

**Supporting Information:**

**Standard Inocula Preparations Reduce the Bacterial Diversity and Reliability of Regulatory Biodegradation Tests**

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Supporting information is provided as a compilation of closest relatives and their similarities with the sequence of dominant bands excised from the DGGE gels.

Material	Page
Table S1 Nearest neighbour and RDP classification of excised band sequences from the supernatant of activated sludge and its unprocessed counterpart.	S2

**Table S1.** Nearest neighbour and RDP classification of excised band sequences from the supernatant of activated sludge and its unprocessed counterpart.

Band <sup>§</sup>	Closest relative and accession number	RDP classification*	Percent identity	Origin	Reference
	<i>Erwinia persicinus</i> (AM184098)	family <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	100.0, <sup>a</sup> 95.5	Processed vegetables	[46]Randazzo et al. (2009)
1,2,5 <sup>a</sup>	<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. HBB9 (EU074057)	family <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	100.0, <sup>a</sup> 95.5	Grapevine juice	
	<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i> subsp. Steigerwaltii (AJ853890)	family <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	100.0, <sup>a</sup> 95.5	Surgical skin wound	[47]Hoffmann, H. (2005)
	Sludge granule bacterium (EF190022)	family <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	100.0, <sup>a</sup> 95.5	Sludge granules	[48]Adav et al., (2007)
3	<i>Roseobacter</i> sp. TKW (DQ479380)	class <i>Betaproteobacteria</i>	81.5	Kuwaiti coastal water	[49]Al-Sarawi et al. (2008)
4	<i>Microscilla</i> sp. MED571 (EU253600)	no root	49.3	NW Mediterranean surface water	
6	Uncultured bacterium clone FCPS400 (EF516835 )	class <i>Betaproteobacteria</i>	78	Californian grassland soil	[50]Cruz-Martinez et al (2009)
7	Uncultured <i>Dechloromonas</i> sp. clone KS-488 (EU809559)	phylum <i>Proteobacteria</i>	81.4	Indian soil	[51]Srinivas et al. (2011)
8	<i>Flavobacterium gelidacus</i> type strain LMG21477 (AJ440996)	genus <i>Flavobacterium</i>	71.4	Antarctic microbial mat	[52]van Trappen et al. (2002)

<sup>§</sup>Band numbers correspond to those excised from the DGGE gel (Figure 1); <sup>a</sup> percentage identity for band 5 only; \* using the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) Classifier tool.