

Supplementary Information for:

**Glutamic acid is a carrier for hydrazine during the biosyntheses of fosfazinomycin and kinamycin**

Kwo-Kwang Abraham Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Tai L. Ng<sup>3,§</sup>, Peng Wang<sup>3,§,‡</sup>, Zedu Huang<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Emily P. Balskus<sup>3\*</sup>, Wilfred A. van der Donk<sup>1,2,4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois, USA. <sup>2</sup>Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois, USA. <sup>3</sup>Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. <sup>4</sup>Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

‡ Present address: Red & Charline McCombs Institute for the Early Detection and Treatment of Cancer, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

†Present address: Department of Chemistry, Fudan University, Shanghai, China

§ These authors contributed equally to this study

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed:

Emily P. Balskus, 12 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, United States; balskus@chemistry.harvard.edu; phone: (617) 496-9921; fax: (617-496-5866).

Wilfred A. van der Donk, 600 S. Mathews Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801, United States; vddonk@illinois.edu; phone: (217) 244-5360; fax: (217) 244-8533.

## **Table of Contents**

**Procedures for the chemical synthesis of substrates and standards.**

**Supplementary Figure 1. Reconstituted or proposed biosynthetic pathways for natural products discussed in the main text.**

**Supplementary Figure 2. MS/MS analysis of labeled fosfazinomycin A from *Streptomyces* sp. NRRL S-149.**

**Supplementary Figure 3. Enzyme assays for KinNM**

**Supplementary Figure 4. Kinetic analysis of FzmN-catalyzed reactions**

**Supplementary Figure 5. *in vivo* analysis of KinL activity**

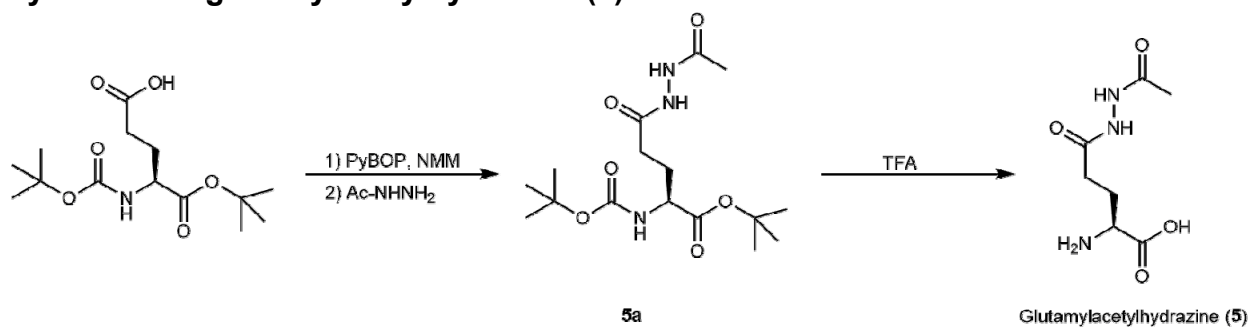
**Supplementary Figure 6. NMR and LC-MS analysis of the FzmA-catalyzed reaction**

**Supplementary Figure 7. HRMS analysis of  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -hydrazine labeled kinamycin D from *Streptomyces murayamaensis* ATCC 21414**

**Supplementary Table 1. Oligonucleotides and synthetic gene used for cloning**

**Supplementary Table 2. Buffer conditions for refolding FzmO**

## Synthesis of glutamylacetylhydrazine (5).



## Synthesis of 5a

Boc-L-glutamic acid 1-*tert* butyl ester (606 mg, 2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), (benzotriazol-1-xyloxy)tripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate (PyBOP, 1.04 g, 2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and *N*-methylmorpholine (220  $\mu$ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv.) were dissolved in 8 mL of dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Acetylhydrazine (163 mg, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 h. The solution was diluted by the addition of 50 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed successively with 15 mL of 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 15 mL of 10% citric acid, water, and brine before being dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The product was then purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 15:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> : MeOH).

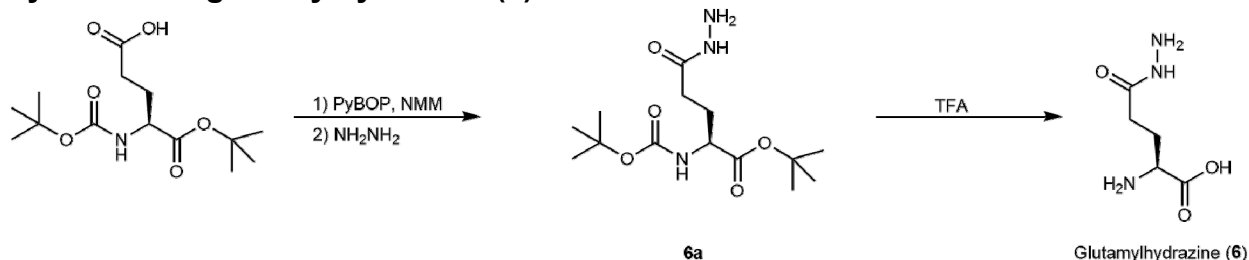
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 4.01 (m, 1H, CH), 2.02 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.82 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34 (s, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31 (s, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (243 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 174.11, 173.12, 173.01, 157.59, 83.76, 81.39, 54.00, 29.57, 27.52, 27.05, 26.03, 19.61. HRMS: Calc'd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 360.2129, found = 360.2146

## Synthesis of glutamylacetylhydrazine (5)

Compound 5a (48 mg, 0.134 mmol) was dissolved in 2.25 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> with 2.5 mL of trifluoroacetic acid, 0.125 mL of water, and 0.125 mL of triisopropylsilane cooled in an ice bath. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then diluted with 20 mL of water before being washed three times with 8 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was then dried by lyophilization.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 3.98 (t, J= 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.45 (octet, J=7.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.13 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (243 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 173.17, 171.14, 162.94, 52.17, 28.80, 25.08, 19.60. HRMS: Calc'd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> = 204.0979, found = 204.0988

