

1 **Structural insights into the π - π - π stacking mechanism and DNA-binding activity of the**

2 **YEATS domain**

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25

26 **Abstract**

27 The YEATS domain has been identified as a reader of histone acylation and more
28 recently emerged as a promising anti-cancer therapeutic target. Here, we detail the
29 structural mechanisms for π - π - π stacking involving the YEATS domains of yeast Taf14
30 and human AF9 and acylated histone H3 peptides and explore DNA-binding activities of
31 these domains. Taf14-YEATS selects for crotonyllsine, forming π stacking with both the
32 crotonyl amide and the alkene moiety, whereas AF9-YEATS exhibits comparable
33 affinities to saturated and unsaturated acyllsines, engaging them through π stacking
34 with the acyl amide. Importantly, AF9-YEATS is capable of binding to DNA, whereas
35 Taf14-YEATS is not. Using a structure-guided approach, we engineered a mutant of
36 Taf14-YEATS that engages crotonyllsine through the aromatic-aliphatic-aromatic π
37 stacking and shows high selectivity for the crotonyl H3K9 modification. Our findings
38 shed light on the molecular principles underlying recognition of acyllsine marks and
39 reveal a previously unidentified DNA-binding activity of AF9-YEATS.

40

41 **Introduction**

42 A large number of epigenetic marks or posttranslational modifications (PTMs) in histones have
43 been discovered over the past few years.^{1,2} One of the major and widespread PTMs is acylation
44 of the ε-amino group of lysine residues. Acylation neutralizes the positive charge and increases
45 the hydrophobic character of the lysine side chain and alters chromatin structure utilizing two
46 fundamental mechanisms. It weakens non-specific electrostatic interactions between histones
47 and DNA, leading to a more open and transcriptionally active chromatin. It also recruits
48 acyllysine readers and their host proteins and complexes to specific genomic loci to facilitate
49 diverse epigenetic-driven nuclear programs essential in chromatin remodeling, gene
50 transcription, and DNA replication, recombination and repair.^{3,4} At least nine acyllysine
51 modifications in histones have been identified, including crotonylation.

52 Since the discovery of lysine crotonylation in mammalian cells, this PTM has drawn
53 much attention becoming an increasingly important epigenetic mark.^{5,6} Crotonylation is enriched
54 around active gene promoters and potentially enhancers and was found to stimulate gene
55 transcription to a higher degree than the corresponding acetylation.⁶ Studies of genomic
56 distribution of crotonyllsine and acetyllysine reveal some differences, which suggest that these
57 modifications are not redundant and can be associated with distinct biological outcomes.^{5,6}
58 Nevertheless, a substantial overlap in genomic localization and similarities in chemical
59 properties present a challenge in studying and distinguishing the biological roles of these PTMs.
60 A strategy of employing separate readers as probes for targeting individual acyllysine
61 modifications has not been well developed, in part because of the promiscuous nature of
62 currently known readers. Canonical acyllysine readers, bromodomain and double PHD finger
63 (DPF), display comparable binding capabilities towards various short acyl chain modifications,⁷⁻
64 ¹² and while the YEATS domain exhibits preference for crotonyllsine, it still associates albeit
65 more weakly with other acyllysine marks.¹³⁻²² We have previously shown that the YEATS
66 domains of Taf14 (Taf14-YEATS) and AF9 (AF9-YEATS) recognize crotonyllsine through a

67 non-canonical π - π - π stacking mechanism,^{16,17} and in the case of Taf14-YEATS it involves
68 aromatic-amide-aromatic π stacking and aromatic-aliphatic-aromatic π stacking¹⁶ (Fig. 1a). In
69 this study, we elucidate the significance of π stacking components in targeting of acetyllysines
70 by the YEATS domains and report a previously uncharacterized DNA-binding activity of the
71 human AF9 YEATS domain. We also show how the unique nature of the conjugated π system
72 of the crotonyl modification could aid in the design of effectors indifferent to saturated
73 acetyllysines.

74

75 **Results and Discussion**

76 **Structural insight into the selectivity of Taf14-YEATS**

77 To determine the contribution of π stacking to the binding energetics, we measured
78 binding affinities of Taf14-YEATS to the histone H3K9acyl peptides containing unsaturated and
79 saturated four-carbon acyl modifications. Tryptophan fluorescence measurements showed that
80 binding of Taf14-YEATS was reduced ~3-fold when the crotonylated modification was replaced
81 with a similar in length but saturated butyryl modification (Fig. 1b, c and Supplementary Figure
82 1). The binding was further decreased to a negatively charged succinyllysine, and no interaction
83 was detected with a branched hydroxyisobutyryllysine in ^1H , ^{15}N heteronuclear single quantum
84 coherence (HSQC) NMR titration experiments (Supplementary Figure 2). The selectivity of the
85 YEATS domain for the crotonyllysine modification was substantiated by pull down assays with
86 biotinylated histone peptides (Fig. 1d). GST fused Taf14-YEATS recognized the H3K9cr peptide
87 but associated weaker with H3K9bu and H3K9ac peptides. Together these results demonstrate
88 that Taf14-YEATS selects for unbranched acyl modifications, and the alkene group in the
89 modification enhances the protein binding capability.

90 To gain insight into the molecular basis for the enhancement, we obtained the crystal
91 structure of Taf14-YEATS in complex with H3K9bu peptide and compared it to the previously

92 reported structure of this domain in complex with H3K9cr.¹⁶ The structures were superimposed
93 with a root mean square deviation of 0.1 Å, indicating overall conservation of the binding mode.
94 As in the case of crotonyllysine, butyryllysine transversed a narrow tunnel and was sandwiched
95 between two aromatic residues of the protein, W81 and F62 (Fig. 1e, Supplementary Figure 3a
96 and Supplementary Table 1). Amide nitrogen and carbonyl oxygen of butyryllysine were
97 restrained through hydrogen bonds with the hydroxyl group of T61 and backbone amide of W81
98 and through a water-mediated hydrogen bond with G82. A similar set of polar interactions
99 stabilized the complex with crotonyllysine, however substantial differences were observed in the
100 position of W81. It adopted a single conformation, rotamer 1 (r1), involved in the π stacking
101 interaction with butyryl amide in the Taf14 YEATS-H3K9bu complex. In contrast, when
102 complexed with H3K9cr, W81 adopted two conformations, with r1 and r2 providing maximum π
103 stacking with the crotonyl amide and the crotonyl alkene moiety, respectively (Supplementary
104 Figures 3b and 4). Neither the complex with propionylated H3K9pr peptide nor the complex with
105 acetylated H3K9ac peptide had the r2 conformation of W81, indicating that it is a unique feature
106 available to the unsaturated acyl modification but not to saturated acyllysine modifications (Fig.
107 1f).

108

109 **Design of the crotonyllysine specific Taf14-YEATS**

110 Comparison of the H3K9bu- and H3K9cr-bound Taf14-YEATS structures revealed that the side
111 chain of W81 is located within 4 Å of the α carbon atom of G82. Modeling in G82A mutation
112 suggested that the presence of an additional methyl group at position 82 would hinder the ability
113 of W81 to adopt the r1 conformation required for the π amide stacking. To test this hypothesis,
114 we generated the G82A mutant of Taf14-YEATS and determined its crystal structure (Fig. 2a).
115 In support of our idea, the indole moiety of W81 in this mutant was in a tilted conformation
116 incompatible with r1 (Fig. 2b). We next assessed the acyllysine binding activity of Taf14-YEATS

117 G82A using NMR titration experiments (Fig. 2c). Large chemical shift perturbations (CSPs) in
118 ^{15}N -labeled Taf14-YEATS G82A upon addition of H3K9cr peptide indicated that the mutant
119 retains its ability to recognize the crotonyl modification. However, association of Taf14-YEATS
120 with the H3K9ac peptide was almost negligible, as very small CSPs were observed (Fig. 2c and
121 Supplementary Figure 5b). Tryptophan fluorescence measurements yielded a K_d of 124 μM for
122 the interaction of Taf14-YEATS G82A with H3K9cr (Fig. 2d). Although binding affinity of the
123 G82A mutant to H3K9cr was reduced compared to the binding affinity of the wild type protein, it
124 remains in the range of affinities exhibited by the well-established readers of acetyllysine,
125 bromodomains.^{7,9}

126 We next characterized the Taf14-YEATS G82A mutant in the cellular context. We have
127 previously shown that abrogating the Taf14 association with H3K9acyl through mutating W81 to
128 alanine impacts the transcript levels of a variety of yeast genes both positively and negatively.¹⁴
129 To determine the effect of blocking Taf14 from selectively associating with H3K9ac but not with
130 H3K9cr, we carried out a real-time qPCR analysis for a set of Taf14-regulated genes in the
131 *TAF14* deletion strain (*taf14Δ*) rescued with a vector only, wild-type *TAF14*, or with a form
132 carrying either the W81A or G82A mutation in the YEATS domain (*taf14* W81A and *taf14* G82A)
133 (Fig. 2e). As expected, *taf14Δ* deletion impacted the expression of multiple genes that were
134 previously reported to be regulated by Taf14 interaction with H3K9acyl, including *YBL041*,
135 *YPR145*, *YPR158*, *YER145C*, *YKL150W* and *YKR093W*.¹⁴ For control, we also included several
136 genes, such as *YLR290*, *YAL017* and *MRPL10*, that were shown not to be regulated by Taf14.¹⁴
137 Intriguingly, while the effect of the entirely loss-of-function *taf14* W81A mutant was largely
138 consistent with the effect seen with the loss of Taf14, the *taf14* G82A mutant showed more
139 variable results (Fig. 2e). In some cases, the *taf14* G82A mutant impacted the expression of
140 genes similar to that of the *taf14* W81A mutant (*YBL041*, *YPR158*, *YKL150W* and *YKR093W*),
141 while in other cases, the *taf14* G82A mutant showed distinct effects on gene transcripts not
142 seen in either the *taf14* W81A mutant or the *TAF14* deletion (*YPR145* and *YER145C*). Given

143 the *taf14* G82A mutation impacts H3K9ac binding to a greater degree than H3K9cr binding,
144 these findings suggest a differential requirement of H3K9ac and H3K9cr for the proper
145 expression of Taf14-regulated genes.

146

147 **Crotonyllysine recognition by Taf14-YEATS G82A**

148 To elucidate the mechanism by which Taf14-YEATS G82A distinguishes crotonyllysine and
149 discriminates against saturated counterparts, we obtained the crystal structure of the H3K9cr-
150 bound G82A mutant (Fig. 3a). The structure of the complex showed that the aromatic side
151 chains of W81 and F62 lay parallel to each other and at equal distance of 3.4-3.6 Å from the
152 crotonyl alkene group (Fig. 3b). Remarkably, only a single r2 conformation of W81 was
153 observed in the structure of the complex. Analysis of molecular orbitals for the W81, Kcr and
154 F62 assembly at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of DFT (density functional theory) revealed that
155 the bonding molecular orbitals (MOs) transcending all three π systems are deeply buried,
156 indicating considerable synergism of the π - π - π stacking interaction (Supplementary Figure 6). A
157 representative MO, the highest occupied molecular orbital HOMO-8, is shown in Figure 3c. We
158 concluded that the ability of the W81 r2 rotamer to engage the crotonyl alkene moiety most
159 likely accounts for the selectivity of Taf14-YEATS G82A.

160

161 **AF9-YEATS is a more versatile acyllysine reader**

162 Alignment of the YEATS domain sequences derived from the family of human and yeast
163 proteins shows conservation of the WG motif (W81 and G82 in Taf14) in all YEATS members
164 but AF9 and ENL, which instead contain a YA motif (Fig. 4a). Interestingly, despite the presence
165 of an alanine following the aromatic Y78 residue in AF9, the YEATS domain of AF9 did not
166 differentiate between acylated modifications on H3K9 and bound almost equally well to H3K9cr,
167 H3K9bu and H3K9ac, supporting the original findings¹⁷ (Fig. 4b and Supplementary Figure 7).

168 To compare the binding modes of the YEATS domains harboring the WG and YA motifs, we
169 determined the structure of AF9-YEATS in complex with H3K9bu peptide. Structural overlay of
170 the AF9-YEATS:H3K9bu and previously reported AF9-YEATS:H3K9cr¹⁷ complexes showed that
171 both saturated and unsaturated four-carbon acyl chains of K9 are bound by the three aromatic
172 residues Y78, F59 and F28 in a very similar way (Fig. 4c). Short (less than 4 Å) distances
173 observed between C^γ, C^δ, C^ε, and C^η atoms of Y78, the amide group of acyllysine, and the C^ε
174 and C^ζ atoms of F59 indicated that Y78 and F59 of AF9 are involved in the aromatic-amide-
175 aromatic π-π-π stacking in either complex (Fig. 4c, yellow dashed lines). However, neither Y78
176 nor F28 appear to form π-π-π stacking with the alkene group of crotonyllysine as only a single
177 carbon atom in Y78 (C^ε) or F28 (C^ε) was close enough to the C=C carbon atoms to fully engage
178 the double bond (Fig. 4c, red dashed lines). This inability to form the additional energetically
179 favorable contact is likely the reason behind the indifference of the YEATS domain of AF9
180 toward crotonyl-, butyryl-, and acetyl- H3K9acyl modifications.

181 We next explored the possibility of engineering an AF9-based acyllysine specific reader
182 through mutating Y78 in AF9-YEATS to a tryptophan and therefore re-creating the WA motif
183 seen in the Taf14-YEATS G82A mutant. Although NMR titration experiments revealed a tight
184 interaction of AF9-YEATS Y78W with H3K9cr, binding affinities measured by fluorescence
185 spectroscopy indicated that this mutant does not differentiate between H3K9cr and H3K9ac and
186 associates with both peptides with a K_d of 2 μM (Fig. 4b, d and e and Supplementary Figure 8a).
187 To explain the different behavior of Taf14-YEATS G82A and AF9-YEATS Y78W, we obtained
188 the crystal structure of AF9-YEATS Y78W in complex with H3K9cr peptide (Fig. 4f). In this
189 complex, W78 was in a single r1 conformation, which was engaged in π stacking with the
190 crotonyl amide. Notably, A79 imposed steric hindrance on W78 to a higher degree than on wild
191 type Y78 at this position, resulting in a tilted conformation of W78 (Supplementary Figure 8b).
192 W78 is incapable of adopting the r2 conformation necessary for π stacking with the alkene

193 group most likely because of steric hindrance from F28 (Supplementary Figure 8c). Additional
194 mutation of A79 to a glycine in AF9, to recapitulate the Taf14' WG motif, failed to induce the
195 selectivity as the AF9-YEATS Y78WA79G mutant bound equally well to either H3K9cr or
196 H3K9ac peptide (Fig. 5a). By contrast, the W81Y mutant of Taf14-YEATS retained its capability
197 to select for H3K9cr, suggesting that position of the tyrosine residue in this mutant allowed for π
198 stacking with the alkene group (Fig. 5a and Supplementary Figure 9).

199

200 **AF9-YEATS binds to DNA**

201 Analysis of electrostatic surface potential of AF9-YEATS reveals that the part of the domain
202 opposite to the H3K9cr-binding site is highly positively charged. Particularly, two apparent
203 clusters of basic residues on the protein surface suggest that they could be involved in binding
204 to negatively charged DNA (Fig. 5b). To determine whether AF9-YEATS is capable of
205 interacting with DNA, we examined association of AF9-YEATS with 147 bp 601 Widom DNA
206 using an electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA). 601 DNA was incubated with increasing
207 amounts of AF9-YEATS and the reaction mixtures were resolved on native polyacrylamide gels
208 (Fig. 5c). A gradual increase in the amount of added AF9-YEATS resulted in a shift and
209 disappearance of the 601 DNA band and the appearance of the bands corresponding to
210 multiple complexes formed between AF9-YEATS and multiple major/minor grooves²³ of 601
211 DNA (Fig. 5c). Direct binding to DNA was corroborated by NMR titration experiments, in which
212 substantial CSPs were observed in ¹⁵N-labeled AF9-YEATS upon gradual addition of 601 DNA
213 (Fig. 5d and Supplementary Figure 10a, b).

214 To assess how AF9-YEATS interacts with both H3K9acyl and DNA, we reconstituted
215 H3K9acyl-containing nucleosome core particles (H3K9cr-NCPs and H3K9ac-NCP) and
216 examined binding of AF9-YEATS to these NCPs and to unmodified NCP in EMSA. Incubation of
217 increasing amounts of AF9-YEATS with H3K9cr-NCP led to a disappearance of the H3K9cr-
218 NCP band and of free 601 DNA present in the sample, indicating formation of the AF9-

219 YEATS:H3K9cr-NCP and AF9-YEATS:601 DNA, respectively, complexes (Fig. 5e). We note
220 that the free 601 DNA band disappeared faster than the H3K9cr-NCP band, implying that AF9-
221 YEATS prefers a more accessible, free DNA to the DNA wrapped around the nucleosome,
222 despite the fact that H3K9cr-NCP contains the additional binding partner of the YEATS domain
223 – H3K9cr. Yet, the recognition of H3K9cr by the YEATS domain is required for strong
224 interaction, as the AF9-YEATS association with unmodified NCP was substantially
225 compromised (Fig. 5f) and its association with H3K9ac-NCP was slightly diminished
226 (Supplementary Figure 10c). In further support, the H3K9cr-NCP binding capability of the AF9-
227 YEATS F59A/Y78A mutant, which is defective in H3K9acyl binding,²² was also markedly
228 decreased (Fig. 5g).

229

230 **DNA- and H3K9cr- binding sites in AF9-YEATS do not overlap**

231 To map the DNA-binding site of AF9-YEATS, we plotted NMR CSPs induced in each amide of
232 ¹⁵N-labeled AF9-YEATS by 601 DNA and compared to CSPs induced in this protein by the
233 H3K9cr peptide (Fig. 6a, b). Notably, residues located in and around the H3K9cr-binding site,
234 including Y78, were most perturbed upon addition of the H3K9cr peptide (Fig. 6a, c). However,
235 an entirely different set of residues was perturbed due to binding of 601 DNA (Fig. 6b, c). The
236 most pronounced changes were observed in the residues located in three AF9-YEATS regions,
237 i.e. the 60th, 90th and 130th patches (Fig. 6c, d). These patches contain the surface exposed
238 positively charged R61, K63, R64, K67, K92, R96, K97, R133, K134 and K137 residues that can
239 be directly or indirectly involved in electrostatic interactions with negatively charged 601 DNA.

240 To determine the contribution of the perturbed patches to DNA binding, we generated
241 four mutants of AF9-YEATS, including R61E/K63E/K67E, K92E/R96E/K97E, R96E/K97E and
242 R133E/K134E/K137E. Among them, only the R61E/K63E/K67E (thereafter referred to as RKK)
243 mutant was soluble and folded. Binding of the AF9-YEATS RKK mutant to 601 DNA and
244 H3K9cr-NCP was examined by EMSA. As shown in Figures 6e-g, the DNA-binding and H3K9cr-

245 NCP-binding abilities of this mutant were markedly reduced compared to the respective binding
246 abilities of WT AF9-YEATS, pointing to a critical role of the 60th patch residues of AF9-YEATS in
247 the interaction with DNA (Fig. 6c). Taken together, the EMSA results and NMR CSPs indicate
248 that the 60th patch residues are part of the DNA-binding site of AF9-YEATS. A lack of mutually
249 perturbed residues due to the interaction with H3K9cr peptide or 601 DNA further suggests that
250 the H3K9cr- and DNA-binding sites of AF9-YEATS do not overlap.

251

252 **Bivalent association of AF9 is not conserved in Taf14-YEATS**

253 To identify the DNA fragments smaller than 147 bp of 601 DNA that can be bound by AF9-
254 YEATS, we carried out EMSA assays with 20 bp DNA and 15 bp DNA (Fig. 7a and
255 Supplementary Figure 11a). Both 15- and 20-mer DNA bands disappeared in an AF9-YEATS
256 concentration dependent manner, and quantitative analysis of the band intensities yielded K_d s
257 of 47 μ M and 57 μ M for 15-mer DNA and 20-mer DNA, respectively (Fig. 7b), which is in the
258 range of DNA-binding affinities of other transcriptional regulators.²⁴ Overall, these and the
259 results described above suggest that AF9-YEATS interacts with chromatin in a bivalent manner,
260 i.e. it binds both H3K9acyl and DNA (Fig. 7c).

261 Is the bivalent interaction conserved in other YEATS domains? Alignment of the YEATS
262 sequences reveals that all three positively charged patches are conserved in the YEATS
263 domain of another human protein, ENL, and thus ENL-YEATS is likely capable of binding to
264 DNA (Fig. 7d). Although these patches are not strictly conserved in the YEATS domain of the
265 human protein YEATS2, the “DNA-binding” surface in YEATS2-YEATS is also highly positively
266 charged (Supplementary Figure 11b). Altogether, these observations suggest that the DNA-
267 binding function may be conserved in the family of human YEATS readers. In contrast, the
268 corresponding Taf14-YEATS surface is enriched in the negatively charged residues that can
269 electrostatically repulse DNA (Fig. 7e). Indeed, EMSA experiment using 601 DNA showed that
270 even a large, up to $\sim 10^3$ -fold, excess of Taf14-YEATS failed to shift the DNA band, implying that

271 this domain does not bind DNA (Fig. 7f). Interestingly, similar to Taf14-YEATS, the YEATS
272 domain of another yeast protein, Yaf9, also has a negatively charged and therefore repulsive of
273 DNA surface opposite to its H3K27acyl-binding site, which may indicate that the ability to
274 interact with DNA is lost in yeast YEATS domains (Supplementary Figure 11b).

275 Collectively, our results have illuminated the mechanistic basis underlying distinct
276 recognition of acyllysine PTMs by the YEATS domains of yeast Taf14 and human AF9, allowing
277 us to develop a Taf14-YEATS module that selects for the crotonyl modification and discriminates
278 against saturated acyl modifications. The discovery of the DNA-binding function for AF9-YEATS
279 expands the family of epigenetic readers capable of bivalently interacting with histone tails and
280 nucleosomal DNA. These include the Tudor domain of PHF1^{25,26}, the PWWP domains of
281 LEDGF and PSIP1^{27,28}, the PZP domain of BRPF1²⁹, and bromodomain of BRDT³⁰. It will be
282 interesting in future studies to explore the idea of conservation of DNA-binding activities in
283 YEATS readers derived from different organisms.

284

285 **Methods**

286 **Protein expression and purification**

287 The Taf14 YEATS domain (aa 1-132 and 1-137) in a pGEX-6P1 vector and the AF9 YEATS
288 domain (aa 1-138) in a pET28b vector were used in this study.^{13,16} The YEATS domain mutants
289 of Taf14 (W81Y and G82A) and AF9 (Y78W, Y78W/A79G, R61E/K63E/K67E,
290 K92E/R96E/K97E, R96E/K97E, and R133E/K134E/K137E) were generated using standard
291 QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis protocols (Stratagene) (Supplementary Figure 12). Wild
292 type and mutant proteins were expressed in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) RIL (Agilent) cells grown in
293 either Luria Broth or M9 minimal media supplemented with ¹⁵NH₄Cl (Sigma-Aldrich). Following
294 induction with IPTG, cells were harvested by centrifugation and lysed by sonication. 25 mM Tris
295 pH 7.5 buffer, supplemented with 500 mM NaCl, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 1% Triton X-100,
296 and DNase I was used for AF9-YEATS, and 50 mM HEPES pH 7.5 buffer, supplemented with

297 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, and 0.1% Triton X-100 was used for Taf14-YEATS. GST-fusion
298 proteins were purified on glutathione Sepharose 4B beads (Thermo Fisher), and the GST tag
299 was either cleaved with PreScission protease overnight, or left on and the proteins then were
300 eluted off the resin with 50 mM reduced L-glutathione (Fisher). His tag fusion proteins were
301 purified on a nickel-NTA resin (Qiagen), and the His tag was cleaved with Thrombin. Proteins
302 were further purified by size exclusion chromatography using a S100 column or Hi-Trap SP HP
303 and HiPrep 16/600 Superdex 75 columns (GE Healthcare). The proteins were concentrated in
304 Millipore concentrators and stored at -80°C.

305

306 **X-ray data collection and structure determination**

307 Taf14-YEATS proteins (1-137) were buffer exchanged and concentrated to 14 mg/mL in 50 mM
308 MES (pH 6.5) at 4 °C. Wild type Taf14-YEATS was incubated with 5 molar equivalents of either
309 H3K9bu (5-13) or H3K9pr (5-13) peptide at 25 °C for 30 min prior to crystallization. Crystals
310 were obtained by the sitting drop vapor diffusion method at 18 °C. The 1.6 µl crystallization drop
311 contained a 1:1 ratio of protein-ligand solution to reservoir solution composed of 44-46% PEG
312 600 (v/v) and 0.2 M citric acid pH 6.0. Taf14-YEATS G82A was incubated with 10 molar
313 equivalents of the H3K9cr (5-13) and crystallized under the same conditions as wild type Taf14-
314 YEATS. The mutant in the apo- state was crystallized in a 1:1 ratio with a reservoir solution
315 composed of 48% PEG 600 (v/v) and 0.2 M sodium citrate pH 6.0. X-ray diffraction data were
316 collected at a wavelength of 1.0 or 1.54 Å and a temperature of 100 K on a Rigaku Micromax
317 007 high-frequency microfocus X-ray generator with a Pilatus 200K 2D area detector at the UC
318 Denver Biophysical Core facility or on beamline 4.2.2 at the Advance Light Source
319 administrated by the Molecular Biology Consortium.

