

Table S3. Primers used in this study

The restriction sites are underlined.

| Name | Sequence 5' -> 3' | Experiment |
|---------------------|--|--|
| SMc02977_del_F-1 | CATGGAATTCAGCTCTGTCAGATAGACCTTGGT | SMc02977 in-frame deletion, <i>S. meliloti</i> |
| SMc02977_del_R_1 | CATGGGATCCTTCTACTCGGCCCTCGGCGTCGT | |
| SMc02977_del_F_2 | CATGGGATCCATGCCGGCGAGCTCGACTGA | |
| SMc02977_del_R_2 | CATGGAATTCATCAGTCCTTCGACGACAC | |
| SMc02977_ver_F | CTTCCGCGATGATCTGCAGA | |
| SMc02977_ver_R | GCGTCGAAGCGTCCGGGACG | |
| SMc02976_del_F-1 | CATGGAATTCGTTTCGACAGGCAGGAAGGTCACG | SMc02976 In-frame deletion, <i>S. meliloti</i> |
| SMc02976_del_R_1 | CATGGGATCCTGGACCTCCCGCCGAATCCCCTACACT | |
| SMc02976_del_F_2 | CATGGGATCCTTGAGCCGGGGTTTGAGAACCG | |
| SMc02976_del_R_2 | CATGGAATTCACCGAGCTGCAGCAGCGTCTCGAT | |
| SMc02976_ver_F | ACATCCATGTGTTTCGATCGAA | |
| SMc02976_ver_R | GATAGCGGGCGACATGATCAC | |
| SMc02978_del_F-1 | CATGGAATTCGCGCTTTCCTTCAAGCATCTGC | SMc02978 in-frame deletion, <i>S. meliloti</i> |
| SMc02978_del_R_1 | CATGGGATCCGGGAACCTCGAGGGTTGGCGAT | |
| SMc02978_del_F_2 | CATGGGATCCGGCATGATCCCGGAAGATGGCG | |
| SMc02978_del_R_2 | CATGGAATTCGTAGGCGTAAGCGACCGCACCTT | |
| SMc02978_ver_F | CATCCGGACAAGGTGGATAT | |
| SMc02978_ver_R | GGACATGCGTCGTCTTGCCGT | |
| BAB2_0247 Up Fwd | TGATGGTGATGGTCATGCCC | BAB2_0247 in-frame deletion, <i>B. abortusi</i> |
| BAB2_0247 Up Rev | AAAACATGACCGATCTGCGCGCATGAACATGATCCG GCTG | |
| BAB2_0247 Dwn Fwd | CAGCCGGATCATGTTTCATGCGCGCAGATCGGTCATGT TTT | |
| BAB2_0247 Dwn Rev | AACGCGAGGTACGAAGGCTC | |
| BAB1_0455 Up Fwd | TGCTTCCGGCGTGCTTCTG | BAB1_0455 in-frame deletion, <i>B. abortusi</i> |
| BAB1_0455 Up Rev | TTGGGAGACATGCATTAGATCGCATCAACGACCTGTT TCTGA | |
| BAB1_0455 Dwn Fwd | TCAGAAACAGGTCGTTGATGCGATCTAATGCATGTCT CCCAA | |
| BAB1_0455 Dwn Rev | GACTCATCGAGATTGATCTC | |
| Ls_ckc_00410_expr_F | ATGCGGATCCCGATAGCGGCTGCCATTGT | Functional complementation of SMc02977 in pCPP30, <i>S. meliloti</i> |
| Ls_ckc_00410_expr_R | ATGCGGATCCAGCGCTATCGGAACTATTC | |
| BA_BAB2_0247_expr_F | ATGCAAGCTTGAAGCGCGCTTGACCACAAATCC | |
| BA_BAB2_0247_expr_R | ATGCAAGCTTTATCACACGCAGCCGGATCATGT | |
| Me_METDI4691_F | CATGGAATTCGGATCCGACGATCTCGTCCTTCTTCT | |
| Me_METDI4691_R | CATGGAATTCGGATCCTCAGGCTCCTGGCATGGGGA | |

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|----------------------|---|--|
| Oa_Oant_3869_F | ATGCGGATCCGGCGACGATCTCGTCCTTCT | |
| Oa_Oant_3869_R | ATGCGGATCCTTACCAGGCTGGTTTGTGT | |
| PET30LIC_cahA_F | GACGACGACAAGATGTCGTTGCCGAAGCCCCGATGG | Cloning in pET30 for protein expression, <i>S. meliloti</i> ArfB |
| PET30LIC_cahA_R | GAGGAGAAGCCCGGTCAGTCGAGCTCGCCGGCATCG A | |
| PET30LIC_BAB2_0247_F | GACGACGACAAGATGACCGATCTGCGATCAG | Cloning in pET30 for protein expression, <i>B. abortus</i> |
| PET30LIC_BAB2_0247_R | GAGGAGAAGCCCGGTCATGCCATCACTTTCGGGTTG | |
| Sm_SMc02977_BTH_F | ATGCGGATCCCATGTCGTTGCCGAAGCCCCGAT | Bacterial two hybrid experiments, <i>S. meliloti</i> |
| Sm_SMc02977_BTH_R | ATGCGGTACCCGGTCGAGCTCGCCGGCATCGA | |
| Ba_BAB2_0247_BTH_F | ATGCGGATCCCATGACCGATCTGCGCGATCA | Bacterial two hybrid experiments, <i>B. abortus</i> |
| Ba_BAB2_0247_BTH_R | ATGCGGTACCCGTGCCATCACTTTCGGGTTGA | |