Multi-tiered actions of *Legionella* effectors to modulate host Rab10 dynamics

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Abstract

Rab GTPases are representative targets of manipulation by intracellular bacterial pathogens for hijacking membrane trafficking. *Legionella pneumophila* recruits many Rab GTPases to its vacuole and exploits their activities. Here, we found that infection-associated regulation of Rab10 dynamics involves ubiquitin signaling cascades mediated by the SidE and SidC families of *Legionella* ubiquitin ligases. Phosphoribosyl-ubiquitination of Rab10 catalyzed by the SidE ligases is crucial for its recruitment to the bacterial vacuole. SdcB, the previously uncharacterized SidC family effector, resides on the vacuole and contributes to retention of Rab10 at the late stages of infection. We further identified MavC as a negative regulator of SdcB. By the transglutaminase activity, MavC crosslinks ubiquitin to SdcB and suppresses its function, resulting in elimination of Rab10 from the vacuole. These results demonstrate that the orchestrated actions of many *L. pneumophila* effectors fine-tune the dynamics of Rab10 during infection.

Introduction

Legionella pneumophila utilizes a large arsenal of effector proteins which are delivered via its Dot/Icm type IV secretion system (T4SS) to modulate host cellular systems (Hubber and Roy, 2010; Kubori and Nagai, 2016). The functions of the effector proteins are crucial for establishing a replicative niche where *L. pneumophila* can survive and avoid host defense mechanisms in the cell (Isberg et al., 2009; Qiu and Luo, 2017). Many effector proteins are known to modulate the function of host Rab GTPases that regulates cellular membrane transport (Neunuebel and Machner, 2012; Sherwood and Roy, 2013; Spanò and Galán, 2018). Among them, effector manipulation of Rab1, a critical regulator of membrane trafficking between ER and the Golgi complex, has been extensively analyzed in *L. pneumophila* infection (Arasaki et al., 2012; Ingmundson et al., 2007; Machner and Isberg, 2006; Mukherjee et al., 2011; Müller et al., 2010; Murata et al., 2006; Neunuebel et al., 2011; Tan and Luo, 2011).

Ubiquitination regulates all aspects of eukaryotic cell physiology, and therefore is exploited by various bacterial pathogens encoding ubiquitin (Ub) ligases and deubiquitinases (DUBs) (Ashida and Sasakawa, 2017; Kitao et al., 2020; Kubori et al., 2019; Lin and Machner, 2017). Effector-mediated Ub modification of Rab1 was reported as an action of the *Legionella* E3 ligase SidC and its paralog SdcA (Horenkamp et al., 2014). Rab33b as well as Rab1, Rab6A, and Rab30 are conjugated with phosphoribosylated (PR)-Ub by the unique reaction mechanism of the SidE family of effector proteins (Qiu et al., 2016), and it was shown that recruitment of Rab33b and Rab6A to the *Legionella*-containing vacuole (LCV) relies on the PR-ubiquitination of Rab33b (Kawabata et al., 2021). A recent genome-wide screen identified host factors including Rab10 linked to intracellular replication of *L. pneumophila* (Jeng et al., 2019). It was demonstrated that Rab10 is recruited to the LCV and is ubiquitinated depending on the activity of SidC and SdcA (Jeng et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020).

SidC and SdcA were originally identified as tethering factors that function in ER-to-LCV trafficking both having a unique phosphatidylinositol-4 phosphate (PI[4]P)-binding domain (Ragaz et al., 2008). The enzymatic activity of these proteins as Ub ligases was experimentally uncovered later (Hsu et al., 2014). The enzymatic activity was found to be encoded in the domain conserved between the two proteins, namely SidC N-terminal Ub ligase (SNL) domain (Hsu et al., 2014). SdcB (Lpg2452/LegA14) was identified as

another *L. pneumophila* Ub ligase having the SNL domain (Lin et al., 2018). However,

the role of SdcB in *L. pneumophila* infection has not been examined yet.

Various *L. pneumophila* effector proteins exploit the host Ub signaling cascade (Kitao et

al., 2020; Luo et al., 2021; Tomaskovic et al., 2022). They are exemplified by MavC

which was shown to chemically modify the E2 enzyme UBE2N. The transglutaminase

activity of MavC catalyzes a covalent linkage between Ub and UBE2N, thereby

abolishing the activity of UBE2N to form polyUb chains, and mediate host NFκB

signaling (Gan et al., 2019a). Encoded by the neighboring gene of *mavC*, MvcA is a

paralog of MavC and exhibits similar activity to MavC as a Ub-specific deamidase

(Valleau et al., 2018). However, MvcA was found to have an ability to reverse MavC-

mediated Ub conjugation to UBE2N by its unique DUB activity (Gan et al., 2020). The

enzymatic activities of MavC and MvcA are both inhibited by Lpg2149, an effector

encoded downstream of *mvcA*, by blocking their catalytic residues (Valleau et al., 2018).

In this study, we investigated the role of *Legionella* Ub ligases in Rab10 dynamics during

L. pneumophila infection. Including the unexpected finding that MavC is a negative

regulator of SdcB, we demonstrated muti-tiered regulation by many effectors to finely

modulate the localization of Rab10 to the LCV, revealing the intricate effector network

that hijacks cellular processes.

