Manipulation of Thiocillin Variants by Prepeptide Gene Replacement: Structure, Conformation, and Activity of Heterocycle Substitution Mutants

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1. Materials and General Methods

All molecular biology, recombinant DNA manipulation and microbiological assays were performed following the protocols of Sambrook *et al.*¹ Unless otherwise specified, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Restriction enzymes and Quick Ligase were purchased from New England Biolabs (Boston, MA). Pfu Turbo DNA Polymerase was purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA) and Paq 5000 DNA polymerase from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA).DNA oligonucleotide primers were synthesized by Integrated DNA technologies (Coralville, IA). PCR was performed on a Biorad MyCycler thermal cycler. DNA sequencing was performed by the Molecular Biology Core Facilities at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (Boston, MA). Top10

chemically competent E. coli cells were purchased from Invitrogen. Restriction endonuclease cleanup and gel extraction of DNA fragments were performed with QiaQuick PCR cleanup kit from Qiagen. Recombinant plasmids were isolated using the QiaPrep Spin Miniprep Kit from Qiagen. B. cereus ATCC 14579 genomic DNA was isolated from cultures using the DNeasy Kit from Qiagen. Extraction of thiocillins from cell-free media was performed on Sep-Pak C18 cartidges from Waters Corp. (Milford, MA). Analytical RP-HPLC was performed on a Beckman System Gold (Beckman Coulter) instrument using a Phenomenex Luna 5 µm C18(2) 100 Å 250 x 4.6 mm column, monitoring eluent absorption at 220 and 350 nm. Preparative RP-HPLC was performed on a Beckman System Gold (Beckman Coulter) instrument using a Phenomenex Luna 10 µm C18(2) 100 Å 250 x 21.20 mm column. Purification of derivatives from crude extracts was also performed on a Biotage Isolera flash purification system (Biotage) using silica gel columns. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 600 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance resulting from incomplete deuteration as the internal standard (CDCl3 δ 7.26, D2O δ 4.79, CD3OD δ 3.31). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q =quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. Software and methods used for generation of solution phase structures from NMR data are described in the text.

2. Mutagenesis of *tcIE* in pMGA-tcIE-KI

As previously described,² plasmid pMGA-tcl_AE-H was generated from plasmid pKM082³, containing ampicillin and erythromycin resistance cassettes and employed in excision of copies of the thiocillin structural gene via double crossover homologous recombination. Additionally, a rescue plasmid, pMGA-tclE-KI was generated using pLW111³ which already contains ~1 kb of homology to tclD. Mutants of tclE were generated by site-directed mutagenesis of plasmid pMGA-tclE-KI using overlapping primer extension. Briefly, homologous primers were designed each containing the mutation of interest flanked by 15-20 bps of homologous plasmid DNA sequence. PCR was performed with Pfu Turbo to extend the primers, generating entire circular plasmid strands, each containing the mutation of interest. Restriction endonuclease DpnI was then added to the reaction. DpnI selectively cleaves the methylated template plasmid, having been purified from bacterial cultures, while leaving intact the unmethylated mutant plasmid generated by PCR. The resulting mixture was transformed into chemically competent E. coli TOP10 cells and positive transformants were selected for on LB agar supplemented with 100 µg/mL ampicillin. Plasmid DNA was purified and mutants were confirmed by DNA sequencing. pMGA-tclE mutant plasmids were transformed into B. cereus and selected as described previously.²

Oligo	Sequence	Role
Primer 193	5'-GCT TGA AAT TAT GGG AGC GGC ATG TAC GAC ATG CGT ATG TAC-3'	S1A mutagenesis
Primer 194	5'-GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT GCC GCT CCC ATA ATT TCA AGC-3'	S1A mutagenesis
Primer 160	5'-GCT TGA AAT TAT GGG AGC GTC AGCTAC GAC ATG CGT ATG TAC-3'	C2A mutagenesis
Primer 161	5'-GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTA GCT GAC GCT CCC ATA ATT TCA AGC-3'	C2A mutagenesis
Primer 209	5'-GAA ATT ATG GGA GCG TCA TGT GCG ACA TGC GTA TGT ACA TGC AG-3'	T3A mutagenesis
Primer 210	5'-CTG CAT GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GCA CAT GAC GCT CCC ATA ATT	T3A mutagenesis

