

Supporting Information for:

Reconstitution and substrate specificity of the thioether-forming radical S-adenosylmethionine enzyme in freyrasin biosynthesis

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Experimental Methods

General materials and methods. Materials and reagents were purchased from Gold Biotechnology, Fisher Scientific, or Sigma-Aldrich unless otherwise noted. Yeast extract and tryptone were purchased from Dot Scientific. Molecular biology reagents for cloning (e.g. restriction enzymes, Q5 polymerase, T4 DNA ligase, and deoxynucleotides) were purchased from New England Biolabs. Oligonucleotide primers were obtained from Integrated DNA Technologies. DNA spin columns were purchased from Epoch Life Sciences. Sanger sequencing was performed by the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Polymerase chain reactions were performed using a Bio-Rad S1000 thermal cycler. *Escherichia coli* DH5 α and BL21(DE3) strains were used for plasmid maintenance and protein overexpression, respectively. Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF-MS) analysis was performed using a Bruker UltrafleXtreme MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) in reflector positive mode at the University of Illinois School of Chemical Sciences Mass Spectrometry Laboratory.

Molecular biology techniques. A pETDuet-1 vector was recently described for the co-expression of the freyrasin precursor peptide and the radical S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) enzyme PapB (WP_019688962.1) in which the precursor peptide (PapA) is fused to the C-terminus of maltose-binding protein (MBP) tag with a tobacco etch virus (TEV) protease-cleavage site N-terminal to the precursor sequence in the first multiple cloning site.¹ PapB was cloned into the second multiple cloning site and was untagged. This vector was used for all heterologous co-expression experiments. PapB was additionally cloned into a pET28 vector fused to the C-terminus of MBP. This vector was used for purified enzyme reconstitution assays as well as generation of the MBP-PapB-RRE (RiPP precursor peptide recognition element) construct for rescue assay *in trans*. PapA was similarly cloned into pETDuet-1 with an N-terminal MBP tag and an empty second multiple cloning site. This vector was used for purification of unmodified freyrasin precursor for *in vitro* assays. Site-directed mutagenesis (SDM) was performed using the QuikChange method (Agilent) as per the manufacturer's instructions using PfuTurbo DNA polymerase. The primers used to create each mutant are listed in **Table S2**.

Preparation of modified freyrasin and freyrasin variants. *E. coli* BL21-RIPL (DE3) cells were transformed with pETDuet_MBP-PapA_PapB or the point mutant being analyzed (e.g. pETDuet_MBP-PapA D6E_PapB) and streaked onto LB agar plates supplemented with 100 μ g/mL ampicillin and 34 μ g/mL chloramphenicol. A single colony was used to inoculate a 5 mL culture of Lysogeny Broth (LB) with the same antibiotics. After overnight growth at 37 °C, 2 L of Terrific Broth (TB) in a 4 L flat bottom flask was inoculated and grown to ~ 1.2 OD₆₀₀. At this density, cultures were cooled at 4 °C for 30 min and then expression was induced with 0.5 mM isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). The culture was shaken at 90 rpm for 16 h at room temperature. The cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4,000 \times g for 15 min. Cell pellets were frozen at -20 °C until purification.

When ready for purification, harvested cells were resuspended in ice cold lysis buffer [50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 2.5% (v/v) glycerol, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100] supplemented with 3 mg/mL lysozyme and a 0.5 mL of a protease inhibitor cocktail [16 mg/mL benzamidine HCl, 6 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 0.1 mM leupeptin, 0.1 mM E64]. The samples were subjected to three rounds of sonication for 45 s with 10 min of equilibration at 4 °C between sonication steps. The resultant lysate was centrifuged for 90 min at 17,000 \times g to clear cellular debris. The supernatant was loaded onto a gravity flow column with amylose resin (pre-equilibrated in cold lysis buffer). The column was then washed with more lysis buffer followed by wash buffer [50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 2.5% (v/v) glycerol]. The MBP-fused peptide was eluted with elution buffer [50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 2.5% (v/v) glycerol, 10 mM D-maltose]. Eluted protein was collected in Amicon Ultra 15 mL centrifugal filters [30 kDa NMWL (Nominal Molecular Weight Limit)] and concentrated by centrifugation at 3,800 \times g until the volume had decreased to ~ 1 mL. The sample was then subjected to a 10-fold buffer exchange by addition of storage buffer [50

mM, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES), 300 mM NaCl, 2.5% (v/v) glycerol, pH 7.4] and then further centrifuged to an appropriate concentration. The resultant aliquots were used for all proteolytic digests from which the mass spectrometry (MS) data derive.

Purification of Modified Freyrasin D6E Variant. MBP-tagged and PapB modified freyrasin D6E [referred to as D6E here] was obtained by the methods described above. The resultant isolates (~50 mg/mL) were combined with TEV protease in a 1:100 [TEV Protease : isolate] ratio by mass and were allowed to equilibrate at room temperature for 1 h to remove the MBP tag. As suggested by previous work,¹ some non-canonical proteolysis occurred at varying positions in the leader peptide [N-terminal to the following residues: G1, G(-9), N(-13), Q(-15), G(-20)]. The majority of peptide was cleaved at the G(-20) non-canonical site, one residue downstream of the canonical TEV protease cut site. Free MBP was removed by addition of acetonitrile (MeCN) to 50% (v/v) followed by freezing at -80 °C for 30 min. The sample was thawed and subjected to centrifugation at $13,000 \times g$ for 20 minutes to remove precipitate. The supernatant was transferred to a new tube and the MeCN was evaporated by SpeedVac for 30 min. The SpeedVac step resulted in the precipitation of additional protein impurities so samples were centrifuged again at $13,000 \times g$ for 20 min. The supernatant, containing a mixture of proteolytically digested D6E peptides, was purified from any remaining contaminants using an Agilent 1200 series HPLC fitted with a 10×250 mm Betasil C18 column (Fisher Scientific). A gradient elution was used with solvent A (10 mM Ammonium Bicarbonate in MilliQ water) and solvent B [10 mM Ammonium Bicarbonate in a 80:20 (MeCN : MilliQ water) solvent ratio] according to the following linear gradient combinations: at $t=0$ min, 10% B; $t=5$ min, 10% B; $t=25$, 40% B; $t=28$ min, 95% B; $t=33$ min, 95% B; $t=38$ min, 10% B. Fractions containing D6E processed at the desired position G1 were pooled, dried by SpeedVac, and lyophilized to complete dryness for later experimentation. All fractions containing incompletely processed D6E were collected, pooled, and dried by SpeedVac to remove MeCN and ammonium bicarbonate.

Pooled fractions of incompletely processed D6E were transferred into a chymotrypsin reaction buffer [0.1 M Tris HCl, 10 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.8] and combined with 50 µg freshly prepared chymotrypsin. Proteolysis was allowed to proceed at room temperature for 30 min and then the reaction was quenched by the addition of MeCN to 50% (v/v). Chymotrypsin was removed using the steps described above for MBP and the soluble fraction was purified using the same Betasil C18 column. The primary peptide fragment was the result of chymotrypsin digest C-terminal to Y-1, generating the desired G1 core peptide. This fraction eluted at 16.5 min in the same gradient as above and was collected, dried with SpeedVac to remove acetonitrile, and lyophilized to dryness. Mass of peptide was determined using a 5-digit analytical scale and 1.8 mg total D6E core peptide was collected for 1D and 2D NMR.

MBP-tagged PapB overexpression and purification. *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells were co-transformed with a pET28 plasmid encoding the MBP-tagged PapB and the pSUF plasmid encoding the Fe-S cluster assembly operon.² Cells were grown for 24 h on LB agar plates containing 50 µg/mL kanamycin and 34 µg/mL chloramphenicol at 37 °C. Single colonies were used to inoculate 10 mL of LB containing the same concentration of antibiotics and grown at 37 °C for 16–18 h. This culture was used to inoculate 1 L of LB (5 g/L yeast extract, 10 g/L tryptone and 10 g/L NaCl) supplemented with the same concentration of antibiotics and grown to an optical density at 600 nm (OD₆₀₀, 1 cm path length) of 0.6 before being placed on ice for 15 min. Protein expression was then induced with the addition of 0.4 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) and supplemented with 100 mg/L of ferrous ammonium sulfate [Fe(NH₄)₂(SO₄)₂] and 100 mg/L of cysteine. Expression was allowed to proceed for 12–16 h at 15 °C (at 100 rpm). Cells were harvested by centrifugation at $3,000 \times g$ for 20 min, washed with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 10 mM Na₂HPO₄, and 1.8 mM KH₂PO₄), and harvested by centrifugation. The cells were flash-frozen and stored at -80 °C.

Protein purification was performed in a Coy anaerobic chamber. All buffers were degassed and stored for 24–48 h in the anaerobic chamber before use. Cells were resuspended in lysis buffer containing 4 mg/mL lysozyme, 2 µM leupeptin, 2 µM benzamidine, and 2 µM E64. Cells were further lysed by sonication ($3 \times$

45 s with 10 min agitation periods at 4 °C). Insoluble debris was removed by centrifugation at $20,000 \times g$ for 40 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was then applied to a lysis-buffer pre-equilibrated amylose resin (NEB; 15 mL of resin per L of initial cell culture). The column was washed with 10 column volumes (CV) of lysis buffer followed by 10 CV of wash buffer (lysis buffer with 400 mM NaCl and lacking Triton X-100). The MBP-tagged proteins were eluted using elution buffer (lysis buffer with 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM maltose, but omitting Triton X-100) until the eluent no longer contained protein detectable with the Bradford reagent. Brown colored fractions were pooled and concentrated using a 30 kDa molecular weight cut-off (MWCO) Amicon Ultra centrifugal filter (EMD Millipore). A buffer exchange with 10× volume of protein storage buffer was performed prior to final concentration, and storage under liquid nitrogen. Protein concentrations were determined using both absorbance at 280 nm (theoretical extinction coefficients were calculated using the ExPASy ProtParam tool; <http://web.expasy.org/protparam/protpar-ref.html>) and a Bradford colorimetric assay. Purity was assessed visually by analysis of Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gels (**Figure S1**). All wash, elution, and storage buffers were supplemented with 0.5 mM tris-(2-carboxyethyl)-phosphine (TCEP).

Ferrozine assay for PapB iron quantification. The following aqueous reagents were prepared for ferrozine assay³: 8 M guanidine hydrochloride, 2 M HCl, 10 mM ferrozine (3-(2-pyridyl)-5,6-diphenyl-1,2,4-triazine-*p,p'*-disulfonic acid monosodium salt hydrate), and 100 mM L-ascorbic acid. To 100 µL of PapB (0–100 µM), 100 µL of 8 M guanidine hydrochloride and 100 µL of 2 M HCl were added and the solution was diluted to 550 µL. Insoluble debris was removed by centrifugation and to 500 µL of the supernatant, 30 µL of the 10 mM ferrozine solution and 30 µL of 100 mM freshly prepared L-ascorbic acid were added. The resulting solution was mixed thoroughly and incubated at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the iron-ferrozine complex was recorded at 562 nm using a Cary 4000 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer (Agilent). The Fe content was determined by comparing this reading to a standard curve that was generated under identical conditions using ferrous ammonium sulfate $[\text{Fe}(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{SO}_4)_2]$ with a concentration range from 0–100 µM.

Methylene blue assay for sulfide quantitation. For the methylene blue assay⁴, to a 300 µL of assay solution containing PapB (0–100 µM), 1 mL of 1% (w/v) zinc acetate was added followed by 50 µL of 3 M NaOH. This mixture was agitated gently and 250 µL of 0.1% *N,N*-dimethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine (DMPD) monohydrochloride in 5 M HCl and 50 µL of 23 mM FeCl_3 in 1.2 M HCl were added. The resulting solution was mixed vigorously for 5 min intervals for a total of 30 min. The samples were then centrifuged at $16,000 \times g$ for 5 min at 25 °C. The supernatant was collected and the absorbance at 670 nm was recorded using a Cary 4000 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer (Agilent). The sulfide content was determined by comparing the reading to a standard curve that was generated under identical conditions using a fresh solution of sodium sulfide (Na_2S) in 0.1 M NaOH with a concentration range of 0–100 µM.

In vitro reconstitution of PapB reaction. Reaction mixtures generally included the following components: PapA precursor peptide (50 µM), purified PapB from *E. coli* heterologous expression (5 µM), SAM (1 mM) and sodium dithionite (3 mM) in reaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5). The reaction was allowed to proceed for 6–12 h at 25 °C in an anaerobic chamber. In case of the biological reductant system, flavodoxin (5 µM), flavodoxin reductase (5 µM) and NADPH (0.5 mM) was used. Reaction mixtures were desalted via C18 ZipTip (EMD Millipore) per the manufacturer's instructions, and the product was eluted using a saturated solution of sinapinic acid in 70% aq. MeCN. Reactions were monitored using MALDI-TOF-MS.

HPLC analysis. To detect 5'-deoxyadenosine, proteins in the reaction mixture were precipitated by heating at 100 °C for 2 min and the precipitate was separated by ultracentrifugation ($15000 \times g$, 20 min). The supernatant was subjected to HPLC analysis, which was performed by using a linear gradient, at a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used with absorbance detection at 254 nm. Solvent A is water, solvent B is 100 mM K_2HPO_4 , pH 6.6 and solvent C is methanol: 0 min, 100% B; 5 min, 100 % B; 12 min, 48 % A, 40 % B, 12

% C; 14 min, 50 % A, 30 % B, 20 % C; 18 min, 30 % A, 10% B, 60% C; 20 min, 100 % B; 25 min 100 % B. The column used was a Betasil LC-18 HPLC column (15 cm × 4.6 mm, 3 μM particle size).

ESI-LC-MS analysis. The compound eluting at 19.5 min was collected, the solvent was removed by speed vac (Thermo Scientific), re-dissolved in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM, pH 7.5) and subjected to LC-MS analysis, which was performed using a Waters SYNAPT mass spectrometer outfitted with an ACQUITY UPLC, an ACQUITY Bridged Ethyl Hybrid C8 column (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm particle size, 200 Å; Waters), an ESI ion source, and a quadrupole TOF detector. A gradient of 2–100% aq. MeCN with 0.1% formic acid (v/v) over 20 min was used. Fragmentation of the sample was performed using a collision-induced dissociation (CID) method. Data analysis was performed using mMass software.

MALDI-TOF-MS analysis. Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) was used to identify peptide products based upon their characteristic mass changes upon post-translational modification, protease digestion, or chemical modification. The freyrasin precursor peptide and fragments gave the strongest ion intensities when mixed with a matrix consisting of 20 mg/mL of α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid (CHCA) and 10 mg/mL 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB) in 60% MeCN with 0.1% formic acid. Freyrasin fragments were most readily ionized in DHB matrix that crystallized around the perimeter of the matrix spot. The samples were ionized using a Bruker Daltonics UltrafleXtreme MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer in reflector/positive mode using the default RP900_4500Da.par method and linear/positive mode using the default LP200_1000Da.par method. For analyzing PapB in vitro reaction mixtures, sinapinic acid (SA) was used as a matrix. Data processing was performed using Bruker FlexAnalysis software.

HR-ESI-MS/MS analysis. Samples for high-resolution electrospray ionization (HR-ESI) were prepared for analysis by proteolytic digest with excess trypsin or thermolysin (as indicated in figure). Samples were next desalted by ZipTip. Next, samples were diluted 1:1 into ESI mix (80% MeCN, 19% H₂O, 1% formic acid). Samples were directly infused into a ThermoFisher Scientific Orbitrap Fusion ESI-MS using an Advion TriVersa Nanomate 100. The MS was calibrated and tuned with Pierce LTQ Velos ESI Positive Ion Calibration Solution (ThermoFisher). The MS was operated using the following parameters: resolution, 100,000; isolation width (MS/MS), 2 m/z; normalized collision energy (MS/MS), 35; activation q value (MS/MS), 0.4; activation time (MS/MS), 30 ms. Fragmentation was performed using collision-induced dissociation (CID) at 35 to 70%. Data analysis was conducted using the Qualbrowser application of Xcalibur software (Thermo-Fisher Scientific).

NMR of freyrasin variant D6E. The sample was prepared by dissolving 1.8 mg (HPLC-purified and lyophilized, see above) in 300 μL of 9:1 H₂O:D₂O (99.96 atom % D; Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 3 μL of 1M NaOH (aq). The sample was then neutralized with 4 μL of 1 M HCl (aq). The sample was then sonicated at room temperature for 10 minutes. An additional 4 μL of 1 M HCl (aq) was added in order to improve amide proton signal in the NMR spectra. The sample was loaded into a D₂O-lock Shigemi tube and NMR spectra were recorded on an Agilent VNMR 750 MHz narrow bore magnet spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm triple resonance (1H-13C-15N) triaxial gradient probe and pulse-shaping capabilities. Samples were held at 25°C during acquisition. Standard Varian pulse sequences were used for each of the following experiments: 1H, 1H-1H TOCSY (70 ms mixing time), and 1H-1H NOESY (350 ms mixing time). Solvent suppression by presaturation (PRESAT) was employed for 1H, 1H-1H NOESY and 1H-1H TOCSY experiments. Spectra were recorded with VNMRJ 3.2A. Spectra were imported into MestReNova 8.1.1, phased and baseline corrected.

Table S1: ¹H Chemical shift values of assigned freyrasin D6E residues. Resonances are labeled based on their position within the indicated amino acid, i.e. H-C_α denotes the alpha carbon proton. Unassigned protons are denoted by “*” and bolded ppm values indicate aromatic proton resonances (for Tyr9, Phe10, and Phe25). These values are in good agreement with that acquired for wt freyrasin.¹

| Residue | NH | H-C _α | H-C _β | H-C _γ | H-C _δ | H-C _ε | H-C _ζ |
|-------------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gly ₁ | * | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Cys ₂ | 8.56 | 4.78 | 3.04, 3.09 | | | | |
| Ser ₃ | 8.63 | 4.39 | 3.81, 3.92 | | | | |
| Ala ₄ | 8.17 | 4.13 | 1.28 | | | | |
| Asn ₅ | 8.29 | 4.37 | 2.66, 2.72 | | | | |
| Glu ₆ | 7.86 | 4.14 | 1.78, 2.11 | 3.64 | | | |
| Ala ₇ | 7.96 | 4.05 | 1.13 | | | | |
| Cys ₈ | 7.94 | 4.42 | 2.78, 2.83 | | | | |
| Tyr ₉ | 8.55 | 4.44 | 3.09, 3.02 | - | 6.64 | 6.91 | |
| Phe ₁₀ | 7.82 | 4.37 | 2.86 | - | 6.78 | 7.48 | 7.46 |
| Cys ₁₁ | 8.40 | 4.27 | 2.77, 2.02 | | | | |
| Asp ₁₂ | 8.49 | 4.41 | 3.77 | | | | |
| Thr ₁₃ | 8.17 | 4.13 | 4.00 | 1.04 | | | |
| Arg ₁₄ | 7.79 | 4.25 | 1.60, 1.71 | 1.39, 1.43 | 3.03 | * | |
| Asp ₁₅ | 8.32 | 4.59 | 3.61 | | | | |
| Asn ₁₆ | 8.43 | 4.58 | 2.53, 2.66 | | | | |
| Cys ₁₇ | 7.91 | 4.57 | 2.91 | | | | |
| Lys ₁₈ | 8.41 | 4.06 | 1.68 | 1.25, 1.29 | * | * | |
| Ala ₁₉ | 8.13 | 4.15 | 1.25 | | | | |
| Cys ₂₀ | 8.16 | 4.32 | 2.68, 2.96 | | | | |
| Asp ₂₁ | 8.60 | 4.51 | 3.81 | | | | |
| Ala ₂₂ | 8.38 | 3.96 | 1.27 | | | | |
| Ser ₂₃ | 7.70 | 4.31 | 3.68 | | | | |
| Asp ₂₄ | 7.84 | 4.62 | 3.62 | | | | |
| Phe ₂₅ | 7.91 | 4.48 | 2.78, 2.95 | | 6.69 | 7.45 | 7.42 |
| Cys ₂₆ | 8.06 | 4.46 | 2.66, 2.89 | | | | |
| Ile ₂₇ | 8.23 | 3.90 | 1.75 | 1.03 | 0.79 | | |
| Lys ₂₈ | 8.14 | 4.12 | 1.70, 1.77 | 1.54 | * | * | |
| Ser ₂₉ | 8.30 | 4.18 | 3.76, 3.79 | | | | |
| Asp ₃₀ | 8.37 | 4.68 | 3.75 | | | | |
| Thr ₃₁ | 7.93 | 4.29 | 4.22 | 1.00 | | | |

Overlapping amide regions: Lys₁₈, Cys₁₁, Ala₂₂, Asp₃₀; Ala₄, Thr₁₃, Cys₂₀, Lys₂₈; Cys₈, Thr₃₁, Phe₂₅, Cys₁₇.

