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SI Materials and Methods

Construction of Plasmids. Plasmids, primers, and strains used and constructed in this study are listed in Tables S2–S4. For cloning, Escherichia coli strains DH5 $α$ and Top10 were used. Unless otherwise indicated, PCR was performed on either chromosomal DNA of Neisseria gonorrhoeae strain MS11 or Myxococcus xanthus strain DK1622. To construct pSJ082, T4P secretin-associated protein (tsaP) (annotated as NGFG_01788 in N. gonorrhoeae strain MS11) was amplified by PCR using primers 592 and 593, digested with KpnI and BamHI, and ligated into pIDN3. To construct pKS001, $tsaP_{NG}$ was amplified by PCR using primers 1001 and 1002, digested with KpnI and EcoRI, and ligated into pIDN3. To construct pKS007, $tsaP_{NG}$ was amplified by PCR using primers 1058 and 1057, digested with NdeI and HindIII, and cloned into pSJ023. To construct pAW001, $tsaP_{NG}$ was amplified by PCR using primers 1061 and 1052, digested with NdeI and XhoI, and ligated into pET20b(+). pIMB1 was constructed by cloning overlap PCR product of the two PCR fragments generated with the omxan_3001-A and omxan_3001-B primers and the omxan_3001-C and omxan_3001-D primers into the HindIII and EcoRI sites of pBJ114. To construct pIMB2, the $tsaP_{MX}$ gene (annotated as Mxan 3001 in M. xanthus strain DK1622) was amplified by PCR with the primers omxan 3001-1 and omxan_3001-2, digested with XbaI and HindIII, and cloned into pSW105. To create pIMB3, the piA promoter and tsa P_{MX} were amplified from pIMB2 using the primers omxan_3001-3 and omxan_3001-4. The PCR product was digested with EcoRI and BamHI, and cloned into the pKA28 vector. To create pIMB5, $tsaP_{MX}$ lacking the first 21 bp was amplified with the omxan_3001-7 and omxan_3001-8 primers, digested with BamHI and HindIII, and cloned into the $pET45b(+)$ vector.

Construction of N. gonorrhoeae Strains. N. gonorrhoeae mutants were created by homologous recombination into the chromosome. Either plasmid DNA or PCR products were introduced by natural transformation or electroporation as described previously (1). MS11 was used as the WT strain. To generate SJ004- MS, in which a sequence encoding a $His₈$ -tag was inserted between P154 and F155 of the small basic repeat region of PilQ, two PCR products were generated with primers 552 and 572 and primers 573 and 553. These products were mixed and used as a template for a third PCR using primers 552 and 553. This PCR product was transformed to strain MS11. To generate strain SJ082-MS, in which $tsaP$ is disrupted by insertion of plasmid pIDN3, MS11 was transformed with pSJ082. To generate strain KS035, in which the tsaP deletion in strain SJ082-MS is complemented by a copy of tsaP behind the lac promoter of plasmid pSJ023 inserted between the lctP and aspC genes, SJ082-MS was transformed with pKS007. All chromosomal mutations were confirmed by DNA sequence analysis.

Construction of M. xanthus Strains. For all experiments with M. xanthus, DK1622 was used as WT and all M. xanthus strains M. xanthus, DK1622 was used as WT and all M. xanthus strains used are derivatives of DK1622. Plasmids were introduced into M. xanthus by electroporation. SA6011, which contains an inframe deletion of $tsaP$ from positions 31–1,176 relative to the start codon, was generated by transformation of DK1622 with pIMB1 using standard techniques (2). M. xanthus strains SA6014 and SA6013, in which the $tsaP_{MX}$ deletion is complemented either by tsa P_{MX} or by a C-terminal fusion of mCherrry to tsa P_{MX} under control of the *pilA* promoter, were generated by electroporation of SA6011 with pIMB2 and pIMB3, respectively, followed

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by integration of the two plasmids at the Mx8 attB site. The Cterminal fusion of mCherry to $tsaP_{MX}$ under control of the piA promoter was introduced in different strains by electroporation with plasmid pIMB3. C-terminal fusions of PilO, PilP, and PilQ to superfolder GFP (sfGFP) under control of the *pilA* promoter were introduced in the $\triangle t$ sa \angle ^p strain by electroporation with the plasmids pSC106, pSC102, and pSC120, respectively. An N-terminal fusion of YFP to PilT under control of the pilA promoter was introduced in the ^ΔtsaP strain by electroporation with the plasmid pIB75. All strains constructed were confirmed by PCR.