Results

The SidE- and SidC-family proteins differentially contribute to ubiquitination of

Rab10 in infected cells

Host Rab10 is required for optimal intracellular replication of *L. pneumophila* (Jeng et

al., 2019) and therefore considered to play a significant role in LCV biogenesis or

maintenance. Since *L. pneumophila* SidE family proteins, which catalyze PR-linked

ubiquitination, have a wide range of substrates including Rab1 and Rab33b (Bhogaraju

et al., 2016; Kalayil et al., 2018; Kotewicz et al., 2017; Qiu et al., 2016), we first examined

whether the SidE family can affect Rab10 ubiquitination. Upon infection of HEK293T-

FcγRII cells transiently expressing FLAG-Rab10 and HA-Ub with a wild-type *L.*

pneumophila strain (Lp01), Rab10 was detected with a shifted band of higher molecular

mass (Figure 1a upper panel). The band was shown to contain Ub by probing with an

anti-HA antibody (Figure 1a lower panel), indicating that the band represents Rab10

conjugated with a single Ub molecule. The mass shift was not detected in cells infected

with the T4SS-deficient strain (ΔdotA), suggesting that Rab10 can be monoubiquitinated
in a T4SS-dependent manner. Infection with a ΔsidEs strain lacking all four SidE-family
proteins (SidE, SdeA, SdeB and SdeC) mostly eliminated the molecular mass shift of
Rab10, while infection with a strain lacking the negative regulators of SidE family
proteins (DupA, DupB, SidJ and SdjA (Black et al., 2019; Gan et al., 2019b; Qiu et al.,
2017; Shin et al., 2020; Sulpizio et al., 2019)) enhanced the intensity of the band (Figure
1a). These results suggest that the SidE-family proteins can conjugate PR-Ub to Rab10.
The high molecular weight smears detected with anti-HA antibody are thought to be
polyUb chains (Figure 1a lower panel). Appearance of these smears is tightly associated
with the PR-Ub bands, showing that polyubiquitination of Rab10 is linked with its PR-
ubiquitination.
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To examine if PR-Ub conjugation to Rab10 can enhance its modification with polyUb
chains, we infected HEK293T-FcγRII cells expressing FLAG-Rab10 and HA-Ub with
the ΔsidEs strain complemented with a plasmid expressing wild-type or a catalytic mutant
of SdeA (SdeA$_{EE/AA}$), a representative SidE-family protein (Figure 1b). We detected a
strongly enhanced polyUb smear whose appearance depends on the mono-ADP
ribosyltransferase activity of SdeA. The intensity of the monoubiquitination band was
correlated with that of the polyUb smears (Figure 1b middle panel). When the C-terminal
GG motif of Ub was replaced with AA (Ub$_{AA}$), the polyUb smear drastically diminished,
and accumulation of monoUb-conjugated Rab10 was observed instead. This indicates
that the polyUb chains on Rab10 were formed via the Ub C-terminus by the canonical
ubiquitination reaction. This also shows that the observed monoUb-conjugation to Rab10
does not require the Ub C-terminus, which is consistent with the formation of bridge
between Arg42 of Ub and substrate catalyzed by the SidE effectors (Bhogaraju et al.,
2016; Kotewicz et al., 2017; Qiu et al., 2016). These results strongly support that Rab10
is subjected to SdeA-mediated PR-ubiquitination and that this modification may provide
a platform of conjugation of polyUb chains to Rab10, which is expected to be mediated
by other Ub ligases.
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Since it was reported that *L. pneumophila* effectors SidC and its paralog SdcA induce
Rab10 ubiquitination (Jeng et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020), we investigated how these E3
ligases contribute towards ubiquitination of Rab10 in our system (Figure 1c). Infection of
cells with a ΔsidCΔsdcA strain as well as with a strain lacking all the SidC family proteins
(ΔsidCΔsdcAΔsdcB) still caused both mono- and polyubiquitination of Rab10 but with
reduced levels. On the contrary, infection with the ΔsidEs strain eliminated both

modifications. These results support that SidE-family proteins primarily contribute
towards ubiquitination of Rab10, and that SidC-family proteins partly contribute towards
polyubiquitination of Rab10 directly or indirectly in conditions where Rab10 is modified
with PR-Ub.
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Rab10 recruitment to the LCV is differentially regulated by SidE- and SidC-family
proteins
Earlier studies demonstrated that Rab10 ubiquitination is highly correlated with its
localization to the LCV (Jeng et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020). We therefore examined if the
SidE family regulates Rab10 recruitment to the LCV using HeLa-FcγRII cells transiently
expressing RFP-Rab10 (Figure 2a and b). Infection with the $\Delta sidEs$ strain drastically
reduced the level of Rab10-positive LCVs at all time points examined (Figure 2b). As
reported for Rab33b (Kawabata et al., 2021), PR-ubiquitination is thought to be required
for Rab10 to localize to the LCV. The $\Delta sidC\Delta sdcA$ LCV also exhibited a reduced the
level of Rab10 localization at 1 h after infection (Figure 2b left panel). However, the level
of Rab10 recruitment to the $\Delta sidC\Delta sdcA$ LCV recovered at 4 h after infection, while that
to the $\Delta sidC\Delta sdcA\Delta sdcB$ LCV did not recover even as late as 7 h (Figure 2b middle and
right panels). This result suggests that SdcB can contribute towards retention of Rab10
on the LCV at late stages of infection.
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SdcB associates with the LCV and plays a major role in Ub recruitment to the LCV
at late stages of infection
The Ub accumulation on the LCV has been thought to be mediated largely by SidC and
SdcA (Horenkamp et al., 2014; Luo et al., 2015). We therefore examined the possible role
of SdcB in Ub recruitment to the LCV at distinct time points after infection (Figure 3).
To mask the effect of SidC and SdcA, we used a $\Delta sidC\Delta sdcA\Delta sdcB$ strain complemented
with wild-type or catalytic mutant (C57A) of SdcB expressed from a plasmid. When
HeLa-FcγRII cells were infected with these strains for 1 h, SdcB was detected around the
LCV (Figure 3a and b). The level of wild-type SdcB-positive LCVs was relatively lower
compared with that of the SdcB$_{C57A}$-positive LCVs, probably due to its catalytic cycling.
The expression of wild-type SdcB led to recruitment of Ub to the vacuole even without
SidC and SdcA, while expression of SdcB$_{C57A}$ did not (Figure 3b). This result indicates
that SdcB has a catalytic activity to conjugate Ub to substrates on the LCV. At 7 h after
infection, the level of the SdcB-positive LCVs was elevated to about 70 % regardless of
its catalytic activity (Figure 3c and d). At this time point, the level of the Ub-positive
LCVs was also raised to about 60 %, but only when SdcB was catalytically active. These

results demonstrate that SdcB can play a substantial role to conjugate Ub to substrates on
the LCV at late stages of infection.

