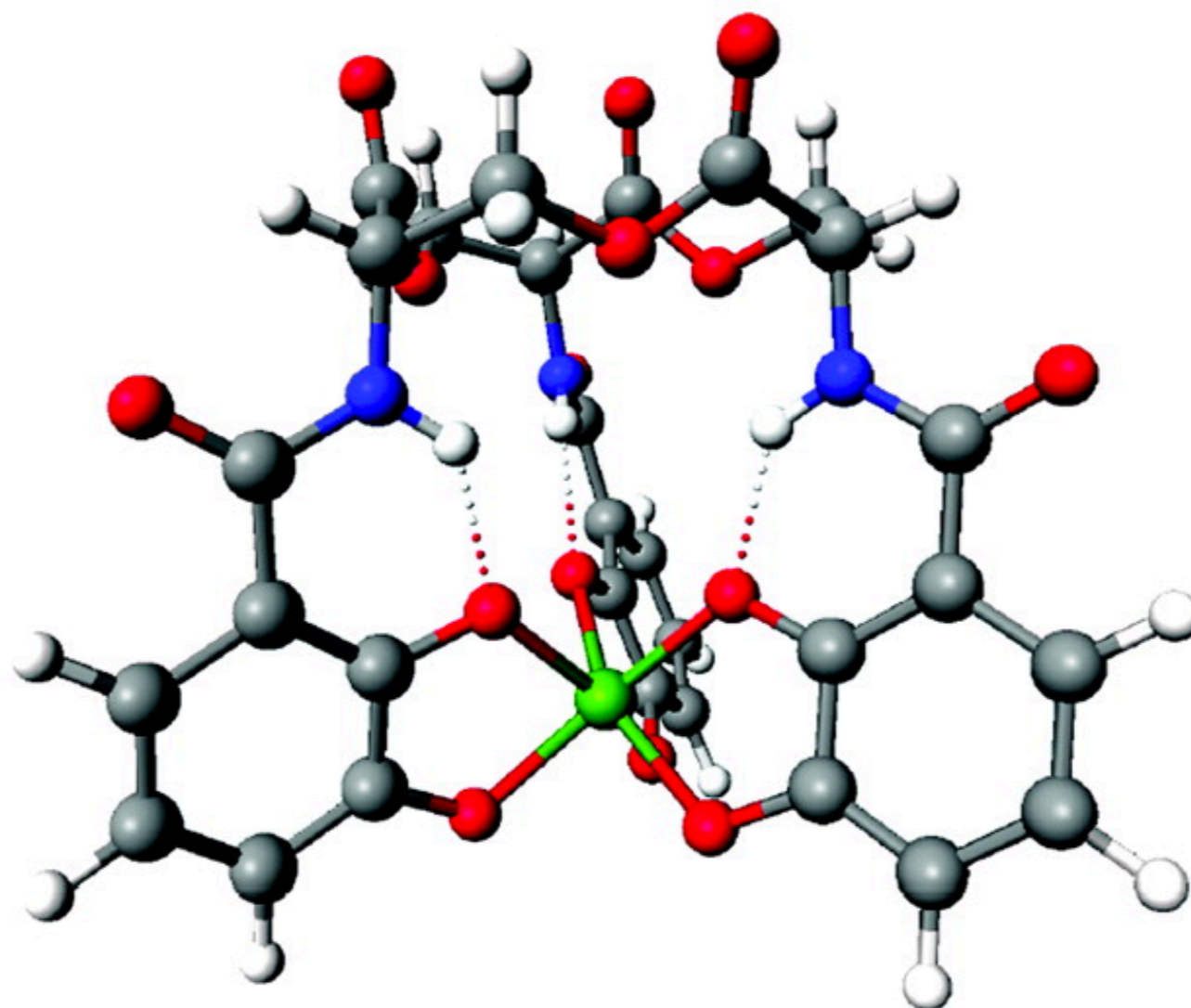


# *Siderophores: Ligands of Life*



Grant Edwards

*MacMillan Group Meeting*

November 09, 2021

# Outline

- I. What are siderophores?
  - a. Classification and Terminology
  - b. Common structural motifs
- II. Biological Functions of Siderophores
  - a. Bacteria
  - b. Fungi
  - c. Plants
- III. Utility of Siderophores
  - a. Trojan Horse Antibiotics
  - b. Metal Chelation Therapy
  - c. Drug Delivery Systems
  - d. Agriculture
- IV. Takeaways

What are siderophores?

# What are siderophores?

*sidirou foreas* is Greek for 'iron carrier'

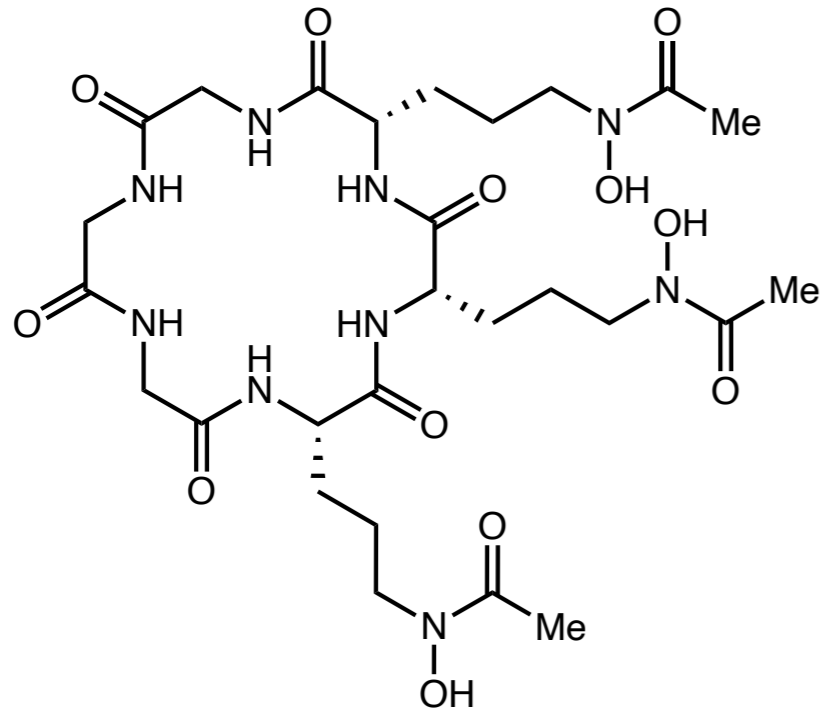
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*Iron-binding molecules come  
in many different flavors*

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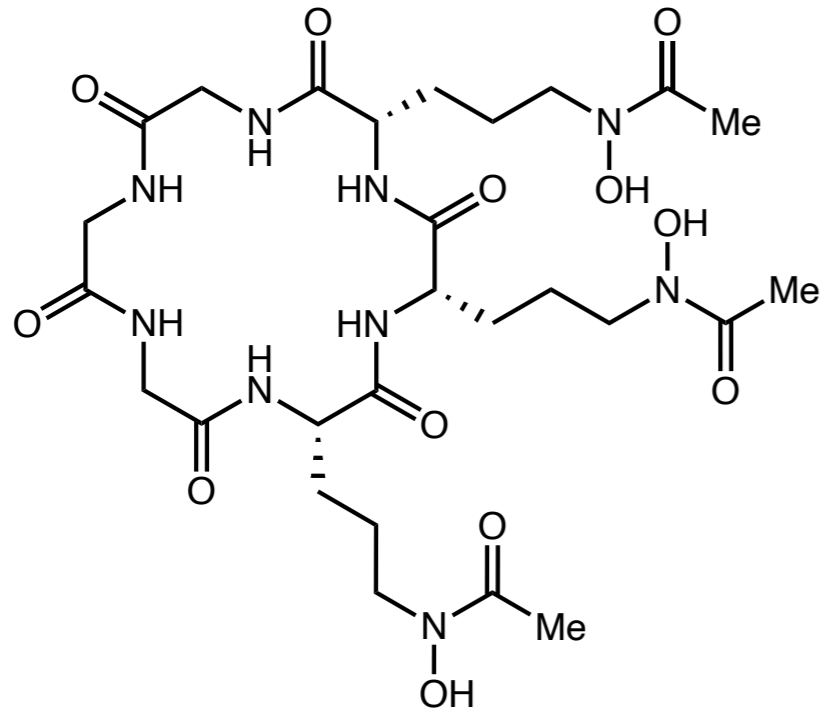


ferrichrome

*Iron-binding molecules come in many different flavors*

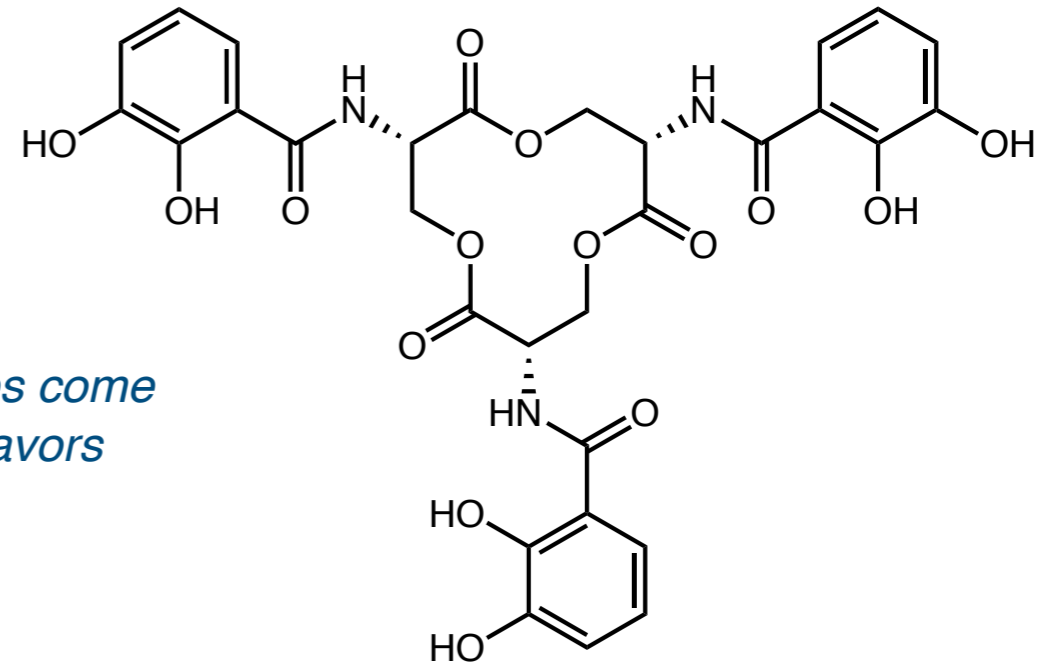
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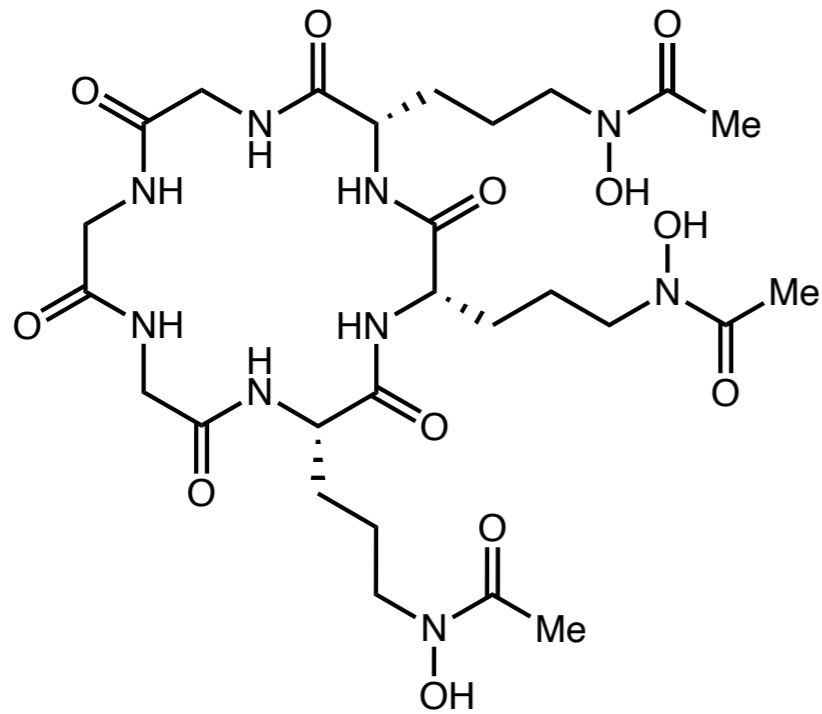
*Iron-binding molecules come in many different flavors*



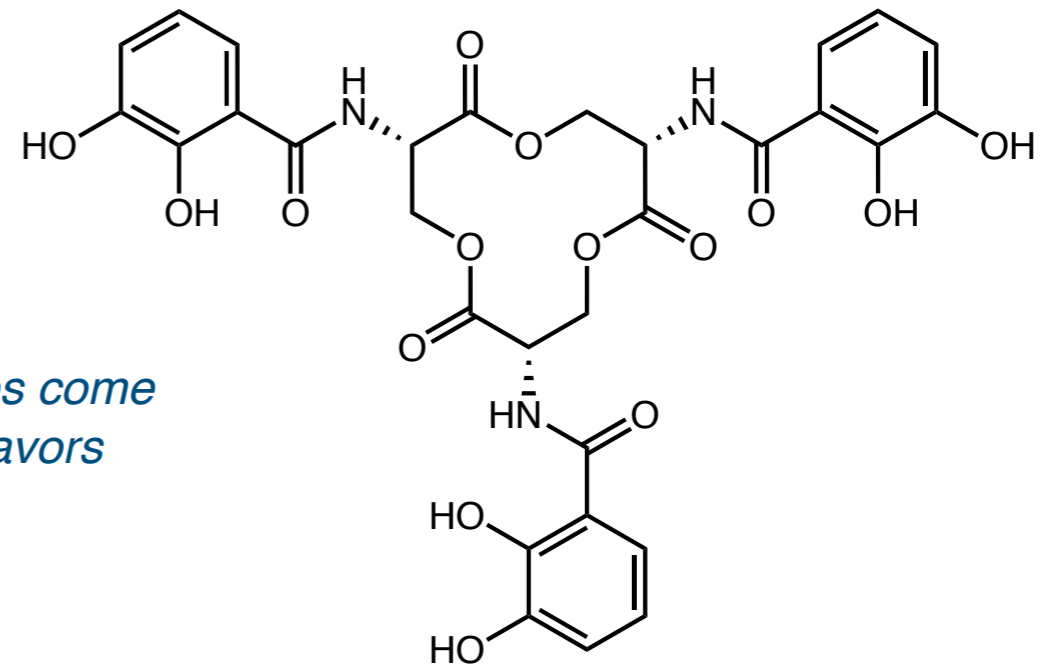
enterobactin

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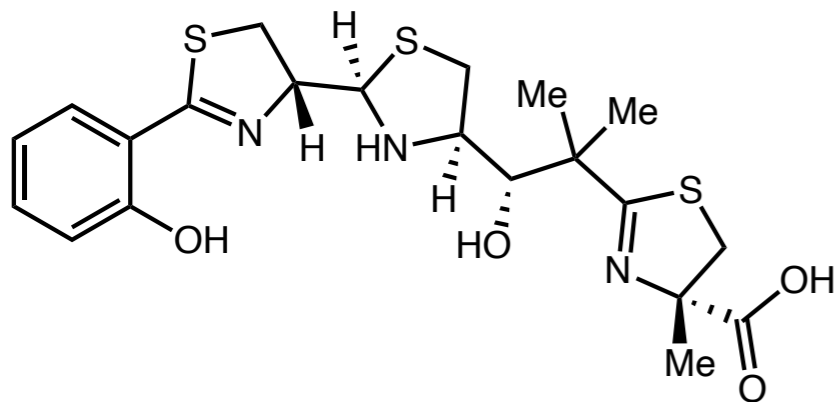


ferrichrome



enterobactin

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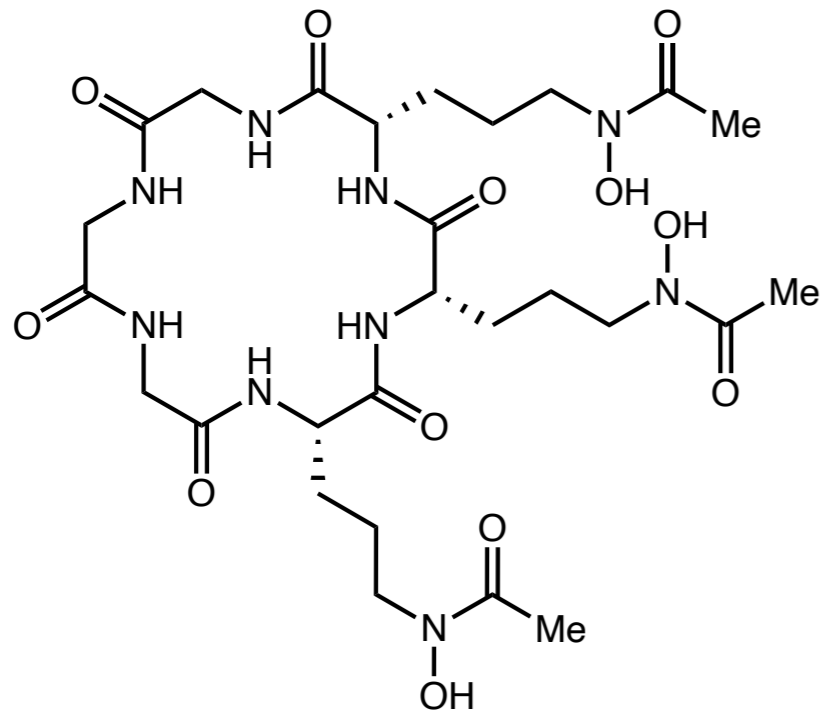


yersiniabactin



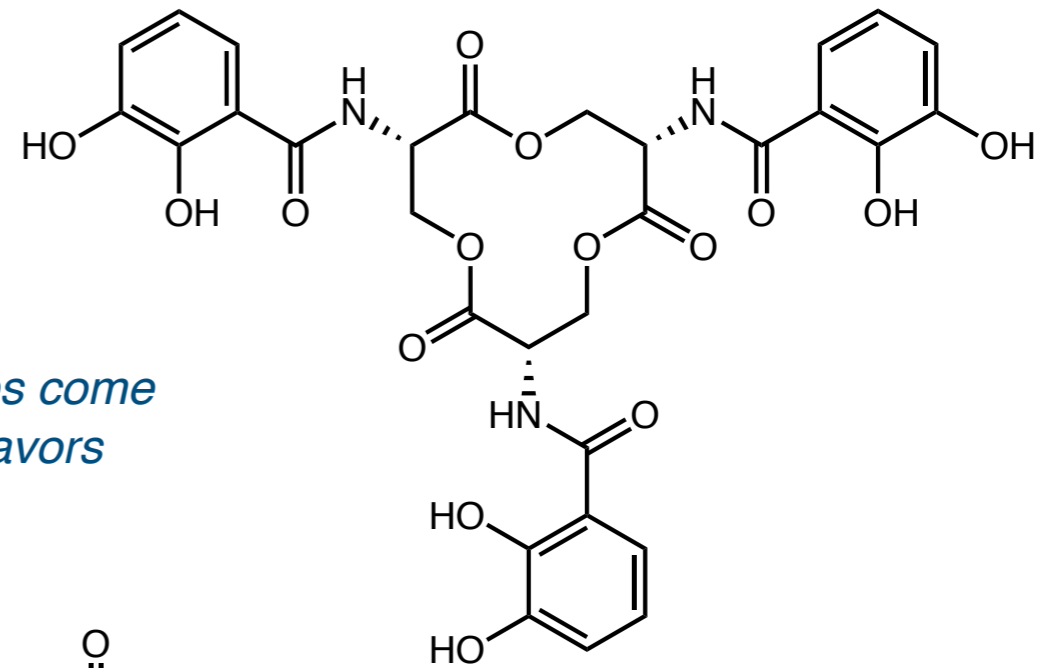
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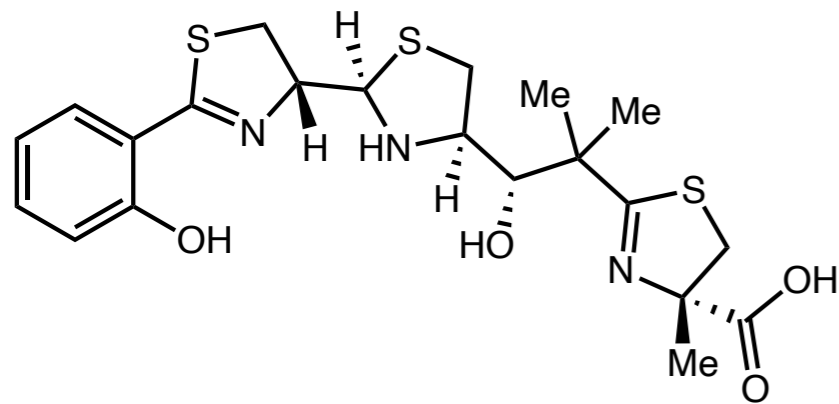


ferrichrome

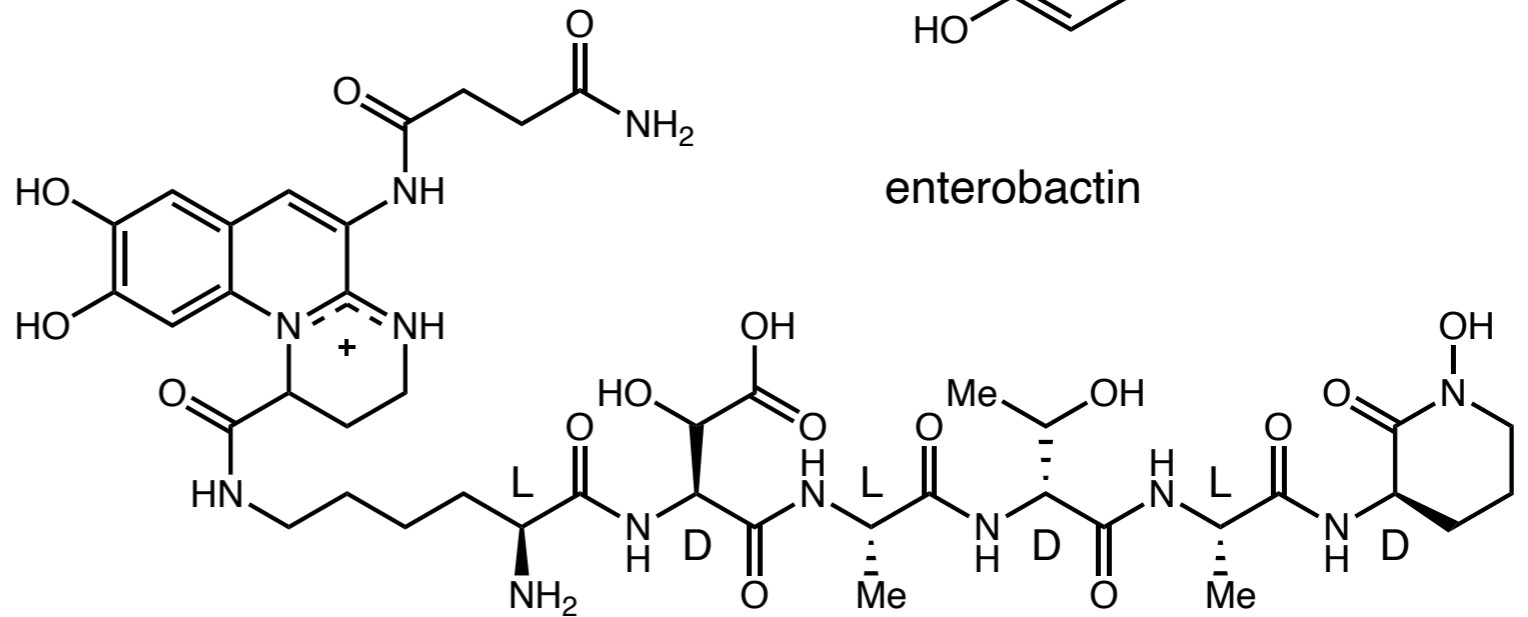
*Iron-binding molecules come in many different flavors*



enterobactin



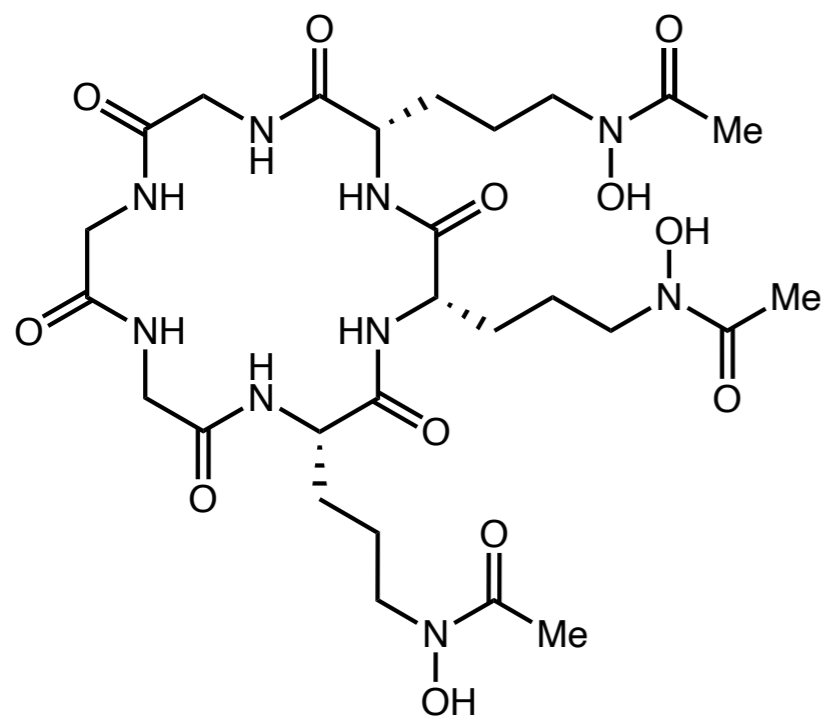
yersiniabactin



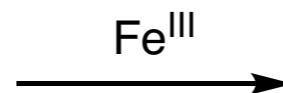
pyoverdine

# Siderophores 101

*High affinity ligands for Iron (III)*

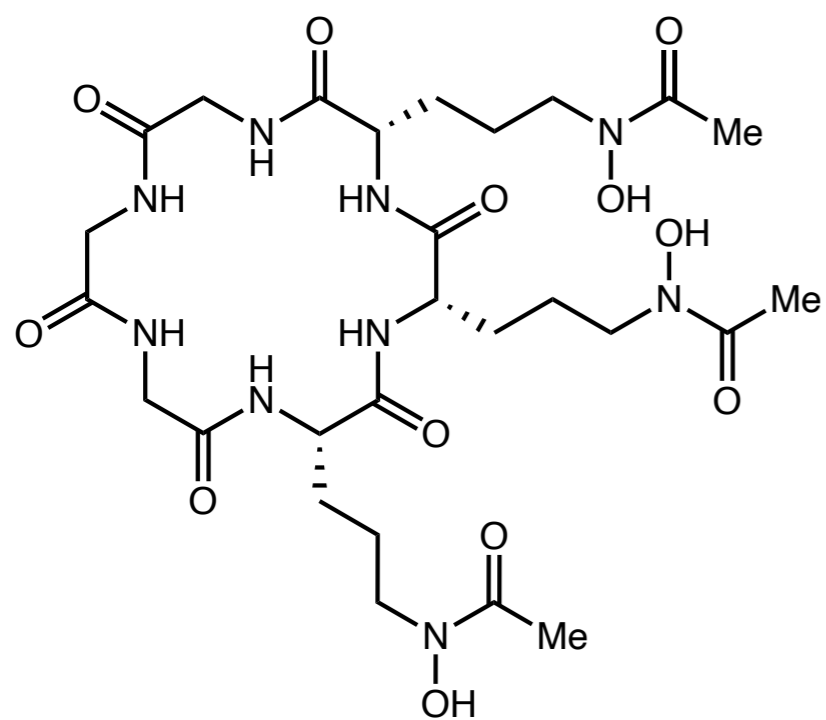


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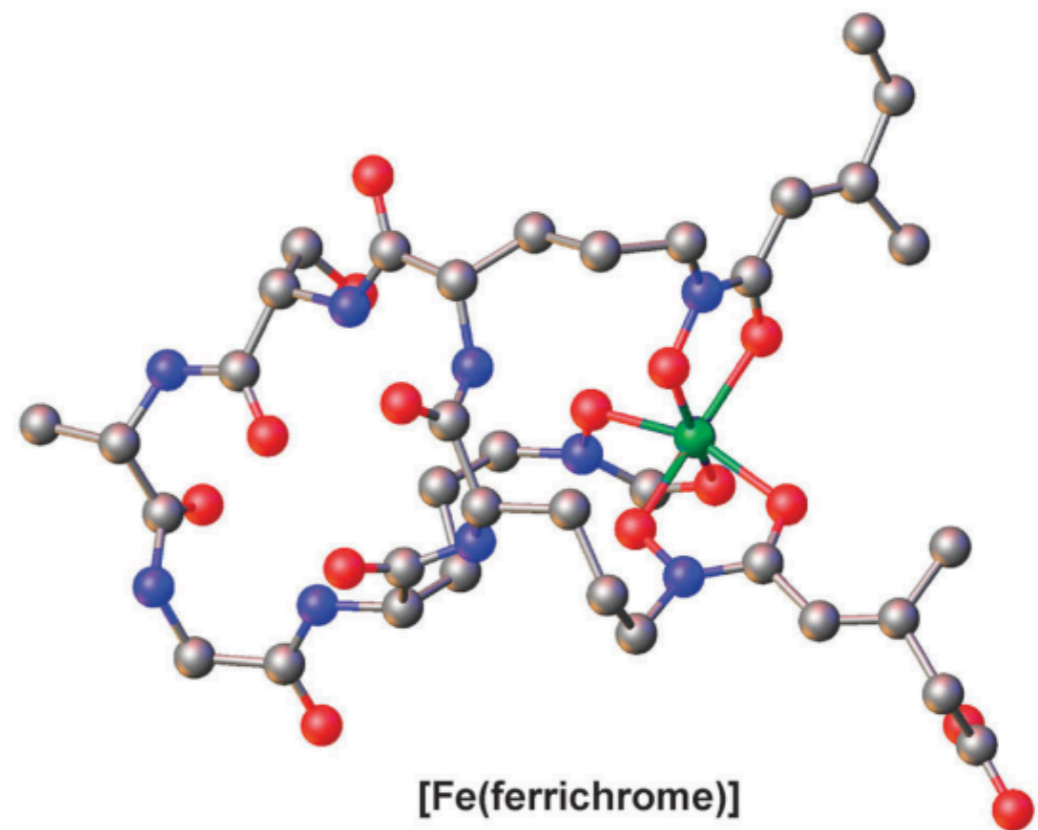
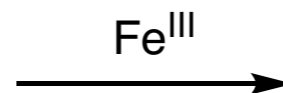


