ACTIVATION OF BIOLUMINESCENCE BY STRUCTURAL COMPLEMENTATION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/791,549 filed March 15, 2013, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

FIELD

Provided herein are compositions and methods for the assembly of a bioluminescent complex from two or more non-luminescent (e.g., substantially non-luminescent) peptide and/or polypeptide units. In particular, bioluminescent activity is conferred upon a non-luminescent polypeptide via structural complementation with another, complementary non-luminescent peptide.

BACKGROUND

Biological processes rely on covalent and non-covalent interactions between molecules, macromolecules and molecular complexes. In order to understand such processes, and to develop techniques and compounds to manipulate them for research, clinical and other practical applications, it is necessary to have tools available to detect and monitor these interactions. The study of these interactions, particularly under physiological conditions (e.g. at normal expression levels for monitoring protein interactions), requires high sensitivity.

SUMMARY

The present disclosure relates to compositions comprising complementary non-luminescent amino acid chains (e.g., substantially non-luminescent peptides and/or polypeptides that are not fragments of a preexisting protein), complexes thereof, and methods of generating an optically detectable bioluminescent signal upon association of the non-luminescent amino acid chains (e.g., peptides and/or polypeptides). In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides two or more non-luminescent, or substantially non-luminescent peptides and/or polypeptides, that, when brought together, assemble into a bioluminescent complex. In some embodiments, a pair of substantially non-luminescent peptide and/or polypeptide units assembles into a bioluminescent complex. In other embodiments, three or more substantially non-luminescent peptide and/or polypeptide units assemble into a bioluminescent complex (e.g., ternary complex, tertiary complex, etc.). Provided herein are technologies for detecting interactions between molecular entities (e.g., proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, small molecules (e.g., small

molecule libraries)) by correlating such interactions to the formation of a bioluminescent complex of otherwise non-luminescent (e.g., substantially non-luminescent) amino acid chains.

In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced in the presence of a substrate when the polypeptide contacts a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2.

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a nucleic acid comprising a sequence coding for a polypeptide as disclosed herein.

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide as disclosed herein and a first interaction polypeptide that is configured to form a complex with a second interaction polypeptide upon contact of the first interaction polypeptide and the second interaction polypeptide.

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a bioluminescent complex comprising:

(a) the fusion polypeptide as disclosed herein; and

(b) a second fusion polypeptide comprising:

i) the second interaction polypeptide, and

ii) a complement peptide that causes the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 to emit a detectable bioluminescent signal in the presence of a substrate when an association is formed between the two;

wherein the first fusion polypeptide and second fusion polypeptide are associated;

and wherein the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440 and the complement peptide are associated.

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a bioluminescent complex comprising:

(a) a peptide comprising a peptide amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) a polypeptide comprising a polypeptide amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein the bioluminescent complex exhibits detectable luminescence.

In yet another aspect, the present disclosure provides a bioluminescent complex comprising:

(a) a first amino acid sequence that is not a fragment of a preexisting protein; and

(b) a second amino acid sequence that is not a fragment of a preexisting protein, wherein the bioluminescent complex exhibits detectable luminescence, wherein the first amino

acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence are associated, and wherein the bioluminescent complex emits a detectable bioluminescent signal in the presence of a substrate when the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence are associated.

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a bioluminescent complex comprising:

(a) a non-luminescent pair, wherein each non-luminescent element of the non-luminescent pair is not a fragment of a preexisting protein;

(b) an interaction pair, wherein each interaction element of the interaction pair is covalently attached to one of the non-luminescent elements of the non-luminescent pair.

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides a method of detecting a stable interaction between a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence comprising:

(a) attaching the first amino acid sequence to a third amino acid sequence, and attaching the second amino acid sequence to a fourth amino acid sequence, wherein the third and fourth amino acid sequences are not fragments of a preexisting protein, wherein a stable complex of the third and fourth amino acid sequences emits a detectable bioluminescent signal in the presence of a substrate, wherein the non-covalent interactions between the third and fourth amino acid sequences are insufficient to form a complex of the third and fourth amino acid sequences in the absence of additional stabilizing and/or aggregating forces, and wherein a stable interaction between the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence provides the additional stabilizing and/or aggregating forces to produce a stable complex of the third and fourth amino acid sequences;

(b) placing the first, second, third, and fourth amino acid sequences of step (a) in conditions to allow for stable interactions between the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence to occur; and

(c) detecting the bioluminescent signal emitted, in the presence of a substrate, by the stable complex of the third and fourth amino acid sequences in the presence of a substrate, wherein detection of the bioluminescent signal indicates a stable interaction between the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence.