Table S2: Oligonucleotide primers used in this study. Primers used to generate point mutations through site-directed mutagenesis (SDM) via primer overlap. Codon used for mutagenesis is in lowercase. An asterisk (*) represents a stop codon and negative values indicate position within the PapA leader peptide counting backwards from Gly1. Vector map for plasmid backbone is shown in **Figure S38**.

| Primer | Nucleotide sequence (5' to 3') |
|---------------|---|
| PapA_C2A_for | GCGCTTATGGTgcccTCAGCCAATGATGCTTGCTATTTCTGT |
| PapA_C2A_rev | TCATTGGCTGAggcACCATAAGCGCGAATTGGTTCTTTAAC |
| PapA_C8A_for | CCAATGATGCTgcccTATTTCTGTGATACTAGAGATAACTGC |
| PapA_C8A_rev | TCACAGAAATAggcAGCATCATTGGCTGAGCAACCATAAGC |
| PapA_C11A_for | CTTGCTATTTTCgcccGATACTAGAGATAACTGCAAAGCATGT |
| PapA_C11A_rev | TCTCTAGTATCggcGAAATAGCAAGCATCATTGGCTGAGCA |
| PapA_C17A_for | CTAGAGATAACgcccAAAGCATGTGATGCAAGTGATTTTTGT |
| PapA_C17A_rev | TCACATGCTTTggcGTTATCTCTAGTATCACAGAAATAGCA |
| PapA_C20A_for | ACTGCAAAGCAgcccGATGCAAGTGATTTTTGTATCAAATCG |
| PapA_C20A_rev | TCACTTGCATCggcTGCTTTGCAGTTATCTCTAGTATCACA |
| PapA_C26A_for | CAAGTGATTTTgcccATCAAATCGGATACCTAGGCGGCCGCA |
| PapA_C26A_rev | TCCGATTTGATggcAAAATCACTTGCATCACATGCTTTGCA |
| PapA_D6A_for | GCTCAGCCAATgcccGCTTGCTATTTCTGTGATACTAGAGAT |
| PapA_D6A_rev | AAATAGCAAGCggcATTGGCTGAGCAACCATAAGCGCGAAT |
| PapA_D12A_for | GCTATTTCTGTgcccACTAGAGATAACTGCAAAGCATGTGAT |
| PapA_D12A_rev | TTATCTCTAGTggcACAGAAATAGCAAGCATCATTGGCTGA |
| PapA_D15A_for | GTGATACTAGAgcccAACTGCAAAGCATGTGATGCAAGTGAT |
| PapA_D15A_rev | GCTTTGCAGTTggcTCTAGTATCACAGAAATAGCAAGCATC |
| PapA_D21A_for | GCAAAGCATGTgcccGCAAGTGATTTTTGTATCAAATCGGAT |
| PapA_D21A_rev | AAATCACTTGCggcACATGCTTTGCAGTTATCTCTAGTATC |
| PapA_D24A_for | GTGATGCAAGTgcccTTTTGTATCAAATCGGATACCTAGGCG |
| PapA_D24A_rev | TTGATACAAAAGgcACTTGCATCACATGCTTTGCAGTTATC |
| PapA_D30A_for | GTATCAAATCGgcccACCTAGGCGGCCGAGCATAATGCTTA |
| PapA_D30A_rev | GCCGCCTAGGTggcCGATTTGATACAAAATCACTTGCATC |
| PapA_D6E_for | GCTCAGCCAATgaaGCTTGCTATTTCTGTGATACTAGAGAT |
| PapA_D6E_rev | AAATAGCAAGCttcATTGGCTGAGCAACCATAAGCGCGAAT |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PapA_D12E_for | GCTATTTCTGTgaaACTAGAGATAACTGCAAAGCATGTGAT |
| PapA_D12E_rev | TTATCTCTAGTttcACAGAAATAGCAAGCATCATTGGCTGA |
| PapA_D15E_for | GTGATACTAGAgaaAACTGCAAAGCATGTGATGCAAGTGAT |
| PapA_D15E_rev | GCTTTGCAGTtttcTCTAGTATCACAGAAATAGCAAGCATC |
| PapA_D21E_for | GCAAAGCATGTgaaGCAAGTGATTTTTGTATCAAATCGGAT |
| PapA_D21E_rev | AAATCACTTGcTtcACATGCTTTGCAGTTATCTCTAGTATC |
| PapA_D24E_for | GTGATGCAAGTgaaTTTTGTATCAAATCGGATACCTAGGCG |
| PapA_D24E_rev | TTGATACAAAAttcACTTGCATCACATGCTTTGCAGTTATC |
| PapA_D30E_for | GTATCAAATCGgaaACCTAGGCGGCCGAGCATAATGCTTA |
| PapA_D30E_rev | GCCGCCTAGGTttcCGATTTGATACAAAATCACTTGCATC |
| PapA_D6N_for | GCTCAGCCAATaacGCTTGCTATTTCTGTGATACTAGAGAT |
| PapA_D6N_rev | AAATAGCAAGCgttATTGGCTGAGCAACCATAAGCGCGAAT |
| PapA_D12N_for | GCTATTTCTGTaacACTAGAGATAACTGCAAAGCATGTGAT |
| PapA_D12N_rev | TTATCTCTAGTgttACAGAAATAGCAAGCATCATTGGCTGA |
| PapA_D15N_for | GTGATACTAGAAacAACTGCAAAGCATGTGATGCAAGTGAT |
| PapA_D15N_rev | GCTTTGCAGTTgttTCTAGTATCACAGAAATAGCAAGCATC |
| PapA_D21N_for | GCAAAGCATGTaacGCAAGTGATTTTTGTATCAAATCGGAT |
| PapA_D21N_rev | AAATCACTTGcgttACATGCTTTGCAGTTATCTCTAGTATC |
| PapA_D24N_for | GTGATGCAAGTaacTTTTGTATCAAATCGGATACCTAGGCG |
| PapA_D24N_rev | TTGATACAAAAGttACTTGCATCACATGCTTTGCAGTTATC |
| PapA_D30N_for | GTATCAAATCGaacACCTAGGCGGCCGAGCATAATGCTTA |
| PapA_D30N_rev | GCCGCCTAGGTgttCGATTTGATACAAAATCACTTGCATC |
| PapA_ring1exp_for | TGGTTGCTCAgcccCCAATGATGCTTGCTATTTCTGTGAT |
| PapA_ring1exp_rev | CATCATTGGCggcTGAGCAACCATAAGCGCGAATTGGTTC |
| PapA_ring1cont_for | TGGTTGCTCAAATGATGCTTGCTATTTCTGTGATACT |
| PapA_ring1cont_rev | AAGCATCATTTGAGCAACCATAAGCGCGAATTGGTTC |
| PapA_C8*_for | CCAATGATGCTtaaTATTTCTGTGATACTAGAGATAACTGC |
| PapA_C8*_rev | TCACAGAAATAttaAGCATCATTGGCTGAGCAACCATAAGC |
| PapA_L(-17A)_for | CCGGATCCATGgccAAGCAAATCAATGTTATTGCAGGAGTT |
| PapA_L(-17A)_rev | TTGATTTGCTTggcCATGGATCCGGATTGGAAGTACAGGTT |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| PapA_K(-16A)_for | GATCCATGTTGgccCAAATCAATGTTATTGCAGGAGTTAAA |
| PapA_K(-16A)_rev | ACATTGATTTGggcCAACATGGATCCGGATTGGAAGTACAG |
| PapA_Q(-15A)_for | CCATGTTGAAGgccATCAATGTTATTGCAGGAGTTAAAGAA |
| PapA_Q(-15A)_rev | ATAACATTGATggcCTTCAACATGGATCCGGATTGGAAGTA |
| PapA_(I-14A)_for | TGTTGAAGCAAgccAATGTTATTGCAGGAGTTAAAGAACCA |
| PapA_(I-14A)_rev | GCAATAACATTggcTTGCTTCAACATGGATCCGGATTGGAA |
| PapA_(N-13A)_for | TGAAGCAAATCgccGTTATTGCAGGAGTTAAAGAACCAATT |
| PapA_(N-13A)_rev | CCTGCAATAACggcGATTTGCTTCAACATGGATCCGGATTG |
| PapA_(V-12A)_for | AGCAAATCAATgccATTGCAGGAGTTAAAGAACCAATTCGC |
| PapA_(V-12A)_rev | ACTCCTGCAATggcATTGATTTGCTTCAACATGGATCCGGA |
| PapA_(I-11A)_for | AAATCAATGTTgccGCAGGAGTTAAAGAACCAATTCGCGCT |
| PapA_(I-11A)_rev | TTAACTCCTGCggcAACATTGATTTGCTTCAACATGGATCC |
| PapB_T86*_for | ACATTATTGCctaaGATGCTAACATATCAGATGTTGAAAA |
| PapB_T86*_rev | ATGTTAGCATCcttaGGCAATAATGTATGCTTCCTTCATATT |
| PapB_Δ1-85_for | CGGCCACGCGATCGCTGACGTCACAGATGCTAACATATCAGATG |
| PapB_Δ1-85_rev | CATCTGATATGTTAGCATCTGTGACGTCAGCGATCGCGTGGCCG |
| PapB_Sall_for | AAGTCGACAATGGCTAATCTGATTCAGGATAGAGAAG |
| PapB_HindIII_rev | AAAAAGCTTCTAACCAAAAAGGATGCTTCTTTGTTC |
| PapB_C119A_for | TGGTGCAAGAAgctAACCTTAGATGTACTTACTGTTATGGG |
| PapB_C119A_rev | CATCTAAGGTTagcTTCTTGCAACCATAAATAAGGTCAGAGA |
| PapB_C123A_for | GTAACCTTAGAgctACTTACTGTTATGGGGAGGAAGGAGAA |
| PapB_C123A_rev | TAACAGTAAGTagcTCTAAGGTTACATTCTTGCAACCATAAA |
| PapB_C126A_for | GATGTACTTACgctTATGGGGAGGAAGGAGAATATAATCAA |
| PapB_C126A_rev | TCCTCCCCATAagcGTAAGTACATCTAAGGTTACATTCTTG |

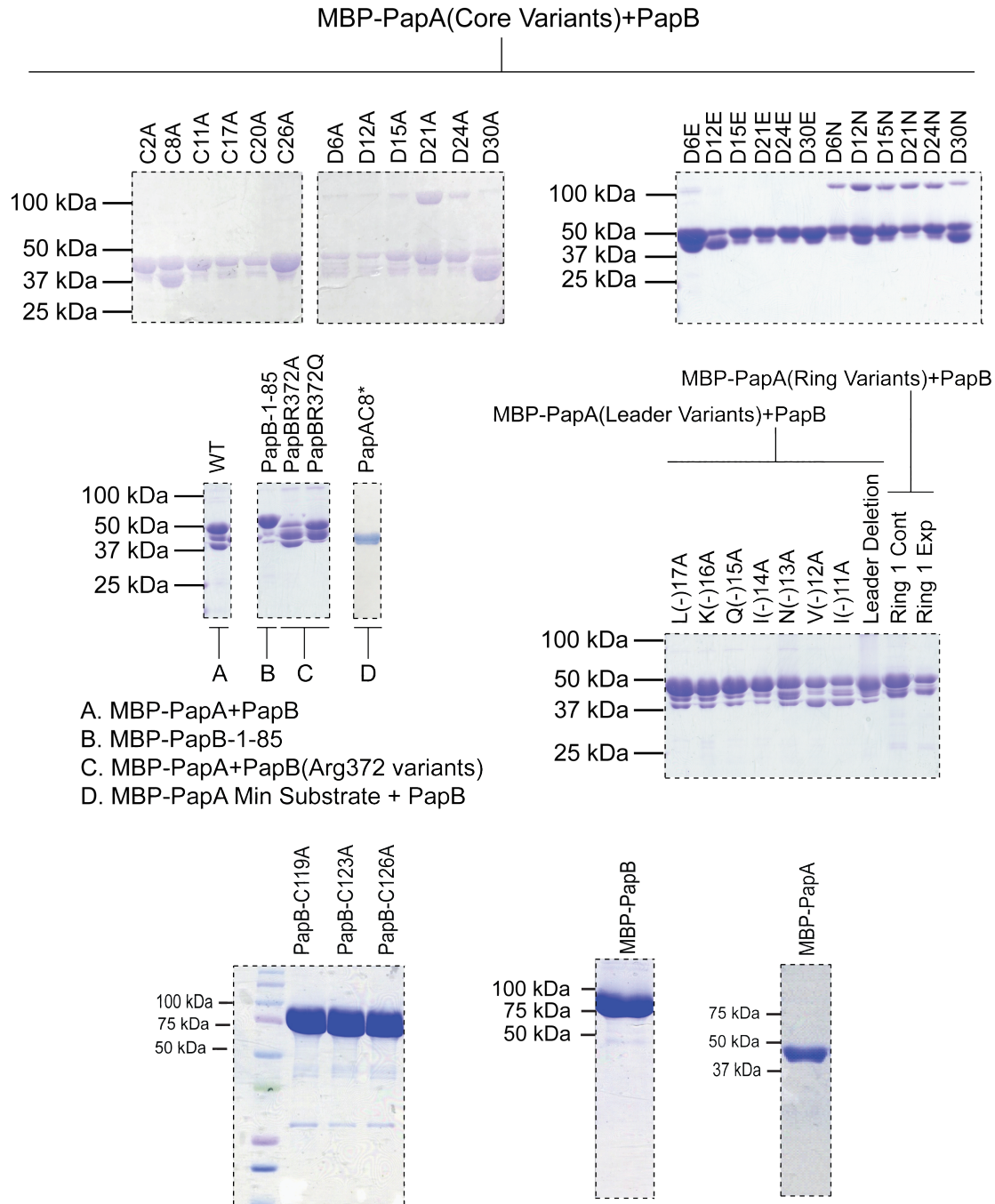


Figure S1: SDS-PAGE analysis of proteins used in this study. MBP-tagged freyrasin variants constructs are visible as the darkest bands ~50 kDa. The band below the MBP-freyrasin fusion (~45 kDa) is proteolyzed MBP, a typical consequence of MBP-peptide fusion overexpression in *E. coli*.

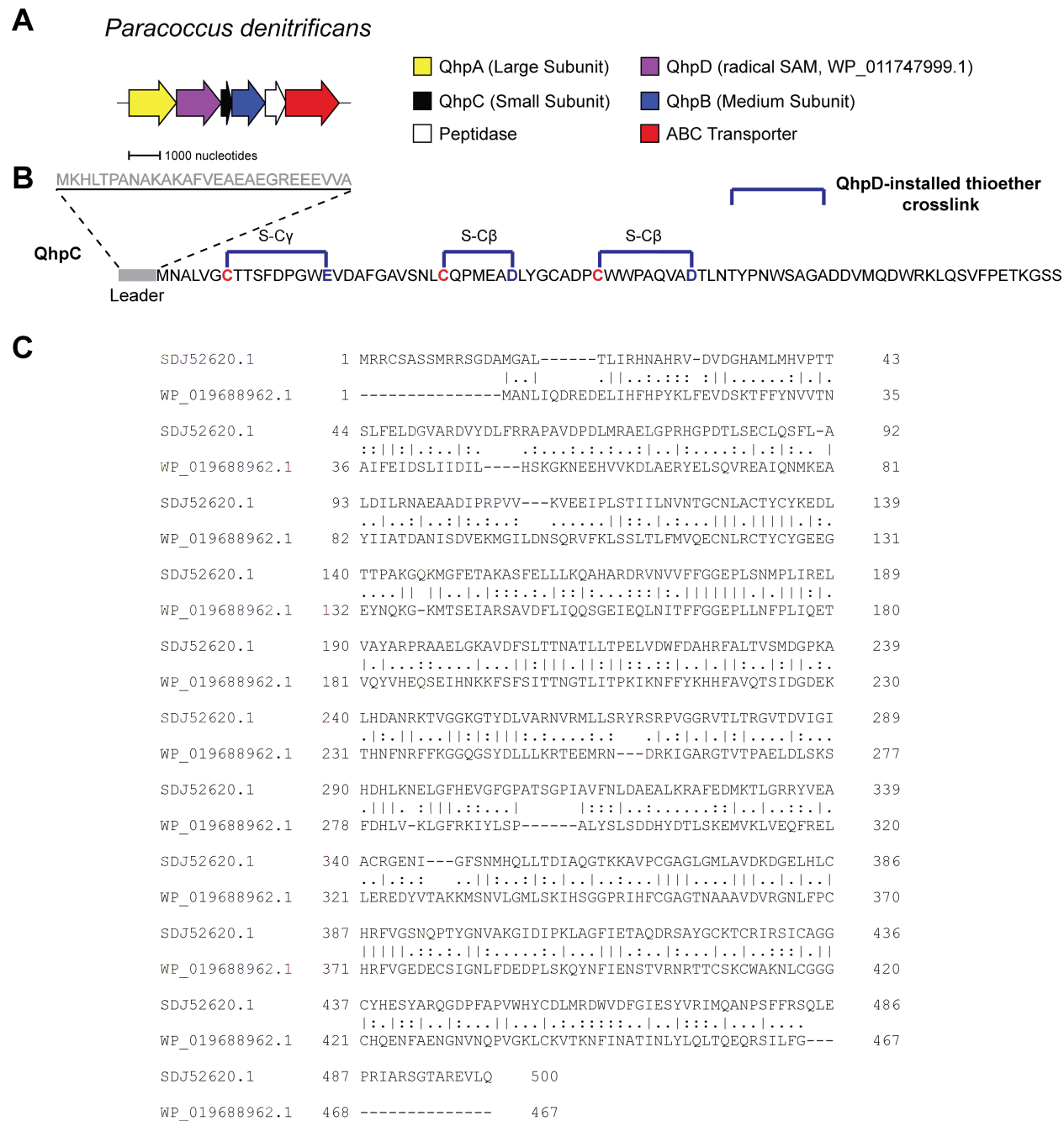


Figure S2: Quinohemoprotein amine dehydrogenase gene cluster. (A) QHNDH gene cluster from *Paracoccus denitrificans*.⁵ (B) Primary sequence of QhpC indicating sites of thioether installation by QhpD. (C) Sequence alignment of QhpD (SDJ52620.1) with PapB (WP_019688962.1).

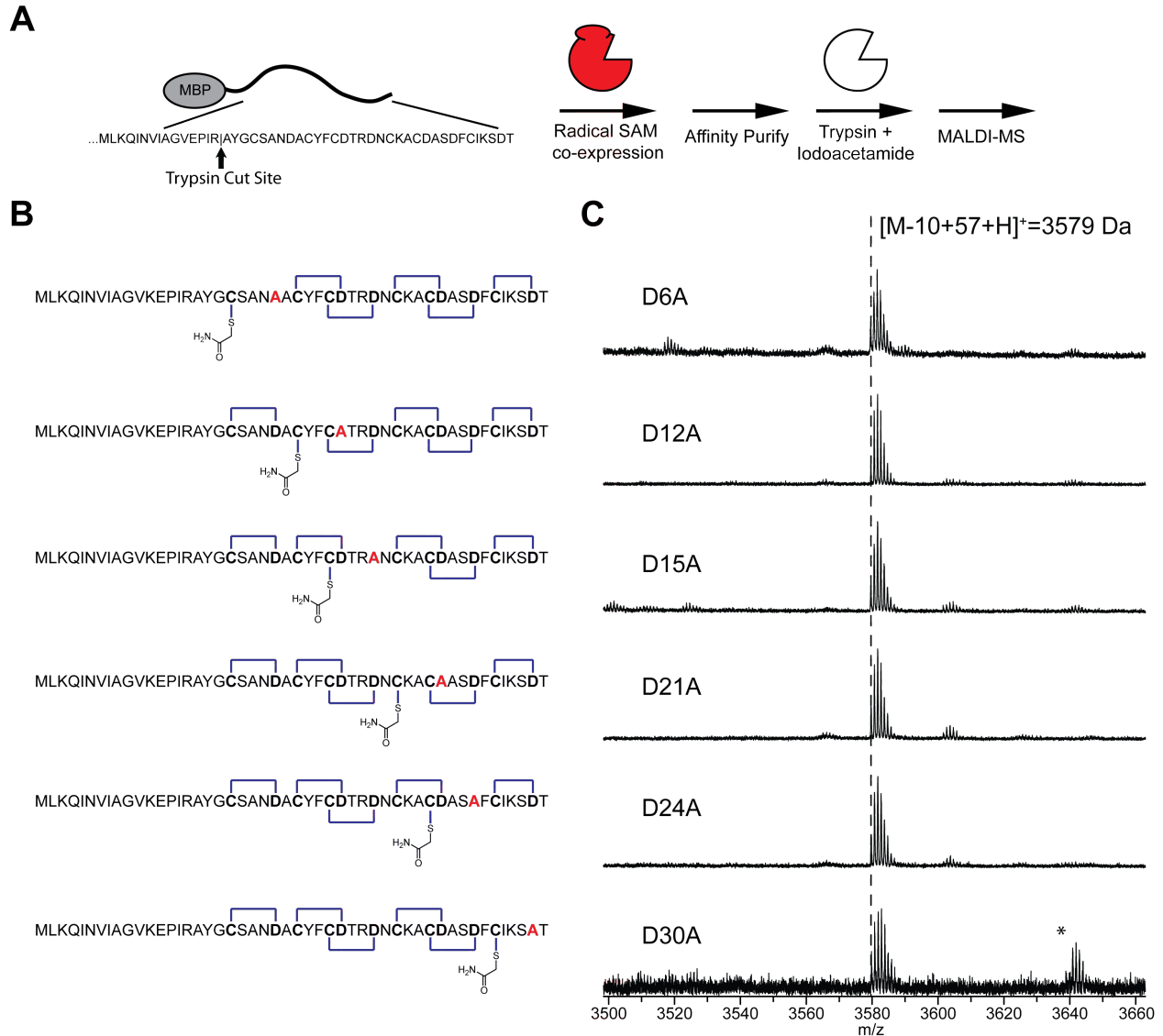


Figure S3: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of Asp to Ala-substituted freyrasin variants. (A) Overview of experimental procedure. (B) Relevant Asp-Ala sequences and predicted modification structure. (C) Co-expression of all variants with PapB resulted in a variant product 10 Da lighter than the precursor peptide, consistent with the formation of five Cys-Asp linkages. Iodoacetamide treatment of all alanine variants resulted in a mass increase of 57 Da over the purified mass, suggesting the presence of a single free thiol.

*D30A variant has a peak at +114 Da (2 IAA) suggesting the presence of a second free thiol group in the peptide. The extent of proteolysis during expression of D30A, and the isotopic distribution pattern, is consistent with a sub-population of incompletely modified peptide substrate with only four thioether linkages (Fig S1).

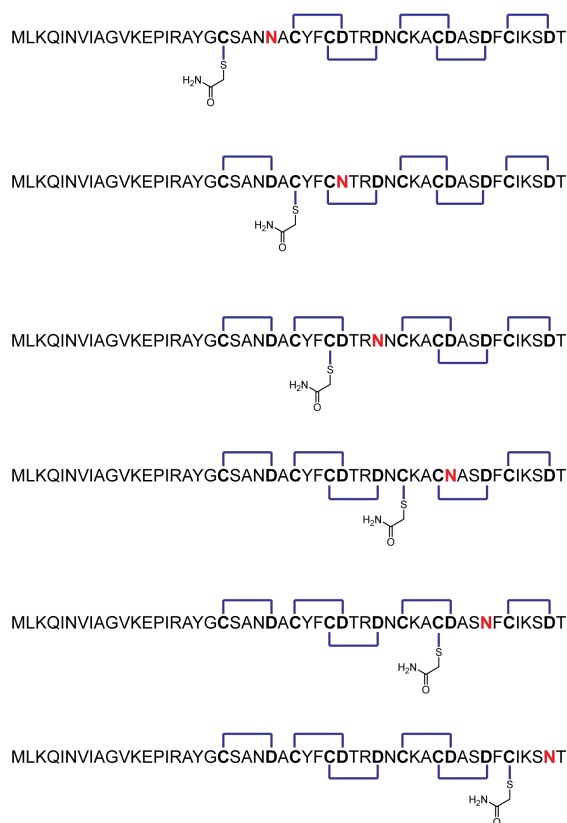
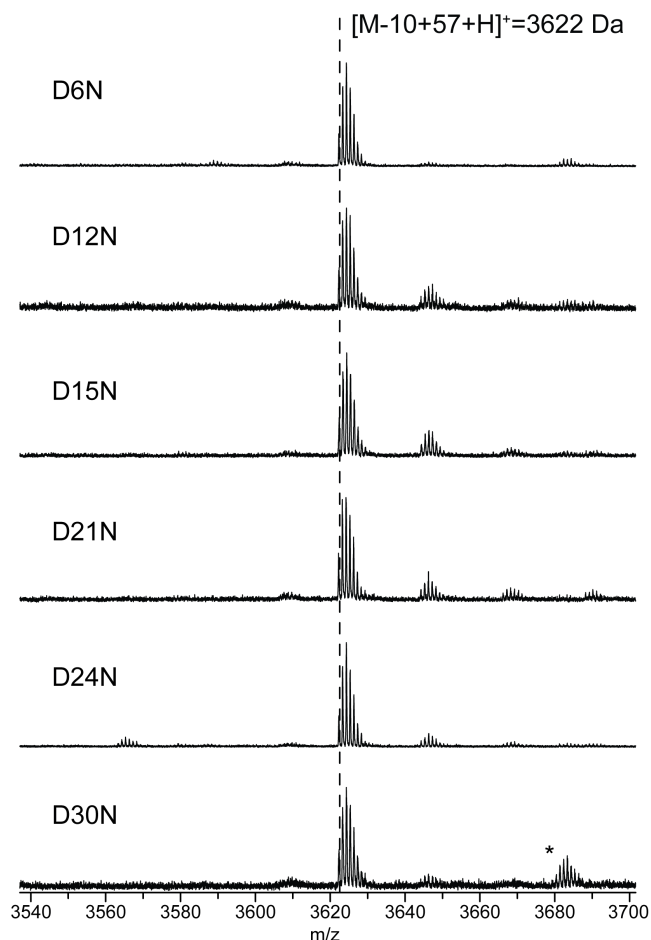
A**B**

Figure S4: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of Asp to Asn-substituted freyrasin variants. (A) Relevant Asp-Asn sequences and predicted modification structure. (B) Co-expression of all variants with PapB resulted in a freyrasin product 10 Da lighter than the precursor peptide, consistent with the formation of five Cys-Asp linkages. Iodoacetamide treatment of all asparagine variants resulted in a mass increase of 57 Da over the purified mass, suggesting the presence of a single free thiol.

