Supporting Information

Nodulisporic acid E biosynthesis: *In vivo* **characterisation of NodD1, an indole-diterpene prenyltransferase that acts on an emindole SB derived indole-diterpene scaffold**

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Supplementary Materials and Methods

The following protocols were completed as described in Van de Bittner et al 2018¹

gDNA isolation transcription unit module (TUM) amplification

Preparation of similarity matrices and phylogenetic trees for cluster identification

The following protocols were completed as described in van Dolleweerd et al 2018²

Molecular biology. Bacterial and fungal strains. Construction of DNA constructs using the MIDAS cloning system. Protocols for MIDAS Level-1 module cloning. Protocols for MIDAS Level-2 TU assembly. Protocols for MIDAS Level-3 multigene assembly. Media and reagents used for fungal work. Fungal Protocols – Protoplast Preparation. Fungal Protocols – Transformation of *P. paxilli.* Indole diterpene production and extraction. Normal phase thin-layer chromatography (TLC). Reverse phase liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Large scale indole diterpene purification for NMR analysis.

Indole-diterpene production and extraction

Fungi, listed in Tables S4 (parent strains) and S5 (transformed strains) were analysed for production of indole diterpenes. Ten independent colonies were analysed from each transformation unless only a smaller number of transformants were available (six for PN2013:pRC63, and five for PN2013:pRC18). Fungi were grown in 25 mL of CDYE medium with trace elements in 125 mL Erlenmeyer flasks capped with cotton wool for 7 days at 28°C in shaker cultures (≥200 rpm). Mycelia were isolated from fermentation broths by filtration through nappy liners, transferred to 2 mL screw-cap tubes containing 500 mL ethyl acetate and 0.1 g of 1.6 mm stainless steel beads (Next Advance). Mycelia were homogenized at 6 m/s for 40 sec. using a FastPrep-24 5G homogenizer equipped with a QuickPrep adapter. Tubes were centrifuged for 10 min at 17,000 xg and the top organic layer was used for downstream TLC and LCMS analysis.

Normal phase TLC

The ethyl acetate supernatant (containing extracted indole-diterpenes) was used for TLC analysis on solid phase silica gel on aluminium foils (Merck). Indole-diterpenes were chromatographed with 9:1 or 19:1 chloroform:methanol or and visualised with Ehrlich's reagent (1% (w/v) *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde in 24% (v/v) HCl and 50% ethanol).

Reverse phase LCMS

Samples were prepared for LCMS from selected transformants that were identified by TLC. Accordingly, the ethyl acetate supernatant (containing extracted indole-diterpenes) was transferred to a 2 mL glass vial and the solvent was evaporated overnight. Contents were resuspended in 100% acetonitrile and filtered through a 0.2 µm membrane into a LCMS vial. LCMS samples were chromatographed on a reverse phase Thermo Scientific Accucore 2.6 µm C18 (50 × 2.1 mm) column attached to an Agilent 1260 Infinity II LC system run at a flow rate of 0.300 mL/minute and eluted with aqueous solutions of acetonitrile containing 0.01% formic acid using a multistep gradient method (Table S6). Mass spectra were captured through in-line analysis on an InfinityLab 6100 series LC/MSD single quadrupole mass spectrometer (Agilent). High-resolution mass spectra were captured using direct injection onto an Agilent 6530 quadrupole-time-of-flight mass spectrometer and processed with Agilent MassHunter Qualitative Analysis 8.06 software.

Preparation of nodulisporic acid E (NAE) 1 standard for LCMS and NMR spectroscopy analysis

The NAE **1** standard was prepared as described in van Dolleweerd et al 2018.² "*Large scale indole diterpene purification for NMR analysis.*" with the following modifications. NAE **1** was extracted with ethyl acetate and dry loaded onto silica for normal-phase crude purification using a chloroform and methanol gradient run through a 4 g HP 20 mm Silica column (Buchi) attached to a Reveleris X2 flash chromatography system (Buchi). The crudely purified fraction was condensed to dryness and resuspended in acetonitrile. The sample was further purified with a semipreparative reversed phase Zorbax SB-C18 5 µm (50 × 9.4 mm) column attached to an Agilent 1260 Infinity II LC system run at a flow rate of 3.00 mL/minute and eluted with an isocratic solution of 88 % (v/v) acetonitrile containing 0.01% (v/v) formic acid. The purity of NAE **1** was assessed by LCMS and the structure was identified by NMR spectroscopy.

