

Theory					Experiment		
	Symbol	Definition	Units	Model value	Experimental observable	Exp. value	Ref.
Population partitioning model	$\lambda$	Strain specific <i>P</i> -to- <i>A</i> transition rate	hour <sup>-1</sup>	Varied		--	
	$\theta$	Strain-specific sensitivity threshold	Kg/cm <sup>2</sup>	Varied		--	
	$\gamma$	Strain-specific signaling rate	Kg/hour	Varied		--	
	$v$	Strain-specific <i>A</i> -cells velocity	μm/min	Varied around 12	Velocity of aggregating cells	12μm/min	[53]
	$\tilde{v}$	Rescaled cell velocity ( $D \rightarrow \infty$ limit; see Sup. Information)	hour <sup>-1</sup>	Varied		--	
	$N_0$	Initial number of <i>P</i> -cells	# cells	Varied		--	
	$\eta$	Decay constant of the signal	min <sup>-1</sup>	1.2	Parameter used for model fitting.		
	$D$	Signal diffusion coefficient	cm <sup>2</sup> /s	Varied	cAMP diff. coeff. (2% agar) CMF diff. coeff. (water film)	4.4x10 <sup>-6</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> /s 8x10 <sup>-7</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> /s	[54–56]
Resource competition model	$\mu$	Decrease rate of survival probability	hour <sup>-1</sup>	2x10 <sup>-3</sup>	Number of alive/moving loners versus time	2x10 <sup>-3</sup> hour <sup>-1</sup>	Fitting from [14]
	$\zeta$	Resistance to starvation parameter	--	2		2	
	$T_{sur}$	Loner maximum lifespan	hour	240		240 hour	
	$T_{ger}$	Spore germination time	hour	4	Mean germination time 1-3 days old spores	4-8 hour	[58]
	$\delta$	Spore death rate	hour <sup>-1</sup>	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>		--	
	$c$	Maximum division rate	hour <sup>-1</sup>	0.173	Doubling time	4 hour	[50]
	$s$	Spore:stalk ratio	--	0.8	Spore:stalk proportion	~ 80:20	[57]
	$\omega$	Spore germination success	--	0.63	Germination efficiency	0.63	[9]
	$R_0, X_0$	Food pulse size; normalized initial population size	# cells	3x10 <sup>5</sup>		--	
	$R_{1/2}$	Resources consumption half saturation constant	--	0.1 $R_0$		--	
$\bar{T}_{st}$	Mean starvation time	hour	Varied		--		