

## Supplementary Material

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

| strain                                      | relevant genotype or phenotype                                                                                   | source or reference                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Escherichia coli</i></b>              |                                                                                                                  |                                                                  |
| DH5α λpir                                   | Φ80dlacZΔM15 Δ(lacZYA-argF) U196 recA1 hsdR17 deoR thi-1 supE44 gyrA96 relA1/λpir                                | (Miller and Mekalanos, 1988)                                     |
| WM3064                                      | hrB1004 pro thi rpsL hsdS lacZΔM15 RP4–1360Δ(araBAD)567 ΔdapA1341::[erm pir(wt)]                                 | W. Metcalf, University of Illinois                               |
| BTH101                                      | F <sup>-</sup> , cya-99, araD139, galE15, galK16, rpsL1 (Strr), hsdR2, mcrA1, mcrB1                              | (Karimova et al., 2002)                                          |
| BL21star (DE3)                              | fhuA2 [lon] ompT gal (λ DE3) [dcm] ΔhsdS λ DE3 = λ sBamHIo ΔEcoRI-B int::(lacI::PlacUV5::T7 gene1) i21 Δnin5     | Euromedex, Frankreich<br>InvitrogenTM, Thermo Fischer Scientific |
| <b><i>Shewanella putrefaciens</i> CN-32</b> |                                                                                                                  |                                                                  |
| WT                                          | wild type                                                                                                        | (Fredrickson et al., 1998)                                       |
| ΔP                                          | deletion of polar flagellins <i>flaAB</i> <sub>1</sub> (ΔSputcn32_2585-ΔSputcn32_2586)                           | (Bubendorfer et al., 2014)                                       |
| ΔL                                          | deletion of lateral flagellins <i>flaAB</i> <sub>2</sub> (ΔSputcn32_3455-ΔSputcn32_3456)                         | (Bubendorfer et al., 2014)                                       |
| ΔP ΔL                                       | deletion of polar and lateral flagellins                                                                         | Kühn et al 2018                                                  |
| Δ <i>motL</i>                               | deletion of the lateral flagellar brake (ΔSputcn32_3446)                                                         | this study                                                       |
| Δ P Δ <i>motL</i>                           | deletion of polar flagellins and the lateral flagellar brake                                                     | this study                                                       |
| Δ P Δ <i>motL</i> KI <i>gfp-motL</i>        | chromosomal insertion of N-terminal sfGfp-tagged MotL (lateral flagellar brake) and deletion of polar flagellins | this study                                                       |
| ΔLΔ <i>motL</i>                             | deletion of polar flagellins and the lateral flagellar brake                                                     | this study                                                       |
| Δ P ΔL Δ <i>motL</i>                        | deletion of polar and lateral flagellins and the lateral flagellar brake                                         | this study                                                       |

|                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                          |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $\Delta fliM_2$ KI <i>fliM_2</i> -mCherry                                  | chromosomal insertion of C-terminal mCherry-tagged FliM <sub>2</sub> (rotor protein)                                                                                     | (Bubendorfer et al., 2012) |
| $\Delta fliM_2$ KI <i>fliM_2</i> -mCherry $\Delta motL$ KI <i>gfp-motL</i> | chromosomal insertion of C-terminal mCherry-tagged FliM <sub>2</sub> (rotor protein) and chromosomal insertion of N-terminal sfGfp-tagged MotL (lateral flagellar brake) | this study                 |
| $\Delta motB$ KI mCherry- <i>motB</i>                                      | chromosomal insertion of N-terminal mCherry-tagged MotB (stator protein)                                                                                                 | (Bubendorfer et al., 2012) |
| $\Delta motB$ KI mCherry- <i>motB</i> $\Delta motL$ KI <i>gfp-motL</i>     | chromosomal insertion of N-terminal mCherry-tagged MotB (stator protein) and chromosomal insertion of N-terminal sfGfp-tagged MotL (lateral flagellar brake)             | this study                 |
| <i>flgE_2</i> <sup>T242C</sup>                                             | chromosomal insertion of cysteine-labeled lateral hook protein FlgE <sub>2</sub>                                                                                         | (Schuhmacher et al., 2015) |
| <i>fliL_2</i> -FLAG                                                        | chromosomal insertion of C-terminal FLAG-tagged FliL <sub>2</sub>                                                                                                        | this study                 |
| $\Delta motL$ <i>fliL_2</i> -FLAG                                          | chromosomal insertion of C-terminal FLAG-tagged FliL <sub>2</sub> and deletion of the lateral flagellar brake                                                            | this study                 |

