



**S3 Fig. Fitness cost of native p6851 versus recombined p6851**

Strain MG1656λatt::gfp carrying the recombined p6851 plasmid was competed against strain MG1656 carrying the native non-recombined p6851 in pairwise competition assays. The median selection coefficient of the MG1656/native p6851 is represented by a black line ( $s = 0.002$ ) and was not statistically different from zero ( $p = 0.62$  using one Sample Wilcoxon signed rank test,) indicating that the two strains had similar fitness. Data represent results of 12 independent competition assays.