The catalytic activity of SdcB enhances retention of Rab10 on the LCV
To examine the relationship between the catalytic activity of SdcB and the LCV
localization of Rab10, we assessed the level of Rab10-positive LCVs on which SdcB
localized. At 7 hs post infection, Rab10 localization was readily detected on
$\Delta sidC\Delta sdcA\Delta sdcB$ LCVs containing wild-type SdcB, but not the inactive SdcB$_{C57A}$
mutant (Figure 4a). The level of Rab10-positive LCVs was significantly higher with
expression of wild-type SdcB than that of the catalytic mutant (Figure 4b), suggesting
that the Ub ligation activity of SdcB supports retention of Rab10 on the LCV until late
stages of infection.

MavC modifies SdcB when ectopically expressed in cells
A potential relationship between SdcB and MavC as an effector/metaeffector pair was
suggested by a recent systematic analysis utilizing yeast genetics (Urbanus et al., 2016).
We therefore examined whether expression of MavC can affect the activity profile of
SdcB in cells. When ectopically expressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells, 3xFLAG-tagged
SdcB could not be detected (Figure 5a top panel, most left lane). However, we found that
coexpression of GFP-tagged MavC, but not of its catalytic mutant (MavC$_{C74A}$), recovered
the detection of SdcB (Figure 5a top panel). As SdcB was resolved as a doublet in the
immunoblot, we suspected that SdcB may be chemically modified by MavC and that the
modification may result in enhanced detection of this protein. We therefore probed with
an anti-HA antibody to detect possible Ub conjugation. The upper band was stained with
anti-HA antibody, showing that Ub was conjugated to SdcB presumably by the known
Ub conjugation ability of MavC (Gan et al., 2019a) (Figure 5a middle panel). We also
found that the disappearance of the SdcB bands correlated with the appearance of the high
molecular weight smears when probed with anti-HA antibody (Figure 5a middle panel).
This suggests that the disappearance of the SdcB band can be caused by auto-
ubiquitination, as SdcB has an ability to catalyze auto-ubiquitination with a diverse
repertoire of E2 enzymes (Figure 5-figure supplement 1) consistently with a previous
report (Lin et al., 2018). The transglutaminase activity of MavC is likely required for
conjugation of Ub to SdcB, as the catalytic mutant of MavC (MavC $_{C74A}$) failed to modify
SdcB (Figure 5a). We also found that unmodified SdcB was readily detected when the
SdcB C57 active site was mutated regardless of the presence of MavC (Figure 5b top
panel), consistent with the disappearance of the band was caused by the auto-

ubiquitination. Interestingly, the MavC-mediated Ub conjugation to SdcB$_{C57A}$ was not readily detected (Figure 5b). This indicates that the catalytic residue C57 of SdcB is crucial in being modified by MavC. As suggested by the reduction of the high molecular weight smears (Figure 5a), it is plausible that MavC suppresses the E3 ligase activity of SdcB by the unique chemical modification.

The transglutaminase activity of MavC mediates Ub conjugation to SdcB and to SdcA

To confirm the direct involvement of MavC in the unique Ub modification of SdcB, we reconstructed an *in vitro* reaction using purified proteins. In the presence of MavC, but not of its paralog MvcA, the mass shift of SdcB was readily detected (Figure 5c top panel). The immunoblotting showed that the band contains Ub (Fig. 5C middle panel). The presence of wild-type MavC, but not its catalytic mutant, also reduced SdcB auto-ubiquitination *in vitro* (Figure 5-figure supplement 2). Since SidC, SdcA and SdcB are paralogs to each other, we examined if SidC and/or SdcA are also subject to MavC-mediated Ub conjugation. Triple-FLAG-tagged SidC or SdcA were transiently expressed together with GFP-MavC and HA-Ub in HEK293T-FcγRII cells, and the 3xFLAG-tagged proteins were immunoprecipitated (Figure 5d). These results clearly demonstrated that Ub was conjugated to SdcA but not to SidC by the catalytic activity of MavC, and that this modification occurred only to SdcA in the catalytically active form.

We then analyzed the MavC-mediated Ub-conjugation to SdcB using derivatives of Ub (Figure 5e and f). The use of Ub having no Lys residues (HA-Ub $_{No\ K}$) resulted in an enhanced level of Ub-conjugation to SdcB mediated by functional MavC (Figure 5e middle panel). Surprisingly, HA-Ub$_{AA}$ did not conjugate to SdcB, indicating that the C-terminal Gly-Gly residues are essential for MavC-mediated Ub conjugation to SdcB (Figure 5f middle panel). The shifted band detected by FLAG probing plausibly represents conjugation of cellular intrinsic Ub (Figure 5f top panel).

