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 10^9 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;

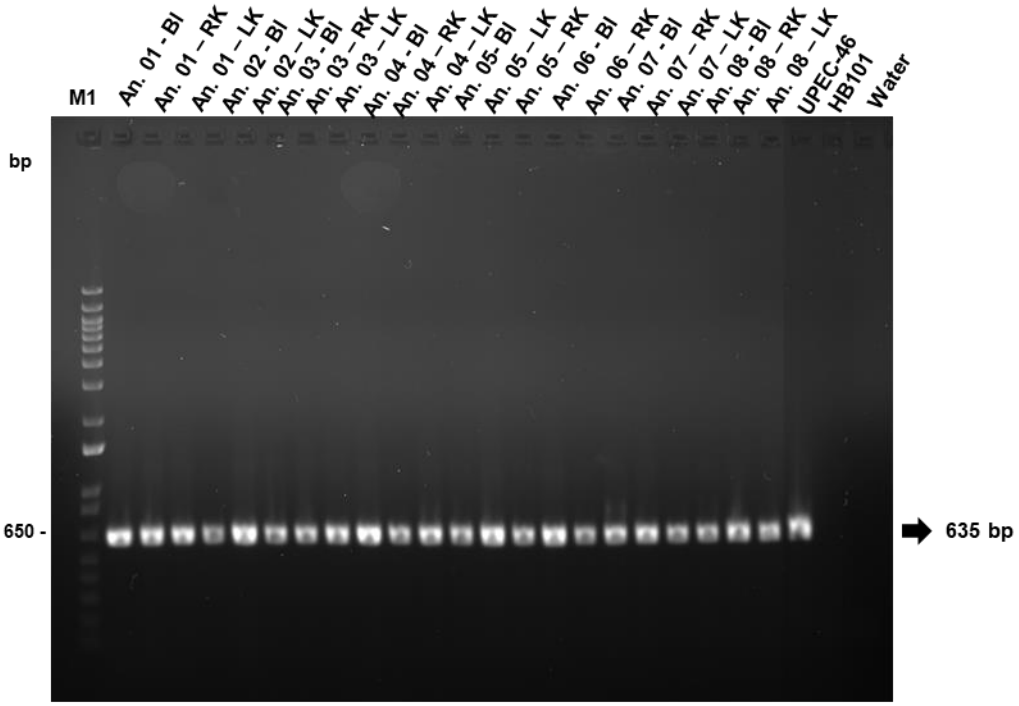
(**b**) agarose gel for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain), 12 hours post-inoculation;

(**c**) agarose gel for UPEC-46 (wild-type strain), 24 and 72 hours post-inoculation;

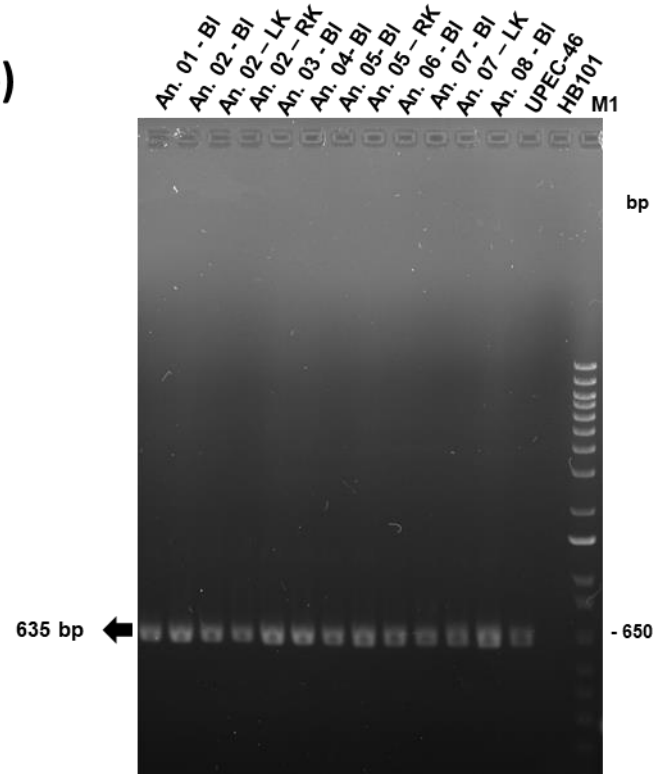
(**d**) agarose gel for UPEC-46::*afpA* (*afpA* mutant strain), UPEC-46::*afpA* (pPAS3) (*afpA* complemented strain) and UPEC-46::*afpA*::*fimH* (*afpA* and *fimH* mutant strain), 72 hours post-inoculation.

