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Geometric isomerization of dietary monounsaturated fatty acids by a *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440

Jun-Young Park^{a,1}, Min-Gyeong Lee^{b,1}, Dimitris Charalampopoulos^c, Kyung-Min Park^{b,*}, Pahn-Shick Chang^{a,d,e,f,*}

^aDepartment of Agricultural Biotechnology, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

^bDepartment of Food Science and Biotechnology, Wonkwang University, Iksan 54538, Republic of Korea

^cDepartment of Food and Nutritional Sciences, University of Reading, Reading RG6 6AP, United Kingdom

^dResearch Institute of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

^eCenter for Food and Bioconvergence, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

^fCenter for Agricultural Microorganism and Enzyme, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

¹ Equal contribution as first authors.

* Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed: K. M. Park [telephone: +82 63 850 6681; e-mail: kmpark79@wku.ac.kr] or P. S. Chang [telephone: +82 2 880 4852; e-mail: pschang@snu.ac.kr].

1 **Abstract**

2 *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 encodes a defense system that rigidifies membranes by a cytochrome
3 *c*-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI). Despite its potential as an industrial biocatalyst for directly
4 regulating the geometric isomerism of monounsaturated fatty acids, its original catalytic and structural
5 properties have remained elusive. In this study, the catalytic nature of wild-type CTI purified *P. putida*
6 KT2440 against dietary monounsaturated fatty acids was investigated. It showed substrate preference
7 for palmitoleic acid (C_{16:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹), along with substrate promiscuity with chain length and double bond
8 position (palmitoleic acid>*cis*-vaccenic acid>oleic acid). Under determined optimum reaction condi-
9 tions, its catalytic efficiency (k_{cat}/K_m) was evaluated as $5.13 \times 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$ against palmitoleic acid.
10 Furthermore, computational predictions of the protein structure revealed its monoheme cytochrome *c*-
11 type domain and a parasol-like transmembrane domain, suggesting its catalytic mode of action. For
12 effective *cis/trans* isomerization, the ethylene double bond of monounsaturated fatty acids should be
13 precisely positioned at the heme center of CTI, indicating that its substrate specificity can be deter-
14 mined by the alkyl chain length and the double bond position of the fatty acid substrates. These find-
15 ings shed light on the potential of CTI as a promising biocatalyst for the food and lipid industry.

16

17 **Keywords:** *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase; cytochrome *c*-type hemoprotein; geometric isomerization.

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26 **1. Introduction**

27 Unsaturated fatty acids are carboxylic acid compounds in which there is at least one carbon-carbon
28 double bond (C=C) or triple bond (C≡C) within their hydrocarbon chains [1]. These are classified into
29 various forms based on chain length (odd and even numbers from 4 to 38 carbons), degree of unsatu-
30 ration (mono-, di-, and polyunsaturated fatty acids), position of the unsaturated bond, and particularly
31 the *cis/trans* configuration of the ethylene double bond. Compared to saturated fatty acids with straight
32 structures, unsaturated fatty acids found in vegetables or fishes are typically skewed due to their dou-
33 ble-bonded carbons in a *cis* geometric configuration [2]. Hydrogenation (*i.e.*, a chemical reaction add-
34 ing hydrogens to unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds) in the presence of metal catalysts, such as nickel,
35 palladium, or platinum, converts unsaturated fatty acids to saturated fatty acids [3]. This hydrogenation
36 process has been applied to the food industry to convert vegetable/fish oils into semi-solidified lipids
37 (*e.g.*, shortenings, margarines, and partially hydrogenated oils) and solidified lipids. However, the con-
38 sumption of these hydrogenated lipids has been proposed to be a modern health concern because the
39 production of industrial *trans*-fats occurs with a high probability as the result of a side reaction with
40 the metal catalysts during the hydrogenation [4]. Unsaturated fatty acids containing only double bonds
41 in a *trans* configuration have straight hydrocarbon chains similar to saturated fatty acids, while show-
42 ing a higher risk of cardiovascular disease (almost double) than saturated fatty acids [5]. On the other
43 hand, some kinds of naturally occurring *trans*-fatty acids have been shown to have potential nutraceuti-
44 cal benefits. For example, vaccenic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ¹¹), which is the predominant *trans*-fatty acid
45 found in human milk, ruminant fats, and various dairy products, has been reported to exhibit beneficial
46 effects on health [6, 7], compared to industrial *trans*-fatty acids like elaidic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ⁹). More
47 recently, it was revealed that vaccenic acid enhances effector CD8⁺ T cell function and promotes anti-
48 tumor immunity by inactivating the short-chain fatty acid receptor GPR43, demonstrating its transla-
49 tional potential for tumor treatment [8]. Since the human body cannot endogenously produce vaccenic
50 acid, there has been emerging needs for the artificial synthesis of *trans*-fatty acid. In this context, food

51 scientists have strived to control the *cis/trans* isomerism of unsaturated lipids in food products [4, 9],
52 and innovative enzymes that directly catalyze the *cis/trans* isomerization of unsaturated lipids has been
53 suggested as a promising strategy [10].

54 A cytochrome *c*-type hemoprotein, *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) found in a few Gram-nega-
55 tive bacteria, including *Pseudomonas* and *Vibrio* strains [11], is the only biocatalyst that can directly
56 catalyze the geometric isomerization of monounsaturated fatty acids. Compared to natural polyunsatu-
57 rated fatty acids with conjugated double bonds in *trans* configurations, such as parinaric acid from the
58 seeds of *Parinari laurina* [12], punicic acid from the seeds of *Punica granatum* [13], and rumenic acid
59 from the ruminant meats and dairy products [14], *trans*-monounsaturated fatty acids have been often
60 observed in the membrane phospholipids of *Pseudomonas* and *Vibrio* strains [15, 16], though they are
61 mainly found in industrial lipids (unnatural) or ruminant fats (natural). Previous studies on *Pseudomo-*
62 *nas* strains revealed that these unusual *trans*-lipids can be synthesized by CTI constitutively expressed
63 in the bacterial periplasm [17, 18]. The CTI enzyme, as part of the short-term adaptation mechanisms
64 in *Pseudomonas* strains, rigidifies membrane fluidity by increasing the *trans/cis* ratio of unsaturated
65 fatty acid moieties in membrane phospholipids in response to environmental stressors, such as organic
66 solvents, heat, low pH, heavy metals, and osmotic shock [19, 20]. An iron-containing heme cofactor
67 covalently bound to the heme-binding motif can interact with the carbon-carbon double bonds in un-
68 saturated lipids and catalyzes the *cis/trans* isomerization [18]. Unfortunately, only two previous studies
69 successfully purified wild-type CTIs from *Pseudomonas* strains [21, 22], and even worse, these works
70 used imprecise methodologies to derive data, lacking numerical catalytic information.

71 A strain *P. putida* KT2440, which is a Gram-negative, rod-shaped, and saprophytic soil bacterium,
72 has become a promising workhorse for applied microbiology owing to its metabolic versatility, genetic
73 accessibility, absence of pathogenic aspects, and stress-resistances [23, 24]. Among its unique charac-
74 teristics, the short-term resistance has garnered significant attention in the field of membrane engineer-
75 ing, aiming to enhance robustness of bacterial strains [25]. Moreover, a complete genome sequence of

76 *P. putida* KT2440 was revealed [26], and a gene of CTI (Uniprot ID Q88KB4) is available. Notably,
77 we investigated the periplasmic fraction of *P. putida* KT2440 for the determination of kinetic param-
78 eters of the CTI reaction using our newly established CTI reaction assay [10]. Therefore, in the present
79 study, we purified a wild-type CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 and investigated its catalytic and structural
80 properties. The CTI proteins were purified from the periplasmic extracts of *P. putida* KT2440 strain
81 via serial chromatographic purification. Then, its isomerizing properties in terms of substrate specific-
82 ity, optimal reaction conditions, and enzyme kinetics were determined using our CTI assay. Finally,
83 its structural characteristics were discussed based on predicted structure models from latest computa-
84 tional protein structure prediction methods to understand its catalytic mechanism. The results presented
85 here offer both theoretical and practical insights for exploring further the potential of CTI as a powerful
86 biocatalyst for directly regulating the geometric isomerization of dietary monounsaturated fatty acids.
87

88 **2. Materials & Methods**

89 *2.1. Materials*

90 Methyl palmitoleate ($\geq 95.0\%$), palmitoleic acid ($\geq 98.0\%$), and chloramphenicol ($\geq 98.0\%$) were pur-
91 chased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. (Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan). Methyl palmitelaidate ($\geq 98.0\%$)
92 and palmitelaidic acid ($\geq 99.0\%$) were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Co. (Santa Cruz, CA,
93 USA). Bis(2-ethylhexyl) sulfosuccinate sodium salt (AOT, $\geq 97.0\%$), methyl oleate ($\geq 98.5\%$), methyl
94 elaidate ($\geq 99.0\%$), *cis*-11-vaccenic methyl ester ($\geq 95.0\%$), *trans*-11-vaccenic methyl ester ($\geq 95.0\%$),
95 *cis*-vaccenic acid ($\geq 97.0\%$), and vaccenic acid ($\geq 99.0\%$) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. (St.
96 Louis, MO, USA). Oleic acid ($\geq 99.0\%$), elaidic acid ($\geq 98.0\%$), and lysozyme (20,000 units/mg) were
97 purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific Co. (Waltham, MA, USA). Gas chromatography (GC)-grade
98 organic solvents and other chemicals (guaranteed reagent grade) were purchased from Daejung Chem-
99 icals & Metals Co. (Siheung, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea).

