

S15 Fig. cDNA reads and relevant annotated features at the blr1853 (A) and *ntrC***(B)loci.** All libraries were adjusted to the indicated scale (reads). RNA was isolated from exponentially growing, free-living cells (F) in liquid cultures and from nodules (N). RNA samples were treated (+) or not treated (–) with terminal exonuclease TEX. Annotated and non-annotated transcripts, transcription start sites (TSS), prompters (P) and terminators (T) are indicated according to ref. [15]. **A)** The short form of the asRNA AsR1-blr1853 (asRNA-short) of 65 nt was detected by Northern blot analysis in this study (see Fig. 5C in the main text). The long form was detected previously using RT-PCR [15]. **B)** The sRNAs associated with the 3'-UTR of *ntrC*, 3'-seR-ntrC (3'-se) and 3'-asR-ntrC (3'-as) were validated in this study by Northern blot hybridization (see Fig. 5C in the main text).