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<b>Title</b>	HexA is a versatile regulator involved in the control of phenotypic heterogeneity of <i>Photobacterium luminescens</i>
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<b>Publication date</b>	2017-04-27
<b>Original citation</b>	Langer, A., Moldovan, A., Harmath, C., Joyce, S. A., Clarke, D. J. and Heermann, R. (2017) 'HexA is a versatile regulator involved in the control of phenotypic heterogeneity of <i>Photobacterium luminescens</i> ', PLoS ONE 12(4), e0176535 (23pp). doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0176535
<b>Type of publication</b>	Article (peer-reviewed)
<b>Link to publisher's version</b>	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0176535">http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0176535</a> Access to the full text of the published version may require a subscription.
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## Supporting Information

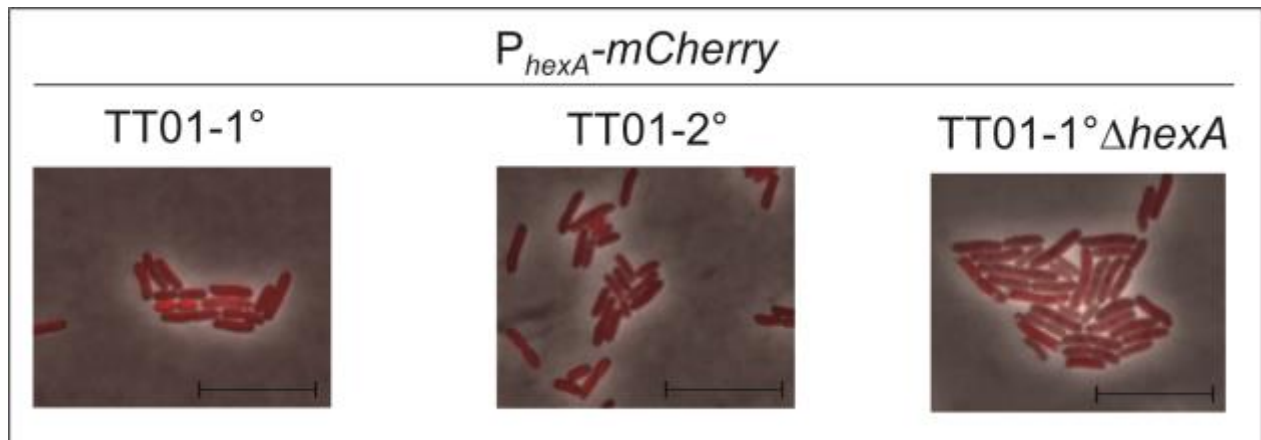
### **HexA is a versatile regulator involved in the control of phenotypic heterogeneity of *Photorhabdus luminescens***

Angela Langer<sup>1</sup>, Adriana Moldovan<sup>1</sup>, Christian Harmath<sup>1</sup>, Susan A. Joyce<sup>2</sup>, David J. Clarke<sup>2</sup> and Ralf Heermann<sup>1\*</sup>

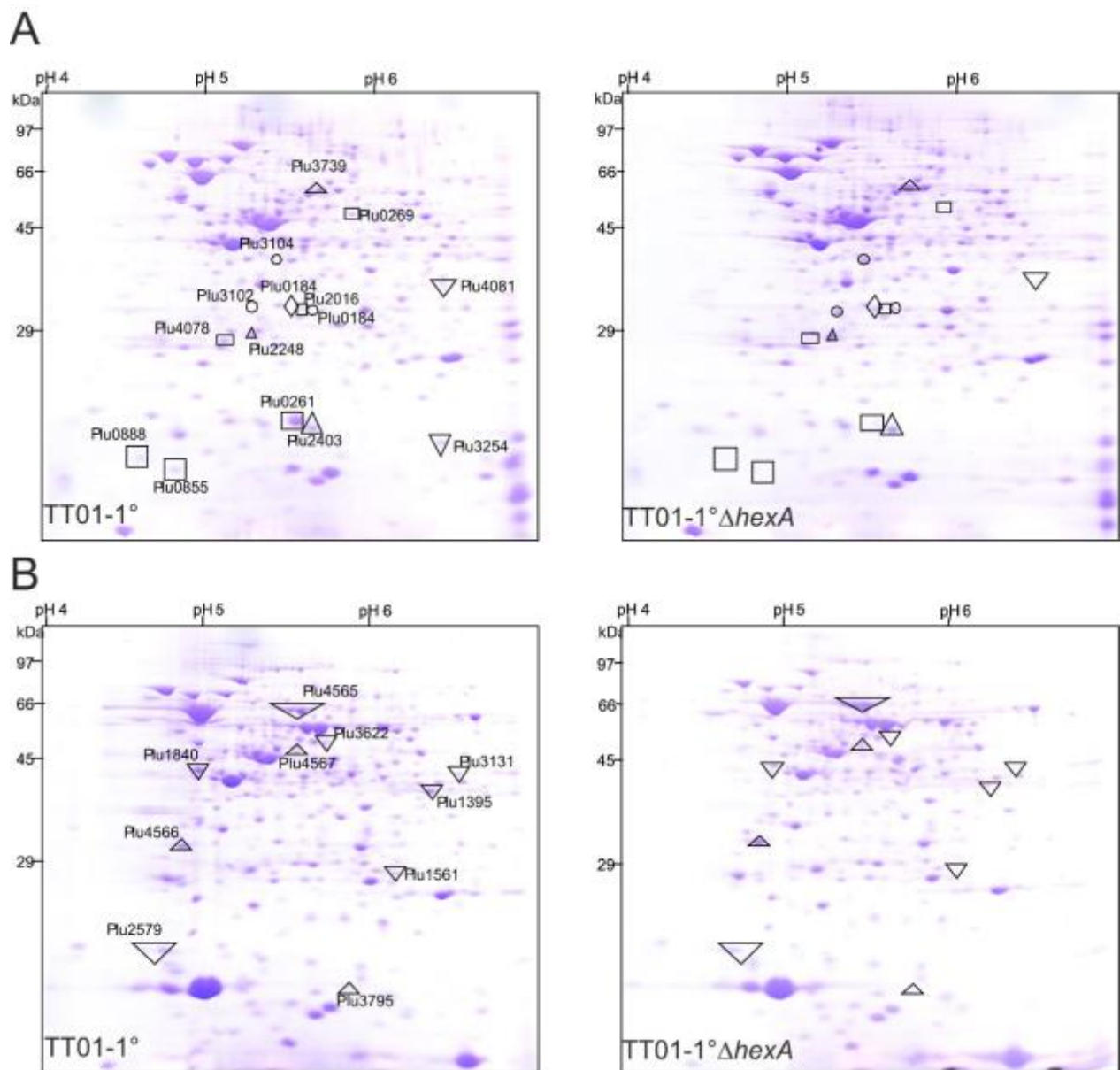
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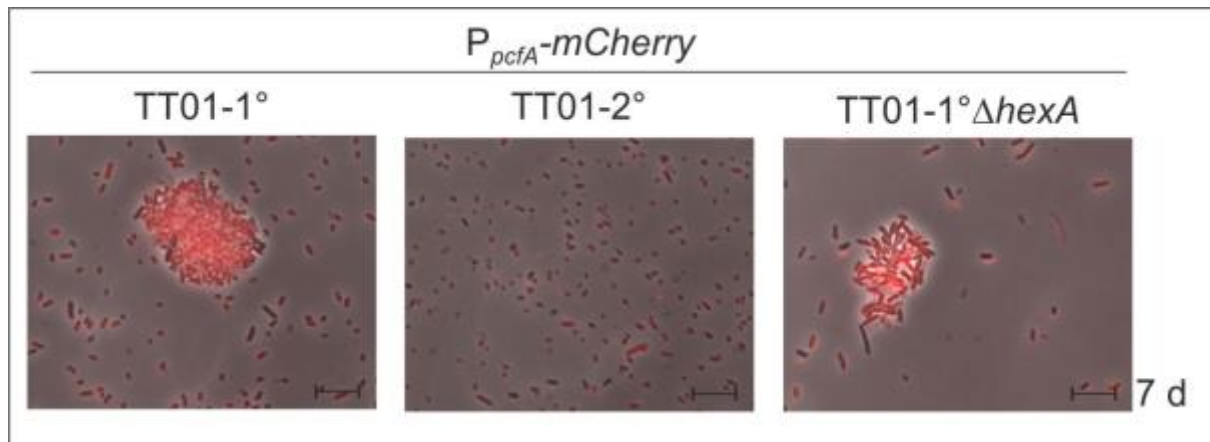
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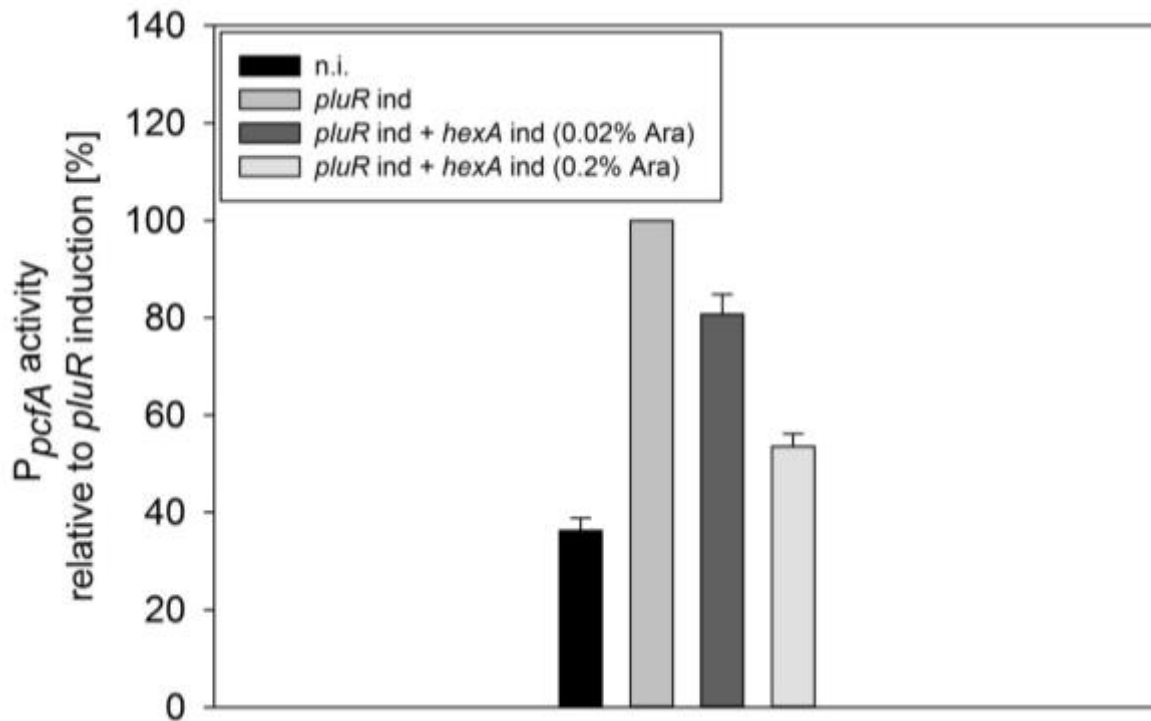
**Figure A.  $P_{hexA}$  activity in *P. luminescens* TT01-1°, TT01-2° and TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$  at the single cell level.**  $P_{hexA}$ -mCherry activity in TT01-1°, TT01-2° and TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$  after 24 h of growth. The scale depicts 10  $\mu$ M. Representative images from one of three independently performed experiments are shown.



