

Crystal structure of the 3C protease from Southern African Territories type 2 foot-and-mouth disease virus

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The replication of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) is dependent on the virus-encoded 3C protease (3C^{pro}). As in other picornaviruses, 3C^{pro} performs most of the proteolytic processing of the polyprotein expressed from the large open reading frame in the RNA genome of the virus. Previous work revealed that the 3C^{pro} from serotype A - one of the seven serotypes of FMDV - adopts a trypsin-like fold. On the basis of capsid sequence comparisons the FMDV serotypes are grouped into two phylogenetic clusters, with O, A, C, and Asia 1 in one, and the three Southern African Territories serotypes, (SAT-1, SAT-2 and SAT-3) in another, a grouping pattern that is broadly, but not rigidly, reflected in 3C^{pro} amino acid sequences. We report here the cloning, expression and purification of 3C proteases from four SAT serotype viruses (SAT2/GHA/8/91, SAT1/NIG/5/81, SAT1/UGA/1/97, and SAT2/ZIM/7/83) and the crystal structure at 3.2Å resolution of 3C^{pro} from SAT2/GHA/8/91.

1 **Crystal structure of the 3C protease from Southern African**
2 **Territories type 2 foot-and-mouth disease virus**

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17 conservation, drug target.

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 The replication of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) is dependent on the virus-encoded
21 3C protease (3C^{pro}). As in other picornaviruses, 3C^{pro} performs most of the proteolytic
22 processing of the polyprotein expressed from the large open reading frame in the RNA
23 genome of the virus. Previous work revealed that the 3C^{pro} from serotype A – one of the
24 seven serotypes of FMDV – adopts a trypsin-like fold. On the basis of capsid sequence
25 comparisons the FMDV serotypes are grouped into two phylogenetic clusters, with O, A, C,
26 and Asia 1 in one, and the three Southern African Territories serotypes, (SAT-1, SAT-2 and
27 SAT-3) in another, a grouping pattern that is broadly, but not rigidly, reflected in 3C^{pro}
28 amino acid sequences. We report here the cloning, expression and purification of 3C
29 proteases from four SAT serotype viruses (SAT2/GHA/8/91, SAT1/NIG/5/81,
30 SAT1/UGA/1/97, and SAT2/ZIM/7/83) and the crystal structure at 3.2 Å resolution of
31 3C^{pro} from SAT2/GHA/8/91.

32

33 INTRODUCTION

34 Diseases caused by RNA viruses are often difficult to control because of the high mutation
35 rate and the continual emergence of novel genetic and antigenic variants that escape from
36 immune surveillance. The degree to which immunity induced by one virus is effective
37 against another is largely dependent on the antigenic differences between them. Foot-and-
38 mouth disease virus (FMDV) is an example of an antigenically variable pathogen that
39 infects many species of cloven-hoofed animals, such as cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, and
40 remains a potent threat to agricultural livestock (Sutmoller et al. 2003). Although FMD
41 vaccines made from chemically inactivated virus particles are in widespread use, control of
42 the disease remains difficult. This is because the vaccines provide only short-lived
43 protection and the virus occurs as seven clinically indistinguishable serotypes (O, A, C,
44 Asia1 and three Southern African Territories serotypes: SAT1, SAT2 and SAT3), each of
45 which has multiple, constantly evolving sub-types (Knowles & Samuel 2003). Viruses
46 belonging to the SAT serotypes display appreciably greater genomic and antigenic
47 variation in their capsid proteins compared to serotype A and O viruses (Bastos et al. 2001;
48 Bastos et al. 2003; Maree et al. 2011), possibly due to their long term maintenance within
49 African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*). Constant surveillance of circulating strains is required to
50 ensure that vaccine stocks remain effective.

51 In common with other members of the picornavirus family, FMDV has a single-stranded,
52 positive-sense RNA genome. Cell entry in infected hosts is followed immediately by
53 translation of a large open reading frame in the viral RNA. This yields a polyprotein
54 precursor of over 2,000 amino acids that is processed into fourteen distinct capsid and

55 non-structural proteins for virus replication. The majority of this processing is done by the
56 virus-encoded 3C protease (3C^{pro}), which cleaves the precursor at ten distinct sites. FMDV
57 3C^{pro} may also assist infection by proteolysis of host cell proteins and has RNA-binding
58 activity that is important for initiation of replication of the viral RNA [reviewed in (Curry et
59 al. 2007b)].

