An ancestral interaction module promotes oligomerisation in divergent mitochondrial ATP synthases

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Abstract

Mitochondrial ATP synthase forms stable dimers arranged into oligomeric assemblies that generate the inner-membrane curvature essential for efficient energy conversion. Here, we report cryo-EM structures of the intact ATP synthase dimer from trypanosomes in 10 different rotational states. The model consists of 25 subunits, including 11 lineage-specific, as well as 36 lipids. The rotary mechanism is influenced by the divergent peripheral stalk, conferring a greater conformational flexibility. Proton transfer in the lumenal half-channel occurs via a chain of five ordered water molecules. The dimerization interface is formed by subunit-*g* that is critical for interactions but not for the catalytic activity. Although overall dimer architecture varies among eukaryotes, we find that subunit-*g* and -*e* form an ancestral oligomerisation motif, which is shared between the trypanosomal and mammalian lineages. Therefore, our data defines the subunit-*g/e* module as a structural component determining ATP synthase oligomeric assemblies.

Main

Mitochondrial ATP synthase consists of the soluble F_1 and membrane-bound F_o subcomplexes, and occurs in dimers that assemble into oligomers to induce the formation of inner-membrane folds, called cristae. The cristae are the sites for oxidative phosphorylation and energy conversion in eukaryotic cells. Dissociation of ATP synthase dimers into monomers results in the loss of native cristae architecture and impairs mitochondrial function[1,2]. While cristae morphology varies substantially between organisms from different lineages, ranging from flat lamellar in opisthokonts to coiled tubular in ciliates and discoidal in euglenozoans[3], the mitochondrial ATP synthase dimers represent a universal occurrence to maintain the membrane shape[4].

ATP synthase dimers of variable size and architecture, classified into types I to IV have recently been resolved by high-resolution cryo-EM studies. In the structure of the type-I ATP synthase dimer from mammals, the monomers are only weakly associated[5,6], and in yeast insertions in the membrane subunits form tighter contacts[7]. The structure of the type-II ATP synthase dimer from the alga *Polytomella* sp. showed that the dimer interface is formed by phylum-specific components[8]. The type-III ATP synthase dimer from the ciliate *Tetrahymena* thermophila is characterized by parallel rotary axes, and a substoichiometric subunit, as well as multiple lipids were identified at the dimer interface, while additional protein components that tie the monomers together are distributed between the matrix, transmembrane, and lumenal regions[9]. The structure of the type-IV ATP synthase with native lipids from *Euglena gracilis* also showed that specific protein-lipid interactions contribute to the dimerization, and that the central and peripheral stalks interact with each other directly[10]. Finally, a unique apicomplexan ATP synthase dimerises via 11 parasite-specific components that contribute ~7000 $Å^2$ buried surface area[11], and unlike all other ATP synthases, that assemble into rows, it associates in higher oligomeric states of pentagonal pyramids in the curved apical membrane regions. Together, the available structural data suggest a diversity of oligomerisation, and it remains unknown whether common elements mediating these interactions exist or whether dimerization of ATP synthase occurred independently and multiple times in evolution[4].

The ATP synthase of *Trypanosoma brucei*, a representative of kinetoplastids and established medically important model organism causing the sleeping sickness, is highly divergent, exemplified by the pyramid-shaped F_1 head containing a phylum specific subunit[12,13]. The dimers are sensitive to the lack of cardiolipin[14] and form short left-handed helical segments that extend across the membrane ridge of the discoidal cristae[15]. Uniquely among aerobic eukaryotes, the mammalian life cycle stage of *T. brucei* utilizes the ATP synthase as a proton pump maintaining the mitochondrial membrane potential at the expense of ATP[16,17], whereas the insect stage of the parasite employs the forward ATP-producing mode of the enzyme[18,19].

Given the conservation of the core subunits, the different nature of oligomerisation and the ability to test structural hypotheses biochemically, we reasoned that investigation of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase structure and function would provide the missing evolutionary link to understand how the monomers interact to form physiological dimers. Here, we address this question by combining structural, functional and evolutionary analysis of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimer.

Results

Cryo-EM structure of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase

We purified ATP synthase dimers from cultured *T. brucei* procyclic trypomastigotes by affinity chromatography with a recombinant natural protein inhibitor $TbIF_1$[20], and subjected the sample to cryo-EM analysis (Supplementary Fig. 1 and 2). Using masked refinements, maps were obtained for the membrane region, the rotor, and the peripheral stalk. To describe the conformational space of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase, we resolved 10 distinct rotary substates, which were refined to 3.5-4.3 Å resolution. Finally, particles with both monomers in rotational state 1 were selected, and the consensus structure of the dimer was refined to 3.2 Å resolution (Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Fig. 2).

Unlike the wide-angle architecture of dimers found in animals and fungi, the *T. brucei* ATP synthase displays an angle of 60° between the two F_1/*c*-ring subcomplexes. The model of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase includes all 25 different subunits, 11 of which are lineage-specific (Fig. 1a, Supplementary Video 1, Supplementary Fig. 3). We named the subunits according to the previously proposed nomenclature[21-23] (Supplementary Table 2). In addition, we identified and modeled 36 bound phospholipids, including 24 cardiolipins (Supplementary Fig. 4). Both detergents used during purification, n-dodecyl β-D-maltoside (β-DDM) and glyco-diosgenin (GDN) are also resolved in the periphery of the membrane region (Supplementary Fig. 5).

In the catalytic region, F_1 is augmented by three copies of subunit p18, each bound to subunit-α[12,13]. Our structure shows that p18 is involved in the unusual attachment of F_1 to the peripheral stalk. The membrane region includes seven conserved F_o subunits (*d*, *f*, 8, *i/j*, *k*, *e*, and *g*) arranged around the central proton translocator subunit-*a*. We identified those subunits based on the structural similarity and matching topology to their yeast counterparts (Fig 2). Surprisingly, the long helix-2 of subunit-*b* (*b*H2), which constitutes the central part of the peripheral stalk in other organisms and associates with subunit-*a* in the membrane, is absent in *T. brucei.* By contrast, *b*H1 from the yeast structure superposes well with the single transmembrane helix of ATPTB14, which anchors the newly identified subunit-*e* and -*g* to the F_o (Fig 2a). Therefore, ATPTB14 may represent a highly reduced homolog of subunit-*b*.

The membrane region contains a peripheral subcomplex, formed primarily by the phylum-specific ATPTB1,6,12 and ATPEG3 (Fig. 1b). It is separated from the conserved core by a membrane-intrinsic cavity, in which nine bound cardiolipins are resolved (Fig. 1c), and the C-terminus of ATPTB12 interacts with the lumenal β-barrel of the c_{10}-ring. In the cavity of the decameric *c*-ring near the matrix side, 10 $Arg66_c$ residues coordinate a ligand density, which is consistent with a pyrimidine ribonucleoside triphosphate (Fig. 1d). We assign this density as uridine-triphosphate (UTP), due to its large requirement in the mitochondrial RNA metabolism of African trypanosomes being a substrate for post-transcriptional RNA editing[24], and addition of poly-uridine tails to gRNAs and rRNAs[25,26], as well as due to low abundance of cytidine triphosphate (CTP)[27]. The nucleotide base is inserted between two $Arg82_c$ residues, whereas the triphosphate region is coordinated by another five $Arg82_c$ residues, with $Tyr79_\delta$ and $Asn76_\delta$ providing asymmetric coordination contacts. The presence of a nucleotide inside the *c*-ring is surprising, given the recent reports of phospholipids inside the *c*-rings in mammals[5,6] and ciliates[9], indicating that a range of different ligands can provide structural scaffolding.

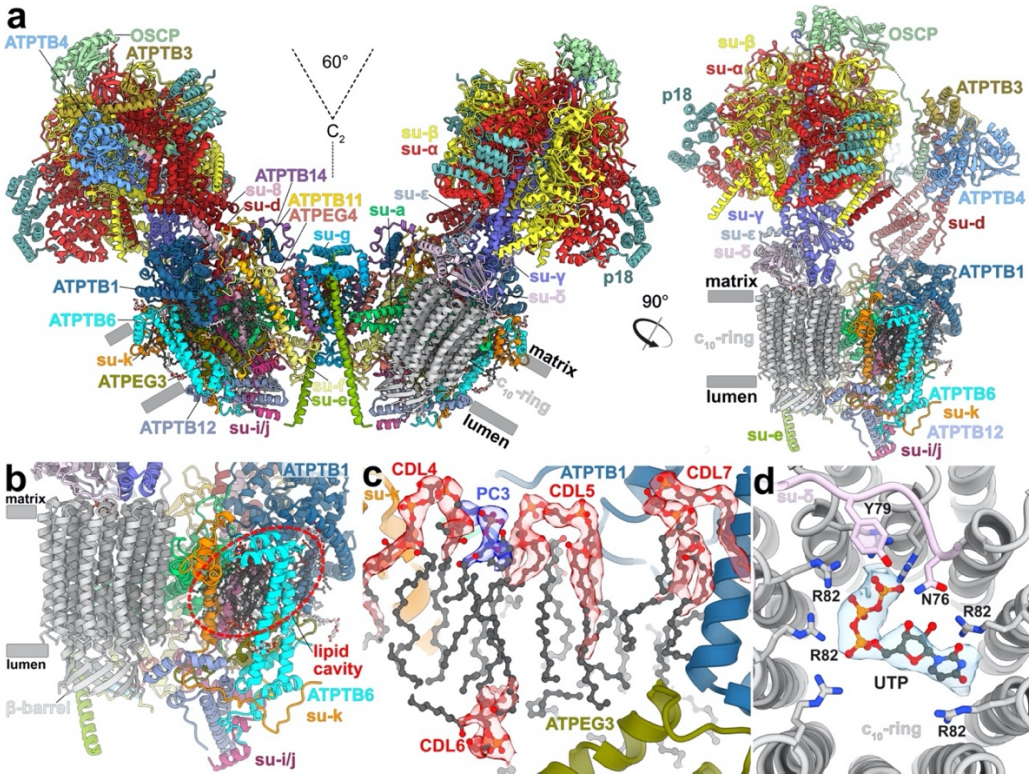

Fig. 1: The *T. brucei* ATP synthase structure with lipids and ligands.

a, Front and side views of the composite model with both monomers in rotational state 1. The two F_1/c_{10}-ring complexes, each augmented by three copies of the phylum-specific p18 subunit, are tied together at a 60°-angle. The membrane-bound F_o region displays a unique architecture and is composed of both conserved and phylum-specific subunits. **b**, Side view of the F_o region showing the lumenal interaction of the ten-stranded β-barrel of the *c*-ring (grey) with ATPTB12 (pale blue). The lipid-filled peripheral F_o cavity is indicated. **c**, Close-up view of the bound lipids within the peripheral F_o cavity with cryo-EM density shown. **d**, Top view into the decameric *c*-ring with a bound pyrimidine ribonucleoside triphosphate, assigned as UTP. Map density shown in transparent blue, interacting residues shown.

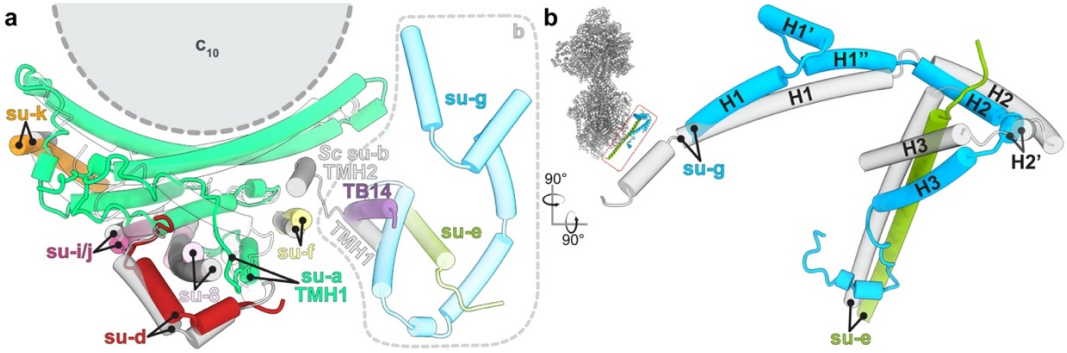

Fig. 2: Identification of conserved F_o subunits.

a, Top view of the membrane region with *T. brucei* subunits (colored) overlayed with *S. cerevisiae* structure (gray transparent). Close structural superposition and matching topology allowed the assignment of conserved subunits based on matching topology and location. **b**, Superposition of subunits-*e* and -*g* with their *S. cerevisiae* counterparts (PDB 6B2Z) confirms their identity.

136 **Peripheral stalk flexibility and distinct rotational states**

137 The trypanosomal peripheral stalk displays a markedly different architecture compared to its
138 yeast and mammalian counterparts. In the opisthokont complexes, the peripheral stalk is
139 organized around the long *b*H2, which extends from the membrane ~15 nm into the matrix and
140 attaches to OSCP at the top of F_1[5,7]. By contrast, *T. brucei* lacks the canonical *b*H2 and instead,
141 helices 5-7 of divergent subunit-*d* and the C-terminal helix of extended subunit-*8* bind to a C-
142 terminal extension of OSCP at the apical part of the peripheral stalk (Fig. 3a). The interaction
143 between OSCP and subunit-*d* and -*8* is stabilized by soluble ATPTB3 and ATPTB4. The
144 peripheral stalk is rooted to the membrane subcomplex by a transmembrane helix of subunit-
145 *8*, wrapped on the matrix side by helices 8-11 of subunit-*d*. Apart from the canonical contacts
146 at the top of F_1, the peripheral stalk is attached to the F_1 via a euglenozoa-specific C-terminal
147 extension of OSCP, which contains a disordered linker and a terminal helix hairpin extending
148 between the F_1-bound p18 and subunits -*d* and -*8* of the peripheral stalk (Fig. 3a,
149 Supplementary Videos 2,3). Another interaction of F_1 with the peripheral stalk occurs between
150 the stacked C-terminal helices of subunit-β and -*d* (Fig. 3b), the former of which structurally
151 belongs to F_1 and is connected to the peripheral stalk via a flexible linker.

