

1 **Paradoxical  $\beta$ -lactamase activity of archaeal encoding enzymes**

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22

23 **Abstract**

24  $\beta$ -lactams targeting the bacterial cell wall are not efficient on archaea. Using  
25 phylogenetic analysis and common ancestor sequences for bacterial  $\beta$ -lactamases, we found  
26 serendipitously class B and class C-like  $\beta$ -lactamase genes in most archaea genomes. The  
27 class B  $\beta$ -lactamase appears to be highly conserved in archaea and to have been transferred in  
28 the bacterial genus *Elizabethkingia*. The experimentally expressed class B enzyme from  
29 *Methanosarcina barkeri* was able to digest penicillin G and was inhibited by a  $\beta$ -lactamase  
30 inhibitor (i.e. sulbactam). The class C-like  $\beta$ -lactamase was more closely related to DD-  
31 peptidase enzymes than known bacterial class C  $\beta$ -lactamases. The use of these very conserved  
32 genes in this domain cannot be explored as a defense system against  $\beta$ -lactams but may be  
33 used to feed  $\beta$ -lactams as a source of carbon as shown in bacteria.

34

35 **Introduction**

36           Antibiotics are part of the microorganism's arsenal in their struggle to master  
37 microbial ecosystems (1). Most antibiotics are non-ribosomal peptides assembled by  
38 megaenzymes, the non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPS) that have structural motifs  
39 which appear to be among the oldest of the living world (2, 3). As part of the Red Queen  
40 theory of evolutionary law (4), in the fight against  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics that act on the cell  
41 wall, bacteria have developed enzymes hydrolyzing these molecules, the  $\beta$ -lactamases. These  
42 enzymes, acting as hydrolases, also have extremely archaic motifs (3). Four molecular  
43 classes (labelled A, B, C and D) are described today (5). The three classes A, C, and D are  
44 characterized by a serine residue in their catalytic active site whereas the class B, metallo- $\beta$ -  
45 lactamase enzymes, is characterized by zinc as an essential metal cofactor in their catalytic  
46 active site (5). The struggle between  $\beta$ -lactams and  $\beta$ -lactamases appears to be essentially  
47 limited to bacteria. In archaeal microorganisms, it may be useless in this context as the  
48 antibiotic target in their cell wall is lacking (6, 7). In the current study, following a phylogeny  
49 analysis, we have investigated the presence of  $\beta$ -lactamase enzymes in archaeal species. The  
50 reconstruction of a common ancestor for  $\beta$ -lactamases easily identifies  $\beta$ -lactamases in genomic  
51 databases and in most archaeal genomes. Here, we demonstrate that the gene annotated as a  $\beta$ -  
52 lactamase in an encoding enzyme which when expressed, exhibits a typical  $\beta$ -lactamase  
53 activity.

## 54 **Results**

55 Blast analysis of known bacterial  $\beta$ -lactamase genes such as class A (TEM-24, SHV-  
56 12), class B (VIM-2, NDM-1), class C (CMY-12, AAC-1), and class D (OXA-23, OXA-58)  
57 show no or insignificant results (% identity  $\leq 24$ ) against the NCBI archaeal database.  
58 However, as described, ancestral sequences are capable of detecting remote homologous  
59 sequences from published biological databases (8). Consequently, using constructed  
60 phylogenetic trees (cf. suppl. figures) of the four bacterial  $\beta$ -lactamase classes, an ancestral  
61 sequence for each class was inferred. From the four inferred ancestral sequences, homologous  
62 sequences in the archaeal database were identified for the class B and C  $\beta$ -lactamases (**fig. S1**  
63 **and S2**). No significant hits were obtained for the class A and D.

64 **Archaeal Class B metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase.** An archaeal  $\beta$ -lactamase appeared highly  
65 conserved in several classes of archaea including *Archaeoglobi*, *Methanomicrobia*,  
66 *Methanobacteria*, *Thermococci*, *Methanococci*, *Thermoplasmata* and *Thermoprotei* (**fig. 1;**  
67 **Suppl. Table S1**) (9). To evaluate these archaeal enzymes activity, the protein from  
68 *Methanosarcina barkeri* (gi|851225341; 213 aa; 25.5 kDa)(**fig. 1** and **Suppl. Table S1**) was  
69 experimentally tested. Protein alignment of this latter with known bacterial metallo- $\beta$ -  
70 lactamase proteins reveals conserved motifs/amino acids including Histidine118 (His118),  
71 Aspartic acid 120 (Asp120), His196, and His263, markers of this metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase class B  
72 as previously described (10)(**fig. S3**). Three-dimensional (3D) structure comparison of this  
73 enzyme with known and well characterized proteins in the Phyre2 investigator database  
74 reveals 100% of confidence and 94% of coverage with the crystal structure of the New Delhi  
75 metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase 1 (NDM-1; Phyre2 ID: c3rkjA) (**Table S2**). To evaluate these archaeal  
76 enzymes activity, the MetbaB protein from *Methanosarcina barkeri* was experimentally  
77 tested. As expected, this enzyme exhibits a significant hydrolysis activity on nitrocefin (**fig.**  
78 **2A, 2B**) (with determined kinetic parameters  $k_{cat}=18.2\times 10^{-3} s^{-1}$ ,  $K_M=820 \mu M$  and resulting

79  $k_{cat}/K_M=22.19\text{ s}^{-1}\cdot\text{M}^{-1}$ ) and on penicillin G, when measuring its complete degradation toward  
80 a single metabolite i.e. benzyl penilloic acid within three hours (**fig. 2C**). As shown on **Suppl.**  
81 **Figure S4**, the MetbaB activity was also evaluated in different pH and was optimal on  
82 nitrocefin at pH 7. Furthermore, to confirm the  $\beta$ -lactamase activity of this enzyme, the  
83 combination of nitrocefin with  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor sulbactam (at 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) was tested. As  
84 shown in **Figure 2A** (column 4), in the presence of sulbactam, no degradation of the  
85 nitrocefin  $\beta$ -lactam could be detected, suggesting a complete inhibition of the archaeal  $\beta$ -  
86 lactamase enzyme. This neutralizing activity was confirmed microbiologically on a  
87 *Pneumococcus* strain highly susceptible to penicillin (MIC =0.012  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) and highly resistant  
88 to sulbactam (MIC =32  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ). Indeed, bacteria could grow in the presence of 0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of  
89 penicillin incubated with the archaeal  $\beta$ -lactamase, but not when sulbactam was added,  
90 suggesting an inhibition of penicillin G enzymatic digestion (**fig. 2D**).

91         The antibiotic susceptibility testing of a recombinant *E. coli* mutant containing this  
92 archaeal  $\beta$ -lactamase also revealed a reduced susceptibility to penicillin (from 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  to 4  
93  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) (data not shown). Interestingly, it appears that these archaeal  $\beta$ -lactamases are closely  
94 related to bacterial enzymes known as “GOB” (AF090141), which are fully functional in vivo  
95 and present in a single bacterial genus, namely *Elizabethkingia* (11, 12) (**fig. 1**). However, the  
96 MBL protein sequences of this bacterial genus compared to those of archaea reveal low  
97 similarities (less than 36%) and this therefore suggests an ancient HGT from an archaic  
98 phylum to this bacterial group, which furthermore exhibited  $\beta$ -lactam hydrolysis activity,  
99 previously considered to be fairly atypical for a bacterium (**Table S3**). Indeed, because  
100 archaea are naturally resistant to  $\beta$ -lactams, the role of these  $\beta$ -lactamases in these  
101 microorganisms remains to be clarified, but the digestion of  $\beta$ -lactams by  $\beta$ -lactamases in  
102 Archae to use it as a carbon source, as in bacteria, should be investigated (13).

