

Supporting Information

# **Genome Mining Enabled by Biosynthetic Characterization Uncovers a Class of Benzoxazolinate-Containing Natural Products in Diverse Bacteria**

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# **Supporting Information**

# **Genome Mining Enabled by Biosynthetic Characterization Uncovers a Class of Benzoxazolinate-Containing Natural Products in Diverse Bacteria**

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#### **Methods**

#### **General experimental procedures**

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Acros Organics, or Iris BIOTECH. Isotopelabeled chemicals were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Genomic DNA of selected *Xenorhabdus* and *Pseudomonas* strains were isolated using the Qiagen Gentra Puregene Yeast/Bact Kit. DNA polymerases (Taq, Phusion, and Q5) and restriction enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs or Thermo Fisher Scientific. DNA primers were purchased from Eurofins MWG Operon. DNA fragments were purchased from Twist Bioscience. PCR amplifications were carried out on thermocyclers (SensoQuest). Polymerases were used according to the manufacturers' instructions. DNA purification was performed from 1% TAE agarose gel using Invisorb® Spin DNA Extraction Kit (STRATEC Biomedical AG). Plasmids in *E. coli* were isolated by alkaline lysis. HPLC–UV–MS analysis was conducted on an UltiMate 3000 system (Thermo Fisher) coupled to an AmaZonX mass spectrometer (Bruker) with an ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 column (130 Å, 2.1 mm  $\times$  100 mm, 1.7 µm particle size, Waters) at a flow of 0.6 mL/min (5–95% acetonitrile/water with 0.1% formic acid, v/v, 16 min, UV detection wavelength 190–800 nm). HPLC–UV–HRMS analysis was conducted on an UltiMate 3000 system (Thermo Fisher) coupled to an Impact II qTof mass spectrometer (Bruker) with an ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 column (130 Å, 2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.7 μm particle size, Waters) at a flow of 0.4 mL/min (5–95% acetonitrile/water with 0.1% formic acid, v/v, 16 min, UV detection wavelength 190–800 nm). HPLC purification was performed on preparative and semipreparative Agilent 1260 systems coupled to a DAD and a single quadrupole detector with a C18 ZORBAX Eclipse XDB column  $(9.4 \text{ mm} \times 250)$ mm, 5 μm, 3 mL/min; 50 mm x 250 mm, 10 μm, 40 mL/min). Freeze drying was performed by BUCHI Lyovapor™ L-300 Continuous. NMR experiments were acquired on a Bruker AVANCE 500 or 600 MHz spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm cryoprobe.

# **Sequencing**

Long and short DNA reads were generated by Nanopore and Illumina sequencing, respectively. For library preparation, a TruSeq DNA PCR-free high-throughput library prep kit (Illumina) and the SQK-LSK109 ligation sequencing kit (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, ONT) were used without prior shearing of the DNA. To generate the short reads, a 2 × 300-nucleotide run (MiSeq reagent kit v3, 600 cycles) was executed. The long reads were generated on a GridION platform using an R9.4.1 flow cell. Base-calling and demultiplexing were performed using Guppy v4.0.11 (ref. [1]). Both data sets were assembled using Unicycler v0.4.6. The region of interest was identified using antiSMASH (ref.  $[2]$ ) to be located on a plasmid with a size of 182,126 bp in Xenorhabdus vietnamensis DSM 22392.

#### **Strain and culture conditions**

Wild-type strains and the mutants thereof and *E. coli* (Table S1) were cultivated on lysogeny broth (LB) agar plates at 30 °C overnight and were subsequently inoculated into liquid LB culture at 30 <sup>o</sup>C with shaking at 200 rpm. For compound production, the overnight LB culture of a mutant was transferred into 5 mL XPP medium<sup>[3]</sup> (1:100, v/v) with 2% (v/v) of Amberlite™ XAD-16 resins, 0.1 % of L-arabinose as an inducer, and selective antibiotics such as ampicillin (Am, 100 µg/mL), kanamycin (Km, 50  $\mu$ g/mL), or chloramphenicol (Cm, 34  $\mu$ g/mL) at 30 °C with shaking at 200 rpm.

## **Culture extraction and HPLC-UV-MS analysis**

The XAD-16 resins were collected after 72 h and extracted with 5 mL methanol. The solvent was dried under rotary evaporators, and the dried extract was resuspended in 500 μL methanol, of which 5 μL was injected and analyzed by HPLC-UV-MS or HPLC-UV-HRMS. Unless otherwise specified, HPLC-UV-MS and HPLC-UV-HRMS chromatograms in the figures are shown on the same scale. Relative quantifications of benzobactins in *P. chlororaphis* P*BAD pzbA*, *P. chlororaphis* P*BAD pzbA pbzF*, and *P. chlororaphis* P*BAD pzbA phzE* were measured by the peak area of extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) using the Bruker Compass DataAnalysis program. Peak areas were normalized by OD<sub>600</sub> values at the harvesting time point.

