Supporting Information

Accessing Chemo- and Regioselective Benzylic and Aromatic Oxidations by Protein Engineering of an Unspecific Peroxygenase

Anja Knorrscheidt,^[a] Jordi Soler,^[c] Nicole Hünecke, ^[a] Pascal Püllmann, ^[a] Marc Garcia-

Borràs*[c] and Martin J. Weissenborn*[a, b]

*Corresponding author. Email: marc.garcia@udg.edu

*Corresponding author. Email: martin.weissenborn@ipb-halle.de

^{a.} Bioorganic Chemistry, Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Weinberg 3, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany.

^b Institute of Chemistry, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Kurt-Mothes-Str. 2, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany.

^{c.} Institut de Química Computacional i Catàlisi and Departament de Química, Universitat de Girona, Carrer Maria Aurèlia Capmany 69, Girona 17003, Catalonia, Spain.

Gene and amino acid sequence of *Mth*UPO wildtype with signal peptide from α Galactosidase (*S.cerevisiae*) (<u>underline</u>) and TwinStrep-GFP11 tag (*italic*) in pAGT572_Nemo 2.0:

<u>MFAFYFLTACISLKGVFG</u>AGFDTWSPPGPYDVRAPCPMLNTLANHGFLPHDGKDITREQTENALFEALHINKTLASF LFDFALTTNPKNTSTFSLNDLGNHNILEHDASLSRADAYFGNVLQFNQTVFDETKTYWEGDTIDLRMAAKARLGRIK TSQATNPTYSMSELGDAFTYGESAAYVVVLGDKESRTVKRSWVEWFFEHEQLPQHLGWKRPAASFEEEDLNSSME EIEKYTKELEGSNSTSGSQKHRRRLPRRRAHFGF*SGGSAWSHPQFEKGGGSGGSGGSGGSAWSHPQFEKDGGSGGG STSRDHMVLHEYVNAAGIT*

Primer design. All oligonucleotides were purchased in the purification grad "desalted" at Eurofins (Ebersberg, DE). The exemplary primer design of the single saturation mutagenesis library is illustrated in Table S1.

 Table S1 Exemplary primer list for the Golden Mutagenesis approach of the single saturation library at position L60 (computer designed primers by the Golden Mutagenesis tool: https://msbi.ipb-halle.de/GoldenMutagenesisWeb/)

Name	Sequence $(5' \rightarrow 3')$
Fragment I_for	TTGGTCTCAAATGTTTGCTTTTATTTCTTGACTGCTTGT
Fragment I_NDT_rev	TTGGTCTCTGTCAAAAHNAAAGCTGGCTAAGGTTTTGTTGATG
Fragment I_VHG_rev Fragment I_TGG_rev	TTGGTCTCTGTCAAACDBAAAGCTGGCTAAGGTTTTGTTGATG TTGGTCTCTGTCAAACCAAAAGCTGGCTAAGGTTTTGTTGATG
Fragment II_for Fragment II_rev	TTGGTCTCATGACTTTGCATTAACAACGAATCCGAAGAAT TTGGTCTCAGGCAACTTTTGCGGCGGCCTTCCCGGACGCGCATCTTGGTG

Table S2 Instrumental parameters for GC-MS measurements

Products	GC-MS	Column	Temperature program
1,4-Naphthoquinone (<i>m</i> /z 158)	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
			7 °C/min to 190 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 10 min
Silylated 2-Hydroxy-1,4-	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	70 °C
naphthoquinone			20 °C/min to 270 °C
(Lawsone <i>, m/z</i> 231)			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 4 min
2-Methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
(Menadione <i>, m/z</i> 172)			7 °C/min to 190 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 10 min
2-Naphthalenemethanol (<i>m/z</i>	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
158)			7 °C/min to 190 °C
2-Naphthaldehyde (<i>m/z</i> 156)			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 10 min
5-Methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
(<i>m/z</i> 172)			7 °C/min to 190 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 2 min
6-Methoxy-1,4-	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
naphthoquinone (<i>m/z</i> 188)			7 °C/min to 190 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 10 min
Silylated 6-Bromo-1,4-	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	70 °C
naphthoquinone (<i>m/z</i> 384)			20 °C/min to 270 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 4 min
1-Hydroxyindan (<i>m/z</i> 133)	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
1-Indanol (<i>m/z</i> 132)	(quantification)		7 °C/min to 190 °C
			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 2 min
	Chiral	Lipodex E	95 °C
	(ee determination)		0.5 °C/min to 110 °C
			100 °C/min to 200 hold 2 min
1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-1-naphthol	Achiral	SH-Rxi-5Sil MS	40 °C
(<i>m</i> / <i>z</i> 148)	(quantification)		7 °C/min to 190 °C
α -Tetralone (<i>m</i> /z 146)			100 °C/min to 300 °C hold 2 min
	Chiral	Lipodex E	75 °C
	(ee determination)		1 °C/min to 120 °C
	· · · · ·		100 °C/min to 200 hold 2 min

