

1 Title: Crystal structures of EfeB and EfeO in a bacterial siderophore-independent iron transport

2 system

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1 **Abstract**

2 EfeUOB is a siderophore-independent iron uptake mechanism in bacteria. EfeU, EfeO, and
3 EfeB are a permease, an iron-binding or electron-transfer protein, and a peroxidase, respectively.
4 A Gram-negative bacterium, *Sphingomonas* sp. strain A1, encodes EfeU, EfeO, EfeB together
5 with alginate-binding protein Algp7, a truncated EfeO-like protein (EfeO_{II}), in the genome. The
6 typical EfeO (EfeO_I) consists of N-terminal cupredoxin and C-terminal M75 peptidase domains.
7 Here, we detail the structure and function of bacterial EfeB and EfeO. Crystal structures of
8 strain A1 EfeB and *Escherichia coli* EfeO_I were determined at 2.30 Å and 1.85 Å resolutions,
9 respectively. A molecule of heme involved in oxidase activity was bound to the C-terminal Dyp
10 peroxidase domain of EfeB. Two domains of EfeO_I were connected by a short loop, and a zinc
11 ion was bound to four residues, Glu156, Glu159, Asp173, and Glu255, in the C-terminal M75
12 peptidase domain. These residues formed tetrahedron geometry suitable for metal binding and
13 are well conserved among various EfeO proteins including Algp7 (EfeO_{II}), although the metal-

1 binding site (HxxE) is proposed in the C-terminal M75 peptidase domain. This is the first report
2 on structure of a typical EfeO with two domains, postulating a novel metal-binding motif
3 “ExxE--D--E” in the EfeO C-terminal M75 peptidase domain.

4

5 Keywords: EfeB, EfeO, iron transport, X-ray crystallography

6

7 **1. Introduction**

8 Iron is essential for various enzymatic reactions, protein stabilization, and signal
9 transduction *in vivo*. A typical mechanism used by microorganisms to acquire iron from the
10 external environment is the use of siderophores, which are metal chelators. Microorganisms
11 secrete siderophores, which form Fe³⁺-siderophore complexes extracellularly and solubilize
12 Fe³⁺, and subsequently acquire iron by importing the Fe³⁺-siderophore complex into the cell
13 [1]. Another mechanism for iron import is the Efe system [2]. The Efe system functions

1 independently of siderophores and consists of three proteins, namely, EfeU, EfeO, and EfeB,
2 and it was first identified in *Escherichia coli* strain O157:H7 [3]. The expression of Efe proteins
3 is induced by low pH or iron concentration. EfeU probably functions as a permease and
4 localizes in the inner membrane. The periplasmic protein EfeB containing heme shows
5 peroxidase activity to oxidize Fe^{2+} to Fe^{3+} [4]. EfeO shows iron-binding or electron-transfer
6 activity and is located in the periplasm. EfeO has variations in its domain topology [5]. A typical
7 EfeO is classified as EfeO_I, composed of an N-terminal cupredoxin and C-terminal M75
8 peptidase domains. The cupredoxin is a copper-binding protein involved in stabilizing Cu^{2+}
9 during copper uptake [6], and the M75 peptidase binds zinc ions [7]. The cupredoxin and M75
10 peptidase domains in EfeO contain two and one metal-binding motifs, respectively [5]. Distinct
11 from EfeO_I, EfeO_{II}, possessing only M75 peptidase domain, forms another group of EfeO.
12 Nevertheless the tertiary structure of EfeO_{II} is available, that of EfeO_I remains to be clarified,
13 obstructing understanding of molecular mechanism of Efe system.

1 The Gram-negative and alginate-assimilating *Sphingomonas* sp. strain A1 possesses an Efe
2 system consisting of EfeUO_IB and one additional EfeO_{II} protein, Algp7 (SPH726) (Fig. 1A).
3 Another EfeO_I protein, SPH728, has a conserved N-terminal cupredoxin and C-terminal M75
4 peptidase domains. Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) exhibits a high alginate-binding ability with a dissociation
5 constant (K_d value) of 3.6×10^{-8} M and functions to concentrate alginate on the cell surface [8-
6 9]. Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) binds Cu^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , and Zn^{2+} as well as alginate [10]. Strain A1 incorporates
7 alginate as a polysaccharide into the cytoplasm through a cell surface pit containing Algp7
8 (EfeO_{II}) and an ATP-binding cassette transporter [9].

9 Alginate polysaccharide constituents are broadly classified into three types:
10 polymannuronic acid blocks (M-blocks), polyguluronic acid blocks (G-blocks), and random
11 blocks. Various metals, including iron, are chelated into alginate G-blocks [10]. Therefore,
12 strain A1 probably acquires metals by binding extracellular alginate with Algp7 (EfeO_{II}), which
13 binds both alginate and metals. The elucidation of the mechanism of metal import using alginate

1 in strain A1 should provide important insights into alginate-dependent metal physiology in
2 bacteria. Furthermore, bacterial metal import machinery can be applied to bioremediation and
3 recovery of useful metals, including rare earth elements. This article describes the structure and
4 function of the Efe system component proteins, namely, EfeB and EfeO.

