

**Table S6. 6His tagged BamA barrel loop deletions.**

Loop deleted.	Growth in absence of arabinose. <sup>a)</sup>	Maximum vancomycin concentration allowing growth. <sup>b)</sup>
pET17b	-	-
<i>6hisbamA</i>	+	150
ΔL3	+	75
ΔL4	-	nd
ΔL6	-	nd
ΔL7	+/-	0
ΔL8	+	0

<sup>a)</sup> Growth of the depletion strain JWD3, carrying either pET17b, pET17b/ *6hisbamA* or pET17b/ *6hisbamA* containing various loop deletions within *bamA*, was investigated by streaking bacteria onto nutrient agar plates supplemented with only 100  $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$  ampicillin. Plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C and strains were scored as follows: +, normal growth; +/-, weak growth; -, no growth. The results shown were determined from three independent experiments.

<sup>b)</sup> JWD3 cells containing the versions of pET17b/ *6hisbamA*, which enabled cells to grow in the absence of arabinose, were struck out onto LB agar plates supplemented with 100  $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$  ampicillin and 0, 37.5, 75 and 150  $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$  vancomycin. Plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. Constructs that were not tested are indicated as nd (not determined). The results shown were determined from three independent experiments.