In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a method of optimizing a non-luminescent pair comprising:

(a) aligning the sequences of three or more related proteins;

(b) determining a consensus sequence for the related proteins;

(c) providing first and second fragments of a protein related to three or more proteins, wherein the fragments are individually substantially non-luminescent but exhibit luminescence upon stable interaction of the fragments;

(d) mutating the first and second fragments at one or more positions each, wherein said mutations alter the sequences of the fragments to be more similar to a corresponding portion of the consensus sequence, wherein the mutating results in a non-luminescent pair that are not fragments of a preexisting protein,

(e) testing the non-luminescent pair for the absence of luminescence when unassociated and luminescence upon stable association of the non-luminescent pair.

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides a detection reagent comprising: (a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced, in the presence of a substrate, when the polypeptide contacts a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, and (b) a substrate for a bioluminescent complex produced by said polypeptide and a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2.

In some embodiments, the assembled pair catalyzes a chemical reaction of an appropriate substrate into a high energy state, and light is emitted. In some embodiments, a bioluminescent complex exhibits luminescence in the presence of substrate (e.g., coelenterazine, furimazine, etc.).

Although the embodiments described herein primarily describe and refer to complementary, non-luminescent amino acid chains that form bioluminescent complexes, it is noted that the present technology can equally be applied to other detectable attributes (e.g., other enzymatic activities, generation of a fluorophore, generation of a chromophore, etc.). The embodiments described herein relating to luminescence should be viewed as applying to complementary, substantially non-enzymatically active amino acid chains (e.g., peptides and/or polypeptides that are not fragments of a preexisting protein) that separately lack a specified detectable activity (e.g., enzymatic activity) or substantially non-enzymatically active subunits of a polypeptide, complexes thereof, and methods of generating the detectable activity (e.g., an enzymatic activity) upon association of the complementary, substantially non-enzymatically active amino acid chains (e.g., peptides and/or polypeptides). Further, embodiments described herein that refer to non-luminescent peptides and/or polypeptides are applied, in some embodiments, to substantially non-luminescent peptides and/or polypeptides.

The present disclosure is further directed to assays for the detection of molecular interactions between molecules of interest by linking the interaction of a pair of non-luminescent peptides/polypeptides to the interaction molecules of interest (e.g., transient association, stable association, complex formation, etc.). In such embodiments, a pair of a non-luminescent elements are tethered (e.g., fused) to molecules of interest and assembly of the bioluminescent complex is operated by the molecular interaction of the molecules of interest. If the molecules of

interest engage in a sufficiently stable interaction, the bioluminescent complex forms, and a bioluminescent signal is generated. If the molecules of interest fail to engage in a sufficiently stable interaction, the bioluminescent complex will not form or only form weakly, and a bioluminescent signal is not detectable or is substantially reduced (e.g., substantially undetectable, essentially not detectable, etc.). In some embodiments, the magnitude of the detectable bioluminescent signal is proportional (e.g., directly proportional) to the amount, strength, favorability, and/or stability of the molecular interactions between the molecules of interest.

In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides peptides comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% (e.g., 20%... 30%... 40%... 50%... 60%... 70%... 80%, or more)

sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the peptide contacts a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440. In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides peptides comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the peptide contacts a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440. In some embodiments, a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the peptide contacts a polypeptide having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440. In certain embodiments, the detectable bioluminescent signal is produced, or is substantially increased, when the peptide associates with the polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440, or a portion thereof. In preferred embodiments, the peptide exhibits alteration (e.g., enhancement) of one or more traits compared to a peptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the traits are selected from: affinity for the polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440, expression, intracellular solubility, intracellular stability and bioluminescent activity when combined with the polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440. Although not limited to these sequences, the peptide amino acid sequence may be selected from amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 3-438 and 2162-2365. In some embodiments, fusion polypeptides are provided that comprise: (a) an above described peptide, and (b) a first interaction polypeptide that forms a complex with a second interaction polypeptide upon contact of the first interaction polypeptide and the second interaction polypeptide. In certain embodiments, bioluminescent complexes are provided that comprise: (a) a first fusion polypeptide described above and (b) a second fusion polypeptide comprising: (i) the second interaction polypeptide and (ii) a complement polypeptide that emits a detectable bioluminescent signal when associated with the peptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2; wherein the first fusion polypeptide and second fusion polypeptide are associated; and wherein the peptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 and the complement polypeptide are associated.

In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the polypeptide contacts a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity

with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the polypeptide contacts a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the polypeptide contacts a peptide having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the polypeptide exhibits alteration (e.g., enhancement) of one or more traits compared to a peptide of SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein the traits are selected from: affinity for the peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, expression, intracellular solubility, intracellular stability, and bioluminescent activity when combined with the peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2. Although not limited to such sequences, the polypeptide amino acid sequence may be selected from one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 441-2156. In some embodiments, the detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the polypeptide associates with the peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, a fusion polypeptide is provided that comprises: (a) a polypeptide described above and (b) a first interaction polypeptide that forms a complex with a second interaction polypeptide upon contact of the first interaction polypeptide and the second interaction polypeptide. In certain embodiments, a bioluminescent complex is provided that comprises: (a) a first fusion polypeptide described above; and (b) a second fusion polypeptide comprising: (i) the second interaction polypeptide and (ii) a complement peptide that causes the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440 to emit a detectable bioluminescent signal when an association is formed between the two; wherein the first fusion polypeptide and second fusion polypeptide are associated; and wherein the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440 and the complement peptide are associated.