5

6 **2. Materials and methods**

7 *2.1. Reagents*

8 General reagents of special grade were purchased from Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemicals and
9 Nacalai Tesque. Samarium (III) sulfate octahydrate was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich.

10

11 *2.2. Strains and media*

12 *E. coli* strains BL21(DE3), Rosetta-gami 2(DE3), and MG1655 were used in this study.

13 Luria Bertani (LB) medium (1% tryptone, 0.5% yeast extract, and 1% NaCl) was used to culture

1 the *E. coli* strains.

2

3 *2.3. Protein expression and purification*

4 (i) EfeB

5 Recombinant EfeB was expressed in *E. coli* strain Rosetta-gami 2(DE3) harboring the
6 plasmid pET21b-EfeB that encoded EfeB with a hexahistidine tag at the C-terminus. The EfeB
7 gene was amplified from the strain A1 genome by PCR using synthetic oligo DNA primers
8 (forward: 5'-GGCATATGGATGAGATCGAAAACGGCAAGG-3', reverse: 5'-
9 CCGCCGCCGCGCGCGCACTGGCGTCCA-3'). The resultant fragment was ligated with
10 pET21b and treated with restriction enzymes NdeI and NotI. The transformed cells with
11 pET21b-EfeB were cultured in LB medium containing 0.1 mg/mL sodium ampicillin at 37°C
12 and 100 spm for 3 h. At the exponential growth phase, isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside
13 (IPTG) was added to the medium to a final concentration of 0.1 mM, and then, the culture was

1 incubated for another 44 h at 16°C. The culture was centrifuged ($14,450 \times g$, 4°C, 10 min), the
2 supernatant was removed, and the pellet was suspended in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5). The
3 suspension was treated with an ultrasonic disrupter (Insonator Model 201M, Kubota) at 9 kHz
4 for 20 min, and cell extracts were obtained by centrifugation ($18,000 \times g$, 4°C, 20 min). EfeB
5 was purified from the cell extracts using TALON metal affinity resin (bed volume, 10 mL;
6 Takara Bio), and Hi Load 16/60 Superdex 75 pg column (1.6×10 cm; GE Healthcare). Purified
7 EfeB was then dialyzed using 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5). All purifications were conducted at
8 4°C. The concentration of purified EfeB was calculated by measuring Abs_{280} with an absorption
9 coefficient for EfeB of $34,045 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

10 (ii) Algp7 (EfeO_{II})

11 *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3) was transformed with the expression plasmid pET44a-Algp7 [8].

12 The plasmid encoded the Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) fusion protein that had a hexahistidine tag on the C-
13 terminus and a NusA tag on the N-terminus. Expression and purification of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) were

1 conducted as described previously [9]. The concentration of purified Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) was
2 determined by measuring the absorbance at a wavelength of 280 nm (Abs_{280}) with an absorbance
3 coefficient for Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) of 17,420 M⁻¹cm⁻¹.

4 (iii) EfeO_I

5 The plasmid pET21b-EfeO encoding *E. coli* EfeO without signal sequence was constructed
6 in the same way with EfeB except for the gene and primers. The EfeO_I gene was amplified from
7 the strain MG1655 genome by PCR using DNA primers (forward: 5'-
8 AAGGAGATATACATATGGCTGATGTGCCGCAGGTCAAAGTGACC-3', reverse: 5'-
9 GGTGGTGGTGCTCGAGATCCAGTCCCAGCACACCGCGAAGTTG-3'). *E. coli* strain
10 BL21(DE3) cells were transformed with the resultant plasmid and cultured in 13.5 L of LB
11 medium containing 0.1 mg/mL sodium ampicillin at 37°C and 108 rpm. At the exponential
12 growth phase, IPTG was added at a final concentration of 0.4 mM followed by further
13 incubation at 16°C for 48 h. Cell collection and disruption were conducted in the same way

1 with EfeB followed by purification using TALON metal affinity resin (bed volume; 30 mL),
2 HiLoad 26/10 Q-Sepharose HP column (2.6×10 cm), HiLoad 16/10 Phenyl Sepharose column
3 (1.6×10 cm; GE healthcare), HiLoad 16/60 Superdex 200 pg column (1.6×60 cm; GE
4 healthcare), and Mono Q HR 5/5 column (0.5×5 cm; GE healthcare).

5

6 *2.4. Crystallization and structure determination*

7 Each of purified EfeB, Algp7 (EfeO_{II}), and EfeO_I was crystallized. Crystallization was
8 performed in a 96-well plate using the sitting-drop vapor diffusion equilibrium method. One
9 microliter of 10 mg/mL EfeB solution was mixed with the same amount of crystallization liquid
10 [15% polyethylene glycol 400, 100 mM sodium acetate (pH 4.6), and 100 mM CaCl₂]. One
11 microliter of crystallization liquid [12.5% polyethylene glycol 8,000, 100 mM sodium citrate
12 (pH 3.9), and 200 mM NaCl] was added to 1 μ L of 8 mg/mL Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) solution. One
13 microliter of 20 mg/mL EfeO_I solution was mixed with the same amount of crystallization

1 liquid [20% polyethylene glycol 4,000, 160 mM ammonium sulfate, 80 mM sodium acetate
2 (pH 4.6), and 20% glycerol].

