

Water Oxidation by a Cytochrome P450: Mechanism and Function of the Reaction

Brinda Prasad, Derrick J. Mah, Andrew R. Lewis, Erika Plettner*

Department of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Abstract

P450_{cam} (CYP101A1) is a bacterial monooxygenase that is known to catalyze the oxidation of camphor, the first committed step in camphor degradation, with simultaneous reduction of oxygen (O₂). We report that P450_{cam} catalysis is controlled by oxygen levels: at high O₂ concentration, P450_{cam} catalyzes the known oxidation reaction, whereas at low O₂ concentration the enzyme catalyzes the reduction of camphor to borneol. We confirmed, using ¹⁷O and ²H NMR, that the hydrogen atom added to camphor comes from water, which is oxidized to hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). This is the first time a cytochrome P450 has been observed to catalyze oxidation of water to H₂O₂, a difficult reaction to catalyze due to its high barrier. The reduction of camphor and simultaneous oxidation of water are likely catalyzed by the iron-oxo intermediate of P450_{cam}, and we present a plausible mechanism that accounts for the 1:1 borneol:H₂O₂ stoichiometry we observed. This reaction has an adaptive value to bacteria that express this camphor catabolism pathway, which requires O₂, for two reasons: 1) the borneol and H₂O₂ mixture generated is toxic to other bacteria and 2) borneol down-regulates the expression of P450_{cam} and its electron transfer partners. Since the reaction described here only occurs under low O₂ conditions, the down-regulation only occurs when O₂ is scarce.

Citation: Prasad B, Mah DJ, Lewis AR, Plettner E (2013) Water Oxidation by a Cytochrome P450: Mechanism and Function of the Reaction. PLoS ONE 8(4): e61897. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897

Editor: Claudio M. Soares, Instituto de Tecnológica Química e Biológica, UNL, Portugal

Received: October 31, 2012; **Accepted:** March 18, 2013; **Published:** April 25, 2013

Copyright: © 2013 Prasad et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Funding: This research was supported by NSERC (Discovery Program 222923, to EP) and Simon Fraser University (Graduate Fellowship and Travel Awards to BP). NSERC: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

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

* E-mail: plettner@sfu.ca

Introduction

Cytochrome P450 enzymes (P450s or CYPs) belong to a family of heme-thiolate enzymes that couple the reduction of oxygen to the oxidation of non-activated hydrocarbons [1]. The catalytic cycle of cytochrome P450_{cam} [2] (Fig. 1a) starts with binding of camphor to the resting enzyme **1** and expulsion of the axial water molecule to form **2**. Enzyme-substrate complex **2** accepts two electrons from the nicotinamide cofactor (NADH) via two redox partner proteins: an iron-sulfur protein, putidaredoxin (PdX), and a flavoprotein, putidaredoxin reductase (PdR) [3]. P450 utilizes the two electrons to reduce oxygen, O₂, in a stepwise manner, via intermediates **3** and **4** [4,5]. This leads to the formation of peroxy complex **5**, which is protonated to give hydroperoxy complex **6**. Protonation of the distal oxygen of **6** and elimination of water gives rise to a high valent iron-oxo complex **7** known as compound I (Cpd I) [6] (Fig. 1a). The oxygen from **7** is then inserted into a C-H bond of the substrate, giving an alcohol product complexed to the iron, **8**. The catalytic cycle is complete when water displaces the product.

Instead of proceeding through the complete reduction and splitting of O₂, P450 enzymes can be shunted to Cpd I by using oxidants such as cumene hydroperoxide or *meta*-chloroperbenzoic acid (*m*-CPBA) (Fig. 1a, path “**i**”) [7,8]. Furthermore, there are three alternate pathways that lead to uncoupling of NADH from camphor oxidation. First, Cpd I can be reduced by two electrons, and protonated twice giving the substrate complex **2** and water. This reductive pathway is known as four-electron uncoupling

because it requires two NADH equivalents (Fig. 1a, path “**ii**”) [9,10,11]. Second, two-electron uncoupling is the dissociation of H₂O₂ (Fig. 1a, path “**iii**”) from the ferric hydroperoxy species **6**. Third, superoxide can dissociate from superoxy complex **4** (Fig. 1a, path “**iv**”) [1].

P450_{cam} (CYP101A1) enables a strain of *Pseudomonas putida* (a soil bacterium) to use (1R)-(+)-camphor **9** (Fig. 1) as a carbon source, and it oxidises camphor at the 5th position to give 5-*exo*-hydroxycamphor **10** and 5-ketocamphor **11** (Fig. 1) [12]. Here we describe how P450_{cam} can oxidize water to H₂O₂ and simultaneously reduce camphor to borneol **12** (Fig. 1b) under low O₂ conditions, and how borneol regulates the expression of the P450_{cam} system. Catalytic water oxidation is difficult to achieve, because the reaction is endothermic and has a large barrier. [13,14,15] To our knowledge, this is the first description of a cytochrome P450 oxidizing water.

We have observed that at low oxygen concentration, regardless of whether Cpd I forms via reduction of O₂ or by shunting with oxidants, P450_{cam} not only produces the oxidation products **10** or **11**, but can also reduce camphor to borneol (Fig. 1b) [16]. We have interpreted this reaction to give *P. putida* an ecological advantage over other non-camphor metabolising bacteria because borneol is bactericidal to non-P450 containing bacteria, but not to *P. putida* [16]. In this paper, we present the mechanism of the camphor reduction reaction and the regulatory effect of borneol on the expression of P450_{cam}.

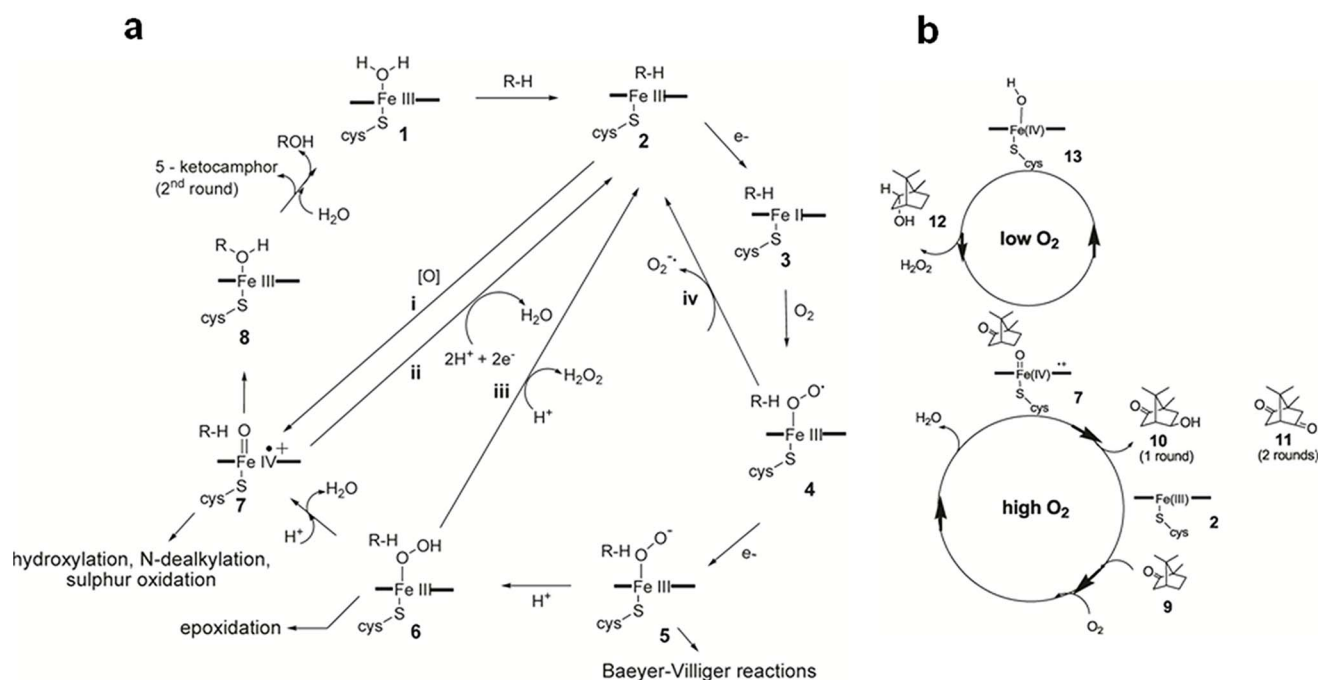


Figure 1. The catalytic cycle of P450_{cam} and the formation of the products, 10, 11 and 12. **a)** R-H represents the substrate, camphor. **i, ii, iii** and **iv** represent the peroxide shunt reaction, four-electron uncoupling, two-electron uncoupling, and the loss of superoxide. **b)** Under highly oxygenated conditions, P450_{cam} hydroxylates camphor **9** to 5-*exo*-hydroxy camphor **10** and further to 5-ketocamphor **11**, whereas under low oxygen conditions, P450_{cam} reduces camphor to borneol **12**.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g001

Materials and Methods

I) Materials

All solvents were distilled prior to use. Nicotine adenine dinucleotide, reduced (NADH), dithiothreitol (DTT), lysozyme, DNase, RNase, vitamin B₁, riboflavin, 5-aminolevulinic acid, hydrogen peroxide (used for assays), protease inhibitors leupeptin, aprotinin, and 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonyl fluoride, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), cytochrome P450 CYP3A4 (C-4982), superoxide dismutase (S5639), catalase (C-1345), glucose oxidase (G-2133) were purchased from Sigma. Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) was purchased from Fisher Scientific. Ferrous sulphate (FeSO₄) was purchased from Allied Chemical, Canada. Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC-MS) was carried out on a Varian Saturn 2000 MS equipped with a 30-m SPB-5 column (Supelco, 0.25 mm ID; 0.25 μm film thickness) and the column was programmed as follows: 45°C (0.5 min), 7°C min⁻¹ to 120°C (1 min), 50°C min⁻¹ to 260°C (3 min). Electron impact (EI) spectra were obtained at an emission current of 30 μA, scanning from 50 to 365 amu, with ion storage (SIS mode) 49–375, trap temperature 170°C and transfer line 250°C. UV/Vis spectra were obtained on a Cary 300 Bio UV-visible double beam instrument. NADH utilization rates and hydrogen peroxide formation were measured on a thermostatted Hach DR/4000 U spectrophotometer. Activity assays were carried out at 22°C. Electrophoresis was performed on polyacrylamide gels (14%, 29:1) with 0.5% SDS (SDS-PAGE). The samples were reduced by treating with 1 μL of DTT stock (31 mg/mL) before loading on gels. Gels were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R (Sigma). Sonication was done using a Branson Ultrasonic sonicator. Centrifugations were carried out with a Beckmann Avanti J-26 XPI centrifuge, equipped with a JLA 8.1000 rotor.

