

**The GbsR family of transcriptional regulators: functional characterization of the  
OpuAR repressor**

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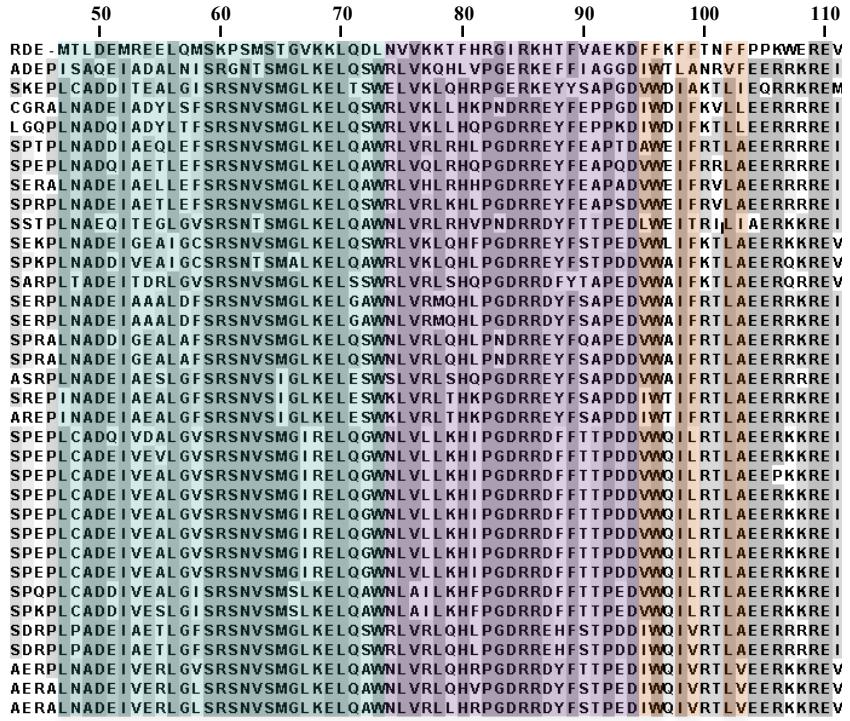
<sup>†</sup>These authors have contributed equally to this work

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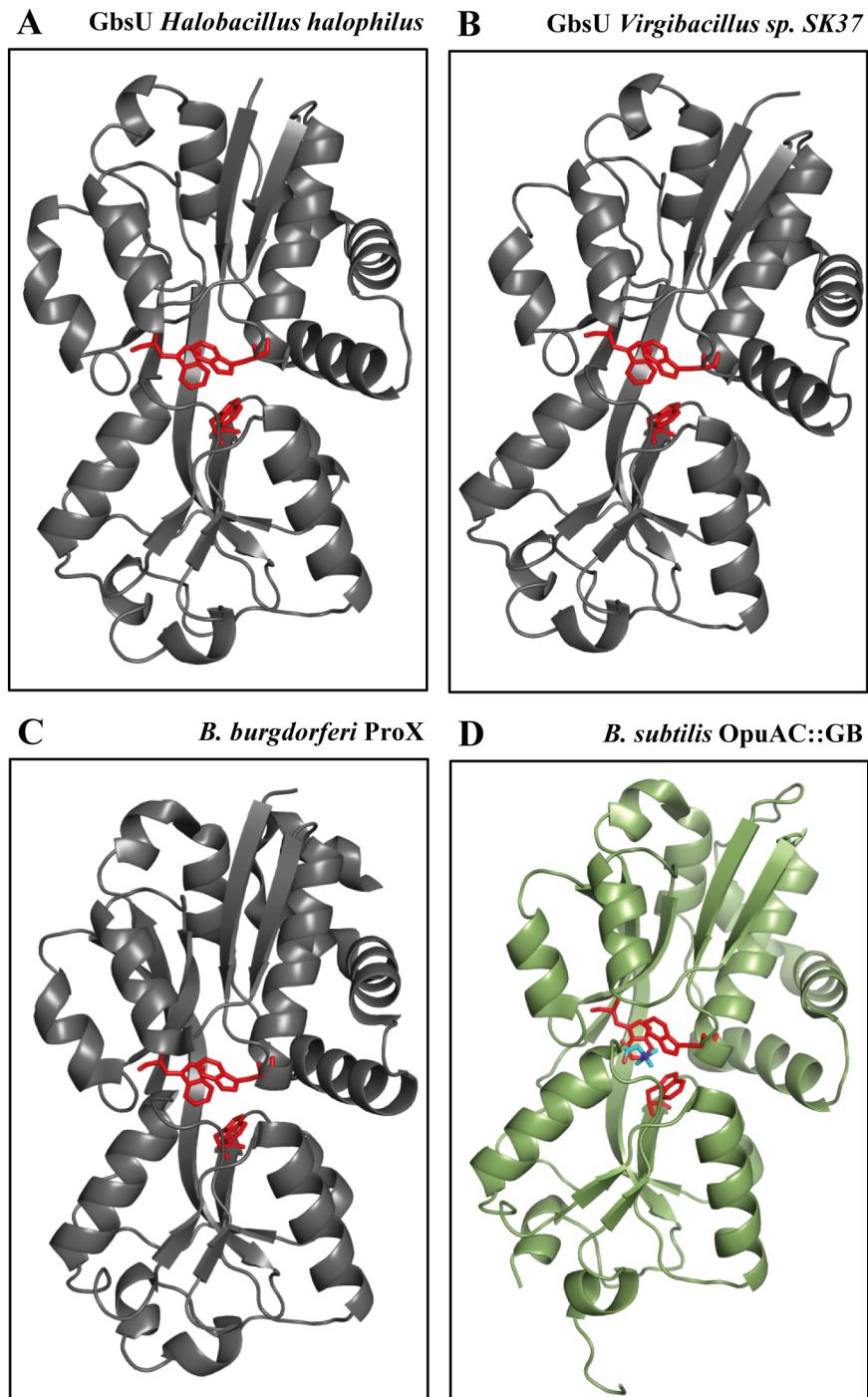
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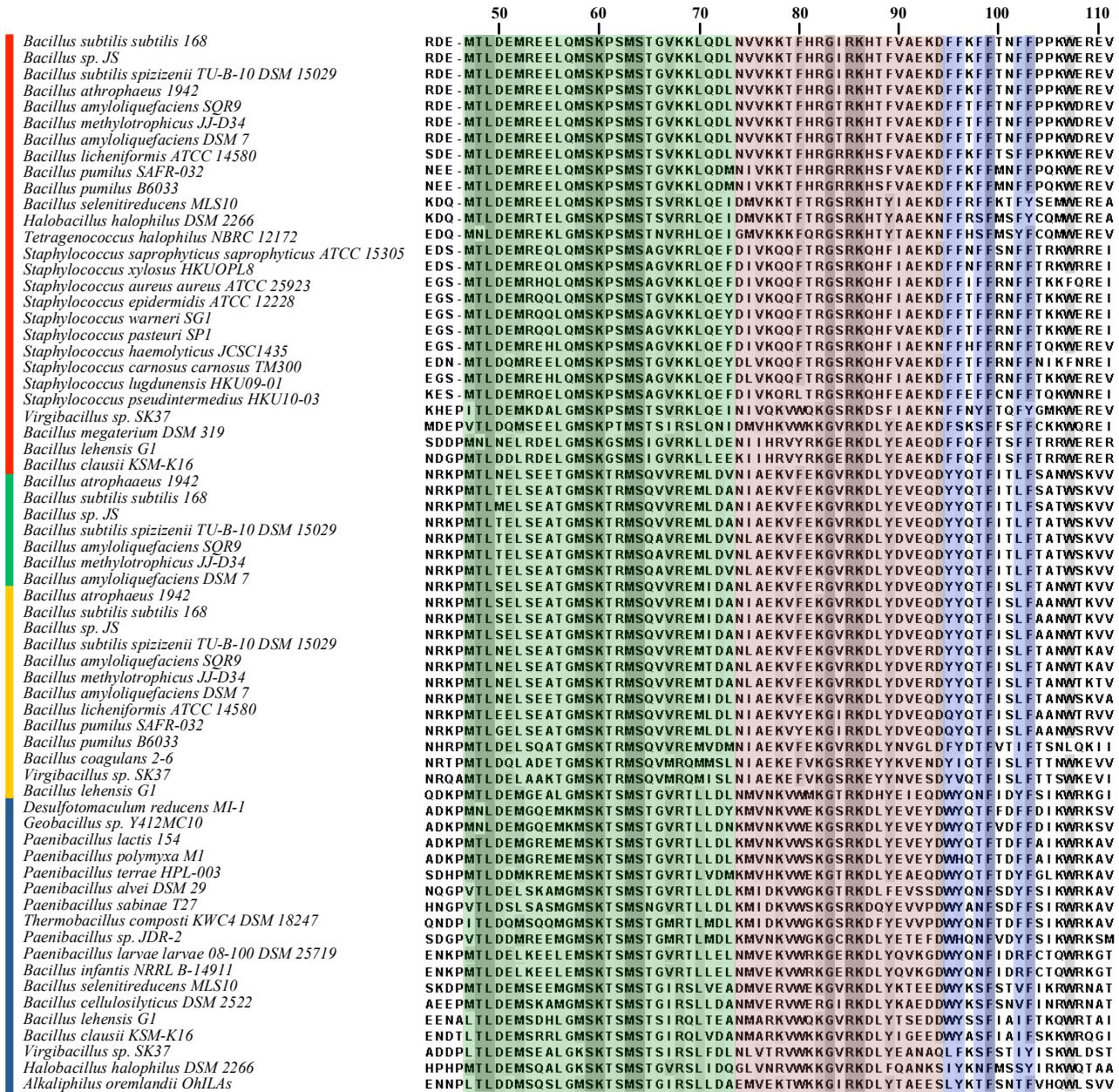
*GbsR* *Bacillus subtilis subtilis* 168  
*Aleromonas naphthalenivorans* SN2  
*Cellvibrio japonicus* Ueda107  
*Herbaspirillum seropedicae* SmR1  
*Collimonas fungivorans* Ter331  
*Methylibium petroleophilum* PM1  
*Delftia acidovorans* SPH-1  
*Variovorax paradoxus* B4  
*Ramlibacter tataouinensis* TTB310  
*Jannaschia* sp. CCS1  
*Chromobacterium violaceum* ATCC 12472  
*Pseudogulbenkiania* sp. NH8B  
*Arenimonas donghaensis* DSM 18148, HO3-R19  
*Thiomonas arsenitoxydans* 3As  
*Thiomonas intermedia* K12  
*Polaromonas naphthalenivorans* CJ2  
*Polaromonas* sp. JS666  
*Cupriavidus metallidurans* CH34  
*Ralstonia solanacearum* GMI1000  
*Ralstonia solanacearum* Po82  
*Ochrobactrum anthropi* ATCC 49188  
*Brucella microti* CCM 4915  
*Brucella suis* ATCC 23445  
*Brucella canis* ATCC 23365  
*Brucella pinnipedialis* B2/94  
*Brucella abortus* NCTC 10505  
*Brucella melitensis* ATCC 23457  
*Brucella ovis* ATCC 25840  
*Agrobacterium tumefaciens* F2  
*Agrobacterium* sp. H13-3  
*Acidiphilum cryptum* JF-5  
*Acidiphilum multivorum* AIU301  
*Methyllobacterium radiotolerans* JCM 2831  
*Methyllobacterium nodulans* ORS 2060  
*Methyllobacterium* sp. 4-46



**Supplementary Figure S1 | Amino acid sequence alignment of CydE-type proteins.** The amino acid sequences of 34 CydE-type proteins (Xia et al., 2018) were compared to the amino acid sequence of the *B. subtilis* GbsR protein (Nau-Wagner et al., 2012) by an alignment using the MAFFT server (Katoh et al., 2017). Depicted are only the N-terminal domains of these proteins, containing the amino acids corresponding to the winged helix-turn-helix DNA-binding motif (lite blue), the inter-domain linker (purple) and of the likely inducer-binding site (reddish) of GbsR. Highly conserved amino acids are shaded in grey

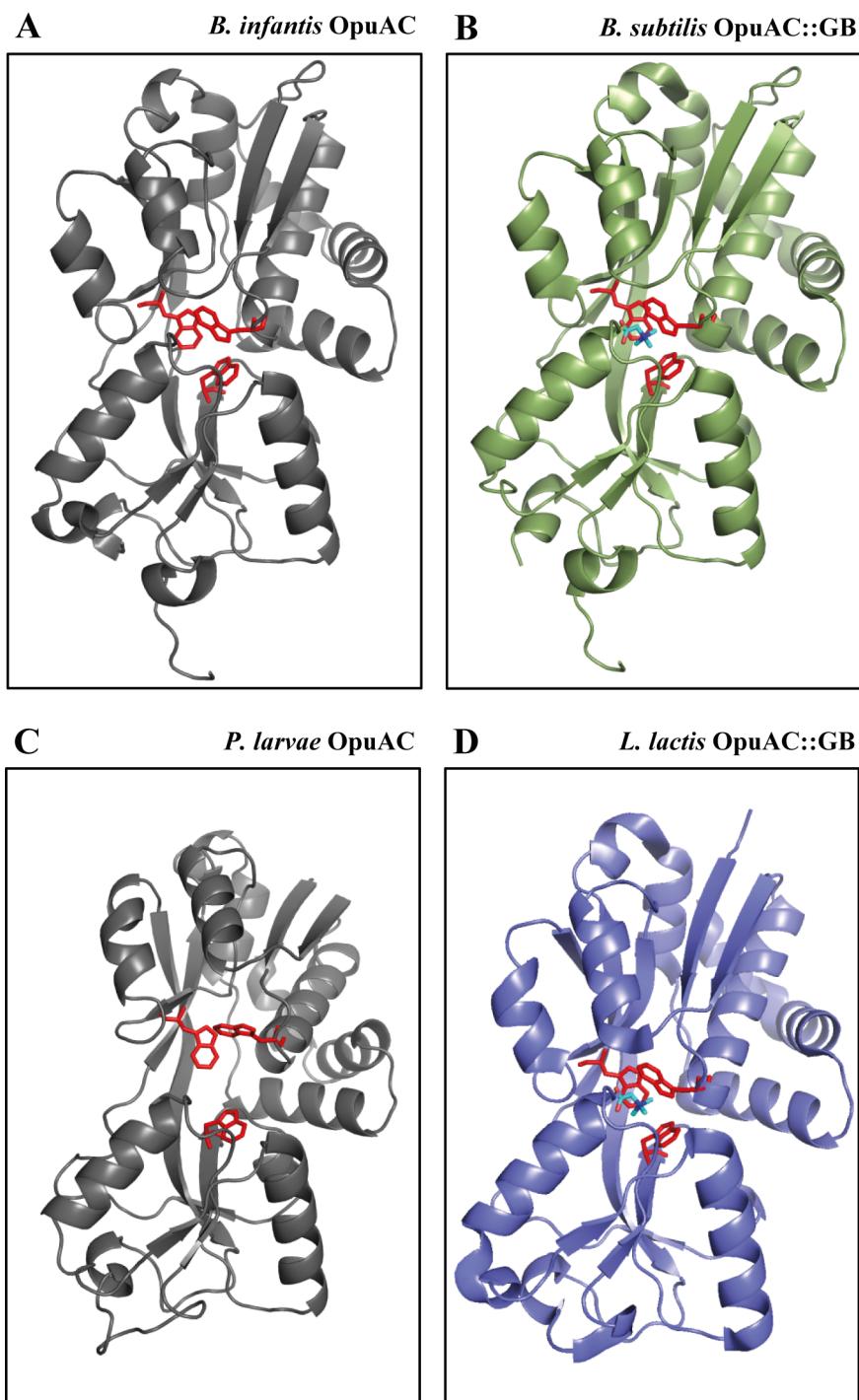


**Supplementary Figure S2 | In silico models of the GbsU substrate-binding proteins.** Depicted are the substrate-binding proteins encoded within the putative glycine betaine synthesis gene clusters of (A) *Halobacillus halophilus* DSM 2266 and (B) *Virgibacillus sp.* SK37 based on the crystal structure of (C) ProX of *Borrelia burgdorferi* [PDB entry 3TMG; (SSGCID, Gardberg, A., Fox, D., Staker, B., Stewart, L.; *to be published.*)]. All of these substrate-binding proteins show a ligand-binding site similar to the OpuAC protein of *B. subtilis*. Its crystal structure in complex with the ligand glycine betaine [PDB entry 2B4L (Horn et al., 2006)] is depicted in panel D. Aromatic amino acids likely to be involved in ligand-binding of the *H. halophilus* DSM 2266 and *Virgibacillus sp.* SK37 GbsU proteins are highlighted in red. Glycine betaine, the substrate of the OpuAC protein of *B. subtilis* (Horn et al., 2006) is shown in blue.



DNA-binding domain      Flexible linker      Likely inducer binding-site

**Supplementary Figure S3 | Amino acid sequence alignment of GbsR-type proteins associated with osmotic stress.** The amino acid sequences of 27 GbsR-type proteins associated with glycine betaine synthesis (red), 18 OpuAR-type proteins (blue), 7 GbsR-type proteins associated with OpuB-type transporters (green) and 13 GbsR-type proteins associated with OpuC-type ABC transporters (yellow) were aligned using the MAFFT server (Katoh et al., 2017). Depicted are the N-terminal domains of these proteins. The amino acids corresponding to the winged helix-turn-helix DNA-binding motif (green), the inter-domain linker (reddish), and of the likely inducer-binding site (blue) are highlighted. Highly conserved amino acids are shaded in grey.



**Supplementary Figure S4 | Structural arrangements of the OpuAC substrate-binding proteins.** Shown are the *in silico* derived models of the OpuAC proteins of (A) *B. infantis* based on the crystal structure of (B) the *B. subtilis* OpuAC protein in complex with its ligand glycine betaine [PDB entry 2B4L (Horn et al., 2006)] and, (C) the modeled substrate-binding domain of the fused OpuABC protein of *P. larvae* 08-100 DSM 25719 based on the crystallographic data on the (D) *L. lactis* OpuAC complexed with glycine betaine [PDB entry 3L6H (Wolters et al., 2010)]. Aromatic amino acids involved in the binding of glycine betaine are highlighted in red, whereas the ligand glycine betaine is depicted as blue sticks.



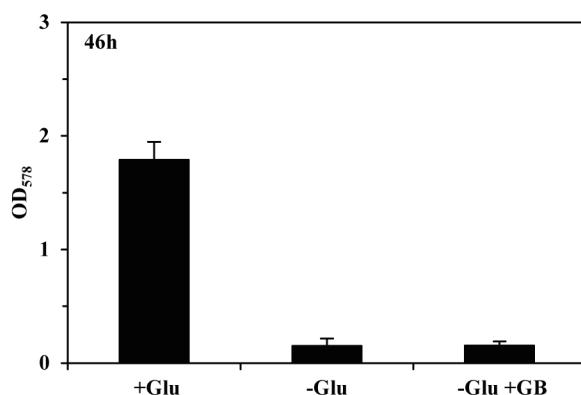
Tree scale: 0.1 —

**Supplementary Figure S5 | Clade analysis of GbsR-type proteins among *Bacteria* and *Archaea*.** 179 GbsR-type proteins were identified by bioinformatics. Information on fully sequenced microbial genomes were obtained from the IMG/M Web-server and homologs of the GbsR protein of *B. subtilis* JH642 (Nau-Wagner et al., 2012) were searched for via the JGI Web-server (Chen et al., 2017) using the BLAST-P algorithm (Altschul et al., 1990). The retrieved amino acid sequences were aligned using the MAFFT Web-server (Katoh et al., 2017) with bootstrapping setting (100 bootstraps) proved by the Web-server to analyze their phylogenetic relationship. The protein-homology tree was visualized using the iTOL web-tool (Letunic and Bork, 2016). GbsR homologs were grouped according to their gene neighborhood as depicted by colored boxes. If the *gbsR*-type gene was encoded in proximity of genes associated with glycine betaine synthesis or uptake systems for osmostress protectants it was classified as a member of the sub-group of GbsR-type proteins associated with osmotic stress (highlighted in red). Otherwise the GbsR homologs were assigned as non-associated with osmotic stress (highlighted in blue).

*GbsR* *Bacillus subtilis* subtilis 168  
*Staphylococcus saprophyticus* *saprophyticus* ATCC 15305  
*Staphylococcus xylosus* HKUOPL8  
*Paenibacillus mucilaginosus* 3016  
*Terribacillus aidingensis* MP602  
*Halobacillus halophilus* DSM 2266  
*Virgibacillus* sp. ŠK37  
*Bacillus cellululosilyticus* N-4 DSM 2522  
*Natranerobius thermophilus* JW/NM-WN-LF  
*Natranerobius thermophilus* JW/NM-WN-LF  
*Paenibacillus terrae* HL-003  
*Bacillus clausii* KSM-K16  
*Syntrophomonas wolfei* Goettingen DSM 2245B  
*Fimbriimonas gindengisoli* Gsoil 348  
*Fimbriimonas gindengisoli* Gsoil 348  
*Bradyrhizobium* sp. BTaif  
*Bradyrhizobium* sp. ORS278  
*Bradyrhizobium* oligotrophicum S58  
*Bradyrhizobium* japonicum SEMIA 5079  
*Methylbacterium radiotolerans* JCM 2832  
*Methylbacterium chloromethanicum* CM4  
*Methylbacterium extorquens* AM1  
*Methylbacterium populi* BJ001  
*Sphingomonas sanxanigenes* DSM 19645  
*Octadecabacter temperatus* SB1  
*Sideroxydans lithotrophicus* ES-1  
*Comamonas testosteroni* TK102  
*Enhydrobacter aerosaccus* SK60  
*Niastella Koreensis* GR20-10 DSM 17620  
*Chitinophage pinensis* UQM 2034 DSM 2588  
*Haliscomenobacter hydrossis* O DSM 1100  
*Saprosira grandis* Lewin  
*Spirosoma lingue* DSM 74  
*Spirosoma radiotolerans* DG5A  
*Emiticia oligotrophica* GPTSA100-15 DSM 17448  
*Leadbeaterella byssophila* AM15 DSM 17132  
*Owenweeksia hongkongensis* DSM 17368  
*Hymenobacter* sp. APR13  
*Hymenobacter swuensis* DY53  
*Flavobacterium johnsoniae* UW101 ATCC 17061  
*Flavobacterium columnare* ATCC 49512  
*Flavobacterium indicum* GPTSA100-9  
*Dokdonia* sp. 4H-3-7-5  
*Dokdonia* sp. PRO95  
*Cellulophaga algicola* IC166 DSM 14237  
*Lacinutrix* sp. 5H-3-7-4  
*Cellulophaga lytica* LIM-21 DSM 7489  
*Nonlabens dokdonensis* DSMW-6  
*Opitutaceae* sp. TAV5  
*Methanothermococcus okinawensis* IH1  
*Methanocaldococcus* sp. FS406-22  
*Methanocaldococcus vulcanius* M7 DSM 12094  
*Methanocaldococcus jannaschii* DSM 2661  
*Methanocaldococcus fervens* AG86  
*Methanotorris igneus* Kol5 DSM 5666  
*Methanococcus aeolicus* Nankai-3  
*Methanococcoides infernus* ME  
*Methanococcus voltae* A3  
*Pyrococcus abyssi* GE5  
*Pyrococcus* sp. N42  
*Pyrococcus* sp. ST04  
*Pyrococcus furiosus* DSM 3638  
*Pyrococcus yawayanensis* CH1  
*Thermococcus onnurineus* NA1  
*Palaeococcus pacificus* DY20341  
*Thermococcus sibiricus* MM 739  
*Thermococcus littoralis* DSM 5473  
*Thermococcus paralyticellae* ES1  
*Thermococcus barophilus* MP DSM 11836  
*Desulfotomaculum acetoxidans* 5575 DSM 771  
*Halorhabdus utahensis* AX-2 DSM 12940  
*Haloferax mediterranei* R-4  
*Haloferax borinquense* DSM 11551  
*Haloarcula hispanica* CGMCC 1.2049  
*Haloarcula hispanica* N601  
*Haloarcula marismortui* ATCC 43049  
*Salinarchaeum* sp. Harcht-Bsk1  
*Haliangium ochraceum* SMP-2 DSM 14365  
*Coraliomargarita akajimensis* DSM 45221  
*Methanothrix soehngenii* GP-6  
*Rhodothermus marinus* R-10 DSM 4252

50	60	70	80	90	100	110
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AEEPMTLDDMRREALAMSKTSMSTGVRALSDMKMVEPSFKKG -	RKDLYKSEEDWYSKFTSLSFGNRWRQYT					
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QPEPLSLDEIATLNNRSKGPISSTIRELASI -	RKDHFVAEVDVNMAMRIAGRKEREI					

**Supplementary Figure S6 | Amino acid sequence alignment of GbsR-type proteins non-associated with osmotic stress.** The amino acid sequences of 7 GbsR homologs associated with various transport systems (pink) and 73 GbsR-type proteins, encoded in a gene neighborhood which does not allow the assignment of a particular function (pale purple) were aligned using the MAFFT server (Katoh et al., 2017). Depicted are only the N-terminal domains of these proteins. The amino acids corresponding to the winged helix-turn-helix DNA-binding motif (lite blue), the inter-domain linker (purple) and of the likely inducer-binding site (reddish) of GbsR are highlighted. Highly conserved amino acids are shaded in grey.



**Supplementary Figure S7 | *B. infantis* cannot use glycine betaine as carbon source.**  
Cultures of *B. infantis* NRRL B-14911 were grown in basal medium supplemented with either glucose (27.7 mM final concentration) or glycine betaine (33.24 mM final concentration) as the sole carbon source. Growth yields were measured after 46 hours of incubation at 37 °C. Cultures without the addition of a carbon source served as control.

**Supplementary Table S1 |** *Bacillus subtilis* strains used in this study

Strain	Relevant genotype	Source or reference
JH642	<i>trpC2 pheA1</i>	J. Hoch; BGSC* 1A96
TMB118	$\Delta(opuA::tet)3 \Delta(opuC::spc)3 \Delta(opuD::neo)2$ $\Delta(opuB::erm)3$	(Teichmann et al., 2017)
GNB37	$\Delta(treA::erm)2$	(Nau-Wagner et al., 2012)
GNB40	$\Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(treA::erm)2$	(Nau-Wagner et al., 2012)
CAB1	$\Delta(opuA::tet)3 \Delta(opuC::spc)3 \Delta(opuD::neo)2$ $\Delta(opuB::erm)3 amyE::pX$	This study
CAB2	$\Delta(opuA::tet)3 \Delta(opuC::spc)3 \Delta(opuD::neo)2$ $\Delta(opuB::erm)3 amyE::opuAR-opuA_{B,i}$	This study
STHB04	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2$	This study
STHB05	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2$ $\Delta(opcR::zeo)2$	This study
STHB06	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(opcR::zeo)2$	This study
STHB07	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2 \Delta(opcR::zeo)2$	This study
STHB08	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(opcR::zeo)2$	This study
STHB10	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2$ $\Delta(opcR::zeo)2 [amyE::\Phi(opuAA_{B,i}'-treA);$ $opuAR^+]1$	This study
STHB11	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2$ $\Delta(opcR::zeo)2 [amyE::\Phi(opuAA'-treA)]1$	This study
STHB65	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2$ $[amyE::\Phi(opuAA'_{B,i}-treA)]1$	This study
STHB66	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(gbsR::neo)1 \Delta(opcR::zeo)2$ $[amyE::\Phi(opuAA'_{B,i}-treA)]1$	This study
STHB67	$\Delta(treA::erm)2 \Delta(yvaV::tet)2 \Delta(opcR::zeo)2$ $[amyE::\Phi(opuAA'_{B,i}-treA)]1$	This study

\*BGSC: Bacillus Genetic Stock Center (Columbus, OH, USA).

**Supplementary Table S2 |** Primers used in this study

Primer name	Primer sequence (5'-3')
OpcR Knout P1	ATAAATTCTTCAACAAACTCATTCGCCGG
OpcR Knout Zeo P2	CCATATCAAGATAACTCGTATAATGTATGTTGAAGGCATTCCAAA CGTATGCATATTT
OpcR Knout Zeo P3	CCATATCAAGATAACTCGTATAATGTATGTTGAAGGCATTCCAAA CGTATGCATATTT
OpcR Knout P4	GTAAAGCAATACTCGTCTGCTTGTGTTA
OpcR Knout Zeo P5	AAAATATGCATACGTTGGAATGCCTCAACACATACATTACGAAG TTATCTTGATATGG
OpcR Knout Zeo P6	TATTTAGAGAGCTGCATTCTTGTGTTCTAATGTATGCTATACGA AGTTATTCACTGCC
YvaV Knout P1	GATAAATTCCCTCAACAAATTCTGCTGCC
Yvav Knout Tet P2	CCGTAATGCTATGTTAGCATTACTCTTCCATGTTTCCGCGATTCTTCTATAAAATG
YvaV Kneu2 Tet P3	AAATTGTTATCCGCTCACAAATTCCACACAAACATATTGAGAGCGA AGACATTTTAAATATGTG
YvaV Knout P4	CAGTGAAATAAACCGGTAAATCTAGGTCTC
YvaV Knout Tet P5	CATTTATAGAAAGAACATCGCGAAAACATGGAAAAGAGTAATGCTAACATAGCATTACGG
YvaV Kneu2 Tet P6	CACATATTAAAAATGTCTCGCTCTCAAATATGTTGTGGAATT GTGAGCGGATAACAATT
OpuAR fwd	ATGGTAGGTCTCAAATGCATAACGAAGAATTGGTCGCACAG
OpuAR rev	ATGGTAGGTCTCAGCGCTCTTCCTTTTCATCCTCAGAC
OpuAR_Box1_for	CCAGGTCAAAGGGGATTGGTCCAGAATTTCATCGATCGCTTTG TACG
OpuAR_Box1_rev	CGTACAAAAGCGATCGATGAAATTCTGGAACCAATCCCCTTGAC CTGG
OpuAR_Box3_for	GGTACCAGAATTTCATCGATTCTTGTACGCAATGGAGAAAAG G
OpuAR_Box3_rev	CCTTTCTCCATTGCGTACAAAAGAAATCGATGAAATTCTGGTAC C
OpuAR_Box1+3_for	CCAGGTCAAAGGGGATTGGTCCAGAATTTCATCGATTTCTTTG TACG
OpuAR_Box1+3_rev	CGTACAAAAGAAATCGATGAAATTCTGGAACCAATCCCCTTGAC CCTGG
OpuAR_N98Fn_for	GTACAAAAGCGATCGATGAAAAACTGGTACCAATCCCCTTGAC
OpuAR_N98Fn_rev	TCAAAGGGATTGGTACCGAGTTTCATCGATCGCTTTGTAC
OpuAR_W95F_for	GATTATACCAGGTCAAAGGGATTCTACCAGAATTTCATCGAT CG
OpuAR_W95F_rev	CGATCGATGAAATTCTGGTAGAAATCCCCTTGACCTGGTATAAA TC
CA3-opuARA fwd	AAAGGATCCGCATCTACTCTTCCCTTTTTC
CA3-opuARA rev	AAAGGATCCCATTAACTAAGTCTCGATTG
OpuAR treA Frag1/4 for	AAACCCGGGGCACCTTTGGAGAGCATCTAC
OpuAR treA Frag2 for	AAACCCGGGGAACTCCGTATAAAATGCATGTTTC
OpuAR treA Frag1/2 rev	AAAGGATCCCTGAAGCAGCTCGATTGTGAC

**Supplementary Table S3 |** Plasmids used in this study

Plasmid	Description	Resistance	Reference
pASK-IBA3plus	Expression plasmid for <i>E. coli</i> with a AHT-inducible <i>tet</i> -promoter and a C-terminal <i>Strep</i> -tag II	<i>bla</i>	IBA (Göttingen, Germany)
pX	Integration vector for <i>B. subtilis</i> <i>amyE::cat::amyE</i>	<i>bla, cat</i>	(Kim et al., 1996)
pJMB1	<i>amyE::treA</i>	<i>bla, cat</i>	(Hoffmann et al., 2013)
pDG1515	Tetracycline resistance cassette	<i>tet</i>	(Guerout-Fleury et al., 1995)
p7Z6	Zeocin resistance cassette	<i>zeo</i>	(Yan et al., 2008)
pCA- <i>opuARA</i>	<i>opuA</i> operon and <i>opuAR</i> gene of <i>B. infantis</i> with native promoters cloned into pX- <i>amyE</i> -site	<i>bla, cat</i>	This study
pSTH33	<i>amyE::Φ(opuAA<sub>B.i</sub>'-treA); opuAR<sup>+</sup></i>	<i>bla, cat</i>	This study
pSTH34	<i>amyE::Φ(opuAA<sub>B.i</sub>'-treA)</i>	<i>bla, cat</i>	This study
pMP_AR1	<i>B. infantis opuAR</i> gene cloned into pASK-IBA3plus	<i>bla</i>	This study
pSTH49	Site directed mutagenesis of <i>B. infantis opuAR</i> in pMP_AR1: <i>opuAR</i> [W <sup>93</sup> F]	<i>bla</i>	This study
pSTH50	Site directed mutagenesis of <i>B. infantis opuAR</i> in pMP_AR1: <i>opuAR</i> [N <sup>96</sup> F]	<i>bla</i>	This study
pOpuAR_Y94F	Site directed mutagenesis of <i>B. infantis opuAR</i> in pMP_AR1: <i>opuAR</i> [Y <sup>94</sup> F]	<i>bla</i>	This study
pOpuAR_R100F	Site directed mutagenesis of <i>opuAR</i> in pMP_AR1: <i>B. infantis opuAR</i> [R <sup>100</sup> F]	<i>bla</i>	This study
pOpuAR_Y94F_R100F	Site directed mutagenesis of <i>B. infantis opuAR</i> in pMP_AR1: <i>opuAR</i> [Y <sup>94</sup> F/R <sup>100</sup> F]	<i>bla</i>	This study

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