

**S3 Figure. Invasion of the donor strain in the unselected invasion assay with pCT::*aph* as the target plasmid.** Both HB101 and MV10nalR were successfully used as *E. coli* donor host strains. Transfer into the donor in the experiment with MV10nalR as the host was detected by selecting resistance to nalidixic acid for the host and kanamycin for the plasmid. Mating mixtures were re-suspended in saline and after serial dilution 20 µl aliquots were spotted in a circle round the plate. The numbers are low so it was not easy to plot them on the same log scale as the data shown in Figure 5.