

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Supplemental Methods

Plasmid standard curves (Calculating the log₁₀ 16S rRNA gene copies)

1. *Calculating the total number of plasmid copies (i.e., 16S rRNA gene copies because there is one copy of this gene per plasmid) from purified plasmid DNA material utilizes the following formulae:*

$$X = \frac{m \cdot A}{p \cdot Z \cdot Y}, \text{ where:}$$

m = purified plasmid DNA concentration in ng/μL considering that 1 μL of the plasmid working solution is used per qPCR reaction

A = Avogadro's number (6.02*10²³/mole)

p = plasmid DNA size in base pairs (bp), which equals the plasmid insert size (3900 bp) + the 16S rRNA gene fragment length ranging between 1400-1600 bp

Z = the average molecular weight of a double-stranded DNA molecule, which equals 650 g/mole

Y = 10⁹ to convert the value of Z from grams to nanograms, since m is in nanograms (i.e., 1 gram = 10⁹ nanograms)

2. *Transforming X to the estimated total number of bacteria based on 16S rRNA copy number:*

$$G = \frac{X}{C}, \text{ where:}$$

X = total number of plasmid copies

C = 5, which refers to the estimated number of 16S rRNA gene copies per ASF bacterial genome or a single cell (this number can be adjusted by users to whatever value they choose; it can also be a different number for each ASF member if desired)

3. *Log₁₀ transformation to achieve the final value for the log₁₀ total 16S rRNA gene copies contained in the purified plasmid DNA:*

$$F_{x,g} = \log_{10} (G), \text{ where:}$$

G = estimated total log₁₀ of total gene (16S rRNA) copies (i.e., total bacterial abundance)

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Example of a calculation using the steps described above considering the following values for *Clostridium sp.* (ASF 356):

$$m = 7.63 \text{ ng}/\mu\text{L}$$

$$A = 6.02 \cdot 10^{23} / \text{mole}$$

$$p = (3900 + 1487) \text{ bp} = 5387 \text{ bp}$$

$$Z = 650 \text{ g/mole}$$

$$Y = 10^9$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \frac{7.63 \cdot 6.02 \cdot 10^{23}}{5387 \cdot 650 \cdot 10^9},$$

$$\mathbf{X} = 1.31 \cdot 10^9,$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \frac{1.31 \cdot 10^9}{5},$$

$$\mathbf{G} = 2.62 \cdot 10^8,$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{x,g} = \log_{10} (2.62 \cdot 10^8),$$

$F_{x,g} = 8.4$ (final value used in the linear regression model to construct the qPCR standard curve)

Genomic DNA standard curves (Calculating the log₁₀ of total genome copies)

1. Derivation of DNA mass formulae:

$$m = (n) * \left(\frac{1 \text{ mole}}{6.02 * 10^{23}} \right) * \left(\frac{650 \text{ grams}}{\text{mole}} \right),$$

$$m = (n) * \left(1.08 * \frac{10^{-21} \text{ grams}}{\text{bp}} \right), \text{ where:}$$

m = genome mass

n = DNA size (in bp), which is the full genome length per ASF taxon (see Table S3).

Avogadro's number = 6.02*10²³ molecules/mole

Average molecular weight of a double-stranded DNA molecule = 650 grams/mole

After m is calculated, its value is transformed from grams to femtograms (i.e., 1 gram = 10¹⁵ femtograms) as follows:

$$m1 = (n) * \left(1.08 * \frac{10^{-21} \text{ grams}}{\text{bp}} * 10^{15} \right),$$

$$m2 = (n) * \left(1.08 * \frac{10^{-6} \text{ femtograms}}{\text{bp}} \right)$$

After quantification of the purified genomic DNA material extracted from 1 mL of pure culture of the ASF taxon, its concentration value (ng/μL) is then transformed to femtograms (i.e., 1 nanogram = 10⁶ femtograms) to calculate how many genome copies are present in the extract. For that, the following calculation is performed:

$$\text{Final genome copies} = \frac{[\text{DNA ng}/\mu\text{L}] * 10^6 \text{ (transforming to femtograms)}}{m2 \text{ (as calculated above)}}$$

For example:

If a purified genomic DNA sample from 1 mL of a *Clostridium sp.* (ASF 356) pure culture gave a concentration of 2.9 ng/μL, then the formulae derived above would be applied as follows:

$$m2 = (2,900,700 \text{ bp for the full genome length}) * \left(1.08 * \frac{10^{-6} \text{ femtograms}}{\text{bp}} \right),$$

$$m2 = 3.13 \frac{\text{femtograms}}{\text{genome}} \text{ which is the genome mass for ASF 356}$$

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$$\text{Final genome copies} = \frac{[2.9 \text{ ng}/\mu\text{L}] * 10^6 \text{ (transforming to femtograms)}}{3.13 \text{ (as calculated above)}}$$

$$\text{Final genome copies} = 9.26 * 10^5 \text{ genome copies}$$

*Of note, the final genome copy number does not correct for the number of 16S rRNA copies for this organism (reported in this paper as 5 per ASF taxon). The plasmid and genomic DNA initial working concentrations used to construct the qPCR standard curves are shown in Table S4.

Calculation example (Log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA gene copies [i.e., estimated bacterial abundance] for ASF 356 in cecal contents from C3H/HeN mice fed standard mouse chow)

The calculation example below shows exactly how the Ct values generated during the qPCR assay (i.e., in duplicate) using SYBR Green Master Mix A were used to calculate the final log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA copy number (i.e., estimated total bacterial abundance) per gram of cecal sample for one C3H/HeN mouse. This calculation was similarly used for all other ASF taxa (and for samples tested with Mix B) to determine the final population abundances in fecal or cecal samples from both host genotypes and across all studies.

1. *Calculating the average of Ct values from a duplicate run using our qPCR method:*

$$Ct_x = \frac{Ct\ value\ 1 + Ct\ value\ 2}{2},\ where:$$

Ct = cycle threshold value ranging from 0 to 35

2. *Calculating the log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA copy number using the predictive equation derived from the Mix A plasmid standard curves (Table S4):*

For this example, the calculation will be based on the predictive equation generated for *L. murinus* (ASF 361):

Standard curve equation: $Y = -3.952 * X + 45.82$, where:

Y = average Ct value calculated in step 1 (Ct_x)

X = log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA gene copies

Given the values of the Ct values 1 (16.70) and 2 (17.00) achieved for a particular sample for ASF 361, total gene copies are calculated as follows:

$$Ct_x = \frac{16.70 + 17}{2} = 16.85, \text{ then:}$$

$$16.85 = -3.952 * X + 45.82, \text{ then:}$$

$$X = 7.34 \text{ (log}_{10}\text{ of total 16S rRNA gene copies)}$$

3. *Back transforming the value achieved in step 2 from log₁₀ to exponential:*

$$\sigma = \text{POWER}(10, X), \text{ where:}$$

X = the value calculated in step 2 for the log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA gene copies

$$\sigma = \text{POWER}(10, 7.34) = 2.17 * 10^7 \text{ total 16S rRNA gene copies}$$

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4. *Calculating the total DNA amount in the eluted sample after extraction:*

$$\rho = 100 \mu\text{L} * \left[\text{DNA} \frac{\text{ng}}{\mu\text{L}} \right], \text{ where:}$$

Elution volume using TE buffer = 100 μL

[DNA ng/ μL] = DNA concentration (as determined using a fluorescent molecule labeling method, i.e., Quant-iT™ PicoGreen® dsDNA Broad Range Reagent)

For this example, the values are:

$$\rho = 100 \mu\text{L} * \left[174 \frac{\text{ng}}{\mu\text{L}} \right], \text{ then:}$$

$\rho = 17400 \text{ ng}$ is total amount of DNA in the extracted sample

5. *Define the amount of DNA template used in the final qPCR reaction:*

The amount of DNA loaded per reaction = 10 ng

*All samples are diluted to 10 ng/ μL prior to running the qPCR, and then 1 μL of the diluted sample is used in the reaction.

6. *Calculating the normalizing factor (i.e., scaling value) used to determine the final amount of 16S rRNA gene copy number in the extracted material:*

$$\tau = \frac{\rho}{10 \text{ ng}}, \text{ where:}$$

ρ = the total amount of DNA in the sample calculated in step 4

10 ng = the amount of DNA loaded in the qPCR reaction using 1 μL of the diluted sample

For the sample using the ASF 361 calculation example, the value is as follows:

$$\tau = \frac{17400}{10 \text{ ng}} = 1740$$

7. *Multiplying the value calculated in step 6 by the total number of bacteria or 16S rRNA copies calculated in step 3:*

Total 16S rRNA copy number in the sample accounting for the DNA amount = $\sigma * \tau$

For this example, the calculation is:

Total 16S rRNA copy number in the sample accounting for the DNA amount = $2.17 * 10^7 * 1740$, then:

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Total 16S rRNA copy number in the sample accounting for the DNA amount = $3.78 * 10^{10}$

8. *Dividing the value calculated in step 7 by the cecal content weight (i.e., wet value) in grams to get the estimated total bacteria/gram of cecal content (using the same example from above):*

$$\frac{\text{Total 16S rRNA copy number}}{\text{grams of cecal content}} = \frac{3.78 * 10^{10}}{0.224 \text{ grams}} = 1.69 * 10^{11}$$

9. *Back transforming the value calculated in step 8 from exponential to \log_{10} to achieve the final total number of \log_{10} of 16S rRNA copy number/grams of cecal content:*

$$\frac{\text{Total } \log_{10} \text{ 16S rRNA copy number}}{\text{grams of cecal content}} = \log_{10}(1.69 * 10^{11}) = 11.23$$

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Table S1a. Composition of the standard chow diet (LabDiet® JL Rat and Mouse/Auto 6F 5K67, LabDiet). Complete details can be found at <http://www.labdiet.com/Products/StandardDiets>.

