

1 Supporting information for

2 **Mechanistic insights into staphylopine-mediated metal acquisition**

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21 **Supplementary procedures**

22 **Protein expression and purification.**

23 The *cntA* gene was PCR-amplified from *Staphylococcus aureus* Newman genomic DNA with the
24 primers CntA-Fw/Rv (SI Appendix, Table S4). The PCR product was digested with *NdeI* and
25 *XhoI* and further ligated into the *NdeI/XhoI* sites of a pET28a-modified vector containing the
26 human rhinovirus 3C (HRV3C) protease cleavage site. The successful construction of the
27 plasmid pET28a_HRV3C_CntA was confirmed by sequencing. The plasmid was transformed
28 into *E.coli* BL21 (DE3) for protein expression. Cells were grown in LB to an OD₆₀₀ of ~0.6 at
29 37 °C. Protein expression was induced by adding 0.5 mM IPTG to the growth media. The
30 induced cells were further cultured overnight at 20 °C. The cells were harvested by
31 centrifugation at 5000 g for 10 min.

32
33 Cell pellets were resuspended in the lysis buffer (10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl, 5%
34 glycerol, 1mM DTT), and lysed by sonication. The 6XHis-tagged protein was trapped in a His-
35 Trap HP column (GE Healthcare). The column was first washed with 20 mL lysis buffer and
36 then eluted with a buffer containing 10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 100
37 mM imidazole, and 1mM DTT. The protein was buffer exchanged into the lysis buffer using a
38 spin column (molecular-weight cutoff of 10 kDa, Merck Millipore). The 6XHis tag of the protein
39 was cleaved by the HRV 3C protease (the mass ratio of CntA and HRV 3C protease is ~ 100:1)
40 at 4 °C overnight. The protein was clarified and passed through a His-trap column to remove
41 uncleaved CntA and the HRV 3C protease. The flow-through fraction was collected and further
42 purified by using a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg column (GE Healthcare) in the elution
43 buffer (10 mM Tris·HCl pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl). The eluted protein was concentrated to a

44 concentration of ~20 mg/mL (the concentration was determined by UV-Vis spectrometry; The
45 extinction coefficient of CntA at 280 nm is ~ 57300 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹).

46
47 For site-specific mutagenesis of *cntA*, rolling-circle PCR (using the primers listed in Table S4)
48 was performed by following the standard procedures of the QuickChange Site-Directed
49 Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene). The successful construction of the mutated plasmids was
50 confirmed by sequencing. The mutant proteins were purified by using the same procedures as
51 that of the wild-type protein.

52
53 **Size-exclusion chromatography.**

54 The CntA wild-type and mutant proteins (after 6XHis tag cleavage) were subjected to size-
55 exclusion chromatography analysis by using a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg column (GE
56 Healthcare) in the elution buffer (10 mM Tris·HCl pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl) at a flow rate of 1
57 mL/min with UV detection at 280 nm.

58
59 **Protein crystallization.**

60 The first truncation of CntA we tried to crystallize is from Q35 to K532 (the amino acids are not
61 renumbered). The design of the construct is based on protein sequence alignment with structure-
62 solved solute-binding proteins. However, we could not obtain any crystal after screening 500
63 conditions. We then performed a protein secondary structure analysis. We noticed that the CntA
64 protein possesses an additional N-terminal helix (G26-N33 [the amino acids are not
65 renumbered]) compared with structure-solved SBPs. We suspected that this helix may affect
66 protein crystallization. After adding the N-terminal helix, the CntA protein was crystallized

67 successfully. The truncated region before the N-terminal helix is the lipophilic anchor.

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69 The apo-CntA protein and CntA/StP/metal (Co^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , and Zn^{2+}) complexes were crystallized by
70 using the sitting-drop, vapor-diffusion method at 16 °C. To obtain apo-CntA crystals, 1 μL
71 protein solution (15 mg/ml in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl) was mixed with an equal
72 volume of reservoir solution containing 0.1 M MES monohydrate pH 5.5, 25% (v/v)
73 polyethylene glycol 400. For co-crystallization, CntA was incubated with metal-bound StP (the
74 molar ratio of CntA and StP/ Ni^{2+} is $\sim 1:3$) before being mixed with the reservoir solution
75 containing 0.1 M citric acid pH 3.5, 14% (w/v) polyethylene glycol 1000. The CntA/StP/ Co^{2+}
76 and CntA/StP/ Zn^{2+} complexes were crystallized under the condition containing 0.1 M BICINE
77 pH 8.5, 8% w/v polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether 5000. The crystals were cryo-protected
78 and stored in liquid N_2 before data collection.

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80 **Data collection, structure determination, and refinement.**

81 The data were collected at BL18U1 and BL19U1 beamlines of National Facility for Protein
82 Science Shanghai (NFPS) at Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility. The data were processed
83 by HKL3000 (1). The phase of apo-CntA was determined by Phaser (2) from ccp4i (3) suits
84 using the structure of *Brucella suis* NikA (PDB code: 4OER) as the searching model. The phases
85 of the CntA/StP/metal complexes were determined by Phaser using the structure of apo-CntA as
86 the searching model. The models were built by Autobuild from PHENIX (4) suits. The model of
87 CntA/StP/ Co^{2+} was refined using phenix.refine from PHENIX (4) suits and the models of apo-
88 CntA, CntA/StP/ Ni^{2+} and CntA/StP/ Zn^{2+} were refined using Refmac5 from ccp4i suits (using

89 TLS and restrained refinement for the model of apo-CntA). The models were further improved
90 manually by coot (5). The final structures were visualized by Pymol (<http://www.pymol.org>).

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92 **Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC).**

93 Staphylopine (N-[3-(N-L-Alanyl)-amino-3-carboxypropyl]-D-histidine) and nicotianamine were
94 ordered from Toronto Research Chemical Inc (Toronto, Canada). The binding constants were
95 determined by using the MicroCal ITC200 system (Malvern). The wild-type CntA protein, the
96 mutant proteins, and the ligands were prepared in the same buffer containing 10 mM Tris HCl,
97 pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl. The concentrations of the proteins and the ligands for the assay were 20
98 μ M and 200 μ M, respectively. In the assay, the solutions of ligands in the syringe were slowly
99 titrated into the reaction cell containing protein solutions. The assay was performed at 25 °C with
100 a stirring speed of 750 rpm. The ligands were injected 20 times (0.4 μ l for injection 1 and 2 μ l
101 for injections 2–20), with 180 s intervals between injections. The data were analyzed with the
102 Origin7 software package (Malvern).

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104 **Construction of *cntA* gene deletion and single-base substitution mutants of *S. aureus*.**

105 The *cntA* gene deletion and single-base substitution mutants were constructed by using the
106 pCasSA system(6).

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108 In brief, a 20-bp spacer sequence (before NGG PAM site), adjacent to the desired mutation site,
109 was cloned into the pCasSA plasmid by Golden Gate assembly. When the desired mutation site
110 is not present in the PAM sequence, a silent mutation was introduced in the PAM to prevent the
111 cutting of Cas9/sgRNA complex in the genome of edited cells. To achieve this, we prepared the

112 repair arms by using a helper vector pSP72. A ~ 4 kb DNA sequence containing the entire *cntA*
113 gene and the up and down regions of *cntA* was PCR amplified from the Newman genomic DNA.
114 The desired mutation and the silent mutation (when necessary) were introduced into the repair
115 arms by site-directed mutagenesis. The repair template containing the desired mutation and the
116 silent mutation (when necessary) was PCR amplified from the pSP72_cnt plasmid and
117 subsequently cloned into the pCasSA_spacer plasmid by Gibson assembly. The plasmid was first
118 transformed into the RN4220 strain by electroporation. The successful editing in the RN4220
119 strain was confirmed by sequencing. The plasmid was then isolated from the RN4220 strain that
120 contained the desired mutation and transformed into the Newman strain by electroporation. The
121 successful editing in the Newman strain was confirmed by sequencing. The *cntA* gene deletion
122 mutants were obtained from the literature (6).

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124 ***cntA* gene complementation.**

125 The *cntA* gene and the cnt operon promoter were PCR amplified (Table S4) from the Newman
126 genomic DNA. The PCR products were inserted into the *Bam*HI site of the chromosomal
127 integration vector pCL55 (7) by Gibson assembly to generate the pCL_*cntA* plasmid (the
128 expression of *cntA* is driven by the cnt operon promoter). The pCL_*cntA* plasmid and the empty
129 pCL55 plasmid were first transformed into the *E. coli* ALC7885 (8) strain for restriction
130 modification. The plasmids isolated from the ALC7885 strain were directly transformed into the
131 *S. aureus* Newman strain by electroporation.

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133 **Growth curve measurements.**

134 Previous studies (9, 10) revealed that the phenotypes after StP-biosynthesis pathway disruption is
135 most significant when cobalt was utilized for the experiments (growth curve and metal-content
136 measurements). To better assess the role of each StP/metal-binding residues, we utilized cobalt
137 for the experiments. The growth of *S. aureus* strains was monitored using the automated microbe
138 growth curve analysis system BioScreen C (OY Growth Curves Ltd, Finland). Overnight
139 cultures were 1:100 diluted into 200 μ L CDM (When indicated, the cultures were supplemented
140 with 1.5 mM CoCl_2) and then transferred to the Bioscreen micro-well plates. The plates were
141 incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ with continuous shaking inside the machine. The optical density (OD) at 600
142 nm was measured every 30 min. All the experiments were performed in triplicate.

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144 **Metal-content measurement using ICP-AES.**

145 The samples were prepared according to procedures described in the literatures (9, 10). In brief,
146 10 ml cultures of *S. aureus* strains were grown at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ in CDM (supplemented with 1 μ M CoCl_2)
147 until late exponential phase ($\text{OD}_{600} \sim 1.5\text{-}2.5$). Cultures were harvested by centrifugation at 6,000
148 g at 4 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min. Pellets were washed three times with 1 mL 1 mM EDTA solution (ice-cold)
149 followed by a wash with 1mL MilliQ H_2O . Cells were dried overnight at 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ and then
150 digested by 500 μ L nitric acid (Suprapur 66~68 % HNO_3 ; Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd)
151 for 12 hr at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$. The samples were diluted by adding MilliQ H_2O to final volumes of 5 mL.
152 The element measurements were performed with Inductively Coupled Plasma-Absorption
153 Emission Spectrometer (iCAP 7000 Plus Series, Thermo ScientificTM). Concentrations were
154 determined by using standard solutions. The concentration of each metal element was calculated
155 assuming 4×10^8 cfu for an OD_{600} of 1 unit. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

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157 **Competitive binding assay and metal analysis**

158 StP was incubated with a metal cocktail (Co^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , and Zn^{2+}) for 10 minutes before being added
159 into the 6XHis-tag cleaved CntA protein solution. The reaction was performed in the 1 mL
160 buffer containing 10 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.5. 560 nmol of StP, 140 nmol of each metal (Co^{2+} , Ni^{2+} ,
161 and Zn^{2+}), and 70 nmol of CntA were used in the reaction. Unbounded StP/metal was removed
162 by using a desalting separation (HiTrap column, GE Healthcare). The eluted CntA/StP/metal
163 complexes were collected and lyophilized overnight. The powders were digested by 500 μL
164 nitric acid (Suprapur 66~68 % HNO_3 ; Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd) for 24 hr at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$.
165 The samples were diluted by adding MilliQ H_2O to final volumes of 6 mL prior to metal-content
166 determination by ICP-AES. The experiments were performed in triplicate.

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178 **Table S1.** Data collection, phasing, and refinement statistics.