## **Construction of insertion mutants**

A 500–800-bp upstream of the target gene (*xsbA* and *pbzA*) was amplified with a corresponding primer pair listed in Table S3. The resulting fragments were cloned using Hot Fusion<sup>[4]</sup> into pCEP\_kan or pCEP\_cm backbone that was amplified by pCEP\_Fw and pCEP\_Rv. After the transformation of the constructed plasmid into *E. coli* S17-1 *λ* pir, clones were verified by PCR with primers pCEP-Ve-Fw and pDS132-Ve-Rv. The wild-type strain (recipient) was mated with *E*. *coli*  S17-1 *λ* pir (donor) carrying constructed plasmids. Both strains were grown in LB medium to an OD<sup>600</sup> of 0.6 to 0.7, and the cells were washed once with fresh LB medium. Subsequently, the donor and recipient strains were mixed on an LB agar plate in ratios of 1:3 and 3:1, and incubated at 37°C for 3 h followed by incubation at 30°C for 21 h. After that, the bacterial cell layer was harvested with an inoculating loop and resuspended in 2 mL fresh LB medium. 200 μL of the resuspended culture was spread out on an LB agar plate with ampicillin/kanamycin (or ampicillin/chloramphenicol) and incubated at 30°C for 2 days. Individual insertion clones were cultivated and analyzed by HPLC-UV-HRMS, and the genotype of all mutants was verified by plasmid- and genome-specific primers.

# **Construction of deletion mutants**

A ~1000-bp upstream and a ~1000-bp downstream fragments (mutations were introduced by primers) of a target gene (*xsbB*, *xsbC*, *xsbD*, *pbzA*, *pbzB*, *pbzD*, *pbzF*, *pbzG*, *pbzI*, and *phzE*) were amplified using primer pairs listed in Table S3. The amplified fragments were fused using the complementary overhangs introduced by primers and cloned into the pCKcipB or pEB17\_KM vector (linearized with PstI and BglII) by Hot Fusion.[4] Transformation of *E. coli* S17-1 *λ* pir with the resulting plasmid and conjugation with a wild-type strain or mutant, as well as the generation of double crossover mutants via counterselection on LB plates containing 6% sucrose. Deletion mutants were verified via PCR using primer pairs listed in Table S3, which yielded a ~2000-bp fragment for mutants genetically equal to the WT strain and a ~1000-bp fragment for the desired deletion mutant.

#### **Heterologous expression of** *xsb* **BGC**

All plasmids carrying target genes for heterologous expression were constructed via Hot Fusion.<sup>[4]</sup> The biosynthetic gene cluster, *xsbABCDE*, was cloned into pCOLADuet-1. The ADIC synthase encoded gene in the *xpz* BGC (*xpzC*) was cloned into pACYCDuet-1. *xsbA* and *xpzC* were constructed separately into two multiple cloning sites of pACYCDuet-1. *xsbC* was cloned into pCOLADuet-1. *E. coli* BL21(DE3) was transformed with plasmids for (co-)expression.

#### **Homology modeling**

The protein sequence of XsbC (NCBI: WP\_038235707.1) from *X. szentirmaii* and the crystal structure coordinates of both NatL2 (PDB ID: 6SIY)<sup>[5]</sup> and PtmA2 (PDB ID: 5UPS)<sup>[6]</sup> were loaded into the Molecular Operating Environment (MOE) 2019.0102 (ref<sup>[7]</sup>). The sequence identities of XsbC with NatL2 and PtmA2 are 19.8 % and 13.2 %, respectively. The alignments made by MOE were inspected and manually corrected if necessary. The alignment used for modelling is depicted in Figure S3, involving acyl-AMP ligases [NatL2, BomJ (NCBI: ALE27502.1; ref<sup>[8]</sup>), and PtmA1  $(NCBI: ACO31267.1; ref<sup>[6]</sup>)$ ], acyl-CoA ligase (PtmA2), and A domains [DItA (PDB ID: 3FCC; ref<sup>[9]</sup>) and PheA (PDB ID: 1AMU; ref<sup>[10]</sup>)]. Prior to modeling XsbC, the crystal structures of both NatL2 (6SIY) and PtmA2 (5UPS) were prepared (e.g. wrong protonation, chirality, and hybridization). A series of ten models each was constructed with MOE using a Boltzmann-weighted randomized procedure combined with specialized logic for the handling of sequence insertions and deletions. [11,  $12$ ] The model with the best packing quality function was selected for full energy minimization. Using Amber14:EHT MOE packing scores for models calculated with NatL2 (6SIY) and PtmA2 (5UPS) as templates for homology modeling have been 2.2527 and 2.3590, respectively. The stereochemical qualities of the model were assessed using Ramachandran plots and calculating the Root-Mean-Square-Deviation (RMSD) values of the superposed Cα-atoms of the model with its respective template structure (Figures S5−8).

