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1 **Dissecting the membrane lipid binding properties and lipase activity of the**
2 ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis* LipY domains**

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15
16 **Running title:** Interactions between LipY domains and membrane lipids

17
18 **Keywords:** *Mycobacteria*, lipolytic enzyme, triacylglycerol, Interaction DOPG-protein, FTIR
19 spectroscopy, monomolecular film.

21 **ABSTRACT**

22 The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* LipY protein, a prototype of the proline-glutamic acid (PE) family,
23 exhibits a triacylglycerol (TAG) hydrolase activity that contributes to host cell-lipid degradation and
24 persistence of the bacilli. LipY is found either as a full-length intracytosolic form or as a mature
25 extracellular form lacking the N-terminal PE domain. Even though the contribution of the
26 extracellular form in TAG consumption has been partly elucidated, very little information is available
27 regarding the potential interactions of each form of LipY with either the cytoplasmic membrane for
28 the full-length protein or with the outer membrane for the matured form. Herein, several LipY
29 variants truncated in their N-terminal domain were produced and biochemically characterized in
30 lipid-protein interaction assays using the monomolecular film technique and Fourier transform
31 infrared spectroscopy. Comparison of the catalytic activities of these recombinant proteins showed
32 that LipY Δ 149, corresponding to the extracellular form of LipY lacking the PE domain, is more
33 active than the full-length protein. This confirms previous studies reporting that the PE domain
34 negatively modulates the TAG hydrolase activity of LipY. Lipid-protein interaction studies indicate
35 that the PE domain anchors LipY onto membrane lipids. Consistent with these findings, LipY Δ 149
36 was loosely-associated with the mycobacterial cell wall and that this interaction is mediated by the
37 sole lipase domain. Altogether, our results bring new information regarding the molecular
38 mechanisms by which LipY either binds and hydrolyzes host cell lipids or degrades TAG, the major
39 source of lipids within mycobacterial intracytosolic lipid inclusions.

40

41 INTRODUCTION

42 Tuberculosis (TB), which is caused by the highly versatile pathogenic agent *Mycobacterium*
43 *tuberculosis* (*Mtb*), remains an important global health issue with more than 10 million new cases
44 and approximately 1.6 million deaths in 2017 [1]. Upon infection, *Mtb* uses several strategies to avoid
45 and/or resist a wide range of microbicidal processes of immune cells. It can also persist for extensive
46 periods of time within granulomas, resulting in a clinically asymptomatic latent tuberculosis infection
47 (LTBI) [2, 3]. It is estimated that around two billion individuals are latently infected worldwide,
48 providing a major reservoir for *Mtb* [1]. Our understanding of the processes leading to LTBI
49 establishment and reactivation at the molecular and cellular levels, remains an outstanding challenge
50 for the scientific community and a crucial step for a better control of the disease [4]. It is assumed
51 that *Mtb*'s survival processes rely mainly on a very dynamic metabolic realignment within the
52 granuloma microenvironment, where *Mtb* preferentially uses fatty acids (FFA) as a carbon source
53 during long-term infections [5-9]. Several studies demonstrated that pathogenic mycobacteria can
54 utilize host-derived FFA to build up their own intracytosolic lipid inclusions (ILI), which will be
55 further used as a source of nutrient [10-14]. The exact role of these neutral lipid-rich structures in
56 mycobacterial pathogenesis remains elusive, but it has been proposed that ILI may promote *Mtb*
57 survival and persistence *in vivo* [8, 10, 11, 15]. However, the molecular bases of the dynamics of FFA
58 acquisition and storage remain poorly understood [16].

59 *Mtb* contains two specific families of proteins, designated PE and PPE proteins [17, 18], and while
60 the PE proteins possess a conserved N-terminal domain of about 100 amino acids typified by a Pro-
61 Glu signature motif, the PPE proteins possess a 180 amino acids N-terminal domain characterized by
62 a Pro-Pro-Glu signature [19-21]. Due to their abundance in pathogenic mycobacteria, it has been
63 postulated that PE and PPE proteins play important functions in mycobacterial survival and
64 pathogenesis. Nevertheless, the real function of these proteins remains to be elucidated [21-23].
65 Several studies emphasized the participation of the PE domain in protein translocation, an event very
66 likely to be mediated by the type VII secretion system ESX-5 [24-27]. Among the PE members,

67 Rv3097c, also known as LipY, is a 437 amino acids protein belonging to the Hormone-Sensitive
68 Lipase family (HSL) possessing a C-terminal lipase domain [28-30]. Deb *et al.*, (2006) demonstrated
69 that LipY is a true triacylglycerol (TAG) lipase involved in intracellular TAG hydrolysis in *Mtb* upon
70 carbon deprivation [29]. Moreover, a *Mtb lipY*-deficient mutant failed to escape from dormancy in an
71 *in vitro* granuloma model [31]. Together, these results point out to LipY as an essential factor required
72 for intracytosolic lipid catabolism and exit from a dormancy state. Subsequent work described that
73 the dual location of LipY in mycobacteria and its secretion rely both on a well-defined sequence of
74 events by the ESX-5 pathway [25]. The consensus YxxxD/E motif within the PE domain allows the
75 recognition/translocation by the ESX-5 machinery. The protein is subsequently cleaved by the MycP5
76 protease within the linker region between Gly¹⁴⁹ and Ala¹⁵⁰, leading to the formation of an N-terminal
77 truncated form associated with the mycobacterial cell surface [25]. In *M. marinum* LipY, the PE
78 domain is substituted by a PPE domain [28] and the presence of this surface-exposed mature LipY
79 strongly increases its TAG hydrolase activity [25]. Recently, we have demonstrated that a *M. bovis*
80 BCG $\Delta lipY$ mutant is impaired in ILI formation within foamy macrophages, suggesting that LipY is
81 an essential factor involved in host-derived TAG consumption [14]. Additional biochemical data
82 indicated that LipY lacking its PE domain expresses increased TAG-hydrolase activity *in vitro* [28],
83 suggesting that the PE domain acts as a modulator of the catalytic activity [14, 28]. Collectively, these
84 findings imply that LipY plays a central role in TAG metabolism during the *Mtb* life cycle by
85 participating in the hydrolytic processes of both extracellular and intracellular lipids. Nevertheless,
86 little is known about the biochemical properties at the molecular level of the various forms of LipY
87 as well as their respective contribution in hydrolysis of extracellular TAG contained in LB and/or
88 intracellular TAG contained in ILI.

89 In this study, the shortest domain of LipY exerting hydrolytic activity has been defined and several
90 recombinant variants of LipY have been characterized. We thus examined the ability of these proteins
91 to interact with membranes using Langmuir monolayers as an *in vitro* model of cell membranes along
92 with Fourier Transform InfraRed (FTIR) spectroscopy. Langmuir monolayers consisting of

93 supramolecular lipid films formed at an air-buffer interface are mimicking biological membranes and
94 represent attractive membrane models [32] particularly suited to study membrane-protein interactions
95 [33-37]. Fourier Transform InfraRed (FTIR) spectroscopy, performed in parallel to Langmuir
96 monolayers, is a suitable technique to investigate the lipid membrane physical states (*i.e.*, chain
97 ordering, phase transition) occurring in presence of a protein [38-40].

98 Phosphatidylglycerol being the most abundant glycerophospholipid found in mycobacteria [41-
99 43], 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphoglycerol (DOPG) is often chosen as model phospholipid
100 interfacial experiments. Therefore, combining both techniques can provide crucial information
101 regarding interactions of protein with either the cytoplasmic or the outer membrane. In addition, in
102 order to link their potential physiological roles *in vivo*, a set of LipY variants were either
103 overproduced in lipid-rich persistent-like *M. smegmatis*, or in *M. marinum* which allows a
104 constitutive translocation of these effectors through the ESX-5 machinery. Both mycobacteria were
105 used as tools for establishing the respective role of the PE, linker and lipase domains in the
106 translocation and maturation processes, thereby yielding essential information regarding the
107 hydrolytic mechanisms of intra- as well as extracellular TAG.

108 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

109 Expression and biochemical characterization of LipY and its truncated versions.

110 LipY is either found in the mycobacterial cytoplasm where it hydrolyzes ILI [29] or translocated
111 *via* ESX-5 to the bacterial surface, where, upon cleavage of the N-terminal PE domain, the mature
112 enzyme can interact and hydrolyze the host cell lipids [14, 25]. The contribution of the various LipY
113 domains in its interfacial activity has, however, not yet been explored. To provide insights into their
114 specific biological functions, we first generated LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 truncated
115 forms, by *i*) removing the PE domain (LipY Δ PE; lacking the first 97 residues), *ii*) deleting the first
116 149 residues (LipY Δ 149; the mature form exposed to the mycobacterial cell wall surface) and *iii*) by
117 further shortening the protein towards the C-terminus (LipY Δ 170; consisting essentially of the C-
118 terminal catalytic domain), respectively (**Figure 1A**). All genes, including full-length *lipY*, were
119 cloned into the pSD26 and fused to a 6 \times His-tag encoding sequence and used to transform the
120 *M. smegmatis* mc²155 *groEL1* Δ C strain [44, 45]. Following induction with acetamide, cultures were
121 harvested and the recombinant proteins were purified using Ni²⁺-charged immobilized metal affinity
122 chromatography, yielding 15-20 mg of protein per L of culture. Following size exclusion
123 chromatography, the purity of each protein was subsequently analyzed by SDS-PAGE gel (**Figure**
124 **1B**) and the nature of each protein was further confirmed by MALDI-TOF and N-terminal sequencing
125 analyses (data not shown).

126 TAG with short, medium and long fatty acyl chains were used as substrates and assayed in the
127 presence of each protein using the pH-stat technique [14, 46, 47]. As shown in **Figure 1C-D-E**, for
128 each protein, the specific activity (SA) decreased gradually as a function of the lipid chain length.
129 The removal of the first 170 residues did not affect the enzyme typoselectivity. LipY, LipY Δ PE,
130 LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 hydrolyzed preferentially short-chain TAG (tributyrin) with a SA of around
131 119.0 ± 11.1 , 185.0 ± 13.0 , 215.0 ± 24.0 and 75.0 ± 6.0 U/mg, respectively. Regardless of the
132 substrate used, LipY Δ PE and LipY Δ 149 were up to 1.8 times more active than full-length LipY
133 (**Figure 1F**). LipY Δ 170, the shortest LipY variant, exhibited SA of 75.0 ± 6.0 , 16.0 ± 2.0 and 2.8

134 ± 0.1 U/mg on tributyrin, trioctanoin and olive oil, respectively; and expressed the lowest activity as
135 compared to the other proteins (**Figure 1C-D-E**). The SA of LipY Δ PE and LipY Δ 149 were
136 comparable for tributyrin (185.0 ± 13.0 and 215.0 ± 24.0 U/mg, respectively), trioctanoin (63.0 ± 1.0
137 and 55.0 ± 5.0 U/mg, respectively) and for long-chain triolein (5.2 ± 0.2 and 6.3 ± 0.1 U/mg,
138 respectively) used as substrates, suggesting that the first 53 residues of the linker motif had only a
139 slight impact on LipY catalytic activity.

140 Moreover, since some lipases can also act as phospholipases, each LipY mutant form was also
141 tested for their potential phospholipase A1 and A2 activities using a highly sensitive fluorescent-
142 labeled phospholipid assay [43]. As anticipated and previously showed for LipY [43], none of the
143 LipY truncated versions exhibited phospholipase activity.

144

145 **Overexpression of LipY variants increased TAG consumption in *M. smegmatis* under lipid-rich** 146 **persistent-like conditions.**

147 It is well recognized that TAGs are major lipid storage molecules in bacteria belonging to the
148 *Actinobacteria* phylum [48], including *Mycobacterium* [15, 49-52]. We recently showed that TAG
149 accumulation under the form of ILI during infection in foamy macrophages was impaired when
150 constitutively overproducing the cytoplasmic LipY Δ PE in *M. bovis* BCG. These effects were neither
151 observed with the full length protein nor with the catalytically-inactive mutant (LipY Δ PE^{S309A}),
152 supporting that the PE domain is directly influencing the activity of LipY towards both mycobacterial
153 and host-derived TAGs [14, 28]. To gain additional insight and confirm our previous biochemical
154 results, we investigated here the effect of the PE domain and the linker region with respect to lipase
155 activity *in vivo*. *M. smegmatis* recombinant strains harboring either the empty pSD26 vector,
156 pSD26::*lipY*, pSD26::*lipY* Δ PE, pSD26::*lipY* Δ 149 or pSD26::*lipY* Δ 170 were grown for 48 h in a
157 well-defined carbon rich/nitrogen limiting medium that promotes the induction of heavily lipid-
158 loaded mycobacteria [53]. Cultures were harvested and re-suspended in a mineral salt medium devoid
159 of glycerol but supplemented with 0.2% (w/v) acetamide to trigger catabolic reprogramming [53] and

160 the production of the respective LipY recombinant forms. Bacteria were collected at two distinct time
161 points (*i.e.* 6 h and 12 h), and lyophilized prior to apolar lipid extractions and thin layer
162 chromatography (TLC) for lipid profile analysis. As shown in **Figure 2A**, the overproduction of LipY
163 and its variants significantly reduced the intracellular pool of TAG by 37-51% after 6 h and up to
164 69% after 12 h, in comparison with the control strain carrying the empty vector. In each case,
165 LipY Δ PE and LipY Δ 149 were the most active forms *in vivo*, leading to respectively 26.4% and 19.0%
166 relative TAG levels, *vs.* a mean value of $36.0 \pm 3.2\%$ for LipY and LipY Δ 170 after 12 h of induction.
167 These results are consistent with our biochemical data and with previous studies using either
168 genetically-modified *M. smegmatis* pSD26::*lipY* and *M. smegmatis* pSD26::*lipY* Δ PE [28] or *M. bovis*
169 BCG pMV261::*lipY* and *M. bovis* BCG pMV261::*lipY* Δ PE strains [14, 28].

170 To gain further insight into this molecular mechanism, 3D structural models were generated using
171 the I-TASSER server. As proposed previously [14, 54], the N-terminal PE domain could be easily
172 distinguished from the C-terminal domain and is composed of four α -helices (α 1 to α 4) (**Figure 2B**
173 – highlighted in blue) [14, 54]. Comparison of the LipY and LipY Δ PE models [14] suggests that the
174 four α -helices of the PE domain cover the active site of the enzyme. This steric hindrance may be
175 responsible for a reduced substrate accessibility and for the lower catalytic activity of the full-length
176 protein, as previously proposed [14, 28, 55]. Concerning the linker motif, this 53 amino acid region
177 comprises three α -helices (**Figure 2B-C** – highlighted in green). From its location, this region is very
178 likely to be extremely flexible, hence unable to induce a steric barrier masking the catalytic site. The
179 3D model of LipY Δ 149 displays a similar “open” active site (**Figure 2D**). These observations are in
180 agreement with the biochemical data. In contrast, amputation of the next 21 amino acids in
181 LipY Δ 149, yielding LipY Δ 170 (**Figure 2D** – highlighted in orange; and **Figure 2E**) triggers a sharp
182 drop in the lipase activity (**Figure 1F**). Since this deletion occurs directly in a α -helix, one can
183 speculate it would lead to severe conformational alterations affecting catalysis.

184 From these results, it could be inferred that the increased activity shared by LipY Δ PE and
185 LipY Δ 149, as compared to LipY, would result from a better accessibility and/or recognition of the

186 lipid to the active site, due to the absence of the PE domain. In addition, the 21 first amino acid
187 residues of the linker region in LipY Δ 149 (**Figure 2D-E**) seem to be essential for the enzyme activity,
188 possibly by stabilizing this extracellular mature form in a suitable conformation within the cell wall
189 and during TAG hydrolysis, as previously proposed [14, 28, 55].

190

191 **Interactions and binding capacity of LipY and its truncated forms with model membrane lipids.**

192 To get additional elements regarding the anchoring process of LipY within biological membranes,
193 we investigated how the LipY domains influence the adsorption capacity of the protein using the non-
194 hydrolysable 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphoglycerol (DOPG) monomolecular films.

195 This was achieved by measuring the interfacial binding properties of each LipY variant onto DOPG
196 monolayers, first by determining the effect of initial surface pressure (Π_i) on the interaction of the
197 different protein forms with the monolayer. For this purpose, the increase in surface pressure ($\Delta\Pi_{\max}$),
198 directly reflecting the variation of DOPG molecular area (*i.e.* lipid packing) upon protein adsorption,
199 was monitored immediately following protein injection at various Π_i values, ranging from 5 to around
200 20 mN/m. The plot $\Delta\Pi_{\max} = f(\Pi_i)$ depicted in **Figure 3A** allowed to evaluate the adsorption
201 parameters of LipY and its derivatives onto DOPG monolayer. In all cases, the $\Delta\Pi_{\max}$ was found to
202 decrease linearly with the increase of Π_i . Linear extrapolation to zero surface pressure increase
203 ($\Delta\Pi_{\max} = 0$) allowed to estimate the critical surface pressure (Π_c) [56] (also called “maximum
204 insertion pressure” [57]) as being equal to 22.5 ± 1.2 , 17.2 ± 0.83 , 16.4 ± 0.49 and 14.3 ± 0.25 mN.m⁻¹
205 ¹ for LipY, LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 adsorbed onto DOPG film, respectively. Above
206 these Π_c value, specifically related to the protein and the lipid forming the monolayer, no increase in
207 the surface pressure occurred [56]. The full-length protein appeared as the most tensioactive form
208 binding to DOPG monolayers, followed by LipY Δ PE and LipY Δ 149, while LipY Δ 170 poorly
209 adsorbed onto the phospholipid membrane. It appears that the ranking in the penetration capacity
210 (*i.e.*, Π_c values) of the four proteins is directly related to the size of the deletions.

211 The plots depicted in **Figure 3A** can also provide additional information regarding the binding
212 parameters of these enzymes (**Table 2**), such as $\Delta\Pi_0$ (y-intercept of the curves corresponding to $\Pi_i =$
213 0) and the synergy factor noted “ a ” (slope of the linear regression + 1) introduced by Salesse’s group
214 [58-60], where a positive “ a ” value is linked to favorable binding of the protein and the Π_c represents
215 an insertion surface pressure. In contrast, a negative synergy factor correlates with unfavorable
216 binding of a protein to a phospholipid monolayer whereas the associated Π_c corresponds to an
217 exclusion surface pressure. Finally, an “ a ” value close to zero corresponds to a stationary state where
218 the binding of the protein is neither favored nor disfavored by the lipid monolayer.

219 Based on these rules, the positive value of the synergy factor ($+0.113 \pm 0.010$) and the occurrence
220 of a $\Delta\Pi_0$ ($20.0 \pm 1.1 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$) lower than the related Π_c ($22.5 \pm 1.2 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$) observed for LipY was
221 consistent with a high penetration capacity of LipY onto phospholipid films. In contrast, with
222 LipY Δ 170 ($a = -0.177 \pm 0.005$; $\Delta\Pi_0 = 16.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$) and LipY Δ PE ($a = -0.564 \pm 0.043$; $\Delta\Pi_0$
223 $= 26.9 \pm 1.3 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$), the negative a values and a $\Delta\Pi_0$ larger than the corresponding Π_c were
224 correlated with a repulsion of both enzymes as a function of the compactness of the monolayer.
225 Regarding LipY Δ 149, a negative but almost close to zero synergy factor (-0.023 ± 0.001) was
226 determined and the $\Delta\Pi_0$ ($16.8 \pm 0.5 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$) was not significantly different from the Π_c value
227 ($16.4 \pm 0.49 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$). These results reflect that the binding of LipY Δ 149 onto DOPG monolayer is
228 neither favored nor disfavored. As a consequence, the decrease in the adsorption capacity of this
229 protein may only be related to the reduction of the “free” area due to an increase in the lipid packing
230 with the surface pressure [58, 60].

231 It can be inferred that, upon deletion of the PE domain and/or the linker unit, the proteins are
232 excluded from the DOPG monolayer, in contrast to the full-length protein which retains the capacity
233 to bind to phospholipid films. Thus, the PE domain may, presumably, favor the adsorption of LipY
234 onto DOPG monolayers, thereby playing a key role in the penetration/binding of LipY to membranes.
235 Conversely, cleavage of the N-terminus results in a mature protein that remains loosely attached to
236 the cell wall, as proposed by Daleke *et al.* [25].

237 IR spectroscopy was subsequently used to study the protein to lipid interaction from a molecular
238 point of view. Since lipid molecules are active in infrared (IR) through their hydrophobic [61],
239 interfacial and polar head group [62], the molecular characterization of phospholipid assembly and
240 phenomena affecting the behavior of the hydrophobic core of the lipid molecule [63-65] was followed
241 in the presence or absence of the different proteins. Here, multilamellar liposomes of DOPG were
242 used as a simple model for biomembranes and the conformational changes of lipids induced by the
243 interaction of the acyl chain region with LipY and its mutants was monitored by analysis of the
244 methylene stretching band vibration (**Figure 3B**). This region of IR spectra is indeed dominated by
245 two main bands namely symmetric ($\nu_s(\text{CH}_2)$) and antisymmetric ($\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$) methylene stretching
246 located near 2850 and 2920 cm^{-1} , respectively (data not shown). The thermotropism of lipid is
247 characterized by a shift of the wavenumber of these stretching vibration bands, which are sensitive to
248 the presence of gauche conformers [66-68], making them useful probes for following lipid phase
249 transition and membrane fluidity. The **Figure 3B** displays the temperature dependence of $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$
250 vibration of the DOPG acyl chain in the absence and the presence of recombinant proteins. According
251 to the literature, the transition temperature (T_m) for pure DOPG is -18°C [69, 70]; therefore all
252 experiments were carried out in the DOPG liquid-crystalline phase. All the wavenumbers of $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$
253 mode from 27 to 40°C were lower in the presence of each protein form in comparison to the pure
254 lipid, indicating that all the proteins studied altered the acyl chain conformation. These changes have
255 been attributed to the presence of hydrophobic protein segments within the hydrophobic core of lipid
256 membranes increasing the steric hindrance and therefore decreasing the membrane flexibility [71,
257 72]. However, while the differences of the $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$ of the lipid alone and in the presence of each
258 protein was significant, the impact of each protein on the conformational change of the acyl chains
259 was difficult to quantify. Above 40°C , the wavenumber of the $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$ mode in the presence of LipY
260 was still below the wavenumber of the lipid alone, meaning that the protein was still interacting with
261 the acyl chains of lipid membranes, while the effect of the LipY mutant forms (LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149
262 and LipY Δ 170) was less obvious. This suggests that LipY strongly interacts with the lipid chains

263 while this interaction is weaker for the mutants. Thus, regardless of the temperature, LipY induces a
264 stronger conformational change in the lipid acyl chains, than the different mutants, suggesting that
265 the presence of the PE domain enhanced the insertion within the hydrophobic core of the bilayers
266 while the extracellular LipY Δ 149 is weakly anchored to DOPG liposome. Overall, these results are
267 in agreement with those obtained using DOPG monomolecular films.

268

269 **Translocation through ESX-5 and anchoring investigations of LipY and its truncated forms *in*** 270 ***vivo*.**

271 Mycobacteria belonging to the *M. tuberculosis* complex express LipY in infected cells but are
272 unable to do so when growing *in vitro* under standard laboratory conditions [25, 28]. Furthermore,
273 *M. smegmatis* lacks an ESX-5 secretion system. Thus, to further delineate LipY processing and
274 anchoring to the mycobacterial cell wall, studies were done in *M. marinum*, which is able to
275 translocate and mature LipY through the ESX-5 secretion machinery [25]. To achieve this goal,
276 pVV16-based constructs allowing the constitutive expression of the *lipY* truncated versions fused to
277 a C-terminal His-tag (**Figure 4A**) were generated. The corresponding *M. marinum* strains were grown
278 and bacterial pellets subjected to detergent extraction using Genapol[®]-X080, a powerful non-ionic
279 detergent which allows to solubilize proteins that are localized within the capsule and the
280 mycomembrane without impacting the cytoplasmic membrane (CM), the peptidoglycan (PG) or
281 arabinogalactan (AG) fractions [25, 27, 73-75]. Proteins were then revealed by immunoblotting using
282 a HisProbe[™] HRP conjugate [25] (**Figure 4B-C**). As expected, two immunoreactive bands were
283 detected in the strain harboring pVV16::*lipY*, corresponding to the mature (black arrow) and
284 cytoplasmic forms (grey arrows) (**Figure 4C** – upper panel). When cells were treated with Genapol[®]-
285 X080, the mature protein was only detected in the surface-exposed fraction, demonstrating that
286 translocation and maturation occurred. Two other variants, LipY Δ 149 and LipY^{E92A} (carrying a point
287 mutation within the YxxxD/E consensus secretion signal abrogated maturation and secretion of the
288 protein) were also included as cytoplasmic controls [25, 26] (**Figure 4B**). LipY maturation catalyzed

289 by the MycP5 protease occurred at a specific site between Ser¹⁴⁸, Gly¹⁴⁹ and Ala¹⁵⁰ [25]. However,
290 that point mutations at each of these three residues failed to abolish maturation and secretion of the
291 protein suggested alternative cleavage sites [25]. Our results, using a LipY^{G149D} mutant, support the
292 findings by Daleke *et al.* [25] (**Figure 4C**).

293 Overall, these data prompted us to investigate the contribution of the linker domain in both
294 translocation and anchoring processes and to define whether the S¹⁴⁸GA¹⁵⁰ motif and the linker
295 domain were required for maturation and surface localization of the protein in *M. marinum*.

296 Therefore, two additional LipY mutated proteins were constructed by fusion of the PE domain to the
297 S¹⁴⁸GA¹⁵⁰ motif to retain the putative proteolytic site and by deleting: *i*) either the 51 residues of the
298 linker motif to generate a PE-SGA-LipY Δ 149 recombinant protein; or *ii*) the entire linker motif thus
299 producing the PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170 chimera (**Figure 4A**). In both cases, the chimeric proteins PE-
300 SGA-LipY Δ 149 and PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170 were translocated and found anchored to the mycobacterial
301 surface (**Figure 4C**). Interestingly, a single band of approximately 30 kDa was detectable for the PE-
302 SGA-LipY Δ 149 variant, suggesting that the cleavage may have occurred, as for a WT protein, at the
303 G¹⁴⁹A¹⁵⁰ position. In contrast, concerning the PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170-expressing strain, two distinct
304 bands of lower molecular weights (~ 26-28 kDa) were detected, suggesting two different cleavage
305 sites (**Figure 4C**). To precisely define these cleavage sites, *M. marinum* displaying the pVV16::PE-
306 SGA-lipY Δ 170 was treated with Genapol[®]-X080. The supernatant containing the cell wall-associated
307 proteins was then loaded onto a Ni²⁺ NTA affinity column to purify the 6 \times His-tagged proteins. Using
308 this approach, a single and pure band of approximately 28 kDa, highly reactive with the 6 \times HisProbe,
309 was detected (**Figure 4D**). Despite several attempts, we, however, failed to co-purify the second band
310 with a lower molecular weight. N-terminal sequencing by using Edman degradation on pure fractions
311 containing the 28 kDa band identified a protein cleaved just after the S¹⁴⁸GA¹⁵⁰ motif, thus leading
312 to the sole lipase domain starting at the sequence E¹⁷¹THFA. Interestingly, this mature LipY Δ 170
313 form lacking the linker region was able to bind the mycobacterial cell wall, demonstrating, for the

314 first time, that if the linker domain does not seem to be essential for anchoring the protein to the
315 mycomembrane, it remains crucial for full lipase activity (**Figure 1F**).

316

317 **Concluding remarks**

318 Understanding the physiological properties of lipid-rich persistent-like bacilli at both cellular and
319 molecular levels, and more precisely how mycobacteria utilize host-derived lipids for building-up
320 their own ILI is crucial. We show here that the secreted LipY Δ 149 protein was not only more active
321 than its full-length cytoplasmic form (**Figure 5**), but was also essential for intraphagosomal-TAG
322 breakdown, thus leading to lipid-rich persistent-like mycobacterial phenotype within foamy
323 macrophages. Our biochemical characterization of several truncated forms of LipY confirmed that
324 the N-terminal PE domain negatively affects the TAG hydrolase activity of the protein by generating
325 a steric hindrance in the vicinity of the active site. By combining biochemical and biophysical
326 approaches, we also demonstrate that the PE domain affects also the lipid binding activity onto
327 phospholipid monolayers and liposomes (**Figure 5**). Both FTIR spectroscopy and monomolecular
328 film experiments emphasized the PE-mediated anchoring capacity of LipY within phospholipids.
329 Mycobacteria cell fractionation followed by immunoblotting strongly suggests that the linker region
330 is dispensable for proper maturation and localization, but remains crucial for the enzymatic activity.
331 Altogether, we provide compelling evidence that the PE domain as well as the linker region impact
332 on the enzymatic properties of LipY by distinct molecular mechanisms, which are directly linked to
333 its physiological substrates either host-derived or intracellular TAG in the form of ILIs (**Figure 5**).

334 **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

335 **Bacterial strains and growth conditions**

336 *E. coli* DH10B cells (*Life technologies*, Saint Aubin, France) were grown at 37°C in Luria Bertani
337 (LB) broth (*Euromedex*, Souffelweyersheim, France) or onto LB agar plates. Culture media were
338 supplemented with 200 µg/mL hygromycin B or 50 µg/mL kanamycin (*Euromedex*,
339 Souffelweyersheim, France). The *M. smegmatis* mc²155 *groEL1ΔC* strain [44] was usually grown at
340 37°C under shaking (220 rpm) in complete Middlebrook 7H9 medium (*BD-Difco*) supplemented with
341 0.05% Tween 80 (v/v), 0.2% glycerol (v/v), 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA) (w/v), 0.2% glucose
342 (w/v). The *M. marinum* M strain [76] was grown at 32°C under shaking (220 rpm) in Middlebrook
343 7H9 medium supplemented with 0.05% Tween 80 (v/v), 0.2% glycerol (v/v) and 10% oleic acid,
344 albumin, dextrose, catalase (OADC enrichment; *BD-Difco*). Transformants were selected on
345 Middlebrook 7H9 agar containing either 50 µg/mL hygromycin B or 50 µg/mL kanamycin. Plates
346 were incubated at 37°C for 3-5 days for *M. smegmatis* mc²155 *groEL1ΔC* and at 32°C for 10-15 days
347 for *M. marinum*.

348

349 **Construction of plasmids**

350 For construction of pSD26::*lipY* and pSD26::*lipYΔPE*, *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv genomic DNA was
351 used as template as previously described [28]. The *lipY* gene was amplified by PCR using primers
352 pSDlipY-F and pSDlipY-R and *lipYΔPE* was PCR-amplified using primers lipYΔPE-F and pSDlipY-
353 R (**Table 1**). The corresponding amplicons harboring specific restrictions sites were digested with
354 BamHI and cloned into pSD26 [77] under the control of the acetamidase inducible promoter and use
355 to express and purify the recombinant proteins in *M. smegmatis*.

356 To construct pSD26::*lipYΔ149* and pSD26::*lipYΔ170*, the *lipYΔ149* and *lipYΔ170* genes were
357 amplified from pSD26::*lipY* using the primers pSDlipYΔ149-F/pSDlipYΔPE-R and pSDlipYΔ170-
358 F/pSDlipY-R respectively (**Table 1**). The pSD26::*lipY^{G149D}* and pSD26::*lipY^{E92A}* constructs were

359 generated by site directed mutagenesis using primers G149D-F/R and E92A-F/R primers,
360 respectively (**Table 1**).

361 To generate pSD26::*PE-SGA-lipYΔ149* and pSD26::*PE-SGA-lipYΔ170*, a two-step cloning procedure
362 was applied. Briefly, the PE domains for *PE-SGA-lipYΔ149* and *PE-SGA-lipYΔ170* genes were
363 amplified from pSD26-*lipY* using primers pSDlipY-F/PE-149-R and pSDlipY-F/PE-170-R,
364 respectively. In parallel, the *lipYΔ149* and *lipYΔ170* fragments were PCR-amplified from
365 pSD26::*lipY* using primers PE-149-F/pSDlipY-R and PE-170-F/pSDlipY-R, respectively. The
366 complete DNA fragments corresponding to *PE-SGA-lipYΔ149* and *PE-SGA-lipYΔ170* were obtained
367 by overlapping PCR using primers pSDlipY-F and pSDlipY-R along with a mixture of the both DNA
368 template (**Table 1**). The final PCR products were purified, digested with BamHI and cloned into
369 BamHI-restricted pSD26, yielding pSD26::*PE-SGA-lipYΔ149* and the pSD26::*PE-SGA-lipYΔ170*.

370 To produce the constitutive expression vectors, *lipY*, *lipY^{E92A}*, *lipY^{G149D}*, *PE-SGA-lipYΔ149* and *PE-*
371 *SGA-lipYΔ170* were PCR-amplified from their respective pSD26 derivatives using primers pVV-
372 lipY-F/pVV-lipY-R. The *lipYΔ149* gene was amplified using pSD26::*lipYΔ149* as template and
373 primers pVV-lipY-F/pVV-lipYΔ149-R. All DNA fragments were further digested with NdeI and
374 HindIII restrictions enzymes (*Promega*, Charbonnieres, France) and subsequently cloned within
375 pVV16 in frame with a C-terminal 6×Histidine coding sequence. The resulting plasmids were
376 introduced in *E. coli* DH10B, analyzed by DNA sequencing (*GATC Biotech*, Germany) and used to
377 transform *M. marinum*, as previously described [78].

378

379 **Expression and purification of recombinant proteins**

380 Expression and purification of recombinant proteins were performed as previously reported [45] with
381 some modifications. Briefly, *M. smegmatis* mc²155 *groEL1ΔC* strain carrying pSD26-*lipY* or
382 truncated forms of *lipY* or mutated *lipY*, were used to inoculate 20 mL of complete 7H9 Middlebrook
383 medium containing 50 μg/mL hygromycin B during 3 days at 37°C under shaking (220 rpm). The
384 preparation (OD_{600nm} = 3.0-6.0) were used to inoculate 400 mL of culture medium (OD_{600nm} = 0.1)

385 for a large-scale production. Bacteria were grown at 37°C with shaking (220 rpm) until an OD_{600nm}
386 value between 2.5 and 3.0 was reached and protein expression was induced by adding acetamide
387 (*Sigma-Aldrich*, Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France) to a final concentration of 0.2% (w/v) for 16 h.
388 Bacteria were harvested, re-suspended in ice-cold buffer A (30 mL 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM
389 NaCl) containing 1% *N*-lauroylsarcosine and were broken using a French Pressure cell at 1,100 psi.
390 After centrifugation, the supernatant (S1) was recovered while the resulting pellet was re-suspended
391 in buffer A (30 mL) and sonicated twice during 30 s with 30 s breaks between each cycle and stirred
392 overnight at 4°C. After centrifugation, the new supernatant (S2) was pooled with S1 supernatant and
393 both supernatants were loaded onto a Ni²⁺-NTA resin beforehand equilibrated with buffer A. The
394 column was subsequently washed with buffer A without detergent prior to elution with increasing
395 concentrations of imidazole. The eluted fractions were analyzed by performing on 12% SDS/PAGE
396 as described by [79]. Fractions containing pure proteins were pooled, purified by size exclusion
397 chromatography with a Hiload 16/60 Superdex 200 gel filtration column using buffer A; then
398 concentrated by ultrafiltration to a final concentration of 0.6 mg/mL and stored at -80°C. Theoretical
399 physical properties (molecular mass, extinction coefficient at 280 nm and isoelectric point) of all
400 proteins containing the 6×His-tag were obtained from the ProtParam tool
401 (<http://ca.expasy.org/tools/protparam.html>).

402

403 **Lipase activity**

404 Enzymatic hydrolysis of TAG emulsions, namely tributyrin (TC4), trioctanoin (TC8) or olive oil
405 (TC18), were monitored titrimetrically for 10 min at 37°C using a pH-stat (Metrohm 718 STAT
406 Titrino; *Metrohm Ltd.*, Switzerland). Assays were performed in 2.5 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5)
407 containing 300 mM NaCl and 3 mM NaTDC (Sodium taurodeoxycholate). Free fatty acids (FFA)
408 released were automatically titrated with 0.1 N NaOH (0.01 N NaOH for titration the free fatty acids
409 derived from olive oil) to maintain a fixed end-point pH value of 7.5. The specific activities of

410 enzymes were expressed in units per mg of pure enzyme. One unit corresponds to the release of one
411 μ mole of fatty acid per minute.

412

413 **Generation of ILI-positive cells, lipid extraction and analysis**

414 *M. smegmatis* strains harboring plasmids pSD26, pSD26::*lipY*, pSD26::*lipY Δ PE*, pSD26::*lipY Δ 149*
415 and pSD26::*lipY Δ 170* were grown in 7H9 Middlebrook complete medium containing 50 μ g/mL
416 hygromycin B at 37°C under shaking 220 rpm until an OD_{600nm} value between 1-1.5 was reached.
417 After centrifugation for 10 min at 5,000 g, pellets were then washed with sterile Phosphate Buffer
418 Saline (PBS) buffer pH 7.4 containing 0.05% Tween-20 (PBS-T), with classic sterile PBS buffer and
419 finally normalized and re-suspend at OD_{600nm} = 10 in sterile PBS. Subsequently, solution of PBS-
420 containing bacteria was used to inoculate with an initial OD_{600nm} of 0.05 a fresh Minimal Mineral Salt
421 Medium Nitrogen Limiting (MSM NL) (Na₂HPO₄ 2 g/L, KH₂PO₄ 1 g/L, NaCl 0.5 g/L, MgSO₄ 0.2
422 g/L and NH₄Cl 0.05 g/L) containing 1 % glycerol as carbon source as previously described [53]. Cells
423 were grown for 48 h at 37°C and 220 rpm in the presence of 50 μ g/mL hygromycin B and 0.02%
424 (v/v) tyloxapol to avoid any clump formation. Induction of recombinant proteins was performed by
425 adding 0.2% (w/v) acetamide. After 6 or 12 h of induction, the cells were collected by centrifugation
426 during 15 min at 5,000 g.

427 Cells were washed three times in distilled water, lyophilized overnight and weighed to calculate the
428 exact mass of mycobacterial dry extract. Apolar lipids were extracted as previously described [80].
429 Briefly, 2 mL of MeOH-0.3% NaCl (10:1, v/v) were added per 50 mg dry extract. The saline-MeOH
430 solution containing the bacterial dry extract was mixed with 1 mL of petroleum ether in Pyrex® tube
431 and incubated at RT onto a tube rotator for at least 15 min. After centrifugation at 3,000 g during
432 5 min, the upper organic layer was transferred to a fresh tube. This step was repeated three times and
433 a final centrifugation was done for 15 min at 3,000 g to remove residues carried over during the
434 extraction. The upper organic layer containing apolar lipids was transferred to a fresh pre-weighted
435 vial, and the solvent was evaporated to dryness under a stream of nitrogen. The obtained apolar lipids

436 fraction containing TAG were then re-suspended in 300 μ L dichloromethane and analyzed by Thin
437 layer chromatography (TLC) using aluminum TLC plates (Silica Gel 60, *Merck*) using
438 heptane/diethyl ether/formic acid mixture (55:45:1 v/v/v) as eluent. The spots were visualized by
439 vaporization of a saturated copper acetate-85% orthophosphoric acid (1:1, v/v) and charring. Plates
440 were then scanned using a ChemidocTM MP Imaging System (*Bio-Rad*) and densitometric analyses
441 done using the ImageLabTM software version 5.0 (*Bio-Rad*) to determine relative TAG content in
442 each sample.

443

444 ***In silico* protein modelling**

445 All three-dimensional model structures were built with the automatic protein structure homology
446 modeling server using the I-Tasser software program [81, 82]. LipY, LipY Δ PE were generated using
447 the 4Q3O PDB code [83] as structural template and were already published in [14]. Regarding
448 LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 their 3D-model structures were generated using the 4XVC PDB code [84]
449 as template. The final model structures of LipY Δ 149 (93% coverage; normalized Z-score = 3.01; C-
450 score=0.09) and LipY Δ 170 (97% coverage; normalized Z-score = 3.03; C-score=0.13) were
451 visualized using the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System (version 1.4, Schrödinger, LLC).

452

453 **Enzyme adsorption kinetics onto DOPG monomolecular films**

454 All experiments were performed at room temperature (RT) using home-made Teflon trough (volume,
455 9.4 mL; surface area, 8.5 cm²) and the KSV5000 barostat equipment (*KSV Nima*, Helsinki, Finland)
456 equipped with a Langmuir film balance to measure the surface pressure (*Π*), and monitored by the
457 KSV Device Server Software v.3.50 as previously described [57, 85]. Before each experiment, the
458 Teflon trough was cleaned with tap water, and then gently brushed in the presence of distilled ethanol,
459 before being washed again with tap water and abundantly rinsed with Milli-Q water. The Teflon
460 trough was filled with 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) containing 150 mM NaCl, prepared with
461 Milli-Q water and filtered through a 0.45 μ m Millipore membrane. Residual surface-active impurities

462 were removed before each experiment by simultaneous sweeping and suction of the surface. The
463 monolayer was prepared by spreading a few microliters of a DOPG solution (1 mg/mL in chloroform)
464 over the clean air/buffer interface of the cylindrical trough using a high precision Hamilton
465 microsyringe until the desired initial surface pressure (Π_i) was reached. The waiting time for the
466 spreading solvent evaporation and for the film to reach equilibrium vary from 10 to 20 min depending
467 on the volume spread and the initial surface pressure. After solvent evaporation and stabilization of
468 the film, the lipase was injected into the aqueous subphase at a final concentration of 40 nM and the
469 surface pressure increase due to the adsorption/penetration of the lipase onto the DOPG
470 monomolecular film was continuously recorded until the equilibrium surface pressure (Π_e) was
471 reached [56, 57]. At this stage, data recording was maintained to ensure that a plateau value in terms
472 of surface pressure had been well reached. The aqueous sub-phase was continuously stirred with a 1-
473 cm magnetic bar stirring at 250 rpm.

474

475 **Fourier Transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy**

476 *Sample preparation*

477 Multilamellar liposomes were obtained by hydrating 2% (w/v) DOPG powder with 100 mM
478 phosphate buffer pH 8 containing 150 mM NaCl. Samples were vortexed extensively above and
479 below the main phase transition temperature ($T_m = -18^\circ\text{C}$), by using liquid nitrogen (N_2). Three
480 heating and cooling cycles were carried out. Protein lipid interaction was carried out by adding
481 different protein sample concentrated to 1 mg/mL to the lipid mixture in order to reach a 1:10 (w/w)
482 protein: lipid ratio. Control sample was made by adding the same volume of protein buffer to the lipid
483 mixture.

484

485 *FTIR measurement*

486 IR spectra were recorded with a Jasco FT-IR 6100 equipped with a liquid N_2 refrigerated Mercury-
487 cadmium-telluride detector, the spectrometer was continuously purged with dried air. Spectra were
488 collected using samples solution placed between two CaF_2 windows separated with 5 μm

489 polyethylene terephthalate film spacers. Then, the FTIR cell was placed in a thermostated cell holder.
490 Temperature was controlled with a pike technologies temperature controller working with the Peltier
491 effect. The sample was equilibrated for 5 min at the required temperature before beginning the
492 recording. The FTIR measurements were recorded between 4,000 and 800 cm^{-1} . Each spectrum was
493 obtained by averaging 88 scans recorded at a resolution of 0.5 cm^{-1} . In order to determine the
494 symmetric $\nu_s(\text{CH}_2)$ and antisymmetric $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$ methylene stretching wave numbers, a polynomial
495 baseline was subtracted (Jasco spectra analysis software) in order to overcome the water stretching
496 vibration contribution. All the data were obtained in duplicate from independent samples.

497

498 **Extraction of surface-exposed proteins and immunoblotting**

499 Approximately 10 OD₆₀₀ unit of bacterial cultures were harvested for 10 min at 4,000 g and the pellet
500 washed twice in PBS containing 0.05% Tween-20. Surface-exposed proteins were then isolated by
501 incubating the bacteria with PBS containing 0.5% Genapol[®]-X080 (v/v) (*Sigma-Aldrich*, Saint-
502 Quentin Fallavier, France) at RT, as previously reported [25]. Control samples were treated with a
503 PBS buffer devoid of Genapol[®]-X080 detergent. After 30 min, supernatants were collected and
504 precipitated with a final concentration of 12% trichloroacetic acid and proteins separated onto a 12%
505 SDS-PAGE and transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane using a Trans-Blot Turbo Transfer
506 System (*Bio-Rad*). Immunoblotting of δ His-tagged proteins was performed using a HisProbe[™] HRP
507 conjugate (*Thermo-Scientific*). The exported MMAR_0427 (which shares 89% of identity with the
508 *M. tuberculosis* monoglyceride lipase Rv0183 protein found to be exported to the mycobacterial cell-
509 wall and involved in mycobacterial cell-wall remodeling [46, 86]) was used as control for subcellular
510 location. Immunoblotting was performed by cross reaction using rabbit polyclonal antibodies and
511 horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (*Sigma Aldrich*). Detection was achieved using
512 Pierce[™] ECL Western Blotting substrate solution (*Thermo-Scientific*) and visualized with a
513 ChemiDoc[™] MP System (*Bio-Rad*).

514

515 **N-terminal sequencing of surface-exposed PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170**

516 *M. marinum* harboring pVV16::*PE-SGA-lipY Δ 170* was grown till the OD reaches 1-1.5 and collected
517 by centrifugation 15 min 5,000 *g* at 4°C. The pellet was then washed twice with PBS and resuspended
518 in PBS containing 0.5% Genapol[®]-X080 and stirred for 1 h at RT. The supernatant was recovered
519 and precipitated with a final concentration of 12% trichloroacetic acid. Proteins were solubilized in
520 10 mM Tris/HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl buffer containing 8M urea and subjected to Ni²⁺-NTA affinity
521 chromatography. The eluted fractions were analyzed by 12% SDS/PAGE [79] and those containing
522 pure proteins were pooled and transferred onto polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane. The
523 membrane was stained with Ponceau Red and the corresponding band was excised from the gel,
524 washed 3 times in ethanol/water (90:10) solution, dried and subjected to N-terminal Edman
525 sequencing using a Shimadzu PPSQ 31B protein sequencer.

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535

536 **AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

537 Conceived and design the experiments: PS, JFC, LK and SC

538 Performed the experiments: PS, NS, SD, IP, VP and HG

539 Analyzed the data: PS, NS, SD, VP, HG, JFC, LK and SC

540 Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: JFC, LK and SC

541 Wrote the manuscript: PS, HG, JFC, LK and SC with the help of CdC

542 All this work was supervised by SC

543

544 **ABBREVIATIONS**

545 Proline-Glutamic acid (PE); Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR); Tuberculosis (TB);

546 Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI); Intracellular Lipid Inclusion (ILI); Hormone-Sensitive Lipase (*h*HSL);

547 Triacylglycerol (TAG); Fatty acids (FFA); Specific Activity (SA); 1,2-dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-

548 phosphoglycerol (DOPG); Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF); Luria Bertani (LB); Tributyrin (TC4);

549 Trioctanoin (TC8); Triolein (TC18); Room temperature (RT); Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS);

550 Minimal Mineral Salt Medium Nitrogen Limiting (MSM NL); Thin layer chromatography (TLC).

551

552 **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

553 The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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807

808 TABLES

809 **Table 1. Primers used in this study.** Nucleotides of the primers that differ from the wild-type
 810 sequence are presented in bold and restriction sites incorporated into the primers are underlined and
 811 their name is indicated in parenthesis.

Primers	Sequence 5' → 3'	Origin
pSDlipY-F	AA <u>GGATCC</u> GTGTCTTATGTTGTTGCGTTG (BamHI)	[28]
pSDlipY-R	A <u>GGATCC</u> GGCGATACCGAGTTGCTG (BamHI)	[28]
pSDlipYΔPE-F	AA <u>GGATCC</u> TCGCCAGCGGTATCGGGAACGG (BamHI)	[28]
pSDlipYΔPE-R	A <u>GGATCC</u> GGCGATACCGAGTTGCTG (BamHI)	[28]
pSDlipYΔ149-F	AA <u>GGATCC</u> GCTGCCGGATTCGACATCGC (BamHI)	This study
pSDlipYΔ170-F	AA <u>GGATCC</u> GAACTCACTTTGCAATCCCAAACAATCCAC (BamHI)	This study
E92A-F	GCCGCCGCCGCGCTGGCCAAC	This study
E92A-R	GTTGGCCAGCGCGGCGGCGGC	This study
G149D-F	CTTCACCGGCACGCCGTCAGATGCTGCCGGATTCGACATCGC	This study
G149D-R	GCGATGTCGATCCGGCAGCATCTGACGGCGTGCCGGTGAAG	This study
PE-149-F	CTGGCCAATGCTAGTGGGGCTGCCGGATTCGAC	This study
PE-149-R	GTCGAATCCGGCAGCCCCACTAGCATTGGCCAG	This study
PE-170-F	CTGGCCAATGCTAGTGGGGCTGAACTCACTTTGC	This study
PE-170-R	GCAAAGTGAGTTTCAGCCCCACTAGCATTGGCCAG	This study
pVV-lipY-F	GGAATCACTTCG <u>CATATG</u> GTTGTCTTATGTTGTTGCGTTGCG (NdeI)	This study
pVV-lipY-R	GTGGTGGTGGTGA <u>AGCTT</u> GGCGGCGATCCGAGTTGCTG (HindIII)	This study
pVV-lipYΔ149-F	GGAATCACTTCG <u>CATATG</u> GCTGCCGGATTCGACATCGC (NdeI)	This study

812

813

814 **Table 2. Binding parameters (Π_c , synergy and $\Delta\Pi_0$) of LipY, LipY Δ 149, LipY Δ 170 and**
 815 **LipY Δ PE in the presence of a DOPG Monolayer ^a**

816

	LipY	LipY Δ 149	LipY Δ 170	LipY Δ PE
Π_c (mN.m ⁻¹)	22.5 \pm 1.2	16.4 \pm 0.49	14.3 \pm 0.25	17.2 \pm 0.83
synergy	+0.113 \pm 0.010	-0.023 \pm 0.001	-0.177 \pm 0.0045	-0.564 \pm 0.043
$\Delta\Pi_0$ (mN.m ⁻¹)	20.0 \pm 1.1	16.8 \pm 0.50	16.9 \pm 0.30	26.9 \pm 1.3

817

818 ^a Data derived from **Figure 3A**. Experiments were carried out at 25°C in a cylindrical Teflon
 819 trough as described in **Experimental Procedures**. Buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5)
 820 containing 150 mM NaCl. Final enzyme concentration, 40 nM. Data are mean values of three
 821 independent assays. The uncertainty was calculated as previously described [59, 60].

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824

825 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

826 **Figure 1: Biochemical characterization of LipY protein and its truncated forms.** A) Schematic
827 representation of LipY and its mutant forms. The PE domain is highlighted in blue, the linker region
828 before the Gly¹⁴⁹ maturation site is colored in green, the remaining linker region is colored in orange
829 and the lipase domain is highlighted in grey. B) Protein purity assessed onto 12% SDS-PAGE, lane
830 1 corresponds to the Unstained Protein Molecular Weight Marker (MW) (Euromedex), lanes 2 to 5
831 correspond to 6 µg of LipY, LipYΔPE, LipYΔ149 and LipYΔ170, respectively, loaded onto the gel
832 and stained with Coomassie blue. C-D-E). SA determination of LipY and its mutant forms using TC4
833 (C), TC8 (D) and TC18 (E) as substrates. Experiments were carried out at 37°C in 15 mL of 2.5 mM
834 Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) containing 300 mM NaCl and 1 or 3 mM NaTDC for TC4 and TC8,
835 respectively. Olive oil (TC18) was assayed in the same conditions without NaTDC and with 10%
836 arabic gum. One international enzymatic unit corresponds to 1 µmole of fatty acid released per min.
837 Values are means of 3 independent experiments ± S.D. F) Representation of the relative activities of
838 the LipY truncated forms using TC4, TC8 and TC18 as substrates in comparison to the full-length
839 LipY. **, *p*-value < 0.01. *, *p*-value < 0.05. Statistical analysis was done using one-way ANOVA
840 followed by a post hoc Tukey's Honest Significant Difference test.

841

842 **Figure 2: Overexpression of *lipY* and its mutant forms within lipid-rich mycobacteria.** A)
843 *M. smegmatis* recombinant strains harboring empty pSD26, pSD26::*lipY*, pSD26::*lipY*ΔPE,
844 pSD26::*lipY*Δ149 and pSD26::*lipY*Δ170 were grown in minimal salt medium containing 0.05 g/L of
845 NH₄Cl and 1% glycerol as carbon source for 48 h to promote ILI formation. Bacteria were re-
846 suspended in medium devoid of carbon, containing 0.2% (w/v) acetamide and were collected after
847 6 h or 12 h of induction. Cells were lyophilized and the same amount of dry cell weight was used for
848 apolar lipid extraction. TAG levels from each culture were analyzed by TLC with triolein as standard.
849 The TLC plate is representative of individual experiments performed in duplicate. TLC densitometric
850 analysis of relative TAG levels in each sample was performed by using the empty vector culture at

851 6h post-induction as a reference. Results are expressed as mean values \pm SD of two distinct and
852 independent experiments. **B-E)** Three dimensional structure modeling of LipY protein and its
853 truncated forms. The PE domain is highlighted in blue and the catalytic triad composed of serine
854 (Ser³⁰⁹), aspartic acid (Asp³⁸³) and histidine (His⁴¹⁴) residues are shown in yellow. The green part
855 represents the polypeptide linking the catalytic domain to the PE domain before the Gly¹⁴⁹ maturation
856 site, the remaining linker region is indicated in orange and the lipase domain is shown in grey. **B)**
857 LipY with its PE domain highlighted in blue. **C)** LipY Δ PE where the removal of the PE domain is
858 triggering a large opening of the active site. **D)** LipY Δ 149 without PE and linker region, allowing a
859 better accommodation of the substrate without the catalytic pocket. **E)** LipY Δ 170 corresponding to
860 the lipase domain only. The three-dimensional model structures of LipY, LipY Δ PE were from [14].
861 LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 3D-model structures were generated with the automatic protein structure
862 homology modeling server using the I-Tasser software program [81, 82] and the 4XVC PDB code
863 [84] as template. The final model structures of LipY proteins were visualized using the PyMOL
864 Molecular Graphics System (version 1.4, Schrödinger, LLC).

865

866 **Figure 3: Interfacial physico-chemical properties of LipY domains.** **A)** Adsorption of LipY,
867 LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 onto DOPG monomolecular films. Each enzyme (40 nM final
868 concentration) was injected in aqueous phase (10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) containing 150 mM
869 NaCl) below the lipid film at various initial surface pressures (I_i). The maximal surface pressure
870 increase ($\Delta I_{I_{max}}$) was then recorded and plotted as a function of I_i . The critical surface pressure for
871 penetration (I_c ; intercept of the linear regression with the x -axis) and ΔI_0 (intercept of the linear
872 regression with the y -axis) were determined. Experiments were carried out in a cylindrical Teflon
873 trough as described in the Materials and Methods section. Data are presented as mean values of two
874 independent assays performed in duplicate (CV% < 5.0%). **B)** Temperature dependence of the
875 wavenumber of the asymmetric methylene stretching $\nu_{as}(\text{CH}_2)$ for DOPG in the absence and in the
876 presence of LipY, LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 at protein-to-lipid ratio of 1:10. Average

877 behavior of DOPG alone or in the presence of LipY Δ PE, LipY Δ 149 and LipY Δ 170 have been
878 highlighted in thick black and compared to DOPG in the presence of LipY (filled blue dots).

879

880 **Figure 4: Investigation of LipY and its mutant form maturation processes through the Type**
881 **VII secretion system of *M. marinum*.** **A)** Schematic representation of LipY and its mutant forms.
882 The PE domain is highlighted in blue, the linker region before the Gly¹⁴⁹ maturation site is colored in
883 green, the remaining linker region is colored in orange and the lipase domain is highlighted in grey.
884 Specific point mutation (E92A and G149D) have been highlighted in red. **B)** Subcellular localization
885 of cytoplasmic LipY^{E92A}, LipY Δ 149 proteins and the exported MMAR_0427 protein (which shares
886 89% of identity with the monoglyceride lipase *M. tuberculosis* Rv0183 protein) were used as controls.
887 Recombinant cells expressing 6 \times His-tagged LipY proteins were treated with buffer containing (+) or
888 not (-) Genapol[®]-X080 detergent. Pellet (P) and supernatant (S) fractions containing cytoplasmic and
889 surface-exposed proteins, respectively, were separated by centrifugation. Samples were loaded onto
890 12% SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted using HisProbe reagent. Grey arrows represented unprocessed
891 forms whereas black arrows represented matured forms of the proteins. **C)** Subcellular localization
892 of LipY, LipY^{G149D}, PE-SGA-LipY Δ 149 and PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170 proteins in *M. marinum* by
893 detergent extraction, as described above. **D)** Purification of the 6 \times His-tagged mature form of PE-
894 SGA-LipY Δ 170 proteins in *M. marinum* following detergent extraction and Ni-NTA affinity
895 chromatography. Protein molecular weight and purity were assessed on 12% SDS-PAGE stained with
896 Coomassie blue (CB) and further confirmed by western blotting (WB). Protein was loaded onto
897 PVDF membrane, stained with Ponceau Red and N-terminal sequencing was performed. Analysis of
898 LipY maturation process towards distinct recombinant forms of LipY. WT and PE-SGA-LipY Δ 170
899 were confirmed by N-terminal sequencing whereas PE-SGA-LipY Δ 149 cleavage site remains
900 putative. The maturation site is underlined and the SGA motif essential for LipY export is highlighted
901 in red.

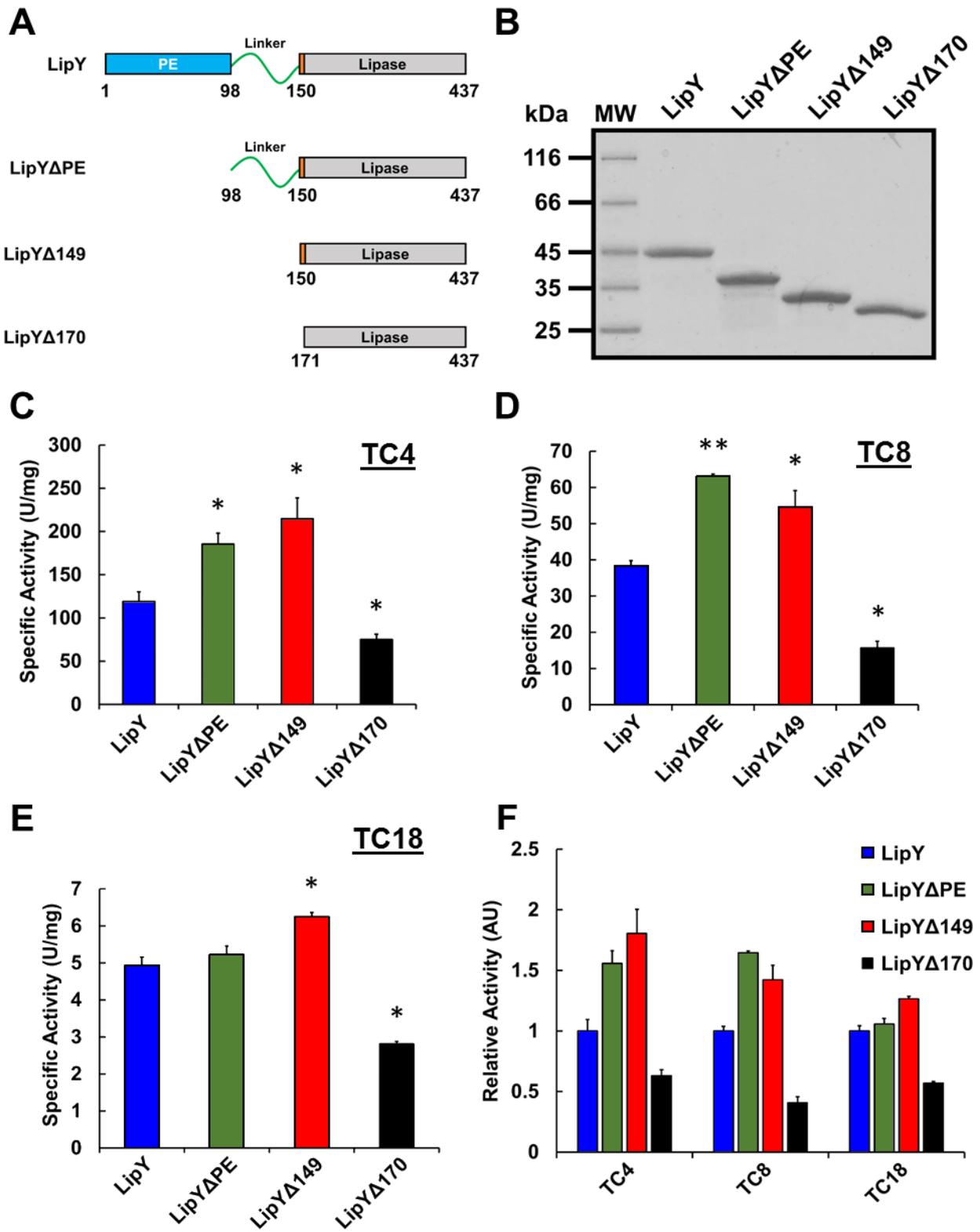
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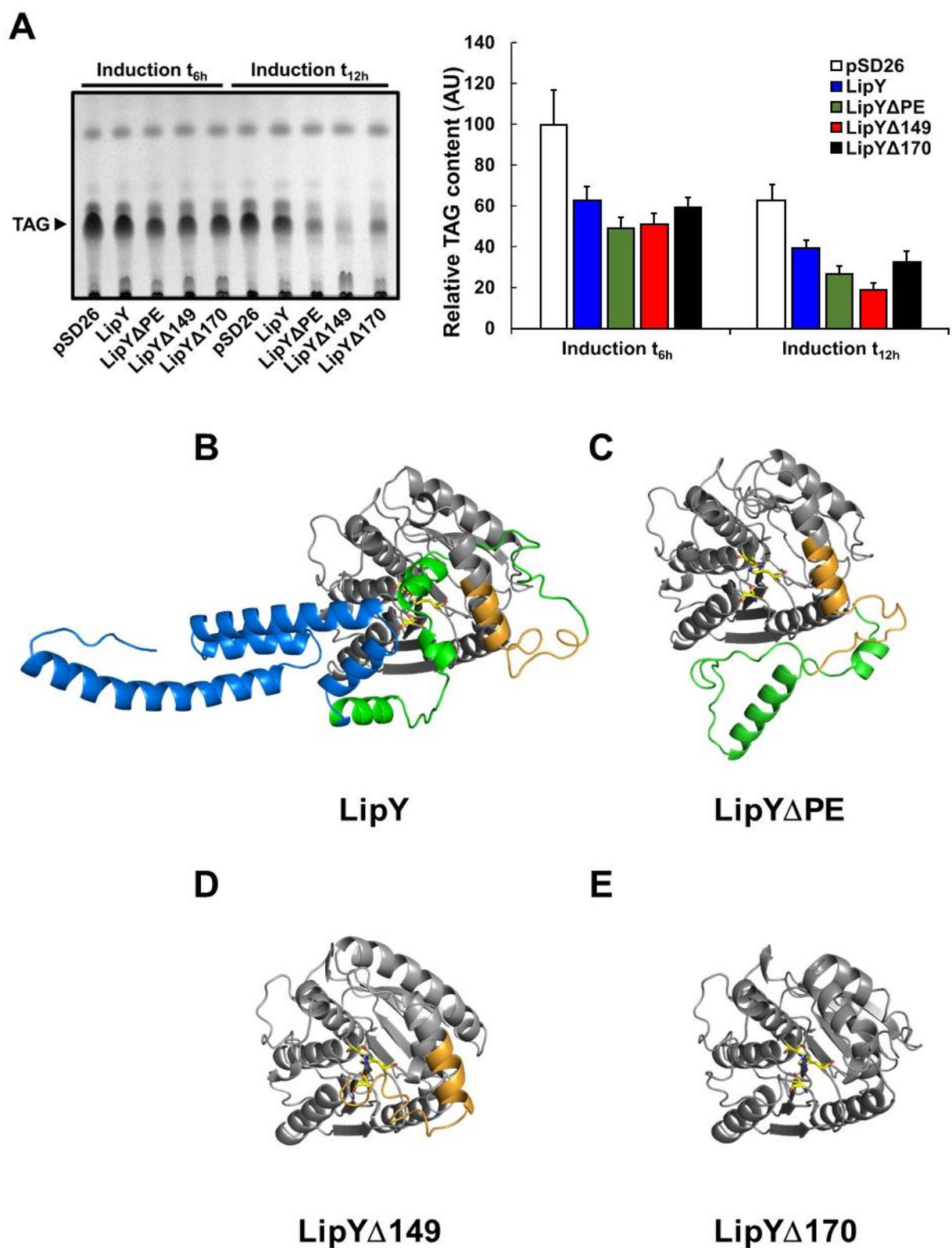
903 **Figure 5: Schematic representation of the contribution of LipY domains in ILI**
904 **interaction/hydrolysis, secretion, maturation, and anchoring processes allowing host cell TAG**
905 **breakdown.**