	CntA (apo form) (5YH5)	CntA/Staphylopine/ Ni ²⁺ (5YH8)	CntA/Staphylopine/ Co ²⁺ (5YHE)	CntA/Staphylopine/ Zn ²⁺ (5YHG)
Wavelength (Å)	0.9778	0.9785	0.9778	0.9778
Beamline ^a	BL18U1	BL19U1	BL18U1	BL18U1
Space group	P6 ₁	P22 ₁ 2 ₁	P1	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2
Cell dimensions				
a, b, c (Å)	149.395, 149.395, 53.635	70.782, 85.474, 86.315	42.605, 76.659, 85.673	86.07, 156.349, 42.257
α, β, γ (°)	90.00, 90.00, 120.00	90.00, 90.00, 90.00	90.683, 91.251, 104.568	90.00, 90.00, 90.00
Resolution (Å)	50.00-2.90	50.00-2.12	50.00-2.47	50.00-2.03
R _{merge} (%)	23.2 (177.7) ^b	14.1(83.8)	9.6 (43.9)	9.3 (48.8)
I/σI	16.7 (2.0)	16.1 (2.0)	11.1 (2.0)	24.9 (2.3)
Completeness (%)	100.0 (100.0)	99.9 (99.9)	98.0 (97.4)	99.7 (96.8)
Redundancy	20.1 (19.9)	12.7(9.8)	3.5 (3.6)	12.1(9.8)
Refinement				
Resolution (Å)	49.55-2.90	42.74-2.12	36.78-2.47	44.58-2.03
Reflections (#)	15367	30251	37030	37675
R _{work} /R _{free} (%)	19.8/26.8	15.6/22.9	16.1/23.5	15.9/21.3
Number of nonhydrogen Atoms (#)				
Protein	4008	4064	8069	4039
Staphylopine/metal	/	24	48	24
Rmsds				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.017	0.015	0.008	0.018
Bond angle (°)	2.01	1.82	1.00	1.91
Average B factors (Å ²)				
Overall	86.94	35.20	38.99	45.50
Protein	86.94	34.60	39.07	45.04
Staphylopine/metal	/	22.68	29.87	37.42

179 ^aCrystal data were collected at the beamlines of National Facility for Protein Science Shanghai (NFPS) at Shanghai Synchrotron
180 Radiation Facility.

181 ^bStatistics for the highest-resolution shell are shown in parentheses.

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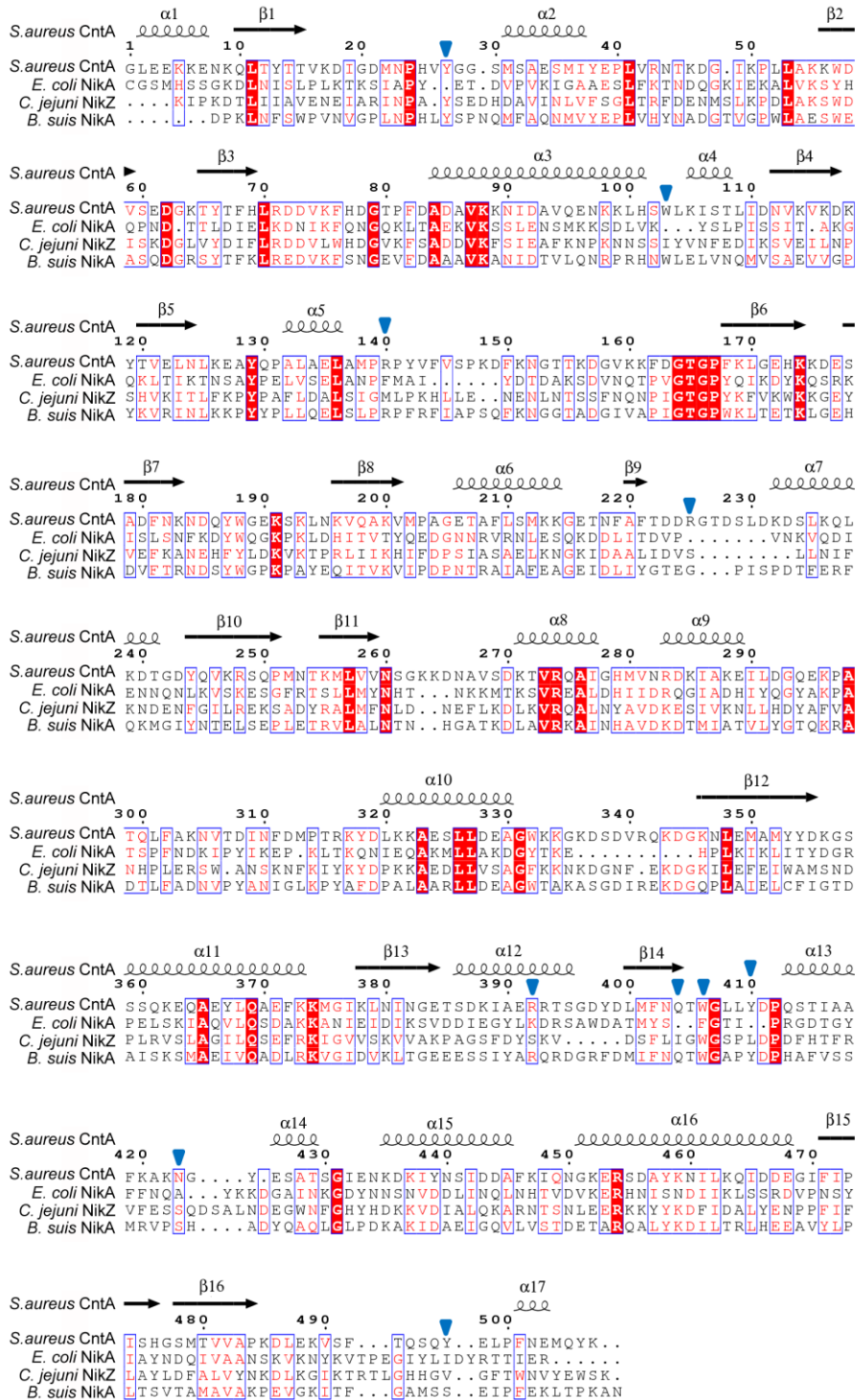
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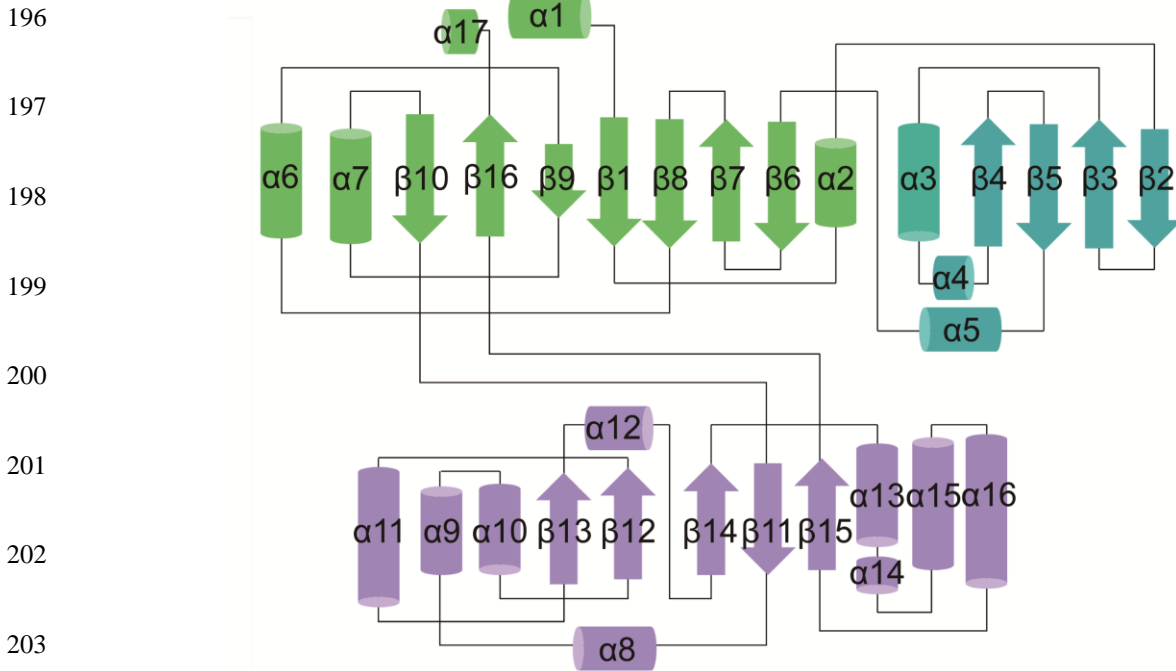
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190 **Fig. S1.** Sequence alignment of CntA, *Ec*NikA, *Cj*NikZ, and *Bs*NikA. The structural alignment
 191 was performed by ESPrnt online software (<http://esprnt.ibcp.fr/ESPrnt/cgi-bin/ESPrnt.cgi>).
 192 The StP/metal-recognition residues were indicated.



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194 **Fig. S2.** Schematic representation of the topology of apo-CntA. The assignment of the secondary
195 structure was based on the tertiary structure of apo-CntA visualized by Pymol.



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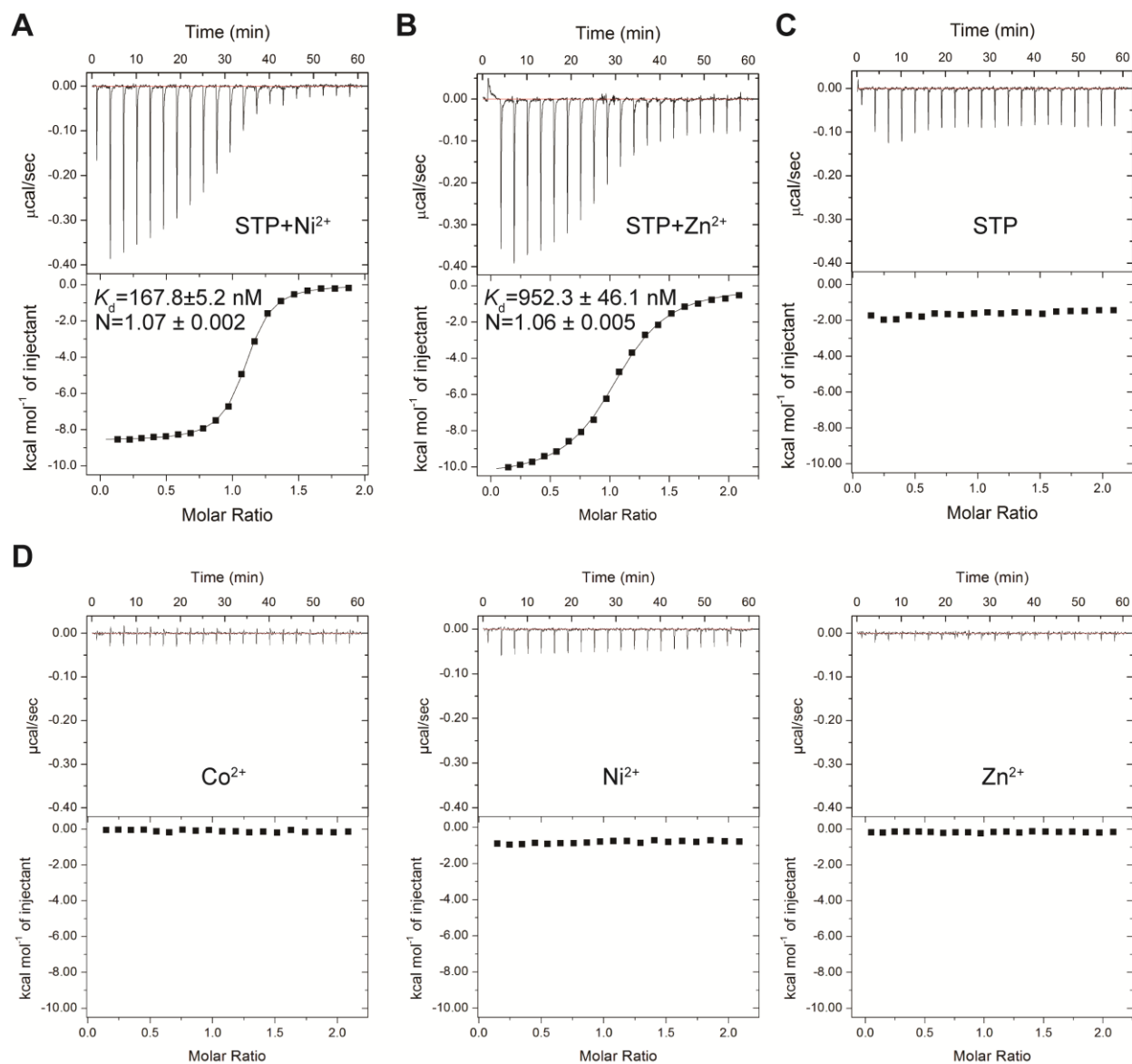
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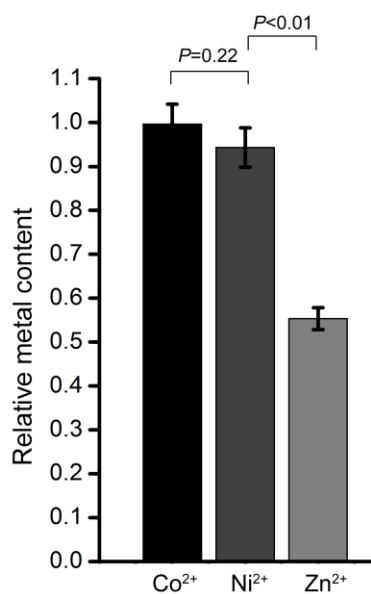
214 **Fig. S3.** Both StP and metals are indispensable for CntA binding. (A) ITC assay for the binding
 215 between CntA and StP/Ni²⁺. K_d : the dissociation constant; N: the number of binding sites per
 216 CntA. (B) ITC assay for the binding between CntA and StP/Zn²⁺. K_d : the dissociation constant; N:
 217 the number of binding sites per CntA. (C) ITC assay for the binding between CntA and StP. (D)
 218 ITC assays for the binding between CntA and different metals.