#### **Isotope labeling experiments**

The cultivation of strains for labeling experiments was carried out as described above.[13] The cell pellets of the 100 μL overnight culture were washed once with 100-μL ISOGRO<sup>® 15</sup>N medium before being transferred into the 5-mL ISOGRO<sup>® 15</sup>N medium culture. For the purpose of inverse feedings, additional unlabeled L-serine or glycine was added into the  $15N$  medium culture at a final concentration of 1 mM.

#### **Isolation and purification**

2% of XAD-16 resins from a 3 L LB culture of *X. szentirmaii* P*BAD xsbA* mutant induced by Larabinose were harvested after 72 h of incubation at 30  $\degree$ C with shaking at 120 rpm, and were washed with water and extracted with methanol  $(3 \times 500 \text{ mL})$  to yield a crude extract 3.5 g. The extract was subjected to a Sephadex LH-20 column eluted with MeOH and afforded seven fractions. Fraction 3 (55.6 mg) was purified by semipreparative HPLC using an acetonitrile/water gradient (0.1% formic acid) 0–30 min, 15–50% to afford **1** (2.4 mg).

4% of XAD-16 resins from a 12 L culture cells of *P. chlororaphis* P*BAD pbzA ΔpbzI* mutant induced by L-arabinose were harvested after 72 h of incubation at 30  $\degree$ C with shaking at 120 rpm, and were washed with water and extracted with methanol  $(3 \times 2 \text{ L})$  to yield a crude extract 95.4 g after evaporation. The extract was dissolved in methanol and was subjected to preparative HPLC using an acetonitrile/water gradient (0.1% formic acid) 0–18 min, 5–59% to afford ten fractions. Fraction 4 (70.0 mg) was further purified by semipreparative HPLC using an acetonitrile/water gradient (0.1% formic acid) 0–35 min, 5–95% to afford **3** (2.6 mg).

#### **NMR spectroscopy**

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C heteronuclear single quantum coherence (HSQC), <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC), and <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H correlation spectroscopy (COSY) were measured. Chemical shifts (*δ*) were reported in parts per million (ppm) and referenced to the solvent signals. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad,  $s =$  singlet,  $d =$  doublet,  $t =$ triplet, dd = doublet of doublet, m = multiplet, and ov = overlapped), and coupling constants in Hertz  $(Hz)$ .

#### **In vitro enzymatic assays of PbzB**

*pbzB* with an N-terminal His-SUMO-tag was cloned into a pET11a vector. *E. coli* BL21(DE3) was transformed with the resulting plasmid. 10 mL overnight culture carrying the plasmid was transferred to 500 mL LB medium with ampicillin (Am, 100 µg/mL). The strain was grown to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.8 at 37 °C, and then 0.5 mM IPTG for induction was added into the culture, followed by incubation at 22 °C for 24 h. The cells were collected by centrifugation (10,000 r.p.m., 15 min, 4 °C). Cell lysis was performed by resuspending the pellet in 100 mL BugBuster® (primary amine-free)

Extraction Reagent with 1 µL of Benzonase® Nuclease, 14 mg of cOmplete™ EDTA-free protease inhibitor, and lysozyme (200 μg/mL), followed by incubation at 4 °C for 45 min. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 20,000 x*g* for 30 min and the protein was purified by using Ni2+ affinity chromatography.

The reaction mixture (100  $\mu$ L) contained 3.2  $\mu$ M of PbzB, 1 mM substrate (glycine, L-serine, and Dserine), 500 µM mTHF, 5 µM PLP, and 50 mM potassium phosphate buff pH 7.5. After incubation at 30  $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by adding 100  $\mu$ L of acetonitrile. Products were analyzed using HPLC–UV–HRMS conducted on an UltiMate 3000 system (Thermo Fisher) coupled to an Impact II qTof mass spectrometer (Bruker) with an ACQUITY UPLC BEH Amide column (130 Å, 2.1 mm × 50 mm, 1.7 μm particle size, Waters) at a flow of 0.4 mL/min (5–50% water/acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid, v/v, 5 min, 90% water/acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid, v/v, 2.1 min, UV detection wavelength 190–800 nm. 2-Hydroxymethylserine as a standard compound was prepared at different concentrations and these samples were measured by HPLC–UV–HRMS with the above-mentioned method to obtain a standard curve (Figures S27 and S28).