Growth. E. coli stains were grown at 37 °C in either LB or Luria agar plates. When required, erythromycin (450 μg/mL), ampicillin (100 μg/mL), or isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactoside (IPTG; 0.5 M) was added. N. gonorrhoeae strains were grown in gonoccocal base medium liquid (GCBL) medium with 0.042% sodium bicarbonate and Kellogg's supplements (3) or on gonococcal base (GCB) plates containing Kellogg's supplements at 37 $^{\circ}$ C in 5% (vol/vol) CO₂. When required, erythromycin (10 μg/mL), chloramphenicol (10 μg/ mL), or IPTG (1 mM) was added. M. xanthus strains were grown at 32 °C in 1% Casitone-Tris (CTT) broth (4) or on CTT agar plates supplemented with 1.5% (wt/vol) agar. Kanamycin (50 μg/mL) or oxytetracycline (10 μg/mL) was added when appropriate.

Detailed Purification of TsaP. E. coli BL21 star (DE3) cells transformed with pAW001 were grown to an OD_{600} of 0.5 in LB at 37 °C and induced with 0.5 mM IPTG. After incubation for another 3 h, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4 °C for 10 min at $7,500 \times g$. Cells were resuspended in 10 mL of buffer B [100 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole, 10% (wt/vol) glycerol, 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.5)] containing Protease Inhibitor Mixture (Roche) and 10 μg/mL DNase I, and then lysed by three passages through a French press at 1,000 psi. The suspension was centrifuged at 4 °C for 10 min at $12,000 \times g$, followed by ultracentrifugation for 30 min at 180,000 \times g. The supernatant was loaded on a HiTrap Chelating HP column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with buffer B. After washing the column with buffer B containing 20, 40, and 50 mM imidazole, TsaP was eluted with a gradient from 50–400 mM imidazole in buffer B. Fractions containing TsaP were collected. These fractions were applied to a Superdex 75 HiLoad 16/60 column equilibrated with buffer C [100 mM NaCl, 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.5)]. Fractions containing TsaP were collected and frozen.

Detailed Purification of His6-TsaP_{MX}Δ7 Under Denaturing Conditions. E. coli Rosetta 2 (DE3) cells transformed with plasmid pIMB5 were grown to an OD_{600} of 0.5 in LB at 37 °C and induced with 1 mM IPTG at 18 °C overnight. His₆-TsaP_{MX} Δ 7 was purified from inclusion bodies under denaturing conditions on an Ni^{2+} nitrilotriacetic acid-agarose column (Qiagen) using buffer B [8 M urea, 10 mM Tris, 100 mM $NaH₂PO₄$ (pH 8.0)] as described by the manufacturer. The bound protein was eluted with buffer E containing 8 M urea, 10 mM Tris, and 100 mM $NaH₂PO₄$ (pH 4.5), and then dialyzed against 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole, and 50 mM NaH₂PO₄ (pH 8.0).

Peptidoglycan Isolation, Binding, and Zymography. Murein sacculi of N. gonorrhoeae cells were purified as described previously (5) from 3 L of an exponentially growing culture. The presence of sacculi was confirmed by EM. To test for binding to peptidoglycan (PG), 5 μg of purified N. gonorrhoeae TsaP or 5 μg of E. coli exonuclease I was incubated with or without 1 mg of PG in a volume of 150 μL for 1 h at 15 °C in protein purification buffer C [100 mM NaCl, 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.5)]. Samples were spun

down in an airfuge (Beckman Coulter) at 20 pounds per square inch gage (psig) for 10 min. The supernatant (unbound fraction) was collected, and the pellet was resuspended in protein purification buffer C. The samples were spun down again at 20 psig for 10 min. The supernatant (wash fraction) was collected, and the pellet fraction was resuspended in 4% (wt/vol) SDS in buffer C, incubated for 2 h at 15 °C, and centrifuged for 5 min at 15 psig.

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- 2. Shi X, et al. (2008) Bioinformatics and experimental analysis of proteins of twocomponent systems in Myxococcus xanthus. J Bacteriol 190(2):613–624.
- 3. Nicolson IJ, Perry AC, Heckels JE, Saunders JR (1987) Genetic analysis of variant pilin genes from Neisseria gonorrhoeae P9 cloned in Escherichia coli: Physical and immunological properties of encoded pilins. J Gen Microbiol 133(3):553–561.

The supernatant was collected (bound fraction). All fractions were precipitated with trichloroacetic acid and analyzed by immunoblotting. To test for PG hydrolysis activity of TsaP, 5 μg of purified TsaP was loaded on 12% SDS/PAGE gels containing 0.04% PG and zymography was performed essentially as described (5). Five micrograms of BSA and 5 μg of lysozyme and mutanolysin were loaded as negative and positive controls, respectively.

