

Table S1: Primers used.

Primer	Sequence
lolB1	5' GCG GCA AGG CGA AGA TTT CC 3'
lolB2	5' GAG GCG GTG ATA ATA GGT CTC 3'
lolC1	5' GCA GCC GCC TTG TCG ACT GGC CG 3'
lolC2	5' GAT CAC GGC GTC GAT CGC AGC 3'
lolD3	5' GCT GAC GGA TCC TGC CGA TTG C 3'
lolD4	5' CGG CCT GCG TCT CGA GGA CCG G 3'
lolE3	5' GCT GGC AGT CGA CCA ACC TCC TG 3'
lolE4	5' GTG GTG GTG GTA GAC GAG ATC GAC 3'
63Nru1F	5' CGA CTA <u>G</u> IC ATT GCA GCG ATA GAA CGG 3'
63Nru1R	5' CTA TTT <u>C</u> GT CGA GCA CAG ACG AGG GCC TG 3'
PKiolCFPstI	5' CGA ATC <u>C</u> TG CAG GGT CTG GTT CGA AC '3
PKiolCRBamHI	5' CGG TAG GTC <u>G</u> GG <u>A</u> TC CTT TCG CGA AC '3
PKiolDFNsiI	5' CGG TCG ACC <u>A</u> AT GCA TCA AGG TGC TTT C '3
PKiolDFBgIII	5' CGA GAC GAA GAC GAG ATC <u>A</u> G <u>A</u> <u>T</u> CT TGA GAG C '3
FiolE-NsiI	5' GCA ACA GAG CGA <u>I</u> GC ATC CGC CTT AAG '3
RiolE-BamHI	5' GCA GCC <u>G</u> GA TCC GGG GGC AAT TAC G '3
FiolB-NsiI	5' CGG GGA <u>G</u> AA <u>T</u> GC <u>A</u> TA CCA CAG AAA CCC '3
2PKiolBRBgIII	5' CGG CAA GAT <u>C</u> TG ATA GGG CGA AGG CTC '3

Underlined bases were modified.

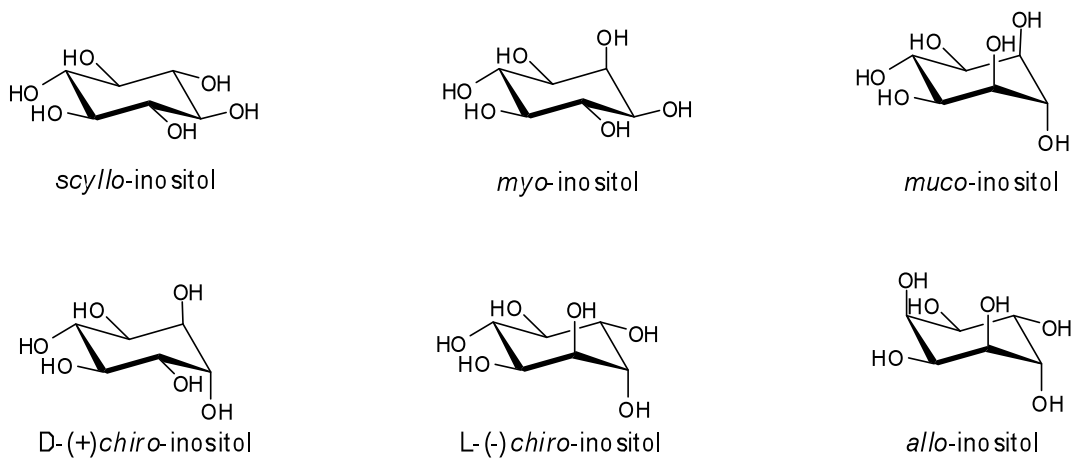


Fig. S1: Inositol isomers used in this study.

