SUPPORTING INFORMATION

N-Acyl L-homocysteine thiolactones are potent and stable synthetic modulators of the RhIR quorum sensing receptor in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

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General chemical information

All chemical reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification, except for dichloromethane (DCM), which was distilled and dried over activated molecular sieves. Water (18 M Ω) was purified using a Thermo Scientific Barnstead Nanopure system. Chlorophenol red- β -D-galactopyranoside (CPRG) was purchased from Roche. *Ortho*-nitrophenyl- β -galactoside (ONPG) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. All media and reagents for bacterial culture were purchased from standard commercial sources.

Instrumentation and analytical methods

NMR spectra were recorded in deuterated NMR solvents at 300 MHz on a Varian MercuryPlus 300 spectrometer, at 400 MHz on a Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer equipped with a SmartProbe and SampleJet, or at 500 MHz on a Bruker Avance-500 spectrometer equipped with a DCH cryoprobe and SampleXpress. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm, δ) using corresponding solvents or tetramethylsilane (TMS) as a reference. Couplings are reported in hertz (Hz). Electrospray ionization MS measurements were performed on a Waters LCT. Samples were dissolved in acetonitrile and sprayed with a sample cone voltage of 20. For exact mass measurements (EMM), an aliquot of a known compound (lock mass) was added to the sample and resprayed.

Reversed-phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) was performed using a Shimadzu system equipped with a SCL-10Avp controller, a LC-20AT pump, a SIL-10AF autosampler, a CTO-20A oven, and a SPD-M20A UV/vis diode array detector. A Phenomenex Gemini C18 column (5 μ m, 4.6 mm x 250 mm) was used for all analytical RP-HPLC work. Standard RP-HPLC conditions were as follows: flow rates were 1 mL min⁻¹ for analytical separations; mobile phase A = 18 M Ω water + 0.1% TFA; mobile phase B = acetonitrile + 0.1% TFA. Purities were determined by integration of peaks with UV detection at 220 nm. For all RP- HPLC analyses, the method was as follows: (i) start with isocratic 10% B (3 min), (ii) followed by a linear gradient from 10% to 95% B (27 min), and (iii) end with isocratic 95% B (2 min). Curves generated for compound stability studies were analyzed using a one-phase decay curve fit.

Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded with a Bruker Tensor 27 IR spectrometer outfitted with a single reflection MIRacle Horizontal attenuated total reflectance (ATR) unit from Pike Technologies. A ZnSe crystal with spectral range 20,000 to 650 cm⁻¹ was used for ATR-IR measurements.

Homocysteine thiolactone/homoserine lactone stability studies

Homocysteine thiolactone and homoserine lactone stability studies were performed as reported previously,¹ with the following modifications: compounds (50 µM) were dissolved in either 1 mM 2-(*N*-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid (MES) buffer at pH 6, or 1 mM tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane (TRIS) buffer at pH 7, 8, or 9. Solutions were stored at room temperature, and 150 µL aliquots were removed every 2 h for 8 h, and then again at 24 h. Samples were immediately analyzed via RP-HPLC, and the area under the curve (AUC) at 220 nm was calculated and compared to the area at t = 0 h. Caffeine (50 µM) was added as an internal standard and maintained the same AUC throughout the assay (error ≤ 1–5%). Degradation of both compounds to the hydrolysis product was confirmed via mass spectrometry (MS) of the resulting byproduct peak (see Table S3 for MS data). The RP-HPLC traces are included directly after Table S3.

Compound characterization data

¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, ESI MS, and IR data are reported below for all new compounds and select intermediates. Characterization data for compound **38** is included as it has not been fully characterized in past studies reporting this compound.² Copies of ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra are provided at the end of this document.



Alcohol precursor to **34**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.71 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (ddt, *J* = 14.3, 8.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (p, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 1.61 (m, 11H), 1.40 (dq, *J* = 12.8, 8.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.4, 80.0, 61.1, 39.7, 32.8, 30.7, 25.6, 25.5, 21.5, 18.2; Expected [M+H]⁺: 184.1332, observed: 184.1331; IR (cm⁻¹): 3275, 2941, 2866, 1635, 1548, 1258, 685.



34: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.79 (s, 1H), 4.22 – 3.96 (m, 1H), 3.15 – 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.76 – 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.47 – 1.76 (m, 11H), 1.57 (qd, *J* = 12.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 215.6, 175.5, 58.2, 39.7, 35.1, 30.4, 25.5, 25.4, 18.3, 18.2; Expected [M+H]⁺: 182.1176, observed: 182.1176; IR (cm⁻¹): 3250, 2923, 2859, 1742, 1635, 1548, 1270.