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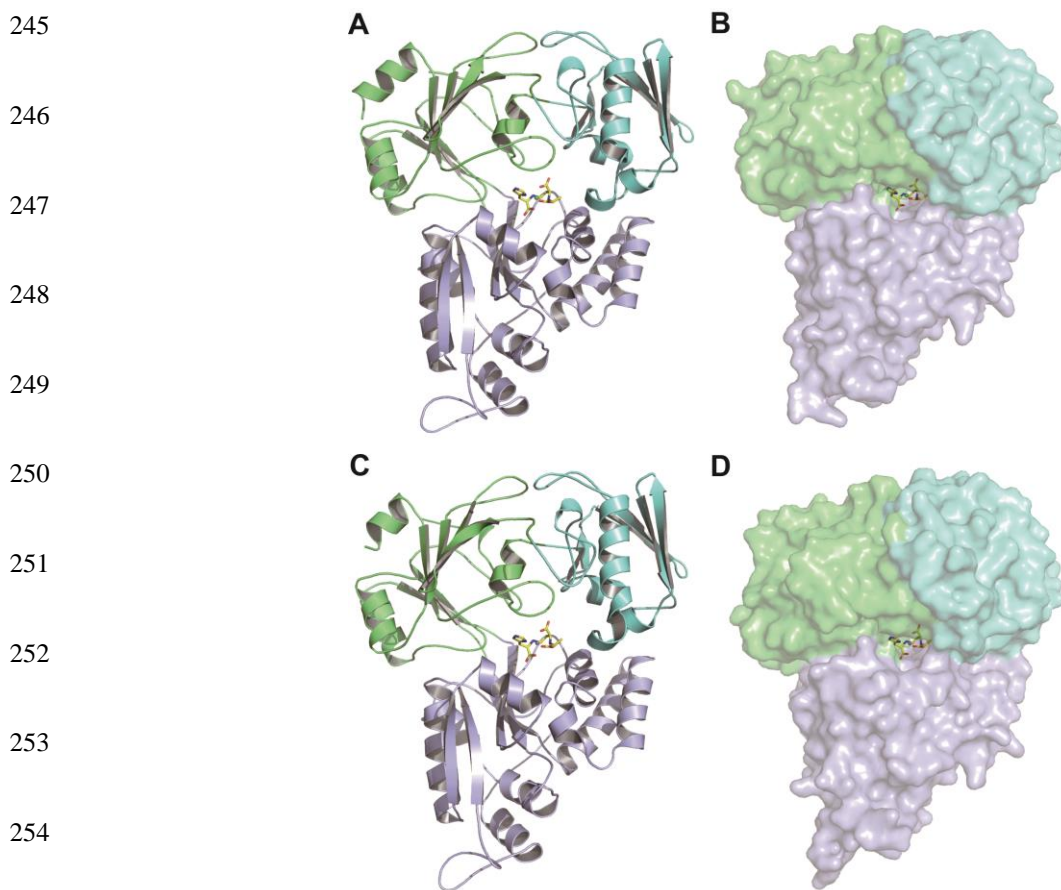
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221 **Fig. S4.** A competitive binding assay indicates CntA binds StP/Ni²⁺ and StP/Co²⁺ tighter than
222 StP/Zn²⁺. The assay was performed by incubating 70 μM CntA with 560 μM StP and a metal
223 mixture containing 140 μM Zn²⁺, 140 μM Ni²⁺, and 140 μM Co²⁺. Unbounded StP/metal was
224 removed by desalting. The metal content in CntA was determined by ICP-AES. The experiment
225 was performed in triplicate.



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241 **Fig. S5.** Structural characterizations of the CntA/StP/Ni²⁺ complex and the CntA/StP/Zn²⁺
242 complex. (A) The overall structure of the CntA/StP/Ni²⁺ complex. StP is colored yellow. (B) The
243 surface structure of the CntA/StP/Ni²⁺ complex. (C) The overall structure of the CntA/StP/Zn²⁺
244 complex. StP is colored yellow. (D) The surface structure of the CntA/StP/Zn²⁺ complex.



260 **Fig. S6.** Electron density maps of StP/Co²⁺, StP/Ni²⁺, and StP/Zn²⁺. (A) Detailed view of the
261 electron density of Co²⁺. $2F_o-F_c$ map (6.0 σ) is shown as a blue mesh. (B) Detailed view of the
262 electron density of StP/Ni²⁺. $2F_o-F_c$ map (1.0 σ) of StP/Ni²⁺ and $2F_o-F_c$ map (6.0 σ) of Ni²⁺ are
263 shown as blue meshes. (C) Detailed view of the electron density of StP/Zn²⁺. $2F_o-F_c$ map (1.0 σ)
264 of StP/Zn²⁺ and $2F_o-F_c$ map (6.0 σ) of Zn²⁺ are shown as a blue mesh.

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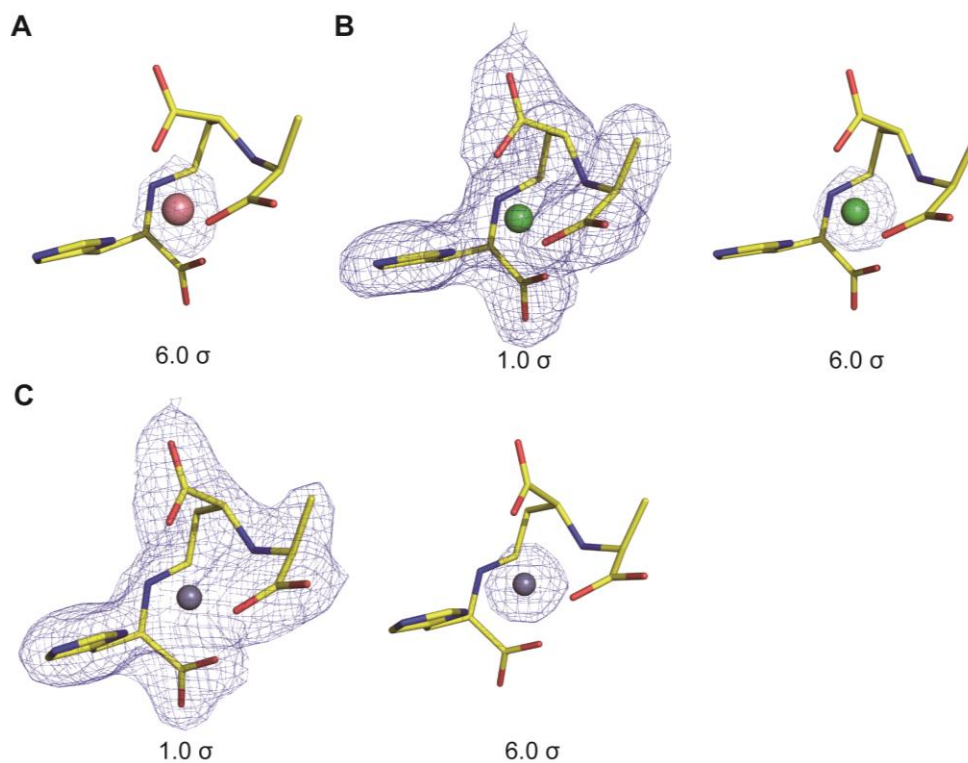
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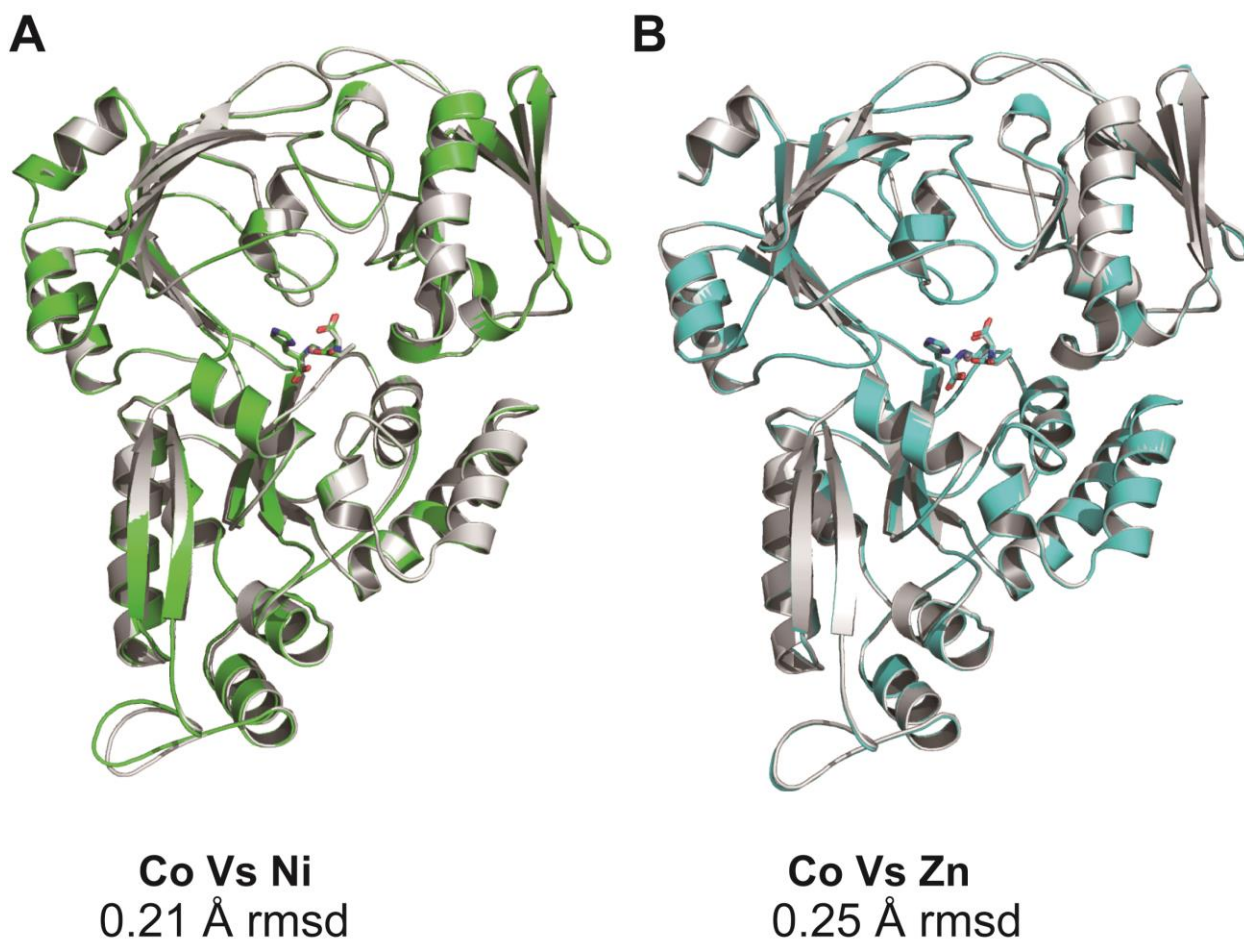
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279 **Fig. S7.** The structures of three CntA/StP/metal complexes exhibit almost identical overall
280 conformation. (A) Structural comparison of the CntA/StP/Co²⁺ complex and the CntA/StP/Ni²⁺
281 complex by superimposing C α atoms in overall molecule. The proteins of the CntA/StP/Co²⁺
282 complex and the CntA/StP/Ni²⁺ complex are colored gray and green, respectively. (B) Structural
283 comparison of the CntA/StP/Co²⁺ complex and the CntA/StP/Zn²⁺ complex by superimposing
284 C α atoms in overall molecule. The proteins of the CntA/StP/Co²⁺ complex and the
285 CntA/StP/Zn²⁺ complex are colored gray and cyan, respectively.

