

Table S1 – Actin-profilin binding free energies computed from molecular dynamics simulations for the wild-type and mutant systems.

		Binding Free Energy		Binding Free Energy
<i>Pb</i> Pfn	GB	-46±13	<i>Pb</i> Pfn	-46±13 (n. d.)
	PB	-48±19		-48±19 (n. d.)
<i>Pf</i> Pfn	GB	-35±10	<i>Pf</i> Pfn	-35±10 (-62±9)
	PB	-35±13		-35±13 (-64±11)
<i>Pb</i> Pfn <sup>Pfloop</sup>	GB	-15±11	<i>Pf</i> Pfn AAA	-17±7 (-34±11)
	PB	44±35		-26±10 (-46±8)
<i>Pf</i> Pfn <sup>Pbloop</sup>	GB	-61±10	<i>Pf</i> Pfn QNQ	-54±14 (-44±13)
	PB	-61±14		-69±14 (-51±11)
<i>Pf</i> Pfn <sup>Tgloop</sup>	GB	-56±14		
	PB	-51±22		

Average binding free energies (kcal/mol) and their standard deviations were calculated from the last 200 ns of the 500 ns long simulation using the MM-GBSA (GB) and MM-PBSA (PB) methods. Note that the (energetically unfavorable) translational, rotational and vibrational entropic contributions to binding were not computed. The values for the wild-type profilins are given followed by values for (left) acidic loop mutants and (right) arm motif mutants. The values obtained from the last 50 ns of the 150 ns long simulations previously reported in (Moreau et al., 2017) are given in brackets for comparison. Blue numbers denote values smaller in magnitude than those for the *P. berghei* wild type profiling, indicating weaker binding. Red numbers denote the weakest binding affinities.

Table S2

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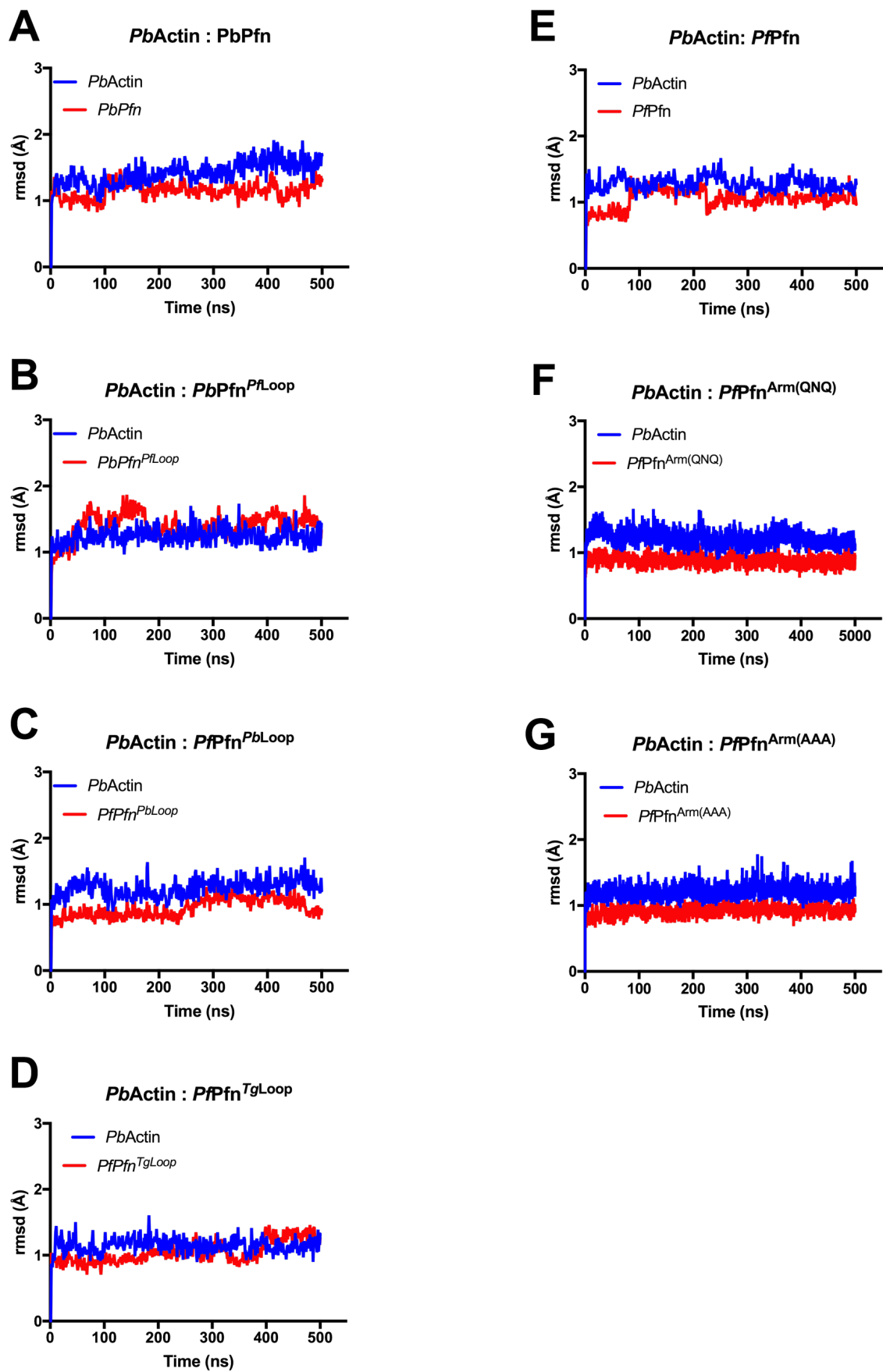
Table S3

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**Table S4: Primers used in this study**

Primer	Sequence	Restriction site	Binding site
1 fw	GGTGCACACTCATTGAATGTG	-	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 5' UTR, upstream of homologous recombination site
1a rv	GCtctaga <b>T</b> TATGCGGCACCTGTATCAG	XbaI	<i>Pb</i> Pfn end of CDS
1b rv	GCtctaga <b>T</b> TACTGTGAGCTTTCTGCCAG	XbaI	<i>Pf</i> Pfn end of CDS
2 fw	<b>C</b> TAGACAGCCATCTCCATCTGG	-	<i>Tg</i> DHFR end of CDS
2 rv	CAAGTTCTTTCCTCATGTGTTTCATG	-	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 3'UTR, downstream of homologous recombination site
3 fw	ATTTgcgccgc <b>A</b> T <b>G</b> GAAGAATATTCATGGG	NotI	<i>Pb</i> Pfn start of CDS
3 rv	GCtctaga <b>T</b> TATGCGGCACCTGTATCAG	XbaI	<i>Pb</i> Pfn end of CDS
4 fw	ATTTgcgccgcAAA <b>A</b> T <b>G</b> GCAGAGGAGTATTCTTGG	NotI	<i>Pf</i> Pfn start of CDS
4 rv	GCtctaga <b>T</b> TACTGTGAGCTTTCTGCCAG	XbaI	<i>Pf</i> Pfn end of CDS
5 fw	TCCcgcgcgGAGATATTACACATTGCTAC	SacII	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 5' UTR
5 rv	TAAAgcgccgcCTTTATTATCTTAAAAATTATTTATATAATATGATG	NotI	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 5' UTR
6 fw	CCatcgatAATAAAGAAAATATTATAAAAAATGTG	Clal	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 3' UTR
6 rv	GGggtaccCACACATTGGCATTATATAGAAATTGAG	KpnI	<i>Pb</i> Pfn 3' UTR
7a	CAAAATT <b>TGGGTCACTCTCTTCACCC</b> TG TGCTACGCATTTCATATAC	-	<i>Pb</i> Pfn with <i>Pf</i> loop A rv
7b	<b>CACAGGGTGAAGAGAGTGACCCA</b> AATTTTGATAAATGGTCTCTTTTTTATAAAGAAGA	-	<i>Pb</i> Pfn with <i>Pf</i> loop B fw
8a	TCAAA <b>GTCTGGATTATTTTCATCGGGGGT</b> AGCTACACAAGCATAGA AGCT <b>ACCCCGATGAAAATAATCCAGAC</b>	-	<i>Pf</i> Pfn with <i>Pb</i> loop A rv
8b	TTTGATAAATGGTCACTTTTTTATAAAGAAGATT	-	<i>Pf</i> Pfn with <i>Pb</i> loop B fw
9a	CAGCTTGGAAC <b>ATCCGTCATCATCAGCCGCCGCGCGAA</b> GACAACTCCATCTTCTCCGAAGCTAATC	-	<i>Pf</i> Pfn with <i>Tg</i> loop A rv
9b	<b>TTCCGCCGCCGCGCTGATGATGATGACGGA</b> TGGTCCAAGCTGTATAAAGAAGATTATGATAAGTTGAAGATGAAAATGGTAC	-	<i>Pf</i> Pfn with <i>Tg</i> loop B fw

