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### GNPS\*\*-Guided Discovery of Madurastatin Siderophores from the Termite-Associated Actinomadura sp. RB99

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**Abstract:** In this study, we analyzed if *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 produces siderophores that that could be responsible for the antimicrobial activity observed in co-cultivation studies. Dereplication of high-resolution tandem mass spectrometry (HRMS/MS) and global natural product social molecular networking platform (GNPS) analysis of fungus-bacterium co-cultures resulted in the identification of five madurastatin derivatives (A1, A2, E1, F, and G1), of which were four new derivatives. Chemical structures were unambiguously confirmed by HR-ESI-MS, 1D and 2D NMR experiments, as well as

#### Introduction

Defensive symbiotic microorganisms of fungus farming insects have been shown to produce a diverse set of bioactive natural products to prevent detrimental infestations of the susceptible fungal monoculture.<sup>[1–3]</sup> We recently intensified our research efforts on elucidating the defensive functions of Actinobacteria in the fungus-farming termite *Macrotermes natalensis*<sup>[4,5]</sup> and found that most of the actinobacterial isolates produced mixtures of secondary metabolites that are active against the co-occurring weed fungi. Within these studies, we became particular intrigued by members of the fairly underexplored genus *Actinomadura*,<sup>[6–8]</sup> including *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 as their culture extracts showed antimicrobial activity against bacterial and fungal tests strains. First metabolic investigations of *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 resulted in the isolation of a group of MS/MS data and their absolute structures were elucidated based on Marfey's analysis, DP4 + probability calculation and total synthesis. Structure analysis revealed that madurastatin E1 (2) contained a rare 4-imidazolidinone cyclic moiety and madurastatin A1 (5) was characterized as a  $Ga^{3+}$ -complex. The function of madurastatins as siderophores was evaluated using the fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans* as model organism. Based on homology models, we identified the putative NRPS-based gene cluster region of the siderophores in *Actinomadura* sp. RB99.

cyclic tripeptides, named natalenamides  $A-C^{[9]}$  and the polyketide fridamycin.<sup>[10]</sup> Members of this and phylogenetically related genera have also been recently reported to produce amongst others phenolate-hydroxamate siderophores to sequester essential metals from the surrounding environment.<sup>[11-13]</sup> Intrigued by the structural diversity and important functions of siderophores, we investigated if *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 has the capabilities to produce siderophores. Here, we report on the successful combination of activity assays, high-resolution tandem mass spectrometry (HRMS<sup>2</sup>) and global natural product social molecular networking platform (GNPS) analysis,<sup>[14,15]</sup> which resulted in the isolation of five madurastatin derivatives (A1, A2, E1, F, and G1) including a siderophore-metal complex. Furthermore, we were able to deduce their absolute structures from Marfey's analysis, DP4+ probability calculation, and phyloge-

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- [\*\*] GNPS = global natural product social molecular networking platform.
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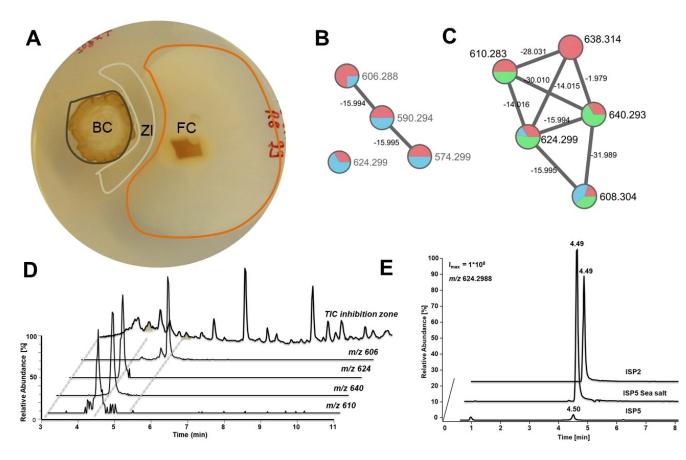
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netic domain analyses of the putative NRPS-based biosynthetic gene cluster.