60 Crystallographic analysis of the 3C^{pro} from a type A FMDV (sub-type A10₆₁) showed that,
61 similar to other picornavirus 3C proteases, it adopts a trypsin-like fold consisting of two β-
62 barrels that pack together to create a centrally-located Cys-His-Asp/Glu catalytic triad in
63 the active site (Allaire et al. 1994; Matthews et al. 1994; Mosimann et al. 1997; Birtley et al.
64 2005; Yin et al. 2005). Subsequent studies on FMDV 3C^{pro} complexed with peptides derived
65 from the viral polyprotein work revealed that substrate recognition is achieved by
66 conformational changes primarily involving the movement of a β-ribbon (residues 138-
67 150) that helps to secure the position of cognate peptides in relation to the active site of the
68 protein (Sweeney et al. 2007; Zunszain et al. 2010).

69 Sequence analysis has shown that while variation within FMDV 3C^{pro} does not rigidly
70 reflect that observed with capsid proteins, the SAT_type 3C proteases generally form a
71 distinct cluster (van Rensburg et al. 2002). Mapping of the sequence variation between
72 different FMDV serotypes onto the structure of A10₆₁ 3C^{pro} indicated that the peptide-
73 binding face of the protease is completely conserved among the non-SAT serotypes (which
74 are 91-97% conserved in amino-acid sequence), supporting the notion that identification of
75 inhibitors of the protease might aid the development of broad spectrum antiviral drugs
76 (Birtley et al. 2005; Curry et al. 2007a). This structure should therefore serve as a useful

77 model for the 3C protease from this group of viruses. However, the same comparison
78 suggested the presence of at least two amino acid differences on the peptide-binding
79 surfaces between A10₆₁ 3C^{pro} and the corresponding 3C sequences from SAT serotype
80 viruses.

81 To provide a more complete picture of the structural variation between FMDV 3C proteases
82 from different serotypes, we set out to determine the crystal structure of 3C^{pro} from at least
83 one SAT serotype virus. We report here the cloning and expression of 3C^{pro} from four
84 distinct SAT1 and SAT2 viruses and the crystal structure of the 3C^{pro} from a SAT2 serotype
85 virus (SAT2/GHA/8/91).

86

87 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

88 **Cloning and mutagenesis:** We used the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the
89 coding regions for the FMDV 3C proteases of sub-types SAT2/GHA/8/91 (Accession No.
90 AY884136), SAT1/NIG/5/81 (Accession No. AY882592), SAT1/UGA/1/97 (Accession No.
91 AF283456), and SAT2/ZIM/7/83 (Accession No. AF540910). In each case the reaction was
92 performed using DNA primers (Table 1) that introduced 5' *Xho*I and a 3' *Hind*III restriction
93 sites into the PCR products. These served to facilitate ligation into a version of the pETM-11
94 vector that had been modified to insert a thrombin cleavage site immediately downstream
95 of the N-terminal His tag (Birtley & Curry 2005). DNA ligations were performed using the
96 Roche Rapid Ligation Kit according to the manufacturer's instructions.

97 Site-directed mutagenesis was performed with the Quikchange method (Stratagene), using
98 KOD polymerase (Novagen). All DNA sequences were verified by sequencing.

99 Details of the particular modifications made to expressed proteins are given in the Results
100 and Discussion section.

101 **Protein Expression and Purification:** All SAT-type 3C proteases were expressed in
102 cultures of BL21 (DE3) pLysS *E. coli* (Invitrogen) grown in lysogeny broth (LB) at 37°C with
103 shaking at 225 rpm. Protein expression was induced for 5 hours by the addition of 1 mM
104 isopropyl β -d-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) once the optical density at 600 nm reached
105 0.8-1.0. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4550 g for 15 min at 4°C and frozen at -
106 80 °C.

