

Figures (a-s). Amplification product corresponding to the *afpA* (fragment of 635 bp) and *afpP* (fragment of 478 bp) genes, using the primers FwAfpA/RvAfpA and FwAfpP/RvAfpP, respectively. Groups of eight SPF-BALB/c mice were orogastrically inoculated with 1.0×10^3 CFU of UPEC-46 and derivative strains. Fresh fecal samples were collected from each mouse for up to 14 days post-inoculation for bacterial counts using MacConkey agar. One colony of *E. coli* was randomly selected from each animal (An. 1 to An. 8) for 14 days (day 1 to day 14) and subjected to PCR. Genomic DNA of UPEC-46 was used as positive control. The *E. coli* HB101 strain and water were used as negative controls. Animals not shown were negative for bacterial counts.

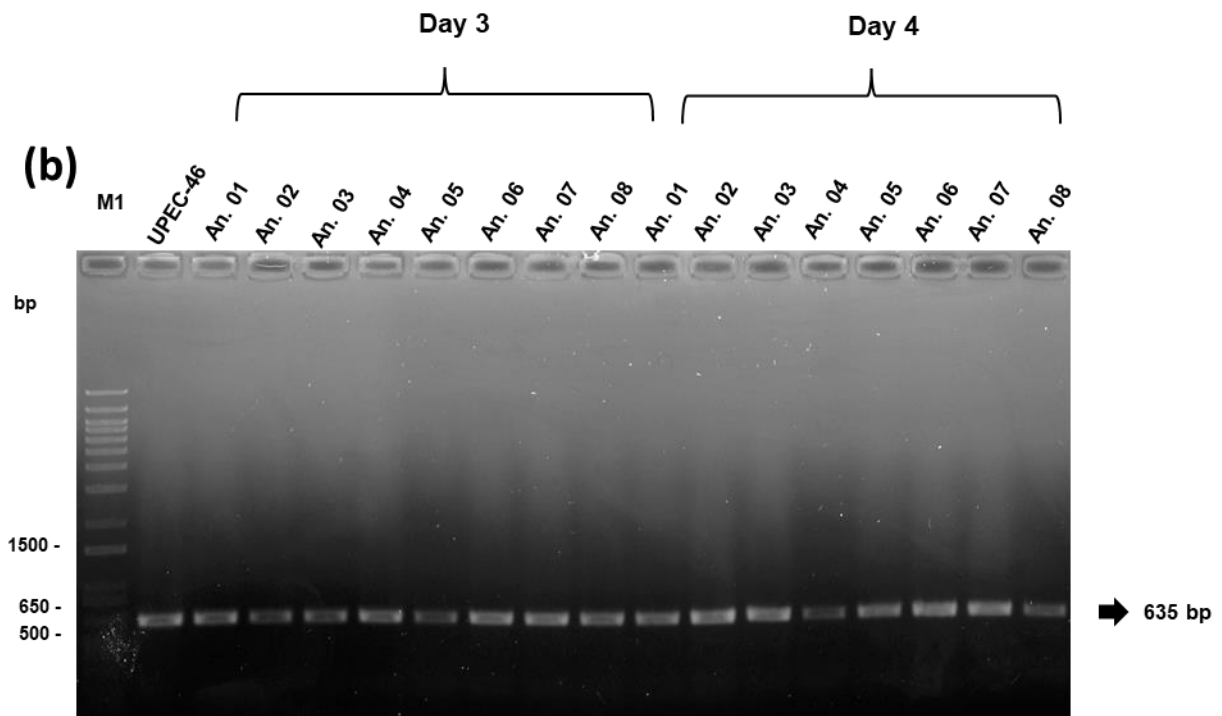
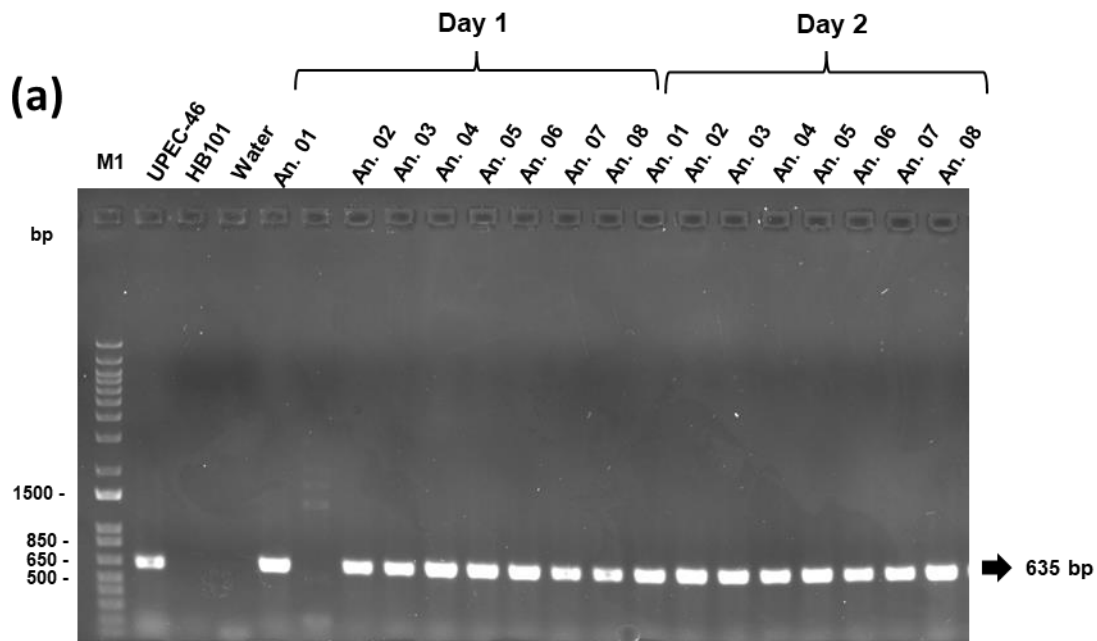
(a – f) agarose gels for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain);

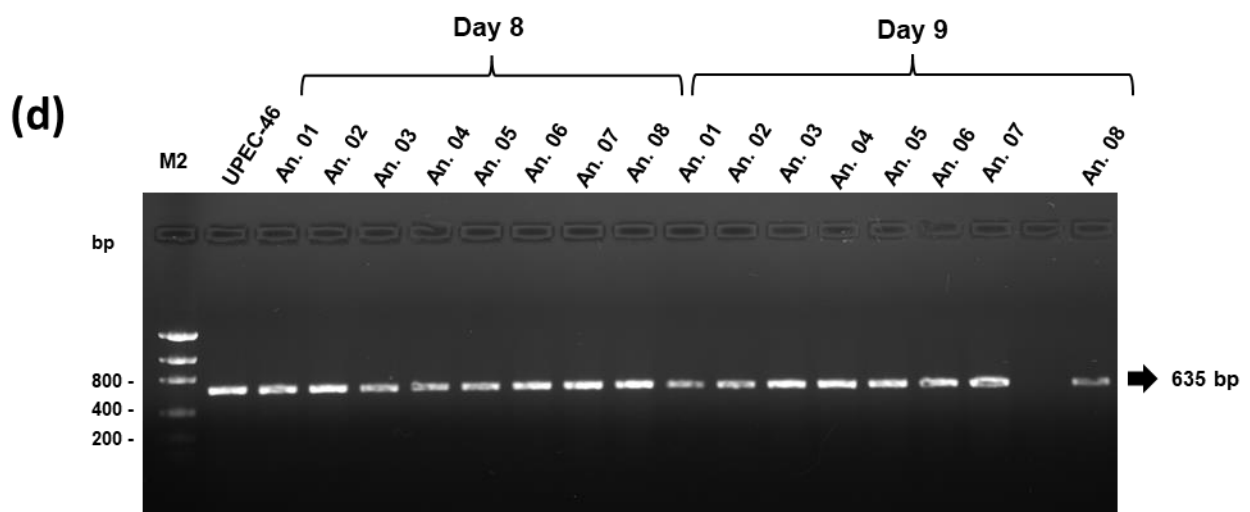
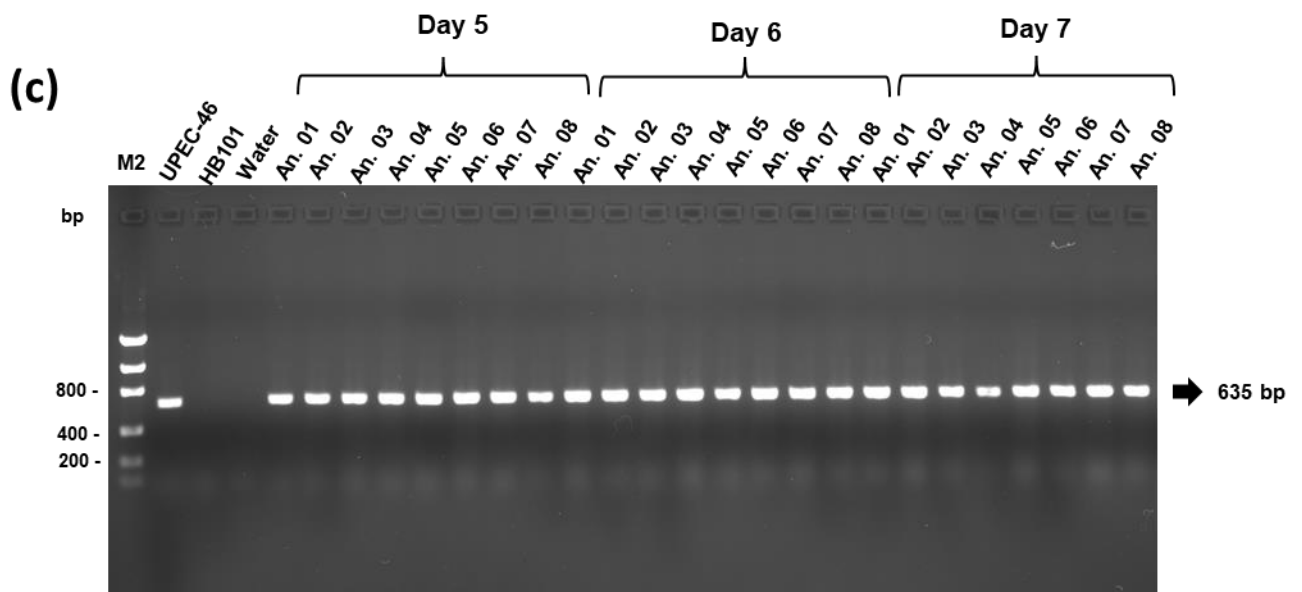
(g – k) agarose gels for UPEC-46::*afpA* (*afpA* mutant strain);

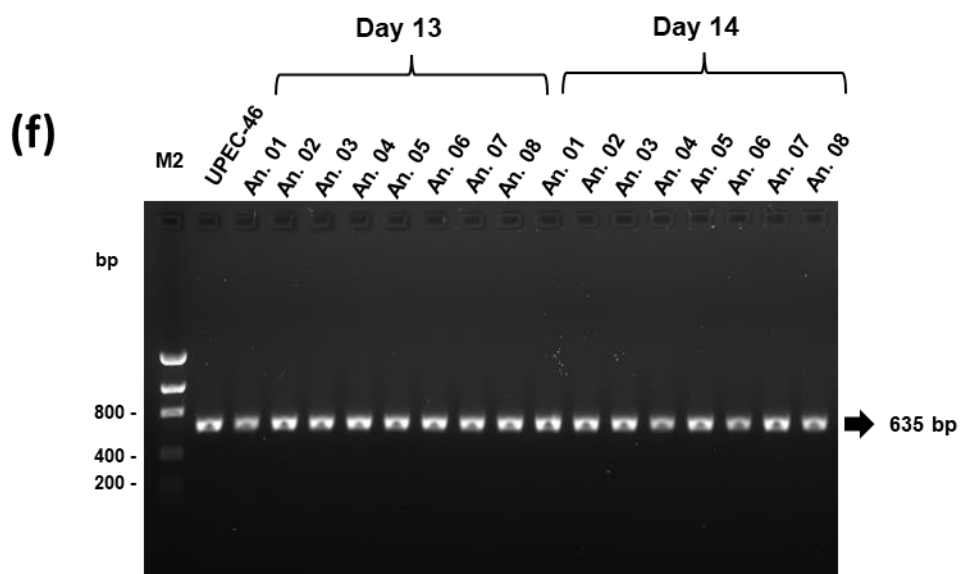