101 2.2. *Bacterial strain and culture conditions*

102 A gram-negative strain of *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 (ATCC® 47054™) was acquired from the
103 American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA, USA), and cultured following the manufacturer's
104 instruction. The cells were inoculated in 5 mL of LB broth with 20 µg/mL chloramphenicol and culti-
105 vated at 37°C and 220 rpm for 16 h (pre-culture). Notably, an antibiotic supplement was used to control
106 contamination by other bacteria because this *Pseudomonas* strain is known to be resistant to multiple
107 antibiotics, especially chloramphenicol [27]. The cultured cells (1:100, v/v) were subsequently inocu-
108 lated in 2 L Erlenmeyer flasks containing 500 mL of LB broth with 20 µg/mL chloramphenicol. Then,
109 the cultures were incubated at 37°C and 220 rpm until the optical density (OD₆₀₀) reached 1.6 (approx-
110 imately 24 h). These cells were harvested via centrifugation (4,000 g, 20 min, 4°C), and the harvested
111 cells were stored at -80°C until further use.

112

113 2.3. *Formation of spheroplasts and periplasmic extraction*

114 The collected *P. putida* KT2440 cells were converted to spheroplasts, and their periplasmic fractions
115 were extracted as previously described [10, 22] with slight modifications. Dried cells (20 g) resus-
116 pended in 250 mL of buffer A (100 mM Tris-HCl, 20%(w/v) sucrose, pH 8.0) were incubated at 4°C
117 for 5 min, and then, 250 mL of buffer B (100 mM Tris-HCl, 20%(w/v) sucrose, 5 mM EDTA, pH 8.0)
118 as well as 20 mg of lysozyme were added. The resulting cell suspensions (final 500 mL) containing
119 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 20%(w/v) sucrose, 2.5 mM EDTA, and 40 µg/mL lysozyme were stored
120 at 4°C for 25 min with continuous mechanical stirring (350 rpm). By centrifugation (4,000 g, 20 min,
121 4°C), the spheroplasts were separated, and the clear supernatants were collected to be utilized as crude
122 periplasmic fractions for the subsequent protein purification process.

123

124 2.4. *Serial chromatographic purification of CTI*

125 Protein purification based on serial chromatography was performed as previously described [28, 29]

126 with slight modifications. Crude periplasmic extracts (500 mL) were mixed with 183 g of ammonium
127 sulfate (60% saturation) with 12%(w/v) increments at 4°C with continuous stirring (350 rpm) in order
128 to precipitate crude protein extracts with CTI activity, and after 1 h of incubation, the suspensions were
129 fractionated by centrifugation (4,000 g, 20 min, 4°C). The resulting precipitates were dissolved in 10
130 mL of 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5) and dialyzed overnight into the same buffer using a 12 kDa
131 MWCO dialysis sack. The resulting dialysates were concentrated using a 50 kDa MWCO centrifugal
132 filter and subjected to further serial chromatographic purification process via an ÄKTA goTM fast pro-
133 tein liquid chromatography (FPLC) system (Cytiva Co., Marlborough, MA, USA) equipped with an
134 ultraviolet (UV) detector (Cytiva Co.) to measure the absorbance at 280 nm wavelength. The protein
135 samples were sterile filtered through a 0.45 µm cellulose acetate filter before injection. First of all, the
136 crude proteins obtained from 60%(w/v) ammonium sulfate precipitation were loaded onto a 1 mL
137 HiTrap[®] Q Fast Flow (FF) anion exchange chromatography column (Cytiva Co.) equilibrated with 20
138 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), and proteins were eluted with a gradient of sodium chloride (NaCl, 0.0–
139 0.5 M) at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. Second, the protein fractions exhibiting CTI activity were col-
140 lected, sufficiently concentrated by ultrafiltration (50 kDa MWCO), and loaded onto a 1 mL HiTrap[®]
141 DEAE FF anion exchange chromatography column (Cytiva Co.) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl
142 buffer (pH 8.5). The elution was conducted as described above. Lastly, the protein fractions exhibiting
143 CTI activity were collected, dialyzed into 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) containing 0.15
144 M NaCl, sufficiently concentrated by ultrafiltration (50 kDa MWCO), and loaded onto a 120 mL
145 HiPrepTM 16/60 Sephadryl[®] S-100 HR size exclusion chromatography column (Cytiva Co.) equili-
146 brated with 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) containing 0.15 M NaCl. The proteins were
147 eluted at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The protein fractions showing CTI activity were collected, dialyzed
148 into 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), concentrated by ultrafiltration, and stored at refrig-
149 eration temperature before reactions. The purity was determined by SDS-PAGE analysis, and concen-
150 tration was measured by the Bradford method. All purification steps were carried out at 4°C.

151

152 2.5. Enzyme activity assays for CTI

153 The catalytic activity of CTI was measured in two different ways – aqueous buffer solution system
154 and reversed micelle system [10] – based on the experimental purpose. For the activity screening dur-
155 ing the purification, the catalytic activity of CTI was determined in the modified aqueous buffer solu-
156 tion reaction system. Each protein fraction (dissolved in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5)
157 was used as the reaction medium. The reaction mixture (approximately 0.9 mL) was incubated for 10
158 min in a 5 mL glass vial within a water bath set at 25°C and 800 rpm. The CTI reaction was initiated
159 upon addition of substrate (10 mM) to achieve a total volume of 1 mL, followed by a brief vortexing.
160 At the end of the reaction (for 1 h), the reaction mixtures were transferred to a microcentrifuge tube,
161 vortexed with 1 mL of isoctane for 20 sec, and then centrifuged (14,000 g, 5 min) to separate the
162 organic layer containing hydrophobic substrates and products (the vortex-centrifugation steps were
163 repeated if phase separation was not achieved). The organic layer (0.8 mL) was obtained, and the
164 solvent was evaporated at room temperature via a nitrogen evaporator (MGS-3100; Eyela Co., Bohe-
165 mia, NY, USA). The dried samples were stored at –18°C before further analysis. For the investigation
166 of catalytic properties, the catalytic activity was determined in the reversed micelle reaction system.
167 The enzyme solutions (0.09 mL, dissolved in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5) were added
168 to 4.41 mL of 113.38 mM AOT/isoctane, sufficiently vortexed to generate reversed micelles (visually
169 clear), and pre-incubated at 25°C and 800 rpm for 10 min. By adding 0.5 mL of substrates (dissolved
170 in isoctane) at each molar concentration, the reactions were initiated, and 0.3 mL of aliquots were
171 sampled at a specific reaction time. The same evaporation and storage processes were conducted as
172 described above. The calculation for the conversion rate (%) from *cis* configuration to *trans* configu-
173 ration was performed as follows:

$$174 \quad Conversion\ rate\ (\%) = \frac{[trans]_t}{[cis]_t + [trans]_t} \times 100$$

175 where $[cis]_t$ and $[trans]_t$ are the amounts of unsaturated fatty acids in *cis* and *trans* configurations at
176 each specific reaction time t , respectively. For the kinetics of CTI reaction, all reactions were analyzed
177 according to the Michaelis-Menten assumption using SigmaPlot software (ver. 12.5; Systat Software
178 Co., San Jose, CA, USA). The kinetic parameters were derived by computational non-linear regression
179 analysis, and the relevant assumption was validated by double-reciprocal plotting as follows:

$$180 \quad \frac{[S]}{v} = \frac{1}{V_{max}} \times [S] + \frac{K_m}{V_{max}}$$

181 where $[S]$ is the concentration of substrate, v is the initial velocity of the reaction, V_{max} is the maximum
182 initial velocity, and K_m is the dissociation constant of the enzyme-substrate complex. One unit (U) was
183 defined as the amount of enzymes converting 1 μ mol of substrates to products per minute.