152 To assess whether the unusual peripheral stalk architecture influences the rotary mechanism,
153 we analysed 10 classes representing different rotational states. The three main states (1-3) result
154 from a ~120° rotation of the central stalk subunit-*γ*, and we identified five (1a-1e), four (2a-2d)
155 and one (3) classes of the respective main states. The rotor positions of the rotational states 1a,
156 2a and 3 are related by steps of 117°, 136° and 107°, respectively. Throughout all the identified
157 substeps of the rotational state 1 (classes 1a to 1e) the rotor turns by ~33°, which corresponds
158 approximately to the advancement by one subunit-*c* of the c_{10}-ring. While rotating along with
159 the rotor, the F_1 headpiece lags behind, advancing by only ~13°. During the following transition
160 from 1e to 2a, the rotor advances by ~84°, whereas the F_1 headpiece rotates ~22° in the opposite
161 direction (Fig. 3c,d). This generates a counter-directional torque between the two motors,
162 which is consistent with a power-stroke mechanism. Albeit with small differences in step size,
163 this mechanism is consistent with a previous observation in the *Polytomella* ATP synthase[8].
164 However, due to its large, rigid peripheral stalk, the *Polytomella* ATP synthase mainly displays
165 rotational substeps, whereas the *Trypanosoma* F_1 also displays a tilting motion of ~8° revealed
166 by rotary states 1 and 2 (Fig. 3e, Supplementary Video 2). The previously reported hinge
167 motion between the N- and C-terminal domains of OSCP[8] is not found in our structures,
168 instead, the conformational changes of the F_1/c_{10}-ring subcomplex are accommodated by a 5°
169 bending of the apical part of the peripheral stalk. (Fig. 3e, Supplementary Videos 2,3).
170 Together, the structural data indicate that the divergent peripheral stalk attachment confers
171 greater conformational flexibility to the *T. brucei* ATP synthase.

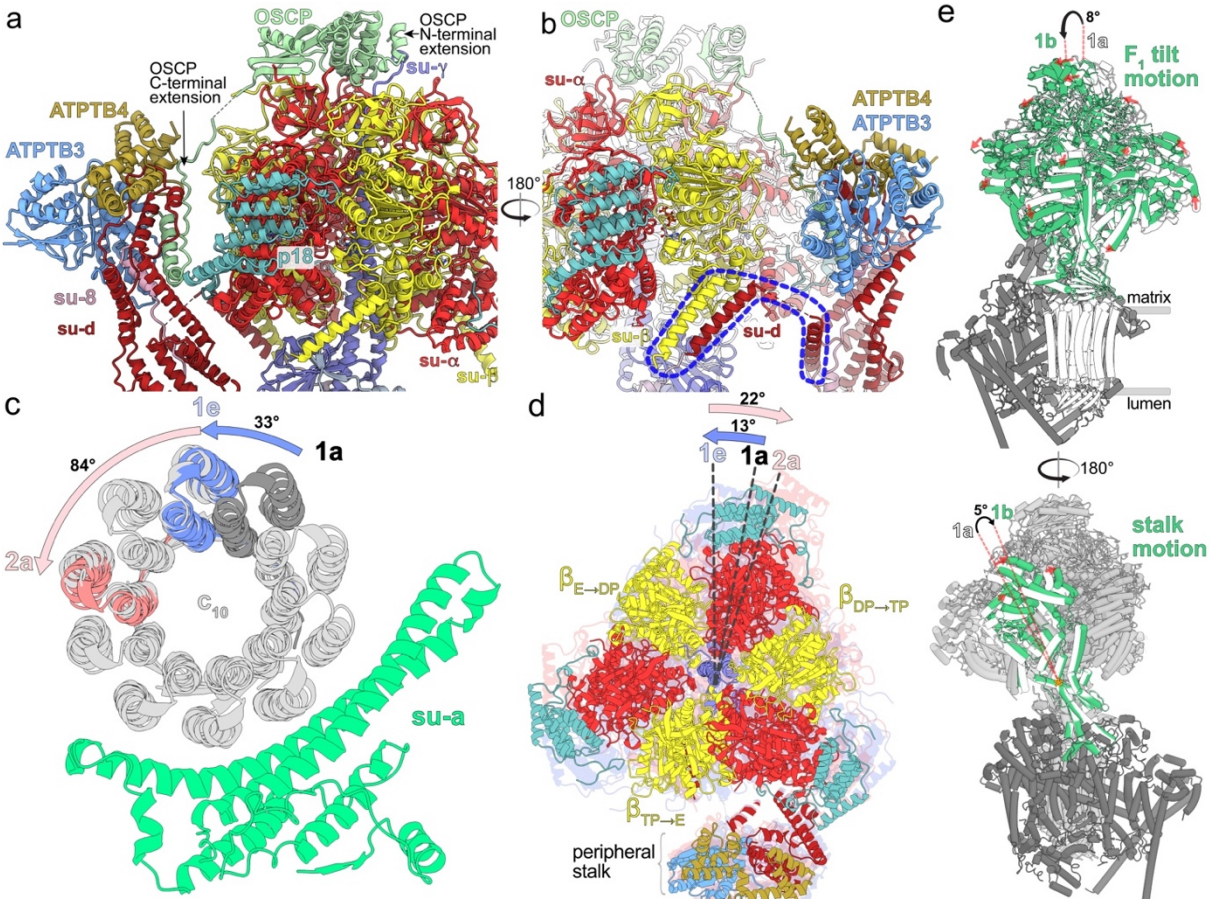

Fig. 3: A divergent peripheral stalk allows high flexibility during rotary catalysis. a, N-terminal OSCP extension provides a permanent central stalk attachment, while the C-terminal extension provides a phylum-specific attachment to the divergent peripheral stalk. **b**, The C-terminal helices of subunits -*β* and -*d* provide a permanent F_1 attachment. **c**, Substeps of the *c*-ring during transition from rotational state 1 to 2. **d**, F_1 motion accommodating steps shown in (c). After advancing along with the rotor to state 1e, the F_1 rotates in the opposite direction when transitioning to state 2a. **e**, Tilting motion of F_1 and accommodating bending of the peripheral stalk.

Lumenal proton half-channel is insulated by a lipid and contains ordered water molecules

The mechanism of proton translocation involves sequential protonation of E102 of subunits-*c*, rotation of the c_{10}-ring with neutralized E102*c* exposed to the phospholipid bilayer, and release of protons on the other side of the membrane. The sites of proton binding and release are separated by the conserved R146 contributed by the horizontal helix H5 of subunit-*a* and are accessible from the cristae lumen and mitochondrial matrix by aqueous half-channels (Fig. 4a). Together, R146 and the adjacent N209 coordinate a pair of water molecules in between helices H5 and H6 (Fig. 4b). A similar coordination has been observed in the *Polytomella* ATP synthase[8]. The coordination of water likely restricts the R146 to rotamers that extend towards the *c*-ring, with which it is thought to interact.

In our structure, the lumenal half-channel is filled with a network of resolved water densities, ending in a chain of five ordered water molecules (W1-W5; Fig. 4c,d,e). The presence of

ordered water molecules in the aqueous channel is consistent with a Grotthuss-type mechanism for proton transfer, which would not require long-distance diffusion of water molecules[5]. However, because some distances between the observed water molecules are too large for direct hydrogen bonding, proton transfer may involve both coordinated and disordered water molecules. The distance of 7 Å between the last resolved water (W1) and D202$_a$, the conserved residue that is thought to transfer protons to the *c*-ring, is too long for direct proton transfer. Instead, it may occur via the adjacent H155$_a$. Therefore, our structure resolves individual elements participating in proton transport (Fig. 4d,e).

The lumenal proton half-channel in the mammalian[5,6] and apicomplexan[11] ATP synthase is lined by the transmembrane part of *b*H2, which is absent in *T. brucei*. Instead, the position of *b*H2 is occupied by a fully ordered phosphatidylcholine in our structure (PC1; Fig. 4a,c). Therefore, a bound lipid replaces a proteinaceous element in the proton path.

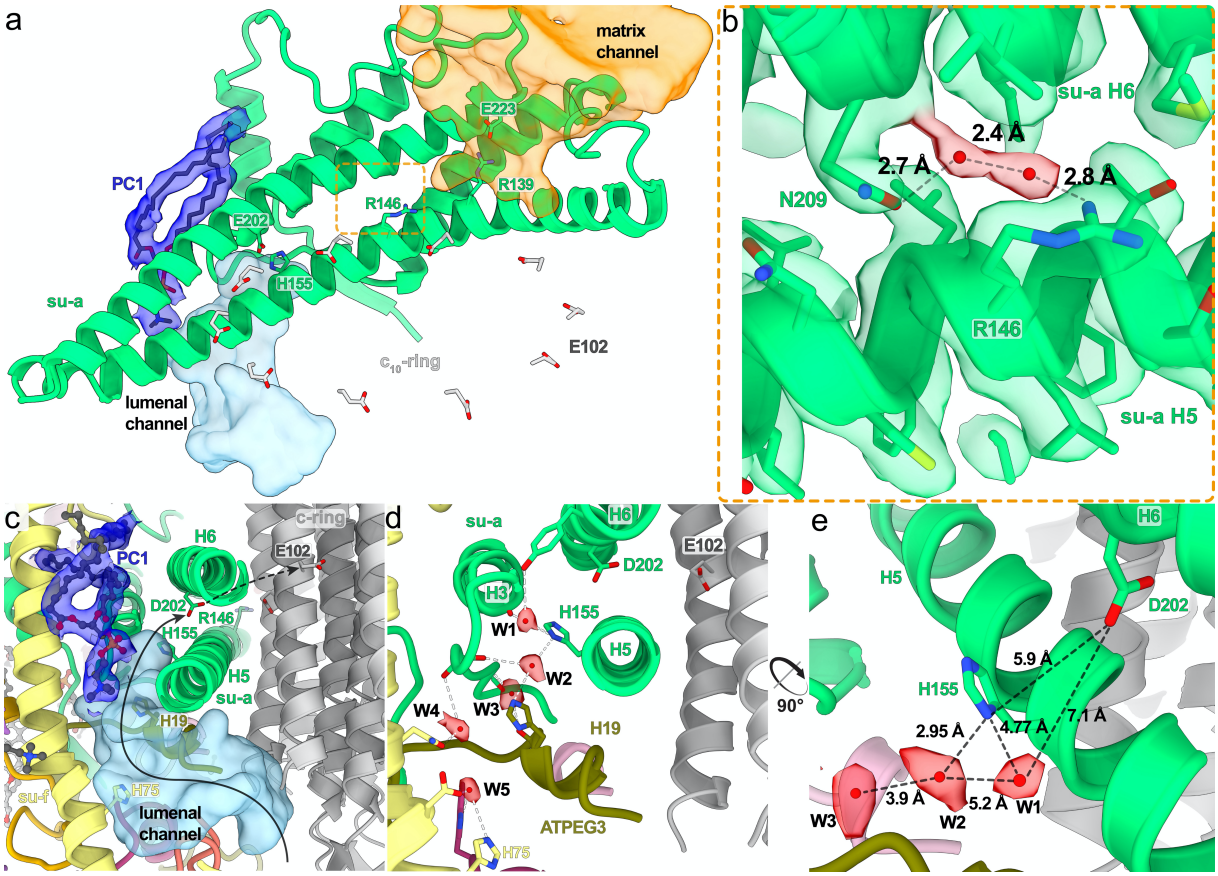

Fig. 4: The lumenal half-channel contains ordered water molecules and is confined by an F$_o$-bound lipid. a, Subunit-*a* (green) with the matrix (orange) and lumenal (light blue) channels, and an ordered phosphatidylcholine (PC1; blue). E102 of the c_{10}-ring shown in grey. **b**, Close-up view of the highly conserved R146$_a$ and N209$_a$, which coordinate two water molecules between helices H5-6$_a$. **c**, Sideview of the lumenal channel with proton pathway (light blue) and confining phosphatidylcholine (blue). **d**, Chain of ordered water molecules in the lumenal channel. Distances between the W1-W5 (red) are 5.2, 3.9, 7.3 and 4.8 Å, respectively. **e**, The ordered waters extend to H155$_a$, which likely mediates the transfer of protons to D202$_a$.

217

218 **Subunit-*g* facilitates assembly of different ATP synthase oligomers**

219 Despite sharing a set of conserved F_o subunits, the *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimer displays a
220 markedly different dimer architecture compared to previously determined structures. First, its
221 dimerization interface of 3,600 $Å^2$ is smaller than that of the *E. gracilis* type-IV (10,000 $Å^2$)
222 and the *T. thermophila* type-III ATP synthases (16,000 $Å^2$). Second, unlike mammalian and
223 fungal ATP synthase, in which the peripheral stalks extend in the plane defined by the two
224 rotary axes, in our structure the monomers are rotated such that the peripheral stalks are offset
225 laterally on the opposite sides of the plane. Due to the rotated monomers, this architecture is
226 associated with a specific dimerization interface, where two subunit-*g* copies interact
227 homotypically on the C_2 symmetry axis (Fig. 5a, Supplementary Video 1). Both copies of H1-
228 2_g extend horizontally along the matrix side of the membrane, clamping against each other
229 (Fig. 5c,e). This facilitates formation of contacts between an associated transmembrane helix
230 of subunit-*e* with the neighbouring monomer via subunit-*a'* in the membrane, and -*f'*in the
231 lumen, thereby further contributing to the interface (Fig. 5b). Thus, the ATP synthase dimer is
232 assembled via the subunit-*e/g* module. The C-terminal part of the subunit-*e* helix extends into
233 the lumen, towards the ten-stranded β-barrel of the *c*-ring (Supplementary Fig. 6a). The
234 terminal 23 residues are disordered with poorly resolved density connecting to the detergent
235 plug of the *c*-ring β-barrel (Supplementary Fig. 6b). This resembles the lumenal C-terminus of
236 subunit-*e* in the bovine structure[5], indicating a conserved interaction with the *c*-ring.

237 The *e/g* module is held together by four bound cardiolipins in the matrix leaflet, anchoring it
238 to the remaining F_o region (Fig. 5c). The head groups of the lipids are coordinated by polar and
239 charged residues with their acyl chains filling a central cavity in the membrane region at the
240 dimer interface (Fig 5c, Supplementary Fig. 4f). Cardiolipin binding has previously been
241 reported to be obligatory for dimerization in secondary transporters[28] and the depletion of
242 cardiolipin synthase resulted in reduced levels of ATP synthase in the bloodstream
243 trypanosomes[14].

244 Interestingly, for yeasts, early blue native gel electrophoresis[29] and subtomogram averaging
245 studies[2] suggested subunit-*g* as potentially dimer-mediating, however the *e/g* modules are
246 located laterally opposed on either side of the dimer long axis, in the periphery of the complex,
247 ~8.5 nm apart from each other. Because the *e/g* modules do not interact directly within the
248 yeast ATP synthase dimer, they have been proposed to serve as membrane-bending elements,
249 whereas the major dimer contacts are formed by subunit-*a* and -*i/j*[7]. In mammals, the *e/g*
250 module occupies the same position as in yeasts, forming the interaction between two diagonal
251 monomers in a tetramer[5,6,30], as well as between parallel dimers[31]. The comparison with our
252 structure shows that the overall organization of the intra-dimeric trypanosomal and inter-
253 dimeric mammalian *e/g* module is structurally similar (Fig. 5d). Furthermore, kinetoplastid
254 parasites and mammals share conserved GXXXG motifs in subunit-*e*[32] and -*g* (Supplementary
255 Fig. 8), which allow close interaction of their transmembrane helices (Fig. 5e), providing
256 further evidence for subunit homology. However, while the mammalian ATP synthase dimers
257 are arranged perpendicularly to the long axis of their rows along the edge of cristae[33], the
258 *T. brucei* dimers on the rims of discoidal cristae are inclined ~45° to the row axis[15]. Therefore,

the *e/g* module occupies equivalent positions in the rows of both evolutionary distant groups (Fig. 5f and reference 31).

