

Supplementary Materials:

**Determinants of *mer* promoter activity from *Pseudomonas*
*aeruginosa***

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Keywords: *mer* promoter, expression activity, spacer length, position –13, guanine, synergistic regulation

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	Mutation position		Spacer length
Previous studies			
	-31 or -30	ATCGCTTTGACTCAGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
	-24	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACAGGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
	-18	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
	-15 or -14	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
	-14 to -13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
This study			
<i>P_{mer}</i>	Wild type	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	19 bp
<i>P_{mer-M1}</i>	-31 or -30	ATCGCTTTGACTCAGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
<i>P_{mer-M2}</i>	-30 to -29	ATCGCTTTGACTCAGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
<i>P_{mer-M3}</i>	-30 to -28	ATCGCTTTGACTCAGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	16 bp
<i>P_{mer-M4}</i>	-25	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
<i>P_{mer-M5}</i>	-24 to -25	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
<i>P_{mer-M6}</i>	-23 to -25	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	16 bp
<i>P_{mer-M7}</i>	-20	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
<i>P_{mer-M8}</i>	-19 to -20	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
<i>P_{mer-M9}</i>	-18 to -20	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	16 bp
<i>P_{mer-M10}</i>	-15 or -14	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
<i>P_{mer-M11}</i>	-13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	18 bp
<i>P_{mer-M12}</i>	-15 to -14	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
<i>P_{mer-M13}</i>	-14 to -13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	17 bp
<i>P_{mer-M14}</i>	-15 to -13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	16 bp
<i>P_{mer-M15}</i>	-13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	19 bp
<i>P_{mer-M16}</i>	-13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	19 bp
<i>P_{mer-M17}</i>	-13	ATCGCTTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTACGCTATCCAA	19 bp
		5'- -35 element -10 element -3'	

Fig.S1 Sequence and spacer length of *mer* promoter derivatives. The -35 element is purple and the -10 element is pink. Mutation sites are marked with dotted boxes on a yellow background.

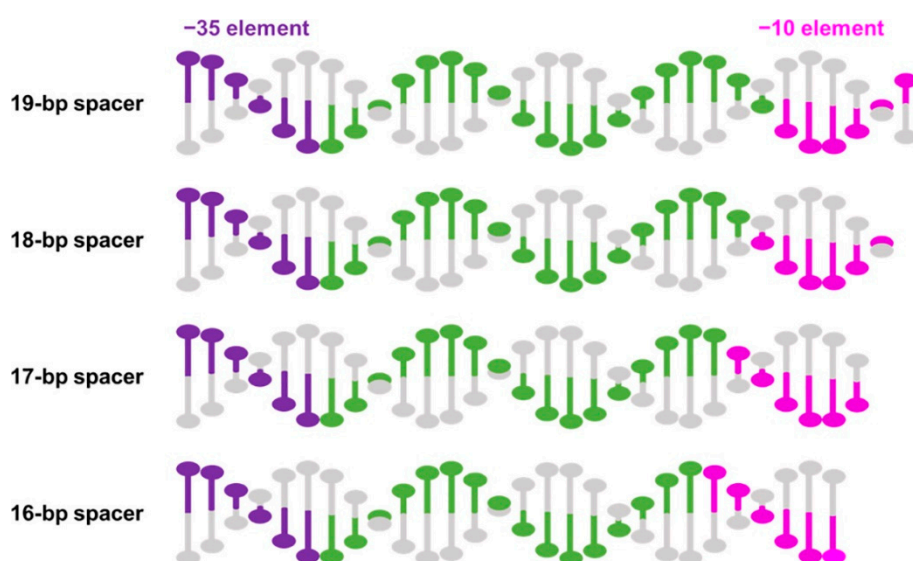


Fig.S2 Scheme of the DNA conformation of the region between the -35 and -10 elements of *mer* promoter derivatives. The -35 element is purple, the -10 element is pink, and the intervening

spacer is green.

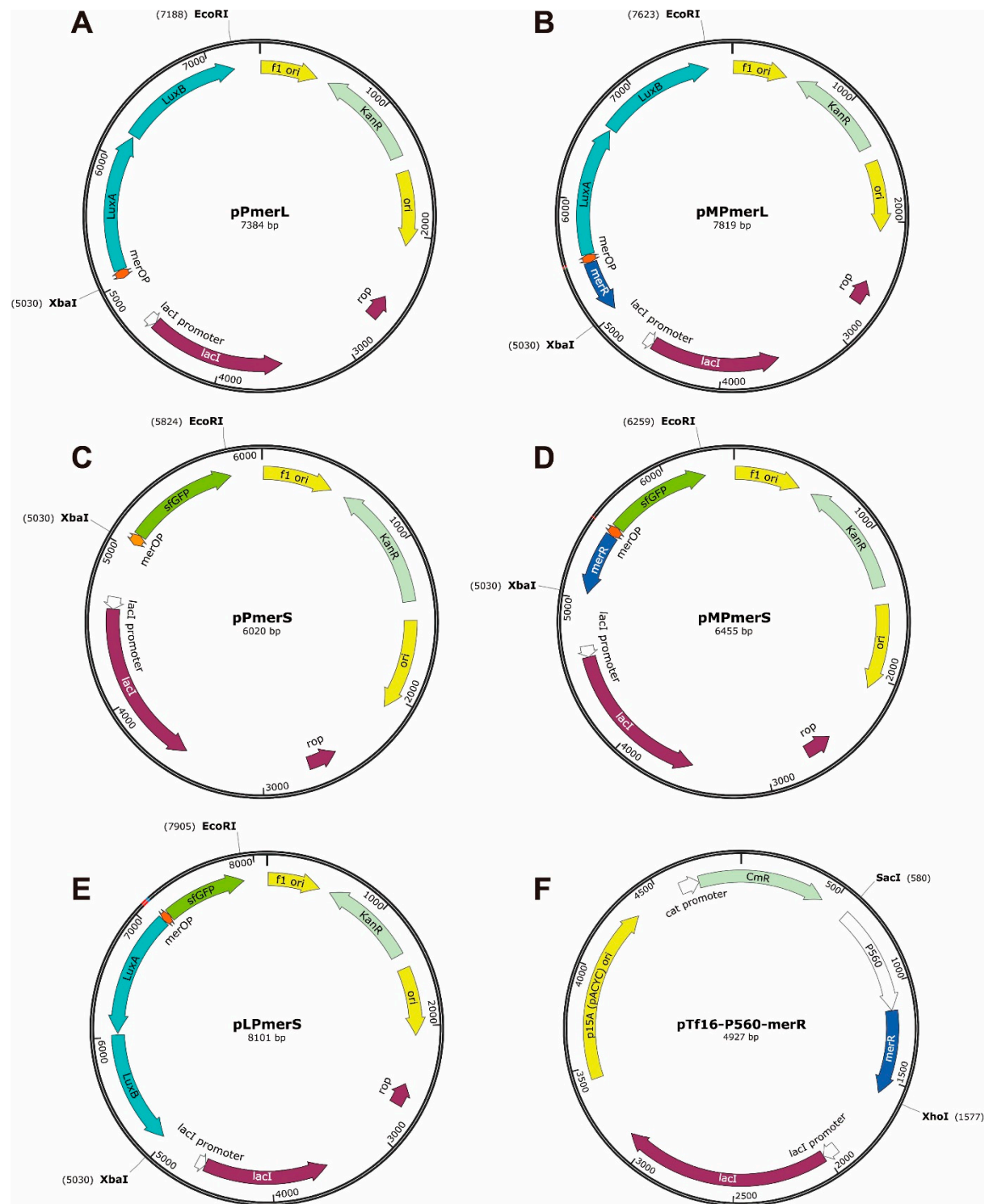


Fig.S3 Plasmid maps of the vectors constructed in this study. (A) pPmerL, (B) pMPmerL, (C) pPmerS, (D) pMPmerS, (E) pLPmerS, (F) pPcpc560M.

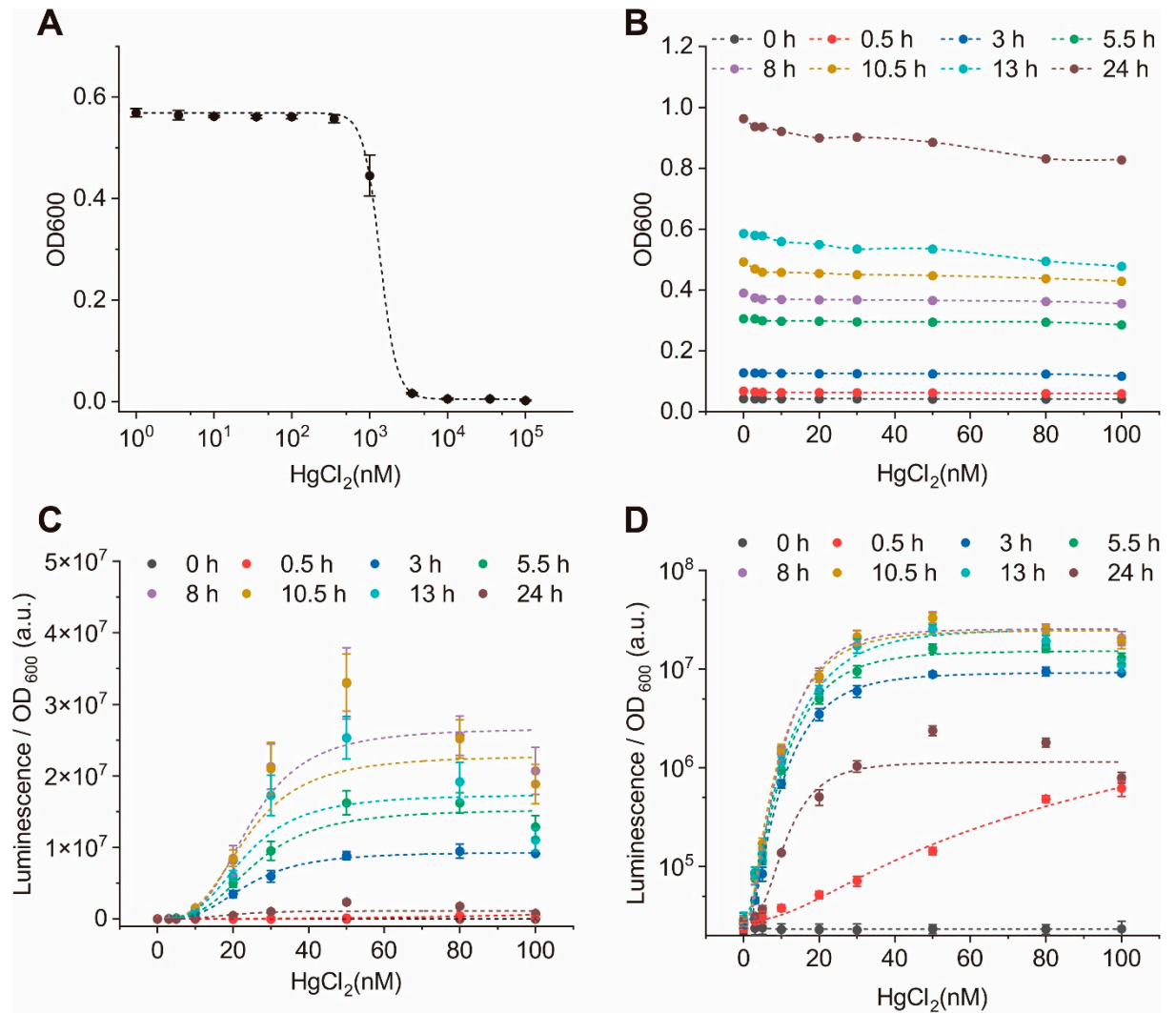


Fig.S4 Mercury ion concentration affects bacterial growth and luminescence intensity. (A) Toxicity of mercury ions (0-100 μ M) to *Escherichia coli*. (B) Toxicity of mercury ions (0-100 nM) to *E. coli* containing the pMPmerL plasmid at different times. (C) Mercury ions (0-100 nM) induced luminescence in *E. coli* containing the pMPmerL plasmid (linear coordinates). (D) Mercury ions (0-100 nM) induced luminescence in *E. coli* containing the pMPmerL plasmid (logarithmic coordinates).

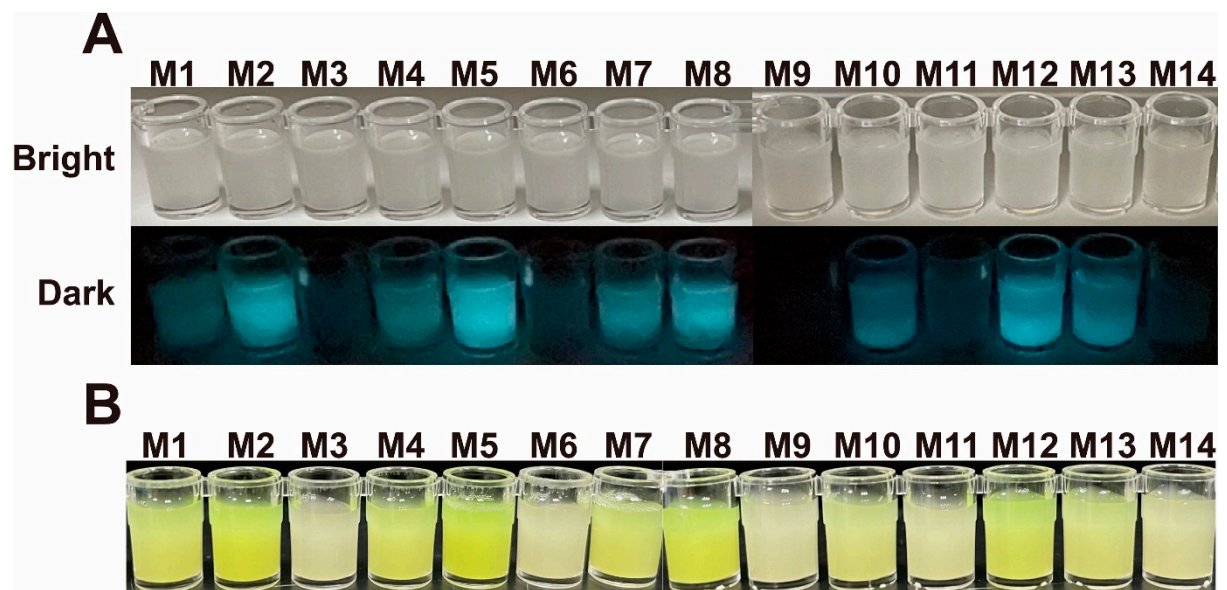


Fig.S5 Visualization of derivative expression activity. (A) Visualization of the difference in luminescence levels between the derivatives M1-M14 of the pMPmerL plasmid. (B) Visualization of the difference in fluorescence levels between the derivatives M1-M14 of the pMPmerS plasmid.

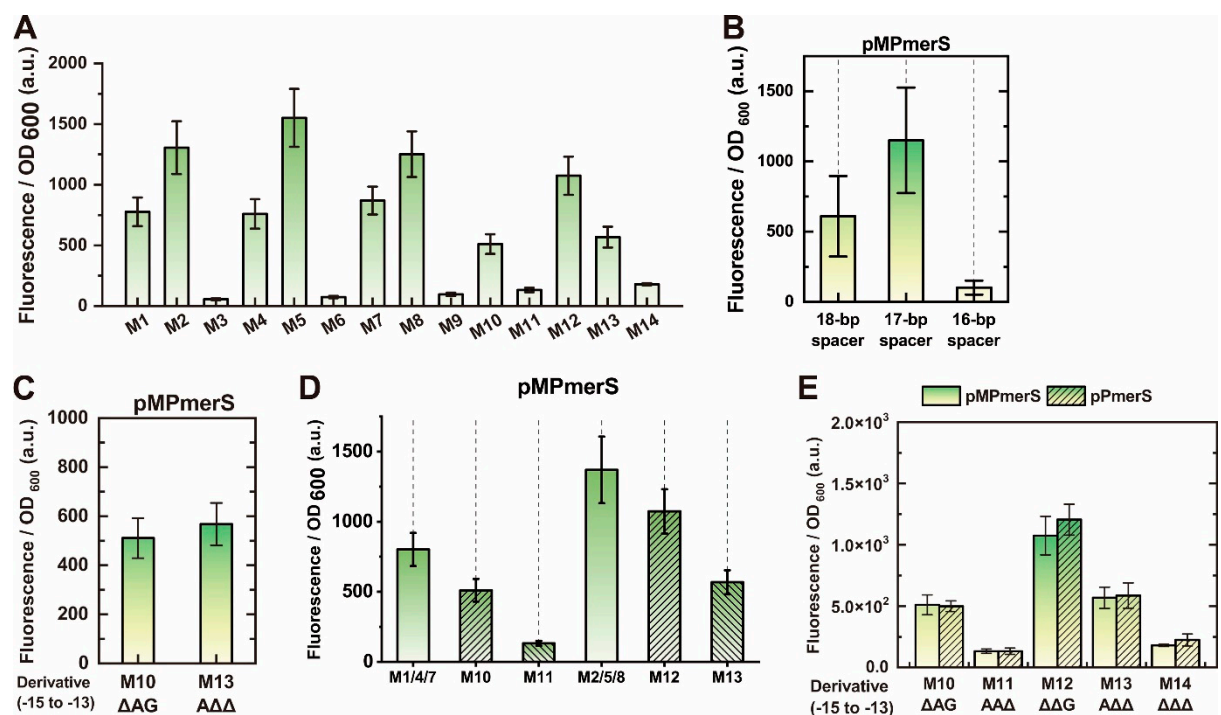


Fig.S6 Expression activity of *mer* promoter derivatives. (A) Fluorescent gene expression levels from derivatives M1 to M14 of the pMPmerL plasmid. (B) Comparison of fluorescence intensity from derivatives with different length spacers. (C) Similarity of promoter activity between derivative M10 and derivative M13. (D) Comparison of fluorescence intensity of derivatives grouped by position or number of deleted base pairs. (E) Comparison of fluorescence intensity of *P_{mer}* derivatives M10 to M14 in the presence and absence of MerR.