#### **Results and Discussion**

First, we re-evaluated the growth modulating activity of Actinomadura sp. RB99 (hence forward named RB99) in co-cultures with the fungal cultivar Termitomyces sp. 153 or the co-evolved stowaway fungus Pseudoxylaria sp. X802. Bacterium-fungus cocultures and visible inhibition zones were monitored over time (9, 12 and 14 days). Overall, RB99 showed a strong growth inhibiting activity against Pseudoxylaria sp. X802 while only moderate effects against Termitomyces were observed, which hinted towards a selective inhibition of the weed fungus Pseudoxylaria sp. X802. To evaluate if yet unreported antimicrobial metabolites were present in the exogenous metabolome and whether metal chelating metabolites could be responsible for the observed growth inhibiting effect, we analyzed methanolic extracts obtained from the interaction zone, and the challenged bacterial colony of RB99 (Figure 1A) as well as RB99 cultures grown on different media by ESI-HRMS<sup>2</sup>. The acquired  $MS^2$ -data was dereplicated using the GNPS platform.<sup>[14]</sup> The obtained GNPS-network indicated towards a rich metabolome with several nodes related to yet unreported molecular ions detected in both interaction zone and bacterial mycelium. A small GNPS-cluster with yet unreported molecular ion peaks (m/z 640.293, 610.283, 608.304, 638.314) sparked our interest. Several nodes contained within the cluster showed m/z differences of  $\Delta m/z = 15.994$  and 14.015, which indicated structural changes related to one oxygen atom and one methylene moiety. The proposed molecular formula indicated a peptidic backbone with a putative N,O-ratio characteristic for side-rophores (e.g.  $C_{27}H_{42}N_7O_{10}^+$ , generated for m/z [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 624.299).

Next, we evaluated the abundances of the identified target ions and the relative chrome azurol S (CAS) activity of the chemical extracts obtained from the different cultivation conditions. Overall, we found correlation between the intensity of the detected molecular ion peaks and higher biomass production (Figure 1, for example growth in ISP2 or ISP5-sea salt medium for several days), while intensities of all chemical features were significantly reduced when RB99 was grown on ISP5 minimal medium (ISP5\*). Intriguingly, addition of a com-



**Figure 1. A)** *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 colony (BC) inhibiting growth of garden weed *Pseudoxylaria* sp. X802 (FC) after 14 d grown on PDA and formation of a zone of inhibition (ZI). **B**) GNPS based molecular network clusters of target molecular ion features of RB99 co-cultivated with *Pseudoxylaria* sp. X802 (14 d, PDA, red nodes represent bacterial colony, blue nodes represent zone of inhibition (ZI). **C**) GNPS networking features from cultivation on different media (red, ISP2 medium; green, ISP5 sea salt medium; blue, ISP5 medium). **D-E**) Extracted ion chromatograms of target molecular ion features when **D**) RB99 was co-cultured with *Pseudoxylaria* sp. X802 and **E**) RB99 was cultured on different growth media (ISP2, ISP5 sea salt, ISP5), target molecular ion features: m/z 624.2977 (Sum formula  $C_{27}H_{42}N_7O_{10}^{+}$ , calcd., 624.2988, all EICs are displayed in 5 ppm range).

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plex sea salt mixture significantly restored signal intensities of most molecular ion features (Figure 1E). We then corroborated these findings by testing the metabolite extracts for siderophore activity using the well-established CAS-assay (Figures S1 and S2). As the production of the putative siderophores appeared to be mostly dependent on the amount of produced biomass, Actinomadura sp. RB99 was then cultivated in ISP2 medium containing 1% sea salt for eight days (8 L, 150 rpm, 28 °C). Centrifuged culture supernatant was extracted using the non-polar copolymer styrene-divynilbenzene-based adsorbent resin HP20 and metabolites were eluted using a gradient of MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O. The resulting methanolic extract was subjected to solvent partitioning with EtOAc, and high-resolution tandem mass spectrometry (HR-MS<sup>2</sup>) and CAS-activity guided purification yielded five madurastatins A2 (1), E1 (2), F (3), G1 (4), and A1 (5), including four new derivatives 2-5 (Figures 2 and 3).<sup>[6,10]</sup>

### Structural elucidation of madurastatin derivatives

The molecular formula of compound **1** was determined as  $C_{27}H_{41}N_7O_{10}$  [*m/z* 624.3022 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{42}N_7O_{10}^+$ , 624.2993)] and based on ESI (+)-HRMS-data dereplication, the isolated compound was tentatively assigned as the siderophore madurastatin A2, which belongs to a compound family named madurastatin<sup>[16-18]</sup> and whose core structure has been recently in part revised.<sup>[19-21]</sup> The planar structure of **1** was verified by 1D and 2D NMR analysis, a correlating MS/MS pattern and

biosynthetic considerations (see below) (Figure 2) and displayed five amino acid spin systems starting from salicylic acid and continued with serine, alanine,  $\beta$ -alanine, *N*-methyl-*N*-hydroxylornithine and a cyclic *N*-hydroxyl-ornithine moiety (characteristic *m/z* pattern 131.0815, Figure S12).<sup>[19-21]</sup> As the absolute configuration of madurastatin A2 was not yet reported, we performed acid hydrolysis of compound 1 and conversion with Marfey's reagent (1-fluoro-2,4-dinitrophenyl-5-L-alanineamide (L-FDAA)). For comparison, L/D-Ser, L/D-Ala, L/D-Orn, and *N*methyl-L-Orn were also derivatives with L-FDAA.

