

## Supplementary Information

### **Synthetic biology approaches and combinatorial biosynthesis towards heterologous lipopeptide production**

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## Contents

1. Strains and culture conditions .....	2
2. Design and assembly of artificial gene clusters .....	2
2.1 Design of artificial gene clusters .....	2
2.2 Design of the cloning vector pSynbio1 and the expression vector pSynbio2 .....	6
2.3 Generation of <i>mch</i> cluster fragments via DNA synthesis .....	7
2.4 Assembly of artificial <i>mch</i> genes and gene clusters .....	9
3. Transformation of <i>M. xanthus</i> and verification by colony PCR .....	16
4. Expression of artificial <i>mch</i> clusters in <i>M. xanthus</i> and production analysis .....	18
4.1 Production of native myxochromides in <i>M. xanthus</i> .....	18
4.1.1 Estimation of myxochromide production yield .....	20
4.2 Heterologous expression of artificial hybrid <i>mch</i> clusters in <i>M. xanthus</i> .....	20
4.3 Heterologous expression of CP-mutated <i>mch</i> clusters in <i>M. xanthus</i> .....	22
4.4 Heterologous expression of <i>mch</i> clusters with duplication or deletion of biosynthetic domains .....	23
4.5 Verification of <i>M. xanthus</i> mutants by Southern blot .....	27
5. Structure elucidation of novel hybrid myxochromides .....	29
5.1 Cultivation of heterologous production strains and isolation of myxochromides .....	29
5.2 Structure elucidation of hybrid myxochromides .....	30
5.2.1 Structure of myxochromide AS <sub>4</sub> .....	30
5.2.2 Structure of myxochromide SA <sub>3</sub> .....	38
5.2.3 Structure of myxochromide SB <sub>4</sub> .....	45
5.2.4 Structure of myxochromide SC <sub>4</sub> .....	53
5.2.5 Structure of myxochromide SD <sub>3</sub> .....	61
6. Reference .....	68

## 1. Strains and culture conditions

*Escherichia coli* strains (HS996 or DH10B) were routinely grown in LB medium (1% tryptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% NaCl) at 37 °C. For myxochromide production analysis, *Myxococcus xanthus* DK1622 wild type strain,<sup>1</sup> the myxochromide A-deficient mutant strain *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet^2$  and its heterologous expression mutants (harboring artificial *mch* clusters) were routinely grown in 300 mL shaking flasks on a 50 mL scale in CTT medium (casitone 1%, Tris-HCl 10 mM, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>/KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 1 mM, MgSO<sub>4</sub> × 7 H<sub>2</sub>O 8 mM, pH adjusted to 7.6) at 30 °C and 180 rpm for 4-5 days. For the isolation of hybrid myxochromides, fermentations on a 1 L scale were performed under the same conditions in 5 L shaking flasks. Cultures were amended with antibiotics if necessary in the following final concentrations: ampicillin 100 µg/mL, kanamycin 50 µg/mL and oxytetracycline 10 µg/mL.

## 2. Design and assembly of artificial gene clusters

### 2.1 Design of artificial gene clusters

Biosynthetic gene cluster (BGC) sequences for the production of myxochromides in *M. xanthus* were designed based on the native BGCs listed in Table S1.<sup>3</sup> During the design and *de novo* synthesis, the BGCs were separated into seven fragments – *promoter*, *mchA'*, *3mchA-5mchB* linker, *mchB'*, *3mchB-5mchC* linker, *mchC'* and *3mchC-mchD-terminator*. To facilitate subcloning and assembly, unique restriction sites were introduced into each fragment (Table S2). To allow for versatile engineering of the myxochromide PKS/NRPS megasynthetase, splitter elements (SE) were introduced between each catalytic domain-encoding fragment (except *mchC<sub>B</sub>'*) of the biosynthesis genes *mchA-C* (Table S3). SEs are composed of a type II endonuclease restriction enzyme recognition site (R-site) flanked by type IIS endonuclease recognition sequences (*AarI* or *BsaI*) that are extended with 5 bp (for *BsaI*) or 8 bp (for *AarI*) sequences to include their variable R-site (Fig. S1). The type II endonuclease R-sites are unique in each synthetic gene construct and enable the exchange, deletion or insertion of domain and module fragments via conventional restriction/ligation methods. The variable 4 bp *AarI* or *BsaI* R-sites are designed to be unique for the domain-linker fragments along the entire BGC sequence, and thus can be used as unique fusion sites for the directed reassembly of the *mchA'-C'* genes after the “desplitting” process (see Fig. 2). Sequences of the designed SEs and the position at which they were introduced into the respective *mch* gene are shown in Table S2. Recognition sites of endonucleases selected for the constructional design (e.g. including the design of SEs, fragment subcloning and assembly, and synthetic vectors), in total 19 different R-sites (see Table S2), were eliminated from the BGC sequences by silent point mutations. DNA synthesis was commissioned by ATG:biosynthetics GmbH (Merzhausen, Germany). Since DNA synthesis is restricted by the length of a gene, the large genes *mchA*, *mchB* and *mchC* were split into seven synthetic fragments (*mchA\_fragA*, *mchA\_fragB*, *mchB\_fragA*, *mchB\_fragB*, *mchC\_fragA*, *mchC\_fragB* and *mchC\_fragC*).

**Table S1:** Myxochromide biosynthetic gene clusters subjected to the gene design process in this study.

Producer strain	Strain abbrev.	Cluster	GenBank Accession*
<i>Myxococcus xanthus</i> DK1622	Mx1	A-type	KX622595
<i>Myxococcus</i> sp. 171	M1	B-type	KX622591
<i>Myxococcus virescens</i> ST200611	Mv1	C-type	KX622594
<i>Stigmatella erecta</i> Pde77	Se1	D-subtype 1	KX622602
<i>Stigmatella aurantiaca</i> DW4/3-1	Sa1	S-type	KX622599

\*, annotated cluster files were additionally deposited in the MiBIG database.



**Fig. S1** Design of splitter elements (SEs) for *mch* gene (cluster) assembly and engineering. SEs were inserted between PKS/NRPS domain encoding fragments (illustrated as grey boxes), except for the ER-CP linker region of *mchA*. They contain two recognition sites for a type IIS endonuclease (*AarI* or *BsaI*; highlighted in red) with variable R-sites representing the fusion sites for directed religation of the domain fragments after the “desplitting” process. Therefore, the 4 bp type IIS R-sites/fusion sites (highlighted in blue) are designed to be unique between different SEs and identical within each SE (see Table S3). Additionally, SEs harbour a palindromic 6-8 bp R-site for a type II endonuclease (shown in black) that is unique for SEs of a particular gene and enables engineering and assembly procedures via conventional restriction/ligation methods on “gene level”. **A:** SE based on the type IIS restriction enzyme *AarI* (32-34 bp in size). **B:** SE based on the type IIS restriction enzyme *BsaI* (26-28 bp in size).

**Table S2** Restriction enzyme sites used for pathway assembly and engineering.

Restriction enzyme	Recognition sequence	Function
<i>AarI</i>	CACCTGC	Type IIS endonuclease R-site
<i>BsaI</i>	GGTCTC	Type IIS endonuclease R-site
<i>AgeI</i>	ACCGGT	R <sub>C14</sub>
<i>BsiWI</i>	CGTACG	R <sub>A1</sub>
<i>MluI</i>	ACGCGT	R <sub>B1</sub> , R <sub>C15</sub>
<i>MreI</i>	CGCCGGCG	R <sub>A6</sub> , R <sub>C17</sub>
<i>NotI</i>	GCGGCCGC	R <sub>B8</sub> , R <sub>C16</sub>
<i>SphI</i>	GCATGC	R <sub>C1</sub>
<i>AsiSI (SfaAI)</i>	GCGATCGC	R <sub>A3</sub> , R <sub>B3</sub> , R <sub>C3</sub>
<i>AflIII (BspTI)</i>	CTTAAG	R <sub>A5</sub> , R <sub>B6</sub> , R <sub>C7</sub>
<i>AseI (VspI)</i>	ATTAAT	R <sub>C9</sub>
<i>AvrII (XmaII)</i>	CCTAGG	R <sub>B7</sub> , R <sub>C11</sub>
<i>BamHI</i>	GGATCC	R <sub>C10</sub>
<i>EcoRI</i>	GAATTC	R <sub>C4</sub>
<i>HindIII</i>	AAGCTT	R <sub>C12</sub>
<i>KpnI</i>	GGTACC	R <sub>L</sub>
<i>MfeI (MunI)</i>	CAATTG	R <sub>C6</sub>
<i>NdeI</i>	CATATG	R <sub>A4</sub> , R <sub>B2</sub> , R <sub>C5</sub>
<i>NheI</i>	GCTAGC	R <sub>C13</sub>
<i>PvuI</i>	CGATCG	R <sub>R</sub>
<i>SpeI (BcuI)</i>	ACTAGT	R <sub>A2</sub> , R <sub>B5</sub> , R <sub>C2</sub>
<i>XbaI</i>	TCTAGA	R <sub>A6</sub> , R <sub>B4</sub> , R <sub>C8</sub>
<i>PacI</i>	TTAATTAA	Vector backbone modification
<i>PmeI (MssI)</i>	GTTTAAAC	Vector backbone modification
<i>SwaI (SmiI)</i>	ATTTAAAT	Vector backbone modification
<i>DraI</i>	TTTAAA	Destruction of cloning vector backbone

\*, to allow for the assembly and interchangeability of *mch* cluster parts, the recognition sequences of 6 type II restriction enzymes (highlighted in red) were introduced into the coding sequence of *mch* genes; the recognition sequences of other 19 restriction enzymes were eliminated from *mch* genes; according to the assembly strategy depicted in Fig. 2, the functions of the restriction enzymes are shown.

**Table S3** Design of SEs between catalytic domain encoding regions and terminal regions of *mchA*’*B*’*C*’ fragments.

Sequence of SEs and terminal regions	Restriction site and position <sup>b</sup>	Location in the gene (bp) <sup>c</sup>
<i>mchA</i> (A-type cluster)		
5’-GGTCTCCGCAAGACGTACG-KS	<i>BsiWI</i> (R <sub>A1</sub> )	191–194

KS-CACCTGAGACC <u>ACTAGTGGTCTCCACC</u> -AT	<i>SpeI</i> (R <sub>A2</sub> )	1498–1501
AT-GGCAGGAGACC <u>GCGATCGCGGTCTCTGGCA</u> -DH	<i>AsiSI</i> (R <sub>A3</sub> )	2645–2648
DH-ACGGAGAGACC <u>CATATGGTCTCGACGG</u> -ER	<i>NdeI</i> (R <sub>A4</sub> )	4295–4298
ER-CGTTGAGACC <u>CTTAAGGGTCTCTCGTT</u> -KR/CP	<i>AflII</i> (R <sub>A5</sub> )	5186–5189
KR/CP-CGCCGGCGN <sub>27</sub> <u>ATCGGAGACC</u> -3'	<i>MreI</i> (R <sub>A6</sub> )	6361–6364
<b><i>mchB</i> (A-, D- or S-type cluster)</b>		
5'-GGTCTCCTTCGN <sub>18</sub> <u>ACGCGT</u> -C <sub>1</sub>	<i>MluI</i> (R <sub>B1</sub> )	232–235
C <sub>1</sub> -GCGCCGAGACC <u>CATATGGTCTCCGCGC</u> -A <sub>1</sub>	<i>NdeI</i> (R <sub>B2</sub> )	1304–1307
A <sub>1</sub> -CGCGGGAGACC <u>GCGATCGCGGTCTCTCGCG</u> -CP <sub>1</sub>	<i>AsiSI</i> (R <sub>B3</sub> )	4282–4285 (in A-type), 4312–4315 (in D / S-type)
CP <sub>1</sub> -AGCGAGAGACC <u>ICTAGAGGTCTCGAGCG</u> -C <sub>2</sub>	<i>XbaI</i> (R <sub>B4</sub> )	4604–4607 (in A-type), 4634–4637 (in D / S-type)
C <sub>2</sub> -CAGCCGAGACC <u>ACTAGTGGTCTCGCAGC</u> -A <sub>2</sub>	<i>SpeI</i> (R <sub>B5</sub> )	5826–5829 (in A-type), 5856–5859 (in D / S-type)
A <sub>2</sub> -GAAGTGAGACC <u>CTTAAGGGTCTCCGAAG</u> -CP <sub>2</sub>	<i>AflII</i> (R <sub>B6</sub> )	7437–7440 (in A-type), 7467–7470 (in D / S-type)
CP <sub>2</sub> -GCAGGGAGACC <u>CCTAGGGGTCTCTGCAG</u> -E <sub>2</sub>	<i>AvrII</i> (R <sub>B7</sub> )	7739–7742 (in A-type), 7769–7772 (in D / S-type)
E <sub>2</sub> -GCGGCCGCN <sub>20</sub> <u>TCCCCGAGACC</u> -3'	<i>NotI</i> (R <sub>B8</sub> )	9080–9083 (in A-type), 9107–9110 (in D / S-type)
<b><i>mchC</i> (A-, D- or S-type cluster)</b>		
5'-GGTCTCTAGCACGGCATGC-C3	<i>SphI</i> (R <sub>C1</sub> )	50–53
C <sub>3</sub> -GAGCCGAGACC <u>ACTAGTGGTCTCGGAGC</u> -A <sub>3</sub>	<i>SpeI</i> (R <sub>C2</sub> )	1240–1243
A <sub>3</sub> -GGAGCGAGACC <u>GCGATCGCGGTCTCGGGAG</u> -CP <sub>3</sub>	<i>AsiSI</i> (R <sub>C3</sub> )	2853–2856 (in A-type), 2880–2883 (in D-type), 2862–2865 (in S-type)
CP <sub>3</sub> -GGACTGAGACC <u>GAATTCGGTCTCCGGAC</u> -C <sub>4</sub>	<i>EcoRI</i> (R <sub>C4</sub> )	3147–3150 (in A-type), 3156–3159 (in D-type), 3156–3159 (in S-type)
C <sub>4</sub> -ACACCGAGACC <u>CATATGGTCTCTACAC</u> -A <sub>4</sub>	<i>NdeI</i> (R <sub>C5</sub> )	4325–4328 (in A-type), 4334–4337 (in D-type), 4337–4340 (in S-type)
A <sub>4</sub> -CCGCAGAGACC <u>CAATTGGTCTCTCCGC</u> -CP <sub>4</sub>	<i>MfeI</i> (R <sub>C6</sub> )	5960–5963 (in A-type), 5969–5972 (in D-type), 5972–5975 (in S-type)
CP <sub>4</sub> -CGAGCGAGACC <u>CTTAAGGGTCTCTCGAG</u> -C <sub>5</sub>	<i>AflII</i> (R <sub>C7</sub> )	6270–6273 (in A-type), 6276–6279 (in D-type), 6279–6282 (in S-type)
C <sub>5</sub> -CGGACGAGACC <u>TCTAGAGGTCTCTCGGA</u> -A <sub>5</sub>	<i>XbaI</i> (R <sub>C8</sub> )	7469–7472 (in A-type), 7475–7478 (in D-type), 7478–7481 (in S-type)
A <sub>5</sub> -TGGAGGAGACC <u>ATTAATGGTCTCATGGA</u> -CP <sub>5</sub>	<i>AseI</i> (R <sub>C9</sub> )	9083–9086 (in A-type), 9089–9092 (in D-type), 9092–9095 (in S-type)
CP <sub>5</sub> -CGCCAGAGACC <u>GGATCCGGTCTCACGCC</u> -C <sub>6</sub>	<i>BamHI</i> (R <sub>C10</sub> )	9400–9403 (in A-type), 9406–9409 (in D-type), 9409–9412 (in S-type)
C <sub>6</sub> -CGACCGAGACC <u>CCTAGGGGTCTCACGAC</u> -A <sub>6</sub>	<i>AvrII</i> (R <sub>C11</sub> )	10605–10608 (in A-type), 10611–10614 (in D-type), 10614–10617 (in S-type)
A <sub>6</sub> -GCGATGAGACC <u>AAGCTTGGTCTCCGCGA</u> -CP <sub>6</sub>	<i>HindIII</i> (R <sub>C12</sub> )	12235–12238 (in A-type), 12241–12244 (in D-type), 12244–12247 (in S-type)
CP <sub>6</sub> -CGCTGGAGACC <u>GCTAGCGGTCTCTCGCT</u> -TE	<i>NheI</i> (R <sub>C13</sub> )	12527–12530 (in A-type), 12533–12536 (in D-type), 12536–12539 (in S-type)
TE-ACCGGTN <sub>19</sub> <u>GCTCCGAGACC</u> -3'	<i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> )	13227–13230 (in A-type), 13239–13242 (in D-type), 13242–13245 (in S-type)
<b><i>mchC</i> (B-type cluster)</b>		

5'-GGTCTCTAGCACGGCATGC-C <sub>3</sub>	<i>SphI</i> (R <sub>C1</sub> )	50–53
C <sub>3</sub> -GAGCCGAGACC <u>ACTAGTGGTCTCGGAGC</u> -A <sub>3</sub>	<i>SpeI</i> (R <sub>C2</sub> )	1240–1243
A <sub>3</sub> -GGAGCGAGACC <u>GCGATCGCGGTCTCGGGAG</u> -CP <sub>3</sub>	<i>AsiSI</i> (R <sub>C3</sub> )	2853–2856
CP <sub>3</sub> -GGACTGAGACC <u>GAATTCGGTCTCCGGAC</u> -C <sub>4</sub>	<i>EcoRI</i> (R <sub>C4</sub> )	3147–3150
C <sub>4</sub> -ACCTCGAGACC <u>ACGCGTGGTCTCGACCT</u> -A <sub>4</sub>	<i>MluI</i> (R <sub>C15</sub> )	4414–4417
A <sub>4</sub> -TCGCCGAGACC <u>GCGGCCGCGGTCTCGTCGC</u> -CP <sub>4</sub>	<i>NotI</i> (R <sub>C16</sub> )	5971–5974
CP <sub>4</sub> -TCTCCGAGACC <u>CGCCGGCGGGTCTCGTCTC</u> -C <sub>5</sub>	<i>MreI</i> (R <sub>C17</sub> )	6239–6242
C <sub>5</sub> -ACACCGAGACC <u>CATATGGGTCTCTACAC</u> -A <sub>5</sub>	<i>NdeI</i> (R <sub>C5</sub> )	7439–7442
A <sub>5</sub> -CCGCAGAGACC <u>CAATTGGGTCTCTCCGC</u> -CP <sub>5</sub>	<i>MfeI</i> (R <sub>C6</sub> )	9074–9077
CP <sub>5</sub> -CGAGCGAGACC <u>CTTAAGGGTCTCTCGAG</u> -C <sub>6</sub>	<i>AflIII</i> (R <sub>C7</sub> )	9381–9384
C <sub>6</sub> -CGGACGAGACC <u>TCTAGAGGTCTCTCGGA</u> -A <sub>6</sub>	<i>XbaI</i> (R <sub>C8</sub> )	10580–10583
A <sub>6</sub> -TGGAGGAGACC <u>ATTAATGGTCTCATGGA</u> -CP <sub>6</sub>	<i>AseI</i> (R <sub>C9</sub> )	12194–12197
CP <sub>6</sub> -CGCCAGAGACC <u>GGATCCGGTCTCACGCC</u> -C <sub>7</sub>	<i>BamHI</i> (R <sub>C10</sub> )	12511–12514
C <sub>7</sub> -CGACCGAGACC <u>CCTAGGGGTCTCACGA</u> -A <sub>7</sub>	<i>AvrII</i> (R <sub>C11</sub> )	13716–13719
A <sub>7</sub> -GCCATGAGACC <u>AAGCTTGGTCTCCGCGA</u> -CP <sub>7</sub>	<i>HindIII</i> (R <sub>C12</sub> )	15346–15349
CP <sub>7</sub> -CGCTGGAGACC <u>GCTAGCGGTCTCTCGCT</u> -TE	<i>NheI</i> (R <sub>C13</sub> )	15638–15641
TE- <u>ACCGGTN</u> <sub>19</sub> <u>GCTCCGAGACC</u> -3'	<i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> )	16335–16338

***mchC* (C-type cluster)**

5'-GGTCTCTAGCACGGCATGC-C <sub>3</sub>	<i>SphI</i> (R <sub>C1</sub> )	50–53
C <sub>3</sub> -GAGCCGAGACC <u>ACTAGTGGTCTCGGAGC</u> -A <sub>3</sub>	<i>SpeI</i> (R <sub>C2</sub> )	1240–1243
A <sub>3</sub> -GGAGCGAGACC <u>GCGATCGCGGTCTCGGGAG</u> -CP <sub>3</sub>	<i>AsiSI</i> (R <sub>C3</sub> )	2853–2856
CP <sub>3</sub> -GGACTGAGACC <u>GAATTCGGTCTCCGGAC</u> -C <sub>4</sub>	<i>EcoRI</i> (R <sub>C4</sub> )	3147–3150
C <sub>4</sub> -ACACCGAGACC <u>CATATGGGTCTCTACAC</u> -A <sub>4</sub>	<i>NdeI</i> (R <sub>C5</sub> )	4325–4328
A <sub>4</sub> -CCGCAGAGACC <u>CAATTGGGTCTCTCCGC</u> -T <sub>4</sub>	<i>MfeI</i> (R <sub>C6</sub> )	5960–5963
CP <sub>4</sub> -CGAGCGAGACC <u>CTTAAGGGTCTCTCGAG</u> -C <sub>5</sub>	<i>AflIII</i> (R <sub>C7</sub> )	6270–6273
C <sub>5</sub> -CGGACGAGACC <u>TCTAGAGGTCTCTCGGA</u> -A <sub>6</sub>	<i>XbaI</i> (R <sub>C8</sub> )	7469–7472
A <sub>6</sub> -GCGATGAGACC <u>AAGCTTGGTCTCCGCGA</u> -CP <sub>6</sub>	<i>HindIII</i> (R <sub>C12</sub> )	9100–9103
CP <sub>6</sub> -CGCTGGAGACC <u>GCTAGCGGTCTCTCGCT</u> -C <sub>6</sub>	<i>NheI</i> (R <sub>C13</sub> )	9392–9395
TE- <u>ACCGGTN</u> <sub>19</sub> <u>GCTCCGAGACC</u> -3'	<i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> )	10098–10101

a, SEs were introduced between each domain fragment of the *mch* genes (except between the KR and CP domain of *mchA*). For the *mchA* gene, only the PKS coding sequence from the A-type producer (Mx1) was subjected to the sequence design. For the *mchB* gene, the NRPS sequences from the A-, D- and S-type producers (Mx1, Se1 and Sa1) were subjected to the sequence design. For the *mchC* gene, the NRPS sequences from the A-, B-, C-, D- and S-type producers (Mx1, M1, Mv1, Se1 and Sa1) were subjected to the designed. *BsaI* recognition sequences are labeled in red, the corresponding restriction sites (= fusion sites) are labeled in blue, the spacer nucleotide which is skipped by the type IIS restriction enzyme is shown in grey; type II enzyme recognition sites are underlined;

b, positions of the type II endonuclease recognition sites (underlined) corresponding to Fig. 2 in the main text;

c, calculation of location of fusion sites is based on the *mch* clusters deposited in GeneBank (see Table S1).

**Table S4** Modified nucleotides/amino acids in the SEs and the terminal regions listed in Table S3 during the constructional design.\*

Position of modified sequences	Modified nucleotides**	Modified amino acids***
<b><i>A-type cluster</i></b>		
SE between CP <sub>3</sub> and C <sub>4</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (3147–3150 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GGG <b>GAC</b> ACG (GG <b>A</b> GAC ACG)	G D T (G D T)
SE between CP <sub>5</sub> and C <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (9400–9403 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GTC <b>CGC</b> CTG (GTC CG <b>A</b> CTG)	V R L (V R L)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (13202–13207 bp), <i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> ) site	<u>GAC CGG TGT</u> (GAC CG <b>C</b> AGT)	D R C (D R <b>S</b> )
<b><i>B-type cluster</i></b>		
SE between CP <sub>3</sub> and C <sub>4</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (3147–3150 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GGG <b>GAC</b> ACG (GG <b>A</b> GAC ACG)	G D T (G D T)
SE between CP <sub>5</sub> and C <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (9381–9384 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	CCC <b>GAG</b> GGC (CCC GA <b>A</b> GGC)	P E G (P E G)
SE between CP <sub>6</sub> and C <sub>7</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (12511–12514 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GTC <b>CGC</b> CTG (GTC CG <b>G</b> TTG)	V R L (V R L)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (16310–16315 bp), <i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> ) site	<u>GAC CGG TGC</u> (GAC CG <b>T</b> GGC)	D R C (D R <b>G</b> )
<b><i>C-type cluster</i></b>		

SE between CP <sub>4</sub> and C <sub>5</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (6270–6273 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	<u>CCC GAG GGC</u> (CCG GAG GGC)	P E G (P E G)
SE between A <sub>6</sub> and CP <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (9100–9103 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GGC <u>GCG ATG</u> (GGC GCG CTG)	G A M (G A L)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (10073–10078 bp), <i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> ) site	<u>GAC CGG TGC</u> (GAC CGG AGC)	D R C (D R S)
<b>D-type cluster</b>		
5'-term in <i>mchB</i> (254–259 bp), <i>MluI</i> (R <sub>B1</sub> ) site	<u>CAC GCG TGC</u> (CAC CCG AGC)	H A C (H P S)
SE between A <sub>1</sub> and CP <sub>1</sub> in <i>mchB</i> (4312–4315 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	CGG <u>CGC GCC</u> (CGG CGA GCC)	R R A (R R A)
SE between CP <sub>2</sub> and E <sub>2</sub> in <i>mchB</i> (7769–7772 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	ACG <u>GGC AGT</u> (ACG GGG AGT)	T G S (T G S)
3'-term in <i>mchB</i> (9079–9086 bp), <i>NotI</i> (R <sub>B8</sub> ) site	<u>GCG GCC GCG</u> (GCC GCG ACG)	A A A (A A T)
SE between A <sub>3</sub> and CP <sub>3</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (2880–2883 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	<u>ACG GAG CAC</u> (ACA GAG CAC)	T E H (T E H)
SE between CP <sub>3</sub> and C <sub>4</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (3156–3159 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GGG <u>GAC GGG</u> (GGT GAC GGG)	G D G (G D G)
SE between CP <sub>4</sub> and C <sub>5</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (6276–6279 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	CCC <u>GAG AGC</u> (CCG GAG AGC)	P E S (P E S)
SE between CP <sub>5</sub> and C <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (9406–9409 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GTC <u>CGC CTG</u> (GTC CGG CTG)	V R L (V R L)
SE between A <sub>6</sub> and CP <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (12241–12244 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GGG <u>GCG ATG</u> (GGG ACG ATG)	G T M (G A M)
SE between CP <sub>6</sub> and TE in <i>mchC</i> (12533–12536 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	<u>CCG CTC ACG</u> (CCT CTC ACG)	P L T (P L T)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (13214–13219 bp), <i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> ) site	<u>GAC CGG TAT</u> (GAC AGG GAT)	D R Y (D R D)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (13239–13242 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	CCT GAG <u>CTC</u> (CCT GAG CTT)	P E L (P E L)
<b>S-type cluster</b>		
5'-term in <i>mchB</i> (254–259 bp), <i>MluI</i> (R <sub>B1</sub> ) site	<u>CAC GCG TGC</u> (CAC CCG AGC)	H A C (H P S)
3'-term in <i>mchB</i> (9079–9086 bp), <i>NotI</i> (R <sub>B8</sub> ) site	<u>GCG GCC GCA</u> (GCA GCC GCA)	A A A (A A A)
SE between CP <sub>4</sub> and C <sub>5</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (6279–6282 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	CCC <u>GAG AGC</u> (CCG GAG AGC)	P E S (P E S)
SE between CP <sub>5</sub> and C <sub>6</sub> in <i>mchC</i> (9409–9412 bp), <i>BsaI</i> fusion site	GTC <u>CGC CTG</u> (GTC CGG CTG)	V R L (V R L)
3'-term in <i>mchC</i> (13217–13222 bp), <i>AgeI</i> (R <sub>C14</sub> ) site	<u>GAC CGG TAT</u> (GAC AGG GAC)	D R Y (D R D)

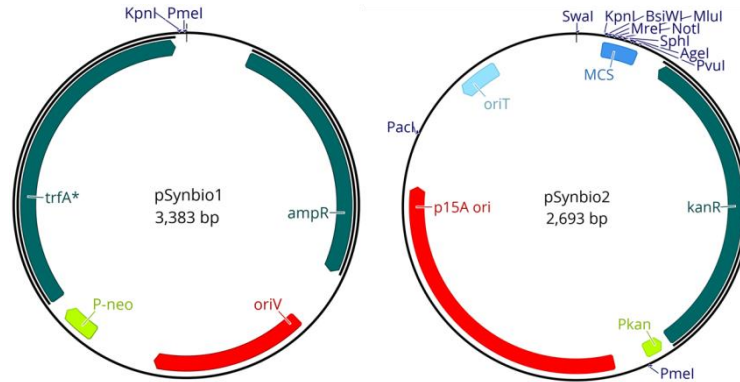
\*, comparing to the BGCs in the native producers, only the SEs and the terminal regions containing mutated recognition/fusion sites in Table S3 are listed, while the elements with unmodified sites are not shown.

\*\* fusion sites after *BsaI* digestion are in shown in blue, type II restriction sites introduced for conventional cloning are underlined. The respective nucleotide and amino acid sequences in the native BGCs are shown in brackets, mutated nucleotides and amino acids are highlighted in red.

## 2.2 Design of the cloning vector pSynbio1 and the expression vector pSynbio2

For the assembly of large biosynthesis gene fragments and for ‘desplitting’ processes, the cloning vector pSynbio1, derived from the pSV vector (standard vector of ATG:biosynthetics GmbH), was designed and manufactured by DNA synthesis. The high-copy vector backbone pSynbio1 is composed of a minimal set of genetic elements required for the amplification and selection in *E. coli*. These include the *oriV* origin of replication from the broad-range RK2 plasmid,<sup>4</sup> the *trfA* gene, whose gene product binds to and activates *oriV*,<sup>5</sup> and an ampicillin resistance gene (*ampR*). Recognition sequences for *KpnI* and *PmeI* were introduced into the vector backbone to allow for subcloning of synthetic fragments, and unique R-sites *PacI*, *SwaI* and *PmeI* were introduced into the pSynbio2 for modification of the vector backbone. To meet the constructional requirements, the recognition sequences of endonucleases required for cloning and engineering of the synthetic cluster fragments/gene constructs (Table S2) were calculated out of the vector sequence. To deliver and functionally

express the synthetic *mch* pathways in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$ , the expression vector pSynbio2 was designed and manufactured by DNA synthesis (Fig. S2). The minimal pSynbio2 vector backbone includes a p15A low-copy origin of replication to ensure stability of the large *mch* cluster constructs during propagation in *E. coli*, an antibiotic resistance gene (kanamycin, *kanR*) suitable for selection of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$  transformants, an origin of transfer (*oriT*) to allow for conjugation as an alternative strategy to transformation via electroporation, and a multiple cloning site (MCS) which is composed of all the R-sites needed for pathway assembly and engineering (Table S2). In addition, unique restriction sites (*PacI*, *PmeI*, *SwaI*) were introduced between the genetic elements to allow for the exchange or addition of vector backbone elements by conventional cloning techniques, e.g. to investigate other chromosomal integration sites.



**Fig. S2** Vector maps of pSynbio1 and pSynbio2.

### 2.3 Generation of *mch* cluster fragments via DNA synthesis

Artificial *mch* cluster fragments, which were designed and synthesized in this study, are shown in Table S5. Cluster fragments were delivered either in the pSV (standard vector of ATG:biosynthetics GmbH) vector or in the pUC57 vector backbone harboring an ampicillin resistance gene.