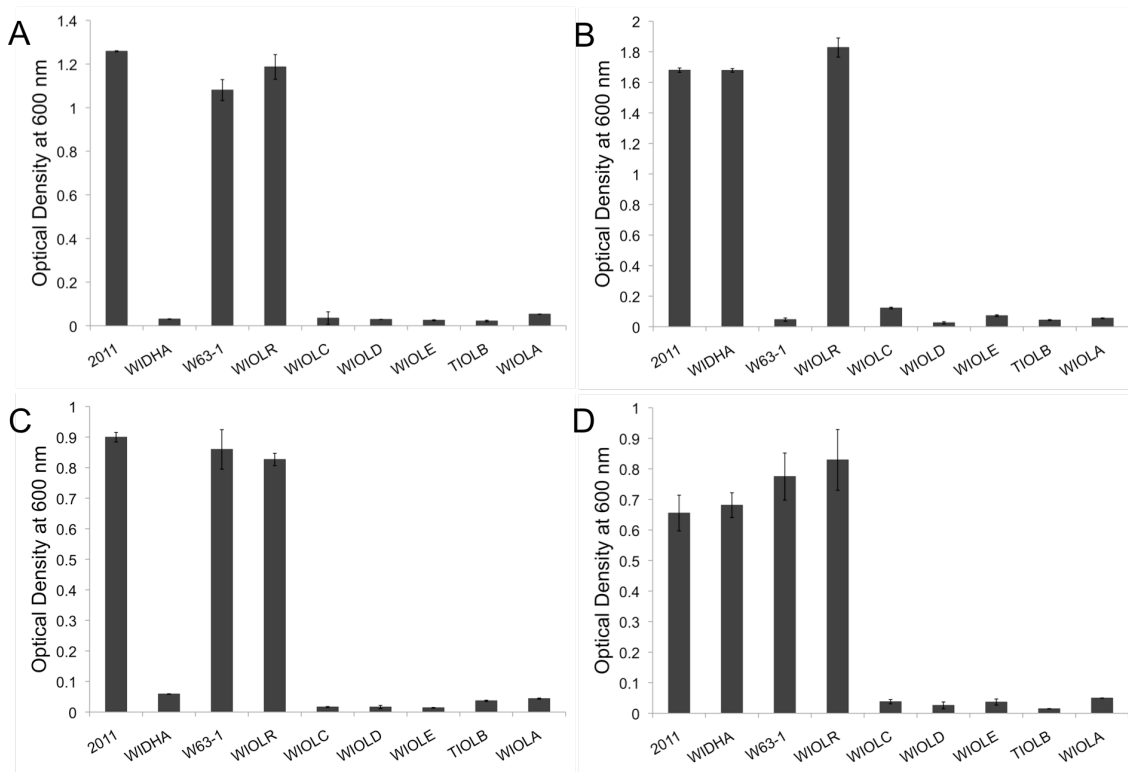


Fig. S2: Growth of *S. meliloti* wild-type strain 2011 and the corresponding *idhA* (WIDHA), *smc01163* (W63-1), *iolR* (WIOLR), *iolC* (WIOLC), *iolD* (WIOLD), *iolE* (WIOLE) and *iolA* (WIOLA) mutants, as well as the *S. meliloti* 1021 derived *iolB* (TIOLB) mutant in minimal medium with 0.2% *myo*-inositol (A), *scyllo*-inositol (B), *D-chiro*-inositol (C), and 2-keto-*myo*-inositol (2KMI; D) as sole carbon sources. The optical density was determined spectrophotometrically at 600 nm after 72 hours. Bars represent the average of two independent experiments, each performed in duplicate. Error bars denote \pm SEM.