SI Table 2.1. Oligonucleotides	used for cloning	and <i>tcIE</i> mutagenesis
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	TC-3'	
Primer 253	5'-ATT ATG GGA GCG TCA TGT ACG GCT TGC GTA TGT ACA TGC AGT TG-3'	T4A mutagenesis
Primer 254	5'-CAA CTG CAT GTA CAT ACG CAA GCC GTA CAT GAC GCT CCC ATA AT-3'	T4A mutagenesis
Primer 243	5'-GGA GCGTCA TGT ACG ACA GCC GTA TGT ACA TGC AGT TGT TG-3'	C5A mutagenesis
Primer 244	5'-CAA CAA CTG CAT GTA CAT ACG GCT GTC GTA CAT GAC GCT CC-3'	C5A mutagenesis
Primer 59	5'-GCG TCA TGT ACG ACA TGC GCT TGT ACA TGC AGT TGT TGT AC- 3'	V6A mutagenesis
Primer 60	5'-GTA CAA CAA CTG CAT GTA CAA GCG CAT GTC GTA CAT GAC GC- 3'	V6A mutagenesis
Primer 247	5'-CGT CAT GTA CGA CAT GCG TAG CTA CAT GCA GTT GTT GTA CAA C-3'	C7A mutagenesis
Primer 248	5'-GTT GTA CAA CAA CTG CAT GTA GCT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT GAC G-3'	C7A mutagenesis
Primer 211	5'-CAT GTA CGA CAT GCG TAT GTG CAT GCA GTT GTT GTA CAA CTT G-3'	T8A mutagenesis
Primer 212	5'-CAA GTT GTA CAA CAA CTG CAT GCA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT G-3'	T8A mutagenesis
Primer 162	5'-CAT GTA CGA CAT GCG TAT GTA CAG CTA GTT GTT GTA CAA CTT G-3'	C9A mutagenesis
Primer 162	5'-CAA GTT GTA CAA CAA CTA GCT GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT G-3'	C9A mutagenesis
Primer 195	5'-GTA CGA CAT GCGTAT GTA CAT GCG CTT GTT GTA CAA CTT GAT TTT TC-3'	S10A mutagenesis
Primer 196	5'-GAA AAA TCA AGT TGT ACA ACA AGC GCA TGT ACA TAC GCATGT CGT AC-3'	S10A mutagenesis
Primer 177	5'-CGA CAT GCG TAT GTA CAT GCA GTG CTT GTA CAA CTT GAT TTT TC-3'	C11A mutagenesis
Primer 178	5'-GAA AAA TCA AGT TGT ACA AGC ACT GCA TGT ACA TAC GCA TGT CG-3'	C11A mutagenesis
Primer 166	5'-CAT GCG TAT GTA CAT GCA GTT GTG CTA CAA CTT GAT TTT TCA AG-3'	C12A mutagenesis
Primer 167	5'-CTT GAA AAA TCA AGT TGT AGC ACA ACT GCA TGT ACA TAC GCA TG-3'	C12A mutagenesis
Primer 189	5'-GTA TGT ACA TGC AGT TGT TGT GCA ACT TGA TTT TTC AAG AAG C-3'	T13A mutagenesis
Primer 190	5'-GCT TCT TGA AAA ATC AAG TTG CAC AAC AAC TGC ATG TAC ATA C-3'	T13A mutagenesis
Primer 255	5'-CAT GCA GTT GTT GTA CAG CTT GAT TTT TCA AGA AGC TTA ATT G-3'	T14A mutagenesis
Primer 256	5'-CAA TTA AGC TTC TTG AAA AAT CAA GCT GTA CAA CAA CTG CAT G-3'	T14A mutagenesis
Primer 207	5'-GCT TGA AAT TAT GGG AGC GTC ATC AAC GAC ATG CGT ATG TAC-3'	C2S mutagenesis
Primer 208	5'-GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTT GAT GAC GCT CCC ATA ATT TCA AGC-3'	C2S mutagenesis
Primer 51	5'-ATT ATG GGA GCG TCA TGT AGT ACA TGC GTA TGT ACA TGC-3'	T3S mutagenesis
Primer 52	5'-GCA TGT ACA TAC GCA TGT ACT ACA TGA CGC TCC CAT AAT-3'	T3S mutagenesis
Primer 245	5'-GGA GCG TCA TGT ACG ACA TCC GTA TGT ACA TGC AGT TGT TG-3'	C5S mutagenesis
Primer 246	5'-CAA CAA CTG CAT GTA CAT ACG GAT GTC GTA CAT GAC GCT CC-3'	C5S mutagenesis
Primer 249	5'-CGT CAT GTA CGA CAT GCGTAT CTA CAT GCA GTT GTT GTA CAA C-3'	C7S mutagenesis

