

Figure S1

Optical density (corresponding to cell density) plots after centrifugation of the *M. luteus* strains trpE16, ope and Δ oleABCD in self-generated Percoll density gradients. The cells from cultures grown to the stationary phase were washed in 0.15 M NaCl and centrifuged for 30 min at 23 000 g and 20°C in Percoll with an initial density of 1.09 g \times ml⁻¹. The centrifuge tubes were scanned and the images were analysed with ImageJ to produce the optical density plots.