LabDiet 5K67	
Nutrients and Minerals	% of ration
Protein	19.3
Fat (ether extract)	6.2
Fat (acid hydrolysis)	7.2
Fiber (crude)	4.3
Nitrogen-free extract (by difference)	53.6
Ash	6.5
Total Digestible Nutrients, %	76.3
Metabolizable Energy, kcal/gm	3.17
Calories provided by	%
Protein	22.24
Fat (ether extract)	16.03
Carbohydrate	61.73

Table S1b. Composition of the purified experimental diets produced by Research Diets, Inc. (New Brunswick, NJ, USA). Mice were fed either a low-fat diet (LFD, D12450K) or a customized Western diet (WD, 45% kcal from fat and 17% kcal from sucrose with low maltodextrine/high starch compared to D12451). Complete diet formulations can be accessed at (<http://www.researchdiets.com/opensource-diets/stock-diets/dio-series-diets>).

	Low-fat Diet (D12450K)	Western Diet (modified D12451)
	g (%)	g (%)
Protein	19.2	23.7
Carbohydrate	67.3	46.1
Fat	4.3	23.6
	kcal (%)	kcal (%)
Protein	20	20
Carbohydrate	70	34.1
Fat	10	44.9
Ingredient quantity	g	g
Casein, 30 Mesh	200	200
L-cystine	3	3
Corn Starch	550	137.3
Maltodextrine 10	150	35.5
Sucrose	0	172.8
Cellulose BW200	50	50
Soybean Oil	25	25
Lard	20	177.5
Mineral Mix S10026	10	10
DiCalcium Phosphate	13	13
Calcium Carbonate	5.5	5.5
Potassium Citrate, 1H ₂ O	16.5	16.5
Vitamin Mix V1001	10	10
Choline Bitartrate	2	2
Dyes	0.05	0.05
Energy density (kcal/g)	3.85	4.73

Table S2. Plasmid and genomic DNA initial working solution concentrations, as measured by fluorescent molecule labeling (see full description in Section 2.5 of the manuscript), used for the qPCR standard curves.

ASF taxa	Plasmid DNA (ng/μL)	Genomic DNA (ng/μL)
<i>Clostridium sp.</i> (ASF 356)	7.63	2.9
<i>L. intestinalis</i> (ASF 360)	10.2	4.84
<i>L. murinus</i> (ASF 361)	12.4	7.63
<i>M. schaedleri</i> (ASF 457)	6.06	1.97
<i>E. plexicaudatum</i> (ASF 492)	5.36	5.34
<i>Pseudoflavonifractor sp.</i> (ASF 500)	8.17	5.18
<i>Clostridium sp.</i> (ASF 502)	10.2	3.26
<i>P. goldsteinii</i> (ASF 519)	4.67	10

Table S3. Full genome length (bp) for all ASF taxa.

ASF taxa	Full genome length (bp)*
<i>Clostridium sp.</i> (ASF 356)	2,900,700
<i>L. intestinalis</i> (ASF 360)	1,868,090
<i>L. murinus</i> (ASF 361)	2,109,070
<i>M. schaedleri</i> (ASF 457)	2,319,180
<i>E. plexicaudatum</i> (ASF 492)	6,104,768
<i>Pseudoflavonifractor sp.</i> (ASF 500)	3,658,722
<i>Clostridium sp.</i> (ASF 502)	6,364,766
<i>P. goldsteinii</i> (ASF 519)	6,862,324

* **Full genome length (bp)** - full genome length for each ASF taxon that can be assessed from <http://bacteria.ensembl.org/index.html>.

Table S4. Standard curve parameters and limit of detection for all ASF bacteria.

Taxon ID	qPCR efficiency		Slope		Intercept		R ²		Pearson <i>r</i> coefficient		Limit of detection*	
	Mix A	Mix B	Mix A	Mix B	Mix A	Mix B	Mix A	Mix B	Mix A	Mix B	Mix A	Mix B
356	0.84	0.69	-3.774	-4.379	41.21	43.51	0.969	0.991	-0.997	-0.999	370	6,900
360	0.87	0.97	-3.693	-3.405	37.97	32.45	0.986	0.999	-0.997	-0.999	36	8
361	0.79	0.80	-3.952	-3.917	45.84	39.47	0.924	0.991	-0.994	-0.996	2,700	58
457	0.90	0.57	-3.579	-5.131	37.24	52.01	0.975	0.990	-0.997	-0.997	14	4,900
492	0.78	0.53	-4.011	-5.399	40.99	51.45	0.977	0.998	-0.999	-0.999	280	130,000
500	0.96	0.86	-3.416	-3.696	34.62	37.02	0.980	0.942	-0.996	-0.971	20	52
502	0.96	0.80	-3.421	-3.925	34.94	38.17	0.978	0.991	-0.995	-0.998	26	260
519	0.99	0.58	-3.352	-5.064	35.58	49.86	0.974	0.987	-0.997	-0.996	10	3,000

*Limit of detection expressed as total number of bacterial cells estimated from each ASF species-specific standard curve using purified plasmid DNA and adjusted for 16 rRNA gene copy number considering five copies of the 16 rRNA gene for each ASF taxon.

Supplemental Figures

Fig. S1. CLUSTAL W multiple sequence alignment of all ASF 16S rRNA gene sequences that can be assessed in the NCBI database. Regions highlighted in gray represent the primer sequences from Sarma-Rupavtarm et al., 2004, while bold nucleotides represent the newly developed primer sets herein presented. Overlapping sequences between the two primer sets appear italicized. Asterisks highlight positions with high nucleotide sequence similarity. Note that the newly developed primers are located between the hypervariable regions 1-3 of the 16S rRNA gene and uniquely positioned in regions of low nucleotide similarities across all sequences. Alignment was produced using the Bioedit software version 7.1.7 (Bioeditor Sequence Alignment Editor, Tom Hall, Ibis Biosciences, Carlsbad, CA).

					5		55			
gi		5163477		gb		AF157056.1		ASF		519
gi		5163471		gb		AF157050.1		ASF		360
gi		5163470		gb		AF157049.1		ASF		361
gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF		457
gi		5163473		gb		AF157052.1		ASF		356
gi		5163472		gb		AF157051.1		ASF		500
gi		5163475		gb		AF157054.1		ASF		492
gi		5163474		gb		AF157053.1		ASF		502
<pre> GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTAGCGACAGGCTTAACACATGCAAGTCGAGGGGCGACCGATGT GGCTCAGGACGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAATACATGCAAGTCGAGCGAGCTGAACCAGC GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAATACATGCAAGTCGAACGAAACTTCTTTAT GGCTCAGAACGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAACACATGCAAGTCAGGGAGAAAGTCTCTTC GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAACACATGCAAGTCGAGCGAAAATAATTAGG GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAACACATGCAAGTCGAACGGAGGACCCCTGA GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAACACATGCAAGTCGAACGAAGCAYATCTGC GGCTCAGGATGAACGCTGGCGGCGTGCCTAACACATGCAAGTCGAGCGAAGCACTTTTTT ***** * ***** *** * ** *** ***** </pre>										
					65		115			
gi		5163477		gb		AF157056.1		ASF		519
gi		5163471		gb		AF157050.1		ASF		360
gi		5163470		gb		AF157049.1		ASF		361
gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF		457
gi		5163473		gb		AF157052.1		ASF		356
gi		5163472		gb		AF157051.1		ASF		500
gi		5163475		gb		AF157054.1		ASF		492
gi		5163474		gb		AF157053.1		ASF		502
<pre> AGCAA-----TACATTGGTGGCGACCGGCGCACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTAT A-GATTCACTTCGGTGATGACGCTGGGAACGCGAGCGGCGGATGGGTGAGTAACACGTGG CACCGAGTGCTTGCACTCACCGATAAAGAGTTGAGTGGCGAACGGGTGAGTAACACGTGG GGGGA-----TGATTAACCGGCGCACGGGTGAGTAACACGTGA AGCTTG-----CTTTTAATTATTTTAGCGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGTGTGG AGGAGTTTTTCGGA--CAACTGAAGGGAATCCTTAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGA GGAATTCCTTCGGGGAGGAAGCRGTTATGACTGAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGG AGAACTCTTCGGA--GGGAAGAGAGGGTGACTTAGCGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGG * **** * ***** ** </pre>										