184

185 *2.6. Fatty acid methylation and gas chromatography analysis*

186 Unsaturated fatty acids in the dried reaction mixture were methylated using Fatty Acid Methylation
187 Kit (Nacalai Tesque Co., Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan) as previously described [10]. The dried samples
188 were fully dissolved in 0.5 mL of reagent A (a mixture of toluene/methanol in a ratio of 52:48, v/v),
189 followed by vortexing with 0.5 mL of reagent C (a strong acidic BF_3 -methanol solution). Subsequently,
190 the mixture was incubated at 37°C for 20 minutes to catalyze the methylation of free fatty acids. After
191 extracting formed fatty acid methyl esters with 1 mL of *n*-hexane, the *n*-hexane layers were rinsed with
192 deionized water, filtered through a 0.45 μ m polytetrafluoroethylene syringe filter, transferred into au-
193 tosampler vials with vial inserts for GC analysis, and analyzed using a YL6500 GC system (Young In
194 Chromass Co., Anyang, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea) equipped with a flame ionization detector
195 (FID) and a cyanopropyl phase DB-FastFAME capillary column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 μ m; Agilent
196 Technologies Co., Santa Clara, CA, USA). Helium (\geq 99.999%) was employed as the carrier gas at a
197 constant flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. One microliter of the sample was injected into a split flow configu-
198 ration at a ratio of 50:1(v/v), and other operating details are summarized in Supplementary Data Table

199 S1. Calibration curves for monounsaturated fatty acid methyl esters under the aqueous buffer solution
200 reaction condition were derived in this study (Supplementary Data Fig. S2), and for the reversed mi-
201 celle condition, calibration curves were adapted from our previous studies [10].

202

203 *2.7. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy*

204 Liquid-state ^1H NMR spectroscopy was conducted using an AVANCETM 600 MHz high-resolution
205 NMR spectrometer (Bruker Co., Bremen, Germany). The samples were homogeneously dissolved in
206 dimethyl sulfoxide- d_6 with 0.03%(v/v) tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard for calibrating
207 chemical shift. The sample observation frequency was 600.13 MHz, and the spectral width was deter-
208 mined to be 12 kHz. All the analyses were conducted at room temperature. The NMR data were pro-
209 cessed using TopSpinTM software (ver. 4.0.6; Bruker Co.), and chemical shifts (δ) of each signal were
210 given in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS.

211

212 *2.8. Computational analysis of protein structure*

213 A complete genome sequence of *P. putida* KT2440 was distributed from ATCC, and a putative CTI
214 gene (Uniprot ID Q88KB4) encoded in the genomic DNA was identified using nucleotide Basic Local
215 Alignment Search Tool (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi/>). The translated amino acid sequence
216 (Supplementary Data Fig. S3) of the putative CTI gene was used for computational prediction of the
217 protein structure. The presence of signal peptide and the location of cleavage site were predicted using
218 SignalP 5.0 software (<https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/services/SignalP-5.0/>), which is a deep neural
219 network-based prediction architecture for signal peptide [30]. The probabilities of signal peptide oc-
220 currence at individual amino acids were represented as regional probabilities. The three-dimensional
221 (3D) structure was predicted utilizing RoseTTAFold software (<https://robbetta.bakerlab.org/>). This soft-
222 ware employs a prediction architecture featuring a deep neural network that learns relationships within
223 and between amino acid sequences, distances, and coordinates in the protein structure [31]. Angstrom

224 error estimates per amino acid were calculated using DeepAccNet framework, and the confidence (1.0
225 good, 0.0 bad) was calculated from the local distance difference test (lDDT) score. The final predicted
226 structure model was visualized using both PyMOL software (<https://pymol.org/2/>) and UCSF Chimera
227 software (<https://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/>) [32].

228

229 **2.9. Statistical analysis**

230 Statistical analysis in this study was performed using SPSS statistics software (ver. 28.0; IBM Co.,
231 Armonk, NY, USA). The experimental data underwent one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), and
232 the statistical significance was confirmed using Duncan's multiple range test ($p<0.05$).

233

234 **3. Results & Discussions**

235 **3.1. Purification of CTI proteins from *P. putida* KT2440**

236 Conversion of unsaturated *cis* fatty acids to *trans*-fatty acids in membrane phospholipids of *P. putida*
237 is brought about through the *cis/trans* isomerization catalyzed by CTI in the periplasm [33]. Since CTI
238 is a cytochrome *c*-type hemoprotein, which is covalently bound with a heme C cofactor, it is translo-
239 cated to the periplasm after post-translational cytochrome *c* maturation in the membrane [34]. To ob-
240 tain a periplasmic fraction from *P. putida* KT2440, intact spheroplasts were formed using a hypertonic
241 Tris-sucrose-EDTA solution, and the periplasmic fraction was separated from the spheroplast suspen-
242 sion by gravitational force. The periplasmic fraction of *P. putida* KT2440 cells exhibited CTI activity
243 against palmitoleic acid, and it was used as a crude extract for the further purification of CTI proteins.
244 Crude protein extracts were obtained from the periplasmic fraction by 60%(w/v) ammonium sulfate
245 precipitation, while 60–100%(w/v) precipitates exhibited no CTI activity. From these crude extracts,
246 the CTI protein was purified through a chromatographic purification process (Fig. 1). Comprehensive
247 results of the CTI purification are summarized in Table 1, and at the final step, the purified CTI proteins
248 were obtained with a 110.07 purification fold, 2.07% recovery, and 351.94 mU/mg specific activity.

249 Compared to previous purifications from *P. oleovorans* GPo12 (3.6 U/mg) [22] and *P. psychrophila*
250 (0.63 U/mg) [21], the isolation productivity from *P. putida* KT2440 was relatively lower (0.35 U/mg
251 from 80 g cells). This difference might be attributed to slight discrepancies in spheroplasting efficiency,
252 antibiotic usage, or assay, although CTI proteins were isolated from *P. putida* KT2440 without desta-
253 bilizing proteins or sacrificing activity.

254 During anion exchange chromatography, the CTI proteins failed to bind to either strong (Fig. 1a) or
255 weak (Fig. 1b) anion exchangers equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5). Unbound protein
256 fractions (0 M sodium chloride) exhibited CTI activity, whereas no CTI activity was detected in any
257 eluted fractions of anion exchange chromatography processes. This phenomenon has been observed in
258 previous studies of CTIs from other *Pseudomonas* strains [21, 22]. Cytochrome *c*-type proteins gener-
259 ally exhibit high isoelectric points within a basic pH range (9.0–11.0), resulting in a positive net charge
260 within a neutral pH range [35]. We used this charge state for removing other protein contaminates that
261 were adsorbed to the ion exchangers during anion exchange chromatography (Fig. 1a–b). After suffi-
262 cient fractionation, the unbound fractions were directly applied to size exclusion chromatography (Fig.
263 1c). Proteins with CTI activity were eluted at 44–51 mL elution volumes (0.5 mL/fraction), peaked at
264 46 mL elution volumes, and the ratio of elution volume to void volume (V_e/V_o) at the peak was 1.861.
265 Based on these results, the molecular weight of CTI was calculated to be approximately 85 kDa using
266 the calibration curve of analytical size exclusion chromatography (Fig. 2a). The SDS-PAGE analysis
267 revealed a protein band within the eluted fractions, ranging between 75 kDa and 100 kDa, thereby
268 confirming the molecular weight of the purified CTI (Fig. 2b). Considering a signal peptide-truncated
269 N-terminus and its monomeric structure, the theoretical molecular weight (approximately 85 kDa) of
270 CTI corresponds to the observed molecular weight. Other wild-type CTIs purified from different *Pseu-*
271 *domonas* strains have been reported to show 80 kDa molecular weights [21, 22], indicating shared
272 conserved genes and protein structures.

273

274 3.2. Catalytic properties of the purified CTI from *P. putida* KT2440

275 The periplasmic CTI enzyme targets the unsaturated fatty acid moieties of membrane phospholipids;
276 however, the purified CTI enzyme isolated from the periplasm catalyzes the *cis/trans* isomerization of
277 monounsaturated fatty acids under *in vitro* conditions [21, 22]. To confirm substrate preference against
278 dietary monounsaturated fatty acids, which exist predominantly in food products: oleic acid (C_{18:1}, *cis*-
279 Δ⁹), *cis*-vaccenic acid (C_{18:1}, *cis*-Δ¹¹), and palmitoleic acid (C_{16:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹), time-dependent reactions of
280 wild-type CTI purified from *P. putida* KT2440 against them were conducted until reaction equilibra-
281 tion (Fig. 3). Focusing primarily on the reaction involving palmitoleic acid, before the reaction, only
282 the peak (at 6.68 min) corresponding to methyl palmitoleate was detected, whereas this peak decreased
283 (approximately 25%) and a new peak (at 6.58 min) corresponding to methyl palmitelaidate propor-
284 tionally increased after the 30 min reaction (Fig. 3a). Each *trans* isomers of all monounsaturated fatty
285 acid substrates were liberated at the early stage of the CTI reaction, and their methyl esters were de-
286 tected before their *cis* isomers with a high-resolution factor in the GC-FID analysis, with a standard
287 deviation of retention time less than 1% (Supplementary Data Table. S4). Notably, while CTI showed
288 a somewhat promiscuity, a strong substrate specificity on palmitoleic acid was observed (Fig. 3b). The
289 calculated conversion rate for palmitoleic acid reached 98.74% ± 1.04%, while for *cis*-vaccenic acid
290 and oleic acid, it amounted to 54.06% ± 4.06% and 17.09% ± 0.56%, respectively (Fig. 3c). It has been
291 reported that wild-type CTIs purified from *Pseudomonas* might adopt palmitoleic acid as its major
292 substrate because the monounsaturated acyl moiety of membrane phospholipids is primarily composed
293 of palmitoleic acid (major) and *cis*-vaccenic acid (minor) [36]. Compared to other CTIs, wild-type CTI
294 purified from *P. putida* KT2440 acted on both *cis*-vaccenic acid and oleic acid, indicating its substrate
295 promiscuity for unsaturated fatty acids with chain lengths and double bond positions. Additionally, ¹H
296 NMR spectroscopy on the CTI reaction products against palmitoleic acid showed that only a minor
297 shift in the splitting patterns of hydrogen atoms on the ethylene double bond was observed, while other
298 splitting patterns remain unchanged (Supplementary Data Fig. S5), indicating that only the *cis/trans*

299 isomerization reaction occurred. In other words, these results demonstrate that only geometric isomers
300 of palmitoleic acid were in the reactants, with no other compounds produced.

