

1 The ChiS family DNA-binding domain contains a cryptic helix-turn- 2 helix variant

3
4 Catherine A. Klancher¹, George Minasov^{2,3}, Ram Podicheti⁴, Douglas B. Rusch⁴, Triana
5 N. Dalia¹, Karla J. F. Satchell^{2,3}, Matthew B. Neiditch⁵, Ankur B. Dalia^{1,*}

6
7 ¹Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

8 ²Department of Microbiology-Immunology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern
9 University, Chicago, IL, USA

10 ³Center for Structural Genomics of Infectious Diseases, Feinberg School of Medicine,
11 Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA

12 ⁴Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA.

13 ⁵Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Molecular Genetics, New Jersey
14 Medical School, Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences, Newark, NJ, USA

15 *Author for correspondence: ankdalia@indiana.edu

16 17 **Abstract**

18 Sequence specific DNA-binding domains (DBDs) are conserved in all domains of life.
19 These proteins carry out a variety of cellular functions, and there are a number of
20 distinct structural domains already described that allow for sequence-specific DNA
21 binding, including the ubiquitous helix-turn-helix (HTH) domain. In the facultative
22 pathogen *Vibrio cholerae*, the chitin sensor ChiS is a transcriptional regulator that is
23 critical for the survival of this organism in its marine reservoir. We have recently shown
24 that ChiS contains a cryptic DBD in its C-terminus. This domain is not homologous to
25 any known DBD, but it is a conserved domain present in other bacterial proteins. Here,
26 we present the crystal structure of the ChiS DBD at a resolution of 1.28 Å. We find that
27 the ChiS DBD contains an HTH domain that is structurally similar to those found in other
28 DNA binding proteins, like the LacI repressor. However, one striking difference
29 observed in the ChiS DBD is that the canonical tight “turn” of the HTH is replaced with
30 an extended loop containing a β -sheet, a variant which we term the “helix-sheet-helix”.
31 Through systematic mutagenesis of all positively charged residues within the ChiS
32 DBD, we show that residues within and proximal to the ChiS helix-sheet-helix are critical
33 for DNA binding. Finally, through phylogenetic analyses we show that the ChiS DBD is
34 found in diverse Proteobacterial proteins that exhibit distinct domain architectures.
35 Together, these results suggest that the structure described here represents the
36 prototypical member of the ChiS-family of DBDs.

37 38 **Importance**

39 Regulating gene expression is essential in all domains of life. This process is commonly
40 facilitated by the activity of DNA-binding transcription factors. There are diverse
41 structural domains that allow proteins to bind to specific DNA sequences. The structural
42 basis underlying how some proteins bind to DNA, however, remains unclear.
43 Previously, we showed that in the major human pathogen *Vibrio cholerae*, the
44 transcription factor ChiS directly regulates gene expression through a cryptic DNA
45 binding domain. This domain lacked homology to any known DNA-binding protein. In
46 the current study, we determined the structure of the ChiS DNA binding domain (DBD)

47 and find that the ChiS-family DBD is a cryptic variant of the ubiquitous helix-turn-helix
48 (HTH) domain. We further demonstrate that this domain is conserved in diverse proteins
49 that may represent a novel group of transcriptional regulators.

50

51 Introduction

52 The intestinal pathogen *Vibrio cholerae* natively resides in the aquatic environment and
53 can cause disease if ingested in the form of contaminated food or drinking water. In the
54 aquatic environment, *V. cholerae* commonly associates with the chitinous surfaces of
55 crustacean zooplankton (1). Chitin is an abundant source of carbon and nitrogen for
56 marine bacteria, including *V. cholerae* (2, 3). In addition, chitin serves as a cue to
57 induce horizontal gene transfer by natural transformation in this species (4). Thus,
58 *Vibrio*-chitin interactions are critical for this facultative pathogen to thrive and evolve in
59 its environmental reservoir.

60

61 Chitin is sensed in *V. cholerae* by the hybrid histidine kinase ChiS (5-7). In response to
62 chitin, ChiS activates the expression of the chitin utilization program. This regulon
63 includes the *chb* operon, which is required for the uptake and degradation of the chitin
64 disaccharide chitobiose. In a recent study, we showed that unlike most histidine
65 kinases, ChiS is capable of directly binding to DNA to regulate the expression of the *chb*
66 operon (5). This finding was particularly surprising because ChiS is not predicted to
67 encode a DNA-binding domain *via* primary sequence homology (BLAST (8)) or
68 structural predictions (Phyre2 (9)). In the current study, we sought to understand the
69 structural basis for ChiS DNA binding. To that end, we determined the structure of the
70 ChiS DBD and found that it encodes a distinct variant of the canonical helix-turn-helix
71 domain, which we term a “helix-sheet-helix”.

72

73 Results and Discussion

74 *The C-terminus of ChiS (ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹) is sufficient to bind P_{chb}*

75 Previous work from our group demonstrates that ChiS is a noncanonical hybrid histidine
76 kinase that contains a DBD at its C-terminus (**Fig. 1A**) (5). In that study, we found that
77 the C-terminal 106 amino acids of ChiS (ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹) was necessary and sufficient to
78 bind to the *chb* promoter *in vivo*. We further showed that ChiS binds directly to two
79 binding sites within the *chb* operon promoter (P_{chb}) to activate the expression of this
80 locus. To confirm that ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹ was sufficient to bind DNA, we purified this domain
81 and tested DNA-binding activity *in vitro* by electrophoretic mobility shift assays
82 (EMSAs). We found that ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹ bound to a wildtype P_{chb} promoter probe, but not
83 to a probe in which the two ChiS binding sites were mutated, suggesting that this
84 domain is sufficient to bind to DNA in a sequence-specific manner (**Fig. 1B** and **Fig.**
85 **S1**). Thus, based on our *in vivo* and *in vitro* analysis, we refer to ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹ as the
86 ChiS DBD.

87

88 *Identification of positively charged residues in the ChiS DBD that are critical for DNA*
89 *binding and transcriptional activation of P_{chb}*

90 As mentioned above, ChiS is not predicted to encode a DNA-binding domain based on
91 *in silico* searches (*i.e.*, BLAST (8) and Phyre2 (9)). To characterize interactions between
92 the ChiS DBD and DNA, we first tried to identify residues important for DNA binding.

93 The positively charged residues arginine (R) and lysine (K) commonly interact with the
94 negatively charged DNA backbone (10). Thus, we mutated every R and K residue in the
95 ChiS DBD to a glutamine (Q), to ablate their charge but maintain, to a reasonable
96 extent, the steric properties of the side group.

97
98 To determine how these mutations affected ChiS activity, we introduced them into full-
99 length FLAG-tagged ChiS (5), and assessed the ability of each mutant to bind to DNA *in*
100 *vivo* (by chromatin immunoprecipitation, or ChIP) and to activate P_{chb} expression (using
101 a P_{chb} -GFP reporter). We found that all mutations to the ChiS DBD reduced P_{chb} -GFP
102 activation to varying degrees (**Fig. 2**). Most mutants were able to facilitate partial
103 activation of P_{chb} and correspondingly partially enriched for P_{chb} by ChIP, indicating that
104 they were binding to the promoter *in vivo*. Some mutants (R1068Q, R1074Q, K1078Q,
105 R1090Q, and R1092Q) did not bind to P_{chb} DNA *in vivo* and resulted in complete loss of
106 P_{chb} expression. Importantly, all mutants still produced ChiS protein as assessed by
107 Western blot analysis (**Fig. S2**). Collectively, these data identify a subset of positively
108 charged residues in the ChiS DBD that are critical for DNA binding and, subsequent
109 transcriptional activation of the *chb* operon.

110
111 *Structure of the ChiS DNA binding domain reveals a variant of the helix-turn-helix*
112 We next sought to determine the structure of the ChiS DBD to further explore how ChiS
113 interacts with DNA. Since no structures for close sequence homologs were available in
114 the Protein Data Bank (PDB) to serve as search models for molecular replacement, we
115 used the Single-wavelength Anomalous Dispersion (SAD) technique to determine initial
116 phases. Selenomethionine was used as the replacement for methionine. Anomalous
117 data were collected from a single crystal (**Tables S1 and S2**). The crystal diffracted to
118 1.28 Å resolution and belonged to the orthogonal C222₁ space group with unit cell
119 parameters of $a=51.91\text{Å}$, $b=78.61\text{Å}$, $c=72.37\text{Å}$, $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90.00^\circ$. There was one
120 polypeptide chain in the asymmetric unit. The structure includes 105 out of 106 residues
121 of the protein (1024 – 1128), two uncleavable residues of the purification tag, four
122 sulfate ions (SO_4^{2-}), one 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethanol molecule (PEG), two formic acids
123 molecules (FMT) and 200 water molecules (HOH). Only the C-terminal E1129 was
124 disordered in the structure and was not included in the final model.

125
126 The structure of the ChiS DBD revealed that it contains a fold that is reminiscent of the
127 canonical helix-turn-helix (HTH) used by diverse DNA-binding proteins (**Fig. 3A-B**). The
128 basic HTH domain consists of a trihelical bundle where the second and third helices
129 encompass the namesake “helix-turn-helix” (11). The two helices that compose the HTH
130 are connected *via* a relatively short linker that forms a sharp turn, which is a
131 characteristic feature of this domain. Helix 3 from the HTH is generally inserted into the
132 major groove of DNA, thus forming the principle DNA-protein interface. Alignment of the
133 trihelical bundle from ChiS with the DNA-bound structure of the LacI repressor (PDB:
134 1EFA (12); RMSD of modeled C_α carbons = 3.514) revealed a similar spatial
135 arrangement for each helix (**Fig. 3C**). Notably, however, the ChiS HTH has an extended
136 loop between helix 2 and helix 3 that forms a beta sheet (**Fig. 3B-D**). Structural insertion
137 between these helices is not typical; thus, the sheet found here is a distinct variant of
138 the HTH which we refer to as a “helix-sheet-helix”.

139
140 Alignment of the ChiS DBD to LacI also revealed that the sheet within the ChiS helix-
141 sheet-helix domain runs along the major groove (**Fig. 3C, 4A**), though it sterically
142 conflicts with the DNA bases. This may suggest that the ChiS DBD takes on a slightly
143 different conformation when bound to DNA. Consistent with this idea, the beta sheet
144 has the highest B-factor (a measure of structural motion) in the ChiS DBD structure,
145 indicating that it is relatively flexible (**Fig. 3E**). Thus, we speculate that this beta sheet is
146 stabilized in the major groove when the ChiS DBD is bound to DNA. The unique helix-
147 sheet-helix feature of the ChiS C-terminal domain may also explain why it was not
148 previously identified as a DBD by structure prediction algorithms like Phyre2.

149
150 *ChiS may bind to intrinsically bent DNA*

151 Above, we identified five residues (R1068, R1074, K1078, R1090, and R1092) that
152 were critical for the ChiS DBD to bind to DNA. Mapping these residues onto the ChiS
153 DBD structure revealed that all five residues were found within the trihelical bundle that
154 forms the helix-sheet-helix (**Fig. 4A**), which is consistent with this domain playing a
155 critical role in DNA binding. Specifically, these residues were located in the beta sheet
156 of the helix-sheet-helix (R1068), helix 3 (R1074, K1078), and helix 1 (R1090, R1092).

157
158 Most residues critical for DNA binding activity (R1068, R1074, K1078, R1090) were in
159 close proximity to DNA on our modeled alignment; however, one residue (R1092), was
160 distant from the DNA (**Fig. 4A**). Many transcription factors bend DNA upon binding to
161 their target site (13, 14). Thus, one possible explanation for the critical role of R1092 is
162 that the P_{chb} promoter is bent when bound by ChiS, which would allow for R1092 to
163 come into close contact with DNA. To test this idea, we carried out a classic *in vitro* gel
164 mobility shift assay to test DNA bending (15). This assay operates on the basis that the
165 location of a bend within a DNA molecule alters its mobility during native PAGE analysis
166 (16, 17). DNA probes that contain a bend in the middle of the probe exhibit the lowest
167 mobility, while probes with the bend closer to one end show the highest mobility. Thus,
168 we designed seven DNA probes of equal length that gradually shifted the position of the
169 ChiS binding sites within the *chb* promoter (**Fig. 4B** and **Fig. S1**). First, we ran these
170 probes in the absence of ChiS protein and found that they ran at different mobilities
171 where the probes with the ChiS binding sites in the middle exhibited the lowest mobility
172 (**Fig. 4C**). This suggested that the *chb* promoter likely has an intrinsic bend that is
173 centered around the ChiS binding sites. The mobility pattern observed for these DNA
174 probes did not change when incubated with the purified ChiS DBD (**Fig. S3**), suggesting
175 that binding of the DNA probe by ChiS does not further bend the promoter. We propose
176 that the *chb* promoter has an intrinsic bend, which may allow residues in the ChiS DBD,
177 like R1092, to directly interact with DNA. The intrinsic bend found in the *chb* promoter
178 may increase the affinity of ChiS for this region of DNA; indeed, DNA bending has been
179 shown to increase the affinity of certain transcription factors for their DNA binding site
180 (18).

181
182 *The ChiS family DNA binding domain is associated with variable domain arrangements*
183 *in diverse proteins*

184 Above, we show that the ChiS DBD represents a cryptic variant of an HTH domain. As
185 noted previously, the ChiS DBD is found in proteins other than homologs of ChiS (5). To
186 more fully catalog proteins that contain this domain, we generated a profile Hidden
187 Markov Model (HMM) to the ChiS DBD and screened for its presence among
188 eubacterial genomes. A profile HMM is a position-specific scoring system that can
189 effectively encode the variation in a training set of representative peptide sequences,
190 and then find similar sequences from a much larger and more distantly related dataset
191 compared to tools that do not require training, such as BLAST (19, 20).

192
193 This analysis revealed that the ChiS DBD is present in diverse Proteobacterial genomes
194 (**Spreadsheet S1**). The vast majority of hits from our search were direct homologs of
195 ChiS (3242/3829 = 84.7%), however, many proteins exhibited distinct domain
196 architectures (587/3829 = 15.3%) (**Fig. 5A**). Strikingly, the ChiS DBD was found
197 exclusively at the C-terminus in all of these proteins and was commonly associated with
198 sensory domains (**Fig. 5A**). Furthermore, the helix-sheet-helix is highly conserved
199 across these diverse proteins (**Fig. 5B, Spreadsheet S1**), and even the most dissimilar
200 ChiS DBD homolog (MAC43155.1, bit score of 43.5; 22.6% identical, 43.4% similar to
201 the ChiS DBD) still threaded (9) remarkably well onto the trihelical bundle of the ChiS
202 DBD structure (RMSD of modeled C_α carbons = 0.002) (**Fig. S4**). Thus, it is tempting to
203 speculate that ChiS is the founding member for a new group of DNA-binding
204 transcription factors whose activity are regulated by diverse sensory inputs.

205
206

207 **Materials & Methods**

208 *Bacterial strains and culture conditions*

209 All *V. cholerae* strains used in this study are derived from the El Tor strain E7946 (21).
210 *V. cholerae* strains were grown in LB medium and on LB agar supplemented when
211 necessary with carbenicillin (20 µg/mL), kanamycin (50 µg/mL), spectinomycin (200
212 µg/mL), and/or trimethoprim (10 µg/mL). See **Table S3** for a detailed list of mutant
213 strains used in this study.

214

215 *Generating mutant strains*

216 *V. cholerae* mutant constructs were generated using splicing-by-overlap extension
217 exactly as previously described (22). See **Table S4** for all of the primers used to
218 generate mutant constructs in this study. Mutant *V. cholerae* strains were generated by
219 chitin-dependent natural transformation and cotransformation exactly as previously
220 described (23). Mutant strains were confirmed by PCR and/or sequencing.

221

222 *Cloning, protein production and purification*

223 The *chiS*¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹ (VC0622) construct was cloned into an Amp^R pET15b-based vector
224 using the FastCloning method (24). This vector appended a TEV cleavable 6x His tag
225 onto the N-terminus of ChiS¹⁰²⁴⁻¹¹²⁹. Vector and inserts were amplified using the primers
226 listed in **Table S4**. The plasmid was transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) (Magic) cells
227 (25) and the protein was expressed in M9 media (High Yield M9 Se-Met media,
228 Medicilon Inc.). The starting overnight culture was grown in LB medium supplemented
229 with 130 µg/mL ampicillin and 50 µg/mL kanamycin at 37°C and 220 rpm. The next day,

230 M9 medium supplemented with 200 µg/mL ampicillin and 50 µg/mL kanamycin was
231 inoculated with the overnight culture (1:100 dilution) and incubated at 37°C and 220
232 rpm. Protein expression was induced at OD₆₀₀=1.8-2.0 by the addition of 0.5 mM
233 isopropyl β-d-1-thiogalactopyranoside and the culture was further incubated at 25°C,
234 200 rpm for 14 hours (26). The cells were harvested by centrifugation at 6,000 xg for 10
235 minutes, resuspended to 0.2 g/mL in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8.3, 0.5 M NaCl, 10%
236 glycerol, 0.1% IGEPAL CA-630) and frozen at -30°C until purification.

237
238 Frozen pellets were thawed and sonicated at 50% amplitude, in a 5s on, 10s off cycle
239 for 20 min at 4°C. The lysate was clarified by centrifugation at 18,000 xg for 40 minutes
240 at 4°C and the supernatant was collected. The protein was purified in one step by IMAC
241 followed by size exclusion chromatography using ÄKTExpress system (GE Healthcare)
242 as previously described with some modifications (27). The cell extract was loaded into a
243 His-Trap FF (Ni-NTA) column with loading buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.3, 500 mM
244 NaCl, 1 mM Tris (2-carboxyethyl) phosphine (TCEP), 5% glycerol) and the column was
245 washed with 10 column volumes of loading buffer and 10 column volumes of washing
246 buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.3, 1 M NaCl, 25 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol). Protein was
247 eluted with elution buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.3, 500 mM NaCl, 1 M imidazole), loaded
248 onto a Superdex 200 26/600 column, separated in loading buffer, collected, and
249 analyzed by PAGE. The 6x His tag was cleaved with recombinant TEV protease in a
250 ratio of 1:20 (protein:protease) overnight at room temperature. The cleaved protein was
251 separated from uncleaved protein, recombinant TEV protease, and 6x His tag peptide
252 by Ni-NTA-affinity chromatography using loading buffer followed by loading buffer with
253 25 mM imidazole. The cleaved protein was collected in the flow-through in both the
254 loading buffer and the loading buffer with 25 mM imidazole. Both fractions were
255 analyzed by PAGE for 6x His tag cleavage, concentrated to 6-8 mg/mL, and set up for
256 crystallization.

257
258 *Crystallization, data collection, structure solution and refinement*

259 The protein from both fractions (collected in flow through and in 25 mM imidazole) was
260 set up at 6-8 mg/mL in loading buffer containing 0 or 500 mM NaCl as 2 µL
261 crystallization drops (1 µL protein: 1 µL reservoir solution) in 96-well plates (Corning)
262 using commercial Classics II, PACT and JCSG+ (QIAGEN) crystallization screens.
263 Diffraction quality crystal of the protein collected with 25 mM imidazole grown from the
264 condition with 0.2 M lithium sulfate, 0.1 M Bis-Tris, pH 5.5, 25%(w/v) PEG 3350
265 (Classics II, #74) was flash frozen in liquid nitrogen for data collection.

266
267 The crystals were screened, and data were collected at the Life Sciences-Collaborative
268 Access Team (LS-CAT) beamline F at the Advanced Photon Source (APS) of the
269 Argonne National Laboratory. A total of 300 diffraction images were indexed, integrated
270 and scaled using HKL-3000 (28). The structure was determined with the HKL3000
271 structure solution package using anomalous signal from selenomethionine (Se-Met).
272 The initial model went through several rounds of refinement in REFMAC v. 5.8.0258
273 (29) and manual corrections in Coot (30). The water molecules were generated using
274 ARP/wARP (31) and ligands were added to the model manually during visual inspection
275 in Coot. Translation-Libration-Screw (TLS) groups were created by the TLSMD server

276 (32) and TLS corrections were applied during the final stages of refinement. MolProbity
277 (33) was used for monitoring the quality of the model during refinement and for the final
278 validation of the structure. The structure was deposited to the Protein Data Bank
279 (<https://www.rcsb.org/>) with the assigned PDB code 7KPO.

280

281 *Electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA)*

282 Binding reactions contained 10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM
283 DTT, 50 µg/mL BSA, 0.1 mg/mL salmon sperm DNA, 5% glycerol, 1 nM of a Cy5
284 labeled DNA probe, and purified ChiS DBD at the indicated concentrations (diluted in 10
285 mM Tris pH 7.5, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM DTT, and 5% glycerol). Reactions were incubated at
286 room temperature for 20 minutes in the dark, then electrophoretically separated on
287 polyacrylamide gels in 0.5x Tris Borate EDTA (TBE) buffer at 4°C. Gels were imaged for
288 Cy5 fluorescence on a Typhoon-9210 instrument. Cy5-labeled P_{chb} probes were made
289 by Phusion PCR, where Cy5-dCTP was included in the reaction at a level that would
290 result in incorporation of 1–2 Cy5 labeled nucleotides in the final probe as previously
291 described (22).

292

293 *Measuring GFP reporter fluorescence*

294 GFP fluorescence was determined essentially as previously described (34). Briefly,
295 single colonies were picked and grown in LB broth at 30°C for 18 hours. Cells were then
296 washed and resuspended to an OD₆₀₀ of 1.0 in instant ocean medium (7 g/L; Aquarium
297 Systems). Then, fluorescence was determined using a BioTek H1M plate reader with
298 excitation set to 500 nm and emission set to 540 nm.

299

300 *Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)-qPCR assays*

301 ChIP assays were carried out exactly as previously described (5). Briefly, overnight
302 cultures were diluted to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.08 and then grown for 6 hours at 30°C. Cultures
303 were crosslinked using 1% paraformaldehyde, then quenched with a 1.2 molar excess
304 of Tris. Cells were washed with PBS and stored at -80°C overnight. The next day, cells
305 were resuspended in lysis buffer (1x FastBreak cell lysis reagent (Promega), 50 µg/mL
306 lysozyme, 1% Triton X-100, 1 mM PMSF, and 1x protease inhibitor cocktail; 100x
307 inhibitor cocktail contained the following: 0.07 mg/mL phosphoramidon (Santa Cruz),
308 0.006 mg/mL bestatin (MPbiomedicals/Fisher Scientific), 1.67 mg/mL AEBSF (DOT
309 Scientific), 0.07 mg/mL pepstatin A (Gold Bio), 0.07 mg/mL E64 (Gold Bio)) and then
310 lysed by sonication, resulting in a DNA shear size of ~500 bp. Lysates were incubated
311 with Anti-FLAG M2 Magnetic Beads (Sigma), washed to remove unbound proteins, and
312 then bound protein-DNA complexes were eluted off with SDS. Samples were digested
313 with Proteinase K, then crosslinks were reversed. DNA samples were cleaned up and
314 used as template for quantitative PCR (qPCR) using iTaq Universal SYBR Green
315 Supermix (Bio-Rad) and primers specific for the genes indicated (see **Table S4** for
316 primers) on a Step-One qPCR system. Standard curves of genomic DNA were included
317 in each experiment and were used to determine the abundance of each amplicon in the
318 input (derived from the lysate prior to ChIP) and output (derived from the samples after
319 ChIP). Primers to amplify *rpoB* served as a baseline control in this assay because ChiS
320 does not bind this locus. Data are reported as 'Fold Enrichment', which is defined as the
321 ratio of $P_{chb} / rpoB$ found in the output divided by the same ratio found in the input.

322

323 *Western blot analysis*

324 Strains were grown as described for ChIP assays, pelleted, resuspended, and boiled in
325 1x SDS PAGE sample buffer (110 mM Tris pH 6.8, 12.5% glycerol, 0.6% SDS, 0.01%
326 Bromophenol Blue, and 2.5% β -mercaptoethanol). Proteins were separated by SDS
327 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, then transferred to a PVDF membrane, and probed
328 with rabbit polyconal α -FLAG (Sigma) or mouse monoclonal α -RpoA (Biolegend)
329 primary antibodies. Blots were then incubated with α -rabbit or α -mouse HRP conjugated
330 secondary antibodies, developed using Pierce ECL 529 Western Blotting Substrate
331 (ThermoFisher), and imaged on a ProteinSimple Fluorchem E instrument.

332

333

334 *Bioinformatic identification of eubacterial proteins with putative ChiS DBD domains*

335 The DBD sequence segments from the protein sequences of seven ChiS DNA binding
336 domain homologs (THB81618.1, OGG93021.1, OUR95018.1, WP_084205767.1,
337 ODU31202.1, WP_070993003.1, WP_078715702.1) (5) were aligned using MUSCLE
338 version 3.8.31 (35). The resulting multiple sequence alignment was turned into a profile
339 HMM which was searched against the eubacterial subset (taxonomy id: 2) of NCBI non-
340 redundant protein sequence database using HMMER version 3.2.1 (<http://hmmer.org/>),
341 requiring the alignment length to be at least 90. Among the hits, proteins sequences
342 tagged “partial” in their FASTA headers were excluded. Domain architectures for the
343 remaining hits were obtained from the NLM conserved domain database (36). Any
344 protein hits with regions aligned to the DNA binding domain HMM overlapping with
345 known annotated functional domains were excluded. The resulting ChiS DBD homolog
346 protein sequences were clustered using cd-hit ver. v4.8.1-2019-0228 (37) (parameters:
347 -M 0 -g 1 -s 0.8 -c 0.4 -n 2 -d 500). Clusters identified by cd-hit were further grouped
348 together by manually analyzing the domain architecture of hits as shown in **Fig. 5A**.
349 Only clusters containing 10 or more representatives were grouped, while the remaining
350 proteins were left unassigned. For a list of all proteins containing a putative ChiS DBD,
351 see **Spreadsheet S1**.

352

353 **Acknowledgements**

354 We thank Dipankar Sen, Julia van Kessel, and Ryan Chaparian for helpful discussions.
355 We thank Olga Kiryukhina, Grant Wiersum, Ivgeniia Dubrovska, and Ludmilla
356 Shuvalova for assistance on protein crystallization. This work was supported by grant
357 R35GM128674 from the National Institutes of Health (to ABD) and, in part, with Federal
358 funds from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health,
359 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases under Contract No.
360 HHSN272201700060C (to KJFS). This research used resources of the Advanced
361 Photon Source, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science User Facility
362 operated for the DOE Office of Science by Argonne National Laboratory under Contract
363 No. DE-AC02-06CH11357. Use of the LS-CAT Sector 21 was supported by the
364 Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan Technology Tri-
365 Corridor (Grant 085P1000817). This research was supported in part by Lilly
366 Endowment, Inc., through its support for the Indiana University Pervasive Technology
367 Institute.

368 **References**

- 369 1. Pruzzo C, Vezzulli L, Colwell RR. Global impact of *Vibrio cholerae* interactions
370 with chitin. *Environ Microbiol.* 2008;10(6):1400-10.
- 371 2. Hunt DE, Gevers D, Vahora NM, Polz MF. Conservation of the chitin utilization
372 pathway in the Vibrionaceae. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2008;74(1):44-51.
- 373 3. Nahar S, Sultana M, Naser MN, Nair GB, Watanabe H, Ohnishi M, et al. Role of
374 Shrimp Chitin in the Ecology of Toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* and Cholera Transmission.
375 *Front Microbiol.* 2011;2:260.
- 376 4. Meibom KL, Blokesch M, Dolganov NA, Wu CY, Schoolnik GK. Chitin induces
377 natural competence in *Vibrio cholerae*. *Science.* 2005;310(5755):1824-7.
- 378 5. Klancher CA, Yamamoto S, Dalia TN, Dalia AB. ChiS is a noncanonical DNA-
379 binding hybrid sensor kinase that directly regulates the chitin utilization program in
380 *Vibrio cholerae*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2020;117(33):20180-9.
- 381 6. Li X, Roseman S. The chitinolytic cascade in *Vibrios* is regulated by chitin
382 oligosaccharides and a two-component chitin catabolic sensor/kinase. *Proc Natl Acad*
383 *Sci U S A.* 2004;101(2):627-31.
- 384 7. Meibom KL, Li XB, Nielsen AT, Wu CY, Roseman S, Schoolnik GK. The *Vibrio*
385 *cholerae* chitin utilization program. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2004;101(8):2524-9.
- 386 8. Altschul SF, Gish W, Miller W, Myers EW, Lipman DJ. Basic local alignment
387 search tool. *J Mol Biol.* 1990;215(3):403-10.
- 388 9. Kelley LA, Mezulis S, Yates CM, Wass MN, Sternberg MJ. The Phyre2 web
389 portal for protein modeling, prediction and analysis. *Nat Protoc.* 2015;10(6):845-58.
- 390 10. Luscombe NM, Laskowski RA, Thornton JM. Amino acid-base interactions: a
391 three-dimensional analysis of protein-DNA interactions at an atomic level. *Nucleic Acids*
392 *Res.* 2001;29(13):2860-74.
- 393 11. Aravind L, Anantharaman V, Balaji S, Babu MM, Iyer LM. The many faces of the
394 helix-turn-helix domain: transcription regulation and beyond. *FEMS Microbiol Rev.*
395 2005;29(2):231-62.
- 396 12. Bell CE, Lewis M. A closer view of the conformation of the Lac repressor bound
397 to operator. *Nat Struct Biol.* 2000;7(3):209-14.
- 398 13. Vamosi G, Rueda D. DNA Bends the Knee to Transcription Factors. *Biophys J.*
399 2018;114(10):2253-4.
- 400 14. van der Vliet PC, Verrijzer CP. Bending of DNA by transcription factors.
401 *Bioessays.* 1993;15(1):25-32.
- 402 15. Kim J, Zwieb C, Wu C, Adhya S. Bending of DNA by gene-regulatory proteins:
403 construction and use of a DNA bending vector. *Gene.* 1989;85(1):15-23.
- 404 16. Koo HS, Wu HM, Crothers DM. DNA bending at adenine . thymine tracts. *Nature.*
405 1986;320(6062):501-6.
- 406 17. Wu HM, Crothers DM. The locus of sequence-directed and protein-induced DNA
407 bending. *Nature.* 1984;308(5959):509-13.
- 408 18. Afek A, Shi H, Rangadurai A, Sahay H, Senitzki A, Khani S, et al. DNA
409 mismatches reveal conformational penalties in protein-DNA recognition. *Nature.* 2020.
- 410 19. Yoon BJ. Hidden Markov Models and their Applications in Biological Sequence
411 Analysis. *Curr Genomics.* 2009;10(6):402-15.

- 412 20. Altschul SF, Madden TL, Schaffer AA, Zhang J, Zhang Z, Miller W, et al. Gapped
413 BLAST and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programs.
414 *Nucleic Acids Res.* 1997;25(17):3389-402.
- 415 21. Miller VL, DiRita VJ, Mekalanos JJ. Identification of toxS, a regulatory gene
416 whose product enhances toxR-mediated activation of the cholera toxin promoter. *J*
417 *Bacteriol.* 1989;171(3):1288-93.
- 418 22. Dalia AB, Lazinski DW, Camilli A. Characterization of undermethylated sites in
419 *Vibrio cholerae*. *J Bacteriol.* 2013;195(10):2389-99.
- 420 23. Dalia AB. Natural Cotransformation and Multiplex Genome Editing by Natural
421 Transformation (MuGENT) of *Vibrio cholerae*. *Methods Mol Biol.* 2018;1839:53-64.
- 422 24. Li C, Wen A, Shen B, Lu J, Huang Y, Chang Y. FastCloning: a highly simplified,
423 purification-free, sequence- and ligation-independent PCR cloning method. *BMC*
424 *Biotechnol.* 2011;11:92.
- 425 25. Kwon K, Peterson SN. High-throughput cloning for biophysical applications.
426 *Methods Mol Biol.* 2014;1140:61-74.
- 427 26. Millard CS, Stols L, Quartey P, Kim Y, Dementieva I, Donnelly MI. A less
428 laborious approach to the high-throughput production of recombinant proteins in
429 *Escherichia coli* using 2-liter plastic bottles. *Protein Expr Purif.* 2003;29(2):311-20.
- 430 27. Shuvalova L. Parallel protein purification. *Methods Mol Biol.* 2014;1140:137-43.
- 431 28. Minor W, Cymborowski M, Otwinowski Z, Chruszcz M. HKL-3000: the integration
432 of data reduction and structure solution--from diffraction images to an initial model in
433 minutes. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr.* 2006;62(Pt 8):859-66.
- 434 29. Murshudov GN, Skubak P, Lebedev AA, Pannu NS, Steiner RA, Nicholls RA, et
435 al. REFMAC5 for the refinement of macromolecular crystal structures. *Acta Crystallogr*
436 *D Biol Crystallogr.* 2011;67(Pt 4):355-67.
- 437 30. Emsley P, Cowtan K. Coot: model-building tools for molecular graphics. *Acta*
438 *Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr.* 2004;60(Pt 12 Pt 1):2126-32.
- 439 31. Morris RJ, Perrakis A, Lamzin VS. ARP/wARP and automatic interpretation of
440 protein electron density maps. *Methods Enzymol.* 2003;374:229-44.
- 441 32. Painter J, Merritt EA. Optimal description of a protein structure in terms of
442 multiple groups undergoing TLS motion. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr.* 2006;62(Pt
443 4):439-50.
- 444 33. Chen VB, Arendall WB, 3rd, Headd JJ, Keedy DA, Immormino RM, Kapral GJ, et
445 al. MolProbity: all-atom structure validation for macromolecular crystallography. *Acta*
446 *Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr.* 2010;66(Pt 1):12-21.
- 447 34. Dalia AB. RpoS is required for natural transformation of *Vibrio cholerae* through
448 regulation of chitinases. *Environ Microbiol.* 2016;18(11):3758-67.
- 449 35. Edgar RC. MUSCLE: a multiple sequence alignment method with reduced time
450 and space complexity. *BMC Bioinformatics.* 2004;5:113.
- 451 36. Lu S, Wang J, Chitsaz F, Derbyshire MK, Geer RC, Gonzales NR, et al.
452 CDD/SPARCLE: the conserved domain database in 2020. *Nucleic Acids Res.*
453 2020;48(D1):D265-D8.
- 454 37. Li W, Godzik A. Cd-hit: a fast program for clustering and comparing large sets of
455 protein or nucleotide sequences. *Bioinformatics.* 2006;22(13):1658-9.
- 456

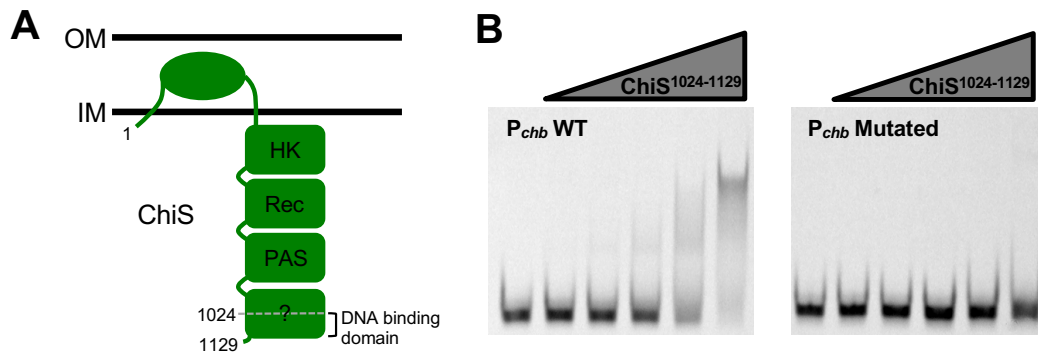


Figure 1. The C-terminus of ChiS ($ChiS^{1024-1129}$) is sufficient to bind P_{chb} . **A)** Diagram of the domain architecture for the hybrid histidine kinase ChiS. ChiS contains a histidine kinase (HK) domain, a receiver domain (Rec), a PAS domain, and a domain that does not have homology to known domains. Residues 1024-1129 were previously shown to be sufficient to bind P_{chb} *in vivo* (5). **B)** A fragment of the ChiS C-terminus ($ChiS^{1024-1129}$) was purified and assessed for DNA binding activity by EMSA. Purified protein was incubated with the indicated Cy5-labeled 60 bp probes containing sequence from P_{chb} encompassing the two ChiS binding sites (CBSs). A promoter map with the region of the promoter used for EMSAs are diagrammed in **Figure S1A**. The concentration of ChiS used (from left to right) was 0 nM, 25 nM, 50 nM, 100 nM, 200 nM, and 400 nM. The probe sequence was WT (P_{chb} WT) or the CBSs were both mutated (P_{chb} Mutated). Data are representative of two independent experiments.

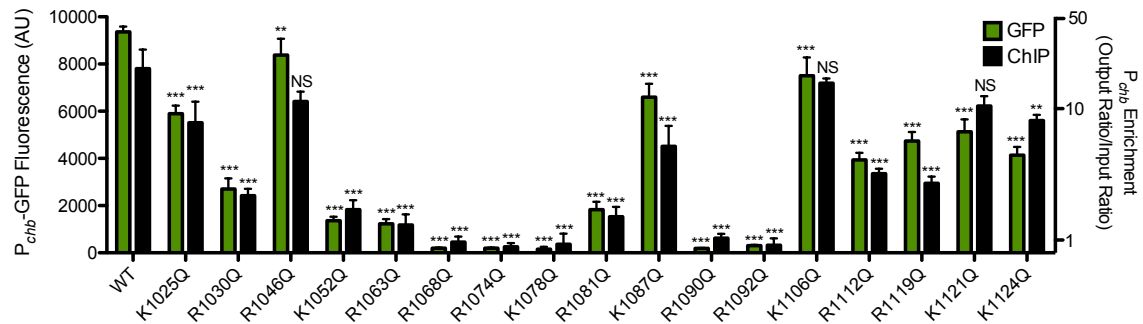


Figure 2. Identification of positively charged residues in the ChiS DBD that are critical for DNA binding and transcriptional activation of P_{chb} . All lysines and arginines in the ChiS DNA binding domain were individually mutated to a glutamine and ChiS was assessed for (1) transcriptional activation of a P_{chb} -GFP reporter (green bars; left Y-axis) and (2) ChiS binding to P_{chb} *in vivo* by chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) (black bars; right Y-axis). ChiS can be activated with its native inducer, chitin, or by deletion of its periplasmic regulator, CBP; here, ChiS was activated artificially by deleting CBP. Data are the result of at least three independent biological replicates and are shown as the mean \pm SD. Statistical markers indicated directly above bars indicate comparisons to the WT. Statistical comparisons were made by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's Posttest. ***, $p < 0.001$; **, $p < 0.01$; NS, not significant.

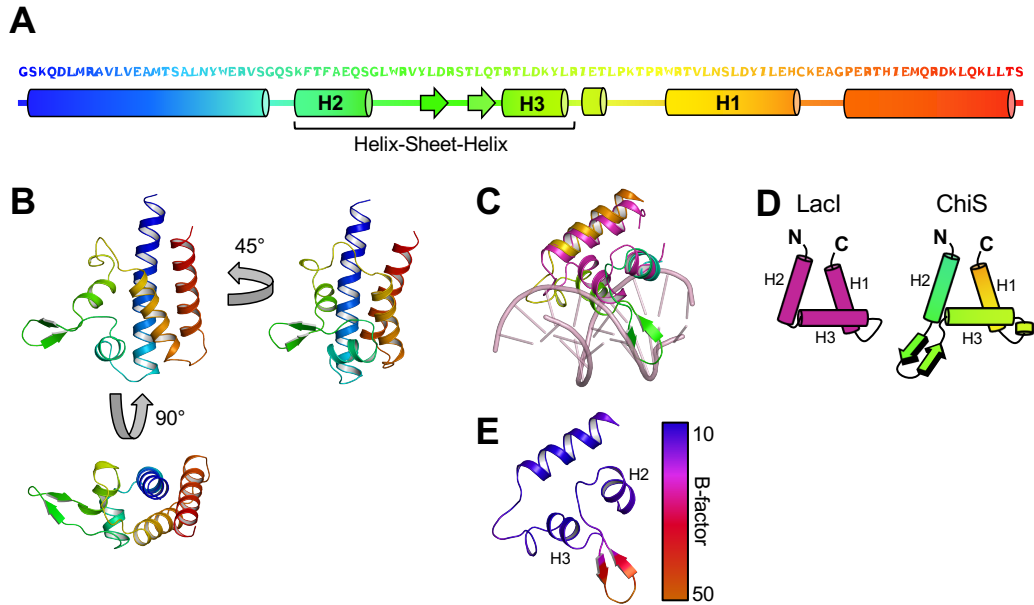


Figure 3. Structure of the ChiS DNA binding domain reveals a variant of the helix-turn-helix. **A)** Domain architecture of the ChiS DNA binding domain. The primary sequence of the ChiS DBD (S1024-S1128) is shown. Helices are depicted as cylinders, while sheets are depicted as arrows. **B)** Crystal structure of the ChiS DNA binding domain. The structural elements are colored coded as depicted in the primary sequence in **B**. **C)** Alignment of the ChiS trihelical bundle (rainbow) with the Lacl trihelical bundle bound to the Lacl operator site (PDB: 1EFA; pink). Alignment of alpha carbons gave an RMSD of 3.514. **D)** Cartoon representations of the trihelical bundle from Lacl and ChiS. Helices are labeled with nomenclature presented in Aravind, *et. al.* (11). **E)** Structure of the ChiS trihelical bundle colored to represent B-factor. Helices found in the helix-sheet-helix motif (H2 and H3) are indicated.

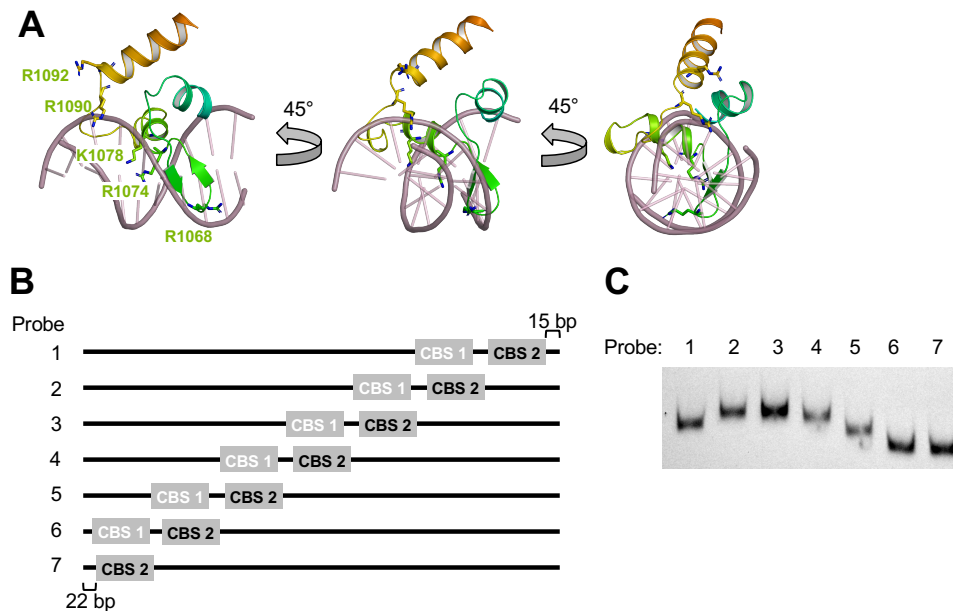


Figure 4. *ChiS* may bind to intrinsically bent DNA. **A)** Model of the *ChiS* trihelical bundle bound to double-stranded DNA from the alignment shown in **Figure 3C**. Side chains for the residues critical for DNA binding (R1068, R1074, K1078, R1090, and R1092) are shown and indicated. **B)** Diagram of the 7 distinct 230 bp probes used in **C**. *ChiS* binding site 1 (CBS 1) was mutated (white text) and *ChiS* binding site 2 (CBS 2) was left intact (black text). CBS 2 was shifted by 30 bp between each probe. **C)** The DNA probes diagrammed in **B** were labeled with Cy5 and separated by native PAGE in the absence of *ChiS* protein.

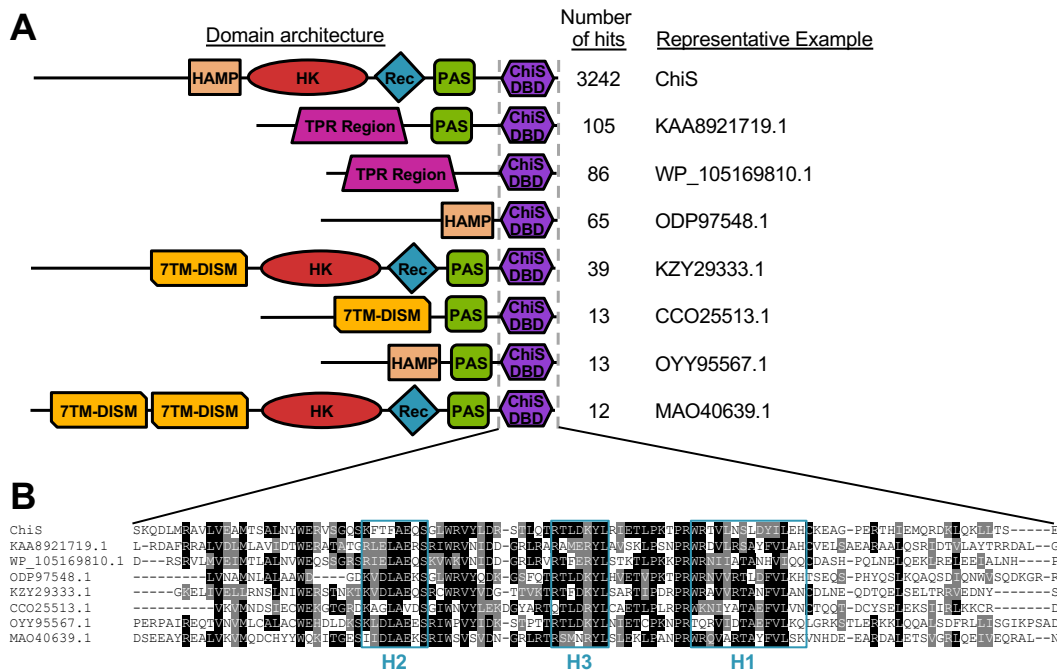


Figure 5. The ChiS family DBD is found in diverse proteins with distinct domain architectures among Proteobacterial genomes. **A**) Diagrams of the most abundant protein architectures containing the ChiS family DBD. Protein domains shown are HAMP, Histidine Kinase (HK), Receiver (Rec), Per-Arnt-Sim (PAS), Tetratricopeptide Repeat (TPR), 7 Transmembrane Receptors with Diverse Intracellular Signaling Modules (7TMR-DISM), and the ChiS family DNA binding domain (ChiS DBD). For a complete list of hits containing the indicated architectures see **Spreadsheet S1**. **B**) Alignment of the primary sequences of the ChiS family DBD in the indicated proteins are shown. Residues in black are identical, while those in gray are similar. The sequence for helix 1 (H1), helix 2 (H2) and helix 3 (H3) are boxed in teal.

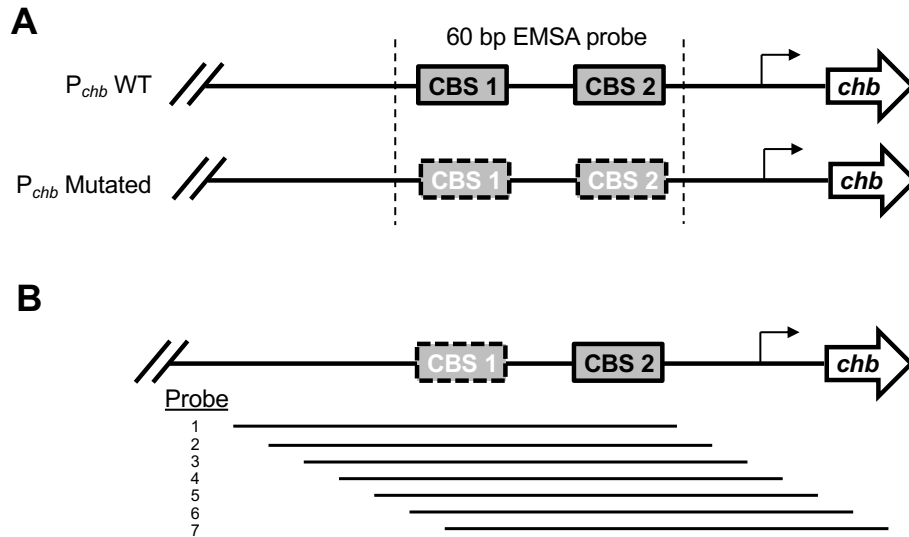


Figure S1. Diagrams of EMSA probes used in this study. **A)** Promoter map of *chb* with the region of P_{chb} used for the EMSAs shown in **Figure 1B** indicated. ChiS binding sites (CBSs) were left intact (black text, solid line) or mutated (white text, dotted line). **B)** Promoter map of *chb* with the region of P_{chb} used for the EMSA shown in **Figure 4C** and **Figure S3**. CBS 1 was mutated in all probes used.

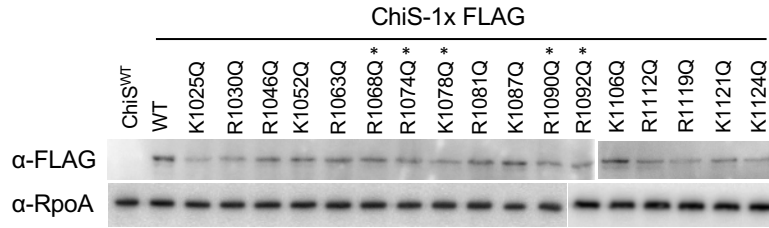


Figure S2. Mutations to the *ChiS* DNA binding domain does not prevent expression of *ChiS*. Strains expressing the indicated *ChiS*-FLAG point mutations were assessed for expression by Western blot with anti-FLAG and anti-RpoA (loading control) antibodies. Asterisks above *ChiS* point mutants indicate the mutations found to be critical for the DNA binding activity of *ChiS* in **Figure 2**.

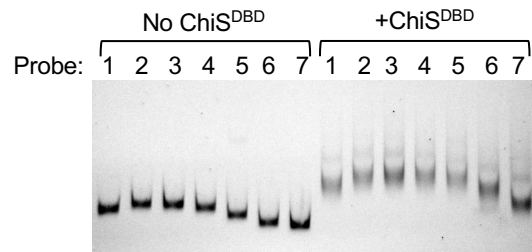


Figure S3. *ChiS* protein does not further bend the P_{chb} promoter. The probes shown in **Figure S1B** were incubated in the absence (No ChiS^{DBD}) or presence (+ChiS^{DBD}) of 400 nM ChiS^{DBD}.

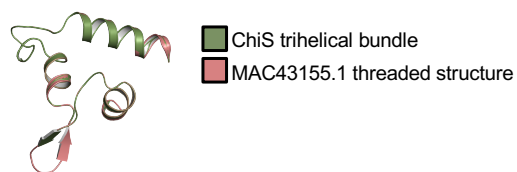


Figure S4. *The most dissimilar ChiS DBD homolog threads onto the trihelical bundle of the ChiS DBD structure. The sequence of the ChiS-family DBD from MAC43155.1 was threaded onto the crystal structure of the ChiS DBD using Phyre2 (9). Alignment of alpha carbons gave an RMSD of 0.002.*

Table S1. Data collection and processing

Values in parentheses are for the outer shell.

Diffraction source	Beamline 21ID-F, APS
Wavelength (Å)	0.97872
Temperature (K)	100
Detector	MAR Mosaic 300 mm CCD
Space group	C222 ₁
a, b, c (Å)	51.91, 78.61, 72.37
α, β, γ (°)	90.00, 90.00, 90.00
Resolution range (Å)	30.00 - 1.28 (1.30 - 1.28)
No. of unique reflections	38,590 (1,866)
Completeness (%)	99.7 (97.3)
Multiplicity	6.9 (4.6)
$\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$	28.3 (2.3)
R _{r.i.m.} [†]	0.032 (0.386)
CC _{1/2} ^{††}	(0.637)
Overall B factor from Wilson plot (Å ²)	14.7

[†]Estimated R_{r.i.m.} = R_{merge}[N/(N - 1)]^{1/2}, where N is the data multiplicity.^{††} Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (Karplus & Diederichs, 2012).

Table S2. Structure refinement

Values in parentheses are for the outer shell.

Resolution range (Å)	25.97 - 1.28 (1.31 - 1.28)
Completeness (%)	99.7 (98.3)
No. of reflections, working set	36,482 (2,634)
No. of reflections, test set	1,885 (138)
Final R _{work}	0.144 (0.214)
Final R _{free}	0.180 (0.238)
No. of non-H atoms	
Protein	989
Ligand	33
Water	200
Total	1,222
R.m.s. deviations	
Bonds (Å)	0.005
Angles (°)	1.217
Average B factors (Å ²)	
Protein	17.8
Ligand	31.6
Water	31.3
Ramachandran plot	
Favored regions (%)	99.0
Additionally allowed (%)	1.0
Outliers (%)	0.0

Table S3. Strains used in this study.

Strain (Reference)	Reference in Manuscript	Genotype
SAD 030	Parent strain for all other <i>V. cholerae</i> strains in this study	<i>V. cholerae</i> E7946 WT Sm ^R
SAD 2706	Figure 2 ChIP WT & Figure S1 WT	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566, Tm ^R
SAD 3006	Figure 2 ChIP K1025Q & Figure S1 K1025Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1025Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3007	Figure 2 ChIP R1030Q & Figure S1 R1030Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1030Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3008	Figure 2 ChIP R1046Q & Figure S1 R1046Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1046Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3009	Figure 2 ChIP K1052Q & Figure S1 K1052Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1052Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3010	Figure 2 ChIP R1063Q & Figure S1 R1063Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1063Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3011	Figure 2 ChIP R1068Q & Figure S1 R1068Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1068Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3012	Figure 2 ChIP R1074Q & Figure S1 R1074Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1074Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3013	Figure 2 ChIP K1078Q & Figure S1 K1078Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1078Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3014	Figure 2 ChIP R1081Q & Figure S1 R1081Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1081Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3015	Figure 2 ChIP K1087Q & Figure S1 K1087Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1087Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3016	Figure 2 ChIP R1090Q & Figure S1 R1090Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1090Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3017	Figure 2 ChIP R1092Q & Figure S1 R1092Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1092Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3018	Figure 2 ChIP K1106Q & Figure S1 K1106Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1106Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3019	Figure 2 ChIP R1112Q & Figure S1 R1112Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1112Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3020	Figure 2 ChIP R1119Q & Figure S1 R1119Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 R1119Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3021	Figure 2 ChIP K1121Q & Figure S1 K1121Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1121Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3022	Figure 2 ChIP K1124Q & Figure S1 K1124Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ 1x FLAG @ E566 K1124Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3023	Figure 2 GFP WT	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$, Tm ^R
SAD 3024	Figure 2 GFP K1025Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1025Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3025	Figure 2 GFP R1030Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1030Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3026	Figure 2 GFP R1046Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1046Q, Tm ^R

SAD 3027	Figure 2 GFP K1052Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1052Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3028	Figure 2 GFP R1063Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1063Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3029	Figure 2 GFP R1068Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1068Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3030	Figure 2 GFP R1074Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1074Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3031	Figure 2 GFP K1078Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1078Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3032	Figure 2 GFP R1081Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1081Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3033	Figure 2 GFP K1087Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1087Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3034	Figure 2 GFP R1090Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1090Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3035	Figure 2 GFP R1092Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1092Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3036	Figure 2 GFP K1106Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1106Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3037	Figure 2 GFP R1112Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1112Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3038	Figure 2 GFP R1119Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ R1119Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3039	Figure 2 GFP K1121Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1121Q, Tm ^R
SAD 3040	Figure 2 GFP K1124Q	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; igVCA0265/0266::CBS-mCherry v2, Cm ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$ K1124Q, Tm ^R
SAD 2675	Figure S2 ChiS ^{WT} No FLAG tag	$\Delta lacZ::P_{chb}$ -GFP, Kan ^R ; $\Delta chiS/cbp::Carb^R$; $\Delta VCA0692::ChiS$, Tm ^R

Table S4. Primers used in this study.

Primer Name	Primer Sequence	Description
CKP 090	cggatccGGCTGCTAACAAAG	pHisTev amplify for FastClone F
BBC 2359	atggccctgaaaatacaggttttctatATGGCTGCCGCGCGGCACC	pHisTev amplify for FastClone R
CKP 713	CATatagaaaacctgtatttcaggggccatTCGAAACAAGATTTGATGCG	ChiS DBD amplify for FastClone F
CKP 484	CCTTTTCGGGCTTTGTTAGCAGCCggatccgTTATTCACCTGGTC AGGAGTTTTTGC	ChiS DBD amplify for FastClone R
ABD 767	TTAATTTGGATCCCTGCGACACTC	Δ chiS F1 for Up arm
ABD 768	gtcgacggatccccggaatCAAAAAACGTGAGGAGAATGCC	Δ chiS R1 for Up arm
ABD 123	ATTCCGGGGATCCGTCGAC	Carb ^R cassette amplify F
ABD 124	TGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC	Carb ^R cassette amplify R
ABD 798	gaagcagctccagcctacaGTA CTGGATCTGAAACCAGTTAAG	Δ cbp F2 for Down arm
ABD 799	GTATTGCGGAATGACCAGCATG	Δ cbp R2 for Down arm
ABD 725	GAAGCAGCTCCAGCCTACA	Detect F for Δ chiS/cbp deletion
BBC 082	gtcgacggatccccggaatCATAACTTACACCTTACTCACCCAG	Detect R for Δ chiS/cbp deletion
BBC 832	GCTTTTTGCTACAACGACCG	Δ VCA0692 Tm ^R F1 for Up arm
BBC 647	ttttctatttctgaatcgattcatacgaCTCATTAGGCACCCCAGGC	Δ VCA0692 Tm ^R R1 for Up arm
BBC 1889	tcgtatgaatcgattcagaaatagaaaaTTTGCCGCTTTTAACGTAAAT CAG	ChiS F for Middle arm
BBC 577	tgtaggctggagctgctcTTATTCACCTGGTCAGGAGTTTTTGC	ChiS R for Middle arm
BBC 830	gaagcagctccagcctacaGTTGAGTTGGATGCAGCACC	Δ VCA0692 Tm ^R F2 for Down arm
BBC 834	CACAATTTCTCGCTTAAAATGTCC	Δ VCA0692 Tm ^R R2 for Down arm
DOG 0718	gcaggtggagcaggtggaCAACCGGTCTGGGTTTCTG	ChiS internal FLAG at E566 F
DOG 0717	tccaccactccacctgcTTCTGAGACTTGATTAATAATGCGCAG	ChiS internal FLAG at E566 R
BBC 2274	gcaggtggaagtggaggagattataaggatgacgatgacaaagcaggtggagcagg tgga	1x FLAG Middle F
BBC 2275	tccacctgctccacctgctttgtcatcgtcatccttataatctccacc actccacctgc	1x FLAG Middle R
ABD 332	GGCTGAACGTGGTTGTCGAAAATGAC	Δ lacZ F1 for Up arm
BBC 219	GTTTATTTTTGTCGACTGTACAGCGTTTAAATAGAGGTCGAT ATTGACCC	Δ lacZ R1 for Up arm
BBC 218	CGCTGTACAGTCGACAAAAATAAAC	Kan ^R F Middle for GFP reporter
BBC 262	TACCGAGGACGCGAAGCTG	Kan ^R R Middle for GFP reporter
BBC 266	CAGCTTCGCGTCCTCGGTAGAATAAAGCAATCCGCAAGCG	P _{chb} F Middle for GFP reporter
BBC 267	CCCGGGATCCTGTGTGAAATTGAGTTGCTTTCATTTCACTA ATGG	P _{chb} R Middle for GFP reporter

BBC 252	CAATTTACACAGGATCCCGGGAGGAGGTAACGTAATGCG TAAAGGAGAAGAAC	GFP F Middle for GFP reporter
BBC 254	tgtaggctggagctgcttCTTAGTTGTATAGTTCATCCATGCC	GFP R Middle for GFP reporter
ABD 255	gaagcagctccagcctacaCCACAATAAGCCAGAGAGCCTTAAG	Δ lacZ F2 for Down arm
ABD 256	CCCAAATACGGCAACTTGGCG	Δ lacZ R2 for Down arm
CKP 876	CCTCGGGCGAGTATCAATCGcagCAAGATTTGATGCGTGCC GTG	ChiS K1025Q F
CKP 877	CACGGCACGCATCAAATCTTGctgCGATTGATACTCGCCCGA GG	ChiS K1025Q R
CKP 878	CGGGCGAGTATCAATCGcag	ChiS K1025Q detect F
CKP 879	CAATCGAAACAAGATTTGATGCagGCCGTGTTAGTCGAAGC CATG	ChiS R1030Q F
CKP 880	CATGGCTTCGACTAACACGGCctGCATCAAATCTTGTTTCGA TTG	ChiS R1030Q R
CKP 881	CGAAACAAGATTTGATGCag	ChiS R1030Q detect F
CKP 882	GTGCCTTGA ACTATTGGGAACagGTCTCAGGGCAAAGCAAG TTC	ChiS R1046Q F
CKP 883	GAACTTGCTTTGCCCTGAGACctGTTCCCAATAGTTCAAGGC AC	ChiS R1046Q R
CKP 884	CCTTGA ACTATTGGGAACag	ChiS R1046Q detect F
CKP 885	GAACGAGTCTCAGGGCAAAGCcAgTTCACGTTTGCCGAACA AAG	ChiS K1052Q F
CKP 886	CTTTGTTTCGGCAAACGTGAAcTgGCTTTGCCCTGAGACTCG TTC	ChiS K1052Q R
CKP 887	GAGTCTCAGGGCAAAGCcAg	ChiS K1052Q detect F
CKP 888	CGAACAAAGTGGCTTGTGGCagGTTTATCTTGACCGCAGCA C	ChiS R1063Q F
CKP 889	GTGCTGCGGTCAAGATAAACctGCCACAAGCCACTTTGTTC G	ChiS R1063Q R
CKP 890	AACAAAGTGGCTTGTGGCag	ChiS R1063Q detect F
CKP 891	GTGGCGGTTTATCTTGACCagAGCACCCCTACAAACTCGTA C	ChiS R1068Q F
CKP 892	GTACGAGTTTGTAGGGTGCTctGGTCAAGATAAACGCGCCA C	ChiS R1068Q R
CKP 893	GGCGGTTTATCTTGACCag	ChiS R1068Q detect F
CKP 894	CCGCAGCACCCCTACAAACTCagACCCTAGACAAATACTTAC GAATTG	ChiS R1074Q F
CKP 895	CAATTCGTAAGTATTTGTCTAGGGTctGAGTTTGTAGGGTGC TGCGG	ChiS R1074Q R
CKP 896	GCAGCACCCCTACAAACTCag	ChiS R1074Q detect F
CKP 897	CTACAAACTCGTACCCTAGACcAgTACTTACGAATTGAGACA CTG	ChiS K1078Q F
CKP 898	CAGTGTCTCAATTCGTAAGTAcTgGTCTAGGGTACGAGTTTG TAG	ChiS K1078Q R

CKP 899	CAAACCTCGTACCCTAGACcAg	ChiS K1078Q detect F
CKP 900	CTCGTACCCTAGACAAATACTTACagATTGAGACACTGCCTAAAC	ChiS R1081Q F
CKP 901	GTTTTAGGCAGTGTCTCAATctGTAAGTATTTGTCTAGGGTACGAG	ChiS R1081Q R
CKP 902	CGTACCCTAGACAAATACTTACag	ChiS R1081Q detect F
CKP 903	CTTACGAATTGAGACACTGCCTcAgACACCGCGTTGGCGAAC	ChiS K1087Q F
CKP 904	GTTCCGCCAACGCGGTGTcTgAGGCAGTGTCTCAATTCGTAA	ChiS K1087Q R
CKP 905	GAATTGAGACACTGCCTcAg	ChiS K1087Q detect F
CKP 906	GACACTGCCTAAAACACCGCagTGGCGAACCGTACTGAACTC	ChiS R1090Q F
CKP 907	GAGTTCAGTACGGTTCGCCActGCGGTGTTTTAGGCAGTGT	ChiS R1090Q R
CKP 908	CACTGCCTAAAACACCGCag	ChiS R1090Q detect F
CKP 909	CCTAAAACACCGCGTTGGCagACCGTACTGAACTCGCTCGAC	ChiS R1092Q F
CKP 910	GTCGAGCGAGTTCAGTACGGTctGCCAACGCGGTGTTTTAG	ChiS R1092Q R
CKP 911	CTAAAACACCGCGTTGGCag	ChiS R1092Q detect F
CKP 912	CGACTACATTCTTGAGCATTGCcAgGAAGCAGGCCCTGAACGC	ChiS K1106Q F
CKP 913	GCGTTCAGGGCCTGCTTCcTgGCAATGCTCAAGAATGTAGTCG	ChiS K1106Q R
CKP 914	TACATTCTTGAGCATTGCcAg	ChiS K1106Q detect F
CKP 915	CAAAGAAGCAGGCCCTGAACagACTCACATCGAAATGCAGCG	ChiS R1112Q F
CKP 916	CGCTGCATTTTCGATGTGAGTctGTTTCAGGGCCTGCTTCTTTG	ChiS R1112Q R
CKP 917	AAGAAGCAGGCCCTGAACag	ChiS R1112Q detect F
CKP 918	CACTCACATCGAAATGCAGCagGATAAATTGCAAAAACCTCCTGACC	ChiS R1119Q F
CKP 919	GGTCAGGAGTTTTTGCAATTTATCctGCTGCATTTTCGATGTGAGTG	ChiS R1119Q R
CKP 920	CTCACATCGAAATGCAGCag	ChiS R1119Q detect F
CKP 921	CACATCGAAATGCAGCGCGATcAgTTGCAAAAACCTCCTGACAGTG	ChiS K1121Q F
CKP 922	CACTGGTCAGGAGTTTTTGCAAcTgATCGCGCTGCATTTTCGATGTG	ChiS K1121Q R
CKP 923	TCGAAATGCAGCGCGATcAg	ChiS K1121Q detect F
CKP 924	GAAATGCAGCGCGATAAATTGCAAcAgCTCCTGACCAGTG	ChiS K1124Q F
CKP 925	CACTGGTCAGGAGcTgTTGCAATTTATCGCGCTGCATTTTC	ChiS K1124Q R
CKP 926	AGCGCGATAAATTGCAAcAg	ChiS K1124Q detect F
CKP 642	GGTATTTTGACGTTAATGACGTAGGGCATCTAGGTTTTGACGTTTTTAACGGGAATTGCA	P _{chb} WT 60 bp EMSA probe F

CKP 643	TGCAATTCCCGTTAAAAACGTCAAACCTAGATGCCCTACG TCATTAACGTCAAATACC	<i>P_{chb}</i> WT 60 bp EMSA probe R
CKP 648	GGTATTTTGA ^{ta} TAATGACGTAGGGCATCTAGGTTTTG ^{Atac} T TTTAACGGGAATTGCA	<i>P_{chb}</i> Mutated 60 bp EMSA probe F
CKP 649	TGCAATTCCCGTTAAAA ^{gta} TCAAACCTAGATGCCCTACGT CATT ^{gta} TCAAATACC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Mutated 60 bp EMSA probe R
CKP 978	AAAATCAGGCTAGTGAGCGAG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 1 F
CKP 979	TATCAATTGCAATTCCCGTTAAAAACG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 1 R
CKP 980	ATATAACTCAGGCAAAGAGCC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 2 F
CKP 981	AGGAGTAAGAAAACACCTAGCC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 2 R
CKP 982	CAAGGCCAAATAAGTAAGTAAAC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 3 F
CKP 983	GGAGTCATGAGTGGCCTGTAG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 3 R
CKP 984	AACCTAGCTAAACCGTACCC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 4 F
CKP 985	CCTCATCACTTTTACCCCGTC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 4 R
CKP 986	TTGAATCACTTCGCGTTTTTTG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 5 F
CKP 987	CATCAATTGATAAACACTCTCCAAG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 5 R
CKP 988	TCACACATCAGAAGGTATTTTG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 6 F
CKP 989	TTGCTTTCATTTCACTAATGGATGG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 6 R
CKP 990	GACGTAGGGCATCTAGGTTTTG	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 7 F
CKP 991	ATATTGGCAAGCATAGCTGTTCC	<i>P_{chb}</i> Bend probe 7 R
BBC 989	GCATCTAGGTTTTGACGTTTTTAACG	<i>P_{chb}</i> amplify for ChIP qPCR F
BBC 990	AACACTCTCCAAGACCTACCTC	<i>P_{chb}</i> amplify for ChIP qPCR R
ABD 132	CTGTCTCAAGCCGGTTACAA	<i>rpoB</i> amplify for ChIP qPCR F
ABD 133	TTTCTACCAGTGCAGAGATGC	<i>rpoB</i> amplify for ChIP qPCR R