

# Molecular Modeling and Docking Studies of PirB Fusion Protein from Photorhabdus Luminescens

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# Abstract

Genetic engineering of Cry proteins from Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) has resulted in the synthesis of various novel toxin proteins which exhibits increased insecticidal activity and highly specificity towards different insect pests. The present study focused on computational studies on PirB sequence from Photorhabdus luminescens. The consensus tree generated by PHYLIP for the PirB sequence revealed that this toxin sequence does not share any ancestral relationship with other Cry toxins from Bacillus thuringiensis considered in this study. Molecular modeling of PirB was followed by construction of two fusion proteins: Type I (PirB-Cry2AaII-Cry2AaIII) and Type II (PirB-Cry2AaII-Garlic lectin). Comparison of the 3D model of PirB with X-ray structure of N-terminal domain 115P\_A revealed both the structures shared similar architecture. Validation of the tertiary structure of PirB by the structural assessment tools such as ProSA, ERRAT and PROCHECK suggested that the predicted structure was of reasonable quality. Docking studies carried out onto the cadherin receptor showed that Type II fusion protein had a greater affinity, suggesting the possibility of using this fusion protein as a potential bio-pesticide.

Keywords: PirB, fusion proteins, modeling, docking, cry toxins..

# Introduction

*Photorhabdus luminescens*, a gram-negative bacterium belonging to the Enterobacteriaceae family, and has been used extensively to control large community of insects<sup>1</sup>. Insecticidal activity is due to the high molecular weight insecticidal toxins produced by this bacterium. Insect resistance towards this bacterial toxin has not been reported to date<sup>2,3</sup>. The genome of the insect pathogen *Photorhabdus luminescens subsp. laumondii* strain TT01 contains numerous genes predicting toxins, hemolysins, and proteases, which may be important for insect pathogenicity<sup>4</sup>. While the loci plu4093 to plu4092 encodes the protein PirA, plu4437 to plu4436 codes for the PirB protein in *Photorhabdus luminescens*<sup>5</sup>.

The Photorhabdus insect related (Pir) toxins act as binary proteins. Both proteins are necessary for injectable but not for oral activity<sup>6,7</sup>. Compared to other toxins of *Photorhabdus luminescens*, PirA shows little similarity to known proteins, whereas PirB shows high sequence homology with N-terminal region of the pore-forming domain of the Cry2A insecticidal toxin, thus making them a putative substitute for *Bacillus thuringiensis*. PirB also has similarities with a developmentally regulated protein from the beetle *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* which appears to have juvenile hormone esterase (JHE) activity <sup>8,9</sup>. There are several studies reporting that glycosylphosphatidyl-inositol (GPI) anchored amino peptidase N (APN) and cadherin-like protein functions as receptors of Cry1A toxins. The APN protein belongs to the Zn-binding metalloprotease family of proteins <sup>10,11</sup>. The C-terminal stalk of

the APN binding site is rich in N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) and acts as the binding site of the Cry1Ac  $toxin^{10,12}$ .

The studies conducted by Lee et al clearly show that lectins also exhibit good insecticidal activity and therefore transgenic plants engineered to express lectin confers protection against different insect pests. Lectins are group of sugar-binding proteins which recognizes specific carbohydrate structures and are known to agglutinate various animal cells by binding to their cell- surface glycoproteins and glycolipids. The insecticidal activities of plant lectins against a wide range of insect pests belonging to homoptera, lepidoptera, coleoptera and diptera have been well documented<sup>13,14</sup>.

Construction of fusion proteins offers the possibility of exploring toxins having higher insecticidal properties. For instance, different Bt fusion proteins, such as Cry1Ab–Cry1B, Cry1Ac–Cry1Ab and Cry1Ac–GFP have been synthesized and expressed in different plant systems. Transferring of carbohydrate binding domain-III of Cry1C to Cry1Ab resulted in a fusion protein (Cry1Ab–Cry1C), which was highly toxic to the army worm (*Spodoptera exigua*), which was earlier resistant to Cry1A toxin<sup>15-18</sup>.

There are several studies conducted in the recent past to demonstrate the development of resistance of insects towards BT toxin<sup>19,20</sup>. Therefore, it is very much essential to design a novel biopesticide, which can circumvent the current problem faced by agricultural crops. In the present study, an attempt has been made to predict theoretical model of fusion protein using

PirB structure as one of the substituent to Cry toxin complex (115P\_A), followed by docking studies with cadherin receptor.

