

**Table S1** *C. botulinum* and *E. coli* strains and whole genome sequences used in this work. \*Strains harboring the toxin cluster.

Strain name	Isolated from	Source
<i>C. botulinum</i>		
KI2	Meat (Chicken)	Isolated in this work
ME2.2	Faeces (horse)	Isolated in this work
CH2	Dried mushrooms	Isolated in this work
ZS1	Seaweed sample 1	Isolated in this work
ZS2	Seaweed sample 1	Isolated in this work
ZS6	Seaweed sample 1	Isolated in this work
EV3	Meat (Wild boar)	Isolated in this work
KO2	Meat (Rabbit)	Isolated in this work
RO3	Creamy cheese sample 1	Isolated in this work
RO132	Creamy cheese sample 1	Isolated in this work
MIL1	Cheese from alpine milk	Isolated in this work
VAP23	Pond sample 1	Isolated in this work
VAP33	Pond sample 2	Isolated in this work
VAP41	Pond sample 3	Isolated in this work
VAP51	Pond sample 4	Isolated in this work
VAP52	Pond sample 5	Isolated in this work
ZBS2 (ZBS3-12-089-02)	Intestine (Pike)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS3 (ZBS3-12-111-01)	Bream	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS4 (ZBS3-12-114-02)	Lake sediment	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS5 (ZBS3-13-004-02)	Faeces (horse)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS12 (ZBS3-14-386-02)	rumen content (cattle)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS13 (ZBS3-14-387-02)	Faeces (cattle)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS14 (ZBS3-14-405-01)	Duodenum (Mallard duck)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS15 (ZBS3-14-419-04)	Biogas plant	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS17 (ZBS3-15-138-01)	Silage	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS18 (ZBS3-15-180-01)	Stomach content (human)	Robert Koch Institute
ZBS20 (ZBS3-H163-01)	Honey	Robert Koch Institute
NCTC8266Δbont::ermB*	Canned salmon (Canada)	Clauwers <i>et al.</i> , 2016
NCTC11219Δbont::ermB*	Canned salmon (Alaska)	Clauwers <i>et al.</i> , 2016
DSM1985		German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, DSM
CMCC3676		Colworth Microbiology Culture Collection, CMCC, Parker <i>et al.</i> 2015
CMCC3677		Colworth Microbiology Culture Collection, CMCC, Parker <i>et al.</i> 2015
CMCC3678		Colworth Microbiology Culture Collection, CMCC, Parker <i>et al.</i> 2015
K3*	Trout (Finland)	NZ_LFQX00000000.1
K15*	Trout (Finland)	NZ_LFQW00000000.1

CDC66177*	Argentinian soil	NZ_ALYJ00000000.1
KAPB-3*	Salted whitefish (California)	NZ_JQOK00000000.1
NCTC8550*		NZ_CP010521.1
Beluga*	Fermented whale flippers (USA)	NZ_ACSC00000000.1
202F*	Marine sediment (USA)	NZ_NPMX00000000.1
Eklund 17B*	Marine sediment (USA)	NC_010674.1
Alaska E43*	Salmon eggs associated with foodborne case (Alaska)	NC_010723.1
<i>E. coli</i>		
DH5α		[62]
S17λpir		[63]

**Table S2** Growth media and medium supplements used in this work.

Medium	Composition/Brand/Cat N°	Reference or source
<i>C. botulinum</i>		
Reinforced Clostridial Medium (RCM)	38 g/l /Oxoid/CM0149	Thermofisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA)
<i>E. coli</i>		
Lysogeny Broth (LB)	Tryptone 10 g/l /Lab M/MC005	Thermofisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA)
	Yeast extract 20 g/l /Oxoid/LP0021B	Thermofisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA)
	NaCl 5 g/l /Fisher Chemical/S271-500	Acros Organics (Geel , België)

For solid media, 15 g/l agar was added (Neogen, Lansing, MI, USA)

Medium supplement	Concentration	Supplier/Cat N°
Erythromycin (Em)	5 µg/ml (construction of Em resistant mutants)	Acros organics/227330050
	3 µg/ml (Selective medium)	
Gentamicin (Gm)	15 µg/ml	Fluka Biochemika/GA11897
Cycloserin (Cs)	250 µg/ml (construction of Em resistant mutants)	Acros organics/228480010
	100 µg/ml (Selective medium)	
Thiamphenicol (Tm)	15 µg/ml	Thermo Scientific/15700899
Chloramphenicol (Cm)	30 µg/ml	Acros organics/227920250
Lysozyme (Lys)	10 µg/ml (heat resistance of spores)	MP biomedical/100834
	50 µg/ml (selective medium)	

**Table S3** Sequences of the target genes for ClosTron intron insertion, and sequences of the retargeted introns. The introns insert between the red nucleotides indicated in bold.

Gene <i>XkdK</i> (targeted in strains ZBS4-VAP51-ME22), intron insertion between nucleotides 471 and 472 in sense orientation.
ATGGCAGGTGGAACATGGGAAAAACAAAATAAAATAAGAGCAGGAGCTTATGTTAATTTTAA AAGTAAAAAGAATAATGATAGTAACAATAATGATAGAGGGGTAATGGCGTTACCGTTAGTATT ACCTTTTGGACCAGAAAAACAATAGTAAAAATAGATAATGAAACAGATTTGTTAGGAACAA TAGGAATGGAAATAAATGAAGAAAGCACTCTAATGCTTAAAGAAGCCTTAAAGAAAGCAAA AACAGTTTTATTAACAGACTTAATGAAGGTGTTAAGGCTACTAAGGTGCTAGGAGAATTAACA GTAACATCAAAATGGAGTGGAAAGTAAAGGAAATGATATAAGAATTCAAATTCAAACCAATGT AAATGATGAAGGTAAATTTGATGTAATTACATTCTTAGAATATACAAAATTAGATACACAAAC TGTA AAAAATATTGATGAGTTGGTATCTAATG <b>CA</b> CTTGTAGACTTTAAAGGATCAGGTGAACCTT ACTTTATCTGCTGGAGTAAAGCTAGAGGGTGGAGAAGATAAACCTATTACAGGAAAGGATTAT GTAGATTTTTTAGCAGAATTAGAATTATTTGATTTCAATACTGTAGCAATACCGTATGATGAGT CAGATACTAAGTTAGTTGTA AAAGAGTTTATTAAGAGGTTAAGAGAATATGAAGGAAGAAAA GTTCAAGCTGTTTTACCAAACCTTTGCAGAAGCAGACTATGAAGGGATTATATCTATAAAGAAT GGTGTGTATCTTAAAGATAATGTACATGTA ACTAATGTACAAGCAACAGCATATGTAGCAGCA TTAACAGCAGGATCAGGTTATGCTAATTCTAATACTTATGCTTTGTATGAAGGTGCAAGCAATG TTGATGTTAGATATGCAGATAGTGAAATAAAAGAGATAATCAAAAAAGGTGAAATAATATTTA TTAATAATAATCAACAAGTTTTAATTGAACAAGATATTAACACATTAAAGACTTTTACAGAGG ATAAAAAGTCTGACTTTAGAAAAAACAGAGTTATAAGAGTTTTAGATGGAATAAATGACAAG ATTAAATATAAGTGGGAAGAATCTTATATTGGCAAAGTAAGCAATAATGAGGATGGAAGAAA CTTATTTAAGAAAGATATATTAATATTTTAGAAACATTACAAGGACAAGGAGCATTAGAAAA TGTAGTTGTAGAGGATATTGAGGTACTTAAAGAAATTCTAATGATTCTATTGTTGTAAATGTTA ATGCGCAACCAGTAGATAGTATGGAAAAATATATATGACTGTATTTATATAA
Intron sequence targeted towards <i>XkdK</i> (471-472s)
TTATCCTTAGTATCCAATGCAGTGCGCCAGATAGGGTGTTAAGTCAAGTAGTTTAAGGTACTA CTCTGTAAGATAACACAGAAAAACAGCCAACCTAACCGAAAAGCGAAAGCTGATACGGGAAC AGAGCACGGTTGAAAGCGATGAGTTACCTAAAGACAATCGGGTACGACTGAGTCGCAATGT TAATCAGATATAAGGTATAAGTTGTGTTTACTGAACGCAAGTTTCTAATTTTCGATTGATACTCG ATAGAGGAAAGTGTCTGAAACCTCTAGTACAAAGAAAGGTAAGTTAAGTGCATTGACT
Gene <i>SPP1</i> (targeted in strain ZBS3), intron insertion between nucleotides 105 and 106 in sense orientation
ATGTTGGGAGTTAAAAGTATATGGAATAAACTTAAGAAAGGAGTGAAAGCAGGTATGGCAGC AGCACAAAGTTAAAAGTATTATTGATGATGAGCAGATTGTTGG <b>AA</b> TGATAACTGAGTTTAATAT GTCACAAAAAAGAAAACCTTATGATTATAGGTTCTAAATATTATGAGGTTGAAAATGATATTTTT AAAAGAAAACAAACAAAGTAGTTGATGGTGAAACAATAGAAGAACTTATAAGGCTAATA ATAAACTAGCACATGCTAAGTATAAAAACATAGTTGACGAAAAGGTTGCATACTTGCTTTCAA GACCCTATTCTTTAAATTGTGATGATAAGCAGTATATAGAAAAAATCAAGGATTTCGCTAGGGA AGCACTTTCAATATAAGTTGTCAGGATTAGGATATGAGGCAAGCAACAAAGGTATTTTCATGGT TACAGCCTTATATAAATGAACAGGGTAAATTTAGTACTATGATTATACCTTCAGAGCAATGTAT CCCTATCTGGAAAGACAATAGCCATATGGAGTTAAGTGGCATGATAAGAATATATGAAACAA CTTACTGGGTTGGATCTACTAAGAAAACCTGATACTAATGTTGAGGTTTGAGCAAGATGGCG TTGTTTATTATAAATTAGATGATAAGAAATTAATATATGATTATGGCAAATCTAATGATATAGA CAATGGCGGCCCAATAGCACATTTTAAAAGAGATGATGAGTGGATTTTCATGGGGAAAGGTTCC TTTCATACCGTTTAAAAATAACAGAGTAGAAATGCCTGATATTAAGTTTGTTAAATCTCTACTA

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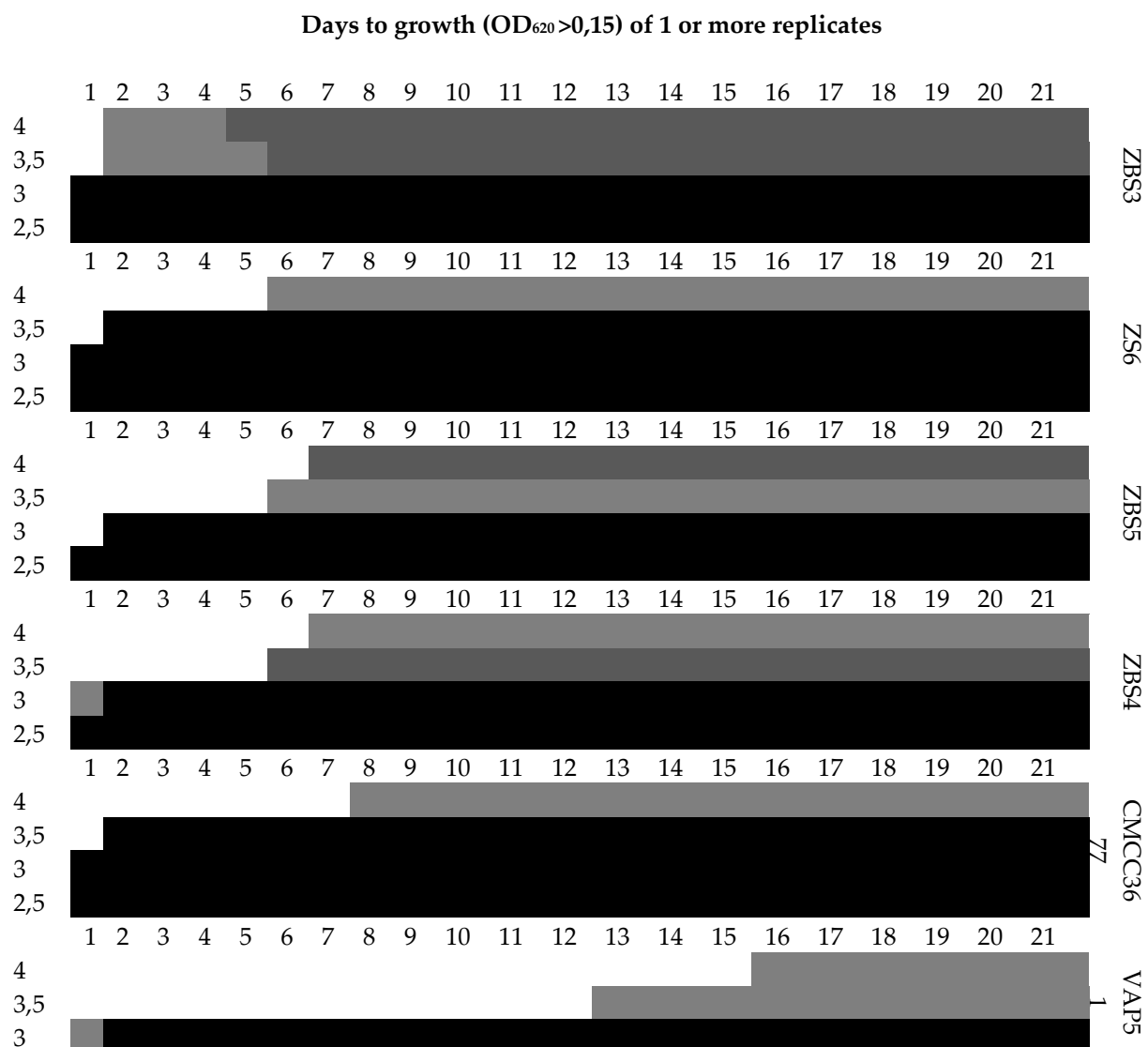
Intron sequence targeted towards *SPP1* (105-106s)

