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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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