Table S1. Plasmids used in this study

Plasmid[1]	Markers[2]	Description	Reference or source
pRC746	Sp^r	IncQ replicon; promoterless *lacZ-aphA* operon	This study
pRC748	Sp^r	Consensus Correia α right end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC749	Sp^r	Consensus Correia β right end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC750	Sp^r	Consensus Correia α^{Y128T} right end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC751	Sp^r	Consensus Correia β^{Y128T} right end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC759	Sp^r	Consensus Correia α left end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC760	Sp^r	Consensus Correia β left end inserted upstream of *lacZ* in pRC746	This study
pRC761	Sp^r	Identical to pRC750 except for an altered (putative) -10 transcription signal sequence within the Correia α^{Y128T} right end	This study
pRC762	Sp^r	Identical to pRC751 except for an altered (putative) -10 transcription signal sequence within the Correia β^{Y128T} right end	This study
pRC779	Sp^r	Identical to pRC750 except for an altered (putative) -35 transcription signal sequence within the Correia α^{Y128T} right end	This study
pRC781	Sp^r	Identical to pRC751 except for an altered (putative) -35 transcription signal sequence within the Correia β^{Y128T} right end	This study
pRS415	Ap^r	*lacZYA* reporter plasmid for integration into the *E. coli* chromosome	Ref. 52
pRC661	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-α (forward orientation[3]) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC662	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-α (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC663	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α^{R52G}-α^{Y128T} (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC664	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α^{R52G}-α^{Y128T} (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC665	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-α′ (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC666	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-α′ (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC667	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-α (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC668	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-α (reverse orientation) inserted upstream	This study

		of *lacZYA* in pRS415	
pRC669	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-α′ (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC670	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-α′ (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC671	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-β (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC672	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-β (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC673	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-β′ (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC674	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element α-β′ (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC675	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-β (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC676	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-β (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC677	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β^{R52G}-β^{Y128T} (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC678	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β^{R52G}-β^{Y128T} (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC679	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-β′ (forward orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study
pRC680	Ap^r	Consensus Correia element β-β′ (reverse orientation) inserted upstream of *lacZYA* in pRS415	This study

1. Plasmids were constructed as follows: pRC746, by PCR amplification of a promoterless *aphA* gene (encoding kanamycin resistance) with *Eco*RI restriction site-containing oligonucleotide primers, digestion of the PCR product with *Eco*RI, and ligation to *Eco*RI-digested pGHM491 (a kind gift from Galadriel Hovel-Miner, Columbia University, New York). pGHM491 is a broad-host range (IncQ replicon) plasmid with a promoterless *lacZ* gene. This step creates a *lacZ-aphA* operon upstream of which DNA fragments can be inserted to assess promoter activity. pRC748, pRC749, pRC750, pRC751, pRC759, pRC760, pRC761, pRC762, pRC779 and pRC781 were constructed as follows: 45/46 nucleotide complementary single-stranded oligonucleotides containing sequences of different Correia element ends (as described in Table 1 and in the text) and flanked by *Pst*I and *Bam*HI restriction enzyme sites were annealed to one another, digested with *Pst*I and *Bam*HI, and inserted into *Pst*I and *Bam*HI sites on pRC746. Plasmids pRC661 – pRC680 were constructed by a multi-step procedure. Full-length and prime Correia elements containing central regions identical to the consensus sequence were amplified by PCR from the genome of *N. meningitidis* Z2491 using three pairs of primers: 5′-GGCGAAGGTTTCAAGAAAGA-3′ and 5′-AGAGTTTGATGTCGGGATGG-3′, 5′-CAATAGTGGTTTGCCCAACA-3′ and 5′-CCGTGCATTTCCTTCAAAAT-3′, 5′-GCTTTGGCAAACGACTGAAT-3′ and 5′-GCAGTTCGGTTGAAAATCGT-3′. To generate all 10 Correia element subtypes, a second PCR was performed with various combinations of 6 primers, each containing sequences complementary to one of the three Correia element central regions amplified during the first round of PCR adjacent to sequences for the consensus Correia α or β terminal inverted repeat. The resulting PCR products were digested with *Eco*R1 (which cuts at restriction sites at the ends of each amplified DNA fragment) and ligated to *Eco*R1-digested pRS415.

2. Sp^r denotes spectinomycin resistance; Ap^r denotes ampicillin resistance.

3. Forward orientation refers to the left-to-right orientation of Correia element sequences presented in Figure 1A.