

Supplementary information

Rewiring *Escherichia coli* to Transform Formate into Methyl Groups

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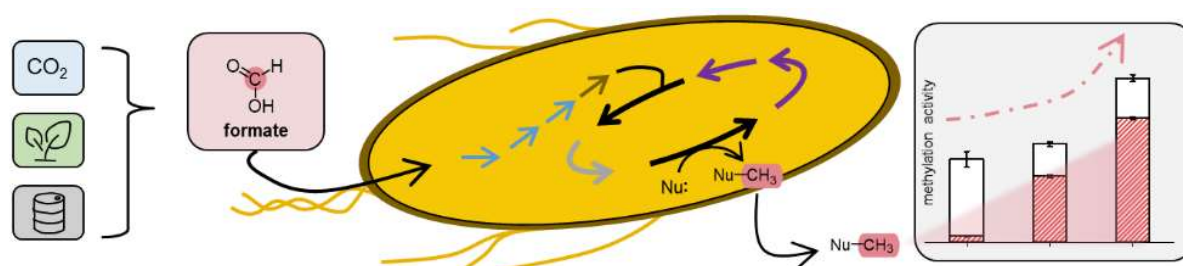
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Supplementary figures & data

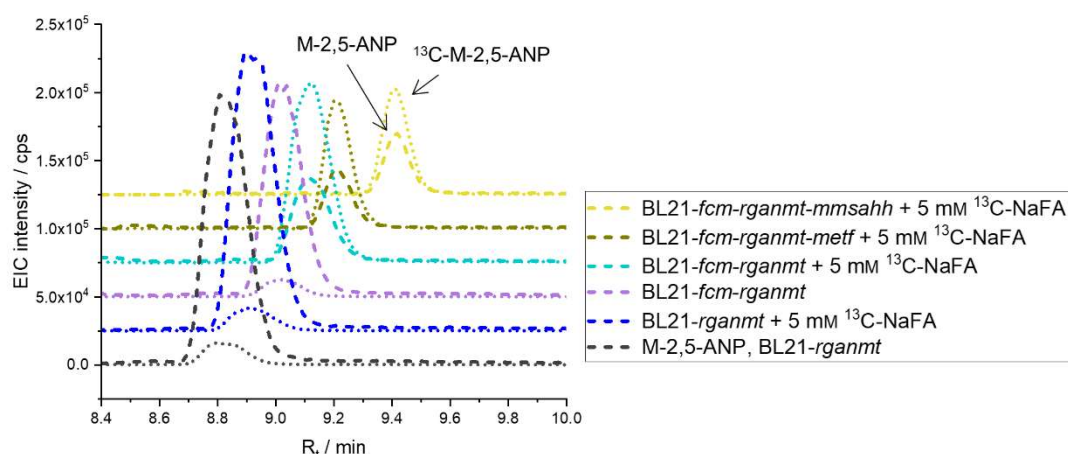


Figure SI 1. Analysis of formate-derived methyl groups with BL21-*fcm-rganmt*. Shown is the LC-MS/MS analysis of ^{13}C -labelled product with BL21-*fcm-rganmt* and strains co-overexpressing genes from the SAM regeneration cycle or *ecmetF*, when 5 mM ^{13}C -formate was supplied. Experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose) with a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM of substrate to be methylated, 0 - 5 mM ^{13}C -formate at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h. Experiments were conducted in biological triplicates.

