## **Supplementary Information for**

#### **Conformational rearrangements enable iterative backbone** *N***-methylation in RiPP biosynthesis**

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#### **Supplementary Table 1. Split borosins encoded in NCBI representative genomes from the genus** *Shewanella***.**





### **Supplementary Table 2. All primers and plasmids used in this manuscript.**

# **Supplementary Table 3. All genes used in this manuscript.**



CTTAATGCCGATTAGTACGTTGTTAATTCCGCCAGCAAAAAAGCTGGAGTACAACTATGCTATT TTGGCTAAGTTAGGGATCGGTCCCGAAGATTTGGGATAA

Q8EGW2 | sonA (SO1479) | Borosin RiPP precursor

ATGTCTGGATTATCGGATTTTTTTACCCAGTTAGGCCAAGATGCGCAGTTAATGGAAGACTATA AACAGAATCCTGAGGCGGTGATGCGTGCCCACGGATTAACTGATGAACAAATTAACGCTGTAA TGACTGGGGATATGGAAAAGCTCAAAACGTTAAGTGGTGATAGTAGCTATCAATCTTACCTTGT TATTTCACATGGTAATGGTGATTAA



ATGCATCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCATGGGATCACTCGTCTGTGTGGGCACTGGGTTACAG CTCGCGGGGCAAATTAGCGTATTAAGCCGCAGCTATATTGAACATGCCGATATTGTATTTTCAC TCTTACCTGACGGTTTCTCGCAGCGTTGGTTGACGAAGCTCAACCCCAATGTCATCAATTTGC AGCAGTTTTATGCGCAAAATGGTGAAGTTAAAAATCGCCGAGACACCTACGAGCAAATGGTCA ATGCCATTCTAGATGCGGTGAGAGCGGGTAAAAAAACCGTGTGTGCACTCTACGGTCATCCG GGGGTATTTGCCTGTGTATCCCATATGGCGATAACTCGGGCGAAGGCCGAAGGGTTTTCGGC AAAGATGGAGCCGGGGATTTCGGCCGAAGCTTGCCTGTGGGCCGACTTAGGGATTGACCCC GGCAACTCGGGGCATCAAAGTTTTGAAGCTAGCCAGTTTATGTTTTTCAACCATGTGCCCGAT CCCACTACCCACTTATTACTCTGGCAAATCGCCATTGCAGGCGAACATACCTTAACCCAATTTC ATACCTCGAGTGATAGGTTGCAGATCCTCGTGGAGCAGTTGAATCAATGGTATCCCCTCGACC ATGAGGTGGTCATATACGAAGCGGCCAATTTGCCAATCCAAGCCCCGCGTATCGAGCGTTTAC CTTTAGCGAATTTACCCCAAGCACACTTAATGCCGATTAGTACGTTGTTAATTCCGCCAGCAAA AAAGCTGGAGTACAACTATGCTATTTTGGCTAAGTTAGGGATCGGTCCCGAAGATTTGGGATA A



CGCAGTTAATGGAAGACTATAAACAGAATCCTGAGGCGGTGATGCGTGCCCACGGATTAACT GATGAACAAATTAACGCTGTAATGACTGGGGATATGGAAAAGCTCAAAACGTTAAGTGGTGAT AGTAGCTATCAATCTTACCTTGTTATTTCACATGGTAATGGTGATTAA

n/a **his<sub>6</sub>-sonA-BBD** Hexahistidine tagged SonA helical bundle/BBD (SonA-BBD) ATGCATCATCATCATCATCACATGTCTGGATTATCGGATTTTTTTACCCAGTTAGGCCAAGATG CGCAGTTAATGGAAGACTATAAACAGAATCCTGAGGCGGTGATGCGTGCCCACGGATTAACT GATGAACAAATTAACGCTGTAATGACTGGGGATATGGAAAAGCTCAAAACGTTAAGTGGTTAA

n/a *sspANRRLS118* Codon optimized borosin RiPP precursor ATGCCGGCGGCGGTGGTTGACTTCATGGAGGAACTGGTGACCCAGCCGCGTCGTCAACACG CGTACCGTCGTAGCGCGGAGGCGTATGTTGCGGATAGCGCGCTGACCGCTAGCGAGCGTGA AGCGGTGGTTAGCGGTGACGTGGATCGTATGCGTGCGGTTCTGGCCGAGCACAGCGGCGTG AAAGAGGAGTGCCACGCGGTTCTGGTGGTTATCATTTTTGACCCGGATGAAGTTCCGAGCGG TGCGTAA

n/a **sspM<sub>NRRI</sub>** stra **community** Codon optimized borosin methyltransferase ATGCAGGAGACCACCGGTAACGCGCAACTGGTGGTTGTGGGTACCGGTTTCCGTGCGATTGG TGACCTGACCGTTGAAGCGCGTGCGTGCCTGGAACAGGCGGACAAGGTTCTGTGCCTGATCG GTGATCCGCTGGTGACCCGTCACATTGAGAAACTGAACGCGAGCGTTGAAACCCTGGATGTT CATTATGCGGTGGGCAAGCCGCGTAGCGCGAGCTATGAGGACATGGTGGAACACATTATGAG CGAACTGCACCGTGATCAATTCGTTTGCGTGGCGCTGTACGGTCACCCGGGCGTTTTTGCGT ATACCGGTCATGAGGCGATCCGTCGTGCGCGTGAGGAAGGCATCGCGGCGCGTATGCTGCC GGCGTGCAGCGCGGAAGACTGGCTGTTTGCGGATCTGGGTCTGGACCCGGGCGAGCGTGGC TGCCAGAGCTTCGAAGCGACCGACTTTCTGATCCGTCACCGTGTGTTTGATCCGACCGGCCT GCTGATTCTGTGGCAAGTTGGTGTGATCGGCATGATTGATCGTGATCCGGGTTATGATGCGCG TCCGGGCGTTACCACCCTGACCGATGCGCTGGTTGCGAGCTACGGTAGCGGCCACCCGGTT ACCGTGTACGAGGCGAGCCCGTATGTTACCGCGGAACCGCGTACCACCACCGTGCCGCTGG CGGAGCTGCCGGACACCCCGCTGAGCGCGGCGAGCACCCTGGTTGTGCCGCCGCTGCCGC CGCGTCCGGTGGATCGTGAACTGCTGGCGCGTCTGGCGGCGCGTCGTTAA

n/a *his<sub>6</sub>-sspA<sub>NRRLS118</sub>* Hexahistidine tagged borosin RiPP precursor: SSDANRRLS118 ATGGGCAGCAGCCATCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCGGCCTGGTGCCGCGCGGCAGCCATAT GCCGGCGGCGGTGGTTGACTTCATGGAGGAACTGGTGACCCAGCCGCGTCGTCAACACGCG

TACCGTCGTAGCGCGGAGGCGTATGTTGCGGATAGCGCGCTGACCGCTAGCGAGCGTGAAG

CGGTGGTTAGCGGTGACGTGGATCGTATGCGTGCGGTTCTGGCCGAGCACAGCGGCGTGAA AGAGGAGTGCCACGCGGTTCTGGTGGTTATCATTTTTGACCCGGATGAAGTTCCGAGCGGTG CGTAA



**Supplementary Table 4. Parameter values used in our base kinetics model.**



# **Supplementary Table 5. Crystallographic data and statistics.**



**Supplementary Figure 1. Phylogenic tree of borosin methyltransferase domains including putative split borosin domains encoded in bacteria.** Bayesian posterior probability values support tree branching using the sequence alignment (Supplementary Fig. 2) along with the methyltransferase CobA from *Bacillus megaterium* as the outgroup. The tree was constructed using the MrBayes plugin in Geneious 2019.2 using the following parameters: [Rate Matrix (fixed): wag; Rate Variation: propinv; Gamma Categories: 4; Chain Length: 1,110,000; Subsampling Freq: 1,000; Heated Chains: 4; Burn-in Length: 10,000; Heated Chain Temp: 0.2; Random Seed: 25,028; Unconstrained Branch Lengths: GammaDir (1, 0.1, 1, 1)]. Protein names are listed in general agreement with suggested RiPP nomenclature.<sup>1</sup> Proteins are named in an XxxM/A format that signifies the first letter of the encoding organism's genus followed by two lowercase letters from the species. The terminal letters MA denote a fused methyltransferase and precursor, while the individual letters denote separate methyltransferases (M) or precursors (A). Strain specific identifiers are added when species names are unavailable or when strain-specific genetic differences are present. Previous structurally defined borosin precursors are highlighted in blue; split borosin pathways interrogated in this study are highlighted in green.



