**Table S1.** Primers used for Real-time quantitative PCR

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| **Gene** | **Sequence of primers used** |
| 16S rRNA | F: 5’-GATGGACCTGCGTTGTAT-3’ |
|  | R: 5’-TTCCCTACTGCTGCCTC-3’ |
| *epsA* | F: 5’-CACGCAGGTATTTATGGC-3’ |
|  | R: 5’- CATTATGGACTGTCACACC-3’ |
| *epsC* | F: 5’-ACTTGCCAATAAGGTTCG-3’ |
|  | R: 5’-GATGGTGACTCTGGCAAT-3’ |
| *eps2C* | F: 5’-CGTTCACGAAGCTGATTTC-3’ |
|  | R: 5’-TCGCTTGTGAAGATGTTTGA-3’ |
| *epsG* | F: 5’-GGACGGTACTTGAGGAACAT-3’ |
|  | R:5’-TCAAGATAGTCAGGATATAGTTT-3’ |
| *epsFN* | F: 5’-TGACAGAGTTCCAACAAGAC-3’ |
|  | R-5' CCGTCTACAACCAGTGAGTCT 3' |