## Synthesis of glutamylhydrazine (6).



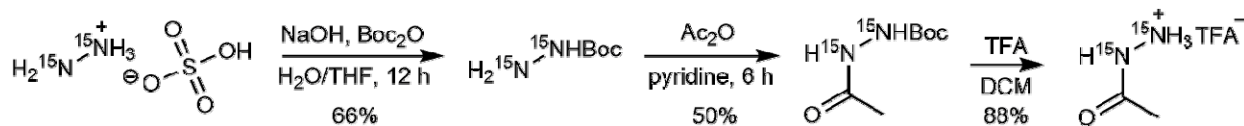
### Synthesis of 6a

Boc-L-glutamic acid 1-*tert* butyl ester (0.909 g, 3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in 7 mL of dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with PyBOP (1.56 g, 3 mmol, 1 equiv.) and *N*-methylmorpholine (330  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3 mmol, 1 equiv.) before the addition of hydrazine (141  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 h. The mixture was diluted by the addition of 30 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and washed sequentially with 12 mL of 5%  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , 12 mL of water, and 10 mL of brine before being dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The product was then purified with flash chromatography (silica gel, 30:1  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  : MeOH).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 7.82 (br, 1H, NH), 5.38 (d,  $J=4.2$  Hz, 1H, NH), 4.11 (m, 1H, CH), 3.93 (br, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 2.22 (t,  $J=7.3$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.12 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.85 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.42 (s, 9H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.41 (s, 9H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (243 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 172.91, 171.29, 155.95, 82.32, 80.00, 53.40, 30.65, 29.35, 28.26, 27.93. HRMS: Calc'd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  = 318.2023, found = 318.2041

### Synthesis of glutamylhydrazine (6)

Compound **6a** (0.67 g, 2.1 mmol) was dissolved in 21 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 21 mL of TFA, 1 mL of water, and 1 mL of triisopropylsilane cooled in an iced bath. The reaction was then stirred for 4.5 h before being concentrated under reduced pressure. The mixture was diluted with the addition of 30 mL of water and washed three times with 10 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was then dried under reduced pressure.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 3.72 (t,  $J=6.3$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.43 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.06 (q,  $J=7.24$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (243 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 172.50, 162.97, 52.98, 28.68, 25.12. HRMS: Calc'd for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  = 162.0873, found = 162.0875

## Synthesis of $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -acetylhydrazine

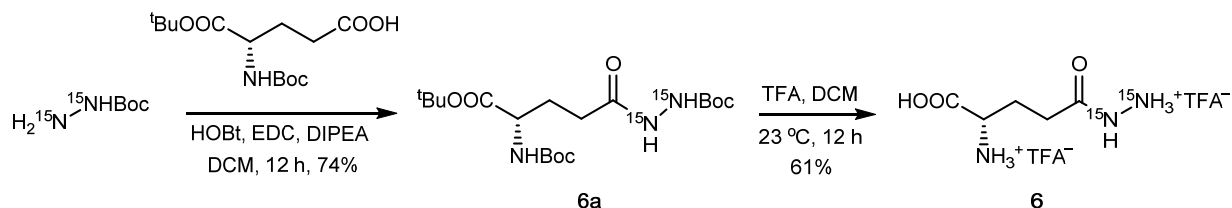


NaOH (187 mg, 4.68 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) was added to a solution of  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -hydrazine sulfate (124 mg, 0.936 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL). Di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (Chem-Impex International, Inc.) (225 mg, 1.032 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) dissolved in dry THF (3 mL) was then added, and the reaction mixture allowed to stir vigorously for 12 h at room temperature. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated to afford  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc hydrazide (83 mg, 66% yield) as a colorless oil. The crude product was used without further purification.

Acetic anhydride (65  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.681 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added to a solution of crude  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc hydrazide (83 mg, 0.619 mmol, 1 equiv.) dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (10 mL), and the reaction mixture stirred for 6 h at room temperature. After 6 h, the pyridine was removed under a stream of  $\text{N}_2$  gas. The residue was then purified by silica gel chromatography (4:1  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ : MeOH) to afford  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc-acetylhydrazide (60 mg, 50% yield) as a colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 2.00 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.44 (s, 9H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 169.7, 155.8, 81.9, 28.0, 20.6.  $^{15}\text{N}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 123.7, 96.2.

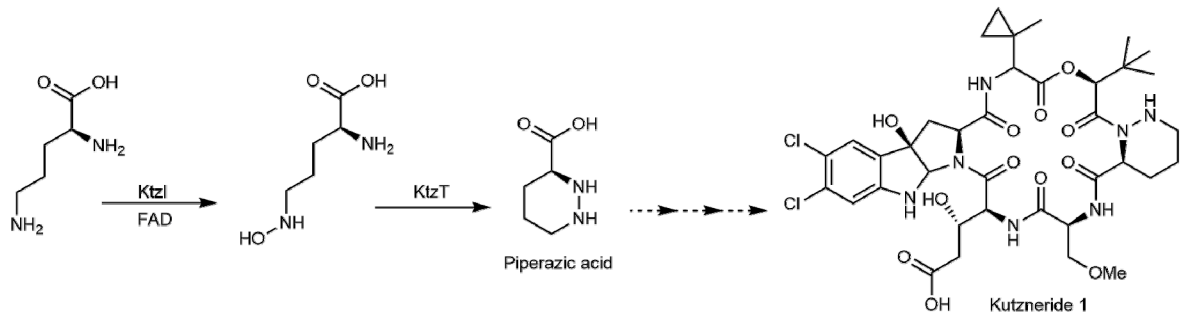
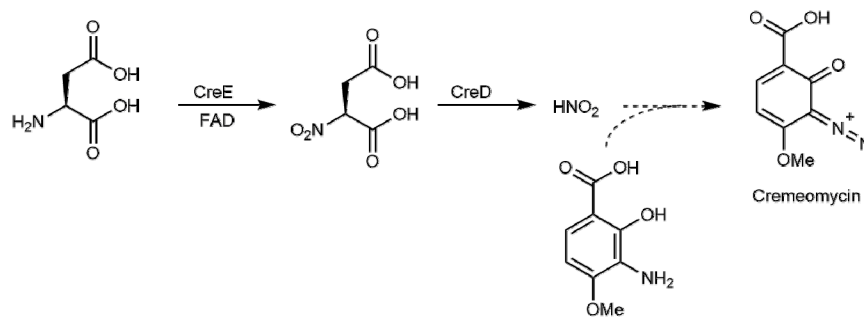
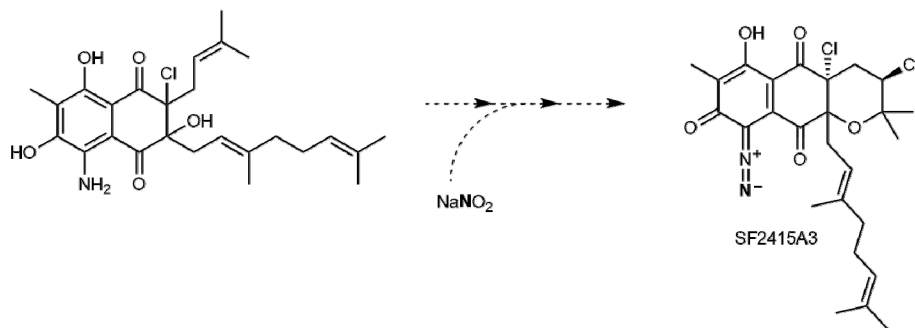
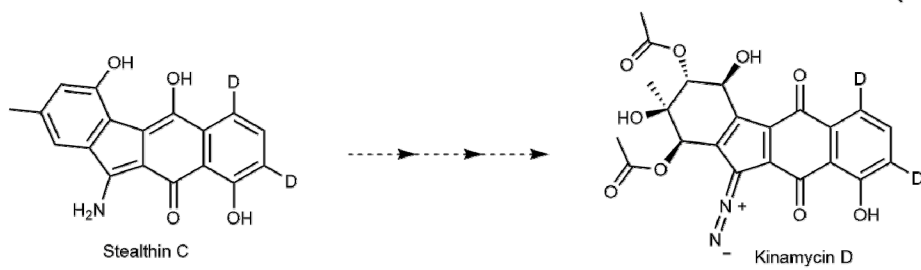
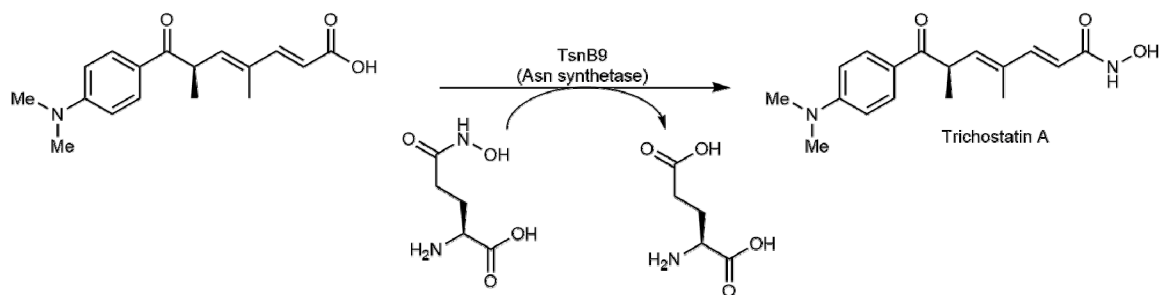
TFA (5 mL, 67.3 mmol, 198 equiv.) was added to  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc-acetylhydrazide (60 mg, 0.340 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) dissolved in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL). The reaction mixture was then stirred overnight at room temperature. After stirring overnight, the reaction was concentrated and the TFA removed *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dried under vacuum to afford  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -acetylhydrazine (57 mg, 0.300 mmol, 88% yield) as an oily solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.94 – 7.61 (br s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 169.2, 20.6.  $^{15}\text{N}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 119.1, 44.5.