**Table S2: Plasmids used in this study**

| Plasmid                                    | Genotype/ insert/ purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Source of reference                |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| pNPTS138-R6KT                              | <i>mob</i> RP4+, <i>ori</i> -R6K, <i>sacB</i> , beta-galactosidase fragment alpha, Km <sup>r</sup> ; suicide plasmid for in-frame deletions or integrations                                                                                      | (Lassak et al., 2010)              |
| pBTOK                                      | pBBR1-MCS2 backbone (pBBR origin, Km <sup>r</sup> ); TetR, Promoter and multiple cloning site of pASK-IBA3plus and <i>E.coli</i> <i>rrnB1</i> T1 and lambda phage T0 terminator; overproduction plasmid inducible with anhydrotetracycline (AHT) | (Rossmann et al., 2015)            |
| pET21- <i>sfGfp</i>                        | template for super folder green fluorescein protein (sfGFP)                                                                                                                                                                                      | (Pédélec et al., 2006)             |
| put18                                      | Ori-ColE1, Amp <sup>r</sup> , C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to the protein of interest                                                                                                                                                   | Euromedex, (Karimova et al., 1998) |
| pUT18c                                     | Ori-ColE1, Amp <sup>r</sup> , N-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to the protein of interest                                                                                                                                                   | Euromedex, (Karimova et al., 1998) |
| pKT25                                      | Ori-p15a, Km <sup>r</sup> , N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to the protein of interest                                                                                                                                                     | Euromedex, (Karimova et al., 1998) |
| pKNT25                                     | Ori-p15a, Km <sup>r</sup> , C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to the protein of interest                                                                                                                                                     | Euromedex, (Karimova et al., 1998) |
| pET24c                                     | overproduction plasmid inducible with lactose, Km <sup>r</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                   | EMD Biosciences                    |
| pET24d                                     | overproduction plasmid inducible with lactose, Km <sup>r</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                   | EMD Biosciences                    |
| pET16b                                     | overproduction plasmid inducible with lactose, Amp <sup>r</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                  | EMD Biosciences                    |
| pGAT3                                      | overproduction plasmid (GST) inducible with lactose                                                                                                                                                                                              | (Peränen et al., 1996)             |
| <b><i>in frame deletion constructs</i></b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| pNPTS <i>motL</i> KO                       | <i>motL</i> (Sputcn32_3446) deletion fragment in pNPTS138-R6KT, Km <sup>r</sup>                                                                                                                                                                  | this study                         |
| <b>Insertion constructs</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| pNPTS KI <i>gfp-motL</i>                   | insertion fragment of <i>sfGfp-motL</i> (Sputcn32_3446) in pNPTS138-R6KT, Km <sup>r</sup> , N-terminal fusion                                                                                                                                    | this study                         |
| pNPTS <i>fliL2</i> -FLAG                   | insertion fragment of <i>fliL2</i> -FLAG in pNPTS138-R6KT, Km <sup>r</sup> , C-terminal fusion                                                                                                                                                   | this study                         |

## Overproduction constructs

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i>                              | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL (Sputcn32_3446), N-terminal sfGFP fusion, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                       | this study |
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub>               | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL <sub>NCB</sub> (Sputcn32_3446), N-terminal sfGFP fusion, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>        | this study |
| pBTOK <i>pdeH</i>                                     | overproduction plasmid for the phosphodiesterase PdeH of <i>E. coli</i> , inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                             | this study |
| pBTOK <i>dgcA</i>                                     | overproduction plasmid for the diguanylatecyclase DgcA of <i>V. cholerae</i> , inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                        | this study |
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i> - <i>pdeH</i>                | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL in concert with PdeH, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                                           | this study |
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i> - <i>dgcA</i>                | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL in concert with DgcA, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                                           | this study |
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub> - <i>pdeH</i> | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL <sub>NCB</sub> in concert with PdeH, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                            | this study |
| pBTOK sfGFP- <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub> - <i>dgcA</i> | overproduction plasmid for sfGFP-MotL <sub>NCB</sub> in concert with DgcA, inducible with AHT, Km <sup>r</sup>                            | this study |
| pet24c <i>wspR</i> <sup>R242A</sup>                   | overproduction plasmid for the diguanylatecyclase WspR <sup>R242A</sup> of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , inducible with lactose, Km <sup>r</sup> | this study |
| pet24c 6xHis- <i>motL</i>                             | overproduction plasmid for the Histidin-tagged version of MotL, inducible with lactose, Km <sup>r</sup>                                   | this study |
| pet24c 6xHis- <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub>              | overproduction plasmid for the Histidin-tagged version of MotL <sub>NCB</sub> , inducible with lactose, Km <sup>r</sup>                   | this study |

