

S1 Table : *E. coli* strains used in this study

Name	Short name	Genotype
EVP22/23	Parental strain	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt</i>
EVP146/147	<i>recO</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recO::frt</i>
EVP195/196	<i>recQ</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recQ::frt</i>
EVP210/211	<i>Oc_polB</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt frt::Oc_polB</i>
EVP223/224	<i>O+ UmuD'C</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt frt::o+ umuD'C</i>
EVP602/603	<i>recO recF</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recO::frt recF::Kan</i>
EVP347/348	<i>recJ</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recJ::frt</i>
EVP357/358	<i>O+ UmuD'C recJ</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recJ::frt frt::o+ umuD'C</i>
EVP359/360	<i>O+ UmuD'C recQ</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recQ::frt frt::o+ umuD'C</i>
EVP433/434	<i>rvuAB recG</i>	FBG151/152 <i>mutS::frt uvrA::frt rvuAB::frt recG::frt</i>
EVP498/499	<i>phrB recF</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt phrB::frt recF::frt</i>
EVP588/589	<i>recJ recF</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recJ::frt recF::frt</i>
EVP615/616	<i>recQ recF</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recQ::frt recF::frt</i>
EVP712/713	<i>lexA ind-</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt LexA (ind-)</i>
EVP963/964	<i>recQ recJ</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recQ::frt recJ::frt</i>
EVP975/976	<i>recF recJ polB</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt polB::frt recF::Cm recJ::frt</i>
EVP981/982	<i>recF recJ O+ UmuD'C</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recJ::frt frt::o+ umuD'C recF::frt</i>
EVP993/994	<i>recR</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recR::frt</i>
EVP989/990	<i>phrB recF recO</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt phrB::frt recF::frt recO::frt</i>
EVP1006/1007	<i>lexA ind- recF</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt LexA (ind-) recF::frt</i>
EVP1010/1011	<i>recF recJ umuDC</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt recJ::frt recF::frt umuDC::frt</i>
EVP1016/1017	<i>lexA ind- Oc_polB</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt LexA (ind-) Oc_PolB::frt</i>
EVP1018/1019	<i>lexA ind- recF Oc_polB</i>	FBG151/152 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt LexA (ind-) recF::frt Oc_PolB::frt</i>
EC13/14	Parental strain	EC1/EC2 <i>uvrA::frt mutS::frt</i>
EC39/40	<i>recO</i>	EC1/EC2 <i>uvrA::frt recO::frt mutS::frt</i>
EC49/50	<i>recO recF</i>	EC1/EC2 <i>uvrA::frt recO::frt mutS::frt recF::frt</i>
EC51/52	<i>recF</i>	EC1/EC2 <i>uvrA::frt recF::frt mutS::frt</i>

FBG151 = MG1655 ΔlacI Z ΔattBλ::attRλ-3' lacZ-aadA (lesion inserted in the lagging orientation compared to replication)

FBG152 = MG1655 ΔlacI Z ΔattBλ::3' lacZ-attRλ-aadA (lesion inserted in the leading orientation compared to replication)

EC1 = MG1655 ΔlacI-lacZ::frt ΔattBλ::attRλ-3' lacZ-aad intergenic(aqpZ-ybjD)::high pTRC λ int-xis lacIq

EC2 = MG1655 ΔlacI-lacZ::frt ΔattBλ::3' lacZ-attRλ-aad intergenic(aqpZ-ybjD)::high pTRC λ int-xis lacIq