Table S1: Primers used in this work*

Name	Nucleotide sequence (5'-3')	Comment
Primers used for RT-PCR		
RT-1F	CATCGGCATTGGCGTGGAAG	MXAN0736-MXAN0735 intergenic region
RT-1R	GCGTCCGGGGCATCCTGTC	MXAN0736-MXAN0735 intergenic region
RT-2F	CCCTGCTCGCGTCGCTCG	MXAN0735 internal region
RT-2R	CGAAGTCGCTCTGGGCGATG	MXAN0735 internal region
RT-3F	CGTGCGCACCCACTTCATCC	MXAN0735-MXAN0734 intergenic region
RT-3R	CCTCGTGGATGCCGGTGTTG	MXAN0735-MXAN0734 intergenic region
RT-4F	GCGCTCCGCTCCCACTGGT	MXAN0734 internal region
RT-4R	GGCGTACCACATGCGTCC	MXAN0734 internal region
RT-5F	CGGCATGACGCGCAGCTTCTTC	MXAN0734-*rodK* intergenic region
RT-5R	CCAAGCCCCACGTGCGTGAC	MXAN0734-*rodK* intergenic region
RT-6F	GTGGGTGAGGTGCTGGTG	*rodK* internal region
RT-6R	GATGACGTCCTCCAGCGC	*rodK* internal region
RT-7F	CTGTCGCTTCCCCGCCTGG	*rodK*-*rokA* intergenic region
RT-7R	TCTTCGGCAGCGCGTACTGG	*rodK*-*rokA* intergenic region
RT-8F	GGACGACGACCCGGACCTGC	*rokA* internal region
RT-8R	CGCGCAGGCGCTGTGCCAGC	*rokA* internal region
RT-9F	GGACGACGACCCGGACCTGC	*rokA*-MXAN0731 intergenic region
RT-9R	GAGGGGTTCTGCCAGTTCG	*rokA*-MXAN0731 intergenic region
Primers used for plasmid constructions		
pSW01		
pSW01_1	atcgg**aagctt**GTGGTGCTCACCGGCAAGACG	Construction of pSW01 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW01_2	caggtggaaCACCAGGACGCGCGCTTTTTC	Construction of pSW01 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW01_3	gtcctggtgTTCCACCTGAAGCCCCGGCCG	Construction of pSW01 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW01_4	tagcc**tctaga**GCCGCTGCCGTTGCCCAGGC	Construction of pSW01 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA16		
pMA16_1	atcgg**aagctt**CCTCCACCACCTCCGCGCAG	Construction of pMA16 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114

pMA16_2	gaggtggagGATGAGGACGCGAATCTTGG	Construction of pMA16 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA16_3	gtcctcatcCTCCACCTCAAGCCCGCGGC	Construction of pMA16 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA16_4	tagcc**tctaca**TTCTTCGGCGCGGGCGAAATCC	Construction of pMA16 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA25		
pMA25_1	atcgg**aagctt**CGGCATGACGCGCAGCTTCTTC	Construction of pMA25 (Amplification from genomic DNA SA2800) cloned HindIII-EcoRI in pBJ114
pMA25_2	cg**ggatcc**CTCCAGCGTGGCCTCGCAC	Construction of pMA25 (Amplification from genomic DNA SA2800) cloned HindIII-EcoRI in pBJ114
pMA25_3	cg**ggatcc**CTGTCGCTTCCCCGCCTGG	Construction of pMA25 (Amplification from genomic DNA SA2800) cloned HindIII-EcoRI in pBJ114
pMA25_4	tagcc**gaattc**GCGACGCGCTCGCCGTCCGG	Construction of pMA25 (Amplification from genomic DNA SA2800) cloned HindIII-EcoRI in pBJ114
pMA29		
pMA29_1	atcgg**aagctt**CTTGAGGTGGAGCGCTTCCAG	Construction of pMA29 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA29_2	caactggcaGGCCACCCGGATGCGTTC	Construction of pMA29 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA29_3	cgggtggccTGCCAGTTGGGTGTGCAG	Construction of pMA29 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA29_4	tagcc**tctaga**CCCTGGCCGCCGCGGCGA	Construction of pMA29 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW33		
pSW01_1	atcgg**aagctt**GTGGTGCTCACCGGCAAGACG	Construction of pMA33 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW33_1	GTCCTCATCaACGTGAACTTC	Construction of pMA33 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW33_2	GAAGTTCACGTtGATGAGGAC	Construction of pMA33 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pSW01_4	tagcc**tctaga**GCCGCTGCCGTTGCCCAGGC	Construction of pMA33 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned HindIII-XbaI in pBJ114
pMA134		
pMA134_1	atcgg**ggatcc**GGCAGCACGGTGCTGGTG	Construction of pMA134 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA134_2	tagcc**gaattc**CACCACCTCCACCAGGCG	Construction of pMA134 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA234		
pMA134_1	atcgg**ggatcc**GGCAGCACGGTGCTGGTG	Construction of pMA234 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA134_2	tagcc**gaattc**CACCACCTCCACCAGGCG	Construction of pMA234 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA156		
pMA156_1	atcgg**ggatcc**GTGGGTGAGGTGCTGGTG	Construction of pMA156 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA156_2	tagcc**gaattc**GATGACGTCCTCCAGCGC	Construction of pMA156 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA256		
pMA156_1	atcgg**ggatcc**GTGGGTGAGGTGCTGGTG	Construction of pMA256 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA156_2	tagcc**gaattc**GATGACGTCCTCCAGCGC	Construction of pMA256 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T

pMA178		
pMA178_1	atcgg**ggatcc**AAGCTGGCCCGCATCCTC	Construction of pMA178 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA178_2	tagcc**gaattc**AATCATCTCGAGCAACTG	Construction of pMA178 (Amplification from pAAR327) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA278		
pMA178_1	atcgg**ggatcc**AAGCTGGCCCGCATCCTC	Construction of pMA278 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA178_2	tagcc**gaattc**AATCATCTCGAGCAACTG	Construction of pMA278 (Amplification from pAAR353) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA10		
pMA10_1	atcg**ggatcc**TCTGAAGAAAAAGCGCGC	Construction of pMA10 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA10_2	tagcc**gaattc**TCAGCTGGTGGGAGCGGG	Construction of pMA10 (Amplification from genomic DNA DK1622) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA13		
pMA10_1	atcg**ggatcc**TCTGAAGAAAAAGCGCGC	Construction of pMA13 (Amplification from pSW33) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA10_2	tagcc**gaattc**TCAGCTGGTGGGAGCGGG	Construction of pMA13 (Amplification from pSW33) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA112		
pMA112_1	atcgg**gaattc**attaaagaggagaaattaactatgcatcaccat caccatcacGAGCTGGCGGTGGCCAAG	Construction of pMA13 (Amplification from pSW33) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA112_2	tagcc**aagctt**tcatcaggccatggtgcccacgtg	Construction of pMA13 (Amplification from pSW33) cloned BamHI-EcoRI in pGEX-2T
pMA1-4		
	No primer used	Construction by digest of pAAR327 with SmaI and HindIII, 2133bp fragment cloned into pMA112

*****Sequences in bold indicate restriction sites used for cloning.

Sequences in uppercase indicate sequences in the respective gene.

Sequences in lower case indicate additional sequences needed for cloning.

Table S2: Similarity and identity of proteins encoded by ORFs in *rodK* loci in *M. xanthus* and *S. aurantiaca*

MXAN#	Annotation of MXAN protein	STIAU#	Identity %	Similarity %
0717	hypothetical protein	5689	66	75
0718	hypothetical protein	5688	67	78
0719	hypothetical protein			
0720	sensor histidine kinase	5687	40	55
0721	heme ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein			
0722	putative membrane protein			
0723	putative lipoprotein			
0724	putative serine/threonine protein kinase	5685	54	66
0725	ABC1 domain protein	5684	70	82
RokB	response regulator	5683	80	90
RokC	response regulator	5679	57	70
0729	conserved hypothetical protein			
0730	O-methyltransferase family protein	5677	72	83
0731	tryptophan2,3dioxygenase	5675	68	81
RokA	response regulator	5674	74	84
RodK	hybrid sensor histidine kinase	5673	69	82
0734	conserved hypothetical protein	5672	79	89
0735	hypothetical protein	5670	59	70
0736	sensor histidine kinase	5669	51	64
0737	putative RNA polymerase-associated protein RapA	5668	83	91
0738	conserved hypothetical protein			
0739	hypothetical protein			
0740	hypothetical protein			
0741	hypothetical protein			
0742	hypothetical protein	5656	82	91
0743	hypothetical protein	5655	71	76
0744	hypothetical protein			
0745	hypothetical protein	5654	52	66
0746	hypothetical protein	5653	37	51
0747	putative lipoprotein			
0748	ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein/permease protein	5650	80	88