gi 5163477 gb AF157056.1 ASF 519	125	GCAACCTACCTATCAGAGGGGAATAACCCGGCGAAAGTCGGACTAATACCGCATAAAACA	175
gi 5163471 gb AF157050.1 ASF 360		GTAACCTGCCCTAAAGTCTGGGATACCACTTGGAAACAGGTGCTAATACCGGATAACAAC	
gi 5163470 gb AF157049.1 ASF 361		GCAACCTGCCCAAAGAGGGGGATAACACTTGGAAACAGGTGCTAATACCGCATAACCAT	
gi 5163476 gb AF157055.1 ASF 457		GTGACCTGCCTTTTAGACTGGAACAACCTTACCGAAAGGTGAGCTAATGCCGGATGAGTTA	
gi 5163473 gb AF157052.1 ASF 356		GCAACCTGCCTTTTACTGTGGAATAATCACTGGAAACGGTGACTAATACCGCATAAC GTTT	
gi 5163472 gb AF157051.1 ASF 500		GTAACCTGCCTTGGAGTGGGGGAATAACAGCTGGAAACAGCTGCTAATACCGCATGATATG	
gi 5163475 gb AF157054.1 ASF 492		GCAACCTGCCCCATAACCGGGGGACAACAGCCGGAAACGGCTGCTAATACCGCATAAC GTTT	
gi 5163474 gb AF157053.1 ASF 502		GCAACCTGCCTTACACAGGGGGATAACAATTAGAAATGATTGCTAATACCGCATAAGACC	
		* * * * *	
	185	GGG GTTCCACATGGA ----- AATATTTGTTAA AGAATTATCGCTGATAGATGGGCATGC	235
gi 5163477 gb AF157056.1 ASF 519		AATAGCTGCATGGCTATTGCTT AAAAGGCGGCGAAAGCTGTCTGCTAAAGGATGGACCCGC	
gi 5163471 gb AF157050.1 ASF 360		AGTTACCGCATGGTAACTAT GTAAAAGGT - GGCTATGCT ACCGCTTTTGGATGGGCCCGC	
gi 5163470 gb AF157049.1 ASF 361		TATAA GTGCATGTTTATATAGGAAAAGTT GGGGAGACCTGACGCTGAAAGATGGACTCGC	
gi 5163476 gb AF157055.1 ASF 457		CTTAGGAGGCATCTT ----- CTAAGAAAGAAAGGATTTATTC GGTAAAAGATGGGCCCGC	
gi 5163473 gb AF157052.1 ASF 356		TCTGTGTCTCGCATGGC----- ACTGGAC - ATCAAAGATTTATCGCT CTGAGATGGACTCGC	
gi 5163472 gb AF157051.1 ASF 500		TTAAAACCGCATGGT ----- TTTAAA -- AAGAAA ACTCCGGTGGTATGGGATGGGCCCGC	
gi 5163475 gb AF157054.1 ASF 492		CCGGTACCGCATGGT----- ACAGAG -- GTAAA ACT GAGGTGGTGTAA GTGGGCCCGC	
gi 5163474 gb AF157053.1 ASF 502		* * * * *	
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gi 5163471 gb AF157050.1 ASF 360		GGCGCATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAAAGGCTTACCAAGGCAATGATGCGTAGCCGA ACTG	
gi 5163470 gb AF157049.1 ASF 361		GTCCCATTAGCTAGTTGGT AGGGTAAATGGCCTACCAAGGCGACGATGGGTAGCCGGCCTG	
gi 5163476 gb AF157055.1 ASF 457		ATCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGT GAGATAATAGCCACCAAGGCAACGATCAGTAGCCGACCTG	
gi 5163473 gb AF157052.1 ASF 356		GTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGCGGGGTAAACGGCC ACCAAGGCGACGATCAGTAGCCGGACTG	
gi 5163472 gb AF157051.1 ASF 500		GTCTGATTAGCTGGTTGGYGGGGTAAACGGCC ACCAAGGCGACGATCAGTAGCCGGCCTG	
gi 5163475 gb AF157054.1 ASF 492		GTCTGATTAGGTAGTTGGTGGGGT AGAAGCCTACCAAGCCGACGATCAGTAGCCGACCTG	
gi 5163474 gb AF157053.1 ASF 502		* * * * *	
	305	AGAGGAAGGTCCCCCACACTGGTACTGAGACACGGACCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	355
gi 5163477 gb AF157056.1 ASF 519		AGAGACTGATCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163471 gb AF157050.1 ASF 360		AGAGGTTGATCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163470 gb AF157049.1 ASF 361		AGAGGGTGGCCGGCCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163476 gb AF157055.1 ASF 457		AGAGGGT GACCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163473 gb AF157052.1 ASF 356		AGAGGTTGGCCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163472 gb AF157051.1 ASF 500		AGAGGGCGGGCCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163475 gb AF157054.1 ASF 492		AGAGGGCGGGCCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
gi 5163474 gb AF157053.1 ASF 502		AGAGGGCGGGCCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	
		**** * * * * *	

					605		655					
gi		5163477		gb		AF157056.1		ASF	519	TCAGCGGTGAAAGTTTGTGGCTCAACCATAAAATTGCCGTTGAAACTGGTTGACTTGAGT		
gi		5163471		gb		AF157050.1		ASF	360	TCTGATGTGAAAGCCCCGGCTTAACCGAGGAATTGCATCGGAACTGTGTTTCTTGAGT		
gi		5163470		gb		AF157049.1		ASF	361	TCTGATGTGAAAGCCTTCGGCTTAACCGGAGTAGTGCATTGGAACTGGGAGACTTGAGT		
gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF	457	TCATTAGTCAAAGACTAGAGCTCAACTTTAGTAAGGCTAGTGATACTATAACTAGAGT		
gi		5163473		gb		AF157052.1		ASF	356	CGATATGTGAAAGCCTTAAGCTTAACTTAAGGATAGCATAACGAACTATCTAGCTAGAGT		
gi		5163472		gb		AF157051.1		ASF	500	TCAGATGTGAAAACCCAGGGCTCAACCTGTGGCCTGCATTTGAAACTGTAGTTCTTGAGT		
gi		5163475		gb		AF157054.1		ASF	492	TCTGATGTGAAAGCCCCGGGCTCAACCCCGGGACTGCATTGGAAACTGCCGGCTGGAGT		
gi		5163474		gb		AF157053.1		ASF	502	TCTGATGTGAAAATCCGGGGCCCAACCCCGGAATTGCATTGGAAACTGCATATCTAGAGT		
										** ** * ** ** * ** *** ** ** *		
										665		715
gi		5163477		gb		AF157056.1		ASF	519	ATATTTGAGGTAGGCGGAATGCGTGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCATAGATATCACGCAGAAC		
gi		5163471		gb		AF157050.1		ASF	360	GCAGAAGAGGAGAGTGGAACCTCCATGTGTAGCGGTGGAATGCGTAGATATATGGAAGAAC		
gi		5163470		gb		AF157049.1		ASF	361	GCAGAAGAGGAGAGTGGAACCTCCATGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATATGGAAGAAC		
gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF	457	ATCAGAGAGGATTGCAGAATTCCTGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATCAGGAGGAAT		
gi		5163473		gb		AF157052.1		ASF	356	ACAGGAGAGGAAAGCGGAATTCCTAGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATTAGGAAGAAC		
gi		5163472		gb		AF157051.1		ASF	500	ACTGGAGAGGCAGACGGAATTCCTAGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATTAGGAGGAAC		
gi		5163475		gb		AF157054.1		ASF	492	GTCGGAGGGGTAAGCGGAATTCCTAGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGTAGATATTAGGAGGAAC		
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gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF	457	ACCGTTAGCGAAGGCGGCAATCTGGCTGGAAACTGACGCTGAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGTA		
gi		5163473		gb		AF157052.1		ASF	356	ACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTTTCTGGACTGAAACTGACGCTGAGGCTCGAAAGCGTGGGGA		
gi		5163472		gb		AF157051.1		ASF	500	ACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTCTGCTGGACAGCAACTGACGCTGAGGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGA		
gi		5163475		gb		AF157054.1		ASF	492	ACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTTACTGGACGATCACTGACGCTGAGGCTCGAAAGCGTGGGGA		
gi		5163474		gb		AF157053.1		ASF	502	ACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTTGCTGGACGATGACTGACGTTGAGGCTCGAAAGCGTGGGGA		
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gi		5163476		gb		AF157055.1		ASF	457	CTGGGGTGAAGTCGTAACAAGGTAGCCGTACCGGAAGGTGCG
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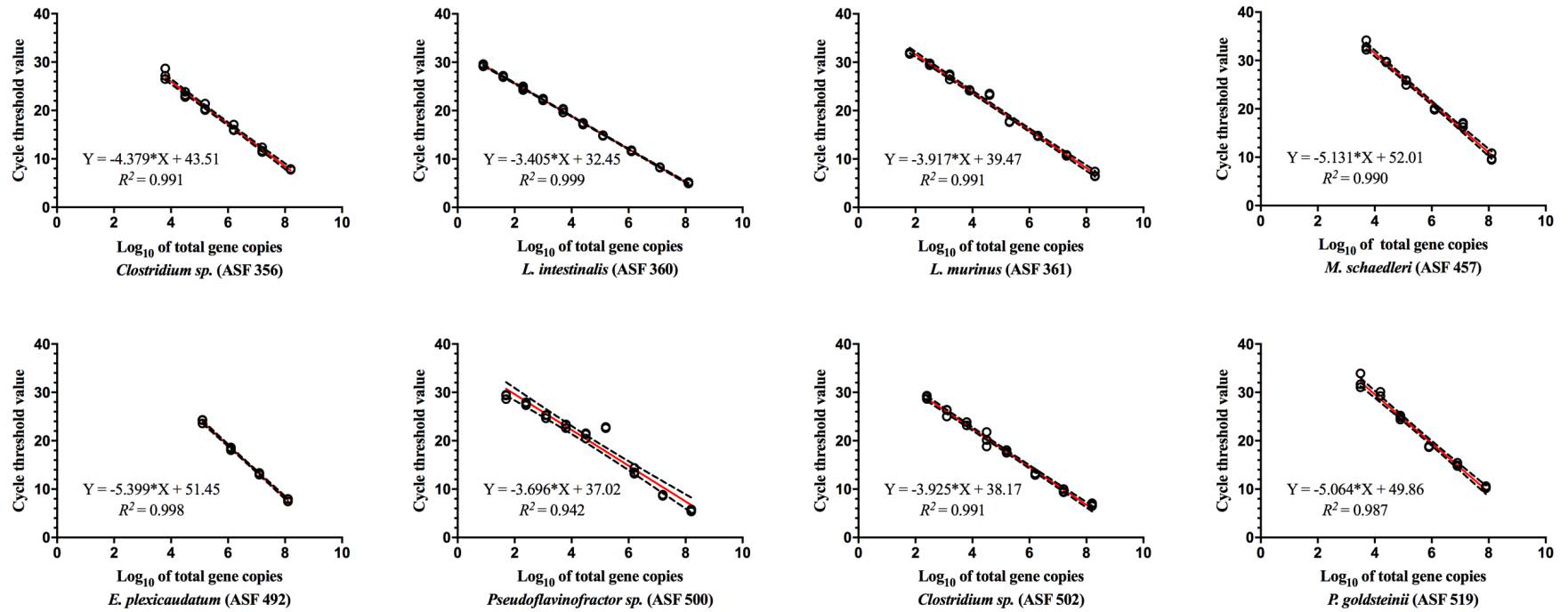


