The beryllium fluoride form of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase and the intermediates of the functional cycle

running title: Structure and function of the outward-open E2P state of Na^+,K^+-ATPase

Marlene U. Fruergaard[1], Ingrid Dach[1], Jacob L. Andersen[2], Mette Ozol[1], Azadeh Shasavar[1], Esben Quistgaard[1], Hanne Poulsen[1], Natalya U. Fedosova[2], Poul Nissen[1]

[1]DANDRITE - Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine, Aarhus University, Dept. Molecular Biology and Genetics, DK – 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

[2]Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, DK – 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

Correspondence: nf@biomed.au.dk or pn@mbg.au.dk

Abstract

The Na^+,K^+-ATPase generates electrochemical gradients of Na^+ and K^+ across the plasma membrane. Here, we describe a 4.0 Å resolution crystal structure of the pig kidney Na^+,K^+-ATPase stabilized by beryllium fluoride (denoted E2-BeF_x). The structure shows high resemblance to the E2P phosphoenzyme obtained by phosphorylation from inorganic phosphate (P_i) and stabilised by cardiotonic steroids, and reveals a Mg^{2+} bound near the ion binding site II. Anomalous Fourier analysis of the crystals soaked in Rb^+ (K^+ congener) followed by a low resolution rigid-body refinement (6.9-7.5 Å) revealed pre-occlusion transitions leading to activation of the desphosphorylation reaction. Mg^{2+} location indicates a site of an initial K^+ recognition and acceptance upon binding to the outward-open E2P state after Na^+ release. Despite the overall structural resemblance to the P_i-induced E2P phosphoform, BeF_x inhibited enzyme is able to binds both ADP/ATP and ions, the features that relate E2-BeF_x complex to an intermediate of the functional cycle of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase prior E2P.

Introduction

Na^+,K^+-ATPase maintains physiological concentrations and gradients of Na^+ and K^+, which are crucial for animal cells. The enzyme is a binary complex of a large α-subunit of the P-type ATPase family responsible for ion transport and enzymatic reaction, and a β-subunit acting as a chaperone and functional modulator. Furthermore, regulatory FXYD proteins may associate with the complex in a tissue-dependent manner. The ion exchange is driven by ATP hydrolysis via enzyme autophosphorylation and dephosphorylation, and a minimal scheme of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase cycle, also termed the Post-Albers scheme, includes two major conformations, E1 and E2, in their phosphorylated and non-phosphorylated states (1, 2). These four states display different ion binding affinities and provide access to the ion sites either from inward/cytoplasmic or outward/extracellular sides of the membrane. The dephosphorylation of the phosphoenzyme pool (preformed by Na^+-dependent phosphorylation) in response to addition of either ADP or K^+ was shown to be biphasic in both cases, in agreement with the presence of two phosphointermediates in the reaction cycle (E1P and E2P). The amplitude of the fast phase of P_i release in ADP- or K^+-chase experiments reflected respective fractions of ADP-sensitive (E1P) and K^+-sensitive (E2P) phosphoenzymes in the Post-Albers scheme. However, the sum of these two phosphointermediates considerably exceeded the amount of initially phosphorylated enzyme (3), exposing insufficiency of a two-state model (E1P/E2P) for phosphointermediates. The number and the nature of the phosphoenzyme conformations therefore have been debated, and a consensus was found in the existence of three phosphoenzymes: ADP-sensitive K^+-insensitive (E1P), ADP- and K^+-sensitive (E*P), and ADP-insensitive K^+-sensitive (E2P) phosphoenzymes (3-5). Similar dephosphorylation phenomena were also observed for the closely related sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+}-ATPase (SERCA)(4).

Recent success in crystallization revealed structures mimicking several native phosphointermediates of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase. Protein complexes with metal fluorides (i.e. beryllium, aluminium, and magnesium fluorides, denoted BeF_x, AlF_x and MgF_x due to varying degrees of water coordination and therefore different fluoride stoichiometries and net charges) mimic different states of phosphoryl transfer reactions and phosphointermediates. Thus, a MgF_x-complex resembles an $[K_2]E2{\cdot}P_i$ state with occluded K^+ and non-covalently bound phosphate (P_i), while $E1{\cdot}AlF_4^-{\cdot}ADP$ contains 3 occluded Na^+ ions and represents an intermediate leading to the $[Na_3]E1P$-ADP phosphoenzyme (6, 7). The BeF_x-complex of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase (8, 9) is structurally similar to the

P_i-induced ("backdoor" phosphorylated) E2P phosphoenzyme stabilised by cardiotonic steroids, the only structure so far of a genuine phosphoenzyme (10, 11).

The flexibility and intermediary functional properties of the BeF_x complex were anticipated earlier from the presence of a characteristic H^+ leak currents mediated by Na^+,K^+-ATPase (12) and in SERCA from the measurements of Ca^{2+}-occlusion (13) and Ca^{2+} mediated reactivation (14).

Here we describe functional properties of the E2-BeF_x complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase and structural re-arrangements in its crystal structure induced by binding of Rb^+ as a K^+ congener. Close structural resemblance to the P_i-induced E2P phosphoenzyme stabilised by cardiotonic steroids (10, 11) includes outward-open ion binding sites. That feature prompted investigations of the effect of extracellular Mg^{2+}.

Notably, we also find that BeF_x dissociation from the enzyme is accelerated by both nucleotide and ion binding – these are characteristics that relate the E2-BeF_x structure to the ADP- and K^+-sensitive (E*P) phosphoenzyme.

Results

Formation of the BeF_x complex

The BeF_x inhibited complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase was formed by pre-incubation of the membraneous enzyme in 20 mM histidine pH 7.0, 10 mM NaF, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 20 µM $BeSO_4$ and used in all biochemical studies as well as initial material for crystallization.

Overall crystal structure of the BeF_x-complex of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase

The crystal structure of pig kidney Na^+,K^+-ATPase (α_1, β_1 and FXYD2 also known as γ) was determined by molecular replacement using the ouabain-bound P_i-induced (E2P-OBN) form as the starting model (PDB ID 4HYT) (10). The final model was refined against anisotropically truncated data extending to 4.0 Å, resulting in R_{work} and R_{free} values of 20.3 % and 25.2 %, respectively (Fig. 1A) (Table S1).

BeF_x coordinated to the conserved Asp369 phosphorylation site in the conserved DKTG segment of the P domain was identified in unbiased, initial F_o-F_c difference map. Comparison shows similar

arrangements of the P domains in both the P_i-induced ouabain-bound E2P state (10) and in the present BeF_x structure. The TGES loop of the actuator (A) domain is in close proximity to BeF_x and protects the phosphorylation site from spontaneous hydrolysis (Fig. 1A). High structural similarity with E2P-OBN (root mean square deviations (rmsd) = 0.59 Å for all C_α.), also reveal subtle ouabain-induced rearrangements in the αM1-M4 segments of the earlier reported E2P-OBN structure. Slight outwards tilting of the αM1-M2 bundle is due to the extensive hydrogen-bonding network between the β-surface of ouabain and polar sidechains of αM1, αM2 and αM6 (10). Furthermore, the inhibitor-bound site makes the extracellular part of the αM3-M4 helices close in causing a ~4° tilt of αM4 with pivot at Val322 (Fig. 1B) compared to E2-BeF_x.

The extracellular ion pathway is formed by the transmembrane αM1-M6 helices, which define an outward-open arrangement similar to sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+}-ATPase (SERCA1a) in the Mg^{2+} stabilized E2-BeF_x form (14) (Fig. 1D). The arrangement of αM2-M5 helices in Na^+,K^+-ATPase, however, is slightly more compact and the residues lining the pathway have larger hydrophobic side chains (e.g. Tyr308, Phe316, Phe783 and Phe786 in Na^+,K^+-ATPase corresponding to Phe279, Ile298, Ile775 and Thr778 in SERCA) (Fig. 1E,F). The extracellular ion pathway is thus narrow but solvated, consistent with a low voltage sensitivity of K^+ binding through such a pathway (15) and a voltage-insensitive release of the third and last Na^+ ion from the Na^+ bound state (16).

