
Index

Abstract	1
Resumen	5
Resum	9
1. Introduction	13
1.1. messenger RNA (mRNA) biogenesis: Interconnecting processes...17	
1.1.1. Transcription initiation.....	17
1.2. Elongation.....	19
1.2.1. Co-transcriptional 5' Capping.....	20
1.2.2. Coupling to splicing.....	20
1.2.3. 3' Polyadenylation and transcription termination.....	21
1.3. Nucleo-cytoplasmic RNA exports.....	22
1.3.1 RNA export factors.....	24
Exportins.....	24
Crm1/ Xpo1.....	25
1.4. mRNA export: From transcription site to the nuclear pore.....	26
1.4.1. mRNA export adaptors.....	28
1.4.1.1 THO/TREX complex.....	29
1.4.1.2 TREX2 complex.....	33
1.5. rRNA export.....	35
1.6. Nuclear Pore Complex (NPC).....	37
1.6.1. Role in mRNA quality control.....	39
1.6.2. mRNA export termination and cytoplasmic mRNPs remodelling.....	40
MEX67.....	42
MIP6.....	46
2. Objectives	51
3. Materials and Methods	53
3.1. Cloning.....	55
Cloning using Restriction enzymes.....	57
Ligase Independent Cloning (LIC).....	58
In-fusion Cloning.....	58
3.2. Site directed mutagenesis.....	60
3.3. Protein over-expression in <i>E. coli</i>	61
3.3.1. Small-scale expression.....	62

3.3.2. Large-scale over-expression.....	63
3.3.3. Protein expression in insect cells-baculovirus system.....	64
3.4. Protein purifications.....	66
3.4.1. Small-scale purification.....	66
3.4.2. Large-scale protein purification.....	67
3.4.2.1. Cell lysis and protein extraction.....	67
3.4.2.2. Affinity chromatography of His-tagged proteins.....	69
3.4.2.3. Affinity chromatography of GST-tagged proteins.....	69
3.4.2.4. Affinity chromatography of MBP-tagged proteins.....	70
3.4.2.5. Affinity chromatography using HiTrap Heparin HD column.....	70
3.4.2.6. Protein tag digestion.....	71
3.4.3. Size exclusion chromatography (gel filtration).....	71
3.5. SDS-PAGE (<u>S</u> odium <u>D</u> odecyl <u>S</u> ulfate <u>P</u> oly <u>A</u> crylamide <u>G</u> el <u>E</u> lectrophoresis).....	72
3.6. Protein quantification.....	72
3.7. Native gel electrophoresis.....	73
3.8. <i>In vitro</i> binding experiments.....	73
3.8.1. Poly (U) agarose beads binding experiment.....	73
3.8.2. Pull down assay.....	74
3.8.3. Bio-layer Interferometry.....	75
3.8.4. Isothermal T <u>i</u> tration C <u>a</u> lorimetry (ITC).....	76
3.8.5. Protein Cross-linking.....	77
3.9. Protein crystallization.....	77
3.9.1. Crystals of Mip6 RRM ₃₍₃₁₃₋₃₈₉₎	77
3.9.2. Crystals of Mex67 ₍₅₂₈₋₅₉₉₎	78
3.9.3. Crystals from Pes4 RRM _{3/4}	79
3.9.3.1. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM ₃	79
3.9.3.2. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM ₄	79
3.9.3.3. Crystal structure of RNA-free Pes4 RRM _{3/4}	80
3.9.3.4. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM _{3/4} with RNA.....	81
3.10. Structure surface electrostatic potential.....	81
3.11. NMR spectroscopy titration.....	81
4. Results.....	83

