Chapter 2:

Exploring the biocatalytic potential of a DyP-type peroxidase by profiling the substrate acceptance of *Thermobifida fusca* DyP peroxidase

Nikola Lončar*, Dana I. Colpa* and Marco W. Fraaije
* these authors contributed equally to this work

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Abstract
Dye-decolorizing peroxidases (DyPs) represent a new class of oxidative enzymes for which the natural substrates are largely unknown. To explore the biocatalytic potential of a DyP, we have studied the substrate acceptance profile of a robust DyP peroxidase, a DyP from *Thermobifida fusca* (*Tfu*DyP). While previous work established that this bacterial peroxidase is able to act on a few reactive dyes and aromatic sulfides, this work significantly expands its substrate scope towards lignin related compounds, flavors, and various dyes.
Exploring the substrate scope of TfuDyP

Introduction
Substrate promiscuity has often been attributed to different oxidoreductases and in particular to peroxidases. These enzymes perform hydrogen peroxide driven one electron oxidations of a wide range of phenolic and nonphenolic substrates.\(^1\) Substrate promiscuity of enzymes is an interesting biocatalytic property as it broadens up the applicability of an enzyme as a biocatalyst. Plant and animal peroxidases are notorious for their high activity and wide range of substrates. These eukaryotic biocatalysts are known already for several decades, have been thoroughly studied, and are currently used in numerous processes.\(^2,^3\) Despite being powerful catalysts, application of these enzymes is often hampered by their low temperature stability and sensitivity to salt and organic solvents. Furthermore, it has been proven to be difficult and often impossible to produce these peroxidases in recombinant form. For example, it has been shown that it is extremely difficult to produce horseradish peroxidase in a heterologous host.\(^4\) As a result, horseradish peroxidase is still mainly produced by isolating it from plant roots which results in a mixture of various peroxidase isoforms.

As alternatives for the plant and animal peroxidases, the newly discovered DyP-type peroxidases (DyPs) may offer advantages. One advantage is the possibility to produce such peroxidases using bacterial expression hosts as most DyPs are of bacterial origin.\(^5\) Except for facilitating the production of peroxidases and eliminating the existence of isoforms, the ability to produce DyPs in a recombinant form also allows engineering of these biocatalysts. The first DyPs were identified less than two decades ago.\(^6\) DyPs are unrelated in sequence and structure to peroxidases belonging to the plant or animal peroxidase superfamilies.\(^7\) While numerous putative DyP-encoding genes can be identified in sequenced bacterial genomes, only a small number of DyPs have been characterized. Originally, their activity was established based on the decolorization of dyes, and hence their name (DyP stands for dye decolorizing peroxidase). DyPs are typically identified by their activity on anthraquinone dyes. While DyPs are efficient in oxidizing these synthetic dyes, the physiological substrates for DyPs are unclear and therefore their role in nature is enigmatic. Interestingly, recent studies suggest that bacterial DyPs may play an important role in the degradation of lignin which suggests that DyPs represent the bacterial counterparts of the fungal lignin peroxidases. Except for establishing their activity on synthetic dyes and possible role in lignin degradation, little data is available concerning their biocatalytic potential. Therefore, we set out a study aimed at profiling the potential of a newly identified DyP which can be easily produced as recombinant enzyme and is thermostable: DyP from *Thermobifida fusca* (TfuDyP).
*T. fusca* is a moderate thermophilic soil actinomycete with a growth temperature of approximately 50 °C. It is a major degrader of plant cell walls in heated organic materials. It produces many extracellular enzymes, including cellulases. A number of these secreted enzymes has been studied because of their thermostability, broad pH range and high activity. *TfuDyP* is a robust and secreted peroxidase described previously as a member of the DyP family. Activity of *TfuDyP* towards several reactive dyes was described in addition to enantioselective sulfoxidation. In this paper we present an exhaustive substrate profiling study which provides a better view on the biocatalytic repertoire of this newly discovered robust peroxidase.

**Results and Discussion**

**Establishing optimal conditions**

To investigate the experimental boundaries at which *TfuDyP* can be applied, the apparent melting temperature of *TfuDyP* was measured at different pH values. In the pH range of 5-8 the enzyme shows a $T_{m,app}$ of ~56 °C (Fig. 1). This is in line with temperatures at which *Thermobifida fusca* thrives and it shows that *TfuDyP* is a rather thermostable peroxidase. However, its thermostability decreases dramatically at a pH below 5 ($T_{m,app} = 35$ °C at pH 3). This contrasts the pH optimum for optimal *TfuDyP* activity which is in the range of pH 3-4 (vide infra). Such a low pH optimum for activity has also been observed for other DyPs. These data indicate that there is a delicate balance in pH optima for activity and stability. Related to this, one should realize that *TfuDyP* and many other DyPs are secreted and may have to operate at a pH different from neutral pH that is normal for intracellular enzymes. The broad pH optimum for stability is in line with the pH optima observed for other secreted enzymes of *T. fusca* that typically display a pH optimum of 4-10. Another noteworthy observation is the fact that the pH optimum for activity seems to depend on the type of substrate (vide infra).

For peroxidases different from DyPs, it has been established that hydrogen peroxide can be replaced by organic peroxides such as *tert*-butyl peroxide. To our knowledge, DyPs had not been tested before with these peroxide alternatives. However, when testing *TfuDyP* activity with 0.10, 1.0 or 10 mM *tert*-butyl peroxide as electron acceptor and Reactive Blue 19 as substrate, no activity was observed. Moreover, when monitoring the UV/Vis absorbance spectrum of *TfuDyP* upon the addition of 0.10 mM *tert*-butyl peroxide, no spectral changes were observed in the Soret band. This indicates that *TfuDyP* is very selective for hydrogen peroxide. For the substrate profiling experiments performed in this study, 0.10 mM of hydrogen peroxide was used as cosubstrate.
Exploring the substrate scope of *TfuDyP*

Degradation of synthetic and natural dyes

DyP-type peroxidases are named after their ability to convert dyes. In previous studies, DyP activity has been mainly probed using a restricted number of synthetic anthraquinone and azo dyes for each reported DyP. Activity towards triarylmethane dyes and natural pigment β-carotene has also been reported. This study aimed at an extensive exploration of the substrate scope of a DyP-type peroxidase, *TfuDyP*. The activity of *TfuDyP* towards hemin, three natural carotenoids and thirty members of seven different classes of dyes was determined. For every dye, the initial activity (*k*<sub>obs</sub>) and the amount of dye degraded in one hour were determined at pH 3, pH 4, and pH 5. The amount of dye degraded in one hour was defined as the observed decrease in absorbance at *λ*<sub>max</sub>. One should note that the degree of dye degradation is an underestimation in case the product has a comparable absorption spectrum. The absorbance maxima of carminic acid and the copper phthalocyanine tetrasulfonic acid dye were pH dependent. For these compounds the isosbestic point of the spectra at pH 3, 4 and 5 was used to analyze the activities. A few dyes were found to be poorly soluble in buffer and were prepared in DMSO and used in the reaction mixture with a final concentration of 2.5% DMSO (resorufin) or 10% DMSO (Disperse Blue 1, curcumin, and β-carotene).

Only a small number of tested compounds did not show any activity with *TfuDyP*: hemin, β-carotene, the azo dyes Direct Yellow 27 and Acid Yellow 23, and the heterocyclic dyes methylene blue, neutral red, and resorufin. The highest activities and conversions were observed for the anthraquinone dyes (Tables 1 and 2, and Table S1). Most of the representatives of the other dye classes displayed
Table 1. Structural formulas of the tested dyes. Compound names see Table 2.
Exploring the substrate scope of TfuDyP

**Dyes**

1. Anthraquinone dyes
2. Azo dyes
3. Arylmethane dyes
4. Xanthene dyes
5. Indigoid dyes
6. Carotenoids
7. Phthalocyanine dye

