Additional file 2. Primers targeting *Bifidobacterium* genus and species used in this study

Target group/species	Forward primer (5' to 3')	Reverse primer (5' to 3')	Reference
B. genus	GATTCTGGCTCAGGATGAACGC	CTGATAGGACGCGACCCCAT	(69,70)
B. adolescentis	GGATCGGCTGGAGCTTGCTCCG	CCCCGAAGGCTTGCTCCCAGT	(35)
B. bifidum	TGACCGACCTGCCCCATGCT	CCCATCCCACGCCGATAGAAT	(35)
B. breve	AATGCCGGATGCTCCATCACAC	GCCTTGCTCCCTAACAAAAGAGG	(35)
B. catenulatum group	GCCGGATGCTCCGACTCCT	ACCCGAAGGCTTGCTCCCGAT	(35)
B. longum group	TTCCAGTTGATCGCATGGTCTTCT	GGCTACCCGTCGAAGCCACG	(35)