

## Variation and inheritance of the *Xanthomonas* gene cluster required for activation of XA21-mediated immunity

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**Running head:** *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster in *Xanthomonas* spp.

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## Summary

1 The rice XA21-mediated immune response is activated upon recognition of the RaxX peptide  
2 produced by the bacterium *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (*Xoo*). The 60 residue RaxX  
3 precursor is posttranslationally modified to form a sulfated tyrosine peptide that shares sequence  
4 and functional similarity with the plant sulfated tyrosine (PSY) peptide hormones. The five kb  
5 *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster of *Xoo* encodes RaxX, the RaxST tyrosylprotein sulfotransferase,  
6 and the RaxA and RaxB components of a predicted type one secretion system. The identified the  
7 complete *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster is present only in *Xanthomonas* spp., in five distinct  
8 lineages in addition to *X. oryzae*. The phylogenetic distribution of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene  
9 cluster is consistent with the occurrence of multiple lateral transfer events during *Xanthomonas*  
10 speciation. RaxX variants representing each of the five lineages, and three *Xoo* RaxX variants,  
11 fail to activate the XA21-mediated immune response yet retain peptide hormone activity. These  
12 RaxX variants contain a restricted set of missense mutations, consistent with the hypothesis that  
13 selection acts to maintain peptide hormone-like function. These observations are also consistent  
14 with the hypothesis that the XA21 receptor evolved specifically to recognize *Xoo* RaxX.

## INTRODUCTION

15 Host receptors activate innate immunity pathways upon pathogen recognition (Ronald & Beutler,  
16 2010). The gene encoding the rice XA21 receptor kinase (Song *et al.*, 1995) confers resistance  
17 against most strains of the gamma-proteobacterium *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (*Xoo*)  
18 (Wang *et al.*, 1996). This well-studied XA21-*Xoo* interaction provides a basis from which to  
19 understand molecular and evolutionary mechanisms of host-microbe interactions.

20 Four *Xoo* genes that are required for activation of XA21-mediated immunity, are located in the  
21 *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster (**Fig. 1**). The 60-residue RaxX predicted precursor protein  
22 undergoes sulfation by the RaxST tyrosylprotein sulfotransferase at residue Tyr-41 (Pruitt *et al.*,  
23 2015). We hypothesize that the RaxB proteolytic maturation and ATP-dependent peptide  
24 secretion complex (da Silva *et al.*, 2004) further processes the sulfated RaxX precursor by  
25 removing its double-glycine leader peptide prior to secretion (Holland *et al.*, 2016). Located  
26 outside the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster, the *raxC* gene, an ortholog of the *tolC* gene, encodes the  
27 predicted outer membrane channel for this secretion complex (da Silva *et al.*, 2004). Finally, the  
28 *raxPQ* genes encode enzymes to assimilate sulfate into 3'-phosphaadenosine 5'-phosphasulfate  
29 (PAPS) (Shen *et al.*, 2002), the sulfodonor for the RaxST sulfotransferase (Han *et al.*, 2012).

30 In both plants and animals, the post-translational modification catalyzed by tyrosylprotein  
31 sulfotransferase is restricted to a subset of cell surface and secreted proteins that influence a  
32 variety of eukaryotic physiological processes (Matsubayashi, 2014, Stone *et al.*, 2009). For  
33 example, tyrosine sulfation of the chemokine receptors CCR5 and CXCR4 is essential for their

34 functions including as coreceptors for the human immunodeficiency virus gp120 envelope  
35 glycoprotein (Farzan *et al.*, 1999, Kleist *et al.*, 2016). In plants, sulfated tyrosine peptides  
36 influence cellular proliferation and expansion in root growth, and/or plant immune signaling  
37 (Matsubayashi, 2014, Tang *et al.*, 2017). In contrast to these and other examples of protein  
38 tyrosine sulfation in animals and plants, RaxX sulfation by the RaxST enzyme is the only  
39 example of tyrosine sulfation documented in bacteria (Pruitt *et al.*, 2015, Han *et al.*, 2012).

40 Mature RaxX is predicted to comprise the carboxyl-terminal residues 40-60, numbered according  
41 to the precursor protein (Pruitt *et al.*, 2015, Pruitt *et al.*, 2017). RaxX residues 40-52 share  
42 sequence similarity with mature plant peptide containing sulfated tyrosine (PSY) hormones  
43 (Pruitt *et al.*, 2015, Amano *et al.*, 2007, Pruitt *et al.*, 2017). RaxX, like PSY1, can enhance root  
44 growth in diverse plant species (Pruitt *et al.*, 2017). The XA21-mediated response in rice  
45 requires residues 40-55 (RaxX16 peptide), whereas plant growth stimulation requires only  
46 residues 40-52 (RaxX13 peptide) (Pruitt *et al.*, 2015). **Fig. 2** shows sequences for the RaxX  
47 variants examined in this study, together with two representative PSY sequences for comparison.

48 RaxX sequences generally are well conserved within different *Xanthomonas* species (Pruitt *et al.*,  
49 2017). In *Xoo* however, RaxX from a strain IXO685, which evades XA21-mediated immunity  
50 differs from active RaxX at the critical positions Pro-44 and Pro-48 (**Fig. 2**) (Pruitt *et al.*, 2015).  
51 Nevertheless, this RaxX protein stimulates root growth, as do two other RaxX Pro-48 variants  
52 from other *Xanthomonas* spp. (Fig. 6 in (Pruitt *et al.*, 2017)).

53 These results suggest that RaxX recognition by XA21 is restrained by different sequence and  
54 length requirements compared to its recognition by the root growth promoting receptor(s) for  
55 PSY hormone(s). It also suggests that recognition of RaxX by XA21 is specific to *Xoo*, whereas  
56 PSY mimicry is a general feature of RaxX from other *Xanthomonas* spp. Accordingly, we  
57 hypothesized that PSY hormone mimicry is the original function of RaxX, whereas immune  
58 recognition by XA21 evolved later in response to *Xoo* (Pruitt et al., 2017).

59 Two general predictions derive from this hypothesis. The first prediction, that PSY hormone  
60 mimicry is broadly selective, is supported here by the presence of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster  
61 *Xanthomonas* spp., and by the ability of all RaxX variants tested to stimulate root growth in an  
62 assay for PSY function. The second prediction, that recognition by XA21 is restricted to *X.*  
63 *oryzae* lineages, is validated here by the observation that XA21-mediated immunity is not  
64 activated by RaxX variants from other *Xanthomonas* spp. These results illustrate how a  
65 pathogen protein has evolved to retain its ability to modulate host physiology without being  
66 recognized by the host immune system.

## RESULTS

### **The *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster is present in a subset of *Xanthomonas* spp.**

67 We searched databases at the National Center for Biotechnology Information to identify bacterial  
68 genomes with the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster. We found the intact *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster  
69 exclusively in *Xanthomonas* spp., and ultimately detected it in more than 200 unique genome  
70 sequences (**File. S1**) among 413 accessed through the RefSeq database (O'Leary *et al.*, 2016).

71 *Xanthomonas* taxonomy has undergone several changes over the years (Vauterin *et al.*, 2000,  
72 Young, 2008) (see (Midha & Patil, 2014) for a representative example). At one point, many  
73 strains were denoted as pathovars of either *X. campestris* or *X. axonopodis*, but today over 20  
74 species are distinguished, several with multiple pathovars (Rademaker *et al.*, 2005, Vauterin *et*  
75 *al.*, 1995). Because many of the genome sequences we examined are from closely-related strains,  
76 in some cases associated with different species designations, we constructed a whole-genome  
77 phylogenetic tree as described in Materials and Methods in order to organize these sequences by  
78 relatedness (**Fig. S1**). The topology of the resulting tree shares broad similarity with several  
79 other *Xanthomonas* phylogenetic trees in defining relationships between well-sampled species  
80 (Midha & Patil, 2014, Rademaker *et al.*, 2005, Hauben *et al.*, 1997, Parkinson *et al.*, 2007,  
81 Parkinson *et al.*, 2009, Ferreira-Tonin *et al.*, 2012, Gardiner *et al.*, 2014, Triplett *et al.*, 2015,  
82 Young, 2008).

83 To examine *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster organization and inheritance more closely, we selected  
84 15 genomes from strains that represent the phylogenetic range of *Xanthomonas* spp. (**Table 1**  
85 and **Fig. S1**). Where possible, we chose complete genome sequences that are accompanied by  
86 published descriptions. Throughout the analyses described below, species for which relatively  
87 large numbers of sequences are available also were monitored broadly for exceptional features.  
88 The close relative *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, which does not contain the *raxX-raxSTAB*  
89 gene cluster, serves as the outgroup (Moore *et al.*, 1997).

90 To facilitate discussion, we represent phylogenetic relationships between these strains as a  
91 cladogram that emphasizes relative positions of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive lineages  
92 (**Fig. 3**). Six distinct *Xanthomonas* lineages contain the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster, one being *X.*  
93 *oryzae*. A second lineage includes related strains currently denoted as *X. vasicola* or *X.*  
94 *campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Aritua *et al.*, 2008); for concise presentation, we refer to these  
95 collectively as *X. vasicola*. The third lineage includes *X. euvesicatoria* and related species  
96 (Rademaker group 9.2; (Rademaker *et al.*, 2005, Barak *et al.*, 2016). The fourth lineage includes  
97 strains denoted as *X. axonopodis*, such as pv. *manihotis* (Rademaker group 9.4; (Rademaker *et*  
98 *al.*, 2005, Mhedbi-Hajri *et al.*, 2013). The fifth lineage includes *X. translucens* (Langlois *et al.*,  
99 2017), within the distinct cluster of "early-branching" species whose divergence from the  
100 remainder apparently occurred relatively early during *Xanthomonas* speciation (Parkinson *et al.*,  
101 2007). The sixth lineage comprises *X. maliensis*, associated with but nonpathogenic on rice  
102 (Triplett *et al.*, 2015). Phylogenetic analyses place this species between the "early-branching"  
103 species and the remainder (Triplett *et al.*, 2015).

104 Notably, the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster is absent from the group of strains classified as *X. citri*  
105 pathovars (Rademaker group 9.5; (Rademaker et al., 2005, Bansal *et al.*, 2017). These strains  
106 (some of which are denoted as *X. axonopodis* or *X. campestris*) cluster phylogenetically among  
107 four of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive groups: *X. oryzae*, *X. vasicola*, *X. euvesicatoria*  
108 and *X. axonopodis* pv. *manihotis* (Midha & Patil, 2014, Vauterin et al., 1995, Rademaker et al.,  
109 2005). The simplest explanation for this pattern is that the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster was lost  
110 from an ancestor of the *X. citri* lineage (**Fig. 3**); other explanations are not excluded.

### **Sequence conservation of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster suggests lateral transfer between *Xanthomonas* spp.**

111 Both the organization and size of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster are conserved across all six  
112 lineages. To assess inheritance patterns, we constructed a phylogenetic tree for the *raxX-*  
113 *raxSTAB* gene cluster (as the catenation of the four *rax* genes; **Fig. 4**) (Kuo & Ochman, 2009).  
114 The *rax* genes in *X. translucens*, in the early-branching group, cluster separately from their  
115 homologs in the other lineages. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that *X. translucens*  
116 acquired the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster relatively early during *Xanthomonas* speciation. For *X.*  
117 *maliensis*, the *raxX-raxSTAB* genes are most similar to those from *X. euvesicatoria* and the *X.*  
118 *axonopodis* pathovars *manihotis* and *phaseoli* (**Fig. 4**), even though the *X. maliensis* genome  
119 sequence itself is more distantly related (**Fig. 3**). This finding suggests that *X. maliensis* acquired  
120 the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster relatively late during *Xanthomonas* speciation.



## Boundaries flanking the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster and adjacent genes suggest lateral transfer through general recombination

121 The *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster lies between two core (housekeeping) genes (**Fig. 1**). One,  
122 *gcvP*, encodes the pyridoxal-phosphate subunit of glycine dehydrogenase. An approximately  
123 170 nt riboswitch (*gcvR* in **Fig. 1**) controls GcvP protein synthesis in response to glycine  
124 (Mandal *et al.*, 2004). The other, "*mfsX*", encodes a **m**ajor **f**acilitator **s**ubfamily (MFS)  
125 transporter related to Bcr and CflA efflux proteins (da Silva *et al.*, 2004). Here, "*mfsX*" is only a  
126 provisional designation absent functional characterization.

127 Comparing the *gcvP* - [*raxX-raxSTAB*] - "*mfsX*" region from the reference genomes reveals  
128 sharp boundaries flanking the position of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster. On the left flank,  
129 substantial nucleotide identity spans the *gcvP* gene, the *gcvR* riboswitch, and a predicted *gcvR*  
130 promoter -10 element (Mitchell *et al.*, 2003) (**Fig. S2**). On the right flank, identity begins  
131 shortly after the "*mfsX*" initiation codon. Accordingly, upstream sequence elements for initiating  
132 "*mfsX*" gene transcription (Mitchell *et al.*, 2003) and translation (Ma *et al.*, 2002) are conserved  
133 within, but not between, *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive and -negative sequences (**Fig. S2**).