# **Material and Methods**

**Phylogenetic analysis of PirB from** *Photorhabdus luminescens:* Fasta sequence of PirB along with the insecticidal cry toxins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* such as 1DLC\_A <sup>21</sup>, 1JI6\_A <sup>22</sup>, 3EB7 <sup>23</sup>, 1CIY\_A <sup>24</sup>, 2C9K\_A <sup>25</sup> (, 1W99\_A <sup>26</sup> and 1I5P\_A <sup>27</sup> were submitted to the CLUSTALW <sup>28</sup>. Output generated by CLUSTALW tool was saved as 'allign.phy'. Then SEQBOOT program in Phylip <sup>29</sup> was activated. Outfile of the SEQBOOT was renamed as infile and run in "promlk" by analyzing 100 data sets with 5 times jumble. Then outtree of this was renamed as intree and served as input for CONSENSE program.

**Molecular modeling of PirB from** *Photorhabdus luminescens:* Based on the sequence identity between the PirB sequence and the PDB template as suggested by the PSI Blast tool <sup>30</sup>, tertiary structure of PirB was predicted using homology modeling (SWISS MODEL server <sup>31</sup>) or threading (I-TASSER server<sup>32</sup>) approach. The model quality factor suggested by the ERRAT server<sup>33</sup> (was taken into account for selecting the appropriate loop regions for refinement using MOODLOOP server<sup>34</sup>. Minimization of the model was carried out using the Deep View software<sup>35</sup>. Structurally homologous proteins were obtained by submitting the coordinated of the loop refined model to DALI server<sup>36</sup>. The refined models were later validated with PROCHECK <sup>37</sup> and ProSA server<sup>38</sup>.

*In silico* fusion protein: Two types of fusion proteins were modelled using computational approach. For all docking exercises, HEX  $(v6.3)^{39}$  was used. In the first type, the N-terminal domain model of PirB (PirBI) was initially docked on to the edited X-ray crystal structure of Cry2Aa (PDB id 115P)<sup>27</sup> which contained the coordinates information only for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> domain. The second type of fusion protein generated by docking the N terminal domain of PirBI to the 2<sup>nd</sup> domain of Cry2Aa was once again docked onto the PDB structure of garlic lectin (1KJ1)<sup>40</sup>. This was done because this protein is reported to have a folding pattern comparable to domain III of Cry toxin<sup>25,41</sup> and moreover it has insecticidal property<sup>42</sup>.

Docked conformations and interaction energies were recorded at the end of the docking exercise. During the dock operation, the total energies were calculated based on shape as well as electrostatics using a default grid spacing of 0.6 Å. The large number of conformations generated for both the fusion proteins (type I and II) by the HEX package were subjected to rigorous screening, using the X-ray crystal structure of Cry2Aa (115P) as the reference, for deciding on the correct orientation of the docked complexes.

**Docking studies with cadherin receptors:** The two fusion proteins generated through HEX were docked onto the X-ray

crystal structure of cadherin receptor from *Drosophila melanogaster* (PDB ID 3UBH)<sup>43</sup> to evaluate the docking affinity. Among the 100 different orientations that were generated by HEX, the best one was selected based on total dock energy.

# **Results and Discussion**

The templates that were selected to generate the consensus tree for PirB from Photorhabdus luminesces were Cry toxins from Bacillus thuringiensis. The output shows PirB toxin sequence as an out group in the tree, suggesting this sequence is evolutionary unrelated to the remaining Cry toxins Bacillus thuringiensis (figure-1). For the PirB sequence for Photorhabdus luminescens, the PSI BLAST tool was able to retrieve wide array of toxins present in diverse group of organisms from protein data bank (table-1 A). Among these toxins structures, the crystal structure of N-terminal domain of crv2Aa (115P) was selected as the PDB template for modeling purpose as this template sequence got aligned to the PirB sequence of Photorhabdus luminescens with maximum sequence identity (22%) compared to other toxin sequences (table-1 B). Homology modeling usually starts by searching the database of known protein structures such as protein data bank. Sometimes, the availability of many sequences related to the target makes it necessary to do more sensitive searching with profile methods and Hidden Markov Models 44-46. Fiser and Sali (2000) have recommended the use of PSI BLAST tool 30 as one of the methods to construct a profile from a multiple alignment of the highest scoring hits from an initial BLAST search.

Submission of the PirB sequence threaded onto the PDB template 115P to the SWISS MODEL server failed in generating a 3D model based on homology modeling approach. However, I-TASSER server, using the same template structure, was able to generate a 3D model for PirB. All the top 10 PDB templates fetched by the server were cry toxin structures displaying sequence similarity to the PirB toxin sequence, which included 115P\_A also as one of the template (figure-2b). Sequence alignment report generated by I-TASSER output showed that glu56 of PirB is well conserved with rest of the sequences. Alignment report also shows that, gln55 and arg100 of PirB were conserved with all the templates except 1I5P A, which has tyrosine at the corresponding position. Comparison between PirB and 1I5P\_A sequences revealed that serine (ser5,34,101,156,218) was maximally conserved followed by glu57,152,215, asn47, 104, 180, val11,15, leu36,129, ile52,219, phe117,132, tyr182,216, pro42, gln80, met132, asp151 and trp220. Among these residues, glu215 and tyr216 of PirB sequence are of significance, because same type of residues are present at the active site of the crystal structure of Cry2Aa-I (domain I) and are involved in binding to Cry2Aa-II (domain II; 1I5P\_A).

Comparison of the 3D model of PirB with X-ray structure of N-terminal domain 115P\_A revealed, both the structures shared

similar architecture (figure-3). Orientation of all the seven helices of PirB model closely matched with that of template (115P A) structure. In addition to these seven helices, I -TASSER was able to predict additional 2 helices (197 - 211 and 122-126) for PirB model. Further examination of the PirB model and 1I5P\_A, revealed that, both of them had common loop segments (designated as L1 to L6) which connected all the seven helices (figure-3). While the number of residues in loop segments L3 and L6 of PirB model and 115P\_A remained the same (table-2), the number of residues in L1, L2, L4 and L5 varied marginally. However, there was large variation in the number of residues of L5 connecting helix 5 and 6 of PirB and 115P A (table-2). Except pro42 of L2 and ser155 of L6, none of the residues of the loop regions were conserved. The output generated by DALI server revealed that Ca back bone of the PirB model got super-imposed with top 7 structural homologs (1CIY\_A, 1JI6\_A, 2QKG\_A, 3EB7\_A, 2QKGB, 3EB7B, 115P\_A), belongs to different cry toxins of Bacillus thuringiensis (figure-4). The z-score of these 7 structural homologs varied from 24.3 to 22.4 and RMSD varied from 2.0 to 1.0.

Validation of the tertiary structure of PirB by the structural assessment tools such as ProSA, ERRAT and PROCHECK showed that there was an improvement in the quality of the predicted structure upon loop refinement. Energy minimization of the final PirB model after loop refinement resulted in a decrease of total energy from -4130.422 to -6698.85 KJ / mol. The Z score value computed by the ProSA tool decreased from -7.21 to -7.23 of PirB model and was lying within the Z score values calculated for all experimentally determined protein structures of similar size, deposited in the protein data bank (Figure-5A). Energy profile plot, also generated by the ProSA server, revealed negative energy distribution pattern scored by the amino acid residues of PirB model (Figure-5B), suggesting an improvement in the model quality. The quality factor of the loop refined PirB model calculated by ERRAT reached 74.81 from 57.55. Ramachandran plot analysis performed by PROCHECK tool revealed that 89.4% of the residues of PirB structure were distributed in the core region, followed by 8.0% in the allowed region, 1.0% in the general region and remaining the disallowed region (Table-3). 1.5% in However Ramachandran plot analysis of X-ray crystal structure of 1I5P\_A showed that 91.4% of the residues were present in the core, 8.1% of the residues in the allowed region, 0.5% of the residues in the generously allowed region and 0.0% in the disallowed region (table-3B). The overall G-score calculated by the tool for the model was -0.06 which was above the threshold value indicating the predicted model was satisfactory. Kashyap et al (2010)<sup>47</sup> have used similar kind of tools for validating the 3D structure of Cry1Ab17 from Bacillus thuringiensis predicted using X-ray structure of Cry1Aa1 from Bacillus thuringiensis.

Although the two fusion proteins, type I (PirBI-Cry2AaII-Cry2AaIII) and II (PirBI-Cry2AaII-Garlic lectin) (figure-6) that were generated using HEX package, displayed similar orientation, type II had better affinity (dock energy = -679.0 KJ / mol) towards the cadherin receptor (figure-7), compared to type I (dock energy = -616.0 KJ / mol). Francis et al. have reported cadherin-like protein functions as a receptor for Cry1A toxins. However, Tanje et al.48 who have modeled "Cry-Garlic lectin" fusion protein using in silico approach, studied the interaction of this toxin protein with aminopeptidase N receptor from Manduca sexta. Efficacy of the fusion protein predicted in the present study cannot be compared with the studies of Tanje et al.<sup>48</sup>, due to the difference in the type of receptor protein considered. Using PirB in the construction of fusion proteins as one of the component can be beneficial, because of the development of resistance by insects towards the Cry toxins of Bacillus thuringiensis <sup>19,20</sup>.