restriction sites in lower case, start codons indicated in **green**, stop codons indicated in **red**, *Pf* Pfn loop in **blue**, *Pb* Pfn loop in **orange** and *Tg* Pfn loop in **purple**



**Figure S1: RMSDs of the backbone atoms of the different systems, showing that the individual protein structures are stable during the MD simulations.** Plots of RMSD for each protein in the complex of *Pb* Actin with (A) *Pb* Pfn, (B) *Pb* Pfn<sup>PfLoop</sup>, (C) *Pf* Pfn<sup>PbLoop</sup>, (D) *Pf* Pfn<sup>TgLoop</sup>, (E) *Pf* Pfn, (F) *Pf* Pfn<sup>Arm(QNQ)</sup> and (G) *Pf* Pfn<sup>Arm(AAA)</sup> for 500 ns of simulation. Each trajectory is aligned to its respective first frame. The flexible regions, *i.e.* the D2 loop region in actin and the terminal and arm regions in profilin (M1-L10, E42-F84, T169-A174), were excluded while calculating RMSD values.

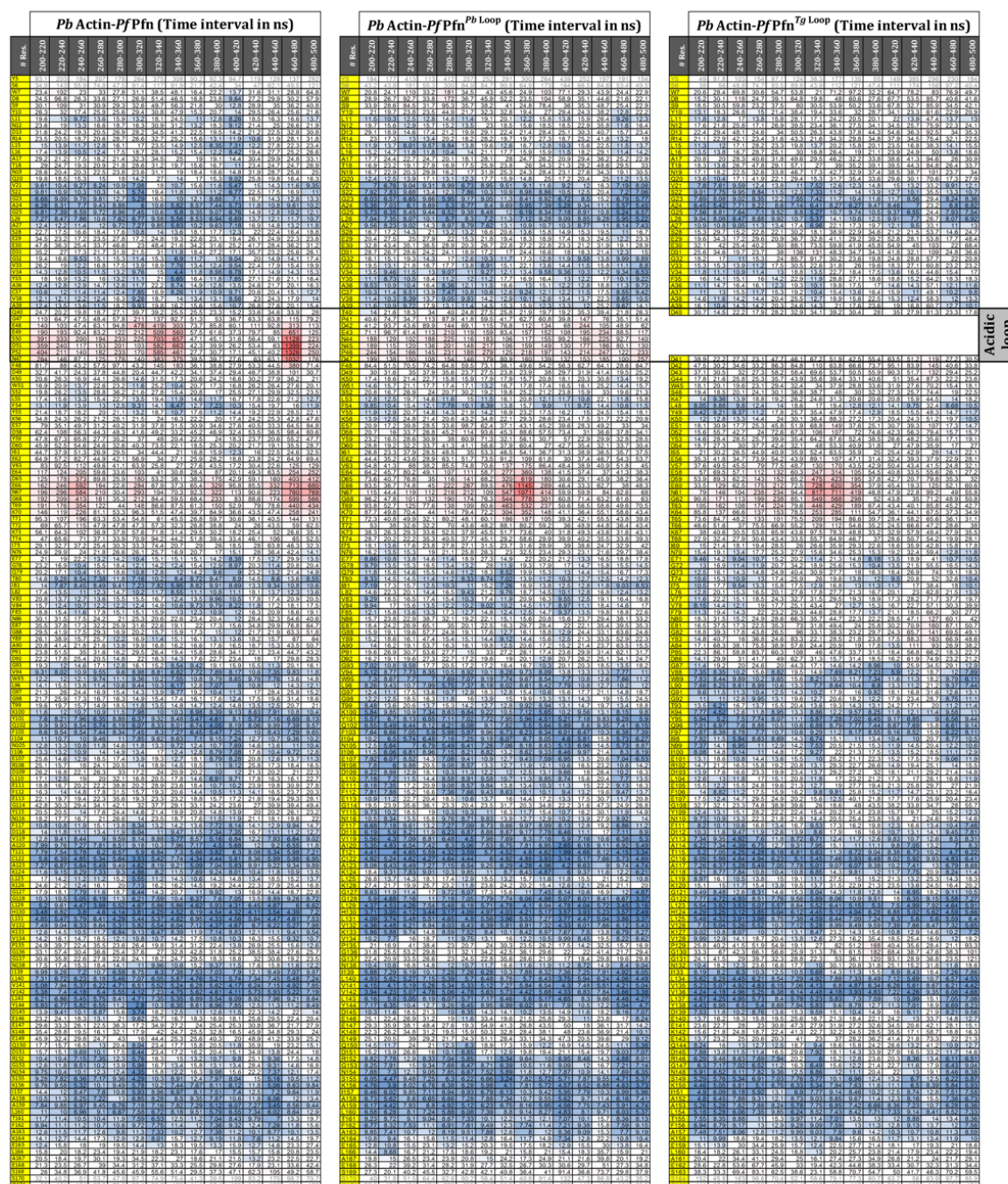


**Pb Actin-Pb Pfn (Time interval in ns)**

# Res	200-220	220-240	240-260	260-280	280-300	300-320	320-340	340-360	360-380	380-400	400-420	420-440	440-460	460-480	480-500
W6	331	202	282	166	197	297	41	379	202	212	436	296	263	255	22
W7	276	186	222	394	135	214	315	358	12	193	268	720	267	236	204
W8	245	189	292	40	152	269	358	348	77	223	361	595	28	304	255
W9	224	151	369	322	160	246	281	283	204	228	283	296	203	256	198
W10	192	129	138	214	126	188	134	135	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
W11	217	142	20	29	182	22	214	261	20	20	231	267	186	277	185
W12	202	19	132	191	221	189	82	281	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
W13	209	169	199	24	245	262	267	199	216	211	201	188	271	190	
W14	233	129	134	170	111	156	216	145	125	162	131	178	134	175	13
W15	23	136	165	179	119	169	192	172	146	172	169	186	196	198	15
W16	326	207	211	244	195	317	314	252	217	316	26	243	256	32	223
W17	166	166	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221
W18	128	124	240	215	171	135	137	205	181	206	216	208	272	213	
W19	337	132	139	160	146	202	201	17	111	157	170	262	158	168	170
W20	171	182	954	112	102	131	113	112	797	119	11	154	125	128	112
W21	178	856	108	151	11	11	108	102	985	156	15	211	132	149	116
W22	131	801	931	127	922	939	949	722	942	12	146	107	111	823	
W23	992	980	991	681	997	111	719	597	991	102	911	931	692	783	
W24	102	101	981	127	107	11	11	933	83	961	122	999	108	934	102