*D30N variant has a peak at +114 Da indicating the presence of a second free thiol group in the peptide, similar to the results obtained with the D30A variant (Fig. S3).

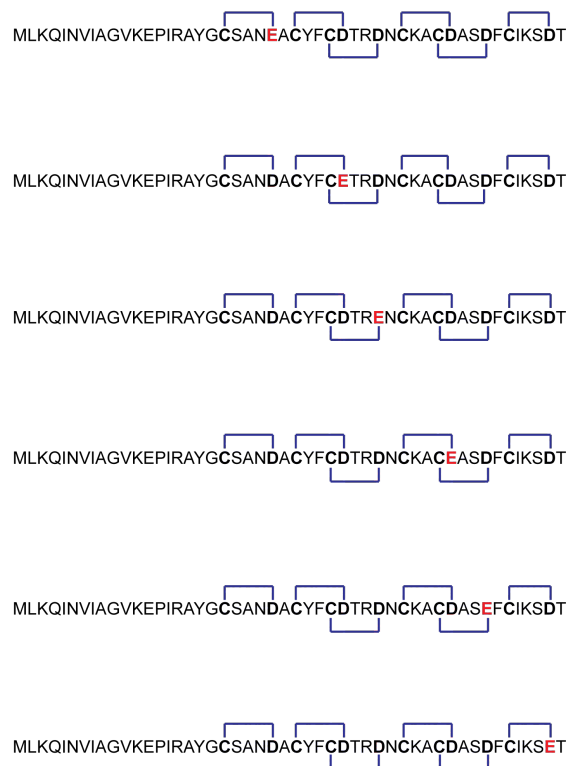
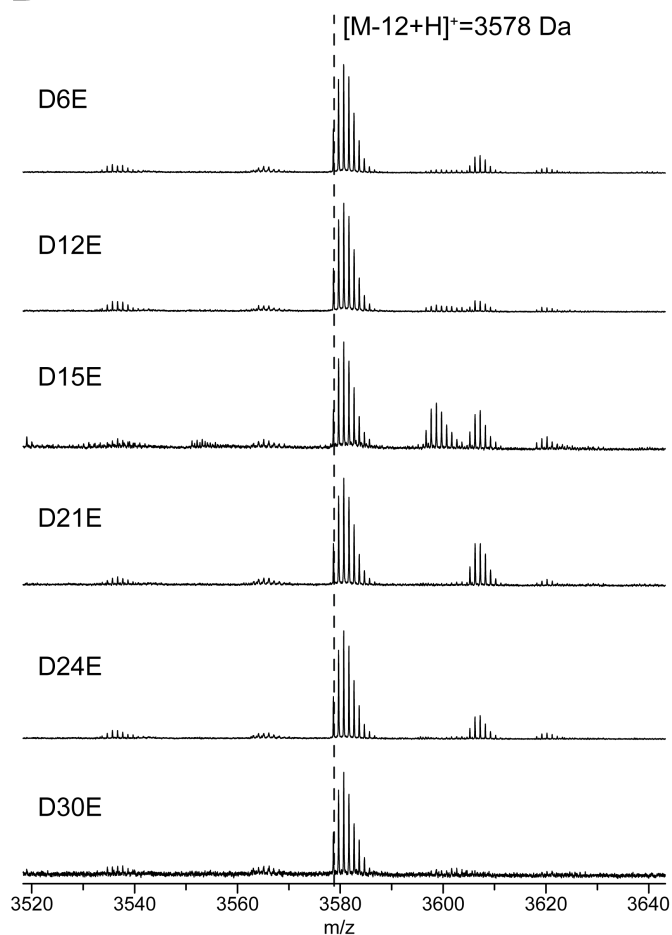
A**B**

Figure S5: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of Asp to Glu-substituted freyrasin variants. (A) Relevant Asp-Glu sequences. (B) Co-expression of all variants with PapB resulted in a freyrasin product 12 Da lighter than the precursor peptide, consistent with the formation of six Cys-Asp linkages. All glutamate variants were recalcitrant to iodoacetamide treatment, indicating the lack of a reactive thiol in the products. Spectra obtained by MALDI-MS.

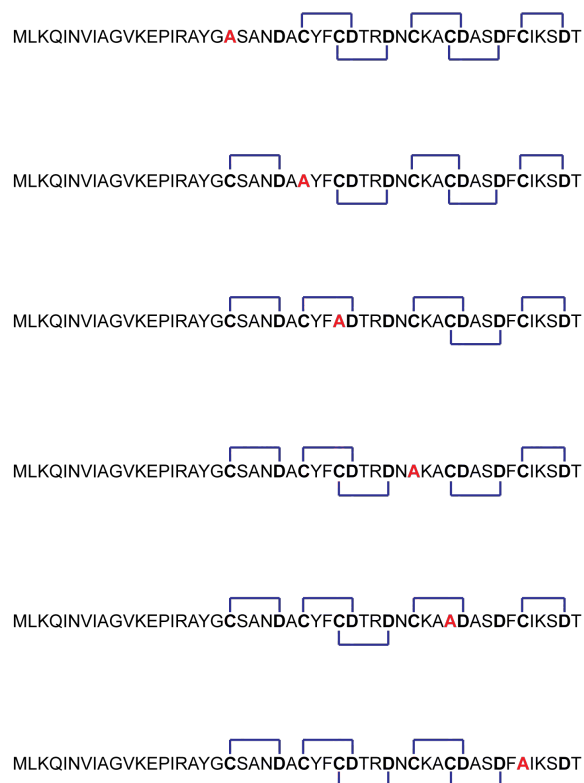
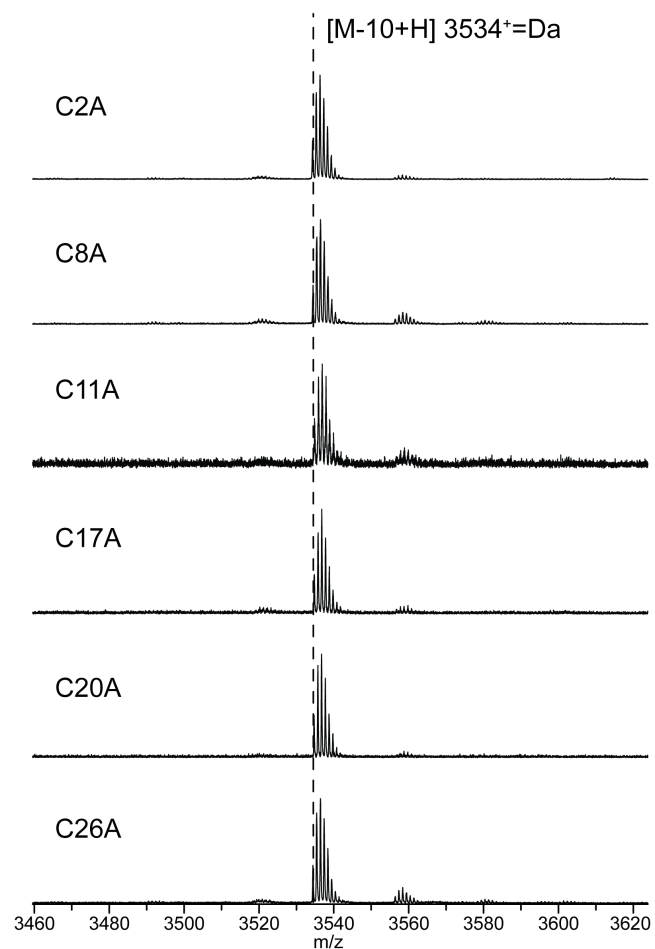
A**B**

Figure S6: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of Cys to Ala-substituted freyrasin variants. (A) Relevant Cys-Ala sequences. (B) Co-expression of all variants with PapB resulted in a freyrasin product 10 Da lighter than the precursor peptide, consistent with the formation of five Cys-Asp linkages. All alanine variants were recalcitrant to iodoacetamide treatment, suggesting a lack of free thiol in the molecules. These data are consistent with formation of five thioether bonds in the absence of one of the cysteine residues.

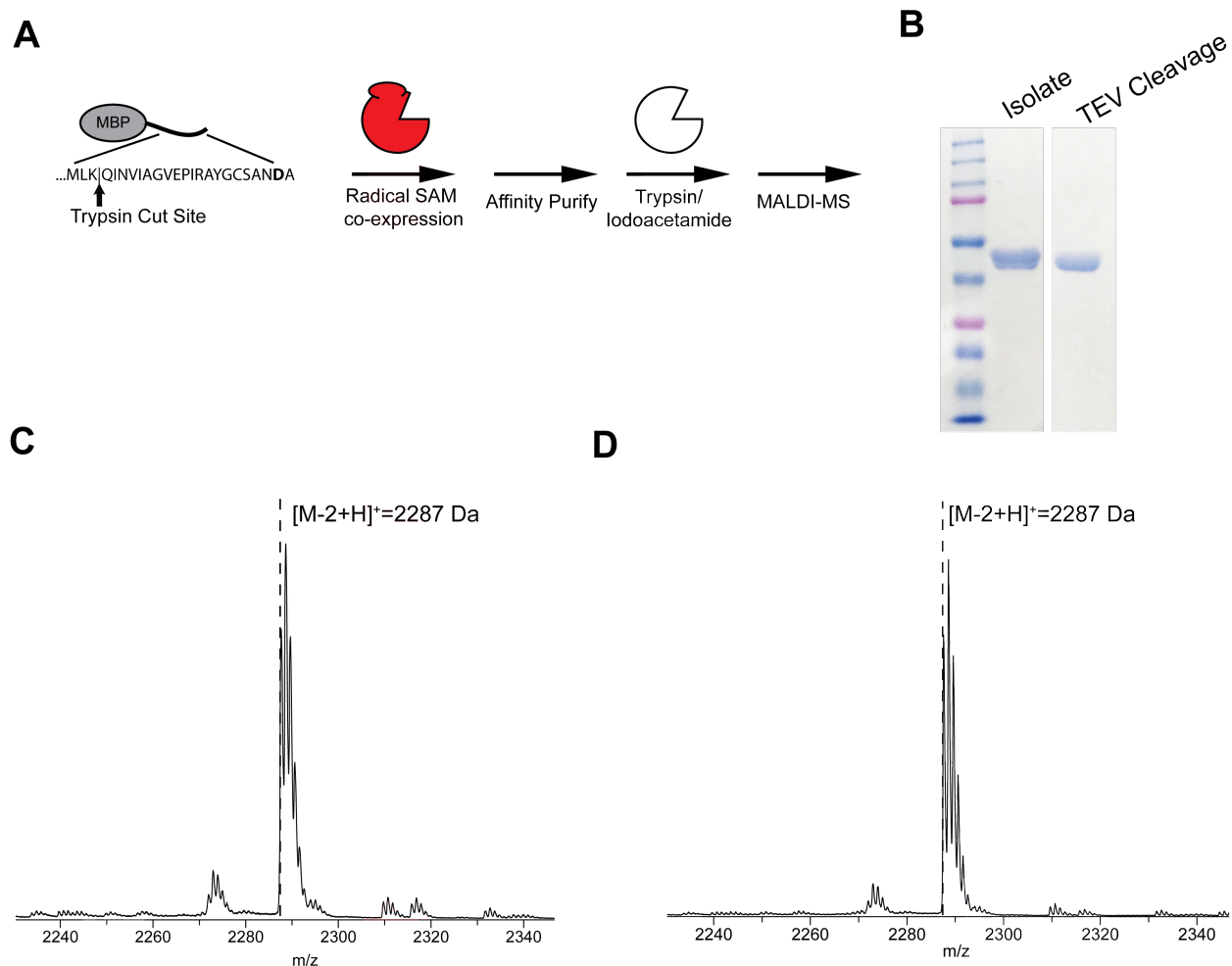


Figure S7: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of the C8* freyrasin variant. (A) Overview of experimental procedure. (B) SDS-PAGE of modified MBP-PapA C8* isolate (* indicates a stop codon). TEV digest of the protein isolate verified that the purified protein was not empty MBP. (C) Trypsin digest of PapB-modified MBP-PapA C8*. (D) Trypsin digest followed by iodoacetamide treatment of PapB-modified MBP-PapA C8*. Fragment mass (-2 Da relative to unmodified) and resistance to IAA labeling suggests that PapB is able to install a single thioether linkage in this minimal substrate.

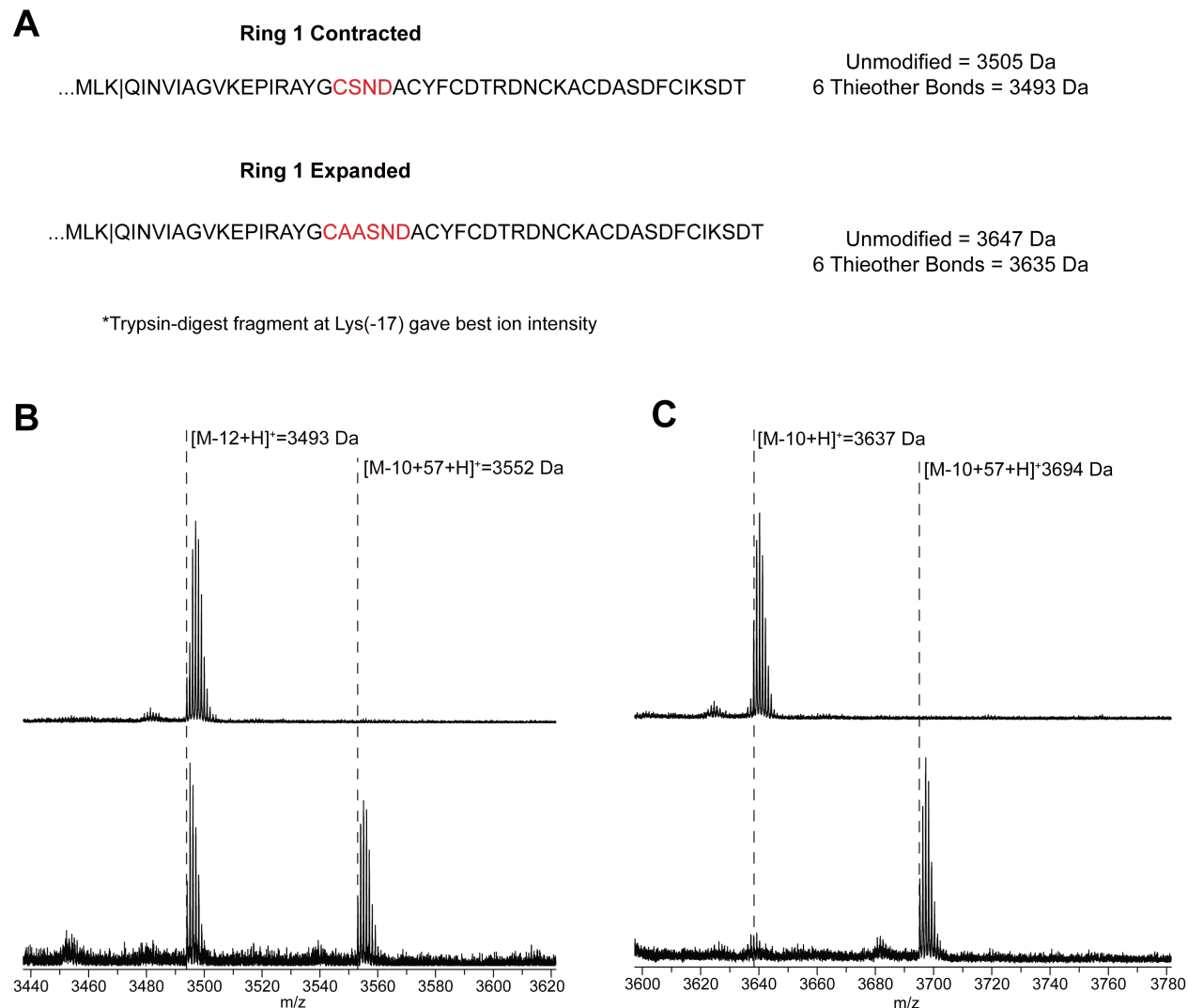


Figure S8: Trypsin digest and IAA labeling of ring 1 expansion and contraction variants. (A) Variant peptide sequences with change to ring 1 emphasized. (B) MALDI-MS of trypsin digest and IAA labeled ring 1 contraction variant. Modest signal for substrate of -12 Da and partial sensitivity to iodoacetamide indicates that only a subpopulation of the variant is fully modified. (C) MALDI-MS of trypsin digest and IAA labeled ring 1 expansion variant. The substrate experiences a mass loss of 10 Da and reacts with one equivalent of iodoacetamide, indicating that one thioether bond fails to form.

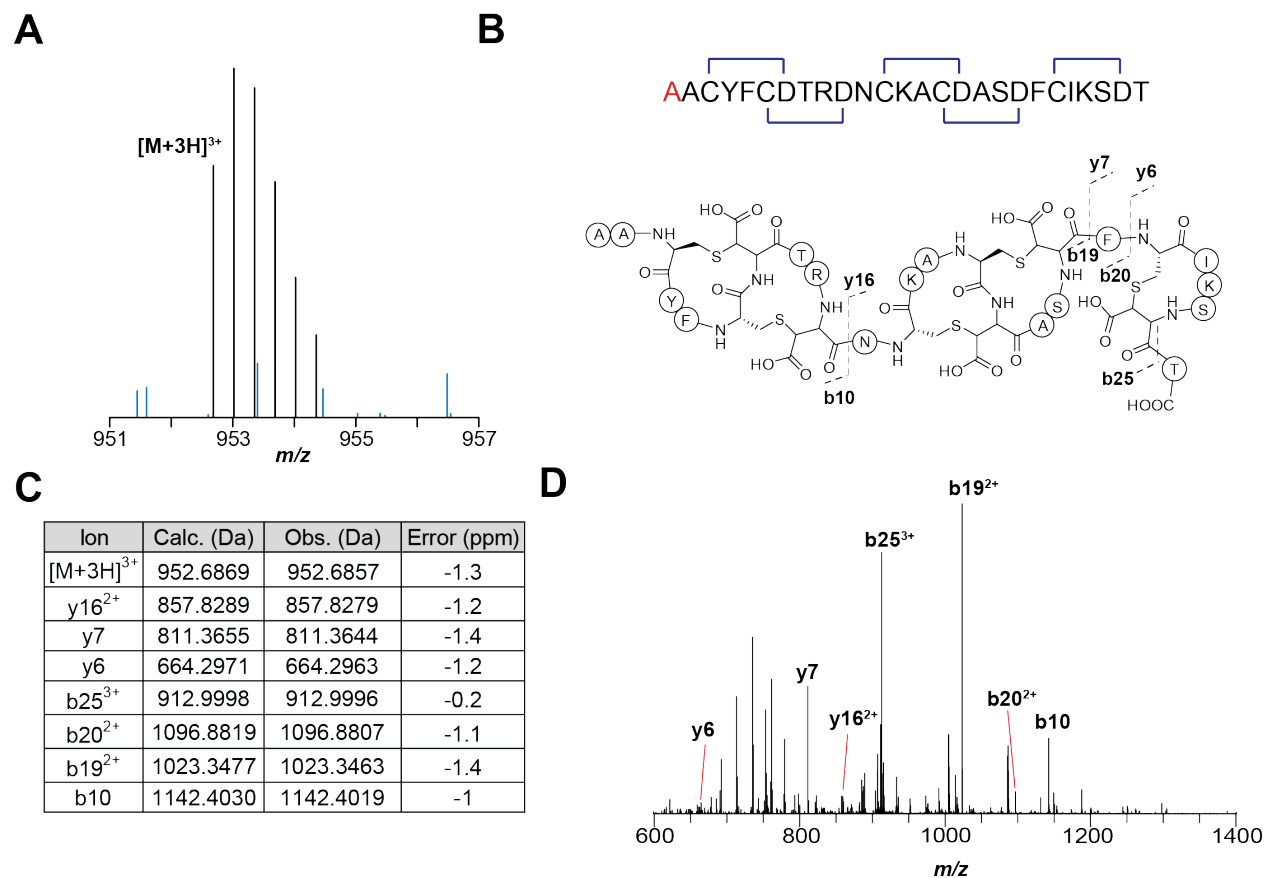


Figure S9: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D6A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by collision-induced dissociation (CID). Non-related contaminating peaks are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D6A after thermolysin digest with observed ions annotated. (C) Table of assigned ions. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D6A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of the wild-type molecule.¹