Table S3 Overview of	generated	libraries.
----------------------	-----------	------------

Library #	Mutagenesis approach	Degeneracy	Number of screened variants	Statistical library coverage [%] ^[a]
1	Single saturation (9 positions)	22c-trick	For each position: 88 In total: 792	98
2	Double saturation (5 grouped positions)	NDT	For each position: 440 In total: 2200	95
3	Recombination (864 possible combinations)	Best performing variants from library 1/2	In total: 2376	94
[a] The statist screened vari	tical library coverage was calcul iants, V – number of possible va	ated using the equation for fractio riants, F – library coverage	nal library completeness ¹ : L = - V	ln(1-F); L – Number of

Table S4 Overview of

secreted variants within the single saturated mutagenesis

libraries.	
Saturated	Secreted
position	variants [%]
L56	52
F59	93
L60	75
L86	76
F154	81
T155	83
S159	83
A161	72
L206	69

Catalyst	т _m [°С]	TOF [min ⁻¹]	TON	Conversion [%]
MthUPO WT	63.5 ± 0.09	72	4340	29
MthUPO L60M		83	5000	33
Mthupo L60Q		94	5680	38
MthUPO L60F	55.7 ± 0.44	194	11610	77
MthUPO F59Q		72	4360	29
MthUPO L60F/F154I		90	5380	36
MthUPO L60F/F154V		87	5200	35
MthUPO 152/A571		71	4290	29
MthUPO S159N/A161F		75	4510	30
MthUPO \$159G/A161I		75	4520	30
MthUPO L60F/S159G/A161I	56.9 ± 0.18	198	11850	79
MthUPO L60F/S159G/A161F		210	12590	84
MthUPO F59Q/L60M/S159G/F154A	54.7 ± 0.41	192	11540	77
MthUPO F59Q/L60F/A161I		199	11950	80
MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	55.8 ± 1.26	379	22760	76

Table S5 Catalytic activity of purified MthUPO variants for the hydroxylation of NBD.^[a]

TOF = turnover frequency, TON = turnover number, standard deviation < 3.2 %, [a] Reaction conditions: 20 nM *Mth*UPO variant, 300 μ M NBD, 1 mM H₂O₂, 100 mM KPi buffer (pH 7), 5 % acetone (v/v), measurement conditions: absorbance was measured at 425 nm for one hour in triplicates, values were calculated with the corrected extinction coefficient of 10870 M^{-1*}cm⁻¹, [b] reaction time over night, [c] 10 nM *Mth*UPO variant.

Table S6 Kinetic parameters of the MthUPO variants for H₂O₂ as a substrate.^[a]

Catalyst	<i>K</i> _m [mM]	<i>k</i> _{cat} [s ⁻¹]	k_{cat}/K_{m} [M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹] x 10 ⁴
MthUPO WT	0.45 ± 0.10	5.2 ± 0.10	1.3
MthUPO L60F	$\textbf{0.93} \pm \textbf{0.150}$	1.1	0.1
MthUPO L60F/S159G/A161F	1.04 ± 0.10	93.4	9.0
Mthupo F59Q/L60M/S159G/F154A	2.63 ± 0.55	70.6	2.7
MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	3.13 ± 0.43	24.7	0.8

Standard deviation < 20 %, TOF = turnover frequency, TON = turnover number, [a] Reaction conditions: 20 nM *Mth*UPO variant, NBD saturation concentration was adjusted for each variant depending on the K_m value of NBD (see Table 2), H₂O₂ concentration was varied as depicted in Figure S3. Measurement conditions: absorbance was measured at 425 nm for one hour in triplicates, values were calculated with the corrected extinction coefficient of 10870 M^{-1*}cm⁻¹.