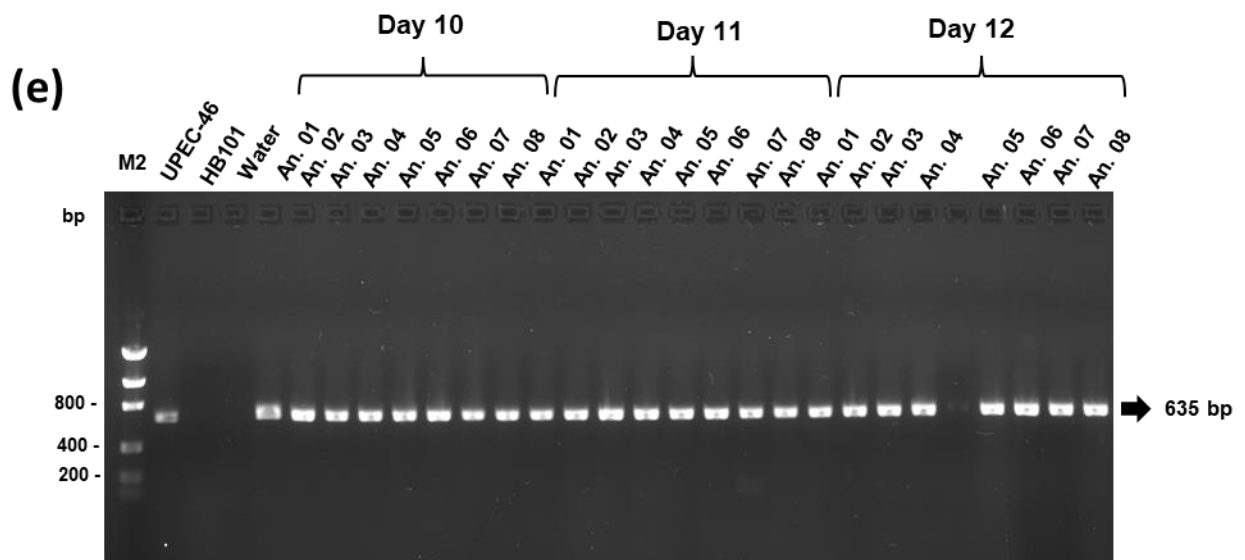
(l – q) agarose gels for UPEC-46::*afpA* (pPAS3) (*afpA* complemented strain);

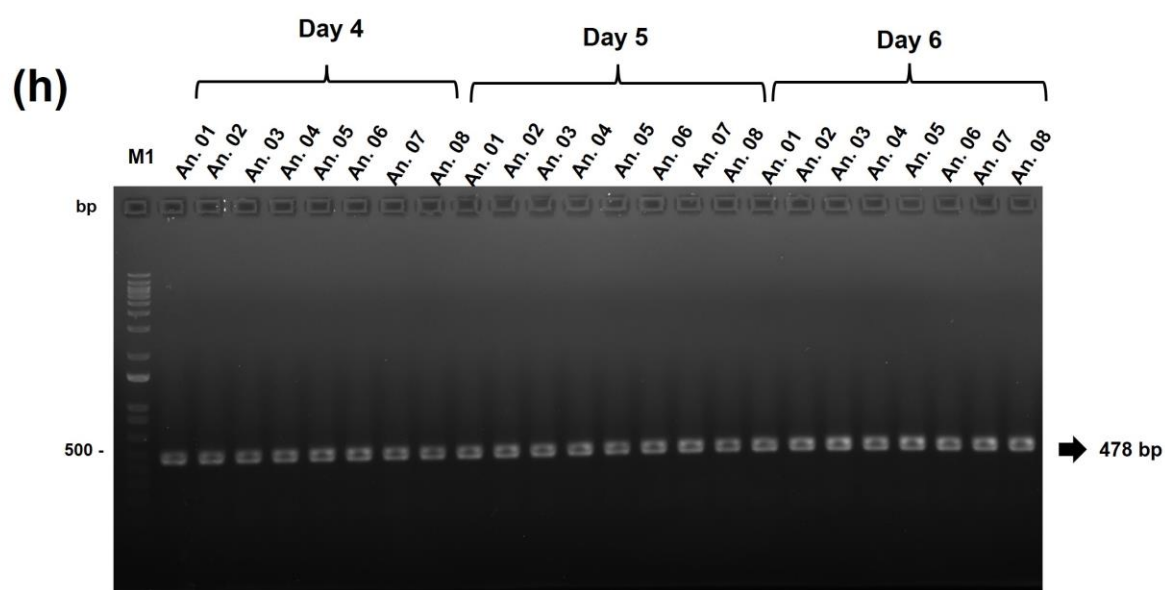
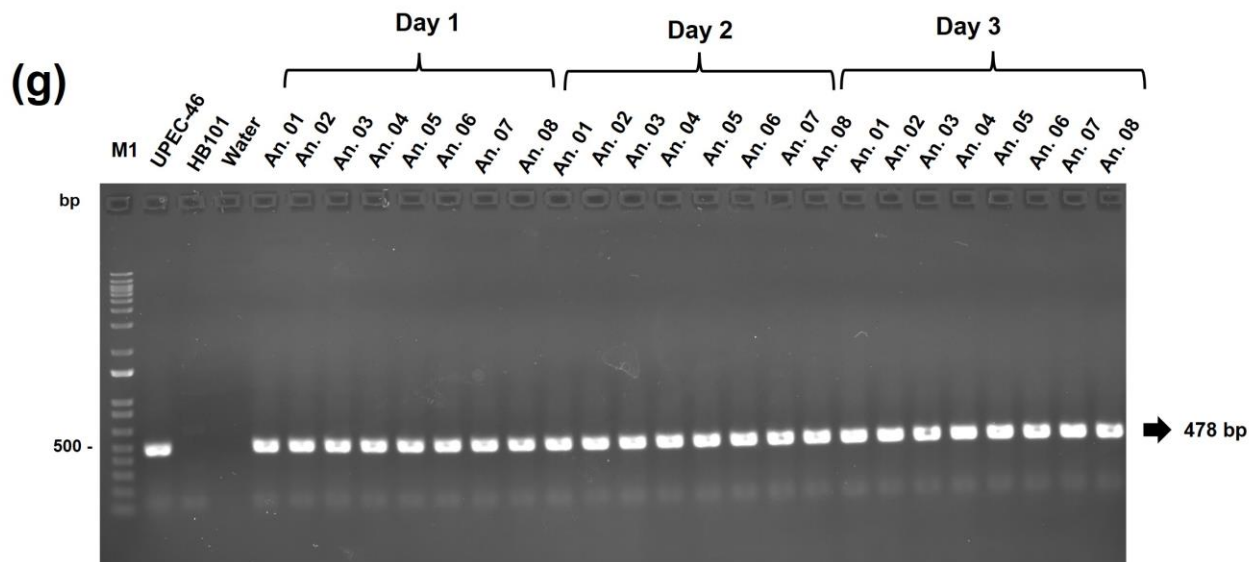
(r – s) agarose gels for UPEC-46::*afpA*::*fimH* (*afpA* and *fimH* mutant strain).

