

Supplementary Materials:

Fusaricidin Produced by *Paenibacillus polymyxa* WLY78 Induces Systemic Acquired Resistance against Fusarium wilt of Cucumber

Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Strains and plasmids.

| Strains and Plasmids | Description | Source |
|--|---|-----------|
| Bacterial Strains | | |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> DH5 α | <i>supE44</i> Δ <i>lacU169</i> (ϕ 80 <i>lacZ</i> Δ M15) <i>hsdR17 recA1 end A1 gyrA96 thi-1 relA1</i> | Solarbio |
| <i>Paenibacillus zanthoxyl</i> JH29 | Wild-type | [1] |
| <i>Paenibacillus beijngensis</i> 1-18 | Wild-type | [2] |
| <i>Paenibacillus sabiniae</i> T27 | Wild-type | [3] |
| <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> LJ02 | Wild-type | [4] |
| <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> L56 | Wild-type | [5] |
| <i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i> | | |
| WLY78 | Wild-type ACCC 03145 | ACCC |
| <i>fusA</i> mutant | Partial regions of <i>fusA</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>pabB</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>pabB</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>pmxA1</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>pmxA1</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>pbtC</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>pbtC</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>triE</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>triE</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>dhbE</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>dhbE</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>padeC</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>padeC</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| <i>paenC</i> mutant | Partial region of <i>paenC</i> deleted from the WLY78 genome | This work |
| Fungi | | |
| <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>cucumerium</i> | ACCC 30220 | ACCC |
| <i>Fusarium asiaticum</i> | ACCC 39255 | ACCC |
| <i>Fusarium moniliforme</i> | ACCC 30133 | ACCC |
| <i>Verticillium albo-atrum</i> | ACCC 30053 | ACCC |
| <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> | ACCC 31053 | ACCC |
| <i>Monilia persoon</i> | ACCC 37407 | ACCC |
| <i>Alternaria mali</i> | ACCC 30003 | ACCC |
| <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> | ACCC 30387 | ACCC |
| <i>Aspergillus niger</i> | ACCC 30005 | ACCC |
| Plasmids | | |
| pRN5101 | A temperature-sensitive shuttle vector containing the <i>ori</i> (Ts) and <i>erm</i> of pE194ts and the <i>oriEc</i> , <i>amp</i> and multicloning region of pBR322 | [6,7] |
| pHY300PLK | Multiple-copy <i>E. coli</i> - <i>Bacillus</i> shuttle vector, <i>Tet</i> ^R | TaKaRa |
| pRN5101-TFfusA | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core fusaricidin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFpabB | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core paenicidin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFpmxA1 | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core polymyxin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFpbtC | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core paenibacterin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFtriE | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core tridecaptin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFdhbE | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core bacillibactin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFpadeC | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core paeninodin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFpaenC | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of core paenibacillin synthesis gene | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusB | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusB</i> | This work |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|
| pRN5101-TFfusC | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusC</i> | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusD | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusD</i> | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusE | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusE</i> | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusF | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusF</i> | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusG | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusG</i> | This work |
| pRN5101-TFfusTE | pRN5101 ligated with two flanking homologous fragments of <i>fusTE</i> | This work |

Table S2. Primers for amplification of the homologous arms flanking the region of deletion in core genes.

