

Table S1. 16S rDNA sequence similarities of the non-toxigenic environmental *C. difficile* isolates with type strain of *C. difficile* and other closely related bacteria.

Isolate	Clade	16S rDNA Sequence length (bp)	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> , ATCC 9689 ¹	<i>Eubacterium tenue</i> , ATCC 25553 ²	<i>Clostridium sordellii</i> , ATCC 9714 ³	<i>Clostridium ghonii</i> , JCM 1400 ⁴	<i>Clostridium manganotii</i> , DSM1289 ⁵	<i>Peptostreptococcus anaerobius</i> , NCTC 11460 ⁶	<i>Clostridium hiranonis</i> , TO-931 ⁷
ZZV14-6387	C-I	1355	99.9	95.9	96.4	95.9	95.1	92.1	94.5
ZZV14-6345	C-II	1344	99.7	96.1	96.4	95.9	95.3	92.1	94.5
ZZV14-6383	C-II	1360	99.6	96.1	96.4	95.9	95.3	92.1	94.5
ZZV14-5902	C-III	1353	99.7	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV15-6597	C-III	1356	99.8	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV15-6598	C-III	1356	99.8	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	92.0	94.4
ZZV14-6009	C-III	1364	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6044	C-III	1355	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6153	C-III	1338	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6154	C-III	1352	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV13-5731	C-III	1346	99.8	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6045	C-III	1348	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6048	C-III	1349	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6150	C-III	1345	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4
ZZV14-6388	C-III	1345	99.9	95.9	96.3	95.8	95.2	91.9	94.4

¹Accession number: CP011968.1

²Accession number: M59118.1

³Accession number: AB075771.1

⁴Accession number: AB542933.1

⁵Accession number: FR733662.1

⁶Accession number: AY326462.1

⁷Accession number: AB023970.1