W25	936	114	120	146	241	431	141	100	822	14	100	931	534	109	
W26	139	106	186	165	840	11	143	151	998	138	190	181	14	123	14
W27	347	176	135	246	128	202	211	324	168	234	128	409	375	255	287
W28	181	701	294	349	177	316	273	217	199	161	172	121	121	121	121
W29	276	274	317	451	170	225	295	514	227	467	442	94	358	465	245
W30	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
W31	183	151	163	192	192	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
W32	168	115	158	188	186	172	128	259	15	179	133	274	159	154	182
W33	151	107	188	161	146	136	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
W34	212	107	188	168	201	158	201	169	117	267	26	16	125	191	
W35	132	162	133	268	151	168	195	172	115	129	21	175	135	116	161
W36	108	101	182	192	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
W37	158	132	147	197	135	142	173	164	128	149	211	179	137	141	144
W38	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
W39	171	161	176	281	21	277	356	26	231	234	275	305	395	401	225
W40	83	252	256	389	587	773	675	149	774	584	624	957	249	120	365
W41	706	593	521	666	181	458	252	215	222	239	157	829	121	131	303
W42	115	102	89	101	240	160	212	180	108	692	108	252	243	431	
W43	1004	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
W44	140	171	109	884	141	135	276	182	177	253	189	168	245	364	155
W45	122	928	107	100	153	206	246	230	360	201	218	273	292	317	
W46	615	127	928	107	100	153	206	246	230	360	201	218	273	292	317
W47	561	414	523	624	465	42	70	816	858	109	703	104	108	885	117
W48	343	20	263	474	284	355	356	408	455	456	461	708	534	334	348
W49	235	158	129	359	191	458	252	215	222	239	157	829	121	131	303
W50	234	168	16	329	197	17	206	215	188	197	233	401	151	132	239
W51	225	168	132	576	181	225	129	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
W52	174	108	143	195	157	123	156	125	14	143	134	314	131	134	214
W53	139	978	983	164	12	785	989	742	107	125	117	195	854	980	13
W54	234	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
W55	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365
W56	631	507	463	975	366	384	19	157	317	329	604	618	738	254	45
W57	535	351	321	503	20	318	178	227	483	608	163	892	316	32	579
W58	179	806	127	411	179	806	127	411	179	806	127	411	179	806	127
W59	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
W60	149	109	297	580	243	71	435	188	207	76	434	275	771		
W61	329	321	358	217	203	404	434	214	482	463	471	888	759	326	971
W62	102	118	312	693	49	476	613	41	418	423	423	423	423	423	423
W63	194	169	245	492	9	238	183	232	531	881	736	778	665	401	115
W64	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133
W65	139	156	124	328	228	113	109	165	862	845	1128	324	809	212	189
W66	199	131	163	430	298	234	207	225	123	1172	108	362	665	181	167
W67	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
W68	378	543	411	589	625	577	359	410	105	959	1155	263	320	199	177
W69	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275	275
W70	429	594	439	626	57	577	354	301	636	540	552	169	199	501	110
W71	456	551	522	857	423	473	578	165	528	329	298	985	877	424	985
W72	424	558	522	576	181	225	229	229	229	229	229	229	229	229	229
W73	457	373	38	48	349	398	274	196	428	424	814	637	504	44	460
W74	486	192	187	39	233	287	40	266	365	356	452	24	24	24	193
W75	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263
W76	129	789	883	165	147	155	983	105	136	137	369	239	104	134	108
W77	131	119	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
W78	185	123	118	234	182	211	283	165	135	218	415	371	166	211	139
W79	139	982	883	141	15	122	172	102	139	368	714	114	172	172	172
W80	133	929	728	142	119	889	125	929	112	339	181	17	139	939	
W81	185	117	141	193	155	233	118	991	18	534	305	18	19	156	
W82	185	142	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214	214
W83	185	151	124	177	145	163	226	166	986	153	309	237	209	207	16
W84	206	165	151	315	188	17	35	209	184	156	445	385	255	258	231
W85	298	20	219	546	267	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298
W86	246	24	323	433	256	365	40	379	258	301	514	456	296	274	418
W87	305	201	31	365	204	295	414	169	323	507	436	412	36	412	36
W88	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298	298
W89	18	886	172	227	128	22	197	189	16	414	212	203	27	266	
W90	292	158	192	292	158	192	292	158	192	292	158	192	292	158	192
W91	189	121	165	173	124	165	189	138	192	199	785	285	531	204	258
W92	127	823	921	12	108	115	104	103	172	153	395	178	239	137	221
W93	34	589	32	834	288	123	939	939	939	939	939	939	939	939	939
W94	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
W95	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862	862
W96	138	112	142	16	133	112	119	127	199	10	167	239	117	114	130
W97	218	142	108	188	157	168	192	234	220	299	36	2			