| PCR Product | Primer | Oligonucleotide Sequences (5'-3') |
|---|---------|---|
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>fusA</i> | fusAUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCATCCGCGGAACGACCA |
| | fusAUr | TTCAGGATCTGATTCCGACGCCAAGCTATTATTGG |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>fusA</i> | fusADf | CGTCGGAATCAGATCCTGAATTAAGTATTG |
| | fusADr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGATGAATGACATGCAGTTATATG |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pabB</i> | pabBUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGTCCCTACATACATGATCTTATAG |
| | pabBUr | GGAAGTACATCCATTCCCATTAACCTC |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pabB</i> | pabBDf | TGGGAATGGATGTCAGTTCAAAAAGAATG |
| | pabBDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGGGAGTATATAATTATATTGCTCTACTG |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pmxA1</i> | pmxA1Uf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGTGGGAAGACCAATTTAAC |
| | pmxA1Ur | AAGCGCACAGTATAATCGTCGCTACCGAATTTTTT |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pmxA1</i> | pmxA1Df | GACGATTATACTGTGCGCTTACCTGGTC |
| | pmxA1Dr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGCGGGCTTTGCGCGTAAGC |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pbtC</i> | pbtCUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGATAGGCGCTTCATACTCTATTTC |
| | pbtCUr | TTATGGATAACAGTTTGATTTTAACGAAAATGATG |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>pbtC</i> | pbtCDf | AATCAAACCTGTTATCCATAAAGTCTCGTCCC |
| | pbtCDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGAATACTAAAGTAGTTAATGCCTAC |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>triE</i> | triEUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGTCCCTCCGTTGCGGCAA |
| | triEUr | CCTTTTTACCCTTATGGTAGAACATCGCAATGTCGTGC |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>triE</i> | triEDf | CTACCATAACGGTAAAAAGGAAATCGCATATTCATGCGGTTTG |
| | triEDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGTGGAGCTAGGGGCGGCTG |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>dhbE</i> | dhbEUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCTCCACGAACGTCACCCTTG |
| | dhbEUr | GAGGAATATCCGAAGACAGATACTCGTAATGAAAATG |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>dhbE</i> | dhbEDf | CTGTCTTGGGATATTCCTCTCTTTCTGTATCGTTC |
| | dhbEDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGCGAAGTGGCACTCCGAGAATG |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>padeC</i> | padeCUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGAGTTAGGGACTGTATGTG |
| | padeCUr | TCTATAGCTTTTGAATCTGTTCCGGTCAG |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>padeC</i> | padeCDf | ACAGATTCGAAAGCTATAGATTCCGGCAATC |
| | padeCDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGGCTTATCGACAAAATCCCC |
| 5' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>paenC</i> | paenCUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGAACTGTAGTAGCACAGG |
| | paenCUr | TACATGTACCCATCGAAAGCTTTTGCAC |
| 3' homologous arm flanking the region of deletion in <i>paenC</i> | paenCDf | GCTTTCGATGGGTACATGTAATTTTCCGAG |
| | paenCDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGCATTATGGAGATTGCATGATAAAAC |

Table S3. Primers for amplification of the homologous arms flanking the genes within the *fus* cluster.

| PCR Product | Primer | Oligonucleotide Sequences (5'-3') |
|------------------------|--------|--|
| <i>fusB</i> upstream | fusBUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCGACGTATGTTCTGGCAGCAG |
| | fusBUr | GAATAAGCCTCGGTGTGGAAGCGCACGT |
| <i>fusB</i> downstream | fusBDf | TTCCACACCGAGGCTTATCCCTTCCCAC |
| | fusBDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGGCAGGCGGTGGAGCAATC |
| <i>fusC</i> upstream | fusCUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCGGCTCATTTCCTGAATTAAGT |
| | fusCUr | CGTGGATACAGCCTGTGAGCGAAGAGCTAATC |
| <i>fusC</i> downstream | fusCDf | GCTCACAGGCTGTATCCACGTCCTTCGTTG |
| | fusCDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGGAAGAACACGAACCTTTCTGC |
| <i>fusD</i> upstream | fusDUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGAACGGGGGATGCTCCC |
| | fusDUr | TTTGGTATGAGAAGGACGTGGATACAGTGAGAAGACG |
| <i>fusD</i> downstream | fusDDf | CACGTCCTTCTCATACCAAACCTCTCTTTTC |
| | fusDDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGTATGGCTGTATTTCATGCC |
| <i>fusE</i> upstream | fusEUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGGCCGATCATGCCATTGCTC |
| | fusEUr | AGAATGTGCCATGACTGCGAGCTTTTTTCC |
| <i>fusE</i> downstream | fusEDf | TCGAGTCATGGCACATTCTCCCTTCC |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---|
| | fusEDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGCGCCATGAACTACCTACC |
| <i>fusF</i> upstream | fusFUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCTGGAGGAGATACGCTTG |
| | fusFUr | AGGGAACGTTCAAGATATTTACCAAAACCGC |
| <i>fusF</i> downstream | fusFDf | AAATATCTTGAACGTTCCCTCCTTACATC |
| | fusFDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGAAGCAACACAATTATTTTTGTG |
| <i>fusG</i> upstream | fusGUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCGACACCGTCCGCTGCT |
| | fusGUr | AAAGGTGGTTTCTGGAGGGAACGTTGTGCTTATTAC |
| <i>fusG</i> downstream | fusGDf | CGTTCCTCCAGAAACCACCTTTCTTTTTTACATTATTAAC |
| | fusGDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGGCGGTGTTATCACGGTG |
| <i>fusTE</i> upstream | fusTEUf | ACGATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGCATTGCGGAAGATCCCTAC |
| | fusTEUr | TATAAAGTCTAGAAAATCTACTCCTCTATATAGCTATAATTAATC |
| <i>fusTE</i> downstream | fusTEDf | AGATTTTCTAGGACTTTATATGTTAAGGACAG |
| | fusTEDr | GCGACCACACCCGTCCTGTGCCATTCCCTGAAAGTATTG |

Table S4. Primers for RT-PCR analysis.

| PCR Product | Primer | Oligonucleotide Sequences (5'-3') |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 intergenic spacer | 0f | GAGTTGTGCCCTTCAGCAG |
| | 0r | GCGGTGTTTCATCACGGTGA |
| 1 intergenic spacer | 1f | GTCGAGGGCTTCGAGCTTTG |
| | 1r | GAGCTTGATGCATTGGCGG |
| 2 intergenic spacer | 2f | CACCACAATATCAGCTGGC |
| | 2r | GTAGGCGAAGTGTGGATACG |
| 3 intergenic spacer | 3f | CAAGCGGCTTCACAAGTGAG |
| | 3r | GTTCAACTCTGGACAGGAC |
| 4 intergenic spacer | 4f | CAGTGACCGGTCCAATTC |
| | 4r | CTTGGGAAGAAACGGCTACG |
| 5 intergenic spacer | 5f | GTACCGGTGAGGAAGCACATC |
| | 5r | GGGTATTGTCGGCTCTGG |
| 6 intergenic spacer | 6f | GACTTCCAACCCGTAAGC |
| | 6r | GTTGATTGTGGAGTCGCTTGC |
| 7 intergenic spacer | 7f | CCTAAGGTCAATCCCTCCCC |
| | 7r | GATTGTCGAGACGGTGCTGG |
| 8 intergenic spacer | 8f | GTTGCTCCGTCAGGCTTTCCG |
| | 8r | CGTCCATGTTTCGCTTTCCG |

Table S5. Primers for qRT-PCR analysis.

| Gene | Forward Primer (5'-3') | Reverse Primer (5'-3') | Reference |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <i>NPR1</i> | TTACTGATAAGGGCAAGAAGGCC | AAAGTTCACAAAGAGCAGGATGG | [8] |
| <i>PR1</i> | TGCTCAACAATATGCGAACC | TCATCCACCCACAACCTGAAC | [9] |
| <i>PR2</i> | GGTGACCGTCAGCGGG | TTCCAACATTACAAGCTCTAAGA | [10] |
| <i>PR3</i> | GCCTTACTCCATAACATCACTCC | GATTTGATATCGAGTCTGGCT | [10] |
| <i>ETR1</i> | GCCATGTTGCAAAAGCAGA | GCCAAAGACCACTGCCACA | [11] |
| <i>EF1α</i> | ACTGTGCTGTCTCATTATTG | AGGGTGAAAGCAAGAAGAGC | [12] |