For the identification of the favored substrate of PbzB, a reaction mixture (100  $\mu$ L) containing 10 µM of PbzB, 2 mM substrate (glycine, L-serine, or D-serine), 500 µM mTHF, 25 µM PLP, and 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.5 was prepared, and incubated at 30 °C for 2.5 h. The determination of the steady-state kineticsof PbzB was performed by preparing reaction mixtures (100 µL) containing 4 µM of PbzB, 50 µM, 100 µM, 200 µM, 300 µM, 1000 µM, 2000 µM, 3000 µM, or 4000 µM substrate (D-/L-serine), 200 µM mTHF, 10 µM PLP, and 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.5, which were incubated at 30 °C for 1 h. The reaction was quenched by adding 100 µL of acetonitrile. The quantification of 2-hydroxymethylserine was performed using LC-MS/MS. The chromatographic separation was performed on an Agilent Infinity II 1290 HPLC system using a ZicHILIC SeQuant column (150 × 2.1 mm, 3.5 μm particle size, 100 Å pore size) connected to a ZicHILIC guard column (20 × 2.1 mm, 5 μm particle size) (Merck KgAA) at a constant flow rate of 0.3 mL/min with mobile phase A being 0.1 % formic acid in 99:1 water:acetonitrile (Honeywell, Morristown, New Jersey, USA) and phase B being 0.1 % formic acid 99:1 water:acetonitrile (Honeywell, Morristown, New Jersey, USA) at 25 $^{\circ}$  C. The injection volume was 1 µL. The mobile phase profile consisted of the following steps and linear gradients: 0–8 min from 80 to 60% B; 8– 10 min from 60 to 10% B; 10–12 min constant at 10% B; 12–12.1 min from 10 to 80% B; 12.1 to 14 min constant at 80% B. An Agilent 6495 ion funnel mass spectrometer was used in positive mode with an electrospray ionization source and the following conditions: ESI spray voltage 4500 V, nozzle voltage 1500 V, sheath gas 400° C at 12 L/min, nebulizer pressure 30 psig, and drying gas 250° C at 11 L/min. Compounds were identified based on their mass transition and retention time compared to standards. Chromatograms were integrated using MassHunter software (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Absolute concentrations were calculated based on an external calibration curve prepared in sample matrix. Mass transitions, collision energies, Cell accelerator voltages,



fragmentor voltages and Dwell times have been optimized using chemically pure standards. Parameter settings of all targets are given in the table below.

# **PbzB crystallization**

*E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells transformed with pET11a-SUMO1\_*pbzB* with a His-SUMO tag were grown in 4 L LB medium supplemented 100 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> ampicillin and 1% lactose to induce expression of the recombinant fusion protein and incubated for 18 h at 30°C in an aerial shaker. After harvesting (4,500 rpm, 15 min, 4°C), cells were lysed using a Microfluidizer (M110-L, Microfluidics). The lysis buffer contained 20 mM HEPES-Na (pH 8.0), 250 mM NaCl, 20 mM KCl, 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 50 mM imidazole. Cell debris was then removed by high-speed centrifugation for 20 min at 20,000 rpm at 4°C. PbzB was then purified at 10°C by Ni-ion affinity chromatography and eluted using a lysis buffer supplemented with 250 mM imidazole. 250 Units of SUMO protease (Sigma-Aldrich) were added to the PbzB fusion protein elution (15 mL) and incubated at RT to remove the His $_6$ affinity purification and the SUMO solubility tag. After analysis of the cleavage efficiency using SDS-PAGE, PbzB was concentrated to 2 mL using an Amicon concentrator with a cutoff at 30 kDa. Size exclusion chromatography was performed on an S200 XK16 column (GE Healthcare). The SEC buffer consisted of 20 mM HEPES-Na (pH  $7.5$ ), 200 mM NaCl, 20 mM KCl, and 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. Samples of each peak were analyzed on an SDS-PAGE and fractions containing cleaved PbzB protein were pooled and concentrated to a final concentration of 600 µM. The protein solution showed a yellow color.