Fig. S2. Linear regression model for SYBR Green Master Mix B depicting the standard curve parameters for ASF quantification. Standard curves were prepared using serial dilutions of purified vector-free plasmid DNA containing the specific 16S rRNA gene sequence for each ASF taxon and used to determine the limit of detection and efficiency of each reaction. The predicted linear model line (red) and estimated equation are shown for each ASF taxon based on the log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA gene copies, along with dotted lines representing the 95% confidence interval bands. Triplicates of each plasmid concentration were used to determine precision in quantification (open black circles). R-squared values are also shown for each curve. The final number for the log₁₀ of total 16S rRNA gene copies for each ASF bacterium was calculated considering five copies of this gene per bacterial genome.

A real-time PCR assay for accurate quantification of the individual members of the Altered Schaedler Flora microbiota in gnotobiotic mice, Gomes-Neto et al.

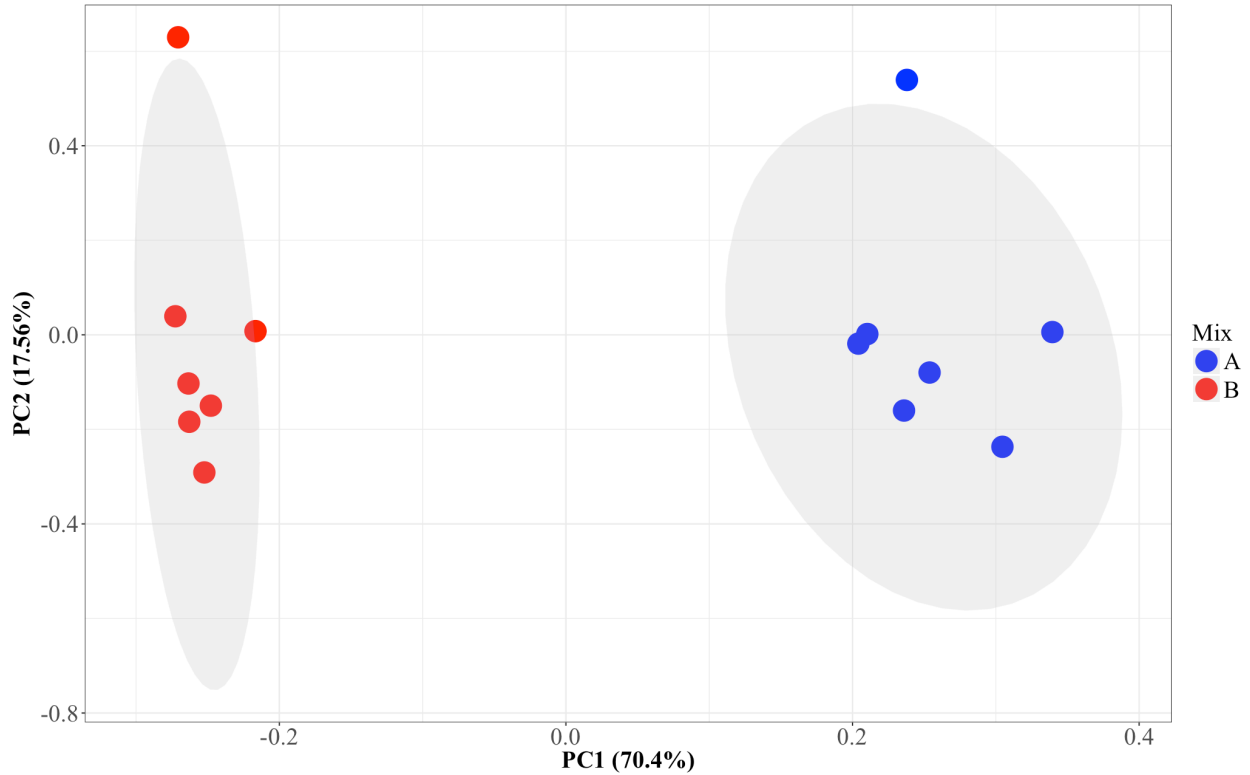


Fig. S3. PCA plot depicting how the ASF community clusters when comparing the \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of cecal contents between mouse genotypes (i.e., Mix A in blue and Mix B in red). The x- and y-axes indicate the principal components 1 (PC1) and 2 (PC2) and include the percent of variance explained by each PC. Each dot in the PCA plot represents an individual animal and its respective ASF member abundances. Gray shaded ellipses represent dispersion of the data points within treatments and were calculated based on a multivariate T distribution. All qPCRs were run in duplicate for both master mixes. Estimated ASF abundances were achieved using the corresponding plasmid standard curve for each mix.

A real-time PCR assay for accurate quantification of the individual members of the Altered Schaedler Flora microbiota in gnotobiotic mice, Gomes-Neto et al.

