Table S1 List of oligonucleotides used in this study

Names	Sequences (5'→3')[a]	Use
OCB706	GAATTCCATATGCGTGAAAAGACAGAGGC	pMLBAD-rsiC construction
OCB707	CCCGGGTCGACTCAAAGCGGCAGCCGGATCA	pMLBAD-rsiC construction
OCB984	GAATTCCATATGTATGACGGCATGTTTCGCAT	pMLBAD-rsiB1-strep construction
OCB985	TCTAGAA**TTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGCTCCA**CCCGGG AAGCGGCAGCCGGATCAAC	pMLBAD-rsiB1-strep construction
OCB668	GAATTCCATATGACATTGTCCACCCGTATTG	pMLBAD-rsiB1-strep construction
OCB986	TCTAGAACCCGGGGGCGGCTGCCTTTGTCG	pMLBAD-rsiB1-strep construction
OCB1035	GGATCCCCGATTGTTCTGGACGGTC	pMLBAD-rsiC-H318K construction
OCB1031	ACGCGTTTGTTGAGCTCCTTCAGCAACAG	pMLBAD-rsiC-H318K construction
OCB1032	ACGCGTCAAGAACACGCTTGCAATG	pMLBAD-rsiC-H318K construction
OCB684	GAATTCCATATGCCACTTTCCACAAGG	pMLBAD-rsiB2-D191A construction
OCB938	CAGCTGGATAGCCGCAAG	pMLBAD-rsiB2-D191A construction
OCB680	GGATCCTGATTCGATCCTGCAGCGC	*rsiC* upstream
OCB681	GTCGACCAGCCTGAAGGACACCGAG	*rsiC* upstream
OCB716	ACCTATCGATCGTCGCTGCG	*rsiC* downstream
OCB717	CGGAGCTCGACCGAGTATGAAGGGGAGC	*rsiC* downstream
OCB946	GAGCTCGCTCCGCTGCCCACGCCAG	SMc00322 upstream
OCB947	GGATCCATTTTACCGCCTCTACCGATC	SMc00322 upstream
OCB958	GTCGACCAGATAGTCGAGGAGCGAC	SMc00322 downstream
OCB959	GGATCCCAAGGATCATTCCTCGCAG	SMc00322 downstream
OCB798	GAGCTCGCGTAGTAGTCTTGATCCACG	SMa1001 upstream
OCB799	GGATCCCTTCTTGCTTCCCTCTCGG	SMa1001 upstream
OCB800	GGATCCGGCGTCTCAAGTCGGTCGG	SMa1001 downstream
OCB801	CTCGAGGTCATCGCTGCTAACCAGC	SMa1001 downstream
OCB802	GTCGACCCAGCAATCGGTGAACAGTG	SMa2063 upstream
OCB803	GGATCCGAGCGATCACACCTCCGGG	SMa2063 upstream
OCB804	GGATCCGAGATTAGGGTATGGCTCC	SMa2063 downstream
OCB805	GAGCTCCTTGCTGGTGGAGCTGGTG	SMa2063 downstream
OCB516	CGGAAACGCTTGCACATCAC	screening of Δ*rsiC* mutants
OCB714	TCATCGCAGCCGCTTTGCTG	screening of Δ*rsiC* mutants
OCB962	CAACCCGATCATCCTGCG	screening of ΔSMc00322 mutants
OCB963	GCACCGATCAGCTTGGTG	screening of ΔSMc00322 mutants
OCB857	CGCTTTTCAGATCGGCTTG	screening of ΔSMa1001 mutants
OCB858	CCTTCGGCTGCTCCGCTC	screening of ΔSMa1001 mutants
OCB859	GAATGGCTCTGCGTCAGTTC	screening of ΔSMa2063 mutants
OCB860	GTGCAGTGGCTGAAGCAG	screening of ΔSMa2063 mutants

[a]Restriction sites are underlined. The strep-tag coding sequence is indicated in bold letters.

