

## Crosstalk Inhibition Nullified by a Receiver Domain Missense Substitution

TuAnh Ngoc Huynh,<sup>a\*</sup> Hsia-Yin Lin,<sup>a†</sup> Chris E. Noriega,<sup>b‡</sup> Alice V. Lin,<sup>c§</sup> and Valley Stewart<sup>a,b,c#</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Food Science Graduate Group, <sup>b</sup> Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, <sup>c</sup> Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Graduate Group, University of California, Davis, California 95616-8665

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### RESPONSE REGULATOR SEQUENCE FAMILIES

Receiver domain phylogenetic analysis was conducted as described in Materials and Methods. Sequences included in these analyses are listed in **Table S1**. A representative result is presented in **Fig. S1**; trees generated from different sequence subsets and/or with different parameters differed in detail but shared similar overall topologies with respect to the major groups (clades).

Results extend conclusions drawn from prior studies (1, 7, 8, 96, 97). We sort these response regulator sequences into four groups, based on receiver domain phylogenetic affinity and conserved sequence features as well as on output domains. Note that several receiver domain features differentiate the FixJ-StyR and NarL-VraR families.

**OmpR-PhoB sequence family.** These response regulators mostly have the winged helix DNA binding domain. Most interact with the closely-related HPK1, HpK2 or HPK3 sequence family transmitter modules (8), excepting a few that interact with Hpt domains from phosphorelays (see below).

**NtrC-DctD receiver sequence family.** These response regulators have a central ATPase domain plus the Fis DNA-binding domain, and interact with the distinct HPK4 sequence family of transmitter modules (8). Receiver domain sequences are similar to those of the OmpR-PhoB family; the most obvious distinction is at CheY position 104, which is Asp or Asn in the OmpR-PhoB family but Phe or Tyr in the NtrC-DctD family (**Fig. S2**).

**FixJ-StyR sequence family.** These response regulators have the GerE DNA binding domain. Nevertheless, the receiver domain sequence families clearly are distinct from those of the NarL-VraR family, both in phylogenetic position (**Fig. S1**) and in conserved sequence features (**Fig. S2**). Instead, the receiver domain sequences are very similar to those of the NtrC-DctD family, as noted previously (8, 96).

**NarL-VraR sequence family.** These response regulators all have the GerE DNA binding domain. Our analysis consciously included more representatives from this group, in part to explore sequence diversity at position T+1 (see below). Two sets of

sequences, represented by FihR and BvgA, clustered on the edges of the NarL phylogenetic group (**Fig. S1**); however, these did not have obvious differentiating features.

**Exceptional sequences.** A few proteins included in this analysis have OmpR-PhoB family receiver domain sequences and interact with HPK1-type transmitters, and evidently arose through domain shuffling (8, 96). These are AlgB.Pa, which has a central ATPase domain plus the Fis DNA-binding domain characteristic of NtrC-DctD family members, and PprB.Pa, Pden\_3311, and SMb20610, all of which a GerE family DNA binding domain. Interestingly, these latter three proteins have longer interdomain linker sequences (PprB.Pa, 73 residues; Pden\_3311, 129; SMb20610, 114) than is typical for NarL-VraR or FixJ-StyR family members (13-36 residues).

### RECEIVER DOMAIN SEQUENCE FEATURES

**Fig. S2** shows sequence logos compiled from the receiver domain sequences used to construct **Fig. S1**. Note that sequences from the OmpR-PhoB, NtrC-DctD and FixJ-StyR families are quite similar to each other, so distinctions between these three families are based mostly on their different output domains. The NarL-VraR family sequences by contrast are quite distinct. Here we focus on three positions where conserved differences may have functional consequences.

**Position T+1 (CheY residue 88).** As noted previously by Volz (7), the NarL-VraR family exhibits considerable sequence diversity at this position, whereas most sequences from the other families have either Gly or Ala (**Fig. S2; Table S1**). The outer ring in **Fig. S1** is colored to indicate the identity of the T+1 residue for each sequence. It is immediately apparent that diversity at this position is scattered throughout the NarL-VraR family. Thus, the identity of the T+1 residue has no ostensible value in differentiating subgroups within this family.

