

Engineering BioBricks for Deoxysugar Biosynthesis and Generation of New Tetracenomycins

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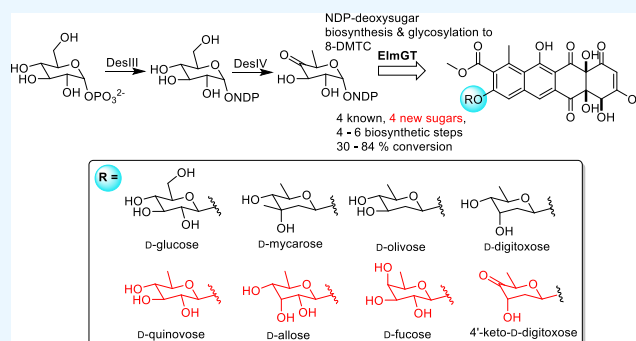


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ABSTRACT: Tetracenomycins and elloramycins are polyketide natural products produced by several actinomycetes that exhibit antibacterial and anticancer activities. They inhibit ribosomal translation by binding in the polypeptide exit channel of the large ribosomal subunit. The tetracenomycins and elloramycins are typified by a shared oxidatively modified linear decaketide core, yet they are distinguished by the extent of O-methylation and the presence of a 2',3',4'-tri-O-methyl- α -L-rhamnose appended at the 8-position of elloramycin. The transfer of the TDP-L-rhamnose donor to the 8-demethyl-tetracenomycin C aglycone acceptor is catalyzed by the promiscuous glycosyltransferase ElmGT. ElmGT exhibits remarkable flexibility toward transfer of many TDP-deoxysugar substrates to 8-demethyltetracenomycin C, including TDP-2,6-dideoxysugars, TDP-2,3,6-trideoxysugars, and methyl-branched deoxysugars in both D- and L-configurations. Previously, we developed an improved host, *Streptomyces coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE, which is a stable integrant harboring the required genes for 8-demethyltetracenomycin C biosynthesis and expression of ElmGT. In this work, we developed BioBricks gene cassettes for the metabolic engineering of deoxysugar biosynthesis in *Streptomyces* spp. As a proof of concept, we used the BioBricks expression platform to engineer biosynthesis for D-configured TDP-deoxysugars, including known compounds 8-O-D-glucosyl-tetracenomycin C, 8-O-D-oliviosyl-tetracenomycin C, 8-O-D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C, and 8-O-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C. In addition, we generated four new tetracenomycins including one modified with a ketosugar, 8-O-4'-keto-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C, and three modified with 6-deoxysugars, including 8-O-D-fucosyl-tetracenomycin C, 8-O-D-allosyl-tetracenomycin C, and 8-O-D-quinovosyl-tetracenomycin C. Our work demonstrates the feasibility of BioBricks cloning, with the ability to recycle intermediate constructs, for the rapid assembly of diverse carbohydrate pathways and glycodiversification of a variety of natural products.



INTRODUCTION

Nature has evolved elaborate enzymatic strategies for both the tailoring of carbohydrate substituents and the attachment of sugar moieties to a parent scaffold.¹ Many natural products feature one or more pendant saccharides as an indispensable feature of their mechanism of action.² The pharmacological properties of a natural product pharmacophore can be altered substantially via the pendant carbohydrate moieties, including cellular penetration, potency, efficacy, and clearance, whereas deoxysugars can even contribute hydrophobic and hydrophilic domains for drug–target recognition.^{3,4} Furthermore, natural product glycosylation patterns influence the structural diversity of entire families of natural products.⁴ A recent comprehensive meta-analysis by Elshahawi et al. revealed that, as of 2015, of the 15,940 bacterial natural products that were described in the literature, 3426 compounds were glycosylated.⁵ In addition, Elshahawi et al. revealed that these natural product glycosides were decorated with 344 distinct carbohydrate appendages.⁵

Within the kingdom of prokaryotes, the soil-dwelling actinomycetes have evolved a prolific breadth of biosynthetic enzymes that catalyze the formation of nucleotide-activated deoxysugars and glycosyltransferases that append the sugars to natural product scaffolds.⁶ In recent years, biosynthesis of exotic NDP-activated deoxysugars has gained much attention through functional *in vitro* enzyme assays and structural biology of key enzymes.² Furthermore, combinatorial biosynthesis has emerged as a mature discipline for *in vivo* engineering of natural product glycosylation patterns. The modification or exchange of carbohydrates to change the structure or function is known as

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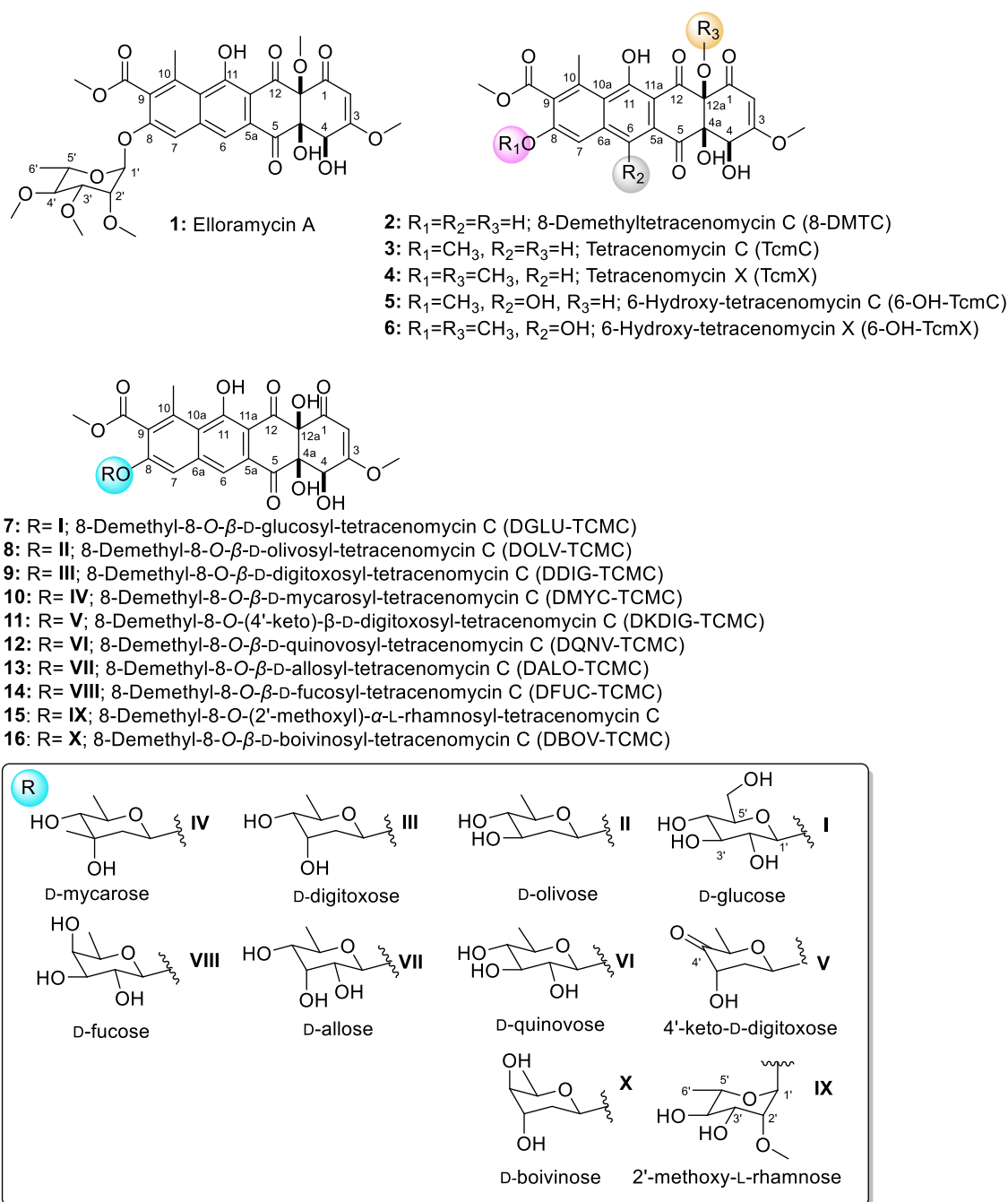


Figure 1. Chemical structures of tetracenomycin natural products discussed in this work.

glycodiversification, and it is a vital strategy for rational drug development.⁷

The elloramycin biosynthetic pathway has been one of the most successful examples with respect to the generation of glycodiversity via combinatorial biosynthesis.^{8–12} Elloramycin (**1**) is an aromatic polyketide antibiotic produced by *Streptomyces olivaceus* strain Tü 2353.¹³ Elloramycin exhibits antibacterial activity against Gram-positive microorganisms and antiproliferative activity against human cancers via binding to the polypeptide exit channel and inhibition of ribosome translation.¹⁴ Elloramycin features a permethylated 8-O-L-rhamnose sugar appendage, which has a poorly understood role in binding of the drug to the large polypeptide exit channel. 8-Demethyl-tetracenomycin C (**2**), tetracenomycins C (**3**) and

X (**4**), and 6-hydroxy-tetracenomycins C (**5**) and X (**6**) are additional nonglycosylated congeners previously described from this family^{15–19} (Figure 1). The biosynthetic gene cluster (BGC) for elloramycin was previously isolated on cos16F4.²⁰ Decker et al. demonstrated that heterologous expression of cos16F4 in *Streptomyces lividans* resulted in the production of the aglycone, 8-demethyl-tetracenomycin C (**2**), but not the production of elloramycin due to the absence of genes for the biogenesis of NDP-deoxysugars. Ramos et al. discovered the TDP-L-rhamnose biosynthetic pathway of *S. olivaceus* Tü2353 residues outside of the BGC for the aglycone **2** near genes required for cell wall biosynthesis.²¹ The expression of the TDP-L-rhamnose pathway on a second expression vector in trans reconstituted the production of elloramycin.^{8,21} Recently, an