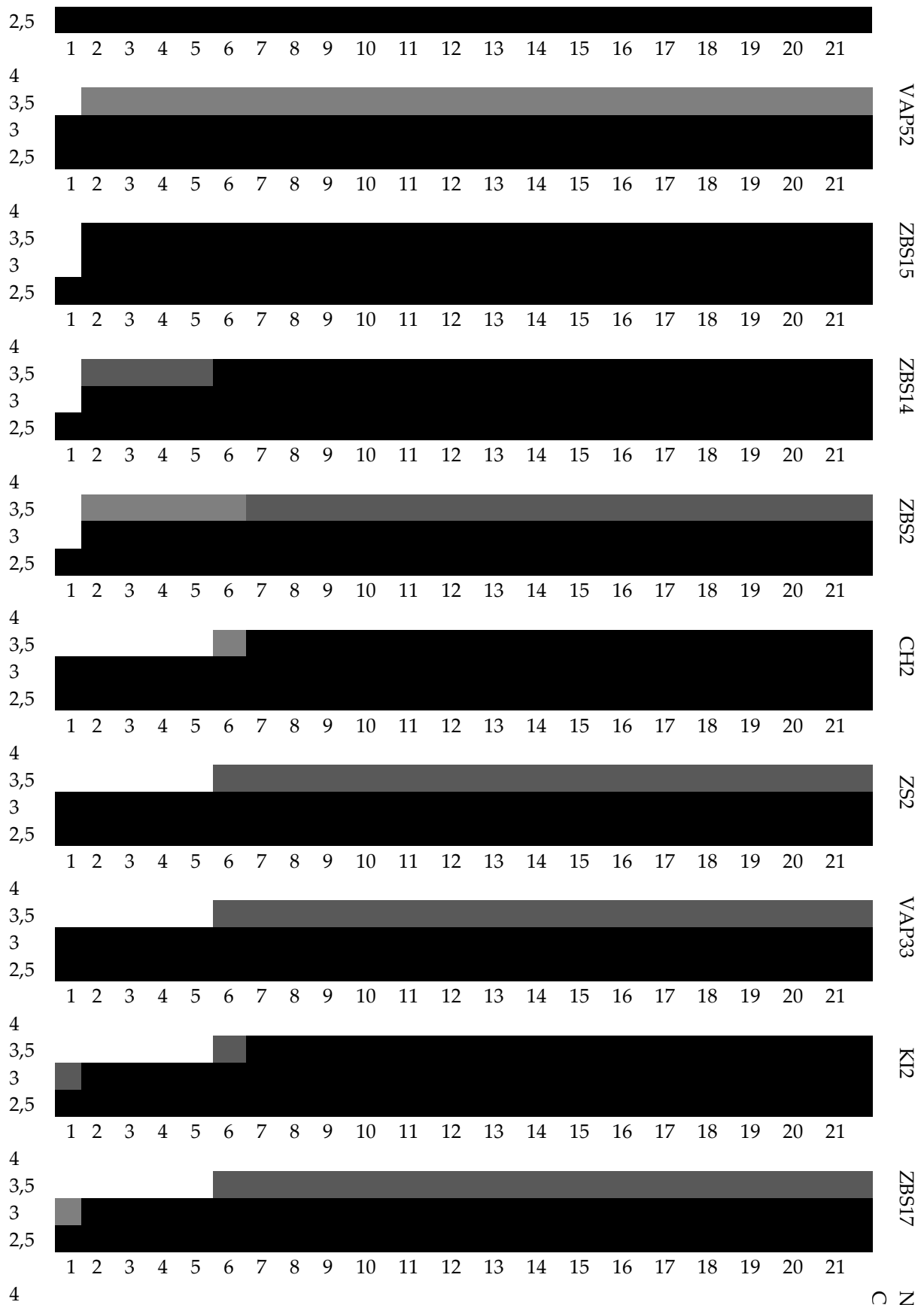
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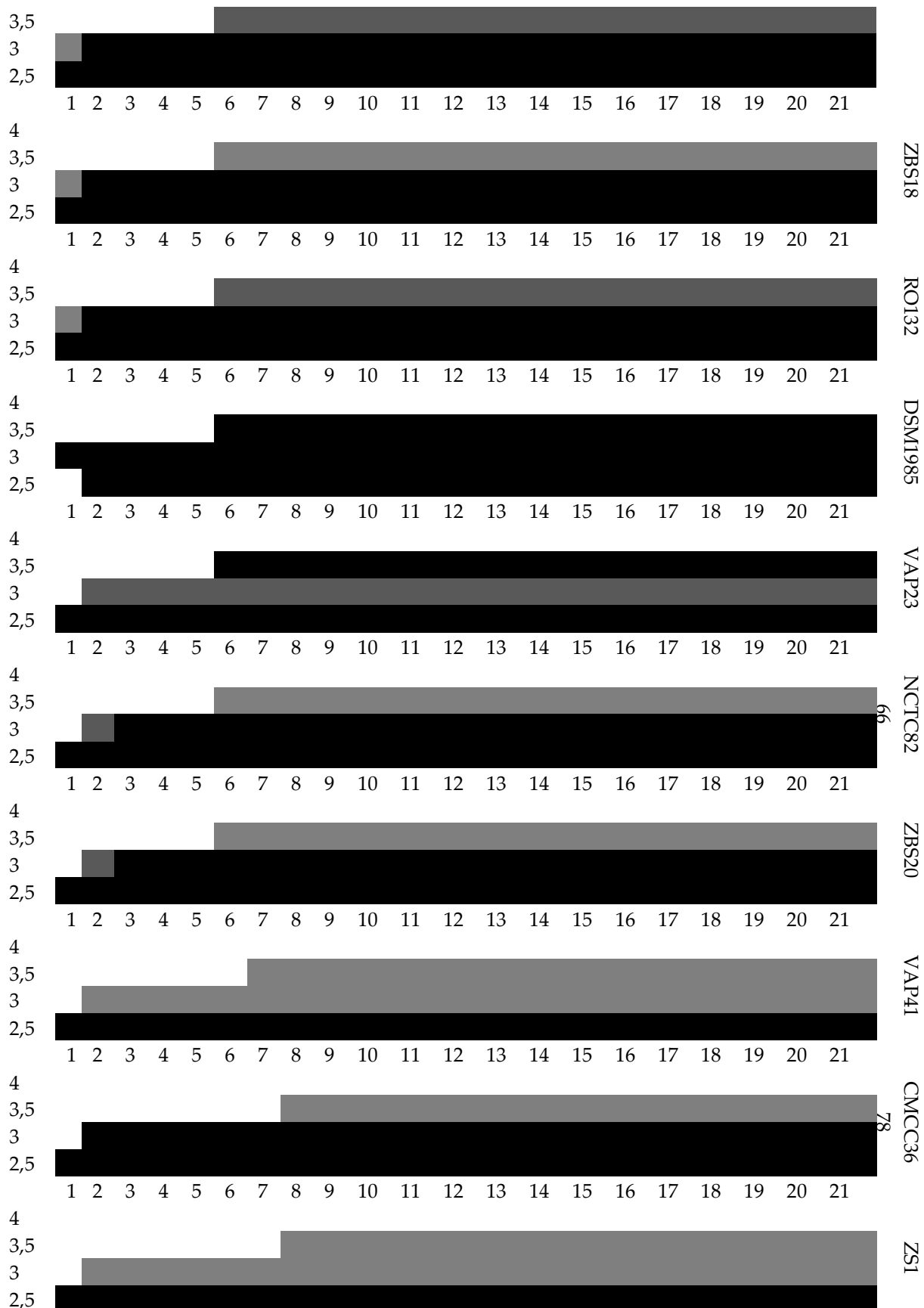
Gene *TTMP* (targeted in strain CH2), intron insertion between nucleotides 523 and 524 in sense orientation

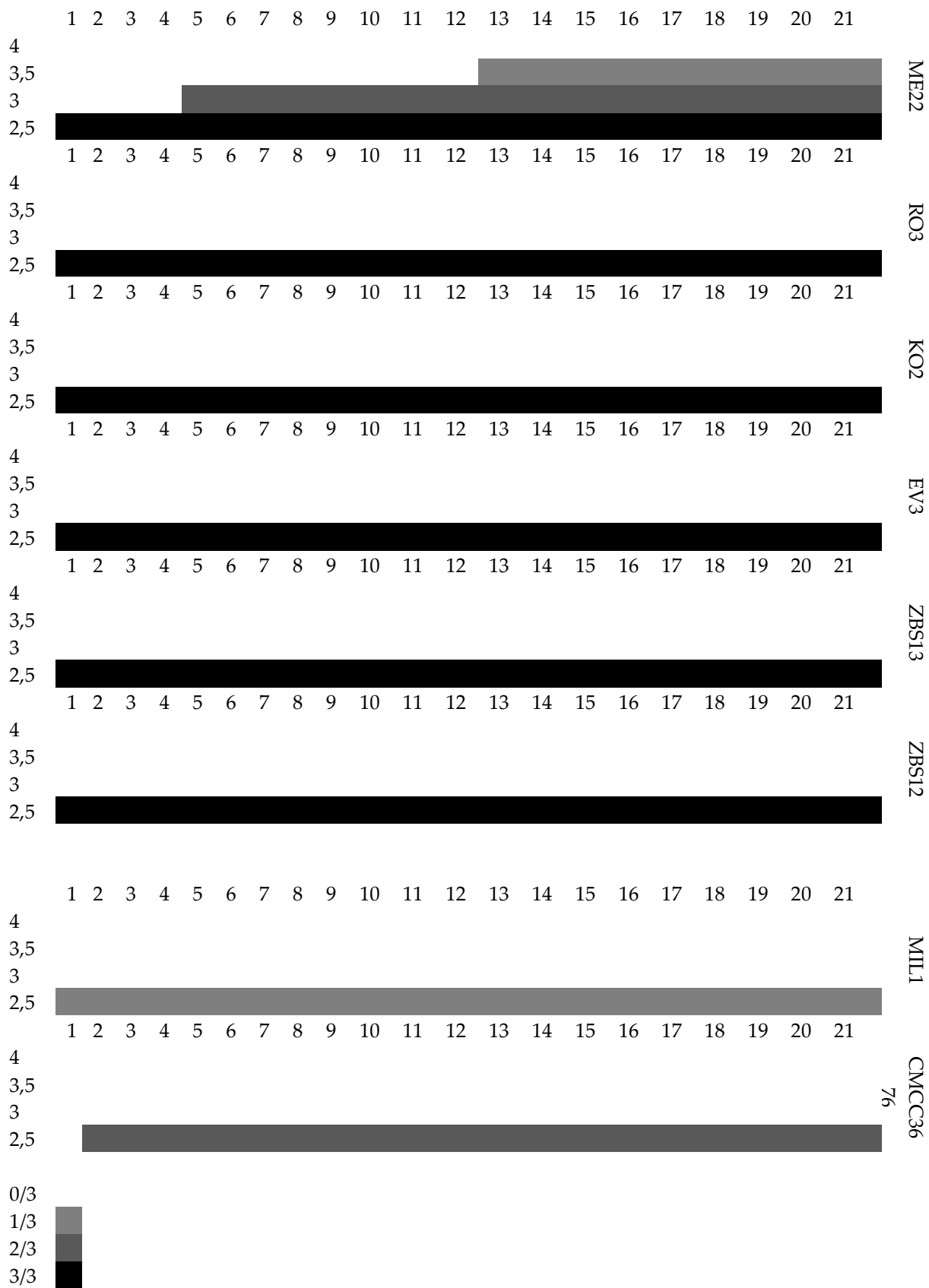
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Intron sequence targeted towards <i>TTMP</i> (523-524s)
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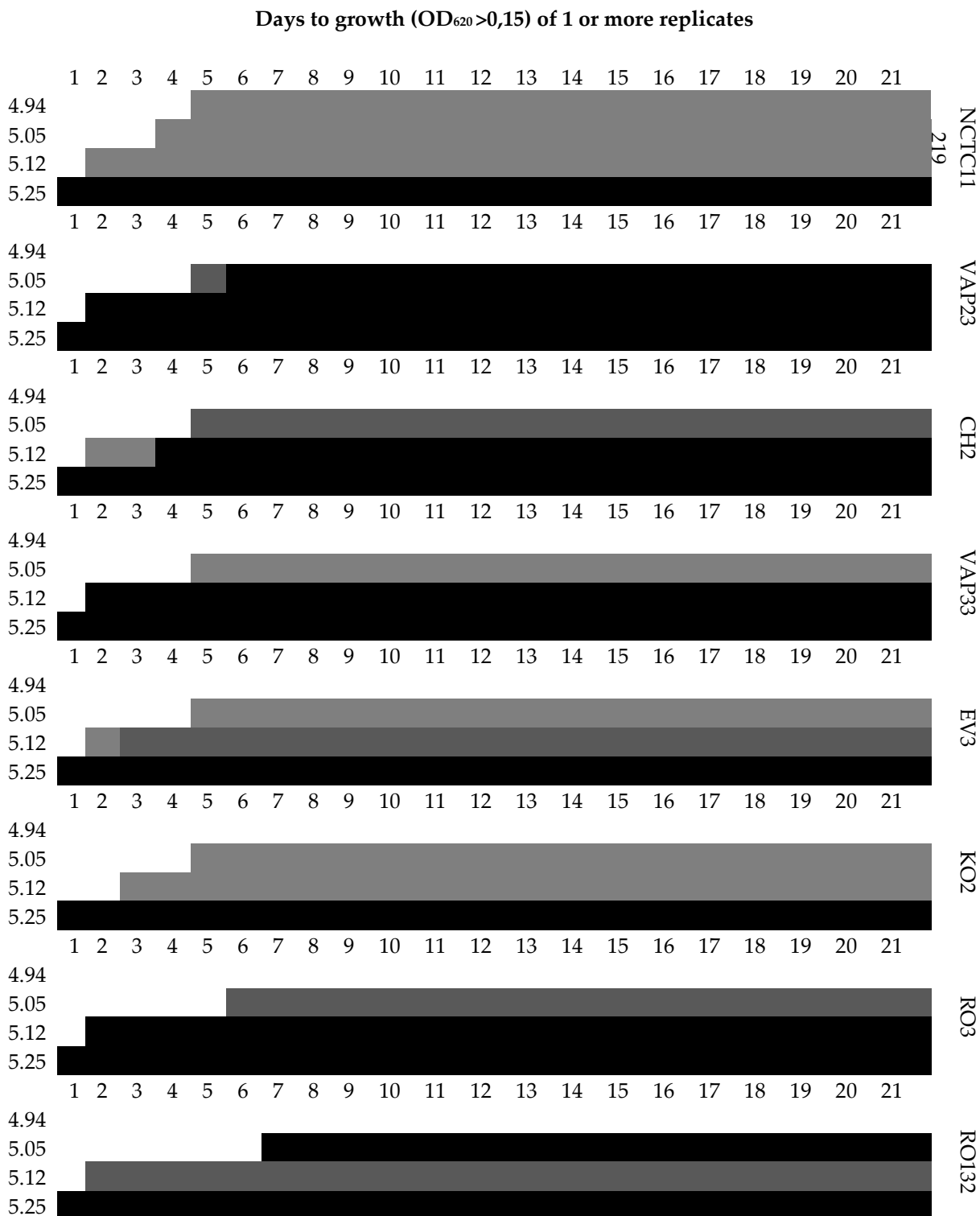