Residues interacting at the interface of 3 domains of Type II fusion protein model and 1I5P\_A: Comparisons were made between the residues interacting at the interface of 3 domains of type II fusion protein model with 1I5P A (table-4). The results suggest that total number of residues present at the interface of the 3 domains were more in number in case of type II fusion protein (97 residues) compared to 115P A (78 residues). While polar residues were dominant at the interface of type II fusion protein model, on the contrary non- polar types were more in number at the interface of 115P A. Among the 97 residues present at the interface of the type II fusion protein model, 49 of them were associated with PirB model (i. e., domain I) and remaining 48 shared between II and III domain of Type II fusion protein. The residues of domain I that were involved in the interaction with remaining 2 domains of both type II fusion protein model and 115P were predominantly polar in nature, with acidic type of residues less in number (table-4).

Based on the data generated for residues interacting between Type II fusion protein and crystal structure of cadherin receptor from *Drosophila melnogaster*, it is seen that polar residues of Cry2Aa –II (domain II of Type II fusion protein) and non-polar residues of receptor (Cadherin) were maximally involved in the interaction (table-5) (figure-8).

# Conclusion

Molecular modeling studies of PirB toxin resulted in the construction of 2 types of fusion protein, built using the Cry2Aa toxin complex from *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Among these two types of fusion protein, type II showed better affinity with the Cadherin receptor and therefore can be considered as probable alternative to the currently used BT toxins for controlling the agricultural crop pests.



Figure-1

Consensus tree generated for PirB from *Photorhabdus luminescens* using Promlk program of PHYLIP. The number on the branches indicate the number of times the partition of the species into the two sets which are separated by that branch occurred among the trees, out of 100 trees. The tree is an unrooted one.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	PDB Hit <u>3eb7A</u> 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 3eb7A	Iden1 Iden2 Cov. Norm. Dow           Z-         A           score         Score           0.14         0.20         0.95         2.30         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.94         5.09         Dow           0.16         0.24         0.96         5.23         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.95         2.41         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.14         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.14         0.17         0.94         4.43         Dow           0.16         0.22         0.95         5.20         Dow           0.16         0.22         0.96         7.47         Dow	mload ign. Sec.Str Seq mload mload mload mload mload	120 I HHEHHEHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH SAFNNLAENIDGYHKKFNNFSDDVNYQILPMFST NRFEILDSLFTQYMPSFRVTGYEVPLLSVYAQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAV-QNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLL-AVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAV-QNYQVPLLSVYVQ SSVNTMQQLFLNRLPQFQIQGYQLLLPLFAQ	140 1 IHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCHH IVMMQITYWVAGLERKDEIGLSNII AANLHLLILKDASIFGEEWGFSTII AANLHLSVLRDVSVFGQRWGFDAA: AANLHLSVLRDVSVFGQRWGFDAA: AANLHLSVLRDVSVFGQRWGFDAA: AANLHLSVLRDVSVFGQRWGFDAA:	60 180 I I I HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH DIEKVRGLIKKTVEQANSYINNIY AINNYYNRQMSLIAQYSDHCVQWY TINSRYNDLRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY	200 I IHHHHHHCCCCCCCCHHHHHHCSSCCC VDRELNDALNNSTADTVANNVMSVHGH VRTGLDRLKGSNAKQWVEYNRFRREN VNTGLERVWGPDSRDWVP-NQFRREI VNTGLERVWGPDSRDWVRYNQFRREI VNTGLERVW	220 I SSCCSSCCSCC RLHGIEYISIW IILSVLDIMTLF ILIVLDIVAL- FLIVFEYVSIW ILIVLDIVALF FLIVVFEYVSIW
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	PDB Hit 3eb7A 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA 1ciyA	Iden1 Iden2 Cov. Norm. Dow           Z-         A           score         Score           0.14         0.20         0.95         2.30         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.94         5.09         Dow           0.16         0.24         0.96         5.23         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.95         2.41         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.14         0.17         0.94         4.43         Dow           0.15         0.22         0.96         4.74         Dow           0.15         0.22         0.96         4.74         Dow           0.13         0.19         9.95         2.28         Dow	mload ign. Sec.Str Seq inload inload inload inload inload inload inload	120 I HHEHHEHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH SAFNNLAENIDGYHKKFNNFSDDVNYQILPMFST NRFEILDSLFTQYMPSPRVTGYEVPLLSVYAQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAV-QNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLL-AVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAV-QNYQVPLLSVYVQ SSVNTMQQLFLNRLPQFQIQGYQLLLPLFAQ NRFEILDSLFTQYMPSFRVTGYEVPLLSVYAQ	140 1 IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII	60 180 I I I HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH DIEKVRGLIKKTVEQANSYINNIY AINNYYNRQMSLIAQYSDHCVQWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY TINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRWY	200 I IHHHHHHCCCCCCCCHHHHHHCSSCCC (IRELINDALINISTADTUANIVMSVHGH (IRTGLDRLKGSNAKQWVEYNRFRREN (IRTGLERVWGPDSRDWVP-NQFRREI (IRTGLERVWGPD-SRDWVPNQFRREI (INTGLERVWGPDSRDWVRYNQFRREI (IRTGLERVWGPDSRDWVRYNQFRREI (IRTGLERLKGQWVEYNRFRREMTLSVLI	220 I SSCCSSCCSCC RLHGIEYISIW IILSVLDIMTLF TLTVLDIVAL- FLNVFEYVSIW TLTVLDIVALF FLNVFEYVSIW IMTLFFMYDMR
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	PDB Hit <u>3eb7A</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1ciyA</u> <u>1cibA</u> <u>1cibA</u> <u>1cibA</u> <u>1cibA</u> <u>1cibA</u>	Iden1 Iden2 Cov. Norm. Dow           Z-         A           score         Z-           0.14         0.20         0.95         2.30         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.94         5.09         Dow           0.16         0.24         0.96         5.23         Dow           0.13         0.17         0.95         2.41         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.95         2.41         Dow           0.13         0.16         0.82         3.20         Dow           0.14         0.17         0.94         4.43         Dow           0.16         0.22         0.96         4.74         Dow           0.15         0.22         0.96         4.74         Dow           0.13         0.19         0.95         2.28         Dow           0.14         0.24         0.95         5.09         Dow	mload ign. Sec.Str Seq inload inload inload inload inload inload inload inload	120 I HHEHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH SAFNNLAENIDGYHKKFNNFSDDVNYQILPMFST NRFEILDSLFTQYMPSFRVTGYEVPLLSVYAQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAV-QNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLL-AVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAVQNYQVPLLSVYVQ IQFNDMNSALTTAIPLLAVQNQNYQVPLLSVYVQ SSVNTMQQLFLNRLPQFQIQGYQLLLPLFAQ NRFEILDSLFTQYMPSFRVTGYEVPLLSVYAQ LLFSQAESHFRNSMPSFAL-SGYEVLFLTTAQ	140 14 140 14 14444 1444 1444 1444 1444 1444 1444 1444 1444 1	60 180       HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH DIEKVRGLIKKTVEQANSYINNIY AINNYYNRQMSLIA(YSDHCVQW) IINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRW) IINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRW) IINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRW) IINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRW) IINSRYNDLTRLIGNYTDYAVRW) DIAEFYRQLRLIQYSDHCVQW) DIAEFYRQLKLIQEYTDHCVW)	200 I IHHHHHHCCCCCCCCHHHHHCSSCCC IDRELNDALNNSTADTVANNVMSVHHC (RTGLDRLKGSNAKQWVEYNRFREN (TTGLERVWGPDSRDWVRYNQFREI (TTGLERVWGPD-SRDWVRYNQFREI (TTGLERVWGPDSRDWVRYNQFREI (QTAFRGLNTRLHDMLEFRTYN (RTGLDRLKGQWVEYNRFREMTLSVLI (NVGLDKLRGSYESWV)FNRYREN	220 I SSCCSSCCSCC RLHGIEYISIW ILLSVLDIMTLF ILTVLDIVAL- ILTVLDIVALF ILTVLDIVALF ILTVLDIVALF INVFEYVSIW IMTLFPMYDMR ILTVLDLIALF

