially as described.

### Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Projects Nos. 10-04-00590 and 10-04-01470) and the fundamental research program Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

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10 under the fundamental research program Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences.