

Table S1. Primers used in this study.

Primers for *acrAB* gene deletion (5'-3')

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>acrAB-kan-F</i> | TTAACTTTTGACCATTGACCAATTTGAAATCGGACACTCGAGGTT TACATGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| <i>acrAB-kan-R</i> | GTTATGCATAAAAAAGGCCGCTTGCGCGGCCTTAGTGATTACACGT TGTACATATGAATATCCTCCTTAG |

Primers for *mlaA* gene deletion and complementation (5'-3')

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>mlaA-kan-F</i> | CTTAATAAGAAAAAAGGTGAGTTTTGCGACTCACCTTTTTTGTTT GTTTCGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| <i>mlaA-kan-R</i> | CCGTCATGGATGGCAAACCTGCATAAGCCATAAAAAAACAGGGAGA CATTTTCATATGAATATCCTCCTTAG |
| <i>mlaA-com-F</i> | GCGGGAGTTACTCTGAAAATGTAG |
| <i>mlaA-com-R</i> | ATCGTTTGTGGTTAAGTGCTGG |

Table S2. MICs of tigecycline-resistant mutants and parental strains to different antibiotics.

| Strains | MIC ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) ^a | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | CTX ^c | FEP ^c | ATM ^c | IPM ^c | MEM ^c | CIP ^c | LVX ^c | CST ^c | AMK ^c | CHL ^c | TET ^c | MIN ^c | TGC ^b |
| ATCC 25922 | 0.19 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.5 | 0.094 | 0.012 | 0.032 | 0.25 | 3 | 3 | 1.5 | 0.75 | 0.125 |
| 25922-TGC8 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.125 | 1 | 0.125 | 0.016 | 0.047 | 0.25 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> | 0.047 | 0.064 | 0.125 | 0.38 | 0.094 | 0.012 | 0.008 | 0.125 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0.38 | 0.0625 |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> -TGC8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.38 | 0.75 | 0.19 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.38 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 8 |

^aAbbreviations: CTX, cefotaxime; FEP, cefepime; ATM, aztreonam; IPM, imipenem; MEM, meropenem; CIP, ciprofloxacin; LVX, levofloxacin; CST, colistin; AMK, amikacin; CHL, chloramphenicol; TET, tetracycline; MIN, minocycline; TGC, tigecycline;

^bTested by standard broth microdilution tests;

^cTested by Etest method.

Table S3. Strains used in this study.

| Strains | Description | References |
|---|---|------------|
| 25922 | Wild-type | ATCC 25922 |
| 25922 Δ <i>mlaA</i> | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>mlaA</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1 | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with empty pCR [®] 2.1 vector | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with wild-type <i>mlaA</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> + | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with mutational-type <i>mlaA</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>acrAB</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> Δ <i>mlaA</i> | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>acrAB</i> and <i>mlaA</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1 | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>acrAB</i> and <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with empty pCR [®] 2.1 vector | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>acrAB</i> and <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with wild-type <i>mlaA</i> | This study |
| 25922 Δ <i>acrAB</i> Δ <i>mlaA</i> /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> + | ATCC 25922 deletion of <i>acrAB</i> and <i>mlaA</i> , complemented with mutational-type <i>mlaA</i> | This study |

Table S4. Series of tigecycline MICs change during the gene deletion and complementation experiment.

| Strain | Tigecycline MIC ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) |
|--|---|
| 25922 | 0.125 |
| 25922 $\Delta mlaA$ | 0.125 |
| 25922 $\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1 | 0.125 |
| 25922 $\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> | 0.125 |
| 25922 $\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> + | 1 |
| 25922 $\Delta acrAB$ | 0.0625 |
| 25922 $\Delta acrAB\Delta mlaA$ | 0.0625 |
| 25922 $\Delta acrAB\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1 | 0.0625 |
| 25922 $\Delta acrAB\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> | 0.0625 |
| 25922 $\Delta acrAB\Delta mlaA$ /pCR [®] 2.1- <i>mlaA</i> + | 0.5 |

Table S5. The existence of three mutated loci (*mlaA*, *marR* and *rpsJ*) in the series isolates that stored in each step of the induction experiment of 25922-TGC8 (tigecycline MIC from 0.25 µg/mL to 8 µg/mL).

| Reference position | Gene mutation | Occurrence of mutations ^a | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 0.25 µg/mL | 1 µg/mL | 4 µg/mL | 8 µg/mL |
| 286573 | <i>mlaA</i> (Deletion43-44NF) | NA | + | + | + |
| 3541486 | <i>marR</i> (G104D) | NA | NA | + | + |
| 1300420 | <i>rpsJ</i> (G57L) | NA | NA | NA | + |

^a This column lists the concentration of tigecycline at which the mutations occurred. NA, mutation not found; +, mutation has occurred.