Dynamic localization of the chromosomal passenger complex is controlled by

the orphan kinesins KIN-A and KIN-B in the kinetoplastid parasite

Trypanosoma brucei

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Abstract

The chromosomal passenger complex (CPC) is an important regulator of cell division, which shows

dynamic subcellular localization throughout mitosis, including kinetochores and the spindle

midzone. In traditional model eukaryotes such as yeasts and humans, the CPC consists of the

catalytic subunit Aurora B kinase, its activator INCENP, and the localization module proteins Borealin

and Survivin. Intriguingly, Aurora B and INCENP as well as their localization pattern are conserved in

kinetoplastids, an evolutionarily divergent group of eukaryotes that possess a unique set of

kinetochore proteins and lack homologs of Borealin or Survivin. It is not understood how the

kinetoplastid CPC assembles or how it is targeted to its subcellular destinations during the cell cycle.

Here, we identify two orphan kinesins, KIN-A and KIN-B, as bona fide CPC proteins in *Trypanosoma*

brucei, the causative agent of African sleeping sickness. By employing biochemical, structural, and

cell biological approaches, we demonstrate that KIN-A and KIN-B serve as the scaffold for the

assembly of the remaining CPC subunits. Kinetochore localization of the CPC depends on the KKT7 –

KKT8 complex pathway, with the C-terminal unstructured tail of KIN-A serving as a key interaction

partner for the KKT8 complex. Our data therefore show that, unlike other eukaryotes that take

advantage of histone modifications for centromere recruitment, trypanosomes rely on kinetochore

proteins to recruit the CPC onto kinetochores. Furthermore, the ATPase activity of KIN-A promotes

chromosome alignment in prometaphase and CPC translocation to the central spindle upon

anaphase onset. Thus, KIN-A constitutes a unique 'two-in-one' CPC localization module in complex

with KIN-B, which directs the CPC to kinetochores (from S phase until metaphase) via its C-terminal

tail, and to the central spindle (in anaphase) via its N-terminal kinesin motor domain. Our findings

highlight the evolutionary diversity of CPC proteins and raise the possibility that kinesins may have

served as the original transport vehicles for Aurora B kinases in early eukaryotes.

Introduction

During cell division, duplicated genetic material must be distributed equally into two daughter cells.

The Aurora B kinase is a key mitotic regulator widely conserved among eukaryotes (Hochegger et al.,

2012). It undergoes dynamic localization changes throughout mitosis to enable the spatially

restricted phosphorylation of substrates involved in chromosome alignment, chromosome bi-

orientation, spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) signalling, and cytokinesis (Carmena et al., 2012). In

early mitosis, Aurora B is first detected on chromosome arms and during prometaphase becomes

enriched at centromeres, where it destabilizes incorrect kinetochore-microtubule attachments

(Krenn and Musacchio, 2015). Upon anaphase onset, Aurora B translocates to the spindle midzone,

and during cytokinesis associates with the equatorial cortex to regulate cell abscission (Adams et al.,

2000; Cooke et al., 1987; Trivedi and Stukenberg, 2016).

The dynamic localization pattern of the Aurora B kinase is in part achieved through its

association with a scaffold comprised of <u>in</u>ner <u>cen</u>tromere <u>p</u>rotein (INCENP), Borealin and Survivin

(Adams et al., 2001, 2000; Gassmann et al., 2004; Romano et al., 2003; Sampath et al., 2004; Vader

et al., 2006; Wheatley et al., 2001). Together, these proteins form a tetrameric complex referred to

as the chromosomal passenger complex (CPC). The CPC can be partitioned into two functional

modules: The 'catalytic module' and the 'localization module'. The catalytic module is composed of

Aurora B in complex with the IN-box at the INCENP C-terminus, which is required for full activation

of the Aurora B kinase (Bishop and Schumacher, 2002). The localization module comprises Borealin,

Survivin and the N-terminus of INCENP, which are connected to one another via a three-helical

bundle (Jeyaprakash et al., 2011, 2007; Klein et al., 2006). The two modules are linked by the central

region of INCENP, composed of an intrinsically disordered domain and a <u>s</u>ingle <u>a</u>lpha <u>h</u>elical (SAH)

domain. INCENP harbors microtubule-binding domains within the N-terminus and the central SAH

domain, which play key roles for CPC localization and function (Cormier et al., 2013; Fink et al., 2017;

Kang et al., 2001; Mackay et al., 1993; Nakajima et al., 2011; Noujaim et al., 2014; Samejima et al.,

2015; van der Horst et al., 2015; Wheatley et al., 2001; Wheelock et al., 2017).

In vertebrates, recruitment of the CPC to centromeric chromatin depends on two pathways,

involving the Haspin and Bub1 kinases. Haspin phosphorylates histone H3 on Thr3 (H3T3ph), which is

recognized by the <u>b</u>aculovirus <u>I</u>AP <u>r</u>epeat (BIR) domain of Survivin (Kelly et al., 2010; Wang et al.,

2010; Yamagishi et al., 2010). H3T3ph is initially found along the entire length of chromosomes

between sister chromatids but becomes enriched at the inner centromere (the space between sister

kinetochores) during late prophase. In contrast, the kinetochore-associated Bub1 kinase phosphorylates histone H2A on Thr120 (H2AT120ph) (Kawashima et al., 2010). H2AT120ph recruits Shugoshin-like proteins (Sgo1 and Sgo2), which in turn are bound by Borealin (Tsukahara et al., 2010; Yamagishi et al., 2010). Recently, Sgo1 has also been demonstrated to interact with the BIR domain of Survivin through an N-terminal histone H3-like motif (Abad et al., 2022; Jeyaprakash et al., 2011). The interactions of Borealin and Survivin with Sgo1 form the basis for a kinetochore-proximal pool of the CPC which is distinct from the inner centromere pool (Broad et al., 2020; Hadders et al., 2020; Liang et al., 2020).

In most studied eukaryotes, ranging from yeast to humans, kinetochore assembly is scaffolded by a centromere-specific histone H3 variant, CENP-A (Allshire and Karpen, 2008; Black and Cleveland, 2011; Hori and Fukagawa, 2012; Maddox et al., 2012; Westhorpe and Straight, 2013). An assembly of inner kinetochore protein complexes, referred to as the constitutive centromere-associated network (CCAN), interacts with centromeric CENP-A chromatin throughout the cell cycle and provides a platform for recruitment of the outer kinetochore KNL1/Mis12 complex/Ndc80 complex (KMN) network that has microtubule-binding activity (Cheeseman et al., 2006; Foltz et al., 2006; Izuta et al., 2006; Okada et al., 2006). Some of these kinetochore proteins are present in nearly all sequenced eukaryotes, suggesting that key principles of chromosome segregation are widely shared among eukaryotes (Drinnenberg and Akiyoshi, 2017; Van Hooff et al., 2017; Meraldi et al., 2006; Tromer et al., 2019). However, a unique set of kinetochore proteins (KKT1–20, KKT22–25, KKIP1–12) are present in the evolutionarily divergent lineage called kinetoplastids (Akiyoshi, 2020; Akiyoshi and Gull, 2014; D'Archivio and Wickstead, 2017; Nerusheva et al., 2019; Nerusheva and Akiyoshi, 2016). Kinetoplastids are flagellated protists that are highly divergent from commonly studied eukaryotes (Cavalier-Smith, 2010). *Trypanosoma brucei*, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and *Leishmania* spp. are causative agents of African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, and leishmaniasis, respectively, and as such pose a serious threat to public health and prosperity across the tropics and subtropics (Stuart et al., 2008; WHO, 2017).

Despite the absence of canonical kinetochore components (Berriman et al., 2005; Lowell and Cross, 2004), Aurora kinases are conserved in kinetoplastids. Early studies suggested that the Aurora B homolog (Aurora B^{AUK1}) in *T. brucei* forms a complex with <u>c</u>hromosomal <u>p</u>assenger <u>c</u>omplex proteins 1 and 2 (CPC1 and CPC2) and plays a crucial role in mitosis and cytokinesis (Li et al., 2008; Tu et al., 2006). CPC1 was later found to be a divergent INCENP homolog (hereafter referred to as INCENP^{CPC1}) based on the presence of a conserved C-terminal IN-box (Hu et al., 2014). However, INCENP^{CPC1} lacks the central SAH domain and N-terminal residues, which in other eukaryotes interact with Survivin and Borealin. In addition, two orphan kinesins, KIN-A and KIN-B, have been proposed

to transiently associate with Aurora B[AUK1] during mitosis (Li, 2012; Li et al., 2008). Although homologs of the 'localization module' proteins Survivin and Borealin have not been identified in kinetoplastids (Komaki et al., 2022), the trypanosome CPC displays a dynamic localization pattern similar to that of the metazoan CPC (Li et al., 2008): Aurora B[AUK1], INCENP[CPC1] and CPC2 localize to kinetochores in early mitosis and then translocate to the central spindle upon anaphase onset. From late anaphase onwards, an additional population of CPC proteins is detectable at the tip of the new flagellum attachment zone (FAZ), the point of cytokinesis initiation in *T. brucei*. It is presently not understood how the CPC assembles in these evolutionarily divergent eukaryotes nor how its localization dynamics are regulated during the cell cycle.

Here, by combining biochemical, structural and cell biological approaches in procyclic form *T. brucei*, we show that the trypanosome CPC is a pentameric complex comprising Aurora B[AUK1], INCENP[CPC1], CPC2, and the two orphan kinesins KIN-A and KIN-B. KIN-A and KIN-B interact via their coiled-coil domains to form a subcomplex within the CPC, which serves as a scaffold for the catalytic module (Aurora B[AUK1] + INCENP[CPC1]). The C-terminal unstructured tail of KIN-A directs kinetochore localization of the CPC from S phase to metaphase, while the N-terminal motor domain promotes the central spindle enrichment in anaphase. Furthermore, we identify the KKT7 − KKT8 complex pathway as the main kinetochore recruitment arm of the trypanosome CPC.

Results

KIN-A and KIN-B are bona fide CPC proteins in trypanosomes

To identify additional interactors of the CPC in trypanosomes, we performed immunoprecipitation followed by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (IP-MS) of endogenously YFP-tagged Aurora B[AUK1] (Fig. S1A, Table S1 and Table S2). Besides Aurora B[AUK1], INCENP[CPC1] and CPC2, we observed notable enrichment of two orphan kinesins, KIN-A and KIN-B (Wickstead and Gull, 2006), as reported previously (Li et al., 2008). Both KIN-A and KIN-B were also highly enriched in immunoprecipitates of ectopically expressed GFP-INCENP[CPC1]. Vice versa, IP-MS of GFP-tagged KIN-A and KIN-B identified Aurora B[AUK1], INCENP[CPC1], and CPC2 as top hits (Fig. 1A and Table S2).

We next assessed the localization dynamics of fluorescently tagged KIN-A and KIN-B over the course of the cell cycle (Figs. 1, B-E). *T. brucei* possesses two DNA-containing organelles, the nucleus ('N') and the kinetoplast ('K'). The kinetoplast is an organelle found uniquely in kinetoplastids, which contains the mitochondrial DNA and replicates and segregates prior to nuclear division. The 'KN' configuration serves as a good cell cycle marker (Siegel et al., 2008; Woodward and Gull, 1990). To our surprise, KIN-A-YFP and GFP-KIN-B exhibited a CPC-like localization pattern similar to that of

Aurora B^{AUK1}: Both kinesins localized to kinetochores from S phase to metaphase, and then translocated to the central spindle in anaphase (Figs. 1, C-E). Moreover, like Aurora B^{AUK1}, a population of KIN-A and KIN-B localized at the new FAZ tip from late anaphase onwards (Figs. S1, B and C). This was unexpected, because KIN-A and KIN-B were previously reported to localize to the spindle but not to kinetochores or the new FAZ tip (Li et al., 2008). These data suggest that KIN-A and KIN-B are bona fide CPC proteins in trypanosomes, associating with Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1}, and CPC2 throughout the cell cycle.

A bioinformatic search for homologs of CPC proteins within Euglenozoa revealed that both KIN-A and KIN-B are present in trypanosomatids and bodonids, with KIN-A homologs detectable even in prokinetoplastids (Fig. 1F) (Materials and Methods). CPC2, on the other hand, was detectable only within trypanosomatids. Aurora B^{AUK1} and INCENP^{CPC1} are present in kinetoplastids as well as in diplonemids and euglenids (sister groups of kinetoplastids). Interestingly, homologs of Borealin, Survivin, KIN-A, or KIN-B were not detectable in diplonemids or euglenids, raising a possibility that these organisms may also possess 'non-canonical' CPC proteins. We conclude that the KIN-A and KIN-B kinesins are highly conserved within kinetoplastids, constituting integral components of the CPC in this evolutionary divergent group of eukaryotes.

KIN-A and KIN-B promote kinetochore localization of the CPC

To investigate which subunits of the CPC are responsible for its kinetochore targeting, we performed a series of RNAi experiments (Figs. 2, A-E). Because CPC2 is poorly conserved among kinetoplastids (Fig. 1F) and depletion of CPC2 using two different hairpin RNAi constructs (Table S1) was inefficient, we did not include CPC2 in these experiments. As previously reported (Li et al., 2008), depletion of Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1}, KIN-A or KIN-B resulted in a prominent growth defect (Fig. S2A) with cells arresting in G2/M (2K1N) (Fig. S2B). Knockdown of Aurora B^{AUK1} did not affect the kinetochore localization of YFP-tagged INCENP^{CPC1}, KIN-A or KIN-B (Figs. 2, A and C-E). Knockdown of INCENP^{CPC1} caused delocalization of Aurora B^{AUK1} but not of KIN-A or KIN-B (Figs. 2, A and B, D and E). In contrast, both Aurora B^{AUK1} and INCENP^{CPC1} were delocalized upon depletion of KIN-A or KIN-B (Figs. 2, A-C). RNAi against KIN-A disrupted KIN-B localization and vice versa (Figs. 2, A, D and E). Moreover, total protein levels of KIN-B were affected by depletion of KIN-A (Fig. S2C), suggesting that the interaction with KIN-A is required to stabilize KIN-B.

We next ectopically expressed GFP-tagged truncations of KIN-A and KIN-B to assess which domains promote their kinetochore targeting. Both KIN-A and KIN-B contain an N-terminal kinesin motor domain followed by several predicted coiled-coil motifs (Li et al., 2008), although KIN-B is predicted to be an inactive motor (Wickstead and Gull, 2006). In addition, KIN-A has a long C-

terminal tail. Unlike full-length KIN-B, KIN-B$^{2-316}$ (inactive motor domain) failed to enrich at

kinetochores and was instead found in the nucleolus (Fig. S2, D and E). KIN-A$^{2-309}$ (motor domain)

was also primarily detected in the nucleolus, although we observed additional spindle and weak

kinetochore-like signal in some metaphase cells (Fig. 2G). By contrast, both KIN-A$^{310-862}$ (coiled-coil

domain + C-terminal disordered tail) and KIN-B$^{317-624}$ (coiled-coil domain) clearly localized to

kinetochores from S phase to metaphase (Fig. 2H; Fig. S2F). Intriguingly, unlike endogenously YFP-

tagged KIN-A, ectopically expressed GFP fusions of both full-length KIN-A and KIN-A$^{310-862}$ localized at

kinetochores even in anaphase (Figs. 2, F and H). Weak anaphase kinetochore signal was also

detectable for KIN-B$^{317-624}$ (Fig. S2F). GFP fusions of the central coiled-coil domain or the C-terminal

disordered tail of KIN-A did not localize to kinetochores (data not shown). These results show that

kinetochore localization of the CPC is mediated by KIN-A and KIN-B and requires both the central

coiled-coil domain as well as the C-terminal disordered tail of KIN-A.

Structural model of the trypanosome CPC

To gain structural insights into the trypanosome CPC, we used AlphaFold2 (AF2) (Jumper et al., 2021;

Mirdita et al., 2022) to predict the overall structure of the trypanosome CPC by testing combinations

of full-length Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1}, CPC2, KIN-A, and KIN-B, and truncations thereof (Figs. S3, A-

D). AF2 confidently predicted parallel coiled coils between KIN-A and KIN-B, with the main region of

interaction contained within the central region of KIN-A (residues ~310–550) and the C-terminal

region of KIN-B (residues ~320–580). The C-terminal tail (residues ~550–862) of KIN-A is predicted to

be intrinsically disordered (pLDDT scores <20, Figs. S3, A and B). The first ~55 residues of INCENP^{CPC1},

predicted to form two α-helices (residues ~7–20 and ~36–55), interact with the coiled coils of KIN-

A:KIN-B in close proximity to the kinesin motors. A flexible central linker in INCENP^{CPC1} bridges the N-

terminus of INCENP^{CPC1} and the catalytic module of the CPC (Aurora B^{AUK1} + INCENP^{CPC1} IN-box).

Similarly to INCENP^{CPC1}, an N-terminal α-helical region in CPC2 (residues ~19–75) interacts with the

KIN-A:KIN-B coiled coils immediately downstream of the INCENP^{CPC1} binding site. Consistent with

these predictions, GFP-tagged INCENP$^{CPC1\ 2-147}$ or CPC2$^{2-120}$ displayed normal localization dynamics

indistinguishable from the corresponding full-length constructs (Figs. S3, E-F and H-I). In contrast,

deletion of the N-terminal domains of INCENP^{CPC1} or CPC2 impaired kinetochore localization (Figs.

S3, G and J). Together, these data suggest that Aurora B^{AUK1} forms a subcomplex with the C-terminus

of INCENP^{CPC1}, and that INCENP^{CPC1} and CPC2 interact with the coiled-coil domain of KIN-A:KIN-B via

their N-terminal domains.

To validate these findings biochemically, we performed bis(sulfosuccinimidyl) suberate (BS^3)

cross-linking of native CPC complexes isolated by immunoprecipitation of endogenously tagged YFP-

Aurora B[AUK1] from cells arrested prior to anaphase, followed by mass spectrometry analysis (IP-
CLMS) (Fig. 3A and Table S2). Indeed, our IP-CLMS data revealed high-score crosslinks between the
predicted coiled-coil domains of KIN-A and KIN-B, suggesting that the two kinesins form a parallel
heterodimer. As expected, Aurora B[AUK1] formed contacts with the C-terminal IN-box of INCENP[CPC1],
consistent with these two proteins constituting the catalytic module of the CPC. The N-terminal
region of INCENP[CPC1] interacted mainly with KIN-B and to a lesser degree with KIN-A, with most
contacts confined to the N-terminal ends of the predicted coiled-coil domains of the kinesins close
to their motor domains. The N-terminus of CPC2, on the other hand, formed crosslinks with the
coiled-coil domain of KIN-A. We used PyXLinkViewer (Schiffrin et al., 2020) to map our IP-CLMS data
onto the assembled AF2 model of the trypanosome CPC (Fig. 3B). Using a Euclidian distance cut-off
of 30 Å, ~85% of crosslinks were compatible with the model, providing confidence in the AF2
predictions. The few crosslinks that violated the distance constraints mainly represent intra-protein
contacts between the INCENP[CPC1] N- and C-terminal domains or inter-protein contacts between the
INCENP[CPC1] C-terminal domain and the kinesin motor domain of KIN-A. The central domain of
INCENP[CPC1] is predicted to be unstructured (pLDDT scores <20, Figs. S3, C-D) and may act as a flexible
linker, permitting multiple orientations of the catalytic module relative to the KIN-A:KIN-B scaffold.
Taken together, these data indicate that KIN-A and KIN-B interact via their coiled-coil domains,
which serve as a scaffold for the assembly of the remaining CPC subunits.

The CPC is recruited to kinetochores through the KKT7 – KKT8 complex pathway
Core components of the Haspin-H3T3ph and Bub1-H2AT120ph-Sgo1 pathways that control CPC
recruitment to the centromere in other model eukaryotes are not found in kinetoplastids (Berriman,
2005), and so far, no centromere-specific histone modifications and/or histone variants have been
uncovered in *T. brucei*. We reasoned that the centromere receptor(s) of the trypanosome CPC may
lie within the repertoire of unconventional kinetochore proteins present in kinetoplastids. Our IP-
CLMS approach failed to detect crosslinks between CPC subunits and kinetochore components
(Table S2), possibly due to the transient nature of these interactions. Nevertheless, several KKT
proteins were commonly enriched in the immunoprecipitates of Aurora B[AUK1], CPC1, KIN-A and KIN-
B, the most abundant ones being KKT6, KKT7, KKT8, KKT9, KKT10, KKT11 and KKT12 (Fig. 1A; Fig. S1A
and Table S2). KKT7 is detected at kinetochores from S phase until the end of anaphase and recruits
the KKT8 complex (comprising KKT8, KKT9, KKT11 and KKT12) (Akiyoshi and Gull, 2014; Ishii and
Akiyoshi, 2020). The KKT8 complex localizes at kinetochores from S phase and dissociates at the
metaphase-anaphase transition.

Using previously validated RNAi constructs (Akiyoshi and Gull, 2014; Llauró et al., 2018;

Marcianò et al., 2021), we found that knockdown of KKT7 or KKT9 resulted in dispersal of YFP-Aurora

B^{AUK1} from kinetochores in ~70% of cells (Figs. 4, A-D). In contrast, depletion of KKT1, KKT2, KKT3,

KKT4, KKT6, KKT10/19, KKT14 and KKT16 had little or no effect on YFP-Aurora B^{AUK1} localization (Figs.

S4, A and B). KIN-A-YFP was also lost from kinetochores upon RNAi-mediated depletion of KKT8

complex subunits (Figs. S4, C and D). We next tested whether KKT7 or the KKT8 complex were able

to recruit Aurora B^{AUK1} to an ectopic locus using the LacI-LacO system (Landeira and Navarro, 2007).

For these experiments, we expressed GFP tagged KKT7$^{2-261}$ or KKT8 fused to the Lac repressor (LacI)

in trypanosomes containing an ectopic Lac operator (LacO) array stably integrated into rDNA

repeats. We previously showed that KKT7 lies upstream of the KKT8 complex (Ishii and Akiyoshi,

2020). Indeed, GFP-KKT7$^{2-261}$-LacI recruited tdTomato-KKT8, -KKT9 and -KKT12 (Fig. S4E). Expression

of GFP-KKT7$^{2-261}$-LacI or GFP-KKT8-LacI resulted in robust recruitment of tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} to

LacO foci in S phase (Figs. 4, E and F). Intriguingly, we also noticed that, unlike endogenous KKT8

(which is not present in anaphase), ectopically expressed GFP-KKT8-LacI remained at kinetochores

during anaphase (Fig. 4F). This resulted in a fraction of tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} being trapped at

kinetochores during anaphase instead of migrating to the central spindle (Fig. 4F). We observed a

comparable situation upon ectopic expression of GFP-KIN-A, which is retained on anaphase

kinetochores together with tdTomato-KKT8 (Fig. S4F). In contrast, Aurora B^{AUK1} was not recruited to

LacO foci marked by GFP-KKT7$^{2-261}$-LacI in anaphase (Fig. 4E).

KKT7 recruits the KKT8 complex via the KKT9:KKT11 subcomplex

To gain further insights into the structure and assembly hierarchy within the KKT7 – KKT8 complex

pathway, we performed CLMS on native complexes isolated by immunoprecipitation of

endogenously YFP-tagged kinetochore proteins and mapped the detected crosslinks onto AF2

structure prections (Figs. 4, G and H) (Materials & Methods). AF2 confidently predicted coiled coils

between KKT8 and KKT12 and between KKT9 and KKT11 (Fig. 4G; Figs. S4, G and H), suggesting that

KKT8:KKT12 and KKT9:KKT11 each form distinct subcomplexes. To validate these findings, we co-

expressed combinations of 6HIS-KKT8, KKT9, KKT11, and KKT12 in *E. coli* and performed metal

affinity chromatography (Fig. 4I). 6HIS-KKT8 efficiently pulled down KKT9, KKT11, and KKT12, as

shown previously (Ishii and Akiyoshi, 2020). In the absence of KKT9, 6HIS-KKT8 still pulled down

KKT11 and KKT12. Removal of either KKT9 or KKT11 did not impact formation of the KKT8:KKT12

subcomplex. In contrast, 6HIS-KKT8 could not be recovered without KKT12, indicating that KKT12 is

required for formation of the full KKT8 complex. These results support the idea that the KKT8

complex consists of KKT8:KKT12 and KKT9:KKT11 subcomplexes. The two subcomplexes appear to be

connected to each other through interactions between the C-terminal region of the KKT8:KKT12 coiled coils and the C-terminus of KKT11. Two alpha helices in KKT7[2-261] (residues ~149–181) are predicted to interact with KKT9:KKT11. Using a distance cut-off of 30 Å, ~70% of crosslinks were compatible with the model (Figs. 4, G and H). Of the crosslinks that failed to meet the distance criteria, ~90% involved unstructured regions within KKT7 or the C-terminal tail of KKT8. Collectively, our results reveal that KKT7 recruits the KKT8 complex through interaction with the KKT9:KKT11 subcomplex.

We next examined the localization dependency of KKT8 complex components in cells. Using RNAi constructs against individual subunits of the KKT8 complex (Akiyoshi and Gull, 2014; Ishii and Akiyoshi, 2020; Marcianò et al., 2021), we assessed localization of endogenously YFP-tagged KKT8, KKT9 and KKT12 (Figs. S4, I-L). We found that knockdown of any subunit of the KKT8 complex affected protein levels and kinetochore localization of the other subunits, indicating that presence of all subunits is required to stabilize the full complex. YFP-KKT9 was least affected and was still detectable at kinetochores in ~50% of cells depleted of KKT8, KKT11 or KKT12 (Fig. S4L). Thus, KKT9:KKT11 may lie upstream of KKT8:KKT12. Indeed our IP-CLMS data suggest that the KKT9:KKT11 subcomplex directly interacts with the N-terminus of KKT7 (Fig. 4H, Table S2). KKT7 also formed robust crosslinks with the KKT10/19 kinases (Table S2), supporting our previous finding that KKT7 and KKT10 form a stable complex (Ishii and Akiyoshi, 2020). Together, these data suggest that the KKT7 – KKT8 complex pathway serves as the main CPC recruitment arm in trypanosomes.

The KIN-A C-terminal tail interacts with the KKT8 complex through a conserved domain

By IP-CLMS we failed to detect reliable crosslinks between the CPC and the KKT7 – KKT8 complex or, in fact, any kinetochore proteins (Table S2). This suggests that the IP-CLMS approach, although well-suited for characterizing stable protein complexes, may not be sensitive enough to detect transient or lower affinity interactions. To overcome this, we used AF2 to probe for potential interactions between the KKT8 complex and CPC (sub)complex. AF2 did not predict interactions between the KKT8 complex and INCENP[CPC1], CPC2 or KIN-B (data not shown). Intriguingly, AF2 predicted with high confidence interactions between KKT9:KKT11 and a conserved region (residues ~722–741) within the KIN-A C-terminal tail, which we termed conserved domain 1 (CD1) (Figs. 5, A and B; Figs. S5, A and B). This interaction involves a triple helix composed of KIN-A CD1, KKT9, and KKT11 in a region close to the KKT7-binding site. pLDDT scores improved significantly for KIN-A CD1 in complex with KKT9:KKT11 (>80) compared to KIN-A CD1 alone (~20) (Fig. S3, A and B), suggesting that CD1 forms a helical structure upon binding to KKT9:KKT11. Sequence alignment revealed the presence of a second conserved domain (residues ~816–862) within the C-terminal tail of KIN-A, hereafter referred

to as CD2 (Fig. 5B; Fig. S5A). To assess the contributions of CD1 and CD2 for kinetochore recruitment of KIN-A in vivo, we ectopically expressed GFP fusions of the central coiled coils and C-terminal tail of KIN-A (residues ~310–862) lacking either CD1, CD2, or both (Figs. S5, C-F). GFP-KIN-A$^{310\text{-}862\ \Delta CD2}$ showed a moderate reduction in kinetochore localization in metaphase and was completely lost from kinetochores in anaphase (Figs. S5, D and G). By contrast, GFP-KIN-A$^{310\text{-}862\ \Delta CD1}$ was largely dispersed in metaphase but reappeared at kinetochores in anaphase (Figs. S5, E and G). GFP-KIN-A$^{310\text{-}716}$ lacking both CD1 and CD2 failed to enrich at kinetochores both in metaphase and anaphase (Figs. S5, F and G). These data suggest that CD1 and CD2 synergistically promote kinetochore localization of KIN-A, with CD1 interacting with KKT9:KKT11 and CD2 possibly interacting with another receptor at the kinetochore.

We next tested the relevance of KIN-A CD1 and CD2 for CPC localization and function by replacing one allele of KIN-A with C-terminally tagged wild-type or mutant constructs lacking either CD1 or CD2 and performed RNAi against the 3'UTR of KIN-A to deplete the untagged allele. We were unable to obtain a rescue cell line lacking both CD1 and CD2 as the double-mutant protein was not properly expressed. Wild-type KIN-A-YFP along with Aurora B^{AUK1} robustly localized to kinetochores from S phase until anaphase onset (Figs. 1, C and D; Fig. 5C). KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$-YFP was detectable at kinetochores in G2 but predominantly localized to the mitotic spindle from (pro)metaphase onwards (Figs. 5, D and F), indicating that removal of CD1 severely weakens the affinity of KIN-A for kinetochores and instead shifts the balance towards microtubule binding. Interestingly, expression of KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$-YFP similarly affected the localization of Aurora B^{AUK1} (Figs. 5, D and G; Fig. S5H). We also detected partial spindle localization of Aurora B^{AUK1} in a small population (~25%) of metaphase cells expressing KIN-A$^{\Delta CD2}$-YFP (Figs. 5, E-G). Central spindle localization of KIN-A in anaphase was unaffected by deletion of either CD1 or CD2 (Figs. 5, D and E). Remarkably, despite a substantial loss of Aurora B^{AUK1} from kinetochores in metaphase, ΔCD1 cells exhibited normal cell cycle profiles (Fig. S5I) and showed only a modest decrease in proliferation rates (Fig. 5H). This parallels the situation in budding yeast, in which error-free chromosome segregation can be sustained even when inner centromere localization of Aurora B is largely abolished (Campbell and Desai, 2013; García-Rodríguez et al., 2019).