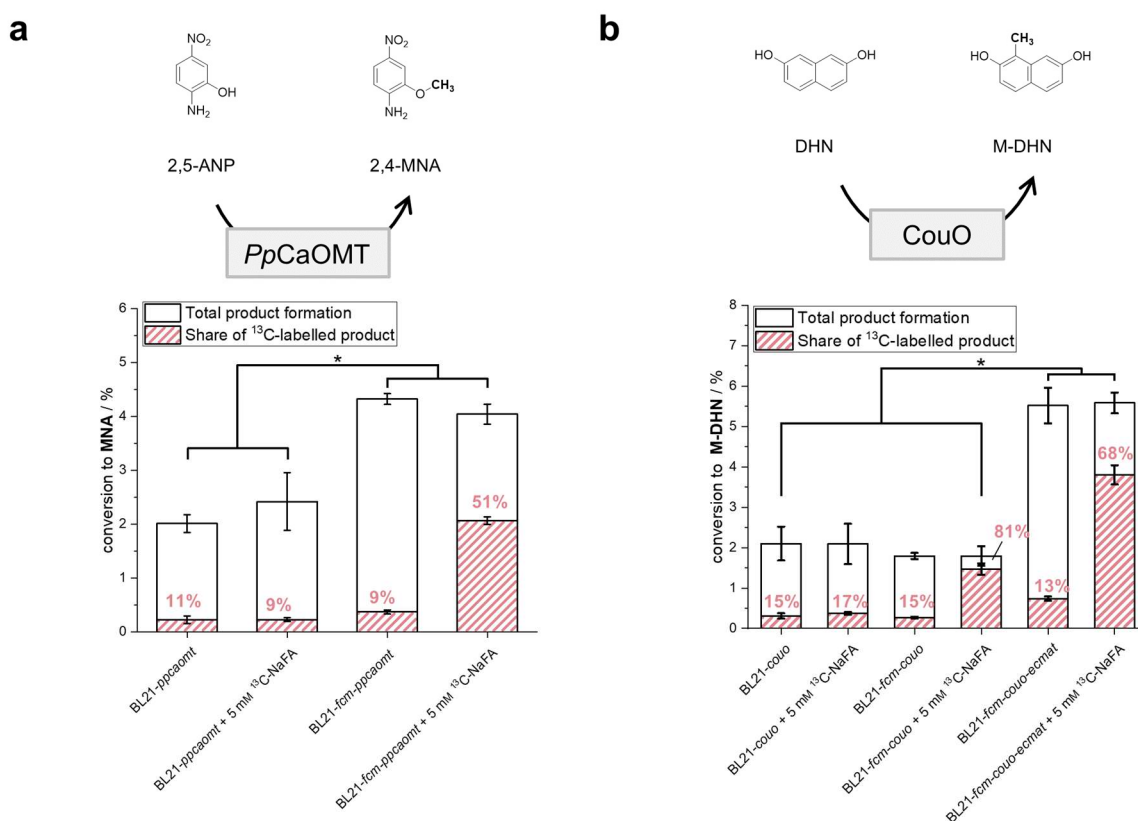


Figure SI 2. General applicability of methylation from formate with BL21-*fcm*. Bar charts show production of methylated products with BL21-*ppcaomt* (a) or BL21-*couo* (b) with and without co-expression of *fcm* and supply with 5 mM ^{13}C -formate. Experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose) with a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM of substrate to be methylated, 0 - 5 mM ^{13}C -formate at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h. Experiments were conducted in biological triplicates.

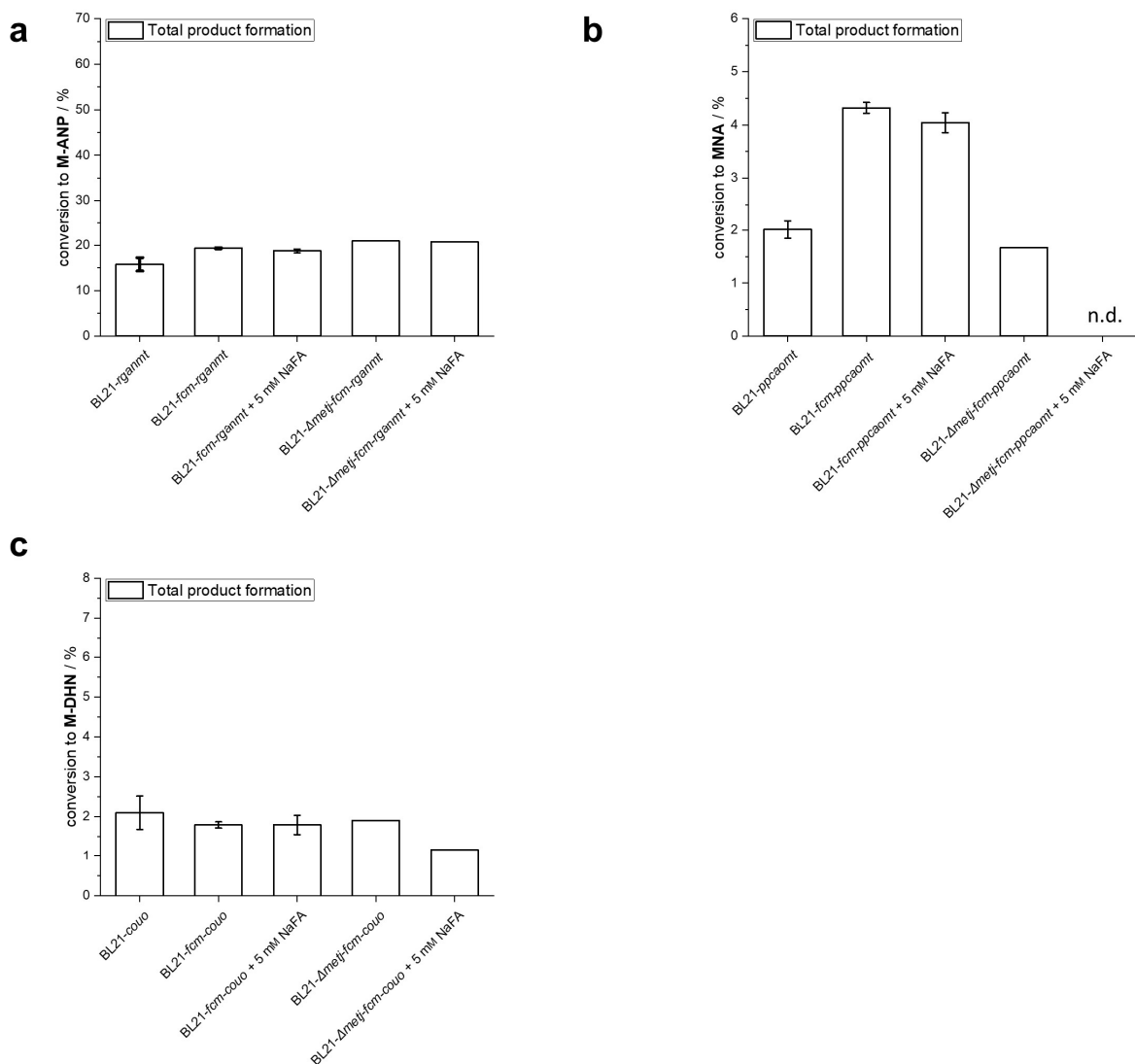


Figure SI 3. Comparison of *in vivo* methylation from formate with BL21::ΔmetJ-fcm and BL21-fcm. Shown is product formation of the strains bearing **a** *RgANMT*, **b** *PpCaOMT* and **c** *CouO* in BL21, BL21-fcm and BL21::ΔmetJ-fcm with and without the addition of formate. Experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose) with a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM of substrate to be methylated, 0 - 5 mM ¹³C-formate at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h. NOTE: In this experiment no ¹³C-labelled formate was used. Experiments were performed in biological triplicates. n. d. = not detected.

