Dimeric assembly of F$_1$-like ATPase for *Mycoplasma* gliding motility

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Abstract

Rotary ATPases, including F_1F_o- and V/A-ATPases, are molecular motors that perform

rotational movements for energy conversion[1]. In the gliding bacterium *Mycoplasma*

mobile, a dimeric F_1-like ATPase forms a chain structure with the glycolytic enzyme,

phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), within the cell[2]. This unique dimeric ATPase has been

proposed to drive the gliding motility[2–4]. However, the mechanisms underlying force

generation and transmission remain unclear. Here, we present a 3.2 Å resolution

structure of the dimeric ATPase complex obtained by electron cryomicroscopy

(cryo-EM). The structure revealed an assembly distinct from the known dimeric forms

of F_1F_o-ATPase[5] despite containing conserved F_1-ATPase structures. The two ATPase

units are interconnected by GliD dimers, which were previously identified as

MMOB1620[2,6]. Gliβ, a homologue of the F_1-ATPase catalytic subunit[6], displays a

specific N-terminal region that incorporates PGK into the complex. ATPase shows

strong similarities to F_1-ATPase in terms of the structural conformations of the catalytic

subunits, catalytically important residues, and the nucleotide-binding pattern of the

catalytic sites, suggesting a rotation based on the rotary catalytic mechanism conserved

in rotary ATPases[1,7–10]. The cryo-EM structure underscores the evolutionary connection

in rotary ATPases and provides insights into the mechanism by which F_1-like ATPases

drive bacterial gliding motility.

Introduction

Rotary ATPases are molecular motors that link ATP hydrolysis or synthesis to ion

transport via rotational motion in biological membranes[1]. These motors comprise two

common domains: soluble R_1, which is responsible for ATP hydrolysis and synthesis,

and membrane-embedded F_o, which is responsible for ion transport. F_1F_o-ATPase, a

rotary ATPase conserved across most eukaryotes, archaea, and bacteria, is responsible

for ATP synthesis and the maintenance of membrane potential[5]. In four mycoplasma

species, *Mycoplasma mobile*, *Mycoplasma pulmonis*, *Mycoplasma agassizii*, and

Mycoplasma testudineum, an F_1-like ATPase gene cluster, referred to as Type 2 ATPase,

is present, in addition to the genuine F_1F_o-ATPase gene cluster, referred to as Type 1

ATPase[11,12] (Extended Data Fig. 1). The presence of F_1-ATPase α and β subunit

homologues (MMOBs 1660 and 1670 in *M. mobile*) in the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster

suggests a shared evolutionary origin in the F_1 domain. Type 2 ATPases have been

proposed to drive the gliding motility observed in *M. mobile* and *M. pulmonis*[2–4,13,14]. *M.*

mobile, a fish pathogen, glides at a speed of up to 4 µm per second on a solid surface

covered with sialylated oligosaccharides which is found on host cell surfaces[15] (Fig. 1a,

Extended Data Fig. 2). In our proposed model of gliding, filamentous leg structures on

the mycoplasma cell surface, which are approximately 50 nm long, propel the cell body

by catching and pulling sialylated oligosaccharides on the solid surface. Inside the cell,

motors composed of Type 2 ATPase and phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), which

converts ADP to ATP during glycolysis, are linked near the cell membrane to form

"internal chains"[2,6]. The motor is composed of dimerized F_1-like ATPase units with

unique bridge structures, hence referred to as twin motor. However, the mechanisms

underlying force generation and transmission remain unclear. In this study, we

elucidated the detailed structure of a twin motor using cryo-EM single-particle analysis

(SPA). The structural features show strong homology to F_1-ATPase[7,8], suggesting a

rotary catalytic mechanism homologous to that of rotary ATPases[1,9,10] for *M. mobile*

gliding motility.

Results

Protein identification in cryoEM structure of twin motor

We performed cryo-EM SPA of the twin motors isolated from *M. mobile* cells, using

images collected on an epoxidized graphene grid (EG grid)[16] (Extended Data Table 1).

