



S2 Fig. MTT reduction to formazan by growing and non-growing *E. coli* cultures. *E. coli* GC4468 strain was grown to mid-log phase in LB medium, the cells were thoroughly washed and resuspended to $OD_{600} = 0.1$ in PBS + glucose, M9CA, or LB media. To half of the culture flasks chloramphenicol was added to a final concentration of $10 \mu\text{g/ml}$. After 15 minutes of incubation at 37°C at 200 RPM, $OD_{600 \text{ nm}}$ was checked again and where necessary, was adjusted to 0.1. Hundred μl aliquots were distributed in 96-well plates and the MTT assay was performed. Separate sets of identical wells were kept without MTT for monitoring changes in $OD_{600 \text{ nm}}$. **Inset:** Stationary phase cultures treated with chloramphenicol as above. The experiment was repeated two times in triplicates. Results are presented as mean \pm SD.