

1 **Biosynthesis of aurodox, a Type III secretion system inhibitor from *Streptomyces***  
2 ***goldiniensis*.**

3

4 **Running Title:** Characterisation of aurodox biosynthesis

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27 **Abstract:** The global increase in antimicrobial-resistant infections means that there is a need  
28 to develop new antimicrobial molecules and strategies to combat the issue. Aurodox is a linear  
29 polyketide natural product that is produced by *Streptomyces goldiniensis*, yet little is known  
30 about aurodox biosynthesis or the nature of the biosynthetic gene cluster (BGC) that encodes  
31 its production. To gain a deeper understanding of aurodox biosynthesis by *S. goldiniensis*, the  
32 whole genome of the organism was sequenced, revealing the presence of an 87 kb hybrid  
33 Polyketide Synthase/Non-Ribosomal Peptide Synthetase (PKS/NRPS) BGC. The aurodox  
34 BGC shares significant homology with the kirromycin BGC from *S. collinus* Tü 365; however,  
35 the genetic organisation of the BGC differs significantly. The candidate aurodox gene cluster  
36 was cloned and expressed in a heterologous host to demonstrate that it was responsible for  
37 aurodox biosynthesis and disruption of the primary PKS gene (*aurA1*) abolished aurodox  
38 production. These data support a model whereby the initial core biosynthetic reactions  
39 involved in aurodox biosynthesis follow that of kirromycin. Cloning *aurM\** from *S. goldiniensis*  
40 and expressing this in the kirromycin producer *S. collinus* Tü 365 enabled methylation of the  
41 pyridone group, suggesting this is the last step in biosynthesis. This methylation step is also  
42 sufficient to confer the unique Type III Secretion System inhibitory properties to aurodox.

43 **Importance:** Enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* (EHEC) is a significant global pathogen for  
44 which traditional antibiotic treatment is not recommended. Aurodox inhibits the ability of EHEC  
45 to establish infection in the host gut through the specific targeting of the Type III Secretion  
46 System, whilst circumventing the induction of toxin production associated with traditional  
47 antibiotics. These properties suggest aurodox could be a promising anti-virulence compound  
48 for EHEC, which merits further investigation. Here, we have characterised the aurodox  
49 biosynthetic gene cluster from *Streptomyces goldiniensis* and have established the key  
50 enzymatic steps of aurodox biosynthesis that give rise to the unique anti-virulence activity.  
51 These data provide the basis for future chemical and genetic approaches to produce aurodox  
52 derivatives with increased efficacy and the potential to engineer novel elfamycins.

53 **Keywords:** *Streptomyces*, antibiotic, elfamycin, EHEC, polyketide

54 **Introduction**

55 *Streptomyces* bacteria are renowned for their ability to produce a plethora of natural products  
56 that exhibit a wide range of chemical structures, activities and modes of action (1). One such  
57 molecule is aurodox, which has a remarkable anti-virulence mode of action in addition to its  
58 well understood anti-gram-positive properties (2–4). Aurodox is produced by *Streptomyces*  
59 *goldiniensis* and belongs to the elfamycin group of antibiotics, which are characterised by their  
60 mode of action rather than their chemical structure (4). The anti-bacterial mode of action of  
61 the elfamycins is well understood, where they target protein translation through inhibition of  
62 Elongation Factor Thermo-unstable (EF-Tu; (4). Direct EF-Tu binding by kirromycin/aurodox-  
63 type elfamycins prevents EF-Tu:GDP from dissociating from the ribosome, preventing  
64 elongation and inhibiting protein synthesis (4). Aurodox also has an additional mode of action,  
65 originally discovered during a screen for Type III Secretion System (T3SS) inhibitors in  
66 Enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (EPEC; (5). More recently, it was demonstrated that  
67 aurodox inhibits T3SS and virulence in Enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) and EPEC through  
68 an EF-Tu-independent mechanism, involving the downregulation of transcription of the master  
69 virulence regulator, Ler (6).

70 Aurodox was discovered in 1973 (2), it is a linear polyketide compound which is highly similar  
71 to kirromycin (7) differing only in methylation of the pyridone moiety. Kirromycin biosynthesis  
72 has been characterised and the BGC encodes five large polyketide synthase (PKS) units  
73 which act to form the polyketide backbone, before tailoring enzymes decorate the molecule  
74 (7–10). Given the similarity of the molecules, we hypothesised that the aurodox biosynthetic  
75 gene cluster (BGC) may be homologous to the hybrid PKS/Non-ribosomal peptide synthetase  
76 (NRPS) BGC of kirromycin, with the addition of an ORF responsible for pyridone-associated  
77 methylation (**Fig. 1**).

78 In EHEC infections, antibiotic treatment is not recommended due to the prevalence of systemic  
79 side effects (11, 12), and the upregulation of the bacterial SOS response in EHEC, resulting  
80 in Shiga toxin expression(13–16). The consequences of this are severe for patients with  
81 increased Shiga toxin levels being associated with systemic infections and nephrotoxicity (12).

82 Therefore, inhibiting virulence in a specific and targeted manner, that does not induce Shiga  
83 toxin production, represents a promising strategy for repurposing aurodox as an anti-virulence  
84 treatment (6).

85 Here, we present the identification and cloning of the aurodox BGC, followed by confirmation  
86 of the genes responsible for aurodox biosynthesis through heterologous expression and gene  
87 disruption. The aurodox biosynthetic cluster was found to differ in the organisation from that  
88 of kirromycin; however, based on homology, we proposed a biosynthetic scheme for aurodox.  
89 Additionally, we demonstrate, through heterologous expression of the putative  
90 methyltransferase (*aurM*<sup>\*</sup>), that methylation of the pyridone moiety is the last step in aurodox  
91 biosynthesis. This improved understanding of aurodox biosynthesis will enable greater  
92 exploitation and engineering of aurodox as an anti-virulence therapy and extends our  
93 knowledge of an important group of antimicrobial compounds.

