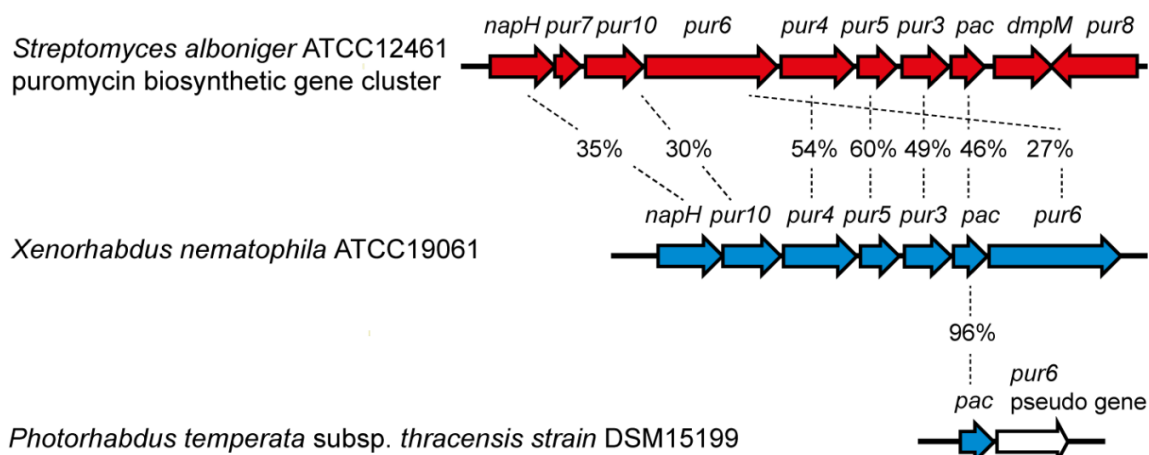


Supplementary Figure 1 | Protein phylogenetic trees. Phylogenetic trees were built for the proteobacterial proteins that show the highest sequence identity to *Streptomyces* ARG proteins, the proteins encoded in neighboring area of resistance gene *pac*, and proteins involved in *cmx* “carry back”. The position of the query sequence was marked by red triangle in the trees. Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria are marked in red and blue respectively.



Supplementary Figure 2 | Puromycin resistance gene *pac* and neighbouring genes in actinobacteria and proteobacteria. The puromycin biosynthetic gene cluster in puromycin producer is composed of ten genes (red). Homologues (protein sequence identity value indicated) of seven of them including the resistance gene *pac* (WP_046974149.1) were found in proteobacteria (blue). A standalone *pac* was also found in proteobacteria (blue). The products of all these genes were more similar to actinobacterial proteins than to proteins from any other phyla, suggesting they were co-transferred from actinobacteria to proteobacteria (Supplementary Fig. 1).

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-----MPPFALYMLALAVFVMTSEFMLAGLIPAIITELDYSVGTAGLLTSFAFAVGMVVCAPVMAAFARRWPPRLTLIVCLLVFAGSHVIGAMTP
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-----MPLPLYLAVAVCAMGTSEFMLAGLVPDIASDLGVTVGTAGTLTSFAFAVGMIVGAPLVAALATWPRRSSLLGELLAFAAAHAVGAGTT
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SFPVLVACRVVAALANAGFLAVALTAAALVPAADKQ--RALAVILLSGTTVATVAGVPPGSSLLGTWLGWRATFWAVAVCCLPAAFGVLRALP--AGRATAA
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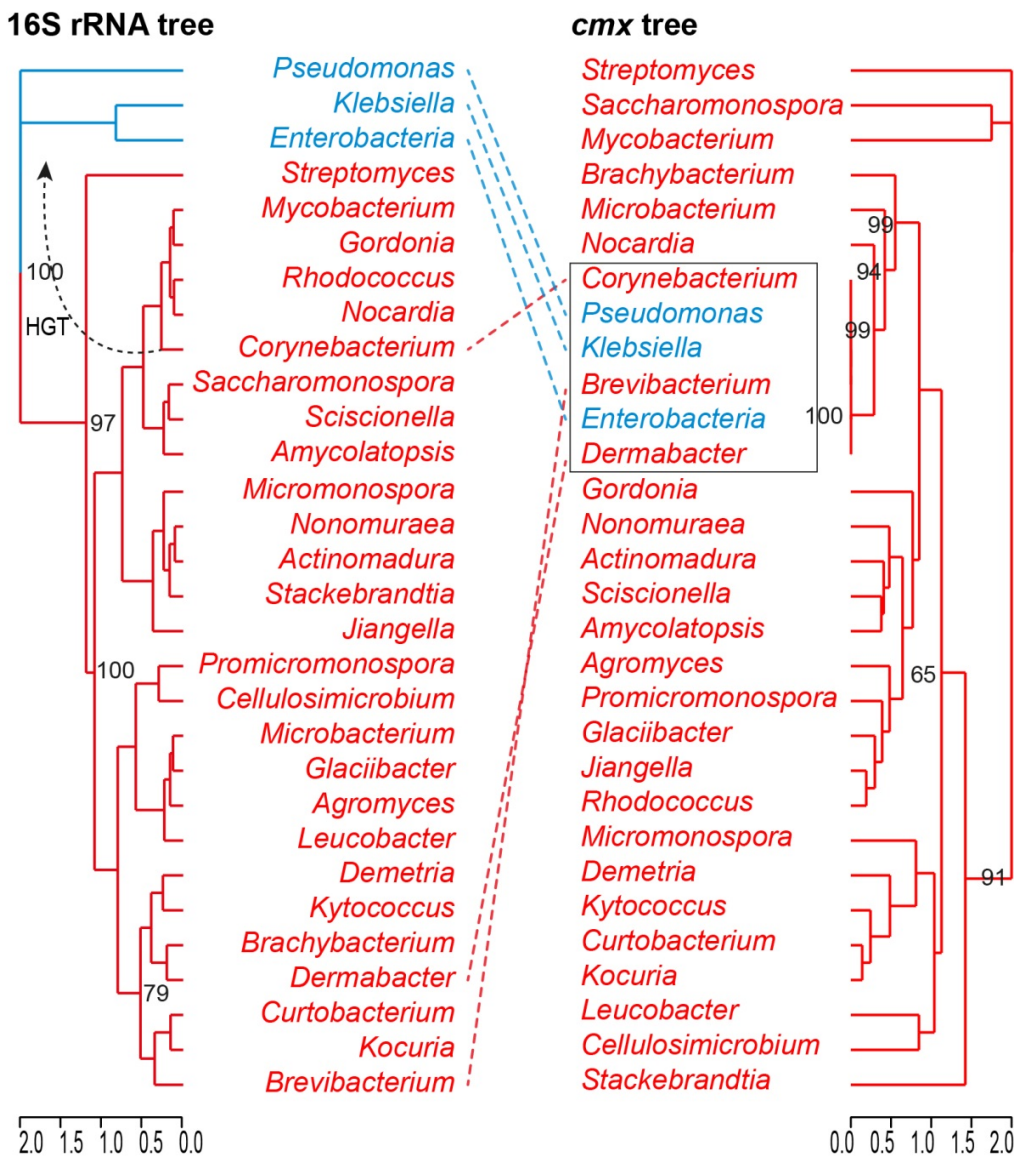
ATS--FRLRVELSQLATPRLILAMALCALINGSTFAAFTFLAPIVTEIAGLAEAWVSVALVMFGIGSFLGVTIAGRLSDQRPC--LVLAVGGPILLTGWIVL
DPSAFSVRHELRLALRTPKVGVTLLGALVNGATFCSEFTYLAPVITNVTELSGWNVPATIALFGIGSFVGVNVGGRLADTRPC--QVLAVGGAALLAGWLVF
ATGGEPLRVELAALKTPRLLAMLLGALVNAATFASFTFLAPVVDIAGLGDWLVSVAVLFGAGSFAVTVAGRLSDRRPA--QVLAVGPIILLVGVWPAI
RVACLQWSQLLPLVYKCLNFWLYTLCYAGMCSFFVFSIAPGLMGRQGVSQLGFSLLFATVATAAMVFTARFMGRVVPKWGSPSVLRVGMGCLLAGAVLL