107 The volumes given below are appropriate for processing the pellet from 1 L of bacterial
108 culture. Cell pellets were thawed on ice and re-suspended in 30 mL Buffer A (50 mM HEPES
109 pH7.1, 400 mM NaCl, 1 mM β -mercaptoethanol) supplemented with 0.1% Triton X-100 and
110 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) protease inhibitor. Cells were lysed by
111 sonication on ice and lysates clarified by centrifugation at 29,000 g for 20 min at 4°C.
112 Protamine Sulphate (Sigma) was added to 1 mg/ml final concentration to precipitate
113 nucleic acids, and lysates were then centrifuged again at 29,000 g for 20 min. The
114 supernatant was filtered using a 1.2 μ m syringe filter and incubated for 90 minutes at 4°C
115 with slow rotation in 1 mL bed volume of TALON metal affinity resin (Clontech) pre-
116 equilibrated with buffer A. This slurry was applied to a gravity-flow column and the TALON
117 beads washed three times with 50 mL of Buffer A supplemented with 0, 5 and 10 mM
118 imidazole respectively. His-tagged 3C proteins were eluted in 20 ml of Buffer A containing

119 100 mM imidazole, followed by a final wash with 10 ml of Buffer A containing 250 mM
120 imidazole. To remove the His tag the eluted protein was mixed with 100 units of bovine
121 thrombin (Sigma) and dialysed for 16 hr at 4°C in 4 L of Buffer A supplemented with 2 mM
122 CaCl₂. Cleaved protein was then re-applied to TALON resin to remove the cleaved His tag
123 and other contaminants. The untagged protease was recovered in the flow through,
124 concentrated using Vivaspin concentrators (3 kD MWCO) (Sartorius Stedim Biotech) and
125 further purified by gel filtration using HiLoad 16/60 Superdex 75 gel filtration column
126 (Amersham Bioscience) in Buffer A supplemented with 1 mM EDTA and 0.01% sodium
127 azide at flow rate of 0.5 ml/min. Peak fractions were pooled, concentrated and stored at –
128 80 °C. Protein concentrations were determined from absorbance measurements at 280 nm
129 using extinction coefficients calculated with the ProtParam tool (Gastiger et al. 2005).

130 **Crystallisation and structure determination:** Crystallisation trials with purified SAT-
131 type 3C^{pro} were performed at 4°C and 18°C using protein concentrations in the range 5-
132 10 mg/mL. Initial screens were done by sitting drop vapour diffusion using a Mosquito
133 crystallisation robot (TTP Labtech). Typically in each drop 100 nl of protein was mixed
134 with 100nl taken from the 100 µL reservoir solution. Trials were performed with the
135 following commercial screens: Crystal screen 1 and 2, and PEG/Ion (Hampton Research);
136 Memstart, Memcys, JCSG+, and PACT (Molecular Dimensions); Wizard 1 and 2 (Rigaku
137 Reagents).

138 Crystals of g3C-SAT2-G(1-208) for data collection were washed in the mother liquor (15%
139 (w/v) PEG-8000, 0.09 M Na-cacodylate pH 7.0, 0.27 M Ca-acetate, 0.01 M Tris pH 8.5, 0.08
140 M Na-thiocyanate) supplemented with 20% (v/v) glycerol, and immediately frozen in

141 liquid nitrogen in a nylon loop. X-ray diffraction data were processed and scaled with the
142 CCP4 program suite (Collaborative Computer Project No. 4 1994), and phased by molecular
143 replacement using the coordinates of type A10₆₁ FMDV 3C^{pro} (PDB ID 2j92; (Sweeney et al.
144 2007)) as a search model in Phaser (McCoy et al. 2007). The search model was edited to
145 delete side-chains (to the C_β atom) for all residues that differed with g3C-SAT2-G(1-208)
146 and to remove all the atoms in the β-ribbon (residues 138-150), since these have been
147 observed to vary in structure between different crystal forms (Sweeney et al. 2007). Model
148 building and adjustments were done using Coot (Emsley et al. 2010); crystallographic
149 refinement was performed initially with CNS (Brünger et al. 1998) and completed using
150 Phenix (Adams et al. 2010).

