#### Supplemental Data

#### **A metabolic pathway for catabolizing levulinic acid in bacteria**

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#### **Supplementary Note**

To further investigate genes involved in LA metabolism, random bar code transposon-site sequencing (RB-TnSeq) was performed for the growth of *P. putida* on LA and 4HV. RB-TnSeq is an efficient method for determining gene importance under different conditions with high genomic coverage<sup>1</sup>. A summary of genes identified as particularly interesting to the authors is shown in **Supplementary Table 1** including fitness scores for growth on minimal media with LA or 4HV relative to minimal media with glucose or the initial inoculum grown in LB. All data from these experiments is available through the fitness browser at http://fit.genomics.lbl.gov/cgi-bin/exps.cgi?orgId=Putida&expGroup=carbon%20source<sup>2</sup>.

#### *RB-TnSeq Results are Consistent with Evidence Provided in the Main Text*

All genes mentioned in the main text are shown with their fitness scores for growth on LA and 4HV in **Supplementary Table 1**. Genes that were identified as transposon library hits have their gene loci highlighted in red italics.

RB-TnSeq analysis suggests the genes identified as constituting the LA metabolism operon *lvaABCDEFG* as well as the proposed regulator *lvaR* were important for growth on both LA and 4HV with a few exceptions described as follows. *lvaB* was excluded from the data summary for growth on LA and 4HV due to insufficient barcode insertions in this small gene and *lvaE* (shown to not be essential for growth on LA in the main text) shows no phenotype on LA.

RB-TnSeq analysis suggests *lvaF* and *lvaG* are not important for growth on LA or 4HV, suggesting they are not required for transport of these metabolites at the concentrations used in the experiments. The positive fitness scores of these genes for growth on 4HV suggest that the 4HV concentrations used in this experiment had negative effects on fitness, an effect that would be alleviated by elimination of import system (See section below: *Potential Induction of Quorum-Sensing Systems by γ-Valerolactone*). None of the remaining transposon library hits from the main text exhibited interesting phenotypes in the RB-TnSeq experiment, suggesting they may have been dependent upon the transposon library experiment.

In addition to genes identified in the main text, genes of interest shown in **Supplementary Table 1** were identified using the following criteria:

Important for Fitness in LA and 4HV: Fitness scores lower than -2 for both LA and 4HV.

Important for Fitness in LA but not 4HV: Fitness score for LA lower than -2 and fitness score for 4HV greater than -2.

Important for Fitness in 4HV but not LA: Fitness score for 4HV lower than -2 and fitness score for LA greater than -2.

Enhanced Fitness in 4HV: Fitness score greater than 2 for 4HV.

This list of genes of interest was further refined by eliminating genes that shared a phenotype with growth on acetate as these results were considered not relevant to the scope of this work.

### *β-Oxidation of 3-Hydroxyvaleryl-CoA to Propionyl-CoA and Acetyl-CoA by Genes Important for Growth on LA and 4HV*

As proposed in the main text, the 3-hydroxyvaleryl-CoA metabolite produced in LA metabolism could be utilized through β-Oxidation to form Propionyl-CoA and Acetyl-CoA. RB-TnSeq analysis helped to identify potential candidate genes for this pathway:

PP\_3755 is annotated as a 3-hydroxybutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase, suggesting that this enzyme catalyzes the conversion of 3-hydroxyvaleryl-CoA to 3-ketovaleryl-CoA.

PP 3754 is annotated as a β-ketothiolase, suggesting that this enzyme catalyzes the conversion of 3-ketovaleryl-CoA to propionyl-CoA and Acetyl-CoA.

PP\_3753 is annotated as a transcriptional regulator and its location directly upstream of the two previous genes suggests a role in the regulation of these two β-oxidation genes.

### *Propionyl-CoA Metabolism by Genes Important for Growth on LA and 4HV*

After propionyl-CoA is formed through the mechanism proposed in the previous section, it could be further metabolized to form succinate and pyruvate through the 2-methylcitrate cycle. PP\_2337 is annotated as a methylaconitate isomerase (prpF), suggesting that the pathway utilized is the 2-methylcitrate cycle II that passes through a *trans*-2-methyl-aconitate intermediate. RB-TnSeq analysis helped to identify potential candidate genes for this pathway:

PP\_2335 is annotated as a methylcitrate synthase, suggesting that this enzyme catalyzes the reaction of propionyl-CoA with oxaloacetate to form 2-methylcitrate.

PP\_2336 is annotated as an aconitate hydratase. PP\_2339, an additional gene in close chromosomal proximity but with insufficient BarSeq data for analysis is also annotated as an aconitate hydratase. These results suggest that some combination of these two enzymes catalyze both the conversion of 2-methylcitrate to *trans*-2 methylaconitate and the downstream conversion of *cis*-2-methylaconitate to 2-methylisocitrate.

PP\_2337 is annotated as a methylaconitate isomerase, suggesting that this enzyme catalyzes the conversion of *trans*-2-methylaconitate to *cis*-2-methylaconitate.

PP\_2334 is annotated as a 2-methylisocitrate lyase, suggesting that this enzyme catalyzes the conversion of 2 methylisocitrate to succinate and pyruvate.

