Bat and pig IFN-induced transmembrane protein 3 restrict cell entry by influenza virus and lyssaviruses

Camilla T. O. Benfield,1 Sarah E. Smith,2 Edward Wright,3 Rachael S. Wash,2 Francesca Ferrara,4 Nigel J. Temperton4 and Paul Kellam2,5

Correspondence
Camilla T. O. Benfield
cbenfield@rvc.ac.uk

1Department of Pathology and Pathogen Biology, The Royal Veterinary College, Hatfield, UK
2Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK
3Viral Pseudotype Unit (Fitzrovia), Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Westminster, London, UK
4Viral Pseudotype Unit (Medway), School of Pharmacy, University of Kent, Chatham Maritime, Kent, UK
5MRC/UCL Centre for Medical Molecular Virology, Division of Infection and Immunity, University College London, London, UK

IFN-induced transmembrane protein 3 (IFITM3) is a restriction factor that blocks cytosolic entry of numerous viruses that utilize acidic endosomal entry pathways. In humans and mice, IFITM3 limits influenza-induced morbidity and mortality. Although many IFITM3-sensitive viruses are zoonotic, whether IFITMs function as antiviral restriction factors in mammalian species other than humans and mice is unknown. Here, IFITM3 orthologues in the microbat (Myotis myotis) and pig (Sus scrofa domesticus) were identified using rapid amplification of cDNA ends. Amino acid residues known to be important for IFITM3 function were conserved in the pig and microbat orthologues. Ectopically expressed pig and microbat IFITM3 co-localized with transferrin (early endosomes) and CD63 (late endosomes/multivesicular bodies). Pig and microbat IFITM3 restricted cell entry mediated by multiple influenza haemagglutinin subtypes and lyssavirus glycoproteins. Expression of pig or microbat IFITM3 in A549 cells reduced influenza virus yields and nucleoprotein expression. Conversely, small interfering RNA knockdown of IFITM3 in pig NPrT cells and primary microbat cells enhanced virus replication, demonstrating that these genes are functional in their species of origin at endogenous levels. In summary, we showed that IFITMs function as potent broad-spectrum antiviral effectors in two mammals – pigs and bats – identified as major reservoirs for emerging viruses.

INTRODUCTION

Restriction factors are germline-encoded proteins that function in a cell-autonomous manner to suppress virus replication. The IFN-induced transmembrane (IFITM) proteins are a family of small IFN-stimulated proteins that affect diverse cellular processes (reviewed by Siegrist et al., 2011) and were recently identified as antiviral restriction factors that inhibit the cell entry of multiple pathogenic viruses (Brass et al., 2009).

To date, IFITMs have been reported to restrict the enveloped viruses influenza A, West Nile virus and dengue virus (family Flaviviridae), severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus, Ebola virus and Marburg virus (family Filoviridae), vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and lyssaviruses (family Rhabdoviridae), human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and several species of the family Bunyaviridae, as well as a non-enveloped orthoreovirus (family Reoviridae) (Anafu et al., 2013; Brass et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2011; Jia et al., 2012; Lu et al., 2011; Mudhasilani et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2013; Weidner et al., 2010). The common feature of IFITM-sensitive viruses appears to be their dependence on acidic endosomal entry pathways, either for proteolytic cleavage, or for pH- or protease-dependent activation of viral entry proteins into their fusogenic form. Accordingly, pseudotyped retroviruses expressing heterologous surface envelope proteins...
recapitulate the IFITM sensitivity of the authentic virus from which the envelope protein derives, and have been widely used to study IFITM biology (Brass et al., 2009; Feeley et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2011). IFITMs localize to membranes of late endosomes and lysosomes and prevent the release of viral particles from these compartments into the cytosol (Feeley et al., 2011).

The human IFITM gene family comprises IFITM1, -2, -3 and -5, all of which possess antiviral activity and cluster together on chromosome 11, as well as IFITM10 whose function remains unknown. Mice possess orthologues of all the human IFITM genes and two additional genes, Ifitm6 and -7. IFITM1, -2 and -3 are expressed in a wide range of tissues (Bailey et al., 2012; Everitt et al., 2013; Siegrist et al., 2011) whereas IFITM5 expression is limited to osteoblasts (Moffatt et al., 2012). As the phenotype of influenza-infected mice is indistinguishable from that of mice deleted for the entire locus (comprising Ifitm1, -2, -3, -5 and -6), ifitm3 apparently dominates influenza resistance in vivo (Bailey et al., 2012). Moreover, the importance of IFITM3 was highlighted by reports showing that an IFITM3 allele (rs12252-C) is associated with enhanced disease severity caused by pandemic influenza virus H1N1/09 (Everitt et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2013b) and highly pathogenic influenza virus H7N9 (Wang et al., 2014) and is more frequent in Chinese than in Caucasian populations.