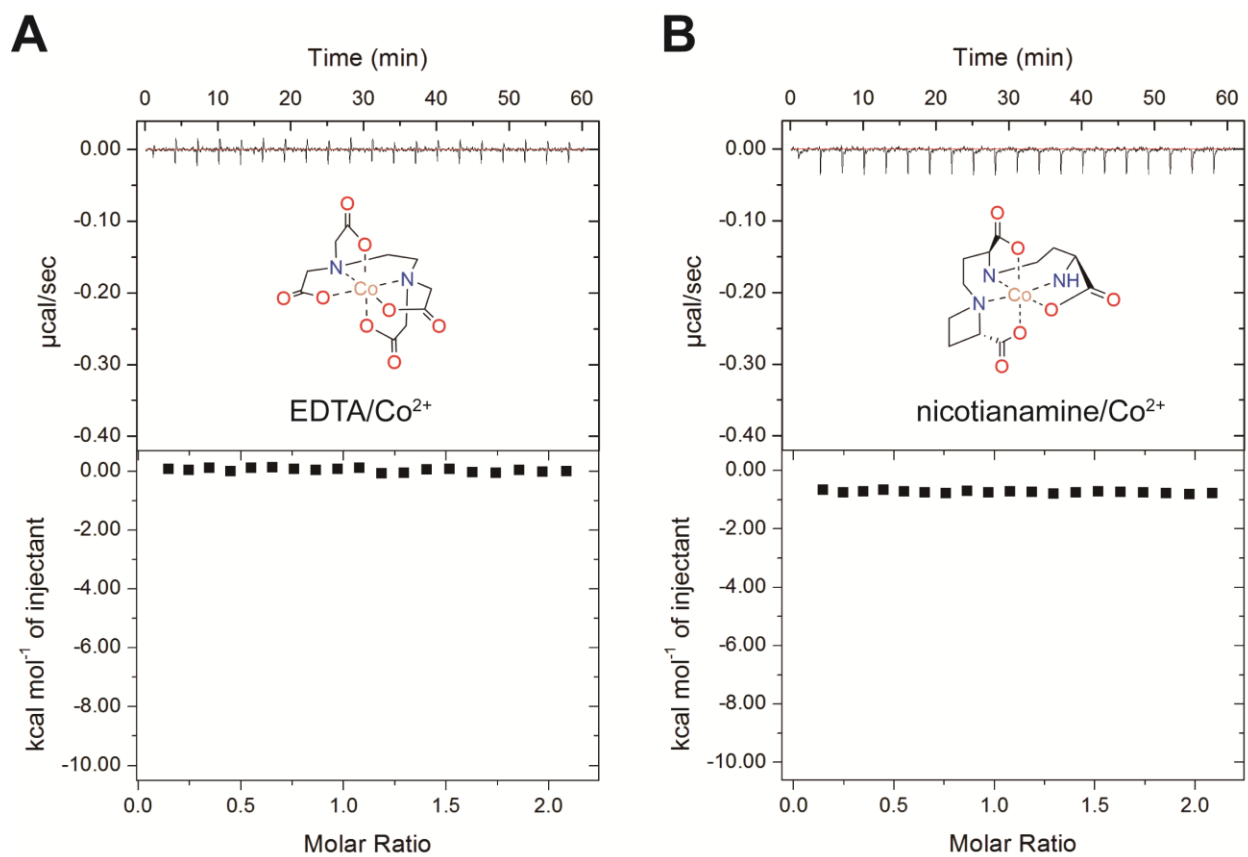


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289 **Fig. S8.** The binding between CntA and StP/metal is specific and selective. (A) ITC assay
290 between CntA and EDTA/Co²⁺. (B) ITC assay between CntA and nicotianamine/Co²⁺.



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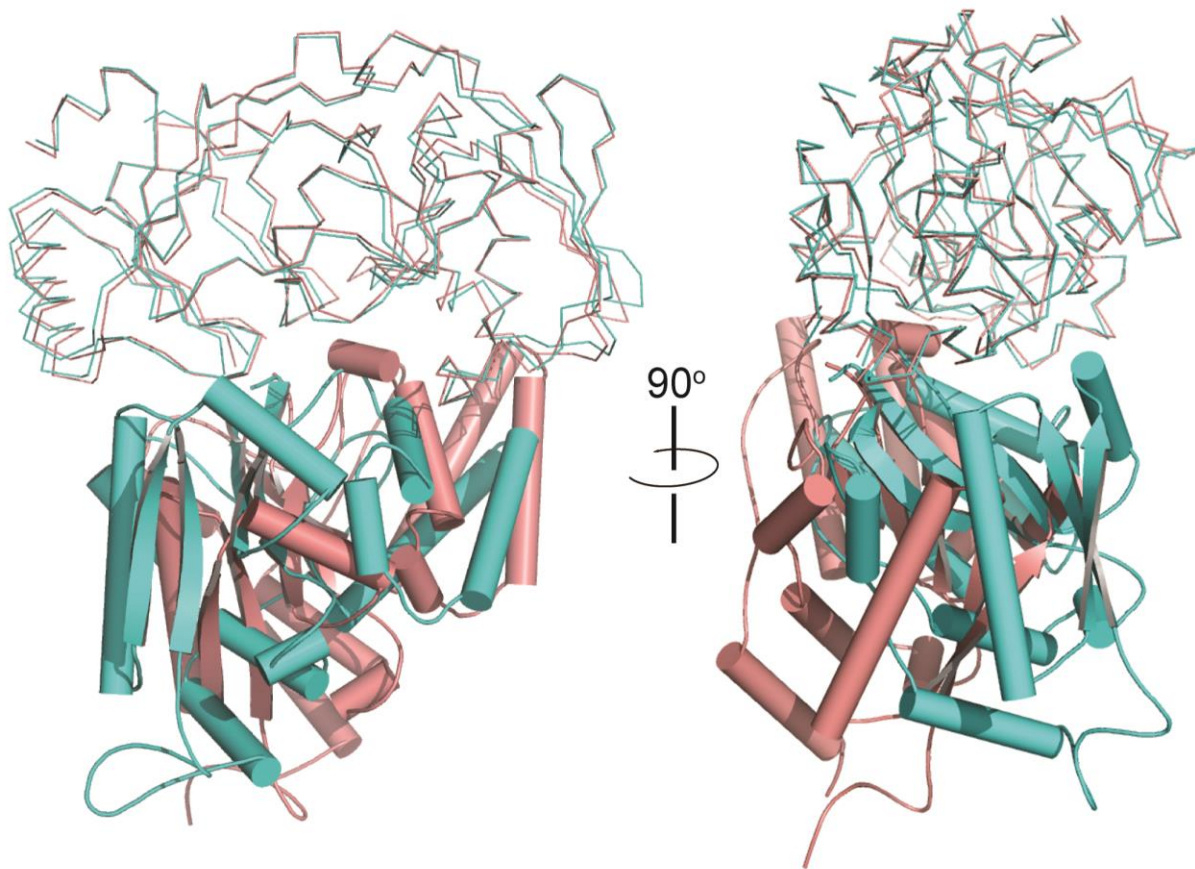
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299 **Fig. S9.** Structural comparison of the CntA/StP/Co²⁺ complex and apo-CntA by superimposing
300 C α atoms in domains I_a and I_b. The domain II is viewed as cartoon and the domains I_a and I_b are
301 viewed as ribbon. CntA/StP/Co²⁺ and apo-CntA are colored cyan and salmon, respectively.

Superimposed by C α in the top domains (I_a+I_b)



