# Translational profiling of stress-induced small proteins uncovers an unexpected connection among distinct signaling systems

Sangeevan Vellappan[1,2,3], Junhong Sun[1], John Favate [2,3], Pranavi Jagadeesan[1], Debbie Cerda[1,2], Premal Shah [2,3], Srujana S. Yadavalli[1,2]*

[1]Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ USA
[2]Department of Genetics, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ USA
[3]Human Genetics Institute of New Jersey, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA

*Corresponding author
Waksman Institute of Microbiology
Rutgers University
190 Frelinghuysen Rd
Piscataway NJ 08854
Phone: 848-445-0251
Email: sam.yadavalli@rutgers.edu

## Highlights

- Ribo-RET identifies 17 small proteins induced under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress in *E. coli*
- Many of these proteins are transcriptionally activated by PhoQP signaling system
- Half of the stress-induced small proteins localize to the membrane
- Deletion or overexpression of specific small proteins affects growth under stress
- Small protein YoaI connects PhoR-PhoB and EnvZ-OmpR signaling networks

## Summary

Signaling networks in bacteria enable sensing and adaptation to challenging environments by activating specific genes that help counteract stressors. Small proteins (≤ 50 amino acids long) are a rising class of bacterial stress response regulators. *Escherichia coli* encodes over 150 small proteins, most of which lack known phenotypes and their biological roles remain elusive. Using magnesium limitation as a stressor, we investigate small proteins induced in response to stress using ribosome profiling, RNA sequencing, and transcriptional reporter assays. We uncover 17 small proteins with increased translation initiation, a majority of which are transcriptionally upregulated by the PhoQ-PhoP two-component signaling system, crucial for magnesium homeostasis. Next, we describe small protein-specific deletion and overexpression phenotypes, which underscore the physiological significance of their expression in low magnesium stress. Most remarkably, our study reveals that a small membrane protein YoaI is an unusual connector of the major signaling networks – PhoR-PhoB and EnvZ-OmpR in *E. coli*, advancing our understanding of small protein regulators of cellular signaling.

46
47
48

## Keywords

Bacterial stress response, translation-profiling, small proteins, magnesium starvation, two-component signaling, PhoQ-PhoP, fluorescent reporters

52
53

## Introduction

Living organisms sense and respond to environmental stressors through a wide variety of gene regulatory mechanisms [1]. In bacteria, signal transduction is primarily carried out by two-component signaling systems [2–4]. Gene expression regulation can occur at various stages including transcription, post-transcription, translation, and post-translation [5–8]. While some of these mechanisms involving regulators such as transcription factors and small RNAs have been extensively studied [9–11], other regulatory pathways essential for stress adaptation remain less well understood. Small proteins (≤50 amino acids in prokaryotes and ≤100 amino acids in eukaryotes), encoded by authentic small open reading frames, are emerging as key regulators of stress response [12–14], highlighting a need for further investigation into their roles and mechanisms of action.

Advances in bioinformatics, gene expression studies, and ribosome profiling have identified
hundreds of previously unannotated small proteins in all kingdoms of life including humans [13,15–
20]. In *Escherichia coli,* more than 150 small proteins have been documented [13,15]. While there
has been significant progress in identifying small proteins, a major gap in our knowledge is the
lack of understanding of the functions of most of these proteins [12,15]. Small proteins are typically
non-essential, at least under standard growth conditions used in the labs, and their requirement
is likely conditional when the activity of a larger target needs fine-tuning. In support of this idea,
it was previously observed that some small proteins accumulate at higher levels in a specific
growth phase, medium, or stress condition [21,22]. Magnesium ($Mg^{2+}$) is an important cofactor
affecting the catalysis and stability of numerous proteins and RNAs involved in vital cellular
processes, including translation [23]. Given the central role of $Mg^{2+}$, its deprivation poses a major
stress to the cells. The signal transduction and physiological response to low $Mg^{2+}$ is fairly well
understood, which involves the activation of the master regulator, PhoQP two-component
signaling system in gammaproteobacteria [23–25].
80
So far, three small proteins are known to mediate stress response to magnesium limitation in
bacteria. Firstly, MgrB,  a 48-aa transmembrane protein negatively regulates the sensor kinase
PhoQ of the PhoQP signaling system [26,27]. During magnesium starvation, the absence of MgrB
leads to hyperactivation of the PhoQP pathway, resulting in cell division inhibition and
filamentation in *E. coli* [28]. In addition to its role in $Mg^{2+}$ stress, loss of MgrB in *E. coli* increases
tolerance to trimethoprim, an antibiotic commonly used to treat bacterial infections [29]. In clinical
isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, disruption of MgrB-mediated inhibition of PhoQ also leads to
acquired colistin resistance [30]. A second small membrane protein, MgtS is also induced under
low $Mg^{2+}$ stress and is important for magnesium homeostasis [31,32]. MgtS protects the
magnesium transporter, MgtA, from degradation when $Mg^{2+}$ is limited [31]. PmrR is the third small
membrane protein shown to be expressed under low $Mg^{2+}$ stress in *Salmonella enterica* [33,34].
PmrR is activated by the PmrAB two-component system [33,35,36] in a PhoP-dependent manner
and inhibits the lipopolysaccharide modification enzyme, LpxT.
94
Here we ask, what subset of the ~150 small proteins in *E. coli* are induced under magnesium
limitation? We hypothesized that, like MgrB, MgtS, and PmrR, many other small proteins with
potential regulatory roles are yet to be identified as part of this stress response. We leveraged
the translation-initiation profiling method, Ribo-RET [37,38] to identify small proteins induced by low
magnesium stress, revealing a set of 17 proteins representing a substantial proportion (~11%)
of the documented small proteins in *E. coli*. To investigate the transcriptional regulation of the
stress-induced small proteins, we utilized RNA-Seq and transcriptional reporter assays, we
investigated the transcriptional regulation of these stress-induced small proteins, shedding light
on the genomic regions responsible for their expression and discerning any regulatory influence
from the PhoQP system. Additionally, using epitope tagging, microscopy, and biochemical
analysis, we meticulously examined the localization, overexpression, and loss-of-function
phenotypes of these small proteins. Through these experiments, we unexpectedly uncovered
how the small membrane protein YoaI, transcriptionally controlled by the PhoRB signaling
pathway [39], displays increased protein levels under magnesium stress and activates another
well-studied two-component system EnvZ-OmpR [40] in *E. coli*.

## Results

**Identification of low magnesium stress-induced small proteins in *E. coli* using translation-initiation profiling.**

To identify small proteins that accumulate under low magnesium stress, we adapted the translation initiation profiling method called Ribo-RET (Figure 1A) – a modified ribosome profiling approach utilizing translation initiation inhibitors for the identification of small proteins in bacteria [41]. Retapamulin (RET) is an antimicrobial compound that can stall ribosomes at the translation start sites to help identify previously unannotated open reading frames [37,38]. In this study, we prepared Ribo-RET libraries of wild-type *E. coli* cells grown in media with or without magnesium to examine small proteins expressed in response to magnesium starvation.

In our Ribo-RET data, we observe an increase in reads mapping to a specific distance of the ribosomal P-site codon from the 3' end of the reads in our libraries, ~6-10 nucleotides (nt) downstream of the expected start codon (Figure S1), similar to the pattern observed in previous translation initiation profiling studies [38]. We calculated ribosome density at annotated translation initiation sites using reads mapped from 4 to 20 nt downstream of the first nucleotide in the start codon, using a broad window of 16 nt to capture all relevant footprint sizes. In our analysis, the ribosome footprint sizes range from 16-24 nt, as illustrated in Figure S1, as anticipated for the bacterial systems [42].

The PhoQP signaling system is upregulated under $Mg^{2+}$ limitation [43] (Figures S2A-B). As expected, the read counts at the translation start site for PhoP and PhoQ were more than 4-fold and 10-fold higher, respectively, under stress conditions compared to no stress. Three small proteins known to be induced under low $Mg^{2+}$ stress – MgrB, MgtS, and PmrR, show a 9-fold, 5-fold, and 5-fold increase in the reads mapping to the translation start sites, respectively, under stress vs. no stress (Figures 1B-C, S2C). Overall, in our Ribo-RET data, we see a moderate correlation between the reads mapping to the start sites of all proteins expressed under these two conditions (Figure 1C), which is indicative of the anticipated changes in the translation initiation of proteins during stress response.

We detected 379 proteins with ≥3-fold increase in read counts under stress, several among these are small proteins <50 aa in length (Table S4). We narrowed down a set of 17 small proteins namely MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, MgtT, YmiC, YmiA, YoaI, YobF, YddY, YriB, YadX, YkgS, YriA, YdgU, YqhI, YadW and DinQ for further analysis (Table 1). Ribosome footprints at the start site of an open reading frame are a good proxy for the expression of the corresponding protein. However, it is critical to establish whether a given small open reading frame (sORF) results in a protein product of that specific size. All but one protein YoaI were previously validated for expression via genomic epitope-tagging (Table S5). In the case of YoaI, the protein could not be detected in rich media or specific growth conditions, including envelope stress, acid stress, and heat shock [21,22]. Given the strong signal for expression of YoaI in our Ribo-RET data (~12-fold increase in RPM for stress vs. no stress) (Figure S4A), we wondered if YoaI is conditionally expressed during magnesium limitation. To examine the expression of YoaI, we utilized a strain carrying chromosomally-encoded fusion protein YoaI-SPA [21,22]. We grew cells in

media containing different levels of Mg$^{2+}$, prepared membrane and cytoplasmic fractions, and

performed western blot analysis. Consistent with our hypothesis, we detected expression of

YoaI in a magnesium-dependent manner, where the protein level is highest at the lowest

concentration of magnesium (Figure S4B). In addition, this result also confirms that YoaI is

predominantly associated with the membranes, consistent with the bioinformatic prediction that

it is a membrane protein (Table S6).

14 of the 17 shortlisted small proteins were not previously associated with expression under low

magnesium stress. Small proteins YobF [22,44] and DinQ [45] have been linked to other stress

responses in *E. coli*, here we find the expression of these two proteins in low magnesium stress

as well. Many of these small proteins have not been characterized biochemically and have no

documented function yet. In the following sections, we systematically study these low-Mg$^{2+}$-

induced small proteins by investigating their transcriptional regulation and cellular localization

and characterizing their overexpression and deletion phenotypes.

**Transcriptional regulation of low magnesium stress-induced small proteins.**

To determine changes in the levels of transcripts encoding stress-induced small proteins, we

performed RNA-Seq using cells grown to early exponential phase in high and low Mg$^{2+}$

conditions. It is well-established that in cells depleted for Mg$^{2+}$, the PhoQP signaling system is

stimulated, leading to PhoP-mediated transcriptional activation of hundreds of genes necessary

for the stress response [24]. Not surprisingly, we see an increase in the mRNA abundances for

*phoQ* and *phoP* (Figure S3). Differential expression analysis of our RNA-seq data revealed

significant upregulation (fold change threshold of >2 and a p-value threshold of <0.05) in

transcription under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress for at least 10 of the 17 small proteins shortlisted, including

MgtS, MgtT, and MgrB (Figure 2). It is worth noting that YadX also showed a small increase

(1.7-fold) although it falls below the >2-fold threshold we applied in our data analysis.

Intriguingly, YriA, whose open reading frame overlaps with YriB by ~60% did not show an

increase in the transcript levels. In addition, we did not see a significant change in the mRNA

levels corresponding to YoaI, YobF, YkgS, and DinQ. In these cases, it is possible that the

change in transcript abundances is generally low and therefore fell below the significance

threshold. Alternatively, gene expression might be regulated at a post-transcriptional or

translational level under low magnesium stress. Indeed, *yobF* expression is induced post-

transcriptionally during heat shock response [22]. The expression of *yobF* under magnesium

limitation may be controlled via a similar post-transcriptional regulatory mechanism.

To delve deeper into the transcriptional control mechanism of the small proteins we sought to:

1) identify the regulatory regions upstream of each sORF, and 2) determine if the expression is

PhoQ-dependent. To identify the regions containing the putative promoters of low Mg$^{2+}$-induced

small proteins, we carefully selected ~200 to 500 base pairs upstream of each sORF (Table 2).

In general, we did not include any annotated full-length ORFs or non-coding RNAs occurring

within the regulatory region being tested, to avoid interference from the ectopic expression of

the corresponding product. In cases where a sORF appeared to be in the middle of an operon,

we selected two regions to test: one upstream of the entire operon and another immediately

upstream of the sORF of interest. We designed transcriptional reporter constructs to measure

the activity of each putative regulatory region, as shown in the schematic (Figure 3A). To
analyze which of these sORFs are regulated by the PhoQP two-component system, we
measured the transcriptional reporter activities in a *phoQ* deletion strain and compared them to
that of the wild type (Figure 3B).
200
Consistent with our RNA-seq data, we saw an increase in the transcriptional activity for
regulatory regions corresponding to 11 sORFs with this upregulation under low $Mg^{2+}$ condition
being PhoQ-dependent (Figure 3B). Two sets of overlapping (out-of-frame) sORFs including
*mgtS-mgtT* and *yriA-yriB*, strongly suggest their association within the same operon. Three
other genes, *yadW, ymiC,* and *ydgU* are likely regulated as part of the operons, *yadX-clcA-*
*yadW*, *ymiA-yciX-ymiC*, and *asr-ydgU*, respectively. For all the sORFs occurring within an
established or putative operon, the region upstream of the operon showed a higher
transcriptional reporter activity in response to stress, while a second region immediately
upstream of the given sORF had negligible activity (Table 2, Figure 3B). Based on the reporter
assay, the transcriptional activity for the 11 sORFs (*mgrB*, *mgtS*, *mgtT*, *ymiA*, *ymiC*, *yddY*, *yriA*,
*yriB, yadX*, *yadW*, and *ydgU*) peaks at ~6-10 hours. The RNA-Seq data represent
transcriptomic abundances at a given time point of growth (early exponential phase). This
transcriptional reporter assay captures temporal changes in the reporter activity and serves as a
complementary approach to RNA-Seq, where changes in low-abundance transcripts would be
missed. For instance, we did not observe a significant upregulation of *yadX* and *yadW* in the
RNA-Seq data, but we see a PhoQ-dependent increase in the reporter activity for the putative
regulatory region P$_{yadX-clcA-yadW}$ region under low magnesium stress. Conversely, for *pmrR* and
*yqhI*, while the RNA-Seq data suggested upregulation, we did not detect a significant increase
in the transcriptional reporter activity under stress suggesting that there may be distal or
additional regulatory factors, outside of our reporter construct, involved in controlling their
transcription. Indeed, *pmrR* is shown to be transcriptionally activated by the PmrA-PmrB
signaling system during magnesium limitation through the PhoQP-regulated connector protein
PmrD in *Salmonella enterica* [33] . This connection between the PhoQ-PhoP and PmrA-PmrB
signaling pathways is also active in *E. coli* under specific conditions including high stimulation of
the PhoQ-PhoP system [35,46]. We did not observe a reporter activity for *dinQ, ykgS, yobF*, and
*yoaI* in either the wild-type or *ΔphoQ* cells, consistent with the results from the RNA-Seq.
227
228 In summary, our RNA-Seq and transcriptional reporter assays reveal transcriptional
229 upregulation of 13 of the 17 small proteins, of which PhoQ regulates at least 11 under
230 magnesium starvation.
231
**Regulation of small membrane protein YoaI under $Mg^{2+}$ stress.**
YoaI is known to be regulated by the PhoRB two-component system [47–49], which responds to
phosphate starvation [39]. PhoRB signaling is also activated under low magnesium stress due to
the slowdown of protein synthesis and reduction of cytoplasmic phosphate levels [50].
Consistently, we noticed a 10-fold increase in reads mapping to the PhoB translation start site
under magnesium stress (Figure S2D). We then tested our transcriptional reporter for *yoaI*
(P$_{yoaI}$-YFP) in a low-phosphate medium and saw increased transcriptional activity for P$_{yoaI}$ when
compared to no-stress condition, in a PhoB-dependent manner (Figure 4A). This transcriptional

activation is PhoQ-independent as we see an amplification of P$_{yoaI}$ reporter in Δ$phoQ$ cells as
well (Figure 4B). Taken together, these results show that $yoaI$ transcription is controlled by
PhoB, and there is no significant effect of low magnesium stress on $yoaI$ transcription based on
RNA-Seq and transcriptional reporter data (Figures 2, 3B). Yet YoaI protein levels increase
under low magnesium conditions, and we wondered if PhoQ controls YoaI abundance. To test
this possibility, we examined YoaI protein expression in wild-type and Δ$phoQ$ cells in high and
low magnesium conditions by western blotting. Our results demonstrate that YoaI's expression
remains magnesium-dependent in a Δ$phoQ$ strain, mirroring the pattern seen in the wild type
(Figure 4C), suggesting that PhoQ does not affect YoaI levels. Therefore, YoaI expression is
induced in a PhoQ-independent manner under magnesium limitation potentially via a post-
transcriptional regulatory mechanism that enhances translation initiation.
251

**About half of the low Mg$^{2+}$ stress-induced small proteins localize to the membrane.**
As a first step to classifying the 17 stress-induced small proteins, we checked if a given small
protein is likely associated with the membrane or cytoplasm. Most of these proteins have limited
or no documented information, so their cellular localization can provide insights into their
potential mechanisms of action and interactions within the cell. Using bioinformatic tools
TMHMM [51], TMPred [52], and Phobius [53] to predict membrane helices, we find that at least 9 of
our candidates are putative membrane proteins. Three of them, MgrB, MgtS, and DinQ, were
previously shown to localize to the membrane in $E.$ $coli$ [21,45]. Additionally, PmrR from $S.$ $enterica$
was shown to be membrane-bound [33]. Our bioinformatic analyses predict that small proteins
YdgU, YmiA, YmiC, YoaI, and YobF also localize to the membrane (Table S6).
262

Next, to confirm the membrane association and visualize the small protein localization we used
epitope-tagging with GFP. Taking into account the predicted orientation of the putative
transmembrane protein, we created either an N- or C-terminal fusion of GFP by tagging the end
that is expected to face the cytoplasm (Figure S5A, Table S6) to ensure proper folding of GFP
[54]. Accordingly, YdgU, YmiA, and YmiC were tagged at the N-terminus, and YoaI was tagged at
the C-terminus. Upon observation by fluorescence microscopy, cells expressing GFP-tagged
YdgU, YmiA, YmiC, and YoaI revealed bright fluorescence at the cell periphery indicative of
membrane localization, similar to the known membrane protein, MgrB (Figure S5B). As a
control, cells expressing GFP alone showed uniform fluorescence indicative of cytoplasmic
localization.
273

For PmrR, we constructed an N-terminal fusion with GFP, where the tag was expected to
localize to the cytoplasm. However, we did not observe membrane localization (Figure S5B).
Considering the predicted membrane helices, this suggests that the tag interferes with PmrR
localization. Alternately, we tagged the C-terminus of $E.$ $coli$ PmrR with a hexahistidine (6XHis)
tag (Figure S5C) and performed western blotting using membrane and cytoplasmic fractions.
PmrR-6XHis strongly associated with the membrane fraction (Figure S5D), consistent with the
bioinformatic prediction and data from $S.$ $enterica$ PmrR. As in the case of PmrR, YobF-GFP
localized to the cytoplasm, which was inconsistent with its predicted membrane localization
(Table S6). Therefore, we used a 6XHis-tagged version of YobF, which showed a greater

association with the membranes than the cytoplasmic fraction (Figure S5D). Overall, among the
17 small proteins induced under low Mg$^{2+}$, we find that 9 of them are membrane proteins.
285

**Three small proteins exhibit stress-specific growth defects upon gene deletion.**
To identify potential defects in growth and cellular morphology caused by the absence of each
small protein in the cell, we utilized single gene deletions of *mgtS*, *mgtT*, *pmrR*, *yadW*, *yadX*,
*yddY*, *ykgS*, *ymiC*, *yqhI*, *yobF, dinQ*, *ydgU*, *ymiA*, and *yoaI* in the *E. coli* genome. *mgtT* lies in an
operon with *mgtS* [38], with an out-of-frame overlap between the stop codon of MgtS and the start
codon of MgtT. Therefore, we carefully generated an *mgtS* deletion without affecting the start
codon of MgtT, and similarly, an *mgtT* deletion while keeping the stop codon for MgtS intact (for
details see materials and methods, Table SI). In the case of *yriAB*, the two small proteins YriA
and YriB have overlapping open reading frames, where ~80% of the *yriB* gene overlaps with that
of *yriA* (Figure 6C, schematic), so, we first deleted the combined *yriAB* ORF to see if there is a
phenotype. 12 out of the 17 small proteins displayed no discernible growth defects upon deletion
relative to the wild-type strain when grown under magnesium limitation. However, four mutants –
namely *ΔpmrR, ΔyobF, ΔyqhI,* and *ΔyriAB* – exhibit reduced growth yields when grown over 24
hours (Figure 5). The cells carrying these deletions entered the stationary phase earlier than the
wild type. Notably, PmrR and YobF are membrane-bound proteins, while YqhI, YriA, and YriB are
putative soluble proteins (Figure S5D, Table S6).
302

To determine whether these growth defects are specifically related to the loss of these small
proteins, we complemented the deletion strains with plasmids encoding the corresponding small
proteins and induced with IPTG. Successful rescue of growth is observed for *ΔpmrR*, and *ΔyobF*
(Figure 6A, B; top panel). To confirm that this complementation is specific to the small protein and
not due to a cryptic ORF or regulatory element present within the small protein coding region, we
prepared plasmids carrying *pmrR* and *yobF* where their start codons are mutated to stop codons.
When tested for complementation in *ΔpmrR* and *ΔyobF*, respectively, the start codon mutants
retained the growth defect similar to that observed for the empty vector (Figure 6A, B; top panel),
reinforcing that the growth phenotype is specific to the small proteins themselves. In addition, we
investigated whether the growth defect observed with *pmrR* and *yobF* deletions is specific to low
magnesium stress. Our results indicate that deletions of *pmrR* and *yobF* do not cause growth
defects in the absence of stress (Figure 6A, B; bottom panel), and the phenotype is specific to
magnesium-limited conditions. Intriguingly, expression of plasmid-encoded PmrR in the absence
of stress resulted in a growth defect (Figure 6A, bottom panel), suggesting that increased
expression of PmrR under no-stress conditions may be detrimental.
318

Given the growth phenotype observed for ΔyriAB, we performed complementation with either
plasmid-encoded YriA and/or YriB to establish if the loss of either protein is responsible for the
growth defect. Intriguingly, complementation with either YriA or YriB alone failed to restore growth
but a plasmid expressing the region from *yriB* to *yriA,* mimicking the native genomic arrangement
(*yriAB*), partially rescued the growth defect (Figure 6C, top panel). In our plasmid construct
encoding YriB and YriAB, there is a possibility of a spurious small protein produced due to the
intact, out-of-frame YriA start codon within the *yriB* ORF (Figure 6C, schematic) that potentially
interferes with the complementation. To address this issue, we created a modified *yriB* construct

where YriA start codon ATG is mutated to TAA, this substitution changes codons 4 (Asp) and 5
(Val) in YriB to 4 (Ile) and 5 (Ile). This variant of YriB confers full complementation (Figure 6C, top
panel), indicating that loss of YriB contributes to the growth phenotype, at least in part. In addition,
we see that the growth defect associated with *yriAB* deletion is specific to low magnesium stress
condition (Figure 6C, bottom panel).
332
Finally, the growth defect observed in *ΔyqhI* is not complemented with a plasmid encoding YqhI
(Figure 6D), which suggests that this phenotype is not directly related to the YqhI protein itself.
Intriguingly, we did not see a growth defect in *ΔmgtS* strain when grown in a low magnesium
medium (Figure 5), contrasting with the previous report [31]. This discrepancy might be due to
differences in strain construction and/or growth media. Together, our results underscore the
complexities in studying overlapping small ORFs and their phenotypes.
339

**340    Seven small proteins affect growth and cell morphology upon overexpression.**
As a parallel approach to analyzing loss-of-function phenotypes, we explored the phenotypes
associated with the overexpression of small proteins. We cloned the genes corresponding to the
untagged small proteins into either an IPTG-inducible (all except DinQ as we were unable to
generate a DinQ clone in the IPTG-inducible pEB52 background) or arabinose-inducible (DinQ)
vector. Upon induction, slow growth or a prolonged lag phase is observed for 7 out of the 17 small
proteins tested: MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YmiA, YoaI, YkgS, and DinQ (Figure 7). Notably, six of these
proteins are membrane-bound (MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YmiA, YoaI, and DinQ). In the case of MgtS,
MgrB, PmrR, YmiA, and YoaI, induction of expression with IPTG leads to an extended lag phase
lasting for ~8-10 hours, after which the cells grow exponentially at growth rates similar to that of
control cells carrying empty vector, eventually reaching saturation at comparable levels.
Interestingly, cells expressing small proteins YkgS and DinQ did not display a long lag phase but
grew at a slower rate, eventually catching up to the same growth yield as the control cells. The
growth defect due to DinQ overexpression aligns with previous studies indicating that its
overexpression disrupts membrane potential and depletes intracellular ATP levels [45]. It is worth
noting that overexpression of the other 10 small proteins, including 3 membrane proteins YdgU,
YmiC, and YobF had a negligible impact on cell growth under the same condition, suggesting that
cells may tolerate high amounts of these proteins (Figure 7). More importantly, the lack of a
phenotype for most of these small proteins indicates that the growth defects observed here are
not due to a generic burden on the cell from plasmid-driven protein overexpression.
360
To be cautious in interpreting the overexpression data, we considered the possibility that the
observed growth defects might be attributed to a cryptic small open reading frame or regulatory
element within the small ORF being overexpressed. To check if the growth defects are indeed
small protein-dependent, we prepared plasmid constructs containing variants of the small protein
where the start codon (ATG) is substituted with a stop codon (TAA). For all 7 small proteins
displaying overexpression phenotypes, we repeated the growth assay with the start codon
mutants of each small protein. Expression of the mutant small proteins rescued the growth defect
with the cells exhibiting similar growth patterns to those carrying the empty vector (Figure 8A),
reinforcing that the observed growth defects are specific to the overexpression of these small
proteins.