**Structural Formulas**

- **19**: Arylmethane dye
- **24**: Phthalocyanine dye
- **18**: Indigoid dyes
- **23**: Indigoid dyes
- **17**: Xanthene dyes
- **22**: Xanthene dyes
- **16**: Xanthene dyes
- **21**: Carotenoids
- **20**: Carotenoids
- **25**: Carotenoids
- **26**: Carotenoids
Table 2. Activity of *TfuDyP* on representatives of different classes of dyes.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Dye</th>
<th>λ_{max} at pH 4 (nm)</th>
<th>Dye concentration (µM)</th>
<th>k_{obs} at pH 4 (s^{-1})</th>
<th>Dye degraded in 1h (%)</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>50^{#,##}</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>48 (13)^{[3]}</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Carminic acid</td>
<td>503*</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Acid Blue 129</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>50^{#}</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Acid Blue 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>598</td>
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<td>Cibacron Blue 3G-A</td>
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<td>50^{#}</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Basic Yellow 2</td>
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<td>Acid Blue 93</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>5.4^{[5]}</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rhodamine B</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Fluorescein</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>9.4 \cdot 10^{-3}</td>
<td>12^{[6]}</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Eosin Y</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.93</td>
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<td><strong>Indigoid dyes</strong></td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Indigo carmine</td>
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<td>2.2 \cdot 10^{-2}</td>
<td>31 (1.9)^{[7]}</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Indigotetrasulfonate</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2.3 \cdot 10^{-2}</td>
<td>8.2^{[5]}</td>
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<td>8.8 \cdot 10^{-3}</td>
<td>72 (1.2)^{[7]}</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Curcumin</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>50^{###}</td>
<td>7.2 \cdot 10^{-2}</td>
<td>37 (4.1)^{[4]}</td>
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<td><strong>Phthalocyanine dye</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Copper phthalocyanine-3,4',4''-tetrasulfonic acid</td>
<td>612^{*}</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>64^{[5]}</td>
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</table>
2-3 orders of magnitude lower initial activities. There were two exceptions: the xanthene dye Eosin Y and the copper phthalocyanine tetrasulfonic acid dye were good substrates with \( k_{\text{obs}} \) values of around 1 s\(^{-1}\) (Table 2). Anthraquinone dye Acid Blue 129 was the best substrate with a \( k_{\text{obs}} \) of 22 s\(^{-1}\) and a 82% decrease in absorbance at \( \lambda_{\text{max}} \) in one hour. While the initial rates of decolorization among the different dyes varied significantly, significant decolorization of most of the dyes was observed after 1 hour. This can be caused by various factors, for example the affinity of \( Tfu\text{DyP} \) for dyes can be different and/or the formed dye degradation products may inhibit decolorization by the peroxidase. For most dyes only one oxidation/decolorization step was observed as no other color developed during the decolorization. Only for the phthalocyanine dye two clear oxidation steps were visible. First, the color changed from light blue to dark blue, after which the solution decolored fully. The products of the decolorization reactions were not characterized. In fact, it is worth noting that, although DyPs can effectively decolor various dyes, they do not fully degrade dyes into regular metabolites. Still, such enzymes may develop as valuable biocatalysts for dye degradation, for example, for textile wastewater treatment, as the degradation products may be less toxic and/or easily degraded by follow-up microbial catabolic routes.\(^{14,15}\)

In general, higher initial activities were observed at pH 3 (Table S1). However, the enzyme is poorly stable at this pH and rapidly inactivates, resulting in lower dye degradation in the first hour. The measured initial rates of decolorization also revealed that the pH optimum for activity is clearly substrate dependent. Such phenomenon was also observed for other DyP-type peroxidases in previous studies.\(^{6,16}\) In most cases, when taking both \( k_{\text{obs}} \) and the degree of degradation in one hour into account, \( Tfu\text{DyP} \) was most effective at pH 4 (Table S1). Some substrates were however an exception. \( Tfu\text{DyP} \) showed a higher activity for the anthraquinone dye Reactive Blue 19 and azo dye Reactive Red 2 at pH 3 while it performed better with the anthraquinone dye Disperse Blue 1 and curcumin at pH 5.
When inspecting the reactivity of *TfuDyP* towards the tested dyes, it is not obvious why some substrates were degraded fast while others were not. Except for a general preference for anthraquinone dyes, neither the size nor the charge of the substrates seemed to have a large influence on the activity. To shed light on this, the redox potentials of the dyes were determined using cyclic voltammetry. Interestingly, the lowest redox potentials were observed for the anthraquinone dyes, $E_{1/2} = 0.3 - 0.65$ V (Table S1). This may explain why *TfuDyP* is most active towards this class of dyes. Unfortunately no redox potentials could be obtained for Eosin Y or the copper phthalocyanine tetrasulfonic acid dye, the other two compounds to which *TfuDyP* displayed a high activity. The oxidation of the azo dyes was found to be irreversible when measuring the redox potentials and high oxidation potentials were obtained, $E_p = 0.7 - 1.1$ V. The observed peak potentials of the azo dyes Direct Yellow 27 and Acid Yellow 23 were both above 0.95 V, which might explain why *TfuDyP* could not degrade these dyes. The arylmethane dyes and Rhodamine B, showed a high observed oxidation peak potential as well, with values between 0.6 - 1.1 V.