**Table S5** Constructs generated via DNA synthesis.

Construct Name	Description	Size [bp]	Flanking restriction sites
<b>A-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. xanthus</i> DK1622<sup>1)</sup></b>			
pSV-P-5mchA_Ab	Promotor fragment (6607-7208 nt)	3539	<i>KpnI</i> - <i>BsiWI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-3mchA-5mchB_Ab	Linker region between <i>mchA</i> and <i>mchB</i> (13332-13720 nt)	3326	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>MreI</i> - <i>MluI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-3mchB-5mchC_Ab	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (22513-22701)	3126	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>NotI</i> - <i>SphI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_Ab	Terminator fragment (35867-38440 nt)	5547	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>AgeI</i> - <i>PvuI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchA_A_fragA	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (7197-11354 nt)	7116	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>BsiWI</i> - <i>NdeI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchA_A_fragA_dcm	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (7197-8507 nt)	4260	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>BsiWI</i> - <i>SpeI</i>
pSV-MchA_A_fragB	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (11301-13394 nt)	5063	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>NdeI</i> - <i>MreI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_A_fragA	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13693-19364 nt)	8628	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>MluI</i> - <i>SpeI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_A_fragA_dcm	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13693-14768 nt)	4026	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>MluI</i> - <i>NdeI</i>
pSV-MchB_A_fragB	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (19287-22592 nt)	6275	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>SpeI</i> - <i>NotI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_fragA	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22690-27042 nt)	7295	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>SphI</i> - <i>NdeI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_fragA_dcm	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22690-23883 nt)	4138	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>SphI</i> - <i>SpeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_fragB	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (26965-31798 nt)	7797	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>NdeI</i> - <i>AseI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_fragC	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31723-35966 nt)	7207	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>AseI</i> - <i>AgeI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_fragC_dcm	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31723-32043 nt)	3264	<i>AseI</i> - <i>BamHI</i>
pUC57-CP1_A_inactI	Carrier protein fragment (17743-18068 nt)	3078	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>AsiSI</i> - <i>XbaI</i> / <i>PmeI</i>
pUC57-CP2_A_inactI	Carrier protein fragment (20898-21203 nt)	3056	<i>KpnI</i> / <i>AflIII</i> - <i>AvrII</i> / <i>PmeI</i>



pUC57-CP3_A_inact1	Carrier protein fragment (25494-25787 nt)	3050	<i>KpnI/AsiSI-EcoRI/PmeI</i>
pSV-CP4_A_inact1	Carrier protein fragment (28601-28914 nt)	3079	<i>KpnI/MfeI-AflIII/PmeI</i>
pSV-CP4_A_inact2	Carrier protein fragment (28601-28914 nt)	3079	<i>KpnI/MfeI-AflIII/PmeI</i>
pUC57-CP5_A_inact1	Carrier protein fragment (31724-32042 nt)	3071	<i>KpnI/AseI-BamHI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-CP6_A_inact1	Carrier protein fragment (34876-35171 nt)	3046	<i>KpnI/HindIII-NheI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_delM1	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (14803-19299 nt)	5413	<i>MluI-AflIII</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_delM2	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (19414-21210 nt)	5382	<i>XbaI-NotI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_delM3	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (23861-26974 nt)	5517	<i>SphI-MfeI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_delM4	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (27015-30155 nt)	5535	<i>EcoRI-AseI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_delM5	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (30111-33245 nt)	5570	<i>AflIII-HindIII</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_delM6	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (33372-35228 nt)	4674	<i>BamHI-AgeI</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_duplM1	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (15010-19509 nt)	8459	<i>XbaI-SpeI</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_duplM2	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (18088-21213 nt)	6168	<i>AflIII-AvrII</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_duplM3	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (24057-27186 nt)	7044	<i>EcoRI-NdeI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_duplM4	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (27183-30330 nt)	7086	<i>AflIII-XbaI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_duplM5	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (30324-33455 nt)	7071	<i>BamHI-AvrII</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_duplM6	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (32007-35138 nt)	6191	<i>HindIII-NheI</i>
pUC57-P-5mchA_opt_Ab	Promotor fragment (6607-7208 nt)	3332	<i>KpnI-BsiWI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-3mchA-5mchB_opt_Ab	Linker region between <i>mchA</i> and <i>mchB</i> (13332-13720 nt)	3119	<i>KpnI/MreI-MluI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-3mchB-5mchC_opt_Ab	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (22513-22701 nt)	2919	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-T-3mchC_opt_Ab	Terminator fragment (35842-38439 nt)	5328	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchA_A_opt	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (7197-13370 nt)	9169	<i>KpnI/BsiWI-MreI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_opt_fragA	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13693-19290 nt)	8335	<i>KpnI/MluI-SpeI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchB_A_opt_fragB	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (19287-22544 nt)	6003	<i>KpnI/SpeI-NotI/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_opt_fragA	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22690-28913 nt)	8961	<i>KpnI/SphI-AflIII/PmeI</i>
pUC57-MchC_A_opt_fragB	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (28910-35870 nt)	9706	<i>KpnI/AflIII-AgeI/PmeI</i>
<b>B-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>Myxococcus</i> sp. 171<sup>2)</sup></b>			
pSV-3mchB-5mchC_Bb	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (22379-22578 nt)	3126	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_Bb	Terminator fragment (38817-41402 nt)	5547	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_B_fragA_woSE	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22557-26925 nt)	7760	<i>KpnI/SphI-MluI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_B_fragB_woSE	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (26921-31584 nt)	8061	<i>KpnI/MluI-MfeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_B_fragC_woSE	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31581-34704 nt)	6521	<i>KpnI/MfeI-AseI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_B_fragC	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31581-34704 nt)	7807	<i>KpnI/MfeI-AseI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_B_fragD_woSE	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (34701-38845 nt)	7542	<i>KpnI/AseI-AgeI/PmeI</i>
<b>C-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. virescens</i> ST200611<sup>3)</sup></b>			
pSV-3mchB-5mchC_Cb	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (23091-23279 nt)	3126	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_Cb	Terminator fragment (33291-35906 nt)	5525	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_C_fragA	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (50-4328 nt)	7311	<i>KpnI/SphI-NdeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_C_fragA_dcm	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (23268-24461 nt)	4142	<i>KpnI/SphI-SpeI</i>
pSV-MchC_C_fragB	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (4325-10101 nt)	8860	<i>KpnI/NdeI-AgeI/PmeI</i>
<b>D-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>S. erecta</i> Pde77<sup>4)</sup></b>			
pSV-3mchA-5mchB_Db	Linker region between <i>mchA</i> and <i>mchB</i> (11825-12206 nt)	3760	<i>KpnI/MreI-MluI/PmeI</i>
pSV-3mchB-5mchC_Db	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (21027-21217 nt)	3568	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_Db	Terminator fragment (34376-35036 nt)	5550	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_D_fragA	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (12178-17812 nt)	8660	<i>KpnI/MluI-SpeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_D_fragB	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (17804-21058 nt)	6226	<i>KpnI/SpeI-NotI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_D_fragA	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (21207-25568 nt)	7319	<i>KpnI/SphI-NdeI/PmeI</i>

pSV-MchC_D_fragB	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (25492-30322 nt)	7793	<i>KpnI/NdeI-VspI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_D_fragC	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (30245-34493 nt)	7213	<i>KpnI/VspI-AgeI/PmeI</i>
<b>S-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>S. aurantiaca</i> DW4/3-1<sup>5)</sup></b>			
pSV-3mchB-5mchC_Sb	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (22680-22869 nt)	3127	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_Sb	Terminator fragment (36025-36702 nt)	5544	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchA_S_fragA	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (7314-11450 nt)	7146	<i>KpnI/BsiWI-NdeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchA_S_fragB	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (11446-13510 nt)	5051	<i>KpnI/NdeI-MreI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_S_fragA	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13833-19510 nt)	8650	<i>KpnI/MluI-SpeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_S_fragA_dcm	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13833-14908 nt)	4020	<i>KpnI-NdeI</i>
pSV-MchB_S_fragB	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (19456-22711 nt)	6272	<i>KpnI/SpeI/NotI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_S_fragA	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22858-27148 nt)	7329	<i>KpnI/SphI/NdeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_S_fragA_dcm	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22858-24051 nt)	4138	<i>KpnI/SpeI</i>
pSV-MchC_S_fragB	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (27145-31903 nt)	7800	<i>KpnI/NdeI/VspI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_S_fragC	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31900-36101 nt)	7211	<i>KpnI/VspI/AgeI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_S_fragC_dcm	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (31900-32220 nt)	3264	<i>AseI/BamHI</i>
pSV-CP4_S_react	Carrier protein fragment (28780-29090 nt)	3076	<i>KpnI/MfeI-AflII/PmeI</i>
<b>A-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. xanthus</i> DK1622<sup>6)</sup></b>			
pSV-P-5mchA_A_AarI	Promotor fragment (6603-7206 nt)	4003	<i>KpnI-BsiWI/PmeI</i>
pSV-3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI	Linker region between <i>mchA</i> and <i>mchB</i> (13335-13718 nt)	3783	<i>KpnI/MreI-MluI/PmeI</i>
pSV-3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI	Linker region between <i>mchB</i> and <i>mchC</i> (22517-22699 nt)	3582	<i>KpnI/NotI-SphI/PmeI</i>
pSV-T-3mchC_A_AarI	Terminator fragment (35842-38443 nt)	6001	<i>KpnI/AgeI-PvuI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchA_A_AarI_SE	<i>mchA</i> gene fragment (7203-13468 nt)	9665	<i>KpnI/BsiWI-MreI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchB_A_AarI_SE	<i>mchB</i> gene fragment (13715-22746 nt)	12431	<i>KpnI/MluI-NotI/PmeI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragABCE	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (22697-27083 nt)	9404	<i>KpnI/SphI-BamHI/MluI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragD	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (26971-30113 nt)	6186	<i>NdeI-XbaI</i>
pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragF	<i>mchC</i> gene fragment (32059-35845 nt)	6863	<i>BamHI-MluI</i>
<b>Cloning and expression vectors</b>			
pSynbio1_AarI	Cloning vector	3383	-
pSynbio2_AarI	Expression vector	2700	-
pSV-Amp_Synbio1 mut	<i>ampR</i> gene fragment	3587	<i>PstI-MscI</i>
pSV-MCS_Synbio2	Multiple cloning site fragment	3415	<i>SwaI-HindIII</i>

- 1) *BsaI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622595
- 2) *BsaI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622591
- 3) *BsaI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622593
- 4) *BsaI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622602
- 5) *BsaI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622599
- 6) *AarI* design based on *mch* cluster retrieved from GeneBank entry KX622595

## 2.4 Assembly of artificial *mch* genes and gene clusters

The synthetic fragments of biosynthetic genes were stitched and subcloned to pSynbio1 vector. The resulting intermediate constructs, pSyn1-mchA\_SE, pSyn1-mchB\_SE and pSyn1-mchC\_SE, were hydrolyzed by *BsaI* to retrieve the splitter elements. After purification with QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen), SEs were removed and the SE-free fragments were ligated by T4 DNA ligase. The reassembled biosynthetic genes as well as synthetic promoter, intergenic linkers and terminator were subcloned to pSynbio2, generating final *mch* expression vector. To generate CP-mutations, module duplications and module deletions, dedicated synthetic fragments were subcloned to pSyn1-mchB\_SE or pSyn1-mchC\_SE. After desplitting and reassembly, modified *mchB* or *mchC* replaced the corresponding gene on pSynMch13 by conventional cloning to yield modified *mch* expression vector. Detailed information for the construction of expression vectors is available in Table S6 and Table S7. The point mutations in final expression constructs were excluded by Illumina MiSeq sequencing.

**Table S6** Constructs for *mch* gene library generated in this study.

Plasmid	Construction
<b>A-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. xanthus</i> DK1622</b>	
pSyn1-MchA_A_SE	(1) 2122 bp <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> MchA_A_fragB fragment from pSV-MchA_A_fragB ligated into pSV-MchA_A_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchA_A_fragAB
	(2) 6302 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchA_A_fragAB fragment from pSV-MchA_A_fragAB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchA_A_SE_pre
	(3) 1336 bp <i>KpnI/SpeI</i> MchA_A_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchA_A_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchA_A_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchA_A_SE
pSyn1-MchA_A	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchA_A_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE*
pSyn1-MchB_A_SE	(1) 3335 bp <i>SpeI/PmeI</i> MchB_A_fragB fragment from pSV-MchB_A_fragB ligated into pSV-MchB_A_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>SpeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchB_A_fragAB
	(2) 9028 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchB_A_fragAB fragment from pSV-MchB_A_fragAB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_SE_pre
	(3) 1100 bp <i>KpnI/NdeI</i> MchB_A_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchB_A_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_SE	(1) 4862 bp <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> MchC_A_fragB fragment from pSV-MchC_A_fragB ligated into pSV-MchC_A_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchC_A_fragAB
	(2) 9237 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchC_A_fragAB fragment from pSV-MchC_A_fragAB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_fragAB
	(3) 4272 bp <i>AseI/PmeI</i> MchC_A_fragC fragment from pSV-MchC_A_fragC ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_fragAB digested with <i>AseI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_SE_pre
	(4) 1219 bp <i>KpnI/SpeI</i> MchC_A_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchC_A_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_SE_pre2
	(5) 344 bp <i>AseI/BamHI</i> MchC_A_fragC_dcm fragment from pSV-MchC_A_fragC_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE_pre2 to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_CP1inact1_SE	350 bp <i>AsiSI/XbaI</i> MchB_A_CP1inact1 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_CP1inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_CP1inact1_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_CP1inact1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_CP1inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_CP2inact1_SE	330 bp <i>AflIII/AvrII</i> MchB_A_CP2inact1 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_CP2inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_CP2inact1_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_CP2inact1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_CP2inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP3inact1_SE	322 bp <i>AsiSI/EcoRI</i> MchC_A_CP3inact1 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_CP3inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_CP3inact1_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP3inact1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_CP3inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact1_SE	338 bp <i>MfeI/AflIII</i> MchC_A_CP4inact1 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_CP4inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact1_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact2_SE	338 bp <i>MfeI/AflIII</i> MchC_A_CP4inact2 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_CP4inact2 ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact2_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact2	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_CP4inact2_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to

MchC_A_CP4inact2	remove SE
pSyn1-	344 bp <i>AseI/BamHI</i> MchC_A_CP5inact1 fragment from pUC57-
MchC_A_CP5inact1_SE	MchC_A_CP5inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-
	MchC_A_CP5inact1_SE
pSyn1-	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_CP5inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
MchC_A_CP5inact1	remove SE
pSyn1-	320 bp <i>HindIII/NheI</i> MchC_A_CP6inact1 fragment from pUC57-
MchC_A_CP6inact1_SE	MchC_A_CP6inact1 ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-
	MchC_A_CP6inact1_SE
pSyn1-	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_CP6inact1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
MchC_A_CP6inact1	remove SE
pSyn1-	5743 bp <i>XbaI/SpeI</i> MchB_A_duplM1 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_duplM1
MchB_A_duplM1_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM1_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	3452 bp <i>AflII/AvrII</i> MchB_A_duplM2 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_duplM2
MchB_A_duplM2_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM2_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM2	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_duplM2_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	4329 bp <i>EcoRI/NdeI</i> MchC_A_duplM3 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_duplM3
MchC_A_duplM3_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM3_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM3	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM3_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	4370 bp <i>AflII/XbaI</i> MchC_A_duplM4 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_duplM4
MchC_A_duplM4_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM4_SE
pSyn1-	4355 bp <i>BamHI/AvrII</i> MchC_A_duplM5 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_duplM5
MchC_A_duplM5_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM5_SE
pSyn1-	3475 bp <i>HindIII/NheI</i> MchC_A_duplM6 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_duplM6
MchC_A_duplM6_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM6_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM6	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM6_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	2697 bp <i>MluI/AflII</i> MchB_A_delM1 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_delM1 ligated
MchB_A_delM1_SE	into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_delM1_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_delM1	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_delM1_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	2665 bp <i>XbaI/NotI</i> MchB_A_delM2 fragment from pUC57-MchB_A_delM2 ligated
MchB_A_delM2_SE	into pSyn1-MchB_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_delM2_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_delM2	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_delM2_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	2797 bp <i>SphI/MfeI</i> MchC_A_delM3 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_delM3 ligated
MchC_A_delM3_SE	into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_delM3_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_delM3	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_delM3_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	2820 bp <i>EcoRI/AseI</i> MchC_A_delM4 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_delM4
MchC_A_delM4_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_delM4_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_delM4	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_delM4_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	2584 bp <i>AflII/HindIII</i> MchC_A_delM5 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_delM5
MchC_A_delM5_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_delM5_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_delM5	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_delM5_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to
	remove SE
pSyn1-	1958 bp <i>BamHI/AgeI</i> MchC_A_delM6 fragment from pUC57-MchC_A_delM6
MchC_A_delM6_SE	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_A_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_delM6_SE
<b>B-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>Myxococcus</i> sp. 171</b>	
pSyn1-MchC_B_SE	(1) 2954 bp <i>KpnI/MluI</i> MchC_B_fragA fragment from pSV-
	MchC_B_fragA_woSE and 2947 bp <i>MluI/PmeI</i> MchC_B_fragB fragment from
	pSV-MchC_B_fragB_woSE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i>
	to generate pSyn1-MchC_B_fragAB
	(2) 4854 bp <i>KpnI/AseI</i> MchC_B_fragC fragment from pSV-MchC_B_fragC_woSE
	and 4269 <i>AseI/PmeI</i> MchC_B_fragD fragment from pSV-

	MchC_B_fragD_woSE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_B_fragCD
	(3) 7318 bp <i>MunI/PmeI</i> MchC_B_fragA fragment from pSyn1-MchC_B_fragCD ligated into pSyn1-MchC_B_fragAB hydrolyzed with <i>MunI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_B_SE_pre
	(4) 3193 bp <i>MunI/AseI</i> MchC_B_fragC fragment from pSV-MchC_B_fragC ligated into pSyn1-MchC_B_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchC_B_SE
pSyn1-MchC_B	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_B_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
<b>C-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. virescens</i> ST200611</b>	
	(1) 5923 bp <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> MchC_C_fragB fragment from pSV-MchC_C_fragB ligated into pSV-MchC_C_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchC_C_SE
pSyn1-MchC_C_SE	(2) 10296 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchC_C_SE fragment from pSV-MchC_C_SE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_C_SE_pre
	(3) 1211 bp <i>KpnI/SpeI</i> MchC_C_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchC_C_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchC_C_SE_pre hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_C_SE
pSyn1-MchC_C	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_C_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
<b>D-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>S. erecta</i> Pde77</b>	
pSyn1-MchB_D_SE	5719 bp <i>KpnI/SpeI</i> MchB_D_fragA fragment from pSV-pMchB_D_fragA and 3332 bp <i>SpeI/PmeI</i> MchB_D_fragB fragment from pSV-pMchB_D_fragB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchB_D_SE
pSyn1-MchB_D	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_D_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
	(1) 4386 bp <i>KpnI/NdeI</i> MchC_D_fragA fragment from pSV-MchC_D_fragA and 4859 bp <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> MchC_D_fragB fragment from pSV-MchC_D_fragB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_D_fragAB
pSyn1-MchC_D_SE	(2) 4278 bp <i>AseI/PmeI</i> MchC_D_fragC fragment from pSV-pMchC_D_fragC ligated into pSyn1-MchB_D_fragAB hydrolyzed with <i>AseI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_D_SE
pSyn1-MchC_D	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_D_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
<b>S-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>S. aurantiaca</i> DW4/3-1</b>	
	(1) 3328 bp <i>SpeI/PmeI</i> MchB_S_fragB fragment from pSV-MchB_S_fragB ligated into pSV-pMchB_S_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>SpeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchB_S_fragAB
pSyn1-MchB_S_SE	(2) 9051 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchB_S_fragAB fragment from pSV-MchB_S_fragAB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchB_S_SE_pre
	(3) 1100 bp <i>KpnI/NdeI</i> MchB_S_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchB_S_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchB_S_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchB_S_SE
pSyn1-MchB_S	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_S_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
	(1) 4857 bp <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> MchC_S_fragB fragment from pSV-MchC_S_fragB ligated into pSV-MchC_S_fragA hydrolyzed with <i>NdeI/PmeI</i> to generate pSV-MchC_S_fragAB
	(2) 9234 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchC_S_fragAB fragment from pSV-MchC_S_fragAB ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_S_fragAB
pSyn1-MchC_S_SE	(3) 4276 bp <i>AseI/PmeI</i> MchC_S_fragC fragment from pSV-MchC_S_fragC ligated into pSyn1-MchC_S_fragAB hydrolyzed with <i>AseI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_S_SE_pre
	(4) 1219 bp <i>KpnI/SpeI</i> MchC_S_fragA_dcm fragment from pSV-MchC_S_fragA_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchC_S_SE_pre to generate pSyn1-MchC_S_SE_pre2
	(5) 344 bp <i>AseI/BamHI</i> MchC_S_fragC_dcm fragment from pSV-MchC_S_fragC_dcm ligated into pSyn1-MchC_S_SE_pre2 to generate pSyn1-MchC_S_SE
pSyn1-MchC_S pSyn1-	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_S_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE 335 bp <i>MfeI/AflII</i> MchC_S_CP4react fragment from pUC57-MchC_S_CP4act

MchC_S_CP4react_SE pSyn1- MchC_S_CP4react	ligated into pSyn1-MchC_S_SE to generate pSyn1-MchC_S_CP4react_SE Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_S_CP4react_SE by <i>BsaI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
<b>A-type <i>mch</i> cluster fragments from <i>M. xanthus</i> DK1622**</b>	
pSyn1- MchA_A_AarI_SE	6303 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchA_A_AarI_SE fragment from pSV-MchA_A_AarI_SE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchA_A_AarI_SE
pSyn1-MchA_A_AarI	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchA_A_AarI_SE by <i>AarI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1- MchB_A_AarI_SE	9069 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchB_A_AarI_SE fragment from pSV-MchB_A_AarI_SE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchB_A_AarI_SE
pSyn1-MchB_A_AarI	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchB_A_AarI_SE by <i>AarI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1- MchC_A_AarI_SE	(1) 3944 bp <i>BamHI/MluI</i> MchC_A_AarI_fragF fragment from pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragF ligated into pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragABCE hydrolyzed with <i>BamHI/MluI</i> to generate pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragABCEF
	(2) 3256 bp <i>NdeI/XbaI</i> MchC_A_AarI_fragD fragment from pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragD ligated into pSV-MchC_A_AarI_fragABCEF hydrolyzed with <i>NdeI/XbaI</i> to generate pSV-MchC_A_AarI_SE
	(3) 13637 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> MchC_A_AarI_SE fragment from pSV-MchC_A_AarI_SE ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-MchC_A_AarI_SE
pSyn1-MchC_A_AarI	Hydrolysis of pSyn1-MchC_A_AarI_SE by <i>AarI</i> followed by re-ligation to remove SE
pSyn1-P-5mchA_A_AarI	641 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> P-5mchA_A_AarI fragment from pSV- P-5mchA_A_AarI ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-P-5mchA_A_AarI
pSyn1-3mchA- 5mchB_A_AarI	421 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> 3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI fragment from pSV-3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI
pSyn1-3mchB- 5mchC_A_AarI	220 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> 3mchB-5mchC_A_AarI fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC_A_AarI ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-3mchB-5mchC_A_AarI
pSyn1-T-3mchC_A_AarI	2639 bp <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> T-3mchC_A_AarI fragment from pSV-T-3mchC_A_AarI ligated into pSynbio1 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/PmeI</i> to generate pSyn1-T-3mchC_A_AarI

\* SE = splitter element

\*\* Based on *AarI* design

**Table S7** Constructs for *mch* cluster assemblies generated in this study.

Plasmid	Construction
pSynMch1	(1) 621 bp <i>KpnI/BsiWI</i> P5mchA <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-P-5mchA_A_AarI ligated into pSynbio2 hydrolyzed with <i>KpnI/BsiWI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca1
	(2) 6134 bp <i>BsiWI/MreI</i> <i>mchA</i> <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchA_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca1 hydrolyzed with <i>BsiWI/MreI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca2
	(3) 386 bp <i>MreI/MluI</i> 3A <sub>A</sub> 5B <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-3mchA-5mchB_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca2 hydrolyzed with <i>MreI/MluI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca3
	(4) 8803 bp <i>MluI/NotI</i> <i>mchB</i> <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca3 hydrolyzed with <i>MluI/NotI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca4
	(5) 186 bp <i>NotI/SphI</i> 3B <sub>A</sub> 5C <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-3mchB-5mchC_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca4 hydrolyzed with <i>NotI/SphI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca5
	(6) 13150 bp <i>SphI/AgeI</i> <i>mchC</i> <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca5 hydrolyzed with <i>SphI/AgeI</i> to generate pSyn2-ca6
	(7) 2616 bp <i>AgeI/PvuI</i> T3mchC <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-T-3mchC_A_AarI ligated into pSyn2-ca6 hydrolyzed with <i>AgeI/PvuI</i> to generate pSynMch1
pSynMch2	(1) 606 bp <i>KpnI/BsiWI</i> P5mchA <sub>A</sub> fragment from pSV-P-5mchA_Ab ligated into pSynbio2

- hydrolyzed with *KpnI/BsiWI* to generate pSyn2-ca7
- (2) 6134 bp *BsiWI/MreI mchA<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchA<sub>A</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca7 hydrolyzed with *BsiWI/MreI* to generate pSyn2-ca8
- (3) 386 bp *MreI/MluI 3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchA-5mchB<sub>Ab</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca8 hydrolyzed with *MreI/MluI* to generate pSyn2-ca9
- (4) 8803 bp *MluI/NotI mchB<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchB<sub>A</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca9 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSyn2-ca10
- (5) 186 bp *NotI/SphI 3B<sub>A</sub>5C<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC<sub>Ab</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca10 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca11
- (6) 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>A</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca11 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca12
- (7) 2601 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Ab</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca12 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch2<sub>pre</sub>
- (8) 15917 bp *KpnI/NotI P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>-mchB<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSyn2-ca10 ligated into pSynMch2<sub>pre</sub> hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch2
- pSynMch3 (1) 186 bp *NotI/SphI 3B<sub>B</sub>5C<sub>B</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC<sub>Bb</sub> ligated into pSynbio2 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca13
- (2) 2601 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>B</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Bb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca13 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSyn2-ca14
- (3) 16250 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>B</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>B</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca14 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca15
- (4) 15909 bp *KpnI/NotI P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>-mchB<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSynMch2 ligated into pSyn2-ca15 hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch3
- pSynMch4 (1) 186 bp *NotI/SphI 3B<sub>C</sub>5C<sub>C</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC<sub>Cb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca10 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca16
- (2) 10013 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>C</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>C</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca16 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca17
- (3) 2601 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>C</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Cb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca17 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch4
- (1) 205 bp *NotI/SphI 3B<sub>D</sub>5C<sub>D</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC<sub>Db</sub> ligated into pSynbio2 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca18
- (2) 2610 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>D</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Db</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca18 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSyn2-ca19
- pSynMch5 (3) 13154 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>D</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>D</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca19 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca20
- (4) 8826 bp *MluI/NotI mchB<sub>D</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchB<sub>D</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca20 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSyn2-ca21
- (5) 7110 bp *KpnI/MluI P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>* from pSynMch2 ligated into pSyn2-ca21 hydrolyzed with *KpnI/MluI* to generate pSynMch5
- pSynMch6 (1) 8830 bp *MluI/NotI mchB<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchB<sub>S</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca9 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSyn2-ca22
- (2) 187 bp *NotI/SphI 3B<sub>S</sub>5C<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC<sub>Sb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca22 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca23
- (3) 13157 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>S</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca23 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca24
- (4) 2620 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Sb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca24 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>S</sub>* to generate pSynMch6
- pSynMch8 (1) 13165 bp *SphI/AgeI mchC<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSyn1-MchC<sub>S</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca11 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca31
- (2) 2620 bp *AgeI/PvuI T3mchC<sub>S</sub>* fragment from pSV-T-3mchC<sub>Sb</sub> ligated into pSyn2-ca31 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch8<sub>pre</sub>
- (3) 15917 bp *KpnI/NotI P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>-mchB<sub>A</sub>* fragment from pSyn2-ca10 ligated into

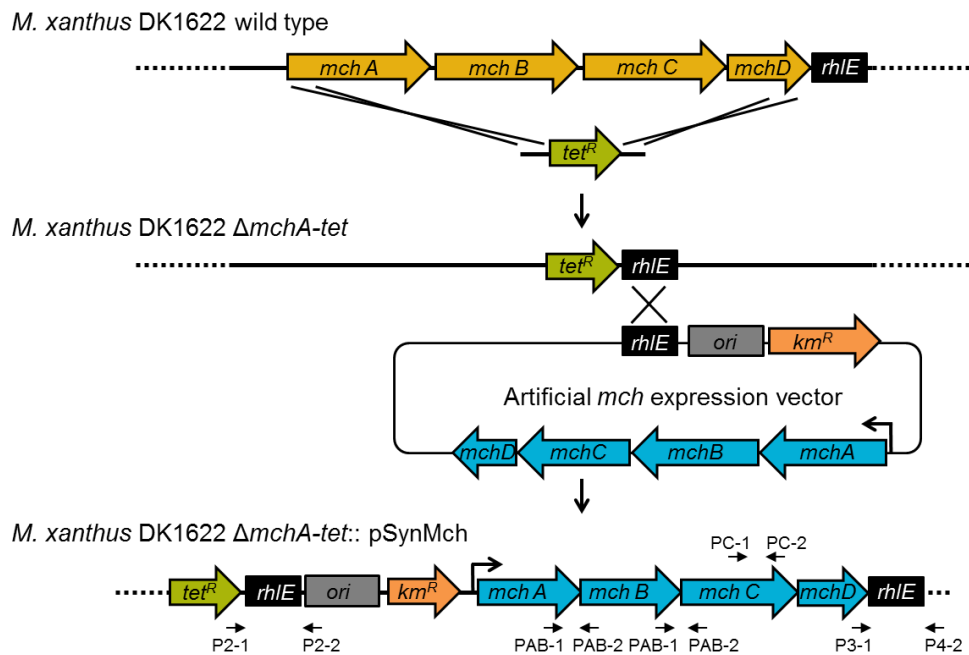
- pSynMch8\_pre hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch8
- (1) 186 bp *NotI/SphI* 3B<sub>A</sub>5C<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC\_Ab into pSyn2-ca22 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca32
- (2) 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A ligated into pSyn2-ca32 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca33
- pSynMch9 (3) 2608 bp *AgeI/PvuI* T3mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSV-T-3mchC\_Ab ligated into pSyn2-ca33 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch9\_pre
- (4) 15944 bp *KpnI/NotI* P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>-mchB<sub>S</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca22 ligated into pSynMch9\_pre hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch9
- (1) 186 bp *NotI/SphI* 3B<sub>C</sub>5C<sub>C</sub> fragment from pSV-3mchB-5mchC\_Cb into pSyn2-ca22 hydrolyzed with *NotI/SphI* to generate pSyn2-ca34
- (2) 10021 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>C</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_C ligated into pSyn2-ca34 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSyn2-ca35
- pSynMch10 (3) 2601 bp *AgeI/PvuI* T3mchC<sub>C</sub> fragment from pSV-T-3mchC\_Cb ligated into pSyn2-ca35 hydrolyzed with *AgeI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch10\_pre
- (4) 15944 bp *KpnI/NotI* P5mchA<sub>A</sub>-mchA<sub>A</sub>-3A<sub>A</sub>5B<sub>A</sub>-mchB<sub>S</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca22 ligated into pSynMch10\_pre hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch10
- 19037 bp *NotI/PvuI* 3B<sub>B</sub>5C<sub>B</sub>-mchC<sub>B</sub>-T3mchC<sub>B</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca15 ligated into pSynMch10 hydrolyzed with *NotI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch11
- pSynMch11 15952 bp *NotI/PvuI* 3B<sub>D</sub>5C<sub>D</sub>-mchC<sub>D</sub>-T3mchC<sub>D</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca20 ligated into pSynMch10 hydrolyzed with *NotI/PvuI* to generate pSynMch12
- pSynMch12 (1) The native promoter of *mchA* gene cluster on pSynMch2 was replaced with *cmR-ccdB* cassette by Red/ET recombination to generate pSynMch2-cmccdB
- pSynMch13 (2) The *cmR-ccdB* cassette on pSynMch2-cmccdB was substituted with overexpression promoter *Ptn5* by Red/ET recombination
- 8830 bp *MluI/NotI* mchB<sub>S</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB\_S ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSynMch14
- pSynMch14 21643 bp *KpnI/NotI* 3B<sub>B</sub>5C<sub>B</sub>-mchC<sub>B</sub>-T3mchC<sub>B</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca15 ligated into pSynMch14 hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch15
- pSynMch15 18558 bp *KpnI/NotI* 3B<sub>D</sub>5C<sub>D</sub>-mchC<sub>D</sub>-T3mchC<sub>D</sub> fragment from pSyn2-ca20 ligated into pSynMch14 hydrolyzed with *KpnI/NotI* to generate pSynMch16
- pSynMch16 8803 bp *MluI/NotI* mchB<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB\_A\_CP1inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSynMch17
- pSynMch17 8803 bp *MluI/NotI* mchB<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB\_A\_CP2inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSynMch18
- pSynMch18 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_CP3inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch19
- pSynMch19 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_CP4inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch20
- pSynMch20 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_CP4inact2 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch21
- pSynMch21 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_CP5inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch22
- pSynMch22 13150 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_CP6inact1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch23
- pSynMch23 13165 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>S</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_S\_CP4react ligated into pSynMch6 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch24
- pSynMch24 13296 bp *MluI/NotI* mchB<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB\_A\_duplM1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSynMch24
- pSynMch25 11925 bp *MluI/NotI* mchB<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchB\_A\_duplM2 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *MluI/NotI* to generate pSynMch25
- pSynMch26 16268 bp *SphI/AgeI* mchC<sub>A</sub> fragment from pSyn1-MchC\_A\_duplM3 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with *SphI/AgeI* to generate pSynMch27



pSynMch28	16301 bp	<i>SphI/AgeI</i>	<i>mchC<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchC_A_duplM6 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>SphI/AgeI</i> to generate pSynMch28
pSynMch29	4302 bp	<i>MluI/NotI</i>	<i>mchB<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchB_A_delM1 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>MluI/NotI</i> to generate pSynMch29
pSynMch30	7002 bp	<i>MluI/NotI</i>	<i>mchB<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchB_A_delM2 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>MluI/NotI</i> to generate pSynMch30
pSynMch31	10028 bp	<i>SphI/AgeI</i>	<i>mchC<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchC_A_delM3 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>SphI/AgeI</i> to generate pSynMch31
pSynMch32	10001 bp	<i>SphI/AgeI</i>	<i>mchC<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchC_A_delM4 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>SphI/AgeI</i> to generate pSynMch32
pSynMch33	10007 bp	<i>SphI/AgeI</i>	<i>mchC<sub>A</sub></i> fragment from pSyn1-MchC_A_delM5 ligated into pSynMch13 hydrolyzed with <i>SphI/AgeI</i> to generate pSynMch33

### 3. Transformation of *M. xanthus* and verification by colony PCR

The *mch* expression constructs harboring synthetic *mch* cluster were transferred into *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$  via electroporation using established standard protocols.<sup>6</sup> The *mch* gene clusters were integrated to the chromosome of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$  by homologous recombination (Fig. S3). The *rhIE* gene served as homologous sequence. The integration of the respective *mch* clusters in *M. xanthus* mutants were verified by colony PCR. Briefly, cells from a CTT agar plate were re-suspended in 100  $\mu$ L water and heated at 100 °C for 10 min, 1  $\mu$ L of the supernatant was used as template for PCR. Oligonucleotide sequences are given in the Table S8. As shown in Fig. S4, all *mch* clusters were integrated to the genome.