Transglutaminase activity of MavC is known to target Gln40 of Ub to catalyze the intramolecular crosslinking (Gan et al., 2019a; Guan et al., 2020; Puvar et al., 2020). We investigated whether the same residue of Ub is crosslinked to SdcB by the activity of MavC using mass spectrometric (MS) analysis. We found that a covalent bond was formed between Gln41 of Ub and Lys518 of SdcB (Figure 6a). Crosslinking between Gln31 of Ub and Lys891 of SdcB was also detected (Figure 6-figure supplement 1). To confirm the results, we replaced Ub residues Gln41 and Gln31 with Glu (Ub $_{Q41E}$, Ub $_{Q31E}$,

and Ub $_{Q31E\ Q41E}$) and conducted the Ub-conjugation assay by transient expression in
HEK293T-FcγRII cells. Consistent with the result from the MS analysis, Ub $_{Q41E}$, but not
Ub $_{Q40E}$, failed to be conjugated to SdcB, showing that Gln41 is crucial for MavC-
mediated crosslinking with SdcB (Figure 6b middle panel). Ub $_{Q31E}$ also reduced the level
of modified SdcB, and Ub $_{Q31E\ Q41E}$ completely abolished the crosslinking to SdcB. The
presence of modified SdcB bands when probed with anti-FLAG antibody is thought to be
caused by conjugation with intrinsic Ub in cells (Figure 6b top panel). Contrarily,
replacement of Lys518 and Lys891 of SdcB to Arg (SdcB $_{K518R}$, SdcB $_{K891R}$, and SdcB
$_{K518R\ K891R}$) showed lesser impact on abolishing the reactivity (Figure 6c), suggesting that
additional residues of SdcB can be subjected to MavC-dependent Ub conjugation. Taken
together, we currently hypothesize that association of the C-terminal Gly of Ub to the
catalytic pocket of SdcA or SdcB (C44 or C57, respectively) positions these molecules in
proper orientation for intramolecular crosslinking mediated by the transglutaminase
activity of MavC.
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Catalytic activity of MavC can impact Rab10 localization to the LCV
We then examined the role of MavC in the LCV localization of Rab10. By
immunofluorescent microscopy, we monitored the level of RFP-tagged Rab10 on SdcB-
positive LCVs when MavC or its catalytic mutant were expressed in HeLa-FcγRII cells
(Figure 7a). At 4 h after infection with *L. pneumophila* strains expressing 3xFLAG-SdcB,
the level of Rab10-positive LCVs was significantly higher in the cells expressing the
catalytic mutant of MavC compared with those expressing wild-type MavC (Figure 7a
and b). That Rab10 localization was reduced coincident with MavC-dependent inhibition
of SdcB further supports the contribution of SdcB activity towards retention of Rab10 on
the LCV. We then wondered whether bacterially delivered MavC can contribute to the
elimination of Rab10 from the vacuole. As the levels of the Rab10-positive LCVs were
not significantly altered up to 7 h after infection with the wild-type *L. pneumophila* strain
(Figure 2b), we examined Rab10 localization at a later time point after infection (Figure
7c, Figure 7-figure supplement 1). At 9 h after infection, the level of Rab10-positive
LCVs was significantly higher in the cells infected with a Δ*mavC*Δ*mvcA* strain than with
the wild-type strain. Contrary, when the cells were infected with a strain lacking Lpg2149
which inhibits the activity of MavC and MvcA [31], the level declined. These results
supports that MavC suppresses the activity of SdcB in infection conditions and thereby
downregulates Rab10 localization to the LCV at late stages of infection (Figure 7d).
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Discussion

Following the finding that subversion of Rab1 function is critical for *L. pneumophila* to
create the replicative vacuole (Kagan et al., 2004), remarkable numbers of studies have
revealed the molecular mechanisms of how *L. pneumophila* T4SS effectors modulate the
localization and enzymatic activity of Rab1 (Qiu and Luo, 2017). The importance of
Rab10 and its chaperone *RABIF* for intracellular replication of *L. pneumophila* has
recently emerged (Jeng et al., 2019). However, little is known about how *L. pnuemophila*
manipulates the activity of Rab10.

We found that the SidE-family effectors mediate noncanonical ubiquitination of Rab10.
Apparently, this modification is the primary requirement for subsequent
polyubiquitination of Rab10 (Figure 1), which is linked to its localization to the LCV
(Figure 2).   Polyubiquitination of Rab10 was enhanced in a manner depending on the
catalytic activities of the SidC-family proteins (Figure 1) consistent with previous reports
(Jeng et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020). As ectopic expression of SdeA in HEK293T-FcγRII
cells led to monoubiquitination of Rab10 (Figure 7-figure supplement 2), it is plausible
that PR-Ub conjugation to Rab10 is directly catalyzed by the SidE-family ligases.
However, the SdcB-mediated polyubiquitination of Rab10 was not readily detected even
in the presence of SdeA lacking its DUB domain (Figure 7-figure supplement 2). This
result prompted us to consider that polyubiquitination of Rab10 can be partly catalyzed
by canonical E3 ligases in host cells and/or other *L. pneumophila* effector proteins. The
Ub ligase activity of SdcB strongly induced accumulation of Ub on the LCV (Figure 3).
The PR-Ub modification of Rab10 and ubiquitination of unknown LCV-associated
substrates of the SidC family may provide the platform for the further modification of
Rab10.

Involvement of MavC for regulation of the SidC-family ligases was unexpectedly
identified in our analyses. This finding has added another layer of complexity to effector-
mediated regulation of Rab10. It was previously demonstrated that MavC can catalyze
covalent linkage between Q40 of Ub with a Lys residue of UBE2N (Gan et al., 2019a).
Our result showing that Q41 of Ub is crosslinked with SdcB gives a new insight into the
molecular mechanism of how MavC catalyzes Ub conjugation to specific substrates. In
addition, both the C-terminal Gly of Ub (Figure 5f) and the catalytic Cys of SdcB (C57A)
(Figure 5b) were essential for crosslinking. This strongly suggests that the ability of SdcB
as a Ub ligase to position a Ub molecule into its active site is a requirement for MavC to
form the covalent bond between Ub and SdcB. This model is reminiscent of the reaction
scheme described for how MavC mediates Ub conjugation to UBE2N, in which the initial

capturing of Ub by the E2 activity of UBE2N allows enhanced activity by MavC (Puvar et al., 2020).