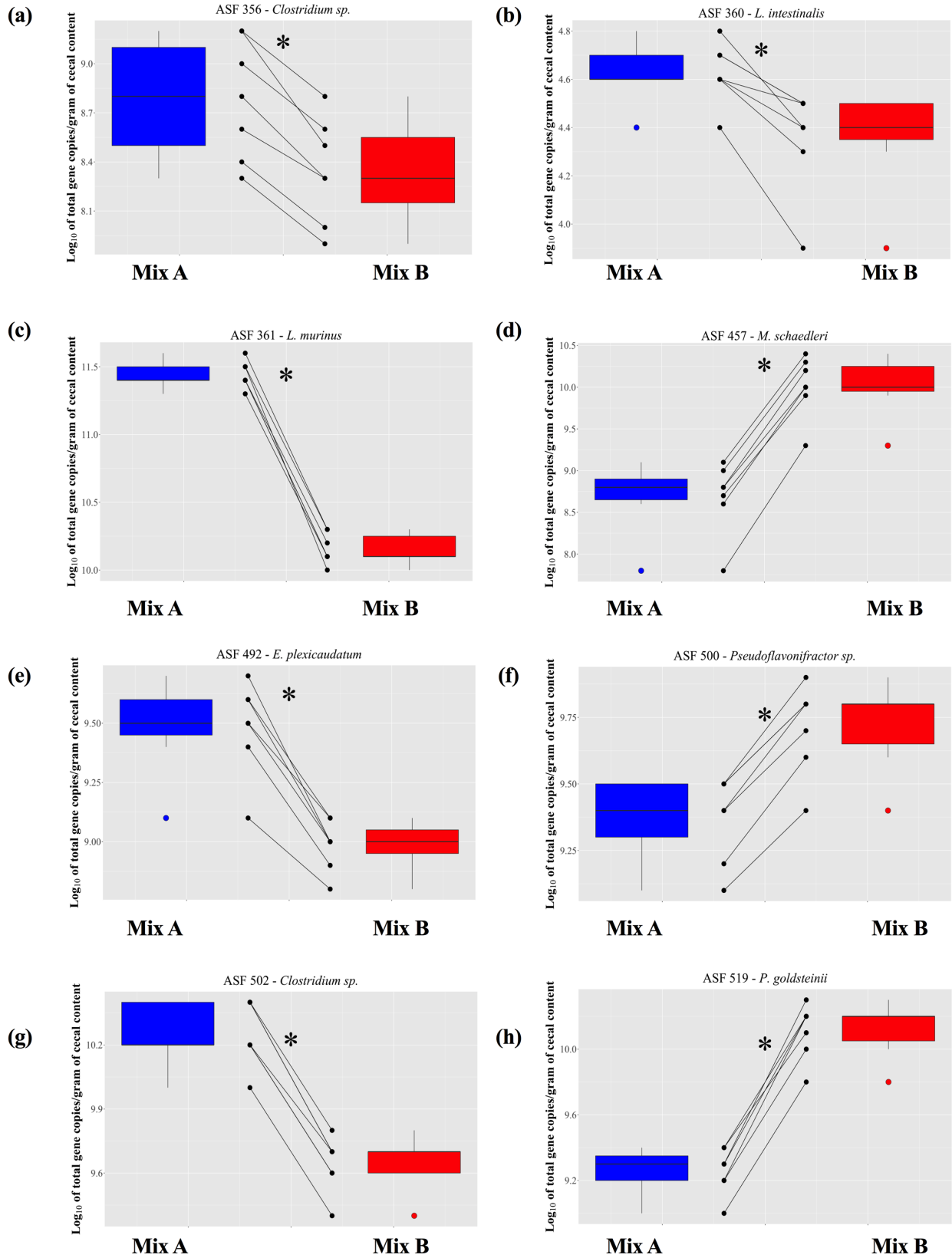


Fig. S4. Box-and-whisker plots showing quantification of the ASF bacterial species, based on the 16S rRNA copy number, in cecal contents of gnotobiotic C57BL/6 (n = 7) mice when comparing two qPCR SYBR Green master mixes (Mix A in blue and Mix B in red; Panels a-h). In each graph, the y-axis indicates the ASF taxon \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of cecal contents, and the x-axis depicts each ASF member taxonomy and identification number. Whiskers depict the 1.5 x IQR (i.e., IQR = interquartile range as the distance between the first and third quartiles), the horizontal bar in the middle of the box represents the median value, and red and blue circles above or below whiskers indicate possible outliers. Black circles (in the middle of each graph) indicate each individual observation, and the black lines show the directionality of change in bacterial abundance across all samples for each ASF member when results from the two Master Mixes were compared. Asterisks refer to the degree of significance for the difference in bacterial abundance as determined by the non-parametric Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed rank test using a two-tailed distribution for p-value calculations (* $p \leq 0.05$, ** $p \leq 0.01$, *** $p \leq 0.001$, and **** $p \leq 0.0001$). All qPCRs were run in duplicate for both SYBR Green mixes.

A real-time PCR assay for accurate quantification of the individual members of the Altered Schaedler Flora microbiota in gnotobiotic mice, Gomes-Neto et al.

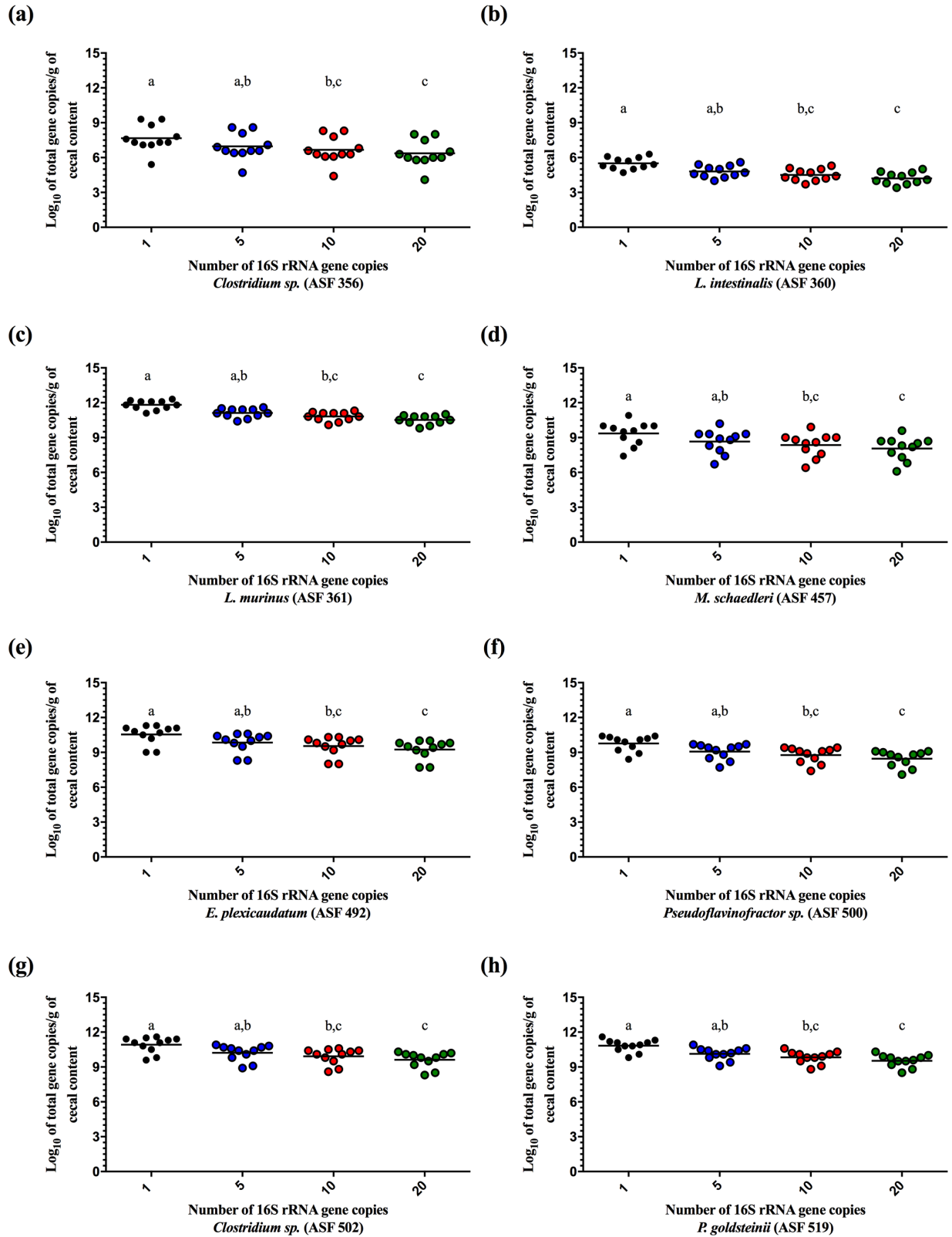


Fig. S5. Dot plots showing quantification of each ASF bacterial species based on either 1, 5, 10 or 20 copies of the 16S rRNA gene in cecal contents of gnotobiotic C3H/HeN mice (n = 11). The y-axis indicates the ASF taxon \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of cecal contents. The x-axis depicts the number of 16S rRNA gene copies used to estimate the total bacterial abundance (y-axis values) by ASF member using the linear equation model generated with the plasmid standard curves as shown in Table S1 (Panels a-h). Asterisks refer to the degree of significance for the difference between the estimated bacterial abundances as determined by the Friedman's test (non-parametric Anova using matched row values across groups) followed by a pairwise comparison across all groups using the Dunn's test. Differing letters depicted in the figures indicate significant differences across groups ($p < 0.05$). All qPCRs were run in duplicate using SYBR Green Master Mix A. Estimated ASF abundances were achieved using the corresponding plasmid standard curve. Each dot in all plots represents an individual mouse.

A real-time PCR assay for accurate quantification of the individual members of the Altered Schaedler Flora microbiota in gnotobiotic mice, Gomes-Neto et al.