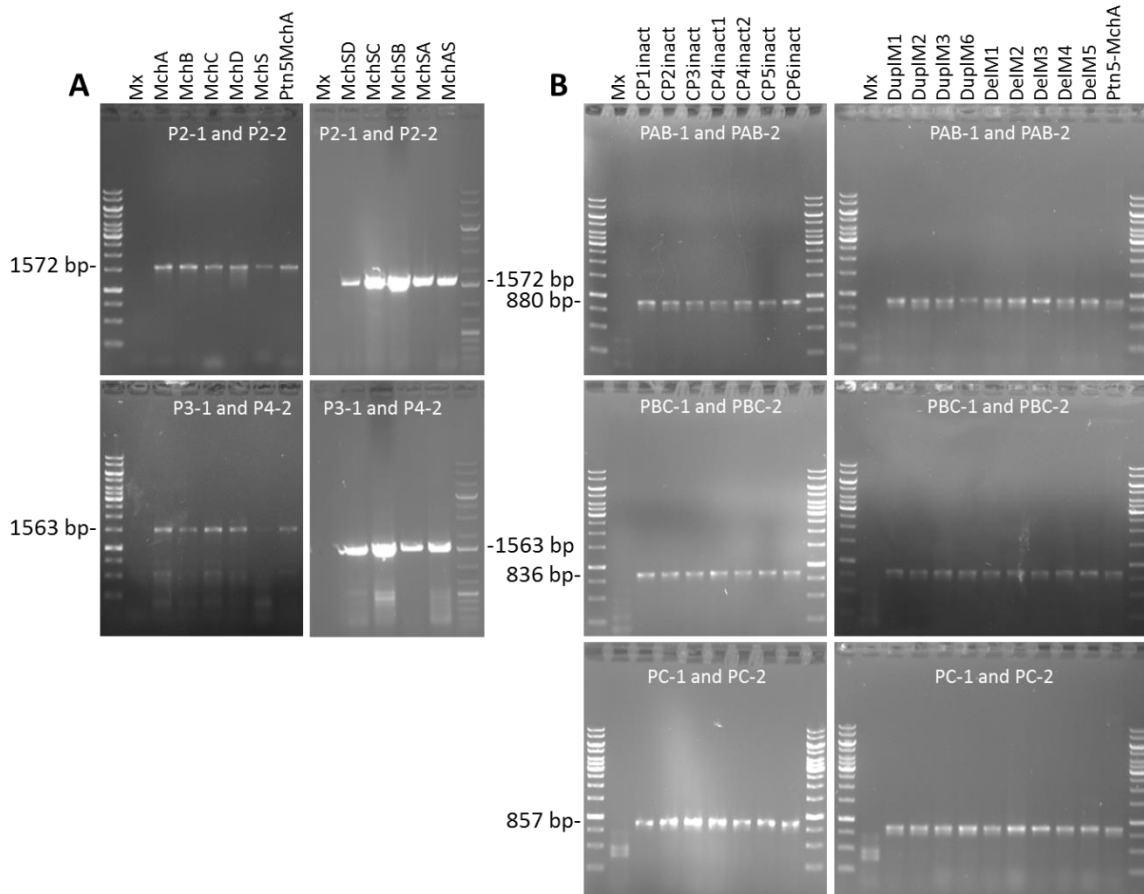


**Fig. S3** Integration of artificial *mch* gene cluster into the chromosome of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$ . The host *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$  was generated by deletion of the native A-type *mch* cluster with a tetracycline resistance gene (*tet<sup>R</sup>*). The synthetic *mch* gene cluster on pSynbio2 vector was integrated downstream of the *tet<sup>R</sup>* site by homologous recombination. The chromosomal integration of artificial *mch* clusters was verified by colony PCR. The positions of the primers (see Table S8) for colony PCR are illustrated.

**Table S8** Oligonucleotides used in colony PCR.

Oligonucleotide	Sequence	Expected size (bp)
P2-1	CGGAGAACTGTGAATGCGC	1572
P2-2	GTTTCATTTGATGCTCGATG	

P3-1	CGCCGGACGCATGACTCAC	1563
P4-2	AGAGGCACTCCAGGCCTCTTA	
PAB-1	CGGCAGCCAGAGCTGGAGAA	880
PAB-2	TGGTGGACGGTCATCAGGAGG	
PBC-1	GGAGACGATTGAACGGCTGAACG	836
PBC-2	AAGGGCAGTGGCGTGGGTTG	
PC-1	GTGGAACCTCTACGGACCGACAG	857
PC-2	ACAGGGACACCAGCGGAAGC	



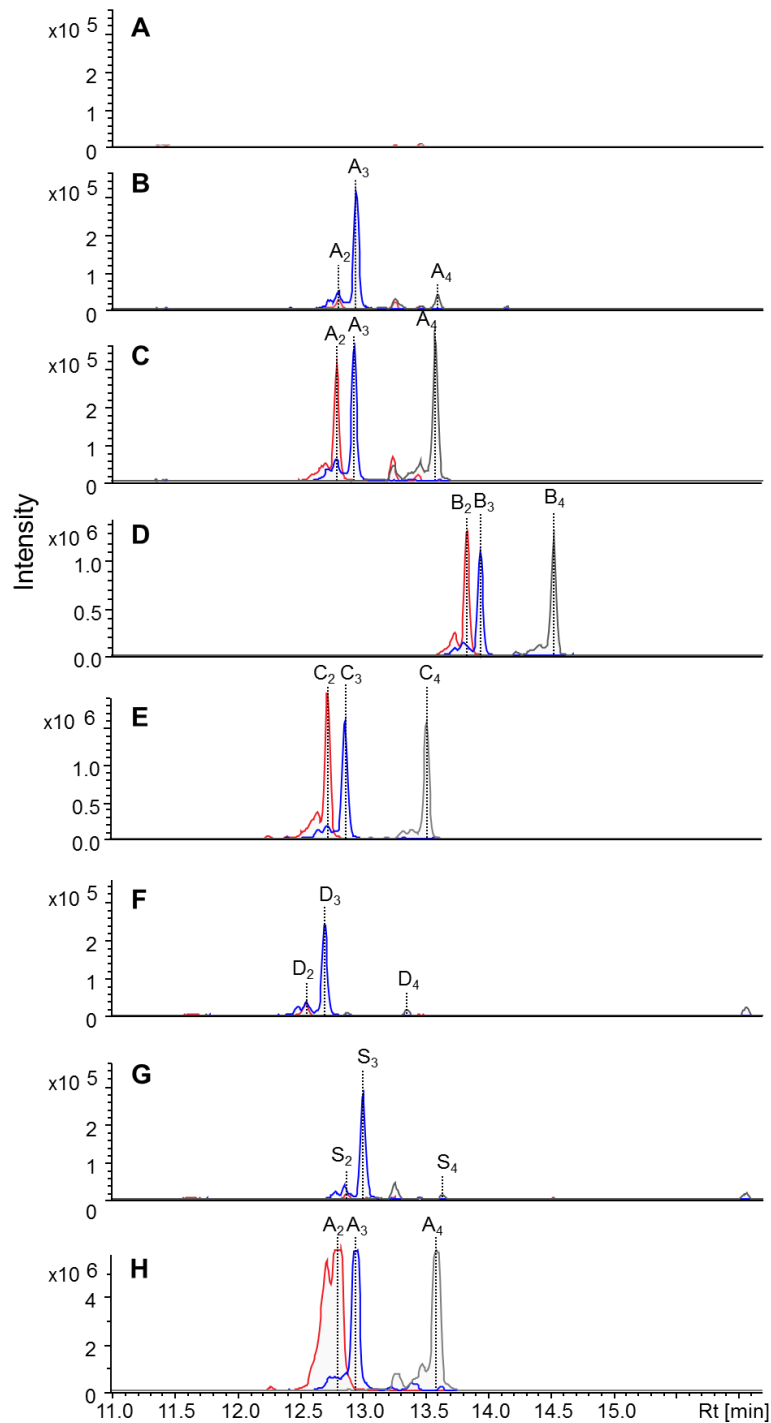
**Fig. S4** Colony PCR analysis of *mch* cluster integration in *M. xanthus* mutants. (A) analysis of the integration of the native and hybrid *mch* clusters; (B) analysis of the integration of the *mch* clusters with module engineering. The integrated *mch* gene clusters are shown on the top of figures; primer pairs used in the colony PCR are indicated in figures; the sizes of amplified fragments are illustrated. *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet* (Mx) served as negative control. MchA, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch2; Ptn5MchA, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch13; MchB, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch3; MchC, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch4; MchD, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch5; MchS, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch6; MchSD, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch12; MchSC, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch10; MchSB, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch11; MchSA, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch9; MchAS, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch8; CP1inact, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch17; CP2inact, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch18; CP3inact, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch19; CP4inact1, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch20; CP4inact2, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch22; CP6inact, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch23; DupIM1, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch25; DupIM2, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch26; DupIM3, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch27; DupIM6, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch28; DelM1, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch29; DelM2, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch30; DelM3, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch31; DelM4, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch32; DelM5, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch33.

#### **4. Expression of artificial *mch* clusters in *M. xanthus* and production analysis**

Myxochromide production analysis in the heterologous host was carried out on a 50 mL scale under routine cultivation conditions. Cells and Amberlite XAD-16 adsorber resin were harvested by centrifugation at 8,000 rpm for 10 min and subsequently extracted twice with 50 mL methanol and acetone (1:1). The extracts were evaporated to dryness, dissolved in methanol and subjected to UPLC-MS analysis using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 RSLC system coupled to a Bruker maXis 4G TOF mass spectrometer. Separation was performed using a Waters BEH C18, 100 × 2.1 mm, 1.7 μm d<sub>p</sub> column. At a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min, the following gradient was applied (A: deionized water + 0.1% formic acid, B: acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid): 0-0.5 min 5% B, 0.5-18.5 min 5-95% B, 18.5-20.5 min 95% B. Full scan mass spectra were acquired in positive ESI mode in a range from 150-2500 *m/z*.

##### **4.1 Production of native myxochromides in *M. xanthus***

The constructs harboring synthetic *mch* clusters, pSynMch2 (A-type cluster), pSynMch3 (B-type cluster), pSynMch4 (C-type cluster), pSynMch5 (D-type cluster), pSynMch6 (S-type cluster) and pSynMch13 (A-type cluster controlled by *PTn5* promoter), were transferred into *M. xanthus* DK1622 *AmchA-tet*. Mutant strains were grown under routine conditions and the production of myxochromides was analyzed by UPLC-MS (Fig. S5).

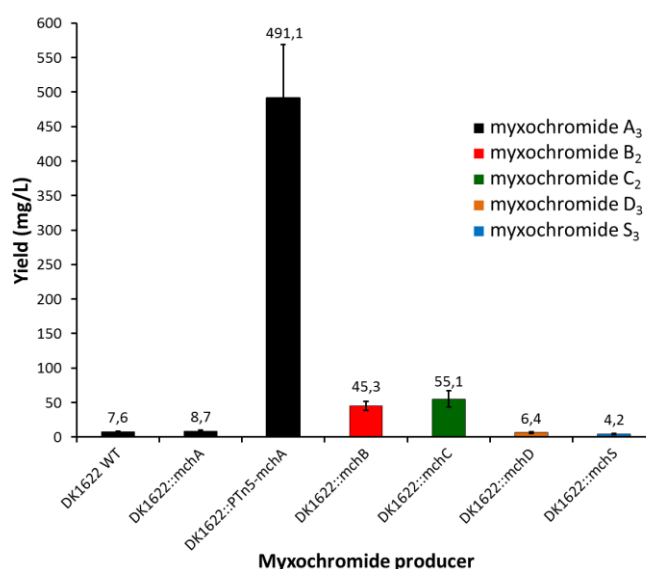


**Fig. S5** UPLC-MS analysis of native myxochromide production in *M. xanthus*. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for  $\pm 0.02$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of myxochromides are shown. **A:** No myxochromide production in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*. **B:** Detection of myxochromides A in *M. xanthus* DK1622 wild type; A<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 834.47542$ ), A<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 846.47600$ ) and A<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 860.49223$ ). **C:** Detection of myxochromides A in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch2; A<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 834.47526$ ), A<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 847.47583$ ), A<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 860.49201$ ). **D:** Detection of myxochromides B in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch3; B<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 947.56010$ ), B<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 959.56212$ ), B<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 973.57804$ ). **E:** Detection of myxochromides C in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch4; C<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.44022$ ), C<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 775.43935$ ), C<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 789.45619$ ). **F:** Detection of myxochromides D in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch5; D<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42169$ ), D<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42156$ ), D<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43939$ ). **G:** Detection of myxochromides S in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch6; S<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42423$ ), S<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42284$ ), S<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43604$ ). **H:** Detection of myxochromides A in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch13; A<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 834.47842$ ), A<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 846.47917$ ) and A<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 860.49366$ ).

#### 4.1.1 Estimation of myxochromide production yield

*M. xanthus* DK1622 wilde type and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet* mutants harboring synthetic *mch* clusters were cultivated in 50 mL CTT medium for 3.5 and 4.5 days with adsorber resin Amberlite XAD-16. The cells and XAD-16 were collected by centrifugation and were extracted with 50 mL acetone and methonal (1:1). The dried extracts were dissolved in 500  $\mu$ L MeOH. 1 and 2  $\mu$ L of dilutions between 1:10 and 1:500 were injected on LC-UV/MS Thermo Scientific UltiMate 3000 coupled with Bruker amazon. Following HPLC conditions: Waters BEH C18 column (130 Å, 1.7  $\mu$ m, 100  $\times$  2.1 mm); eluent A: H<sub>2</sub>O + 0.1% formic acid, eluent B: acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid; flow rate: 0.6 mL/min; column temperature 45 °C; gradient: 0-0.5 min 5% B, 0.5-3.5 min 5-50% B, 3.5-18 min 50-60% B, 18-18.5 min 60-95%B, 18.5-20.5 min 95% B, 20.5-20.8 min 95-5% B and 20.8-22.5 min 5% B.

In order to estimate the production, the UV Peak at 420 nm was integrated using Data Analysis 4.2. The MS trace or MS/MS fragments were used to identify the corresponding UV peak before integration. Based on the UV peak areas of myxochromide standards, the concentrations of the myxochromides were calculated using OriginPro 2017 and Microsoft Excel 2010. The estimated yields of myxochromide representatives (myxochromide A<sub>3</sub>, myxochromide B<sub>2</sub>, myxochromide C<sub>2</sub>, myxochromide D<sub>3</sub>, myxochromide S<sub>3</sub>, see Fig. S5) are shown in Fig. S6.



**Fig. S6** Production yield of representative myxochromides in *M. xanthus* mutants. DK1622 WT, *M. xanthus* DK1622 wilde type; DK1622::mchA, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch2; DK1622::PTn5-mchA, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch13; DK1622::mchB, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch3; DK1622::mchC, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch4; DK1622::mchD, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch5; DK1622::mchS, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch6.

#### 4.2 Heterologous expression of artificial hybrid *mch* clusters in *M. xanthus*

To heterologously produce novel hybrid myxochromides in *M. xanthus* DK1622, the expression constructs pSynMch8 (AS-type), pSynMch9 (SA-type), pSynMch10 (SC-type), pSynMch11 (SB-type) and pSynMch12 (SD-type) harboring the artificial hybrid *mch* clusters were subsequently transformed into the heterologous host *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*. The production of hybrid myxochromides was checked by UPLC-MS (Fig. S7). Although the hybrid *mch* clusters were controlled by *PTn5* promoter, the production levels were comparable to the yield achieved by the artificial *mchA* cluster controlled by the native promoter.

##### *Myxochromides AS – novel engineered lipopeptides*

Myxochromide derivatives with  $[M+H]^+$  masses corresponding to the expected hybrid myxochromides AS<sub>2</sub>, AS<sub>3</sub> and AS<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S7) were detected in the extracts of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch8. The most prominent derivative was AS<sub>2</sub> under the applied cultivation conditions, whereas derivatives AS<sub>3</sub> and AS<sub>4</sub> were produced in lower yields but at similar levels compared to each other (Fig. S7).

***Myxochromides SA – novel engineered lipoheptapeptides***

Myxochromide derivatives with  $[M+H]^+$  masses corresponding to the expected novel hybrid lipoheptapeptides myxochromides SA<sub>2</sub>, SA<sub>3</sub> and SA<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S7) were detected in the extracts of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch9$ . Compound SA<sub>3</sub> was found to be the major derivative under the applied cultivation conditions, whereas derivatives SA<sub>2</sub> and SA<sub>4</sub> were produced in significantly lower amounts (Fig. S7).

***Myxochromides SB – novel engineered lipoheptapeptides***

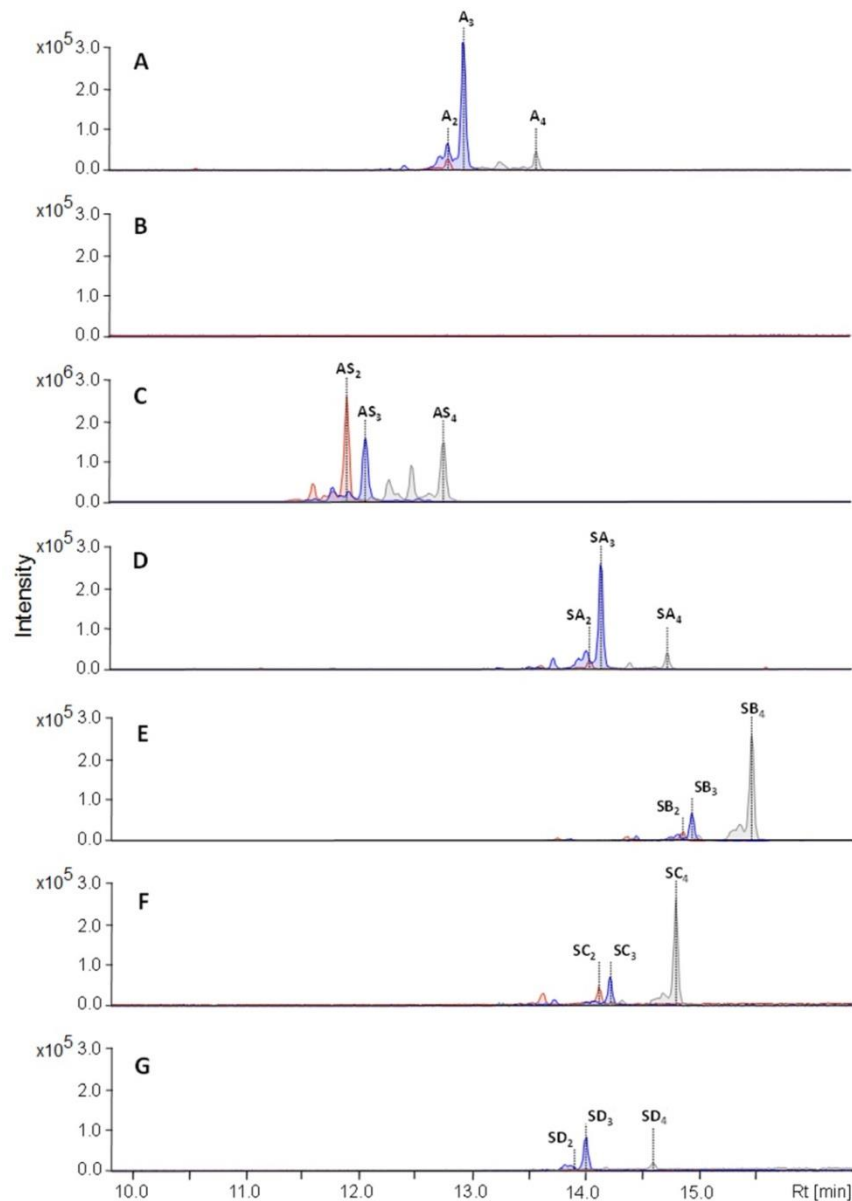
Myxochromide derivatives with  $[M+H]^+$  masses corresponding to the assumed hybrid lipoheptapeptides myxochromides SB<sub>2</sub>, SB<sub>3</sub> and SB<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S7) were detected in the extracts of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch11$ . The major derivative was SB<sub>4</sub> under the applied cultivation conditions followed by SB<sub>3</sub> and SB<sub>2</sub>, which were produced in significantly lower amounts (Fig. S7).

***Myxochromides SC – novel engineered lipopentapeptides***

Myxochromide derivatives with  $[M+H]^+$  masses corresponding to the expected novel lipopentapeptides myxochromides SC<sub>2</sub>, SC<sub>3</sub> and SC<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S7) were detected in the extracts of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch10$ . The production profile was found to be highly similar to that of the myxochromide SB producing mutant strain (Fig. S7). Compound SC<sub>4</sub> was identified as most prominent derivative under the applied cultivation conditions, whereas derivatives SC<sub>2</sub> and SC<sub>3</sub> were produced as minor products.

***Myxochromides SD – novel engineered lipopentapeptides***

Myxochromide derivatives with  $[M+H]^+$  masses corresponding to the expected hybrid myxochromides SD<sub>2</sub>, SD<sub>3</sub> and SD<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S7) were detected in the extracts of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch12$ . In comparison to the other hybrid myxochromides, production of myxochromides SD was found to be significantly lower, and was also observed for several independent clones. The major derivative was SD<sub>3</sub> under the applied cultivation conditions and was roughly produced at similar levels as some minor compounds in the other extracts. Derivatives SD<sub>2</sub> and SD<sub>4</sub> were produced in even lower yields (Fig. S7).

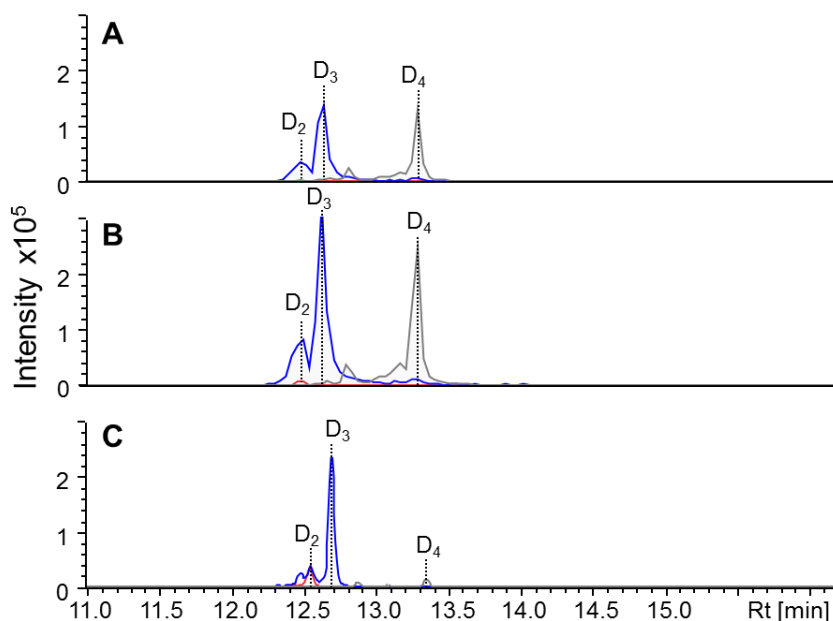


**Fig. S7** UPLC-MS analysis of hybrid myxochromide production in myxobacterial mutant strains. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for  $\pm 0.02$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of myxochromides are shown. **A:** Detection of myxochromides A in *M. xanthus* DK1622 wild type; A<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 834.47655$ ), A<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 846.47655$ ) and A<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 860.49220$ ). **B:** No myxochromide production in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*. **C:** Detection of myxochromides AS in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch8; AS<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 695.37684$ ), AS<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 707.37684$ ), AS<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 721.39249$ ). **D:** Detection of myxochromides SA in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch9; SA<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 876.52350$ ), SA<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 888.52350$ ), SA<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 902.53915$ ). **E:** Detection of myxochromides SB in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch11; SB<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 989.60757$ ), SB<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 1001.60757$ ), SB<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 1015.62322$ ). **F:** Detection of myxochromides SC in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch10; SC<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 805.48639$ ), SC<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 817.48639$ ), SC<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 831.50204$ ). **G:** Detection of myxochromides SD in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch12; SD<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 779.47074$ ), SD<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 791.47074$ ), SD<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 805.48639$ ).

### 4.3 Heterologous expression of CP-mutated *mch* clusters in *M. xanthus*

In order to imitate the ‘module-skipping’ process observed in MchD and MchS pathways, we replaced the CP domains in the artificial A-type myxochromide pathway with CP-inactivated synthetic fragments. The expression constructs pSynMch17 (CP1 inactivated), pSynMch18 (CP2 inactivated), pSynMch19 (CP3 inactivated), pSynMch20 (CP4 inactivated, version 1), pSynMch21 (CP4 inactivated, version 2), pSynMch22

(CP5 inactivated), pSynMch23 (CP6 inactivated) and pSynMch24 (CP4 reactivated in S-type *mch* cluster) were transformed into *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$ . The production of myxochromides was detected by UPLC-MS. Myxochromides D were produced in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch20$  and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch21$ , while the production of myxochromides was abolished in other mutants (Fig. S8).

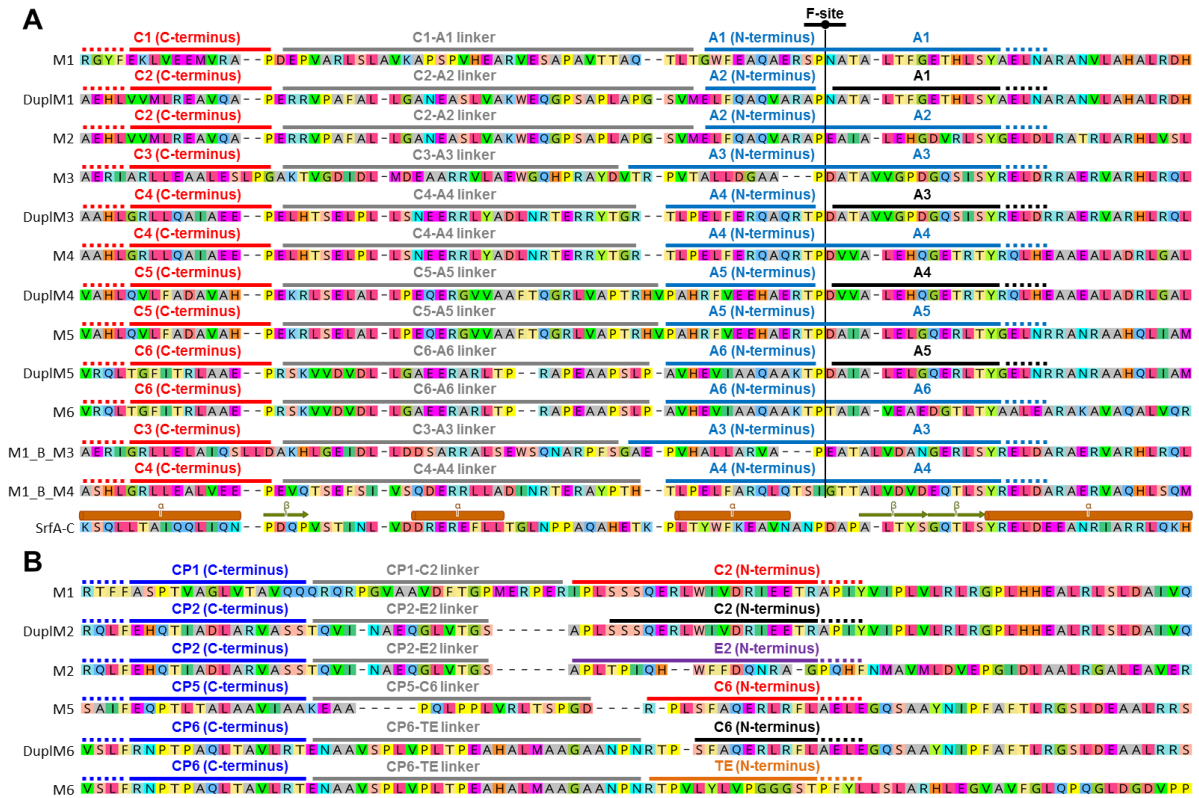


**Fig. S8** HPLC-MS analysis of myxochromide production in CP4-mutants. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for  $\pm 0.02$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of myxochromides D are shown. **A**, Detection of myxochromides D in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch20$ ; D<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42474$ ), D<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42289$ ), D<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43882$ ). **B**, Detection of myxochromides D in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch21$ ; D<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42269$ ), D<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42317$ ), D<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43833$ ). **C**, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch5$  was set as reference; D<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42169$ ), D<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42156$ ), D<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43939$ ).