Figure-2 Alignment of N-terminal domain of PirB from *Photorhabdus luminescens* with the top 10 PDB templates generated by the I-TASSER server



Figure-3

Tertiary structure of PirB from *Photorhabdus luminescens* generated by the I-TASSER server. The N –terminal region of PirB was predicted by furnishing the PDB coordinates of the X-ray structure of cry toxin "cry2Aa" from *Bacillus thuringiensis* in the template option of I-TASSER server



	No:	Chain	Z	rmsd	lali	nres	%id PDB	Description
1	<u>1</u> :	<u>lciv-A</u>	24.3	2.0	206	577	12 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: CRYIA(A);
1	<u>2</u> :	<u>1ji6-A</u>	23.6	2.1	206	589	15 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: PESTICIDIAL CRYSTAL PROTEIN CRY3BB;
1	<u>3</u> :	<u>2qkq-A</u>	23.4	2.1	208	589	13 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: INSECTICIDAL DELTA-ENDOTOXIN CRY8EA1;
1	<u>4</u> :	<u>3eb7-A</u>	23.4	2.1	208	589	13 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: INSECTICIDAL DELTA-ENDOTOXIN CRY8EA1;
1	<u>5</u> :	<u>2qkq-B</u>	23.0	2.1	208	589	13 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: INSECTICIDAL DELTA-ENDOTOXIN CRY8EA1;
1	<u>6</u> :	<u>3eb7-B</u>	23.0	2.1	208	589	13 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: INSECTICIDAL DELTA-ENDOTOXIN CRY8EA1;
1	<u>7</u> :	<u>115p-A</u>	22.4	1.0	209	633	16 <u>PDB</u>	MOLECULE: PESTICIDIAL CRYSTAL PROTEIN CRY2AA;

