

1 **A chiral selectivity relaxed paralog of DTD for proofreading tRNA**
2 **mischarging in Animalia**

3
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11 ABSTRACT

12 D-aminoacyl-tRNA deacylase (DTD), a *trans*-editing factor found in bacteria and eukaryotes,
13 removes D-amino acids mischarged on tRNAs as well as achiral glycine mischarged on tRNA^{Ala}.
14 An invariant cross-subunit Gly-*cis*Pro motif forms the mechanistic basis of strict L-amino acid
15 rejection from the catalytic site. Here, we present the identification of a DTD variant, named
16 ATD (Animalia-specific tRNA deacylase), that harbors a Gly-*trans*Pro motif. The *cis*-to-*trans*
17 switch causes a “gain of function” through L-chiral selectivity in ATD resulting in the clearing
18 of L-alanine mischarged on tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by eukaryotic AlaRS. The biochemical
19 proofreading activity of ATD is conserved across diverse classes of phylum Chordata. Animalia
20 genomes enriched in tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes are in strict association with the presence of ATD,
21 underlining the mandatory requirement of a dedicated factor to proofread tRNA
22 misaminoacylation. The study highlights the emergence of ATD during genome expansion as a
23 key event associated with the evolution of Animalia.

24 INTRODUCTION

25 Translational quality control is a complex and tightly regulated process which involves editing of
26 errors in most scenarios. However, it also encompasses a targeted and selective compromise in
27 fidelity, thereby allowing percolation of errors under specific conditions such as oxidative stress.
28 It ensures an optimum dynamic balance in the cellular proteome and hence overall cellular
29 homeostasis. A multitude of factors—from aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (aaRSs) to ribosome as
30 well as proteasome—play significant roles in performing this complex phenomenon (**Brandman**
31 **and Hegde, 2016; Bullwinkle et al., 2014; Guo and Schimmel, 2012; Ibba and Söll, 2000;**
32 **Moghul et al., 2014; Ogle and Ramakrishnan, 2005; Pouplana et al., 2014; Rodnina, 2016;**
33 **Rodnina and Wintermeyer, 2016; Schwartz and Pan, 2017; Simms et al., 2017**). A key step
34 in this process includes decoupling of D-amino acids mischarged on tRNAs. This function,
35 termed “chiral proofreading”, is performed by a dedicated *trans*-editing factor called D-
36 aminoacyl-tRNA deacylase (DTD) (**Ahmad et al., 2013; Calendar and Berg, 1967; Ferri-**
37 **Fioni et al., 2001; Soutourina et al., 1999**). The chiral proofreading enzyme forms one of the
38 major cellular checkpoints, which also includes aaRSs, elongation factor Tu (EF-Tu) and
39 ribosome, to prevent infiltration of D-amino acids into translational machinery (**Agmon et al.,**
40 **2004; Ban et al., 2000; Bhuta et al., 1981; Englander et al., 2015; Jonak et al., 1980; Ling et**
41 **al., 2009; Pingoud and Urbanke, 1980; Yamane et al., 1981**).

42 DTD—present throughout Bacteria (except cyanobacteria) and Eukarya—employs an invariant
43 cross-subunit Gly-*cis*Pro motif in the active site to ensure substrate stereospecificity. The *cis*
44 conformation of the motif disposes the two carbonyl oxygens in a parallel orientation, projecting
45 them directly into the active site pocket (**Ahmad et al., 2013**). Such an architecture of DTD’s
46 chiral proofreading site leads to steric exclusion of even the smallest amino acid with L-chirality,

47 *viz.*, L-alanine. Thus, strict L-chiral rejection forms the only mechanistic basis of DTD's
48 enantioselectivity. Consequently, the chiral proofreading site is completely porous to achiral
49 glycine and exhibits unwarranted activity on the cognate Gly-tRNA^{Gly}. The glycine “misediting
50 paradox” thereby generated is effectively resolved through protection of the cognate achiral
51 substrate by EF-Tu (**Routh et al., 2016**). Nevertheless, our recent findings have demonstrated
52 that the porosity of DTD's active site to glycine is advantageous, since it enables the enzyme to
53 efficiently clear the non-cognate Gly-tRNA^{Ala} species generated by alanyl-tRNA synthetase
54 (AlaRS). Therefore, DTD's cellular function extends beyond just chiral proofreading during
55 faithful translation of the genetic code (**Pawar et al., 2017**). Interestingly, in archaea and
56 cyanobacteria, chiral proofreading is performed by DTD2 and DTD3, respectively; the latter two
57 are non-homologous to DTD (**Ferri-Fioni et al., 2006; Wydau et al., 2009**). However, in
58 archaea, which lack DTD, a DTD-like module is covalently appended to threonyl-tRNA
59 synthetase (ThrRS) as the N-terminal domain (NTD) that edits L-serine misacylated on tRNA^{Thr}
60 (**Dwivedi et al., 2005; Hussain et al., 2006, 2010; Korencic et al., 2004**). Thus, both DTD-like
61 fold (comprising DTD and NTD) and chiral proofreading function (performed by DTD, DTD2
62 and DTD3) are conserved across all domains of life. Biochemically, the DTD-like fold is an
63 RNA-based catalyst that employs only the 2'-OH of adenosine-76 (A76) at the 3'-terminus of
64 tRNA rather than protein side chains for catalysis at the RNA–protein interface (**Ahmad et al.,**
65 **2015; Routh et al., 2016**).

66 Proofreading during aminoacyl-tRNA synthesis has been proposed and extensively studied so far
67 in the context of errors only in amino acid selection by aaRSs (**Dock-Bregeon et al., 2000;**
68 **Fersht, 1977, 1998; Fukai et al., 2000; Jakubowski and Fersht, 1981; Lincecum et al., 2003;**
69 **Matinis and Boniecki, 2010; Nureki et al., 1998; Pauling, 1958; Perona and Gruic-Sovulj,**

70 **2014; Silvian et al., 1999; Yadavalli and Ibba, 2012**). Defects in proofreading have been
71 associated with multiple cellular pathologies including neurodegeneration in mouse and cell
72 death (**Bacher et al., 2005; Bullwinkle et al., 2014; Bullwinkle and Ibba, 2016; Karkhanis et**
73 **al., 2007; Kermgard et al., 2017; Korencic et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2014; Lu**
74 **et al., 2014; Moghal et al., 2016; Mohler et al., 2017; Nangle et al., 2002; Roy et al., 2004**).
75 Amino acids are substantially smaller in size compared to tRNAs, and are also similar in
76 structure/chemistry in several cases. Consequently, errors in amino acid selection by synthetases
77 are significantly higher (about one in 10^3 – 10^2) than the overall error observed during translation
78 of the genetic code (about one in 10^4 – 10^3) (**Loftfield and Vanderjagt, 1972; Perona and**
79 **Gruic-Sovulj, 2014; Yadavalli and Ibba, 2012**). Errors in tRNA selection, which either happen
80 naturally and constitutively or are induced by environmental conditions (such as
81 oxidative/temperature/antibiotic stress), have been noted in several instances, although such
82 mistakes are not as common as those in amino acid selection (**Gomes et al., 2007; Netzer et al.,**
83 **2009; Schwartz and Pan, 2016; Schwartz et al., 2016; Sheppard et al., 2008**). However,
84 dedicated proofreading factors for correcting mistakes in tRNA selection have not been reported
85 till date.

86 Here, we describe the identification and characterization of a novel DTD-like factor, named
87 ATD (Animalia-specific tRNA deacylase). Present in kingdom Animalia and more specifically
88 all across phylum Chordata, ATD proofreads a critical tRNA selection error made by AlaRS. An
89 unprecedented switch from the chiral-selective “Gly-*cis*Pro” dipeptide in DTD to “Gly-*trans*Pro”
90 in ATD is the key to ATD’s gaining of L-chiral selectivity. This “gain of function” through
91 relaxation of substrate chiral specificity underlies ATD’s unique capability of correcting the error
92 in tRNA selection. The strict coexistence of the proofreading factor with the error-inducing

93 tRNA species underlines its requirement for translational quality control in Animalia. Our study
94 represents the first instance of a proofreading factor being identified as one that is responsible for
95 the correction of an error in tRNA selection during translation of the genetic code.

96 **RESULTS**

97 **Two characteristic sequence motifs in ATD show subtle differences from those in DTD**

98 While performing protein BLAST-based *in silico* search for DTD sequences, we came across
99 many sequences in the database which are annotated as probable DTD2. However, these
100 sequences bear no sequence similarity to the canonical DTD2 present in Archaea. Therefore, we
101 renamed this protein ATD (as explained later) to distinguish it from the canonical DTD2 and
102 avoid confusion over nomenclature. Moreover, DTD and ATD share less than 30% sequence
103 identity between them which is significantly lower than that between DTDs (>50%) or between
104 ATDs (>45%) (**Figure 1—figure supplement 1**). Besides, ATD also does not show homology
105 with DTD3. Multiple sequence alignment of ATD and DTD sequences showed that ATD has –
106 PQATL– and –TNGPYTH– as signature motifs, which are similar to though distinct from the
107 corresponding active site motifs in DTD, *viz.*, –SQFTL– and –NXGPVT–, respectively (**Figure**
108 **1A**). Strikingly, some of the key conserved residues near DTD’s active site, involved in a
109 network of interactions and responsible for holding the Gly-*cis*Pro motif, are also different in
110 ATD. The most notable among these is a highly conserved arginine in DTD (Arg7 in DTD from
111 *Escherichia coli* (EcDTD) or *Plasmodium falciparum* (PfDTD)) which is replaced by a
112 conserved glutamine in ATD (Gln16 in ATD from *Mus musculus* (MmATD)) (**Figure 1A**).
113 Thus, comparative analysis of ATD and DTD sequences showed subtle variations in some of the
114 key conserved residues present in and near the active site.

115 **ATD is found in kingdom Animalia and throughout phylum Chordata**

116 A thorough *in silico* search for ATD sequences revealed that ATD is present in Eukarya, but
117 absent in Bacteria and Archaea. Within Eukarya, ATD is present exclusively in kingdom
118 Animalia, except for a few protozoa (four species of *Leishmania*, two of *Trypanosoma*, and one
119 each of *Saprolegnia*, *Salpingoeca* and *Acanthamoeba*, whose genomes have been sequenced)
120 (**Data 1**). More importantly, ATD is found all across phylum Chordata, whereas its distribution
121 in non-chordate phyla is rather sparse (**Figure 1—figure supplement 2, Data 1**). It is worth
122 noting that most of the protozoa that harbor ATD are parasites of various vertebrate hosts.
123 Therefore, ATDs from these protozoa may be outliers as the possibility of horizontal transfer of
124 ATD gene to these protozoa from their host organisms cannot be ruled out. Contrary to ATD's
125 restricted distribution in Animalia, DTD is found throughout Bacteria and Eukarya.
126 Nevertheless, phylogenetic analysis of ATD and DTD showed that the two fall into two distinct
127 groups (**Figure 1B**).

128 **ATD belongs to the DTD-like fold**

129 To gain insights into ATD's function, we solved the crystal structure of MmATD at 1.86 Å
130 resolution. We were able to solve the structure by molecular replacement using PfDTD as the
131 search model, despite the fact that the two share less than 30% sequence identity (**Figure 1C,**
132 **Table S1**). Structural superposition of MmATD on PfDTD and NTD from *Pyrococcus abyssi*
133 (PabNTD) showed an r.m.s.d. of 1.68 Å over 141 Ca atoms and 3.34 Å over 77 Ca atoms,
134 respectively (**Figure 1C, Figure 1—figure supplement 3A**). As is the case with DTD and NTD,
135 ATD too is a homodimeric protein. Interestingly, a Dali-based PDB search for structural
136 homologs of ATD identified a protein (ATD) from *Leishmania major* (LmATD) which is
137 annotated as a probable eukaryotic DTD, and deposited by Structural Genomics of Pathogenic

138 Protozoa Consortium (**Fan et al., 2008**). Structural superimposition of LmATD on MmATD
139 gives an r.m.s.d. of 1.29 Å over 148 C α atoms (**Figure 1—figure supplement 3B**). Thus, like
140 DTD and NTD, ATD also belongs to the DTD-like fold.

141 **ATD harbors a Gly-*trans*Pro motif in the active site unlike DTD's Gly-*cis*Pro motif**

142 The crystal structure of ATD revealed that its characteristic motifs (–PQATL– and –TNGPYTH–
143) are present at the dimeric interface just like the corresponding active site motifs of DTD (–
144 SQFTL– and –NXGPVT–) (**Figure 2A**). Besides the elements of DTD-like fold, specific
145 interactions at the adenine-binding site for the recognition of A76 of tRNA are also highly
146 conserved in ATD (**Figure 2—figure supplement 1**). Surprisingly, MmATD's Gly-Pro motif
147 occurs in *trans* conformation, unlike DTD's Gly-Pro motif which always exists in *cis*
148 conformation as observed in 107 protomers of 19 crystal structures from 5 different organisms
149 (**Figure 2B,C, Figure 2—figure supplement 2A**). Notably, LmATD also possesses a cross-
150 subunit Gly-*trans*Pro motif like MmATD (**Figure 2—figure supplement 2B**). Atomic B-factor
151 analysis revealed that ATD's Gly-*trans*Pro motif is rigid like DTD's Gly-*cis*Pro motif (**Figure**
152 **2—figure supplement 3**). Additionally, ATD's Gly-Pro residues exhibit a dramatic change of
153 approximately 180° in ψ torsion angle when compared to DTD's Gly-Pro residues due to
154 remodeling of the local network of interactions in the vicinity of active site (**Figure 2D,E, Movie**
155 **1**). DTD's Gly-*cis*Pro carbonyl oxygens are parallel and protrude into the active site pocket away
156 from the protein core, *i.e.*, “outward parallel” orientation. ATD's Gly-*trans*Pro carbonyl oxygens
157 are also parallel, but they face away from the active site toward the protein core, *i.e.*, “inward
158 parallel” orientation (**Figure 2B,C**). Thus, a direct consequence of *cis*-to-*trans* switch has a
159 marked influence on the orientation of the carbonyl oxygens of glycine and proline residues of
160 the Gly-Pro motif that is responsible for L-chiral rejection in DTD.

161 **A conserved arginine near DTD's active site has migrated in ATD**

162 Upon further analysis of the active site region, it was observed that Arg7 in EcDTD or PfDTD,
163 which is highly conserved in DTDs, is replaced by a conserved glutamine in ATD (Gln16 in
164 MmATD). Interestingly, an invariant arginine is present in a totally different position in ATD
165 (Arg151 in MmATD) (**Figure 1A, Figure 2E**). The side chain of Arg7 in PfDTD interacts with
166 the main chain of Gly-*cis*Pro motif from the same monomer, thereby locking the motif rigidly in
167 *cis* conformation (**Figure 2E**). This side chain–main chain interaction is conserved in all the
168 available structures (107 protomers) of DTD (**Figure 2—figure supplement 4A**). In contrast,
169 the interaction of MmATD's Arg151 side chain with the main chain of Gly-*trans*Pro motif from
170 the dimeric counterpart pulls the motif's backbone outwards, thus holding the motif rigidly in
171 *trans* conformation (**Figure 2E, figure supplement 4B**). Hence, the highly conserved arginine in
172 the vicinity of DTD's active site has migrated to a different position near ATD's active site and
173 is primarily responsible for the *cis-to-trans* switch of the Gly-Pro motif.

174 **ATD has “additional” space in its active site pocket due to flip of Gly-Pro carbonyl oxygens**

175 In DTD, the “outward parallel” orientation of Gly-*cis*Pro carbonyl oxygens acts as a “chiral
176 selectivity filter” to strictly reject all L-amino acids from the pocket through steric exclusion
177 (**Ahmad et al., 2013; Routh et al., 2016**). Comparative analysis of active sites of DTD and ATD
178 further revealed that the inward flip of ATD's carbonyl oxygens due to *trans* conformation of its
179 Gly-Pro motif has created “additional” space in its active site when compared to DTD.
180 Consequently, ATD can easily accommodate a larger group in that space as opposed to just
181 hydrogen in DTD (**Figure 2—figure supplement 5, Table S2**). This clearly suggests that ATD
182 can cradle small L-amino acids in its active site pocket. The “additional” space created as a

183 consequence of Gly-*trans*Pro switch in ATD prompted us to check its biochemical activity
184 profile on L-aminoacyl-tRNAs, in addition to D-aminoacyl- and glycyl-tRNAs.

185 **ATD exhibits relaxed substrate chiral specificity due to *cis*-to-*trans* switch**

186 The fact that ATD belongs to the DTD-like fold and its active site elements and architecture are
187 similar to those of DTD indicated that it could be acting on some non-cognate aminoacyl-tRNA
188 and hence could be involved in translational proofreading. Therefore, we generated the
189 biochemical activity profile of MmATD by screening a spectrum of aminoacyl-tRNAs having
190 either D- or L-amino acid as well as Gly-tRNA^{Gly}. MmATD shows significant activity at 50 nM
191 concentration on D-Tyr-tRNA^{Tyr}, but fails to act on the L-counterpart even at 100-fold higher
192 concentration (**Figure 3A,B**). It also deacylates Gly-tRNA^{Gly} at 500 nM concentration (**Figure**
193 **3C**). Thus, like DTD, ATD acts on both D-chiral and achiral substrates, albeit with significantly
194 less efficiency. Strikingly, when tested with L-Ala-tRNA^{Ala}, 500 nM MmATD displayed
195 noticeable activity (**Figure 3D**). By contrast, EcDTD or PfDTD does not act on L-chiral
196 substrates even at 100-fold higher concentration than required for D-chiral substrate (**Ahmad et**
197 **al., 2013; Routh et al., 2016**). Therefore, biochemical probing suggested that ATD is an
198 aminoacyl-tRNA deacylase with a relaxed specificity for substrate chirality, primarily due to the
199 *trans* conformation of its active site Gly-Pro motif. It is for this reason that we named this protein
200 ATD, which stands for Animalia-specific tRNA deacylase. ATD thus has a “gain of function” in
201 L-chiral activity when compared to DTD due to the switch from Gly-*cis*Pro to Gly-*trans*Pro.
202 Furthermore, biochemical data in conjunction with structural data indicate that ATD’s active site
203 pocket, because of the “additional” space created by the inward movement of the Gly-Pro
204 carbonyl oxygens, can accommodate only small L-amino acids like L-alanine but not the bulkier
205 ones like L-tyrosine.

206 **ATD proofreads tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) mischarged with L-alanine by eukaryotic AlaRS**

207 While we were in the process of identifying the physiological substrate for ATD, a recent study
208 reported that eukaryotic AlaRS has acquired the function of L-alanine mischarging on multiple
209 non-cognate tRNAs harboring G4•U69 wobble base pair in the acceptor stem. One of the tRNAs
210 that undergoes significant levels of such mischarging is tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) (Sun et al., 2016).
211 This is in addition to the canonical recognition of AlaRS-specific universally occurring G3•U70
212 in tRNA^{Ala} (Hou and Schimmel, 1988; McClain and Foss, 1988). Interestingly, such an error
213 in the selection of tRNAs bearing G4•U69 was found only in the case of eukaryotic AlaRS and
214 not the bacterial one (Sun et al., 2016). In this context, therefore, eukaryotic AlaRS can be called
215 non-discriminating AlaRS (AlaRSND), whereas bacterial AlaRS can be referred to as
216 discriminating AlaRS (AlaRS^D). The above finding prompted us to test the role of ATD in
217 proofreading tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) selection error made by eukaryotic AlaRSND. Strikingly,
218 biochemical assays with MmATD showed significantly higher selectivity for the non-cognate L-
219 Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) as the enzyme acts on the substrate at just 1 nM compared to its activity
220 on the cognate L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) at 50 nM (Figure 4A). Thus, MmATD displays a 50-
221 fold difference in biochemical activity on these two substrates, indicating that L-Ala-
222 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is the preferred substrate for ATD.

223 The other non-cognate tRNA that was found to be significantly mischarged by eukaryotic AlaRS
224 was tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) (Sun et al., 2016). We therefore checked ATD's biochemical activity on
225 L-Ala-tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) to test its role in clearing the misacylated species. It was observed that
226 MmATD acts on the substrate at 50 nM concentration (Figure 4—figure supplement 1). Thus,
227 a comparison of biochemical activities of MmATD on different aminoacyl-tRNA substrates
228 suggests that L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is the principal substrate of ATD, whereas L-Ala-

229 tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) may be partly cleared in the cellular context. The latter argument is supported
230 by the observation that in the proteomics study of HeLa cells, misincorporation of L-alanine was
231 observed at cysteine positions but not at threonine positions even though significant misacylation
232 of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) with alanine was observed in *ex vivo* tRNA microarray experiments (**Sun et**
233 **al., 2016**). Nevertheless, this observation is striking, since in humans, the enrichment of G4•U69
234 is significantly more in tRNA^{Thr} genes (20%) than in tRNA^{Cys} genes (3.4%) (**Table S3**).

235 **ATD's biochemical activity is conserved in different organisms**

236 To rule out any organism-specific phenomenon regarding ATD's biochemical activity, we tested
237 ATDs from multiple organisms belonging to different taxonomic groups under Chordata—
238 human (*Homo sapiens*, HsATD) of class Mammalia (mammals), chicken (*Gallus gallus*,
239 GgATD) of class Aves (birds), and zebrafish (*Danio rerio*, DrATD) of class Pisces (fishes). It
240 was observed that all these ATDs can act on L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) more efficiently than on
241 L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) (**Figure 4B–D**). Therefore, not only ATD's activity on the non-cognate
242 substrate but also its ability to discriminate between L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) and L-Thr-
243 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is conserved across diverse classes of Chordata. We then analyzed
244 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) gene sequences from diverse organisms which revealed that the first five base
245 pairs in the acceptor stem are invariant or highly conserved (**Figure 4—figure supplement 2**).
246 As ATD belongs to the DTD-like fold, its interaction with the tRNA is not expected to go
247 beyond the first three or four base pairs in the acceptor stem. Hence, lack of variation in the
248 acceptor stem of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) further suggests that ATD's biochemical activity on L-Ala-
249 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is conserved across diverse taxonomic groups.

250 **EF-Tu protects the cognate L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) but not the non-cognate L-Ala-**
251 **tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) from ATD**

252 Since ATD had shown significant activity on L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69), we checked whether EF-
253 Tu can protect the cognate substrate from ATD. EF-Tu occurs abundantly in the cell and most
254 aminoacyl-tRNAs are expected to exist in complex with EF-Tu, ready for delivery to the
255 ribosome (Ishihama et al., 2008; Li et al., 2014). On the basis of thermodynamic compensation,
256 EF-Tu is expected to bind the non-cognate L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) with significantly lower
257 affinity compared to the cognate L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) (LaRiviere, 2001). Competition
258 assays demonstrated that L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) undergoes significant deacylation with 50 nM
259 MmATD in the presence of EF-Tu (Figure 5A,B). By contrast, L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is
260 completely protected by EF-Tu even at 500 nM enzyme, whereas its protection is marginally
261 relieved at 5 μM MmATD (Figure 5C,D). Hence, the discrimination potential/factor of
262 MmATD for these two substrates enhances from approximately 50-fold in the absence of EF-Tu
263 to more than 100-fold in the presence of EF-Tu (Figure 4A, Figure 5B,D). The above
264 biochemical data clearly suggest that L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is ATD's physiological substrate,
265 and EF-Tu is able to confer adequate protection on the cognate substrate against ATD.

266 **L-alanine mischarging on tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by AlaRSND and ATD have a strict and strong**
267 **correlation**

268 To ascertain whether any correlation exists between ATD and tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69), we performed
269 a thorough bioinformatics analysis. It showed that many Animalia genomes are enriched in
270 G4•U69-containing tRNA genes of which tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes exhibit the highest level of
271 enrichment. The enrichment of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes ranges from 20% to 40% (average
272 ~30%). Such an enrichment of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes is observed throughout phylum Chordata
273 as well as in one organism (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*) from phylum Echinodermata whose
274 tRNA gene sequences are available in the database. The enrichment of G4•U69 is markedly less

275 in other tRNA genes compared to tRNA^{Thr} genes. For example, tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) genes
276 constitute only 0.69–11.9% (average ~5%) of total tRNA^{Cys} genes (**Figure 6A,B, Table S3,**
277 **Data 1**). Additionally, amongst all the G4•U69-containing tRNA genes found in Chordata, only
278 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes occur in all those chordate species whose tRNA gene sequences are
279 available in the database. Other tRNA genes carrying G4•U69 are restricted to only a small
280 subset of organisms. For instance, tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) genes occur in only 19 of 62 chordate
281 species whose tRNA gene sequences are available in the database (**Figure 6C**). The above
282 observations further indicate that L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) constitutes the major substrate of
283 ATD, whereas others including L-Ala-tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) are only minor ones.

284 Strikingly, a survey for the presence of ATD revealed its strict association with the enrichment of
285 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes (**Figure 6A,B**). Remarkably, organisms (*e.g.*, *Drosophila*
286 *melanogaster*) that lack tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes simultaneously lack ATD, including archaea
287 which also seem to possess eukaryotic-type AlaRSND. Although many bacteria possess
288 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes, they lack AlaRSND altogether and hence, the problem of L-alanine
289 misacylation of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) does not arise at all. Thus, the problem of mischarging of
290 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) with L-alanine arises only when tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) is present alongside
291 AlaRSND. Such a strong as well as strict correlation between ATD and the problem of
292 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) mis-selection by AlaRSND, in terms of either concomitant occurrence or
293 concomitant absence, clearly points toward a functional link between ATD and proofreading of
294 error in tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) selection.

295 **DISCUSSION**

296 Overall, our extensive structural and biochemical probing in combination with in-depth *in silico*
297 analysis confirms that ATD serves as a novel and dedicated factor for correcting the
298 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) selection error committed by eukaryotic AlaRSND (**Figure 7**). The *trans*
299 conformation of its active site Gly-Pro motif has led to a “gain of function” by relaxing its
300 substrate chiral specificity. ATD thus rectifies a critical tRNA mis-selection rather than a mistake
301 in amino acid selection by a synthetase that has been extensively studied so far in the context of
302 proofreading (**Dock-Bregeon et al., 2000; Fersht, 1977, 1998; Fukai et al., 2000; Jakubowski**
303 **and Fersht, 1981; Lincecum et al., 2003; Matinis and Boniecki, 2010; Nureki et al., 1998;**
304 **Pauling, 1958; Perona and Gruic-Sovulj, 2014; Silvian et al., 1999; Yadavalli and Ibba,**
305 **2012**). Such an error correction capability has not been attributed to any of the known editing
306 domains, although ambiguous tRNA selection happens in several instances, wherein the
307 ambiguity imparts selective advantage to the system (**Figure 7**) (**Schwartz and Pan, 2017;**
308 **Shepherd and Ibba, 2014**). Besides, it also suggests that the evolutionary gain of function by
309 AlaRSND in charging G4•U69-bearing tRNAs with L-alanine may be advantageous, but may also
310 require factors like ATD to keep such “errors” below precarious levels, thus avoiding global
311 misfolding and cell death.

312 The role of ATD in Animalia to specifically prevent, minimize or regulate substitution of L-
313 alanine for L-threonine in proteins may be crucial. It is tempting to speculate that threonine-to-
314 alanine mutations will modulate a diverse array of phosphorylation sites on proteins, thereby
315 causing a drastic modification of the cellular phosphoproteome. The regulatory function, if any,
316 of ATD in generating such proteome diversity, thereby providing selective advantage to a cell or
317 tissue type and under specific conditions such as pathogenesis or immune response, needs to be
318 explored through up/down-regulation as well as by using knockout approaches in multiple

319 systems. It has been recently suggested that the size of tRNA limits the identity determinants
320 required for faithful translation without cross-reacting with non-cognate synthetases (**Saint-**
321 **Léger et al., 2016**). As has been noted in the current work, the expansion of genome size (from
322 around 100 million base pairs in non-Chordata to >1 billion base pairs in Chordata) has led to
323 such a cross-reactivity and enhancement in tRNA mis-selection, thereby necessitating
324 recruitment of dedicated factors for error correction (**Figure 6B**). Identification of ATD in the
325 present study provides the first instance of such a scenario. The advent of ATD thus marks a key
326 event associated with the appearance of Animalia, and more specifically of Chordata about 500
327 million years ago, to ensure translational quality control.

328 **Materials and Methods**

329 **Cloning, expression and purification**

330 The genes encoding ATDs and *M. musculus* ThrRS(Δ NTD) (residue 320–721) were PCR-
331 amplified from respective cDNAs and inserted into pET-28b vector using restriction-free cloning
332 (**van den Ent and Löwe, 2006**). To generate C-terminal 6X His-tagged protein, the stop codon
333 was removed from the reverse primer. *M. musculus* full-length AlaRS gene was PCR-amplified
334 from mouse cDNA and inserted into pET-28b vector between *NdeI* and *XhoI* sites using
335 conventional restriction-based cloning. The recombinant proteins were overexpressed in
336 RosettaTM(DE3) strain of *E. coli*. Purification of His-tagged proteins (ATDs, AlaRS and ThrRS)
337 was done using a two-step protocol, *i.e.*, Ni-NTA affinity chromatography followed by size
338 exclusion chromatography (SEC). The storage buffer for ATDs contained 100 mM Tris (pH 8.0)
339 and 200 mM NaCl, while that for AlaRS and ThrRS comprised 50 mM Tris (pH 8.0), 150 mM
340 NaCl and 5 mM 2-mercaptoethanol (β -ME). Un-tagged MmATD was purified using cation
341 exchange chromatography (CEC) followed by SEC. For CEC, ATD-overexpressed *E. coli* cell
342 pellet was lysed in a buffer containing 50 mM Bis-Tris (pH 6.5) and 20 mM NaCl, and the
343 supernatant was subjected to chromatographic separation using sulfopropyl sepharose (GE
344 Healthcare Life Sciences, USA). The protein of interest was eluted using a NaCl gradient of 20
345 mM to 500 mM. For SEC, Superdex 75 column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, USA) was used.

346 **Crystallization of MmATD**

347 The purified un-tagged MmATD was screened for crystallization conditions using different
348 screens (Index, Crystal Screen HT, PEG/Ion and PEGRx from Hampton Research, USA) at two
349 different temperatures—4°C and 20°C. Mosquito Crystal (TTP LabTech, UK) crystallization

350 robot was used to set up crystallization experiments using sitting-drop vapor diffusion method by
351 mixing 1 μ l protein and 1 μ l reservoir buffer in a 96-well MRC plate with three sub-wells
352 (Molecular Dimensions, UK). The initial hits from the screens were further expanded for
353 optimization using sitting-drop vapor diffusion method in 96-well format MRC plates having
354 three sub-wells. Reservoir buffer with 0.1 M Bicine (pH 8.0) and 15% PEG1500 yielded good
355 diffraction-quality crystals.

356 **X-ray diffraction data collection, structure solution and refinement**

357 In-house X-ray facility consisting of RigakuMicromax007 HF with rotating-anode generator and
358 MAR345-dtb image plate detector was used for crystal screening and data collection at 100 K
359 using an Oxford Cryostreamcooler (Oxford Cryosystems, UK). The wavelength of X-rays used
360 was 1.5418 Å, corresponding to Cu K α radiation. HKL2000 (Otwinowski and Minor, 1997)
361 was used for data processing and MOLREP-AUTO MR from CCP4 suite (CCP4, 1994) for
362 molecular replacement. PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI), with the ligand removed, was used as the search
363 model for molecular replacement. Refinement and model building were done using
364 REFMAC (Murshudov et al., 1997) and COOT (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004), respectively.
365 Structure validation was done using PROCHECK (Laskowski et al., 1993). PyMOL Molecular
366 Graphics System, Version 1.7.6.0 Schrödinger, LLC was used to generate figures. Structure-
367 based multiple sequence alignment was carried out using the T-Coffee server in Espresso mode
368 (<http://tcoffee.org.cat/apps/tcoffee/do:espresso>), and the corresponding figure was generated
369 using ESPript 3.0 (<http://esript.ibcp.fr/ESPript/cgi-bin/ESPript.cgi>). The atomic coordinates of
370 MmATD crystal structure have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank with accession code
371 5XAQ.

372 ***In vitro* biochemical experiments**

373 tRNAs (*M. musculus* tRNA^{Gly}, tRNA^{Ala}, tRNA^{Thr}(G4●U69) and *E. coli* tRNA^{Tyr}) were generated
374 by *in vitro* transcription of the corresponding tRNA genes using MEGAshortscript T7
375 Transcription Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). tRNAs were end-labeled with [α -³²P] ATP
376 (BRIT-Jonaki, India) using CCA-adding enzyme (**Ledoux and Uhlenbeck, 2008**). Glycylation
377 of tRNA^{Gly} was done by incubating 1 μ M tRNA^{Gly} with 2 μ M *Thermus thermophilus* GlyRS in a
378 buffer containing 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 10 mM KCl, 30 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM glycine and 2
379 mM ATP at 37°C for 15 min. Alanylation of tRNA^{Ala} and tRNA^{Thr}(G4●U69) was performed by
380 incubating 1 μ M tRNA^{Ala} and 10 μ M tRNA^{Thr}(G4●U69) with 8 μ M *M. musculus* AlaRS in a
381 solution composed of 100 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 30 mM KCl, 100 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM ATP, 10
382 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 1 unit/ml of PPase enzyme (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) and 100
383 mM L-alanine at 37°C for 15 min. Threonylation of tRNA^{Thr}(G4●U69) was carried out by
384 incubating 1 μ M tRNA^{Thr}(G4●U69) and *M. musculus* ThrRS(Δ NTD) in a buffer comprising 100
385 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 100 mM MgCl₂, 300 mM KCl, 45 mM L-threonine, 2.5 mM DTT and 2
386 mM ATP at 37°C for 15 min. tRNA^{Tyr} was aminoacylated by *E. coli* TyrRS as described in
387 **Ahmad et al., 2013**. *T. thermophilus* EF-Tu activation and protection assays were done using the
388 protocol as described in **Routh et al., 2016**. Deacylation assays were carried out in conditions as
389 described in **Ahmad et al., 2013** and EF-Tu rescue experiments as described in **Routh et al.,**
390 **2016**. All the experiments were performed in triplicates, and the mean values were used to plot
391 the graphs. Error bars denote one standard deviation from the mean of three independent
392 readings.

393 **Bioinformatic analysis**

394 Protein sequences were retrieved from NCBI and were subjected to phylogenetic tree
395 construction using the web server <http://www.phylogeny.fr/> (bootstrap number = 100) and iTOL

396 web server <http://itol.embl.de/>. tRNA gene sequences were retrieved from GtRNADB and
397 sequences having tRNAscan-SE score >50 were used for analysis (<http://gtrnadb.ucsc.edu/>). The
398 list of organisms whose genomes have been completely sequenced was obtained from KEGG
399 GENOME database (<http://www.genome.jp/kegg/genome.html>). Information about genome size
400 was taken from the web server <http://www.bionumbers.hms.harvard.edu/default.aspx>. Multiple
401 sequence alignment of tRNA^{Thr} and tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) was prepared using T-Coffee server in M-
402 Coffee mode (<http://tcoffee.crg.cat/apps/tcoffee/do:mcoffee>), while consensus sequence logo was
403 prepared using WebLogo server (<http://weblogo.berkeley.edu/logo.cgi>).

404 **Movie preparation**

405 The two conformations/states, one of PfDTD (initial state; PDB id: 4NBI) and the other of
406 MmATD, were morphed using UCSF Chimera software (**Pettersen et al., 2004**). Movie was
407 then prepared using PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 1.7.6.0 Schrödinger, LLC.

408

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416

417 **Competing interests**

418 The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

419

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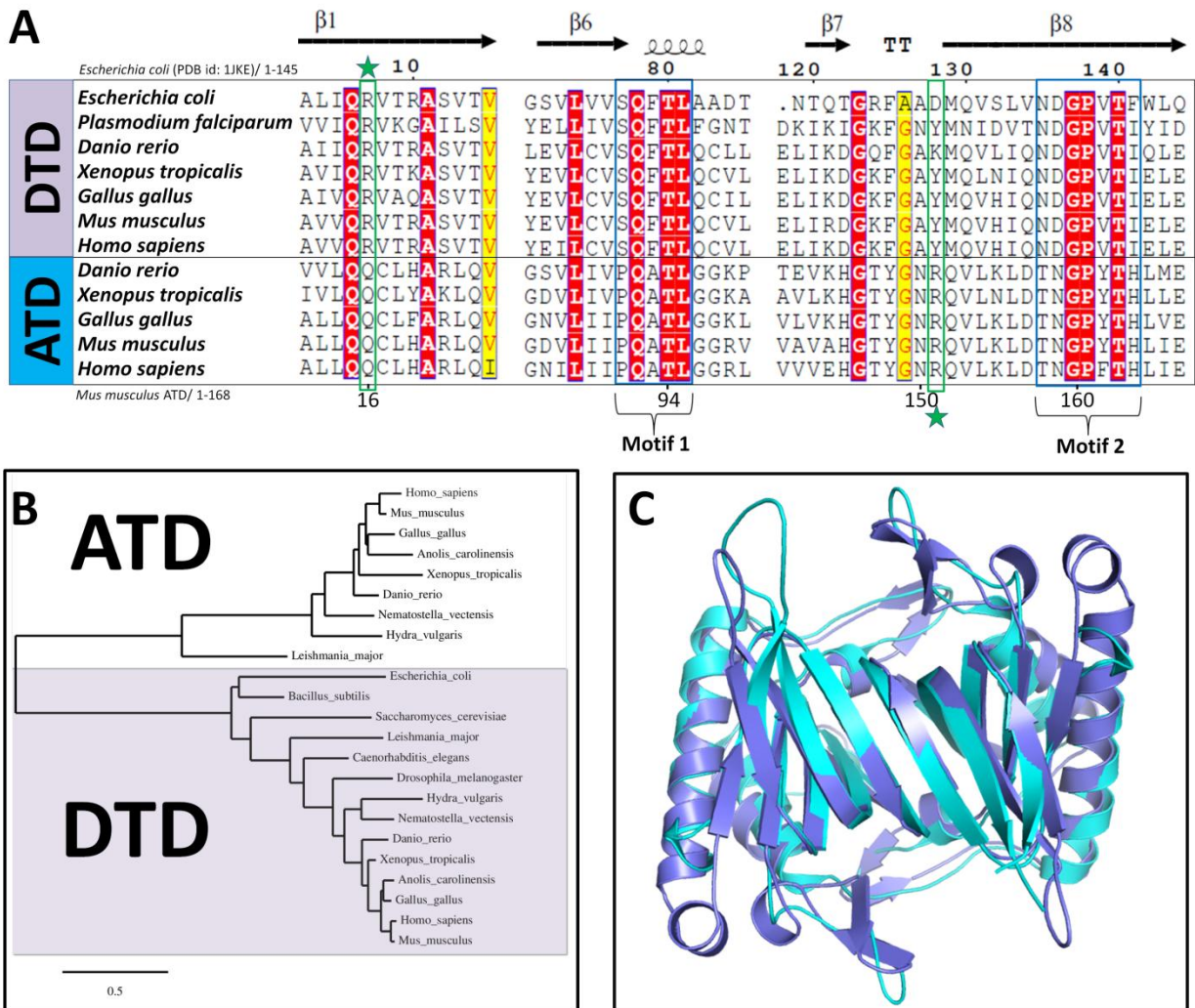
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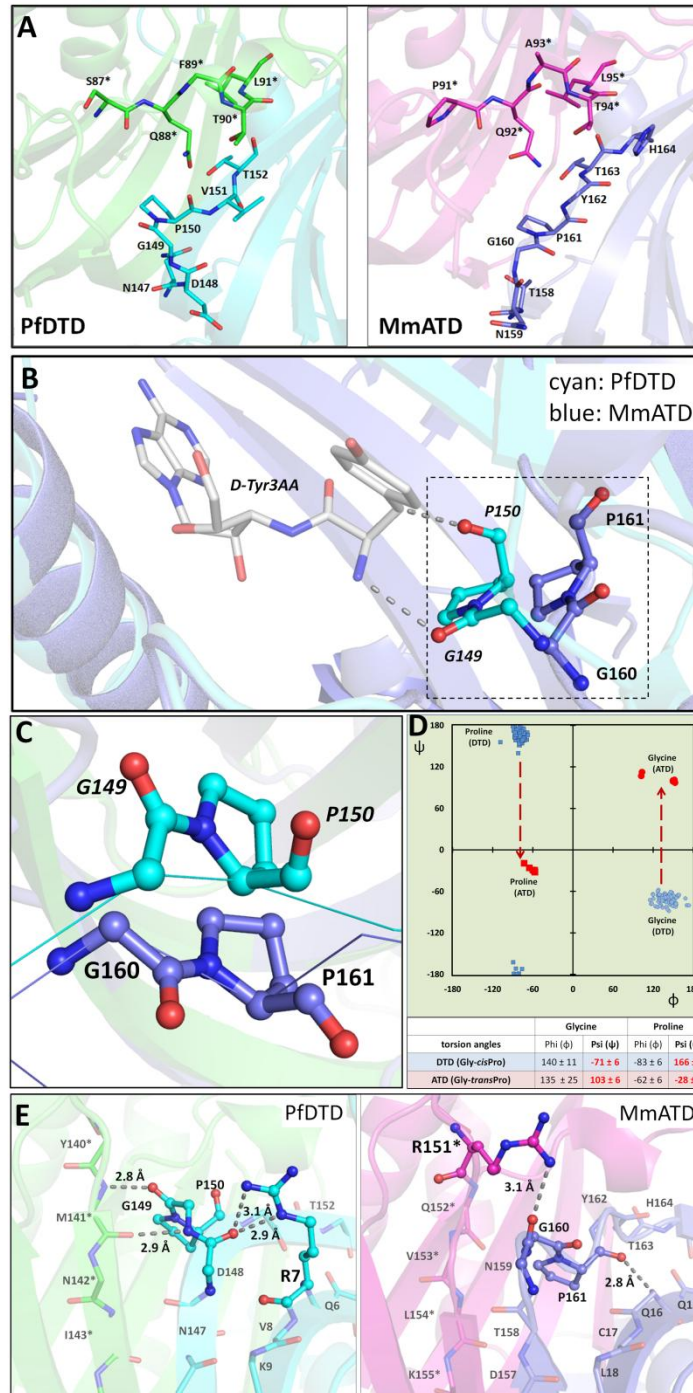
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651 **Figures**



652

653 **Figure 1. ATD is a variant of DTD.** (A) Multiple sequence alignment showing similar but
 654 distinct and characteristic sequence motifs in DTD and ATD (motifs 1 and 2). The highly
 655 conserved arginine in DTD (Arg7, EcDTD) is indicated by a star above, whereas the invariant
 656 arginine in ATD (Arg151, MmATD) is highlighted by a star below. (B) Phylogenetic
 657 classification of DTD and ATD showing their grouping into two separate categories. (C) Crystal
 658 structure of MmATD homodimer (blue) superimposed on that of PfDTD homodimer (cyan; PDB
 659 id: 4NBI).

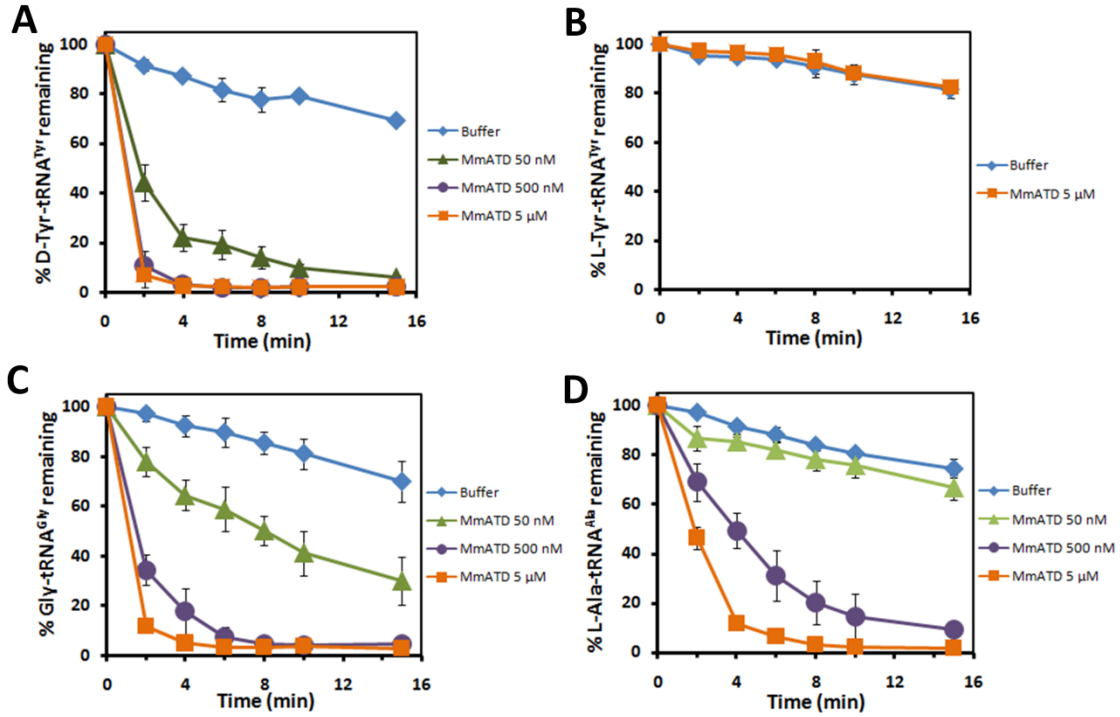


660

661 **Figure 2. ATD has distinct active site elements/features as compared to DTD's.** (A) Crystal
 662 structures of PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI) and MmATD showing that motifs 1 and 2 form the active
 663 site at the dimeric interface in both. (B) Comparison between Gly-transPro motif in MmATD
 664 and Gly-cisPro motif in PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI) after structural superposition of the two

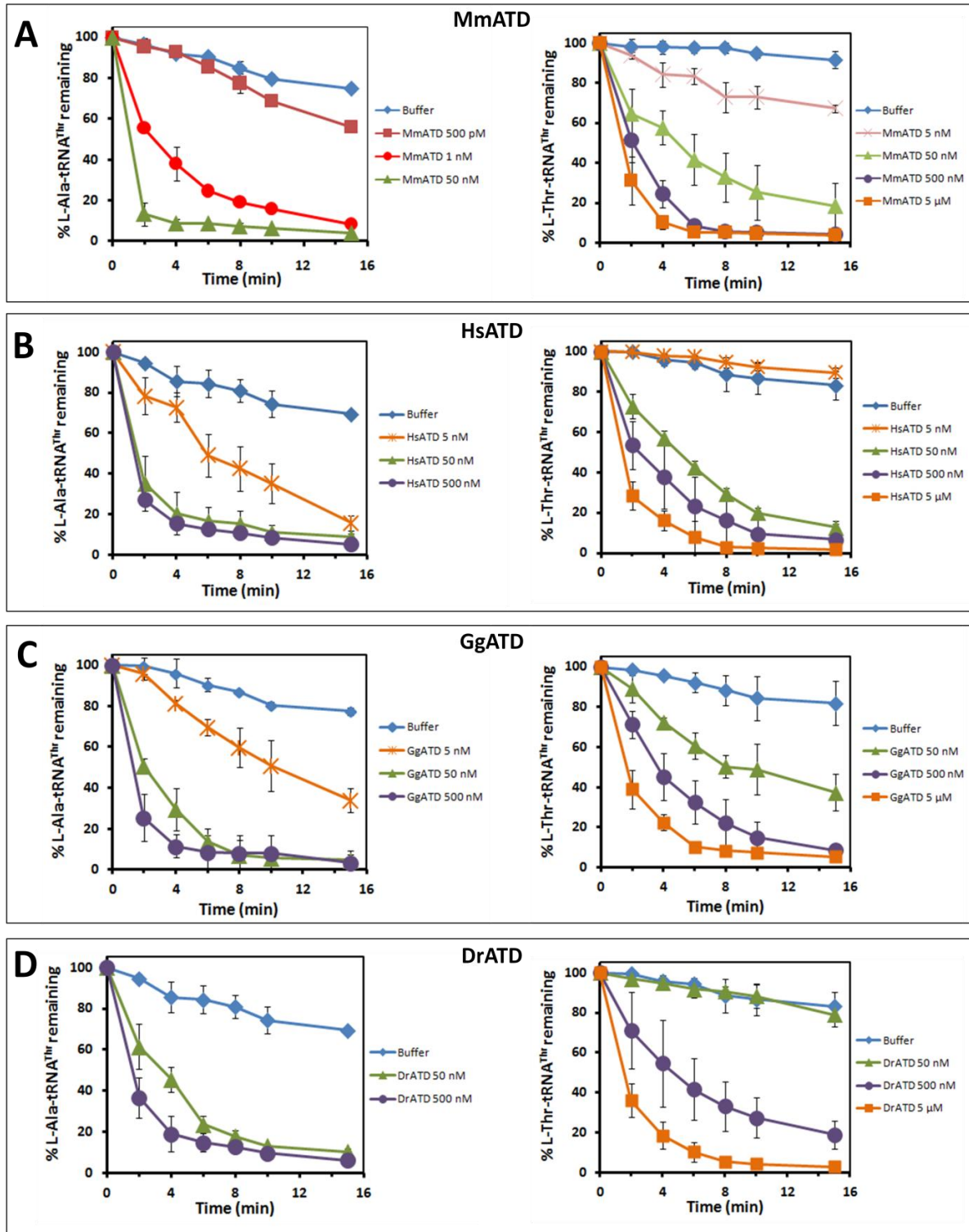
665 proteins. **(C)** The comparison shown in **(B)** depicted from a different angle, highlighting the
666 opposite orientation of Gly-Pro carbonyl oxygens of the two proteins. **(D)** Ramachandran plot of
667 glycine and proline residues of the Gly-Pro motif of all the available crystal structures of DTD
668 (blue) and ATD (red), highlighting the change of $\sim 180^\circ$ in the ψ torsion angle. **(E)** Interaction of
669 the side chain of Arg7 with the Gly-*cis*Pro motif of the same monomer in PfDTD (PDB id:
670 4NBI), and of the side chain of Arg151 with the Gly-*trans*Pro motif of the dimeric counterpart in
671 MmATD. Residues from the dimeric counterpart are indicated by *.

672



673

674 **Figure 3. ATD displays relaxation of substrate chiral specificity. (A–D)** Deacylation of D-
675 Tyr-tRNA^{Tyr}, L-Tyr-tRNA^{Tyr}, Gly-tRNA^{Gly} and L-Ala-tRNA^{Ala} by different concentrations of
676 MmATD. Error bars denote one standard deviation from the mean of three independent readings.



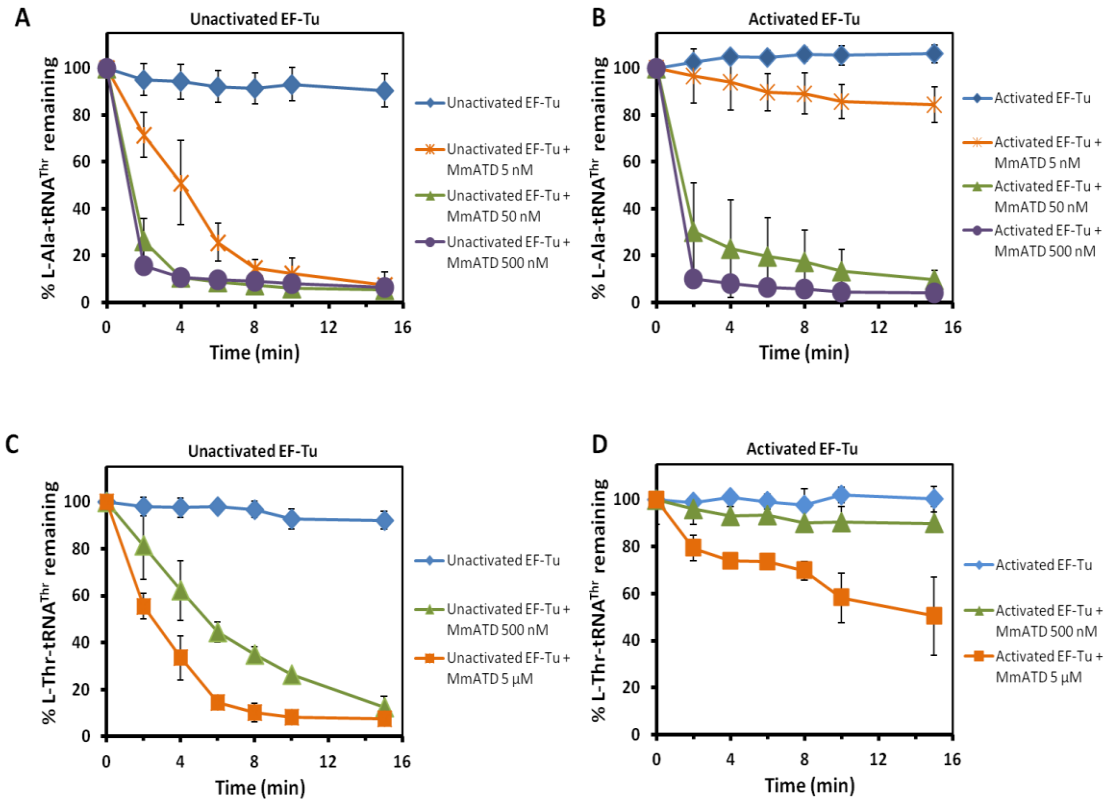
677

678 **Figure 4. Proofreading of L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by ATD is conserved across organisms.**

679 Deacylation of L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) and L-Thr-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by different

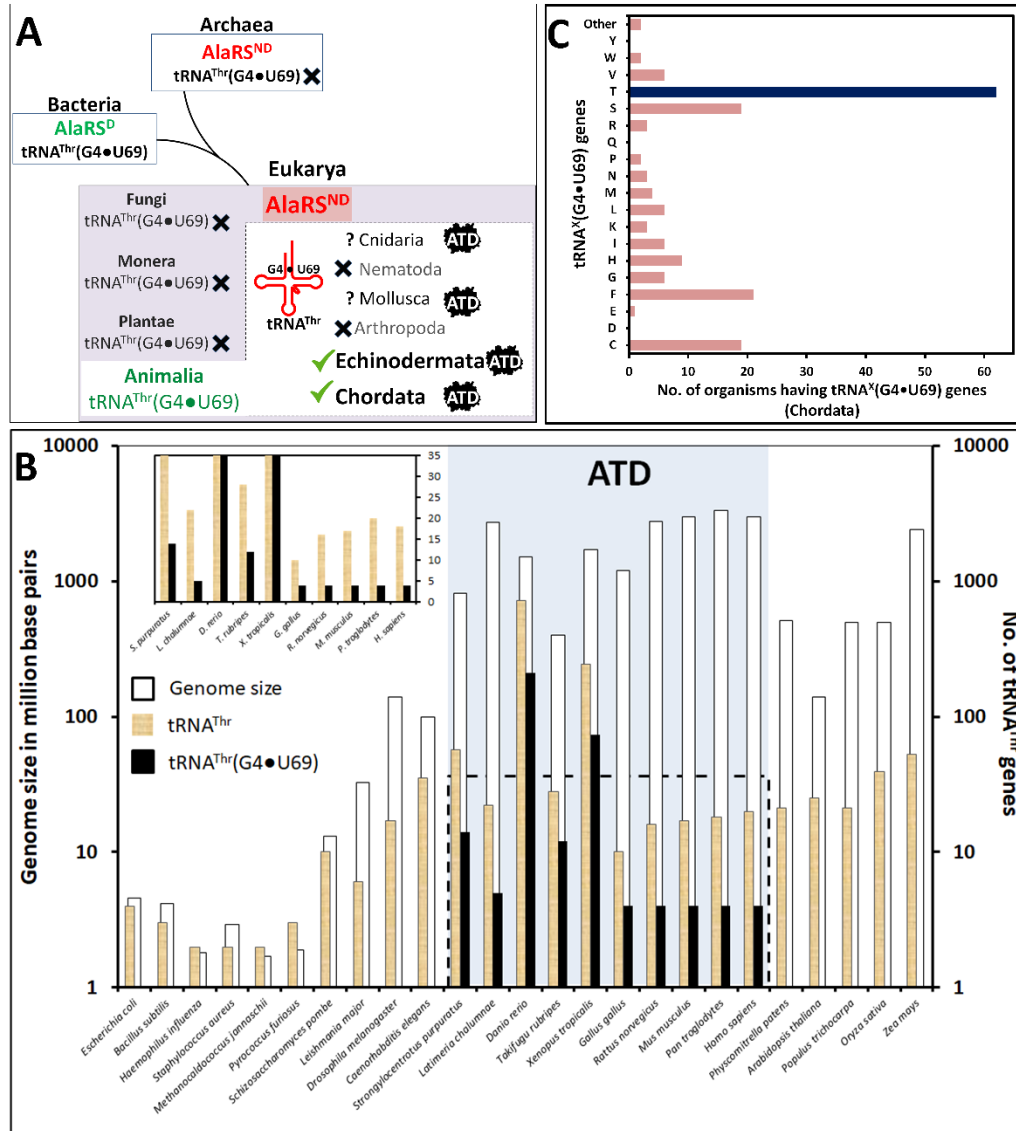
680 concentrations of **(A)** MmATD, **(B)** HsATD, **(C)** GgATD, and **(D)** DrATD. Error bars denote
681 one standard deviation from the mean of three independent readings.

682



683

684 **Figure 5. EF-Tu does not confer protection on the non-cognate L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69)**
685 **against ATD.** Deacylation of L-Ala-tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by different concentrations of MmATD
686 in the presence of (A) unactivated EF-Tu, and (B) activated EF-Tu. Deacylation of L-Thr-
687 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) by different concentrations of MmATD in the presence of (C) unactivated EF-
688 Tu, and (D) activated EF-Tu. Error bars denote one standard deviation from the mean of three
689 independent readings.



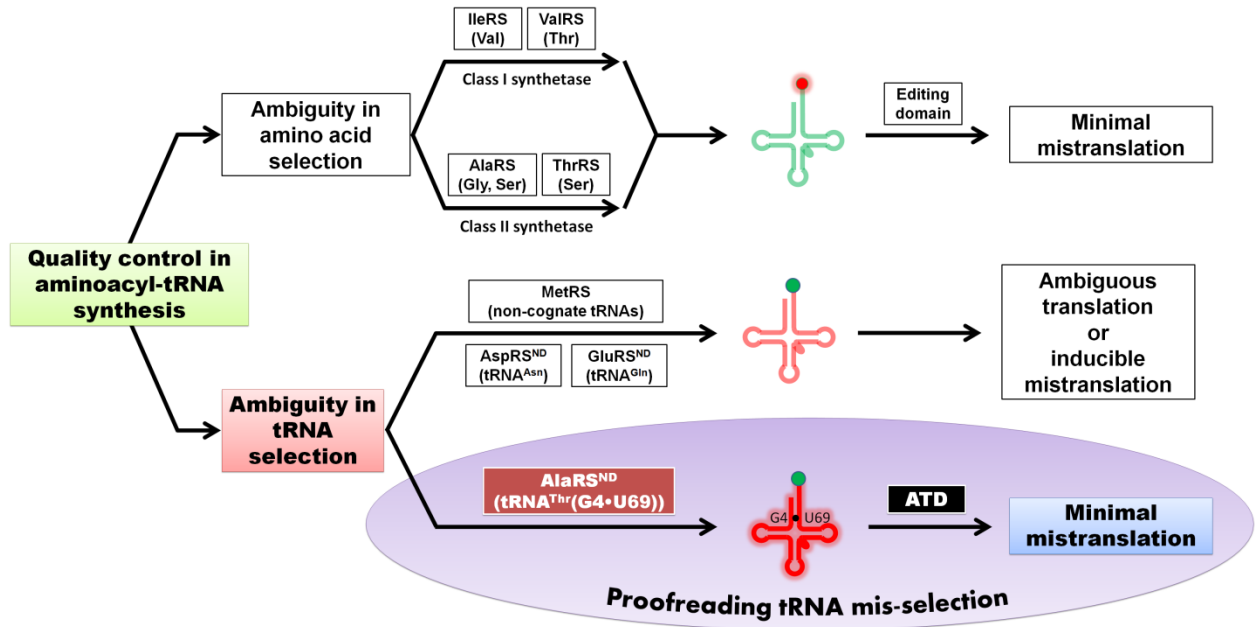
690

691 **Figure 6. Enrichment of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes and presence of ATD show strict**
 692 **association.** (A) Distribution of AlaRSND, tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes, and ATD in different
 693 domains of life. tRNA gene sequences of Cnidaria and Mollusca are not available in the
 694 database. (B) Bar graph (logarithmic scale) depicting genome size, total number of tRNA^{Thr}
 695 genes, and number of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes occurring in representative organisms belonging
 696 to all the three domains of life. Inset showing the number of total tRNA^{Thr} genes and
 697 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes in normal scale; genome size has not been shown for the sake of clarity.

698 Presence of ATD is highlighted in light blue box. Data for occurrence of AlaRSND and
699 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes have been taken from **Sun et al., 2016**. (C) Bar graph showing the
700 number of organisms containing (G4•U69)-harboring tRNA genes which code for tRNAs
701 specific for various proteinogenic amino acids.

702

703



704

705 **Figure 7. ATD is a unique and dedicated proofreading factor that rectifies a critical tRNA**
706 **selection error.** Model for mis-selection and consequent misacylation of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) with
707 L-alanine by AlaRSND, and its subsequent proofreading by ATD. Cognate and non-cognate
708 tRNAs (clover leaf model) are colored in green and red, respectively. Likewise, cognate and
709 non-cognate amino acids (circle) are rendered in green and red, respectively.

710

711 **Supplementary figures and tables**

LmDTD	100													
HvDTD	37	100												
DrDTD	47	55	100											
XlDTD	47	56	77	100										
GgDTD	48	55	79	83	100									
MmDTD	49	57	77	80	89	100								
HsDTD	48	54	76	81	88	95	100							
LmATD	16	23	18	23	21	21	21	100						
HvATD	17	26	19	24	20	19	21	38	100					
DrATD	18	25	22	26	23	22	22	34	51	100				
XlATD	19	22	23	25	23	23	23	30	48	64	100			
GgATD	21	23	25	26	27	24	24	29	45	61	56	100		
MmATD	20	23	23	27	27	24	24	32	51	68	63	66	100	
HsATD	18	23	22	24	24	23	24	30	49	66	65	68	85	100
	LmDTD	HvDTD	DrDTD	XlDTD	GgDTD	MmDTD	HsDTD	LmATD	HvATD	DrATD	XlATD	GgATD	MmATD	HsATD

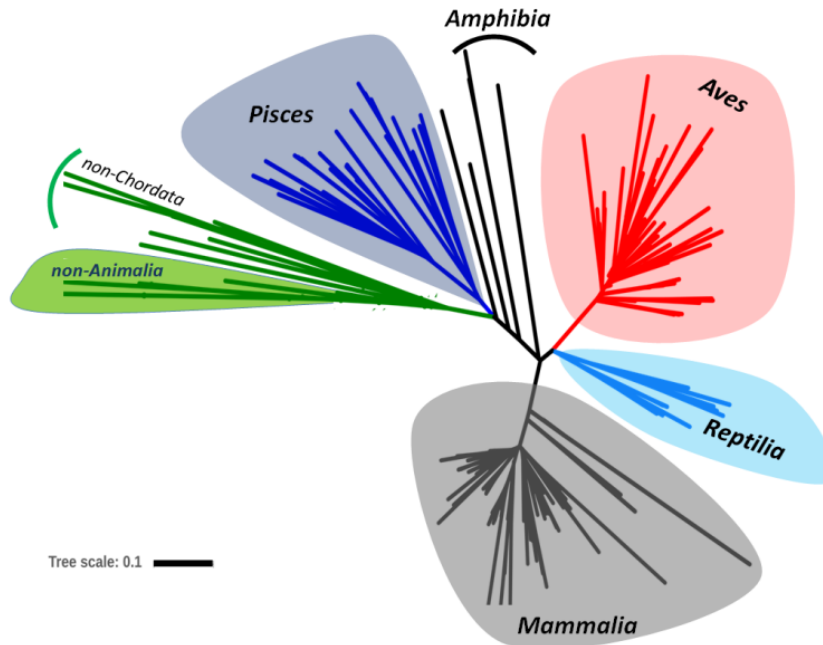
712

713 **Figure 1—figure supplement 1. DTD and ATD show less than 30% sequence identity.**

714 Matrix showing percentage identities between DTDs, between ATDs as well as between DTDs

715 and ATDs belonging to representative organisms. Lm, *Leishmania major*; Hv, *Hydra vulgaris*;

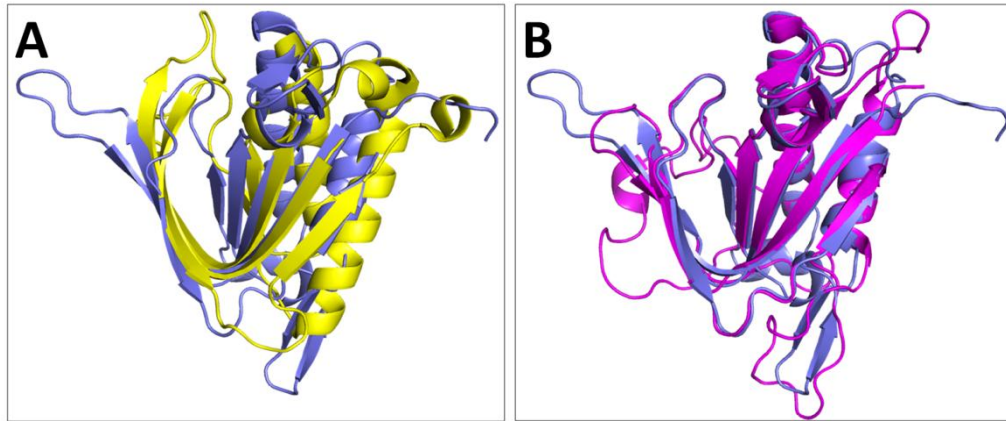
716 Dr, *Danio rerio*; Xl, *Xenopus laevis*; Gg, *Gallus gallus*; Mm, *Mus musculus*; Hs, *Homo sapiens*.



717

718 **Figure 1—figure supplement 2. ATD exhibits exclusive distribution in kingdom Animalia.**

719 Phylogenetic analysis depicting the presence of ATD mainly in kingdom Animalia, and more
720 specifically in phylum Chordata, which comprises Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves and
721 Mammalia. The few non-Animalia that harbor ATD are mostly parasites of various chordates,
722 hence the possibility of horizontal transfer of ATD gene.



723

724 **Figure 1—figure supplement 3. ATD and NTD are structural homologs belonging to the**
725 **DTD-like fold. (A)** Structural overlap of MmATD monomer (blue) on PabNTD monomer
726 (yellow; PDB id: 3PD3) (r.m.s.d., 3.34 Å over 77 C α atoms) showing that the two belong to the
727 same fold. **(B)** Structural overlap of MmATD monomer (blue) on LmATD monomer (magenta;
728 PDB id: 1TC5) (r.m.s.d., 1.29 Å over 148 C α atoms).

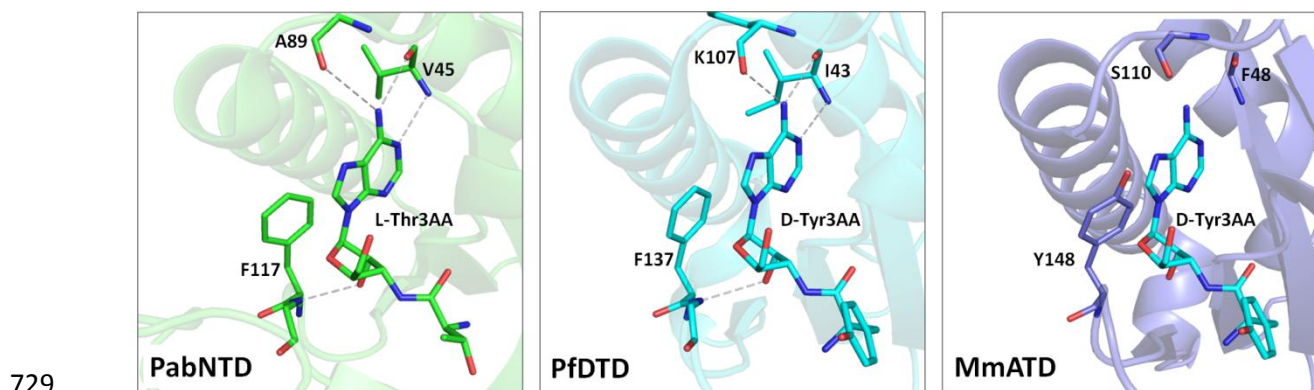
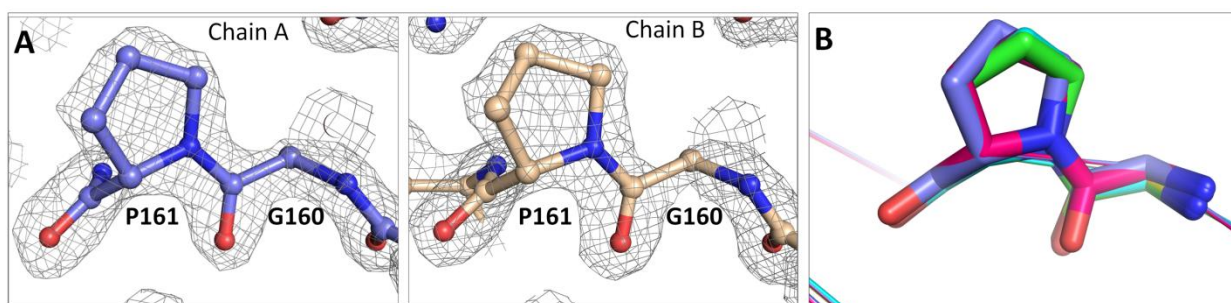
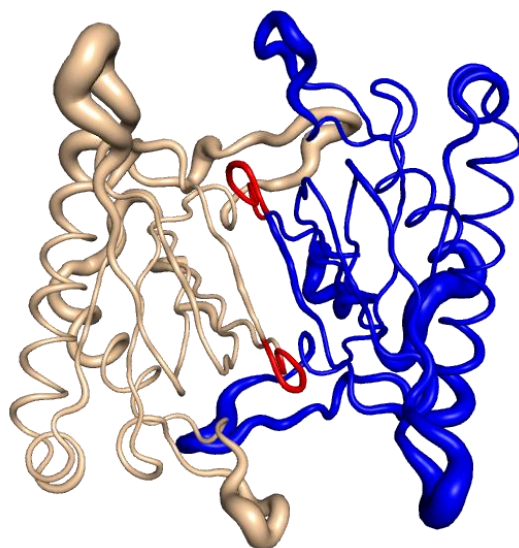


Figure 2—figure supplement 1. The adenine-binding pocket is conserved in the DTD-like fold. The elements of adenine-binding pocket of the DTD-like fold, encompassing NTD, DTD and ATD, are conserved. The ligand D-tyrosyl-3'-aminoadenosine (D-Tyr3AA) in MmATD has been modeled on the basis of structural overlap of MmATD on PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI). The PDB id for PabNTD is 3PD3.



736

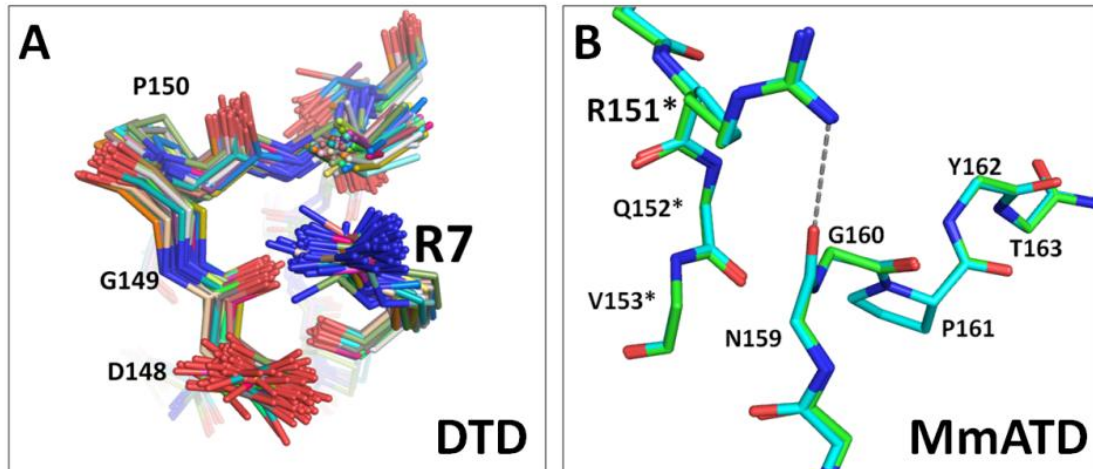
737 **Figure 2—figure supplement 2. ATD has an active site Gly-*trans*Pro motif.** (A) $(2F_o - F_c)$
738 map, contoured at 2σ , showing clean density for the Gly-*trans*Pro motif of both protomers
739 present in the asymmetric unit of MmATD crystal structure. (B) Structural superposition of
740 LmATD protomers (cyan, green, purple and yellow; PDB id: 1TC5) on MmATD protomers
741 (blue and magenta) highlighting the *trans* conformation of the active site Gly-Pro motif in both
742 proteins.



743

744 **Figure 2—figure supplement 3. Atomic B-factor analysis of MmATD shows rigidity of Gly-**
745 **transPro motif.** Backbone representation of MmATD showing the variation in atomic B-factor.
746 Regions represented as thin lines are more rigid and therefore have low B-factor values, whereas
747 those depicted as thick lines are more flexible and thus have higher values. The atomic B-factor
748 for the structure lies in the range 18–62 Å². Regions depicted in red represent glycine and proline
749 residues of the Gly-*trans*Pro motif, whose average B-factor is 24 Å² (B-factor of protein is 31
750 Å²). This value is similar to that of PfDTD (B-factors of Gly-*cis*Pro motif and protein are 25 Å²
751 and 29 Å², respectively; PDB id: 4NBI), showing that the Gly-*trans*Pro motif in ATD is rigidly
752 fixed like the Gly-*cis*Pro motif in DTD. The two monomers of ATD homodimer have been
753 rendered in different colours.

754



755

756 **Figure 2—figure supplement 4. An arginine is involved in the rigid fixation of Gly-Pro**

757 **motifs in DTD and ATD. (A)** Structural superposition of 107 protomers of DTD from 19 PDBs

758 and 5 different organisms showing rigid fixation of Gly-*cis*Pro motif by a conserved interaction

759 with the side chain of a highly conserved arginine (Arg7, PfDTD) from the same monomer.

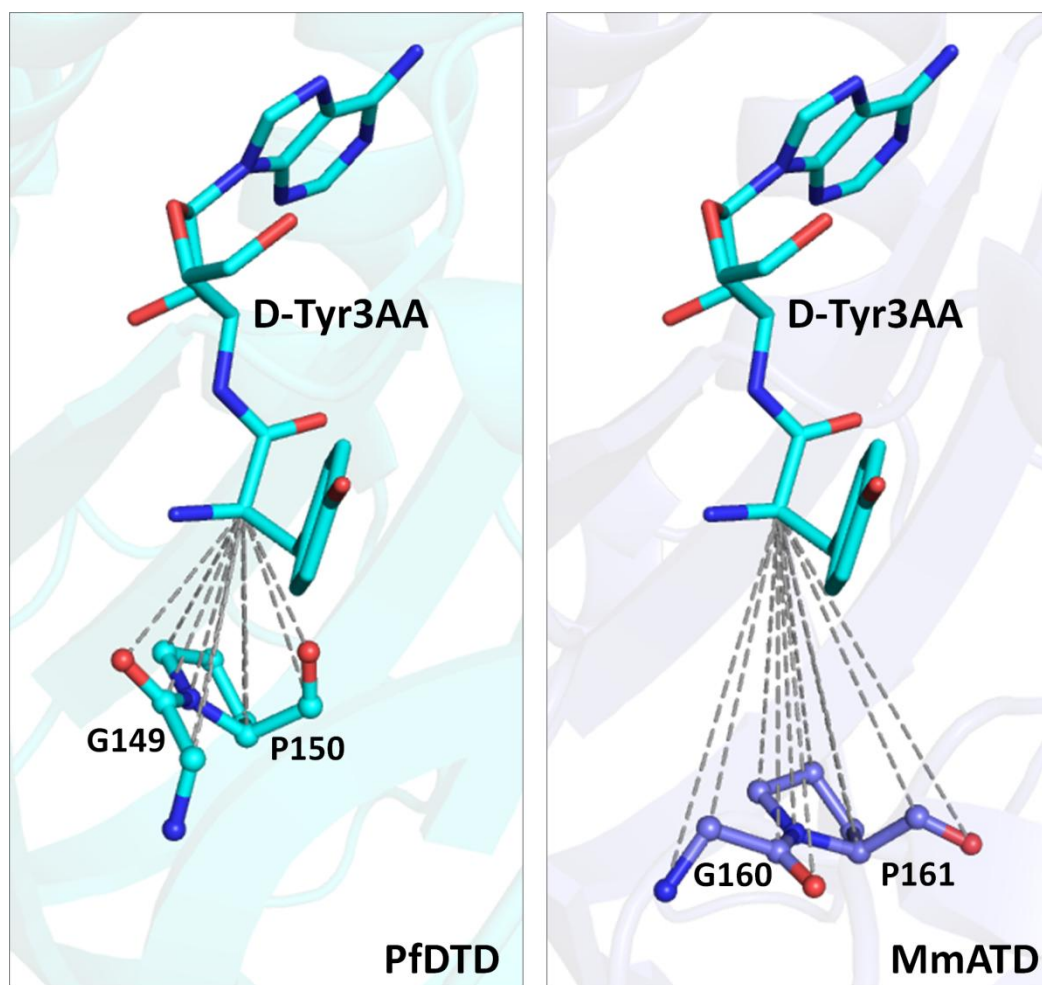
760 Numbering of residues is according to PfDTD. **(B)** Structural overlap of the two protomers of

761 MmATD showing that Gly-*trans*Pro motif in ATD is firmly fixed by a conserved interaction

762 with the side chain of an invariant arginine (Arg151). Residues from the dimeric counterpart are

763 indicated by *.

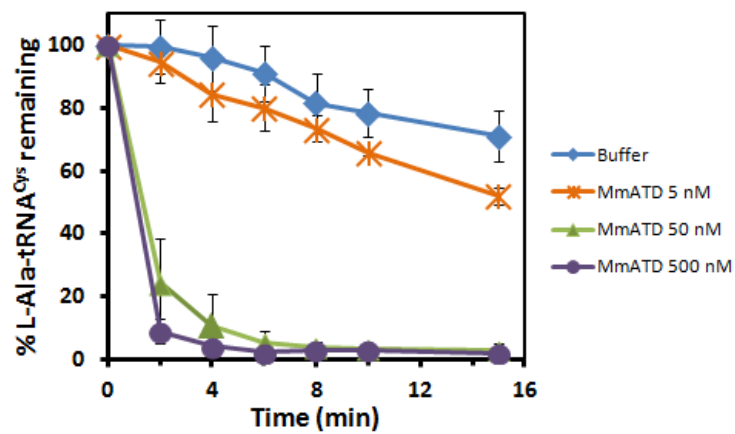
764



765

766 **Figure 2—figure supplement 5. ATD has “additional” space in its active site pocket**
767 **compared to DTD.** Comparison between active site pockets of PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI) and
768 MmATD showing “additional” space in the latter due to the inward movement of Gly-Pro
769 carbonyl oxygens. For MmATD, the ligand was modeled in the active site after superposition of
770 MmATD dimer on PfDTD dimer.

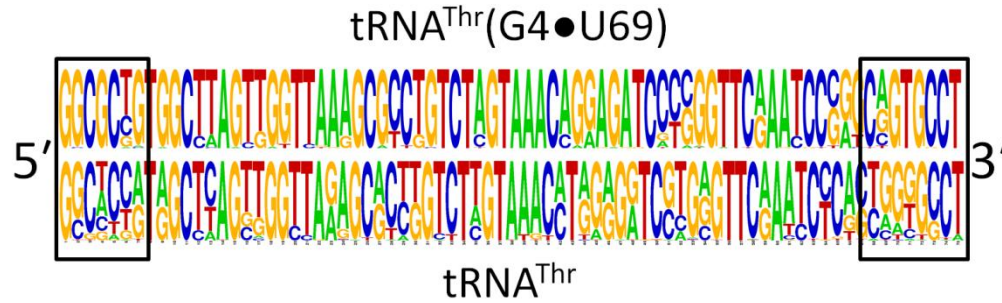
771



772

773 **Figure 4—figure supplement 1. ATD can also act on L-Ala-tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69). Deacylation**

774 of L-Ala-tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) by different concentrations of MmATD.



775

776 **Figure 4—figure supplement 2. Acceptor stem elements of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes are**
777 **highly conserved.** Consensus sequence showing significantly higher conservation of acceptor
778 stem residues (enclosed in boxes) in tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes than in non-G4•U69-containing
779 tRNA^{Thr} genes. The gene sequences taken for analysis belong to the following representative
780 organisms: *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*, *Latimeria chalumnae*, *G. gallus*, *M. musculus*, *H.*
781 *sapiens*.

782 **Table S1. Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics**

MmATD	
Data Collection	
Space group	$P2_12_12_1$
Cell dimensions:	
a (Å)	43.37
b (Å)	75.35
c (Å)	103.61
Resolution range (Å)*	50–1.86 (1.93–1.86)
Total Observations	166914
Unique reflections	29268 (1473)
Completeness (%)	89.5 (51.2)
R_{merge} (%)	7.6 (38.0)
$\langle I/(\sigma)I \rangle$	21.8 (2.4)
Redundancy	6.4 (3.7)
Data refinement	
Resolution (Å)	1.86
No. of reflections	24840
R_{work} (%)	20.35
R_{free} (%)**	24.96
Monomers / a.u.	2
No. of residues	325
No. of atoms	2721
Protein	2502
Water	219
R.m.s. deviation	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.018
Bond angles (°)	2.040
Mean B value (Å ²)	
Protein	31.28
Water	35.59

783 *Values in parentheses are for the highest resolution shell.

784 **Throughout the refinement, 5% of the total reflections were held aside for R_{free} .

785

786 **Table S2. “Additional” space in ATD’s active site pocket.** Comparison of distances between
 787 atoms of Gly-Pro residues and C α of the ligand D-Tyr3AA for PfDTD (PDB id: 4NBI) and
 788 MmATD[†].

Gly- <i>cis</i> Pro (PfDTD)	Distance in Å (DTD)		Atom	Distance in Å (ATD)		Gly- <i>trans</i> Pro (MmATD [†])
	Monomer			Monomer		
	A	B		A	B	
Gly149	6.5	6.3	N	7.7	7.8	Gly160
	5.1	4.9	C α	6.4	6.5	
	4.2	4.1	C'	6.7	6.9	
	3.8	3.7	O	7.3	7.4	
Pro150	4.3	4.3	N	6.8	7.0	Pro161
	5.1	5.1	C α	7.7	7.8	
	4.6	4.5	C'	7.2	7.2	
	3.4	3.3	O	8.1	8.2	
	5.7	5.8	C β	8.3	8.3	
	4.9	5.2	C γ	7.5	7.2	
	4.3	4.4	C δ	6.8	6.8	

789 [†] For MmATD, the distances were calculated by modelling the ligand in the active site after
 790 superposition of MmATD dimer on PfDTD dimer.

791 **Table S3. Comparative analysis of enrichment of tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes and**
 792 **tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) genes in representative organisms. Relative abundance of**
 793 **tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes and tRNA^{Cys}(G4•U69) genes in representative organisms.**

Organism	tRNA ^{Thr} genes			tRNA ^{Cys} genes		
	Total	G4•U69	%	Total	G4•U69	%
<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*</i>	57	14	24.6	31	0	0
<i>Latimeria chalumnae</i>	22	5	22.7	21	2	10
<i>Danio rerio</i>	722	209	28.9	144	1	0.7
<i>Takifugu rubripes</i>	28	12	42.9	12	0	0
<i>Xenopus tropicalis</i>	245	74	30.2	83	2	2.4
<i>Gallus gallus</i>	10	4	40.0	10	0	0
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	16	4	25.0	40	0	0
<i>Mus musculus</i>	17	4	23.5	57	1	1.8
<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	18	4	22.2	27	0	0
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	20	4	20.0	29	1	3.4

794 * *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* is the only organism known so far that does not belong to
 795 phylum Chordata (it belongs to phylum Echinodermata) but shows enrichment of
 796 tRNA^{Thr}(G4•U69) genes.

797

798 **Movie 1. The flip from Gly-*cis*Pro in DTD to Gly-*trans*Pro in ATD.** Movie depicting the
799 remodeling of the local network of interactions due to *cis*-to-*trans* switch.

800

801 **Data 1. List of organisms whose genomes have been sequenced, highlighting the presence**
802 **or absence of ATD.**