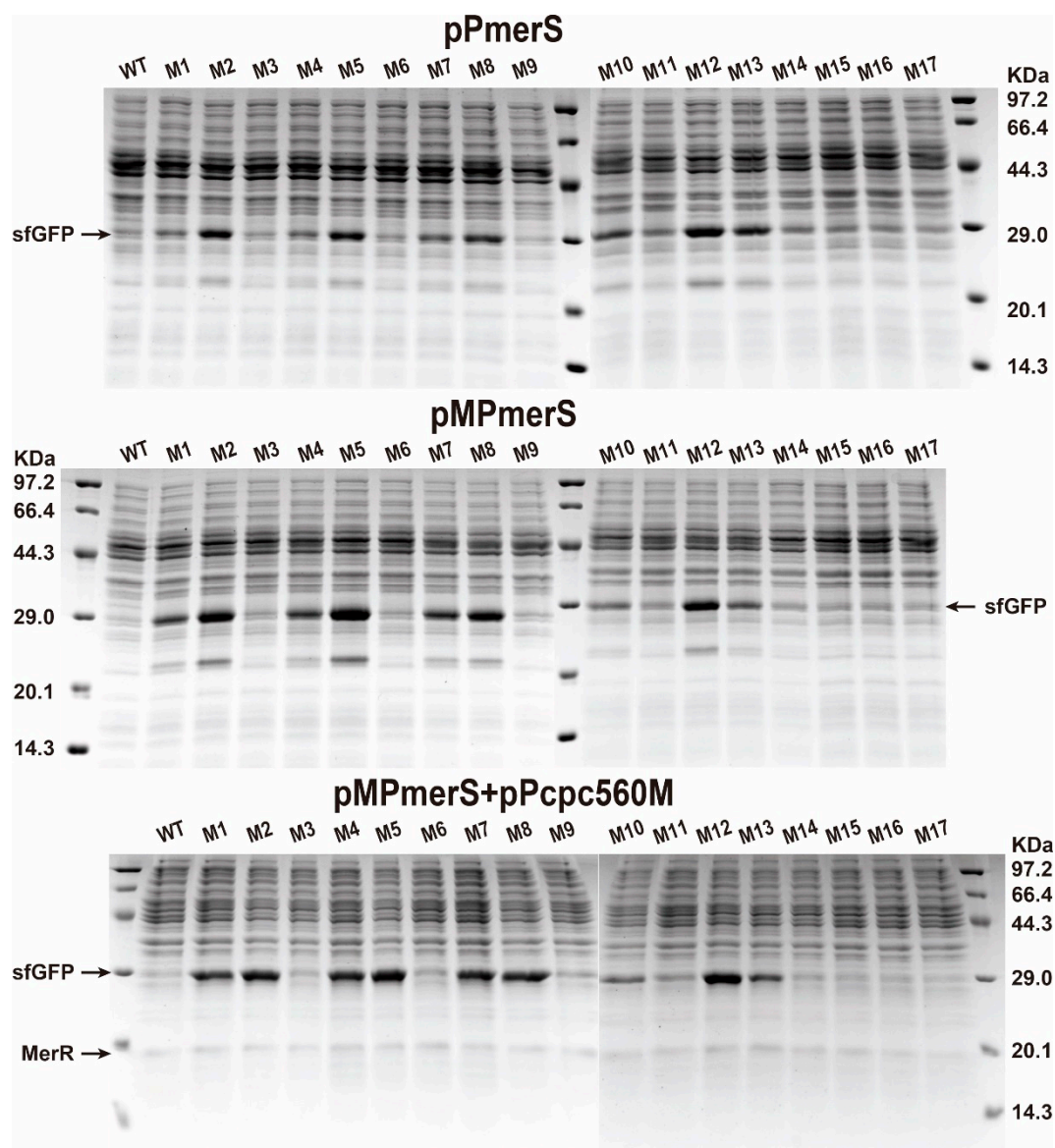


Fig.S7 The sfGFP expression levels from derivatives M1-M17 without mercury in three different systems (pPmerS, pMPmerS and pMPmerS+pPcpc560M).

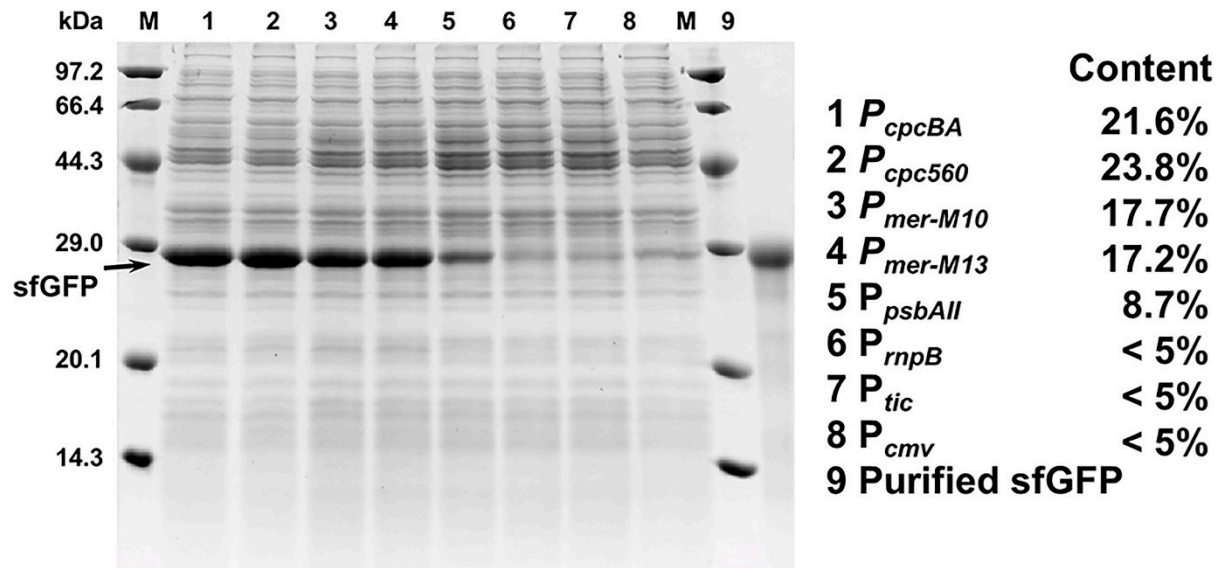


Fig.S8 Expression levels of sfGFP in *E. coli* from different promoters analyzed with Image Lab™ (Bio-Rad). Lanes 1 to 8 are promoters P_{cpcBA} (*cpcBA* promoter of *Synechocystis* sp. 6803, strong) [76], P_{cpc560} (*cpc560* promoter of *Synechocystis* sp. 6803, strong) [63], $P_{mer-M10}$ (*merT* promoter mutant M10 of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, strong), $P_{mer-M13}$ (*merT* promoter mutant M13 of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, strong), P_{psbAII} (*psbAII* promoter of *Synechocystis* sp. 6803) [64], P_{rnpB} (*rnpB* promoter of *Synechocystis* sp. 6803) [65], P_{tic} (*tic* promoter of *Synechocystis* sp. 6803) [66] and P_{cmv} (*cmv* promoter of Human betaherpesvirus) [67].

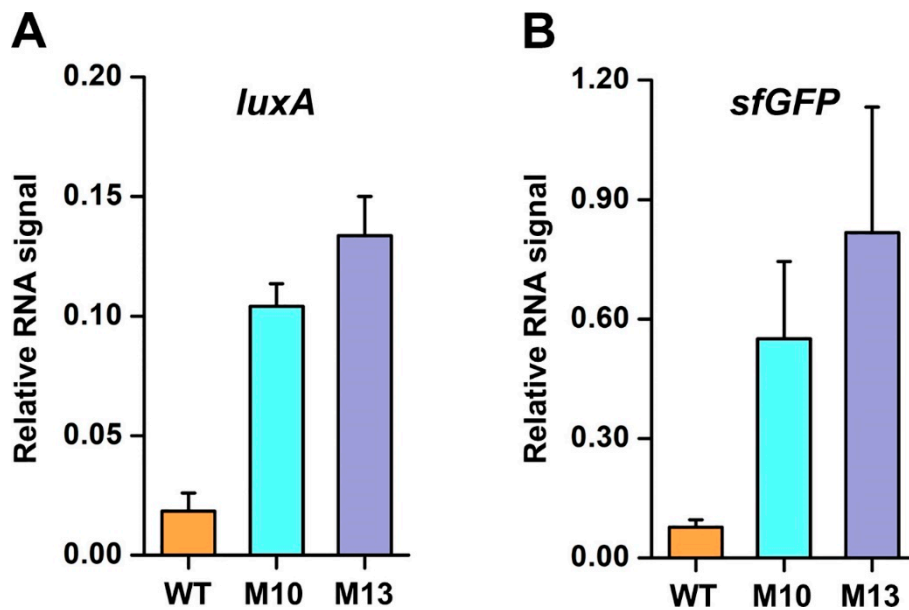


Fig.S9 Transcript levels of gene (*luxA* or *sfGFP*) downstream of the *mer* promoter (WT, derivatives M10 or M13) (A) RT-PCR assays for *luxA* gene. (B) RT-PCR assays for *sfGFP* gene. The control group was S16 rRNA. Transcript levels of the wild-type *mer* promoter are shown in orange, mutant M10 in cyan, and mutant M10 in slateblue.