The buffers used were: lysis (20 mM phosphate buffer (K⁺), pH 7.4 with 1 mM camphor; T-100 (50 mM Tris, 100 mM KCl, pH 7.4); T-400 (50 mM Tris, 400 mM KCl, pH 7.4). Buffers for nickel columns were: rinse buffer (20 mM Tris, pH 8.0); low imidazole buffer (5 mM imidazole, 20 mM Tris, 0.5 M NaCl, pH 8.0); strip buffer (0.1 M Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 0.5 M NaCl, pH 8.0). For P450_{cam} purifications, all buffers contained 1 mM camphor. Substrate-free P450 was prepared by passing the substrate bound enzyme over a Sephadex G-10 column equilibrated with 100 mM 3-(*N*-morpholino) propanoic acid (MOPS, pH 7.0).

II) Methods

Deuterium (²H) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE II 600 MHz spectrometer (operating at 92.124 MHz). A Bruker 5 mm TCI cryoprobe was used with samples maintained at a temperature of 298 K. ²H field-locking and field sweep were turned off. Samples were contained in 3 mm diameter MATCH nmr tubes filled to 40 mm (volume ca. 185 μL). Acquisition details: 10,240 transients summed, spectral width 15 ppm, transmitter offset 6.5 ppm, 11054 complex points acquired, 15 degree pulse with recycle delay of 1 s between transients, no decoupling of ¹H during FID acquisition. Acquisition time was 14.2 h per spectrum.

The ¹⁷O NMR spectra were run on a Bruker AVANCE III 500 MHz NMR spectrometer (operating at 67.808 MHz) equipped with a Bruker 5 mm TBO probe and samples were maintained at a temperature of 298 K. Samples were contained in 5 mm diameter nmr tubes filled to 50 mm (volume ca. 600 μL). Acquisition details: 1,000 or 25,000 transients summed, spectral width 503 ppm, ¹⁷O transmitter offset 50 ppm, ¹H transmitter offset 4.78 ppm, 32768 complex points acquired, 90 degree pulse with recycle delay of 1 s between transients, and inverse-gated

WALTZ-16 composite pulse decoupling of ^1H during FID acquisition. Acquisition time was 12 min per spectrum or 300 min (when catalase was present). The chemical shifts (δ) for all compounds are listed in parts per million using the NMR solvent as an internal reference (0 ppm for ^{17}O or 4.78 ppm for ^2H).

III) Protein Expression and Purification

E. coli strain BL-21 (DE 3) (Novagen) containing the appropriate plasmid [17] were grown in Luria Broth-ampicillin (LB-amp) medium at 37°C with shaking (250 rpm) to $A_{600} = 0.9\text{--}1.0$ [17]. At this point, cells were harvested by centrifugation, resuspended in fresh LB-ampicillin medium, and after 2 h of growth, IPTG (240 mg L^{-1}) and trace additives were added. The cultures, except for PdR, were grown for 12 h at 27°C (PdR was grown for 6 h). The cells were harvested by centrifugation (30 min, $7000\times g$) and stored at -85°C until lysis. Additives were: FeCl_2 (0.1 μM), 5-aminolevulinic acid (1 mM), Vitamin B₁ (10 μM) for P450; FeCl_2 (0.1 μM) and $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (0.1 μM) for redoxin; riboflavin (1 mM) for reductase.

The lysis steps of P450 and PdR remained the same as described for *P. putida* [10] except that 1 mM camphor was added to the buffer in which P450 culture was lysed. The dialysed lysate of P450, or PdR was individually subjected to a 20% ammonium sulphate cut to remove the cell debris. The 20% supernatant was then carried forward to 45% ammonium sulphate saturation to isolate the protein. The 20–45% pellet was resuspended in T-100 buffer (50 mM Tris, 100 mM KCl, pH 7.4), camphor (1 mM) was added in the case of P450 and purified by DE-52 (anion exchange column) using a linear gradient with buffer T-100 to T-400, 1 mM camphor and 1 mM β -mercapto ethanol (P450 only) at 1 mL min^{-1} . The fractions with high absorbances at λ_{392} (in the case of P450), λ_{454} (in the case of PdR) were checked with SDS-PAGE. The collected fractions were pooled and concentrated using an Amicon ultrafiltration cell equipped with a YM-10 membrane and the concentrated protein was individually loaded onto a S-100 column, eluted with T-100 buffer, 1 mM sucrose, 1 mM camphor (P450 only) at 1 mL min^{-1} . SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis showed a single band for P450 and PdR.

In the case of PdX, cells from 2 L of culture were lysed in lysis buffer (0.25 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.0). Lysozyme (10 mg mL^{-1}), DNase (2 mg, Sigma), and RNase (10 mg, Sigma) were added and the solution was stirred for 30 min at 4°C. The lysate was sonicated with 50% duty cycle for 10 minutes, stirred for 10 min at 4°C, and homogenized with a pestle. The homogenized cells were then harvested by centrifugation ($10500\times g$, 30 min) and dialysed with frequent changes of lysis buffer followed by further purification by ammonium sulphate precipitation. The dialysed lysate was subjected to a 20% ammonium sulphate cut to remove the cell debris. The 20% supernatant was then carried forward to 90% ammonium sulphate saturation overnight to isolate the protein. The 20–90% pellet was resuspended in 5 mL of rinse buffer (20 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.5), dialysed against this buffer for 3 h and harvested at 5000 rpm for 5 min. The dialysed supernatant was loaded on a $\sim 5\text{ cm Ni}^{2+}$ -His bind column and eluted with strip buffer ($10\text{ mL}\times 3$), low imidazole buffer ($10\text{ mL}\times 2$), high imidazole buffer ($10\text{ mL}\times 4$). The fractions with $A_{280}/A_{325} < 5.0$ were pooled, dialysed with 100 mM Tris, 100 mM KCl, pH 7.4 and the concentrated PdX protein was frozen to -85°C . The concentrations of ferric P450 (with camphor), PdR and PdX were determined by their extinction coefficients ($\epsilon_{392} = 68.5\text{ mM}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\epsilon_{454} = 10\text{ mM}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\epsilon_{325} = 15.6\text{ mM}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$ respectively).

The procedures for the enzymatic assays with the recombinant proteins, as well as the superposition and docking procedures, using Molecular Operating Environment (MOE, Montréal, Canada) are included in Material S1.

Results and Discussion

I) Reaction Conditions Leading to Formation of Borneol

We have observed that borneol forms as a major product of P450_{cam} when camphor is present and the O_2 concentration is low ($\text{O}_2 \leq 2\text{ mg/L}$, $\leq 63\text{ }\mu\text{M}$). *In vivo*, this occurs when cultures are poorly aerated [16] and, *in vitro*, this occurs when the buffer is sparged with argon in an open vial. In contrast, the known oxidation products **10** and **11** form at high O_2 concentrations ($\sim 9\text{ mg/L} = 284\text{ }\mu\text{M}$). *In vivo*, this occurs when cultures are well aerated [16] and, *in vitro*, this occurs when pure O_2 is bubbled into the buffer (Fig. 1b). To map the mechanism of the reduction, we have performed experiments with the recombinant proteins (P450_{cam}, PdX, and PdR), isolated from expression in *E. coli* (Table 1). Assays were carried out in phosphate buffer (50 mM phosphate, 150 mM K^+ , pH 7.4), with NADH and camphor. Our extinction coefficient values were used for the calculation of the enzyme concentration (Table S1). Under high oxygenation (with pure O_2 bubbled into the buffer), we observed 5-*exo*-hydroxy camphor as a major product (Table 1, entry 1). Similar experiments under mid-range oxygenated conditions (with air-treated buffer) yielded borneol as the only product (Table 1 entry 2). The formation of borneol under these conditions was 34-fold less compared to 5-*exo*-hydroxy camphor that formed under highly oxygenated conditions, and this could be because of the slower formation of iron-oxo species (Compound I).

Under poor buffer oxygenation, in the absence of NADH, P450_{cam} shunted with *m*-CPBA (Fig. 1a, pathway “i”) reduced camphor to borneol (Table 1 entries 3 and 4). The observation that borneol formed in the absence of NADH indicates that NADH is not the source of electrons for the reduction reaction. Furthermore, shunted P450_{cam} under high buffer oxygenation gave more 5-ketocamphor than borneol (Table 1 entry 5), indicating that O_2 levels are important in the regulation of the reaction catalyzed by the enzyme.

II) Source of the 2-H in Borneol

Because NADH is not the source of electrons for the reduction of camphor, the source of the hydrogen attached to C-2 of borneol was further investigated in assays using deuterated phosphate buffer (50 mM phosphate in D_2O , 150 mM K^+ , pH 7.4). Using recombinant proteins (P450_{cam}, PdR, and PdX), under mid-range oxygenated conditions (with air), we detected the enzymatic conversion of camphor to 2-D-borneol **12D** (Fig. 2a, Table S2) using ^2H NMR. We also detected 5-ketocamphor, as well as the depletion of NADH (Table S2). Similar experiments using NADD (deuterated nicotinamide cofactor) in non-labeled phosphate buffer did not yield 2-D-borneol [18]. Enzymatic assays in deuterated buffer (with recombinant P450_{cam}, shunted with *m*-CPBA, in the absence of NADH) also yielded borneol that was deuterated at C-2 (H_{exo}) (Fig. 2a, Table S2). All these experiments lead to the conclusion that water is the source of H_{exo} attached to C-2 in borneol formed by P450_{cam}.

III) ^{17}O NMR of H_2O_2

If camphor is reduced to borneol by electrons from water, then water should be oxidized to hydrogen peroxide. We observed H_2O_2 along with borneol, approximately in a 1:1 stoichiometric ratio when P450_{cam} was shunted with *m*-CPBA (Table 1, entries 3–

Table 1. Assays with recombinant proteins: Formation of borneol, 5-ketocamphor and 5-*exo*-hydroxy camphor under various conditions.

Enzymatic assay	Products (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)			NADH consumed (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)	H ₂ O ₂ formed (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)	4e ⁻ uncoupling (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)
	Borneol	5-keto camphor 11	5- <i>exo</i> -hydroxy camphor 10			
O ₂ ¹	7.5±4	20±5	950±465	1331±270	ND	660±235
air ²	28±9	ND	ND	335±13	297±103	80±10
rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA ³	249±28	ND	ND	N/A	291±29	N/A
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA ^{3,4}	404±19	16±4	ND	N/A	444±16	N/A
O ₂ + rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA ^{3,5}	173±39	354±12	ND	N/A	204±17	N/A

Values are the average of 4 replicates ± S.E. 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) was used for all the assays. Experimental details are included in Material S1. ND = Not Detected; N/A = Not Applicable.

¹The reaction mixture contained recombinant P450_{cam}, PdR and PdX and NADH. Oxygen (99%) was bubbled into the buffer for 60 seconds before the assay. The 4e⁻ uncoupling was calculated by taking the difference between the total NADH required and observed. ²The reaction mixture contained recombinant P450_{cam}, PdR, PdX, and NADH. Air (charcoal filtered) was bubbled into the buffer before the assay. ³The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam} and *m*-CPBA as a shunt agent.

⁴The buffer was sparged with argon (99%). ⁵The buffer was treated with oxygen (99% pure, Sigma Aldrich) and assays were performed using camphor. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.t001

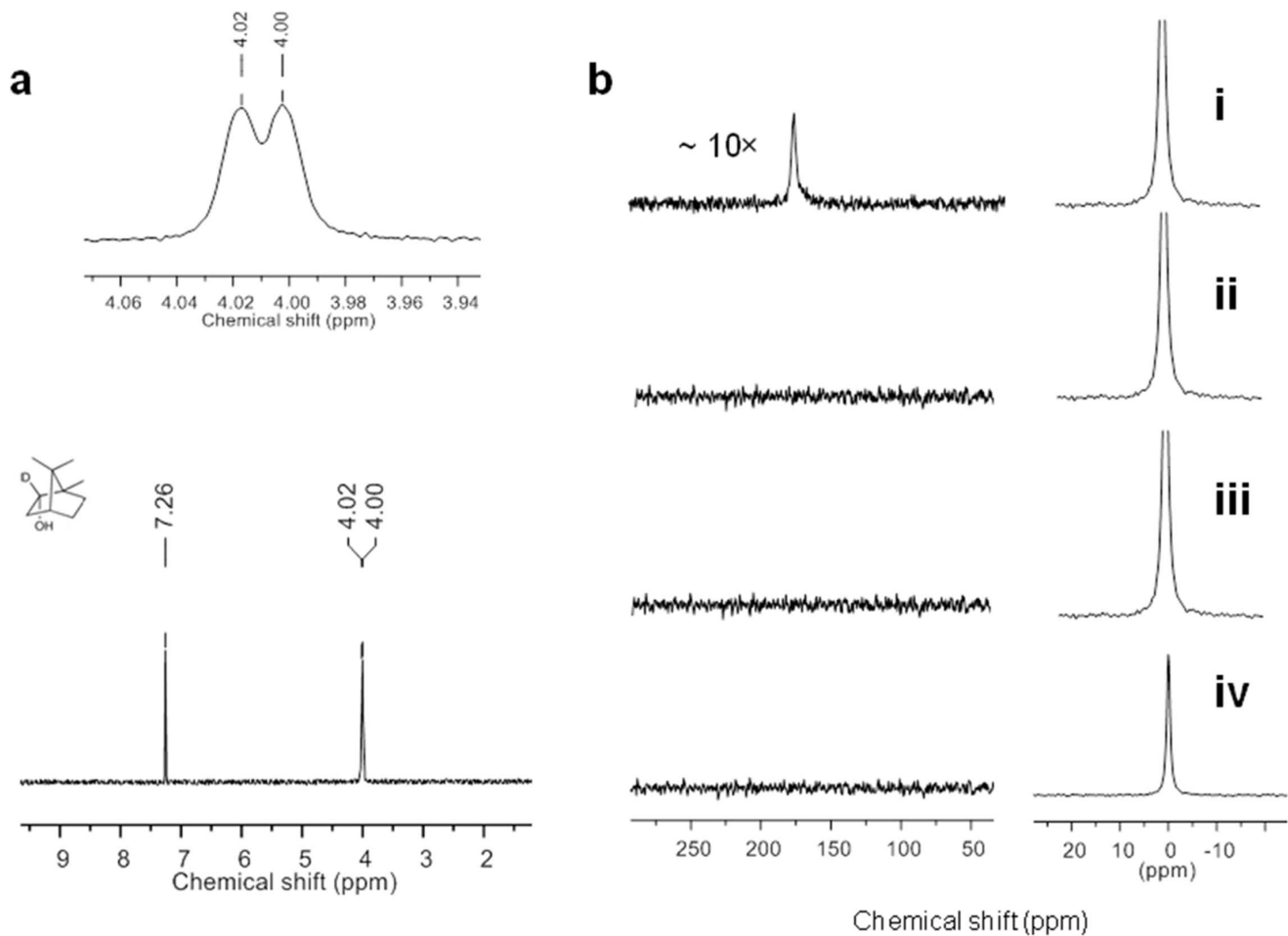


Figure 2. ²H NMR of the 2-D-borneol and ¹⁷O NMR in the detection of H₂¹⁷O₂. **a**) ²H NMR of the 2-D-borneol obtained from the recombinant proteins incubated in 50 mM deuterated phosphate buffer (pD=7.4) with camphor and *m*-CPBA. The extracted product was backwashed with H₂O. The peak at 7.26 ppm corresponds to CHCl₃ in CDCl₃. **b**) ¹⁷O NMR spectrum of the incubation mixture in ¹⁷O phosphate buffer (pH 6.3) containing: **i**) camphor, recombinant P450_{cam} and *m*-CPBA, **ii**) camphor and recombinant P450_{cam} (*m*-CPBA absent), **iii**) camphor and *m*-CPBA (enzyme absent), and **iv**) *m*-CPBA and recombinant P450_{cam} (substrate absent). The peaks at 0 ppm and 178 ppm correspond to H₂¹⁷O and H₂¹⁷O₂, respectively.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g002

5) or with other oxidants (Table S5). We prepared H_2^{17}O [19] and incubated the reaction mixture containing 1 mM camphor, 1 mM *m*-CPBA and recombinant P450_{cam} (0.1 μM) in ^{17}O phosphate buffer (50 mM, 150 mM K^+ , pH 7.4 made with H_2^{17}O) for 12 h to detect the formation of $\text{H}_2^{17}\text{O}_2$. To this assay mixture, P450_{cam} (0.02 μM) and *m*-CPBA (0.2 mM) were added at 2 h intervals, to form detectable amounts of $\text{H}_2^{17}\text{O}_2$. A new resonance was observed at 178 ppm in the ^{17}O NMR spectrum, (Fig. 2b(i)) which matched the chemical shift of $\text{H}_2^{17}\text{O}_2$ reported in the literature [20] and of our prepared standard [19]. The effect of pH on the chemical shift of hydrogen peroxide was also checked (Fig. S1). Controls (in the absence of *m*-CPBA, enzyme or substrate) were run simultaneously, and this resonance was not detected (Figs. 2b(ii), 2b(iii) and 2b(iv)), which led us to conclude that the new peak could not have come from the hydrolysis of *m*-CPBA. When catalase (an enzyme that disproportionates H_2O_2 to water and O_2) was added to the reaction mixture, the resonance at 178 ppm disappeared (Fig. S2 b), confirming that the 178 ppm resonance is due to $\text{H}_2^{17}\text{O}_2$.

IV) Kinetic Isotope Effects (KIE)

The reaction catalyzed by P450_{cam}, shunted with *m*-CPBA in D_2O , gave 2-D-borneol at a much slower rate than the same reaction performed in normal water. The magnitude and temperature independence of the $^1\text{H}/^2\text{H}$ kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of ~ 50 (Fig. 3a, Table S3) suggests that hydrogen transfer through tunnelling could occur at the rate-determining step in the reduction of camphor to borneol [21,22,23]. In contrast, the KIE ($^1\text{H}/^2\text{H}$) for hydrogen peroxide formation are much smaller, suggesting that this product does not form at the rate-limiting step (Fig. 3b, Table S4).

V) Reduction Mechanism

Borneol formation under shunt conditions is saturable, with a $K_M = 699 \pm 88 \mu\text{M}$ and $k_{\text{cat}} = 426 \pm 20 \text{ min}^{-1}$ for camphor (Fig. 3c). Similarly, ketocamphor formation under oxygenated shunt conditions is saturable with a $K_M = 83 \pm 10 \mu\text{M}$ and $k_{\text{cat}} = 461 \pm 14 \text{ min}^{-1}$ for camphor (Fig. 3d). In D_2O buffers, the formation of D-borneol was saturable with a $K_M = 802 \pm 107 \mu\text{M}$ and $k_{\text{cat}} = 9 \pm 0.4 \text{ min}^{-1}$ for camphor (Fig. 3). Ketocamphor formation under oxygenated shunt conditions is saturable with $K_M = 118 \pm 6 \mu\text{M}$ and a similar $k_{\text{cat}} = 465 \pm 6 \text{ min}^{-1}$ for camphor (Fig. 3). From control experiments we know that reducing P450_{cam} and camphor with dithionite does not yield any borneol (Fig. S3). Therefore, borneol formation requires oxidation of P450_{cam}, either through shunting or through intermediates **2** to **7** of the catalytic cycle (Fig. 1a). Therefore, Cpd I must be involved in both borneol and ketocamphor formation (Fig. 1a).