301 The main dietary source of *trans*-fats is elaidic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ⁹), which is produced during the
302 hydrogenation of vegetable oils containing oleic acid (C_{18:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹) and linoleic acid (C_{18:2}, *cis*-Δ^{9,12}).
303 However, in practice, numerous types of *trans*-fatty acids are found in both natural and processed food
304 products, depending on the number and position of double bonds, and the length of their alkyl moieties
305 [37]. Among them, palmitelaidic acid (C_{16:1}, *trans*-Δ⁹) and vaccenic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ¹¹) predomi-
306 nantly exist in ruminant milk fats [38]. It is crucial to find a specialized biocatalyst for controlling each
307 different *trans*-fatty acid in food products. Therefore, the CTI purified from *P. putida* KT2440 emerges
308 as a biocatalyst suitable for such applications. Its inherent capability to catalyze the isomerization of
309 *cis*-fatty acids into their *trans* configurations reflects its original catalytic mechanism within the bac-
310 terial periplasm. Moreover, geometric isomerization by CTI might be a reversible reaction but biased
311 towards the forward reaction depending on the thermodynamic stability of the enzyme-substrate com-
312 plex [39], suggesting further evolution to regulate the isomerism in a desired direction. Of course, in a
313 current form, CTI can serve as a valuable resource for producing *trans*-fatty acids, especially vaccenic
314 acid, and various *cis/trans* mixtures for research purposes. There has been no approach to making them
315 under eco-friendly conditions [39, 40].

316 Finally, focusing on a primary substrate, palmitoleic acid, the impact of various physicochemical
317 conditions on the catalytic activity of wild-type CTI purified from *P. putida* KT2440 was assessed to
318 ascertain its optimal conditions. In the case of pH, a typical bell-shaped curve was observed within the
319 range of pH 5.0–10.0, and it peaked in the neutral pH range of 7.0–7.5 (Supplementary Data Fig. S6a).
320 In the case of reaction temperature, the activity of CTI was highest at 25°C (Supplementary Data Fig.
321 S6b). Compared with the recombinant CTI [41], the current findings are closer to originality, indicating
322 that slight structural differences can lead to catalytic deviations. When exposed to harsh conditions,
323 CTI retained over 50% of its activity at low temperatures (5–10°C) but showed a dramatic decrease in

324 activity at high temperatures (45–60°C). Some cytochrome *c*-type proteins act as cold-active enzymes,
325 which are active at lower temperatures but sensitive at higher temperatures [42]. The optimal reaction
326 conditions for wild-type CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 were determined to be at pH 7.5 and 25°C against
327 palmitoleic acid. Its physicochemical stability under storage at different pH (2.0–11.0) or temperatures
328 (5–60°C) were also evaluated (Supplementary Data Fig. S7). It was somewhat unstable at acidic pH
329 values (below 5.0) and at high temperatures (above 50°C), indicating that, for industrial applications,
330 identifying the amino acid residues that enhance either thermal or pH stability would be crucial.

331

332 *3.3. Enzyme kinetics of the purified CTI from P. putida KT2440*

333 Under optimal reaction conditions (25°C and pH 7.5), exploratory kinetic parameters of the purified
334 CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 were assessed against palmitoleic acid (Fig. 4) using our reversed micelle
335 reaction system that facilitates the precise and reproducible observation of time-resolved CTI reactions
336 [10]. The initial velocity (v) at the early stage (0–30 min) increased as substrate concentration (0.10–
337 1.20 mM) increased and became saturated above 0.6 mM palmitoleic acid (Fig. 4a), following a typical
338 Michaelis-Menten kinetic model of the single-substrate reaction. The kinetic parameters of V_{max} and
339 K_m were determined to be 0.028 mM·min⁻¹ and 0.277 mM, respectively. The Michaelis-Menten kinetic
340 assumption and parameters were validated by double-reciprocal plotting (Fig. 4b). Under the assump-
341 tion of the molecular weight of the CTI enzyme, its turnover number (k_{cat}) was 0.14 sec⁻¹, and catalytic
342 efficiency (k_{cat}/K_m) was consequently calculated as 5.13×10^2 M⁻¹·sec⁻¹. Notably, the substrate affinity
343 ($1/K_m$) toward palmitoleic acid (3.61 mM⁻¹) was 2.5-fold higher than that toward oleic acid (1.47 mM⁻
344 ¹) [10]. This significant discrepancy in the dissociation constant (K_m) suggests that the substrate spec-
345 ificity of CTI exhibits slight promiscuity toward monounsaturated fatty acids. In contrast, their similar
346 turnover numbers (k_{cat}) indicate that once substrates bind at the active site, its *trans* isomer is liberated
347 at an analogous rate independent of the structure, indicating that the rate-determining step is the access
348 and binding of the substrate. In the case of the same CTI family [21], catalytic efficiency of the purified

349 CTI enzyme from *Pseudomonas* sp. strain E-3 can be theoretically calculated as $4.31 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$
350 considering the given information, which is slightly higher than wildtype CTI from *P. putida* KT2440.
351 Nevertheless, its substrate promiscuity is a valuable aspect for further adaptation to various monoun-
352 saturated fatty acids and control over their *cis/trans* isomerism.

353 Not fully understood, cytochrome *c*-type CTIs directly interact with monounsaturated fatty acids at
354 the active site and catalyzes geometric isomerization without chemical support and energy input [43].
355 In a kinetic pattern (Fig. 4a), there was no evidence of allostericity, cooperativity, or substrate/product
356 inhibition. Enzymes within the same *cis/trans* isomerase family (EC 5.2.), such as linoleate isomerase
357 (EC 5.2.1.5) and enoyl-CoA-(Δ) isomerase (EC 5.3.3.8), also catalyze the geometric isomerization of
358 unsaturated fatty acids. Since these enzymes typically involve complicated catalysis steps, undesired
359 side reactions (e.g., the transposition of double bonds), other chemical/enzymatic assistances, and strict
360 substrate specificities, it is challenging to use them for industrial purposes as standalone catalysts to
361 produce a desired compound. During the reaction, the total amounts of *cis* and *trans* isomers remained
362 constant, and unidentified acyl intermediates and byproducts were not detected. Therefore, these find-
363 ings demonstrate that CTI purified from *P. putida* KT2440 catalyzes the direct isomerization of mon-
364 ounsaturated fatty acids without requiring other reactions or chemical assistance. Other wild-type CTIs
365 from different *Pseudomonas* strains showed similar kinetic properties [21, 22], indicating that these
366 enzymes might share the same mechanism for catalysis based on the conserved cytochrome *c* domains.
367 In the case of other cytochrome *c*-type proteins, there is no reports about their biochemical activity on
368 the monounsaturated fatty acids. Therefore, it should be considered that the CTI enzyme can belong
369 to the family of *cis/trans* isomerases (EC 5.2.) as a novel classification of biocatalysts that isomerize
370 the *cis/trans* (geometric) configuration of each specific monounsaturated fatty acid.

371
372 *3.4. Structural properties of the purified CTI from P. putida KT2440*
373 In order to understand the catalytic mechanism of wild-type CTI from *P. putida* KT2440, its protein

374 structural properties were investigated using deep learning-based protein structure predictions (Fig. 5).
375 The mature CTI protein is a large polypeptide consisting of 766 amino acids (Fig. 5a) compared with
376 other cytochrome *c*-type hemoproteins (~20 kDa). Predictions revealed that CTI is composed of three
377 separate domains. The CTI apoprotein has a signal peptide at its N-terminus (Fig. 5b), which is typi-
378 cally found at the N-terminals of other apocytochromes. A leader sequence from the 1st to 20th amino
379 acid residues (MVHRILAGAFAKKOSGAVFG) is recognized by the Sec-dependent secretory path-
380 way in Gram-negative bacteria, and by signal peptidase I, its cleavage occurs right after the 20th amino
381 acid. To respond to environmental changes and the subsequent efflux of cytoplasmic components,
382 CTIs and other protective enzymes should be located in the periplasm. Signal peptides present at their
383 N-terminals function to translocate them into the bacterial periplasm after translation. The observed
384 molecular weight of CTI was approximately 85 kDa in its purified state, indicating the presence of a
385 signal peptide that might be removed during membrane translocation. A signal sequence of wild-type
386 CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 is conserved with other CTI genes found in the same genus of *Pseudo-*
387 *monas* [33], and this sequence appears to be compatible with other Gram-negative bacteria, like *Esch-*
388 *erichia coli* [25]. When the CTI gene is heterologously expressed in *E. coli* strain, it is unnecessary to
389 substitute its native signal sequence for others. Of course, membrane translocation mediated by signal
390 sequence does not ensure proper folding of the CTI protein due to its cytochrome nature.