**Position K+1 (CheY residue 110).** Again as noted previously by Volz (7), the NarL-VraR family exhibits considerable sequence diversity at this position, whereas most sequences from the other families have Pro (**Fig. S2; Table S1**). In the HK853-RR468 complex, receiver residue Pro-106 (K+1) contacts DHP residues Leu-266, Thr-267 and Lys-270, just carboxyl-terminal to the active site region spanning residues His-260 (phospho-accepting) through Thr-264 (81). The corresponding region in HisKA\_3 sensors displays a different sequence conservation pattern (14). Thus, the absence of a Pro residue at position K+1 may reflect differences in detail for receiver domain interaction between HisKA and HisKA\_3 DHP domains. indeed, a Glu-to-Lys missense

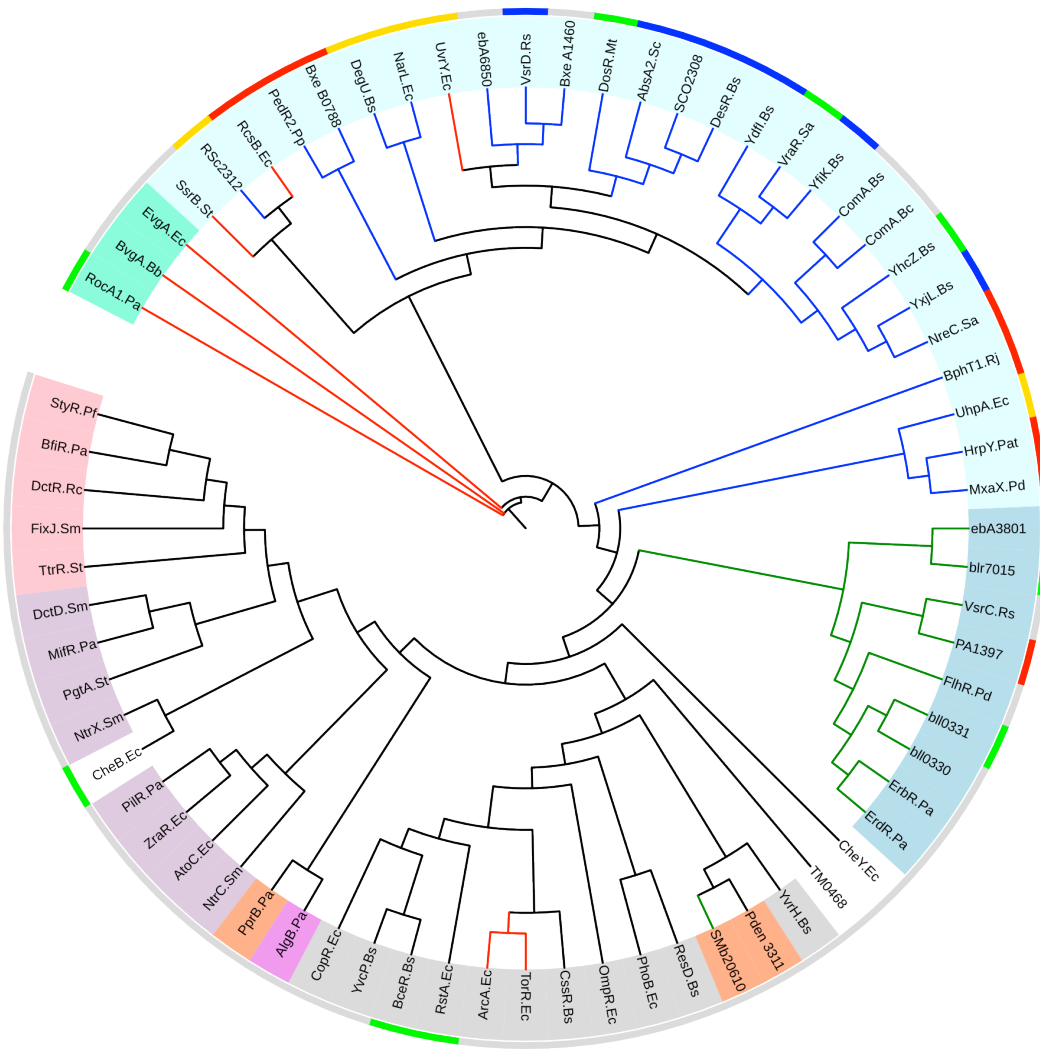
substitution at this position in NarL (E110K) apparently causes decreased interaction with the cross-regulating NarQ sensor (16).