We propose that water reduces and protonates Cpd I as a first step in the borneol cycle, giving protonated Cpd II **13** and a hydroxyl radical (OH^\bullet) (Fig. 4). The formation of OH^\bullet in water has been estimated from electrochemical data [24], and the formation of species **13** from Cpd I has been estimated at $\Delta G^\circ = -410 \text{ kJ/mol}$ [25]. Therefore, the first step of the proposed reduction mechanism (Steps I and II, Fig. 4) involves the abstraction of a hydrogen atom from water by Cpd I to form the Fe(IV)-OH complex **13** (Fig. 4), which is favourable ($\Delta H \sim -160 \text{ kJ/mol}$) (Fig. 4). Three water molecules are known to be poised above the Fe-porphyrin and are held in place by hydrogen bonds to Thr 252, Asp 251 and Glu 366 [26], so it is plausible that Cpd I could attack water instead of camphor. Next, we propose that the hydroxyl radical combines with the water molecule to yield hydrogen peroxide and a hydrogen atom (Step III). By our estimate, this step is highly unfavourable ($\Delta H^\circ \cong$

570 kJ/mol, Material S1, section 2.9). Simultaneous transfer of the hydrogen atom from step III to the carbonyl group of camphor forms a borneol radical (Step IV, Fig. 4). A non-strained ketone such as acetone reacting with a hydrogen atom has a potential of approximately -2 V (ΔG° is $+173 \text{ kJ/mol}$) [27]. However, because camphor is quite a strained ketone, and that strain is relieved by the reduction, we have estimated this reaction to be slightly favourable ($\Delta H^\circ \sim -79 \pm 8 \text{ kJ/mol}$, Material S1, section 2.9). Finally, the transfer of a hydrogen atom from protonated Cpd II to the borneol radical forms borneol and Cpd I (Steps V and VI, Fig. 4) ($\Delta H^\circ \cong 13 \text{ kJ/mol}$), completing the “borneol cycle”. The net reaction is endothermic, with $\Delta H^\circ \cong 305 \pm 8 \text{ kJ/mol}$ (Material S1, section 2.9, Fig. S4a).

The involvement of OH-radicals in H_2O_2 formation has been proposed previously for electrolytic catalysts that oxidize water to O_2 (via an intermediate peroxide) [13] and also for a recently discovered water oxidation catalyst that produces H_2O_2 during electrolysis [14,15]. Interestingly, the latter MnO_x catalyst stops the water oxidation process at H_2O_2 , because the peroxide is solvated and stabilized by hydrogen bonding to ethylamine and/or water in the electrolyte. [14,15] Analogously, here we propose that hydrogen bonding within the water cluster in the hydrophobic P450_{cam} active site is essential for stabilization of the various reactive intermediates and of the H_2O_2 formed. The turnover numbers with regard to H_2O_2 formation we have observed are ~ 7 , whereas the electrocatalytic systems give turnover numbers of 20–1500 for complete water oxidation to O_2 . [13] This difference arises because P450_{cam} only has access to thermal energy to perform this “uphill” reaction, whereas the electrocatalytic systems are run at overpotentials. [13,14,15].

The proposed mechanism accounts for our observation that borneol and hydrogen peroxide form in a 1:1 stoichiometric ratio, provided 2-electron uncoupling is negligible (Table 1, Table S5). Given that Cpd I appears to be involved in the borneol cycle, our previous [16] and current data also suggest that Cpd I might be regulated by O_2 levels: under high oxygenation, Cpd I sequentially hydroxylates camphor to **10**, or **10** to **11** (Fig. 1b). Under poor oxygenation, Cpd I enters the borneol cycle that couples the oxidation of water to H_2O_2 to the simultaneous reduction of camphor to borneol (Fig. 1b). The borneol cycle is independent of how Cpd I is generated: through the reduction of O_2 or the shunt pathway (Fig. 1a). Borneol formation was seen with all the shunt agents tested (*m*-CPBA, cumene hydroperoxide, periodate and bleach; Table S5).

In assays with CYP3A4 (a human cytochrome P450) under shunt conditions, 5-exo-hydroxy camphor formed as a major product. There were no detectable amounts of borneol, suggesting that the reduction cycle is specific to P450_{cam} (Material S1, section 2.5). A BLAST search against the P450_{cam} sequence revealed many other bacterial cytochromes P450 that show sequence identities for the three residues that hold a set of water molecules above the porphyrin (Asp 251, Thr 252 and Glu 366 in P450_{cam}, Fig. S5), as well as for the hydrophobic residues that are involved in O_2 binding (see below and Material S1, section 2.10). Superposition of P450_{cam} (1DZ4, [28]) on CYP3A4 (1TZN, [29]) reveals that the active site of CYP3A4 is much larger and more polar than that of P450_{cam}. In P450_{cam}, camphor is surrounded by closely packed hydrophobic residues, which could form a cage around the reactive intermediates. (Fig. 5) The only water in the active site of the camphor-bound structure is in the water channel between Glu 366 and Thr 252, whereas the CYP3A4 active site can hold numerous water molecules in the absence of a ligand (Fig. 6). Docking of camphor into the active site of CYP 3A4 reveals the camphor bound near the porphyrin, capped by five

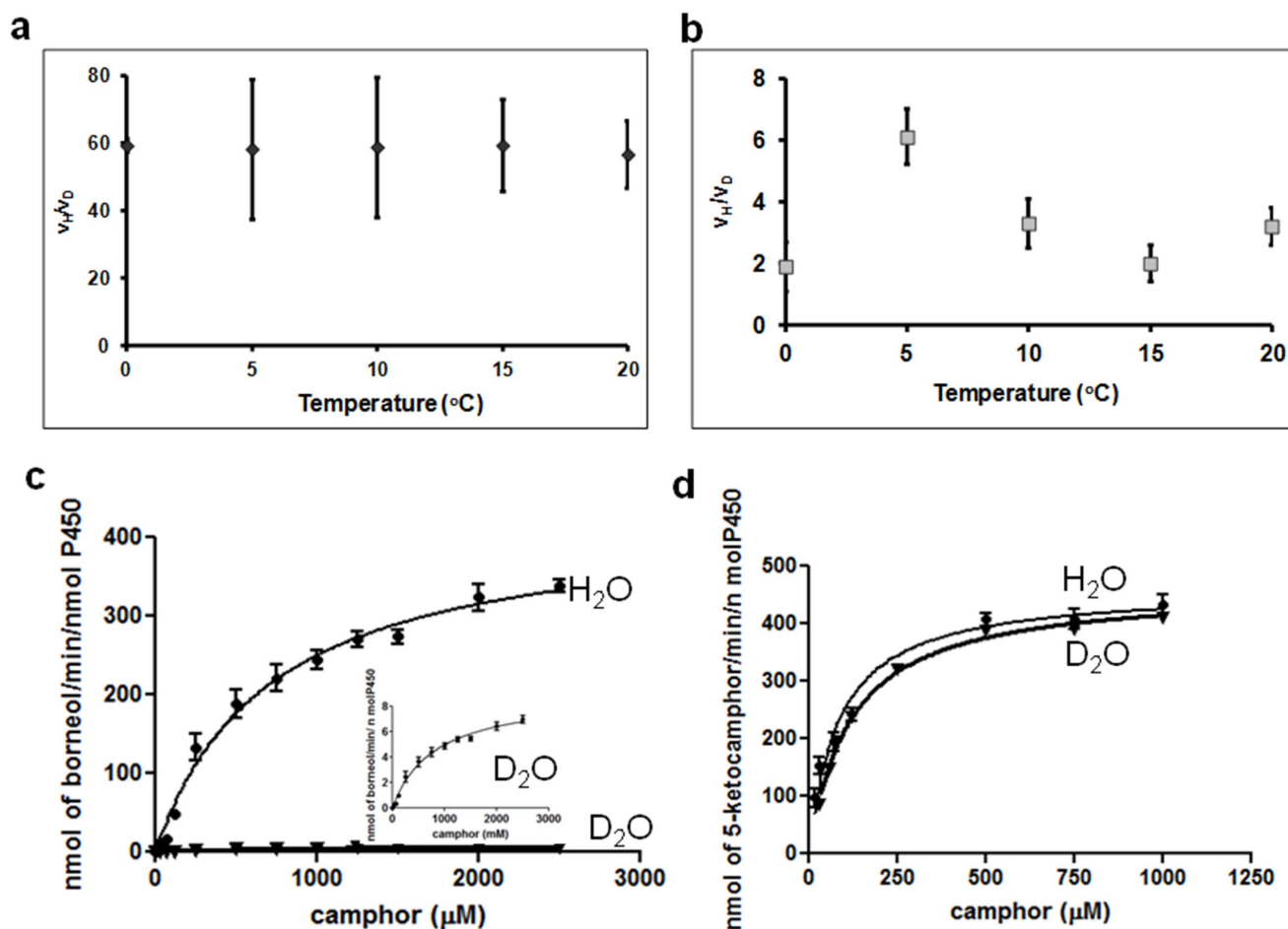


Figure 3. The Kinetic Isotope Effects for borneol and H₂O₂ and the Michaelis-Menten kinetics in their formation. a) Ratios v_H/v_D at different temperatures for borneol and b) for H₂O₂ formation. c) Michaelis-Menten kinetics for borneol and d) 5-ketocamphor formation, under shunt conditions (with *m*-CPBA). To ensure a constant high O₂ concentration for the 5-ketocamphor formation kinetics, reactions were run in vials fitted with septa and pressurized with pure O₂. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g003

phenylalanine residues and surrounded by Arg 212, Ser 119, Ile 120, Ile 301 and H-bonded to Arg 105 (Fig. 6). This more open arrangement may not provide the necessary stabilization for water oxidation to occur. Furthermore, the different positioning of the camphor within the active site may also preclude its utilization as an electron acceptor during the water oxidation and, therefore, the reaction was not observed in CYP3A4.