Primer 250	5'-GTT GTA CAA CAA CTG CAT GTA GAT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT GAC G-3'	C7S mutagenesis
Primer 181	5'-CAT GTA CGA CAT GCG TAT GTA CAA GTA GTT GTT GTA CAA CTT G-3'	C9S mutagenesis
Primer 182	5'-CAA GTT GTA CAA CAA CTA CTT GTA CAT ACG CAT GTC GTA CAT G-3'	C9S mutagenesis
Primer 183	5'-CGA CAT GCG TAT GTA CAT GCA GTA GTT GTA CAA CTT GAT TTT TC-3'	C11S mutagenesis
Primer 184	5'-GAA AAA TCA AGT TGT ACA ACT ACT GCA TGT ACA TAC GCA TGT CG-3'	C11S mutagenesis
Primer 185	5'-CAT GCG TAT GTA CAT GCA GTT GTA GTA CAA CTT GAT TTT TCA AG-3'	C12S mutagenesis
Primer 186	5'-CTT GAA AAA TCA AGT TGT ACT ACA ACT GCA TGT ACA TAC GCA TG-3'	C12S mutagenesis

3. Extraction of Thiocillin Compounds

WT or *tclE* mutant *B. cereus* starter cultures (5 mL) were grown in LB for 20 hours at 30 °C. Larger cultures (0.5 L LB in 2 L culture baffles culture flasks) were inoculated with 300 μ L of starter culture and grown for 68 hours at 30 °C with shaking at 200 rpm. (*tclE* mutant strains were grown in media supplemented with 1 μ g/mL erythromycin and 25 μ g/mL lincomycin.) Cultures were harvested and both the cell pellet and spent media were saved. To the pellet, 50 mL methanol was added along with 15 g sodium sulfate. The mixture was vortexed vigorously and allowed to sit for at least 10 minutes. The mixture was then filtered through Whatman filter paper (no. 1) and the methanol was removed by vacuum. Solid was solubilized in 10 mL 33% acetonitrile in water for HPLC analysis. *tclE* mutants that produced compound at low levels were grown in a 5L fermenter in ECPM1 media lacking glycerol (20 g N-Z amine; 3 g Yeast Extract; 1 g KH₂PO₄; 4 g K₂HPO₄; 1 g NH₄Cl; 2.4g K₂SO₄ in 1 L supplemented with 10 mL 100X Trace Elements (5 g EDTA; 0.5 g FeCl₃•6H₂O; 0.05 g ZnO; 0.01 g CuCl₂•2H₂O; 0.01 g Co(NO₃)₂•6H2O; 0.01 g (NH₄)₆ Mo₇O₂₄ in 1 L) and 2 mL of 500X Mg/Ca solution (203 g MgCl₂; 66.2 g CaCl₂ in 1 L). Cells and media were harvested after 24 hours and extraction was performed as detailed above, scaled accordingly.

Further purification was accomplished by ethyl acetate extraction. Solvents were removed from the crude compound extracts on a rotary evaporator. The crude residue was then dissolved in 40 mL of 1:1 EtOAc: water. The biphasic solution was transferred to a 60mL separatory funnel, shaken and the organic layer removed. The aqueous layer was washed with a further 20 mL of EtOAc and the combined organics were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered through a 60 mL coarse fritted glass funnel, and evaporated to dryness. For purposes of assessing the thiocillin content of the individual layers, the residue from the organic layer was redissolved in 10 mL of acetonitrile. 180 μ L of the acetonitrile solution was combined with 180 μ L of water and 300 μ L of this solution was injected onto the analytical HPLC. 300 μ L of the aqueous layer was also injected, being careful to avoid the surface organics retained from the extraction.

Additional compound was extracted from the cell free media. The cell free media was passed over a Sep-Pak C18 column (Waters) and material was sequentially eluted with 10 mL of 20%, 50% and 100% acetonitrile in water. Derivatives commonly eluted in 50% acetonitrile. All compounds were finally purified by silica gel chromatography (Biotage, eluate: 95:5% CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH) for use in disk diffusion and liquid culture assays. Compounds were eluted as mixtures of the tailored states and used as such. Compounds characterized by NMR were further separated by RP-HPLC.

