

## Supplementary File

**Table S1.** Strains, plasmids and primers used in construction of *B. thailandensis* E555  $\Delta ilvI$ .

Strain, plasmid or primer	Relevant characteristics*	Source or Reference
<i>E. coli</i>		
<i>E. coli</i> ®10G	General cloning and blue/white screening	Lucigen
SM10	Mobilizing strain with transfer genes of RP4 integrated on chromosome; Km <sup>r</sup>	(30)
<i>B. thailandensis</i>		
E264	Soil isolate from central Thailand	(26)
E555	Cambodian soil isolate expressing a <i>B. pseudomallei</i> -like CPS gene cluster; Tp <sup>s</sup> , Pm <sup>r</sup>	(27)
E555 $\Delta ilvI$	E555 harboring a 428-bp in-frame deletion in <i>ilvI</i>	This study
Plasmids		
pCR2.1-TOPO	3,931-bp TA vector; pMB1 <i>oriR</i> ; Km <sup>r</sup> , Ap <sup>r</sup>	Life Technologies
pCR2.1- <i>Bt ilvI</i>	pCR2.1-TOPO harboring the 1,117-bp <i>Bt ilvI</i> -up and <i>Bt ilvI</i> -dn PCR product	This study
pCR2.1- $\Delta Bt ilvI$	pCR2.1- <i>Bt ilvI</i> with a 428-bp <i>SalI</i> fragment removed	This study
pEX18Tp- <i>pheS</i>	Gene replacement vector based on <i>pheS</i> ; Tp <sup>r</sup>	(31)
pEX18Tp- $\Delta Bt ilvI$	pEX18Tp- <i>pheS</i> containing the <i>NheI</i> insert from pCR2.1- $\Delta Bt ilvI$	This study
Primers (5'-3')		
<i>Bt ilvI</i> -up	GCTAGCCGCTCCTCTTGTCGCGAAG	eurofins
<i>Bt ilvI</i> -dn	GCTAGCTACAGATCTTCCGATCCGAG	eurofins

\* r, resistant; s, susceptible; Tp, trimethoprim; Pm, polymyxin B; Km, kanamycin; Ap, ampicillin.

**Construction of *B. thailandensis* E555  $\Delta ilvI$  –**

The methods used for DNA manipulation and PCR amplification have been described in detail elsewhere [29]. Gene replacement with *B. thailandensis* E555 was performed using the *pheS*-based vector pEX18Tp-*pheS*, as previously described [31]. A 1.1-kb portion of the *Burkholderia thailandensis* E264 *ilvI* gene, locus tag *BTH\_I1045*, was PCR-amplified using purified genomic DNA and the primers *Bt ilvI*-up and *Bt ilvI*-dn (Table S1). The PCR product was cloned into pCR2.1-TOPO and a 428-bp *SalI* fragment was removed and it was re-ligated. The resulting plasmid, pCR2.1- $\Delta Bt ilvI$ , was digested with *NheI* and the product was cloned into the *XbaI* site of pEX18Tp-*pheS* (Table S1). Plasmid pEX18Tp- $\Delta Bt ilvI$  (Table S1) was electroporated into *Escherichia coli* SM10 (12.25 kV/cm) and conjugated with *B. thailandensis* E555 for 8 h on LB agar. Trimethoprim (Tp) was used at 300 µg/ml to select for merodiploid derivatives harboring the recombinant plasmid and polymyxin B (Pm) was used at 25 µg/ml to counterselect *E. coli* SM10. Multiple Tp<sup>r</sup> colonies were inoculated onto M9 Minimal Salts agar plates with 0.4% glucose (M9), 0.1% (wt/vol) p-chlorophenylalanine, 40 µg/ml L-isoleucine, 40 µg/ml L-leucine and 40 µg/ml L-valine (ILV) and incubated at 37°C for 2 days. Individual colonies that grew on this medium were subsequently picked to LB agar and M9 agar plates and incubated at 37°C for 3 days. *B. thailandensis* E555  $\Delta ilvI$  was identified as not being able to grow on M9 agar without added ILV and by colony PCR using the primers *Bt ilvI*-up and *Bt ilvI*-dn (Table S1). As expected, the PCR product generated from *B. thailandensis* E555  $\Delta ilvI$  was smaller than the product from *B. thailandensis* E555 (data not shown).