3 Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) crystals were soaked in the crystallization parent liquid with 5 mM
4 Sm₂(SO₄)₃ for 15 min. The crystals were frozen in liquid nitrogen and then were analyzed at
5 the BL38B1 beamline at SPring-8 (Hyogo, Japan). Similarly, EfeB and EfeO_I crystals were
6 soaked in the crystallization liquid with 20% ethylene glycol and frozen with liquid nitrogen,
7 and then were analyzed at the BL26B1 and BL38B1 beamlines, respectively, at SPring-8.

8 Each frozen crystal was irradiated with X-rays at a wavelength of 1.00 Å. The diffraction
9 data were collected using detector MX225-HS CCD (Rayonix) at BL26B1 or PILATUS3X 2M
10 (Dectris) at BL38B1 and then processed by *HKL2000* [11] or *XDS* [12]. The software *Molrep*
11 [13] included in the CCP4interface (CCP4i) package was used for molecular replacement.
12 Structural refinement was performed using *Phenix.refine* [14] and *Refmac5* [15], the model was
13 manually modified using *WinCoot* [16], and the figure was generated using *PyMol* [17]. The

1 structure of cupredoxin domain in EfeO_I was constructed manually referring to the electron
2 density map using *WinCoot* because of the lack of the coordinate model in the Protein Data
3 Bank (PDB) database. The atomic coordinates and structure factors (PDB ID: 6JBN for EfeB,
4 6JBO for Algp7 (EfeO_{II}), and 7WGU for EfeO_I) were deposited in PDB, Research
5 Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
6 (<http://www.rcsb.org/>).

8 *2.5. Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) analysis*

9 The purified EfeO_I in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5) was concentrated using VIVA SPIN 500
10 (Sartorius) to a final concentration of 48.7 mM. The solution (900 μ L) was subjected to the
11 ICP-MS analysis. Data collection and analysis was conducted by Tokai Technology Center
12 (Aichi, Japan).

13

1 2.6. *Differential scanning fluorimetry (DSF)*

2 Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) binding affinity for a rare earth element (Sm³⁺) was evaluated using DSF in
3 the presence or absence of the element as described previously [18].

4

5 2.7. *Measuring EfeB peroxidase activity*

6 Nitrogen gas was injected into the glove box S-GBC type (Samplatec) to create an anaerobic
7 environment. In the glove box, 20 μM EfeB was added to the reaction solution containing 3
8 mM FeSO₄·7H₂O and 1 mM H₂O₂. The concentration of Fe²⁺ in the reaction solution was
9 determined by the nitroso-PSAP method using a metallo assay iron measurement kit
10 (Funakoshi). Nitroso-PSAP forms a complex with Fe²⁺ and exhibits coloration with a peak at a
11 wavelength of 750 nm [19]. Fifteen microliters of a 10-fold diluted sample was mixed with 160
12 μL of ultrapure water or 30% guanidine hydrochloride as a surfactant and 160 μL of 1% sodium
13 ascorbate as the reducing agent, followed by incubation for 10 min. Seventy-five microliters of

1 0.1% nitroso-PSAP was added to the solution and incubated for 5 min. The peroxidase activity
2 of EfeB was determined by measuring the absorbance of the solution at a wavelength of 750
3 nm to determine the concentration of residual Fe²⁺.

4

5 **3. Results and discussion**

6 *3.1. EfeB includes heme in the crystal structure*

7 Strain A1 EfeB was crystallized, and its tertiary structure was determined by X-ray
8 crystallography. The statistics of X-ray diffraction and structure refinement data are shown in
9 Table S1. His231 and Ala269 were the anomalous regions in the Ramachandran plot for chains
10 A and B, respectively. The crystal structure of EfeB from *E. coli* strain O157:H7 has been
11 previously reported (PDB ID: 3O72) [4]. EfeB from *E. coli* and from strain A1 showed high
12 sequence similarity (identity: 60%), and both had a Dyp peroxidase domain on the C-terminus.
13 The tertiary structure of EfeB from strain A1 was, therefore, similar to that of EfeB from *E. coli*.

1 Strain A1 EfeB contained 14 α -helices and 13 β -strands, and the antiparallel β -sheet consisting
2 of four β -strands was sandwiched by α -helices (Fig. 1B). A heme molecule was bound to the
3 C-terminal Dyp peroxidase domain (Fig. 1C).

