



**S6 Fig. Effect of spent histidine medium on formazan formation in the absence of cells.**

Spent medium was prepared by incubating mid log *E. coli* cultures in PBS/glucose, containing the indicated histidine concentrations. After 12 hours of incubation at 37 °C on a shaking water bath, cultures were centrifuged and cell-free spent medium was aliquoted in a 96-well plate (100 µl/well). Medium not incubated with cells was used for comparison. The experiment was repeated three times, each sample in triplicate. Mean ± SD is presented.