The overall 3D structure of the twin motor was determined at 3.2 Å resolution (Fig. 1b,

Extended Data Figs. 3 and 4). Local refinement improved the resolution of the regions,

each containing an F_1-like ATPase unit, to 3.1 Å (Extended Data Figs. 3b and 4).

Density maps enabled the construction of an atomic model of the twin motor (Fig. 1c).

The modelled sequences of each subunit are summarised in Extended Data Table 2. The

twin motor exhibits a rectangular structure with dimensions of approximately 350 Å $\times$

250 Å $\times$ 150 Å and contains at least 24 polypeptide chains with a total mass of ~1.5

MDa. The structure revealed that the two F_1-like ATPase units are inclined towards each

other by ~5° and form a dimer with pseudo-two-fold rotational symmetry along with

several accessories (Fig. 1c,d). F_1-like ATPase is composed of a hexameric ring of two

alternating subunits and a central shaft subunit, identified as MMOBs 1660, 1670, and

1630, respectively. We named them Gliα, Gliβ, and Gliγ, following the subunit names of

F_1-ATPase[10]. In the hexameric ring, nucleotide-derived densities are observed at five of

the six subunits interfaces, even though the samples were isolated and analysed under

nucleotide-free conditions, indicating that it contained endogenous nucleotides, as

reported for F_1-ATPase[17] (Fig. 1c,e). The subunit attached to Gliα and forming a "bridge"

between two F_1-like ATPase units was identified as MMOB1620, and we named it GliD

(Fig. 1c). The three densities protruding from the dimeric F_1-like ATPase were identified

as MMOB4530, annotated as PGK. The denoised 3D map showed additional distinct

densities at six locations, including the PGK_{1-3} regions (Extended Data Fig. 5a). These

six densities showed correlation coefficients from 0.37 to 0.48 with the crystal structure

of PGK from *Staphylococcus aureus* (PDB ID: 4DG5) (Extended Data Fig. 5b,c). These

assignments are consistent with the stoichiometry previously estimated by sodium

dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)[2]. A protein density

bound to only one of the two F_1-like ATPase units was identified as MMOB3660, which

was newly detected by SDS-PAGE of the twin motor, and we named this GliE (Fig. 1b,c,

Extended Data Fig. 6). This small protein (112 aa), characterised by a β-sandwich, was

nestled between the ATPase hexamer and other subunits, breaking the rotational

symmetry of the complex (Extended Data Fig. 7). Although MMOB1640, encoded in

the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster, was detected by SDS-PAGE of the twin motor

(Extended Data Fig. 6), the protein density was not observed in the overall 3D map.

Structural features of subunits comprising F_1-like ATPase

Gliβ and Gliα exhibit high structural similarity to the β and α subunits of the F_1-ATPase

from the thermophilic bacterium *Bacillus* PS3 (PDB ID: 8HH5), as demonstrated by the

superimposition of their Cα atoms with the root mean squared deviations (r.m.s.d.) of

1.95 Å and 2.79 Å, respectively (Fig. 1g,i). Both Gliβ and Gliα possess three domains:

crown, nucleotide-binding domain (NBD), and C-terminal domain (CTD). The NBDs of

Gliβ and Gliα are featured with a phosphate-binding motif of P-loop[18], consisting of the

amino acid sequences GGAGVGKT and GDRGTGKT, respectively (Fig. 1f,h). The

Gliβ-CTD contains a DELSEED loop, important for torque transmission in the

F_1-ATPase β subunit[19], with an amino acid sequence of DALSEDD (Fig. 1f). A striking

difference of Gliβ from the F_1-ATPase β subunit is the presence of an extended

N-terminal region consisting of the N-terminal domain (NTD) and linker (Fig. 1f,

Extended Data Fig. 8a). This region comprises approximately 100 residues located

within the extra N-terminal 299 residues of Gliβ, in comparison to the F_1-ATPase β

subunit[6,12]. The linker hangs outside the F_1-like ATPase along the crown and NBD

(Extended Data Fig. 8b). Gliβ-NTDs, consisting of 4 to 6 helices, are oriented in various

directions among Gliβs, depending on their position in the complex (Extended Data Fig.