## Synthesis of [ $^{15}\text{N}_2$ ]-hydrazide **6**



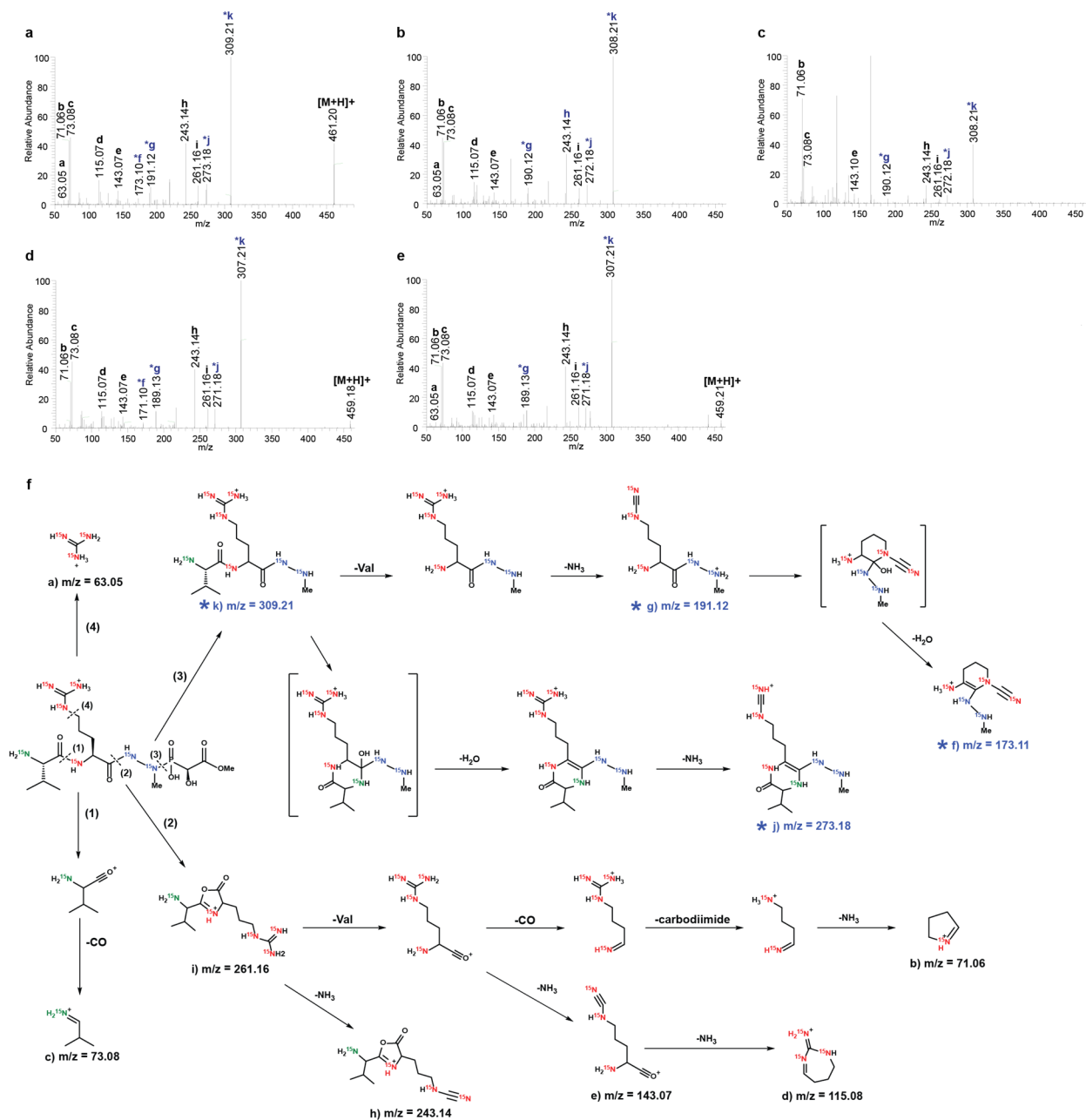
To a solution of  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc-hydrazide (87 mg, 0.649 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 10 mL of dry DCM was added Boc-L-glutamic acid 1-*tert*-butyl ester (Ark Pharm, Inc.) (196 mg, 0.649 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.65 mmol, 2.5 equiv), and hydroxybenzotriazole (105 mg, 0.779 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was cooled on ice for 5 min and then 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (149 mg dissolved in 5 mL of DCM, 0.779 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was then allowed to stir to room temperature overnight. After stirring overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dissolved in EtOAc (20 mL) and then washed with 1 M HCl (10 mL), sat. aq.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (10 mL), and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude oil was then purified via silica gel chromatography (1:1 hexanes : EtOAc) to afford  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -Boc-hydrazide **6a** (201 mg, 74% yield) as a colorless oil.

TFA (5 mL, 67.3 mmol, 140 equiv.) was added to a solution of hydrazide **6a** (201 mg, 0.480 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous DCM (5 mL), and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature. Once the reaction was deemed complete by TLC, the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was then triturated with ether, filtered, and dried under vacuum to afford  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -hydrazide **6** (116 mg, 61% yield) as a white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.41 (br s, 2H), 3.95 (t,  $J=6.40$  Hz, 1, 2.48 – 2.24, (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 171.1, 159.0, 51.7, 28.8, 25.8.  $^{15}\text{N}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 118.9, 51.7. HRMS: Calc'd for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}^{15}\text{NN}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  = 164.0814, found = 164.0835.