AVV--SHPVALIV--LVLVQGFSLFCVGSSTLITRVLYAASCAPTMGCSYATAALNIGAAAGFVLGALGLATGLGLLAPVWVASVITAIALVIMLITRRALTK
ALTAGNPVVALV--LVFVQGALSFGVGSSTLIAQALYTASDAPTLAGGFATAALNVGAAAGFALGGLALGAEFCYRSPVVSASVIVATALVLAGVARAGVT
AMLADRVPALLT--LVFVQGALSFAIGSTLITRVLYEAGAPTMAASYATAALNVGAAAGFLVAATTLGHTTGNLGPLVAGSLVAVALLVAFPFRTVITTT
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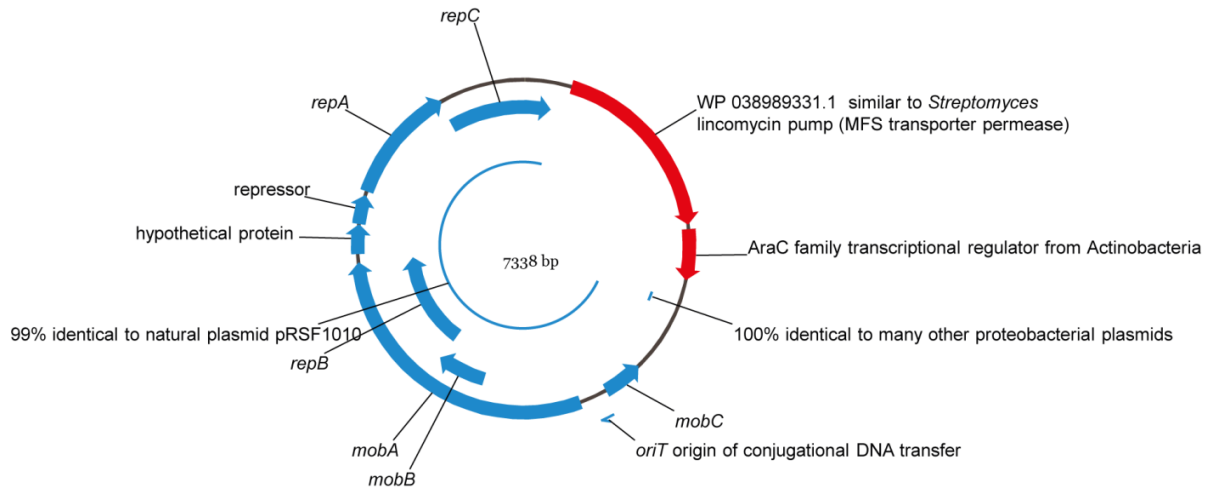
TAAEAN----- multi-phyllum Cmx (WP_005297378)
GAKADAAATENPPTGRPVBEARS-- S. venezuelae self-protecting chloramphenicol efflux pump (WP_015032122)
AAPADATR----- S. lividans confirmed chloramphenicol efflux pump (P31141)
SRQGEHVDVVALQSAESTSNPNR Pseudomonas aeruginosa CmlA (WP_000095725)

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Supplementary Figure 3 | Alignment of the multi-phyllum Cmx, and three other confirmed chloramphenicol resistance pumps. Alignment was performed using software Vector NTI. Non-similar residues are shown as black letters on a white background; weakly similar residues are shown as green letters on a white background; conservative residues are shown as black letters on a blue background; block of similar residues are shown as black letters on a green background; identical residues are shown as red letters on a yellow background. The multi-phyllum Cmx showed 63% identity (100% coverage) to the chloramphenicol efflux pump (P31141) from the model actinobacterium *Streptomyces lividans* 66, and 52% identity (99% coverage) to the self-protecting efflux pump (WP_015032122.1) from the chloramphenicol producer *Streptomyces venezuelae*. Meanwhile, it showed only 29% identity (27% coverage) to CmlA (WP_000095725), a confirmed proteobacterial chloramphenicol efflux pump.

