

**Table S2. Oligonucleotides used in this study**

| Primer                | Sequence 5' - 3'  | Restriction site | Position of annealing <sup>(c)</sup> |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>X<sub>2</sub></b>  | gaatccGCCTTATCGTTAGGAT <sup>(a)</sup>                                   | EcoRI            | -891/-874 ( <i>cotH</i> )            |
| <b>H<sub>19</sub></b> | ggatccCCATAATCCTCCTTACAAATT <sup>(a)</sup>                              | BamH1            | -142/-121 ( <i>cotG</i> )            |
| <b>Gsoe-1:</b>        | <u>GGTGGTGC</u> GGTTGC <u>GT</u> TTTCCATGAGGCTCTGG <sup>(b)</sup>       |                  | +77/+102 ( <i>cotG</i> )             |
| <b>Gsoe-2:</b>        | catggaaaaaaacgcAAACCGCACCACTGCG <sup>(b)</sup>                          |                  | +480/+499 ( <i>cotG</i> )            |
| <b>Gsoe-3:</b>        | <u>CAATGAAA</u> ACTTAGATTAGCGTTTCCATGAGGCTCTGG <sup>(b)</sup>           |                  | +77/+102 ( <i>cotG</i> )             |
| <b>Gsoe-4:</b>        | tcatggaaaaaaacgcTAATCTAAGTTTCATTGTTCAAT <sup>(b)</sup>                  |                  | +585/610 ( <i>cotG</i> )             |
| <b>Gsoe-5:</b>        | <u>GTGGTGGTGC</u> GGTTCAATTGAA <u>ATCCTC</u> TTAAAAATATG <sup>(b)</sup> |                  | -26/+3 ( <i>cotG</i> )               |
| <b>Gsoe-6:</b>        | ggaggattcaaattgAAACCGCACCACTGCGACGAC <sup>(b)</sup>                     |                  | +480/504 ( <i>cotG</i> )             |
| <b>H1-lich</b>        | GTATGACACTGCGACAGG  |                  | +126/+144 ( <i>cotH</i> )            |
| <b>H2-lich</b>        | TGATGATGAGTGCCACTGCC  |                  | -5/+15 ( <i>cotH</i> )               |
| <b>H3-lich</b>        | GGCTCACCATGCAGCAAGCC  |                  | -699/-680 ( <i>cotH</i> )            |
| <b>H1-cereus</b>      | CGGCTTGTAAAACATAACATG   |                  | +171/+192 ( <i>cotH</i> )            |
| <b>H2- cereus</b>     | GAAGAGAACTGAGAAGGGATG   |                  | -27/-7 ( <i>cotH</i> )               |
| <b>H3- cereus</b>     | GTATGAAAAACTAGCAATTGC   |                  | -733/-712 ( <i>cotH</i> )            |

<sup>a</sup> Capital and lowercase letters indicate bases of DNA and of an unpaired tail carrying a restriction site, respectively.

<sup>(b)</sup> lowercase letters in Gsoe2, Gsoe4, Gsoe6 indicate the sequences complementary to the 5' region (underlined) of oligonucleotides Gsoe1, Gsoe3, Gsoe5, respectively

<sup>c</sup> Considering as +1 the first base of the first codon in *cotH* or *cotG* as indicated in brackets.