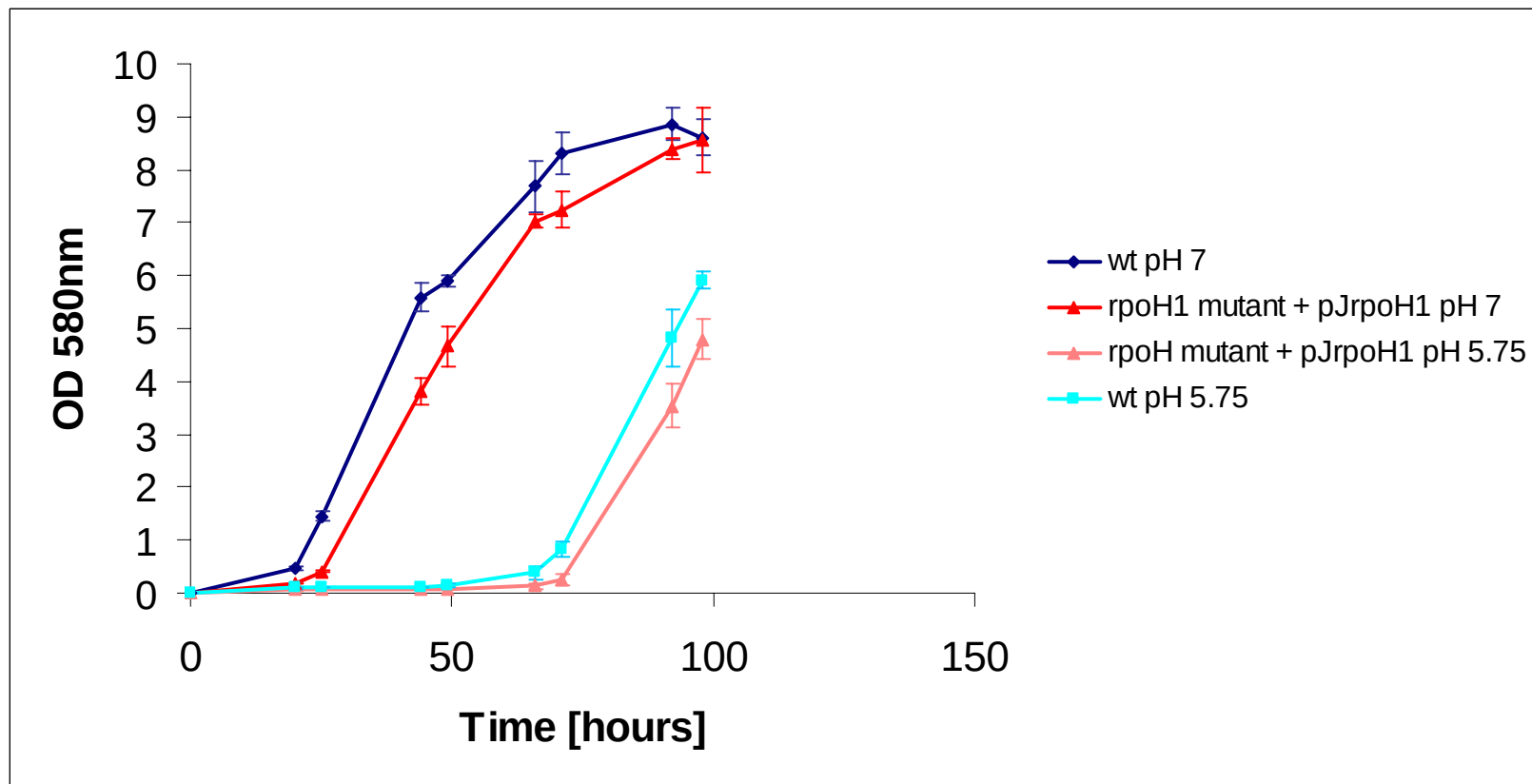




Additional File 1. Complementation of *rpoH1* mutation. Growth cultures of the *S. meliloti* wild type strain and the *rpoH1* mutant carrying the plasmid pJrpoH1 containing the *rpoH1* gene were performed at both pH 7 and pH 5.75. Strains were grown in Vincent minimal medium and measured for optical density at 580 nm at different time points, for five days. The error bars indicate the standard deviation calculated from three independent cultures.