Table 1. Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study.

Organism/plasmid	Features	Source and reference
C. difficile 630Δ*erm* (ribotype 012)	Tc ^{r} Erm ^{s} Rif ^{s}	Hussain *et al.* (2005)
C. difficile CD37 (ribotype 009)	Tc ^{s} Erm ^{s} Rif ^{r}	Smith *et al.* (1981)
DH5α	F– *endA1 recA1 hsdR17* (^{r}k– mk–) *deoR thi-1 supE44* – *gyrA96 relA1*	Gibco BRL
E. coli HB101	Hybrid of *E. coli* K12 and *E. coli* B parent of CA434	Boyer and Roulland-Dussoix (1969) Obtained from Promega USA
E. coli CA434	HB101 carrying the IncP conjugative plasmid R702	Purdy *et al*. (2002) Williams *et al*. (1990)
B. subtilis strain BS6A	*B. subtilis* CU2189:: Tn*5397*, Tc ^{r}	Roberts *et al*. (1999)
B. subtilis strain BS34A	*B. subtilis* CU2189:: Tn*916,*containing a single copy of Tn*916*	Roberts *et al*. (2003)
pMTL9301	Erythromycin resistance encoding *E. coli-C. difficile* shuttle vector	Purdy *et al*. (2002)
pMTL9301Δ*oriT*	pMTL9301 with the 700 bp *Eco*RI fragment containing *oriT* deleted.	This study

Abbreviations Tc ^{r} tetracycline resistant; Tc ^{s} tetracycline sensitive; Erm ^{r} erythromycin resistant; Erm ^{s} erythromycin sensitive; Rif ^{r} rifampicin resistant; Rif ^{s} rifampicin sensitive. IncP plasmid incompatibility group P; *oriT* origin of transfer; Δ*oriT* deletion of *oriT*.