CPC targeting to the central spindle in anaphase depends on KIN-A's ATPase activity

Finally, we asked how translocation of the CPC to the spindle midzone in anaphase is achieved in trypanosomes. In mammalian cells, dephosphorylation of INCENP and the kinesin MKLP2 upon anaphase onset allows formation of a transient CPC-MKLP2 complex (Gruneberg et al., 2004; Hümmer and Mayer, 2009; Kitagawa et al., 2014; Serena et al., 2020). MKLP2 activity then drives

plus-directed movement of this complex along microtubules of the anaphase spindle. We therefore speculated that anaphase translocation of the kinetoplastid CPC to the central spindle may involve the kinesin motor domain of KIN-A. KIN-B is unlikely to be a functional kinesin based on the absence of several well-conserved residues and motifs within the motor domain, which are fully present in KIN-A (Li et al., 2008). These include the P-loop, switch I and switch II motifs, which form the nucleotide binding cleft, and many conserved residues within the α4-L12 elements, which interact with tubulin (Fig. S6A) (Endow et al., 2010). Consistent with this, the motor domain of KIN-B, contrary to KIN-A, failed to localize to the mitotic spindle when expressed ectopically (Fig. S2E) and did not co-sediment with microtubules in our in vitro assay (Fig. S6B).

Ectopically expressed GFP-KIN-A and -KIN-A$^{2-309}$ partially localized to the mitotic spindle but failed to concentrate at the midzone during anaphase (Figs. 2, F and G), suggesting that N-terminal tagging of the KIN-A motor domain may interfere with its function. To address whether the ATPase activity of KIN-A is required for central spindle localization of the CPC, we replaced one allele of KIN-A with a C-terminally YFP-tagged G210A ATP hydrolysis-defective rigor mutant (Fig. 6A) (Rice et al., 1999) and used an RNAi construct directed against the 3'UTR of KIN-A to deplete the untagged allele. The rigor mutation did not affect recruitment of KIN-A to kinetochores (Figs. S6, C and D). However, KIN-A^{G210A}-YFP marked kinetochores were misaligned in ~50% of cells arrested in metaphase, suggesting that ATPase activity of KIN-A promotes chromosome congression to the metaphase plate (Figs. S6, E-H). In anaphase, the KIN-A rigor mutant failed to concentrate at the central spindle and instead widely decorated the mitotic spindle, with increased signal observed at spindle poles possibly due to poleward flux (Figs. 6, B and C). Expression of the KIN-A^{G210A} rigor mutant prevented Aurora B^{AUK1} from translocating to the central spindle and caused lagging chromosomes (Figs. 6, D-F). The KIN-A rigor mutation also slowed cell proliferation even in the presence of wild-type protein and caused accumulation of cells in anaphase (Figs. 6, G and H). We conclude that central spindle localization of the CPC depends on KIN-A's ATPase activity and is required for proper chromosome segregation.

Discussion

Whereas astonishing diversity in kinetochore composition is seen among eukaryotes (Hooff et al., 2017; Komaki et al., 2022; Tromer et al., 2019), the proteins of the regulatory circuitry underlying chromosome segregation, such as the APC/C, SAC and CPC, are more widely conserved. Homologs of the CPC proteins Aurora B kinase and its associated partner INCENP have been detected in almost all

sequenced eukaryotes, including kinetoplastids. The dynamic localization pattern exhibited by the CPC (e.g. transferring from centromeres to the central spindle upon metaphase-anaphase transition) is likewise highly conserved across eukaryotes but appears to be achieved through a variety of mechanisms. For instance, while CPC recruitment to the centromeres in higher eukaryotes is governed by two histone phosphorylation marks (Haspin-mediated H3T3ph and Bub1-mediated H2AT120ph), budding yeasts employ a combination of histone modifications (Bub1-mediated H2AT121ph) and kinetochore proteins as CPC receptors. Borealin^{Bir1} not only recognizes Sgo1 but also interacts with the CBF3 complex through Ndc10 (Cho and Harrison, 2011; Yoon and Carbon, 1999). Furthermore, INCENP^{Sli15}/Aurora B^{Ipl1} interact with the Ctf19 subunit of the COMA complex at kinetochores (Fischböck-Halwachs et al., 2019). The proteins that form the localization module of the CPC in different species appear to mirror the diversity in centromeric CPC receptors. In fact, many phyla lack Borealin or Survivin homologs (Komaki et al., 2022). Komaki et al. recently identified two functionally redundant CPC proteins in *Arabidopsis*, Borealin Related Interactor 1 and 2 (BORI1 and 2), which engage in a triple helix bundle with INCENP and Borealin using a conserved helical domain, but employ an FHA domain instead of a BIR domain to read H3T3ph (Komaki et al., 2022).

In this study, we have identified KIN-A and KIN-B as components of the CPC in trypanosomes, and delineated a novel pathway for centromeric recruitment of the CPC in this evolutionary divergent group of eukaryotes. In agreement with our work, an early study on the CPC in *T. brucei* found that KIN-A and KIN-B co-purified with Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1} and CPC2 based on a pull-down of an Aurora B^{AUK1}-PTP fusion protein followed by mass spectrometry analysis (Li et al., 2008). However, HA-tagged KIN-A and KIN-B were not detected at kinetochores (from late interphase until metaphase) nor at the new FAZ tip (from late anaphase), and hence were not interpreted as CPC proteins. Contrary to this report, our data clearly show that KIN-A and KIN-B are constitutive components of the CPC in *T. brucei*. First, YFP-tagged KIN-A and KIN-B co-localize with Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1} and CPC2 throughout the cell cycle. Second, KIN-A and KIN-B are readily detected within native CPC complexes isolated by immunoprecipitation of CPC subunits from cells arrested prior to anaphase and form robust crosslinks with the other CPC subunits. Finally, YFP-Aurora B^{AUK1} and INCENP^{CPC1}-YFP are crucially dependent on KIN-A and KIN-B for localizing both to metaphase kinetochores and to the anaphase central spindle. Thus, the KIN-A:KIN-B subcomplex constitutes the localization module of the trypanosome CPC.

Biochemical, cell biological and in silico modelling approaches indicate that the kinesins KIN-A and KIN-B form coiled coils between their central and C-terminal domains, respectively, which then serve as a scaffold onto which INCENP^{CPC1} and CPC2 assemble via their N-terminal α-helical domains. The catalytic module of the trypanosomes CPC, consisting of Aurora B^{AUK1} bound to the C-

terminal IN-box of INCENP[CPC1], is connected to the KIN-A:KIN-B scaffold through a flexible linker in INCENP[CPC1]. While our on-beads cross-linking of native CPCs suggests that the catalytic module is positioned in close proximity to the kinesin heads, this may not necessarily be true in vivo. For example, the catalytic module may exist in both 'locked' and 'open' conformations with regard to its association with the kinesin motor domains. We speculate that the interaction of the KIN-A motor domain with microtubules from prometaphase onwards may cause the catalytic module to disengage from its kinesin head-associated state (Fig. 7). In analogy to the SAH domain of INCENP in other model eukaryotes which has been proposed to function as a dog leash (Samejima et al., 2015; Santaguida and Musacchio, 2009), the INCENP[CPC1] flexible linker in trypanosomes (~100 amino acids long) may then permit Aurora B[AUK1] to roam across a larger but nevertheless spatially constrained target area to phosphorylate its substrates while still being anchored to the kinetochore via KIN-A:KIN-B. Importantly, this mechanism would allow the CPC to act as an intrinsic 'sensor' of KT-MT attachments. Such models dealing with alternative conformations of the CPC in various cellular context will require further testing in the future.

We propose that multiple weak interactions of the KIN-A C-terminal unstructured tail with kinetochore components act in synergy to stabilize the CPC at kinetochores. Critically, these interactions need to be of transient and reversible nature to permit the dynamic release of the CPC upon anaphase onset. Three mechanisms are likely to play a role in this context (Fig. 7). First, removal of the KKT8 complex (the 'CD1 receptor') at the metaphase-anaphase transition effectively eliminates one of the key CPC-kinetochore interfaces. Secondly, the affinity of the KIN-A C-terminal tail for its binding partners at the kinetochore may be further finetuned through reversible post-translational modifications. In support of this, the KIN-A C-terminal tail harbors many pututative CRK3 sites (10 sites matching the minimal S/T-P consensus motif for CDKs) and is also heavily phosphorylated by Aurora B[AUK1] in vitro (Ballmer et al., 2024). Finally, we speculate that the interaction of KIN-A motor domain with microtubules, coupled to the force generating ATP hydrolysis and possibly plus-end directed motion, eventually outcompetes the weakened interactions of the CPC with the kinetochore and facilitates the extraction of the CPC from chromosomes onto spindle microtubules during anaphase. Indeed, deletion of the KIN-A motor domain or impairment of its motor function through N-terminal GFP tagging causes the CPC to be trapped at kinetochores in anaphase. Central spindle localization is additionally dependent on the ATPase activity of the KIN-A motor domain as illustrated by the KIN-A rigor mutant.

It remains to be investigated whether KIN-A functions as a plus-end directed motor. The role of the KIN-B in this context is equally unclear. Because KIN-B does not possess a functional kinesin motor domain, we deem it unlikely that the KIN-A:KIN-B heterodimer moves hand-over-hand along

microtubules as do conventional (kinesin-1 family) kinesins. Rather, the KIN-A motor domain may function as a single-headed unit and drive processive plus-end directed motion using a mechanism similar to the kinesin-3 family kinesin KIF1A (Okada and Hirokawa, 1999). Formation of transient complexes between the CPC and kinesins or other microtubule plus-end tracking proteins upon anaphase onset appears to be a common theme underlying the central spindle translocation of the CPC. For instance, the CPC interacts with MKLP2 or Bim1[EB1] in human and yeast cells, respectively (Gruneberg et al., 2004; Zimniak et al., 2012). Thus, deeper understanding of the CPC regulation in trypanosomes is bound to provide evolutionary insights into fundamental principles of chromosome segregation in eukaryotes and can lead to the discovery of druggable targets to combat kinetoplastid diseases (Saldivia et al., 2020).

Materials and Methods

Cloning

All primers, plasmids, bacmids, and synthetic DNA used in this study as well as their source or construction details are described in Supplemental Table S1. All constructs were sequence verified.