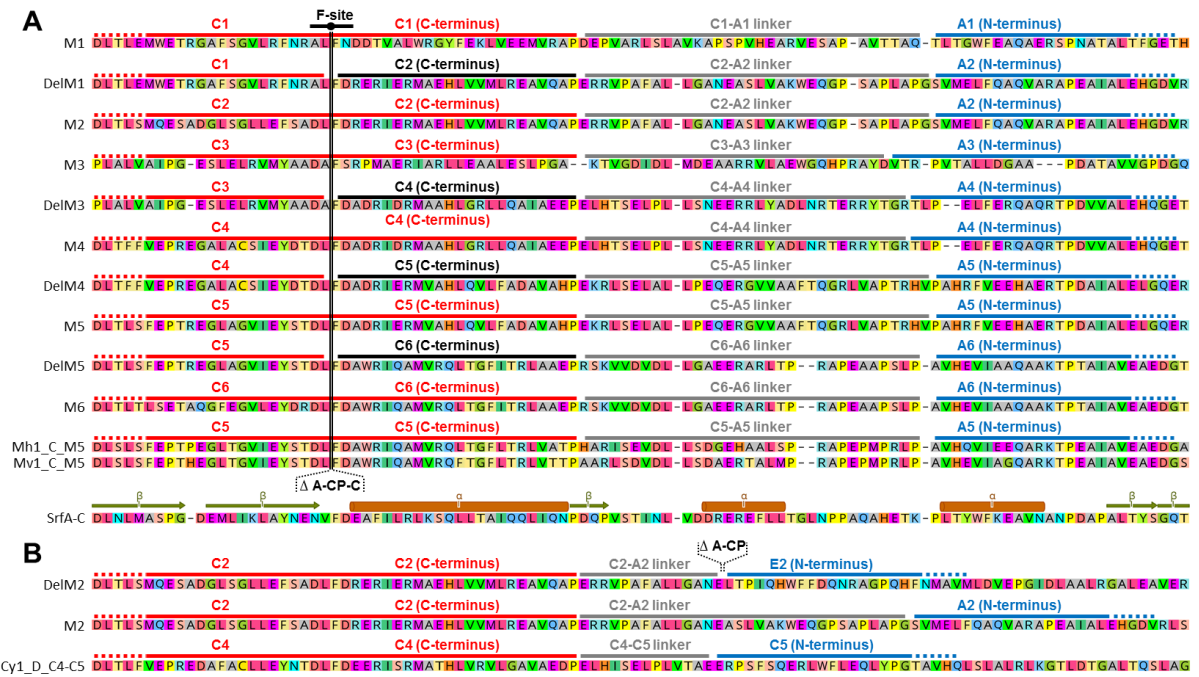
#### 4.4 Heterologous expression of *mch* clusters with duplication or deletion of biosynthetic domains

The duplicated  $A_n-CP_n-C_{n+1}$  encoding fragments of the A-type BGC were inserted to the previously identified fusion site (F-site) in A domains (Fig. S9).<sup>3</sup> In the cases of DuplM2 and DuplM6,  $A_2-CP_2-C_2$  and  $A_6-CP_6-C_6$  encoding fragments were inserted to the F-site in  $A_2$  domain and  $A_6$  domain, respectively. For the deletions of biosynthetic domains, the unit  $A_n-CP_n-C_{n+1}$  encoding fragments of A-type BGCs were deleted between two F-sites locate at the C-terminus of  $C_n$  and  $C_{n+1}$  domains (Fig. S10). In the case of DelM2,  $A_2-CP_2$  encoding fragment was deleted between  $C_2$  and  $E_2$  encoding fragments.



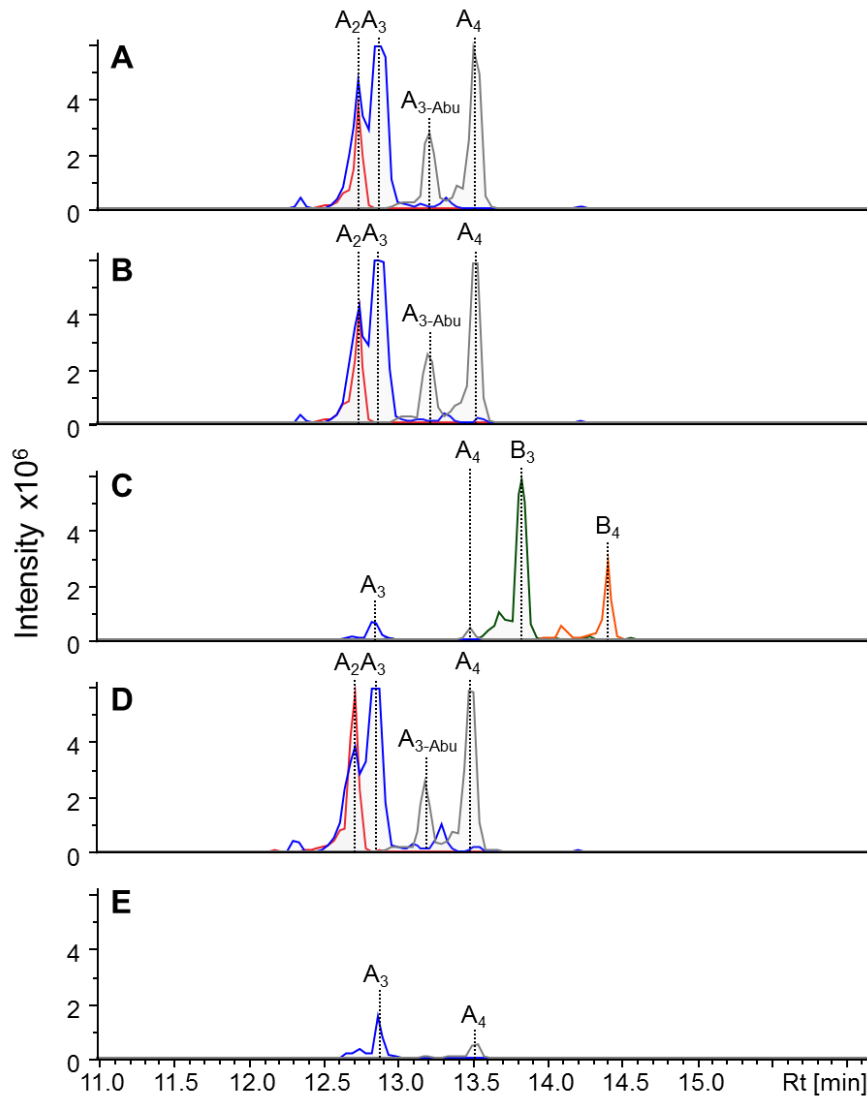


**Fig. S9** Protein alignment of the fusion regions for the duplication of biosynthetic domains in the A-type pathway. The ‘fusion site’ (F-site) for the construction of DuplM1, DuplM3, DuplM4 and DuplM5 locates at the N-terminus of A domain. (A) alignment of the fusion regions in DuplM1, DuplM3, DuplM4 and DuplM5, in which domain set was duplicated in  $A_n$ -CP $_n$ -C $_{n+1}$  unit. (B) alignment of the fusion regions in DuplM2 and DuplM6, in which domain set was duplicated in C $_n$ -A $_n$ -CP $_n$  unit. In DuplM2 and DuplM6 the fusion sites locate at the N-terminus of the E2 domain and the TE domain, respectively. The respective regions in the native modules (M1-M6) and the previously identified F-site in B-type pathway (M1\_B\_M4) after a proposed module duplication event serve as references.<sup>3</sup> The respective regions were aligned with the surfactin synthetase subunit SrfA-C (PDB:2VSQ).

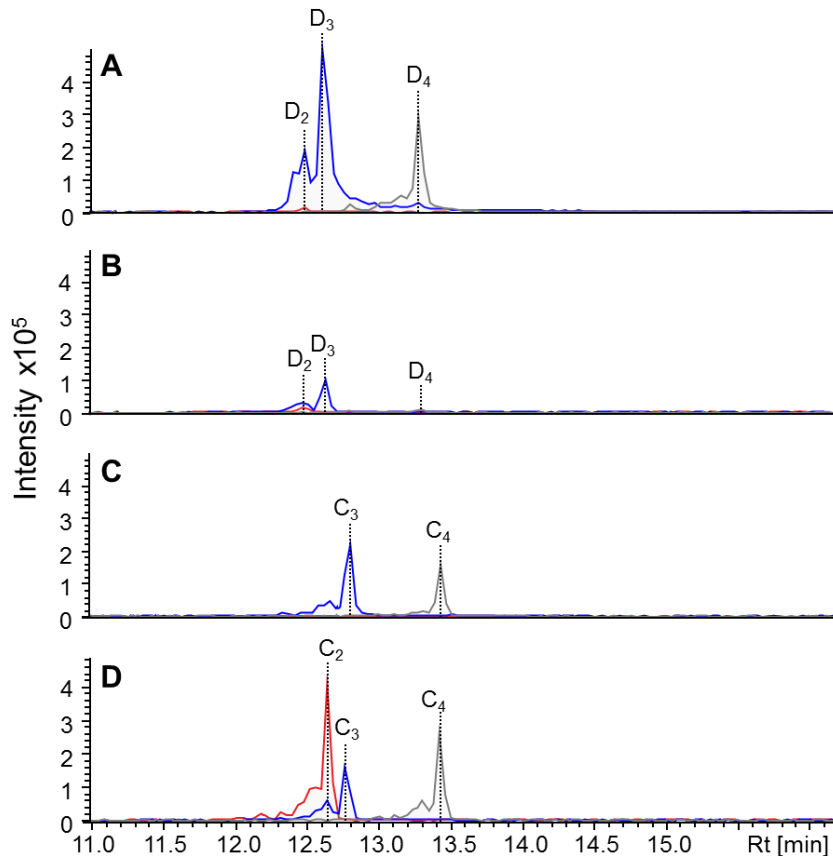


**Fig. S10** Protein alignment of the fusion regions for the deletions of biosynthetic domains in the A-type pathway. (A) alignment of the fusion regions in DelM1, DelM3, DelM4 and DelM5, in which domain set was deleted in  $A_n$ -CP $_n$ -C $_{n+1}$  unit. The ‘fusion site’ (F-site) for the construction of the deletions locates at the C-terminus of C domain. (B) alignment of the fusion region in DelM2. Due to the E domain downstream of the CP $_2$  domain, the A $_2$ -CP $_2$  unit was deleted in the case of DelM2 deletion, which is in analogy to the naturally occurred A $_4$ -CP $_4$  deletion in D-type pathway (Cy1\_D\_C4-C5). The respective regions in the native modules (M1-M6) and the previously identified F-site in C-type pathways (Mh1\_C\_M5 and Mv1\_C\_M5) after a proposed module deletion event serve as references.<sup>3</sup> The respective regions were aligned with the surfactin synthetase subunit SrfA-C (PDB:2VSQ).

The constructs with DuplM1 (pSynMch25), DuplM2 (pSynMch26), DuplM3 (pSynMch27) and DuplM6 (pSynMch28), as well as constructs with DelM1 (pSynMch29), DelM2 (pSynMch30), DelM3 (pSynMch31), DelM4 (pSynMch32) and DelM5 (pSynMch33), were transferred into *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet. The production of myxochromides was analyzed by UPLC-MS. *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch25, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch26 and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch28 produced only myxochromide A. Six mutants of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch27 were checked, five of them produced myxochromide B as major products and myxochromide A as minor products, while one mutant (*M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch27-2#) produced only myxochromide A (Fig. S11). Production of myxochromide D was detected in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch32, and myxochromide C was detected in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ mchA-tet::pSynMch33 (Fig. S12).



**Fig. S11** HPLC-MS analysis of myxochromide production in *M. xanthus* mutants with module duplication. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for  $\pm 0.02$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of myxochromides are shown. Myxochromides A were detected in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch25 (A), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch26 (B), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch27 (C), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch27-2# (D), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch28 (E). The MS/MS analysis of the peaks with  $m/z$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ) of 860.49376 in A, B and D suggested them as A<sub>3</sub>-Abu in which the Ala of myxochromide A is supposed to be replaced by aminobutyric acid (Abu), similar with the case observed in previously reported myxochromide S-Abu.<sup>3</sup> Myxochromide B was detected in C; B<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+$  = 959.56398) and B<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+$  = 973.57673).



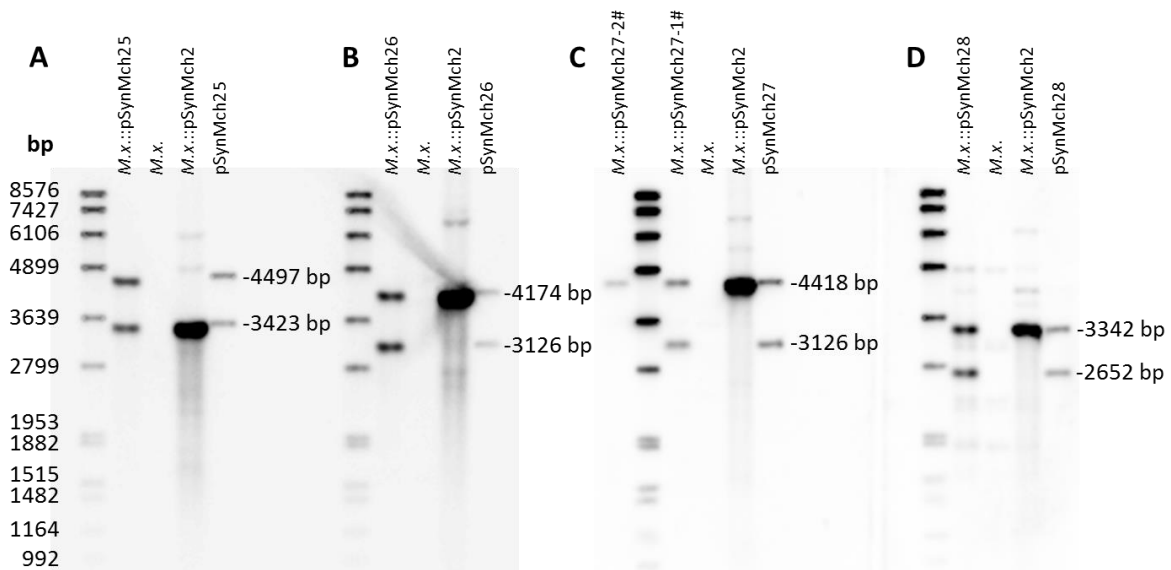
**Fig. S12** HPLC-MS analysis of myxochromide production in *M. xanthus* mutants with module deletion. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for  $\pm 0.02$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of myxochromides are shown. **A**, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch32; D<sub>2</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 737.42423$ ), D<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 749.42404$ ), D<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 763.43837$ ). **B**, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch5 was set as reference; **C**, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch33; C<sub>3</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 775.43860$ ), C<sub>4</sub> ( $[M+H]^+ = 789.45437$ ). **D**, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch4 was set as reference.

#### 4.5 Verification of *M. xanthus* mutants by Southern blot

The chromosomal integration of expression constructs harboring the duplicated encoding sequences of modules 1, 2, 3 and 6 (DuplM1, DuplM2, DuplM3 and DuplM6) in *M. xanthus* mutants was analyzed by Southern blot. *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet* served as negative control, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch2 (with one copy of A-type *mch* cluster) was set as reference, and pSynMch25~pSynMch28 served as positive control. Genomic DNA of *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch2, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch25 (DuplM1), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch26 (DuplM2), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch27 (DuplM3) and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA$ -*tet*::pSynMch28 (DuplM6) were extracted by phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol. Genomic DNA was digested with *Nco*I (DuplM1, DuplM3 and references) or *Eco*47III (DuplM2, DuplM6 and references) and was separated by 1% TAE agarose gel at 25 V for 20 hours. 1.5 ng DIG labeled DNA Molecular Weight Marker VII (Roch) was loaded in parallel. The gels were incubated twice in denaturation solution (0.5 M NaOH and 1.5 M NaCl) with 15 min for each time, and were then washed twice (15 min for each) in neutralizing solution (1 M Tris/HCl and 1.5 M NaCl, pH 7.5) after short wash in MilliQ water. After 30 min equilibration in 20× SSC buffer (3 M NaCl and 300 mM trisodium citrate, pH 7.0), DNA was transferred to a positively charged nylon membrane (Roche Applied Science) by capillary blotting for overnight. Afterwards, membranes were briefly soaked in 2× SSC buffer and baked at 80 °C for 2 hours. For hybridization, the membranes were prehybridized in hybridization buffer (DIG Easy hybrid granules, Roche) in roller bottle, gently shaking at 42 °C for 2 hours. DIG labelled nucleotide probes, generated by PCR DIG Labeling Mix (Roche) and targeting on each duplicated module, were then added to hybridization buffer to the final concentration 12 ng/mL and the hybridization was performed at 42 °C overnight. After two washes (5 min for each) in 2× SSC including 0.1% SDS and two washes (15 min for

each) in 0.5× SSC including 0.1% SDS at 68 °C, membranes were equilibrated in maleic acid buffer (150 mM NaCl, 100 mM maleic acid, pH 7.5) and then incubated in blocking solution (1% Blocking Reagent (Roche Applied Science) in maleic acid buffer) for 1 hour at room temperature with gentle shaking. Anti-digoxigenin-AP Fab fragments (Roche Applied Science) was then added to the blocking solution and gently shook at room temperature for 30 min. Membranes were subsequently washed twice in maleic acid buffer and detection buffer (100 mM NaCl, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.5). Several drops of CDP-Star chemiluminescent substrate (Roche Applied Science) were added to the surface of the membranes and chemiluminescence was detected by documentation device.

As shown in Fig. S13, two copies of module 1, 2, 3 and 6 encoding fragments were detected in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch25$  (DuplM1), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch26$  (DuplM2), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch27$  1# (DuplM3) and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch28$  (DuplM6), respectively. In *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch27$  2# (DuplM3) producing only myxochromide A, only one copy of module 3 encoding fragment was detected.



**Fig. S13** Southern blot analysis of chromosomal integration of duplicated domain set-encoding fragments in *M. xanthus* mutants. Blotting results for the DuplM1 in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch25$  (A), DuplM2 in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch26$  (B), DuplM3 in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch27$  (C) and DuplM6 in *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet::pSynMch28$  (D) are shown. The sizes of expected fragments are illustrated. *M.x.*, *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta mchA-tet$  was set as negative control; *M.x.::pSynMchX*, reference with one copy of A-type *mch* cluster; pSynMch25~pSynMch28, plasmids were set as positive control.

## 5. Structure elucidation of novel hybrid myxochromides

### 5.1 Cultivation of heterologous production strains and isolation of myxochromides

The heterologous producers *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ *mchA-tet*::pSynMch8 (Myxochromides AS) and DK1622  $\Delta$ *mchA-tet*::pSynMch11 (Myxochromides SC) were cultivated in 18 L (18 × 1 L) and the producers *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ *mchA-tet*::pSynMch14 (Myxochromides SA), *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ *mchA-tet*::pSynMch15 (Myxochromides SB) and *M. xanthus* DK1622  $\Delta$ *mchA-tet*::pSynMch16 (Myxochromides SD) were cultivated in 9L (10 × 1 L) CTT medium including 2% XAD-16 resin for 5-6 days at 30 °C and 180 rpm.

For the isolation of myxochromides AS, SA and SC, cells and XAD-16 Amberlite adsorber resin were harvested by centrifugation at 10,500 rpm and 4 °C for 15 min and were extracted five times with 1 L methanol and acetone (1:1). The organic solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residues were extracted five times with 200 mL of ethyl acetate. After removal of the solvent, the crude extracts were dissolved in up to 10 mL methanol for subsequent separation via reverse phase HPLC. A Dionex UltiMate 3000 system equipped with a Luna 5  $\mu$ m C18(2) 100Å column (250 × 10 mm, Phenomenex) was used. At constant flow rate (5.0 mL/min), the following multi-step gradient was applied for isolation of myxochromides AS<sub>4</sub> and SC<sub>4</sub> (A: deionized water, B: acetonitrile): 0-5 min 10-45% B, 5-30 min 45-65% B, 30-40 min 65-80% B, 40-41 min 80-10% B, 41-47 min 10% B. Myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> was further purified by applying the following modified gradient (A: deionized water, B: acetonitrile): 0-5 min 10% B, 5-50 min 10-95% B, 50-55 min 95% B, 55-56 min 95-10% B, 56-60 min 10% B. For separation of myxochromide SA, the following modified gradient was applied (A: deionized water, B: acetonitrile): 0-4 min 5% B, 4-8 min 5-65%, 8-41 min 65-95% B, 41-43 min 95% B, 43-45 min 95-5% B, 45-51 min 5% B).

For the isolation of myxochromides SB and SD, cells and XAD adsorber resin were placed in a glass column over glass wool and a sand layer. Myxochromides were extracted by pouring 600 mL *n*-hexane, 900 mL dichloromethane, 600 mL ethyl acetate, 600 mL acetone and 600 mL methanol through the packed column. The fractions were concentrated and analyzed for target myxochromides via HPLC-MS. Separation was performed on a Dionex UltiMate 3000 system using a Waters BEH C18 (100 × 2.1 mm, 1.7  $\mu$ m) column. At a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min, the following gradient was applied (A: deionized water + 0.1% formic acid, B: acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid): 0-0.5 min 5% B, 0.5-18.5 min 5-95% B, 18.5-20.5 min 95% B. Full scan mass spectra were acquired in positive ESI mode in a range from 200-2000 *m/z*. After removal of the solvent, myxochromides were dissolved in 3 mL of methanol for further separation via reverse phase HPLC. Myxochromides SB were purified on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 system equipped with an Eclipse C8 column (250 × 10 mm, 4  $\mu$ m) at constant flowrate (5 mL/min) by applying the following gradient (A: deionized water, B: acetonitrile): 0-2 min 5% B, 2-10 min 5-65% B, 10-30 min 65-70% B, 30-31 min 70-95% B, 31-34 min 95% B, 34-35 min 95-5% B, 35-38 min 5% B. Myxochromides SD were purified on a Dionex UltiMate 3000 system equipped with a Jupiter column (250 × 10 mm, 4  $\mu$ m) at constant flow rate (5 mL/min) by applying the following modified gradient (A: deionized water, B: acetonitrile): 0-2 min 5% B, 2-10 min 5-66% B, 10-30 min 66-68% B, 30-31 min 68-95% B, 31-34 min 95% B, 34-35 min 95-5% B, 35-38 min 5% B.

UV traces were recorded by a diode array detector (DAD) with specified wave lengths (210, 300 and 410 nm) with myxochromides showing good UV absorption at 410 nm. Retention times (*R<sub>t</sub>*) and yields of the isolated compounds are shown in Table S9.

**Table S9** Retention times and total amounts of hybrid myxochromides isolated in this study.

Mutant strain	Isolated compound	<i>R<sub>t</sub></i> [min]	Yield [mg]
DK1622 $\Delta$ <i>mchA-tet</i> ::pSynMch8	Myxochromide AS <sub>4</sub>	27.6	4.5
DK1622 $\Delta$ <i>mchA-tet</i> ::pSynMch14	Myxochromide SA <sub>3</sub>	18.9	7.2
DK1622 $\Delta$ <i>mchA-tet</i> ::pSynMch15	Myxochromide SB <sub>4</sub>	23.0	7.5
DK1622 $\Delta$ <i>mchA-tet</i> ::pSynMch10	Myxochromide SC <sub>4</sub>	39.2	0.5
DK1622 $\Delta$ <i>mchA-tet</i> ::pSynMch16	Myxochromide SD <sub>3</sub>	19.6	0.7

## 5.2 Structure elucidation of hybrid myxochromides

Structure elucidation of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>, myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>, myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>, myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> and myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> was achieved using 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopy as well as HR-MS data. NMR spectra were acquired in CD<sub>3</sub>OD at a Bruker Ascend 700 or 500 MHz spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm TXI cryoprobe. 1D <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC, HMBC (and if necessary) ROESY spectra were recorded using standard pulse programs. Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in the Tables S11, S13, S15, S17 and S19. HR-ESI-MS data were obtained on a Bruker Maxis 4G mass spectrometer. Full scan mass spectra were acquired in a range from 150-2500 *m/z* in a positive mode. HR-ESI-MS data of hybrid myxochromides are shown in Table S10.

**Table S10** HR-ESI-MS data of isolated hybrid myxochromides.

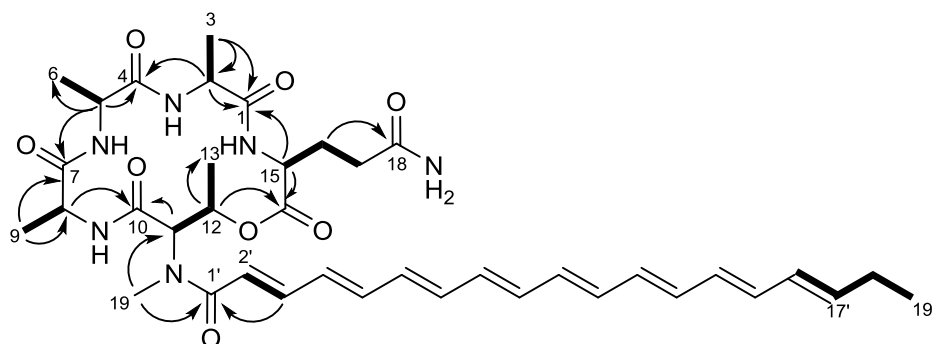
Compound	Formula	[M+H] <sup>+</sup> calc.	[M+H] <sup>+</sup> exp.	Δ <i>m/z</i> [ppm]
Myxochromide AS <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	721.39194	721.39373	2.48
Myxochromide SA <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>69</sub> N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	888.52295	888.52409	1.28
Myxochromide SB <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>54</sub> H <sub>80</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	1015.62267	1015.62390	1.21
Myxochromide SC <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>66</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	831.50149	831.50222	0.88
Myxochromide SD <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>44</sub> H <sub>64</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	791.47019	791.47051	0.40

For the assignment of the absolute configuration, Marfey's method based on amino acid derivatization was applied.<sup>7</sup> 0.1-0.3 mg of pure compound was hydrolyzed with 37% HCl (0.2 mL) in a 1.5 mL glass vial for 3 days at 110 °C. The hydrolysate was evaporated to dryness and dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (100 μL). A 50 μL aliquot was supplemented with 1N NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 μL) and 1% 1-fluoro-2,4-dinitrophenyl-5-*L/D*-leucinamide (*L*-FDLA or *D*-FDLA) solution in acetone (20 μL), and the mixtures were heated to 40 °C for 8 h at 700 rpm. After cooling down to room temperature, the solutions were neutralized with 2N HCl (20 μL), evaporated to dryness and the derivatized amino acids were dissolved in 300 μL acetonitrile. An amino acid standard mix (Sigma Aldrich) as well as *N*-Me-*L*-Threonine (Sigma Aldrich) were derivatized via the same procedure and all samples were analyzed on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 RSLC system coupled to a Bruker Maxis 4G mass spectrometer. Separation was performed using a Waters BEH C18, 100 × 2.1 mm, 1.7 μm d<sub>p</sub> column. At a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min, the following gradient was applied (A: deionized water + 0.1% formic acid, B: acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid): 0 min 5% B, 0-1 min 5-10% B, 1-15 min 10-35% B, 15-22 min 35-55% B, 22-25 min 55-80% B, 25-26 min 80% B, 26-26.5 min 80-5% B, 26.5-31 min 5% B. Full scan mass spectra were acquired in a range from 100-1000 *m/z*.

### 5.2.1 Structure of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>

Structure elucidation of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> was achieved using 1D <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra (Fig. S15). Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in Table S11. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum exhibited signals corresponding to five α-CH protons (δ<sub>H</sub> 3.8-5.6), four CH<sub>3</sub> groups (δ<sub>H</sub> 1.3-1.7) and two CH<sub>2</sub> groups (δ<sub>H</sub> 2.0-2.3) together with a *N*-Me group (δ<sub>H</sub> 3.29, 3H, s). Moreover, a number of downfield signals belonging to the unsaturated polyketide side chain (δ<sub>H</sub> 5.8-7.3) and a CH<sub>3</sub> signal (δ<sub>H</sub> 1.04, 3H, t) were observed. 2D NMR data revealed the presence *N*-Me-threonine, glutamine, alanine and a polyene side chain. Amino acid sequence was established by means of key HMBC correlations and final structure was elucidated as shown in Fig. S14. For the assignment of the absolute configuration of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>, hydrolysis and Marfey analysis of the obtained amino acids,<sup>7</sup> was applied as described above. The chromatograms obtained from HPLC-MS analysis are illustrated in Fig. S16 and stereochemical assignments are illustrated in Table S12. Comparison of the retention times and masses of derivatized standard amino acids and the hydrolyzed lipopeptide revealed that all amino acids of the myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> peptide core show *L*-configuration, while glutamine was converted to glutamic acid during hydrolysis. This correlates with the assumption that in the underlying hybrid pathway, the condensation domain of module 3 specifically

processes the *L*-configured aminoacyl donor ( $^{13}\text{C}_L$  domain), although the presence of an epimerization domain in module 2 of the assembly line points to the incorporation of *D*-Ala into this position of the peptide core.



**Fig. S14** Structure of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> showing selected COSY (bold line) and key HMBC (arrow) correlations.

**Table S11** NMR spectroscopic data of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>.

Moiety	Position	$\delta_C^a$	$\delta_H^b$ (J in Hz)	HMBC <sup>c</sup>
<i>L</i> -Ala (1)	1	173.2		
	2	53.0	3.77, <i>q</i> (7.3)	1, 3, 4
	3	15.3	1.65, <i>d</i> (7.3)	1, 2
<i>L</i> -Ala (2)	4	173.7		
	5	51.6	3.82, <i>q</i> (7.0)	4, 6, 7
	6	14.9	1.39, <i>d</i> (7.0)	4, 5
<i>L</i> -Ala (3)	7	176.6		
	8	51.1	4.03, <i>q</i> (7.3)	7, 9, 10
	9	16.1	1.32, <i>m</i>	7, 8
<i>N</i> -Me- <i>L</i> -Thr	10	171.1		
	11	59.5	5.55, <i>d</i> (4.2)	1', 10, 12, 19
	12	74.0	5.46, <i>m</i>	13, 14
	13	16.5	1.26, <i>d</i> (6.5)	11, 12
	19	35.0	3.27, <i>s</i>	1', 11
<i>L</i> -Gln	14	170.9		
	15	51.9	4.67, <i>dd</i> (3.2, 9.6)	1, 14, 16, 17
	16a	27.8	1.93, <i>m</i>	15, 17, 18
	16b		2.04, <i>m</i>	
	17a	31.9	2.26, <i>m</i>	14, 16
	17b		2.32, <i>m</i>	
	18	178.2		
Side chain	1'	170.6		
	2'	119.7	6.57, <i>d</i> (14.6)	1'
	3'	145.2	7.29, <i>dd</i> (11.4, 14.6)	1', 2', 5'
	4'	138.4	6.52, <i>m</i>	
	5'	141.8	6.69, <i>m</i>	
	6'-14'	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	



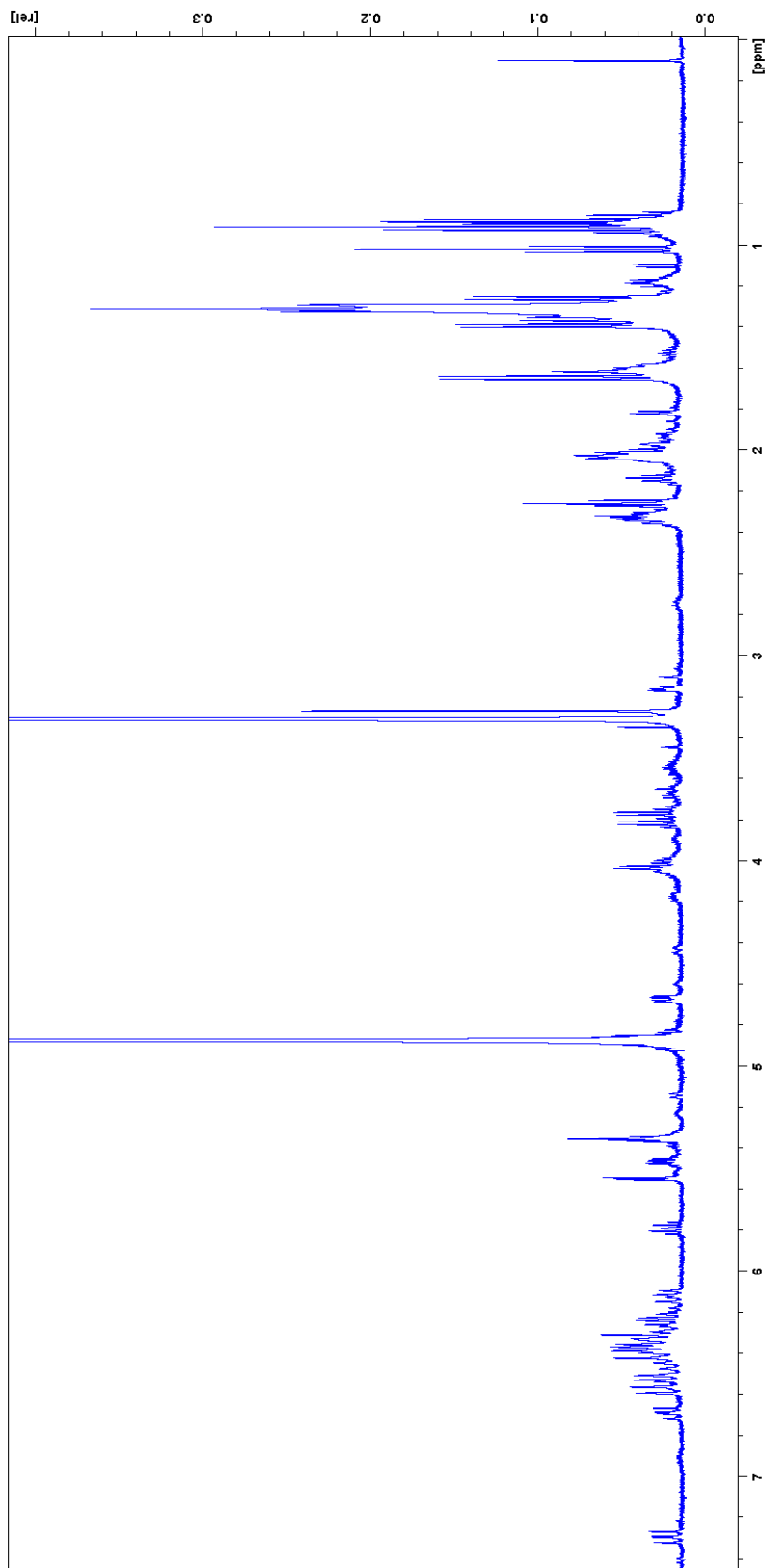
15'	135.1	6.24, <i>m</i>	
16'	130.9	6.12, <i>m</i>	15', 18'
17'	138.1	5.79, <i>m</i>	15', 18', 19'
18'	26.7	2.14, <i>m</i>	16', 17', 19'
19'	13.7	1.02, <i>t</i> (7.2)	18'

<sup>a</sup> acquired at 125 MHz and assigned from 2D NMR spectra, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  49.15 ppm.

<sup>b</sup> acquired at 500 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

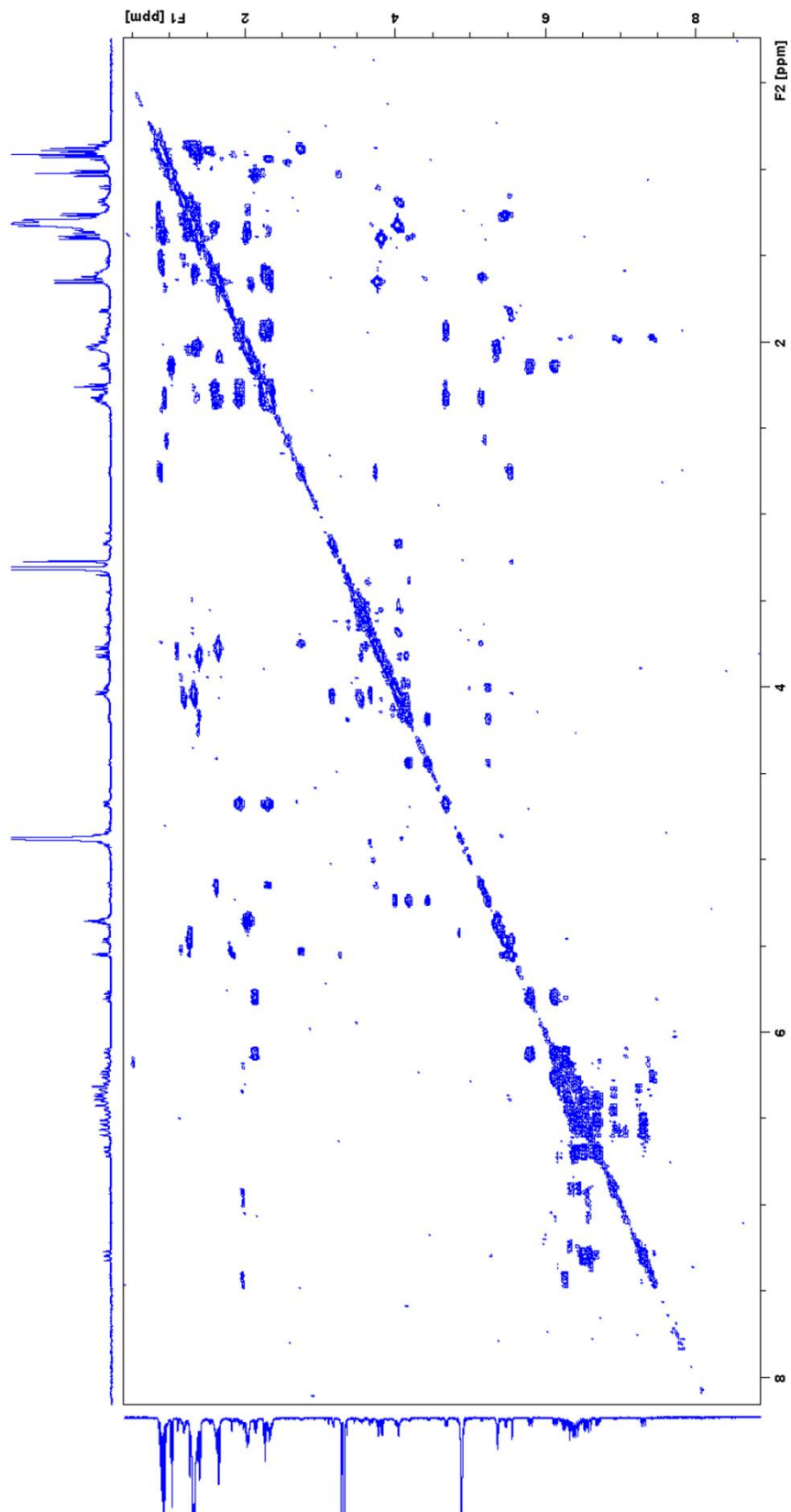
<sup>c</sup> proton showing HMBC correlations to indicated carbons.

<sup>d</sup> overlapped signals.



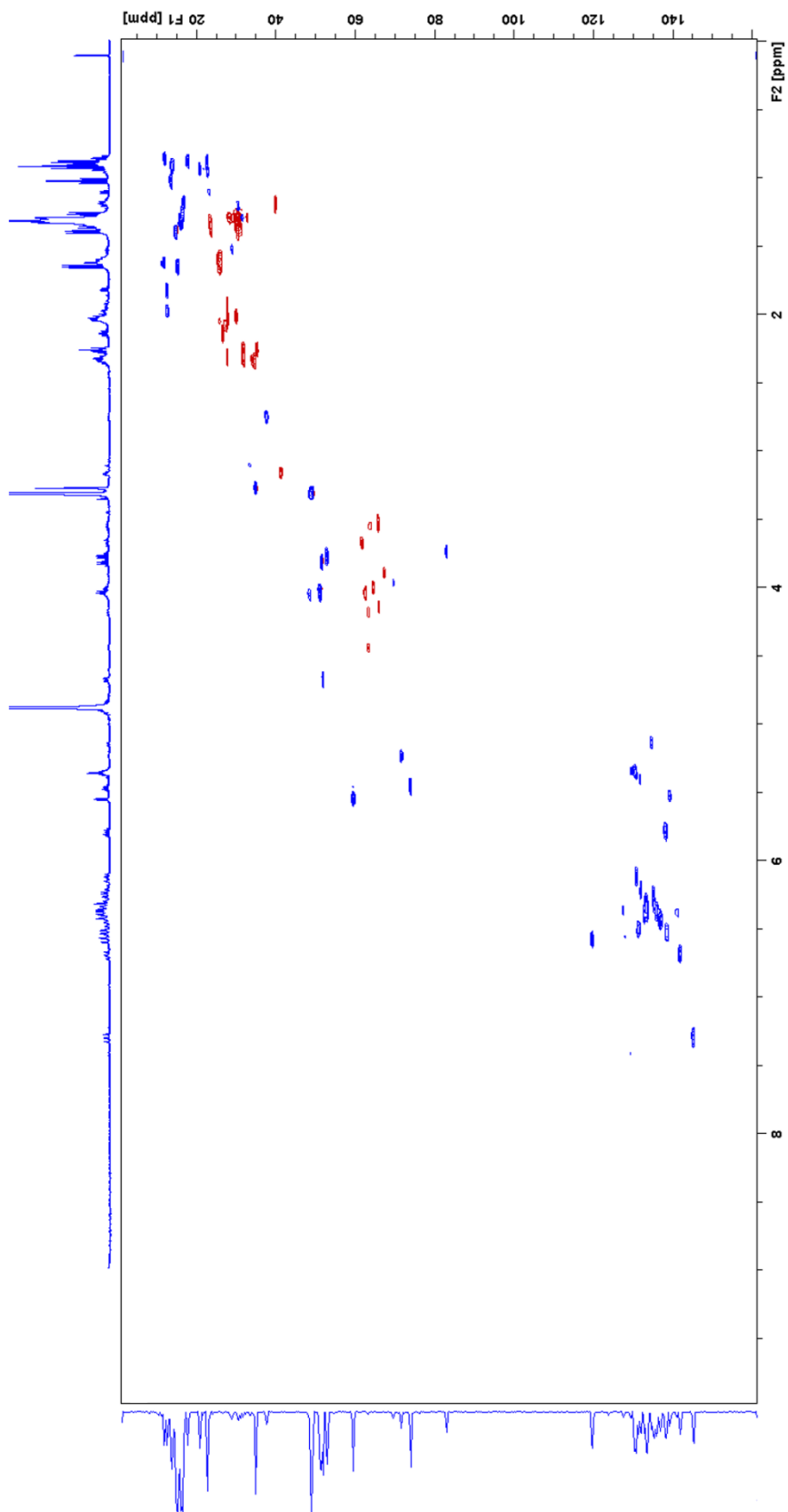
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S15 (continued on next page)



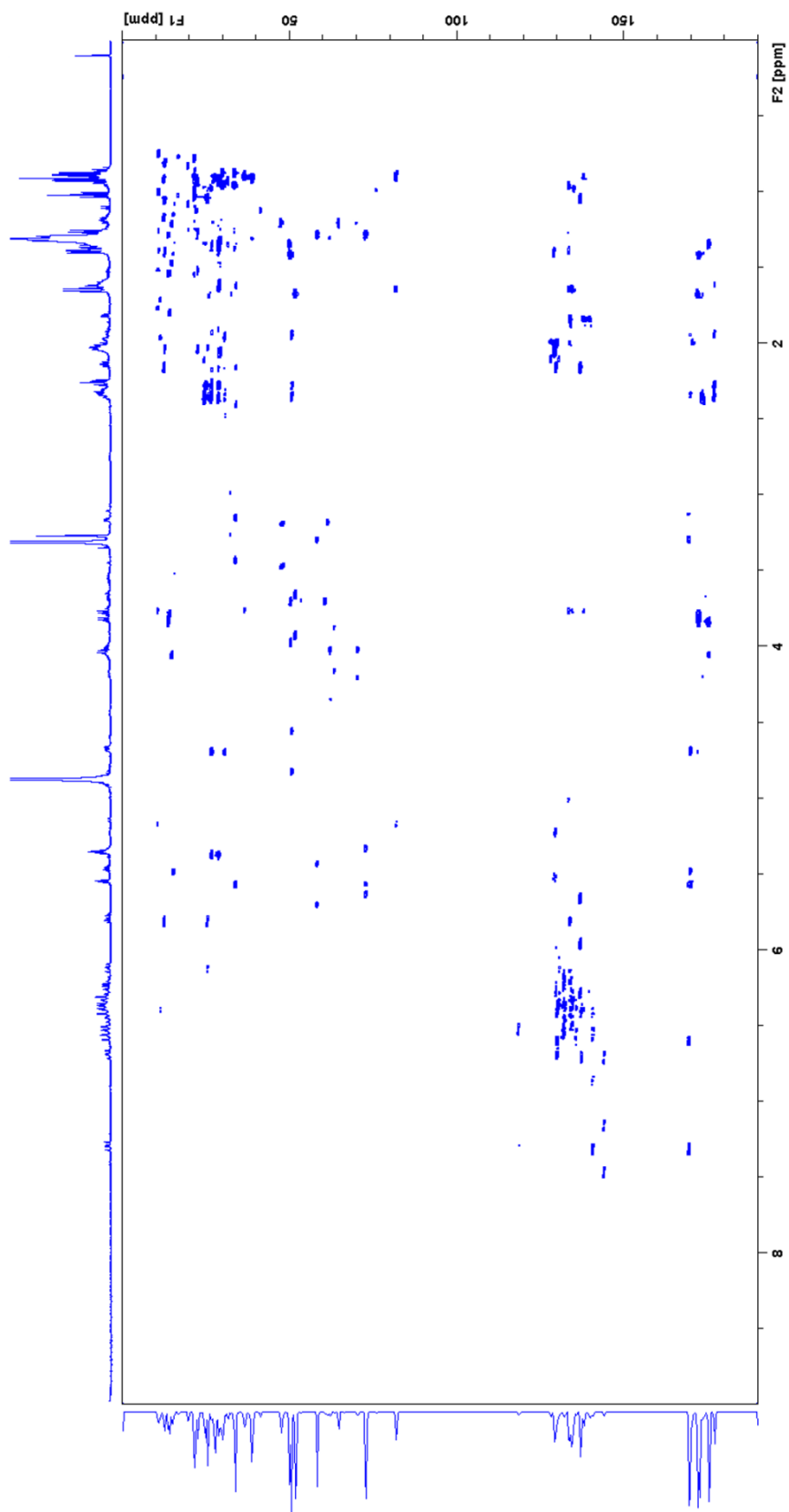
$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S15 (continued on next page)

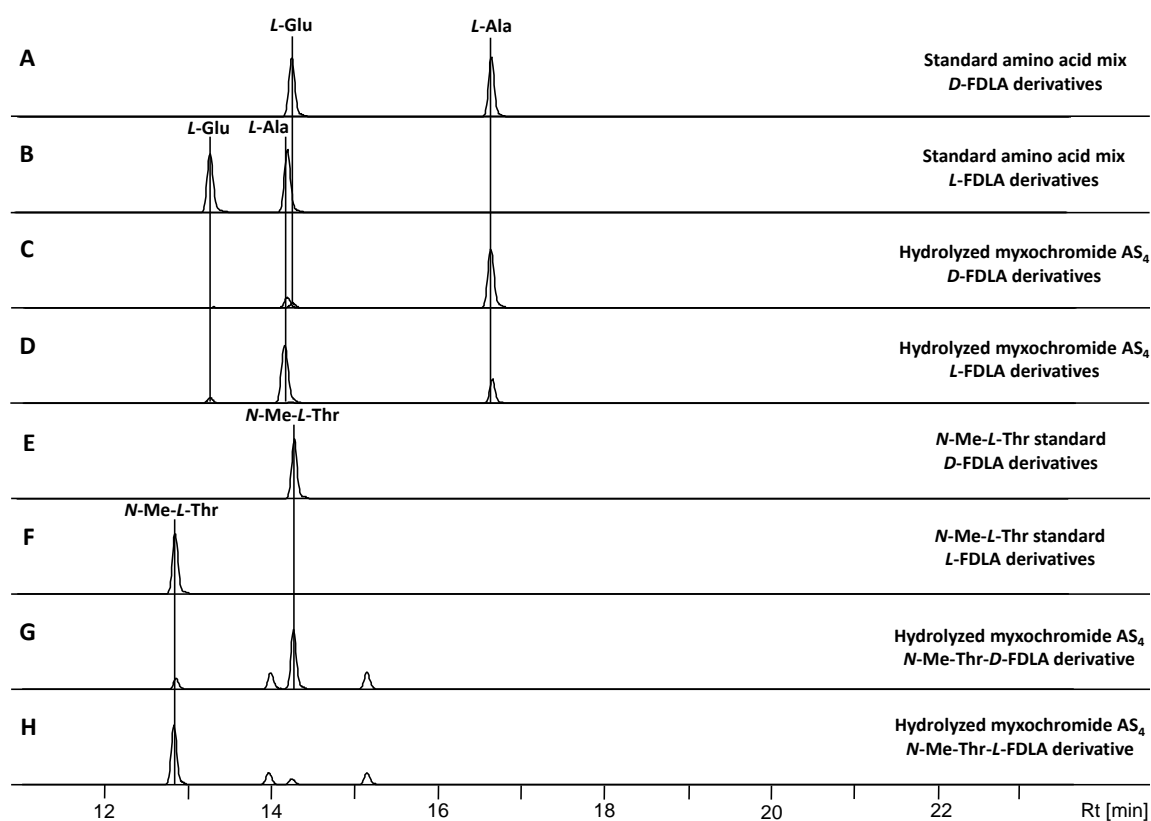


HSQC spectrum of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S15 (continued on next page)



**Fig. S15** NMR spectra of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>.



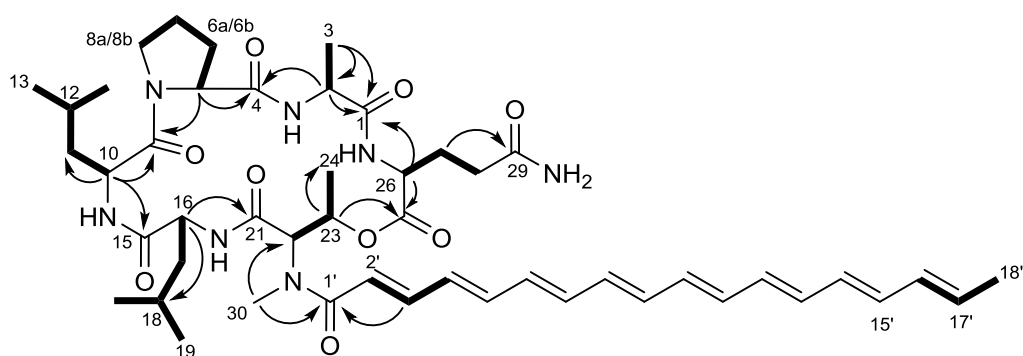
**Fig. S16** Analysis of the absolute configuration of myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>. Extracted ion chromatograms (EIC) for  $\pm 0.05$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of derivatized amino acids, which are present in the peptide scaffold, are shown. **A**: Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **B**: Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **C**: Hydrolyzed myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **D**: Hydrolyzed myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **E**: Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *D*-FDLA. **F**: Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *L*-FDLA. **G**: Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *D*-FDLA derivative. **H**: Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *L*-FDLA derivative.

**Table S12** Analytical data of detected amino acid derivatives and assignment of the absolute configuration of the amino acids in myxochromide AS<sub>4</sub>.

aa-FDLA derivative	<i>L</i> -aa standards		Peptide hydrolysate		Assigned configuration
	R <sub>t</sub> [min]	$m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	R <sub>t</sub> [min]	$m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	
Glu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.3	442.1578	14.3	442.1563	<b>L</b>
Glu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	13.3	442.1579	13.3	442.1574	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1517	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1518	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1517	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1518	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1517	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1518	
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.4	428.1782	14.3	428.1774	<b>L</b>
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>L</i> -FDLA	12.9	428.1786	12.8	428.1776	

### 5.2.2 Structure of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>

Structure elucidation of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> was achieved using 1D <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra (Fig. S18). Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in Table S13. The COSY spectrum supported by HSQC and HMBC data showed presence of spin systems corresponding to *N*-Me-threonine, glutamine, alanine, proline and leucine residues as well as a polyene side chain. Amino acid sequence was established by means of key HMBC correlations and final structure was elucidated as shown in Fig. S17. For the assignment of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>, Marfey analysis of the obtained amino acids<sup>7</sup> was applied as described above. The chromatograms obtained from HPLC-MS analysis are illustrated in Fig. S19 and stereochemical assignments are illustrated in Table S14. Comparison of the retention times and *m/z* values of derivatized standard amino acids and the hydrolyzed lipopeptide revealed the presence of a *D*-configured leucine residue (C16) in myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>. The amino acids alanine (C2), proline (C5), another leucine (C10), *N*-Me-threonine (C22) and glutamine (C26), which was converted to glutamic acid during hydrolysis, were found to be *L*-configured. These findings demonstrate that the epimerization domain of module 2 in the underlying hybrid assembly line is not specific for alanine, but also accepts the more bulky leucine residue. The downstream condensation domain from module 3 originating from the A-type *mch* pathway is obviously a <sup>D</sup>C<sub>L</sub>-type domain, thereby processing the *D*-configured dipeptide intermediate.



**Fig. S17** Structure of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> showing selected COSY (bold line) and key HMBC (arrow) correlations.

**Table S13** NMR spectroscopic data of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>.

Moiety	Position	$\delta_C^a$	$\delta_H^b$ (J in Hz)	HMBC <sup>c</sup>
<i>L</i> -Ala	1	172.9		
	2	52.1	3.84, <i>q</i> (7.3)	1, 3, 4
	3	15.8	1.56, <i>d</i> (7.3)	1, 2
<i>L</i> -Pro	4	174.3		
	5	63.5	4.00, <i>dd</i> (9.6, 6.9)	4, 6, 9
	6a	29.8	1.89, <i>m</i>	5, 7
	6b		2.24, <i>m</i>	5, 7
	7a	26.4	2.02, <i>m</i>	6, 8
	7b		2.16, <i>m</i>	6, 8
	8a	47.8	3.55, <i>m</i>	7
	8b		3.74, <i>m</i>	7
<i>L</i> -Leu	9	172.0		
	10	52.1	4.40, <i>m</i>	9, 11, 12, 15
	11a	38.0	1.51, <i>m</i>	10

	11b		1.56, <i>m</i>	10
	12	25.8	1.53, <i>m</i>	10, 11, 13, 14
	13	23.4	0.98, <i>d</i> (6.9)	11, 12, 14
	14	23.4	0.98, <i>d</i> (6.9)	13
<i>D</i> -Leu	15	174.8		
	16	51.7	4.78, <i>t</i> (7.5)	15, 18, 21
	17a	40.4	1.49, <i>m</i>	18, 19, 20
	17b		1.57, <i>m</i>	18, 19, 20
	18	25.9	1.52, <i>m</i>	
	19	22.6	0.94, <i>m</i>	20
	20	22.6	0.94, <i>m</i>	19
<i>N</i> -Me- <i>L</i> -Thr	21	169.0		
	22	60.7	5.57, <i>d</i> (3.3)	1', 21, 23
	23	72.2	5.73, <i>m</i>	24, 25
	24	16.3	1.09, <i>d</i> (6.6)	21, 22
	30	35.2	3.21, <i>s</i>	1', 22
<i>L</i> -Gln	25	171.5		
	26	54.0	4.51, <i>dd</i> (8.4, 8.1)	1, 25, 27, 28
	27a	28.8	1.80, <i>m</i>	29
	27b		2.34, <i>m</i>	29
	28a	32.1	2.23, <i>m</i>	29
	28b		2.32, <i>m</i>	29
	29	177.2		
Side chain	1'	170.9		
	2'	120.0	6.60, <i>d</i> (14.7)	1'
	3'	144.8	7.35, <i>dd</i> (14.7, 11.5)	1'
	4'	131.3	6.49, <i>m</i>	
	5'-15'	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>
	16'	133.1	6.14, <i>m</i>	
	17'	131.1	5.75, <i>m</i>	18'
	18'	18.2	1.78, <i>d</i> (6.6)	17'

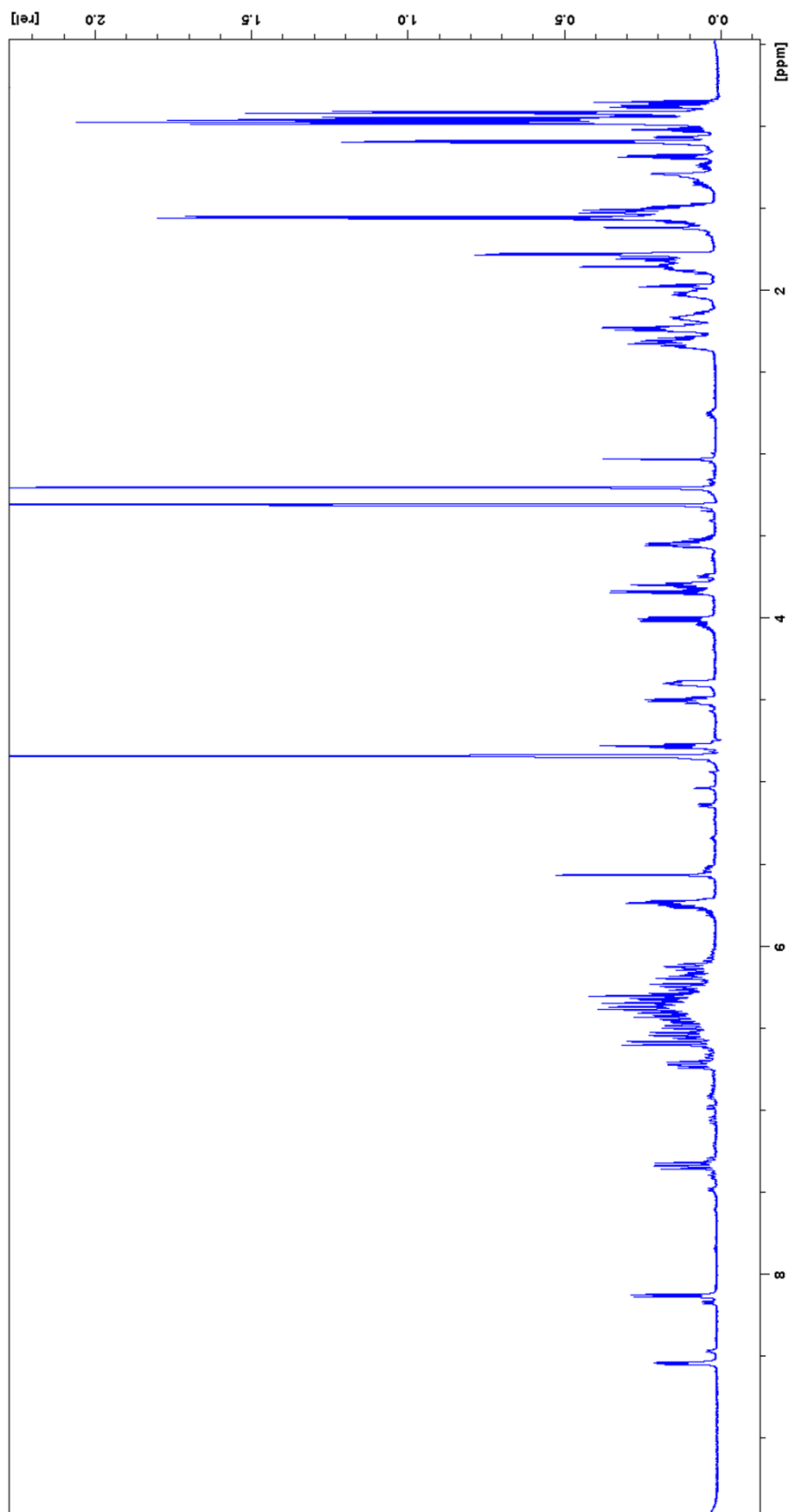
<sup>a</sup> acquired at 125 MHz and assigned from 2D NMR spectra, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  49.15 ppm.

<sup>b</sup> acquired at 500 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

<sup>c</sup> proton showing HMBC correlations to indicated carbons.

<sup>d</sup> overlapped signals.





$^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of myxochromide  $\text{SA}_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (500 MHz)

Fig. S18 (continued on next page)

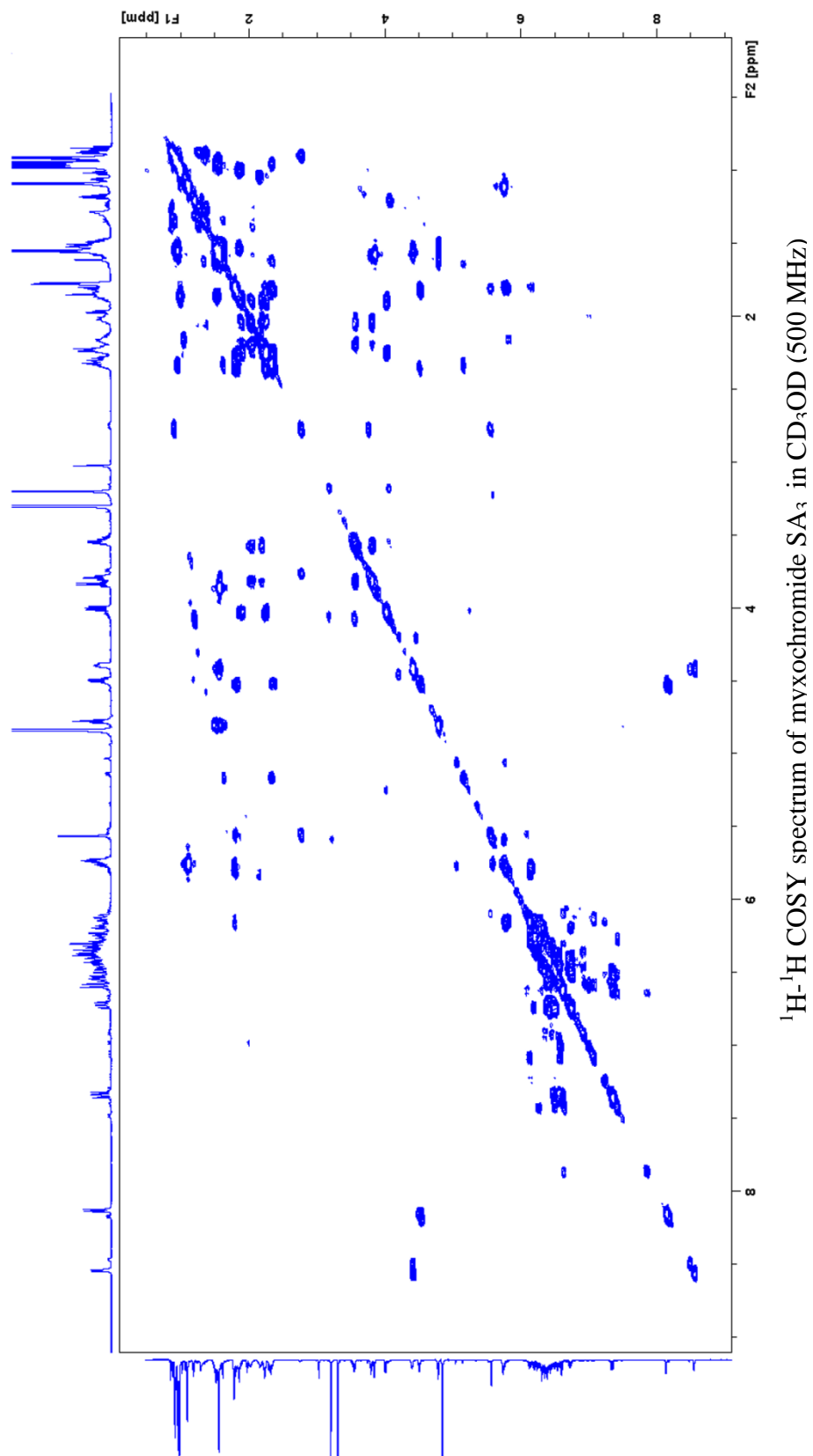


Fig. S18 (continued on next page)