151

152 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

153 **Protein expression and crystallisation:** We engineered bacterial expression plasmids for
154 FMDV 3C proteases from four SAT sub-types: SAT2/GHA/8/91, SAT1/NIG/5/81,
155 SAT1/UGA/1/97, and SAT2/ZIM/7/83 (see Materials and Methods) which have 80%, 92%,
156 82% and 85% amino acid sequence identity respectively with the 3C^{pro} from FMDV A10₆₁
157 (Fig. 1). In doing so we were guided by the lessons learned from work to express and
158 crystallise subtype A10₆₁ FMDV 3C^{pro}, which suggested that preserving the N terminus of
159 the protein but truncating the C terminus by up to six residues would be optimal for
160 solubility and crystallisation (Birtley & Curry 2005). Accordingly, for each SAT sub-type we
161 generated expression constructs that add a thrombin-cleavable His tag to the N terminus of
162 residues 1-208 of the 213 amino acid 3C protease; following thrombin cleavage there is a

163 single additional Gly residue appended to the N terminus of the protease polypeptide. To
164 ensure the solubility of the SAT-type 3C proteins, we introduced to all constructs a C142A
165 substitution to remove a surface-exposed Cys that had been shown previously to be
166 responsible for protein aggregation (Birtley & Curry 2005; Birtley et al. 2005). (The C95K
167 mutation also introduced to eliminate aggregation of A10₆₁ FMDV 3C^{pro} (Birtley & Curry
168 2005) was not needed here because residue 95 is an Arg in the SAT 3C proteases used in
169 this study). In addition, the active site nucleophile was eliminated from all constructs by
170 incorporation of a C163A substitution to prevent adventitious proteolysis in highly
171 concentrated samples of purified 3C^{pro}. For consistency with our earlier naming scheme
172 these SAT2/GHA/8/91, SAT1/NIG/5/81, SAT1/UGA/1/97, and SAT2/ZIM/7/83 3C
173 constructs will be referred to as SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208), SAT1/N-g3C^{pro}(1-208), SAT1/U-
174 g3C^{pro}(1-208), and SAT2/Z- g3C^{pro}(1-208) respectively.

175 The 3C^{pro} proteins from all four SAT sub-types yielded soluble protein that was purified
176 first by metal-affinity chromatography and then, following thrombin cleavage of the
177 N-terminal His tag, on a gel filtration column (see Materials and Methods). Of the four,
178 SAT1/N-g3C^{pro}(1-208) appeared to be the most soluble and could be concentrated to
179 20 mg/mL (see Table 2). The other three variants exhibited some precipitation during gel
180 filtration, indicated by a void peak containing aggregated 3C^{pro}, which was about one-third
181 of the area of the monomeric peak. They also had lower apparent solubility limits and could
182 be concentrated to ~6 mg/mL [SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208)] or ~11 mg/mL [SAT1/U- g3C^{pro}(1-
183 208), and SAT2/Z- g3C^{pro}(1-208)].

184 In crystallisation trials we only obtained crystals from the 3C^{pro} of a single sub-type:
185 SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208). These exhibited a variety of habits but the largest were needle-
186 shaped and were typically 10 µm wide and up to 300 µm long. In initial diffraction tests on
187 beamline ID23-2 at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) showed that the
188 crystals belonged to a trigonal spacegroup and diffracted to a resolution limit of 2 Å.
189 Unfortunately, for reasons that remain unclear, efforts to reproduce these crystals proved
190 unsuccessful. In subsequent trials diffraction was limited to ~3 Å.

191 We used mutagenesis to engineer modifications to the SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) construct in
192 the search for better crystals. Although alterations to trim the C-terminus by one residue
193 [in SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-207)], or to add back a single His residue [in SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-207h)]
194 – strategies that had been useful when working with type A10₆₁ 3C^{pro} (Birtley & Curry
195 2005) — both yielded soluble protein (Table 2) and SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-207h) produced
196 crystals, there was no improvement in the resolution of the diffraction.

197 In a further effort to enhance crystal quality, we used the Surface Entropy Reduction
198 prediction server (Goldschmidt et al. 2007) to design additional SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208)
199 mutants. We made four different mutants, each containing the following pairs of
200 substitutions: (i) K110T/K111Y (ii) K110Y/K111T; (iii) K51A/K54Y; (iv) K51T/K54S. Of
201 these, only the K51A/K54Y mutant gave protein that was as soluble as wild-type. The
202 K110T/K111Y and K51T/K54S double-mutants produced significantly larger void peaks
203 during purification by gel filtration chromatography, while the K110Y/K111T double-
204 mutant appeared almost entirely aggregated under these conditions. For the three surface-
205 entropy mutants that did yield some soluble protein, no useable crystals were obtained.

