

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Functional characterization of a lytic polysaccharide monooxygenase from the thermophilic fungus *Myceliophthora thermophila*

Marco A. S. Kadowaki¹✉, Anikó Várnai²✉, John-Kristian Jameson², Ana E. T. Leite¹, Antonio J. Costa-Filho³, Patricia S. Kumagai¹, Rolf A. Prade⁴, Igor Polikarpov¹*, Vincent G. H. Eijsink²*

1 Department of Physics and Interdisciplinary Science, São Carlos Institute of Physics, University of São Paulo, São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil, **2** Faculty of Chemistry, Biotechnology and Food Science, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Ås, Norway, **3** Department of Physics, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil, **4** Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, United States

✉ These authors contributed equally to this work.

* vincent.eijsink@nmbu.no (VE); ipolikarpov@ifsc.usp.br (IP)



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Kadowaki MAS, Várnai A, Jameson J-K, T. Leite AE, Costa-Filho AJ, Kumagai PS, et al. (2018) Functional characterization of a lytic polysaccharide monooxygenase from the thermophilic fungus *Myceliophthora thermophila*. PLoS ONE 13(8): e0202148. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0202148>

Editor: Jean-Guy Berrin, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, FRANCE

Received: May 4, 2018

Accepted: July 27, 2018

Published: August 20, 2018

Copyright: © 2018 Kadowaki et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Funding: This work received support from Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP; <http://www.fapesp.br/>) grants #2011/20505-4 (MASK) and #2015/13684-0 (IP); Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq; <http://cnpq.br/>) grants #405191/2015-4 (IP), #440977/2016-9 (IP),

Abstract

Thermophilic fungi are a promising source of thermostable enzymes able to hydrolytically or oxidatively degrade plant cell wall components. Among these enzymes are lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases (LPMOs), enzymes capable of enhancing biomass hydrolysis through an oxidative mechanism. *Myceliophthora thermophila* (synonym *Sporotrichum thermophile*), an Ascomycete fungus, expresses and secretes over a dozen different LPMOs. In this study, we report the overexpression and biochemical study of a previously uncharacterized LPMO (*Mt*LPMO9J) from *M. thermophila* M77 in *Aspergillus nidulans*. *Mt*LPMO9J is a single-domain LPMO and has 63% sequence similarity with the catalytic domain of *Nc*LPMO9C from *Neurospora crassa*. Biochemical characterization of *Mt*LPMO9J revealed that it performs C4-oxidation and is active against cellulose, soluble cello-oligosaccharides and xyloglucan. Moreover, biophysical studies showed that *Mt*LPMO9J is structurally stable at pH above 5 and at temperatures up to 50°C. Importantly, LC-MS analysis of the peptides after tryptic digestion of the recombinantly produced protein revealed not only the correct processing of the signal peptide and methylation of the N-terminal histidine, but also partial autoxidation of the catalytic center. This shows that redox conditions need to be controlled, not only during LPMO reactions but also during protein production, to protect LPMOs from oxidative damage.

#303988/2016-9 (IP) and #158752/2015-5 (IP); Research Council of Norway (<https://www.forskningssradet.no>) grants 243663 (VGHE) and 262853 (VGHE).

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Introduction

Lytic Polysaccharide Monoxygenases (LPMOs) are oxidative enzymes able to boost the hydrolytic efficiency of glycoside hydrolases (GHs) during the depolymerization of recalcitrant polysaccharides (such as lignocellulose and chitin) [1, 2]. LPMOs are key components of the latest generation commercial cellulase cocktails, which also include a core set of cellobiohydrolases, endoglucanases and β -glucosidases [3]. Although the contribution of additional factors [4] and redox enzymes [5] has been predicted since 1950, the existence and structure of LPMOs have been described just recently [2, 6–8], and their mechanism is still under debate [9–11]. LPMOs are metalloenzymes, with a Cu(I/II) ion coordinated by two histidines forming a His-brace in the active site [2, 6]. In fungal LPMOs, one of the coordinating histidines, the N-terminal His residue (His1), is methylated at N ϵ 2 [6].

LPMO action requires an external electron donor [2] and molecular oxygen [2] or hydrogen peroxide [10]. Electron donors may be non-enzymatic (such as ascorbate and lignin-derived phenolic compounds [2, 12–14]) or enzymatic (e.g. cellobiose dehydrogenase [14–18]). Cleavage of β -1,4-glycosidic bonds by LPMOs involves oxidation of either the C1 or the C4 carbon in the scissile bond, whereas some LPMOs show mixed C1/C4 activity leading to the production of a mixture of C1-, C4-, and double-oxidized products [19]. The attack of LPMOs on the surface of crystalline cellulose disrupts the crystalline structure and introduces new binding sites for cellulases [20, 21].

Based on their sequences, LPMOs are currently classified within six families of Auxiliary Activity (AA) enzymes in the Carbohydrate-Active enZymes (CAZy) database (<http://www.cazy.org>) [22]: AA9, AA11, AA13, and AA14 found in fungi, AA15 mainly found in insects but also in viruses, and AA10 mainly found in bacteria but also in other organisms. LPMOs belonging to the AA9 family, also called LPMO9s, have shown activity on a variety of substrates, including cellulose [6], several hemicellulose β -glucans [23] and cello-oligosaccharides [24]. LPMOs are highly redundant in the genomes of ascomycetes and it is conceivable that this redundancy reflects functional diversity that is needed to degrade complex substrates such as plant cell walls [14, 25]. As an example, the genome of the filamentous fungus *Myceliophthora thermophila*, which is a relevant industrial host for production of thermostable enzymes, encodes 23 AA9 LPMOs—see Table A in S1 File for the complete list of *Mt*LPMO9s [26] as well as the CAZy database (<http://www.cazy.org>) and JGI's genome portal (<https://genome.jgi.doe.gov/portal/>). Of these, 11 have been detected in the secretome of *M. thermophila* C1 grown on alfalfa and barley straw [26] and five *Mt*LPMO9s (four homologously expressed in *M. thermophila* C1) have been characterized to date [13, 19, 27] (see also Table A in S1 File).

In the present study, we report the functional and structural characterization of an AA9 LPMO from *M. thermophila* (syn. *Sporotrichum thermophile*), termed *Mt*LPMO9J. The enzyme was heterologously expressed in *Aspergillus nidulans*, purified and then characterized using a variety of methods, assessing properties such as substrate specificity, oxidative regioselectivity and stability. *Mt*LPMO9J stands out as being one of the few LPMOs demonstrating activity on soluble cello-oligosaccharides [24, 28, 29].

Materials and methods

Enzyme

Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis. *Mt*LPMO9J (MYCTH_79765, UniProt: G2Q7A5) from *M. thermophila* was characterized. Phylogenetic analysis of *Mt*LPMO9J was performed using sequence alignment generated with MUSCLE [30] and MEGA5 software [31]

and the neighbor-joining method. The consensus tree was inferred using a bootstrap of 1000 replicates. The structure based sequence alignment shown in Fig 1 was generated with T-Coffee [32].

Homology model. A structural model of *MtLPMO9J* was generated using the Swiss-Model Automated Comparative Protein Server [33] and the crystal structure of *NcLPMO9C* from *N. crassa* (PDB:4D7U) [34] as a template. The cellobiohexose complex model was generated by superposition with the crystal structure of *LsAA9A* from *Lentinus similis* (PDB:5ACI; [35]). The images were generated using the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System (Version 1.5.0.4 Schrödinger, LLC, New York, NY, USA).

Cloning, expression and purification of *MtLPMO9J*. The gene encoding *MtLPMO9J* (MYCTH_79765) from *M. thermophila* strain M77 [36] was amplified from genomic DNA, including the native signal peptide using primers 5′-agcatcattacacctcagcaATGAAGCTCTCCCTCTTTTC-3′ (forward) and 5′-taaatcactagatatctctaTCAGCAGGAGATGGGCGCGG-3′ (reverse), and cloned into the pEXPLYR vector [37] using Ligation-Independent Cloning [38]. The expression plasmid was transformed into *A. nidulans* A773 (*pyrG89*; *wA3*; *pyroA4*) as described earlier [37].