Table S6. Physiological and biochemical characteristics of *P. polymyxa* WLY78 and *fusA* mutant.

| Physiological and Biochemical Index | WLY78 | <i>fusA</i> Mutant |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Catalase activity | + | + |
| Nitrate reduction | + | + |
| H ₂ S produced | - | - |
| <i>V. Paenibacillus</i> Test | + | + |
| Growth in NaCl range at (% w/v) | 0-4% | 0-4% |
| Indole production | - | - |
| Egg yolk reaction | - | - |
| Anaerobic growth | - | - |
| Oxidase activity | - | - |
| Temperature for growth range | 15-42°C | 15-42°C |
| Motility | + | + |
| Hydrolysis of | | |
| Gelatin | + | + |
| Aesculin | + | + |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Casein | + | + |
| Tyrosine | - | - |
| Urea | - | - |
| Cellulose | + | + |
| Tween 20 | - | - |
| Tween 80 | - | - |
| Utilization of sole carbon source | | |
| Starch | + | + |
| Inositol | - | - |
| l-Arabinose | + | + |
| d-Trehalose | + | + |
| Glycerol | + | + |
| Ascorbic acid | + | + |
| Proline | + | + |
| Cystine | - | - |
| Threonine | - | - |
| Valine | - | - |
| Arginine | + | + |
| Citric acid | - | - |
| Sucrose | + | + |
| Xylose | + | + |
| Maltose | + | + |
| Tyrosine | - | - |
| Mannitol | + | + |
| Glucose | + | + |
| Sorbitol | + | + |
| Fructose | + | + |
| Oxalate | - | - |
| Galactose | + | + |
| Ribose | + | + |
| Glycogen | + | + |
| Rhamnose | - | - |
| Lysine | + | + |

“+” means positive; “-” means negative.

Table S7. Summary of genes from the paenicidin B biosynthetic gene cluster.

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>pabA</i> | 174 | AHF21230.1 (69) | Paenicidin B prepropeptide |
| <i>pabF</i> | 729 | AHF21231.1 (89) | ABC transporter ATP binding protein |
| <i>pabE</i> | 795 | AHF21232.1 (67) | ABC transporter membrane-bound subunit |
| <i>pabG</i> | 768 | AHF21233.1 (78) | ABC transporter membrane-bound subunit |
| <i>pabB</i> | 3180 | AHF21234.1 (76) | Lantibiotic dehydratase |
| <i>pabT</i> | 1884 | AHF21235.1 (87) | Lantibiotic ABC transporter |
| <i>pabC</i> | 1383 | AHF21236.1 (80) | Lantibiotic cyclase |

Table S8. Summary of genes from the polymyxin biosynthetic gene cluster.

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>pmxA1</i> | 13473 | ACA97576.1 (95) | Polymyxin synthetase |
| <i>pmxA2</i> | 5115 | ACA97576.1 (96) | Polymyxin synthetase |
| <i>pmxB</i> | 3309 | ACA97577.1 (96) | Polymyxin synthetase |
| <i>pmxC</i> | 1827 | ACA97578.1 (98) | Transporter-like protein |
| <i>pmxD</i> | 1734 | ACA97579.1 (99) | Transporter-like protein |
| <i>pmxE</i> | 18768 | ACA97580.1 (96) | Polymyxin synthetase |

Table S9. Summary of genes from the paenibacterin biosynthetic gene cluster

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>orf1</i> | 723 | AJE53773.1 (100) | Thioesterase |
| <i>pbtA</i> | 10110 | AGM16413.1 (46) | Paenibacterin synthetase B |
| <i>pbtC</i> | 17319 | AGM16414.1 (47) | Paenibacterin synthetase C |
| <i>orf4</i> | 8640 | WP_049816874.1 (100) | Hybrid non-ribosomal peptide synthetase/type I polyketide synthase |
| <i>plpA</i> | 867 | AFJ14790.1 (64) | Diaminobutyrate-2-oxoglutarate aminotransferase |