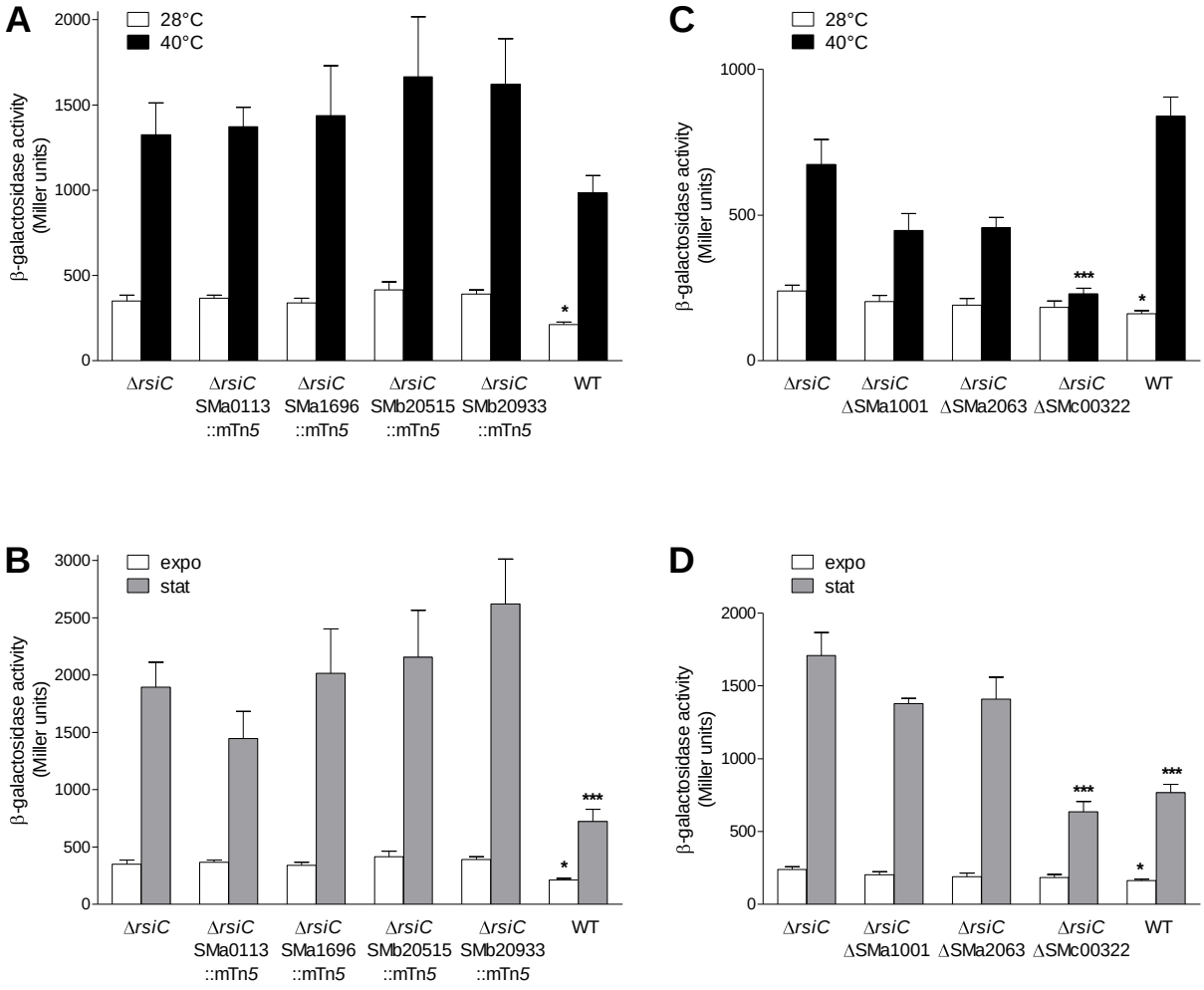

FIG S1 SMc00322 is the main H_W-type kinase contributing to RpoE2 activation in the absence of RsiC. The transcription level of the $P_{SMc00885}$-*lacZ* fusion carried on plasmid pMP220-885, used as a reporter of RpoE2 activity, was measured in the following *S. meliloti* strains: (A, B) Rm2011 background: CBT1710 (Δ*rsiC*), CBT1702 (Δ*rsiC* SMa0113::mTn*5*), CBT1706 (Δ*rsiC* SMa1696::mTn*5*), CBT1704 (Δ*rsiC* SMb20515::mTn*5*), CBT1708 (Δ*rsiC* SMb20933::mTn*5*) and GMI11495 (WT); (C, D) Rm1021 background: CBT785 (Δ*rsiC*), CBT862 (Δ*rsiC* ΔSMa1001), CBT866 (Δ*rsiC* ΔSMa2063), CBT1169 (Δ*rsiC* ΔSMc00322), Rm1021 (WT). β-galactosidase activity was measured on aliquots of cultures grown to exponential phase at 28°C (white bars), after 1h at 40°C (black bars), or grown for 48 h in stationary phase (gray bars). β-galactosidase activities are means and standard errors from at least three independent experiments. Statistical analyses were performed on Log-transformed data using a one way ANOVA ($P < 0.0001$). The Bonferroni post-test was used to compare each strain to its isogenic Δ*rsiC* mutant grown under identical culture conditions (*, $P < 0.05$; ***, $P < 0.001$).