371
In addition to the impact on growth, we explored whether overexpression of these 7 small proteins
(MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YmiA, YoaI, YkgS, and DinQ) influences cell size and morphology, especially
given the delayed growth (Figures 7, 8A). We hypothesized that cells overexpressing these small
proteins may undergo morphological changes as part of adaptation during the extended lag and
log phases of growth. Using phase contrast microscopy, we imaged cells induced for expression
of the small proteins during the lag and exponential growth phases. As controls, we used wild-
type cells carrying either an empty vector or a plasmid containing a variant of the small ORF
where its start codon (ATG) is mutated to a stop (TAA). The control cells exhibited a roughly
uniform cell size with volumes around 1.1-1.3 fL and 1.2-1.4 fL in lag and log phases, respectively.
Intriguingly, overexpression of small proteins MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YkgS, YoaI, and YmiA causes
distinct changes in cell size (Figures 8B, S6). Specifically, overexpression of MgtS results in
smaller cell size (Figure 8B), with a reduction in cellular volume to ~30-36% of the control cells
carrying either empty vector or start codon mutants in both lag and log phases (Figure S6).
Similarly, overexpression of PmrR and YoaI leads to a ~29% decrease in cell size and volume
during the lag phase, however, the cell size reverts to that of control cells during the exponential
phase (Figures 8B, S6). In contrast, overexpression of MgrB leads to an increase in cell size, with
an average volume of 2.2 fL, ~1.6-fold larger than the controls in the lag phase (Figures 8B, S6),
akin to the Δ*phoQ* cells grown in low magnesium conditions (Figure S7). This finding is remarkable
because MgrB is known to inhibit PhoQ [26,27], consistently, plasmid overexpression of MgrB likely
leads to strong inhibition of PhoQ, resulting in a cellular morphology similar to that of Δ*phoQ*.
These cells eventually return to normal size (cell volume of 1.2 fL) in the exponential phase.
Overexpression of YkgS and YmiA causes varying extents of cell elongation affecting cell size
and volume (Figures 8B, S6). Cells overexpressing DinQ did not show a significant change in cell
size.
396
397 Overall, the slow or delayed growth observed here along with the diverse morphological
398 phenotypes at distinct growth stages reflects how cells adapt in response to the overexpression
399 of small proteins mentioned above.
400

**Small protein YoaI connects distinct signaling systems – PhoQ-PhoP, PhoR-PhoB, and**
**EnvZ-OmpR.**
We wondered whether the growth delay observed upon overexpression of the 7 small proteins
described above is PhoQ-dependent, given the pivotal role of PhoQ in low magnesium stress. To
explore this, we evaluated the effects of overexpressing these proteins in a Δ*phoQ* strain under
magnesium limitation. Notably, the growth phenotype associated with protein overexpression is
retained in the Δ*phoQ* cells, similar to those observed in the wild-type strain for 6 out of 7
candidates – MgrB, MgtS, PmrR, YmiA, YkgS, and DinQ (Figures 8C), indicating that these
effects are PhoQ-independent. Interestingly, in the case of YoaI overexpression, the extended
lag phase observed in wild-type cells is completely abolished in the Δ*phoQ* cells, suggesting a
direct or indirect link between PhoQ and YoaI where PhoQ functions upstream of YoaI in this
regulatory pathway.
413

To check if YoaI and PhoQ physically interact with each other, we employed a bacterial two-hybrid
(BACTH) assay based on reconstituting split adenylyl cyclase (CyaA) [55,56]. In this system, CyaA
activity is restored when the two fragments T18 and T25 come close leading to an increase in
cyclic AMP (cAMP) levels and subsequent expression of β-galactosidase (β-gal) from the *lac*
promoter. We fused the T18 fragment to YoaI and tested it against T25-PhoQ. We included the
T18-MgrB and T25-PhoQ pair as a positive control and two other histidine kinases, PhoR and
EnvZ, each fused to the T25 fragment as additional controls. In this experiment, YoaI did not show
an interaction with either PhoQ or PhoR, however, to our surprise there was a strong signal
between YoaI and EnvZ that is comparable to the positive control (Figure 9A). EnvZ is primarily
known to be an osmosensor, integral to the EnvZ-OmpR two-component system, which regulates
porins in response to changes in osmolarity, pH, temperature, and growth phase [40]. Several small
membrane proteins are known to modulate the activities of sensor kinases [14]. A 127-amino acid
protein, MzrA regulates EnvZ resulting in higher levels of phosphorylated OmpR [57]. Based on the
BACTH interaction between YoaI and EnvZ, we suspected YoaI might influence the activity of the
EnvZ-OmpR signaling system. To address this possibility, we utilized an EnvZ-OmpR-regulated
transcriptional reporter strain with chromosomal fusion of mScarlet to $P_{omrB}$ [58] and measured *omrB*
promoter activity in cells grown in low magnesium vs. no-stress media. Interestingly, we observe
an increase of 2.5-fold in EnvZ-regulated transcription under stress in wild-type cells (Figure 9B).
The significantly high activity of *omrB* reporter in low $Mg^{2+}$ conditions suggests that upregulation
of YoaI protein levels may mediate this effect (Figures 4C, S4). Upon deletion of *yoaI*, the *omrB*
transcription reduced by ~1.4-1.5-fold in both low and high $Mg^{2+}$ media, indicating that YoaI affects
EnvZ-OmpR activity regardless of stress. Together with our observation that YoaI-SPA levels
increase under low $Mg^{2+}$ stress (Figures 4C, S4B), the higher transcriptional activity of the EnvZ-
regulated promoter can be attributed to the positive interaction of YoaI with EnvZ. To further
support the idea that an increase in YoaI levels is responsible for modulating the activity of the
EnvZ-OmpR system, we examined *omrB* transcription upon plasmid overexpression of YoaI in
wild-type *E. coli* cells. We observed a greater than 6-fold increase in $P_{omrB}$-*lacZ* reporter activity
in cells expressing YoaI on a plasmid (Figure S8A) relative to the control cells carrying an empty
vector. We also tested two other reporters to genes *ompF*, $P_{ompF}$-YFP and *ompC*, $P_{ompC}$-CFP [59],
and found a ~2-fold change in their transcriptional activities (Figures S8B, C), consistent with the
activation of EnvZ [40,60,61]. In summary, these findings suggest that YoaI interacts with and
stimulates EnvZ activity, potentially enhancing OmpR-P levels.
446
447

## Discussion

In this study, we identified 17 small proteins (≤50 amino acids) induced by low magnesium
stress from approximately 150 documented small proteins in *E. coli*, using Ribo-RET [37,38]. Only
3 of these proteins, MgrB, MgtS, and PmrR were previously studied in the context of
magnesium starvation [27,31,33]. For all the stress-induced small proteins except one (YoaI),
expression from the genomic locus was verified *in vivo* (Table S5). In a previous report when
cells were grown in a rich medium, expression of YoaI tagged with SPA epitope from a genomic
translation fusion was undetected [21]. Interestingly, our observation of cells grown in low $Mg^{2+}$
detected a robust expression of YoaI expression using the same construct, highlighting the
condition-specific expression of this protein (Figures 4C, S4B). Using RNA-Seq, we found that

many of these stress-induced proteins are transcriptionally activated in low magnesium media.
Further, we identified the regions upstream of these small ORFs responsible for transcriptional
regulation using operon fusions and reporter assays. Few hits, including YoaI and YobF, do not
show a change in transcription levels under low $Mg^{2+}$, suggesting that they are regulated post-
transcriptionally.
463
Lacking any functional or phenotypic information for most of these stress-induced proteins, we
began their characterization by predicting their subcellular localization using bioinformatic tools
(Tables 1, S6). By epitope tagging and imaging or western blotting, we empirically determined
that 9 of the 17 shortlisted stress-induced small proteins localize to the membrane (Figure S5).
These membrane-bound small proteins may interact with, stabilize, or fine-tune the activities of
large transmembrane proteins, such as sensor kinases, channel proteins, and drug efflux pumps,
thereby mediating cellular adaptation and stress responses [14]. Among the 9 candidates, three
proteins – MgrB, MgtS, and PmrR are shown to have specific membrane protein targets, as
described earlier. To further investigate their biological roles, we performed targeted deletion and
protein overexpression analysis.
474
Loss-of-function analysis of small proteins can be a useful approach to understanding their
physiological roles. For example, deleting *mgrB* causes hyperactivation of the PhoQP two-
component system, leading to cell division inhibition and filamentation of cells grown under low
magnesium stress [28]. In clinical isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae,* the absence of MgrB-mediated
PhoQ inhibition has been linked to acquired colistin resistance [30,62]. In the current work, we found
deletion phenotypes associated with the following small proteins—PmrR, YobF, YriA/B, and YqhI
—leading to an early entry into the stationary phase and reduced yield at saturation under
magnesium limitation. Based on plasmid complementation, growth defects caused by PmrR and
YobF are specific to the respective small proteins. The overlapping ORFs of YriA and YriB present
a unique challenge in interpreting the Δ*yriAB* growth phenotype observed under low magnesium
stress. While expressing the native *yriAB* region partially rescues the defect, individual expression
of YriA or YriB fails to do so; however, modifying YriB by mutating the out-of-frame YriA start
codon fully restores growth, emphasizing that the loss of YriB is a critical factor in the observed
phenotype. In the case of YqhI, the deletion phenotype could not be fully complemented by
plasmid-encoded small protein, pointing to putative cryptic ORF or regulatory factors within the
small ORF that warrant further investigation.
491
We also analyzed overexpression phenotypes associated with each of the stress-induced small
proteins to gain insights into cellular pathways or components functionally linked to these proteins.
For instance, overexpression of MgtS is shown to activate the PhoRB two-component system by
regulating the phosphate transporter, PitA [32]. Similarly, DinQ overexpression disrupts membrane
potential and depletes intracellular ATP levels [45]. We observed overexpression phenotypes for 7
of the 17 small proteins induced under magnesium stress—MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YmiA, YoaI,
YkgS, and DinQ—resulting in either a long lag phase or slow growth (Figure 7). These
overexpression phenotypes are specific to each small protein as we see control plasmids carrying
a mutated start codon do not cause growth defects (Figure 8A). Analysis of the cell morphology
during the lag and exponential phases of growth revealed interesting variations in cell sizes and

volumes that reflect how cells adapt to the overexpression of these small proteins. Remarkably
for one of the small proteins, PmrR, both the deletion and overexpression caused growth defects
under low magnesium stress. It is unclear how cells balance small protein levels when needed
during specific conditions vs. when not needed, say in the absence of stress. In this context,
complementation of the *ΔpmrR* strain with plasmid-encoded PmrR restored normal growth under
magnesium limitation but caused a growth defect under no-stress condition (Figure 6A). This
suggests that PmrR levels may be controlled precisely in cells undergoing stress, as both its
absence and its overexpression disrupt the balance necessary for cellular homeostasis.
510
In *Salmonella enterica,* PmrR has been shown to inhibit the inner membrane protein LpxT, which
plays a role in lipopolysaccharide modification [33,34,36]. We explored whether the growth defects
associated with PmrR deletion and overexpression in *E. coli* are mediated through its interaction
with LpxT. Interestingly, expressing PmrR in a *ΔlpxT* background did not alleviate the growth
defects regardless of stress (Figure S9A). It is possible that higher LpxT levels, resulting from the
absence of PmrR, could lead to growth defects. However, both single deletions (*ΔlpxT* and
*ΔpmrR*) and the double deletion (*ΔpmrR ΔlpxT*) exhibited growth defects under magnesium stress
(Figure S9B). This result suggests that the growth defect upon *pmrR* deletion is independent of
PmrR's interaction with LpxT. PmrR may be involved in other pathways or regulatory mechanisms
where it has additional interacting partners. It is not uncommon for small proteins to have multiple
binding partners, as seen with MgtS, which interacts with both MgtA and PitA [31,32]. Whether PmrR
associates with other targets contributing to phenotypes observed here warrants further
investigation.
524
Finally, we would like to discuss the interesting case of the small membrane protein YoaI,
whose transcription is controlled by the PhoR-PhoB signaling system [47–49]. YoaI levels are quite
low or undetectable when cells are grown in a rich medium or specific stress conditions [21,22].
However, we find that YoaI protein levels strongly increase under magnesium limitation and it
becomes detectable (Figure 4C). Overexpression of YoaI leads to a long delay in growth
(Figures 7, 8A, S4B). This phenotype is abolished in a *phoQ* mutant (Figure 8C), hinting at an
unknown PhoQ-dependent factor that may contribute to the growth defect observed upon YoaI
overexpression. Through a bacterial two-hybrid assay, we found a direct interaction of YoaI with
the EnvZ sensor kinase (Figure 9A), which controls osmoregulation [40] suggesting that this small
protein acts as a connector between the PhoR-PhoB and EnvZ-OmpR signaling networks.
Activation of EnvZ by YoaI is supported by the data from our transcriptional reporter analysis of
promoters regulated by the EnvZ-OmpR system (Figures 9B, S8). Modulation of sensor kinases
via small protein connectors appears to be a general theme that many small membrane proteins
of unknown function may fall under [14]. For instance, under acidic conditions, a 65-amino acid
protein SafA is activated by the EvgS-EvgA two-component system, which subsequently
interacts with and activates the PhoQ-PhoP system [63]. In a second example, an 88-amino acid
protein PmrD connects the PmrB-PmrA and PhoQ-PhoP signaling systems in *Salmonella* [64,65].
Another 127-amino acid protein MzrA is known to bind and activate EnvZ, which links the CpxA-
CpxR and EnvZ-OmpR pathways in *E. coli* [57]. Taken together, our findings outlining the
transcriptional regulation of YoaI by PhoB (Figure 4A), PhoQ-dependent growth phenotype
upon YoaI overexpression (Figure 8C), and YoaI's physical interaction with EnvZ and

modulation of EnvZ-regulated promoter activity (Figures 9B, S8) reveal how this 34-amino acid
small protein acts as a connector between distinct two-component signaling systems – PhoRB,
PhoQP, and EnvZ-OmpR to integrate diverse stress responses (Figure 9C).
549
Most small proteins (≤50 amino acids in prokaryotes) are of unknown function and little is known
about when/if they are expressed in the cell and what their physiological relevance is. Small
proteins are thought to fine-tune the activity and/or stability of larger target molecules in the cell,
adding a layer of gene regulation. This type of conditional regulation by small proteins may be
especially important when cells are grown in non-ideal or stressful environments. Overall, our
work describing the identification of condition-specific small proteins and targeted phenotypic
characterization provides a deeper understanding of small protein regulation and the
physiological consequences of altering their expression levels, laying a foundation for
deciphering their functions and regulatory mechanisms under relevant stress conditions.
559
560
561  ## Materials and methods
562
**Media and growth conditions.**
Bacterial cultures were grown in either Luria-Bertani (LB) Miller medium (IBI Scientific) or
minimal A medium [66] supplemented with 0.2% glucose, 0.1% casamino acids, and the indicated
concentration of $MgSO_4$, with aeration at 37°C, unless otherwise specified. In general, overnight
cultures are grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing 1 mM $MgSO_4$ and
antibiotic(s) as applicable. Saturated cultures are diluted 1:500 into fresh medium. For low $Mg^{2+}$
stress, no $Mg^{2+}$ was added when overnight cultures were diluted into fresh medium. Media
containing 10 mM $Mg^{2+}$ was used as the no-stress condition. For phosphate stress experiments,
MOPS minimal medium (Teknova) supplemented with 0.2% glucose, 0.1% casamino acids, and
either 1 mM $K_2HPO_4$ (no-stress) or no $K_2HPO_4$ (phosphate stress). For routine growth on solid
medium, LB containing 1.5% bacteriological-grade agar (VWR Lifesciences) was used. For
antibiotic selection, carbenicillin, kanamycin, and chloramphenicol were added at a final
concentration of 50-100 μg ml$^{-1}$, 25- 50 μg ml$^{-1}$, and 6-25 μg ml$^{-1}$. b-isopropyl-D-thiogalactoside
(IPTG) was used at a final concentration of 500 μM, unless otherwise specified. Arabinose was
used at final concentrations of 0.5% and 30 mM for pBAD24-based vectors and pMR120-based
vectors, respectively, to induce protein expression when needed.
579
**Strains, plasmids, and cloning.**
See supplemental information for details of the strains (Table S1), plasmids (Table S2), and
primers (Table S3) used in this study. All the strains used were derived from *Escherichia coli K-*
*12* MG1655. Strain JW2162 was a gift from Dr. Bryce Nickels; plasmids pEB52, pAL38, pAL39,
pSMART, pMR120 and strains AML67, MDG147, TIM92, TIM100, and TIM202 were gifts from
Dr. Mark Goulian. Strains GSO195, GSO219, GSO225, GSO232, and GSO317 were gifts from
Dr. Gisela Storz. Strains JM2110 and JM2113 were kind gifts from Dr. Maude Guillier.
587
A modified version of the method described by [67] was used to generate in-frame gene deletions
corresponding to each small protein. Briefly, the entire small open reading frame (sORF)

(including the stop codon) was deleted from the MG1655 genome and substituted with a
kanamycin resistance cassette. While constructing the gene deletions, we avoided deleting any
overlapping annotated ORFs, non-coding RNAs, or putative regulatory regions in the vicinity of
the target gene. In the case of *yriA-yriB (yriAB),* the two small protein ORFs significantly
overlapped; therefore, we deleted the combined *yriAB* ORF. Detailed information on the
genomic coordinates of deleted regions can be found in Table S1. Genomic deletions and
reporter constructs carrying the kanamycin resistance cassettes were transferred between
strains using P1$_{vir}$ transduction [66] and validated by PCR. When necessary, the kanamycin
cassette was excised from the chromosome by FLP-mediated recombination using pCP20, as
previously described [68]. PCR and loss of antibiotic resistance confirmed the excision of the
kanamycin cassette.
601
Plasmids expressing translational fusions of GFP-A206K to the small open reading frames
(sORFs), specifically pPJ1-13 and pSV25, were generated through inverse PCR [69] using pAL39
as a template. Plasmids encoding C-terminally 6XHis-tagged-YobF and -PmrR (sORF-GGSG
linker-6XHis) were created using inverse PCR with pEB52 as a template, resulting in pSV14
and pSV26, respectively. Plasmids encoding untagged small proteins (pSV30-pSV37, pSV58,
pSV60, and pJS1-pJS7) were also generated by inverse PCR with pEB52 as a template. pSV54
was generated by inverse PCR using pBAD24 as a template. Plasmids pSV38-pSV45, pSV55,
pSV59, and pSV61, encoding variants of sORFs with start codon substitutions to stop codons
(TAA), were generated by site-directed mutagenesis with inverse PCR using templates pSV35,
pSV34, pJS7, pJS4, pSV36, pJS5, pSV54, pSV37, and pSV60 as applicable. For pSV39-
pSV42, another in-frame start codon within five amino acids of the annotated start was also
substituted to TAA. All constructs were verified by Sanger sequencing. To generate pSV47, *yoaI*
was PCR amplified from the MG1655 genome, digested with *XbaI/EcoRI* restriction enzymes,
and then cloned into pUT18C at *XbaI/EcoRI* sites.
616
To examine the transcriptional regulation of the sORFs and identify the putative regulatory
regions, ~200-500 bp upstream region of the start codon of each sORF was selected for cloning
(see details in Table 2). If a given sORF was suspected to be part of an operon, two putative
regions were chosen for analysis, the first directly upstream of the gene and a second region
upstream of the entire operon. Each DNA segment was amplified from MG1655 genomic DNA
by PCR and inserted upstream of the *yfp* reporter gene in pMR120 into the restriction sites
(*XhoI/BamHI* to construct pSV16, while *EcoRI-BamHI* sites were used for the remaining
constructs). The pMR120 vector also includes a *cfp* reporter regulated by a constitutive *tetA*
promoter, serving as an internal plasmid control. The resulting plasmids (pPJ14, pPJ16-pPJ20,
pPJ23, pSV16-21, pSV24, pSV28, pSV29) were confirmed by Sanger sequencing and
transformed into MG1655 and TIM202 (*ΔphoQ).* Note that pSMART (Lucigen), pMR120, and
the derivatives are single-copy plasmids when transformed into *E. coli* [70]. *E. cloni* replicator cells
(Lucigen) are transformed with these plasmids and cultured with arabinose induction to increase
the copy number for plasmid isolation.
631
**Translation initiation profiling (Ribo-RET) and RNA-Seq.**

Overnight cultures of wild-type *E. coli* grown in supplemented minimal A medium and 1 mM
$MgSO_4$ were diluted 1:500 in 100 ml of fresh medium and the specified concentrations of
$MgSO_4$. Once the cultures reached an OD600 of ~0.4, they were split into two 50 ml conical
tubes. Cells from one tube were pelleted and submitted to Genewiz for RNA-Seq, while the cells
from the second tube were used for Ribo-RET. For Ribo-RET, cells were treated with
retapamulin at a final concentration of 100 µg ml$^{-1}$ for 5 minutes at 37°C with continuous
shaking. After retapamulin treatment, cells were filtered through a nitrocellulose membrane with
a pore size of 0.45 µm, quickly scraped off the surface, and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. The
resulting samples were processed, and libraries were prepared as described previously [41] with
the following modifications. Specifically, RNA fragments of 15-30 nucleotides (nt) in length were
isolated by performing a tight gel size selection, and rRNA depletion was performed using the
RiboCop for Gram-negative bacteria kit (Lexogen). The resulting RNA fragments were then
pooled, and libraries were prepared, with a final library structure consisting of a 5' adapter – 4
random bases – insert – 5 random bases – sample barcode – 3' adapter. The randomized
bases serve as Unique Molecular Identifiers (UMIs) for deduplication. The multiplexed library
was sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 4000 with a paired end reading of 150 bases (PE150
runs) at a sequencing depth of 40-60 million raw reads per sample.
650
**Sequencing data analysis.**
The raw sequencing data for this project has been deposited in the GEO database with the
accession number GSE276379. An R package with codes for data processing and analysis has
been made available on GitHub (https://github.com/yadavalli-lab/Small-proteins-induced-under-
low-magnesium-stress-in-E.coli). The raw sequencing data was first demultiplexed, and the
adaptors were removed using cutadapt [71]. The reads were then depleted of rRNA and tRNA and
deduplicated using umi_tools dedup [72]. The Ribo-RET reads were aligned to the *E. coli* MG1655
genome NC_000913.3 (RefSeq assembly accession: GCF_000005845.2) using hisat2 [73], and
the ribosome density was assigned to the 3' end of the reads. Initiation peak density was
calculated for the annotated translation start sites by summing up the normalized reads (reads
per million, RPM) within 4 to 20 nt downstream of the first nucleotide in the start codon. For
transcript quantification of RNA-Seq reads, Kallisto [74] was used. DESeq2 [75] was used for the
differential expression analysis of gene expression in the RNA-Seq data. Normalization of the
data for differential expression was carried out using the "apeglm" method [76]. Fold-changes
were estimated by comparing two replicates of the low $Mg^{2+}$ dataset to two replicates of the no-
stress dataset, with filtering criteria set at more than two-fold changes and a p-value below 0.05.
667
**Measurement of growth (optical density) and fluorescence using a microplate reader.**
The optical density ($OD_{600}$) measurements for small protein overexpression and deletion
constructs were performed in a clear flat bottom 96-well microplate (Corning) containing 150 µL
culture per well using a microplate reader (Agilent BioTek Synergy Neo2S). Fluorescence
measurements for transcriptional reporters were carried out similarly, using black-walled, clear-
flat bottom 96-well microplates (Corning). Saturated cultures grown in supplemented minimal A
or MOPS minimal medium were normalized to the same initial $OD_{600}$ values across all samples
and diluted 1:50 in fresh medium containing specified concentrations of $MgSO_4$ or $K_2HPO_4$,
along with appropriate antibiotics and inducers, as indicated. The microplates were incubated at