**Oxidation of lignin-related compounds**

Our initial study on *TfuDyP* already revealed that the substrate scope is not restricted to dyes. Also activity on phenolic compounds was observed by identifying guaiacol, 2,6-dimethoxyphenol and veratryl alcohol as substrates. As part of the current study we explored some more simple and complex phenolic compounds. Activity on several other monophenols could be confirmed: catechol, acetosyringone, syringaldehyde, vanillin, vanillyl alcohol and vanillyl acetone. Activities towards these small phenolic substrates were rather low with observed rates of $0.1 - 0.7$ s$^{-1}$. Yet, activity on these compounds may hint to a role of *TfuDyP* in delignification of plant biomass as such phenols are often described as natural mediators that are used by laccases and peroxidases.

For vanillin and vanillin-related compounds, vanillyl alcohol and vanillyl acetone, product analysis was performed. LC-MS analysis revealed the appearance of one dominant product upon *TfuDyP*-catalyzed oxidation of vanillin. The formed compound could be identified as divanillin with a mass of 301.46 Da (negative mode, see Supporting Information Fig. S1, S4 and S5). Formation of divanillin from vanillin has been proposed to result from oxidative phenolic coupling and keto-enol tautomerisation to give the final product. For vanillyl alcohol and vanillyl acetone, also dimerization products were observed (Supporting Information Fig. S2 and S3). The selective oxidation of vanillin into divanillin may open up new avenues for the application of DyP peroxidases. Divanillin is valued as taste enhancer and efficient methods to prepare this food
Exploring the substrate scope of TfuDyP

flavor are in demand. In addition to flavor production, vanillin oxidation may be used for polymer production because renewables-based monomers, such as furfural, 2,5-furandicarboxylic acid, and vanillin, are currently considered as polymer precursors.

As several recent papers hint at a role of DyPs in oxidizing lignin or lignin-derived complex molecules, we also investigated the activity of DyP on more complex aromatic molecules. Analysis of lignin degradation can be extremely complex. Therefore, lignin model compounds are often used to identify targets of enzyme action. In this work two model lignin dimers were tested: guaiacylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether and veratrylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether (Fig. 2).

Testing these substrates allows to discriminate between two possible degradation pathways: (1) oxidation of the phenoxy group, or (2) oxidative cleavage of the β-ether linkage, which constitutes up to 50% of the bonds in lignin. Interestingly, no peroxidase activity was detected for veratrylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether. In contrast, for guaiacylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether 50% substrate depletion was measured. Only the latter lignin model compound contains a phenolic moiety which suggests that TfuDyP acts on this part of the lignin dimer, using the phenolic group as electron donor. This is in contrast to the observation that a DyP from Rhodococcus jostii (DyPB) degrades lignin dimers by acting on the β-ether bond. An explanation of the observed difference in reactivity may be the fact that the two respective DyPs are representatives from two different DyP subgroups, with TfuDyP being an A-type DyP and DyPB a B-type DyP. The sequence clustering of these DyP subgroups may reflect differences in the type of reaction they catalyze. As the DyPB-catalyzed conversion of lignin results in

![Figure 2. Lignin model dimers: guaiacylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether (A) and veratrylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether (B).](image-url)
the liberation of vanillin\textsuperscript{22,23}, we set out to determine which products are formed upon \textit{TfuDyP}-catalyzed conversion of guaiacylglycerol-\textbeta-guaiacyl. As vanillin itself is also a substrate for \textit{TfuDyP}, we did not anticipate formation of this monophenol.\textsuperscript{18} Indeed, upon incubation of 0.5 mM guaiacylglycerol-\textbeta-guaiacyl ether and 1.0 mM $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ with \textit{TfuDyP}, neither vanillin nor divanillin was observed as product. This again confirms that \textit{TfuDyP} does not cleave the ether bond in lignin-derived compounds but oxidizes the phenolic moiety. Our LC-MS analyses reveal that, similar to vanillin, \textit{TfuDyP} catalyzed the oxidative coupling of the guaiacylglycerol-\textbeta-guaiacyl ether resulting in several products with higher mass. Mainly dimers and trimers of guaiacylglycerol-\textbeta-guaiacyl ether were formed (masses of 661.44 and 979.62 Da in positive mode, 637.58 Da and 955.76 Da in negative mode, see Supporting Information Fig. S6-S11).

