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# Combined Inhibitor Free-Energy Landscape and Structural Analysis Reports on the Mannosidase Conformational Coordinate\*\*

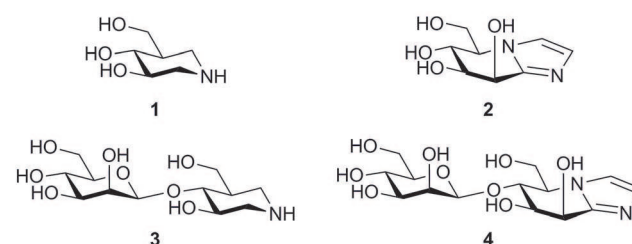
Rohan J. Williams, Javier Iglesias-Fernández, Judith Stepper, Adam Jackson, Andrew J. Thompson, Elisabeth C. Lowe, Jonathan M. White, Harry J. Gilbert, Carme Rovira,\* Gideon J. Davies,\* and Spencer J. Williams\*

**Abstract:** Mannosidases catalyze the hydrolysis of a diverse range of polysaccharides and glycoconjugates, and the various sequence-based mannosidase families have evolved ingenious strategies to overcome the stereoelectronic challenges of mannoside chemistry. Using a combination of computational chemistry, inhibitor design and synthesis, and X-ray crystallography of inhibitor/enzyme complexes, it is demonstrated that mannoimidazole-type inhibitors are energetically poised to report faithfully on mannosidase transition-state conformation, and provide direct evidence for the conformational itinerary used by diverse mannosidases, including  $\beta$ -mannanases from families GH26 and GH113. Isofagomine-type inhibitors are poor mimics of transition-state conformation, owing to the high energy barriers that must be crossed to attain mechanistically relevant conformations, however, these sugar-shaped heterocycles allow the acquisition of ternary complexes that span the active site, thus providing valuable insight into active-site residues involved in substrate recognition.

**M**annosidases are glycoside hydrolases (GHs) which catalyze the cleavage of glycosidic linkages in mannose-containing glycoconjugates and polysaccharides.  $\alpha$ -Mannosidases are important in N-glycan biosynthesis and protein quality control and their inhibition may allow intervention in diseases which utilize N-linked glycans for protein folding.<sup>[1]</sup>  $\beta$ -Mannosidases are important in the degradation of plant-derived mannans ( $\beta$ -mannan, glucomannan, galactomannan) and are of industrial significance in the detergent, food, biofuels, and oil and gas industries.<sup>[2]</sup> Biochemical studies of

mannosidases from different sequence-based families have highlighted that a variety of conformational itineraries,<sup>[3]</sup> and a range of mechanistic strategies are employed for glycosidic bond cleavage.<sup>[4]</sup> The study of the diverse pathways employed by mannosidases can inform synthetic efforts designed to overcome the often recalcitrant chemistry of mannose.<sup>[5]</sup>

A rationalization of the rate enhancement achieved by an enzyme pivots upon an understanding of its transition state. This understanding in turn can instruct the development of transition-state analogue inhibitors, which have exciting potential as drug candidates.<sup>[6]</sup> Mannosidase inhibitors are designed to mimic the charge, planarity, and conformation of the oxocarbenium ion-like “exploded” transition state(s) of mannosidase-catalyzed hydrolysis. Upon protonation, isofagomine-type inhibitors, exemplified by isofagomine (IFG) **1** (Figure 1), resemble a glycosyl cation with charge localized at C1, but are poor mimics of transition-state conformation.



**Figure 1.** Structures of isofagomine (**1**), mannoimidazole (**2**), ManIFG (**3**), and ManMI (**4**).

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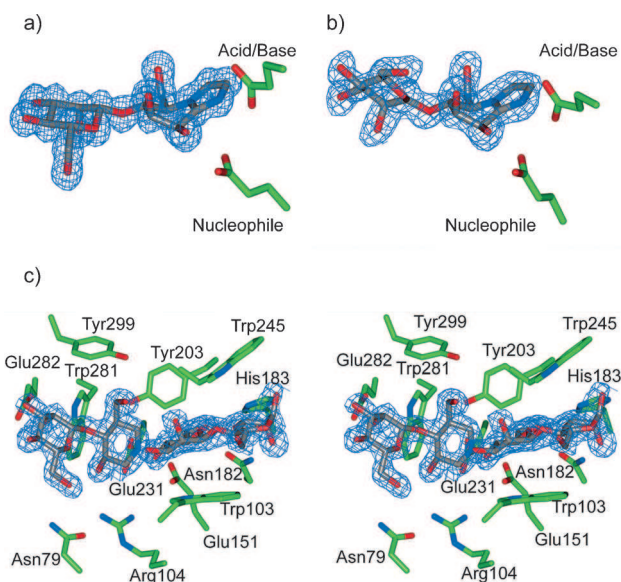
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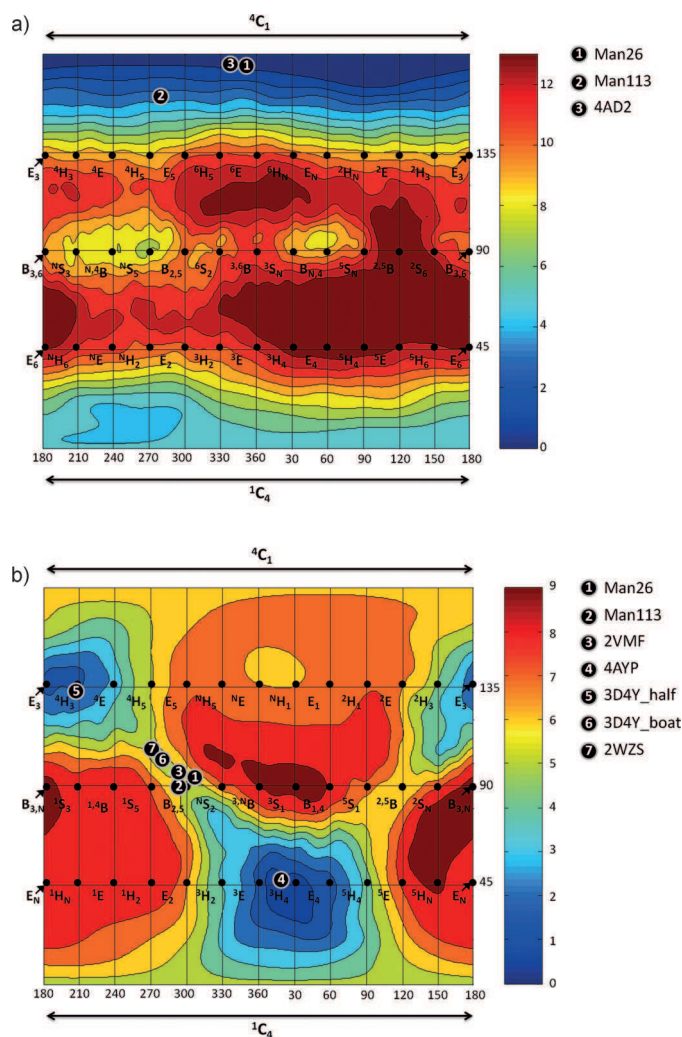




**Figure 2.** a) Binary complex of ManMIm (**4**) bound to *Cj*Man26C. b) Binary complex of **4** bound to *Aa*ManA. c) Ternary complex showing ligand binding within the active site of GH113  $\beta$ -mannanase *Aa*ManA. ManIFG (**3**) occupies the  $-2$  and  $-1$  subsites, whilst  $\beta$ -1,4-mannobiose is observed within  $+1$  and  $+2$  subsites. Depicted electron density maps are REFMAC maximum-likelihood/ $\sigma_A$ -weighted  $2F_o - F_c$  syntheses contoured at 0.41, 0.38, and 0.41 electrons per  $\text{\AA}^3$ , respectively.

alone, or with 1,4- $\beta$ -mannobiose, into crystals of *Aa*ManA yielded binary and ternary complexes which diffracted to a resolution of 1.6  $\text{\AA}$  (Figure 2c; see Figures S1b and S2, and Table S1). The ternary complex with **3** bound in the  $-2$  and  $-1$  subsites, and 1,4- $\beta$ -mannobiose bound in the  $+1$  and  $+2$  subsites, provides the first complete mapping of substrate-binding amino acid residues across the  $-2$  to  $+2$  subsites for a GH113 enzyme (Figure 2c; see Figure S2 and Table S1).