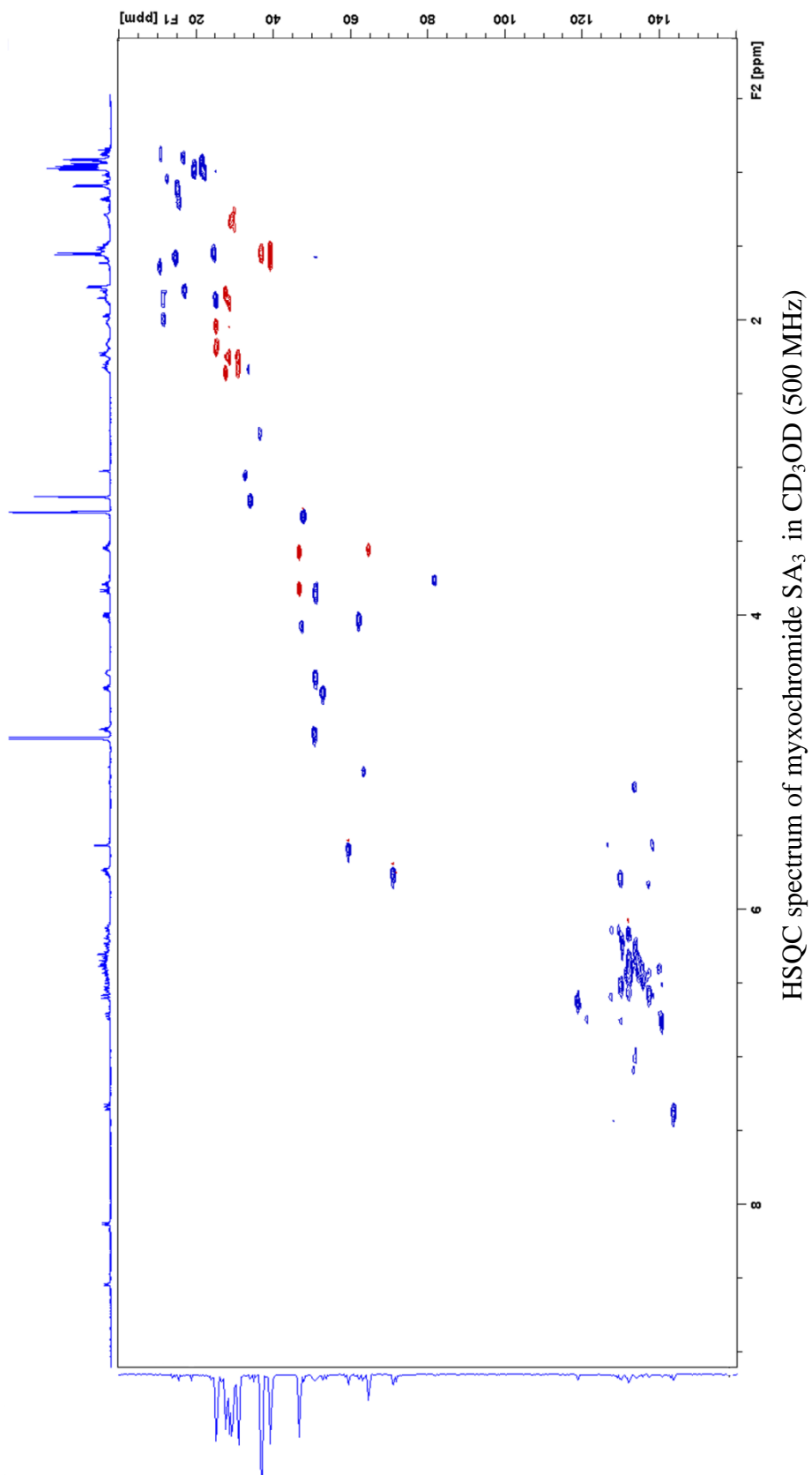
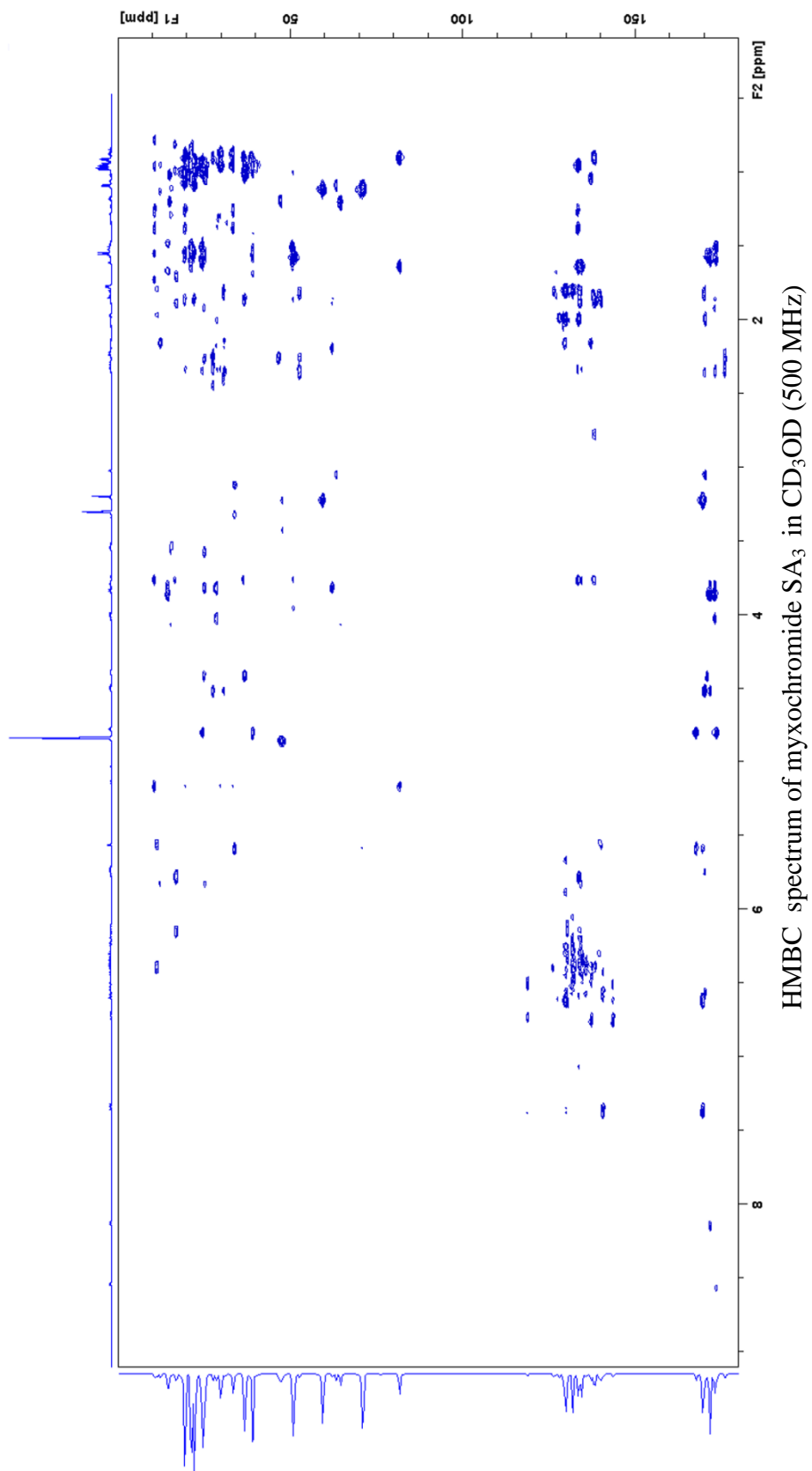
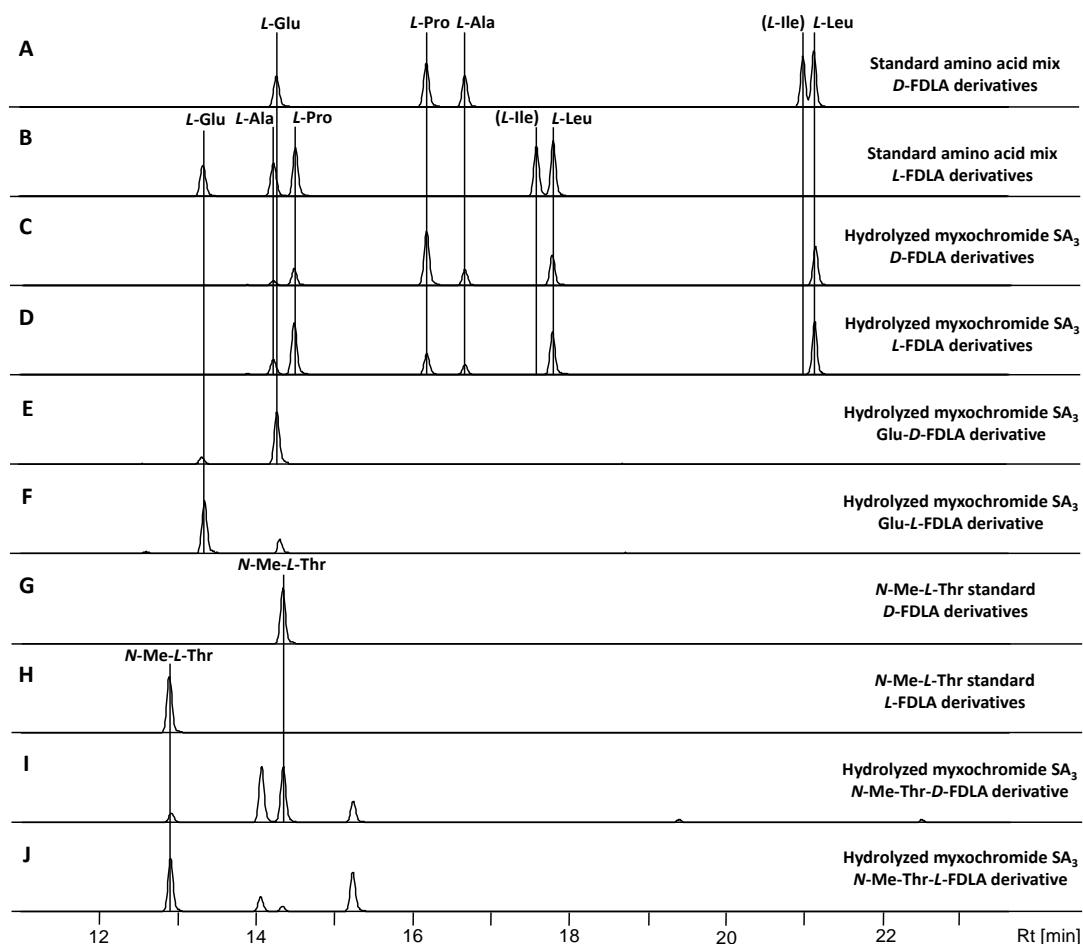


Fig. S18 (continued on next page)



**Fig. S18** NMR spectra of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>.



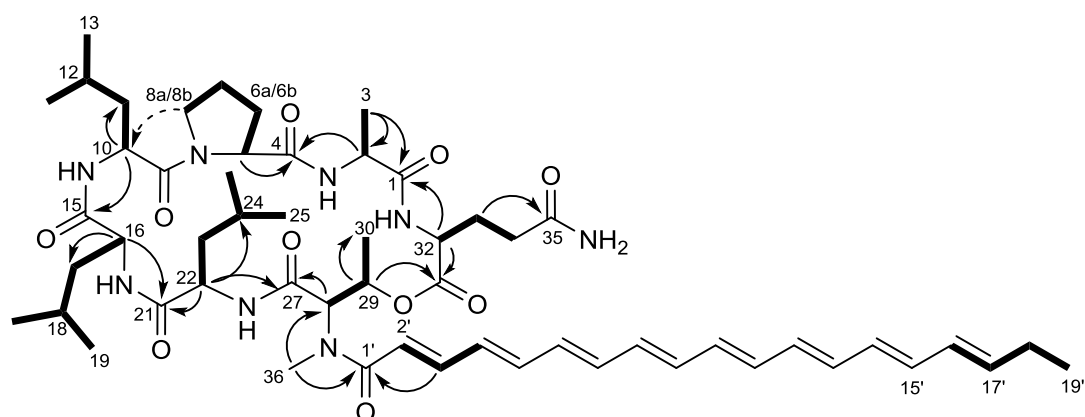
**Fig. S19** Analysis of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>. Extracted ion chromatograms (EIC) for  $\pm 0.05 m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of derivatized amino acids, which are present in the peptide scaffold, are shown. **A:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **B:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **C:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **D:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **E:** Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *L*-glutamic acid *D*-FDLA derivative. **F:** Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *L*-glutamic acid *L*-FDLA derivative. **G:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *D*-FDLA. **H:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *L*-FDLA. **I:** Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *D*-FDLA derivative. **J:** Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *L*-FDLA.

**Table S14** Analytical data of detected amino acid derivatives and assignment of the absolute configuration of the amino acids in myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>.

aa-FDLA derivative	<i>L</i> -aa standards		Peptide hydrolysate		Assigned configuration
	<i>t</i> <sub>R</sub> [min]	<i>m/z</i> [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	<i>t</i> <sub>R</sub> [min]	<i>m/z</i> [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	
Glu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.3	442.1578	14.3	442.1576	<b>L</b>
Glu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	13.3	442.1579	13.3	442.1570	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1515	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1511	
Pro- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.2	410.1675	16.2	410.1676	<b>L</b>
Pro- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.5	410.1675	14.5	410.1673	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	21.1	426.1989	21.1	426.1993	<b>L</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	17.8	426.1988	17.8	426.1986	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	<b>21.1</b>	426.1989	<b>17.8</b>	426.1993	<b>D</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	<b>17.8</b>	426.1988	<b>21.1</b>	426.1982	
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.4	428.1782	14.4	428.1786	<b>L</b>
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>L</i> -FDLA	12.9	428.1786	12.9	428.1785	

### 5.2.3 Structure of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>

Structure elucidation of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> was achieved using <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC, HMBC and ROESY spectra (Fig. S21). Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in the Table S15. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum closely resembled to that of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>. In addition to the common structural parts, analysis of 2D NMR spectra corroborated the presence of an additional leucine residue compared to myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub>. Key HMBC and ROESY correlations established the amino acid sequence and finalized its planar structure as depicted in Fig. S20. Length of the polyene side chain was deduced based on the HR-MS data and molecular formula. For the assignment of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>, hydrolysis and Marfey analysis of the obtained amino acids,<sup>7</sup> was applied as described above. The chromatograms obtained from HPLC-MS analysis are illustrated in Fig. S22 and stereochemical assignments are illustrated in Table S16. Comparison of the retention times and masses of derivatized standard amino acids and the hydrolyzed lipopeptide revealed that one of the three leucine residues (C10, C16 and C22) from myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> has *D* configuration. The remaining leucine residues as well as the amino acids alanine (C2), proline (C5), *N*-Me-threonine (C28) and glutamine (C32), which was converted to glutamic acid during hydrolysis, were found to be *L*-configured. According to the domain organization of the underlying hybrid assembly line, which harbors an epimerization domain in module 2, the *D*-configured leucine was assigned to C22. This also correlates with the structure of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> and identifies the condensation domain of module 3 originating from the B-type *mch* pathway as a <sup>D</sup>C<sub>L</sub> domain.



**Fig. S20** Structure of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> showing selected COSY (bold line), ROESY (dashed arrow) and key HMBC (arrow) correlations.

**Table S15** NMR spectroscopic data of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>.

Moiety	Position	$\delta_c^a$	$\delta_H^b$ (J in Hz)	HMBC <sup>c</sup>	ROESY <sup>d, e</sup>
<i>L</i> -Ala	1	174.5			
	2	50.3	4.26 <i>m</i>	1,3	
	3	15.5	1.42 <i>d</i> (7.4)	1,2	
<i>L</i> -Pro	4	174.0			
	5	63.6	4.11 <i>m</i>	4, 6a/b,7a/b	10
	6a	30.5	1.90 <i>m</i>	4,5,7a/b	
	6b	30.5	2.35 <i>m</i>	4, 5,7a/b	
	7a	25.9	2.05 <i>m</i>	5,6a/b,8a/b	
	7b	25.9	2.13 <i>m</i>	5,6a/b,8a/b	
	8a	48.3	3.68 <i>m</i>	6a/b,7a/b	10
	8b	48.3	3.85 <i>m</i>	6a/b,7a/b,9	10
<i>L</i> -Leu	9	174.0			
	10	49.6	4.95 <i>dd</i> <sup>(f)</sup>	9,11,12,15	8a/b, 5
	11a	41.3	1.51 <i>m</i>	10,12	
	11b	41.3	1.64 <i>m</i>	10,12	
	12	25.8	1.65 <i>m</i>	13,14	
	13	21.2	0.99 <i>m</i>	11,12,14	
	14	23.5	0.95 <i>m</i>	11,12,13	

<i>L</i> -Leu	15	174.4		
	16	54.5	4.27 <i>m</i>	15,17a/b,18,21
	17a	41.8	1.65 <i>m</i>	19,20
	17b	41.8	1.76 <i>m</i>	19,20
	18	25.9	1.74 <i>m</i>	
	19	21.1	0.91 <i>d</i> (6.1)	17a/b
	20	23.1	1.01 <i>m</i>	17a/b
<i>D</i> -Leu	21	174.1		
	22	52.6	4.68 <i>m</i>	21,23a/b,24
	23a	44.3	1.59 <i>m</i>	22,24,25,26
	23b	44.3	1.44 <i>m</i>	22,24,25,26
	24	25.7	1.52 <i>m</i>	
	25	22.8	0.94 <i>m</i>	23a/b,24,25
	26	22.8	0.94 <i>m</i>	23a/b,24,25
<i>N</i> -Me- <i>L</i> -Thr	27	168.6		
	28	61.0	5.57 <i>d</i> (3.5)	1',27,29,36
	29	71.0	5.83 <i>m</i>	30,31
	30	16.2	1.09 <i>d</i> (6.6)	27,28,29
	36	35.5	3.23 <i>s</i>	1',28
<i>L</i> -Gln	31	170.7		
	32	55.4	4.12 <i>m</i>	31,33,34
	33a	28.5	1.92 <i>m</i>	32,34,35
	33b	28.5	2.16 <i>m</i>	32,34,35
	34a	31.9	2.29 <i>m</i>	32,33a/b,35
	34b	31.9	2.53 <i>m</i>	32,33a/b,35
	35	177.4		
Side chain	1'	170.8		
	2'	120.0	6.69 <i>d</i> (14.9)	1',3'
	3'	145.0	7.36 <i>dd</i> (14.5,11.2)	1',2',4'
	4'	138.4	6.55 <i>m</i>	5'
	5'	141.6	6.72 <i>m</i>	3',4'
	6'-14'	<i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	
	15'	135.1	6.24 <i>m</i>	17'
	16'	130.9	6.12 <i>dd</i> (9.8,15.0)	17'
	17'	138.1	5.79 <i>m</i>	15',18',16'
	18'	26.5	2.14 <i>m</i>	16',17',
19'	13.6	1.02 <i>t</i> (7.4)	18',17'	

<sup>a</sup> acquired at 125 MHz and assigned from 2D NMR spectra, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  49.15 ppm.

<sup>b</sup> acquired at 500 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

<sup>c</sup> proton showing HMBC correlations to indicated carbons.

<sup>d</sup> proton showing ROESY correlations to indicated protons.

<sup>e</sup> acquired at 500 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

<sup>f</sup> overlapped signals.

<sup>g</sup> correlation obtained from HMBC spectra in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO (data not shown).

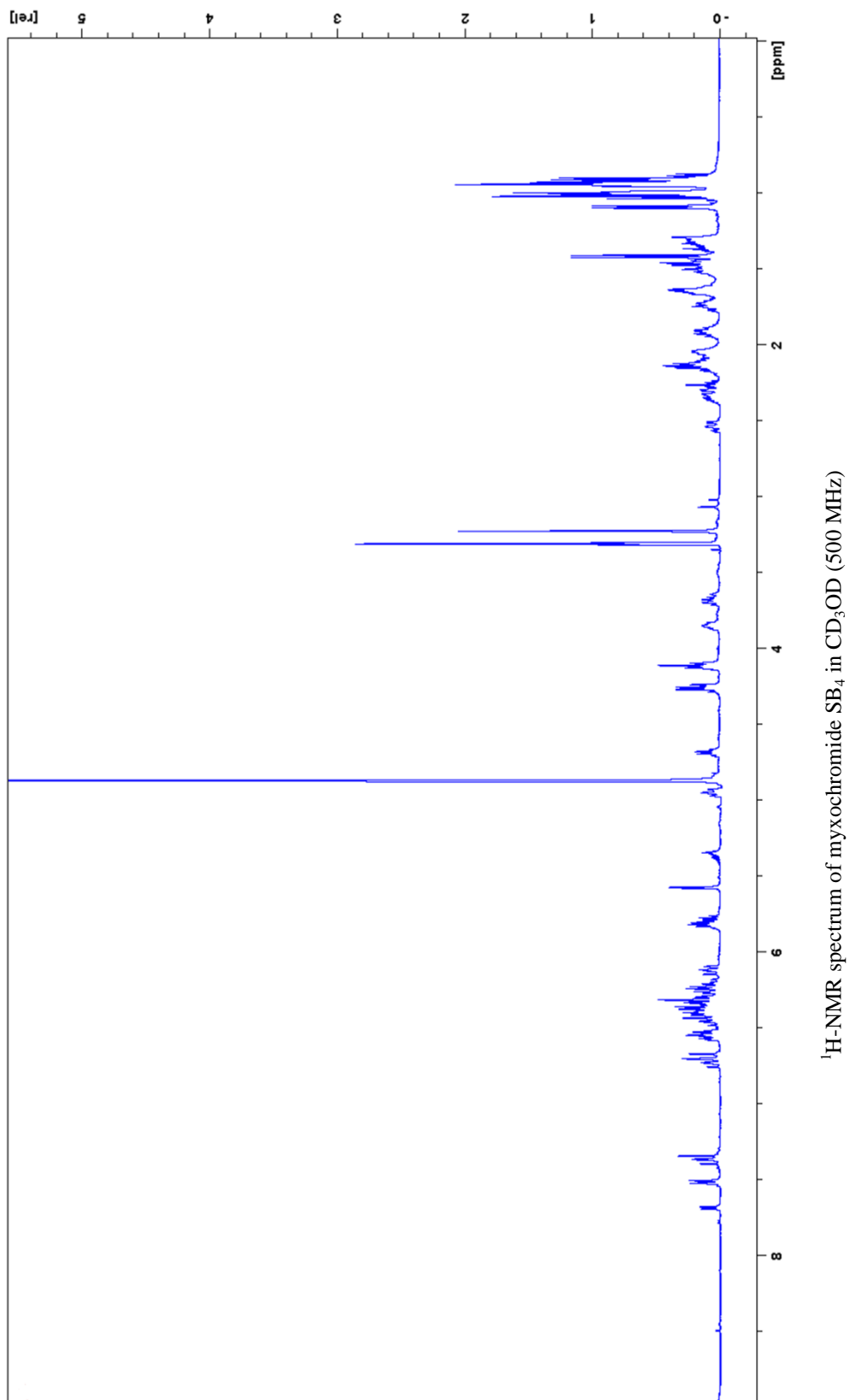
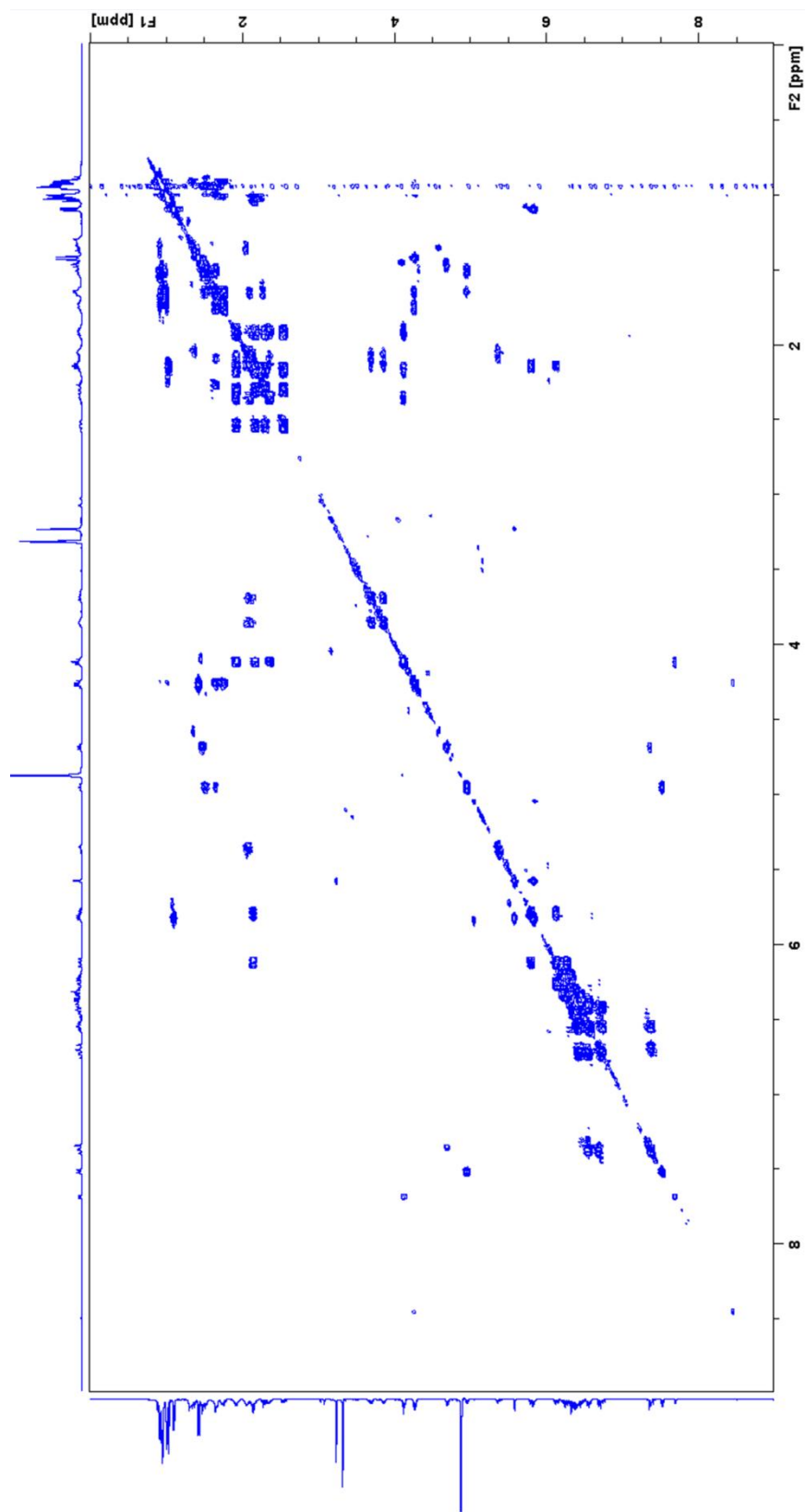


Fig. S21 (continued on next page)





$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S21 (continued on next page)

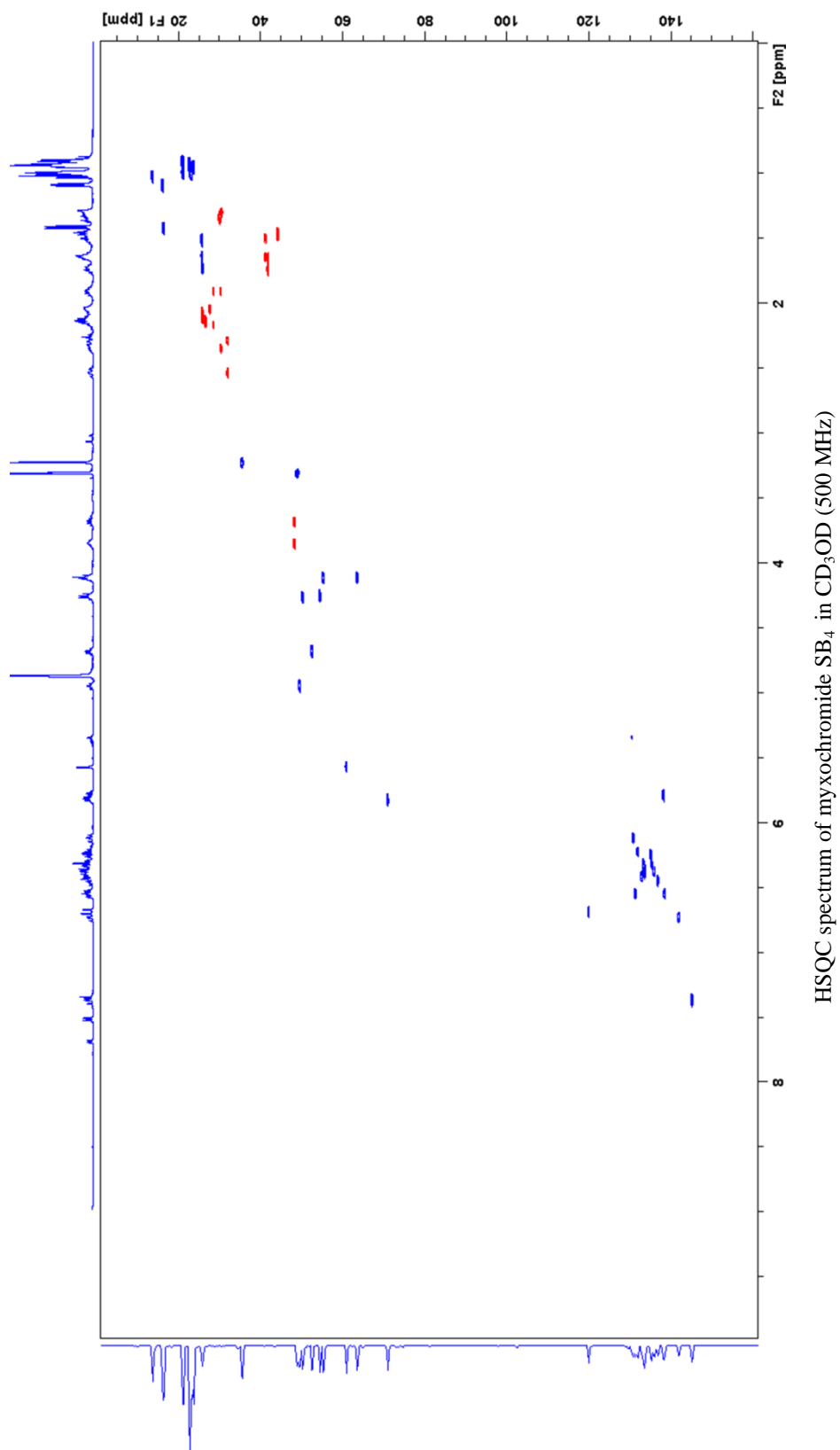
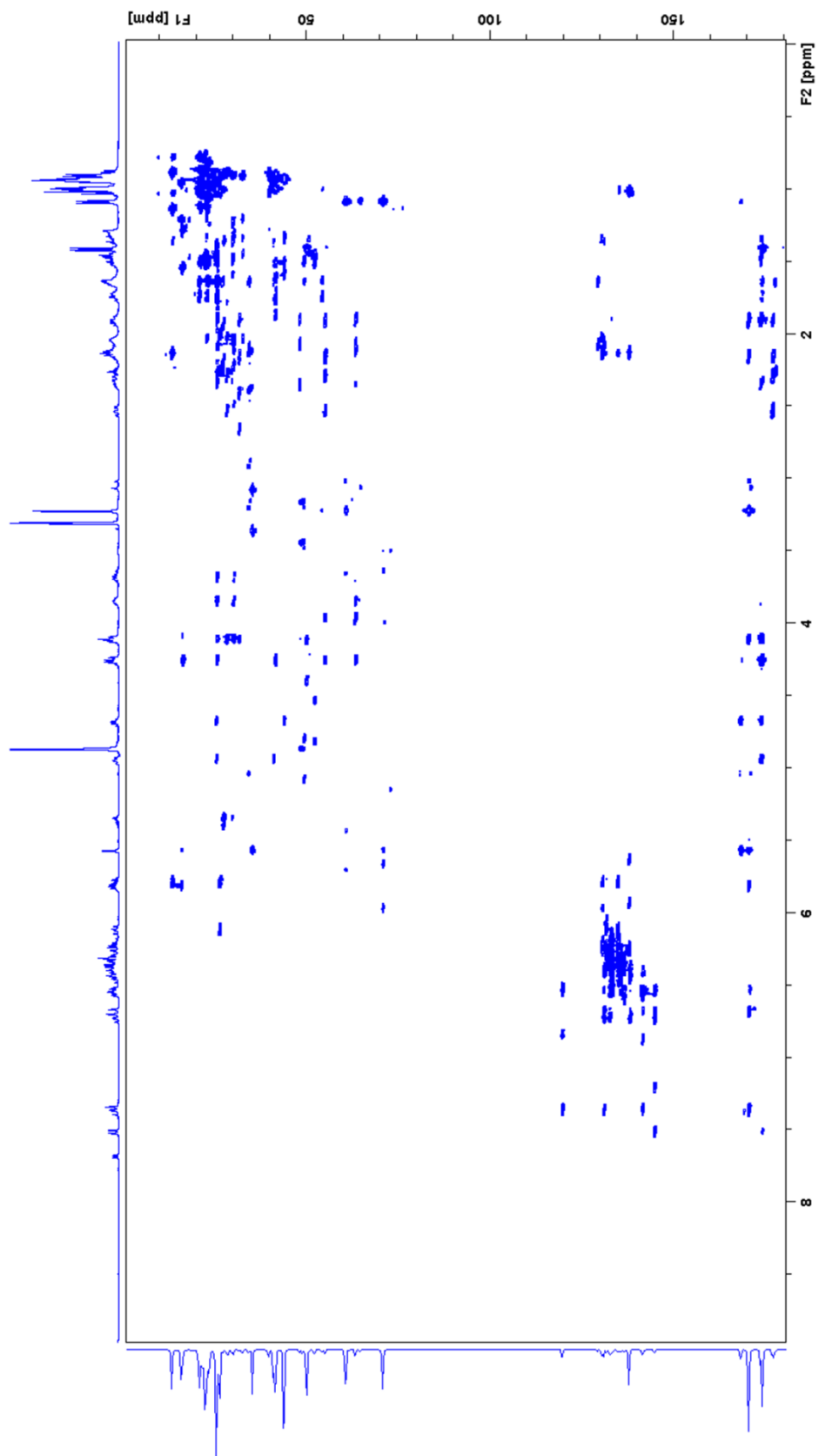


