

Table S2. Generation times* (hours) of *S. meliloti* strains.

Genotype †	Rich medium		Defined medium	
	RmP3499	RmP3496	RmP3499	RmP3496
No mutation	2.00	4.19	2.47	3.80
<i>rhaK</i> ‡	2.01	4.22	2.78	3.52
<i>feuQ</i>	2.06	2.95	2.77	3.42
<i>coaA</i>	1.95	4.21	3.00	3.93
<i>tig</i>	2.01	4.47	3.09	4.04
<i>smc00074</i>	1.97	4.16	3.01	3.62
<i>ppk</i>	1.94	4.57	2.92	5.10
<i>smc00712</i>	1.91	3.93	2.91	3.56
<i>cbrA</i>	2.11	8.75	3.52	6.23

* Generation times are calculated from the average of triplicate samples, and are shown in hours.

† The gene disrupted in each strain is indicated in the left column. The background strain that the mutation was constructed in is shown along the top.

‡ The *rhaK* mutant strains are meant as control strains as mutation of this gene is expected to have no phenotype under the tested conditions.