NMR spectroscopy

NAE 1 was prepared in deuterated chloroform. Proton (¹H), carbon (¹³C), and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol JNM-ECZ600R FT NMR instrument using a 600 MHz 5 mm FG/SC AutoTune SuperCOOL Open Type Probe operating for ¹H NMR at 600 MHz and 150 MHz for ¹³C NMR. All chemical shifts are quoted on the δ-scale in ppm using residual solvent as an internal standard. ¹H and ¹³C spectra were assigned using correlation spectroscopy (COSY), heteronuclear single quantum correlation (HSQC) spectroscopy, and heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC) spectroscopy. Spectra were acquired with DeltaTM 5.2 acquisition software and processed with MestReNova processing software. All NMR spectra can be found in Table S2 and Figures S7 to S11.

Preparation of DNA constructs

DNA constructs for use in heterologous expression studies were prepared using the MIDAS cloning system as described in van Dolleweerd et al. 2018.² Accordingly, coding sequences (CDSs) of the IDT PT genes of interest were amplified (see Tables S7 for primers and S8 for synthetic genes) and cloned into the MIDAS Level-1 destination vector, pML1 (Table S9). At MIDAS Level-2, the cloned CDSs were placed under the control of heterologous promoter (ProUTR) and transcriptional terminator (UTRterm) modules to generate full-length transcription units, TUs (Table S10), which were then used to generate the multigene plasmids (Table S11).

Supplementary Tables:

Table S1. Similarity matrix for fungal aromatic prenyl transferases based on ClustalW alignment of amino acid sequences.

Blue shaded regions () represent % identity scores and tan shaded regions () represent % similarity scores for amino acid residues. Alignments were made using the Gonnet similarity matrix with open gap penalty = 10.0, extend gap penalty = 0.1, delay divergent = 40%, and gap $distance = 8$.

*****Only the 463 C-terminal residues of LtmE were included. LtmE is a hybrid enzyme apparently formed by fusion of ancestral copies of the genes encoding LtmC and LtmF such that only C-terminus is homologous to the other aromatic PTs.³

Table S2. H and ¹³C NMR assignment of nodulisporic acid E (NAE) 1 in CDCl₃. Spectra depicted in Figures S7 to S11 and raw spectra data can be found in the corresponding FID files.

Key HMBC correlations of nodulisporic acid E (NAE) **1**

Table S3. Database accession numbers for amino acid sequences of enzymes investigated in this study.

* LtmE is a hybrid enzyme that appears to have arisen from a fusion of the genes³ encoding LtmC (a membrane associates prenyl transferase) and LtmF (another aromatic prenyl transferase) that are both involved in the biosynthesis of indole-diterpenes. Only the X C-terminal sequences of LtmE were included as this covers the region that is homologous to other aromatic prenyl transferases.

Table S4. Table of fungal species used in this study.

Table S5. Table of fungal strains generated in this study.

Table S6. Multistep acetonitrile gradient used for LCMS analysis of fungal extracts.

Table S7. PCR primers for amplification of transcription unit modules (TUMs).

The forward and reverse PCR primers used for amplification of TUMs (i.e. promoters (ProUTR), coding sequences (CDSs), and terminators (UTRterm)) are listed. Primers used to amplify TUM fragments for domestication purposes (i.e. removal of internal sites for *Aar*I, *Bsa*I or *Bsm*BI) are shaded in orange (). The template for amplification of *nod* CDSs was genomic DNA from Hypoxylon pulicicidum strain ATCC[®] 74245™.¹⁷ The template for amplification of pax gene TUMs was genomic DNA from *Penicillium paxilli* strain ATCC® 26601TM (PN2013) [Accession HM171111]. ¹⁵ The template for amplification of *jan* gene TUMs was genomic DNA from *Penicillium janthinellum* strain PN2408 [Accession AGZ20478.1]. The template for amplification of *atm* gene TUMs was genomic DNA from *Aspergillus flavus* strain NRRL6541 [Accession CAP53937.2]. The PCR products used to produce the *trpC*_{ProUTR} module and *trpC*_{UTRterm} module were amplified from plasmid pII99.¹⁸ The *BsmBI* recognition sites are colour coded (cgtctc), with the overhangs generated following *Bsm*BI cleavage shown by the grey shading (). The 5' (prefix)

and 3' (suffix) nucleotide bases, which flank each TUM and form the basis of the address system for each of the MIDAS modules, are shown in blue and red respectively.

