



Jul 25, 2025

Version 1

Crystal structure of Enterovirus A71 2A protease mutant C110A containing VP1-2A junction in the active site apo structure (C1 PDB: 9FGO) used for fragment screen and compound soaking V.1



Forked from [Crystallization of Zika virus NS2B-NS3 protease \(closed conformation in space group P4322 | PDB ID: 8PN6\)](#)



DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvr9b52vmk/v1>

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Xiaomin Ni: The principle crystallographer on the 2A protease precursor project.;

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DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvr9b52vmk/v1>

External link: <http://>

Protocol Citation: Xiaomin Ni, Peter Marples, Daren Fearon, Lizbé Koekemoer 2025. Crystal structure of Enterovirus A71 2A protease mutant C110A containing VP1-2A junction in the active site apo structure (C1 PDB: 9FGO) used for fragment screen and compound soaking. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.6qpvr9b52vmk/v1>

Manuscript citation:

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: March 04, 2025

Last Modified: July 25, 2025

Protocol Integer ID: 123758

Keywords: crystallisation, XChem, ASAP, AVIDD, CMD, Diamond Light Source, i04-1, Research complex at Harwell, crystal structure of enterovirus a71, crystallization of enterovirus, plasmid enterovirus coxsackievirus a71 2a protease, enterovirus a71, plasmid enterovirus coxsackievirus a71, enterovirus, 2a protease mutant c110a, hexagonal prism crystals in space group p61, crystal structure, mutant c110a, crystallization, protein, crystallization screen, hexagonal prism crystal, 2a protease, containing vp1, crystal

Funders Acknowledgements:

National Institutes of Health/National Institute Of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID)

Grant ID: Grant ID: U19AI171399

Disclaimer

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Acknowledgements:

Diamond Light Source Ltd, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didcot OX11 0QX, UK
Research Complex at Harwell, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didcot OX11 0FA, UK
Oxford Lab Technologies crystal shifter <https://doi.org/10.1107/S2059798320014114>

Abstract

This protocol describes the crystallization of Enterovirus 71 (EV-71) 2A protease mutant C110A containing the VP1-2A junction in the active site. The crystals form within 12-24 hours using a crystallization screen composed of 1.8M NaCl and 15% ethanol. The crystal structure was determined using X-ray diffraction, resulting in hexagonal prism crystals in space group P61 with unit cell dimensions of 61.5Å, 61.5Å, 78.9Å (90.00°, 90.00°, 120.00°) and an average resolution of 1.5Å. The protein was expressed using the plasmid Enterovirus Cocksackievirus A71 2A protease 228633.

Materials

SwissCI 3 lens crystallization plates <https://swissci.com/product/3-lens-crystallisation-plate/> Codes:

Midi: UVXPO-3LENS 3W96T-PS 3W96T-UVP

[M] 1 Molarity (M) Ammonium sulfate, Molecular Dimensions, Catalog # MD2-250-35

[M] 1 Molarity (M) Sodium acetate  4.8 , Molecular Dimensions, Catalog # 133225

50% w/v PEG 2000, Molecular Dimensions, Catalog # MD2-250-17

Purified protein xxx. in [M] 10 millimolar (mM) HEPES,  7.5 , [M] 0.5 Molarity (M) NaCl, 5% glycerol,

[M] 0.5 millimolar (mM) TCEP

Protein construct <https://www.addgene.org/204791/>

Protocol materials



Enterovirus Cocksackievirus A71 inactive 2A protease with mutation C110A to preserve VP1-2A junction. addgene Catalog #228633

Safety warnings

 Follow all handling warning for the chemicals used in the crystallisation screen composition.



Protein expression and purification

- 1 The protocol used for protein expression and purification is the following. Using the plasmid



Enterovirus Coxsackievirus A71 inactive 2A protease with mutation C110A to preserve VP1-2A junction. **addgene Catalog #228633**

Equipment needed

- 2 **Formulatrix Rock Imager**
SPT mosquito
Liquidator 96 5-200 µl pipette
SwissCI 3 lens plate

Protein sequence

- 3 ITTLGKFGQQSGAIYVGNFRVVNRHLATHNDWANLVWEDSSRDLLVSSTTAQGCDTIARCN
CQTGVYYCNSMRKHYPVSFSKPSLIFVEASEYYPARYQSHMLAVGHSEPGDAGGILRCQH
GVVGIVSTGGNGLVGFADV RDLLWLDDEAMEQQ

Crystallization experiment

1d

- 4 **Crystallisation screen composition:**
1.8M NaCl
15% ethanol

Stock solutions used:

[M] 5 Molarity (M) Sodium chloride

[M] 100 % volume Ethanol

**Note**

The crystallisation screen can be stored in a duran bottle or aliquoted into 96 deep well block for easy dispensing into SwissCI 3 lens plates.

For long term storage keep the Crystallisation screen in the fridge at 4°C.

5 Protein and buffer requirements:

🧪 43.2 µL [M] 15 mg/mL 📁 Sample

🧪 2.88 mL Crystallization screen

6 Dispense 🧪 20 µL Crystallisation screen into SwissCI 3 lens plate reservoir wells using a 100 µl multi-channel pipette.

Dispense 🧪 100 nL nl [M] 15 mg/mL 📁 Sample to each lens using the SPT mosquito.

Dispense 🧪 100 nL Crystallisation screen to each lens using the SPT mosquito.

Drop ratio: 1:1

Final drop volume: 200 nl

7 Incubate at 🌡️ 20 °C for ⌚ 24:00:00 h in Formulatrix Rock Imager.

1d

Imaging Schedule: The first images are taken after 12 h and the imaging schedule follows a Fibonacci sequence of days for further collections.

8

Expected result

Crystals typically form within 12 h, within 24 h they have reached their maximum size. Crystals form on their own and have hexagonal prism appearance. (see image below)

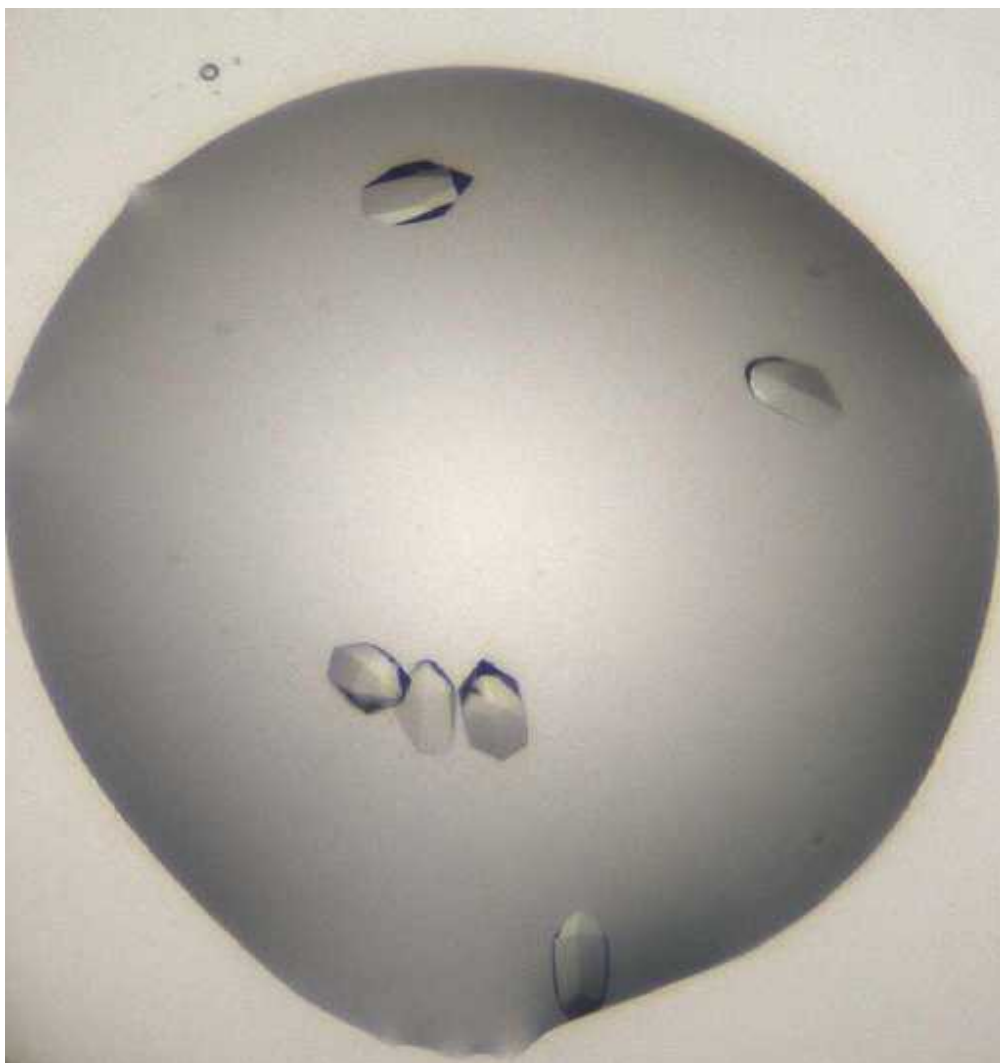
Morphology:

Size: ~50 μm in width and ~100 μm in length

Average resolution: 1.5 $\text{\AA}$

Space group: P61

Unit cell: 61.5 $\text{\AA}$, 61.5 $\text{\AA}$, 78.9 $\text{\AA}$
90.00°, 90.00°, 120.00°





Data collection at Synchrotron

9 Diamond Light Source
Unattended Data Collection (UDC)
Data Collection Temperature: 100K
Detector: DECTRIS EIGER2 X 9M
Beamline: I04-1
Wavelength: 0.9212 Å
Resolution (Å): 1.62
Beam Size (μm): 60 X 50
Number of images: 3600
Oscillation: 0.10°
Exposure (s): 0.0020
Transmission (%): 100
Flux (ph/s): 9.50e+11

Solvent Tolerance

10 Best conditions were: 10%DMSO, for 1h.

Protocol



NAME

XChem solvent test

CREATED BY

Peter Marples

Preview

Fragment screen

11 Conditions used 5-10% DMSO, for 1h



Protocol



NAME

XChem crystallographic fragment screening

CREATED BY

Peter Marples

[Preview](#)

Protocol references

N/A