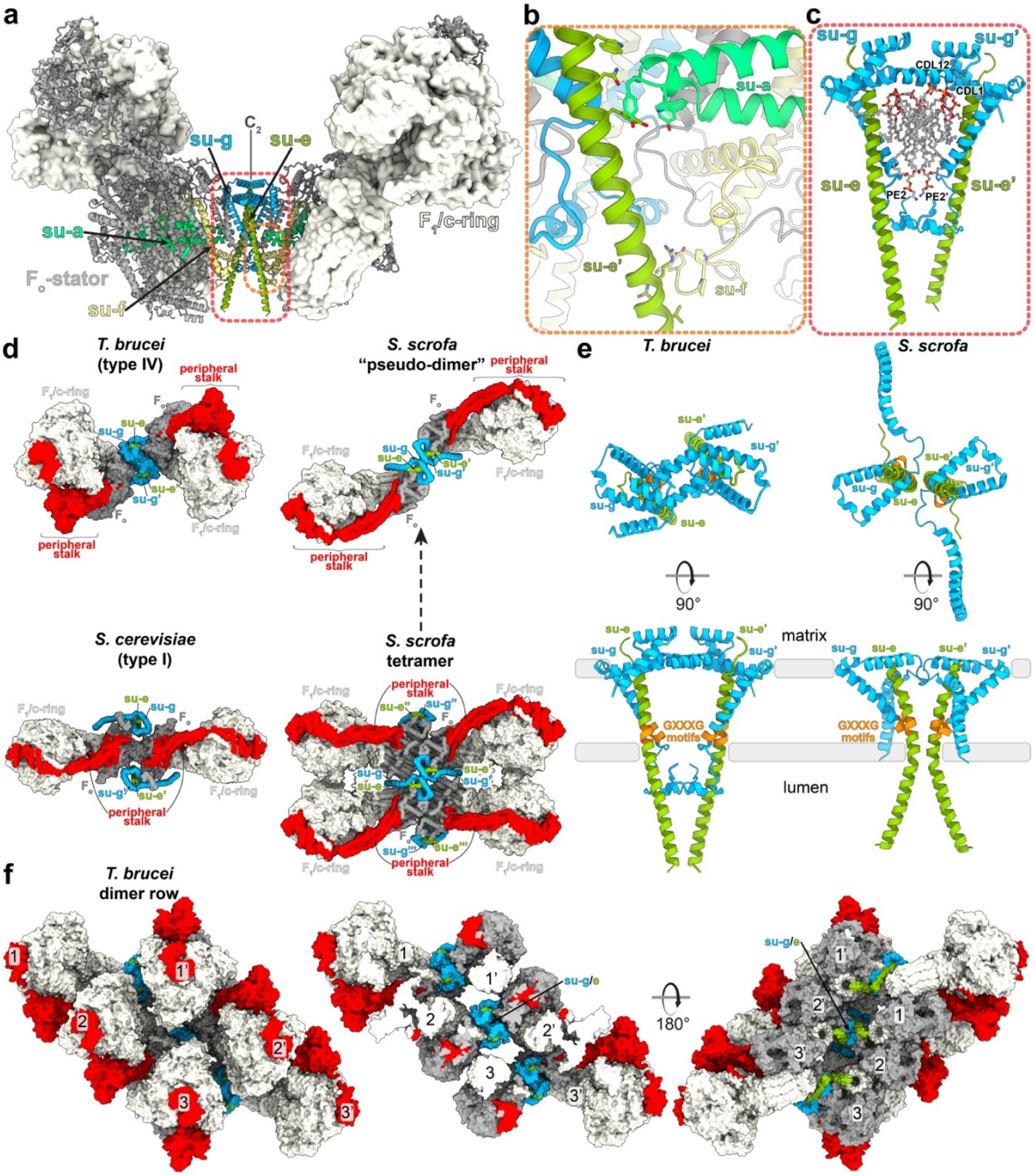

Fig. 5: The homotypic dimerization motif of subunit-*g* generates a conserved oligomerisation module. a, Side view with dimerising subunits colored. **b,c**, The dimer interface is constituted by (b) subunit-*e'* contacting subunit-*a* in the membrane and subunit-*f* in the lumen, (c) subunits *e* and *g* from both monomers forming a subcomplex with bound lipids. **d**, Subunit-*g* and -*e* form a dimerization motif in the trypanosomal (type-IV) ATP synthase dimer (this study), the same structural element forms the oligomerisation motif in the porcine ATP synthase tetramer. The structural similarity of the pseudo-dimer in the porcine structure with the trypanosomal dimer suggests that type I and IV ATP synthase dimers have evolved through divergence from a common ancestor. **e**, The dimeric subunit-*e/g* structures are

conserved in pig (PDB 6ZNA) and *T. brucei* (this work) and contain a conserved GXXXG motif (orange) mediating interaction of transmembrane helices. **f**, Models of the ATP synthase dimers fitted into subtomogram averages of short oligomers[15]: matrix view, left; cut-through, middle, lumenal view, right (EMD-3560).

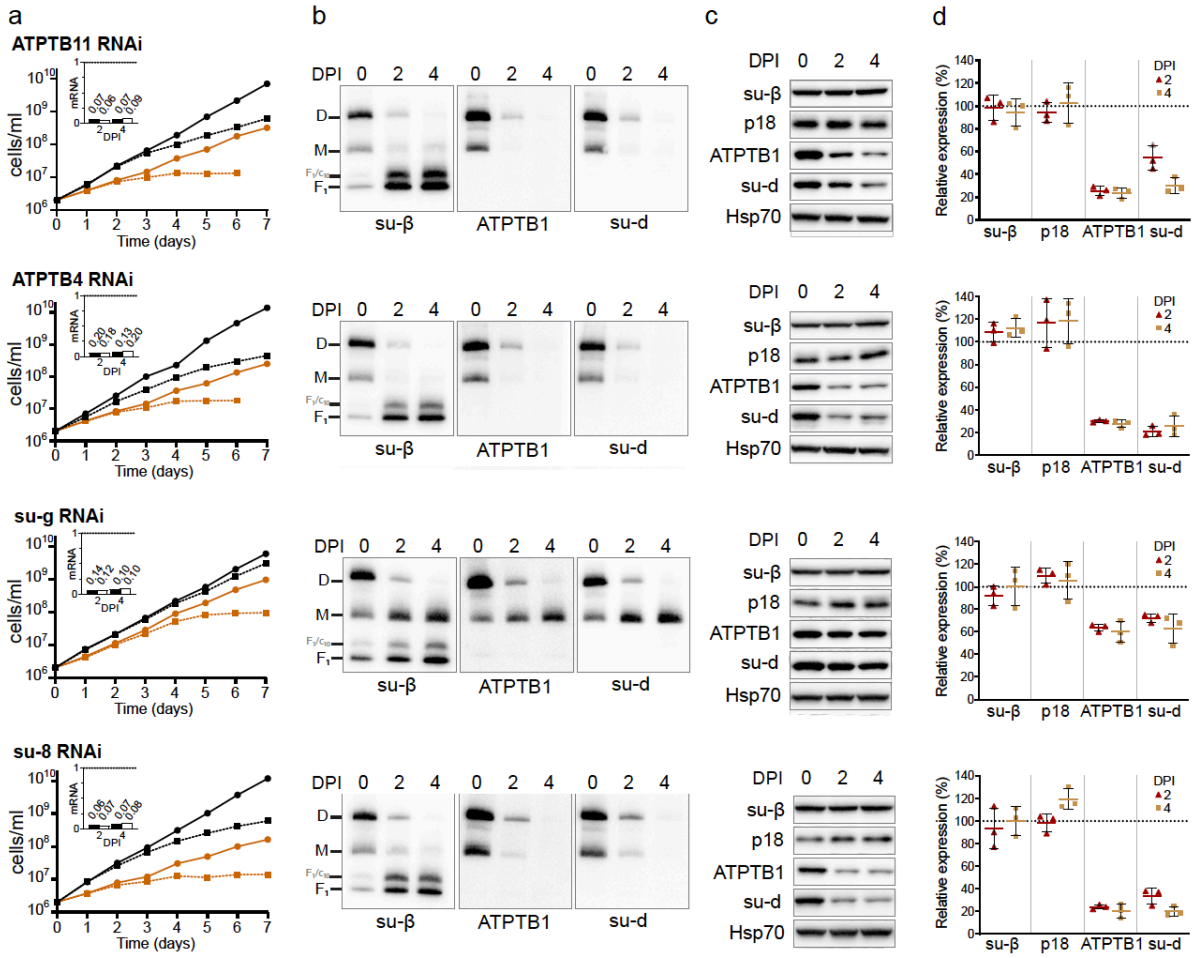

Fig. 6: RNAi knockdown of subunit-*g* results in monomerization of ATP synthase. a, Growth curves of non-induced (solid lines) and tetracycline-induced (dashed lines) RNAi cell lines grown in the presence (black) or absence (brown) of glucose. The insets show relative levels of the respective target mRNA at indicated days post-induction (DPI) normalized to the levels of 18S rRNA (black bars) or ß-tubulin (white bars). **b**, Immunoblots of mitochondrial lysates from indicated RNAi cell lines resolved by BN-PAGE probed with antibodies against indicated ATP synthase subunits. **c**, Representative immunoblots of whole cell lysates from indicated RNAi cell lines probed with indicated antibodies. **d**, Quantification of three replicates of immunoblots in (c). Values were normalized to the signal of loading marker Hsp70 and to non-induced cells. Plots show means with standard deviations (SD).

286 **Subunit-*g* retains the dimer but is not essential for the catalytic monomer**

287 To validate structural insights, we knocked down each individual F_o subunit by inducible RNA
288 interference (RNAi). All target mRNAs dropped to 5-20 % of their original levels after two
289 and four days of induction (Fig. 6a and Supplementary Fig. 7a, insets). Western blot analysis
290 of whole-cell lysates resolved by denaturing electrophoresis revealed decreased levels of F_o
291 subunits ATPB1 and -*d* suggesting that integrity of F_o moiety depends on the presence of other
292 F_o subunits. Immunoblotting of mitochondrial complexes resolved by blue native
293 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (BN-PAGE) with antibodies against F_1 and F_o subunits
294 revealed a strong decrease or nearly complete loss of dimeric and monomeric forms of ATP
295 synthases four days after induction of RNAi of most subunits (*e*, *f*, *i/j*, *k*, 8, ATPTB3, ATPTB4,
296 ATPTB6, ATPTB11, ATPTB12, ATPTB14, ATPEG3 and ATPEG4), documenting an
297 increased instability of the enzyme or defects in its assembly. Simultaneous increase in F_1-
298 ATPase levels demonstrated that the catalytic moiety remains intact after the disruption of the
299 peripheral stalk or the membrane subcomplex (Fig. 6b,c,d and Supplementary Fig. 7b,c,d).

300 In contrast to the other targeted F_o subunits, the downregulation of subunit-*g* with RNAi
301 resulted in a specific loss of dimeric complexes with concomitant accumulation of monomers
302 (Fig. 6b), indicating that it is required for dimerization, but not for the assembly and stability
303 of the monomeric F_1F_o ATP synthase units. Transmission electron microscopy of thin cell
304 sections revealed that the ATP synthase monomerization in the subunit-g^{RNAi} cell line had the
305 same effect on mitochondrial ultrastructure as nearly complete loss of monomers and dimers
306 upon knockdown of subunit-8. Both cell lines exhibited decreased cristae counts and aberrant
307 cristae morphology (Fig. 7a,b), including the appearance of round shapes reminiscent of
308 structures detected upon deletion of subunit-*g* or -*e* in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*[1]. These results
309 indicate that monomerization prevents the trypanosomal ATP synthase from assembling into
310 short helical rows on the rims of the discoidal cristae[15], as has been reported for impaired
311 oligomerisation in counterparts from other eukaryotes[2,34].

312 Despite the altered mitochondrial ultrastructure, the subunit-g^{RNAi} cells showed only a very
313 mild growth phenotype, in contrast to all other RNAi cell lines that exhibited steadily slowed
314 growth from day 3 to 4 after the RNAi induction (Fig. 6a, Supplementary Fig. 7a). This is
315 consistent with the growth defects observed after the ablation of F_o subunit ATPTB1[19] and F_1
316 subunits-α and p18[12]. Thus, the monomerization of ATP synthase upon subunit-*g* ablation had
317 only a negligible effect on the fitness of trypanosomes cultured in glucose-rich media, in which
318 ATP production by substrate level phosphorylation partially compensates for compromised
319 oxidative phosphorylation[35].

320 Measurement of oligomycin-sensitive ATP-dependent mitochondrial membrane polarization
321 by safranin O assay in permeabilized cells showed that the proton pumping activity of the ATP
322 synthase in the induced subunit-g^{RNAi} cells is sufficient to generate mitochondrial membrane
323 potential, demonstrating that the monomerized enzyme is catalytically functional. By contrast,
324 RNAi downregulation of subunit-8, ATPTB4 and ATPTB11, and ATPTB1 resulted in a strong
325 decline of the mitochondrial membrane polarization capacity, consistent with the loss of both
326 monomeric and dimeric ATP synthase forms (Fig. 7c). Accordingly, knockdown of the same
327 subunits resulted in inability to produce ATP by oxidative phosphorylation (Fig. 7d). However,
328 upon subunit-*g* ablation the ATP production was affected only partially, confirming that the

monomerized ATP synthase remains catalytically active. The ~50 % drop of ATP production in the subunit-g^{RNAi} cells can be attributed to the decreased oxidative phosphorylation efficiency due to the impaired cristae morphology. Indeed, when cells were cultured in the absence of glucose enforcing the need for oxidative phosphorylation, knockdown of subunit-*g* results in a growth arrest, albeit one to two days later than knockdown of all other tested subunits (Fig. 6a). The data show that dimerization is critical when oxidative phosphorylation is the predominant source of ATP.