103           **Archaeal class C-like  $\beta$ -lactamases:** Four significant sequences homologous to  
104 bacterial class C  $\beta$ -lactamase sequences were identified in archaea database using the inferred  
105 bacterial class C ancestor sequence (**fig. 3; Suppl. Table S1**). The phylogeny analysis shows  
106 that this third-class C-like of  $\beta$ -lactamases appears to be a very old class, a putative new clade,  
107 which cannot be identified without the reconstruction of the common ancestor (**fig. 3**). As  
108 shown in this figure, this class C-like enzyme appears more closely related to DD-peptidase  
109 enzymes than the known bacterial class C  $\beta$ -lactamases. Protein alignment reveals the same  
110 conserved motifs (S<sup>64</sup>XXK and Y<sup>150</sup>XN) identified in bacteria, the signature motifs of this  
111 class C  $\beta$ -lactamase (**fig. S5**). The three-dimensional (3D) structure comparison of this  
112 archaeal class C-like enzyme with known and well characterized proteins in the Phyre2  
113 investigator database reveals 100% of confidence and 66% of coverage with the crystal  
114 structure of the octameric penicillin-binding protein (PBP) homologue from *pyrococcus*  
115 *abyssi* (Phyre2 ID: c2qmiH) (**Table S2**). Similarly, the identified archaeal enzyme of this  
116 class C (gi|919167542) was also cloned in *E. coli* and found to be active in enzymatic level by  
117 hydrolyzing the nitrocefin (data not shown). This enzymatic activity was also confirmed by  
118 the kinetic assays showing the catalytic parameters  $k_{cat}=9.67\times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $K_m=583.6 \mu\text{M}$  and  
119  $k_{cat}/K_m=16.57 \text{ s}^{-1}\cdot\text{M}^{-1}$ , according to Michaelis-Menten equation fitting ( $R^2=0.984$ ).  
120 However, the  $\beta$ -lactams susceptibility testing of the recombinant *E. coli* strains harboring this  
121 sequence reveals no reduced susceptibility as compared to the control *E. coli* strains.

122

123 **Discussion**

124           The archaea microorganisms, in which these  $\beta$ -lactamases were identified, are fully  
125 resistant to  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics. So far,  $\beta$ -lactamases have been described and considered as  
126 one of the elements in the fight against  $\beta$ -lactams acting on the cell wall (14). Nevertheless,  
127 given the well-known and documented natural resistance of archaea to  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, it  
128 did not make sense to discover the existence of archaic  $\beta$ -lactamases in this microorganism  
129 group. In this current study, we show that two classes of  $\beta$ -lactamases can be found in  
130 archaea, especially in *Methanosarcina* species. These latter have the largest genomes in the  
131 archaea kingdom because of a massive horizontal gene transfer (HGT) from bacteria (15).  
132 The identified class B appears highly conserved in archaea, with a unique transfer event in  
133 *Elizabethkingia* species whereas, the class C enzyme appears as a new clade and more closely  
134 related to the DD-peptidase enzymes i.e. the penicillin binding proteins. So far, metallo- $\beta$ -  
135 lactamase enzymes in Archaea are essentially described with respect to their role in the DNA  
136 and RNA metabolism (16, 17). Here, we show that these archaeal enzymes can hydrolyze also  
137  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, as known for bacteria, and are inhibited by  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitors. So,  
138 the role of  $\beta$ -lactamases in Archaea is not totally understood. Our findings suggest that  
139 archaeal  $\beta$ -lactamases are as ancestral as those of bacteria, and HGT events have occurred  
140 from archaea to bacteria. Moreover, we highlight here that the use of consensual ancestor  
141 sequences from phylogenetic analyses, is an interesting approach to fish out remote  
142 homologous sequences to known ones in any sequences database.

143           Finally, the existence of  $\beta$ -lactamases in the world of archaea is showing that  $\beta$ -  
144 lactamases are not only a defense system against  $\beta$ -lactams. The use of antibiotics as a  
145 nutriment sources for archaea as key to degrade  $\beta$ -lactam molecules and use them as carbon  
146 sources as described in bacteria, is a plausible hypothesis (13, 18–20).

147

## 148 **Materials and Methods**

### 149 **Sequence analysis:**

150 A total of 1,155 amino acid sequences were retrieved (Class A: 620; B: 174; C: 151,  
151 and D: 210) from the ARG-ANNOT database (21). The phylogenetic trees were inferred  
152 using the approximate maximum-likelihood method in FastTree (22). For a detailed and  
153 comprehensive diversity analysis, a few sequences from each clade of the trees were selected  
154 as representatives of the corresponding clades (labeled in red in **fig. S1 and S2**).

