

**S 6 Table. Effect of the pilus gene cluster on conjugation of the lactose-fermenting ability to *L. lactis* MG1614.**

Experiment #	Strain	Transconjugants per donor		Fold increased conjugation efficiency
		Wild type strain	Strain harbouring pIL253 <i>pil</i>	
1	NCDO712	1.90E-07	2.50E-06	13.16
2	NCDO712	1.40E-07	6.00E-06	42.86
3	NCDO712	5.00E-08	4.60E-07	9.20
<b>Average fold increase</b>				<b>21.74</b>

Experiment #	Strain	Transconjugants per donor		Fold increased conjugation efficiency
		Wild type strain	Strain harbouring pIL253 <i>pil</i>	
1	MG1299	3.10E-07	1.60E-06	5.16
2	MG1299	1.50E-07	9.30E-07	6.20
3	MG1299	5.30E-08	1.90E-06	35.85
<b>Average fold increase</b>				<b>15.74</b>