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110 **Results**

111 **Whole Genome Sequencing of *S. goldiniensis* reveals a putative aurodox BGC with**  
112 **homology to the kirromycin BGC.**

113 To identify the aurodox BGC, the whole genome of *S. goldiniensis* ATCC 21386 was  
114 sequenced using a hybrid-approach where Illumina, PacBio and Oxford Nanopore  
115 technologies were used to generate a high-quality draft genome (PRJNA602141; (17)).  
116 Analysis of the sequence using antiSMASH (18) identified 36 putative BGCs within the *S.*  
117 *goldiniensis* genome (**Supplementary Table S1**; (17)). A large region of the *S. goldiniensis*  
118 genome was identified (position 4,213,370 - 4,484,508; 271 kb) that was rich in BGCs  
119 including an 87 kb region with homology to the kirromycin BGC (7). This 87 kb region consisted  
120 of 25 ORFs, with 23 ORFs exhibiting >60% similarity to homologs in kirromycin BGC from *S.*  
121 *collinus* (**Table 1**; **Supplementary Table S2**). Despite the homologous ORFs within the  
122 BGCs, clear differences were apparent between the kirromycin and aurodox gene clusters,  
123 such as the inversion of NRPS/PKS genes and rearrangements of genes which encode the  
124 decorating enzymes of the polyketide backbone (**Fig. 2**). Two additional genes were identified  
125 in the aurodox BGC that lacked homologues in kirromycin cluster (**Table 1**). A gene encoding  
126 a SAM-dependant O-methyltransferase (*aurM\**), which we propose catalyses the addition of  
127 the methyl group to the pyridone moiety, and a hypothetical protein with no predicted  
128 homology to genes of known function (*aurQ*). Given the homology to the kirromycin BGC, it  
129 was hypothesised that this putative BGC was responsible for aurodox production in *S.*  
130 *goldiniensis* (**Table 1**).

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132 **Heterologous expression of the putative aurodox BGC in *Streptomyces coelicolor***  
133 **M1152 results in aurodox biosynthesis.**

134 To determine if the putative aurodox BGC was responsible for aurodox biosynthesis, a Phage  
135 Artificial Chromosome (PAC) library was constructed from *S. goldiniensis* genomic DNA, and  
136 the resulting pESAC-13A vectors (19) were screened for the presence of the putative aurodox  
137 cluster via PCR (Bio S & T, Canada; **Fig. S1**; Oligonucleotide primers can be found in **Supp**

138 **Table S5).** Two PCR positive PAC clones were identified which contained the entire region of  
139 interest, with one clone (pAur1) taken forward for further study (**Fig. S1, S2 & S3**). The  
140 complete PAC was sequenced to identify the boundaries of the pAur1, which contained a  
141 129Kbp insert (See **Supp. File. pAur1; Fig. S2**) and the complete region proposed to encode  
142 the aurodox BGC.

143 Introduction of pAur1, which integrates at the  $\phi$ C31 integration site, to the *S. coelicolor* M1152  
144 'superhost' was achieved via conjugation from the non-methylating ET12567/pR9604 strain to  
145 avoid the methyl-specific restriction system (20). Importantly, *S. coelicolor* M1152 encodes  
146 three copies of EF-Tu, including one copy of the elfamycin-resistant type EF-Tu, *tuf2*  
147 suggesting this strain would be a suitable host for expression of aurodox. Exconjugants  
148 containing the putative aurodox BGC (pAur1) and empty vector controls (pESAC-13A) were  
149 screened via PCR (**Fig. S3**) and the resulting strains were cultured in liquid media. Culture  
150 supernatant extracts were then subjected to LCMS analysis and compared to an authentic  
151 aurodox standard (**Fig. 3A**). An equivalent aurodox peak was also observed in the trace from  
152 *S. goldiniensis* extract (**Fig. 3B**). Extracts from the *S. coelicolor* M1152/pESAC-13A, empty  
153 vector control lacked the distinct peak of aurodox (**Fig. 3C**), whereas *S. coelicolor*  
154 M1152/pAur1, the strain containing the putative aurodox cluster, exhibited the characteristic  
155 peak (**Fig. 3D**). Mass spectrometric analysis revealed peaks at m/z 793, corresponding to the  
156 molecular ion of aurodox from cultures of *S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1 and *S. goldiniensis*. This  
157 peak was absent from the empty vector control strain (**Fig. 3C**), indicating that the putative  
158 aurodox BGC encodes aurodox biosynthesis in *S. goldiniensis*.

159 To unequivocally confirm the role of the putative aurodox BGC genes encoded on the pAur1  
160 clone, a deletion of the Type IPKS (*aurA1*) was performed using ReDirect (21), resulting in  
161 pAur1 $\Delta$ *aurA1*. We hypothesised that the deletion of the primary PKS would prevent aurodox  
162 biosynthesis and confirm the putative BGC was required for aurodox biosynthesis. Analysis of  
163 extracts from *S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1 $\Delta$ *aurA1* lacked a peak at the aurodox-associated  
164 retention time (**Fig. 3E**) confirming the role of these genes in aurodox biosynthesis.