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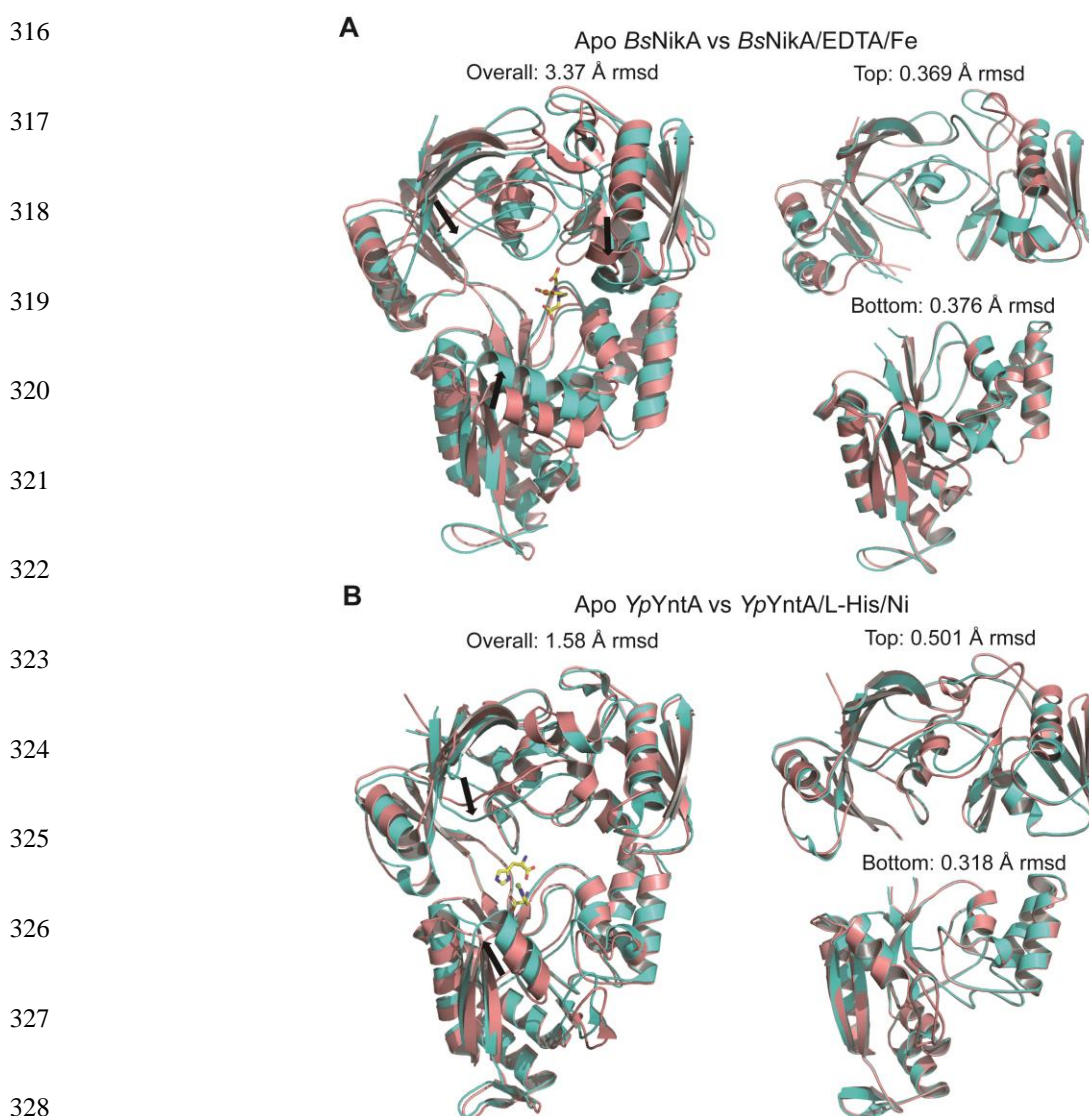
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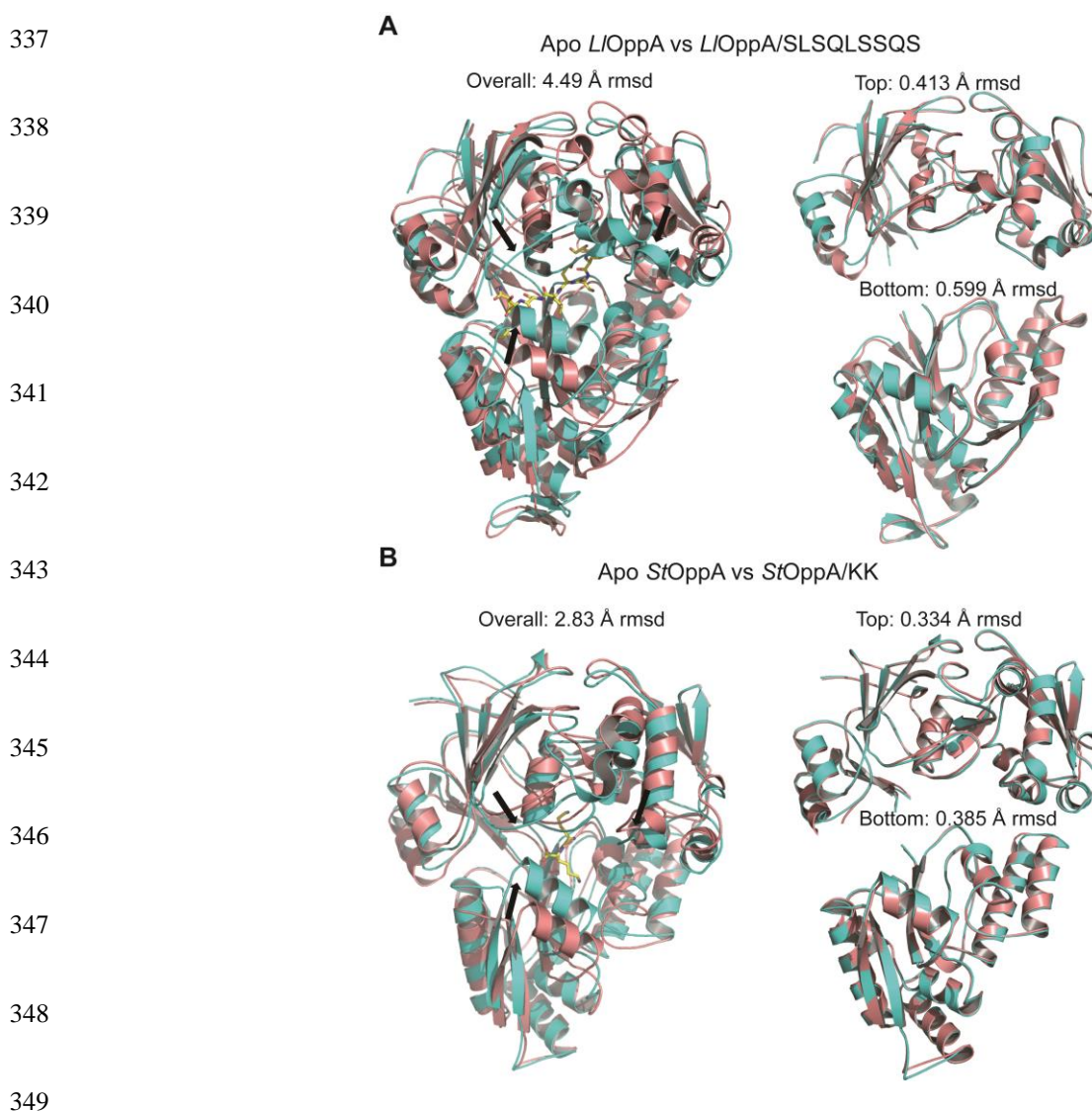
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309 **Fig. S10.** Ligand binding induces inter-domain conformational change in metal-transportation
310 SBPs. (A) Structural comparison between the apo structure of *Brucella suis* NikA (PDB: 4OER)
311 and the *Bs*NikA/EDTA/Fe complex (PDB: 4OES). The apo and the complex structures are
312 colored salmon and cyan, respectively. (B) Structural comparison between the apo structure of
313 *Yersinia pestis* YntA (PDB: 4OFO) and the *Yp*YntA/L-histidine/Ni complex (PDB: 4OFL). The
314 apo and the complex structures are colored salmon and cyan, respectively. The black arrows
315 represent the directions that each domain moves.



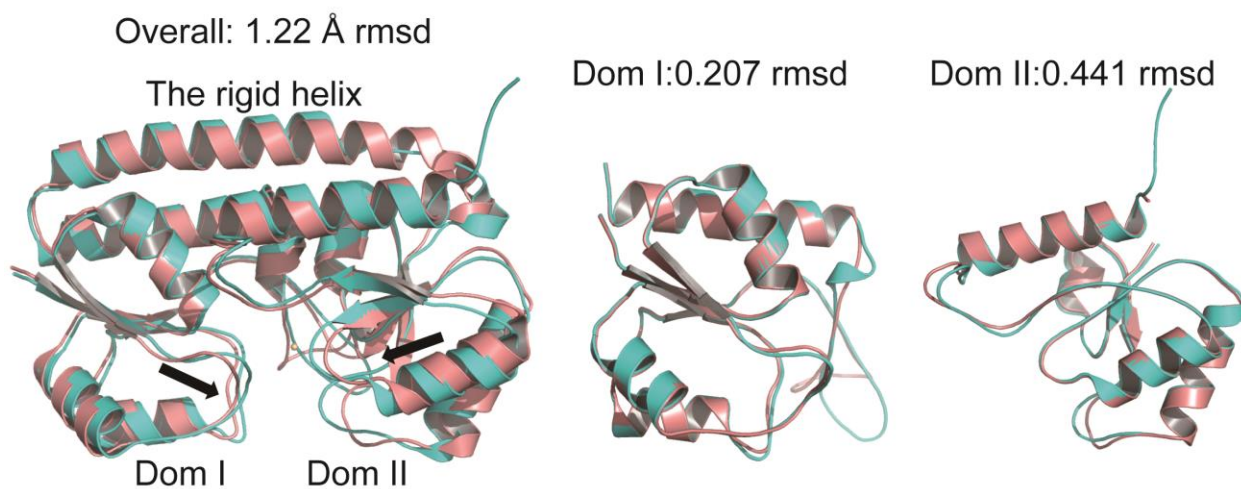
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330 **Fig. S11.** Ligand binding induces inter-domain conformational change in oligopeptide-
331 transportation SBPs. (A) Structural comparison between the apo structure of *Lactococcus lactis*
332 OppA (PDB: 3FTO) and the *L/OppA/SLSQLSSQS* complex (PDB: 3RYA). The apo and the
333 complex structures are colored salmon and cyan, respectively. (B) Structural comparison
334 between the apo structure of *Salmonella typhimurium* OppA (PDB: 1RKM) and the *StOppA/KK*
335 complex (PDB: 2RKM). The apo and the complex structures are colored salmon and cyan,
336 respectively. The black arrows represent the directions that each domain moves.



350 **Fig. S12.** Cd²⁺ binding induces inter-domain conformational change in *Streptococcus*
351 *pneumoniae* PsaA. The apo (PDB: 3ZK7) and complex (PDB: 4UTP) structures are colored
352 salmon and cyan, respectively.