206 **Structure of SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208):** A complete dataset to 3.2 Å resolution was obtained
207 from crystals of SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208). The crystals belong to space-group P3₂ and have a
208 long c-axis (318.5 Å). The diffraction data were phased by molecular replacement using a
209 search model based on the crystal structure of type A10₆₁ FMDV 3C^{pro}, which is 80%
210 identical in amino-acid sequence to SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) (see Materials and Methods).
211 This gave an unambiguous solution with a log likelihood gain of 1495 (McCoy et al. 2007),
212 revealing five molecules in the asymmetric unit. Though of modest resolution, the initial
213 electron density maps (Fig. 2a) were of sufficient quality to guide adjustment of the initial
214 molecular replacement model prior to multiple interleaved rounds of refinement and
215 model building. Because of the limited resolution and non-crystallographic symmetry,
216 refinement was performed using group B-factors and non-crystallographic restraints.
217 Model building was done conservatively – amino acid side-chains were truncated to the C_β
218 atom in cases where there was no indicative electron density. The final model of SAT2/G-
219 g3C^{pro}(1-208) contains residues 7-207 for all five chains and has an R_{free} of 27.2% and good
220 stereochemistry; full data collection and refinement statistics are given in Table 3.

221 As expected, given the high level of amino acid sequence identity with A10₆₁ 3C^{pro} (80%),
222 FMDV SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) adopts the same trypsin-like fold (Fig. 2b), which has been
223 described in detail elsewhere (Birtley et al. 2005; Sweeney et al. 2007). Superposition of
224 the five molecules in the asymmetric unit shows that they are highly similar to one another
225 (Fig. 1 and 2c) – the pair-wise root mean square deviation in C_α positions between chains is
226 0.2-0.3 Å. The largest differences are observed in the longest surface-exposed loops, the E₁-
227 F₁ loop in the N-terminal β-barrel and the B₂-C₂ loop known as the β-ribbon in the C-

228 terminal β -barrel (Fig. 2c). These are also the regions of greatest difference between
229 SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) and A10₆₁ 3C^{pro}; (overlay of the two structures yields an overall rms
230 deviation in C _{α} positions of ~ 0.6 Å) (Fig. 2d). The flexibility of the β -ribbon, which shifts in
231 position to aid peptide binding, has been noted before (Zunzain et al. 2010) and clearly it
232 plays a similar role in SAT-type 3C proteases.

233

234 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

235 The results reported here provide a template structure of a SAT-type FMDV 3C protease
236 that should be of value in directing molecular investigations of this group of proteases.
237 Although it is frustrating that higher-resolution diffraction data were not obtained, given
238 that initial crystals of SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) diffracted to 2 Å, this should be possible with
239 further optimization. Likewise, since soluble 3C^{pro} was found to be purified from three
240 other SAT-type viruses – notably SAT1/NIG/5/81 – crystal structures for these proteases
241 may well also be achievable.

242

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315
- 316

317 FIGURES

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          αN      A1      B1      C1  α1      D1
          hhhhhhhh ssssssss ssssssssss ssssshhh ssss s
A10(61)  SGAPPTDLQKMVMGNTKPVILDGKTVAICCATGVFGTAYLVPRHLFAEKYDKIMLDGR 60
SAT2/GHA/8/91  SGAPPTDLQKMVMANVKPVILDGKTVALCCATGVFGTAYLVPRHLFAEKYDKVVDLGR 60
SAT1/NIG/5/81  SGAPPTDLQKMVMANTKPVILDGKTVAICCATGVFGTAYLVPRHLFAEKYDKIMIDGR 60
SAT1/UGA/1/97  SGAPPTDLQKMVMANVKPVILDGKIVALCCATGVFGTAYLVPRHLFAEKYDKIMLDGR 60
SAT2/ZIM/7/83  SGCPPTDLQKMVMANVKPVILDGKTVALCCATGVFGTAYLVPRHLFAEKYDKIMLDGR 60
          **.*.....*.*.....*****:*****:*****:*****:***

          E1N  E1  E'1  F'1  F1      A2
          ss  ssssss sss  ssss  ssssss      ssssss
A10(61)  AMTDSDYRVFEFEIKVKGQDMLSDAALMVLHRGNCVRDITKHFRDTARMKKGTPVVGTVN 120
SAT2/GHA/8/91  QLDNSDFRVFEFEIKVKGQDMSDAALMVLNRGQVRDITMHRDQVHIKKGTPVLGVIN 120
SAT1/NIG/5/81  AITDRDFRVFEFEIKVKGQDMLSDAALMVLHRGNRVRDITKHFRDQARLRKKGTPVGVIN 120
SAT1/UGA/1/97  ALTNGDFRVFEFEIKVKGQDMLSDAALMVLNRGQVRDITAHFRDTRVAKGNPVVGTVN 120
SAT2/ZIM/7/83  ALTDSDFRVFEFEIKVKGQDMLSDAALMVLHSGNRVRDLTGHRDTRMKLKSGSPVVGTVN 120
          : : *:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*
          B2      B'2  C'2  C2      D2      E2
          s  ssssssssssssss ssss  ssssss  ssssss      ssssss  ssssss
A10(61)  NADVGRILFSGEALTYKDIVVCMGDGTMPLGFAYKAATRAGYCGGAVLAKDGADTFIVGT 180
SAT2/GHA/8/91  NADVGRILFSGDALTYKDVVCMGDGTMPLGFAYRAGTKVGYCGGAVMTKDGAHTVVIIGT 180
SAT1/NIG/5/81  NADVGRILFSGEALTYKDIVVCMGDGTMPLGFAYKAATKAGYCGGAVLAKDGAETFIVGT 180
SAT1/UGA/1/97  NADVGRILFSGDALTYNDIVVCMGDGTMPLGFAYRAGTKVGYCGAAVLTKSGSQTVIIGT 180
SAT2/ZIM/7/83  NADVGRILFSGDALTYKDLVCMGDGTMPLGFAYRAGTKVGYCGAAVLAKDGAKTVIVGT 180
          *****:*****:*****:*****:*.*.*****.*****:*.*.*****:***
          E2      F2      αC
          ssssss  ssssss  hhhhhhhhhhhh
A10(61)  HSAGGNGVGYCSCVSRSMQLQMKAHVEPEPHHE 213
SAT2/GHA/8/91  HSAGGNGVGYCSCVSRSSLLQLKAHIDPEPRTE 213
SAT1/NIG/5/81  HSAGGNGVGYCSCVSRSMQLQMKAHIDPEPHHE 213
SAT1/UGA/1/97  HSAGGNGVGYCSCVSKSMLDQMKAHIDPAPHTE 213
SAT2/ZIM/7/83  HSAGGNGVGYCSCVSRSMQLQMKAHIDPPPHE 213
          *****:*****:* * :*:*:*:* * * *

