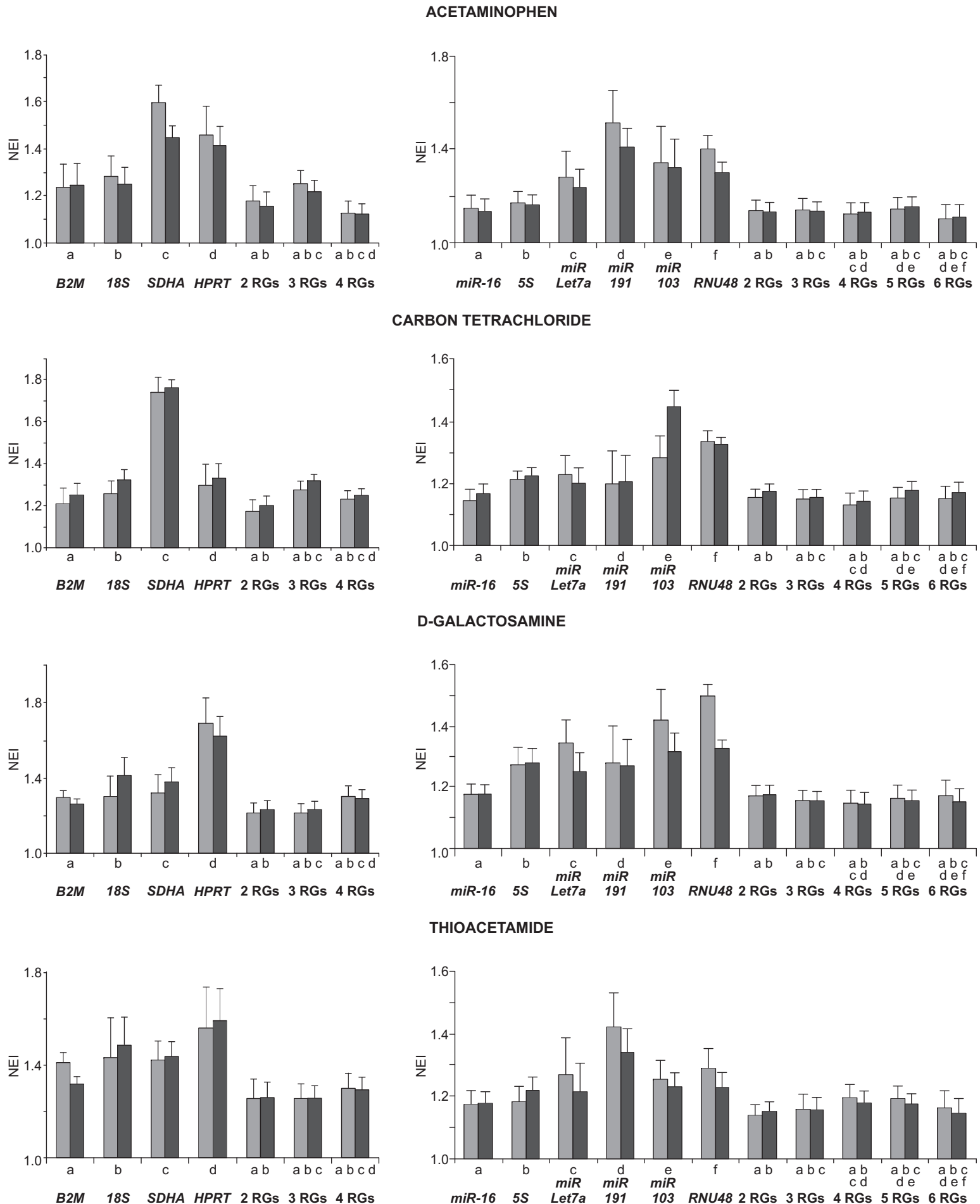


Figure S3

Study of normalization efficiency of candidate reference genes for microRNA and mRNA.

UP regulation
DOWN regulation



The figure shows the normalization efficiency index (NEI) calculated for each hepatotoxin in up- and down-regulation situations. We defined the NEI value as the minimum fold up- or down-regulation to observe a significant expression difference (t-test, $p=0.05$, $n=5$) between control and treated groups using a particular normalization method. The NEI is calculated by normalizing against individual reference genes or a combination of two or more reference gene added stepwise, following the left-to-right stability rank established previously. The error bars were determined through calculating the error propagation of the normalized relative quantity of transcript.