

RSC Advances

ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**Cross-species biosynthesis of maytansine in
*Maytenus serrata***

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from *Putterlickia* plants,¹ the using T-Coffee, combined into one final alignment, based on their 16S rRNA regions.

Fig. S4. A phenogram-like rooted phylogenetic tree representing the correlation of our isolated endophytic bacterial communities of *M. serrata* with most closely related bacteria based on their 16S rRNA sequences. EC-MSR-R, EC-MSR-B, EC-MSR-L represent the endophytic bacterial community codes of *Maytenus* plants. Others represent the accession numbers of closely related bacterial species. The arrows provide information about the isolation source or natural host of the respective bacteria.

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References

I. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Plant material

The *Maytenus serrata* plants were bioprospected from the Cameroonian rainforest at Bafoussam in September 2014 (leaves, stems/bark, and roots; voucher number 26298 HNC) and from the Ghanaian forest at Asakraka-Asikam (Eastern region) in January 2015 (stems/bark and roots; voucher number KNUST/HM/2015/M101).

Plant extraction

Dried plant material was chopped into pieces and grinded to dust using liquid nitrogen. A mixture of ethanol:trichloromethane (80:20 v:v) was used to suspend the material. Under chilled conditions, the samples were ultrasonicated for 15 min. After filtering using Whatman filter paper, the extract was kept and the residue again suspended in the solvent. The ultrasonication process was then repeated for another 15 min, followed by filtration. The solvent of the combined extracts was evaporated using a rotary evaporator (Laborota 4001, Heidolph, Schwabach, Germany) at 40°C (using a water bath) at 100 rpm. For HPLC-ESI-HRMSⁿ measurements, extracts were dissolved in 1 ml ethanol.

Isolation of endophytes from different *M. serrata* tissues

Isolation, maintenance and preservation of endophytic bacterial community, endophytic fungi and endophytic bacterial isolates were done according to the published methods.¹

Genomic DNA extraction, PCR amplification and sequencing

The extraction of total genomic DNA (gDNA) of different tissues of *Maytenus serrata* plants (leaf, root and bark), bacterial endophytic communities and positive control *Actinosynnema*

pretiosum subsp. *auranticum* (DSM 44131; obtained from Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany; the activation of the bacterial strain was performed according to DSMZ guidelines) was done following previously established procedures.¹ Further, the PCR amplification, purification of PCR products and sequencing of 16S rRNA and AHBA synthase gene of *Maytenus* plants, positive control *Actinosynnema pretiosum* subsp. *auranticum* and bacterial endophytic communities was also done following previously established protocol.¹

For the analysis of halogenase gene, two successive PCR amplifications were performed using primers described previously.^{2,3} The PCR amplifications were performed in a 50 µL reaction mixture containing 45 µL Red Taq DNA Polymerase Master Mix (1.1x), 0.5 µL forward primer (100 µM), 0.5 µL reverse primer (100 µM), 3 µL template DNA and 1 µL of sterile double distilled water. The first PCR amplification with primers P1 (designed from *asm12* gene of *Actinosynnema pretiosum* subsp. *auranticum*) consisted of an initial denaturation at 95°C for 2 min, 30 cycles of denaturation, annealing and elongation at 95°C for 30 s, 63°C for 40 s and 72°C for 30 s. This was followed by a final elongation step at 72°C for 5 min. The genomic DNA of endophytic communities and plant tissues were subjected to PCR amplification. As a negative control, the template DNA was replaced by sterile double distilled water. As a positive control, the genomic DNA of *A. pretiosum* subsp. *auranticum* (DSM 44131) was used.

The second PCR amplification with primers P2 (designed from the conserved regions of the FADH₂-dependent halogenases) consisted of an initial denaturation at 95°C for 2 min, 30 cycles of denaturation, annealing and elongation at 95°C for 30 s, 62°C for 40 s and 72°C for 30 s. This was followed by a final elongation step at 72°C for 5 min. The genomic DNA of

endophytic communities and plant tissues were subjected to PCR amplification. As a positive control, the PCR purified product (*asm12* gene; spanning around 1300 bp) of *A. pretiosum* subsp. *auranticum* was used. Simultaneously, the 1300 bp fragment of bark endophytic community (purified from first PCR amplification) was used as a template for this second PCR. As a negative control, the template DNA was replaced by sterile double distilled water.

The PCR amplified products spanning around 1300 bp (first PCR) and 550 bp (second PCR) was checked and confirmed by agarose gel electrophoresis. The PCR products were further extracted from the agarose gel and purified using GFX™ PCR DNA and Gel Band Purification kit (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Germany) strictly following manufacturer's instructions. The amplified products were then sequenced from both directions at Seqlab Sequence Laboratories (Göttingen, Germany).

Phylogenetic evaluation and detection of AHBA synthase and halogenase gene in different tissues of host plant *M. serrata* and the endophytic bacterial communities

The phylogenetic evaluation of the bacterial endophytic community and detection of purified PCR products of AHBA synthase gene sequences (approx. 755 bp) and halogenase gene sequences (approx. 1300 bp and 550 bp) were aligned and evaluated following previously established methods.¹ Briefly, for the phylogenetic evaluation, the sequences were aligned using the EMBOSS-Needle Pairwise Sequence Alignment creating an optimal global end-to-end alignment of the sequences based on Needleman-Wunsch algorithm. This was further subjected to multiple sequence alignment for deducing the phylogenetic relationships using the T-Coffee Multiple Alignment software. The alignments were used to construct a phenogram-like rooted phylogenetic tree diagram using Drawgram in PHYLIP 3.66 software with centered ancestral nodes. For the detection of the genes, the aligned

sequences were matched against the public nucleotide database using the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLASTn) of the US National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) for identification of the genes. The similarity of the community sequences with phylogenetically-related reference sequences were identified using the EMBL-European Nucleotide Archive (ENA). The coding sequences were further translated into protein sequences using BLASTx of UniProt Knowledgebase (UniProtKB). The maximum homology to the respective protein in each case was identified using the UniProtKB identifier. The sequences of all the positive PCR purified products have been deposited at EMBL-Bank.

Fermentation of endophytes

100 µL of the frozen stocks of the endophytic communities from different *M. serrata* tissues were incubated with 300 mL GYM *Streptomyces* broth (4 g glucose, 4 g yeast extract, 10 g malt extract, 1 L double-distilled water, adjusted to pH 7.2) for 24 h at $28 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ with shaking (150 rev min^{-1}) on a rotary shaker (INFORS HT Multitron 2, Einsbach, Germany). The fermentation culture was extracted 3 times using 100 mL ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were dried on a rotary evaporator (Laborota 4001, Heidolph, Schwabach, Germany) at 40°C (using a water bath) at 100 rpm and dissolved in ethanol for HPLC-HRMS measurements. Appropriate medium was used for the fermentation of the bacteria (nutrient broth) and the fungi (potato dextrose broth).

Preparative HPLC

Crude plant extracts were fractionated and purified by preparative HPLC on a Gilson (Middleton, USA) HPLC-system including a pump (322) and a UV/VIS-152 detector with a Nucleodur C18 Isis column (5 µm particle size, 250 x 16 mm, Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany) with a water (A) and methanol (B) gradient (flow rate 4 mL/min).

The gradient was set up as follows: 30% B isocratic for 2 min, linear gradient from 30% B to 100% B over 11 min, 100% B isocratic for 5 min, within 0.5 min the system returned back to initial conditions of 30% B and was equilibrated for 6.5 min.

HPLC-ESI-HRMSⁿ of plant extracts and endophytic fermentation extracts

HPLC-HRMSⁿ measurements of crude plant extracts, purified/enriched fractions, and endophytic fermentation extracts were carried out using our previously established procedures,¹ suitably modified, on a LTQ Orbitrap spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, USA) equipped with a HESI-II source. The spectrometer was operated in positive mode with a nominal mass resolving power of 60000 at m/z 400 with a scan rate of 1 Hz under following parameters: spray voltage 5 kV, capillary temperature 300°C, tube lens 100 V. He served as collision gas and N₂ was used as sheath gas (55 arbitrary units) and auxiliary gas (8 arbitrary units). N-butyl benzenesulfonamide was used as lock mass ($[M+H]^+$ m/z 214.08963). All MSⁿ measurements were performed with collision-induced dissociation with 35 eV. The spectrometer was equipped with an Agilent (Santa Clara, USA) 1200 HPLC system including pump, PDA detector, column oven (30°C) and auto-sampler. The separations were performed with a Luna C18 (2) column (50 x 3 mm, 3 μm particle size) from Phenomenex (Torrance, USA) with a H₂O (+ 0.1% HCOOH) (A) and CH₃CN (+ 0.1% HCOOH) (B) gradient (flow rate 300 μL min⁻¹). The gradient program was as follows: 70% A isocratic for 2 min, linear gradient to 80% B over 8.5 min, linear gradient to 100% B for 0.5 min, 100% B isocratic for 3 min, the system returned within 0.5 min to initial conditions of 70% A and was equilibrated for 6.5 min.

III. SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Fig. S1. Proposed mass spectral fragmentation pathway of maytansine.

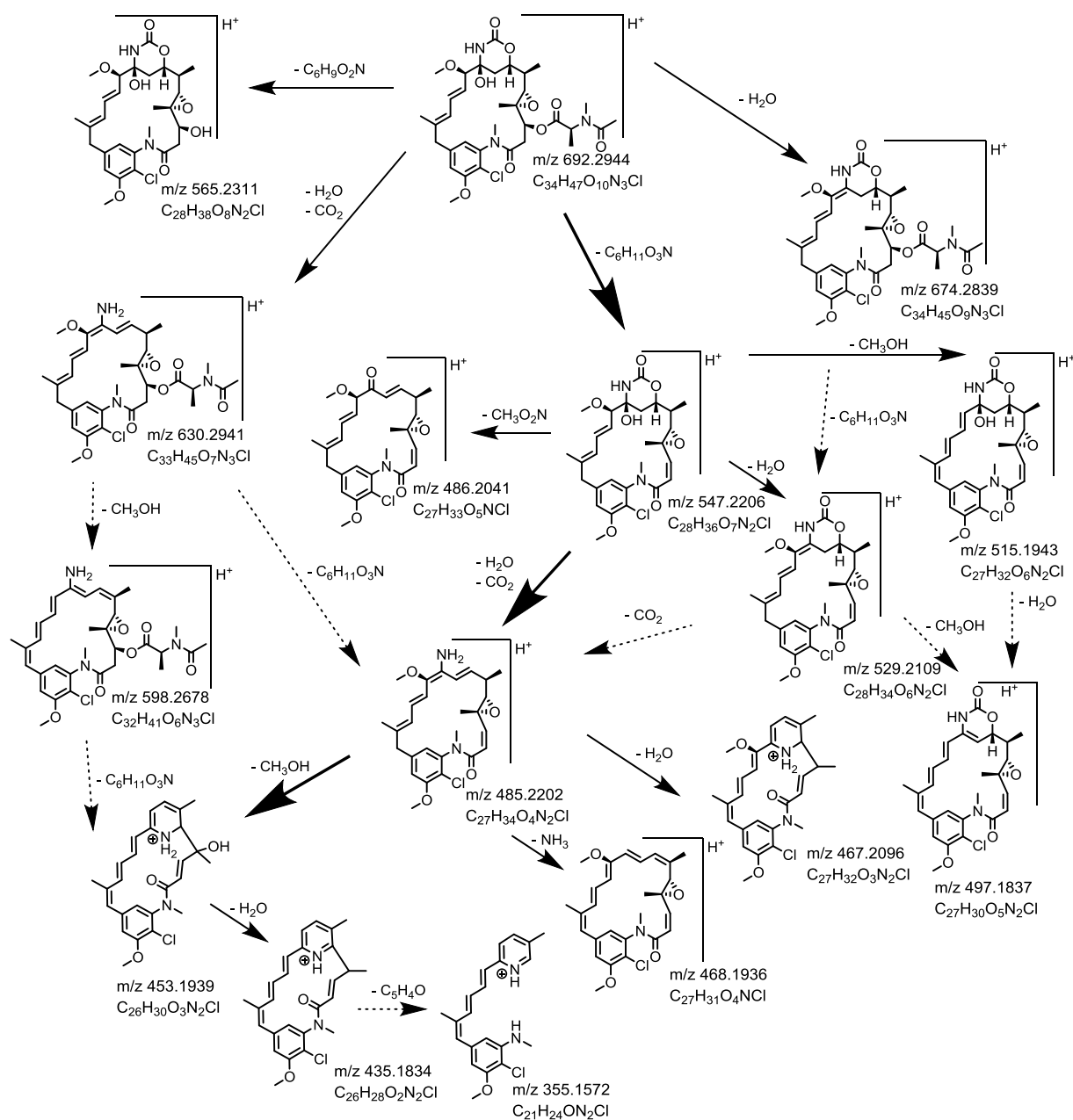
