

Supplementary Information

An Extremely Sensitive Ultrahigh Throughput Growth Selection Assay for the Identification of Amidase Activity

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Materials and Methods

Table S1 Preparation scheme for screening plates. It is crucial to cool down the autoclaved agar before adding M9 salts, because of oxidation which can occur at high temperatures.

Component	Volume	Final conc.
Washed agar for 400 mL final volume		1x
MilliQ	Fill to 240 mL	
Autoclave; cool down to ~60°C		
5x M9 (warm)	60 mL	1x
MgSO ₄ (1 M)	600 µL	2 mM
CaCl ₂ (1 M)	30 µL	100 µM
Glycerol (50%)	3 mL	0.5%
100x Trace elements	3 mL	1x
Kan (50 mg mL ⁻¹)	300 µL	50 µg mL ⁻¹
Amp (100 mg mL ⁻¹) or Chl (34 mg mL ⁻¹)	300 µL	100 µg mL ⁻¹ or 34 µg mL ⁻¹
ST (1 mM)	Variable	Variable
Acedoben (100 mM)	15 µL	5 µM

Purification of enzymes

Expression vectors were transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) (pET-vector) or $\Delta pabA$ (pAC vector), and the cells were plated out on LB agar containing 50 µg mL⁻¹ kanamycin or 34 µg mL⁻¹ chloramphenicol. Single colonies were used to inoculate overnight cultures in LB medium containing the corresponding antibiotic. Overnight cultures (1 mL) were used to inoculate LB-5052 medium (200 mL containing corresponding antibiotic). Cultures were incubated at 37 °C for 4 h (shaking at 100 rpm for baffled flasks or 200 rpm for smooth flasks). The temperature was then reduced to 20 °C and the cultures were incubated for another 24 h. Cells were harvested by centrifugation for 20 min at 4,500 g and 4 °C. Cell pellets were stored at -20 °C before purification. Cells were resuspended and disrupted by sonication of the cell pellets in 4 mL lysis buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, containing 300 mM sodium chloride and 10 mM imidazole) per 1 g of cell pellet. Three cycles of ultrasonication (2.5 min, 50% pulse, 50% power) were performed on ice using a SONOPULS HD 2070 (BANDELIN electronic GmbH & Co. KG). Lysates were clarified by centrifugation at 10,000 g and 4 °C for 60 min. The recombinant proteins were purified by IMAC. The clarified lysates were applied to ROTI®Garose His/Ni matrix (1 mL) that had been equilibrated with lysis buffer. Columns were washed with ten column volumes of wash buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, containing 300 mM NaCl and 20 mM imidazole). The proteins were then eluted with 15 mL elution buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, containing 300 mM sodium chloride and 250 mM imidazole). The eluates were concentrated to 2.5 mL using Vivaspın 20 ultrafiltration units (10 kDa

MWCO). Finally, the elution buffer was exchanged with storage buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0) using PD10 columns (GE Healthcare). The proteins were eluted from the PD10 columns using 3.5 mL of storage buffer. Proteins in storage buffer were stored on ice in a cold room and used within a few days.

Determination of specific activities

Specific activities were determined at 25 °C in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, containing 100 μ M acedoben. Acedoben was added from a 1 mM stock in DMSO (10% final concentration of DMSO). Purified amidases were diluted in storage buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0) prior to addition to the assay to give a linear increase in absorbance at 290 nm over 5 min. These diluted samples (20 μ L) were pipetted (twice in triplicates in two separate experiments) into clear and UV-compatible 96 well plates (without lids). The reaction buffer was then pipetted into the wells using a multichannel pipette (final volume of 200 μ L). Measurements were carried out in 96-well plates in a microtiter plate reader. Absorbance at 290 nm was measured every 30 s for 5 min. Specific activities (given in main text) were calculated from the linear increase in absorbance in the first few minutes and converted to μ mol min⁻¹ mg⁻¹ or U mg⁻¹ using a PABA calibration curve in the assay buffer. Since acedoben absorbs at 290 nm as well, the dilution series was pipetted starting from 0 μ M PABA and 100 μ M acedoben to 100 μ M PABA and 0 μ M acedoben. The absorbance at 290 nm was linear from 0 μ M to 100 μ M PABA.

Additional Figures

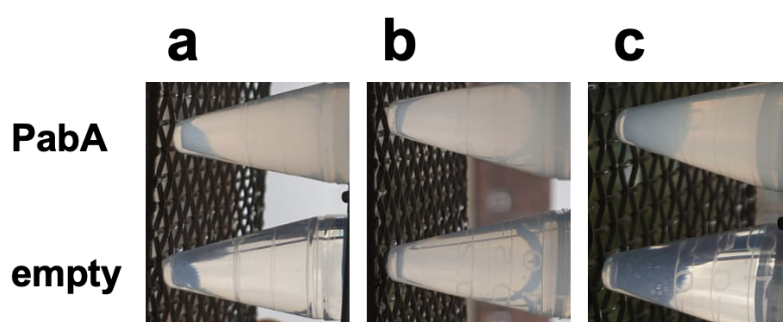


Fig. S1 Liquid cultures of $\Delta pabA_pBAD_pabA$ and $\Delta pabA_pBAD_empty$ in screening medium (a), screening medium containing 5 nM PABA (b), and plane minimal medium without acedoben and PABA (c). $\Delta pabA_pBAD_pabA$ grew in all media, whereas $\Delta pabA_pBAD_empty$ could only grow in medium containing 5 nM PABA.

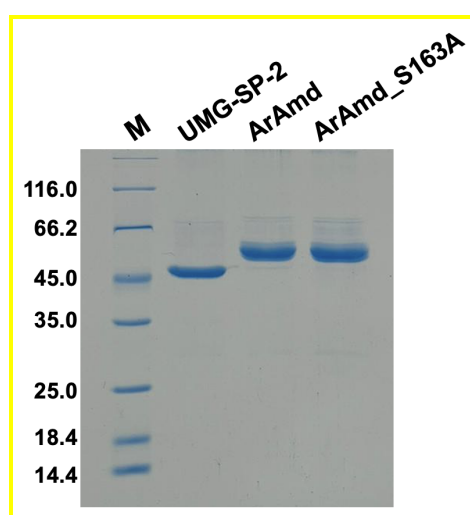


Fig. S2 SDS-PAGE analysis of purified UMG-SP-2, ArAmd, and ArAmd_S163 used for *in vitro* experiments. M: Marker.

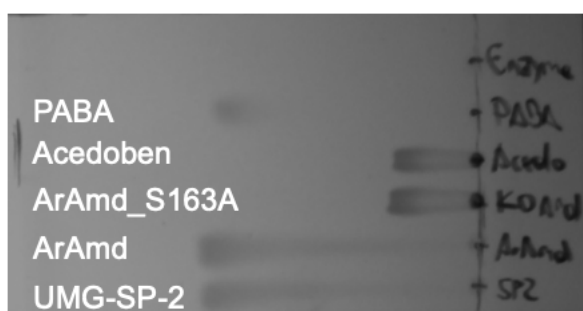


Fig. S3 Thin-layer chromatography of reaction products from the hydrolysis of acedoben using UMG-SP-2, ArAmd, and ArAmd_S163A together with the controls acedoben, PABA, and enzyme without substrate. While UMG-SP-2 and ArAmd fully converted acedoben to PABA, ArAmd_S163A did not.

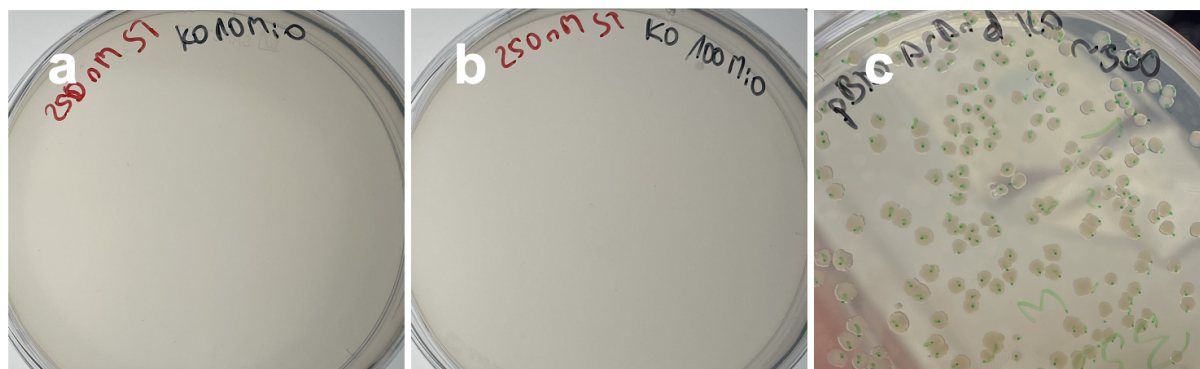


Fig. S4 Dilution series of $\Delta pabA_pBAD_aramd_S163A$ on screening plates containing 250 nM ST. Cell densities of up to ~6 million (a) and ~60 million (b) cells per plate were plated out without developing a cell lawn. The experiment was done in duplets and dilution series of the strain plated out on LB agar plates (example given in c) served as verification of cell density.