**Supplementary Figure 2. Geneious sequence alignment of previously identified fungal borosin and putative bacterial split borosin methyltransferase domains.** A cutoff of 90% amino acid identity was used to remove near-duplicate sequences. Methyltransferase domain sequences correspond to Gly10-Ala242 of SonM. Key active site residues are marked with an asterisk (\*). Previous structurally defined borosin precursors are highlighted in blue; split borosins interrogated in this study are highlighted in green.









**Supplementary Figure 3. Gene clusters of the two split borosins analyzed in this study.** The putative split borosin gene clusters of (**a**) *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1 and (**b**) *Streptomyces* sp. NRRL S-118 are depicted with genes as arrows. Protein IDs are given along with the gene name or proposed enzyme function. Putative split borosin precursor genes are colored in cyan, while α-*N*-methyltransferases are colored green.



**Supplementary Figure 4. Mass spectrometric analysis of split borosin coexpressions.** (**a-c**) HPLC-MS/MS spectra from AspN-digested SonA peptides after incubation at 30°C with wt SonM, saturating [SAM], and the other enzymes and kit reagents used in the kinetics assay (see materials and methods). The amino acid sequence above each spectra depicts the *N*methylated residues that could be confirmed by MS/MS fragmentation (solid orange circles) or are inferred *N*-methylated since the position is not completely defined by MS/MS (unfilled orange circles). Lowercase 'c' denotes cysteine derivatized by iodoacetimide. Observed MS/MS fragmentation masses are listed above (b-ions) and below (y-ions) the amino acid sequence. The gray lines within the sequence mark the sites of fragmentation. Masses of methylation-containing ions are denoted in brackets, where 'Me' stands for methylation. The ppm difference from the observed masses to the theoretical expected masses are labeled in parentheses. A 10.0-ppm mass cutoff for annotated HPLC-MS/MS peaks was used. The protein, time of *in vitro* reaction, parent ion information and HPLC retention time (RT) are listed in the upper right corner of the LC-MS/MS spectra. Note, panel c depicts the same raw data as seen in Fig. 1d. (**d-i**) HPLC-MS/MS spectra from GluC-digested SspA<sub>NRRLS118</sub> peptides after a 15 min incubation at room temperature with  $SSpM<sub>NRRLS118</sub>$ , saturating [SAM], and *S*-adenosylhomocysteine nucleosidase in 50 mM HEPES buffer. (**j**) Relative abundance of  $SpA<sub>NRRLS118</sub>$  peptides from panels (d-h). The methylation state is indicated over each graph (0-4) in an orange box with the relative abundance (%) of the methylated species directly below. Relative abundance (intensity %) was determined by integrating under each peak from the MS1 extracted ion chromatogram. Each peak is plotted over its retention time (x-axis).

**a** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

**b** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

**c** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_2.jpeg)

**d** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

**e** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

**f** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

**g** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS

23

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

*m / z*

Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

**h** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

**j** EIC from HPLC-MS: SspA<sub>NRRLS118</sub> (GluC digest)

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 5. Global structural comparisons of borosin α-***N***-methylating enzymes.** The (**a**) SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTE) heteromeric configuration is different from the fused homologous fungal systems (**b**) OphMA2 (PDB: 5N0X) and (**c**) dbOphMA3 (PDB: 6MJG). A single heterodimer (SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH) or a single monomer of a homodimer (OphMA and dbOphMA) is represented as a cartoon, with SAH depicted as orange sticks.

