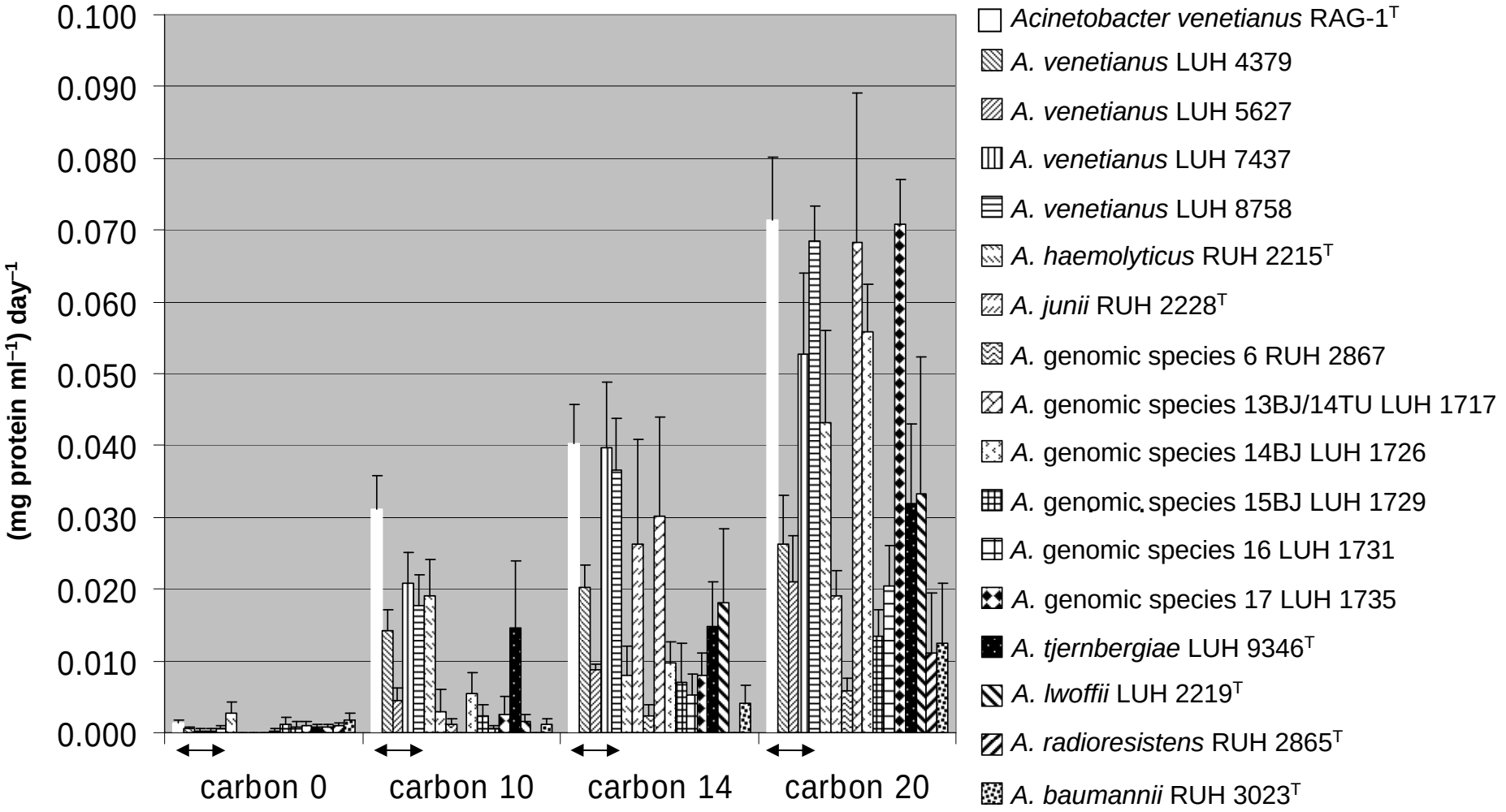

Supplementary Fig. S1. Growth of different *Acinetobacter* strains after 72 h in mineral medium containing carbon sources with variable chain lengths, expressed as (mg protein ml^{-1}) day^{-1}. Carbon 0: inoculated mineral medium (no carbon source); carbon 10, carbon 14, carbon 20: alkanes with different chain lengths. All measurements were done in quadruplicate, except for the control (n = 11). Mean values (± SEM) are presented. The two-headed arrows delineate the results for the five *A. venetianus* strains for each carbon source.

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Supplementary Table S1. *P*-values of the differences in delta yield over the range of carbon sources used between the various strains and the *A. venetianus* control strain RAG-1^T

Negative values indicate values lower than those obtained for the *A. venetianus* control strain.
The following model was used: delta yield=(a_1) × dummy + (a_2) × carbon range+ (a_3) × dummy × carbon range + a_4, in which
delta yield=difference in yield between a specific carbon source to the medium without carbon [in (mg protein ml^{-1}) day^{-1}]
dummy=control strain (0) versus test strain (1)
carbon range=results obtained at source 10, 14 and 20
a_{1-3}=coefficients in regression model
a_4=rest coefficient.

Strain	Difference		
	Dummy	Carbon-range	Interaction
LUH 4379		0.000	–0.000
LUH 5627		0.000	–0.000
LUH 7437		0.000	
LUH 8758		0.000	
RUH 2215		0.001	–0.002
RUH 2228		0.002	–0.000
RUH 2867		0.000	–0.000
LUH 1717		0.000	
LUH 1726	–0.001	0.000	
LUH 1729		0.000	–0.000
LUH 1731		0.000	–0.000
LUH 1735	–0.016	0.000	
LUH 9346		0.000	–0.001
RUH 2219		0.000	–0.000
RUH 2865		0.000	–0.000
RUH 3023		0.000	–0.000

Using analysis of variance and step-wise multiple regression (Armitage *et al.*, 2002; Kleinbaum *et al.*, 1998), the difference in yield over C10, C14 and C20 (to that of C0) was compared between a specific strain and the control strain after the same number of days of experimentation. The applied model to test the carbon-dependent growth of the various strains of bacteria turned out to describe the data significantly (P<0.001). This model allows statistical testing not only of the difference in yield but also of the dose-dependent (with respect to carbon source) growth difference between both strains (Kleinbaum *et al.*, 1998).

A *P*-value of lower than 0.05 was considered to be significant.

References

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