In contrast to the PI[4]P-binding domain present in SidC and SdcA, SdcB has an ankyrin repeat (ANK) domain at its C-terminus. As ANK domains are generally known to mediate protein-protein interactions, we speculate that SdcB targets substrates distinct from those of SidC and SdcA. The lipid-binding ability of SidC and SdcA implicates their substrate specificity; their substrates are on or associated with the LCV in the specific stages of vacuole remodeling (Vormittag et al., 2023). We, therefore, speculate that SdcB can target substrate(s) present on the LCV in maturation stages different from ones when SidC and SdcA can work in. In spite of our extensive efforts, we have not succeeded to identify cellular targets with which the ANK domain of SdcB interacts. It would be a future perspective to understand the exact biological role of SdcB as a Ub ligase in *L. pneumophila* infection by identifying its enzymatic substrates.

We found that *L. pneumophila* has a multi-tiered regulatory mechanism to manipulate Ub signaling cascades in which SidC- and SidE-family Ub ligases are involved. MavC was found to contribute to fine-tuning the regulation via its unique Ub-conjugation activity toward SdcB. These regulations are reflected in many aspects of the LCV biogenesis and maturation which are thought to be largely controlled by Ub signaling. The regulatory cascade of Rab10 GTPase, whose function is crucial for ER recruitment to the LCV, became apparent in this study. Most likely, similar regulatory cascades exist for many LCV-associated proteins.

Materials and methods

Bacterial strains and growth conditions

The *L. pneumophila* and *Escherichia coli* strains used in this study are listed in Key resource table. Deletion strains were constructed by allelic exchange, as described previously (Zuckman et al., 1999). The *L. pneumophila* strains were grown at 37°C in liquid N-(2-acetamido)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid (ACES; Sigma)-buffered yeast extract (AYE) media or on charcoal-yeast extract (CYE) plates (Feeley et al., 1979) with or without appropriate antibiotics (100 µg /mL streptomycin, 10 µg/mL chloramphenicol, and 10 µg/mL kanamycin), as described previously (Berger et al., 1994). The *Eschericia coli* strains (DH5α, DH5αλpir, and BL21[DE3]) were grown at 37°C in standard media.

Cell culture

HeLa-FcγRII cells (Arasaki et al., 2017) were grown in Minimum Essential Medium α (MEMα; Gibco) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Sigma). HEK293T-FcγRII cells (Arasaki and Roy, 2010) were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; Gibco) supplemented with 10% FBS. All cells were incubated at 37ºC under 5% CO_2 condition.

Plasmid construction

Plasmids used in this study are listed in Appendix 1-table 1. All cloning was conducted by PCR-amplification of the desired genes using primers listed in Appendix 2-table 2 from genomic DNA of *L. pneumophila* or from plasmids listed in Appendix 2-table 2 followed by ligation with the vectors unless otherwise noted below. Site-directed mutagenesis was carried out using a QuickChange II site-directed mutagenesis Kit (Agilent) according to the manufacture's recommendation. For construction of pET15b-His-*sdeA*$_{\Delta DUB}$, the entire region of pET15b-His-*sdeA* except for the region encoding 1-199 aa of SdeA was amplified with primers 2649/2712 and then the fragment was self-ligated with a Gibson assembly kit (New England Biolabs). For construction of pmGFP-*sdeA*$_{\Delta DUB}$, the entire region of pmGFP-*sdeA* except for the region encoding 1-199 aa of SdeA was amplified with primers 2714/2715 and then the fragment was self-ligated with a Gibson assembly kit. For construction of pMMB-3xMyc-*sdeA*, the coding region of *sdeA* was amplified using primers 2658/2659 from genomic DNA of Lp01, then the fragment was ligated with a linearized vector generated by PCR using 2341/2681 based on pMMB-PicmR-3xFLAG.

Protein purification

E. coli cells overproducing MavC, MvcA or SdcB with a hexa-histidine tag were collected by centrifugation and resuspended with 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM EDTA containing SigmaFast Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma). Cells were disrupted, centrifuged (30,000 $\times g$, 20 min), and the soluble fraction was loaded on a HiPrep Q FF column (Cytiva). His-tagged MacV or MvcA was eluted by a 0-500 mM gradient of NaCl in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH7.5, 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and was loaded on a HisTrap HP column (Cytiva). His-tagged protein was eluted by a 40-500 mM gradient of imidazole in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 200 mM NaCl, 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol. Peak fractions were pooled and loaded onto a HiLoad Superdex 200 gel filtration column (Cytiva). Purified protein was eluted in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 200 mM NaCl, 1mM dithiothreitol and concentrated using a Vivaspin 20 concentrator (Sartorius).

Ub ligation assay

The *in vitro* ubiquitination assay in the substrate-free system was conducted as described before (Kubori et al., 2018) with minor modifications. Briefly, reaction mixtures (12.5 µl) containing 5 µg of recombinant human Ub (Boston Biochem), 80 nM recombinant human E1 (Boston Biochem), 400 nM recombinant human E2 enzymes (Boston Biochem) and 400 nM purified E3 ligases in 50 mM Tris-Cl (pH 7.5), 2 mM $MgCl_2$, 120 mM NaCl, 2 mM ATP and 1 mM DTT were incubated for 2 h at 30°C. The reaction was stopped by adding 12.5 µl of 2xSDS sample buffer and boiling.

Transglutaminase assay

The *in vitro* transglutaminase assay was conducted using the same buffer for the Ub ligation assay (omitting ATP). Reaction mixtures (12.5 µl) containing 5 µg of Ub, 400 nM purified His-SdcB and 800 nM purified MavC were incubated for 1 h at 37°C. The reaction was stopped by adding 12.5 µl of 2xSDS sample buffer and boiling.