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

Supplementary Figure 6. Oligomeric state of his<sub>6</sub>-SonM and his<sub>6</sub>-SonA proteins by size **exclusion chromatography.** Size exclusion chromatogram of (a) his<sub>6</sub>-SonM and (b) his<sub>6</sub>-SonA after 24 hour expression in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells and nickel affinity purification. The volume at which the protein eluted is indicated with a purple arrow on the x-axis and labelled above the peak. (c) The calibration curve used to determine the oligomeric state of his<sub>6</sub>-SonM and his<sub>6</sub>-SonA in solution. The x-axis is the molecular weight in log scale, and the y-axis is the partition coefficient  $(K_{av} = (V_E - V_0)/(V_C - V_0))$ . The molecular weight markers used were: aprotinin (6.5 kDa), ribonuclease A (13.7 kDa), carbonic anhydrase (29 kDa), ovalbumin (43 kDa), and conalbumin (75 kDa). All proteins and standards were run on a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 75 pg column (Cytiva). The observed mass of the his<sub>6</sub>-SonM dimer was 48.5 kDa compared to the theoretical mass of 60.3 kDa. The extensive dimer interface of his<sub>6</sub>-SonM likely accounts for a smaller hydrodynamic radius and the slightly delayed elution time observed. The observed mass of the his<sub>6</sub>-SonA monomer is 7.5 kDa compared to the theoretical mass of 8.7 kDa. These results have been repeated at least twice from separate expressions with each protein. (**d**) SDS-PAGE of purified his<sub>6</sub>-SonM (lane 1) and his<sub>6</sub>-SonA (lane 2) proteins. A standard 15% (w/v) SDS-gel was loaded with 10 µg of each respective protein from the pooled elution fractions from size exclusion chromatography. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 7. Structural overlay of SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH.** The SonM— SonA-2Me—SAH complex (SonA is shown in yellow and cyan cartoon, SonM in purple and green, PDB: 7LTE) shows structural similarity to homologous systems (**a**) OphMA2 (PDB: 5N0X) and (**b**) dbOphMA3 (PDB: 6MJG). Significant translation movement is visible for SonA (yellow) compared to counterparts in (**c**) OphMA and (**d**) dbOphMA. Key distances are depicted as black dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms.

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 8. Structural overlay of the BBD with other protein domains.** The BBD from the SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH complex (PDB: 7LTE) shares structural homology to the BBD of the borosin methyltransferase OphMA<sup>2</sup> (PDB: 5N0X; root means squared distance (RMSD) of 2.3 Å for 306 atoms), to LigA of the protocatuate 4,5-dioxygenase complex LigAB<sup>4</sup> (PDB: 1BOU; RMSD of 1.1 Å for 251 atoms), and to a tethered domain in the gallate dioxygenase DesB<sup>5</sup> (PDB: 3WRB; RMSD of 1.9 Å for 286 atoms). RMSDs (all atoms) were calculated using the 'super' function in PyMOL. The close structural homology is in contrast to the relatively low pairwise sequence identity of 24.3% and 45.3% sequence similarity amongst these domains.

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 9. Thermal motion B-factors for SonA and SonM.** Putty cartoon representations of the thermal motion B-factor variation for (**a**) SonA and (**b**) SonM in the structure SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTE). B-factors are represented in a rainbow-color spectrum of dark blue (lowest mobility) to dark red (highest mobility).

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 10. SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH active site coordination.** (**a**) SonM-Y71 and SonM-Y58 (green cartoon and sticks) coordinates with the 'i+1', 'i', and 'i-1' residues of the SonA core peptide (slate cartoon and sticks). Key distances are depicted as black dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms. (**b**) Interestingly, the *Ψ* angle between residues 'I' and 'i+1' is 29.9° and consequently the main chain twists 101° (angle between 'i+1', 'I' and 'i-1' α-carbon atoms). A similar observation was made in OphMA.<sup>2</sup> *Ψ* torsion angles values of ± 30° were reported to create electronic distortion in amide bonds that could increase the reactivity of the backbone NH group, $6$  and could therefore help catalysis. This specific conformation may result from the active site pre-organization and is stabilized by a network of interactions between the side chains of SonM-Y71 and SonM-Y58 and SonA's main chain, and particularly with the carbonyl group of 'i-1', but also with a hydrogen bond between the carbonyl group of residue 'i' and the backbone NH of SonM-C101. Of note, the backbone NH group of SonM-C101 is located at the N-termini of an α-helix, and helix macrodipoles have been found to be involved in stabilizing interactions.<sup>7</sup> Because we obtained the structure with the fully methylated peptide (i.e. post-catalysis), the twisted conformation of the main chain could also result from the presence of the methyl group. In fact, the *Ψ* angle between residues 'i-1' and 'i-2' is 23.5°, and also lead to a substantial twist in the main chain (108° angle between 'i', 'i-1' and 'i-2' α-carbon atoms).