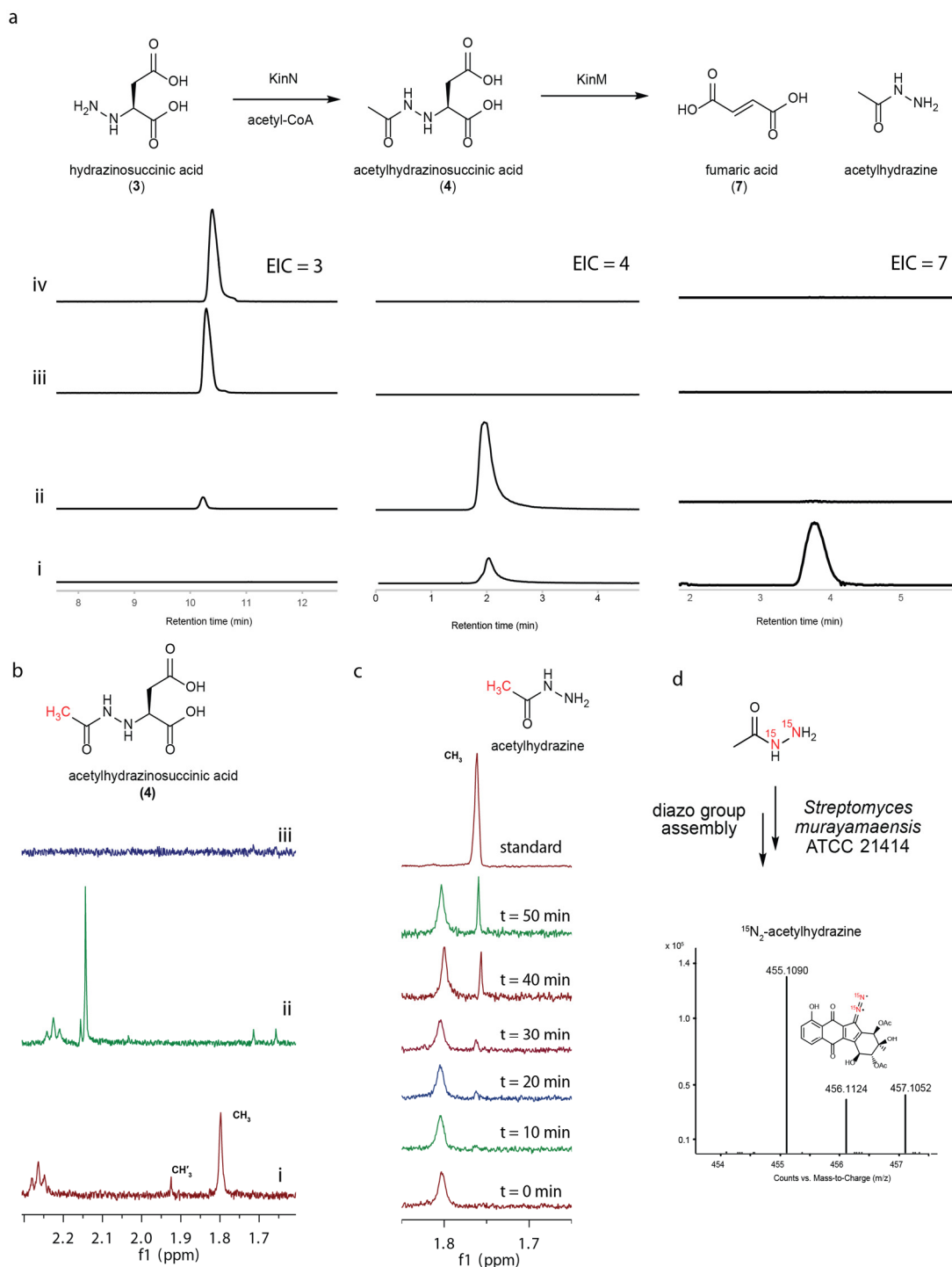
**a****b****c****d****e**

**Supplementary Figure 1** Reconstituted or proposed biosynthetic pathways for the natural products discussed in the text. **(a)** Biosynthesis of the piperazic acid moiety in kutzneride. A flavin-dependent enzyme (KtzI) activates ornithine for an intramolecular attack catalyzed by a heme protein (KtzT) to form the N-N bond<sup>1</sup>. **(b)** Nitrous acid is formed from aspartic acid during cremeomycin biosynthesis before a proposed diazotization reaction to form the N-N bond<sup>2</sup>. **(c)** Labeling studies with <sup>15</sup>N-nitrite show incorporation of <sup>15</sup>N into the distal nitrogen in the diazo group of SF2415A3<sup>3</sup>. **(d)** Stealthin C was proposed to be an intermediate in kinamycin biosynthesis on the basis of a labeling study using deuterated stealthin C<sup>4</sup>. **(e)** TsnB9, an asparagine synthetase homolog, transfers hydroxylamine from the side chain of glutamic acid to complete the biosynthesis of trichostatin<sup>5</sup>.



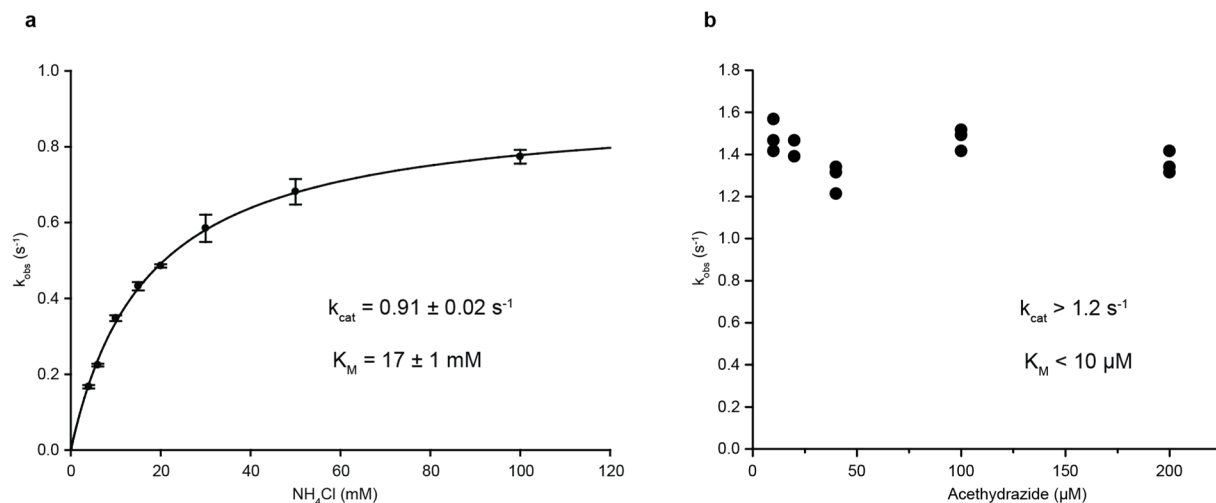


**Supplementary Figure 2** MS/MS analysis of fosfazinomycin A from *Streptomyces* sp. NRRL S-149. **(a)** MS/MS spectrum of uniformly  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled fosfazinomycin A (precursor ion  $m/z = 461.20$ ). **(b, c)** MS/MS spectra of fosfazinomycin with one  $^{14}\text{N}$ -incorporation (precursor ion  $m/z = 460.20$ ) from  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled media with added  $\text{NaNO}_2$  **(b)** or N-hydroxyaspartic acid **(c)** at natural abundance. **(d, e)** MS/MS spectra of fosfazinomycin A with two  $^{14}\text{N}$ -incorporations (precursor ion  $m/z = 459.20$ ) from  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled media with added hydrazinosuccinic acid **(d)** or acetylhydrazine **(e)**, at natural abundance. **(f)** The proposed fragmentation pathway of uniformly  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled fosfazinomycin with assigned ions. Product and fragment ions containing the N-N bond are indicated by asterisks and blue lettering.

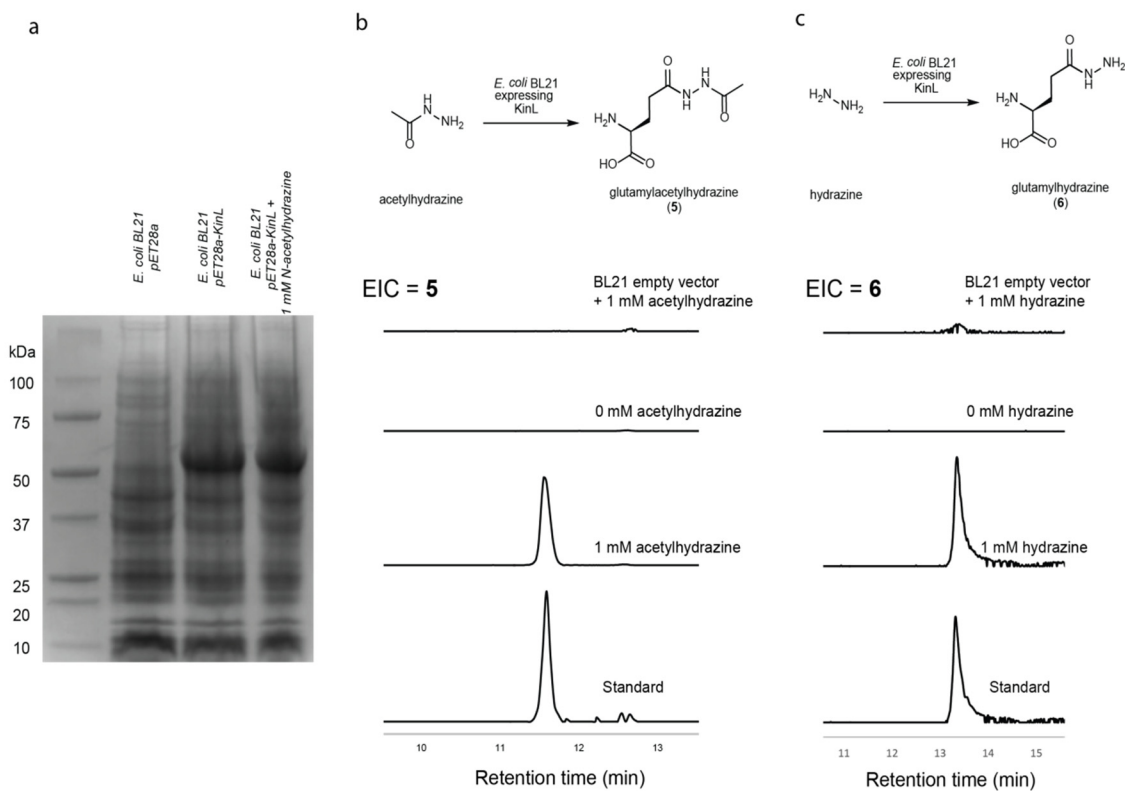


**Supplementary Figure 3** *in vitro* generation of acetylhydrazine by KinNM and *in vivo* feeding experiment with acetylhydrazine. **(a)** EIC for *N*-hydrazinosuccinic acid (**3**,  $[M-H]^- = 147.0411$ ), acetylhydrazinosuccinic acid (**4**,  $[M-H]^- = 189.0517$ ), and fumaric acid (**7**,  $[M-H]^- = 115.0037$ ). i. **3** + acetyl-CoA + KinNM, ii. **3** + acetyl-CoA + KinN, iii. **3** + acetyl-CoA, iv. **3** + KinNM. **(b)** 1D  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of KinM assay mixtures. i. **3** + acetyl-CoA + KinN, ii. **3** + acetyl-CoA, iii. **3** + KinN. **(c)** 1D  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of acetylhydrazine

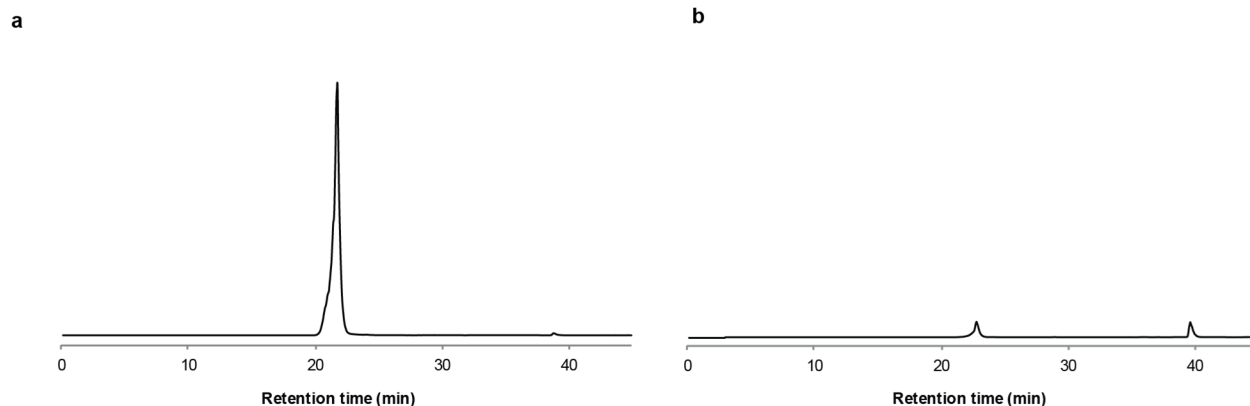
generation from **4** with KinM. **(d)** HRMS of kinamycin D when *S. murayamaensis* is fed  $^{15}\text{N}_2$ -acetylhydrazine.