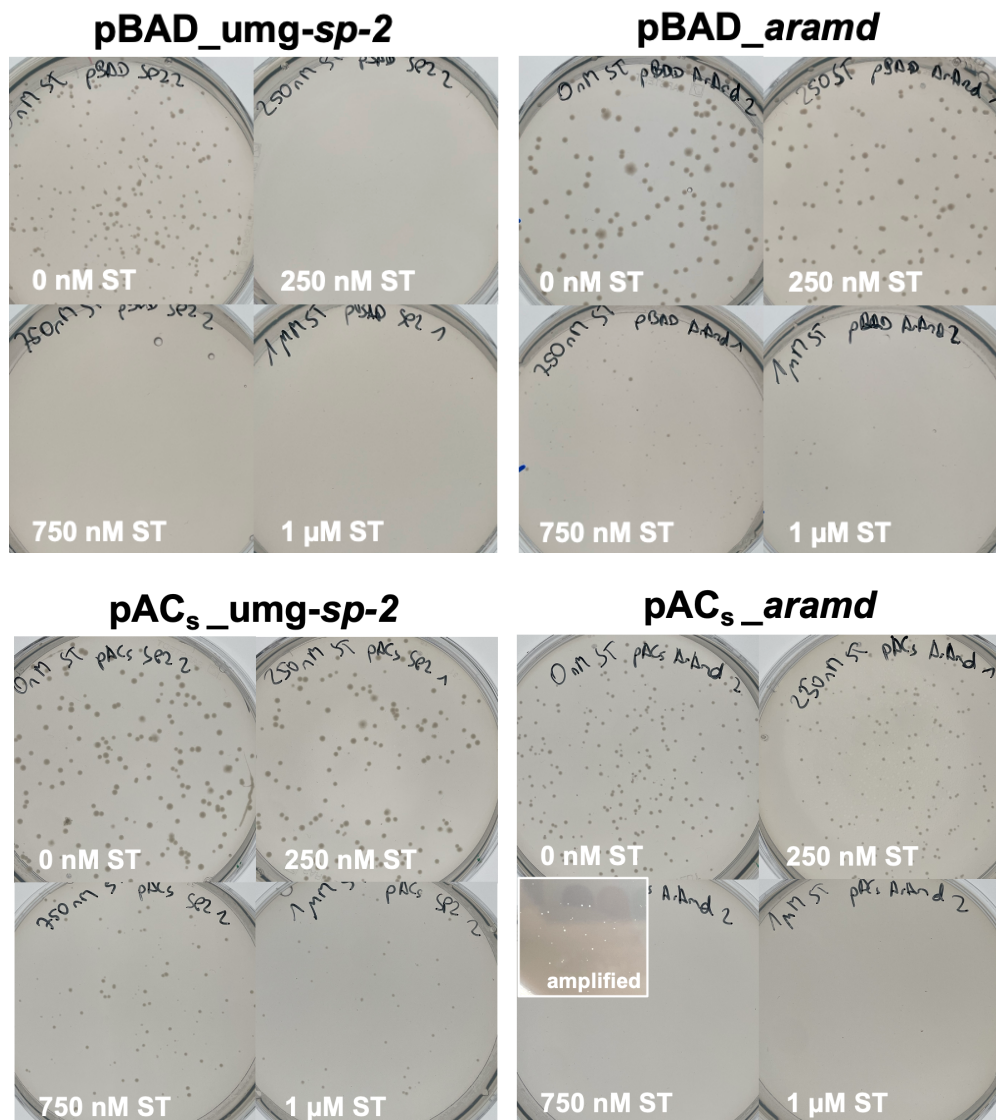


Fig. S5 Screening plates containing chloramphenicol (pAC_s) or ampicillin (pBAD) and different concentrations of ST, inoculated with $\Delta pabA$ carrying pBAD_umg-sp-2 (upper left), pBAD_aramd (upper right), pAC_s_umg-sp-2 (lower left), or pAC_s_aramd (lower right). Whereas the pAC_s-vector significantly increased the assay sensitivity for UMG-SP-2 compared to the pBAD vector, this was not the case for ArAmd, where the sensitivity even slightly decreased. The plates were inoculated with 100 μ L of a 1:200,000-dilution of an overnight culture washed and resuspended to OD₆₀₀ = 1.0 in screening buffer. The experiment was done in duplicates.

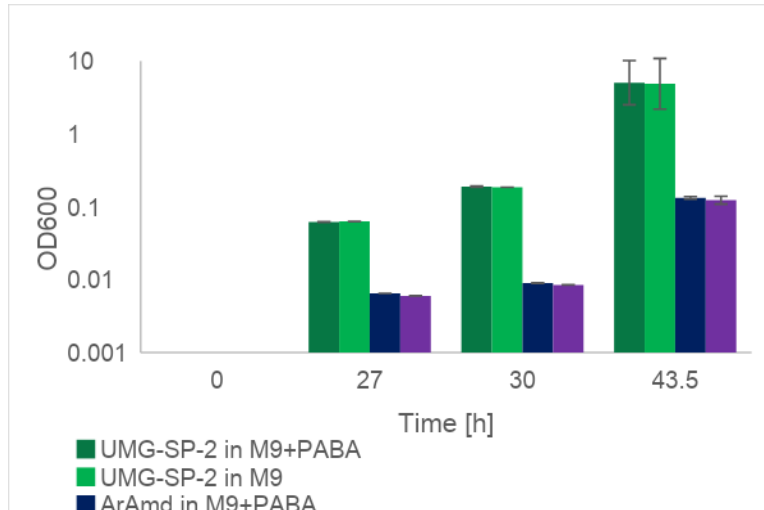


Fig. S6 Growth of $\Delta pabA_pAC_s_aramd$ and $\Delta pabA_pAC_s_umg-sp-2$ in screening medium (M9) and screening medium with an additional 5 μ M PABA (M9+PABA). The strain expressing UMG-SP-2 showed significantly stronger growth compared to the strain expressing ArAmd, whereas the addition of PABA did not have any impact for both strains. The cultures had a volume of 20 mL and were inoculated 1:100,000 with log-phase pre-cultures normalized to an OD_{600} of 0.57. Strains were cultivated in duplicates.