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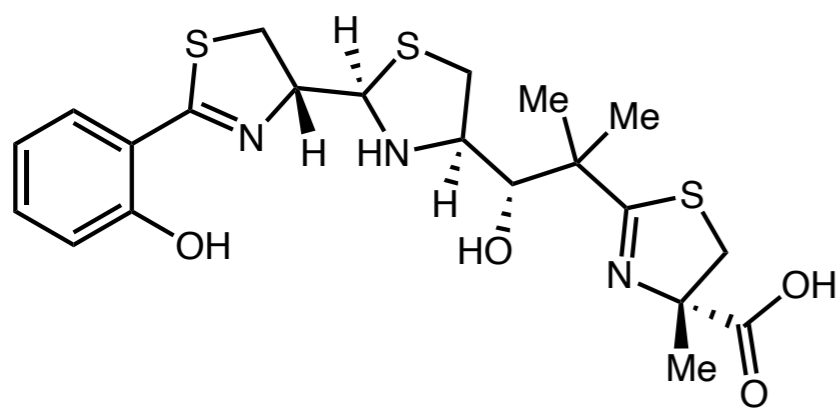
ferrichrome



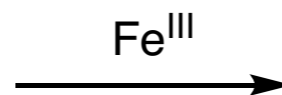
[Fe(ferrichrome)]

# Siderophores 101

*High affinity ligands for Iron (III)*

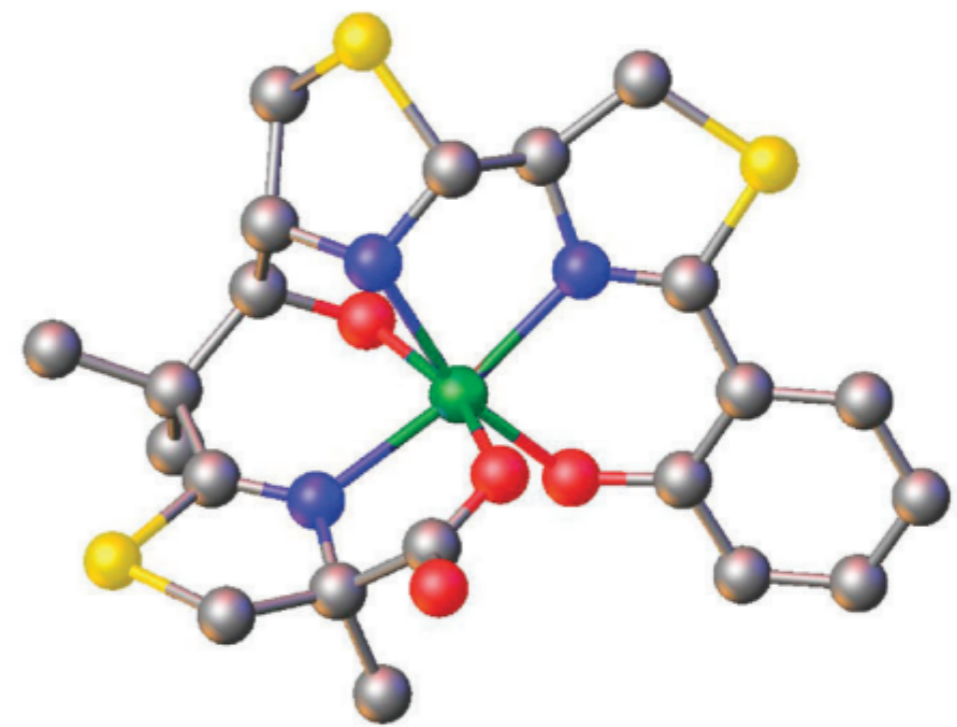
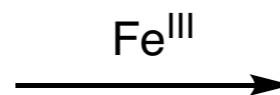
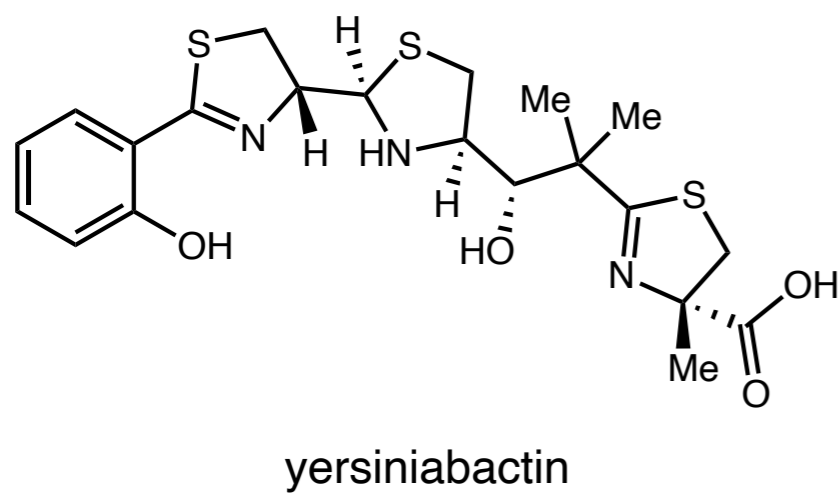


yersiniabactin



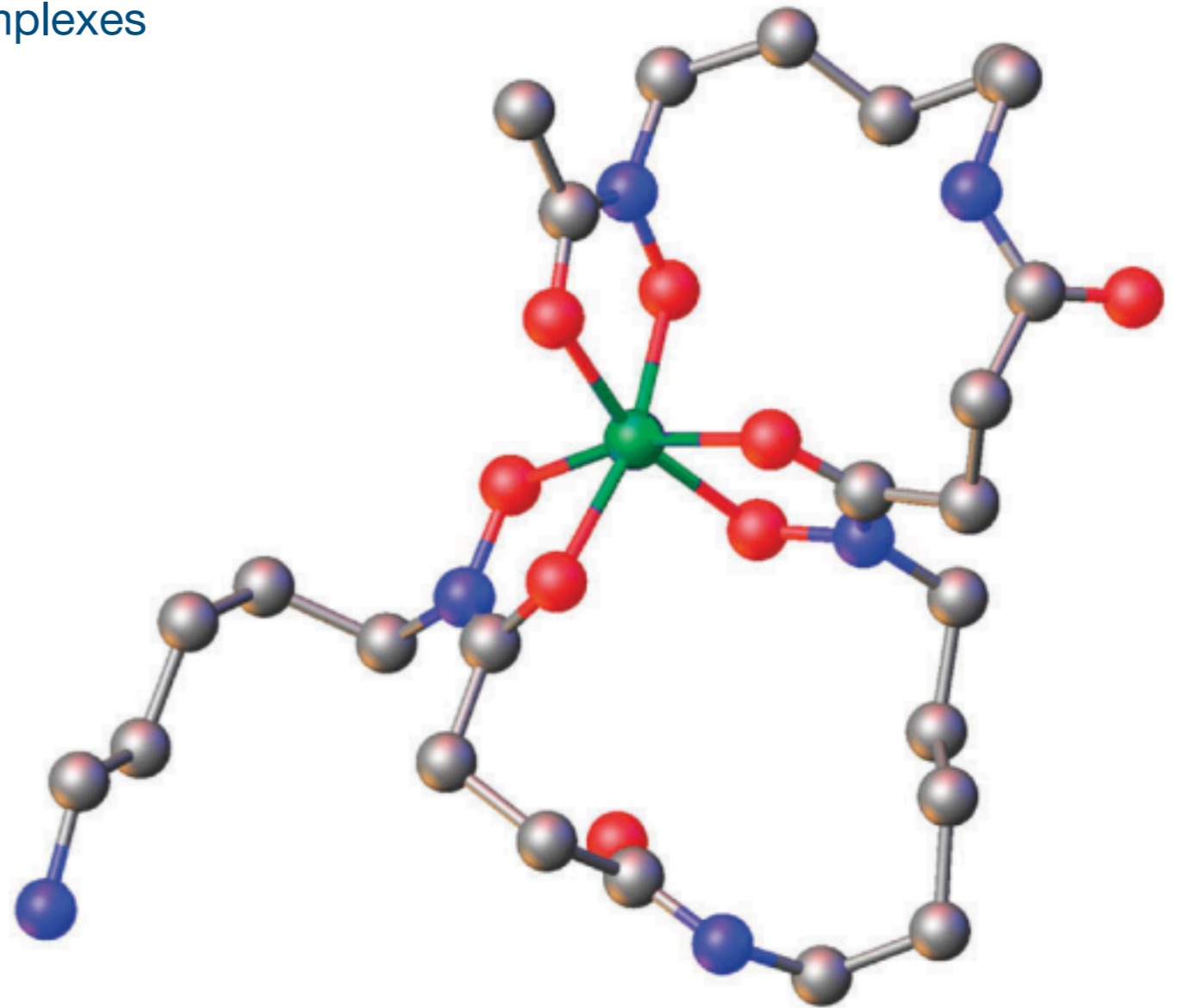
# Siderophores 101

*High affinity ligands for Iron (III)*



# Siderophores 101

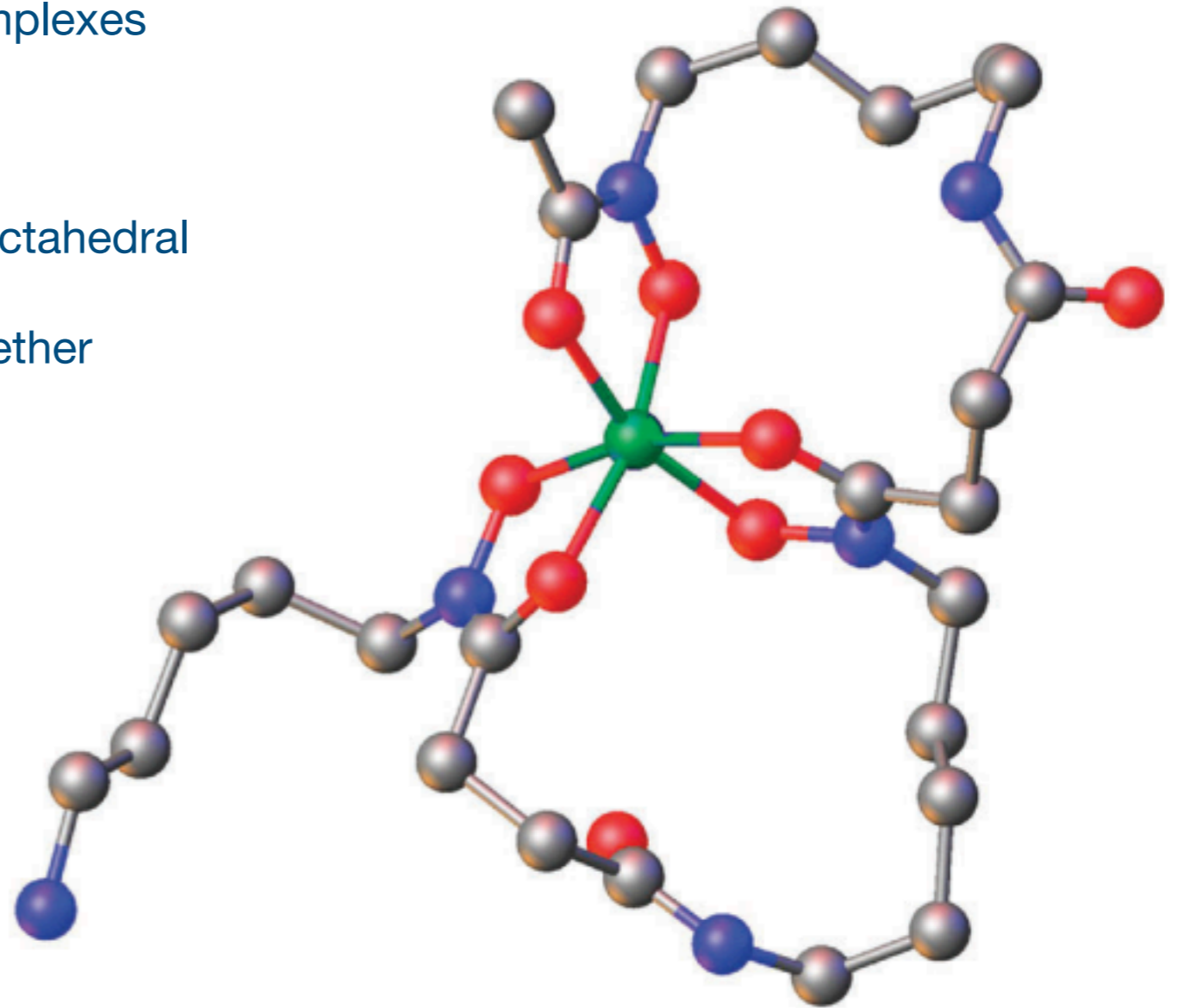
- Chelating molecules that form stable complexes preferentially with Fe<sup>III</sup>



**Ferrioxamine B**

## Siderophores 101

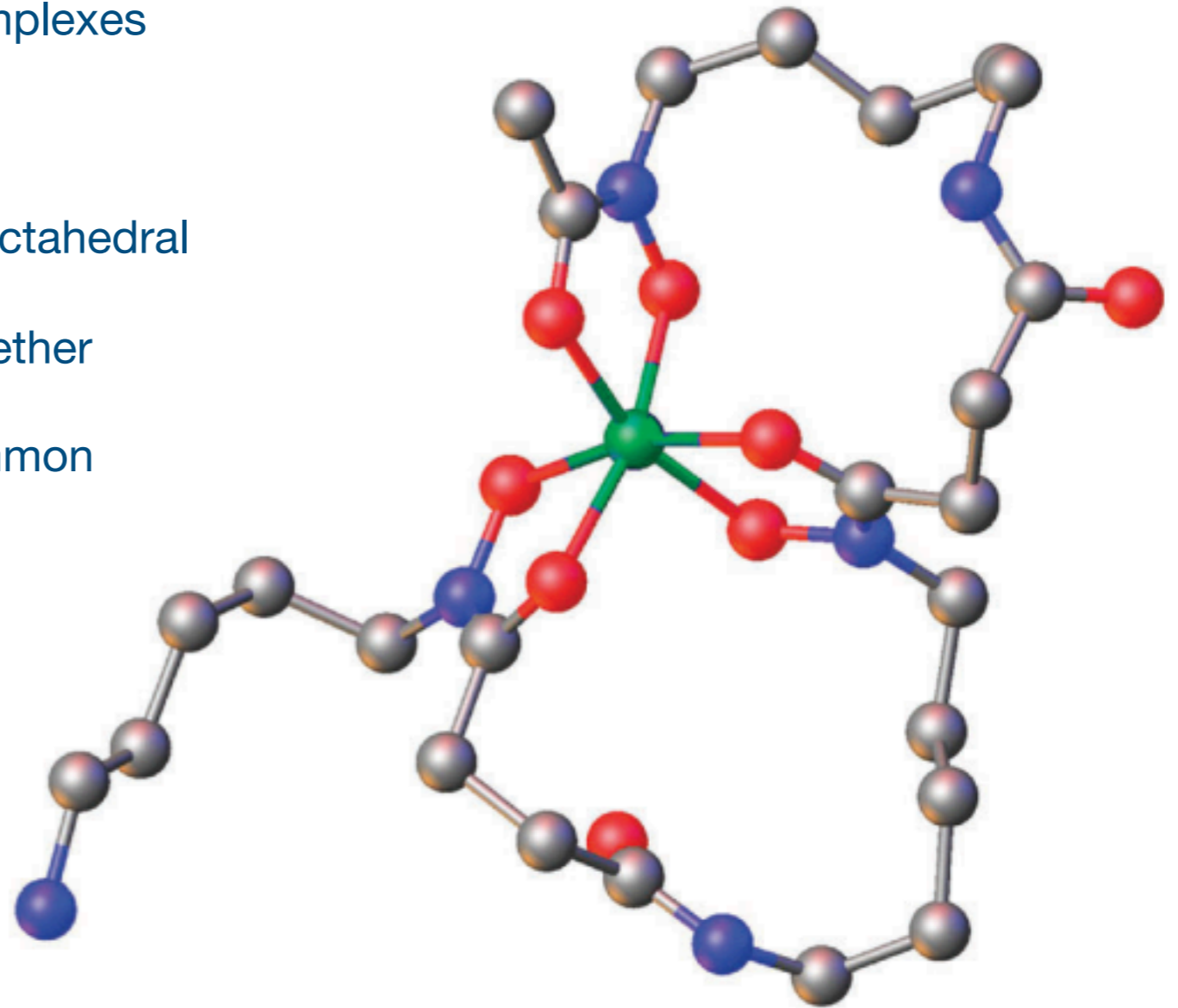
- Chelating molecules that form stable complexes preferentially with  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$
- Typically hexadentate ligands that form octahedral complexes, 3 bidentate ligands linked together



**Ferrioxamine B**

## Siderophores 101

- Chelating molecules that form stable complexes preferentially with Fe<sup>III</sup>
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- Oxygen-containing ligands are most common

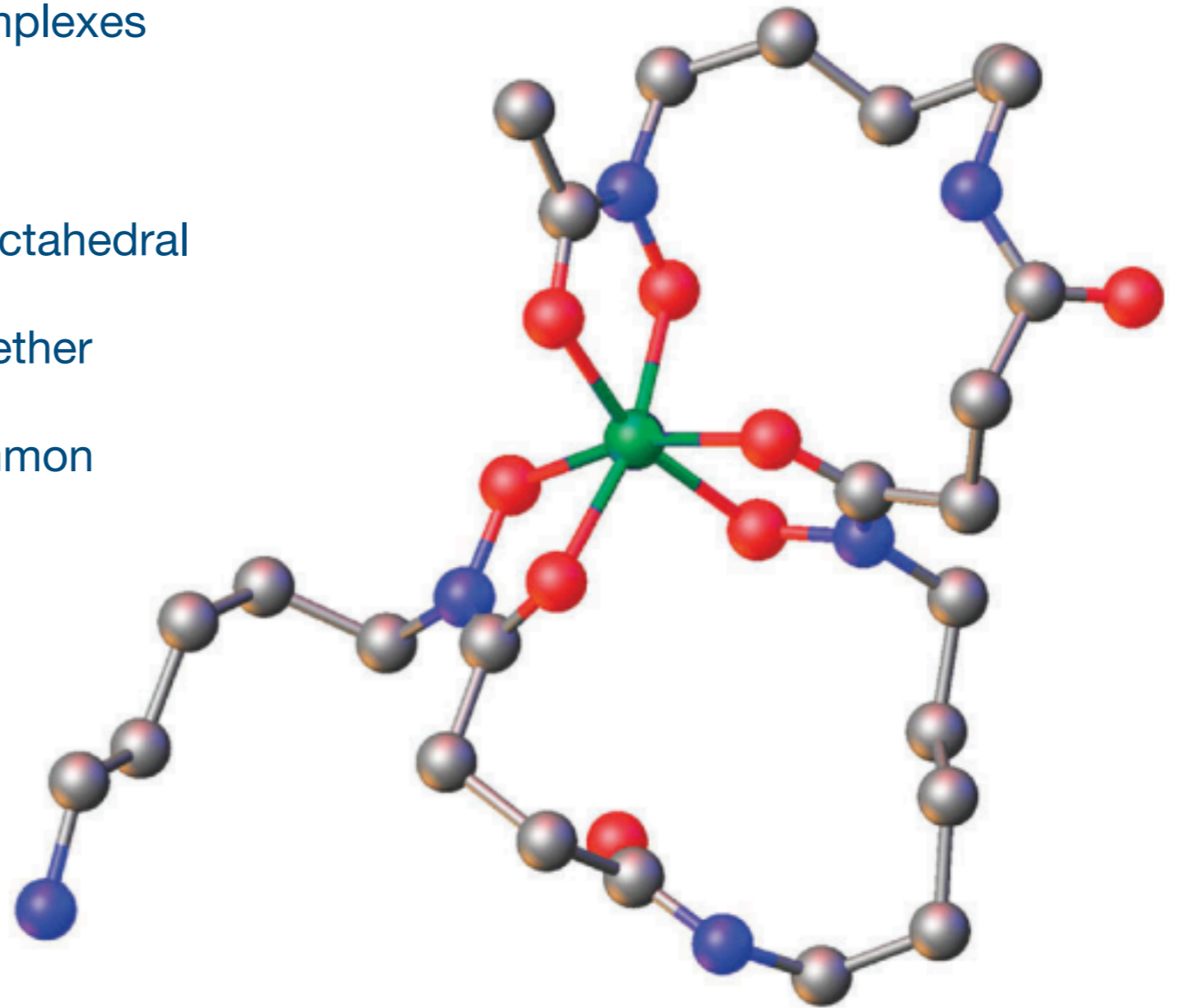


**Ferrioxamine B**



## Siderophores 101

- Chelating molecules that form stable complexes preferentially with Fe<sup>III</sup>
- Typically hexadentate ligands that form octahedral complexes, 3 bidentate ligands linked together
- Oxygen-containing ligands are most common
- Extremely high affinity for Fe<sup>III</sup> ( $K_f > 10^{-30}$ )