For the cation binding sites in the transmembrane domain, we observed a residual density near site II in the initial, unbiased F_o-F_c difference map, similar to a Mg^{2+} site in the E2P-OBN complex (10). Indeed, the E2-BeF_x crystals were grown in the presence of 175 mM $MgCl_2$, and Mg^{2+} binding is likely to stabilize an open conformation as seen also for the E2-BeF_x complex of SERCA1a (14), although the site is shifted (Fig. 1D). The Mg^{2+} site seems to overlaps with incoming K^+ (see further below).

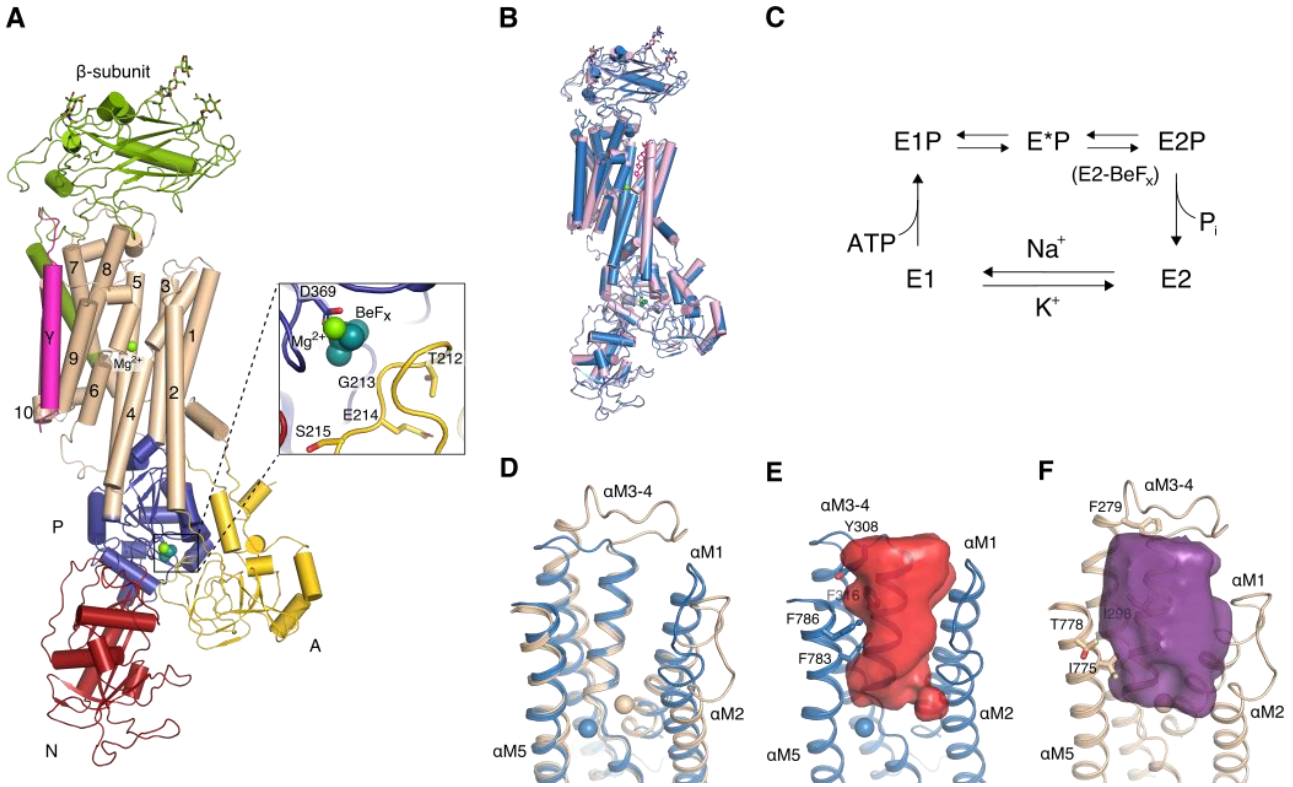

Fig. 1. Crystal structure of E2-BeF_x state of Na^+,K^+-ATPase. (A) Cartoon representation of E2-BeF_x state colored according the different domains: red (nucleotide binding (N) domain), blue (phosphorylation (P) domain), yellow (activator (A) domain), wheat (transmembrane domain (TM) αM1-M10), green (β-subunit) and hotpink (γ-subunit). Close-up view of the phosphorylation site is shown in the *inset*. Mg^{2+} ions and the BeF_x bound to Asp369 are depicted as green and teal spheres, respectively. (B) Overall comparison of E2-BeF_x (blue) and P_i-induced E2P (pink). Mg^{2+} ions are depicted as green spheres and ouabain is colored in hotpink. The structures were aligned on the transmembrane segment αM7-10. (C) The Post-Albers reaction scheme of Na, K-ATPase accumulating 3-pool model of phosphoenzymes. (D) Extracellular access channel of Na^+,K^+-ATPase E2-BeF_x (blue) aligned with SERCA E2-BeF_x (PDB ID 3B9B (14), wheat). The structures were aligned by αM5-M6. Bound Mg^{2+} ions are shown as spheres also in blue and wheat. (E,F) Water cavity representation of Na^+,K^+-ATPase E2-BeF_x (red) and SERCA E2-BeF_x (purple), showing a narrower entrance to the ion binding sites in the Na^+,K^+-ATPase E2-BeF_x complex. Cavities were calculated in HOLLOW(17).

P_i-induced E2P and E2-BeF_x complexes have similar functional properties

Structural similarities between P_i-induced E2P and E2-BeF_x complexes (Fig. 1B) are also supported by their functional properties, e.g. by interactions with cardiotonic steroids. Fig. 2 summarises kinetics of anthroylouabain binding to these complexes, which, judged from the crystallografic data, have very similar organization of the CTS binding cavities. The main

conclusion from the kinetic experiments is that affinities of both forms to anthroylouabain are very high, with only small numeric differences in the values of association and dissociation rate constants. Although the effect of K^+ on anthroylouabain affinity seems to be less pronounced, it is still in the direction of decreased affinity for both forms.

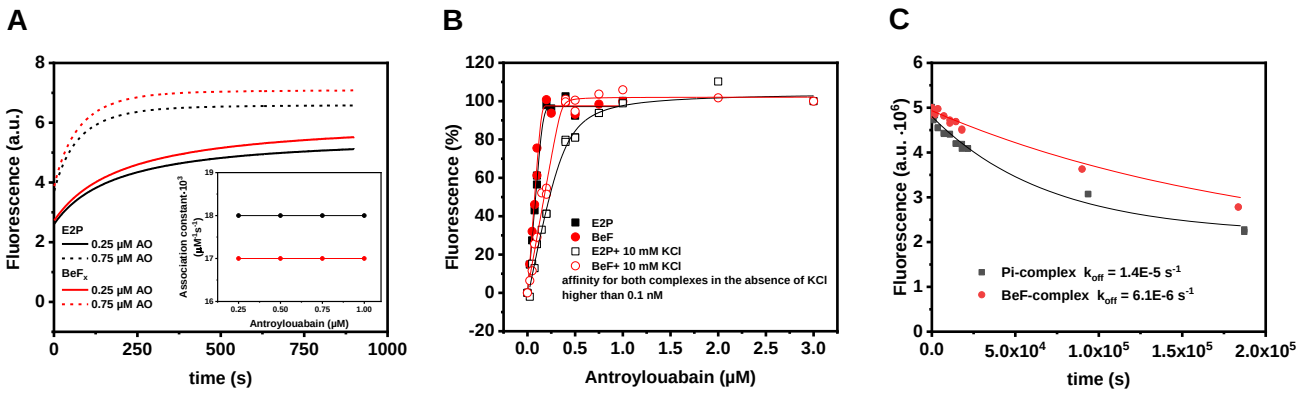

Fig. 2. Interaction of P_i-induced E2P and BeF_x complexes of Na^+,K^+-ATPase with anthroylouabain. Data obtained with P_i-induced E2P are shown in black color, with BeF_x complex in red. (A) Changes in anthroylouabain (AO) fluorescence at two different concentrations, 0.25 µM (full line) and 0.75 µM (stippled line), were induced by its binding to the E2P and BeF_x complexes. Calculated second order association rate constants for the reactions are shown in the *inset.* (B) Amplitude of the fluorescence change as function of anthroylouabain concentration in the absence or presence of 10 mM KCl. (C) Time course of anthroylouabain dissociation from E2P and BeF_x complexes.

Interactions of Na^+, K^+/Rb^+ and Mg^{2+} with the E2-BeF_x complex.

The E2-BeF_x crystal structure reveals that the cation binding cavity is open to the extracellular side and occupied by a Mg^{2+} ion. The homologous complex of SERCA in crystallized form also contained Mg^{2+} (14) (Fig. 1F), while in functional studies it was shown to bind and occlude Ca^{2+} (13). Do the ions bind to the E2-BeF_x complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase, and what are the functional consequences of this binding? We investigated the interactions with Na^+, K^+ (Rb^+as congener), and Mg^{2+}.

Mg^{2+} binding does not affect Na^+ and K^+ binding. The effect of extracelluar Mg^{2+} on binding of Na^+, K^+ and H^+ was investigated by two-electrode voltage-clamping on *Xenopus laevis* oocytes (a well-established model to study functional properties of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase), expressing human $\alpha_2\beta_1$. In the absence of extracellular K^+, the pump is distributed between the whole range of

phosphoenzymes due to voltage-dependent binding and release of Na^+. We assayed Na^+ binding in the presence of 0 mM, 1 mM and 5 mM Mg^{2+} and found no difference in either apparent affinity for Na^+ (Q/Vm curves) or the rate constants of release (Fig. S1A,B). We next examined the potency and efficacy of K^+ binding by measuring the steady-state current at -30 mV in the presence of 115 mM Na^+ with or without 5 mM Mg^{2+} at varying K^+ concentrations. Again, there were no differences in currents suggesting that physiological concentrations of extracellular Mg^{2+} have no significant effects on binding of Na^+ or K^+ from the extracellular environment (Fig. S1C,D).

However, in the absence of extracellular Na^+ and K^+, an inwardly rectifying H^+ leak current is observed for the Na^+,K^+-ATPase (7), in particular at hyperpolarized potentials. This inward leak, however, was significantly inhibited at hyperpolarized potentials by 5 mM or 20 mM Mg^{2+} (Fig. 3).

Thus, the affinity for the extracellular Mg^{2+} is so low that it does not interfere with Na^+ or K^+ binding under physiological conditions. Yet, when bound, it stabilizes the outward-open state and interferes with a H^+ leak current.

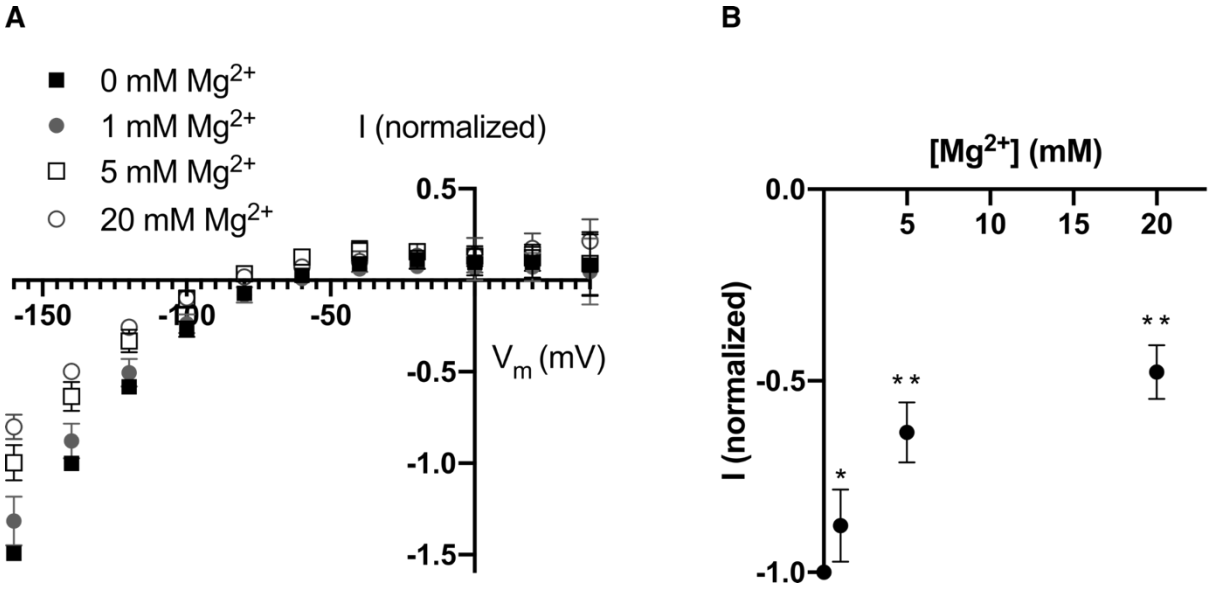

Fig. 3. Inward leak current is affected by magnesium. (A) The ouabain-sensitive steady state current measured in the absence of extracellular sodium and potassium in response to membrane potential for different concentrations of magnesium. Current is normalized to -1 for 0 mM Mg^{2+} at -140 mV (n=4). (B) Leak currents at -140 mV. For 5 mM and 20 mM, the currents are significantly smaller (*, $p<0.05$; **, $p<0.0001$; Student's t-test).

Beryllium fluoride prevents oligomycin-induced Na^+-occlusion.

The E2-BeF_x form of SERCA1a is capable of Ca^{2+}-occlusion (13). We therefore investigated Na^+-occlusion by the E2-BeF_x form of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase, but failed to reveal any bound Na^+ (Fig. 4A). We repeated the experiment in the presence of oligomycin, which decreases the rate of Na^+-release (18, 19), and found an expected increase in $^{22}Na^+$ bound to the E1 state, where the Na^+,K^+-ATPase occluded approximately 2.5 nmol per nmol protein (Fig. 4B). However, under the conditions of BeFx-complex formation the $^{22}Na^+/^3H^+$ ratio was the same as in the absence of enzyme or absence of oligomycin (Fig.4A), implying that binding of BeF_x effectively prevented Na^+-occlusion by the enzyme.

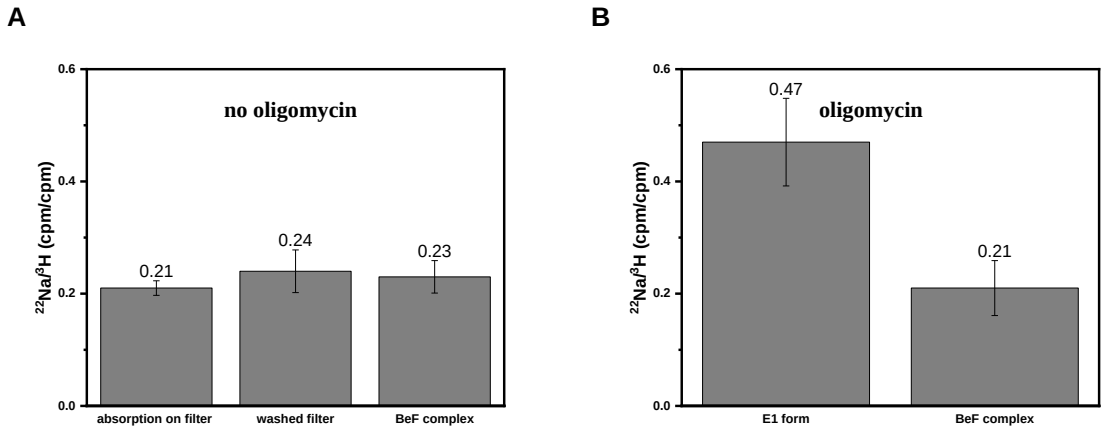

Fig. 4. BeF_x binding prevents Na^+-occlusion in the presence of oligomycin. Counts for $^{22}Na^+$ on the filter are related to the counts for $^3H^+$ used as internal standard for non-specific binding. The $^{22}Na^+/^3H^+$ ratio (counts per filter) after filtration of 0.4 ml incubation media are shown for the samples of different compositions. (A) in the absence of added oligomycin: 1) no protein, non-specific binding without washing of the filter; 2) no protein, non-specific binding after washing of the filter; 3) Na^+,K^+-ATPase in the E2-BeF_x form, followed by washing of the filter. In the absence of Na^+,K^+-ATPase the ratio was not changed by washing, indicating that both isotopes interact with filter in the same way. (B) in the presence of oligomycin. 1) Na^+,K^+-ATPase in E1 conformation, followed by washing of the filter; 2) Na^+,K^+-ATPase in the E2-BeF_x form, followed by washing of the filter.

K^+-occlusion by the BeF_x-complex.

BeF_x binding to Na^+,K^+-ATPase is associated with an increase of RH421 fluorescence, similar to the response of this dye to enzyme phosphorylation, while addition of K^+-ions induces a decrease in fluorescence (Fig. 5A, inset, and (20)). The values for both amlitude and k_{obs} for K-response extracted by fitting with a monoexponential function show a hyperbolic concentration dependence

for the amplitude of fluorescence that decrease from its maximal level already at 2 mM KCl and a linear increase for k_{obs} (Fig. 5). Knowing, that K^+ interacts with P_i-induced E2P in the same way (21), we assumed direct binding of K^+ is followed by its occlusion in E2-BeF_x form. Indeed, direct measurements with $^{86}Rb^+$ (as K^+ congener) showed its accumulation in the E2-BeF_x form (20).

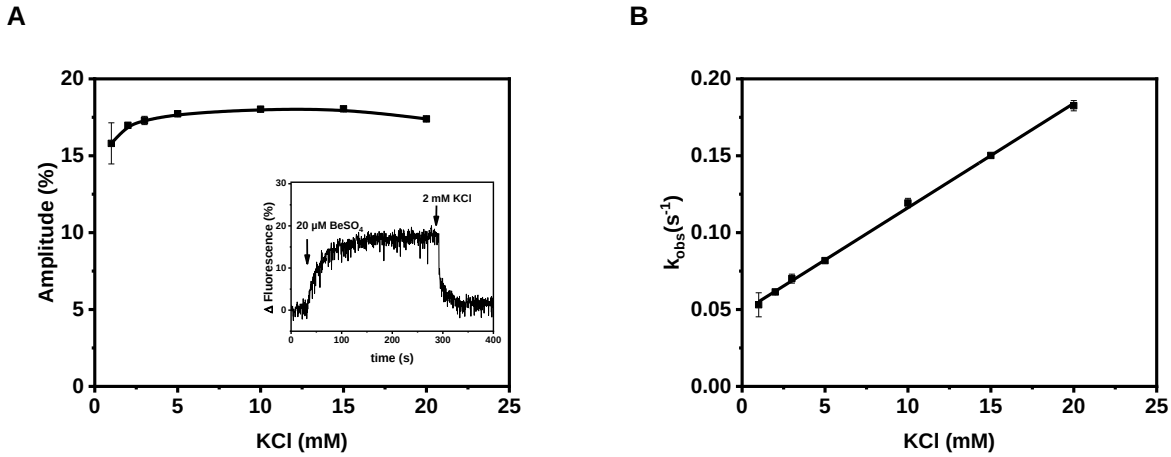

Fig.5. Interactions of K^+ and BeF_x-complex monitored by RH421 fluorescence. (A) The amplitude of the fluorescence change induced by addition of varying K^+-concentration to pre-formed Na^+,K^+-ATPase-BeF_x complex. *Inset* illustrates changes in RH421fluorescence in response to addition of ligands to pig kidney enzyme. The changes of fluorescence are expressed as percentage of the initial level. (B) The observed rate constant of the fluorescence change (k_{obs}) as function on K^+-concentration. The values obtained from exponential fit are the means of three experiments ±S.E.

Rb^+ binding and extracellular gate closure. Comparison of the E2-BeF_x (this study) and [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x (6) states reveal the factof closure of the extracellular gate upon K^+/Rb^+ binding. We tracked the binding process and mechanism of occlusion by crystal soaking procedures.

Structural re-arrangements following Rb^+-binding

Pre-occluded (Rb)E2-BeF_x states. Structural re-arrangements in the BeF_x-complex due to Rb^+ binding and occlusion were followed by soaking E2-BeF_x crystals. Two datasets were collected at 6.9 and 7.5 Å maximum resolution (consisting of 11,991 and 9,616 unique reflections, respectivley) at a wavelength of 0.814 Å with a strong anomalous signal for Rb^+. They represent transition intermediates from the native E2-BeF_x with bound Mg^{2+} (Fig. 6A) towards the earlier reported occluded structure of [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x (PDB 3KDP (6)). Indeed, the datasets for Rb^+ soaked E2-BeF_x

(here referred to as quick soak and long soak corresponding to 10 mM, 20 sec and 50 mM, 3 hours, respectively) produced strong anomalous difference peaks (at 5.8 to 8.4σ peaks) at the cation binding sites, reflecting exchange of Mg^{2+} with Rb^{+} (Fig. 6B,C,D). As the asymmetric unit of the $P2_12_12_1$ crystals consist of two protomers, we have altogether four conformations of Rb-soaked E2-BeF_x states.

Quantitative determination of Rb^{+} occupancy was challenging due to the low resolution of the data sets, but occupancy analyses through Molecular Replacement with Single-wavelength Anomalous Diffraction (MR-SAD) refinement appeared consistent with two fully occupied binding sites for both protomers in the long Rb^{+}-soak (occupancy >0.75). For the two quick soak conformations, one protomer was fully occupied, while the other showed partial occupancy (with an occupancy less than 0.1 for a second site, assuming a full occupancy of a first site). Interestingly, the anomalous difference peak for the partially occupied quick soak protomer overlapped with the Mg^{2+} site right in middle of the two K^{+} sites I and II), suggesting that initial Rb^{+}/K^{+} binding takes place at this exposed site prior to formation of the properly coordinated K^{+} (or Rb^{+}) sites (Fig. 6B). That said, the low resolution obviously precludes firm conclusions on this point.

Rigid-body model refinement for the cytosolic domains and individual transmembrane segments produced large improvements in crystallographic R-factors for model representations and converged robustly at conformational changes that also were consistent with unbiased omit map controls.

For all four protomers of the soaked crystals, the cytoplasmic domains exhibited weak density in the electron density maps, likely indicating flexibility (Fig. S2, S3). The E2-BeF_x MR model provided the relative position of the cytosolic headpiece based on some defined helices in each domain; thus, they are still modelled despite the weak density. The transmembrane helices, however, were clearly visible in the electron density map to model the C_α mainchain. The two protomers in the quick soak are similar to each other (rmsd = 1.16 Å, all C_α; Fig. S2), and further they show high resemblance to protomer 1 in the long-soaked crystal (rmsd: ~1.27 Å, all C_α). The last protomer (long soak protomer 2) however has a slightly different conformation for the transmembrane helices (rmsd = 1.96 Å between C_α of the two long-time soak protomers; Fig. S3). For simplicity, the protomers will therefore in the following be refered to as the initial (Rb)E2-BeF_x binding form (quick soak conformations), the early (Rb_2)E2-BeF_x binding form (long time soak

protomer 1) and the late (Rb_2)E2-BeF_x binding form (long time soak protomer 2) when discussing structural changes.

