**Table 2. Primers used in this study**

| No. | Name | Sequence (5' → 3') | Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ntrA-F3 | tacaaacaataaaaatattaagcc | Amplifying *ntrA* internal fragment |
| 2 | ntrA-R2 | ataacagaaatctctttgtctgac | Amplifying *ntrA* internal fragment |
| 3 | ntrAp-F-*Kpn*I | catggtacccctattgcaacaaacatagcaacatacg | Amplifying *ntrA* for complementation plasmid |
| 4 | ntrA-R3-*Bam*HI | gactggatcctcattcaagctgtaattaacc | Amplifying *ntrA* for complementation plasmid |
| 5 | ntrA-F4 | gtggatttttttatacattaatat | Confirmation of *ntrA* deletion |
| 6 | ntrA-R3 | tcattcaagctgtaattaacc | Confirmation of *ntrA* deletion |
| 7 | PflaB3'-*Nde*I | gattgataatcatatgtcattcctccatg | Confirmation of *ntrA* deletion |
| 8 | PflaB5' | tgtctgtcgcctcttgtggcttccgg | Confirmation of *ntrA* deletion |
| 9 | M13rev | caggaaacagctatgac | Sequencing/screening complementation plasmids |
| 10 | pMFS+rev | tcttcgctattacgccag | Sequencing/screening complementation plasmids |
| 11 | ntrAseqR3 | ttttattgtttgtatttgaattgag | Sequencing/screening complementation plasmids |
| 12 | ntrAseqF2 | tatctaataacagatgctacaagaag | *ntrA* sequencing, confirming lack of DNA contamination of RNA (with primer 2) |
| 13 | ntrAseqR1 | agctattcctatttttgcaagtatttcgtc | *ntrA* sequencing, confirming ntrA locus (with primer 16) |
| 14 | ntrAseqF1 | taaaaaggaagaaaaagaaaaagtaa | *ntrA* sequencing, RT-PCR of *ntrA* message |
| 15 | ntrAseqR2 | aacgattctattatgttggggacac | *ntrA* sequencing, RT-PCR of *ntrA* message |
| 16 | Kan3'out | aacactggcagagcattac | Confirming *ntrA* locus (with primer 13) |
| 17 | rpoSRT-f | taaaaagatatgcgggtaaag | RT-PCR of *rpoS* message |
| 18 | rpoSRT-r | ctgagcaggagataggttgaa | RT-PCR of *rpoS* message |