Figures (a-d). 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-C57BL/6 mice were transurethrally inoculated with 1.0 x 10⁹ CFU of UPEC-46 and derivative strains. After inoculation, mice were sacrificed and the bladders and kidneys were collected for bacterial counts, using MacConkey agar. One colony of *E. coli* was randomly selected from each animal (An. 1 to An. 8) 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) agarose gel for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain), 6 hours post-inoculation;
(b) agarose gel for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain), 12 hours post-inoculation;
(c) agarose gel for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain), 24 and 72 hours post-inoculation;
(d) agarose gel for UPEC-46::afpA (afpA mutant strain), UPEC-46::afpA (pPAS3) (afpA complemented strain) and UPEC-46::afpA::fimH (afpA and fimH mutant strain), 72 hours post-inoculation.

An.: animal; Bl.: bladder; RK: right kidney; LK: left kidney; M1: 1 Kb molecular weight marker plus DNA ladder (Invitrogen).