134 Between these boundaries in *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-negative species, the compact ( $\leq 200$   
135 nt) *gcvP*-"*mfsX*" intergenic sequence is modestly conserved in most genomes (about 60-80%  
136 overall identity; **Fig. S2**). Much of this identity comes from the "*mfsX*" potential transcription  
137 and translation initiation sequences described above. The overall intergenic sequence is less

138 conserved in the early-branching species (*X. albilineans*, *X. hyacinthi* and *X. sacchari*),  
139 displaying about 50-65% overall identity.

140 We hypothesize that *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster phylogenetic distribution results from general  
141 recombination between conserved genes flanking each side (e.g., in or beyond the *gcvP* and  
142 "*mfsX*" genes). Two observations are consistent with the hypothesis, First, we observed that the  
143 sequences flanking the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster are different from the *gcvP*-"*mfsX*" intergenic  
144 sequence in *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-negative strains (**Fig. S2**). This argues against models in  
145 which the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster has integrated into the *gcvP*-"*mfsX*" intergenic sequence  
146 during lateral transfer events.

147 The second observation consistent with lateral transfer via general recombination is that *gcvP*  
148 length polymorphisms (**Fig 1** and **Fig. S3**) do not align with *Xanthomonas* phylogenetic  
149 relationships (**Fig. 3**). Inheritance patterns such as this often result from general recombination  
150 in the vicinity (Nelson *et al.*, 1997).

151 Notably, this *gcvP*-"*mfsX*" intergenic region conserved is also conserved in the *X. citri* lineage  
152 (**Fig. S2**). If the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster was lost during formation of this lineage (see  
153 above), then general recombination would replace the resident *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster with a  
154 donor conserved *gcvP*-"*mfsX*" region.

***raxST* but not *raxX* homologs are present in genomes from diverse bacterial species**

155 Our GenBank database searches identified *raxX* homologs and the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster  
156 only in *Xanthomonas* spp. However, these searches did identify *raxST* homologs encoding  
157 proteins with about 40% identity to, and approximately the same length as, the *Xoo* RaxST  
158 protein. These sequences include the PAPS-binding motifs that define sulfotransferase activity  
159 (da Silva et al., 2004, Negishi *et al.*, 2001). Regardless of its current function, a *raxST* homolog  
160 potentially could evolve to encode tyrosylprotein sulfotransferase activity.

161 None of these *raxST* homologs is associated with a *raxX* homolog, and most also are not  
162 associated with *raxA* or *raxB* homologs. Presumably, the enzymes by these *raxST* homologs act  
163 on substrates other than RaxX. These *raxST* homologs support the hypothesis that the *raxSTAB*  
164 cluster arose from a new combination of pre-existing *raxST*, *raxA*, and *raxB* homologs.  
165 Proteolytic maturation and ATP-dependent peptide secretion systems are broadly distributed and  
166 so *raxA* and *raxB* homologs are plentiful in bacterial genomes (Holland et al., 2016).

167 These *raxST* homologs are in diverse genetic contexts in a range of bacterial phyla including  
168 Proteobacteria and Cyanobacteria (**Fig. S4**). Nevertheless, for most species represented by  
169 multiple genome sequences, the *raxST* homolog was detected in a minority of individuals, so it is  
170 not part of the core genome in these strains. Moreover, relationships between species in a *raxST*  
171 gene phylogenetic tree bear no resemblance to those in the overall tree of bacterial species. For  
172 example, in the *raxST* gene tree, sequences from Cyanobacteria are flanked on both sides by  
173 sequences from Proteobacteria (**Fig. S4**). Together, these findings provide evidence for lateral  
174 transfer of *raxST* homologs (Kuo & Ochman, 2009).

## **RaxX protein sequence variants representing all six *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive lineages**

175 RaxX protein sequences from diverse *Xanthomonas* spp. assort into several sequence groups  
176 differentiated by polymorphisms within the predicted mature peptide sequence (**Fig. 2**) (Pruitt et  
177 al., 2017). Many of these groups are subdivided further according to polymorphisms in the  
178 predicted leader protein sequence (residues 1-39) or carboxyl-terminal region distal to residue  
179 Pro-52. Most leader polymorphisms lie between residues 2-24, and are unlikely to affect  
180 function of mature RaxX protein. Here we only consider polymorphisms in the predicted mature  
181 form.

182 To assess the function of RaxX variants, we focused on frequently observed variants in species  
183 represented by numerous genome sequences (**Fig. S1**). These include sequence groups A, B and  
184 D from *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae* and *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzicola*, as well as sequence groups E, G and H,  
185 representing most genomes for the *X. euvesicatoria* and *X. vasicola* groups (**Fig. 2**). Finally,  
186 sequence group K is most numerous among *X. translucens* genomes. The comparison reference  
187 is the RaxX protein sequence from the Philippines *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> (sequence group A).  
188 Examples from lower frequency (mostly unique) sequence groups were analyzed by  
189 complementation, as described below.

## **RaxX variants promote root growth but fail to activate the XA21-mediated immune response**

190 We generated and purified tyrosine-sulfated full-length (unprocessed) RaxX peptides for these  
191 seven variants using an expanded genetic code approach (see methods) (**Fig. 2**), together  
192 representing all five pathogenic lineages that contain the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster. The  
193 positive control is RaxX21-sY, a synthetic 21 residue tyrosine-sulfated peptide with strong  
194 activity (Pruitt et al., 2015). These peptides were used in two separate assays for function. First,  
195 we performed root growth experiments with an *Arabidopsis thaliana tpst-1* mutant lacking  
196 tyrosylprotein sulfotransferase, which is required for all known sulfated tyrosine peptide  
197 hormones including PSY (Matsubayashi, 2014). This eliminates endogenous PSY activity so  
198 that effects of added peptides are more easily observed (Pruitt et al., 2017, Matsubayashi, 2014).  
199 Root lengths for seedlings grown without added peptide averaged 23.5 mm, whereas root lengths  
200 for seedlings grown with 100 nM peptide were at least twice as long (**Fig. 5A** and **Fig. 5B**). This  
201 observation is consistent with the hypothesis that these peptides mimic PSY1 peptide hormone  
202 activity. Note that three of these variants (groups D, E and G) were examined previously (Pruitt  
203 et al., 2017) and are included here to facilitate direct comparisons as well as to monitor  
204 consistency of results.

205 In the second assay, we tested each RaxX peptide for direct activation of XA21-mediated  
206 immunity by assaying induction of the *PR10b* marker gene as a readout for immune activation  
207 (Thomas *et al.*, 2016, Pruitt et al., 2015). In contrast to results with the root growth assay, here  
208 only the group A RaxX protein (from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>) was able to induce XA21-mediated  
209 *PR10b* marker gene expression (**Fig. 5C**).

210 In a separate test for activation of XA21-mediated immunity, we used a  $\square$ *raxX* deletion mutant  
211 of *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> as a host for genetic complementation. We tested each of the *raxX* alleles  
212 shown in **Fig. 2**, which includes examples from lower frequency (mostly unique) sequence  
213 groups. We introduced each *raxX* allele into the  $\square$ *raxX* test strain, and monitored disease  
214 progression in leaves of whole plants. Only the group A *raxX* allele (from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>)  
215 was able to complement the *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup>  $\square$ *raxX* strain to activate XA21-mediated immunity  
216 (**Fig. 6**). Expression of each *raxX* allele was confirmed by qPCR (**Fig. S5**).

217 Together, these results provide direct evidence that activation of XA21-mediated immunity is  
218 restricted to RaxX proteins from sequence group A, found in most strains of *Xoo*. None of the  
219 other *X. oryzae* RaxX variants tested (including RaxX from *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzicola*) was able to  
220 activate XA21-mediated immunity. The observation that all RaxX proteins tested stimulated  
221 *Arabidopsis* root growth suggests that the RaxX PSY peptide mimicry function is not restricted  
222 to rice.

### **African *Xoo* strain AXO1947 RaxX and RaxST natural variants both lead to evasion of the XA21 immune receptor**

223 The *raxX* alleles from *Xoo* strains IXO685 and AXO1947 failed to complement the  $\square$ *raxX*  
224 mutant of *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> for XA21 immune activation (**Fig. 6**). In addition to its variant  
225 *raxX* allele (**Fig. 2**), we noted that *Xoo* strain AXO1947 (Huguet-Tapia *et al.*, 2016) carries seven  
226 missense polymorphisms in the *raxST* gene (**Fig. S6**) not present in other *Xoo* strains such as

227 IXO685. To determine if the variant *raxST* allele from strain AXO1947 encodes a functional  
228 protein, we performed additional complementation tests.

229 We found that the *raxX* allele from strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> conferred the XA21 immune activation  
230 phenotype upon strain IXO685 but not upon strain AXO1947 (**Fig. 7B**). This result suggests that  
231 the *raxX* variant allele is not the only factor that prevents strain AXO1947 from activating the  
232 XA21 immune response. Consistent with this hypothesis, the *raxST* allele from strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>  
233 failed to confer the XA21 immune activation phenotype upon strain AXO1947 (**Fig. 7D**). In  
234 contrast, addition of both the *raxX* and *raxST* alleles from strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> was sufficient to confer  
235 the XA21 immune activation phenotype upon strain AXO1947 (**Fig. 7F**).

236 Taken together, these results suggest that *Xoo* strain AXO1947 has mutant versions of both  
237 genes, *raxST* and *raxX*. Analysis by qRT-PCR confirms that these genes were expressed in the  
238 complemented strains (**Fig. S7**).

### **RaxST variants from *Xoo* strain AXO1947**

239 To determine which of the RaxST missense polymorphisms is responsible for the apparent  
240 reduction in enzyme activity, we used site-specific mutagenesis to introduce each individually  
241 into the *raxST* gene from strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>. Genes encoding two of these [His-50 to Asp (H50D)  
242 and Arg-129 to Leu (R129L)] were unable to complement the  $\square$ *raxST* mutant of *Xoo* strain  
243 PXO99<sup>A</sup> for XA21 immune activation (**Fig. 8**), indicating that both His-50 and Arg-129 are  
244 necessary for RaxST activity.

245 Little is known about RaxST structure and function. Diverse sulfotransferases share limited  
246 sequence similarity, mostly comprising two relatively short sequence motifs involved in PAPS  
247 binding (Negishi et al., 2001). These motifs are conserved in the *Xoo* RaxST sequence (da Silva  
248 et al., 2004). Research with diverse sulfotransferases has identified three essential residues: a  
249 positively-charged residue (corresponding to Arg-11 in RaxST) in one PAPS binding motif, an  
250 invariant Ser (corresponding to Ser-118 in RaxST) in the other, and a catalytic base (His or Glu)  
251 located between the two PAPS binding motifs (Negishi et al., 2001).

252 We generated a RaxST molecular model with the program iTasser (Yang & Zhang, 2015) using  
253 the crystal structure of human tyrosylprotein sulfotransferase-2 (TPST2) as a template (PDB:  
254 3AP1). The sequence alignment is shown in **Fig. S8**. TPST2 is a functional dimer (Teramoto *et*  
255 *al.*, 2013), which is replicated in the RaxST structural model (**Fig. S9**). The two essential  
256 residues identified from *Xoo* strain AXO1947, His-50 and Arg-129, display surface exposed side  
257 chains in close proximity to the corresponding position for the bound substrate peptide co-  
258 crystalized with TPST2. These residues are distal to the catalytic site. Therefore, we  
259 hypothesize that these RaxST residues are involved in RaxX peptide binding.



## DISCUSSION

260 We previously hypothesized that RaxX mimics the actions of PSY hormones, and that the XA21  
261 receptor evolved specifically to recognize RaxX from *Xoo* (Pruitt et al., 2015, Pruitt et al., 2017).  
262 This prediction is supported here by our finding that all the RaxX variants tested stimulate root  
263 growth (**Fig. 5A** and **Fig. 5B**) (Pruitt et al., 2017) but fail to activate the XA21-mediated immune  
264 response (**Fig. 5C** and **Fig. 6**). Thus, RaxX sequence determinants are more stringent for XA21-  
265 mediated immunity activation than for root growth stimulation. In this discussion, we consider  
266 two questions: (1) What are potential selective pressures acting on RaxX that affect sequence  
267 variation; and (2) How was the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster inherited in *Xanthomonas* spp.?

### Opposing selection pressures drive RaxX natural variation

268 Maintenance of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster (**Fig. 3**) suggests that RaxX provides fitness  
269 benefits to diverse *Xanthomonas* spp., presumably during their interactions with hosts that  
270 collectively encompass a range of monocot and dicot species. This hypothesis is supported by *in*  
271 *vivo* data showing that *Xoo* strains lacking the *raxX* or *raxST* genes are compromised for  
272 virulence (Pruitt et al., 2015, Pruitt et al., 2017). On the other hand, rice-restricted XA21-  
273 mediated immunity would select specifically against RaxX maintenance by *Xoo*. Analysis of  
274 *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster sequence polymorphisms suggests that both types of selection occur.

275 The *Xa21* gene has been introgressed into commercial rice varieties (Khush *et al.*, 1990, Midha  
276 *et al.*, 2017). Widespread planting of *Xa21* rice presumably increases selection for *Xoo* variants

277 that evade XA21-mediated immunity. All RaxX missense variants examined mimicked PSY  
278 hormone activity (**Fig. 5A** and **Fig. 5B**) (Pruitt et al., 2017), suggesting that this property confers  
279 a selective advantage. Consistent with this, we did not observe any *raxX* frameshift or nonsense  
280 alterations. Instead, RaxX variant sequences contain a restricted set of missense substitutions,  
281 consistent with the hypothesis that selection acts to retain PSY-like function (**Fig. 2**; see  
282 reference (Pruitt et al., 2017)).

283 Among all RaxX variants tested, only that from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> (which represents the large  
284 majority of *Xoo raxX* alleles) activated the XA21-mediated immune response (**Fig. 5C** and **Fig.**  
285 **6**). This result demonstrates that recognition of RaxX by XA21 is strictly limited to *Xoo*, and  
286 confirms and extends a prior conclusion from our laboratory, that residues Pro-44 and Pro-48  
287 both are required for *Xoo* RaxX recognition by XA21 (Pruitt et al., 2015).

288 Thus, it appears that some *Xoo* strains that evade activation of XA21-mediated immunity arise  
289 from a restricted set of *raxX* missense substitution alleles encoding variants that retain PSY-like  
290 function. This observation suggests that it may be possible to engineer novel XA21 variants that  
291 recognize these variant RaxX proteins. If so, it may then be possible to engineer broad-spectrum  
292 resistance against *Xoo* (and other *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive *Xanthomonas* spp.) by  
293 expressing multiple XA21 proteins that collectively recognize multiple RaxX variants.

294 We also have identified *raxST* and/or *raxA* gene loss of function alterations in *Xoo* field isolates  
295 (**Fig. 7**; reference (da Silva et al., 2004), which presumably cannot express the PSY mimicry

296 phenotype of RaxX). Such loss of function alterations could temper the effectiveness of  
297 production strategies that rely on engineered *Xa21* alleles.

### ***raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster origin**

298 The *raxAB* genes are homologous to those encoding proteolytic maturation and ATP-dependent  
299 peptide secretion complexes (da Silva et al., 2004, Lin *et al.*, 2015), related to type 1 secretion  
300 systems but specialized for secreting small peptides such as bacteriocins and peptide pheromones  
301 (Holland et al., 2016). Frequently, the gene encoding the secreted substrate is adjacent to genes  
302 encoding components of the secretion complex (Dirix *et al.*, 2004). We hypothesize that the  
303 intact *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster originated in an ancestor to the lineage containing *X. oryzae*,  
304 *X. euvesicatoria*, and related species, with subsequent gains or loss through lateral transfer (**Fig.**  
305 **2**). Relatively few events appear to have been necessary to form the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster.  
306 The *raxX* gene might have evolved from the gene for the secreted peptide substrate of the  
307 RaxAB ancestor. The complete cluster would result from incorporation of the ancestral *raxST*  
308 gene, homologs of which are distributed broadly (**Fig. S4**).

### **Role for the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster in *Xanthomonas* biology**

309 The *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster does not exhibit features, such as a gene for a site-specific  
310 recombinase, characteristic of self-mobile genomic islands (Hacker *et al.*, 1997). Instead,  
311 evidence suggests that *raxX-STAB* gene cluster lateral transfer occurred through general  
312 recombination between genes flanking each side of the *raxX-STAB* gene cluster (**Fig. 1** and **Fig.**

313 **S2**). In bacteria, gene acquisition through lateral transfer contributes to emergence of new  
314 pathovars (see reference (Ogura *et al.*, 2009) for one example). Conceivably, lateral acquisition  
315 of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster might allow a particular strain to infect a previously  
316 inaccessible host.

317 *Xanthomonas* pathovar phenotypes (Jacques *et al.*, 2016) are not predicted by the presence or  
318 absence of the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster. For example, some *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-  
319 positive species can infect only monocots (e.g., *X. oryzae*, *X. translucens*) or only dicots (e.g., *X.*  
320 *euvesicatoria*), just as some *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-negative species also can infect only  
321 monocots (e.g., *X. arboricola*, *X. hyacinthi*) or only dicots (e.g., *X. campestris* pv. *campestris*; *X.*  
322 *citri*). Similarly, some *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-positive species are specific for vascular  
323 tissue (e.g., *Xoo*; *X. vasicola*) or for non-vascular tissue (e.g., *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzicola*; *X.*  
324 *euvesicatoria*), just as some *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster-negative species also are specific for  
325 vascular tissue (e.g., *X. hortorum*; *X. albilineans*) or for non-vascular tissue (e.g., *X.citri*; *X.*  
326 *arboricola*). Thus, selective function(s) for the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster in *Xanthomonas* spp.  
327 remain to be determined.

## Experimental Procedures

### Survey of the RaxX, RaxST and the *raxX-STAB* genomic region in publicly available databases

328 We used the 5kb long *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup> *raxX-raxSTAB* genomic region, including 600 bp upstream  
329 of *raxST* and 70 bp downstream of *raxB*, as query to search the following NCBI databases with  
330 blastn and megablast using e-value cut-off of 1e-3; nr/nt, htgs,  
331 refseq\_genomic\_representative\_genomes, refseq\_genomic, and gss. To identify RaxX homologs  
332 we used the protein sequence of RaxX from *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup> as query to search the same databases  
333 using tblastn with a PAM30 scoring matrix to account for the short sequence length of RaxX. In  
334 case of *raxST* from *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup> we used the genomic coding sequence to search the same  
335 databases using the same cut-offs. In addition, we used the RaxST protein sequence to search the  
336 following database using blastp with an e-value cut-off of 1e-3 and a BLOSUM62 scoring  
337 matrix; nr, refseq\_protein, env\_nr. The databases were last accessed 2016/01/06 for the initial  
338 manuscript submission and 2018/06/25 during preparation of the resubmission. Searches were  
339 restricted to bacteria (taxid: 2) in case of refseq\_genomic\_representative\_genomes. The  
340 observations of specificity of *raxX* and the intact *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster to the genus  
341 *Xanthomonas* was consistent across all queries.

### Whole genome based phylogenetic tree for *Xanthomonas* spp.

342 All available *Xanthomonas* genomes were downloaded from the NCBI ftp server on January 29,  
343 2016 (413 genome accessions). The genome fasta files were used to build a local blast database  
344 using BLASTv2.27+ (Camacho *et al.*, 2009). For all genes in and surrounding the *raxSTAB*  
345 cluster blastn (evalue cutoff of 1e-3) was used to identify homologs in the local blast database.  
346 Due to the small size of RaxX, tblastn was required to identify homologs (evalue cutoff of 1e-3).  
347 Fasta files for each blast hit were generated using a custom python script (available upon  
348 request). Alignments of all genes were performed with Muscle v3.5 (Edgar, 2004) implemented  
349 in the desktop tool Geneious v9.1.8 (Kearse *et al.*, 2012). Alignment ends were trimmed so that  
350 each sequence was equal in length and in the first coding frame. Maximum likelihood trees were  
351 built with RaxML v8.2.4 (Stamatakis, 2014) with the following settings: (-m GTRGAMMA F -f  
352 a -x 3298589 -N 10000 -p 23). Trees shown in all figures are the highest scoring ML tree and  
353 numbers shown on branches are the resampled bootstrap values from 1000 replicates. Trees  
354 were drawn in FigTree v1.4.0 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>).

355 Whole genome phylogenies were generated using the entire genome assembly with the program  
356 Andi v0.10 (Haubold *et al.*, 2015, Klotzl & Haubold, 2016). These distance matrices were  
357 plotted as neighbor-joining tree using Phylip v3.695 (Felsenstein, 1981). Numbers on the  
358 branches represent the proportion (0-100) that the branch appeared in the “bootstrapped”  
359 distance matrices using Andi.

## Sequence analyses

360 Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences were edited and analyzed with the programs  
361 EditSeq™ (version 14.1.0), MegAlign™ (version 14.1.0) and SeqBuilder™ (version 14.1.0),  
362 DNASTAR, Madison, WI. The Integrated Microbial Genomes interface (Chen *et al.*, 2017) was  
363 used to compare genome segments from different species.

### Bacterial growth

364 *Xanthomonas* strains were cultured at 28°C. Solid medium was peptone sucrose agar (PSA; pH  
365 7.0), which contains (per liter) peptone (10 g), sucrose (10 g), sodium glutamate (1 g) and agar  
366 (15 g). Liquid cultures were aerated at 230 rpm in YEB medium (pH 7.3), which contains (per  
367 liter) yeast extract (5 g), tryptone (10 g), NaCl (5 g), sucrose (5 g), and MgSO<sub>4</sub> (0.5 g).  
368 Antibiotics were kanamycin, carbenicillin, spectinomycin (all at 50 µg/ml), and cephalexin (20  
369 µg/ml).

### Rice growth and inoculation

370 *Oryza sativa* ssp. *japonica* rice varieties were TP309 and XA21-TP309, which is a 106-17-  
371 derived transgenic line of TP309 carrying the *Xa21* gene expressed from its native promoter  
372 (Song *et al.*, 1995). TP309 rice does not contain the *Xa21* gene. Seeds were germinated in  
373 distilled water at 28°C for one week and then transplanted into sandy soil (80% sand, 20% peat;  
374 Redi-Gro) in 5.5-inch square pots with two seedlings per pot. Plants were grown in tubs in a  
375 greenhouse, and were top watered daily with fertilizer water [N, 58 ppm (parts per million); P,  
376 15 ppm; K, 55 ppm; Ca, 20 ppm; Mg, 13 ppm; S, 49 ppm; Fe, 1 ppm; Cu, 0.06 ppm; Mn, 0.4

377 ppm; Mo, 0.02 ppm; Zn, 0.1 ppm; B, 0.4 ppm] for four weeks, followed by water for two weeks.  
378 Six weeks after planting, rice pots were transferred to a growth chamber with the following  
379 day/night settings: 28°C/24°C, 80%/85% humidity, and 14/10-hour lighting. Plants were  
380 inoculated 2 to 3 days after transfer using the scissors clipping method (Song et al., 1995).  
381 Bacteria for inoculation were taken from PSA plates and resuspended in water at a density of  
382 approximately  $8 \times 10^8$  CFU/ml. Water-soaked lesions were measured 14 days after inoculation.

### Complementation tests

383 The *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> marker-free deletions  $\square_{raxX}$  and  $\square_{raxST}$  were described previously  
384 (Pruitt et al., 2015). The *raxX* and *raxST* genes from different *Xanthomonas* spp. were cloned  
385 into plasmid vector pVS61 and electrotransformed into the appropriate recipient strains as  
386 described previously (Pruitt et al., 2015). Site-specific mutational alterations were introduced by  
387 PCR using the In-Fusion HD cloning system (Takara).

### RaxX peptide stimulation of *PR10b* gene expression

388 Full-length sulfated RaxX proteins were purified from an *E. coli* strain with an expanded genetic  
389 code that directs incorporation of sulfotyrosine at the appropriate position (Schwessinger *et al.*,  
390 2016). The resulting MBP-3C–RaxX-His fusion proteins were incubated with 3C protease  
391 followed by anion exchange chromatography in order to remove the amino-terminal maltose  
392 binding protein tag, as described previously (Schwessinger et al., 2016). The control peptide,  
393 sulfated RaxX21-sY, has been described (Pruitt et al., 2015).



394 Rice plants were grown in a hydroponic system in growth chambers at 24° or 28°C with a 14-  
395 hour/10-hour light-dark cycle at 80% humidity. Seedlings were grown in A-OK Starter Plugs  
396 (Grodan) and watered with Hoagland's solution twice a week. Peptide influence on *PR10b*  
397 marker gene expression was measured as described previously (Pruitt et al., 2015). Briefly,  
398 leaves of 4-week-old hydroponically grown rice plants were cut into 2-cm-long strips and  
399 incubated for at least 12 hours in ddH<sub>2</sub>O to reduce residual wound signals. Leaf strips were  
400 treated with the indicated peptides and then snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen before processing.  
401 Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) was done as described  
402 previously (Pruitt et al., 2015). Gene expression was normalized to the actin gene expression  
403 level and to the respective mock-treated control at 0 or 9 hour.

404 DNA primers for qRT-PCR were: ampC-F, GACTCGTAATGCCTACGACC; ampC-R,  
405 AATTGCTCGTAGAAGCTGCC; qraxST-F, CTTCCAACGTGCAGATCGAC; qraxST-R,  
406 TATCGACGATCCAACCAAC; qRaxX-F, AAAATCGCCCGCCAAGGGT; qRaxX-R,  
407 TCAATGGTGCCCGGGGTTG; PR10b-F, TGTGGAAGGTCTGCTTGGAC; PR10b-R,  
408 CCTTTAGCACGTGAGTTGCG

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## FIGURE LEGENDS

### Fig. 1. The *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster.

617 The *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster is located between the flanking *gcvRP* and "*mfsX*" genes. Gene  
618 cluster acquisition through lateral transfer is hypothesized to occur by general recombination in  
619 the flanking *gcvR* and "*mfsX*" sequences as described in the text. Sequences at the left and right  
620 boundaries are shown in Fig. S2. Sequences for length polymorphisms in the *gcvP* gene are  
621 shown in Fig. S3.

### Fig. 2. RaxX variants.

622 Sequences show the presumed leader-cleaved forms of RaxX, numbered from the beginning of  
623 the precursor sequence. The extent of sequence comprising the RaxX16 and RaxX13 synthetic  
624 peptides is indicated above the alignment. Residues are shaded according to conservation in  
625 PSY sequences (Pruitt et al., 2017): positions with nearly invariant residues are shaded black,  
626 and those with only two or three substitutions are shaded blue. The sulfated Tyr residue is  
627 shaded red. Gaps are indicated by dots. Sequence groups are described elsewhere in detail  
628 (Pruitt et al., 2017). The subgroups B1-B3 differ only in the carboxyl-terminal sequence  
629 beginning with residue 53. *X. oryzae* strains X8-1A and X11-5A are nonpathogenic and  
630 therefore do not have pathovar designations. The mature form of *Arabidopsis thaliana* PSY1  
631 (Amano et al., 2007) and the corresponding region from *Oryza sativa* PSY1a (Amano et al.,  
632 2007, Pruitt et al., 2017) are shown for comparison. Residues Pro-16 and Pro-17 in AtPSY1  
633 both are hydroxylated [ $\dagger, \ddagger$ ], and Pro-16 is glycosylated with L-Ara<sub>3</sub> [ $\ddagger$ ] (Amano et al., 2007).



**Fig. 3. Model for raxX-raxSTAB inheritance during Xanthomonas speciation.**

634 The *Xanthomonas* spp. cladogram is based on published phylogenetic trees; see text for  
635 references. Red lines depict lineages for strains that lack the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster,  
636 whereas blue lines depict those that carry the cluster. Numbers indicate *gcvP* length  
637 polymorphism in each species (see Fig. S3). Hypothetical events are: A, formation of the *raxX-*  
638 *raxSTAB* gene cluster; B, lateral transfer to *X. translucens*, relatively early during speciation  
639 (indicated by the long blue line); C, lateral transfer to *X. maliensis*, relatively late during  
640 speciation (indicated by the short blue line); D, loss from *X. citri*. Strain numbers denote sources  
641 of RaxX proteins chosen for functional tests, as described in the text.

**Fig. 4. Phylogenetic tree for raxX-raxSTAB nucleotide sequences.**

642 The best scoring maximum likelihood tree for the catenated *raxA*, *raxB*, *raxX* and *raxST* coding  
643 sequences. Numbers shown on branches represent the proportion of branches supported by  
644 10,000 bootstrap replicates (0-100). Bootstraps are not shown for branches with less than 50%  
645 support, nor for branches too short to easily distinguish. Species names are colored according to  
646 phylogenetic group.

**Fig. 5. RaxX variant peptides promote root growth.**

647 (A) Stimulation of *Arabidopsis* root growth. Fourteen-day-old *tpst-1* seedlings were grown on  
648 ½ MS vertical plates with or without 100 nM of the indicated full-length peptides. Bars indicate  
649 the average seedling root length measured after 14 d (n>10). Error bars show the standard  
650 deviation. The “\*” indicates a statistically significant difference from Mock using Dunnett’s test  
651 (p<0.05). Peptide RaxX sY21 is a 21 residue sulfated peptide with potent RaxX activity (Pruitt

652 et al., 2015). Strain abbreviations are *Xvv*, *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*; *Xt*, *X. translucens*; *Xe*, *X.*  
653 *euvesicatoria*; *Xcm*, *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum*; PXO99<sup>A</sup>, IXO685, AXO1947, strains of *X.*  
654 *oryzae* pv. *oryzae*. (B) *Arabidopsis* seedlings from a representative experiment. (C) Activation  
655 of rice *PR10b* gene expression. Purified peptide (500 nM) was used to treat detached leaves as  
656 described in Materials and Methods. Expression levels of the *PR10b* gene (normalized to actin  
657 gene expression) were determined after 12 h. Data are the mean values from four biological  
658 replicates. Error bars show the standard deviation. The “\*” indicates a statistically significant  
659 difference from Mock using Dunnett’s test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Fig. 6. RaxX variants fail to activate XA21-mediated immunity.**

660 Different *raxX* genes were cloned into vector pVSP6 (see Materials and Methods) to test for  
661 complementation of the *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>  $\Delta$ *raxX* strain. Leaf tips of rice varieties TP309  
662 (panel A) or XA21-expressing TP309 (panel B) were inoculated by clipping with scissors dipped  
663 in bacterial suspensions (approximate cell density of  $8 \times 10^8$  cells mL<sup>-1</sup>). Lesion lengths were  
664 measured 14 days after inoculation. Data are the mean values from measurements of 10-20  
665 leaves. Error bars show the standard error of the mean, and “\*” indicates a statistically  
666 significant difference from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> according to Dunnett’s multiple comparison  
667 procedure ( $p < 0.05$ ). Values in panel A are insignificantly different. Strain abbreviations are  
668 *Xvv*, *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*; *Xt*, *X. translucens*; *Xoc*, *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzicola*; *Xe*, *X.*  
669 *euvesicatoria*; *Xcm*, *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum*; X8-1A, X11-5A, strains of *X. oryzae*; M97,  
670 *X. maliensis* M97; PXO99<sup>A</sup>, IXO685, AXO1947, strains of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae*.

**Fig. 7. The *raxX* and *raxST* genes are dysfunctional in *Xoo* strain AXO1947.**

671 Different combinations of the *raxX* and *raxST* genes were cloned into vector pVSP61 (see  
672 Materials and Methods) to test for complementation. Leaf tips of rice varieties TP309 (panels A,  
673 C and E) or XA21-expressing TP309 (panels B, D and F) were inoculated by clipping with  
674 scissors dipped in bacterial suspensions (approximate cell density of  $8 \times 10^8$  cells mL<sup>-1</sup>). Lesion  
675 measurements were taken 14 days after inoculation. Data are the mean values from  
676 measurements of 10-20 leaves. Error bars show the standard error of the mean, and “\*” indicates  
677 a statistically significant difference from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> according to Dunnett’s multiple  
678 comparison procedure ( $p < 0.05$ ). Values in panels A, C and E are insignificantly different.  
679 Panels A and B show complementation results for the *raxX* gene, panels C and D show results  
680 for the *raxST* gene, and panels E and F show results for the combination of both the *raxX* and  
681 *raxST* genes. Specific combinations of genes and complementation hosts are described in the  
682 figure labels.

**Fig. 8. Two missense substitutions inactivate RaxST in *Xoo* strain AXO1947.**

683 Each of the seven *raxST* missense polymorphisms from *Xoo* strain AXO1947 was introduced  
684 singly into the wild-type *raxST* gene from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> (see Materials and Methods).  
685 These mutant alleles then were tested for complementation of the *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup>  $\Delta$ *raxST*  
686 strain. Leaf tips of rice varieties TP309 (panel A) or XA21-expressing TP309 (panel B) were  
687 inoculated by clipping with scissors dipped in bacterial suspensions (approximate cell density of  
688  $8 \times 10^8$  cells mL<sup>-1</sup>). Lesion measurements were taken 14 days after inoculation. Data are the  
689 mean values from measurements of 10-20 leaves. Error bars show the standard error of the  
690 mean, and “\*” indicates a statistically significant difference from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> according  
691 to Dunnett’s multiple comparison procedure ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Table 1.** Reference strains for sequence comparisons.

Species	Strain	<i>raxX-raxSTAB</i>	Accession	Reference
<i>S. maltophilia</i>	K279a	–	NC_010943.1	(Crossman <i>et al.</i> , 2008)
<i>X. albilineans</i>	GPE PC73	–	NC_013722.1	(Pieretti <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
<i>X. arboricola</i> pv. <i>juglandis</i>	Xaj 417	–	NZ_CP012251.1	(Pereira <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
<i>X. axonopodis</i> pv. <i>manihotis</i>	UA536	+	NZ_AKEQ00000000	(Bart <i>et al.</i> , 2012)
<i>X. campestris</i> pv. <i>campestris</i>	ATCC 33913	–	NC_003902.1	(da Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
<i>X. campestris</i> pv. <i>musacearum</i>	NCPPB 4392 (Wasukira <i>et al.</i> , 2012)	+	NZ_AKBI00000000.1	
<i>X. cannabis</i>	NCPPB 2877	–	NZ_JSZE00000000.1	(Jacobs <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
<i>X. citri</i> subsp. <i>citri</i>	306	–	NC_003919.1	(da Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
<i>X. euvesicatoria</i>	85-10	+	NZ_CP017190.1	(Thieme <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
<i>X. fragariae</i>	LMG 25863 (Vandroemme <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	–	NZ_AJRZ00000000.1	
<i>X. hyacinthi</i>	DSM 19077	–	JPLD00000000.1	(Naushad <i>et al.</i> , 2015)

<i>X. maliensis</i>	M97	+	NZ_AQPR00000000.1(Triplett et al., 2015)
<i>X. oryzae</i> pv. <i>oryzae</i>	PXO99 <sup>A</sup>	+	NC_010717.2 (Salzberg <i>et al.</i> , 2008)
<i>X. sacchari</i>	R1	-	NZ_CP010409.1 (Studholme <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> , 2011)
<i>X. translucens</i>	DAR61454	+	GCA_000334075.1(Gardiner et al., 2014)
<i>X. vesicatoria</i>	15b	-	NZ_JSXZ00000000.1 (Vancheva <i>et al.</i> , 2015)

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## Supporting Information

### Fig. S1. Whole genome-based *Xanthomonas* phylogenetic tree.

692 This tree was constructed by analysis of whole genome sequences as described in Materials and  
693 Methods. Blue indicates genomes that contain the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster; red indicates  
694 genomes that do not. Group numbers are arbitrary.

### Fig. S2. Sequences flanking the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster.

695 Sequences are from the reference strains described in **Table 1**. Sequences conserved within a  
696 group but different from other groups are colored green ("early-branching" species), brown  
697 (*raxX-raxSTAB* cluster-negative strains), or yellow (*raxX-raxSTAB* cluster-positive strains). For  
698 presentation, the sequence is divided into Left and Right boundaries. The green and brown  
699 sequences are contiguous, whereas the yellow sequences are interrupted by the ca. 5 kb *raxX-*  
700 *raxSTAB* gene cluster, depicted as a yellow rectangle. For presentation, approximately 60-80 nt  
701 with relatively low similarity were removed from sequence shown in the Right boundary panel.  
702 These conceptual deletions are denoted by the number of nt removed in each case. Black  
703 sequences are conserved in all lineages, and include both coding regions as well as matches to  
704 transcription and translation initiation consensus sequences, which are described in the text. An  
705 “*mfsX*” +1 frameshift in *Xoo* sequences is indicated by the vertical red line. Abbreviations are in  
706 red for *raxX-raxSTAB* cluster-negative strains and blue for *raxX-raxSTAB* cluster-positive  
707 strains: *S. maltophilia*, *Sm*; *X. albilineans*, *Xa*; *X. arboricola* pv. *juglandis*, *Xaj*; *X. axonopodis*  
708 pv. *manihotis*, *Xam*; *X. campestris* pv. *campestris*, *Xcc*; *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum*, *Xcm*; *X.*  
709 *cannabis*, *Xc*; *X. citri* subsp. *citri*, *Xac*; *X. euvesicatoria*, *Xe*; *X. fragariae*, *Xf*; *X. hyacinthi*, *Xh*;

710 *X. maliensis*, *Xm*; *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae*, *Xoo*; *X. sacchari*,; *Xs* *X. translucens*, *Xt*; *X. vesicatoria*,  
711 *Xv*.

**Fig. S3. GcvP length polymorphisms in different *Xanthomonas* lineages.**

712 The relevant portion of the GcvP amino acid sequence is shown for each of the reference strains.  
713 Species in red lack the *raxX-raxSTAB* gene cluster, whereas those in blue carry the cluster.  
714 Numbers denote different allelic types for reference to **Fig. 3**. The positions of residues Gly-733  
715 and Val-738 (numbering for allelic type 1) are indicated. Abbreviations: *S. maltophilia*, *Sm*; *X.*  
716 *albilineans*, *Xa*; *X. arboricola* pv. *juglandis*, *Xaj*; *X. axonopodis* pv. *manihotis*, *Xam*; *X.*  
717 *campestris* pv. *campestris*, *Xcc*; *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum*, *Xcm*; *X. cannabis*, *Xc*; *X. citri*  
718 *subsp. citri*, *Xac*; *X. euvesicatoria*, *Xe*; *X. fragariae*, *Xf*; *X. hyacinthi*, *Xh*; *X. maliensis*, *Xm*; *X.*  
719 *oryzae* pv. *oryzae*, *Xoo*; *X. sacchari*,; *Xs* *X. translucens*, *Xt*; *X. vesicatoria*, *Xv*.