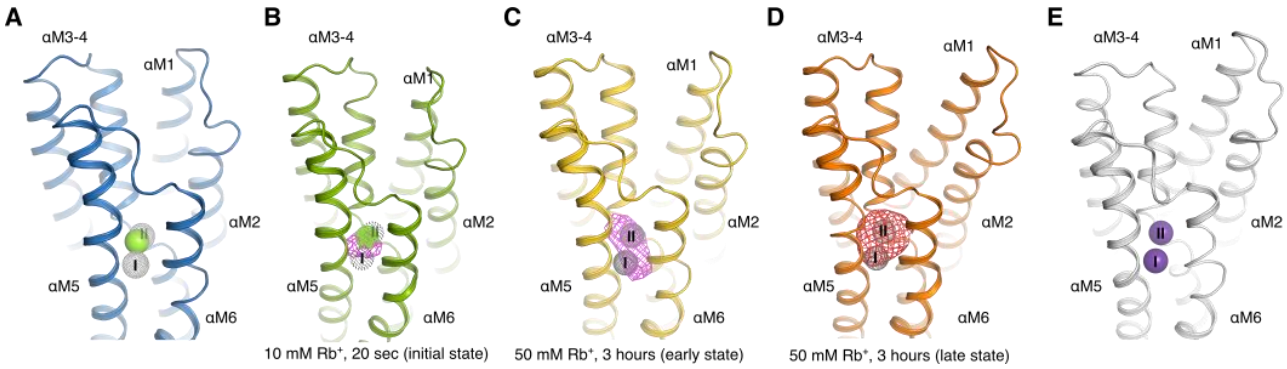

Fig. 6 Structural re-arrangements following Rb^+-binding to E2-BeF_x. (A) Open E2-BeF_x Mg^{2+} bound form (this study). Mg^{2+} is shown as a green sphere, and the positions of site I and II are indicated by grey dotted spheres. (B) Initial binding form (10 mM Rb^+, 20 sec). The 4-σ anomalous difference map is shown as a purple mesh, and cation binding sites are shown as in panel A. Mg^{2+} site from open E2-BeF_x state is shown as green dotted sphere. (C) Early (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (soaked with 50 mM for 3 hour, protomer 1). The 4-σ anomalous difference map is shown as a purple mesh, and cation binding sites are shown as in panel A. (D) Late (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (soaked with 50 mM for 3 hours, protomer 2). The anomalous difference map is contoured at 3σ (red mesh) and cation binding sites are shown as in panel A. (E) Occluded [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x form (PDB ID 3KDP)(6). Rb^+ ions are shown as purple spheres.

Sequence of events. The refined atomic models for the E2-BeF_x and [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x structures represent the start and end points of the K^+ binding, and the rigid body refined models of the soaked crystals, albeit determined at low resolution, provide valuable insights into the trajectories of conformational changes along with K^+/Rb^+ binding that activate the dephosphorylation reaction.

Superposition of the Rb^+-soaked structures and the native E2-BeF_x form based on the transmembrane αM7-M10 segment, revealed sequential closing movements of the M1-M4 helices (Fig. 7). K^+ binding associates the extracellular part of αM4 to site II, most likely through mainchain carbonyls of Val322, Ala323 and Val325 engaging in coordination (6, 22). In the initial binding (Rb)E2-BeF_x form, this results in αM4 tilting ~7° towards αM6 (Fig. 7A,B). In the early (Rb_2)E2-BeF_x form, αM4 is further tilted ~5°, and the extracellular gate is closing. Through van der

Waals contacts between αM1, αM2 and αM4, the αM1-M2 segment follows αM4 to an intermediate position via a ~3.5 Å translation towards the extracellular side and ~6° lateral tilt towards the cytosolic side (Fig. 7C,D)

In the next step, reaching the late (Rb_2)E2-BeF_x form, the αM1-M2 helices are further translated towards to extracellular side (~2.5 Å), and the cytoplasmic part of the αM2 helix bends towards the A-αM3 linker region (Fig, 7E,F). The change of path is likely realized by an partial unwinding of the αM2 helix (M2 switch (23)), which also gains flexibility; as is indicated by poor density for the cytoplasmic end of αM2 (Fig. S3). The unwinding enables the A domain to rotate ~6 ° around the phosphorylation site of the P domain (towards the membrane). To complete the transition to the fully occluded [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x complex (PDB ID 3KDP, (6)), the A domain must finish its rotation (~6 °), bringing the TGES motif into dephosphorylation mode. This rotation causes a further ~ 2.5 Å translation of the αM1-M2 segment towards the cytoplasmic side and a further unwinding of the αM2 cytoplasmic end between Glu144 and Ile150. Stabilizing the fully occluded state, the segment Ile150-Lys155 rewinds to form a hydrophobic cluster (24, 25) to ensure tight association between αM2-A and A-αM3 linker segment and the P domain (Fig. 7G,H).

Interestingly, similar sequential rearrangements are seen for the SERCA1a E2-BeF_x to E2-MgF_x transition when comparing thapsigargin-free and thapsigargin-bound SERCA1a E2-BeF_x structures (PDB ID 3B9B, 2ZBE, 2ZBF (14, 23)) (Figs. S4, S5). This indicates that ion transporting P2-type ATPases undergo similar conformational changes in dephosphorylation, yet differing from e.g. P1B-ATPases (26) and P4-ATPases (27, 28).