155 The ancestral sequence was inferred using the maximum-likelihood method conducted  
156 by MEGA6 (23) software. Then, these ancestral sequences were used as queries in a BlastP  
157 (24) search ( $\geq 30\%$  sequence identity and  $\geq 50\%$  query coverage) against the NCBI-nr  
158 archaeal database. For Class C  $\beta$ -lactamase analysis, DD-peptidase sequences (penicillin  
159 binding proteins) were downloaded from the NCBI database. 2515 sequences were selected  
160 for local Blast analysis with the archaeal Class C-like  $\beta$ -lactamase used as query sequence  
161 (**GI: 919167542**). From this analysis, 24 DD-peptidase sequences were identified as  
162 homologous to the query and thus used for further phylogenetic tree analysis. The selected  
163 archaeal sequences were aligned with known bacterial  $\beta$ -lactamase sequences (representative  
164 sequences of a known clade from the guide tree) using the multiple sequence alignment  
165 algorithm MUSCLE (25) and the phylogenetic tree was inferred using FastTree (22).

### 166 **Antibiotic susceptibility testing**

167 The antibiotic susceptibility testing was performed on 15 antibiotics including  
168 ampicillin, ampicillin/sulbactam, penicillin, piperacillin, piperacillin/tazobactam, cefoxitin,  
169 ceftriaxone, ceftazidime imipenem, meropenem, aztreonam, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin,  
170 amikacin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (I2a, SirScan Discs, France). A filtered aqueous  
171 solution of each antibiotic was prepared anaerobically in a sterilized Hungate tubes at  
172 concentration of 5 mg/ml. Then, 0.1 ml of each one of these solutions was added to a freshly



173 inoculated culture tube containing 4.9 ml of the tested stain to obtain a final concentration of  
174 100µg/ml for each antibiotic herein tested. The mixture of antibiotic and archaeal culture was  
175 then incubated at 37°C and the growth of archaea was observed after 5 to 10 days incubation  
176 depending on the tested strain. Control cultures without antibiotic were also incubated in the  
177 same conditions to assess the strain growth and non-inoculated culture tubes were used as  
178 negative control.

### 179 **In vitro activity test:**

180 **Protein expression and purification:** The selected beta-lactamases were optimized for  
181 protein expression in *Escherichia coli* and synthesized by GenScript (Piscataway, NJ, USA)  
182 and then cloned into the pET24a(+) expression vector. Recombinant β-lactamases were  
183 expressed in *E. coli* BL21(DE3)-pGro7/GroEL (TaKaRa) using ZYP-5052 media. Each  
184 culture was grown at 37°C until reaching an OD<sub>600 nm</sub> = 0.8, followed by addition of L-  
185 arabinose (0.2% m/v) and induction with a temperature transition to 16°C over 20 hours. Cells  
186 were harvested by centrifugation (5000 g, 30 min, 4°C) and the resulting pellets were  
187 resuspended in Wash buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8, 300 mM NaCl) and stored at -80°C overnight.  
188 Frozen cells were thawed and incubated on ice for 1 hour after adding lysozyme, DNase I  
189 and PMSF (Phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride) to final concentrations of, respectively, 0.25  
190 mg/mL, 10µg/mL and 0.1 mM. Partially lysed cells were then disrupted by three consecutive  
191 cycles of sonication (30 seconds, amplitude 45) performed on a Q700 sonicator system  
192 (QSonica). Cell debris was discarded following a centrifugation step (10,000 g, 20 min, 4°C).  
193 Recombinant β-lactamases were purified using Strep-tag affinity chromatography (Wash  
194 buffer: 50 mM Tris pH 8, 300 mM NaCl and Elution buffer: 50 mM Tris pH 8, 300 mM  
195 NaCl, 2.5 mM desthiobiotin) on a 5 mL StrepTrap HP column (GE Healthcare). Fractions  
196 containing each protein of interest were pooled. Protein expression and purity were assessed

197 using a 10% SDS-PAGE analysis (Coomassie stain). Protein concentrations were measured  
198 using a Nanodrop 2000c spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific).

199  **$\beta$ -Lactamase detection:** Purified recombinant  $\beta$ -lactamases were submitted for a  
200 BBL™ Cefinase™ paper disc test(26) (Becton Dickinson). All protein samples were adjusted  
201 to a final concentration of 2 mg/ml. 15  $\mu$ l of each recombinant  $\beta$ -lactamase were deposited  
202 onto a paper disc impregnated with nitrocefin and incubated at room temperature. 15  $\mu$ l of  
203 extracted proteins from induced BL21(DE3)-pGro7/GroEL strain that did not contain any  $\beta$ -  
204 lactamase genes, was used as negative control. When a change of color from yellow to red  
205 was visible within 30 minutes of incubation, corresponding to the hydrolysis of the amide  
206 bond in the beta-lactam ring of nitrocefin, it was considered that the tested fraction contained  
207 an active  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme. The hydrolysis of the nitrocefin and penicillin G in presence of  
208 sulbactam, was also monitored using a Synergy HT microplate reader (BioTek, USA).  
209 Reactions were performed at 25°C in a 96-well plate in PBS buffer and 5 % DMSO with a  
210 final volume of 100  $\mu$ l for each well. Time course hydrolysis of nitrocefin (0.5 mM) was  
211 monitored for 10 minutes after adding 50  $\mu$ L of previously prepared protein sample, with  
212 absorbance at 486 nm. For the inhibition assay, active  $\beta$ -lactamases at a final concentration of  
213 0.5 mg/ml were briefly incubated with 0.1 mM sulbactam. Negative controls with only  
214 sulbactam in buffer and positive controls containing enzymes without any inhibitor were also  
215 prepared. After adding 0.5 mM nitrocefin, its hydrolysis was monitored over time with  
216 absorbance at 486 nm. Furthermore, the activity of MetbaB enzyme was evaluated at different  
217 pH (between pH7 and pH10) using the same nitrocefin assay conditions.

218  **$\beta$ -lactamase kinetic characterization:** Kinetic assays were monitored with a Synergy  
219 HT microplate reader (BioTek, USA). Reactions were performed at 25°C in a 96-well plate  
220 (6.2 mm path length cell) in buffer 50 mM Tris pH 8, 300 mM NaCl, 5% DMSO with a final  
221 volume of 100  $\mu$ l for each well. The time course hydrolysis of nitrocefin ( $\epsilon_{486\text{ nm}} = 20\ 500$

222 M-1 .cm-1) with final concentrations varying between 0.05 and 1.5 mM was monitored for 10  
223 minutes following absorbance variations at 486 nm, corresponding to the appearance of a red  
224 product. Both enzymes were kept at a final concentration of 0.3 mg/ml for kinetic studies. For  
225 each substrate concentration, the initial velocity was evaluated by Gen5.1 software. Mean  
226 values obtained were fitted using the Michaelis-Menten equation on GraphPad Prism 5  
227 software in order to determine catalytic parameters.

228  **$\beta$ -lactam hydrolysis monitored by Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-**  
229 **MS).** Water and acetonitrile solvents were ULC-MS grade (Biosolve). Penicillin G and  
230 sulbactam stock solutions at 10 mg/ml were freshly prepared in water from the corresponding  
231 high purity salts (Sigma Aldrich). A 1X phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) solution at pH 7.4  
232 was prepared in water from a commercial salt mixture (bioMerieux). Pure solutions of the  
233 archaeal class B (MetbaB)  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme was buffer-exchanged in PBS, and the  
234 concentration was adjusted to 1 mg/ml. 30  $\mu$ l was then spiked with penicillin G and sulbactam  
235 at a final concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/ml. Negative controls consisted of PBS spiked with penicillin  
236 G and sulbactam. Several solutions were prepared to measure metabolites at different  
237 incubation times at room temperature. Each time point corresponded to triplicate sample  
238 preparations. Then, 70  $\mu$ l of acetonitrile was added to each sample, and tubes were vortexed  
239 10 minutes at 16000 g to precipitate proteins. The clear supernatant was collected for analysis  
240 using an Acquity I-Class UPLC chromatography system connected to a Vion IMS Qtof ion  
241 mobility-quadrupole-time of flight mass spectrometer. For each sample, 5  $\mu$ l stored at 4°C  
242 was injected into a reverse phase column (Acquity BEH C18 1.7  $\mu$ m 2.1x50 mm, Waters)  
243 maintained at 50°C. Compounds were eluted at 0.5 ml/min using water and acetonitrile  
244 solvents containing 0.1% formic acid. The following composition gradient was used: 10-70%  
245 acetonitrile within 3 minutes, 95 % acetonitrile for a 1-minute wash step, and back to the  
246 initial composition for 1-minute. Compounds were ionized in the positive mode using a

247 Zspray electrospray ion source with the following parameters: capillary/cone voltages 3  
248 kV/80 V, and source/desolvation temperatures 120/450°C. Ions were then monitored using a  
249 High Definition MS(E) data independent acquisition method with the following settings:  
250 travelling wave ion mobility survey, 50-1000 m/z, 0.1 s scan time, 6 eV low energy ion  
251 transfer, and 20-40 eV high energy for collision-induced dissociation of all ions (low/high  
252 energy alternate scans). Mass calibration was adjusted within each run using a lockmass  
253 correction (Leucin Enkephalin 556.2766 m/z). The Vion instrument ion mobility cell and  
254 time-of-flight tube were calibrated beforehand using a Major Mix solution (Waters) to  
255 calculate collision cross section (CCS) values from ion mobility drift times and mass-to-  
256 charge ratios. 4D peaks, corresponding to a chromatographic retention time, ion mobility drift  
257 time and parents/fragments masses, were then collected from raw data using UNIFI software  
258 (version 1.9.3, Waters). As reported, penicillin G can be degraded in alkaline or acidic pH and  
259 in the presence of  $\beta$ -lactamase into different metabolites, including benzyl penilloic acid or  
260 benzylpenillic acid. A list of known chemical structures, including penicillin G and its  
261 metabolites (27, 28), were targeted with the following parameters: 0.1 minutes retention time  
262 window, 5 % CCS tolerance, 5 ppm m/z tolerance on parent adducts (H<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>) and 10  
263 mDa m/z tolerance on predicted fragments. Retention times and CCS values were previously  
264 measured from penicillin G degradation experiments at pH 2 and pH 10 in order to perform  
265 subsequent accurate structures screening. Detector counts of the targeted structures were then  
266 collected for data interpretation.

267

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274 D.R. conceived and designed the study. S.M.D., L.P., V.K., N.A, P.C, S.K., G.C-A., J.-  
275 M.R., B.L, P.P., and D.R. analysed and interpreted data. S.M.D., L.P., V.K., N.A, P.C, S.K.,  
276 G.C-A., J.-M.R., B.L, P.P., and D.R. drafted the manuscript and/or made critical revisions.  
277 All of the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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285

286 **Competing interests:**

287 We declare that we have no conflicts of interest.

288

289

## Figure legends

290 **Figure 1:** Phylogenetic Tree of Class B  $\beta$ -lactamases from archaea and bacteria. Archaeal  
291 sequence colored in green is which expressed and experimentally tested.

292 **Figure 2:** Characterization of the archaeal class B MBL (MetbaB) identified in  
293 *Methanosarcina barkerii*. **(A and B):**  $\beta$ -lactamase activity of the *M. barkerii* Class B MBL  
294 enzyme (MetbaB) on a chromogenic cephalosporin substrate (Nitrocefim). **A1 and A2** refer to  
295 the nitrocefim degradation test using the BBL™ Cefinase™ paper disc respectively at t=0 and  
296 t=30 min. **A3** refers to this same test performed in liquid medium in the absence of sulbactam  
297 while **A4**, with the addition of 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  sulbactam, both after 30 minutes of incubation; **(B)**  
298 monitored nitrocefim degradation by following the absorbance at 486 nm over time in the  
299 presence and absence of the  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor. **(C):** LC/MS average relative response of  
300 screened metabolite compounds of penicillin G in the presence the *M. barkerii* Class B MBL  
301 enzyme monitored for three hours. Penicillin G (in orange) refers to the intact form of the  
302 antibiotic while penilloic acid (in purple) and penillic acid (in light blue) refer to the penicillin  
303 G metabolites. Penicillin G control in PBS did not show any degradation towards any  
304 metabolite (data not shown). **(D),** Microbiological test of the mixture of penicillin G (0.1  
305  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) with the MetbaB enzyme in the presence and absence of sulbactam (15  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) on a  
306 *Pneumococcus* strain highly susceptible to penicillin G (MIC= 0.012  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) and highly  
307 resistant to sulbactam (MIC= 32  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ). The halo around holes 1 and 5 reveals growth  
308 inhibition of the *Pneumococcus* strain. The absence of this halo around holes 2, 3, and 4  
309 means no effect of the mixture on the *Pneumococcus* growth could be observed.

310 **Figure 3:** Phylogenetic Tree of Class C  $\beta$ -lactamases and DD-peptidases proteins (penicillin  
311 binding proteins). The class A  $\beta$ -lactamases is used as root.

312

## References

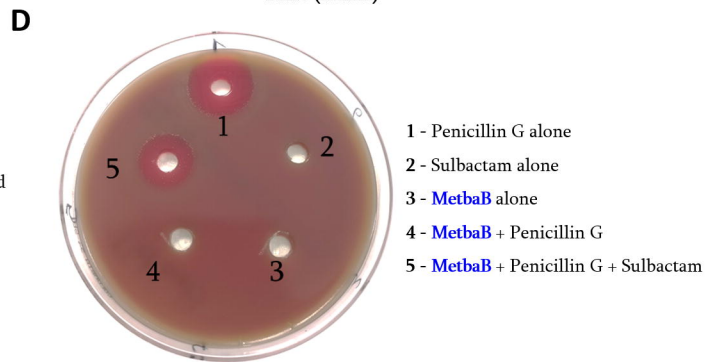
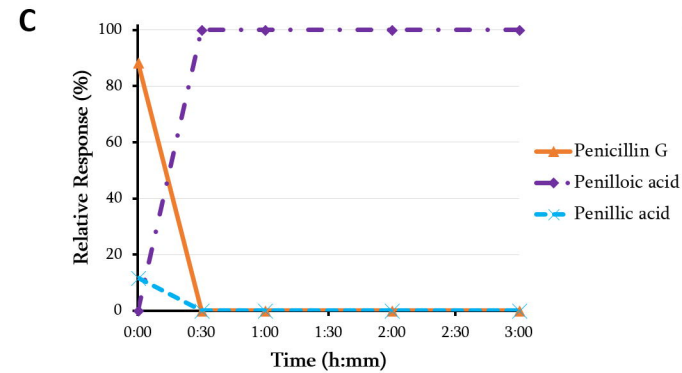
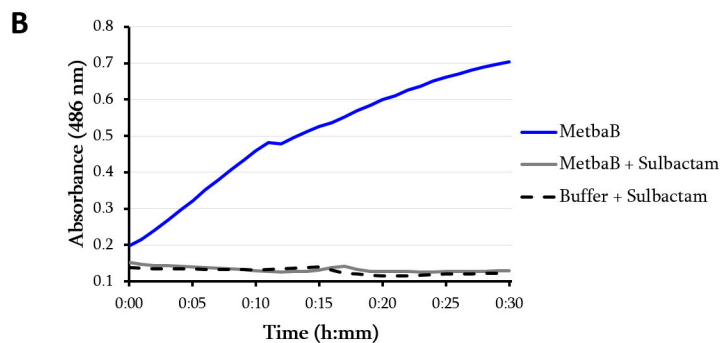
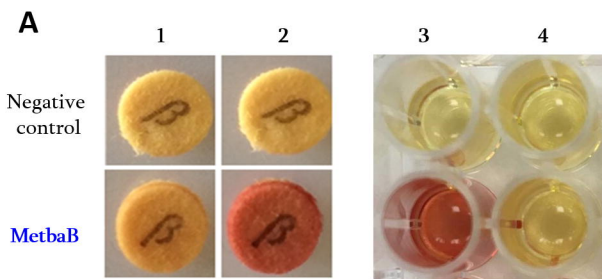
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