

Table S2. Symbiotic performance of soybean-nodulating isolates. *B. japonicum* E109 was included as reference strain.

Isolate	Nodules plant ⁻¹	Dry weight (mg)			Shoot/root ratio (dry)	Fresh weight (mg)		Shoot/root ratio (fresh)	Chlorophyll (SPAD units)	Shoot N (mg g ⁻¹ dry weight)
		Individual nodule	Shoot	Root		Shoot	Root			
<i>B. elkanii</i> LH/S-02	38 d	1.4 bc	505.7 abc	180.0 abc	2.9	2615.7 ab	1291.4 ab	2.0	30.2 cdef	28.5 abc
<i>B. elkanii</i> LH/S-03	24 cd	1.6 bcde	442.9 abc	157.1 ab	3.1	2361.4 ab	1167.1 a	2.1	25.6 abc	27.6 ab
<i>B. elkanii</i> LH/S-04	24 cd	1.6 cde	418.6 ab	141.4 ab	3.1	2301.4 ab	1422.9 abc	1.7	27.6 bdc	37.5 ef
<i>B. diazoefficiens</i> LH/S-10	19 bc	1.3 abc	445.7 abc	141.4 ab	3.2	2511.4 ab	1468.6 abc	1.7	27.0 abcd	33.2 bcd
<i>B. diazoefficiens</i> LH/S-11	36 d	1.2 abc	530.0 bc	248.6 d	2.1	2654.3 ab	1732.9 cde	1.6	33.06 ef	38.5 f
<i>B. diazoefficiens</i> LH/S-12	28 cd	1.5 bcd	571.4 c	248.6 d	2.3	2734.3 ab	1767.1 bcde	1.6	34.5 f	34.1 cde
<i>B. japonicum</i> LH/S-14	8 b	4.0 de	360.0 a	124.3 a	2.9	2184.3 a	1285.7 ab	1.7	24.4 ab	28.3 ab
<i>B. japonicum</i> LH/S-17	18 bc	2.3 de	517.1 bc	224.3 cd	2.3	3050.0 b	1988.6 de	1.6	28.9 bcde	36.8 def
<i>B. japonicum</i> MP/S-01	15 abc	2.4 e	471.4 abc	177.1 bcd	2.7	2794.3 ab	1330.0 abc	2.1	29.3 bcde	37.1 def
<i>B. japonicum</i> E109	24 cd	1.1 ab	430.0 abc	136.0 ab	3.2	2230.0 a	1468.0 abcd	1.6	30.6 def	32.8 cd
Uninoculated control	0	0	498.0 abc	184.0 bcd	2.7	2200.0 a	2218.0 e	1.0	22.3 a	14.5 a

Plants were grown for 28 days in a plant growth chamber at 30 °C/20 °C day/night temperature, 60%/80% day/night relative humidity, and 16 h photophase. Columns represent means for seven plants (N = 7). Statistical analysis was performed by ANOVA followed by Tukey test. Values followed by the same letter were similar with $\alpha = 0.05$.