391 Then, a protein 3D structure model for wild-type CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 was predicted (Fig.
392 5c) using its amino acid sequence (Supplementary Data Fig. S3). Considering membrane translocation,
393 predictions were performed without an N-terminal signal peptide region (1–20 amino acid residues).
394 Structure models were generated for the truncated CTI comprising a total of 746 amino acids, and the
395 most optimal model was chosen. The estimated confidence for the selected model was 0.79, indicating
396 a high accuracy of prediction, and the angstrom error estimates ranged from 0.66 to 10.04 Å (Supple-
397 mentary Data Fig. S8). The angstrom errors for most amino acid residues were below 4.00 Å, whereas
398 the prediction of the first five amino acids (QAPQS, signal peptide-cleaved loop region) was imprecise.

399 Calculating the folding of the truncated region after cleavage remains a challenge. Nevertheless, the
400 model represented two structural features: a cytochrome *c* domain and another repetitive bulky domain.
401 The CTI enzyme derived from *P. putida* KT2440 possesses one heme-binding motif (CVACH, 43–
402 47 amino acid residues). Prediction showed that its cytochrome *c* domain (21–180 amino acid residues)
403 is similar to other monoheme cytochromes *c*, which consist of several α -helices, additional loops, one
404 heme-binding motif, and one heme C cofactor (Fig. 5c). One heme C with an iron ion was artificially
405 aligned near the predicted heme-binding motif of CTI. Indeed, the formation of cytochrome *c* entails
406 the establishment of thioether bonds linking the vinyl groups of heme C molecule with the thiol groups
407 of the heme-binding motif [34]. Considering this, two cysteine thiol groups (Cys₄₃ and Cys₄₆) of the
408 heme-binding motif covalently bind to the vinyl groups of the heme C. One of the axial coordination
409 sites of the iron ion within heme C can be bound to a nitrogen atom belonging to the proximal histidine
410 (His₄₇) in the heme-binding motif, forming a pentacoordinated octahedral complex. This coordination
411 complex enables CTI to perform electron transfer as the catalytic center, and its catalytic significance
412 for the geometric isomerization was proposed by a mutagenesis study [18]. The carbon–carbon double
413 bond of monounsaturated fatty acids can bind with a heme C via coordination at the distal axial ligand
414 position [44], which results in a hexacoordinated octahedral complex. Based on this predicted structure
415 of the putative catalytic domain, the binding pocket surrounding the heme-binding motif was analyzed,
416 along with the substrate alignment (Fig. 6). The binding pocket of the catalytic domain of CTI, which
417 predominantly consists of hydrophobic amino acids, is predicted to be directly exposed to the external
418 surface and has a space with straight-line dimensions ranging from 20–23 Å. Monounsaturated fatty
419 acids with a hydrophobic chain are accessible into the hydrophobic binding pocket, where the ethylene
420 double bond interacts with an iron ion of the heme *c* cofactor. For effective *cis/trans* isomerization, the
421 ethylene double bond of monounsaturated fatty acids should be precisely positioned at the heme center.
422 Linked to the substrate preference of CTI, the double bond of palmitoleic acid in the ω -7 position (~8.6
423 Å terminal length) can be properly aligned at the center of the heme *c* cofactor, whereas that of oleic

424 acid in the ω -9 position (~12.7 Å terminal length) is expected to be loosely-fitted due to its elongated
425 length, causing a shift forward of the double bond. In the case of *cis*-vaccenic acid, it exhibited three
426 times higher CTI activity than oleic acid despite having the same alkyl chain (C_{18:1}) but it has a double
427 bond in the ω -7 position, which is suitable for the CTI reaction, similar to palmitoleic acid. Additionally,
428 CTI exhibited higher substrate specificity against palmitoleic acid than against *cis*-vaccenic acid, prob-
429 ably because molecular interactions between the carboxyl group of fatty acids and hydrophilic amino
430 acids of CTI, such as electrostatic interaction and dipole-dipole attraction, at the entrance of the binding
431 pocket help stabilize the enzyme-substrate complex. The substrate specificity of wildtype CTI is there-
432 fore based on the alkyl chain length and the double bond position of the substrates. Thus, the structure
433 of CTI may have evolved to be suited for 9-hexadecenoic acid, while its promiscuity can be explained
434 by the loose binding entrance and large heme-binding pocket. When bound to the heme iron, π -orbitals
435 of the double bond of monounsaturated fatty acids are highly susceptible to electron donation to the
436 iron in the ferric (Fe³⁺) state [45]. Not still fully understood, the removal of an electron from the double
437 bond transforms a non-rotated double bond (sp²) to a freely rotated state (sp³) without transient satu-
438 ration [43]. Consequently, when the enzyme-substrate complex dissociates, the carbon-carbon double
439 bond can be spontaneously reconstituted depending on its thermodynamic stability [39].

440 Finally, the mature cytochrome *c*-type CTI from *P. putida* KT2440 has a very long primary protein
441 structure consisting of a chain of 746 amino acids, compared to other small monoheme cytochrome *c*-
442 type (class I) hemoproteins. The prediction showed that the other protein domain (181–766 amino acid
443 residues) after the cytochrome *c* domain forms a parasol-like polypeptide chain with repetitive bulky
444 structures (Fig. 5c). This peculiar domain, composing three analogous segments featuring a single β -
445 sheet and extended α -helices, is distinguished from the catalytic domain. Notably, no conserved motif
446 related to cytochromes *c* or other catalysts was identified in the structure, indicating that it has no direct
447 association with catalytic properties. On the other hand, from the architectural perspective, a group of
448 long α -helices distributed in random directions totally envelops the cytochrome *c* domain, and three

449 similar β -sheets appear to stabilize the structure. This parasol-like architecture suggests that when the
450 bacterial membrane is exposed to external harsh conditions the periplasmic CTI protein partially spans
451 the damaged membrane through its parasol-like transmembrane domain, which allows its cytochrome
452 *c* domain to penetrate to an appropriate depth for the geometric isomerization of phospholipids. This
453 demonstration corresponds to the proposed *in vivo* mode of action of CTI [46]. The CTI hemoprotein
454 with an additional parasol-like transmembrane domain is considered to have an advantage for practical
455 applications in the food and lipid industry where hydrophilic enzymes face challenges accessing hy-
456 drophobic substrates in real food products containing oils and fats. Of course, CTI did not catalyze the
457 *cis/trans* isomerization of palmitoleic acid in a triacylglycerol form, tripalmitolein, probably due to
458 difficulty in accessing the heme-binding site. Therefore, for future applications of CTI in food products,
459 its structure should be artificially modified to allow the use of triacylglycerols as substrates.

460

461 **4. Conclusions**

462 In the present study, a cytochrome *c*-type CTI was isolated from the periplasmic fraction of *P. putida*
463 KT2440 through serial chromatographic purification. This large, monomeric CTI protein catalyzed the
464 *cis/trans* isomerization of the double bond in dietary monounsaturated fatty acids. These results sug-
465 gest that the CTI enzyme belongs to the family of *cis/trans* isomerasases (EC 5.2.) as a novel classifica-
466 tion of biocatalysts, which require neither ATP nor cofactors. Moreover, structural understanding of
467 CTI revealed its monoheme cytochrome *c* domain covered with a parasol-like transmembrane domain.
468 These findings shed light on the catalytic mechanism of CTI, as well as its potential as an industrial
469 biocatalyst for controlling the *cis/trans* isomerism of monounsaturated fatty acids. The exploration in
470 this study, which found simple kinetics, robustness, and promiscuity of CTI from *P. putida* KT2440,
471 suggest its potential for repurposing in industrial applications as a biocatalyst to directly control geo-
472 metric isomerism of monounsaturated fatty acids found in food products. For the practical application
473 of CTI, further studies should focus on mass production platform, stability enhancement, specificity

474 diversification, and immobilization of CTI via biotechnological approaches. Especially, further protein
475 engineering of the catalytic domain can evolve CTI to have each different substrate specificity on
476 various monounsaturated fatty acids, as well as triacylglycerols found in dietary lipids.

477

478 **CRedit Authorship Contribution Statement**

479 **Jun-Young Park:** Conceptualization, Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Original draft, Writ-
480 ing - Review & Editing, Visualization. **Min-Gyeong Lee:** Investigation, Validation, Formal analysis,
481 Visualization, Writing - Review & Editing. **Dimitris Charalampopoulos:** Writing - Review & Editing.
482 **Kyung-Min Park:** Writing - Review & Editing, Project administration, Funding acquisition. **Pahn-**
483 **Shick Chang:** Conceptualization, Writing - Review & Editing, Supervision, Project administration.

484

485 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

486 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships
487 that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

488

489 **Data Availability**

490 Data will be made available on request.

491

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Table 1. Purification chart of *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from the periplasmic fraction of *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440

Step	Total volume ¹ (mL)	Total protein (mg)	Total activity ² (units, U)	Specific activity (mU/mg)
Periplasmic extraction	2000.00	960.00	2.03	3.19
60% (NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄ precipitation	35.00	831.04	1.79	3.39
HiTrap® Q Fast Flow anion exchange chromatography	11.00	173.01	0.38	7.01
HiTrap® DEAE Fast Flow anion exchange chromatography	7.00	24.09	0.14	19.55
HiPrep™ 16/60 Sephacryl® S-100 HR size exclusion chromatography	3.00	0.18	0.04	351.94

¹The periplasmic fraction was extracted from a total of 80 g of *P. putida* KT2440 cells (dry weight, 4 batches), as described in Materials & Methods.

²The CTI activity was evaluated with palmitoleic acid (C_{16:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹), as described in Materials & Methods.

Figure captions

Fig. 1. Serial chromatographic purification of wild-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from the periplasmic fraction of *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440. (a) HiTrap® Q Fast Flow (FF) anion exchange chromatography. (b) HiTrap® DEAE FF anion exchange chromatography. (c) HiPrep™ 16/60 Sephacryl® S-100 HR size exclusion chromatography. Proteins in each eluted fraction were detected by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm wavelength. The eluted fractions were dialyzed into 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), and the CTI activity was evaluated against palmitoleic acid as a substrate.

Fig. 2. Structural identification of wild-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440. (a) Analytical size exclusion chromatography of the purified CTI. A calibration curve for estimating the molecular weight was derived using five standard proteins: thyroglobulin from bovine thyroid gland (670 kDa), γ -globulin from bovine blood (150 kDa), ovalbumin (44.3 kDa), ribonuclease A type I-A (13.7 kDa), and *p*-aminobenzoic acid (0.137 kDa). V_e , the peak elution volume of protein; V_o , the void volume of column. (b) SDS-PAGE analysis of eluted proteins in each purification step. A single thick protein band containing putative CTIs was detected in a highly purified sample. M, protein molecular marker; Lane 1, crude periplasmic extracts; Lane 2, unbound fractions (integrated 2–3 fractions, 1.0 mL/fraction) from HiTrap® Q Fast Flow (FF) anion exchange chromatography; Lane 3, unbound fractions (integrated 2–3 fractions, 1.0 mL/fraction) from HiTrap® DEAE FF anion exchange chromatography; Lane 4, eluted fractions (integrated 44–51 fractions, 0.5 mL/fraction) from HiPrep™ 16/60 Sephacryl® S-100 HR size exclusion chromatography.

Fig. 3. Isomerization of monounsaturated fatty acids by wild-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440. (a) The GC-FID chromatograms of the reactants before (dash line)

and after (straight line) the 30 min CTI reaction against 1 mM palmitoleic acid (C_{16:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹). Both the substrates and the products in the reactants were fully methylated before GC-FID analysis. (b) Time-course of the production of *trans*-fatty acids from each *cis*-fatty acid (substrate) until reaction equilibration (120 min). PEA, palmitelaidic acid (C_{16:1}, *trans*-Δ⁹); VA, vaccenic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ¹¹); EA, elaidic acid (C_{18:1}, *trans*-Δ⁹). (c) Final conversion rates (%) of *cis* configuration to *trans* configuration from the CTI reactions. POA, palmitoleic acid; cVA, *cis*-vaccenic acid (C_{18:1}, *cis*-Δ¹¹); OA, oleic acid (C_{18:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹). Asterisk denotes significant differences between the data ($p<0.05$).

Fig. 4. Enzyme kinetic analysis of wild-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 against palmitoleic acid (C_{16:1}, *cis*-Δ⁹). (a) Michaelis-Menten plot of the CTI reaction. The initial velocity (v) at each substrate concentration (0.10–1.20 mM) was derived from a linear regression of the time-course CTI reaction (0–30 min). (b) Hanes-Woolf double-reciprocal plot of the reaction. All the CTI reactions (triplicate) were conducted at the optimal reaction pH and temperature.

Fig. 5. Computational prediction of the structure of wild-type *cis/trans* fatty acid isomerase (CTI) from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440. (a) Structural features of CTI. The CTI has a conserved cytochrome *c*-type domain with an iron-containing heme binding motif (CVACH), as well as a Sec/SP1 signal peptide (1–20 residues) at the N-terminus. (b) Prediction of signal peptide (SP) and cleavage site (CS) of CTI. The likelihoods of signal peptide were expressed as region probabilities (P). (c) Predicted three-dimensional protein structure model of CTI. Two cysteine residues (C₄₃ and C₄₆) of the heme-binding motif can be covalently linked to a heme C molecule by two thioether bonds after cytochrome *c* maturation. (For interpretation of the color, the reader should be referred to the web version of this paper.)

Fig. 6. Proposed molecular mechanism of substrate specificity of wild-type *cis/trans* fatty isomerase (CTI) from *P. putida* KT2440. The predicted structure of the cytochrome *c*-type catalytic domain of CTI was represented by its molecular surface and colored according to the degree of hydrophobicity. (For interpretation of the color, the reader should be referred to the web version of this paper.)

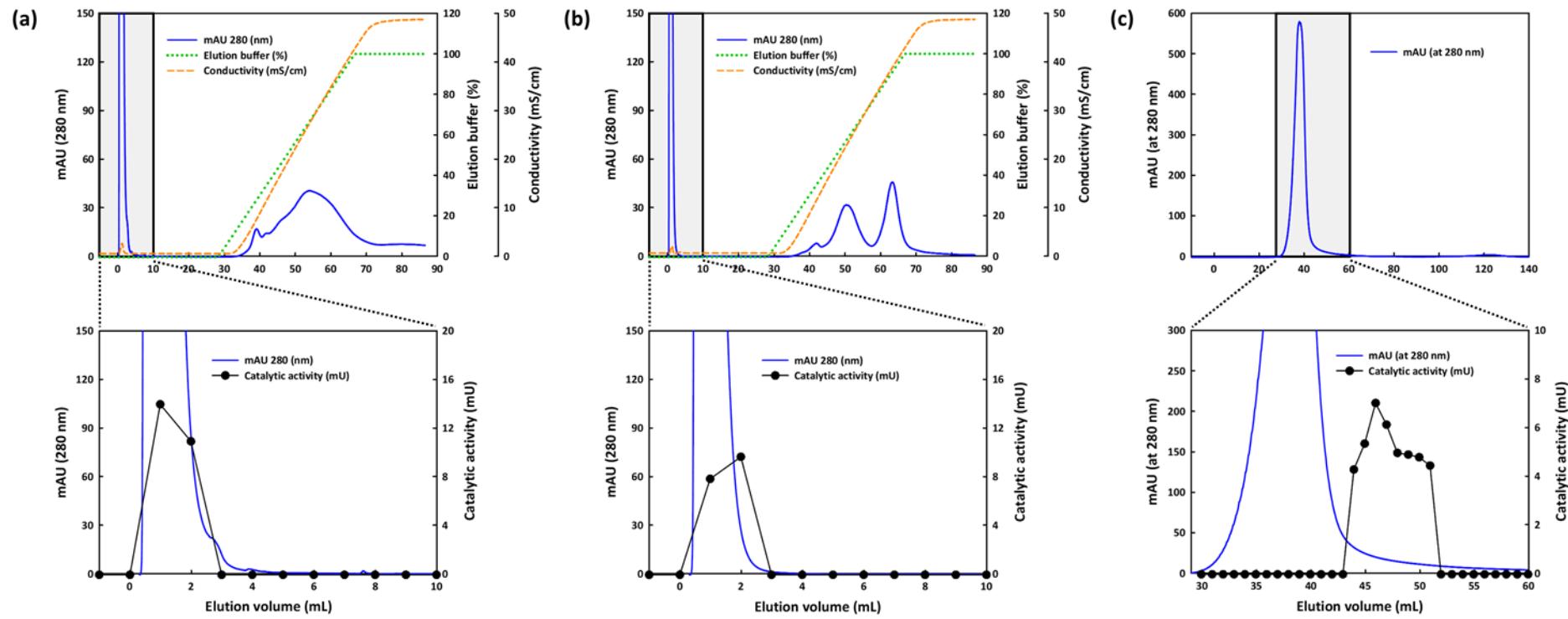


Fig. 1.