LC-MS based comparative analysis of reaction products indicated the absolute configurations as D-Ser, L-Ala, L -Orn, and N-methyl-L-Orn (Figures S74 and S75) and allowed to propose the absolute configuration of madurastatin A2 for the first time. A detailed analysis of the identified molecular ion signals of the madurastatin GNPS cluster also indicated the presence of a madurastatin A2 homolog containing presumably an oxazoline moiety (apo-5: m/z 606.2882). However, different purification protocols resulted exclusively in the isolation of the hydrolyzed derivative 1 with matching NMR pattern. A similar phenomenon was observed in a study on gobichelins,<sup>[22]</sup> in which an intrinsic instability of the oxazoline ring was suggested. To avoid spontaneous hydrolysis of the oxazoline ring, we then conducted the isolation of the corresponding Ga(III)-complex (Figure 2). Replacement of  $Fe^{3+}$  by titration with  $Ga(NO_3)_3$  solution resulted in a complex with the molecular formula C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Ga as deduced from HR-ESI-MS analysis (m/z 672.1891  $[M + H]^+$ , calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{37}N_7O_9Ga^+$ , 672.1909) with a Ga isotope ratio ( $^{69}$ Ga: $^{71}$ Ga = 5:3). The residual Fe(III) complex

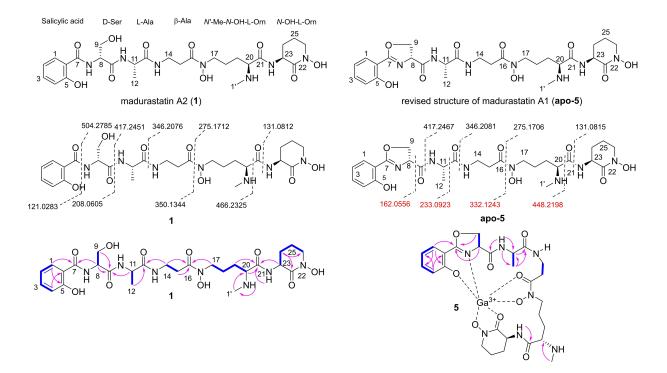


Figure 2. Chemical structures of isolated madurastatins A2 (1) and A1 (5), fragmentation patterns and 2D NMR correlations (blue bond: <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY correlations, pink arrow: HMBC correlations).

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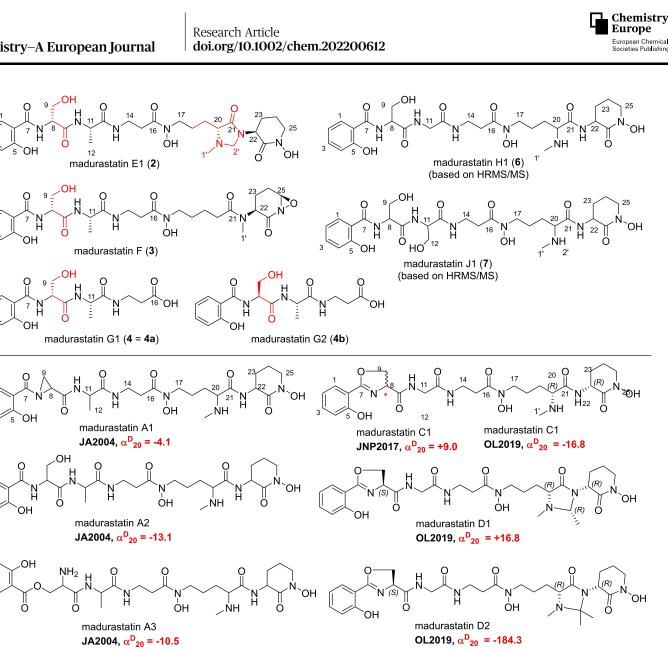


Figure 3. Chemical structures of A) isolated madurastatins E1 (2), F (3), and G1 (4), synthetic madurastatins (4a and 4b), and structures of predicted madurastatins H1 (6) and J1 (7) based on HR-MS<sup>2</sup> fragmentation analysis, and B) features of previously reported members of the madurastatin family.