**Figure B. Proteome analysis of *P. luminescens* TT01-1° and TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA.** Cells were cultivated and harvested in exponential (A) and in the stationary phase (B). Cytosolic proteins were extracted and then subjected to 2D-PAGE. Gels were scanned, and compared for protein spots of different sizes. Proteins with enhanced production ( $\Delta$ ), with reduced production ( $\nabla$ ) or overproduced ( $\diamond$ ) in the  $\Delta$ hexA mutant and proteins that were completely absent in the  $\Delta$ hexA mutant ( $\square$ ) or in the wildtype ( $\circ$ ) were analyzed via MALDI-TOF.

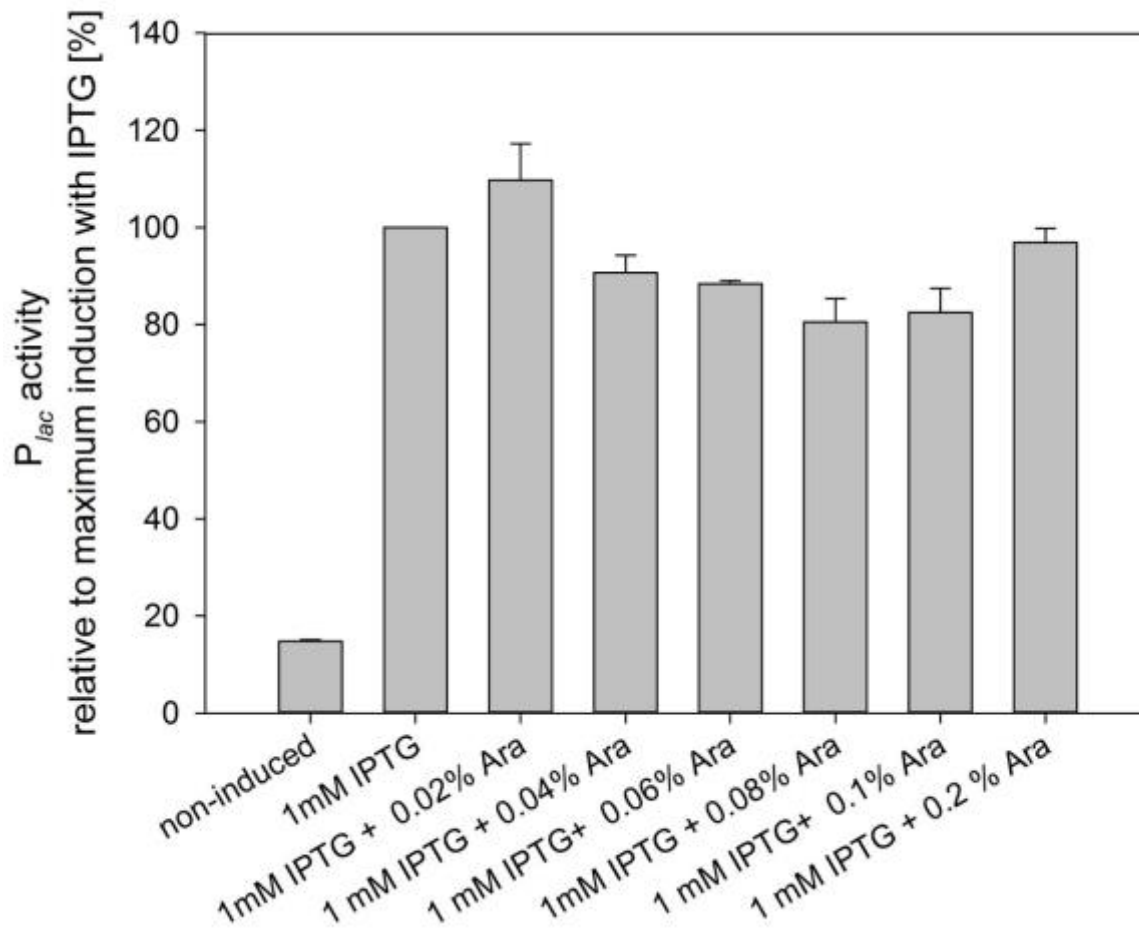


**Figure C. Cell clumping in *P. luminescens* TT01-1°, TT01-2° and TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA after 7 days.**  $P_{pcfA}$  activity and cell clumping in TT01-1°, TT01-2° and TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA. The scale depicts 10  $\mu$ M. Representative images from one of three independently performed experiments are shown.