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 11. SonM interactions with the SonA core peptide in SonM— SonA-2Me—SAH.** (**a**) The side chain of residue 'i' of SonA (slate sticks and cartoon) sits in a well-defined pocket formed with SonM-A100, SonM-V102, SonM-L92, and SonM-L34 (green sticks and cartoon). Key distances are depicted as black dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms. (**b**) Other core peptide side chains are accommodated by less defined binding pockets: the side chain of residue 'i-1' sits in a large cavity formed by polar and apolar residues (SonM-Q167, SonM-I170, SonM-R67, and i-3's side chain SonA-Y62) and the side chain of 'i-2' (SonA-MLE63) sits in a large hydrophobic pocket, while 'i+1' (SonA-S66) sits in a hydrophilic pocket and is hydrogen bonded to SonM-Q167 and SonM-F99. (**c**) Residues 'i+3' to 'i+7' are exposed to the solvent, and so are residues from 'i-3' to the N-termini of the BBD. Residue 'i+4' (SonA-N69) interacts with the carbonyl group of SonM-H174 (3.0 Å). SonM-R68, in addition to its interaction with the carbonyl groups of 'i+5' and the C-termini ('i+6'), it also interacts with the side chain of 'i+6' (SonA-D71) and therefore may contribute to the stabilization of the bound core peptide.

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 12. Superposition of SonM—SonA-2Me complexes.** The structure of *apo* SonM—SonA-2Me (grey cartoon, PDB: 7LTC) is highly similar to SonM—SonA-2Me— SAH (green cartoon, PDB: 7LTE), with an RMSD of 0.19 Å for 4638 atoms. The RMSD was calculated using the 'super' function in PyMOL. SAH is shown as orange sticks.

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 13. SAH makes extensive contacts in the SonM—SonA-2Me— SAH complex.** A LIGPLOT<sup>8</sup> of the extensive network of interactions made by SAH in SonM— SonA-2Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTE). SAH and key residues are displayed as ball and sticks, while other contacts are displayed as 'eyelashes'. Key distances are depicted as green dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms.

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 14. SonM – fitted Michaelis-Menten kinetic curves.** Michaelis-Menten substrate velocity curves of (**a**) wt SonM and (**b**) SonM mutants with varied [SonA] and saturating [SAM] (left) or varied [SAM] and saturating [SonA] (right). Each substrate concentration was assayed in triplicate (n=3); the enzyme assayed for each set of experiments is listed in the y-axes. The plotted point is the mean velocity measurement at that substrate concentration with the error bars representing the standard deviation between replicates. The overlaid curves were fit using nonlinear regression models in GraphPad Prism 8 and used to determine kinetic constants. The  $R^2$  value for the fitted curve is included at the bottom right of each graph. No kinetics data is shown for SonM-R67A or SonM-Y58F/Y71F as these mutants had no measurable activity under the conditions of the kinetics assay used in this work. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 15. Active site tyrosine mutant structures.** (**a**) Superposition of the SonM-Y93F—SonA-2Me mutant structure complex (green, dark blue, PDB: 7LTH) with wt SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (grey, cyan, PDB: 7LTE) The RMSD (all atoms) between the two structures is 0.16 Å for 4539 atoms, when using the 'super' function in PyMOL. (**b**) Superposition of the SonM-Y58F—SonA-2Me mutant structure complex (green, dark blue, PDB: 7LTF) with wt SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (grey, cyan, PDB, 7LTE). The RMSD (all atoms) between the two structures is 0.08 Å for 4824 atoms, when using the 'super' function in PyMOL. Key residues are shown as sticks and key distances are depicted as black dashed lines, with their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms. Both residues SonM-Y71 and SonM-Y58 are involved in an extensive network of interaction with the core peptide, including hydrogen bonding to the carbonyl group of 'i-1' SonM-IML65. This configuration is similar to OphMA, where the corresponding tyrosines OphMA-Y66 and OphMA-Y76 were proposed to stabilize *sp3* hybridization and the developing negative charge on the carbonyl's oxygen atom (oxyanion hole).2 We note that in the SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH structure, the interaction angles between the carbonyl group and the hydroxyl groups of SonM-Y58 and SonM-Y71 are 122° and 108°, respectively. The interaction angle with SonM-Y71 is therefore close to the canonical angle value of 109.5° for *sp<sup>3</sup>* hybridization to the carbonyl group.

