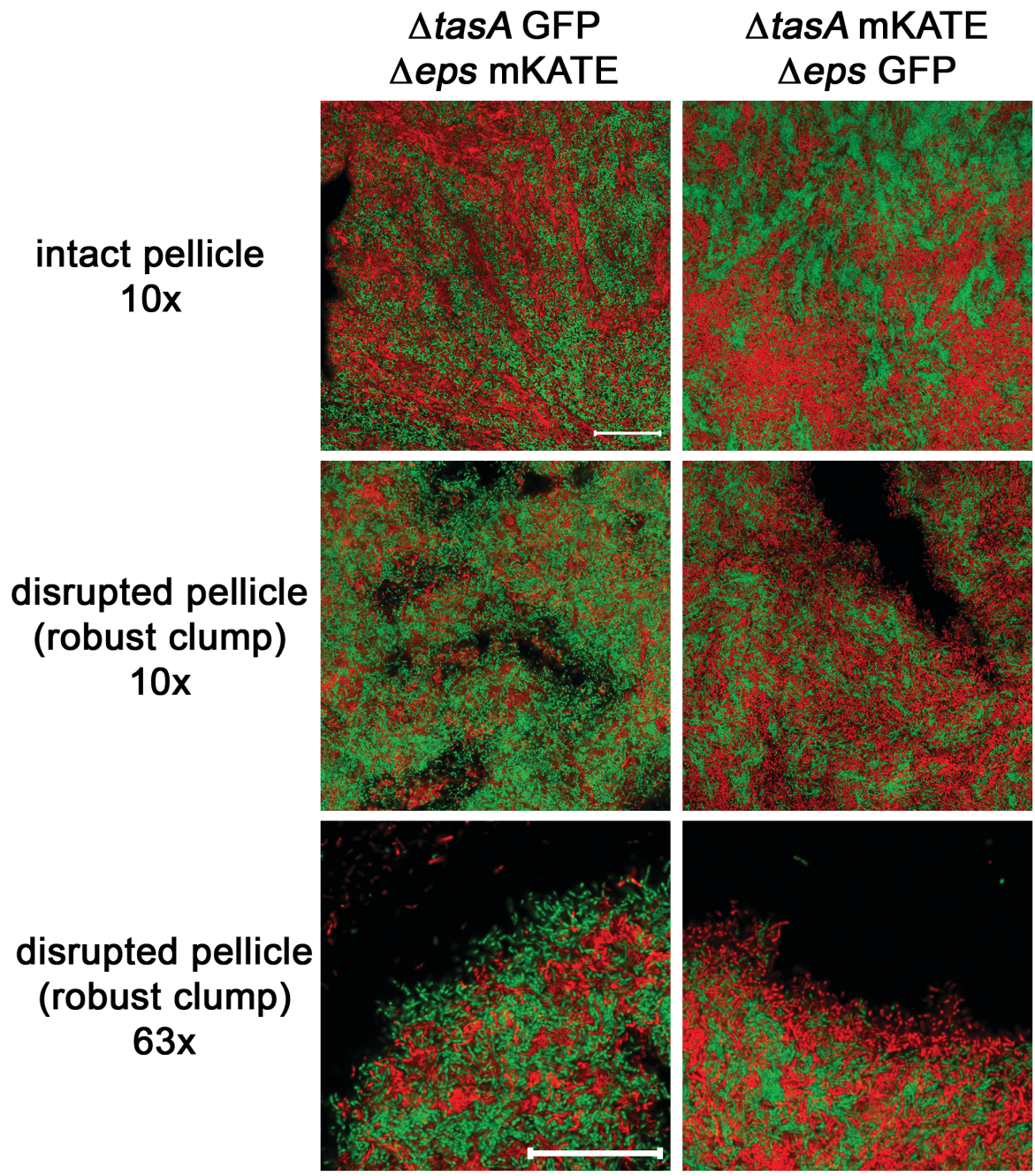

Fig S1. Confocal images of mechanically disrupted and intact pellicles. Pellicles were captured at 48 hours using a confocal microscope. Upper panels represent intact pellicles formed by Δ*tasA* and Δ*eps* mutants at 10x magnification, middle panels represent identical mechanically disrupted pellicles and bottom panels represent identical mechanically disrupted pellicles at 63x magnification. Cells expressing mKate2 are colored in red while GFP producing cells are colored green. Left and right images show opposing combinations of fluorescent markers. Scale bar: 50 μm.

