**Supplemental data:** Carbonic anhydrase activity of drought tolerant bacterial isolates

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Isolates** | **CA activity (µmol mL-1)** | **Isolates** | **CA activity (µmol mL-1)** |
| WR2 | 17.85 ± 0.26 a-d | WS31 | 11.44 ± 0.43 h-m |
| WR3 | 7.55 ± 0.37 n-q | WS34 | 8.66 ± 0.39 k-q |
| WR6 | 10.31 ± 0.33 j-p | WS39 | 10.58 ± 0.33 i-o |
| WR8 | 8.53 ± 0.27 l-q | WL1 | 12.19 ± 0.52 g-l |
| WR11 | 9.52 ± 0.43 j-q | WL6 | 6.94 ± 0.14 o-q |
| WR13 | 6.63 ± 0.18 pq | WL9 | 16.35 ± 0.22 b-e |
| WR16 | 11.01 ± 0.49 i-n | WL10 | 11.79 ± 0.48 h-m |
| WR20 | 12.47 ± 0.17 f-j | WL13 | 14.15 ± 0.27 d-i |
| WR24 | 6.21 ± 0.34 q | WL16 | 16.03 ± 0.34 b-f |
| WR25 | 9.89 ± 0.42 j-q | WL19 | 20.24 ± 0.34 a |
| WR28 | 10.80 ± 0.34 i-n | WL20 | 15.04 ± 0.32 c-h |
| WR30 | 10.52 ± 0.24 i-o | WL26 | 11.80 ± 0.47 h-m |
| WR34 | 8.60 ± 0.27 l-q | WL30 | 12.55 ± 0.32 f-j |
| WR37 | 6.16 ± 0.40 q | WL33 | 8.65 ± 0.50 k-q |
| WR39 | 11.19 ± 0.09 i-n | WL35 | 12.57 ± 0.23 f-j |
| WR40 | 9.43 ± 0.16 j-q | WL40 | 12.41 ± 0.42 f-j |
| WR42 | 12.38 ± 0.30 f-k | WG2 | 11.72 ± 0.27 h-m |
| WS2 | 10.36 ± 0.35 j-p | WG5 | 8.14 ± 0.32 m-q |
| WS3 | 9.67 ± 0.40 j-q | WG10 | 11.65 ± 0.48 h-m |
| WS7 | 13.03 ± 0.48 e-j | WG12 | 9.96 ± 0.35 j-p |
| WS11 | 19.21 ± 0.37 ab | WG14 | 10.10 ± 0.58 j-p |
| WS17 | 10.62 ± 0.39 i-o | WG18 | 6.72 ± 0.35 pq |
| WS22 | 15.92 ± 0.41 b-g | WG20 | 11.23 ± 0.42 i-n |
| WS23 | 18.63 ± 0.25 a-c | WG21 | 12.04 ± 0.62 h-l |
| WS28 | 11.10 ± 0.59 i-n | WG24 | 9.79 ± 0.17 j-q |

Note: Means sharing similar letters do not differ significantly at *p* ≤ 0.05 (Tukey’s test)

The data are average of three replicates ± Standard error (SE)