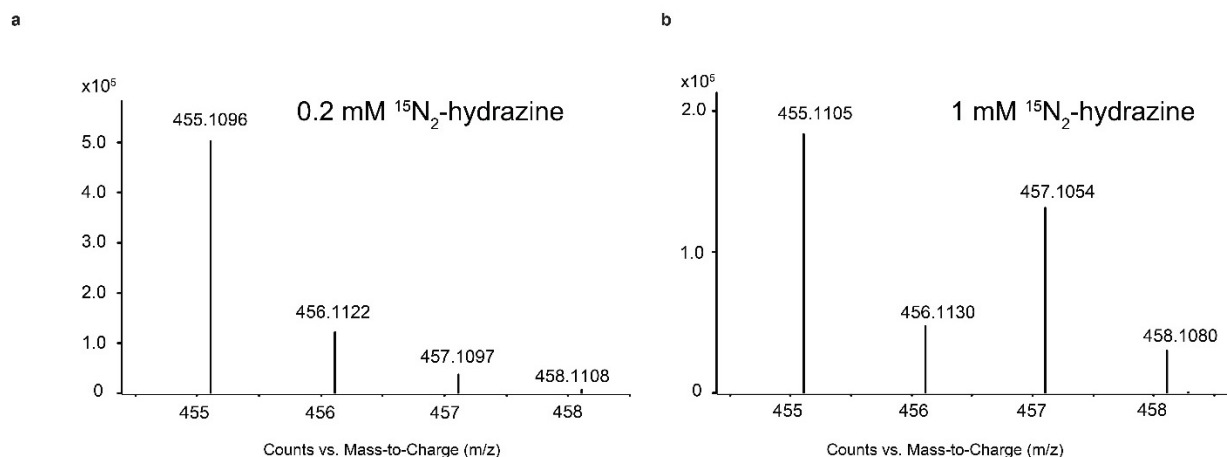
**Supplementary Figure 4** Kinetic analysis of FzmN-catalyzed reactions. **(a)** Michaelis-Menten plot of FzmN catalyzed Gln-formation from Glu,  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , ATP, and  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . The data points represent the average values obtained from triplicate experiments, and the error bars indicate the standard deviation. **(b)** Attempted kinetic analysis of the FzmN-catalyzed formation of glutamylacetylhydrazine from Glu, acetylhydrazine,  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , ATP, and  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . Triplicate experiments are plotted.



**Supplementary Figure 5** *in vivo* activity assay of KinL. **(a)** SDS-PAGE of cell lysate demonstrating heterologous expression of KinL in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) in the presence and absence of acetylhydrazine. The molecular weight for N-terminal His<sub>6</sub>-tag KinL is 55.8 kDa. **(b)** KinL ligates acetylhydrazine to glutamic acid *in vivo* to afford **5**. EIC for **5** ([M-H]<sup>-</sup> = 202.0833). **(c)** KinL ligates hydrazine to glutamic acid *in vivo* to afford **6**. EIC for **6** ([M-H]<sup>-</sup> = 160.0728).



**Supplementary Figure 6** LC-MS analysis of the FzmA-catalyzed reaction. The mass of Fmoc-derivatized glutamic acid ( $[M-H]^- = 368$ ) was monitored. **(a)** Chromatogram (selected ion monitoring for  $m/z = 368$ ) of the reaction after Fmoc-derivatization. **(b)** Chromatogram (selected ion monitoring for  $m/z = 368$ ) of the reaction mixture with FzmA omitted.



**Supplementary Figure 7** HRMS analysis of <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>-hydrazine-labeled kinamycin D from *Streptomyces murayamaensis* ATCC 21414. HRMS analysis of <sup>15</sup>N incorporation into kinamycin D from feeding either **(a)** 0.2 mM or **(b)** 1 mM <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>-hydrazine to fermentation cultures of *S. murayamaensis*. <sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>-kinamycin D ( $[M+H]^+ = 457.1026$ ).

**Supplementary Table 1** Oligonucleotides and synthetic gene used for cloning. The primers are named for the amplicon and direction of amplification: forward (fwd or F) or reverse (rev or R); uppercase letters indicate portions that anneal to the amplicon while lowercase letters indicate the overhang regions for Gibson assembly