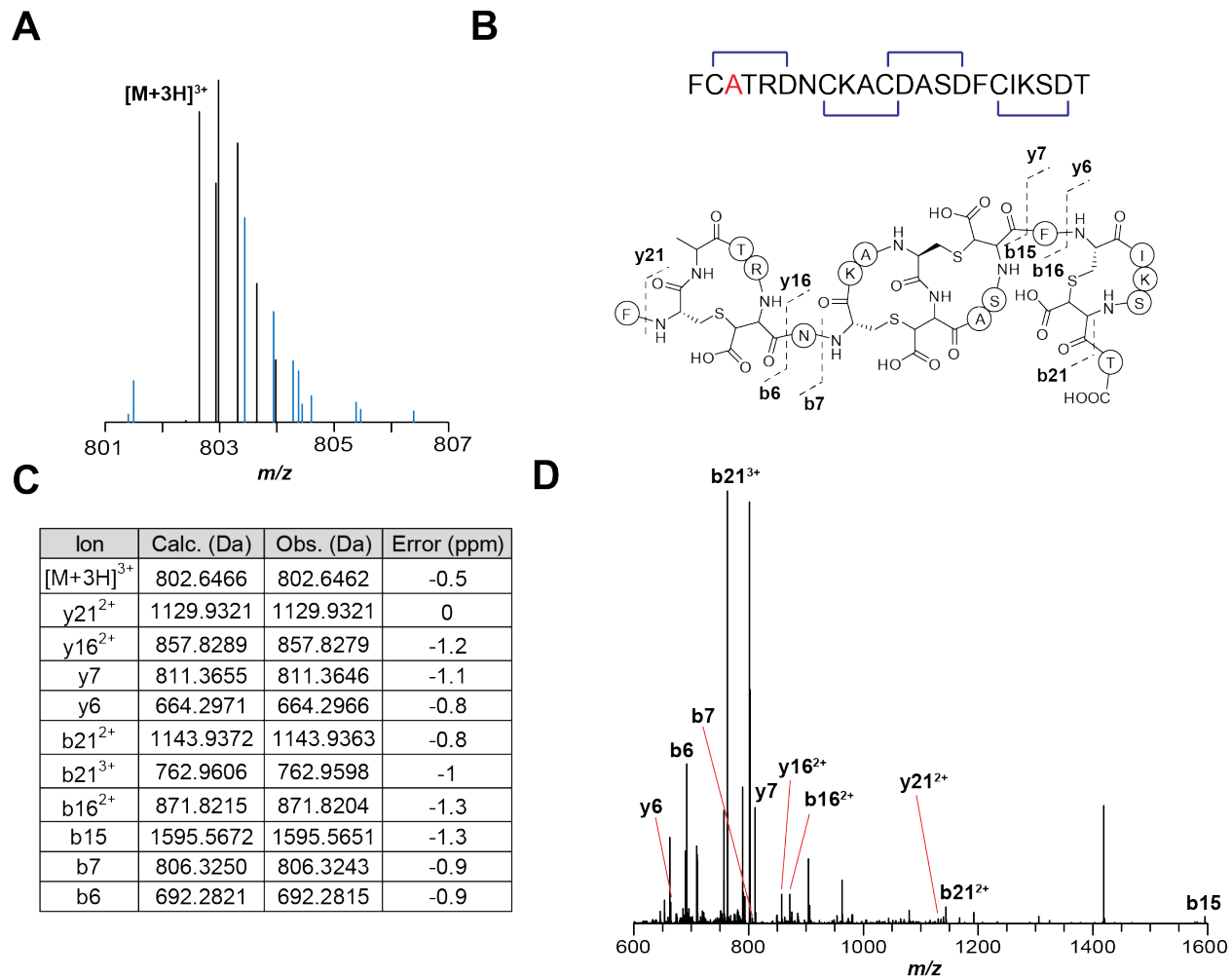


Figure S10: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D12A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. Contaminating ions are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D12A after thermolysin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of fragment ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D12A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

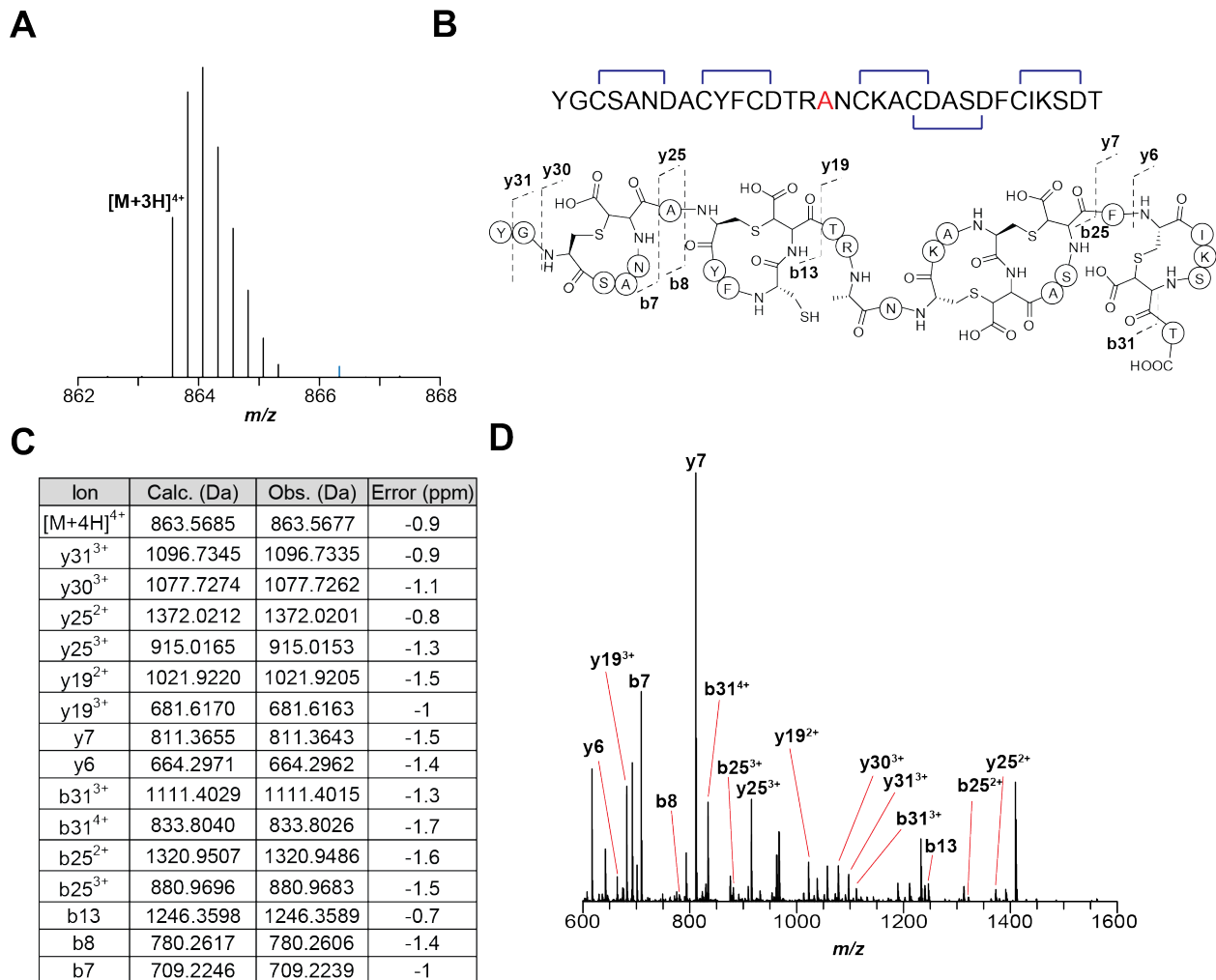


Figure S11: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D15A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D15A after thermolysin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D15A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

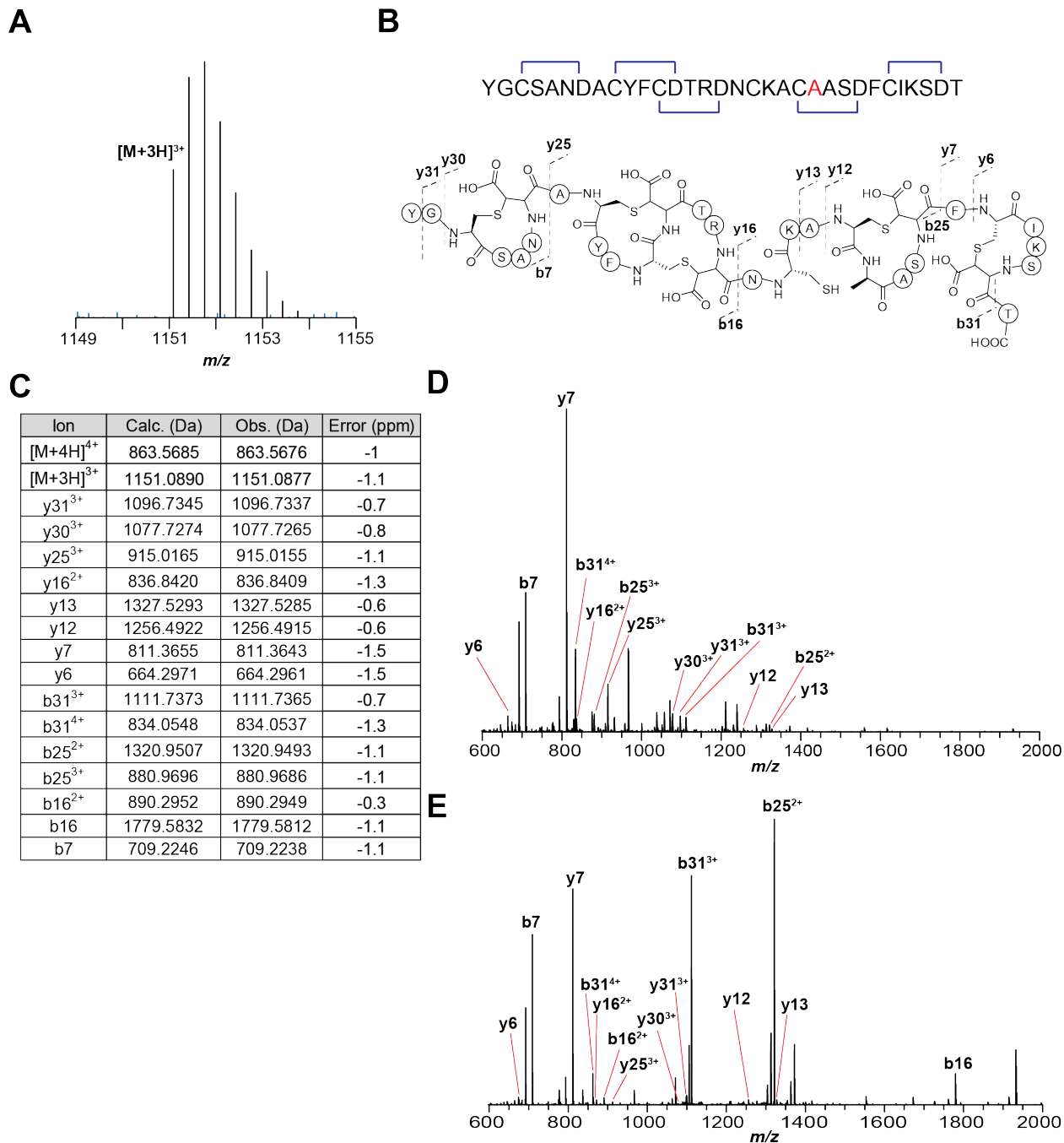


Figure S12: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D21A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D21A after thermolysin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D21A [M+4H]⁴⁺ ion. (E) CID spectrum of freyrasin D21A [M+3H]³⁺ ion. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

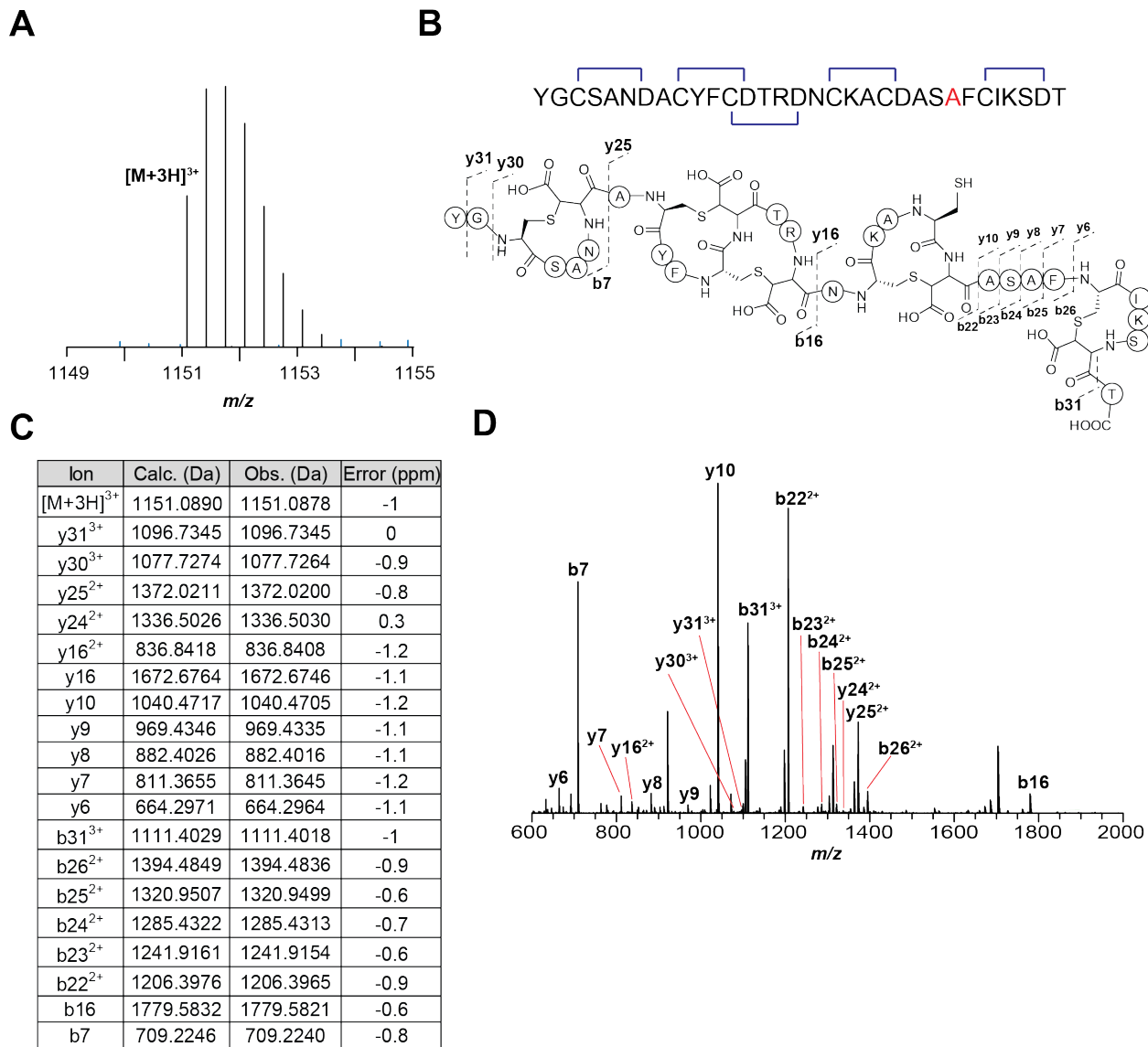
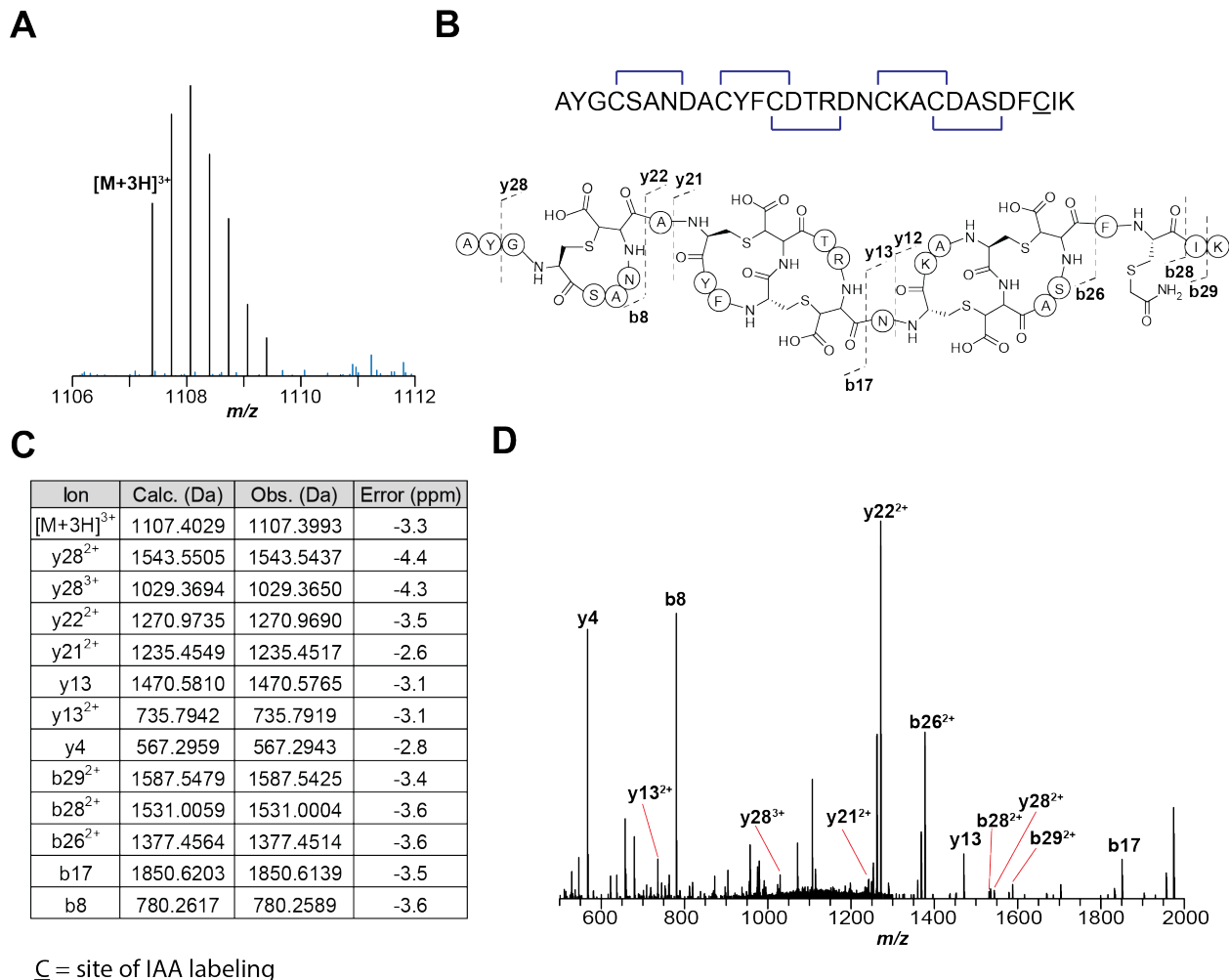


Figure S13: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D24A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D24A after thermolysin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D24A.



C = site of IAA labeling

Figure S14: HR-ESI-MS/MS of 1-IAA labeled freyrasin variant D30A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D30A after trypsin digest and iodoacetamide labeling. As ring 6 is no longer formed, Lys28 (**Figure 1** numbering) became a viable trypsin site, resulting in loss of the C-terminal portion of the peptide. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D30A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin. A modified protocol was deployed for this and all other samples digested by trypsin wherein the final molecule was labeled by alkylation with IAA before tandem mass spectrometry was performed.

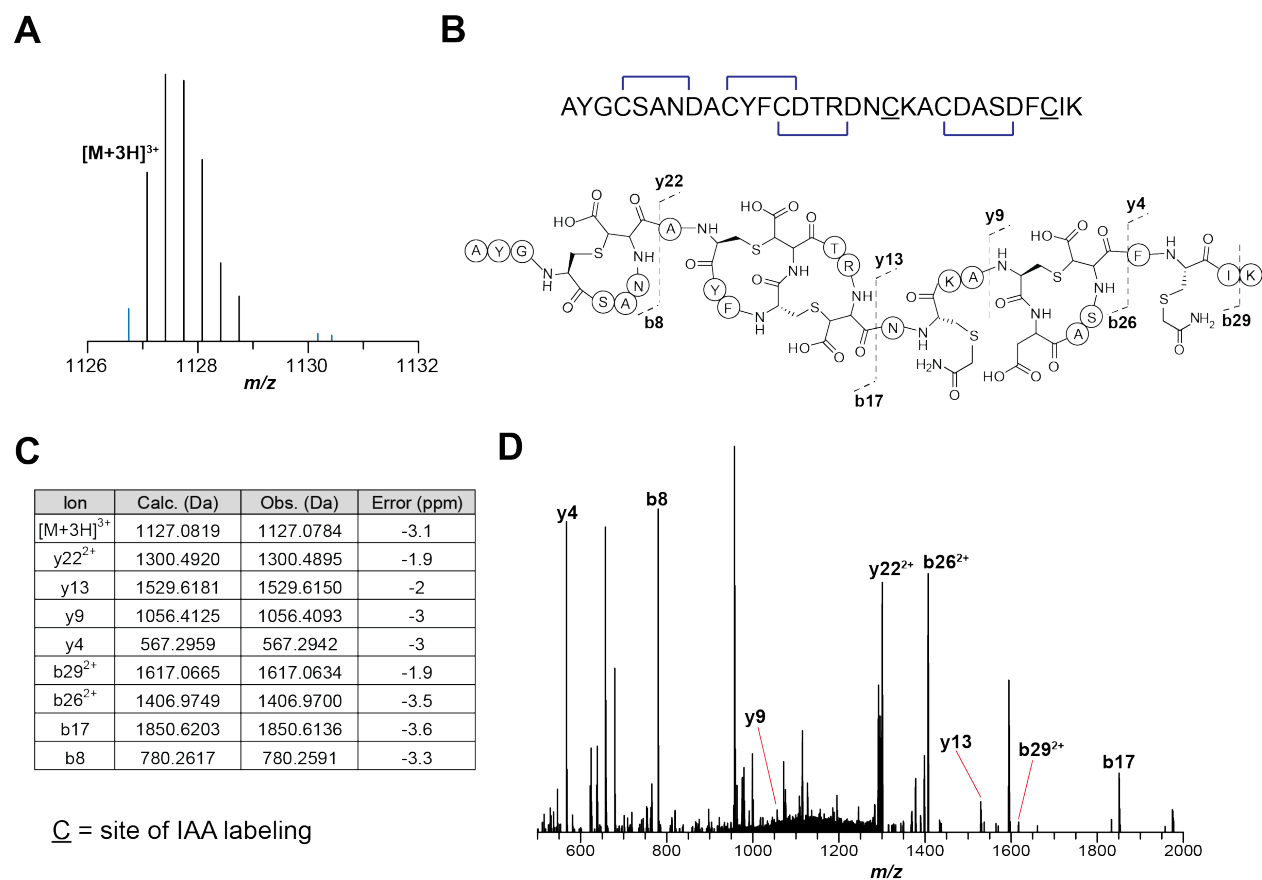


Figure S15: HR-ESI-MS/MS of 2-IAA labeled freyrasin variant D30A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D30A after trypsin digest and two IAA labeling events. As ring 6 is no longer formed, Lys28 (**Figure 1** numbering) became a viable trypsin site, resulting in loss of the C-terminal portion of the peptide. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D30A. The presence of b and y series ions in ring 4 suggests that it may be the final thioether linkage formed by PapB *in vivo*, further analysis supports this suggestion.