Table S8. Synthetic gene sequence for nourseothricin resistance gene (*natR*).

The *natR*_{CDS} module (conferring resistance to nourseothricin) was generated as a synthetic gene based on the *Streptomyces noursei* nourserothricin acetyltransferase coding sequence (GenBank: X73149.1) with MIDAS restriction sites added to the 5` and 3` ends, and some codon optimisation (modified bases shown in grey). One internal *BsmBI* cut site was removed at position 300 by substituting a G for a T (shown in pink). The *Bsm*BI recognition sites are colour coded (cgtctc), with the overhangs generated following *Bsm*BI cleavage shown by the grey shading (). The 5' (prefix) and 3' (suffix) nucleotide bases, which flank each TUM and form the basis of the address system for each of the MIDAS modules, are shown in blue and red respectively.

Table S9. MIDAS Level-1 plasmid library: Assembly of TUMs in pML1.

This table represents the MIDAS level-1 TUMs that were used to assemble MIDAS level-2 TUs (Table S10). The 4 base prefixes and suffixes (5' to 3') that flank each TUM are shown at the top of the table to highlight the sequences used to bind the TUMs together to make MIDAS level-2 TUs. These 4 base flanking regions are depicted in the primer table (Table S8) in blue (forward addresses) and red (reverse addresses).

Table S10. MIDAS Level-2 plasmid library: Assembly of TUs in pML2 destination vectors.

This table represents the construction of the MIDAS level-2 TUs that were used to assemble MIDAS level-3 multi-gene plasmids (Table S11) for heterologous expression studies. TUs are described by the CDS they contain (in the TU column) and the Level-1 entry clones used for TU assembly are depicted in their corresponding ProUTR, CDS, or UTRterm columns. The column labeled pML2 destination vector describes the type of MIDAS Level-2 plasmid that was used to assemble each TU. The names of the Level-2 entry plasmids produced are shown in the blue shaded (b) column and the TU orientation, determined by the pML2 destination vector, is shown by the arrowhead (► for forward (F) destination vector) in the Level-2 entry clone **description**.

Table S11. MIDAS Level-3 plasmid library: Multigene assemblies in pML3.

This table shows the Level-2 entry clone and Level-3 destination vectors used to construct the Level-3 product plasmids. The number of level 3 assembly reactions used to create the level-3 plasmid is indicated by number in the step column. The name and description of each Level-2 entry clone and the Level-3 destination vector that the Level-2 entry clones were assembled into are shown in their respective columns. The enzyme (*Aar*I or *Bsm*BI) used to mediate the Level-3 reaction is listed in the Golden Gate reaction column. The name (blue shaded () column), description and size of plasmids produced during each cycle of Level-3 assembly are shown in their respective Level-3 product plasmid columns. In the Level-3 product plasmid descriptions, TUs are annotated with the name of the CDS they contain, and TU orientation is shown by the arrowhead.

Figure S1. Secondary-metabolic steps in the biosynthetic pathway of IDTs that give rise to the diverse IDT structures. Arrows represent enzymatic steps in IDT biosynthesis and the enzyme colour corresponds to the number of the specific step in the pathway. The biosynthetic pathways for paspaline-derived IDTs, for which all previously characterized IDT PTs belong to, is highlighted with the red box.

Figure S2. Depiction of AtmD substrate promiscuity tested by Liu et al 2013¹⁹ using *in vitro* feeding experiments. Theoretical minor products are indicated by and asterisk (*).

Figure S3. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) used to detect paxilline 3 (11.3 minutes, [M+H]+ 436.3 m/z) and NAF 2 (12.6 minutes, [M+H]+ 436.3 m/z). The 130.3 m/z EIC is used to confirm the presence of a nonprenylated IDT. Fragmentation energies of 100 V and 200 V were used to capture the 436.3 m/z and 130.3 m/z EICs, respectively. All 436.3 m/z and 130.3 m/z EICs have been scaled to 1,100,000 AU and 600,000 AU, respectively.

Figure S4. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) used to detect monoprenylated products. The 504.3 m/z EICs correspond to paxilline 3 or NAF 2 that contain a single prenyl group, the 502.3 m/z EICs correspond to an oxidized form (i.e. -2H) of the monoprenylated products, and the 198.3 m/z EICs correspond to the major ion fragment of monoprenylated paxilline or NAF. Fragmentation energies of 100 V was used to capture the 504.3 *m/z* and 502.3 m/z EICs, and a fragmentation energy of 200 V was used to capture the 198.3 *m/z* EICs. All 504.2

m/z, 502.4 m/z and 198.3 *m/z* EICs have been scaled to 700,000 AU, 140,000 AU, and 200,000 AU, respectively. Novel monoprenylated compounds, not present in parental strains, are indicated by an asterisks (*).

