



Figure 4.3. mRNA degradation in bacteria. The top structure represents the 3' region of an mRNA molecule. The triangle represents an endonuclease enzyme positioned at its RNA cleavage site. The gray boxes denote two alternative complementary regions for binding of a 3' message-specific primer oligonucleotide. Site 1 is protected from 3' to 5' exonucleolytic degradation following endonucleolytic cleavage because of its position in a secondary structure, whereas site 2 is readily susceptible to 3' to 5' exonucleolytic degradation. Higher *in vivo* steady-state levels of this mRNA would be detected with an oligonucleotide complementary to site 1 than to site 2.

with random-hexamer-generated targets, but this correlation is not observed when message-specific-generated targets are used [2].

As an aside, it might be thought that because DNA array hybridization data measured with random-hexamer-labeled probes shows a correlation with ORF length, each measurement should be corrected for this parameter. However, we do not feel that it is necessary to correct the expression