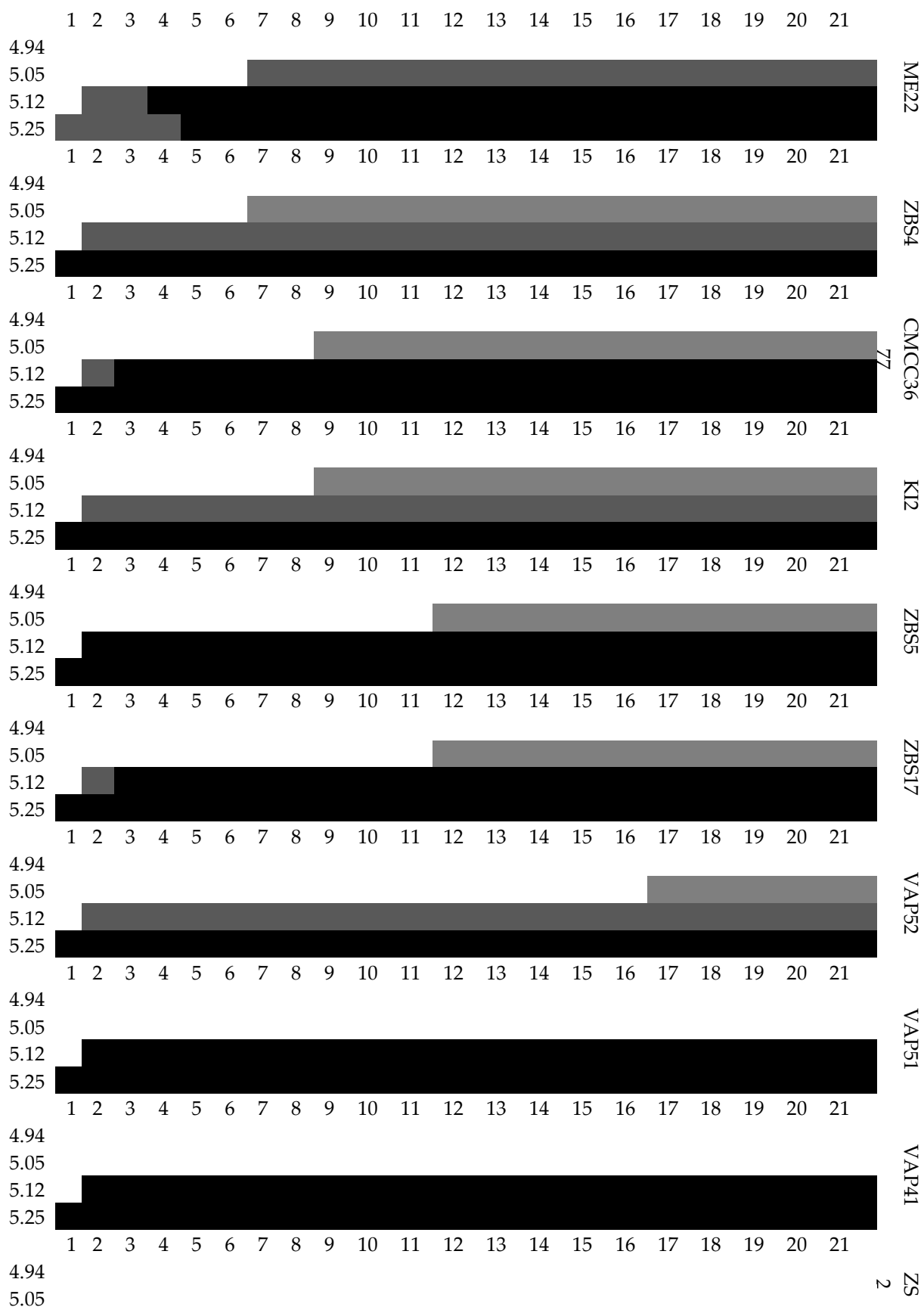


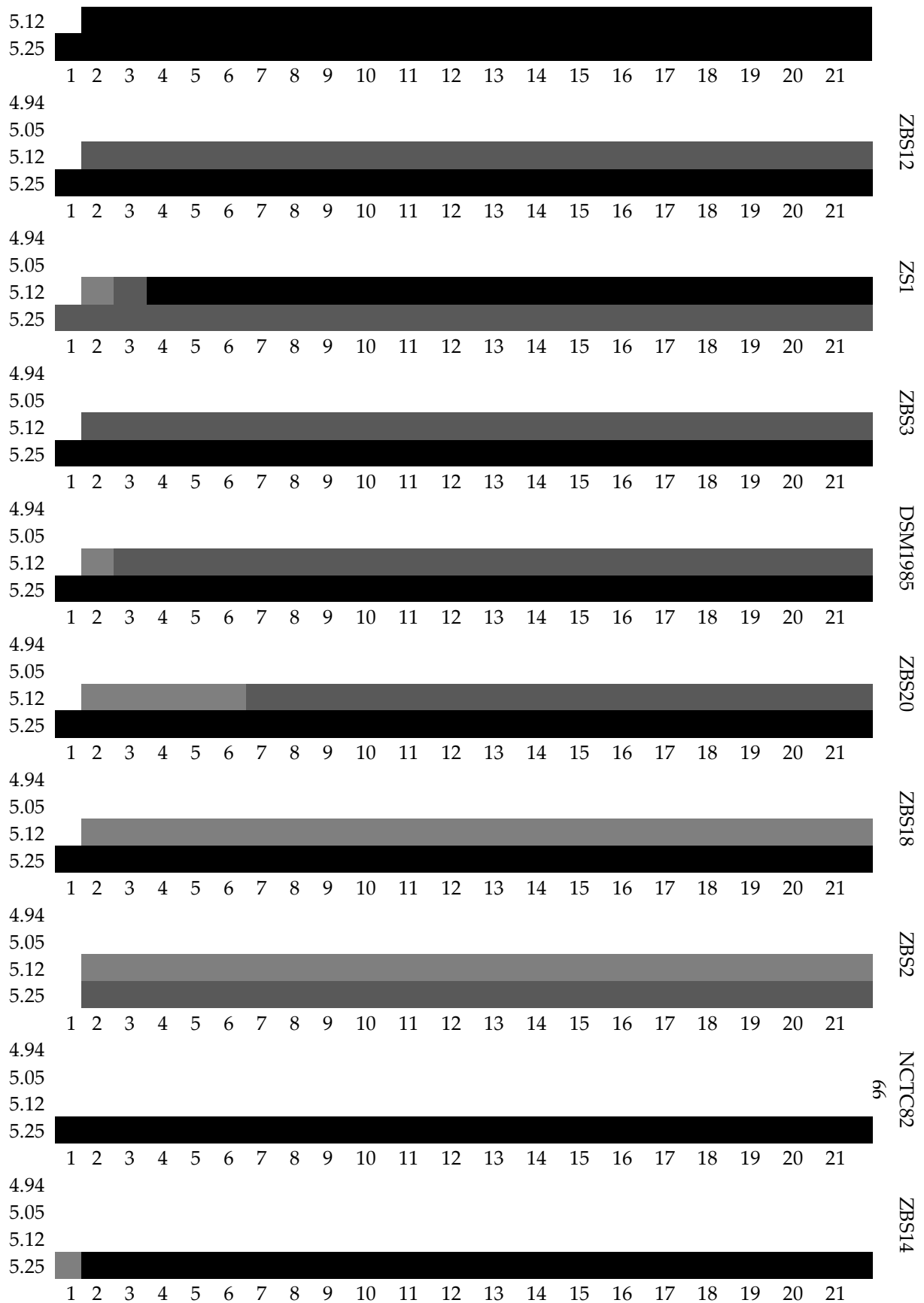


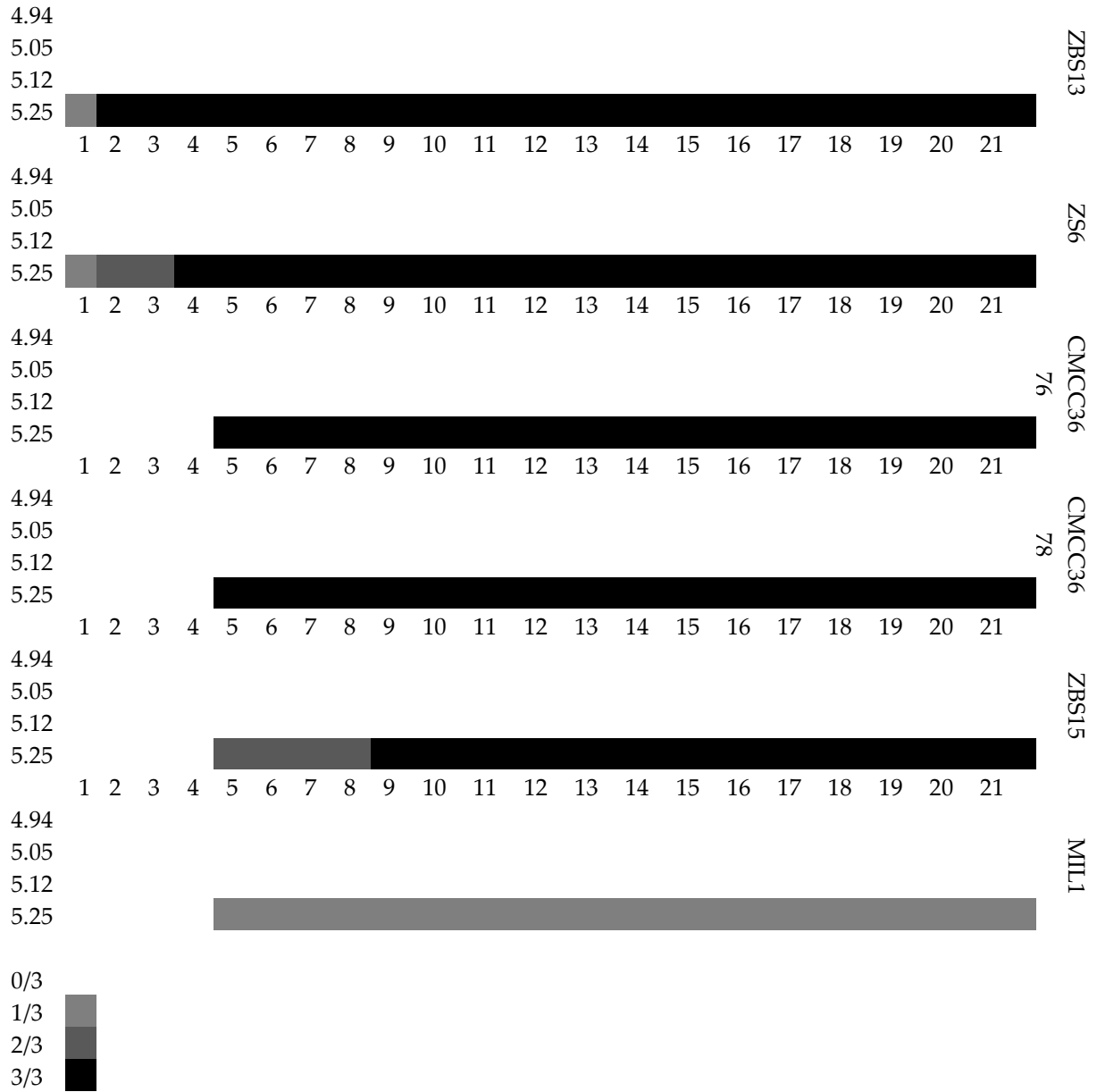


**Figure S1** Salt tolerance of different nontoxic isolates, NCTC8266 $\Delta$ bont::ermB and NCTC11219 $\Delta$ bont::ermB in liquid RCM medium supplemented with different amounts of NaCl. Growth at 30°C in 2.5%, 3.0%, 3.5%, 4.0% and 4.5% NaCl was studied for 21 days for three replicates per strain. Growth of all replicates is indicated. None of the strains grew at 4.5% NaCl.