Approximately 10^7 spores/mL were used to inoculate in 3 L liquid minimal medium, pH 6.5, containing 50 mL/L Clutterbuck salts (120 g/L NaNO_3 , 10.4 g/L KCl, 10.4 g/L $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 30.4 g/L of KH_2PO_4), 1 mL/L trace elements (22 g/L of $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 11 g/L of H_3BO_3 , 5 g/L of $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 5 g/L of $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.6 g/L of $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.6 g/L of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.1 g/L of $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 50 g/L of Na_2EDTA), supplemented with 1 mg/L pyridoxine and 5% (w/v) maltose and maintained in static culture at 37°C for 48 h. The culture medium was filtered using Miracloth membrane (Calbiochem, San Diego, CA, USA) with a pore size of 22–25 μm , and the secreted proteins were concentrated 10-fold by tangential flow filtration using a hollow fiber cartridge with 5,000 molecular weight cutoff (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). The concentrated protein solution (approx. 100 mL) was immediately applied to a 10 mL DEAE-Sephadex column (GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM Tris/HCl buffer pH 8.0 and *MtLPMO9J* was collected in the flow through fraction. The flow through fraction was concentrated by ultrafiltration using a centrifugal filter concentrator with 10,000 molecular weight cutoff (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA). The NaCl concentration was adjusted to 150 mM and *MtLPMO9J* was further purified using a HiLoad 16/60 Sephadex75 size exclusion column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris/HCl buffer pH 8.0 containing 150 mM NaCl. Protein concentrations were determined spectrophotometrically at 280 nm using a molar extinction coefficient of $41160 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [39]. Protein purity was analyzed by SDS-PAGE [40] using Coomassie Brilliant Blue G-250 staining (Sigma, Deisenhofen, Germany), and the protein identity was confirmed by mass spectrometry (see below).

Analysis of purified *MtLPMO9J*

HPLC-MS/MS analysis. Purified *MtLPMO9J* (10 μg in 50 μL 20 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0) was subjected to digestion with trypsin followed by reversed phase peptide clean-up, and the peptides were analyzed according to the method described by Arntzen *et al.* [41]. The peptides were fractionated using a nanoLC system (Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC; Thermo Scientific, Bremen, Germany), equipped with an Acclaim PepMap100 column (C_{18} , 5 μm , 100 \AA , 300 μm i.d. x 5 mm, Thermo Scientific). At the start, the column was equilibrated in a mixture of 96% solution A [0.1% (v/v) formic acid] and 4% solution B [80% (v/v) ACN, 0.08% (v/v) formic acid]. Peptides were eluted using a 40 min gradient developing from 4% to 15% (v/v) solution B in 2 min and from 15% to 55% (v/v) solution B in 25 min before a wash phase at 90% solution B, all at a flow rate of 300 nL/min. The column was connected to a Q-Exactive mass

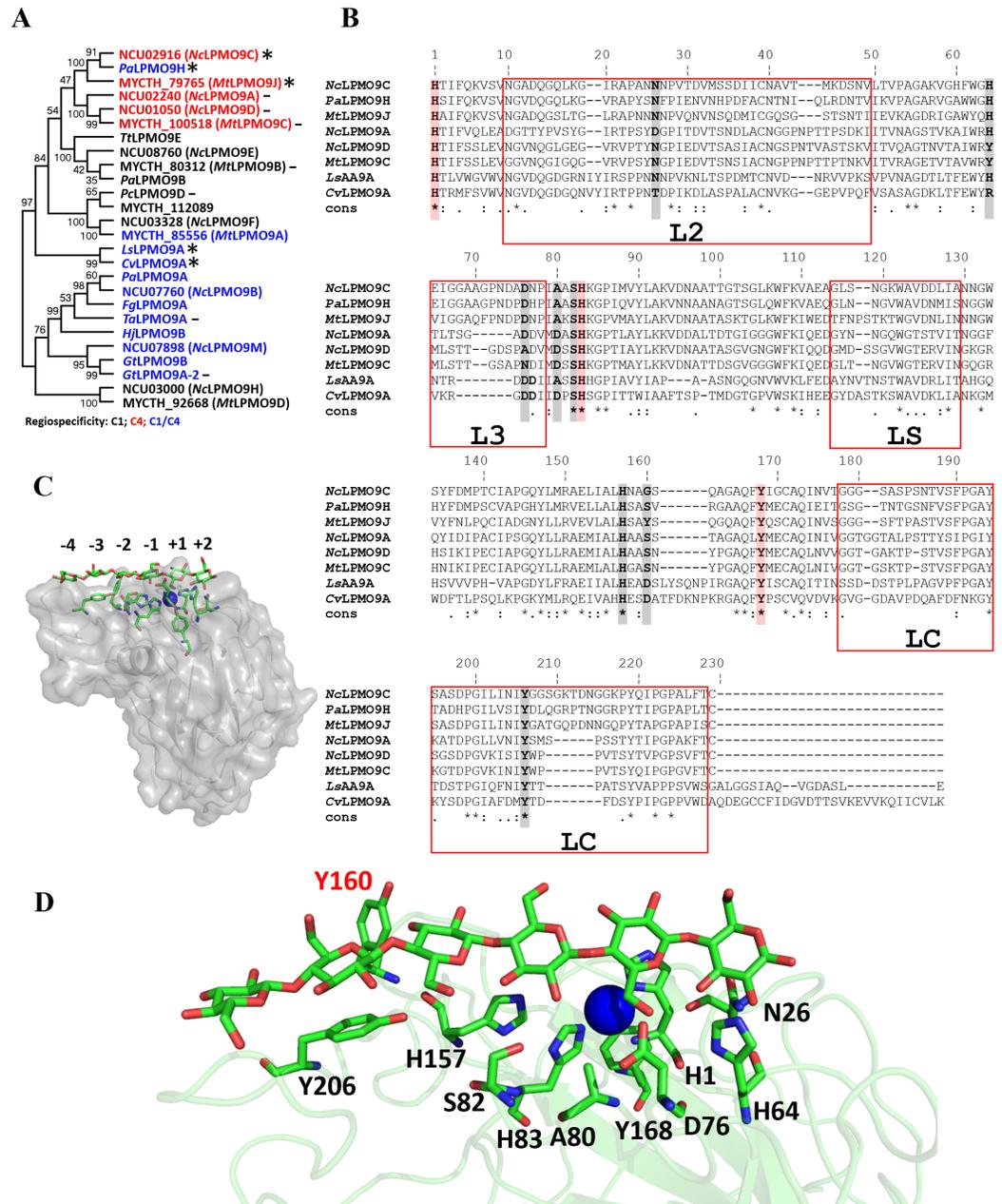


Fig 1. Sequence-based and structural comparison of LPMO9s. (A) Phylogenetic tree of characterized LPMO9s, based on alignment of catalytic modules only. The oxidative regiospecificity (C1, black; C4, red; C1/C4, blue) is indicated for each LPMO. LPMOs active on soluble cello-oligosaccharides are indicated by asterisk (*) and LPMOs reported to be unable to cleave cello-oligosaccharides are indicated by dash (-). (B) Structure based multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of *MtLPMO9J* with C4-oxidizing and cello-oligosaccharide-active LPMOs. The conserved residues involved in copper ion coordination are shaded in red; residues involved in substrate binding in *LsLPMO9A* as well as Tyr160 in *MtLPMO9J* are shaded in grey. Red boxes indicate variable regions in the LPMO9 family, which have been given the indicated names [46]. Note that several of the residues potentially involved in substrate binding occur in the most variable LPMO regions, where the alignment is somewhat uncertain despite being largely structure based. (C) Structural model of *MtLPMO9J* (in grey, with selected side chains in green) built with the Swiss-Model Server using the crystal structure of *NcLPMO9C* (PDB:4D7U) as template. The cellohexaose (green carbons) was modelled by superposition of the model with the crystal structure of *LsAA9A* from *Lentinus similis* in complex with cellohexaose (PDB:5ACI; [35]). The copper ion is shown as a blue sphere. (D) Close-up of residues potentially involved in substrate binding in *MtLPMO9J*. Tyr160, which is unique for *MtLPMO9J* has a red label.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0202148.g001>

spectrometer (Thermo Fischer Scientific, Rockford, IL, USA) operated in data-dependent mode to switch automatically between orbitrap-MS and higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) orbitrap-MS/MS acquisition. Peptides were identified with the Mascot server (version 2.6.1) against *MtLPMO9J* and the *Aspergillus nidulans* proteome, the latter being the background from the expression host. Correct processing of the signal peptide (i.e. cleavage before His1) was evaluated using the SEMI-trypsin search on the full-length *MtLPMO9J* sequence, which allowed identification of fragments resulting from one non-tryptic cleavage (i.e. cleavage of the signal peptide) at the N-terminus of the peptide and one trypsin-specific cleavage at the C-terminus of the peptide (http://massqc.proteomesoftware.com/help/metrics/percent_semi_tryptic). Tryptic peptides and their possible modifications were identified using error tolerant Mascot searches on the *MtLPMO9J* sequence without the signal peptide.

Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy. EPR experiments were performed on a Varian E109 spectrometer equipped with a cryogenic system, which allowed for low-temperature data collection. The spectrometer was operated at 9.26 GHz, with a modulation amplitude of 4 G and microwave power of 10 mW, at 70 K. Samples were drawn into quartz tubes and then frozen in liquid nitrogen. The EPR parameters were optimized to avoid line saturation and distortion. The spectrum of the buffer only was used as a baseline and subtracted from all other spectra.

Circular dichroism. Circular dichroism (CD) measurements were conducted on a JASCO J-815 spectropolarimeter (JASCO Inc., Maryland, USA) using 0.5 mg/mL of purified *MtLPMO9J* in 20 mM Na-phosphate buffer pH 6.0. The sample was analysed at 25°C using a 0.1 cm path length quartz cell. The far-UV spectra were recorded using a wavelength range of 205–260 nm, with 50 nm/min scan speed and 1 nm band width. The final data were obtained by signal averaging six spectra before subtracting the buffer spectrum and are reported as mean residue ellipticity (MRW). The thermal denaturation experiment was performed following the ellipticity (θ) at wavelength 215 nm, corresponding to the minimum value of the spectra, at a constant heating rate of 1°C/min with 0.5 mg/mL *MtLPMO9J* from 20 to 90°C.

ThermoFluor assay. A ThermoFluor assay was applied to study the thermal stability of *MtLPMO9J* in a set of 8 buffers, each at a concentration of 50 mM, with the pH ranging from 2.0 to 9.0. Reactions with 62 μ M *MtLPMO9J* and 0.05% (v/v) SYPRO Orange dye (Sigma, Deisenhofen, Germany) were prepared in each buffer on a 96-well plate [42]. The plate was sealed with Optical-Quality Sealing Tape (Bio-Rad, Veenendaal, The Netherlands) and heated in an iCycler iQ Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad) from 25 to 90°C, with stepwise increments of 1°C per min and a 30 s hold step for every point, followed by fluorescence reading with excitation/emission wavelengths at 490/530 nm.

MtLPMO9J activity measurements

Substrates. The following substrates were used: phosphoric acid swollen cellulose (PASC, prepared from Avicel PH-101 (Sigma, Deisenhofen, Germany), as described earlier [43]), cellobiose, cellotetraose, cellopentaose, and cellohexaose (Megazyme, Wicklow, Ireland), and the hemicelluloses sugar beet arabinan, konjac glucomannan, barley β -glucan, tamarind xyloglucan (XG) (Megazyme) and beechwood xylan (Sigma, Deisenhofen, Germany).

Enzyme reactions. The substrates (0.1%, w/v) were incubated with *MtLPMO9J* (5 μ M) in 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0) at 50°C and shaking at 1000 rpm, in 100 μ l total volume for up to 16 h. In all experiments, 1 mM ascorbic acid was used as reducing agent. For the time course experiments, 100 μ l aliquots were removed from reactions with 1 mL total volume at defined time intervals. Control reactions were set up without reducing agent or enzyme; reactions containing substrate only were also set up. As a positive control, *NcLPMO9C* was used

[23]. Reactions were stopped by boiling for 10 min, then the supernatants were separated from insoluble substrates by filtration using a 96-well filter plate (Millipore, MA, USA) and a vacuum manifold system (Millipore). The samples were analyzed by HPAEC-PAD and/or MALDI-TOF/MS (for details, see below).

Analysis of LPMO products with HPAEC-PAD. LPMO reaction products were analyzed by high-performance anion exchange chromatography (HPAEC) on a Dionex ICS3000 instrument equipped with pulsed amperometric detection (PAD) and a CarboPac PA1 column (2×250 mm) with a CarboPac PA1 guard column (2×50 mm). For analysis of cellulosic substrates, a 50-min gradient [44] and cello-oligosaccharide standards (Megazyme) were used. In the case of hemicellulosic substrates, we used a 75-min gradient [23] and purified XG7 (XXXG) and XG oligosaccharides (Megazyme) as standards. In the time course experiments, oxidized products of *MtLPMO9J* on PASC were quantified by integrating the peak areas of C4-oxidized products.

MALDI-TOF/MS. LPMO reaction products were also analyzed using MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry on an Ultraflex MALDI-ToF/ToF instrument (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) equipped with nitrogen 337 nm laser beam. Samples (0.8 μL) were mixed with 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid matrix (1.6 μL, 10 mg/mL in 30% acetonitrile and 0.1% TFA), applied to a MTP 384 ground steel target plate TF (Bruker Daltonics), and air-dried. Data were collected using Bruker's flexControl software and the spectra were analyzed using Bruker's flexAnalysis software.

Results

Phylogenetic and structural analysis of *MtLPMO9J*

The MYCTH_79765 gene encodes a single AA9 domain of 229 residues with a theoretical molecular weight of 24.3 kDa (Figure AA in S1 File). SignalP 4.0 [45] predicted a 17-residue signal peptide, which was confirmed by experiment (see below). A structure based multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of the catalytic modules of *MtLPMO9J* and 25 different LPMO9s, including several of known structure, revealed the conservation of the N-terminal His1, His83 and Tyr168, which compose the copper-binding motif (Fig 1B). Of the characterized LPMO9s, the closest homologs are *NcLPMO9C* (63% sequence identity) and *PaLPMO9H* (58% sequence identity), both of which have an additional CBM1 carbohydrate-binding module at the C-terminus. Phylogenetic analysis places *MtLPMO9J* in a cluster together with C4-oxidizing LPMOs; this cluster is divided into two groups (Fig 1A). The group with *MtLPMO9J* consists of LPMOs (*NcLPMO9C* and *PaLPMO9H*) that are active on cello-oligosaccharides; the other group contains *MtLPMO9C* (MYCTH_100518) [13], which is not active on cello-oligosaccharides, and *NcLPMO9A* (NCU02240) and *NcLPMO9D* (NCU01050), LPMOs that accumulate C4-oxidized cellopentaose during their action on PASC [19] and, therefore, are likely not active on cello-oligosaccharides. Interestingly, two other cello-oligosaccharide-active LPMOs, *LsLPMO9A* [35] and *CvLPMO9A* [28], form a more distant cluster.

To assess putative structural differences between C4-oxidizing LPMO9s that are active and inactive on cello-oligosaccharides, a structural model of *MtLPMO9J* was built and compared with the crystal structures of *CvLPMO9A* (PDB: 5NLT) [28], *NcLPMO9A* (PDB: 5FOH), *NcLPMO9C* (PDB: 4D7U) [34], *NcLPMO9D* (PDB: 4EIR) [46] and *LsAA9A* (PDB: 5ACF) [28]. The MSA (Fig 1B) and structural comparisons (not shown) showed that sequence and structural diversity are concentrated in the so-called L2, L3, LS and LC regions [34] (Fig 1B). The surface of *MtLPMO9J* contains several of the residues that are known to be involved in substrate binding, based on the structure of *LsAA9A* in complex with celohexaose [35] and NMR studies of *NcLPMO9C* in complex with cellulose and xyloglucan [47] (Fig 1C and 1D).

Residues involved in substrate binding show considerable but far from absolute conservation. The sequence alignment of Fig 1B does not reveal clear trends as to which substrate binding residues correlate with the ability to cleave soluble substrates. Residue 80 deserves attention because it has been suggested that the nature of this residue is correlated with oxidative regioselectivity [34, 48], although recent mutagenesis work suggests that this is not the case [49]. The residue is both close to the solvent exposed distal axial coordination position of the copper and close to the bound substrate [28, 35]. Notably, four of five LPMOs acting on soluble substrates have an alanine in this position, whereas LPMOs not active on soluble substrates have an aspartate (as does C_vLPMO9A that is active on cello-oligomers) (Fig 1B). Interestingly, M_tLPMO9J is the only enzyme in our analysis to present an extra Tyr residue (Y160) potentially involved in substrate binding (Fig 1B and 1D).

Production and biophysical characterization of M_tLPMO9J

M_tLPMO9J was recombinantly produced in *A. nidulans* using the native signal peptide (residues 1–17), yielding approximately 12 mg of enzyme per L of culture medium. The enzyme was purified in two chromatographic steps to ca. 95% purity (Figure AA in S1 File). LC-MS analysis, discussed in more detail below, showed that the signal peptide of M_tLPMO9J was correctly processed, since in 98.6% of detected peptides containing the N-terminal histidine; this histidine was indeed residue number 1. LC-MS analysis further indicated that the N-terminal histidine was methylated in about 70% of the protein molecules (Table B in S1 File; more discussion below). An alternative construct using the glucoamylase signal peptide from the pEX-PYR vector was also tested and resulted in the expression of inactive protein, suggesting incorrect processing of the signal peptide. The presence of Cu in the active site of purified M_tLPMO9J was confirmed by EPR spectroscopy (Figure AB in S1 File), which showed a spectrum characteristic of a mononuclear Cu center.

Next, we examined possible oxidative damage of M_tLPMO9J, which could have occurred during protein expression, for example as a result of auto-catalytic oxidation of the catalytic histidines recently described by Bissaro et al. [10]. In-depth LC-MS/MS analysis of trypsinated purified M_tLPMO9J showed oxidative damage to three of the enzyme's four histidines, which are all close to the catalytic center. Based on peptide counts (Table B in S1 File), the N-terminal histidine was non-modified in 27% of the proteins, methylated in 70% and oxidized in 3%. The second catalytic histidine (His83) was not modified in 83% of the proteins, whereas it was oxidatively damaged in 17%. Concerning the two additional histidines close to the catalytic center, 10% of the proteins showed oxidative damage to His64, whereas damage to His157 could not be assessed due to lack of detected tryptic peptides.

The structural stability of M_tLPMO9J as a function of pH and temperature was evaluated using a ThermoFluor assay and far-UV circular dichroism (CD). Protein denaturation curves measured using the reporter dye SYPRO Orange at different pHs showed structural stability at pHs above 5.0 with a melting temperature ($T_{m,app}$) of 58°C (Fig 2A and 2B). Unfolding was irreversible and was also monitored, at pH 8.0, using the CD signal at 215 nm (Fig 2C and 2D), which yielded an apparent $T_{m,app}$ of 63°C.

Regiospecificity of M_tLPMO9J on cellulose

Incubation of M_tLPMO9J with phosphoric acid-swollen cellulose (PASC) resulted in the formation of native (i.e. non-oxidized) and oxidized cello-oligosaccharides in the presence of ascorbic acid as electron donor. HPAEC-PAD and MALDI-TOF/MS analyses of reaction mixtures with PASC showed the accumulation of cello-oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization (DP) of 2 to 12 (Fig 3A and 3B). The HPAEC-PAD profile of M_tLPMO9J on PASC was

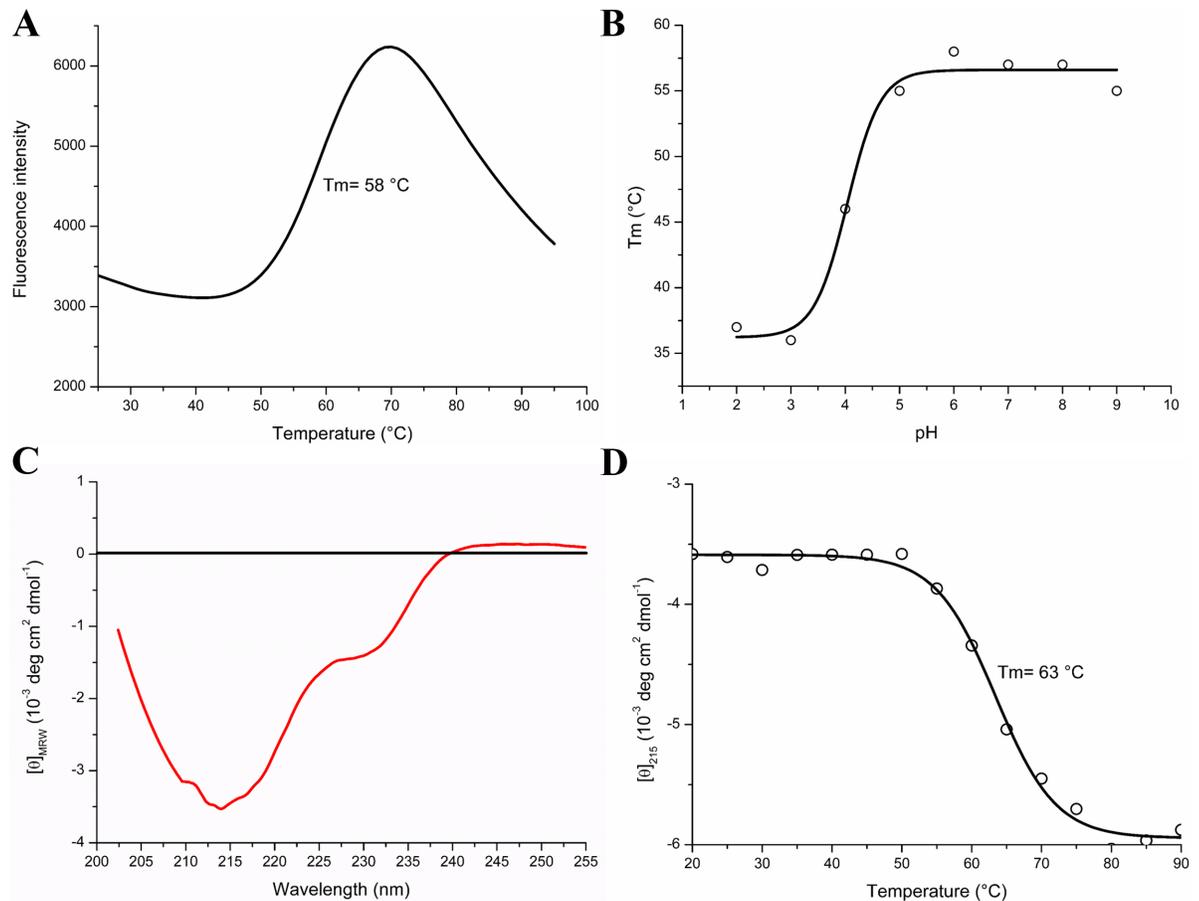


Fig 2. Thermal denaturation of MtLPMO9J monitored by the ThermoFluor assay and CD spectroscopy. (A) Thermal shift curve of MtLPMO9J at pH 6.0. The fluorescence was monitored and the peak temperature in $\Delta\phi/\Delta t$ curve was used to extract the apparent melting temperature ($T_{m, app}$). The protein concentration was 1.5 mg/mL and the heating rate was 1 °C/min. (B) Thermal shift-based apparent melting temperatures obtained at different pHs. (C) Far-UV CD spectrum of MtLPMO9J (red line). (D) Melting curve based on the CD signal at 215 nm, at pH 8.0; the protein concentration was 0.5 mg/mL and the heating rate was 1 °C/min.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0202148.g002>

similar to that of the C4-oxidizing NcLPMO9C [24], showing only native and C4-oxidized cello-oligosaccharides (Fig 3A). MALDI-ToF/MS analysis confirmed C4-oxidation: the majority of the oxidized products were in the anhydrated 4-ketoaldose form (m/z 1173.45 for DP7) with minor amounts occurring in the hydrated gemdiol form (m/z 1191.46), while no double- Na^+ adduct (m/z 1213.46), which is diagnostic of C1-oxidation [48], was detected (Fig 3B). The signal at m/z 1171.43 could, in principle, be an oligomer oxidized at both ends, but since there are no other, and more reliable, indications for C1-oxidation (i.e. a signal for a double sodium adduct), the m/z 1171.43 signal likely represents a degradation product. Notably, C4-oxidized cello-oligosaccharides are unstable, which also explains why one sees a relatively high amount of native products (on-column degradation of C4-oxidized products leads to generation of native products that are one residue shorter than the original oxidized product; see [50] for further discussion).