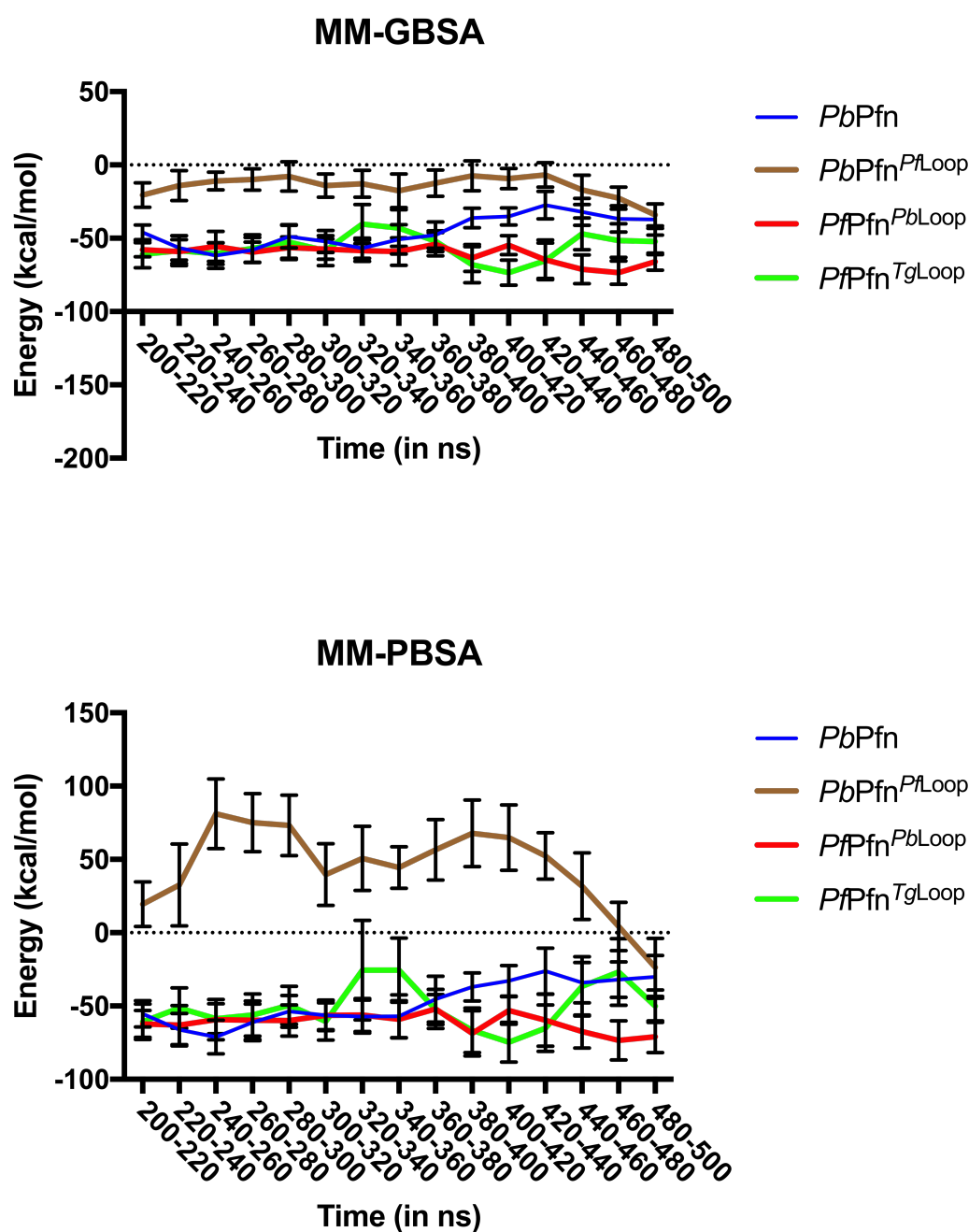
**Figure S2: Atomic fluctuations (B-factor) of *Pb* Pfn (left) or *Pb* Pfn<sup>PfLoop</sup> (right) during MD simulations (each complexed with *PbActin*).** Residue numbers are highlighted in yellow at the left corner of each panel. Each column represents B-factor values (units are  $\text{\AA}^2 \times (8/3)\pi^2$ ) for the C $\alpha$  atoms for the interval of 20 ns during 200-500 ns of simulations. The acidic loop residues are bordered with bold lines and are highlighted with grey text (right corner). Color code: blue, white, red: low, intermediate and high B-factor values, respectively. Please note that this data is also available as separate Excel file.