35: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.08 (d, 1H), 4.51 (dt, *J* = 13.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (td, *J* = 11.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (p, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.92 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.34 – 2.06 (m, 4H), 2.00 – 1.76 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.8, 175.6, 59.6, 39.8, 32.4, 27.8, 25.5, 25.5, 18.3; Expected [M+H]⁺: 200.0740, observed: 200.0739; IR (cm⁻¹): 3250, 2975, 2933, 1686, 1637, 1552, 1257, 913.



Alcohol precursor to **36**: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.56 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 3.95 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 – 3.73 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 1.97 (m, 5H), 1.80 (dtdd, *J* = 12.5, 9.2, 6.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.75 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.41 (dq, *J* = 12.8, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 1.0 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.0, 80.1, 61.2, 45.8, 32.8, 30.8, 26.4, 22.6, 22.5, 21.6; Expected [M+H]⁺: 186,1489, observed: 186.1487; IR (cm⁻¹): 3286, 3088, 2953, 2925, 2867, 1636, 1551, 1049.



36: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.84 (s, 1H), 4.24 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 2.66 (dddd, *J* = 14.0, 7.9, 3.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.49 – 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.27 – 1.99 (m, 5H), 1.86 (tddd, *J* = 13.0, 10.7, 8.9, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (qd, *J* = 12.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 0.95 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 3.2 Hz, 5H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 215.4, 173.0, 58.3, 45.8, 35.0, 30.3, 26.3, 22.6, 22.5, 18.2; Expected [M+H]⁺: 184.1332, observed: 184.1331; IR (cm⁻¹): 3256, 3073, 2958, 2869, 1748, 1637, 1550, 1372.



37: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.04 (s, 1H), 4.53 (dt, *J* = 12.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (td, *J* = 11.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.29 – 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.99 – 2.83 (m, 1H), 2.08 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.91 (qd, *J* = 12.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.00 – 0.88 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.8, 173.1, 59.5, 45.8, 32.2, 27.7, 26.3, 22.6, 22.5; Expected [M+H]⁺: 202.0896, observed: 202.0893; IR (cm⁻¹): 3267, 3071, 2952, 2924, 2866, 1690, 1638, 1548, 917.



38: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.81 (d, 1H), 4.09 (h, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (p, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (pd, *J* = 9.2, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.68 (m, 4H), 1.66 – 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.28 (dq, *J* = 14.1, 7.5, 7.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.6, 51.1, 40.2, 33.4, 25.5, 23.9, 18.2; Expected [M+H]⁺: 168.1383, observed: 168.1381; IR (cm⁻¹): 3290, 2946, 2865, 1636, 1545,1257, 678.

39: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.31 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (h, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (dp, *J* = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.03 – 1.94 (m, 4H), 1.71 – 1.54 (m, 4H), 1.42 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.1, 51.2, 46.5, 33.4, 26.4, 23.8, 22.6; Expected [M+H]⁺: 170.1539, observed: 170.1537; IR (cm⁻¹): 297, 3073, 2954, 2868, 1633, 1541.



40: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 4.29 (h, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (dt, *J* = 19.4, 7.9 Hz, 4H), 1.41 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 157.2, 138.7, 117.1, 84.6, 67.6, 50.9, 33.1, 23.8; Expected [M+H]⁺: 346.0299, observed: 346.0290; IR (cm⁻¹): 3271, 2925, 2865, 1647, 1553, 1482, 1453, 1234, 843.



41 (prepared and evaluated as the racemate): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 6.75 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 3.98 (qd, *J* = 7.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 – 3.69 (m, 2H), 3.61 (ddd, *J* = 13.8, 6.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.32 – 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.86 (dq, *J* = 14.0, 6.9, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.51 (dq, *J* = 12.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 157.2, 138.7, 117.1, 84.5, 77.6, 68.4, 67.5, 42.7, 28.7, 26.0; Expected [M+H]⁺: 362.0248, observed 362.0241; IR (cm⁻¹): 3277, 2969, 2924, 2864, 1655, 1547, 1481, 1240, 1058.



42: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 4.61 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (td, *J* = 11.8, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.32 – 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.02 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.01 (qd, *J* = 12.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.7, 168.4, 157.0, 138.8, 117.2, 84.9, 67.4, 59.1, 31.8, 27.7; Expected [M+H]⁺: 377.9655, observed: 377.9650; IR (cm⁻¹): 3282, 2974, 2926, 2858, 1696, 1655, 1536, 1233.