8a,c,d). Gliβ-NTD interacts with PGK (Fig. 2a,b). In addition, at the interface of the two

F_1-like ATPase units, the N-terminal regions of Gliβ$_3$ and Gliβ$_6$ interact with the NBDs

of Gliα$_6$ and Gliα$_3$ of another F_1-like ATPase unit, respectively (Fig. 2a,c). These

interactions suggest that the Gliβ-specific N-terminal region has been acquired for the

incorporation of PGK into the twin motor and for the stabilisation of the ATPase dimer.

A difference of Gliα from the F_1-ATPase α subunit is the absence of the H1 helix, which

interacts with the peripheral stalk[20] (Extended Data Fig. 9). This is consistent with the

lack of a gene homologous to the peripheral stalk in the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster[12].

Gliγ, composed of a coiled-coil and an α/β fold typical of the F_1-ATPase γ subunit, can

be superimposed on the γ subunit of the *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-ATPase with an r.m.s.d. of 5.79

Å for Cα atoms due to lower sequence conservation than the catalytic subunits[15] (Fig.

1j,k). The folded C-terminal α-helix, which is 25 Å longer than the F_1-ATPase γ subunit,

protrudes from the N-terminal side of the hexameric ring and interacts with the crowns

of Gliαβ (Fig. 1k, Extended Data Fig. 10a,b). The coiled coil of Gliγ hydrophobically

interacts with the CTDs of Gliαβ in the hexameric ring (Extended Data Fig. 10c). In

F_1-ATPase, this interaction has been reported to be involved in axle hold and torque

transmission[21].

Accessories of dimeric F$_1$-like ATPase

Generally, PGK is bifurcated into two domains interconnected by an α-helix: the NTD, which binds to 3-PG or 1,3-BPG, and the CTD, which binds to Mg-ADP or Mg-ATP[22] (Extended Data Fig. 11a). The twin motor PGK structure, containing the CTD and a segment of the α-helix, exhibits high structural similarity to the PGK from *Staphylococcus aureus* (PDB ID: 4DG5), with an r.m.s.d. of 3.12 Å for Cα atoms (Extended Data Fig. 11a–c). The β loop of the PGK-CTD invades the depression of the folded Gliβ-NTD and interacts with the H2 helix and the H2–H3 loop of the Gliβ-NTD (Fig. 2d). The H4–β loop and the H5 helix of the PGK-CTD also interact with the H5 and H4 helices of the Gliβ-NTD, respectively. Nucleotide-derived densities are not found in the PGK-CTD of the twin motor, even though residues important for nucleotide binding in the PGK are conserved[23] (Extended Data Fig. 11d–f,12). None of the twin-motor PGK-NTDs were modelled because of the poor density of the reconstruction (Extended Data Fig. 11b). However, the binding and catalytic residues of 3-PG or 1,3-BPG in PGK are conserved in the amino acid sequence, suggesting that the twin-motor PGK possesses enzymatic activity (Extended Data Fig. 12). Given that the binding and catalytic residues are not conserved in another PGK homologue, MMOB4490, encoded in the *M. mobile* genome, the twin-motor PGK is likely to function as the original PGK during glycolysis (Extended Data Fig. 12). GliD (GliD$_{1,3,4,6}$) bridge components form dimers at the interface of two F$_1$-like ATPase units, whereas GliD$_{2,5}$ exists as monomers at the twin-motor end (Fig. 2a,e,f). GliD is characterised by a globular domain and an N-terminal long α-helix (H2), which is only visualised in the dimer. The globular domain interacts with the H20–H25 region at the C-terminus of Gliα (Fig. 2g,h). The two H2 helices in the GliD dimer are aligned

parallel to each other across the H20–H25 region of Gliα, GliE, Gliβ-NTD, and

Gliβ-CTD (Fig. 2f). These two α-helices are reminiscent of the dynein buttress that

connects the AAA+ ring and the tubulin-binding domain[24], suggesting a regulatory role

for structural changes induced by the ATPase activity of the F_1-like ATPase units.

