Supplemental Figure 1. Schematic representation of the three isolation procedures used.
**Supplemental Figure 2.** Background concentration of EPS measured in CDM, M17 and RSM media without the addition of xanthan gum or bacteria.
Supplemental Figure 3. Concentration of EPS isolated from *S. thermophilus* ST<sub>LOW</sub>, ST<sub>MID</sub> or ST<sub>HIGH</sub> grown in M17 medium using three isolation procedures. Samples were analyzed using a one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s multiple comparison test; ns – not significant, ****p<0.0001.