

**Structure of NADH: Quinone Oxidoreductase from *Acidianus ambivalens*: Electron Entry Point of Aerobic Respiratory Chain**

Margarida Archer, José Brito, Tiago M. Bandejas, Miguel Teixeira,  
*Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Apartado 127, 2781-901, Oeiras, Portugal. E-mail: archer@itqb.unl.pt*

NADH:quinone oxidoreductases (NDHs), constitute one of the electron entry points into membrane bound respiratory chains, oxidising NADH and reducing quinones. Type-II NDHs are functionally unable to translocate protons and are typically constituted by a single ~50 kDa subunit lacking iron-sulfur clusters and containing one flavin as redox centre [1]. NDH was isolated from the membrane fraction of *Acidianus ambivalens*, a thermoacidophilic archaeon capable of growing at 80° C and pH 2.0, as an enzyme of 47 kDa, containing a covalently bond flavin with a reduction potential of ~70 mV [2,3].

The membrane-bound NDH was crystallized using ammonium phosphate as precipitant at pH ~ 5. Crystals belong to the hexagonal space group (P6<sub>3</sub>22), with cell parameters a=b=178.76 Å and c=162.57 Å. We describe the first X-ray structure of a novel type-II NDH at 2.6 Å resolution, solved by MIRAS, which will contribute to a better understanding of the catalytic and electronic transfer mechanism.

[1] Yagi T., et al., in *Respiration in Archaea and Bacteria*, 1st Ed., Kluwer Publishing, Germany, 2004, 15. [2] Gomes C. M., Bandejas T. M., Teixeira M., *J. Bioenerg. Biomembr.*, 2001, **33**, 1. [3] Bandejas T. M., et al., *FEBS Letters*, 2002, **531**, 273.

**Keywords:** membrane protein, respiratory chain, extremophile