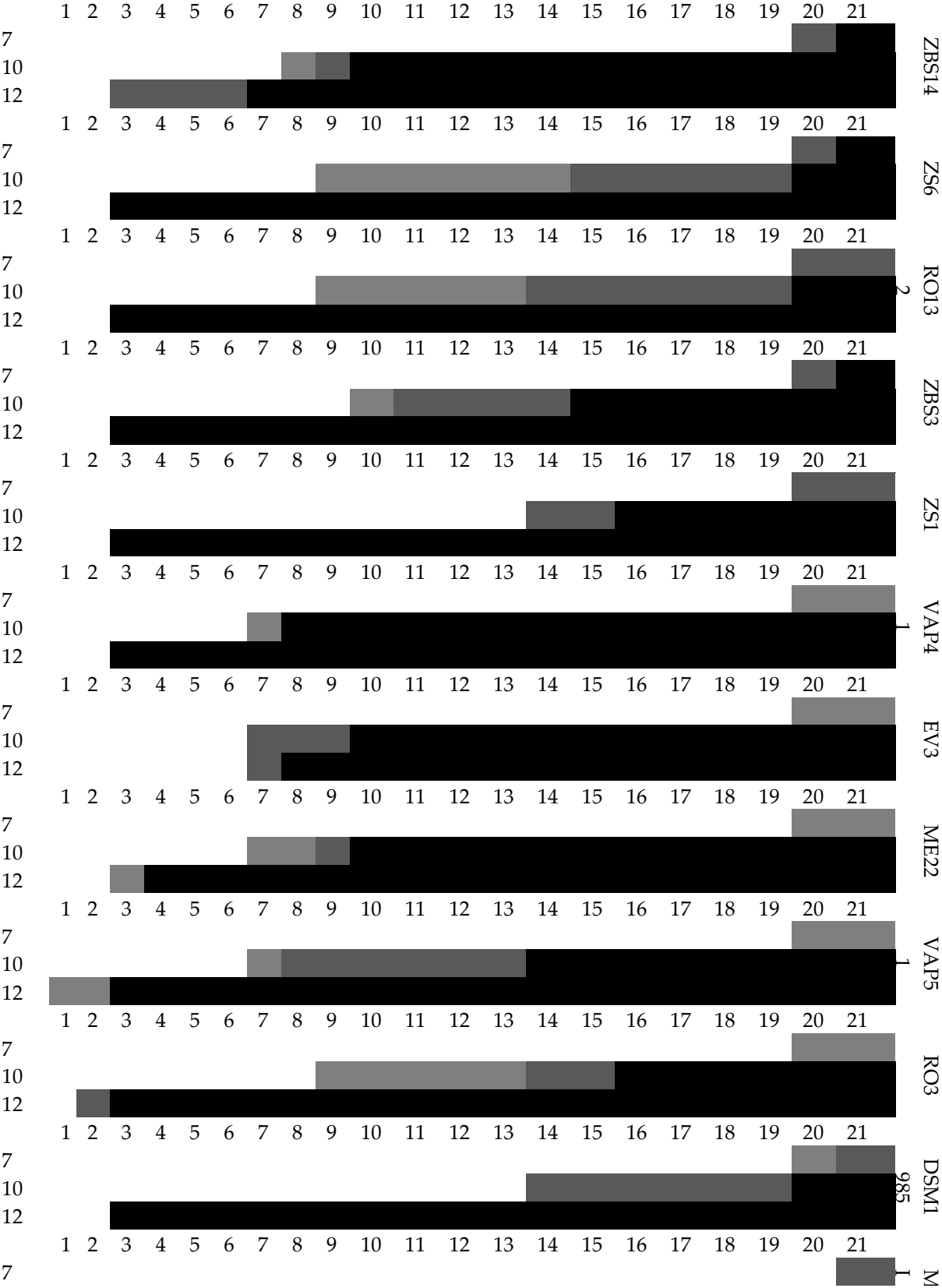


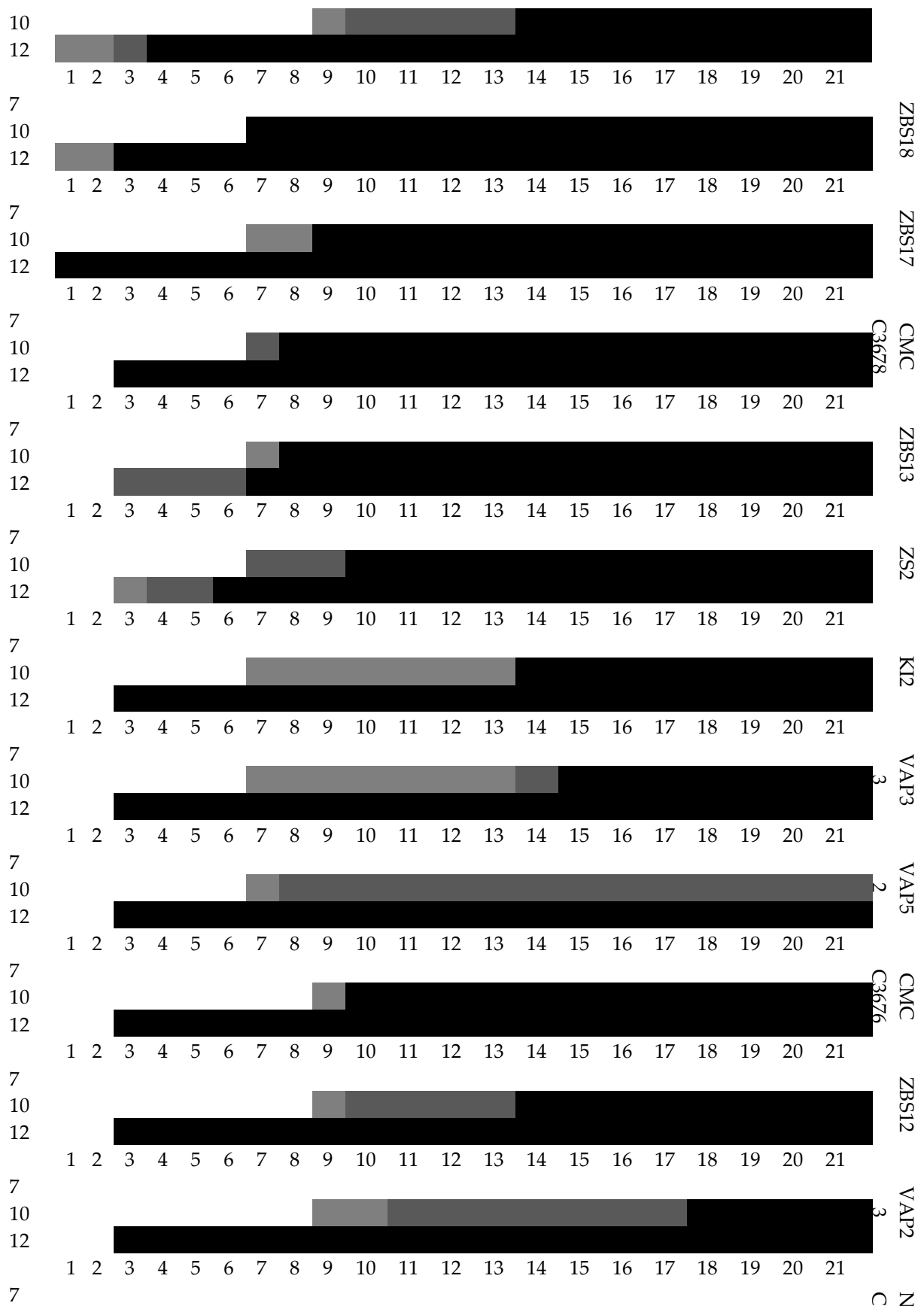


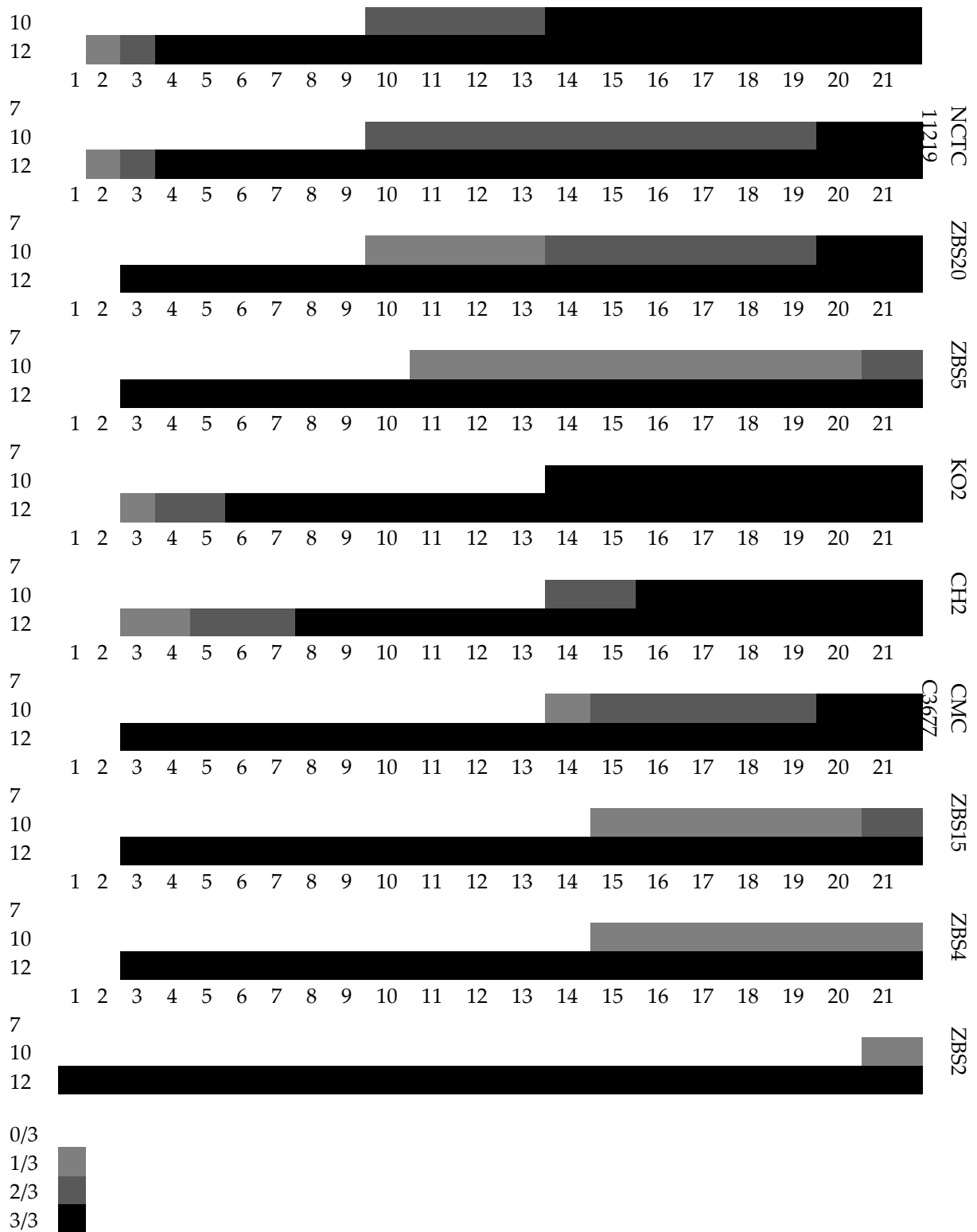


**Figure S2** Acid tolerance of different nontoxic isolates, NCTC8266 $\Delta$ bont::ermB and NCTC11219 $\Delta$ bont::ermB in liquid RCM medium supplemented with 1 M HCl (pH values; 5.25, 5.12, 5.05 and 4.95). Growth was studied for 21 days for three replicates per strain. Growth of all replicates is indicated.