SI Figure 3.1. HPLC traces (350 nm) of methanolic extracts from 3 day growths of *B. cereus* alanine scan mutants (300 uL injection from 50 mL isolate of 500 mL culture).



SI Figure 3.2. HPLC traces (350 nm) of methanolic extracts from 3 day growths of *B. cereus* thiazole alanine scan mutants (conditions as above).







4. LC-MS and MS/MS Analysis.

High-resolution LC-MS data was collected in positive ion mode, on an Agilent 6520 Accurate-Mass Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer fitted with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source. The capillary voltage was set to 3500 kV, and the fragmentor voltage at 250 V. The drying gas temperature was maintained at 350°C with a flow rate of 12 L/min and a nebulizer pressure of 45 psi. Separation was effected on a Gemini-NX C18 reverse phase column (5µm, 110A, 2.0 x 50 mm, Phenomonex) for crude mixtures and a Kinetex C18 reverse phase column (2.6µm, 100A, 2.10 x 50 mm, Phenomonex) for chromatographically pure samples. Compounds were

eluted in a gradient of solvents A (0.1% formic acid in water) and B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile): 2 min. isocratic 2%B, then increasing to 100%B over 10 min., and finally isocratic at 100%B for 2 min. before returning to 2%B and reequilibrating over 4 min. The order of elution relative to tailored states of the final products was conserved across variants, except where the short gradient created elution overlap. At least two analytical runs were performed for extracts from each mutant: crude extract was used in the first run in order to better search for the presence of trace quantities of all tailored states and purified compounds were examined in a second run to obtain high resolution masses with lower ppm error than those observed in the crude runs. Additional structural analysis was accomplished by targeted CID-MS/MS. For all samples examined, the collision energy was varied between 40 and 65 eV, with optimum fragmentation generally being observed at 45 eV. Representative spectra are illustrated below. Essential diagnostic peaks have been labeled.

5. Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs)

Over night cultures of the individual strains (MRSA strains COL and MW2 grown in TSB media and *B. subtilis* strain 168 in LB at 37 °C) were diluted 1000-fold and used to fill 96-well plates (150 μ L per well). Serial dilutions of the variant mixtures (1.5 μ L of 800-6.25 μ g/ μ L solutions in DMSO) were transferred from library plates to the culture plates. For each variant mixture one adjacent well was treated with 1.5 μ L of unadulterated DMSO and one with 1.5 μ L of erythromycin (10 μ g/ μ L in 95% ethanol). The plates were incubated at 30 °C for 20 hours. The OD₆₀₀ was read on a Perkin Elmer Envision plate reader. MICs were designated as the lowest concentration that produced an increase of less than 10% in OD over that of the adjacent erythromycin well.

Four individual WT thiocillin compounds isolated from *B. cereus* ATCC 14579 were subjected to MIC analysis against *B. subtilis* and two different strains of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). For each strain, all four compounds inhibited growth with similar MICs.²

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MS Figure 1: C2A



MS Figure 2a: T4A

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
OH, H, red	7.424	1148.2078	1147.2005	1147.205	3.92	2191662	31.71
OH, H, ox	7.526	1146.1986	1145.1913	1145.1893	-1.75	2456462	22.61
OH, CH ₃ , red	7.672	1162.2212	1161.214	1161.2206	5.68	1866423	21.06
OH, CH ₃ , ox	7.778	1160.2146	1159.2073	1159.205	-1.98	2451287	17.81
H, H, ox	7.947	1130.2033	1129.196	1129.1944	-1.42	91346	0.38
H, H, red	8.022	1132.2175	1131.2105	1131.21	-0.44	389584	3.33
H, CH ₃ , red	8.097	1146.2305	1145.2232	1145.2257	2.18	81256	0.55







MS Figure 3: C5A



MS Figure 4: C7A

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
OH, H, ox	7.143	1146.2512	1145.245	1145.24345	-1.35	3480	0.47
OH, H, red	7.177	1148.2682	1147.2609	1147.2591	-1.57	304950	37.41
H, H, red	7.296	1132.2737	1131.2644	1131.26419	-0.19	117311	16.95
H, H, ox	7.41	1130.2575	1129.2494	1129.24854	-0.76	172360	24.49
H, CH ₃ , ox	7.7	1144.274	1143.2649	1143.26419	-0.62	4364	0.84



