

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my appreciation to Professor Kunio Yamane and Dr. Kouji Nakamura (Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Tsukuba) for invaluable suggestions and encouragement during this work. I am deeply grateful to Dr. H. Takamatsu (Faculty of pharmaceutical Sciences, Setsunan University) for his helpful discussion and providing antisera against CotA, CotB and CotE.

I thank Professor P. Stragier (Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique) and Dr. K. Asai (Department of Molecular Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Saitama) for providing the sigma mutant strains MO718, MO719, MO1027 and MO1781; Dr. S. Moriya (Graduate School of Biological Sciences, Nara Institute of Science and technology) for providing plasmid pMutinT3; Dr. Henner (Genetic inc.) for providing pDH88; Dr. R. Amikura (Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Tsukuba) for technical assistance with the electron microscopy, and Dr. A. Oguro (Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo) for technical assistance.

I also thank all members of the Yamane laboratory for their useful discussion and suggestions.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents and my friends for their constant encouragements and supports for my research.

Hiroshi Kakeshita

January, 2001