Following the release of C4-oxidized cello-oligosaccharides from PASC over time indicated that, under the conditions used, MtLPMO9J remained active for about 6 hours, after which the activity declined and slow (although statistically not significant) degradation of the oxidized products became noticeable (Figs 3C and S4).

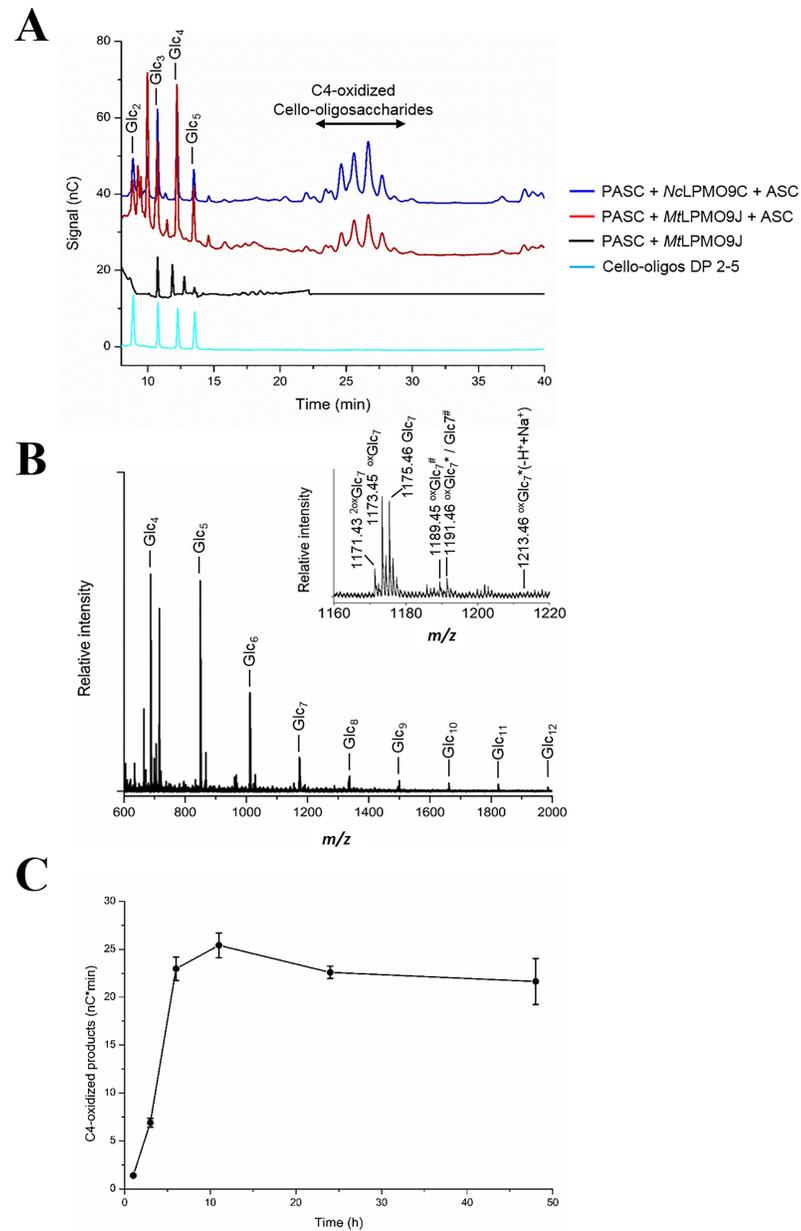


Fig 3. Product profile of *MtLPMO9J* on PASC. (A) HPAEC-PAD chromatogram showing products released by *MtLPMO9J* action on PASC. PASC (0.1%, w/v) was incubated with 5 μ M *MtLPMO9J* in 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0) containing 1 mM ascorbic acid (ASC) at 50°C for 16 h. Peaks were assigned based on native cello-oligosaccharide standards (black line) and the product profile of the C4-oxidizing LPMO *NcLPMO9C* [24]. (B) MALDI-TOF/MS spectrum of cello-oligosaccharides released by *MtLPMO9J* from PASC. The inset shows a close-up view of the Glc₇ cluster. The masses of sodium or potassium adducts of native and oxidized species are labelled. Single or double oxidation is labelled with “ox” and “2ox”, respectively; hydration of the oxidized species is indicated by an asterisk; potassium adducts are labeled by hash; parentheses indicate uncertainty discussed in the main text. (C) Accumulation of C4-oxidized products over time during incubation of *MtLPMO9J* with PASC. The amount of C4-oxidized products was calculated as sum of the peak areas for peaks corresponding to C4-oxidized products, eluting in the range of 22.5–30 min during HPAEC-PAD (see Figure D in S1 File for the chromatograms).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0202148.g003>

Activity of *MtLPMO9J* on cello-oligosaccharides

In addition to polymeric cellulose, *MtLPMO9J* was also active on water-soluble cello-oligosaccharides. The enzyme cleaved cellohexasaccharide (Glc₆) to produce native and C4-oxidized trimers (Glc₃ and ^{ox}Glc₃) or a native tetramer and a C4-oxidized dimer (Glc₄ and ^{ox}Glc₂) (Figure B in [S1 File](#); subsites derived from this cleavage pattern are indicated in [Fig 1C](#)), while cellopentaose (Glc₅) was converted to a native cellotriose and a C4-oxidized dimer (Glc₃ and ^{ox}Glc₂). Activity on cellotetraose (Glc₄) and cellotriose (Glc₃) was not detected (Figure B in [S1 File](#)).

Substrate specificity of *MtLPMO9J*

As some of the closest homologs of *MtLPMO9J* are active on hemicelluloses, the activity of *MtLPMO9J* was assayed against tamarind xyloglucan, konjac glucomannan, barley β -glucan and sugar beet arabinan. Of these substrates, only tamarind xyloglucan was cleaved ([Fig 4](#) and Figure C in [S1 File](#)). The product profile (HPAEC-PAD and MALDI-TOF/MS) for *MtLPMO9J* was similar to that of *NcLPMO9C* [23]. MALDI-TOF/MS data ([Fig 4B](#)) showed a clustered product profile, indicating a preference for chain cleavage at non-substituted glucose units. This implies that products contain a multitude of three pentoses, as was indeed observed. (Of note, while the predominant repeating units of tamarind xyloglucan, XXXG, XLG and XLLG, contain three xyloses, and occasional arabinose unit may occur). A close-up of the Hex₅Pen₃ cluster shows that the predominant species was the anhydrated form of the oxidized product (m/z 1245.47), while the hydrated form (m/z 1263.46) was also detected. The lack of the m/z 1285.50 signal (corresponding to the Na⁺-adduct of the Na⁺-salt of the C1-oxidized species) indicates the absence of C1-oxidation. Of note, despite major purification efforts, the purified enzyme displayed a background xylanase activity originating from the expression host, which precluded assessment of the activity of *MtLPMO9J* on xylan and xylo-oligosaccharides.

Discussion

Thermophilic fungi, such as *Myceliophthora thermophila*, are a promising source of thermostable enzymes able to hydrolytically and oxidatively degrade plant cell wall components. Application of thermostable enzymes, including LPMOs, for biomass conversion could enhance saccharification rates and decrease risk of microbial contamination. Here we report the characterization of an LPMO9 from *M. thermophila*, *MtLPMO9J* (MYCTH_79765) [26], obtained by heterologous expression in *A. nidulans*. This enzyme has been previously identified among 11 *MtLPMO9*s, including the five previously characterized *MtLPMO9*s [13, 19, 27], which are secreted by *M. thermophila* when grown on alfalfa and barley straw [26] (Table A in [S1 File](#)).

To date, just a few LPMOs have been reported to cleave cello-oligosaccharides, including *NcLPMO9C* from *N. crassa* [24], *PaLPMO9H* from *P. anserina* [51], *LsAA9A* from *L. similis* [35] and *CvAA9A* from *C. virescens* [28], *NcLPMO9C* and *PaLPMO9H* being the closest characterized homologs of *MtLPMO9J* ([Fig 1A](#)). *MtLPMO9J* showed the same cleavage pattern on cellohexasaccharide and cellopentaose as *NcLPMO9C* [24] and *PaLPMO9H* [51].

Regarding hemicellulose oxidation, *MtLPMO9J* showed activity on xyloglucan, cleaving the substrate adjacent to unsubstituted glucosyl units. We could not detect LPMO activity on xylan, arabinan, glucomannan or β -glucan. Interestingly, the closely related *NcLPMO9C* is active on glucomannan and β -glucan. There is no obvious explanation for these observed differences but we note considerable sequence variation among LPMOs, for example in the highly variable LC region.

The genomes of fungi tend to encode large numbers of LPMOs [25] and it remains to be seen to what extent the encoded LPMOs are functionally redundant or complementary. It is to

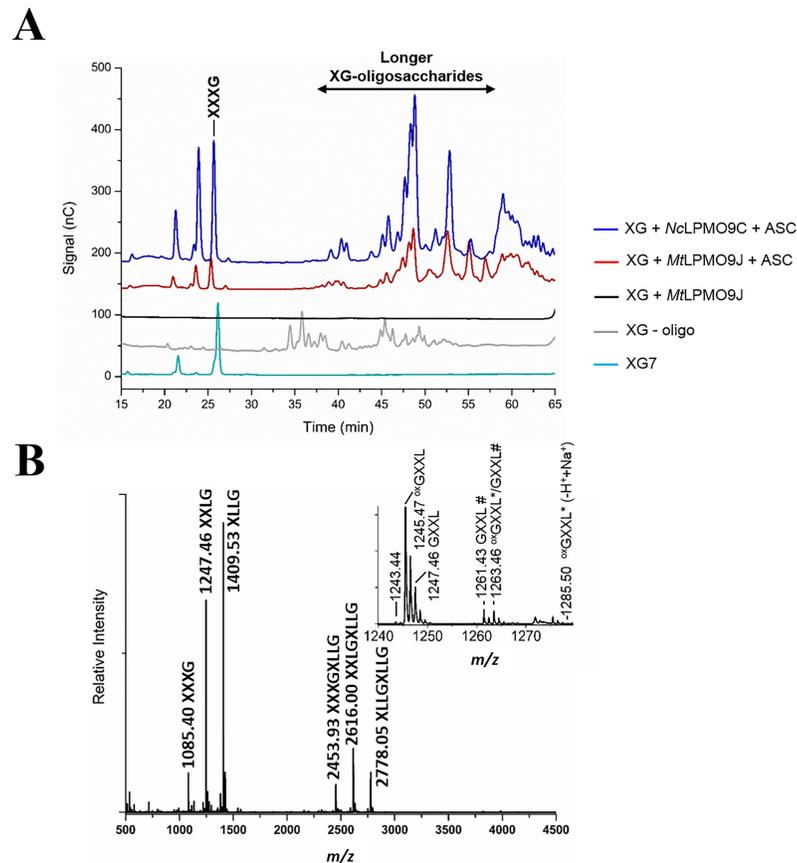


Fig 4. Products generated by MtLPMO9J from tamarind xyloglucan. (A) HPAEC-PAD chromatogram showing the products released after MtLPMO9J action on tamarind xyloglucan (brown line). Tamarind xyloglucan (0.1%, w/v) was incubated with 5 μ M MtLPMO9J in 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0) containing 1 mM ascorbic acid (ASC) at 50°C for 16 h. NcLPMO9C was used as positive control (blue line); a commercially available mixture of xyloglucan-oligosaccharides (DP 14–27, grey line) and a xyloglucan heptamer (XG7, turquoise line) were used as standards. (B) MALDI-TOF/MS spectrum of xyloglucan-oligosaccharides released by MtLPMO9J from tamarind xyloglucan. In the main panel, Na⁺ adducts of native products are labelled, although oxidized products dominate the clusters. The inset shows a close-up view of the Hex₅Pen₃ cluster; the masses of native and oxidized species are labelled. Oxidation is labelled with “ox”; hydration of the oxidized species is labelled with an asterisk; all adducts are sodium adducts except for those labeled with hash, which are potassium adducts. The xyloglucan oligosaccharides have the following nomenclature: G, a non-substituted glucose unit; X, a G unit O-6-substituted with a xylose unit; L, an X unit where xylose O-2-substituted with a galactose unit.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0202148.g004>

be expected that additional functionalities and subtle differences in known functionalities await discovery. The current study adds a sixth enzyme to the list of LPMO9s from *M. thermophila* that have been characterized. Although not all these LPMO9s have been characterized to similar depths, it is of interest to compare their known properties, as we do in Table A in S1 File. Already now, with only a fraction of MtLPMO9s having been characterized, considerable functional diversity has been disclosed. More functional and structural studies are needed to uncover the total LPMO-catalyzed oxidizing power of *M. thermophila*. Of note, a general consensus on the nomenclature of the newly characterized MtLPMO9s seems to be lacking.

Several questions remain as to the mechanism of LPMOs, and the question whether O₂ or H₂O₂, as proposed by Bissaro *et al.* in 2016 [52], is the biologically relevant co-substrate is still debated. While this report was being completed, two publications appeared describing detailed kinetic analyses of the action of MtLPMO9J on celohexaose and addressing the possible roles

of O₂ or H₂O₂ ([53, 54]; note that the enzyme, accession codes MYCTH_79765, or, in UniProt, G2Q7A5, is referred to as *MtLPMO9E* in these publications). In one of these reports [54], Hangasky *et al.* show that LPMOs indeed can use H₂O₂ quite efficiently, supporting the findings by Bissaro *et al.* [10, 52], but conclude from the sum of their experiments that O₂ is the natural co-substrate, in contrast with the conclusions drawn by Bissaro *et al.* As we did not quantify LPMO activity on the cello-oligosaccharides, a direct comparison of our results with the reaction rates for celohexaose degradation reported by Hangasky *et al.* [53] is not possible. Both studies demonstrate clear activity on celohexaose and cellopentaose, whereas, in contrast to the data presented here, Hangasky *et al.* also detected a minor activity on cellotetraose.

Recent work on LPMOs has revealed that these enzymes are prone to oxidative self-inactivation, e.g. under conditions where they are reduced in the absence of substrate [52, 54]. Indeed, non-linear progress curves caused by enzyme inactivation are a commonly observed phenomenon in studies of LPMOs (e.g. [10, 18], Fig 3C). Importantly, we show here that heterologously expressed, purified *MtLPMO9J*, which had never been exposed to reaction conditions, such as an added reductant, carried oxidative damage in the catalytic center (Table B in S1 File). It is conceivable that the LPMO experiences damage-inducing conditions (i.e. reduction in the absence of substrate and the presence of oxygen or H₂O₂) during the expression and purification protocols. From a practical point of view, our finding of enzyme oxidation during production is potentially of major importance. Oxidatively damaged LPMOs will not be recognized as such when using common quality control methods for proteins like SDS-PAGE or gel filtration. Nevertheless, such LPMOs will be impaired in copper binding and catalytic performance.

Supporting information

S1 File. Supporting information for *MtLPMO9J*.
(PDF)

Acknowledgments

This work was partly supported by the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) via grants #2011/20505-4 and #2015/13684-0 and the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) grants #405191/2015-4, #440977/2016-9, #303988/2016-9 and #158752/2015-5. This work was also supported by the Research Council of Norway through grants 243663 and 262853. We would like to thank Dr. Livia Manzine and Dr. Maria Auxiliadora Morim Santos for technical support.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Data curation: Antonio J. Costa-Filho.

