

**S2 Table: Increase in the ratio of cleaved to intact 16S rRNA after 3 h of in vitro translation reaction with and without spiking of 20 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup>.**

Reaction conditions	Ratio of cleaved to intact 16S rRNA		Relative increase [%]
	2h reaction time	3h reaction time	
No Mg <sup>2+</sup> spike	0.23±0.03	0.35±0.06	51
Mg <sup>2+</sup> spike	0.18±0.02	0.19±0.02	6

The peak areas of cleaved and intact 16S rRNA were determined after 2 and 3 h by CGE-LIF measurements and are shown as ratios. Addition of Mg<sup>2+</sup> reduced the cleavage.