Cloning primer	Sequence
FzmN_fwd	gcagcggcctggtgccgcgcgagccatATGACGAAGCCCACCACCGCGCGGGAAGCC
FzmN_rev	cctttcgggctttagcagccggatcctcgagTCAGTAGGCGCCGAAGTACTCACGGTG
FzmO_fwd	gcagcggcctggtgccgcgcgagccatATGGCGCTGACCTGCCCGCCCCACCT
FzmO_rev	cctttcgggctttagcagccggatcctcgagTCATGTGATTCTTCTTCCGGTCCGGCGAT
FzmA_fwd	ttaagaaggagatatacatATGTGCGGAATTGCAGGATTCG
FzmA_rev	gatctcagtggtggtggtggtgctcgagTCCGGCGCTGTCGACCGT
pET15b_fwd	CTCAGAGTCCGGCTGCTAACAAAGCCCGAAAGG
pET15b_rev	CATATGGCTGCCGCGCGCACCCAGGCCGCTG
AspB_fwd	agcggcctggtgccgcgcgagccatagATGAATACGGATGTGCGTATTGAAA
AspB_rev	cctttcgggctttagcagccggatcctcgagTCACTTACGGCCTGCAATG
Kin1K-F	ctggtgccgcgcgagccatGTGACGTCGGTCCTCACCGC
Kin1K-R	tcgagtgcggccgaagcttTACAGGATCCTTTTCGGTTA
Kin1L-F	ctggtgccgcgcgagccatATGTACTCCCGGTCGTGGT
Kin1L-R	ctcgagtgcggccgaagcttTCAGAAGGCCTCGAAGTATT
KinM-F	ctggtgccgcgcgagccatATGATTCCCCGCTATACCC
KinM-R	cgagtgcggccgaagcttTCAGTCGTCCAGGTCACGAAG
KinN-F	ctggtgccgcgcgagccatGTGACCTGGACGACTGAGC
Kin1N-R	cgagtgcggccgaagcttCTACGGGTTGAGCACCCAGGC
Kin1J-F	ctggtgccgcgcgagccatATGACAAGTTCCGCCGAGC
Kin1J-R	ctcgagtgcggccgaagcttTCACGAGACCTGCTGCGGC
pET28a-F	AAGCTTGCGCCGCACTCGAG
pET28a-R	ATGGCTGCCGCGCGCACCCAG
<i>aspB</i>	atgaatacggatgtgcgtattgaaaaagatttctgggcgaaaaagaaattccgaaagatgcatattatggcgtgcaaacgat tcgtgcaacggaaaaatttccgattacgggctatcgtattcatccggaactgattaaaagcctgggcattgtgaaaaaagcgc agcactggcaaatatggaagtggcctgctgataaagaagtggccaatatattgtgaaagcagcagatgaagtattga aggcaaatggaatgatcaattattggtatccgattcaaggcggcagcagcagcattaatgaaatgcaaatgaagt attgcaaatcgtgcaactggaactgatggcgaaagaaaggcaattatagcaaaatagcccgaatagccatgtaaatg agccaaagcacgaatgatgattccgacggcaacgcatattgcagtgctgagcctgctgaatcaactgattgaaacgacg aaatatatgcaacaagaattatgaaaaagcagatgaattgcagcgtgattaaaatggccgtacgcatctgcaaatg cagtgccgattctgctggccaagaattgaagcatatgcagtggtgattgcagtgatattgaaactgattgcaaatcgcgta ataatctgtatgataatattggcgcaacggcagtgggcacggcctgaatgagatccggaatatattagcattgtgacg gaacatctggcaaaatttagcggccatccgctgctgtagcgcaacaactctggtggaatgcaacgcaaaatcggattgctata cggaaagtgagcagcactgaaagtgtgcatgattaatgagcaaaatgcaaatgatctgctgctgattggaagcggcc cgcgtgacggcctgagcgaatgtgctgcccgcagcgaaccggcagcagcattatgccggcaaatgaaatcgggtg atgccggaagtgatgaatcaagtggcattcaagtgtttgcaatgatctgacgattacgagcgaagcgaagcaggccaat tgaactgaatgatgaaccggctgctgttttaactgattcaaagcattagcattatgacgaatgtttaaaagctttacgga aaattgcctgaaaggcattaagcaaatgaagaactgatgaagaatattggaaaaaagcattggcattattacggcaatt aatccgatgtggctatgaaacggcagcaaaactggcagcgaagcattatctgacgggcgaagcattcgtgactgtgc attaaatattggctgctgacggaagaacaactgaatgaaattcgaatccgatgaaatgacgcatccggcattgcaggcc gtaagtga

**Supplementary Table 2** Buffer conditions used for refolding FzmO. The 216 solutions were made by combinatorially combining each element in a column with one other element from each of the other columns. Conditions were adapted from another study<sup>7</sup>.

Buffer (50 mM)	Glycerol	NDSB 256	Salt	Arginine	Glucose
HEPES, pH=7.0	20%	100 mM	300 mM NaCl	800 mM	250 mM
HEPES, pH=8.0	0%	0 mM	100 mM NaCl	400 mM	0 mM
CHES, pH=9.0			100 mM KCl	0 mM	

## References

1. Du, Y.-L., He, H.-Y., Higgins, M.A. & Ryan, K.S. A heme-dependent enzyme forms the nitrogen–nitrogen bond in piperazate. *Nat. Chem. Biol.* **13**, 836 (2017).
2. Sugai, Y., Katsuyama, Y. & Ohnishi, Y. A nitrous acid biosynthetic pathway for diazo group formation in bacteria. *Nat. Chem. Biol.* **12**, 73 (2015).
3. Winter, J.M., Jansma, A.L., Handel, T.M. & Moore, B.S. Formation of the pyridazine natural product azamerone by biosynthetic rearrangement of an aryl diazoketone. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **48**, 767-770 (2008).
4. Gould, S.J., Melville, C.R., Cone, M.C., Chen, J. & Carney, J.R. Kinamycin Biosynthesis. Synthesis, Isolation, and Incorporation of Stealthin C, an Aminobenzo[b]fluorene. *J. Org. Chem.* **62**, 320-324 (1997).
5. Kudo, K., Ozaki, T., Shin-ya, K., Nishiyama, M. & Kuzuyama, T. Biosynthetic origin of the hydroxamic acid moiety of trichostatin A: identification of unprecedented enzymatic machinery involved in hydroxylamine transfer. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **139**, 6799-6802 (2017).
6. Mithani, S., Weeratunga, G., Taylor, N.J. & Dmitrienko, G.I. The kinamycins are diazofluorenes and not cyanocarbazoles. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **116**, 2209-2210 (1994).
7. Vincentelli, R. et al. High-throughput automated refolding screening of inclusion bodies. *Protein Science* **13**, 2782-2792 (2004).