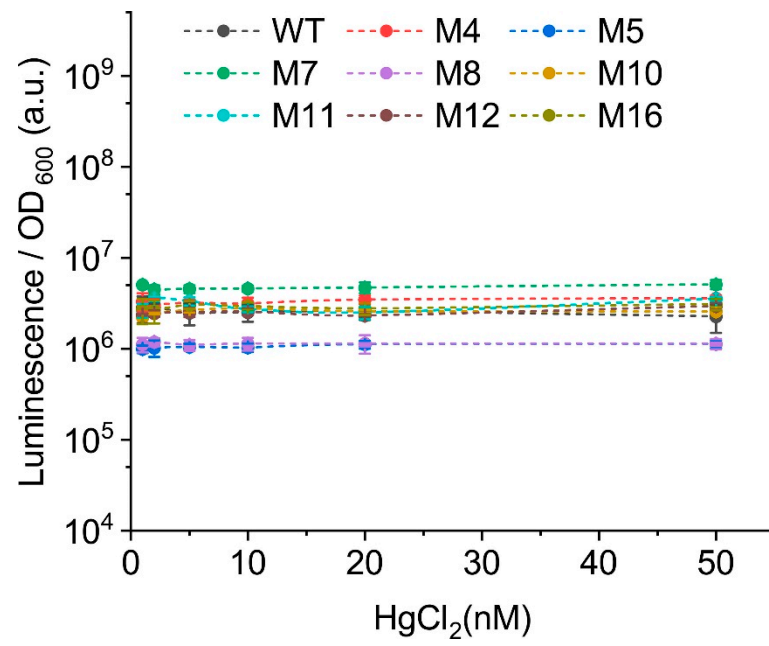


Fig.S12 Expression levels of the *merR* gene from wild type and different derivatives.

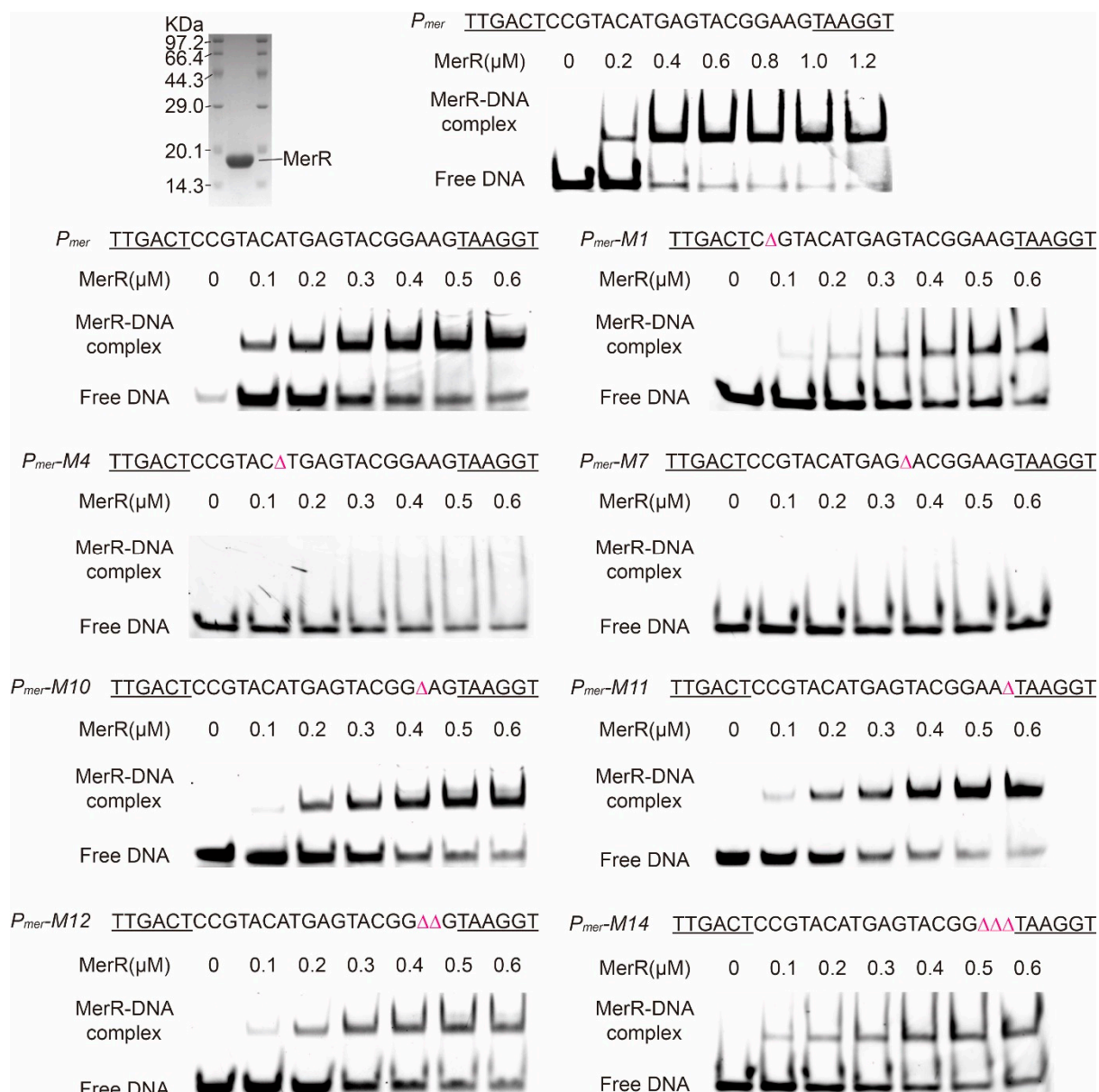


Fig.S13 MerR binding to promoter DNA of wild type and derivatives. Non-activated B-form is red, activated distortion-form is green. The promoter DNA fragments contain -35 to -10 elements and their spacer length ranges from 16-19 bp. 30 nM for DNA and 0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600 nM for MerR were used in the final EMSA experiment.

BmrR	ATCCGTTGACT CTCCC CTAG GAGGAG GTCTTACAGTATAAG
CadR	GTGGCTTGACC CTATAG TGG CTACAG GGTGTTCACTTGGCA
CueR	ATTTCTTGACC TTCCC CTTGCT GGAAG GTTTAACCTTTATC
EcmrR	TGCCTTTGACC CTCCC CTA AGGGGAG GGTTTAGATTATCAG
MerR	ATCGCTTGACT CCGTAC ATGAG TACGGA AGTAAGGTTACGC
MtaN	GGGGATTGACC CTAAC GTTG CGTGA TTGTTTACGATAAAAA
PbrR	ATGTCTTGACT CTATAG TA ACTAGAG GGTGTTAAATCGGCA

Fig.S14 Sequence alignment of promoters with 19 bp spacer between -10 and -35 elements regulated by MerR family TFs. The -35 and -10 elements are marked with a double underline. Symmetrical sequences are shown in bold. BmrR (*Bacillus subtilis*, P_{bmr} , CP121266.1), CadR (*Pseudomonas putida*, P_{cad} , CP097525.1), CueR (*Escherichia coli*, P_{cue} , CP104618.1), EcmrR (*Escherichia coli*, P_{ecmr}) [43], MerR (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, P_{mer} , CP127126.1), MtaN (*Bacillus subtilis*, P_{mta} , CP127278.1), PbrR (*Cupriavidus metallidurans*, P_{pbr} , CP046332.1).

