

Table 2. Estimating the number of essential genes in prokaryotic microorganisms

Model organism	Genome size (Mbp)	No. of essential genes*	Evidence	Refs.
<i>M. genitalium</i> G37	0.58	382	<i>In vivo</i>	[22]
<i>E. coli</i> K12 BW25113	ND	303	<i>In vivo</i>	[69]
<i>B. subtilis</i> 168	4.21	271	<i>In vivo</i>	[70]
NA/comparative genomics	NA	206	<i>In silico</i>	[71]
NA/extrapolation	0.090	167	<i>In silico</i>	[72]

NA, not applicable; ND, not determined.

*Essentiality was assigned if the knockout of a single gene could not be rescued under precisely defined environmental conditions.