Table S10. Summary of genes from the tridecaptin biosynthetic gene cluster

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>triE</i> | 11220 | AHF21229.1 (91) | Tridecaptin non-ribosomal peptide synthetase |
| <i>triD3</i> | 17490 | AHF21228.1 (92) | Tridecaptin non-ribosomal peptide synthetase |
| <i>triD2</i> | 2940 | AHF21228.1 (91) | Tridecaptin non-ribosomal peptide synthetase |
| <i>triD1</i> | 28113 | AHF21228.1 (88) | Tridecaptin non-ribosomal peptide synthetase |
| <i>triC</i> | 1875 | AHF21227.1 (89) | Diaminobutyrate-2-oxoglutarate aminotransferase |
| <i>TriB</i> | 1896 | AHF21226.1 (87) | ABC transporter |
| <i>TriA</i> | 825 | AHF21225.1 (86) | Thioesterase |

Table S11. Summary of genes from the bacillibactin biosynthetic gene cluster

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>mbtH</i> | 219 | CAX52685.1 (65) | Stimulator of DhbF tyrosine adenylation activity |
| <i>dhbF2</i> | 2547 | ABS75232.1 (98) | Amino acid adenylation domain-containing protein |
| <i>dhbF1</i> | 4899 | ABS75232.1 (54) | Amino acid adenylation domain-containing protein |
| <i>dhbB</i> | 1053 | ABS75233.1 (60) | Isochorismatase |
| <i>dhbE</i> | 1656 | ABS75234.1 (70) | Adenylate synthase |
| <i>dhbC</i> | 1287 | ABS75235.1 (52) | Isochorismate synthase |
| <i>dhbA</i> | 786 | ABS75236.1 (62) | 2,3-Dihydro-2,3-dihydroxybenzoate Dehydrogenase |

Table S12. Summary of genes from the paeninodin biosynthetic gene cluster

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>orf1</i> | 1494 | WP_069011102.1 (99) | Nucleotidyltransferase family protein |
| <i>padeB2</i> | 486 | WP_029516230.1 (100) | Lasso peptide biosynthesis B2 |
| <i>orf2</i> | 303 | WP_029516229.1 (100) | Lasso peptide biosynthesis PqqD family chaperone |
| <i>orf3</i> | 1044 | WP_029516228.1 (99) | Serine kinase |
| <i>orf4</i> | 129 | WP_134902123.1 (100) | Paeninodin family lasso peptide |
| <i>padeC</i> | 1926 | WP_029516227.1 (99) | Asparagine synthetase B |

Table S13. Summary of genes from the paenibacillin biosynthetic gene cluster

| Gene | Length (bp) | Highest BLAST Hit (% Identity) | Predicted Product |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>paenN</i> | 759 | AFS60110.1 (98) | Putative acetylase |
| <i>agrC</i> | 780 | AFS60109.1 (98) | Response regulator |
| <i>agrA</i> | 1329 | AFS60108.1 (100) | Histidine kinase |
| <i>agrD</i> | 165 | AFS60107.1 (100) | Auto-inducing peptide |
| <i>agrB</i> | 591 | AFS60106.1 (97) | Accessory gene regulator B |
| <i>paenT</i> | 1782 | AFS60105.1 (99) | ATP-binding cassette transporter |
| <i>paenI</i> | 558 | AFS60104.1 (100) | Putative immunity protein |
| <i>paenC</i> | 1272 | AFS60103.1 (99) | Lantibiotic cyclase |
| <i>paenB</i> | 3084 | AFS60102.1 (99) | Lantibiotic dehydratase |
| <i>paenP</i> | 942 | AFS60101.1 (100) | Peptidase |
| <i>paenA</i> | 162 | AFS60100.1 (100) | Paenibacillin prepropeptide |