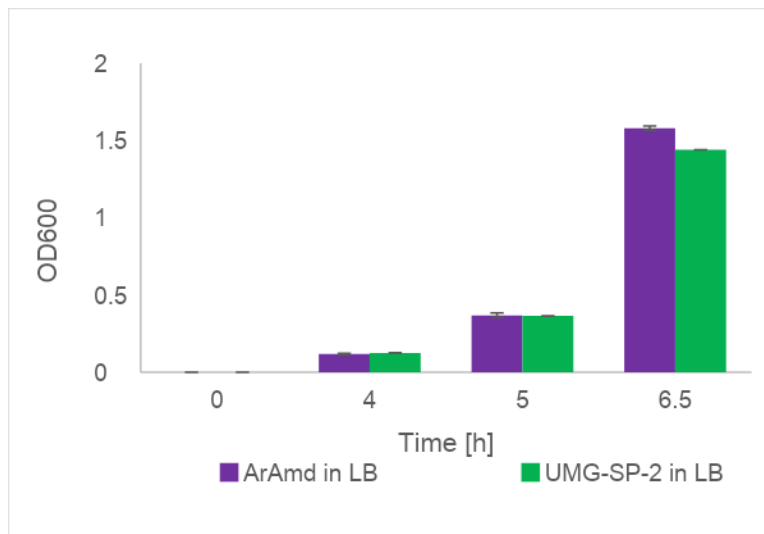


Fig. S7 Growth curve of $\Delta pabA_pAC_s_aramd$ and $\Delta pabA_pAC_s_umg-sp-2$ in LB medium. No difference in growth was visible between the strains within 6.5 h. The cultures had a volume of 30 mL and were inoculated 1:150 with log-phase pre-cultures normalized to an OD_{600} of 0.56. Strains were cultivated in duplicates.

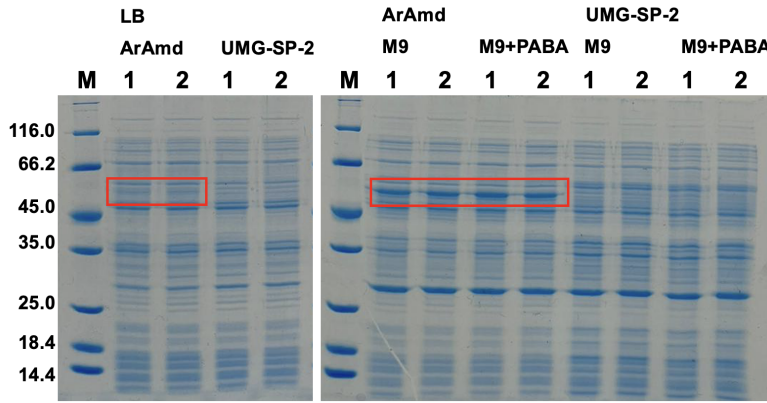


Fig. S8 SDS-PAGE analysis of cell cultures of $\Delta pabA_pAC_aramd$ and $\Delta pabA_pAC_umg-sp-2$ under different cultures conditions. From left to right: First gel: Marker (M), cultures in LB (1, 2). Faint bands of ArAmd were visible, no bands of UMG-SP-2 were visible after 6.5 h of incubation. Second gel: Marker (M), ArAmd cultures in screening medium (M9) and screening medium with 5 μ M additional PABA (M9+PABA) in duplets (1, 2), UMG-SP-2 cultures in screening medium (M9) and screening medium with 5 μ M additional PABA (M9+PABA) in duplets (1, 2). Strong bands of ArAmd and no bands of UMG-SP-2 were visible after 42 h of incubation. No difference was visible between screening medium and screening medium with additional PABA. All cultures were normalized to $OD_{600} = 2.0$.