IFITM proteins comprise a relatively long hydrophilic N-terminal region, two hydrophobic intramembrane domains (IM1 and IM2) separated by a conserved intracellular loop (CIL), and a comparatively short hydrophilic C-terminal region. IM1 and CIL together constitute the CD225 domain, a functionally poorly defined domain shared by several alternative topologies have been proposed for the IFITM proteins (Chen et al., 1984; Li et al., 2013; Takahashi et al., 1990; Yount et al., 2012), but the most recent study suggests that murine Ifitm3 is a type II transmembrane protein, comprising an intracellular N terminus, an extracellular C terminus and a membrane-spanning 'IM2' domain (Bailey et al., 2013). IFITM function is regulated by several post-translational modifications. S-Palmitoylation of IFITM3 on three membrane-proximal cysteine residues enhances membrane affinity and antiviral activity against influenza (Yount et al., 2010, 2012). Conversely, lysine-linked ubiquitination decreases the co-localization of IFITM3 with endolysosomes and its antiviral potency (Yount et al., 2012). The Y20 residue, which can be phosphorylated by the tyrosine kinase Fyn, is critical for targeting IFITM3 to endolysosomes and for restriction of endosome-dependent viruses (Jia et al., 2012; John et al., 2013).

Current evidence indicates that IFITMs block viral entry to the cytosol by preventing fusion between viral and host-cell membranes. IFITMs multimerize via their IM1 regions (John et al., 2013) and increase membrane rigidity (Li et al., 2013). This suggests a model in which IFITMs either physically resist the deformation of the membrane by the viral fusion machinery or hinder the lateral mobility of viral or cellular proteins within the membrane and thereby block successful pore formation (John et al., 2013; Li et al., 2013; Perreira et al., 2013). Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al. (2013) recently reported that IFITM3 interacts with a protein involved with cholesterol homeostasis, vesicle-membrane-protein-associated protein A (VAPA), and thereby causes cholesterol accumulation in multivesicular bodies and late endosomes, which inhibits the fusion between virion and endosomal membranes. However, a unifying mechanism to explain antiviral restriction by IFITM proteins remains elusive (Perreira et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2014). Indeed, recent reports showing that IFITM3 can be co-opted to promote cell entry of human coronavirus OC43 (Zhao et al., 2014) and human papillomavirus (Warren et al., 2014) suggest virus-specific IFITM interactions.

Although the IFITM gene family is evolutionarily conserved in vertebrates (Hickford et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2012), it is unclear whether antiviral activity is also conserved among vertebrate IFITMs. Here, we focused on the bat and pig, as these hosts are particularly relevant to the ecology of several IFITM-sensitive zoonotic viruses.

RESULTS

Sequence analysis of IFITM3 orthologues cloned from microbat and pig cells

In vertebrates, the IFITM1, -2, -3 and -5 genes cluster together in an IFITM locus flanked by the B4GALNT4 and ATHL1 genes. It was not possible to assign pig and bat IFITM orthologues based on conserved synteny due to the lack of a B4GALNT4 orthologue in pigs, gaps in the genome assemblies and the low sequencing coverage of the bat genomes (2.6 \( \times \) for Pteropus vampyrus and 1.7 \( \times \) for Myotis lucifugus at the time of analysis). Therefore, to identify IFITM genes, rapid amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) was performed on a newborn pig tracheal cell line (NPTr) and primary lung fibroblasts from the greater mouse-eared bat, Myotis myotis, a European species of microbat (Vespertilionidae). M. myotis was selected as it is a known reservoir host for several highly pathogenic viruses (Amengual et al., 2007; Drexler et al., 2011, 2012) and genomes are available for other species from the same genus (Seim et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2013a).

RACE using primers designed to the conserved central regions of compiled IFITM-like sequences yielded several IFITM gene variants, of which the designated IFITM3-like sequences were the most abundant. For the pig, the IFITM3-like sequence was the only IFITM variant identified that had an N-terminal extension typical of
IFITM2/3 proteins (compare human IFITM1-3 in Fig. 1b). For the microbat, the sequence we assigned as IFITM3 was the most frequent of several long IFITM variants (68% of sequenced clones) and the only one encoding a double phenylalanine motif ((F8/F9) conserved in the human and pig IFITM3 orthologues but absent from human IFITM2 (Fig. 1b).

Full-length IFITM3 cDNA sequences were obtained by reverse transcription-PCR, and introns were identified by PCR using genomic DNA, thereby confirming that these were not intronless expressed pseudogenes. The transcript structure for pig and microbat IFITM3 was the same as for other experimentally verified IFITM3 orthologues, comprising two exons, a single intron of similar size to other IFITM3 genes and a conserved exon–exon junction site (Fig. 1a). BLAST searches revealed that the IFITM3 sequence from NPr cells was identical to the Sus scrofa IFITM3 reference sequence (GenBank accession no. NM_001201382.1), and the closest match for the cloned microbat IFITM3 was a ‘predicted IFITM3-like’ gene from M. lucifugus (GenBank accession no. XP_006108229.1, 95% amino acid identity).

Multiple sequence alignments showed that amino acid residues that are functionally important in murine and human IFITM3 were conserved in the cloned pig and microbat orthologues (Fig. 1b). These included: (i) three cysteine residues that are S-palmitoylated (Yount et al., 2010); (ii) several lysine residues modified by ubiquitination (Yount et al., 2012) (including K88, which can be monomethylated; Shan et al., 2013); (iii) the Y20 residue critical for endosomal targeting (Jia et al., 2012; John et al., 2013); (iv) two phenylalanine residues (F75 and F78), which mediate oligomerization (John et al., 2013); and (v) R85, R87 and Y99 shown to influence antiviral restriction (John et al., 2013) (Fig. 1b, shaded residues). The microbat and pig IFITM3 proteins were most divergent from human IFITM3 at their N and C termini, and were most conserved in the central CD225 domain, a pattern shared with other orthologues (chicken and mouse Ifitm3) and paralogues (human IFITM2 and IFITM1) (Fig. 1b).

Microbat and pig IFITM3 localize to transferrin- and CD63-positive endosomes

To analyse the IFITM3 proteins, A549 cells (which express low levels of endogenous IFITM3; Brass et al., 2009) were stably transduced to express C-terminally haemagglutinin (HA)-tagged IFITM3 from pig, microbat or human. Prior work has shown that C-terminal epitope tags do not affect the function or expression levels of IFITM3, and indicate that tagged constructs adopt the same topology as the WT protein (Bailey et al., 2013).

Similar to human IFITM3, both pig and microbat IFITM3 had a punctate intracellular distribution following cell fixation and permeabilization (Fig. 2) and co-localized with endocytosed transferrin (early endosomes) and with CD63, a marker for late endosomes/multivesicular bodies (MVBs), but not with the lysosomal marker LAMP1 (Fig. 2). There was an enlargement of CD63-positive structures in cells expressing microbat or human IFITM3 in comparison with the smaller CD63-positive vesicles seen in pig IFITM3-expressing or untransduced A549 cells (Fig. 2b). Enlargement of CD63-containing compartments was most marked in cells containing larger foci of IFITM3–HA staining. Microbat IFITM3–HA sometimes co-localized with CD63 in ‘hollow’ ring-like structures (arrows in Fig. 2b).

Endocytic uptake of microbat and pig IFITM3 from the plasma membrane

To investigate the trafficking of pig and microbat IFITM3 proteins, live cells were incubated with FITC-conjugated anti-HA antibody and Alexa Fluor 546-conjugated transferrin prior to fixation. When labelling was performed on ice, endocytosis was prevented, as indicated by the weak stippled transferrin signal, probably corresponding to clathrin-coated pits pre-internalization (Fig. 3a). Under these conditions, IFITM3 from the three species was detected on the plasma membrane, clearly highlighting filopodia and membrane ruffles, whilst no vesicular staining was observed. In contrast, when labelling was performed at 37°C to allow endocytosis, anti-HA staining showed that pig, microbat and human IFITM3 formed discrete puncta, which, as observed previously, overlapped or were closely associated with transferrin-positive endosomes (Fig. 3b). For all IFITM3 proteins, internalization of the anti-HA antibody by live cells identified larger, brighter puncta that were more widely distributed within the cytosol compared with the HA staining seen previously following fixation and permeabilization (indicating that permeabilization may cause some extraction of the membrane-associated IFITM3). In conclusion, pig and microbat IFITM3 share the following with their human counterpart: (i) plasma membrane trafficking; (ii) extracellular exposure of their C termini (allowing detection of the C-terminal HA tag in intact cells); and (iii) endocytic uptake from the plasma membrane into the endosomal pathway.

Microbat and pig IFITM3 restrict cell entry mediated by influenza HA

To determine whether pig and microbat IFITM3 restrict influenza A virus entry, lentiviruses expressing the HA proteins from diverse influenza subtypes were used to infect A549 cells that were untransduced or had been transduced to express either human IFITM3, pig IFITM3 (Fig. 4a) or microbat IFITM3 (Fig. 4b). Three independently cloned cell lines of the pig and microbat IFITM3 proteins markedly inhibited the infectivity of all influenza HA subtypes tested, including both group 1 and group 2 HAs and highly pathogenic avian H5 and H7 (Fig. 4). Pig or microbat IFITM3 did not restrict viruses pseudotyped with the entry proteins of the gammaretroviruses amphotropic murine leukemia virus or Gibbon ape leukemia
virus (Fig. S1, available in the online Supplementary Material), consistent with previous studies on human IFITM3 (Brass et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2011).