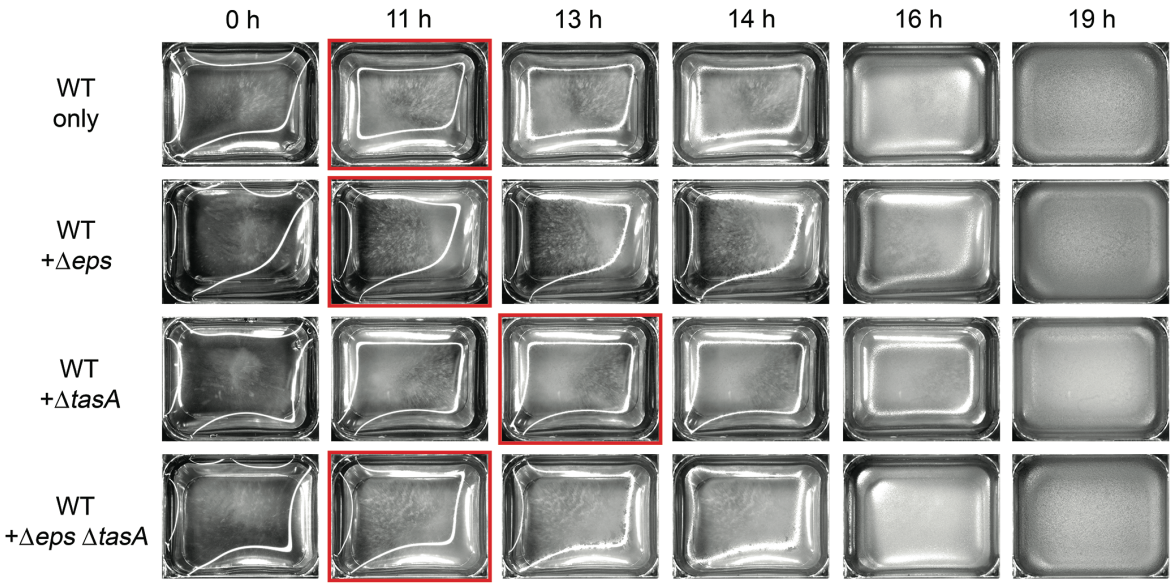

Fig S2. Stereomicroscope images of pellicle formation. Pellicle formation images captured at various time points of WT, and co-cultures of WT + Δ*eps*, WT + Δ*tasA* or WT + Δ*eps*Δ*tasA* in MSgg medium incubated at 30°C inside an 8-well tissue culture chamber (Sarstedt; the wells have 24mm width and 76mm length, the growth area is 0.8 cm2). The red square represents the beginning of pellicle formation as indicated by disruption of the light reflection caused by the bright field stereomicroscope, which was assessed by close examination of the obtained images.

Video S1. Stereomicroscope time lapse of pellicle formation. Pellicle formation time lapse from images captured every 15 minutes for a total of 48 hours of identical WT, and WT + Δ*eps*, WT + Δ*tasA* or WT + Δ*eps*Δ*tasA* cocultures as described in Fig. S1. Cocultures were inoculated from top left to bottom right as follows: WT + Δ*eps*Δ*tasA*, WT only, WT + Δ*eps* and WT + Δ*tasA*. Frame rate: 10 frames per second. The wells have 24mm width and 76mm length.