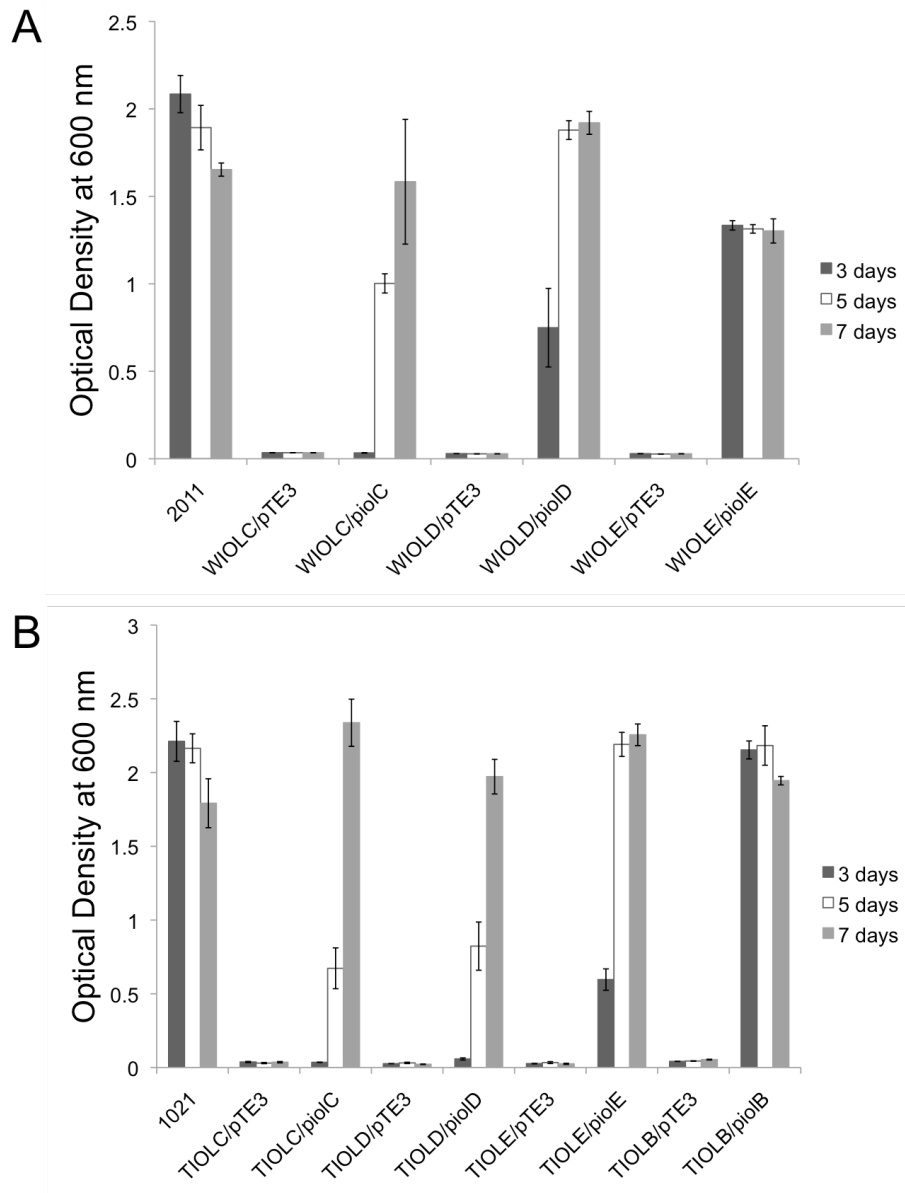


Fig. S3: Growth of *S. meliloti* wild-type strains 2011 (A) and 1021 (B) and their respective complemented *iolC* (WIOLC/p*iolC*; TIOLC/p*iolC*), *iolD* (WIOLD/p*iolD*; TIOLD/p*iolD*), *iolE* (WIOLE/p*iolE*; TIOLE/p*iolE*) and *iolB* (TIOLB/p*iolB*) mutants in minimal medium with 0.2% *myo*-inositol as sole carbon source, supplemented with kanamycin and tetracycline. Mutant strains harboring the vector (WIOLC/pTE3; TIOLC/pTE3); WIOLD/pTE3; TIOLD/pTE3; WIOLE/pTE3; TIOLE/pTE3; TIOLB/pTE3) served as control. The optical density was determined spectrophotometrically at 600 nm after 3, 5 and 7 days of growth. Bars represent the average of two independent experiments, each performed in duplicate. Error bars denote \pm SEM.