Trypanosome culture

All trypanosome cell lines used in this study were derived from *T. brucei* SmOxP927 procyclic form cells (TREU 927/4 expressing T7 RNA polymerase and the tetracycline repressor to allow inducible expression; Poon *et al.*, 2012) or from PCF1339 procyclic form cells (TREU 927/4 expressing T7 RNA polymerase, tetracycline repressor and the Cas9 nuclease, Beneke et al., 2017) and are described in Supplemental Table S1. Cells were grown at 28°C in SDM-79 medium supplemented with 10% (vol/vol) heat-inactivated fetal calf serum, 7.5 µg/ml hemin (Brun and Schönenberger, 1979), and appropriate selection drugs. Cell growth was monitored using a CASY cell counter (Roche). PCR products or plasmids linearized by NotI were transfected into cells by electroporation (Biorad). Transfected cells were selected by the addition of 30 µg/ml G418 (Sigma), 25 µg/ml hygromycin (Sigma), 5 µg/ml phleomycin (Sigma), or 10 µg/ml blasticidin S (Insight biotechnology). To obtain endogenously tagged clonal strains, transfected cells were selected by the addition of appropriate drugs and cloned by dispensing dilutions into 96-well plates. Endogenous YFP tagging was performed using the pEnT5-Y vector (Kelly et al., 2007) or a PCR-based method (Dean et al., 2015). Endogenous tdTomato tagging was performed using pBA148 (Akiyoshi and Gull, 2014) and its derivatives. All constructs for ectopic expression of GFP fusion proteins include a short nuclear localization signal

For doxycycline inducible expression of head-to-head (pBA3-based)

and hairpin (pBA310-based) RNAi constructs, GFP-NLS (pBA310-based) and GFP-NLS-LacI fusion

proteins (pBA795-based), the linearized plasmids were integrated into 177-bp repeats on

minichromosomes. Expression of GFP-NLS or GFP-NLS-LacI fusions was induced by the addition of 10

ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h. RNAi was induced by the addition of 1 µg/ml doxycycline. LacO–LacI

tethering experiments were carried out as described previously using the LacO array inserted at the

rDNA locus (Ishii and Akiyoshi, 2020; Landeira and Navarro, 2007).

Immunoprecipitation followed by mass spectrometry (IP-MS)

For standard IPs, 400-ml cultures of asynchronously growing cells were grown to $\sim$5 – 10 million

cells/ml. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation (800 g, 10 min), washed once with PBS, and extracted

in PEME (100 mM Pipes-NaOH, pH 6.9, 2 mM EGTA, 1 mM MgSO$_4$, and 0.1 mM EDTA) with 1% NP-

40, protease inhibitors (10 µg/ml leupeptin, 10 µg/ml pepstatin, 10 µg/ml E-64, and 0.2 mM PMSF)

and phosphatase inhibitors (1 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 2 mM Na-β-glycerophosphate, 0.1 mM

Na$_3$VO$_4$, 5 mM NaF, and 100 nM microcystin-LR) for 5 min at RT, followed by centrifugation at 1,800

g for 15 min. Samples were kept on ice from this point on. The pelleted fraction containing

kinetochore proteins was resuspended in modified buffer H (BH0.15: 25 mM Hepes, pH 8.0, 2 mM

MgCl$_2$, 0.1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 0.5 mM EGTA, pH 8.0, 1% NP-40, 150 mM KCl, and 15% glycerol) with

protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Samples were sonicated to solubilize kinetochore proteins (12

s, three times with 1-min intervals on ice). 12 µg of mouse monoclonal anti-GFP antibodies

(11814460001; Roche) preconjugated with 60 µl slurry of Protein-G magnetic beads (10004D;

Thermo Fisher Scientific) with dimethyl pimelimidate (Unnikrishnan et al., 2012) were incubated

with the extracts for 2.5 h with constant rotation, followed by four washes with modified BH0.15

containing protease inhibitors, phosphatase inhibitors and 2 mM DTT. Beads were further washed

three times with pre-elution buffer (50 mM Tris- HCl, pH 8.3, 75 mM KCl, and 1 mM EGTA). Bound

proteins were eluted from the beads by agitation in 60 µl of elution buffer (0.1% RapiGest

[186001860; Waters] and 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3) for 25 min at RT. Eluates were then incubated at

100°C for 5 min. Proteins were reduced with 5 mM DTT at 37°C for 30 min and alkylated with 10 mM

iodoacetamide at 37°C for 30 min. The reaction was quenched by adding 10 mM DTT at 37°C for 30

min, and 100 µl of 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3) was added. Proteins were digested overnight at 37°C

with 0.2 µg trypsin (Promega). Formic acid was then added to 2% and the samples were incubated at

37°C for 30 min to cleave RapiGest, followed by centrifugation for 10 min. The supernatant was

desalted over a C18 column and analyzed by electrospray tandem mass spectrometry over a 60-min

gradient using Q-Exactive (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at the Advanced Proteomics Facility (University

of Oxford). Peptides were identified by searching tandem mass spectrometry spectra against the *T.*
brucei protein database with MaxQuant (version 2.0.1) with carbamidomethyl cysteine set as a fixed
modification and oxidization (Met), phosphorylation (Ser, Thr, and Tyr), and acetylation (Lys) set as
variable modifications. Up to two missed cleavages were allowed. The first peptide tolerance was set
to 10 ppm. Results were filtered to remove contaminants and reverse hits. Proteins identified with
at least two peptides were considered as significant and shown in Table S2 (protein FDR 1%).
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Ex vivo cross-linking of the native CPC and kinetochore complexes (IP-CLMS)
For cross-linking IP-MS experiments, cell cultures were scaled up to 1,600 mL. Cell cultures were
treated with 10 μM MG132 for 4 h to enrich for cells in metaphase. Cell lysis and
immunoprecipitation steps were carried out as described above. After four washes with modified
BH0.15 containing protease inhibitors, phosphatase inhibitors and 2 mM DTT, beads were washed
three times with 25 mM HEPES pH7.5, 150 mM NaCl. Proteins were then cross-linked on beads with
0.4 mM BS^3 (bis(sulfosuccinimidyl)suberate) (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 30 min at RT with
agitation, followed by three washes in 25 mM HEPES pH7.5, 150 mM NaCl and a further three
washes in 0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate. Samples were then incubated in 8 M urea dissolved in 0.1
M ammonium bicarbonate for 10 min at RT with agitation. Proteins were reduced with 10 mM TCEP
for 20 min and alkylated with 10 mM iodoacetamide for 40 min at RT. Proteins were then then pre-
digested with 0.4 μg LysC for 2 h at 37°C. The urea concentration in the sample was brought down to
< 1 M by addition of 0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate before adding CaCl$_2$ (to 2 mM) and 0.7 μg of
trypsin for overnight digestion at 37°C. Formic acid was then added to 2% and the samples were
frozen. The cross-linked samples were further processed and analyzed at the proteomics core facility
at EMBL Heidelberg. Digested peptides were concentrated and desalted using an OASIS HLB μElution
Plate (Waters) according to manufacturer instructions. Crosslinked peptides were enriched using size
exclusion chromatography (Leitner et al., 2012). In brief, desalted peptides were reconstituted with
SEC buffer (30% (v/v) ACN in 0.1% (v/v) TFA) and fractionated using a Superdex Peptide PC 3.2/30
column (GE) on a 1200 Infinity HPLC system (Agilent) at a flow rate of 0.05 ml/min. Fractions eluting
between 50-70 μl were evaporated to dryness and reconstituted in 30 μl 4% (v/v) ACN in 1% (v/v)
FA. Collected fractions were analyzed by liquid chromatography (LC)-coupled tandem mass
spectrometry (MS/MS) using an UltiMate 3000 RSLC nano LC system (Dionex) fitted with a trapping
cartridge (μ-Precolumn C18 PepMap 100, 5μm, 300 μm i.d. x 5 mm, 100 Å) and an analytical column
(nanoEase M/Z HSS T3 column 75 μm x 250 mm C18, 1.8 μm, 100 Å, Waters). Trapping was carried
out with a constant flow of trapping solvent (0.05% trifluoroacetic acid in water) at 30 μl/min onto
the trapping column for 6 minutes. Subsequently, peptides were eluted and separated on the

analytical column using a gradient composed of Solvent A (3% DMSO, 0.1% formic acid in water) and solvent B (3% DMSO, 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile) with a constant flow of 0.3 µl/min. The outlet of the analytical column was coupled directly to an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos (Thermo Scientific, SanJose) mass spectrometer using the nanoFlex source. The peptides were introduced into the Orbitrap Fusion Lumos via a Pico-Tip Emitter 360 µm OD x 20 µm ID; 10 µm tip (CoAnn Technologies) and an applied spray voltage of 2.1 kV, instrument was operated in positive mode. The capillary temperature was set at 275°C. Only charge states of 4-8 were included. The dynamic exclusion was set to 30 sec. and the intensity threshold was $5e^4$. Full mass scans were acquired for a mass range 350-1700 m/z in profile mode in the orbitrap with resolution of 120000. The AGC target was set to Standard and the injection time mode was set to Auto. The instrument was operated in data dependent acquisition (DDA) mode with a cycle time of 3 sec between master scans and MSMS scans were acquired in the Orbitrap with a resolution of 30000, with a fill time of up to 100 ms and a limitation of $2e^5$ ions (AGC target). A normalized collision energy of 32 was applied. MS2 data was acquired in profile mode. RAW MS files were searched by the pLink2 software (Chen et al., 2019), with carbamidomethyl cysteine set as a fixed and oxidization (Met) set as variable modifications. Up to two missed cleavages were allowed. Precursor tolerance was set to 10 ppm. All the identified cross-links are shown in Table S2 (FDR 5%). Cross-links were plotted using xiView (Graham et al., 2019). All raw mass spectrometry files and custom database files used in this study have been deposited with the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository (Deutsch et al., 2020; Perez-Riverol et al., 2019) with the dataset identifier PXD045987.

Fluorescence microscopy

Cells were washed once with PBS, settled onto glass slides, and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 5 min as described previously (Nerusheva and Akiyoshi, 2016). Cells were then permeabilized with 0.1% NP-40 in PBS for 5 min and embedded in mounting media (1% wt/vol 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane, 90% glycerol, 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 8.0) containing 100 ng/ml DAPI. Images were captured on a Zeiss Axioimager.Z2 microscope (Zeiss) installed with ZEN using a Hamamatsu ORCA-Flash4.0 camera with 63× objective lenses (1.40 NA). Typically, ~20 optical slices spaced 0.2 or 0.24 µm apart were collected. Images were analysed in ImageJ/Fiji (Schneider et al., 2012). Kinetochore localization of endogenously tagged kinetochore proteins or ectopically expressed constructs were examined manually by quantifying the number of cells that clearly had detectable kinetochore-like dots at indicated cell cycle stages. Shown images are central slices.