Structural information suggesting a catalytic mechanism homologous to F_1-ATPase

The crown region of the hexameric ring exhibits nearly six-fold rotational symmetry,

whereas the CTD region displays asymmetry (Extended Data Fig. 10a). This

observation suggests a structural change with a pivotal point between the crown and

CTD. $Gli\beta_{1-3}$ adopt three distinct conformations, which appear to be the transition states

of CTD flexion motion toward Gliγ, with a positional difference of the DELSEED loop

by 11 Å (Fig. 3a). We named these conformations $Gli\beta_C$ (closed), $Gli\beta_{HO}$ (half-open),

and $Gli\beta_O$ (open), following the conformation names of F_1-ATPase[8]. They are arranged

clockwise when viewed from the C-terminus of the hexameric ring (Fig. 3b). These

conformations resemble the states referred to as *ATP-waiting* or *step-waiting*, the latter

of which occurs after ATP binding, during the catalytic reaction of *Bacillus* PS3

F_1-ATPase[8] (Extended Data Table 3). In Gliα, the region corresponding to the

DELSEED loop shows only a 5 Å difference in position relative to the Gliγ side, while

the H20–H25 region interacting with GliD shows a 9 Å difference (Extended Data Fig.

13). We named these conformations $Gli\alpha_C$ (close), $Gli\alpha_{HO}$ (half-open), and $Gli\alpha_O$ (open)

based on the H20–H25 positions viewed from the Gliγ side. If this difference in Gliα

represents a conformational change associated with ATP hydrolysis of the twin motor, it

implies force transfer from F_1-like ATPase to GliD. The catalytic sites formed at the α-β

interface of $Gli\alpha_C\beta_C$ and $Gli\alpha_{HO}\beta_{HO}$ contain Mg-ATP and Mg-ADP+P_i, respectively,

while no nucleotide density is found at the catalytic site of $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ (Fig. 3b–d,

Extended Data Fig. 14). Nucleotide-binding states are also shared between the two

F_1-like ATPases, according to the pseudo-two-fold rotational symmetry. The residues of

F_1-ATPase involved in ATP hydrolysis, including those in the arginine finger, are

conserved in $Gli\alpha\beta$, suggesting a shared ATP hydrolysis pathway between F_1-ATPase

and the twin motor (Fig. 3d). The Mg-ATP was observed at the remaining three

interfaces, hereafter referred to as the β-α interfaces (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 14). At

the β-α interface, $Gli\alpha$-K179 corresponds to the position of conserved residue Q200 of

the F_1-ATPase α subunit (Extended Data Fig. 15a,b). Compared to the α-β interface,

$Gli\alpha$-K179 is charge inverted relative to the glutamate essential for the catalytic activity

(E190 of F_1-ATPase β subunit), suggesting that the β-α interface, akin to F_1-ATPase, has

no ATP hydrolytic activity (Extended Data Fig. 15c). The conformational sequence

pattern of three $Gli\beta$ subunits with nucleotide bound is identical to that of the

ATP-waiting state of the F_1-ATPase[8]. These data suggest that the Mg-ATP binding to the

catalytic site of $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ promotes the catalytic reaction of the entire F_1-like ATPase

based on the catalytic mechanism analogous to that of F_1-ATPase.

Motors in the chain

The atomic model of the twin motor was fitted to the previously reconstructed density

of the internal chain obtained using negative-staining electron microscopy SPA[2] (Fig.

4a). To circumvent misfitting of the long-axis orientation of the twin motors due to the

low-resolution density map (29.7 Å) of the chain structure, regions with asymmetric

structures, such as the NTDs of $Gli\beta_{3,6}$, GliE, and PGK_3, were excluded. At the interface

between the twin motor units, GliDs that project along the long axis of the twin motors

face each other, suggesting their role as linkers for chain formation. However, the 3D

map of the chain has remaining density at the interface that cannot be filled by GliDs.