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Fig. S1. Analysis of purified PilQ by EM. Elution fractions of the PilQ purification were applied to carbon-coated copper grids and negatively stained with 2% (wt/vol) uranyl acetate. PilQ particles are indicated by the red boxes. (Scale bar: 100 nm.)

Fig. S2. Alignment of TsaP homologs of different organisms. TsaP homologs described in Table S1 were aligned. Colored residues are <50% conserved. The putative signal sequence cleavage site is indicated with a black arrow, whereas the LysM domain is indicated with a green box. Residues (G40, D41, T42, N70, and G77) that are highly conserved in LysM domains are indicated in bold below the alignment.

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Fig. S3. Characterization of binding of TsaP to isolated PG sacculi. (A) TsaP was overexpressed and purified from E. coli. Fractions eluted from the size exclusion column at a size corresponding to the monomer were analyzed by SDS/PAGE and Coomassie staining. (B) PG sacculi were isolated from N. gonorrhoeae and analyzed by EM. (C) To test for binding of TsaP to PG, 5 µg of TsaP was incubated without (Upper, -PG) or with (Upper, +PG) 1 mg of PG. Samples (total, T) were centrifuged, the supernatant was collected (supernatant, S), and the pellet was resuspended. The samples were centrifuged again, the supernatant (wash, W) was collected, and the pellet fraction (Pellet, P) was resuspended. The different fractions were analyzed by immunoblotting using α-TsaP antibodies. As a control, 5 µg of purified His₁₀-tagged exonuclease I was incubated without (Lower, −PG) or with (Lower, +PG) 1 mg of PG, treated as described above, and Legend continued on following page

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analyzed using α-His antibodies. To test for PG hydrolysis, zymography was performed. (D) Lysozyme, mutanolysin, TsaP, and BSA (5 μg each) were applied to SDS gels containing purified murein sacculi. (Left) Proteins were stained with Coomassie blue. (Right) Second gel was incubated in renaturation buffer to allow for refolding of the proteins, and PG hydrolysis was detected by staining of sacculi with methylene blue. Clear zones of hydrolysis are observed for mutanolysin and lysozyme but not for BSA and TsaP. The hydrolysis zone of mutanolysin was observed at a height comparable to proteins with a molecular weight of ∼250 kDa. Most likely, mutanolysin is not completely unfolded during the SDS/PAGE and is retarded by binding to the murein during electrophoresis, an effect that has been seen for other proteins before (1). Because the high level of O-acetylation of N. gonorrhoeae murein inhibits the activity of lysozyme (2), the specific activity of lysozyme was lower than the activity of mutanolysin.

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Fig. S4. TsaP is important for type 4 pili (T4P)-dependent colony morphology. The indicated N. gonorrhoeae strains were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h on GCB plates. (Scale bar: 1 cm.)

Fig. S5. Projection maps of single-particle EM analysis of the PilQ complex from the N. gonorrhoeae ΔtsaP/tsaP⁺ strain. (A) Two-dimensional map of the ΔtsaP/ $tsaP^+$ particle seen in a slightly tilted top-view position. A small protein domain is visible inside the inner rings, especially in the lower half. It is present in 14 copies, but some copies in the upper half are partly invisible because of partial overlap with the main body of the ring, which is the effect of tilt on the carbon support film of most of the particles. (B) Fine details become stronger after imposing a high-pass filter on the image in such a way that all waves with a frequency representing wavelengths lower than 1.5 nm have been suppressed by 50%. The red dots mark places with a wider part of the inner rings to which the small protein domains are connected. (Scale bar: 10 nm.)

Fig. S6. TsaP levels are reduced in membranes of the ΔpilQ strain but not in the membranes of the ΔpilC, ΔpilF, ΔpilP, and ΔpilW strains. (A) Immunoblot analysis of equal amounts of total cell extracts of the N. gonorrhoeae WT, ΔpilQ, ΔtsaP, ΔpilC, ΔpilF, ΔpilP, and ΔpilW strains using α-TsaP antibodies. (B) Immunoblot analysis of membranes isolated from the N. gonorrhoeae WT, ΔpilQ, ΔtsaP, ΔpilC, ΔpilF, ΔpilP, and ΔpilW strains using α-TsaP antibodies.