Supplementary Figures

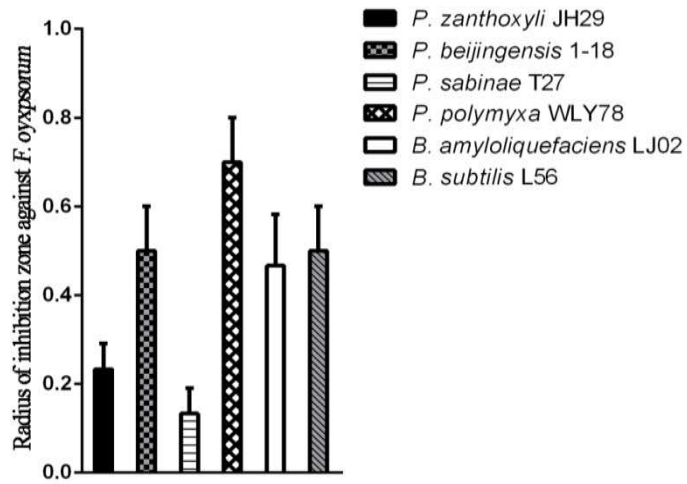


Figure 1. *P. polymyxa* WLY78 exhibits excellent antifungal activity against *F. oxysporum*. The results shown are the means \pm standard deviation of a representative experiment that was repeated three times.

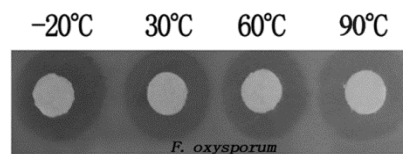


Figure 2. Methanol extracts from *P. polymyxa* WLY78 cells exhibits heat-stable antifungal activity against *F. oxysporum*.

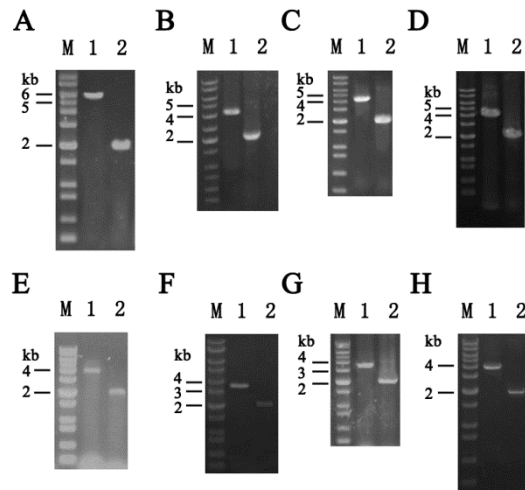


Figure 3. Agarose gel electrophoresis analysis of the disruption of genes *fusA* (A), *pabB* (B), *pmxA1* (C), *pbtC* (D), *triE* (E), *dhbE* (F), *padeC* (G) and *paenC* (H) in *P. polymyxa* WLY78. M indicates 1 kb plus DNA marker. Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *fusAUf/fusADr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *fusAUf/fusADr* using *fusA*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *fusA*⁻ mutant was ~3.7 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *fusA* gene (A). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pabBUf/pabBDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pabBUf/pabBDr* using *pabB*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *pabB*⁻ mutant was ~2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *pabB* gene (B). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pmxA1Uf/pmxA1Dr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pmxA1Uf/pmxA1Dr* using *pmxA1*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *pmxA1*⁻ mutant was 2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *pmxA1* gene (C). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pbtCUf/pbtCDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *pbtCUf/pbtCDr* using *pbtC*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *pbtC*⁻ mutant was ~2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *pbtC* gene (D). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *triEUf/triEDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *triEUf/triEDr* using *triE*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *triE*⁻ mutant was ~2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *triE* gene (E). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *dhbEUf/dhbEDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *dhbEUf/dhbEDr* using *dhbE*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *dhbE*⁻ mutant was ~1.6 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *dhbE* gene (F). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *padeCUf/padeCDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *padeCUf/padeCDr* using *padeC*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *padeC*⁻ mutant was ~1.9 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *padeC* gene (G). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *paenCUf/paenCDr* using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers *paenCUf/paenCDr* using *paenC*⁻ mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from *paenC*⁻ mutant was ~2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of partial *paenC* gene (H).