Product	Catalyst	Reaction conditions
	MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	1 mM naphthalene, 4 mM H ₂ O ₂ , 50 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V _{total} = 400 μl, syringe pumpe addition of a 16 mM H ₂ O ₂ stock solution (100 μl stock solution, 100 μl/h), 30 min additional stirring
	MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	1 mM naphthalene, 5 mM H ₂ O ₂ , 500 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V _{total} = 400 μl, syringe pumpe addition of a 10 mM H ₂ O ₂ stock solution (200 μl stock solution, 200 μl/h), additional stirring overnight
2a	<i>Mth</i> UPO L60F/S159G/A161F	1 mM 2-methylnaphthalene, 4 mM H_2O_2 , 100 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V_{total} = 400 μ l, syringe pumpe addition of a 8 mM H_2O_2 stock solution (200 μ l stock solution, 100 μ l/h), 1 additional stirring
2b OH 2c O	MthUPO L60F	1 mM 2-methylnaphthalene, 4 mM H ₂ O ₂ , 500 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V _{total} = 400 μl, syringe pumpe addition of a 8 mM H ₂ O ₂ stock solution (200 μl stock solution, 100 μl/h), 30 min additional stirring
3a O	<i>Mth</i> UPO L60F/S159G/A161F	1 mM 1-methylnaphthalene, 4 mM H ₂ O ₂ , 500 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V _{total} = 400 μl, syringe pumpe addition of a 8 mM H ₂ O ₂ stock solution (200 μl stock solution, 200 μl/h)
	MthUPO L60F/S159G/A161F	1 mM 2-methoxynaphthalene, 4 mM H_2O_2 , 500 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, $V_{total} = 400$ µl, syringe pumpe addition of a 8 mM H_2O_2 stock solution (200 µl stock solution, 200 µl/h), additional stirring overnight
5a Br 5b Br 5b Br	<i>Mth</i> UPO L60F/S159G/A161F	1 mM 2-bromonaphthalene, 4 mM H ₂ O ₂ , 500 nM catalyst, 100 mM KPi pH 7, 5 % (v/v) acetone, V _{total} = 400 μl, syringe pumpe addition of a 8 mM H ₂ O ₂ stock solution (200 μl stock solution, 200 μl/h), 1 h additional stirring

Table S7 Overview of reaction conditions for the hydroxylation of naphthalene and naphthalene derivatives.

Standard deviation of triplicates <5.2 %.

Product	Catalyst	Configuration	ee [%]
	MthUPO WT	R	84
	MthUPO L60F	R	95
5a OH	<i>Mth</i> UPO L60F/S159G/A161F	S	14
	<i>Mth</i> UPO F59Q/L60M/S159G/F154A	S	14
	MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	R	91
	MthUPO WT	R	45
6a OH	MthUPO L60F	R	74
	<i>Mth</i> UPO L60F/S159G/A161F	R	6
	MthUPO F59Q/L60M/S159G/F154A	S	19
	MthUPO F59Q/L60F/S159G	R	50

Table S8 Enantioselectivity of the evolved variants towards the hydroxylation of indane and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene.

 Table S9 Activities of the evolved variants towards the hydroxylation of indane and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene.

Product	Catalyst	Turnover number
ОН	MthUPO WT	7140
5a	MthUPO L60F	8160
5b	MthUPO WT	260
	MthUPO L60F	450
6a OH	MthUPO WT	980 860
	MthUPO L60F	
_ ∩	MthUPO WT	350
6b	MthUPO F59Q/L60M/S159G/F154A	440



Figure S1 Screening results of saturated position F154, A) split-GFP results depicts secreted variants whereas B) illustrates the active variants within the NBD assay, green = WT as control, ***** = sequenced variants which confirmed the WT.



Figure S2. Calibration curves of A) 4-nitrocatechol and B) NBD under NBD-assay reaction conditions.



Figure S3. Michaelis-Menten plots of the best performing variants and their calculated kinetic parameters.