**Fig. S4. Phylogenetic tree for *raxST* homologs.**

720 Distribution of *raxST* homologs across bacterial genera, including the major groups of  
721 proteobacteria as well as cyanobacteria. The tree shown was constructed by neighbor-joining  
722 with 1000 bootstrap replicates; branches with < 50% bootstrap support are not drawn. The *raxST*  
723 sequence from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> was used as query for tBLASTn.

**Fig. S5. *raxX* expression in *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup> complemented strains.**

724 Data show that *raxX* gene expression in the complemented strains with different *raxX* alleles  
725 with its promoter region on plasmids. The expression is shown as the logarithm of raw data using  
726 qRT-PCR. Gene expression was normalized to the chromosomal gene PXO\_01660 (annotated as



727 an *ampC* gene homolog encoding  $\beta$ -lactamase). Data are the mean values from two biological  
728 replicates. Error bars show the standard deviation.

**Fig. S6. RaxST sequence polymorphisms in *Xoo* strain AXO1947.**

729 The RaxST sequence from *Xoo* strain PXO99<sup>A</sup> is shown. The seven missense substitutions in  
730 the sequence from *Xoo* strain AXO1947 (Huguet-Tapia et al., 2016) are indicated. The  
731 boundaries of the PAPS binding motifs (5'-PSB and 3'-PB; reference (Negishi et al., 2001), are  
732 enclosed in boxes. These motifs encompass the catalytic residues Arg-11 and Ser-118.

**Fig. S7. *raxX* and *raxST* expression in *Xoo* PXO99<sup>A</sup> complemented strains.**

733 Data show *raxX* and *raxST* gene expression in the complemented strains (with *raxX* and *raxST*  
734 on plasmids) relative to expression in *Xoo* strain PXO899<sup>A</sup> (with *raxX* and *raxST* on the  
735 chromosome). Expression was determined by qRT-PCR (see Materials and Methods), and is  
736 shown as the logarithm of the fold change. Gene expression was normalized to the chromosomal  
737 gene PXO\_01660 (annotated as an *ampC* gene homolog encoding  $\beta$ -lactamase). Data are the  
738 mean values from two biological replicates. Error bars show the standard deviation.

**Fig. S8. RaxST structural alignment.**

739 Sequence alignment of the human TPST2 and *Xoo* RaxST sequences formatted with ESPript 3.0  
740 (Robert & Gouet, 2014). Secondary structure elements derived from the respective structural  
741 models are shown. Stars show TPST2 residues involved in PAPS binding, and arrows show  
742 RaxST missense substitutions.

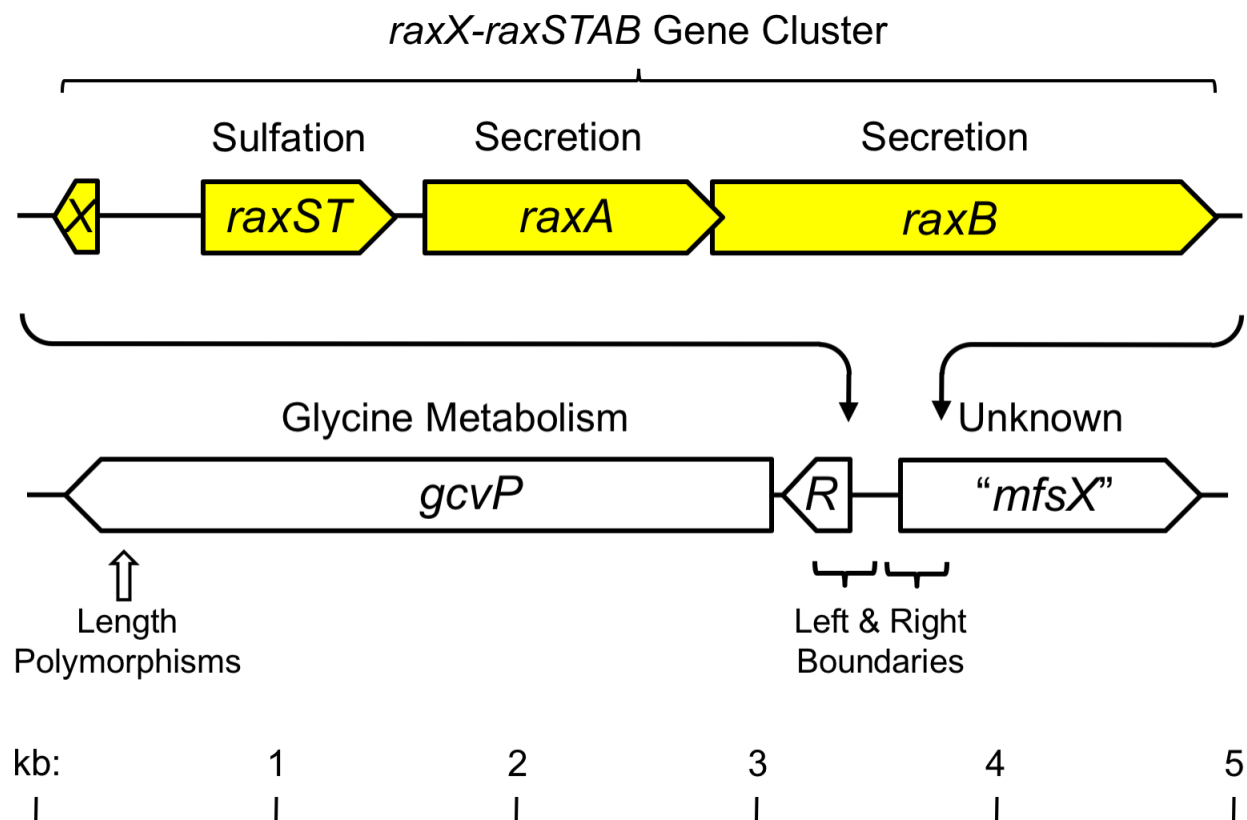
**Fig. S9. Model for RaxST structure.**

743 Predicted RaxST structure shown in cartoon and surface representation, based on the dimeric  
744 structure of TPST2. The two RaxST monomers are colored in dark and light green. The 3'-  
745 phosphoadenosine-5'-phosphate (PAP) and C4 substrate peptide that were co-crystallized with  
746 TPST2 are superimposed on the RaxST model. PAP is represented as labelled and the substrate  
747 peptide is shown in yellow-cartoon with the acceptor tyrosine represented as labelled. Residues  
748 His-50 and Arg-129 are colored in magenta and highlighted.

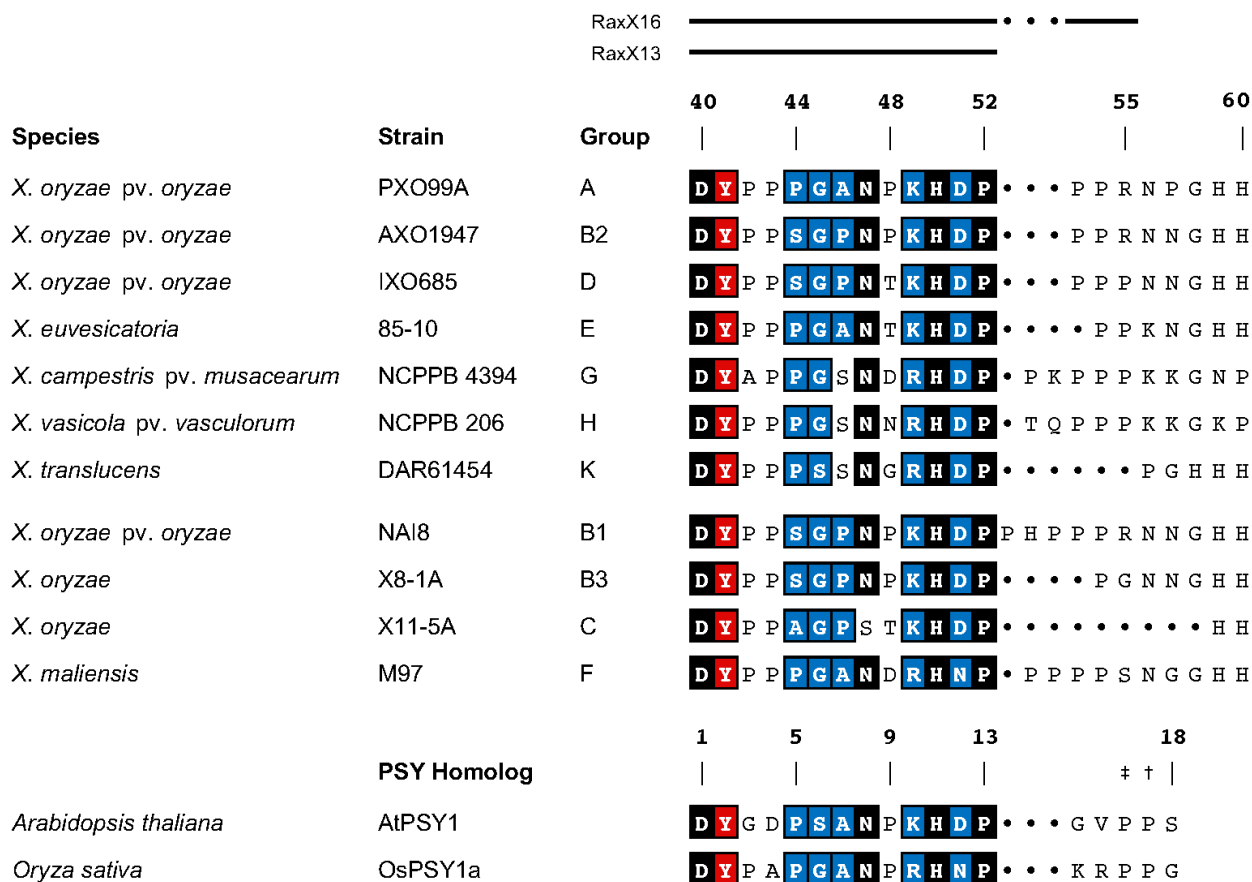
**File. S1. *Xanthomonas* strains analyzed for whole-genome phylogeny.**

