## Supplementary data



Figure S1 Structure alignment of representative glycoside hydrolase family 10 xylanases. The coordinates used for structural alignment correspond to the amino acid sequences in Figure 2 of main text. The coordinates include following Protein Data Bank (PDB) entries. IVBR, xylanase from Thermotoga maritime (TmxB); 3NJ3, xylanase 10B from Thermotoga petrophila RKU-1; 3WUE, XynAS9 from Streptomyces sp. 9; 2UWF, alkaline active xylanase from Bacillus halodurans; 2FGL, alkaline thermostable xylanase from Bacillus sp. NG-27 (BSX); 4L4O, xylanase from Caldicellulosiruptor bescii (CbXyn10B); 5Y3X, xylanase from Caldicellulosiruptor owensensis (CoXynA); 3CUI, xylanase from Cellulomonas fimi (CfXyn10A) (same amino acids sequence for the PDB entry 3CUJ mentioned in the text); 5M0K, xylanase from Cellulomonas flavigena DSM 20109; 1US2, xylanase from Cellvibrio japonicus Ueda107 (CjXyn10C); 1CLX, xylanase from Cellvibrio japonicus Ueda107 (Cjxyn10A); 1UQY, xylanase from Cellvibrio mixtus (CmXyn10B); 2DEP, xylanase from Clostridium stercorarium; 3MSD, intracellular xylanase from Geobacillus stearothermophilus (same amino acids sequence for the PDB entry 3MUA mentioned in the text); 1R87, extracellular xylanase from Geobacillus stearothermophilus (XT6) (same amino acids sequence for the PDB entries 4PUD, 4PUE, and 4PRW mentioned in the text); 3EMC, xylanase from Paenibacillus barcinonensis (PbXyn10B); 1NQ6, xylanase from Streptomyces halstedii; 1E0V, xylanase from Streptomyces lividans; 1ISX, xylanase from Streptomyces olivaceoviridis E-86 (same amino acids sequence for the PDB entries 5GQD and 1V6V mentioned in the text); 4PMX, xylanase from Xanthomonas citri. Close-up views of glycone subsites (up), aglycone subsites (bottom), and ligands (XOS) in the substrate-binding cleft (right). The conserved amino acids in the substrate-binding cleft are labeled (TmxB numbers). The poses of XOS in the subsites illustrate the general catalytic mechanism of GH10 xylanases. One glutamate (acid/base) acting as acid catalyst provides proton for glyosidic oxygen and another glutamate (nucleophile) locating down below anomeric carbon of the -1 xylose residue attacks the anomeric carbon, and forms a glycosyl enzyme intermediate. The pose of -1 xylose can be used as a judging rule to exclude the irrational docking poses.



**Figure S2** The ligand interaction diagram of xylanase from *Thermotoga maritima* (TmxB) in complex with xylobiose (X2) drawn by LigPlot. The amino acids involved in hydrogen bond and hydrophobic/Vander Waals interactions are labeled in green and black, respectively.



**Figure S3** The ligand interaction diagram of xylanase from *Thermotoga maritima* (TmxB) in complex with xylotriose (X3) drawn by LigPlot. The amino acids involved in hydrogen bond and hydrophobic/Vander Waals interactions are labeled in green and black, respectively.



**Figure S4** The ligand interaction diagram of xylanase from *Thermotoga maritima* (TmxB) in complex with xylotetraose (X4) drawn by LigPlot. The amino acids involved in hydrogen bond and hydrophobic/Vander Waals interactions are labeled in green and black, respectively.



**Figure S5** The ligand interaction diagram of xylanase from *Thermotoga maritima* (TmxB) in complex with xylopentaose (X5) drawn by LigPlot. The amino acids involved in hydrogen bond and hydrophobic/Vander Waals interactions are labeled in green and black, respectively.