This density may correspond to 100 unmodelled N-terminal residues and the loop of

GliD.

Discussion

The major difference of the twin motor from the dimeric form of eukaryotic

mitochondrial ATP synthases[5] is the interaction in the F_1 region only, via GliD and the

N-terminal region of Gliβ. Although the GliD dimer does not have a transmembrane

segment, the two long α-helices at the N-terminus are reminiscent of the structure of a

peripheral stalk. This observation is consistent with the hypothesis that the MMOB1620

gene encoding GliD is derived through gene fusion from the b and δ subunits, which

comprise the peripheral stalk[15]. GliD-mediated dimer and chain formation may allow

F_1-like ATPase units to work cooperatively. In support of this, changes in the distance

between the twin motors have been reported to be associated with the ATP hydrolysis

reaction, suggesting force transfer between the twin motors through GliD[3,4]. PGK in the

twin motor may efficiently supply ATP to ATPase as fuel. Furthermore, PGK molecules

protruding from the transverse axis of the motor may be involved in sheet formation in

the internal chain, as observed by negative-staining EM[25]. The weak density of PGK in

the cryo-EM map can be explained by the flexibility suggested by the high-speed

atomic force microscopy[2]. The flexibility of the PGK molecule suggests that the chain

sheet serves as a cytoskeleton to withstand mechanical stress in mycoplasma cells,

which are characterised by the absence of a cell wall. The GliE subunit, which is bound

to only one side of the dimeric F_1-like ATPase, creates an asymmetry in the twin motor

structure and may contribute to the unidirectional nature of gliding motility. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that this protein also binds to another side of the dimeric F_1-like ATPase in the cell and was dislodged during purification.

The three distinct forms of the catalytic subunit Gliβ and their corresponding nucleotide binding suggest a rotary catalytic mechanism analogous to that of the rotary ATPases (Fig. 4b). In this rotary catalytic mechanism, $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ transitions to $Gli\alpha_C\beta_C$, during which the DELSEED loop of Gliβ approaches Gliγ upon ATP binding at the catalytic site. The other Gliαβ dimers in the hexameric ring also operate cooperatively, with $Gli\alpha_C\beta_C$ transitioning to $Gli\alpha_{HO}\beta_{HO}$ upon ATP hydrolysis and $Gli\alpha_{HO}\beta_{HO}$ transitioning to $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ upon ADP and phosphate release. This one-step conformational change of the hexameric ring prompts a 120-degree rotation of Gliγ. Each Gliαβ dimer sequentially hydrolyses ATP, and through three steps, the hexameric ring structure and the position of Gliγ revert to their initial states. The pseudo-two-fold rotational symmetry structure of the twin motor suggests that the two F_1-like ATPase units operate in a synchronised manner while maintaining structural symmetry. Throughout the catalytic reaction, significant changes in the positioning of the two F_1-like ATPase units within the twin motor may be hindered due to the presence of the N-terminal regions of Gliβ bridging the two units and a buttress-like structure composed of two long α-helices of the GliD dimer (Fig.2a,c,f).

For cell gliding, the rotary motion of the twin motors must be converted into linear motion. One possible explanation for this conversion mechanism is that the membrane protein Gli521, which consists of a hook and a rod, functions as a crank[26] (Fig.4c).

Upon conversion of rotary to linear motion, Gli521 pulls the leg protein Gli349, which

is bound to sialylated oligosaccharides on the host cell surface, thereby propelling the

mycoplasma cells forward[27]. The presence of a globular domain in Gliγ, similar to that

in the F_1-ATPase γ subunit, suggests a potential interaction with a membrane-embedded

F_o-like domain. MMOB1610 and MMOB1650, encoded by the Type 2 ATPase gene

cluster, possess 12 and two transmembrane segments, respectively[15]. These two proteins

are potential partners for the globular domain of Gliγ to interact with at the cell

membrane, transmitting the rotary motion to Gli521 on the cell surface.

The role of twin motors diverges from that of rotary ATPases and their relatives, such as

the flagellar type III protein export apparatus, which exhibit a hexameric ring with a

central shaft and are involved in protein and ion transport[28,29]. We hypothesised that the

F_1F_o-ATPase acquired the role and mechanism of the twin motor through incidental

contact with an adhesin on the membrane during the evolution of mycoplasma from a

non-motile to a motile state[2,30]. This primitive gliding motility would have conferred a

survival advantage. Another F_1-like ATPase, referred to as Type 3 ATPase, has also been

found in mycoplasmas and may drive the system that cleaves host antibodies[12,31]. Types

2 and 3 ATPases have a commonality in that they transitioned from F_1-ATPase to

mechanisms that drive mycoplasma-specific systems. Understanding these unique

F_1-like ATPases will contribute to the study of the working principles and evolution of

rotary ATPases.

Materials and Methods

Optical microscopy

Cells of the *Mycoplasma mobile* mutant strain (gli521[P476R]), which can glide as the

wild-type strain but binds to sialylated oligosaccharides more tightly, were cultured,

observed using phase-contrast microscopy, and recorded as previously described[32–35].

The recorded video was analysed using the ImageJ software, version 1.54d

(https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/).

Isolation of twin motor

The twin motor was isolated from *Mycoplasma mobile* mutant strain (gli521[P476R]) as

described previously[2]. The twin-motor preparation was concentrated to 1 mg/ml using a

100 K Vivaspin concentrator (Merck, Germany) with 0.1% (w/v)

3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)-dimethyl-ammonio]-1-propanesulfonic acid (CHAPS) to

prevent membrane adsorption. The concentrated motor was applied to SDS-PAGE and

stained with Coomassie brilliant blue R-250. The bands of the component proteins were

identified using peptide mass fingerprinting, as described previously[36].

Cryo-EM grid preparation and data acquisition

The EG grid was prepared as described previously[37]. A 2.6 µl sample solution was

applied onto the grid and automatically blotted from both sides using a filter paper at

4 °C for 2 s in 100% humidity, and vitrificated using a semi-automated vitrification

device, Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). Cryo-EM imaging was

performed using CRYO ARM 300 (JEOL, Japan) operated at 300 kV with a K3 direct

electron detector camera (AMETEK, Gatan, USA). A total of 7,350 movies were

recorded using SerialEM software[38] with a total dose of about 80 electrons Å^{-2} for 40

frames, an exposure time of 3.3 sec per movie and a nominal defocus range from −0.8

to −1.8 µm. The nominal magnification was ×60,000 corresponding to 0.87 Å per pixel.

Cryo-EM image processing

The image-processing steps for SPA are summarised in Extended Data Figs. 3 and 4.

Image processing was performed using cryoSPARC v3.3.2,[39] unless otherwise stated.

The movies were aligned using patch-based motion correction, and the contrast transfer

function (CTF) parameters were estimated using Patch CTF estimation. Micrographs

with CTF fit resolution worse than 8 Å were removed. Particles were automatically

picked up by Blob Picker, extracted with ×4 binning and subjected to 2D-classification.

The obtained 2D averaged images were used as templates for the template picker to pick

up good particles. After two rounds of 2D classification, the selected particles were

subjected to local motion correction and reextracted using the original pixel size. The

particles were subjected to Ab-initio reconstruction using C1 symmetry enforced with a

final resolution limit of 12 Å and, heterogeneous reconstruction with 3 classes.