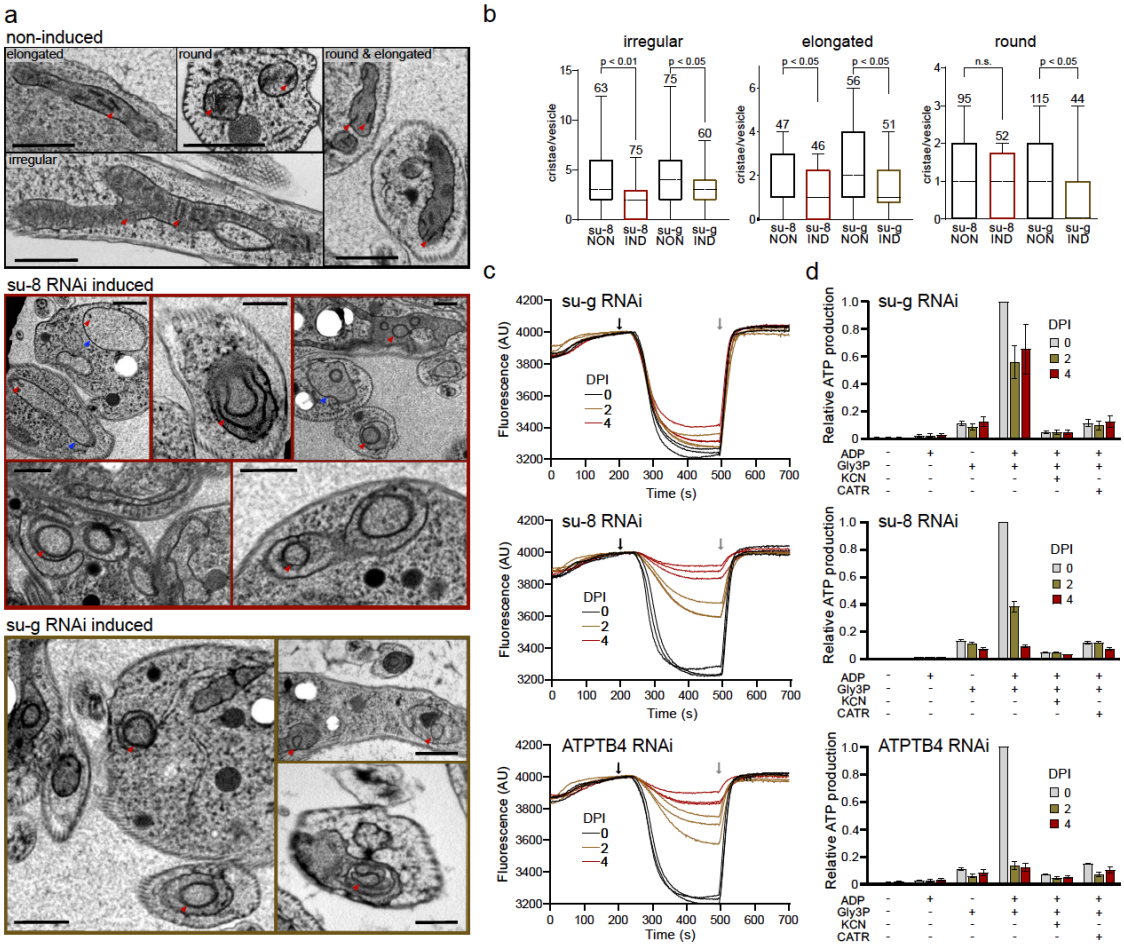

Fig. 7: Monomerization of ATP synthase by subunit-*g* knockdown results in aberrant mitochondrial ultrastructure but does not abolish catalytic activity. a, Transmission electron micrographs of sections of non-induced or 4 days induced RNAi cell lines. Mitochondrial membranes and cristae are marked with blue and red arrowheads, respectively. Top panel shows examples of irregular, elongated and round cross-sections of mitochondria quantified in (b). **b**, Cristae numbers per vesicle from indicated induced (IND) or non-induced (NON) cell lines counted separately in irregular, elongated and round mitochondrial cross-section. Boxes and whiskers show 25th to 75th and 5th to 95th percentiles, respectively. The numbers of analysed cross-sections are indicated for each data point. **c**, Safranin O measurement of ability to generate mitochondrial membrane potential in non-induced or tetracyline-induced RNAi cell lines 2 and 4 DPI. Black and gray arrow indicate addition of ATP and oligomycin, respectively. **d**, ATP production in permeabilized non-induced or tetracyline-induced RNAi cells 2 and 4 DPI in the presence of indicated substrates and inhibitors. Error bars represent SD of four replicates.

Discussion

Our structure of the mitochondrial ATP synthase dimer from the mammalian parasite *T. brucei* offers new insight into the mechanism of membrane shaping, rotary catalysis, and proton transfer. Considering that trypanosomes belong to an evolutionarily divergent group of Kinetoplastida, the ATP synthase dimer has several interesting features that differ from other dimer structures. The subunit-*b* found in bacterial and other mitochondrial F-type ATP synthases appears to be highly reduced to a single transmembrane helix *b*H1 represented by a likely homolog ATPTB14. The long *b*H2, which constitutes the central part of the peripheral stalk in other organisms, and is also involved in the composition of the lumenal proton half-channel, is completely absent in *T. brucei*. Interestingly, the position of *b*H2 in the proton half channel is occupied by a fully ordered phosphatidylcholine molecule that replaces a well-conserved proteinaceous element in the proton path. Lack of the canonical *b*H2 also affects composition of the peripheral stalk in which the divergent subunit-*d* and subunit-*8* binds directly to a C-terminal extension of OSCP, indicating a remodeled peripheral stalk architecture. The peripheral stalk contacts the F_1 headpiece at several positions conferring greater conformational flexibility to the ATP synthase.

Using the structural and functional data, we also identified a conserved structural element of the ATP synthase that is responsible for its multimerization. Particularly, subunit-*g* is required for the dimerization, but dispensable for the assembly of the F_1F_o monomers. Although the monomerized enzyme is catalytically competent, the inability to form dimers results in defective cristae structure, and consequently leads to compromised oxidative phosphorylation and cease of proliferation. The cristae-shaping properties of mitochondrial ATP synthase are critical for sufficient ATP production by oxidative phosphorylation, but not for other mitochondrial functions, as demonstrated by the lack of growth phenotype of subunit-g^{RNAi} cells in the presence of glucose. Thus, trypanosomal subunit-*g* depletion strain represents an experimental tool to assess the roles of the enzyme's primary catalytic function and mitochondria-specific membrane-shaping activity, highlighting the importance of the latter for oxidative phosphorylation.

Based on our data and previously published structures, we propose an ancestral state with double rows of ATP synthase monomers connected by *e/g* modules longitudinally and by other F_o subunits transversally. During the course of evolution, different pairs of adjacent ATP synthase monomer units formed stable dimers in individual lineages (Fig. 8). This gave rise to the highly divergent type-I and type-IV ATP synthase dimers with subunit-*e/g* modules serving either as dimerization or oligomerization motives, respectively. Because trypanosomes belong to the deep-branching eukaryotic supergroup Discoba, the proposed arrangement might have been present in the last eukaryotic common ancestor. Although sequence similarity of subunit-*g* is low and restricted to the single transmembrane helix, we found homologs of subunit-*g* in addition to Opisthokonta and Discoba also in Archaeplastida and Amoebozoa, which represent other eukaryotic supergroups, thus supporting the ancestral role in oligomerization (Supplementary Fig. 8). Taken together, our analysis reveals that mitochondrial ATP synthases that display markedly diverged architecture share the ancestral structural module that promotes oligomerization.

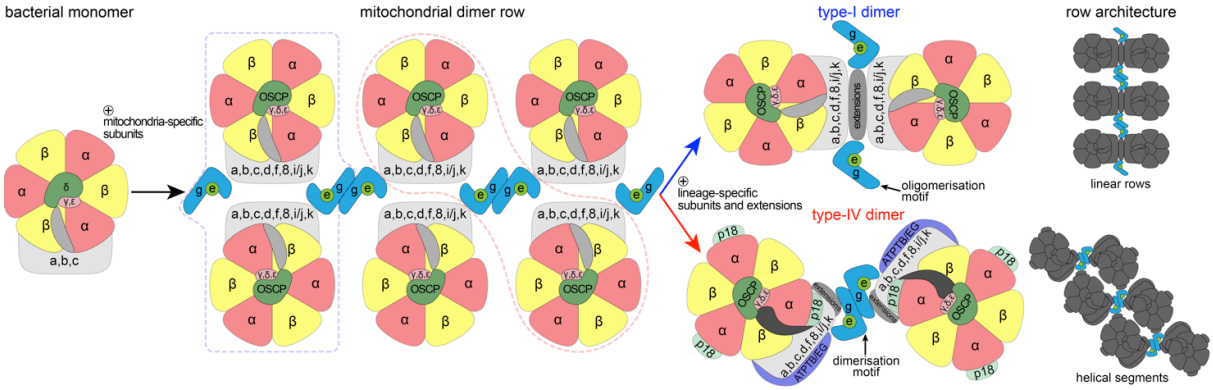

Fig. 8: The subunit-*e/g* module is an ancestral oligomerization motif of ATP synthase. Schematic model of the evolution of type-I and IV ATP synthases. Mitochondrial ATP synthases are derived from a monomeric complex of proteobacterial origin. In a mitochondrial ancestor, acquisition of mitochondria-specific subunits, including the subunit-*e/g* module resulted in the assembly of ATP synthase double rows, the structural basis for cristae biogenesis. Through divergence, different ATP synthase dimer architectures evolved, with the subunit-*e/g* module functioning as an oligomerization (type I) or dimerization (type IV) motif, resulting in distinct row assemblies between mitochondrial lineages.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture and isolation of mitochondria

T. brucei procyclic strains were cultured in SDM-79 medium supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum. For growth curves in glucose-free conditions, cells were grown in SDM-80 medium with 10 % dialysed FBS. RNAi cell lines were grown in presence of 2.5 µg/ml phleomycin and 1 µg/ml puromycin. For ATP synthase purification, mitochondria were isolated from the Lister strain 427. Typically, $1.5x10^{11}$ cells were harvested, washed in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.9 with 150 mM NaCl and 20 mM glucose, resuspended in hypotonic buffer 1 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, and disrupted by 10 strokes in a 40-ml Dounce homogenizer. The lysis was stopped by immediate addition of sucrose to 0.25 M. Crude mitochondria were pelleted (15 min at 16,000 xg, 4°C), resuspended in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 250 mM sucrose, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.3 mM $CaCl_2$ and treated with 5 µg/ml DNase I. After 60 min on ice, one volume of the STE buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 250 mM sucrose, 2 mM EDTA) was added and mitochondria were pelleted (15 min at 16000 xg, 4°C). The pellet was resuspended in 60% (v/v) Percoll in STE and loaded on six linear 10-35% Percoll gradients in STE in polycarbonate tubes for SW28 rotor (Beckman). Gradients were centrifuged for 1 h at 24,000 rpm, 4°C. The middle phase containing mitochondrial vesicles (15-20 ml per tube) was collected, washed four times in the STE buffer, and pellets were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

Plasmid construction and generation of RNAi cell lines

To downregulate ATP synthase subunits by RNAi, DNA fragments corresponding to individual target sequences were amplified by PCR from Lister 427 strain genomic DNA using

427 forward and reverse primers extended with restriction sites *Xho*I&*Kpn*I and *Xba*I&*Bam*HI,
428 respectively (Supplementary Table 3). Each fragment was inserted into the multiple cloning
429 sites 1 and 2 of pAZ0055 vector, derived from $pRP^{HYG\text{-}iSL}$ (courtesy of Sam Alsford) by
430 replacement of hygromycine resistance gene with phleomycine resistance gene, with restriction
431 enzymes *Kpn*I/*Bam*HI and *Xho*I/*Xba*I, respectively. Resulting constructs with tetracycline
432 inducible T7 polymerase driven RNAi cassettes were linearized with *Not*I and transfected into
433 a cell line derived from the Lister strain 427 by integration of the SmOx construct for
434 expression of T7 polymerase and the tetracycline repressor[36] into the β-tubulin locus. RNAi
435 was induced in selected semi-clonal populations by addition of 1 μg/ml tetracycline and the
436 downregulation of target mRNAs was verified by quantitative RT-PCR 2 and 4 days post
437 induction. The total RNA isolated by RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen) was treated with 2 μg of
438 DNase I, and then reverse transcribed to cDNA with TaqMan Reverse Transcription kit
439 (Applied Biosciences). qPCR reactions were set with Light Cycler 480 SYBR Green I Master
440 mix (Roche), 2 μl of cDNA and 0.3 μM primers (Supplementary Table 3), and run on
441 LightCycler 480 (Roche). Relative expression of target genes was calculated using - ΔΔCt
442 method with 18S rRNA or β-tubulin as endogenous reference genes and normalized to
443 noninduced cells.

444

445 <u>Denaturing and blue native polyacrylamide electrophoresis and immunoblotting</u>

446 Whole cell lysates for denaturing sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide electrophoresis
447 (SDS-PAGE) were prepared from cells resuspended in PBS buffer (10 mM phosphate buffer,
448 130 mM NaCl, pH 7.3) by addition of 3x Laemmli buffer (150 mM Tris pH 6.8, 300 mM 1,4-
449 dithiothreitol, 6% (w/v) SDS, 30% (w/v) glycerol, 0.02% (w/v) bromophenol blue) to final
450 concentration of $1x10^7$ cells in 30 μl. The lysates were boiled at 97ºC for 10 min and stored at
451 -20ºC. For immunoblotting, lysates from $3x10^6$ cells were separated on 4-20 % gradient Tris-
452 glycine polyacrylamide gels (BioRad 4568094), electroblotted onto a PVDF membrane (Pierce
453 88518), and probed with respective antibodies (Supplementary Table 4). Membranes were
454 incubated with the Clarity Western ECL substrate (BioRad 1705060EM) and
455 chemiluminescence was detected on a ChemiDoc instrument (BioRad). Band intensities were
456 quantified densitometrically using the ImageLab software. The levels of individual subunits
457 were normalized to the signal of mtHsp70.

458 Blue native PAGE (BN-PAGE) was performed as described earlier[12] with following
459 modifications. Crude mitochondrial vesicles from $2x10^8$ cells were resuspended in 1 M ε-
460 aminocaproic acid (ACA) and solubilized with 2% (w/v) dodecylmaltoside (β-DDM) for 1 h
461 on ice. Lysates were cleared at 16,000 g for 30 min at 4ºC and their protein concentration was
462 estimated using bicinchoninic acid assay and diluted to 0.25 μg/ μl. 16 μl of each sample was
463 mixed with 2 μl of 50 % (w/v) glycerol and 1.5 μl of loading dye (500 mM ACA, 5% (w/v)
464 Coomassie Brilliant Blue G-250) and resolved on Native PAGE 3-12% Bis-Tris gels
465 (Invitrogen). After the electrophoresis (3 h, 140 V, 4°C), proteins were transferred by
466 electroblotting onto a PVDF membrane (2 h, 100 V, 4ºC, stirring), followed by
467 immunodetection with an appropriate antibody (Supplementary Table 4).

468

469

470 Mitochondrial membrane potential measurement

471 Mitochondrial membrane potential was determined fluorometrically employing safranin O dye
472 (Sigma S2255) in permeabilized cells. For each sample, $2x10^7$ cells were harvested and washed
473 with ANT buffer (8 mM KCl, 110 mM K-gluconate, 10 mM NaCl, 10 mM free-acid Hepes,
474 10 mM K_2HPO_4, 0.015 mM EGTA potassium salt, 10 mM mannitol, 0.5 mg/ml fatty acid-free
475 BSA, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, pH 7.25). The cells were permeabilized by 4 µM digitonin in 2 ml of
476 ANT buffer containing 5 µM safranin O. Fluorescence was recorded for 700 s in a Hitachi F-
477 7100 spectrofluorimeter (Hitachi High Technologies) at a 5-Hz acquisition rate, using 495 nm
478 and 585 nm excitation and emission wavelengths, respectively. 1 mM ATP (PanReac
479 AppliChem A1348,0025) and 10 µg/ml oligomycin (Sigma O4876) were added after 200 s and
480 500 s, respectively. Final addition of the uncoupler SF 6847 (250 nM; Enzo Life Sciences
481 BML-EI215-0050) served as a control for maximal depolarization. All experiments were
482 performed at room temperature and constant stirring.

483

484 ATP production assay

485 ATP production in digitonin-isolated mitochondria was performed as described previously[37].
486 Briefly, $1x10^8$ cells per time point were lysed in SoTE buffer (600 mM sorbitol, 2 mM EDTA,
487 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.75) containing 0.015% (w/v) digitonin for 5 min on ice. After
488 centrifugation (3 min, 4,000 g, 4ºC), the soluble cytosolic fraction was discarded and the
489 organellar pellet was resuspended in 75 µl of ATP production assay buffer (600 mM sorbitol,
490 10 mM $MgSO_4$, 15 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.4, 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 2.5
491 mg/ml fatty acid-free BSA). ATP production was induced by addition of 20 mM DL-glycerol
492 phosphate (sodium salt) and 67 µM ADP. Control samples were preincubated with the
493 inhibitors potassium cyanide (1 mM) and carboxyatractyloside (6.5 µM) for 10 min at room
494 temperature. After 30 min at room temperature, the reaction was stopped by addition of 1.5 µl
495 of 70% perchloric acid. The concentration of ATP was estimated using the Roche ATP
496 Bioluminescence Assay Kit HS II in a Tecan Spark plate reader. The luminescence values of
497 the RNAi induced samples were normalized to that of the corresponding noninduced sample.

498

499 Thin sectioning and transmission electron microscopy

500 The samples were centrifuged and pellet was transferred to the specimen carriers which were
501 completed with 20% BSA and immediately frozen using high pressure freezer Leica EM ICE
502 (Leica Microsystems). Freeze substitution was performed in the presence of 2% osmium
503 tetroxide diluted in 100% acetone at -90°C. After 96 h, specimens were warmed to -20°C at a
504 slope 5 °C/h. After the next 24 h, the temperature was increased to 3°C (3°C/h). At room
505 temperature, samples were washed in acetone and infiltrated with 25%, 50%, 75%
506 acetone/resin EMbed 812 (EMS) mixture 1 h at each step. Finally, samples were infiltrated in
507 100% resin and polymerized at 60°C for 48h. Ultrathin sections (70 nm) were cut using a
508 diamond knife, placed on copper grids and stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate. TEM
509 micrographs were taken with Mega View III camera (SIS) using a JEOL 1010 TEM operating
510 at an accelerating voltage of 80 kV.

511

512 Purification of *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimers

513 Mitochondria from $3x10^{11}$ cells were lysed by 1 % (w/v) β-DDM in 60 ml of 20 mM Bis-tris
514 propane pH 8.0 with 10 % glycerol and EDTA-free Complete protease inhibitors (Roche) for
515 20 min at 4ºC. The lysate was cleared by centrifugation at 30,000 xg for 20 min at 4ºC and
516 adjusted to pH 6.8 by drop-wise addition of 1 M 3-(N-morpholino) propanesulfonic acid pH
517 5.9. Recombinant $TbIF_1$ without dimerization region, whose affinity to F_1-ATPase was
518 increased by N-terminal truncation and substitution of tyrosine 36 with tryptophan[20], with a C-
519 terminal glutathione S-transferase (GST) tag ($TbIF_1$(9-64)-Y36W-GST) was added in
520 approximately 10-fold molar excess over the estimated content of ATP synthase. Binding of
521 $TbIF_1$ was facilitated by addition of neutralized 2 mM ATP with 4 mM magnesium sulphate.
522 After 5 min, sodium chloride was added to 100 mM, the lysate was filtered through a 0.2 µm
523 syringe filter and immediately loaded on 5 ml GSTrap HP column (Cytiva) equilibrated in 20
524 mM Bis-Tris-Propane pH 6.8 binding buffer containing 0.1 % (w/v) glyco-diosgenin (GDN;
525 Avanti Polar Lipids), 10 % (v/v) glycerol, 100 mM sodium chloride, 1 mM tris(2-
526 carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), 1 mM ATP, 2 mM magnesium sulphate, 15 ug/ml
527 cardiolipin, 50 ug/ml 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (POPC), 25 ug/ml 1-
528 palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine (POPE) and 10 ug/ml 1-palmitoyl-2-
529 oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-[phospho-rac-(1-glycerol)] (POPG). All phospholipids were purchased
530 from Avanti Polar Lipids (catalog numbers 840012C, 850457C, 850757C and 840757,
531 respectively). ATP synthase was eluted with a gradient of 20 mM reduced glutathione in Tris
532 pH 8.0 buffer containing the same components as the binding buffer. Fractions containing ATP
533 synthase were pooled and concentrated to 150 µl on Vivaspin centrifugal concentrator with 30
534 kDa molecular weight cut-off. The sample was fractionated by size exclusion chromatography
535 on a Superose 6 Increase 3.2/300 GL column (Cytiva) equilibrated in a buffer containing 20
536 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM sodium chloride, 2 mM magnesium chloride, 0.1 % (w/v) GDN,
537 3.75 µg/ml cardiolipin, 12.5 µg/ml POPC, 6.25 ug/ml POPE and 2.5 µg/ml POPG at 0.03
538 ml/min. Fractions corresponding to ATP synthase were pooled, supplemented with 0.05%
539 (w/v) β-DDM that we and others experimentally found to better preserve dimer assemblies in
540 cryo-EM[38], and concentrated to 50 µl.

541

542 Preparation of cryo-EM grids and data collection

543 Samples were vitrified on glow-discharged Quantifoil R1.2/1.3 Au 300-mesh grids after
544 blotting for 3 sec, followed by plunging into liquid ethane using a Vitrobot Mark IV. 5,199
545 movies were collected using EPU 1.9 on a Titan Krios (ThermoFisher Scientific) operated at
546 300 kV at a nominal magnification of 165 kx (0.83 Å/pixel) with a Quantum K2 camera
547 (Gatan) using a slit width of 20 eV. Data was collected with an exposure rate of 3.6
548 electrons/px/s, a total exposure of 33 electrons/$Å^2$ and 20 frames per movie.

549

550 Image processing

551 Image processing was performed within the Scipion 2 framework[39], using RELION-3.0 unless
552 specified otherwise. Movies were motion-corrected using the RELION implementation of the

553 MotionCor2. 294,054 particles were initially picked using reference-based picking in
554 Gautomatch (http://www.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/kzhang/Gautomatch) and Contrast-transfer
555 function parameters were using GCTF[40]. Subsequent image processing was performed in
556 RELION-3.0 and 2D and 3D classification was used to select 100,605 particles, which were
557 then extracted in an unbinned 560-pixel box (Fig. S1). An initial model of the ATP synthase
558 dimer was obtained using *de novo* 3D model generation. Using masked refinement with applied
559 C_2 symmetry, a 2.7-Å structure of the membrane region was obtained following per-particle
560 CTF refinement and Bayesian polishing. Following C_2-symmetry expansion and signal
561 subtraction of one monomer, a 3.7 Å of the peripheral stalk was obtained. Using 3D
562 classification (T=100) of aligned particles, with a mask on the F_1/*c*-ring region, 10 different
563 rotational substates were then separated and maps at 3.5-4.3 Å resolution were obtained using
564 3D refinement. The authors note that the number of classes identified in this study likely
565 reflects the limited number of particles, rather than the complete conformational space of the
566 complex. By combining particles from all states belonging to main rotational state 1, a 3.7-Å
567 map of the rotor and a 3.2-Å consensus map of the complete ATP synthase dimer with both
568 rotors in main rotational state 1.
569
570 Model building, refinement and data visualisation
571 An initial atomic model of the static F_o membrane region was built automatically using
572 Bucaneer[41]. Subunits were subsequently assigned directly from the cryo-EM map, 15 of them
573 corresponding to previously identified *T. brucei* ATP synthase subunits[21], while three subunits
574 (ATPTB14, ATPEG3, ATPEG4) were newly identified using BLAST searches. Manual model
575 building was performed in *Coot* using the *T. brucei* F_1 (PDB 6F5D)[13] and homology models[42]
576 of the *E. gracilis* OSCP and *c*-ring (PDB 6TDU)[10] as starting models. Ligands were manually
577 fitted to the map and restraints were generated by the GRADE server
578 (http://grade.globalphasing.org). Real-space refinement was performed in PHENIX using auto-
579 sharpened, local-resolution-filtered maps of the membrane region, peripheral stalk tip,
580 *c*-ring/central stalk and F_1F_o monomers in different rotational states, respectively, using
581 secondary structure restraints. Model statistics were generated using MolProbity[43] and
582 EMRinger[44]. Finally, the respective refined models were combined into a composite ATP
583 synthase dimer model and real-space refined against the local-resolution-filtered consensus
584 ATP synthase dimer map with both monomers in rotational state 1, applying reference
585 restraints. Figures of the structures were prepared using ChimeraX[45], the proton half-channels
586 were traced using HOLLOW[46].
587
588 **Data availability**
589 The atomic coordinates have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) and are available
590 under the accession codes: XXX (membrane-region), XXX (peripheral stalk), XXX (rotor),
591 XXX (F1Fo dimer), XXX (rotational state 1a), XXX (rotational state 1b), XXX (rotational
592 state 1c), XXX (rotational state 1d), XXX (rotational state 1e), XXX (rotational state 2a), XXX
593 (rotational state 2b), XXX (rotational state 2c), XXX (rotational state 2d), XXX (rotational
594 state 3). The local resolution filtered cryo-EM maps, half maps, masks and FSC-curves have
595 been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank with the accession codes: EMD-XXX

596 (membrane-region), EMD-XXX (peripheral stalk), EMD-XXX (rotor), EMD-XXX (F_1F_o
597 dimer), EMD-XXX (rotational state 1a), EMD-XXX (rotational state 1b), EMD-XXX
598 (rotational state 1c), EMD-XXX (rotational state 1d), EMD-XXX (rotational state 1e), EMD-
599 XXX (rotational state 2a), EMD-XXX (rotational state 2b), EMD-XXX (rotational state 2c),
600 EMD-XXX (rotational state 2d), EMD-XXX (rotational state 3).

601

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Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Sir John E. Walker and Martin Montgomery for invaluable assistance with ATP synthase purification in the initial stage of the project. We acknowledge Cryo-electron microscopy and tomography core facility of CIISB, Instruct-CZ Centre, supported by MEYS CR (LM2018127). This work was supported by the Czech Science Foundation grants number 18-17529S to A.Z. and 20-04150Y to O.G. and by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MEYS) project CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_019/0000759 to A.Z., Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (FFL15:0325), Ragnar Söderberg Foundation (M44/16), European Research Council (ERC-2018-StG-805230), Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (2018.0080), and EMBO Young Investigator Programme to A.A.

Author contributions

O.G. prepared the sample for cryo-EM. O.G. and A.M. performed initial screening. A.M. processed the cryo-EM data and built the model. B.P., C.H.Y., M.J., M.S., O.G. and A.Z. performed biochemical analysis. O.G., A.M. and A.A. analyzed the structure. O.G., A.M., A.A. and A.Z. wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to the analysis and the final version of the manuscript.

741 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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743 **Supplementary Videos:**

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745 **Supplementary Video 1. Overall structure and subunit-*e*/*g* module of trypanosomal ATP**
746 **synthase dimers.** Subunits are coloured as in Figure 1. Phospholipids and ligands are shown
747 as sticks.

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749 **Supplementary Video 2. Rotary cycle of *T. brucei* ATP synthase.** Top view showing
750 flexibility of the peripheral stalk, including bending of its apical part, and rotational and tilting
751 motions of F_1.

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753 **Supplementary Video 3. Rotary cycle of *T. brucei* ATP synthase.** Side view showing
754 rotational and tilting motions of the F_1/*c*-ring subcomplex.

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Supplementary Tables:

Supplementary Table 1. List of models and refinement statistics

	Mem-brane region	Rotor	Periphe-ral stalk	F_1F_o dimer	Rot. 1a	Rot. 1b	Rot. 1c	Rot. 1d	Rot. 1e	Rot. 2a	Rot. 2b	Rot. 2c	Rot. 2d	Rot. 3
Data collection														
Microscope	Titan Krios													
Voltage (kV)	300													
Camera	K2 Summit													
Magnification	165 kx													
Exposure ($e^-/Å^2$)	33													
Defocus range (μm)	-1.6 to -3.2													
Pixel size (Å)	0.83													
Movies collected	5,199													
Frames per movie	20													
Data processing														
Initial particles	100,605 (C_2 symmetry-expanded: 201,210)													
Final no. particles	100,605	118,683	201,210	36,925	19,764	26,427	23,019	16,991	34,482	12,173	24,096	11,035	17,833	17.312
Symmetry	C_2	C_1	C_1	C_2	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1	C_1
Map resolution (Å)	2.7	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.3	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.7
Sharpening B factor	-46.2	-74.4	-92.5	-49.8	-61.8	-61.1	-57.6	-45.6	-58.0	-73.8	-54.5	-65.2	-54.9	-61.7
EMD ID														
Model refinement statistics														
CC (map/model)	0.86	0.83	0.82	0.71	0.79	0.79	0.82	0.79	0.69	0.71	0.81	0.77	0.77	0.79
Resolution (map/model)	2.65	3.4	3.68	3.13	3.48	3.56	3.36	3.55	3.57	3.94	3.39	3.73	3.64	3.58
No. of atoms	76,690	19,669	12,083	251,552	129,568	129,568	129,568	129,568	129,568	129,563	129,563	129,563	129,563	129,566
No. of residues	4074	1285	767	15,356	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872	7872
No. of lipids	36	0	0	36	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
No. of ATP/ADP	0	0	0	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
No. of Mg ions	0	0	0	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
B-factor ($Å^2$)														
- protein	54.05	56.13	77.88	84.48	55.65	70.37	80.22	83.27	70.70	112,72	79.93	65.52	66.49	101.5
- ligands	50.57	58.25	-	69.94	40.99	72.29	63.18	78.43	63.76	75,25	74.47	61.79	46.55	83.68
Rotamer outliers (%)	0.44	0.40	0.31	0.22	0.42	0.09	0.18	0.26	0.58	0.18	0.27	0.48	0.42	0.39
Ramachandran (%)														
- outliers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.001	0.003	0.004	0.01	0.003	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04
- allowed	1.57	1.91	1.59	1.56	1.52	1.65	1.44	1.49	1.49	1.67	1.58	1.47	1.65	1.79
- favored	98.43	98.08	98.41	98.42	98.47	98.34	98.56	98.49	98.48	98.31	98.42	98.49	98.31	98.17
Clash score	1.66	2.44	2.32	2.26	2.60	2.65	2.53	2.67	2.99	2.38	2.30	2.52	2.38	3.57
MolProbity score	0.92	1.03	1.01	1.00	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.05	1.09	1.02	1.01	1.04	1.02	1.15
RMSD														
- bonds (Å)	0.004	0.004	0.02	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
- angles (°)	0.455	0.416	0.386	0.407	0.414	0.424	0.417	0.407	0.412	0.410	0.416	0.419	0.428	0.421
EMRinger score	5.11	3.96	1.61	2.56	3.24	2.95	3.32	2.85	3.32	1.35	2.89	2.32	2.49	2.8
PDB ID														

781 **Supplementary Table 2. Composition of *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimer**

Subunit name	TriTrypDB Lister strain 427 ID	TriTrypDB TREU927 strain ID	Uniprot TREU927 strain ID	Residues	Residues built
F_1 subcomplex					
α	Tb427_070081800 Tb427_070081900	Tb927.7.7420 Tb927.7.7430	Q57TX9	584	45-151, 161-584
β	Tb427_030013500	Tb927.3.1380	Q57XX1	519	26-514
γ	Tb427_100005200	Tb927.10.180	B0Z0F6	305	2-301
δ	Tb427_060054900	Tb927.6.4990	Q586H1	182	22-182
ε	Tb427_100054600	Tb427.10.5050	N/A	75	11-75
p18	Tb427_050022900	Tb927.5.1710	Q57ZP0	188	23-188
F_o subcomplex					
OSCP	Tb427_100087100	Tb927.10.8030	Q38AG1	255	18-202, 208-255
a	mt encoded	mt encoded	N/A	231	1-231
c	Tb427_100018700 Tb427_110057900 Tb427_070019000	Tb927.10.1570 Tb927.11.5280 Tb927.7.1470	Q38C84 Q385P0 Q57WQ3	118	41-118
d	Tb427_050035800	Tb927.5.2930	Q57ZW9	370	17-325, 332-354
e	Tb427_110010200	Tb927.11.600	N/A	92	1-383
f	Tb427_030016600	Tb927.3.1690	Q57ZE2	145	2-136
g	Tb427_020016900	Tb927.2.3610	Q586X8	144	16-144
i/j	Tb427_030029400	Tb927.3.2880	Q57ZM4	104	2-104
k	Tb427_070011800	Tb927.7.840	Q57VT0	124	20-124
8	Tb427_040037300	Tb927.4.3450	Q585K5	114	29-114
ATBTB1	Tb427_100008400	Tb927.10.520	Q38CI8	396	1-383
ATPTB3	Tb427_110067400	Tb927.11.6250	Q385E4	269	2-269
ATPTB4	Tb427_100105100	Tb927.10.9830	Q389Z3	157	21-157
ATPTB6	Tb427_110017200	Tb927.11.1270	Q387C5	169	2-169
ATPTB11	Tb427_030021500	Tb927.3.2180	Q582T1	156	18-156
ATPTB12	Tb427_050037400	Tb927.5.3090	Q57Z84	101	5-100
ATPTB14	Tb427_040009100	Tb927.4.720	Q580A0	105	26-105
ATPEG3	Tb427_060009300	Tb927.6.590	Q583U4	98	14-98
ATPEG4	N/A	Tb927.11.2245	N/A	62	1-62

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784 **Supplementary Table 3. List of oligonucleotides**

Subunit	Primer pair sequences
Primers for amplification of RNAi cassettes	
e	TAATCTCGAGGGTACCGGGAGTACAGAAGGGCTACA TAGATCTAGAGGATCCCGTGCACACCATCAGCTG
f	ATACTCGAGGGTACCGTGAGTACCGCCTTTACGC GCGTCTAGAGGATCCAGCACTGATCACCAAACTGC
g	ACTGCTCGAGGGTACCACGCGGGAATTCAAAAGACC GCGGTCTAGAGGATCCCGTTGCGGTGCTTGTCATTA
i/j	TAATCTCGAGGGTACCGAATATCCGATGCATGCCGC GCCGTCTAGAGGATCCACTTCGCTCTACTGCATGCA
k	ATTACTCGAGCCCGGGCGATCAGTGCAGGGGATTTT GCCGTCTAGAGGATCCTTTCCTCGAAAACGCACACA
8	ATGACTCGAGGGTACCGGGCTATGGTGTGGTATTATGC GACGTCTAGAGGATCCGCAGAAAACTCCCAACGACA
ATPTB3	ACTGCTCGAGGGTACCAAAGAGGAGGTGAGGTCTGC GCAGTCTAGAGGATCCCCCTAGGGTTCTTCGAAGCA
ATPTB4	CTGACTCGAGGGTACCTTCCTTTTCTGCTGCATCGG GCAGTCTAGAGGATCCCTCCTCGGGCTTCCAATTTG
ATPTB6	ACTGCTCGAGGGTACCCAACATGGCAGTATCCGGTG GCAGTCTAGAGGATCCTTATTAGTGGCGGTGGTGGT
ATPTB11	ACTGCTCGAGGGTACCGCGCTCGTCTTCTCCATTTC GCAGAAGCTTGGATCCAGGTTGGGGTGTTTAGGGAG
ATPTB12	TAATCTCGAGGGTACCGACGCCATCAAAGGAATGCC GCCGTCTAGAGGATCCAGCAGCCAACAAACAGACAA
ATPTB14	TAATCTCGAGGGTACCGTTGAGTGAGGAGGAACGGG GCAGTCTAGAGGATCCTATCCCTTCCACCCACCACT
ATPEG3	TACACTCGAGGGTACCAAACCTGAAGGCCCTCACAC GCAGTCTAGAGGATCCCTCTTTCGTGCCGCCTGATA
Primers for quantification of mRNA levels by qPCR	
e	CAAGCCTTGCACACACTTTATG CCGCAAAGAAGTACGCCAC
f	TTTTCTACATACCGCAGCAGT TACCATTCCATGCGCGTTG
g	GCAATTGTGTGAGCTGAACG TACTGGCCGCATTGCATAAC
i/j	AGAGTAAAAGCGCGCCTACG CAGTTGGAAAACCGGTAGCC
k	ACACAAAACACTTCCAGCAGA

	CGCTATGACGGACAGGTGT
8	GCTACGGCGACTTGGTGC CGTCACCGCGTATTTGTTCA
ATPTB3	AACGTTTATATCAGCGGGCG CTGTTTTGGTCTGCACACGA
ATPTB4	CCAAACTTTGAAGCAGCGGA ATTCCTTGGATCCGCACCTT
ATPTB6	TCGGCATAGGAGAAGTAACGA GATTCGGTTTGGAACTTGCG
ATPTB11	CAACGGCCCCACATTCTC ACACCGCGGTCATTCATTG
ATPTB12	GCACTTCATTCTCCCGACTG ACATGATGTAACACCTCCGC
ATPTB14	CCAAGAGTGATGATGGCCCC CGTTTAGGGTCGCGGAAAAC
ATPEG3	TGGCCCCACATGACTGAAAA GGAAGTGATCCGCCGGATTT

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804 **Supplementary Table 4. List of antibodies used in this study**

Target	Type	Reference	Dilution SDS-PAGE	Dilution BN-PAGE
Primary antibodies				
subunit-β	rabbit polyclonal	1	1:2000	1:2000
p18	rabbit polyclonal	1	1:1000	-
ATPTB1	rabbit polyclonal	1	1:1000	1:1000
subunit-*d*	rabbit polyclonal	1	1:1000	1:500
mtHsp70	mouse monoclonal	2	1:5000	-
Secondary antibodies				
goat anti-rabbit IgG HRP conjugate		BioRad 1721019	1:2000	1:2000
goat anti-mouse IgG HRP conjugate		BioRad 1721011	1:2000	1:2000

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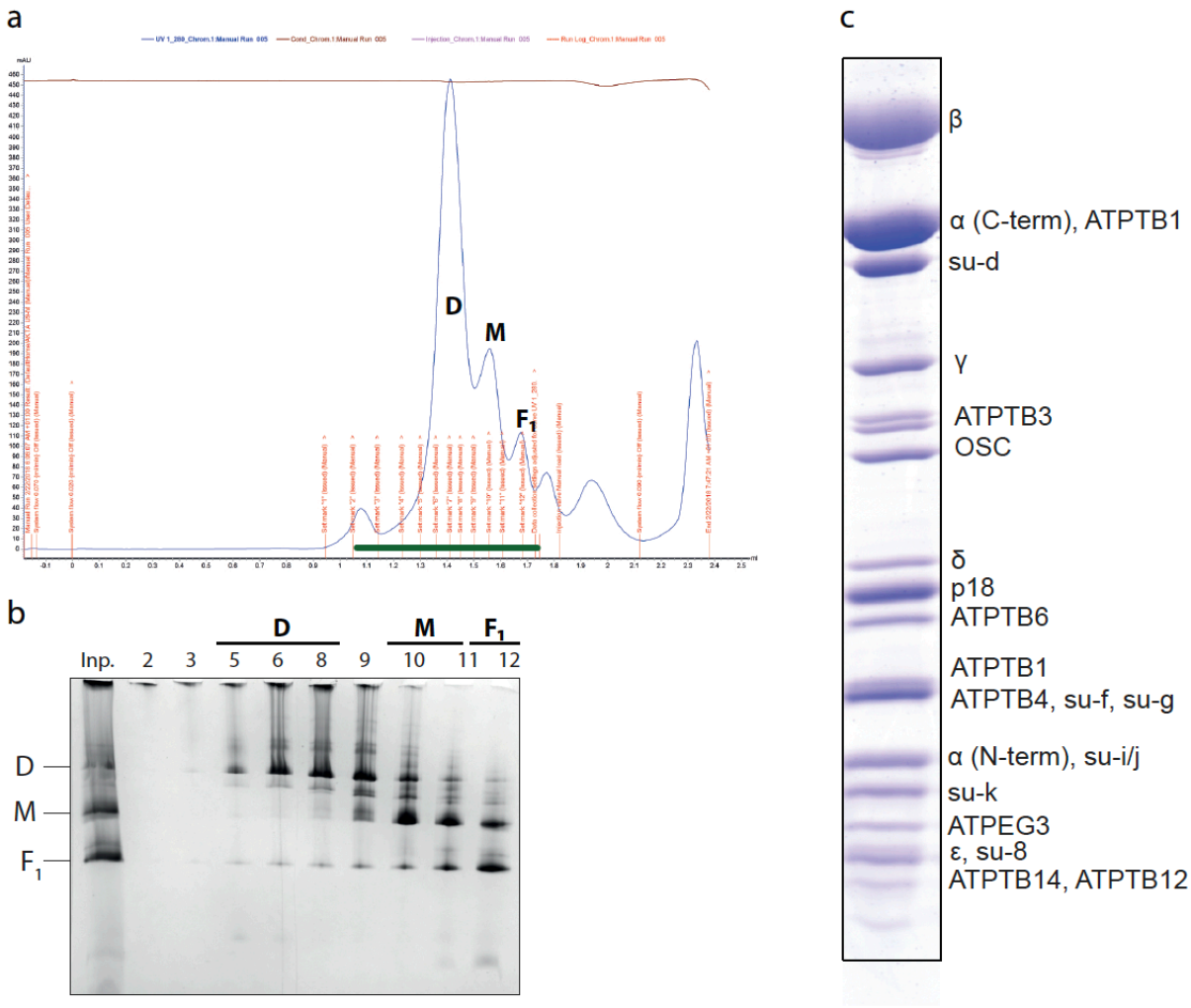
806 **Supplementary Figures:**