In silico structure and interaction predictions

Structures and interactions were predicted with AlphaFold2-Multimer-v2 (Evans et al., 2022; Jumper

et al., 2021) through ColabFold using MMseqs2 (UniRef+Environmental) and default settings

(Mirdita et al., 2022). Structural predictions of KIN-A/KIN-B, KIN-A$^{310-862}$/KIN-B$^{317-624}$, CPC1/CPC2/KIN-

A$^{300-599}$/KIN-B 317-624, and KIN-A$^{700-800}$/KKT9/KKT11 were performed using ColabFold version 1.3.0

(AlphaFold-Multimer version 2), while those of AUK1/CPC1/CPC2/KIN-A$^{1-599}$/KIN-B, KKT7^{1-}

^{261}/KKT9/KKT11/KKT8/KKT12, KKT9/KKT11/KKT8/KKT12, and KKT7$^{1-261}$/KKT9/KKT11 were performed

using ColabFold version 1.5.3 (AlphaFold-Multimer version 2.3.1) using default settings, accessed via

https://colab.research.google.com/github/sokrypton/ColabFold/blob/v1.3.0/AlphaFold2.ipynb and

https://colab.research.google.com/github/sokrypton/ColabFold/blob/v1.5.3/AlphaFold2.ipynb. All

structure figures were made using PyMOL version 2.5.2 (Schrödinger, LLC). The following command

was used to map pLDDT score onto the AF2 predicted structure models: spectrum b, rainbow_rev,

maximum=100, minimum=50.

Protein purification from *E. coli*

Recombinant 6HIS-KKT8, KKT9, KKT11, KKT12 (pBA457) and derivatives were expressed in Rosetta

2(DE3)pLys *E. coli* cells (Novagen). 6HIS-KIN-A$^{2-309}$ (pBA2519) and 6HIS-KIN-B$^{2-316}$ (pBA2513) were

expressed in BL21(DE3) cells. Proteins were purified and eluted from TALON beads as previously

described (Llauró et al., 2018). Briefly, cells were grown in 2xTY media at 37°C to an OD$_{600}$ of ~0.8, at

which point protein expression was induced by 0.1 mM IPTG, and then incubated overnight at 20°C.

Cells were pelleted at 3,400 g at 4°C and pellets were resuspended in P500 buffer (50 mM sodium

phosphate, pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole and 10% glycerol) supplemented with protease

inhibitors (20 µg/ml leupeptin, 20 µg/ml pepstatin, 20 µg/ml E-64, 0.4 mM PMSF) and 1 mM TCEP,

and were sonicated on ice. Lysates were treated with benzonase nuclease (500 U/1 l culture) and

spun at 48,000 g at 4°C for 30 min. Supernatant was incubated with TALON beads (Takara Clontech)

for 1 h at 4°C, rotating. The beads were washed three times with lysis buffer and proteins were then

eluted with elution buffer (P500 buffer containing 250 mM imidazole with 1 mM TCEP). For

microtubule co-sedimentation assays, 6HIS-KIN-A$^{2-309}$ and 6HIS-KIN-B$^{2-316}$ were buffer exchanged into

BRB80 (80 mM Pipes-KOH, pH 6.9, 1 mM EGTA, and 1 mM MgCl$_2$) with 100 mM KCl using a Zeba

columns (Thermo Fisher) and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen for -80°C storage. Polyacrylamide gels

were stained with SimplyBlue SafeStain (Invitrogen).

Microtubule co-sedimentation assay

Microtubule co-sedimentation assays were performed as described previously (Ludzia et al., 2021).

Briefly, taxol-stabilised microtubules were prepared by mixing 2.5 ml of 100 µM porcine tubulin

(Cytoskeleton) resuspended in BRB80 with 1 mM GTP (Cytoskeleton), 1.25 µl BRB80, 0.5 µl of 40 mM

MgCl$_2$, 0.5 µl of 10 mM GTP, and 0.25 µl DMSO, and incubated for 20 min at 37C. 120 ml of pre-

warmed BRB80 containing 12.5 µM Taxol (paclitaxel; Sigma) was added to the sample to bring the

microtubule concentration to ~2 µM. 20 µl of 6HIS-KIN-A$^{2-309}$ or 6HIS-KIN-B$^{2-316}$ (at final

concentration of 4 µM) in BRB80 with 100 mM KCl were mixed with 20 µl of microtubules (final, 1

µM) and incubated for 45 min at room temperature. As a control, we incubated 6HIS-KIN-A$^{2-309}$ or

6HIS-KIN-B$^{2-316}$ with BRB80 (with 12.5 µM Taxol). The samples were spun at 20,000 g at room

temperature for 10 min, and the supernatant was collected. To the tubes containing pelleted

fractions, we added 40 µl of chilled BRB80 with 5 mM CaCl$_2$ and incubated on ice for 5 min to

depolymerise microtubules. Following the incubation, samples were boiled for 5 min before SDS-

PAGE. Gels were stained with SimplyBlue Safe Stain (Invitrogen). Co-sedimentation assays were

performed at least twice with similar results.

Immunoblotting

Cells were harvested by centrifugation (800 g, 5 min) and washed with 1 ml PBS. The pellet was

resuspended in 1× LDS sample buffer (Thermo Fisher) with 0.1 M DTT. Denaturation of proteins was

performed for 5 min at 95°C. SDS-PAGE and immunoblots were performed by standard methods

using the following antibodies: rabbit polyclonal anti-GFP (TP401, 1:5000) and mouse monoclonal

TAT1 (anti-trypanosomal-alpha-tubulin, 1:5000, a kind gift from Keith Gull) (Woods et al., 1989).

Secondary antibodies used were: IRDye 680RD goat anti-mouse (LI-COR, 926-68070) and IRDye

800CW goat anti-rabbit (LI-COR, 926-32211). Bands were visualized on an ODYSSEY Fc Imaging

System (LI-COR).

Multiple sequence alignment

Protein sequences and accession numbers for Aurora B^{AUK1}, INCENP^{CPC1}, CPC2, KIN-A and KIN-B used

in this study were retrieved from the TriTryp database (Aslett et al., 2010), UniProt (Bateman, 2019),

or a published study (Butenko et al., 2020). Searches for homologous proteins were done using

BLAST in the TriTryp database (Aslett et al., 2010) or using hmmsearch using manually prepared

hmm profiles (HMMER version 3.0; Eddy, 1998). The top hit in each organism was considered as a

true ortholog only if the reciprocal BLAST search returned the query protein as a top hit in *T. brucei*.

Multiple sequence alignment was performed with MAFFT (L-INS-i method, version 7) (Katoh et al.,

2019) and visualised with the Clustalx colouring scheme in Jalview (version 2.10) (Waterhouse et al.,

2009).

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tethering experiments that were performed by B. Akiyoshi. D. Ballmer wrote the manuscript. B.

Akiyoshi edited the manuscript.

Figure legends

Figure 1. KIN-A and KIN-B are bona fide CPC proteins in *T. brucei*. (A) Clustered heatmap showing

enrichment (log2 intensity based absolute quantification (IBAQ)) of mitotic proteins co-purifying

with ectopically expressed GFP-INCENP^{CPC1}, GFP-KIN-A and GFP-KIN-B. The heatmap was generated

using the Python Seaborn library using WPGMA clustering. Cell lines: BAP2190, BAP2286, BAP2288.

Immunoprecipitation was performed using anti-GFP antibodies. See Table S2 for all proteins

identified by mass spectrometry. (B) Cartoon depicting the kinetoplast (K) / nucleus (N) configuration

throughout the cell cycle in procyclic *T. brucei*, with K* denoting an elongated kinetoplast. The

kinetoplast is an organelle found uniquely in kinetoplastids, which contains the mitochondrial DNA

and replicates and segregates prior to nuclear division. The KN configuration serves as a cell cycle

marker (Siegel et al., 2008; Woodward and Gull, 1990). (C) to (E) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the dynamic localization of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] (C), KIN-A-YFP (D) and GFP-KIN-B (E) over the course of the cell cycle. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. DNA was stained with DAPI. Cell lines: BAP1515, BAP3066, BAP2288. Scale bars, 2 μm. (F) Phylogenetic tree of kinetoplastids, diplonemids and euglenids along with the presence (black dots) / absence (white dots) patterns of CPC components. The phylogenetic tree of Euglenozoa is based on (Butenko et al., 2020).

Figure 2. Kinetochore localization of the CPC depends on KIN-A and KIN-B. (A) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of YFP-tagged Aurora B[AUK1], INCENP[CPC1], KIN-A and KIN-B in 2K1N cells upon RNAi-mediated knockdown of indicated CPC subunits. Note that nuclear close-ups are shown here. CPC proteins were not detected in the cytoplasm. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline for 24 h (KIN-B RNAi) or 16 h (all others). Cell lines: BAP3092, BAP2552, BAP2557, BAP3093, BAP2906, BAP2900, BAP2904, BAP3094, BAP2899, BAP2893, BAP2897, BAP3095, BAP3096, BAP2560, BAP2564, BAP3097. Scale bars, 2 μm. (B) to (E) Quantification of 2K1N cells that have kinetochore-like dots of YFP-tagged Aurora B[AUK1] (B), INCENP[CPC1] (C), KIN-A (D) and KIN-B (E) upon RNAi-mediated depletion of indicated CPC components. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of at least two replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 100 cells per replicate were quantified. $* P < 0.05$, $** P \leq 0.01$, $*** P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test). (F) to (H) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of ectopically expressed GFP-KIN-A[fl] (F), -KIN-A[2-309] (G) and -KIN-A[310-862] (H). Expression of GFP fusion proteins was induced with 10 ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. Arrowheads indicate KIN-A[fl] and KIN-A[310-862] signals at kinetochores. KIN-A[2-309] is found at mitotic spindle during metaphase. Cell lines: BAP2286, BAP2297, BAP2287. Scale bars, 2 μm

Figure 3. Structural model of the trypanosome CPC. (A) Circular view of the BS[3] crosslinks observed between the subunits of the trypanosome CPC, obtained from native complexes isolated by immunoprecipitation of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] (Cell line: BAP2198). pLink2 (Chen et al., 2019) was used to obtain crosslinks from mass spectrometry data. xiView (Graham et al., 2019) was used for data visualization. Only crosslinks with a score better than E[-3] are shown. See Table S2 for all crosslinks identified by mass spectrometry. (B) Cartoon representation showing two orientations of the trypanosome CPC, coloured by protein on the left (Aurora B[AUK1]: crimson, INCENP[CPC1]: green, CPC2: cyan, KIN-A: magenta, and KIN-B: yellow) or according to their pLDDT values on the right, assembled from AlphaFold2 predictions shown in Figure S3. The pLDDT score is a per-residue estimate of the

