

**SI Table 1.** Strains used in this study.

| Strain | Plasmid           | Genotype  | Parent strain | Source/reference              |
|--------|-------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| O395   |                   | sm <sup>R</sup>   |               | Lab collection                |
| JW415  |                   | O395 $\Delta tarA$  | O395          | This study                    |
| N16961 |                   | sm <sup>R</sup>   |               | Lab collection                |
| AR43   |                   | N16961 $\Delta tarA$  | N16961        | This study                    |
| VJ740  |                   | O395 $\Delta toxT$  | O395          | Champion <i>et al.</i> , 1997 |
| JW335  | pJW184            | <i>tcpI8::lacZ</i>  | O395          | This study                    |
| JW336  | pJW185            | <i>tcpI9::lacZ</i>  | O395          | This study                    |
| JW350  | pJW186            | <i>tcpI10::lacZ</i>   | O395          | This study                    |
| JW339  | pJW184            | <i>tcpI8::lacZ</i><br><i>DtoxT</i>  | VJ740         | This study                    |
| JW340  | pJW185            | <i>tcpI9::lacZ</i><br><i>DtoxT</i>  | VJ740         | This study                    |
| JW353  | pJW186            | <i>tcpI10::lacZ</i><br><i>DtoxT</i>   | VJ740         | This study                    |
| AR15   |                   | O395 $\Delta hfq$   | O395          | This study                    |
| AR38   | pKK177-3RI        | sm <sup>R</sup> , ap <sup>R</sup>   | N16961        | This study                    |
| AR39   | pJM292            | pKK177-3RI<br>with TarA<br>sequence under<br>control of <i>rrnB</i><br>promoter | N16961        | This study                    |
| AR59   | pHDB3,<br>pMMB207 | sm <sup>R</sup> , ap <sup>R</sup> , cm <sup>R</sup>                             | JW415         | This study                    |
| AR60   | pAR6,<br>pMMB207  | pHDB3 with<br>TarA sequence<br>under control of<br>P <sub>LlacO</sub> promoter  | JW415         | This study                    |
| AR74   |                   | N16961 $\Delta ptsG$  | N16961        | This study                    |
| AR80   | pUC19             | sm <sup>R</sup> , ap <sup>R</sup>   | AR074         | This study                    |
| AR81   | pAR7              | pUC19 with<br><i>ptsG</i> under<br>control of <i>lac</i><br>promoter            | AR074         | This study                    |