

Polyketide synthase-based malonyl-CoA biosensor for natural compounds biosynthesis in bacteria

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Here we report repurposing a polyketide synthase as a colorimetric malonyl-CoA biosensor applicable in three industrially important bacteria: *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas putida*, and *Corynebacterium glutamicum*. As RppA converts malonyl-CoA into red-colored flavolin, strains with enhanced malonyl-CoA accumulation were identifiable by the colorimetric screening of cells showing increased red color. Fourteen knockdown gene targets were identified that generally enhanced malonyl-CoA level in *E. coli*, after screening 1,858 synthetic small regulatory RNA library. These knockdown gene targets were applied to successfully enhance production of two polyketide (6-methylsalicylic acid and aloesone) and two phenylpropanoid (resveratrol and naringenin) compounds to 440.3, 30.9, 51.8 and 103.8 mg/L, respectively. [This work was supported by the Technology Development Program to Solve Climate Changes on Systems Metabolic Engineering for Biorefineries (NRF-2012M1A2A2026556 and NRF-2012M1A2A2026557) and by the Intelligent Synthetic Biology Center through the Global Frontier Project (2011-0031963) of the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) through the NRF of Korea.]