Days to colony formation (>1 mm) of 1 or more replicates

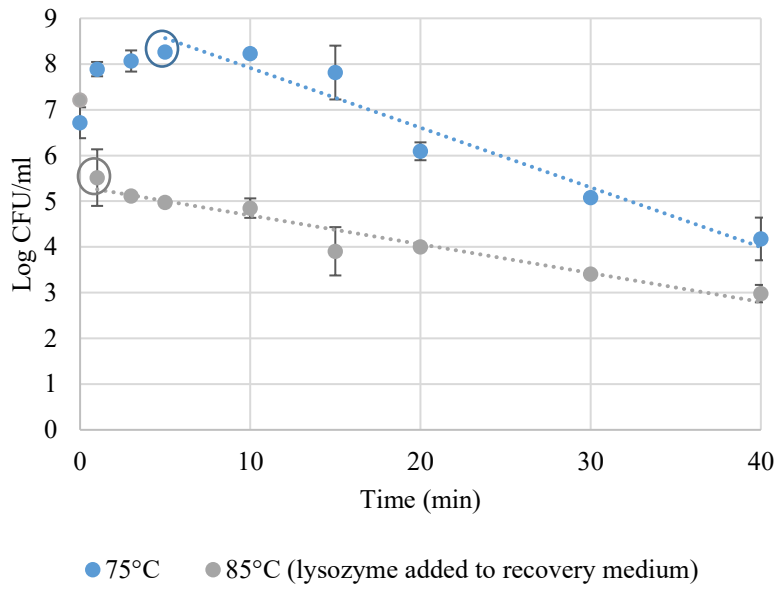




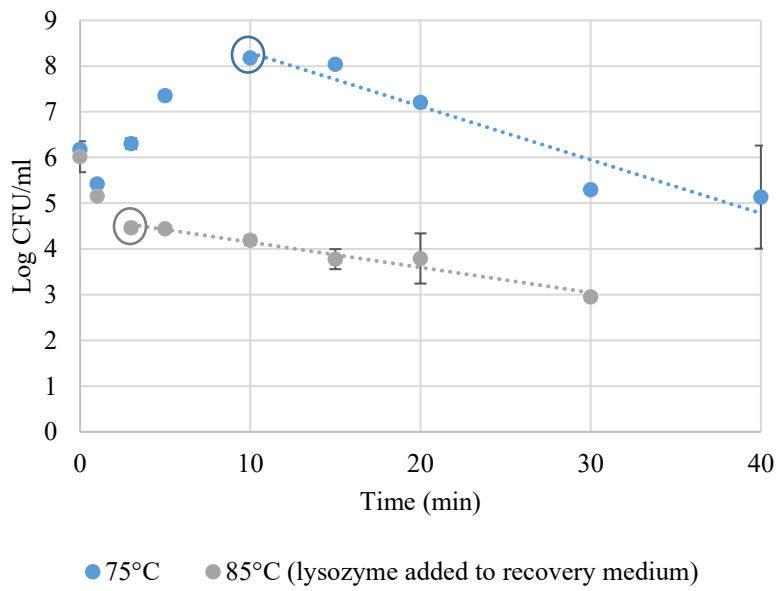


**Figure S3** Low temperature tolerance of different nontoxic isolates, NCTC8266Δbont::ermB and NCTC11219Δbont::ermB on solid RCM medium incubated at different temperatures (7°C, 10°C and 12°C). Growth was studied for 21 days for three replicates per strain. Growth of all replicates is indicated.

Reduction curves of ZS2 at 75°C and 85°C

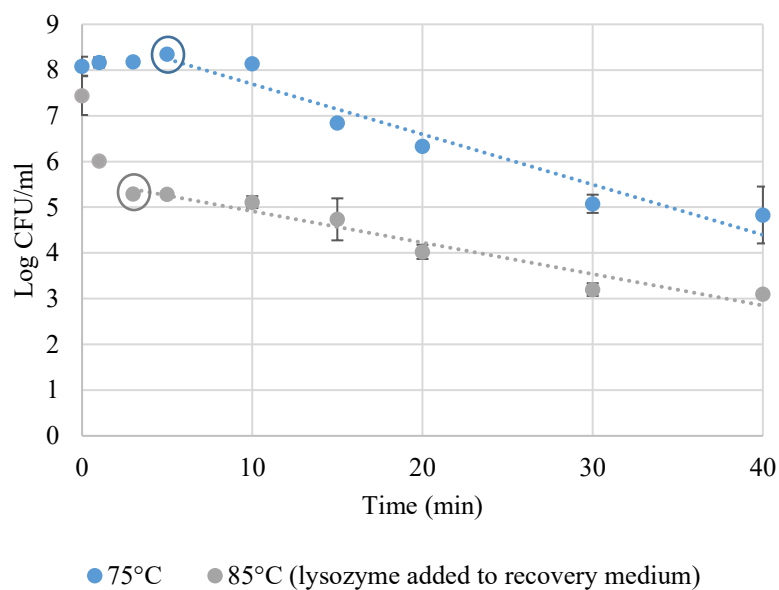


Reduction curves of KI2 at 75°C and 85°C

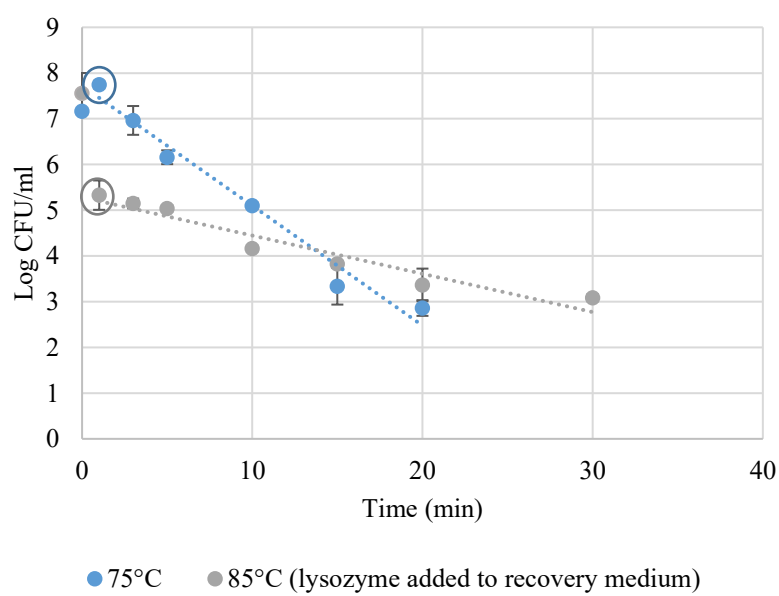




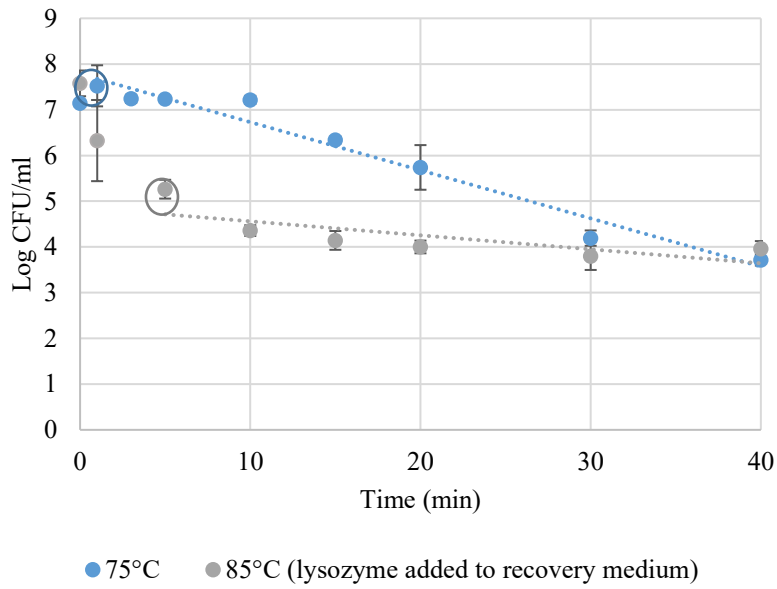
Reduction curves of VAP33 at 75°C and 85°C



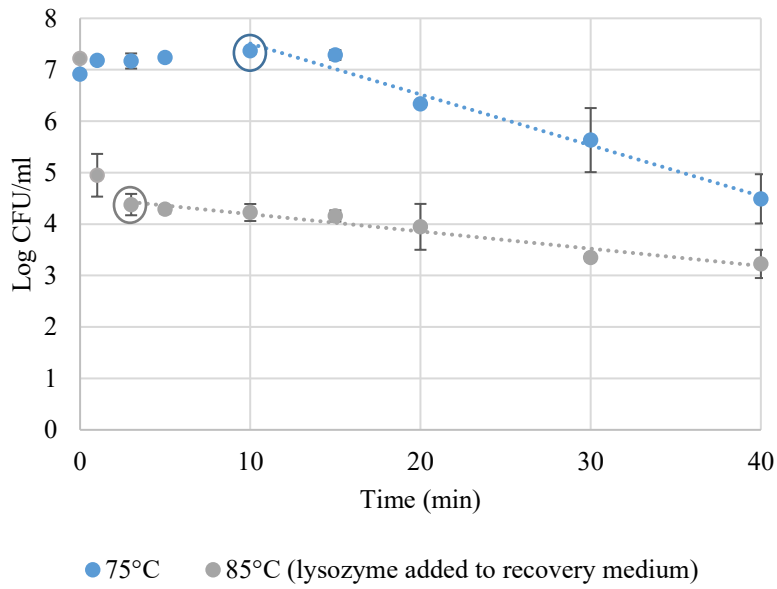
Reduction curves of ZBS15 at 75°C and 85°C



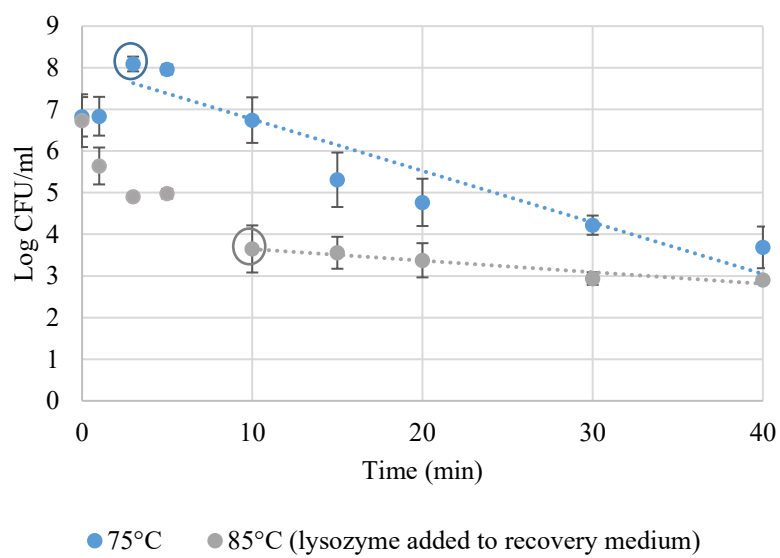
Reduction curves of ZS6 at 75°C and 85°C