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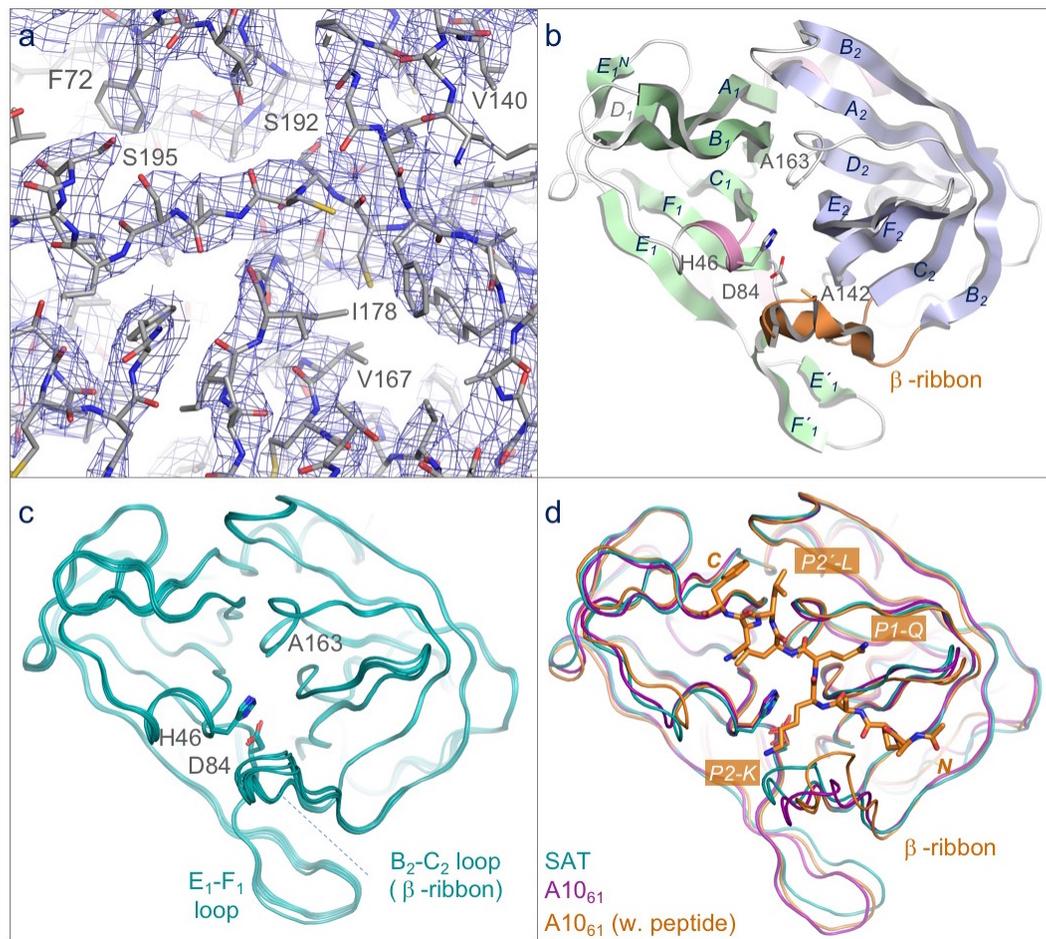
318

319 **Figure 1: Amino acid sequence alignment of A10₆₁ 3C^{pro} with the 3C proteases from**320 **the four SAT serotypes used in this study.** Secondary structure features are indicated (h321 = α -helix; s = β -strand), and coloured and labelled as in Fig. 2b (consistent with the naming

322 scheme used in (Birtley et al. 2005).

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326 **Figure 2: Structure of the 3C protease from the SAT2/GHA/8/91 serotype FMDV.**

327 (a) Section of the 3.2 Å resolution electron density map (blue chicken wire) calculated with
 328 phases from the final refined model, which is shown as sticks coloured by atom type: grey –
 329 carbon; red – oxygen; blue – nitrogen; yellow – sulphur. (b) Overall structure of SAT2/G-
 330 g3C^{pro}(1-208), with secondary structure elements indicated. The N- and C-terminal β-
 331 barrels are coloured green and blue respectively. (c) Superposition of the five molecules of
 332 SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) in the asymmetric unit of the crystal, shown in ribbon
 333 representation. (d) Comparative superposition of SAT2/G-g3C^{pro}(1-208) (teal) with A10₆₁
 334 3C^{pro} in the absence (purple; PDB 2J92)) and presence (orange; PDB 2WV4)) of a peptide
 335 substrate (shown in stick representation).