906 Upon infection the LipY protein is produced within the mycobacterial cytoplasm and possesses a dual
907 localization. We proposed that during FFA acquisition, a weak portion of LipY remains in the
908 cytoplasm in a full-length state, interacting either with the cytoplasmic membrane (1) or with the
909 peripheral phospholipid layer of ILI (2) and that this interaction is mainly mediated by the PE domain
910 (1-2). However, this N-terminal region also reduces the TAG-hydrolase activity of the lipase domain
911 thus resulting in a slow breakdown of the neutral lipids contained within ILI (2). In the same time,
912 the remainder of the protein is targeted to the ESX-5 machinery (3), and further recognized and
913 matured by the MycP5 protease (4). This results in the formation of a mature truncated form of
914 LipY variant (LipY Δ 149) that is anchored within the mycobacterial cell-wall (5). Deletion of the
915 entire linker region did not affect this anchoring process suggesting that the lipase domain is
916 responsible for the interaction within the mycomembrane (5). The truncated form LipY Δ 149, devoid
917 of the PE domain and the first 53 amino acids of the linker, possesses a greater activity than the full-
918 length protein (5) and contributes to FFA acquisition by hydrolyzing host cell TAG within the
919 phagosomal lumen of foamy macrophages (5). The red star corresponds to a schematic representation
920 of the catalytic serine within the lipase domain. CM: cytoplasmic membrane; PG: peptidoglycan, AG:
921 arabinogalactan; MA: mycolic acids; DAG: diacylglycerol; MAG: monoacylglycerol; TAG:
922 triacylglycerol; FFA: free fatty acid.

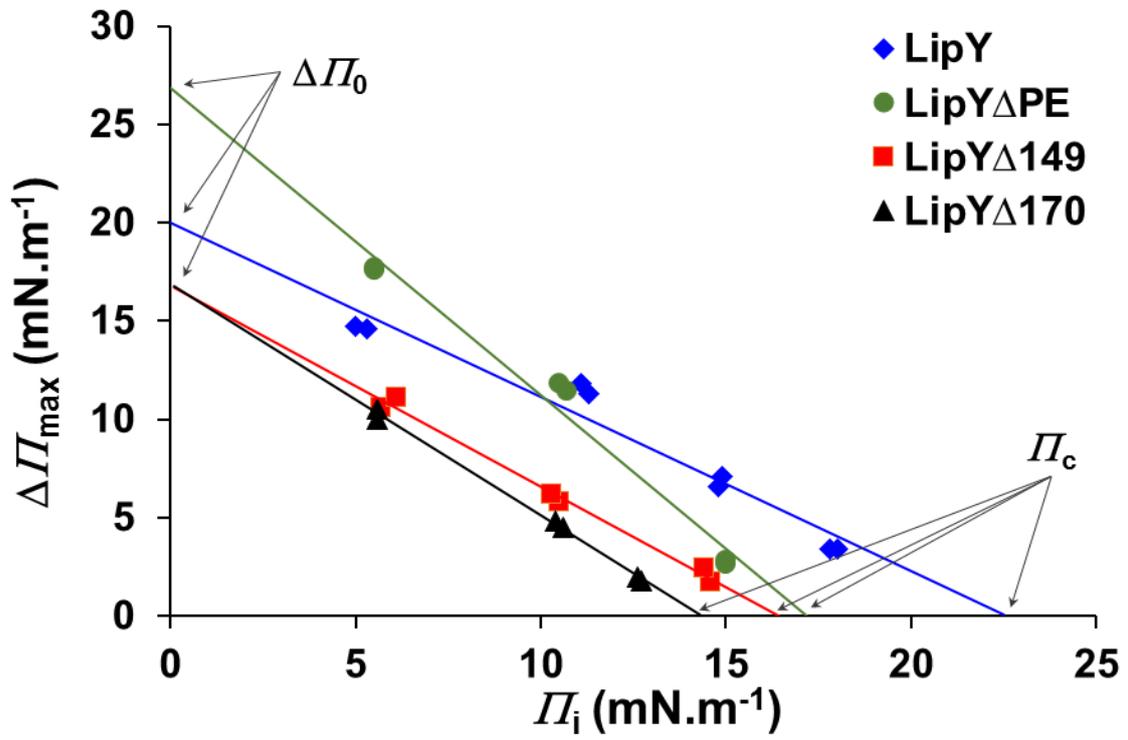
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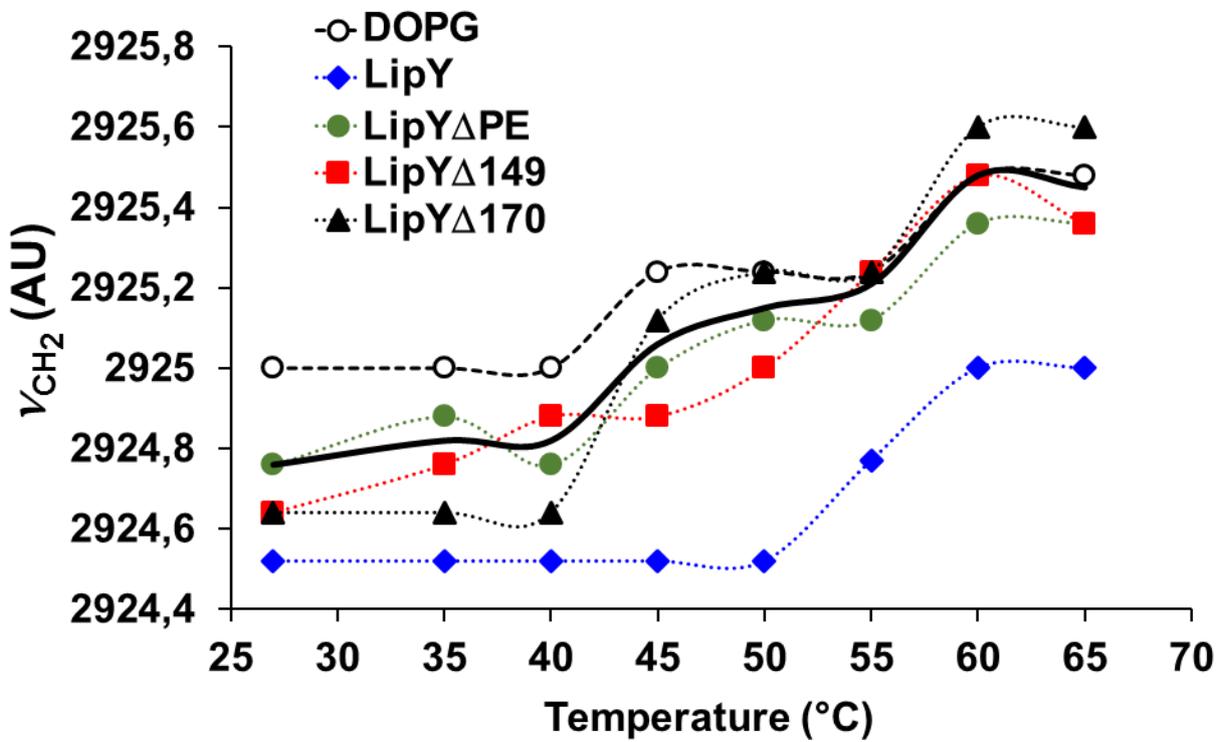




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