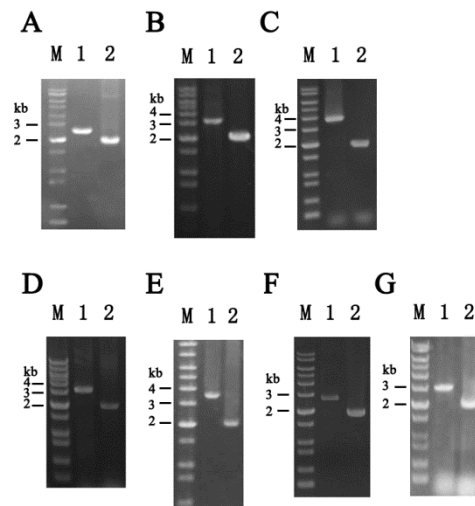


Figure 4. Agarose gel electrophoresis analysis of the deletion of genes *fusB* (A), *fusC* (B), *fusD* (C), *fusE* (D), *fusF* (E), *fusG* (F) and *fusTE* (G) in *P. polymyxa* WLY78. M indicates 1 kb plus DNA marker. Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusBUf/fusBDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusBUf/fusBDr using Δ *fusB* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusB* mutant was ~0.4 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusB* gene (A). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusCUf/fusCDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusCUf/fusCDr using Δ *fusC* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusC* mutant was ~1.2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusC* gene (B). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusDUf/fusDDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusDUf/fusDDr using Δ *fusD* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusD* mutant was ~1.7 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusD* gene (C). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusEUf/fusEDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusEUf/fusEDr using Δ *fusE* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusE* mutant was ~1.2 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusE* gene (D). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusFUf/fusFDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusFUf/fusFDr using Δ *fusF* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusF* mutant was ~1.4 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusF* gene (E). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusGUf/fusGDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusGUf/fusGDr using Δ *fusG* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusG* mutant was ~0.7 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusG* gene (F). Lane 1 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusTEUf/fusTEDr using wild-type WLY78 DNA as template and lane 2 indicates PCR fragments amplified by primers fusTEUf/fusTEDr using Δ *fusTE* mutant DNA as template. Compared with that amplified from wild-type WLY78, amplicon from Δ *fusTE* mutant was ~1 kb smaller, confirming deletion of *fusTE* gene (G).

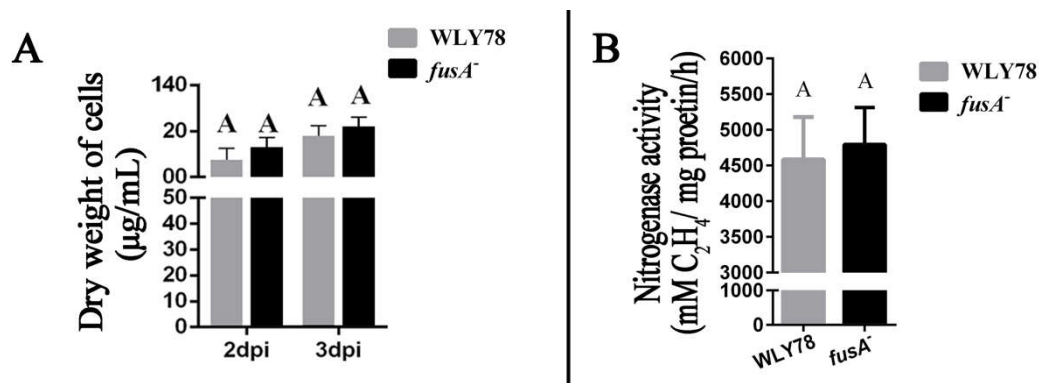


Figure 5. Dry weight of *P. polymyxa* WLY78 and the *fusA* mutant cells collected from the KL broth (A). The nitrogenase activities of *P. polymyxa* WLY78 and the *fusA* mutant under nitrogen-limited conditions (B). Error bars indicate standard deviation among triplicates. Different letters indicate significant difference at $P < 0.01$ according to Duncan multiple range test.