**Microbat and pig IFITM3 inhibit replication-competent influenza virus**

To assess the effect of the IFITM3 orthologues on replication-competent influenza virus, untransduced A549 cells or cells expressing either human, pig or microbat IFITM3 were infected with influenza A/WSN/33 (H1N1) and nucleoprotein (NP) expression was quantified using flow cytometry. Expression of either pig or microbat IFITM3 led to a marked reduction in the proportion of NP-positive cells for all cell clones (Fig. 5a). There was a slight variation in the degree of restriction between the three cell lines expressing pig IFITM3 (Figs 5a and Fig. S2) despite comparable expression of IFITM3–HA seen by Western blotting (Fig. S2).

Stable expression of pig, microbat or human IFITM3 in A549 cells significantly reduced single-cycle growth of influenza A/WSN/33 (Fig. 5c), consistent with reduced NP expression measured in parallel (Fig. 5b). Inhibition of influenza A/WSN/33 (Fig. 5c), consistent with reduced NP expression was quantified using flow cytometry. Expression of either pig or microbat IFITM3 led to a marked reduction in the proportion of NP-positive cells for all cell clones (Fig. 5a). There was a slight variation in the degree of restriction between the three cell lines expressing pig IFITM3 (Figs 5a and Fig. S2) despite comparable expression of IFITM3–HA seen by Western blotting (Fig. S2).

**Microbat and pig IFITM3 block cell entry mediated by lyssavirus entry proteins**

In light of data that suggest there may be virus-specific antiviral determinants of IFITM (John et al., 2013; Zhao et al., 2013), it was of interest to explore the antiviral spectrum of pig and microbat IFITM3, especially for viruses that naturally infect these species.

A549 cells stably expressing either pig, microbat or human IFITM3 were infected with pseudotyped lentiviruses that expressed the envelope glycoproteins from isolates representing different lyssavirus phylogroups, namely rabies virus strain Evelyn Rokitniki Abelseth (phylogroup 1), Mokola virus (phylogroup 2), Lagos bat virus (phylogroup 2) and West Caucasian bat virus (phylogroup 3). Expression of IFITM3 from microbat, pig or human reduced infectivity mediated by all four lyssavirus entry proteins, in all cases by approximately 2 log10 relative to the control cells (Fig. 6). Thus, the pig and microbat IFITM3 orthologues inhibit cell entry mediated by multiple lyssavirus glycoproteins (G proteins).

**IFITM3 activity in pig and microbat cells**

Finally, we addressed the contribution of IFITM3 to antiviral responses in pig and microbat cells. Endogenous IFITM3 expression was measured using TaqMan quantitative reverse-transcription PCR (qRT-PCR) designed to specifically detect IFITM3 mRNA and not other IFITM paralogues identified in these cells by RACE. Baseline levels of IFITM3 mRNA were readily detected in both the porcine NPr1 cells [threshold cycle (Ct) value of IFITM3=22.7; Ct value of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH)=21.33] and in microbat lung fibroblasts (Ct value of IFITM3=25.8; Ct value of GAPDH=22.8). IFITM3 induction was assessed in response to the dsRNA analogue poly(I:C), a molecular pattern associated with viral infection, which is recognized by Toll-like receptor 3 and induces type I IFN in porcine (Provost et al., 2012) and bat (Biesold et al., 2011; Omatsu et al., 2008; Zhou et al., 2011) cells. Poly(I:C) addition led to a 3.5-fold increase in pig IFITM3 and a twofold increase in microbat IFITM3 mRNA levels (Fig. 7). The microbat cells were also stimulated via poly(I:C) transfection; as in pteropid bat lung cells (but not primary cells from other tissues) this enhanced IFN-β induction relative to extracellular delivery of poly(I:C) (Zhou et al., 2011). However, transfection of poly(I:C) into microbat cells resulted in a similar degree of IFITM3 induction (2.3-fold) (Fig. 7).

Next, the function of endogenous IFITM3 was assessed using small interfering RNA (siRNA) designed using the RACE sequence data to target IFITM3 and not other putative IFITM paralogues. siRNA targeting IFITM3 or control non-targeting siRNAs were transfected into cells with poly(I:C) induction of IFITM3. IFITM3 mRNA was quantified by qRT-PCR and the biological effect of the knockdown assessed by infection with influenza A/WSN/33 (Fig. 8). Transfection of siRNA against pig IFITM3 led to a 63 % knockdown in IFITM3 mRNA (fold change of 5 22.8). IFITM3

**Fig. 1.** Multiple sequence alignments with microbat and pig IFITM3. (a) Pig and microbat IFITM3 nucleotide sequences were aligned with experimentally verified IFITM3 orthologues. The intron–exon boundary is shown (exon1: black; exon 2: blue) and intronic sequences flanking the splice sites are in red lower-case letters. An asterisk indicates identical nucleotides. (b) Pig and microbat IFITM3 amino acid sequences were aligned with other IFITM proteins. Text colour of amino acid residues denotes their physiochemical properties: blue: acidic, red: small and hydrophobic, magenta: basic, green: hydroxyl, sulfhydryl, amine and glycine. An asterisk indicates identical amino acid residues, ‘:’ indicates residues with strongly similar properties and ‘.’ indicates residues with weakly similar properties. The arrow indicates the exon–exon boundary. The protein domains of human IFITM3 are shown (according to John et al., 2013): IM1, CIL and IM2. Highlighted residues are discussed within the text.
Fig. 2. Subcellular localization of IFITM3 proteins. A549 cells stably expressing HA-tagged IFITM3 proteins from human, pig or microbat (or untransduced cells) were fixed, permeabilized and stained for HA, CD63 (b) or LAMP1 (c). In (a) cells were incubated with Alexa Fluor 546-conjugated transferrin before fixation and staining with FITC-conjugated anti-HA. Nuclei were stained with DAPI and the coverslips examined by confocal microscopy. Images show representative staining patterns, and merged images are also shown. The right-hand column shows phase-contrast images. Bar, 10 μm. Arrows in (b) identify ‘ring-like’ staining of microbat IFITM3–HA and CD63.
1.4 log₂) (Fig. 8a), a 3.4-fold increase in virus yield (Fig. 8b) and a twofold increase in the proportion of influenza NP-positive cells (Fig. 8c) relative to control siRNA-transfected cells. In the absence of poly(I:C) stimulation, IFITM3 knockdown in NPTr cells increased influenza NP-positive cells more (3.3-fold) (Fig. 8d), suggesting that additional poly(I:C)-induced genes complement IFITM3-mediated influenza virus restriction. Microbat IFITM3 knockdown in the absence of poly(I:C) stimulation (Fig. 8e–g) reduced IFITM3 mRNA levels by 60% (fold change of 1.3 log₂) (Fig. 8e) and led to a twofold increase in infectious yields (Fig. 8f) and a threefold increase in NP expression (Fig. 8g), relative to control siRNA transfection. Thus, endogenous IFITM3 in pig tracheal NPTr cells and microbat lung cells restricts influenza virus. Lastly, following siRNA knockdown of baseline IFITM3 in a microbat cell line, overexpression of microbat IFITM3 significantly inhibited influenza NP expression (Fig. S4).

DISCUSSION

Species differences in restriction factors can determine differential viral susceptibility (Duggal & Emerman, 2012; Fadel & Poeschla, 2011; Kirmaier et al., 2010; McNatt et al.,...
However, antiviral immunity in reservoir and spill-over hosts remains poorly understood, although important for understanding viral emergence (Bean et al., 2013). Here, we showed that IFITM3 proteins with broad-spectrum antiviral function are conserved in swine and a member of the order Chiroptera, hosts of numerous zoonotic viruses.

The RACE reactions used here captured multiple possible expressed IFITM paralogues by using primers against the conserved CD225 domain. We assigned microbat IFITM3 using several criteria. First, it encoded a double phenylalanine motif (F8/F9) found only in other IFITM3 orthologues (whereas the other microbat IFITM variants resembled human IFITM2 in having a single phenylalanine at this position). Secondly, the microbat IFITM3 had an intracellular location and co-localized with endosomal markers. Conserved genome synteny was used previously to help assign IFITM genes (Smith et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012), but was of limited use in the case of the poorly assembled IFITM loci in the pig and microbat genomes. Moreover, the IFITM gene family is associated with numerous processed pseudogenes, gene duplications and copy-number variation (Siegrist et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2012), which significantly complicates the assignment of gene orthology. Although a recent computational study identified eight pig IFITM family members with expressed sequence tag evidence (Miller et al., 2014), it lacked the functional validation presented here.

Functionally important amino acid residues for human or mouse IFITM3 were conserved in pig and microbat IFITM3, indicating that these may be functionally important sites across the orthologues. Amino acid residues are less conserved within IM2 compared with IM1, although IM2 can function as a signal anchor for membrane localization (Bailey et al., 2013) and is also sufficient to mediate the IFITM3–VAPA interaction (Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al., 2013).

We showed here that C-terminally HA-tagged IFITM3 (of human, pig and microbat) was clearly detectable at the plasma membrane after live cell staining. These data support recent evidence for a luminal (i.e. extracellular) exposure of the C terminus (Bailey et al., 2013), and indicate that pig and microbat IFITM3 adopt a similar topology. Other studies have also reported that a proportion of human IFITM3 localizes to the plasma membrane (Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al., 2013; Bailey et al., 2013; Brass et al., 2009), and it is thought that the \(^{26}\text{YEML}^{23}\) motif acts as a lysosomal sorting signal for the internalization of IFITM3 into the endosomal pathway (Jia et al., 2012; John et al., 2013). Pig and microbat IFITM3

**Fig. 4.** Microbat and pig IFITM3 inhibit influenza HA-mediated cell entry. A549 cells stably expressing IFITM3 from human, pig (a) or microbat (b) (or untransduced cells) were infected with pseudotyped viruses which express different influenza HA glycoproteins. At 48 h post-infection, luciferase reporter activity was measured and normalized to untransduced cells (relative infectivity of 1 corresponding to 3000–5000 relative light units according to pseudotype used). Results are shown as means±sd (n=3), and data are representative of three independent experiments.
contain 20YEML23 and 20YEVL23, respectively (which conform to the consensus sequence for a tyrosine-based sorting signal YxxΦ, where Φ is a residue with a bulky hydrophobic side chain; Bonifacino & Traub, 2003), and likewise were observed to traffic into endosomes following their cell-surface staining. Pig and microbat IFITM3 co-localized with endocytosed transferrin (early endosomes) and CD63 (late endosomes/MVBs) as seen for human IFITM3 (Figs 2 and 3) (Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al., 2013; Feeley et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2011; Jia et al., 2012; Lu et al., 2011). Expression of both microbat and human IFITM3 caused expansion of CD63-positive endosomal compartments, consistent with the documented ability of IFITM3 to induce MVB formation (Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al., 2013). Furthermore, in some cells, microbat IFITM3 co-stained with CD63 in ring-like structures, a phenomenon reported for human IFITM3 and enhanced by overexpression of its interaction partner, VAPA (Amini-Bavil-Olyaee et al., 2013). In our hands, neither human IFITM3 nor its pig and microbat orthologues co-localized with the lysosomal marker LAMP1, which is consistent with some (Yount et al., 2010) but not other (Feeley et al.,

**Fig. 5.** Microbat and pig IFITM3 inhibit influenza virus replication. A549 cells stably expressing human, pig or microbat IFITM3 were infected with influenza A virus. (a) At 7 h after infection with influenza A/WSN/33, NP expression was analysed by flow cytometry. (b) At 16 h after infection with influenza A/WSN/33 or A/swine/453/06 or mock infection (−V) cells were lysed and Western blotting was performed to detect influenza NP, actin and HA-tagged IFITM3 or green fluorescent protein (GFP). The molecular mass (kDa) of protein size markers is indicated. (c, d) Virus yields following infection with influenza A/WSN/33 at an m.o.i. of 3 (c) or an m.o.i. of 0.01 (d) were measured using plaque assays. Results are shown as means ± SD (n=3). In (b)–(d) pig IFITM3 clone 1 and microbat IFITM3 clone 2 were used. *P<0.05; **P<0.01; ****P<0.0001 relative to GFP-expressing cells (Student’s t-test).
IFITM3 inhibited viral pseudotypes bearing HAs from both swine and human influenza A subtypes. Similarly, chicken found that pig and human IFITM3 could restrict avian, human IFITM3, despite comparable expression levels. We showed that both pig and microbat IFITM3 restricted cell entry mediated by multiple influenza A virus HA (a class I fusion protein) and lyssavirus G (a class III fusion protein) proteins. Restriction at the level of cell entry mediated by multiple influenza A virus HA (a class I fusion protein) and lyssavirus G proteins. A549 cells stably expressing GFP, human IFITM3, pig IFITM3 (clone 1) or microbat IFITM3 (clone 2) were infected with pseudotyped viruses that expressed the envelope glycoprotein from Mokola virus (MOKV), West Caucasian bat virus (WCBV), Lagos bat virus (LBV) or rabies virus strain Evelyn Rokitniki Abelseth (ERA). At 48 h post-infection, luciferase reporter activity was measured and normalized to GFP-expressing cells (relative infectivity of 1 corresponding to 25 000–80 000 relative light units according to pseudotype used). Results are shown as means ± SD (n=3) and data are representative of three independent experiments.

2011; Huang et al., 2011) reports for IFITM3 localization. These discrepancies regarding localization may be due to the multiple post-translational modifications of IFITM3 (Yount et al., 2012) and/or cell type-dependent differences in its topology (Bailey et al., 2013).

We showed that both pig and microbat IFITM3 restricted cell entry mediated by multiple influenza A virus HA (a class I fusion protein) and lyssavirus G (a class III fusion protein) proteins. Restriction at the level of cell entry correlated with significant inhibition of influenza virus yields and NP expression. The microbat, pig and human IFITM3-expressing A549 cells varied in their IFITM3 expression levels, which may underlie variation seen in the degree of restriction. However, anti-influenza restriction by pig IFITM3 was in general lower than that seen for human IFITM3, despite comparable expression levels. We found that pig and human IFITM3 could restrict avian, swine and human influenza A subtypes. Similarly, chicken IFITM3 inhibited viral pseudotypes bearing HAs from both avian and human strains (Smith et al., 2013). siRNA knockdown of endogenous pig and microbat IFITM3 enhanced influenza replication by a similar degree to that seen following knockdown of human IFITM3 (Huang et al., 2011) or chicken IFITM3 (Smith et al., 2013). IFITM3 was expressed constitutively in pig and bat cells (as reported for other IFITM3 orthologues; Bailey et al., 2012; Everitt et al., 2012, 2013; Friedman et al., 1984; Smith et al., 2013). Baseline levels of IFITM3 in the pig and bat cells were sufficient to limit virus replication and, following siRNA targeting of baseline IFITM3, microbat IFITM3 was also capable of restricting influenza virus when overexpressed in microbat cells. As pig IFITM3 was moderately induced by polyclonal and upregulated upon viral challenge in vivo (Andersson et al., 2011; Miller et al., 2014), pig IFITM3 is likely to be relevant to host antiviral responses.

Here, we showed that influenza A viruses and lyssaviruses, virus families that share an ancient co-evolutionary history with bats (Badrane & Tordo, 2001; Tong et al., 2013), are restricted by microbat IFITM3. Bats harbour many diverse virus types and are important reservoirs of zoonotic infections (Drexler et al., 2014; Quan et al., 2013; Smith & Wang, 2013; Tong et al., 2013). However, the basis for the intimate association between bats and viruses remains enigmatic, particularly the relative importance of immunological compared with ecological or life history factors (Kupferschmidt, 2013). Although transcriptional induction of chiropteran IFN-stimulated gene orthologues has been reported (Papenfuss et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2013), there is a striking lack of functional data for any of these genes. We demonstrated that bats do encode functional IFITM3 and therefore are likely to be competent in this aspect of intrinsic antiviral restriction.

METHODS

Cells. A549 cells were maintained in F12 medium, and 293T, NPTr (Ferrari et al., 2003) and FLN-R cells (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut) were grown in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle’s Medium (DMEM) with 10% FCS. Primary lung cells from the microbat (M. myotis) were grown in DMEM containing 10% FCS, penicillin (100 units ml⁻¹) and streptomycin (100 μg ml⁻¹) and 20% amnioMAX (Gibco).

RACE and IFITM3 cloning. NPTr and microbat cells were transfected with poly(1:C) (Invivogen) at 33 μg ml⁻¹ using Lipofectamine 2000, and 4 h later, total RNA and genomic DNA were isolated (Qiagen AllPrep kit). 5’ and 3’ IFITM3 cDNA fragments were generated using a SMARTer RACE cDNA amplification kit (Clontech) and the following primers: 5Bat: 5’-GCCCAGAGTATGCGTTCGCCAGCAAGGCTG-3’, and 3Bat: 5’-CGTCTGGTCCTGCTGTGTTACACCCTCTCCT-3’; and 5Pig: 5’-GATTGTCAGCCACGTGCGTTGAGCATGCTC-3’, and 3Pig: 5’-TGAACGTGGTCCTGCGGTGCGGTGTTG-3’. PCR products were TA cloned and multiple clones were sequenced using Sanger sequencing. Non-coding sequences identified by RACE and IFITM3 cloning.

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IFITM3 were synthesized as codon-optimized genes for expression in human cells (GeneArt) and cloned into the BamHI and NotI sites of the lentivirus vector pSIN-BNHA (derived from pHRSIN-CSGW; Demaison et al., 2002).

Creation of IFITM3-expressing cell lines. Lentiviruses expressing IFITM3 (or GFP as a control) were produced by co-transfecting 293T cells using Fugene HD with the packaging plasmid p8.91 (Zufferey et al., 1997) (1 μg), the VSV-G-expressing plasmid pMDG (1 μg) and the lentivirus vector pSIN-BNHA (1.5 μg) containing either pig IFITM3, microbat IFITM3 or GFP. Supernatants were harvested at 48 and 72 h, filtered (0.45 μm) and used to transduce A549 cells. Transduction efficiency was checked after 48 h by flow cytometric detection of HA. Single-cell clones were generated using limiting dilution and analysed for HA expression. Those with the most similar expression levels were selected for experiments. Human IFITM3-expressing A549 cells were generated using the same method (Smith et al., 2013).

Pseudotyped lentivirus cell entry assay. Lentiviral pseudotypes were produced as described previously (Ferrara et al., 2012; Wright et al., 2008). For the entry assay, A549 cells were seeded in white 96-well plates (10^4 cells per well) 1 day prior to infection with luciferase-expressing pseudotypes expressing influenza HA (GenBank accession nos: H1, AAD17229.1; H5, ABP51969.1; H10, ABI84534.1; H14, BAF43460.1; H7, CAD37074.1; H3, AAA43099.1; H15, AAA96134.1), the G proteins from Mokola virus (MOKV.98/071 RA361; GQ500108), Lagos bat virus (LBV.NIG6-RV1; HM623779), West Caucasian bat virus (AAR03484) or rabies virus Evelyn Rokitniaki Abelseth strain (ABN11294) or amphitrophic murine leukemia virus (MLV-A) or gibbon ape leukemia virus (GALV) envelope proteins. The H1 and H3 HAs were human in origin, and the other HA subtypes were avian in origin. Cells were infected in triplicate, and 48 h later, luciferase activity was measured using a Bright-Glo Luciferase Assay System (Promega).