In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides nucleic acids (e.g., DNA, RNA, etc.), oligonucleotides, vectors, etc., that code for any of the peptides, polypeptides, fusion proteins, etc., described herein. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid comprising or consisting of one of the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 3-438 and 2162-2365 (coding for non-luminescent peptides) and/or SEQ ID NOS 441-2156 (coding for non-luminescent polypeptides) are provided. In some embodiments, other nucleic acid sequences coding for amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 3-438 and 2162-2365 and/or SEQ ID NOS 441-2156 are provided.

In certain embodiments, the present disclosure provides bioluminescent complexes comprising: (a) a peptide comprising a peptide amino acid sequence having less than 100%

sequence identity (e.g., >99%, <95%, <90%, <80%, <70%, <60%, <50%, etc.) with SEQ ID NO: 2; and (b) a polypeptide comprising a polypeptide amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein the bioluminescent complex exhibits detectable luminescence. In certain embodiments, the present disclosure provides bioluminescent complexes comprising: (a) a peptide comprising a peptide amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2; and (b) a polypeptide comprising a polypeptide amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% (e.g., >40%, >45%, >50%, >55%, >60%, >65%, >70%, >75%, >80%, >85%, >90%, >95%, >98%, >99%) sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein the bioluminescent complex exhibits detectable luminescence. Although not limited to particular sequences, in some embodiments, the peptide amino acid sequence is selected from one of the amino acid sequences provided in SEQ ID NOS: 3-438 and 2162-2365.

In various embodiments, bioluminescent complexes are provided that comprise: (a) a first amino acid sequence that is not a fragment of a preexisting protein; and (b) a second amino acid sequence that is not a fragment of a preexisting protein, wherein the bioluminescent complex exhibits detectable luminescence, wherein the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence are associated. Some such bioluminescent complexes further comprise: (c) a third amino acid sequence comprising a first member of an interaction pair, wherein the third amino acid sequence is covalently attached to the first amino acid sequence; and (d) a fourth amino acid sequence comprising a second member of an interaction pair, wherein the fourth amino acid sequence is covalently attached to the second amino acid sequence. In certain embodiments, interactions (e.g., non-covalent interactions (e.g., hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, van der Waals forces, hydrophobic interactions, etc.) covalent interactions (e.g., disulfide bonds), etc.) between the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence do not significantly associate the first amino acid sequence and the second amino acid sequence in the absence of the interactions between the first member and the second member of the interaction pair. In some embodiments, a first polypeptide chain comprises the first amino acid sequence and the third amino acid sequence, and wherein a second polypeptide chain comprises the second amino acid sequence and the fourth amino acid sequence. In some embodiments, the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are expressed within a cell.

In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides a bioluminescent complex comprising: (a) a pair of non-luminescent elements, wherein each non-luminescent element is not

proteins; (b) determining a consensus sequence for the related proteins; (c) providing first and second fragments of a protein related to three or more proteins (or providing first and second fragments of one of the three or more proteins), wherein the fragments are individually substantially non-luminescent but exhibit luminescence upon interaction of the fragments; (d) mutating the first and second fragments at one or more positions each, wherein the mutations alter the sequences of the fragments to be more similar to a corresponding portion of the consensus sequence (e.g., wherein the mutating results in a pair of non-luminescent elements that are not fragments of a preexisting protein), and (e) testing the pair of non-luminescent elements for the absence (e.g., essential absence, substantial absence, etc.) of luminescence when unassociated, and luminescence upon association of the non-luminescent pair into a bioluminescent complex. Examples of such a process are described in Examples 1-5. In some embodiments, the non-luminescent elements exhibit enhancement of one or more traits compared to the first and second fragments, wherein the traits are selected from: increased reconstitution affinity, decreased reconstitution affinity, enhanced expression, increased intracellular solubility, increased intracellular stability, and increased intensity of reconstituted luminescence.

In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides detection reagents comprising: (a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 440, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the polypeptide contacts a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, and (b) a substrate for a bioluminescent complex produced by the polypeptide and a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides detection reagents comprising: (a) a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the peptide contacts a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440, and (b) a substrate for a bioluminescent complex produced by the peptide and a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440. In some embodiments, the present disclosure provides detection reagents comprising: (a) a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence having less than 100% and greater than 40% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein a detectable bioluminescent signal is produced when the peptide contacts a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440, and (b) a substrate for a bioluminescent complex produced by the peptide and a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 440.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS