

**Table S2:** Time taken by different binning methods for taxonomic assignment of reads constituting the simulated 'Roche' and 'Illumina short-clones' datasets.

Method	Total time taken for taxonomic assignments (in mins) *	
	Roche Dataset	Illumina 'short-clones' Dataset
Megan	1292	1060
Megan-Paired	-	1145
Megan + SI	-	1063
Discribinate	1296	1061
Discribinate + SI	-	1064
Sort-items	1352	1080
Sort-items + SI	-	1083
Sphinx	68	40
Sphinx + SI	-	42
Twarit	16	12
Twarit + SI	-	15
Indus	64	36
Indus + SI	-	39

\* Processing times of strategies SI, SII, SIII and SIV are equivalent. On a similar note, the processing time required for the 'short clones' and the 'long clones' dataset are also equivalent.