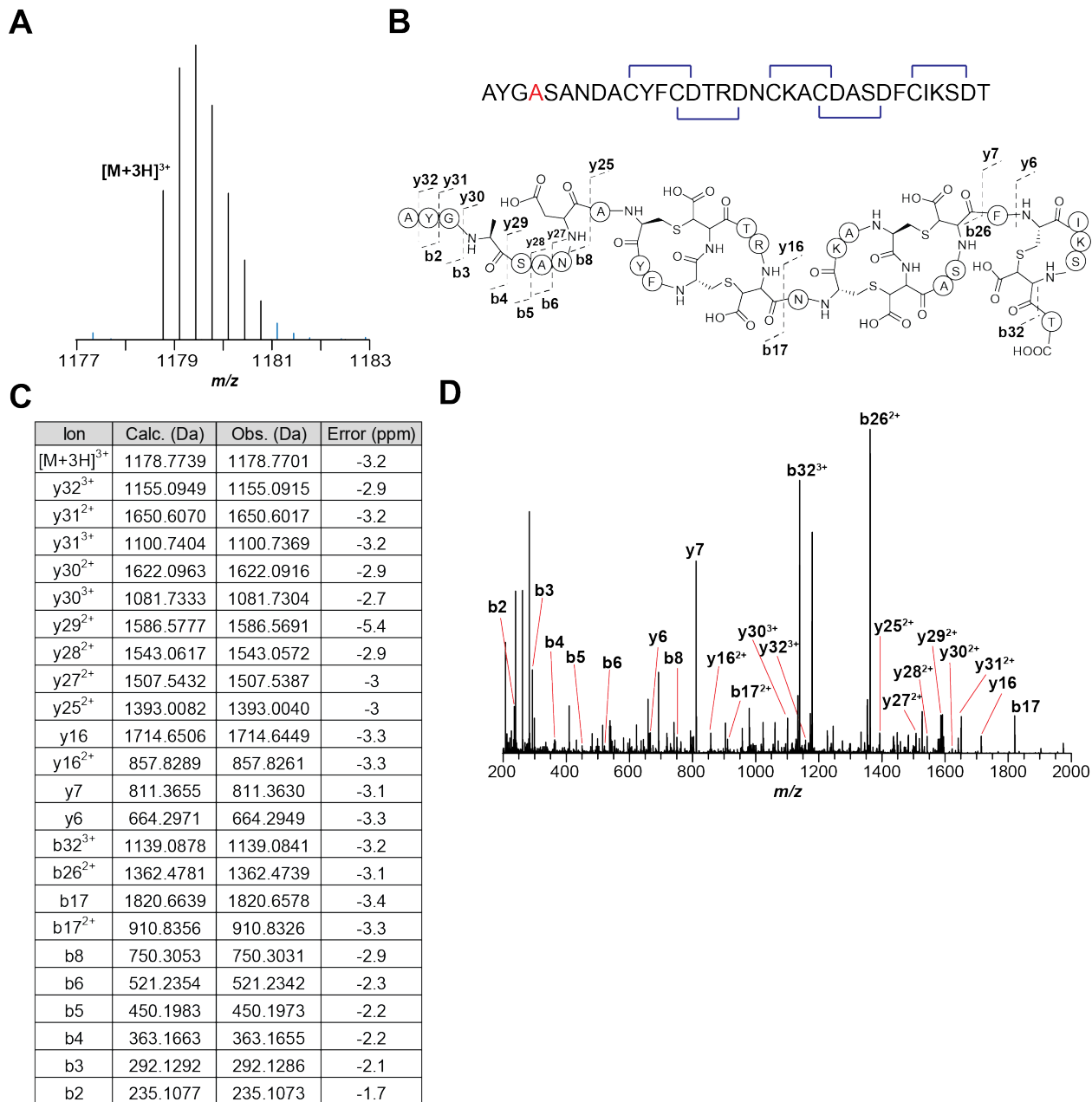


Figure S16: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant C2A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin C2A after trypsin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin C2A.

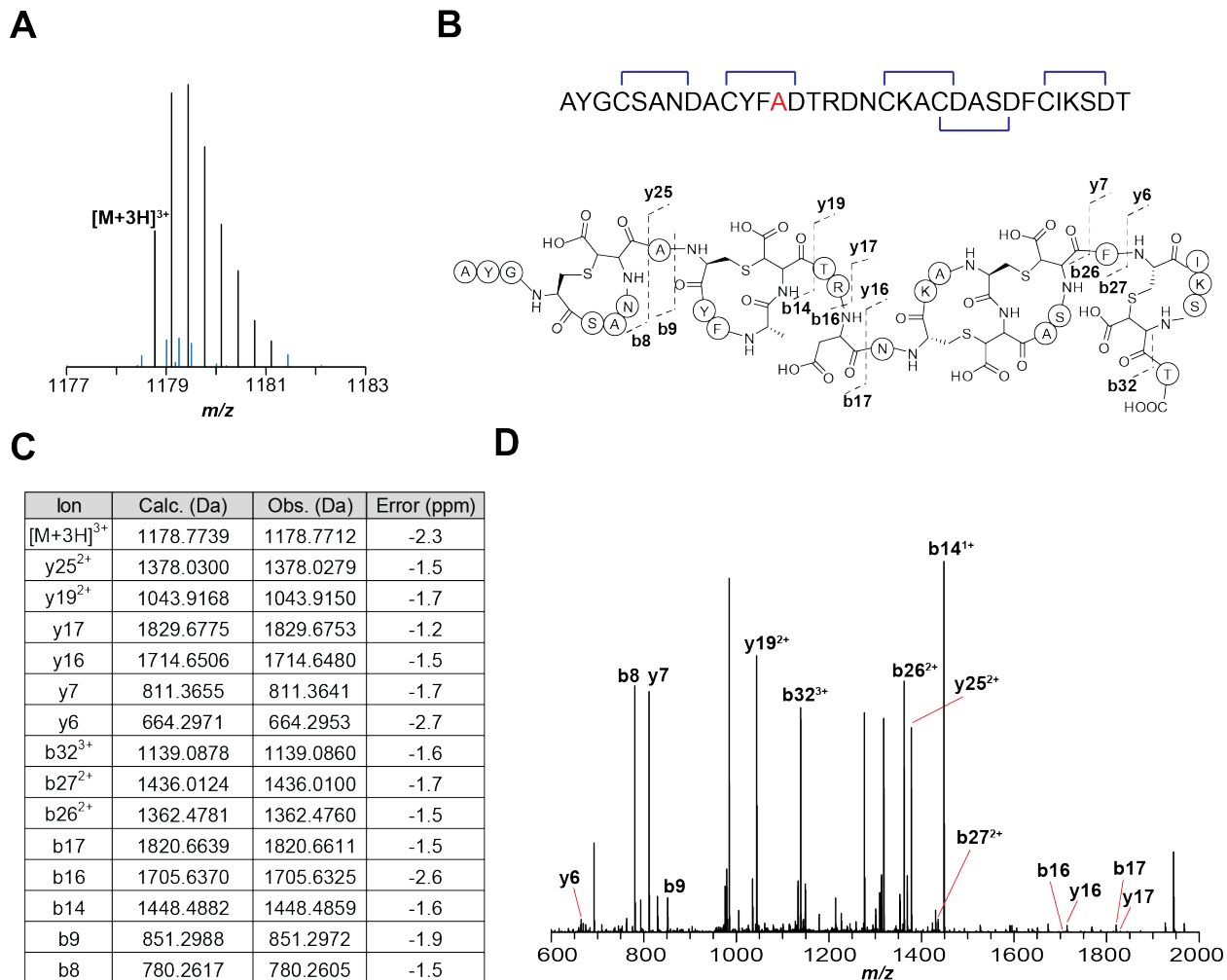


Figure S17: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant C11A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. Contaminating peaks are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin C11A after trypsin digestion. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin C11A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

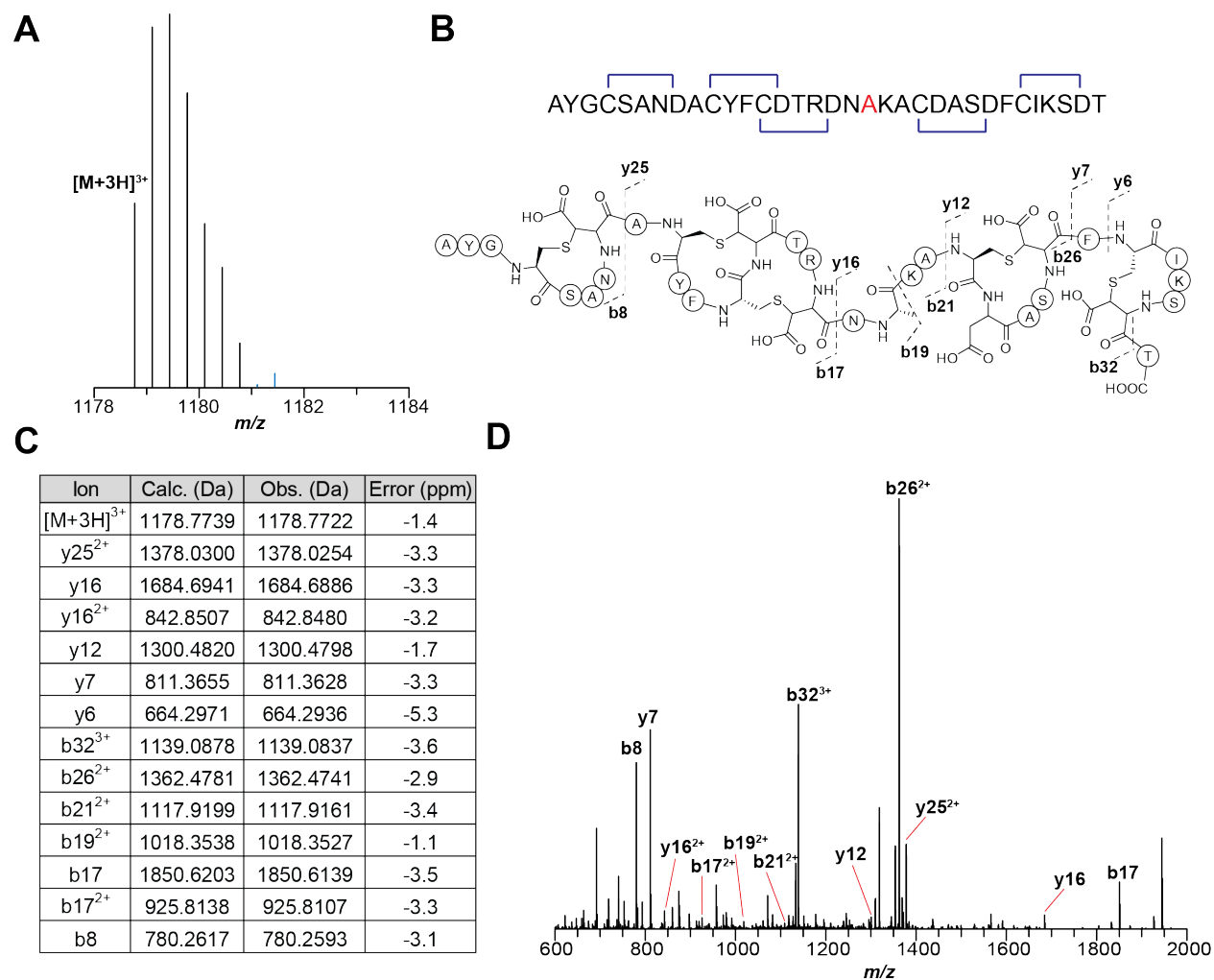


Figure S18: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant C17A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin C17A after trypsin digestion. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin C17A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

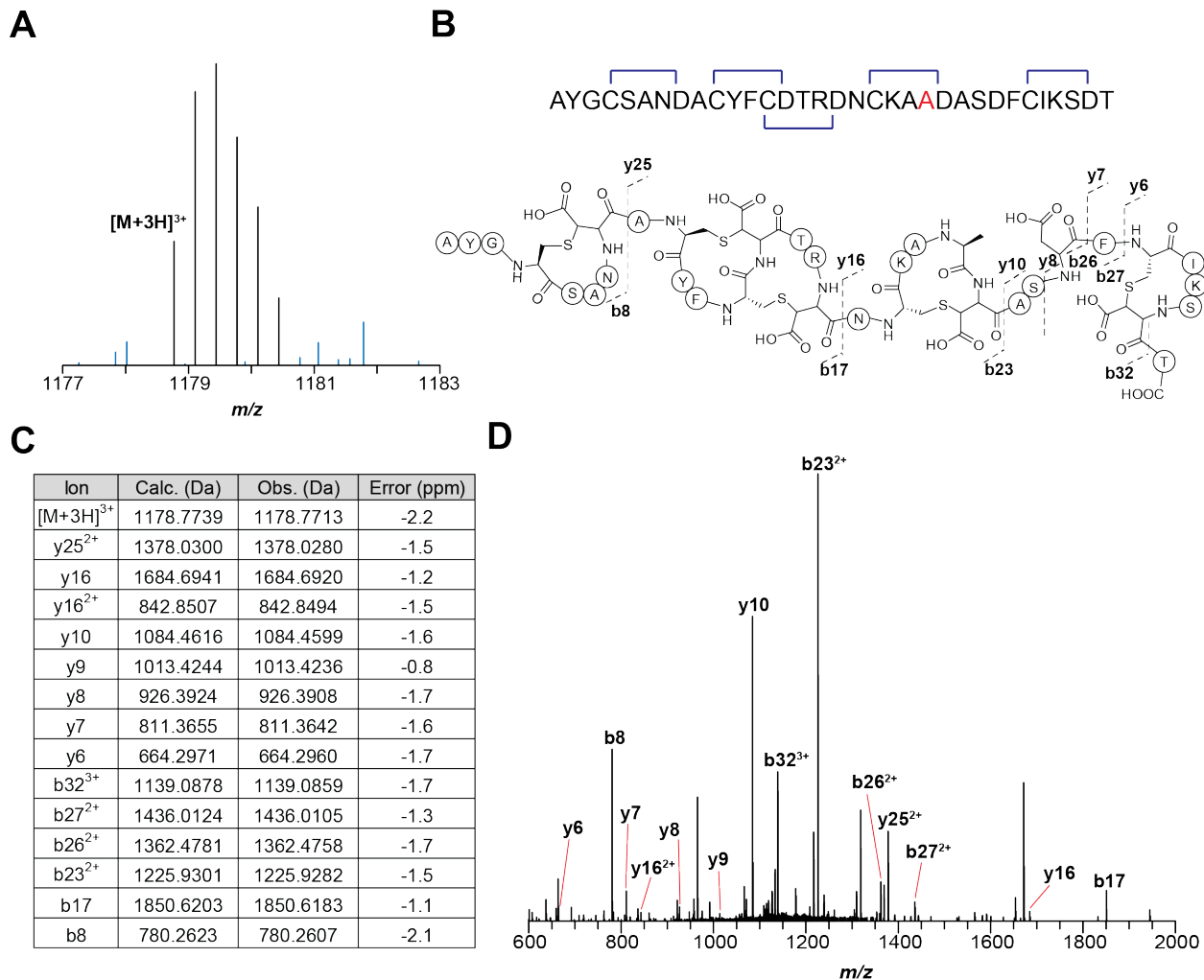


Figure S19: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant C20A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin C20A after trypsin digestion. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin C20A. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

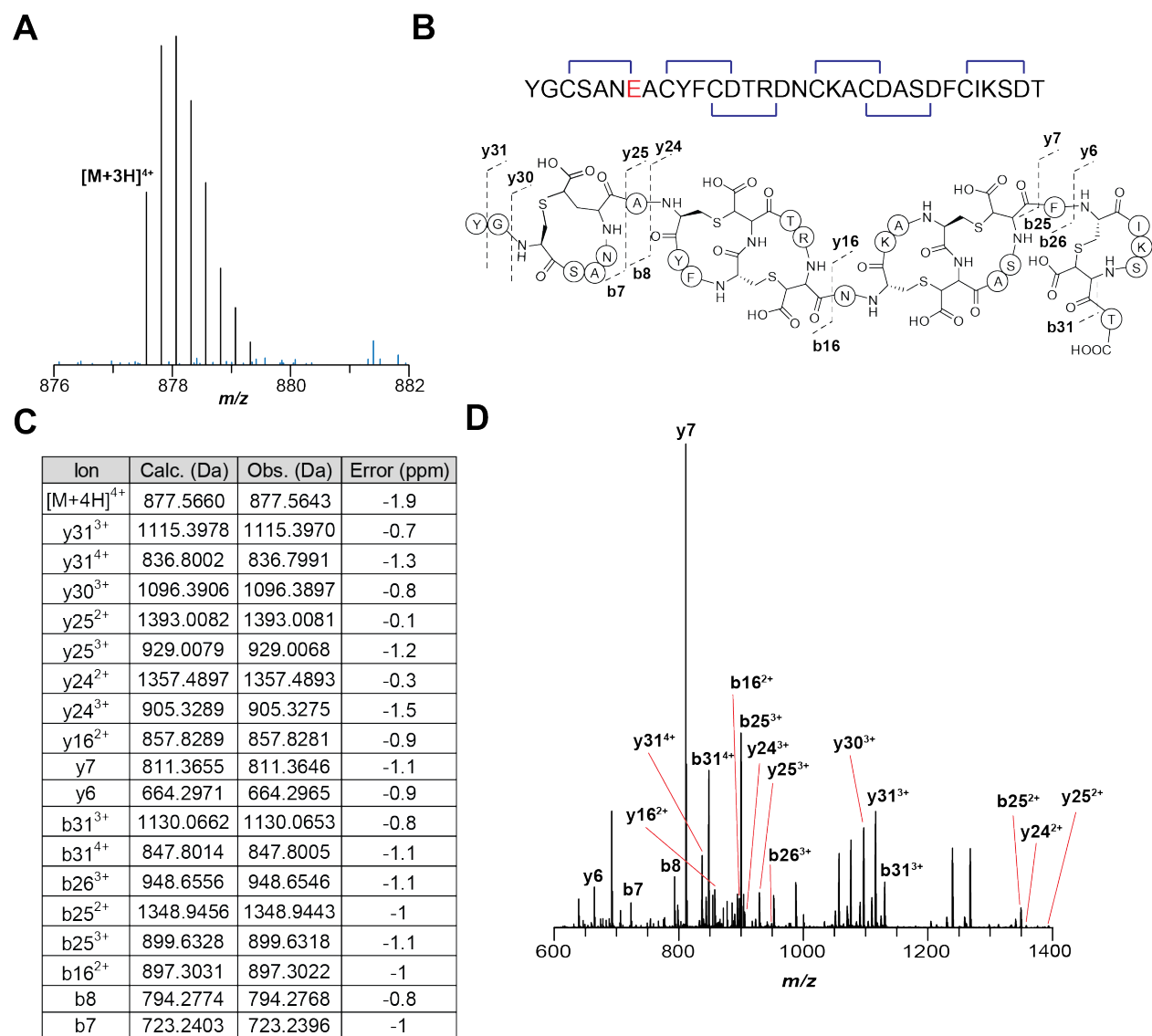


Figure S20: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant D6E. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin D6E after thermolysin digestion. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin D6E. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin.

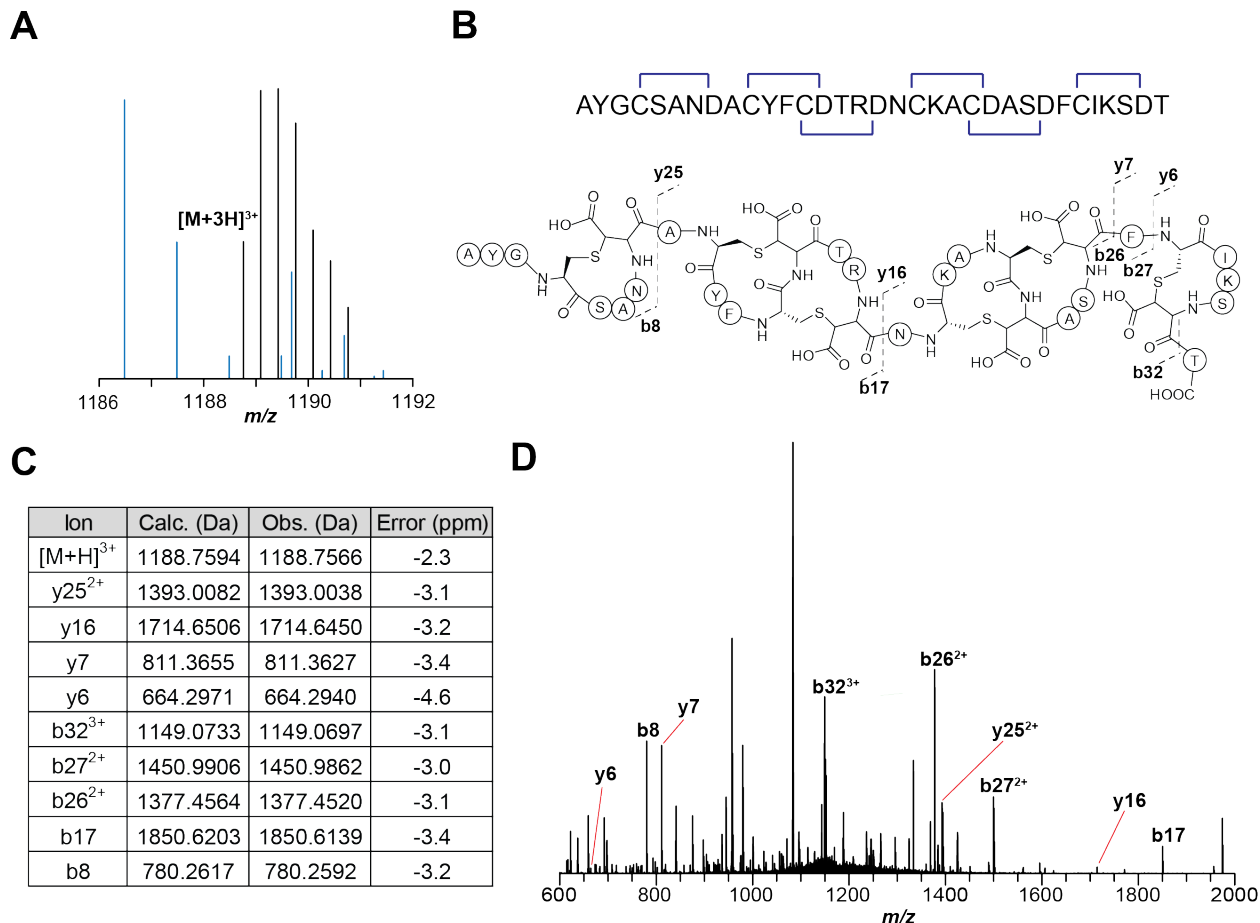


Figure S21: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin variant N(-13)A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. Contaminating peaks are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin N(-13)A after trypsin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of the freyrasin N(-13)A core. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin. The fully modified species is a low intensity ion and competing species from MBP fragmentation resulted in several unidentifiable peaks.

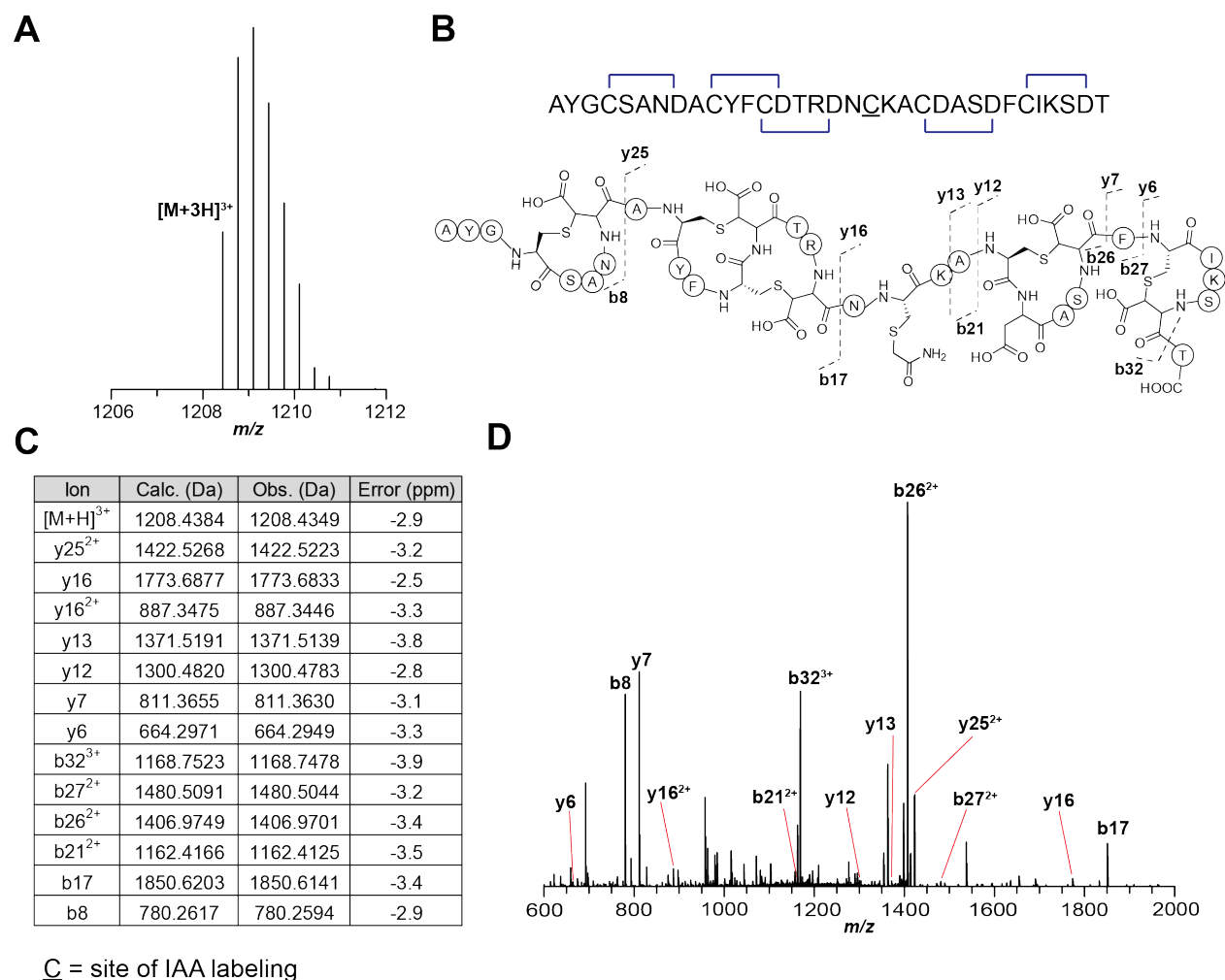


Figure S22: HR-ESI-MS/MS of 1-IAA labeled freyrasin variant N(-13)A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin N(-13)A after trypsin digest and one IAA labeling event. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin N(-13)A. The presence of b and y series ions in ring 4 suggests that it may be the final thioether linkage formed by PapB *in vivo*.

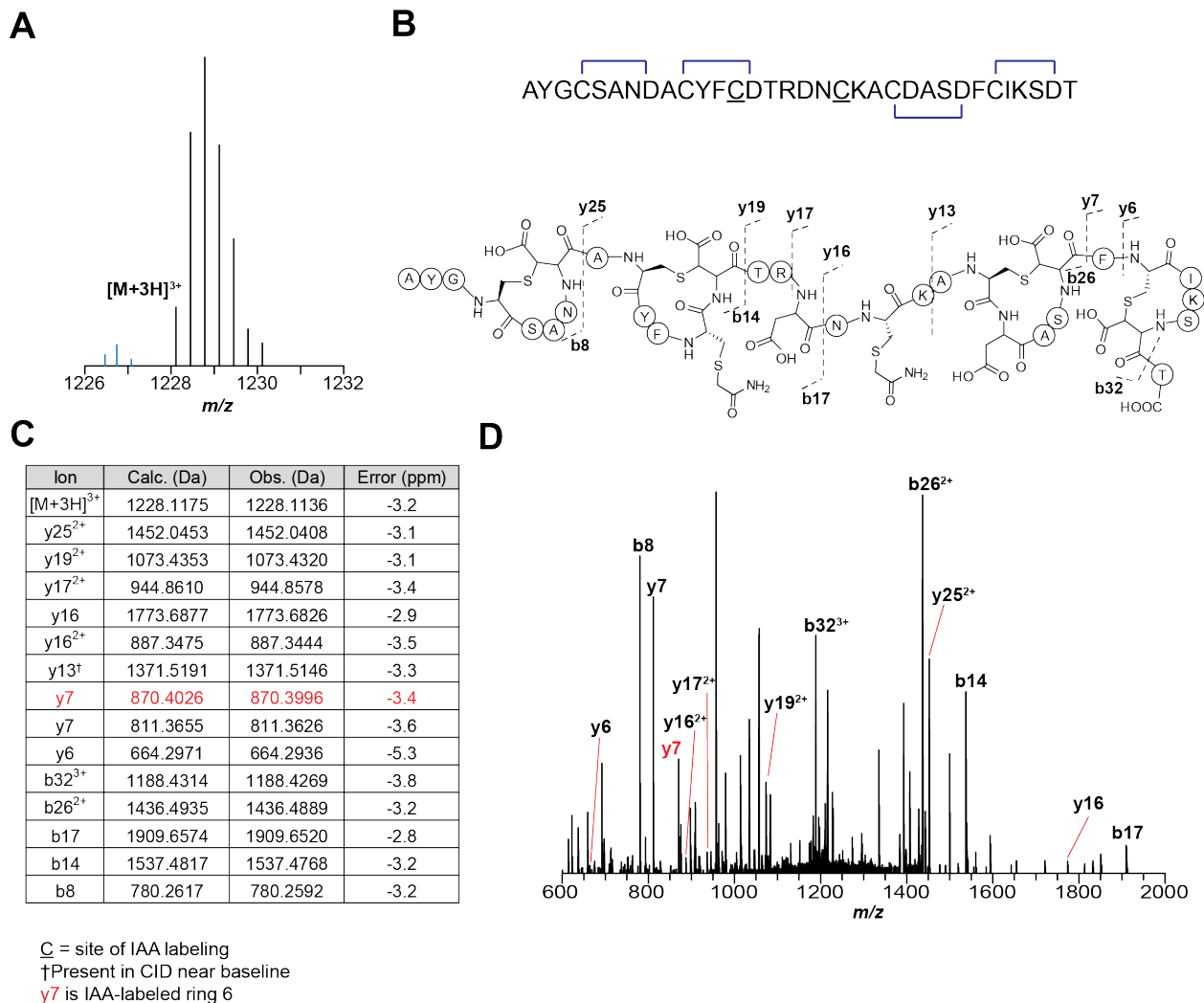


Figure S23: HR-ESI-MS/MS of 2-IAA labeled freyrasin variant N(-13)A. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin N(-13)A after trypsin digest and two IAA labeling events. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin N(-13)A. The presence of b and y series ions in ring 3 suggests that it may be the penultimate ring formed by PapB *in vivo*. It is worth noting, however, that y7⁺ has two peaks, one corresponding to a labeled Cys26, suggesting that rings 3 and 6 are both installed prior to ring 4. The doubly-alkylated species is a low abundance ion and competing species from MBP fragmentation results in a number of unidentifiable ions.

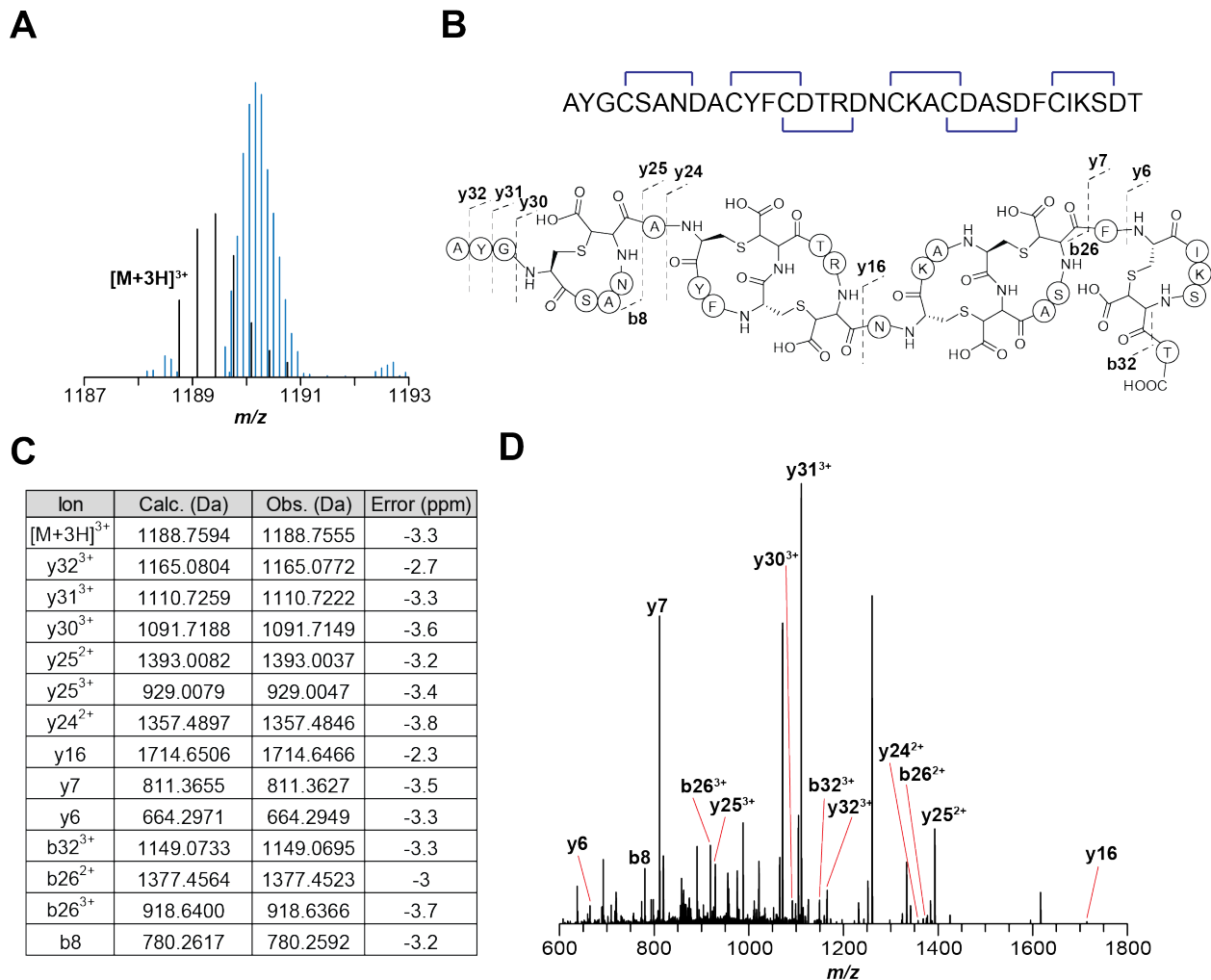


Figure S24: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin with excised RRE supplied *in trans*. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID (2⁺ and 4⁺ species were insufficient for fragmentation). Contaminating peaks are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of freyrasin after trypsin digest. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of freyrasin. The limited fragmentation pattern is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of wild-type freyrasin. This is consistent with a successful rescue of the RRE-deletion PapB variant by addition of the RRE *in trans*, resulting in thioether installation in the PapA precursor.

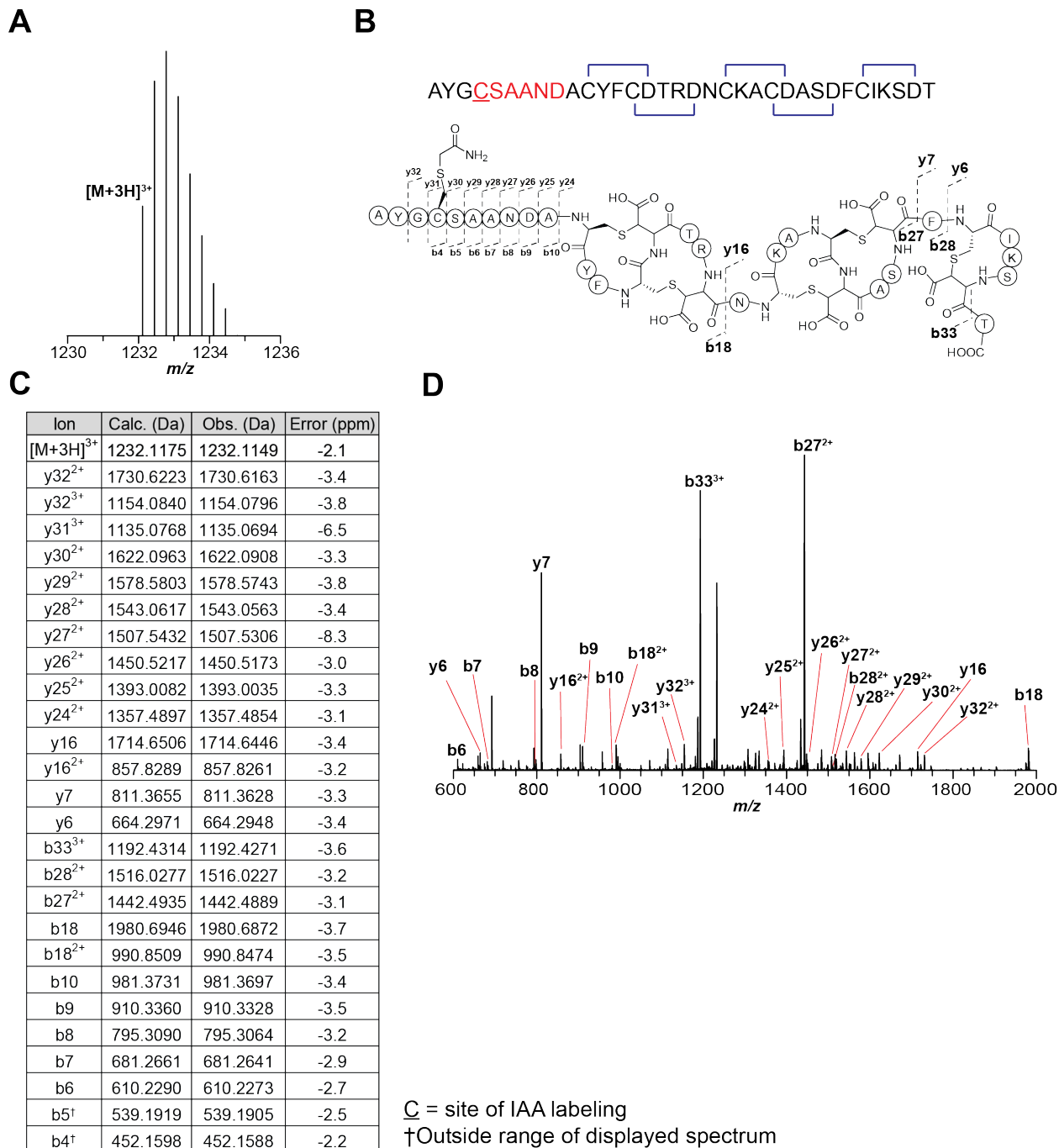


Figure S25: HR-ESI-MS/MS of 1-IAA labeled freyrasin ring expansion variant. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. (B) Proposed structure of the freyrasin ring expansion variant after trypsin digest and one IAA labeling event. Area of text in red represents the expanded Cys-X₄-Asp motif. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of the ring expansion variant.

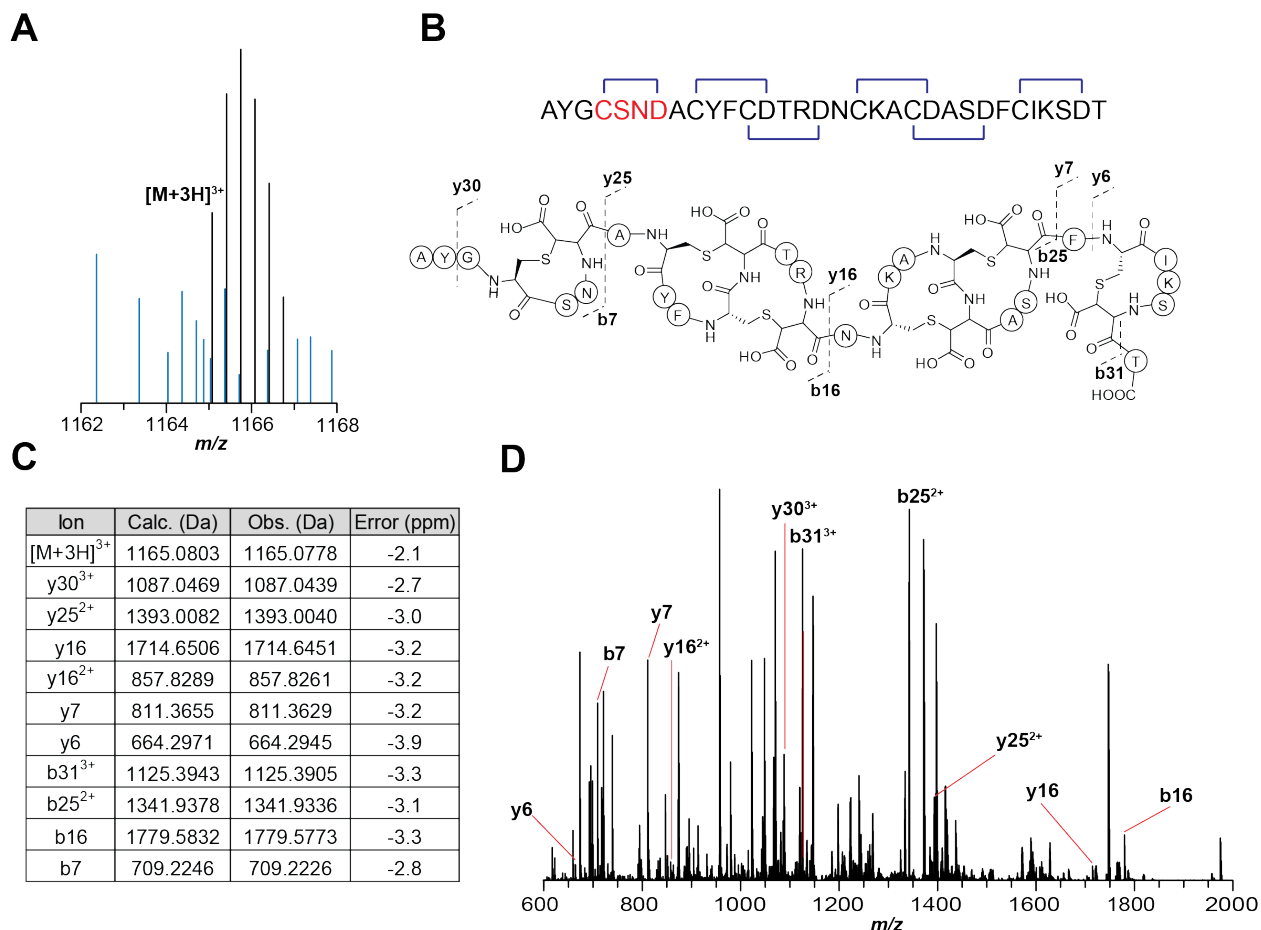


Figure S26: HR-ESI-MS/MS of freyrasin ring contraction variant. (A) Molecular ion chosen for fragmentation by CID. Contaminating peaks are in blue. (B) Proposed structure of the freyrasin ring contraction variant after trypsin digest. Area of text in red represents the contracted Cys-X₂-Asp motif. Observed b and y ions are annotated. (C) Table of CID spectrum ion assignments. (D) CID spectrum of the ring expansion variant. The limited observation of b and y ions surrounding the thioether rings of freyrasin is consistent with previously reported tandem MS of the wild-type molecule. The singly-alkylated species did not produce adequate fragmentation for inclusion. The fully-modified species is a low abundance ion and competing species from MBP fragment peaks results in a large number of high abundance unidentifiable peaks in the CID.

Figure S27: 1H-1H TOCSY correlations and assignments of freyrasin D6E. Amino acids were identified by a combination of their known TOCSY correlation patterns and similarity to a previously reported WT freyrasin 1H-1H TOCSY spectrum.¹ Amino acid residue sequence was assigned based on NH-NH NOESY correlations (see **Figure S27**).