**Position DD+1 (CheY residue 14).** The NarL-VraR family sequences have a polar His or Gln residue at this position, whereas most sequences from the other families have an acidic residue (Asp or Glu) (**Fig. S2; Table S1**). A His-to-Leu missense substitution at this position in DegU (Q12L) apparently causes decreased interaction with the cognate DegS sensor (99, 100), congruent with the recessive null phenotype conferred by the analogous substitution (H15L) in NarL (16).

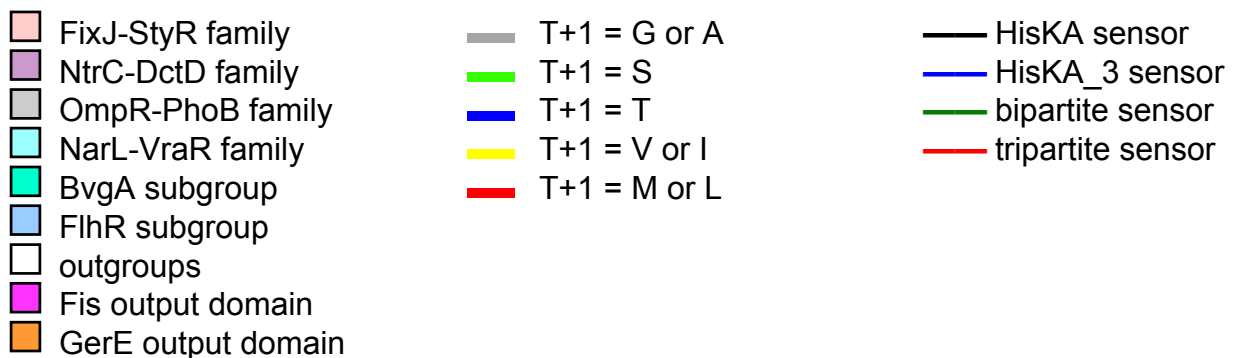
### **ASSOCIATIONS WITH HYBRID SENSORS**

Phosphorelays involve His-Asp-His-Asp phosphoryl transfer from the DHP domain (H1) through receiver (D1) and Hpt (H2) domains to the response regulator receiver domain (D2) (9). Tripartite hybrid sensors contain the H1, D1 and H2 domains in a single protein, whereas bipartite hybrid sensors contain only H1 and D1 domains, and transfer the phosphoryl group to a separate Hpt (H2) protein. **Fig. S1** indicates response regulators that partner with bipartite (green lines) and tripartite (red lines) sensors. For the subset of response regulators included in this analysis, those partnered with bipartite hybrid sensors cluster at one end of the NarL-VraR family (FlhR group). However, other bipartite hybrid sensors partner with response regulators from other families; one example is the LuxN sensor, which partners through the LuxU Hpt domain protein to the LuxO response regulator, a member of the NtrC-DctD family (Ng and Bassler, 2009, *Annu. Rev. Genet.* **43**:197–222).

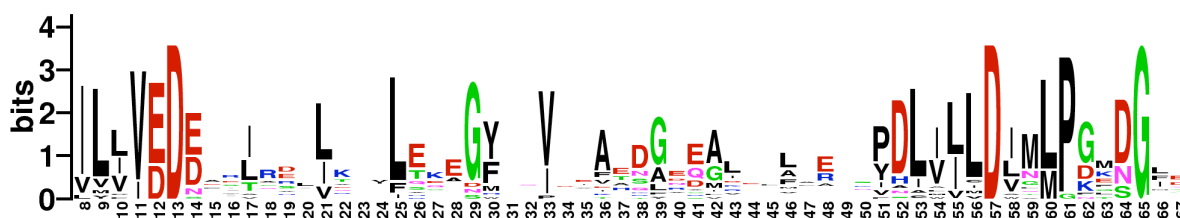
Similarly, tripartite hybrid sensors partner with response regulators from different families; examples shown in **Fig. S1** include ArcB (partnered with the OmpR-PhoB family response regulator ArcA), and BarA (partnered with the NarL-VraR family response regulator UvrY). Thus, although there are strong associations between receiver domain and transmitter sequence families for standard two-component pairs, there is no obvious association for phosphorelays. This may reflect distinct specificity determinants for different Hpt domain families, which to our knowledge have not yet been defined in detail.