Figure S5. Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) used to detect bisprenylated products. The 572.4 m/z EICs correspond to paxilline 3 or NAF 2 that contain a two prenyl groups, the 570.4 m/z EICs correspond to an oxidized form (i.e. -2H) of the bisprenylated products, and the 266.4 m/z EICs correspond to the major ion fragment of bisprenylated paxilline or NAF. Fragmentation energies of 100 V was used to capture the 572.4 *m*/z and 570.4 m/z EICs, and a fragmentation energy of 200 V was used to capture the 266.4 *m*/z EICs. All 572.4

m/z, 570.4 m/z and 266.4 *m*/z EICs have been scaled to 1,400,000 AU, 350,000 AU, and 350,000 AU, respectively. Novel bisprenylated compounds, not present in parental strains, are indicated by an asterisks (*).

Figure S6. High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) results for NAE 1 characterization. A depicts the HRMS of NAE 1 with a fragmentation energy of 200 V showing the [M+H]⁺ parent ion at 572.4101 *m/z* and B shows the HRMS of NAE 1 with a fragmentation energy of 300 V showing the fragmentation of the [M+H]+ parent ion at 572.4080 *m*/z to the key bisprenylated IDT [M+H]⁺ ion of 266.1893 *m/z*.

Figure S7. 'H-NMR spectra for NAE 1 standard in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz.

Figure S8. ¹³C-NMR spectra for NAE 1 standard in CDCl₃ at 150 MHz.

Figure S9. HMBC-NMR spectra for NAE 1 standard in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz.

Figure S10. COSY-NMR spectra for NAE 1 standard in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz.

Figure S11. HMQC-NMR spectra for NAE 1 standard in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz.

Figure S12. TLC of ten HPF1:pRC63 (*nodD1*) transformant extracts. Lanes: S = NAF 2, 0 = HPF1 + pRC13 (non-NAE producing strain), 1-10 = HPF1:pRC63 (*nodD1*) transformants. NAF 2 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate and NAE 1 is identified by a yellow spot on the TLC plate. This TLC indicates that NAE 1 is present in at least nine of ten transformants (lanes 2 to 10).

Figure S13. TLC of ten HPF1:pRC18 (*janD*) transformant extracts. Lanes: S = NAF 2, 1-10 = HPF1:pRC18 (*janD*) transformants. NAF 2 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate. No new prenylated IDTs were detected in any of the ten transformant extracts by TLC or LC-MS analysis.

Figure S14. TLC of HPF1:pRC64 (*atmD*) transformant extracts. Lanes: S = NAF 2, 1-10 = HPF1:pRC64 (*atmD*) transformants. NAF 2 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate. No new prenylated IDTs were detected in any of the ten transformant extracts by TLC or LC-MS analysis.

Figure S15. TLC of six PN2013:pRC63 (*nodD1*) transformant extracts. Lanes: S = paxilline 3, 0 = PN2013 (wildtype *P. paxilli* that does not produce detectable prenylated products), 1-6 = PN2013:pRC63 (*nodD1*) transformants. Paxilline 3 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate and prenylated paxillines are identified by a yellow spot on the TLC plate. This TLC indicates that prenylated paxillines are present in at least two of six transformants (lanes 3 and 4).

Figure S16. TLC of five PN2013:pRC18 (*janD*) transformant extracts. Lanes: 0 = PN2013 (wildtype *P. paxilli*), 1-5 = PN2013:pRC18 (*janD*) transformants. Paxilline 3 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate and prenylated paxillines are identified by a yellow spot on the TLC plate. This TLC indicates that prenylated paxillines are present in at least three of five transformants (lanes 1, 3 and 5).

Figure S17. TLC of ten PN2013:pRC64 (*atmD*) transformant extracts. Lanes: S = paxilline 3, 0 = PN2013 (wildtype *P. paxilli*), 1-10 = PN2013:pRC64 (*atmD*) transformants. Paxilline 3 is identified by a green spot on the TLC plate and monoprenylated paxillines are identified by a blue spot on the TLC plate. This TLC indicates that monoprenylated paxillines are present in at least seven of ten transformants (lanes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9).

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