As our study reveals that \textit{TfuDyP} has a preference for acting on phenolic moieties, we also tested several proteins are substrates. Other oxidative enzymes have been shown to oxidize tyrosyl residues of proteins which trigger formation of cross-linked proteins. Such biocatalytic protein cross-linking methods are highly valuable in the food industry as it introduces new properties in protein-based food.\textsuperscript{24} Two model proteins were tested: \textbeta-lactoglobulin (18 kDa) and lactalbumin (14 kDa). However, incubation of these proteins with hydrogen peroxide and \textit{TfuDyP} did not result in any protein cross-linking. While a small fraction of naturally occurring dimers were observed in both \textbeta-lactoglobulin and lactalbumin preparations, \textit{TfuDyP} did not promote formation of additional cross-linked proteins as judged by SDS-PAGE and gel permeation analysis.

\textbf{Conclusions}

DyPs represent a relatively poorly explored group of biocatalysts that have only been recently identified. While DyPs have been shown to act on a variety of dyes, this study provides a better view on the biocatalytic potential of a DyP. The studied \textit{TfuDyP} was found to be active on a wide variety of dyes. Furthermore, it shows activity on phenolic compounds ranging from monophenols to lignin model compounds. This shows that, except for the degradation of dyes, DyPs can be used for selective polymerization reactions (e.g. production of divanillin) and modification of lignin derived compounds.

\textbf{Materials and methods}

\textbf{Chemicals and reagents}

Lignin model dimers were supplied by TCI Europe. Hydrogen peroxide was obtained from Merck. Reactive Blue 19, Neutral Red and indigo carmine were
supplied by Acros Organics and resorufin by TCI Europe. *Tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (Luperox), copper phthalocyanine-3,4',4'',4'''-tetrasulfonic acid tetrasodium salt and all other dyes were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich.

**Enzyme purification and growth conditions**
*TfuDyP* was expressed and purified as described before\(^5\), with some modifications. *TfuDyP* was expressed in *E. coli* TOP10 (Invitrogen) using Terrific broth medium for cultivation, in order to achieve a higher cell density. An initial culture in Luria-Bertani medium was grown to saturation at 37 °C overnight. This preculture was 1:100 diluted in 1.6 L Terrific broth medium and grown at 37 °C. At OD\(_{600\text{ nm}}\) = 0.6 the culture was induced with 0.02% L-arabinose and grown to saturation at 30 °C overnight. All cultures were supplemented with 50 µg/mL ampicillin. Purification was performed using Ni-Sepharose obtained from GE. The enzyme was eluted using a sodium-acetate buffer of pH 4.5 to avoid possible inhibition of the peroxidase by imidazole.

**Thermal stability assays**
The ThermoFluor method was used to determine the apparent melting points of *TfuDyP* using an enzyme concentration of 0.5-1.0 mg/ml. This method is based on the fluorescence increase upon binding of SYPRO Orange to hydrophobic protein surfaces that become exposed upon thermal protein unfolding or multimer dissociation. The fluorescence of the SYPRO Orange dye was monitored using a RT-PCR machine (CFX-Touch, Bio-Rad). The temperature was increased with 0.5 °C per step, starting at 25 °C and ending at 99 °C, using a 10 s holding time at each step. The temperature at the maximum of the first derivative of the observed fluorescence was taken as the apparent melting temperature. Stability was assayed in 100 mM sodium acetate buffers pH 3.0-5.0, 100 mM MES buffer pH 6.0 and 100 mM Tris-HCl buffers pH 7.0-8.0.