 $(m/z 659.1984 [M + H]^+$ , calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{37}N_7O_9Fe^+$ , 659.1997) with a Fe isotope ratio ( ${}^{54}$ Fe: ${}^{56}$ Fe=6:100) was detected in traces.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the complex revealed a similar signal set as observed for compound 1 and the presence of a cyclic oxazoline moiety instead of a D-serine [HMBC correlation of H<sub>2</sub>-9 ( $\delta_{\rm H}$  4.69 and 4.43) to C-7 ( $\delta_{\rm C}$  170.46)]. This assumption was supported by comparative MS<sup>2</sup>-data analysis that showed the absence of the characteristic fragment ions m/z 121.0283 and 208.0605 and the presence of fragment ion m/z 162.0550 belonging to an oxazoline moiety (Figure 2). Based on the highly similar NMR pattern, biosynthetic considerations (see below) and previous structure elucidation efforts on madurastatins,<sup>[16-21]</sup> we assigned compound **apo-5** the name madurastatin A1 and propose a revision of the originally reported structure.[16]

Based on our detailed analysis of the madurastatin-related GNPS network, three related compounds (2-4) were isolated

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and structurally identified based on 1D and 2D NMR analysis and HRMS/MS interpretation (Figure 3A). Compound 2 was determined to have the molecular formula of  $C_{28}H_{41}N_7O_{10}$  [m/z 636.3017  $[M + H]^+$ , Calcd. for  $C_{28}H_{42}N_7O_{10}^+$ , 636.2993]. Detailed analysis of 1D and 2D NMR spectra revealed almost identical NMR spectra of 1 and 2, except for the presence of an additional methylene [ $\delta_{\rm H}$  3.77 (1H, d, J=4.0 Hz, H-2'a) and 4.34 (1H, d, J = 4.0 Hz, H-2'b);  $\delta_{c}$  68.0]. HMBC correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-1'/C-20, H<sub>3</sub>-1'/C-2', H-2'/C-20, H-2'/C-21, H-23/C-2', and H-23/C-21 suggested the presence of a 4-imidazolidinone moiety in conjunction with the N-methyl-L-Orn moiety and the compound was named madurastatin E1 (2).

For compound 3, the molecular formula was determined to be  $C_{27}H_{38}N_6O_{10}$  [*m*/z 605.2568 [M–H]<sup>-</sup>, calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{37}N_6O_{10}$ , 605.2571]. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra analysis as well as HR-MS/MS data indicated a similar structure as compound 1 lacking the *N*-methyl unit at C-20 ( $\delta_{c}$  36.7) and carrying an additional oxygenated methine at C-26 [ $\delta_{\rm H}$  5.75 (<sup>1</sup>H, brs);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  82.0] with COSY correlations from H-23 to H-26 and HMBC correlation from H<sub>2</sub>-24 to C-26)]. To determine the absolute configurations of **2** and **3**, a DP4 + probability analysis for the comparison of computationally calculated NMR chemical shifts of **2a** and **2b** with experimental data of **2** suggested that the absolute configuration at C-20 in **2** was *R*-form (Figure S77). Moreover, the calculated <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts of **3a** and **3b** agreed with experimental values of **3**, and thus confirmed the absolute configuration at C-26 in **3** (Figure S78). In case of compound **4**, a molecular formula of C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> [*m*/*z* 368.1451 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, 368.1458] was proposed, which indicated the presence of salicylate, serine, alanine, and β-alanine.

This deduction was verified by 2D NMR analysis (1H-1H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC correlations of H<sub>2</sub>-14/C-13, H<sub>2</sub>-14/C-16, and H<sub>2</sub>-15/C-16) and  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  vicinal correlations between H<sub>2</sub>-14 and  $H_2$ -15. To further proof the stereochemistry of compound 4, we also obtained two synthetic isomers of 4a (D-serine) and 4b (Lserine) and comparative 1D NMR analyses indicated identical chemical shift and J-coupling pattern between madurastatin G1 (4) and synthetic isomer salicyl-D-Ser-L-ala-B-Ala-OH (4a) (synthesized by Biosyntan GmbH), suggesting again the presence of D-serine in 4 (Figures S50-S61). Furthermore, the existence of Dserine in the structure of 4 was also verified by DP4+ analysis by the comparison of calculated <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts of 4a and 4b with experimental data of 4 (Figure S79). Next, we evaluated the MS<sup>2</sup>-fragmentation patterns of other molecular ions found in the madurastatin GNPS cluster and putatively assigned the molecular ion signals as madurastatins H1 (6, m/z 610.2829  $[M + H]^+$ , calcd. for  $C_{26}H_{40}N_7O_{10}^+$  610.2831) and J1 (7, m/z 640.2947 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>11</sub><sup>+</sup> 640.2937) based on their individual fragmentation patterns (Figures S17–S22).

To the best of our knowledge about eight other madurastatin derivatives have been reported in the literature and exhibit structural variations such as the oxazoline moiety (C-7, C-8) instead of a serine (C-8) or the presence of a 4imidazolidinone ring (C-20, C-21) in madurastatins D1 and D2 (Figure 3B).<sup>[16-21]</sup> The planar and absolute structures of madurastatins, however, have been topic of constant discussion in recent years and have not been fully resolved yet. While originally proposed to be composed of an aziridine-containing pentapeptide,<sup>[16-18]</sup> a structural revision of the aziridine ring of madurastatin C1 was later suggested by Thorson<sup>[19]</sup> and then verified by Hall.<sup>[20]</sup> The absolute stereochemistry of madurastatin C1, however, remains ambiguous as a congener with opposite optical rotation but otherwise identical analytical features were reported. The structures of madurastatins are related to the siderophores gobichelin,<sup>[22]</sup> and amychelin.<sup>[23]</sup> While the structure of amychelin was unequivocally determined based on Xray and NMR analysis of the metal complex, [23] the structures of gobichelins were proposed based on isotope-feeding, Marfey's analysis and in silico domain predictions of the biosynthetic pathways.

