

1 **Table S3.** Mutants of chemotaxis component of *Xoo* exhibit virulence deficiency in epiphytic  
 2 (surface inoculation) mode of infection.

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Strain <sup>a</sup>	Efficiency of infection (%) <sup>b</sup>			Lesion length (cm) <sup>c</sup>		
	Exp 1	Exp 2	Exp3	Exp 1	Exp 2	Exp3
Buffer control	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Xoo</i> (WT)	72.5 (29/40)	75.9 (23/30)	69.3 (21/30)	13.75±2.14	11.02±1.95	11.43±2.25
$\Delta$ <i>fliC</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>mcp2</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheW2</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheW2</i> (CheW2+)	85 (34/40)	79.2 (24/30)	72.6 (22/30)	10.57±1.86	10.95±2.24	11.01±2.25
$\Delta$ <i>cheA2</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheA2</i> (CheA2+)	62.5 (25/40)	69.3 (21/30)	66 (20/30)	7.3±1.57	7.02±1.69	6.99±2.18
$\Delta$ <i>cheY1</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheY1</i> (CheY1+)	67.5 (27/40)	75.9 (23/30)	72.6 (22/30)	11.24±1.8	10.85±2.36	11.58±2.59
$\Delta$ <i>cheR2</i>	7.5 (3/40)	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheR2</i> (CheR2+)	80 (32/40)	79.2 (24/30)	75.9 (23/30)	10.86±2.82	10.28±2.26	12±2.62
$\Delta$ <i>cheB2</i>	2.5 (1/40)	0	0	0	0	0
$\Delta$ <i>cheB2</i> (CheB2+)	75 (30/40)	72.6 (22/30)	75.9 (23/30)	12.58±1.63	10.32±2.78	11.89±2.4

4 <sup>a</sup> The fresh, healthy rice leaves with intact tips of 30-day-old susceptible rice plants (TN-1), pre-adapted in  
 5 humid chambers were either dipped in water (control) alone or with bacterial suspension. Lesion lengths  
 6 were measured 21 dpi. <sup>b</sup> The percentage efficiency of infection is presented. Values in parentheses  
 7 indicate the number of leaves that exhibited infection symptoms compared with the total number of  
 8 infected leaves. <sup>c</sup> Lesion lengths (cm) measured 21 dpi. The lesion length was measured from at least 30

1 infected leaves from three independent experiments, and the mean values were determined  $\pm$ SD. The data  
2 presented above is statistically significant with p-value  $<0.001$  for all the mutants compared with wild  
3 type as determined by student's t-test.

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