

Table S1: Bacterial strains used in this study

Wildtype strain and isogenic mutants	Characteristics	Plasmid	Resistance	Reference
<i>Nm</i> 8013 (clone12)	<i>Nm</i> 8013 (clone12) wild type	-	-	(3)
<i>Nm</i> 8013 GFP	GFP expressing mutant of <i>Nm</i> 8013	pEG2-GFP-Erm ^R	Erythromycin	This study
<i>Nm</i> 8013Δ <i>pilE</i>	PilE deficient mutant of <i>Nm</i> 8013	<i>pTL1-pilE-Spec^R</i>	Spectinomycin	This study
<i>Nm</i> 8013Δ <i>pilC1</i>	PilC1 deficient mutant of <i>Nm</i> 8013	<i>pTL1-pilC1-Spec^R</i>	Spectinomycin	This study
<i>Nm</i> 8013Δ <i>pilC2</i>	PilC2 deficient mutant of <i>Nm</i> 8013	<i>pTL1-pilC2-Spec^R</i>	Spectinomycin	This study

Nm = *Neisseria meningitidis*