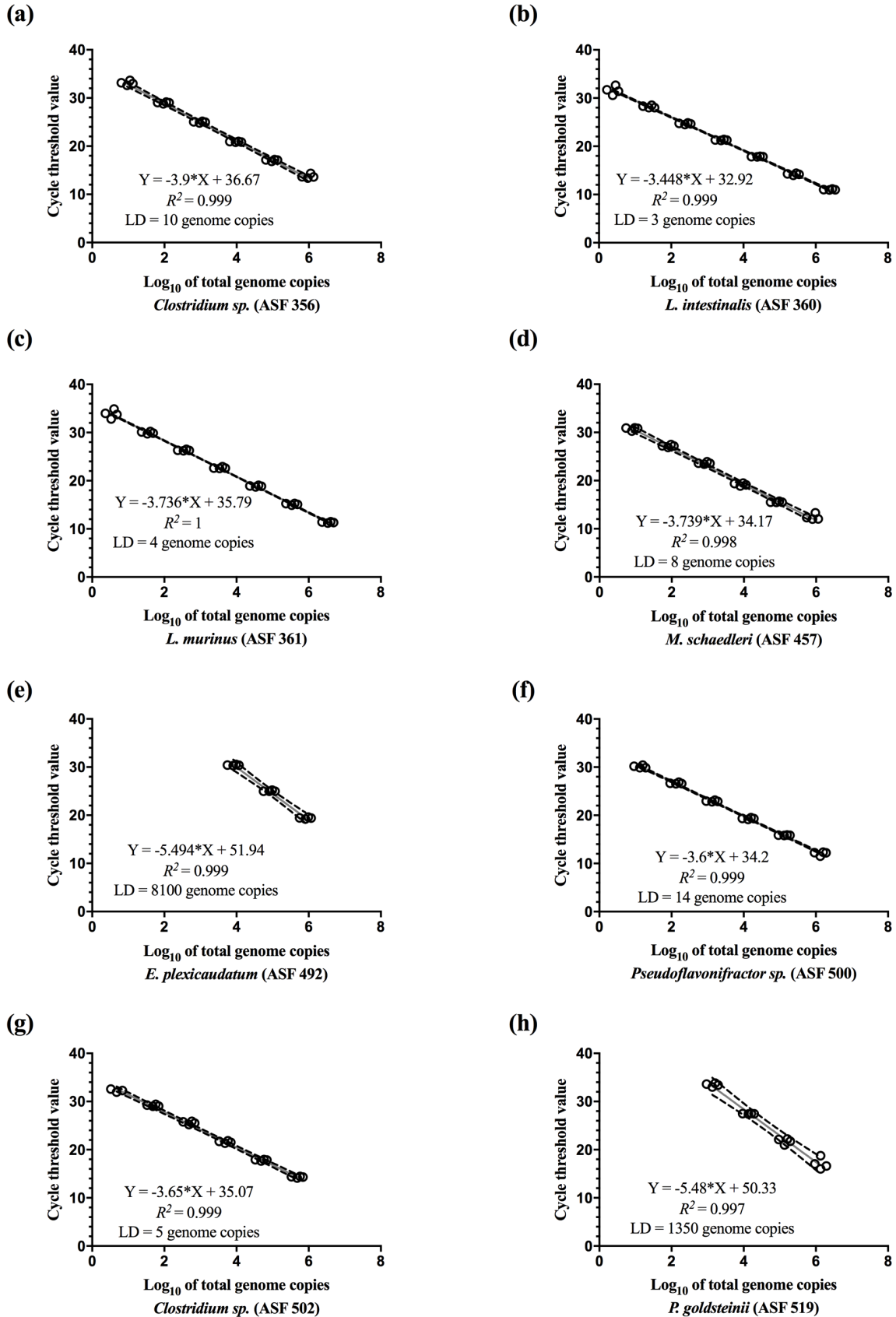


Fig. S6. Linear regression model depicting the standard curve parameters for ASF quantification based on total genome copies of each taxon using molecular grade water as a reaction matrix. Standard curves were prepared using ten-fold serial dilutions of purified genomic DNA in molecular grade water from each ASF bacterium. The predicted linear model line (gray), estimated equation, R-squared values and limit of detection (LD) are shown for each ASF bacterium based on the \log_{10} of total genome copies calculated using the total genome mass for each taxon and the total number of base pairs per bacterial genome. Also shown are the 95% confidence interval bands (black dotted lines) and serial dilution points (open black circles). The final number for the \log_{10} of total genome copies for each ASF bacterium was calculated without correcting for the number of 16S rRNA copies. All reactions were run in quadruplicate using SYBR Green Master Mix B.

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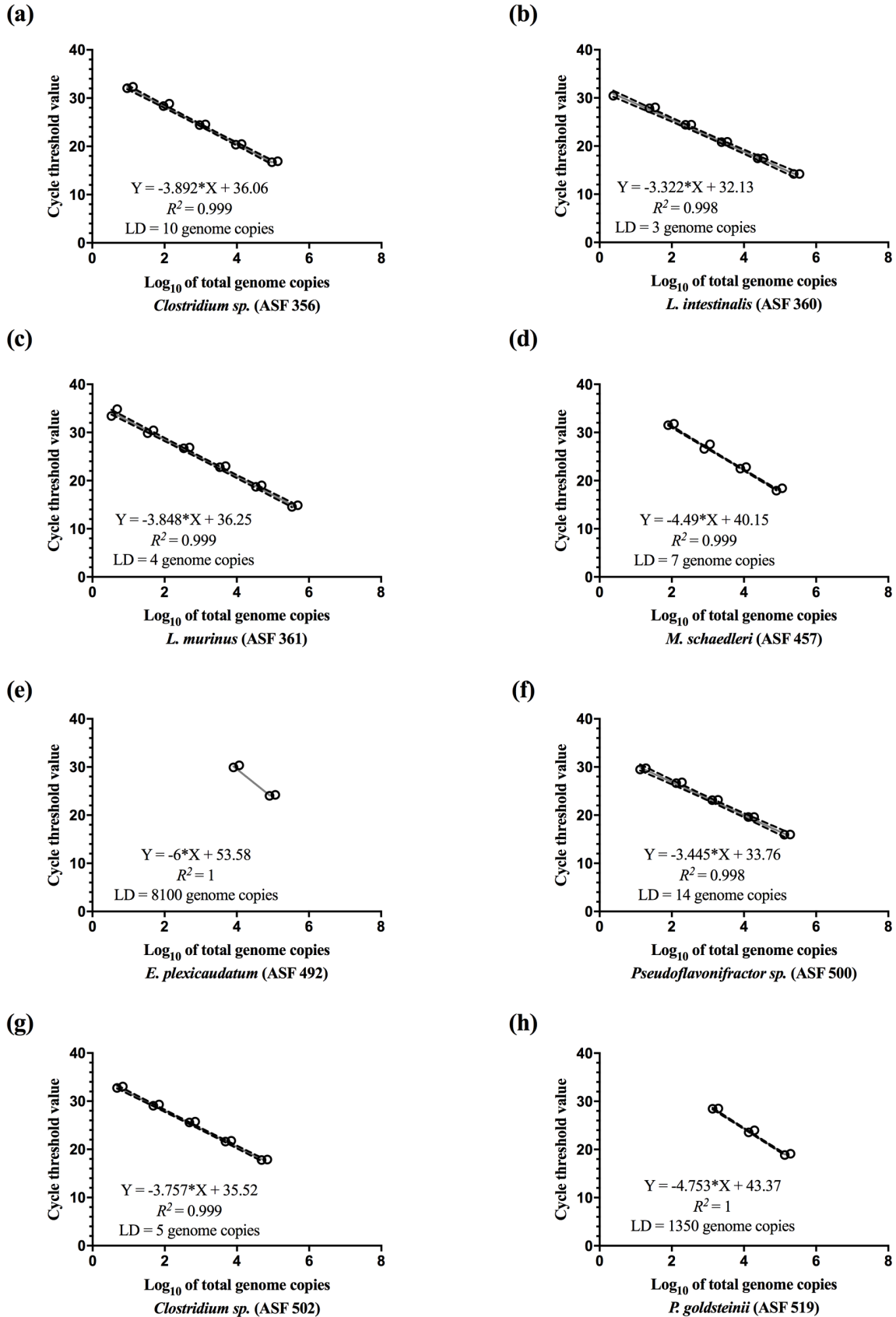


Fig. S7. Linear regression model depicting the standard curve parameters for ASF quantification based on total genome copies of each taxon using DNA extracted from feces of germ-free mice as a reaction matrix. Standard curves were prepared using ten-fold serial dilutions of purified genomic DNA from each ASF in DNA extracted from the feces of germ-free C3H/HeN and C57BL/6 mice (mixed 1:1 for each genotype) to verify that the reaction matrix (i.e., DNA extracted from feces versus molecular grade water; Fig. S7) did not affect assay performance. The predicted linear model line (gray), estimated equation, R-squared values and limit of detection (LD) are shown for each ASF bacterium based on the \log_{10} of total genome copies calculated using the total genome mass for each taxon and the total number of base pairs. Also shown are the 95% confidence interval bands (black dotted lines) and serial dilution points (open black circles). The final number for the \log_{10} of total genome copies for each ASF bacterium was calculated without correcting for the number of 16S rRNA copies. All reactions were run in duplicate using the SYBR Green Master Mix B.

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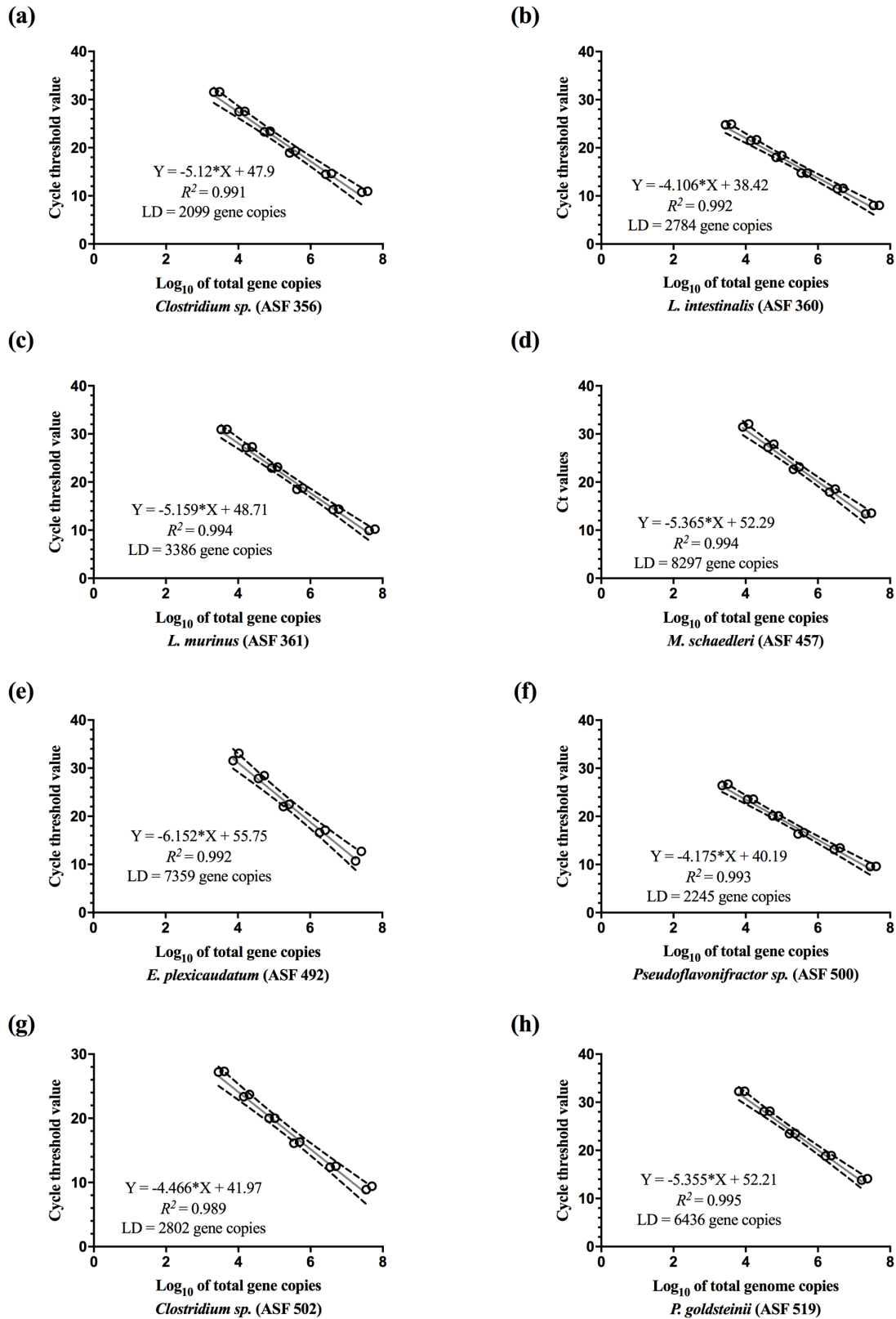


Fig. S8. Linear regression model depicting the standard curve parameters for ASF quantification based on plasmid DNA standard curves and the 16S rRNA copy number per ASF taxon using DNA extracted from feces of germ-free mice as a reaction matrix. Standard curves were prepared using ten-fold serial dilutions of purified vector-free plasmid DNA containing the 16S rRNA gene sequence of each ASF bacterium in DNA extracted from the feces of germ-free C3H/HeN and C57BL/6 mice (mixed 1:1 for each genotype) to verify that the reaction matrix (i.e., DNA extracted from feces versus molecular grade water; Fig. S2) did not affect assay performance. The predicted linear model line (gray), estimated equation, R-squared values and limit of detection (LD) are shown for each ASF bacterium based on the \log_{10} of total of 16S rRNA gene copies. For the calculations, five was used as the final number of 16S rRNA gene copies per ASF bacterial genome. Also shown are the 95% confidence interval bands (black dotted lines) and serial dilution points (open black circles). All reactions were run in duplicate using SYBR Green Master Mix B. Of note, only six serial dilutions were made for each ASF plasmid solution, since the goal of this experiment was to show that the fecal germ-free matrix did not interfere with the overall detection and linearity of the reactions. Therefore, the limit of detection shown here is based on the last dilution point used and not the true limit of detection shown in Fig. S2.

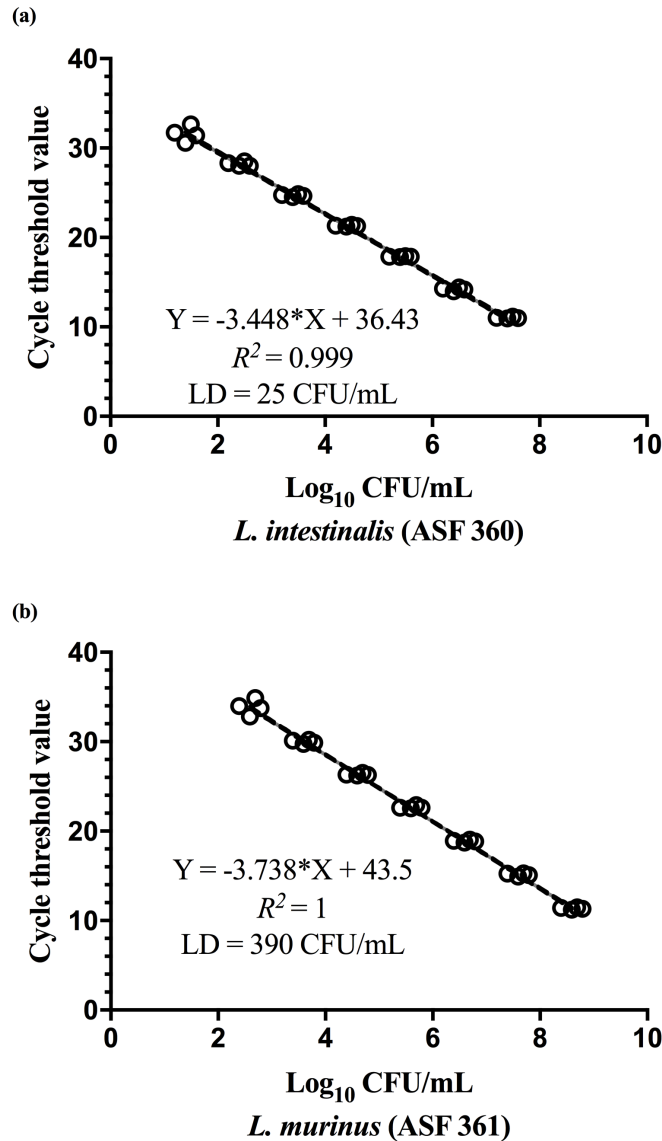


Fig. S9. Linear regression model depicting the standard curve parameters for ASF 360 and ASF 361 quantification based on log₁₀ CFU/mL. Standard curves were prepared using ten-fold serial dilutions of a culture grown in tryptic soy (TS) broth. Purified genomic DNA was then extracted from one mL of each dilution for both ASF 360 and 361. The initial inoculum concentration was determined using a standard serial dilution procedure by plating ten-fold serially diluted samples in triplicate on TS agar plates (ASF 360 = 2.5x10⁷ CFU/mL, ASF 361 = 3.9x10⁸ CFU/mL). All growth was performed under aerobic conditions at 37°C with no shaking. The graph above depicts the predicted linear model line (gray), estimated equation, R-squared values and limit of detection for each bacterium. Also shown are the 95% confidence interval bands (black dotted lines) and serial dilution points (open black circles). All reactions were run in quadruplicate (i.e., four independent extractions per dilution) using SYBR Green Master Mix B.

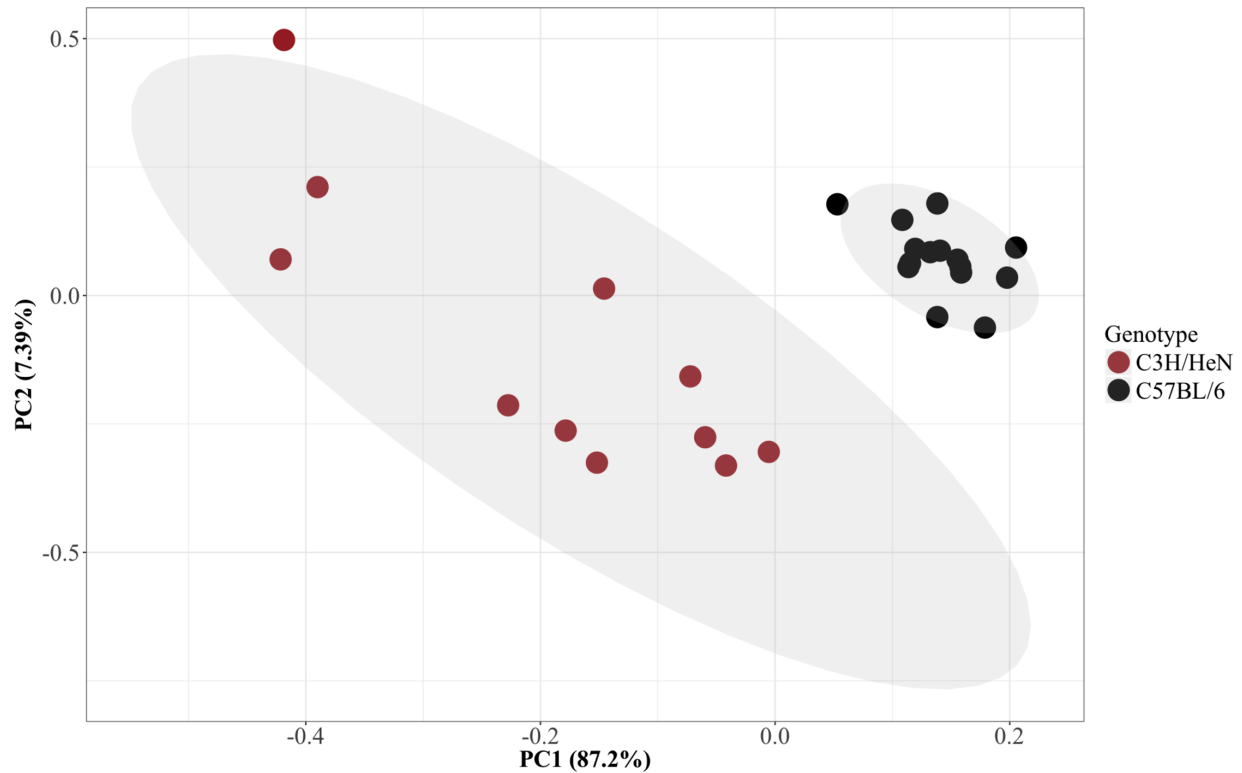
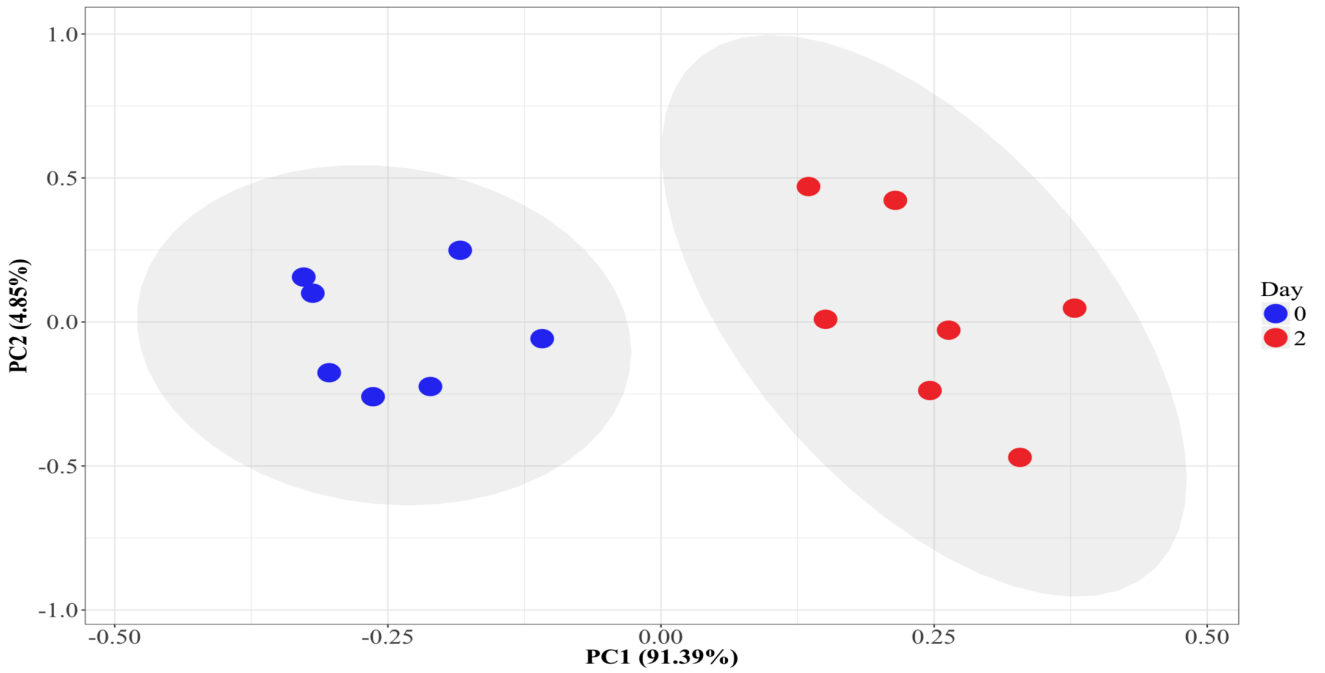


Fig. S10. PCA plot depicting how the ASF community clusters when comparing the \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of cecal contents between mouse genotypes (i.e., C3H/HeN in brown and C57BL/6 in black). The x- and y-axes indicate the principal components 1 (PC1) and 2 (PC2) and include the percent of variance explained by each PC. Each dot in the PCA plot represents an individual animal and its respective ASF member abundances. Gray shaded ellipses represent dispersion of the data points within treatments and were calculated based on a multivariate T distribution. All qPCRs were run in duplicate using SYBR Green Master Mix A. Estimated ASF abundances were achieved using the corresponding plasmid standard curve.

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(a)



(b)

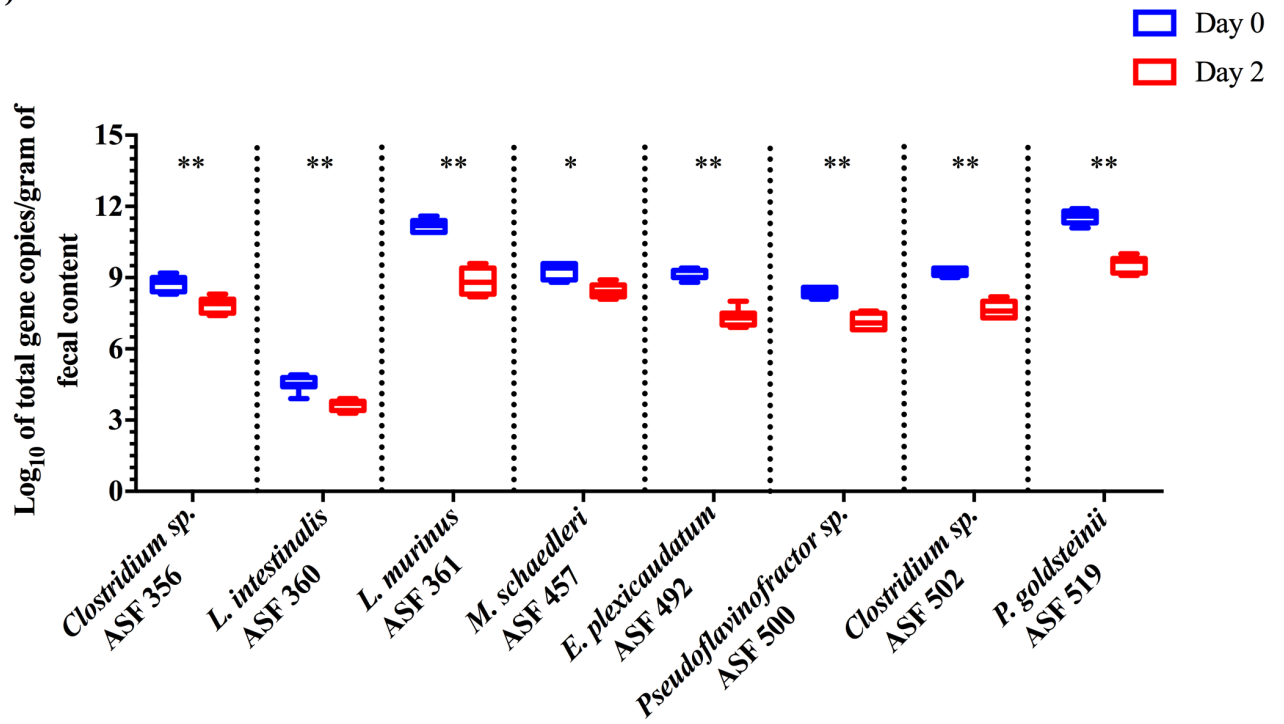


Fig. S11. PCA plot depicting how the ASF community clusters when comparing the \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of cecal contents between day 0 and 2 for neomycin treated mice. The x- and y-axes indicate the principal components 1 (PC1) and 2 (PC2), including the percent of variance explained by each PC. Each dot in the PCA plots represents an individual animal with its respective ASF community composition. The gray shaded areas in the plot show the dispersion of the data points within groups and were calculated based on a multivariate T distribution (Panel a). Box-and-whisker plots showing a significant decrease in the individual ASF abundances estimated using the 16S rRNA copy numbers of all bacterial species in the feces of 8 week-old gnotobiotic C57BL/6 mice ($n = 7$ per group) following treatment with neomycin for two consecutive days (10 mg/mL of drinking water for both antibiotics) (Panel b). The y-axis indicates the ASF taxon \log_{10} of total 16S rRNA gene copies per gram of fecal content, and the x-axis depicts each ASF member taxonomy and identification number. Whiskers depict the entire range of values (min to max); the horizontal bar in the middle of the box represents the median value. Asterisks refer to the degree of significance for the difference in bacterial 16S rRNA gene copies as determined by the non-parametric Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed rank test using a one-tailed distribution for p-value calculations (* $p \leq 0.05$, ** $p \leq 0.01$, *** $p \leq 0.001$, and **** $p \leq 0.0001$). All qPCRs were run in duplicate using SYBR Green Master Mix A. Estimated ASF abundances were achieved using the corresponding plasmid standard curve.