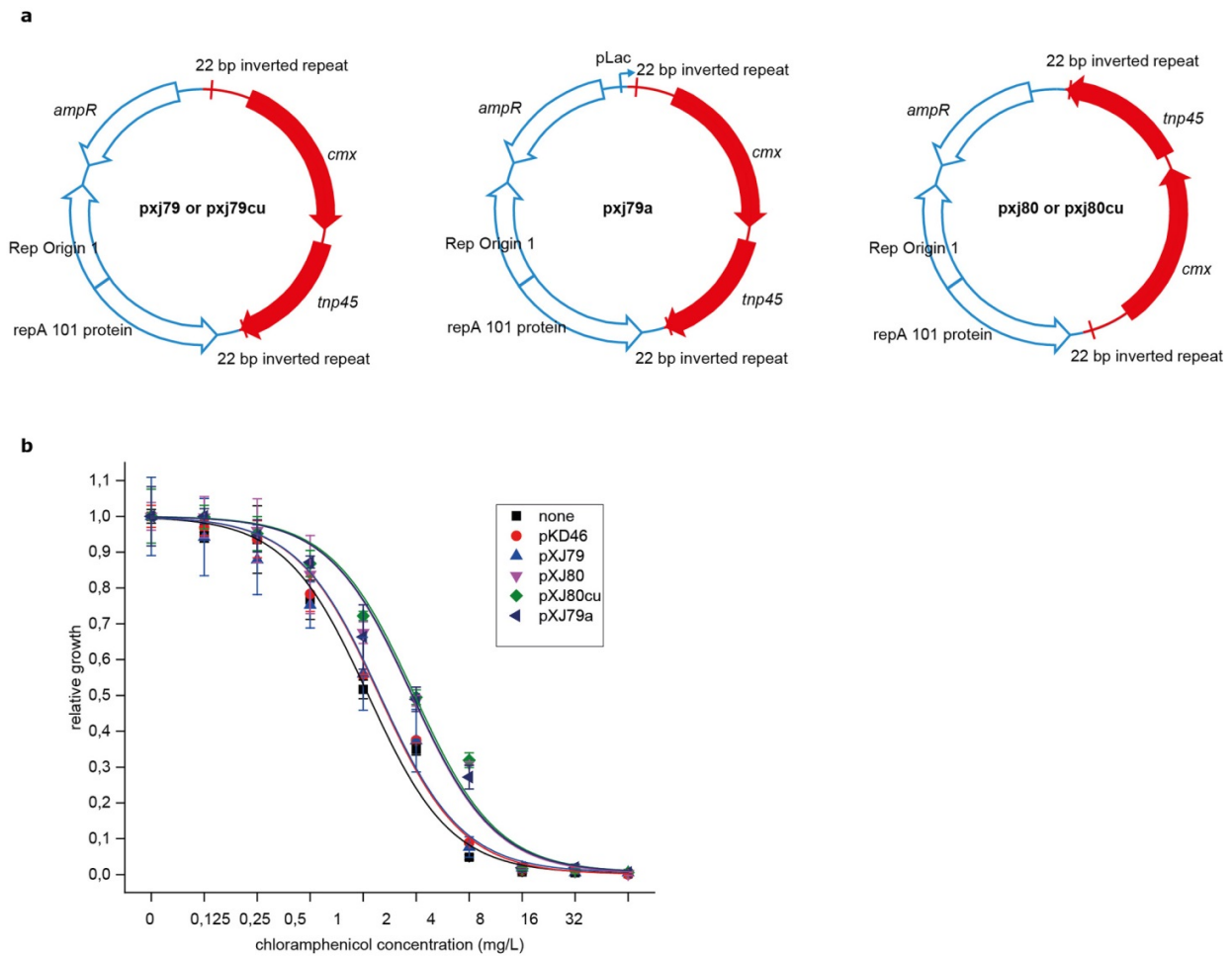


Supplementary Figure 4 | A full tanglegram of the phylogeny of the genus representative hits of *cmx* and the host phylogeny of their corresponding 16S rRNA sequences. The red labels show the Gram-positive actinobacteria while the blue labels illustrate the Gram-negative proteobacteria. *cmx* is said to have a hit in a genome if the genome has a Cmx protein (WP_005297378.1) sequence match with e-value of 10E-50 or less, 30% BLAST identity and 80% coverage. The best hit per genus is taken as the representative hit. The hits with over 99% identity to WP_005297378.1 are highlighted with a frame.



