Supplementary Material for Harhangi et al.

Hydrazine synthase, a unique phylomarker to study the presence and biodiversity of anammox bacteria

This material includes a table with paiwise sequence identities, a figure with the ClustalW alignment of the *hzs*A genes of five different anammox bacteria (Figure S1), a figure showing agarose gel electrophoresis of the *hzs*A gene PCR products amplified using gDNA from reactor biomass (Figure S2), a figure showing the phylogenetic analysis of cloned *hzs*A gene qPCR products (Figure S3) and a figure with Real time RT-PCR of *hzs*A/*nir*S mRNA expression level for *Kuenenia stuttgartiensis* (Figure S4).

Supplementary Table S1 Pairwise sequence identities (%) for the *hzs*A genes and derived protein sequences of the anammox bacteria used to design primers (see also Supplementary Figure S1).

DNA	1	2	3	4	5	Protein	1	2	3	4	5
1						1					
2	77.5					2	81.8				
3	75.5	92.8				3	82.0	97.0			
4	78.3	82.0	79.1			4	83.5	89.4	88.7		
5	64.0	63.6	61.7	62.0		5	61.5	61.8	62.3	64.0	

1 = *Kuenenia stuttgartiensis*

2 =Strain KSU-1

3 = *Jettenia asiatica*

4 = Brocadia fulgida

5 = Scalindua sp.



















Supplementary Figure S1: ClustalW alignment of the *hzsA* genes of five different anammox bacteria. The Forward and Reverse primers designed are indicated by arrows.



Supplementary Figure S2:

Agarose gel electrophoresis of the PCR products amplified using gDNA extracted from highly enriched reactor biomass with the hzsA_526F / hzsA_1857R primer pair.

- M = Marker lane
- 1 = Scalindua-dominated reactor (1000 x diluted)
- 2 = Brocadia-dominated reactor (1000 x diluted)
- 3 = Kuenenia-dominated reactor (10 x diluted)
- 4 = Jettenia-dominated reactor (10 x diluted)



Supplementary Figure 3A. Phylogenetic tree of the *hzs*A short qPCR sequences (260 nt) and known anammox bacteria. The evolutionary history was inferred using the Neighbor-Joining method. The optimal tree with the sum of branch length = 1.02205903 is shown. The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (500 replicates) are shown next to the branches. The evolutionary distances were computed using the Jukes-Cantor method and are in the units of the number of base substitutions per site. The analysis involved 42 nucleotide sequences. Codon positions included were 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding. All ambiguous positions were removed for each sequence pair.



Supplementary Figure 3B. Molecular Phylogenetic analysis by Maximum Likelihood method

The evolutionary history was inferred by using the Maximum Likelihood method based on the Tamura-Nei model [1]. The tree with the highest log likelihood (-1651.9420) is shown. The percentage of trees in which the associated taxa clustered together is shown next to the branches. Initial tree(s) for the heuristic search were obtained automatically as follows. When the number of common sites was < 100 or less than one fourth of the total number of sites, the maximum parsimony method was used; otherwise BIONJ method with MCL distance matrix was used. The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths measured in the number of substitutions per site. The analysis involved 42 nucleotide sequences. Codon positions included were 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding.



Real time RT-PCR with hzsA primers

Supplementary Figure 4. Real time RT-PCR to analyze the mRNA expression level of the *hzs*A and *nir*S gene in *Kuenenia stuttgartiensis* using the primers pair hzsA_1597F/hzsA_1857R and nirSF/nirSR. Amplification cycles are plotted against the fluorescence respons; **A.** linear scale, **B.** logarithmic scale. To check for contaminating DNA, control without reverse transcriptase were performed.