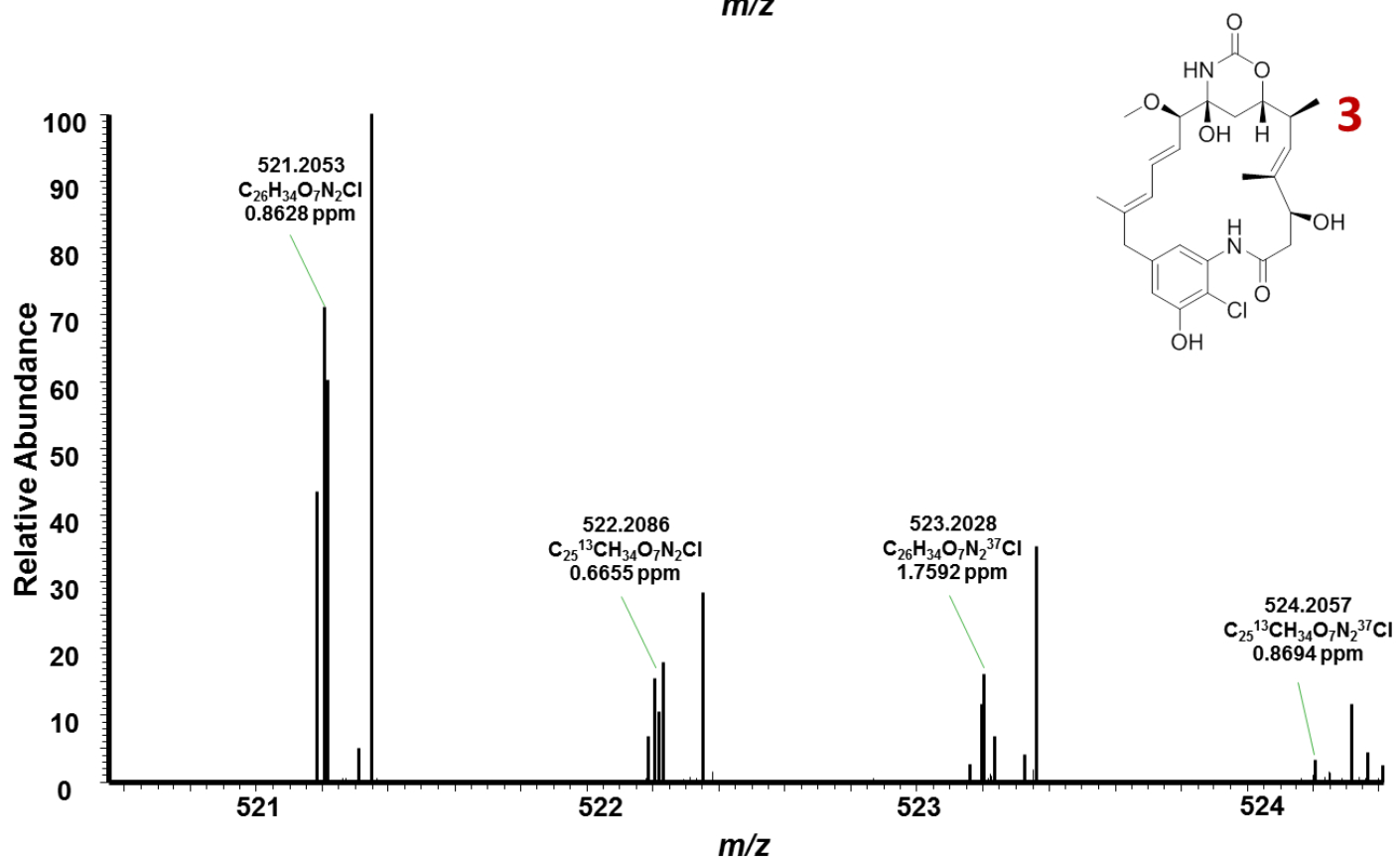
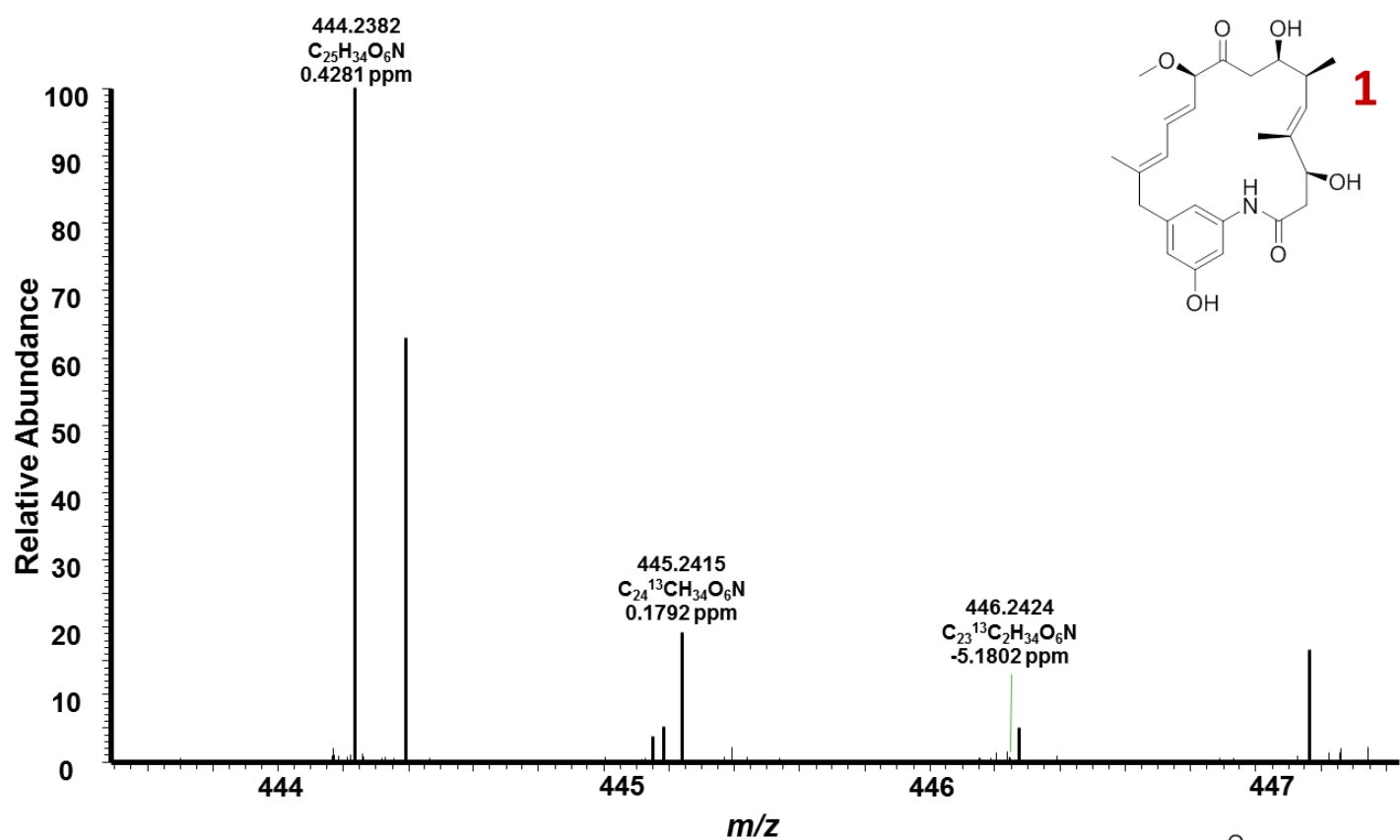
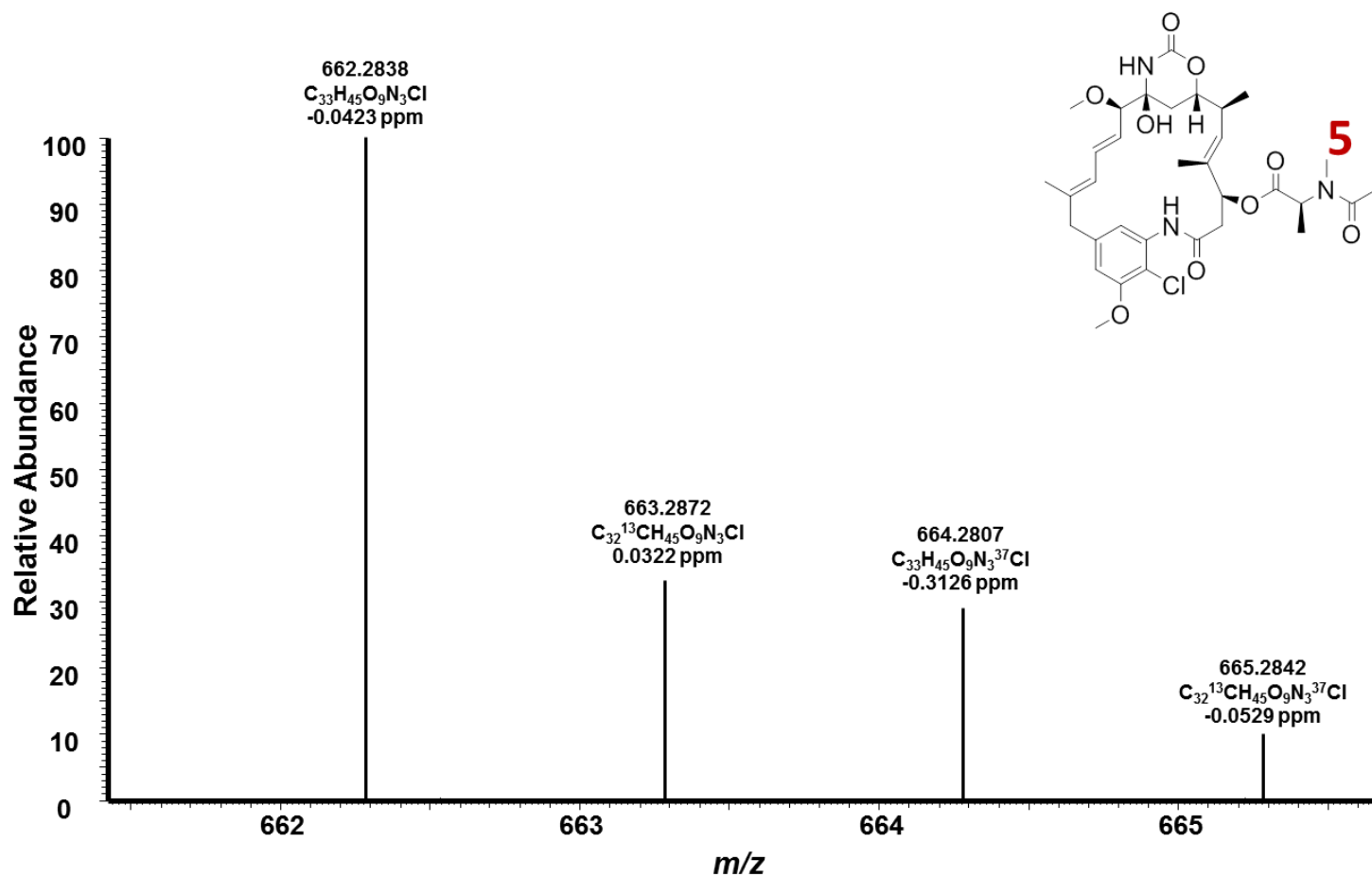
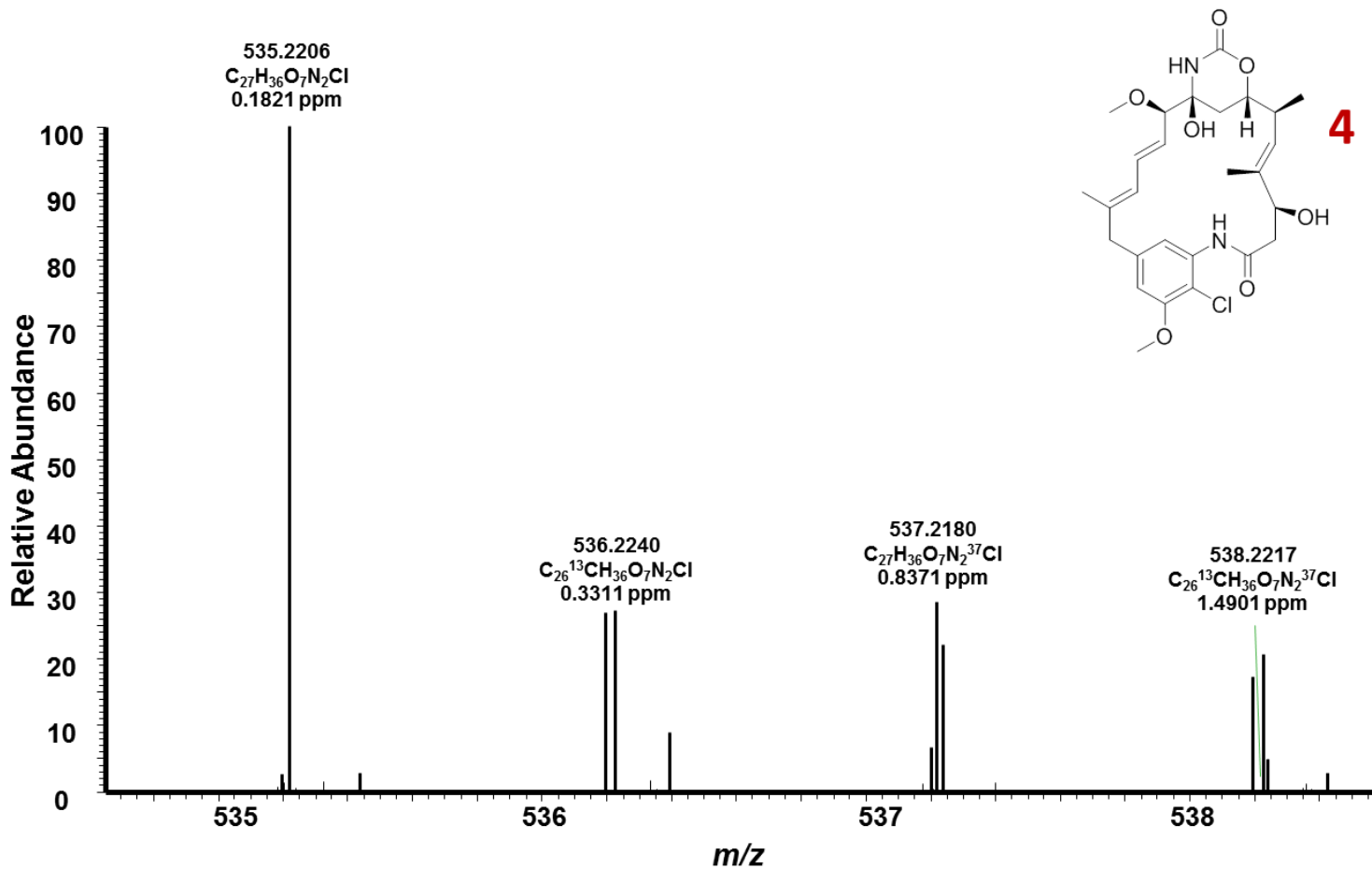


Fig. S2. Representative HPLC-ESI-HRMS full scan mass spectra of precursors of maytansine detected in the host plant (see also Table S3).





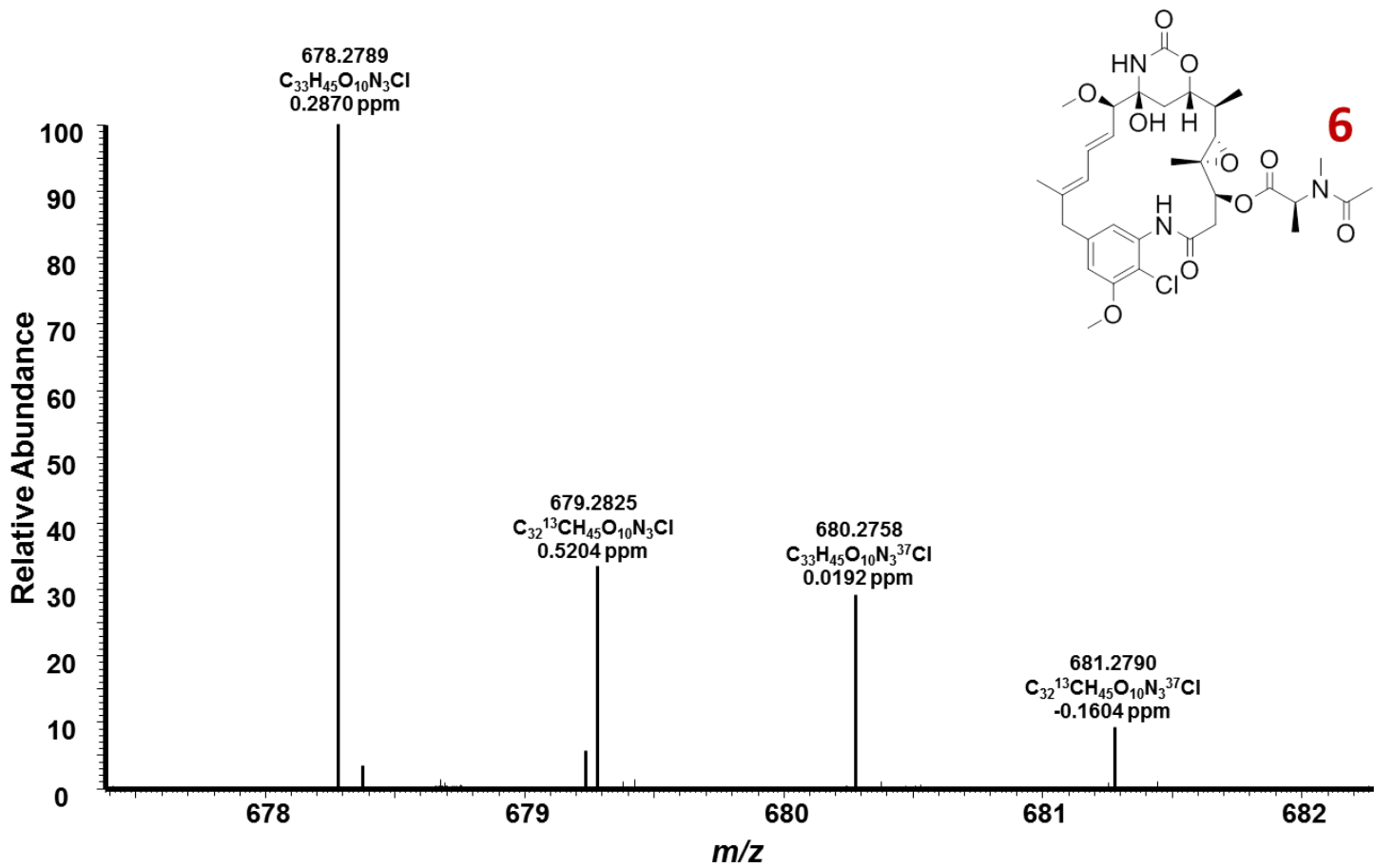
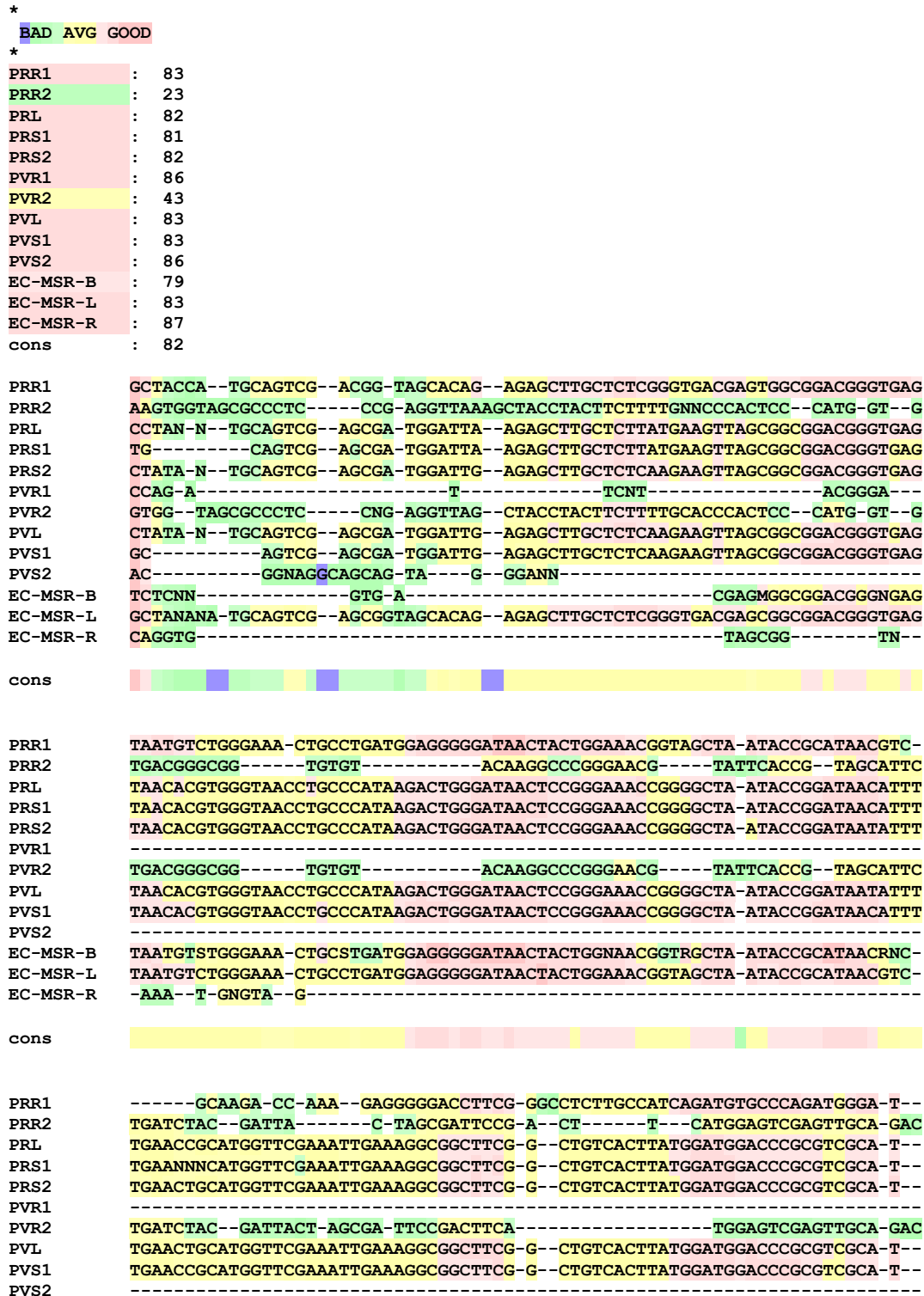