MS Figure 5: C9A

File	RT	Base Peak	Mass	Algorithm	Hits (DB)	Height	Vol %
OH, H, ox	8.901	1168.2315	1145.2418	1145.24345	1.44	9080	0.43
H, H, red	9.213	1132.2648	1131.2605	1131.26419	3.26	816717	51.5
H, H, ox	9.4	1130.2566	1129.2491	1129.24854	-0.50	495469	15.07



MS Figure 6: C12A

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
OH, H, ox	7.161	1146.2499	1145.2439	1145.24345	-0.39	7441	4.74
OH, H, red	7.478	1148.268	1147.2598	1147.2591	-0.61	123918	46.87
H, H, ox	7.613	1130.2572	1129.2496	1129.24854	-0.94	86466	38.52
OH, CH ₃ , red	7.77	1162.2807	1161.2725	1161.27475	1.94	1735	0.55
H, H, red	7.801	1132.2683	1131.2615	1131.26419	2.38	5094	1.18



MS Figure 7a: T14A





MS Figure 8a: $\Delta T14$



MS Figure 9: C2S

MS Figure 10: T3S

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
OH, H, red	8.707	1146.1842	1145.1825	1145.18931	5.95	1770807	49.06
H, H, ox	8.715	1128.181	1127.1737	1127.17874	4.47	8587	0.17
OH, H, ox	8.862	1144.1757	1143.1685	1143.17366	4.51	2097506	32.02
OH, CH ₃ , red	8.962	1160.2064	1159.1984	1159.20496	5.66	140609	3.59

MS Figure 11a: C5S

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
H, H, red (alcohol)	8.143	1148.2592	1147.2519	1147.2591	6.28	591296	27.02
H, H, ox (alcohol)	8.273	1146.2504	1145.2431	1145.2435	0.35	359247	11.84
OH, H, red (alcohol)	8.372	1164.2657	1163.2584	1163.254	-3.78	322906	17.45
H, CH ₃ , red (alcohol)	8.534	1162.2763	1161.2691	1161.2748	4.91	338276	12.64
H, CH ₃ , ox (alcohol)	8.672	1160.2653	1159.258	1159.2591	0.95	324360	9.16
OH, CH ₃ , red (alcohol)	8.706	1178.2753	1177.268	1177.2697	1.44	30481	1.59

MS Figure 12a: C7S

Tailoring (6,8,14)	RT	Molecular Ion	Observed Mass	Expected Mass	Error (ppm)	Area	Vol %
OH, H, red (alcohol)	8.14	1164.2666	1163.2526	1163.254	1.20	1199988	35.38
H, H, red (alcohol)	8.372	1148.251	1147.2537	1147.2591	4.71	364366	16.13
H, H, ox (alcohol)	8.394	1146.251	1145.2437	1145.2435	-0.17	220933	6.56
H, H, red (dehydro)	8.649	1130.2515	1129.2442	1129.2485	3.81	433087	19.62
H, CH ₃ , red (alcohol)	8.733	1162.2718	1161.2745	1161.2748	0.26	3810	0.15
H, H, ox (dehydro)	8.802	1128.2389	1127.2316	1127.2329	1.15	20220	0.56
H, CH ₃ , red (dehydro)	8.972	1144.2776	1143.262	1143.2642	1.92	22655	0.96

MS Figure 13c: C9S

MS Figure 14a: C12S

NMR Figure 2: Thiocillin II 13C NMR (150.6 MHz)

NMR Figure 3: Thiocillin II COSY spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 4: Thiocillin II HMBC spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 6: Thiocillin II TOCSY spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 7: Thiocillin II ROESY spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 8: C2S alcohol 1H NMR (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 11: C2S alcohol HMBC spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 13: C2S alcohol TOCSY spectrum (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 15: C2S oxazoline 1H NMR at 25C (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 16: C2S oxazoline 1H NMR at 45C (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 17: C2S oxazoline 1H NMR at 60C (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 18: C2S oxazoline 1H NMR at 75C (600 MHz)

NMR Figure 19: C2S oxazoline COSY spectrum at 75C (600 MHz)