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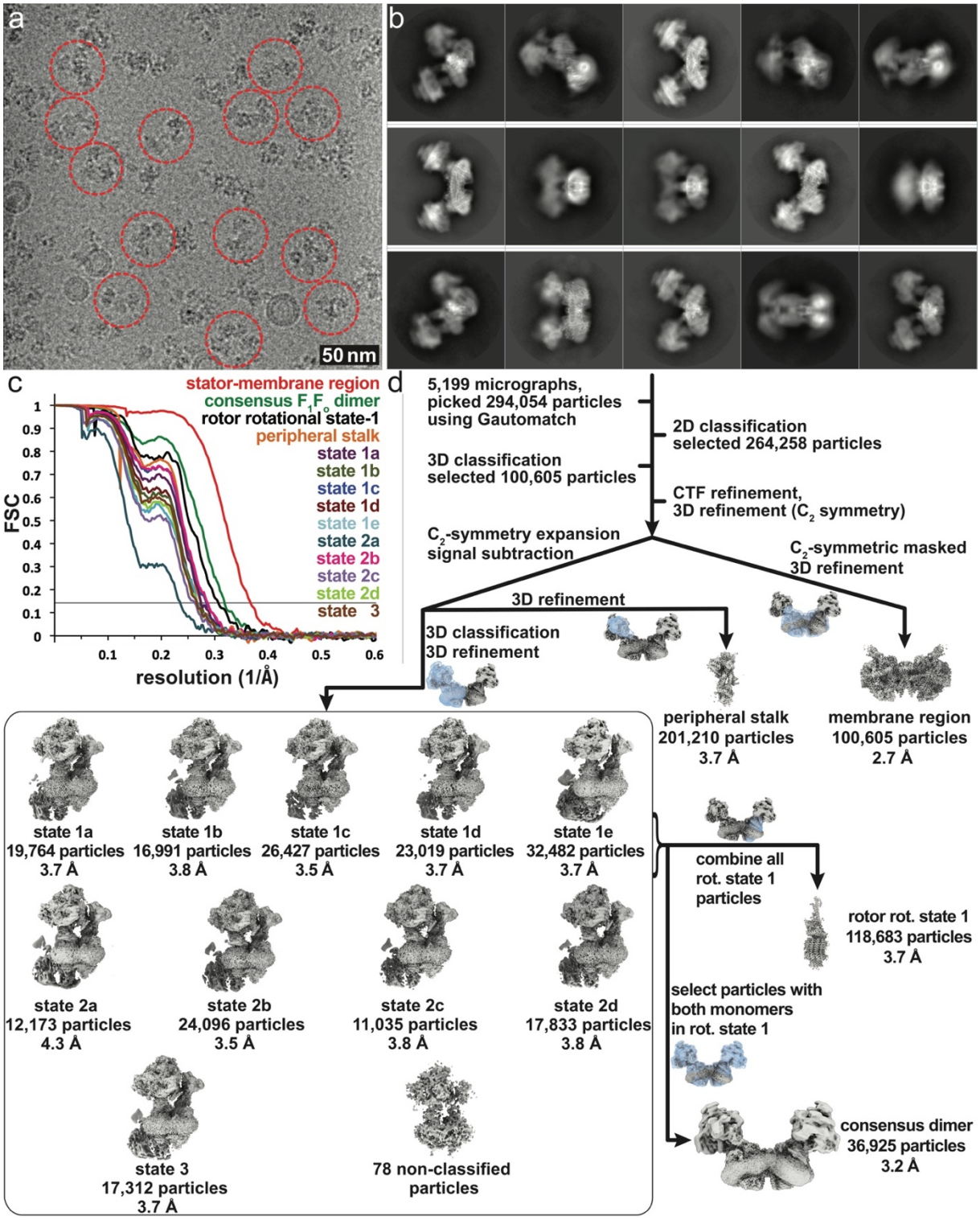
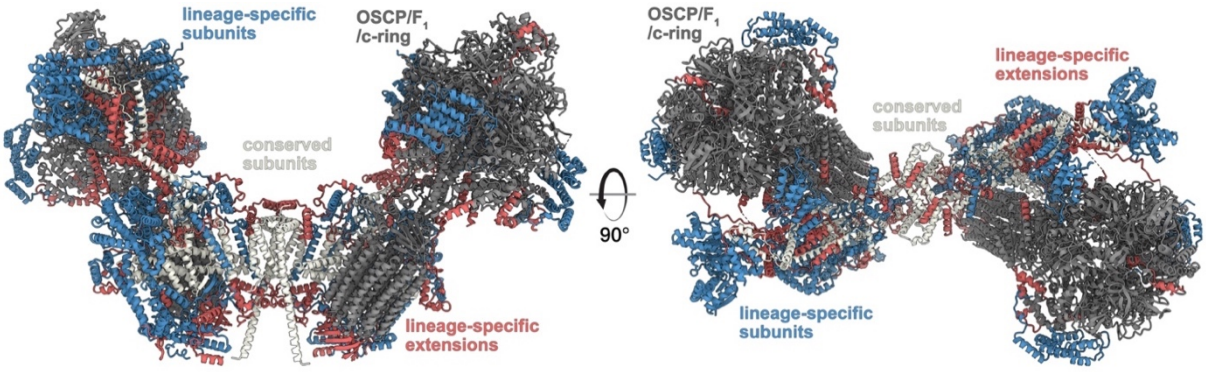
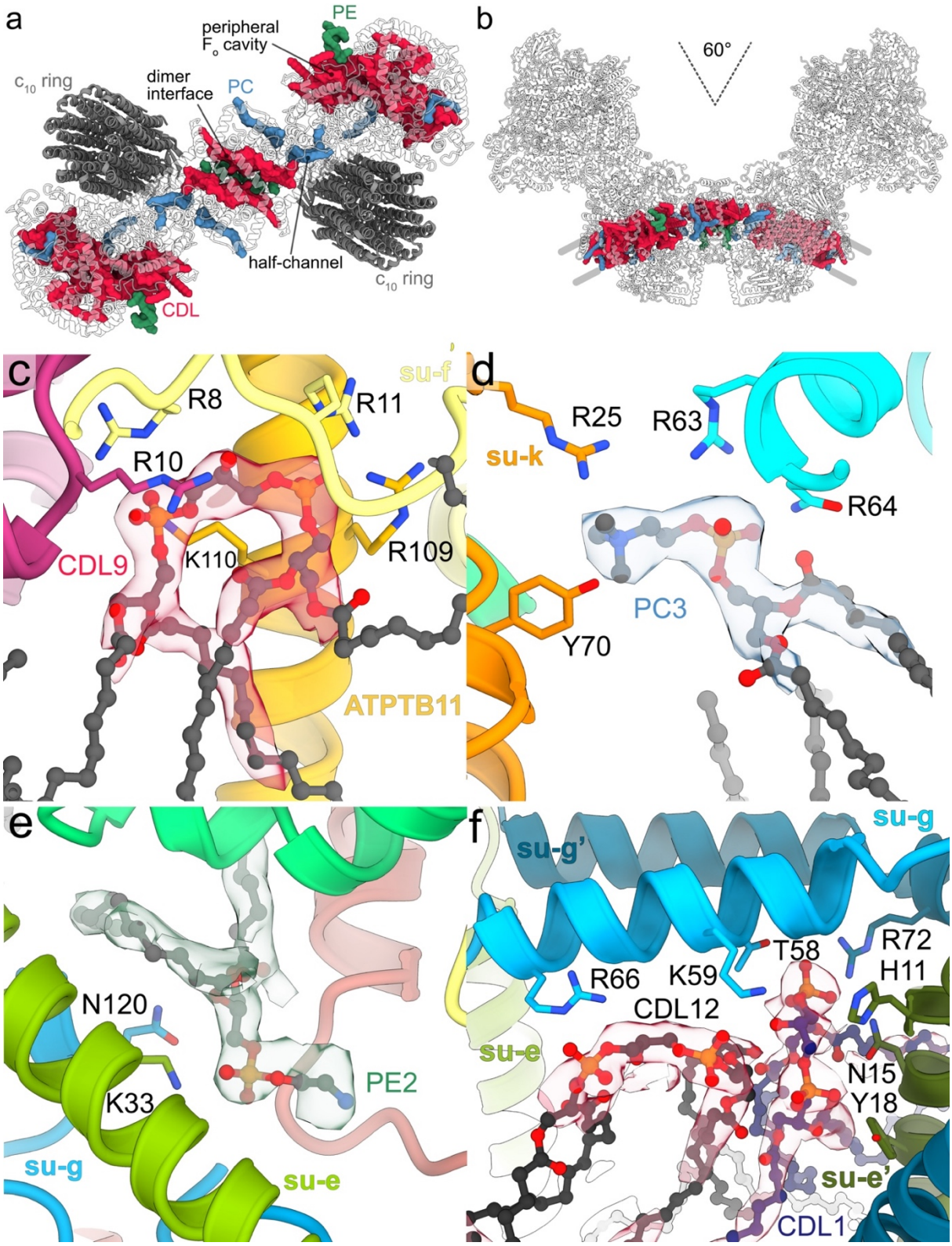
808 **Supplementary figure 1: Purification of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimer. a**, Size
809 exclusion chromatography trace with peaks enriched with ATP synthase dimers (D), monomers
810 (M) and F_1-ATPase (F_1) labelled. **b,** Fractions from size exclusion chromatography marked
811 with green bar in (a) resolved by native BN-PAGE. **c,** Dimer-enriched fraction resolved by
812 SDS-PAGE stained by Coomassie blue dye. Bands are annotated based on mass spectrometry
813 identification from excised gel pieces.



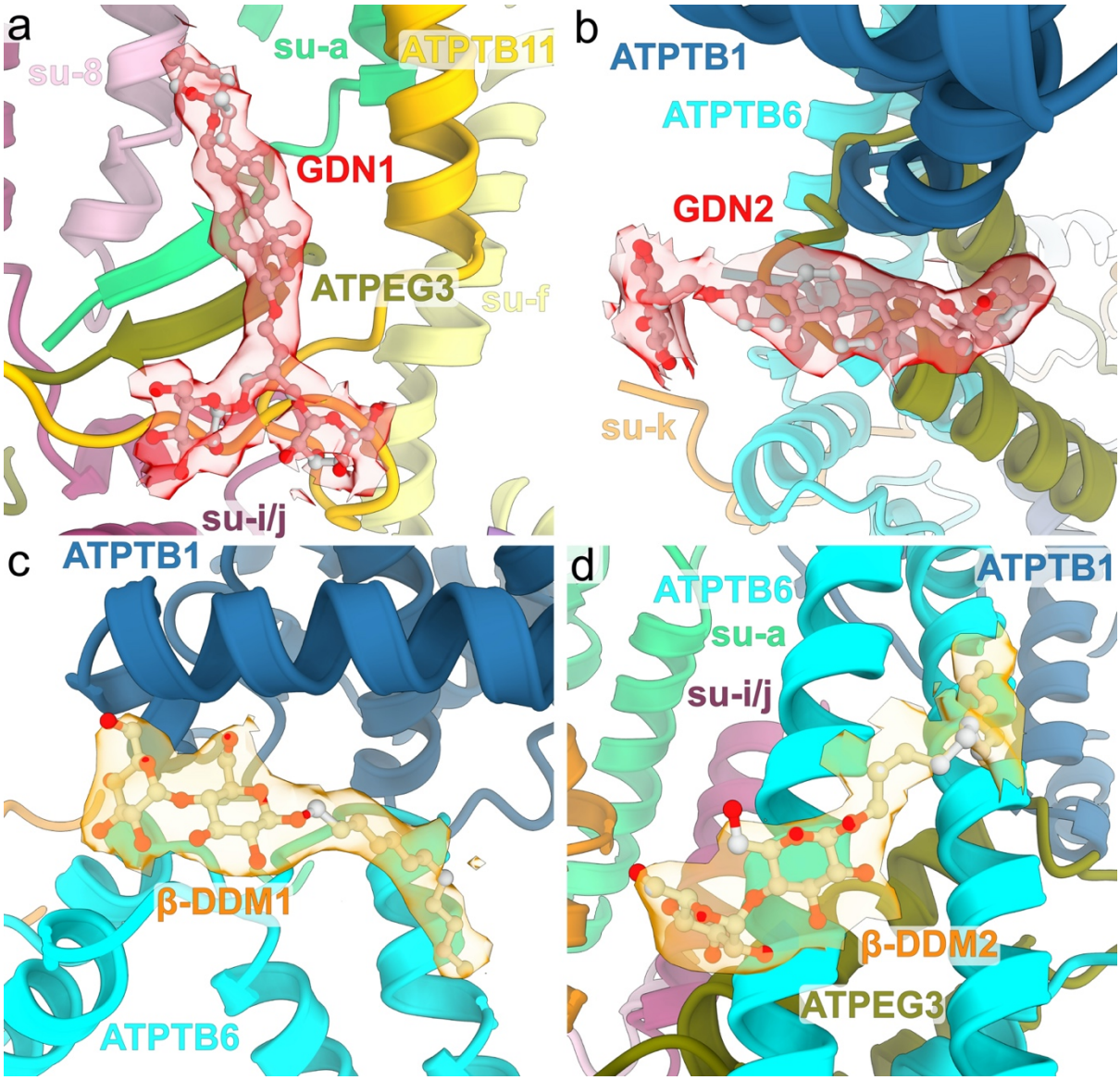
Supplementary figure 2: Cryo-EM data processing of the *T. brucei* ATP synthase dimer. **a**, Representative micrograph. **b**, 2D class averages. **c**, Fourier Shell Correlation (FSC) curves showing the estimated resolutions of ATP synthase maps according to the gold standard 0.143 criterion. **d**, Data processing scheme resulting in maps covering all regions of the complex, as well as 10 rotational states.



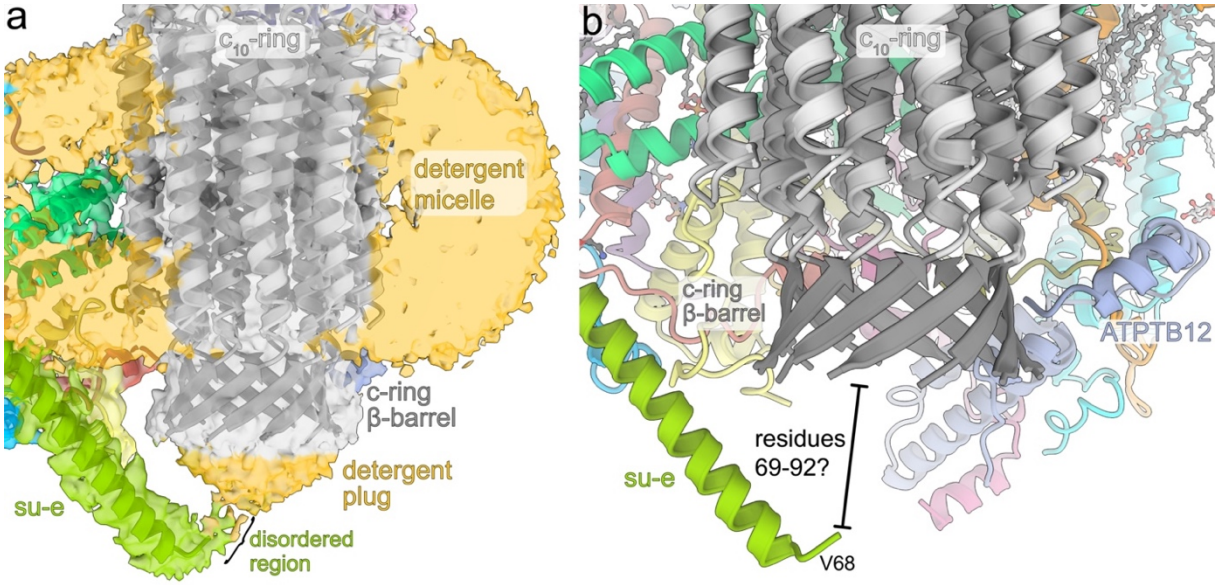
Supplementary figure 3: Conserved and phylum specific elements generate the *T. brucei* ATP synthase architecture. The canonical OSCP/F_1/*c*-ring monomers (dark grey) are tied together by both conserved F_o subunits and extensions of lineage-specific subunits (red). The F_o periphery and peripheral stalk attachment are composed of lineage specific subunits (blue).