37 °C with double orbital shaking before the real-time measurements of optical density (at 600
nm), YFP (excitation: 500 nm; emission: 540 nm), or CFP (excitation: 420 nm; emission: 485
nm) were acquired every hour for 20-24 hours.
680
**Microscopy, and image analysis.**
For localization of GFP-tagged small proteins, cells were grown to an $OD_{600}$ of ~0.2 (~3 hours)
and then rapidly cooled in an ice slurry. Streptomycin was added to a final concentration of 250
µg ml$^{-1}$. GFP fluorescence was captured with a 475 nm excitation wavelength and a 540 nm
emission filter, with an exposure time of 30 ms and 20% intensity. While the exposure times
were typically set to these specified values, slight variations were occasionally made to optimize
imaging based on the levels of fluorescence expression observed.
688
For overexpression analysis, overnight cultures were diluted 1:500 into supplemented minimal
medium containing no added $MgSO_4$, 50 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin, and either 500 µM IPTG or 0.5%
arabinose, as indicated. Cells were grown to the lag phase ($OD_{600}$ ~0.005), then rapidly cooled
in an ice slurry before phase contrast microscopy. For empty vector control and start codon
variants, we captured lag phase micrograph images approximately 30-40 minutes post-
inoculation and -induction. For MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YoaI, and YmiA overexpression, lag phase
measurements were performed at 2-3 hours, and for YkgS and DinQ, at 1-hour post-inoculation
and -induction. To concentrate the cells, 1 mL of the culture was pelleted and resuspended in
30-50 µL minimal A salt solution. For exponential phase analysis ($OD_{600}$ between 0.2-0.4) in
cultures carrying empty vector control and start codon variants images were taken at ~3-4
hours. In the case of cells expressing MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YoaI, and YmiA, images were taken
at 16-18 hours, and YkgS and DinQ at 6-8 hours. Microscope slides were prepared using 1%
agarose pads as described previously [28], with approximately 5-7 µL of the resuspended cells. A
40 ms exposure time and 20% intensity were applied to capture the phase-contrast images.
703
For single-cell fluorescence measurements of wild type and Δ*yoaI* cells carrying P$_{omrB}$-*mScarlet*
reporter, overnight cultures were diluted 1:500 into fresh supplemented minimal A medium
containing either 10 mM or no added $MgSO_4$. Cells were grown to exponential ($OD_{600}$ ~0.3 for
both stress and no stress conditions) and stationary phase ($OD_{600}$ ~1.0 for stress condition and
~3.5 for no stress condition), and then rapidly cooled in an ice slurry. Streptomycin was added
to a final concentration of 250 µg ml$^{-1}$. Fluorescence was measured using the mCherry channel
with an excitation wavelength of 570 nm and an emission filter of 645 nm. The exposure time
was set to 100 ms, with an intensity of 20%. Background fluorescence was determined by
imaging MG1655 cells grown under the same conditions.
713
For single-cell fluorescence measurements upon YoaI overexpression (to measure reporter
activities of P$_{ompF}$-*yfp* and P$_{ompC}$-*cfp*), the overnight cultures were diluted 1:500 into fresh
supplemented minimal A medium containing 10 mM $MgSO_4$. Cells were grown to exponential
phase ($OD_{600}$ between 0.2-0.4), then rapidly cooled in an ice slurry, and streptomycin was added
at 250 µg ml$^{-1}$. YFP fluorescence was measured using a 500 nm excitation wavelength and a
535 nm emission filter. CFP fluorescence was measured using a 435 nm excitation wavelength
and a 480 nm emission filter. The exposure time for YFP and CFP measurements was set to 50

ms, respectively, with an intensity of 20%. The background fluorescence was determined by
imaging MG1655/pEB52 cells grown under the same conditions.
723
Image visualization and acquisition were performed using a Nikon Ti-E epifluorescence
microscope equipped with a TI2-S-HU attachable mechanical stage. The images were captured
with a Prime 95B sCMOS camera from Teledyne Photometrics with 1x1 binning. All image
acquisition was managed using Metamorph software (Molecular Devices), version 7.10.3.279. A
minimum of 50 cells per replicate were analyzed for cell volume and single-cell fluorescence
quantification. The distributions of cellular volume were assumed to follow the sphero-cylindrical
shape of *E. coli.* The volume was calculated using the formula $\mathrm{V} = \frac{\mathrm{pi}}{4} * \mathrm{W}^2 * \left(\mathrm{L} - \frac{\mathrm{W}}{3}\right)$. Images
were analyzed, and the cellular length, width, and fluorescence intensity were quantified using
ImageJ [77] and MicrobeJ plugin [78].
733

**Preparation of membrane and cytoplasmic fractions.**
Membrane and cytoplasmic protein fractions were prepared as described previously [26]. Briefly,
saturated cultures of MG1655/pSV14 (PmrR-GGSG-6XHis), MG1655/pSV26 (YobF-GGSG-
6XHis), and MG1655/pEB52 (empty vector) were diluted 1:500 in 4 ml of LB media containing
100 µg ml⁻¹ carbenicillin and grown at 37 °C. After 4 hours of growth, 0.5 mM IPTG was added
to the cultures, and the cells were harvested after 2 hours of induction. Cell pellets were
resuspended in 50 µl of cold resuspension buffer containing 20% sucrose, 30 mM Tris pH 8.0,
and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma, cOmplete, EDTA-free). Then, 50 µl of 10 mg ml⁻¹
lysozyme, freshly prepared in 0.1 M EDTA pH 7.0, was added to the cell suspension, and the
mixture was incubated on ice for 30 minutes. Next, 1 ml of 3 mM EDTA pH 7.5 was added to
each sample, followed by sonication (10s pulse, 10s gap, 6 times) using VCX-130 Vibra-Cell
Ultrasonic sonicator (Fisher Scientific). Samples were briefly centrifuged at 6,000 rpm for 10
minutes at 4 °C to remove cellular debris, and the supernatant was collected and spun at
21,000 ×g for 30 minutes at 4 °C. The supernatant from this step is separated and stored as the
cytoplasmic fraction. The pellet, representing the membrane fraction, was resuspended in a
storage buffer containing 20 mM Tris pH 8.0/20% glycerol. For strains carrying genomic Yoal-
SPA translational fusion, cultures were grown to an OD$_{600}$ of ~0.2-0.4 before harvesting, and
membrane and cytoplasmic fractions were prepared as mentioned above.
752

**Western blot analysis.**
The membrane and cytoplasmic fractions were resuspended in 4X Laemmli sample buffer
containing 5% 2-mercaptoethanol and no dyes. The samples were heated at 70 °C for 10
minutes and run on a 12% Bis-Tris gel (NuPage, Invitrogen) using MES running buffer
(Invitrogen) at 160V for 80 minutes. After electrophoresis, proteins were transferred to a PVDF
membrane (Amersham™ Hybond™) with a 0.2 µm pore size using a semi-dry transfer cell (Bio-
Rad Trans-Blot SD). The membranes were blocked with 5% w/v milk in Tris-buffered saline, pH
7.4, with 1% Tween 20 (TBS-T). Primary antibodies – mouse M2 anti-FLAG (Sigma-Aldrich) and
rabbit anti-6XHis tag antibody (Rockland) were used at 1:1000 dilution to detect SPA- and
6XHis-tagged constructs, respectively. IRDye 800CW goat anti-mouse and IRDye 680RD
donkey anti-rabbit antibodies (LiCOR) were used for secondary detection. SeaBlue™ Plus2 Pre-

stained Protein Standard (Invitrogen) was used as a ladder to visualize lower molecular weight
protein bands. The proteins were visualized using a LI-COR Odyssey imager.

**Bacterial two-hybrid and β-galactosidase reporter gene assays.**
For the bacterial two-hybrid assay, several clones from the transformation plate were picked to
reduce heterogeneity [55] and inoculated in LB containing 100 µg ml$^{-1}$ ampicillin and 50 µg ml$^{-1}$
kanamycin. Cultures were grown overnight at 30°C with shaking. The cultures were then diluted
1:1000 into LB supplemented with 500 µM IPTG and grown at 30°C until OD$_{600}$ reached
between 0.2-0.4, after which β-galactosidase activities (Miller units) were measured as
previously described [79].

For the β-galactosidase reporter gene assay, strains carrying P$_{omrB}$-*lacZ* with either pSV34
(pYoaI) or pEB52 (empty vector) were grown overnight in LB medium with 100 µg ml$^{-1}$
ampicillin. The next day, the cultures were diluted 1:100 in the same medium and grown at 37
°C. After 3 hours of growth, 0.5 mM IPTG was added to the cultures, and the cells were
harvested after 2 hours of induction. For high-throughput measurements in a 96-well format, the
protocol was modified as previously described [79].

Resource availability

Lead contact
Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be
fulfilled by the lead contact, Srujana S. Yadavalli (sam.yadavalli@rutgers.edu).

Materials availability
Requests for strains and plasmids generated in this study should be directed to and will be
fulfilled by the lead contact, Srujana S. Yadavalli (sam.yadavalli@rutgers.edu).

Data and code availability
Next-generation sequencing data generated in this study are deposited at Gene Expression
Omnibus (GEO) with accession number GSE276379. All data generated or analyzed during this
study are included in the manuscript and its supporting files. Source data files for all figures
have been provided. The code used for data processing and analysis is available in a series of
R Markdown documents hosted on GitHub (https://github.com/yadavalli-lab/Small-proteins-
induced-under-low-magnesium-stress-in-E.coli).

Acknowledgments
The authors would like to thank Drs. Mark Goulian, Bryce Nickels, Gisela Storz, and Maude
Guillier for generously sharing strains and plasmids. We thank the past and present members of
the Yadavalli, Storz, and Shah Labs for their helpful discussions. We also thank Drs. Gisela
Storz and Mark Goulian for critical feedback on the manuscript.
Funding: S.S.Y. is supported by the National Institutes of Health - National Institute of General
Medical Sciences (NIH-NIGMS) ESI-MIRA R35 GM147566 and institutional start-up funds from
Rutgers. P.S. was supported by NIH/NIGMS grant R35 GM124976 and start-up funds from the
Human Genetics Institute of New Jersey at Rutgers University. S.V. is supported by the
Waksman Institute Busch Predoctoral fellowship (2022-24). The funders did not play any role in

the study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the
manuscript.
813
814

## Author contributions

816 S.V., P.S., and S.S.Y. conceived the experiments. All authors planned the experiments,
817 designed the methodology, and performed data analysis. S.V., P.S., and S.S.Y. wrote the initial
818 draft of the manuscript, P.S. contributed to revisions and editing, and all authors reviewed the
819 final manuscript.
820
821

## Declaration of interests

823 S.S.Y. consults for and collaborates with Designs for Vision, Inc. P.S. a director at an RNA-
824 therapeutics startup, and consults for Designs for Vision, Inc. S.V. declared that no competing
825 interests exist.
826
827

## References

1. Carlberg, C., and Molnar, F. (2016). Mechanisms of Gene Regulation 2nd ed. (Springer).

2. Goulian, M. (2010). Two-component signaling circuit structure and properties. Curr. Opin.
Microbiol. *13*, 184–189.

3. Stock, A.M., Robinson, V.L., and Goudreau, P.N. (2000). Two-component signal
transduction. Annu. Rev. Biochem. *69*, 183–215.

4. Laub, M.T. (2014). The role of two-component signal transduction systems in bacterial
stress responses. In Bacterial Stress Responses (ASM Press), pp. 45–58.

5. Baumberg, S. ed. (1999). Prokaryotic Gene Expression. Preprint at Oxford University
PressOxford, https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780199636044.001.0001
https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780199636044.001.0001.

6. Banerjee, T. (2022). Regulation of Gene Expression in Prokaryotes. In Genetics
Fundamentals Notes (Springer Nature Singapore), pp. 569–596.

7. Tollerson, R., 2nd, and Ibba, M. (2020). Translational regulation of environmental
adaptation in bacteria. J. Biol. Chem. *295*, 10434–10445.

8. Cain, J.A., Solis, N., and Cordwell, S.J. (2014). Beyond gene expression: the impact of
protein post-translational modifications in bacteria. J. Proteomics *97*, 265–286.

9. Gottesman, S. (2019). Trouble is coming: Signaling pathways that regulate general stress
responses in bacteria. J. Biol. Chem. *294*, 11685–11700.

10. Storz, G., Vogel, J., and Wassarman, K.M. (2011). Regulation by small RNAs in bacteria:
expanding frontiers. Mol. Cell *43*, 880–891.

11.  Seshasayee, A.S.N., Sivaraman, K., and Luscombe, N.M. (2011). An overview of
prokaryotic transcription factors : a summary of function and occurrence in bacterial
genomes. Subcell. Biochem. *52*, 7–23.

12.  Burton, A.T., Zeinert, R., and Storz, G. (2024). Large Roles of Small Proteins. Annu. Rev.
Microbiol. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-micro-112723-083001.

13.  Hemm Matthew R., Weaver Jeremy, Storz Gisela, Lovett Susan T., and Hinton Deborah
(2020). Escherichia coli Small Proteome. EcoSal Plus *9*.
https://doi.org/10.1128/ecosalplus.ESP-0031-2019.

14.  Yadavalli, S.S., and Yuan, J. (2022). Bacterial Small Membrane Proteins: the Swiss Army
Knife of Regulators at the Lipid Bilayer. J. Bacteriol. *204*, e0034421.

15.  Gray, T., Storz, G., and Papenfort, K. (2022). Small Proteins; Big Questions. J. Bacteriol.
*204*, e0034121.

16.  Pueyo, J.I., Magny, E.G., and Couso, J.P. (2016). New peptides under the s(ORF)ace of
the genome. Trends Biochem. Sci. *41*, 665–678.

17.  Patraquim, P., Mumtaz, M.A.S., Pueyo, J.I., Aspden, J.L., and Couso, J.-P. (2020).
Developmental regulation of canonical and small ORF translation from mRNAs. Genome
Biol. *21*, 128.

18.  Sberro, H., Fremin, B.J., Zlitni, S., Edfors, F., Greenfield, N., Snyder, M.P., Pavlopoulos,
G.A., Kyrpides, N.C., and Bhatt, A.S. (2019). Large-Scale Analyses of Human Microbiomes
Reveal Thousands of Small, Novel Genes. Cell *178*, 1245-1259.e14.

19.  Kastenmayer, J.P., Ni, L., Chu, A., Kitchen, L.E., Au, W.-C., Yang, H., Carter, C.D.,
Wheeler, D., Davis, R.W., Boeke, J.D., et al. (2006). Functional genomics of genes with
small open reading frames (sORFs) in S. cerevisiae. Genome Res. *16*, 365–373.

20.  Steinberg, R., and Koch, H.-G. (2021). The largely unexplored biology of small proteins in
pro- and eukaryotes. FEBS J. *288*, 7002–7024.

21.  Hemm, M.R., Paul, B.J., Schneider, T.D., Storz, G., and Rudd, K.E. (2008). Small
membrane proteins found by comparative genomics and ribosome binding site models.
Mol. Microbiol. *70*, 1487–1501.

22.  Hemm, M.R., Paul, B.J., Miranda-Ríos, J., Zhang, A., Soltanzad, N., and Storz, G. (2010).
Small stress response proteins in Escherichia coli: proteins missed by classical proteomic
studies. J. Bacteriol. *192*, 46–58.

23.  Groisman, E.A., and Chan, C. (2021). Cellular Adaptations to Cytoplasmic Mg2+ Limitation.
Annu. Rev. Microbiol. *75*, 649–672.

24.  Groisman, E.A., Duprey, A., and Choi, J. (2021). How the PhoP/PhoQ System Controls
Virulence and Mg2+ Homeostasis: Lessons in Signal Transduction, Pathogenesis,
Physiology, and Evolution. Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev. *85*, e0017620.

25.  Groisman, E.A. (2001). The pleiotropic two-component regulatory system PhoP-PhoQ. J.
Bacteriol. *183*, 1835–1842.

26.  Yadavalli Srujana S., Goh Ted, Carey Jeffrey N., Malengo Gabriele, Vellappan Sangeevan,
Nickels Bryce E., Sourjik Victor, Goulian Mark, Yuan Jing, and Silhavy Thomas J. (2020).
Functional Determinants of a Small Protein Controlling a Broadly Conserved Bacterial
Sensor Kinase. J. Bacteriol. *202*, e00305-20.

27.  Lippa, A.M., and Goulian, M. (2009). Feedback inhibition in the PhoQ/PhoP signaling
system by a membrane peptide. PLoS Genet. *5*, e1000788.

28.  Yadavalli, S.S., Carey, J.N., Leibman, R.S., Chen, A.I., Stern, A.M., Roggiani, M., Lippa,
A.M., and Goulian, M. (2016). Antimicrobial peptides trigger a division block in Escherichia
coli through stimulation of a signalling system. Nat. Commun. *7*, 1–10.

29.  Patel, V., and Matange, N. (2021). Adaptation and compensation in a bacterial gene
regulatory network evolving under antibiotic selection. Elife *10*.
https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.70931.

30.  Cannatelli, A., Giani, T., D'Andrea, M.M., Di Pilato, V., Arena, F., Conte, V., Tryfinopoulou,
K., Vatopoulos, A., Rossolini, G.M., and COLGRIT Study Group (2014). MgrB inactivation
is a common mechanism of colistin resistance in KPC-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae of
clinical origin. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. *58*, 5696–5703.

31.  Wang, H., Yin, X., Wu Orr, M., Dambach, M., Curtis, R., and Storz, G. (2017). Increasing
intracellular magnesium levels with the 31-amino acid MgtS protein. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.
U. S. A. *114*, 5689–5694.

32.  Yin, X., Wu Orr, M., Wang, H., Hobbs, E.C., Shabalina, S.A., and Storz, G. (2019). The
small protein MgtS and small RNA MgrR modulate the PitA phosphate symporter to boost
intracellular magnesium levels. Mol. Microbiol. *111*, 131–144.

33.  Kato, A., Chen, H.D., Latifi, T., and Groisman, E.A. (2012). Reciprocal control between a
bacterium's regulatory system and the modification status of its lipopolysaccharide. Mol.
Cell *47*, 897–908.

34.  Hong, X., Chen, H.D., and Groisman, E.A. (2018). Gene expression kinetics governs
stimulus-specific decoration of the *Salmonella* outer membrane. Sci. Signal. *11*.
https://doi.org/10.1126/scisignal.aar7921.

35.  Chen, A.I., Albicoro, F.J., Zhu, J., and Goulian, M. (2021). Effects of regulatory network
organization and environment on PmrD connector activity and polymyxin resistance in
Klebsiella pneumoniae and Escherichia coli. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. *65*.
https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.00889-20.

36.  Tian, X., Manat, G., Gasiorowski, E., Auger, R., Hicham, S., Mengin-Lecreulx, D., Boneca,
I.G., and Touzé, T. (2021). LpxT-Dependent Phosphorylation of Lipid A in Escherichia coli
Increases Resistance to Deoxycholate and Enhances Gut Colonization. Front. Microbiol.
*12*, 676596.

37.  Meydan, S., Marks, J., Klepacki, D., Sharma, V., Baranov, P.V., Firth, A.E., Margus, T.,
Kefi, A., Vázquez-Laslop, N., and Mankin, A.S. (2019). Retapamulin-Assisted Ribosome
Profiling Reveals the Alternative Bacterial Proteome. Mol. Cell *74*, 481-493.e6.

38. Weaver, J., Mohammad, F., Buskirk, A.R., and Storz, G. (2019). Identifying Small Proteins
by Ribosome Profiling with Stalled Initiation Complexes. MBio *10*.
https://doi.org/10.1128/mBio.02819-18.

39. Gardner, S.G., and McCleary, W.R. (2019). Control of the phoBR Regulon in Escherichia
coli. EcoSal Plus *8*. https://doi.org/10.1128/ecosalplus.ESP-0006-2019.

40. Kenney, L.J., and Anand, G.S. (2020). EnvZ/OmpR Two-Component Signaling: An
Archetype System That Can Function Noncanonically. EcoSal Plus *9*.
https://doi.org/10.1128/ecosalplus.ESP-0001-2019.

41. Cope, A.L., Vellappan, S., Favate, J.S., Skalenko, K.S., Yadavalli, S.S., and Shah, P.
(2022). Exploring Ribosome-Positioning on Translating Transcripts with Ribosome Profiling.
Methods Mol. Biol. *2404*, 83–110.

42. Glaub, A., Huptas, C., Neuhaus, K., and Ardern, Z. (2020). Recommendations for bacterial
ribosome profiling experiments based on bioinformatic evaluation of published data. J. Biol.
Chem. *295*, 8999–9011.

43. Kato, A., Tanabe, H., and Utsumi, R. (1999). Molecular characterization of the PhoP-PhoQ
two-component system in Escherichia coli K-12: identification of extracellular Mg2+-
responsive promoters. J. Bacteriol. *181*, 5516–5520.

44. Hobbs, E.C., Astarita, J.L., and Storz, G. (2010). Small RNAs and small proteins involved in
resistance to cell envelope stress and acid shock in Escherichia coli: analysis of a bar-
coded mutant collection. J. Bacteriol. *192*, 59–67.

45. Weel-Sneve, R., Kristiansen, K.I., Odsbu, I., Dalhus, B., Booth, J., Rognes, T., Skarstad,
K., and Bjørås, M. (2013). Single transmembrane peptide DinQ modulates membrane-
dependent activities. PLoS Genet. *9*, e1003260.

46. Rubin, E.J., Herrera, C.M., Crofts, A.A., and Trent, M.S. (2015). PmrD is required for
modifications to escherichia coli endotoxin that promote antimicrobial resistance.
Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. *59*, 2051–2061.

47. Fitzgerald, D.M., Stringer, A.M., Smith, C., Lapierre, P., and Wade, J.T. (2023). Genome-
Wide Mapping of the Escherichia coli PhoB Regulon Reveals Many Transcriptionally Inert,
Intragenic Binding Sites. MBio *14*, e0253522.

48. Yoshida, Y., Sugiyama, S., Oyamada, T., Yokoyama, K., and Makino, K. (2012). Novel
members of the phosphate regulon in Escherichia coli O157:H7 identified using a whole-
genome shotgun approach. Gene *502*, 27–35.

49. Chekabab, S.M., Jubelin, G., Dozois, C.M., and Harel, J. (2014). PhoB activates
Escherichia coli O157:H7 virulence factors in response to inorganic phosphate limitation.
PLoS One *9*, e94285.

50. Pontes, M.H., and Groisman, E.A. (2018). Protein synthesis controls phosphate
homeostasis. Genes Dev. *32*, 79–92.

51. Möller, S., Croning, M.D., and Apweiler, R. (2001). Evaluation of methods for the prediction
of membrane spanning regions. Bioinformatics *17*, 646–653.

52. Ikeda, M., Arai, M., Okuno, T., and Shimizu, T. (2003). TMPDB: a database of
experimentally-characterized transmembrane topologies. Nucleic Acids Res. *31*, 406–409.

53. Käll, L., Krogh, A., and Sonnhammer, E.L.L. (2004). A combined transmembrane topology
and signal peptide prediction method. J. Mol. Biol. *338*, 1027–1036.

54. Feilmeier, B.J., Iseminger, G., Schroeder, D., Webber, H., and Phillips, G.J. (2000). Green
fluorescent protein functions as a reporter for protein localization in Escherichia coli. J.
Bacteriol. *182*, 4068–4076.

55. Battesti, A., and Bouveret, E. (2012). The bacterial two-hybrid system based on adenylate
cyclase reconstitution in Escherichia coli. Methods *58*, 325–334.

56. Karimova, G., Pidoux, J., Ullmann, A., and Ladant, D. (1998). A bacterial two-hybrid system
based on a reconstituted signal transduction pathway. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *95*,
5752–5756.

57. Gerken, H., Charlson, E.S., Cicirelli, E.M., Kenney, L.J., and Misra, R. (2009). MzrA: a
novel modulator of the EnvZ/OmpR two-component regulon. Mol. Microbiol. *72*, 1408–
1422.

58. Bastet, L., Korepanov, A.P., Jagodnik, J., Grondin, J.P., Lamontagne, A.-M., Guillier, M.,
and Lafontaine, D.A. (2024). Riboswitch and small RNAs modulate btuB translation
initiation in Escherichia coli and trigger distinct mRNA regulatory mechanisms. Nucleic
Acids Res. *52*, 5852–5865.

59. Batchelor, E., Silhavy, T.J., and Goulian, M. (2004). Continuous control in bacterial
regulatory circuits. J. Bacteriol. *186*, 7618–7625.

60. Alphen, W.V., and Lugtenberg, B. (1977). Influence of osmolarity of the growth medium on
the outer membrane protein pattern of Escherichia coli. J. Bacteriol. *131*, 623–630.

61. Batchelor, E., Walthers, D., Kenney, L.J., and Goulian, M. (2005). The Escherichia coli
CpxA-CpxR envelope stress response system regulates expression of the porins ompF and
ompC. J. Bacteriol. *187*, 5723–5731.

62. Olaitan, A.O., Morand, S., and Rolain, J.-M. (2014). Mechanisms of polymyxin resistance:
acquired and intrinsic resistance in bacteria. Front. Microbiol. *5*, 643.

63. Eguchi, Y., Itou, J., Yamane, M., Demizu, R., Yamato, F., Okada, A., Mori, H., Kato, A., and
Utsumi, R. (2007). B1500, a small membrane protein, connects the two-component
systems EvgS/EvgA and PhoQ/PhoP in *Escherichia coli*. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.
*104*, 18712–18717.

64. Kox, L.F., Wösten, M.M., and Groisman, E.A. (2000). A small protein that mediates the
activation of a two-component system by another two-component system. EMBO J. *19*,
1861–1872.

65. Kato, A., and Groisman, E.A. (2004). Connecting two-component regulatory systems by a
protein that protects a response regulator from dephosphorylation by its cognate sensor.
Genes Dev. *18*, 2302–2313.

66. Miller, J.H., and Others (1992). A Short Course in Bacterial Genetics: A Laboratory Manual
and Handbook for Escherichia Coli and Related Bacteria (CSHL Press).

67. Datsenko, K.A., and Wanner, B.L. (2000). One-step inactivation of chromosomal genes in
Escherichia coli K-12 using PCR products. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *97*, 6640–6645.

68. Cherepanov, P.P., and Wackernagel, W. (1995). Gene disruption in Escherichia coli: TcR
and KmR cassettes with the option of Flp-catalyzed excision of the antibiotic-resistance
determinant. Gene *158*, 9–14.

69. Ochman, H., Medhora, M.M., Garza, D., and Hartl, D.L. (1990). Amplification of flanking
sequences by inverse PCR. PCR protocols: A guide to methods and applications, 219–227.

70. Godiska R, Patterson M, Schoenfeld T, and Mead DA (2005). Beyond pUC: Vectors for
Cloning Unstable DNA. In DNA Sequencing: Optimizing the Process and Analysis, J.
Kieleczawa, ed. (Jones & Bartlett Learning), pp. 55–76.

71. Martin, M. (2011). Cutadapt removes adapter sequences from high-throughput sequencing
reads. EMBnet.journal *17*, 10–12.

72. Smith, T., Heger, A., and Sudbery, I. (2017). UMI-tools: modeling sequencing errors in
Unique Molecular Identifiers to improve quantification accuracy. Genome Res. *27*, 491–
499.

73. Kim, D., Paggi, J.M., Park, C., Bennett, C., and Salzberg, S.L. (2019). Graph-based
genome alignment and genotyping with HISAT2 and HISAT-genotype. Nat. Biotechnol. *37*,
907–915.

74. Bray, N.L., Pimentel, H., Melsted, P., and Pachter, L. (2016). Near-optimal probabilistic
RNA-seq quantification. Nat. Biotechnol. *34*, 525–527.

75. Love, M.I., Huber, W., and Anders, S. (2014). Moderated estimation of fold change and
dispersion for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. Genome Biol. *15*, 550.

76. Zhu, A., Ibrahim, J.G., and Love, M.I. (2019). Heavy-tailed prior distributions for sequence
count data: removing the noise and preserving large differences. Bioinformatics *35*, 2084–
2092.

77. Schneider, C.A., Rasband, W.S., and Eliceiri, K.W. (2012). NIH Image to ImageJ: 25 years
of image analysis. Nat. Methods *9*, 671–675.

78. Jiang, C., Brown, P.J.B., Ducret, A., and Brun, Y.V. (2014). Sequential evolution of bacterial
morphology by co-option of a developmental regulator. Nature *506*, 489–493.

79. Thibodeau, S.A., Fang, R., and Joung, J.K. (2004). High-throughput beta-galactosidase
assay for bacterial cell-based reporter systems. Biotechniques *36*, 410–415.

1037

1038

1039

1040 Figures and tables

1041
1042

1043
1044
**Figure 1. Identification of small proteins induced under low magnesium stress in *E. coli***
**by translation-initiation profiling (Ribo-RET).** (A) Schematic diagram showing the Ribo-RET
and RNA-Seq experimental setup used to identify small proteins induced by low magnesium
stress. Wild-type *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 cells were grown in supplemented minimal A medium
containing MgSO$_4$ at either 10 mM (no stress) or ~1 µM (no added magnesium, low Mg$^{2+}$
stress). (B) Scatterplot showing the correlation between the Ribo-RET reads mapping to the
annotated start sites of proteins expressed under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress and no stress. The red dots
represent annotated small proteins of ≤ 50 amino acids in length, and the gray dots represent
proteins > 50 amino acids long. Small proteins, MgrB, MgtS, and PmrR, known to be induced
under magnesium starvation, are highlighted. Pearson's coefficient, r= 0.85. (C) Ribo-RET data
for a representative small protein MgrB induced under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress. A purple dashed line
indicates the translation start site, and the 8 nucleotide (nt) indicates the distance between the
highest ribosome density peak and the first nucleotide of the start codon. (Also see Tables 1,
S4, Figures S1 and S2)

1059
1060

**Figure 2. RNA-Seq analysis of transcripts representing small proteins induced under low magnesium stress.** Volcano plot illustrating differential expression of small proteins induced under low magnesium stress from RNA-Seq data. Transcripts that are either upregulated or downregulated are highlighted in red or blue, respectively, and those with no significant change are represented in gray. The criteria for significance include a fold change threshold of >2 and a p-value of <0.05. The -log$_{10}$ P-value of *mgrB* and *mgtS* were 75 and 140 respectively. To prevent distortion from their exceptionally high values dominating the plot, the transformed p-values were capped at 10 to enhance visualization. Data represent differential expression analysis from two independent replicates. (Also see Tables 2, S4, and Figure S3)

**A**

Translation start site

**sORF**

200-500bp Putative Regulatory region

Ribosome binding site (RBS)

P*tetA*

**YFP**    RBS    **CFP**

EcoRI  BamHI

1082
1083

**B**

Figure showing gene diagrams and YFP:CFP time-course plots.

P*mgrB* — *mgrB* *yobH*
**P*mgrB***

*mgtS* *mgtT* — 400bp
**Putative P*mgtS-mgtT***

*proP* *pmrR* — 500bp
**Putative P*proP-pmrR***

*proP* *pmrR* — 500bp
**Putative P*pmrR***

*ymiA* *yciX* *ymiC* — 500bp
**Putative P*ymiA-yciX-ymiC***

*yciX* *ymiC* — 272bp
**Putative P*ymiC***

*yeaK* *yoaI* *yeaL* — 500bp
**Putative P*yoaI***

*cspC* *yobF* — 500bp
**Putative P*yobF***

*yddY* *digH* — 500bp
**Putative P*yddY***

*yriB* *yriA* — 500bp
**Putative P*yriA-yriB***

*yadX* *clcA* *yadW* — 500bp
**Putative P*yadX-clcA-yadW***

*clcA* *yadW* — 500bp
**Putative P*yadW***

*argL* *argF* *ykgS* — 230bp
**Putative P*ykgS***

*asr* *ydgU* — 400bp
**Putative P*asr-ydgU***

*asr* *ydgU* — 500bp
**Putative P*ydgU***

*yqhI* *gpr* — 500bp
**Putative P*yqhI***

*dinQ* *agrA* — 272bp
**Putative P*dinQ***

YFP:CFP (a.u.)

Time (Hours)

— Wild-type/pP*small protein*
--- Δ*phoQ*/pP*small protein*
— Wild-type/p*empty vector*
--- Δ*phoQ*/p*empty vector*

**Figure 3. Transcriptional regulation of small proteins under low magnesium stress.** (A)
Schematic representation of the transcriptional reporter fusion construct. Regions (200-500 bp)
upstream of the small open reading frames of interest were amplified from the MG1655 genome
and cloned into a YFP-encoding reporter plasmid (pMR120) resulting in plasmids pPJ14,
pPJ16-pPJ20, pPJ23, pSV16-pSV21, pSV24, pSV28-pSV29 (See Table 2 for genomic
coordinates of the regulatory regions tested here and Table S2 for plasmid details). (B)
Measurement of transcriptional reporter activity (YFP:CFP) for the indicated small proteins
under low Mg$^{2+}$ (no added magnesium). The solid and dashed lines represent the wild-type *E.*
*coli* MG1655 and $\Delta phoQ$ cells, respectively, harboring plasmids with either transcriptional fusion
for a putative regulatory region of a small protein with *yfp* (red line) or *yfp* only (gray line). The
schematic above each plot depicts the arrangement of the small protein-encoding genes (shown
in gray), including the putative regulatory regions and operons where applicable. Transcriptional
reporters showing an increased activity compared to the empty vector control (pMR120) are
highlighted in red. The cultures were grown in a supplemented minimal medium with 6 µg ml$^{-1}$
chloramphenicol. The data represent averages and standard errors of the means for four
independent replicates. (Also see Table 2)

1106
1107
**Figure 4. Regulation of YoaI expression during magnesium limitation.** (A-B) Transcriptional
activity of *yoaI* was measured as a function of YFP reporter fluorescence in *E. coli* MG1655,
Δ*phoB* (SV48), and Δ*phoQ* (TIM100) strains under phosphate stress as indicated. The red and
gray lines represent cells carrying plasmid-encoded P$_{yoaI}$-*yfp* transcriptional reporter (pPJ18)
and *yfp*-only control vector (pMR120), respectively. The cultures were grown in a supplemented
MOPS minimal medium with 6 μg ml$^{-1}$ chloramphenicol with either 1 mM K$_2$HPO$_4$ for no stress
condition, or no added K$_2$HPO$_4$ for phosphate stress. The data illustrate average YFP:CFP
fluorescence with standard error of the means, derived from four independent replicates. (C)
Detection of YoaI protein in *E. coli* wild-type (GSO317) and Δ*phoQ* (SV60) strains containing
*yoaI-SPA* genomic translational fusion. Cells were grown in supplemented minimal A medium,
with MgSO$_4$ added at the specified concentration (10mM or no added MgSO$_4$). Membrane
fractions were analyzed by western blotting using M2 anti-FLAG antibodies (top) and by
Coomassie Brilliant Blue staining (bottom). The data represent results from two independent
replicates.

1122
1123

1124
1125
**Figure 5. Effect of deleting genes encoding low Mg$^{2+}$ stress-induced small proteins on**
**bacterial growth.** Growth curves of wild-type *E. coli* MG1655 (gray) and mutants corresponding
to the deletions of small protein-encoding genes (red) (strains SV64, AML67, SV35, SV31,
SV41, SV57, SV59, SV33, SV29, SV25, SV39, SV43, SV58, SV37, SV27, and SV56, please
see Table S1 and methods for strain details). Deletion mutants showing reduced growth yield
compared to wild-type cells are highlighted in red. The cultures were grown in supplemented
minimal A medium with no added magnesium and 50 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin. Data represent
averages and standard errors of means for four independent cultures.

**Figure 6. Complementation of growth phenotypes associated with *pmrR*, and *yobF***
**deletions.** (A-B) Growth curves of Δ*pmrR* (SV35), and Δ*yobF* (SV34) deletion strains carrying
an empty vector (pEB52, solid gray line) or complemented with plasmids encoding small
proteins pPmrR (pSV35) and pYobF (pJS5) (red line) or their variants pPmrR$_{ATG \to TAA}$ (pSV38),
and pYobF$_{ATG \to TAA}$ (pSV45) (black line), as indicated. Wild-type MG1655 cells containing the
empty vector are included as a control (dashed gray line). (C) Schematic of the overlapping
genes *yriAB* followed by the growth curves of gene deletion Δ*yriAB* (SV25) complemented with
pYriAB (pSV58), pYriA (pJS1), pYriB (pSV37), pYriB (YriA$_{ATG \to TAA}$) (pSV59), or an empty vector
(pEB52, as indicated. (D) Growth curves of gene deletion Δ*yqhI* (SV37) carrying an empty
vector (pEB52), or complemented with a plasmid encoding YqhI. Wild-type cells containing an
empty vector (pEB52, dashed gray line) are included as a control. For panels A-D, cultures were
grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing 50 μg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin and either no
added magnesium or 10 mM MgSO$_4$ as indicated. 500 μM IPTG was used for induction, except
for PmrR derivatives (pSV35 and pSV38), where 12.5 μM IPTG was used. Data represent
averages and standard errors of means for four independent cultures.

**Figure 7. Effect of overexpression of low Mg$^{2+}$ stress-induced small proteins on growth**. Growth curves of *E. coli* MG1655 cells expressing each of the 17 stress-specific small proteins (encoded by plasmids pSV30-37, pSV54, pSV60, or pJS1-7; please see Table S2 for details) are represented in red, while cells carrying the empty vector (pEB52 and pBAD24) are shown in gray. The cells were grown under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress (no added magnesium). Small proteins whose expression causes a growth defect or delay are highlighted in red. The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium with 50 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin. 500 µM IPTG was used as an inducer for all P$_{trc}$-based vectors, in the case of pSV54and pBAD24, 0.5% arabinose was used. Data represent averages and standard error of means for four independent cultures.

1165
1166
**Figure 8. Analysis of growth defect and cell size changes associated with overexpression**
**of small proteins, MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YkgS, YoaI, YmiA and DinQ.** (A) Growth curves of *E.*
*coli* MG1655 cells expressing the indicated small proteins (red line) and empty vector control
(pEB52 or pBAD24, gray line). The start codon (ATG) of each small protein is mutated to a stop
codon (TAA), and the growth curves of cells expressing these constructs are depicted in dotted
black. Plasmids pSV34-36, pSV38-42, pSV54-55, pSV60-61, or pJS4, pJS7 were used as
applicable, please see Table S2 for details. Data represent averages and standard error of
means for four independent cultures. (B) Representative phase contrast micrographs of the
cells expressing small proteins during lag (top panel) and exponential phase (bottom panel)
after induction, scale bar = 5 µm. Data is representative of three independent cultures. (C)
Growth curves of Δ*phoQ* (TIM202) cells expressing the indicated small proteins (red line) and
empty vector control (pEB52 or pBAD24, gray line). Plasmids pSV34-36, pSV54, pSV60, pJS4,
and pJS7 were used as applicable, please see Table S2 for details. Data represent averages
and standard error of means for four independent cultures. For panels A-C, the cultures were
grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing no added magnesium, 50 µg ml$^{-1}$
carbenicillin, and 500 µM IPTG for all P$_{trc}$-based vectors, except for pSV54 and pBAD24, where
0.5% arabinose was utilized instead. (Also see Figures S6 and S7)

1184
1185
**Figure 9. Effect of Yoal expression on the EnvZ-OmpR system.** (A) BACTH assays were
conducted using cells harboring T18 and T25 fusion proteins of *B. pertussis* adenylyl cyclase, in
a *cyaA* mutant BACTH host strain, SAM85, which contains *lacI*q. β-gal activity was measured to
assess interactions between T18-Yoal (pSV47) and T25-linked PhoQ (pAL27), PhoR (pSY68),
or EnvZ (pKK14). T25 alone was used as a negative control, and T18-MgrB (pAL33) combined
with T25-PhoQ (pAL27) was used as a positive control. The cultures were grown in LB medium
containing 50 μg ml$^{-1}$ kanamycin, 100 μg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin, and 500 μM IPTG. Each circle
represents a biological replicate, with the mean values from two independent experiments
indicated, expressed in Miller units (MU). (B) Transcriptional activity of *omrB* was measured as
a function of mScarlet reporter fluorescence in *E. coli* MG1655 (SV97), and Δ*yoal* (SV95)
strains at the stationary phase (top panel) and exponential phase (bottom panel). Each circle
corresponds to a single cell. Δ*yoal* cells are depicted in red, while wild-type cells are in gray.
The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing either 10mM (no
stress) or no added magnesium (Mg$^{2+}$ stress). Data are derived from three independent
replicates and the number of cells analyzed is indicated by (n). Mean fluorescence is shown
with blue bars and is noted in blue text. P-values indicate the results of a t-test when Δ*yoal* cells
were compared to the wild-type cells, ****P ≤ 0.0001, ***P ≤ 0.001, and "ns" = P > 0.05. (C)
Schematic representation of small membrane protein Yoal as a connector of the two-component
systems, PhoR-PhoB and EnvZ-OmpR. Yoal is transcriptionally controlled by the PhoR-PhoB
system, under low Mg$^{2+}$ Yoal protein levels increase and it binds sensor kinase EnvZ and
modulates signaling through the EnvZ-OmpR pathway. (Also see Figure S9)

**Table 1. Summary of the 17 small proteins induced under low magnesium stress in *E. coli*.** Small proteins with at least a 3-fold increase in
reads mapping to the translation initiation site under low Mg$^{2+}$ relative to no stress are indicated below. The analysis of transcriptional regulation,
localization, and characterization of deletion and overexpression phenotypes is summarized.
1210

| Small protein | | Transcriptional Regulation | Membrane localization | Phenotypic characterization | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Deletion | Overexpression |
| MgtS | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *mgtS-mgtT* | Y | No effect | Growth defect (prolonged lag phase) & decrease in cell size during lag and exponential phase |
| MgrB | + | PhoQP-dependent | Y | Increase in cell length, and change in colony morphology (larger, rough, translucent colonies)[28] | Growth defect (prolonged lag phase) & increase in cell size during lag phase |
| PmrR | + | BasSR-dependent [33,35] | Y | Growth defect (lower yield at saturation) | Growth defect (prolonged lag phase) & decrease in cell size during lag phase |
| MgtT | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *mgtS-mgtT* | N | No effect | No effect |
| YmiC | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *ymiA-yciX-ymiC* | Y | No effect | No effect |
| YmiA | + | | Y | No effect | Growth defect (prolonged lag phase) & increase in cell length during lag phase |
| YoaI | - | PhoRB-dependent [47–49] | Y | No effect | Growth defect (prolonged lag phase) & decrease in cell size during lag phase |
| YobF | - | | Y | Growth defect (lower yield at saturation) | No effect |
| YddY | + | PhoQP-dependent | N | No effect | No effect |
| YriB | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *yriA-yriB* | N | Growth defect (lower yield at saturation) | No effect |
| YadX | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *yadX-clcA-yadW* | N | No effect | No effect |
| YkgS | - | | N | No effect | Growth defect (slow growth) & increase in cell length during exponential phase |
| YriA | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *yriA-yriB* | N | No effect | No effect |
| YdgU | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *asr-ydgU* | Y | No effect | No effect |
| YqhI | + | | N | No effect | No effect |
| YadW | + | PhoQP-dependent, in an operon *yadX-clcA-yadW* | N | No effect | No effect |
| DinQ | - | | Y | No effect | Growth defect (slow growth) |

1211 + indicates transcriptional upregulation under magnesium stress vs. no stress; - indicates no change in transcriptional activity under magnesium stress vs. no stress; 'Y'
1212 indicates proteins predicted to contain membrane helices using TMHMM [51] and Phobius [53] and shown to localize to the membrane; 'N' indicates a lack of membrane
1213 helices based on bioinformatic prediction

1214 **Table 2. Analysis of transcriptional regulation of low magnesium stress-induced small proteins.** Putative regulatory regions
1215 corresponding to the stress-induced small proteins and their dependence on PhoQ-PhoP signaling system.
1216
1217
1218
1219

| Small protein | Putative region(s) of interest | Length of region (bp) | Genomic location in *E. coli* MG1655 | PhoQP-dependence | Low Mg$^{2+}$ stress-specific expression reported in |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MgrB | P$_{mgrB}$ | 500 | 1908767 - 1909266 | Yes | [27] |
| MgtS, MgtT | P$_{mgtS-mgtT}$ | 405 | 1622241 - 1622645 | Yes | [31], This study |
| ProP, PmrR | P$_{proP-pmrR}$ | 500 | 4330002 - 4330501 | No | This study |
| PmrR | P$_{pmrR}$ | 500 | 4331616 - 4332115 | No | This study |
| YmiA, YmiC | P$_{ymiA-yciX-ymiC}$ | 500 | 1334648 - 1335147 | Yes | This study |
| YmiC | P$_{ymiC}$ | 272 | 1335300 - 1335571 | No | This study |
| YoaI | P$_{yoaI}$ | 500 | 1874183 - 1874682 | No | This study |
| YobF | P$_{yobF}$ | 500 | 1907592 - 1908091 | No | This study |
| YddY | P$_{yddY}$ | 500 | 1567220 - 1567719 | Yes | This study |
| YriA | P$_{yriA-yriB}$ | 500 | 3640697 - 3641196 | Yes | This study |
| YriB | | | | | |
| YadX, YadW | P$_{yadX-clcA-yadW}$ | 500 | 174548 - 175047 | Yes | This study |
| YadW | P$_{yadW}$ | 500 | 176052 - 176551 | No | This study |
| YkgS | P$_{ykgS}$ | 230 | 290280 - 290509 | No | This study |
| YdgU | P$_{asr-ydgU}$ | 400 | 1670976 - 1671375 | Yes | This study |
| | P$_{ydgU}$ | 500 | 1671277 - 1671776 | No | This study |
| YqhI | P$_{yqhI}$ | 500 | 3147741 - 3148240 | No | This study |
| DinQ | P$_{dinQ}$ | 272 | 3647789- 3648060 | No | This study |

# Supporting Information (Vellappan *et al.*, 2024)

## Table S1. List of strains used in the study

| Strain | Genotype | Source or Reference |
|---|---|---|
| AML67 | MG1655 *ΔmgrB*::(FRT-kan-FRT) *ΔlacZ* λ$_{att}$::(P$_{mgtA}$-*lacZ cat*) | [1] |
| *E. cloni* | F⁻ *mcrA Δ(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) endA1 recA1 φ80lacZΔM15 ΔlacX74 araD139 Δ(ara-leu)7697 galU galK rpsL nupG tonA (attL araC-PBAD-trfA250 bla attR) λ⁻* | Lucigen Corporation |
| *E. coli K-12 MG1655* | F- λ- ilvG- rfb-50 rph-1 | *E. coli* Genetic Stock Center, CGSC# 7740 |
| GSO195 | MG1655 *ΔdinQ*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | [2] |
| GSO219 | MG1655 *ΔydgU*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | [2] |
| GSO225 | MG1655 *ΔymiA*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | [2] |
| GSO232 | MG1655 *ΔyoaI*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | [2] |
| GSO317 | MG1655 *yoaI*-SPA::kan | [3] |
| JM2110 | MG1508 *mhpR*-P$_{LtetO-1-omrB-104+8}$-*lacZ*$_{+28}$ *Δmini-λ-Tet* | Guillier lab stock (unpublished) |
| JM2113 | OK510 *argG*-[TT1-P$_{LtetO-1-omrB-104+8}$-mScarlet$_{+4}$-FRT-*nptII*-FRT-TT2]-*yhbX*, *Δmini-λ-Tet* | Guillier lab stock (unpublished) |
| JW2162 | BW25113 *ΔlpxT*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | [4] |
| MDG147 | MG1655 (seq) Φ(*ompF*⁺-*yfp*⁺)30 Φ(*ompC*⁺-*cfp*⁺)31 | [5] |
| MG1508 | MG1655 *mal::lacI^q*, mini- λ-Tet, *mhpR*-P$_{LtetO-1}$-*cat-sacB-lacZ* | [6] |
| OK510 | MG1432 *argG*-[TT1-P$_{LtetO-1}$(no -10)-*sacB-cat*-mScarlet(no ATG)- FRT-*nptII*-FRT-TT2]-*yhbX* | [7] |
| SAM85 | F+ *lacI^qZΔM15* Tn*10*(Tet^R), *cya-99 araD139 galE15 galK16 rpsL1* (Str^R) *hsdR2 mcrA1 mcrB1*. Strain prepared by conjugation: BTH101 (F-) x XL1-Blue (F+). | [8] |
| SV25 | MG1655 *ΔyriAB*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 3,640,612 - 3,640,699 | This study |
| SV27 | MG1655 *ΔyadW*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 176,552 - 176,594 | This study |
| SV29 | MG1655 *ΔyddY*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 1,567,219 - 1,567,178 | This study |
| SV31 | MG1655 *ΔmgtT*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 1,622,742 - 1,622,816 | This study |

| SV33 | MG1655 *ΔyobF*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 1,907,451 - 1,907,573 | This study |
|---|---|---|
| SV35 | MG1655 *ΔpmrR*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 4,332,116 - 4,332,178 | This study |
| SV37 | MG1655 *ΔyqhI*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 3,147,597 - 3,147,740 | This study |
| SV39 | MG1655 *ΔyadX*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 175,048 - 175,077 | This study |
| SV41 | MG1655 *ΔymiC*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 1,335,572 - 1,335,667 | This study |
| SV43 | MG1655 *ΔykgS*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 290,510 - 290,641 | This study |
| SV47 | MG1655 *ΔlpxT*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | This study |
| SV50 | MG1655 *ΔpmrR* | This study |
| SV54 | MG1655 *ΔlpxT*::(FRT-kan-FRT) *ΔpmrR* | This study |
| SV56 | MG1655 *ΔdinQ*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | This study |
| SV57 | MG1655 *ΔymiA*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | This study |
| SV58 | MG1655 *ΔydgU*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | This study |
| SV59 | MG1655 *ΔyoaI*::(FRT-kan-FRT) | This study |
| SV60 | MG1655 *yoaI*-SPA-kan *ΔlacZ ΔphoQ* | This study |
| SV64 | MG1655 *ΔmgtS*::(FRT-kan-FRT), coordinates deleted: 1,622,646 - 1,622,735 | This study |
| SV91 | MG1655 *ΔyoaI* | This study |
| SV95 | MG1655 *argG*-[TT1-P$_{LtetO-1-omrB-104+8}$-mScarlet$_{+4}$-FRT-*nptII*-FRT-TT2]-*yhbX*, *Δmini-λ-Tet* | This study |
| SV97 | MG1655 *argG*-[TT1-P$_{LtetO-1-omrB-104+8}$-mScarlet$_{+4}$-FRT-*nptII*-FRT-TT2]-*yhbX*, *Δmini-λ-Tet ΔyoaI* | This study |
| TIM92 | MG1655 λ$_{att}$::(P$_{mgrB}$-*yfp*) HK$_{att}$::(P$_{tetA-cfp}$) | [9] |
| TIM100 | MG1655 *ΔphoQ* λ$_{att}$::(P$_{mgrB-yfp}$) HK$_{att}$::(P$_{tetA-cfp}$) | [9] |
| TIM202 | MG1655 *ΔlacZ*::FRT *ΔphoQ*::FRT | [10] |
| TOP10 | *F– mcrA Δ(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) φ80lacZΔM15 ΔlacX74 recA1 araD139 Δ(ara-leu)7697 galU galK λ– rpsL(StrR) endA1 nupG* | Invitrogen |
| XL1-Blue | *recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 hsdR17 supE44 relA1 lac [F´ proAB lacIqZΔM15 Tn10 (Tetr)]* | [11] |

Φ and Ψ denote transcriptional and translational fusions, respectively

**Table S2. List of plasmids used in the study**

| Plasmid | Relevant genotype | Source or reference |
|---|---|---|
| pAL27 | pKT25 P*lac*-*cyaA*T25-*phoQ*, Kan^R | 1 |
| pAL33 | pUT18C P*lac*-*cyaA*T18-*mgrB*, Amp^R | 1 |
| pAL38 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-mgrB*, Amp^R | 1 |
| pAL39 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K*, Amp^R | 1 |
| pBAD24 | pMB1-derived plasmid, *araBAD,* Amp^R | 12 |
| pCP20 | ori(pSC101) *rep101(ts) bla* λP_R-FLP λcI(ts) cat. Amp^R, Cam^R | 13 |
| pEB52 | pTrc99a with the NcoI site removed, Amp^R | Goulian lab collection |
| pJS1 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yriA*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS2 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yadW*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS3 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yqhI*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS4 | pEB52 P*trc*-*ykgS*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS5 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yobF*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS6 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yddY*. Amp^R | This study |
| pJS7 | pEB52 P*trc*-*mgtS*. Amp^R | This study |
| pKD13 | ori(R6K) FRT-kan-FRT, Amp^R | 14 |
| pKD46 | ori(pSC101) *rep101*(ts) P*araB*-*gam-betexo araC*, Amp^R | 14 |
| pKK14 | pKT25 P*lac*-*cyaA*T25-EnvZ, Kan^R | Goulian lab collection |
| pKT25 | *ori*p15A  P*lac*-*cyaA*T25-MCS, Kan^R | Euromedex |
| pMR120 | A derivative of pSMART VC (Lucigen) containing two copies of the *rrnB* transcription terminator, P*putative promoter*-*yfpA206K*-P*tetA*-*cfp*, Cam^R | Goulian lab collection |
| pPJ1 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-mgtT*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ2 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-pmrR*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ3 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-ydgU*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ4 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yoaI-gfpA206K*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ5 | pEB52 *P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yqhI*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ6 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yobF*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ7 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yriA*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ8 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yddY*, Amp^R | This study |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| pPJ9 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yadW*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ10 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yadX*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ11 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-yriB*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ12 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-ymiA*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ13 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-ymiC*, Amp^R | This study |
| pPJ14 | pMR120 putative P*pmrR*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ16 | pMR120 putative P*asr-ydgU*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ17 | pMR120 putative P*ydgU*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ18 | pMR120 putative P*yoaI*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ19 | pMR120 putative P*yqhI*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ20 | pMR120 putative P*yriA-yriB*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pPJ23 | pMR120 putative P*yadX-clcA-yadW*-*yfp,* Cam^R | This study |
| pSMART | pSMART VC *BamHI* (BAC) with single-copy replication origin *ori2 repE IncC parABC, oriV cat* Cam^R | Lucigen Corporation |
| pSV14 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yobF*-GGSG-6XHis, Amp^R | This study |
| pSV16 | pMR120 putative P*ykgS*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV17 | pMR120 putative P*proP-pmrR*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV18 | pMR120 putative P*yadW*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV19 | pMR120 putative P*ymiC*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV20 | pMR120 putative P*ymiA-yciX-ymiC*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV21 | pMR120 putative P*dinQ*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV24 | pMR120 putative P*yobF*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV25 | pEB52 P*trc*-*gfpA206K-ykgS*, Amp^R | This study |
| pSV26 | pEB52 P*trc*-*pmrR*-GGSG-6XHis, Amp^R | This study |
| pSV28 | pMR120 putative P*yddY*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV29 | pMR120 putative P*mgtS-mgtT*-*yfp*, Cam^R | This study |
| pSV30 | pEB52 P*trc*-*mgtT*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV31 | pEB52 P*trc*-*ydgU*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV32 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yadX*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV33 | pEB52 P*trc*-*ymiC*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV34 | pEB52 P*trc*-*yoaI*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV35 | pEB52 P*trc*-*pmrR*. Amp^R | This study |
| pSV36 | pEB52 P*trc*-*ymiA*. Amp^R | This study |

| pSV37 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*yriB*. Amp$^R$ | This study |
|---|---|---|
| pSV38 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*pmrR*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV39 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*yoaI*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV40 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*mgtS*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV41 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*ykgS*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV42 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*ymiA*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV45 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*yobF*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV47 | pUT18C P$_{lac}$-*cyaA*$_{T18}$-*yoaI*, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV54 | pBAD24 P$_{araBAD}$-*dinQ,* Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV55 | pBAD24 P$_{araBAD}$-*dinQ*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA*,* Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV58 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*yriAB,* Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV59 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*yriB*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA,  Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV60 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*mgrB,* Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSV61 | pEB52 P$_{trc}$-*mgrB*$_{ATG->TAA}$ where the start codon ATG is substituted with a stop TAA, Amp$^R$ | This study |
| pSY68 | pKT25 P$_{lac}$-*cyaA*$_{T25}$-*phoR*, Kan$^R$ | [8] |
| pTrc99a | *lacI$^q$*, P$_{trc}$-MCS, Amp$^R$ | [15] |
| pUT18C | pUC19 P$_{lac}$-*cyaA*$_{T18}$-MCS, Amp$^R$ | Euromedex |

Amp$^R$ = carries a carbenicillin/ampicillin-resistance marker; Cam$^R$ = carries a chloramphenicol-resistance marker; Kan$^R$ = carries a kanamycin-resistance marker

**Table S3. List of primers used in the study**

| Primer | Sequence (5'-> 3') | Use |
|---|---|---|
| C-term-pmrR-F1 | AGCTTTCTTTATATCTGGTTTGCCACGTACGGCGGCAGCGGCCACCATCACCATCACCATTAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTACTAGAGTCG | Cloning of pSV26 |
| C-term-pmrR-R1 | GCTGACCACCAGCACGCTGAACACGGTAGTTAAACTTTCATAAACACGGTTTTTCATGCTTAATTTCTCCTCTTTAATTCTAGGTACCCG | Cloning of pSV26 |
| dinQ_del_screen_1 | aagatgggggcaaccaaaaaag | Validation of GSO195 |
| dinQ_del_screen_2 | ttcactctggcaatgcgcata | Validation of GSO195 |
| dinQ_F1 | ATATGAATTCCATCAATGCTAATACCATACTGAAACTATTGCA | Cloning of pSV21 |
| dinQ_R1 | ATATGGATCCCCGTTTTCTCCATGCGATGGAG | Cloning of pSV21 |
| dinQ_pBAD_R | CAGCGCAATTAACGCCCCTAGAACGATGATTGCTTTATCAATcatTGAATTCCTCCTGCTAGCCCAAA | Cloning of pSV54 |
| dinQ_pBAD_F | CTGGAACTGATCCGCTTTCTGCTTCAGCTTCTGAACTAAGGTACCCGGGGGATCCTCTAG | Cloning of pSV54 |
| dinQ_stop_F | TAAATTGATAAAGCAATCATCGTTCTAGGGG | Cloning of pSV55 |
| dinQ_stop_R | TGAATTCCTCCTGCTAGCCCA | Cloning of pSV55 |
| F_yoaI_BATCH | ACTGTCTAGAGatgAACGATCAAATGTTTGTCGAGACAC | Cloning of pSV47 |
| Fp_Inv_PCR_yobF | TAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTACTAGAGTCGAC | Cloning of pSV14 |
| JA1 | GCGTACGCAATCAAAATCCCCAGCCAATACAAcatTTAACACCATgcttaatttctcctctttaattctaggtacccg | Cloning of pSV58 |
| JA2 | AGACCGTAGGCCAGATAAGGTGTTTACGCTGATCAGGtaaGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagtcgac | Cloning of pSV58 |
| JS4 | taaTTGTATTGGCTGGGGATTTTGATTGC | Cloning of pSV59 |
| lpxT_del_F | gacagccgtattgagctgatttcc | Validation of JW2162 |
| lpxT_del_R | aaagtgatacagaaagttaataagcggggg | Validation of JW2162 |
| mgrB_forward | atgaaaaagtttcgatgggtcgttct | Cloning of pSV60 |
| mgrB_stop3 | TAAaaaaagtttcgatgggtcgttctg | Cloning of pSV61 |

| MgtS_del_F | AAAATTAAGGTAAGCGAGGAAACACACCACACCATA AACGGAGGCAAATAattccggggatccgtcgacctgcagttcgaa gttcctatt | Construction of SV64 |
|---|---|---|
| MgtS_del_R | AACTGTAACAAGGGGCCGGTTAGGTGAGGGATTAT CTCCGTTcatTAGTCtgtaggctggagctgcttcgaagttcctatact | Construction of SV64 |
| mgtS_del_screen_1 | cccgcgctttgttgatttaagtc | Validation of SV64 together with primer mgtT_del_screen2 |
| mgtS_forward_2_correct | TCTGGTTTTCTGGCCGCGTATTTCAGCCACAAATGG GATGACtaaTAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagtcga c | Cloning of pJS7 |
| mgtS_reverse | AAATAAAATTATTCCCAGTACGGCCATAAAAACATTC ATATTACCCAGcatgcttaatttctcctctttaattctaggtacccg | Cloning of pJS7 |
| mgtS_stop | TAACTGGGTAATTAAAATGTTTTTATGGCCGTACTG GGAATAATTTTATTTTCTGG | Cloning of pSV40 |
| mgtT_del_F | TATTTTCTGGTTTTCTGGCCGCGTATTTCAGCCACA AATGGGATGACTAAattccggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV31 |
| mgtT_del_R | CAAATCTATCCATGCAAGCATtcaCCGCCGGTTTACT GGCGGTTTTTTTTtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV31 |
| mgtT_del_screen1 | CACACCACACCATAAACGGAGG | Validation of SV31 |
| mgtT_del_screen2 | ACCGGAAGAAATCGCTGCATG | Validation of SV31 |
| mgtT_F | GAGAATTCTCAGCTGCGGTATTTACTGTCGG | Cloning of pSV29 |
| mgtT_R | GGGGATCCTAGTCATCCCATTTGTGGCTGAAATAC G | Cloning of pPJ1 |
| mgtT_R1 | ATATGGATCCTATTTGCCTCCGTTTATGGTGTGGTG | Cloning of putative pSV29 |
| mgtT-forward | ATGAACGGAGATAATCCCTCACCTAAC | Cloning of pSV30 |
| N_term_pmrR_forward | ATGAAAAACCGTGTTTATGAAAGTTTAACTACCG | Cloning of pSV35 |
| pEB52-rev | GCTTAATTTCTCCTCTTTAATTCTAGGTACCCG | When targeting N-terminal-tagged small proteins, this primer, along with a small protein-specific forward primer, removes the tags by binding to the pEB52 backbone |

| phoB_del_F | cgaaaaagcatgggcgcgatta | Validation of JW0389 |
|---|---|---|
| phoB_del_R | agggcaggtaaccaaaaaatgcac | Validation of JW0389 |
| pmrR Primer 1 | CTGGTGGTCAGCAGCTTTCTTTATATCTGGTTTGCCACGTACTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ2 |
| pmrR Primer 2 | CACGCTGAACACGGTAGTTAAACTTTCATAAACACGGTTTTTCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ2 |
| pmrR_del_F | CTTAATCTCTGACGCGCATACTCCTCCAGGTTAACGGAGGAGAGTGCAattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV35 |
| pmrR_del_R | GCCTGGGTACGGCTGAAGAAAGAtcaGTACGTGGCAAACCAGATATAAGtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV35 |
| pmrR_del_screen1 | GCGAATTGATGAATAAGCTGAAACGG | Validation of SV35 |
| pmrR_del_screen2 | CGTTTGTACGTATGGACAGCCG | Validation of SV35 |
| pmrR_stop | TAaAAAAACCGTGTTTATGAAAGTTTAACTACCG | Cloning of pSV38 |
| pmrR1_F | GAGAATTCTGGCTTCTACCTTGCCAGCG | Cloning of pPJ14 |
| pmrR1_R | GGGGATCCTGCACTCTCCTCCGTTAACCTG | Cloning of pPJ14 |
| pmrR2_F | GAGAATTCCCGACCACGCGTCACTATTACC | Cloning of pSV17 |
| pmrR2_R | GGGGATCCAGCTTTCCTCGCAGAGTTGG | Cloning of pSV17 |
| pSMART SV_19 | GACCATAACCGAAAGTAGTGAC | Sequencing primer for pMR120 based vectors |
| R_yoaI_BATCH | TACTGAATTCctaGCCGGTCCGTTCGATAAGAAG | Cloning of pSV47 |
| Rp_Inv_PCR_yobF | ATGGTGATGGTGATGGTGGCCGCTGCCGCCGATTGTTTTCTTCGCCCGCAGG | Cloning of pSV14 |
| SA26R | CATCCGCCAAAACAGCCAAG | Sequencing primer for pEB52 based vectors |
| yadW Primer 1 | TGCCGATGTCGTTTGGAGCAAAATATGAGTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ9 |
| yadW Primer 2 | ATTGGGCAAATTCTAACCCAATAATAATCGCCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ9 |
| yadW_del_F | GCCGCATCAGCCAGCGAGAATACTTGAACGAAATACCAGGGTATTAGATAattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV27 |
| yadW_del_R | TCGGTAAACTCCAGCGGCAGTGCTACGTCAtcaCTCATATTTTGCTCCAAACGtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV27 |

| yadW_del_screen1 | CGGGAAACCGCTATACTCGG | Validation of SV27 |
|---|---|---|
| yadW_del_screen2 | GGTGAAACCATACTGGAAGCCG | Validation of SV27 |
| yadW_forward | atgGCGATTATTATTGGGTTAGAATTTGCC | Cloning of pJS2 |
| yadW1_F | GAGAATTCTTCCATTTCGGTTGGTGCACCAA | Cloning of pSV18 |
| yadW1_R | GGGGATCCCCAATGATCACTTATTGGTCATACAAATAAGATGAC | Cloning of pSV18 |
| yadW2_F | GAGAATTCACCATGCGCACCATATCCATGG | Cloning of pPJ23 |
| yadW2_R | GGGGATCCGAAAATCCTTTGCAAAGCGTAATGTTTCAAAT | Cloning of pPJ23 |
| yadX Primer 1 | TCATCTTATTTGTATGACCAATAATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ10 |
| yadX Primer 2 | CGGCATTTTACTCGCACGTTCCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ10 |
| yadX_del_F | AGTATAAAAGTTTTGTGCATTTGAAACATTACGCTTTGCAAAGGATTTTCattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV39 |
| yadX_del_R | AGAGGGAGTATCAGTTTTCATCCAATGATCACttaTTGGTCATACAAATAtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV39 |
| yadX_del_screen1 | CATGGAGGGTTCCTGATTCGTAG | Validation of SV39 |
| yadX_del_screen2 | GCCATAAACAAAATGGCTAACGGG | Validation of SV39 |
| yadX-forward | ATGGAACGTGCGAGTAAAATGC | Cloning of pSV32 |
| yddY Primer 1 | GCACGTTGCGTTTCATTTTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ8 |
| yddY Primer 2 | GAGATCGACTAACTGCACCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ8 |
| yddY_del_F | GTCCTAAATCGCTTATTTCTTTTCAGTATATCTTCATATTTCAGGAGAATattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV29 |
| yddY_del_R | AATACATCTCCATAATTCACACCCTTATAAGGCTGGGAAATCAGACGGAAtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV29 |
| yddY_del_screen1 | CATACGATATTCGCTGTCACCG | Validation of SV29 |
| yddY_del_screen2 | CCGCGGCTTTAGCACGAAT | Validation of SV29 |
| yddY_F | GAGAATTCCTGTATATCGGTATCGCCTTCTATAAAGTGG | Cloning of pSV28 |

| yddY_forward | ATGGTGCAGTTAGTCGATCTCG | Cloning of pJS6 |
|---|---|---|
| yddY_R | GGGGATCCATTCTCCTGAAATATGAAGATATACTGAAAAG | Cloning of pSV28 |
| ydgU Primer 1 | ATTTTATGCGCACTGATTACCGCCCGTTTTTATCTTTCCTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ3 |
| ydgU Primer 2 | AAGGATGATCAGAATGAACTCAAAGCGATAACGGCCCACCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ3 |
| ydgU_del_screen_1 | gcagcgaagaaacacgccaa | Validation of GSO219 |
| ydgU_del_screen_2 | caaaagcagacgtcaaactaattgca | Validation of GSO219 |
| ydgU-forward | ATGGTGGGCCGTTATCGCTT | Cloning of pSV31 |
| ydgU1_F | ACTCGAGAATTCGAAACCAACCACTCACGGAAGTCTG | Cloning of pPJ17 |
| ydgU1_R | CCGGGGATCCACTACCCTCCGCTAAAGGCG | Cloning of pPJ17 |
| ydgU2_F | ACTCGAGAATTCATACCCGTCCGGACTTATTGCC | Cloning of pPJ16 |
| ydgU2_R | GGGGATCCTGTCATACCCTCAATTTGTTTTTTCATTTAACCC | Cloning of pPJ16 |
| ykgS_del_F2 | CAGAAGCAGAAAGACATTGGATCGAATTCTACAACCAGGTCGAGTCAGAaattccggggatccgtcgacctgcagttcgaagttcctatt | Construction of SV43 |
| ykgS_del_R2 | CAAAGTCATCGGGCATTATCTGAACATAAAACACTATCAATAAGTTGGAGtgtaggctggagctgcttcgaagttcctatact | Construction of SV43 |
| ykgS_del_screen1 | GGCAAACCCGTCCGTGTG | Validation of SV43 |
| ykgS_del_screen2 | AAGTCGCTGTCGTTCTCAAA | Validation of SV43 |
| ykgS_F | ATATCTCGAGAAGTGTTTTTTGTATAAATCGGACATTTTATCCTCG | Cloning of pSV25 |
| ykgS_F1 | ATATCTCGAGAAGTGTTTTTTGTATAAATCGGACATTTTATCCTCG | Cloning of pSV16 |
| ykgS_forward | ATGAGAATGATTGGCCTTCTTTATGATTTTAAGG | Cloning of pJS4 |
| ykgS_R | ATATGGATCCTTCTGACTCGACCTGGTTGTAGAATTCG | Cloning of pSV25 |
| ykgS_R1 | ATATGGATCCTTCTGACTCGACCTGGTTGTAGAATTCG | Cloning of pSV16 |
| ykgS_stop | TAAAGATAAATTGGCCTTCTTTATGATTTTAAGGATTATGCT | Cloning of pSV41 |

| ymiA Primer 1 | TGGCGGTTTTTCTTGGTTCTGCACTTTTCTGGGTGG TTGTCGCACTGCTGATTTGGAAAGTGTGGGGATAAT AAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ12 |
|---|---|---|
| ymiA Primer 2 | GCCAGGCTTTACGTTTTAATTCAGGATCGCGGCGG GGTTCCTGATTTCCAGAAGGCATTGCTAACCTCATttt gtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ12 |
| ymiA_del_scree n_1 | gattgaattattcactggagacgattcg | Validation of GSO225 |
| ymiA_del_scree n_2 | tcatcttcagcaaacagttctataaaggc | Validation of GSO225 |
| ymiA_F1 | ATATGAATTCTCAGCCACAGTACAACCAAAATTGG | Cloning of pSV20 |
| ymiA_R1 | ATATGATCCATAATCGCCATCACTTATCAGCAAGAC | Cloning of pSV20 |
| ymiA_stop | TAAAGGTTAGCATAACCTTCTGGAAATCAGGAACCC C | Cloning of pSV42 |
| ymiA-forward | ATGAGGTTAGCAATGCCTTCTGGA | Cloning of pSV36 |
| ymiC Primer 1 | CTGTCGATGCTCTTCTGGGCCGAACTCCTCTGGAT CATTACTCACTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactag agt | Cloning of pPJ13 |
| ymiC Primer 2 | AGAAAACGCGCCCATCCAGGACCAATATTTCATATT TGTGTTGATCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ13 |
| ymiC_del_F | ACAGCTTGAGTTATCTCAACACAAATAATAACCGT TAAGGGTGTAGCCTattccggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV41 |
| ymiC_del_R | GAAACCTTGTGGCAAAGCAAATGACAACCCCGCCG CAGCGGGGTCAAGGAtgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV41 |
| ymiC_del_scree n1 | GATGATCAGCCGAAACAATAATTATCATCATTC | Validation of SV41 |
| ymiC_del_scree n2 | AAGCCCTGATTCTCTTCAGGGT | Validation of SV41 |
| ymiC_F1 | ATATGAATTCCAGGAGCAACTGGAGTCGTC | Cloning of pSV19 |
| ymiC_R1 | ATATGGATCCAGGCTACACCCTTAACGGTTATTATT TTG | Cloning of pSV19 |
| ymiC-forward | ATGATCAACACAAATATGAAATATTGGTCCTGGA | Cloning of pSV33 |
| yoaI Primer 1 | ATTGCTGTTGTACTGGTTTTGTCCGTTCTTCTTATCG AACGGACCGGCcgtaaaggagaagaacttttcactgg | Cloning pPJ4 |
| yoaI Primer 2 | GGCAAAAAACGATGACGTGATAATCAGTGTCTCGA CAAACATTTGATCGTTcatgcttaatttctcctctttaattctaggtac | Cloning pPJ4 |
| yoaI_del_screen _1 | tggttgccgaccctctactc | Validation of GSO232 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| yoaI_del_screen_2 | agcctgcttactttacgcttgc | Validation of GSO232 |
| yoaI_F | GAGAATTCGCGGCTGGCTGCCCATTAA | Cloning of pPJ18 |
| yoaI_R | GGGGATCCAGCATGCCCCCGGGAGATA | Cloning pPJ18 |
| yoaI_stop | taAAACGATCAATAATTTGTCGAGACACTGATTATCACGTCATCG | Cloning of pSV39 |
| yoaI-forward | TAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTACTAGAGTCGAC | Cloning of pSV34 |
| yoaI-rev | GCCGGTCCGTTCGATAAGAAGA | Cloning of pSV34 |
| yobF Primer 1 | CCTTATATTGGTGCCTCATGCAGTAATGTGTCAGTTTTATCTATGTTATGCCTGCGGGCGAAGAAAACAATCcgtaaaggagaagaacttttcactgg | Cloning of pPJ6 |
| yobF Primer 2 | CTCGGCAGAGAAGCGGTATTCAACGTCAACGTGTTTACTCAGGACTTCTTTACTGAAAATGCCACAcatgcttaatttctcctctttaattctaggtac | Cloning of pPJ6 |
| yobF_del_F | AAAGAAGTCCTGAGTAAACACGTTGACGTTGAATACCGCTTCTCTGCCGAattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV33 |
| yobF_del_R | TTGAACCACTTAACCTGACCTTTAATCTTTGCCATTTGAAAAATTCCttatgtaggctggagctgcttcg | Construction of SV33 |
| yobF_del_screen1 | GTGTGCAAAAAAAGTGGAAGACGT | Validation of SV33 |
| yobF_del_screen2 | CCATTACCCTGGATAGCGGAG | Validation of SV33 |
| yobF_F1 | ATATGAATTCTAATTTATTAGGATGTTTACATCGGATTTGTGATTAAGCG | Cloning of pSV24 |
| yobF_R1 | ATATGGATCCAAACAGAACTGTACCTCGTTTAACCC | Cloning of pSV24 |
| yobF_reverse | GATTGTTTTCTTCGCCCGCAGG | Cloning of pJS5 |
| yobF_stop | taaTGTGGCATTTTCAGTAAAGAAGTCCTG | Cloning of pSV45 |
| yqhI Primer 1 | ATCTCGAAACGTGAGTTCCTCAACCTTGCGGCGAAGTGCGGTAGGCGGGATGACGGCATTAGCGTTGTTTGATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ15 |
| yqhI Primer 2 | TTTCCCGTGAGCGTAATAGTCATAGTAATCCAGCAACTCTTGTGGGAAATCTTTGGCGGTTAAACGCGGCATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ15 |
| yqhI_del_F2 | AATACGTGCTTATGCTTTGCTTAAAAAAACACCAACTGAGGAGTGCAACGaattccgggggatccgtcgacctgcagttcgaagttcctatt | Construction of SV37 |
| yqhI_del_R2 | GGTCGGTAAACTCTACCTGAGTCGCCAGCGCATAATTTGGCTTGAGCAAAtgtaggctggagctgcttcgaagttcctatact | Construction of SV37 |

| yqhI_del_screen 1 | TGTTTCTAGTTTAGCGATTCGCCAG | Validation of SV37 |
|---|---|---|
| yqhI_del_screen 2 | GGGCTTCACCAGATAACCCC | Validation of SV37 |
| yqhI_F | GAGAATTCTATTTACGTGAACCGCCAGAGCC | Cloning of pPJ19 |
| yqhI_forward | ATGCCGCGTTTAACCGCC | Cloning of pJS3 |
| yqhI_R | GGGGATCCCGTTGCACTCCTCAGTTGGTG | Cloning of pPJ19 |
| yriA Primer 1 | GCAGACCGTAGGCCAGATAAGGTGTTTACGCTGATCAGGTAATAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ7 |
| yriA Primer 2 | GTACGCAATCAAAATCCCCAGCCAATACAACATtttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ7 |
| yriA_F | TCGAGAATTCAAATCAGGTCAGGCTTAAGTAGCGAC | Cloning of pPJ20 |
| yriA_forward | ATGTTGTATTGGCTGGGGATTTTGAT | Cloning of pJS1 |
| yriA_R | GGGGATCCTTAACACCATCATATTTTCCATCATTAGTGTGATC | Cloning of pPJ20 |
| yriAB_del_F | ACACTATTACAACAGAAAATAACCAGATGATCACACTAATGATGGAAAATattccgggggatccgtcgacc | Construction of SV25 |
| yriAB_del_R | TGTTCCTGAACGCCCGCATATGCGGGCGTTTTGCTTTTTGGCGCGCCTTGgtgtaggctggagctgcttc | Construction of SV25 |
| yriAB_del_screen1 | GAACGCGTAAGGGATAACGC | Validation of SV25 |
| yriAB_del_screen2 | CTGATCAACACCGTTCACGTTG | Validation of SV25 |
| yriB Primer 1 | GATTTTGATTGCGTACGCAGACCGtagTAAGCTTAATTAGCTGACCTactagagt | Cloning of pPJ11 |
| yriB primer 2 | CCCAGCCAATACAACATTTAACACcattttgtatagttcatccatgccatgtg | Cloning of pPJ11 |
| yriB-forward | atgGTGTTAAATGTTGTATTGGCTGGG | Cloning of pSV37 |

**Table S4. List of all proteins with ≥3-fold increase in read counts from Ribo-RET and differentially expressed transcripts from RNA-Seq.**

| Ribo-RET | | | | | RNA-Seq Differential Expression | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| gene | size | no_stress | low_mg | fold_change | gene | base_Mean | log2Fold Change | lfcSE | pvalue | padj |
| phnC | standard | 0.68 | 79.66 | 117.25 | mgtS | 14972.46 | 7.82 | 0.31 | 2.11E-140 | 6.60E-137 |
| iraM | standard | 3.4 | 247.31 | 72.8 | ymgL | 17.66 | 7.53 | 2.75 | 2.84E-06 | 2.56E-05 |
| phoR | standard | 0.68 | 44.65 | 65.71 | mgtA | 3789.38 | 7.13 | 0.39 | 9.56E-75 | 9.97E-72 |
| ptrA | standard | 1.36 | 72.66 | 53.47 | ymgK | 236.85 | 6.93 | 0.62 | 6.26E-29 | 5.02E-27 |
| phoE | standard | 5.44 | 242.93 | 44.69 | iraM | 205.15 | 6.71 | 0.63 | 4.09E-27 | 2.78E-25 |
| eptA | standard | 5.44 | 232.43 | 42.76 | mgtL | 11342.3 | 6.61 | 0.43 | 1.18E-54 | 5.27E-52 |
| ydeT | standard | 4.76 | 148.38 | 31.2 | ydeT | 28.94 | 6.33 | 1.43 | 6.39E-06 | 5.33E-05 |
| arnC | standard | 0.68 | 20.13 | 29.64 | ydeS | 9.66 | 6.26 | 2.76 | 1.15E-04 | 7.48E-04 |
| yciX | standard | 1.36 | 38.96 | 28.67 | asr | 332.57 | 5.91 | 0.48 | 3.80E-35 | 4.96E-33 |
| waaH | standard | 2.04 | 58.22 | 28.56 | ybjG | 1315.13 | 5.78 | 0.35 | 4.37E-63 | 3.42E-60 |
| rstB | standard | 0.68 | 18.82 | 27.7 | mgrB | 6552.83 | 5.68 | 0.31 | 4.00E-76 | 6.25E-73 |
| phoQ | standard | 2.04 | 54.71 | 26.84 | phnD | 25.86 | 5.34 | 1.17 | 1.71E-06 | 1.61E-05 |
| ugpB | standard | 10.87 | 288.45 | 26.53 | yebO | 1871.52 | 5.1 | 0.33 | 1.23E-55 | 6.42E-53 |
| phoB | standard | 29.21 | 711.72 | 24.36 | yriB | 18.19 | 4.72 | 1.24 | 3.12E-05 | 2.30E-04 |
| appC | standard | 6.79 | 162.39 | 23.9 | phnC | 17.35 | 4.63 | 1.25 | 4.47E-05 | 3.18E-04 |
| otsB | standard | 0.68 | 14.88 | 21.9 | pstS | 274.79 | 4.41 | 0.41 | 1.93E-28 | 1.48E-26 |
| argD | standard | 10.87 | 199.6 | 18.36 | yfeO | 91.2 | 4.31 | 0.56 | 1.21E-15 | 2.81E-14 |
| cysD | standard | 20.38 | 358.92 | 17.61 | ydgU | 24.42 | 4.31 | 0.99 | 2.00E-06 | 1.85E-05 |
| cbl | standard | 2.04 | 35.02 | 17.18 | dgcZ | 61.86 | 4.29 | 0.64 | 3.40E-12 | 6.33E-11 |
| ynaL | standard | 1.36 | 21.01 | 15.46 | pgpC | 397.23 | 4.24 | 0.37 | 2.38E-31 | 2.26E-29 |
| asr | standard | 51.64 | 796.2 | 15.42 | ygdR | 155.39 | 4.19 | 0.46 | 9.92E-21 | 3.34E-19 |
| yriA | small | 2.72 | 40.71 | 14.98 | alaV | 973.94 | 4.18 | 0.36 | 2.73E-32 | 2.85E-30 |
| glsA | standard | 0.68 | 10.07 | 14.82 | alaU | 973.94 | 4.18 | 0.36 | 2.73E-32 | 2.85E-30 |
| yciW | standard | 8.15 | 119.06 | 14.6 | alaT | 973.94 | 4.18 | 0.36 | 2.73E-32 | 2.85E-30 |
| yohC | standard | 8.15 | 118.18 | 14.5 | metZ | 673.96 | 4.12 | 0.43 | 6.41E-23 | 2.87E-21 |
| yeeE | standard | 4.08 | 58.65 | 14.39 | metW | 673.96 | 4.12 | 0.43 | 6.41E-23 | 2.87E-21 |
| sbp | standard | 6.79 | 96.3 | 14.17 | metV | 673.96 | 4.12 | 0.43 | 6.41E-23 | 2.87E-21 |
| ydgU | small | 2.04 | 27.14 | 13.31 | glyW | 9479.84 | 4.06 | 0.33 | 1.60E-35 | 2.27E-33 |
| narU | standard | 1.36 | 17.95 | 13.21 | glyV | 9479.84 | 4.06 | 0.33 | 1.60E-35 | 2.27E-33 |
| arnB | standard | 11.55 | 151.45 | 13.11 | glyX | 9479.84 | 4.06 | 0.33 | 1.60E-35 | 2.27E-33 |
| argA | standard | 16.31 | 212.29 | 13.02 | glyY | 9479.84 | 4.06 | 0.33 | 1.60E-35 | 2.27E-33 |
| ais | standard | 9.51 | 123 | 12.93 | ais | 16.7 | 4.03 | 1.15 | 6.60E-05 | 4.54E-04 |
| ycaP | standard | 1.36 | 17.51 | 12.88 | arnB | 38.15 | 3.91 | 0.76 | 2.56E-08 | 3.31E-07 |
| phoA | standard | 12.23 | 156.26 | 12.78 | ugpB | 80.2 | 3.83 | 0.57 | 1.18E-12 | 2.26E-11 |
| ydeQ | standard | 1.36 | 17.07 | 12.56 | alaX | 648.46 | 3.79 | 0.38 | 2.29E-24 | 1.21E-22 |
| yncG | standard | 2.04 | 25.39 | 12.46 | alaW | 648.46 | 3.79 | 0.38 | 2.29E-24 | 1.21E-22 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ilvB | standard | 1.36 | 16.2 | 11.92 | rttR | 21.62 | 3.74 | 1.06 | 4.26E-05 | 3.06E-04 |
| yoaI | small | 13.59 | 161.95 | 11.92 | metY | 276.5 | 3.73 | 0.43 | 6.96E-19 | 2.05E-17 |
| cysP | standard | 63.87 | 758.56 | 11.88 | leuW | 4113.99 | 3.68 | 0.35 | 1.34E-27 | 9.30E-26 |
| yfcG | standard | 4.08 | 48.15 | 11.81 | arnC | 29.57 | 3.66 | 0.82 | 9.33E-07 | 9.24E-06 |
| lysA | standard | 2.04 | 23.64 | 11.6 | rstA | 323.01 | 3.65 | 0.38 | 8.71E-23 | 3.84E-21 |
| artP | standard | 43.48 | 491.11 | 11.29 | msrQ | 38.7 | 3.63 | 0.72 | 5.34E-08 | 6.58E-07 |
| yhbW | standard | 1.36 | 15.32 | 11.27 | arnF | 56.91 | 3.62 | 0.61 | 3.42E-10 | 5.22E-09 |
| dacD | standard | 0.68 | 7.44 | 10.95 | phoA | 78.32 | 3.62 | 0.55 | 3.42E-12 | 6.33E-11 |
| ruvC | standard | 0.68 | 7.44 | 10.95 | ymcF | 40.82 | 3.61 | 0.71 | 3.74E-08 | 4.73E-07 |
| ydbL | standard | 1.36 | 14.88 | 10.95 | dacC | 178.45 | 3.59 | 0.42 | 1.11E-18 | 3.21E-17 |
| argG | standard | 20.38 | 217.98 | 10.69 | ileV | 995.19 | 3.57 | 0.34 | 3.75E-26 | 2.35E-24 |
| argC | standard | 6.11 | 64.78 | 10.59 | ileU | 995.19 | 3.57 | 0.34 | 3.75E-26 | 2.35E-24 |
| ybhP | standard | 0.68 | 7 | 10.31 | ileT | 995.19 | 3.57 | 0.34 | 3.75E-26 | 2.35E-24 |
| yobF | small | 12.91 | 132.63 | 10.27 | phoQ | 258.31 | 3.57 | 0.38 | 1.64E-21 | 6.11E-20 |
| pstS | standard | 48.92 | 490.68 | 10.03 | phoB | 66.9 | 3.56 | 0.57 | 4.75E-11 | 7.87E-10 |
| nadD | standard | 1.36 | 13.57 | 9.99 | eptA | 15.82 | 3.5 | 1.11 | 1.72E-04 | 0.001078186 |
| gadE | standard | 2.72 | 26.7 | 9.82 | arnA | 35.6 | 3.49 | 0.74 | 2.45E-07 | 2.70E-06 |
| ydeS | standard | 2.72 | 26.7 | 9.82 | ydhI | 62.43 | 3.45 | 0.58 | 3.12E-10 | 4.78E-09 |
| bcsB | standard | 0.68 | 6.57 | 9.66 | pdeR | 34.61 | 3.44 | 0.74 | 3.72E-07 | 3.97E-06 |
| pcm | standard | 0.68 | 6.57 | 9.66 | pstC | 127.36 | 3.42 | 0.46 | 7.14E-15 | 1.56E-13 |
| yadW | small | 1.36 | 13.13 | 9.66 | secG | 2556.53 | 3.41 | 0.38 | 2.56E-20 | 8.08E-19 |
| pagP | standard | 8.15 | 75.29 | 9.23 | phoP | 729.83 | 3.38 | 0.33 | 5.44E-25 | 3.27E-23 |
| pstA | standard | 2.04 | 18.82 | 9.23 | slyB | 3744.69 | 3.34 | 0.3 | 7.35E-30 | 6.39E-28 |
| waaQ | standard | 2.04 | 18.82 | 9.23 | hokD | 178.33 | 3.31 | 0.42 | 3.78E-16 | 8.96E-15 |
| aroE | standard | 0.68 | 6.13 | 9.02 | pagP | 21.67 | 3.28 | 0.91 | 3.55E-05 | 2.57E-04 |
| mgrB | small | 250.71 | 2248.97 | 8.97 | yliM | 5741.91 | 3.21 | 0.32 | 5.03E-24 | 2.58E-22 |
| dtpD | standard | 2.72 | 24.07 | 8.86 | yjcB | 202.42 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 7.82E-17 | 1.93E-15 |
| tatD | standard | 8.15 | 71.78 | 8.8 | relE | 150.84 | 3.19 | 0.44 | 6.33E-14 | 1.28E-12 |
| bcr | standard | 2.04 | 17.51 | 8.59 | rstB | 99.93 | 3.16 | 0.49 | 8.30E-12 | 1.48E-10 |
| pstC | standard | 44.16 | 377.31 | 8.54 | ynfB | 711.59 | 3.09 | 0.34 | 1.32E-20 | 4.34E-19 |
| blc | standard | 2.72 | 23.2 | 8.54 | ybfA | 383.07 | 3.09 | 0.38 | 3.59E-17 | 9.13E-16 |
| nudL | standard | 2.72 | 23.2 | 8.54 | deoR | 205.33 | 3.08 | 0.4 | 6.56E-16 | 1.54E-14 |
| insQ | standard | 6.79 | 56.9 | 8.38 | sraG | 43.7 | 3.08 | 0.65 | 2.09E-07 | 2.33E-06 |
| cysJ | standard | 60.47 | 504.25 | 8.34 | valT | 8108.95 | 3.08 | 0.33 | 7.92E-22 | 3.02E-20 |
| pdeR | standard | 8.15 | 67.41 | 8.27 | valZ | 8108.95 | 3.08 | 0.33 | 7.92E-22 | 3.02E-20 |
| iaaA | standard | 30.57 | 251.69 | 8.23 | valU | 8108.95 | 3.08 | 0.33 | 7.92E-22 | 3.02E-20 |
| yhdN | standard | 4.08 | 32.83 | 8.05 | valX | 8108.95 | 3.08 | 0.33 | 7.92E-22 | 3.02E-20 |
| chaC | standard | 5.44 | 43.33 | 7.97 | valY | 8108.95 | 3.08 | 0.33 | 7.92E-22 | 3.02E-20 |
| mgtT | small | 1082.31 | 8622.95 | 7.97 | tqsA | 29.99 | 3.05 | 0.76 | 6.71E-06 | 5.58E-05 |
| gadX | standard | 4.08 | 31.95 | 7.84 | lysT | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |
| rssB | standard | 4.08 | 31.95 | 7.84 | lysW | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |
| hisG | standard | 13.59 | 105.93 | 7.8 | lysY | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| cysW | standard | 0.68 | 5.25 | 7.73 | lysZ | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |
| glaR | standard | 0.68 | 5.25 | 7.73 | lysQ | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |
| ibsD | small | 0.68 | 5.25 | 7.73 | lysV | 11718.26 | 3.05 | 0.33 | 3.00E-21 | 1.04E-19 |
| ibsE | small | 0.68 | 5.25 | 7.73 | appC | 46.53 | 3.02 | 0.63 | 1.57E-07 | 1.80E-06 |
| ybdR | standard | 0.68 | 5.25 | 7.73 | fabR | 293.94 | 3.02 | 0.37 | 4.17E-17 | 1.05E-15 |
| hisD | standard | 9.51 | 73.1 | 7.68 | csrC | 1142.49 | 3 | 0.32 | 6.80E-22 | 2.80E-20 |
| tqsA | standard | 8.15 | 61.28 | 7.52 | phoR | 33.35 | 2.98 | 0.72 | 3.93E-06 | 3.47E-05 |
| purF | standard | 15.63 | 117.31 | 7.51 | ygcN | 30.28 | 2.95 | 0.75 | 1.01E-05 | 8.10E-05 |
| glcD | standard | 8.15 | 60.84 | 7.46 | yfiS | 34.41 | 2.94 | 0.74 | 7.12E-06 | 5.88E-05 |
| speG | standard | 26.5 | 196.53 | 7.42 | queE | 213.58 | 2.94 | 0.39 | 5.47E-15 | 1.21E-13 |
| ftsQ | standard | 1.36 | 10.07 | 7.41 | yodB | 20 | 2.9 | 0.92 | 1.76E-04 | 0.001100074 |
| ygbE | standard | 3.4 | 24.95 | 7.34 | tadA | 238.08 | 2.89 | 0.38 | 6.15E-15 | 1.36E-13 |
| yqhI | small | 2.04 | 14.88 | 7.3 | arnD | 13.79 | 2.89 | 1.12 | 0.001001481 | 0.005046111 |
| miaA | standard | 13.59 | 96.73 | 7.12 | ybgS | 71.99 | 2.87 | 0.54 | 1.44E-08 | 1.91E-07 |
| speC | standard | 19.7 | 140.07 | 7.11 | metU | 243.67 | 2.87 | 0.42 | 6.17E-13 | 1.21E-11 |
| appB | standard | 0.68 | 4.81 | 7.09 | metT | 243.67 | 2.87 | 0.42 | 6.17E-13 | 1.21E-11 |
| argH | standard | 2.72 | 19.26 | 7.09 | serV | 8051.92 | 2.86 | 0.35 | 2.19E-17 | 5.70E-16 |
| artJ | standard | 13.59 | 96.3 | 7.09 | cspG | 125.16 | 2.85 | 0.44 | 1.28E-11 | 2.26E-10 |
| cobC | standard | 2.72 | 19.26 | 7.09 | ugpA | 23.5 | 2.84 | 0.85 | 9.04E-05 | 6.07E-04 |
| rcdA | standard | 2.72 | 19.26 | 7.09 | gltW | 2671.27 | 2.83 | 0.34 | 1.73E-17 | 4.54E-16 |
| ydgD | standard | 4.76 | 33.7 | 7.09 | gltU | 2671.27 | 2.83 | 0.34 | 1.73E-17 | 4.54E-16 |
| hrpB | standard | 4.08 | 28.89 | 7.09 | gltT | 2671.27 | 2.83 | 0.34 | 1.73E-17 | 4.54E-16 |
| ydgI | standard | 29.21 | 204.85 | 7.01 | gltV | 2671.27 | 2.83 | 0.34 | 1.73E-17 | 4.54E-16 |
| yodB | standard | 5.44 | 37.64 | 6.93 | speG | 402.93 | 2.82 | 0.35 | 2.21E-16 | 5.39E-15 |
| phoH | standard | 16.99 | 116.87 | 6.88 | glnW | 5581.76 | 2.79 | 0.34 | 2.38E-17 | 6.10E-16 |
| ydhJ | standard | 23.78 | 163.27 | 6.87 | glnU | 5581.76 | 2.79 | 0.34 | 2.38E-17 | 6.10E-16 |
| yebW | standard | 7.47 | 50.77 | 6.79 | phnF | 9.4 | 2.78 | 1.4 | 0.004516358 | 0.018545518 |
| dinQ | small | 1.36 | 9.19 | 6.76 | ydhJ | 35.29 | 2.76 | 0.7 | 8.20E-06 | 6.70E-05 |
| yfbP | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | appB | 29.37 | 2.76 | 0.75 | 2.63E-05 | 1.97E-04 |
| insD2 | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | pstA | 84.17 | 2.76 | 0.5 | 3.89E-09 | 5.37E-08 |
| lhr | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | phoH | 157.53 | 2.74 | 0.55 | 6.19E-08 | 7.50E-07 |
| nhoA | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | glsA | 31.04 | 2.74 | 0.74 | 2.48E-05 | 1.86E-04 |
| recX | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | ycgX | 11.14 | 2.72 | 1.26 | 0.002969559 | 0.012959207 |
| ugpA | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | clcA | 33.59 | 2.7 | 0.71 | 1.68E-05 | 1.29E-04 |
| yacH | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | relB | 212.04 | 2.68 | 0.39 | 9.27E-13 | 1.79E-11 |
| ycaC | standard | 2.04 | 13.13 | 6.44 | mlaF | 310.63 | 2.64 | 0.36 | 2.15E-14 | 4.54E-13 |
| yidD | standard | 0.68 | 4.38 | 6.44 | rhsC | 20.37 | 2.59 | 0.88 | 3.93E-04 | 0.002230904 |
| patA | standard | 3.4 | 21.01 | 6.18 | pmrD | 10.57 | 2.59 | 1.28 | 0.004234691 | 0.017596745 |
| yncJ | standard | 50.28 | 310.34 | 6.17 | ymdF | 73.54 | 2.57 | 0.52 | 9.59E-08 | 1.12E-06 |
| rseA | standard | 205.86 | 1264.99 | 6.14 | mlrA | 23.28 | 2.55 | 0.82 | 2.35E-04 | 0.001436063 |
| opgG | standard | 13.59 | 83.17 | 6.12 | mqsA | 81.15 | 2.54 | 0.5 | 5.50E-08 | 6.75E-07 |
| ybiO | standard | 1.36 | 8.32 | 6.12 | zntA | 87.62 | 2.54 | 0.48 | 1.74E-08 | 2.26E-07 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| yfeO | standard | 1.36 | 8.32 | 6.12 | mdfA | 45.72 | 2.54 | 0.62 | 5.74E-06 | 4.90E-05 |
| hemD | standard | 2.04 | 12.26 | 6.01 | mqsR | 84.83 | 2.51 | 0.49 | 4.53E-08 | 5.69E-07 |
| iscX | standard | 12.23 | 73.54 | 6.01 | thrV | 83.75 | 2.47 | 0.53 | 4.55E-07 | 4.79E-06 |
| mdlA | standard | 2.04 | 12.26 | 6.01 | slp | 50.9 | 2.47 | 0.6 | 6.20E-06 | 5.20E-05 |
| argR | standard | 27.18 | 163.27 | 6.01 | ycfJ | 63.77 | 2.46 | 0.55 | 1.07E-06 | 1.04E-05 |
| pmrR | small | 32.61 | 193.91 | 5.95 | thrU | 145.51 | 2.43 | 0.42 | 6.65E-10 | 9.68E-09 |
| yddY | small | 22.42 | 130.88 | 5.84 | ytjA | 131.58 | 2.42 | 0.44 | 4.71E-09 | 6.41E-08 |
| yeeD | standard | 108.03 | 627.68 | 5.81 | folA | 228.35 | 2.4 | 0.38 | 5.26E-11 | 8.65E-10 |
| apaH | standard | 2.72 | 15.76 | 5.8 | mlaE | 239.82 | 2.4 | 0.37 | 1.49E-11 | 2.60E-10 |
| folM | standard | 3.4 | 19.7 | 5.8 | yddY | 25.91 | 2.4 | 0.79 | 3.10E-04 | 0.001817096 |
| ibsA | small | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | ycaC | 70.21 | 2.39 | 0.53 | 9.42E-07 | 9.30E-06 |
| insD3 | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | appA | 25.61 | 2.37 | 0.77 | 2.88E-04 | 0.001708407 |
| insD4 | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | yadE | 24.1 | 2.37 | 0.8 | 3.94E-04 | 0.002230904 |
| insD5 | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | ykfI | 55.47 | 2.37 | 0.56 | 3.18E-06 | 2.85E-05 |
| insD6 | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | arfA | 24.15 | 2.36 | 0.8 | 4.15E-04 | 0.002324926 |
| mhpF | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | ychS | 106.85 | 2.34 | 0.47 | 9.09E-08 | 1.08E-06 |
| xylB | standard | 0.68 | 3.94 | 5.8 | yohC | 26.27 | 2.32 | 0.77 | 3.43E-04 | 0.00200324 |
| ydcK | standard | 1.36 | 7.88 | 5.8 | yjbJ | 153.23 | 2.32 | 0.42 | 4.38E-09 | 5.98E-08 |
| btuE | standard | 19.7 | 113.81 | 5.78 | paoD | 10.75 | 2.3 | 1.23 | 0.00655796 | 0.025024217 |
| yjdC | standard | 8.83 | 48.59 | 5.5 | yiaG | 86.74 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 6.84E-07 | 6.95E-06 |
| glsB | standard | 10.19 | 56.03 | 5.5 | rmf | 1448.26 | 2.29 | 0.32 | 2.75E-13 | 5.45E-12 |
| recJ | standard | 6.79 | 37.21 | 5.48 | ycaP | 13.38 | 2.27 | 1.07 | 0.004022703 | 0.01682759 |
| dosC | standard | 16.31 | 87.54 | 5.37 | yjdN | 14.7 | 2.25 | 1.02 | 0.003375377 | 0.01444809 |
| yecE | standard | 2.04 | 10.94 | 5.37 | symR | 13.43 | 2.24 | 1.08 | 0.004360634 | 0.01804818 |
| cpxP | standard | 86.29 | 461.35 | 5.35 | hemL | 436.05 | 2.23 | 0.35 | 1.79E-11 | 3.08E-10 |
| ampH | standard | 38.05 | 202.22 | 5.32 | glk | 152.05 | 2.22 | 0.42 | 1.62E-08 | 2.12E-07 |
| ycgV | standard | 13.59 | 71.78 | 5.28 | arrS | 71.94 | 2.22 | 0.54 | 5.76E-06 | 4.90E-05 |
| ymgE | standard | 19.02 | 100.24 | 5.27 | ybjX | 352.08 | 2.22 | 0.38 | 9.80E-10 | 1.41E-08 |
| bepA | standard | 20.38 | 105.49 | 5.18 | yagP | 15.62 | 2.21 | 0.99 | 0.003308268 | 0.014180234 |
| ecpA | standard | 1.36 | 7 | 5.15 | yijD | 302.74 | 2.19 | 0.35 | 8.95E-11 | 1.45E-09 |
| rzoQ | standard | 0.68 | 3.5 | 5.15 | gadW | 98.62 | 2.19 | 0.49 | 1.11E-06 | 1.08E-05 |
| tfaP | standard | 0.68 | 3.5 | 5.15 | zraR | 36.16 | 2.19 | 0.66 | 1.39E-04 | 8.84E-04 |
| thiQ | standard | 0.68 | 3.5 | 5.15 | psiF | 55.56 | 2.17 | 0.56 | 1.53E-05 | 1.19E-04 |
| ybbA | standard | 2.04 | 10.51 | 5.15 | mgrR | 14.06 | 2.17 | 1.04 | 0.004721938 | 0.019238208 |
| ydbH | standard | 0.68 | 3.5 | 5.15 | ydgV | 108.03 | 2.14 | 0.46 | 5.08E-07 | 5.30E-06 |
| pgpC | standard | 21.74 | 108.99 | 5.01 | yohP | 29.27 | 2.14 | 0.72 | 4.45E-04 | 0.002479686 |
| yqgF | standard | 2.72 | 13.57 | 4.99 | ygiW | 67.93 | 2.13 | 0.52 | 7.97E-06 | 6.53E-05 |
| yeaY | standard | 63.19 | 314.72 | 4.98 | pgaD | 9.14 | 2.13 | 1.38 | 0.012332021 | 0.042160671 |
| waaO | standard | 7.47 | 37.21 | 4.98 | ytfK | 199.14 | 2.12 | 0.38 | 4.18E-09 | 5.74E-08 |
| ydcL | standard | 16.99 | 84.04 | 4.95 | sixA | 116.56 | 2.12 | 0.44 | 3.09E-07 | 3.35E-06 |