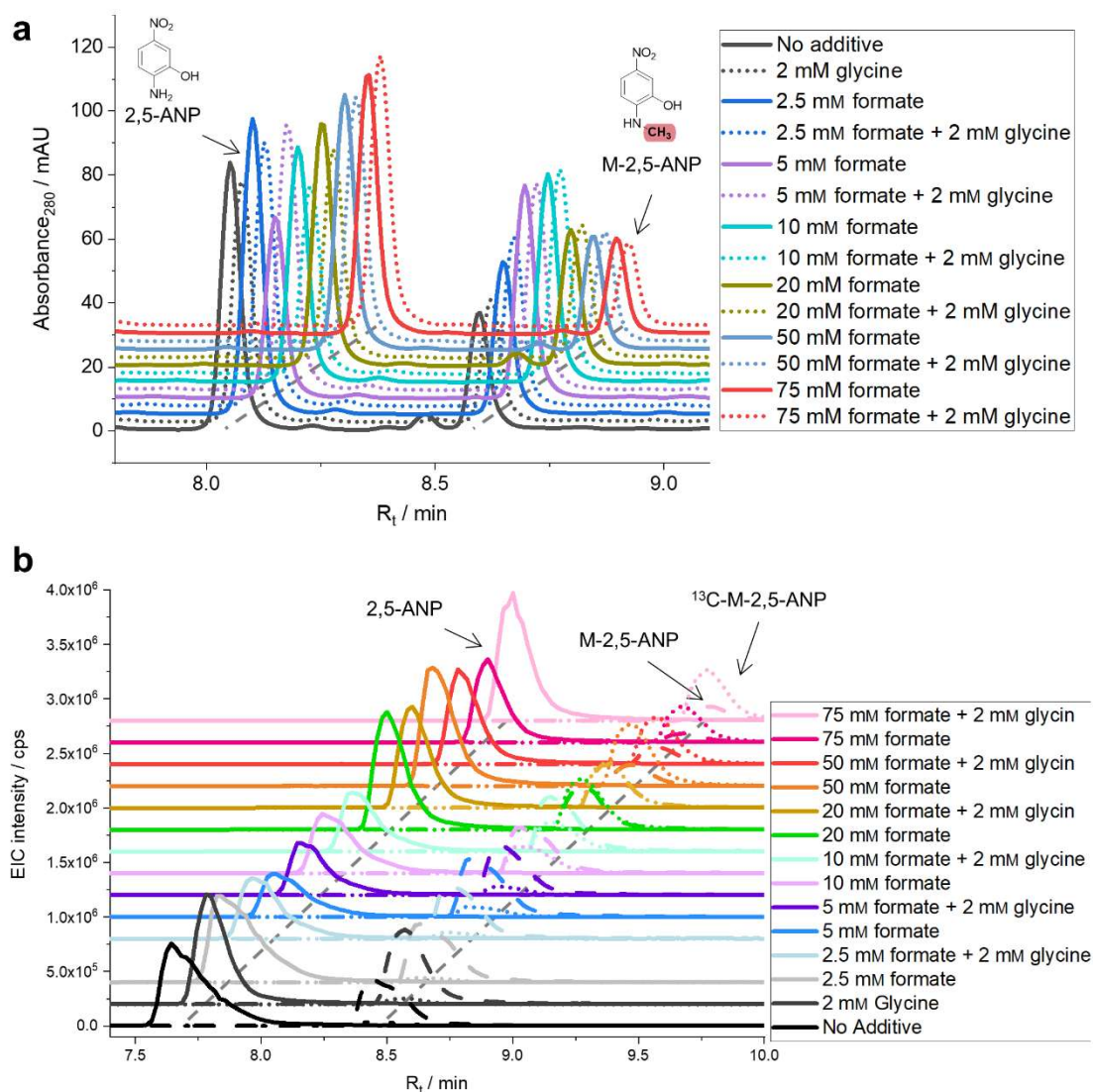


Figure SI 4. Screening of different ^{13}C -formate concentrations with *C₁S-rganmt*. **a** Production of M-2,5-ANP was analysed with HPLC-UV ($\lambda = 280$ nm) using *C₁S-rganmt* with formate concentrations ranging from 2.5 to 75 mM ^{13}C -formate with and without the addition of 2 mM glycine. **b** LC-MS/MS analysis of the incorporation of formate-derived methyl groups in M-2,5-ANP. Experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose) with a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM ANP, 2.5 - 75 mM ^{13}C -formate with or without 2 mM glycine at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h in biological triplicates.

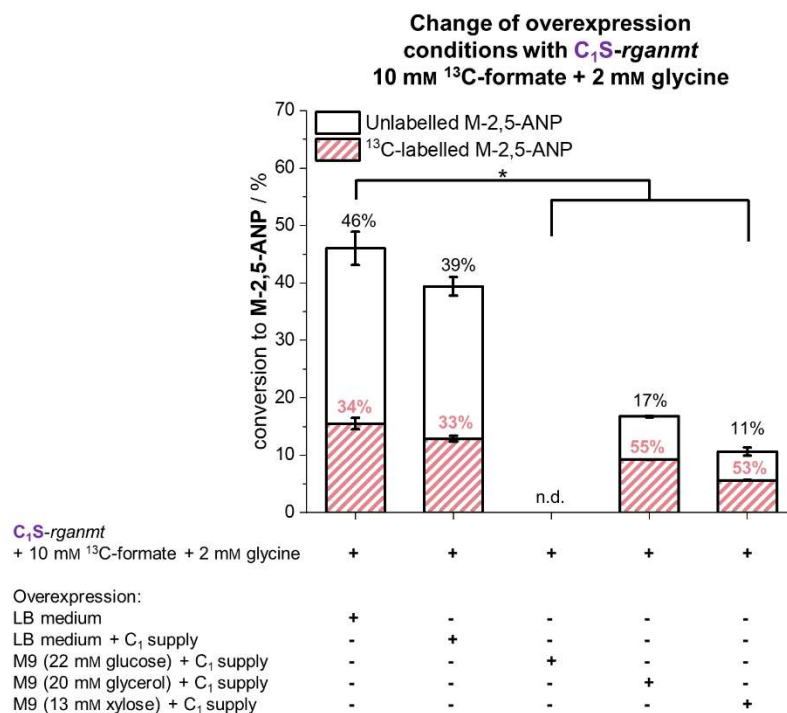


Figure SI 5. Exchange of overexpression conditions for *C₁S-rganmt*. It was suspected that the low share of ¹³C-labelled product would derive from a carryover or residual free intracellular methionine from the overexpression phase in LB-medium. Therefore, overexpression as well as biotransformation conditions were altered to: overexpression in LB-medium with formate and glycine supply or to M9 medium supplied with 22 mM glucose, 20 mM glycerol, or 13 mM xylose. In this figure, the conversion of 2,5-ANP to M-2,5-ANP by *C₁S-rganmt* (black) and the share of ¹³C-labelled product (red) are given. Conditions during overexpression and biotransformation phase were altered as indicated to M9 (22 mM glucose, 20 mM glycerol, or 13 mM xylose) at a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM 2,5-ANP, 10 mM ¹³C-formate and 2 mM glycine at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h. n.d. = not detected.