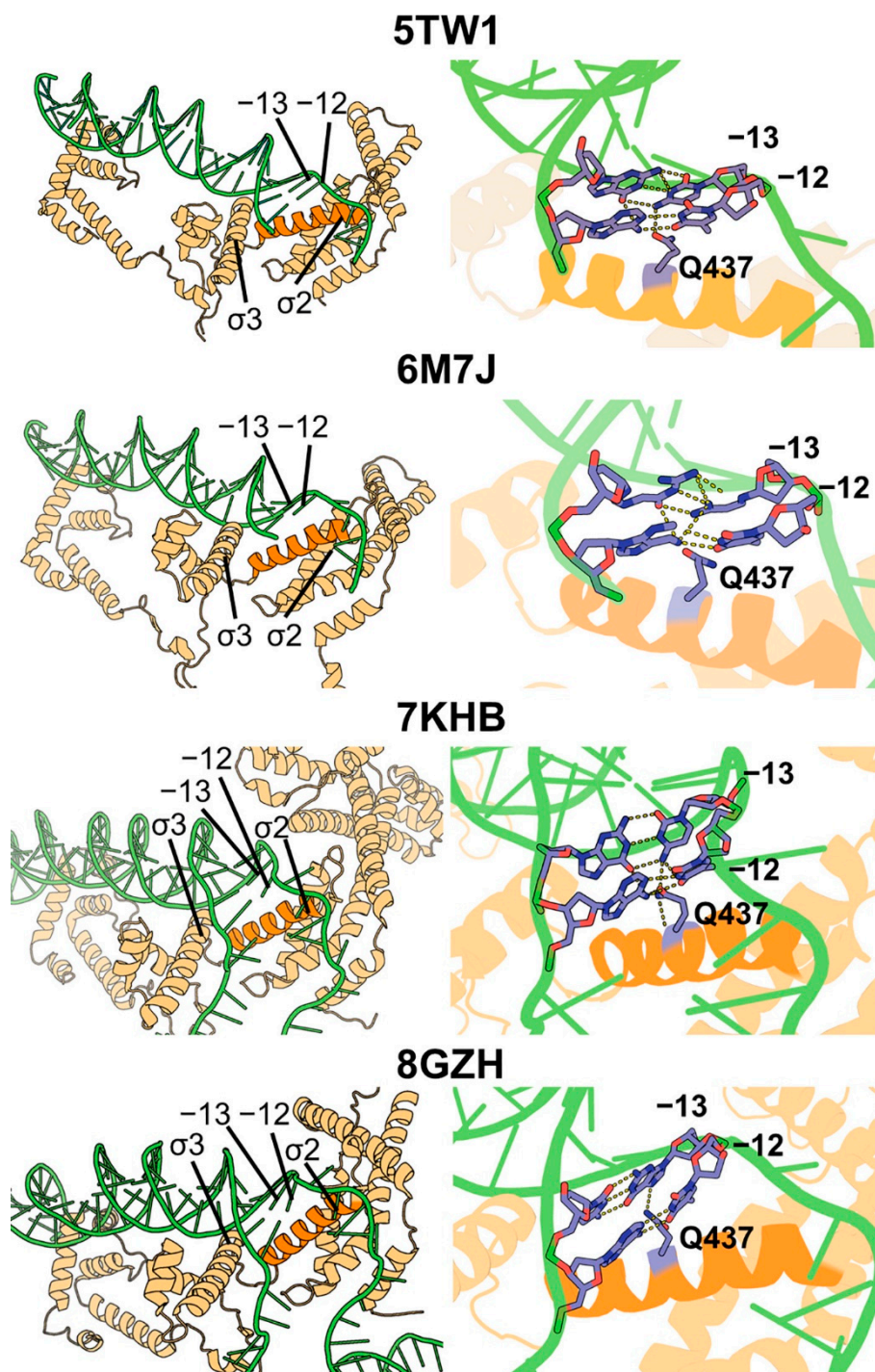


Fig.S15 Contact of region 2 (σ_2) in sigma factor 70 (σ_{70}) with promoter positions -13 and -12 in various RNAP holoenzyme complex crystals. The promoter DNA is green, the sigma factor is yellow and the σ_2 is orange. The base pairs at positions -12 and -13 in the promoter and the

glutamine at position 437 (Q437) in $\sigma 2$ are marked in purple. The yellow dotted lines show their interactions (hydrogen bonding). 5TW1 (PDB No.) is *Mtb* AP3 promoter from *Mycobacterium smegmatis* MC2 155 [72]. 6M7J (PDB No.) is *rrnA* P3 promoter and RNA polymerase from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* [73]. 7KHB (PDB No.) is *rrnBP1* promoter and RNA polymerase from *Escherichia coli* K-12 [74]. 8GZH (PDB No.) is from *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803.

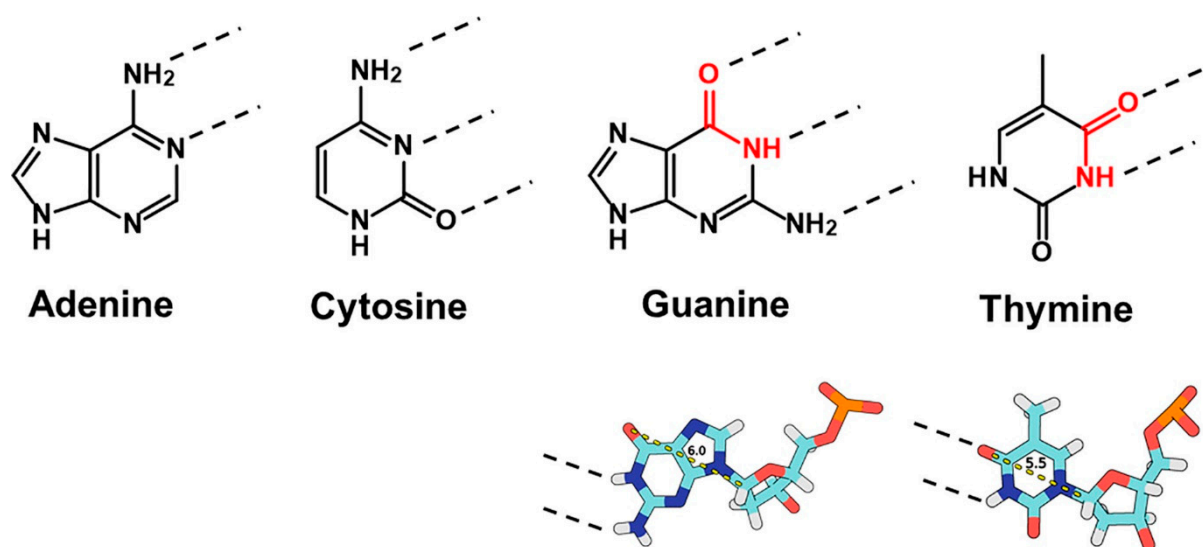


Fig.S16 Schematic structures of the four bases and common functional groups of guanine and thymine. Secondary amides, which form hydrogen bonds in guanine and thymine, are labelled in red.

Supporting Tables

Table S1 Promoter sequences.

Promoter	NCBI Genbank accession number	Sequences
<i>P_{mer}</i>	CP104985.1	ATCGCTTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTTACGCTATCC AATTTC AATTCGAAAGGACAAGCGC
<i>P_{cpcBA}</i>	CP073017.1	GTTATAAAATAAACTTAACAAATCTATACCCACCTGTAGAGAAGAG TCCCTGAATATCAAAATGGTGGGATAAAAAGCTCAAAAAGGAAAG TAGGCTGTGGTTCCCTAGGCAACAGTCTTCCCTACCCCACTGGAAA CTAAAAAACGAGAAAAGTTTCGCACCGAACATCAATTGCATAATTT TAGCCCTAAAACATAAGCTGAACGAAACTGGTTGTCTTCCCTTCCC AATCCAGGACAATCTGAGAATCCCCTGCAACATTACTTAACAAAAA AGCAGGAATAAAATTAACAAGATGTAACAGACATAAGTCCCATCAC CGTTGTATAAAGTTAACTGTGGGATTGCAAAAGCATTCAAGCCTAG GCGCTGAGCTGTTTGAGCATCCCGGTGGCCCTTGTCGCTGCCTCCG TGTTTCTCCCTGGATTTATTTAGGTAATATCTCTCATAAATCCCCGGG TAGTTAACGAAAGTTAATGGAGATCAGTAACAATAACTCTAGGGTC ATTACTTTGGACTCCCTCAGTTTATCCGGGGGAATTGTGTTTAAGAA AATCCCAACTCATAAAGTCAAGTAGGAGATTAATTCA
<i>P_{cpc560}</i>	CP073017.1	ACCTGTAGAGAAGAGTCCCTGAATATCAAAATGGTGGGATAAAAA GCTCAAAAAGGAAAGTAGGCTGTGGTTCCCTAGGCAACAGTCTTC CCTACCCCACTGGAAACTAAAAAACGAGAAAAGTTTCGCACCGAA CATCAATTGCATAATTTTAGCCCTAAAACATAAGCTGAACGAACT GGTTGTCTTCCCTTCCCAATCCAGGACAATCTGAGAATCCCCTGCA ACATTACTTAACAAAAAAGCAGGAATAAAATTAACAAGATGTAACA GACATAAGTCCCATCACCGTTGTATAAAGTTAACTGTGGGATTGCA AAAGCATTCAAGCCTAGGCGCTGAGCTGTTTGAGCATCCCGGTGGC CCTTGTCGCTGCCTCCGTGTTTCTCCCTGGATTTATTTAGGTAATATC TCTCATAAATCCCCGGGTAGTTAACGAAAGTTAATGGAGATCAGTA ACAATAACTCTAGGGTCATTACTTTGGACTCCCTCAGTTTATCCGGG GGAATTGTGTTTAAGAAAATCCCAACTCATAAAGTCAAGTAGGAGA TTAATTCA
<i>P_{psbAII}</i>	CP073017.1	CTTTAGCGTTCCAGTGGATATTTGCTGGGGGTAAATGAAACATTGTG GCGGAACCCAGGGACAATGTGACCAAAAAAATTCAGGGATATCAAT AAGTATTAGGTATATGGATCATAATTGTATGCCCGACTATTGCTTAAA CTGACTGACCACTGACCTTAAGAGTAATGGCGTGCAAGGCCCACT GATCAATTTTCATTATTTTCATTATTTTCATCTCCATTGTCCCTGAAAAT CAGTTGTGTCGCCCCCTCTACACAGCCCAGAAGTATGGTAAAGGCGC ACGAAAAACCGCCAGGTAACTCTTCTCAACCCCCAAAACGCCCT CTGTTTACCCATGGAAAAAACGACAATTACAAGAAAGTAAACTTA TGTCATCTATAAGCTTCGTGTATATTAACCTTCTGTTACAAAGCTTTA CAAACTCTCATTAATCCTTTAGACTAAGTTTAGTCAGTTCCAATCT

		GAACATCGACAAATACATCATAAGGAATTAT
<i>P_{rnpB}</i>	CP073017.1	TTCAATGCGGTCCAATACCTCCCCTGCCCAACTGGGTAAGCTCGCG GCTCCACTGAGTAATACAGACAAGGCTAAACAGGCAAATTTTTTCA TTGGTCAACTCCTAGCACCAATTTCCCAAGACTACGGAGGGGGCA ATGAAGTTTCAATTAATTGGGGTCACAAACCACAGCGGCCTATGGC TCTAATCAATGGCACACTAGAAAAATAGTGGAGGT
<i>P_{tic}</i>	KM984770.1	TTGACAATTAATCATCGCGGCTCGTATAATGTGTGGTCACACAGGA AACAGAAT
<i>P_{cmv}</i>	KU550088.1	CGTTACATAACTTACGGTAAATGGCCCGCCTGGCTGACCGCCCAAC GACCCCGCCCATGACGTCAATAATGACGTATGTTCCCATAGTAAC GCCAATAGGGACTTTCCATTGACGTCAATGGGTGGAGTATTTACGG TAAACTGCCCCTTGGCAGTACATCAAGTGTATCATATGCCAAGTAC GCCCCCTATTGACGTCAATGACGGTAAATGGCCCGCCTGGCATTATG CCCAGTACATGACCTTATGGGACTTTTCTACTTGGCAGTACATCTAC GTATTAGTCATCGCTATTACCATGGTGATGCGGTTTTGGCAGTACAT CAATGGGCGTGGATAGCGGTTTGACTCACGGGGATTTCCAAGTCTC CACCCCATGACGTCAATGGGAGTTTGTGTTTGGCACCAAAATCAAC GGGACTTTCCAAAATGTCGTAACAACCTCCGCCCCATTGACGCAAAT GGGCGGTAGGCGTGTACGGTGGGAGGTCTATATAAGCAGAGCT

Table S2 Primers for the template plasmid construction.

Name	Sequences
<i>merR</i> F	GATCTCTAGACTACGGCATAGCAGAACCAGC
<i>P_{mer}-luxAB</i> R	ATGTAAGCAAAAAGTTTCCAAATTTTCATGCGCTTGTCTTTTCGAAT
<i>P_{mer}-luxAB</i> F	ATTGCAAAGGACAAGCGCATGAAATTTGGAACTTTTTGCTTACAT
<i>luxAB</i> R	GTACGAATTCTTAGGTATATTCCATGTGGTACTTCTT
<i>P_{mer}-sfGFP</i> R	AGTTCTTCGCCTTTGCTCATGCGCTTGTCTTTTCGAAT
<i>P_{mer}-sfGFP</i> F	ATTGCAAAGGACAAGCGCATGAGCAAAGGCGAAGAAGT
<i>sfGFP</i> R	GTACGAATTCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATG
<i>P_{mer}</i> F	GATCTCTAGAATCGCTTGACTCCGTACATG
<i>luxAB</i> F	GATCTCTAGATTAGGTATATTCCATGTGGTACTTCTTAATATTATCA
<i>luxAB-P_{mer}</i> R	GTCAAGCGATATGAAATTTGGAACTTTTTGCTTACATACC
<i>luxAB-P_{mer}</i> F	CAAAAAGTTTCCAAATTTTCATATCGCTTGACTCCGTACATG
<i>P_{cpc560}</i> F	GTACGAGCTCACCTGTAGAGAAGAGTCCCTGA
<i>P_{cpc560-merR}</i> R	GTAGGAGATTAATTCAATGGAAAATAACCTGGAAAACCTGAC
<i>P_{cpc560-merR}</i> F	CCAGGTTATTTTCCATTGAATTAATCTCCTACTTGACTTTATGAGTTGG
<i>merR</i> R	GATCCTCGAGCTACGGCATAGCAGAACCAGC
<i>P_{cpcBA-sfGFP}</i> F	GATCTCTAGAGTTATAAAATAAACTTAACAAATCTATACCCACCTGT
<i>P_{cpc560-sfGFP}</i> F	GATCTCTAGAACCTGTAGAGAAGAGTCCCTG
<i>P_{psbAII-sfGFP}</i> F	GATCTCTAGACTTTAGCGTTCCAGTGGATATTTGC
<i>P_{tic-sfGFP}</i> F	GATCTCTAGATTGACAATTAATCATCGCGGCTC
<i>P_{cmv-sfGFP}</i> F	GATCTCTAGACGTTACATAACTTACGGTAAATGGCC

