Functional analysis of cyclic diguanylate-modulating proteins in *Vibrio fischeri*

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ABSTRACT

As bacterial symbionts transition from a motile free-living state to a sessile biofilm state, they

must coordinate behavior changes suitable to each lifestyle. Cyclic diguanylate (c-di-GMP) is an

intracellular signaling molecule that can regulate this transition, and it is synthesized by

diguanylate cyclase (DGC) enzymes and degraded by phosphodiesterase (PDE) enzymes.

Generally, c-di-GMP inhibits motility and promotes biofilm formation. While c-di-GMP and the

enzymes that contribute to its metabolism have been well-studied in pathogens, considerably

less focus has been placed on c-di-GMP regulation in beneficial symbionts. *Vibrio fischeri* is the

sole beneficial symbiont of the Hawaiian bobtail squid (*Euprymna scolopes*) light organ, and the

bacterium requires both motility and biofilm formation to efficiently colonize. C-di-GMP regulates

swimming motility and cellulose exopolysaccharide production in *V. fischeri*. The genome

encodes 50 DGCs and PDEs, and while a few of these proteins have been characterized, the

majority have not undergone comprehensive characterization. In this study, we use protein

overexpression to systematically characterize the functional potential of all 50 *V. fischeri*

proteins. All 28 predicted DGCs and 14 predicted PDEs displayed at least one phenotype

consistent with their predicted function, and a majority of each displayed multiple phenotypes.

Finally, active site mutant analysis of proteins with the potential for both DGC and PDE activities

revealed potential activities for these proteins. This work presents a systems-level functional

analysis of a family of signaling proteins in a tractable animal symbiont and will inform future

efforts to characterize the roles of individual proteins during lifestyle transitions.

IMPORTANCE

C-di-GMP is a critical second messenger that mediates bacterial behaviors, and *V. fischeri*

colonization of its Hawaiian bobtail squid host presents a tractable model in which to interrogate

the role of c-di-GMP during animal colonization. This work provides systems-level

characterization of the 50 proteins predicted to modulate c-di-GMP levels. By combining

multiple assays, we generated a rich understanding of which proteins have the capacity to

influence c-di-GMP levels and behaviors. Our functional approach yielded insights into how

proteins with domains to both synthesize and degrade c-di-GMP may impact bacterial

behaviors. Finally, we integrated published data to provide a broader picture of each of the 50

proteins analyzed. This study will inform future work to define specific pathways by which c-di-

GMP regulates symbiotic behaviors and transitions.

INTRODUCTION

Many bacteria exist in the environment in a free-living state, and upon encountering an animal

host undergo dramatic developmental transitions. These adjustments enable symbiotic

microbes–including mutualists, commensals, and pathogens–to acclimate to the physical,

chemical, and nutritional milieu in the host; to resist immune responses; and to engage in

behaviors required for survival and growth within the distinct host environment (1–5). To

manage such transitions successfully, bacteria often inversely regulate motility and adhesion

(6–11). In the motile state, it would be counterproductive to be adherent, and environmental

bacteria use motility and chemotaxis to colonize novel niches, seek nutrition, and avoid

predation (12–14). In contrast, adherent bacteria, especially those that have formed a

multicellular biofilm, do not have a need for swimming motility. As a result there are multiple

mechanisms that bacteria use to coordinately and inversely regulate these two broad behaviors

(15–18). Alteration of the levels of the intracellular second messenger cyclic diguanylate (c-di-

GMP) is a common mechanism used by bacteria to accomplish this purpose (19). In general, c-

di-GMP promotes biofilm formation and inhibits motility (20). Enzymes that regulate c-di-GMP

levels are diguanylate cyclases (DGCs), which synthesize c-di-GMP, and phosphodiesterases

(PDEs), which degrade the molecule. DGCs contain GGDEF domains with conserved

GG(D/E)EF active site residues, while PDEs contain EAL domains with conserved ExLxR active

site residues or HD-GYP domains with conserved HD and GYP active site residues (21–26).

Although many proteins have both GGDEF and EAL domains, only one domain is usually

active, even when the amino acid motif for the other domain should function based on sequence

conservation (27–30). However, environmental conditions may influence whether some dual-

function proteins exhibit primarily DGC or PDE activity (31).

Much of what is known about c-di-GMP regulation of biofilm, motility, and host colonization is

from studies on pathogenic species (32–34). Activation of cellulose production was the first role

defined for c-di-GMP, in *Acetobacter xylinum* (now *Komagataeibacter xylinus*), and has

remained one of most well characterized c-di-GMP-regulated phenotypes across taxa (20, 21).

C-di-GMP-mediated cellulose production has been implicated in host colonization defects by

pathogens *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium (33). Although much

focus has been placed on defining roles for c-di-GMP in pathogenic associations, recent studies

have focused on the impacts of c-di-GMP in bacteria during beneficial host associations. Host-

derived ligands inactivate *Aeromonas veronii* DGC SpeD, which promotes host colonization

(35). Additionally, high levels of c-di-GMP negatively impact the establishment of the symbiosis

between the bioluminescent marine bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* and its host the Hawaiian bobtail

squid (*Euprymna scolopes*) (36). *V. fischeri* is the sole, beneficial light organ symbiont of the

Hawaiian bobtail squid (*Euprymna scolopes*), and the bacterium requires both swimming motility

and biofilm formation to successfully colonize the host light organ (37–40). *V. fischeri* express

polar flagella in seawater and form biofilm aggregates in the host mucus before migrating into

the light organ (37, 38, 41–44). *V. fischeri* produce cellulose via the *bcs* locus-encoded cellulose

synthase enzyme, which is activated by c-di-GMP, and genetic manipulation of c-di-GMP levels

through deletion or overexpression of DGCs and PDEs modulates cellulose production (39, 45–

48). Although cellulose is not required for symbiotic biofilm or squid colonization, an *in vivo*

regulatory interaction exists between cellulose and the symbiosis polysaccharide (Syp) (36, 38,

39, 42, 49, 50).

We previously examined how global c-di-GMP levels impact bacterial behaviors in *V. fischeri*,

including cellulose production, cellulose synthase and *syp* transcriptional reporter activities, and

flagellar motility (36). For that work, we took advantage of a strain lacking seven DGCs and

another strain lacking six PDEs to adjust the global c-di-GMP pool. That effort sparked our

interest in the potential redundancy of the dozens of predicted c-di-GMP modulating enzymes

and the capacity of the encoded proteins to impact bacterial behavior. It is common for bacteria,

especially those with diverse lifestyles, to encode many DGCs and PDEs: *E. coli* encodes 29

such enzymes and *Vibrio cholerae* encodes 62 (51, 52). *V. fischeri* strain ES114 encodes 50

genes predicted to modulate c-di-GMP levels (**FIG. 1**) (53, 54). Of these possible c-di-GMP-

modulating proteins, only a few have been characterized in depth for their roles in biofilm

formation and/or swimming motility. DGCs MifA and MifB regulate magnesium-dependent

motility by contributing to flagellar biogenesis (45). CasA is a DGC that is activated by calcium

to inhibit motility and promote cellulose biofilm formation (48). Reduction of c-di-GMP levels by

PDE BinA reduces cellulose synthesis (46). LapD has degenerate GGDEF and EAL active

sites, one or both of which may recognize c-di-GMP to promote cleavage of the biofilm-

promoting adhesin LapV (47). In this model, the PDE PdeV activates biofilm dispersal by

decreasing the c-di-GMP pool that activates LapD (47). In *V. fischeri* strain KB2B1, the ortholog

of DGC VF_1200 was shown to inhibit swimming motility (55). The other 44 *V. fischeri* predicted

c-di-GMP-modulating proteins have not undergone comprehensive phenotypic characterization,

although a recent study was published where motility of c-di-GMP-modulating gene mutants

were assessed (54). Additionally, none of the 50 c-di-GMP-modulating proteins have been

shown to impact host colonization individually, although putative PDE VF_A0879 was predicted

to be required for host colonization in a transposon insertion sequencing study (56). In this

report, we systematically dissected the capability of *V. fischeri* predicted c-di-GMP-modulating

enzymes to impact various biofilm and motility phenotypes through an approach combining

systems-level overexpression analysis and targeted active site mutations.

RESULTS

***V. fischeri* encodes 50 proteins predicted to modulate c-di-GMP levels**

The *V. fischeri* genome (strain ES114) encodes 50 proteins containing DGC and/or PDE

domains (49, 50, 53, 54). Twenty-eight are predicted DGCs with GGDEF domains, 14 are

predicted PDEs (12 with EAL domains, 2 with HD-GYP domains), 5 are predicted dual-function

proteins with both GGDEF and EAL domains, and 3 are predicted to be nonfunctional due to

degenerate active sites. The genes encoding these proteins are spread across both *V. fischeri*

chromosomes, with most (31 out of 50) of the genes located on the smaller second

chromosome (**FIG. 1**). To further characterize the functions of all 50 proteins, we took an

overexpression approach to examine the function of each protein when individually

overexpressed in *V. fischeri*. We sought this approach to be resilient against the redundancy we

expect to exist within the large gene families. A similar overexpression approach has been

effective to evaluate phenotypes of DGCs and PDEs in *V. cholerae* (57–61) and in other

bacteria (28, 62–64). We used an IPTG-inducible vector to overexpress each protein in *V.*

fischeri and performed assays to quantify cellulose production, swimming motility, and c-di-GMP

levels. We also included control strains overexpressing VC1086 (a *V. cholerae* PDE) and QrgB

(a *Vibrio campbellii* BB120 DGC), which have served as effective controls in multiple organisms

(59, 61, 64–69). We note that the vector backbone used is the same as in many of the *V.*

cholerae studies. Assays were conducted in a 96-well format to facilitate simultaneous,

reproducible assays of the complete set of 54 test and control strains.

Predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs impact cellulose polysaccharide production

C-di-GMP promotes cellulose synthesis in many bacteria including *V. fischeri* (46, 48). To

assess cellulose production across the set of proteins, we performed Congo red binding assays

(46) of strains overexpressing each protein. Most DGCs (17/28 *V. fischeri* proteins) increased

cellulose production, consistent with their predicted function, including characterized DGCs MifA

and CasA (**FIG. 2A**). Known *V. campbellii* DGC QrgB also increased cellulose production (**FIG.**

2A). The increase in cellulose production upon overexpression of known DGC MifA is consistent

with published results (45), and the CasA overexpression result is consistent with data showing

decreased cellulose production in a Δ*casA* strain (48). While overexpression of the remaining

predicted DGCs did not significantly alter Congo red binding levels, many had a trend in the

positive direction as expected and consistent with an increase in c-di-GMP levels (**FIG. 2A**).