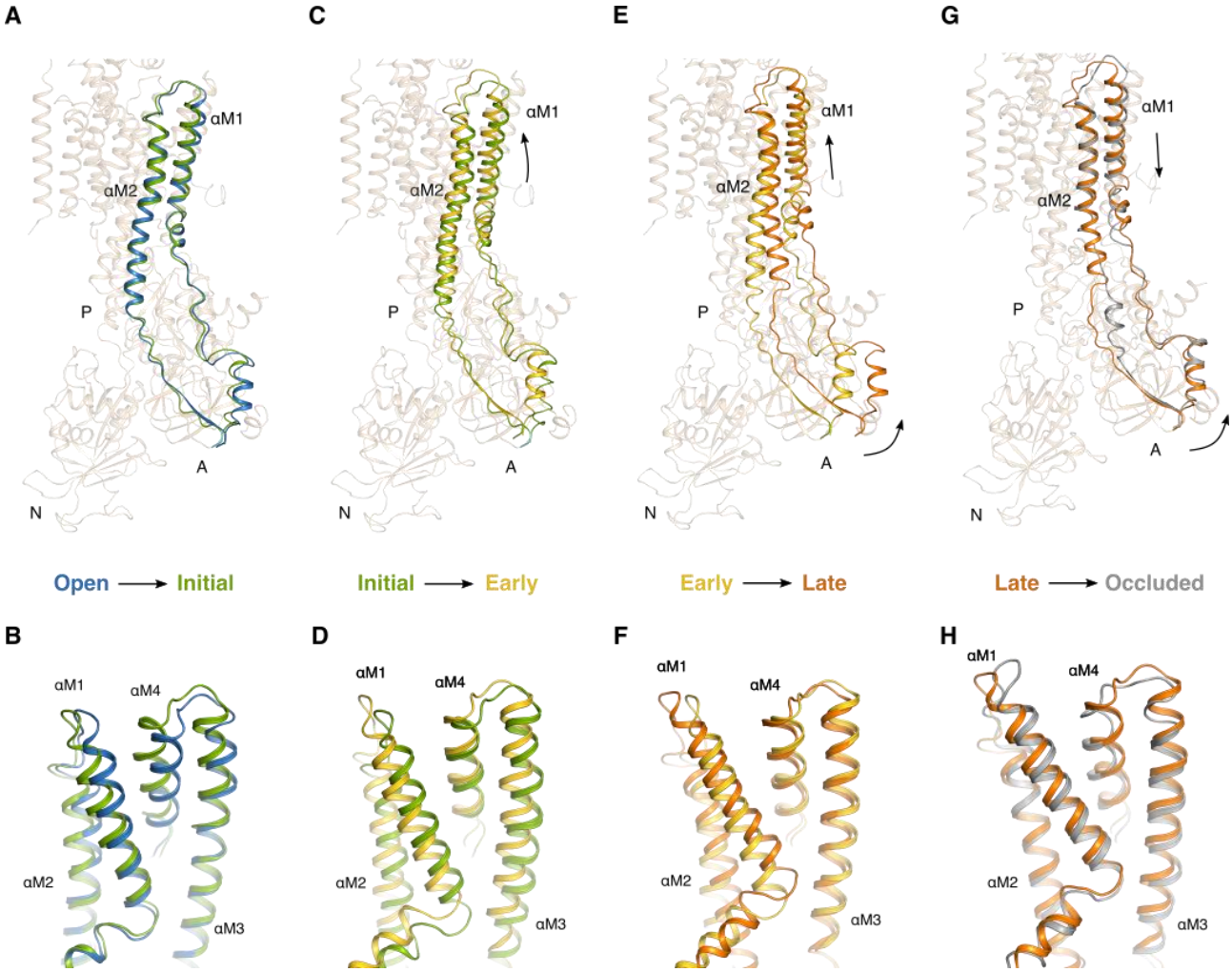

Fig. 7. Sequential structural changes leading to occlusion of Rb^+ in the E2 state. Structural differences between (A) the open E2-BeF_x Mg^{2+} (blue) and initial binding (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (green), (B) the initial (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (green) and the early (Rb)E2-BeF_x (gold), (C) Early (Rb)E2-BeF_x (gold) and late (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (orange), and (D) late (Rb)E2-BeF_x form (orange) and occluded [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x (grey) (PDB ID 3KDP (6)). All structures were aligned on αM7-M10. For clarity, only the regions showing major conformational re-arrangements between the states have been highlighted.

Changes in the α-C-terminal region and β-subunit. The α-C-terminal region plays an important role in the transport cycle (6, 29, 30). Mutations in the region are associated with neurological disorders and the C-terminus seems integral to the function of the Na^+ site III and protonation of K^+-bound states (29). However, when comparing the E2-BeF_x and [Rb_2]E2-MgF_x structures in a local αM8 helix superimposition, only subtle changes are seen. Although they may affect the

position and dynamics of the conserved C-terminal tyrosine residue (Fig. S6A) and thereby solvent access and protonation of the Na^+ site III, functionally important features are difficult to qualify from the current study. Similarly, the β-subunit TM helix (β-TM) makes a small, lateral shift towards αM7 (~2°) at Rb^+ occlusion.

On the other hand, the flexible N-terminal tail of the β-subunit (Phe15-Ser31 modelled) undergoes a different twist in the Rb^+ occluded state, changing its interaction with the α-subunit. In the E2-BeF_x state, βArg27 likely forms a salt bridge with Glu840 (αM7), which gets disrupted in the Rb^+ occluded state, where βArg27 is instead exposed to the cytosol. The N-terminal tail of the β subunit appears more extended, as βAsn18 (the resolved β-N-terminus of $[Rb_2]$E2-MgF_x) is shifted 6.5 Å compared to E2-BeF_x, in response to changes in position of the cytoplasmic domains of the α-subunit in the E2P-E2·P_i transition (Fig. S6B).

Binding of ions and nucleotides induce dissociation of the BeF_x from the Na^+,K^+-ATPase.

Monitoring the recovery of Na^+,K^+-ATPase activity, we investigated the effect of ions and nucleotides on the E2-BeF_x complex (Fig. 8). The time course of the reactivation of ATPase activity reflects the rate of BeF_x dissociation from the enzyme. Spontaneous dissociation in the media with 100 mM NMG^+ (aimed to compensate for possible effects of ionic strength) is slow but increases in the presence of specific ions (Fig.8A). K^+ seems to be more efficient than Na^+, as would be expected for extracellular ion binding. Note that Na^+-concentration in the experiment is 2-fold higher than that of K^+ while total ion concentrations are always 100 mM, adjusted with NMG^+.

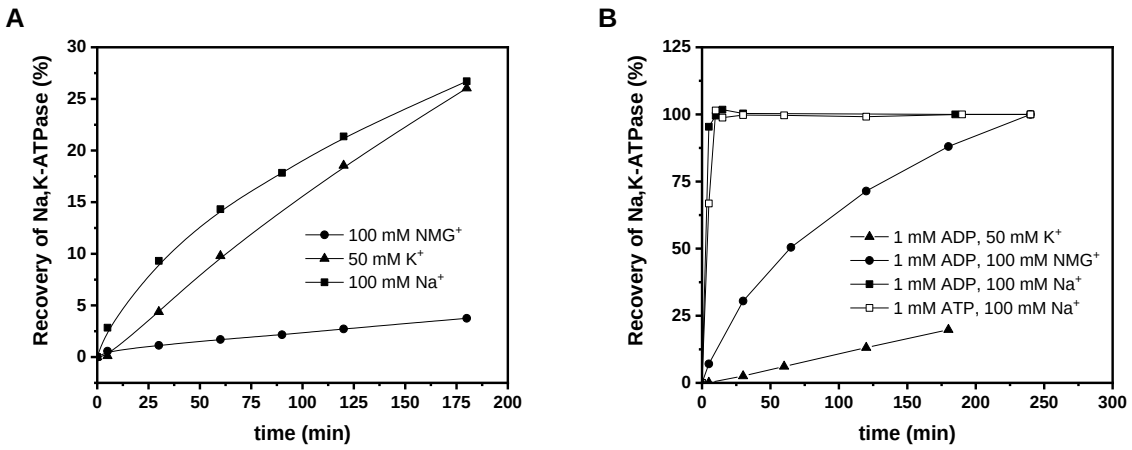

Fig. 8. Restoration of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase activity due to dissociation of BeF_x induced by binding of cations (A) or nucleotides (B). Note that the Na^+-concentration is two-fold higher than that of K^+ with total ion concentration adjusted to 100 mM with NMG^+.

Also ADP (and ATP, but ADP formation during preincubation with ATP cannot be avoided) speeded up reactivation of the ATPase activity compared to NMG^+ alone, and this effect is further amplified by Na^+. On the other hand, K^+ completely cancels the ADP-effect, presumably by preventing its binding by allosterism.

Interestingly, the rate of dephosphorylation of the P_i-induced E2P form does not increase upon addition of neither ADP nor K^+ (21, 31), so our data point to an apparently significant difference between the two otherwise analogous conformations (P_i-induced E2P and E2-BeF_x). The explanation is, however, relatively straight forward: high stability of the E2-BeF_x form allows both ions and nucleotides to equilibrate with the protein and to influence and stimulate BeFx dissociation. The acyl-phosphate bond on the other hand is reactive, and P_i-induced E2P dephosphorylates with the rate constant of approximately 60 min^{-1} (21), faster, than equilibration with other ligands.

Docking of ADP into E2-BeF_x structure

Visualization of ADP interaction with E2-BeF_x was approached by docking the ADP molecule from the [Na_3]E1-AlF_x-ADP structure (PDB ID 3WGV(32)) into the E2-BeF_x state guided by a local structural alignment of the N-domains. ADP fits well into the N domain of the E2-BeF_x complex (with Asp443 and Glu446 within coordination distance) and requires only minor rearrangement for the Phe475-Gln482 loop (Fig. 9A). The A domain comes into close contact with Lys205 near the β-phosphate of ADP (< 1.9 Å), which presumably will cause a slight repositioning of the A domain. In the E2-MgF_x state, the interface between the N and A domains is only stabilized by an ionic bond between Arg544 (N domain) and Glu216 (A domain). Thus, it is likely that Arg544 either interacts with the β-phosphate of ADP upon its binding to E2-BeF_x (and allows further interaction with Na^+) or forms a salt bridge with Glu216 as consequence of interactions with K^+. Both destabilizing effects are likely to provide greater mobility of the A domain and accelerate BeF_x dissociation.