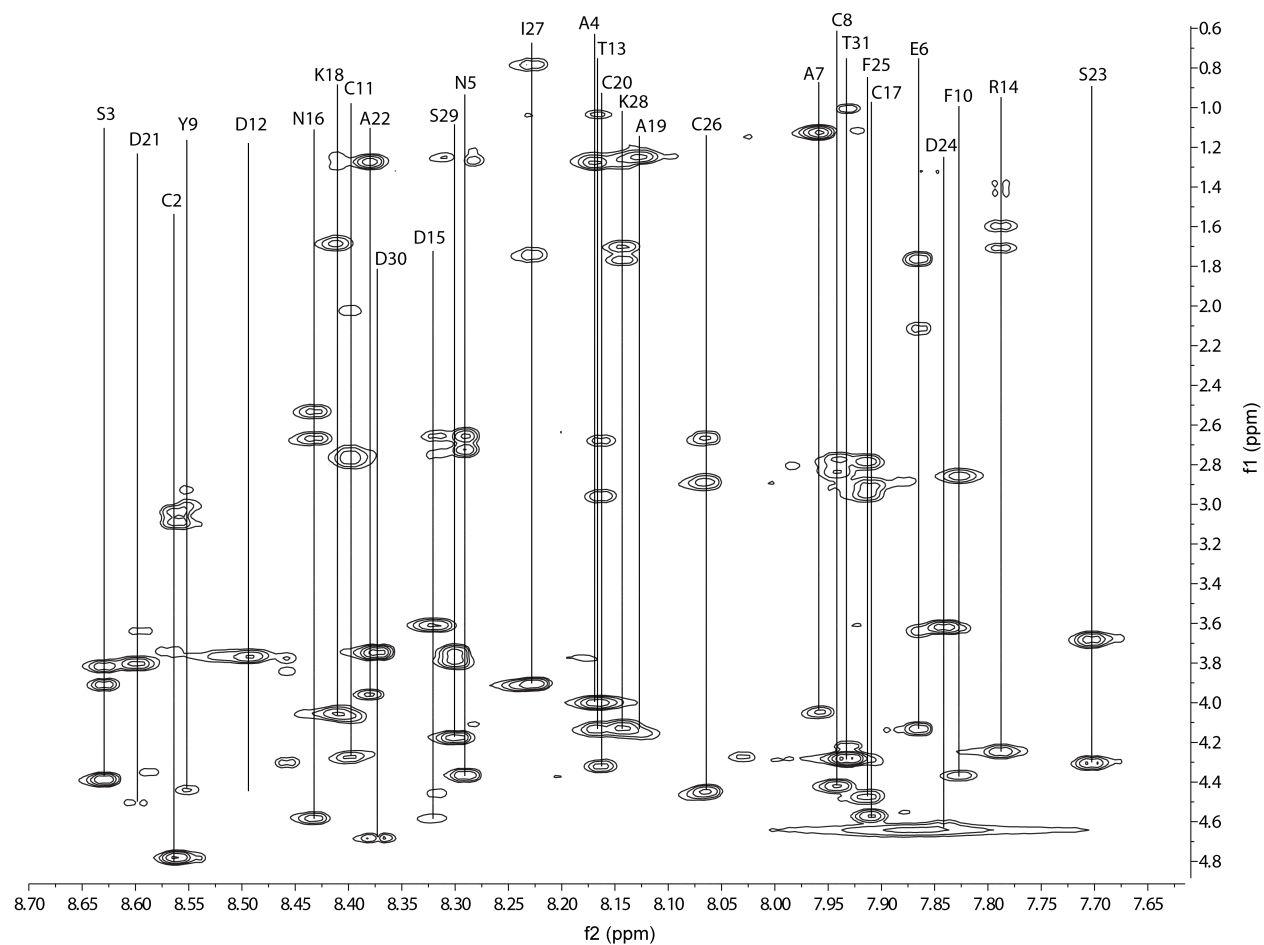
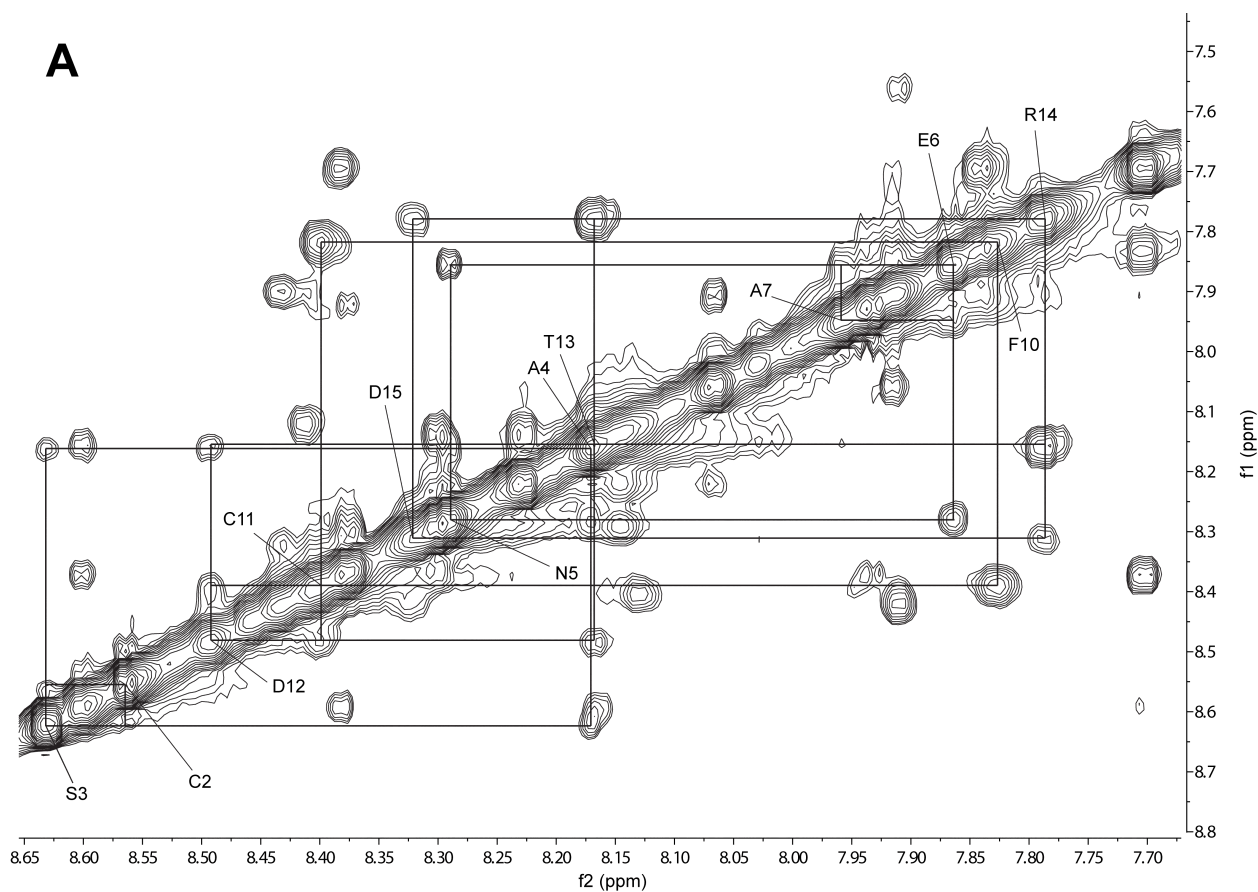
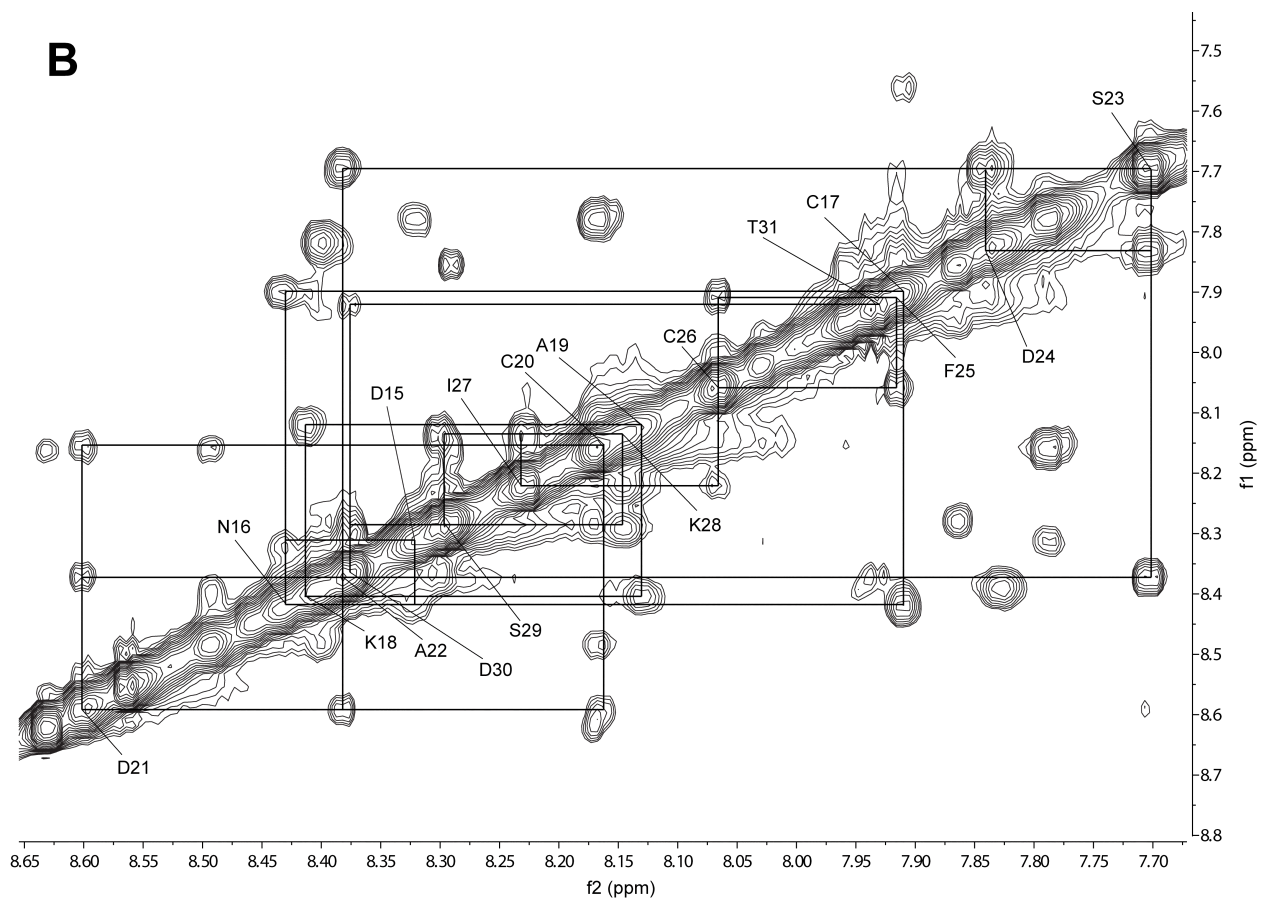


Figure S28: Amide NOESY correlations of freyrasin variant D6E. (A) Contacts from residues 1-15. (B) Contacts from residues 15-31. Amino acids are assigned based on their amide proton chemical shifts along the diagonal, and neighboring residue correlations are labelled off diagonal. Residues that did not generate NOESY correlations were assigned based on the known precursor peptide primary sequence, process of elimination, side chain proton correlations and similarity to the previously reported spectrum for WT freyrasin.¹





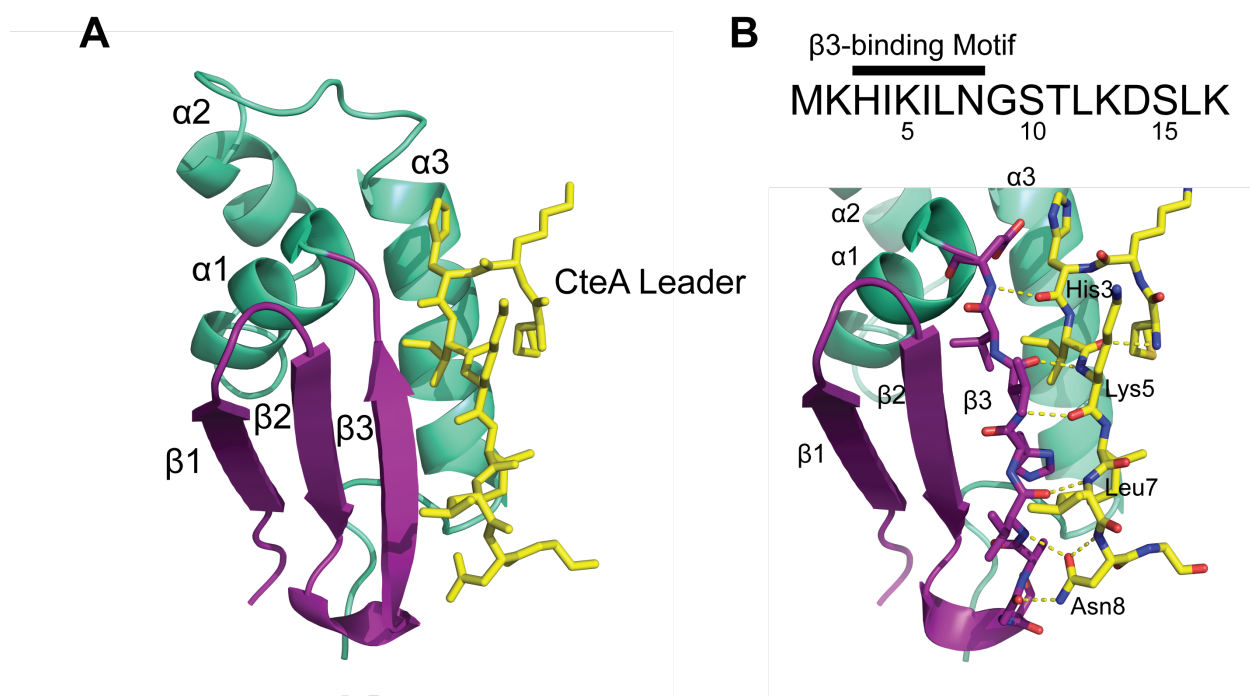


Figure S29: Crystal structure of CteB RRE in complex with CteA leader peptide.⁶ (A) Interaction of the CteA leader peptide with the β 3 and α 3 motifs of the CteB RRE (PDB code: 5WGG). (B) Stick model indicating points of contact between the CteA leader peptide and the β 3 sheet of the CteB RRE. In this case, the leader Asn8 is within polar contact distance of backbone amides in Gly21 and Val23 of CteB. This Asn is also conserved in PapA, as indicated in **Figure 4** (albeit at position 6).

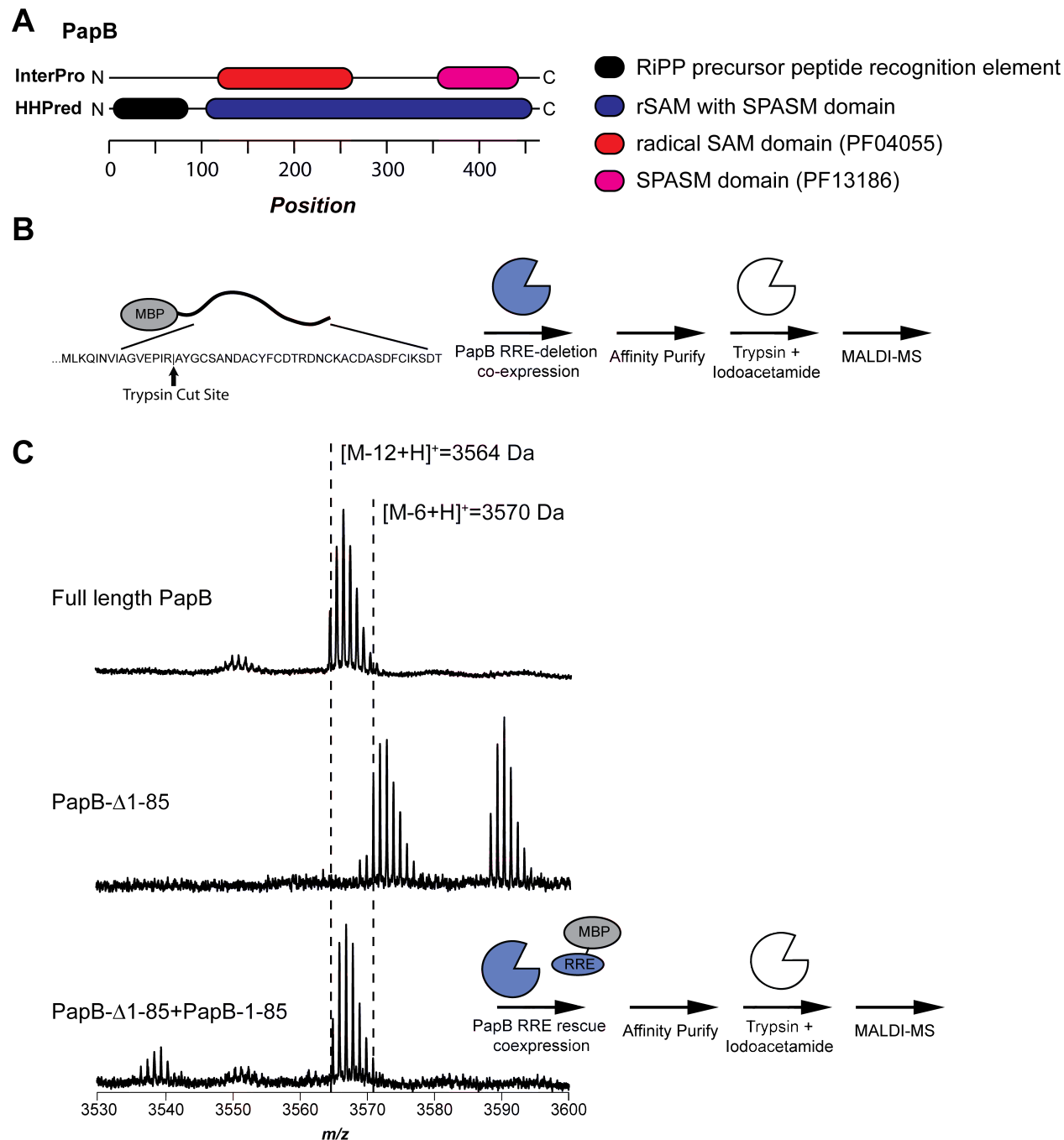


Figure S30: RRE-deleted PapB and rescue with MBP-PapB-RRE. (A) Domain structure of PapB as predicted by HHpred and InterPro.^{7,8} (B) Protocol for generation of PapA core for MALDI-TOF-MS analysis. (C) MALDI-TOF-MS analysis of core peptide after coexpression with the RRE-deleted PapB (residues 86-467). Mass loss of 6 Da is consistent with the formation of 3 disulfide linkages and a lack of thioether formation in the core. When the RRE (PapB residues 1-85) was supplied *in trans*, the core peptide mass was equivalent to reactions that received full length PapB. The structure of the rescued core was verified by high-resolution and tandem MS (**Figure S24**). The m/z 3589 Da species is an unknown contaminant.

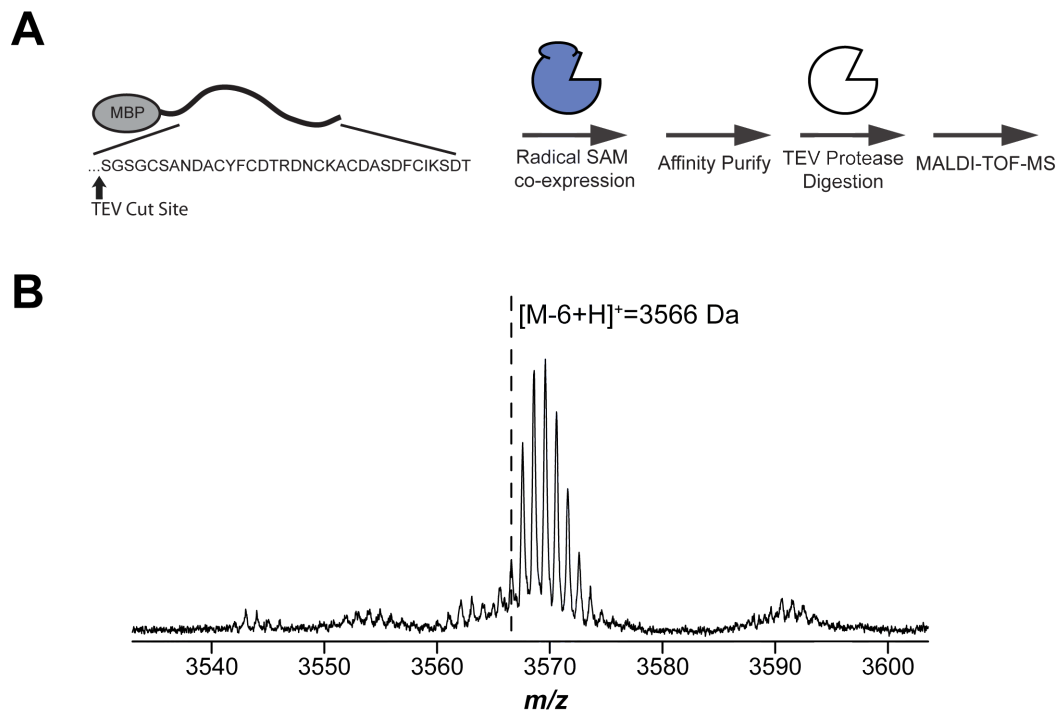


Figure S31: PapA leader deletion and co-expression with PapB. (A) Protocol for generation of PapA core for MALDI-TOF-MS analysis. (B) After TEV protease cleavage, the resultant peptide displayed a mass loss of 6 Da, consistent with the formation of 3 disulfide bonds.

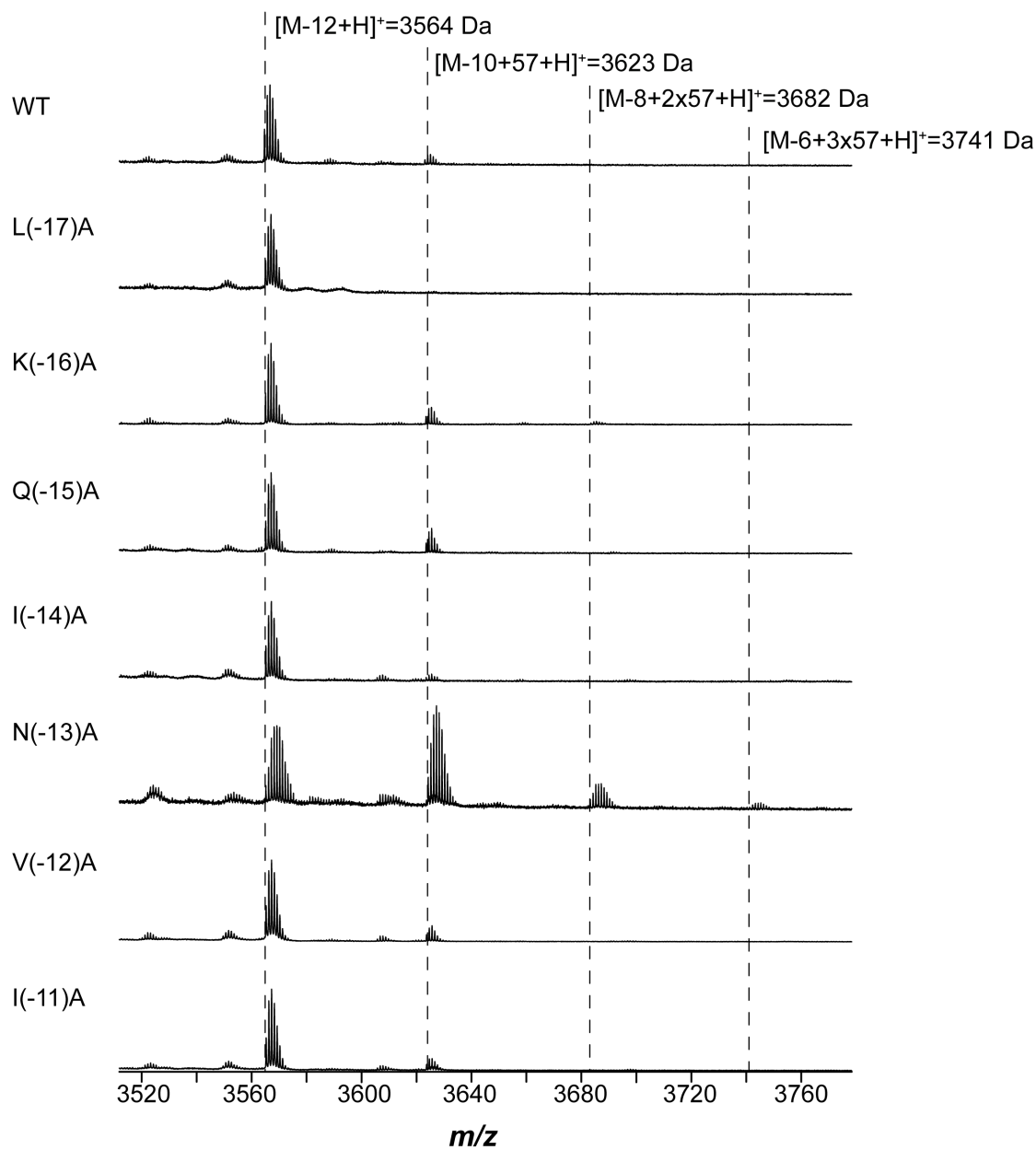


Figure S32: Iodoacetamide labeling of PapA leader Ala scan coexpression. Coexpression of MBP-PapA with PapB in a leader peptide Ala scan. The MBP-tagged PapA variants were purified and treated with trypsin followed by alkylation with IAA (+57 Da per label). Consistent with the isotopic pattern of the N(-13)A variant, the population is heavily labeled by IAA indicating a lack processing this variant.