Figure-4

**Dali server output showing super-imposed structural homologs for PirB from** *Photorhabdus luminescens Green*: PirB; *red*: 1CIY\_A; *grey*: 1JI6\_A; *orange*: 2QKG\_A; *dark blue*: 3EB7\_A; *light blue*: 2QKGB; *green*: 3EB7B; *yellow*: 1I5P\_A



ProSA server output generated for the N-terminal domain of PirB from *Photorhabdus luminescens*. Graphical display of (A) Z score plot (B) Energy profile plot



#### Figure-6

3D model of fusion protein (Type II) generated by docking PirB model from *Photorhabdusluminescens* onto the crystal structures of cry2Aa (PDB ID: 115P; *Bacillusthuringiensis*) and garlic lectin (PDB ID: 1KJ1; *Allium sativum*) using HEX software. Image was generated using SPDV package



Figure-7 Docking of Type II fusion protein onto X-ray crystal structure of N-cadherin from Drosophila melanogaster (PDB ID 3UHB\_A)using HEX software (Total energy = -679.0 KJ / mol)



**Figure-8** 

Amino acid residues of Type II fusion protein (Green: PirB; Blue: Cry2Aa-II; Yellow: Garlic lectin ) interacting with crystal structure of cadherin receptor from *Drosophila* melagaster (Red) within 5Å distance

# Table-1

Summary of (A) PDB templates generated by PSI blast results and (B) sequence alignment of PirB sequence from	m
<i>Photorhabdus luminescens</i> at the end of 20 <sup>th</sup> iteration	

(A)E-value BETTER than threshold						
Sequences producing significant alignments Score Bits E-						
pdbl1JI6IA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of The Insecticidal Bac	226	6e-67				
pdbl1DLCIA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Insecticidal Delta-E	221	2e-65				
pdbl3EB7lA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Insecticidal Delta-E	213	5e-62				
pdb 115P A Chain A, Insecticidal Crystal Protein Cry2aa	201	3e-57				
pdbl2IZWIA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Ryegrass Mottle Viru	175	2e-51				
pdbl1CIYIA Chain A, Insecticidal Toxin: Structure And Channel	179	7e-50				
pdbl1W99IA Chain A, Mosquito-Larvicidal Toxin Cry4ba From Bac	176	7e-49				
pdbl2C9KIA Chain A, Structure Of The Functional Form Of The M 170 1e-46						
pdbl2QNTIA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Protein Of Unknown F	126	3e-34				
pdbl3VDGlA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Enolase Msmeg_6132 (.	81.4	1e-16				
pdbl3VC5IA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Enolase Tbis_1083(Ta	77.9	2e-15				
pdbl3VA8IA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Enolase Fg03645.1 (T	77.1	3e-15				
pdbl3S8YIA Chain A, Bromide Soaked Structure Of An Esterase F	56.0	1e-08				
pdbl3I6YIA Chain A, Structure Of An Esterase From The Oil-Deg 55.6 2e						
pdbl3LS2IA Chain A, Crystal Structure Of An S-Formylglutathio 50.6 8e-						
(B) ALIGNMENTS						
>pdbl1I5PlA Chain A, Insecticidal Crystal Protein Cry2aa						
Length=633						
Score = 201 bits (510), Expect = 3e-57, Method: Composition-based stats.						
Identities = 52/240 (22%), Positives = 100/240 (42%), Gaps = 33/240 (14%)						
Query 18 AVKTSALEWDVTDIVKNAIIGGISFIPSVGPAISFLVGLFWPQSKENIWEG 68						
++ +EW TD + ++G+S + VG I SLG++P N++						
Sbjct 33 TIQKEWMEWKRTDHSLYVAPVVGTVSSFLLKKVGSLIGKRILSELWGIIFPSGSTNLMQD 92						
Query 69 IVKQIERMIEESALKTIKGILAGDIAYIQERMATVADLLDKHPGSEEARSAFNN 122						
I+++E+++L+LGAI+EV+L+++PS+N						
Sbjct 93 ILRETEQFLNQRLNTDTLARVNAELIGLQANIREFNQQVDNFLNPTQNPVPLSITSSVNT 152						
Query 123 LAENIDGYHKKFNNFSDDVNYQILPMFSTTVMMQITYWVAGLERKDEIGLSNIDIEKV 180						
++ +F YQ+L P+F+ M+++ + DE G+S +						
Sbjct 153 MQQLFLNRLPQFQIQGYQLLLLPLFAQAANMHLSFIRDVILNADEWGISAAT	LRTY 208					
Query 181 RGLIKKTVEQANSYINNIYDRELNDALNNSTADTVANNVMSVHGHCRLHGIEYISIW 237						
K ++ ++I IN I K LIN L ++++ + L+ E I +51W	WEENNOW OF	20				
SOJCT 209 KDYLKNYIKDYSNYCINIYQIAFKGLNIKLHDMLEFRTYMFL	Sbict 209 RDYLRNYTRDYSNYCINTYOTAFRGLNTRLHDMLEFRTYMFLNVFEYVSIW 259					

