### **Supplementary Table 1**

The oligonucleotide primers used in this study.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Target or purpose** | **Primer** | **Sequence (from 5’ to 3’)** | **Reference**  |
| Universal primers for the bacterial 16S rRNA gene | *27*-F | AGAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG | [Budiet al., 1999] |
| *1492*-R | CGGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT |
| Amplification of WhiB1 coding region | *whiB1*-F | ATATATCCATGGACTGGCGAAGCAAAGCGG | This study |
| *whiB1*-R | ATATATAAGCTTTCAGCTGGCGCGGCGGGC |
| Amplification of WhiB2 coding region | *whiB2*-F | ATATATCCATGGACGAACTTCAGATCGTCG | This study |
| *whiB2*-R | ATATATAAGCTTTCAGGCGGTGAAGACCGC |
| Construction of pKT25-*whiB1* | *whiB1hs*-F | ATATATTCTAGAGATGGACTGGCGAAGCAAAGCGG | This study |
| *whiB1hs*-R | ATATATGGTACCTCAGCTGGCGCGGCGGGCGC |
| Construction of pKT25-*whiB2* | *whiB2hs*-F | ATATATTCTAGAGATGCACGAACTTCAGATCGTCG | This study |
| *whiB2hs*R | ATATATGGTACCTCAGGCGGTGAAGACCGCGCGCC |
| Construction of pKT25-*whiB3* | *whiB3hs*-F | ATATATTCTAGAGATGGACAGCACGGCTCGCCAA | This study |
| *whiB3hs*-R | ATATATGGTACCTCATGCACCACGAAGCCCGCG |
| Construction of pKT25-*whiB7* | *whiB7hs*-F | ATATATTCTAGAGATGTTGGCCCTGGCAGATCACC | This study |
| *whiB7hs*-R | ATATATGGTACCTCAGGCCGCGATGGGGTGCTTGC |
| Construction of pUT18-*sigmaA* CTD | *SigmaAhs-F* | ATATATAAGCTTGATGGACGCTGTCTCCTTCACC | This study |
| *SigmaAhs-R* | ATATATGGTACCCGGTCTAAATAGTCGCGAAGAAC |
| Construction of pUT18-*sigmaB* | *SigmaBhs-F* | ATATATAAGCTTGATGATTCACGACGATTTTCCG | This study |
| *SigmaBhs-R* | ATATATGGTACCCGGGCATTCGATAAACCTCCCGG |
| Construction of pUT18-*sigmaH* | *SigmaHhs-F* | ATATATAAGCTTGATGACACCCACCACCAGCGAGA | This study |
| *SigmaHhs-R* | ATATATGGTACCCGCGAGGAGACCTCCTTACCTTG |

\*Restriction enzyme sites are underlined; CCATGG, *Nco*I; AAGCTT, *Hin*dIII; TCTAGA, *Xba*I; GGATCC, *Bam*HI

\*Due to amplification difficulties, *whiB3*, σA C-terminal domain (CTD) and σB were synthesised, and σJ was synthesised and ligated into pUT18 by Eurofins.