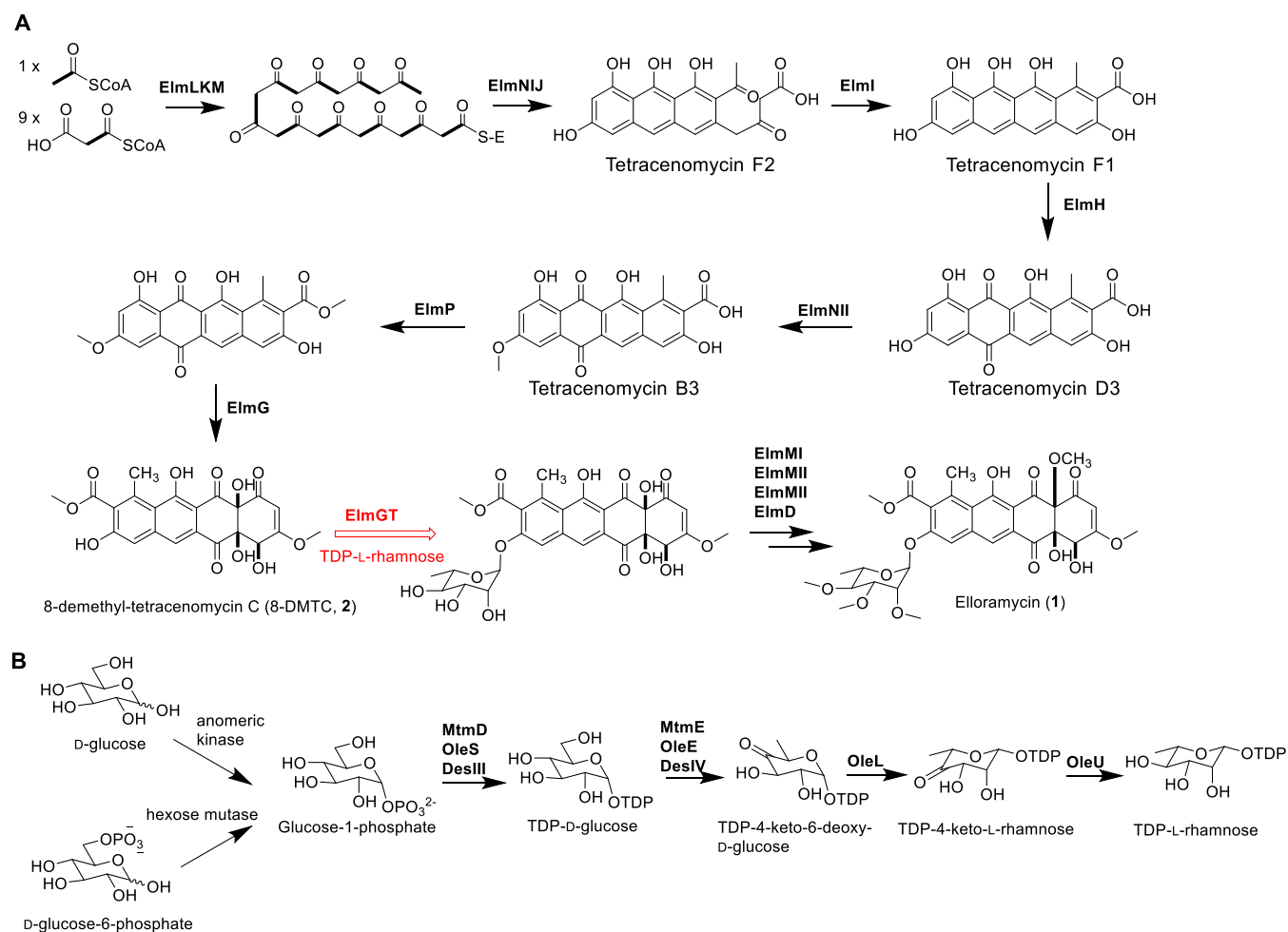


Figure 2. Elloramycin biosynthetic pathway. (A) Elloramycin polyketide synthase pathway. (B) TDP-L-rhamnose deoxysugar biosynthetic pathway.

improved host for the production of **2** was developed via the integration of the *elm* biosynthetic pathway on *cos16F4iE* into the ϕ C31 attachment of *Streptomyces coelicolor* M1146 to generate *S. coelicolor*::*cos16F4iE*.²²

The *S. coelicolor* M1146::*cos16F4iE* expression system is an ideal platform for assessing combinatorial biosynthesis of heterologous TDP-deoxysugar pathways due to the presence of the “sugar donor flexible” glycosyltransferase ElmGT. The elloramycin glycosyltransferase exhibits relaxed substrate specificity toward many TDP-deoxysugar substrates, including TDP-2,6-dideoxysugars, TDP-2,3,6-trideoxysugars, and branched-chain deoxysugars in both D- and L-configurations. This relaxed substrate specificity has resulted in the production of >20 glycosylated derivatives of **2**.^{8–12,23–25} However, the antiproliferative activity of many of these analogues and the role of the carbohydrate in fostering binding to the ribosomal polypeptide exit channel are largely unknown.

In this work, we developed a BioBricks synthetic biology system for cloning TDP-deoxysugar operons in “sugar plasmids” that were expressed in *S. coelicolor* M1146::*cos16F4iE*. As a proof of concept, four known tetracenomycins with D-configured deoxysugars were biosynthesized in the actinomycete system, including 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-glucosyl-tetracenomycin C (**7**), 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-oliviosyl-tetracenomycin C (**8**), 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (**9**), and 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C (**10**). In addition, we biosynthesized four new tetracenomycins, includ-

ing 8-demethyl-8-O-(4'-keto)- β -D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (**11**), 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-quinovosyl-tetracenomycin C (**12**), 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-allosyl-tetracenomycin C (**13**), and 8-demethyl-8-O- β -D-fucosyl-tetracenomycin C (**14**). These compounds were assessed for their antiproliferative activity in human cancer cell lines and antibacterial activity against a panel of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria along with **1–3** and 8-demethyl-8-O-(2'-methoxy)- α -L-rhamnosyl-TCMC (**15**)²⁶ from the Center for Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation (CPRI) repository. In total, this work demonstrates the utility of the elloramycin BioBricks synthetic biology system for investigating new deoxysugar metabolism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

BioBricks Cloning of the TDP-L-rhamnose Pathway for Elloramycin Production. Elloramycin biosynthesis is initiated by the ElmLKM aromatic polyketide synthase (PKS), which condenses 1× acetyl-CoA starter units and 9× malonyl-CoA extender units to form the decaketide poly- β -ketothioester (Figure 2A). This intermediate is cyclized by ElmNIJ, oxidized by ElmH, methylated by ElmNII and ElmP, before undergoing triple hydroxylation by ElmG to yield **2**.^{19,27–29} The glycosyltransferase ElmGT transfers TDP-L-rhamnose to the 8-OH of **2** to form 8-demethyl-8-O- α -L-rhamnosyl-tetracenomycin C, which undergoes methylations at the 2', 3', 4', and 12a-positions to generate **1** (Figure 2A).

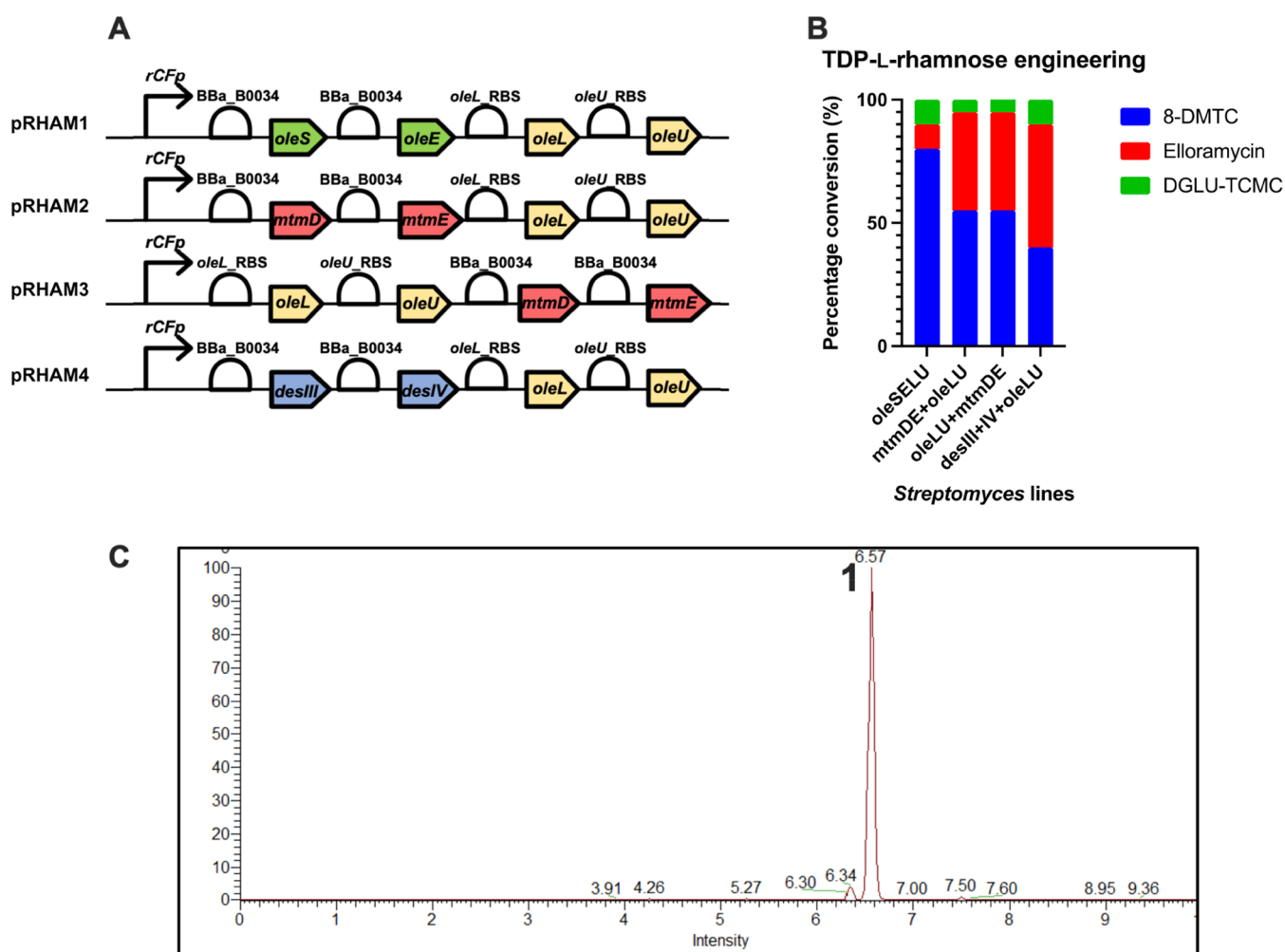


Figure 3. (A) SBOL vector diagrams for TDP-L-rhamnose sugar plasmids. (B) Engineering of *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE for the production of 1. Constructs pRHAM1 (*oleSELU*), pRHAM2 (*mtmDE* + *oleLU*), pRHAM3 (*oleLU* + *mtmDE*), and pRHAM4 (*desIII* + *desIV* + *oleLU*) were independently transformed, and six biological replicates were picked per comparison. The percentage conversion (%) of 2 to 1 was measured for each strain by integrating peak areas in the high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)–ultraviolet–visible (UV–vis) traces at 412 nm. (C) Representative extracted ion chromatogram of elloramycin (1) from cell extracts of *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE/pRHAM3 [$m/z = 661.2109$ [M + H]⁺]. Data were acquired by Michigan State University, Mass Spectrometry and Metabolomics Core on a Thermo Q-exactive UPLC-MS/MS.

Antibiotic deoxysugar biosynthetic pathways are initiated with the activation of D-glucose and progression through consecutive deoxygenation reactions (Figure 2B).³⁰ The sugar donor, TDP-L-rhamnose, is generated from D-glucose in five enzymatic steps (Figure 2B). D-Glucose is phosphorylated by anomeric kinase, or D-glucose-6-phosphate is interconverted to D-glucose-1-phosphate. TDP-D-glucose synthase (e.g., MtmD, OleS, DesIII) transfers thymidine monophosphate to D-glucose-1-phosphate to form TDP-D-glucose. TDP-D-glucose-4,6-dehydratase (MtmE, OleE, DesIV) catalyzes 6-deoxygenation to form the key intermediate TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose. OleL catalyzes epimerization at the 3- and the 5-positions to convert TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose from a ⁴C₁ configuration to a ¹C₄ configuration. Finally, OleU reduces the 4-ketone to yield TDP-L-rhamnose.