Amonom *et al.* have stated that mammalian P450s can reduce 4-hydroxynonenal to 1,4-dihydroxynonenal under low oxygen conditions, [30] similar to our results presented in this paper. However, differences in the reaction mechanisms can be associated with the different reacting species of the P450. They proposed that the reduction they observed occurs via the ferrous (Fe (II)) species of P450, where the electron source is from NADPH through the NADPH-P450 reductase. We have shown that, in our case, the ferrous species is not involved (Fig. 4) We therefore propose that the reduction of camphor to borneol involves the iron-oxo species where the source of electrons is from water, and not from NADH. Kaspera *et al.* have stated that P450BM-3 from *Bacillus megaterium* can reduce *p*-methoxy-benzaldehyde to methoxy-benzalcohol [31]. Electrons for this reaction are provided by a direct hydride transfer from NADPH to the aldehyde, or by NADPH reduction of the flavin mononucleotide in the reductase, which then reduces the substrate. In comparison, we found that

the source of electrons in our case is clearly from water, and not from a direct hydride transfer.

VI) Control Experiments with Reactive O₂ Species/quenchers

In vitro assays with P450 under shunt conditions were performed with a free radical quencher (BHT), a free metal chelator (EDTA), catalase and superoxide dismutase, to determine whether free reactive oxygen species are involved in borneol formation (Table 2). Under shunt conditions using *m*-CPBA, in Ar-sparged buffer, the enzyme formed more borneol than 5-ketocamphor (Table 1, entry 4; Table 2, entry 1). In the presence of catalase (Table 2, entry 2), the borneol formed was ~50% lower due to the decomposition of H₂O₂ to O₂. We confirmed that O₂, but not H₂O₂, had an effect in lowering borneol formation by performing experiments with an O₂ scavenging system (glucose/glucose oxidase) (Table 2, entry 3). With catalase alone, the O₂ formed by the catalase-mediated decomposition of H₂O₂ regulated the enzyme such that it produced some ketocamphor. In contrast, in the presence of catalase and glucose oxidase/glucose, the O₂ was destroyed and no ketocamphor formed. To check if superoxide plays a role in borneol formation, we performed experiments with superoxide dismutase and detected no significant effect in borneol

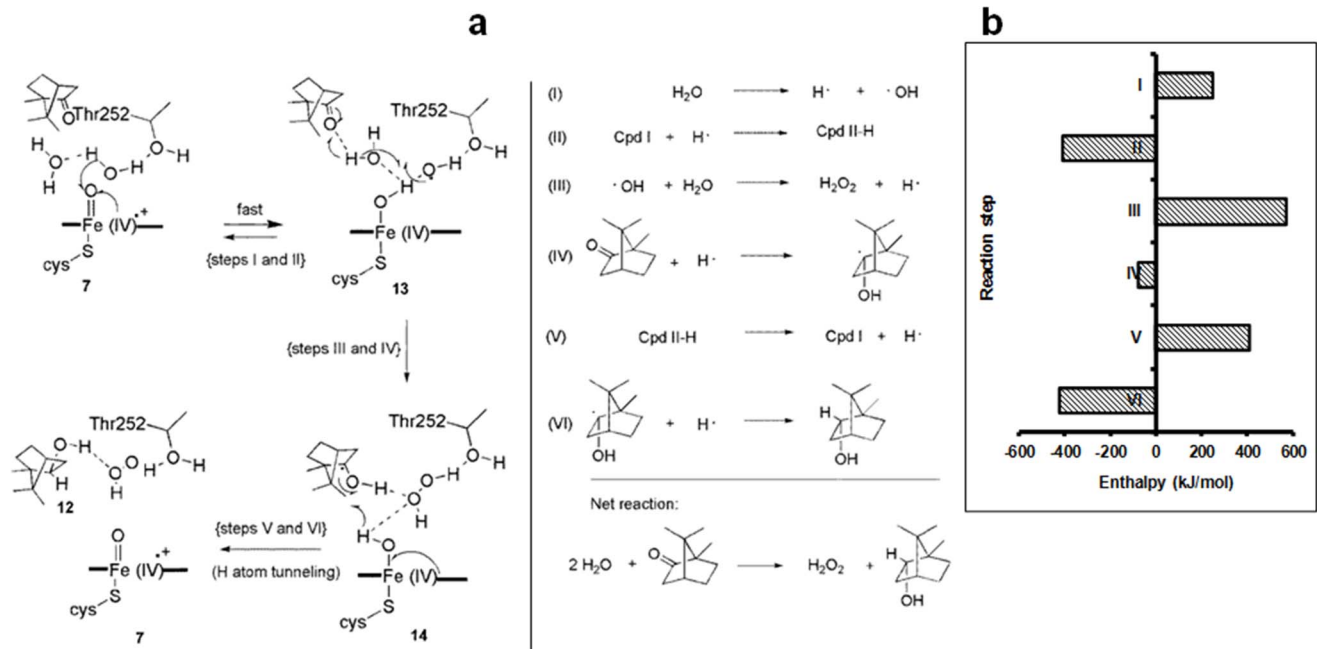


Figure 4. The proposed reduction mechanism and the Born-Haber estimates in the mechanism. a) Proposed reduction mechanism of P450_{cam} that accounts for the simultaneous formation of borneol **12** and H₂O₂, in a 1:1 stoichiometry. **b)** Born-Haber cycle estimates of the reduction mechanism.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g004

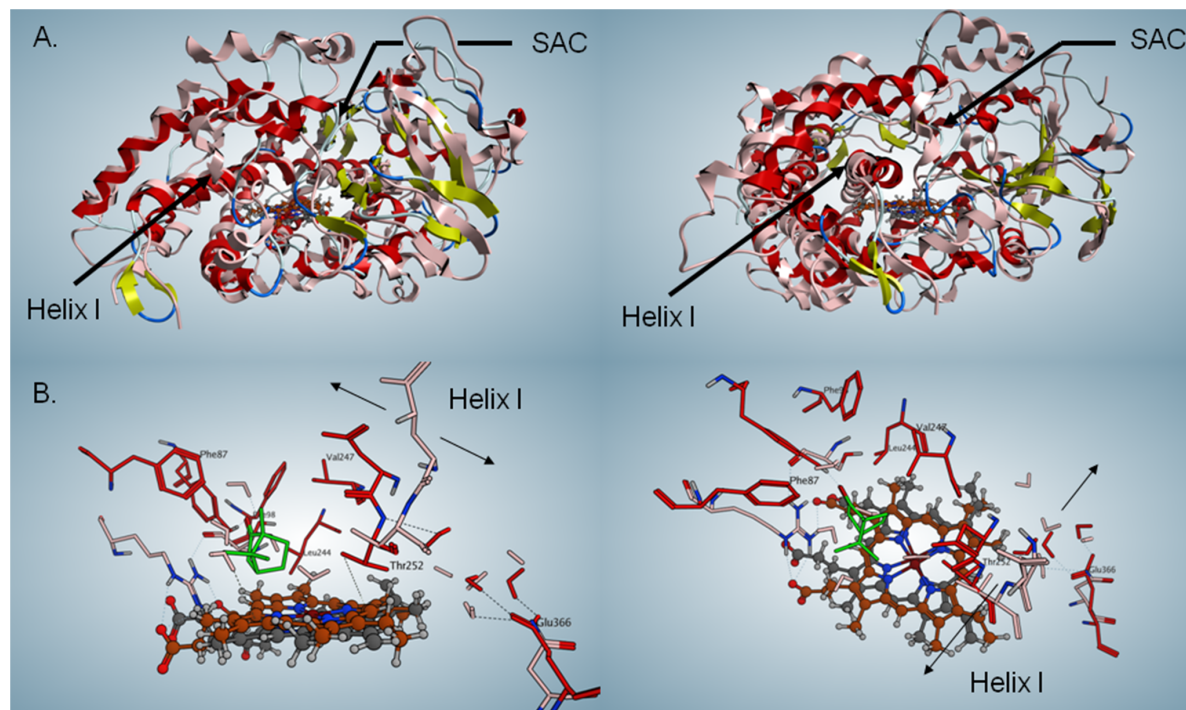


Figure 5. Superposition of P450_{cam} and CYP3A4. a) Top row: superimposed ribbon diagrams of P450_{cam} (1DZ4) and CYP3A4 (1TQN). P450_{cam} is shown with red helices and yellow sheets, whereas CYP3A4 is shown all in pink. The porphyrin for P450_{cam} is shown in gray and the one for CYP3A4, in brown. The two views are orthogonal to each other. The substrate access channel (SAC) is marked, as is Helix I, the central pillar of the fold. **b)** Lower row: superimposed active sites of P450_{cam} and CYP3A4. The porphyrin of P450_{cam} is shown in gray, the one for CYP3A4 in brown. The camphor ligand of P450_{cam} is shown in green. Residues from the two proteins are red (P450_{cam}) and pink (CYP3A4). The two views are orthogonal to each other.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g005