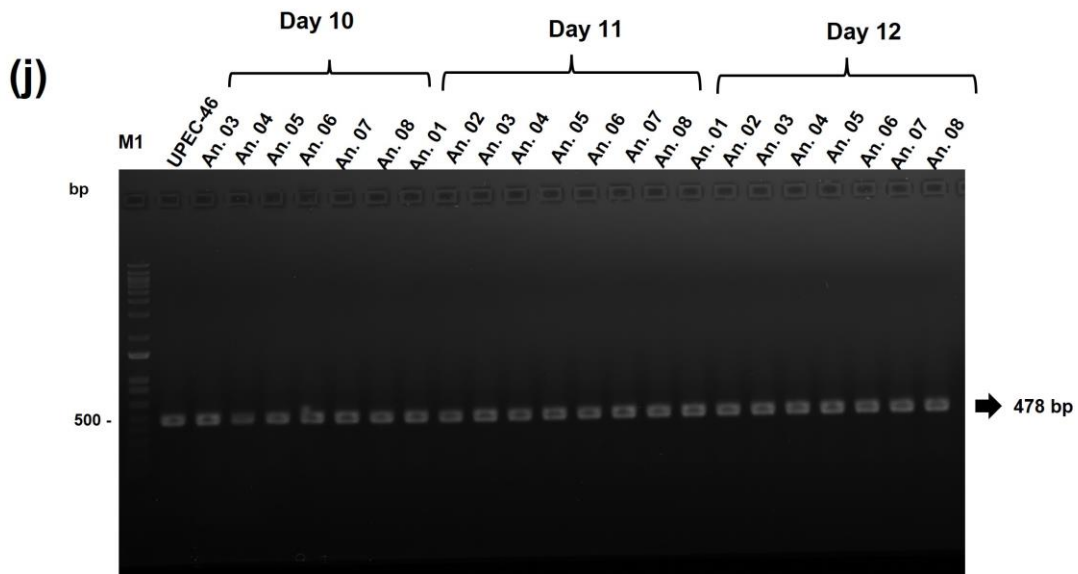
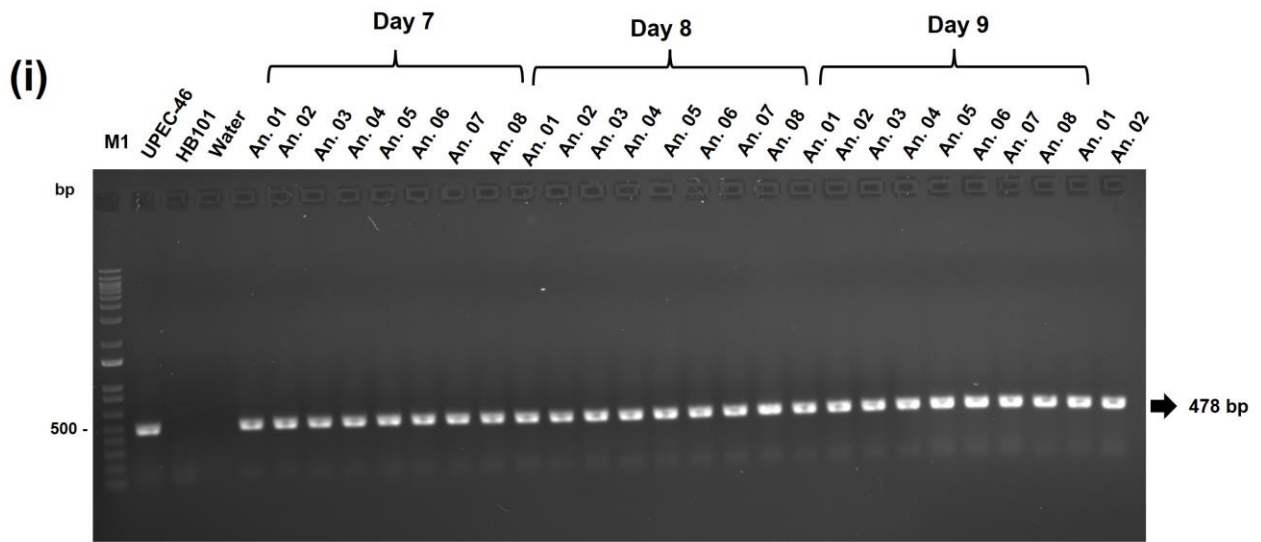
An.: animal; M1: 1 Kb molecular weight marker plus DNA ladder (Invitrogen); M2: Low Mass DNA ladder (Invitrogen).