Figure S4 Product distribution of *Mth*UPO variants towards the bioconversion of naphthalene.



Figure S5 Product distribution of *Mth*UPO variants towards the bioconversion of 2-methylnaphthalene.



Figure S6 Product distribution of *Mth*UPO variants towards the bioconversion of 2-bromonaphthalene.





Figure S7 GC-MS chromatogram (in selected ion monitoring mode with the depicted m/z traces) of the later described *Mth*UPO variant of naphthalene and naphthalene derivatives, A) F59Q/L60F/S159G with naphthalene to 1,4-naphthoquinone, B) F59Q/L60F/S159G with naphthalene to Lawsone product, C) L60F/S159G/A161F with 2-methylnaphthalene to vitamin K₃, D) L60F with 2-methylnaphthalene to 2-naphthalenemethanol and θ -naphthaldehyde, E) L60F/S159G/A161F with 1-methylnaphthalene to 5-methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone, F) L60F/S159G/A161F with 2-methoxynaphthalene to 6-methoxy-1,4-naphthoquinone and G) L60F/S159G/A161F with 2-bromonaphthalene to 6-bromo-1,4-naphthoquinone.



Figure S8 Chiral GC-MS chromatogram of the bioconversion of a) indane and b) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene to the corresponding hydroxylated products.



Figure S9. Evolution of NBD catalytically relevant binding modes in wildtype, L60F and L60F/S159G/A161F variants as observed from MD simulations (see Figure S10). Mutated positions are highlighted in orange. NBD explores substantially different near attack conformations (NACs) in each variant due to the new introduced mutations. L60F displaces NBD from a more buried binding pose in wildtype, to a new binding mode that increases the aromatic interactions with residues F63 and newly introduced L60F. Finally, A161F and S159G mutations led to a significantly reduced active site that forces NBD to explore a new binding mode, perpendicular to the haem, that facilitates its interaction with the catalytic Fe=O species (see also Figure S10).



4 6 8 Distance O-H_R (Å)



4 6 8 Distance O-H₅ (Å)

A)



L60

 \star



Figure S10. Analysis of NBD binding modes through three independent MD replicas in: **A**) wildytpe; **B**) L60F variant; and **C**) L60F/S159G/A161F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylation and aromatic oxidation are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Fe=O-H(CH) distance and angle of attack (O-H-C) are used as geometric parameters to characterise near attack conformations for effective C-H hydroxylation in heat maps. Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with a "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs are shown. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively. Angle vs. distance heat maps show that NBD explores more catalytically competent poses in L60F/S159G/A161F and L60F variants than in the WT, in line with the higher activity experimentally observed. The differences in the NBD binding poses in the three variants are discussed in Figure S9.



Figure S11 Analysis of 2-methylnaphthalene binding modes through three independent MD replicas in L60F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylation and aromatic oxidations are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with a "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs are shown. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively. 2-methylnaphthalene bound in L60F variant predominantly explores catalytically relevant binding poses in which the 2-methyl group is placed in a near attack conformation respect to the Fe=O active species. Differences observed for naphthalene derivatives binding modes in different MthUPO variants are discussed in Figure S13.



Figure S12 Analysis of 2-methylnaphthalene binding modes through three independent MD replicas in L60F/S159G/A161F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylation and aromatic oxidations are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with a "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs are shown. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively. 2-methylnaphthalene bound in L60F/S159G/A161F variant predominantly explores catalytically relevant binding poses in which the substituted aromatic ring is placed in a near attack conformation respect to the Fe=O active species. Differences observed for naphthalene derivatives binding modes in different MthUPO variants are discussed in Figure S13.



2-methylnaphthalene bound in L60F variant:





2-methoxynaphthalene bound in L60F/S159G/A161F variant:



Figure S13 Differences in catalytically relevant binding modes of 2-substituted naphthalene derivatives (2-methlynaphthalene and 2-methoxynaphthalene) in L60F and L60F/S159G/A161F variants as observed from MD simulations (see Figure S11, S12 and S14). Mutated positions are highlighted in orange. 2-methlynaphthalene explores substantially different near attack conformations (NACs) in each variant due to the new introduced mutations. In L60F, 2-methlynaphthalene explores catalytically competent poses in which the 2-methyl group is suitable to directly interacts with Fe=O active species. On the other hand, in L60F/S159G/A161F variant, the substrate is displaced form the former binding position to a new one that resembles the binding mode observed by NBD in this triple mutant (Figure S9). This new binding mode, induced by the presence of bulky A161F mutation, allows the direct interaction between the substituted aromatic ring of 2-methlynaphthalene and the catalytic Fe=O species (see Figure S15). When 2-methoxynaphthalene is bound in L60F/S159G/A161F variant, it occupies the same binding position as 2-methlyl derivative. However, because the more bulkier 2-methoxy group, the substrate slightly rotates and preferentially explores catalytically relevant conformations in which the 2-methoxy group is placed far from the haem group and the unsubstituted aromatic ring is placed closer to the Fe=O. Because of this reorientation, the regioselectivity of the oxidation reaction changes from preferential functionalisation at the substituted aromatic ring in 2-methoxynaphthalene to the oxidation at the unsubstituted one in 2-methoxynaphthalene when L60F/S159G/A161F variant is used.



Figure S14. Analysis of 2-methoxynaphthalene binding modes through three independent MD replicas in L60F/S159G/A161F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylation and aromatic oxidations are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with a "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs are shown. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively.2-methoxynaphthalene bound in L60F/S159G/A161F variant predominantly explores catalytically relevant binding poses in which the unsubstituted aromatic ring is placed in a near attack conformation respect to the Fe=O active species. Differences observed for naphthalene derivatives binding modes in different MthUPO variants are discussed in Figure S13.



Figure S15. Analysis of 1-methylnaphthalene binding modes through three independent MD replicas in L60F/S159G/A161F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylation and aromatic oxidations are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with a "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs are shown. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively. 1-methylnaphthalene bound in L60F/S159G/A161F variant predominantly explores catalytically relevant binding poses in which the unsubstituted aromatic ring is placed in a near attack conformation respect to the Fe=O active species.





Figure S16. A) Analysis of indane binding modes through three independent MD replicas in L60F variant. Key distances relevant for hydroxylations and aromatic oxidations are monitored along MD simulations, as described in the schemes. Bond Dissociation Energies (BDEs) for C–H bonds at C1 and C2 positions of indane are reported ($(U)B3LYP/Def2TZVP/PCM(CH_2Cl_2)//(U)B3LYP/6-31G(d)/PCM(CH_2Cl_2)$, in kcal·mol⁻¹). **B**) Stereoselectivity analysis of indane oxidation at C1 position from MD simulations. Catalytic distances between O(Fe=O) – H and attack angles (O(Fe=O) – H – C) in the two equivalent *pro*-R and *pro*-S C–H bonds have been monitored, as described in the schemes. **C**) Representative snapshots from MD trajectories (highlighted with an "star" symbol) that describe reactive near attack conformations explored during MDs. Distances and angles are given in angstroms (Å) and degrees (°), respectively. Indane bound in L60F variant predominantly explores catalytically relevant binding poses in which the C1 positions are placed in a near attack conformation respect to the Fe=O active species (**A** and **B**). Calculated C1–H BDEs are significantly lower than those estimated for C2–H, indicating a higher intrinsic reactivity at C1 position. Deeper analysis of the C1 hydroxylation stereopreferences from MD simulations (**B**) demonstrated that *pro-R* C1–H bonds preferentially explore much better near attack conformations (i.e. shorter distances and more optimal attack angles) than *pro-S* C1–H, in line with the high stereoselectivity observed for L60F variant.



Figure S17. Calculated Bond dissociation Energies (BDEs) for the aliphatic positions of indane, toluene and ethylbenzene, and non-equivalent aromatic positions in ethylbenzene, at the (U)B3LYP-BJD3/Def2TZVP/PCM(dichloromethane) //(U)B3LYP/6-31G(d)/PCM level. BDE values are given in kcal mol⁻¹.

References

(1) Patrick, W. M.; Firth, A. E.; Blackburn, J. M. User-friendly algorithms for estimating completeness and diversity in randomized protein-encoding libraries. *Protein Eng.* **2003**, *16*, 451-457.