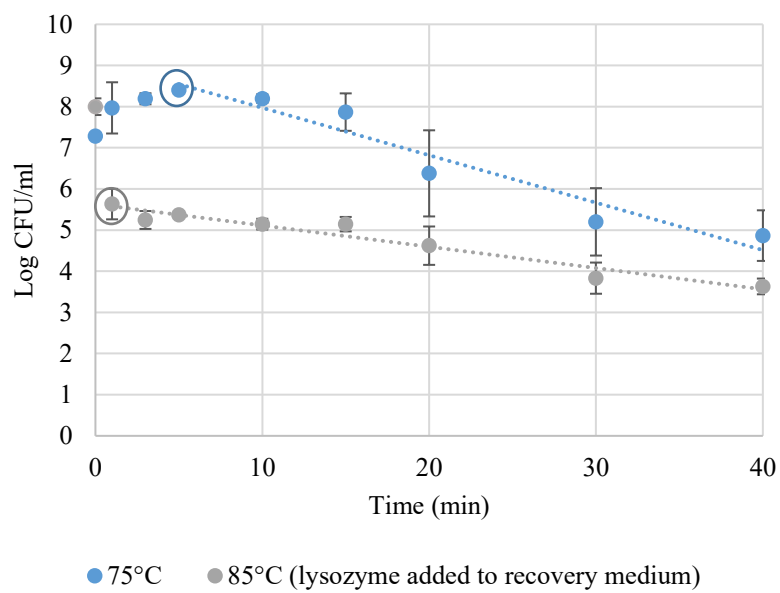
Reduction curves of CH2 at 75°C and 85°C



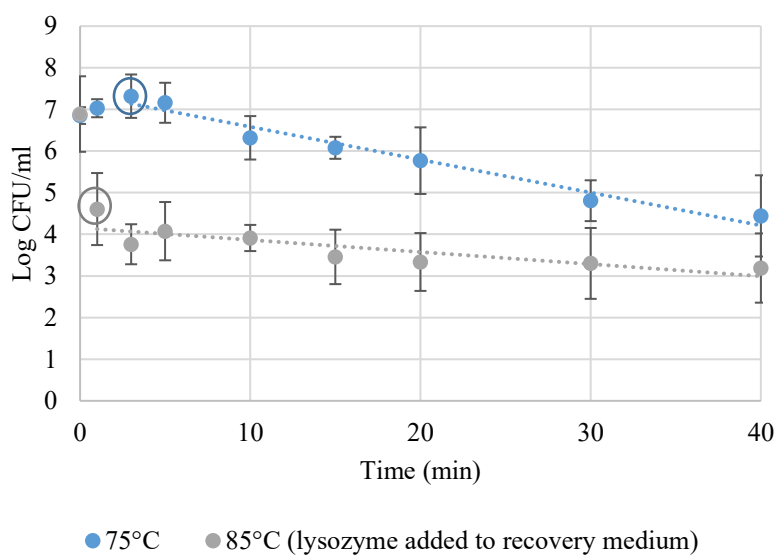
Reduction curves of CMCC3676 at 75°C and 85°C



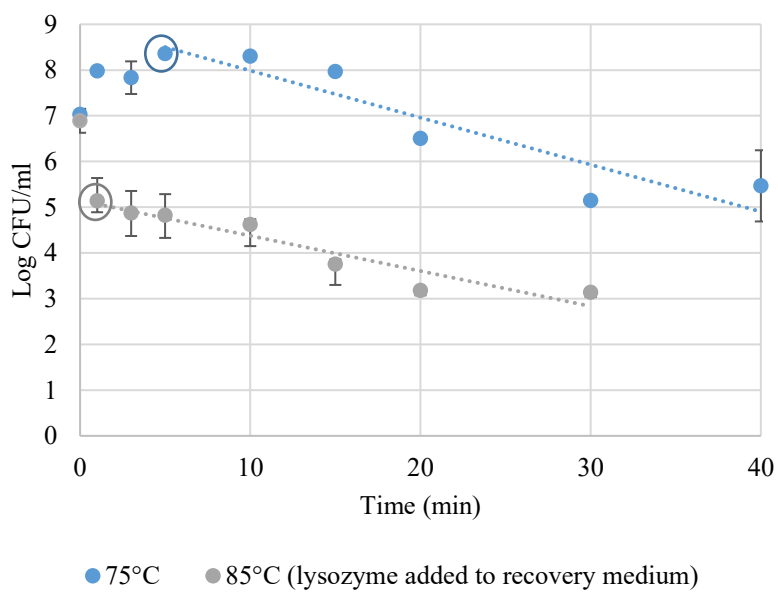
Reduction curves of ZBS5 at 75°C and 85°C



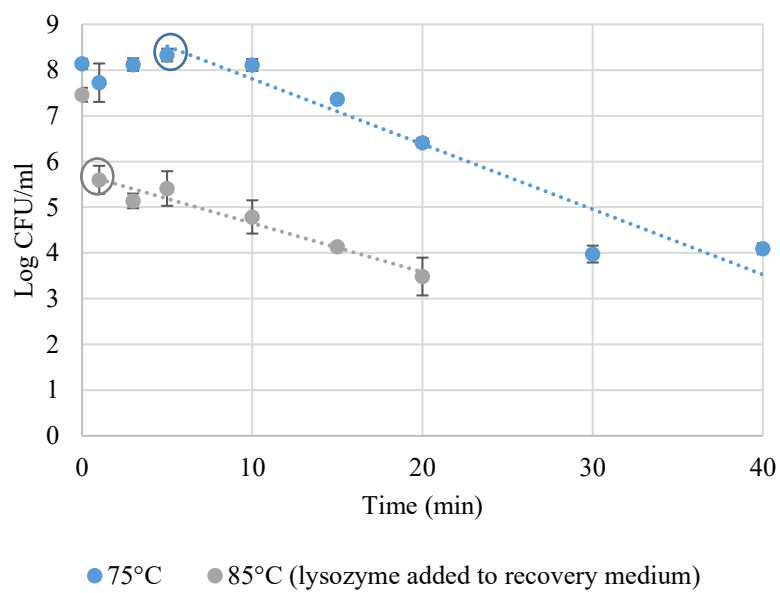
Reduction curves of CMCC3677 at 75°C and 85°C



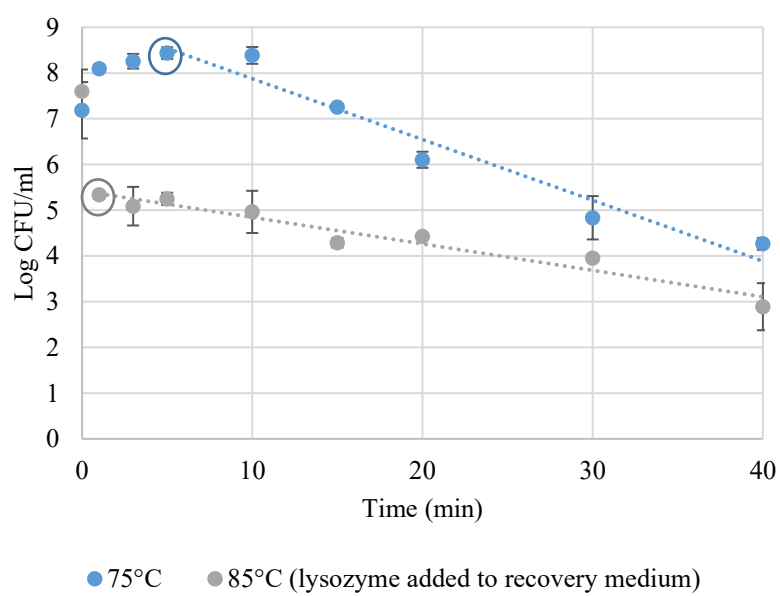
Reduction curves of VAP23 at 75°C and 85°C



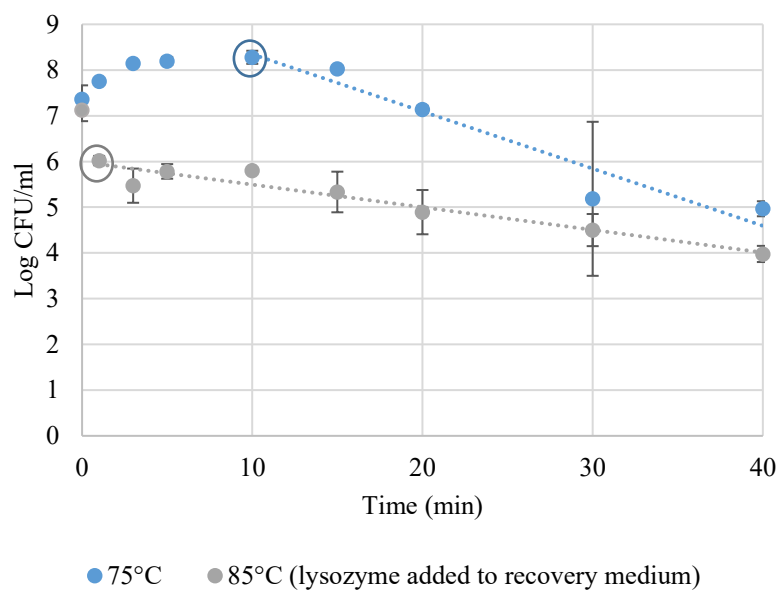
Reduction curves of VAP52 at 75°C and 85°C



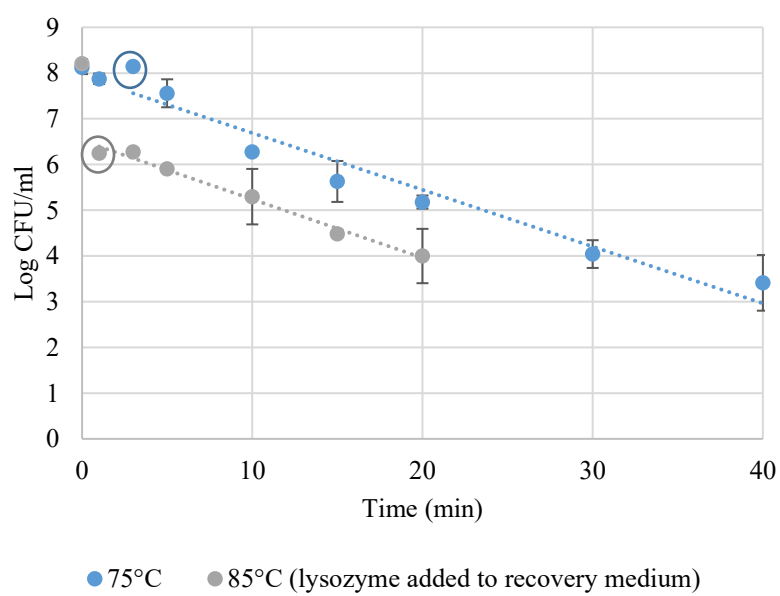
Reduction curves of RO3 at 75°C and 85°C



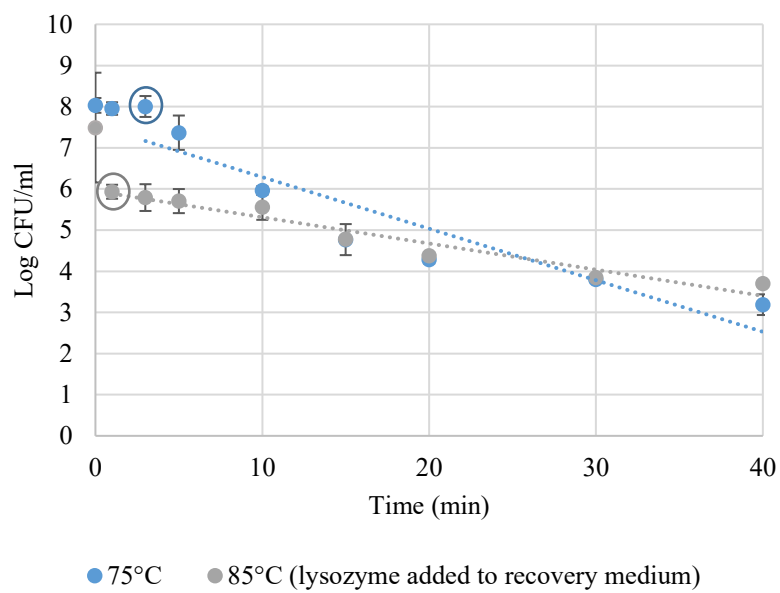
Reduction curves of ZBS20 at 75°C and 85°C



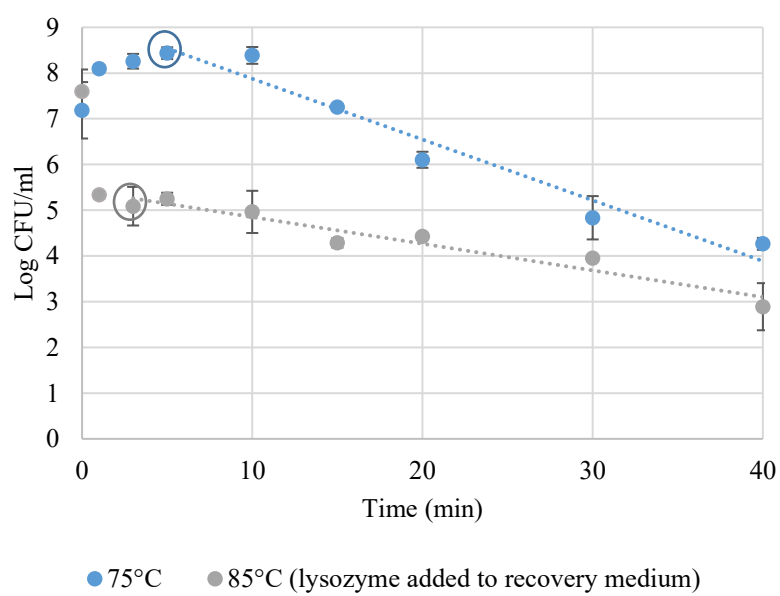
Reduction curves of VAP41 at 75°C and 85°C