Supplementary reporter assay data and analysis

Compound	% RhIR activation (10 μM) ^b	% RhIR activation (1 mM) [°]	% RhIR inhibition (10 μM) ^d	% RhIR inhibition (1 mM) ^e
BHL	51	100	-	-
S4	76	94	-52	-95
34	56	100	-39	-98
35	88	100	-85	-110
36	42	84	-35	-120
37	85	92	-59	-81
38	0	34	24	25
39	0	20	11	31
40 [†]	1	1	6	24
41	0	0	6	61
42	1	7	28	74

Table S1. Complete primary agonism and antagonism data for BHL and AHL analogs in the *E. coli* RhIR reporter strain.^a

^aAssays performed using the *E. coli* RhIR reporter strain JLD271/pJN105R2/pSC11-*rhII**. SEM of n \geq 3 trials did not exceed ± 10%. ^bCompounds screened at 10 µM. RhIR activity measured relative to that of 1 mM BHL. ^cCompounds screened at 1 mM. RhIR activity measured relative to that of 1 mM BHL. ^dCompounds screened at 10 µM in the presence of 10 µM BHL. Negative values indicate agonism stronger than that of 10 µM BHL alone. ^eCompounds screened at 1 mM in the presence of 10 µM BHL. Negative values indicate agonism stronger than that of 10 µM BHL alone. ^fScreened at a maximal concentration of 100 µM due to reduced solubility at higher concentrations.

Compound	% LasR activation (10 μM) ^b	% LasR activation (1 mM) [°]	% LasR inhibition (10 μΜ) ^d	% LasR inhibition (1 mM) ^e
BHL	1	6	-2	35
OdDHL ^f	100	100	-	-
S4	6	21	19	32
34	0	15	16	60
35	0	10	18	63
36	0	0	-7	53
37	0	7	25	63
38	0	0	-2	22
39	1	1	-2	13
40 ^f	3	1	11	2
41	11	0	-16	58
42	35	53	18	-14

Table S2. Complete primary agonism and antagonism data for BHL, OdDHL, and AHL analogs in the *E. coli* LasR reporter strain.^a

^aAssays performed using the *E. coli* LasR reporter strain JLD271/pJN105L/pSC11. SEM of n \geq 3 trials did not exceed \pm 10%. ^bCompounds screened at 10 µM. LasR activity measured relative to that of 100 µM OdDHL. ^cCompounds screened at 1 mM. LasR activity measured relative to that of 100 µM OdDHL. ^dCompounds screened at 10 µM in the presence of 2 nM OdDHL. Negative values indicate agonism stronger than that of 2 nM OdDHL alone. ^eCompounds screened at 1 mM in the presence of 2 nM OdDHL. Negative values indicate agonism stronger than that of 2 nM OdDHL alone. ^fScreened at a maximal concentration of 100 µM due to reduced solubility at higher concentrations.



Figure S1. Dose-response curves for RhIR agonism in the *E. coli* reporter by BHL and lead compounds. Assay performed using the *E. coli* JLD271/pJN105R2/pSC11-*rhII** reporter strain. % Activity defined as the activity of the compound relative to maximum possible RhIR activity (i.e., activity effected by BHL at 1 mM). EC₅₀ values and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; shown on each plot in μ M) calculated using GraphPad Prism. Error bars, SEM of n ≥ 3 trials.

Note S1. Comments on Hill slopes for RhIR agonist dose response curves in the *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* reporter strains.

The dose-response curves of **BHL** and **S4** are shallower (Hill slope = 0.7) in the *E. coli* RhIR reporter strain (Hill slope = \sim 1.0) than curves for other AHL ligands in related LuxR-type receptor reporter strains (Figure S1). Shallow dose-response curves are often indicative of negative cooperativity, with the small molecule binding to multiple sites on the receptor.³ Since RhIR functions as a dimer, this negative cooperativity scenario is feasible if binding of an agonist to RhIR reduces the binding affinity of the second dimer site for the agonist.

For compounds **34** and **36**, the Hill slopes in the dose-response agonism curves remained similar to that of previous agonists (~0.7). However, thiolactones **35** and **37** displayed slopes much closer to ~1.0. As the latter slope is more typical for LuxR-type receptor-ligand binding, it is plausible the thiolactone hybrids are not reducing the binding affinity of the second dimer site. Further studies are required to determine whether this different Hill slope is representative of a unique mechanism of action. Additionally, all dose-response curves in the *P. aeruginosa* RhIR reporter had Hill slopes much closer to 1.0 (Figure S2), suggesting that the shallow dose-response curves observed in the *E. coli* RhIR reporter may simply be artifacts of heterologous expression.



Figure S2. Dose-response curves for RhIR agonism in the *P. aeruginosa* reporter by BHL and lead compounds. Assays performed using the *P. aeruginosa* PAO-JP2/prhII-LVAgfp reporter strain. % Activity defined as the activity of the compound relative to maximum possible RhIR activity (i.e., activity effected by BHL at 1 mM). For compound **S4**, the EC₅₀ value was calculated from the region of the dose-response curve that indicated RhIR agonism. EC₅₀ values and associated 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; shown on each plot in μ M) calculated using GraphPad Prism. Error bars, SEM of n ≥ 3 trials.