To test the efficiency of *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE as an *in vivo* chassis for the production of elloramycin, we designed four BioBricks gene cassettes encoding the TDP-L-rhamnose biosynthetic pathways, pRHAM1, pRHAM2, pRHAM3, and pRHAM4 (Figure 3A). Since TDP-D-glucose synthase and TDP-D-glucose-4,6-dehydratase are the dedicated steps for the biosynthesis of deoxysugar intermediates and several different

orthologs for these steps have been described in the literature,^{8,25,31–34} we cloned alternative versions of the metabolic pathway to identify the best performing construct (Table 1). The *mtmDE* genes from the mithramycin biosynthetic pathway, *oleSE* genes from the oleandomycin pathway, and the *desIII-IV* genes from the pikromycin biosynthetic pathway were all cloned as BioBricks with the strong BBa_B0034 ribosome entry site into pSB1C3-J04450.^{35–37} The genes were spliced under the control of the strong rCFp promoter and cloned into the *Streptomyces*–*Escherichia coli* multicopy shuttle vector pUWL201PWBB.^{38,39} Genes *oleL* and *oleU* were cloned from the plasmid pLN2 as BioBricks fragments and cloned into the pCR-Blunt II-TOPO vector and sequenced.⁸ The construct pRHAM1 encoded the *oleSELU* genes, pRHAM2 encoded the *mtmDE* + *oleLU* genes, pRHAM3 encoded *oleLU* + *mtmDE* in an alternative operonic arrangement, and pRHAM4 encoded *desIII-IV* + *oleLU* (Table 1 and Figure 3A). Expression of all four constructs in *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE resulted in the detectable production of 1 with differing efficiencies (Figure 3B). The production of 1 was confirmed based on high-resolution mass spectrometry measurements [(+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 661.2109 [M + H]⁺

Table 1. List of Plasmids Constructed and/or Used in This Study

plasmid	genotype and relevant characteristics	reference
pUWL201PWBB	<i>bla^R, tsr^R, fd</i> terminator, pIJ101 <i>ori</i> , ColE1 <i>ori</i> , MCS, <i>oriT</i> , MCS	this study
pRHAM1	<i>oleSELU</i> (TDP-L-rhamnose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pRHAM2	<i>mtmDE + oleLU</i> (TDP-L-rhamnose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pRHAM3	<i>oleLU + mtmDE</i> (TDP-L-rhamnose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pRHAM4	<i>desIII + desIV + oleLU</i> (TDP-L-rhamnose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDOLV	<i>desIII + desIV + oleVW + urdR</i> (TDP-D-olivose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDDIG	<i>desIII + desIV + oleV + eryBII + urdR</i> (TDP-D-digitoxose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDMYC	<i>desIII + desIV + oleVW + cmmC + mtmTIII</i> (TDP-D-mycarose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDBOV	<i>desIII + desIV + oleVWU</i> (TDP-D-boivinose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDBOV*	<i>desIII + desIV + oleVWU*</i> (TDP-D-boivinose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i> , with repaired version of <i>oleU</i>	this study
pDALO	<i>desIII + desIV + gerF + gerK1</i> (TDP-D-allose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDFUCO	<i>desIII + desIV + gilU + gilV</i> (TDP-D-fucose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study
pDARO	<i>desIII + desIV + rubS3</i> (TDP-D-antiarose) operon under control of <i>rCFp</i>	this study

(calcd for $C_{32}H_{37}O_{15} [M + H]^+$, 661.2127)] (Figure 3C). During these studies, we detected the production of another tetracenomycin analogue with a parental mass ion in ESI-MS +ve mode ($m/z = 621 [M + H]^+$), which corresponded to the attachment of D-glucose (Figure S24). The compound 8-demethyl-8-O-D-glucosyl-tetracenomycin C (7) was previously shown to result from the attachment of TDP-D-glucose (e.g., which is an intermediate in all antibiotic deoxysugar biosynthetic pathways, Figure 4) to 2.²³ This result could be explained by the inefficiency of some of the L-rhamnose biosynthetic pathways encoded by the constructs above, resulting in the production of 7 due to the relaxed substrate preference of ElmGT (Table 2).

Compounds 1, 2, and 7 were extracted and purified by various chromatographic methods. The physicochemical properties of compounds 1, 2, and 7 are summarized in the Materials and Methods section. Compounds 1, 2, and 7 were obtained as yellow solids with UV/vis characteristics typical to tetracenomycins. The chemical structures of compounds 1, 2, and 7 were established by MS and 1D (¹H and ¹³C NMR) and 2D (heteronuclear single quantum coherence (HSQC), ¹H,¹H-correlated spectroscopy (¹H,¹H-COSY), heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC), and nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY)) NMR data analysis (Figures 5, 6, and S5–S33 and Tables S1–S4) and by comparison with standard and literature data. The attachments of the sugar residues at the 8-position in compounds 1 and 7 have been established based on the critical HMBC correlation from H-1' to C-8. All of the

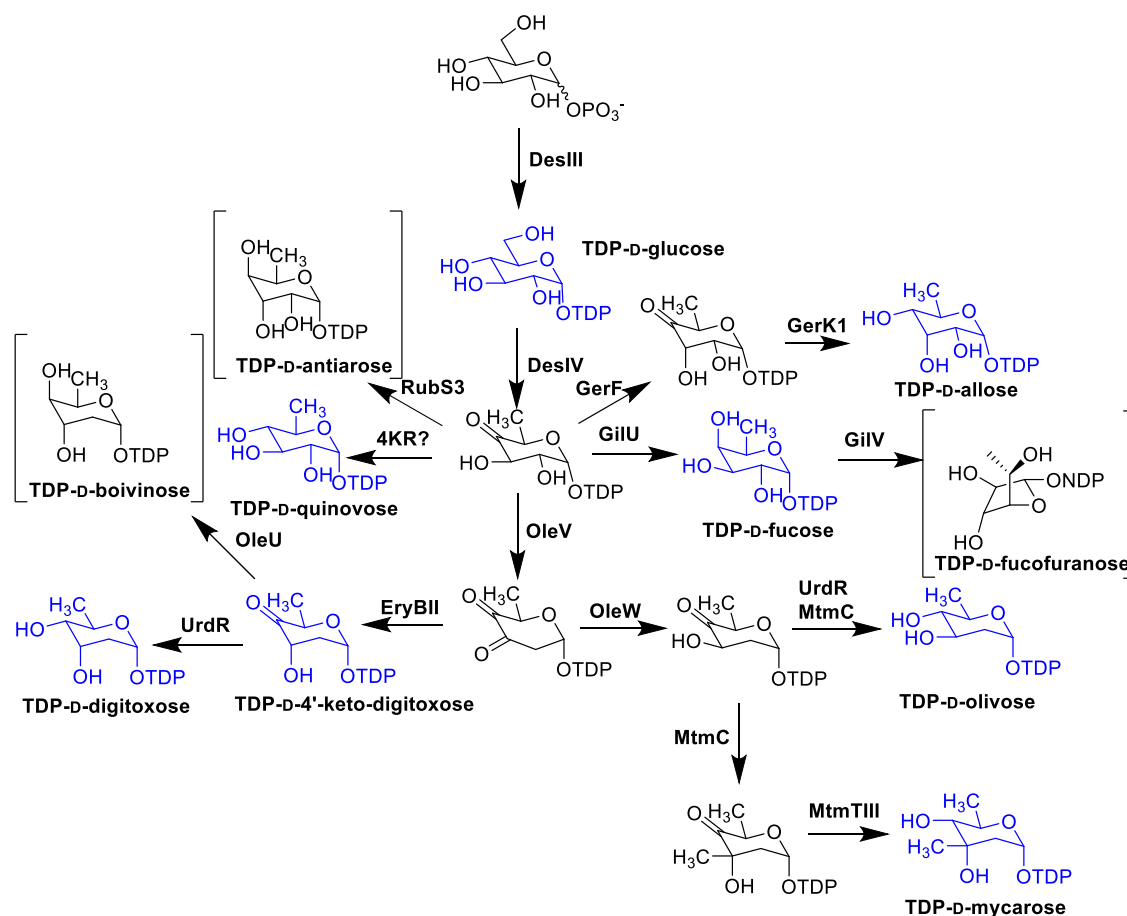


Figure 4. Deoxysugar nucleotide pathways engineered in this work. Sugars in blue were successfully transferred to 2 by ElmGT. Sugars in brackets were the intended biosynthetic end products but were either not formed and/or transferred to 2 by ElmGT.

Table 2. Bacterial Strains Used in This Study

strain	genotype or comments	source or reference
<i>E. coli</i> JM109	F' <i>traD36 proA</i> + B+ <i>lacIq</i> Δ(<i>lacZ</i>)M15/Δ(<i>lac-proAB</i>) <i>glnV44 e14-gyrA96 recA1 relA1 endA1 thi hsdR17</i>	Promega
<i>E. coli</i> ET12567/(pUZ8002)	<i>dam-dcm-hsdM hsdS hsdR cat tet</i> ; carrying plasmid pUZ8002	40
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146	SCP1-SCP2-Δ <i>act</i> Δ <i>red</i> Δ <i>cpk</i> Δ <i>cda</i>	41
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE	SCP1-SCP2-Δ <i>act</i> Δ <i>red</i> Δ <i>cpk</i> Δ <i>cda</i> , cos16F4iE integrated into <i>φC31 attB</i> chromosomal locus	22
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pUWL	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pUWL201PWBB	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pRHAM1	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pRHAM1	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pRHAM2	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pRHAM2	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pRHAM3	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pRHAM3	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pRHAM4	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pRHAM4	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDOLV	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDOLV	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDDIG	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDDIG	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDMYC	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDMYC	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDBOV	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDBOV	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDBOV*	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDBOV*	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDALO	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDALO	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDFUCO	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDFUCO	this study
<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE/pDARO	<i>S. coelicolor</i> M1146::cos16F4iE transformed with plasmid pDARO	this study

remaining 2D NMR (^1H , ^1H -COSY, HMBC, and NOESY) correlations are in full agreement with structures **1**, **2**, and **7** (Figure 6 and Tables S1–S4).

The best performing construct was pRHAM4, which converted approximately 60% of **2** to **1**, whereas pRHAM2 and pRHAM3 converted approximately 40–45% of **2** to **1**, and pRHAM1 converted approximately 10% of **2** to **1** (Figure 3B). These experiments demonstrated that the TDP-D-glucose synthase and TDP-D-glucose-4,6-dehydratase enzymes exhibited different catalytic efficiencies *in vivo*, with the *desIII-desIV* gene products being the most competent in heterologous expression trials. Interestingly, there was no significant difference in performance between pRHAM2 and pRHAM3 in terms of **1** production, which indicated that operonic arrangement did not significantly alter *in vivo* biosynthesis of TDP-L-rhamnose. Based on these results, we used pRHAM4 as a template for the construction of other sugar pathways.