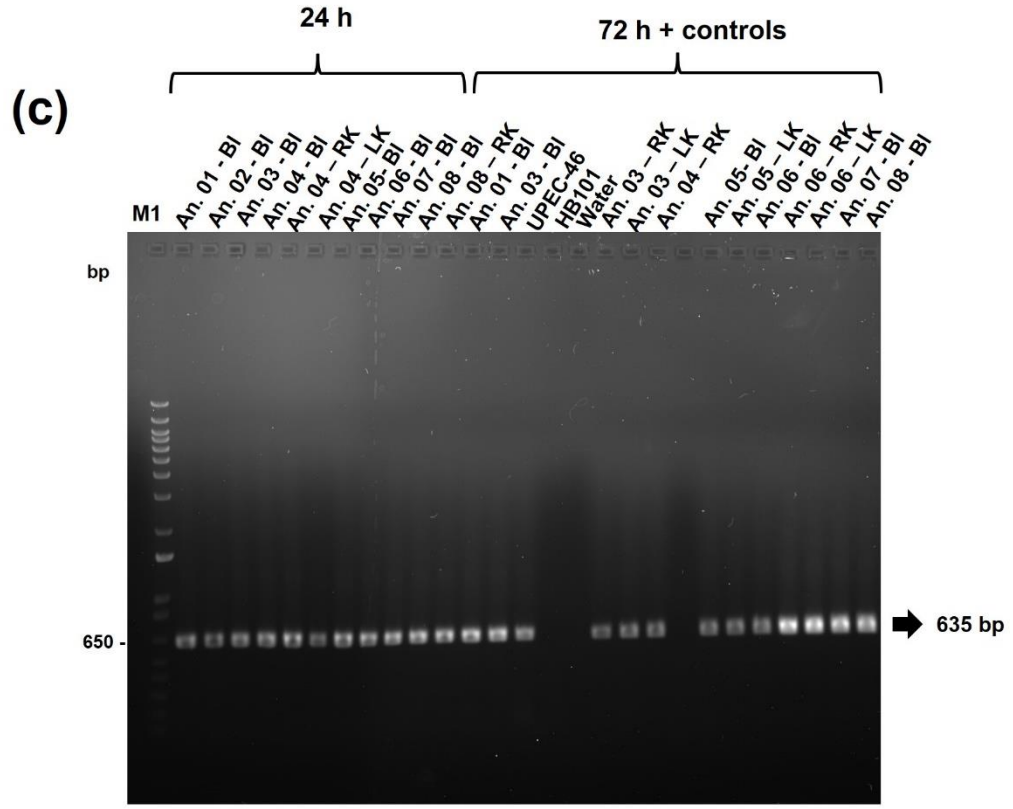
An.: animal; Bl.: bladder; RK: right kidney; LK: left kidney; M1: 1 Kb molecular weight marker plus DNA ladder (Invitrogen).