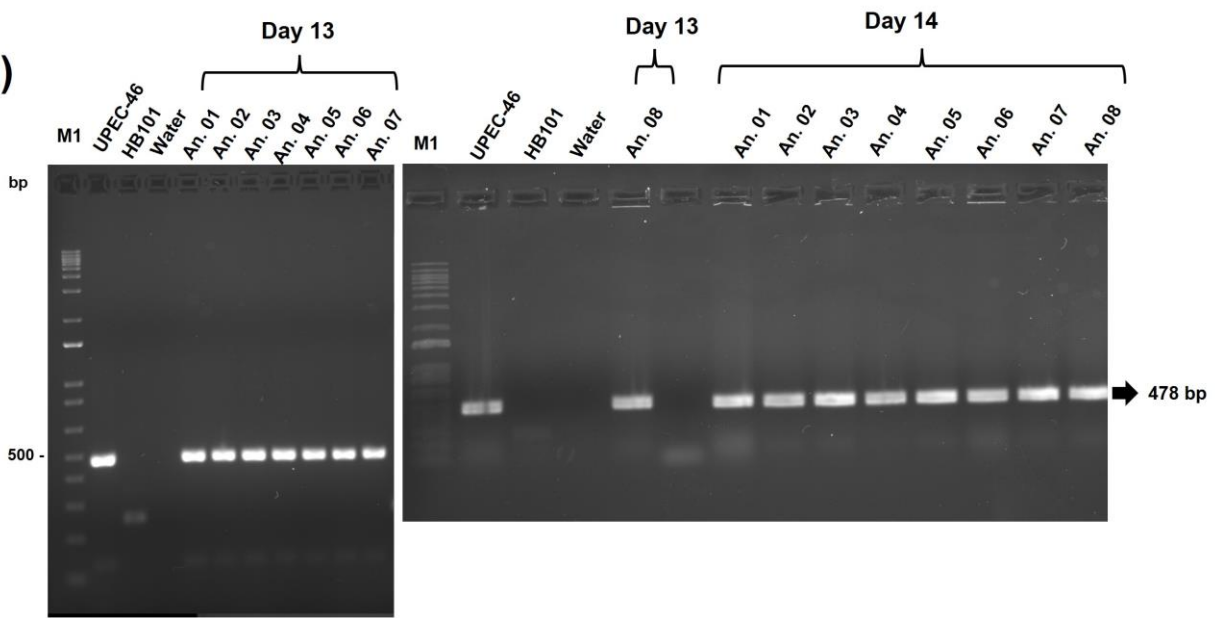


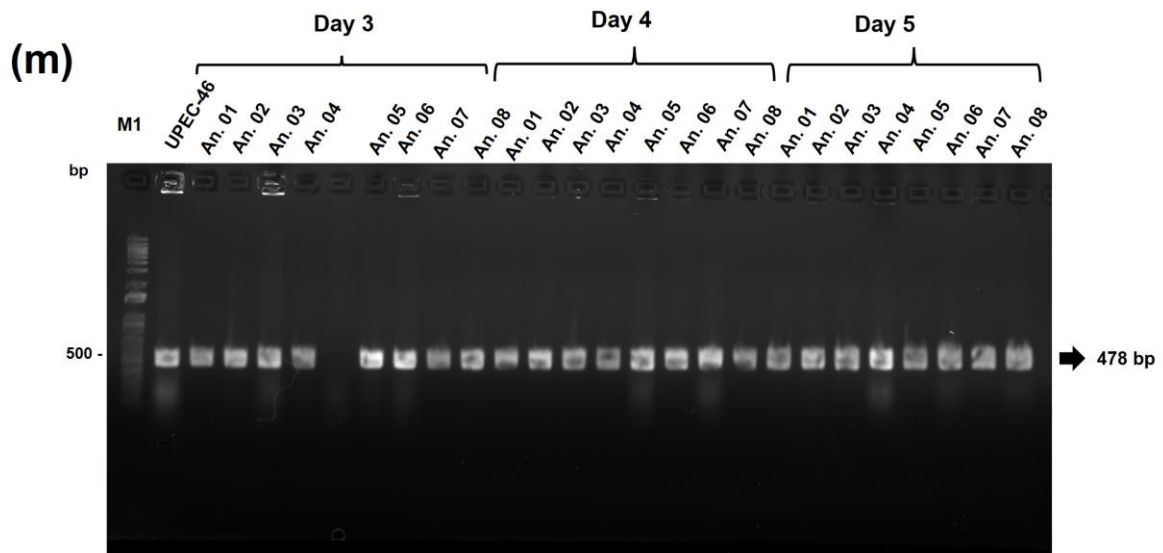