Fig. S3. The multiple sequence alignment of bacterial endophytic communities of the present study (EC-MSR-B, EC-MSR-L, EC-MSR-R), compared to ones reported earlier from *Putterlickia* plants,¹ the using T-Coffee, combined into one final alignment, based on their 16S rRNA regions.

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EC-MSR-B -----GCAWGA-CC-NAA--GTGGGGACCTTCKGGC-CTCNTGCCATCNNAFGTGCCCNAT-GGGRT--
EC-MSR-L -----GCAAGA-CC-AAA--GAGGGGACCTTCG-GGCCTCTTGCCATCAGATGTGCCAGATGGGA-T--
EC-MSR-R -----

cons

PRR1 -----TAGCTAGTAGGTGGGGTAATGGCTCACCTAGGCGACGATCCCTAGCTGGTCTGAGAG
PRR2 TCCAATCCGGACTACGACGCNCTTTATGAGGT--CCGCTTGCTCTCGCGAGTTCGCTT-----CTCTTT--G
PRL -----TAGCTAGTTGGTGGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGACCTGAGAG
PRS1 -----TAGCTAGTTGGTGGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGACCTGAGAG
PRS2 -----TAGCTAGTTGGTGGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGACCTGAGAG
PVR1 -----
PVR2 TCCAATCCGGACTACGACNNTTTATGAGGT--CCGCTTGCTCTCGCGAGTTCGCTT-----CTCTTT--G
PVL -----TAGCTAGTTGGTGGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGACCTGAGAG
PVS1 -----TAGCTAGTTGGTGGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGACCTGAGAG
PVS2 -----
EC-MSR-B -----TAGCTNGNANGTGGGGTAATGKNTCNCCTAGGCGACNATCCCTMKCTGGNCTSAGAG
EC-MSR-L -----TAGCTAGTAGGTGGGGTAACGGCTCACCTAGGCGACGATCCCTAGCTGGTCTGAGAG
EC-MSR-R -----

cons

PRR1 GATGACCAG-CCACACTGGAAGTGGAGACCGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGCAC
PRR2 T--ATGCG-CCATTGTAGCACG-TG-TGTAGCCC-TACTCGTAAGGGCCATGATGACTTGACGTCATCCCC
PRL GGTGATCGG-CCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCCGC
PRS1 GGTGATCGG-CCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCCGC
PRS2 GGTGATCGG-CCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCCGC
PVR1 -----GGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGCNN
PVR2 T--ATGCG-CCATTGTAGCACG-TG-TGTAGCCC-TACTCGTAAGGGCCATGATGACTTGACGTCATCCCC
PVL GGTGATCGG-CCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCCGC
PVS1 GGTGATCGG-CCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCCGC
PVS2 -----TTNNGCG
EC-MSR-B GATRA-CCARCCACACTGKAAGTGGAGACCGTCCAGACTCCTACAGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGCRC
EC-MSR-L GATGACCAG-CCACACTGGAAGTGGAGACCGTCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGCAC
EC-MSR-R -----

cons

PRR1 AATGGGCGCAAGCCTGAT---GCAGCCATGCCCGTGTATGAAGAAGGCCTTNNGGTTGTAAAGTACTTTC
PRR2 ACCTTCTCCAGTTTATC---ACTGGCAG-TCTCCTT-----TGA---GTTT-CCGGCCGG--ACCGCTG--
PRL AATGGACGAAAGTCTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCCGTGTAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAACCTCTGTT
PRS1 AATGGACGAAAGTCTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCCGTGTAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAACCTCTGTT
PRS2 AATGGACGAAAGTCTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCCGTGTAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAACCTCTGTT
PVR1 AATGGNNCAAGCCTGAT---GCAGCCATGCCGNNNTATGAAGAAGGCCTTNNGGTTGTAAAGTACTTTC
PVR2 ACCTTCTCCAGTTTATC---ACTGGCAG-TCTCCTT-----TGA---GTTT-CCGGCCGA--ACCGCTG--
PVL AATGGACGAAAGTCTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCCGTGTAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAACCTCTGTT
PVS1 AATGGACGAAAGTCTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCCGTGTAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAACCTCTGTT
PVS2 AATGGACGAANNNTGAC---GGAGCAACGCCGNTGAGTGAAGAAGCCTTT-CGGGTCGTAAAANTNTNTT
EC-MSR-B AATGKGCAMGCCTGATRCRG---CCATGCCCGTGTATGAAGAAGGCCTTCKG-GTTGTAAAGTACTTTC
EC-MSR-L AATGGGCGCAAGCCTGAT---GCAGCCATGCCCGTGTATGAAGAAGGCCTT-CGGGTTGTAAAGTACTTTC
EC-MSR-R -----

cons

PRR1 AGCGGGGAGGAAGTGTGTGG-TTAATAACCGCAGCAATTGACGTTACCCGAGAAAG-A-AG-CACCGGCT
PRR2 -GCAACAAGGATAAAGGT----TG----CG----CTCGTTG-CGGGACTTAACCCAACA-TT-TCACAAC-
PRL GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
PRS1 GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
PRS2 GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
PVR1 AGCGAGGAGGAAGNNNAAGG-TTAATAACCTCNNNATTGACGTTACTCGCAGAAG-A-AG-CACCGGCT
PVR2 -GCAACAAGGATAAAGGT----TG----CG----CTCGTTG-CGGGACTTAACCCAACA-TT-TCACAAC-
PVL GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
PVS1 GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
PVS2 GTTAGGAAGAACAAGTGTAGTTGAATAAGCTGGCACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGA-A-AG-CCACGGCT
EC-MSR-B AGCGAGGAGGAAGGCRTTAAGG-TTAATAACCTTRGTGATTGACGTTACTCGCA--CA-ARAARCACCGGCT
EC-MSR-L AGCGAGGAGGAAGGCATTGTGG-TTAATAACCAAGTATTGACGTTACTCGCAGAAG-A-AG-CACCGGCT
EC-MSR-R -----