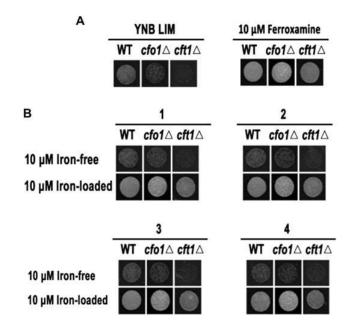
#### Siderophore properties

The opportunistic-pathogenic fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans* is known to infect immunocompromised individuals thereby causing pulmonary cryptococcosis and cryptococcal meningitis.<sup>[24]</sup> *C. neoformans* itself is unable to synthesize siderophores by its own, and thus scavenges siderophores produced by co-occurring microorganisms.<sup>[25,26]</sup> Previous studies also showed that two deletion strains, one lacking a gene encoding a ferroxidase *CFO1* (*cfo1* $\Delta$ ) and one lacking a gene coding for a iron permease *CFT1* (*cft1* $\Delta$ ),<sup>[27,28]</sup> were only able to grow in the presence of a chelating siderophore (e.g. Fe<sup>III</sup>-loaded siderophore ferroxamine (Figure 4A)).

These physiological characteristics were exploited to test the siderophore activity of madurastatins. As depicted in Figure 4, only the wild-type strain barely grew in the presence of iron-free madurastatins 1–4, while all three strains (wild-type, *cfo1* $\Delta$ , and *cft1* $\Delta$ ) fully recovered growth in the presence of Fe<sup>III</sup>chelating madurastatins 1–4 supporting their role as siderophores (Figure 4B).

#### Biosynthetic gene cluster and pathway analysis

To identify the biosynthetic gene cluster region encoding for madurastatins and to support the deduced stereochemical assignments, we then performed an antiSMASH (version 5.0.0)<sup>[29]</sup> analysis of the RB99 genome followed by a Multi-GeneBLAST study.<sup>[4,30]</sup> Only one likely gene cluster region was



**Figure 4.** Siderophore activities of the compounds 1–4 using *C. neoformans* as model organism. A) Wild-type *C. neoformans* and mutant strains *cfo1* $\Delta$  and *cft1* $\Delta$  were grown on iron-depleted medium with or without side-rophore (ferroxamine) and growth was monitored two days after incubating at 30 °C. B) Mutant strains were grown in iron-depleted medium containing 10  $\mu$ M of compounds 1–4 (in the absence (Iron-free) or presence of Fe(III) (Iron-loaded). Growth was monitored two days after incubating at 30 °C.

identified (*rene*), which showed overall similarities to the amychelin gene cluster *amc* (37%), the gobichelin cluster (33%), and the recently identified *mad* clusters related to madurastatin C1 and D (31 and 41%) (Figure 5).<sup>[21]</sup>

The cluster region encoded for 45 genes of which 17 genes (reneA-reneU) were predicted to encode for enzymes belonging to the core biosynthesis (approx. length 27.3 kbp).<sup>[31-32]</sup> Next to regulation-related gene sequences (reneF, reneT), the cluster encoded for a NRPS (reneA, reneL reneN, reneQ), a putative Lornithine N5 monooxygenase (reneJ), a putative aspartate 1decarboxylase responsible for  $\beta$ -amino acid biosynthesis (reneO),<sup>[33]</sup> a salicylate synthase (reneM), a putative S-adenosylmethionine (SAM)-dependent methyltransferase (RB99\_01616), tailoring enzymes (renel, reneJ, reneM), and exporter proteins (reneE, reneG, reneK, reneP, reneR, reneS, reneU). We then mined the antiSMASH database and performed a detailed phylogenetic analysis of the encoded and available adenylation (A)domains (total of 1125A-domains) and 310 condensation (C)domains (Figures S75–S76, Table S11–S12) using the web-based bioinformatics platform Galaxy,<sup>[34]</sup> which overall supported the observed amino acid sequence of madurastatins. As depicted in Figure 5, the biosynthesis of madurastatins presumably commences with loading of the salicylate moiety to the thiolation domain of the putative phenyloxazoline synthase ReneQ (83% identity to Mad63), which carries a heterocyclization domain catalyzing the condensation of salicylate and L- or D-serine to a phenyloxazoline ring. As we were not able to detect any dedicated epimerase-related sequence within the NRPS, it remains speculative at this point whether or not ReneQ also catalyzes the conversion of L-serine to the detected D-serine or if the C-domain is selective for D-Ser due to yet unknown reasons. Future in vitro experiments will be necessary to distinguish between these options. In a next step, ReneL (78% identity to Mad31), which contains four sets of C, A, T domains and one N-methylation (nMT) domain, presumably extends the growing chain by incorporating L-alanine (glycine or serine)  $(C2^{-L}C_{L})$ ,  $\beta$ -alanine  $(C3^{-L}C_{L})$  and *N*-hydroxy L-ornithine  $(C4^{-D}C_{L})$ based on predictions of domains of known NRPS systems (Table S8-S9).

