

Table 3
TonB-trp region deletion rate

<i>rw</i> genotype	Total number of cultures	ColB ^r -rate ($\times 10^8$)	Number of cultures w/o a <i>trp</i> mutant	Average number of cells in colony	Deletion rate per cell per generation ^a
<i>rw</i> ⁺	66	3.03 \pm 0.40	47	3.30 $\times 10^9$	1.03 $\times 10^{-10}$
<i>rwAB</i>	58	4.43 \pm 1.62	6	2.26 $\times 10^9$	1.00 $\times 10^{-9}$
<i>recG</i>	34	4.07 \pm 1.02	10	2.46 $\times 10^9$	4.97 $\times 10^{-10}$
<i>rwC</i>	100	1.80 \pm 0.51	57	5.56 $\times 10^9$	1.01 $\times 10^{-10}$

^a The fraction of cultures having no *trp*⁻ mutants among 100 ColB^r colonies was used to calculate the *tonB-trp* region deletion rate by the method of the mean [36]. The mean number of viable cells producing at least one *tonB-trp* region deletion mutant per tube, mN , can be given by the equation $P(0) = e^{-mN}$, where $P(0)$ is the fraction of dishes containing no *tonB-trp* mutants, m is the mutation frequency per replication, and N is the mean final cell count per culture.