4

5 *3.2. Oxidation activity of EfeB against Fe²⁺*

6 Because nitroso-PSAP is inactive in the presence of Fe³⁺, Fe²⁺ concentration is measured in
7 the absence of a reducing agent. If a reducing agent is present, total concentrations of Fe³⁺ and
8 Fe²⁺ are measured to account for the fact that Fe³⁺ is reduced to Fe²⁺ by the reducing reagent.
9 In the presence of EfeB but in the absence of a reducing agent, the Fe²⁺ concentration decreased
10 significantly after 10 min of reaction time (Fig. 1D). Conversely, in the presence of Algp7
11 (EfeO_{II}) or in the negative control, there was no decrease of the Fe²⁺ concentration without the
12 reducing agent (Fig. 1D). These results indicated that EfeB exhibits peroxidase activity and
13 oxidizes Fe²⁺ to Fe³⁺. EfeB peroxidase activity also occurred in the absence of H₂O₂, suggesting

1 that EfeB oxidized using dissolved oxygen in the reaction solution (Fig. 1D).

2

3 *3.3. Rare earth element-binding ability of Algp7 (EfeO_{II})*

4 Interestingly, in addition to Cu²⁺, Fe²⁺, and Zn²⁺, Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) was found to be stabilized
5 in the presence of the rare earth element (Sm³⁺) by DSF (Fig. 2A), suggesting that Algp7
6 (EfeO_{II}) bound to Sm³⁺.

7 To clarify the binding mode of Sm³⁺ toward Algp7 (EfeO_{II}), the crystal of Algp7 (EfeO_{II})
8 was prepared and soaked into the solution containing Sm³⁺ followed by X-ray crystallography.
9 The resulting diffractions showed up to 1.88 Å resolution (Table S1). The resolution obtained
10 herein (1.88 Å) is higher than that previously reported (1.99 Å, PDB ID: 3WSC) [9]. The whole
11 structure is similar to that containing Cu²⁺ (Fig. 2B), however, there is no metal bound to Algp7
12 (EfeO_{II}). A citrate molecule formed two hydrogen bonds with Arg204 and Arg212. To clarify
13 one of the reasons for no metal binding, the Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) structure determined in this

1 experiment was superimposed on that of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) complexed with Cu²⁺ (PDB ID: 5Y4C)
2 based on Ca. Among residues interacting directly with Cu²⁺, Glu82 and Glu177 were oriented
3 differently than those in the metal-unbound state (Fig. 2C). This suggested that Algp7 (EfeO_{II})
4 residues responsible for binding to metal ions lose their flexibility during crystallization and
5 that samarium hardly bound to the Cu²⁺-binding pocket.

6

7 3.4. X-ray crystallography of EfeO_I

8 Because structure of EfeO_I remains to be determined, we attempted to express the strain A1
9 SPH728 (EfeO_I) in *E. coli* cells, but failed. Thus, EfeO_I with a lack of signal peptide (Thr2-
10 Ala26) from *E. coli* was expressed and purified in this study, because SPH728 (EfeO_I) exhibits
11 a high sequence homology (identity, 41.7%, similarity, 56.9%) with *E. coli* EfeO_I. The residues
12 in *E. coli* EfeO_I are renumbered based on the lack of signal peptide. The X-ray crystal structure
13 of *E. coli* EfeO_I containing both cupredoxin and M75 peptidase domains at N- and C-terminus,

1 respectively, was determined at 1.85 Å resolution (Table S1, Fig. 3A left). This is the first
2 structure of EfeO with both domains. Two domains were connected by a loop consisting of 4
3 residues. Although the primary structure of cupredoxin domain of EfeO_I shows little similarity
4 with those of other cupredoxin proteins (e.g. CupA), the tertiary structure of the domain formed
5 Greek key β-barrel structure conserved among other cupredoxin proteins (Fig. 3A red). The
6 database Interpro (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/>) was used to find the same family proteins
7 with cupredoxin domain of EfeO_I. As a result, 12 proteins were found as the same family. The
8 tertiary structure of the cupredoxin domain of EfeO_I was compared with CupA from
9 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (PDB ID: 4F2E) [20]. The identity of primary structure between two
10 proteins was low, 14.4%. However, root mean square deviation (1.404 Å) of superimposed two
11 proteins based on Cα showed similar structure (Fig. 3B). This result indicated that cupredoxin
12 domain of EfeO_I is involved in binding to copper or electron transfer as seen in other CupA
13 proteins. The M75 peptidase domain was composed of 10 α-helices as seen in other M75

1 peptidase domains (Fig. 3A yellow), and was structurally similar to Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) (Fig. 3C).

2

3 *3.5 Structural insights into metal binding by EfeO_I*

4 EfeO_I has been suggested to have three metal-binding sites (I, II, and III) based on

5 conservation of amino acid residues and tertiary structure built by homology modelling [5]. Site

6 I (Cys16, Glu41, Met75, and Cys78) and site II (Glu43, Glu52, Glu53, and Glu55) located in

7 the cupredoxin domain have also been predicted to bind to Cu²⁺ and Fe³⁺, respectively. Site III

8 (His192, x193, x194, and Glu 195) was in the M75 peptidase domain. Contrary to the predicted

9 model, tertiary structure determined here revealed that four residues at the site I were

10 structurally distant, and two Cys residues formed a disulfide bridge (Fig. 4A, green colored

11 residues). At the site II, four residues also seemed to form incomplete metal-binding site

12 because Glu52 faced opposite from the other residues (Fig. 4A, yellow colored residues).