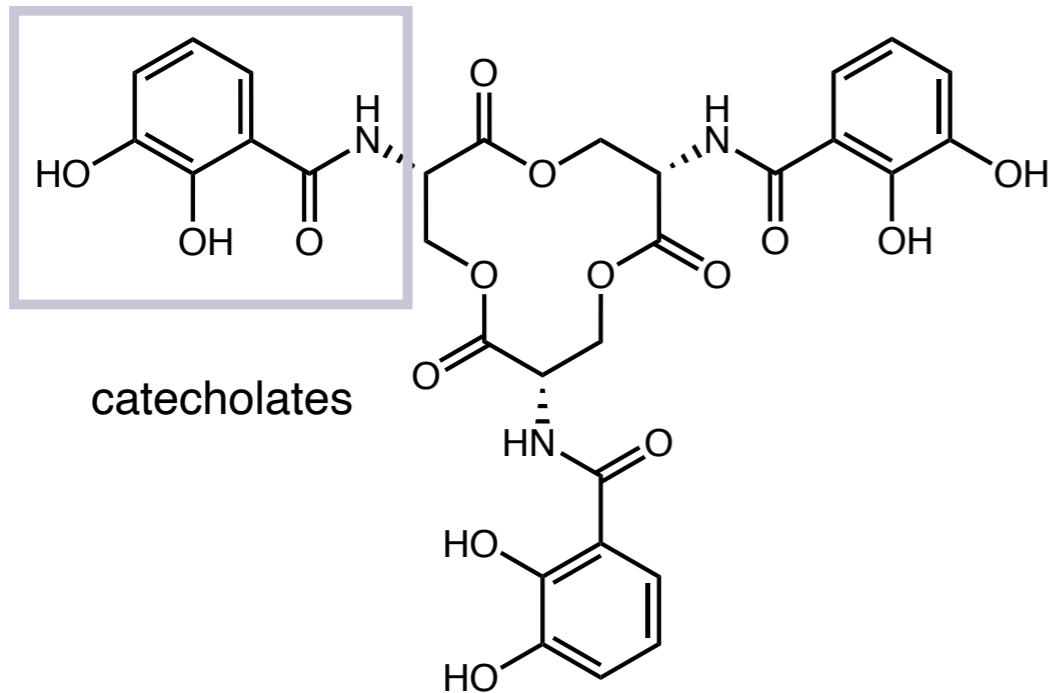
**Ferrioxamine B**

# Siderophores 101

*Common Iron-Binding Motifs*

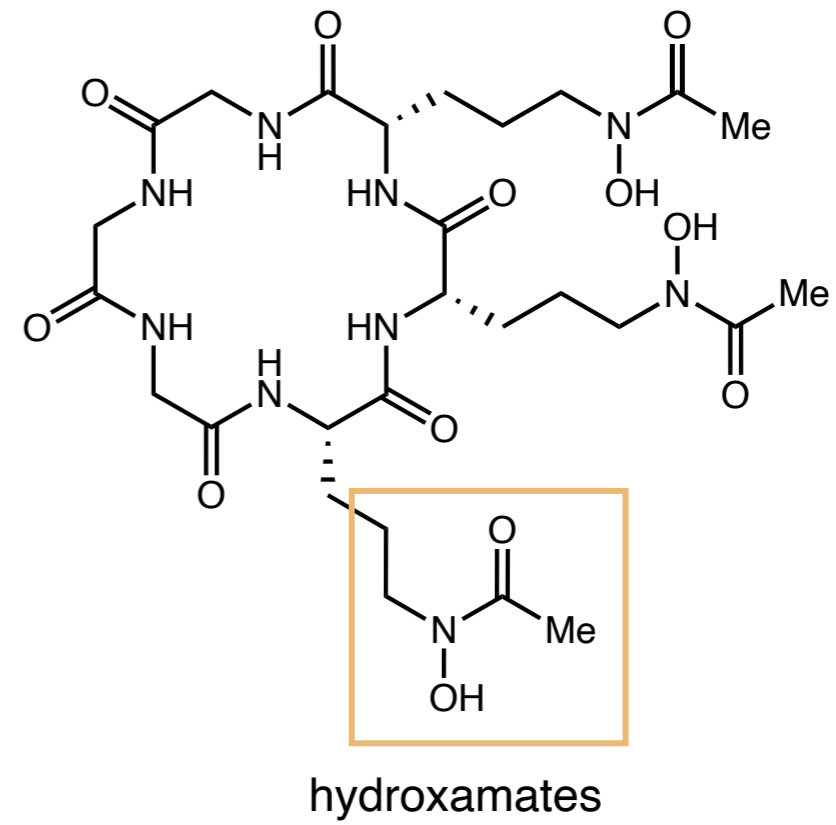
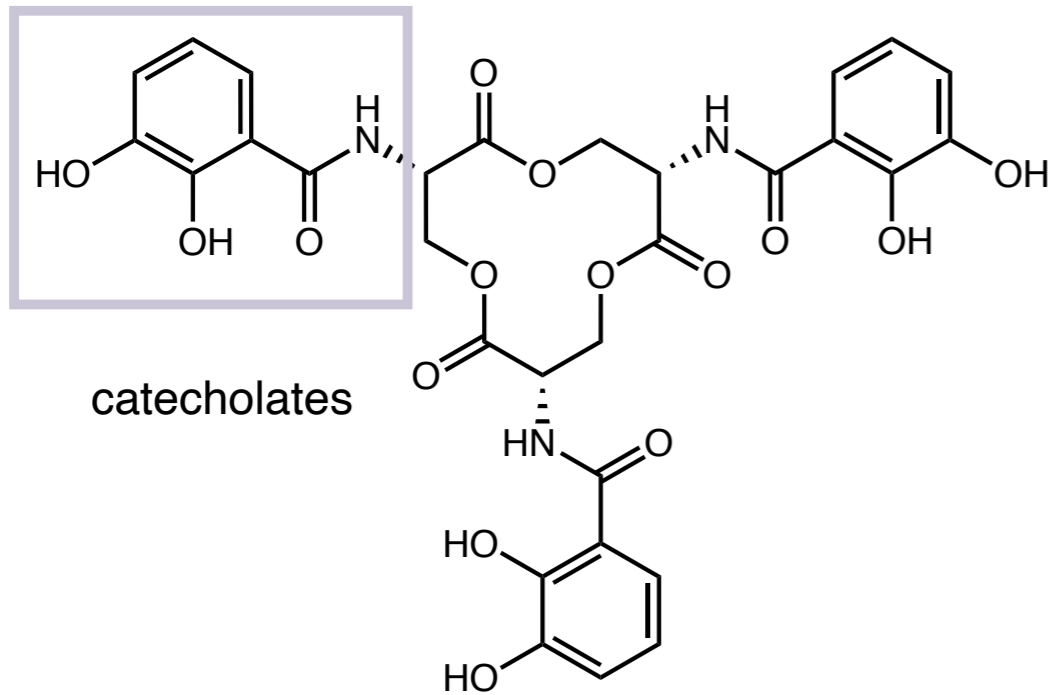
# Siderophores 101

## *Common Iron-Binding Motifs*



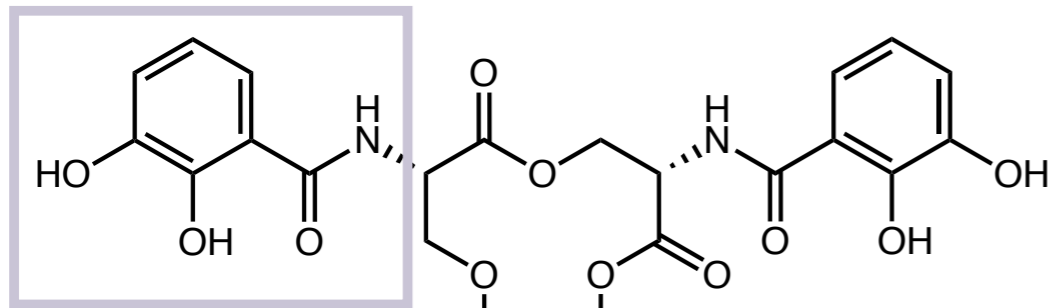
# Siderophores 101

## Common Iron-Binding Motifs

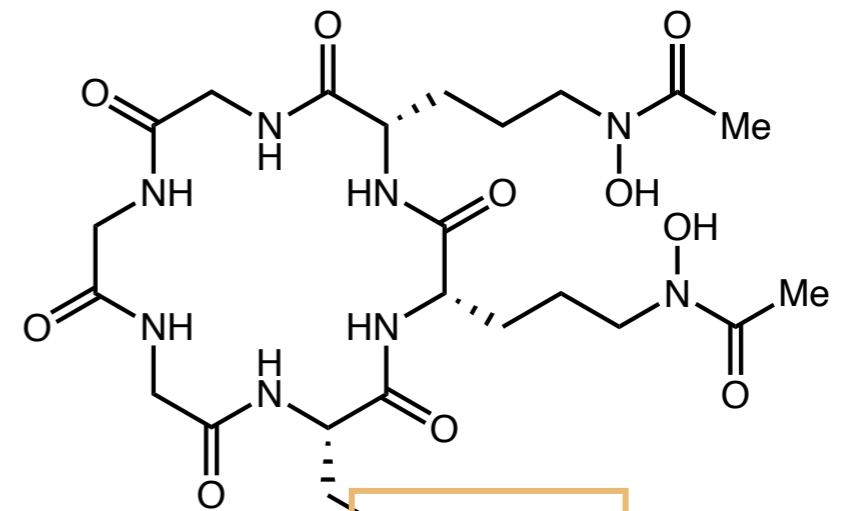
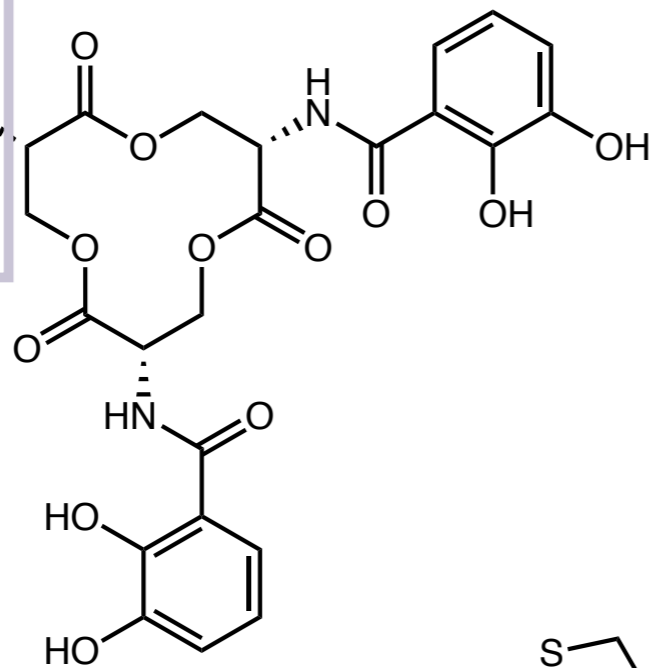


# Siderophores 101

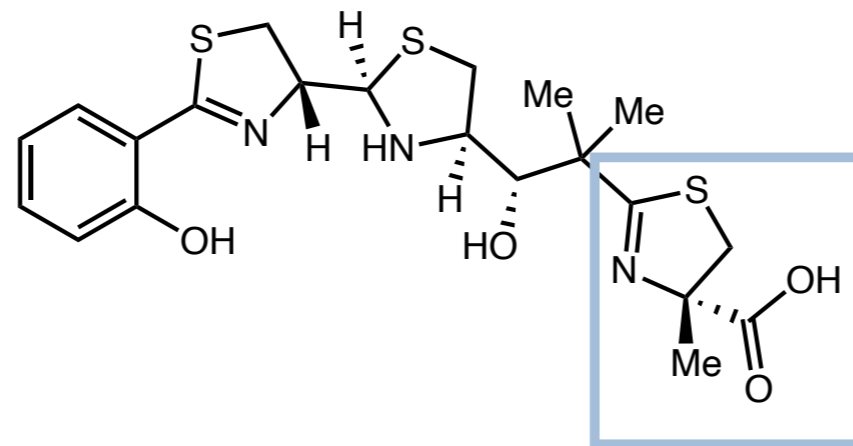
## Common Iron-Binding Motifs



catecholates



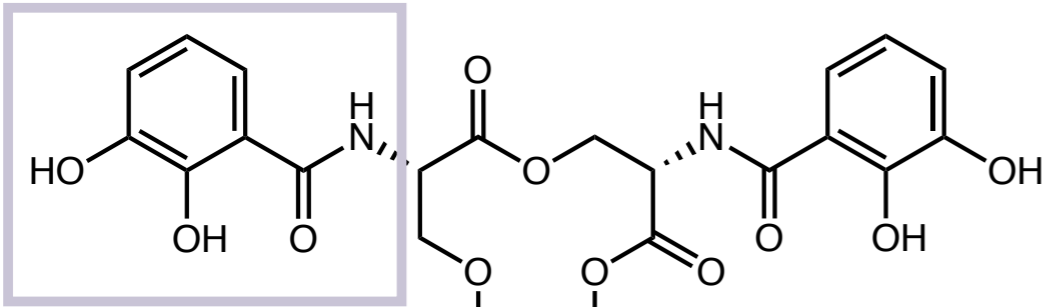
hydroxamates



$\alpha$ -hydroxy/amino acids

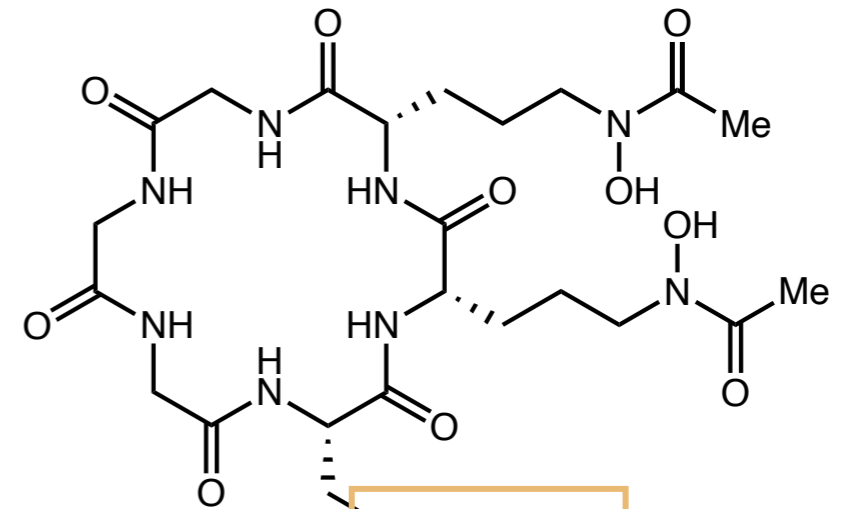
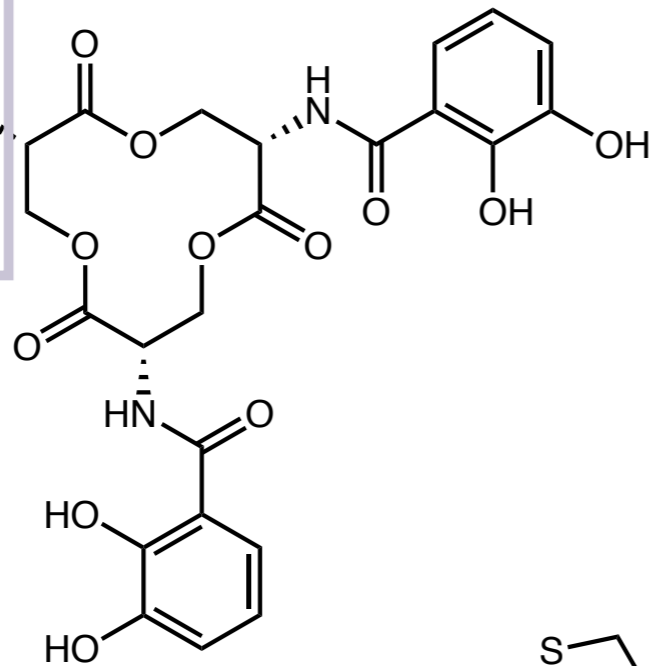
# Siderophores 101

## Common Iron-Binding Motifs



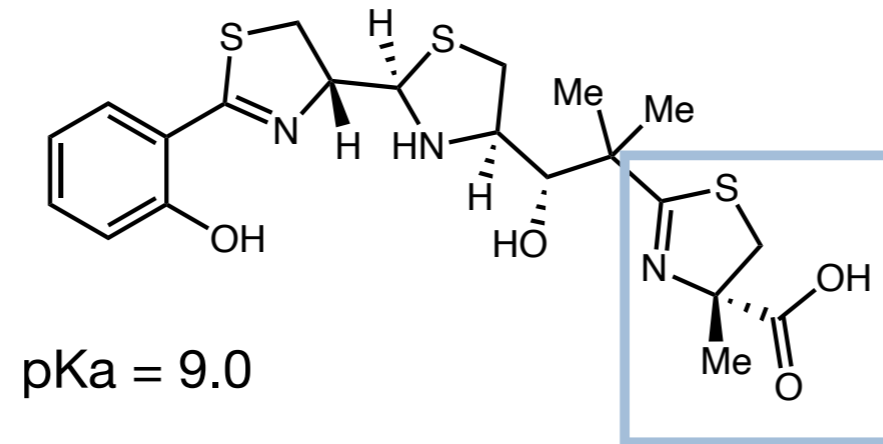
catecholates

pKa = 9.2, 13.0



pKa = 9.0

hydroxamates



pKa = 9.0

pKa = 2.5

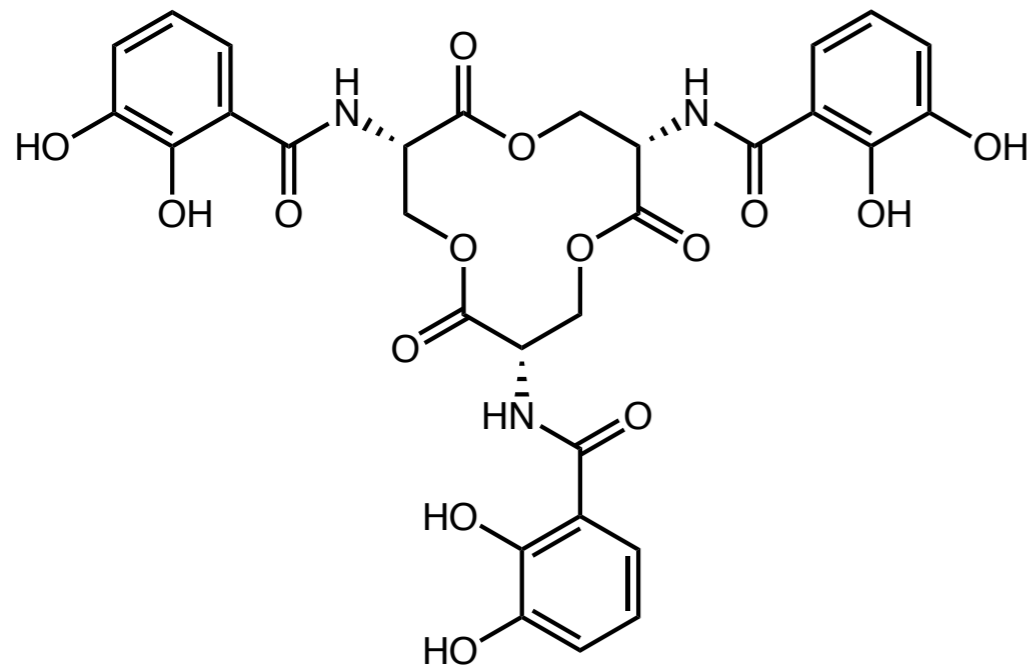
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# Siderophores 101

*Thermodynamic Stability of Iron Siderophore Complexes*

# Siderophores 101

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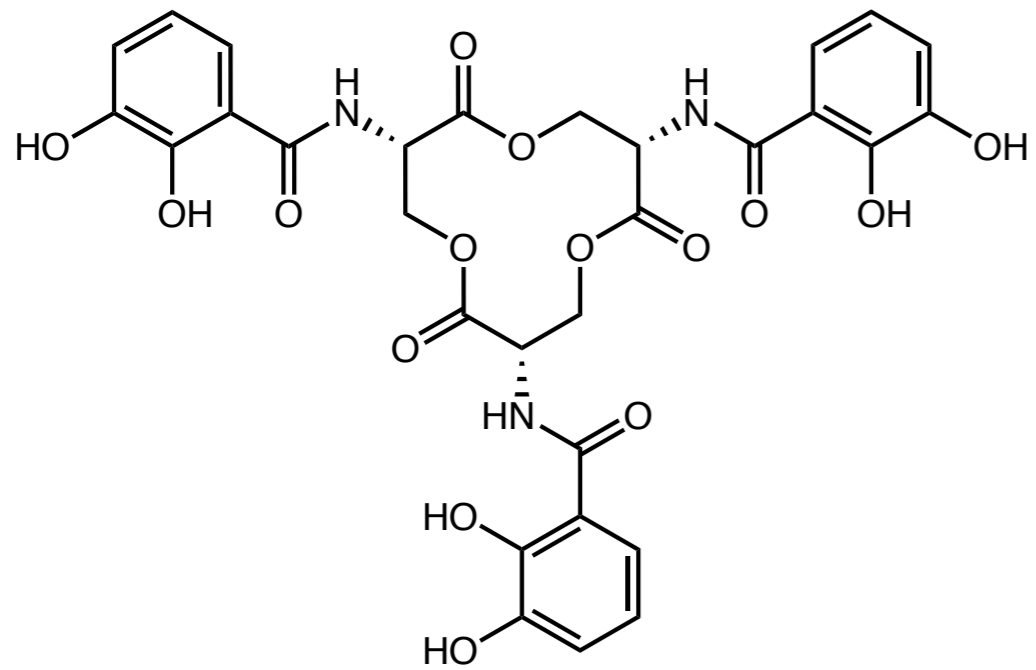
enterobactin

$\text{pFe}^{\text{III}} = 35.5$



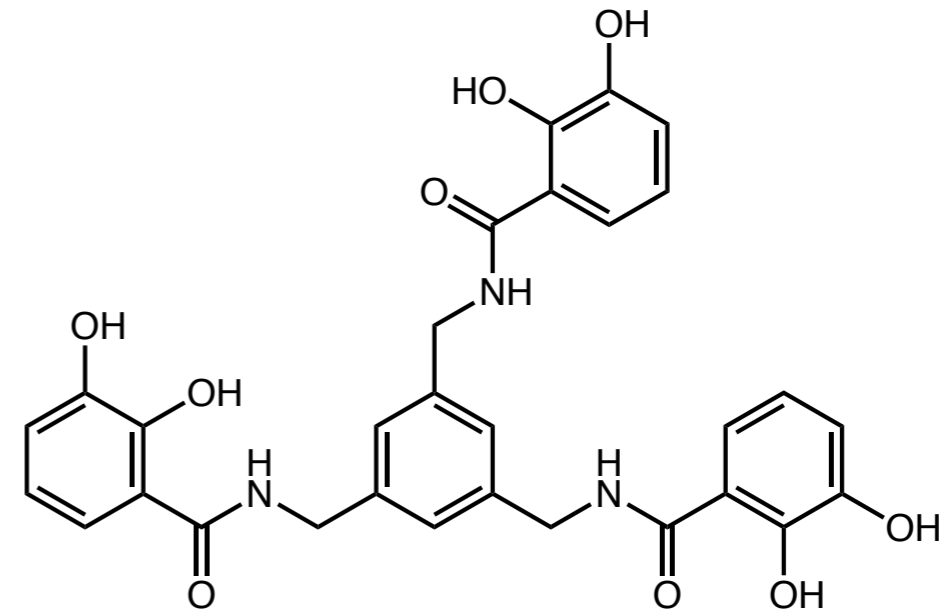
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## *Thermodynamic Stability of Iron Siderophore Complexes*



enterobactin

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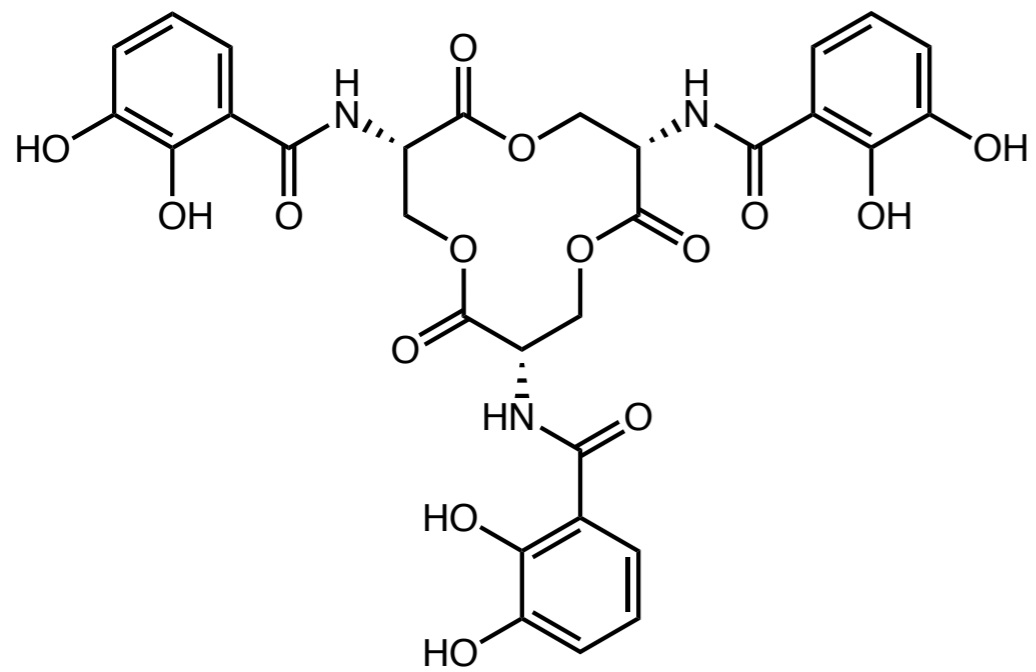


MECAM

$p\text{Fe}^{\text{III}} = 29.1$

# Siderophores 101

## *Thermodynamic Stability of Iron Siderophore Complexes*

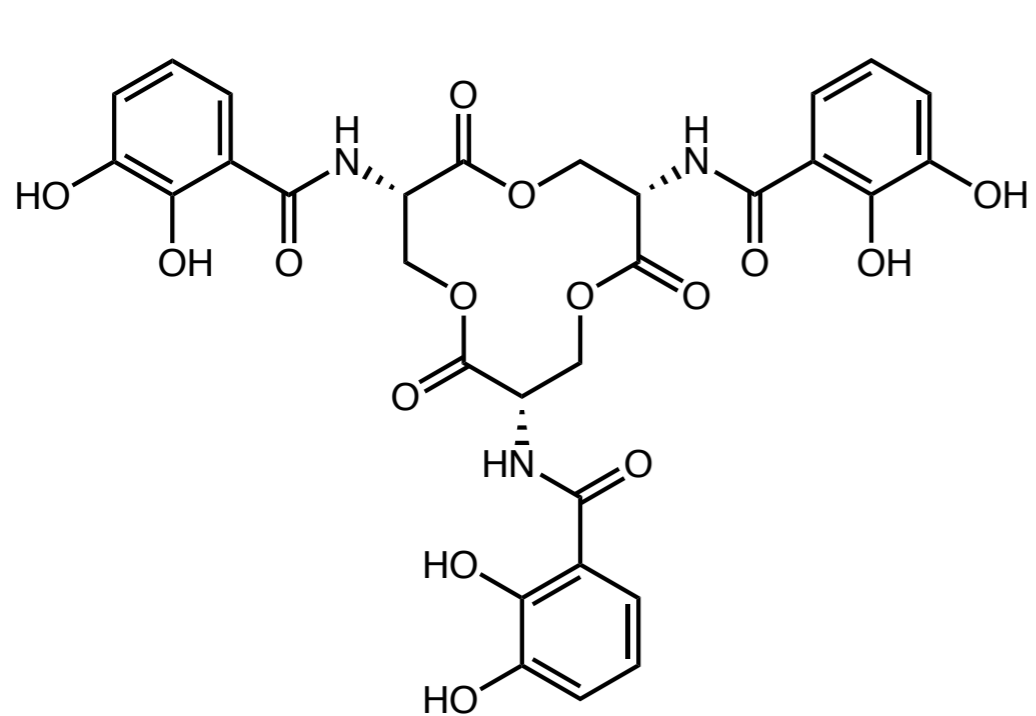


enterobactin

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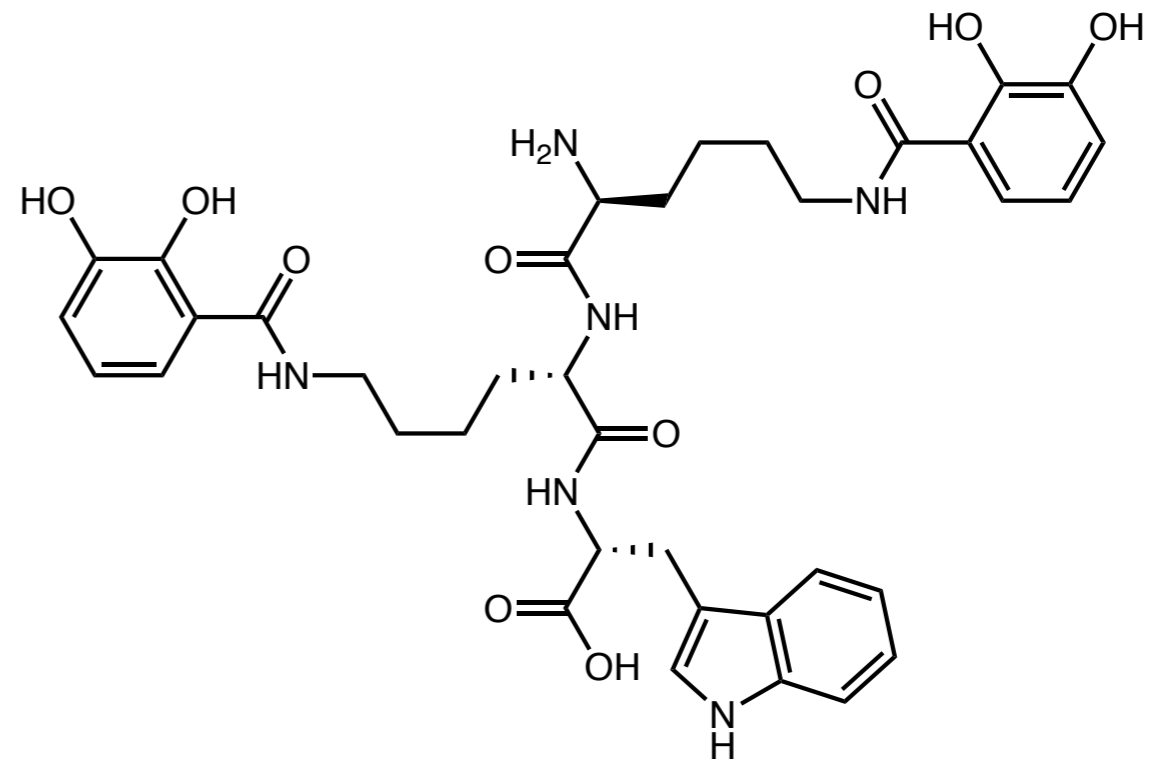
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## *Thermodynamic Stability of Iron Siderophore Complexes*



enterobactin

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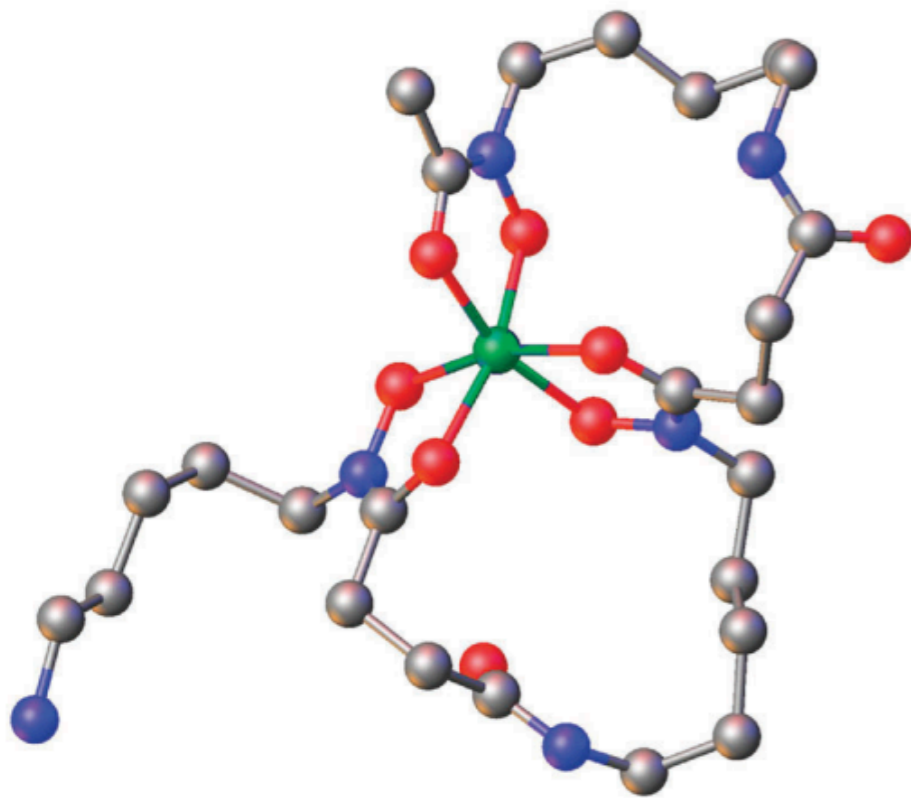


amonabactin T

$p\text{Fe}^{\text{III}} = 26$

# Siderophores 101

## *Kinetic Stability of Iron Siderophore Complexes*



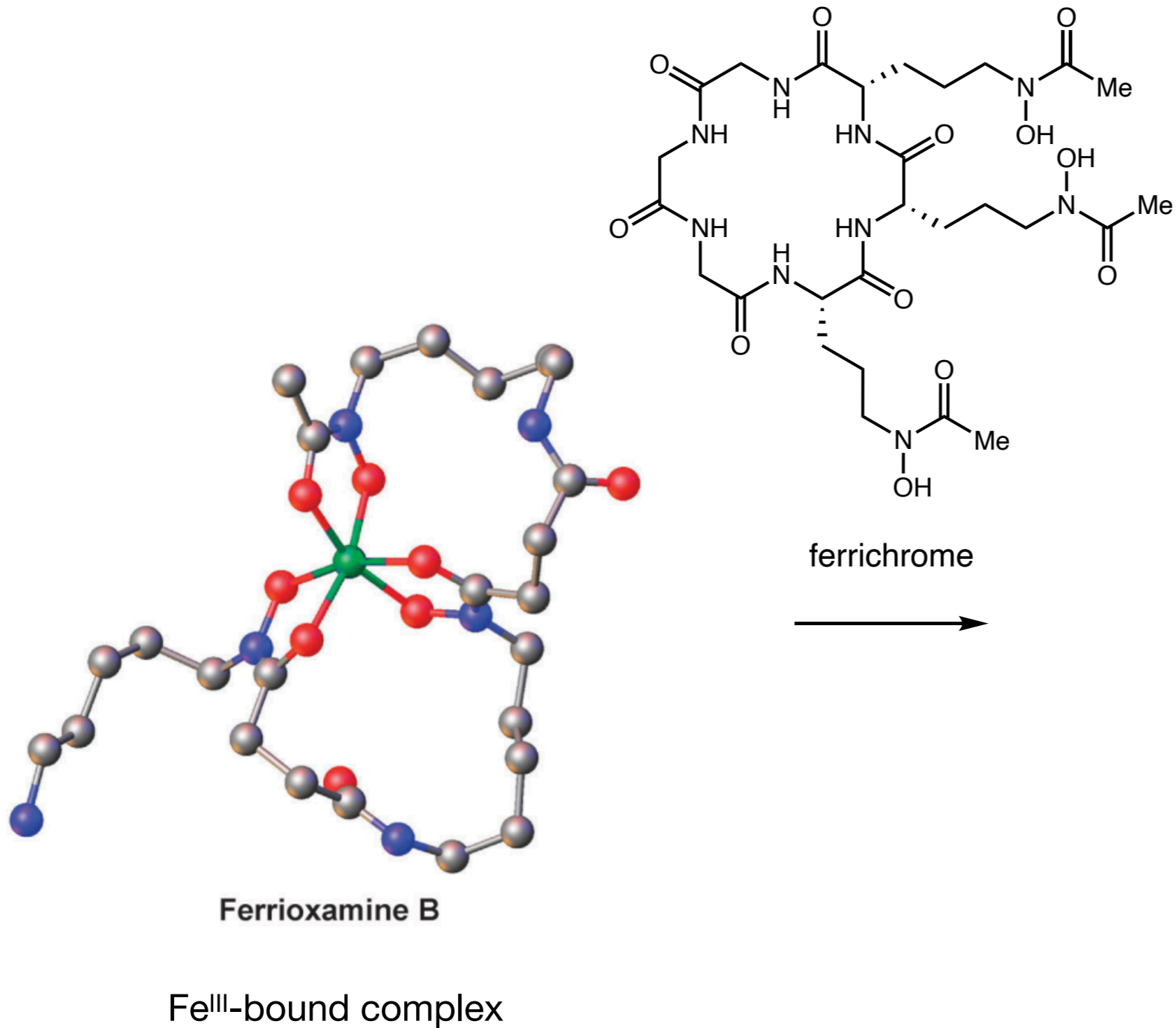
**Ferrioxamine B**

Fe<sup>III</sup>-bound complex



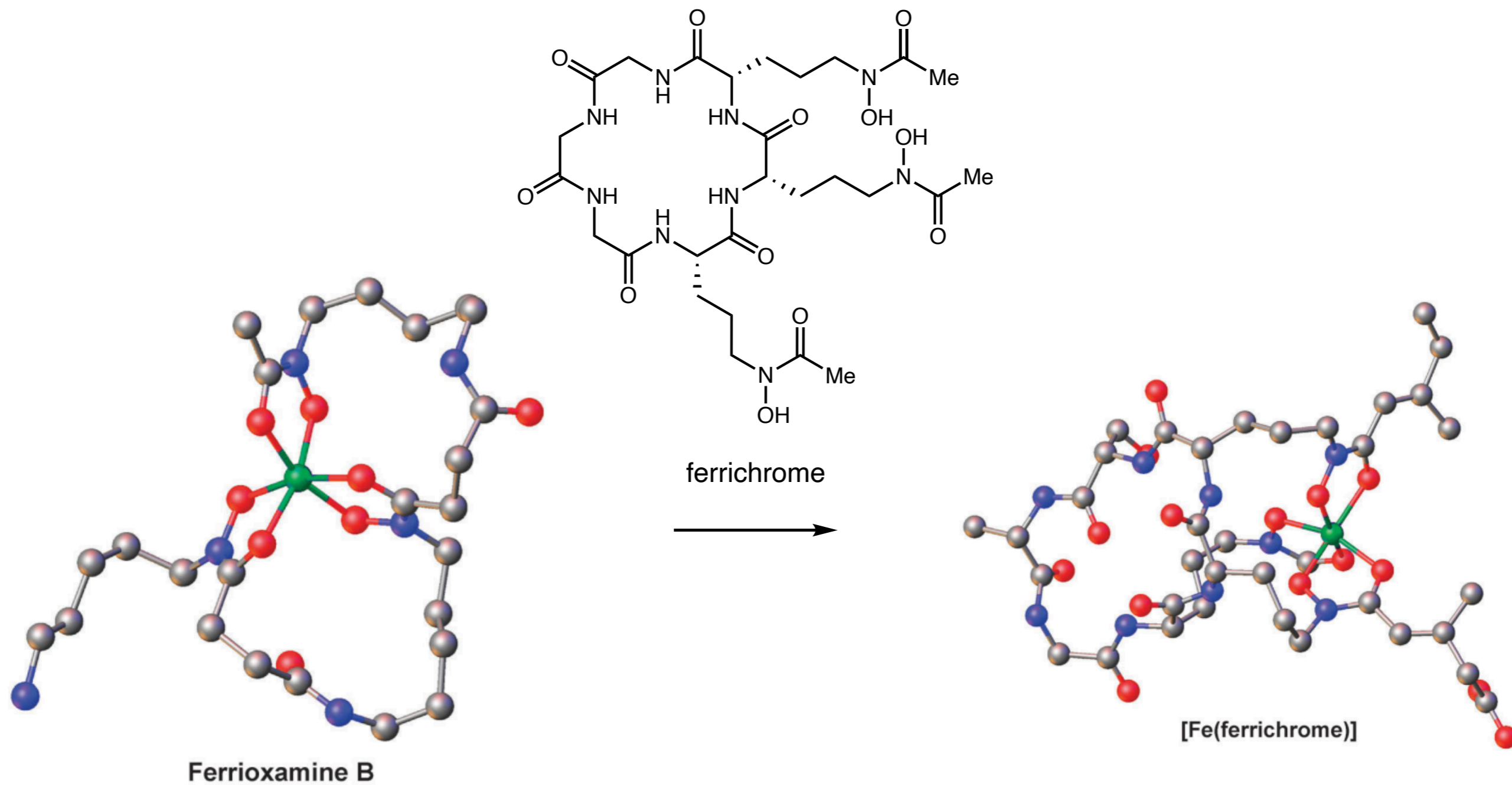
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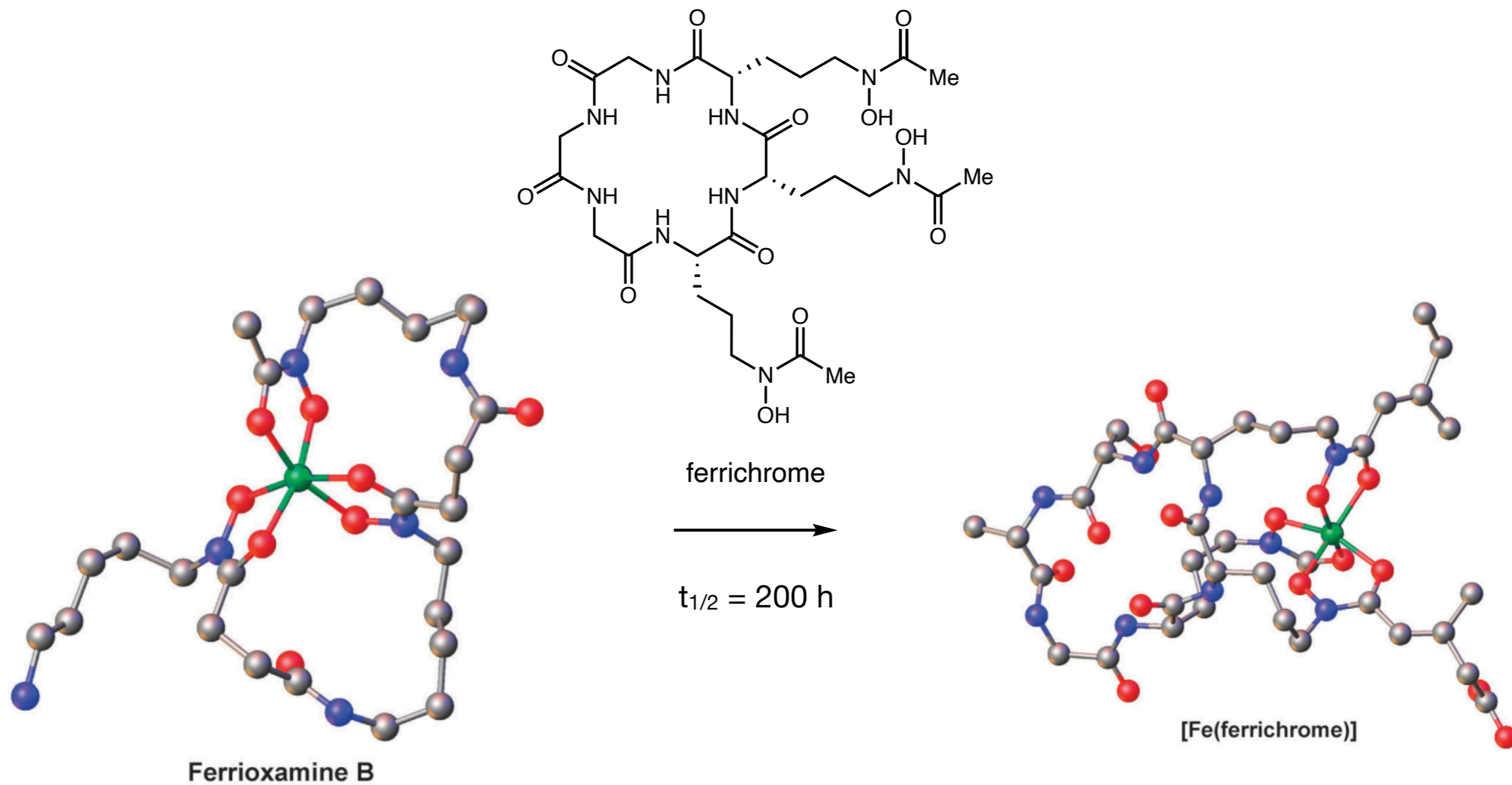
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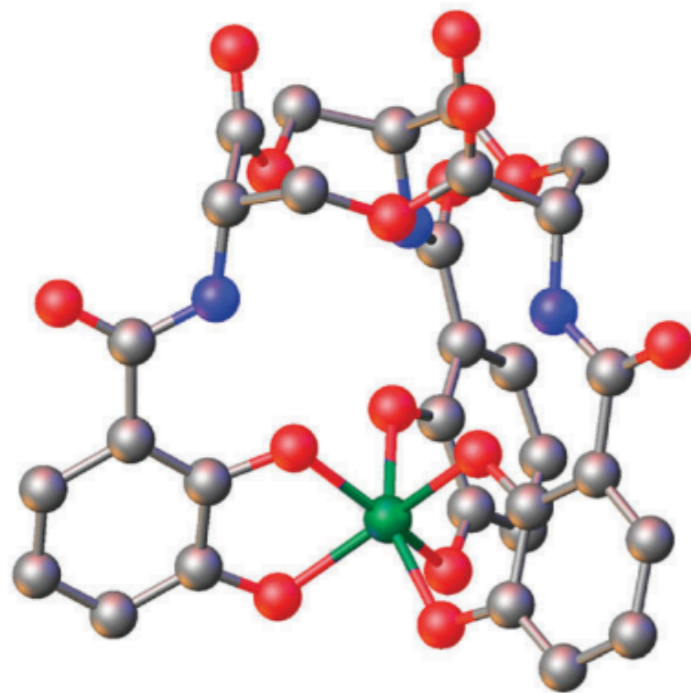
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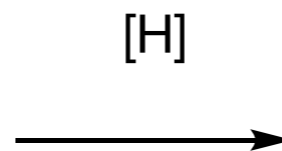


# Siderophores 101

## *Redox Chemistry and Release of Iron*



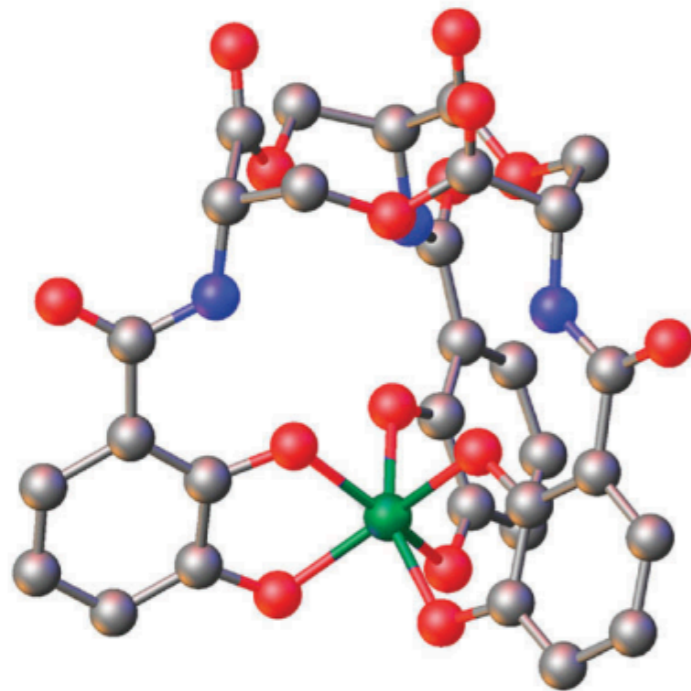
Fe<sup>III</sup>-bound  
enterobactin complex



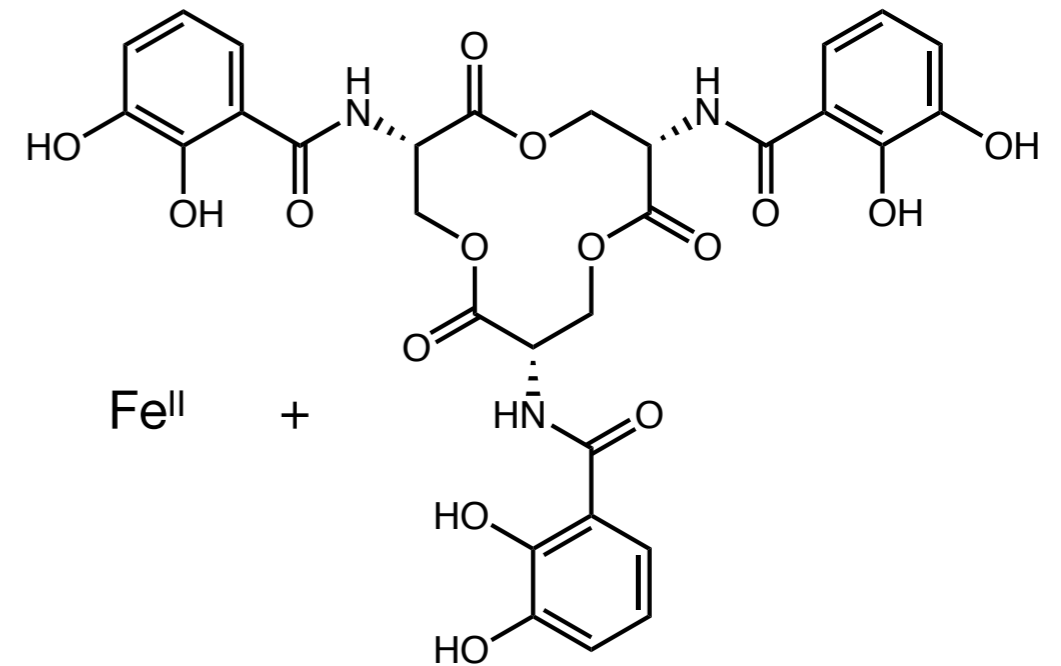
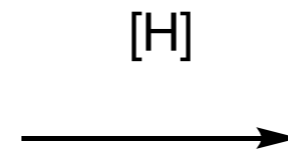


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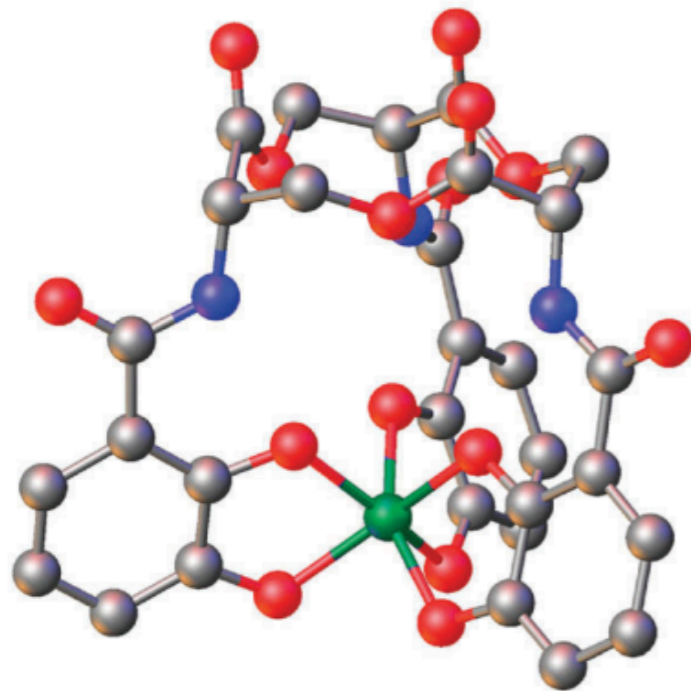
Fe<sup>III</sup>-bound  
enterobactin complex



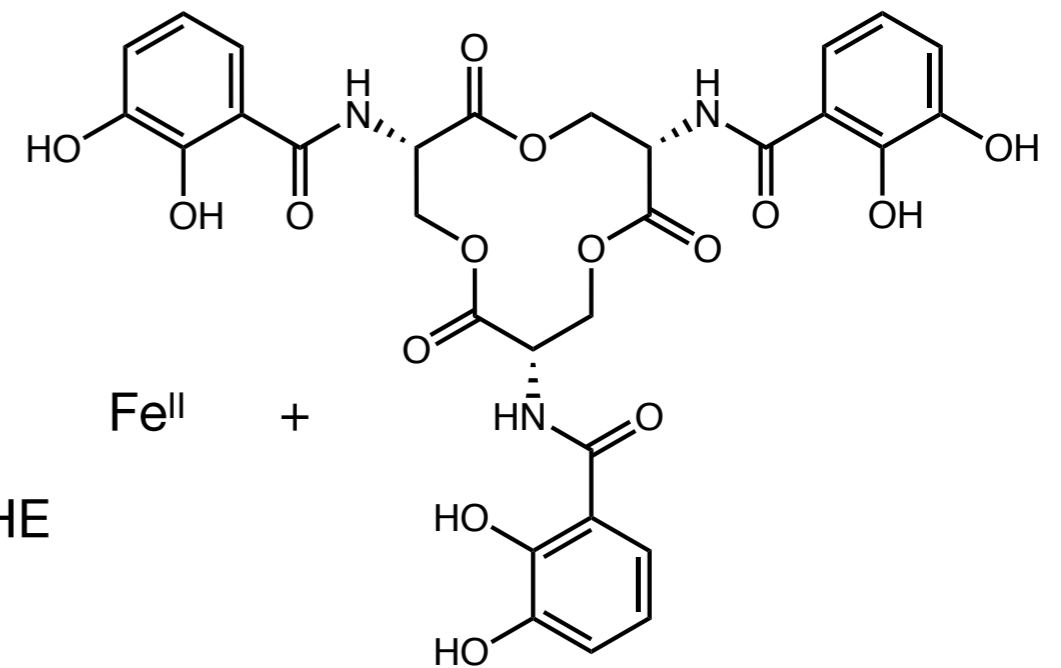
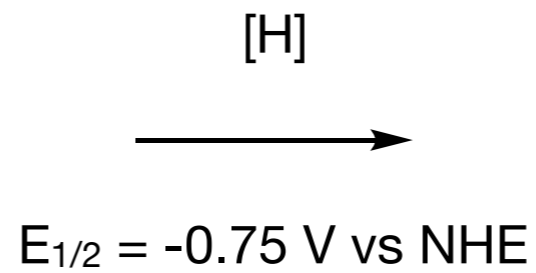
enterobactin

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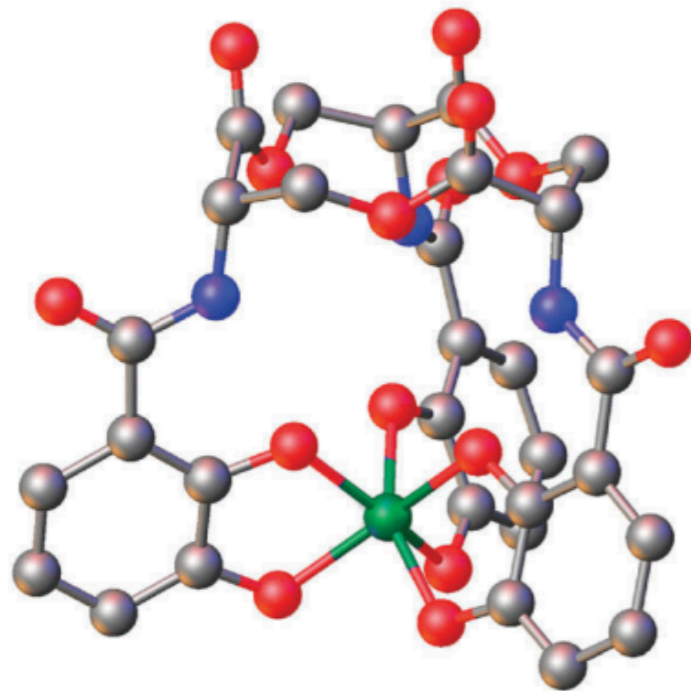
Fe<sup>III</sup>-bound  
enterobactin complex



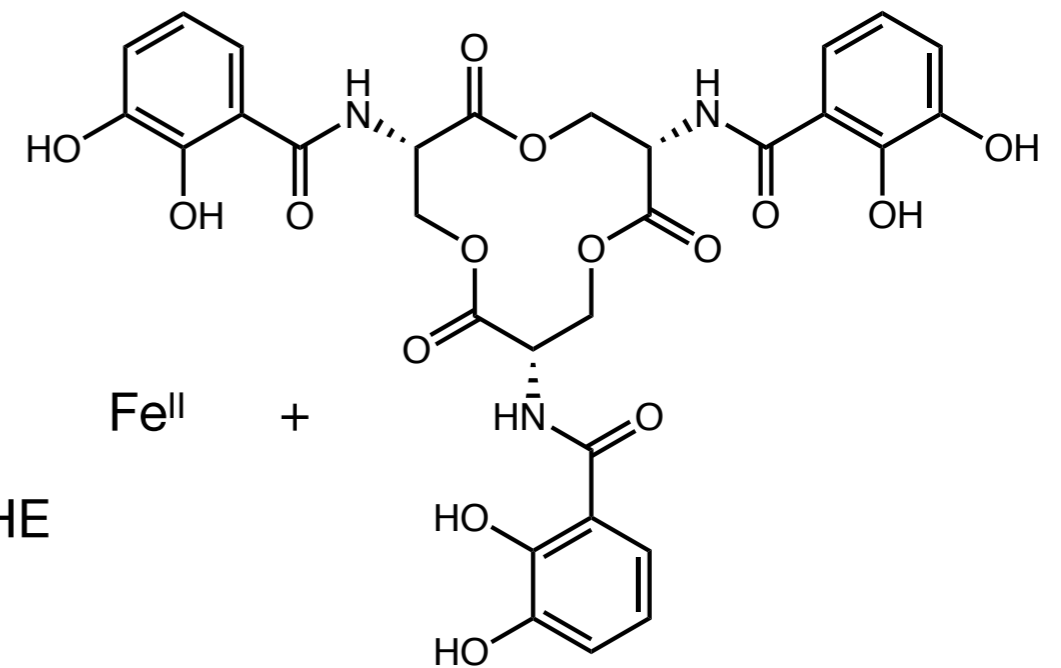
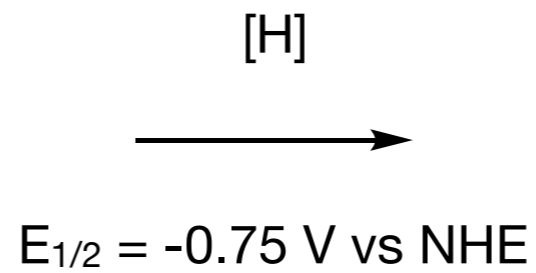
enterobactin

# Siderophores 101

## *Redox Chemistry and Release of Iron*



Fe<sup>III</sup>-bound  
enterobactin complex

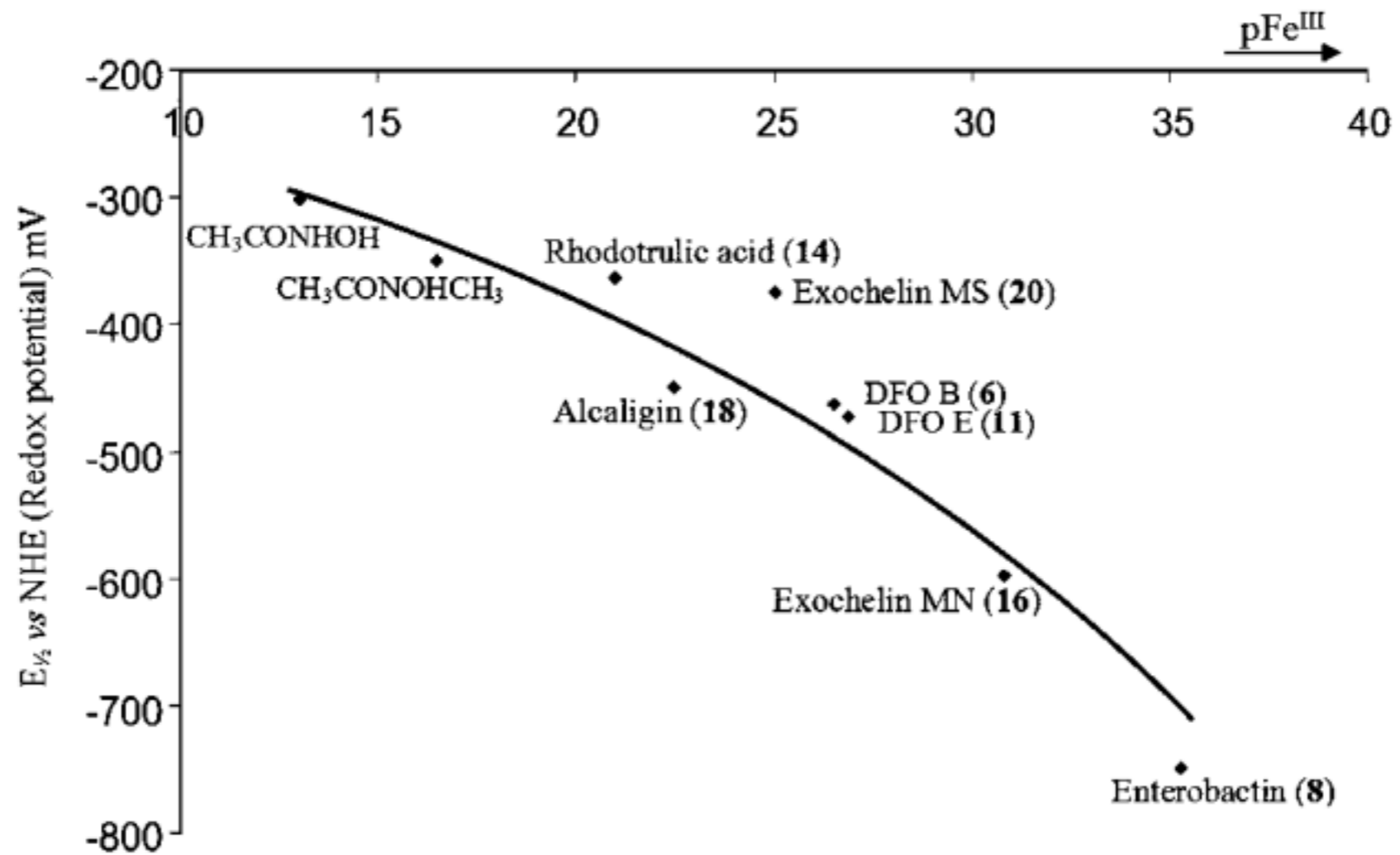


enterobactin

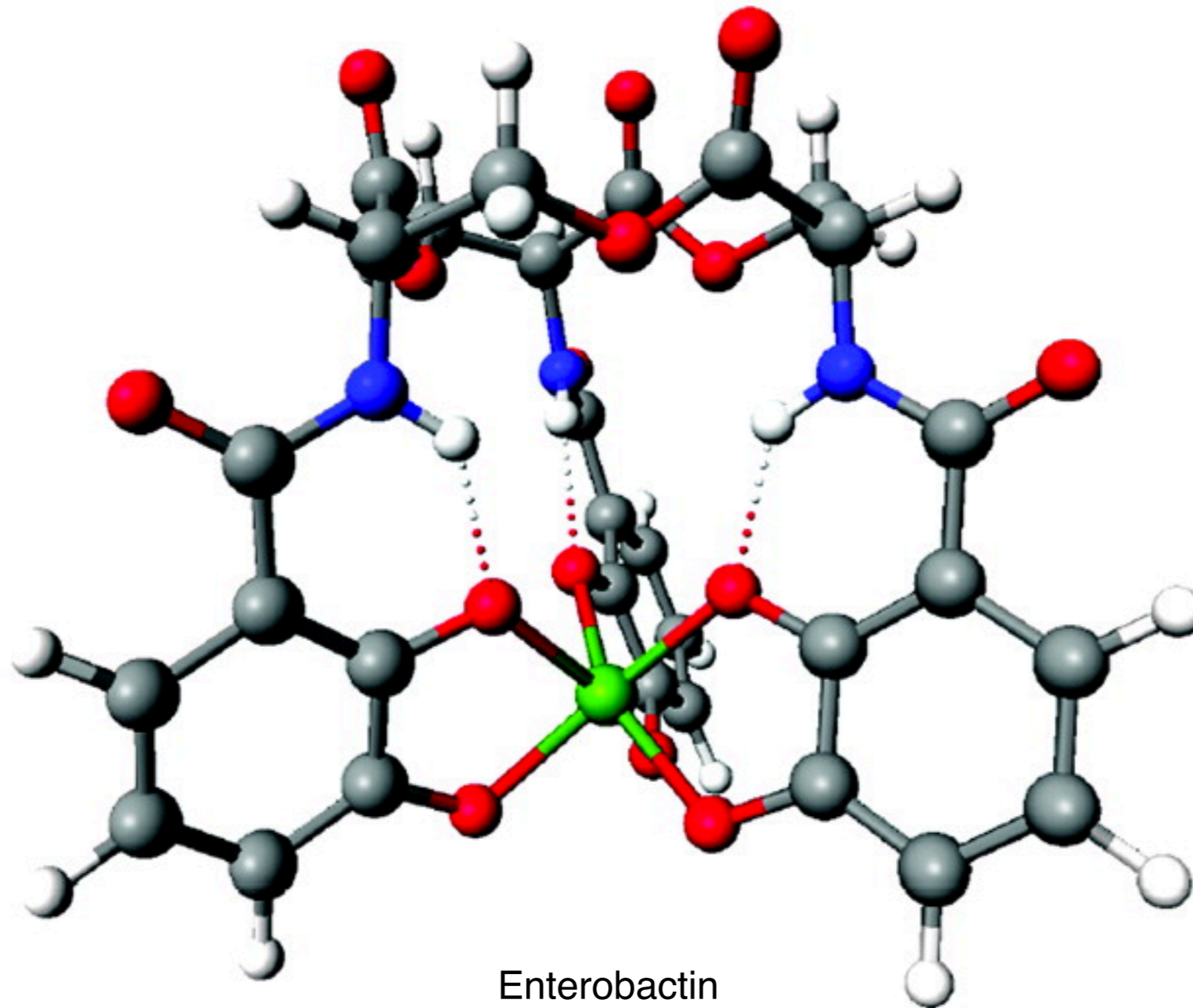


# Siderophores 101

## *Redox Chemistry and Release of Iron*



# Siderophores 101



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# Biological Functions of Siderophores

## *The Iron Problem*

Despite its abundance in Earth's crust, no iron is readily bioavailable

# Biological Functions of Siderophores

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Despite its abundance in Earth's crust, no iron is readily bioavailable

$\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$  has extremely poor solubility ( $K_{\text{sp}} = 2.79 \times 10^{-39}$ )



# Biological Functions of Siderophores

## *The Iron Problem*

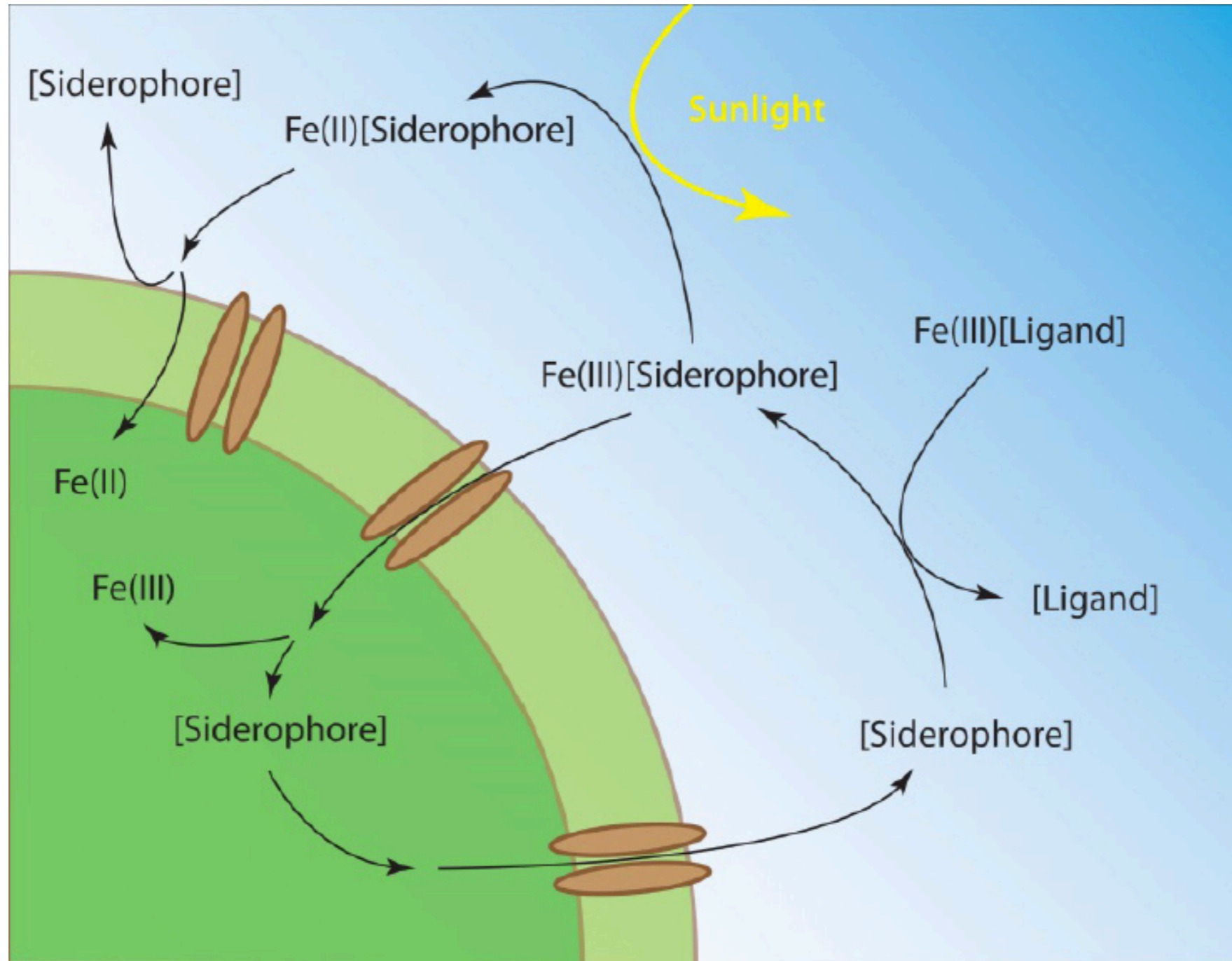
Despite its abundance in Earth's crust, no iron is readily bioavailable

$\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$  has extremely poor solubility ( $K_{\text{sp}} = 2.79 \times 10^{-39}$ )

*In diffuse media, how can microorganisms get enough iron?*

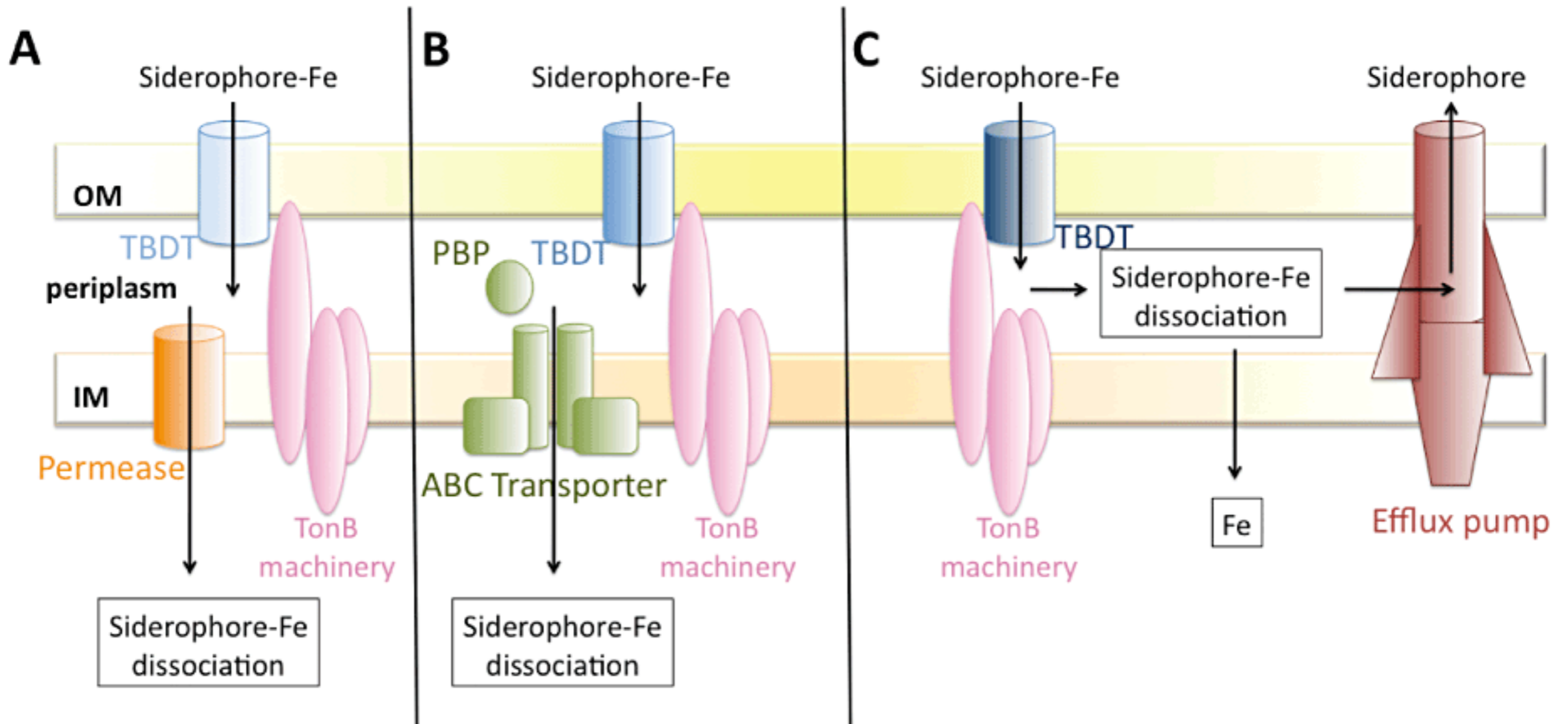
# Biological Functions of Siderophores

*Siderophores capture iron from the environment and make it bioavailable*



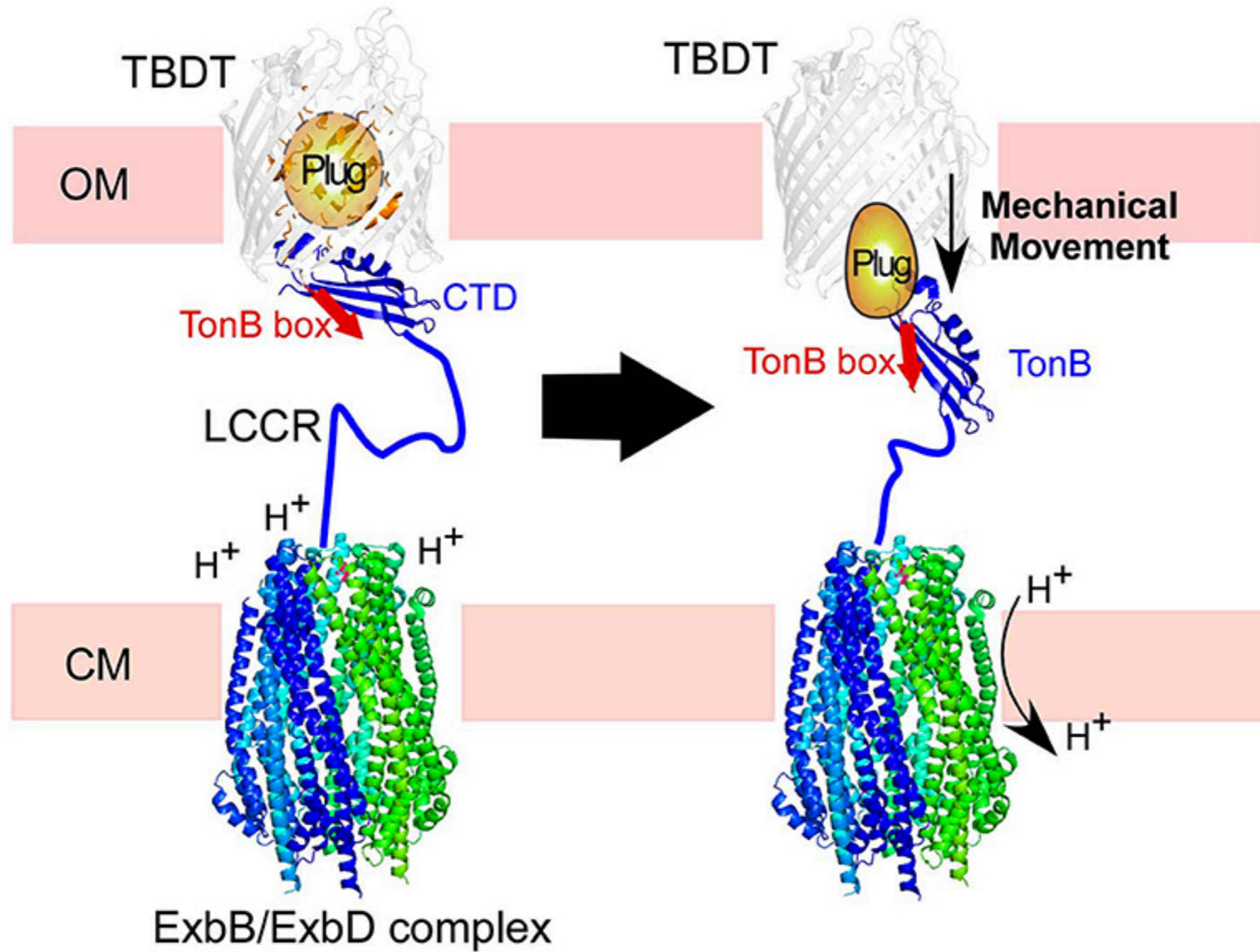
# Biological Functions of Siderophores

## Regulation of Iron Homeostasis



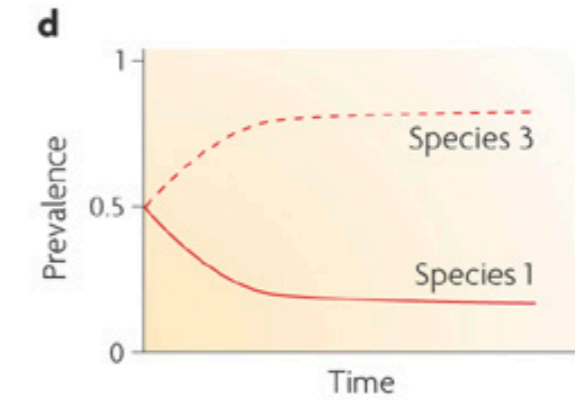
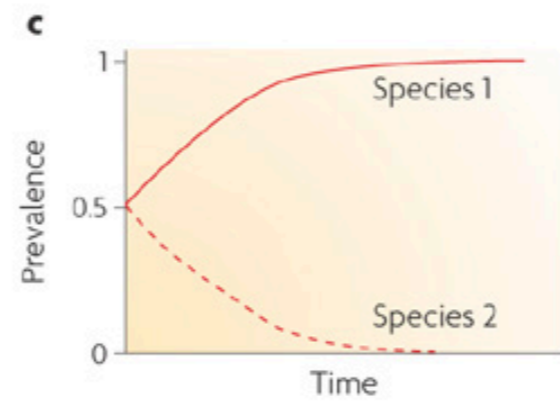
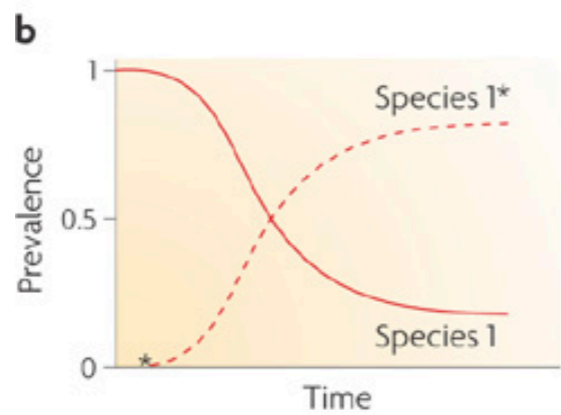
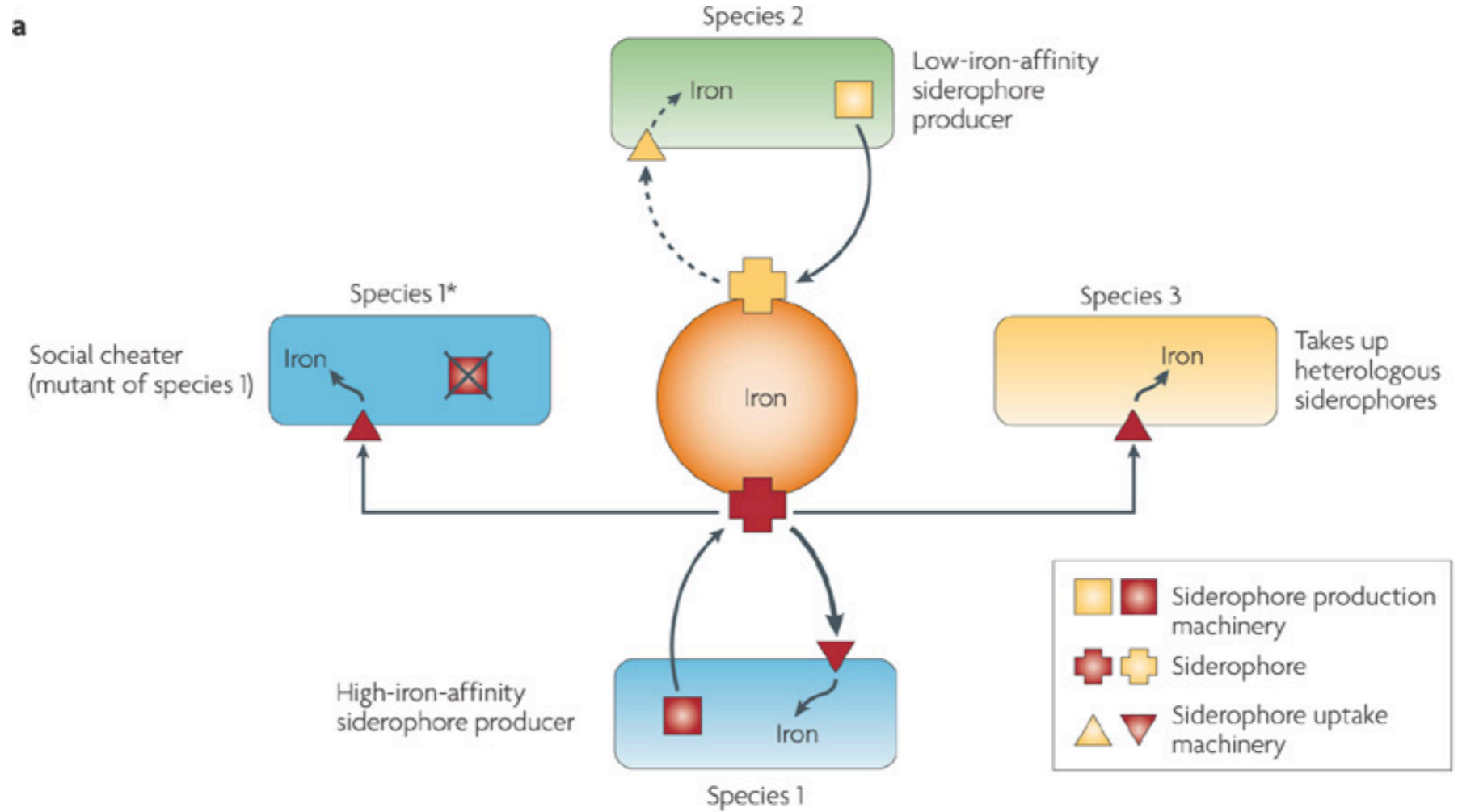
# Biological Functions of Siderophores