165 Bioassays of these culture supernatants using *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 43300) as an  
166 indicator organism, further support the LCMS data, with *S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1 inhibiting  
167 *S. aureus* growth, whereas the empty vector control (*S. coelicolor* M1152/pESAC-13A) and  
168 the deletion strain (*S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1ΔaurA1) display reduced bioactivity (**Fig. 3F**).

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170 **Proposed biosynthesis of aurodox follows that of kirromycin**

171 The ClusterTools algorithm from antiSMASH was used to annotate the core PKS/NRPS genes  
172 of the aurodox BGC including specific module assignments (18, 22). This facilitated the  
173 prediction that the catalytic domains of AurI to AurVI largely follow those of KirI to KirVI of the  
174 kirromycin gene cluster despite the rearrangements in the overall cluster architecture (**Fig. 2**  
175 & **4**; (7, 9). In AurA1 and AurAII, acetyl Co-A extension is via Claisen condensation reactions  
176 (8), however the PKSs are atypical in arrangement, with two additional dehydratase domains  
177 present. Whilst these were not previously identified in the kirromycin pathway (7), reanalysis  
178 of the kirromycin pathway using ClusterTools (22) does predict the presence of these domains  
179 in KirI to KirVI. Remarkably, no homolog of *kirP*, the kirromycin phosphopanthetheinyl  
180 transferase (PPTase) was identified in the aurodox BGC.

181 It is predicted that *aurAIII* encodes a hybrid NRPS/PKS enzyme consisting of consecutive  
182 condensation and adenylation domains which catalyse the condensation of glycine and the  
183 incorporation of the amide bond, a process conserved with the kirromycin pathway. The  
184 enzymes AurAIV-AVII are predicted to extend the aurodox backbone before AurB (which  
185 possesses the conserved DTLQLGVIWK motif (23), catalyses the incorporation β-alanine,  
186 presumably synthesised by the putative aspartate-1-decarboxylase, AurD (**Fig. 4 & Table 1**).  
187

188 **A SAM-dependent methyltrasferase, *aurM\** catalyses the conversion of kirromycin to  
189 aurodox.**

190 An additional SAM-dependant O-methyltransferase (AurM\*) was identified in the aurodox  
191 BGC, which was absent in the kirromycin BGC. Preliminary analysis of the LCMS traces from  
192 fermentations of *S. goldiniensis* and *S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1 indicated that small amounts

193 of kirromycin were present in samples, suggesting that the methylation of kirromycin may be  
194 the final step in aurodox biosynthesis. It was hypothesised that AurM\* catalyses the  
195 conversion of kirromycin to aurodox. To test this, *aurM\** from *S. goldiniensis* was cloned in to  
196 an integrating vector (pIJ6902; (24) and introduced in to *Streptomyces collinus* Tü 365, a  
197 natural kirromycin producer. Empty vector controls of *S. collinus* Tü 365 containing pIJ6902  
198 showed no species corresponding to aurodox but did show the presence of kirromycin when  
199 compared to an authentic standards (**Fig. 5A & 5B**). LCMS analysis of solvent extracts from  
200 *S. collinus* Tü 365 expressing *aurM\** revealed characteristic peaks corresponding to aurodox  
201 and kirromycin (**Fig. 5C**), with negative scan MS showing a m/z ratio of 793, corresponding to  
202 aurodox in addition to a m/z ratio 785 which corresponds to kirromycin (**Fig. 5A & Fig S5**).  
203 This indicates that AurM\* is responsible for the methylation of kirromycin as a precursor to  
204 aurodox formation.

205

## 206 **Discussion**

207 Understanding the mode of action, resistance mechanisms and the biosynthesis of useful  
208 natural products is key to their development for clinical application. The linear polyketide,  
209 aurodox, whilst being known for almost 50 years, was recently found to exhibit novel anti-  
210 virulence activity via a previously unknown target (6), yet nothing was known about its  
211 biosynthesis. Whilst aurodox is structurally similar to kirromycin, it is now well known that  
212 structurally identical or highly similar natural products can be biosynthesised via diverse  
213 chemical routes (1, 25–28), suggesting that there is still much to be learned from studying  
214 biosynthesis of structurally similar natural products in terms of novel activity and evolution of  
215 natural products.

216 Despite similarities in structure, anti-bacterial mode of action and core BGC machinery  
217 between aurodox and kirromycin, key differences in biosynthesis were identified. The aurodox  
218 cluster is ~80% similar to the kirromycin BGC, sharing 23 of the 25 genes, with seven genes  
219 within both clusters encoding hypothetical proteins with no assigned function. There is no  
220 apparent PPTase (*kirP* homolog) encoded in the aurodox cluster, which would normally post-

221 translationally modify the acyl carrier protein (ACP) to facilitate extension of the PK/NRP  
222 chains during assembly, suggesting that this function may be fulfilled by a promiscuous  
223 PPTase encoded elsewhere in the genome (29). Remarkably, no thioesterase domain was  
224 identified in the PKS-NRPS megasynthases. There is a putative Dieckmann-like cyclase  
225 encoded within the cluster (*aurB*), which may be responsible for the cleavage and cyclisation  
226 of the aurodox molecule, a mechanism that recently been proposed in a few other pyridone  
227 natural products (30). The anti-virulence activity of aurodox requires methylation of the  
228 pyridone ring, which is catalysed by *aurM*\*. The ‘magic methyl’ effect is well known in drug  
229 discovery for enhancing the activity and pharmacological properties of drugs (31, 32), and the  
230 kirromycin to aurodox transformation indicates that this has been exploited in nature to alter  
231 the activity of natural products. Moreover, this indicates that derivatisation of the pyridone ring  
232 of kirromycin may be a useful strategy for diversifying elfamycin activities. Regarding the origin  
233 of *aurM*\*, two additional O-methyl transferases are encoded within the *S. goldiniensis* genome,  
234 each with ~35% amino acid similarly to AurM\*, which may suggest that *aurM*\* was acquired  
235 by horizontal gene transfer (HGT) rather than duplication of an existing O-methyltransferase  
236 from the genome of *S. goldiniensis*, and offers insight in to the evolution of novel activities in  
237 natural products and the potential of this to be driven through HGT of single ORFs.  
238 Overall, this greater understanding of biosynthesis of aurodox and the steps that contribute to  
239 unique modes of action will enable us to explore the potential of aurodox as a therapeutic  
240 agent for EHEC treatment in the food chain and the clinic.

