

## F Plasmid

by Boyang Zhao

F plasmid is the plasmid form of the F factor, which consists of about 25 genes. A bacterium with the F plasmid (F<sup>+</sup> cell) is able to create and extend sex pili to a recipient bacterium without the plasmid (F<sup>-</sup> cell). This process is known as conjugation. As result of this process, the recipient also becomes F<sup>+</sup> cell.

If the F plasmid is integrated into the chromosomal DNA before conjugation, the donor (now called Hfr cell) is able to transfer some of its chromosomal DNA to a F<sup>-</sup> recipient.