**Table S4. Expression of *comE* in different gene deletion background in CDM under CSP induced conditions.** The fluorescent reporter strains carrying the CipB pMR1 plasmid in the chromosome were constructed in backgrounds of Δ*comC*, Δ*comD*, Δ*comE*, Δ*comS* and Δ*comRS* deletion strains, cultivated in CDM medium and induced by CSP (2 µM). Fluorescence microscopic images were obtained 3 hours after induction. Uninduced strains were used as controls. Tickmarks indicate detected fluorescence, tickmarks in brackets indicate weak fluorescence, a minus indicates no detectable fluorescence.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CDM** | | | |
| **Reporter genotype** | **2 µM CSP** | **Control** | **strain** |
| comE | **()** | **-** | ComE pMR1 |
| comE ∆comC | **()** | **-** | ComE pMR1ΔcomC |
| comE ∆comD | **-** | **-** | ComE pMR1ΔcomD |
| comE ∆comE | **-** | **()** | ComE pMR1ΔcomE |
| comE ∆comS | **-** | **-** | ComE pMR1ΔcomS |
| comE ∆comRS | **-** | **-** | ComEpMR1ΔcomRS |
| comE ∆SigX | **-** | **-** | ComE pMR1ΔcomX |