749 Excel file (.XLS format).

750 Fig. 1.

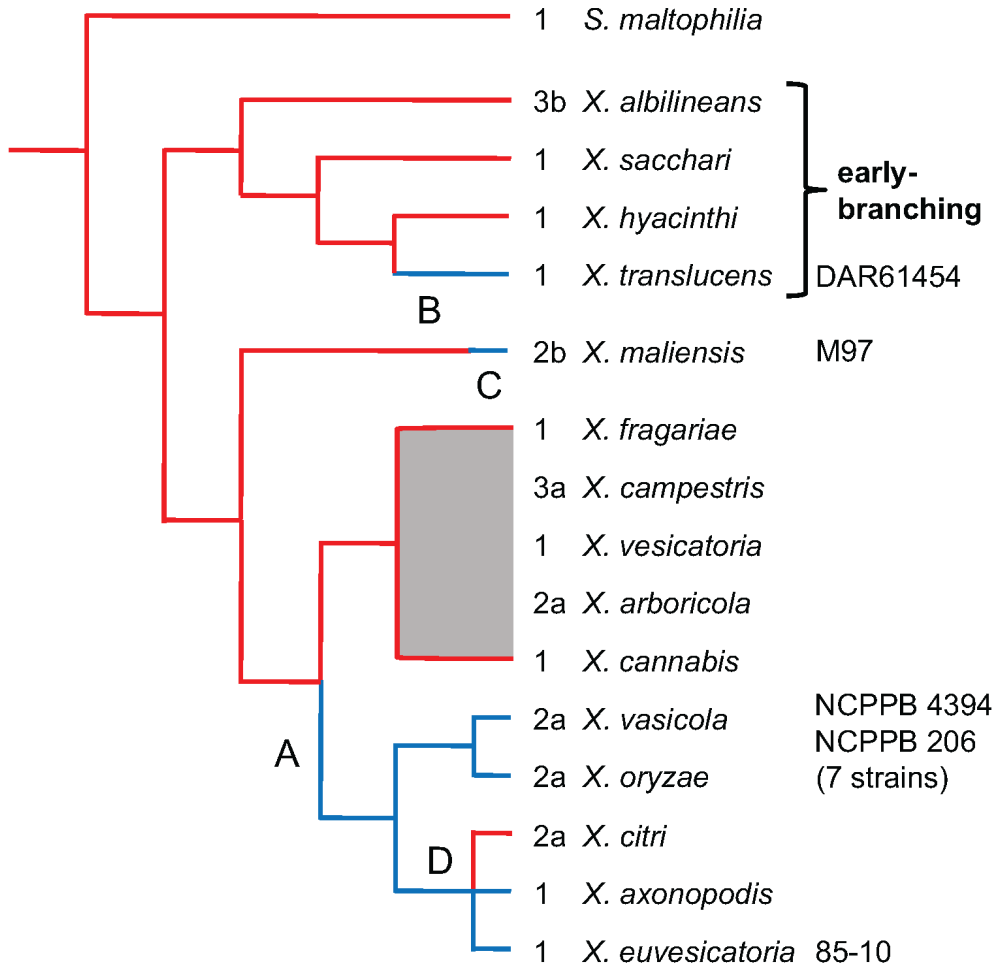


751 **Fig. 2.**

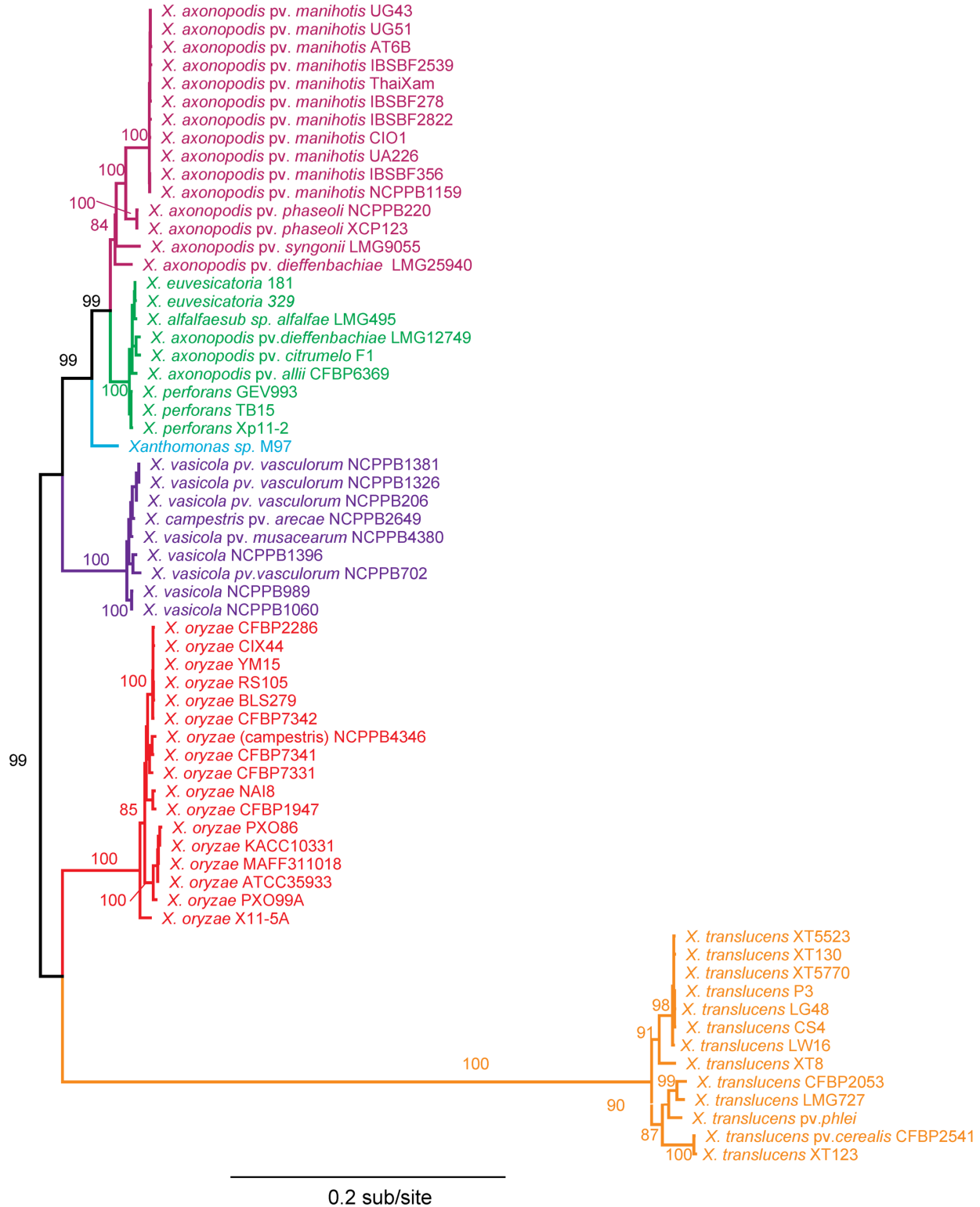


752 **Fig. 3.**

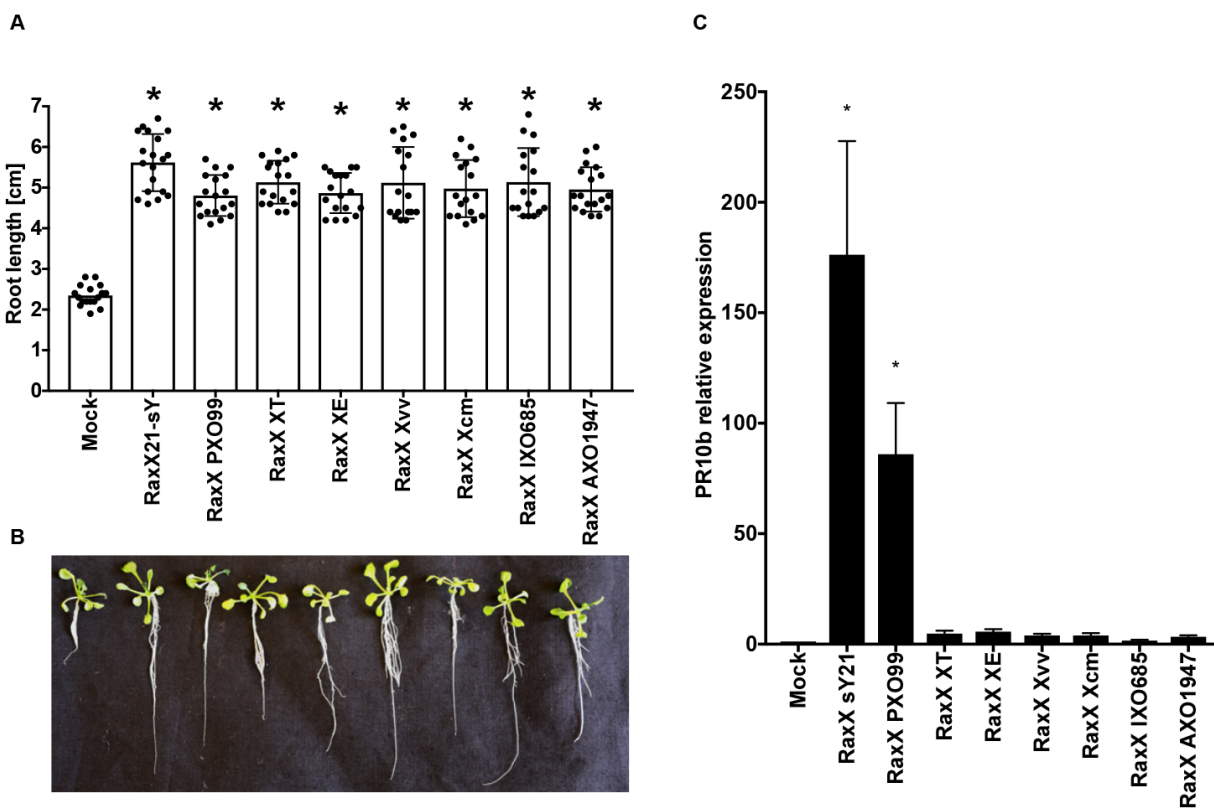
753



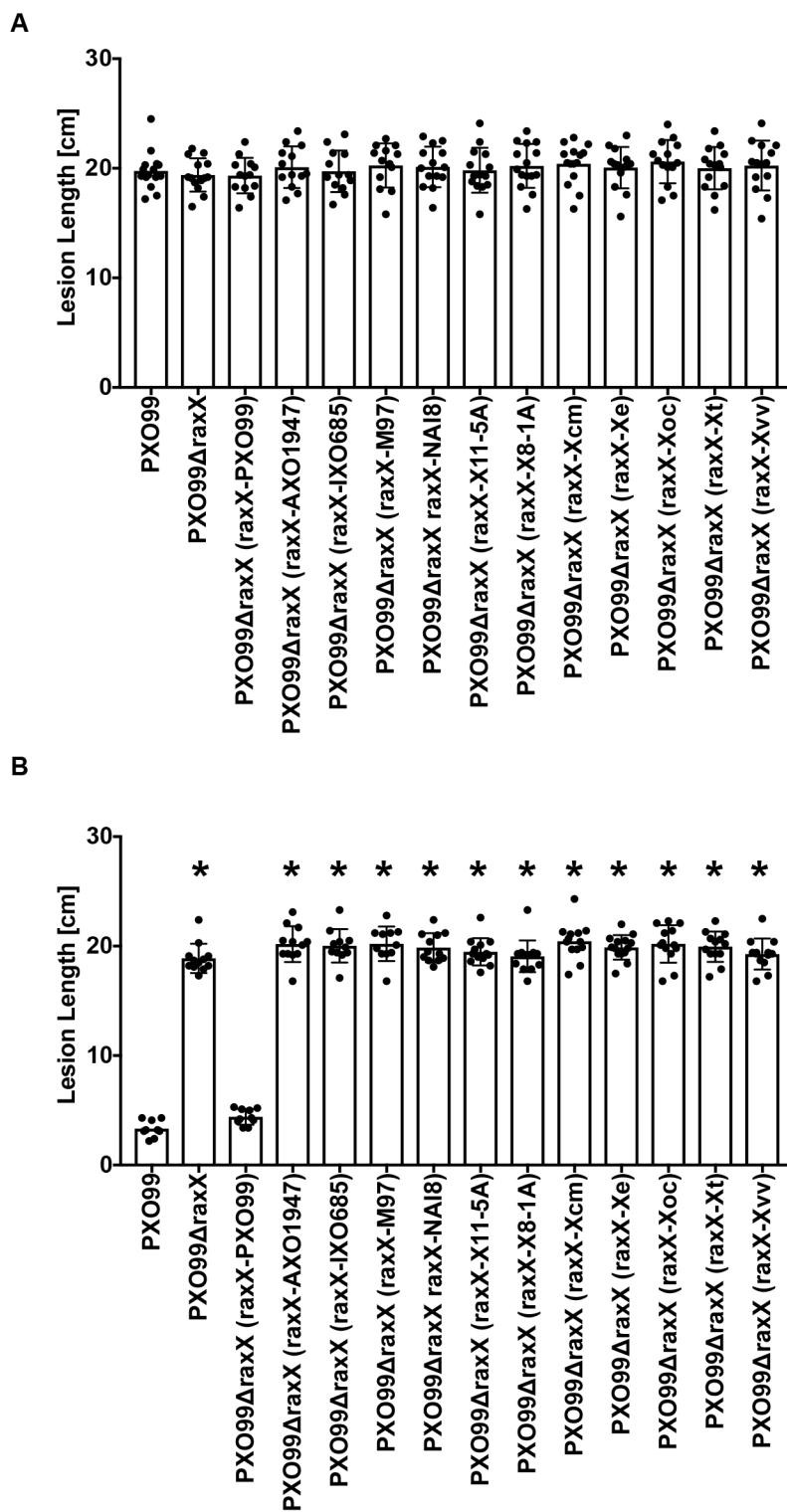
780 Fig. 4.