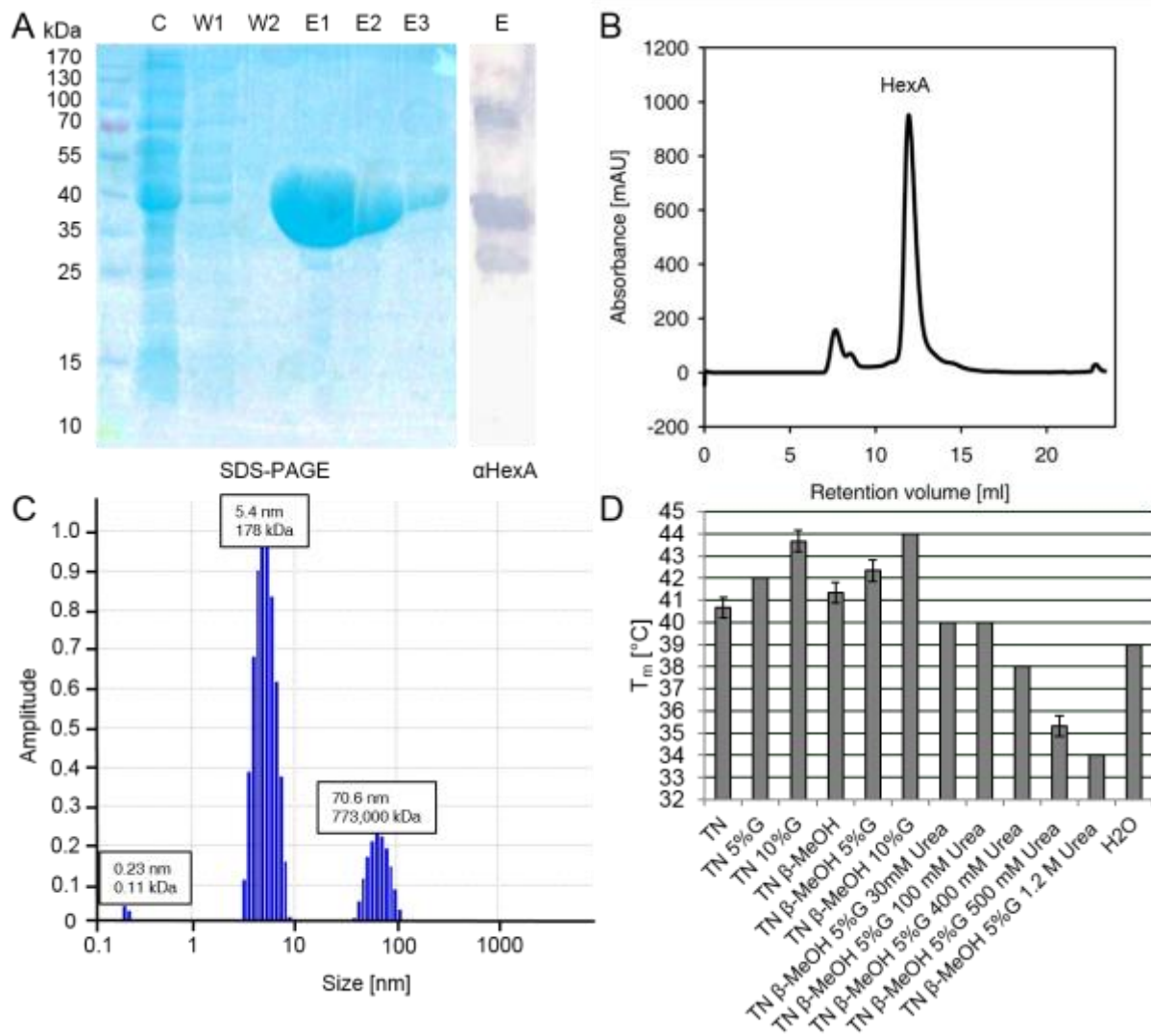


**Figure D. Effect of HexA on the  $P_{pcfA}$  activity in the heterologous systems of *E. coli*  $\Delta lrhA$ .**

In *E. coli*  $\Delta lrhA$  the constructs pBAD24- $P_{lac-pluR}$ - $P_{ara-hexA}$  and pBBR- $P_{pcfA-lux}$  were tested. The expression of  $pluR$  was achieved via the addition of 1 mM IPTG and  $hexA$  expression was induced via the addition of 0.02 and 0.2% arabinose (Ara). The figure represents three biological replicates. All values are given in percentage, relative to the maximum  $pluR$  induction. The values were measured as Relative Light Unit [RLU] divided by  $OD_{600nm}$ .



**Figure E. Investigation of an effect of HexA on the *lac* promoter and the *luxCDABE* operon.** The constructs  $pBAD24-P_{lac-pluR}-P_{ara-hexA}$  and  $pBBR-P_{lac-lux}$  were tested in *E. coli*  $\Delta IrhA$  and 1 mM IPTG was added. Expression of *hexA* was induced via the addition of 0.02-0.2% arabinose (Ara). The graph corresponds to measurements performed 3 hours after induction. The figures represent three biological replicates. All values are expressed in percentages, relative to the values of the *pluR* maximum induction upon addition of 1 mM IPTG.



**Figure F. Purification and biochemical investigation of HexA-6His.** Purification of HexA via Ni-NTA affinity chromatography. Left panel shows a Coomassie blue stained SDS gel; right panel shows a Western blot with  $\alpha$ HexA antiserum. C=cytosolic fraction; W1=washing fraction 1; W2=washing fraction 2; E1=elution fraction 1; E2=elution fraction 2; E3=elution fraction 3; E=pooled elution fraction (A). Gel filtration of purified HexA-6His (E) using Superdex 200 column (B). Size and molecular weight determination of “HexA” peak fraction (gel filtration) using Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) (C). Stability measurement of HexA-6His in different buffers using a fluorescence-based thermal stability assay.  $T_m$ =melting temperature, TN=50mM Tris/HCl pH 7.5, 200 mM NaCl; G=glycerol;  $\beta$ -MeOH = 2 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol (D).



**Table A. Bacterial Strains.**

<b>Bacterial Strain</b>	<b>Genotype</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<i>P. luminescens</i> subsp. laumondi TT01-1°	Wild-type 1° variant, Rif <sup>R</sup>	[1]
<i>P. luminescens</i> subsp. laumondi TT01-2°	Wild type 2° variant, Rif <sup>R</sup>	Lab collection, Dr. David Clarke, University College Cork
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA	Wild-type 1° variant containing a deletion of <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> )	Lab collection, Dr. David Clarke, University College Cork
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	[2]
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-2° P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-2° harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry	TT01-1° harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-2° P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry	TT01-2° harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry	TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA harboring P <sub>hexA</sub> -hexA-mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° harboring P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	[2]
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-2° P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry	TT01-2° harboring P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study

<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ harboring P <sub>luxC</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° harboring P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-2° P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry	TT01-2° harboring P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ harboring P <sub>hfq</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° harboring P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-2° P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-2° harboring P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>P. luminescens</i> TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry	TT01-1° $\Delta hexA$ harboring P <sub>pcfA</sub> -mCherry reporter integrated at the <i>rpmE/glmS</i> site, Kan <sup>R</sup> , Gent <sup>R</sup>	This study
<i>E. coli</i> Dh5 $\alpha$ $\lambda$ pir	<i>recA1</i> , <i>gyrA</i> ( <i>lacIZYA-argF</i> ) (80d <i>lac</i> [ <i>lacZ</i> ] M15) <i>pir</i> RK6	[3]
<i>E. coli</i> S17-1 $\lambda$ pir	Tp <sup>R</sup> Sm <sup>R</sup> <i>recA</i> , <i>thi</i> , <i>pro</i> , <i>hsdR</i> -M+RP4: 2-Tc:Mu: Km Tn7 $\lambda$ pir	Biomedal S.L. Sevilla, Spain
<i>E. coli</i> ST18	<i>E. coli</i> S17 $\lambda$ pir $\Delta hemA$	[4]
<i>E. coli</i> BL21 (DE3) Star	F <sup>-</sup> <i>ompT</i> <i>hsdS<sub>B</sub></i> (r <sub>B</sub> <sup>-</sup> m <sub>B</sub> <sup>-</sup> ) <i>gal dcm</i> <i>rne131</i> (DE3)	Invitrogen
<i>E. coli</i> JW2284	Kan <sup>R</sup> , BW25113 <i>lrhA::npt</i>	[5]
<i>E. coli</i> $\Delta lrhA$	Removal of the <i>npt</i> cassette in <i>E. coli</i> JW2284 by P1 transduction	Dr. Sophie Brameyer, unpublished
<i>Sh. oneidensis</i> MR1 S79	Wild type isolate	[6]