Supplementary Reference

1. Ma, Y. C.; Zhang, J.; Chen, S. F., *Paenibacillus zanthoxyl* sp. nov., a novel nitrogen-fixing species isolated from the rhizosphere of *Zanthoxylum simulans*. *Int. J. Syst. Evol. Microbiol.* **2007**, *57*, (4), 873-877.
2. Gao, M.; Xie, L. Q.; Wang, Y. X.; Chen, J.; Xu, J.; Zhang, X.; Sui, X. H.; Gao, J. L.; Sun, J. G., *Paenibacillus beijingensis* sp. nov., a novel nitrogen-fixing species isolated from jujube garden soil. *Antonie Van Leeuwenhoek* **2012**, *102*, (4), 689-694.
3. Hong, Y.; Ma, Y.; Wu, L.; Maki, M.; Qin, W.; Chen, S., Characterization and analysis of *nifH* genes from *Paenibacillus sabiniae* T27. *Microbiol. Res.* **2012**, *167*, (10), 596-601.
4. Li, Y.; Gu, Y.; Li, J.; Xu, M.; Wei, Q.; Wang, Y., Biocontrol agent *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* LJ02 induces systemic resistance against cucurbits powdery mildew. *Front. Microbiol.* **2015**, *6*, 883.
5. Li, Y. B.; Shi, H. W.; Zhang, H. W.; Chen, S. F., Amerlioration of drought effects in wheat and cucumber by combined application of super absorbent polymer and poential biofertilizer. *PeerJ* **2018**, *7*, e6073.
6. Villafane, R.; Bechhofer, D. H.; Narayanan, C. S.; Dubnau, D., Replication control genes of plasmid pE194. *J. Bacteriol.* **1987**, *169*, (10), 4822-4829.
7. Lereclus, D.; Vallade, M.; Chaufaux, J.; Arantes, O.; Rambaud, S., Expansion of insecticidal host range of *Bacillus thuringiensis* by in vivo genetic recombination. *Bio/technology* **1992**, *10*, (4), 418-421.
8. Xiaoming Pu; Bingyan Xie; Peiqian Li; Zhenchuan Mao; Jian Ling; Huifang Shen; Jingxin Zhang; Ning Huang; Lin, B., Analysis of the defence-related mechanism in cucumber seedlings in relation to root colonization by nonpathogenic *Fusarium oxysporum* CS-20. *FEMS Microbiol. Lett.* **2014**, *355*, (2), 142-151.
9. Alizadeh, H.; Behboudi, K.; Ahmadzadeh, M.; Javan-Nikkhah, M.; Zamioudis, C.; Pieterse, C. M. J.; Bakker, P. A. H. M., Induced systemic resistance in cucumber and *Arabidopsis thaliana* by the combination of *Trichoderma harzianum* Tr6 and *Pseudomonas* sp. Ps14. *Biol. Control* **2013**, *65*, (1), 14-23.
10. Sang, M. K.; Kim, K. D., Biocontrol activity and primed systemic resistance by compost water extracts against anthracnoses of pepper and cucumber. *Phytopathology* **2011**, *101*, (6), 732-740.
11. Shores, M.; Yedidia, I.; Chet, I., Involvement of jasmonic acid/ethylene signaling pathway in the systemic resistance induced in cucumber by *Trichoderma asperellum* T203. *Phytopathology* **2005**, *95*, (1), 76-84.
12. Wan, H.; Zhao, Z.; Qian, C.; Sui, Y.; Malik, A. A.; Chen, J., Selection of appropriate reference genes for gene expression studies by quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction in cucumber. *Anal. Biochem.* **2010**, *399*, (2), 257-261.