337 **Table 1:** DNA primers for cloning and mutagenesis

Forward	SAT2/GHA/8/91 GATGATCTCGAGGAAGTGGCGCTCCGCCGACCGAC
Reverse	CATGCCAAGCTTATGGGTCAATGTGTGCTTTGAGTTGGAGCAGGCTCGACCGTG
C142A-for	GGACCAAGGTTGGATAC <u>GCT</u> GGAGGAGCCGTCATGAC
C142A-rev	GTCATGACGGCTCCTCCAGCGTATCCAACCTTGGTCC
C163A-for	CATACAAAGATGTTGTCGTC <u>GCC</u> ATGGACGGTGAACACCATGC
C163Arev	GCATGGTGTACCGTCCATGGCGACGACAACATCTTTGTATG
Forward	SAT1/NIG/5/81 GATGATCTCGAGGAAGTGGAGCGCCACCCACCGAC
Reverse	CATGCCAAGCTTAAGGGTCGATGTGTGCCTTCATC
C142A-for	GCCACCAAAGCTGGTTAC <u>GCT</u> GGAGGAGCCGTTCTTG
C142A-rev	CAAGAACGGCTCCTCCAGCGTAACCAGCTTTGGTGGC
C163A-for	CCTACAAAGACATCGTAGTGGCTATGGATGGTGACACCATGC
C163Arev	GCATGGTGTACCATCCATAGCCACTACGATGTCTTTGTAGG
Forward	SAT1/UGA1/97 GATGATCTCGAGGAAGCGGTGCGCCACCGACCGAC
Reverse	CATGCCAAGCTTATGGGTGATGTGGGCTTTCATC
C142A-for	GGACCAAGGTAGGTTAC <u>GCT</u> GGGGCGGCCGTAAGTAC
C142A-rev	GTCAGTACGGCCCGCCAGCGTAACCTACCTTGGTCC
C163A-for	GTACAACGACATCGTCGTC <u>GCC</u> ATGGACGGCGACACCATG
C163Arev	CATGGTGTGCGCGTCCATGGCGACGACGATGTCGTTGTAC
Forward	SAT2/ZIM/7/83 GATGATCTCGAGGAAGCGGAGCCCCACCGACCGAC
Reverse	CATGCCAAGCTTAAGGGTCGATGTGGGCTTTCATC
C142A-for	GGGACCAAAGTGGATAC <u>GCT</u> GGAGCCGCTGTTCTCG
C142A-rev	CGAGAACAGCGGCTCCAGCGTATCCAACCTTGGTCCC
C163A-for	CCTACAAAGACCTAGTCGTT <u>GCT</u> ATGGACGGTGACACCATGC
C163Arev	GCATGGTGTACCGTCCATAGCAACGACTAGGTCTTTGTAGG

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340 **Table 2:** Protein yields and solubilities

Protein	Yield (mg per L of culture)	Maximum concentration (mg/mL)	Aggregation
SAT1/N-g3C ^{pro} (1-208)	7.5	19.8	-
SAT1/U- g3C ^{pro} (1-208)	1.2	11.9	+++
SAT2/Z- g3C ^{pro} (1-208)	2.2	11.3	++
SAT2/G-g3C ^{pro} (1-208)	2.5	5.7	++
SAT2/G-g3C ^{pro} (1-207h)	2.1	7.2	+
SAT2/G-g3C ^{pro} (1-207)	1.7	5.6	+++

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344 **Table 3:** Crystallographic data collection and model refinement statistics for SAT2 3C^{PRO}.

DATA COLLECTION	
Space-group	P3 ₂
a, b, c (Å)	54.0, 54.0, 318.5
α, β, γ (°)	α = β = 90; γ = 120
Resolution range (Å)	53.1-3.2 (3.37-3.2)
No. of independent reflections	17053
Multiplicity¹	2.7 (2.7)
Completeness (%)	99.3 (99.5)
I/σ_I	5.7 (1.7)
R_{merge} (%)²	11.6 (42.4)
MODEL REFINEMENT	
No. of Non-hydrogen atoms	7535
R_{work} (%)³	22.2
R_{free} (%)⁴	27.2
Average B-factor (Å²)	119
RMS deviations - Bonds (Å)⁵	0.006
RMS deviations - Angles (°)	1.1
Ramachandran plot (favoured/allowed) %	89.8/10.2
PDB Accession Code	4X2Y

345

346 ¹Values for highest resolution shell given in parentheses347 ²R_{merge} = 100 × Σ_{hkl} |I_j(hkl) - <I_j(hkl)>| / Σ_{hkl} Σ_j I(hkl), where I_j(hkl) and <I_j(hkl)> are the

348 intensity of measurement j and the mean intensity for the reflection with indices hkl,

349 respectively.

350 ³R_{work} = 100 × Σ_{hkl} ||F_{obs}| - |F_{calc}|| / Σ_{hkl} |F_{obs}|.

351 $^4R_{\text{free}}$ is the R_{model} calculated using a randomly selected 5% sample of reflection data that
352 were omitted from the refinement.

353 ^5RMS , root-mean-square; deviations are from the ideal geometry defined by the Engh and
354 Huber parameters (Engh & Huber 1991).

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