Formal analysis: Antonio J. Costa-Filho, Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Funding acquisition: Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Investigation: Marco A. S. Kadowaki, Anikó Várnai, John-Kristian Jameson, Ana E. T. Leite, Patricia S. Kumagai, Rolf A. Prade, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Methodology: Anikó Várnai, Patricia S. Kumagai, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Resources: Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Supervision: Antonio J. Costa-Filho, Rolf A. Prade, Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Validation: Marco A. S. Kadowaki, John-Kristian Jameson, Ana E. T. Leite, Patricia S. Kumagai, Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

Writing – original draft: Marco A. S. Kadowaki, Anikó Várnai, Igor Polikarpov.

Writing – review & editing: Igor Polikarpov, Vincent G. H. Eijsink.

References

1. Harris PV, Welner D, McFarland KC, Re E, Poulsen JCN, Brown K, et al. Stimulation of Lignocellulosic Biomass Hydrolysis by Proteins of Glycoside Hydrolase Family 61: Structure and Function of a Large, Enigmatic Family. *Biochemistry*. 2010; 49(15):3305–16. <https://doi.org/10.1021/bi100009p> PMID: 20230050
2. Vaaje-Kolstad G, Westereng B, Horn SJ, Liu ZL, Zhai H, Sorlie M, et al. An Oxidative Enzyme Boosting the Enzymatic Conversion of Recalcitrant Polysaccharides. *Science*. 2010; 330(6001):219–22. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1192231> PMID: 20929773.
3. Johansen KS. Discovery and industrial applications of lytic polysaccharide mono-oxygenases. *Biochemical Society transactions*. 2016; 44(1):143–9. <https://doi.org/10.1042/BST20150204> PMID: 26862199.
4. Reese ET, Siu RG, Levinson HS. The biological degradation of soluble cellulose derivatives and its relationship to the mechanism of cellulose hydrolysis. *J Bacteriol*. 1950; 59(4):485–97. PMID: 15436422; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC385789.
5. Eriksson KE, Pettersson B, Westermark U. Oxidation: an important enzyme reaction in fungal degradation of cellulose. *FEBS letters*. 1974; 49(2):282–5. PMID: 4474960.
6. Quinlan RJ, Sweeney MD, Lo Leggio L, Otten H, Poulsen JCN, Johansen KS, et al. Insights into the oxidative degradation of cellulose by a copper metalloenzyme that exploits biomass components. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 2011; 108(37):15079–84. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1105776108> PMID: 21876164.
7. Beeson WT, Phillips CM, Cate JH, Marletta MA. Oxidative cleavage of cellulose by fungal copper-dependent polysaccharide monoxygenases. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2012; 134(2):890–2. Epub 2011/12/23. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja210657t> PMID: 22188218.
8. Forsberg Z, Vaaje-Kolstad G, Westereng B, Bunaes AC, Stenstrom Y, MacKenzie A, et al. Cleavage of cellulose by a CBM33 protein. *Protein science: a publication of the Protein Society*. 2011; 20(9):1479–83. Epub 2011/07/13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pro.689> PMID: 21748815; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3190143.
9. Walton PH, Davies GJ. On the catalytic mechanisms of lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Current opinion in chemical biology*. 2016; 31:195–207. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpa.2016.04.001> PMID: 27094791.
10. Bissaro B, Rohr AK, Muller G, Chylenski P, Skaugen M, Forsberg Z, et al. Oxidative cleavage of polysaccharides by monocopper enzymes depends on H₂O₂. *Nature chemical biology*. 2017; 13(10):1123–8. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nchembio.2470> PMID: 28846668.
11. Span EA, Marletta MA. The framework of polysaccharide monoxygenase structure and chemistry. *Current opinion in structural biology*. 2015; 35:93–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbi.2015.10.002> PMID: 26615470.
12. Westereng B, Cannella D, Wittrup Agger J, Jorgensen H, Larsen Andersen M, Eijsink VG, et al. Enzymatic cellulose oxidation is linked to lignin by long-range electron transfer. *Sci Rep*. 2015; 5:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep18561> PMID: 26686263; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4685257.
13. Frommhagen M, Koetsier MJ, Westphal AH, Visser J, Hinz SW, Vincken JP, et al. Lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases from *Myceliophthora thermophila* C1 differ in substrate preference and reducing agent specificity. *Biotechnol Biofuels*. 2016; 9(1):1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13068-016-0594-y> PMID: 27588039; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5007705.
14. Kracher D, Scheiblbrandner S, Felice AK, Breslmayr E, Preims M, Ludwicka K, et al. Extracellular electron transfer systems fuel cellulose oxidative degradation. *Science*. 2016:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf3165> PMID: 27127235.
15. Phillips CM, Beeson WT, Cate JH, Marletta MA. Cellobiose dehydrogenase and a copper-dependent polysaccharide monoxygenase potentiate cellulose degradation by *Neurospora crassa*. *ACS chemical biology*. 2011; 6(12):1399–406. Epub 2011/10/19. <https://doi.org/10.1021/cb200351y> PMID: 22004347.

16. Langston JA, Shaghasi T, Abbate E, Xu F, Vlasenko E, Sweeney MD. Oxidoreductive cellulose depolymerization by the enzymes cellobiose dehydrogenase and glycoside hydrolase 61. *Appl Environ Microbiol*. 2011; 77(19):7007–15. Epub 2011/08/09. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.05815-11> PMID: 21821740; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3187118.
17. Garajova S, Mathieu Y, Beccia MR, Bennati-Granier C, Biaso F, Fanuel M, et al. Single-domain flavoenzymes trigger lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases for oxidative degradation of cellulose. *Sci Rep*. 2016; 6:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-016-0001-8> PMID: 27312718; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4911613.
18. Loose JS, Forsberg Z, Kracher D, Scheiblbrandner S, Ludwig R, Eijsink VG, et al. Activation of bacterial lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases with cellobiose dehydrogenase. *Protein science: a publication of the Protein Society*. 2016; 25(12):2175–86. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pro.3043> PMID: 27643617; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5119556.
19. Vu VV, Beeson WT, Phillips CM, Cate JH, Marletta MA. Determinants of regioselective hydroxylation in the fungal polysaccharide monoxygenases. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2014; 136(2):562–5. Epub 2013/12/20. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja409384b> PMID: 24350607.
20. Villares A, Moreau C, Bennati-Granier C, Garajova S, Foucat L, Falourd X, et al. Lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases disrupt the cellulose fibers structure. *Sci Rep*. 2017; 7:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-016-0028-x> PMID: 28071716.
21. Eibinger M, Ganner T, Bubner P, Rosker S, Kracher D, Haltrich D, et al. Cellulose surface degradation by a lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase and its effect on cellulase hydrolytic efficiency. *The Journal of biological chemistry*. 2014; 289(52):35929–38. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M114.602227> PMID: 25361767; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4276861.
22. Lombard V, Golaconda Ramulu H, Drula E, Coutinho PM, Henrissat B. The carbohydrate-active enzymes database (CAZy) in 2013. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2014; 42(Database issue):D490–5. Epub 2013/11/26. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkt1178> PMID: 24270786; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3965031.
23. Agger JW, Isaksen T, Varnai A, Vidal-Melgosa S, Willats WG, Ludwig R, et al. Discovery of LPMO activity on hemicelluloses shows the importance of oxidative processes in plant cell wall degradation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2014; 111(17):6287–92. Epub 2014/04/16. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1323629111> PMID: 24733907; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4035949.
24. Isaksen T, Westereng B, Aachmann FL, Agger JW, Kracher D, Kittl R, et al. A C4-oxidizing lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase cleaving both cellulose and cello-oligosaccharides. *The Journal of biological chemistry*. 2014; 289(5):2632–42. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M113.530196> PMID: 24324265; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3908397.
25. Lenfant N, Hainaut M, Terrapon N, Drula E, Lombard V, Henrissat B. A bioinformatics analysis of 3400 lytic polysaccharide oxidases from family AA9. *Carbohydr Res*. 2017; 448:166–74. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.carres.2017.04.012> PMID: 28434716.
26. Berka RM, Grigoriev IV, Otillar R, Salamov A, Grimwood J, Reid I, et al. Comparative genomic analysis of the thermophilic biomass-degrading fungi *Myceliophthora thermophila* and *Thielavia terrestris*. *Nature biotechnology*. 2011; 29(10):922–7. Epub 2011/10/04. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt.1976> PMID: 21964414.
27. Frommhagen M, Westphal AH, Hilgers R, Koetsier MJ, Hinz SWA, Visser J, et al. Quantification of the catalytic performance of C1-cellulose-specific lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol*. 2018; 102(3):1281–95. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-017-8541-9> PMID: 29196788; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5778151.
28. Simmons TJ, Frandsen KEH, Ciano L, Tryfona T, Lenfant N, Poulsen JC, et al. Structural and electronic determinants of lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase reactivity on polysaccharide substrates. *Nature communications*. 2017; 8(1):1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-016-0009-6> PMID: 29057953.
29. Frandsen KE, Poulsen JN, Tandrup T, Lo Leggio L. Unliganded and substrate bound structures of the celooligosaccharide active lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase LsAA9A at low pH. *Carbohydr Res*. 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.carres.2017.03.010> PMID: 28364950.
30. Edgar RC. MUSCLE: a multiple sequence alignment method with reduced time and space complexity. *BMC bioinformatics*. 2004; 5:113. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-5-113> PMID: 15318951; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC517706.
31. Tamura K, Stecher G, Peterson D, Filipiński A, Kumar S. MEGA6: Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis version 6.0. *Molecular biology and evolution*. 2013; 30(12):2725–9. <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst197> PMID: 24132122; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3840312.
32. Notredame C, Higgins DG, Heringa J. T-Coffee: A novel method for fast and accurate multiple sequence alignment. *J Mol Biol*. 2000; 302(1):205–17. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jmbi.2000.4042> PMID: 10964570.