Apo *SpPsaA* vs *SpPsaA/Cd*



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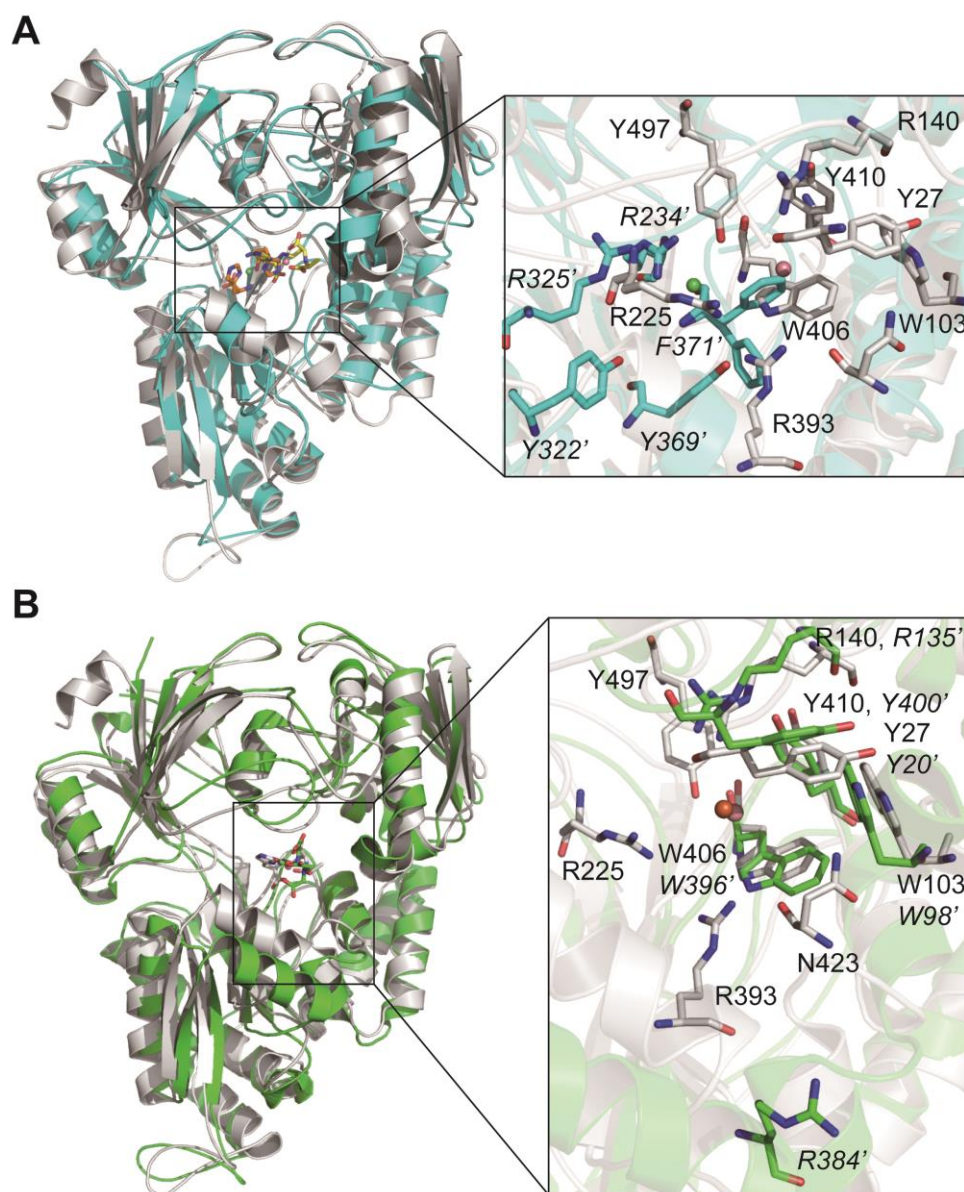
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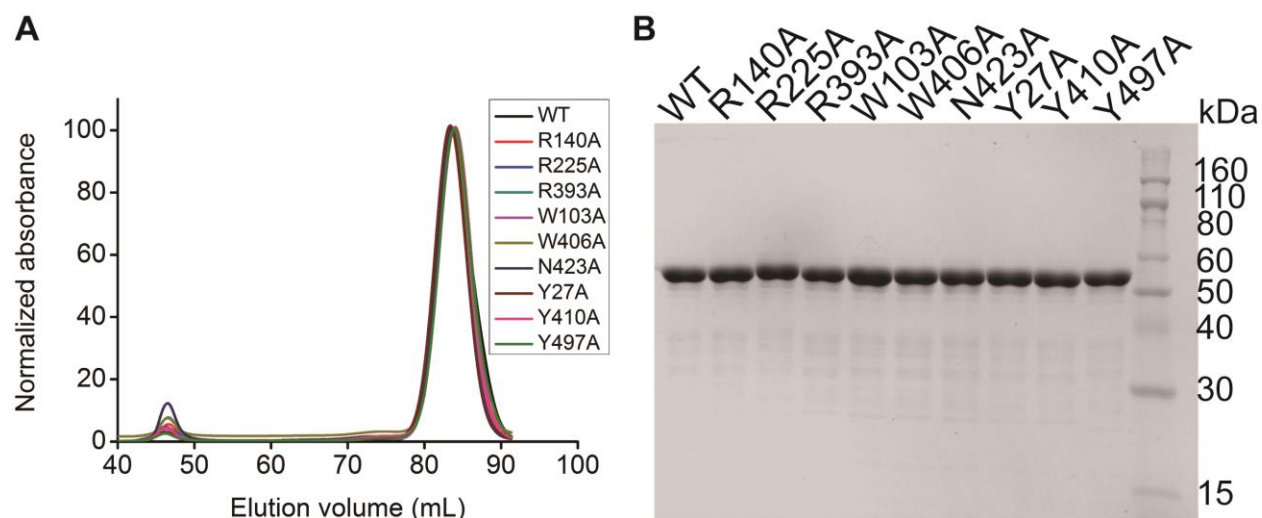
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364 **Fig. S13.** CntA possesses a unique ligand-recognition mode. (A) Superimposition of the structure
365 of CntA/StP/Co²⁺ with that of *Sa*NikA/L-histidine/Ni²⁺. CntA and *Sa*NikA are colored gray and
366 cyan, respectively. StP and L-histidine are colored yellow and orange, respectively. The ligand-
367 recognition residues are indicated. (B) Structural comparison between the CntA/StP/Co²⁺
368 complex and the *Bs*NikA/EDTA/Fe³⁺ complex. CntA and *Bs*NikA are colored gray and green,
369 respectively. The ligand-recognition residues are indicated.



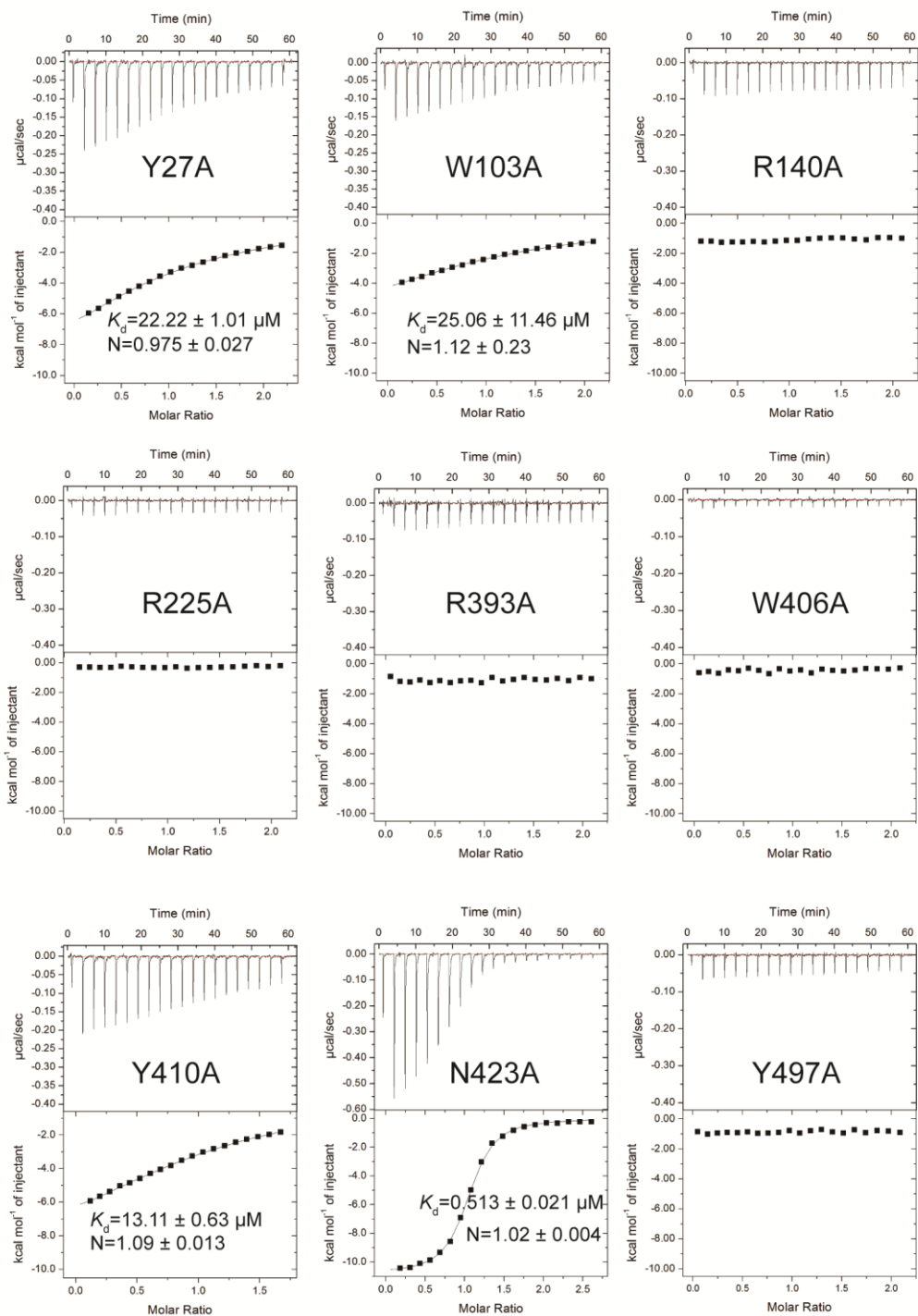
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371 **Fig. S14.** Single amino-acid mutations of the StP-binding residues do not affect protein
372 expression or stability. (A) Size-exclusion chromatography analysis of the wild-type and mutant
373 proteins of CntA. The proteins were analyzed in the HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg column
374 (GE Healthcare). (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of the wild-type and mutant proteins.



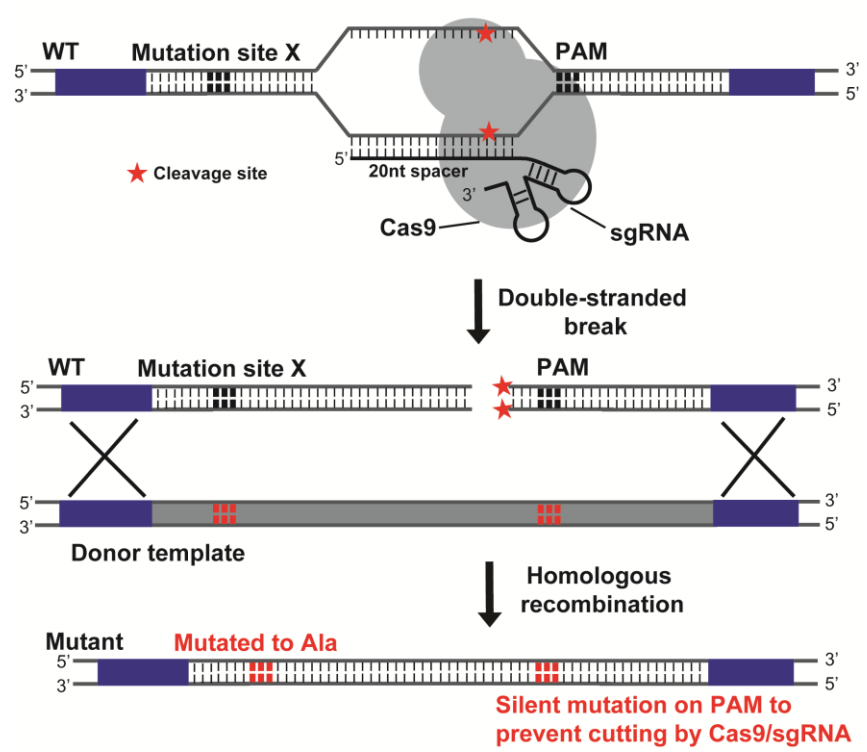
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386 **Fig. S15.** ITC assays for the binding between StP/Co²⁺ and mutant CntA proteins. K_d : the
 387 dissociation constant; N: the number of binding sites per CntA.