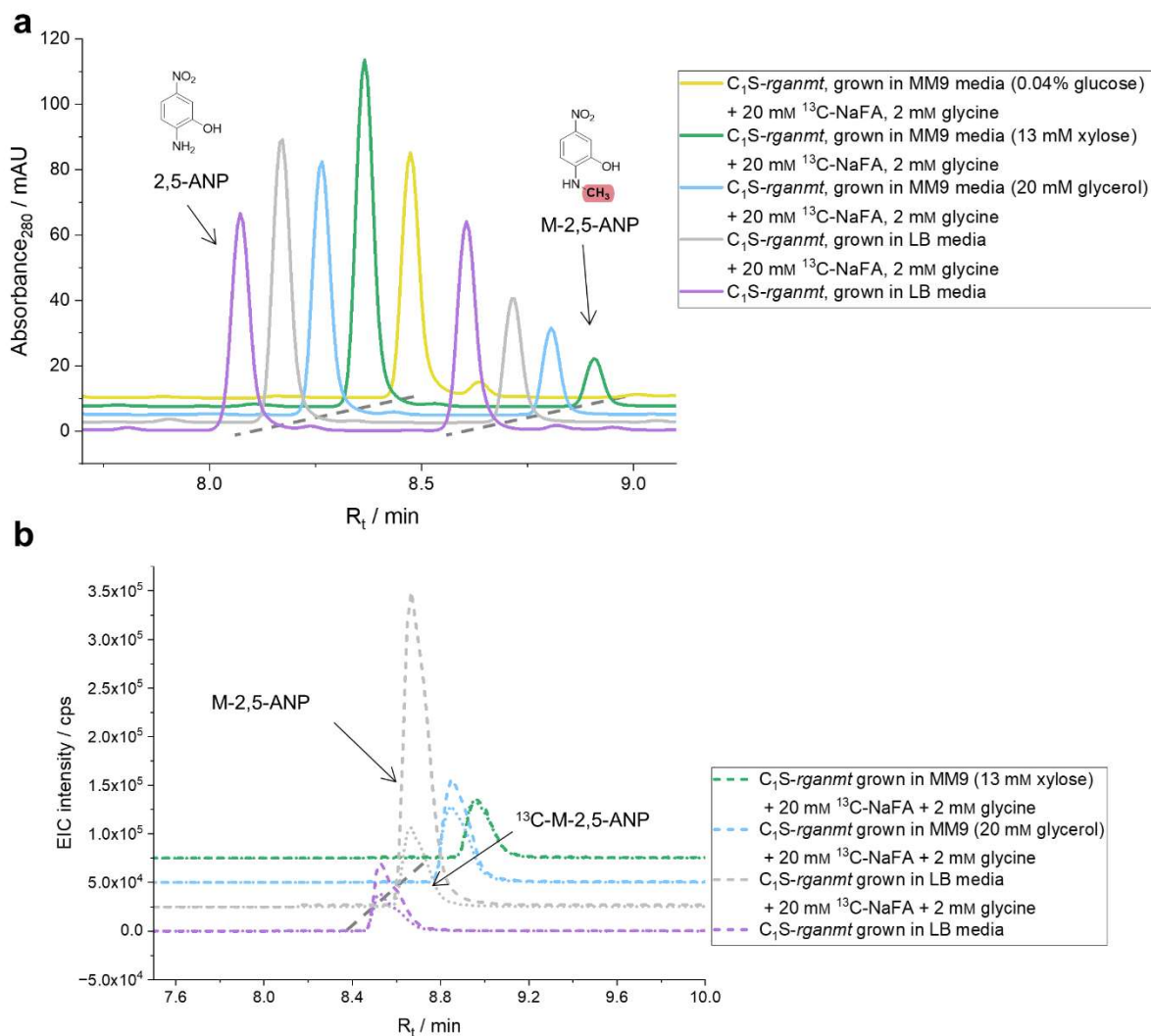


Figure SI 6. Media screening to increase methylation from formate with *C₁S-rganmt*. **a** Total methylation of 2,5-ANP to M-2,5-ANP through *C₁S-rganmt* grown and overexpressed in different medium was analysed with HPLC-UV ($\lambda = 280$ nm). **b** The share of labelled product was analysed via LC-MS/MS. Striped lines represent M-2,5-ANP ($m/z = 169.050-123.050$) and dotted lines represent ^{13}C -M-2,5-ANP ($m/z = 170.050-124.050$). Cells were grown and overexpressed in the respective medium and the experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose or with the respective M9-medium the cultures were grown in) with a final OD_{600} of 3.0, 0.75 mM 2,5-ANP, 10 mM ^{13}C -formate with 2 mM glycine at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h in biological triplicates.

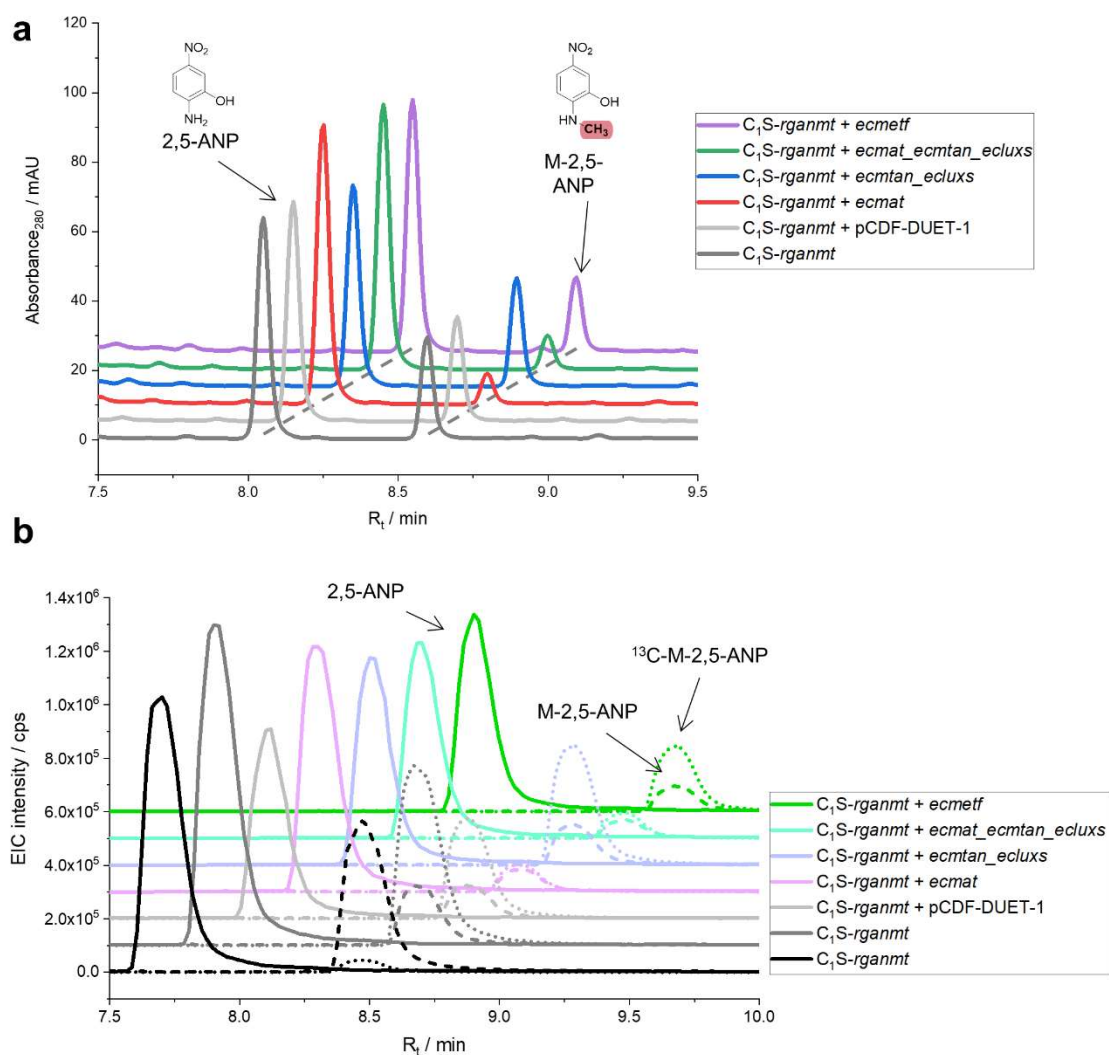


Figure SI 7. Co-overexpression of SAM regeneration cycle genes in $C_1S\text{-rganmt}$. **a** Production of M-2,5-ANP was analysed with HPLC-UV ($\lambda = 280$ nm) with $C_1S\text{-rganmt}$ in combination with the SAM regeneration cycle genes encoded on a pCDF--DUET-1 vector using 50 mM ^{13}C -formate. **b** Incorporation of ^{13}C -formate was analysed with LC-MS/MS. Compact lines represents 2,5-ANP ($m/z = 155.050\text{-}109.050$), striped lines represent M-2,5-ANP ($m/z = 169.050\text{-}123.050$) and dotted lines represent ^{13}C -M-2,5-ANP ($m/z = 170.050\text{-}124.050$). Experiments were conducted in M9-medium (22 mM glucose) with a final OD₆₀₀ of 3.0, 0.75 mM 2,5-ANP, and 50 mM ^{13}C -formate at 37 °C, 170 rpm for 24 h in biological triplicates.