13 Multiple sequence alignment of cupredoxin proteins including EfeO indicated that Cys78 was

1 conserved and possibly involved in metal binding (Fig. 4B). Cys78 presumably binds to metals
2 only in the reducing conditions and not in the oxidized conditions because of disulfide bridge
3 formation. Metal binding at site I was considered to be regulated by redox balance in the
4 periplasm.

5 The site III has been predicted to form zinc-binding motif “HxxE”. However, three-
6 dimensional arrangement of the four residues hardly formed tetrahedron geometry suitable for
7 metal binding (Fig. 4C left, pink colored residues). Electron density map demonstrated that four
8 other residues (Glu156, Glu159, Asp173, and Glu255) coordinated to a metal (Fig. 3A right).
9 ICP-MS analysis revealed that most molecules (60%) of EfeO_I possessed Zn²⁺, indicating that
10 Zn²⁺ was bound to these four residues. Because no zinc ion was added through the purification
11 and crystallization steps, Zn²⁺ was probably bound to EfeO_I in *E. coli* cells. The zinc-binding
12 site in EfeO_I completely corresponded to the copper-binding site of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) (PDB ID:
13 5Y4C) (Fig. 4C right, blue colored residues). The four residues at the zinc-binding site are

1 highly conserved in EfeO proteins except for Pss1 (Fig. 4D). These results suggested that EfeO
2 has a metal-binding site different from the HxxE motif (site III). This novel metal-binding site
3 (Glu156, Glu159, Asp173, and Glu255) was proposed as “ExxE-//-D-//-E” motif.

4 In conclusion, this is the first report on crystal structure of EfeO with N-terminal cupredoxin
5 and C-terminal M75 peptidase domains, and proposal of the novel metal-binding motif “ExxE-
6 //-D-//-E” in EfeO C-terminal M75 peptidase domain.

7 8 **Declaration of competing interest**

9 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal
10 relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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7

8 **Appendix A. Supplementary data**

9 Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://XXXXXXXXXX>.

10

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1 **Figure legends**

2 **Fig. 1.** EfeUOB cluster and structure/function of EfeB. (A) EfeUOB gene cluster in
3 *Sphingomonas* sp. strain A1. *Cup* and *M75* represent cupredoxin and M75 peptidase domains,
4 respectively. (B) Crystal structure of strain A1 EfeB (cyan) was determined through molecular
5 replacement using the structure of *E. coli* EfeB (magenta) (PDB ID: 3O72). Green, blue, and
6 red in the stick model represent carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms in a heme molecule. (C)
7 Heme-binding site in strain A1 EfeB. Green, cyan, blue, and red represent carbon in heme,
8 carbon in EfeB, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms, respectively. Gray and cyan spheres show O₂ and
9 water molecules, respectively. Dotted lines show hydrogen bonds. (D) Peroxidase activity of
10 strain A1 EfeB in the presence or absence of reducing agents.

11

12 **Fig. 2.** Binding of rare earth element by and crystal structure of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}). (A) DSF
13 analysis of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) in the absence or presence of rare earth element (Sm³⁺). The curves

1 show the negative derivative plot obtained from the fluorescence profile. Thermal shift to higher
2 temperature was observed in the presence of the rare earth element (Sm^{3+}). (B) Structure of
3 Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) was determined through molecular replacement using the previously clarified
4 structure of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) (PDB ID: 3AT7). Pink, Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) determined here; blue, Algp7
5 (EfeO_{II}) complexed with Cu^{2+} (PDB ID: 5Y4C). The right structure is rotated 90° toward the
6 reader relative to that of left. (C) Copper-binding site in Algp7 (EfeO_{II}). Pink, carbon atoms of
7 Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) determined here; blue, carbon atoms of Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) complexed with Cu^{2+}
8 (PDB ID: 5Y4C).

9
10 **Fig. 3.** Crystal structure of EfeO_I. (A) Left, overall structure of *E. coli* EfeO_I. Red and yellow
11 represent cupredoxin and M75 peptidase domains, respectively. Right, zinc bound (magenta) at
12 the metal-binding site in the M75 peptidase domain of EfeO_I. Water molecules are colored blue.
13 Glu159 and Glu255 are disordered. The *Phenix Polder* omit map for zinc and ligated residues

1 is shown with more than 3.5 σ . (B) Superimposition of the cupredoxin domain (red) of EfeO_I
2 and CupA (cyan). (C) Superimposition of the M75 peptidase domain (yellow) of EfeO_I and
3 Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) (blue). Zinc bound to EfeO_I and copper bound to Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) are shown as
4 magenta and green spheres, respectively.