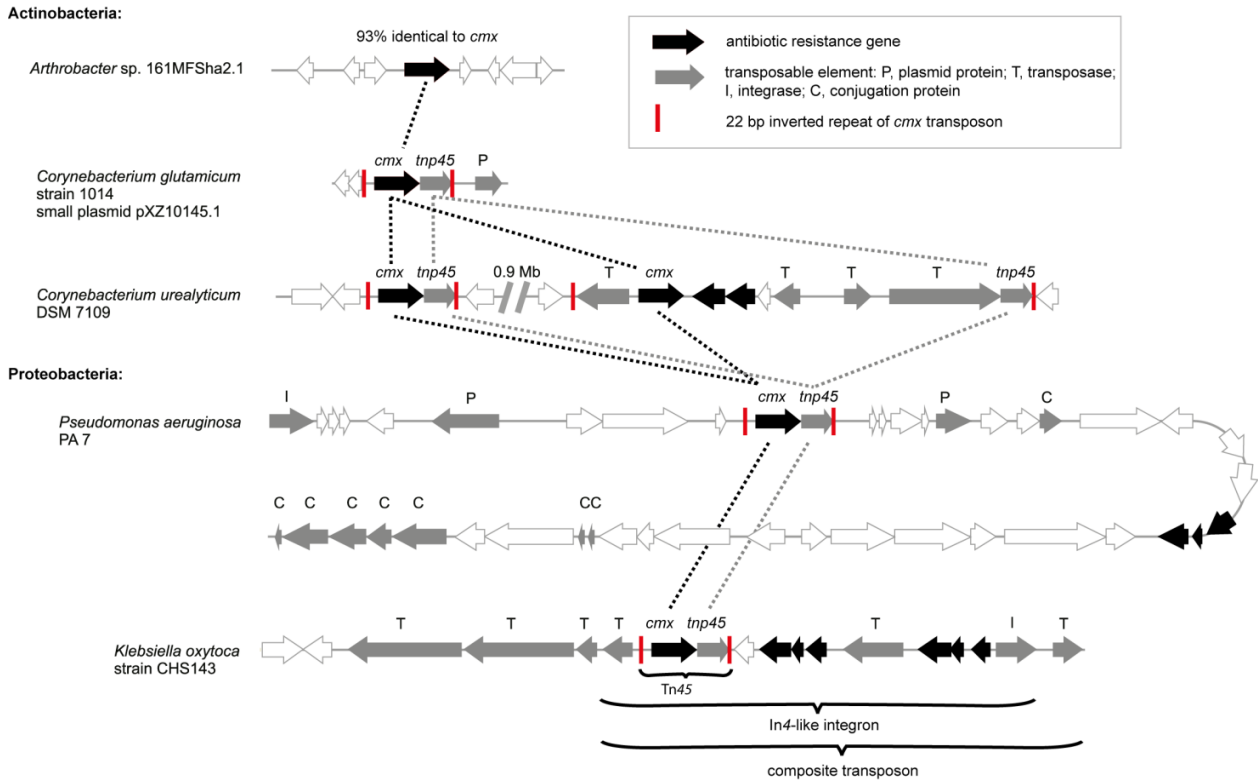
Salmonella enterica strain PS01 Contig 19 NZ LQZK01000054

Supplementary Figure 5 |WP_038989331.1 gene from *Salmonella enterica* PS01. The predicted transporter protein WP_038989331.1 is 50% identical to the self-protecting lincomycin pump, LmrA (CAA42550), from *Streptomyces lincolnensis*. Its gene is found on a plasmid from *Salmonella enterica* PS01. Similar plasmids were also found from *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* serovar typhimurium str. DT104 (NZ_CTFZ01000046.1:1-9225) and *Escherichia coli* EC2_1 (NZ_JWKJ01000106.1:1-7466). The WP_038989331.1 gene and the adjacent regulator gene showed actinobacterial sequence signature (highlighted in red), suggesting that they were transferred from actinobacteria recently. The region from *mobC* to *repC* is 99% identical to the broad-host-range proteobacterial plasmid pRSF1010 (highlighted in blue). These elements are responsible for the ability of pRSF1010 to be mobilized by conjugation from *E.coli* into *Streptomyces* and *Mycobacterium* (helped by conjugative plasmid) and stably maintained there.