Heterologous Expression and Structure Elucidation of Tetracenomycins Engineered with 2,6-Dideoxysugar Pathways. To generate a library of analogues for structure–activity studies, we focused on engineering the production of 2,6-dideoxysugars. The various sugar plasmids were cloned as BioBricks gene cassettes in the multicopy expression vector pUWL201PWBB (Table 1).³⁹ The sugar nucleotide pathways starting from TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose branch off in different directions via additional deoxygenations, transaminations, methylations, and ketoreduction to afford a wide range of TDP-deoxysugars (Figure 4). The biosynthetic pathways for TDP-D-olivose, TDP-D-digitoxose, and TDP-D-boivinose were previously characterized by Pérez and co-workers.¹⁰ In brief, TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose undergoes 2,3-dehydration (OleV) and 3-ketoreduction (OleW), followed by 4-ketoreduction by UrdR to generate TDP-D-olivose (Figure 4). To further illustrate the combinatorial biosynthetic approach toward generating diverse sugar nucleotides, the exchange of the 3-ketoreductase gene *oleW* with the 3-ketoreductase from the erythromycin pathway, *eryBII*, results in an axial-configured

3'-OH (Figure 4). The resulting intermediate can be intercepted by UrdR to yield TDP-D-digitoxose or OleU to provide TDP-D-boivinose (Figure 4).¹⁰

The expression of the TDP-D-olivose cassette resulted in the conversion of approximately 84% of all tetracenomycins to 8-demethyl-8-O-β-D-oliviosyl-tetracenomycin C (**8**) (Figure 5A–C). In addition, engineering of the TDP-D-digitoxose cassette resulted in the conversion of approximately 60–65% of all tetracenomycins to produce 8-demethyl-8-O-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (**9**) (Figure 5D).¹⁰ The compounds **8** and **9** were both detected via their parental mass ions in ESI-MS –ve mode ($m/z = 587 [M - H]^-$), corresponding to the attachment of a 2,6-dideoxysugar to **2**. Compounds **8** and **9** were established to have the same molecular formula ($\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_{14}$) on the basis of high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) data. The NMR data of both isomers **8** and **9** indicated that differences were mainly in the sugar residues attached at the 8-position (Tables S1–S4). The stereochemistry of the sugar residues in compounds **8** and **9** were established based on the coupling constants and/or NOESY correlations and by comparison with literature data. More specifically, the coupling constants of H-4' ($\delta_{\text{H}} 3.01$, t, $J = 8.9$ Hz) in compound **8** was different from coupling constants of H-4' ($\delta_{\text{H}} 3.34$, ddd, $J = 2.7, 5.0, 9.0$ Hz) in compound **9**. This established the axial orientation of the protons at the 3', 4', 5'-positions of the sugar residue of compound **8**. However, in compound **9**, the proton at the 3'-position was equatorially oriented, which has been further established by NOESY correlations. All of the remaining 1D and 2D NMR (^1H , ^1H -COSY, HMBC, and NOESY) correlations are in full agreement with structures **8** and **9** as depicted in Figures 1 and 6 (Tables S1–S4 and Figures S34–S46).

We next decided to engineer the TDP-D-mycarose biosynthetic pathway to demonstrate the production of branched sugars.^{42,43} TDP-D-olivose and TDP-D-mycarose are sugars found in the mithramycin biosynthetic pathway, and their biosynthesis features a unique bifunctional 4-ketoreductase and 3-C-methyltransferase enzyme, MtmC.⁴⁴ The activity of MtmC

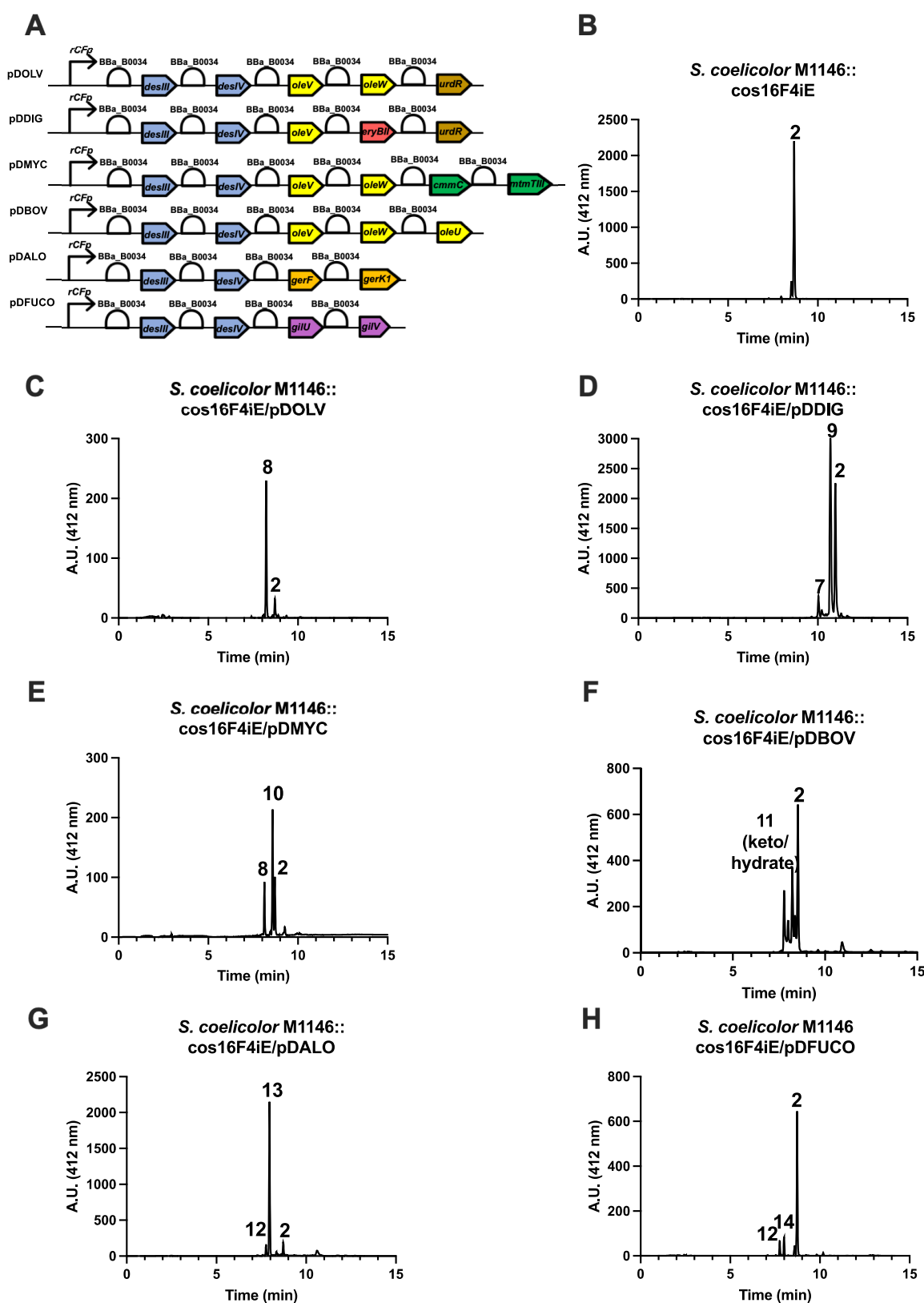


Figure 5. (A) SBOL diagrams of TDP-2,6-dideoxysugar and TDP-6-deoxysugar gene cassettes. Genes are color-coded corresponding to the originating biosynthetic gene cluster (blue = *Streptomyces venezuelae* ATCC15439, pikromycin; yellow = *Streptomyces antibioticus* ATCC 11891, oleandomycin; brown = *Streptomyces fradiae* Tü 2717, urdamycin; green = *Streptomyces griseus* subsp. *griseus* ATCC 13273 and *Streptomyces argillaceus* ATCC 12956, aureolic acids chromomycin A3, and mithramycin; orange = *Streptomyces* sp. KCTC 0041BP, dihydrochalconycin; purple = *Streptomyces griseoflavus* Gö 3592). (B–F) HPLC–UV–vis chromatograms of production spectra of cell extracts from *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE harboring the different gene cassettes. (B) *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE (no plasmid) (C) pDOLV, (D) pDDIG, (E) pDMYC, (F) pDBOV, (G) pDALO, and (H) pDFUCO.

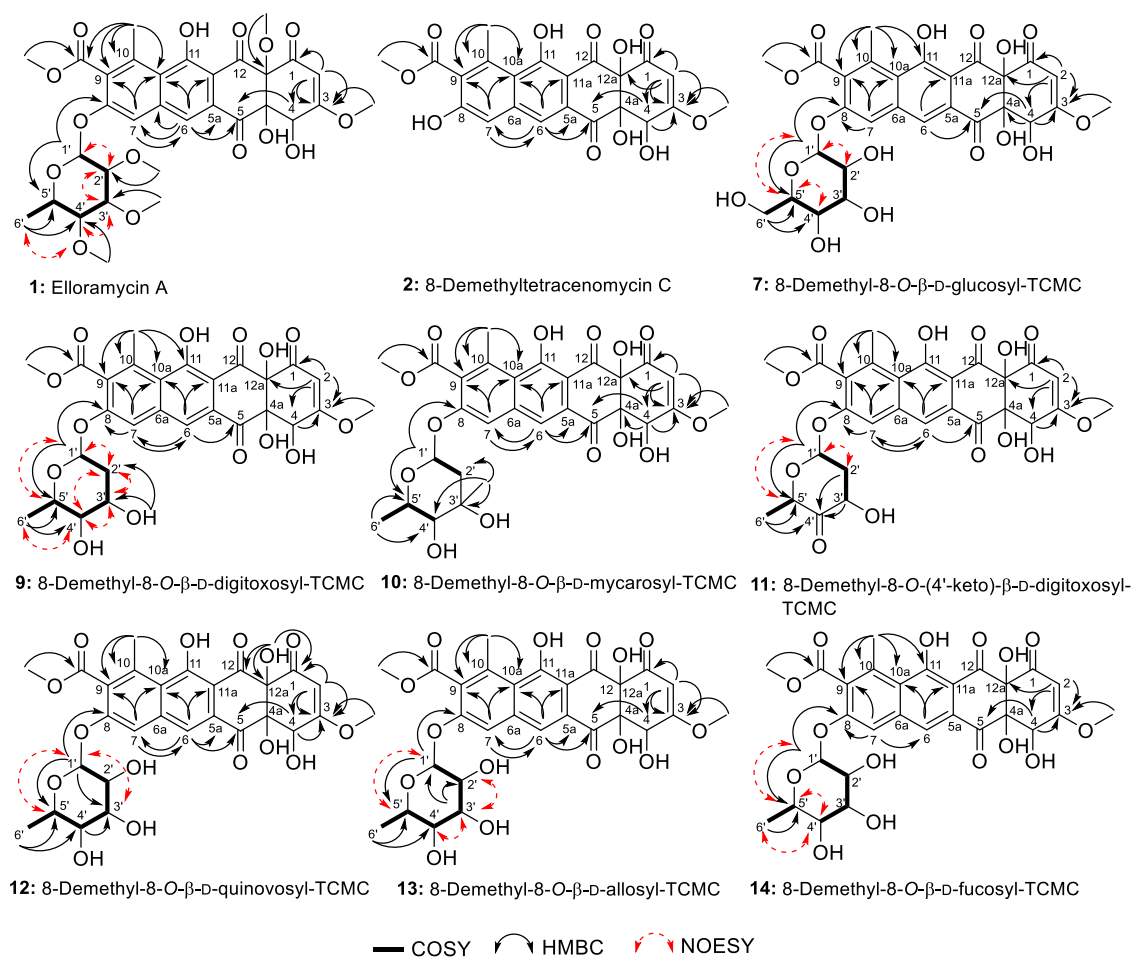


Figure 6. $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$ -COSY (—), selected HMBC (→), and selected NOESY (---) correlations of compounds **1**, **2**, **7**, and **9–14**.

is dictated by the binding of cofactors: binding of NADPH results in the 4-ketoreduction of TDP-4-keto-2,6-dideoxy-D-glucose to generate TDP-D-olivose, whereas the binding of S-adenosyl-methionine (SAM) results in 3-C-methylation of the same sugar to afford TDP-4-keto-3-C-methyl-2,6-dideoxy-D-glucose.⁴⁵ MtmTIII then reduces the ketosugar to TDP-D-mycarose (Figure 4).⁴³

Previously, ElmGT was demonstrated to turn over TDP-D-mycarose when *cos16F4* was heterologously expressed in the mithramycin producer *S. argillaceus*.⁴⁶ We decided to clone a gene cassette encoding the full TDP-D-mycarose pathway for combinatorial biosynthesis of this unique branched sugar. In this study, we decided to assess the uncharacterized *cmmC* C-methyltransferase from the related chromomycin A3 pathway.⁴⁷ Since the chromomycin A3 pathway encodes a separate 4-ketoreductase implicated in the formation of TDP-D-olivose (e.g., *cmmU11*),⁴⁸ we hypothesized that *cmmC* might function as a true C-methyltransferase without the additional 4-ketoreductase function. We generated a cassette encoding *desIII* + *desIV* + *oleV* + *oleW* + *cmmC* + *mtmTIII* and transformed the construct into *S. coelicolor* M1146::*cos16F4iE* (Table 1).

As expected, the strain produced 80% of all tetracenomycins as 8-demethyl-8-O-β-D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C (**10**), as determined based on the $m/z = 603$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ peak in the ESI-MS +ve mode spectrum (Figure 5E). Surprisingly, **8** was also produced, composing 20% of all tetracenomycins in the extract. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of compound **10** were very similar to compound **9**, with the exception of an extra methyl group (δ_{H}

1.32 (s); δ_{C} 27.2). The attachment of the methyl group was confirmed at the 3'-position based on the HMBC correlation from 3'-CH₃ (δ_{H} 1.32) to C-2'/C-3'/C-4'. Cumulative analyses of 1D (^1H , ^{13}C) and 2D (HSQC, $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$ -COSY, and HMBC) (Figures 6 and S47–S54 and Tables S1 and S3) and the comparison with literature data established the structure of **10** as 8-demethyl-8-O-β-D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C. This result demonstrated that *cmmC* likely encodes a similar bifunctional 4-ketoreductase and 3-C-methyltransferase enzyme like *mtmC*, which could explain the production of both **8** and **10** in the same strain.

We then exchanged the *urdR* 4-ketoreductase from the TDP-D-olivose cassette to the *oleU* 4-ketoreductase to render TDP-D-boivinose (Table 1).⁴⁸ Engineering of the TDP-D-boivinose pathway resulted in the unexpected production of a new glycosylated tetracenomycin, 8-demethyl-8-O-(4'-keto)-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (**11**), which was apparently modified with a ketosugar. The new compound exhibited a parental mass of $m/z = 585$ $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ peak corresponding to both a ketosugar and an $m/z = 603$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}_2\text{O}]^-$ peak corresponding to a hydrate in the negative mode ESI-MS spectrum (Figure 5F). Compound **11** was purified by semi-preparative HPLC and subjected for HRMS and NMR structure elucidation. The molecular formula of **11** was deduced as C₂₈H₂₆O₁₄ on the basis of (–)-HRESI-MS [$m/z = 585.1250$ $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₅O₁₄, 585.1250)] and (+)-HRESI-MS [$m/z = 587.1385$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₄, 587.1395)] and NMR data. The molecular weight and molecular formula

differences between **11** and **9**, established compound **11** to have two protons less than **9**, which may be due to the presence of a ketonic group in **11** instead of a free hydroxyl group in **9**. By comparison of the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of **9** and **11** (Tables S2 and S4), the H-4' (δ_{H} 3.34, ddd, $J = 2.7, 5.0, 9.0$ Hz; δ_{C} 73.4) in compound **9** was absent in compound **11** and replaced by a nonprotonated carbon at δ_{C} 94.1 (C-4'). The chemical shift of the C-4' (δ_{C} 94.1) of compound **11** indicates the presence of this carbon atom in its hydrate form in solution. Cumulative analyses of 1D (^1H , ^{13}C) and 2D (HSQC, ^1H , ^1H -COSY, HMBC, and NOESY) (Figures 6 and S55–S64 and Tables S2 and S4) established the structure of **11** as depicted in Figure 1. Thus, **11** was established as new natural product, closely related to compound **9** and named as 8-demethyl-8-*O*-(4'-keto)- β -D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C.

This was a surprising result since ElmGT had been previously shown to accept the TDP-D-boivinose sugar with a good conversion efficiency to 8-demethyl-8-*O*- β -D-boivinosyl-tetracenomycin C.¹⁰ The result suggested that TDP-4'-keto-D-digitoxose was serendipitously transferred to the 2 aglycone. ElmGT was previously demonstrated to transfer TDP-4'-keto-L-olivose to **2**, making this only the second such tetracenomycin analogue modified with a 4'-ketosugar.¹² The result could be explained by a sequencing discrepancy in the originally deposited sequence by Salas and co-workers in the *oleU* 4-ketoreductase gene. Upon resequencing of the original pLN2 plasmid, discrepancies were discovered in the *oleL* 3,5-epimerase gene and the *oleU* 4-ketoreductase gene, which indicated that *oleU* might not be functioning correctly in the construct (Schema S1). As a result, all other constructs using the *oleU* and *oleL* genes were sequenced and the cassettes were resynthesized to match the corrected nucleotide sequences. Repairing the sequence mutations TDP-D-boivinose construct (e.g., pDBOV) resulted in the production of the expected 8-demethyl-8-*O*- β -D-boivinosyl-tetracenomycin C (**16**) when the repaired construct was expressed *in vivo* (Figure S102).

Heterologous Expression and Structure Elucidation of Tetracenomycins Engineered with 6-Deoxysugar Pathways. Following the successful reconstitution of 2,6-dideoxysugar pathways in M1146::cos16F4iE, we next turned our attention to the engineering of D-configured 6-deoxysugars. Since TDP-L-rhamnose is the native donor substrate for ElmGT, we hypothesized that ElmGT should also be able to catalyze the transfer of other 6-deoxysugars. The generated compounds would increase the chemical diversity of the tetracenomycins and provide valuable insights into the structure–activity relationship of the sugar moiety and the antiproliferative and antibacterial activities of these compounds.

We turned our sights to TDP-D-allose from the dihydrochalcocycin pathway. TDP-D-allose is metabolized from TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose via the actions of epimerase GerF and 4-ketoreductase GerK1.^{49,50} We cloned the TDP-D-allose cassette (e.g., *desIII* + *desIV* + *gerF* + *gerK1*) and expressed it in *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE (Table 1). The resulting strains produced two new tetracenomycins, which exhibited parent mass ions of $m/z = 603$ [$\text{M} - \text{H}$]⁻, indicating the successful attachment of two different 6-deoxysugars (Figure 5G). To establish the chemical structures of compounds **12** and **13**, both compounds were purified and subjected for full spectrometric and spectroscopic data analyses. Like those of **8** and **9**, compounds **12** and **13** were established to have an identical molecular weight ($m/z = 604$ Da) and molecular formula ($\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_{15}$) on the basis of (–)- and (+)-HRMS and NMR

data. By comparison of the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of both compounds **12** and **13** (Tables S1 and S3), they were identical except for minor changes in the shift/coupling constants of the sugar residues. Specifically, the coupling constant of H-4' (δ_{H} 2.92, t, $J = 8.6$ Hz) in compound **12** confirms that this proton should be an axial/axial coupled with H-3' and H-5'. However, the coupling constant of H-4' (δ_{H} 3.15, dd, $J = 9.5, 2.8$ Hz) in compound **13** confirms that this proton as an axial/axial (H-4'/H-5') and axial/equatorial (H-4'/H-3') coupled. This also was further supported by the small coupling constant of H-3' (δ_{H} 3.90, t, $J = 2.9$ Hz), confirming its equatorial/axial coupling with both H-2' and H-4'. The stereochemistry of the sugar residues in compounds **12** and **13** was further established based on NOESY correlations and by comparison with literature data. This established that both compounds **12** and **13** were different solely at the stereochemistry of the 3'-position of the sugar residues. Cumulative analyses of 1D (^1H , ^{13}C) and 2D (HSQC, ^1H , ^1H -COSY, HMBC, and NOESY) (Figures 6 and S65–S92 and Tables S1 and S3) established the structures of **12** and **13** as depicted in Figure 1. Thus, **12** and **13** were established as two additional new tetracenomycin natural products and named as 8-demethyl-8-*O*- β -D-quinovosyl-tetracenomycin C and 8-demethyl-8-*O*- β -D-allosyl-tetracenomycin C, respectively. The production of **12** and **13** confirmed the functionality of the construct and also the capability of ElmGT to turn over other 6-deoxysugars. The production of D-quinovose was surprising but not without precedent since the production of D-quinovosyl-narbonolide was reported previously in extracts of *S. venezuelae* ATCC15439 strains in which the *desLaminotransferase* gene had been knocked out.⁵¹ This result could be explained by the action of GerK1 on TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose or possibly by a moonlighting 4-ketoreductase encoded in the host *S. coelicolor* genome.

Next, we decided to test the TDP-D-fucofuranose pathway from the gilvocarcin V biosynthetic gene cluster derived from *S. griseoflavus* Gö3592.⁵² Gilvocarcin V is an angucycline-class anticancer antibiotic with an unusual benzo[*d*]-naphthopyranone backbone and a unique C-glycosidically linked D-fucofuranose moiety.⁵³ The gilvocarcin V biosynthetic pathway has been extensively characterized by the Rohr lab over the past two decades,^{54–67} including the characterization of the 4-ketoreductase (GilU)⁶³ responsible for the TDP-D-fucofuranose biosynthetic pathway. Recently, several gilvocarcin-type molecules with modifications to the D-fucofuranose ring have been isolated from soil-derived actinomycetes.⁶⁸ However, the enzyme responsible for the unique TDP-D-fucopyranose to TDP-D-fucofuranose ring contraction remains uncharacterized. The TDP-D-fucofuranose pathway from *E. coli* has been characterized, which utilizes a 4-ketoreductase (Fcf1) and a mutase (Fcf2) for the elaboration of the five-membered sugar. In the gilvocarcin biosynthetic pathway, no obvious candidates for the mutase enzyme exist, and only *gilN*, *gilL*, *gilS*, and *gilV* are the remaining orphans for which no role in gilvocarcin biosynthesis has been assigned.⁶⁹ GilV was viewed as a potential candidate for the mutase enzyme, given its direct proximity immediately upstream of the gilvocarcin C-glycosyltransferase *gilGT*. GilV is a small protein (116 amino acids), and querying the NCBI nr database revealed no identified conserved domains.

We designed a construct expressing *desIII* + *desIV* + *gilU* + *gilV* and transformed this construct into *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE (Table 1). The expression of the construct resulted in the production of two glycosylated tetracenomycins, both with parent mass ions of $m/z = 603$ [$\text{M} - \text{H}$]⁻, indicating the

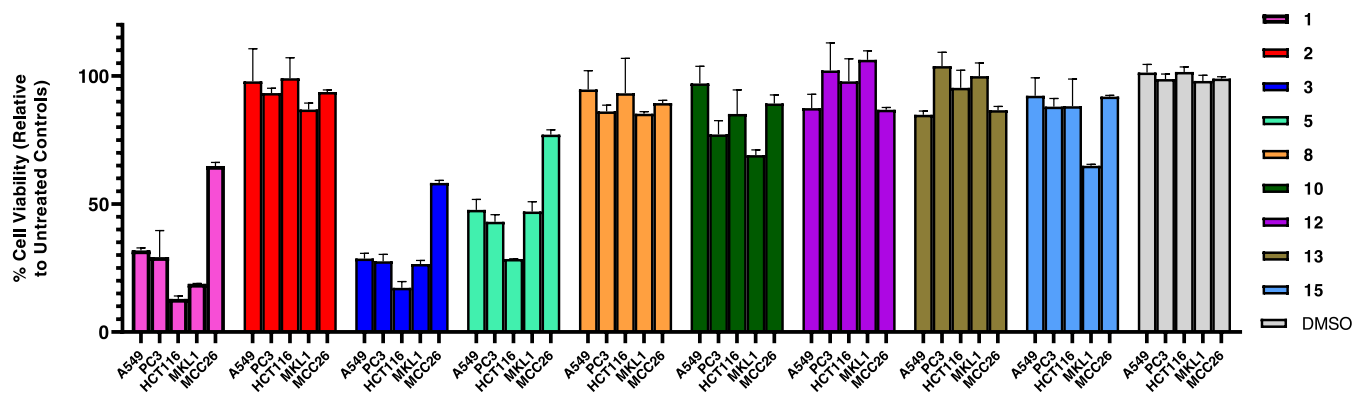


Figure 7. % Viability of A549 (nonsmall lung), PC3 (prostate), and HCT116 (colorectal) human cancer cell lines and Merkel cells (MKL1 and MCC26) (after 72 h) at 80 μM concentration of representative compounds 1–3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15. For dose–response curves of the tested compounds, see Figures S3 and S4.

Table 3. Antiproliferative Activities of Compounds 1–3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15^a

compounds	IC ₅₀ (μM)			IC ₅₀ (μM)	
	A549	PC3	HCT116	MKL1	MCC26
elloramycin A (1)	45.80 \pm 39.80	35.90 \pm 15.3	16.62 \pm 3.43	22.10 \pm 1.29	>80
8-demethyltetragenomycin C (2)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80
tetragenomycin C (3)	7.13 \pm 1.36	2.90 \pm 0.90	2.53 \pm 0.47	4.91 \pm 0.13	29.30 \pm 5.41
6-hydroxy-tetragenomycin C (5)	59.10 \pm 1.14	51.60 \pm 26.0	67.90 \pm 5.30	63.30 \pm 10.80	>80
8-demethyl-8- <i>O</i> - β -D-oliviosyl-tetragenomycin C (8)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80
8-demethyl-8- <i>O</i> - β -D-mycarosyl-TCMC (10)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80
8-demethyl-8- <i>O</i> - β -D-quinovosyl-TCMC (12)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80
8-demethyl-8- <i>O</i> - β -D-allosyl-TCMC (13)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80
8-demethyl-8- <i>O</i> -(2'-methoxy)- α -L-rhamnosyl-TCMC (15)	>80	>80	>80	>80	>80

^aAntiproliferative IC₅₀ values were obtained after 72 h incubation. Actinomycin D and H₂O₂ [A549 (nonsmall cell lung), PC3 (prostate), and HCT116 (colorectal) human cancer cell lines and Merkel cells MKL1 and MCC26] were used as a positive control at 20 μM and 1 mM concentration, respectively (0% viable cells, $n = 3$). Remaining compounds were not tested due to the lack of materials. For dose–response data of the tested compounds, see Figures S3 and S4.

accumulation of two tetragenomycin analogues with appended 6-deoxysugars (Figure 5H). The compounds corresponded to 12 and a new tetragenomycin analogue, 8-demethyl-8-*O*-D-fucosyl-tetragenomycin C (14). The chemical structure of 14 was established by HRMS and NMR data analysis. The molecular formula of 14 was deduced as C₂₈H₂₈O₁₅ on the basis of (+)-HRESI-MS [m/z 605.1508 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₉O₁₅, 605.1501)], (–)-HRESI-MS [m/z 603.1377 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₅, 603.1355)], and NMR data. The comparison of the NMR data of compounds 12 and 14 confirmed that both compounds were only different at the 4'-position of the sugar residues (Tables S1–S4). The coupling constants of H-4' (δ_{H} 2.92, t, $J = 8.6$ Hz) in compound 12 were different from those of H-4' (δ_{H} 3.70, dd, $J = 3.6$ Hz) in compound 14, confirming the equatorial orientation of H-4' in compound 14 (H-4' is equatorial/axial coupled with H-5'/H-3'). All of the remaining 2D NMR (¹H, ¹H-COSY, HMBC, and NOESY) correlations are in full agreement with structure 14 (Figures 6 and S93–S101). Based on the cumulative spectroscopic data, 12 and 14 differed only at the C-4' stereocenter, and thus, compound 14 (bearing an *O*- β -D-fucosyl residue) is a 4'-*epi* form of 12. Consistent with the cumulative 1D and 2D NMR data analysis, the structure of 14 was established as a new tetragenomycin analogue, and 14 was named 8-demethyl-8-*O*- β -D-fucosyl-tetragenomycin C (14) (Figure 1).

Lastly, we developed a construct encoding biosynthetic pathway of TDP-D-antiarose from the rubterolone A pathway.⁷⁰ The rare deoxysugar TDP-D-antiarose features axial 3'-OH and 4'-OH groups, and its formation from TDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-glucose is catalyzed by an unusual reductase–epimerase, RubS3 (Figure 4).⁷⁰ We generated a construct encoding TDP-D-antiarose biosynthetic pathway (e.g., *desIII* + *desIV* + *rubS3*) (Table 1), but the expression of this construct in *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE did not result in the production of any new tetragenomycins. We supposed that the lack of formation of new tetragenomycins was due to the inability of ElmGT to turn over the TDP-D-antiarose sugar.

Tetragenomycin Glycosylation Patterns Influence Bioactivities of the Metabolites. Selected representative compounds 1–3, 5, 8, 10–13, and 15 were tested for mammalian cancer cell cytotoxicity [A549 (nonsmall cell lung), PC3 (prostate), and HCT116 (colorectal) human cancer cell lines and Merkel cells (MKL1 and MCC26)] (see the Materials and Methods section, Figures 7, S3, and S4, and Table 3). In the antiproliferation assay, only compounds 1, 3, and 5 displayed moderate cytotoxic activities with IC₅₀ 2.5–67 μM concentration (Table 3 and Figures S3 and S4). In the single dose assay, compound 2 exhibited essentially no cytotoxicity, which reflects the importance of methyl groups at 8- and 12-positions for antiproliferative activity. Similarly, compound 15 possessed slight activity in the MKL1 cancer cell line but exhibited lower cytotoxicity than 1. This result indicates that the

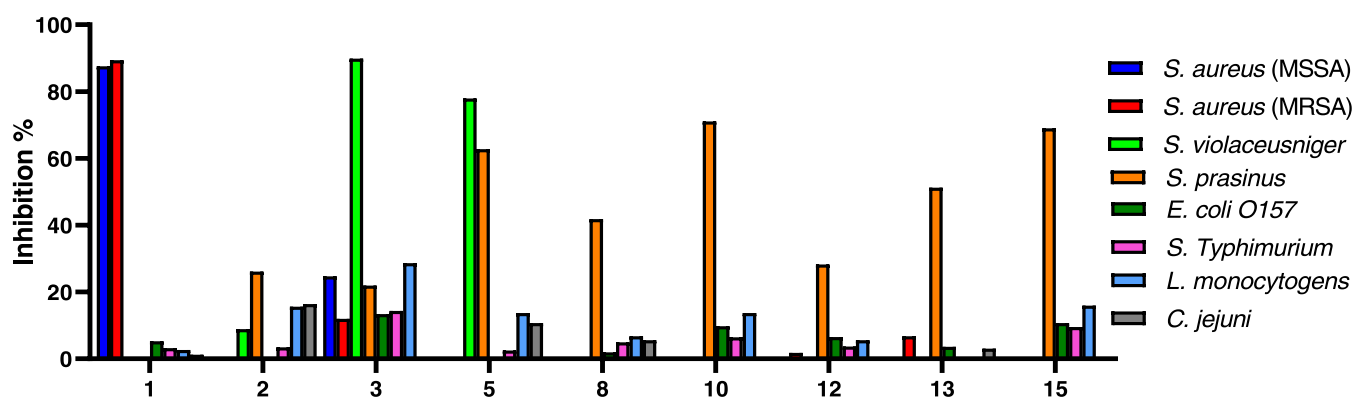


Figure 8. Antibacterial activities of the representative compounds 1–3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 (% inhibition). All compounds have been tested at 100 μM concentration against the selected microbial strains. Remaining compounds were not tested due to the lack of materials.

permethylated L-rhamnose of **1** is important for binding and cytotoxicity. Of the compounds that were derived in the present study, compound **10** with the branched D-mycarose sugar exhibited the best activity in the single dose assay in the MKL1 cell line (Figure 7). The glycosylated analogues with neutral glycosides exhibited less cytotoxicity in the cancer cell lines tested. In total, these results indicated that hydrophobic sugars or methyl substitutions at the 8-position may contribute positively to cytotoxicity. Future derivatization efforts could be focused on synthesizing tetracenomycins with alkyl chains or other nonpolar substitutions at the 8-position to develop better ribosome inhibitors with enhanced antiproliferative activity.

In the antibacterial assay, **1** possessed the highest activity against methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA; ATCC 12600) and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA; ATCC 43300) (90–95% inhibition, at 100 μM concentration) (Figure 8). This result could indicate that the permethylated L-rhamnose sugar of **1** is indispensable for binding to the nascent polypeptide exit channel of the bacterial 50S ribosome.¹⁴ In addition, it is very exciting that only two compounds (**3** and **5**) inhibited the growth of *Streptomyces violaceusniger* NRRL B-1476 (ATCC 27477) (80–90% inhibition, at 100 μM concentration) (Figure 8). This could indicate that tetracenomycin C analogues without the sugar exhibit some selective inhibition of this strain. Within the set of glycosylated analogues developed in this study, compounds **8**, **10**, **12**, **13**, and **15** exhibited moderately selective inhibition (40–70% inhibition, at 100 μM concentration) of *Streptomyces prasinus* NRRL B-12101 (ATCC 13879), whereas nonglycosylated **2** exhibited comparatively less inhibition (20% inhibition). *S. prasinus* has been shown previously to be susceptible to tetracenomycins.^{12,13} Previously, Fiedler et al. described that less methylated derivatives of elloramycin exhibited better antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive bacteria, which agrees with our findings here.⁷¹ While the antibacterial activities of the new derivatives were not so potent, the data presented here provide impetus for further derivation of **1**, e.g., via exploration of additional lipophilic modifications of the L-rhamnose sugar or at the 8-position and the 12-position of tetracenomycin C.

CONCLUSIONS

ElmGT is one of the most successful examples of promiscuous glycosyltransferases useful for combinatorial biosynthesis. The macrolide glycosyltransferases DesVII/DesVIII from *S. venezuelae* and OleD from *S. antibioticus* have also been engineered for several landmark combinatorial biosynthesis and glyco-

randomization studies, respectively.^{72–77} In this work, we leveraged an idempotent BioBricks synthetic biology design to the problem of iterative engineering deoxysugar pathways for combinatorial biosynthesis. The results demonstrate that the BioBricks approach is well-suited for the elaboration of hierarchical deoxysugar pathways, e.g., via the addition or subtraction of dehydratases, ketoreductases, or methyltransferases, target sugar nucleotides can be produced with predictable stereochemistry and structural modifications. In addition, the leveraging of the promiscuous ElmGT and elloramycin biosynthetic pathway provide a ready means for assessing the gene cassettes with efficient throughput. As a result, we were able to reconstitute known pathways in good conversion efficiency (e.g., TDP-D-glucose, TDP-D-olivose, TDP-D-digitoxose, TDP-D-mycarose, TDP-L-rhamnose). We also expanded the chemical diversity of the tetracenomycins with the characterization of a new ketosugar (TDP-4'-keto-D-digitoxose) and new D-series 6-deoxysugars (TDP-D-allose, TDP-D-quinovose, and TDP-D-fucose). In summary, the BioBricks cloning system in *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE is an excellent approach for the prototyping of sugar nucleotide pathways *in vivo* and is a launching pad for deeper understanding of structure–activity relationships in this important class of polyketides.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial Strains and Growth Conditions. *E. coli* JM109 (Promega) cells were used for routine cloning and maintenance of plasmids. *E. coli* ET12567/pUZ8002 was used as a host for intergeneric conjugation of shuttle vectors with *S. coelicolor*::cos16F4iE according to standard procedures (Table 2).⁷⁸ *E. coli* JM109 cells and *E. coli* ET12567/pUZ8002 chemically competent cells were prepared using the *E. coli* Mix & Go! Transformation Kit (Zymo Research). Transformation of chemically competent *E. coli* cells was carried out using standard procedures.⁷⁹ *E. coli* was routinely grown in lysogeny broth (LB) and on solid LB agar plates. Media were supplemented with antibiotics as necessary: 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ apramycin, 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ kanamycin, 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ampicillin, and 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ chloramphenicol for the growth of *E. coli* strains.

S. coelicolor M1146::cos16F4iE and derivative strains were routinely maintained on solid mannitol soya flour (SFM), DNA, and R5 solid agar plates.²⁰ *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE was used as a genetic host for the expression of “sugar plasmid” expression cassettes. pUWL201PWBB-based plasmids were mobilized into *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE via intergeneric

conjugation with *E. coli* ET12567/pUZ8002.⁷⁸ In brief, the conjugal mating took place over 16–18 h at 30 °C on solid mannitol soya flour (SFM) agar plates supplemented with 10 mM MgCl₂. The conjugation plates were then overlaid with 1.5 mL of sterile water and 50 μg/mL apramycin, 25 μg/mL thioestrepton, and 35 μg/mL nalidixic acid before incubating the plates at 30 °C for 3–4 days until the appearance of exconjugants. Ten to twelve exconjugants per conjugal mating were patch-plated to RS agar plates supplemented with 50 μg/mL apramycin, 25 μg/mL thioestrepton, and 35 μg/mL nalidixic acid to purify the *S. coelicolor* exconjugants from the *E. coli* conjugal donor cells and grown for an additional 6–7 days at 30 °C.

For liquid cultivations, vegetative mycelia from 10 to 12 independent transformants were scraped from the RS patch plate, inoculated into 2 mL tryptic soy broth seed cultures, and grown in an orbital shaker at 30 °C and 230 rpm for 24–36 h. The seed cultures (5% v/v inoculum) were inoculated into 50 mL of SG-*TES* media (20 g/L glucose, 10 g/L Bacto Soytone, 5 g/L yeast extract, 5.73 g/L *TES*, 1 mg/L cobalt chloride production media). When appropriate, media were supplemented with antibiotics at the following concentrations: 50 μg/mL apramycin, 50 μg/mL hygromycin, 25 μg/mL thioestrepton, and 35 μg/mL nalidixic acid.

Gene Synthesis, DNA Manipulation, and Assembly of BioBricks Vectors. All BioBricks parts were synthesized according to the BioBricks RFC[10] standard.³⁵ All BioBricks parts were synthesized with the 5′-GAATTCGCGGCCGCTTCTAGAG-3′ BioBricks prefix and the 5′-TACTAGTAGCGGCCGCTGCAG-3′ BioBricks suffix sequences to facilitate cloning. Biosynthetic genes were codon-optimized for expression in *S. coelicolor* and synthesized with the strong Bba_B0034 ribosome binding site in the BioBricks prefix 5′-GAATTCGCGGCCGCTTCTAGAGAAAGAGGAGAAA-TACTAG (underlined) (GenScript). All genetic parts were ordered as synthetic BioBricks genes cloned into the *EcoRI*/*PstI* sites pUC57. Gene cassettes were assembled in construction plasmids pSB1C3-J04450, pSB1K3-J04450, and pSB1A3-J04450 using the *EcoRI*, *XbaI*, *SpeI*, and *PstI* restriction sites. Restriction enzymes and T4 DNA ligase were purchased from New England Biolabs. All molecular biology experiments were carried out as previously described.⁷⁹

Isolation and Analysis of Glycosylated Tetracenomy-cins. Fermentations of *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE and derivative strains were carried out in triplicate 50 mL shake flasks of SG media for 5–7 days as previously described.¹² To extract glycosylated tetracenomy-cins, 25 mL of culture was extracted with 25 mL of ethyl acetate + 0.1% formic acid in a 50 mL conical tube. The organic phase was collected and concentrated in a rotary evaporator. The red-orange residue was resuspended in 4 mL of methanol and filtered, and a 10 μL was sampled via HPLC-MS analysis. Analyses and quantification of tetracenomy-cins were carried out on an Agilent 1260 Infinity II LC/MSD iQ single quadrupole instrument. In brief, 10 μL of the sample was injected via an autosampler onto the sample loop and was separated on a Poroshell 120 Phenyl-Hexyl column (ID 2.7 μm, 4.6 mm × 100 mm) and was analyzed in gradients of solvent A (0.1% formic acid in water) and solvent B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile). The HPLC program used a constant flow rate of 0.5 mL/min and the following gradient steps: 0 min, 95% solvent A and 5% solvent B; 0–10 min, 95% solvent A and 5% solvent B to 5% solvent A and 95% solvent B; 10–13 min, held at 5% solvent A and 95% solvent B; 13.1 min, re-equilibrate to 95%

solvent A and 5% solvent B; and 13.1–15.1 min, 95% solvent A and 5% solvent B. The diode array detector (DAD) was set to monitor UV–vis absorbance at 290 and 410 nm. The ESI-MS was set to scan from 200 to 1000 *m/z* fragments in positive and negative ionization modes. Single ion monitoring was set up in ESI-MS negative ionization mode using the following ions: 1 *m/z* = 659 [M – H][–]; 2 *m/z* = 457 [M – H][–]; 3 *m/z* = 471 [M – H][–]; 4 *m/z* = 485 [M – H][–]; 5 *m/z* = 487 [M – H][–]; 6 *m/z* = 501 [M – H][–]; 7 *m/z* = 619 [M – H][–]; 8 *m/z* = 587 [M – H][–]; 9 *m/z* = 587 [M – H][–]; 10 *m/z* = 601 [M – H][–]; 11 *m/z* = 585 [M – H][–] (keto form), *m/z* = 603 [M – H][–] (hydrate form); 12 *m/z* = 603 [M – H][–]; 13 *m/z* = 603 [M – H][–]; and 14 *m/z* = 603 [M – H][–].

General Experimental Procedures. Ultraviolet–visible (UV–vis) spectra were taken directly from analytical HPLC runs and show relative intensities. NMR spectra were recorded at 600 MHz (14.1 T) using a Bruker Avance Neo console equipped with a TCI 5-mm cryoprobe or 500 MHz Bruker AVANCE-III system with liquid nitrogen cooled Prodigy BBO cryoprobe (all spectra were processed in Bruker Topspin 4.1.3 version, and 2D spectra were apodized with QSINE or SINE window functions and zero-filled to 256 × 1024 points), and spectra were analyzed and plotted using Mnova [where δ -values were referenced to respective solvent signals (CD₃OD, δ_{H} 3.31 ppm, δ_{C} 49.15 ppm; dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)-*d*₆, δ_{H} 2.50 ppm, δ_{C} 39.51 ppm; acetone-*d*₆, δ_{H} 2.05 ppm, δ_{C} 29.92/206.68 ppm) or tetramethylsilane] (Bruker BioSpin Corporation, Billerica, MA). High-resolution electrospray ionization (HRESI) mass spectra were recorded on an AB SCIEX Triple TOF 5600 system or on a Bruker Daltonics micrOTOF system.

HPLC–UV/MS analyses were accomplished with an Agilent InfinityLab LC/MSD mass spectrometer (MS model G6125B; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) equipped with an Agilent 1260 Infinity II Series Quaternary LC system and a Phenomenex NX-C18 column (250 × 4.6 mm², 5 μm) [method: solvent A: H₂O/0.1% formic acid, solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 0.5 mL/min; 0–30 min, 5–100% B (linear gradient); 30–35 min, 100% B; 35–36 min, 100–5% B; 36–40 min, 5% B]. HPLC–UV analyses were carried out in an Agilent 1260 system equipped with a photodiode array detector (PDA) and a Phenomenex C₁₈ column (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA; 250 × 4.6 mm², 5 μm; solvent A: H₂O/0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 1.0 mL/min; 0–30 min, 5–100% B; 30–35 min, 100% B; 35–36 min, 100–5% B; 36–40 min, 5% B) or using a Shimadzu Nexera X3 system equipped with a photodiode array detector and a Kinetex C18 column (1.7 μm, 100 Å, 100 × 2.1 mm², Phenomenex) [method: solvent A: H₂O/0.1% TFA; solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 0.3 mL/min; 0–2 min, 0% B; 2–22 min, 0–100% B; 22–24 min, 100% B; 24–29 min, 0% B]. Semipreparative HPLC were carried out in an Agilent 1260 Infinity II (prep-HPLC) system equipped with a diode array detector (DAD) and a Gemini 5 μm C₁₈ 110 Å, LC column 250 × 10 mm² (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA) [method A: H₂O/0.025% TFA; solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 5.0 mL/min; 0–2 min, 15% B; 2–31 min, 15–100% B; 31–33 min, 100% B; 33–34 min, 100–15% B; 34–36 min, 10% B; method B: solvent A: H₂O/0.025% TFA; solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 5.0 mL/min; 0–2 min, 15% B; 2–28 min, 15–75% B; 28–30 min 75–100% B; 30–32 min, 100% B; 32–34 min, 100–15% B; 34–36 min, 15% B] or using a LC-20AP/CBM-20A system with a diode array detector (Shimadzu) and EVO C18, 5 μm, 100 Å, 250 × 21.2 mm² Kinetex column (Phenomenex) [method C: solvent A: H₂O/0.1% TFA; solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 20

mL/min; 0–2 min, 0% B; 2–22 min, 0–100% B; 22–24 min, 100% B; 24–29 min, 0% B; method D: solvent A: 50% 60 mM ammonium acetate–acetic acid pH 3.6, 15% CH₃CN, 35% H₂O; solvent B: CH₃CN; flow rate: 20 mL/min; 0–2 min, 0% B; 2–20 min, 0–60% B; 20–24 min, 100% B; 24–29 min, 0% B]. All solvents used were of ACS grade and purchased from the Pharmco-AAPER (Brookfield, CT). Size-exclusion chromatography was performed on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH; 25–100 μm; GE Healthcare, Piscataway, NJ). Silica chromatography was performed using high-purity grade silica (pore size 60 Å, 230–400 mesh particle size) and a gradient elution from 99:0:1 CHCl₃/MeOH/HCOOH to 0:99:1 CHCl₃/MeOH/HCOOH. A549, PC3, and HCT116 cells and all of the microbial strains tested in this study were obtained from ATCC (Manassas, VA). All other reagents used were reagent grade and purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint Louis, MO) unless stated otherwise.

Purification of Compounds 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, and 13. *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE/pDOLV, *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE/pDMYC, *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE/pDFUCO2, *S. coelicolor* M1146::cos16F4iE/pDALO were cultured in 4 L of SG-TES liquid media (100 mL × 40 shake flasks, 250 mL Erlenmeyer baffled flask) in an orbital shaker at 220 rpm for 5–6 days. The resulting cells were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min, and the cell pellet was extracted in 1 L of methanol. The fermentation broth was extracted 3 times with 4 L of ethyl acetate + 0.1% formic acid. The fractions were filtered, combined, and then dried *in vacuo*. The resulting extract was dissolved in 9:1 chloroform/methanol, dry-loaded on a 25 g silica cartridge, and fractionated on a silica cartridge (24 g silica RediSep Rf Gold) on a Teledyne Combiflash 100 instrument using a gradient of chloroform to 9:1 chloroform/methanol at a flow rate of 30 mL/min over 15 min. The resulting fractions were dried down and polished via prep-HPLC. The obtained fraction F1 was purified by prep-HPLC using method A afforded 8-demethyl-8-*O*-β-D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C (10) and 8-demethyl-tetracenomycin C (2) in pure form as yellow solids. Similarly, fraction F2 was subjected for chromatographic purification using Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH; 2.0 × 30 cm²), followed by prep-HPLC (method A) to afford 8-demethyl-8-β-D-olivoyl-tetracenomycin C (8) in pure form as a yellow solid. On the same manner, prep-HPLC purification using method B afforded compounds 1, 12, and 13 in pure form.

Growth Conditions and Isolation of Compounds 7, 9, 11, and 14. *S. coelicolor* M1146/cos16F4iE transformants were grown on mannitol soya flour (MS) plates (mannitol 20 g/L, soya flour 20 g/L, agar 20 g/L) supplemented with thioestrepton and apramycin at +30 °C for 5 days. The resulting *S. coelicolor* M1146/cos16F4iE transformant spores were used to inoculate 250 mL Erlenmeyer flasks containing 50 mL of E1 media (glucose 20 g/L, starch 20 g/L, cottonseed flour 5 g/L, yeast extract 2.5 g/L, K₂HPO₄·3H₂O 1.3 g/L, MgSO₄·7H₂O 1 g/L, NaCl 3 g/L, CaCO₃ 3 g/L) supplemented with thioestrepton and apramycin and incubated for 3 days (+30 °C, 300 rpm). This seed culture was used to inoculate (4% v/v) 2 L Erlenmeyer flasks containing 250 mL of E1 media supplemented with thioestrepton and apramycin, which were incubated for 7 days (+30 °C, 250 rpm). Compounds were extracted from cultures by adding 20 g/L LXA-1180 resin (SUNRESIN) and incubating overnight (180 rpm, +30 °C). The LXA-1180 resin was separated from the culture, and the compounds were eluted with methanol. Methanol was evaporated using a rotary evaporator, and compounds were resuspended in a minimal volume of methanol.

Purification of Compounds 7, 11, and 14. Methanol extracts from cultures were first purified by silica chromatography. Fractions from silica chromatography containing compounds of interest were evaporated using a rotary evaporator and suspended in a minimal volume of methanol for semipreparative HPLC with method C for 8-demethyl-8-*O*-β-D-fucosyl-tetracenomycin C (14) and method D for 8-demethyl-8-*O*-β-D-glucosyl-tetracenomycin C (7) and 8-demethyl-8-*O*-(4'-keto)-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (11). Fractions containing pure compounds were extracted with ethyl acetate, dried using a rotary evaporator and desiccator, and resuspended in deuterated solvents for NMR measurements.

Purification of 8-Demethyl-8-*O*-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (9). Methanol extracts from cultures were first purified by size-exclusion chromatography using Sephadex LH-20. Fractions containing compounds of interest were evaporated using a rotary evaporator and suspended in minimal volume of methanol for semipreparative HPLC with method D. Fractions containing pure compounds were extracted with ethyl acetate, dried using a rotary evaporator and desiccator, and resuspended in deuterated solvents for NMR measurements.

Cancer Cell Line Viability Assay. Mammalian cell line cytotoxicity [A549 (nonsmall cell lung), PC3 (prostate), and HCT116 (colorectal) human cancer cell lines and Merkel cells MKL1 and MCC26] assays were accomplished in triplicate following our previously reported protocols.^{80–83} Vehicle (DMSO) was used as the negative control, and actinomycin D and H₂O₂ (A549 and PC3; MKL1 and MCC26) were used as positive controls at 20 μM and 1 mM concentration, respectively.

Antibacterial Assay. To assess the antimicrobial efficacy of the compounds, we tested their effect on the growth of pathogenic bacteria using the microdilution well assay and grown the bacteria as previously described^{84–87} Briefly, *E. coli* O157:H7 (ATCC 35150), *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium (ATCC 14028), *Listeria monocytogenes* (ATCC 15313), and methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA; ATCC 12600), methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA; ATCC 43300) were grown in Luria Bertani (LB) media overnight at 37 °C for 12 h, while *Campylobacter jejuni* 81–176 (ATCC 33560) was grown in Muller Hinton (MH) media at 42 °C for 48 h. *S. prasinus* NRRL B-12101 (ATCC 13879) and *S. violaceusniger* NRRL B-1476 (ATCC 27477) were grown in ISP broth. Hundred microliters of each bacterial culture (0.05 OD₆₀₀; approximately 1 × 10⁷ CFU/mL) were grown in the presence of 1 μL of each compound (100 μM final concentration) in the respective media using a 96-well plate. DMSO, 1 μL of chloramphenicol (20 μg/mL), and culture media of each bacterium were used as controls.

Physicochemical Properties of Compounds 1–2 and 7–14. *Elloramycin A* (1). C₃₂H₃₆O₁₅ (660); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 24.84 min (Figure S6); UV/vis λ_{max} 210, 258 (sh), 288, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: *m/z* 659 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: *m/z* 661 [M + H]⁺, 473 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: *m/z* 661.2127 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₃₂H₃₇O₁₅, 661.2127), 1338.4420 [2M + NH₄]⁺ (calcd for C₆₄H₇₆O₃₀N, 1338.4446).

8-Demethyl-tetracenomycin C (2). C₂₂H₁₈O₁₁ (458); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 19.95 min (Figure S16); UV/vis λ_{max} 216, 252 (sh), 290, 396 (sh), 412 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3

(Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 457 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 459 [M + H]⁺.

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-glucosyl-tetracenomycin C (7). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₆ (620); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 16.06 min (Figure S24); UV/vis λ_{max} 214, 244 (sh), 286, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 150 MHz), see Tables S2 and S4 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 619 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 621.1454 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₉O₁₆, 621.1450), 459.0925 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₁₁, 459.0922); (–)-HRESI-MS: m/z 619.1305 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₆, 619.1305), 1239.2682 [2M – H][–] (calcd for C₅₆H₅₅O₃₂, 1239.2682).

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-olivosyl-tetracenomycin C (8). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₄ (588); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 18.63 min (Figure S34); UV/vis λ_{max} 214, 240 (sh), 286, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 587 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 589 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺.

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (9). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₄ (588); yellow solid; ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 500 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 125 MHz), see Tables S2 and S4 (Supporting Information); (–)-HRESI-MS: m/z 587.1384 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₄, 587.1406), 1175.2886 [2M – H][–] (calcd for C₅₆H₅₅O₂₈, 1175.2885).

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-mycarosyl-tetracenomycin C (10). C₂₉H₃₀O₁₄ (602); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 20.37 min (Figures S47 and S48); UV/vis λ_{max} 216, 244 (sh), 286, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 601 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 603 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺.

8-Demethyl-8-O-(4'-keto)-β-D-digitoxosyl-tetracenomycin C (11). C₂₈H₂₆O₁₄ (586); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 22.97 min (Figure S55); UV/vis λ_{max} 210, 240 (sh), 286, 392 (sh), 408 nm; ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 125 MHz), see Tables S2 and S4 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 585 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 587 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 587.1385 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₄, 587.1395), 459.0906 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₁₁, 459.0922); (–)-HRESI-MS: m/z 585.1250 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₈H₂₅O₁₄, 585.1250), 1171.2593 [2M – H][–] (calcd for C₅₆H₅₁O₂₈, 1171.2572).

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-quinovosyl-tetracenomycin C (12). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₅ (604); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 17.27 min (Figures S65 and S66); UV/vis λ_{max} 210, 250 (sh), 286, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD and DMSO-*d*₆, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD and DMSO-*d*₆, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 603 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 605 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 605.1504 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₉O₁₅, 605.1501), 459.0924 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₁₁, 459.0922), 1226.3197 [2M + NH₄]⁺ (calcd for C₅₆H₆₀O₃₀N, 1226.3194).

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-allosyl-tetracenomycin C (13). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₅ (604); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 17.76 min (Figures S82 and S83); UV/vis λ_{max} 210, 258 (sh), 288, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 150 MHz), see Tables S1 and S3 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 603 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 605 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 605.1501 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₉O₁₅, 605.1501), 459.0921 [(M-sugar) +

H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₁₁, 459.0922), 1226.3166 [2M + NH₄]⁺ (calcd for C₅₆H₆₀O₃₀N, 1226.3194).

8-Demethyl-8-O-β-D-fucosyl-tetracenomycin C (14). C₂₈H₂₈O₁₅ (604); yellow solid; HPLC-R_t = 16.64 min (Figure S93); UV/vis λ_{max} 212, 238 (sh), 288, 394 (sh), 410 nm; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 500 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 125 MHz), see Tables S2 and S4 (Supporting Information); (–)-ESI-MS: m/z 603 [M – H][–]; (+)-ESI-MS: m/z 605 [M + H]⁺, 459 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺; (+)-HRESI-MS: m/z 605.1508 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₉O₁₅, 605.1501), 459.0949 [(M-sugar) + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₁₁, 459.0922); 1226.3220 [2M + NH₄]⁺ (calcd for C₅₆H₅₅O₃₀, 1226.3194); (–)-HRESI-MS: m/z 603.1377 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₈H₂₇O₁₅, 603.1355), 1207.2776 [2M – H][–] (calcd for C₅₆H₅₅O₃₀, 1207.2784).

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.3c02460>.

High-resolution mass spectrometry data, NMR tables, NMR spectra, HPLC–UV–vis chromatograms, antimicrobial activity, dose–response data for human cancer cell lines, and sequences of *oleL* and *oleU* (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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