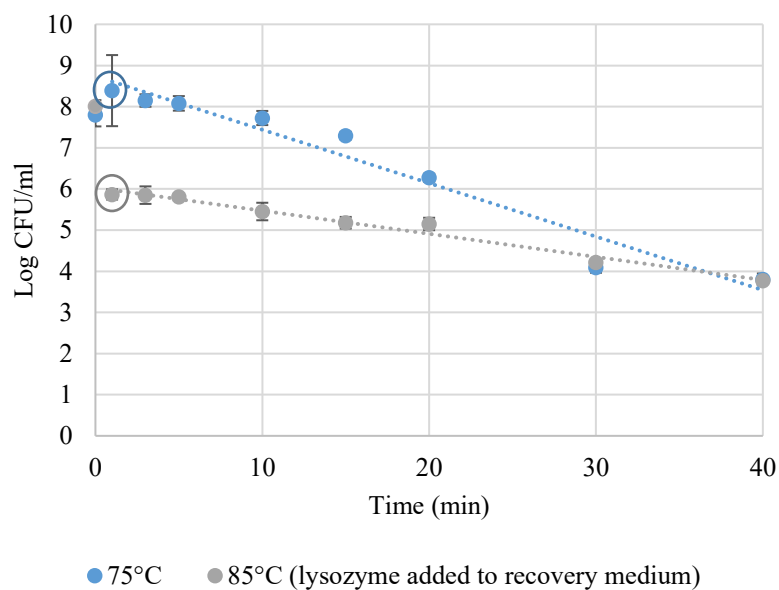
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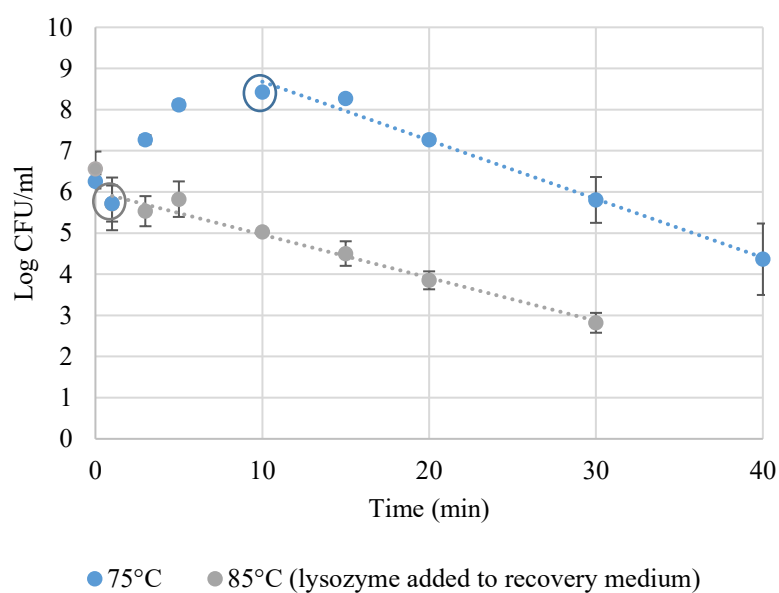
Reduction curves of KO2 at 75°C and 85°C



Reduction curves of VAP51 at 75°C and 85°C

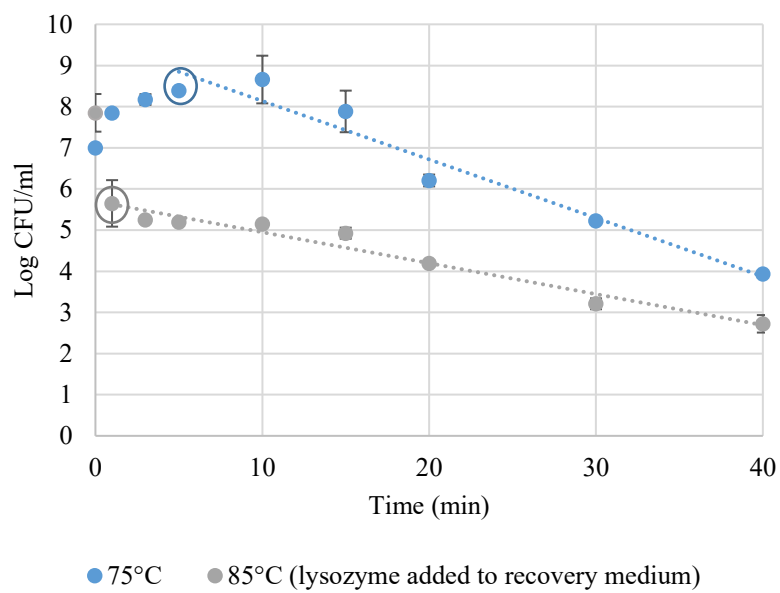


Reduction curves of ZBS17 at 75°C and 85°C

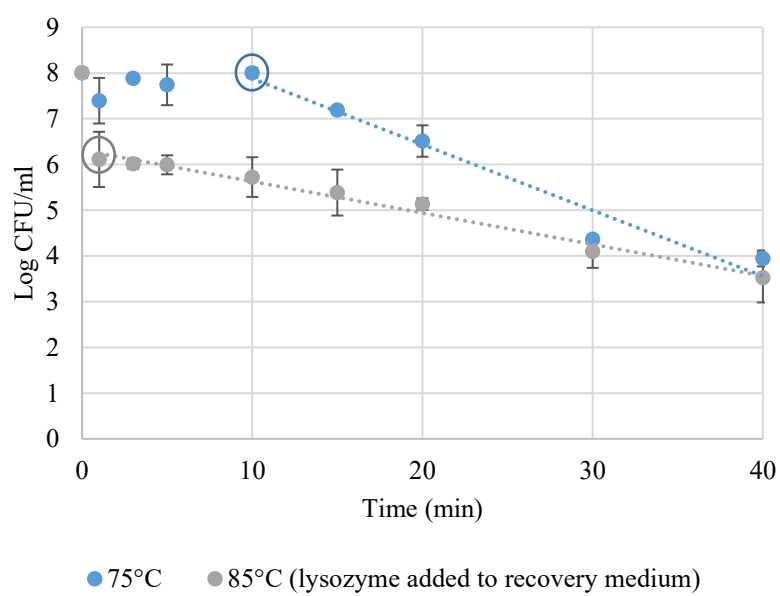




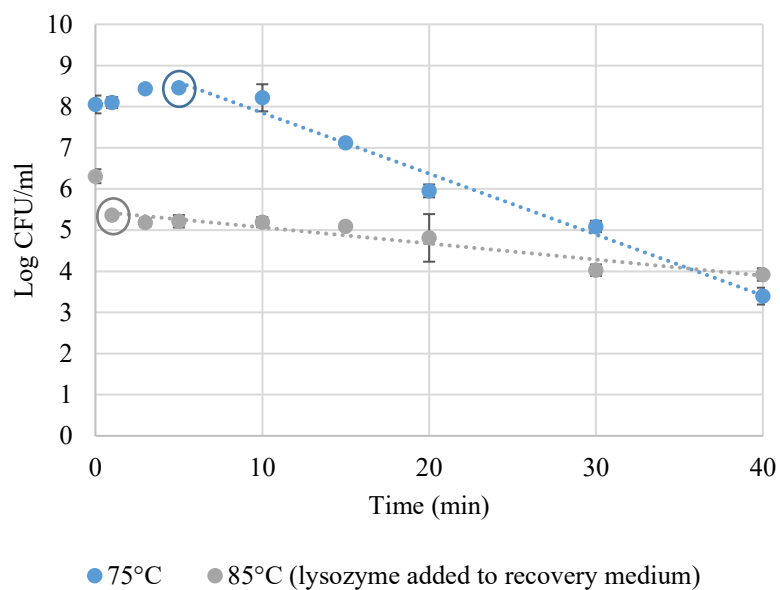
Reduction curves of ME22 at 75°C and 85°C



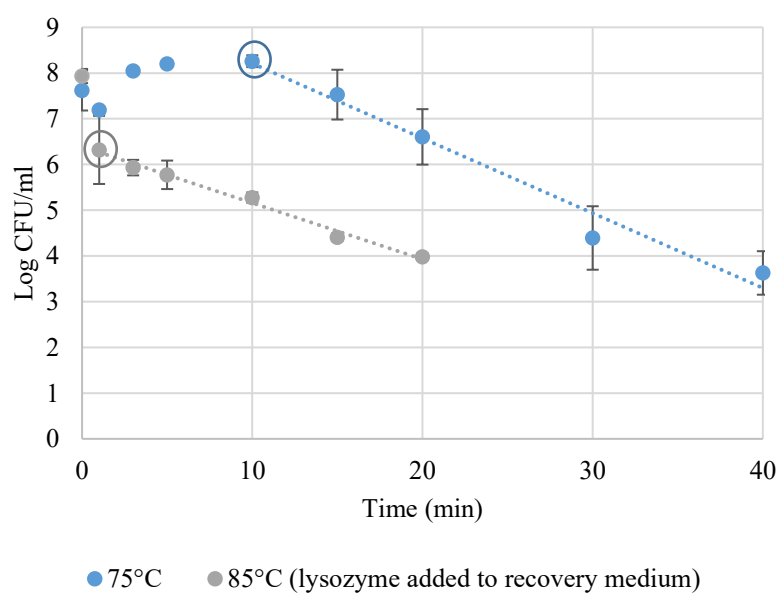
Reduction curves of ZBS13 at 75°C and 85°C



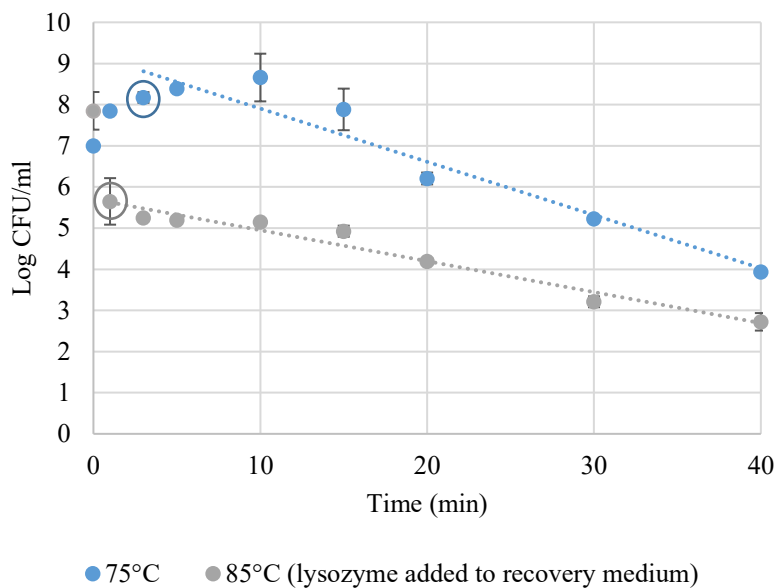
Reduction curves of EV3 at 75°C and 85°C



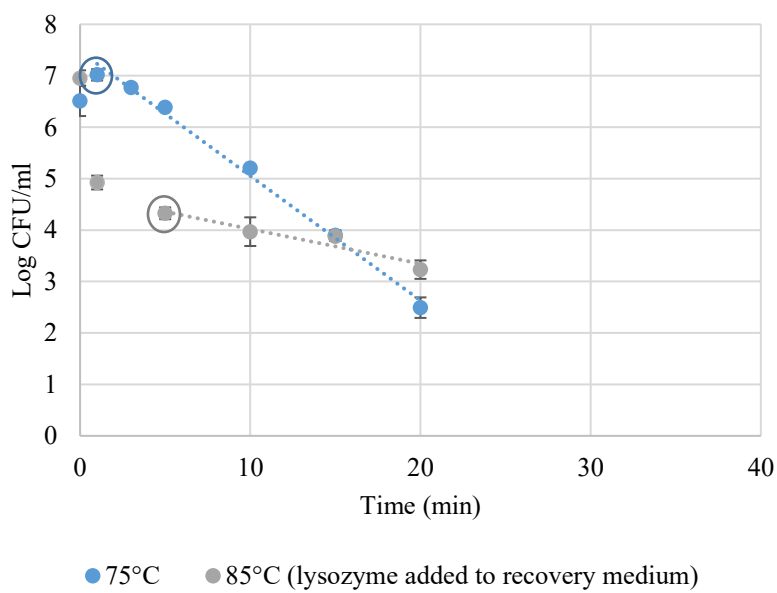
Reduction curves of ZBS18 at 75°C and 85°C