320 The AF9-YEATS proteins, Y78W mutant and wild type, were buffer exchanged and
321 concentrated at 4 °C in 50 mM sodium citrate pH 6.5, 5 mM DTT, or 50 mM Bis-Tris pH 6.5, 5
322 mM DTT, respectively. AF9-YEATS Y78W was incubated at 6 mg/ml with a 2-molar equivalence

323 of H3K9cr (5-14) peptide at RT for 30 min before crystallization. Crystals of AF9-YEATS Y78W
324 in complex with H3K9cr were grown at 4 °C, using the sitting-drop vapor diffusion method
325 against 100 mM MES pH 6.0, 20%(w/v) PEG 6000, and 10 mM ZnCl₂ reservoir solution. The 1.0
326 µl crystallization drop contained a 1:1 ratio of protein-ligand to reservoir solution. Crystals were
327 cryoprotected with 25% (v/v) glycerol. Wild type AF9-YEATS was incubated at 6 mg/ml with a 2-
328 molar equivalence of H3K9bu (1-19). Crystals were grown at 4 °C, using the sitting-drop vapor
329 diffusion method in a 1:1 ratio of protein-ligand to reservoir solution (200 mM sodium malonate,
330 100 mM Bis-Tris propane pH 8.5, and 20% (w/v) PEG 3350) in a 1.0 µl crystallization drop and
331 were cryoprotected with 25% (v/v) glycerol. X-ray diffraction data from AF9-YEATS
332 Y78W:H3K9cr and AF9-YEATS:H3K9bu crystals were collected at a wavelength of 1.28 and
333 0.98 Å, respectively, and a temperature of 100 K on beamline 4.2.2 at the Advance Light Source
334 administrated by the Molecular Biology Consortium.

335 HKL3000 was used for indexing, scaling, and data reduction.³¹ The phase solutions
336 were solved by molecular replacement with Phaser using a modified Taf14 or AF9 YEATS
337 domain as a search model (PDB 5D7E and 4TMP, respectively). Model building was carried out
338 with Coot and refinement was performed with Phenix.Refine.^{32,33} Coot and Molprobity were
339 used to verify the model fit to density and model quality.^{32,34} The crystallographic and refinement
340 statistics are shown in Supplementary Table 1.

341

342 **NMR spectroscopy**

343 NMR experiments were performed at 298 K on a Varian INOVA 600 MHz spectrometer
344 equipped with a cryogenic probe. ¹H, ¹⁵N HSQC spectra of 0.1-0.2 mM uniformly ¹⁵N-labeled wild
345 type or mutated Taf14-YEATS (in PBS buffer pH 6.8, 8% D₂O) and AF9-YEATS (in 25 mM Tris-
346 HCl pH 7.5, 250 mM NaCl, 2 mM BME, 8-10% D₂O) were recorded in the presence of
347 increasing concentrations of H3K9cr, H3K9bu, H3K9ac, H3K9su, or H3K9hib peptides. K_d value
348 was calculated by a nonlinear least-squares analysis in Kaleidagraph using the equation:

349
$$\Delta\delta = \Delta\delta_{max} \frac{([L]+[P]+K_d) - \sqrt{([L]+[P]+K_d)^2 - 4[P][L]}}{2[P]} \quad (1)$$

350 where $[L]$ is concentration of free acetyllysine, $[P]$ is concentration of the protein, $\Delta\delta$ is the
351 observed chemical shift change, and $\Delta\delta_{max}$ is the normalized chemical shift change at
352 saturation. Normalized chemical shift changes were calculated using the equation

353
$$\Delta\delta = \sqrt{(\Delta\delta_H)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta\delta_N}{5}\right)^2} \quad (2)$$

354 where $\Delta\delta$ is the change in chemical shift in parts per million (ppm).

355

356 **Fluorescence spectroscopy**

357 Spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Fluoromax-3 spectrofluorometer (HORIBA). The samples
358 containing 1-2 µM wild-type or mutated YEATS domains in PBS buffer pH 7.4 (Taf14) or 20 mM
359 Tris pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, and 2 mM BME (AF9) and progressively increasing concentrations
360 of H3 peptides, H3K9cr, H3K9ac, or H3K9bu (all aa 5-13) (Synpeptide) were excited at 295 or
361 280 nm. Emission spectra were recorded between 300 and 380 nm with a 1 nm step size and a
362 0.5 s integration time. K_d values were determined using a nonlinear least-squares analysis and
363 the equation:

364
$$\Delta I = \Delta I_{max} \frac{([L]+[P]+K_d) - \sqrt{([L]+[P]+K_d)^2 - 4[P][L]}}{2[P]} \quad (3)$$

365 where $[L]$ is the concentration of the histone peptide, $[P]$ is the concentration of the protein, ΔI is
366 the observed change of signal intensity, and ΔI_{max} is the difference in signal intensity of the free
367 and bound states of the protein. K_d values were averaged over three separate experiments, and
368 error was calculated as the standard deviation between the runs.

369

370 **Real Time-qPCR**

371 Real Time-qPCR was performed essentially as described.³⁵ Briefly, wild-type or *taf14* mutant
372 yeast cells were cultured in YPD overnight at 30°C and cell pellets corresponding to 10 OD₆₀₀

373 equivalents were collected. Total RNA was extracted using the phenol/chloroform method as
374 described³⁵ and RNA was treated with DNase I to eliminate residual DNA. 2 mg of RNA was
375 used to produce cDNA with random hexamer primers and reverse transcriptase IScript
376 (BioRad). cDNA was diluted to 0.1 mg/ml and SYBR green master mix was used for real-time
377 qPCR. *ACT1* was also examined and used as a normalization control. The expression of all
378 Taf14 proteins were equal in abundance, indicating that the expression effects observed are
379 due to Taf14 acyl-lysine binding defects. The data shown are from three biological replicates.

380

381 **Expression and Purification of H3 mutants H3K9ac and H3K9cr**

382 To incorporate N- ϵ -acetyl-L-lysine (AcK) into the K9 position of histone H3, pETDuet-1 vector
383 encoding human histone H3 with amber stop codon (pETDuet-1-H3K9TAG) introduced at H3K9
384 was used to co-transform *E. coli* BL21 (DE3)- Δ cobB strain with pEVOL-MmAcKRS. Single
385 colony was picked and inoculated in 2YT medium supplemented with 100mg/L ampicillin and 34
386 mg/L chloramphenicol. When OD reached to 0.6, H3 expression was induced at 37°C by adding
387 0.5 mM IPTG, 0.2% (w/v) L-arabinose and 5 mM AcK into cell culture. Cells were harvested 6
388 hours after induction, and purified in the same steps as previously reported.³⁶ The whole
389 procedure of CrK (N- ϵ -crotonyl-L-lysine) incorporation into the K9 position of histone H3 was
390 identical with AcK incorporation, except that pEVOL-MmPyIRS-384W vector was used, and
391 1mM of CrK (N- ϵ -crotonyl-L-lysine) was added into 2YT medium after induction.

392

393 **Assembly of nucleosomes**

394 Recombinant Histone His-TEV-H2A, His-TEV-H2B and His-SUMO-TEV-H4 were purified in the
395 previously reported steps.³⁶ All 4 histone pellets including histone H3K9ac or H3K9cr were
396 dissolved in 6 M GuHCl buffer (6 M guanidinium hydrochloride, 20 mM Tris, 500 mM NaCl, pH
397 7.5), and concentration was measured by UV absorption at 280 nm (Biotek synergy H1 plate
398 reader). To prepare H2A/H2B dimer, His-TEV-H2A and His-TEV-H2B were mixed in the molar

399 ratio of 1:1, and 6 M GuHCl buffer was added to adjust total protein concentration to 4 μ g/ μ l.
400 Denatured His-TEV-H2A/His-TEV-H2B solution was dialyzed sequentially at 4°C against 2 M TE
401 buffer (2 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.8), 1M TE buffer (1 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris, 1 mM
402 EDTA), 0.5 M TE buffer (0.5 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA). Then the resulting dimer
403 solution was centrifuged for 5 min at 4°C to remove precipitates, and the concentration of dimer
404 was determined by UV absorption at 280 nm. Steps of His-TEV-H3/His-SUMO-TEV-H4 tetramer
405 refolding were generally the same as His-TEV-H2A/His-TEV-H2B dimers except that the total
406 protein concentration should be adjusted to 2 μ g/ μ l and no stirring in the sequential dialysis.
407 Then His-TEV-H2A/Hi-TEV-H2B dimers were mixed with His-TEV-H3/His-SUMO-TEV-H4
408 tetramers in a molar ratio of 1:1 to generate histone octamers, and NaCl solid was added to
409 adjust NaCl concentration to 2 M. The 147 bp biotinylated 601 nucleosome positioning was
410 prepared by Polymerase chain reaction with biotinylated primers and purified with PCR cleanup
411 kit (#2360250 Epoch Life Science). Purified 147 bp DNA was re-dissolved in 2 M TE buffer and
412 added to histone octamer solution in the molar ratio of 0.85:1. 2 M TE buffer was added to
413 adjust final 147 bp DNA concentration to 2-3 μ M. The DNA histone mixture solution was then
414 transferred to a dialysis bag and placed inside about 200 ml 2 M TE buffer, while stirring at room
415 temperature, Tris buffer with no salt (20 mM Tris) was slowly added into the 2 M salt buffer
416 through a liquid transfer pump (#23609-170 VWR®). Nucleosomes formed when salt
417 concentration was reduced to around 150 mM (measured by EX170 salinity meter), and the
418 DNA histone mixture solution was further dialyzed into low salt Tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 20 mM
419 NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 7.8). Precipitates were removed by centrifuge, and the concentration
420 of the nucleosomes was measured by A260 reading using the Biotek synergy H1 plate reader.
421 His-TEV protease was added to nucleosome solutions (TEV:nucleosome 1:30, w:w) to remove
422 all the histone tags after incubation for 1 hour at 37°C, and finally all the His tagged impurities
423 were removed from nucleosome solution by Ni^{2+} -NTA resin (Thermo Fisher #88221).

424

425 **Peptide pulldown assays**

426 1 µg of biotinylated histone peptides with different modifications were incubated with 1–2 µg of
427 GST-fused proteins in binding buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40, 1 mM
428 PMSF) overnight. Streptavidin beads (Amersham) were added to the mixture, and the mixture
429 was incubated for 1 h with rotation. The beads were then washed three times and analyzed
430 using SDS–PAGE and western blotting. Anti-GST (sc-459, 1:1000) antibody was from Santa
431 Cruz (Supplementary Figure 13).

432

433 **MOs computations**

434 All computations were performed on a Linux HPC cluster with the Gaussian 09 quantum
435 chemical software package (Gaussian 09, Revision A.02, M. J. Frisch et al., Gaussian, Inc.,
436 Wallingford CT, 2016). X-ray coordinates of the carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen atoms belonging
437 to the triple-stacked truncated trp – crotonamide – phe fragment were frozen, while the positions
438 of the attached hydrogen atoms were fully optimized at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of DFT
439 theory producing the truncated structure (Supplementary Figure 6). XYZ coordinates for the
440 truncated triple-stack structure with fully optimized hydrogens are available upon request.

441

442 **Electrophoretic mobility shift assay**

443 A total of 32 repeats of the 601 Widom DNA sequence were cloned into the pJ201 plasmid and
444 transformed into DH5 α cells. The plasmid was purified as previously described ²⁵ and by
445 Qiagen-QIAprep Spin Miniprep kit. Separation of the individual sequences was completed by
446 digestion of the plasmid with EcoRV. The 601 Widom DNA was purified from the remaining
447 plasmid by gel extraction (Qiagen-MinElute Gel Extraction kit). Annealed DNA was made up of
448 single stranded oligos (IDT) in water brought up to 95°C for 20 minutes then cooled to 16 at
449 0.1°C/second. Increasing amounts of the Taf14 and AF9 YEATS domains were incubated with

450 601 Widom DNA (1-3 pmol/lane), annealed double stranded DNA in buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH
451 7.5 and 150 mM NaCl), or nucleosome in buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1 mM
452 EDTA, and 10% glycerol) for 30 minutes at room temperature. Specifically, for each lane, 1.88
453 pmol (Figs. 5c, 7f) or 1 pmol (Fig. 6e, f) 601 DNA, 5 pmol 20-mer DNA (Fig. 7a), or 5 pmol 15-
454 mer DNA (Supplementary Figure 11a) was incubated with increasing amounts of mutant or wild
455 type AF9-YEATS or Taf14-YEATS. 1 pmol/lane (Figs. 5e-g and 6g and Supplementary Figure
456 10c) of nucleosome was incubated with increasing wild type or mutant AF9-YEATS domain. The
457 reaction mixtures were loaded on 5-10% native polyacrylamide gels and electrophoresis was
458 performed in 0.2× TB or TBE buffer (1× TB/TBE = 90 mM Tris, 64.6 mM boric acid, with or
459 without 2 mM EDTA) at 100–130 V on ice. Gels were stained with ethidium bromide or SYBR
460 Gold (ThermoFisher) and visualized at 365nm or by Blue LED (UltraThin LED Illuminator-
461 GelCompany). Quantification of gel bands was performed using ImageJ. Each EMSA
462 experiment was performed five times (Figs. 5c and 6e), four times (Figs. 7a, f and
463 Supplementary Figure 11a), three times (Fig. 5e), twice (Fig. 5f and Supplementary Figure 10c),
464 and once (Figs. 5g and 6f, g).

465

466 **Data availability**

467 The atomic coordinates and structure factors of Taf14-YEATS and AF9-YEATS have been
468 deposited in the Protein Data Bank under the accession codes 6MIQ, 6MIP, 6MIO, 6MIN, 6MIM,
469 6MIL. Other data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

470

471

472

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561

562

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571

572 **Author contributions**

573 B.J.K., K.R.V., F.H.A., W.W.W., J.Z., Y.Z., A.A.B., W.M., and Y.L. performed experiments and
574 together with H.L., X.S., A.G.K., B.D.S., W.R.L. and T.G.K. analyzed the data. B.J.K., K.R.V.,
575 F.H.A. and T.G.K. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

576

577 **Competing Interests**

578 The authors declare no competing interests.

579

580

581 **Figure legends**

582

583 **Figure 1. Structural insight into the selectivity of Taf14-YEATS.** (a) Crotonylated lysine
584 (yellow) is sandwiched between W81 and F62 in the complex of Taf14-YEATS with H3K9cr.
585 W81 adopts two conformations, rotamer 1 (light gray) and rotamer 2 (green). (b) Binding
586 affinities of Taf14-YEATS to the indicated histone peptides, as measured by fluorescence (cr,
587 bu, ac) or NMR (su, hib). Values represent the average of three separate experiments (two for
588 H3K9ac) with error calculated as the SD between the runs. The enhancement in selectivity of
589 Taf14-YEATS to crotonyllsine is comparable to the enhancement in selectivity of other well-
590 recognized epigenetic readers, such as DPFs.^{8,11} (c) Representative binding curves used to
591 determine K_d by tryptophan fluorescence. (d) Peptide pull-down assays for Taf14-YEATS using
592 indicated histone H3 peptides. (e) The ribbon diagram of the Taf14-YEATS:H3K9bu complex.
593 Dashed lines and red sphere represent hydrogen bonds and a water molecule, respectively.
594 The YEATS domain is colored lavender and H3K9bu peptide is colored orange. Residues of the
595 YEATS domain involved in the binding of K9bu are labeled. (f) Structural overlay of the
596 acyllysine binding sites in the Taf14-YEATS:H3K9bu (lavender/orange), Taf14-YEATS:H3K9pr
597 (pink) and Taf14-YEATS:H3K9ac¹⁴ (gray) complexes.

598

599 **Figure 2. Engineering the Taf14-YEATS-based reader of H3K9cr.** (a) Surface view of the
600 Taf14-YEATS G82A mutant structure in the apo-state. The side chains of W81, A82 and F62
601 are shown as green sticks. (b) Structural overlay of the acyllysine binding site in the Taf14-
602 YEATS:H3K9bu (lavender/orange) complex and the apo state of Taf14-YEATS G82A (green).
603 (c) Superimposed ^1H , ^{15}N HSQC spectra of uniformly ^{15}N -labeled G82A mutant of Taf14-YEATS
604 recorded while the indicated peptides were added stepwise. The spectra are color coded
605 according to the protein:peptide molar ratio. (d) Binding curves used to determine K_d of taf14-
606 YEATS G82A by tryptophan fluorescence. (e) Real-time qPCR analysis of various transcripts in

607 the wild-type strain, *TAF14* delete strain, and *taf14* mutant strains. The mean \pm SD are
608 calculated from three biological replicates.

609

610 **Figure 3. Structural basis for recognition of crotonyllysine by Taf14-YEATS G82A.** (a) The
611 ribbon diagram of the Taf14-YEATS G82A:H3K9cr complex. Dashed lines and red sphere
612 represent hydrogen bonds and a water molecule, respectively. (b) Close up view of the H3K9cr-
613 binding site of Taf14-YEATS G82A. Red dashed lines represent short distances indicative of the
614 aromatic-aliphatic-aromatic π stacking interaction. (c) A representative HOMO-8 (see also
615 Supplementary Figure 6).

616

617 **Figure 4. Structural insight into the selectivity of AF9-YEATS.** (a) Alignment of the YEATS
618 domain sequences: absolutely, moderately and weakly conserved residues are colored green,
619 orange and pink, respectively. (b) Binding affinities of AF9-YEATS to indicated histone peptides.
620 Values represent the average of three separate experiments with error calculated as the SD
621 between the runs. (c) Structural overlay of the acyllysine binding sites in the AF9-
622 YEATS:H3K9bu (pink) and AF9-YEATS:H3K9cr¹⁷ (light gray) complexes. Yellow dashed lines
623 represent short distances indicative of the aromatic-amide-aromatic π stacking interaction in
624 AF9-YEATS:H3K9cr¹⁷. Red dashed lines represent short, less than 4 \AA , distances between the
625 crotonyl alkene group and the aromatic residues. (d) Superimposed ¹H, ¹⁵N HSQC spectra of
626 AF9-YEATS, wt and Y78W mutant, recorded in the presence of increasing concentration of
627 H3K9cr peptide. Spectra are color-coded according to the protein:peptide molar ratio. (e)
628 Representative binding curves used to determine K_d of AF9-YEATS Y78W by tryptophan
629 fluorescence. (f) The ribbon diagram of the AF9-YEATS Y78W:H3K9cr complex. Red dashed
630 lines represent short, less than 4 \AA , distances between the crotonyl alkene group of H3K9cr and
631 the aromatic residues of the protein.

632

633 **Figure 5. AF9-YEATS binds DNA.** (a) Binding affinities of AF9-YEATS and Taf14-YEATS to
634 indicated histone peptides. Values represent the average of three separate experiments with
635 error calculated as the SD between the runs. (b) Electrostatic potential surface representation of
636 the AF9 YEATS in complex with H3K9cr generated in PyMol (PDB ID PDB 5hjb). Basic residues
637 are labeled. (c) EMSA with 147 bp 601 DNA (1.88 pmol/lane) incubated with increasing
638 amounts of AF9-YEATS. DNA to protein molar ratio is shown below the gel image. (d)
639 Superimposed ^1H , ^{15}N HSQC spectra of uniformly ^{15}N -labeled AF9-YEATS collected upon
640 titration with 601 DNA. The spectra are color coded according to the protein:DNA molar ratio.
641 (e-g) EMSA assays with 1 pmol/lane H3K9cr-NCP (e, g) or unmodified NCP (f) incubated with
642 increasing amounts of WT AF9-YEATS or F59A/Y78A mutant. Band intensities in (c, e-g) were
643 quantified by densitometry using ImageJ.

644

645 **Figure 6. DNA- and H3K9cr- binding sites in AF9-YEATS do not overlap.** (a, b) Analysis of
646 chemical shift perturbations in ^1H , ^{15}N HSQC spectra of AF9 YEATS caused by (a) H3K9cr
647 peptide (1:3 molar ratio) or (b) 601 DNA (1:0.5 molar ratio). P indicates a proline residue. **
648 indicates that the residue resonances were unassigned in the apo-state. '-' indicates that the
649 residue resonances were unassigned in the H3K9cr-bound state (BMRB 26060). Dashed line
650 indicates selection cut-off (mean + 3 SD). Residues with CSP above the cut-off value are
651 labeled. (c) Identification of the H3K9cr peptide- and 601 DNA- binding sites. Residues with
652 CSP above the cut-off value in (a) and (b) are mapped onto the surface of AF9-YEATS (PDB
653 5hjb), colored yellow and orange, respectively, and labeled. Residues with no assignments or
654 prolines are colored light grey. (d) The 60th patch (R61K/K63E/K67E, light pink), 90th patch
655 (K92E/R96E/K97E, light blue) and 130th patch (R133E/K134E/K137E, wheat) mutations are
656 mapped onto the surface of AF9-YEATS. (e-g) EMSA assays with 1 pmol/lane 601 DNA (e, f) or

657 1 pmol/lane H3K9cr-NCP (g) incubated with increasing amounts of WT AF9-YEATS or RKK
658 mutant. Band intensities were quantified by densitometry using ImageJ.

659

660 **Figure 7. Bivalent binding of AF9-YEATS is not conserved in Taf14-YEATS.** (a) EMSA with
661 5 pmol/lane 20 bp dsDNA incubated with increasing amounts of AF9-YEATS. (b) Binding curves
662 used to determine K_d for the DNA:AF9-YEATS complex by EMSA. The band of free DNA was
663 used for quantification of the complex formation. Binding constants are obtained from duplicate
664 measurements as mean \pm standard error. (c) A schematic of the bivalent interaction of AF9-
665 YEATS with histone H3K9cr and DNA. (d) Alignment of the YEATS domain sequences:
666 absolutely, moderately and weakly conserved residues are colored green, orange and pink,
667 respectively. Positively charged residues in three patches are indicated by blue boxes. The
668 residues of AF9-YEATS mutated in this study are labeled. (e) Electrostatic surface potential of
669 Taf14-YEATS in complex with the H3K9cr peptide. (f) EMSA with 1.88 pmol/lane 601 DNA and
670 increasing concentration of Taf14-YEATS.

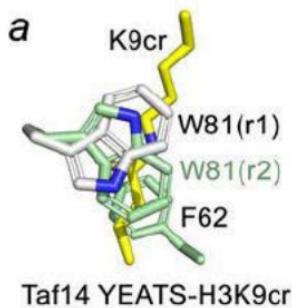
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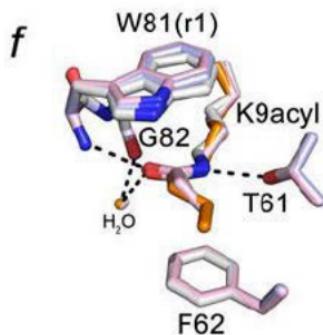
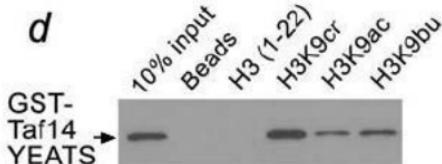
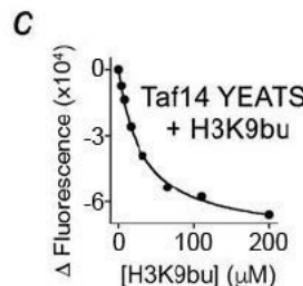
674

Figure 1



b Binding affinities of Taf14-YEATS

H3 peptide	K_d (μ M)
H3K9cr	9 \pm 2
H3K9bu	28 \pm 2
H3K9su	>700
H3K9hib	NB
H3K9ac	130 \pm 8



Taf14 YEATS -H3K9bu
-H3K9pr
-H3K9ac

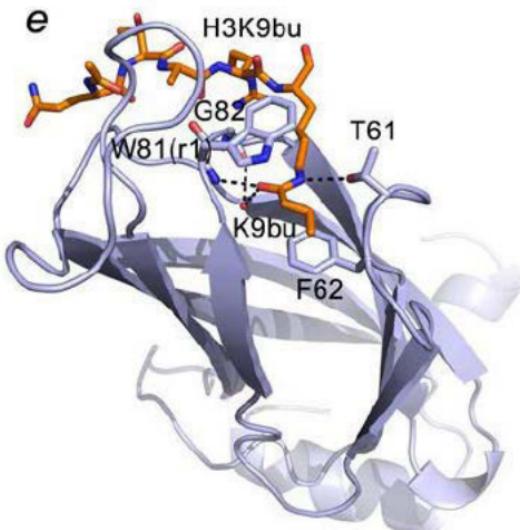
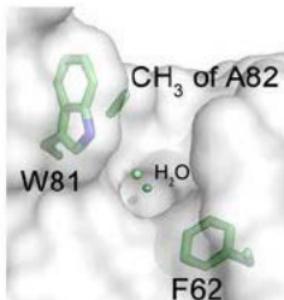


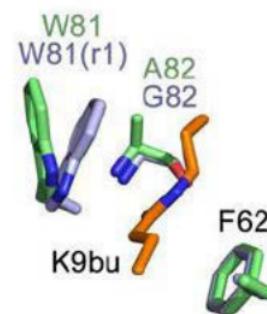
Figure 2

a



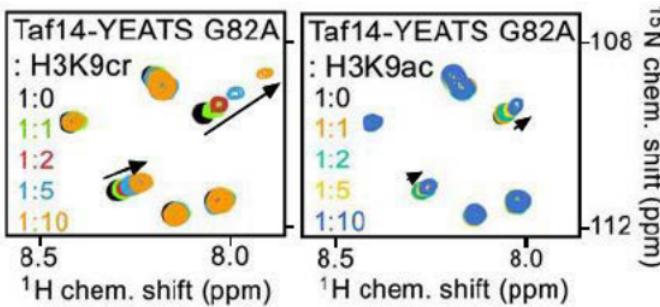
Taf14 YEATS G82A

b

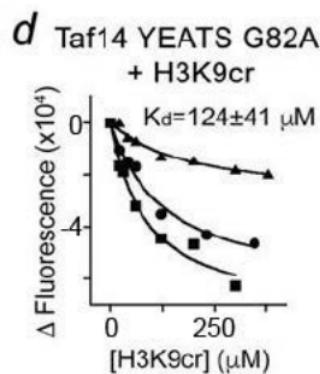


Taf14 YEATS G82A
wt Taf14 YEATS-H3K9cr

c



d



e

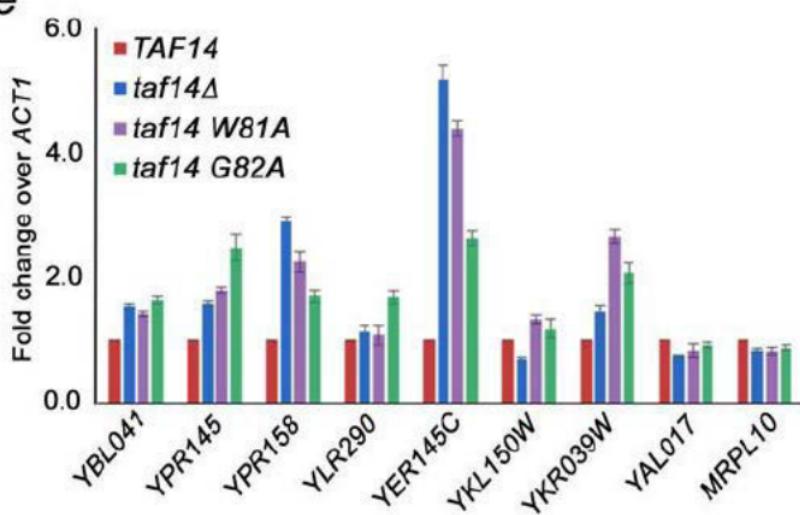


Figure 3

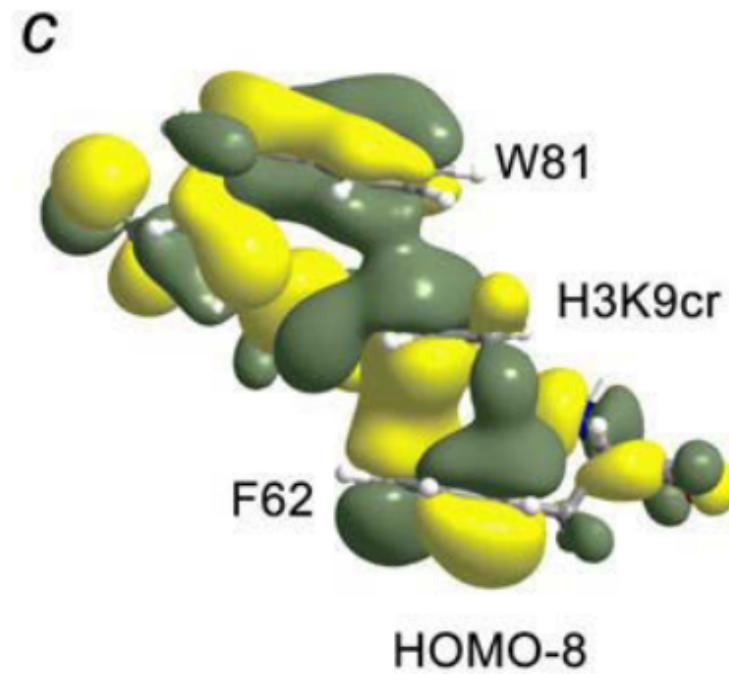
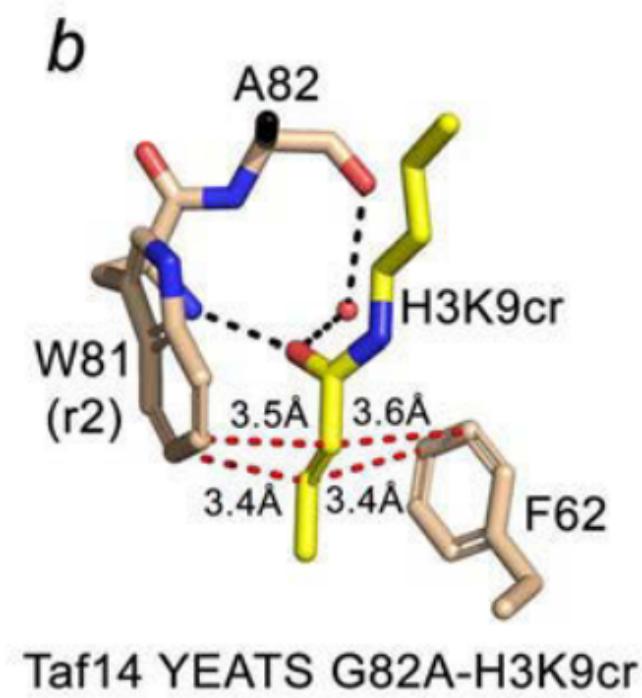
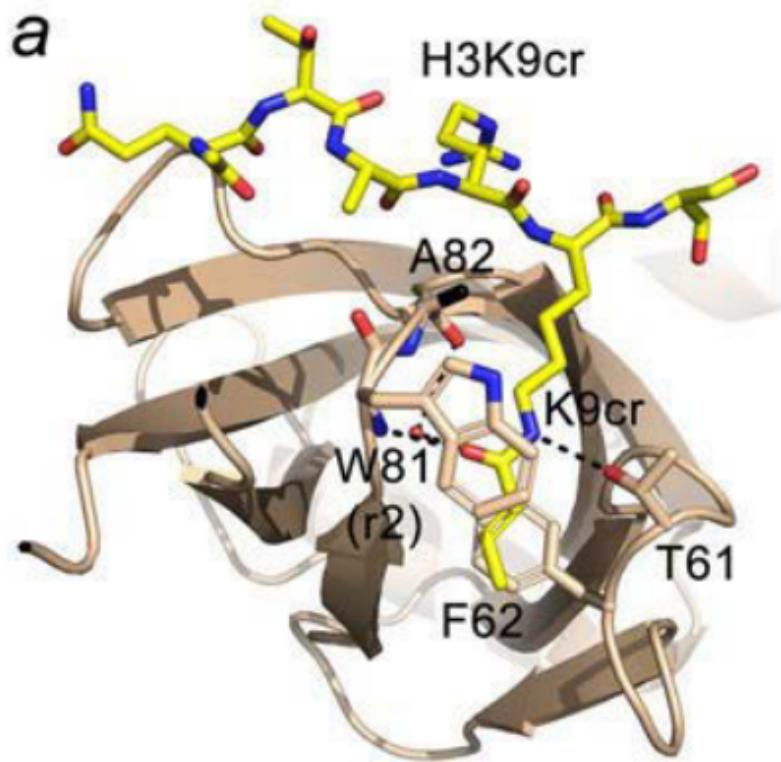
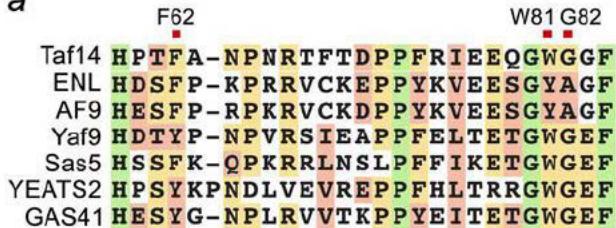


Figure 4

a

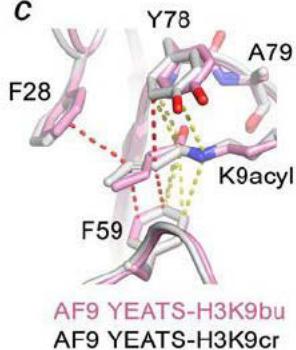


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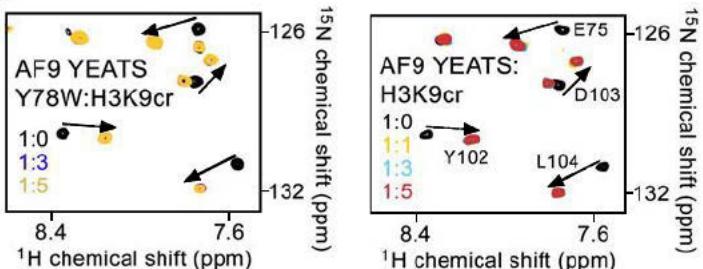
Binding affinities of AF9 YEATS

AF9 YEATS	H3 peptide	K_d (μM)
WT	H3K9cr	3.7 ± 0.3
WT	H3K9bu	3.9 ± 0.5
WT	H3K9ac	4.3 ± 0.3
Y78W	H3K9cr	2.0 ± 0.3
Y78W	H3K9ac	2.3 ± 0.5

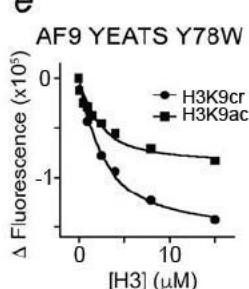
c



d



e



f

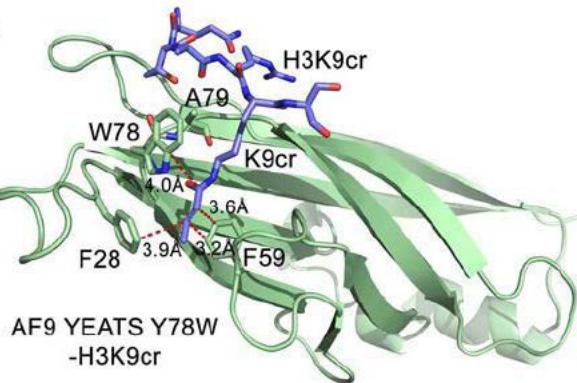


Figure 5

a

YEATS protein	peptide	K_d (μ M)
AF9 Y78WA79G	H3K9cr	2.7 ± 0.3
AF9 Y78WA79G	H3K9ac	2.6 ± 0.6
Taf14 W81Y	H3K9cr	9.2 ± 0.9
Taf14 W81Y	H3K9bu	40 ± 1

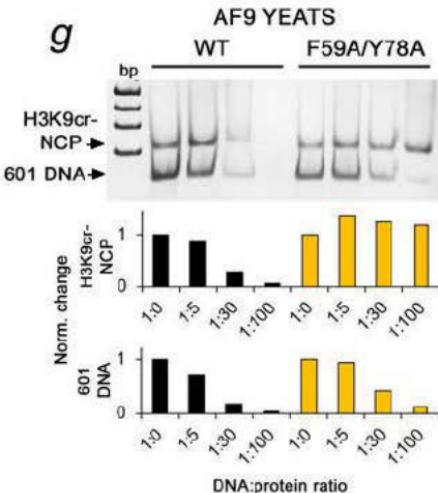
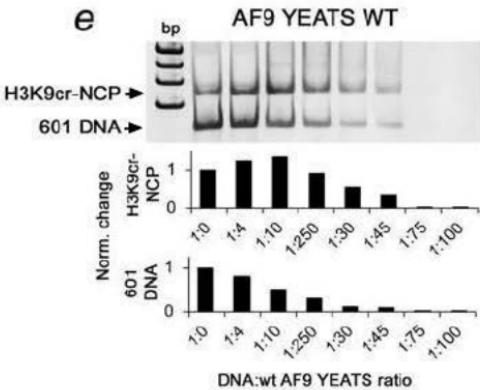
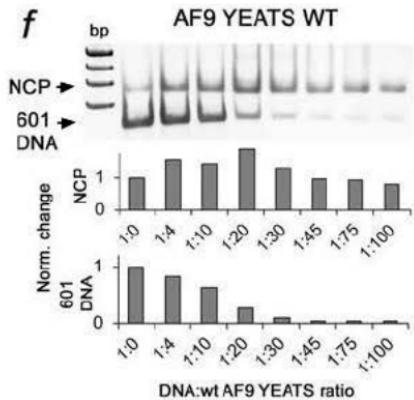
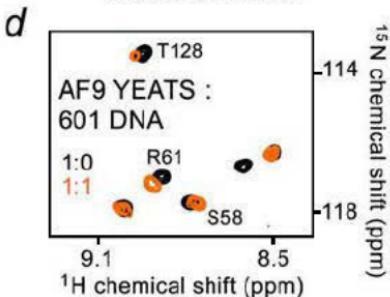
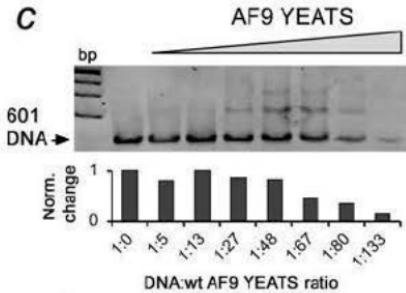
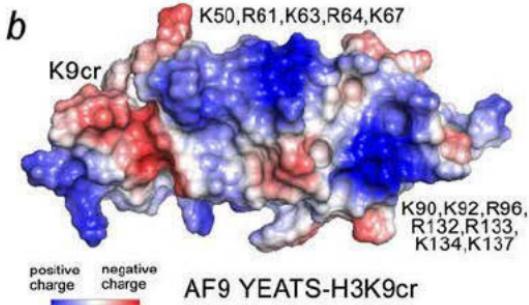


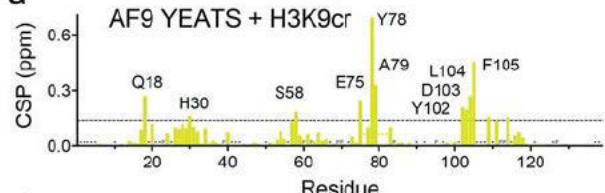
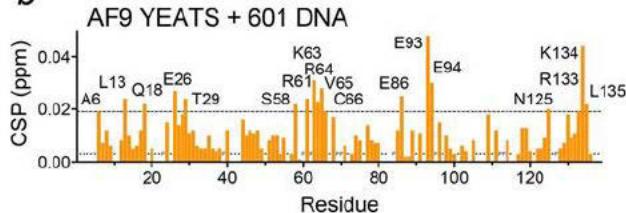
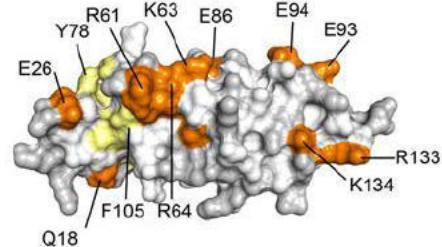
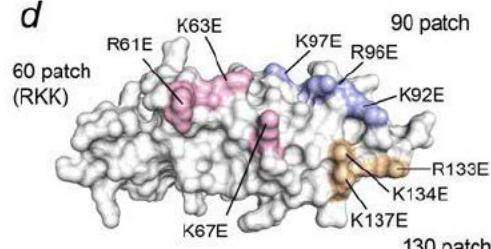
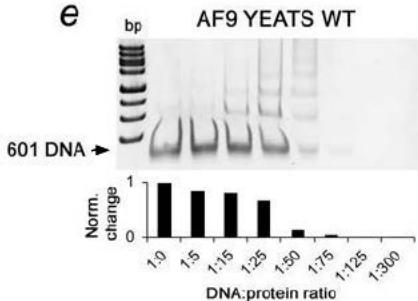
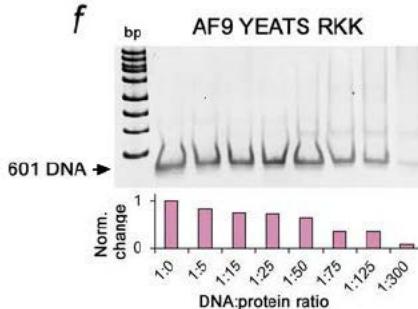
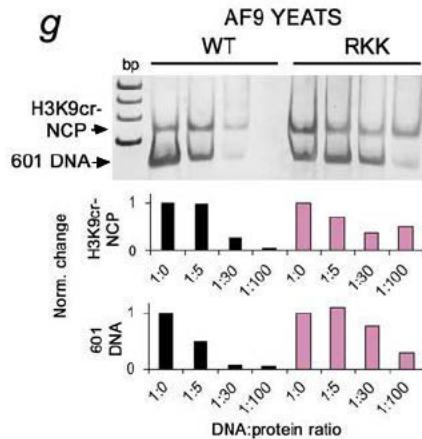
Figure 6**a****b****c****d****e****f****g**

Figure 7

