**Fig. S7** Western blot assay of ParB protein abundance.



 Extracts of cells from exponentially-growing LB cultures of the *Bcen* strains shown were fractionated by SDS-PAGE and the proteins analysed by standard Western blotting using polyclonal antibodies raised against specific ParB peptides (by Eurogentec). For each antibody the ParB band and a cross-reacting host protein band are indicated by black and white arrowheads respectively. Band intensities were within the linear range of applied protein concentration. Their relative intensities were normalized to the cross-reacting band, and these ratios plotted relative to that of the Nel13 wt. Ac1, ABc2 and ABp1 denote strains deleted for these *par* genes; pMMB-pSc denote Nel13 transformed with the pMMB vector and its derivatives carrying the indicated single *parS* sites or clusters (marked +).