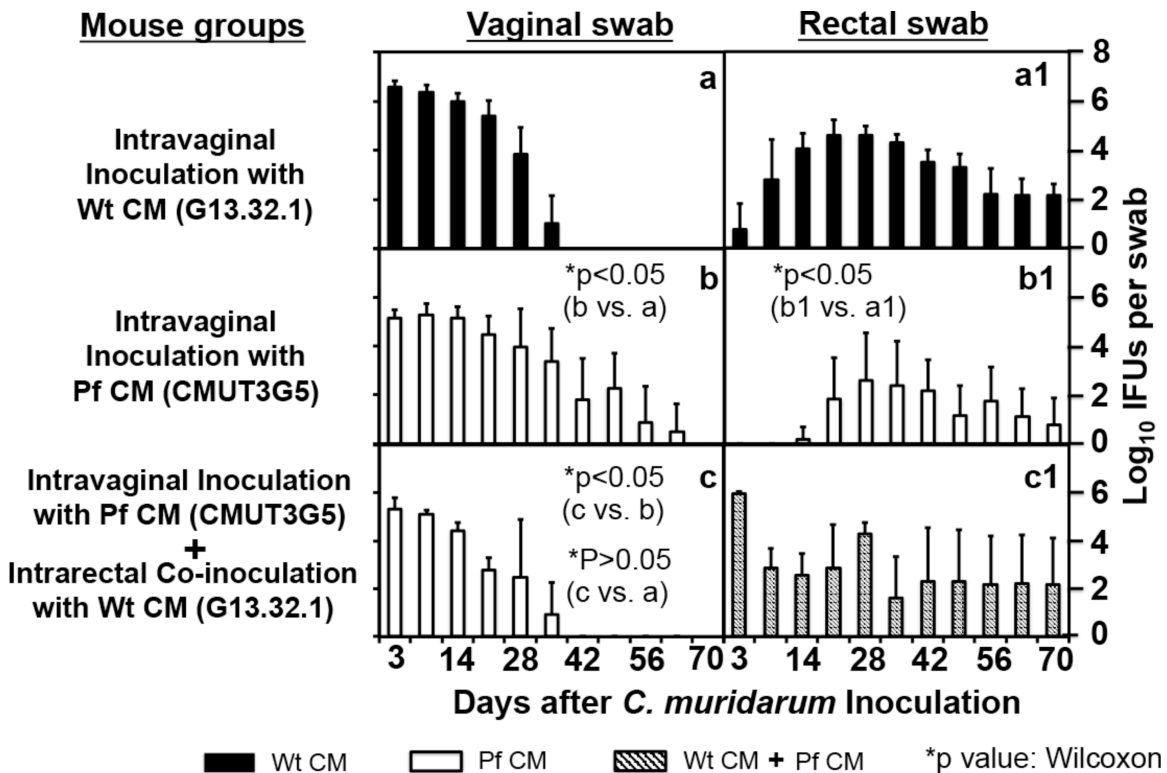


**Fig. S1. Effect of gastrointestinal *C. muridarum* on the shedding course of genital tract *C. muridarum***



CBA/J mice intravaginally inoculated with  $2 \times 10^5$  IFUs of wild type *C. muridarum* (Wt CM, clone G13.32.1, n=8, panels a & a1) or plasmid-free *C. muridarum* (Pf CM, clone CMUT3.G5, n=10, b & b1), or inoculated intravaginally with Pf CM and intrarectally with Wt CM (n=5, c & c1) were monitored for chlamydiae shedding from both genital (vaginal swabs, panels a-c) and GI (rectal swabs, a1-c1) tracts at the indicated times. Results were expressed as Log<sub>10</sub> IFUs per swab shown along the Y-axis. The Pf CM displayed a prolonged genital tract shedding course (panel b versus a, \*p < 0.05, Wilcoxon, AUC or days to clearance), correlating with its reduced spreading to the GI tract (b1 versus a1, \*p < 0.05, AUC). Intrarectal co-inoculation of Wt CM into the GI tract significantly shortened the genital shedding course of Pf CM (c versus b, \*p < 0.05).