To understand the intrinsic conformational preferences of **1**<sup>[16]</sup> and **2**, we employed QM calculations to construct a conformational FEL. The FEL of **1** reveals that the  ${}^4C_1$  conformation is preferred, with the mechanistically relevant  ${}^1C_4$  and  $B_{2,5}$  conformations located 5 and 8 kcal mol $^{-1}$  higher in energy, respectively, and with a greater than 10 kcal mol $^{-1}$  barrier for their interconversion (Figure 3a). These data suggest that IFG is a poor transition-state mimic and consistent with this the  ${}^4C_1$  conformation is the only conformation observed for isofagomine-type inhibitors when bound to mannosidases (Figure 3a). Other conformations have been observed for isofagomine-type inhibitors bound to glucosidases/cellulases (see Figure S3). In striking contrast, the FEL of **2** is consistent with good transition-state shape mimicry, with all mechanistically relevant half-chair ( ${}^4H_3$  and  ${}^3H_4$ ), envelope ( ${}^3E$ ,  $E_3$ ,  ${}^4E$ , and  $E_4$ ), and boat ( ${}^{2,5}B$  or  $B_{2,5}$ ) conformations energetically accessible (Figure 3b). A global minimum was found near the  ${}^4H_3$  conformation with a second local minimum approximately 1 kcal mol $^{-1}$  higher in energy near the  ${}^3H_4$  conformation, both of which have been observed on-enzyme. The other conformation of **2**, which has been observed on-enzyme, the  $B_{2,5}$ , was near a saddle point between these local minima and was 5 kcal mol $^{-1}$  higher in



**Figure 3.** Conformational free-energy landscapes (FELs, Mercator projection) of isolated isofagomine (**1**; a) and protonated mannoimidazole (**2**; b), contoured at 1 kcal mol $^{-1}$ . FELs have been annotated with the conformations of isofagomine-type (for a) and mannoimidazole-type (for b) inhibitors which have been observed on-enzyme. a) **1**: **3** bound to GH26 *Cj*Man26C (this work); **2**: **3** bound to GH113 *Aa*ManA (this work); **3**:  $\alpha$ -Glc-1,3-isofagomine bound to *Bx*GH99 (PDB code 4AD2).<sup>[17]</sup> b) **1**: **4** bound to GH26 *Cj*Man26C (this work); **2**: **4** bound to GH113 *Aa*ManA (this work); **3**: **1** bound to GH2 *Bt*Man2A (PDB code 2VMF).<sup>[18]</sup> **4**: **1** bound to GH47 *Ck*Man47 (PDB code 4AYP).<sup>[11]</sup> **5**: **1** bound to GH38 *Dm*GManII (PDB code 3D4Y) in half-chair conformer;<sup>[19]</sup> **6**: **1** bound to GH38 *Dm*GManII (PDB code 3D4Y) in boat conformer (this work); **7**: **1** bound to GH92 *Bt*Man3990 (PDB code 2WZS).<sup>[20]</sup>

energy than the  ${}^3H_4$  conformation. The FEL for **2** reveals that the conformations relevant to the reaction coordinate are all energetically accessible, and moreover, that a  $B_{2,5}$  conformation is less stable than the  $E$  and  $H$  conformations. This in turn suggests that the observation of a  $B_{2,5}$  conformation for **2** on-enzyme is of special mechanistic significance, with the enzyme inducing the inhibitor to adopt a conformation to match the transition state.

Collectively, the conformations of mannoimidazole-type inhibitors bound to mannosidases of diverse families highlights that mannosidases readily modulate the ligand conformational landscape. This conclusion is consistent with FEL

analysis of  $\alpha$ -D-mannopyranose bound to a GH47  $\alpha$ -mannosidase, and established that the enzyme reshapes the conformational landscape, thus defining the energetically accessible space.<sup>[11]</sup> For enzymes from GH2,<sup>[21]</sup> GH26,<sup>[13]</sup> and GH47,<sup>[11]</sup> conformations of ground states adjacent to the transition state (Michaelis, glycosyl-enzyme or product complexes) provide strong evidence that mannoimidazole-type inhibitors authentically report transition-state conformation on-enzyme. However, the  ${}^4H_3$  conformation reported for the complex of **2** and *Drosophila melanogaster* Golgi GH38  $\alpha$ -mannosidase II (*Dm*GMaII) is inconsistent with this interpretation.<sup>[19]</sup> On the basis of a glycosyl-enzyme intermediate in a  ${}^1S_5$  conformation,<sup>[9]</sup> and theory,<sup>[22]</sup> a  $B_{2,5}$  transition-state conformation is predicted. Inspection of the density map reveals significant residual electron density in the complex,<sup>[23]</sup> and re-refinement of these data with **2** in two conformations shows that 30–40% of the ligand binds as a second transition-state mimicking conformer in an approximate  $B_{2,5}$  conformation (see Figure S4).

We next analyzed the atomic charges and ring planarity of the four mechanistically relevant conformations ( ${}^4H_3$ ,  ${}^3H_4$ ,  $B_{2,5}$ ,  ${}^{2,5}B$ ) of **2**. We combined the values of the charge development at the C1 atom ( $q_{C1}$ ), the C5-O5-C1-C2 dihedral angle, and the free energy for a large set of representative structures into a unique index (named “TS index”, *TSi*, see the Supporting Information), in the spirit of the previously reported preactivation index for isolated aldohexoses.<sup>[11,24]</sup> Table S2 and Figures S5 and S6 show that there is no single conformation with the optimum values for every parameter (score = 100). The *TSi* values (see Figure S7) reveal that even though the *H* conformations are favored over *B* conformations when solely considering their energy (Figure 2b), they possess different *TSi* values. Most importantly, the two transition-state mimicking conformations that have been observed on-enzyme,  ${}^3H_4$  and  $B_{2,5}$ , have the highest *TSi* values. Therefore, as observed for glycans bound to GHs,<sup>[3,25]</sup> the inhibitor conformation on-enzyme is not only dictated by the relative energy of the molecule itself but also by structural and electronic properties.

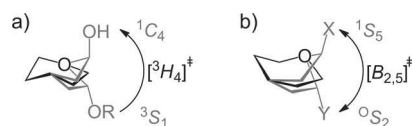
In conclusion, the calculated FEL of **2** shows a preference for  ${}^3H_4$  and  ${}^4H_3$  half-chair conformations, and that a  $B_{2,5}$  conformation represents a higher energy, but easily accessible saddle point between these two minima and thus that mannoimidazole-type inhibitors, in contrast to the isofagomine-type, are energetically poised to faithfully report transition-state conformation. X-ray structures of **4** with two  $\beta$ -mannanases from GH26 and GH113 provide the first direct

evidence for a  $B_{2,5}$  conformation of the transition state of the enzyme-catalyzed reaction of these families. Previous work with GH47  $\alpha$ -mannosidases found that **2** bound in a  ${}^3H_4$  conformation, implicating a  ${}^3S_1 \rightarrow {}^3H_4^{\ddagger} \rightarrow {}^1C_4$  itinerary for this family (Figure 4a). The  $B_{2,5}$  conformation has now been observed for mannoimidazole-type inhibitors in complex with  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -mannosidases from five GH families: GH2, 26, 38, 92, and 113 (Figure 4b). A  ${}^1S_5 \leftrightarrow B_{2,5}^{\ddagger} \leftrightarrow {}^0S_2$  conformational itinerary is common to all of these families, a result that unifies mannosidases which operate through both retaining and inverting, and metal-dependent and metal-independent mechanisms.

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**Figure 4.** Conformational itineraries employed by mannosidases.

a)  ${}^3S_1 \rightarrow {}^3H_4^{\ddagger} \rightarrow {}^1C_4$  itinerary of GH47 inverting  $\alpha$ -mannosidase.

b)  ${}^1S_5 \leftrightarrow B_{2,5}^{\ddagger} \leftrightarrow {}^0S_2$  itinerary employed by retaining GH2 and GH38  $\beta$ -mannosidases, inverting GH92  $\alpha$ -mannosidases and retaining GH26 and GH113  $\beta$ -mannanases (X, Y = leaving group, enzyme carboxylate or OH).

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