Figure 4. The CPC is recruited to kinetochores via the KKT7 – KKT8 complex pathway. (A) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] upon RNAi-mediated knockdown of KKT7. RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Cell line: BAP577. Scale bars, 2 µm. (B) Quantification of 2K1N cells that have kinetochore-like dots of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] upon knockdown of KKT7. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of three replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 50 cells per replicate were quantified. *** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test). (C) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] upon RNAi-mediated knockdown of KKT9. RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. Cell line: BAP2276. Scale bars, 2 µm. (D) Quantification of 2K1N cells that have kinetochore-like dots of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1] upon knockdown of KKT9. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of three replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 50 cells per replicate were quantified. *** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test). (E) and (F) Representative micrographs of cells in S phase and anaphase showing recruitment of tdTomato-Aurora B[AUK1] to LacO foci marked by ectopically expressed GFP-KKT7[2-261]-LacI (E) or -KKT8-LacI (F). The insets show the magnification of the boxed region. Expression of LacI fusion proteins was induced with 10 ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Arrowheads in (F) indicate anaphase kinetochore localization of GFP-KKT8-LacI and tdTomato-Aurora B[AUK1]. Anaphase kinetochore localization of tdTomato-Aurora B[AUK1] was observed in 75% of anaphase cells expressing GFP-KKT8-LacI (n = 28). Cell lines: BAP1395, BAP2640. Scale bars, 2 µm. Of note, LacI fusions with INCENP[CPC1], KIN-A and KIN-B constructs robustly localized to kinetochores like their endogenous counterparts and failed to form distinct LacI foci and could therefore not be used to assess ectopic recruitment of KKT proteins. (G)

Figure 5. Two conserved domains within the C-terminal tail of KIN-A promote kinetochore

recruitment of the CPC. (A) Left: AlphaFold2 model of KKT9:KKT11 in complex with KIN-A$^{700\text{-}862}$.

Cartoon representations are coloured by protein (KKT9: cyan, KKT11: orange, KIN-A: magenta) (left)

or according to their pLDDT values (blue = high confidence, red = low confidence) (center). Right:

Predicted Aligned Error (PAE) plot of model (rank_1) predicted by AlphaFold2 (blue = high

confidence, red = low confidence in the relative positions of the domains to one another). CD1 of

KIN-A was predicted to interact with KKT9:KKT11 in all five AlphaFold2 models (rank_1 to rank_5).

(B) Multiple sequence alignment of KIN-A CD1 and CD2 showing conservation. (C) to (E)

Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} and

YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt}(C), KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1\,(717–743)}$ (D) and KIN-A$^{\Delta CD2\,(816–862)}$ (E). RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL

doxycycline for 24 h to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele. Cell lines: BAP3067, BAP3128, BAP3127.

Scale bars, 2 µm. (F) Stacked bar charts showing the percentage of YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt}, KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$ and

KIN-A$^{\Delta CD2}$ on kinetochores, kinetochores + spindle and spindle only in metaphase cells. Examples and

schematic illustrations of the three categories used for scoring are presented on the left. A minimum

of 50 cells per condition were quantified. (G) Stacked bar charts showing the percentage of

tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} on kinetochores, kinetochores + spindle and spindle only in metaphase cells

upon rescue with YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt}, KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$ or KIN-A$^{\Delta CD2}$. A minimum of 50 cells per condition

were quantified. (H) Growth curves for indicated cell lines and conditions. RNAi was induced with 1

µg/mL doxycycline for to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele in the knockdown conditions and

cultures were diluted at day 2. Cell lines: BAP3067, BAP3128, BAP3127.

Figure 6. KIN-A ATPase activity is required for central spindle localization of the CPC in anaphase.

(A) Multiple sequence alignment showing conservation of Switch II region in KIN-A and KIN-B, with

the key glycine residue (G210 in *T. brucei*) targeted for rigor mutation highlighted in red. (B)

Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of tdTomato-MAP103 (spindle

marker) and YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt} or KIN-A^{G210A} (rigor mutant). RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for 24 h to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele. Cell lines: BAP3068, BAP3071. Scale bars, 2 µm. (C) Quantification showing the percentage of anaphase cells that have YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt} or KIN-A^{G210A} localized at the central spindle. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of three replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 40 cells per replicate were quantified. *** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test). (D) and (E) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} and YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt} (D) or KIN-A^{G210A} (E). RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for 24 h to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele. Cell lines: BAP3067, BAP3070. Scale bars, 2 µm. (F) Quantification showing the percentage of anaphase cells that have tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} localized at the central spindle upon rescue with YFP-tagged KIN-A^{wt} or KIN-A^{G210A}. Graphs for the KIN-A^{G210} rescue conditions (grey) depict the means (bar) ± SD of three replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 30 cells per replicate were quantified. (G) Growth curves for indicated cell lines and conditions. RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele in the knockdown conditions and cultures were diluted at day 2. Cell lines: BAP3064, BAP3065. (H) Cell cycle profiles for the indicated cell lines and conditions. RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele in the knockdown conditions and cells were fixed after 24 h. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of at least two replicates. A minimum of 300 cells per replicate were quantified. Cell lines: BAP3064, BAP3065. *** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test).

Figure 7. Model for CPC localization and function in trypanosomes. (A) KIN-A (magenta) and KIN-B (yellow) interact via their coiled-coil domains and form a scaffold for the assembly of CPC2 (cyan) and the catalytic module of the CPC, composed of Aurora B^{AUK1} (red) and INCENP^{CPC1} (green). During interphase, the catalytic module is positioned close to the kinesin head domains of KIN-A and KIN-B. CPC recruitment to the inner kinetochore is mediated through multiple weak interactions between the C-terminal unstructured tail of KIN-A, containing CD1 and CD2, with the coiled-coil domain of KKT9:KKT11 (dark blue:light blue) and possibly the N-terminus of KKT7 (blue). The KKT8 complex, comprising KKT9:KKT11 and KKT8:KKT12 (dark grey:light grey) subcomplexes, is connected to other kinetochore proteins through KKT7. Additional kinetochore targeting domains of the CPC may reside within the C-terminus of KIN-B and/or CPC2. We propose that the KIN-A:KIN-B subcomplex represents the main localization module of the trypanosome CPC. As illustrated in (B), the affinity of the KIN-A C-terminal tail for its receptor(s) at the kinetochore may be further modulated through phosphorylation by the CDK1 homolog CRK3 and the Aurora B^{AUK1} kinase itself (Ballmer et al., 2024). Interaction of the N-terminal motor domain of KIN-A with spindle microtubules (MTs) from prometaphase onwards causes the catalytic module to disengage from its kinesin head-associated

state. The ~100 amino acid long flexible linker within INCENP^{CPC1} would then permit Aurora B^{AUK1} to

phosphorylate its substrates within a larger but nevertheless spatially constrained target area while

still being anchored to the kinetochore via KIN-A:KIN-B. The motor domain of KIN-A could thus act as

built-in sensor for KT-MT attachments. (C) We propose that the trypanosome CPC is recruited to

kinetochores via the KKT7-KKT8 complex pathway (dashed arrow) and that motor activity of KIN-A

promotes congression of kinetochores to the metaphase plate during early mitosis. The KKT8

complex dissociates from kinetochores at the metaphase-to-anaphase transition and is possibly

degraded in an APC/C-dependend manner. Elimination of the KKT8 complex, the primary

kinetochore receptor of the CPC, coupled to MT binding and motor activity of the KIN-A motor

domain strips the CPC off kinetochores and facilitates its translocation to the central spindle in

anaphase.

Figure S1. KIN-A and KIN-B are bona fide CPC proteins in _T. brucei_. (A) Heatmap showing

enrichment (log2 intensity based absolute quantification (IBAQ)) of the top 30 proteins, excluding

ribosomal proteins, co-purifying with YFP-Aurora B^{AUK1}. Cell line: BAP73. Immunoprecipitation was

performed using anti-GFP antibodies. See Table S2 for all proteins identified by mass spectrometry.

(B) and (C) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of tdTomato-Aurora

B^{AUK1} and KIN-A-YFP (B) and YFP-KIN-B (C) in late anaphase and telophase cells. Arrows indicate the

population of CPC proteins localized to the new FAZ tip. DNA was stained with DAPI. Cell lines:

BAP3067, BAP2528. Scale bars, 2 μm.

Figure S2. Depletion of CPC proteins causes growth defects and cell cycle arrest. (A) Growth curves

upon RNAi-mediated knockdown of indicated CPC subunits. Data are presented as the mean ± SD of

at least three replicates. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline and cultures were diluted at

day 2. CDS stands for coding sequence, UTR for untranslated region. Cell lines: BAP941, BAP2250,

BAP2251, BAP2557, BAP2558, BAP3076. (B) Cell cycle profiles upon knockdown of indicated CPC

subunits. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline and cells were fixed at 16h (for Aurora B^{AUK1},

INCENP^{CPC1} and KIN-A RNAi) or 24 h (CPC2 and KIN-B RNAi). All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of

at least two replicates. A minimum of 150 cells per replicate were quantified. Cell lines: BAP3092,

BAP2554, BAP2557, BAP3093. (C) Western Blot showing levels of YFP-tagged KIN-A or KIN-B upon

RNAi-mediated knockdown of KIN-B and KIN-A, respectively. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL

doxycycline for 16 h (KIN-A) or 24 h (KIN-B). Proteins were detected using anti GFP-antibodies.

Asterisk indicates unspecific band. Cell lines: BAP3095, BAP2564. (D) to (F) Representative

fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of ectopically expressed GFP-KIN-B^{fl} (D), -KIN-B^{2-}

[316] (E) and -KIN-B[317-624] (F). Expression of GFP fusion proteins was induced with 10 ng/mL doxycycline

for 24 h. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. Cell lines: BAP2288, BAP2289, BAP2290.

Scale bars, 2 μm.

Figure S3. AlphaFold2 models of CPC subcomplexes and localization of CPC1 and CPC2 truncations.