Crystallization was performed by the sitting-drop method at 20 °C in 250 nL drops consisting of equal parts of protein and precipitation solutions. Protein solutions of 300-600 µM were used for crystallization. Crystallization conditions were: 0.1 M KCl, 0.1 M HEPES pH 7.5, 15% (w/v) PEG 6000. Prior to data collection, crystals were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen using a cryo-solution that consisted of mother-liquor supplemented with 20% (v/v) glycerol. Data were collected under cryogenic conditions at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (Grenoble, France) [14]. Data were processed with XDS and scaled with XSCALE<sup>[15]</sup>. All structures were determined by molecular replacement with PHASER<sup>[16]</sup> manually built in COOT<sup>[17]</sup>, and refined with PHENIX<sup>[18]</sup>. The search model for the PbzB structures was the glycine hydroxymethyltransferase from *Acinetobacter*  baumannii (PDB 5VMB). Figures were prepared with Pymol [\(www.pymol.org\)](http://www.pymol.org/)<sup>[19, 20]</sup>.

# **Data availability**

All data generated or analyzed in this study are available within the article and its Supplementary Information files. The genome sequence data involved in this study are accessible in the NCBI GenBank database under accession numbers NIBV00000000 (*X. szentirmaii* DSM 16338), OM622254 (the plasmid in *X. vietnamensis* DSM 22392), and LT629761 (*P. chlororaphis* subsp. *piscium* DSM 21509). Crystallographic data have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (https://www.rcsb.org) under the PDB ID [7QCW.](https://www.rcsb.org/structure/unreleased/7QCW)

**Table S1.** Strains used in this study.



**Table S2.** Plasmids used in this study.



**Table S3.** Primers and DNA fragments used in this study.





#### DNA sequence of PbzB T68Y H78Y (mutations are indicated in red)

CATTGAGGCCCATCGTGAACAGATTGGTGGTACAGTCAATCATCAACCGCTTCTTACCCAGGCCGATCTGCTCAAGCG TGGCCTGGCCGATCTTCAGGAACATGATGCCGAACTGGCGCGGATCCTCGACGCCGAGGTCGCTCGCCAGCAACGC ACCCTCTCGCTGGTCGCCTCTTGCTGCGCGGTCAAGCCCCGCACCCTGGCGGCTTCGTCCTCCGCGCTGGTCAATG TC**TAT**GCCGAAGGTGTTCCCGGACGCCGCTAT**TAT**GCCGGCTGCGAGAACGTGGACCTGGTCGAGTCCCTGGCGAT CCAGCGTGCCCGGGAGCTGTTCGGTGCGCAATATGCCGGTGTCCAGTCGCACTCGGCCTCCAGCGCCAACTACCAG GTGCTCGCCGCCCTGCTCGAACCAGGCGACACGCTACTGGGCATGGCCCTGGATAACGGTGGCCACCTGACCCATG

GCAGCCCCGTGACCTTCTCGGGCACTTACTACAAGGCCATCGGCTATGGCACCACCAAGGAAGGCCTGATCGACTAC GACGAAGTCCGCAGGCTGGCCCTGGAGCATCGGCCACGACTGATCATCTGCGGTGCCACGGCCTACTCCAGGGTCG TGGACTTCGAGCGCTTCCGGCAGATCGCCGATGAAGCCGGTGCCATCCTGATGGCCGACATCTCGCATATCGCCGGC CTGGTGGCGACCGGGCGTCATCCGAGCCCGATCGACGCCGCGCACGTCACCACCACCTGCACCCACAAGCAGCTC GTAGGCCCCCGTGGCGGCCTGATTCTCTCGGGCCGTGACGCCAATGAAAAAGTCCCCGGCCGCGATGCGACCTTCA GCCGGGTGCTCGAACTGGCGGTGTTCCCCAGGATGCAAGGCGCGCCGGCCGTCAACATGATGGCCGCCAAGGCCG CAGCACTGGGTTACGCCATGACCCCGGAATTCGATGCCGAGATGCAACGCATCCGCGACGCGGCCGATGTGATGGC CAGCGAATTCCAGGCCCGGGACTATGAGGTGGTAGGCGGTCGCAGCGAAAACCACACCATCCTGATTCGCTTGCGT GCCGCGATGACCGGCGCTATCGCCGAGACCGCGCTGGAGCACTGCGGAATCGTCGTCAACAAGAACCGTGTGCCC GGCGAAACACGTTCGTCCTTCGTCACCAGCGGCCTGCGCATCGGTACCGGCGCCCTCGCCCAGCGCCATGTCGACG CGCAGGGATGCCGGCAGATCGTCGACCTGCTCTGCCGGATCCTGGACGAGGTGACTCCGCTCGGCGAGAGCGAGT TCACCCTGGACCCGGCCCTGCGCAAGCAATTCTGTGCGGAAGCCGAGGCGCTGTGCGTGAAGTATCCGATCGCTGA CTACCTGGCAATCTGATAAGGATCCGGCTGCTAACAAAGCCCGAAAG



**Table S4.** Putative functional assignments of biosynthetic genes in this study.

# **Table S5.** HR-ESI-MS data of all compounds described in this work.





**Table S6.** <sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) NMR data assignments for benzoxazolinate (1) and benzobactin B (**3**) in DMSO-*d*<sup>6</sup> (for NMR spectra see Figures S15−26).



# **Table S7.** Structure data for PbzB.



**Figure S1.** 2D NMR correlations of benzoxazolinate (**1**) and benzobactin B (**3**).







Figure S2. Multiple-sequence alignment of XsbA-A, PbzD-A<sub>1</sub>, and PbzD-A<sub>2</sub> with biochemically characterized A domains by Cluster Omega Alignment. Conserved core motifs A1-A10 (ref<sup>[25]</sup>) are highlighted with arrows and GrsA gramicidin was set as a reference sequence. The A4 motifs of XsbA-A and PbzD-A<sub>1</sub> lack the conserved aspartate (red rectangle) that typically interacts with the α-NH<sub>2</sub> of amino acid substrates. The A domain of tilivalline activates 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid.[26] GrsA (PDB 1AMU) is set as a reference sequence.



superfamily by FastTree2.1.11 (ref<sup>[27, 28]</sup>). XsbC and PbzE are closely related to NatL2 and BomJ. MenE (PDB ID: 5BUQ), scPaaK (NCBI: accessionWP\_011031681.1), ttPaaK (NCBI: WP\_172596917.1), and ecPaak (NCBI: CDP76889.1). XsbC and PbzE are highlighted in red.

![](_page_22_Picture_10.jpeg)

Purinca\_ piacemsinily and Thomainus investigation and Diplomation Dick Lipoteichoic acids - D-alanyl carrier protein ligase\_Bacillus cereus ATCC 14579<br>PheA\_gramicidin - A\_Brevibacillus brevis

' RGYGQIEL - - >GFAV - - - - - IAAYGGPAAGNAGKPGPLI VKYLD- IAGKELAVGEA<mark>GE I VI IVGP SVSVGYLKGP</mark>NOMIKDE - - - - - -<br>NTYGPTEA - - TVAVTG I HVTE EVLDQYKSLPVGYCK SDCRLL I MK - EDGT I APDGEK<mark>GE I VI IVGP SVSVGYLG</mark>SPELTEKAFT - -

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

(PtmA2), and A domains (DltA and PheA) by Clustal Omega Alignment. Adenylation domain core motifs A1–A10 (turquoise), [25] the catalytic lysine residue (yellow), the Michaelis complex-forming amino acids of the first half (adenylation) reaction (grey), the zinc-binding motif (green), and the characteristic C-terminal extensions (red).

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S5.** Overlap of a homology model of XsbC with the crystal structure of NatL2 (6SIY). (a) Superimposed monomers of NatL2 (black) and XsbC (yellow) with an RMSD of 0.6 Å over 441 Cα atoms. (b) Superimposed dimers of NatL2 (chain A, black; chain B, red) and XsbC (chain A, yellow; chain B, blue) with an RMSD of 0.8 Å over 882 Cα atoms.

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S6.** Zinc binding motif in XsbC. A tetrahedrally coordinated (Cys263, His269, Cys321, and Cys323) zinc ( $Zn^{2+}$ ) is found in the N-terminal domain over 20 Å away from the AMP. Zinc binding and the associated introduced structural rigidity might play a key role in preventing the formation of the second active conformation, involving rotation of the small C-terminal domain relative to the large N-terminal domain by a large angle, as much as 140° as observed for bacterial acetyl-CoA synthetases<sup>[29]</sup> and 4-chlorobenzoate CoA ligase (4CBL)<sup>[30]</sup>.

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S7.** Overall structure and binding site of modeled XsbC. The XsbC N-terminal, C-terminal, and C-terminal extensions are colored yellow, green, and blue, respectively. (a) XsbC monomer (chain A). AMP is shown as spacefill (van-der-Waals surface). (b) XsbC dimer. The second monomer is colored red (chain B). Also depicted are AMP (stick representation) bound within the active site of chain A, and the invariant Lys429 (black stick representation) from the other monomer (chain B). (c) Active site of XsbC chain A. Lys429 (black) in the C-terminal extension from the other monomer (chain B, red) is forming a salt bridge with a bound AMP.

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S8.** XsbC A8 hinge region*.* The conserved A domain core motif A8 of chain A (black) is known to serve as a hinge between the C- (yellow) and N-terminal (green) domains. This hinge region enables the catalysis of CoA thioester formation. Whereas fatty acyl-AMP ligases (FAALs) are locked in the 'closed' arrangement and are unable to catalyze CoA thioester formation due to insertion into the hinge. NatL2-like enzymes might be locked in the 'closed' conformation, or rather prevent access of CoA by the C-terminal extension shielding the catalytic center.

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

 $\mathbf{a}$ 

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S9.** Tandem MS/MS analysis of benzoxazolinate and benzobactins. (a) All detected (ii-vii) benzobactins feature a diagnostic  $m/z = 188$  fragment ion (grey), indicating the existence of a (i) benzoxazolinate moiety. Benzobactin C (**4**), as well as the as-yet-uncharacterized benzobactins-628 and 1021, share four diagnostic fragment ions (orange) identical to benzobactins A (**2**) and B (**3**), indicating that benzobactins C (**4**), 628, and 1021 are made up of **2** and/or **3** as structural units. As determined by HRMS, benzobactin-628 has a H3O unit more than **4**. However, the exact structures of benzobactins-628 and 1021 could not be formulated. The blue diamond indicates the parent ions (M – H<sub>2</sub>O + H<sup>+</sup>). Representative data from three independent experiments are shown. (b) Proposed formation of benzobactins-628 and 1021. 2-Hydroxymethylserine is symmetrical due to two identical hydroxymethyl groups, and therefore integrations of the building block, as well as dimerization and tetramerization, would not bring diastereoisomers to benzobactin compounds, exemplified by *R*-**3**. This is consistent with the observation of no (diastereo)isomers for compounds **2**, **3**, **4**, and benzobactins-628. Therefore, benzobactins-1012 a and b are highly unlikely to be a pair of stereoisomers. Instead, they are assumed to be structural isomers with a difference in forming linkages between 2-hydroxymethylserines via ester bond(s) or amide bond(s).

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S10.** MS identification of benzobactin C (**4**) by isotope labeling experiments and MS verification of 2-hydroxymethylserine derived from glycine as exemplified by benzobactin B (**3**). (a) Structural elucidation of benzobactin C (**4**) by MS analyses of the induced P*BAD pbzA* mutant in (i) LB, (ii) <sup>13</sup>C, and (iii) <sup>15</sup>N media. A mass shift of 28 Da in (ii) <sup>13</sup>C medium and that of 4 Da in (ii) <sup>15</sup>N medium indicated that **4** has 28 carbons and four nitrogens. Together with **4** having twice the mass of **3** – H2O, **4** as a dimer of **3** via an amide bond linkage can be envisaged, which is also supported by the diagnostic MS fragment of 305.0768 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> in 4 (Figure S9). The number of carbon and nitrogen atoms was confirmed by (ii) <sup>13</sup>C and (iii) <sup>15</sup>N labeling media. (b) MS verification of 2-hydroxymethylserine derived from glycine in the induced P<sub>BAD</sub> pbzA mutant by isotope labeling and inverse feeding experiments. Compared to the parent ion in (ii) the <sup>13</sup>C medium, a mass shift of (iii) -2 Da in the inverse feeding experiments with glycine in the <sup>13</sup>C medium background indicated the incorporation of a glycine residue into **3**. While (iv versus v) no mass shifts were observed in the inverse feeding experiments with L-serine in <sup>15</sup>N medium background, a mass shift of (vi) -1 Da in the inverse feeding experiments with glycine in <sup>15</sup>N medium background indicated the incorporation of a glycine residue into **3**. These data confirmed glycine being the original building block of 2-hydroxymethylserine. Arrows, dash lines, and numbers indicate positive mass shifts, while those in light blue indicate negative. The blue diamond indicates the parent ions (M – H<sub>2</sub>O + H<sup>+</sup>). Representative data from three independent experiments are shown.

![](_page_31_Picture_74.jpeg)

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![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

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**Figure S11.** Multiple-sequence alignment of PbzB with other glycine/serine hydroxymethyltransferases. (a) Protein sequence similarity analysis of PbzB, AsmD (QCE20599.1), and FmoH (BAP16692.1) using Geneious Prime Cluster Omega Alignment Blosum45 (threshold = 0) scoring matrix. (b) Multiple sequence alignment of PbzB with its homologs AsmD, FmoH, XvbB, as well as other structurally characterized glycines/serine hydroxymethyltransferases. The used serine hydroxymethyltransferases were hits retrieved from a Dali search using the PbzB apo-structure in this study as the search query. The consensus threshold was set to >85%. The green arrows mark the residues involved in the coordination of the substrate (glycine or serine) bound to the co-factor PLP thereby either forming the external aldimine PLG or PLS. The lysine residue within conserved loop 6 (green arrow) forms a Schiff base with PLP. The black arrows highlight the residues involved in the binding of mTHF. The right panel shows a zoom into the alignment pointing to the difference between the specialized PbzB-type serine hydroxymethyltransferases and other GlyA-type glycine/serine hydroxymethyltransferases involved in the central metabolism of amino acid biosynthesis.

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure S12. Phylogenetic analysis of PbzD-A<sub>2</sub> with other biochemically characterized A domains from *Xenorhabdus* and *Photorhabdus* strains by FastTree2.1.11 (ref[27, 28]). PbzD-A<sup>2</sup> (asterisk) falls into the clade of A domain with cysteine specificity (light blue) and is separate from those with glycine (orange) or serine (yellow) specificity. The tree is based on protein sequences from core motifs A4 (234) to A5 (331) which are used to determine substrate specificity.<sup>[31]</sup>

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S13.** Purification of PbzB wild-type (WT) and PbzB T68Y H79Y mutant. (a) SDS-PAGE analysis of PbzB WT and PbzB T68Y H79Y mutant after purification by Ni-NTA. L, cell lysate; S, supernatant; FT, flow-through; W, wash; E, elution; M, marker. (b) Phenotypes of WT and mutant. The WT shows a yellowish phenotype that was lost in the mutant. Presumably, correct binding/positioning of mTHF was hindered in the mutant. (c) SDS-PAGE analysis of the WT and mutant after purification by size exclusion chromatography. (d) Chromatograms of size exclusion chromatography of the WT and mutant. The expected size of N-terminal His<sub>6</sub>-SUMO-tag PbzB (58 kDa) was indicated by a red triangle. Representative data from three independent experiments are shown.

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S14.** Phylogenetic analysis and multiple-sequence alignment of PbzD-C<sub>1</sub> and PbzI with other condensation domains/enzymes from *Xenorhabdus* and *Photorhabdus* strains by FastTree2.1.11 (ref<sup>[27, 28]</sup>). (a) PbzD-C<sub>1</sub> (asterisk) falls into the clade of heterocyclization domains (yellow), while PbzI (asterisk) and its homologs from benzobactin-related BGCs are separate from all other condensation domains/enzymes (red). Heterocyclization domains (yellow) catalyze both peptide bond formation of two amino acids and subsequent intramolecular heterocyclization of cysteine, serine, or threonine. Starter condensation domains (green) acylate the first amino acid with a fatty acid or polyketide moiety. <sup>L</sup>CL condensation domains (dark blue) catalyze a peptide bond formation between two L-amino acids. Terminal condensation domains (purple) catalyze the release of the T-domains tethered peptidyl chain. Dual condensation domains (orange) catalyze both epimerization and condensation. The tree is based on protein sequences of full-length condensation domains/enzymes. (b) A multiple-sequence alignment shows that PbzI and its homologs lack the conserved histidine or aspartic acid in the first and second positions of core motif C3. Conserved amino acids in the core motif C3 are indicated with shapes of gray.

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S16.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of benzoxazolinate (**1**) in DMSO-*d6*.

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S17.** HSQC spectrum of benzoxazolinate (**1**) in DMSO-*d*6.

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Figure S18.** HMBC spectrum of benzoxazolinate (**1**) in DMSO-*d*6.

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S19.** 1H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of benzoxazolinate (**1**) in DMSO-*d*6.

![](_page_38_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S24.** HMBC spectrum of benzobactin B (**3**) in DMSO-*d*6.

![](_page_41_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S25.** 1H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of benzobactin B (**3**) in DMSO-*d*6.

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Figure S26.** HR-ESI-MS of benzobactin B (**3**).

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S27.** Standard curve of 2-hydroxymethylserine for the determination of PbzB kinetics for D- /L-serine, as well as in vitro assys of PbzB with D-serine and glycine as substrates.

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Figure S28.** Standard curve of 2-hydroxymethylserine for in vitro assys of PbzB with L-serine as a substrate.

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