Table SI 1. Production of M-2,5-ANP for different strains and conditions.

Strain	Condition	Conversion $\pm$ SD [%]	Fold change $\pm$ SD	Share of ^{13}C - labelled M-2,5- ANP [%]
BL21- <i>rganmt</i>	-	15.8 $\pm$ 1.5	1 $\pm$ 0.09	7.7 $\pm$ 0.4
	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	15.5 $\pm$ 0.2	0.98 $\pm$ 0.01	7.8 $\pm$ 0.2
BL21- <i>fcm-rganmt</i>	-	19.3 $\pm$ 0.1	1.22 $\pm$ 0.01	7.6 $\pm$ 0.3
	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	18.7 $\pm$ 0.4	1.19 $\pm$ 0.03	67.3 $\pm$ 1.4
BL21- <i>fcm-rganmt-ecmat</i>	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	-	-	-
BL21- <i>fcm-rganmt-mmsahh</i>	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	17.4 $\pm$ 1.3	1.10 $\pm$ 0.09	64.1 $\pm$ 1.5
BL21- <i>fcm-rganmt-ecmetF</i>	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	20.5 $\pm$ 0.8	1.30 $\pm$ 0.05	66.6 $\pm$ 1.8
C ₁ -opt- <i>rganmt</i>	-	2.2 $\pm$ 0.15	0.14 $\pm$ 0.01	9.1 $\pm$ 1.2
	5 mM ^{13}C -formate	5.1 $\pm$ 0.15	0.32 $\pm$ 0.01	53.6 $\pm$ 0.96
C ₁ S- <i>rganmt</i>	-	29.3 $\pm$ 1.8	1.9 $\pm$ 0.1	8.0 $\pm$ 0.3
	2.5 mM formate	34.4 $\pm$ 1.0	2.2 $\pm$ 0.1	11.7 $\pm$ 0.4
	5 mM formate	41.8 $\pm$ 6.4	2.6 $\pm$ 0.4	15.0 $\pm$ 1.4
	10 mM formate	43.7 $\pm$ 2.8	2.8 $\pm$ 0.2	37.8 $\pm$ 1.4
	20 mM formate	38.0 $\pm$ 2.9	2.4 $\pm$ 0.2	56.0 $\pm$ 1.4
	50 mM formate	31.2 $\pm$ 0.6	2.0 $\pm$ 0.1	75.7 $\pm$ 0.7
	75 mM formate	27.0 $\pm$ 1.6	1.7 $\pm$ 0.1	80.8 $\pm$ 0.4
	2 mM glycine	32.3 $\pm$ 1.7	2.0 $\pm$ 0.1	10.5 $\pm$ 4.1
	2.5 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	38.9 $\pm$ 3.2	2.5 $\pm$ 0.2	11.1 $\pm$ 0.2
	5 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	44.2 $\pm$ 0.3	2.8 $\pm$ 0.1	15.5 $\pm$ 0.4
	10 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	46.0 $\pm$ 4.2	2.9 $\pm$ 0.3	33.7 $\pm$ 2.2
	20 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	40.0 $\pm$ 2.6	2.5 $\pm$ 0.2	54.3 $\pm$ 2.2
	50 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	30.4 $\pm$ 1.0	1.9 $\pm$ 0.1	73.5 $\pm$ 1.5
	75 mM formate + 2 mM glycine	24.3 $\pm$ 1.5	1.5 $\pm$ 0.1	80.3 $\pm$ 1.15
C ₁ S- <i>rganmt</i>	Overexpression in LB-medium	39.4 $\pm$ 1.6	2.49 $\pm$ 0.10	32.7 $\pm$ 1.28
	+ 20 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine, assay in M9 (22 mM glucose); 10 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine			
C ₁ S- <i>rganmt</i>	Overexpression in M9 (22 mM glucose) + 20 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine, assay in M9 (22 mM glucose) 10 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine	-	-	-
C ₁ S- <i>rganmt</i>	Overexpression in M9 (20 mM glycerol) + 20 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine, assay in M9 (20 mM glycerol) 10 mM ^{13}C -formate + 2 mM glycine	16.8	1.06 $\pm$ 0.01	55.0 $\pm$ 0.18