Overexpression of 10/14 predicted PDEs significantly decreased cellulose production upon

overexpression, consistent with their predicted function, including characterized PDEs BinA and

PdeV. Known *V. cholerae* PDE VC1086 also decreased cellulose production (**FIG. 2A**). Our

results are consistent with published results showing effects on cellulose production for PDEs

BinA and PdeV (46, 47).

V. fischeri encodes five proteins with both GGDEF and EAL domains. Proteins that contain both

GGDEF and EAL domains typically only have one domain exhibit activity, even if the amino acid

motif for the other domain is conserved (27–30), though there is evidence of a dual-function

protein capable of exhibiting either DGC or PDE activity depending on conditions (31). We

therefore expected these dual-function proteins to behave predominantly as DGCs or PDEs. Of

the five predicted dual-function proteins, overexpression of VF_0985 increased cellulose

production while VF_0094 and VF_0494 decreased cellulose production compared to the empty

vector control (**FIG. 2A**).

Finally, we examined the three predicted "degenerate" c-di-GMP modulating enzymes; i.e.,

proteins with intact GGDEF and/or EAL domains but with degenerate GG(D/E)EF and/or ExLxR

active site motifs that are not predicted to function. None of these proteins significantly impacted

cellulose production (**FIG. 2A**).

Predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs influence flagellar motility

As a second behavioral output of c-di-GMP levels, we proceeded to assay swimming motility in

the same set of strains. We conducted swimming motility assays of strains overexpressing each

protein in TBS soft agar and in TBS soft agar with the addition of either magnesium or calcium,

which are known to influence swimming behavior by *V. fischeri (54, 70).* We observed that most

DGCs (21/28) and 6/14 PDEs showed the expected overexpression results of inhibiting or

promoting motility, respectively, including known *V. fischeri* DGCs MifA, MifB, and CasA and

known PDE BinA (**FIG. 2B**). *V. campbellii* DGC QrgB and *V. cholerae* PDE VC1086 also

showed the expected results (**FIG. 2B**). Overexpression of either DGC MifA, MifB, or CasA

diminished motility under all conditions tested despite having known cation-specific motility

phenotypes (**FIG. 2B; FIG. S1**). MifA and MifB inhibit motility in the presence of magnesium

(45), while CasA inhibits motility in the presence of calcium (48), and we suspect that

overexpression of the proteins likely amplified their respective DGC activities and bypassed the

requirement for the respective cations. One example where we observed a media-specific effect

is for VF_0985, which strongly inhibited motility upon overexpression in TBS and TBS-Ca,

relative to the empty vector control, but not in TBS-Mg (**FIG. 2B; FIG. S1**).

Overexpression of predicted degenerate proteins VF_0355 and VF_A0216 did not significantly

impact motility (**FIG. 2B; FIG. S1**). Overexpression of LapD decreased motility in two of the

three motility media types (**FIG. 2B; FIG. S1**), but this is likely independent of c-di-GMP

modulation and is consistent with the function of LapD in inhibiting biofilm dispersal (47), which

is associated with decreased motility.

Expression level of *V. fischeri* proteins does not correlate with magnitude of phenotypes

Of the *V. fischeri* proteins assayed, 13 did not have significant phenotypes for either cellulose

production or motility: DGCs CdgG, VF_1245, VF_1515, VF_A0056, VF_A0476, VF_A0796;

PDEs VF_A0706, VF_A0879, and PdeV; dual-function proteins VF_A0244 and VF_A0475; and

predicted degenerate proteins VF_0355 and VF_A0216 (**FIG. 2; FIG. S1**). This result for these

proteins could be due to lack of enzymatic activity under the conditions tested, or could be the

result of posttranscriptional regulation that prevents these proteins from being expressed. To

test whether the lack of significant phenotypes from these proteins was due to protein

expression, we assessed expression of several FLAG-tagged proteins via western blot. We

selected proteins with strong phenotypes in both the cellulose and motility assays (MifA,

VF_A0057, and VF_A0155), one protein with a phenotype in just the motility assay (VF_A0342),

proteins with no significant phenotypes in either assay (VF_1515, VF_A0056, and VF_A0476),

and a predicted degenerate protein with no significant phenotypes (VF_A0216). All three

proteins with strong phenotypes in both assays were expressed robustly (**FIG. 3**). Two of the

proteins with no significant phenotypes (VF_A0056 and VF_A0476) were expressed, with the

intensity of the band for VF_A0056 as strong as the bands for the proteins with significant

phenotypes in both assays (**FIG. 3**). The predicted degenerate protein VF_A0216 was also

expressed, as was VF_A0342 which only had a significant motility phenotype (**FIG. 3**).

VF_1515, which had no significant phenotypes, was the only protein tested that had no

observable expression via western blot, suggesting that VF_1515 protein is not produced at a

substantial level under the conditions tested (**FIG. 3**). Therefore, while we expect that most

proteins expressed from pEVS143 are found at appreciable levels in the cell, including those

proteins that do not yield detectable phenotypes, in at least one case we found that the protein

assayed was not expressed stably in the cell. Further, the magnitude of the cellulose and

motility phenotypes do not correlate with protein expression level for proteins that are

expressed.

Predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs modulate c-di-GMP reporter levels

Congo red and motility assays revealed that most of the *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs influence

phenotypes associated with c-di-GMP. We next asked to what capacity these proteins are

capable of modulating c-di-GMP levels using the pFY4535 fluorescent c-di-GMP reporter

plasmid (71), which we used previously to quantify c-di-GMP levels in *V. fischeri* (36). We

expected overexpression of DGCs to increase c-di-GMP levels and overexpression of PDEs to

decrease c-di-GMP levels relative to the empty vector control. We also expected proteins with

the strongest cellulose and/or motility phenotypes to have the strongest effects of c-di-GMP

reporter activity. Consistent with their predicted function, overexpression of all 28 predicted

DGCs increased c-di-GMP reporter activity, including characterized *V. fischeri* DGCs MifA and

MifB (**FIG. S2A**). The results for overexpression of MifA and MifB are consistent with published

results (45). In contrast to the results with DGCs, upon overexpression only 3/14 predicted

PDEs, VF_0087, VF_A0506, and VF_A0706, had the expected effect of significantly decreasing

c-di-GMP reporter activity (**FIG. S2A**). These results are also in contrast to the cellulose and

motility results, where overexpression of the majority of PDEs elicited at least one of the

expected phenotypes, and no PDEs had significant opposite cellulose or motility phenotypes

(**FIG. 2; FIG. S2D**). BinA is a characterized PDE that negatively influences c-di-GMP levels

(absence of BinA resulted in increased c-di-GMP compared to WT) (46). Our results show that

BinA overexpression diminished c-di-GMP reporter activity by 57%, but this result was not

statistically significant (**FIG. S2A**). However, the cellulose and motility results for BinA are

among the strongest of the PDEs (**FIG. 2; FIG. S2D**). Similarly, overexpression of known *V.*

cholerae PDE VC1086 also did not significantly alter c-di-GMP reporter activity (**FIG. S2A**), but

did significantly alter cellulose production and motility in the expected directions (**FIG. 2; FIG.**

S2D). Surprisingly, five predicted PDEs, VF_0091, VF_1367, VF_A0344, and VF_A0879, and

VF_A1076 significantly increased c-di-GMP reporter activity upon overexpression (**FIG S2A**).

The same results were observed when the strains were assayed individually rather than in the

arrayed 96-well format, with the exception of VF_1367 which did not have significant results in

the individual assay format (**FIG. S2B**). Of these five PDEs, VF_0091 significantly decreased

cellulose production and none significantly increased motility, but these phenotypes do not

correspond with increased c-di-GMP reporter activity (**FIG. 2; FIG. S2D**). One interpretation of

these results is that the c-di-GMP reporter reports a local level of c-di-GMP while the Congo red

and motility assays report global levels. Local c-di-GMP levels measured by the reporter may

correspond with global levels for the majority of strains, but not for strains overexpressing some

PDEs, where the dynamic range of c-di-GMP levels is much more limited and local pools may

be subject to substantial variation from the global dynamics. We previously reported that in a

high c-di-GMP strain of *V. fischeri*, overexpression of PDE VC1086 reduced c-di-GMP reporter

activity 1.6-fold when measured with the same reporter (36). However, overexpression with the

same vector in wild-type *V. fischeri* had no effect on the already-low c-di-GMP reporter activity.

Therefore, while the c-di-GMP reporter levels were well-correlated with c-di-GMP-responsive

phenotypes for the DGCs, data from the reporter were not informative for predicting phenotypes

from the low basal wild-type levels. To test whether the pFY4535 c-di-GMP biosensor could

better report decreased c-di-GMP in a high c-di-GMP background, we overexpressed select

PDEs in a strain of *V. fischeri* deleted for six PDEs (Δ6PDE) and has been demonstrated to

have high basal c-di-GMP levels (36). Every PDE tested diminished c-di-GMP reporter activity

in the high c-di-GMP background, including VF_0091 and VF_A1076, which exhibited the

highest reporter activity in the wild-type background (**FIG. S2C**). Dual-function protein VF_0094

diminished reporter activity comparable to the strongest PDE in the assay (**FIG. S2C**),

consistent with the cellulose and motility results for this protein in the wild-type background

(**FIG. 2**). To further probe the accuracy of the c-di-GMP reporter for functional characterization

of DGC and PDE activities, we selected several PDE overexpression strains to measure c-di-

GMP levels using a commercially available ELISA kit. The results of the ELISA c-di-GMP

quantification did not agree with the phenotypic characterization of the selected PDEs, nor did

they agree with the c-di-GMP reporter data (**FIG. S3**). We also quantified the phenotypic

correlation of the reporter data with our Congo red ($R^2 = 0.69$) and motility ($R^2 = 0.66$) results,

which was lower in both cases than the correlation of the Congo red and motility phenotypes to

each other ($R^2 = 0.77$). Given these questions about the utility of the reporter activity in the wild-

type background when c-di-GMP levels are diminished, for our overall question of the catalytic

potential of the proteins assayed we argue that it is most prudent to infer global c-di-GMP-

dependent processes from the phenotypic assays of cellulose production and swimming

motility. In the next section, we test this hypothesis through mutation of relevant c-di-GMP active

sites.

Select *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs impact motility and biofilm phenotypes through their c-

di-GMP catalytic sites

Most of the DGCs and PDEs exhibited the expected cellulose and motility phenotypes upon

overexpression (**FIG. 2**). If the results we observed were due to catalytic function, then mutation

of the active sites should impact these phenotypes. Changing the second amino acid in the

GGDEF motif to A (62, 72, 73) drastically reduced the effects of MifA, VF_A0057, VF_A0152,

and VF_A0398 on cellulose production and motility (**FIG. 4**). These results confirm that intact

GGDEF domains are required for the regulatory functions of these proteins.

VF_A0057 is one of the more interesting predicted DGCs because it has a non-consensus

GGDEF domain with a serine instead of a glycine in the first position of the motif (i.e., SGDEF).

The altered motif is not functional in *V. cholerae* CdgG, which led us to predict it to be similarly

nonfunctional in *V. fischeri* VF_A0057 (72). Surprisingly, though, mutation of the second amino

acid of the motif in VF_A0057, resulting in the amino acid sequence SADEF, substantially

mitigated the effects of the protein on cellulose production and motility, suggesting that the non-

canonical SDGEF motif in this protein is functional and that VF_A0057 likely has DGC activity

(**FIG. 4**). CdgG, a homolog of the nonfunctional *V. cholerae* protein CdgG, is another predicted

DGC with a non-consensus active site where the first amino acid is a serine: SGEEF. However,

overexpression of CdgG or the variant (SAEEF) did not promote cellulose production or inhibit

motility (**FIG. 4**).

To examine the catalytic site of the PDEs, we similarly replaced the first residue of the ExLxR

motif with an alanine, a mutation that has been used previously to disrupt EAL domain activity

(46, 59, 74, 75). AxLxR mutants of BinA and VF_0087 attenuated the effects of these proteins

on cellulose production and motility (**FIG. 4**). These results confirm previous work (46, 54, 55),

and are the first demonstration of the requirement for the active site residues for VF_0087

function.

VF_1367 is one of two predicted HD-GYP domain PDEs encoded by *V. fischeri*. The motif

encoded is HD-GYL, but the presumed HD catalytic dyad for HD superfamily proteins is still

intact (23). Here, we changed the second amino acid to an alanine, which has been used to

disrupt HD-GYP domain activity (25, 60). Overexpression of an HA-GYL variant of VF_1367

obviated the impact on cellulose production, which was the major phenotype observed on

overexpression of the wild-type protein (**FIG. 4**). Overexpression of active site mutants of

predicted and characterized DGCs and PDEs thus supports the predicted biochemical activities

of individual proteins and validates our overall approach of overexpressing predicted c-di-GMP-

modulating proteins to understand the genome-wide functional landscape.

Challenges in assigning functions for dual-domain proteins

Three of the five *V. fischeri* dual-function proteins had clear phenotypes in both cellulose

production and motility assays, suggesting they may primarily function as DGCs or PDEs (**FIG.**

2). However, overexpression of proteins with both GGDEF and EAL domains can only hint at

whether a protein primarily has DGC or PDE activity and does not discern which domains are

active/inactive. To assess whether one, both, or neither of the DGC and PDE domains

contribute to the effects of these predicted dual-domain protein, we assayed strains

overexpressing GGDEF mutants, EAL mutants, or GGDEF/EAL double mutants of each protein.

As one example, phenotypic assays strongly suggested that VF_0985 behaved as a DGC given

its impact on cellulose and motility (**FIG. 2**). A VF_0985 AAL mutant behaved like the wild-type

protein in all assays when overexpressed, while a GADEF mutant drastically reduced the effects

of VF_0985 on cellulose production and motility (**FIG. 5**). Interestingly, mutation of the GGDEF

domain seemed to reverse the effects of VF_0985: the GGDEF mutant behaved similar to a

PDE in both assays (**FIG. 5**), suggesting the EAL domain may be active. When the VF_0985

double GADEF/AAL mutant was overexpressed, cellulose production resembled the single

GGDEF mutant, while little effect on motility was observed (**FIG. 5**). These results suggest that,

under the conditions tested, VF_0985 likely functions predominantly as a DGC, but that we may

be detecting cryptic PDE activity in the variant in which DGC activity is absent. Active site

mutant analysis of the remaining four dual-function proteins similarly suggest a more

complicated picture than one dominant domain. Further in-depth studies of these proteins will

be required to dissect their roles in cellulose production and motility, and the mechanisms by

which these proteins perform those roles.

DISCUSSION

V. fischeri is an emerging model for studies of c-di-GMP regulation, and especially for how c-di-

GMP impacts animal host colonization. We previously demonstrated that high global levels of c-

di-GMP impair colonization, though it is unknown how levels remain low to facilitate a productive

host-microbe symbiosis. An ongoing goal is to elucidate relevant signaling that enables proper

c-di-GMP in the host and during transitions to and from the host-associated state. Therefore, the

goal of the current study was to identify which of the predicted 50 c-di-GMP modulating

proteins–DGCs, PDEs, dual-function DGC/PDEs, and likely degenerate enzymes–are able to

elicit c-di-GMP-responsive phenotypes in *V. fischeri*. In **Figure 6** we assembled the results from

our analyses to demonstrate cellulose production and swimming motility results for all 50 *V.*

fischeri proteins and the two control proteins. Furthermore, we integrated data from a recent

study (54) that examined swimming motility of single-gene mutants in the same *V. fischeri*

proteins. The resulting table (**FIG. 6**) presents a powerful visualization of current knowledge of

the catalytic potential of these gene families. Conducted in different labs, there is remarkable

consistency among the results. There are more proteins with significant effects observed upon

overexpression (32/50 in at least one motility assay) compared to gene deletion (20/50), which

was expected, and supports our approach to use the overexpression approach to reveal

function in a family where redundancy is expected. The one case in which discrepancies were

noted were for DGC VF_A0368, where we had consistent results across all conditions and the

deletion approach yielded significant results only on TBS swim plates. The only cases in which

a phenotype was observed solely in the deletion study were for DGCs CdgG and VF_A0476 as

well as predicted degenerate protein VF_0355, where Δ*cdgG*, Δ*VF_A0476*, and Δ*VF_0355*

strains each yielded the unexpected phenotype of decreased motility and we did not observe

any significant cellulose or motility phenotypes upon overexpression of these factors.

The proteins we observed to exhibit the strongest phenotypes were DGCs VF_1200,

VF_A0057, VF_A0152, VF_A0155, VF_A0276, VF_A0368, VF_A0567, and VF_A0692; PDEs

VF_1603, VF_2480, VF_A0506, and VF_A0551; and dual-function protein VF_0985 (**FIG. 2 and**

6). We also identified interesting phenotypes in VF_0985, which inhibits motility only when

magnesium is absent. For all of these proteins, little work has been conducted on a mechanistic

basis, and our study presents candidates to pursue that may mediate relevant signaling in the

host or during key lifestyle transitions. A benefit of the overexpression approach is that it can

reveal phenotypes that are not apparent during single deletions. For example, a protein that is

expressed during host colonization or in a specific environmental condition, but not during

culture growth, may be assayed for function in this manner. Conversely, a limitation of our

method is that the likely higher levels of each examined protein obscures natural regulation that

will certainly be relevant to understand signaling *in vivo*. Therefore, this work pares down a

complex family of 50 proteins to a narrower set for more focused individual studies.

While the data in **Figure 6** are remarkably consistent, it is clear that there are situations in which

protein overexpression impacts motility and not cellulose, or motility in some media and not

others. In fact, on a fine scale there are 11 different patterns to the overexpression data among

V. fischeri proteins in **Figure 6**. This result is even more remarkable given that there was no

difference in transcriptional regulation in our experimental setup. Although we detected distinct

protein levels that likely suggest posttranscriptional regulation (**FIG. 3**), steady state protein

levels did not correlate with the magnitude of the cellulose or motility phenotypes observed.

Therefore, our results suggest that local signaling effects—e.g., localization, protein-protein

interactions—may play a major role in how these factors mediate host interactions. The effects

of local signaling and protein-protein interactions by c-di-GMP-modulating proteins is particularly

exemplified by dual-function proteins as has been demonstrated across Gram-negative

bacteria. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* RmcA encodes GGDEF and EAL domains, both of which

are functional, but subcellular localization of RmcA mediated by interaction with the response

regulator CbrB activates RmcA PDE activity, subsequently reducing type III secretion system

gene expression and increasing biofilm formation (30). *V. cholerae* dual-function protein MbaA

interacts with the periplasmic binding protein NspS, which senses norspermidine and activates

MbaA DGC activity to increase the local c-di-GMP pool (76, 77). C-di-GMP synthesized by

MbaA binds to specific high-affinity biofilm effectors when norspermidine levels are low,

sensitizing the cell to norspermidine (77). *Pseudomonas fluorescens* encodes 43 proteins that

metabolize c-di-GMP, and when tested across a broad range of conditions it was determined

that ligand signaling, protein-protein interactions, and/or transcriptional regulation are all central

to c-di-GMP signaling, thus highlighting the importance of local c-di-GMP signaling (78). This

backdrop of growing evidence for local signaling and regulated activity of distinct DGCs and

PDEs provide hints as to where such regulation could occur in *V. fischeri* given the unique

patterns in our data. Recent publication of a more sensitive reporter that is amenable to single-

cell imaging may be a valuable tool to investigate both the levels and subcellular dynamics of c-

di-GMP in *V. fischeri* (79).

We previously demonstrated that global *V. fischeri* c-di-GMP levels need to be kept sufficiently

low to successfully colonize squid (36), but the specific signals and pathways involved are yet to

be determined. During colonization initiation, *V. fischeri* responds to squid-derived signals to

help guide them to the light organ (37, 80–83). Therefore it is likely that one or more squid-

specific signals may be sensed by c-di-GMP-modulating proteins to elicit effects on certain

biofilm and/or motility pathways. Our study presents a set of DGCs and PDEs that are

demonstrably functional in multiple assays in *V. fischeri*, and provide strong candidates as

proteins to regulate c-di-GMP levels to facilitate functional and reproducible squid host

colonization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains, plasmids, and media

V. fischeri and *E. coli* strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. Plasmids used in this study

are listed in Table 2. *V. fischeri* strains were grown at 25°C in Luria-Bertani salt (LBS) medium

(per liter: 25 g Difco LB broth [BD], 10 g NaCl, 50 mM Tris buffer [pH 7.5]) or tryptone broth salt

(TBS) medium (per liter: 10 g Bacto Tryptone [Gibco], 20 g NaCl, 35 mM $MgSO_4$ [where noted],

10 mM $CaCl_2$ [where noted], 50 mM Tris buffer [pH 7.5]) where noted. *E. coli* strains used for

cloning and conjugation were grown at 37°C in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium (per liter: 25 g Difco

LB broth [BD]). When needed, antibiotics were added to the media at the following

concentrations: kanamycin, 100 µg/mL for *V. fischeri* and 50 µg/mL for *E. coli*; gentamicin, 2.5

µg/mL for *V. fischeri* and 5 µg/mL for *E. coli*. When needed, 100 µM isopropyl ß-D-1-

thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to the media. For Congo red media, 40 µg/mL Congo

red and 15 µg/mL Coomassie blue were added to LBS. When needed, growth media was

solidified using 1.5% agar. Plasmids were introduced from *E. coli* strains into *V. fischeri* strains

using standard techniques (84, 85).

DNA synthesis and sequencing

Primers used in this study are listed in Table 3 and were synthesized by Integrated DNA

Technologies (Coralville, IA). Gibson primers for all plasmids except pRYI039 and pEVS143-

VF_A0506 were designed using the NEBuilder online tool. Site-directed mutagenesis primers

were designed using the NEBaseChanger online tool. Full inserts for cloned constructs and

active site mutant constructs were confirmed by Sanger Sequencing at Northwestern University

Center for Genetic Medicine, ACGT, Inc. (Wheeling, IL), Functional Biosciences (Madison, WI),

and/or whole plasmid sequencing by Plasmidsaurus (Eugene, OR). Sequence data were

analyzed using DNASTAR or Benchling. PCR to amplify constructs for cloning and sequencing

was performed using Pfx50 DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen) or Q5 High-Fidelity DNA polymerase

(NEB). Diagnostic PCR was performed using GoTaq polymerase (Promega).

Construction of pRYI039

pEVS143 was amplified using primers RYI354 and RYI355. pRYI039 was assembled by Gibson

assembly using the NEBuilder HiFi DNA Assembly Master Mix (NEB). The assembly reaction

was transformed into chemically competent NEB5α cells and candidate transformants were

selected using kanamycin. The plasmid was screened by PCR using primers M13 -48 rev and

MRH049. The plasmid was confirmed by Sanger sequencing using primers M13 -48 rev and

MRH049.

Construction of the overexpression plasmids

pEVS143 was amplified using pEVS143_expF and pEVS143_expR primers. Gene ORFs were

amplified from MJM1100 genomic DNA using gene-specific forward and reverse primers.

Amplified gene inserts were assembled with amplified pEVS143 by Gibson assembly using NEB

Gibson Assembly Cloning Kit (NEB) or NEBuilder HiFi DNA Assembly Master Mix (NEB). The

assembly reactions were transformed into chemically competent NEB5α or DH5α λpir cells and

candidate transformants were selected using kanamycin. Each plasmid was screened by PCR

using primers MJM-738F and MJM739R; M13 -48 rev and MJM-739R; or MJM-738F and the

respective assembly reverse primer, MJM-739R and the assembly forward primer, and/or MJM-

738F and MJM739R. To construct pEVS143-VF_A1014, *VF_A1014* was synthesized with

flanking AvrII and BamHI restriction sites and cloned into pEVS143 by GenScript (Piscataway,

NJ) and plasmid was confirmed by whole plasmid sequencing. pEVS143-VF_A0506 was

confirmed by Sanger sequencing using primers M13 -48 rev, RYI225, RYI226, RYI227, RYI228,

RYI229, RYI230, and MRH049. Remaining plasmids were confirmed by Sanger sequencing

using primers MJM-738F and MJM-739R; MJM-738F and the respective assembly reverse

primer and/or MJM-739R and the assembly forward primer; or pEVS143_seqF and

pEVS143_seqR.

Construction of FLAG-tagged protein overexpression plasmids

Plasmids were amplified using site-directed mutagenesis primers to introduce active site

mutations. Active site mutant plasmids were assembled using the Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis

Kit (NEB). Site-directed mutagenesis reactions were transformed into chemically competent

DH5α λpir cells and candidate transformants were selected using kanamycin. Each plasmid was

screened by PCR using primers M13 -48 rev and MJM-739R and confirmed by whole plasmid

sequencing.

Construction of the DGC and PDE active site mutant overexpression plasmids

Plasmids were amplified using site-directed mutagenesis primers to introduce active site

mutations. Active site mutant plasmids were assembled using the Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis

Kit (NEB). Site-directed mutagenesis reactions were transformed into chemically competent

NEB5α or DH5α λpir cells and candidate transformants were selected using kanamycin. Each

plasmid was screened by PCR using primers M13 -48 rev and MJM739R; or MJM-738F and the

respective assembly reverse primer, MJM-739R and the assembly forward primer, and MJM-

738F and MJM739R. pEVS143-VF_0989(GAEEF) was confirmed by Sanger sequencing using

primers RYI370 and RYI372. pEVS143-VF_A0057(SADEF) was confirmed by Sanger

sequencing using primers RYI365 and RYI366. pEVS143-VF_A1038 was confirmed by Sanger

sequencing using primers RYI520, RYI521, RYI522, RYI523, MJM-738F, and MJM-739R.

Remaining active site mutant plasmids were confirmed by whole plasmid sequencing or Sanger

sequencing using primers MJM-738F and MJM-739R; MJM-738F and the respective template

plasmid Gibson assembly reverse primer and/or MJM-739R and the template plasmid Gibson

assembly forward primer; or pEVS143_seqF and pEVS143_seqR.

Assembly of arrayed strain collections

Strains were streaked on LBS agar and incubated overnight at 25°C. Liquid LBS was inoculated

with single colonies of each strain in a deep-well 96-well plate and grown overnight at 23-25°C

on a shaker. Overnight cultures were saved in glycerol stocks in 96-well plates in triplicate. For

VF_1561, VF_A0152, VF_A0342, and VF_A0551, errors were found in the strains in the wild-

type background in the original assays, and the corrected strains were reanalyzed in the same

96-well format in a new arrayed strain collection alongside select additional strains (pRYI039,

pEVS143, VF_0087, and VF_0091, VF_0985, and MifA) as controls.

Congo red biofilm assay

Liquid LBS was inoculated with 2 µL of glycerol stock of each strain from an arrayed strain

collection and grown at room temperature (23-25°C) overnight on a shaker. 2 µL spots of liquid

culture were spotted on LBS Congo red agar and incubated 24 h at 25°C. Spots were

transferred onto white printer paper (86) and images were scanned as TIFF or JPEG files.

Congo red binding was quantified using ImageJ software (version 2.0.0-rc-69/1.52p) as

described in the "Data analysis" section below.

Motility assay

Liquid LBS was inoculated 2 µL of glycerol stock of each strain from an arrayed strain collection

and grown at room temperature (23-25°C) overnight on a shaker. 2 µL spots of liquid culture

were spotted on TBS, TBS-Mg^{2+} (35 mM MgSO$_4$), and TBS-Ca^{2+} (10 mM CaCl$_2$) agar and

incubated overnight at 25°C. The spotted strains were inoculated into TBS, TBS-Mg^{2+}, and TBS-

Ca^{2+} soft (0.3%) agar, respectively, using a 96-pin replicator and incubated at 25°C for 3 h for

TBS plates and 2.5 h for TBS-Mg^{2+} and TBS-Ca^{2+} plates. Images of plates were taken using a

Nikon D810 digital camera and diameter of migration was measured using ImageJ software

(version 2.0.0-rc-69/1.52p).

Western blot analysis

One milliliter of overnight culture was pelleted then washed and lysed in 1% SDS solution. To

standardize the total protein concentration, the volume of SDS was adjusted based on the

Optical Density at 600 nm (OD$_{600}$). Lysed cells were pelleted to remove cell debris, and the

solution was mixed at a 1:1 ratio with 2x Laemmli sample buffer from Bio-Rad (Hercules, CA) to

which β-mercaptoethanol had been added. Solution was heated at 95°C for 15 min and loaded

onto a 4-20% Mini-Protean TGX Precast Stain Free Gel from Bio-Rad (Hercules, CA). Gel was

transferred to a Immun-Blot Low Fluorescence polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane and

blocked overnight in 5% nonfat milk resuspended in 1x Tris-buffered saline Tween-20 (1x TBS-

T). 2 µL of anti-FLAG Rabbit IgG (800 µG/mL, Sigma-Aldrich) was used as the primary antibody

in 0.5% nonfat milk suspended in 1x TBS-T. 2 µL of anti-RpoA Mouse IgG (500 µG/mL,

Biolegend) was used as a loading control, binding the RNAP α subunit. 2 µL of LI-COR IRDye

800CW Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (1,000 µg/mL) was used as the secondary antibody, resuspended

in 0.5% nonfat milk in 1x TBS-T. 2 µL of LI-COR IRDye 680RD Goat anti-mouse IgG (1,000

µg/mL) was used as the secondary antibody of the loading control. Washes were done with 1x

TBS-T, with the final wash being 1x TBS. Blots were analyzed at 700 and 800 nm wavelengths

using the LI-COR Odyssey Fc Imager.

C-di-GMP reporter activity quantification

Liquid LBS was inoculated with 5 µL of glycerol stock of each strain from an arrayed strain

collection and grown at room temperature (23-25°C) overnight on a shaker. 2 or 4 µL of liquid

culture were spotted onto LBS agar and incubated at 25°C for 24 h. For assay of strains not in

96-well format (**FIG. S2B and C**), strains were streaked on LBS agar and single colonies were

inoculated into liquid LBS and grown at room temperature (23-25°C) overnight on a shaker. 4 or

8 µL of liquid culture were spotted onto LBS agar and incubated at 25°C for 24 h. For both

versions of the assay, spots were resuspended in 500 µL 70% Instant Ocean (IO), then OD_{600},

TurboRFP (555 nm excitation/585 nm emission), and AmCyan (453 nm excitation/486 nm

emission) for each resuspended spot were measured in triplicate using BioTek Synergy Neo2

plate reader. To calculate c-di-GMP reporter activity, TurboRFP values (reports on c-di-GMP)

were normalized to AmCyan values (constitutively expressed).

ELISA c-di-GMP quantification

Overnight cultures were spotted onto LBS agar and incubated at 25°C overnight. Spots were

resuspended in UltraPure water (Cayman Chemical), pelleted in a table top microcentrifuge,

and frozen at -80°C. To standardize cell density, Bacteria Protein Extraction Reagent (B-PER,

Thermo Fisher Scientific) was added to cell pellets at a ratio of 1:4 w/v then incubated for 10

min at room temperature (23-25°C). Cell debris was pelleted and the supernatants were diluted

for c-di-GMP quantification. Samples were processed and quantified using the Cyclic di-GMP

ELISA Kit by Cayman Chemical (Item #501780). Absorbance of the samples were measured at

450 nm using a BioTek Synergy Neo2 plate reader to determine c-di-GMP concentration. A

standard curve was generated using the provided Cayman Chemical ELISA Analysis Tool,

followed by sample quantification using the standard curve.

Data analysis

Congo red binding was quantified using ImageJ (version 2.0.0-rc-69/1.52p) by subtracting the

WT gray value from the mutant gray value and multiplying the value by -1 (36). Fluorescence of

reporter strains in liquid culture and ELISA samples were measured using a BioTek Synergy

Neo2 plate reader. Western blots were imaged using the LI-COR Odyssey Fc Imager.

GraphPad Prism was used to generate graphs and conduct statistical analyses. Graphs were

further refined in Adobe Illustrator.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

FIG 1. *V. fischeri* encodes 50 proteins across both chromosomes predicted to modulate

c-di-GMP levels. The circular chromosomes are represented in a linear fashion for this

representation. Numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

FIG 2. Many predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs impact biofilm formation and

swimming motility when overexpressed. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri*

strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For

each strain, n = 3-8 biological replicates (24 for controls). Congo red images are representative.

B. Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the

indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 4-11

biological replicates (33 for controls). For panels A and B, one-way analysis of variance

(ANOVA) was used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological

replicates, error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance

relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control (*, $P < 0.05$), numbers represent VF_ locus tags

(e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and VC1086 are also listed.

FIG 3. Most *V. fischeri* proteins tested are expressed from the overexpression vector.

Western blot of whole-cell lysates of *V. fischeri* expressing indicated FLAG-tagged proteins from

the pEVS143 vector. Predicted band sizes (kD) for each protein are indicated in parentheses.

Anti-FLAG Rabbit IgG was used as the primary antibody and LI-COR IRDye 800CW Goat anti-

Rabbit IgG was used as the secondary antibody. Anti-RpoA Mouse IgG was used as a loading

control, binding the RNAP α subunit, and LI-COR IRDye 680RD Goat anti-mouse IgG was used

as the secondary antibody of the loading control. Western blot is representative of n = 3

biological replicates.

FIG 4. Active site residues are required to modulate cellulose production and motility for

selected DGCs and PDEs. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* strains

overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each

strain, n = 4-5 biological replicates (10 for controls). **B.** Quantification of migration through soft

(0.3%) agar for V. fischeri strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039

empty vector control. For each strain, n = 5 biological replicates (10 for controls). For A and B,

unpaired t tests were used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological

replicates, error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance of

a mutant relative to the corresponding wildtype protein (*, $P < 0.01$) and numbers represent VF_

locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

FIG 5. VF_0985 is the only dual-function protein with strong active site-dependent

phenotypes. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the

indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 4-5

biological replicates (10 for controls). **B.** Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for

V. fischeri strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector

control. For each strain, n = 5 biological replicates (10 for controls). For A and B, unpaired t

tests were used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates,

error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance of a mutant

relative to the corresponding wildtype protein (*, $P < 0.05$) and numbers represent VF_ locus

tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

FIG 6. Integration of phenotypic data for the *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs. Numbers

represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and

VC1086 are also listed. Overexpression data are from this study; deletion data are integrated

from Shrestha *et al.*, 2022. Olive coloring indicates phenotypes expected from elevated c-di-

GMP, whereas red-orange indicates phenotypes expected from reduced c-di-GMP. White

indicates no significant change. [a]This study, [b]Shrestha *et al.* 2022.

FIG S1. Many predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs impact swimming motility when

overexpressed. A. Summary of motility results for overexpression of indicated proteins in TBS,

TBS-Mg, and TBS-Ca soft (0.3%) agar. Olive coloring indicates phenotypes expected from

elevated c-di-GMP, whereas orange indicates phenotypes expected from reduced c-di-GMP.

White indicates no significant change. **B.** Quantification of migration through TBS, TBS-Mg, and

TBS-Ca soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to

the pRYI039 empty vector control. TBS data is the same as represented in FIG 2B. For each

strain, n = 4-12 biological replicates (33-36 for controls). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA)

was used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates, error

bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance relative to the

pRYI039 empty vector control (*, $P < 0.05$), and numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g.,

VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and VC1086 are also listed.

FIG S2. C-di-GMP biosensor activity. Quantification of c-di-GMP concentration for *V. fischeri*

strains overexpressing the indicated proteins using the pFY4535 c-di-GMP reporter plasmid. **A.**

Assays performed in 96-well format. Values are relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control.

For each strain, n = 3-6 (15 for control) biological replicates. **B.** Assays performed in non-96-

well format. Values are relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 3-7

biological replicates (11 for control). **C.** Assays of indicated proteins overexpressed in a high c-

di-GMP background. For each strain, n = 3-9 biological replicates. **D.** Integration of phenotypic

data for the *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs. Olive coloring indicates phenotypes expected from

elevated c-di-GMP, whereas red-orange indicates phenotypes expected from reduced c-di-

GMP. White indicates no significant change. For A to C, constitutive AmCyan was used to

normalize TurboRFP to cell density, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for

statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates, error bars represent

standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance relative to the pRYI039 empty

vector control (*, P < 0.02). For A to D, numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087,

VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and VC1086 are also listed.

FIG. S3. C-di-GMP quantification methods do not match PDE functional characterization.

A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* PDEs overexpressing the indicated

proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 5 biological

replicates. Each bar represents the means of biological replicates. Data are the same as those

represented in FIG 2A. **B.** Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri*

PDEs overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For

each strain, n = 4 biological replicates. Each bar represents the means of biological replicates.

Data are the same as those represented in FIG 2B. **C.** Quantification of c-di-GMP concentration

for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated PDEs using the pFY4535 c-di-GMP reporter

plasmid (left y-axis; open dots) and ELISA (right y-axis; solid dots). Values are relative to the

pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 3 (9 for controls) biological replicates, dots

represent the means of technical replicates, average bars represent the means of biological

replicates. C-di-GMP reporter data are the same as those represented in FIG S2A. For A-C,

error bars represent standard errors of the mean and numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g.,

VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* control VC1086 is also listed.

Table 1. Strains
720

Strain	Genotype	Source or Reference(s)
V. fischeri		
MJM1100 = ES114	Natural isolate, squid light-organ (Mandel Lab Stock)	(50, 87)
MJM2775	MJM1100 / pEVS143	(65)
MJM4094	MJM1100 / pRYI039	This study
MJM3822	MJM1100 / pEVS143-QrgB	This study (plasmid from Chris Waters)
MJM3823	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VC1086	This study (plasmid from Chris Waters)
MJM3091	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0087	This study
MJM3092	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0091	This study

MJM3093	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094	This study
MJM3094	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0355	This study
MJM2766	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0494	This study
MJM2772	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0596	This study
MJM3815	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0985	This study
MJM2773	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0989	This study
MJM3095	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1200	This study
MJM3096	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1245	This study
MJM3097	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1350	This study
MJM3098	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1367	This study
MJM3099	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1515	This study
MJM6214	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1561	This study
MJM3820	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1603	This study
MJM3100	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1639	This study
MJM3932	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2261	This study
MJM3101	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2362	This study
MJM3821	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2480	This study
MJM2767	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0056	This study
MJM3102	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0057	This study
MJM2769	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0152	This study
MJM3103	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0155	This study
MJM3816	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0216	This study
MJM3818	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0244	This study
MJM2770	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0276	This study
MJM3104	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0323	This study
MJM6213	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0342	This study
MJM3106	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0343	This study
MJM3814	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0344	This study

MJM3824	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0344	This study
MJM3933	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0368	This study
MJM2768	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0368	This study
MJM3107	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0381	This study
MJM3108	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0398	This study
MJM3109	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0475	This study
MJM3817	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0476	This study
MJM3110	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0526	This study
MJM6215	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0551	This study
MJM3112	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0567	This study
MJM3113	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0692	This study
MJM3114	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0706	This study
MJM3115	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0796	This study
MJM3116	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0879	This study
MJM3117	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0959	This study
MJM3819	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0976	This study
MJM2771	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1012	This study
MJM2765	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1038	This study
MJM3118	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1076	This study
MJM3119	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1166	This study
MJM4289	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0989-FLAG	This study
MJM4291	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0155-FLAG	This study
MJM4293	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0057-FLAG	This study
MJM6170	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0056-FLAG	This study
MJM6171	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1515-FLAG	This study
MJM6193	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0476-FLAG	This study
MJM6216	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0342-FLAG	This study
MJM6220	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0216-FLAG	This study

MJM5574	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF, AAL)	This study
MJM5573	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF)	This study
MJM5263	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5095	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL)	This study
MJM5096	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF)	This study
MJM5099	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0596(SAEEF)	This study
MJM4092	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0989(GAEEF)	This study
MJM4084	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0057(SADEF)	This study
MJM5572	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0152(GADEF)	This study
MJM5256	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5097	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL)	This study
MJM5254	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0244(GADEF)	This study
MJM5255	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL)	This study
MJM5098	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0475(GADEF)	This study
MJM5100	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0796(GAEEF)	This study
MJM5354	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0976(GADEF)	This study
MJM4296	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1038(AAL)	This study
MJM4106	MJM1100 / pRYI039;pFY4535	This study
MJM4821	MJM1100 / pEVS143-QrgB;pFY4535	This study
MJM4971	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VC1086;pFY4535	This study
MJM4767	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0087;pFY4535	This study
MJM4793	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0091;pFY4535	This study
MJM4794	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094;pFY4535	This study
MJM4795	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0355;pFY4536	This study
MJM4686	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0494; pFY4535	This study
MJM4791	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0596;pFY4535	This study
MJM4689	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0985; pFY4535	This study
MJM4024	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0989;pFY4535	This study

MJM4796	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1200;pFY4535	This study
MJM4797	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1245;pFY4535	This study
MJM4798	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1350;pFY4535	This study
MJM4687	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1367; pFY4535	This study
MJM4799	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1515;pFY4535	This study
MJM6218	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1561;pFY4535	This study
MJM4769	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1603;pFY4535	This study
MJM4768	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_1639;pFY4535	This study
MJM4770	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2261;pFY4535	This study
MJM4800	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2362;pFY4535	This study
MJM4820	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_2480;pFY4535	This study
MJM4787	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0056;pFY4535	This study
MJM4108	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0057;pFY4535	This study
MJM4788	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0152;pFY4535	This study
MJM4110	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0155;pFY4535	This study
MJM4816	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0216;pFY4535	This study
MJM4818	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0244;pFY4535	This study
MJM4789	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0276;pFY4535	This study
MJM4801	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0323;pFY4535	This study
MJM6217	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0342;pFY4535	This study
MJM4803	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0343;pFY4536	This study
MJM4815	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0344;pFY4535	This study
MJM4822	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0368;pFY4535	This study
MJM4804	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0381;pFY4535	This study
MJM4688	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0398; pFY4535	This study
MJM4805	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0475;pFY4535	This study
MJM4817	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0476;pFY4535	This study
MJM4823	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0506;pFY4535	This study

