SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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Supplementary table 1. Strains and plasmids

2. HPLC and SFC conditions

For NP-HPLC, four liters of the cell-free supernant from an M9 culture *E. coli* overexpressing *V. harveyi* CqsA (see Experimental Procedures for details) was extracted into MTBE (4 x 500 mL), the combined organic extract was washed with a saturated brine solution (1 L) and was dried over Na2SO4. The dried organics were carefully concentrated *in vacuo* at room temperature to yield a concentrated organic extract in \sim 2-5 mL of organic solvent. Complete concentration of this sample leads to significant loss of biological activity. This concentrated organic sample was diluted with hexanes (5 mL) and was purified by preperative HPLC on a system composed 2 PrepStar SD-1 pumps, a Knauer K-2501 multi-wavelength detector set at 280nm, a Rainin FC-1 fraction collector and using a PrincetonSPHER Premier (2 x 25 cm) column. The mixture was fractionated by application of a gradient from 9:1 hexane:MTBE to 100% MTBE at 20 mL/min over 25 min, with fractions collected every minute. Ea-C8-CAI-1 (by HRMS and bioassay) has a retention time of 8 minutes, C8-CAI-1 and the α -hydroxy ketone regioisomer (by HRMS, NMR and bioassay) elute as two smaller peaks between 9 and 10 minutes.

Due to the observed instability of purified or unpurified Ea-C8-CAI-1, we turned to an alternate strategy for purification. Accordingly, we developed a SFC (supercritical fluid chromatography) method using liquid $CO₂$ along with a small amount of per-deuterated methanol (d4-MeOH) as a co-solvent. Importantly, this approach directly provides concentrated fractions in d4-MeOH, suitable for direct NMR analysis.

For the purification, four liters of the cell-free supernant from an M9 culture *E. coli* overexpressing *V. harveyi* CqsA (see Experimental Procedures for details) was extracted into MTBE (4 x 500 mL), the combined organic extract was washed with a saturated brine solution (1) L) and was dried over Na2SO4. The dried organics were carefully concentrated *in vacuo* at room temperature to yield a concentrated organic extract in \sim 2-5 mL of organic solvent. Purification was achieved using a Berger Multigram II SFC system equipped with 2 Varian SD-1 pumps, a Knauer K-2501 multi-wavlength dectector set at 280nm, a Knauer K-1900 pump, a Vatran SGP-50-100 condenser, using a PrincetonSPHER Premier (2 x 25 cm) column. Fractionation of the crude mixture was achieved by application of an isocratic method using a mixture of 8% d4- MeOH/CO₂ (100 bar) at 50 mL/min. Fractions were collected manually and the product was found to have a retention time of 3.5 min. This fraction was subjected to direct $\mathrm{^{1}H\text{-}NMR}$ analysis, and found to contain a mixture of Ea-C8-CAI-1 along with C8-CAI-1 and its α hydroxy ketone regioisomer.

3. HRMS analyses (Corrective factor determination and cell-free fluids analyses)

A. HRMS data for corrective factor determination:

B. HRMS data for the *V. harveyi* cell-free fluids:

C. HRMS data for the *V. cholerae* cell-free fluids:

The detection limits for the above molecules were determined to be: Ea-C8-CAI-1, 6.25 nM; C8- CAI-1, 25 nM; Ea-CAI-1, 12.5 nM; CAI-1, 25 nM. This was determined by the analysis of a series of samples containing pure samples of each of the listed molecules at concentrations of 50 nM, 25 nM, 12.5 nM, 6.25 nM, 3.125 nM, and 1.56 nM. Detection limits are described as the last sample for which a HRMS peak was observed.

4. Ea-C8-CAI-1 synthesis by *V. harveyi* **CqsA** *in vitro* **(A) and** *in vivo* **(B)**

(A)The substrate required for *V. harveyi* CqsA to produce Ea-C8-CAI-1 was tested in buffer (10 mM HEPES, 0.1 M NaCl) in the presence or absence of C8-CoA (100 μ M), SAM (1) mM), and *V. harveyi* CqsA (500 nM). The reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature for 1 hr and terminated by addition of an equal volume of acetonitrile. The reaction mixture was assayed for stimulation of bioluminescence expression in the *V. harveyi* CAI-1 reporter strain JMH626. Only reactions containing CqsA, SAM, and C8 CoA resulted in induction of bioluminescence. HRMS analysis of the reaction products revealed the molecular ion of Ea-C8-CAI-1. RLU denotes relative light units.