Particles in class 2 were subjected to homogeneous reconstruction using C1 symmetry,

resulting in a map at a resolution of 3.5 Å. The final map was generated by local and

global CTF refinement, and then non-uniform refinement. To improve the local

resolution, the final map and particles were subjected to particle subtraction and local

refinement using C1 symmetry to generate half-divided maps, each containing a

monomeric ATPase. The entire map and two local maps were subjected to mask creation

and postprocessing in RELION 4.0[40], resulting in resolutions of 3.2, 3.1, and 3.1 Å,

respectively. Local resolution estimation was performed using the RELION 4.0. The

post-processed map was denoised using the Topaz software version 0.2.5 with the

trained model Unet-3d-10a[41]. Calculation of the Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curve

between the two half-maps and estimation of the local resolution were performed using

RELION 4.0.

Modelling

Initial models for GliαβγDE were generated using AlphaFold2[42], while the homology

model for PGK was generated using Modeller version 10.4[43] with the atomic model of

PGK (PDB ID: 4DG5) from *Staphylococcus aureus*. The generated models were fitted

to the corresponding densities of the EM map as rigid bodies using the UCSF Chimera

version 1.15[44]. The fitted models were manually inspected and adjusted using COOT

version 0.9.8.1,[45] and refined using the *phenix.real_space_refine* program in PHENIX

version 1.19[46,47] with reference model restraints using the atomic models of ATP

synthase (PDB ID: 5IK2) from *Caldalaklibacillus thermarum*, and PGK (PDB ID:

3ZLB) from *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Manual adjustments using COOT and

refinement using PHENIX were repeated until the model parameters no longer

improved. The FSC curves between the map and the model were calculated using

PHENIX. The refined model was also evaluated by a comprehensive validation of the

PHENIX and Q-scores[48]. To identify the nucleotide-binding sites of F_1-like ATPases, F_o

- F_c maps were generated using Servalcat[49]. Superposition of models and fitting of them

to the map were performed using UCSF ChimeraX version 1.2.5[50]. All structural figures

were rendered using UCSF ChimeraX.

Data availability

The cryo-EM map for the twin motor is now under deposition in the Electron

Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB). The coordinates are now under deposition in the

Protein Data Bank (PDB).

Fig. 1 Structure of the twin motor featuring dimeric F_1-like ATPase.

(**a**) Gliding machinery of *Mycoplasma mobile*. The overall view of the gliding

machinery (top) and a part of the internal chain (bottom) are depicted. (**b**) Overall

structure of the twin motor. The scale bar indicates 5 nm. The cartoon is drawn in the

upper left region. (**c**) Atomic model of the twin motor. Nucleotides are indicated by

black triangles. The maps in (b) and (c) are contoured at 0.55 in UCSF ChimeraX. (**d**)

Dimeric F_1-like ATPase in the twin motor. Dotted lines indicate the axis of each ATPase.

(**e**) Density of Mg-ATP bound to F_1-like ATPase. The dotted region in (c) is shown.

(**f,h,j**) Subunits constituting F_1-like ATPase. (**g,i,k**) Overlay of subunits of F_1-like

ATPase and *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-ATPase. The subunits of the *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-ATPase, αβ

(PDB ID: 8HH5) and γ (PDB ID: 8HH2), are coloured in purple.

Fig. 2 Interaction between subunits.

(**a**) N-terminal and C-terminal regions of the twin motor. The twin motor is viewed from

the top of the cartoon. Arrows indicate the interface between the dimeric F_1-like

ATPases. The maps in (a) are contoured at 0.55 in UCSF ChimeraX. (**b**) Structure of

Gliβ and PGK. (**c**) Interaction between the N-terminal region of Gliβ and Gliα-NBD at

the interface between dimeric F_1-like ATPases. The dotted region in (a) is shown. (**d**)

Interaction of PGK with the Gliβ-NTD. The dotted region in (a) is shown. (**e**) Structure

of Gliα and GliD monomer. (**f**) GliD dimer at the interface between dimeric F_1-like

ATPases. The right figure corresponds to the dotted region in the cartoon. (**g,h**)

Interaction between GliD and Gliα-CTD. Each corresponds to the dotted regions in (f).

Fig. 3 Structural conformations and nucleotide binding of Gliβ.

(**a**) Differences in the conformations of the three Gliβ. Three Gliβs in the F_1-like ATPase are superposed. The dotted lines indicate the position of the DELSEED loop of each Gliβ. (**b**) Nucleotide-binding pattern of dimeric F_1-like ATPase and F_1-ATPase. The catalytic site is circled by black dotted lines. (**c**) Gliαβ dimer in each conformation in the hexamer. (**d**) Comparison of catalytic sites. Each catalytic site corresponds to the dot square above. The catalytic sites are superimposed on the corresponding catalytic sites of F_1-ATPase (PDB ID: 8HHA), which are coloured in purple.

Fig. 4 Structure and motion of the gliding machinery.

(**a**) Fitting of the atomic model of the motor into the EM map of the motor chain. The right panel shows the interface between GliDs. (**b**) Possible rotational catalytic mechanism of F_1-like ATPase. Gliγ is depicted by yellow arrows, the direction of which indicates the conformational tilt. (**c**) One possible explanation for the conversion mechanism from rotary to linear motion. Dotted arrows indicate unknown force transduction in the cell membrane. Gli349 and Gli521 are depicted in red and green, respectively. Unidentified protein regions in the gliding machinery are depicted in purple.

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Author contributions

T.T. and M.M. conceived the study. M.M. and K.N. supervised this study. T.T. prepared

the cryo-EM samples and performed the biochemical analyses. J.F. and A.K. prepared

the EG grid for cryo-EM observation. A.K. and T.M. performed the cryo-EM. T.T.

carried out the 3D reconstruction and model building. T.K., T.H., A.K., T.M., K.K., and

K.N. discussed the structural analyses. T.T. and M.M. wrote the manuscript with inputs

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Competing interests

423 The authors have declared no competing interest.

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a
Internal chain

Leg

Host cell surface

Bridge

Twin motor

b
GliE
PGK
Gliβ
GliD
Gliγ
Gliα

PGK₃   GliD₄ Gliβ₆   PGK₆
GliD₃   Gliα₄
GliE   Gliγ₂
PGK₁ Gliβ₂ Gliα₃   Gliβ₄
                                Gliα₅
                                GliD₅
GliD₂
Gliα₂ Gliβ₁
Gliγ₁
Gliα₁   Gliα₆
Gliβ₃   Gliβ₅
GliD₁ GliD₆
PGK₅   PGK₄

90°

Side view
Gliβ₂ Gliα₃ Gliβ₃ Gliβ₆ Gliα₄ Gliβ₄
Gliα₂   Gliα₅
PGK₁   PGK₆ PGK₂
GliD₂
GliE
Gliγ₁   GliD₃ GliD₄   Gliγ₂
         PGK₃   GliD₅

c
PGK₃   GliD₄ Gliβ₆   PGK₆
GliD₃   Gliα₄
GliE   Gliγ₂
PGK₁ Gliβ₂ Gliα₃   Gliβ₄
                                Gliα₅
                                GliD₅
GliD₂
Gliα₂ Gliβ₁
Gliγ₁
Gliα₁
Gliβ₃   Gliα₆
GliD₁ GliD₆   Gliβ₅
PGK₅   PGK₄

d
F₁-like ATPase   **F₁-like ATPase**
Gliβ₂ Gliα₃ Gliβ₃   Gliβ₆ Gliα₄ Gliβ₄
Gliα₂   Gliα₅
Gliγ₁   Gliγ₂
         ~5°

e
β₁-E484
Mg
β₁-K458   β₁-R485
           β₁-R487
           α₁-R344
ATP

f Gliβ₂
Crown
Linker
NBD   NTD
P-loop   N
CTD
C
DELSEED loop
(DALSEDD)

g Gliβ₂ vs. *Bacillus* PS3 β
N
N
C
C

h Gliα₂
Crown   N
NBD
P-loop
CTD
C

i Gliα₂ vs. *Bacillus* PS3 α
N
N
C
C

j Gliγ₁
C
N
α/β fold

k Gliγ₁ vs. *Bacillus* PS3 γ
Extended
helix
C
C
N
N

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4