*TonB*



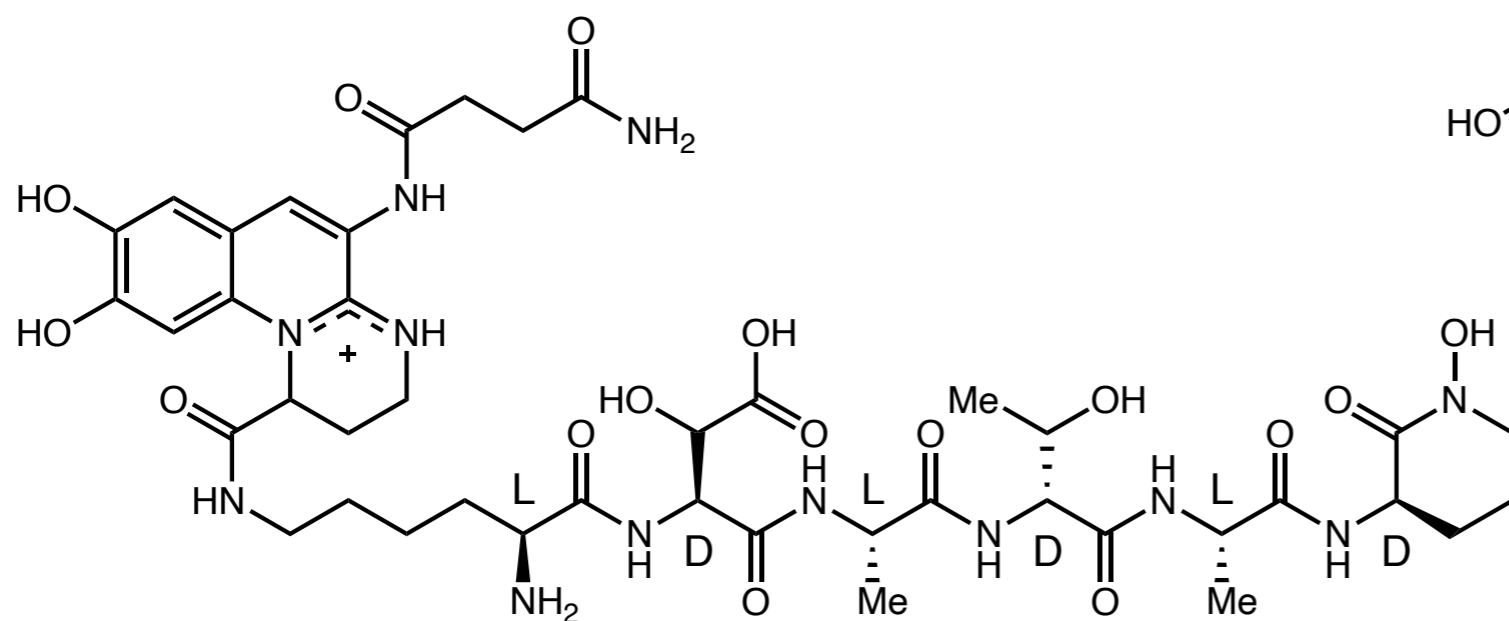
# Biological Functions of Siderophores

*It can get complicated...*

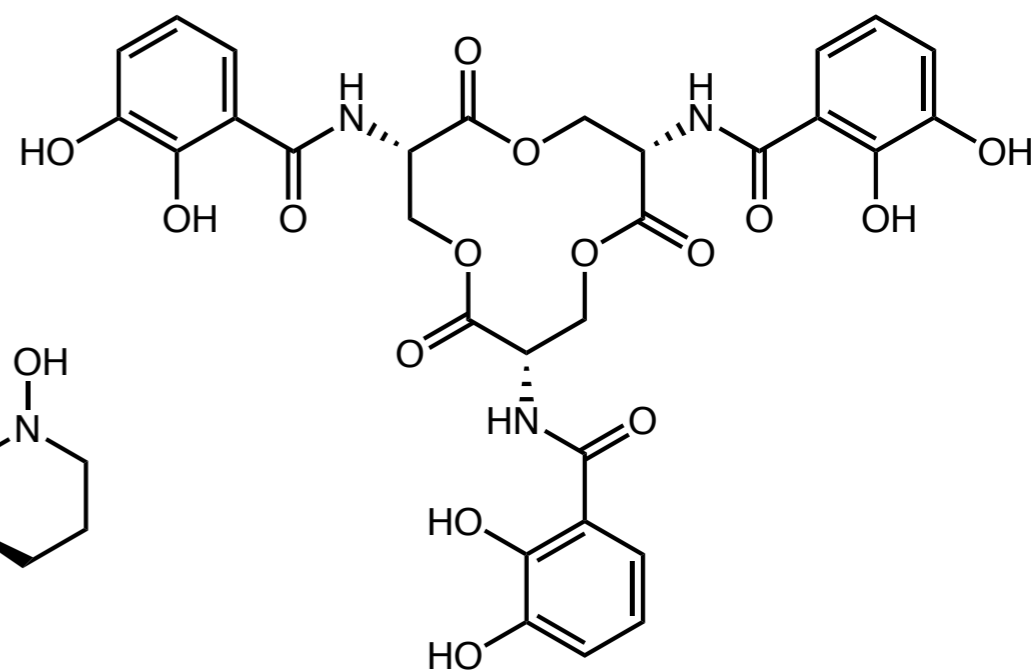




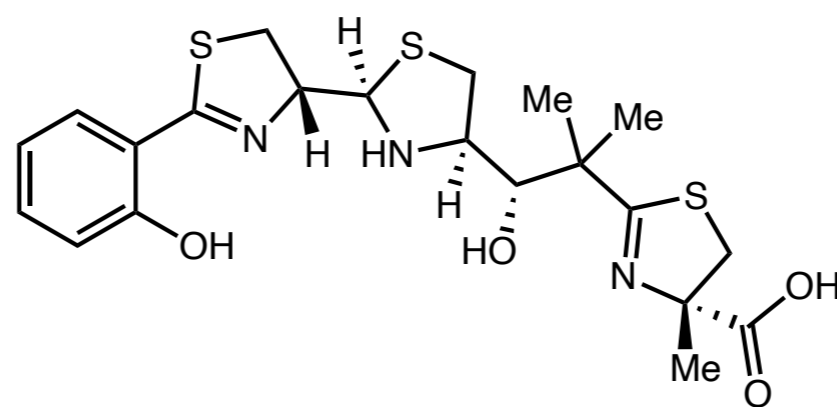
# Bacterial Siderophores



pyoverdine



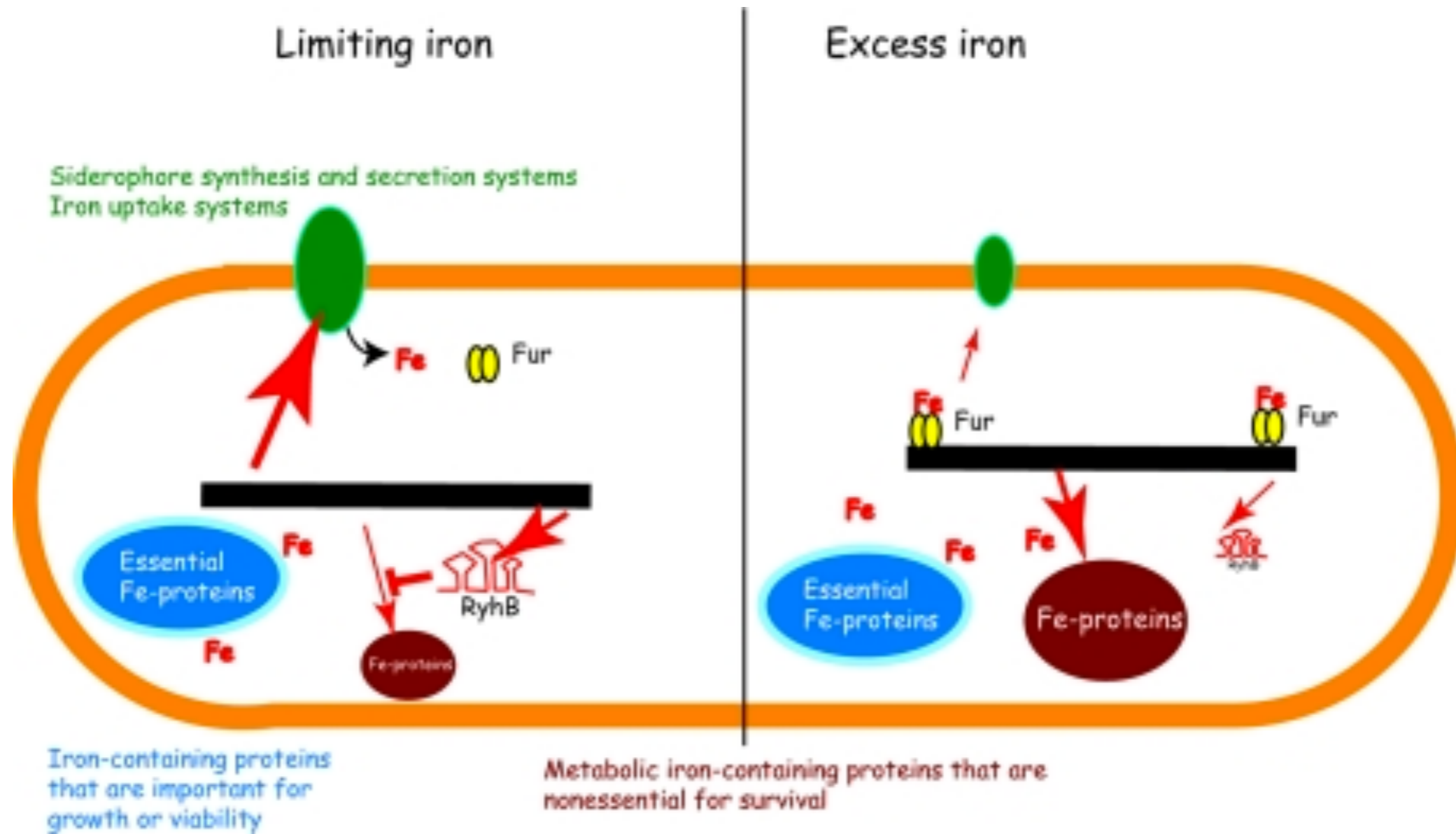
enterobactin



yersiniabactin

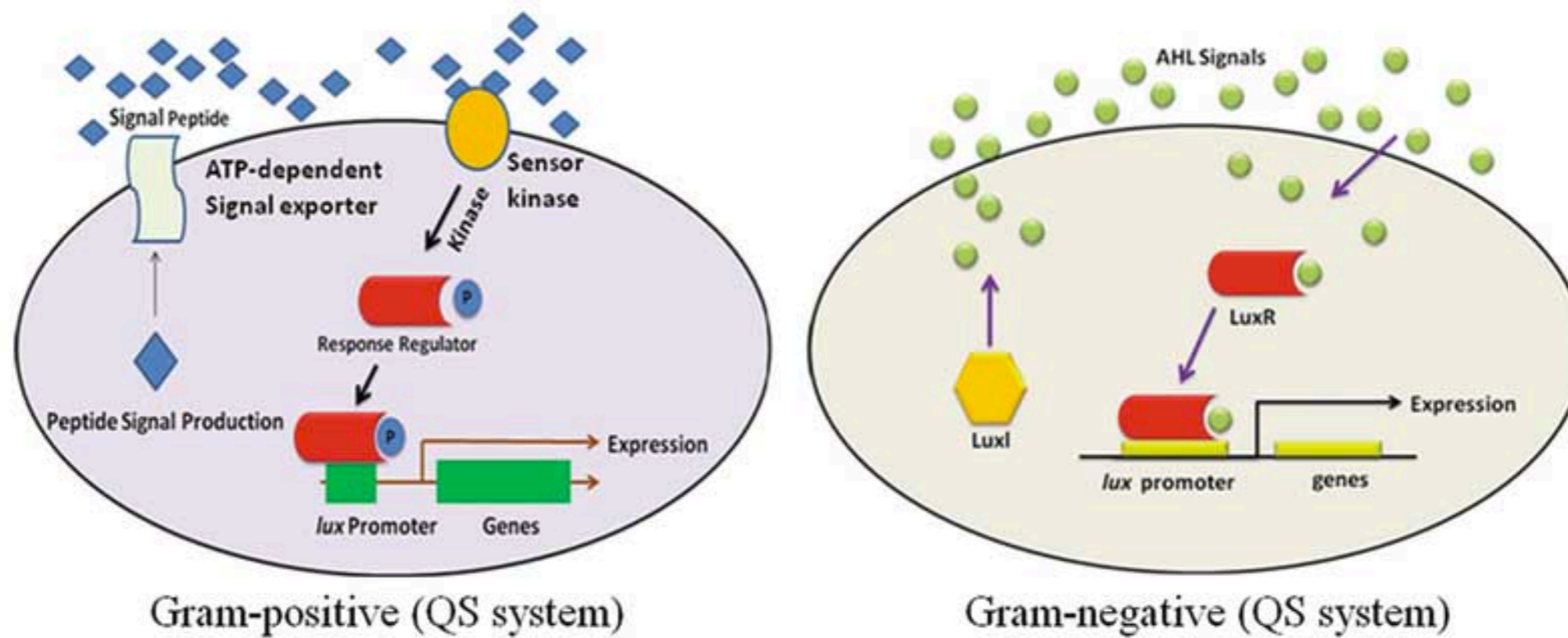
# Bacterial Siderophores

## Regulation of Transcription by Iron Sensing - Fur Protein



# Bacterial Siderophores

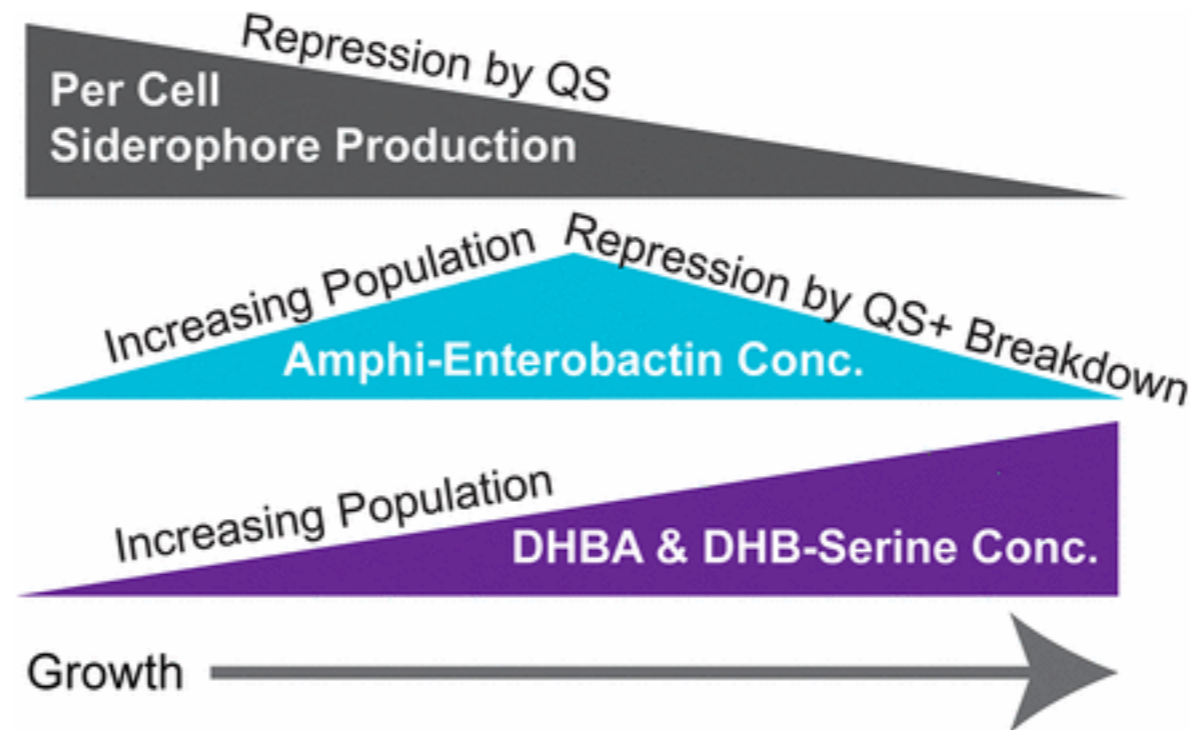
## *Role in Quorum Sensing*





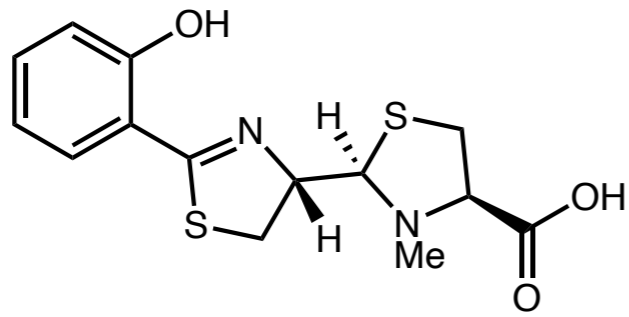
# Bacterial Siderophores

## *Role in Quorum Sensing*



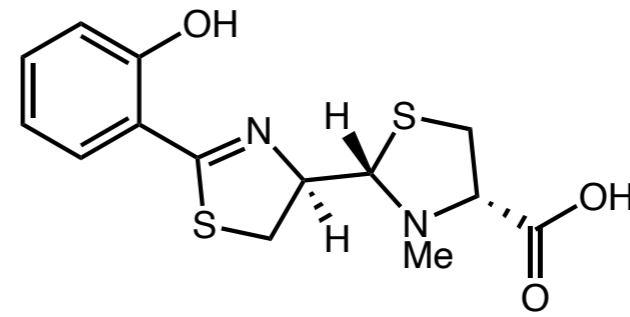
# Bacterial Siderophores

*Active transport of iron can be very selective*



pyochelin

produced by *Burkholderia cepacia*

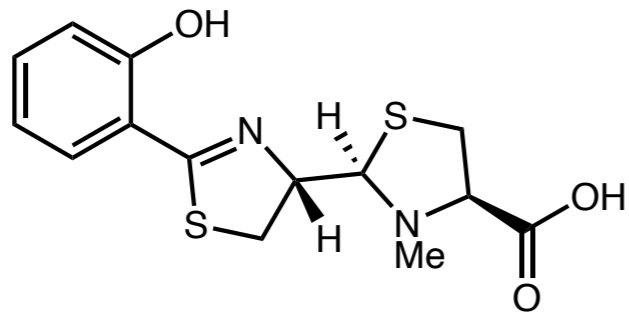


*ent*-pyochelin

produced by *Pseudomonas fluorescens*

# Bacterial Siderophores

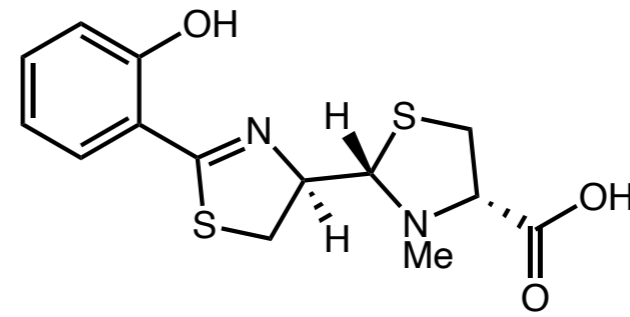
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Induces pyochelin biosynthesis



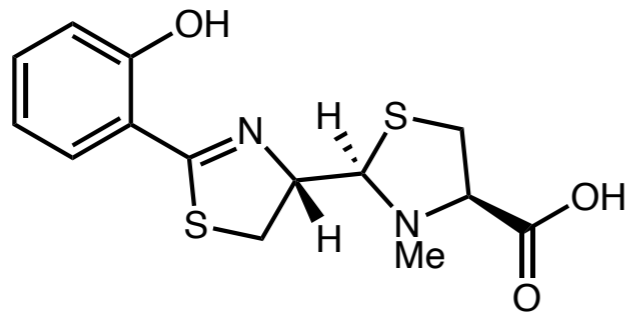
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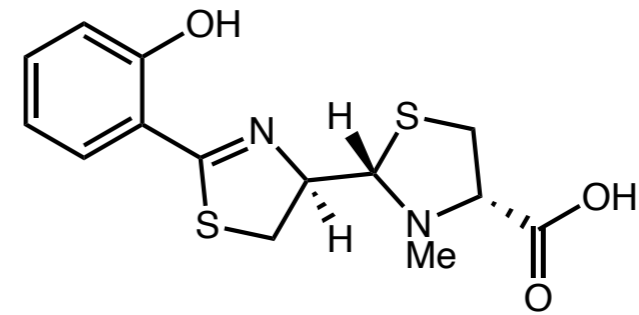


pyochelin

produced by *Burkholderia cepacia*

Induces pyochelin biosynthesis

Not recognized by *Pseudomonas fluorescens*



*ent*-pyochelin

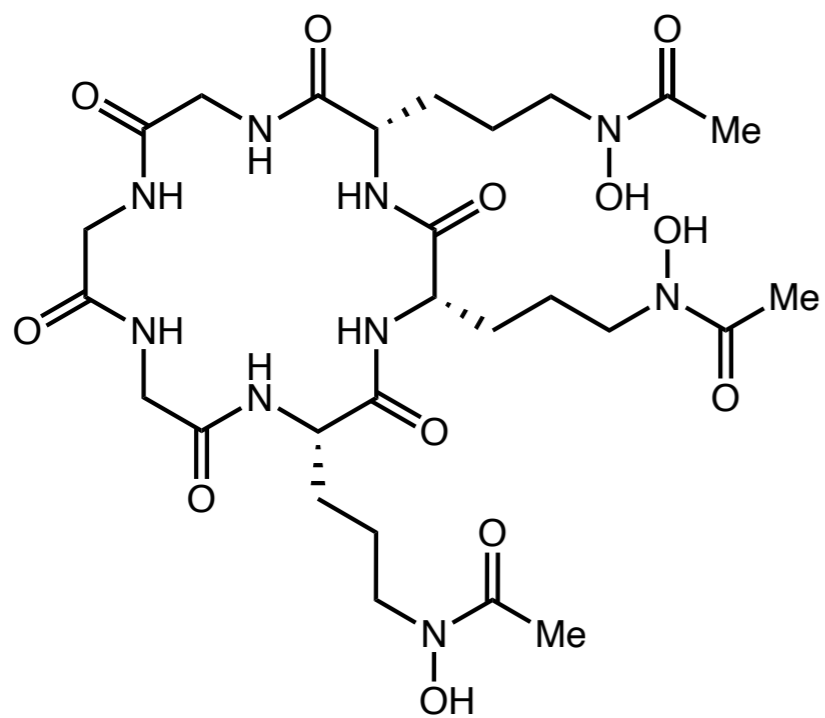
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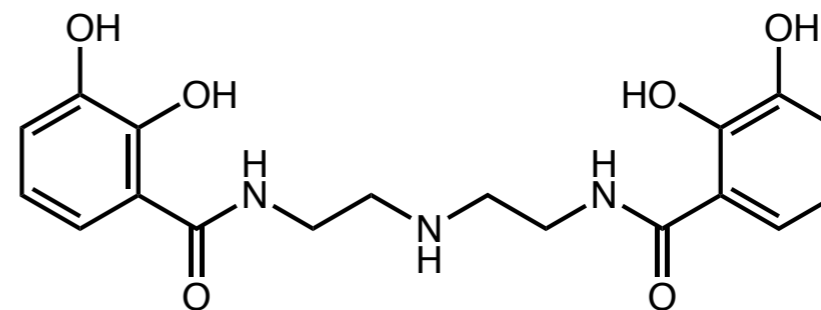
Not recognized by *Burkholderia cepacia*