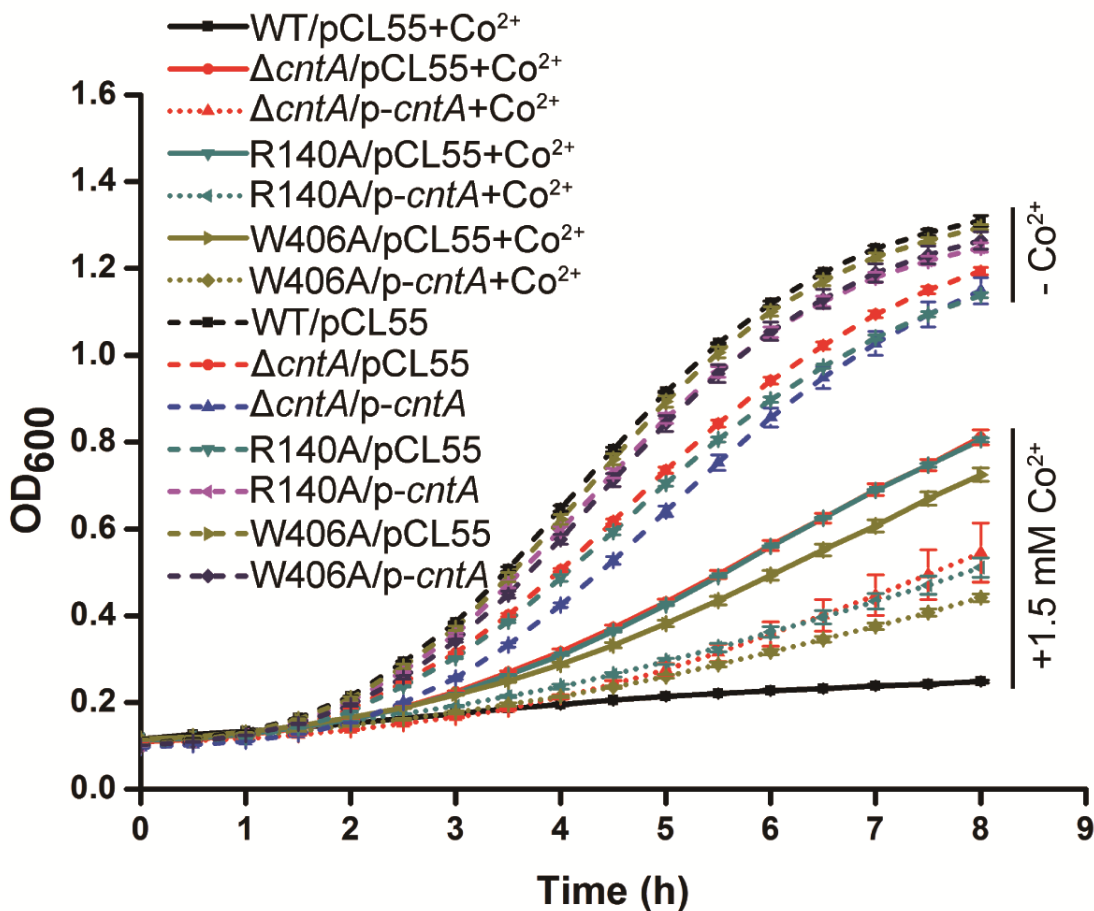
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405 **Fig. S16.** Scheme of the strategy for single-base substitution mutations in the *S. aureus* genome
406 by using the CRISPR/Cas9 system pCasSA. If the desired mutation site is not present in an
407 adjacent protospacer adjacent motif (PAM), a silent mutation will be introduced in the PAM to
408 prevent the cutting of Cas9/sgRNA complex in the genome of edited cells.



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416 **Fig. S17.** Growth curve measurements of the Newman mutant and complementation strains in
 417 the presence or absence of 1.5 mM Co^{2+} . The assays were performed in the chemically defined
 418 medium. Dashed lines: strains were cultured in the absence of 1.5 mM Co^{2+} . Solid lines: strains
 419 were cultured in the presence of 1.5 mM Co^{2+} . Dot lines: complementation strains were cultured
 420 in the presence of 1.5 mM Co^{2+} .



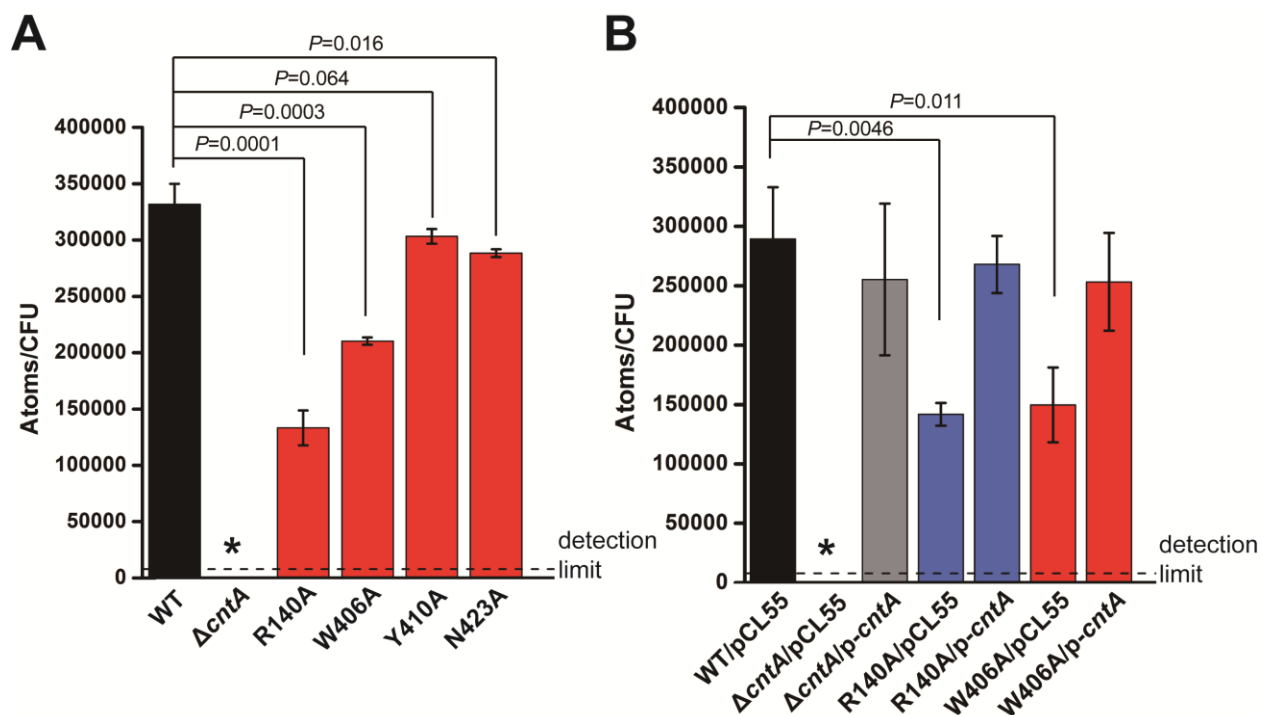
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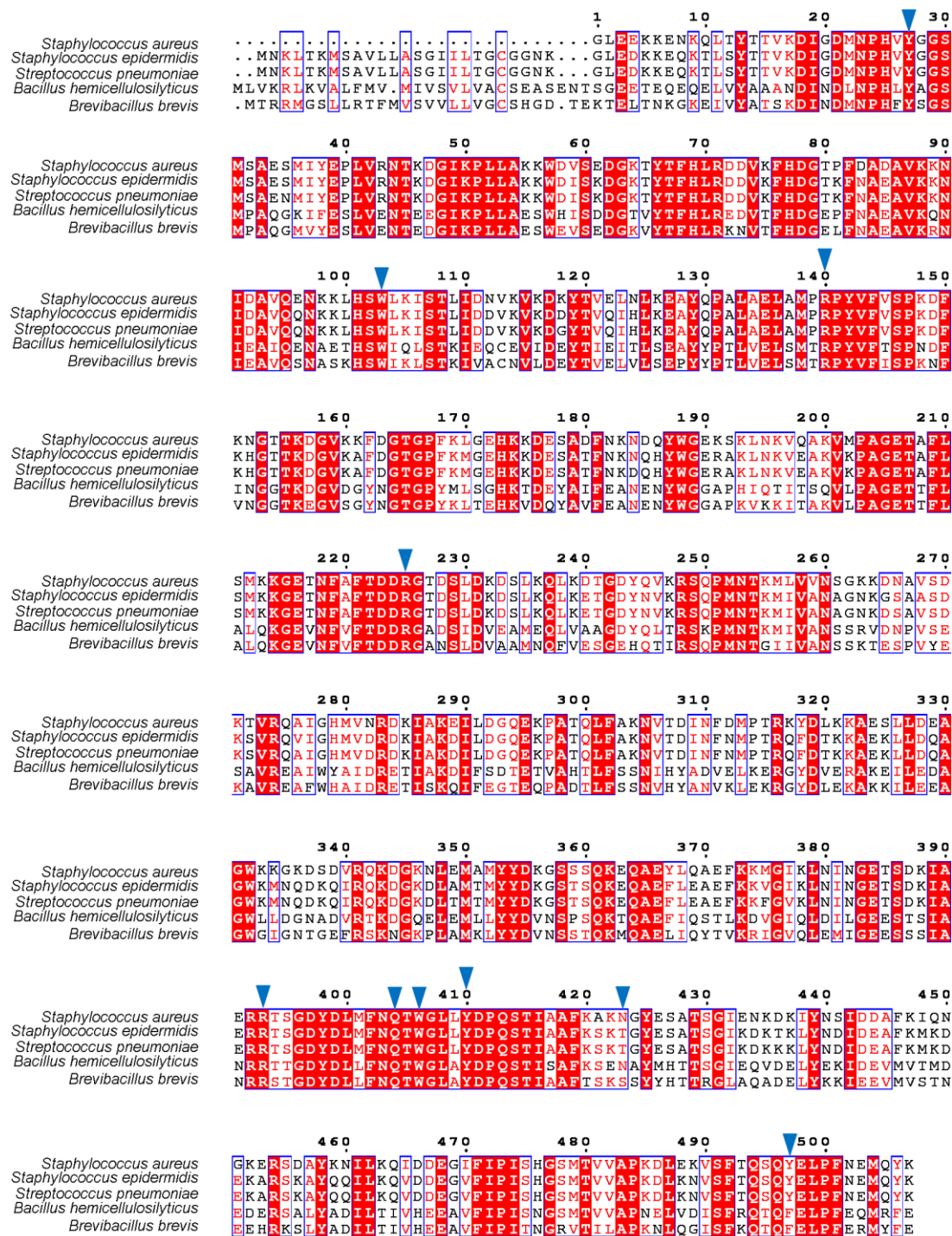
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436 **Fig. S18.** Co^{2+} accumulation measurements of various strains (Newman) by ICP-AES. (A) Co^{2+}
 437 accumulation measurements of various mutant strains by ICP-AES. (B) Co^{2+} accumulation
 438 measurements of various complementation strains by ICP-AES. The assays were performed in
 439 CDM the presence of $1 \mu\text{M Co}^{2+}$. *: The Co^{2+} amount is below the detection limit of ICP-AES at
 440 7900 atoms/CFU. The P values are calculated from Student t test.



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449 **Fig. S19.** Sequence alignment of CntA homologous proteins from the StP-like synthesis loci in
 450 different bacteria. The StP/metal-recognition residues of CntA are indicated.



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453 **Table S2.** Direct and water-mediated interactions between CntA and StP/metal complexes.

		StP/Co ²⁺	StP/Zn ²⁺	StP/Ni ²⁺
Atom of StP	AA interacted	Distance (Å)	Distance (Å)	Distance (Å)
O (1a)	R393	3.1	3.0	3.0
O (1b)	R393	3.0	3.0	2.8
O (1b)	Q404	2.9/2.7*	2.6/2.7*	2.6/2.7*
O (1b)	Y497	2.9/2.7/2.6*	2.6/2.7/2.7*	2.6/2.8/2.5*
O (9b)	N423	3.1	3.1	3.0
N (14)	R225	3.4	3.2	3.4
O (16a)	R140	2.8	2.7	2.8
O (16b)	R140	2.9	3.1	3.1
O (16b)	Y410	2.9/3.0*	2.7/2.6*	2.7/2.7*
C (4)	W406	3.5	3.4	3.3
C (5)	Y410	3.9	3.9	3.9
C (10)	Y497	3.6	3.7	3.7
C (17)	Y27	3.6	3.7	3.8
C (17)	W103	3.4	3.5	3.4
Atom of StP	Distance to Co ²⁺ (Å)	Distance to Zn ²⁺ (Å)	Distance to Ni ²⁺ (Å)	
O (1a)	1.8	2.2	2.0	
N (3)	2.2	2.4	2.3	
N (7)	2.5	2.3	2.1	
O (9a)	1.8	2.0	2.0	
N (12)	2.0	2.0	2.1	
O (16a)	1.9	2.2	2.0	

454 *Water-mediated hydrogen bonding.