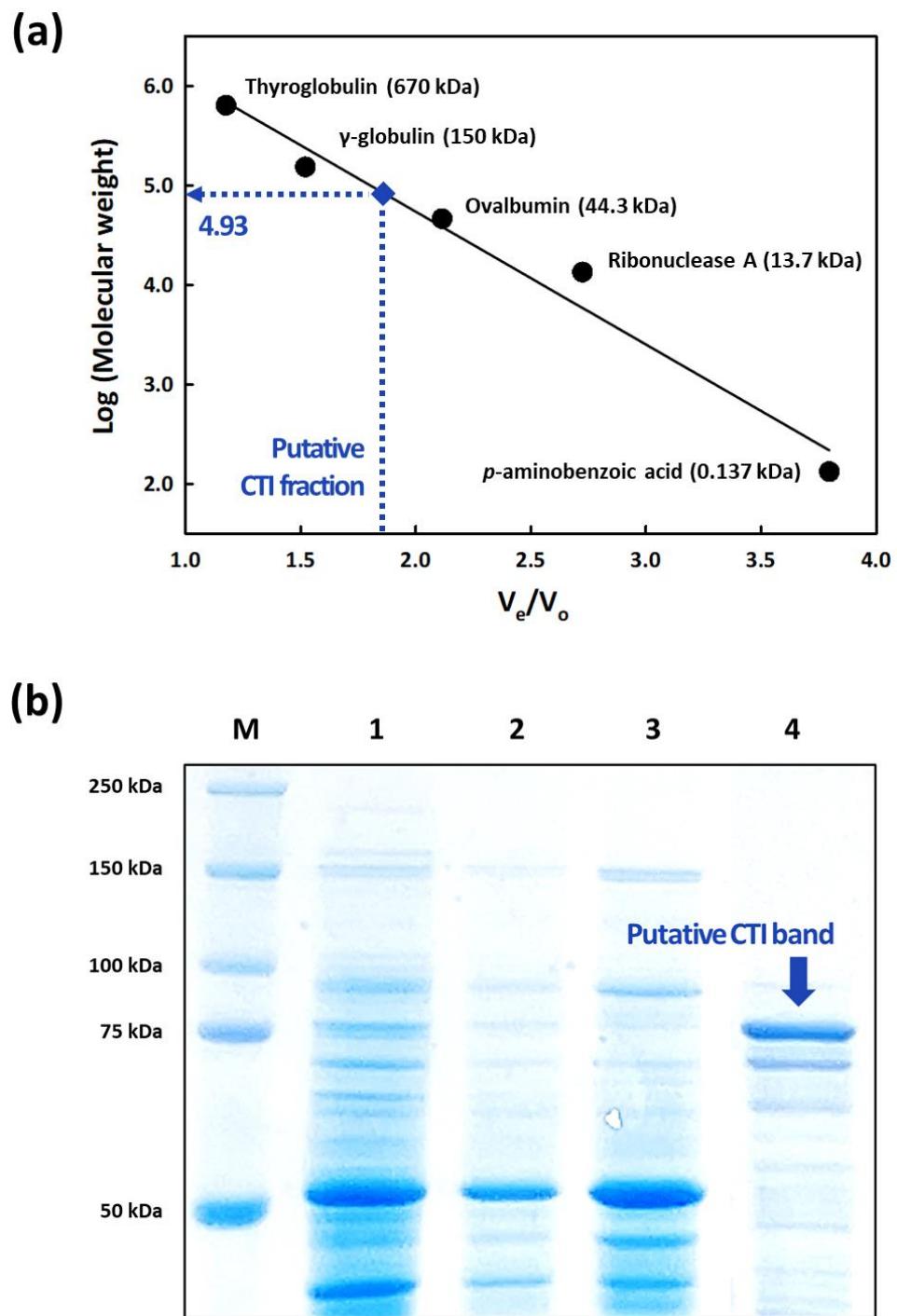


Fig. 2.

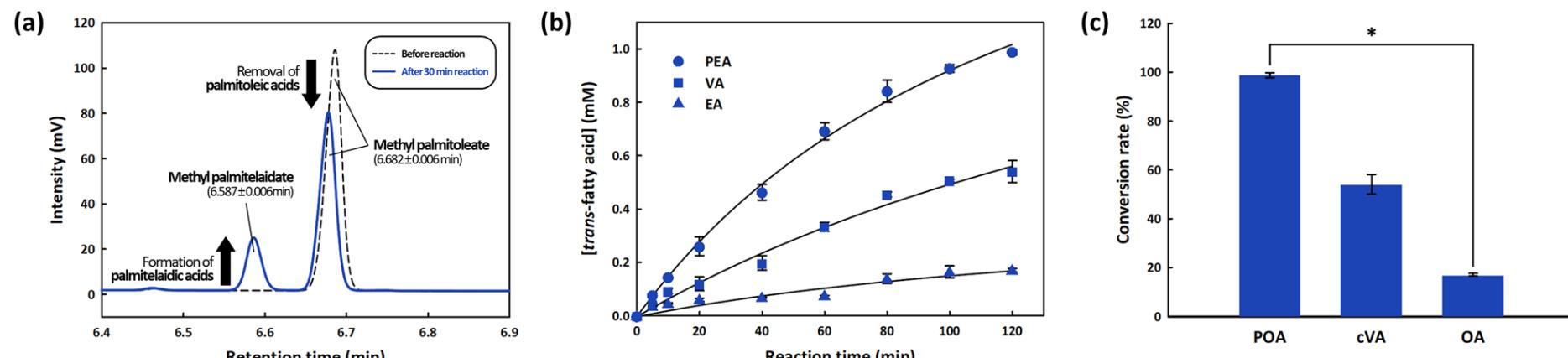


Fig. 3.

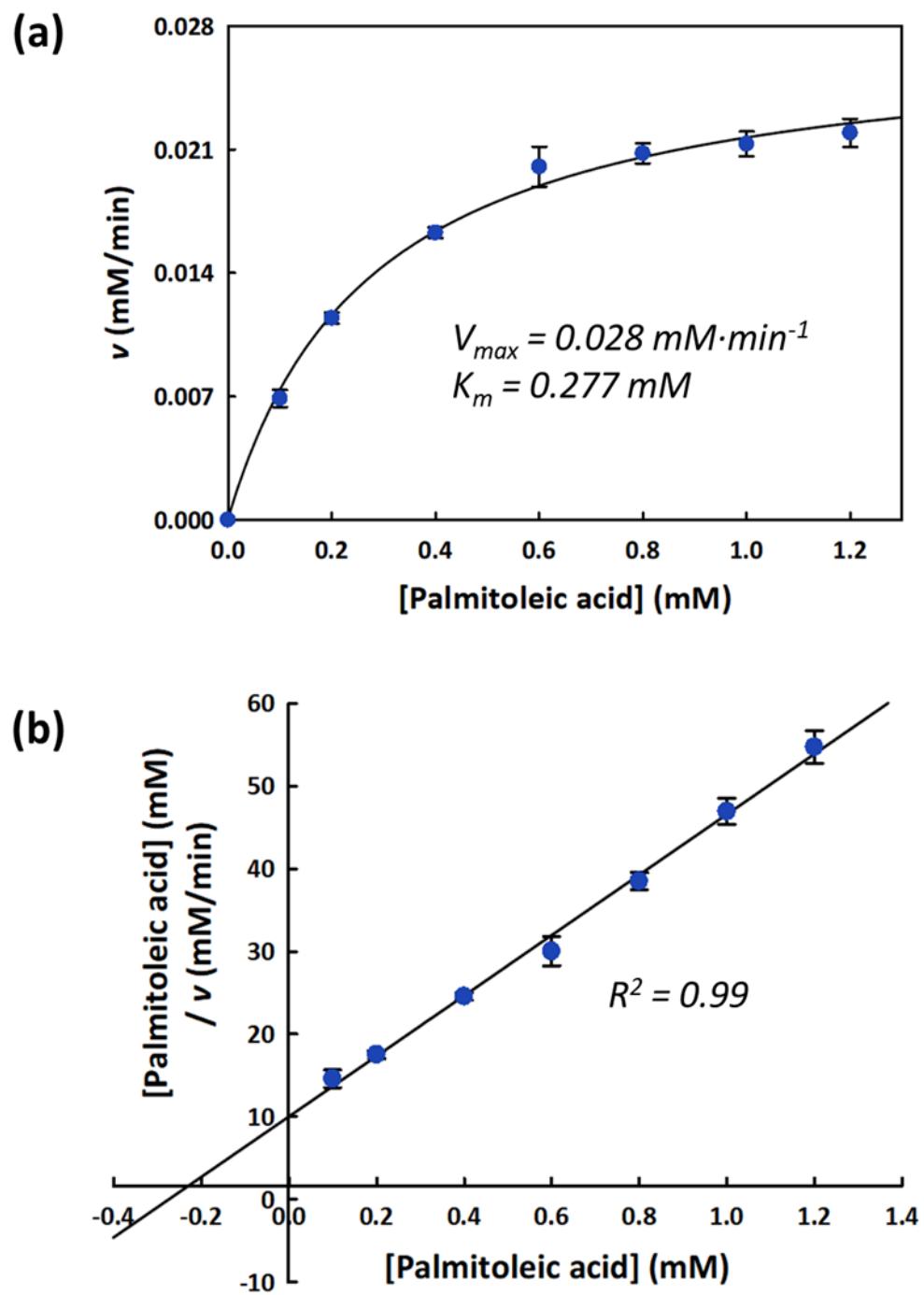


Fig. 4.