MJM4806	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0526;pFY4535	This study
MJM6219	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0551;pFY4535	This study
MJM4808	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0567;pFY4535	This study
MJM4809	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0692;pFY4535	This study
MJM4203	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0706; pFY4535	This study
MJM4810	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0796;pFY4535	This study
MJM4811	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0879;pFY4535	This study
MJM4812	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0959;pFY4535	This study
MJM4819	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0976;pFY4535	This study
MJM4790	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1012;pFY4535	This study
MJM4023	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1038;pFY4535	This study
MJM4813	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1076;pFY4535	This study
MJM4814	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A1166;pFY4535	This study
MJM5576	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF)	This study
MJM5659	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0091(AAL)	This study
MJM5637	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF,AAL)	This study
MJM5638	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF)	This study
MJM5639	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL)	This study
MJM5640	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF,AAL)	This study
MJM5226	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL);pFY4535	This study
MJM5227	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF);pFY4535	This study
MJM4969	MJM1100 / pEVS143-0494(AAL);pFY4535	This study
MJM4970	MJM1100 / pEVS143-0494(GADEF);pFY4535	This study
MJM5645	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0494(AAL,GADEF)	This study
MJM5641	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0596(SAEEF)	This study
MJM5642	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF)	This study
MJM5643	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0985(AVL)	This study
MJM5644	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF,AVL)	This study

MJM4107	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_0989(GAEEF);pFY4535	This study
MJM5648	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_1639(GAEEF)	This study
MJM4109	MJM1100 / pEVS143-VF_A0057(SADEF);pFY4535	This study
MJM5575	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0152(GADEF)	This study
MJM5655	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL)	This study
MJM5646	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0244(GADEF)	This study
MJM5656	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5647	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0344(AVL)	This study
MJM5650	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL)	This study
MJM5649	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0475(GADEF)	This study
MJM5651	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL,GADEF)	This study
MJM5654	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0796(GAEEF)	This study
MJM5652	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A0976(GADEF)	This study
MJM5653	MJM1100 / pFY4535;pEVS143-VF_A1038(AAL)	This study
MJM4106	Δ6PDE / pRYI039;pFY4535	This study
MJM5861	Δ6PDE / pVF_0087;pFY4535	This study
MJM5884	Δ6PDE / pVF_0091;pFY4535	This study
MJM5862	Δ6PDE / pVF_0494;pFY4535	This study
MJM4399	Δ6PDE / pVF_1367;pFY4535	This study
MJM4400	Δ6PDE / pVF_1603;pFY4535	This study
MJM4401	Δ6PDE / pVF_2480;pFY4535	This study
MJM5863	Δ6PDE / pVF_A0216;pFY4535	This study
MJM5864	Δ6PDE / pVF_A0244;pFY4535	This study
MJM4202	Δ6PDE / pVF_A0506;pFY4535	This study
MJM4204	Δ6PDE / pVF_A0706;pFY4535	This study
MJM5885	Δ6PDE / pVF_A1014;pFY4535	This study
MJM4205	Δ6PDE / pVF_A1038;pFY4535	This study
MJM5866	Δ6PDE / pVF_A1076;pFY4535	This study

MJM5867	Δ6PDE / pVF_A1166;pFY4535	This study
MJM4403	Δ6PDE / pVC1086;pFY4535	This study
E. coli		
MJM534	CC118 λpir / pEVS104	*(84)*
MJM2466	DH5α λpir / pEVS143	*(65)*
MJM3999	NEB5α / pFY4535	*(71)*
MJM4064	NEB5α / pEVS143-ΔGFP-CmR	This study
MJM2470	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VC1086	This study (plasmid from Chris Waters)
MJM2468	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-QrgB	This study (plasmid from Chris Waters)
MJM2524	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0087	This study
MJM2521	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0091	This study
MJM2811	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0094	This study
MJM2516	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0355	This study
MJM2500	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0494	This study
MJM2506	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0596	This study
MJM2525	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0985	This study
MJM2507	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0989	This study
MJM2526	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1200	This study
MJM2807	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1245	This study
MJM2522	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1350	This study
MJM2518	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1367	This study
MJM2527	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1515	This study
MJM6201	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1561	This study
MJM3089	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1603	This study
MJM2509	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1639	This study
MJM2528	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_2261	This study
MJM2515	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_2362	This study
MJM2815	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_2432	This study

MJM3090	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_2480	This study
MJM2501	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0056	This study
MJM2519	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0057	This study
MJM2503	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0152	This study
MJM2802	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0155	This study
MJM2803	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0216	This study
MJM2806	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0244	This study
MJM2504	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0276	This study
MJM2809	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0323	This study
MJM6200	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0342	This study
MJM2512	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0343	This study
MJM2520	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0344	This study
MJM2502	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0368	This study
MJM2513	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0381	This study
MJM2805	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0398	This study
MJM2523	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0475	This study
MJM2804	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0476	This study
MJM3982	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0506	This study
MJM2810	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0526	This study
MJM6202	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0551	This study
MJM2510	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0567	This study
MJM2517	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0692	This study
MJM2529	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0706	This study
MJM2511	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0796	This study
MJM2813	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0879	This study
MJM2808	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0959	This study
MJM2812	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0976	This study
MJM2505	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A1012	This study

MJM4907	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A1014	This study
MJM2499	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A1038	This study
MJM2814	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A1076	This study
MJM2801	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A1166	This study
MJM4280	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0989-FLAG	This study
MJM4282	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0155-FLAG	This Study
MJM4284	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0057-FLAG	This study
MJM6158	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0056-FLAG	This study
MJM6159	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_1515-FLAG	This study
MJM6191	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0216-FLAG	This study
MJM6192	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0476-FLAG	This study
MJM6204	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0342-FLAG	This study
MJM4921	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0087(ACL)	This study
MJM5307	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0091(AAL)	This study
MJM5551	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF, AAL)	This study
MJM5550	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF)	This study
MJM5248	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5038	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL)	This study
MJM5039	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF)	This study
MJM4922	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0494(AAL)	This study
MJM4923	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0494(GADEF)	This study
MJM5042	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0596(SAEEF)	This study
MJM4935	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0985(AVL)	This study
MJM5499	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF, AVL)	This study
MJM4974	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF)	This study
MJM4065	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_0989(GAEEF)	This study
MJM4287	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1038(AAL)	This study
MJM4936	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_1367(HAIGK)	This study

MJM3179	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_1639(GAEEF)	This study
MJM4070	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0057(SADEF)	This study
MJM3180	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0152(GADEF)	This study
MJM5249	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5040	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL)	This study
MJM5093	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0244(GADEF)	This study
MJM5301	NEB5α / pEVS143-VF_A0344(AVL)	This study
MJM4924	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0398(GADEF)	This study
MJM5232	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL, GADEF)	This study
MJM5094	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL)	This study
MJM5041	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0475(GADEF)	This study
MJM5043	DH5α λpir / pEVS143-VF_A0796(GAEEF)	This study

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722 **Table 2. Plasmids**
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Plasmid	Description	Source or Reference(s)
pEVS104	Conjugal helper plasmid (Kan[R])	(84)
pEVS143	IPTG-inducible overexpression vector (Kan[R])	(65)
pRYI039	Empty vector control for pEVS143 constructs; pEVS143-Δ*gfp-cmR* (Kan[R])	This study
pEVS143-VC1086	pEVS143 carrying *VC1086* (Kan[R])	(59)
pEVS143-QrgB	pEVS143 carrying *QrgB* (Kan[R])	(59)
pEVS143-VF_0087	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0087* (Kan[R])	This study
pEVS143-VF_0091	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0091* (Kan[R])	This study

pEVS143-VF_0094	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0094* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0355	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0355* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0494	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0494* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0596	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0596* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0985	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0985* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0989	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0989* (*mifA*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1200	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1200* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1245	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1245* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1350	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1350* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1367	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1367* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1515	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1515* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1561	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1561* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1603	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1603* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1639	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1639* (*casA*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_2261	pEVS143 carrying *VF_2261* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_2362	pEVS143 carrying *VF_2362* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_2432	pEVS143 carrying *VF_2432* (Kan^R)	This study

pEVS143-VF_2480	pEVS143 carrying *VF_2480* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0056	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0056* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0057	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0057* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0152	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0152* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0155	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0155* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0216	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0216* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0244	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0244* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0276	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0276* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0323	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0323* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0342	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0342* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0343	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0343* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0344	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0344* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0368	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0368* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0381	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0381* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0398	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0398* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0475	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0475* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0476	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0476* (Kan^R)	This study

pEVS143-VF_A0506	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0506* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0526	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0526* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0551	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0551* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0567	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0567* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0692	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0692* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0706	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0706* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0796	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0796* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0879	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0879* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0959	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0959* (*mifB*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0976	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0976* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A1012	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1012* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-A1014	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1014* (*pdeV*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A1038	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1038* (*binA*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A1076	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1076* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A1166	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1166* (*lapD*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0989-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0989-FLAG* (*mifA*) (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0155-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0155-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study

pEVS143-VF_A0057-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0057-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1515-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1515-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0056-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0056-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0216-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0216-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0342-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0342-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0476-FLAG	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0476-FLAG* (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0087(ACL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0087* with ACL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0091(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0091* with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF, AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0091* with GAAEF and AAL active site mutations (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0091(GAAEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0091* with GAAEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL, GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0094* with AAL and GADEF active site mutations (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0094(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0094* with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0094(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0094* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0494(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0494* with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0494(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0494* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0596(SAEEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0596* with SAEEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0985(AVL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0985* with AVL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study

pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF, AVL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0985* with GADEF and AVL active site mutations (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_0985(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0985* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-MifA(GAEEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_0989* (*mifA*) with GAEEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_1367(HAIGK)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1367* with HAIGK active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_CasA(GAEEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_1639* (*casA*) with GAEEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0057(SADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0057* with SADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0152(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0152* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL, GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0244* with AAL and GADEF active site mutations (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0244(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0244* with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0244(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0244* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0344(AVL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0344* with AVL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0398(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0398* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL, GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0475* with AAL and GADEF active site mutations (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0475(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0475* with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0475(GADEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0475* with GADEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-VF_A0796(GAEEF)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A0796* with GAEEF active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study
pEVS143-BinA(AAL)	pEVS143 carrying *VF_A1038* (*binA*) with AAL active site mutation (Kan^R)	This study

pFY4535	c-di-GMP reporter plasmid (Gent^R)	(71)

