Table S3. Comparison between literature data and predictions made in the present work on organisms known to be capable of performing heme biosynthesis and/or uptake. All predictions were correct with the exception of that for *Sodalis glossidinius*. At variance with the experimental data, we assigned this organism as being unable to carry out heme uptake because no Plug domain was detected in its genome.

Biosynthesis

Organism	Reference	Experiment	Prediction
Bacillus subtilis	(1)	Yes	Yes
Borrelia burgdorferi	(2)	No	No
Desulfovibrio vulgaris	(3)	Yes (*via* precorrin-2)	Yes (*via* precorrin-2)
Escherichia coli	(4)	Yes	Yes
Leptospira spp.	(5)	Yes	Yes
Methanosarcina barkeri	(6)	Yes (*via* precorrin-2)	Yes (*via* precorrin-2)
Myxococcus xanthus	(7)	Yes	Yes
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	(8)	Yes	Yes
Salmonella typhimurium	(9)	Yes	Yes
Staphylococcus aureus	(10)	Yes	Yes

Uptake

Organism	Reference	Experiment	Prediction
Borrelia burgdorferi	(2)	No	No
Bradyrhizobium japonicum	(11)	Yes	Yes
Campylobacter jejuni	(12)	Yes	Yes
Porphyromonas gingivalis	(13)	Yes	Yes
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	(14)	Yes	Yes
Serratia marcescens	(15)	Yes	Yes
Shigella dysenteriae	(16)	Yes	Yes
Sodalis glossinidius	(17)	Yes	No
Staphylococcus aureus	(18)	Yes	Yes
Vibrio cholerae	(19)	Yes	Yes
Yersinia enterocolitica	(20)	Yes	Yes
Yersinia pestis	(21)	Yes	Yes

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