**Table S3. Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Strain or plasmid** | **Relevant characteristics** | **Reference** |
| ***Rhizobium etli***  |  |  |
| CE3 | CFN42 derivative, Nalr, Smr | Noel et al., 1984 |
| ΔRetPC57 | CE3 *RHE\_PC00057*, Nalr, Smr | This work |
| **Plasmids** |  |  |
| pCR2.1 TOPO | Cloning vector for PCR products, Apr Kmr  | Invitrogen |
| pJET2.1/blunt | Cloning vector for blunt ended PCR products, Ampr | Thermo Fischer Scientific |
| pK\**mobsacB* | Mobilizable cloning vector, Kmr | Schäfer et al., 1994 |
| pBBMCS53 | Δp*lacZ* pBBR1MCS-5 derivative, carrying the promoterless *uidA* gene from pWM5, Gmr | Girard et al*.*, 2000 |
| pLC290 | Cumate inducible expression vector carrying the PR/cmtO promoter, Kmr | Chubiz et al., 2013 |
| pFAJ1700 | Broad host range plasmid RK2-derived cloning vector, Tcr | Dombrecht et al., 2001 |
| pRK2013 | Conjugation helper plasmid, Kmr | Figurski and Helinski, 1979 |
| pK::Δpc57 | pK\**mobsacB* derivative containing regions flanking *RetPC57* gene, Kmr | This work |
| pPC57-gus | pBBMCS53 derivative *RetPC57::uidA* transcriptional fusion, Gmr | This work |
| pPC56-gus | pBBMCS53 derivative *RetPC56::uidA* transcriptional fusion, Gmr | This work |
| pPC58-gus | pBBMCS53 derivative *RetPC58::uidA* transcriptional fusion, Gmr | This work |
| pnodTc-gus | pBBMCS53 derivative *nodTc::uidA*, Gmr | This work |
| pQPC57 | pLC290 derivative carrying the *RetPC57* gene under the PR/cmtO promoter, Kmr | This work |
| pPC57 | pFAJ1700 derivative carrying the *RetPC57* gene under its own promoter*,* Tcr | This work |
| pGUS | pFAJ1700 derivative carrying the *uidA* gene under the *lacZ* promoter, Tcr | Isidra-Arellano et al*.*, 2018 |
| pGUS-pc57 | pGUS derivative carrying the *RetPC57* gene under its own promoter*,* Tcr | This work |
| ***Escherichia coli*** |  |  |
| DH5α | *supE*44Δ*lacU*169(φ80*lacZ*ΔM15)hsdR17recA1endA1*gyrA*96 *thi*-1*relA*1 | Sambrook et al., 1989 |