781 **Fig. 5.**

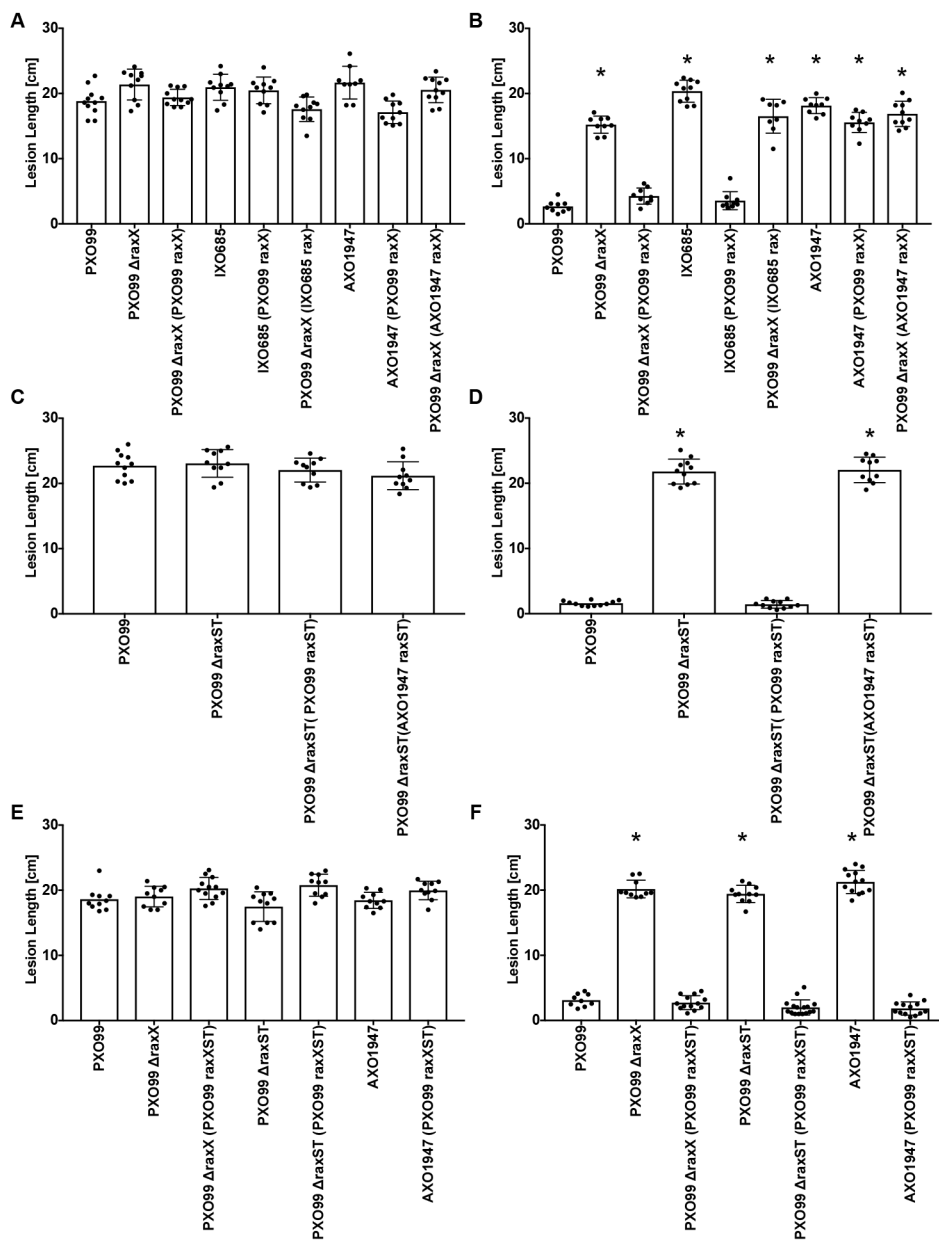


782 Fig. 6.



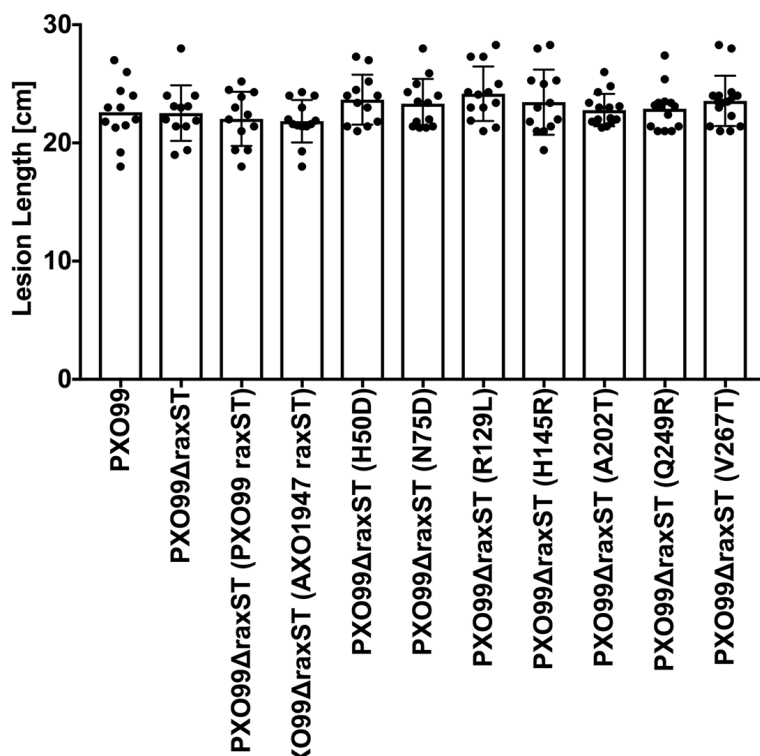


783 Fig. 7.

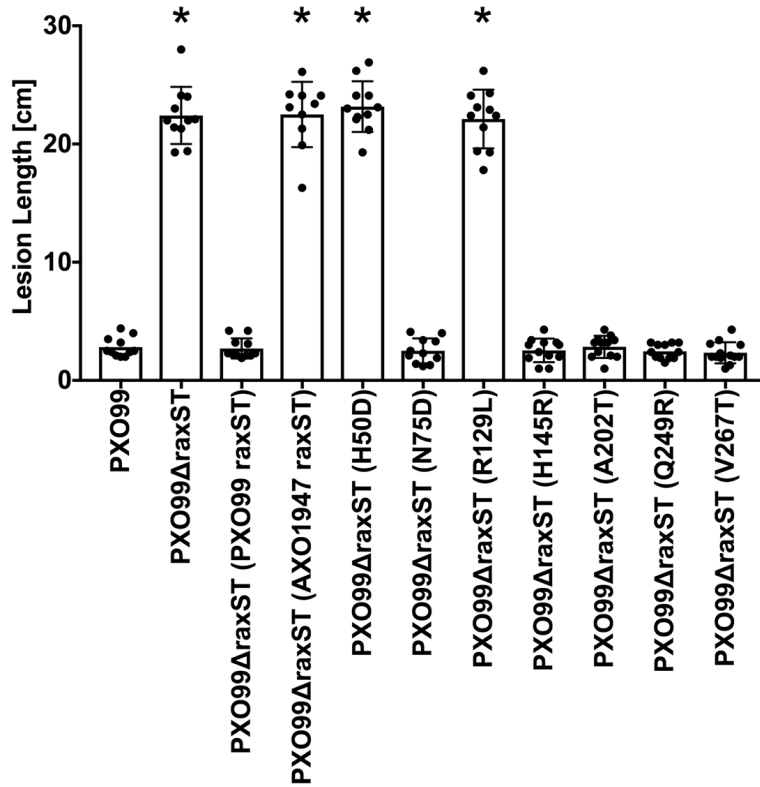


801 Fig. 8.

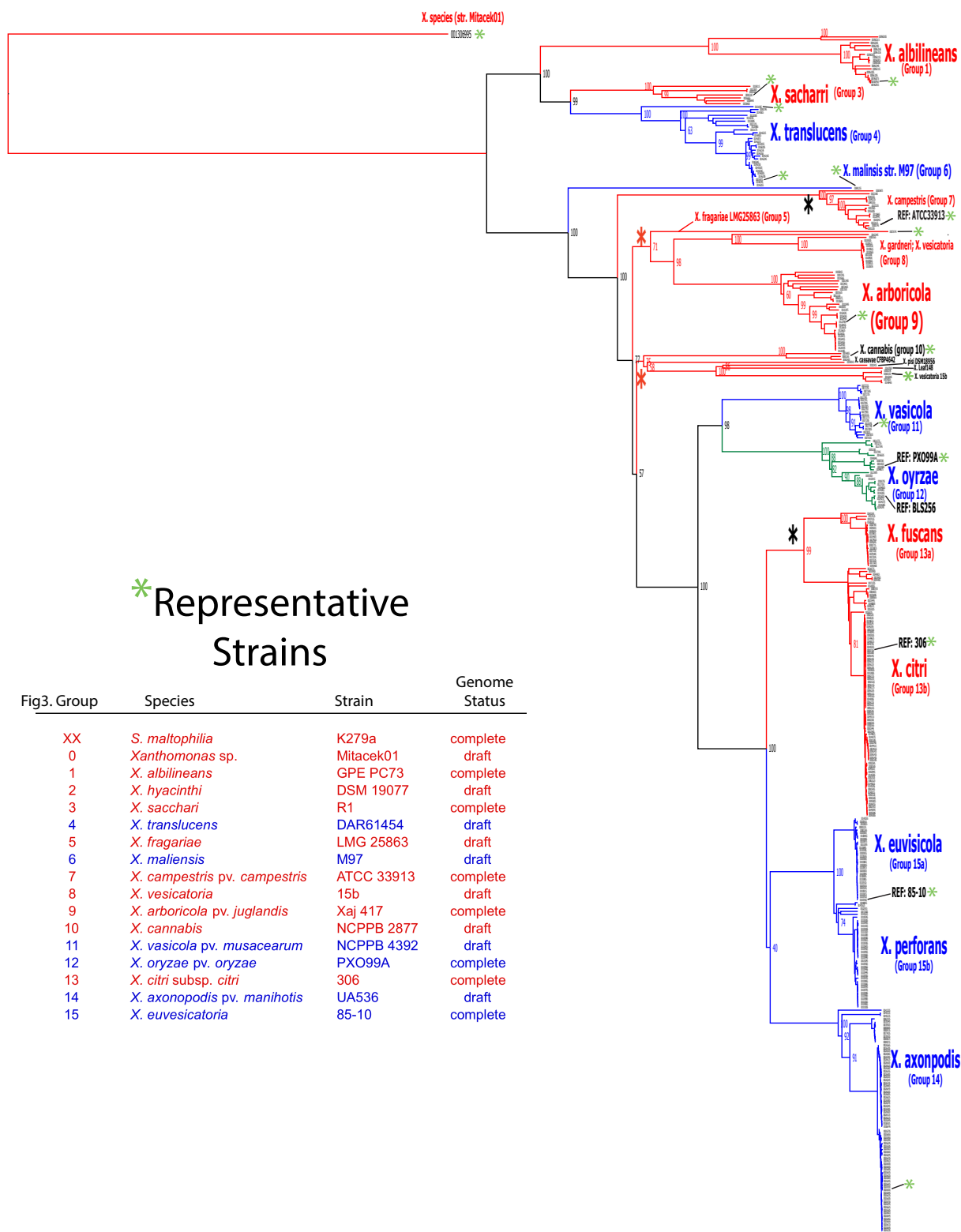
**A**



**B**

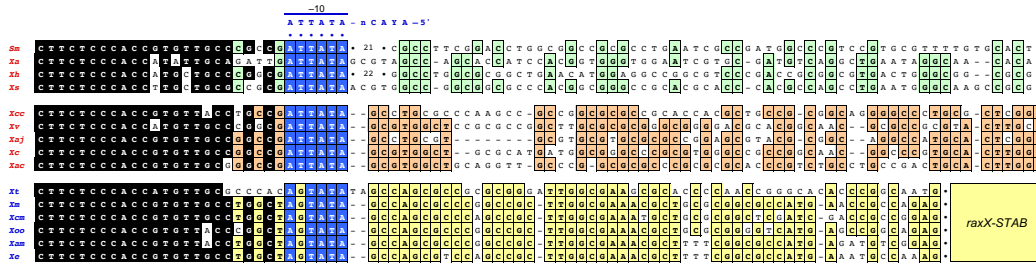


820 Fig. S1.

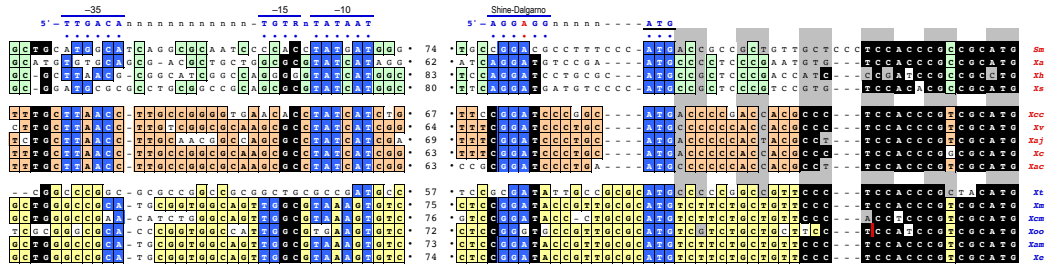


821 Fig. S2.

A. Left Boundary



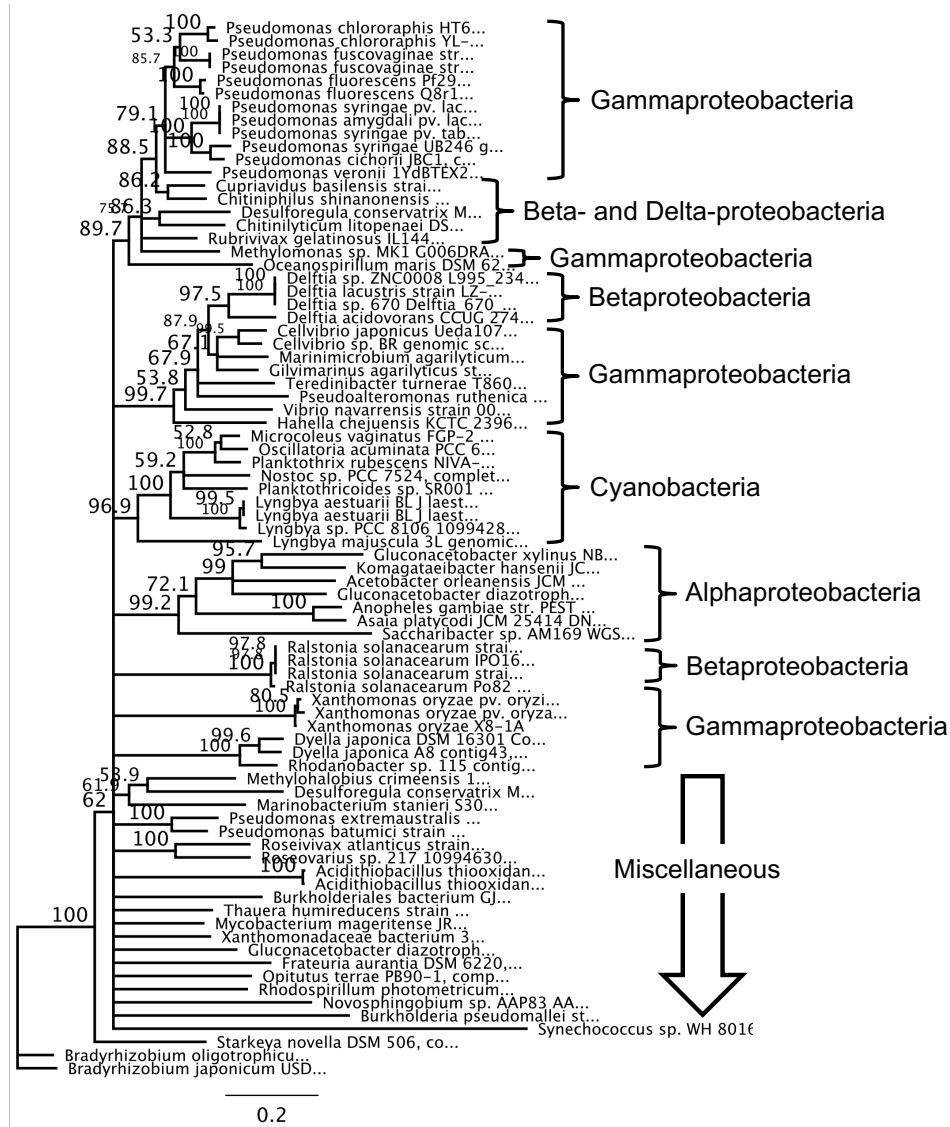
B. Right Boundary



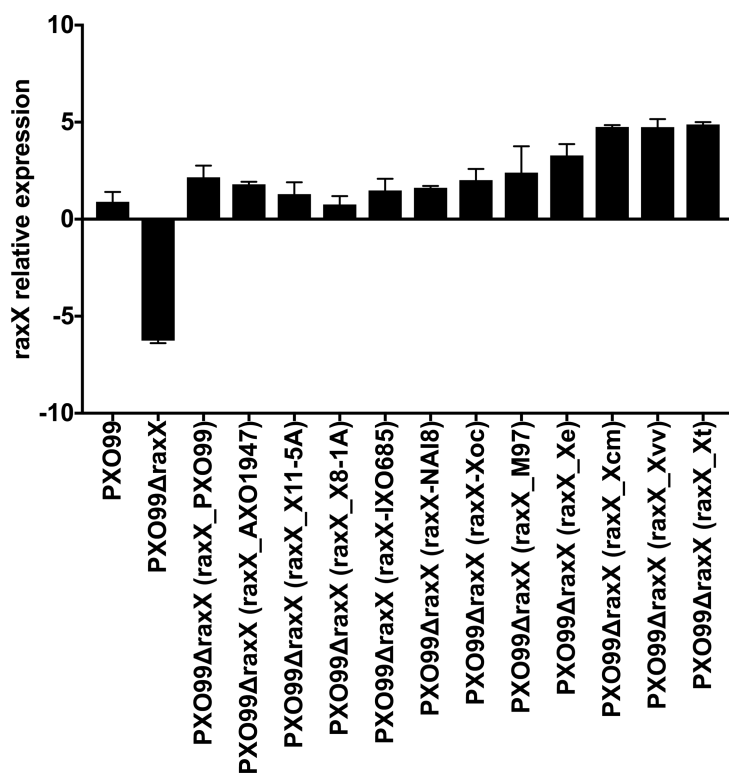
822 Fig. S3.

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Xaj 2a  GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPRAGI----HAGEGQTAAIHGGGLNSESGSGHSSRIGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xcm 2a  GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPRAGI----HAGEGQDVAAHGGGLNSESGAAGSLRTGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xoo 2a  GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPRAGL----HAGEGQTAAIHGGGFNSGSGSGHSSRIGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xac 2a  GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPRAGI----HAGEGQTAAIHGGGFNSESGNGHSSRIGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xm 2b   GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPRAGI-----HGGGFNSESGSGHSSRIGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xoc 2b   GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPRAGL-----HAGGFNSESGSGHSSRIGGMVSAAYGSASILPISWM
Xcc 3a   GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPKTLPNAGIRAGENQKAAIHGSGSNF--GEGE----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
