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| **Strains and plasmids used in this study.** | |  |
| Strains & plasmids | Description | Source or reference |
| Strains |  |  |
| sf301 | Wild-type *S. flexneri* strain | Lab Stock |
| sf301ΔPCP | *S. flexneri* virulent plasmid deficient strain | Lab Stock |
| sf301Δ*pldA* | Wild-type *S. flexneri* strain depleted of *pldA* gene | This work |
| DH5α | *E.coli* K-12 | Invitrogen |
| Plasmids |  |  |
| pKO3 | repA(Ts) Cmr sacB+ | ([1](#_ENREF_1)) |
| pVTRA' | pSC101 derivative, lacI q-Ptac expression vector, Cmr | ([2](#_ENREF_2)) |
| pVTRA'-pldA | pVTRA' expressing *pldA* gene | This work |
| pVTRA'-pldA-bla | pVTRA' expressing PldA::Bla fusion proteins | This work |
| pBBR-DsRed | Broad host plasmid pBBR1MCS5 expressing fluorescent DsRed protein | Lab Stock |

**The Outer Membrane Phospholipase A is essential for membrane integrity and Type III Secretion in Shigella flexneri**

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