Transfection and infection

HEK293T-FcγRII cells were seeded in poly-L-lysine (Sigma)-coated 6-well tissue culture plates at 6×10^5 cells/well 24 h before transfection or infection. Transfection was performed using Lipofectamine2000 (Invitrogen) for 24 h according to the manufacturer's recommendation. HeLa-FcγRII cells were seeded on coverslips in 24-well tissue culture plates at 4×10^4 cells/well 24 h before transfection or infection. Transfection was performed using Polyethylenimine (PEI) for 24 hr. For infection, *L. pneumophila* was harvested from a 2-days heavy patch grown on CYE plates with or without appropriate antibiotics and 1 mM IPTG, and then it was resuspended in sterilized distilled water. The bacteria were opsonized with anti-*Legionella* antibody (1:3,000 dilution) before infection. After adding the bacteria to the cells, the plates were centrifuged at 200 × g to precipitate bacteria onto the layer of cells and were immediately warmed in a 37°C water-bath by floating for 5 min and then placed in a CO_2 incubator at 37°C. At 1 h after infection, the infected cells were washed three times with prewarmed Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (DPBS; Sigma) and refreshed with prewarmed media to remove the extracellular bacteria, and incubation was resumed at 37°C in a CO_2 incubator.

Immunoprecipitation

The transfected or infected cells were washed with DPBS three times and lysed with Lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% NonidentP40)

containing protease inhibitors (cOmplete; Roche), 1   mM phenylmethylsulfonyl
fluoride (PMSF; Nacarai), 10 mM N-Ethylmaleimide (NEM, Sigma) as a DUB inhibitor
and 10 μM MG132 (Calbiochem) as a proteasome inhibitor. After removal of cell debris
with centrifugation, cell lysates were incubated with FLAG M2 magnetic beads (Sigma)
or RFP-Trap magnetic beads (chromotek) for 2 h to overnight at 4°C. The beads were
washed five times with wash buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1mM
EDTA, 0.1% TritonX-100), and the bead-bound proteins were eluted by boiling in SDS
sample buffer.
435

Immunofluorescent microscopy
HeLa-FcγRII cells on coverslips were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde /DPBS for 20
min at room temperature and washed with DPBS three times. After permeabilization and
blocking with 0.2 % Triton X-100 and 2 % goat serum in DPBS for 20 min, the coverslips
were incubated with the primary antibodies indicated in the figure legends for 90 min.
After washing with DPBS three times, the coverslips were incubated with the fluorescent
secondary antibodies with DAPI for 40 min. After washing with DPBS three times, the
coverslips were mounted on glass slides using ProLong Diamond antifade mounting
medium (Thermo Fisher). Images were collected using an inverted microscope (TE2000-
U; Nikon) equipped with a digital ORCA-ERA camera (Hamamatsu).
446

LC-MS/MS analysis
Protein bands corresponding to MavC-mediated modification of 3xFLAG-SdcB were
excised from SDS-PAGE and digested with trypsin. Mass spectrometry experiments were
performed at the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD). The proteins were
reduced with 10 mM DTT, followed by alkylation with 55 mM iodoacetamide, digested
by treatment with trypsin (Promega) and purified with a C18 tip (AMR, Tokyo, Japan).
The resultant peptides were subjected to nanocapillary reversed-phase LC-MS/MS
analysis using a C18 column (12 cm x 75 um, 1.9μm, Nikkyo technos, Tokyo, Japan) on
a nanoLC system (Bruker Daltoniks, Bremen, Germany) connected to a timsTOF Pro
mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltoniks) and a modified nano-electrospray ion source
(CaptiveSpray; Bruker Daltoniks). The mobile phase consisted of water containing 0.1%
formic acid (solvent A) and acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid (solvent B). Linear
gradient elution was carried out from 2% to 35% solvent B for 20 min at a flow rate of
250 nL/min. The ion spray voltage was set at 1.6 kV in the positive ion mode. Ions were
collected in the trapped ion mobility spectrometry (TIMS) device over 100 ms and MS
and MS/MS data were acquired over an m/z range of 100–2,000. During the collection of

MS/MS data, the TIMS cycle was adjusted to 0.53 s and included 1 MS plus 4 parallel accumulation serial fragmentation (PASEF)-MS/MS scans, each containing on average 12 MS/MS spectra (>100 Hz) (Meier et al., 2018, 2015) and nitrogen gas was used as collision gas.

The resulting data was processed using DataAnalysis version 5.2 (Bruker Daltoniks), resulting peak files (mgf format) were subjected to MASCOT version 2.7.0 (Matrix Science, London, UK) against the Swissprot_database(568,744 sequences; 205,548,017 residues) taxonomy limited homo sapiens (20,305 sequences), HA-Ub (1 sequences; 92 residues) and 3xFLAG-lpg2452 database (1 sequences; 950 residues), and searched with the following settings: The mass tolerance for precursor ions was ±15 ppm; The mass tolerance for fragment ions was ±0.05 Da; enzyme, Trypsin; max. missed cleavages, 4; fixed modification: carbamidomethylation on cysteine; variable modifications: oxidation of methionine, N-terminal Gln to pyro-Glu. The threshold score/expectation value for accepting individual spectra was $p < 0.05$. User defined Crosslinker setting is cross-linker: Ubiq01 (mass modification: -17.026549 Da, deamination). The cross-link reactions were assumed to connect Lysine or Glutamine. It does not pair with K and K, or Q and Q. It links only 3xFLAG-lpg2452 between HA-Ub.

