Flagellar structure and function

The flagellum is a complex structure (Fig. B7) that involves around 40 gene products in its structure, synthesis and assembly [3.4]. It is a true rotary motor, powered by an electrochemical ion gradient across the cytoplasmic membrane. In E. coli and S. typhimurium the energy source is the proton gradient — the PRO-

HAP 2 (FliD) Filament HAP 1 (FlgK) HAP3 (FlgL) (FIgE) Exterior L ring (FlgH) Distal rod (FlgG) Proximal rod (FlgB, FlgC, FlgF, FliE) MS ring (FliF) — Mot Switch (MotA-MotB) (FliG-FliM-FliN) Cytoplasm 10 nm

Fig.B7 Schematic illustration of the bacterial flagellum of *S. typhimurium*. Substructures and the proteins from which they are constructed are indicated. The locations shown for MotA, MotB and the three switch proteins are based on indirect evidence. CM, cytoplasmic membrane; OM, outer membrane; HAP, hook-associated protein. Adapted from [3].

Excitation and adaptation

Bacterial chemotaxis 87

OCH₃

OC

Fig. B4 Transducer states in the cycle of excitation and adaptation of the chemosensory receptors in *E. coli*. See text for explanation. SAM, S-adenosylmethionine; SAH, S-adenosylhomocysteine. CCW, counterclockwise signals; CW, clockwise signals. Adapted from [2].

Encyclopedia of Mdecular Biology