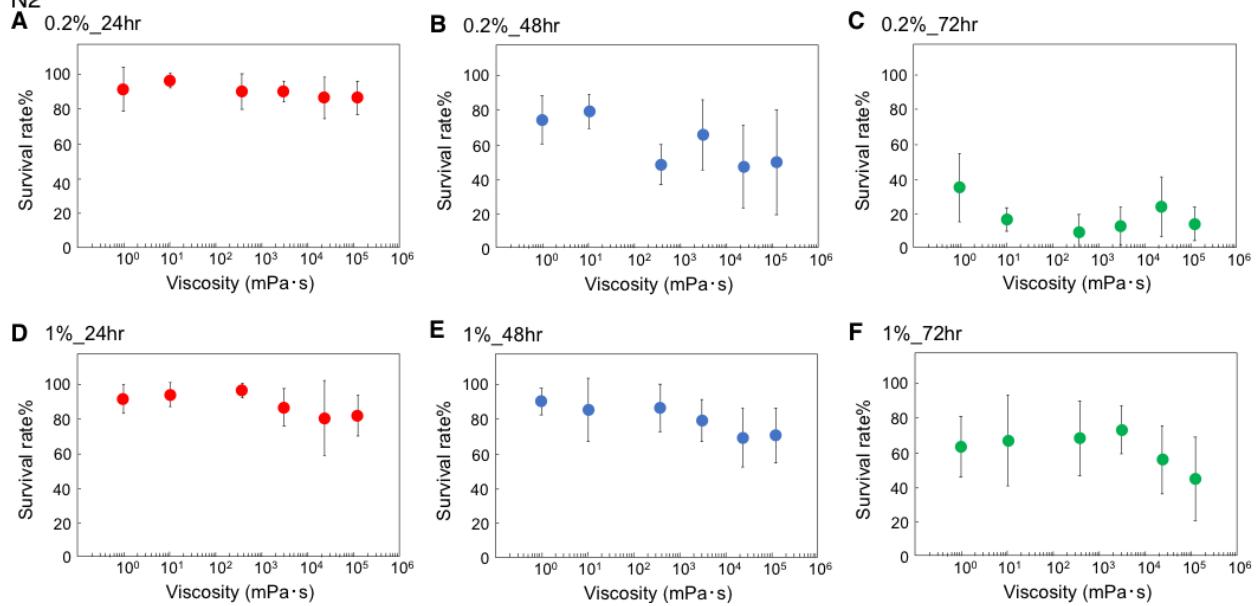
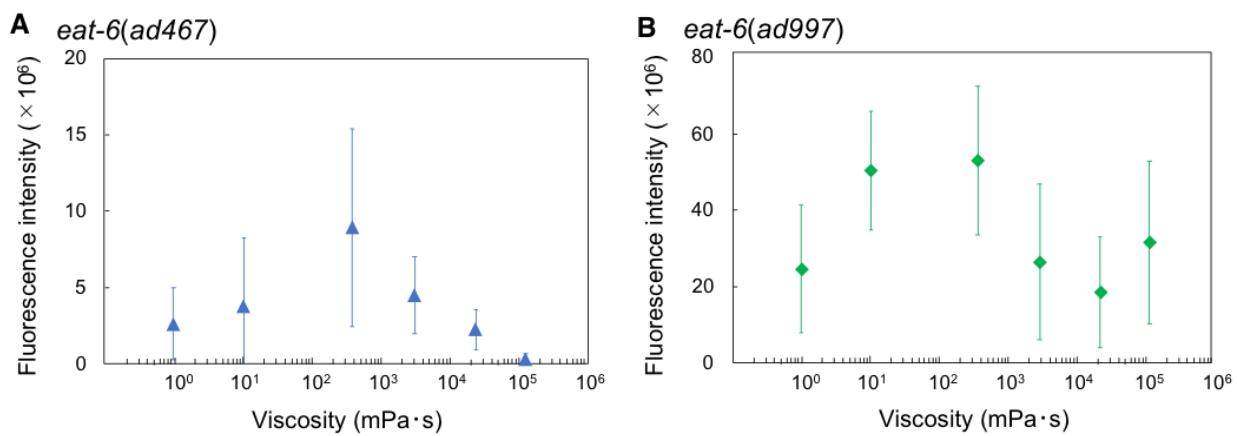


## Supplementary information

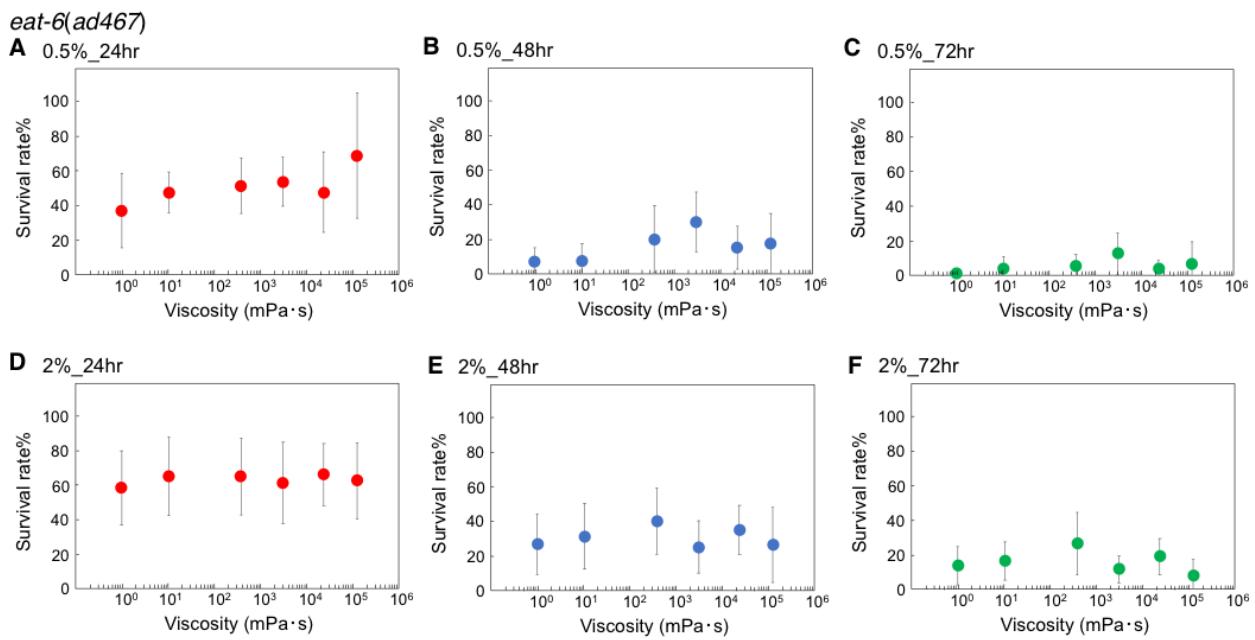
N2



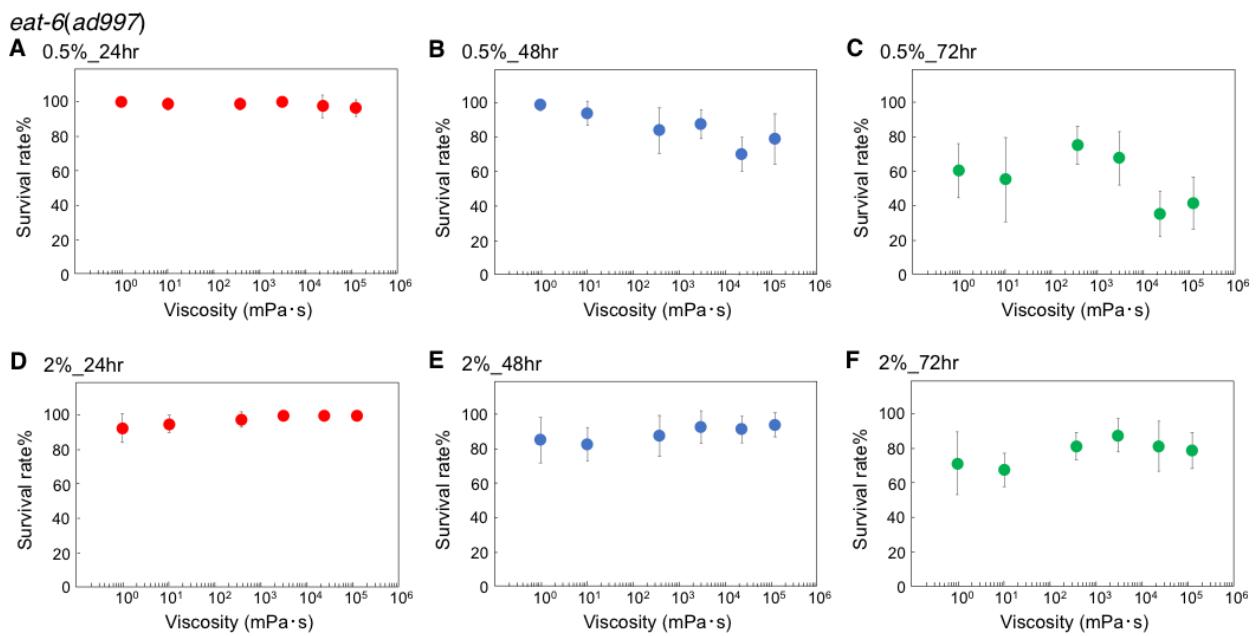
**Fig. S1. The effects of viscosity on the survival rates of the wild-type strain.** (A) 0.2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (B) 0.2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, (C) 0.2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr, (D) 1(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (E) 1(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, and (F) 1(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  SD.  $N=8$  assays in each condition.



**Fig. S2. The effects of viscosity on the uptake of the fluorescent particles of the feeding defective mutants.** (A) *eat-6(ad467)*. (B) *eat-6(ad997)*. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  SD.  $n \geq 6$  in each viscosity and each strain.



**Fig. S3. The effects of viscosity on the survival rates of *eat-6(ad467)*.** (A) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (B) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, (C) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr, (D) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (E) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, and (F) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  SD. N=8 assays in each condition.



**Fig. S4. The effects of viscosity on the survival rates of *eat-6(ad997)*.** (A) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (B) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, (C) 0.5(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr, (D) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 24 hr, (E) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 48 hr, and (F) 2(v/v)% *E. coli* at 72 hr. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  SD.  $N=8$  assays in each condition.