cons

PRR1 AACTCCGTGCCAGCAGCCGGTAATAC-GGAG-GGTGCAAGCGTTAATCGGAATTACTGGGCGTAAAGCG-

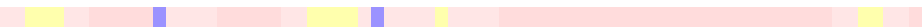
PRR2 -ACGAGCTGACGACAGCCATG-CAGCAC-CTG---TCTC-AGAGTT--CCCGAA-----GGCACCAATCC-
 PRL AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 PRS1 AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCGC
 PRS2 AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 PVR1 AANTCCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GGAG-GGTGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTACTGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 PVR2 -ACGAGCTGACGACAGCCATG-CAGCAC-CTG---TCTC-AGAGTT--CCCGAA-----GGCACCAATCC-
 PVL AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 PVS1 AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 PVS2 AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GTAG-GTGGCAAGCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 EC-MSR-B AACTCCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATACRG-AGRGT-GCAAGCGTTAATCGSAATTACTGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 EC-MSR-L AACTCCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATAC-GGAG-GGTGCAAGCGTTAATCCGGAATTACTGGGCGTAAAGCG-
 EC-MSR-R -----

cons 

PRR1 -----CACGCAGGCGGTCTGTCT-AAGTC
 PRR2 -----ATCTCTGAAAGTTCTCTGGATG
 PRL -----CGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PRS1 GCGCAGGTGGTTTCTTAAAGTCGTTATCCGGAATTATGGGCGTAAAGCGCGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PRS2 -----CGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PVR1 -----CACGCAGGCGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PVR2 -----ATCTCTGAAAGTTCTCTGGATG
 PVL -----CGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PVS1 -----CGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 PVS2 -----CGCGCAGGTGGTTTCTT-AAGTC
 EC-MSR-B -----CACRCAGGCGGTCTGTCT-AAGTC
 EC-MSR-L -----CACGCAGGCGGTCTGTCT-AAGTC
 EC-MSR-R -----

cons 

PRR1 GGATGTGAAATC-CCCGGGCTCAACCTGG-GAACTGCATTCGAAACTGGCAGGCTAGAGTCTTGTAGAGGGG
 PRR2 TCAAGAGTAGG---TAAGGTTCT-TCGCG-TTGCATCGAATTAACC-ACATGCTCCACCGCTTGTGCGG--
 PRL TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 PRS1 TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 PRS2 TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 PVR1 AGATGTGAAATC-CCCGGGCTCAACCTGG-GAACTGCATTTGAAACTGGCAAGCTAGAGTCTTGTAGAGGGG
 PVR2 TCAAGAGTAGG---TAAGGTTCT-TCGCG-TTGCATCGAATTAACC-ACATGCTCCACCGCTTGTGCGG--
 PVL TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 PVS1 TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 PVS2 TGATGTGAAAGC-CCACGGCTCAACCGTG-GAGGGTCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGTGCAGAAGAGGAA
 EC-MSR-B KGATRTGAAATCYCC-GGGCTWACC-TGKGAAGTGCRTTCGAAACTGGCAGGCTATAGTCTTGTAKAGGGG
 EC-MSR-L GGATGTGAAATC-CCCGGGCTCAACCTGG-GAACTGCATTCGAAACTGGCAGGCTAGAGTCTTGTAGAGGGG
 EC-MSR-R -----

cons 

PRR1 GGTAGAATTCAGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATC-----TGGAGGAATACCGGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PRR2 -----GCCCCCTCAATTCAATTTGAGTTTAACTTGCGGCCGTACTCCCAGG-CG--GTC
 PRL AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PRS1 AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PRS2 AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PVR1 GGTAGAATTCAGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATC-----TGGAGGAATACCGGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PVR2 -----GCCCCCTCAATTCAATTTGAGTTTAACTTGCGGCCGTACTCCCAGG-CG--GTC
 PVL AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PVS1 AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 PVS2 AGTGGAATTCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATA-----TGGAGGAACACCAGTGG-CGAAGGC
 EC-MSR-B GGTAGAATTCAGGTGTAKCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATC-----TSGAGGAGTAYCGGT-GKCGAAAGC
 EC-MSR-L GGTAGAATTCAGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGAGATC-----TGGAGGAATACCGGTGG-CGAAGGC
 EC-MSR-R -----ANATN-----TGGAGGAATACCGGTGG-NGAAGGC

cons 

PRR1 GCCCCCTGGACAAAGACTGACGCTCAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--ANACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PRR2 GACTTTAA-----CGCGTTAGCTCCGGAAGCCACGCCCTCAAGGGCACAACTCCAA
 PRL GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--ANACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PRS1 GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--AAACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PRS2 GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--ANACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PVR1 GCCCCCTGGACNAAGACTGACGCTCAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--AAACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PVR2 GACTTTAA-----CGCGTTAGCTCCGGAAGCCACNCCTCAAGGNACAACTCCAA
 PVL GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--ANACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PVS1 GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--ANACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA
 PVS2 GACTTTCTGGTCTGTAAGTACTGACACTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--AAACAGGATTAGATACCCCTGGTA

EC-MSR-B GGCCCCCTGGACAAAGACTGACGCTCAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGCGGAGC--A-ACAGGATTAGATACCCTGGTA
EC-MSR-L GGCCCCCTGGACAAAGACTGACGCTCAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--AAACAGGATTAGATACCCTGGTA
EC-MSR-R GGCCTCNTGGACGAAGACTGACGCTCAGGTGNNAAAGCGTGGGGAGC--AAACAGGATTAGATACCNTGGTA

cons * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PRR1 GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGTCGACTTGGAGGTTGTGCCCTTGAGGCG-TGGCTTCCGGAGCTAACCGCTTAA
PRR2 GTCGACATCGTTTACGGCGTGGACTACC-----AGGTATCTAATCCTGTTTGTCT---CCCCACGCTTT-C
PRL GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGAGTGTCTANGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGNAGTTAACGCANTAA
PRS1 GTCCACGCCGTAAACGATGAGTGTCTAAGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGAAGTTAACGCATTA
PRS2 GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGAGTGTCTAAGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGAAGTTAACGCATTA
PVR1 GTCCACGCCGTAAACGATGTCGACTTGGAGGTTGTNCCCTTGAGGNG-TGGCTTCCGGAGCTAACCGCTTAA
PVR2 GTCGACATCGTTTACGGCGTGGACTACC-----AGGTATCTAATCCTGTTTGTCT---CCCCACGCTTT-C
PVL GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGAGTGTCTAAGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGAAGTTAACGCATTA
PVS1 GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGAGTGTCTAAGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGAAGTTAACGCATTA
PVS2 GTCCACGCCGTAAACGATGAGTGTCTAAGTGTTAGAGGGTTTCCGCCCTTNAAGTGTGAAGTTAACGCATTA
EC-MSR-B GTCCACGCYGTAAACGATGTCGACTTGGAGGTTGTGCCCTTGWGGCG-TGCTTCCGGAGCTAACCGCTTAA
EC-MSR-L GTCCACGCCGTANACGATGTCGACTTGGAGGTTGTCCCTTGAGGAG-TGGCTTCCGGAGCTAACCGCTTAA
EC-MSR-R GTCCACGCNGTAAACGATGTCATTTGGAGGTTGTNCCNTGAGGCG-TGGCTTCCGGAGCTAACCGCTTAA

cons *** ** ** *** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

PRR1 GTCGACCGCTGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGTTAAAACCTANATGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PRR2 G-----CACCTGAG-----CGTCAGTCTT-----TG-----TCCAGGGGGCCCGCTTCGCCACCGGT
PRL GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCAAAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PRS1 GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCAAAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PRS2 GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCANAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PVR1 GTCGACCGCTGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGTTAAAACCTCAAATGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PVR2 G-----CACCTGAG-----CGTCAGTCTT-----NG-----TCCAGGGGGCCCGCTTCGCCACCGGT
PVL GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCANAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PVS1 GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCANAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
PVS2 GCACTCCGCCGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGCTGAAACTCAAAGGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
EC-MSR-B GTCGACCGCTGGGGAGTACGGCCCGAAGGTT-AAAACCTCAAATGAATTGW--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
EC-MSR-L GTCGACCGCTGGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGTTAAAACCTCAAATGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT
EC-MSR-R ATAGACCGCTGGGGAGTACGGCCGAAGGTTAAAACCTCAAATGAATTGA--CGGGGGCCCGCACAAAGCGGT