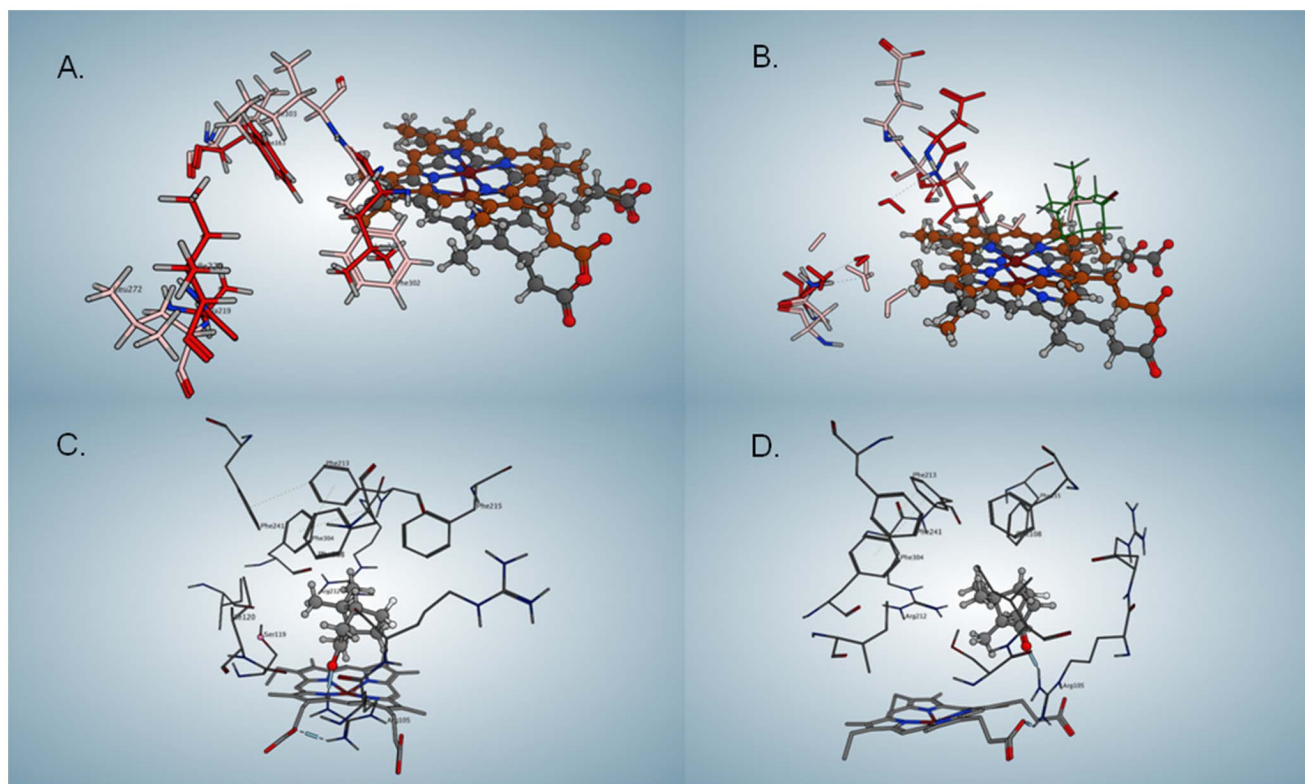


Figure 6. Sites in P450_{cam} and in CYP3A4 with camphor docked. a) Oxygen binding site in P450_{cam} (residues shown in red), with superimposed residues in CYP3A4 shown in pink. The porphyrin of P450_{cam} is gray, and the one for CYP3A4 is brown. b) Water channel in P450_{cam} (residues shown in red), with superimposed residues in CYP 3A4 shown in pink. The view in a) and b) are from a similar angle, to emphasize the closeness of the O₂ binding site and the water channel in P450_{cam}. c) and d) Camphor docked into the active site of CYP3A4 (orthogonal views). The H-bond from Arg 105 to the camphor ketone can be seen in the lower right portion of d). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g006

formation (Table 2, entry 4). To check if the radicals proposed in the mechanism of the reduction (Fig. 4) can diffuse out of the P450's active site, we experimented with BHT, and noticed no significant effect (Table 2, entry 5). This suggests that any radical species involved in the borneol cycle do not exist long enough to diffuse out of the active site of P450_{cam}. To test if a metal impurity plays a role in our assays under shunt conditions, experiments were performed with EDTA, and we detected no effect on borneol formation (Table 2, entry 6). To check if free iron (outside of the active site) plays a role in reduction reaction, experiments were performed with ferrous sulphate and *m*-CPBA, in the absence of P450_{cam}, and we did not detect borneol or 5-ketocamphor (Table 2, entry 7). These experiments suggest that the reduction of camphor to borneol is catalysed by P450_{cam} alone, does not involve any adventitious metal species outside of the P450 active site and does not involve the diffusion of reactive oxygen species, other than the product H₂O₂, out of the active site.

VII) Role of Oxygen in the Borneol Cycle

The reaction path taken by P450_{cam} (camphor oxidation *vs.* borneol cycle, Fig. 1b) is controlled by oxygen concentration. Oxygen could exert its effect in two ways: 1) by affecting the interaction of P450 with its redox partners, or 2) by directly interacting with P450. Our results demonstrate that the former cannot be the case, because the effect was seen in the absence of PdX and PdR (Table 1). Therefore, P450_{cam} must bind O₂ not only for catalysis, but also for allosteric regulation.

Recently, cytochrome P450 2E1 has been shown to form endoperoxide rearrangement products when reacted with 1,1,2,2-tetramethylcyclopropane [32]. This suggests that there must be O₂ bound in that enzyme near the active site, which reacts with the rearranged radical formed by H-atom abstraction from 1,1,2,2-tetramethylcyclopropane. Cytochromes P450 are known to be allosterically regulated by their substrates or co-substrates [33]. Studies with other O₂-utilizing enzymes, such as diiron mono-oxygenases [34], laccase [35] and amine oxidase [36] have revealed that O₂ can be bound in hydrophobic tunnels that are separated from the access channel for the other substrates of these enzymes. In P450_{cam}, a hydrophobic O₂ entry channel and two O₂ binding cavities have been identified in Xe-treated crystals [37]. Two Xe atoms are bound near the porphyrin edge in a hydrophobic pocket lined by F163, A167, heme allyl, I220, A219, C242 and L245. The other two Xe atoms appear bound in a crevasse lined by L371, T370, L257, M261, water and S260 (first Xe) and I275, K372, T376, L375, L371, P278 and I281 (second Xe). This O₂ binding site in P450_{cam} is located near the edge of the porphyrin, near the water channel (Fig. 6 and 1 A. and B).

We have found a hydrophobic tunnel in P450_{cam} that includes the Xe binding sites, using MOLEonline 2.0 [38] on the structure believed to represent the P450_{cam} oxo complex (1DZ9). The binding sites are good candidates for O₂ binding because they are hydrophobic and distinct from the substrate access route [11,37]. Also, the sites are good candidates for allosteric regulation of P450 because they are near the plane of the porphyrin. It is plausible

Table 2. Tests for involvement of free reactive oxygen species: formation of borneol, 5-ketocamphor and H₂O₂.*

Enzymatic assay	Products (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)		Ratio of Borneol: 5-ketocamphor	H ₂ O ₂ formed (nmol min ⁻¹ nmol ⁻¹ P450)
	Borneol	5-keto camphor		
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA ¹	443 ± 41	21 ± 2	23 ± 3	494 ± 16
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA+catalase ²	246 ± 20	18 ± 1	13 ± 0.6	ND
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA+glucose/glucose oxidase ³	469 ± 16	ND	N/A	ND
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA+superoxide dismutase ⁴	398 ± 10	ND	N/A	428 ± 34
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA+BHT ⁵	454 ± 28	25 ± 6	20 ± 4	478 ± 22
Ar+rP450+ <i>m</i> -CPBA+EDTA ⁶	438 ± 34	19 ± 6	29 ± 8	412 ± 33
Ar+FeSO ₄ + <i>m</i> -CPBA ⁷	ND	ND	N/A	ND

*The experiments in Table 2 (except for entry 4) were performed on February 20, 2013 when the GC-MS was more sensitive to borneol detection than previous assays, due to installation of a new electron multiplier.

Values are the average of 4 replicates ± S.E. 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) was used for all the assays and was sparged with argon (99%). Camphor was the substrate in all assays. Experimental details are included in Material S1.

ND = Not Detected; N/A = Not Applicable.

¹The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam} and *m*-CPBA as a shunt agent. ²The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and catalase. ³The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and glucose/glucose oxidase. ⁴The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and superoxide dismutase. ⁵The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and butylated hydroxytoluene. ⁶The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and EDTA. ⁷The assay was performed using recombinant P450_{cam}, *m*-CPBA and ferrous sulphate.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.t002

that an O₂ molecule bound near the heme could affect the reactivity of Cpd I.

The O₂ binding site in P450_{cam} is closer to the porphyrin than the equivalent site in CYP3A4, and the O₂ binding site is lined by different residues (Fig. 6). Furthermore, the O₂ binding site in P450_{cam} is close to the water channel, the only source of water in the camphor-filled active site of P450_{cam}. It is reasonable to hypothesize that the O₂ site, the porphyrin, the water channel and the tightly held camphor, all of which are near each other, could affect each other by allosteric effects in P450_{cam}.

It is interesting to note that the *K*_M for ketocamphor formation under high O₂ concentration is 9-fold lower (see above) than that for borneol formation under low O₂ concentration. This suggests that camphor binding and possibly positioning might be affected by O₂ concentrations. Surprisingly, the *k*_{cat} is the same for both reactions, even though there appears to be a larger barrier in the borneol cycle than in the normal oxidation reaction. This larger-than-expected *k*_{cat} suggests that, consistent with the observed KIE, H-atom tunneling is occurring in the borneol cycle. Under high O₂ concentrations using D₂O as the solvent, 5-ketocamphor (Table S2) was detected as the only product suggesting that deuterium atoms from the solvent do not participate in that reaction. Steady-state kinetic assays for ketocamphor formation in D₂O buffers resulted in similar *k*_{cat} as in H₂O buffers. In contrast, a 60-fold decrease in *k*_{cat} (with a similar *K*_M) was detected for borneol formation (Fig. 3). This illustrates that the solvent molecules participate only in the borneol formation, but not in ketocamphor formation.

There are two ways the cycle could end. Cpd I might oxidize a nearby enzymatic residue or, alternatively, the borneol radical might abstract a H-atom from water, giving borneol and OH[•], and the hydroxyl radical could rebound with the OH[•] bound in Cpd II-H, to give a second H₂O₂ and the ferric enzyme (Fig. S4 b).

VIII) Adaptive Advantage of Borneol and H₂O₂ to *P. putida*

Previously we have determined the effect of borneol and camphor on the growth of *P. putida* and *E. coli* [16]. To determine

the effects of hydrogen peroxide, we have tested the toxicity of H₂O₂ and a 1:1 stoichiometric mixture of borneol and H₂O₂ on both *P. putida* and *E. coli*, a bacterium that lacks cytochrome P450 [39] (Figs. S6 and S7). The borneol/H₂O₂ mixture was lethal to *E. coli* and slightly toxic to *P. putida* (Fig. S7). The latter observation prompted us to explore whether borneol affects the expression of the P450_{cam} system.