**Table B. Plasmids.**

<b>Plasmid</b>	<b>Genotype</b>	<b>Reference</b>
pPINT- <i>mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> and <i>mCherry</i> in pPINT	[2]
pPINT-P <sub><i>hexA</i></sub> - <i>mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> ) promoter upstream of <i>mCherry</i>	[2]
pPINT-P <sub><i>hexA</i></sub> - <i>hexA-mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>hexA</i> promoter upstream of <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> )- <i>mCherry</i>	This study
pPINT-P <sub><i>luxC</i></sub> - <i>mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>luxC</i> ( <i>plu2079</i> ) promoter upstream of <i>mCherry</i>	[2]
pPINT-P <sub><i>hfq</i></sub> - <i>mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>hfq</i> ( <i>plu4581</i> ) promoter upstream of <i>mCherry</i>	This study
pPINT-P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> - <i>mCherry</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>pcfA</i> ( <i>plu4568</i> ) promoter upstream of <i>mCherry</i>	This study
pBAD24- <i>pluR</i>	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>pluR</i> ( <i>plu4562</i> ) in pBAD24	[7]
pBAD24- <i>yehU</i>	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>yehU</i> -6His in pBAD24 with a C-terminal HisTag	[8]
pBAD24- <i>hexA</i>	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>hexA</i> -6His ( <i>plu3090</i> ) in pBAD24 with a C-terminal HisTag	This study
pCOLA- <i>ppyS</i> -His- <i>pluR</i>	Km <sup>R</sup> , <i>ppyS</i> ( <i>plu4844</i> ) and 6His- <i>pluR</i> ( <i>plu4562</i> ) in pCOLA, IPTG inducible	Dr. Sophie Brameyer, unpublished
pBAD24-P <sub><i>ara</i></sub> - <i>pluR</i> _P <sub><i>lac</i></sub> - <i>hexA</i>	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>pluR</i> ( <i>plu4562</i> ) under the control of an arabinose inducible promoter, <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> ) under the control of an IPTG inducible promoter	This study
pBAD24-P <sub><i>lac</i></sub> - <i>pluR</i> _P <sub><i>ara</i></sub> - <i>hexA</i>	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>pluR</i> ( <i>plu4562</i> ) under the control of an IPTG inducible promoter, <i>hexA</i>	This study

	( <i>plu3090</i> ) under control of an arabinose inducible promoter	
pBBR1-P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> - <i>lux</i>	Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>luxCDABE</i> under the control of the <i>pcfA</i> ( <i>plu4568</i> ) promoter	[7]
pBBR1-P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> -s1- <i>lux</i>	Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>luxCDABE</i> under the control of the truncated promoter construct P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> -S1	Dr. Sophie Brameyer, unpublished
pBBR-P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> -s2- <i>lux</i>	Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>luxCDABE</i> under the control of the truncated promoter construct P <sub><i>pcfA</i></sub> -S2	Dr. Sophie Brameyer, unpublished
pBBR-P <sub><i>lac</i></sub> - <i>lux</i>	Gm <sup>R</sup> , <i>luxCDABE</i> under the control of the <i>lac</i> promoter	This study
pACYC-Duet1	Cm <sup>R</sup> , Expression vector, IPTG inducible	Novagen®
pACYC- <i>hexA</i>	Cm <sup>R</sup> , <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> ) in pACYC-Duet1	This study
pACYC-P <sub><i>lac</i></sub> - <i>hexA</i> _P <sub><i>ara</i></sub> - <i>pluR</i>	Cm <sup>R</sup> , <i>pluR</i> ( <i>plu4562</i> ) under the control of an arabinose inducible promoter, <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> ) under the control of an IPTG inducible promoter	This study
pEYFP	Ap <sup>R</sup> , <i>lac</i> -promoter upstream of <i>eYFP</i>	Takara-Clontech, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France)
pD132	Cm <sup>R</sup> , ori R6K, oriT RK2, <i>sacB</i>	[9]
pDS- <i>hexA</i>	Flanking regions of <i>hexA</i> ( <i>plu3090</i> ) in pD132	This study

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**Table C. Oligonucleotides.**

<b>Primer name</b>	<b>Sequence (5'-3')</b>
PhexA-BamHI_fwd	GCTGGATCCTCTTACCTTATCTTGGTAAA
hexA-XmaI_rev	GCTCCCGGGCTCATCAATAATATCGTCATCATCA
Phfq-NheI_fwd	GCGGCTAGCTCACTGAACTGACTACATTG
Phfq-BamHI_rev	GCTGGATCCTCTATATTTTCCTTATTTTGTT
PpcfA-NheI_fwd	AATGGAGCTAGCAGCAGAATTCGGGTTAGTTATCTATGC
PpcfA-XmaI_rev	ACTAAGCCCGGGACCAGCTTTATCCCTTATGTC
check-mcherry_ins_fwd	CTGGTTTCATAATTTTCGCC
check-mcherry-ins_rev	GGCCTTCCTTCTCCTTCAC
check-rpmE_fwd	CTCCCAAATAAAGTTTAGG
check-glmS_rev	GTACGTGAATCTGATTTTG
oriT_fwd	CAGGGTTATGCAGCGGAAA
gmRpNPTS_fwd	GATAAGCTGTCAAACATGAGAGTAGCGTATGCGCTCAC
Plac(h)_fwd	ATTGCATTTATCATGGTATATCTCCTTATTTAAA
PlacI-Sall_rev	GCTGTGCGACTCACTGCCCGCTTTCCAGTC
hexA_fwd	ATGATAAATGCAAATCGTC
hexA-PstI_rev	GCTCTGCAGTTACTCATCAATAATATCG
pBAD24_seq_fwd	GCCGTCACTGCGTCTTTTACTGG
pBAD24_seq_rev	CGCTACGGCGTTTCACTTCTG
hexA-EcoRI_fwd	GCTGAATTCATGATAAATGCAAATCGTCC
hexA-NdeI_rev	GCGCATATGCTCATCAATAATATCGTCATCATC
Plac-PluR_fwd	TCTTCAAAGCTTGCGGCCGCATAATG
PluR-PstI_rev	GCGCTGCAGGTTATATGATTAGATTATATGCTATTGC
lacI_fwd	CAAGCTTTGAAGATCGAATGGCGCAAACCTT
lacI-Sall_rev	GCTGTGCGACTCACTGCCCGCTTTCCAGTC

check-PlachexA_fwd	CTACCAGAGAAGTTGAAGT
hexA-NcoI_fwd	GCTCCATGGATGATAAATGCAAATCGTCC
hexA-Sall_rev	GCGGTGCGACTTACTCATCAATAATATC
check-pACYC_fwd	ATTCACCACCCTGAATTGA
check-pACYC_rev	CTAGTTATTGCTCAGCGGT
araCPluR_fwd	GCGCATATGACTCCGTCAAGCCGTCAA
pluR-XhoI_rev	TAGCCCTCGAGCTGTGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATG ACGACCTTCGATATGGCCGCTTATATGATTAGATTATATGC
PpcfA-Btn_fwd	TATTTGTCTTTATAATGATAAT
PpcfA_rev	ACCAGCTTTATCCCTTATGTC
sacB-Btn_fwd	GCAGAAGTTTTTGACTTTTCTTG
sacB_rev	ACATCTGACGGAAAAATCCGT
Plac-NheI_fwd	GCGGCTAGCGCGCAACGCAATTAATGTG
Plac-BamHI_rev	CGCGGATCCAGCTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAA
check-pBBR-Plac_fwd	CCGTCGTATTAAGAGGGG
FA_hexA_fwd	GAATTGTTGTTGTTTTTTA
FA_hexA_rev	CATTGTTTATTCATCACTTT
FB_hexA_fwd	TAATATCTGAAACACTTCTC
FB_hexA_rev	AATCAATGATTGATGGAGTG

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**Table D. Proteins with altered production in the proteome of TT01-1° $\Delta$ hexA compared to TT01-1°.** Differences in the cytosolic proteome were detected in the exponential (EX) and stationary (STAT) growth phase.

<b>Protein</b>	<b>Putative function</b>	<b>Growth phase</b>	<b><math>\Delta</math>hexA/wild-type</b>
Plu0184 (CpmC)	Role in Carbapenem biosynthesis		+4.2
Plu0261	Similarities with type 1 fimbrial protein precursor	EX	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu0269	Unknown, hypothetical secreted protein	EX	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu0885	Pyocin S3 protein, „killer protein“	EX	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu0888	Colicin/Pyocin protein, „killer protein“	EX	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu1395	Cystein Synthase A	STAT	-1.7
Plu1561	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -dependent cell adhesion molecule	STAT	-2.6
Plu1840	unknown	STAT	-1.6
Plu2016	PAS4-LuxR regulator	EX	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu2248	Carbonic anhydrase	EX	+4.0
Plu3102	methyltransferase	EX	n.d. in WT
Plu3104	unknown	EX	n.d. in WT
Plu3110 (ArgM)	Succinylornithine transaminase	STAT	-1.4
Plu3254	Hcp family T6SS protein CtsH1	EX	-2.7
Plu3622 (AceF)	dihydrolipoamide acetyltransferase; pyruvate dehydrogenase subunit E2	STAT	-2.2
Plu3739 (AldB)	Aldehyde Dehydrogenase B	EXP	+1.8
Plu3795	unknown	STAT	+2.4
Plu4078	Dimethylmenaquinone methyltransferase	EXP	n.d. in $\Delta$ hexA
Plu4081	Putative aldolase		-3.2
Plu4565	Cysteine synthase	STAT	+2.0

(PcfA)			
Plu4567	Arginosuccinate synthase	STAT	+2.0
(PcfB)			
Plu4566	Glycine amidino transferase	STAT	+2.1
(PcfC)			

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