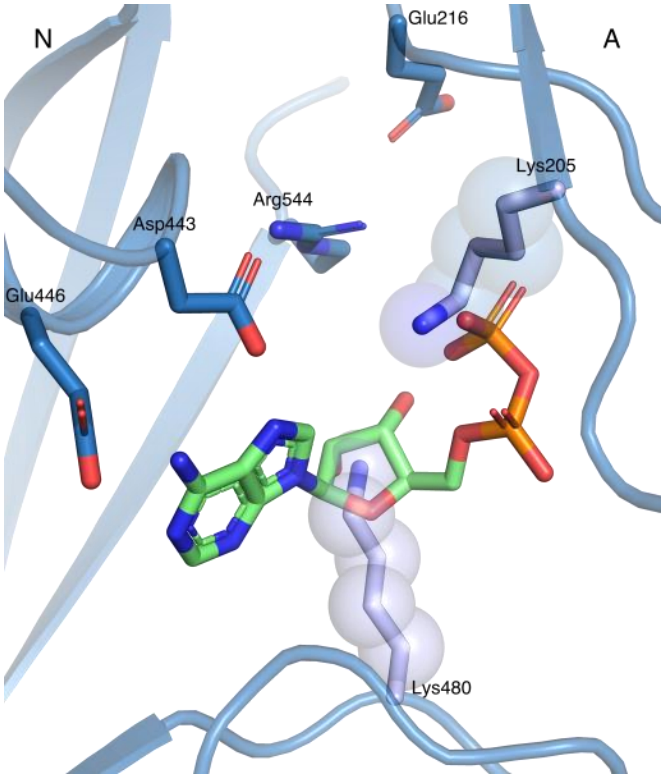

Fig. 9. ADP from the $[Na_3]E1\text{-}AlF_4^-\text{-}ADP$ structure (PDB ID 3WGV(32)) modelled into the $E2\text{-}BeF_x$ complex. N-domain alignment of the $E2\text{-}BeF_x$ and the $[Na_3]E1\text{-}AlF_4^-\text{-}ADP$ structures showed a good fit for ADP at the nucleotide site with only few readjustment needed.

Discussion

Comparison of the functional properties of the P_i-induced E2P and $E2\text{-}BeF_x$ revealed close similarities of these forms: kinetics of interactions with the cardiotonic steroids and K^+ are virtually the same, and the structures of $E2\text{-}BeF_x$ and E2P stabilized by cardiotonic steroids show clear structural resemblance.

The cation binding sites are open to the extracellular side and accept Na^+, K^+ as well as Mg^{2+} at low affinity. The ability of E2-BeFx to occlude Na^+ is lost, even in the presence of oligomycin, and Na^+ affinity is therefore low. Na^+ binding, however, destabilizes $E2\text{-}BeF_x$, in a way analogous to the dephosphorylation under the Na^+/Na^+ exchange reaction associated with ATP hydrolysis (33).

Binding of K^+ (or the congener Rb^+) triggers the conformational re-arrangements necessary for ion occlusion and destabilization of the Asp369-BeF_x bond. Rb^+ soaking of the $E2\text{-}BeF_x$ crystals revealed a sequence of Rb^+ pre-occlusion steps. Although only qualitative, the occupancy analysis

revealed that the initial (Rb)E2-BeF_x binding form has only partial occupation at site I. Further, the anomalous difference suggests an overlap of the initial site with the Mg^{2+} site (Fig. 6B). This indicates, that going from the E2-BeF_x open state, K^+ will bind in a sequential manner by first binding to an initial site that likely overlaps with the low-affinty Mg^{2+} site coordinated by Asn776, Glu779 (αM5) and Asp804 (αM6) (10). Subsequenty, the initial site changes configuration to the K^+ site I, at the same time making space for ion binding at site II. That involves mainchain carbonyls of αM4 and ultimately leads to closure of the extracellular gate. This mechanism, described from the outward-open E2-BeF_x form and onwards, is consistent with exchange kinetics followed in the opposite direction. Thus, in the occluded [K2]E2-MgF_x form, the exchange with extracellular ions occurs first at site II (34). The oscillations of αM3-M4 helices allowing only one ion to bind at the time stand for the "flickering-gate", first proposed by Forbush (35) on the basis of deocclusion experiments and later supported by high-speed voltage clamp measurements (15).

In summary, the conformational transitions observed in soaking experiments are the prelude to the dephosphorylation process in the Na,K-ATPase reaction. The sequential binding of two K^+ through the αM1-M2-triggered rotation of the A domain re-arranges the TGES motif, allowing water access and desphosphorylation (Fig.S7).

The above interactions with K^+ suggest that the E2-BeF_x complex is a mimic of the ground state E2P. However, E2-BeF_x is also destabilized by ADP, i.e. it has a property of an ADP-sensitive state (Fig.8B). The ability of ADP to induce a direct hydrolysis of the acyl-phosphate bond was described earlier by Hobbs et al.(4) for the phosphoenzyme E*P. ADP-induced dephosphorylation of E*P occurred directly, without transition to E1P. In the case of E2-BeF_x , however, a transition towards E1-BeF_x might be induced by the simultaneous presence of ADP and Na^+ since the synergy between these two ligands is very clear (Fig. 8B). K+ on the other hand, cancels the ADP-effect (Fig. 8B). Due to occlusion, it prohibits ADP binding and leads to slow BeFx dissociation from the [K_2]E2-BeF_x complex.

In conclusion, the E2-BeF_x complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase represents a phosphorylated intermediate that can reach both E2P and E*P. The structural similarity to the backdoor phosphorylated (P_i-induced) E2P form is obvious from its comparison with the CTS-stabilized complexes of the Na,K-ATPase. Functionally, P_i-induced E2P and E2-BeF_x react nearly identically with CTS (here demonstrated by anthroylouabain interactions) and with K^+(probed by RH421 fluorescence). Both forms are capable of Rb^+ or K^+ occlusion. Soaking of the E2-BeF_x crystals with Rb^+ allowed

visualization of different steps in the occlusion process. At the same time, firm coordination of BeF_x within the phosphorylation site granted time for nucleotide binding and exploration of a dynamic E*P intermediate. These studies should be very informative for future investigations of P-type ATPase dynamics and studies of e.g. mutant forms.

Materials and Methods

Protein preparation

Pig kidney Na^+,K^+-ATPase was purified as previously described (37). The specific ATPase activity of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase purified membrane preparations was about 1,800 µmol P_i per hour per mg of membrane protein at 37 °C.

Crystallization and data collection

The BeF_x inhibited complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase was formed by pre-incubation of the membraneous enzyme in 20 mM histidine pH 7.0, 10 mM NaF, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 20 µM $BeSO_4$. The stabilized E2-BeF_x complex was subsequently solubilized in the same buffer with the non-ionic detergent octaethyleneglycol mono-n-dodecylether [$C_{12}E_8$] at a ratio of 0.9 mg $C_{12}E_8$ per mg protein, and insoluble material was removed by ultracentrifugation. The final concentration of solubilized protein was 9-10 mg/mL.

Crystal were grown by vapour diffusion at 15 °C in 2 µl hanging drops for 2-3 weeks. The protein sample was mixed in a 1:1 ratio with reservoir solution containing 16.5 % (wt/vol) polyethylene glycol 2000 monomethyl ether (PEG 2000 MME), 10 % (vol/vol) glycerol, 175 mM MgCl2, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM HEPES/MES pH 6.2 and 2 mM DTT. The crystals were dehydrated overnight at 4 °C against a 30 % PEG 2000 MME reservoir solution before flash-cooling. The final datasets were collected at 100 K on the DESY-EMBL beamline P14 and the SLS-X06DA (PXIII) beamline. For Rb^+ soaks, 1.1 mM sucrose monodecanoate was added to the solubilized protein before mixing with reservoir solution. 10 mM and 50 mM RbCl, respectively, was added to the crystallization drop and equilibrated for 20 seconds and 3 hours, respectively. The final datasets of Rb^+ soaked crystals were collected on the DESY-EMBL beamline P13 and the DLS-I24 beamline using a wavelength of 0.814 Å.

