



FIGURE 3.1

Conjugational transfer of the F-plasmid. One of the strands of the F-plasmid is cut at a specific position (*oriT*, for “origin of transfer”). This strand becomes elongated by rolling-circle replication (*broken line*), gradually displacing the old part of this strand, which enters into the F^- cell 5'-end first. A complementary strand is synthesized in the cytoplasm of the recipient cell, and the plasmid is then circularized, converting the recipient cell from F^- to F^+ .

Redrawn based on artwork from the first edition (1995), published by W.H. Freeman.