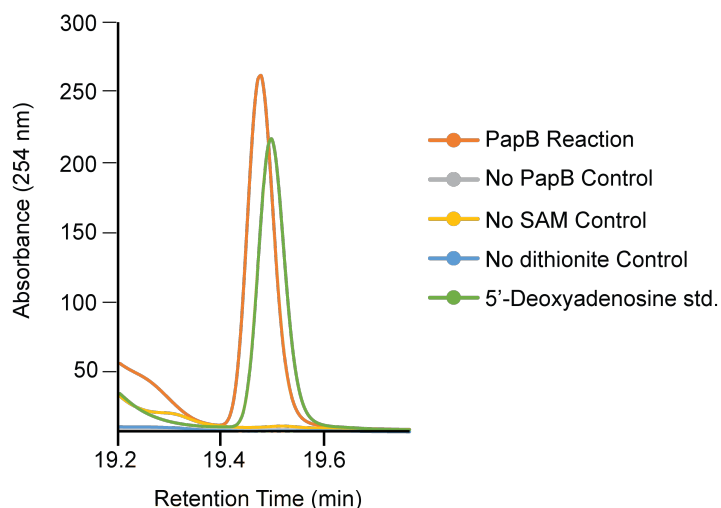
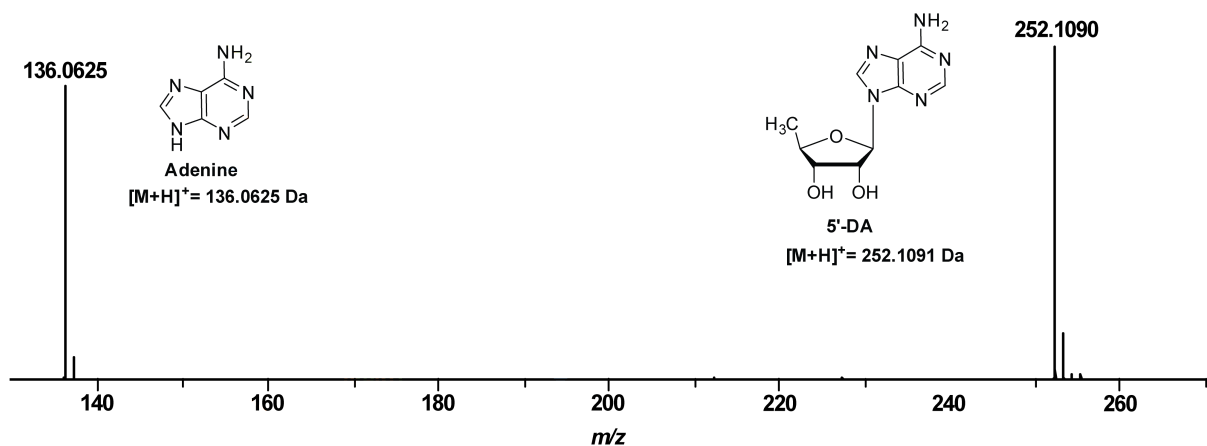
A**B**

Figure S33: Detection of 5'-DA in the PapB reaction mixture by HRMS (A) PapB *in vitro* reaction mixtures HPLC analysis. Orange trace: full PapB reaction mixture (PapA substrate + PapB + *S*-adenosylmethionine (SAM) + dithionite); Grey trace: reaction mixture devoid of PapB; Yellow trace: reaction mixture devoid of SAM; Blue trace: reaction mixture devoid of dithionite; Green trace: 5'-deoxyadenosine standard sample (std). Formation of 5'-DA was observed only in the full reaction mixture (retention time 19.5 min), which co-eluted with an authentic sample of 5'-DA. (B) The compound eluting at 19.5 min was analyzed by HRMS. The compound was confirmed as 5'-DA (calc. mass 252.1091 Da; obsv. mass 252.1090 Da; error, 0.3 ppm). Adenine was also observed, which resulted from fragmentation of the N-glycosyl bond (calc. mass 136.0625 Da; obsv. mass 136.0625 Da; error, 0 ppm).

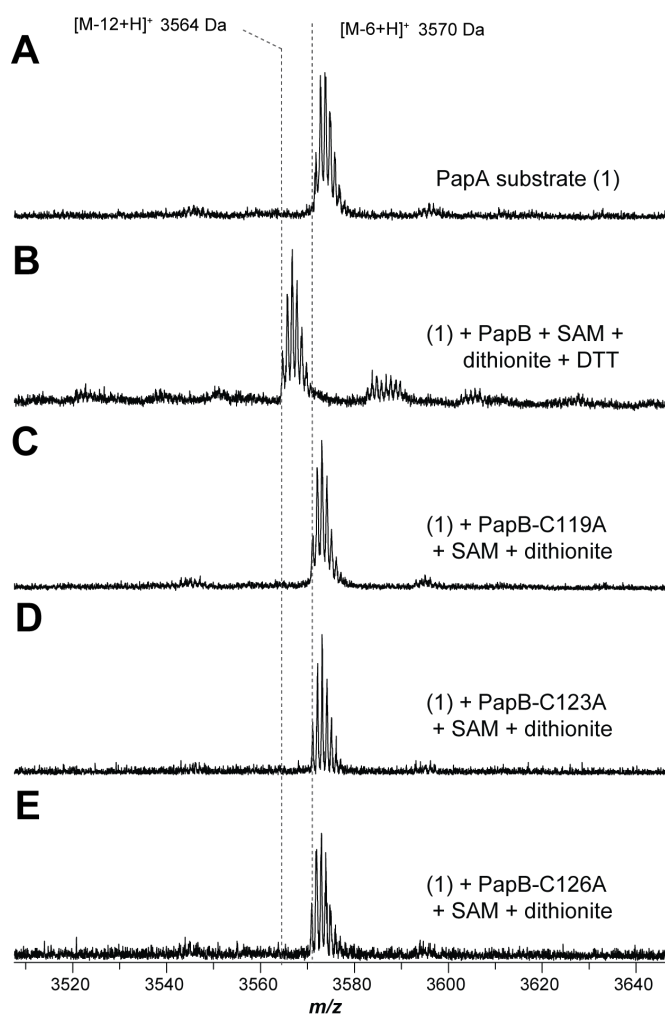


Figure S34: MALDI-TOF-MS analysis of the Cys variants of PapB. (A) Mass spectrum of the PapA peptide, m/z 3570 Da. Mass loss of 6 Da is consistent with three disulfide bond formation as reported previously.¹ (B) Mass spectrum of the peptide after reaction with the full array of reactants, m/z 3564 Da (DTT=dithiothreitol). This is consistent with the formation of six thioether bonds (loss of 12 Da from the unmodified peptide)¹ (C) Identical to panel B except PapB-C119A variant was used (D) Identical to panel B except PapB-C123A variant was used (E) Identical to panel B except PapB-C126A variant was used. No modification was observed on substituting cysteines in the [4Fe-4S] cluster binding motif in PapB with Ala.

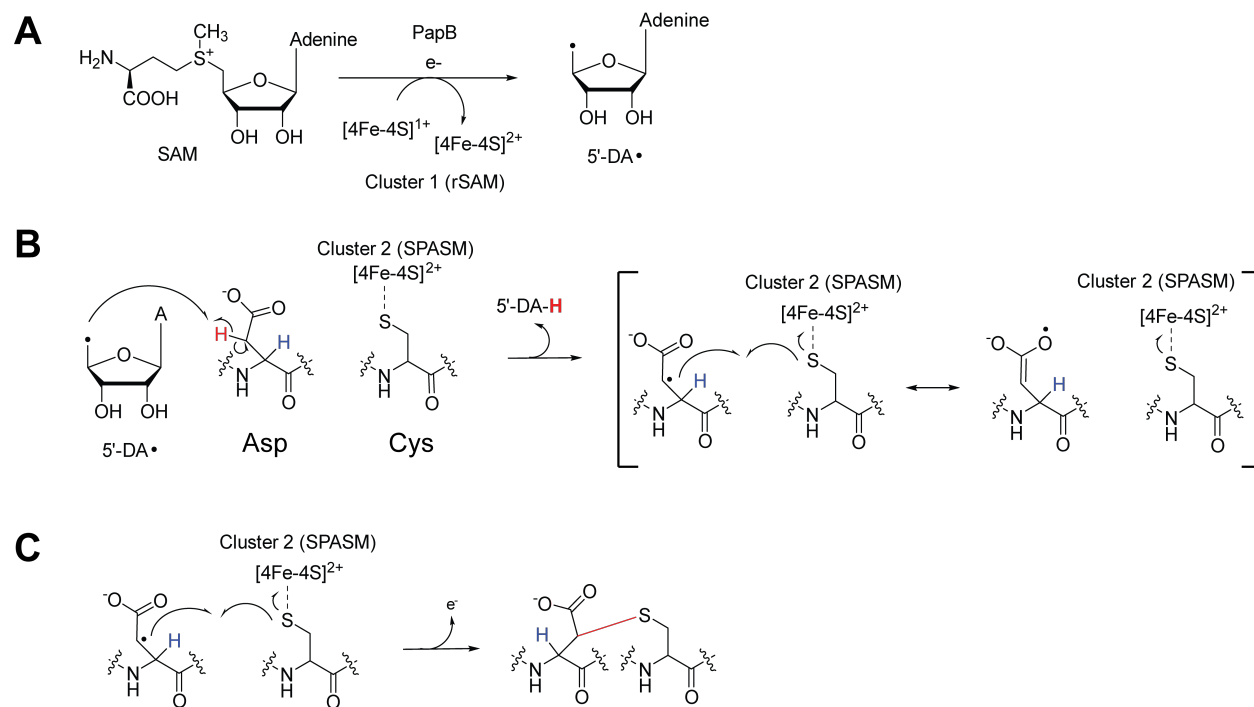


Figure S35: Proposed mechanism for PapB. (A) $[4\text{Fe-4S}]$ -mediated reductive cleavage of SAM to generate the 5'-DA radical. (B) The resultant 5'-DA radical is proposed to abstract hydrogen from the acceptor site on the peptide (in this case, from the β -carbon of Asp), generating a radical on the peptide substrate. The sulfur of the Cys donor is proposed to be coordinated by a SPASM $[4\text{Fe-4S}]$ auxiliary cluster and (C) directed to combine with the radical on the acceptor residue to form a thioether linkage. The order of events in this mechanism remain under investigation.

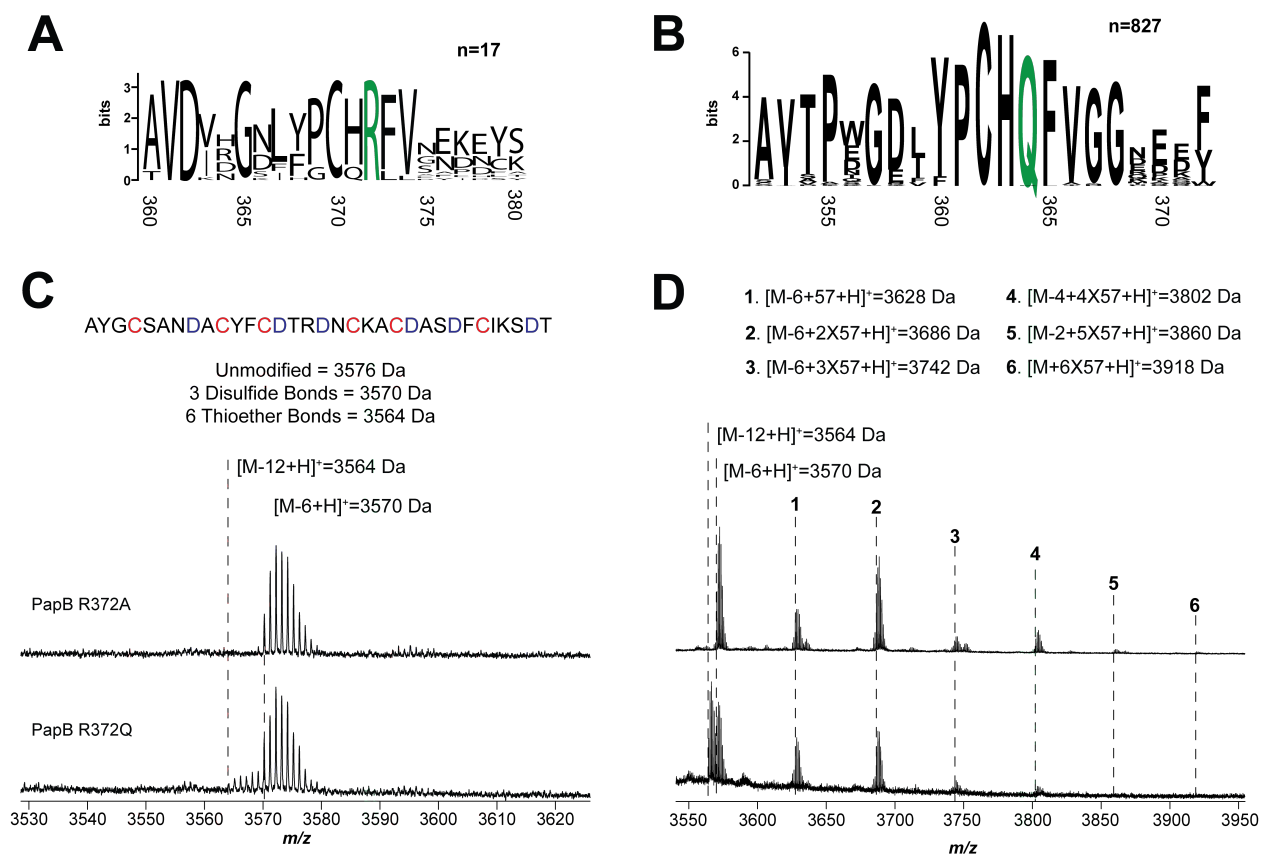
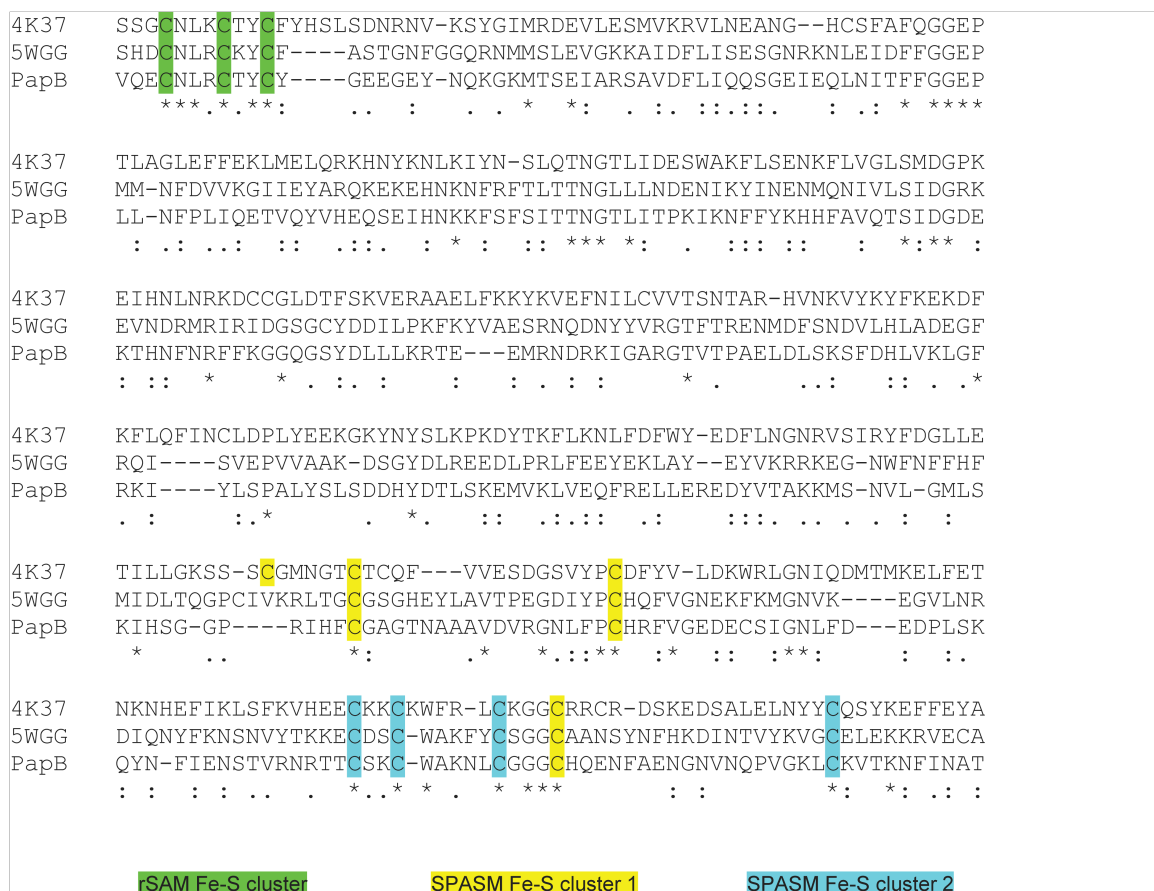


Figure S36: Mutagenesis of PapB-Arg372. (A) Sequence logo generated from multiple sequence alignment of 17 Cys-X₃-Asp-modifying ranthysynthases. Arg372 is 100% conserved. (B) Sequence logo generated from alignment of 827 (non-identical) thermocellin-like maturases. The active site Gln is 99.5% conserved. Numbering is based on the primary sequence of CteB.⁶ (C) Trypsin digest of PapA after expression with PapB containing substitutions at Arg372. PapB-R372A and -R372D were unable to modify PapA and a mass loss of 6 Da was observed, consistent with the formation of three disulfide bonds. PapB-R372Q modified PapA with low efficiency. (D) IAA labeling indicates the presence of extensive free thiols when PapA is co-expressed with the Arg372 variants (top, R372A; bottom, R372Q).

A



B

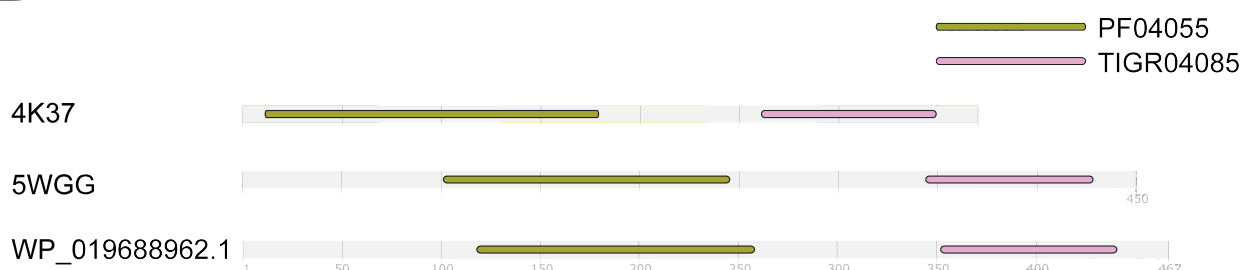
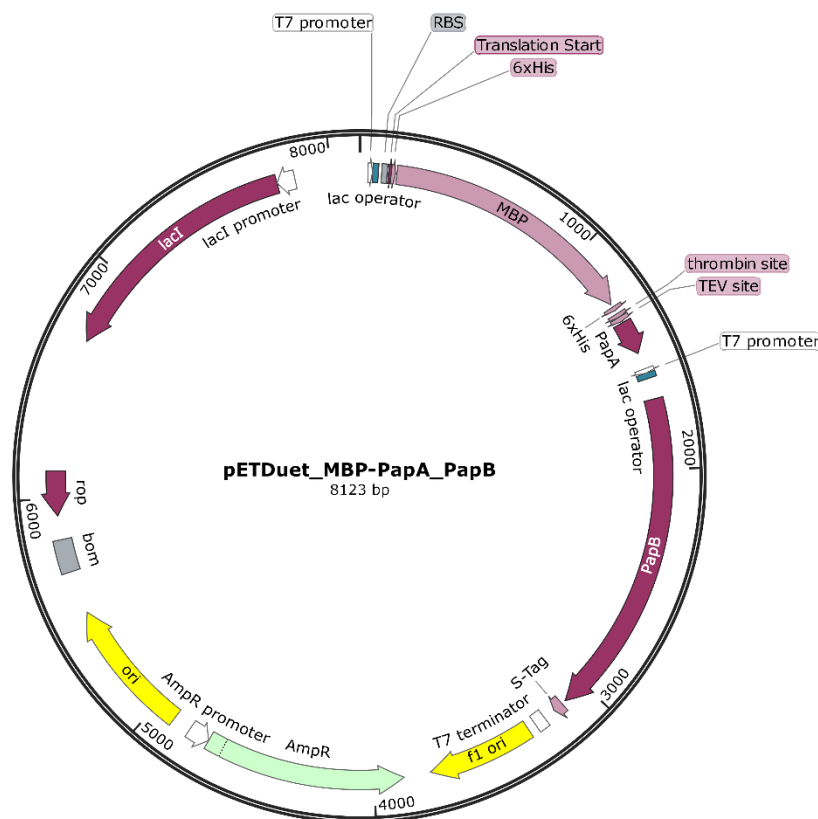


Figure S37: Alignment of rSAM proteins with SPASM domains. (A) Partial sequence alignment of PapB with two structurally characterized proteins with a SPASM domain, anSME (PDB code: 4K37) and CteB (PDB code: 5WGG). anSME has 4 Cys residues coordinated to auxiliary cluster 1 in the SPASM domain (TIGR04085). CteB and PapB each have 3 Cys, indicating the presence of an open coordination site for the precursor substrate Cys in auxiliary cluster 1. (B) Domain architecture diagram of the above proteins as determined by InterPro.⁸ CteB (5WGG) and PapB contain an N-terminal RRE domain, which causes the start of the rSAM domain (PF04055) to begin around residue 100.

A



B

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Figure S38: Co-expression plasmid map and sequence. (A) Plasmid map of parent expression vector for freyrasin (B) Nucleotide sequence for entire plasmid. (Point mutations relevant to variants are indicated in Table S2).

Supporting References:

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