Fig. S21 (continued on next page)



HMBC spectrum of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S21 (continued on next page)

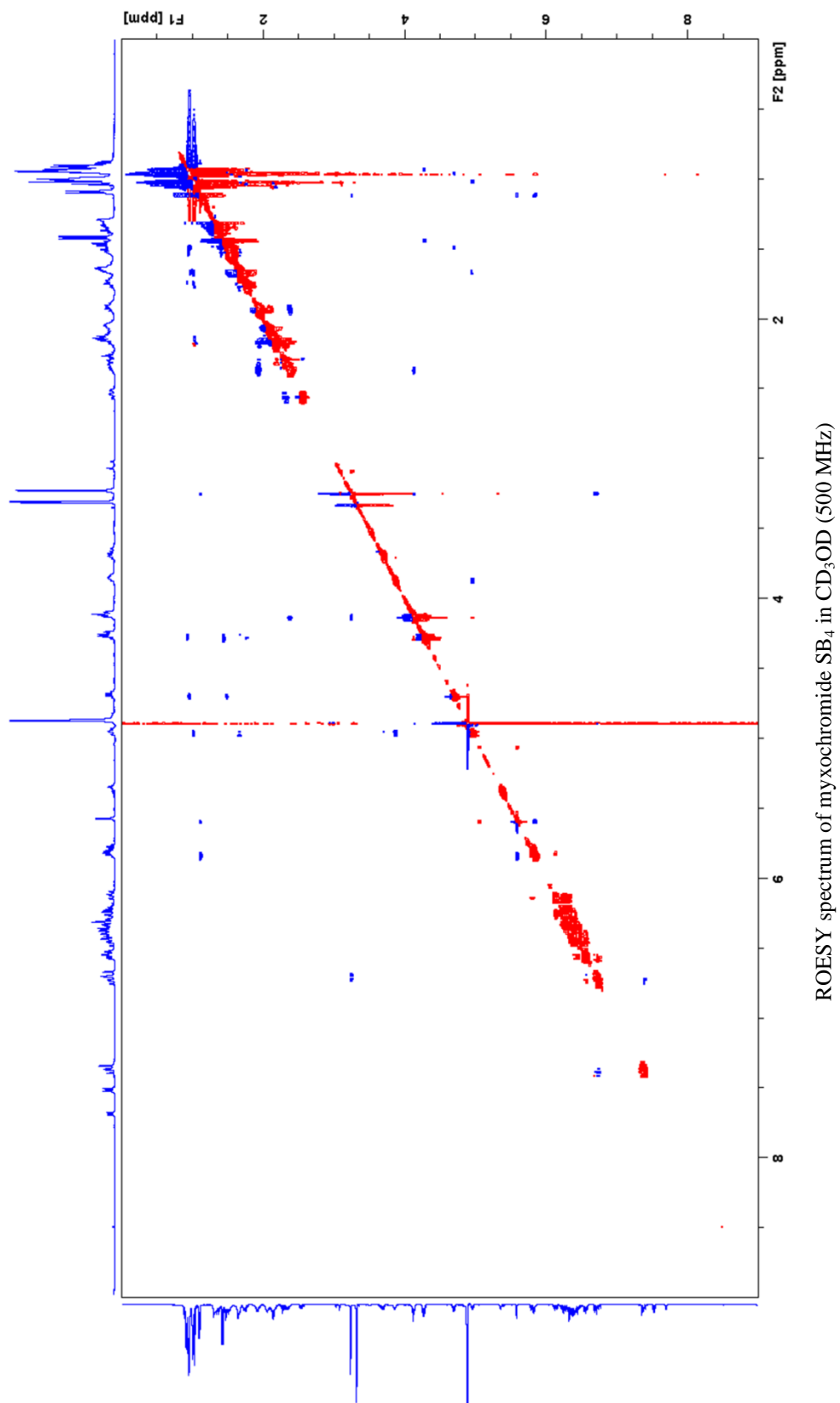
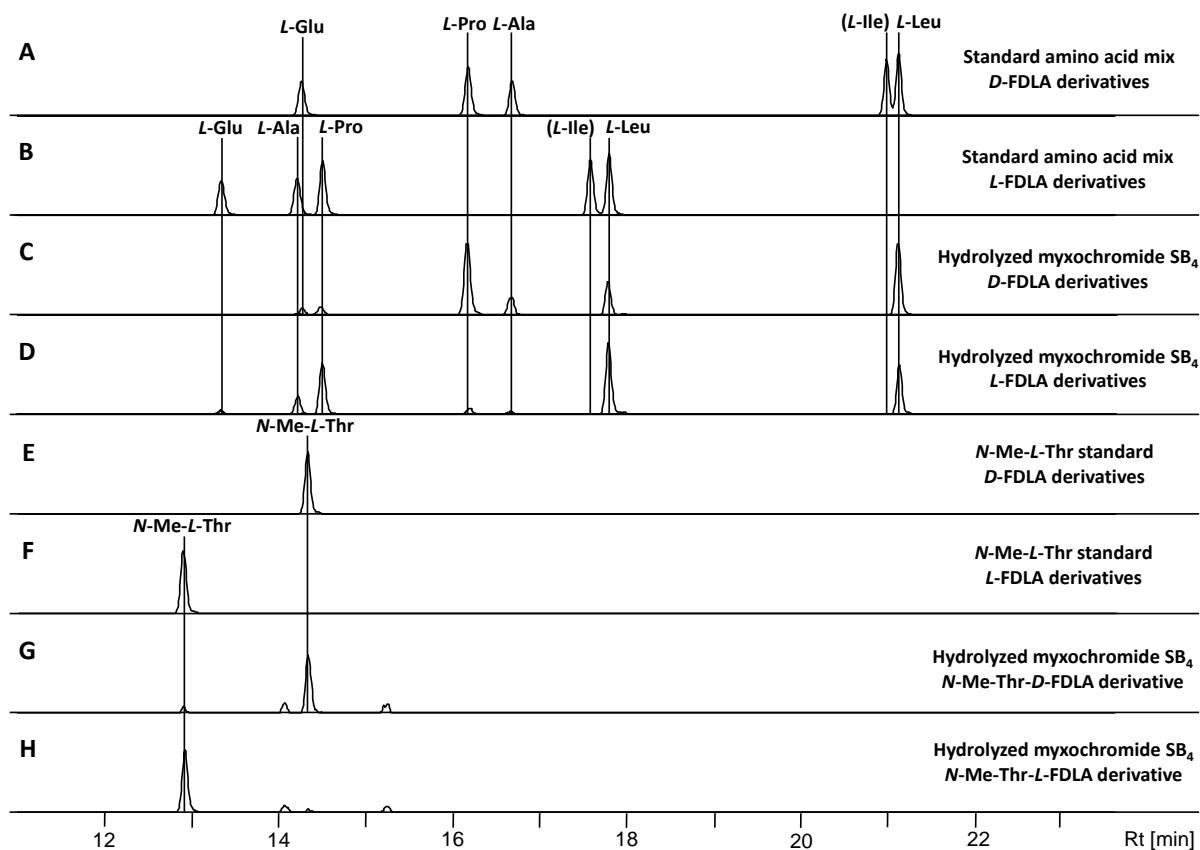


Fig. S21 NMR spectra of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>.



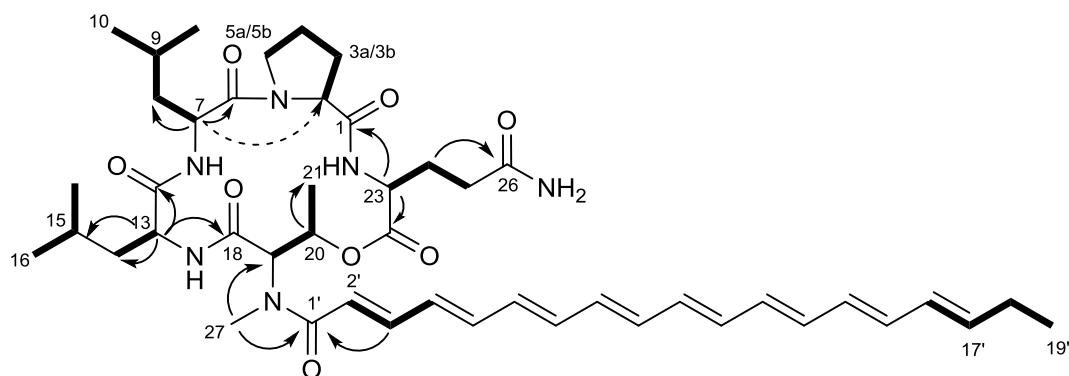
**Fig. S22** Analysis of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>. Extracted ion chromatograms (EIC) for  $\pm 0.05$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of derivatized amino acids, which are present in the peptide scaffold, are shown. **A:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **B:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **C:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **D:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **E:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *D*-FDLA. **F:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *L*-FDLA. **G:** Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *D*-FDLA derivative. **H:** Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *L*-FDLA derivative.

**Table S16** Analytical data of detected amino acid derivatives and assignment of the absolute configuration of the amino acids in myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub>.

aa-FDLA derivative	<i>L</i> -aa standards		Peptide hydrolysate		Assigned configuration
	$t_R$ [min]	$m/z$ $[M+H]^+$	$t_R$ [min]	$m/z$ $[M+H]^+$	
Glu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.3	442.1578	14.3	442.1572	<b>L</b>
Glu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	13.3	442.1579	13.3	442.1582	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1513	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1525	
Pro- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.2	410.1675	16.2	410.1672	<b>L</b>
Pro- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.5	410.1675	14.5	410.1676	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	21.1	426.1989	21.1	426.1986	<b>L</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	17.8	426.1988	17.8	426.1985	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	21.1	426.1989	21.1	426.1986	<b>L</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	17.8	426.1988	17.8	426.1985	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	<b>21.1</b>	426.1989	<b>17.8</b>	426.1991	<b>D</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	<b>17.8</b>	426.1988	<b>21.1</b>	426.1988	
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.4	428.1782	14.4	428.1775	<b>L</b>
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>L</i> -FDLA	12.9	428.1786	12.9	428.1779	

### 5.2.4 Structure of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>

Structure elucidation of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> was achieved using 1D <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC, HMBC and ROESY spectra (Fig. S24). Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in Table S17. The COSY spectrum supported by HSQC and HMBC data showed presence of spin systems corresponding to *N*-Me-threonine, glutamine, proline and leucine residues as well as a polyene side chain. Amino acid sequence was established by means of key HMBC and ROESY correlations and final structure was elucidated as shown in Fig. S23. For the assignment of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>, hydrolysis and Marfey analysis of the obtained amino acids,<sup>7</sup> was applied as described above.<sup>7</sup> The chromatograms obtained from HPLC-MS analysis are illustrated in Fig. S25 and stereochemical assignments are illustrated in Table S18. Comparison of the retention times and masses of derivatized standard amino acids and the hydrolyzed lipopeptide revealed that one of the two leucine residues (C7 and C13) from myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> is *D*-configured. The second leucine residue as well as the amino acids proline (C2), *N*-Methreonine (C19) and glutamine (C23), which was converted to glutamic acid during hydrolysis, were found to be *L*-configured. According to the domain organization of the underlying hybrid assembly line, which harbors an epimerization domain in module 2, the *D*-configured leucine was assigned to C13. This also correlates with the structures of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> and identifies the condensation domain of module 3 originating from the C-type *mch* pathway as a <sup>D</sup>C<sub>L</sub> domain.



**Fig. S23** Structure of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> showing selected COSY (bold line), ROESY (dashed arrow) and key HMBC (arrow) correlations.

**Table S17** NMR spectroscopic data of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>.

Moiety	Position	$\delta_C^a$	$\delta_H^b$ ( <i>J</i> in Hz)	HMBC <sup>c</sup>	ROESY <sup>d,e,g</sup>
<i>L</i> -Pro	1	174.2			
	2	63.0	4.34, <i>m</i>	1, 3, 7	7
	3a	32.6	2.18, <i>m</i>	4	
	3b		2.42, <i>m</i>	4	
	4	23.4	2.00, <i>m</i>		
	5a	47.7	3.59, <i>m</i>		
	5b		3.74, <i>m</i>		
<i>L</i> -Leu	6	173.9 <sup>f</sup>			
	7	49.7	4.66, <i>m</i>	6, 8, 9	2
	8a	42.5	1.55, <i>m</i>		
	8b		1.62, <i>m</i>		
	9	25.6	1.53, <i>m</i>		
	10	23.3	0.93, <i>m</i>	8, 9	

	11	23.3	0.93, <i>m</i>	8, 9
<i>D</i> -Leu	12	173.9 <sup><i>f</i></sup>		
	13	54.4	4.26, <i>m</i>	12, 14,15,18
	14a	40.8	1.39, <i>m</i>	12, 15
	14b		1.75, <i>m</i>	12, 15
	15	25.6	1.53, <i>m</i>	
	16	21.5	0.91, <i>m</i>	15
	17	21.5	0.91, <i>m</i>	15
<i>N</i> -Me- <i>L</i> -Thr	18	170.8		
	19	61.6	5.41, <i>m</i>	18
	20	72.1	5.97, <i>m</i>	
	21	16.8	1.24, <i>d</i> (6.5)	19, 20
	27	34.8	3.40, <i>m</i>	1', 19
<i>L</i> -Gln	22	171.1		
	23	54.4	4.42, <i>m</i>	1, 24, 25
	24a	28.8	2.03, <i>m</i>	26
	24b		2.11, <i>m</i>	26
	25a	31.7	2.22, <i>m</i>	26
	25b		2.22, <i>m</i>	26
	26	176.9		
Side chain	1'	170.8		
	2'	119.8	6.65, <i>d</i> (14.8)	
	3'	144.9	7.34, <i>dd</i> (14.8,11.7)	
	4'	141.8	6.54, <i>m</i>	
	5'-14'	<i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	
	15'	134.9	6.27, <i>m</i>	
	16'	130.7	6.12, <i>dd</i> (15.0, 10.0)	
	17'	138.1	5.79, <i>dt</i> (15.0, 6.7)	15'
	18'	26.6	2.14, <i>m</i>	17', 19'
	19'	13.6	1.02, <i>t</i> (7.4)	18'

<sup>*a*</sup> acquired at 175 MHz and assigned from 2D NMR spectra, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  49.15 ppm.

<sup>*b*</sup> acquired at 700 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

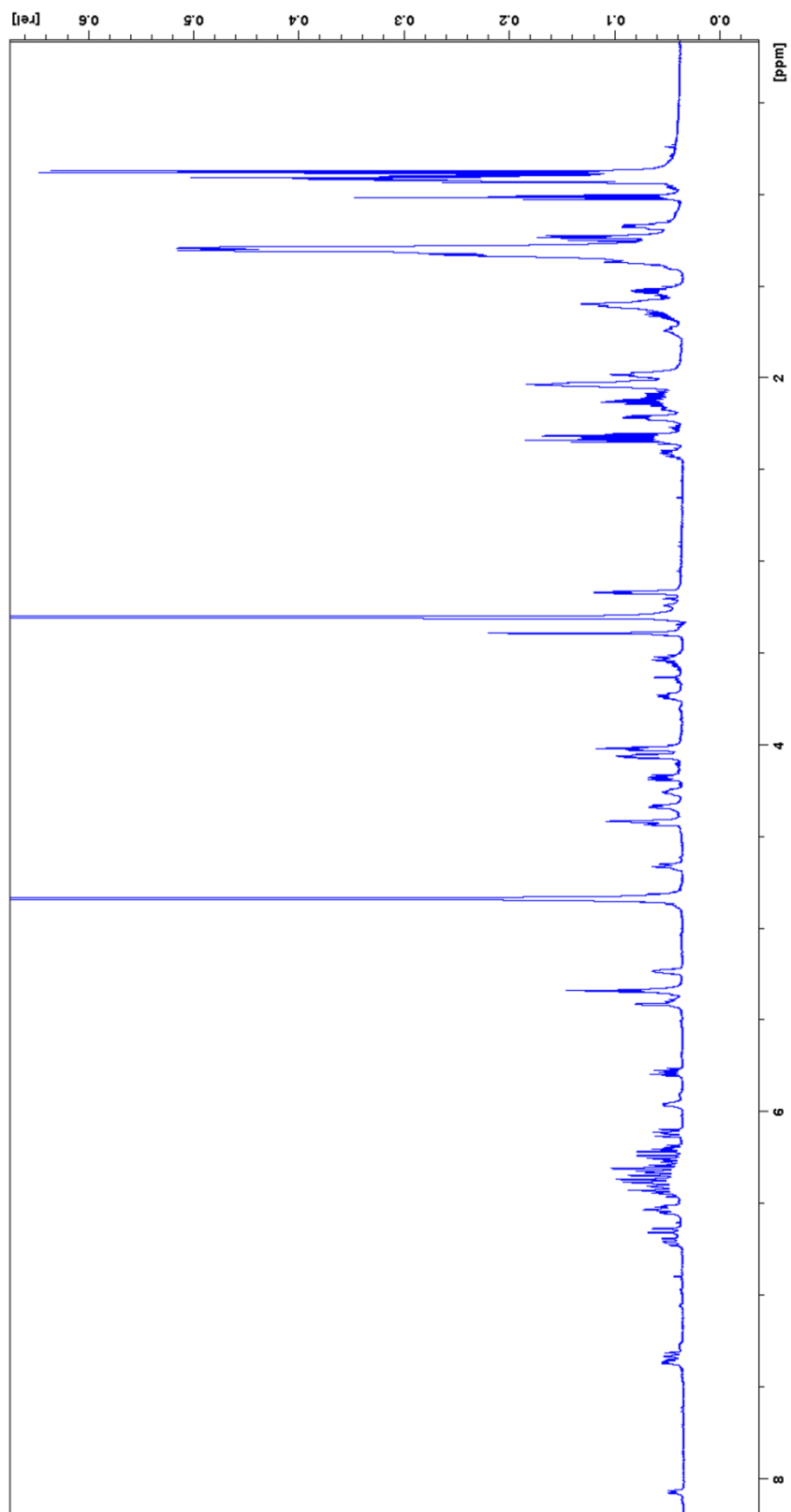
<sup>*c*</sup> proton showing HMBC correlations to indicated carbons.

<sup>*d*</sup> proton showing ROESY correlations to indicated protons.

<sup>*e*</sup> acquired at 700 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

<sup>*f*</sup> overlapped signals.

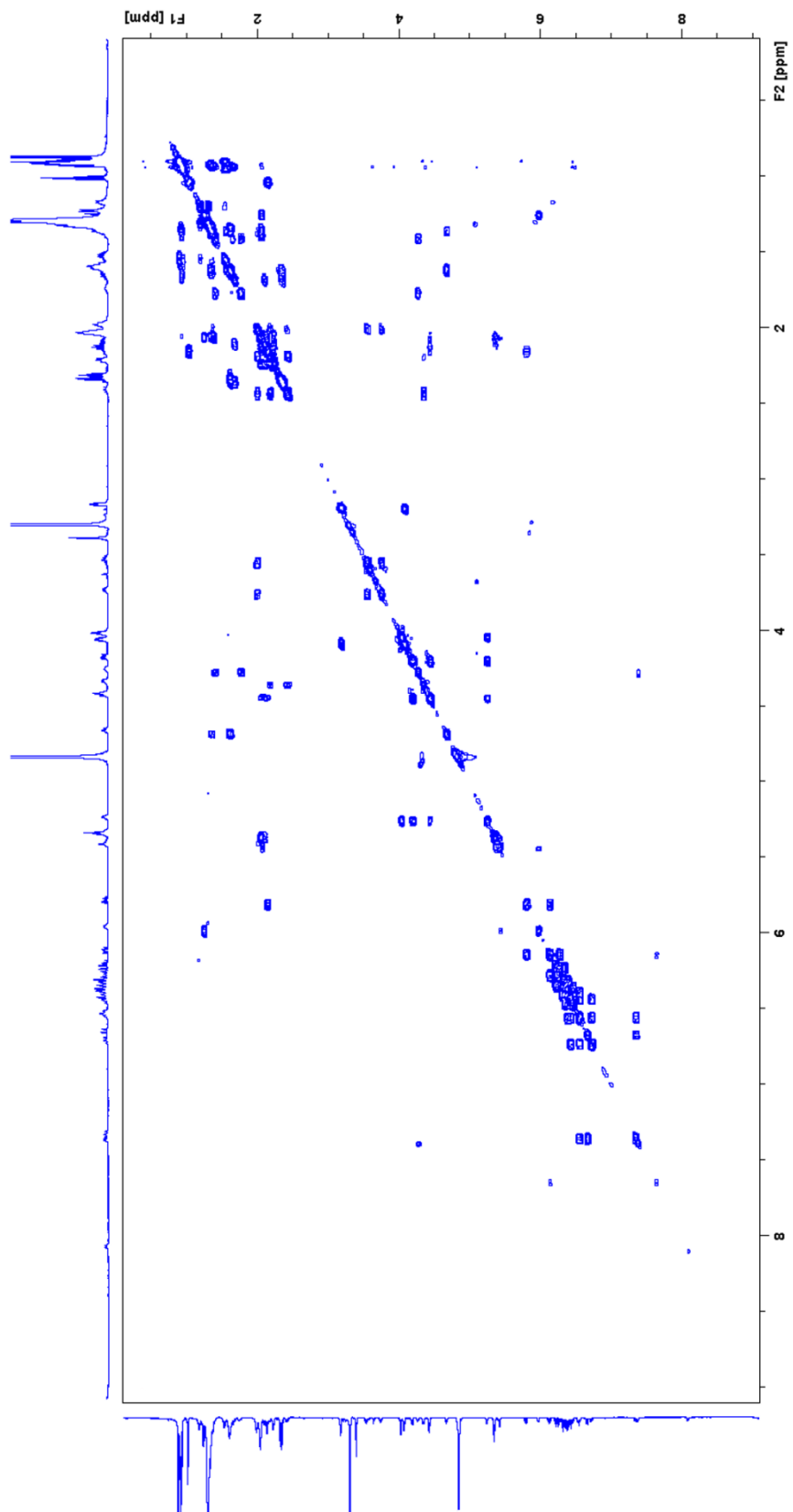
<sup>*g*</sup> only relevant correlations listed



$^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of myxochromide  $\text{SC}_4$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (500 MHz)

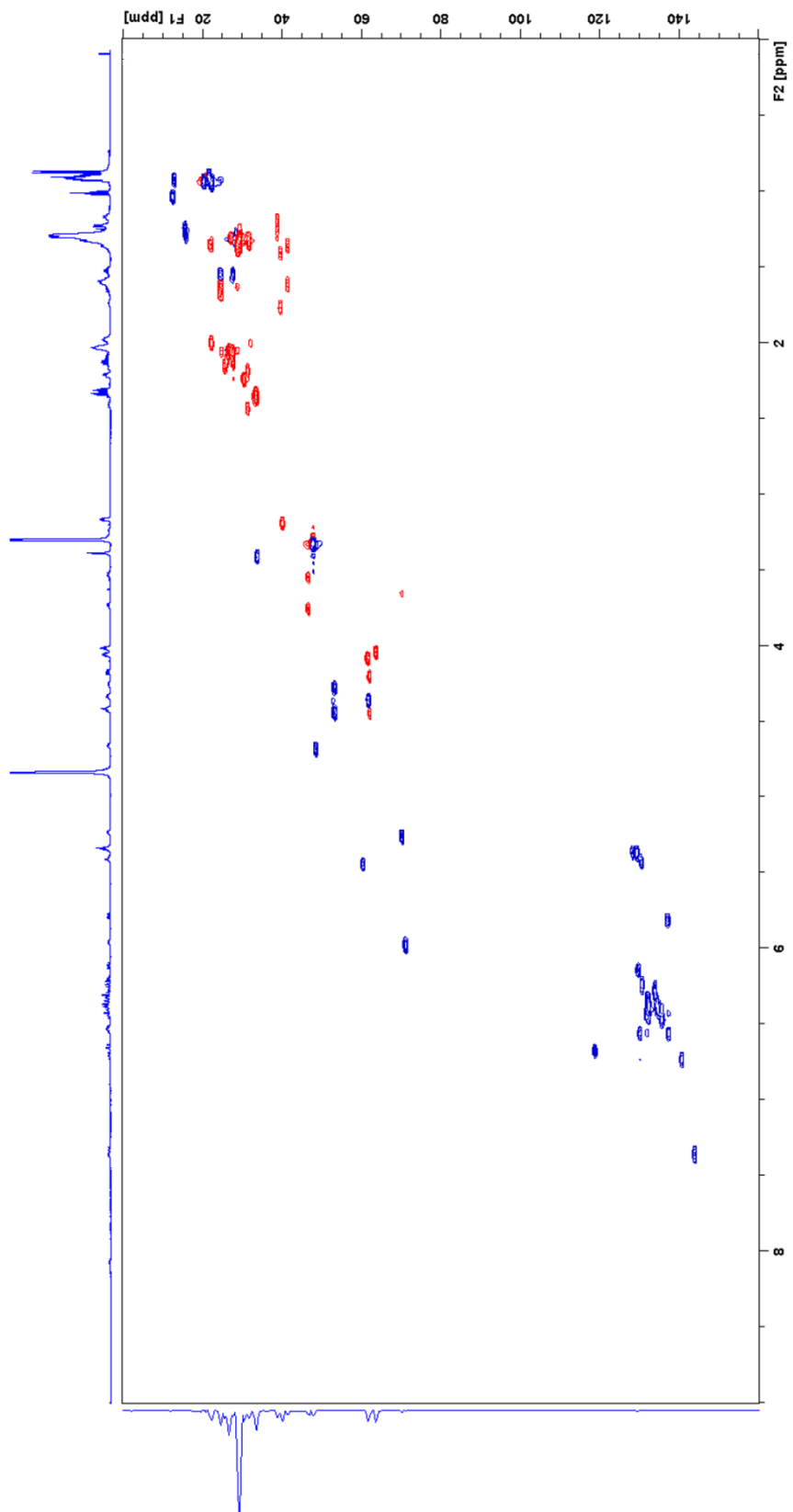
Fig. S24 (continued on next page)





$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of myxochromide  $\text{SC}_4$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (500 MHz)

Fig. S24 (continued on next page)



HSQC spectrum of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (500 MHz)

Fig. S24 (continued on next page)

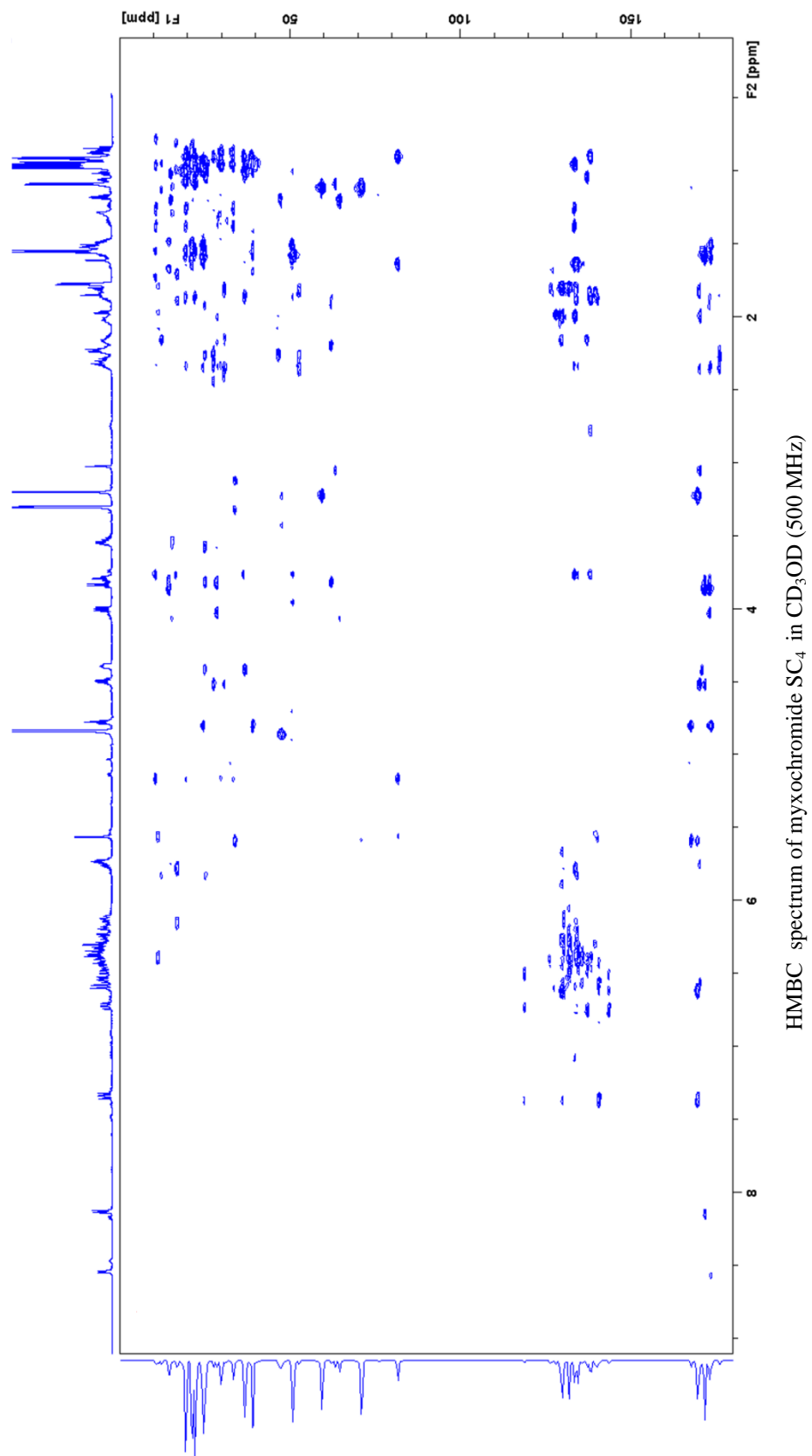
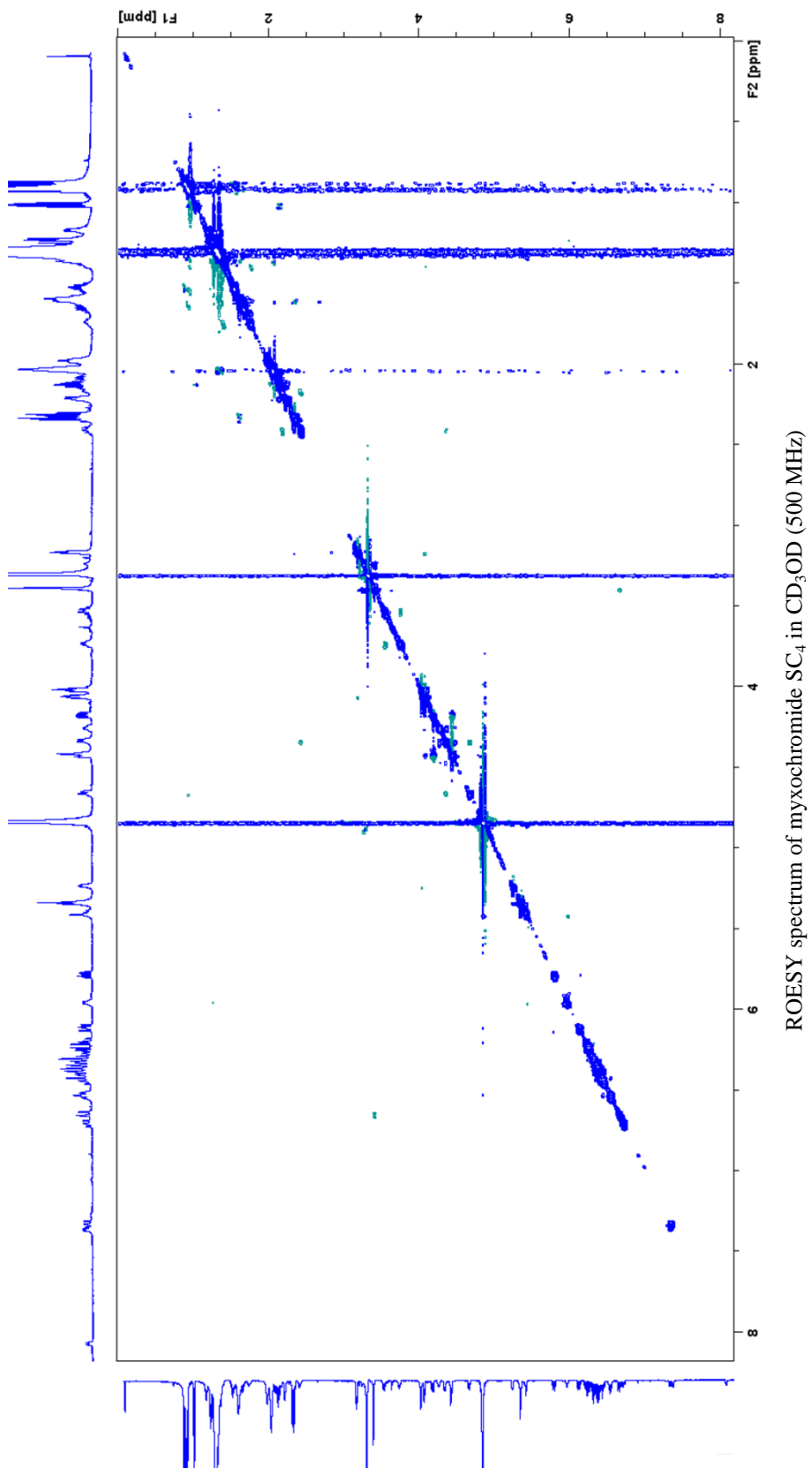
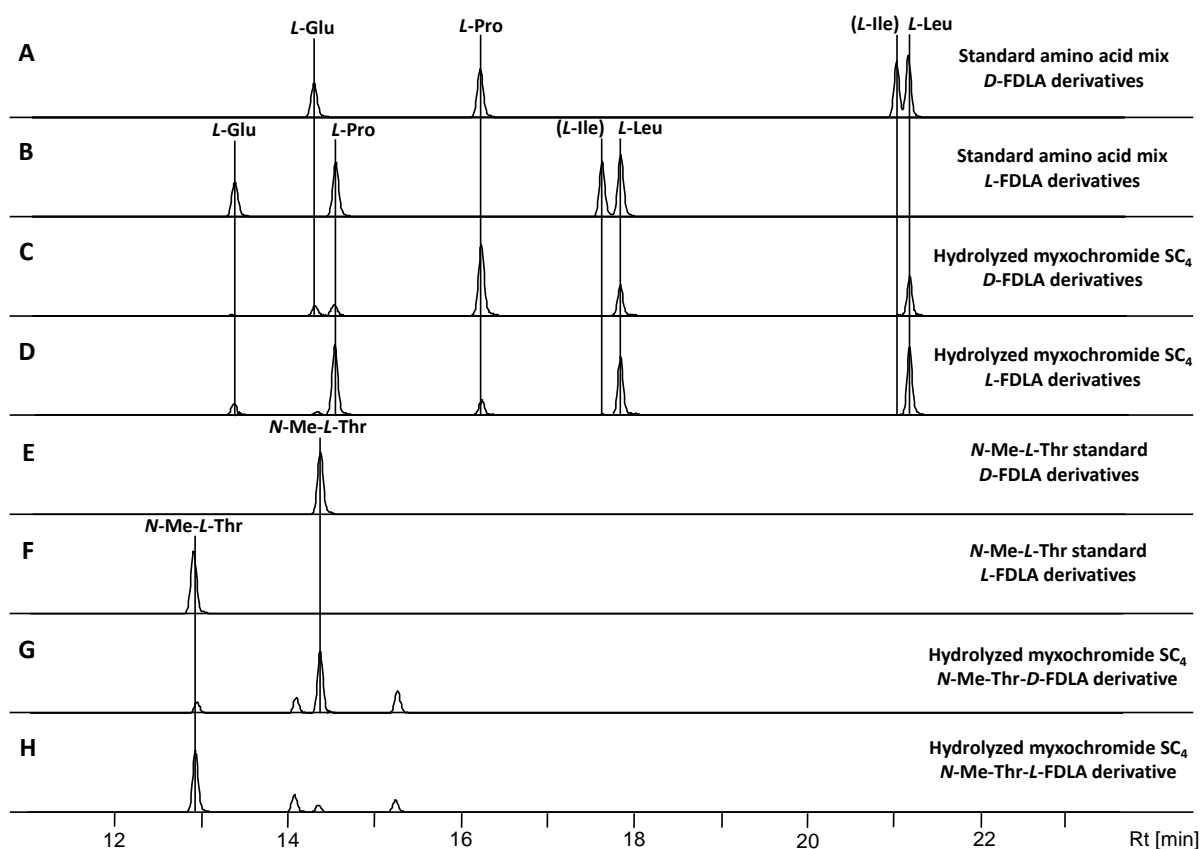


Fig. S24 (continued on next page)



**Fig. S24** NMR spectra of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>.



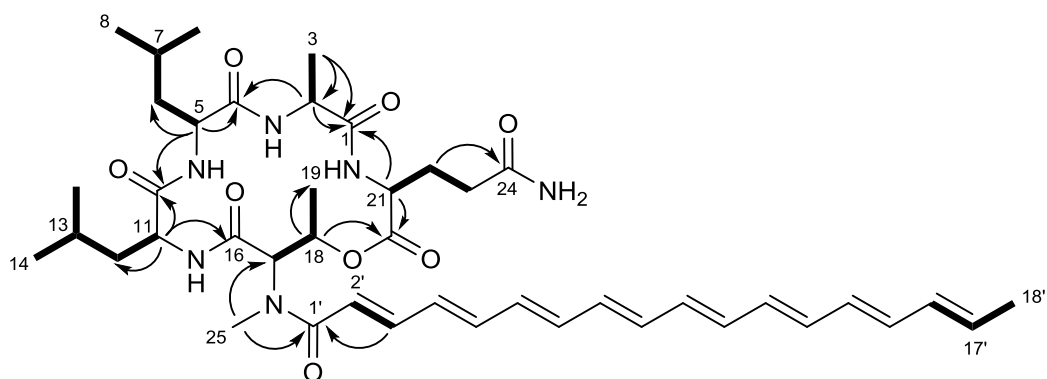
**Fig. S25** Analysis of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>. Extracted ion chromatograms (EIC) for  $\pm 0.05 m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of derivatized amino acids, which are present in the peptide scaffold, are shown. **A:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **B:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **C:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **D:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub> derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **E:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *D*-FDLA. **F:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *L*-FDLA. **G:** Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *D*-FDLA derivative. **H:** Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *L*-FDLA derivative.

**Table S18** Analytical data of detected amino acid derivatives and assignment of the absolute configuration of the amino acids in myxochromide SC<sub>4</sub>.

aa-FDLA derivative	<i>L</i> -aa standards		Peptide hydrolysate		Assigned configuration
	<i>t<sub>R</sub></i> [min]	<i>m/z</i> [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	<i>t<sub>R</sub></i> [min]	<i>m/z</i> [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	
Glu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.3	442.1578	14.3	442.1572	<b>L</b>
Glu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	13.3	442.1579	13.3	442.1572	
Pro- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.2	410.1675	16.2	410.1679	<b>L</b>
Pro- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.5	410.1675	14.5	410.1668	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	21.1	426.1989	21.1	426.1990	<b>L</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	17.8	426.1988	17.8	426.1982	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	<b>21.1</b>	426.1989	<b>17.8</b>	426.1981	<b>D</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	<b>17.8</b>	426.1988	<b>21.1</b>	426.1980	
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.4	428.1782	14.4	428.1780	<b>L</b>
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>L</i> -FDLA	12.9	428.1786	12.9	428.1777	

### 5.2.5 Structure of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>

Structure elucidation of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> was achieved using 1D <sup>1</sup>H and 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra (Fig. S27). Carbon chemical shifts were extracted from 2D NMR data. NMR spectroscopic data are listed in Table S19. The COSY spectrum supported by HSQC and HMBC data revealed the presence of *N*-Methionine, glutamine, alanine and leucine residues as well as a polyene side chain. Amino acid sequence was established by means of key HMBC correlations and final structure was elucidated as shown in Fig. S26. For the assignment of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>, hydrolysis and Marfey analysis of the obtained amino acids,<sup>7</sup> was applied as described above. The chromatograms obtained from HPLC-MS analysis are illustrated in Fig. S28 and stereochemical assignments are illustrated in Table S20. Comparison of the retention times and masses of derivatized standard amino acids and the hydrolyzed lipopeptide revealed that one of the two leucine residues (C5 and C11) from myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> is *D*-configured. The second leucine residue as well as the amino acids alanine (C2), *N*-Me-threonine (C17) and glutamine (C21), which was converted to glutamic acid during hydrolysis, were found to be *L*-configured. This is in accordance with the absolute configurations observed in myxochromides SA<sub>3</sub>, SB<sub>4</sub> and SC<sub>4</sub>. According to the domain organization of the underlying hybrid assembly line, which harbors an epimerization domain in module 2, the *D*-configured leucine was assigned to C11. This also correlates with the structures of myxochromide SA<sub>3</sub> myxochromide SB<sub>4</sub> and identifies the condensation domain of module 3 originating from the D-type *mch* pathway as a <sup>13</sup>C<sub>L</sub> domain.



**Fig. S26** Structure of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> showing selected COSY (bold line) and key HMBC (arrow) correlations.

**Table S19** NMR spectroscopic data of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>.

Moiety	Position	$\delta_C^a$	$\delta_H^b$ (J in Hz)	HMBC <sup>c</sup>
<i>L</i> -Ala	1	172.7		
	2	50.6	4.21 <i>m</i>	1,3,4
	3	18.7	1.37 <i>d</i> (6.7)	1,3
<i>L</i> -Leu	4	174.7		
	5	54.2	4.19 <i>m</i>	4,6a/b,7, 10 <sup>e</sup>
	6a	40.6	1.58 <i>m</i>	
	6b		1.65 <i>m</i>	
	7	25.9	1.71 <i>m</i>	
	8	23.2	0.99 <i>d</i> (6.3)	6,7,9
	9	21.1	0.91 <i>d</i> (6.5)	6,7,8
<i>D</i> -Leu	10	175.2		
	11	53.1	4.39 <i>m</i>	10,12,13,16
	12a	40.6	1.49 <i>m</i>	11

	12b	40.6	1.60 <i>m</i>	11
	13	25.7	1.56 <i>m</i>	
	14	22.6	0.92 <i>m</i>	12,13,15
	15	22.6	0.92 <i>m</i>	12,13,14
<i>N</i> -Me- <i>L</i> -Thr	16	169.8		
	17	59.5	5.43 <i>m</i>	16,18
	18	72.4	5.52 <i>m</i>	19,20
	19	17.2	1.15 <i>d</i> (6.9)	18,20
	25	35.1	3.02 <i>s</i>	1',17
<i>L</i> -Gln	20	170.9		
	21	53.9	3.95 <i>m</i>	1,20,22a/b,23a/b
	22a	26.3	2.13 <i>m</i>	20,21,23a/b,24
	22b	26.3	2.25 <i>m</i>	20,21,23a/b,24
	23a	32.1	2.16 <i>m</i>	24
	23b	32.1	2.27 <i>m</i>	24
	24	177.7		
Side chain	1'	170.6		
	2'	120.1	6.59 <i>m</i>	1',4'
	3'	144.9	7.35 <i>m</i>	1'
	4'	131.5	6.53 <i>m</i>	
	5'-15'	<i>dd</i>	<i>dd</i>	
	16'	133.1	6.15 <i>m</i>	
	17'	131.1	5.75 <i>m</i>	
	18'	18.3	1.78 <i>d</i> (7.1)	17',16'

<sup>a</sup> acquired at 125 MHz and assigned from 2D NMR spectra, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  49.15 ppm.

<sup>b</sup> acquired at 500 MHz, referenced to solvent signal CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $\delta$  3.31 ppm.

<sup>c</sup> proton showing HMBC correlations to indicated carbons.

<sup>d</sup> overlapped signals.

<sup>e</sup>HMBC acquired with 2k F1 resolution

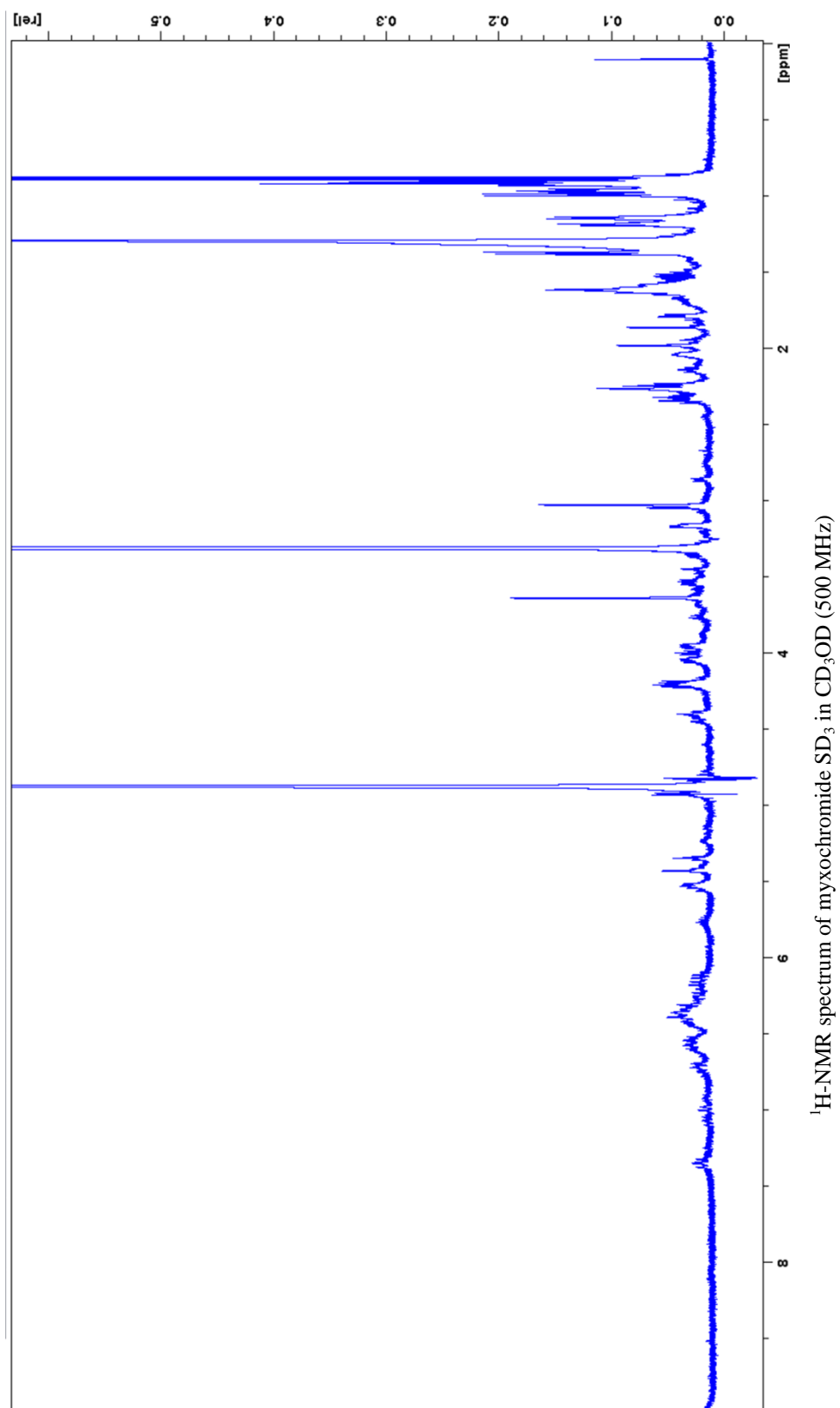
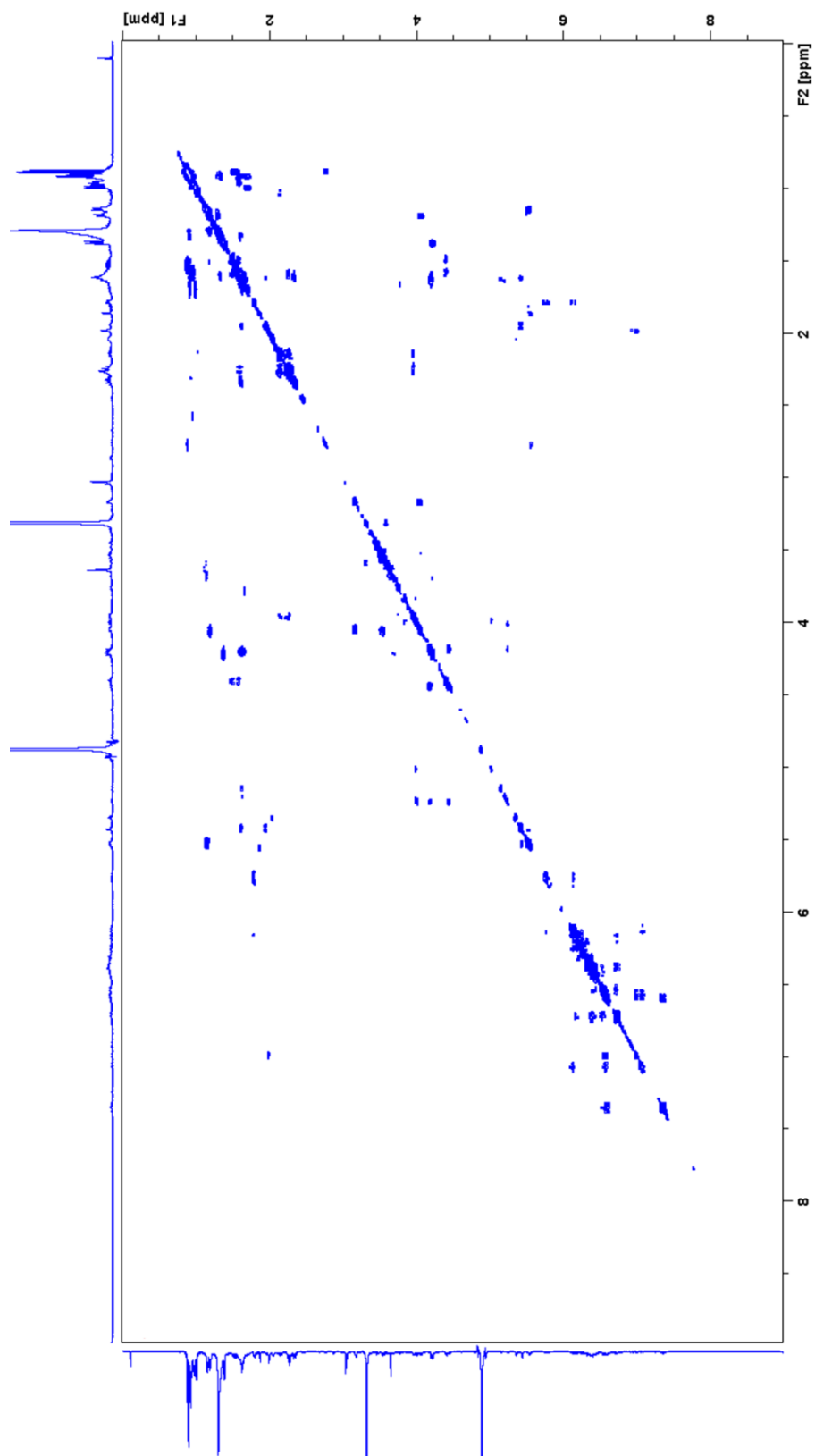


Fig. S27 (continued on next page)





$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of myxochromide  $\text{SD}_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (500 MHz)

Fig. S27 (continued on next page)

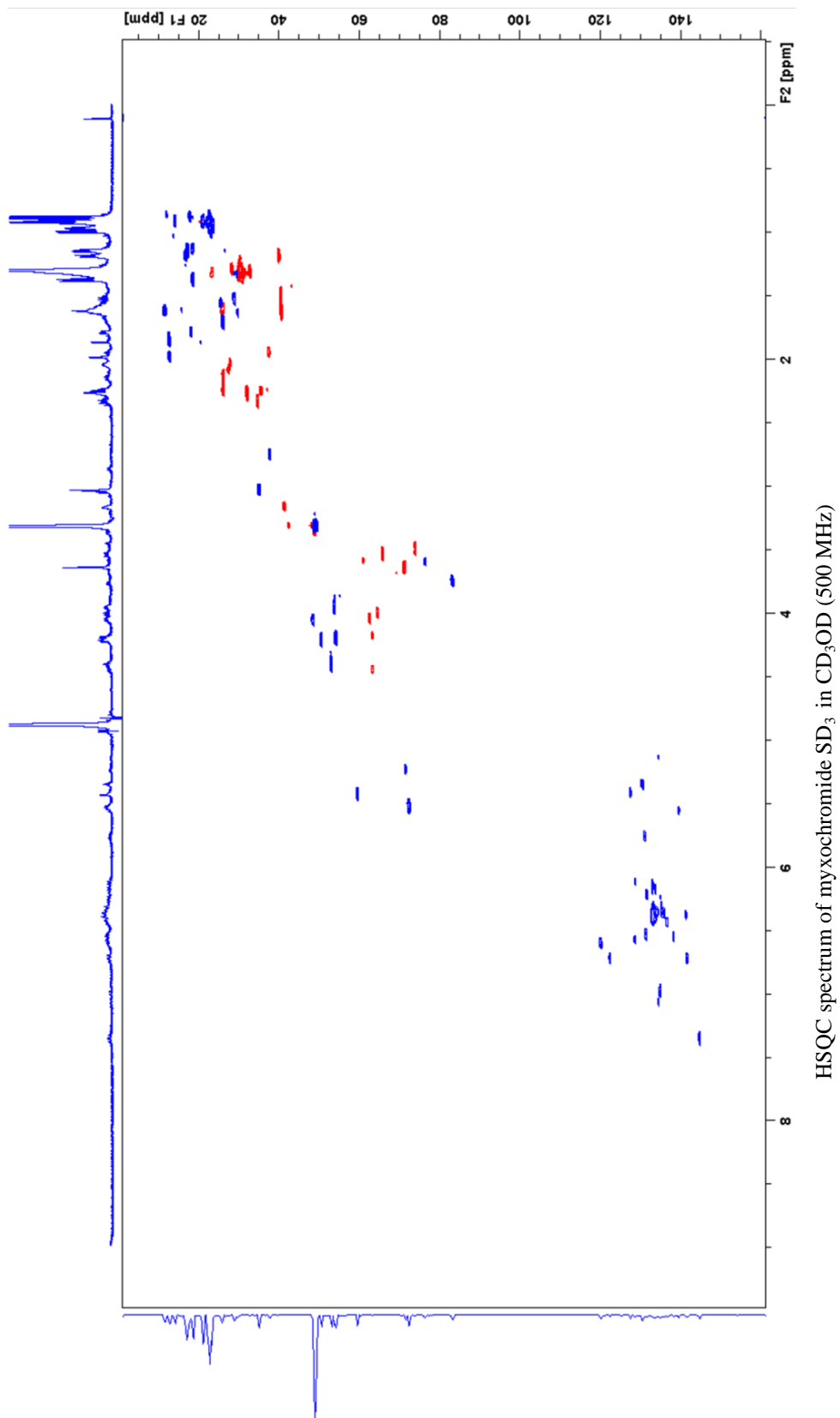
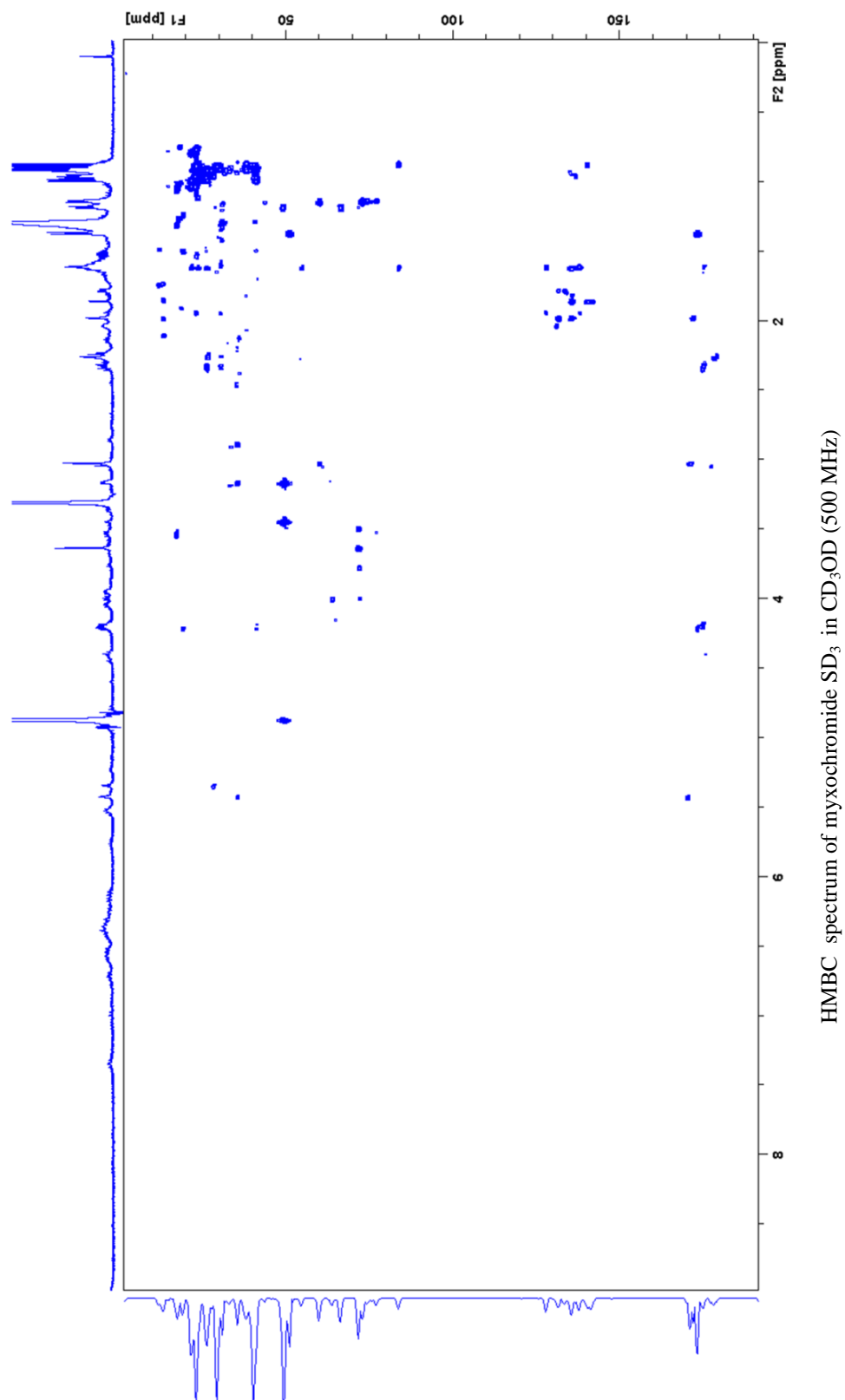
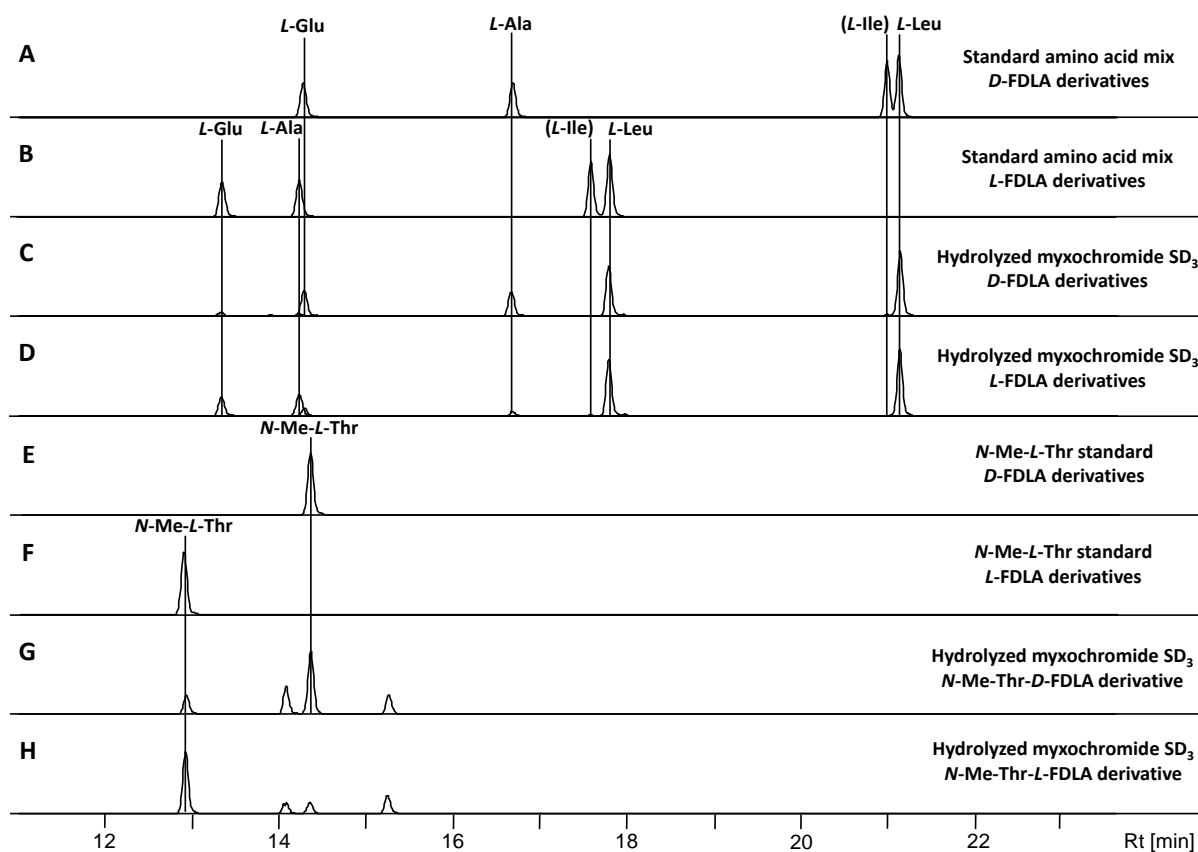


Fig. S27 (continued on next page)



**Fig. S27** NMR spectra of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S28** Analysis of the absolute configuration of myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>. Extracted ion chromatograms (EIC) for  $\pm 0.05$   $m/z$  corresponding to the  $[M+H]^+$  ions of derivatized amino acids, which are present in the peptide scaffold, are shown. **A:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **B:** Standard amino acid mix derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **C:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> derivatized with *D*-FDLA reagent. **D:** Hydrolyzed myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub> derivatized with *L*-FDLA reagent. **E:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *D*-FDLA. **F:** Standard solution of *N*-Me-*L*-threonine derivatized with *L*-FDLA. **G:** Same sample as in **C** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *D*-FDLA derivative. **H:** Same sample as in **D** analyzed for the *N*-Me-*L*-threonine *L*-FDLA derivative.

**Table S20** Analytical data of detected amino acid derivatives and assignment of the absolute configuration of the amino acids in myxochromide SD<sub>3</sub>.

aa-FDLA derivative	<i>L</i> -aa standards		Peptide hydrolysate		Assigned configuration
	$t_R$ [min]	$m/z$ $[M+H]^+$	$t_R$ [min]	$m/z$ $[M+H]^+$	
Glu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.3	442.1578	14.3	442.1575	<b>L</b>
Glu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	13.3	442.1579	13.3	442.1564	
Ala- <i>D</i> -FDLA	16.7	384.1520	16.7	384.1512	<b>L</b>
Ala- <i>L</i> -FDLA	14.3	384.1524	14.3	384.1519	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	21.1	426.1989	21.1	426.1986	<b>L</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	17.8	426.1988	17.8	426.1986	
Leu- <i>D</i> -FDLA	<b>21.1</b>	426.1989	<b>17.8</b>	426.1982	<b>D</b>
Leu- <i>L</i> -FDLA	<b>17.8</b>	426.1988	<b>21.1</b>	426.1984	
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>D</i> -FDLA	14.4	428.1782	14.4	428.1773	<b>L</b>
<i>N</i> -Me-Thr- <i>L</i> -FDLA	12.9	428.1786	12.9	428.1784	

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