PP\_2333 is annotated as a transcriptional regulator and its location directly upstream of the PP\_2334-2339 genes suggests a role in the regulation of these propionyl-CoA metabolism genes.

### *Potential LA CoA Transferase*

In the main text, *lvaE* was shown to catalyze the conversion of LA to levulinyl-CoA as well as the conversion of 4HV to 4-hydroxyvalerly-CoA. *lvaE* is essential for growth on 4HV but not essential for growth on LA, suggesting that there is another enzyme capable of catalyzing the conversion of LA to levulinyl-CoA. PP\_3122 and PP\_3123 are annotated as acetoacetyl CoA-transferase subunits A and B respectively and are both important for growth on LA but not 4HV, suggesting they could fill the role of the additional catalyst for levulinyl-CoA formation. PP\_3121 is also important for growth on LA but not 4HV and is annotated as a transcriptional regulator. Its genomic context suggests it regulates the expression of PP\_3122 and PP\_3123. This set of genes is analogous to the *dhcAB* operon involved in catabolism of carnitine in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. PP\_3121 shares 72% sequence identity across 95% of its sequence with *dhcR* (PA1998) and PP\_3122 and PP\_3123 share 86% and 90% identity across their entire sequences with *dhcA* (PA1999) and *dhcB* (PA2000), respectively. *dhcR* regulates expression of the *dhcAB* operon encoding a predicted 3-ketoacid CoA-transferase with evidence of activity on 3-dehydrocarnitine<sup>3</sup>. PP\_3121-PP\_3123 could serve a similar role in catabolism of LA.

### *Transcriptional Regulators Control Both Beneficial and Detrimental Systems for Fitness Under LA and 4HV Metabolism*

PP\_3286 and PP\_3753 are annotated as transcriptional regulators and RB-TnSeq analysis suggests they are important for growth on LA and 4HV. The annotation for PP\_3286 suggests involvement in the regulation of phenylacetic acid metabolism. As previously stated, genomic context suggests the involvement of PP\_3753 in the regulation of the probable β-oxidation genes PP\_3754-3755.

PP\_3121 and PP\_4515 are annotated as transcriptional regulators and RB-TnSeq analysis suggests they are important for growth on LA but not important for growth on 4HV. As previously stated, genomic context suggests PP\_3121 regulates expression of the potential acetoacetyl-CoA transferase subunits PP\_3122-3123. The regulatory role of PP\_4515 is unclear.

Conversely, PP\_0995, PP\_1328, PP\_1968, PP\_2333, and PP\_2436 are annotated as transcriptional regulators and RB-TnSeq analysis suggests they are important for growth on 4HV, but not important for growth on LA. PP\_0995 shares 41% homology across its entire sequence with a gene in *Caulobacter crescentus* (CC3252) thought to be involved in sigma factor regulation for heavy metal stress, although its regulatory role in *Pseudomonas putida* is unclear<sup>4</sup>. As previously stated, genomic context suggests the involvement of PP\_2333 in the regulation of the probable propionyl-CoA metabolism genes PP\_2333-2339. The regulatory functions of PP\_1328, PP\_1968, and PP 2436 are unclear.

PP\_0191, PP\_1236, PP\_2144, PP\_3603, and PP\_4734 are annotated as transcriptional regulators and RB-TnSeq analysis suggests their deletions are beneficial for growth on 4HV. PP\_0191 is annotated as a regulator of alginate bioaccumulation, suggesting a role in biofilm formation. PP\_1236 is annotated as a regulator of a glycine cleavage system and a close homolog in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PA1009) is involved in the regulation of host colonization<sup>5</sup>. PP\_2144 has a close homolog in *Pseudomonas syringae* (*psrA*) that is involved in the regulation of epiphytic fitness, quorum-sensing, and plant host interactions<sup>6</sup>.

PP\_3603 and PP\_4734 are annotated as fatty acid responsive transcriptional regulators with unknown regulatory roles.

4HV used in the RB-TnSeq experiments was synthesized from γ-valerolactone as described in the methods section of the main text. As a result, residual γ-valerolactone was likely present in the experiments for growth on 4HV. Several molecules in the lactone family are known to be used as quorum sensing signals in *Pseudomonads*<sup>7</sup>. Quorum sensing responses would likely cause physiological responses towards the formation of a biofilm in the culture vessel. Cells with disruptions in these regulatory systems would replicate themselves to a higher degree resulting in a perceived increase in fitness as is the case with the transcriptional regulators PP\_0191, PP\_1236, and PP\_2144 discussed above. As γ-Valerolactone is being investigated as a promising solvent for nonenzymatic sugar production from biomass<sup>8</sup>, its effect on the quorum sensing systems of potential platform host organisms for bioprocessing should be further investigated.