5

6 **Fig. 4.** Structural alignment of metal-binding sites in EfeO. (A) Three-dimensional arrangement
7 of site I (green) and II (yellow) residues in the cupredoxin domain (red) of EfeO_I. (B) Multiple
8 sequence alignment of the EfeO_I cupredoxin domain and other cupredoxin proteins. The residue
9 numberings for EfeO_I are shown at the top. Site I (green), site II (yellow), copper binding site
10 (cyan) residues. (C) Left, close-up site III (left, magenta colored) in EfeO_I. Right, close-up
11 metal-binding site in the M75 peptidase domain of EfeO_I (yellow) and Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) (blue).
12 Zinc bound to EfeO_I and copper bound to Algp7 (EfeO_{II}) are shown as magenta and green
13 spheres, respectively. (D) Multiple sequence alignment of M75 peptidase domain proteins

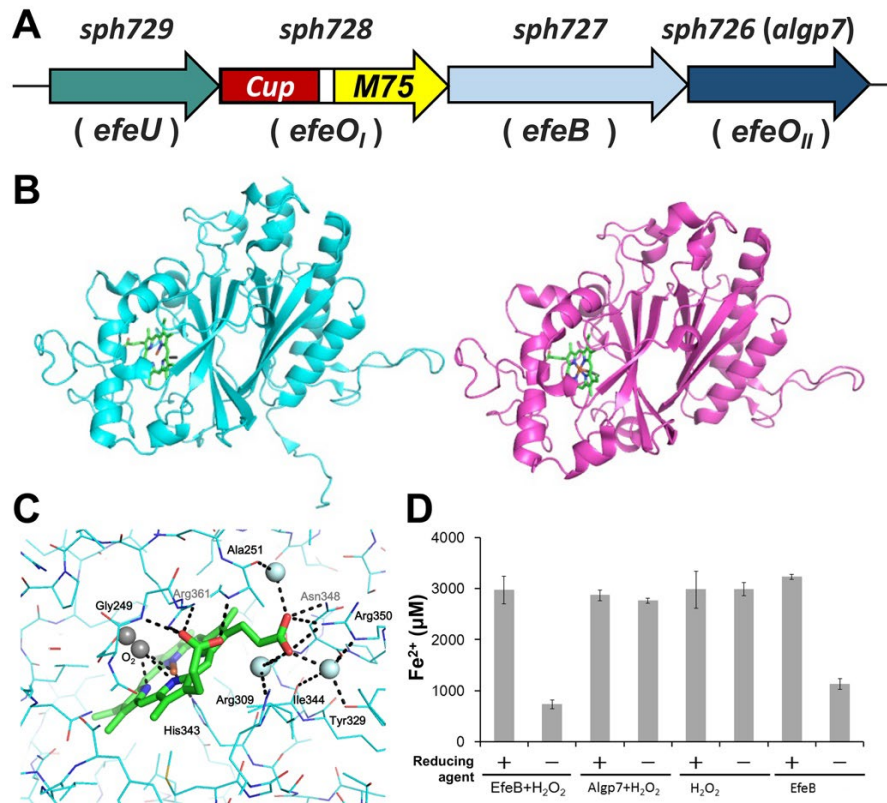
1 (orange, EfeO_I; cyan, EfeO_{II}). The residue numberings for EfeO_I are shown at the top. Site III

2 (magenta), metal-binding site residues (blue).

3

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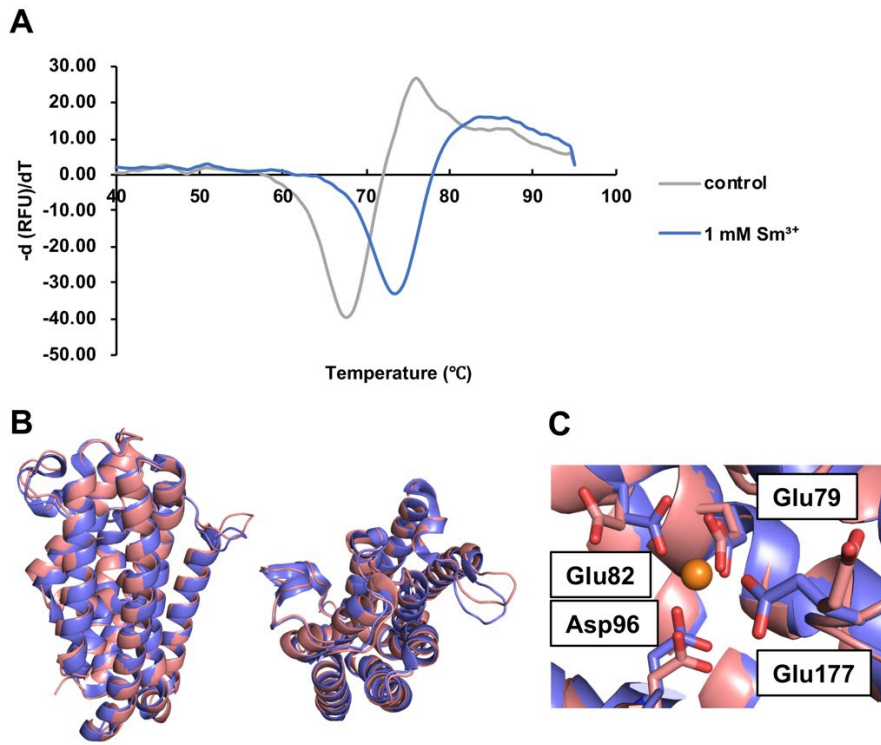
1 Figure 1