Supplementary Figure 6 | Cloning of *cmx* transposon and its chloramphenicol resistance activity in *E. coli*. **a**, Cloning of *cmx* transposon. The *cmx* transposon (highlighted in red) was PCR amplified from *P. aeruginosa* PA7 by primer xj143 (as both forward and reverse primer). Plasmid backbone (marked in blue) was amplified from plasmid pKD46 by primer xj144 and xj145. The two PCR products were assembled by Gibson reaction, transferred into *E. coli* DH5 α and selected on Amp plate. Insertion direction was determined by sequencing with primer xj146. The resulted plasmids were named as pXJ79 and pXJ80. Plasmids pXJ79cu and pXJ80cu were constructed likewise and the *cmx* transposon was amplified from *C. urealyticum* DSM 7109. Plasmid pXJ79 was amplified with primer xj177 and xj178, and the product was recirculated by Gibson reaction, generating pXJ79a. By this way promoter pLac (without lacO) was inserted in front of the transposon. **b**, Dose-response curves of chloramphenicol on *E. coli* DH5 α with cloned *cmx* transposon. Concentrations of chloramphenicol

were included at twofold serial dilutions. Growth was conducted in quadruplicate 50 µl volumes for each antibacterial concentration in 96-well plates. After 48 h of incubation at 30°C, the OD600 was determined using a plate reader. Quadruplicate values for each drug condition were averaged and then normalized to growth levels without added drug (error bar: s.d.; n=4). Increased tolerance towards chloramphenicol was observed when a promoter was provided in front of the transposon (pXJ79a). A similar level of resistance was also observed when the transposon was inserted in the same direction as upstream native genes (pXJ80), suggesting that *cmx* can be functionally expressed in the new host by read-through of transcription from upstream native genes.



Supplementary Figure 7 | Examples of *cmx* transposon and its context in different hosts. Antibiotic resistance and mobile element genes are colored as black and grey respectively. Mobile element types are indicated. A gene 93% identical to *cmx* is found in *Arthrobacter* sp. 161MFSha2.1. No *tnp45* gene is found in the same genome. On *C. glutamicum* plasmid pXZ10145.1, a basic form of *cmx* transposon with only *cmx* and *tnp45* inside was found. On *C. urealyticum* DSM 7109 chromosome, the *cmx* transposon duplicated, and the second copy has a new transposon Tn5393 carrying two aminoglycoside phosphotransferases inserted between *cmx* and *tnp45*. On *P. aeruginosa* PA7 chromosome, the *cmx* transposon was found within a 53 kb integrated plasmid with conjugation proteins, transposases, integrase and four other ARGs. In *K. oxytoca*, the *cmx* transposon is located in an In4-like integron and a composite transposon.

Supplementary Table 1 | primer sequences used in cloning and sequencing

Primer name	Primer sequence 5'-3'
Xj143	TAGGGATAACAGGGTAATCTAGCTGTGATGTCCAGGGACGTTGTT
Xj144	ATTACCCTGTTATCCCTAAAATTGGAATCAGGTTTGTGCC
Xj145	ATTACCCTGTTATCCCTACGAGTTCGGTGCCGGTTG
Xj146	AATACCGCGCCACATAGCAG
Xj171.1	CAACAGAGCCTGGCGTAATAGCGAAGAGGC
Xj172	CACCGTCACCAGCTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAATTGTTA
Xj173	GGAAACAGCTGGTGACGGTGTTCGGCATTG
Xj174.1	TATTACGCCAGGCTCTGTTGCAAAGATTGGC
Xj177	TTATGCTTCCGGCTCGTATGTTGTGTGGATTCACTTTTTCTTCACAACCGG
Xj178	ACATACGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGTGTAAGTCATAATAAATCGATGCAGGTGG
Xj130	GGAAACAGCTATGCCTTTTGCCCTCTACATGC
Xj131	TGCGTAAGGAGGATAGCCGTCTTCGACAATCAG
Orf5-f-1	TGCCACCCGAACCTGCG
Tnp6100-r-1	ATCGGATAGCGACAATACCAG