DNA sequences and oligonucleotides

pBAD_ <i>umg-sp-2</i>	
pBAD BBx fw	AGCTTGGCTGTTTTGGCG
pBAD BBx rv	GGTTAATTCCTCCTGTTAGCC
pBAD SP2 fw	gctaacaggaggaattaaccATGAGCGAGCTTTCCGCAATC
pBAD SP2 rv	tccgccaaaacagccaagctTCAGTGGTGGTGGTGGTG
pAC_ <i>umg-sp-2</i>	
pAC BB fw	taatgcttaagtccaacag
pAC BB rv	ggtatatctccttattaaagttaaac
pAC SP2 fw	ctttaataaggagatataccatgagcgagctttccgcaatc
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pAC_ <i>aramd</i>	
pAC BB fw	taatgcttaagtccaacag
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pAC ArAmd rv	tctgttcgacttaagcattaTCAGTGGTGGTGGTGGTG
pBAD_ <i>pabA</i>	
pbad_BB_HisTag_fw	CTCGAGCACCAACCACCAC
pBAD_BB_ <i>pabA</i> rv	GGGTATGTATATCTCCTTCTTAAAGTTAAACAAAATTATTTTC
<i>pabA</i> insert fw	AGAAGGAGATATACATACCCatgatcctgcttatagataactac
<i>pabA</i> insert rv	TGGTGGTGGTGGTGCTCGAGgcgatgcaggaaattagc

aramd

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aramd_S163A

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umg-sp-2

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pabA

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pabB

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Protein sequences of used enzymes

ArAmd

MGKSHSPVHWKSAAEIVLVKSKQISPREVVESTIDLIEQRDPGLNAVVKAYDEAREKAAAL
ERRIMQGEPVGMLAGVPTLMKDLFAAKPGWPSTLGGIRALKDARGAAGVWSTYPLKMSGED
SLLLGQTNSPVYGFRGTTDNTFFGPTRNPFNLDFNAGGSSGGAAALVADGIVPVAGGTDGGGS
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ArAmd_S163A

MGKSHSPVHWKSAAEIVLVKSKQISPREVVESTIDLIEQRDPGLNAVVKAYDEAREKAAAL
ERRIMQGEPVGMLAGVPTLMKDLFAAKPGWPSTLGGIRALKDARGAAGVWSTYPLKMSGED
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HPSASVPAGLIDGLPAGMLIIGDRQADLDVIAASAAFERASPWSQYYDIPAGRPLLEHHHHHHH*

UMG-SP-2

MSELSAIETAAAIAGGSMTALEACDAAIARIEQRDGPINAVVVRDFDRARDAAKAADAIEIAAA
VRKPLLGVPMTIKESFDIAGLPTSWGFAEHADHIATADSLVVSRLKAAGAVFLGKSNIPVGLAD
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TEPVSLNAWYAMLDDQARMMRAFDRLFESFDAIFCPVLGTTAFAHSDEPDWAKRSLSIDGGIA
PFAAQLGWISMATYGGMPALSMPLGADGNGLPINLQIITRNWSDHDAIRIGALVAEALDRLEH
HHHHH*

PabA

MILLIDNYDSFTWNLYQYFCELGADV LVKRNDALTLADIDALKPQKIVISPGPCTPDEAGISLD
VIRHYAGRLPILGVCLGHQAMAQAFGGKVVRAAKVMHGTKSPITHNGEGVFRGLANPLTVT
RYHSLVVEPDSPACFDVTAWSETREIMGIRHRQWDLEGVQFHPESILSEQGHQLLANFLHRLE
HHHHHH*

PabB

MKTLSPAVITLLWRQDAAEFYFSRLSHLPWAMLLHSGYADHPYSRFDIVVAEPICTLTTFGKET
VVSESEKRTTTTDDPLQVLQQVLDRADIRPTHNEDLPFQGGALGLFGYDLGRRFESLPEIAEQ
DIVLPDMAVGIYDWALIVDHQRHTVSLLSHNDVNARRAWLESQQFSPQEDFTLTSDWQSNMT
REQYGEKFRQVQEYLHSGDCYQVNLAQRFHATYSGDEWQAFLQLNQANRAPFSAFLRLEQG
AILSLSPERFILCDNSEIQTRPIKGTLPRLPDPQEDSKQAVKLANSKADRAENLMIVDLMRNDIG
RVAVAGSVKVPPELVVEPFPVHHLVSTITAQLPEQLHASDLLRAAFPGG SITGAPKVRAMEIID
ELEPQRRNAWCGSIGYLSFCGNMDTSITIRTLTAINGQIFCSAGGGIVADSQEEAEYQETFDKVN
RILKQLEKLEHHHHHH*

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