



Fig. S4. Growth of *R. solanacearum* strains in stem of eggplants. A set of four plants were inoculated with 5×10^3 cells of each *R. solanacearum* strain, RS1002 (*ripAY*⁺) and RS1700 (Δ *ripAY*), using a stem-cutting method as described previously (19). *R. solanacearum* Δ *ripAY* strain RS1700 is constructed by a standard gene disruption procedure using a marker exchange plasmid pK18*mobsacB*. Primer sets used for construction of pK18*mobsacB* carrying the Δ *ripAY* construct were listed in Table S2.