The camphor metabolism pathway, of which P450_{cam} catalyzes the first step, is encoded on the Cam plasmid under the control of the Cam repressor. This repressor dissociates from the upstream control region of the Cam operon upon binding of camphor, ensuring that the entire operon is expressed when camphor is present [40]. To study this induction, we cultured *P. putida* in the absence of camphor for seven generations, then divided the culture and treated the sub-cultures as shown in Fig. 7a (with camphor, borneol or vehicle, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)). We detected a steep increase in the characteristic absorption bands of P450_{cam}, PdR, and PdX only in the culture induced with camphor, about 80 min after initial induction. Absorptions plummeted approximately 60 min after the addition of borneol to camphor-induced culture(s) (Fig. 7b, Figs. S8 and S9). This decrease in P450, PdR, and PdX expression must be due to the borneol addition, because the camphor-induced cultures that did not receive borneol expressed significantly higher levels of P450, PdR and PdX/CFU/mL than the borneol-treated cultures.

The borneol down-regulation of P450_{cam}, PdX, and PdR might be advantageous to *P. putida* during periods of low soil aeration. Because the camphor degradation pathway requires four O₂/camphor (to reach 5-hydroxy-3,4,4-trimethyl-2-heptenedioic acid- δ -lactone), and the P450_{cam}-catalyzed oxidation is the first committed step [41], it is advantageous to regulate camphor metabolism at the first step. When aeration increases, low levels of P450_{cam} convert borneol back to camphor [16], and this frees the Cam operon from borneol down-regulation.

Conclusions

We describe the borneol cycle of P450_{cam}, a cycle that occurs at low O₂ concentration. The cycle connects to the known catalytic

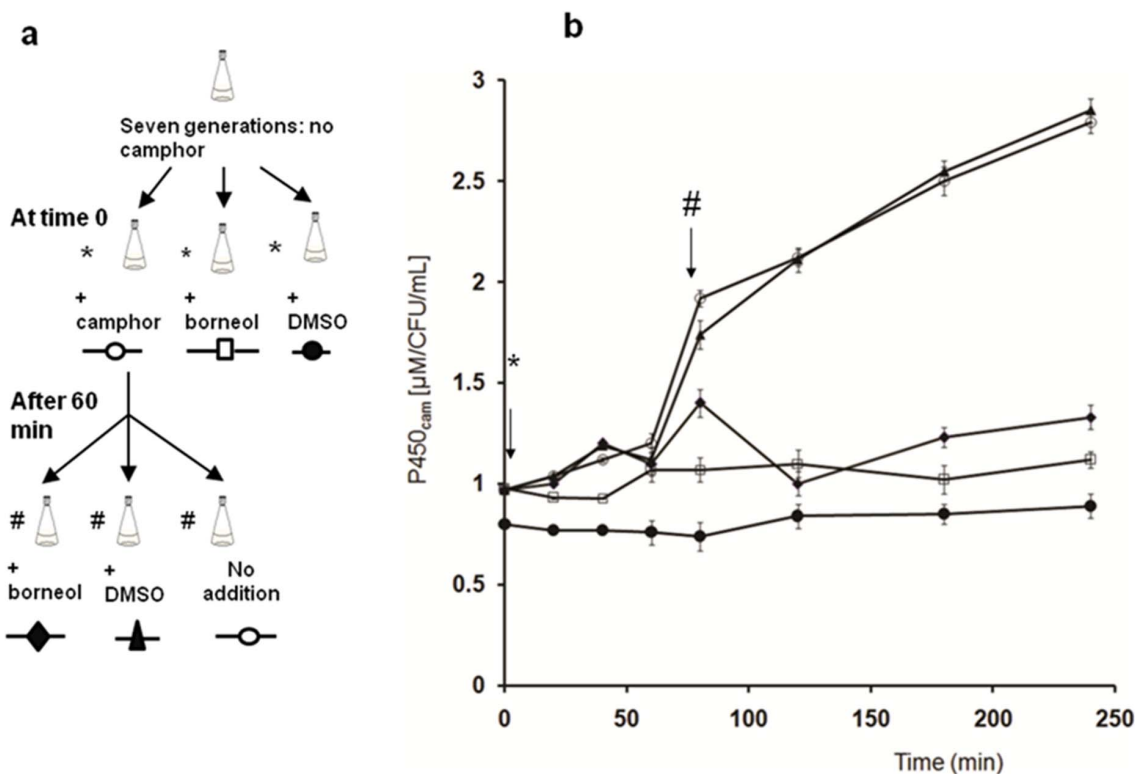


Figure 7. The effect of camphor, borneol and DMSO on the P450 expression. a) Outline of the experiment used to determine the effect of camphor and borneol on P450_{cam}, PdX and PdR expression. b) The effect of camphor, borneol and DMSO on the P450 expression by *Pseudomonas putida* (ATCC 17453). The concentration of P450_{cam} was obtained from the Soret peak absorbances and was normalized against the number of colony forming units/mL. Points represent the average \pm S. E. of three replicates. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061897.g007

cycle *via* Cpd I which is regulated by O₂ levels: at low O₂ concentration, Cpd I oxidises water, whereas at high O₂ concentration, Cpd I oxidises camphor. Under low O₂ concentrations, the slower formation of compound I and high energy barrier with tunneling could account for lower formation of borneol.

The Cpd I-catalyzed reaction of P450_{cam} proposed here (Fig. 4) is independent of the redox partner proteins (PdX and PdR) and of how Cpd I forms (O₂ reduction or shunt). The reaction occurs both *in vitro* (this paper) and *in vivo* [16]. We show here that P450_{cam} couples the oxidation of water to H₂O₂ and the reduction of camphor to borneol. We have presented evidence that: i) water is the source of the 2-H in the borneol; ii) water is oxidized to form H₂O₂ when camphor is reduced; and iii) the transfer of an H atom from water to C-2 of camphor occurs at a rate-limiting step in the borneol cycle. We propose that the reactivity of Cpd I is regulated by O₂ concentration, and we have located a potential access channel where O₂ might bind to P450_{cam} to exert its allosteric control.

The borneol and H₂O₂ formed serve several ecological functions. First, borneol and H₂O₂ are not very toxic to *P. putida*, whereas the combination is lethal to bacteria such as *E. coli* which do not contain any P450 [16], and this may give *P. putida* an advantage in bacterial communities. Secondly camphor induces the expression of P450, PdX, and PdR, whereas borneol decreases the expression of these gene products in *P. putida*. These features of the P450_{cam} may protect the bacteria from excessive exposure to borneol and reactive oxygen species during prolonged periods of low oxygen concentration.

Supporting Information

Figure S1 ¹⁷O NMR spectra of H₂¹⁷O₂ (obtained by electrolysis of H₂¹⁷O) buffered at a) pH 10, b) pH 3, and c) pH 9.

(TIF)

Figure S2 ¹⁷O NMR spectra of the incubation mixture under shunt conditions using 1 mM *m*-CPBA in ¹⁷O phosphate buffer (final pH 6.3) containing 1 mM substrate camphor and recombinant P450_{cam}: a) before and b) after addition of catalase (1 unit). The peak at 178 ppm corresponds to H₂¹⁷O₂ and that at 0 ppm is due to H₂¹⁷O.

(TIF)

Figure S3 GC-MS traces of camphor incubated under shunt conditions using *m*-CPBA with: a) reduced P450_{cam}, and b) with unreduced P450_{cam}. 1-indanone was used as an internal standard.

(TIF)

Figure S4 a) Summary of the borneol cycle steps and of the net reaction. b) Possible routes by which the borneol cycle could end.

(TIF)

Figure S5 Alignment of microbial cytochromes P450 against P450_{cam} (upper portion) and of vertebrate class II P450s, also against P450_{cam} (lower portion). Microbial sequences used: gamma prot 1 = marine gamma proteobacterium HTCC2207 (ZP_01225512), Novo ar CYP = *Novosphingibium aromaticivorans* CYP 101D2 (PDB 3NV6), Sphingo echi = *Sphingomonas echinoides* ATCC14820 (ZP_10341012), Novo CYP 101D1 = a

camphor hydroxylase from *Novosphingobium aromaticivorans* DSM 12444 (PDB 3LXI), Sphing chlor = *Sphingomonas chlorophenolicum* camphor hydroxylase (ZP_10341012), Azospir B510 = *Azospirillum* sp. B510 (YP_003451823), Azospir = (BAI74843), P450 Burk H160 = *Burkholderia* sp. H160 (ZP_03264429), P450 Burk MCO-3 = *Burkholderia cenocepacia* MC0-3 = (YP_001774494), Sping Witt R = *Sphingomonas wittichii* RW1 (YP_001262244), Citromicrobi = *Citromicrobium bathyomarimum* JL354 (ZP_06860768), Novo CYP 101 = *Novosphingobium aromaticivorans* DSM12444 CYP 101C1 (PDB 3OFT_C), Sping E 14820 = *Sphingomonas echinoides* ATCC 14820 (ZP_10339023), gamma prot 2 = marine gamma proteobacterium NOR51-B (ZP_04956740), Sphingomonas = *Sphingomonas* sp. KC8 (ZP_09138048), Sphing chl L = *Sphingobium chlorophenolicum* L-1 (YP_004553185), P450 nor = Cytochrome P450nor from *Fusarium oxysporum* (BAA03390). **Vertebrate P450s:** Cyp lan deme = lanosterol 14- α demethylase isoform 1 precursor *Homo sapiens* (NP_000777), CYP 2C9 = human liver limonene hydroxylase (P11712), CYP 4A11 *Homo sapiens* (NP_000769), CYP 4F12 = fatty acyl Ω -hydroxylase *Homo sapiens* (NP_076433), CYP 4F2 = leukotriene-B(4) omega-hydroxylase 1 precursor *Homo sapiens* (NP_001073), CYP 3A5 form 1 = CYP 3A5 isoform 1 *Homo sapiens* (NP_000768), CYP 3A4 = CYP 3A4 isoform 1 *Homo sapiens* (NP_059488), CYP26B1 = retinoic acid hydroxylase *Homo sapiens* (NP_063938). (TIF)

Figure S6 IC₅₀ determination of a) H₂O₂ and b) of a 1:1 (molar) mixture of borneol and H₂O₂ against *E. coli*, a species of bacterium that lacks cytochrome P450. (TIF)

Figure S7 Effect of 16 h incubation of stationary *E. coli* (a) and *P. putida* (b) cultures with borneol: H₂O₂ (1:1), borneol, or H₂O₂ (1 mM). (TIF)

Figure S8 Expression profile of PdX in *P. putida*, in the presence and absence of camphor or borneol (see experimental map and symbols in Fig. 7a). Points represent the average \pm S. E. of three replicates. (TIF)

Figure S9 Expression profile of PdR in *P. putida*, in the presence and absence of camphor or borneol (see

experimental map and symbols in Fig. 7a). Points represent the average \pm S. E. of three replicates. (TIF)

Table S1 Calculated and literature values of P450_{cam} extinction coefficients at selected wavelengths. (DOC)

Table S2 Formation of 2-D-borneol and 5-ketocamphor in D₂O buffer, with the full P450_{cam} system and with the shunted P450_{cam}. (DOC)

Table S3 Assays with recombinant proteins at selected temperatures. Formation of borneol, D-borneol, under shunt conditions with the addition of *m*-CPBA. (DOC)

Table S4 Assays with recombinant P450_{cam}, shunted with *m*-CPBA in H₂O and D₂O at selected temperatures. Formation of H₂O₂ or D₂O₂. (DOC)

Table S5 Formation of borneol and hydrogen peroxide from the P450 catalytic cycle using several shunt agents. (DOC)

Material S1 Supporting information for this paper. This file contains detailed descriptions of various assays, calculations, sequence alignments and P450_{cam} system induction experiments. In addition, there are 9 supplemental Figures and 5 supplemental Tables. (DOC)

Acknowledgments

We thank the second reviewer for discussion and good suggestions, Mr. Colin Zhang for running ²H NMR and the late Dr. Keith Slessor for discussion.