Table-2
Summary of the loop segments involved in the connectivity of various helices of 3D model of PirB and PDB template

IISP_A					
PirB	Helices	1I5P_A			
$L1(pro^{27}-ala^{32})$	α1-α2	$L1(asp^{45}-pro^{52})$			
$L2(phe^{40}-glu^{46})$	α2- α3	$L2(ser^{67}-ile^{73})$			
$L3(glu^{61}-leu^{65})$	α3- α4	$L3(phe^{82}-thr^{87})$			
$L4(lys^{92}-glu^{98})$	α4- α5	$L4(asn^{102}-asn^{106})$			
$L5(asn^{119}-ser^{121})$	α5- α6	$L5(asn^{136}-ser^{145})$			
$L6(gly^{154}-ser^{156})$	α6- α7	$L6(leu^{193}-ala^{195})$			

Table-3

# Summary of the PROCHECK analysis for the N-terminal domain of PirB from (A) Photorhabdus luminescens (B) 115P\_A from Bacillus thuringiensis

```
+-----<-<< P R O C H E C K S U M M A R Y >>>-----+
 | input atom only.pdb 2.5
                                                            220 residues |
* Ramachandran plot: 89.4% core 8.0% allow 1.0% gener 1.5% disall |
* | All Ramachandrans: 11 labelled residues (out of 218)
*| Chi1-chi2 plots: 8 labelled residues (out of 143)
| Main-chain params: 6 better 0 inside 0 worse
| Side-chain params: 5 better 0 inside 0 worse
* | Residue properties: Max.deviation: 5.5 Bad contacts: 3 |
*|
                   Bond len/angle: 8.9 Morris et al class: 1 2 2 |
| G-factors Dihedrals: -0.06 Covalent: 0.00 Overall: -0.01 |
| M/c bond lengths: 99.9% within limits 0.1% highlighted
* | M/c bond angles: 90.9% within limits 9.1% highlighted 1 off graph |
*| Planar groups: 81.9% within limits 18.1% highlighted
                                                            1 off graph |
+-----+
                                  (a)
 +-----------+ P R O C H E C K S U M M A R Y >>>-----+
 | input atom only.pdb 2.5
                                                           227 residues |
 1
+ Ramachandran plot: 91.4% core 8.1% allow 0.5% gener 0.0% disall |
 1
+| All Ramachandrans: 5 labelled residues (out of 225)
+| Chi1-chi2 plots: 1 labelled residues (out of 156)
| Main-chain params: 6 better 0 inside 0 worse
 | Side-chain params: 5 better 0 inside
                                               0 worse
+| Residue properties: Max.deviation: 4.1 Bad contacts: 2 |
+| Bond len/angle: 4.1 Morris et al class: 1 1 1 |
 | G-factors
                    Dihedrals: 0.38 Covalent: 0.58 Overall: 0.46 |
 | M/c bond lengths:100.0% within limits 0.0% highlighted
 | M/c bond angles: 99.2% within limits 0.8% highlighted
+| Planar groups: 96.0% within limits 4.0% highlighted 1 off graph |
 +-----
```

**(b)** 

Tał	ole-4
-----	-------

		115P		
		Cry2Aa_II		Total
Acidic	<b>PirB</b> asp <sup>88, 111, 122, 183, 188</sup> glu <sup>46, 50, 81, 108, 172, 185</sup> (types=2; total = 11)	$asp^{16, 25}$ (types=1; total = 2)	$GL^*$ asp <sup>17,35</sup> , glu <sup>19,27</sup> (types = 2; total = 4)	17
	Cry2Aa_I asp <sup>22,45</sup> (types=1, total =2)	$asp^{420}$ (types=1; total = 1)	$Cry2Aa\_IIIasp578,582,589(types = 1; total =3)$	6
Basic	<b>PirB</b> arg <sup>184</sup> , $1ys^{45,92,115,116,169}$ his <sup>114</sup> (trmps=2; total = 7)	$arg^{26,32}$ , $lys^{30,142}$ , $his^{144}$	$GL arg^{1}, his^{22,36}$	15
	$\begin{array}{c} (types=3; total = 7) \\ \hline Cry2Aa\_I \\ arg^{9,209,213,217,232,237,245}, his^{21,239} \\ (types=2: total = 9) \end{array}$	(types=3; total = 3) arg <sup>375</sup> , his <sup>468</sup> (types=2; total = 2)	$(types=2; total = 5)$ $Cry2Aa_III$ $arg^{548}$ $(types=1: total = 1)$	12
	PirB		GL	
Polar	$asn^{47,118,119,125,175,179,180,187}$ , $gln^{43,173}$ , $ser^{44,121,176}$ thr <sup>67,85</sup> , tyr <sup>78,113,117</sup> (types=5; <b>total =18</b> )	$asn^{11}gln^{27,34}ser^{19,21},$ thr <sup>22,28,37</sup> ,tyr <sup>20</sup> (types=5; total =9)	$gln^{14,26}$ , ser <sup>15,37</sup> , tyr <sup>11,21,34</sup> (types=3; total =7)	34
	$\frac{\text{Cry2Aa I}}{\text{asn}^{3,6,221,235}, \text{ ser}^{6,7,25,260,266,270,271}} \text{thr}^{11,236}, \text{tyr}^{264} $ (types=4; total=14)	$\begin{array}{l} asn^{274,341,416,469,472,473}, gln^{283,}\\ asn^{278,286,399}\\ ser^{278,280,287,309,363,370,376,415},\\ thr^{285,364}, tyr^{417,421}\\ (types=4; total = 22) \end{array}$	Cry2Aa IIIasn576,577,581, ser588,621,thr492,495,573, tyr475,633,(types=4; total = 10)	22
Non polar	PirB $ala^{73,77,84}$ , $gly^{70,74,112}$ , $ile^{68,71,181}$ , $phe^{120}$ , $pro^{42}$ , $trp^{41}$ , $val^{171}$ (types=7; total =13)	$ala^{29,31}$ , $gly^{146}$ , $ile^{13,33}$ , $leu^{18,36}$ , $phe^{23,143}$ , $val^{9,15,145}$ ( types=6; total =12)	GLala12, gly13, ile24, leu16, pro20,val18( types=6; total =6)	31
	<b>Cry2Aa_I</b> gly <sup>8,272</sup> , leu <sup>5</sup> , met <sup>268</sup> , trp <sup>41</sup>	ala <sup>273,277</sup> ,cys <sup>362</sup> , gly <sup>279,281,310</sup> , leu <sup>275,308,366,369</sup> , phe <sup>288,418,422</sup> , pro <sup>282,367,368,419</sup> , val <sup>365,374</sup>	<b>Cry2Aa_III</b> gly <sup>493,579</sup> , ile <sup>474,484,496,590</sup> , leu <sup>547,632</sup> , met <sup>620</sup> , phe <sup>494,624</sup> , pro <sup>631</sup> , phe <sup>494,624</sup>	38

Note: \* GL = Garlic lectin

Table-5

(types=4; total = 5)

(types=7; total =19)

(types=7; total = 14)

### Summary of residues interacting between Type II fusion protein and crystal structure of cadherin receptor from Drosophila melnogaster (PDB ID: 3UHB\_A)

Acidic	Basic	Polar	Non Polar				
Type II Fusion protein PirB (Domain I)							
alu <sup>148,161</sup>	$1y^{s150}$ , $arg^{164}$	NIL	ala <sup>221</sup>				
Cry2Aa-II (Domain II)							
NIL	arg <sup>323,353,360</sup> , his <sup>457</sup> , lys <sup>419</sup>	asn <sup>222,251,253,393,417, 420,421</sup> ,	ala <sup>238,359</sup> , ile <sup>255,</sup>				
		gln <sup>239,249,347,</sup> ser <sup>252,351,358</sup> ,					
		$thr^{237}$ , $tyr^{245,254,392}$					
Garlic Lectin (Domain III)							
$asp^{456,513}$ , glu <sup>440,512</sup>	NIL	tyr <sup>442,</sup>	$ile^{523}$ ,pro <sup>441</sup> , trp <sup>524</sup> , val <sup>439</sup>				
Cadherin receptor (PDB ID: 3UHB_A)							
glu <sup>456,539,613,637,638,657,659,791</sup>	arg <sup>546,630,631,639,718,745</sup> , gl lys <sup>492,493,494,619</sup>	$n^{690,692}$ , ser <sup>634,655,724,786,788</sup> , thr <sup>635,743</sup> , tyr <sup>542,656</sup>	$\begin{array}{c} gly^{691,787}, ile^{671}, leu^{548,717}, met^{653}, \\ phe^{632,714}, pro^{540,541,572,636,654,720}, \\ val^{583,615,627,722}, \end{array}$				

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