



Supplementary Figure 2. Elasticity of DNA in competence medium. + Experimental data for the relative end-to-end distance of DNA as a function of external force. — Fit between 0.5pN and 10pN according to the Worm Like Chain (WLC) model $F=(k_B T/l_p)[1/4(1-l/l_0)^2-1/4+l/l_0]$ with a persistence length of $l_p=54 \pm 5nm$. The dotted line extends the WLC-model with $l_p=54nm$ to higher and lower forces. l_0 is the contour length of DNA. To convert positional data in measured in nm into base pairs we used the WLC between 0 and 10pN. At higher forces the experimental data is not well described by this model and we used the experimental values.