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 16. SonM in vitro reactions analyzed by LC-MS/MS and compared to kinetic model simulations.** Relative abundances for each species of SonA (SonA-0Me , SonA-1Me, SonA-2Me) are depicted as extracted ion chromatograms from LC-MS data after incubation at 30°C with wt SonM, saturating [SAM], and the other enzymes and kit reagents used in the kinetics assay (see Methods section). All reactions were set up in duplicate under the same conditions and were quenched at time points as indicated on the left of each set of plots. The amino acid sequence of the AspN digested fragment is shown at the top with the methylated residues in orange with an asterisk (\*). The methylation state is indicated over each graph (0-2) in an orange box with the relative abundance (%) of the methylated species directly below. Relative abundance (intensity %) was determined by integrating under each peak from the extracted ion chromatogram. Each peak is plotted over its retention time (x-axis). This data is displayed in each panel of Fig. 4.

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 17. SonM – fitted Michaelis-Menten competitive inhibition kinetic curves.** Competitive inhibition curves for wt SonM with varied [SonA] saturating [SAM] and increasing (**a**) [SonA-BBD] or (**b**) [SonA-2Me], respectively. Each substrate concentration was assayed in triplicate (n=3). The plotted point is the mean velocity measurement at that substrate concentration with the error bars representing the standard deviation between replicates. The overlaid curves were fit using nonlinear regression models in GraphPad Prism 8 and used to determine kinetic constants. The  $R<sup>2</sup>$  value for the fitted curve is included at the bottom right of each graph. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 18. Superposition of SonM—SonA-2Me and SonM—SonA-BBD— (±)SAM complexes.** The SAM-bound heterodimer of SonM—SonA-BBD—(±)SAM (green and beige cartoon, PDB: 7LTR) is similar to SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (grey and dark grey cartoon, PDB: 7LTE). SAM/SAH is shown as orange sticks.

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 19. Bottom lock configurations of the SonM—SonA-BBD— (±)SAM complex.** (**a**) Closed and (**b**) open *bottom lock* configurations in SonM—SonA-BBD—  $(\pm)$ SAM (PDB: 7LTR).

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 20. Top lock configurations between borosin α-***N***methyltransferases.** (**a**) View of the R67 active site interaction network of SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTE) among residues in the top clamp, side clamp, and SonA core peptide. (**b**) View of the equivalent network of the homologous residue R72 in OphMA (PDB: 6MJG).

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 21. Active site configuration differences among split borosin complexes.** Superposition between the SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (grey and teal cartoon, PDB: 7LTE), SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH (green and slate cartoon, PDB: 7LTS), and the heterodimer not bound to cofactor in SonM—SonA-BBD—(±)SAM (maroon cartoon, PDB: 7LTR). In addition to the signifcant change in core peptide conformation, the top and side clamps of SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH are in intermediate positions as compared to the two other structures.

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 22. Interaction networks in different configurations of SonM and mutant complexes.** (**a**) Interaction network of R185 in the SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTE) compared to the synonymous network in (**b**) SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH (PDB: 7LTS) and (**c**) Interaction network of R185 in the heterodimer not bound to cofactor in SonM— SonA-BBD—(±)SAM (PDB: 7LTR). Similarly to SonM—SonA-BBD, SonM-R185 rotates ~5 Å and interacts with SonM-E173 (5.8 Å), possibly compensating for the loss of the SonM-R67— SonM-E173 interaction. SonM-R185 also interacts with SonM-S182 (3.8 Å) and the carbonyl groups of SonM-A169 (3.5 Å), SonM-A171 (3.2 Å), and SonM-H180 (3.9 Å), contributing to stabilize the open top clamp conformation  $(-14 \text{ Å})$ . Key distances are depicted as black dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms.

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 23. Structural differences in the heterodimers of SonM-R67A— SonA-0Me—SAH.** Superposition of the two SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH heterodimers (green/cyan and maroon/slate cartoons, PDB: 7LTS). The RMSD (all atoms) between the two structures is 0.32 Å for 2000 atoms, when using the 'super' function in PyMOL. Small differences can be observed in the configuration of SonA as well the top and side clamps in SonM-R67A.

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 24. Structural differences in the BBD of SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH and** *apo* **SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH.** Superposition of SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me— SAH (grey and cyan cartoon, PDB: 7LTS) with *apo* SonM—SonA-2Me—SAH (green and slate cartoon, PDB: 7LTE). Helix 5 of the BBD is unwound in the SonM-R67A—SonA-0Me—SAH structure. Key distances are depicted as black dashed lines and their lengths noted in italics in Ångstroms.