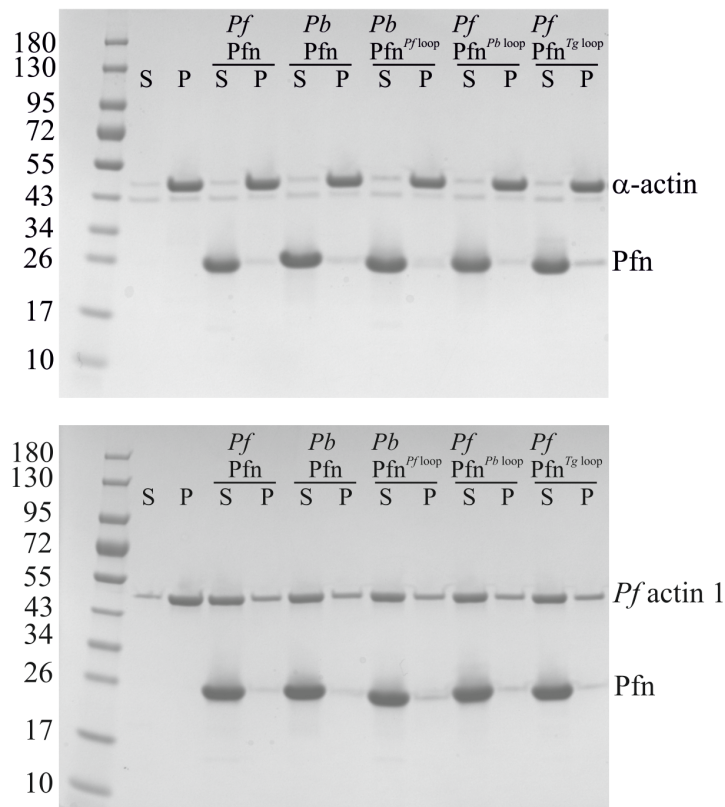


**Figure S3: Atomic fluctuations (B-factor) of *Pf* Pfn (left), *Pf* Pfn <sup>PbLoop</sup> (middle) and *Pf* Pfn <sup>TgLoop</sup> (right) during MD simulations (each complexed with *PbActin*).**

Residue numbers are highlighted in yellow at the left corner of each panel. Each column represents B-factor values (units are  $\text{\AA}^2 \times (8/3)\pi^2$ ) for the C $\alpha$  atoms for the interval of 20 ns during 200-500 ns of simulations. The acidic loop residues are bordered with bold lines and are highlighted with grey text (right corner). Blue, white, red: low, intermediate and high B-factor values, respectively. Please note that this data is also available as separate Excel file.