## BACTH constructs

|                                   |                                                                                                |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| pUT18 <i>motL</i>                 | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotL (Sputcn32_3446), Amp <sup>r</sup>                | this study |
| pUT18C <i>motL</i>                | N-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotL, Amp <sup>r</sup>                                | this study |
| pKT25 <i>motL</i>                 | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotL, Km <sup>r</sup>                                 | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>motL</i>                | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotL, Km <sup>r</sup>                                 | this study |
| pUT18 <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub>  | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotL <sub>NCB</sub> (Sputcn32_3446), Amp <sup>r</sup> | this study |
| pUT18C <i>motL</i> <sub>NCB</sub> | N-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotL <sub>NCB</sub> , Amp <sup>r</sup>                | this study |

|                                  |                                                                                              |            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| pKT25 <i>motL<sub>NCB</sub></i>  | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotL <sub>NCB</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>               | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>motL<sub>NCB</sub></i> | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotL <sub>NCB</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>               | this study |
| pUT18 <i>fliM<sub>2</sub></i>    | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliM <sub>2</sub> (Sputcn32_3479), Amp <sup>r</sup> | this study |
| pUT18 <i>fliM<sub>2</sub></i>    | N-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliM <sub>2</sub> , Amp <sup>r</sup>                | this study |
| pKT25 <i>fliM<sub>2</sub></i>    | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliM <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>fliM<sub>2</sub></i>   | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliM <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pUT18 <i>fliN<sub>2</sub></i>    | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliN <sub>2</sub> (Sputcn32_3480), Amp <sup>r</sup> | this study |
| pUT18C <i>fliN<sub>2</sub></i>   | N-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliN <sub>2</sub> , Amp <sup>r</sup>                | this study |
| pKT25 <i>fliN<sub>2</sub></i>    | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliN <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>fliN<sub>2</sub></i>   | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliN <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pUT18 <i>fliG<sub>2</sub></i>    | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliG <sub>2</sub> (Sputcn32_3475), Amp <sup>r</sup> | this study |
| pUT18C <i>fliG<sub>2</sub></i>   | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to FliG <sub>2</sub> , Amp <sup>r</sup>                | this study |
| pKT25 <i>fliG<sub>2</sub></i>    | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliG <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>fliG<sub>2</sub></i>   | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to FliG <sub>2</sub> , Km <sup>r</sup>                 | this study |
| pUT18 <i>motB</i>                | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotB (Sputcn32_3447), Amp <sup>r</sup>              | this study |
| pUT18C <i>motB</i>               | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotB, Amp <sup>r</sup>                              | this study |
| pKT25 <i>motB</i>                | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotB, Km <sup>r</sup>                               | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>motB</i>               | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotB, Km <sup>r</sup>                               | this study |
| pUT18 <i>motA</i>                | C-terminal fusion of the T18 fragment to MotA (Sputcn32_3448), Amp <sup>r</sup>              | this study |
| pUT18C <i>motA</i>               | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotA, Amp <sup>r</sup>                              | this study |
| pKT25 <i>motA</i>                | N-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotA, Km <sup>r</sup>                               | this study |
| pKNT25 <i>motA</i>               | C-terminal fusion of the T25 fragment to MotA, Km <sup>r</sup>                               | this study |

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**Table S3: Oligonucleotides used in this study**