33. Biasini M, Bienert S, Waterhouse A, Arnold K, Studer G, Schmidt T, et al. SWISS-MODEL: modelling protein tertiary and quaternary structure using evolutionary information. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2014; 42 (Web Server issue):W252–8. Epub 2014/05/02. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gku340> PMID: 24782522; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4086089.
34. Borisova AS, Isaksen T, Dimarogona M, Kognole AA, Mathiesen G, Varnai A, et al. Structural and Functional Characterization of a Lytic Polysaccharide Monoxygenase with Broad Substrate Specificity. *The Journal of biological chemistry.* 2015; 290(38):22955–69. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M115.660183> PMID: 26178376; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4645601.
35. Frandsen KE, Simmons TJ, Dupree P, Poulsen JN, Hemsworth GR, Ciano L, et al. The molecular basis of polysaccharide cleavage by lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Nature chemical biology.* 2016; 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nchembio.2029> PMID: 26928935.
36. Dos Santos HB, Bezerra TM, Pradella JG, Delabona P, Lima D, Gomes E, et al. *Myceliophthora thermophila* M77 utilizes hydrolytic and oxidative mechanisms to deconstruct biomass. *AMB Express.* 2016; 6(1):1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13568-015-0169-5> PMID: 27807811.
37. Segato F, Damásio AR, Gonçalves TA, de Lucas RC, Squina FM, Decker SR, et al. High-yield secretion of multiple client proteins in *Aspergillus*. *Enzyme Microb Technol.* 2012; 51(2):100–6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enzmictec.2012.04.008> PMID: 22664194.
38. Aslanidis C, de Jong PJ. Ligation-independent cloning of PCR products (LIC-PCR). *Nucleic Acids Res.* 1990; 18(20):6069–74. PMID: 2235490; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC332407.
39. Gasteiger E, Hoogland C, Gattiker A, Duvaud S, Wilkins MR, Appel RD, et al. *Protein Identification and Analysis Tools on the ExPASy Server.*: Humana Press.; 2005.
40. Laemmli UK. Cleavage of structural proteins during the assembly of the head of bacteriophage T4. *Nature.* 1970; 227(5259):680–5. PMID: 5432063.
41. Arntzen MO, Varnai A, Mackie RI, Eijsink VGH, Pope PB. Outer membrane vesicles from *Fibrobacter succinogenes* S85 contain an array of carbohydrate-active enzymes with versatile polysaccharide-degrading capacity. *Environmental microbiology.* 2017; 19(7):2701–14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2920.13770> PMID: 28447389.
42. Huynh K, Partch CL. Analysis of protein stability and ligand interactions by thermal shift assay. *Curr Protoc Protein Sci.* 2015; 79:28 9 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/0471140864.ps2809s79> PMID: 25640896; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4332540.
43. Wood TM. Preparation of crystalline, amorphous, and dyed cellulase substrates. In: Willis A. Wood STK, editor. *Methods in Enzymology.* 160: Academic Press; 1988. p. 19–25.
44. Westereng B, Agger JW, Horn SJ, Vaaje-Kolstad G, Aachmann FL, Stenstrom YH, et al. Efficient separation of oxidized cello-oligosaccharides generated by cellulose degrading lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Journal of chromatography A.* 2013; 1271(1):144–52. Epub 2012/12/19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2012.11.048> PMID: 23246088.
45. Petersen TN, Brunak S, von Heijne G, Nielsen H. SignalP 4.0: discriminating signal peptides from transmembrane regions. *Nat Methods.* 2011; 8(10):785–6. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.1701> PMID: 21959131.
46. Wu M, Beckham GT, Larsson AM, Ishida T, Kim S, Payne CM, et al. Crystal structure and computational characterization of the lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase GH61D from the Basidiomycota fungus *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*. *The Journal of biological chemistry.* 2013; 288(18):12828–39. Epub 2013/03/26. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M113.459396> PMID: 23525113; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3642327.
47. Courtade G, Wimmer R, Rohr AK, Preims M, Felice AK, Dimarogona M, et al. Interactions of a fungal lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase with beta-glucan substrates and cellobiose dehydrogenase. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2016; 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1602566113> PMID: 27152023.
48. Forsberg Z, Mackenzie AK, Sorlie M, Rohr AK, Helland R, Arvai AS, et al. Structural and functional characterization of a conserved pair of bacterial cellulose-oxidizing lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2014; 111(23):8446–51. Epub 2014/06/10. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1402771111> PMID: 24912171; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4060697.
49. Forsberg Z, Bissaro B, Gullesen J, Dalhus B, Vaaje-Kolstad G, Eijsink VGH. Structural determinants of bacterial lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase functionality. *The Journal of biological chemistry.* 2018; 293(4):1397–412. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M117.817130> PMID: 29222333; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5787815.
50. Westereng B, Arntzen MO, Aachmann FL, Varnai A, Eijsink VG, Agger JW. Simultaneous analysis of C1 and C4 oxidized oligosaccharides, the products of lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases acting on cellulose. *Journal of chromatography A.* 2016; 1445:46–54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2016.03.064> PMID: 27059395.

51. Bennati-Granier C, Garajova S, Champion C, Grisel S, Haon M, Zhou S, et al. Substrate specificity and regioselectivity of fungal AA9 lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases secreted by *Podospora anserina*. *Biotechnol Biofuels*. 2015; 8:90. Epub 2015/07/03. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13068-015-0274-3> PMID: 26136828; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4487207.
52. Bissaro B, Rohr AK, Skaugen M, Forsberg Z, Horn SJ, Vaaje-Kolstad G, et al. Fenton-type chemistry by a copper enzyme: molecular mechanism of polysaccharide oxidative cleavage. *bioRxiv*. 2016:1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1101/097022>
53. Hangasky J, Marletta MA. A random-sequential kinetic mechanism for polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Biochemistry*. 2018:1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.biochem.8b00129> PMID: 29683313; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC29683313
54. Hangasky JA, Iavarone AT, Marletta MA. Reactivity of O₂ versus H₂O₂ with polysaccharide monoxygenases. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2018:1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1801153115> PMID: 29686097; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC29686097.