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#### **Supplementary Figures**



**Supplementary Figure 1. a,** Growth curve of *P. putida* KT2440 in the presence of both glucose and LA. Glucose is metabolized before LA, supporting the theory that the *lva* operon is under catabolite repression (*n*=3, biological). Circles indicate glucose concentration [mM], squares indicate LA concentration [mM] and triangles indicate culture optical density (OD) at 600 nm. **b,** The transcription start sites (TSS) of regulator *lvaR* and *lvaA* were identified by 5'-RACE. Underlined sequence indicates ATG start codon. Triangle highlights experimentally determined TSS. Boxed sequence indicates previously annotated translation start site for *lvaA*. **c,** σ <sup>54</sup> promoter sequence for *lvaA*. Bold triangle indicates *lvaA* TSS, bold letters indicate *lvaA* promoter sequence, below is the σ <sup>54</sup>consensus sequence and (\*) indicate bases that differ from the consensus. **d,** Identification of Crc protein binding motif upstream of *lvaE* gene. Bold letters indicate start codon for *lvaE*, underlined sequence is stop codon for the preceding gene, *lvaD*, and boxed region indicates the found Crc catabolite activity motif. Above is the consensus sequence for Crc binding motifs. Error bars represent s.d.



**Supplementary Figure 2.** Growth of *P. putida lva* mutants and complementation strains on minimal plates. KO strains contain empty vector pBAD35 plasmid. Complementation strains contain gene of interest on arabinose inducible pBAD35 vector. Plates are 20 mM LA or 4HV, 0.2% arabinose and MOPS minimal media. EV, empty vector; n/m, not made; KO, knockout.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Retention times for compounds of interest identified by selective ion scanning modes. The graphs show the different m/z ratios used for scanning and the molecular formula of each compound. Since 4HV-CoA and 3HV-CoA have the same molecular formula, the method used was optimized to separate the individual peaks.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** CoA metabolites observed after 30 min incubation with LA, ATP, CoA, NAD(P)H and various enzyme combinations (*n*=3, technical). For reactions involving LvaD, NADH was the primary co-factor added excluding the sample DE (NADPH), where NADPH was used to test for activity of the LA-CoA reductase. ABDE—C indicates that the LvaABDE reaction was performed first, metabolites were separated from LvaABDE, and the resulting solution was supplemented with LvaC solely. Error bars represent s.d.



**Supplementary Figure 5. a,** LvaAB pull-down. 15% SDS-page protein gel of proteins purified by Dextrin Sepharose<sup>TM</sup> affinity chromatography. Lane 1: Ladder. Lane 2: N-terminal MBP tagged LvaA. Lane 3: N-terminal MBP tagged LvaA with native LvaB. Lane 4: N-terminal His tagged LvaA with native LvaB. Lane 5: N-terminal MBP tagged LvaA containing frameshift stop codon with native LvaB. MBP tagged LvaA has a full length molecular weight of 85 kDa. Untagged LvaB has a molecular weight of 12 kDa. **b,** 15% SDS-page protein gel of all purified proteins used in experiments. Because of the faint band seen for the original dilution of LvaB, the actual concentration of LvaB in the reactions was increased to correct for this over dilution. **c,** The results from an in gel digest and LC/MS/MS analysis. The 12 kDa band isolated from the pull-down experiment was submitted for LC/MS/MS analysis and the experimentally determined sequence was compared with the known amino acid sequence for LvaB and the peptides in agreement are shown in red. **d,** The absorbance spectra of purified LvaC. The blue indicates the absorption of dilute LvaC flavoprotein and the black is the absorbance of trichloroactetic acid treated LvaC supernatant where the protein was removed by centrifugation. **e,** LvaC flavoprotein absorbance directly compared with known flavins. Black is the protein flavin supernatant from A, yellow is pure FAD and blue is pure FMN. FAD, flavin adenine dinucleotide; FMN, flavin mononucleotide; MBP, maltose binding protein.



**Supplementary Figure 6.** MS/MS fragmentation of C<sup>5</sup> CoA compounds. Peaks highlighted in pink are fragments common to CoA. The blue box indicates parent mass, the green box highlights where the parent compound has lost an adenylated phosphoribose and yellow is the parent compound loses a phosphate group. **Supplementary Table 2** has a more descriptive list of the various fragments.

# **Supplementary Tables**



# **Supplementary Table 1. Genes of Interest Identified from RB-TnSeq Experiments**



# **Supplementary Table 1 (***continued***)**



# **Supplementary Table 2. Target MS/MS parameters for confirmation of phosphorylation of 4HV-CoA**

*\*mass difference by a single phosphate group (m/z = 79.967)*



### **Supplementary Table 3. List of mutations from evolved strains M141 and M142**

### **Supplementary Table 4.** *E. coli* **LS5218 Growth on LA**



<sup>a</sup> All strains carrying pJMR32; --, no growth;  $++$ , robust growth

**Supplementary Table 5.** Species with LvaABCD homologs. Included as an excel document.

**Supplementary Table 6.** Species with LvaACD homologs. Included as an excel document.



# **Supplementary Table 7. Strains and Plasmid List**

# **Supplementary Table 8. Primer List**



![](_page_19_Picture_91.jpeg)

# **Supplementary Table 9. Other parameters for targeted MS/MS**

#### **Supplementary Table 10. Modified Oligonucleotides used for BarSeq**

![](_page_19_Picture_92.jpeg)