| Oligonucleotide                                          | Sequence (5'-3')                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>deletion of <i>motL</i></b>                           |                                                                                         |
| NheI_Sputcn32_3446_fw                                    | GTA GCT AGC CAG GGT ATC CGT ATT TTG ATC C                                               |
| OL_Sputcn32_3446_KO_rv                                   | TGC CCT ATA TCT CTT CAT ACA TAT TCA TAG TCA TAC C                                       |
| OL_Sputcn32_3446_KO_fw                                   | GTA TGA AGA GAT ATA GGG CAT GCA ATG GCT GC                                              |
| PspOMI_Sputcn32_3446_rv                                  | TCC GGG CCC GTA TCA ACC GTG GTA CTC TGC                                                 |
| Check_3446_KO_fw                                         | TGG TGC TAA GCG AAG TAG AAG C                                                           |
| Check_3446_KO_rev                                        | CTG TTT TAG CAA GGC AAT TGA ATC G                                                       |
| <b>deletion of <i>fliG<sub>2</sub></i></b>               |                                                                                         |
| EcoRV_FliG_up_fw                                         | CAA GCT TCT CTG CAG GAT GCG GAT TTT ATC CTC AGC CAG                                     |
| OL_FliG_up_rv                                            | GGA TAA TTA CGTC GTT GTC TAA TGG AAA ACA AGC                                            |
| OL_FliG_down_fw                                          | AGA CAA CGA CGTA ATT ATC CAT CTT AAT TTC GAT TGA G                                      |
| EcoRV_FliG_down_rv                                       | GAA TTC GTG GAT CCA GAT GTC TCA GTA CTC ATC AAT AGC G                                   |
| Check_fliG2 KO_fw                                        | ATC TGC AAT CAG ATT CCA GCC G                                                           |
| Check_fliG2 KO_rev                                       | GAA CCA GGA TCA CCT TTA ACG G                                                           |
| <b>insertion of sfGFP-<i>motL</i></b>                    |                                                                                         |
| EcoRV_3446_up_fw                                         | CAA GCT TCT CTG CAG GAT GGC GGA GAA TAT CAC TGT CAC                                     |
| OL_3446_up_rv                                            | CTT TGC TCA T AGT CAT ACC TAA CAA ATG AGT ACA AG                                        |
| OL_up_sfGFP_fw                                           | AGG TAT GAC T ATG AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CTT TTC                                           |
| OL_down_3446_rv                                          | ATT GCA TGC C TTA TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA TTT AAT TGC G                                     |
| OL_3446_down_fw                                          | CAA AAT ATA A GGC ATG CAA TGG CTG CAT CTT                                               |
| EcoRV_3446_down_rv                                       | GAA TTC GTG GAT CCA GAT CAT CAT GCA ACA CAC TCG TGG                                     |
| Check_3446_KO_fw                                         | TGG TGC TAA GCG AAG TAG AAG C                                                           |
| Check_3446_KO_rev                                        | CTG TTT TAG CAA GGC AAT TGA ATC G                                                       |
| <b>insertion of <i>fliL<sub>2</sub></i>-FLAG</b>         |                                                                                         |
| EcoRV-FliL2 FLAG-fwd                                     | GCG AAT TCG TGG ATC CAG ATA AAA TGG CGC CGA TGT GAT GAC                                 |
| OL-FliL2 FLAG-rev                                        | AAT ATC ATG ATC TTT ATA ATC GCC ATC ATG ATC TTT ATA ATC CTG GAT CAC CAT ACG GGT AAA AAG |
| OL-FliL2 FLAG-fwd                                        | ATT ATA AAG ATC ATG ATA TTG ATT ATA AAG ATG ATG ATG ATA AAT AAG GGG CCG ATA TGA CGA CAG |
| EcoRV-FliL2 FLAG-rev                                     | GCC AAG CTT CTC TGC AGG ATA CAT CAT TGC CTC TAT CGA CCG                                 |
| Check-FliL2 FLAG-fwd                                     | TTT CAG CAG GCT GCC ATA ATG C                                                           |
| Check_Flag C-term                                        | GAT CAT GAT GGC GAT TAT AAA GAT C                                                       |
| <b>overproduction of sfGFP-<i>motL</i></b>               |                                                                                         |
| XbaI-nC_sf_GFP_fw                                        | AAT GAA TAG TTC GAC AAA AAT AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T ATG AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CTT TTC ACT G |
| OL_sfGFP_Sputcn32_3446_rv                                | CAT ACA TAT T CGA GCC GGA TCC TTT GTA GAG CTC ATC CAT CAT C                             |
| OL_sfGFP_Sputcn32_3446_fw                                | CGG CTC GAA TAT GTA TGA AGA GTT TGT ACA TTC                                             |
| PspOMI-nC_3446_rev                                       | GGA GTC CAA GCT CAG CTA ATG TTA TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA TTT AAT TGC GTC                     |
| <b>overproduction of sfGFP-<i>motL</i><sub>NCB</sub></b> |                                                                                         |
| XbaI-nC_sf_GFP_fw                                        | AAT GAA TAG TTC GAC AAA AAT AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T ATG AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CTT TTC ACT G |
| OL_sfGFP_Sputcn32_3446_rv                                | CAT ACA TAT T CGA GCC GGA TCC TTT GTA GAG CTC ATC C                                     |
| OL_sfGFP_Sputcn32_3446_fw                                | ATC CGG CTC G AAT ATG TAT GAA GAG TTT GTA CAT TC                                        |

|                          |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Binding site rv       | CGT TGA TAA ATT AAC CGT TAA GCC ATC ACA GGC AAA CGC<br>TAA TGG CAC TCT TTT ATC ATG TCG TAG GCT GAG TGC CTG<br>ATG AGT TGC CCG ATT |
| 2. Binding site fw       | TTA ACG GTT AAT TTA TCA ACG ACT CGT TGG TTT ATC CTC<br>ACG CCA CTC GGT ACC GCG AAC ATA AAA GCA ATT GCA ATT<br>GGC                 |
| PspOMI_Sputcn32_3446_rev | GGA GTC CAA GCT CAG CTA ATG TTA TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA<br>TTT AAT TGC GTC                                                            |

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**overproduction of sfGFP-motL/sfGFP-motL<sub>NCB</sub>-pdeH**

|                   |                                                                                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| XbaI-nC_sf_GFP_fw | AAT GAA TAG TTC GAC AAA AAT AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T ATG<br>AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CTT TTC ACT G |
| 3446_rv_OL_RBS2   | TAA GCC TCC TTG CTA GCC TTA TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA TTT<br>AAT TGC GTC                         |
| OL_3446_PdeH_fw   | AAG GCT AGC A AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T ATG ATA AGG CAG<br>GTT ATC CAG CG                      |
| PspOMI_PdeH_rev   | GGA GTC CAA GCT CAG CTA ATG TTA TAG CGC CAG AAC CGC<br>CG                                  |

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**overproduction of sfGFP-motL/sfGFP-motL<sub>NCB</sub>-dgcA**

|                   |                                                                                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| XbaI-nC_sf_GFP_fw | AAT GAA TAG TTC GAC AAA AAT AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T ATG<br>AGC AAA GGA GAA GAA CTT TTC ACT G |
| 3446_rv_OL_RBS2   | TAA GCC TCC T TG CTA GCC TTA TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA TTT<br>AAT TGC GTC                        |
| OL_3446_VdcA_fw   | AAG GCT AGC A AGG AGG CTT AGT CCA T GTG ATG ACA ACT<br>GAA GAT TTC AAA AAA TC              |
| PspOMI_VdcA_rev   | GGA GTC CAA GCT CAG CTA ATG TTA GAG CGG CAT GAC TCG<br>ATT G                               |

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**overproduction of wspR<sup>R242R</sup>**

|                  |                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NdeI his WspR fw | TTA ACT TTA AGA AGG AGA TAT ACA ATG CAC AAC CCT CAT<br>GAG AGC AAG ACC               |
| OL R242A rv      | CCG AGG AGC CAC TGC AGC CCT CGC CGA TGG                                              |
| OL R242A fw      | CCA TCG GCG AGG GCT GCA GTG GCT CCT CGG                                              |
| XhoI WspR rv     | GTG GTG GTG GTG GTG GTG C TCA ATG GTG ATG GTG ATG GTG<br>GCC CGC CGG GGC TGG CGG CAC |

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**overproduction of Histidin tagged motL/motL<sub>NCB</sub>**

|                  |                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NdeI FlgZ fw     | TTA ACT TTA AGA AGG AGA TAT ACA ATG AAT ATG TAT GAA<br>GAG TTT GTA CAT TCT                   |
| XhoI FlgZ his rv | GTG GTG GTG GTG GTG GTG C TCA ATG GTG ATG GTG ATG GTG<br>TAT TTT GGC TCG TAA TTT AAT TGC GTC |

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**BACTH MotL**

|                  |                                                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MotL fwPrimer    | CTG CAG GTC GAC TCT AGA GAT GAA TAT GTA TGA AGA GTT<br>TGT ACA TTC T |
| MotL rvPrimer    | GAG CTC GGT ACC CGG GGT ATT TTG GCT CGT AAT TTA ATT<br>GCG TC        |
| MotL fwPrimerpKT | CAG GGT CGA CTC TAG AGA TGA ATA TGT ATG AAG AGT TTG<br>TAC ATT CT    |
| MotL rvPrimerpKT | TTA GTT ACT TAG GTA CCC GGG GTA TTT TGG CTC GTA ATT<br>TAA TTG CGT C |

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**BACTH FliG<sub>2</sub>**

|                      |                                                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| LZ062 B2H_3475_fw    | CTG CAG GTC GAC TCT AGA GAT GGA TAA TTA CGC CCA AGC AGC     |
| LZ063 B2H_3475_rv    | GAG CTC GGT ACC CGG GGG ACA ACG ACC TGC TCT TCA AAT A       |
| LZ064 B2H_3475_fwpKT | CAG GGT CGA CTC TAG AGA TGG ATA ATT ACG CCC AAG CAG C       |
| LZ065 B2H_3475_rvpKT | TTA GTT ACT TAG GTA CCC GGG GGA CAA CGA CCT GCT CTT CAA ATA |

**BACTH FliM<sub>2</sub>**

|                      |                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| LZ066 B2H_3479_fw    | CTG CAG GTC GAC TCT AGA GAT GAA GAT AAC CGC AAA AGC TCG    |
| LZ067 B2H_3479_rv    | GAG CTC GGT ACC CGG GGG CCA ATG TCG TTC TCC TCA TAC        |
| LZ068 B2H_3479_fwpKT | CAG GGT CGA CTC TAG AGA TGA AGA TAA CCG CAA AAG CTC G      |
| LZ069 B2H_3479_rvpKT | TTA GTT ACT TAG GTA CCC GGG GGC CAA TGT CGT TCT CCT CAT AC |

**BACTH FliN<sub>2</sub>**

|                      |                                                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| LZ070 B2H_3480_fw    | CTG CAG GTC GAC TCT AGA GAT GAG GAG AAC GAC ATT GGC TG      |
| LZ071 B2H_3480_rv    | GAG CTC GGT ACC CGG GGT TCG TTA ATT GTC CCA TCC AGC G       |
| LZ072 B2H_3480_fwpKT | CAG GGT CGA CTC TAG AGA TGA GGA GAA CGA CAT TGG CTG         |
| LZ073 B2H_3480_rvpKT | TTA GTT ACT TAG GTA CCC GGG GTT CGT TAA TTG TCC CAT CCA GCG |

**BACTH MotA**

|                      |                                                               |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| LZ054 B2H_3448_fw    | C TGC AGG TCG ACT CTA GAG ATG AGT AAA CTA GTT GGG CTG TTA ATT |
| LZ055 B2H_3448_rv    | GA GCT CGG TAC CCG GGG GCT TCT CTG CCC CTC CAT C              |
| LZ056 B2H_3448_fwpKT | CA GGG TCG ACT CTA GAG ATG AGT AAA CTA GTT GGG CTG TTA ATT    |
| LZ057 B2H_3448_rvpKT | T TAG TTA CTT AGG TAC CCG GGG GCT TCT CTG CCC CTC CATC        |

**BACTH MotB**

|                      |                                                                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| LZ058 B2H_3447_fw    | CTG CAG GTC GAC TCT AGA GAT GCT CCA TAA AAA TGA GCC GAT TAT T  |
| LZ059 B2H_3447_rv    | GAG CTC GGT ACC CGG GGA TGC GCG ATA GTC TGT CGT TTT ATA        |
| LZ060 B2H_3447_fwpKT | CAG GGT CGA CTC TAG AGA TGC TCC ATA AAA ATG AGC CGA TTA TT     |
| LZ061 B2H_3447_rvpKT | TTA GTT ACT TAG GTA CCC GGG GAT GCG CGA TAG TCT GTC GTT TTA TA |

**BACTH check**

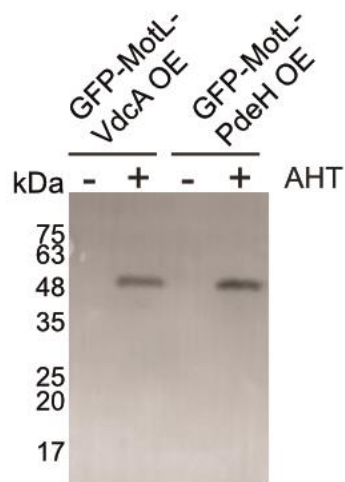
|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| pKT25-for  | CAC TGA CGG CGG ATA TCG ACA TGT T |
| pKT25-rev  | CCG CCG GAC ATC AGC GCC ATT C     |
| pUT18-for  | CCA GGC TTT ACA CTT TAT GCT TCC   |
| pUT18-rev  | GAC GCG CCT CGG TGC CCA CTG C     |
| pKNT25-for | CCC AGG CTT TAC ACT TTA TGC TTC C |
| pKNT25-rev | GTT TTT TTC CTT CGC CAC GGC CTT G |
| pUT18C-for | CGG CGT GCC GAG CGG ACG TTC G     |
| pUT18C-rev | TCA GCG GGT GTT GGC GGG TGT C     |

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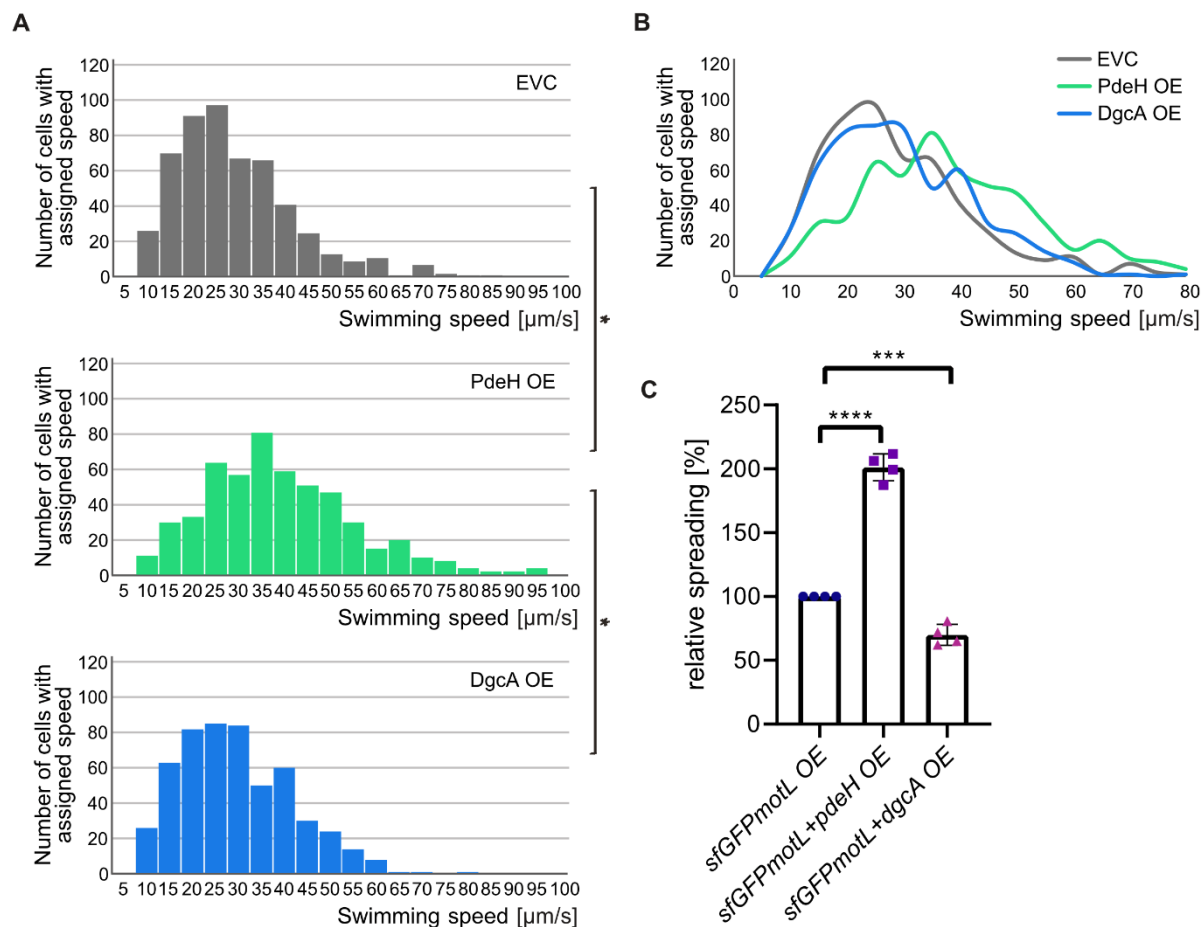
**Pulldown**

|               |                                                                          |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DM318 (FliG2) | TTA CCA TGG GCC ACC ATC ACC ATC ACC ATA TGG ATA ATT<br>ACG CCC AA GCA GC |
| DM319 (FliG2) | TTA ACT CGA GTT AGA CAA CGA CCT GCT CTT C                                |
| DM337 (FliM2) | TTA ACC ATG GGC AAG ATA ACC GCA AAA GCT CG                               |
| DM338 (FliM2) | TTA ACT CGA GTT AAT GGT GAT GGT GAT GGT GGC CAA TGT<br>CGT TCT CCT C     |
| DM339 (FliN2) | TTA ACC ATG GGC AGG AGA ACG ACA TTG GCT G                                |
| DM340 (FliN2) | TTA ACT CGA GTT ATT CGT TAA TTG TCC CAT CC                               |

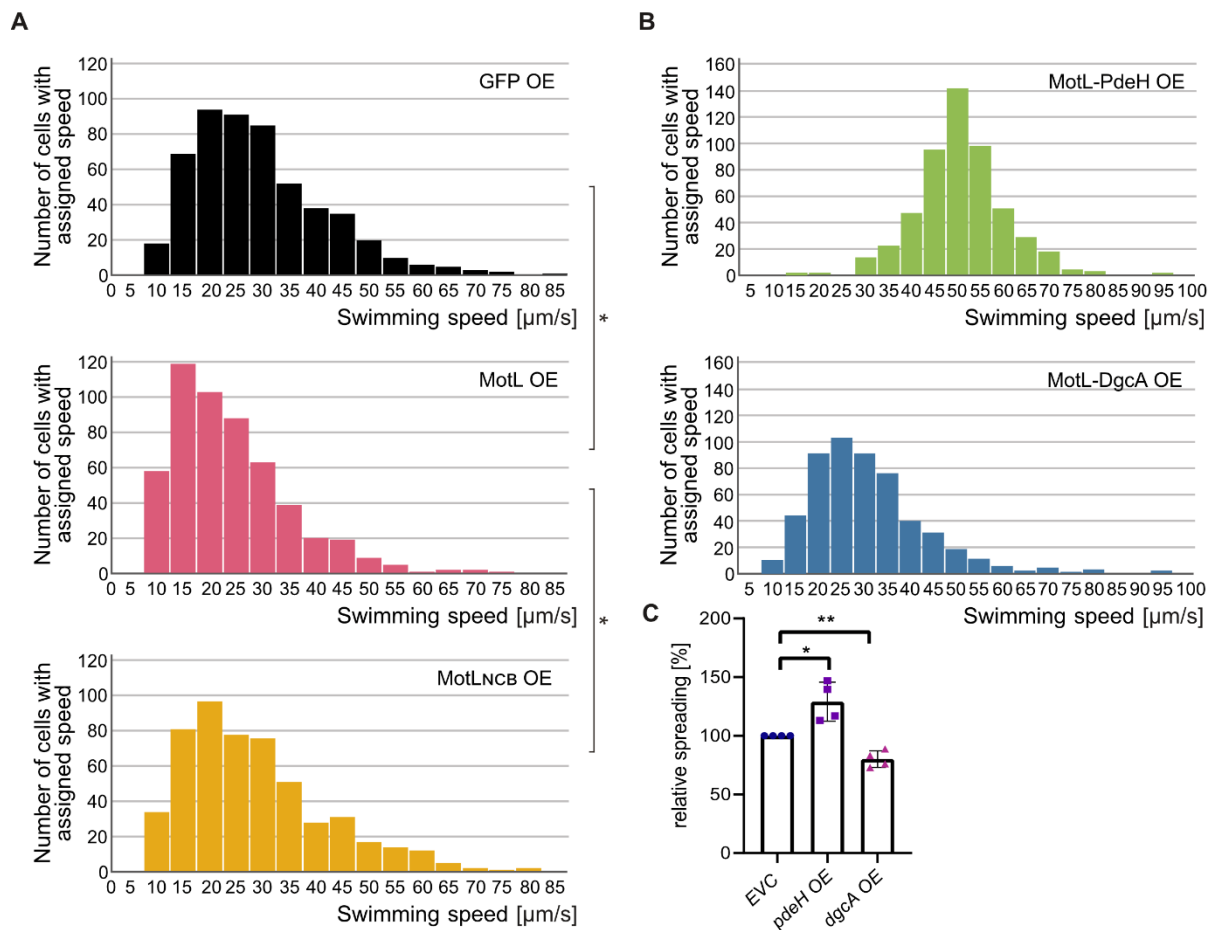
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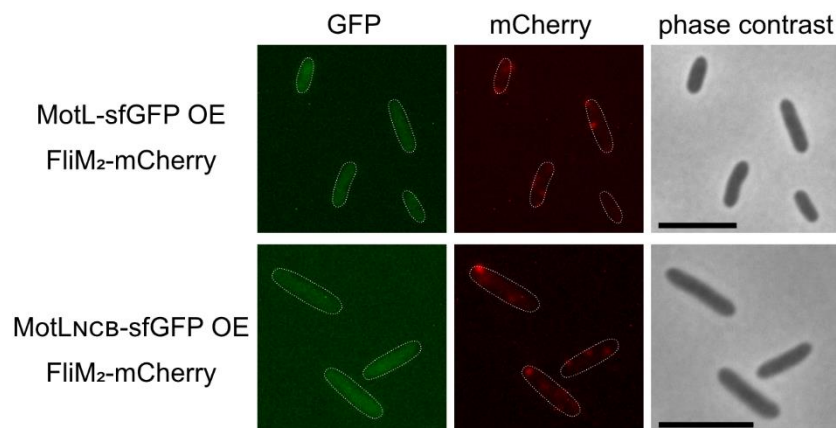
**Supplementary Figure 1: sfGFP-tagged MotL is stably produced.** Shown is a Western blot after PAGE separation of a crude extract of cells in which overproduction (OE) the fused MotL in concert with the diguanylate cyclase DgcA (left two lanes) or the phosphodiesterase PdeH (right lanes) is not induced (-) or induced (+). The protein was identified using an antibody directed against GFP.



**Supplementary Figure 2: MotL affects swimming and spreading mediated by lateral flagella in a c-di-GMP-dependent fashion.