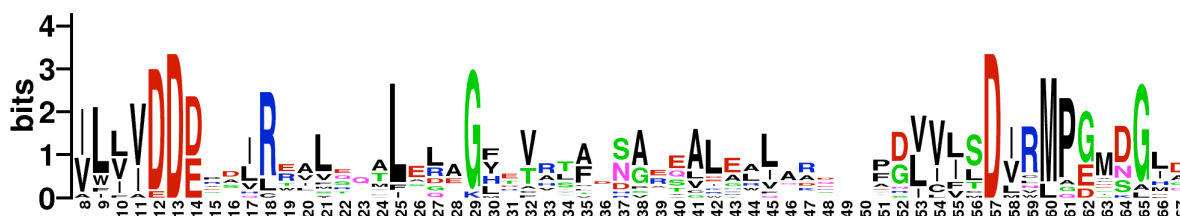
**Fig. S1.** Representative phylogram for receiver domains, The input file contained 86 sequences, and was constructed through the subtree pruning and regrafting method (see Materials and Methods for details). The resulting log likelihood value is  $-19,646.6$ . For presentation clarity, the tree was manually "pruned" in iTOL to remove closely-similar sequences, leaving the 70 sequences shown (see **Table S2**).



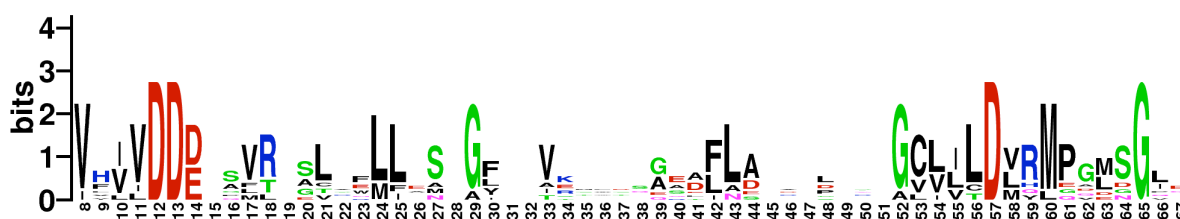
### A. OmpR-PhoB Family (N-terminal half)



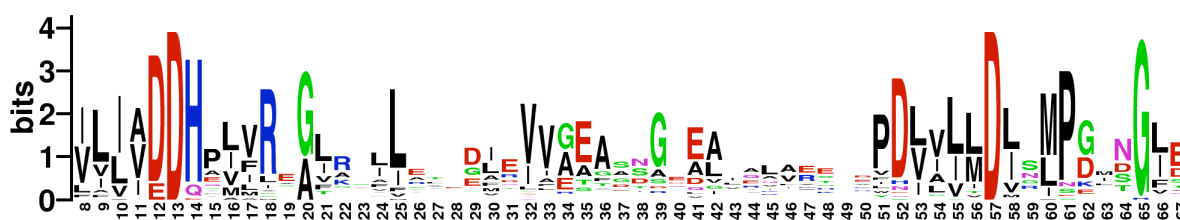
### B. NtrC-DctD Family (N-terminal half)