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Fig. S7. Polar localization of TsaP_{MX} specifically depends on PilQ_{MX} and Tgl_{MX}. (A) TsaP protein levels in WT and the indicated in-frame deletion mutants. Equal amounts of total cell extracts of the indicated strains were separated by SDS/PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with antibodies directed against TsaP. A nonspecific band present in all samples is indicated by the black triangle. (B) Localization of TsaP_{MX}-mCherry in WT and the indicated in-frame deletion mutants. Cells from exponentially growing cultures of the indicated genotypes were transferred to a 1.5% (wt/vol) agar pad on a microscope slide and imaged by fluorescence microscopy. (Insets) Corresponding phase-contrast images. Note that the ΔpilQ strain is also included for comparison. (Scale bar for main figure and Inset: 5 μm.) (C) Patterns of fluorescence signals were grouped into two categories. The histogram illustrates the distribution of localization patterns of TsaP_{MX}-mCherry in the indicated in-frame deletion mutants ($n = 90-250$). (D) Immunoblot analysis of the accumulation of TsaP_{MX}-mCherry. Equal amounts of total cell extracts of the indicated strains were separated by SDS/PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting using α -mCherry antibodies. Positions of TsaP_{MX}mCherry (Right) and molecular size markers (Left) in kilodaltons are indicated.

Fig. S8. Accumulation and localization of M. xanthus proteins involved in T4P are independent of TsaP_{MX}. (A) Immunoblot analyses of the accumulation of different M. xanthus proteins involved in T4P assembly in the ΔtsaP_{MX} mutant. Immunoblotting was performed as described in Fig. S7C using the indicated antibodies. Detected proteins with molecular sizes are indicated on the right. (B–E) Localization of PilB_{MX}, PilC_{MX}, PilM_{MX}, and PilN_{MX} was determined by immunofluorescence microscopy with specific antibodies. (Insets) Corresponding phase-contrast images. (Scale bar for main figure and Inset: 5 μm.) The histograms illustrate the distribution of localization patterns ($n = 150-330$). Black and gray bars indicate polar and diffuse localization, respectively. (F-I) Localization of PilT_{MX}, PilO_{MX}, PilP_{MX}, and PilQ_{MX} in the ΔtsaP_{MX} mutant was investigated using fluorescent fusions as described in Fig. S7A. (Insets) Corresponding phase-contrast images. (Scale bar for main figure and Inset: 5 μ m.) The histograms illustrate the distribution of localization patterns (n = 60-250). Black and gray bars indicate polar and diffuse localization, respectively. (Right) Immunoblot analyses of the accumulation of fluorescently tagged proteins are shown. Relevant proteins and molecular size markers in kilodaltons are indicated.

Table S1. Nomenclature of TsaP homologs and ATPase and secretin proteins of type IV pili assembly systems and type 2 secretion systems of different organisms

^aNeisseria gonorrhoeae MS11.

^bNeisseria meningitidis Fam18.

c Ralstonia solanacearum GMI1000.

^dMethylobacillus flagellatus KT.

f Azoarcus sp. BH72.

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⁹Methylococcus capsulatus str. Bath.

h Dichelobacter nodosus VCS1703A. i Escherichia coli O104:H4 str. C227-11.

ⁱAggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans D11S-1.

k Shewanella putrefaciens CN-32.

l Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1.

^mLegionella pneumophila subsp. pneumophila str. Philadelphia I.

ⁿVibrio cholerae O1 biovar El Tor str. N16961.

^oXanthomonas campestris pv. Campestris str. American Type Culture Collection 33913.

^PMyxococcus xanthus DK1612.

^qKlebsiella oxytoca KCTC 1686.

r Yersinia enterocolitica subsp. enterocolitica 8081.

Table S2. Plasmids used in this work

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6. Bulyha I, et al. (2009) Regulation of the type IV pili molecular machine by dynamic localization of two motor proteins. Mol Microbiol 74(3):691–706.

7. Friedrich C, Bulyha I, Sogaard-Andersen L (2014) Outside-In Assembly Pathway of the Type IV Pilus System in Myxococcus xanthus. J Bacteriol 196(2):378–390.

Table S3. Primers used in this work

^aNucleotides that align with the targeted sequence are depicted in capitals.

Table S4. Strains used in this work

SVNG PNS

^aIn constructs with the P_{pilA}, genes were transcribed from the pilA promoter. All plasmids were integrated at the Mx8 attB site.

1. Swanson J (1972) Studies on gonococcus infection. II. Freeze-fracture, freeze-etch studies on gonocci. J Exp Med 136(5):1258–1271.

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6. Friedrich C, Bulyha I, Sogaard-Andersen L (2014) Outside-In Assembly Pathway of the Type IV Pilus System in Myxococcus xanthus. J Bacteriol 196(2):378–390.

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