Table S3 Mutagenic primers for the *mer* promoter.

Name	Sequences
Del -31/-30 F	AGGTTATTTTCCATATCGCTTGACTCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTTACG
Del -31/-30 R	CGTAACCTTACTTCCGTACTCATGTACGAGTCAAGCGATATGGAAAATAACCT
Del -30to-29 F	AGGTTATTTTCCATATCGCTTGACTCTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTTACG
Del -30to-29 R	CGTAACCTTACTTCCGTACTCATGTAGAGTCAAGCGATATGGAAAATAACCT
Del -30to-28 F	AGGTTATTTTCCATATCGCTTGACTCACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTTACG
Del -30to-28 R	CGTAACCTTACTTCCGTACTCATGTGAGTCAAGCGATATGGAAAATAACCT
Del -25 F	ATCGCTTGACTCCGTACTGAGTACGGAAGTAAGG
Del -25 R	CCTTACTTCCGTACTCAGTACGGAGTCAAGCGAT
Del -25to-24 F	TCGCTTGACTCCGTACGAGTACGGAAGTAAGG
Del -25to-24 R	CCTTACTTCCGTACTCGTACGGAGTCAAGCGA
Del -25to-23 F	ATCGCTTGACTCCGTACAGTACGGAAGTAAGGTT
Del -25to-23 R	AACCTTACTTCCGTACTGTACGGAGTCAAGCGAT
Del -20 F	TTGACTCCGTACATGAGACGGAAGTAAGGTTACG
Del -20 R	CGTAACCTTACTTCCGTCTCATGTACGGAGTCAA
Del -19to-20 F	TTGACTCCGTACATGAGCGGAAGTAAGGTTACGC
Del -19to-20 R	GCGTAACCTTACTTCCGCTCATGTACGGAGTCAA
Del -18to-20 F	TTGACTCCGTACATGAGGGAAGTAAGGTTACGCT
Del -18to-20 R	AGCGTAACCTTACTTCCCTCATGTACGGAGTCAA
Del -15/-14 F	GACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAGTAAGGTTACGCTATCCAATTTCA
Del -15/-14 R	TGAAATTGGATAGCGTAACCTTACTCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTC
Del -13 F	CCGTACATGAGTACGGAATAAGGTTACGCTATCCAA
Del -13 R	TTGGATAGCGTAACCTTATTCCGTACTCATGTACGG
Del -15to-14 F	TCCGTACATGAGTACGGGTAAGGTTACGCTATCC
Del -15to-14 R	GGATAGCGTAACCTTACCCGTACTCATGTACGGA
Del -13to-14 F	CCGTACATGAGTACGGATAAGGTTACGCTATCCA
Del -13to-14 R	TGGATAGCGTAACCTTATCCGTACTCATGTACGG
Del -13to-15 F	TCCGTACATGAGTACGGTAAGGTTACGCTATCCA
Del -13to-15 R	TGGATAGCGTAACCTTACCGTACTCATGTACGGA
G-13A F	CCGTACATGAGTACGGAATAAGGTTACGCTATCC
G-13A R	GGATAGCGTAACCTTATTTCCGTACTCATGTACGG
G-13T F	CCGTACATGAGTACGGAATTAAGGTTACGCTATCC
G-13T R	GGATAGCGTAACCTTAATTCCGTACTCATGTACGG
G-13C F	CCGTACATGAGTACGGAATAAGGTTACGCTATCC
G-13C R	GGATAGCGTAACCTTAGTTCCGTACTCATGTACGG

Table S4 DNA for the electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA).

Name	Sequences	Length
<i>P_{mer}</i> F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGT</u>	31 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> R	<u>ACCTTACTTCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	31 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M1 F	<u>TTGACTCGTACATGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGT</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M1 R	<u>ACCTTACTTCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M4 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACTGAGTACGGAAGTAAGGT</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M4 R	<u>ACCTTACTTCCGTACTCAGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M7 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGACGGAAGTAAGGT</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M7 R	<u>ACCTTACTTCCGTCTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M10 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAGTAAGGT</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M10 R	<u>ACCTTACTCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M11 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGAATAAGGT</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M11 R	<u>ACCTTATTCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	30 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M12 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGGTAAGGT</u>	29 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M12 R	<u>ACCTTACCCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	29 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M14 F	<u>TTGACTCCGTACATGAGTACGGTAAGGT</u>	28 bp
<i>P_{mer}</i> -M14 R	<u>ACCTTACCGTACTCATGTACGGAGTCAA</u>	28 bp

The –35 and –10 elements are marked with an underscore.

Table S5 Expression activity of *mer* promoter derivatives in the pMPmerS plasmid.

NO.	Promoter	Expression level (sfGFP) pMPmerS (Without Hg(II))
1	<i>P_{mer-M1}</i>	777
2	<i>P_{mer-M2}</i>	1306
3	<i>P_{mer-M3}</i>	56
4	<i>P_{mer-M4}</i>	759
5	<i>P_{mer-M5}</i>	1551
6	<i>P_{mer-M6}</i>	74
7	<i>P_{mer-M7}</i>	869
8	<i>P_{mer-M8}</i>	1251
9	<i>P_{mer-M9}</i>	96
10	<i>P_{mer-M10}</i>	511
11	<i>P_{mer-M11}</i>	132
12	<i>P_{mer-M12}</i>	1074
13	<i>P_{mer-M13}</i>	568
14	<i>P_{mer-M14}</i>	179

Table S6 Primers for Reverse-transcription PCR (RT-PCR) assay.

Name	Sequences
<i>16S rRNA</i> F	CGTGTATGAAGAAGGCCTTCG
<i>16S rRNA</i> R	CTGAGCGTCAGTCTTCGTCC
<i>sfGFP</i> F	CTGCTGCCGGACAATCACTA

<i>sfGFP</i> R	ATGCCATGAGTGATACCCGC
<i>luxA</i> F	GTGCCGAATACGCGAAAGTC
<i>luxA</i> R	CCCATCCAGTACGCCAACTT