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Author contributions

497   Conceptualization, T. Ku.; Methodology, T. Ku., T. Ki., and K. A.; Investigation, T. Ku.
498   and H. N.; Writing- Original Draft, T. Ku.; Writing-Review & Editing, T. Ku, H. N., and
499   K. A.; Funding Acquisition, T. Ku, K. A. and H. N. Supervision, T. Ku. and H. N.
500

501   **Declaration of interests**
502   The authors declare no competing interests.
503

504   **Figure legends**
505

Figure 1. The SidE- and SidC-family proteins differentially contribute towards
ubiquitination of Rab10.
HEK293T-FcγRII cells transiently expressing 3xFLAG-Rab10 and HA-Ub were infected
with the indicated *L. pneumophila* strains for 1 h at an MOI of 20. Rab10 was isolated
from cell lysate by immunoprecipitation using anti-FLAG magnetic beads and was
probed with anti-FLAG and with anti-HA antibodies. Triple-HA-Ub (3xHA-Ub) or Ub in
which the C-terminal GG were replaced with AA (3xHA-Ub$_{AA}$) was expressed instead of
HA-Ub in (b). Bacterial lysates were probed with anti-Myc antibody in (b).
514

Figure 2. The SidE- and SidC-family proteins differentially contribute towards
recruitment of Rab10 to the LCV.
HeLa-FcγRII cells transiently expressing RFP-Rab10 were infected with the indicated *L.*
pneumophila strains at an MOI of 5 for 4 h (a) and for the indicated time (b). (a)
Representative images of infected cells. Fixed cells were stained for *L. pneumophila*
(green) and DNA (blue) and visualized with RFP-Rab10 (red). Magnified images in the
white squares are shown in merged and in each channel. Arrows indicate the Rab10-
positive LCVs. Scale bars, 10 μm. (b) Quantitation of Rab10-positive LCVs (%).
Infections were performed in triplicate and each value represents scoring from 200 LCVs.
Significance was determined using Student's t-test.
525

Figure 3. SdcB associates with the LCV and plays a major role in Ub recruitment to
the LCV at late stages of infection.
HeLa-FcγRII cells were infected with the indicated *L. pneumophila* strains at an MOI of
2 for 1 h (a, b) and for 7 h (c, d). (a, c) Representative images of infected cells. Fixed cells
were stained for FLAG-SdcB or Ub (green), *L. pneumophila* (red) and DNA (blue).
Magnified images in the white squares are shown in the lower panels. Scale bars, 10 μm.
(b, d) Quantitation of SdcB-positive (left) and of Ub-positive (right) LCVs (%). Infections

were performed in triplicate and each value represents scoring from 200 LCVs.
Significance was determined using Student's t-test.
535

Figure 4. The catalytic activity of SdcB enhances retention of Rab10 on the LCV.
HeLa-FcγRII cells transiently expressing RFP-Rab10 were infected with the indicated *L.*
pneumophila strains at an MOI of 2 for 7h. (a) Representative images of infected cells.
Fixed cells were stained for FLAG-SdcB (green) and DNA (*L. pneumophila*) (blue) and
visualized with RFP-Rab10 (red). Magnified images in the white squares are shown in
each channel. White arrows indicate the position of a bacterium. The red arrow indicates
a Rab10 signal surrounding an LCV. Scale bars, 10 μm. (b) Quantitation of Rab10-
positive LCVs (%) out of SdcB-positive ones. Infections were performed in triplicate and
each value represents scoring from 200 SdcB-positive LCVs. Significance was
determined using Student's t-test.
546

Figure 5. The transglutaminase activity of MavC can mediate a unique Ub
conjugation to SdcB.
(a) 3xFLAG-SdcB, HA-Ub and GFP-MavC were coexpressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells.
SdcB was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-FLAG magnetic
beads and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The asterisks indicate the Ub-
conjugated form of SdcB. (b) 3xFLAG-SdcB and GFP-MavC were coexpressed in
HEK293T-FcγRII cells. SdcB was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation
using anti-FLAG magnetic beads and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The
asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated form of SdcB. (c) *In vitro* transglutaminase assay
was performed using purified proteins. The samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE
followed by silver staining (top) or by immunoblotting using the indicated antibodies
(middle and bottom). The asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated form of SdcB. (d)
3xFLAG-SdcA or SidC, GFP-MavC and HA-Ub were coexpressed in HEK293T-FcγRII
cells. SdcA or SidC was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-
FLAG magnetic beads and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The asterisks
indicate the Ub-conjugated form of SdcA. (e) 3xFLAG-SdcB, GFP-MavC and HA-Ub or
Ub without any Lys residues (Ub $_{No K}$) were coexpressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells. SdcB
was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-FLAG magnetic beads
and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated
form of SdcB. (f) 3xFLAG-SdcB, GFP-MavC and HA-Ub or Ub in which the C-terminal
GG were replaced with AA (Ub $_{AA}$) were coexpressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells. SdcB
was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-FLAG magnetic beads

and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated

form of SdcB.

Figure 6. Identification of residues on Ub and SdcB between which MavC can

crosslink.

(a) MavC catalyzes the formation of an isopeptide bond between the Gln41 of Ub and the

Lys518 of SdcB. The indicated proteins were expressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells and

SdcB was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-FLAG magnetic

beads. The samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE. The Ub-conjugated SdcB was detected

by immunoblotting and by CBB staining. The gel slices of areas of the bands shown with

the red squares were subjected to mass spectrometric analysis. Product ion spectrum was

shown for Ub peptide –AKIQDKEGIPPDQQR- crosslinked with SdcB peptide –

VLLDKEVNDEGIAEAVASK-. (b, c) The indicated proteins were coexpressed in

HEK293T-FcγRII cells. SdcB was isolated from cell lysates by immunoprecipitation

using anti-FLAG magnetic beads and was probed with the indicated antibodies. The

asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated form of SdcB.

Figure 7. Catalytic activity of MavC negatively regulates the Rab10 localization to

the LCV.