siRNA transfection and qRT-PCR. siRNAs against pig IFITM3 (5'-GCTCATAAGGATTACAGA-3') or microbat IFITM3 (5'-CGAGGACGACGGTGTCGA-3') (ON-TARGETplus; Dharmacon) were designed using knowledge of other IFITM paralogues and the Dharmacon siDesign Centre. The ON-TARGETplus non-targeting siRNA pool and an siRNA targeting GFP were used as controls. siRNA was transfected into cells (20 pmol per well of a 12-well plate) using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX. After 48 h, RNA was harvested and the virus yields titrated on MDCK cells by plaque assay (Matrosovich et al., 2006).

Virus yield assay. Cells were infected in triplicate with influenza A/WSN/33 in medium containing 2 % FCS. Cells were trypsinized, fixed using BD Fixation/Permeabilization solution for 20 min and washed twice in BD Perm/Wash buffer before incubation with FITC-conjugated anti-influenza NP IgG (Abcam) for 40 min at 4°C. After staining, the cells were washed, resuspended in PBS and analysed using a Becton Dickinson FACSCalibur and Cell Quest Pro. For each sample, 10 000 cells (gated by forward and side scatter) were analysed for FITC fluorescence.

Western blotting. After cell lysis using RIPA buffer, proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE (4–12 % TGX gel; Bio-Rad) and transferred to nitrocellulose membrane. After blocking (5 % Marvel, 0.1 % Tween 20 in PBS), the membranes were incubated for 1 h at room temperature with antibodies against influenza NP, β-actin or the HA tag (clone HA.C5; all from Abcam). HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies were used followed by enhanced chemiluminescent detection.

Flow cytometry. After cell lysis using RIPA buffer, proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE (4–12 % TGX gel; Bio-Rad) and transferred to nitrocellulose membrane. After blocking (5 % Marvel, 0.1 % Tween 20 in PBS), the membranes were incubated for 1 h at room temperature with antibodies against influenza NP, β-actin or the HA tag (clone HA.C5; all from Abcam). HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies were used followed by enhanced chemiluminescent detection.

**Fig. 7.** Microbat and pig IFITM3 are poly(I:C) responsive. Pig NPTra (a) and microbat (b) cells were either mock treated or stimulated by addition of poly(I:C) to the cell medium (50 μg ml⁻¹) or transfection of poly(I:C) (33 μg ml⁻¹) using Lipofectamine 2000 (microbat cells only). After 7 h, qRT-PCR was used to quantify IFITM3 and the reference gene, GAPDH. The fold change in IFITM3 mRNA is expressed relative to mock-treated cells. Results are shown as means ± 50 for biological triplicates assayed in duplicate.
**Fig. 8.** siRNA knockdown of IFITM3 in pig and microbat cells enhances influenza virus replication. Pig NPtr or microbat cells were transfected with siRNA targeting IFITM3 or control siRNA prior to quantification of IFITM3 by qRT-PCR (a, e) or infection with influenza A/WSN/33. Virus yields were measured by plaque assay (b, f) or NP expression was measured using flow cytometry (c, d, g). NPtr cells were either stimulated with poly(I:C) for 2 h before infection (m.o.i. 0.01) and analysed at 36 h post-infection (b, c) or cells were infected in the absence of poly(I:C). Results are shown as means ± s.d for biological triplicates assayed in duplicate and data are representative of two independent experiments. *P<0.05; **P<0.01 (Student’s t-test).

**Immunofluorescence.** Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (20 min at room temperature). For transferrin co-localization, cells were pre-permeabilized using Alexa Fluor 546-conjugated transferrin (5 μg ml⁻¹ Molecular Probes) for 10 min before fixation. Cells were permeabilized using 0.2% Triton X-100, blocked using antibody buffer (0.1% Tween 20 and 10% goat serum in PBS) and stained with FITC-conjugated anti-HA (Bethyl Laboratories), anti-LAMP1 (clone HA4A3; Abcam) or anti-CD63 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) for 1 h at room temperature. Dylight 594-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG was used to detect the anti-CD63 and anti-LAMP1 antibodies. Live cell staining was performed at 37 °C or on ice, with solutions equilibrated accordingly. Cells were washed twice in serum-free medium before incubation for 30 min with FITC-conjugated anti-HA and Alexa Fluor 546-conjugated transferrin (in serum-free medium). Cells were then washed quickly in PBS and fixed immediately using 4% paraformaldehyde (20 min). Coverslips were mounted using ProLong Gold reagent with DAPI and examined with a Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope.

**Sequence analysis.** Multiple sequence alignments were performed using Clustal Omega (version 1.2.0), and Seaview (Gouy et al., 2010) was used for manual editing.

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**REFERENCES**


Bat and pig IFITM3 restrict zoonotic viruses


