

Table S1. *In vitro* virulence

properties of strains C5, ScottA and PL25
after 6 days of incubation in TSB-Y at 10°C
and subsequent exposure to SGF for 20 min.

Strain	Combination	Total <i>in vitro</i> virulence potential (%)
C5	Single ^{TSBY}	4.22±0.03 ^{AB*}
	Single	0.80±0.33 ^{ab}
	+ScottA	0.76±0.37
	+PL25	N.C.
	+ScottA ^{SGF}	0.26±0.22
	+PL25 ^{SGF}	0.23±0.01 ^{†*}
ScottA	Single ^{TSBY}	3.12±1.19 ^{B*}
	Single	1.03±0.09 ^b
	+C5	1.16±0.21
	+PL25	N.C.
	+C5 ^{SGF}	N.C.
	+PL25 ^{SGF}	0.19±0.06 [†]
PL25	Single ^{TSBY}	5.02±1.42 ^{A*}
	Single	0.69±0.21 ^a
	+C5	0.43±0.15 [†]
	+ScottA	0.72±0.32
	+C5 ^{SGF}	0.70±0.19 [*]
	+ScottA ^{SGF}	N.C.

^{TSBY} Indicates that strains were used for the *in vitro* virulence assay without prior exposure to SGF

^{SGF} Indicates that strains were grown individually, combined in SGF and during infection of Caco-2 cells

* Significant differences between two strains in the same combination within each row

*Significant differences between a single and single^{TSBY} strain

† Significant differences between a single strain and the same strain in different combinations with a second strain

Different capital letters indicate significant differences between different single^{TSBY} strains

Different small letters indicate significant differences between different single strains

N.C. Could not be enumerated at the end of the proliferation assay

Data represent mean values \pm SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicates