

F Plasmid

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