

Supporting Information

for

Latest development in the synthesis of

ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA): a critical review

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Supporting Figures S1 and S2

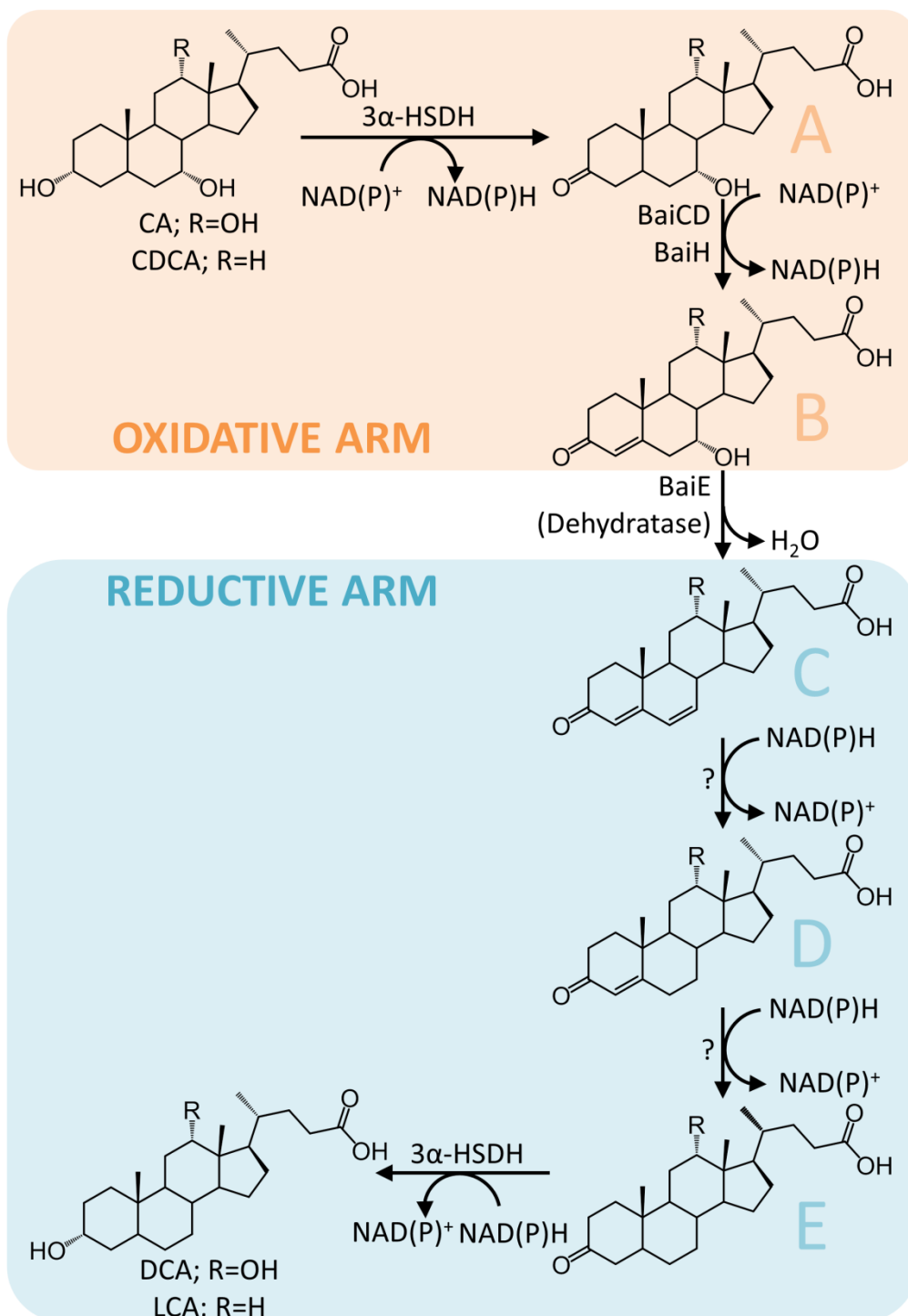


Figure S1: Proposed pathway involved in the synthesis of secondary bile acids. The oxidative and reductive arms are highlighted in orange and blue boxes, respectively. CA is oxidized first to (A) 3-oxo-CA and subsequently to (B) 3-oxo- Δ^4 -CA. The latter compound is dehydrated by BaiE yielding (C) 3-oxo- $\Delta^{4,6}$ -DCA and furtherly reduced to (D) 3-oxo- Δ^4 -DCA, (E) 3-oxo-DCA and DCA. If CDCA is employed the names of the intermediates are: (A) 3-oxo-CDCA, (B) 3-oxo- Δ^4 -CDCA, (C) 3-oxo- $\Delta^{4,6}$ -LCA, (D) 3-oxo- Δ^4 -LCA and (E) 3-oxo-LCA. The name of known enzymes are given; hypothetical enzymes not yet identified are marked with a question mark. The reaction from the compound D to E can be catalyzed by the same enzymes used for the oxidation (BaiCD or BaiH).