The required N-hydroxy-L-ornithine is likely oxidized by ReneJ prior to the incorporation as reported for coelichelin<sup>[35]</sup> and madurastatins.<sup>[21]</sup> The encoded methyltransferase (nMT) is assumed to catalyze the mono and di-N-methylation of Lornithine; however the timing of the methylation remains unknown. The last module of ReneL is composed of the C4-<sup>L</sup>C<sub>1</sub> and a T-domain, but lacks the necessary A- and thioesterase domain that could catalyze the release of the siderophore from the NRPS. Thus, ReneL likely requires the support by a trans acting A-domain (ReneA) that incorporates ornithine and/or Nhydroxy-L-ornithine moiety into the growing peptide chain.<sup>[36]</sup> Similar to the proposed amychelin biosynthesis, a designated hydrolase (homolog to AmcB) could catalyze the cyclization and chain release,<sup>[23]</sup> however, a spontaneous non-enzymatic amidation yielding the madurastatin core structure cannot be excluded at this stage. Finally, additional oxidation steps of the N-methyl group might cause the formation of the imidazolidinone moiety (e.g. subsequent substitution reaction) or N- hydroxylation steps are likely responsible for the formation of derivatives **2** and **3**.

#### Conclusion

In summary, we analyzed co-cultures and growth condition of *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 and identified five madurastatins A2 (1), E1 (2), F (3), G1 (4), and A1 (5) including a metal complex thereof. While production levels of madurastatins were only partially dependent on culture conditions, their active secretion into co-culture interaction zones and their siderophore activities suggest their importance for survival of the producing organisms. The abundance of homologous gene cluster sequences within members of the genus *Actinomadura* and potentially beyond further supports the importance of madurastatins as actinobacterial siderophore class. Further studies related to their intrinsic metal chelating properties in combination with the analysis of their evolutionary pathways will uncover their success story as actinobacterial siderophore class.

#### **Experimental Section**

The datasets supporting this article have been uploaded as part of the ESI and contains details for chemical procedures, 1D and 2D NMR of described compounds, as well as HRMS data, cultivation procedures and bioassay data. This material is available free of charge.

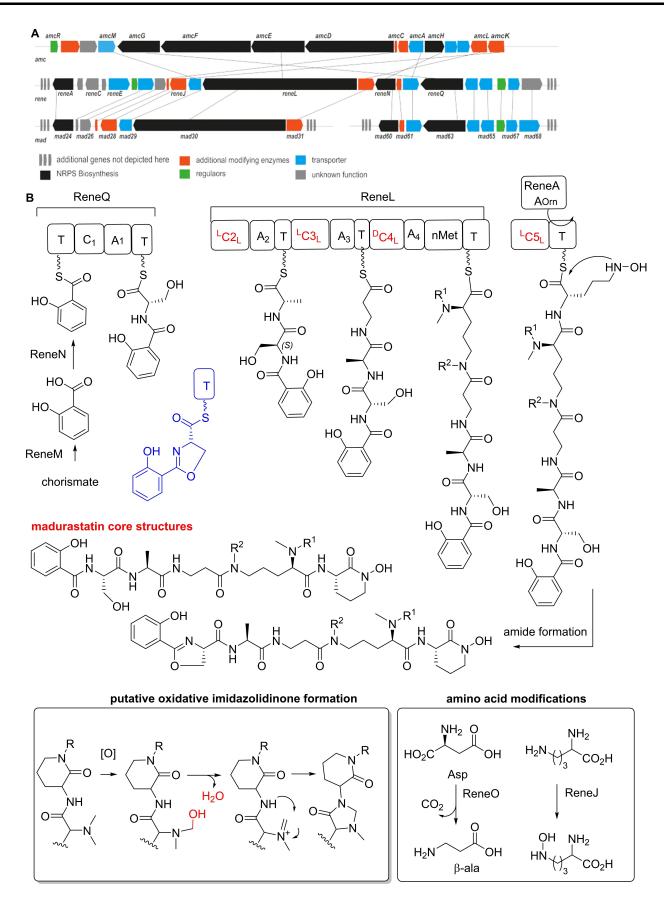
**Co-cultivation studies:** A circular colony of *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 was streaked out in PDA media and grown for 7 days at room temperature. Cocultures with *Pseudoxylaria* sp. X802 or sp. X187 were inoculated with agar plugs (~0.3 cm×0.3 cm) in approximately 2–3 cm distance to the bacterial colony. In case of *Termitomyces*, a mycelial suspension was used to inoculate agar plates. Fungal growth was observed for 14 days in triplicates. Fungal and bacterial monocultures acted as controls. Distance of fungal mycelium growth was measured after 9, 12, 14 days and the rate of inhibition was calculated based on the ratio of growth (R = A/T) facing away (A) and towards (T) the bacterial pellet in the direct connecting axis.