# Fungal Siderophores

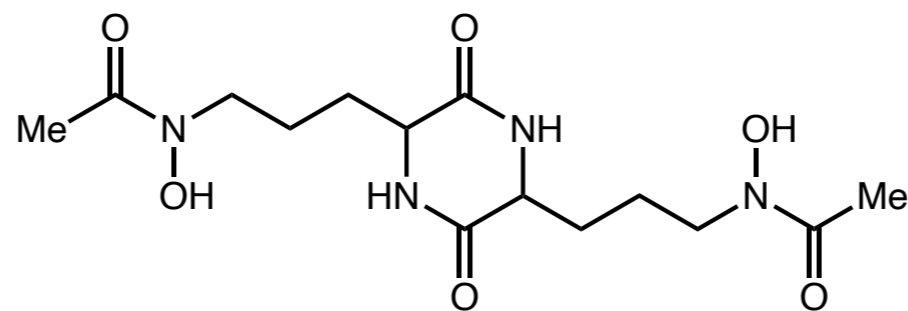
# Fungal Siderophores



ferrichrome



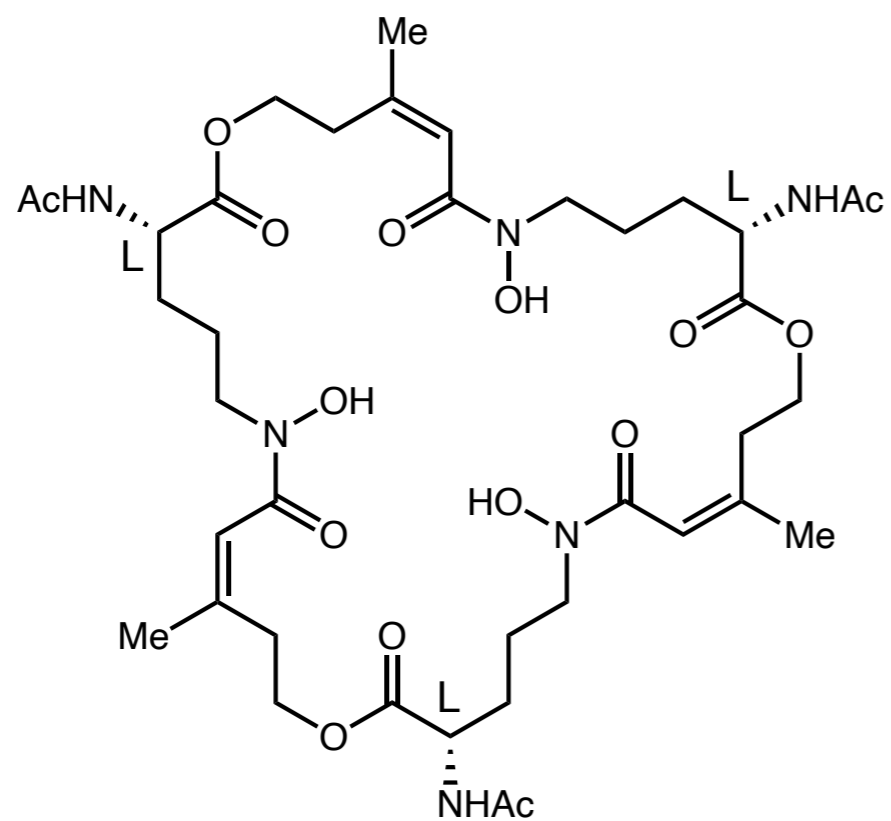
pistillarin



rhodotorulic acid

# Fungal Siderophores

*Edging out the Competition*

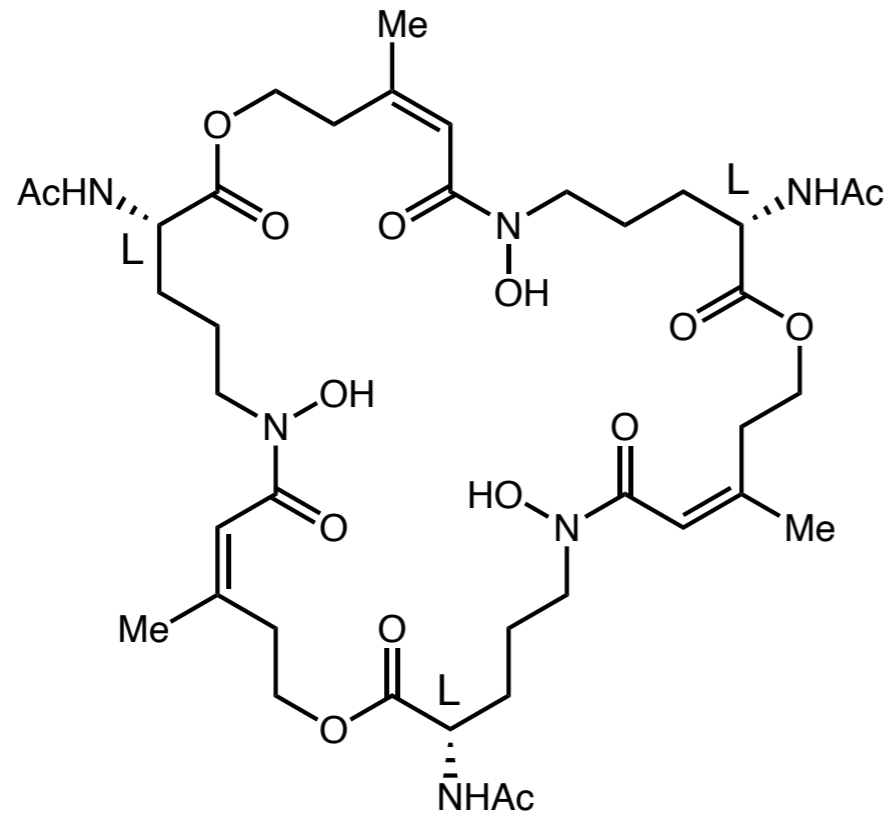


triacetylfusarinine

Produced by numerous fungi

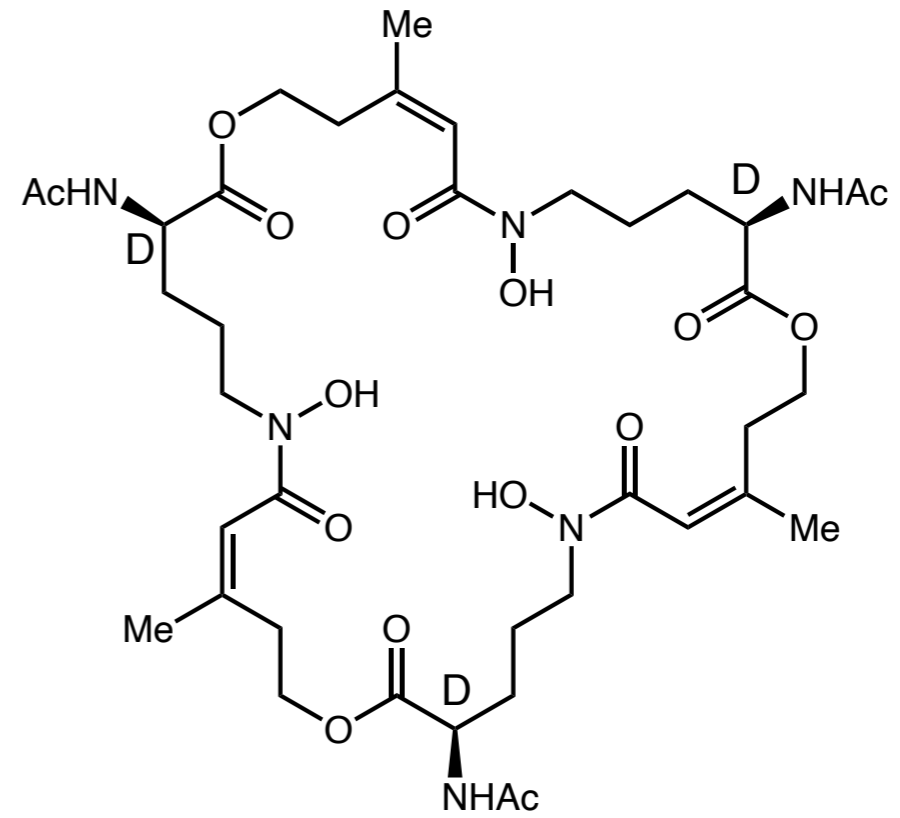
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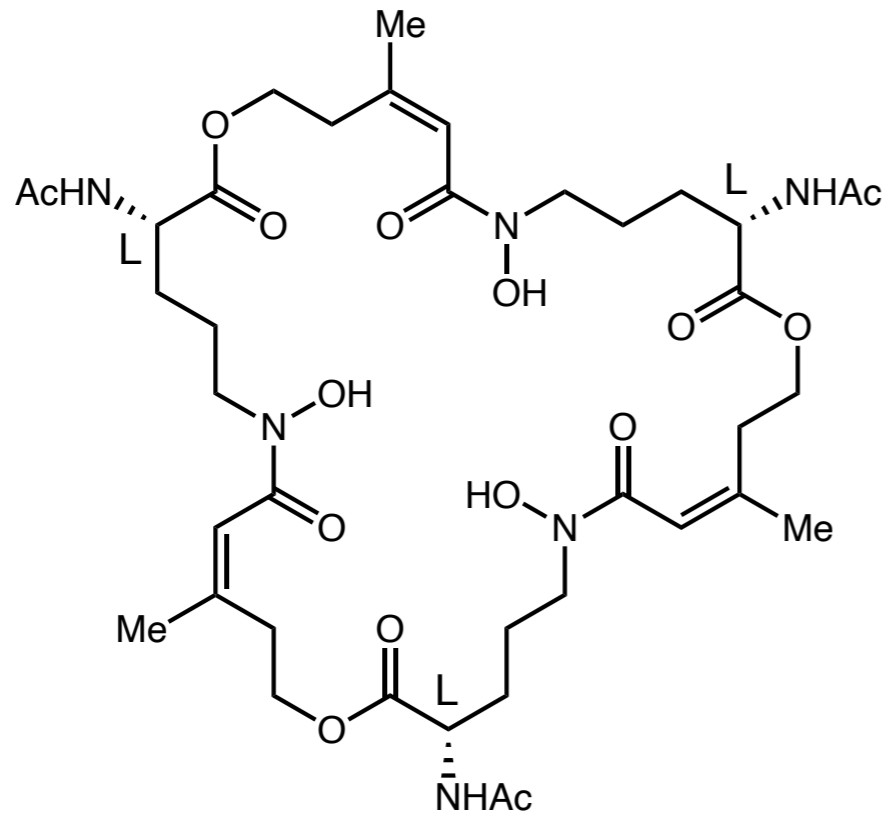
neurosporin

Produced only by *Neurospora crassa*



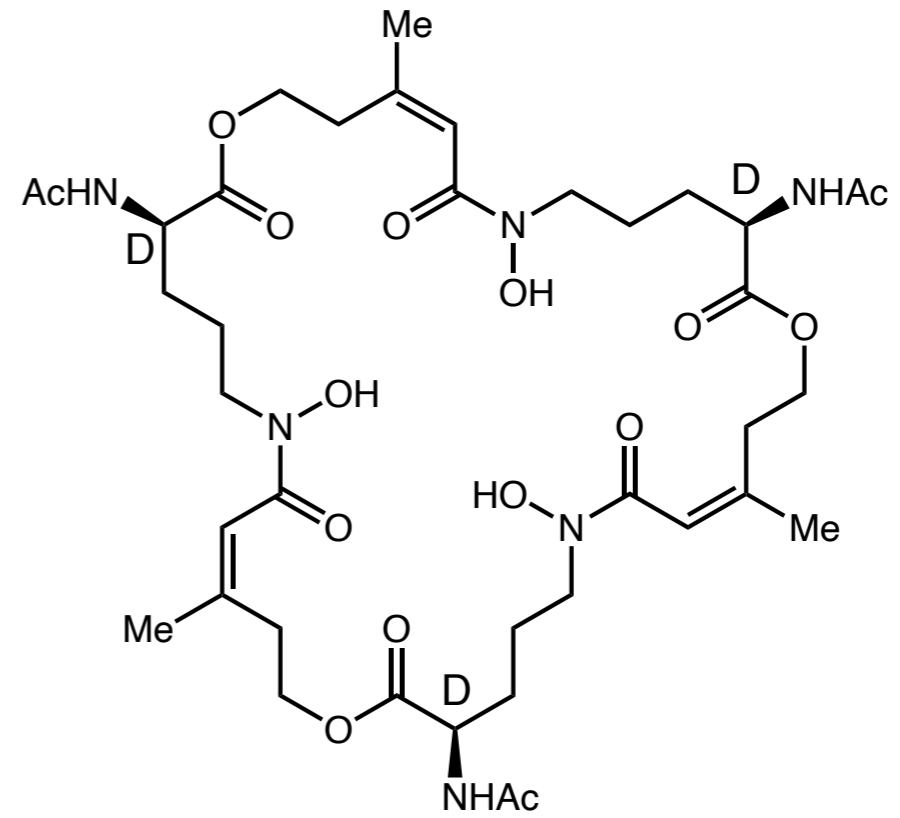
# Fungal Siderophores

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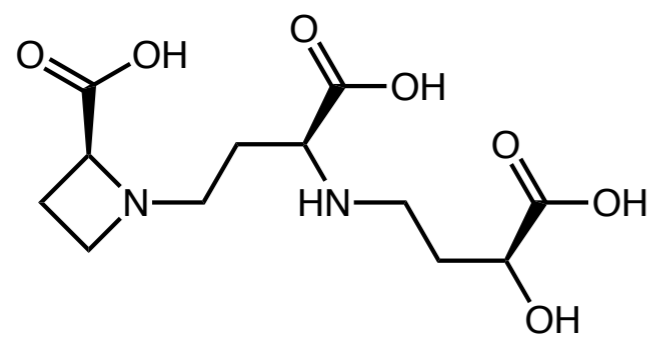


neurosporin

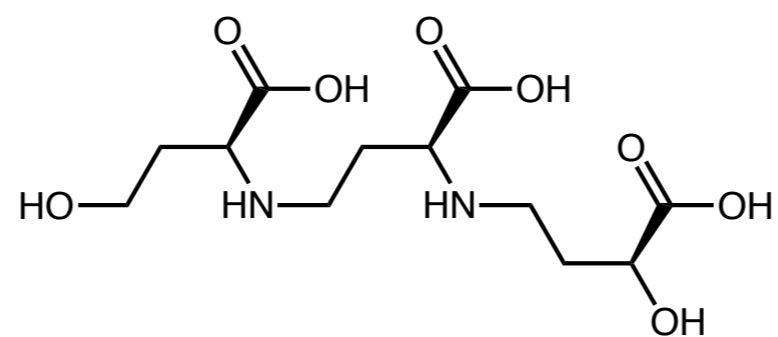
Produced only by *Neurospora crassa*

“normal” fungi do not have receptors that recognize neurosporin,  
giving *Neurospora crassa* a competitive advantage

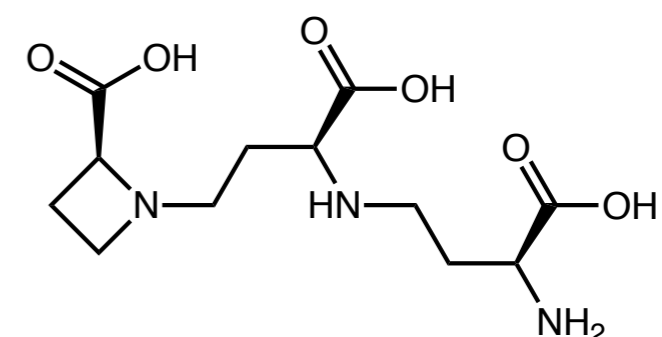
## Plants Use Siderophores Too



deoxymugineic acid



avenic acid



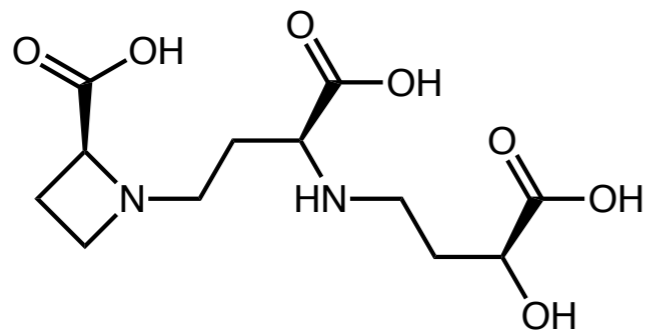
nicotianamine



Hider, R. C. and Kong, X. *Nat. Prod. Rep.* **2010**, 27, 637.

# Plants Use Siderophores Too

*Differentiating Fe<sup>II</sup> and Fe<sup>III</sup>*



deoxymugineic acid

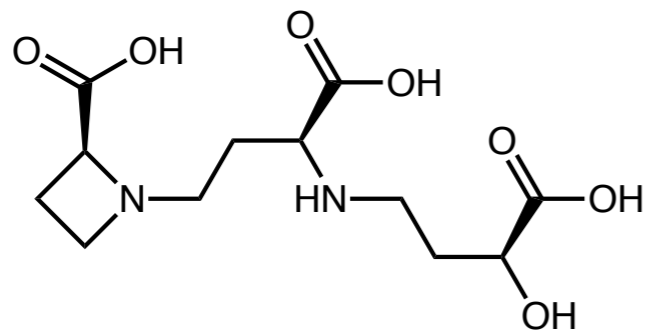
High affinity for Fe<sup>III</sup>

Secreted into the soil at low  
Fe concentration

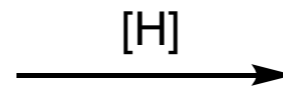
Transported into the plant

# Plants Use Siderophores Too

*Differentiating Fe<sup>II</sup> and Fe<sup>III</sup>*



deoxymugineic acid



Once inside the cell,  
Fe<sup>III</sup> is reduced to Fe<sup>II</sup>

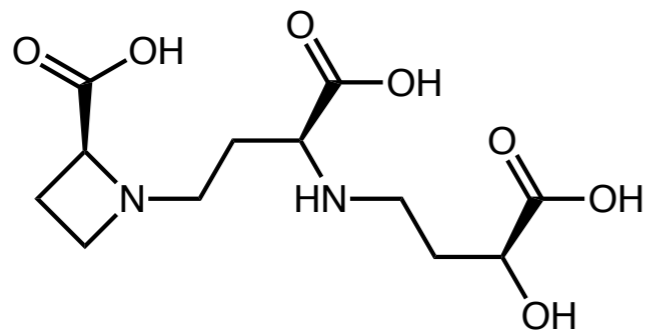
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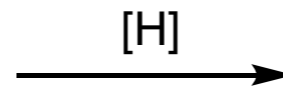


deoxymugineic acid

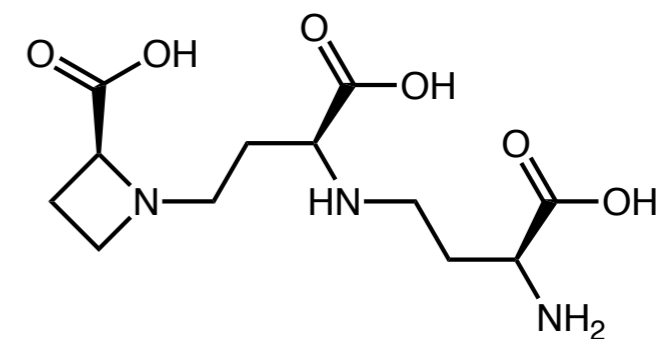
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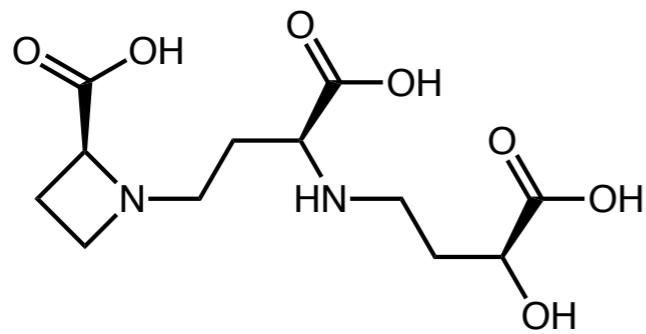


nicotianamine

High affinity for Fe<sup>II</sup>

# Plants Use Siderophores Too

*Differentiating Fe<sup>II</sup> and Fe<sup>III</sup>*

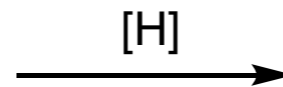


deoxymugineic acid

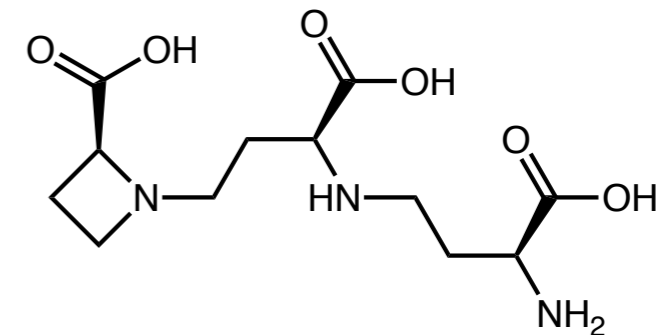
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nicotianamine

High affinity for Fe<sup>II</sup>

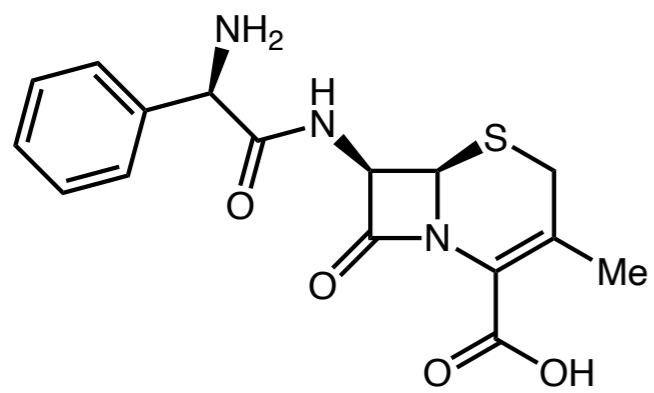
nicotianamine-Fe<sup>II</sup> complex  
cannot be secreted

Translocated to the phloem

# Outline

- I. What are siderophores?
  - a. Classification and Terminology
  - b. Common structural motifs
- II. Biological Functions of Siderophores
  - a. Bacteria
  - b. Fungi
  - c. Plants
- III. Utility of Siderophores
  - a. Trojan Horse Antibiotics
  - b. Metal Chelation Therapy
  - c. Vaccine Delivery Systems
  - d. Agriculture
- IV. Takeaways

# Trojan Horse Antibiotics



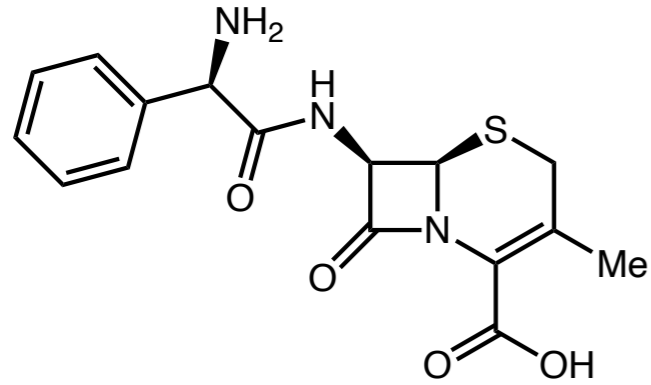
Cefalexin

Antibiotic





# Trojan Horse Antibiotics



Cefalexin

Antibiotic

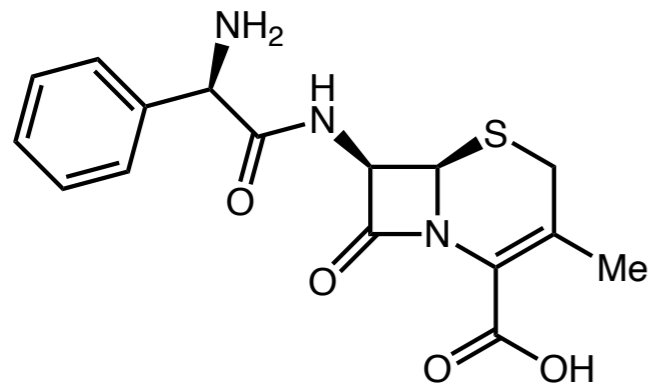


Primary mechanisms of resistance:

Efflux

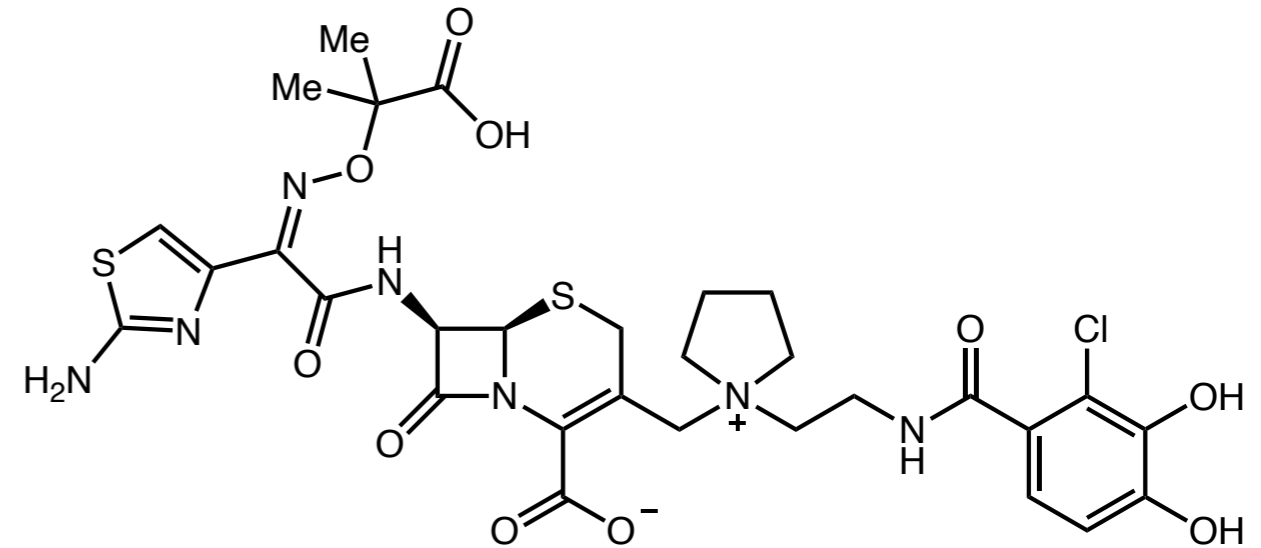
Hydrolytic deactivation

# Trojan Horse Antibiotics



Cefalexin

Antibiotic



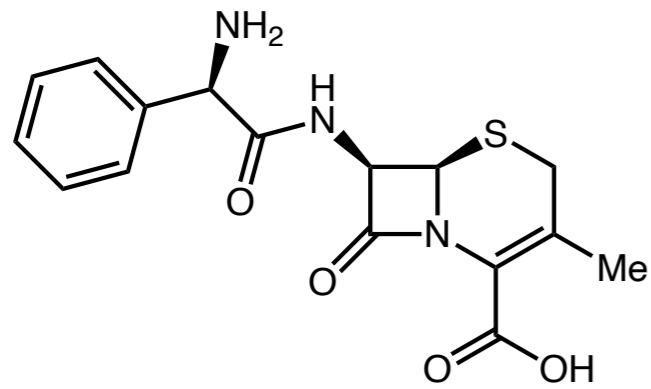
Cefiderocol

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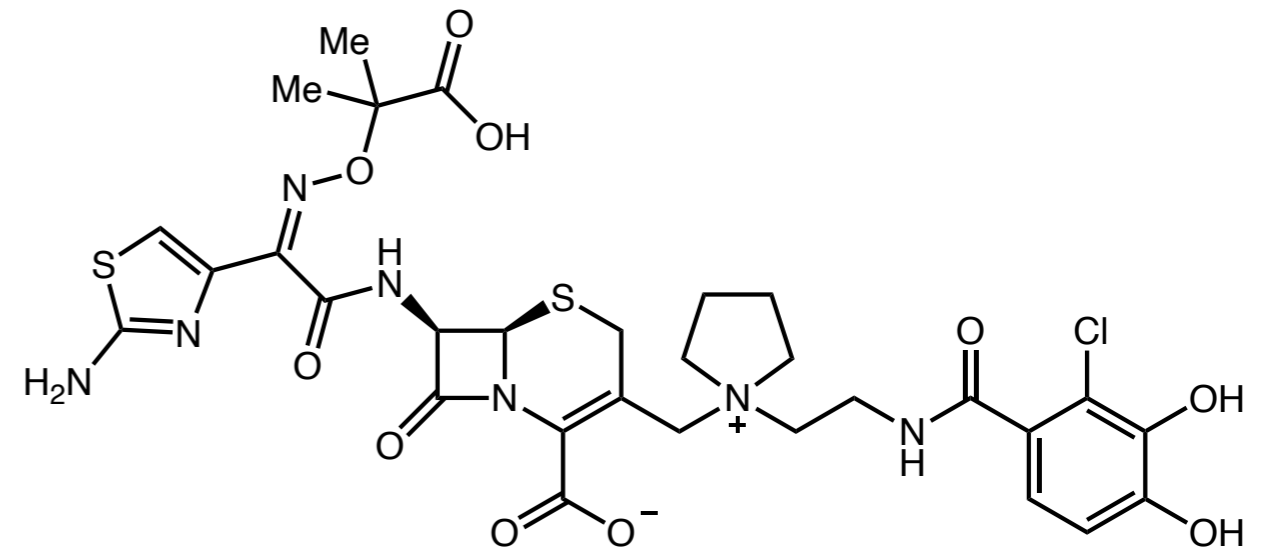
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# Trojan Horse Antibiotics



Cefalexin

Antibiotic



Cefiderocol

Primary mechanisms of resistance:

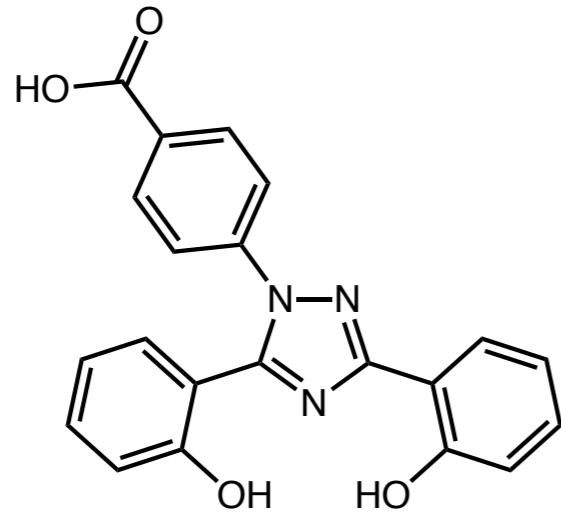
Efflux

Hydrolytic deactivation

Extended spectrum of activity

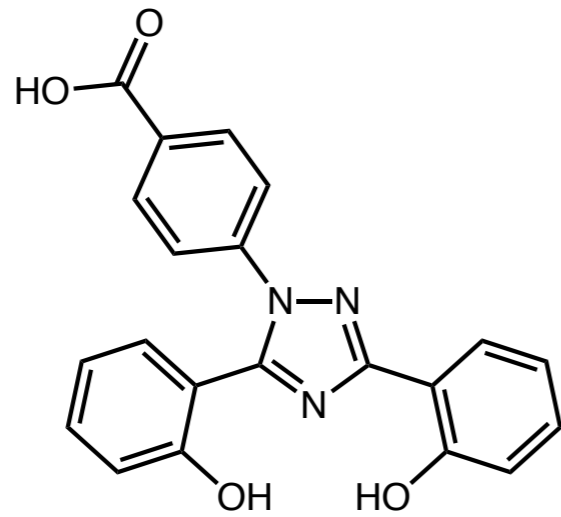
FDA approval in 2020

# Metal Chelation Therapy

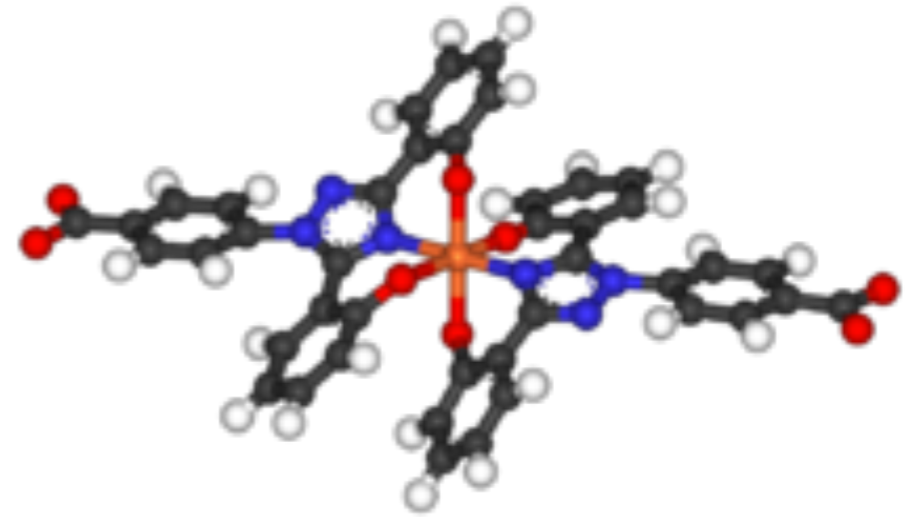


Deferasirox

## Metal Chelation Therapy

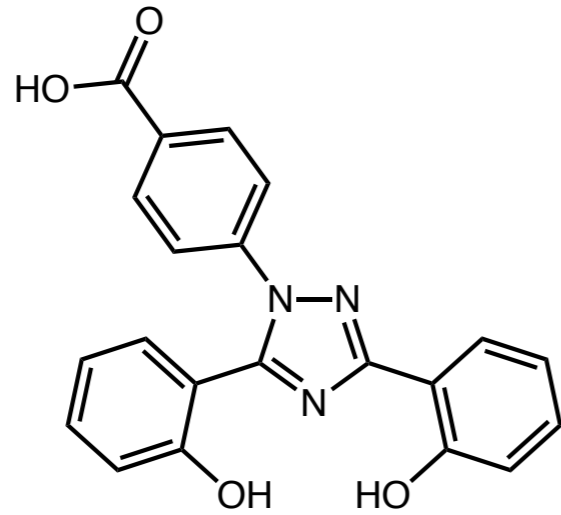


Deferasirox

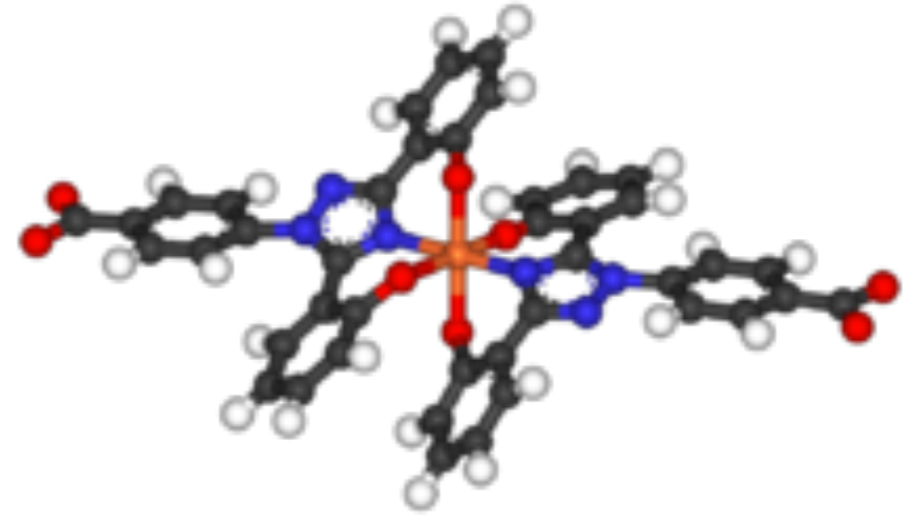


Iron chelator used to treat “chronic iron overload” associated with long-term blood transfusion

## Metal Chelation Therapy



Deferasirox

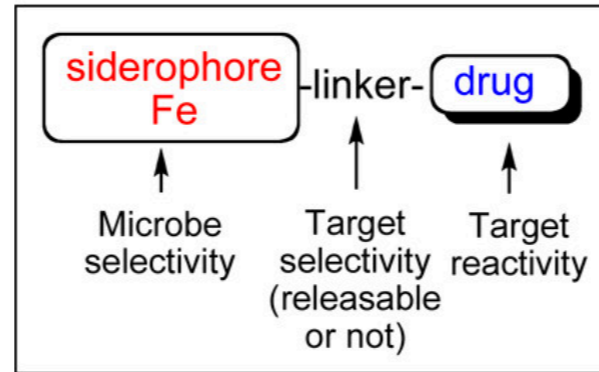


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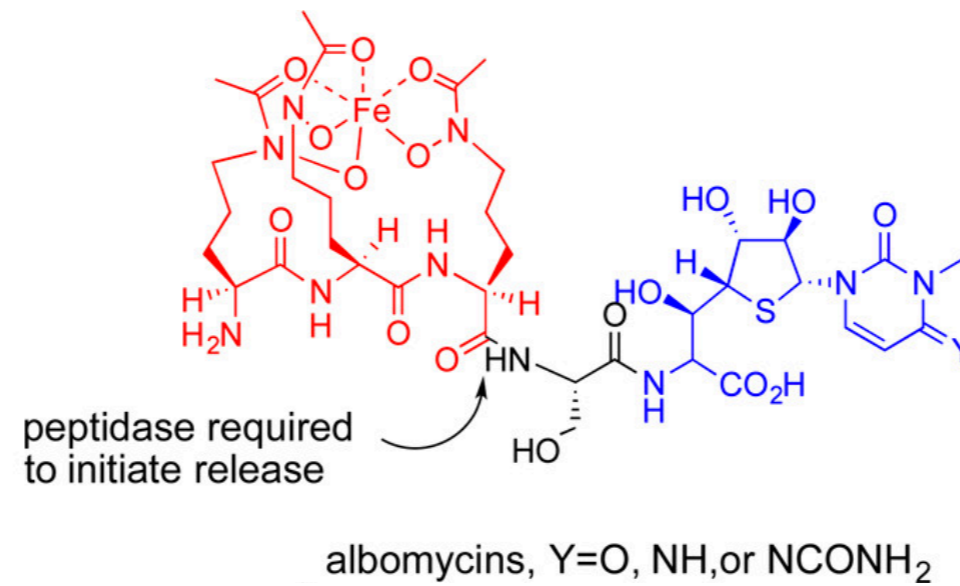
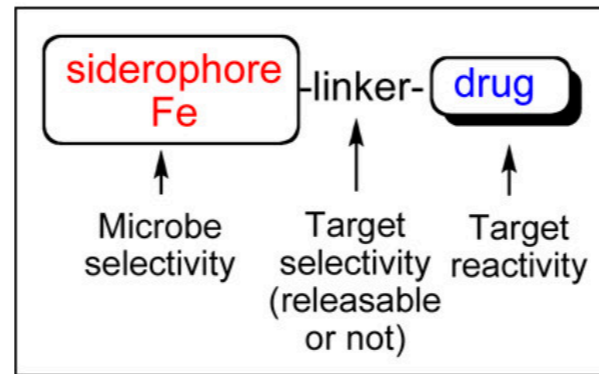
FDA approval in 2005, first in class treatment for chronic iron overload

Ranked second on the list of drugs most frequently associated with patient deaths in 2019

# Drug/Vaccine Delivery Systems

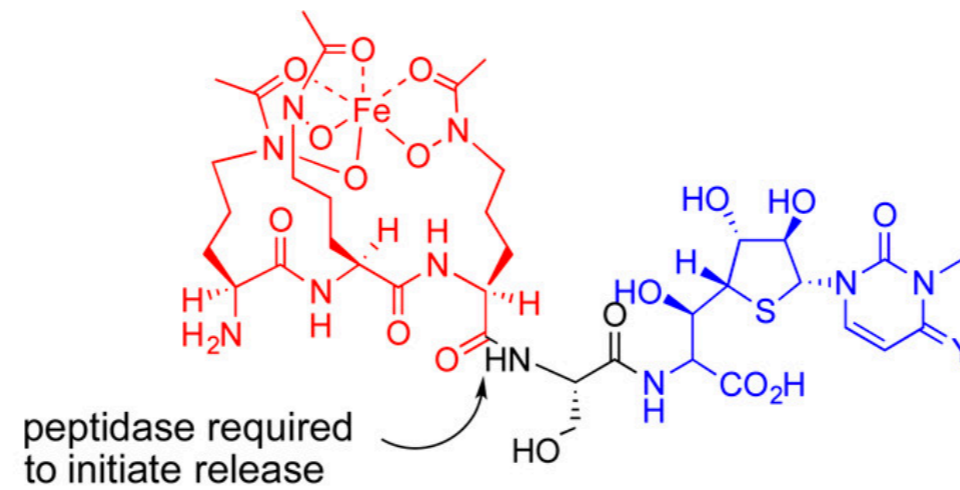
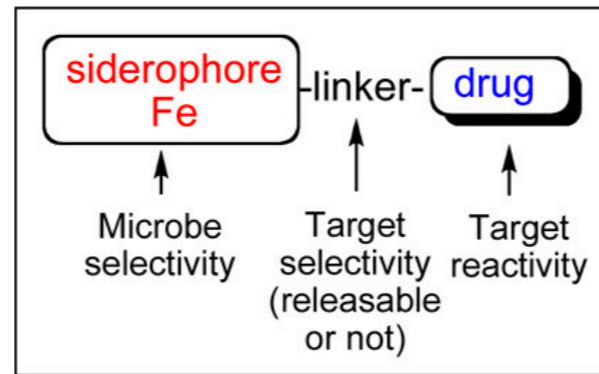


# Drug/Vaccine Delivery Systems

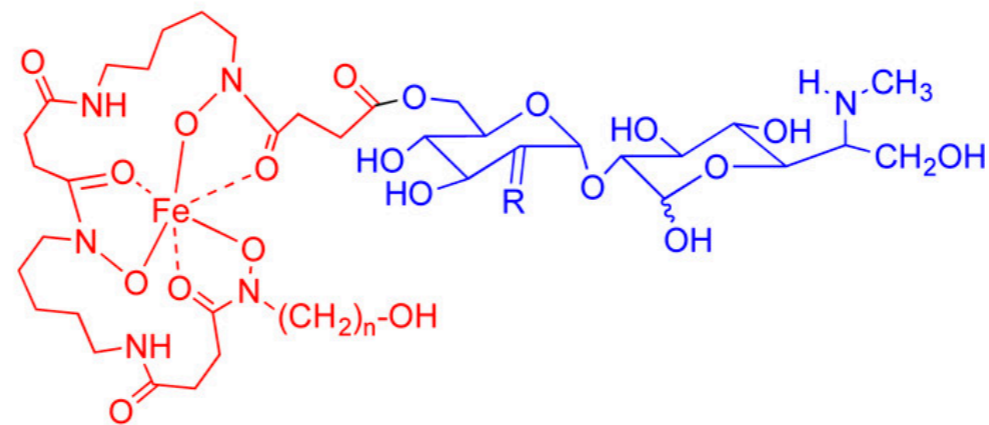




# Drug/Vaccine Delivery Systems



albomycins, Y=O, NH, or NCONH<sub>2</sub>



# Leveraging Siderophores in Agriculture

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## *Phytosiderophore Analogs as Iron Fertilizer*

**Problem:** Fe deficiency occurs when secretion of MAs is inadequate in Poaceae



**Solution:** 1) Determine the effects of synthetic MAs and other chelates as a fertilizer  
2) Produce a low cost and effective analog of MAs

# Leveraging Siderophores in Agriculture

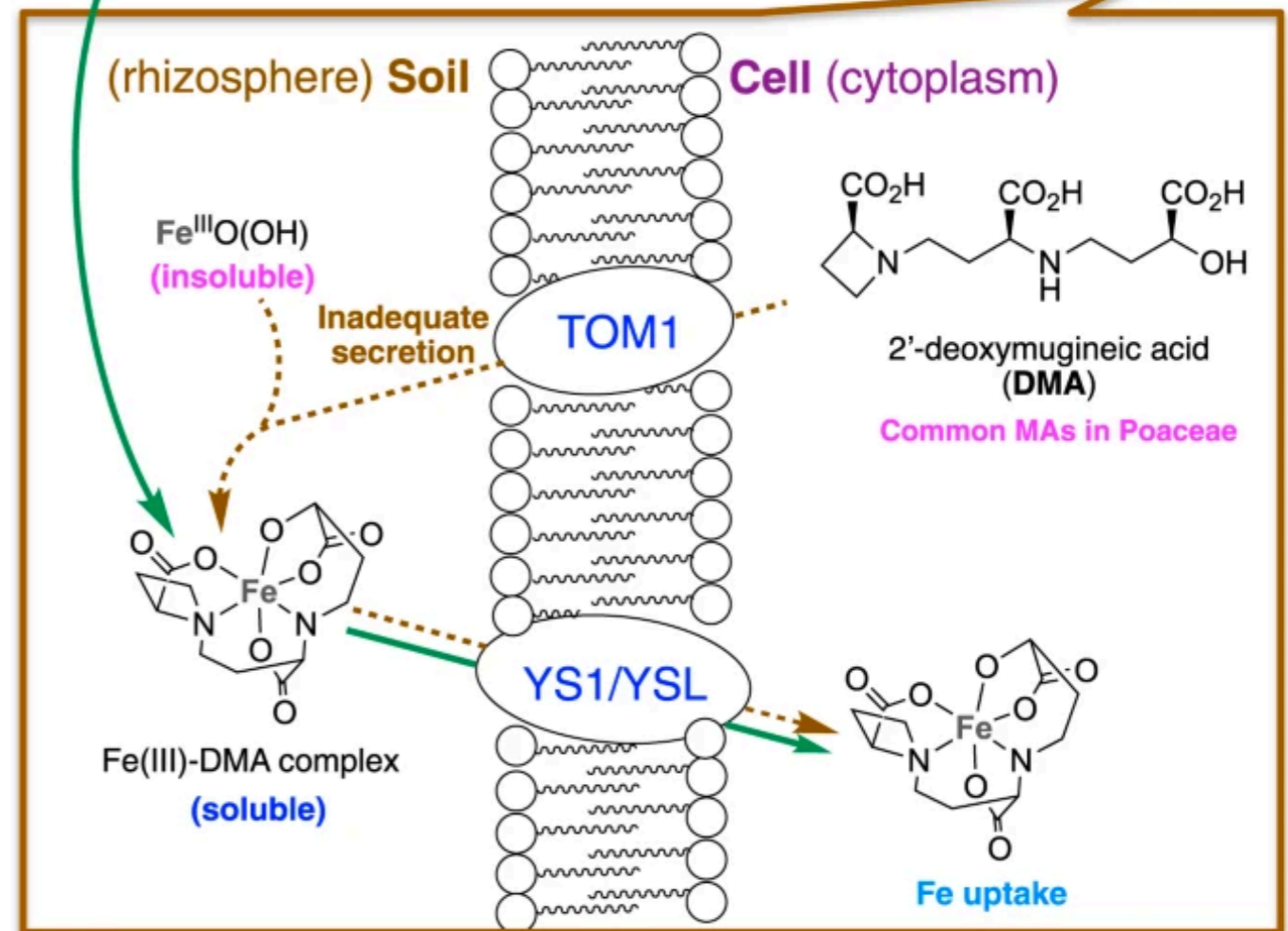
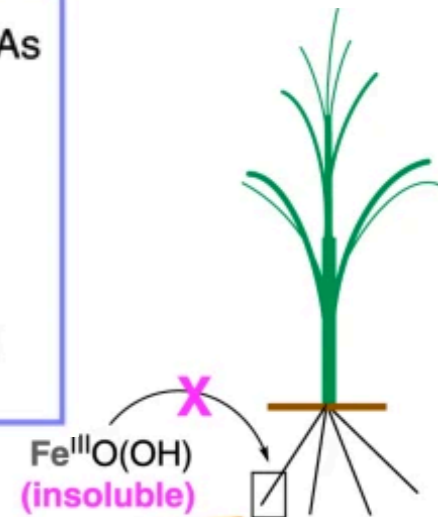
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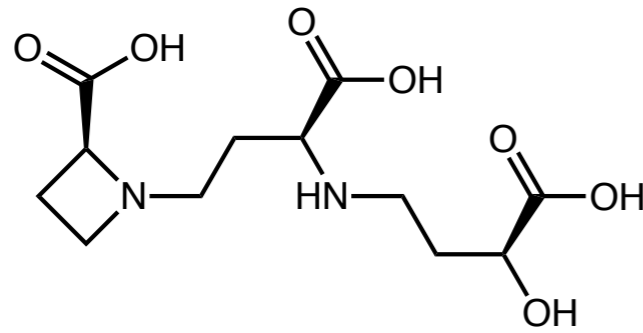
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Addition of synthetic DMA



# Leveraging Siderophores in Agriculture

## Phytosiderophore Analogs as Iron Fertilizer



deoxymugineic acid

natural siderophore

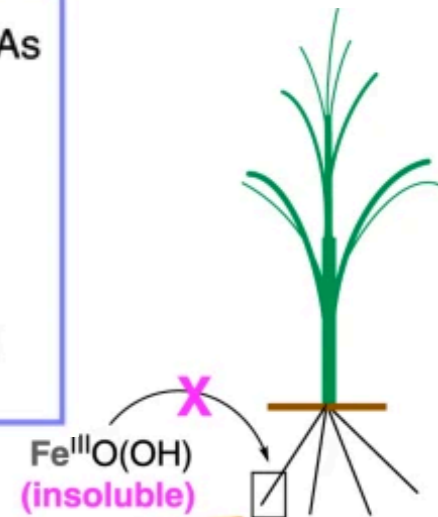
Poor stability, limited storage

Prohibitively expensive for agricultural application

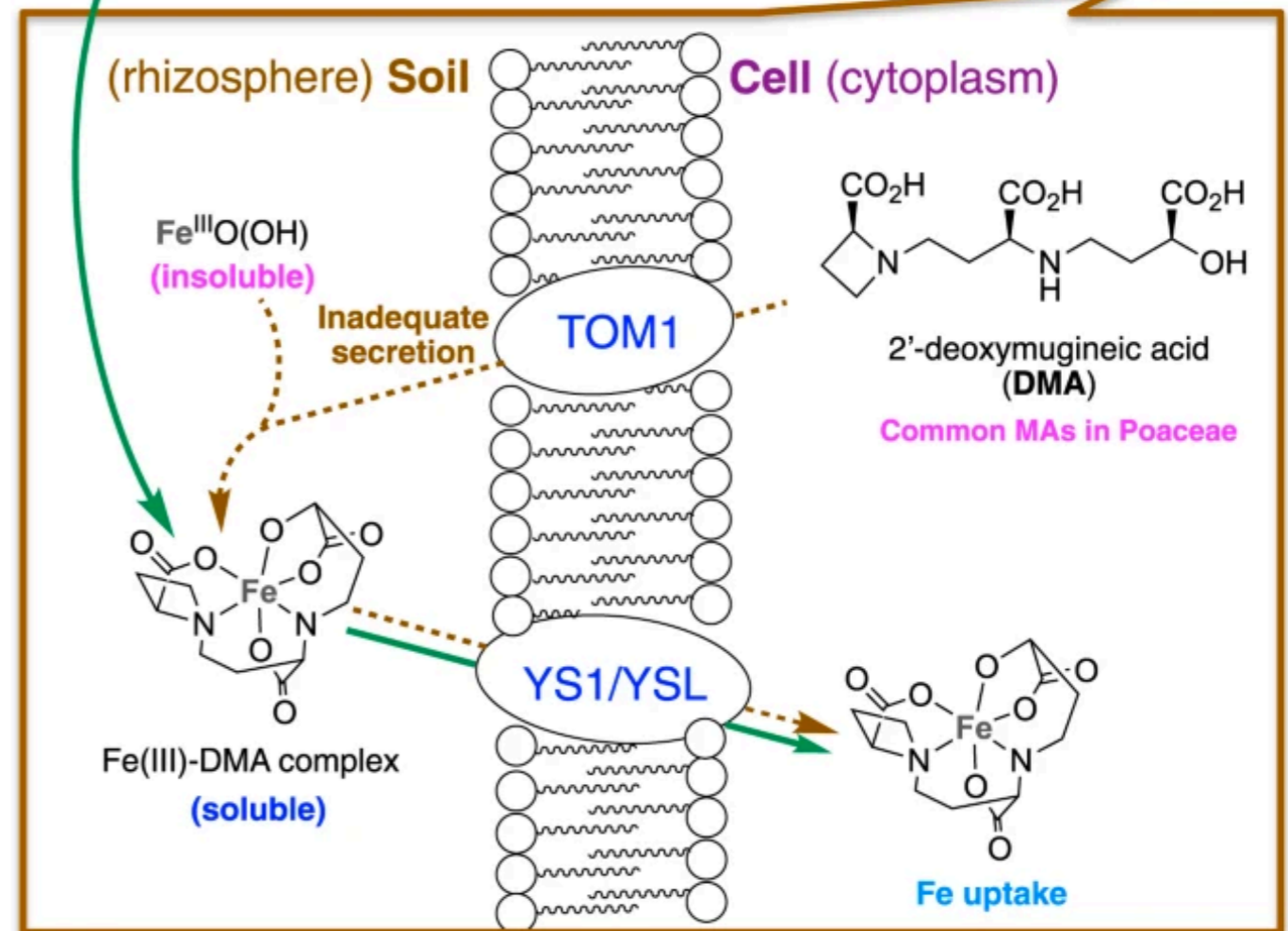
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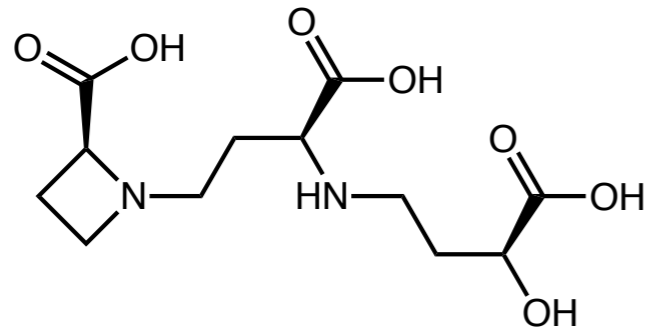
Addition of synthetic DMA





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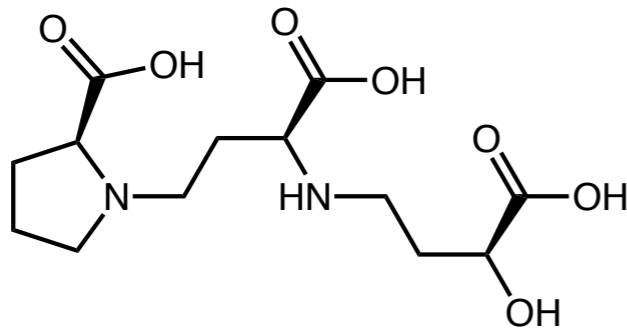


deoxymugineic acid

natural siderophore

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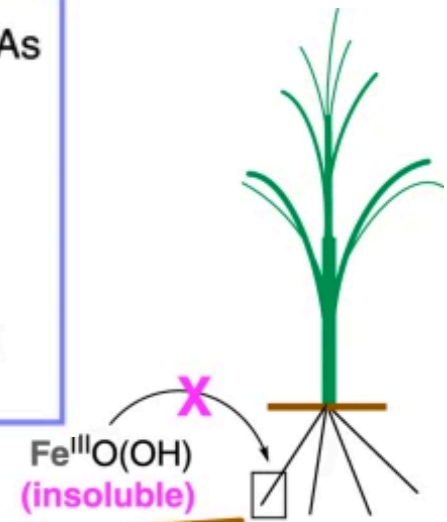


proline analog

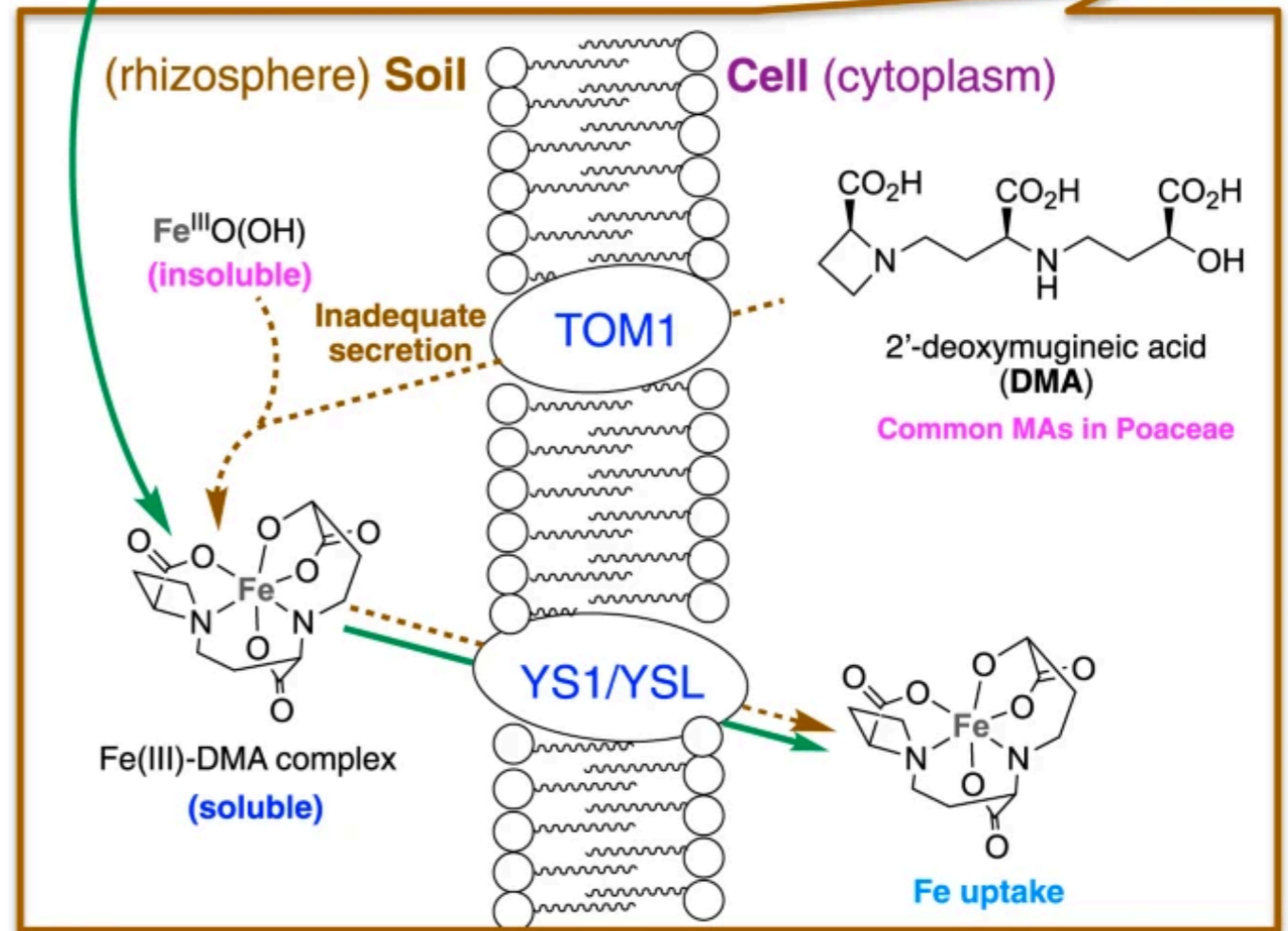
Improved stability

**Problem:** Fe deficiency occurs when secretion of MAs is inadequate in Poaceae

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Addition of synthetic DMA



## Takeaways

- Iron is imperative for almost all life
- Organisms have evolved complex, redundant mechanisms for iron acquisition
- Mixtures of siderophores regulate soluble iron supply in the environment
- Further study is necessary to understand biochemical mechanisms for iron scavenging, transport, and regulation
- Siderophores (and ionophores) have high potential for novel therapeutic applications