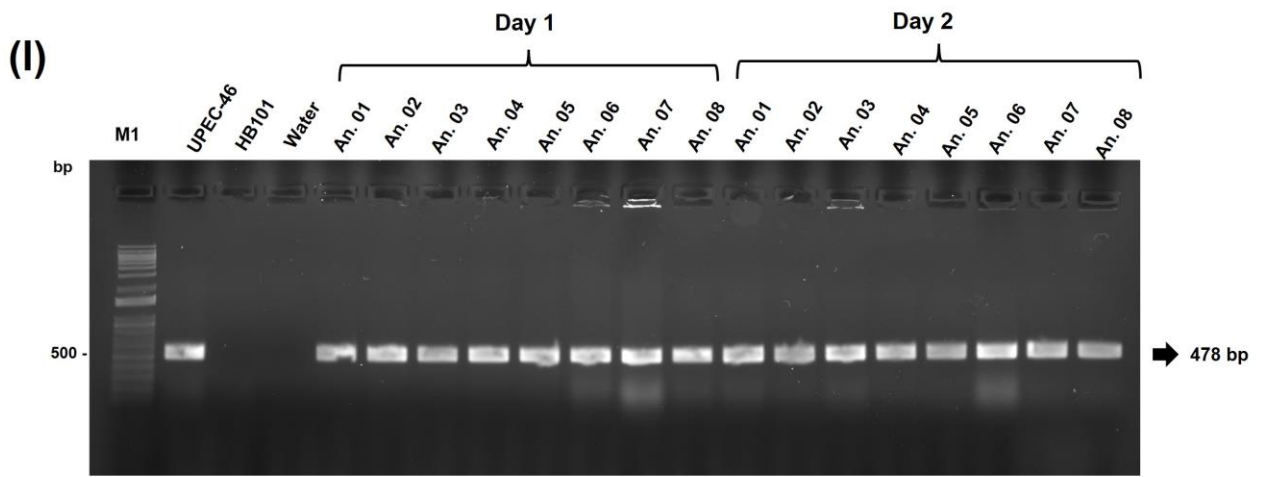




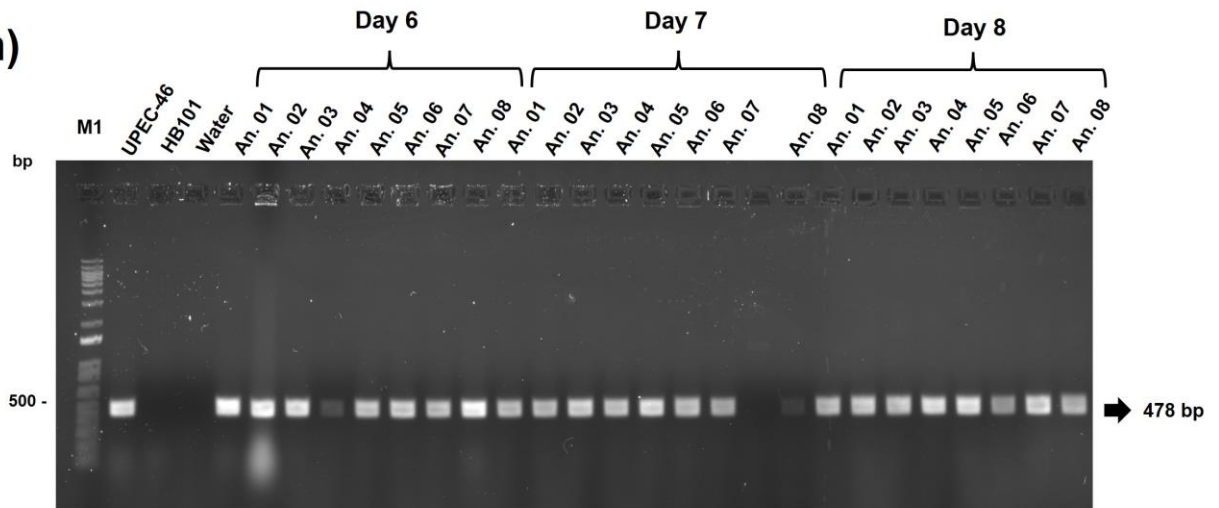


(k)





(n)



(o)