455 The interactions listed in gray background represent hydrogen bonding. The interactions listed in blue background
456 represent van der Waals interactions. The interactions listed in brown background represent coordination bonding.

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465 **Table S3.** Strains and plasmids used in this study.

Plasmids or strains	Description	Reference
Plasmids		
pET28a_HRV3C_CntA	pET28a_HRV3C derivative, for expressing CntA, Km ^r	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_Y27A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_Y27A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_W103A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_W103A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_R140A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_R140A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_R225A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_R225A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_R393A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_R393A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_W406A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_W406A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_Y410A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_Y410A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_N423A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_N423A mutant protein	This study
pET28a_HRV3C_Y497A	pET28a_HRV3C_CntA derivative, for expressing the CntA_Y497A mutant protein	This study
pSP_cnt	pSP72 derivative, for the construction of repair templates	This study
pCasSA	<i>S.aureus</i> genome editing vector, Km ^r , Cm ^r	(6)
pCasSA_W103A	pCasSA derivative, for mutation of W103A in <i>cntA</i>	This study
pCasSA_R140A	pCasSA derivative, for mutation of R140A in <i>cntA</i>	This study
pCasSA_W406A	pCasSA derivative, for mutation of W406A in <i>cntA</i>	This study
pCasSA_Y410A	pCasSA derivative, for mutation of Y410A in <i>cntA</i>	This study
pCasSA_N423A	pCasSA derivative, for mutation of N423A in <i>cntA</i>	This study
pCasSA_cntA	pCasSA derivative, for <i>cntA</i> deletion	(6)
pCL55	Single-copy integration plasmid, Cm ^r , Ap ^r	(7)
pCL55_CntA	pCL55 derivative, for <i>cntA</i> complementation	This study
Strains		
<i>E.coli</i>		
DH10B	F- <i>endA1 recA1 galU galK deoR nupG rpsL ΔlacX74 Φ80lacZΔM15 araD139 Δ(ara,leu)7697 mcrA Δ(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) λ-</i>	Lab stock
ALC7885	<i>E. coli</i> K12, Δ <i>dcm</i> mutant with pACYC184 containing hsdMS-2 ^{CC8} , Cm ^r	(8)
<i>S. aureus</i>		
RN4220	Restriction-deficient transformation recipient	Lab stock
RN4220_W103A	<i>cntA</i> W103A mutation in RN4220	This study
RN4220_R140A	<i>cntA</i> R140A mutation in RN4220	This study
RN4220_W406A	<i>cntA</i> W406A mutation in RN4220	This study
RN4220_Y410A	<i>cntA</i> Y410A mutation in RN4220	This study
RN4220_N423A	<i>cntA</i> N423A mutation in RN4220	This study
RN4220_Δ <i>cntA</i>	<i>cntA</i> gene deletion in RN4220	(6)
Newman	Wild type	(11)
Newman_R140A	<i>cntA</i> R140A mutation in Newman	This study
Newman_W406A	<i>cntA</i> W406A mutation in Newman	This study
Newman_Y410A	<i>cntA</i> Y410A mutation in Newman	This study
Newman_N423A	<i>cntA</i> N423A mutation in Newman	This study
Newman_Δ <i>cntA</i>	<i>cntA</i> gene deletion in Newman	(6)
Newman/pCL55	Newman with empty pCL55	This study
Newman_Δ <i>cntA</i> /pCL55	Newman Δ <i>cntA</i> mutation with empty pCL55	This study
Newman_Δ <i>cntA</i> /p- <i>cntA</i>	Newman Δ <i>cntA</i> mutation with pCL55_ <i>cntA</i> complementation	This study
Newman_R140A/pCL55	Newman <i>cntA</i> R140A mutation with empty pCL55	This study
Newman_R140A/p- <i>cntA</i>	Newman <i>cntA</i> R140A mutation with pCL55_ <i>cntA</i> complementation	This study
Newman_W406A/pCL55	Newman <i>cntA</i> W406A mutation with empty pCL55	This study
Newman_W406A/p- <i>cntA</i>	Newman <i>cntA</i> W406A mutation with pCL55_ <i>cntA</i> complementation	This study

466 Ap^r, ampicillin resistant; Km^r, kanamycin resistant; Cm^r, chloramphenicol resistant.

467 **Table S4.** Primers used in this study.

	Name	Sequence (5'-3')	Description
CntA protein	CntA-Fw	cttgaagtcctcttcaggaccatggttagaggagaaaaaa gaaaacaagc	amplification of <i>cntA</i> locus from the genomic DNA for expressing the CntA protein
	CntA-Rv	atctcagtggtggtggtgctcgagtattatactgatttcatt gaatggt	
	CntA-Y27A-1	acattgatccaccggcaacatgctgattcatatcaccgatatc	for Y27A mutation in CntA
	CntA-Y27A-2	gatatcgggtgatatgaatccgatgtgccgggtgataaatg	
	CntA-W103A-1	cattgtcaattaatgctgaaatcttaacgcagaatgcaattttgtttc ttgaactg	for W103A mutation in CntA
	CntA-W103A-2	cagttcaagaaaaaataatgcttctgctgtaagattcgacatt aattgacaatg	
	CntA-R140A-1	acacaaatacatatggagcaggcatcgtaattcagccaatg	for R140A mutation in CntA
	CntA-R140A-2	acacaaatacatatggagcaggcatcgtaattcagccaatg	
	CntA-R225A-1	aagctatctgtacctgcatcatctgtgaaggcaaatgctttca	for R225A mutation in CntA
	CntA-R225A-2	tgaaacgaactttgcttcacagatgatgcaggtagacagatagctt	
	CntA-R393A-1	cattaagtcataatcaccagaagtagcacgctcagcaattttatctgat gtt	for R393A mutation in CntA
	CntA-R393A-2	aacatcagataaaattgctgaacgtgctacttctggtgattatgacttaa tg	
	CntA-W406A-1	ggatcgtacaataatcccgcagtttggtgacattaagtcataatcac	for W406A mutation in CntA
	CntA-W406A-2	gtgattatgacttaattgtcaacaaactgcgggattattgtacgatcc	
	CntA-Y410A-1	gcaatagtagtcttggatcggccaataatcccaagtttggtg	for Y410A mutation in CntA
	CntA-Y410A-2	caaccaaactggggattattggccgatccacaaagtactattgc	
	CntA-N423A-1	ttgcacttcataaccagcttctgcttaaatgctgcaatagtagtcttg g	for N423A mutation in CntA
	CntA-N423A-2	ccacaaagtactattgagcatttaaacggaagctggtatgaaagt gcaa	
	CntA-Y497A-1	gaaaaagatcattcacacaatcacaggctgaattaccattcaatgaa atgcagta	for Y497A mutation in CntA
	CntA-Y497A-2	tactgcatttcattgaatgtaattcagcctgtgattgtggaatgact ttttc	
<i>cntA</i> gene deletion	cntA-sp-Fw	GAAACaagcaaaagtaatgcctgc	spacer for <i>cntA</i> gene deletion
	cntA-sp-Rv	AAACGcaggcattacttttgcttg	
	cntA-UpFw	TTTGAGATCTGTCCATACCCATGGTCTAG Aacatggatcgacacattca	amplification of ~1kb <i>cntA</i> upstream for gene deletion
	cntA-UpRv	ttctcaatgcctgatgttgcTTGCTTTTCCTCTTTCTAA ATTGATAAGTTG	
	cntA-DnFw	CAACTTATCAATTTAGAAAAGAGGAAAAGC AAGcaacatcaggcattgagaa	amplification of ~1kb <i>cntA</i> downstream for gene deletion
	cntA-DnRv	AAGATACAGGTATATTTTCTGACTCGAGc tagtccaggccatgcaaaag	
	cntAsqFw	GCCAGGCGTACAAGGATATG	sequencing of <i>cntA</i> locus
<i>cntA</i> gene complementation	CntA-pCL1	ccttctcttcaagaattctaagggttgaagtttataatagaaaa	amplification of <i>cnt</i> operon promoter from the genomic DNA
	CntA-pCL2	atatgctttaattcacttcattattatactgatttcattgaatgg	
	CntA-pCL3	cattcaatgaaatgcagtataaataatgaagtgaattaaagcatattaa gttaa	amplification of <i>cntA</i> gene from the genomic DNA
	CntA-pCL4	ttttacatccctccGGATCCagaatgtttcatgcttagca	
<i>cntA</i> gene mutation	cntI	attcgagctcggtagccgggatccTCTAGAaagtcgttgaatc gccactg	amplification of ~4kb <i>cntA</i> gene and up and down regions for

	cnt2	atacgatttagtgacactatagaaCTCGAGatgtcacaagtgg tgctgct	gene mutation
W103A	CntA-F68F-1	ttaacgtcatctctcaaatgaaacgtgatgtcttccatc	for <i>cntA</i> _F68F silent mutation
	CntA-F68F-2	gatgggaagacatacacggttcatttgagagatgacgttaa	
	F68-sp-Fw	GAAAatttaacgtcatctctcaaa	spacer for <i>cntA</i> _W103A mutation
	F68-sp-Rv	AAACtttgagagatgacgttaaat	
	W103A-UpFw	TTTGAGATCTGTCCATACCCATGGTCTAG <u>Aaggaccgataacgatgacacta</u>	amplification of ~2 kb repair for <i>cntA</i> _W103A mutation
W103A-DnRv	AAGATACAGGTATATTTTTCTGACTCGAGa gtttggtgaacattaagtcataatc		
R140A	CntA-F209F-1	cgttcacctttttcattgataaaaatgctgttcaccagcaggcatt	for <i>cntA</i> _F209F silent mutation
	CntA-F209F-2	aatgctgctggtgaaacagcattttatcaatgaaaaaggtaaag	
	F209-sp-Fw	GAAAatcacctttttcattgat	spacer for <i>cntA</i> _R140A mutation
	F209-sp-Rv	AAACatcaatgaaaaaggtaaag	
	R140A-UpFw	TTTGAGATCTGTCCATACCCATGGTCTAG <u>Aaggaccgataacgatgacacta</u>	amplification of ~2 kb repair for <i>cntA</i> _R140A mutation
R140A-DnRv	AAGATACAGGTATATTTTTCTGACTCGAGa gtttggtgaacattaagtcataatc		
W406A	W406-sp-Fw	GAAAacttaattgtcaaccaact	spacer for <i>cntA</i> _W406A mutation
	W406-sp-Rv	AAACagtttggtgaacattaagt	
	W406A-UpFw	TTTGAGATCTGTCCATACCCATGGTCTAG <u>A_gcgtggatcaatgtctgctg</u>	amplification of ~2 kb repair for <i>cntA</i> _W406A mutation
	W406A-DnRv	AAGATACAGGTATATTTTTCTGACTCGAG atgcacaagtggctgctgct	
Y410A	CntA-I448I-1	caacagcattgatgacgcatttaaaatacaaaacgftaaagagc	for <i>cntA</i> _I448I silent mutation
	CntA-I448I-2	gctctttaccgtttgtattttaaatgcgtcatcaatgctgttg	
	I448-sp-Fw	GAAActgaacgctctttaccgttt	spacer for <i>cntA</i> _Y410A, N423A mutation
	I448-sp-Rv	AAACaaacggtaaagagcgttcag	
	Y410A-UpFw	TTTGAGATCTGTCCATACCCATGGTCTAG <u>A_cggtggatcaatgtctgctg</u>	amplification of ~2 kb repair for <i>cntA</i> _Y410A, N423A mutation
	Y410A-DnRv	AAGATACAGGTATATTTTTCTGACTCGAG atgcacaagtggctgctgct	

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