cons *

PRR1 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGATGCAACGCGAANAACCTTACCTACTCTTGACATCCAGAGAACTTTCCANAG
PRR2 ATTC-----CTCCA--GATCTCTACGATTTACCG--CT--ACA-----
PRL GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGAAAACCCCTAGAG
PRS1 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGAAAACCCCTAGAG
PRS2 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGAAAACCCCTAGAG
PVR1 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGATGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCTACTCTTGACATCCAGAGAACTTTCCAGAG
PVR2 ATTC-----CTCCA--GATCTCTACGATTTACCG--CT--ACA-----
PVL GGANCAATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGAAAACCCCTAGAG
PVS1 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGANAACCCCTAGAG
PVS2 GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGAAGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCAGGCTTGACATCCTCTGAAAACCCCTAGAG
EC-MSR-B GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGATGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCTACTCTTGACATCCAGAGAACTTAGCAGAG
EC-MSR-L GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGATGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCTACTCTTGACATCCAGAGAACTTAGCAGAG
EC-MSR-R GGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATNGATGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTACCTNGTCTTGACATCCACAGAAGTTTTCAGAG

cons *

PRR1 ATGNNTTGGTGCCTTC-GGGAACCTCTGAGACAGGTGCTGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTTGTGAAA
PRR2 -----CC-TGGAATTCTACC--CCCTCTACAAGACTCTAGCTGCCAGTTTCGAATGC-AGT
PRL ATAGGGCTTCTCCTTC-GGGAGCAGAGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTCGTGAGA
PRS1 ATAGGGCTTCTCCTTC-GGGAGCAGAGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTCGTGAGA
PRS2 ATAGGNCTTCTCCTTCGGGAGCANNGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTCGTGAGA
PVR1 ATGGATTGGTGCCTTC-GGGAACCTCTGAGACAGGTGCTGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTTGTGAAA
PVR2 -----CC-TGGAATTCTACC--CCCTCTACAAGACTCTAGCTTGCCAGTTTCAAATGC-AGT
PVL ATAGGGCTTCTCCTTC-GGGAGCAGAGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTCGTGAGA
PVS1 ATAGGGCTTCTCCTTC-GGGANACAGAGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTNGTGNNN
PVS2 ATAGGGCTTCTCCTTC-GGGAGCAGAGTGACAGGTGGTGCATGGTTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTCGTGAGA
EC-MSR-B ATGCTTTGGTGCCTTC-GGGAACCTCTGAGACAGGTGCTGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTTGTGAAA
EC-MSR-L ATGCTTTGGTGCCTTC-GGGAACCTCTGANACAGGTGCTGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGT---GTTGTGAAA
EC-MSR-R ATGAGNNNTNCTTC-GGGAACCTGTGAGACAGGTGNTGTCATGGCTGTNGTCAGCTCGT---GTTGTGAAA

cons *

PRR1 TGTGGGTTAAGTCCCGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTATCCTTTGTTGCCAGCGTCCGGCCGGGAACCTCANAGG

PRR2 **TCCCAGGTTAGCCCGGGATT**-----
 PRL TGTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTGCCATCA-TTAAGTTGGGCACTCTAAGG
 PRS1 TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTGCCATCA-TTAAGTTGGGCACTCTAAGG
 PRS2 TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTGCCATCA-TTAAGTTGGGCACTCTAAGG
 PVR1 TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTATCCTTTGTTGCCAGCGGTCGGCCGGGAACTCAAAGG
 PVR2 **TCCCAGGTTAGCCCGGGATT-TCACA**---TCTGACTTAACAAACCGCC--T--G-CGTGCGCT-----
 PVL TGTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTNNCATCA-TTAAGTTGGGCACTCTAAGG
 PVS1 TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTGCCATCA-TTAANTTGGNNCTCTAAGG
 PVS2 TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTGATCTTAGTTGCCATCA-TTAAGTTGGGCACTCTAAGG
 EC-MSR-B TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTATCCTTTGTTGCCAGCG-GTCGGCCGGGAACTCAAAGG
 EC-MSR-L TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTATCCTTTGTTGCCAGCGGTCGGCCGGGAACTCAAAGG
 EC-MSR-R TGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCAGCAACGAGCGCAACCCCTTATCCTTTGTTGCCAGCGGTCGGCCGGGAAANTCAAAGG

cons * **** * * *

PRR1 AGACTGCCA--GTGATAAACTGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAGTCATCATGCCCCTTACGAGTAGGGC
 PRR2 **TCACATCCGACTTGACAGACCGCCTG--C-GTGCCTTTACGCCAGTAATT**---CCGATTAACGCTTGACAC
 PRL TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 PRS1 TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 PRS2 TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 PVR1 AGACTGCCA--GTGATAAACTGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAGTCATCATGCCCCTTACGAGTAGGGC
 PVR2 **TTACGCCCA--GTA**---ATTCCGATTAAC-GCTTGCAC-CCTCCGTATTACCG--CGGCTGCTGGCAGGGAN
 PVL TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 PVS1 TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 PVS2 TGACTGCCG--GTGACAAACCGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAATCATCATGCCCCTTATGACCTGGGC
 EC-MSR-B AGACTGCCA--GTGATAAACTGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGATGACGTCAAGTCATCATGCCCCTTACGAGTAGGGC
 EC-MSR-L AGACTGCCA--NNGATAAACTGGAAGAANNNTGGGGANNNNTCAAGTCATCATGCCCCTTACGAGTAGGGC
 EC-MSR-R AGACTGCCA--GTGATAAACTGGAGGAAG-GTGGGGANGACGTCAAGTCATCATGNCCTTACGNCCAGGGN

cons ** ** * * * * *

PRR1 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGCGCATA-CAAAGAGAA-----GCGAACTCGCG
 PRR2 --CCTCCGTATTACCGCGGCTGCTGGCAGGAGTTAGCCGGTCTTCTTCTGCGGGTAACTCAA-TTGCTG
 PRL TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 PRS1 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 PRS2 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 PVR1 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGCGCATA-CAAAGAGAA-----GCGACCTCGCG
 PVR2 **TTAGCCGGTGTCTTCTG**-----CGAGTAACG-----TCAA-TNNNNG
 PVL TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 PVS1 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 PVS2 TACACACGTGCTACAATGGACGGTA-CAAAGAGCT-----GCAAGACCGCG
 EC-MSR-B T-CNCACGTGNTNCAATGGCATATA-CAAAGAGAA-----GCGACCTCGCG
 EC-MSR-L TACACACGTGCTACAATGGCATATA-CAAAGAGAA-----GCGACCTCGCG
 EC-MSR-R TACACACGTGNTNCAATGGCATATN-CAAAGNGAA-----GCGACCTCGNG

cons ** * * * *

PRR1 AGAGCAAGCGGACCTCATAAAGNGCGTGTAGTCCGGATTGGAGTCTGCAACTCGACTCCATGAAGTCGGAA
 PRR2 **CGGTT--ATTAACCAC--AACACCTTCTCCCGCTGAAAGTACTTTACAACC**-----
 PRL AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 PRS1 AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 PRS2 AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 PVR1 AGAGCAAGCGGACCTCATAAAGNNNGTGTAGTCCGGATTGGAGTCTGCAACTCGACTCCATGAAGTCGGAA
 PVR2 **AGGTT--ATTAACCTT--NNNNCTTCTCTCGCTGAAAGTACTTTACAACC**-----
 PVL AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 PVS1 AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 PVS2 AGGTGGAGCTAATCTCATAAAACCGTTCTCAGTTCGGATTGTAGGCTGCAACTCGCCTACATGAAGCTGGAA
 EC-MSR-B AGAGCAAGCGGNCNTCATAAAGTATGTNGTAGTCCGGATTGGAGTCTGCAACTCGACTCCATGAAGTCGGAA
 EC-MSR-L AGAGCAAGCGGACCTCATAAAGTATGTNGTAGTCCGGATTGGAGTCTGCAACTCGACTCCATGAAGTCGGAA
 EC-MSR-R AGAGCAAGCGGACCTCATAAAGTATGTNGTAGTCCGGATTGGAGTCTGCAACTNGACTCCATGAAGTNGAA

cons * * * * *

PRR1 TCGCTAGTAATCGTAGATCAGAATGCTACGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PRR2 -----NNAA-----GGCCTTCTCATACACCGCGCA--TGG
 PRL TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PRS1 TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PRS2 TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PVR1 TCGCTAGTAATCGTAGATCAGAATGCTACGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PVR2 -----NNAA-----GGCCTTCTCATANNCCGGCA--TGG
 PVL TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PVS1 TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA
 PVS2 TCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCATGCCGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCGTCA

EC-MSR-B TCG-TAGTAATCGT-GATCAGAATGCTACGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGNCC-----
 EC-MSR-L TCGCTAGTAATCGTAGATCAGAATGCTACGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCCTCA
 EC-MSR-R TCGNTAGTAATCGTGGATCAGAATGCCACGGTGAATACGTTCCCGNCCCTTG---TACACACCGCCCCTCA

cons 

PRR1 CACCATGGGAGTGGG-NNCAAAGAAGTAGGTAGC-TTAACT-CG--GGAGGGCGCTAC-----CAC
 PRR2 CTGCATCAGGCTT-G---CGNCC--ATTNTGCAAT-A-TTCCCACT--GCTGCCTN-----CCGT
 PRL CACCACGAGAGTTGTAAACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGG-G-TAACCT-TTTGGAGCCAGCCG---CCTAAG-NN
 PRS1 CACCACGAGAGTTG-AACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGGG-TAAC-----NN
 PRS2 CACCACGAGAGTTGTAAACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGG-G-TAACCT-TTA-TGA-----GCC
 PVR1 CACCATGGGAGTGGG-TGCAAAGAAGTAGGTAG--C-TAACCT-CN--GGAGGGCGCTA-----CC
 PVR2 CTGCATCAGGCTT-G---NNCCC--ATTNNGCAAT-A-TTCCCACT--GCTGCCTCCCG---TANGAATCT
 PVL CACCACGAGAGTTNG-AACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGG-G-TAACCT-TTATGGAGCCAGCCG---CCTAAGGGG
 PVS1 CACCACGAGAGTTG-AACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGG-G-TAACCT-TT--TGAGCCAGCCG-----CT
 PVS2 CACCACGAGAGTTG-AACACCCGAAGTCGGTGGG-G-TAACCT-TT--TGAGCCAGCCG-----CT
 EC-MSR-B -----T
 EC-MSR-L CACCATGGGAGTGGGTTGCAAAGAAGTAGGTAGC-T-TAACCT-CG--GGAGGGCGCTACCACTTT-GNNC
 EC-MSR-R C-----NC

cons 

PRR1 TT
 PRR2 AG
 PRL AC
 PRS1 TT
 PRS2 AG
 PVR1 AC
 PVR2 GG
 PVL AC
 PVS1 AA
 PVS2 AA
 EC-MSR-B TG
 EC-MSR-L AG
 EC-MSR-R CA


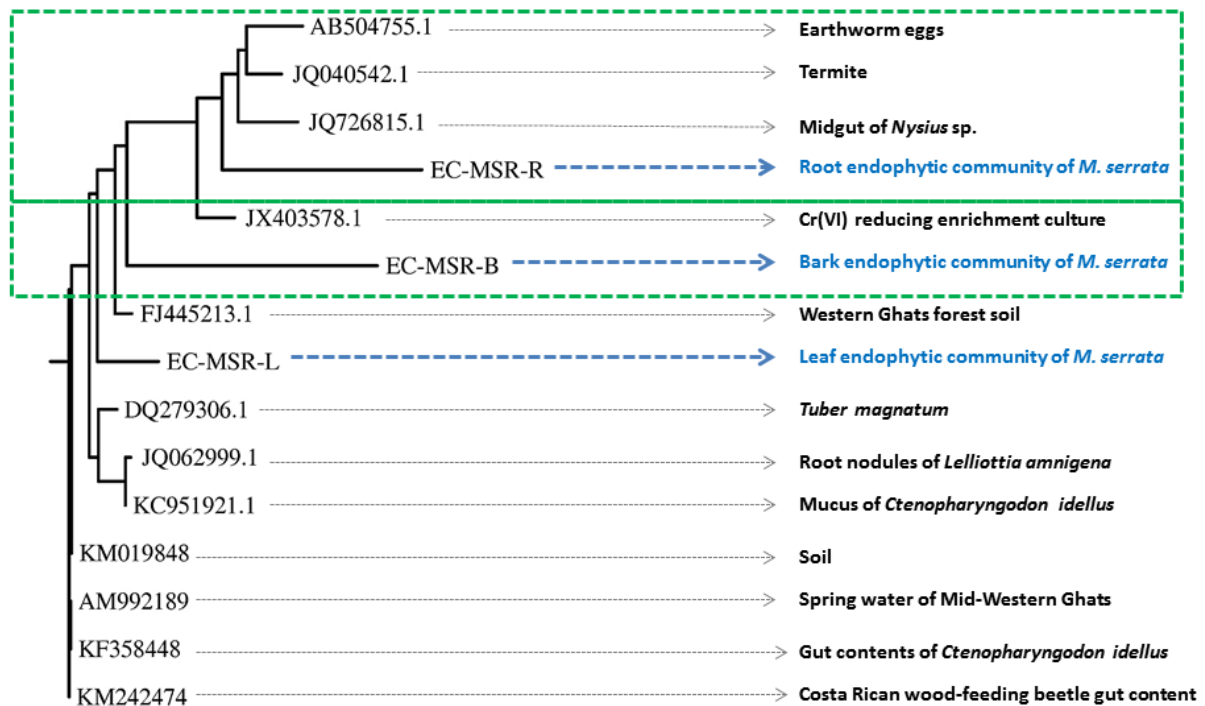
cons 

Fig. S4. A phenogram-like rooted phylogenetic tree representing the correlation of our isolated endophytic bacterial communities of *M. serrata* with most closely related bacteria based on their 16S rRNA sequences. EC-MSR-R, EC-MSR-B, EC-MSR-L represent the endophytic bacterial community codes of *Maytenus* plants. Others represent the accession numbers of closely related bacterial species. The arrows provide information about the isolation source or natural host of the respective bacteria.



III. SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table S1. List of primers used in this study

Primer Pair	Sequence
P1 (forward)	5'-AAAGGATCCTCATATGCTCGACGCGATCGTGAT-3'
P1 (reverse)	5'-AAAGAATTCACCGGCCGACCGTGCCCG-3'
P2 (forward)	5'-TTCCCSCGSTACCASATCGGSGAG-3'
P2 (reverse)	5'-GSGGGATSWMCCAGWACCASCC-3'
P3 (forward)	5'-AGAGGATCCTTCGAGCRSGAGTTCGC-3'
P3 (reverse)	5'-GCAGGATCCGGAMCATSGCCATGTAG-3'
27F (16S rRNA forward)	5'-AGAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG-3'
1492R (16S rRNA reverse)	5'-TACGGYTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3'

Table S2. Overview of the AHBA synthase and halogenase genes found in endophytic bacterial communities and plant tissues of *Maytenus serrata* plants

Name of plant tissue or endophytic bacterial community	AHBA synthase genes (bp)	Halogenase genes (bp)	Most closely related gene (EMBL accession number)	Most closely related translated protein (UniProt identifier)	EMBL- Bank accession numbers of submitted sequences (present study)
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> plant root tissue (P-MSR-R)	765	N.A.	LN681221.1	F4NAR6	LN874065
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> plant leaf tissue (P-MSR-L)	770	N.A.	AAC13997.1	Q44131	LN874066
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> plant bark tissue (P-MSR-B)	731	N.A.	LN831790.1	F4NAR6	LN874067
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> root endophytic community (EC-MSR-R)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> leaf endophytic community (EC-MSR-L)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<i>Maytenus serrata</i> bark endophytic community (EC-MSR-B)	N.A.	486	CP001630.1	C6W874	LN874068

Table S3. Presence of detectable major precursors of maytansine in various tissues of the Cameroonian *M. serrata* plant (see also Fig. S2)

Compound (see also Fig. S2)	Bark	Leaf	Root
1	✓	✗	✗
2	✗	✗	✗
3	✓	✗	✗
4	✓	✓	✓
5	✓	✗	✓
6	✓	✗	✓
Maytansine	✓	✓	✓

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3. X-G. Li, X-M. Tang, J. Xiao, G-H. Ma, L. Xu, S-J. Xie, *et al.*, *Mar. Drugs.*, 2013, **11**, 3875.