Xa 3b   GVGPCAVKAHLAPYLPMTLPN----AGEAQKAA-----GEGV----VGMVSAASFGSASILPISWM
Sm 1    GVGPCAVKEHLAPFLPGKLG-----DNGP----VGMVSAASFGSASILPISWM
Xh 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPKTLG-----GEGD----VGMVSAASFGSASILPISWM
Xs 1    GVGPCAVKAHLAPYLPKTLG-----GDGE----VGMVSAASFGSASILPISWM
Xt 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPKTLG-----GEGD----VGMVSAASFGSASILPISWM
Xf 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPRTL G-----SEGD----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
Xv 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPKTLG-----GEGD----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
Xc 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPRTL G-----GEGD----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
Xam 1   GVGPCAVKSHLAPFLPRTL G-----GEGD----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
Xe 1    GVGPCAVKSHLAPYLPKTLG-----GEGD----VGMVSAASYGSASILPISWM
          ↑                               ↑
        Gly-733                       Val-738
```

823 Fig. S4.



824 Fig. S5.



838 Fig. S6.

11 50  
• •  
VDYHFISGLPRAGSSLLAALLRQNPQLHADVTSPVARLYAAMLGMSEEHPSNVQIDDAQ 60  
5' -PSB D

75 118  
• •  
RVRLRAVFDAYYQNRQELGTVFDTNRAWCSRLTGLARLFPRSRMICCVRDVGWIVDSIFE 120  
D 3' -PB

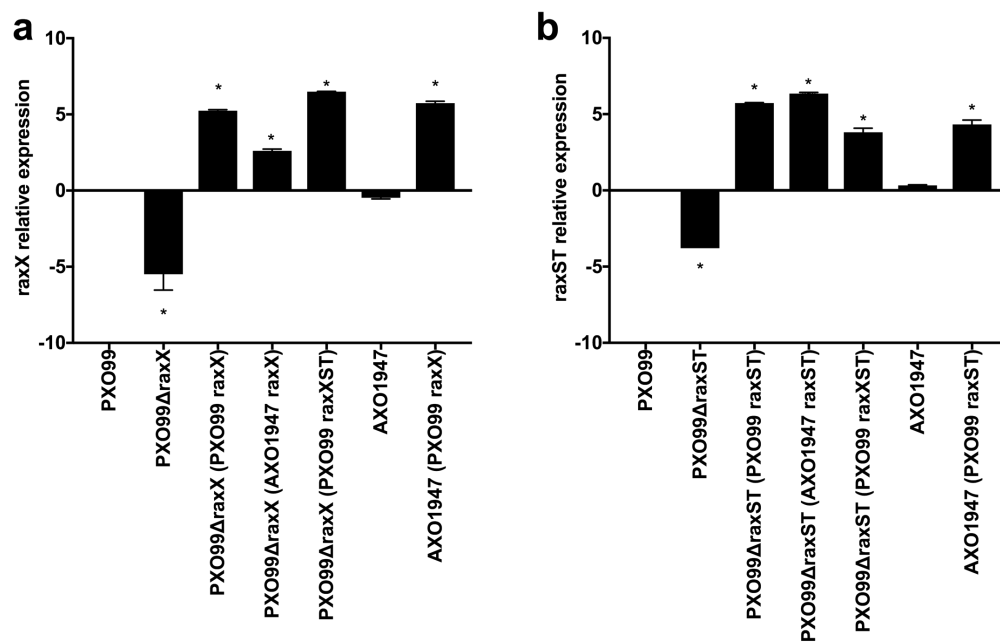
129 145  
• •  
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L R

202  
•  
DTLAQRPAQAMEQVYAFLLQLPAFAHDYAGVQAEAERFDAALQMPGLHRVRRGVHYVPRRS 240  
T

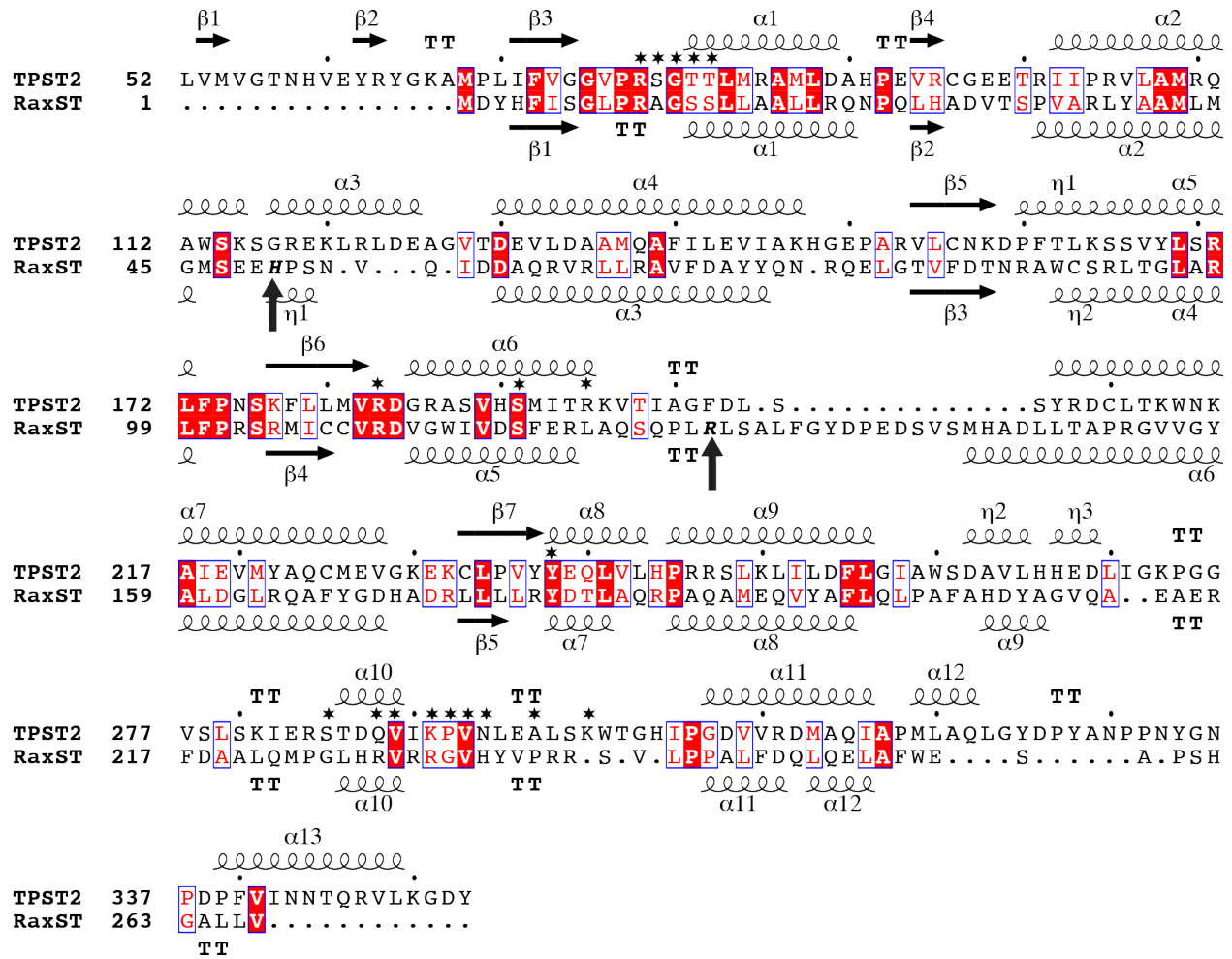
249 267  
• •  
VLPPALFDQLQELAFWESAPSHGALLV 267  
R I



839 Fig. S7.



840 Fig. S8.



841 **Fig. S9.**