(a, b) HeLa-FcγRII cells transiently expressing RFP-Rab10 and HA-MavC or its catalytic

mutant were infected with the Lp01 Δ*sidC* Δ*sdcA* Δ*sdcB* strain complemented with the

plasmid expressing 3xFLAG-SdcB or its catalytic mutant at an MOI of 2 for 4 h. (a)

Representative images of cells infected with the Lp01 Δ*sidC* Δ*sdcA* Δ*sdcB* strain

complemented with the plasmid expressing 3xFLAG-SdcB. Fixed cells were stained for

FLAG-SdcB (green) and DNA (blue), and visualized with RFP-Rab10 (red). Magnified

images in the white squares are shown in each channel. White arrows indicate the position

of a bacterium. The red arrow indicates a Rab10 signal surrounding an LCV. Scale bars,

10 μm. (b) Quantitation of Rab10-positive LCVs (%) out of SdcB-positive ones.

Infections were performed in triplicate and each value represents scoring from 200 SdcB-

positive LCVs. Significance was determined using Student's t-test. (c) HeLa-FcγRII cells

transiently expressing RFP-Rab10 were infected with the indicated Lp01 strains at an

MOI of 2 for 9 h, and Rab10-positive LCVs (%) were quantified. Infections were

performed in triplicate and each value represents scoring from 200 LCVs. Significance

was determined using Student's t-test. (d) The schematic of roles of SidE and SidC family

ligases in Rab10 localization to the LCV and of negative regulation of SdcB-dependent

Rab10 retention by the transglutaminase activity of MavC. Red arrows indicate canonical

Ub conjugation by SidC, SdcA and SdcB. Purple arrows indicate the noncanonical Ub
conjugation. In the early stage of infection, Rab10 is recruited to the LCV. This event is
linked to its PR-ubiquitination catalyzed by the SidE effectors. The PR-ubiquitination of
Rab10 provides a platform of its polyubiquitination in a manner depending on SidC and
SdcA. In later stages, SdcB contributes towards sustained Ub accumulation on the LCV,
retaining Rab10 on the vacuole (right). However, MavC-mediated crosslinking between
Ub and SdcB disrupts the catalytic activity of SdcB, resulting in releasing Rab10 from
the LCV (left).
613
Figure 5-figure supplement 1. SdcB has a catalytic activity of self-ubiquitination
with preference of various E2 enzymes.
Ub, E1 enzyme, indicated E2 enzymes and purified His-SdcB or His-SidC were mixed in
the reaction buffer in the presence of ATP and incubated at 30°C for 120 min. The samples
were analyzed by SDS-PAGE followed by silver staining (top) or by immunoblotting
using the anti-Ub antibody (bottom).
620
621 **Figure 5-figure supplement 2. The catalytic activity of MavC negatively impacts on**
622 **auto-ubiquitination of SdcB.**
623 Ub, E1 enzyme, His-UbcH6, purified His-SdcB and His-MavC were mixed in the
624 reaction buffer in the presence of ATP and incubated at 30°C for 120 min. The samples
625 were analyzed by SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting using the anti-Ub antibody.
626
627 **Figure 6-figure supplement 1. Mass spectrometry analysis identified additional**
628 **residues forming a covalent linkage between Ub and SdcB.**
629 Product ion spectrum was shown for Ub peptide –IQDKEGIPPDQQR- crosslinked with
630 SdcB peptide –GYVGVFFSGKENIK-.
631
Figure 7-figure supplement 1. Bacterially delivered MavC mediates elimination of
Rab10 from the LCV.
Representative images of cells infected with the indicated Lp01 strains at an MOI of 2 for
9 h (Rab10-positive LCVs (%) were quantified in Figure 7c). Fixed cells were stained for
L. pneumophila (green) and DNA (blue), and visualized with RFP-Rab10 (red).
Magnified images in the white squares are shown in each channel. Red arrows indicate
the Rab10 signal surrounding an LCV. Scale bars, 10 μm.
639
Figure 7-figure supplement 2. Ectopic expression of SdcB does not proceed Rab10

polyubiquitination even in the presence of SdeA.

Indicated proteins were coexpressed in HEK293T-FcγRII cells. Rab10 was isolated from

cell lysates by immunoprecipitation using anti-RFP magnetic beads and was probed with

the indicated antibodies. The asterisks indicate the Ub-conjugated form of Rab10.

Ethics statement

Not applicable.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In the immunofluorescence experiments, at least 200 bacterial vacuoles were counted per

experiment. Student's t tests were carried out with data from three independent

experiments.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

a

p3xFLAG-*sdcB*
/ Δ*sidC*Δ*sdcA*Δ*sdcB*

p3xFLAG-*sdcB* *C57A*
/ Δ*sidC*Δ*sdcA*Δ*sdcB*

Merge

Merge

SdcB

SdcB C57A

Rab10

Rab10

DAPI

DAPI

Lp

Lp

b

p = 0.003

Rab10-positive / SdcB-postive LCVs (%)

p3xFLAG-*sdcB*

p3xFLAG-*sdcB* C57A

Δ*sidC*Δ*sdcA*Δ*sdcB*

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 5 – figure supplement 1

Ub		+	+	+
E1		+	+	+
E2 (His-UbcH6)		+	+	+
His-SdcB		+	+	+
His-MavC		−	+	−
His-MavC $_{C74A}$		−	−	+

Gel top -

210 -

140 -

100 -

(kDa)

PolyUb-SdcB

-SdcB

IB: FK2 (Ub)

Figure 5 – figure supplement 2

Figure 6 – figure supplement 1

| | Merge | Lp | Rab10 |

Lp01

ΔdotA

Δlpg2149

ΔmavCΔmvcA

Figure 7 – figure supplement 1

a

HA-Ub	+ + + + + +
3xFLAG	− + − − + −
3xFLAG-SdcB	+ − + + − +
RFP	+ − − + − −
RFP-Rab10	− + + − + +
GFP	+ + + − − −
GFP-SdeA ΔDUB	− − − + + +

input
IB: GFP

b

IP: RFP (Rab10)
IB: RFP (Rab10)

* Ub-Rab10

c

IP: RFP (Rab10)
IB: HA (Ub)

* Ub-Rab10

Figure 7 – figure supplement 2