

Table S5. Statistic analyses of mercury and cadmium effects on benzene degradation and intermediates production by *C. metallidurans* CH34 and *P. putida* F1.

<i>C. metallidurans</i> CH34							<i>P. putida</i> F1			
Time (h)	Hg 32.5 μ M			Cd 200 μ M			Hg 32.5 μ M		Cd 200 μ M	
	% Residual benzene	Phenol (mM)	2-HMS (μ M)	% Residual benzene	Phenol (mM)	2-HMS (μ M)	% Residual benzene	2-HMS (μ M)	% Residual benzene	2-HMS (μ M)
0	n/a	ns	ns	n/a	ns	ns	n/a	ns	n/a	ns
3	ns	ns	*	ns	*	**	***	***	ns	ns
6	*	**	**	*	**	***	***	***	ns	***
9	ns	ns	ns	a	ns	ns	***	***	ns	*
12	ns	ns	*	ns	ns	ns	***	**	ns	ns

Significance results correspond to p values obtained from the t-test using control values as reference. n/a: not applicable, ns: $p>0.05$, *: $p\leq0.05$, **: $p\leq0.01$, ***: $p\leq0.001$.