Note S2. Comments on non-monotonic dose response curve for compound S4, a RhIR agonist in *P. aeruginosa.*

We note that compound **S4** displays non-monotonic dose behavior in the *P. aeruginosa* RhIR reporter (i.e., a dose-response curve that increases in activity at low concentrations, followed by a decrease in activity at high concentrations—often referred to as an "inverted U-shape" curve; Figure S2). Ongoing studies are focused on determining the origin(s) of this phenomenon. Note, we do not believe this behavior is due to **S4** toxicity or insolubility at high concentrations. Hybrid compounds **34–37**, each with a non-native head group, do not display such non-monotonic dose curves, suggesting that the nature of the head group may contribute to this alternate behavior in the *P. aeruginosa* RhIR reporter.



Figure S3. Dose-response curves for RhIR antagonism in the *E. coli* reporter by lead compounds. Assay performed using the *E. coli* JLD271/pJN105R2/pSC11-*rhII** reporter strain with the addition of 10 μ M BHL. % Activity defined as the activity of the compound relative to half maximal RhIR activity (i.e., activity effected by BHL at 10 μ M). For compound **38**, the IC₅₀ value was calculated from the region of the dose-response curve that indicated RhIR antagonism. IC₅₀ values and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; shown on each plot) calculated using GraphPad Prism. Error bars, SEM of n ≥ 3 trials.

Note S3. Comments on dose response curve for compound 38, a RhIR antagonist in E. coli.

We note that compound 38 displays (i) a high baseline activity (>100%) at low concentrations

and (ii) non-monotonic dose behavior (i.e., a dose-response curve that decreases in activity at

low concentrations, followed by an increase in activity at high concentrations; Figure S3) in the

E. coli RhIR reporter. We have previously described the latter behavior for AHL-derived

antagonists of RhIR and other LuxR-type receptors examined using similar reporter systems.^{4, 5}

Ongoing studies are focused on determining the origin(s) of these phenomena for compound

38.



Figure S4. Dose-response curves for RhIR antagonism in the *P. aeruginosa* reporter by lead compounds. Assays performed using the *P. aeruginosa* PAO-JP2/prhII-LVAgfp reporter strain with the addition of 10 µM BHL. % Activity defined as the activity of the compound relative to half maximal RhIR activity (i.e., activity effected by BHL at 10 µM). IC₅₀ values and associated 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; shown on each plot) calculated using GraphPad Prism. Error bars, SEM of n \geq 3 trials.

MS data from compound stability studies

Compound	Expected [M-H]	Observed
E22	393.9615	393.9613
42	377.9844	377.9845

 Table S3. MS data for compound hydrolysis products collected via RP-HPLC.

HPLC traces from compound stability studies























80 70 60 50 40 30 20

10

0 -10

150 140 130 120 110 100 90 f1 (ppm)

210 200 190 180 170 160

C1509091044_MEB_RN12OH.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13CPD32 CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 3

D1509080935_MEB_2.201_12-17.10.fid — Group Blackwell — PROTON CDCl3 /home/mboursier/av400 mboursier 51







D1509080935_MEB_2.201_12-17.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13CPD32 CDCl3 /home/mboursier/av400 mboursier 51

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl (ppm)



-205.842 -175.610--59.602 $\begin{array}{c} -39.753 \\ -32.389 \\ 227.766 \\ 255.475 \\ 255.464 \\ -18.280 \end{array}$ O N H // 0 35 110 100 f1 (ppm) 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

C1509091046_MEB_2.139_RN15.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13CPD32 CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 6





C1606281816_RN19OH.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13_H1dec.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 37





80

70

60 50

C1606281816_RN19.12.fidGroup Blackwell — C13_H1dec.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 36

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 f1 (ppm)





M20160413_mboursier_MEB_3_45_5-8carbon_20_01 — /Users/michelleboursier/Desktop/M20160413_mboursier_MEB_3_45_5-8carbon_20_01.fid/fid —

																						· · · ·		
230	220	210	200	190	180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110 f1 (ppn	100 n)	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10



S-37



C1509091045_MEB_2.141_RN13.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13CPD32 CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 4

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)



C1606281816_RN20.10.fid — Group Blackwell — H1_standard.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 38



C1606281816_RN20.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13_H1dec.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 38



D1604141010_MEB_3.40RC.10.fid — Group Blackwell — H1_standard.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/av400 mboursier 70





C1606281816_RN21.10.fid — Group Blackwell — H1_standard.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 39



f1 (ppm) . C1606281816_RN21.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13_H1dec.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 39

210 200

170 160 150

-10



C1606281816_RN22.10.fid — Group Blackwell — H1_standard.UW CDCI3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 40



250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 f1 (ppm)

C1606281816_RN22.11.fid — Group Blackwell — C13_H1dec.UW CDCl3 /home/mboursier/callisto mboursier 40

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