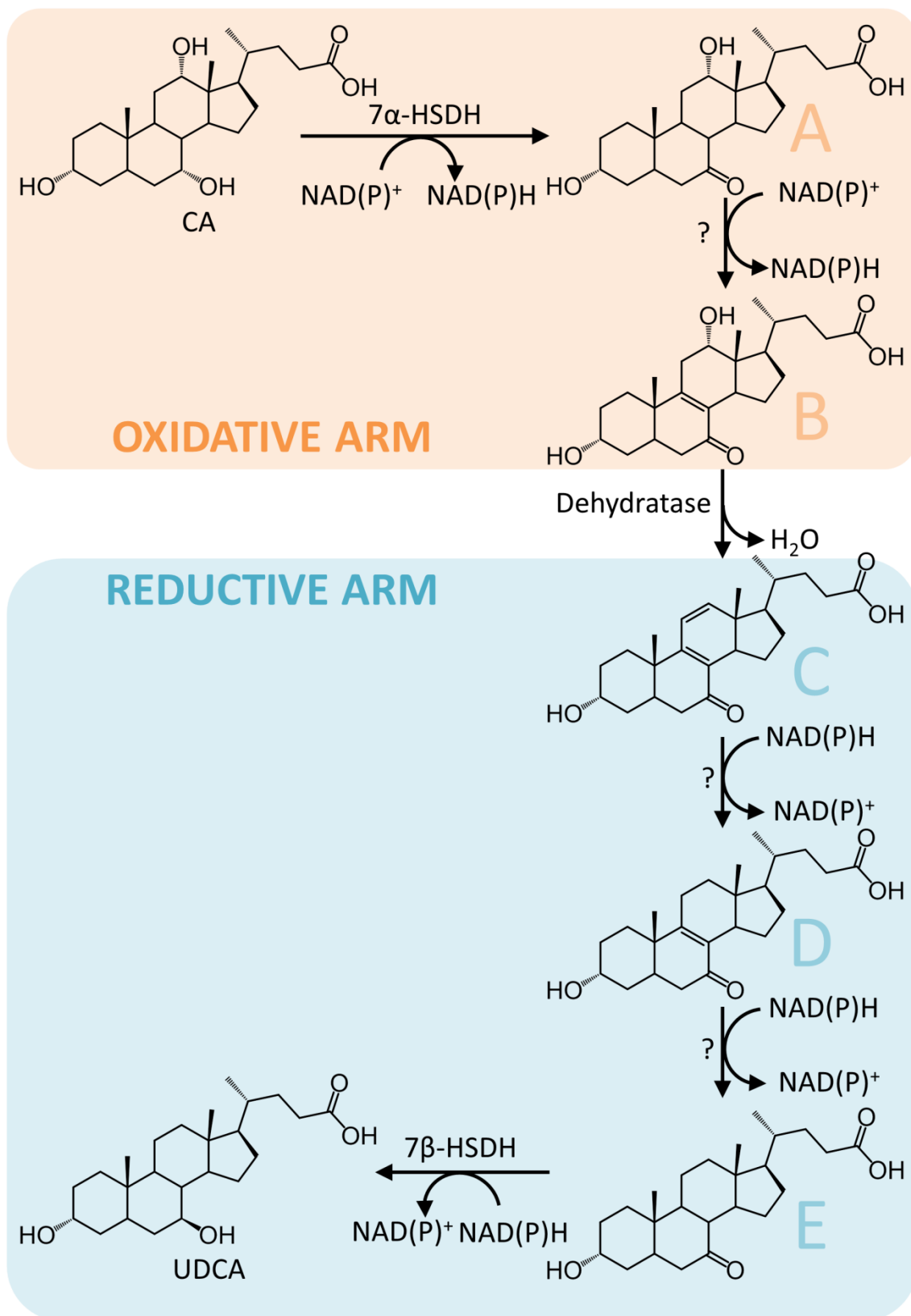


Figure S2: Proposed mechanism for the C-12 dehydroxylation designed by analogy to the C7 one. Also in this case, the oxidative and reductive arms are highlighted in orange and blue boxes, respectively. (A) 7-oxo-DCA, (B) 7-oxo- Δ^8 -DCA, (C) 7-oxo- $\Delta^{4,11}$ -LCA, (D) 7-oxo- Δ^8 -LCA and (E) 7-oxo-LCA