725 **Table 3. Primers**

Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')	Notes
RYI354	GGAAGCTAAAGATCCGGTGAttgattgagcaa	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143 without *gfp* and *cmR* cassettes for Gibson assembly of pRYI039
RYI355	TCACCGGATCTTTAGCTTCCttagctcctgaattc	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143 without *gfp* and *cmR* cassettes for Gibson assembly of pRYI039
pEVS143_expF	GATCCGGTGATTGATTGAGCAA	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143 excluding *gfp* and *cmR* for Gibson assembly to insert ORF of gene of interest
pEVS143_expR	TTTAGCTTCCTTAGCTCCTGAATTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143 excluding *gfp* and *cmR* for Gibson assembly to insert ORF of gene of interest
0087_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCAAACTCTCTCATTTAGTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0087* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0087_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACGTCTTAATGTGTAACGATTTAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0087* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0091_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGACAGTGGTACTTAACAGCC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0091* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0091_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCACGCCTGAGAACGATGAATC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0091* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0094_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGACAGAACCAACACATAAAAAAC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0094* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0094_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATTCTGTTGGCCAATCTTCTAAAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0094* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0355_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAGAAAAACGCCTAGTTTAC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0355* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0355_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATTTACCCCAACGGCTTCTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0355* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0494_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTCTCTTTCTCAAATACAACATTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0494* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0494_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATCTAGCGCGTTTGTTTTGTAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0494* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0596_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATTGAAGTATCCATTGTTGCC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0596* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0596_R	caatcaatcaccggatcCTACGCACTAATGAGTTGCTCAATG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0596* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143

0985_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCTGCATAAGTCTGATAAAAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0985* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0985_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATGCATATTTTGCTTTTAATTCAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0985* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0989_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAATCTCAAGCAAATAAAATATTTTATC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_0989* (*mifA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
0989_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCATGCGATTTGATCCATTTCAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_0989* (*mifA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1200_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGGCTAAGAATCAATGGAATG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1200* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1200_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATACATGGTTTCTTTGATATGC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1200* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1245_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCCTCAATCTCGTCTTCAGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1245* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1245_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATATATCTTGATAGTGAGTGATTTTATTACGC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1245* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1350_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAACCTTAGGCTTTTAACAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1350* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1350_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAAATATCATAAAAGTGATTGCTCTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1350* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1367_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTGTGTTTTTTCTTCATTTGTTTC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1367* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1367_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACTGATTATTCTCAAAAATAGCTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1367* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1515_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAGGTTCGTTTATCTATCCG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1515* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1515_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAGCCTCGAATGGTAACTTGA	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1515* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1561_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAGCATTTTTCAAAAAATTGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1561* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1561_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATTCATATAATGTATATTTGAACTTGAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1561* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1603_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTACACATATGTTGCTCGTC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1603* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1603_R	aatcaatcaccggatcCTATTTTGCTATCTCATCTACCC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1603* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1639_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCCGAAATTTAATTTAAAACATATC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_1639* (*casA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
1639_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATGAAAAGTAAACTCGGTTTTTAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_1639* (*casA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
2261_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCATTATAAAAAAACGAAAGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_2261* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143

2261_R	caatcaatcaccggatcCTATGCTAAGTCCTCTAAACTAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_2261* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
2326_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATCTACATGGATGTTTATATG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_2326* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
2326_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATGATTTATCAATTTTCTCTTGGTAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_2326* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
2480_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTATGCATACGTTGCCAGAC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_2480* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
2480_R	aatcaatcaccggatcCTATTTAGACAAAATACTCTGATACCAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_2480* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0056_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTTTCGGTGTTGTATGAGTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0056* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0056_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAATCCGTTTCTCGTTTAAGC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0056* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0057_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATACTTCAATGGTTCAGTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0057* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0057_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAAACGAGAAACGGATTGATTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0057* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0152_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAGGGTAAAAAATATCGTTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0152* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0152_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACTCAGATATAAAAACTTGGTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0152* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0155_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAAAATCGAAGTGCTTTTTTTTATAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0155* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0155_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACAATTCAAACCTAACACAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0155* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0216_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAAAGTAAAATAAATATAATATTAGTAGATGATATTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0216* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0216_R	caatcaataccggatcTTAACATTGAAGGTTTTCAGTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0216* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0244_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATTATGAATAAATACTTCATTTATCAGCC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0244* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0244_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCATGCTGGGTGAAGCTTATTTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0244* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0276_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAACCAATCCATATAGACTC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0276* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0276_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATCCTCAGGTGAAACAATTTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0276* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0323_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATCATGACAAATAAGAAAATGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0323* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0323_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATATAGAATCAGAGCACTTTTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0323* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143

CSH043	caggagctaaggaagctaaaATGTTTAATGTTAAATTATTTGGATTAGATAAGCTTTTCTT	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0342* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
CSH044	gctcaatcaatcaccggatcCTAAAAATCATAATTGTTCTTATCTAATGTAACTATGTTACGG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0342* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0343_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATTTTTAGCAATGTTGATAATAATAATATG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0343* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0343_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATCCTTCAAATACCGTTACTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0343* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0344_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAATTTATTACTAATAAATATATTGTTTATTTGTTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0344* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0344_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATCACGCATTATGGAATGAAAATTATC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0344* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0368_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAAAAATTAATCTTGCTGCTTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0368* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0368_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATAGATACTGTCGTTCAAAATAAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0368* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0381_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGGATGGCATAATCCAACTCTC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0381* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0381_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATTCGCTGACGCAGTTACGT	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0381* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0398_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGGACAGTCTTTTAAATCGAATAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0398* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0398_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAATAAGAACATACTTTATTCTTTCCG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0398* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0475_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaTTGAATTCAACAATTTCTTTCTTATATC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0475* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0475_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCACTGTAATTTTCTGCTTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0475* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0476_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCTATCGTTTATTTATATGAGTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0476* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0476_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATACTTTATTTCTATTTTTATATTGAAACTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0476* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0506_F	caggagctaaggaagctaaaATGCGTCATTACCTATCTCTAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0506* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0506_R	gctcaatcaatcaccggatcTTAATCGGGATATTCAAGTCGAATATC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0506* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0526_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAGATTAATTGAAGCAAAACTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0526* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0526_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAATAATAATTCTTTTTAAAATTTGAAATTGTATTTTTATAATTAAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0526* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143

A0551_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCTATTGGCAACACAGGACG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0551* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0551_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAAGCCGCTTGATGATTTTGTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0551* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0567_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAAGTGGATAGAAAATGCATC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0567* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0567_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAAATTTTGTGAAACATATACTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0567* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0692_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGACGATGCTAAGACGATTAATG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0692* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0692R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAATTTGCCATAGTGACACGG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0692* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0706_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaGTGTTTAAACGTAAGAATTCGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0706* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0706_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATTTATTACGATTGGTATCAATCTG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0706* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0796_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGAATTCTGATATGAGTGATTTTCATTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0796* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0796_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTATGGCATTAAGGTGGTGCAA	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0796* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0879_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCCTACTTATACGTTCAAAAAC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0879* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0879_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAGAACGCTGATAATGCATCAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0879* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0959_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGATTTCTCGCCCATATGTGAG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0959* (*mifB*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0959_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACTGCTGATAATAAGCTTTTTTCTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0959* (*mifB*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0976_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaGTGATTACATTTGGTAAGTCCAATAAATTATTTTTTTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A0976* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A0976_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCATAGCTTTTCAAATACTTTAAATCC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A0976* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1012_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTTAACTGACCAAAAAATTTTAATTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A1012* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1012_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTCAAATGGTTATTGTTGATACAC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A1012* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1038_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGCAAAAAACGTTAACGTCTG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A1038* (*binA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1038_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTACACAAAGTGAAAGTAGGGG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A1038* (*binA*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1076_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGTTCTCAATTAAGAAATTGGTTAATTTTATG	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A1076* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143

A1076_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAAGGAATAAGTAGCGGTCTTC	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A1076* for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1166_F	gagctaaggaagctaaaATGACATTATATAAACAACTAGTAGC	Forward primer to amplify *VF_A1166* (*lapD*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
A1166_R	caatcaatcaccggatcTTAAATGCCTTCCACTTTTTCATTAATAAAG	Reverse primer to amplify *VF_A1166* (*lapD*) for Gibson assembly into pEVS143
CSH025	gatgatgataaaTAAGATCCGGTGATT	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0216 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH026	atctttataatcACATTGAAGGTTTTCAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0216 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH027	gatgatgataaaTAGGATCCGGTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0342 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH028	atctttataatcAAAATCATAATTGTTCTTATC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0342 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH029	gatgatgataaaTAAGATCCGGTGAT	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0476 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH030	atctttataatcTACTTTATTTCTATTTTTATATTGAAACT	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0476 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH033	gatgatgataaaTGAGATCCGGTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-1515 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH034	atctttataatcGCCTCGAATGGTAAC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-1515 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH035	gatgatgataaaTGAGATCCGGTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0056 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
CSH036	atctttataatcATCCGTTTCTCGTTTAAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0056 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
RYI497	gatgatgataaaTGAGATCCGGTGATTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0989 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
RYI498	atctttataatcTGCGATTTGATCCATTTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0989 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
RYI499	gatgatgataaaTAAGATCCGGTGATTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0155 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag

RYI500	atctttataatcCAATTCAAACCTAACACAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0155 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
RYI501	gatgatgataaaTAAGATCCGGTGATTGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0057 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
RYI502	atctttataatcAACGAGAAACGGATTGATTTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0057 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce C-terminal FLAG tag
A0152_mutF	TCGCTTGGGCGcTGACGAGTTTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0152 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
A0152_mutR	GCGAAATGATCAGATTCACAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0152 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0087(ACL)_F_V2	AGCATCAACAgcaTGTCTAATGCG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0087 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce ACL active site change
0087(ACL)_R_V2	AGCTCATGAGTATGCGCTTTATAAATAGGT	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0087 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce ACL active site change
0091(GAAEF)_F	CGCATTGGTGcaGCTGAGTTTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0091 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAAEF active site change
0091(GAAEF)_R	GGCCATTTCTATATTTTGATC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0091 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAAEF active site change
0091(AAL)_F	CATGGTGCAGcAGCGTTAATTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0091 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0091(AAL)_R	AATTTTACCGTCTTCAAAATTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0091 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0094(AAL)_F	ATCGGTGCGGcAGCATTAATTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0094 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0094(AAL)_R	GGTTTTTCCACTCTTTATATCAATTATTG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0094 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0094(GADEF)_F	CGAGTTGGTGcaGATGAATTCGC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0094 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0094(GADEF)_R	AGCAATGGCAATGTTGTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0094 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0494(AAL)_F	TAATGGCGCAgcaGCCCTTGTTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0494

		for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0494(AAL)_R_V2	ATTCTAAAATCACGAGCACTTACTTTTGGTTGGTAC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0494 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
0494(GADEF)_F	CCATTTAGGTgcaGATGAATTTGGAATACTATTTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0494 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0494(GADEF)_R	CCAACAACAGCGTGTTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0494 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0596(SAEEF)_F	CGTTTTAGTGcaGAAGAATTTTTAATTTTATTTAC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0596 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce SAEEF active site change
0596(SAEEF)_R	AGCAACAAAATTAGTATCTG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0596 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce SAEEF active site change
0985(AVL)_F_V2	TTATGGTGTAgcaGTGCTTTCTCG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0985 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AVL active site change
0985(AVL)_R_V2	ATCTCACCTGTTTTAGTATC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0985 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AVL active site change
0985(GADEF)_F	ACGTTTTGGCgcaGATGAATTTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-0985 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
0985(GADEF)_R	GCAACTATTTCATCTTTTTCAATAAAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-0985 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
1367(HAIGK)_F	TTCGCTGCATgcaATTGGAAAGATTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-1367 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce HAIGK active site change
1367(HAIGK)_R	GCAATCATACGAATTTCTTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-1367 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce HAIGK active site change
A0057(SADEF)_F	TCGTCTATCTgcaGATGAGTTTTTACTTGG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0057 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce SADEF active site change
A0057(SADEF)_R	GCGACAAGATCGTTTTCAAAAAC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0057 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce SADEF active site change
A0244(GADEF)_F	CGTTTTGGTGcAGATGAGTTTATTTTATG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0244 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
A0244(GADEF)_R	AATTAATAAATCTTCTTTTCTTAAGTATTTATTAATTAAAC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0244 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce

		GADEF active site change
A0244(AAL)_F	GTTTCTTACGcAGCATTAATTAGATTTAAAG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0244 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
A0244(AAL)_R	AATAGAACCTTCAAAGAAGTTAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0244 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
A0344(AVL)_F	ATTGGAGGGGcaGTATTAGCTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0344 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AVL active site change
A0344(AVL)_R	GATATTTTCATTAGCATCAACAATAG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0344 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AVL active site change
A0398(GAEEF)_F	ACGTTATGGAgcaGAAGAGTTTC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0398 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
A0398(GAEEF)_R	AGTGTATAGTGAGAAGGTG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0398 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
A0475(AAL)_F	ATCAGTGTTGcAGCTTTACTAAG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0475 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
A0475(AAL)_R	AATACTTCCATTCTGTACTTTTG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0475 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
A0475(GADEF)_F	AGATACGGTGcaGATGAATTTTTGATTTTTAC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0475 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
A0475(GADEF)_R	TATGATAAGGTCTTCCTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0475 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
A0796(GAEEF)_F	CGATATGGTGcaGAAGAGTTTACC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0796 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
A0796(GAEEF)_R	CCCACAAATATCTGTGTTAC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0796 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
A0976(GADEF)_F	CGATTAGGTGcaGATGAATTTGCC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-A0976 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
A0976(GADEF)_R	AGCGACGTAACTATTTTC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-A0976 for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GADEF active site change
BinA(AAL)_F	ATTGGTTGTgcaGCGCTATTAC	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-BinA for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change

BinA(AAL)_R	CCATTTTTTATTTACTGGGC	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-BinA for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce AAL active site change
MifA(GAEEF)_F	AAGAATTGGCgcaGAAGAGTTTG	Forward primer to amplify pEVS143-MifA for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
MifA(GAEEF)_R	GCTACAAAATCAATACTTCG	Reverse primer to amplify pEVS143-MifA for site-directed mutagenesis to introduce GAEEF active site change
pEVS143_seqF	GCACTCCCGTTCTGGATA	Forward primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
pEVS143_seqR	GTATGAGTCAGCAACACC	Reverse primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
MJM-738_F	ACAATTTCACACAGGAAACAGCTC	Forward primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
MJM-739_R	AGCCAGTAATCGAATTGGCTAGTA	Reverse primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
M13 -48 rev	AGCGGATAACAATTTCACACAGG	Forward primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
MRH049	AGGAAAGTCTACACGAACCCT	Reverse primer to amplify gene inserts in pEVS143
RYI231	ATGCGTCATTACCTATCTCTAGTTTGTG	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI232	TGATACCTACAGCAACGATAGGTAGC	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI233	GCTACCTATCGTTGCTGTAGGTATCA	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI234	CGATAGCTTCAGTGTTATCCAAGGAAAG	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI235	GGGATCATCGTTACTCAGTACATTGC	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI236	GGCAAGTTAACACCAGAAGAAAGAACT	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0506*
RYI365	GATGGGTTAACACAATTAGCTAACCGT	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0057*
RYI366	TTAAACGAGAAACGGATTGATTTCTTTTGC	Sequencing primer for *VF_A0057*
RYI370	CAGAGTTGGGAAGGTGAAGTTGTT	Sequencing primer for *mifA*
RYI372	TCATGCGATTTGATCCATTTCACTGG	Sequencing primer for *mifA*
RYI520	TGATCGCCTATTGTGGGTTACCTC	Sequencing primer for *binA*
RYI521	ACTTTTGCATATACATTTTGCTAATA	Sequencing primer for *binA*

	GCCGT	
RYI522	AGTCGTCATTATCTGAACACAAAATTGAACG	Sequencing primer for *binA*
RYI523	GTGGCTTAATTTCTGATGAACCGCT	Sequencing primer for *binA*

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FIG 1. *V. fischeri* **encodes 50 proteins across both chromosomes predicted to modulate c-di-GMP levels.**
The circular chromosomes are represented in a linear fashion for this representation. Numbers represent VF_
locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

FIG 2. Many predicted *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs impact biofilm formation and swimming motility when overexpressed. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 3-8 biological replicates (24 for controls). Congo red images are representative. **B.** Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 4-11 biological replicates (33 for controls). For panels A and B, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates, error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control (*, $P < 0.05$), numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and VC1086 are also listed.

FIG 3. Most *V. fischeri* proteins tested are expressed from the overexpression vector. Western blot of whole-cell lysates of *V. fischeri* expressing indicated FLAG-tagged proteins from the pEVS143 vector. Predicted band sizes (kD) for each protein are indicated in parentheses. Anti-FLAG Rabbit IgG was used as the primary antibody and LI-COR IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Rabbit IgG was used as the secondary antibody. Anti-RpoA Mouse IgG was used as a loading control, binding the RNAP α subunit, and LI-COR IRDye 680RD Goat anti-mouse IgG was used as the secondary antibody of the loading control. Western blot is representative of n = 3 biological replicates.

FIG 4. Active site residues are required to modulate cellulose production and motility for selected DGCs and PDEs. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 4-5 biological replicates (10 for controls). **B.** Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 5 biological replicates (10 for controls). For A and B, unpaired t tests were used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates, error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance of a mutant relative to the corresponding wildtype protein (*, *P* < 0.01) and numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

FIG 5. VF_0985 is the only dual-function protein with strong active site-dependent phenotypes. A. Quantification of Congo red binding for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 4-5 biological replicates (10 for controls). **B.** Quantification of migration through soft (0.3%) agar for *V. fischeri* strains overexpressing the indicated proteins relative to the pRYI039 empty vector control. For each strain, n = 5 biological replicates (10 for controls). For A and B, unpaired t tests were used for statistical analysis, each bar represents the means of biological replicates, error bars represent standard errors of the mean, asterisks represent significance of a mutant relative to the corresponding wildtype protein (*, $P < 0.05$) and numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.).

Protein	Overexpression[a] CR	Motility TBS	Mg	Ca	Deletion[b] TBS	Motility Mg	Ca
DGCs (GGDEF)							
0596 (CdgG)					-	-	-
0989 (MifA)	+	-	-	-	+		+
1200	+	-	-	-	+		+
1245							
1350		-					
1515							
1561	+	-	-	-			
1639 (CasA)	+	-	-	-			+
2261	+	-	-		+		
2362	+	-	-	-			
A0056							
A0057	+	-	-	-			
A0152	+	-	-	-			
A0155	+	-	-	-			+
A0276	+	-	-	-			+
A0323	+	-	-	-			
A0342		-	-	-			
A0343	+	-	-	-			
A0368	+	-	-	-	-		
A0381		-	-	-	+		+
A0398	+	-	-	-			
A0476							-
A0567	+	-	-	-			
A0692	+	-	-	-			
A0796							
A0959 (MifB)		-	-	-	+	+	+
A0976				+			-
A1012	+	-	-	-			
QrgB	+	-	-	-	N/A		
PDEs (EAL)							
0087	-						
0091	-						
1603	-	+		+	-	-	-
2480	-	+		+	-	-	-
A0344				+			
A0526	-				-	-	-
A0551	-	+					
A0706							
A0879							
A1014 (PdeV)							
A1038 (BinA)	-	+		+			
A1076							
VC1086	-	+		+	N/A		
PDEs (HD-GYP)							
1367	-						
A0506	-	+		+			
DGC/PDEs							
0094	-	+		+			-
0494	-	+		+	-	-	-
0985	+	-		-	+		
A0244							
A0475							
Degenerate							
0355							-
A0216							
A1166 (LapD)		-	-				

FIG 6. Integration of phenotypic data for the *V. fischeri* DGCs and PDEs. Numbers represent VF_ locus tags (e.g., VF_0087, VF_A0056, etc.); non-*V. fischeri* controls QrgB and VC1086 are also listed. Overexpression data are from this study; deletion data are integrated from Shrestha *et al*., 2022. Olive coloring indicates phenotypes expected from elevated c-di-GMP, whereas red-orange indicates phenotypes expected from reduced c-di-GMP. White indicates no significant change. [a]This study, [b]Shrestha *et al*. 2022.