

Table S1. Strains and plasmids used in this study.

Strain or plasmid	Genotype or characteristics*	Reference or source
<i>S. suis</i> strains		
SC19	<i>S. suis</i> serotype 2 isolate, wild-type strain (Strep ^r)	[1]
Δstp	SC19 with CDS of <i>stp</i> replaced by the CDS of Erm ^r (Strep ^r Erm ^r)	This study
Δstk	SC19 with <i>stk</i> deleted (Strep ^r)	This study
$\Delta stp\Delta stk$	SC19 with <i>stp</i> and <i>stk</i> deleted (Strep ^r)	This study
C Δstp	Complemented strain of Δstp by integrating <i>stp</i> into the chromosome (Strep ^r)	This study
C Δstk	Complemented strain of Δstk by integrating <i>stk</i> into chromosome (Strep ^r)	This study
C $\Delta stp\Delta stk$	Complemented strain of $\Delta stp\Delta stk$ by integrating <i>stp/stk</i> into the chromosome (Strep ^r)	This study
Plasmids		
pAT18	A plasmid carrying an erythromycin resistance gene (Erm ^r)	[2]
pSET4s	Temperature-sensitive <i>E. coli</i> - <i>S. suis</i> shuttle vector (Spc ^r)	[3]
pSET4s-P	Derived from pSET4s for deletion of <i>stp</i> in SC19 (Spc ^r)	This study
pSET4s-K	Derived from pSET4s for deletion of <i>stk</i> in SC19 (Spc ^r)	This study
pSET4s-PK	Derived from pSET4s for deleting <i>stp/stk</i> in SC19 (Spc ^r)	This study

* Strep^r, streptomycin resistant; Erm^r, erythromycin resistant; Spc^r, spectinomycin resistant.

References:

1. Li, W.; Liu, L.; Chen, H.; Zhou, R., Identification of *Streptococcus suis* genes preferentially expressed under iron starvation by selective capture of transcribed sequences. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **2009**, 292, (1), 123-33.
2. Trieu-Cuot, P.; Carlier, C.; Poyart-Salmeron, C.; Courvalin, P., Shuttle vectors containing a multiple cloning site and a lacZ alpha gene for conjugal transfer of DNA from *Escherichia coli* to gram-positive bacteria. *Gene* **1991**, 102, (1), 99-104.
3. Takamatsu, D.; Osaki, M.; Sekizaki, T., Thermosensitive suicide vectors for gene replacement in *Streptococcus suis*. *Plasmid* **2001**, 46, (2), 140-8.