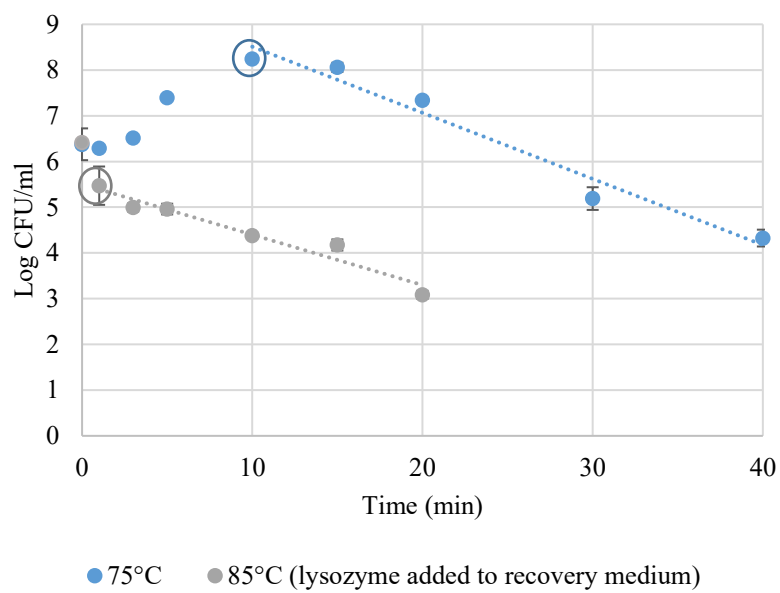
Reduction curves of ZBS2 at 75°C and 85°C



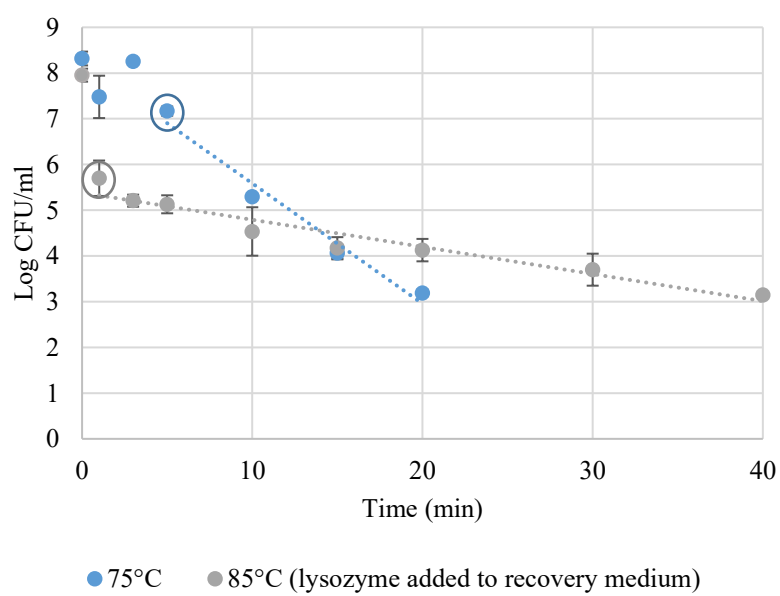
Reduction curves of ZBS14 at 75°C and 85°C



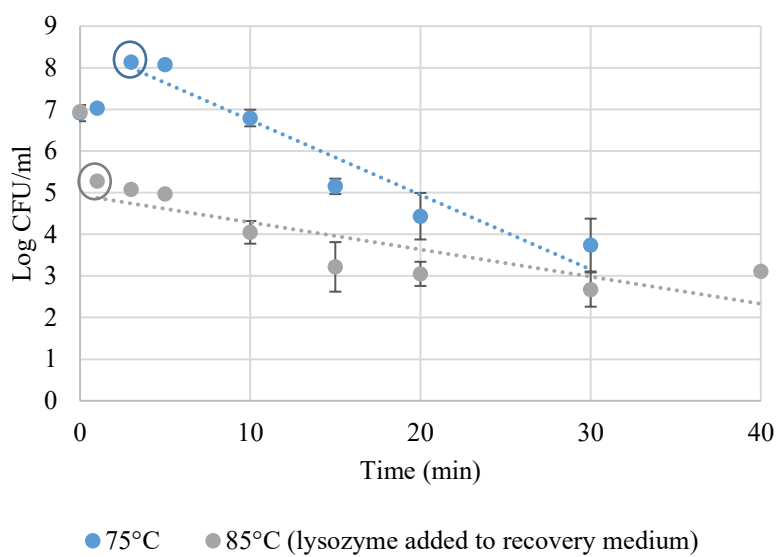
Reduction curves of RO132 at 75°C and 85°C



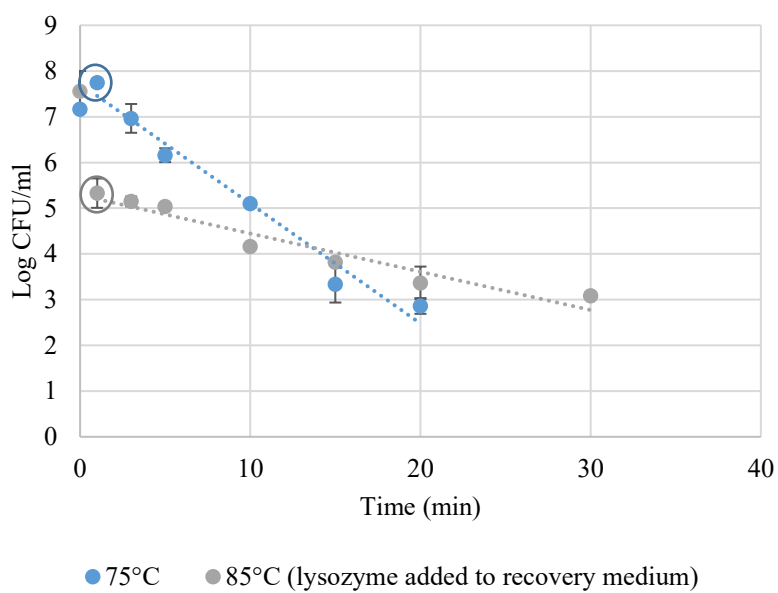
Reduction curves of MIL1 at 75°C and 85°C



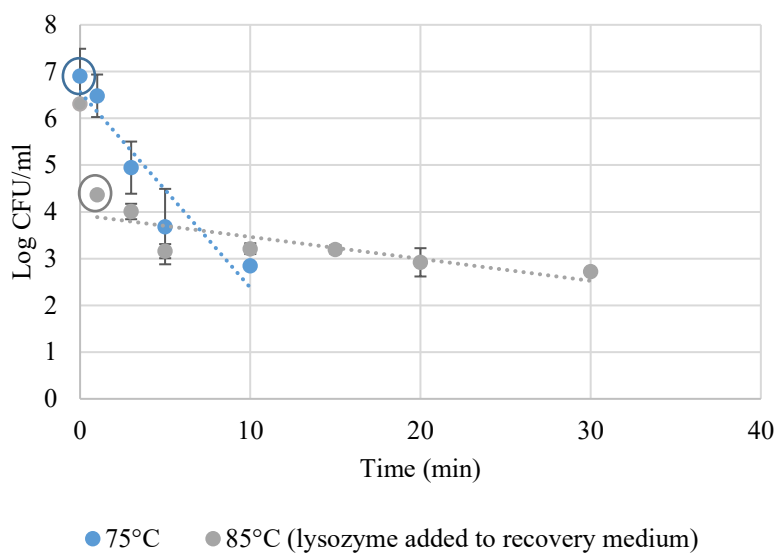
Reduction curves of CMCC3678 at 75°C and 85°C



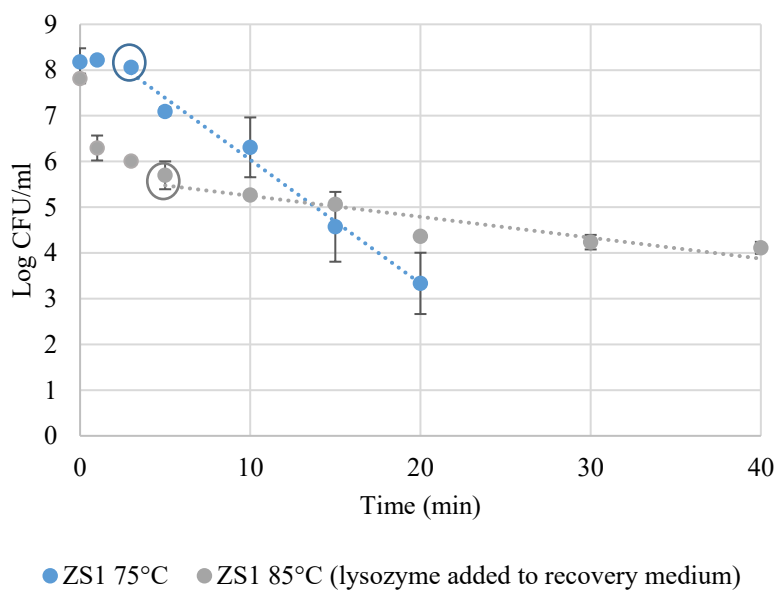
Reduction curves of ZBS12 at 75°C and 85°C

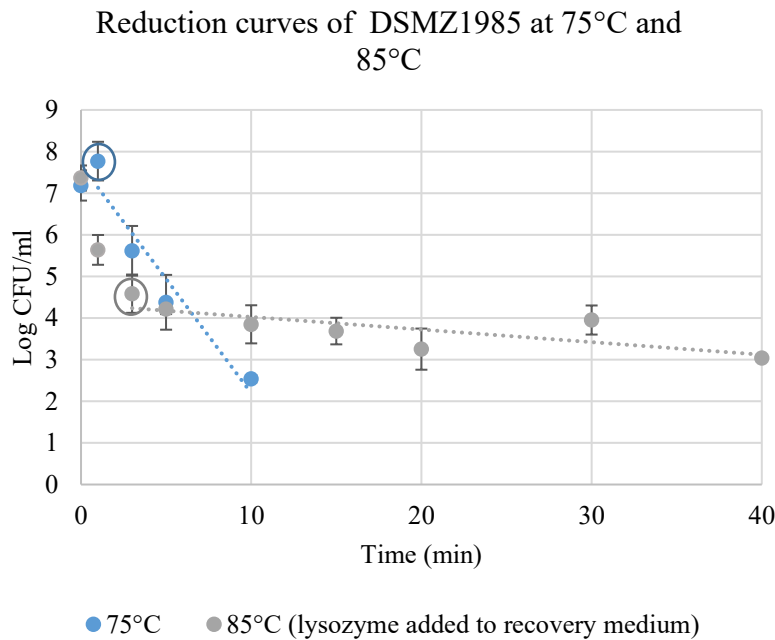
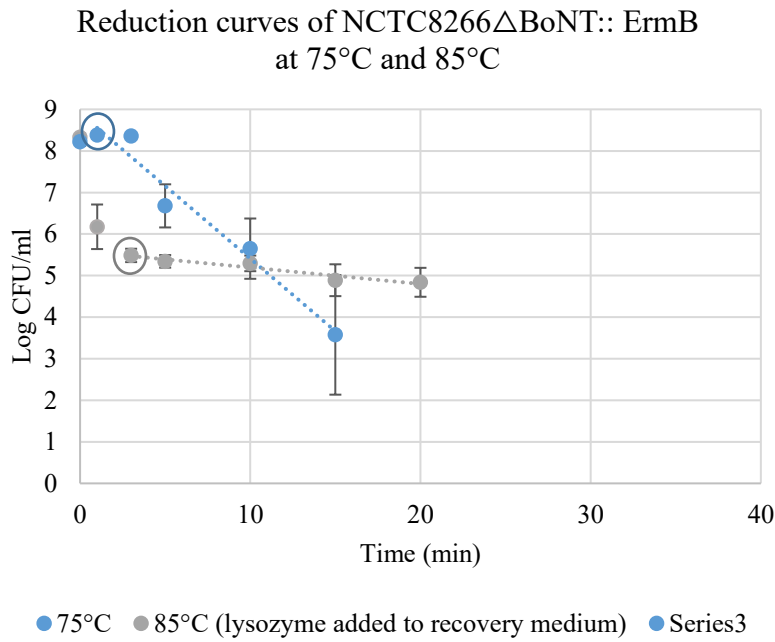


Reduction curves of NCTC11219 $\Delta$ BoNT:: ErmB  
at 75°C and 85°C



Reduction curves of ZS1 at 75°C and 85°C





**Figure S4** Reduction curves for heat inactivation of all nontoxic isolates, NCTC8266 $\Delta$ bont::ermB and NCTC11219 $\Delta$ bont::ermB. The recovery medium for spores treated at 85°C was supplemented with lysozyme (10  $\mu$ g/ml). D-values of biphasic curves were calculated from the second part of the curve, taking the circled data point as the start. Average values  $\pm$  STDEV from three replicates are shown.