

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Proteome-based identification of natural products and their biosynthetic pathways	A proteome-based method to identify polyketides and their corresponding biosynthetic genes could speed the discovery of new compounds with therapeutic potential. Proteomic analysis of polyketides still attached to their biosynthetic enzymes led to the identification of the corresponding polyketide gene clusters, thus allowing the prediction of the complete polyketide structures and biosynthetic pathways. Proof-of-principle experiments in <i>Bacillus cereus</i> culture identified an unknown natural product of the zwittermicin A gene cluster and a previously unknown lipoheptapeptide. Next steps include ongoing efforts to identify other new polyketide scaffolds in bacteria.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Bumpus, S. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Sept. 20, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1565 Contact: Neil L. Kelleher, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: kelleher@scs.uiuc.edu
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