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Supplementary Figure 25. Mass spectrometric analysis of SonM mutant in vitro reactions.** HPLC-MS/MS spectra of the highest methylated species from AspN-digested SonA peptides after incubation at 30°C with the listed SonM mutant (**a**) SonM-Y93F, (**b**) SonM-R67K, (**c**) SonM-R67A, (**d**) SonM-Y58F, (**e**) SonM-Y71F, and (**f**) SonM-Y58F/Y71F, saturating [SAM], and the other enzymes and kit reagents used in the kinetics assay (see materials and methods). The amino acid sequence above each spectra depicts the *N*-methylated residues that could be confirmed by MS/MS fragmentation (solid orange circles) or are inferred *N*methylated since the position is not completely defined by MS/MS (unfilled orange circles). Observed MS/MS fragmentation masses are listed above (b-ions) and below (y-ions) the amino acid sequence. The gray lines within the sequence mark the sites of fragmentation. Masses of methylation-containing ions are denoted in brackets, where 'Me' stands for methylation. The ppm difference from the observed masses to the theoretical expected masses are labeled in parentheses. A 10.0-ppm mass cutoff for annotated HPLC-MS/MS peaks was used. The protein, time of *in vitro* reaction, parent ion information and HPLC retention time (RT) are listed in the upper right corner of the LC-MS/MS spectra. Off-target methylations were not detected in any sample.

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

**a** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

**b** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

*m / z*

 $\mathfrak{c}^{\dagger}$ 

້ $\mathfrak{a}^*$ 

500 1000 1500

 $\zeta$ 

 $\frac{1}{\mathsf{q}}$ 

 $\ddot{r}$ +

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ 

 $\frac{1}{\alpha}$ 

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ 

 $\mathsf{b}^*$ 

0

20

 $\zeta^*$ 

 $\overline{a}^*$ 

 $\zeta^*$ 

້ $\mathfrak{a}^*$ 

 $\zeta^\ast$ 

້ $\mathfrak{a}^*$ 

 $\zeta^*$ 

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

**c** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

 $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ 

831.316 958.4143 1184.581\* (1.9) [2Me] <u>5</u><br>558.4143\* (1.0) [1Me] 2<br>531.316\* (4.06) [0Me] 45<br>581.2217\* (4.27) [0Me] <sup>45</sup><br>5681.2217\* (4.27) [0Me] <sup>45</sup> 668.2501 1057.483 1184.581 + (-0.6)  $(1.0)$  $(6.9)$  $(6.1)$  $+ (3.2)$ <br>  $(-2.7)$  $\mathsf{D}\ \mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{Y}\ \mathsf{Q}|\mathsf{S}|\mathsf{Y}\bigcup_{\mathsf{y}_1}\bigcup_{\mathsf{y}_0}\bigcup_{\mathsf{y}_8}\bigcup_{\mathsf{y}_7}\bigcup_{\mathsf{y}_6}\mathsf{S}|\mathsf{H}\ \mathsf{G}\ \mathsf{N}\mathsf{G}\ \mathsf{D}$ [2Me] [2Me] [1Me] [1Me] [0Me] [0Me] 1189.581 + (3.4) 1102.552 + (0.3) 812.3895 + (0.3) 713.3209 + (0.5) 586.2215 + (0.1) 499.1885 + (2.1) SonA (with SonM-Y58F, at 108.5 min rxn) Parent ion:  $[M+2Me+2H]^{2+}$  (885.40) RT: 12.09 min 100 [0Me] (586.2215) [2Me] (1184.581) [1Me] (812.3895) [1Me] (958.4143) 80 Relative Intensity (%) Relative Intensity (%) [1Me] (713.3209) 60 ای ٔ [1Me] (1057.483) م ٔ<br>اک  $\zeta^*$  [2Me] (1189.581) ້ $\mathfrak{a}^*$  [0Me] (581.2217) [0Me] (668.2501) [0Me] (831.316) [2Me] (1102.552) [0Me] (499.1885) 40  $\mathbf{z}^*$ ້ $\mathsf{o}^*$ 20  $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$  $\mathbf{b}^{\dagger}$ ້ $\mathfrak{a}^*$ ້ $\mathsf{o}^*$  $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$  $\zeta^*$ 0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 *m / z*

**d** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

**e** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_53_Picture_542.jpeg)

**f** Methylation localized by LC-MS/MS Methylation inferred by LC-MS/MS

![](_page_53_Figure_3.jpeg)

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