(B) Heavy atom labeling was used to examine whether SAM could be used in vivo by CqsA as a substrate. E. coli overexpressing V. harveyi CqsA (WN1327, top) produced Ea-C8-CAI-1 (184.169 ion) and C8-CAI-1 (187.169 ion). A metE E. coli mutant (WN1590, middle) grown in the presence of unlabeled methionine carrying the CqsA overexpression plasmid produced the identical two molecules. Consistent with the idea that SAM is used in vivo for Ea-C8-CAI-1 synthesis and C8-CAI-1 is derived from Ea-C8-CAI-1, WN1590 grown in the presence of d8-L-methionine (bottom) produced tripledeuterium labeled Ea-C8-CAI-1 (187.189 ion) and C8-CAI-1 (190.188 ion) (See (Wei et *al.*, 2010) for detailed explanations).

5. Chemical Syntheses.

Analytical methods. NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Avance II spectrometer (500) MHz for ¹H; 125 MHz for ¹³C) equipped with either a ¹H-optimized TCI (H/C/N) cryoprobe or a 13 C-optimized dual C/H cryoprobe. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and were calibrated according to residual solvent. High-resolution mass spectral analyses were performed using an Agilent 1200-series electrospray ionization-time-of-flight (ESI-TOF) mass spectrometer in the positive ESI mode. Note, the NMR data for synthetic and natural Ea-CAI-1 also appear in the supplement to Wei et al., 2010 as evidence for production of Ea-CAI-1 and conversion to CAI-1 in V. cholerae.

Chemical Reactions. Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of nitrogen. All chemicals purchased from commercial vendors were used without further purification. Anhydrous Sure/SealTM solvents were purchased from commercial vendors.

Purification. Flash chromatography was performed using standard grade silica gel 60 230-400 mesh from SORBENT Technologies. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was carried out using Silica G TLC plates, 200 μ m with UV₂₅₄ fluorescent indicator (SORBENT Technologies), and visualization was performed by staining (anisaldehyde, ceric ammonium molybdate, or ninhydrin) and/or by absorbance of UV light.

All synthetic molecules were determined to be pure by NMR and HRMS, Ea-CAI-1 and C8-Ea-CAI-1 were not purified and were characterized directly from the final deprotection step. NMR data of these products containing peaks consistent with the removed protecting group (TIPS-F) and internal standard (PhMe) are provided.

(Z)-tert-butyl 1-(methoxy(methyl)amino)-1-oxobut-2-en-2-ylcarbamate (S1). L-Vinylglycine hydrochloride (Afzali-Ardakani and Rapoport, 1980; Carrasco et al., 1992)(2.14 g, 15.6 mmol) was dissolved in dioxane/ H_2O (182 mL, 0.085 M, 1:1 dioxane: H_2O) and was treated with

NaHCO₃ (2.62 g, 31.1 mmol, 2.0 eq) and Boc₂O (3.56 g, 16.3 mmol, 1.05 eq) sequentially at room temperature. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 2.5 hr, was cooled and concentrated in vacuo to a volume of ca. 80 mL. The resulting solution was acidified with 1 N HCl to ~pH 6.5, was extracted with DCM (3 x 50 mL), dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated to dryness. The resulting oil (2.82 g) was dissolved in THF $(156 \text{ mL}, 0.1 \text{ M})$ to VGly-HCl) at ambient temperature and was treated with HOBt (6.3 g, 46.7 mmol, 3.0 eq to VGly-HCl), HNMe(OMe)-HCl (1.75 g, 17.9 mmol, 1.15 eq to VGly-HCl), EDC (3.43 g, 17.9 mmol, 1.15 eq to VGIy-HCI), and Et₃N (10.8 mL, 77.8 mmol, 5.0 eq to VGIy-HCI) sequentially and the mixture was allowed to stir for 8 hr at ambient temperature. The crude mixture was filtered through a plug of celite and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting oil was purified by silica gel chromatography eluting with a gradient from hexanes to 60% EtOAc/hexanes. Fractions containing the desired product were combined and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide S1 as a pale yellow oil (2.2 g, 58% from VGly-HCl). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.22 (bs, 1H), 5.67 (bs, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 1.68 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4, 152.9, 129.5, 120.9, 80.5, 61.1, 34.4, 28.3, 12.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{11}H_{20}N_2O_4Na$, 267.1321 m/z [M+Na]; observed, 267.1323 m/z [M+Na]⁺. The configuration of this molecule was assigned on the basis of its 1 H-NMR spectra [10].

 (Z) -tert-butyl 4-oxotridec-2-en-3-ylcarbamate (S2). To a solution of (Z) -tert-butyl 1-(methoxy(methyl)amino)-1-oxobut-2-en-2-ylcarbamate (S1) (172.5 mg, 0.71 mmol) in THF (7 mL, 0.1 M) at 0° C was added nonyl-MgBr (3.5 mL, 3.5 mmol, 5.0 eq, 1.0 M in diethyl ether) and the mixture was stirred at 0° C for 2 h. The resulting mixture was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (20) mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL), combined organics were washed with sat. NaCl (20 mL), dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting oil was purified by silica gel chromatography eluting with a gradient from hexanes to 20% EtOAc/hexanes to provide S2 as a clear colorless oil (166.3 mg, 76%). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.50 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.85 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.65-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.32-

1.16 (m, 12H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.0, 153.1, 135.3, 130.4, 80.5, 36.9, 32.1, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 28.4, 24.9, 22.9, 15.3, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₈H₃₃NO₃Na 334.2358 m/z [M+Na]; observed, 334.2351 m/z [M+Na]⁺.

(Z)-tert-butyl 4-oxoundec-2-en-3-ylcarbamate (S3). Prepared in an analogous manner to S2 from (Z)-tert-butyl 1-(methoxy(methyl)amino)-1-oxobut-2-en-2-ylcarbamate (S1) and heptyl-MgBr in 71% yield. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.50 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.84 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.64-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.33-1.18 (m, 8H), 0.85 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.0, 153.1, 135.3, 130.4, 80.5, 36.9, 31.9, 29.5, 29.3, 28.4, 24.9, 22.8, 15.3, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₆H₂₉NO₃Na 306.2045 m/z [M+Na]; observed, 306.2041 m/z [M+Na]⁺.

 (Z) -3-aminotridec-2-en-4-one (Ea-CAI-1). To a solution of (Z) -tert-butyl 4-oxotridec-2-en-3ylcarbamate (S2) (54.9 mg, 0.18 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.2 mL, 0.15 M) at 0^oC was added Et₃N (74) μ L, 0.53 mmol, 3.0 eq) followed by TIPSOTf (142 μ L, 0.53 mmol, 3.0 eq) and the mixture was stirred at 0^oC for 2 h. To this mixture was added additional Et₃N (74 µL, 0.53 mmol, 3.0 eq) and TIPSOTf (142 μ L, 0.53 mmol, 3.0 eq) and the mixture was allowed to slowly warm to ambient temperature and was stirred for an additional 18 h. The prolonged reaction time, temperature profile, and the portionwise addition of Et₃N and TIPSOTf were found to be important for optimal conversion. At this time, TLC analysis showed complete consumption of the starting material (Rf=0.2, 10% EtOAc/hexanes, ninhydrin) to a single new product spot (Rf=0.4, 10%) EtOAc/hexanes, ninhydrin) and the reaction was quenched with sat. $NH₄Cl$ (10 mL), extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 10 mL), the combined organics were washed with sat. NaCl, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting oil was flashed through a plug of silica gel,

eluting with 10% EtOAc/hexanes, was concentrated to dryness and used without further purification. The resulting oil was dissolved in $d6-DMSO$ (2.1 mL with 3 μ L PhMe as an internal standard), was treated with TASF (145.4 mg, 0.53 mmol, 3 eq to S2) and was vortexed for 5 min before NMR analysis. ¹H-NMR analysis enabled determination of the concentration of Ea-CAI-1 by integration of the Ea-CAI-1 vinyl methyl doublet $(8\ 1.65)$ to the PhMe methyl singlet (δ 2.29). The concentration of Ea-CAI-1 determined in this manner was 13.6 μ M (0.029) mmol, 16% from S2). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, d6-DMSO) δ 5.53 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.60 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.65 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.53-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.17 (m, 12H), 0.85 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, d6-DMSO) δ 197.1, 141.8, 106.9, 35.2, 31.4, 29.0, 29.0, 28.8, 25.1, 22.2, 14.0, 12.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{13}H_{26}NO$ 212.2014 m/z [M+H]; observed, 212.2010 m/z [M+H]⁺.

(Z)-3-aminoundec-2-en-4-one (C8-Ea-CAI-1). Prepared in an analogous manner to Ea-CAI-1 from (Z) -tert-butyl 4-oxoundec-2-en-3-ylcarbamate (S3) in 13% overall yield. ¹H-NMR (500) MHz, d6-DMSO/PhMe internal standard) δ 5.51 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 2.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.51-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.19 (m, 8H), 0.84 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₁H₂₂NO 184.1701 m/z [M+H]; observed, 184.1699 m/z [M+H]⁺.

Refer to (Higgins et al., 2007; Kelly et al., 2009; Ng et al., 2010) for syntheses of CAI-1, Am-CAI-1, C8-CAI-1, and Am-C8-CAI-1.

6. NMR analyses of natural and synthetic CAI-1 type compounds.

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