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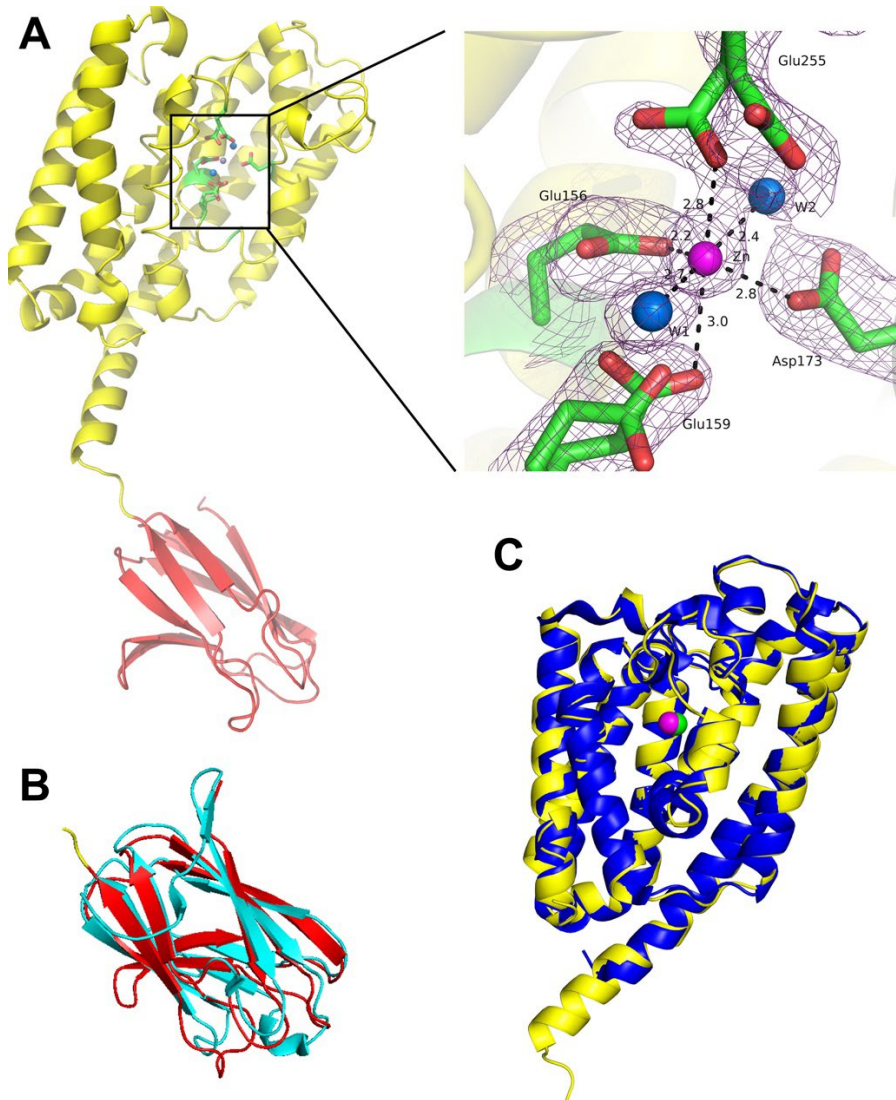
1 Figure 2



2

3

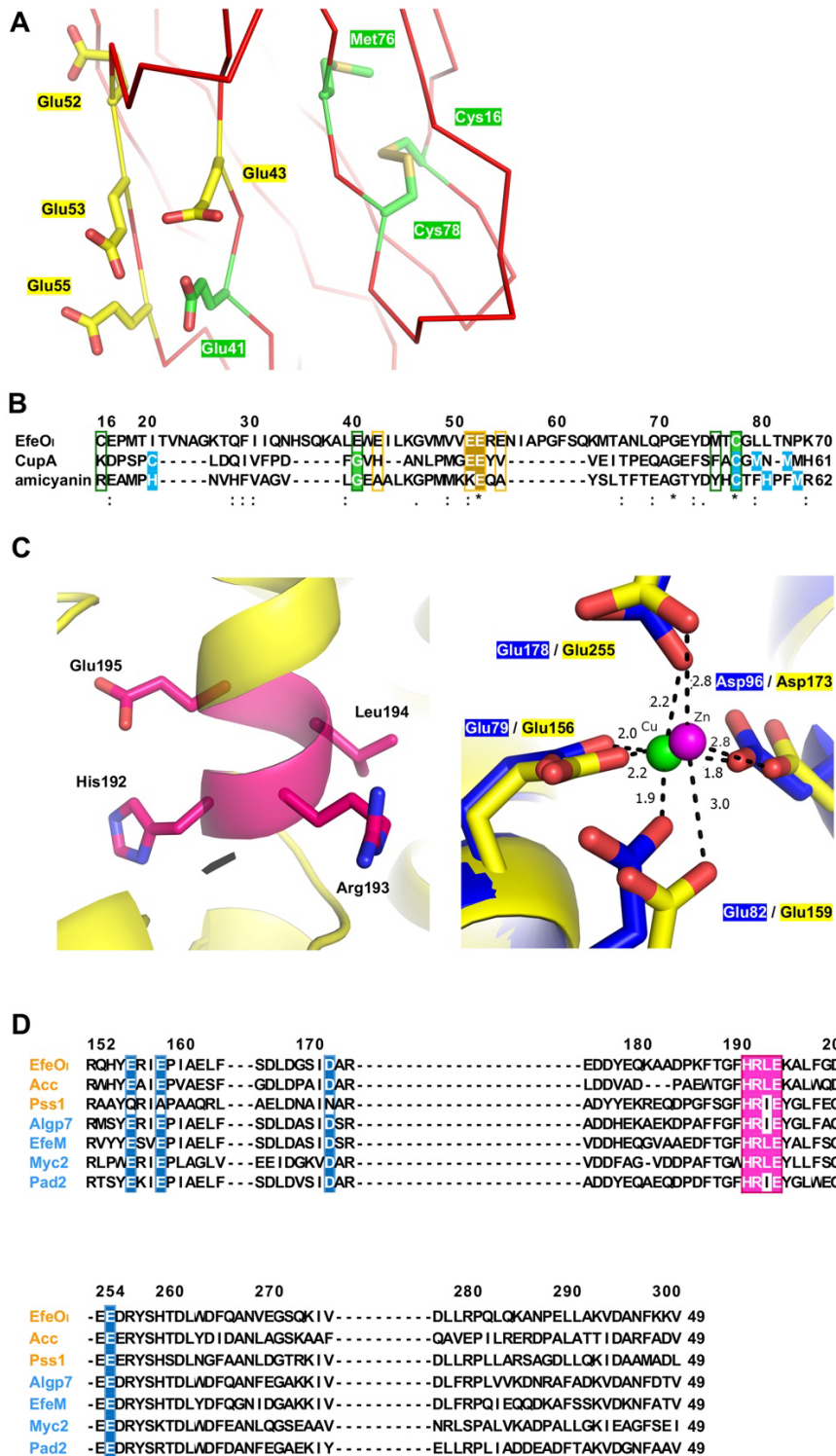
1 Figure 3



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1 Figure 4



2

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Table S1. X-ray data collection and structure refinement statistics.

	EfeB	Algp7 (EfeO _{II})	EfeO _I
Data collection			
Wavelength (Å)	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	<i>C</i> 2
Unit cell parameters (Å, °)	<i>a</i> = 100.0, <i>b</i> = 105.0, <i>c</i> = 83.8	<i>a</i> = 52.8, <i>b</i> = 97.5, <i>c</i> = 104.9	<i>a</i> = 139.9, <i>b</i> = 51.9, <i>c</i> = 117.4 $\alpha = 90.0, \beta = 112.4, \gamma = 90.0$
Resolution limit (Å)	50.0 – 2.30 (2.44 – 2.30) ^a	50.0 – 1.88 (1.91 – 1.88) ^a	50.0 – 1.85 (1.96 – 1.85) ^a
Total reflections	307,536 (50,278) ^a	307,493 (14,878) ^a	249,772 (33,933) ^a
Unique reflections	38,892 (6,217) ^a	44,838 (2,188) ^a	65,646 (9,994) ^a
Completeness (%)	97.5 (97.9) ^a	99.8 (99.3) ^a	97.7 (92.8) ^a
<i>I</i> / σ (<i>I</i>)	19.4 (10.2) ^a	36.5 (5.3) ^a	18.5 (2.48) ^a
<i>R</i> _{merge} (%)	6.1 (14.8) ^a	7.2 (48.3) ^a	3.9 (40.0) ^a
CC(1/2)	99.9 (99.7) ^a	99.9 (95.7) ^a	99.9 (91.8)
Wilson B (Å ²)	31.2	28.0	37.9
Refinement			
Resolution limit (Å)	44.5 – 2.30 (2.36 – 2.30) ^a	46.5 – 1.88 (1.92 – 1.88) ^a	48.2 – 1.85 (1.87 – 1.85) ^a
<i>R</i> -factor (%)	23.4 (24.8) ^a	18.2 (25.1) ^a	20.1 (34.0) ^a
<i>R</i> _{free} (%)	29.8 (36.0) ^a	21.8 (33.0) ^a	24.4 (37.3) ^a
Final model	781 residues, 257 waters, 24 1,2-ethanediol, 1 oxygen molecule, 5 di (hydroxyethyl) ether, 3 triethylene glycol, 2 heme	502 residues, 421 waters, 9 1,2-ethanediol, 1 citrate	697 residues, 322 waters, 30 1,2-ethanediol, 1 acetate, 1 sulfate, 1 triethylene glycol, 1 zinc ion
r.m.s.d.			
Bond (Å)	0.008	0.01	0.006
Angle (°)	0.971	1.47	0.806
Ramachandran plot (%)			
Favored regions	96.0	98.0	98.1
Allowed regions	3.5	1.8	1.7
Outliers	0.5	0.2	0.14
Clashscore	7	8	5.85
Rotamer outliers (%)	0.63	0	2.5
PDB ID	6JBN	6JBO	7WGU

^a Data on highest shells are given in parenthesis.