



**Figure S2** Growth curves of strains E234869, LRT9 and their *rpoS* mutants. Bacteria grown overnight were diluted in DMEM and grown for 9 hours. Samples were taken hourly and monitored for cell density at OD<sub>600</sub>. The growth rates for each strain in the exponential phase were 0.48 h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.99 h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.66 h<sup>-1</sup> and 1.0 h<sup>-1</sup> for E2348/69, E2348/69 *rpoS*::Tn10, LRT9 and LRT9 *rpoS*::Tn10, respectively. Each point represents the mean of three independent cultures.