### C. FixJ-StyR Family (N-terminal half)

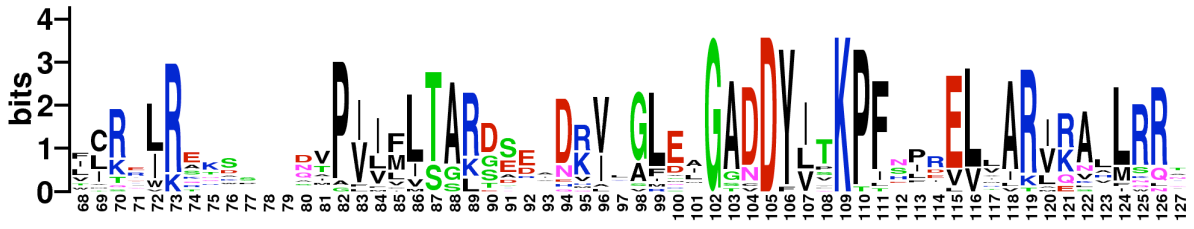


### D. NarL-VraR Family (N-terminal half)

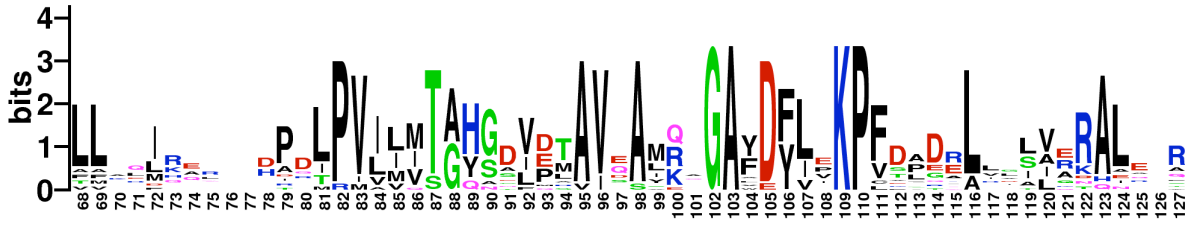


**Fig. S2.** Receiver domain sequence logos. Sequences are those depicted in **Fig. S1**. Numbering corresponds to that for CheY.Ec. See Materials and Methods for details of logo construction.

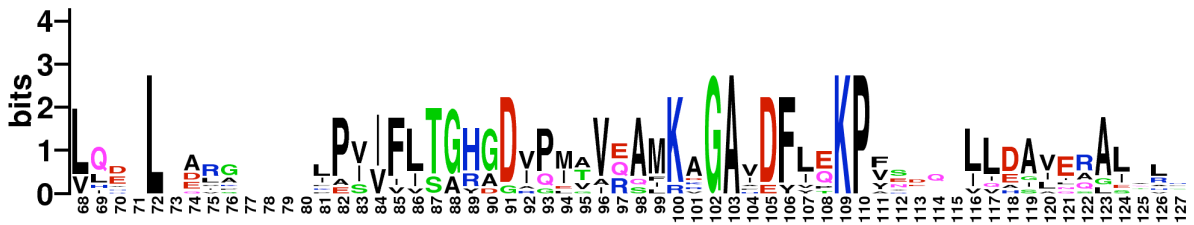
**A. OmpR-PhoB Family (C-terminal half)**



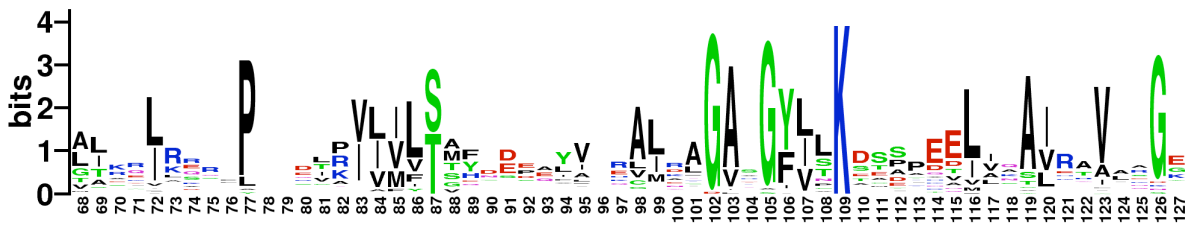
**B. NtrC-DctD Family (C-terminal half)**



**C. FixJ-StyR Family (C-terminal half)**



**D. NarL-VraR Family (C-terminal half)**



**Fig. S2** (continued). Receiver domain sequence logos.