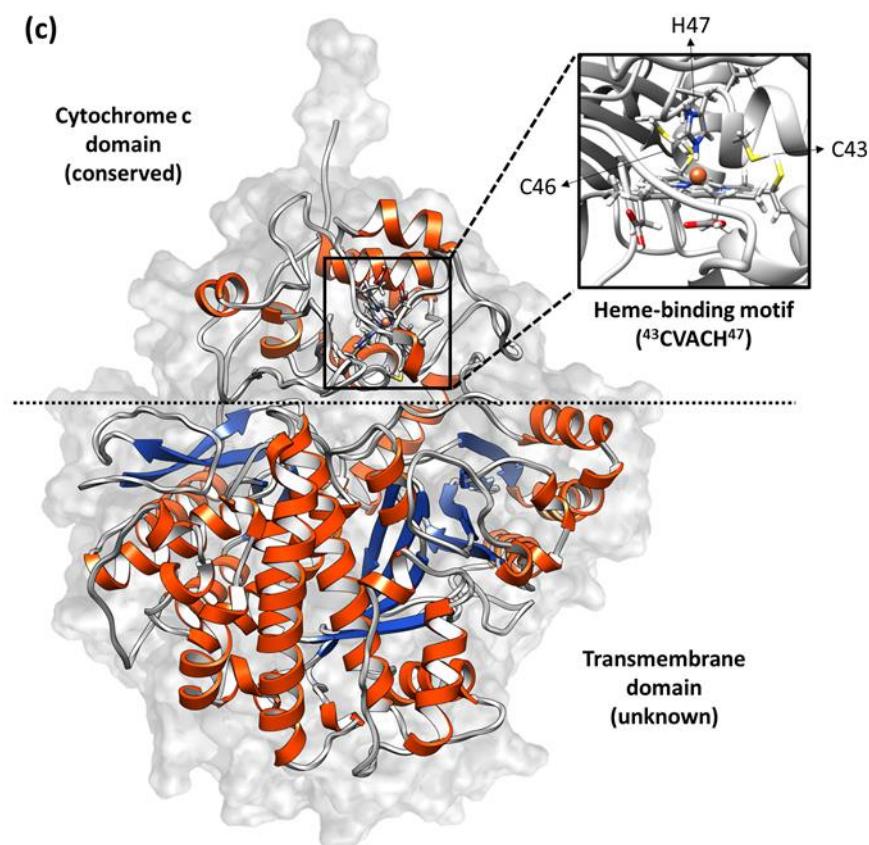
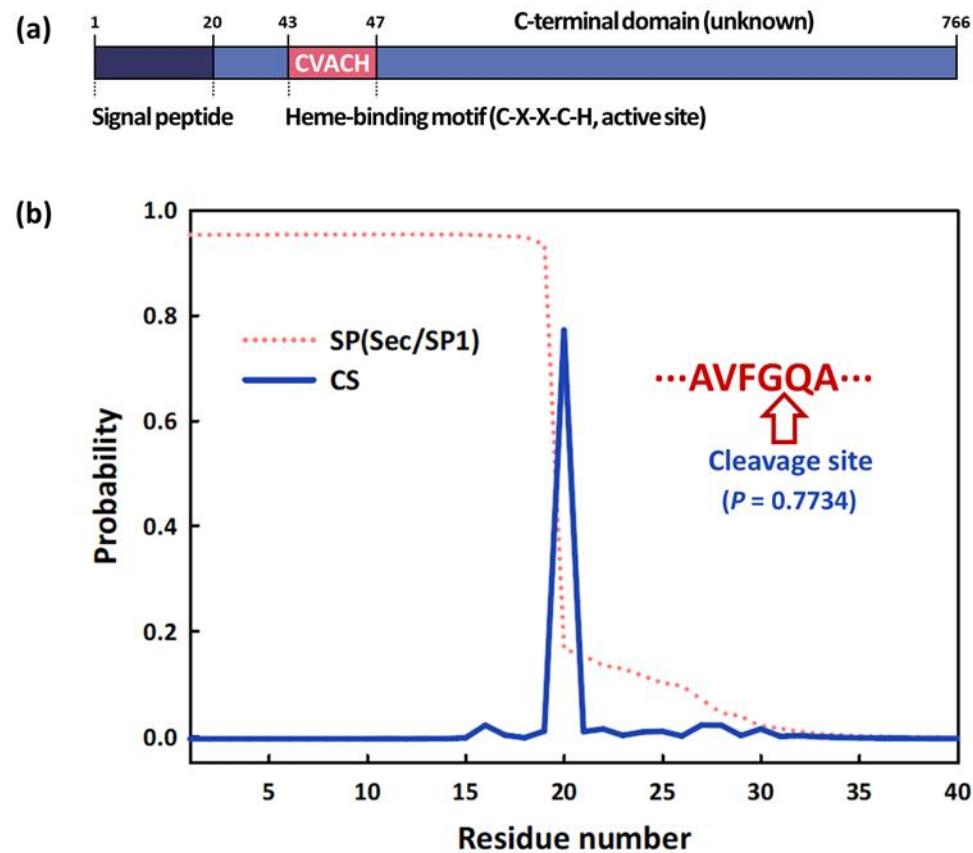
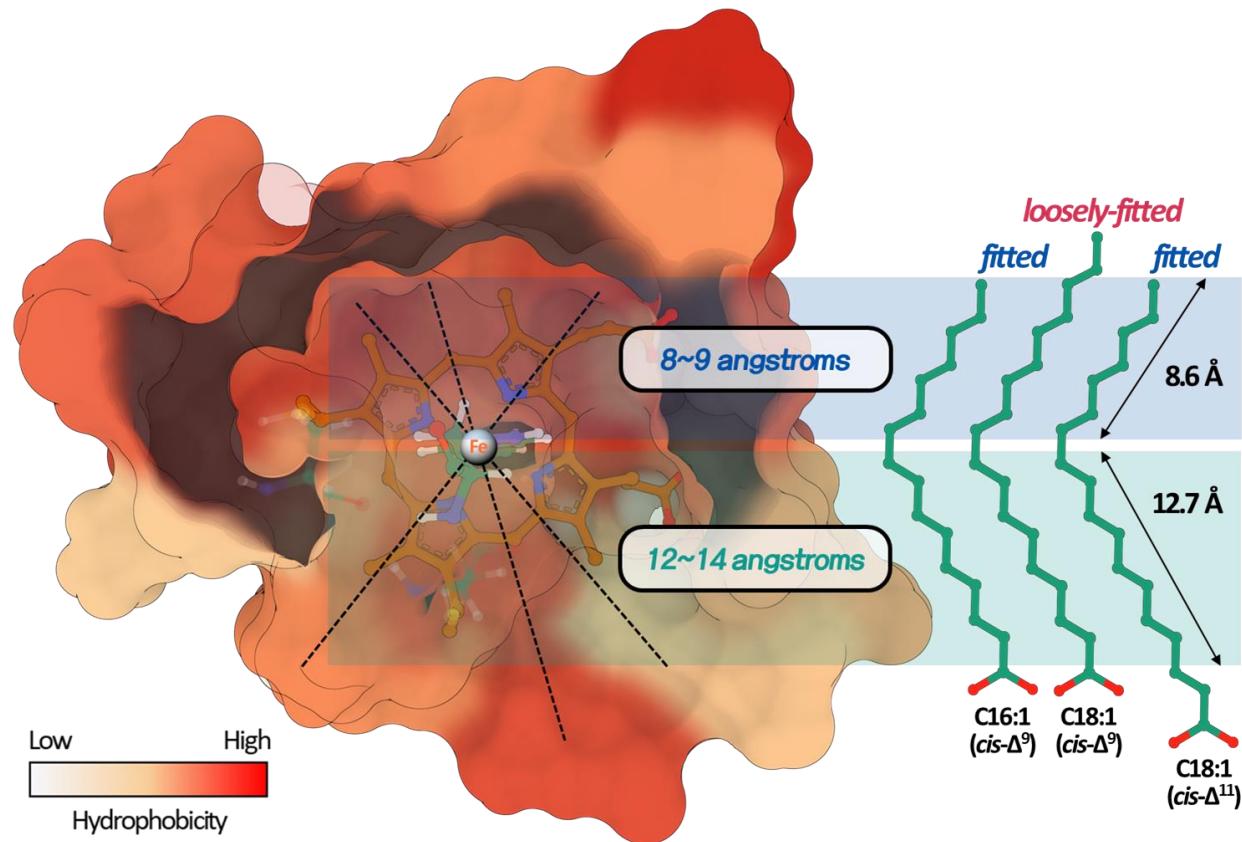


Fig. 5.

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3 Fig. 6.

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