<i>C₁S-rganmt</i>	Overexpression in M9 (13 mM xylose) + 20 mM ¹³ C-formate + 2 mM glycine, assay in M9 (13 mM xylose) 10 mM ¹³ C-formate + 2 mM glycine	10.6 ± 0.7	0.67 ± 0.04	53.2 ± 0.6
<i>C₁S-rganmt-empty</i>	50 mM ¹³ C-formate	31.5 ± 0.9	2.0 ± 0.1	76.6 ± 0.8
<i>C₁S-rganmt-ecmat</i>	50 mM ¹³ C-formate	10.5 ± 1.0	0.7 ± 0.1	57.3 ± 1.1
<i>C₁S-rganmt-ecmtan-ecluxS</i>	50 mM ¹³ C-formate	33.6 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 0.1	76.9 ± 0.6
<i>C₁S-rganmt-ecmat-ecmtan-ecluxS</i>	50 mM ¹³ C-formate	11.3 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.1	60.6 ± 1.6
<i>C₁S-rganmt-ecmetF</i>	50 mM ¹³ C-formate	23.5 ± 1.3	1.5 ± 0.1	74.0 ± 1.1

HPLC-UV analysis

HPLC-UV analysis was used to detect MT products generated during *in vivo* methylation.

Table SI 2. HPLC-UV analysis for quantification of methylated products.

	HPLC-UV analysis for quantification of M-ANP
HPLC system	Agilent 1260 infinity II
Column	ISAspher 100-3-C18 (150 x 4.0 mm)
Mobile phase A (aqueous)	0.1% formic acid
Mobile phase B (organic)	acetonitrile
Detection wavelength	280 nm
Flow rate	1 ml/ min
Sample volume injected	10 µl
Equilibration	97% A
Gradient	4 min 97% A/ 3% B 3 min to 30% A/ 70% B 0.1 min to 100% B 2.9 min 100% B 1 min to 97% A/ 3% B 3 min 97% A/ 3% B

LC-MS/MS analysis

LC-MS/MS was used for analysis of the share of ^{13}C -labelled products.

Table SI 3. LC-MS/MS method for determination of ^{13}C -labelled products.

	LC-MS/MS method for determination of ^{13}C -labelled M-ANP
LC-MS system	SCIEX 5500+
Column	ISAspher 120-3-C18 Aq (50 x 2.1 mm)
Mobile phase A (aqueous)	0.1% formic acid
Mobile phase B (organic)	acetonitril
Flow rate	0.2 ml/ min
MS settings	Curtain Gas: 25 psi Ion spray voltage: +2900 eV Temperature: 450 °C Ion source gas 1: 50 psi Ion source gas 2: 50 psi Declustering potential: 10 eV Exit potential: 12 eV
Sample preparation	Dilution 1:10 and filtration
Sample volume injected	1 µl
Equilibration	97% A
Gradient	4 min 97% A/ 3% B 3 min to 30% A/ 70% B 0.1 min to 100% B 2.9 min 100% B 1 min to 97% A/ 3% B 3 min 97% A/ 3% B

Table SI 4. Multiple reaction monitoring transitions for LC-MS/MS measurements.

Substrate	Q1 mass	Q3 mass
2,5-ANP (2,5-aminonitrophenol)	155.050	155.050
	155.050	109.050
M-ANP	169.050	169.050
(<i>N</i> -methyl-2,5-aminonitrophenol)	169.050	123.050
^{13}C -M-ANP	170.050	170.050
(<i>N</i> -methyl-2,5-aminonitrophenol)	170.050	124.050
2,4-MNA	169.050	169.050
(4-methoxy-2-nitroaniline)	169.050	123.050
^{13}C -2,4-MNA	170.050	170.050
	170.050	124.050
DHN (2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene)	161.050	161.050
Methyl-DHN (1-methyl-2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene)	175.070	175.070
^{13}C -Methyl-DHN	176.070	176.070

ppcaomt (His₆-tagged, caffeate O-MT from *Prunus persica*)

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couO (His₆-tagged, aminocoumarin C-MT from *Streptomyces rishirensis*)

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GCGCGCCGCGCGGCGGCG

ecmat (His₆-tagged, methionine adenosyltransferase from *Escherichia coli*)

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GTCTGAAGTAA

ecmtan (His₆-tagged, S-methyl-5'-thioadenosine/ SAH nucleosidase from *Escherichia coli*)

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ecluxS (His₆-tagged, S-ribosylhomocysteine lyase from *Escherichia coli*)

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***ecmetf* (His₆-tagged, methylene-H₄F reductase from *Escherichia coli*)**

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***mmsahh* (His₆-tagged)**

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