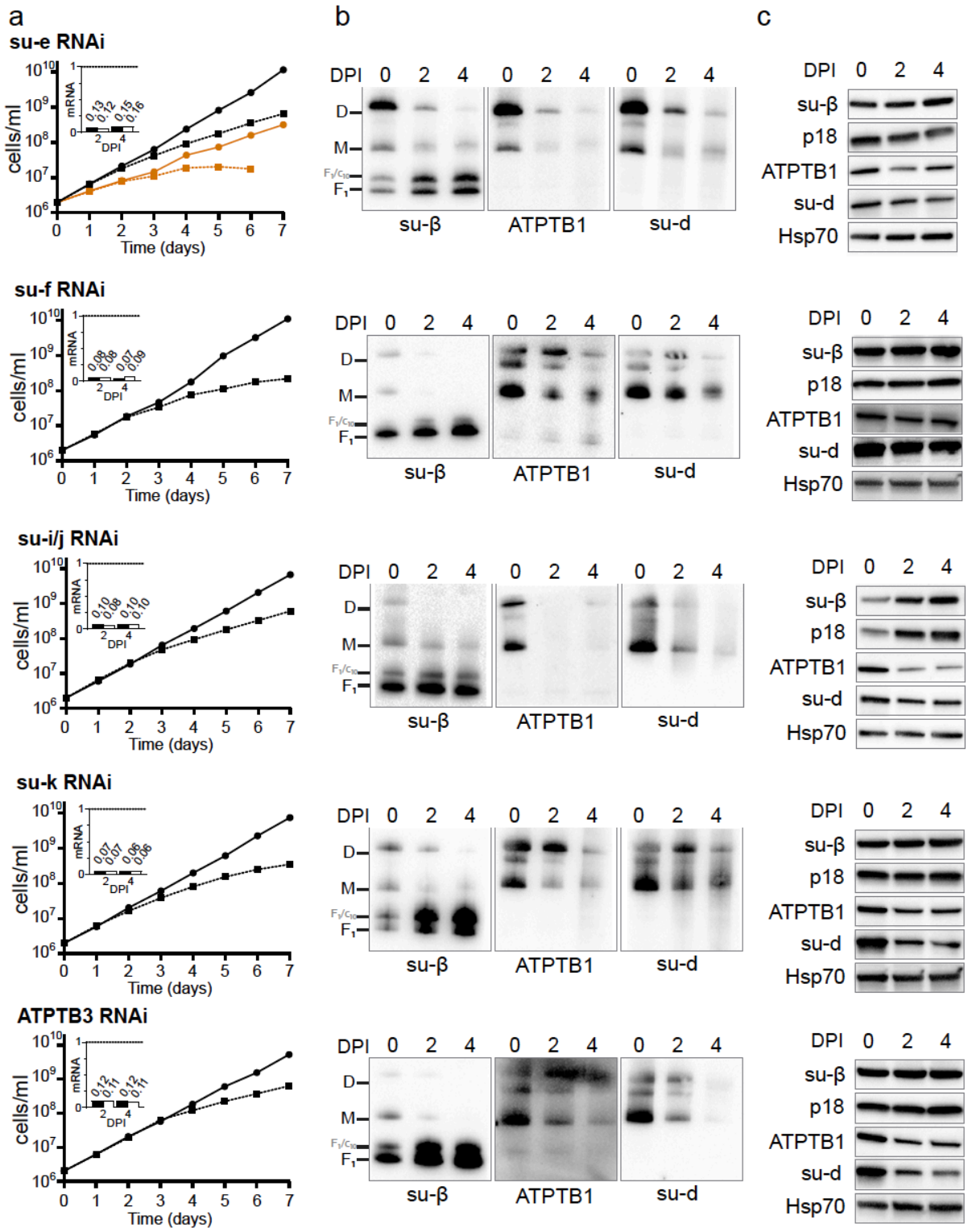
Supplementary figure 4: The F_o region coordinates numerous bound lipids. a, F_o top view, cardiolipin (CDL), phosphatidylcholine (PC) and phosphatidlyethanolamine (PE) are bound at the dimer interface, the lumenal proton half-channel and the peripheral F_o cavity. **b**, The 60°-dimer angle generates a curved F_o region with phospholipids bound in an arc-shaped bilayer. **c-f**, Bound lipids with cryo-EM density and coordinating residues.



Supplementary figure 5: Bound detergents of the F_o region. GDN **(a,b)** and β-DDM **(c,d)** molecules bound in the periphery of the membrane region with cryo-EM map densities shown (transparent), indicating that both glycosides are retained in the detergent micelle.



Supplementary figure 6. The C-terminal tail of subunit-*e* interacts with the c_{10}-ring. a, The cryo-EM map reveals disordered detergent density of the detergent belt surrounding the membrane region as well as a detergent plug on the luminal side of the *c*-ring. **b,** The helical C-terminus of subunit-*e* extends into the lumen towards the *c*-ring. The terminal 23 residues are disordered and likely interact with the β-barrel.


a
b
c
su-e RNAi
su-f RNAi
su-i/j RNAi
su-k RNAi
ATPTB3 RNAi
cells/ml
Time (days)
mRNA
DPI
su-β
ATPTB1
su-d
p18
Hsp70
D
M
F1

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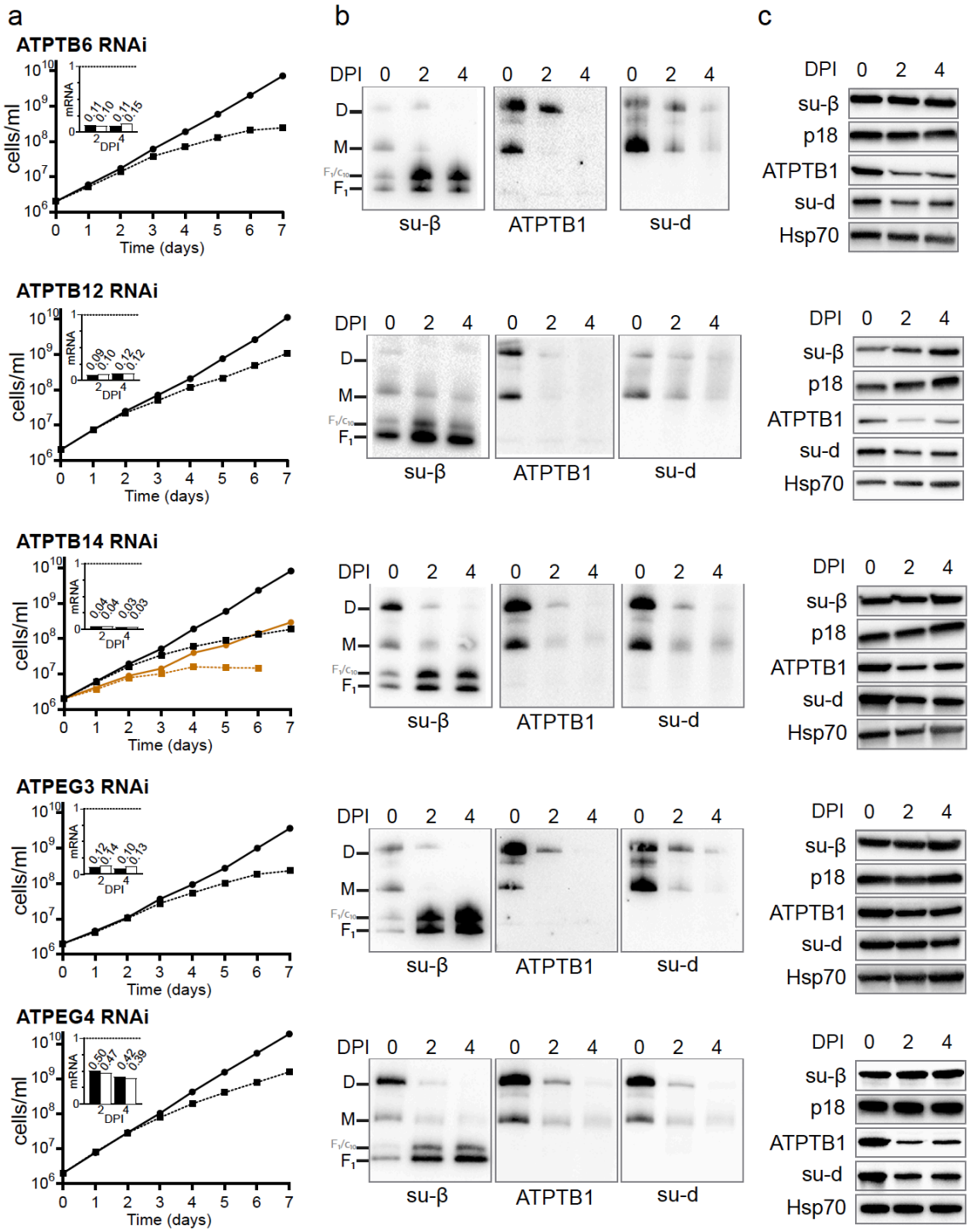
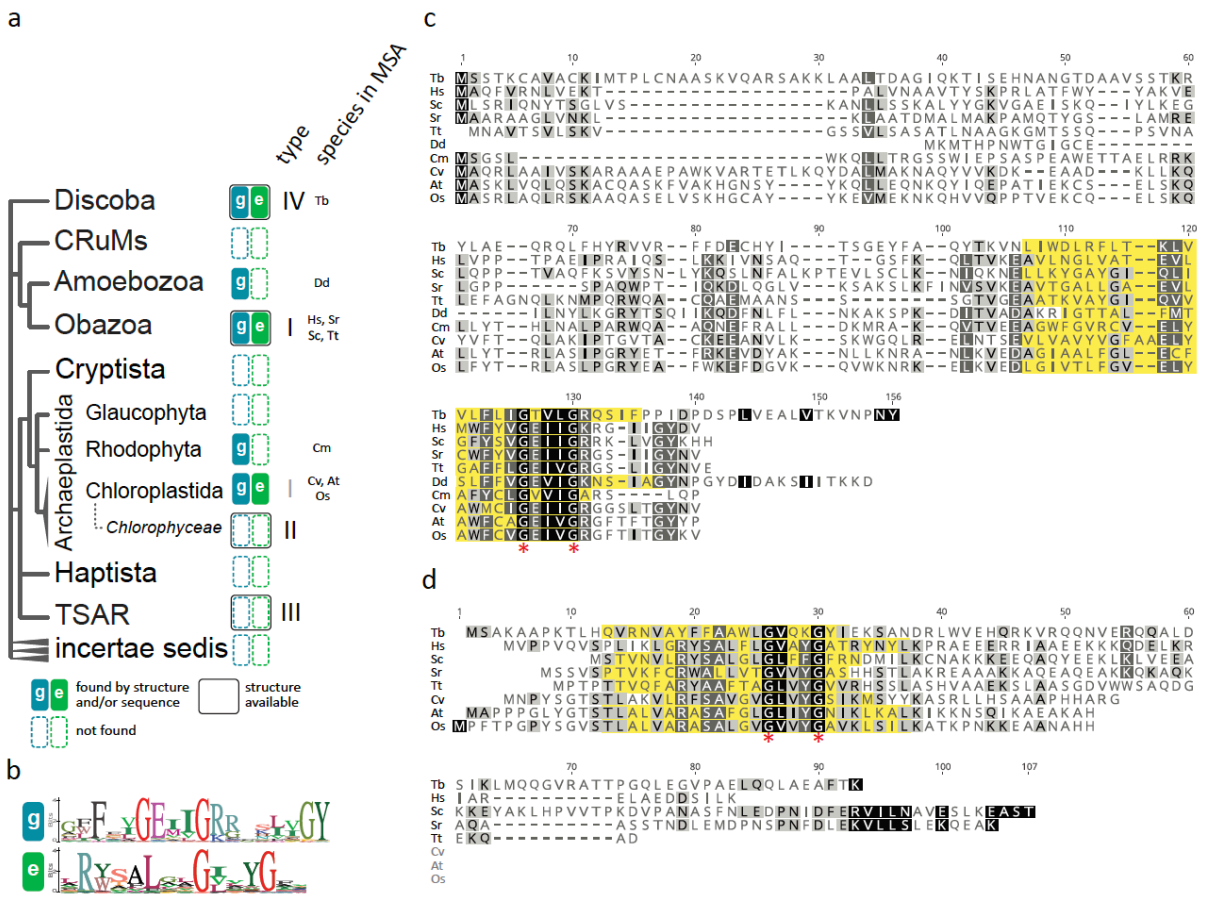


Supplementary figure 7. Effects of RNAi knock-down of ATP synthase subunits on viability and stability and dimerization of ATP synthase. a, Growth curves of indicated non-induced (solid lines) and tetracycline induced (dashed lines) RNAi cells lines in the presence (black) or absence (brown) of glucose. The insets show relative levels of the respective target mRNA at indicated days post induction (DPI) normalized to the levels of 18S rRNA (black bars) or ß-tubulin (white bars). **b**, Immunoblots of mitochondrial lysates from indicated RNAi cell lines resolved by BN-PAGE probed by antibodies against indicated ATP synthase subunits. **c**, Immunoblots of whole cell lysates from indicated RNAi cell lines probed with indicated antibodies.



Supplementary figure 8: Phylogenetic distribution and sequence conservancy of subunits *e* and *g*. a, Distribution of subunits *e* and *g* mapped on the phylogenetic tree of eukaryotes[3]. Homologs of subunits *e* and *g* were searched in non-redundant GenBank and UniprotKB protein databases by PSI-BLAST, and phmmer and hmmsearch[4], respectively, using individual sequences of representatives from *H. sapiens* and *T. brucei*, and in the case of hmmsearch a multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of representatives from *Homo sapiens*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *T. brucei*, as queries. Groups, in which at least one structure of ATP synthase is available, are marked. Abbreviations of species used in MSA in panels (c) and (d) are shown. **b**, Sequence logo of GXXXG motifs and flanking regions of subunits *e* and *g*. Hits from hmmsearch were clustered by CD-HIT Suite[5] to 50% sequence identity and MSA of representative sequences of each cluster was generated by Clustal Omega4[6]. The sequence logos were created from MSA in Geneious Prime (Biomatters Ltd.). **c**,**d**, MSA of sequences of subunits g (c) and e (d) from species representing major groups shown in (a) generated by MUSCLE[7] and visualized in Geneious Prime. The experimentally determined or predicted transmembrane regions are highlighted in yellow. Species abbreviations: Tb – *T. brucei*, Hs – *H. sapiens*, Sc – *S. cerevisiae*, Sr – *Salpingoeca rosetta*, Tt – *Thecamonas trahens*, Dd – *Dictyostelium discoideum*, Cm – *Cyanidioschyzon merolae*, Cv – *Chlorella vulgaris*, At – *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Os – *Oryza sativa*.

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