** A) Swimming speed of *S. putrefaciens* cells lacking polar flagella ( $\Delta\text{L}$ ) overexpressing (OE) *gfp*, *gfp-motL* or *gfp-motLNCB*. B) Swimming speed of *S. putrefaciens* cells lacking polar flagella ( $\Delta\text{L}$ ) overexpressing (OE) *gfp-motL* in concert with *pdeH* or *dgcA*. N = 591. This figure is an alternative depiction of the data shown in Fig.4 of the main part. Shown is the number of cells that swim at the indicated speed. C) Relative spreading of the same mutant cells producing sfGFP-MotL together with PdeH or DgcA through soft agar. The asterisks indicate significant speed differences according to ANOVA.



**Supplementary Figure 3: Effect of *pdeH* or *dgcA* overexpression on the swimming speed and spreading of cells lacking polar flagella ( $\Delta L$ ) and *motL*.** A) Effect of *pdeH* and *dgcA* overexpression on the swimming speed of  $\Delta L \Delta motL$  mutants. Shown is a depiction of the individual distributions. B) Data from A merged in a single graph. N = 591. EVC, empty vector control. C) Effect of *pdeH* and *dgcA* overexpression on spreading of  $\Delta L \Delta motL$  mutants through soft agar. The asterisks indicate significant differences in cell speed according to ANOVA.



**Supplemental Figure 4: Localization of MotL.** Shown are micrographs of overproduced (OE) sfGFP-tagged MotL (first panel) in cells in which also the C-ring protein FliM<sub>2</sub> of the lateral flagella is C-terminally labelled with mCherry (middle panel). The phase contrast images of the cells are in the right panel. While lateral C-rings are readily detected, no distinct localization of MotL was detected. The scale bar equals 5  $\mu$ m.

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