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Fig. 1 The intermediate germacrene A can be converted into various products and their bioactivity. The sesquiterpenes and sesquiterpene lactone derived from germacrene A are :1, β -elemene; 2, δ -guaiene; 3, bulnesol; 4, pogostol; 5, patchoulol; 6, germacranolide; 7, parthenolide; 8, costunolide. Fig. S1 was created by Figdraw.



Fig. 2 Construction of a phylogenetic tree, exhibiting the evolution of germacrene A synthases. The enzyme sequences were download from NCBI or Uniport. The germacrene A synthases originating from bacteria, red algae, fungi and plant are shown in grayish, pink, light blue and reseda, respectively.







dIGAS	624.9
deGS	757.1
IsGAS	1617.8

Fig. 4 Computational analysis of the active cavities of dlGAS, deGAS and lsGAS. (A) Protein models of GASs predicted using Alphafold2¹. (B) The volume of cavities calculated by CAVER Analyst 2.0².



Fig. 5 Engineering the downstream mevalonate pathway to improve germacrene A production. (*A*) Schematic illustration of the enhanced conversion of mevalonate to IPP. (*B*) Effects of increasing downstream mevalonate pathway on the biomass of engineered strains. MVA, mevalonate; MVAP, 5-phosphomevalonate; MVAPP, 5-diphosphomevalonate; IPP, isopentenyl diphosphate. (C) qRT-PCR analysis of MVA pathway gene transcription levels of engineered strains YLLQ16 and YLLQ47. Error bars correspond to the SD of the mean (n = 3, corresponding to triplicate biological replicates).











Fig. 8 Quantification of acetyl-CoA levels in engineered strains cultured for 24 h. Error bars correspond to the SD of the mean (n = 3, corresponding to triplicate biological replicates)