## **Supporting Information**

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SI Text



Fig. S1. Proposed synthetic mechanisms of polyketide. (A) benzalacetone from 4-coumaroyl-CoA and one molecule of malonyl-CoA by BAS; (B) naringenin chalcone from 4-coumaroyl-CoA and three molecules of malonyl-CoA by CHS; (C) resveratrol from and three molecules of malonyl-CoA by STS; and, (D) stearoyl pentaketide resorcylic acid and resorcinol from stearoyl-CoA and four molecules of malonyl-CoA by ORAS.



**Fig. S2.** Comparison of the primary sequence of BAS and other type III PKSs. The secondary structures of BAS are also delineated:  $\alpha$ -helices (green rectangles);  $\beta$ -strands (orange arrows); and loops (orange, bold lines), which are diagrammed. The catalytic triad Cys-His-Asn residues are highlighted in red. The residues thought to be crucial for the functional diversity of type III PKSs are colored in blue. Abbreviations (GeneBank accession numbers): R.pa.BAS, *Rheum palmatum* BAS (AAK82824); M.sa.CHS, *M. sativa* CHS (P30074); P.sy. STS, *Pinus sylvestris* STS (AAB24341).

Fig. S3. Schematic representations of: (A) BAS\_apo structure; (B) BAS complexed with the monoketide intermediate (4-coumaroyl thioester); (C) M. sativa CHS complexed with naringenin (PDB entry 1CGK); and, (D) P. sylvestris STS (PDB entry 1U0U). Arrows indicate the substrate entrance in each monomer. The catalytic cysteine and methionine (or leucine), which form a partial wall of the active-site cavity of another monomer, are indicated in stick model. The bound monoketide intermediate in BAS and naringenin in M. sativa CHS are highlighted as blue stick model. (E) Comparison of the active-site in (*left*) monomer A and (*right*) monomer B of the BAS structure complexed with the monoketide intermediate. A CoA-SH molecule bound in the M. sativa CHS structure (PDB entry 1BQ6) was also shown as a gray stick model to indicate the CoA-binding tunnel.









**Fig. S5.** Close-up view of the putative nucleophilic water molecule. (A) Superimposition of the loop between residues 123–128 of BAS with equivalent loops of *M. sativa* CHS and *P. sylvestris* STS. Only BAS residue numbers are marked. Close-up view of the residues and the water molecule in (*B*) BAS and (*C*) *M. sativa* CHS equivalent to those involving the aldol switch in (*D*) *P. sylvestris* STS. The  $2F_{o}$ -F<sub>c</sub> density map of the catalytic triad and the putative nucleophilic water molecule in (*E*) monomer A, and (*F*) monomer B of wild-type BAS apo structure, (*G*) monomer B of BAS structure complexed with the monoketide intermediate, and (*H*) monomer A of the BAS 1207L/L208F mutant structure, countered at 1.0  $\sigma$ . The water molecules and the hydrogen bonds are indicated as light-blue sphere and dotted lines.



Fig. S6. HPLC elution profiles of the enzyme reaction products with 4-coumaroyl-CoA and malonyl-CoA: (A) wild-type BAS; (B) boiled wild-type BAS; (C) HPLC elution profile of authentic 4-coumaric acid; (D) MS; and, (E) MS/MS (precursor ion at m/z 207) spectra of 4-coumaroyl diketide  $\beta$ -keto acid produced by *R. palmatum* BAS.



Fig. 57. Comparison of the catalytic triad of (A) R. palmatum BAS; and, (B) N. crassa ORAS. (C) Superimposition of the catalytic triad.

Data collection	BAS	BAS + intermediate	I207L/L208F
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub>	P2 <sub>1</sub>	P2 <sub>1</sub>
$a h c (\dot{\Delta})$	54 6 89 6 81 1	546 899 810	74 1 89 2 70 8
$\alpha \beta \gamma (\circ)$	90.0 100.5 90.0	90.0 100.5 90.0	90.0 95.7 90.0
$\frac{\alpha_{i}\rho_{i}}{\beta_{i}}$	30.0-1.8 (1.86-1.80)	30.0-1.6 (1.66-1.60)	30 0-1 8 (1 86-1 80)
Unique reflections	69.782	100.844	74.255
Redundancy	3.8 (3.8)	3.7 (3.6)	3.7 (3.5)
Completeness (%)	98.3 (97.3)	99.8 (99.3)	100 (99.9)
$\langle I/(\sigma I) \rangle$	25.4 (7.5)	32.1 (8.3)	19.7 (4.4)
R <sub>wm</sub> (%)*	9.6 (26.7)	7.1 (22.9)	7.3 (27.5)
Refinement			
Resolution ( Å)	1.8	1.6	1.8
$R_{\rm cryst}/R_{\rm free}$ (%) <sup>†</sup>	18.4/20.6	19.5/21.5	18.4/20.4
Number atoms			
Protein	5,796	5,796	5,802
Water	459	554	456
Ligand	-	22	-
B-factors (Å <sup>2</sup> )			
Protein	12.8	13.0	12.9
Water	17.2	19.6	17.4
Ligand	-	21.4	-
r.m.s deviations			
Bond lengths ( Å)	0.005	0.011	0.005
Bond angles (°)	1.2	1.5	1.2

Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics

Values in parentheses are for the highest resolution shell.

\* $R_{\text{sym}} = S_h S_i |l(h)_i - \langle l(h) \rangle |/S_h S_i l(h)_{ii}$ , where l(h) is the intensity of refraction h,  $S_h$  is the sum over all reflections and  $S_i$  is the sum over i measurements of reflection h. \* $R_{\text{free}}$  was calculated with 5% of data excluded from refinement.