241 **Materials and Methods**

242 **Growth and Maintenance of Bacterial Strains.**

243 The bacterial strains used in this study are detailed in **Table S3**. Genetic constructs used and  
244 their antibiotic selection are described in **Table S4**. Routine growth and maintenance  
245 procedures were carried out according to Kieser *et al*,(33). A list of oligonucleotides used in  
246 this study can be found in **Table S5**.

247 **Whole Genome Sequencing *Streptomyces goldiniensis*.**

248 Genomic DNA was extracted from *S. goldiniensis* using the Streptomyces DNA isolation  
249 protocol described by Kieser *et al*, (33). Nanopore reads were obtained using a genomic DNA  
250 library prepared in accordance with the Nanopore™ 1D ligation protocol, using MinION SPOT  
251 ON MK1 R9© flow cells and the raw data was converted to sequence data via MinKNOW base  
252 calling software. Illumina data was obtained from Microbes NG (Birmingham, UK) using the  
253 HiSeq 2500 sequencing platform. Reads were adapter trimmed using Trimmomatic 0.30 (34)  
254 with a sliding window quality cut off of Q15. PacBio sequencing was provided by Nu-omics at  
255 (University of Northumbria, UK) using the PacBio Sequel instrument and contigs were  
256 assembled in HGAP4.

257 *Streptomyces goldiniensis* genome was assembled using SPAdes (34) using data provided  
258 by all three platforms. AutoMLST (35) was used to determine the closest neighbour *S.*  
259 *bottropensis* ATCC 25435 (Taxonomy ID: 1054862) which was used for scaffold-based  
260 assembly via MeDuSa(36), with quality analysis carried out using QUAST (37). Annotation of  
261 the *Streptomyces goldiniensis* genome was created using Prokka (38) and can be accessed  
262 at the Genbank Bioproject PRJNA602141. Biosynthetic gene cluster identification was carried  
263 out using antiSMASH bacterial version 5.0.0 with modular enzymatic domains analysis carried  
264 out using the PKS/NRPS domain annotation function in antiSMASH (18).

265

266 **Aurodox production, purification and detection.**

267 *Streptomyces* spore stocks ( $1 \times 10^8$  spores) were pre-germinated in 10 ml of GYM medium  
268 (32) overnight at 30 °C with shaking at 250 rpm. Cells were then washed three times to remove

269 antibiotics (if used) and resuspended in 1ml of GYM, which was used to inoculate a 50 ml  
270 seed culture of GYM which were incubated at 30 °C with shaking at 250 rpm. After seven  
271 days, biomass was removed by centrifugation (4000 x g, 10 minutes) and culture supernatant  
272 was filter sterilised through a 0.2 µM Millipore™ filter. Supernatants were mixed with equal  
273 volume of chloroform and a separation funnel was used to remove the lower, solvent phase.  
274 Solvent extracts were dried under nitrogen and extracts were solubilised in ethanol for LC-MS  
275 analysis. Authentic aurodox standard (1 mg/ml) was purchased from Enzo (New York, USA).  
276 LC-MS was carried out on an Agilent 1100 HPLC instrument in conjunction with a Waters  
277 Micromass ZQ 2000/4000 mass detector. Electrospray ionization (ESI) was used in all cases.  
278 The RP-HPLC analysis was conducted on a Zorbax 45mm x 150mm C18 column at 40°C.  
279 Ammonium acetate buffers were used as follows: Buffer A (5 mM Ammonium acetate in  
280 Water) and Buffer B (5mM Ammonium acetate in acetonitrile). Positive and negative  
281 electrospray methods were applied with of 100 to 1000 AMU positive, 120-1000 AMU negative  
282 with a scanning time of 0.5 seconds. The UV detection was carried out at 254 nm.

283 **Construction of aurodox expression strains and deletion mutant.**

284 Aurodox encoding vector pAur1 (Bio S & T, Canada) and empty vector pESAC-13A (39) were  
285 transferred to the non-methylating *Escherichia coli* strain ET12567 via tri-parental mating.  
286 Briefly, fresh overnight cultures of *E. coli* DH10β containing pAur1 or the parental vector  
287 pESAC-13A (apramycin resistant), *E. coli* Top10 containing the driver plasmid pR9604 (Beta-  
288 lactam resistant) and ET12567 (Chloramphenicol resistant) were grown to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.6.  
289 Cells were washed three times in fresh LB by centrifugation at 4000 x g and resuspended in  
290 1 ml of LB. A 20 µl aliquot of each strain was plated in the centre of a LB plate and incubated  
291 at 37 °C overnight. The resulting growth was re-streaked on to the required antibiotic selection  
292 and the presence of the conjugating vector in the *E. coli* ET12567/pR9604 strain was  
293 confirmed via colony PCR. Mutation in pAur1 were carried out according to the ReDirect PCR  
294 targeting system in *Streptomyces* (21), using the hygromycin resistance cassette, pIJ10700  
295 as the disruption cassette (<http://streptomyces.org.uk/redirect/RecombineeringFEMSMP-200-6-5.pdf>). Disrupted PACs were introduced in to *E. coli* ET12567/pR9604 via tri-parental mating

297 and subsequently moved into *Streptomyces coelicolor* M1152 via conjugation as described  
298 above.

299 **Cloning of *aurM\** from *Streptomyces goldiniensis*.**

300 The putative O-methyltransferase *aurM\** was amplified from *S. goldiniensis* genomic DNA  
301 using the oligonucleotide primers in **Table S5** and cloned in to pIJ6902 using the NEB Gibson  
302 Assembly cloning kit (24). Conjugation of pIJ6902 based vectors was according to Kieser et  
303 al., (33).

304 **Bioassays**

305 Bioassays were conducted using disc diffusion assays with *Streptomyces* fermentation  
306 extracts on soft nutrient overlays containing *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC43300 as the  
307 indicator organism.

308

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436 **Figure Legends**

437 **Figure 1: Chemical structures of the elfamycins kirromycin and aurodox.** Red box  
438 highlights the additional methylation site of aurodox located on the pyridone ring.

439 **Figure 2: Comparison of aurodox and kirromycin gene clusters.** Adjoining lines represent  
440 amino acid similarity according to scale. Grey genes represent non-homologous genes, \*  
441 represents the SAM-dependant O-methyltransferase AurM\*. Figure generated by clinker.py  
442 using ([GCA\\_018728545.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/GCA_018728545.1)).

443 **Figure 3: Heterologous expression of aurodox biosynthesis in *Streptomyces coelicolor***  
444 **M1152.** Chromatograms of aurodox standard (Enzo; **A**). Peak at aurodox retention time is  
445 indicated. **(B)** Chromatogram from Wild-Type *Streptomyces goldiniensis* indicating aurodox  
446 production. **(C)** Chromatogram from the empty vector (pESAC-13A) control strain *S. coelicolor*  
447 M1152, indicating the absence of an aurodox-associated peak. **(D)** Chromatogram of extract  
448 from growth of *S. coelicolor* M1152/pAur1. Aurodox peak is visible at 7.12 min, and the MS  
449 data indicate the presence of aurodox. **(E)** Chromatogram of extracts from *S. coelicolor*  
450 M1152/pAur1 $\Delta$ aurA1 showing absence of an aurodox-associated peak. Corresponding MS  
451 data can be found in **Fig. S4**. **(E)** Bioactivity of the extracts used in **A-E**, indicating the zones  
452 of inhibition associated with the extracts by disc diffusion against *Staphylococcus aureus*  
453 ATCC 43300.

454 **Figure 4: Summary of the enzymatic reactions carried out by AurA1-AurAVII in aurodox**  
455 **PKS backbone biosynthesis.** ACP: acyl carrier protein; AT: acyltransferase domain; C:  
456 condensation domain; DH: dehydratase domain ER: enoyl reductase domain; KR: keto  
457 reductase domain; KS: keto synthase domain; MT: methyl transferase domain; PCP: peptidyl  
458 carrier protein; TAD: trans-AT docking domain

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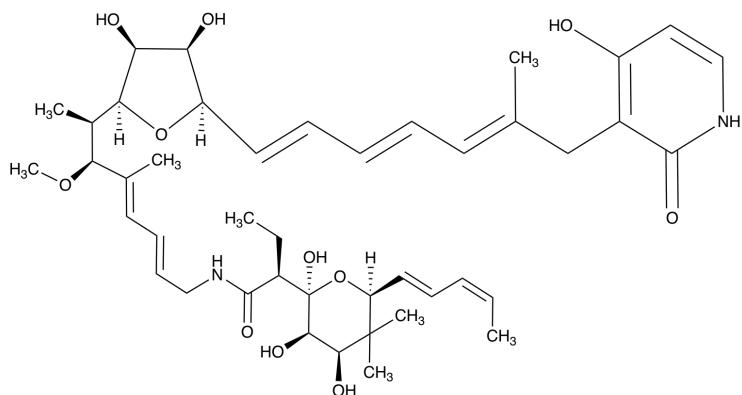
460 **Figure 5: Methylation of kirromycin is the last step in aurodox biosynthesis and is**  
461 **catalysed by AurM\***. Chromatograms of aurodox **(A)** and kirromycin **(B)** standards and  
462 fermentation extracts from a control strain *S. collinus* Tü 365 containing pIJ6902 (empty vector  
463 control; **C**) showing presence of kirromycin and absence of aurodox-associated mass and **(D)**  
464 chromatogram from extracts from *S. collinus* Tü 365 containing pIJ6902\_AurM\* showing the  
465 presence of aurodox with a retention time of 7.64 min. Corresponding MS data can be found  
466 in **Fig. S5**.

467

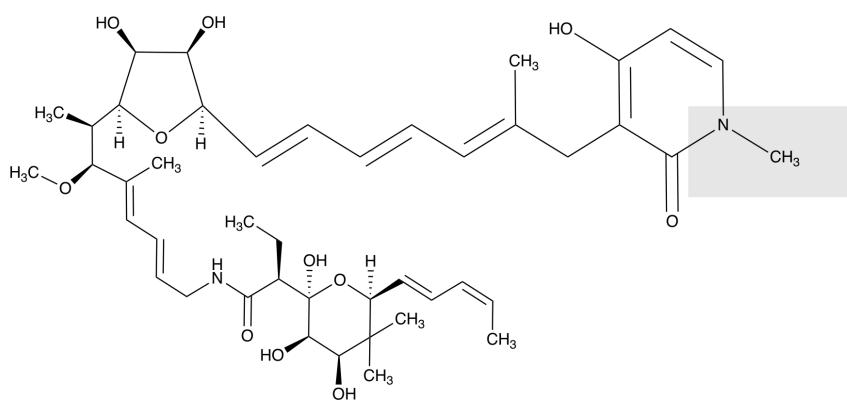
468 **Table 1: Comparison of aurodox and kirromycin BGC and their functions.** Genes found  
469 only in the aurodox cluster are in bold. To be consistent with kirromycin biosynthesis we have  
470 maintained the nomenclature between this putative aurodox genes and their kirromycin  
471 homologs.

Gene	kirromycin BGC Homolog	% homology of aurodox gene with its kirromycin homolog	Function
<b>aurQ</b>	N/A	-	<b>Hypothetical protein</b>
<i>aurHV</i>	<i>kirHV</i>	98%	Hypothetical protein
<i>aurHVI</i>	<i>kirHVI</i>	97%	Hypothetical protein
<i>aurB</i>	<i>kirB</i>	98%	Non-Ribosomal Peptide Synthetase
<b>aurM*</b>	N/A	-	<b>Type I SAM-dependant O- Methyltransferase</b>
<i>aurCI</i>	<i>kirCI</i>	97%	S-malonyltransferase
<i>aurOII</i>	<i>kirOII</i>	100%	Cytochrome P450 hydroxylase
<i>aurD</i>	<i>kirD</i>	97%	Aspartate 1-decarboxylase
<i>aurM</i>	<i>kirM</i>	99%	Class I SAM-dependent O- methyltransferase
<i>aurCII</i>	<i>kirCII</i>	96%	Ethylmalonyl-transferase
<i>aurX</i>	<i>kirX</i>	98%	Dieckmann cyclase
<i>aurHII</i>	<i>kirHII</i>	95%	DUF3037 domain-containing protein
<i>aurN</i>	<i>kirN</i>	97%	Crotonyl-CoA carboxylase/reductase
<i>aurVI</i>	<i>kirHIV</i>	92%	Magnesium ATP-ase
<i>aurAI</i>	<i>kirAI</i>	100%	Type 1 Polyketide Synthase
<i>aurAll</i>	<i>kirAll</i>	94%	Trans-AT PKS
<i>aurAIII</i>	<i>kirAIII</i>	99%	Non-ribosomal peptide synthetase
<i>aurAIV</i>	<i>kirAIV</i>	99%	Trans-AT PKS
<i>aurAV</i>	<i>kirAV</i>	99%	SDR family NAD(P)-dependent oxidoreductase
<i>aurAVI</i>	<i>kirAVI</i>	94%	Type I PKS
<i>aurR</i>	<i>kirRI/RII</i>	56%	TetR/AcrR family transcriptional regulator
<i>aurOI</i>	<i>kirOI</i>	97%	Cytochrome p450 hydroxylase
<i>aurHI</i>	<i>kirHI</i>	98%	Phytanoyl-CoA Dioxygenase

**Fig 1**



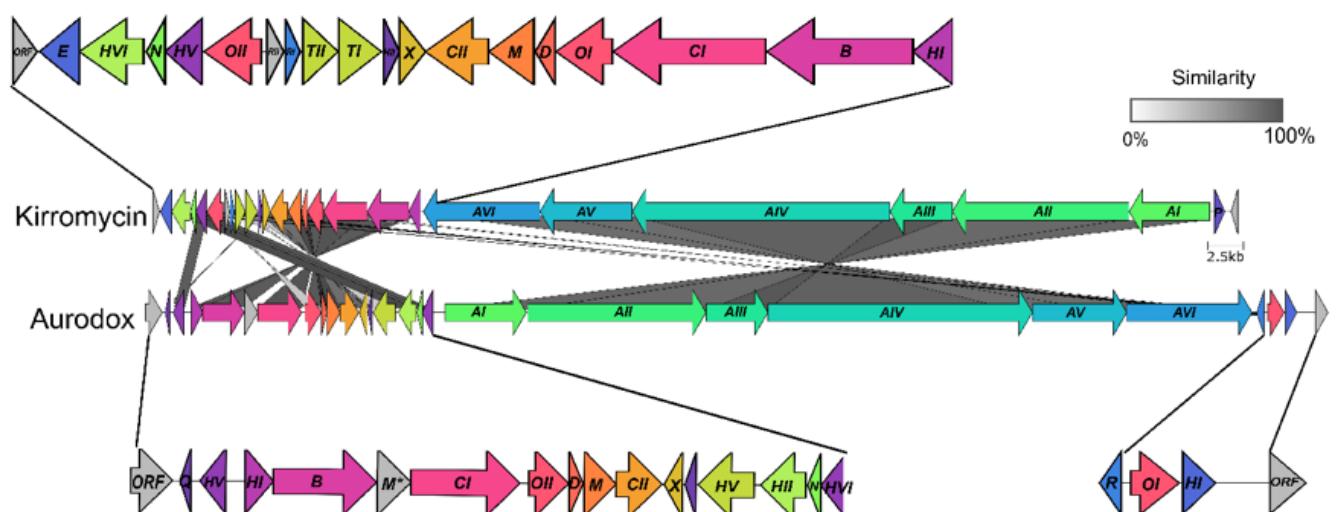
**Kirromycin**



**Aurodox**

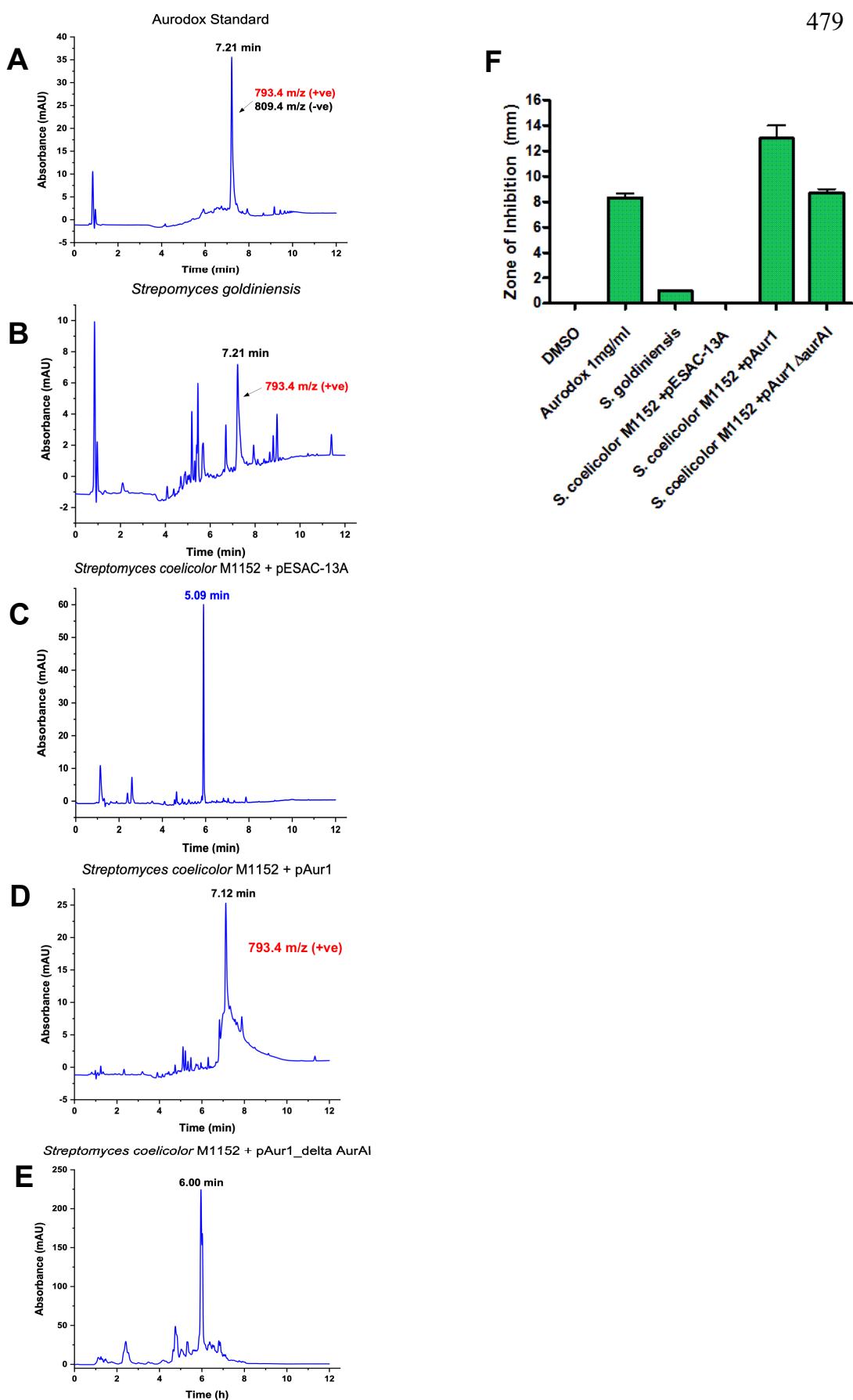
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**Figure 2**

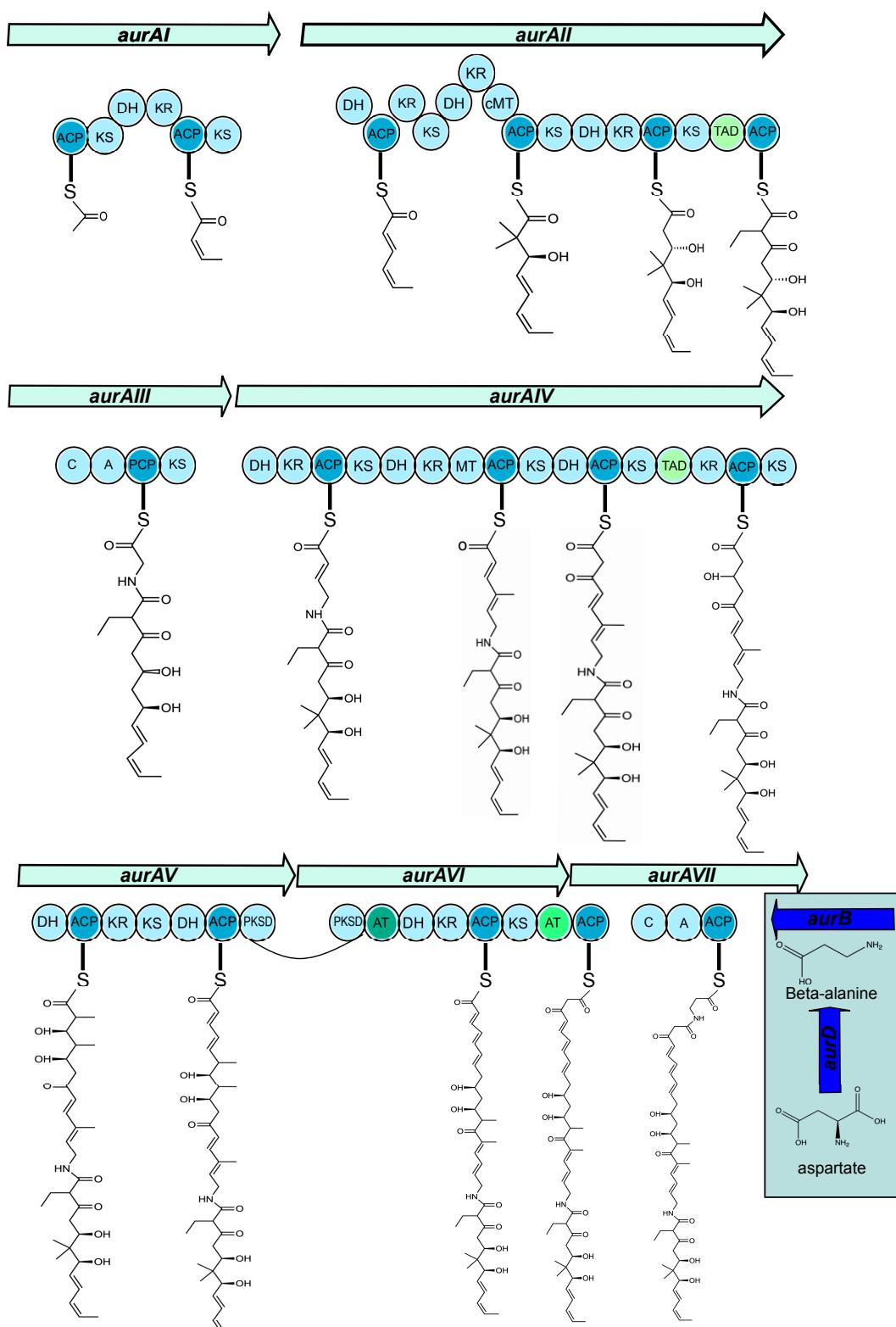


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478 **Figure 3**



480 **Figure 4**

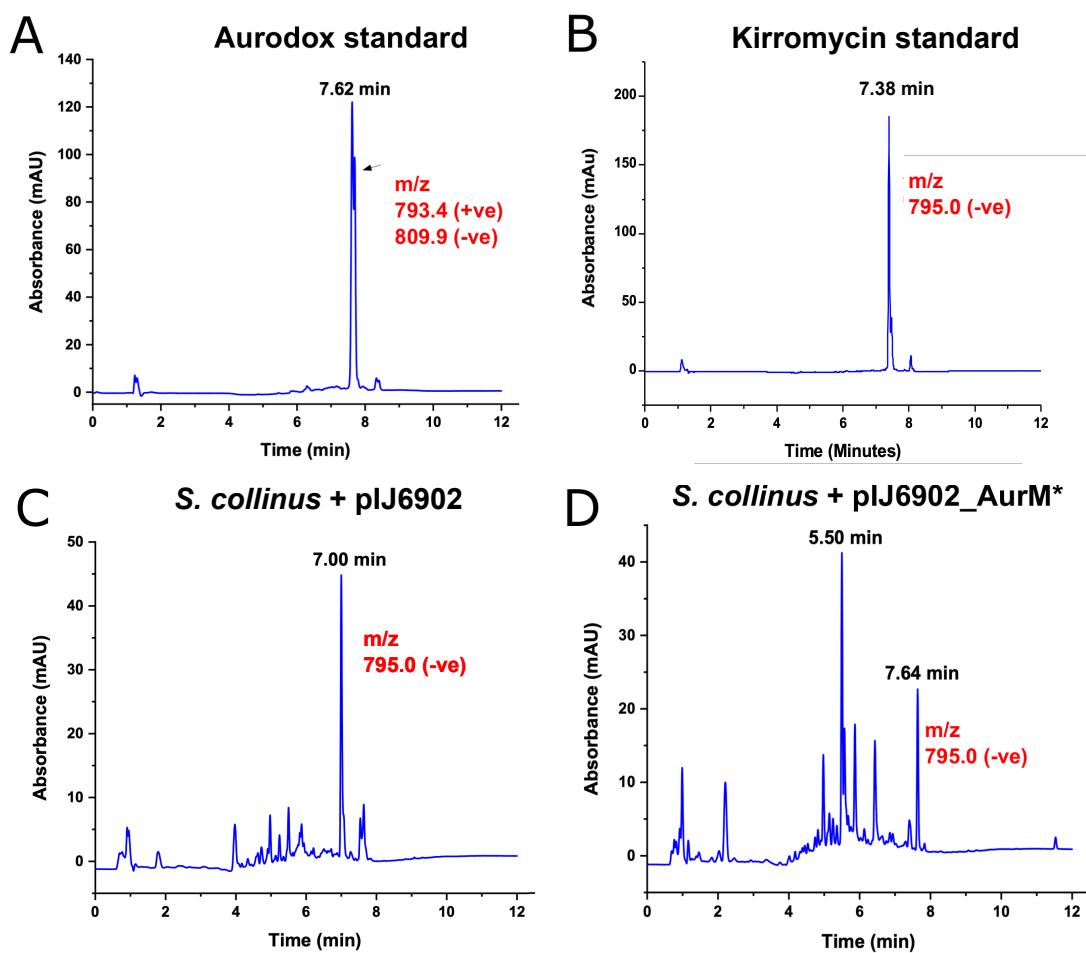


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484 **Figure 5**



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