**CAS activity assay:** Using a glass beaker, 6 mL of 10 mM hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide (HDTMA/CTAB) were diluted with  $H_2O$  up to a volume of 5 mL. While stirring, a mixture consisting of 150  $\mu$ L FeCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mM) previously dissolved in 10 mM HCl and 750  $\mu$ L aqueous chrome azurol S (2 mM, CAS) was slowly added. In another beaker, 0.43 g of anhydrous piperazine was dissolved in 1 mL  $H_2O$ . 625  $\mu$ L HCl (10 N) was very slowly added to the piperazine solution and the resulting pH was checked to be approximately 5.6. The buffered piperazine solution was carefully added while stirring to the Fe-CAS-HDTMA solution. And the resulting CAS reagent was stored in the dark at 4°C. The CAS solution was tested using 10 mM EDTA, observing a color change from blue-green to orange.

Screening of siderophore activity: For siderophore activity tests, 200 µL of CAS solution was added to 10 µL clear sample extract (1 mg/mL, MEOH) using 1 mM EDTA as positive and pure MeOH as negative controls. Mixtures were incubated in the dark and absorbance at  $\lambda_{Abs}$ =630 nm was monitored for up to one hour using a UV-VIS spectrometer.

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**Figure 5. A**) Comparison of biosynthetic gene clusters based on amino acid identity (*amc* (amychelin), *rene* (madurastatins) and *mad* (madurastatins)). **B**) Proposed biosynthetic pathway for the formation of madurastatins (blue: proposed structures obtained via a functional Cyc<sub>1</sub> domain; abbreviations: T, thiolation domain; Cyc, Heterocyclization domain; A, adenylation domain; <sup>L</sup>C<sub>L</sub> Condensation domain; <sup>D</sup>C<sub>L</sub> epimerization and condensation domain).

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MS<sup>2</sup> and GNPS-based discovery of madurastatin congeners: A molecular network was created using the online workflow (https:// ccms-ucsd.github.io/GNPSDocumentation) on the GNPS website (http://gnps.ucsd.edu). The data was filtered by removing all MS/MS fragment ions within +/-17 Da of the precursor m/z. MS/MS spectra were window filtered by choosing only the top 6 fragment ions in the +/-50 Da window throughout the spectrum. The precursor ion mass tolerance was set to 0.02 Da and a MS/MS fragment ion tolerance of 0.02 Da. A network was then created where edges were filtered to have a cosine score above 0.7 and more than 6 matched peaks. Further, edges between two nodes were kept in the network if and only if each of the nodes appeared in each other's respective top 10 most similar nodes. Finally, the maximum size of a molecular family was set to 100, and the lowest scoring edges were removed from molecular families until the molecular family size was below this threshold. The spectra in the network were then searched against GNPS' spectral libraries. The library spectra were filtered in the same manner as the input data. All matches kept between network spectra and library spectra were required to have a score above 0.7 and at least 6 matched peaks.

Time-resolved analysis of siderophore production in different media: To analyze the influence of media composition and cultivation-time on the production of putative siderophore *Actinomadura* sp. RB99 was grown under three different media conditions in duplicates (full medium ISP2, minimal medium ISP5 and altered minimal media ISP5 with sea salt). Cultures were extracted after two, four and eight days of growth. Samples were analyzed at a concentration of 75  $\mu$ g/mL and peak integration (XIC, 5 ppm) was used for quantification.

Isolation of siderophores: Actinomadura sp. RB99 was grown in 50 mL ISP-2 broth for seven days at 30 °C (pre-culture) and used to inoculate 100 ISP-2 agar plates. Plates were incubated for 10 days at 30 °C, cut into small pieces, consolidated, and immersed overnight in MeOH. The MeOH phase was filtered and evaporated in vacuo. The resultant MeOH extract (11 g) was dissolved in distilled water (700 mL) and then solvent-partitioned with EtOAc (700 mL) three times, providing 4.5 g of residue. The EtOAc-soluble fraction (4.5 g) was loaded onto a silica gel column for open column chromatography and fractionated with a gradient solvent system of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (50:1 to 0:1, v/v) to afford seven fractions (A-G). Fraction E (110 mg) was subjected to preparative reversedphase HPLC (Phenomenex Luna C18, 250×21.2 mm i.d., 5 µm) using MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:9-1:0, v/v, gradient system, flow rate: 5 mL/ min) to give four subfractions (E1-E4). Compound 4 (2.0 mg,  $t_{\rm R}$  = 29.0 min) was purified from subfraction E3 (20 mg) by semipreparative reversed-phase HPLC eluting 28% MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (isocratic system, flow rate: 2 mL/min). Fraction F (490 mg) was separated by using preparative reversed-phase HPLC (Phenomenex Luna C18,  $250 \times 21.2 \text{ mm}$  i.d., 5 µm) using CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5:9.5-1:0, v/v, gradient system, flow rate: 5 mL/min) to give four subfractions (F1-F4). Subfraction F3 (50 mg) was isolated by semi-preparative reversed-phase HPLC eluting 30% MeOH/H $_2O$  (isocratic system, flow rate: 2 mL/min), affording compounds 2 (2.3 mg,  $t_{\rm B}$  = 50.0 min) and **3** (1.4 mg,  $t_{\rm R}$  = 55.0 min). Five subfractions (G1–G5) were acquired from fraction G (300 mg) using preparative reversed-phase HPLC (Phenomenex Luna C18, 250×21.2 mm i.d., 5 µm) using CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:9-1:0, v/v, gradient system, flow rate: 5 mL/min). Compound 1 (4.3 mg,  $t_{\rm R}$  = 15.0 min) was isolated from subfraction G2 (45 mg) by semi-preparative reversed-phase HPLC eluting 19%  $MeOH/H_2O$  (isocratic system, flow rate: 2 mL/min). Next, the resultant MeOH extract was dissolved in 10% MeOH/90% H<sub>2</sub>O and loaded on a conditioned SPE-C18 cartridge (5 g/45 mL), and then fractioned by step-gradient of MeOH and H<sub>2</sub>O mixture (20 mL/ fraction). The resultant fractions were concentrated under reduced pressure and submitted to LCMS analysis. The fraction eluted at 40% MeOH contained the apo-siderophore (1) with the *m/z* at 624.2977 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> as well as a Fe-siderophore complex with an *m/z* of 659.1983 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. Then, the 40% MeOH fraction was subjected to Sephadex LH20 purification and metabolites eluted using 50% MeOH. MS-guided analysis indicated that the Fe-siderophore complex was enriched in Fr. 12. This fraction was titrated with a 100 mM Ga(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> aq. solution to exchange Fe<sup>3+</sup> with Ga<sup>3+</sup> yielding a siderophore complex with an *m/z* of 672.1894 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. The complex was separated by semipreparative HPLC (Phenomenex Synergi-HydroRP, 250×10 mm i.d., 5 µm) using CH<sub>3</sub>CN/0.1% FA gradient (0–5 min, 10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/90% H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1% FA); 5–40 min, 10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN/90% H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1% FA), flow rate at 2 mL/min), affording compound **5** (1.0 mg;  $t_R = 20.0$  min).

*Madurastatin* E1 (2): Amorphous powder; [α] –8.6 (c 0.04, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log ε) 202 (4.20), 238 (1.25), 299 (0.73) nm; <sup>1</sup>H (800 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz), see Table S4 and Table S5, respectively; positive-mode HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 636.3017 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>10</sub><sup>+</sup>, 636.2993).

*Madurastatin F* (**3**): Amorphous powder; [*α*] –6.4 (*c* 0.03, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log ε) 202 (4.25), 239 (1.24), 298 (0.76) nm; <sup>1</sup>H (800 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz), see Table S4 and Table S5, respectively; negative-mode HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 605.2568 [M–H]<sup>-</sup> (Calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>10</sub><sup>-</sup>, 605.2571).

*Madurastatin G1* (4): Amorphous powder; [α] –7.7 (c 0.03, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log ε) 202 (4.09), 239 (1.15), 298 (0.74) nm; <sup>1</sup>H (800 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz), see Table S4 and Table S5, respectively; positive-mode HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 368.1451 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>, 368.1458).

*Madurastatin A1* (5, Ga<sup>3+</sup>-complex): Orange powder; [α] +269.2 (c 0.01, 50% MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log ε) 202, 239, 298 nm; <sup>1</sup>H (600 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz), see Table S6; positive-mode HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 672.1891 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Ga<sup>+</sup>, 672.1909).

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#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### **Data Availability Statement**

The data that support the findings of this study are available in the supplementary material of this article.

**Keywords:** metabolomics · microbial communication · natural products · siderophores

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