**Table S1.** Strains used in this study.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Strain | Relevant mutant phenotype | Reference |
| BG214 | *trpC*2, *metB*5, *amyE,* *sigB*37, *xre*1, *att*SP, *att*ICE*Bs* | Lab. Collection |
| BG119a | + *recH342* renamed as *recX342* | [[1](#_ENREF_1)] |
| BG129a | + *recF15*b | [[1](#_ENREF_1)] |
| BG190a | + Δ*recA* | [[2](#_ENREF_2)] |
| BG439a | + Δ*recO* | [[3](#_ENREF_3)] |
| BG1047a | + Δ*lexA,* Δ*yneAB* | [[4](#_ENREF_4)] |
| BG1065a | + Δ*recX* | This work |
| BG1147a | + Δ*recX,* Δ*recA* | This work |
| BG1137a | + Δ*recX,* Δ*recO* | This work |
| BG1053a | + Δ*recX, recF15* | This work |
| PY79 | Prototroph, wt | Lab. collection |
| CDS19c | + *recX-yfp* | This work |
| CDS20c | + *recX-yfp*, *lacI-cfp,* OH-endonuclease | This work |
| CDS21c | + *cfp*-*recA, recX-yfp* | This work |
| DK37c | + *gfp*-*recA* | [[5](#_ENREF_5)] |
| AKR06c | + *gfp*-*recA*, *recX* | This work |
| SB19 | Prototroph, wt | Lab. collection |

aThe strains are isogenic with BG214. bDeletion of the *recF* gene affects the expression of downstream essential genes (*gyrA* and *gyrB*) and cells proliferation. The *recF*15 allele, with a single amino acid substitution, does not show a growth defect. The *recF*15 allele shows no residual activity in RR or GR [[6](#_ENREF_6)] and it was used in this study. cThe strains are isogenic with PY79.

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