



A. Typical elution from a Ni-NTA column of total proteins from a strain expressing a modified tmRNA encoding a His7 stretch within its ORF (*ssrA-His*) or from an *E. coli* DH5 α strain lacking in tmRNA-His7 (control). Equal amounts of total proteins from each bacterial strain were loaded on the column (mAU corresponds to milli absorbance units at 280 nm). *Trans*-translated proteins were eluted with increasing imidazole concentrations. **B.** Western Blot on individual fractions corresponding to the different elution peaks (cf. A.), using antibodies against the His7 tag. Molecular weight markers (MW, left) are indicated. Similar profiles were observed for the six strains with variable S1 expression (top, see text) while DH5 α control strain doesn't display any tagged protein (not shown). **C.** Typical elution profile of the desalting column. A DH5 α strain lacking the chromosomal *ssrAH7* allele was used as a negative control. Quantification of the amounts of *trans*-translated proteins was obtained by calculating the areas under the curves (Unicor 5.0, Amersham).