Data processing

Datasets were processed and scaled using XDS software (38). The crystals showed $P2_12_12_1$ space group symmetry with unit cell dimensions a = 116.3 Å, b = 117.8 Å and c = 490.9 Å and two αβγ-heterotrimers per asymmetric unit. For the native E2-BeF_x structure datasets derived from two crystals were merged to yield the final dataset. The data were anisotropcially scaled using the Diffraction Anisotropy Server (http://services.mbi.ucla.edu/anisoscale) (39) giving outer resolution limit cut at 5.4 Å, 4.4 Å and 4.0 Å along a*, b* and c*, respectively. Molecular replacement was performed using PHASER (40) and the crystal structure of Na^+,K^+-ATPase E2P ouabain complex (PDB ID 4HYT) (10) was used as search model. Rigid body refinement followed by simulated annealing refinement protocol was performed in PHENIX (41). Manual refinement was carried out in Coot (42), and the further model refinement was continued in PHENIX using non-crystallographic symmetry (NCS), translation-libration-screw (TLS) parameterization, and grouped atomic displacement parameter (ADP) refinement. Because of low resolution of the data, tight geometry restraints were imposed on the model to stabilize the refinement. Rigid body groups were defined by the A, N, and P domains along with the αM1–2, αM3–4, αM5–10/ βM/γM, and β-ectodomain. Noncrystallographic symmetry and translation– libration–screw parameterization groups were defined by the A, N, and P domains, the transmembrane domain αM1–10/βM/γM, and the β-ectodomain. The quality of the final model was assessed using the MOLPROBITY server (43). For Rb^+-soaked data sets, the diffraction data were first scaled using Scaleit (44) to the Na^+,K^+-ATPase E2P ouabain complex (PDB ID 4HYT)(10), and the initial phases were obtained by molecular replacement using PHASER and the E2-BeF_x structure. Only a rigid body refinement (same groups as for the E2-BeF_x structure) was performed for each data set. Occupancy calculations were performed using molecular replacement with single-wavelength anomalous diffraction (MR-SAD (45)). All structural figures were prepared using PyMOL (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.3.0 (Schrödinger LLC, 2012)).

Na^+ -occlusion

The membrane-bound enzyme (0.5 mg/ml) was incubated with 1 mM ^{22}NaF in the presence of 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM ^{3}H-glucose in the presence or absence of 0.02 mM

$BeSO_4$, with or without 0.02 mg/ml oligomycin for 5 hours at 0°C. Then, 0.4 ml of the mixture was loaded on a Millipore HAWP 0.45 µm filter and immediately washed with 1 ml of Tris-HCl buffer containing 20 mM NaCl to decrease background. The filters were counted in 4 ml Packard Filtercount scintillation fluid. ^{3}H-counts gave an estimate for the non-specific absorption of the isotopes of the filter and for the amount trapped in the wetting volume.

Dissociation of BeF_x from the Na^+,K^+-ATPase induced by different ligands

BeF_x-complex of Na^+,K^+-ATPase was formed by pre-incubation of the enzyme in 20 mM histidine pH 7.0, 10 mM NaF, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 20 µM $BeSO_4$ on ice overnight. The suspension was subjected to centrifugation 30 min x 50.000g at 4 ^{o}C**,** and the pellet was resuspended in the media containing 20 mM histidine pH 7.0 and varying ligands in concentrations as noted in Fig.8. After different periods of incubation at 37°C the aliquots from each sample were used for measurement of the Na^+,K^+-ATPase activity under optimal conditions (46).

Fluorescence spectroscopy:

RH421 Fluorescence experiments

Equilibrium and transient RH421 fluorescence in response to varying concentrations of KCl was measured at room temperature in 20 mM histidine pH 7.0, 10 mM NaF, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.05 mg/ml enzyme, 0.2 µg/ml RH421. Formation of BeF_x complex was ensured by addition of 20 µM $BeSO_4$. Measurements under equilibrium conditions were performed on SPEX Fluorolog fluorometer in a cuvette with 1 cm lightpath with continious stirring. Excitation wavelength 580 nm (slit 2 nm), emission 630 nm (slit 14 nm). Observed rate constants were obtained in the experiments using rapid-mixing stopped-flow spectrofluorometer (Applied Photophysics). Excitation wavelength 580 nm (slit 1 nm) with 630 nm cutoff filter on the emission side.

Anthroylouabain Fluorescence experiments

Equilibrium and transient experiments with anthroylouabain were performed at room temperature in either 20 mM Histidin pH 7.0, 4 mM H_3PO_4 (adjusted with N-methyl-D-glutamine), 4 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.05 mg/ml enzyme (P_i-induced E2P complex); or 20 mM Histidin pH 7.0, 10 mM NaF, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 20 µM $BeSO_4$, 0.05 mg/ml enzyme (BeF_x-complex). When necessary, K^+ was added as KCl in the experiments with P_i-induced E2P complex form, while in case of E2-BeF_x complex 10 mM NaF was replaced by equimolar KF. SPEX Fluorolog fluorometer was used to monitor slow reactions, excitation at 370 nm (slit 5 nm), emission 485 nm (slit 5 nm). Association rate constants

were obtained in the experiments using rapid-mixing stopped-flow spectrofluorometer at excitation wavelength 370 nm (slit 1 nm) with 485 nm cutoff filter on the emission side.

Dissociation of anthroylouabain complexes was performed in a chase experiment as follows: the enzyme complexes were pre-incubated with 0.2 µM anthroylouabain overnight. Then 3.3 mM ouabain was added to the sample (anthroyloaubain was diluted to 0.13 µM simulatneously) and decrease in fluorescence was monitored in time.

Two-electrode voltage-clamping

The experiments were performed as described in (47) In brief, mRNA was made with the mMESSAGE mMACHINE T7 Ultra Kit (Life Technologies) from linearized DNA encoding the human α2 with mutations to decrease ouabain sensitivity (Q116R and N127D) and β1. *Xenopus laevis* oocytes (EcoCyte Bioscience) were injected with 9.5/2.5 ng α2/β1 subunit mRNA in 50.6 nL. Oocytes were incubated 2-8 days at 12-18 degrees Celcius in ND96 buffer supplemented with 25 µg/ml gentamicin and 2.5 mM sodiumm pyruvate. Oocytes were clamped with an OC-725C amplifier (Warner Instruments), and the signal was digitized by a 1440A digitizer (Molecular Devices). Data was recorded with PClamp 10.4 (Molecular Devices) and analysed with ClampFit (Molecular Devices) and GraphPad Prism (GraphPad Software). For sodium/sodium exchange recordings, the extracellular buffer contained 115 mM NaOH, 110 mM sulfamic acid, 10 mM Hepes, 5 mM $BaCl_2$, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.5 mM $CaCl_2$, 10 µM ouabain, pH 7.4 (adjusted with sulfamic acid). For other recordings, NaOH was replaced by NMDG or KOH as indicated. Voltage jumps were performed from a holding potential of -50 mV with 200 ms jumps to potentials between 60 mV and -160 mV in 20 mV steps. Charge (Q) and rate currents were determined by subtracting a recording with 10 mM ouabain added from the immediately preceding recording. On and off-currents were fitted with single exponentials to determine rate currents and charge, respectively. Charges were fitted to a Boltzmann distribution. For steady state currents, the voltage protocol was performed in buffer, buffer with 10 mM ouabain, and buffer. The last recording ensures stability throughout the recordings.

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