| Gene | Type | | | | Gene | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| csdE | standard | 6.11 | 30.2 | 4.94 | yafW | 13.72 | 2.1 | 1.05 | 0.005813937 | 0.022796754 |
| yeeY | standard | 2.04 | 10.07 | 4.94 | yqhI | 17.34 | 2.1 | 0.92 | 0.003119101 | 0.013443068 |
| yggC | standard | 4.08 | 20.13 | 4.94 | ybaT | 19.7 | 2.09 | 0.86 | 0.002281827 | 0.010453641 |
| waaG | standard | 2.04 | 10.07 | 4.94 | opgB | 81.48 | 2.08 | 0.49 | 3.69E-06 | 3.28E-05 |
| rseB | standard | 163.74 | 808.02 | 4.93 | glnX | 1680.13 | 2.07 | 0.34 | 1.46E-10 | 2.27E-09 |
| ykgS | small | 11.55 | 56.9 | 4.93 | glnV | 1680.13 | 2.07 | 0.34 | 1.46E-10 | 2.27E-09 |
| yfhH | standard | 16.31 | 80.1 | 4.91 | holE | 345.7 | 2.07 | 0.35 | 5.26E-10 | 7.79E-09 |
| yodE | small | 40.77 | 200.03 | 4.91 | yhcN | 112.26 | 2.07 | 0.44 | 5.33E-07 | 5.52E-06 |
| artQ | standard | 1.36 | 6.57 | 4.83 | glcD | 12.51 | 2.07 | 1.11 | 0.007735031 | 0.028847334 |
| xynR | standard | 1.36 | 6.57 | 4.83 | yeeW | 19.64 | 2.06 | 0.86 | 0.002416881 | 0.010944167 |
| yfjF | standard | 5.44 | 26.26 | 4.83 | yciY | 33.11 | 2.06 | 0.68 | 3.66E-04 | 0.002099702 |
| waaP | standard | 10.19 | 49.02 | 4.81 | gadA | 55 | 2.06 | 0.6 | 1.09E-04 | 7.20E-04 |
| opgB | standard | 25.14 | 119.5 | 4.75 | kefB | 29.32 | 2.06 | 0.71 | 6.02E-04 | 0.003210015 |
| rmf | standard | 499.37 | 2361.46 | 4.73 | sibC | 62.55 | 2.06 | 0.53 | 1.98E-05 | 1.51E-04 |
| yafS | standard | 4.08 | 19.26 | 4.72 | corA | 126.56 | 2.03 | 0.44 | 7.50E-07 | 7.55E-06 |
| yegS | standard | 8.15 | 38.52 | 4.72 | ynfC | 26.23 | 2.02 | 0.74 | 0.001064516 | 0.005332848 |
| clcB | standard | 4.76 | 22.32 | 4.69 | yoaC | 21.34 | 2.01 | 0.82 | 0.002245505 | 0.010302324 |
| yhdV | standard | 25.82 | 120.81 | 4.68 | leuP | 370.92 | 1.99 | 0.44 | 1.03E-06 | 1.01E-05 |
| yriB | small | 18.34 | 85.79 | 4.68 | proP | 542.82 | 1.97 | 0.33 | 3.48E-10 | 5.29E-09 |
| tcyJ | standard | 86.97 | 399.19 | 4.59 | ecpA | 34.9 | 1.97 | 0.66 | 4.90E-04 | 0.002672328 |
| gsiA | standard | 7.47 | 34.14 | 4.57 | arnE | 10.7 | 1.97 | 1.18 | 0.012091365 | 0.04162143 |
| amyA | standard | 15.63 | 71.35 | 4.57 | hscA | 342.73 | 1.96 | 0.4 | 1.70E-07 | 1.92E-06 |
| hscA | standard | 41.44 | 187.78 | 4.53 | rpoE | 319.84 | 1.95 | 0.35 | 5.02E-09 | 6.80E-08 |
| cysI | standard | 21.74 | 98.05 | 4.51 | amiC | 208.92 | 1.95 | 0.38 | 5.25E-08 | 6.52E-07 |
| fepE | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | ugpE | 16.7 | 1.94 | 0.94 | 0.005879849 | 0.023026342 |
| folK | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | ymiA | 23.96 | 1.91 | 0.78 | 0.002399407 | 0.010880791 |
| hisA | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | yahO | 74.6 | 1.91 | 0.51 | 3.29E-05 | 2.40E-04 |
| hisM | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | phoU | 114.77 | 1.91 | 0.44 | 2.77E-06 | 2.50E-05 |
| hyaF | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | ykfG | 11.5 | 1.9 | 1.13 | 0.012368798 | 0.042181183 |
| insD1 | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | pstB | 120.34 | 1.9 | 0.43 | 2.03E-06 | 1.86E-05 |
| moaE | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | basS | 32.19 | 1.89 | 0.68 | 9.49E-04 | 0.004844557 |
| pdxI | standard | 3.4 | 15.32 | 4.51 | slyA | 260.77 | 1.89 | 0.36 | 3.52E-08 | 4.47E-07 |
| sapF | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | yhiD | 15.9 | 1.89 | 0.94 | 0.007083942 | 0.026705609 |
| waaF | standard | 1.36 | 6.13 | 4.51 | kefG | 73.43 | 1.87 | 0.51 | 4.47E-05 | 3.18E-04 |
| yafL | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | yobH | 41.89 | 1.86 | 0.61 | 4.13E-04 | 0.002321485 |
| ycbV | standard | 0.68 | 3.06 | 4.51 | selC | 48.44 | 1.85 | 0.58 | 2.89E-04 | 0.001710781 |
| ydaG | small | 1.36 | 6.13 | 4.51 | fdx | 172.13 | 1.85 | 0.44 | 5.09E-06 | 4.40E-05 |
| yfdX | standard | 1.36 | 6.13 | 4.51 | kbp | 41.95 | 1.84 | 0.61 | 4.87E-04 | 0.002664475 |
| aat | standard | 61.83 | 278.82 | 4.51 | gadF | 49.84 | 1.84 | 0.63 | 6.72E-04 | 0.003539518 |
| livJ | standard | 2.04 | 9.19 | 4.51 | bglA | 277.97 | 1.84 | 0.38 | 2.40E-07 | 2.66E-06 |
| paaK | standard | 2.04 | 9.19 | 4.51 | yodD | 16.48 | 1.83 | 0.92 | 0.007466941 | 0.027947439 |
| trmD | standard | 148.11 | 664.89 | 4.49 | hdeB | 216.8 | 1.83 | 0.43 | 3.89E-06 | 3.44E-05 |

| gene | type | | | | gene | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| mgtS | small | 2234.61 | 9955.35 | 4.46 | osmC | 176.67 | 1.83 | 0.41 | 1.61E-06 | 1.52E-05 |
| bfr | standard | 13.59 | 60.4 | 4.45 | yhbE | 148.23 | 1.81 | 0.43 | 5.00E-06 | 4.33E-05 |
| osmF | standard | 4.76 | 21.01 | 4.42 | mlaD | 217.43 | 1.8 | 0.37 | 2.49E-07 | 2.73E-06 |
| tomB | standard | 27.86 | 122.12 | 4.38 | cspB | 69.69 | 1.79 | 0.51 | 9.40E-05 | 6.26E-04 |
| dkgB | standard | 11.55 | 50.34 | 4.36 | serW | 53.51 | 1.79 | 0.58 | 3.98E-04 | 0.002250482 |
| bcsG | standard | 2.72 | 11.82 | 4.35 | serX | 53.51 | 1.79 | 0.58 | 3.98E-04 | 0.002250482 |
| ydeP | standard | 2.72 | 11.82 | 4.35 | ortT | 31.77 | 1.79 | 0.74 | 0.002848726 | 0.012607727 |
| ycgZ | standard | 20.38 | 88.42 | 4.34 | yfeK | 18.38 | 1.78 | 0.86 | 0.006865127 | 0.025974585 |
| glk | standard | 43.48 | 188.22 | 4.33 | yafX | 24.7 | 1.78 | 0.76 | 0.00357779 | 0.015231165 |
| cynR | standard | 22.42 | 96.73 | 4.31 | basR | 41.62 | 1.76 | 0.61 | 7.62E-04 | 0.003938452 |
| fxsA | standard | 8.83 | 38.08 | 4.31 | yabI | 44.88 | 1.76 | 0.58 | 5.35E-04 | 0.002873773 |
| yhfG | standard | 12.91 | 55.15 | 4.27 | gadE | 27.23 | 1.76 | 0.76 | 0.004028227 | 0.0168282 |
| amiB | standard | 9.51 | 40.27 | 4.23 | azuC | 71.86 | 1.76 | 0.62 | 9.66E-04 | 0.004912092 |
| ldtC | standard | 16.99 | 71.35 | 4.2 | mdaB | 102.97 | 1.75 | 0.45 | 2.21E-05 | 1.67E-04 |
| rstA | standard | 64.54 | 270.51 | 4.19 | ynfS | 90.26 | 1.75 | 0.46 | 3.43E-05 | 2.50E-04 |
| ahr | standard | 9.51 | 39.83 | 4.19 | ydhR | 93 | 1.73 | 0.46 | 4.57E-05 | 3.23E-04 |
| fbaB | standard | 9.51 | 39.83 | 4.19 | rcnA | 13.84 | 1.73 | 0.99 | 0.01356292 | 0.045147211 |
| bcsF | standard | 1.36 | 5.69 | 4.19 | ysgD | 402.58 | 1.72 | 0.35 | 2.73E-07 | 2.98E-06 |
| chbG | standard | 5.44 | 22.76 | 4.19 | shoB | 19.74 | 1.72 | 0.83 | 0.007317217 | 0.027419846 |
| fadE | standard | 2.72 | 11.38 | 4.19 | ygdI | 40.7 | 1.71 | 0.6 | 9.86E-04 | 0.004994682 |
| ycgB | standard | 7.47 | 31.08 | 4.16 | mlaB | 155.62 | 1.71 | 0.4 | 4.03E-06 | 3.53E-05 |
| gsiB | standard | 3.4 | 14.01 | 4.12 | rem | 13.58 | 1.7 | 1 | 0.01516317 | 0.049319708 |
| pxpA | standard | 3.4 | 14.01 | 4.12 | ybaP | 80.94 | 1.7 | 0.47 | 8.16E-05 | 5.53E-04 |
| wecB | standard | 2.04 | 8.32 | 4.08 | mltF | 22.43 | 1.68 | 0.78 | 0.006371506 | 0.02459144 |
| ydeM | standard | 2.04 | 8.32 | 4.08 | yciX | 63.21 | 1.67 | 0.51 | 2.67E-04 | 0.001591423 |
| nimR | standard | 10.87 | 44.21 | 4.07 | leuT | 333.1 | 1.66 | 0.42 | 1.71E-05 | 1.31E-04 |
| psiF | standard | 8.83 | 35.89 | 4.06 | leuV | 333.1 | 1.66 | 0.42 | 1.71E-05 | 1.31E-04 |
| ynjB | standard | 9.51 | 38.08 | 4 | leuQ | 333.1 | 1.66 | 0.42 | 1.71E-05 | 1.31E-04 |
| yiaG | standard | 10.19 | 40.71 | 3.99 | trpT | 53.05 | 1.66 | 0.55 | 6.59E-04 | 0.0034826 |
| uhpB | standard | 12.91 | 51.21 | 3.97 | hdeA | 666.9 | 1.65 | 0.37 | 2.31E-06 | 2.11E-05 |
| ecpR | standard | 5.44 | 21.45 | 3.95 | elaB | 154.33 | 1.65 | 0.4 | 1.08E-05 | 8.61E-05 |
| mntP | standard | 23.1 | 91.04 | 3.94 | letA | 25.84 | 1.64 | 0.73 | 0.005293456 | 0.021180592 |
| msyB | standard | 78.13 | 307.71 | 3.94 | mltD | 413.19 | 1.64 | 0.34 | 4.54E-07 | 4.79E-06 |
| dgcQ | standard | 6.11 | 24.07 | 3.94 | glmY | 73.6 | 1.61 | 0.49 | 2.56E-04 | 0.001541773 |
| ydbJ | standard | 99.87 | 392.19 | 3.93 | maeA | 355.15 | 1.61 | 0.37 | 3.00E-06 | 2.70E-05 |
| alx | standard | 7.47 | 29.33 | 3.92 | ykfF | 34.95 | 1.6 | 0.64 | 0.002915101 | 0.012813055 |
| yraQ | standard | 38.05 | 148.82 | 3.91 | tatD | 80.68 | 1.6 | 0.48 | 2.05E-04 | 0.001258503 |
| ldtA | standard | 29.89 | 116.87 | 3.91 | ynaI | 32.23 | 1.6 | 0.67 | 0.003919051 | 0.016504319 |
| rhoL | small | 10.87 | 42.46 | 3.91 | rseA | 791.21 | 1.59 | 0.33 | 2.88E-07 | 3.13E-06 |
| ygiW | standard | 6.79 | 26.26 | 3.87 | glgS | 35.1 | 1.59 | 0.66 | 0.003814277 | 0.016106441 |
| gudX | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | gcvB | 3584.49 | 1.59 | 0.32 | 1.68E-07 | 1.91E-06 |
| ibsB | small | 2.72 | 10.51 | 3.87 | msyB | 63.26 | 1.58 | 0.52 | 6.14E-04 | 0.003265833 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *malX* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *valW* | 46.96 | 1.58 | 0.59 | 0.001741963 | 0.008208737 |
| *mdtD* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *aspU* | 650.02 | 1.58 | 0.34 | 1.23E-06 | 1.18E-05 |
| *moaD* | standard | 1.36 | 5.25 | 3.87 | *aspV* | 650.02 | 1.58 | 0.34 | 1.23E-06 | 1.18E-05 |
| *msrP* | standard | 1.36 | 5.25 | 3.87 | *aspT* | 650.02 | 1.58 | 0.34 | 1.23E-06 | 1.18E-05 |
| *phnN* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *ompX* | 4546.19 | 1.57 | 0.32 | 2.02E-07 | 2.27E-06 |
| *pphA* | standard | 1.36 | 5.25 | 3.87 | *pmrR* | 156.83 | 1.57 | 0.39 | 1.97E-05 | 1.50E-04 |
| *recO* | standard | 1.36 | 5.25 | 3.87 | *tyrV* | 115.05 | 1.56 | 0.44 | 1.12E-04 | 7.33E-04 |
| *rseC* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *tyrT* | 115.05 | 1.56 | 0.44 | 1.12E-04 | 7.33E-04 |
| *sxy* | standard | 1.36 | 5.25 | 3.87 | *mlaC* | 223.38 | 1.56 | 0.37 | 6.04E-06 | 5.08E-05 |
| *trmO* | standard | 2.72 | 10.51 | 3.87 | *emrD* | 40.84 | 1.55 | 0.6 | 0.0025991 | 0.011651268 |
| *ydhP* | standard | 18.34 | 70.91 | 3.87 | *ydhP* | 31.46 | 1.54 | 0.67 | 0.005090086 | 0.020524328 |
| *yfbN* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *dinJ* | 131.95 | 1.54 | 0.41 | 5.98E-05 | 4.14E-04 |
| *yjcO* | standard | 0.68 | 2.63 | 3.87 | *iscR* | 308.39 | 1.54 | 0.51 | 7.04E-04 | 0.003669559 |
| *pyrR* | standard | 2.04 | 7.88 | 3.87 | *sra* | 525.89 | 1.53 | 0.34 | 1.75E-06 | 1.64E-05 |
| *ybjC* | standard | 8.15 | 31.52 | 3.87 | *yoeB* | 53.81 | 1.52 | 0.54 | 0.001361759 | 0.006609666 |
| *paaJ* | standard | 2.04 | 7.88 | 3.87 | *gltS* | 37.19 | 1.5 | 0.62 | 0.004079394 | 0.017019232 |
| *tmcA* | standard | 2.04 | 7.88 | 3.87 | *osmY* | 248.23 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 4.80E-05 | 3.38E-04 |
| *yceM* | standard | 2.04 | 7.88 | 3.87 | *ugpC* | 28.39 | 1.46 | 0.69 | 0.009072358 | 0.032932027 |
| *ydeI* | standard | 2.04 | 7.88 | 3.87 | *soxS* | 136.64 | 1.45 | 0.42 | 1.65E-04 | 0.001041569 |
| *yghB* | standard | 42.8 | 164.58 | 3.85 | *yejG* | 207.82 | 1.45 | 0.4 | 8.98E-05 | 6.04E-04 |
| *ymiA* | small | 138.6 | 530.51 | 3.83 | *ykiD* | 30.44 | 1.44 | 0.66 | 0.008017026 | 0.029651623 |
| *yibF* | standard | 7.47 | 28.45 | 3.81 | *cof* | 36.87 | 1.43 | 0.61 | 0.005648098 | 0.022314267 |
| *yphH* | standard | 11.55 | 43.77 | 3.79 | *rcnR* | 28.58 | 1.43 | 0.68 | 0.00981519 | 0.035219873 |
| *curA* | standard | 22.42 | 84.92 | 3.79 | *rpoS* | 518.95 | 1.41 | 0.33 | 5.85E-06 | 4.95E-05 |
| *npr* | standard | 15.63 | 59.09 | 3.78 | *ryfA* | 56.68 | 1.41 | 0.52 | 0.002227727 | 0.010235766 |
| *ytfF* | standard | 9.51 | 35.89 | 3.77 | *yqhA* | 154.26 | 1.39 | 0.39 | 1.37E-04 | 8.75E-04 |
| *cysE* | standard | 47.56 | 178.59 | 3.76 | *psiE* | 28.88 | 1.39 | 0.68 | 0.011626599 | 0.040374065 |
| *yedA* | standard | 7.47 | 28.01 | 3.75 | *glyU* | 39.24 | 1.38 | 0.6 | 0.006460553 | 0.024823494 |
| *osmY* | standard | 40.09 | 150.14 | 3.75 | *erpA* | 165.91 | 1.35 | 0.47 | 0.001365789 | 0.006615408 |
| *gadW* | standard | 63.19 | 236.37 | 3.74 | *yeaQ* | 65.54 | 1.35 | 0.5 | 0.002133684 | 0.009848486 |
| *dacC* | standard | 55.71 | 208.35 | 3.74 | *dkgB* | 31.73 | 1.35 | 0.65 | 0.011599563 | 0.040332427 |
| *ytiA* | standard | 3.4 | 12.69 | 3.74 | *yceK* | 99.9 | 1.33 | 0.46 | 0.00134666 | 0.006563393 |
| *dnaC* | standard | 9.51 | 35.45 | 3.73 | *adhP* | 30.59 | 1.33 | 0.65 | 0.012832445 | 0.043221442 |
| *phoP* | standard | 233.04 | 864.48 | 3.71 | *cspF* | 36.22 | 1.32 | 0.61 | 0.009769932 | 0.035138064 |
| *hybD* | standard | 2.72 | 10.07 | 3.7 | *cydH* | 77.27 | 1.32 | 0.47 | 0.001728634 | 0.008158215 |
| *tatB* | standard | 2.72 | 10.07 | 3.7 | *yefM* | 123.88 | 1.32 | 0.41 | 5.11E-04 | 0.002764991 |
| *yebE* | standard | 12.91 | 47.27 | 3.66 | *yedR* | 30.32 | 1.31 | 0.65 | 0.014078261 | 0.046418208 |
| *nagA* | standard | 14.95 | 54.71 | 3.66 | *degP* | 308.32 | 1.3 | 0.36 | 9.23E-05 | 6.19E-04 |
| *hemF* | standard | 6.11 | 22.32 | 3.65 | *yqeF* | 37.96 | 1.29 | 0.61 | 0.011566698 | 0.040303115 |
| *dadX* | standard | 2.04 | 7.44 | 3.65 | *yebV* | 154.21 | 1.29 | 0.41 | 5.61E-04 | 0.003003626 |
| *ggt* | standard | 4.08 | 14.88 | 3.65 | *iscS* | 431.78 | 1.29 | 0.45 | 0.001488886 | 0.007167266 |
| *yoeB* | standard | 2.04 | 7.44 | 3.65 | *zapC* | 130.31 | 1.28 | 0.4 | 5.74E-04 | 0.003072022 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *letA* | standard | 52.99 | 193.03 | 3.64 | *yncL* | 120.28 | 1.28 | 0.42 | 9.49E-04 | 0.004844557 |
| *ytjA* | standard | 47.56 | 172.46 | 3.63 | *ohsC* | 109.96 | 1.27 | 0.42 | 0.001015212 | 0.005098873 |
| *uvrY* | standard | 27.18 | 98.05 | 3.61 | *yrbN* | 225.13 | 1.27 | 0.37 | 2.38E-04 | 0.001449485 |
| *yhjD* | standard | 8.15 | 29.33 | 3.6 | *mdtK* | 62.12 | 1.27 | 0.5 | 0.00443095 | 0.018242686 |
| *tehA* | standard | 18.34 | 65.66 | 3.58 | *yghE* | 41.85 | 1.27 | 0.58 | 0.010335855 | 0.036693964 |
| *adhP* | standard | 5.44 | 19.26 | 3.54 | *rsxA* | 53.19 | 1.26 | 0.54 | 0.006530064 | 0.024978693 |
| *cmoB* | standard | 1.36 | 4.81 | 3.54 | *sfsA* | 54.6 | 1.25 | 0.52 | 0.006450973 | 0.024823494 |
| *pncA* | standard | 1.36 | 4.81 | 3.54 | *ytiB* | 51.03 | 1.25 | 0.54 | 0.007595897 | 0.028362246 |
| *uhpC* | standard | 1.36 | 4.81 | 3.54 | *tusA* | 75.69 | 1.25 | 0.47 | 0.003008532 | 0.013056443 |
| *insA4* | standard | 4.08 | 14.44 | 3.54 | *rplS* | 741.32 | 1.24 | 0.34 | 1.17E-04 | 7.62E-04 |
| *pmrD* | standard | 158.3 | 556.33 | 3.51 | *rnlB* | 45.16 | 1.23 | 0.56 | 0.010036429 | 0.035808421 |
| *slp* | standard | 19.02 | 66.53 | 3.5 | *blr* | 68.02 | 1.23 | 0.49 | 0.004412675 | 0.018201483 |
| *yfjD* | standard | 4.76 | 16.63 | 3.5 | *bfr* | 69.08 | 1.23 | 0.49 | 0.004582157 | 0.018766453 |
| *talA* | standard | 13.59 | 47.27 | 3.48 | *ibpA* | 46.01 | 1.2 | 0.55 | 0.011140268 | 0.038903904 |
| *yhbO* | standard | 6.79 | 23.64 | 3.48 | *tatE* | 68.34 | 1.19 | 0.48 | 0.005545779 | 0.022021246 |
| *yidZ* | standard | 29.89 | 103.74 | 3.47 | *iscX* | 499.84 | 1.18 | 0.4 | 0.001193108 | 0.005907016 |
| *yecN* | standard | 42.8 | 147.95 | 3.46 | *obgE* | 194.26 | 1.17 | 0.39 | 9.99E-04 | 0.005046111 |
| *mepM* | standard | 15.63 | 53.84 | 3.45 | *tolC* | 692.49 | 1.17 | 0.33 | 2.01E-04 | 0.001238049 |
| *ecnA* | small | 2.04 | 7 | 3.44 | *iscU* | 305.42 | 1.16 | 0.43 | 0.002823147 | 0.012529967 |
| *fecC* | standard | 2.04 | 7 | 3.44 | *frmR* | 87.67 | 1.15 | 0.45 | 0.004308386 | 0.01787923 |
| *phnD* | standard | 4.08 | 14.01 | 3.44 | *rseC* | 118.42 | 1.15 | 0.41 | 0.002334944 | 0.010619245 |
| *ycgY* | standard | 2.04 | 7 | 3.44 | *eco* | 76.98 | 1.15 | 0.47 | 0.006182743 | 0.024121949 |
| *ychO* | standard | 4.08 | 14.01 | 3.44 | *atpI* | 308.54 | 1.14 | 0.35 | 4.75E-04 | 0.002606775 |
| *ynjD* | standard | 2.04 | 7 | 3.44 | *rpoZ* | 113.46 | 1.14 | 0.44 | 0.004444168 | 0.018273064 |
| *thiL* | standard | 8.83 | 30.2 | 3.42 | *roxA* | 178.9 | 1.14 | 0.38 | 0.001264669 | 0.006212163 |
| *ybiR* | standard | 8.83 | 30.2 | 3.42 | *lpxT* | 53.03 | 1.14 | 0.53 | 0.013268514 | 0.04421425 |
| *ytjB* | standard | 69.3 | 236.8 | 3.42 | *hdeD* | 64.47 | 1.13 | 0.53 | 0.012893055 | 0.043351172 |
| *metI* | standard | 4.76 | 16.2 | 3.41 | *rcnB* | 64.97 | 1.13 | 0.49 | 0.008988767 | 0.032666496 |
| *ybjS* | standard | 93.76 | 318.66 | 3.4 | *yffB* | 84.37 | 1.12 | 0.46 | 0.006420724 | 0.024741928 |
| *dnaK* | standard | 14.95 | 50.77 | 3.4 | *cdsA* | 70.95 | 1.1 | 0.49 | 0.011431427 | 0.03987618 |
| *rcsC* | standard | 12.91 | 43.77 | 3.39 | *iscA* | 310.37 | 1.1 | 0.42 | 0.004388433 | 0.018139242 |
| *phnO* | standard | 10.87 | 36.77 | 3.38 | *osmB* | 100.71 | 1.09 | 0.43 | 0.005613039 | 0.022203793 |
| *pspD* | standard | 40.77 | 137.44 | 3.37 | *lysU* | 87.48 | 1.08 | 0.46 | 0.008192364 | 0.030264355 |
| *hokD* | standard | 38.73 | 130.44 | 3.37 | *ecnB* | 69.09 | 1.08 | 0.48 | 0.010833276 | 0.038044129 |
| *inaA* | standard | 15.63 | 52.53 | 3.36 | *pepB* | 120.64 | 1.08 | 0.42 | 0.004873856 | 0.019754267 |
| *pabB* | standard | 39.41 | 131.75 | 3.34 | *rseB* | 238.27 | 1.07 | 0.36 | 0.001374135 | 0.006645545 |
| *yfdC* | standard | 19.7 | 65.66 | 3.33 | *nadD* | 71.06 | 1.05 | 0.47 | 0.012553295 | 0.042741306 |
| *fumE* | standard | 25.82 | 85.79 | 3.32 | *ivy* | 123.06 | 1.05 | 0.41 | 0.005102016 | 0.020545956 |
| *aroC* | standard | 4.76 | 15.76 | 3.31 | *bax* | 212.78 | 1.04 | 0.36 | 0.002015903 | 0.009331005 |
| *wecF* | standard | 16.99 | 56.03 | 3.3 | *bssS* | 188.72 | 1.03 | 0.37 | 0.002690689 | 0.011976054 |
| *yadX* | small | 23.78 | 78.35 | 3.29 | *bolA* | 157.88 | 1.02 | 0.4 | 0.00569691 | 0.022448028 |
| *degP* | standard | 21.06 | 69.16 | 3.28 | *ydgK* | 78.89 | 1.01 | 0.45 | 0.012656898 | 0.042898198 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ydhI* | standard | 14.27 | 46.84 | 3.28 |
| *ymdF* | standard | 14.27 | 46.84 | 3.28 |
| *hisQ* | standard | 16.99 | 55.59 | 3.27 |
| *yodC* | standard | 161.7 | 524.82 | 3.25 |
| *abpA* | standard | 24.46 | 79.23 | 3.24 |
| *ybjG* | standard | 303.02 | 980.92 | 3.24 |
| *yeaG* | standard | 29.89 | 96.73 | 3.24 |
| *mrcB* | standard | 48.24 | 155.83 | 3.23 |
| *mrdB* | standard | 1.36 | 4.38 | 3.22 |
| *acpS* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *arnF* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *essQ* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *hcr* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *ilvH* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *insB2* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *insB3* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *kduI* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *lpxK* | standard | 2.04 | 6.57 | 3.22 |
| *narJ* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *sufD* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *treA* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *yaaI* | standard | 1.36 | 4.38 | 3.22 |
| *ydhT* | standard | 1.36 | 4.38 | 3.22 |
| *ydhU* | standard | 2.04 | 6.57 | 3.22 |
| *ynaK* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *ynbA* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *ypdC* | standard | 0.68 | 2.19 | 3.22 |
| *yqeC* | standard | 1.36 | 4.38 | 3.22 |
| *yqiA* | standard | 16.99 | 54.28 | 3.2 |
| *ybgA* | standard | 9.51 | 30.2 | 3.18 |
| *ydgJ* | standard | 108.03 | 342.73 | 3.17 |
| *ynfC* | standard | 8.83 | 28.01 | 3.17 |
| *yhbQ* | standard | 74.74 | 236.8 | 3.17 |
| *metL* | standard | 10.87 | 34.14 | 3.14 |
| *eamA* | standard | 14.27 | 44.65 | 3.13 |
| *dusC* | standard | 9.51 | 29.76 | 3.13 |
| *relE* | standard | 4.76 | 14.88 | 3.13 |
| *ygdR* | standard | 307.1 | 952.03 | 3.1 |
| *yfeY* | standard | 57.07 | 176.84 | 3.1 |
| *dnaG* | standard | 17.66 | 54.71 | 3.1 |
| *mukE* | standard | 35.33 | 108.99 | 3.08 |
| *slt* | standard | 15.63 | 48.15 | 3.08 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *lpxB* | 94.1 | 1 | 0.44 | 0.011029168 | 0.038645314 |
| *deaD* | 606.52 | 0.99 | 0.33 | 0.001428271 | 0.006886069 |
| *frmA* | 117.64 | 0.96 | 0.41 | 0.009881474 | 0.03533615 |
| *ybiE* | 142.68 | 0.96 | 0.39 | 0.008000962 | 0.029627231 |
| *yrbL* | 258.5 | 0.94 | 0.35 | 0.004091926 | 0.017048785 |
| *pheM* | 167.34 | 0.93 | 0.38 | 0.008333725 | 0.030642886 |
| *ybhL* | 238.82 | 0.91 | 0.38 | 0.008835762 | 0.032260328 |
| *hspQ* | 188.37 | 0.87 | 0.38 | 0.012704292 | 0.042928435 |
| *ydiH* | 403.56 | 0.86 | 0.33 | 0.005399113 | 0.021548245 |
| *cpxP* | 205.41 | 0.86 | 0.37 | 0.011798686 | 0.040793466 |
| *thrW* | 199.73 | 0.83 | 0.36 | 0.013973818 | 0.046178214 |
| *nlpD* | 735.03 | 0.77 | 0.31 | 0.008684907 | 0.031820928 |
| *csrB* | 2954.91 | 0.68 | 0.29 | 0.014267278 | 0.046991908 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ybiJ* | standard | 6.11 | 18.82 | 3.08 |
| *moaA* | standard | 26.5 | 81.41 | 3.07 |
| *zraR* | standard | 23.1 | 70.91 | 3.07 |
| *insH5* | standard | 32.61 | 99.8 | 3.06 |
| *cvpA* | standard | 17.66 | 53.4 | 3.02 |
| *tcdA* | standard | 30.57 | 91.92 | 3.01 |
| *ycjX* | standard | 8.15 | 24.51 | 3.01 |
| *yigL* | standard | 4.08 | 12.26 | 3.01 |
| *ymiC* | small | 282.63 | 839.53 | 3.00 |

**Table S5. Verification of protein expression from the genomic locus for the 17 candidates identified in this study using Ribo-RET.**

| Small Protein | Small protein expression by genomic tagging first reported in | Media used |
|---|---|---|
| MgtS | [16] | LB |
| | [17] | Supplemented N-minimal medium with no added $Mg^{2+}$ |
| MgrB | [16] | LB |
| PmrR | [18] | N-minimal medium, pH 7.7 with 10 µM $Mg^{2+}$ |
| MgtT | [19] | LB |
| YmiC | [20] | LB |
| YmiA | [16] | LB |
| YoaI | [This Study] | Supplemented minimal A medium with 10 mM, 1 mM and no added $Mg^{2+}$ |
| YobF | [16] | LB |
| | [3] | LB + heat shock (45°C) |
| YddY | [20] | LB |
| YriB | [19] | LB |
| YadX | [19] | LB |
| YkgS | [20] | LB |
| YriA | [19] | LB |
| YdgU | [16] | LB |
| YqhI | [20] | LB |
| YadW | [20] | LB |
| DinQ | [21] | LB |

**Table S6. Localization, Tag, and Membrane Topology Prediction of Small Proteins**

| Small Protein | Localization | Epitope tag | Reference | Prediction of transmembrane helix and orientation | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | TMHMM [22] | TMPred [23] | Phobius [24] |
| MgtS | Membrane | C-terminal/FLAG and C-terminal/GFP | 16,25 | Yes | Predicted helix: 7-25 (19aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Cytoplasmic (1-6aa) / Transmembrane (7-25aa) / Non - cytoplasmic (26-31aa) |
| MgrB | Membrane | C-terminal/FLAG and N-terminal/GFP | 1,16 | Yes | Predicted helix: 6-24 (19aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Positively charged or n-region (1-5aa) / Hydrophobic α-helical or h-region (6-17aa)/ Non cytoplasmic (22-47) |
| PmrR | Membrane | C-terminal/6XHis | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 5-27 (23aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Cytoplasmic (1-8aa) / transmembrane (9-26 aa) / non cytoplasmic (27-29aa) |
| | | N-terminal/FLAG-6XHis (*S. enterica* PmrR) | 18 | | | |
| MgtT | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| YmiC | Membrane | N-terminal/GFP | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 8-29 (22aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Cytoplasmic (1-8aa) / Transmembrane (9-29aa) / Non - cytoplasmic (30-31aa) |
| YmiA | Membrane | N-terminal/GFP | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 22-42 (21aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Cytoplasmic (1-20aa) / Transmembrane (21-42aa) / Non - cytoplasmic (43-46aa) |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YoaI | Membrane | C-terminal/GFP | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 10-20 (21aa); Outside to Inside: N-terminus facing periplasm | Non - cytoplasmic (1-5aa) / Transmembrane (6-30aa) / Cytoplasmic (31-34aa) |
| YobF | Membrane | C-terminal/6XHis | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 25-41 (17aa); Outside to Inside: N-terminus facing periplasm | Non cytoplasmic |
| YddY | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| YriB | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| YadX | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Cytoplasmic |
| YkgS | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Cytoplasmic |
| YriA | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| YdgU | Membrane | N-terminal/GFP | This study | Yes | Predicted helix: 7-26 (20aa); Inside to Outside: N-terminus facing cytoplasm | Cytoplasmic (1-6aa) / Transmembrane (7-26aa) / Non - cytoplasmic (27aa) |
| YqhI | Cytoplasm | N-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| YadW | Cytoplasm | C-terminal/GFP | This study | No | NA | Non cytoplasmic |
| DinQ | Membrane | N-terminal FLAG | [21] | Yes | Predicted helix: 1-22 (22aa); Outside to Inside: N-terminal facing periplasm | Non - cytoplasmic (1-5aa) / Transmembrane (6-23aa) / Cytoplasmic (24-27aa) |

**Figure S1. A Ribogrid analysis representing Ribo-RET reads aligned to the genome.** The rows represent reads of varying lengths, and the columns indicate the position of the 3'-end of a footprint.

**Figure S2. Validation of Ribo-RET in detecting ribosome occupancy on annotated start site of proteins known to be induced under low Mg²⁺ stress.**
(A-D) Ribo-RET reads mapping to the translation start site of proteins (A) PhoP, (B) PhoQ, (C) MgtS, and (D) PhoB at no stress condition (10 mM Mg²⁺) and low Mg²⁺ stress. A purple dashed line indicates the translation start site.

**Figure S3. Validation of RNA-Seq in detecting transcripts known to be induced under low Mg²⁺ stress.** Scatterplot showing the correlation between the normalized RNA-Seq reads mapping to all the annotated genes under low Mg²⁺ stress and no stress. *mgtS, mgrB, phoP, phoQ*, *mgtA,* and *phoB,* known to be induced under magnesium starvation, are highlighted in red triangle, while the rest of the transcripts are highlighted in gray circles. Pearson's coefficient, r= 0.8. The data is derived from the average of two biological replicates.

**Figure S4. Validation of low magnesium-dependent expression of a small protein, YoaI in the cell.** (A) Ribo-RET data for small protein YoaI induced under low Mg$^{2+}$ stress. The translation start site is indicated by a purple dashed line. (B) Validation of YoaI expression using a strain containing *yoaI-SPA* genomic fusion (GSO317). Cells were grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing MgSO$_4$ at the indicated concentration. Membrane (M) and cytoplasmic (C) fractions were analyzed by western blotting using M2 anti-FLAG antibodies (top) and by Coomassie Brilliant Blue staining (bottom). The data represents results from two independent replicates.

**Figure S5. Membrane localization of small proteins identified by epitope tagging.** (A) Schematic representation of GFP-tagged small protein constructs. (B) Fluorescence micrographs of *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 cells expressing GFP-MgrB (pAL38), GFP-YdgU (pPJ3), GFP-YmiA (pPJ12), GFP-YmiC (pPJ13), YoaI-GFP (pPJ4), GFP-PmrR  (pPJ2), YobF-GFP (pPJ6), and GFP only (pAL39). (C) Schematic representation of 6XHis-tagged small protein constructs. (D) Western blot analysis of *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 cells expressing PmrR-6XHis (pSV14) and YobF-6XHis (pSV26), probed with anti-His antibodies. Membrane (M) and cytoplasm (C) fractions are indicated. In Panel B, cells were cultured in supplemented minimal A medium containing 1 mM $Mg^{2+}$ and 50 µg $ml^{-1}$ carbenicillin. In Panel D, the cells were grown in LB containing 100 µg $ml^{-1}$ carbenicillin. After four hours of growth, cells were induced with 500 µM IPTG and harvested two hours post-induction. The data represents results from two independent replicates.  Scale bar = 5 µm. (Also see Table S6)

**Figure S6. Quantification of cell size changes associated with overexpression of small proteins, MgtS, MgrB, PmrR, YkgS, YoaI, YmiA and DinQ.** Cell volume quantification (representative micrograph images are shown in Figure 8B) for the cells expressing small proteins during lag (top panel) and exponential phase (bottom panel) after induction are shown. Each circle corresponds to a single cell. Cells expressing small proteins are shown in red, cells expressing the start codon mutants are depicted in black, and the empty vector (pEB52) control is shown in gray. The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium with no added magnesium. For pSV34-36, pSV38-42, pSV60-61, pJS4, and pJS7, the medium contained 50 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin and 500 µM IPTG, while for pSV54-55, 0.5% arabinose was utilized. Data are derived from two independent replicates and the number of cells analyzed is indicated by (n). Mean cell volumes are shown with blue bars and are noted in blue text. P-values indicate the results of a t-test when the strains expressing small protein were compared to their variant with the translation start codon mutated, ****P ≤ 0.001, and "ns" = P > 0.05.

**Figure S7. Cell size changes associated with Δ*phoQ* under magnesium starvation.** (A)
Representative phase contrast micrographs of Δ*phoQ* (TIM202), and wild type (MG1655) cells
expressing an empty vector control (pEB52) during lag and exponential phase, scale bar = 5
μm. Cells were grown in supplemented minimal A medium with no added magnesium, and
50 μg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin. (B) Quantification of cell volume for the cells depicted in panel A. Each
circle corresponds to a single cell. Cells expressing Δ*phoQ* are shown in red and wild type cells
are shown in gray. Data are derived from three independent replicates and the number of cells
analyzed is indicated by (n). Mean cell volumes are shown with blue bars and are noted in blue
text. P-values indicate the results of a t-test when Δ*phoQ* cells were compared to the wild-type
cells, ****$P \leq 0.0001$.

**Figure S8. Effect of YoaI overexpression on the EnvZ-OmpR system.** (A) Transcriptional activity of *omrB* was measured as a function of *lacZ* expression in wild-type (JM2110) strain during the exponential growth phase upon YoaI (pSV34) and empty vector (pEB52) overexpression. Each circle represents a biological replicate, with the mean values from two independent experiments indicated, expressed in Miller units (MU). The cells were grown in LB containing 100 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin. After three hours of growth, cells were induced with 500 µM IPTG, and β-gal activity was measured two hours post-induction. (B-C) Porin expression was measured using CFP fluorescence (corresponding to *ompC*) and YFP fluorescence (corresponding to *ompF*) in wild-type (MDG147) strain during the exponential growth phase upon YoaI (pSV34) and empty vector (pEB52) overexpression. Each circle corresponds to a single cell. Cells overexpressing YoaI are depicted in red, while those with the empty vector are in gray. The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing 10mM MgSO$_4$ (no stress), 50 µg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin, and 500 µM IPTG. Data are derived from three independent replicates and the number of cells analyzed is indicated by (n). Mean fluorescence is shown with blue bars and is noted in blue text. P-values indicate the results of a t-test when cells overexpressing YoaI were compared to the empty vector control, ****P ≤ 0.0001.

**Figure S9. The phenotypes associated with PmrR are LpxT independent.** (A) Growth comparison of *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 wild-type and Δ*lpxT* strain (SV47) carrying a plasmid encoding the small protein PmrR (pSV35, red line), or an empty vector (pEB52, gray line). The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium containing 50 μg ml$^{-1}$ carbenicillin, 500 μM IPTG, and either 10 mM MgSO$_4$ (no stress) or no added magnesium (low Mg$^{2+}$). (B) The plot represents growth curves of wild-type *E. coli* MG1655 (gray) and mutants corresponding to gene deletions Δ*pmrR* (SV35, red line), Δ*lpxT* (SV47, green line), and Δ*pmrR* Δ*lpxT* (SV54, purple line). Please see Table S1 for details. The cultures were grown in supplemented minimal A medium with no added magnesium. Data represent averages and standard errors of means for four independent cultures.

# References

1. Lippa, A.M., and Goulian, M. (2009). Feedback inhibition in the PhoQ/PhoP signaling system by a membrane peptide. PLoS Genet. *5*, e1000788.

2. Hobbs, E.C., Astarita, J.L., and Storz, G. (2010). Small RNAs and small proteins involved in resistance to cell envelope stress and acid shock in Escherichia coli: analysis of a bar-coded mutant collection. J. Bacteriol. *192*, 59–67.

3. Hemm, M.R., Paul, B.J., Miranda-Ríos, J., Zhang, A., Soltanzad, N., and Storz, G. (2010). Small stress response proteins in Escherichia coli: proteins missed by classical proteomic studies. J. Bacteriol. *192*, 46–58.

4. Baba, T., Ara, T., Hasegawa, M., Takai, Y., Okumura, Y., Baba, M., Datsenko, K.A., Tomita, M., Wanner, B.L., and Mori, H. (2006). Construction of Escherichia coli K-12 in-frame, single-gene knockout mutants: the Keio collection. Mol. Syst. Biol. *2*, 2006.0008.

5. Batchelor, E., Silhavy, T.J., and Goulian, M. (2004). Continuous control in bacterial regulatory circuits. J. Bacteriol. *186*, 7618–7625.

6. Coornaert, A., Chiaruttini, C., Springer, M., and Guillier, M. (2013). Post-transcriptional control of the Escherichia coli PhoQ-PhoP two-component system by multiple sRNAs involves a novel pairing region of GcvB. PLoS Genet. *9*, e1003156.

7. Bastet, L., Korepanov, A.P., Jagodnik, J., Grondin, J.P., Lamontagne, A.-M., Guillier, M., and Lafontaine, D.A. (2024). Riboswitch and small RNAs modulate btuB translation initiation in Escherichia coli and trigger distinct mRNA regulatory mechanisms. Nucleic Acids Res. *52*, 5852–5865.

8. Yadavalli Srujana S., Goh Ted, Carey Jeffrey N., Malengo Gabriele, Vellappan Sangeevan, Nickels Bryce E., Sourjik Victor, Goulian Mark, Yuan Jing, and Silhavy Thomas J. (2020). Functional Determinants of a Small Protein Controlling a Broadly Conserved Bacterial Sensor Kinase. J. Bacteriol. *202*, e00305-20.

9. Miyashiro, T., and Goulian, M. (2007). Stimulus-dependent differential regulation in the Escherichia coli PhoQ PhoP system. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *104*, 16305–16310.

10. Goldberg, S.D., Clinthorne, G.D., Goulian, M., and DeGrado, W.F. (2010). Transmembrane polar interactions are required for signaling in the *Escherichia coli* sensor kinase PhoQ. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *107*, 8141–8146.

11. Bullock, W.O. (1987). XL1-blue : a high efficiency plasmid transforming recA Escherichia coli strain with beta-ga-lactosidase selection. Biotechniques *5*, 376.

12. Guzman, L.M., Belin, D., Carson, M.J., and Beckwith, J. (1995). Tight regulation, modulation, and high-level expression by vectors containing the arabinose PBAD promoter. J. Bacteriol. *177*, 4121–4130.

13. Cherepanov, P.P., and Wackernagel, W. (1995). Gene disruption in Escherichia coli: TcR and KmR cassettes with the option of Flp-catalyzed excision of the antibiotic-resistance determinant. Gene *158*, 9–14.

14. Datsenko, K.A., and Wanner, B.L. (2000). One-step inactivation of chromosomal genes in Escherichia coli K-12 using PCR products. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *97*, 6640–6645.

15. Amann, E., Ochs, B., and Abel, K.J. (1988). Tightly regulated tac promoter vectors useful for the expression of unfused and fused proteins in Escherichia coli. Gene *69*, 301–315.

16. Hemm, M.R., Paul, B.J., Schneider, T.D., Storz, G., and Rudd, K.E. (2008). Small membrane proteins found by comparative genomics and ribosome binding site models. Mol. Microbiol. *70*, 1487–1501.

17. Wang, H., Yin, X., Wu Orr, M., Dambach, M., Curtis, R., and Storz, G. (2017). Increasing intracellular magnesium levels with the 31-amino acid MgtS protein. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. *114*, 5689–5694.

18. Kato, A., Chen, H.D., Latifi, T., and Groisman, E.A. (2012). Reciprocal control between a bacterium's regulatory system and the modification status of its lipopolysaccharide. Mol. Cell *47*, 897–908.

19. Weaver, J., Mohammad, F., Buskirk, A.R., and Storz, G. (2019). Identifying Small Proteins by Ribosome Profiling with Stalled Initiation Complexes. MBio *10*. https://doi.org/10.1128/mBio.02819-18.

20. VanOrsdel, C.E., Kelly, J.P., Burke, B.N., Lein, C.D., Oufiero, C.E., Sanchez, J.F., Wimmers, L.E., Hearn, D.J., Abuikhdair, F.J., Barnhart, K.R., et al. (2018). Identifying New Small Proteins in Escherichia coli. Proteomics *18*, e1700064.

21. Weel-Sneve, R., Kristiansen, K.I., Odsbu, I., Dalhus, B., Booth, J., Rognes, T., Skarstad, K., and Bjørås, M. (2013). Single transmembrane peptide DinQ modulates membrane-dependent activities. PLoS Genet. *9*, e1003260.

22. Möller, S., Croning, M.D., and Apweiler, R. (2001). Evaluation of methods for the prediction of membrane spanning regions. Bioinformatics *17*, 646–653.

23. Ikeda, M., Arai, M., Okuno, T., and Shimizu, T. (2003). TMPDB: a database of experimentally-characterized transmembrane topologies. Nucleic Acids Res. *31*, 406–409.

24. Käll, L., Krogh, A., and Sonnhammer, E.L.L. (2004). A combined transmembrane topology and signal peptide prediction method. J. Mol. Biol. *338*, 1027–1036.

25. Fontaine, F., Fuchs, R.T., and Storz, G. (2011). Membrane localization of small proteins in Escherichia coli. J. Biol. Chem. *286*, 32464–32474.