**Kinetic analyses of the oxidation of dyes**
The activity of *TfuDyP* towards seven different classes of dyes (anthraquinone, azo, arylmethane, heterocyclic, xanthene, indigoid and phthalocyanine dyes), three carotenoid pigments and hemin was measured spectrophotometrically (Jasco V-660). Reaction mixtures containing 50 mM citrate buffer pH 3.0, 4.0 or 5.0, supplemented with 50 µM dye, 30-300 nM purified enzyme and 100 µM H\(_2\)O\(_2\) were used. In case the absorbance of a dye at λ\(_{\text{max}}\) was too high, a lower concentration of 25 or 10 µM was used. The enzyme was added to start the reaction. First the initial rate of oxidation was measured at the corresponding wavelength maximum for each dye (Table 1). Reactions were subsequently incubated for 1h.
at ambient temperature after which spectra between 350-750 nm were taken to estimate the level of degradation, calculated as percentage compared to the starting solution. Control reactions were included without enzyme. The two dyes Disperse Blue 1 and resorufin, the two pigments β-carotene and curcumin are poorly water soluble. Therefore, stock solutions were prepared in DMSO and added to the reaction mixtures to a final concentration of 2.5% or 10% DMSO. The initial activity of $TfuDyP$ in the presence of 10% DMSO was tested using Reactive Blue 19 as substrate and revealed that the enzyme remained 40% of its activity. The stock solution of porphyrin hemin was obtained by dissolving hemin to a concentration of 5.0 mM in 0.2 M NaOH and used at a final concentration of 50 µM in buffer.

**Cyclic voltammetry**
Redox potentials of the dyes (when soluble without DMSO) were measured using cyclic voltammetry (CH-Instruments, Electrochemical analyzer CHI630B, USA). A Saturated Calomel Electrode (SCE) (BAS Inc, Japan) was used as reference electrode, glassy carbon as working electrode and a platinum wire as counter electrode. Scans were taken between -0.4 and 1.1 V at ambient temperature. Dyes were dissolved in a 0.1-0.2 M citric acid buffer of pH 3-5 to a concentration of 0.25-1.0 mM. The redox potential of a dye was analyzed at the pH at which $TfuDyP$ was most active towards that dye.

**Oxidation of small phenolics**
Catechol, sinapic acid, syringaldehyde and acetylpyranone were tested in different concentrations and oxidation was followed spectrophotometrically. Oxidation of vanillin, vanillyl alcohol and vanillyl acetone was performed in 1 mL reactions consisting of 90 nM $TfuDyP$, 0.5 mg/mL substrate and 1.0 mM H$_2$O$_2$ in 100 mM citric acid buffer pH 4.0. Reactions were incubated at 30 ºC for 150 min and analyzed by HPLC and LC-MS.

**By $TfuDyP$ catalyzed degradation of lignin and lignin model compounds**
Lignin model compounds, guaiacylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether and veratrylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether, were dissolved in DMSO at a concentration of 10 mM. The reaction mixtures contained 2.0 µM $TfuDyP$, 0.20 mM lignin dimer and 0.10 mM H$_2$O$_2$ in 100 mM Na-acetate buffer pH 3.5. Reactions were incubated at 30 ºC for 1h. Control reactions were made with H$_2$O$_2$ and buffer mixed with substrates and also with enzyme and substrate without H$_2$O$_2$. Reactions was incubated for 150 min at 30 ºC, 500 rpm and samples were then centrifuged for 10 min at 13,000 rpm. Products of the reaction of $TfuDyP$ with lignin model compounds
and other small phenolics were analyzed by reverse phase HPLC using Jasco HPLC system. 10 µL samples were injected on a Grace Altima HP C18 column (3 µm, 4.6x100 mm, with precolumn of same material). Solvents used: A water with 0.1% formic acid and B acetonitrile. HPLC method: 2 min 15% B, 2-16 min 80% B, 14-16 min 80% B, 16 min 15% B followed by re-equilibration. Detection with UV detector at 254 nm and flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. LC-MS analysis was performed on Surveyor HPLC-DAD coupled to LCQ Fleet detector.

**Cross linking of proteins**

Beta-lactoglobulin and lactalbumin (final concentration 1 mg/mL) were tested as model proteins for *TfuDyP* mediated cross-linking in the presence and absence of syringaldehyde (0.2 mM). Reactions were carried out in 100 mM Na-acetate buffer pH 3.5 with 0.10 mM H$_2$O$_2$ at 30 °C with shaking for 4h. Samples were analyzed by gel permeation on a Superdex 200 column and by SDS-PAGE.

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**Supporting information**

The supporting information includes the activity measurements for *TfuDyP* on the twenty seven dyes from Table 2 at pH 3, 4 and 5 (Table S1). Figures S1-S11 show the HPLC and LC-MS results of the oxidation of vanillin, vanillyl alcohol, vanillyl acetone and guaiacylglycerol-β-guaiacyl ether by *TfuDyP*. This information can be found online, connected to the publication: DOI: 10.1016/j.tet.2015.12.078.
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