(A) to (D) Cartoon representations coloured by protein (left) and pLDDT (center), and PAE plots

(right) of AlphaFold2 predictions for indicated CPC subcomplexes. (E) to (J) Representative

fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of ectopically expressed GFP-INCENP[CPC1 fl] (E), -

INCENP[CPC1 2-147] (F), -INCENP[CPC1 2-147] (G), -CPC2[fl] (H), -CPC2[2-120] (I) and -CPC2[121-250] (J) in different cell

cycle stages. Expression of GFP fusion proteins was induced with 10 ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h.

Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. Cell lines: BAP2190, BAP2191, BAP2193, BAP2194,

BAP2195, BAP2196. Scale bars, 2 μm.

Figure S4. Kinetochore localization of Aurora B[AUK1] and KIN-A depends on the KKT7 – KKT8 complex

pathway. (A) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of YFP-Aurora B[AUK1]

upon RNA-mediated knockdown of indicated KKT proteins. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL

doxycycline for 24 h. Cell lines: BAP3132, BAP576, BAP2551, BAP2550, BAP3133, BAP1019, BAP2549,

BAP2446. Scale bars, 2 μm. (B) Quantification of 2K1N cells that have kinetochore-like dots of YFP-

Aurora B[AUK1] upon knockdown of indicated KKT proteins. A minimum of 40 cells per replicate were

examined. (C) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing the localization of KIN-A-YFP upon

RNA-mediated knockdown of KKT8 complex subunits. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline

for 24 h. Cell lines: BAP2970, BAP2968, BAP2969, BAP2971. Scale bars, 2 μm. (D) Quantification of

2K1N cells that have kinetochore-like dots of KIN-A-YFP upon knockdown of indicated KKT8 complex

subunits. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of at least two replicates (shown as dots). A

minimum of 50 cells per replicate were quantified. (E) Representative micrographs showing

recruitment of tdTomato-tagged KKT8, KKT9 and KKT12 to LacO foci marked by ectopically expressed

GFP-KKT7[2-261]-LacI. Expression of GFP fusion proteins was induced with 10 ng/mL doxycycline for 24

h. Cell lines: BAP871, BAP873, BAP874. Scale bars, 2 μm. (F) Representative fluorescence micrograph

of an anaphase cell showing localization of tdTomato-KKT8 and ectopically expressed GFP-KIN-A. The

insets show the magnification of the boxed region. Expression of GFP-KIN-A was induced with 10

ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Cell line: BAP3080. Scale bars, 2 μm. (G) and (H) Cartoon representations

coloured by protein (left) and pLDDT (center), and PAE plots (right) of AlphaFold2 predictions for

indicated protein complexes. (I) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing localization of

YFP-tagged KKT8, KKT12 and KKT9 upon RNAi-mediated knockdown of indicated KKT8 complex

subunits. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Cell lines: BAP2954, BAP2952,

BAP2953, BAP2955, BAP2966, BAP2964, BAP2965, BAP2967, BAP2958, BAP2956, BAP2957,

BAP2959. Scale bars, 2 μm. (J) to (L) Quantification of 1K*1N and 2K1N cells that have kinetochore-

like dots of YFP-tagged KKT8 (J), KKT12 (K) and KKT9 (L) upon knockdown of indicated KKT8 complex

subunits. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of at least three technical replicates (shown as dots)

from one experiment. A minimum of 100 cells per replicate were quantified. ** $P \leq 0.01$,

*** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test).

Figure S5. CD1 and CD2 contribute synergistically to kinetochore localization of KIN-A. (A) Multiple

sequence alignment of KIN-A. (B) PAE (left) and pLDDT plots (right) of AlphaFold2 predictions rank1

to rank5 for KIN-A$^{700\text{-}800}$ in complex with KKT9 and KKT11. (C) to (F) Representative fluorescence

micrographs showing the localization of ectopically expressed GFP-KIN-A$^{310\text{-}862}$ (C), -KIN-A$^{310\text{-}862\,\Delta CD2}$

(D) and -KIN-B$^{310\text{-}862\,\Delta CD1}$ (E) and -KIN-A$^{310\text{-}716}$ (F). Expression of GFP fusion proteins was induced with

10 ng/mL doxycycline for 24 h. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-KKT2. Cell lines: BAP2287,

BAP2948, BAP2949, BAP2947. Scale bars, 2 μm. (G) Quantification of metaphase (left) and anaphase

(right) cells that have kinetochore-like dots of indicated GFP fusion proteins. All graphs depict the

means (bar) ± SD of three replicates (shown as dots). A minimum of 150 cells per replicate were

quantified. *** $P \leq 0.001$ (two-sided, unpaired t-test). (H) Stacked bar charts showing the percentage

of KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$-YFP (left) or tdTomato-Aurora B^{AUK1} (right) on kinetochores, kinetochores + spindle and

spindle in KIN-A$^{\Delta CD1}$ metaphase cells with and without KIN-A RNAi. A minimum of 70 cells per

condition were quantified. Cell line: BAP3128. (I) Cell cycle profiles for the indicated cell lines and

conditions. RNAi was induced with 1 μg/mL doxycycline to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele in the

knockdown conditions and cells were fixed after 24 h. All graphs depict the means (bar) ± SD of three

replicates. A minimum of 500 cells per replicate were quantified. Cell lines: BAP3067, BAP3127,

BAP3128.

Figure S6. ATPase activity of KIN-A promotes kinetochore alignment at the metaphase plate. (A)

Multiple sequence alignment of KIN-A and KIN-B from different kinetoplastids, human Kinesin-1,

human Mklp2, and yeast Klp9. (B) Microtubule co-sedimentation assay with 6HIS-KIN-A$^{2\text{-}309}$ (left) and

6HIS-KIN-B$^{2\text{-}316}$ (right). S and P correspond to supernatant and pellet fractions, respectively. Note

that both constructs to some extent sedimented even in the absence of microtubules. Hence, lack of

microtubule binding for KIN-B may be due to the unstable non-functional protein used in this study.

(C) and (D) Representative fluorescence micrographs showing localization of YFP-tagged KIN-A (C)

and KIN-A^{G210A} (rigor mutant) (D) in G2 and metaphase. Kinetochores are marked with tdTomato-

KKT2. Cell lines: BAP3066, BAP3069. Scale bars, 2 µm. (E) and (F) Upper: Representative fluorescence micrographs showing localization of YFP-tagged KIN-A (E) and KIN-A^{G210A} (rigor mutant) (F) in metaphase. The mitotic spindle is marked with tdTomato-MAP103. Bounding boxes indicate area used for generation of intensity profiles in FIJI/Image J. Cell lines: BAP3068, BAP3071. Scale bars, 2 µm. Lower: Example of 1D intensity profiles and corresponding heatmaps from the example cells shown above. (G) and (H) Kinetochore alignment profiles for YFP-tagged KIN-A (G) and KIN-A^{G210A} (H). RNAi was induced with 1 µg/mL doxycycline for 24 h to deplete the untagged KIN-A allele and cells were treated with 10 µM MG132 for 4 h prior to fixing to prevent anaphase entry (Hayashi and Akiyoshi, 2018). WPGMA clustering was performed using the Python Seaborn library. Cell lines: BAP3064, BAP3065.

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1268

Figure 1

Figure 2

A

B

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

A

KKT7
KKT9:KKT11
KKT8:KKT12

CD2   CD1

kinetochore

?

CPC

catalytic
- Aurora B^AUK1
- INCENP^CPC1
- CPC2

localization
- KIN-A
- KIN-B

B

Aurora B^AUK1?
CRK3?

P

CD2   CD1

P   Aurora B^AUK1
targets

flexible linker

motor activity?

MT binding

C

(Pro)metaphase

Anaphase

- kinetochore
- CPC
- spindle

kinetochore

KKT7

[KKT9:KKT11]:[KKT8:KKT12]

KIN-A:KIN-B

MTs

INCENP^CPC1

Aurora B^AUK1

KKT7

[KKT9:KKT11]:[KKT8:KKT12]   APC/C ⟶ degradation ?

central spindle

KIN-A:KIN-B

MTs

INCENP^CPC1

Aurora B^AUK1

Figure S1

Figure S2

A

Aurora B^AUK1 CDS
RNAi

INCENP^CPC1 5'UTR
RNAi

KIN-A 5'UTR RNAi

KIN-B CDS RNAi

Control
Dox

INCENP^CPC1 3'UTR
RNAi

KIN-A 3'UTR RNAi

B

G1/S phase
1K1N

G2/(pro)metaphase
2K1N

anaphase
2K2N

C

KIN-A
RNAi

KIN-B
RNAi

Dox   −   +   −   +   kDa

KIN-A-YFP
YFP-KIN-B   *   100

α-GFP

α-tubulin   50

D

KIN-B — GFP — motor — coiled-coil
2   624
NLS

DAPI   tdTomato-KKT2   GFP-KIN-B^fl   merge

meta-phase

ana-phase

E

KIN-B — GFP — motor
2   316

DAPI   tdTomato-KKT2   GFP-KIN-B^2-316   merge

F

KIN-B — GFP — coiled-coil
317   624

DAPI   tdTomato-KKT2   GFP-KIN-B^317-624   merge

Figure S3

A

KIN-A + KIN-B

B

KIN-A$^{310-862}$ + KIN-B$^{317-624}$

C

INCENP^{CPC1} + CPC2 +
KIN-A$^{300-599}$ + KIN-B$^{317-624}$

D

Aurora B^{AUK1} +
INCENP^{CPC1} + CPC2 +
KIN-A$^{1-599}$ + KIN-B

pLDDT
low — high

PAE plots

rank_1 (KIN-A / KIN-B)

rank_1 (KIN-A$^{310-862}$ / KIN-B$^{317-624}$)

rank_2 (INCENP^{CPC1} / CPC2 / KIN-A$^{300-599}$ / KIN-B$^{317-624}$)

rank_1 (Aurora B^{AUK1} / INCENP^{CPC1} / CPC2 / KIN-A$^{1-599}$ / KIN-B)

Scored residue

E

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC1^{fl} | merge

metaphase
anaphase

F

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC1$^{2-147}$ | merge

metaphase
anaphase

G

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC1$^{148-263}$ | merge

metaphase
anaphase

H

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC2^{fl} | merge

metaphase
anaphase

I

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC2$^{2-120}$ | merge

metaphase
anaphase

J

DAPI | tdTomato-KKT2 | GFP-CPC2$^{121-250}$ | merge

metaphase
anaphase

A

Figure S5 (ii)

B

A: KIN-A⁷⁰⁰⁻⁸⁰⁰
B: KKT9
C: KKT11

Predicted aligned error

Figure S6 (ii)