4.1. Mip6 protein expression and purification.....	85
4.2. MIP6 is an RNA binding protein that binds RNA with high affinity.....	86
4.2.1. Expression and purification of Mip6 (111-480).....	87
4.2.2. Mip6 ₍₁₁₁₋₄₈₀₎ binds RNA <i>in vitro</i>	88
4.3. MIP6 has fourth RNA recognition motif.....	89
4.3.1. Expression and purification of Mip6 RRM _{1/2} and MIP6 RRM _{3/4}	90
4.3.2. Expression and purification of Mip6 RRM ₃₍₃₁₃₋₃₈₉₎	91
4.3.3. Expression and purification of Mip6 RRM ₄	92
4.3.4. Mip6 RNA recognition motifs independently bind polyuridylic acid <i>in vitro</i>	94
4.3.5. Mip6 RRM ₄ binds RNA with high affinity.....	86
4.4. Crystal structure of Mip6 RRM₃₍₃₁₃₋₃₈₉₎.....	99
4.4.1. Crystallization.....	99
4.4.2. Data collection and processing.....	100
4.4.3. Mip6 RRM ₃₍₃₁₃₋₃₈₉₎ structures reveal different loop conformations.....	101
4.5. Characterizing the interaction between Mex67 and Mip6.....	104
4.5.1. Expression and purification of Mex67 C-term.....	104
4.5.2. Mex67 binds Mip6 <i>in vitro</i> with high affinity.....	105
4.5.3. Mex67 interacts with Mip6 through its RRM ₄	106
4.6. Crystal structure of Mex67 C-term₍₅₂₈₋₅₉₉₎.....	113
4.6.1. Crystallization and data processing.....	113
4.6.2. Mex67 C-term structure made of alpha helices.....	116
4.6.3. Evolutionary conservation of the Mex67 C-term UBA domain.....	117
4.6.4. Mex67 C-term ₍₅₂₈₋₅₉₉₎ electrostatic surface is not positively charged.....	118
4.7. Mex67 UBA domain is the binding site of Mip6.....	120
4.7.1. Expression and purification.....	120
4.7.2. Removing Mex67 UBA domain disrupts the interaction with Mip6.....	122
4.7.3. Mex67 UBA domain is the site of binding of Mip6.....	123

4.7.4. Mex67 UBA domain needs to be in a specific conformation to be able to bind Mip6.....	124
4.8. Chemical cross-linking.....	127
4.9. Mip6 RRM4 RNA binding interfere with its interaction with Mex67.....	129
4.10. Pes4, a Mip6 Parologue, is also an RNA binding protein..	133
4.10.1. Expression and purification of Pes4 RRM3/4.....	134
4.10.2. Pes4 binds RNA <i>in vitro</i> with high affinity.....	135
4.11. Pes4 RRM3/4 does not interact with Mex67 <i>in vitro</i>.....	136
4.12. Crystal structures of Pes4.....	138
4.12.1. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM3.....	138
4.12.1.1. Crystallization and data processing.....	138
4.12.1.2. Pes4 RRM3 reveals a canonical RRM structure.....	140
4.12.2. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM4.....	141
4.12.2.1. Crystallization and data processing.....	141
4.12.2.2. Pes4 RRM4 shows a difference!	142
4.12.3. Crystal structure of Pes4 RRM3/4.....	144
4.12.3.1. Crystallization and data processing.....	144
4.12.3.2. Pes4 RRM3 and RRM4 have no contact between each other.....	146
4.12.4. Towards the crystal structure of Pes4 RRM3/4 bound to RNA.....	148
4.13. Mip6 RRM4 model building.....	151
4.14. NMR titration analysis of Mip6 RRM4 upon complexation with Mex67₍₅₂₈₋₅₉₉₎	152
4.15. A Mip6 mutant that disrupts the interaction with Mex67.....	155
4.15.1. Expression and purification of Mip6 W442A mutant.....	156
4.15.2. Mip6 RRM4 W442A do not bind Mex67 ₍₅₂₈₋₅₉₉₎	157
4.15.3. Mip6 RRM4 W442A mutant disrupts the ability to bind Mex67 but not RNA	159
5. Discussion.....	161
5.1. Mip6 and Pes4 protein expression and solubility.....	163

5.2. Mip6 and Pes4 are RNA binding proteins with multiple RNA recognition motifs.....	164
5.3. Pes4 RRM _{3/4} structure and the role of multiple RRM.....	168
5.4. Mip6 RRM ₄ is the binding surface for Mex67.....	171
5.5. Pes4 RRM ₄ binds RNA but not Mex67.....	173
5.6. Mip6 RRM ₄ Mex67 binding affects its ability to bind RNA.....	174
5.7. Mex67 UBA domain gets an additional partner.....	180
5.8. Mip6 function <i>in vivo</i> as a possible novel adaptor protein for Mex67.....	185
5.9. Mip6 additional role during cellular stress.....	186
5.10. Pes4 evolutionary divergence of function.....	188
5.11. Concluding remarks.....	189
6. Conclusions.....	191
7. References.....	195