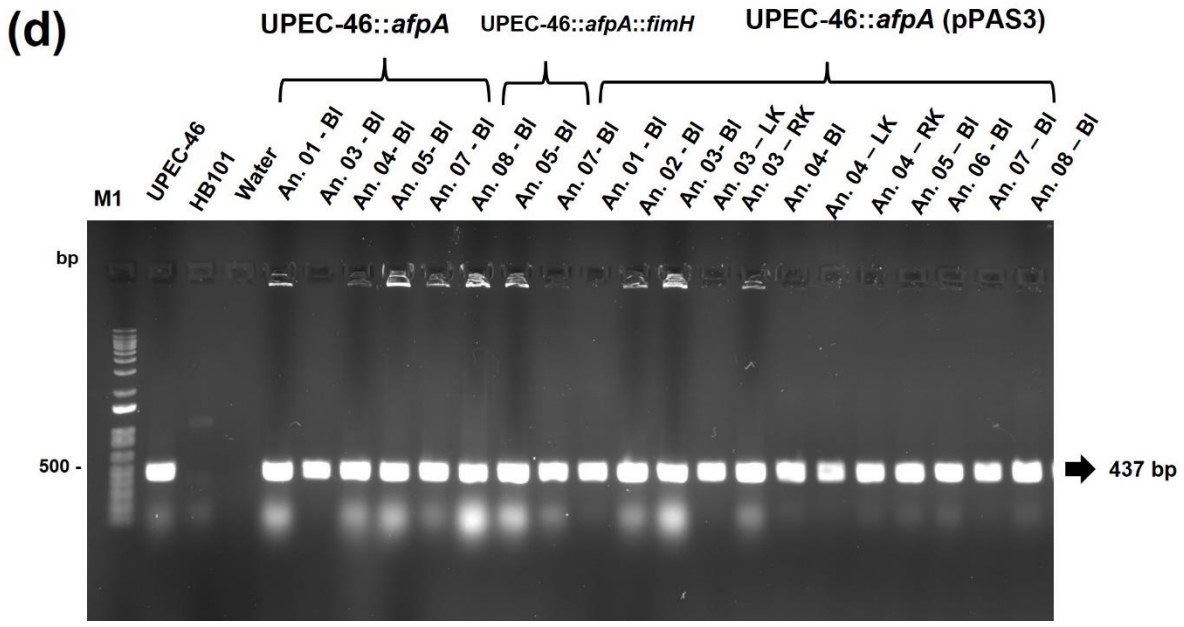
(a)


M1
An. 01 - BI
An. 01 – RK
An. 01 – LK
An. 02 - BI
An. 02 – LK
An. 03 - BI
An. 03 – RK
An. 03 – LK
An. 04 - BI
An. 04 – RK
An. 04 – LK
An. 05- BI
An. 05 – LK
An. 05 – RK
An. 06 - BI
An. 06 – RK
An. 07 - BI
An. 07 – RK
An. 07 – LK
An. 08 - BI
An. 08 – RK
An. 08 – LK
UPEC-46
HB101
Water
bp
650 -
635 bp

(b)


An. 01 - BI
An. 02 - BI
An. 02 – LK
An. 02 – RK
An. 03 - BI
An. 04- BI
An. 05- BI
An. 05 – RK
An. 06 - BI
An. 07 - BI
An. 07 – LK
An. 08 - BI
UPEC-46
HB101
M1
bp
635 bp
- 650


(c)
24 h
72 h + controls
M1
An. 01 - BI
An. 02 - BI
An. 03 - BI
An. 04 – BI
An. 04 – RK
An. 04 – LK
An. 05- BI
An. 06 - BI
An. 07 - BI
An. 08 - BI
An. 08 – RK
An. 01 - BI
An. 03 - BI
UPEC-46
HB101
Water
An. 03 – RK
An. 03 – LK
An. 04 – RK
An. 05- BI
An. 05 – LK
An. 06 - BI
An. 06 – RK
An. 06 – LK
An. 07 - BI
An. 08 - BI
bp
650 -
635 bp


(d)
UPEC-46::afpA
UPEC-46::afpA::fimH
UPEC-46::afpA (pPAS3)
M1
UPEC-46
HB101
Water
An. 01 - BI
An. 03 - BI
An. 04- BI
An. 05- BI
An. 07 - BI
An. 08 - BI
An. 05- BI
An. 07- BI
An. 01 - BI
An. 02 - BI
An. 03- BI
An. 03 – LK
An. 03 – RK
An. 04- BI
An. 04 – LK
An. 04 – RK
An. 05 – BI
An. 06 - BI
An. 07 – BI
An. 08 – BI
bp
500 -
437 bp