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: BP DM ARL EP. Performed the experiments: BP DM ARL. Analyzed the data: BP DM ARL EP. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: BP DM ARL EP. Wrote the paper: BP DM ARL EP.

References

- De Montellano PRO (1995) Cytochrome P450 Structure, Mechanism and Biochemistry. Structural studies on prokaryotic P450s Second edition.
- Schlichting I, Berendzen J, Chu K, Stock AM, Maves SA, et al. (2000) The catalytic pathway of cytochrome P450_{cam} at atomic resolution. *Science* 287: 1615–1622.
- Sligar SG, Gunsalus IC (1976) A thermodynamic model of regulation: modulation of redox equilibria in camphor monooxygenase. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 73: 1078–1082.
- Gluscock MC, Ballou DP, Dawson JH (2005) Direct observation of a novel perturbed oxyferrous catalytic intermediate during reduced putidaredoxin-initiated turnover of cytochrome P450_{cam} - Probing the effector role of putidaredoxin in catalysis. *J Biol Chem* 280: 42134–42141.
- Tanaka M, Haniu M, Yasunobu KT, Dus K, Gunsalus IC (1974) Amino-Acid Sequence of Putidaredoxin, an Iron-Sulfur Protein from *Pseudomonas putida*. *J Biol Chem* 249: 3689–3701.
- Cho KB, Hirao H, Chen H, Carvajal MA, Cohen S, et al. (2008) Compound I in heme thiolate enzymes: a comparative QM/MM study. *J Phys Chem A* 112: 13128–13138.
- Chefson A, Auclair K (2006) Progress towards the easier use of P450 enzymes. *Mol Biosyst* 2: 462–469.
- Chefson A, Zhao J, Auclair K (2006) Replacement of natural cofactors by selected hydrogen peroxide donors or organic peroxides results in improved activity for CYP3A4 and CYP2D6. *Chembiochem* 7: 916–919.
- Auclair K, Moenne-Loccoz P, de Montellano PRO (2001) Roles of the proximal heme thiolate ligand in cytochrome P450_{cam}. *J Am Chem Soc* 123: 4877–4885.
- Gunsalus IC, Wagner GC (1978) Bacterial P450_{cam} methylene monooxygenase components: cytochrome m, putidaredoxin, and putidaredoxin reductase. *Methods Enzymol* 52: 166–188.
- Poulos TL, Finzel BC, Howard AJ (1987) High-resolution crystal structure of cytochrome P450_{cam}. *J Mol Biol* 195: 687–700.
- Harada K, Sakurai K, Ikemura K, Ogura T, Hirota S, et al. (2008) Evaluation of the functional role of the heme-6-propionate side chain in cytochrome P450_{cam}. *J Am Chem Soc* 130: 432–433.
- Dau H, Limberg C, Reier T, Risch M, Roggan S, et al. (2010) The Mechanism of Water Oxidation: From Electrolysis via Homogeneous to Biological Catalysis. *Chemcatchem* 2: 724–761.
- Izgorodin A, Winther-Jensen O, MacFarlane DR (2012) On the Stability of Water Oxidation Catalysts: Challenges and Prospects. *Aust J Chem* 65: 638–642.
- Zhou FL, Izgorodin A, Hocking RK, Spiccia L, MacFarlane DR (2012) Electrodeposited MnOx Films from Ionic Liquid for Electrocatalytic Water Oxidation. *Advanced Energy Materials* 2: 1013–1021.
- Prasad B, Rojubally A, Plettner E (2011) Identification of Camphor Oxidation and Reduction Products in *Pseudomonas putida*: New Activity of the Cytochrome P450_{cam} System. *J Chem Ecol* 37: 657–667.
- Rojubally A, Hua Cheng S, Foreman C, Huang J, Agnes G, et al. (2007) Linking of cytochrome P450_{cam} and putidaredoxin by a co-ordination bridge. *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* 25: 301–317.
- Rojubally A (2007) Linking Cytochrome P450_{cam} to its Redox partner Putidaredoxin and probing new reactions of the Cytochrome P450_{cam} system. PhD Thesis, Simon Fraser University.

19. Prasad B, Lewis AR, Plettner E (2011) Enrichment of H₂¹⁷O from tap water, characterization of the enriched water, and properties of several ¹⁷O-labeled compounds. *Anal Chem* 83: 231–239.
20. Casny M, Rehder D, Schmidt H, Vilter H, Conte V (2000) A ¹⁷O NMR study of peroxide binding to the active centre of bromoperoxidase from *Ascophyllum nodosum*. *J Inorg Biochem* 80: 157–160.
21. Cha Y, Murray CJ, Klinman JP (1989) Hydrogen tunneling in enzyme reactions. *Science* 243: 1325–1330.
22. Huskey WP, Schowen RL (1983) Reaction-Coordinate Tunneling in Hydride-Transfer Reactions. *J Am Chem Soc* 105: 5704–5706.
23. Nagel ZD, Klinman JP (2006) Tunneling and dynamics in enzymatic hydride transfer. *Chemical Reviews* 106: 3095–3118.
24. Koppenol WH, Liebman JF (1984) The Oxidizing Nature of the Hydroxyl Radical - a Comparison with the Ferryl Ion (FeO²⁺). *J Phys Chem* 88: 99–101.
25. Green MT, Dawson JH, Gray HB (2004) Oxoiron(IV) in chloroperoxidase compound II is basic: implications for P450 chemistry. *Science* 304: 1653–1656.
26. Hishiki T, Shimada H, Nagano S, Egawa T, Kanamori Y, et al. (2000) X-ray crystal structure and catalytic properties of Thr252Ile mutant of cytochrome P450_{cam}: roles of Thr252 and water in the active center. *J Biochem* 128: 965–974.
27. Wardman P (1989) Reduction Potentials of One-Electron Couples Involving Free-Radicals in Aqueous-Solution. *J Phys Chem Ref Data* 18: 1637–1755.
28. Schlichting I, Berendzen J, Chu K, Stock AM, Maves SA, et al. (2000) The catalytic pathway of cytochrome P450_{cam} at atomic resolution. *Science* 287: 1615–1622.
29. Yano JK, Wester MR, Schoch GA, Griffin KJ, Stout CD, et al. (2004) The structure of human microsomal cytochrome P450 3A4 determined by X-ray crystallography to 2.05-Å resolution. *J Biol Chem* 279: 38091–38094.
30. Amunom I, Dieter LJ, Tamasi V, Cai J, Conklin DJ, et al. (2011) Cytochromes P450 catalyze the reduction of alpha,beta-unsaturated aldehydes. *Chem Res Toxicol* 24: 1223–1230.
31. Kaspera R, Sahele T, Lakatos K, Totah RA (2012) Cytochrome P450BM-3 reduces aldehydes to alcohols through a direct hydride transfer. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 418: 464–468.
32. Cooper HL, Groves JF (2011) Molecular probes of the mechanism of cytochrome P450. Oxygen traps a substrate radical intermediate. *Arch Biochem Biophys* 507: 111–118.
33. Hlavica P, Lewis DF (2001) Allosteric phenomena in cytochrome P450-catalyzed monooxygenations. *Eur J Biochem* 268: 4817–4832.
34. Song WJ, Gucinski G, Sazinsky MH, Lippard SJ (2011) Tracking a defined route for O₂ migration in a dioxygen-activating diiron enzyme. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 108: 14795–14800.
35. Kallio JP, Rouvinen J, Kruus K, Hakulinen N (2011) Probing the dioxygen route in *Melanocarpus albomyces* laccase with pressurized xenon gas. *Biochemistry* 50: 4396–4398.
36. Johnson BJ, Cohen J, Welford RW, Pearson AR, Schulten K, et al. (2007) Exploring molecular oxygen pathways in *Hansenula polymorpha* copper-containing amine oxidase. *J Biol Chem* 282: 17767–17776.
37. Wade RC, Winn PJ, Schlichting I, Sudarko (2004) A survey of active site access channels in cytochromes P450. *J Inorg Biochem* 98: 1175–1182.
38. Petrek M, Kosinova P, Koca J, Otyepka M (2007) MOLE: a Voronoi diagram-based explorer of molecular channels, pores, and tunnels. *Structure* 15: 1357–1363.
39. Cryle MJ, Stok JE, De Voss JJ (2003) Reactions catalyzed by bacterial cytochromes P450. *Aust J Chem* 56: 749–762.
40. Gunsalus IC, Sligar SG (1976) Redox regulation of cytochrome P450_{cam} mixed function oxidation by putidaredoxin and camphor ligation. *Biochimie* 58: 143–147.
41. Taylor DG, Trudgill PW (1986) Camphor revisited: studies of 2,5-diketocamphane 1,2-monooxygenase from *Pseudomonas putida* ATCC 17453. *J Bacteriol* 165: 489–497.