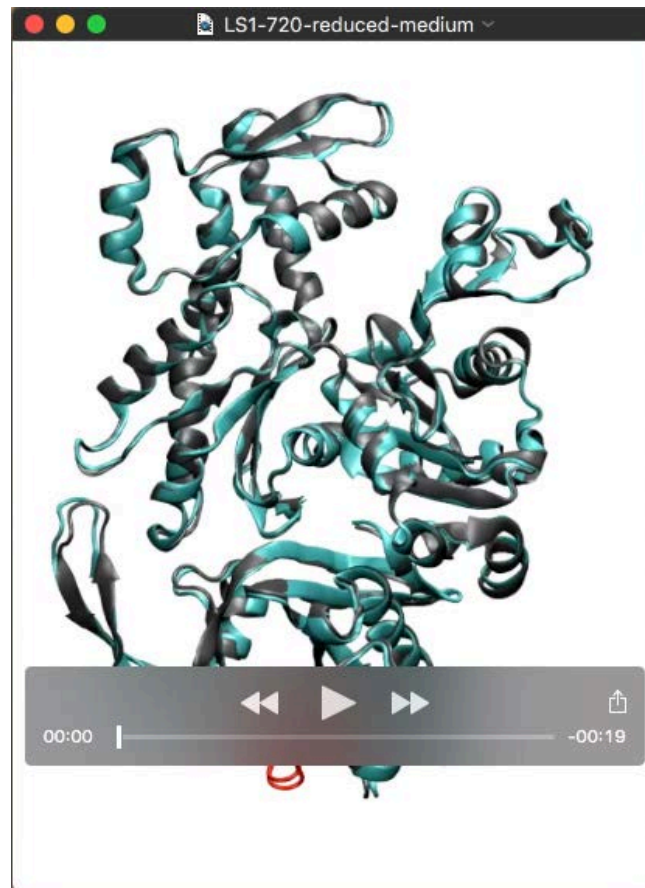
**Figure S4: MM-PBSA and MM-GBSA estimated binding free energy of *PbActin* complexed with different profilin mutants.** Average  $\pm$  standard deviation binding free energies (kcal/mol) were calculated for intervals of 20 ns during 200-500 ns of simulations using the MM-GBSA and MM-PBSA methods. Note that the (energetically unfavorable) translational, rotational and vibrational entropic contributions to binding were not computed.



**Figure S5: Co-sedimentation gels.** Sedimentation of 4  $\mu$ M *S. scrofa* (domestic pig)  $\alpha$ -actin (top gel) or *P. falciparum* actin 1 (bottom gel) alone and in the presence of 16  $\mu$ M *P. falciparum* and *P. berghei* profiling as well as profiling chimeras (*Pb* Pfn<sup>Pf Loop</sup>, *Pf* Pfn<sup>Pb Loop</sup> and *Pf* Pfn<sup>Tg Loop</sup>). Samples were analyzed on 4- 20% SDS-PAGE gels and protein bands were visualized with PageBlue stain (Thermo Scientific). S denotes supernatant and P pellet. Quantification from duplicate gels is presented in Fig. 3B.



## Supplementary movies



### Movie 1

500 ns simulation of the chimeric mutant *Pb* Pfn<sup>Pf</sup> Loop in grey compared to *Plasmodium berghei* profilin-WT (cyan) using all atom molecular dynamics simulation. The profilin mutant (or WT) is bound to *Plasmodium berghei* actin. For comparison, see movies in Moreau et al., 2017 (ref 5), for 150 ns simulations for mutants of the profilin arm.



## Movie 2

500 ns simulation of the chimeric mutant *Pf* Pfn<sup>Pb</sup> Loop in grey compared to *Plasmodium berghei* profilin-WT (cyan) using all atom molecular dynamics simulation. The profilin mutant (or WT) is bound to *Plasmodium berghei* actin.



### Movie 3

500 ns simulation of the chimeric mutant *Pf* Pfn<sup>Tg</sup> Loop in grey compared to *Plasmodium berghei* profilin-WT (cyan) using all atom molecular dynamics simulation. The profilin mutant (or WT) is bound to *Plasmodium berghei* actin.