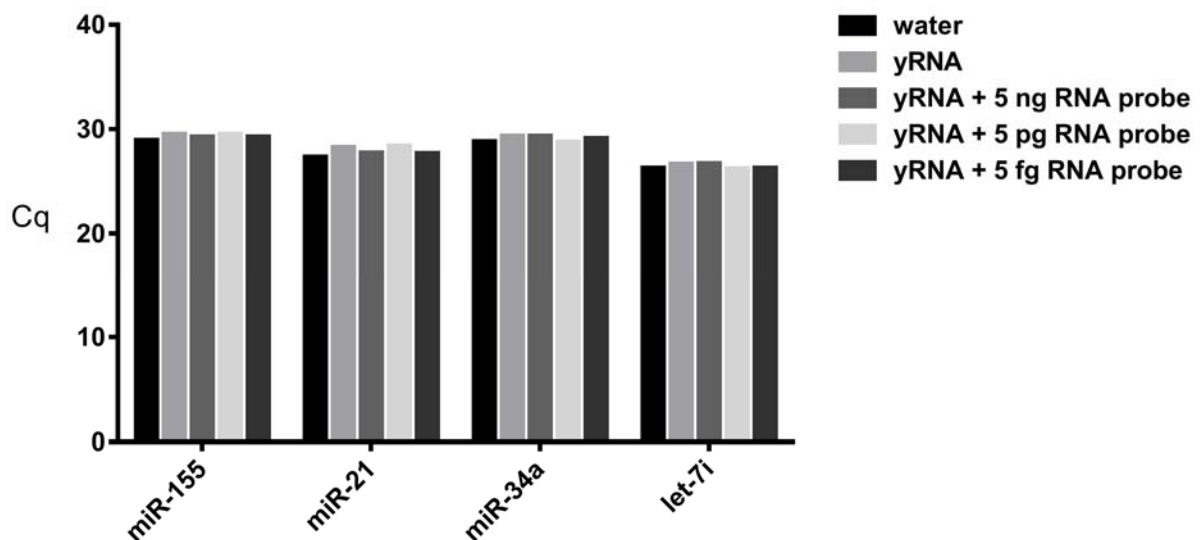


## SUPPLEMENTARY FILE

5' hemiprobe	Cq	$\Delta$ Cq (relative to let-7a)		
	let-7a	let-7e	let-7f	let-7g
10-mer	14.54	5.42	4.61	9.17
8-mer	14.09	5.24	5.30	9.78
7-mer	14.06	5.26	5.89	10.14
6-mer	14.11	5.36	6.06	10.44
5-mer	14.23	5.90	6.93	11.03
4-mer	14.79	5.92	6.48	10.58

**Figure S1. Effect of the 5'-hemiprobe length on specificity.** Two-tailed RT primers with 6 nt long 3'-hemiprobe and 5'-hemiprobe with variable length designed to target let-7a were assayed with four members of the let-7 family. Same PCR primers were used.



**Figure S2. Effect of complementary RNA background on sensitivity.** Hsa-miR-155 + hsa-miR-21 and hsa-miR-34a + hsa-let-7i ( $10^5$  copies/rxn) were mixed with either water, 10 ng yeast RNA, and 10 ng yeast RNA containing two mRNA probes at various concentrations. Target miRNAs were partially complementary to the mRNA probes (suppl. file). Mixtures were subjected to one freeze-thaw cycle to simulate sample storage conditions. Single RT reaction per sample was performed, since we have observed that technical variation is negligible (table 1). Presence of partially complementary long RNA in the background had no significant effect on Cq values.

## Primers and templates

Legend	
binding hemiprobes:	blue
primer arms:	orange
stem:	green
loop:	purple

### Proof of concept experiment

miRNA	miRNA sequence (5' - 3')	RT primers		qPCR primers
let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU	RT1: TACTACCTCACTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA ATGATGGAGTCTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw	ATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTG
let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	CTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA RT2: AACCTACTCTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	rv	GCCCATGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTATA

### Cross-reactivity: mature isoforms

miRNA	miRNA sequence (5' - 3')	RT primer		qPCR primers
let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU	AACCTACTCTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw rv	CGAACCTACTCTATGCTCTCCAG CGGGTAGGTTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7b	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUGUGUU	ACCTAACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw rv	GCACCTAACATGCTCTCCAG CGGTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7c	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUUGUU	ACCTAACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw rv	GCACCTAACATGCTCTCCAG CGGGTAGGTTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7d	AGAGGUAGUAGGUUGCAUAGUU	CCTCTACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTAT	fw rv	CGCCTCTACATGCTCTCCAG CGCAGAGGTAGTAGGTTGC
let-7e	UGAGGUAGGAGGUUGUAUAGUU	CCTCCACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTAT	fw rv	TCCTCCACATGCTCTCCAG AGGGTAGGTTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	ATCTACACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTAT	fw rv	CCATCTACACATGCTCTCCAG GCCGTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7g	UGAGGUAGUAGUUUGUACAGUU	AACTACGCATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTGT	fw rv	AACTACGCATGCTCTCCAG GCGGTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7i	UGAGGUAGUAGUUUGUGCUUU	AACTACGCATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTAGC	fw rv	AACTACGCATGCTCTCCAG GCGGTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA

### Cross-reactivity: precursors

miRNA	miRNA sequence (5' - 3')	RT primer		qPCR primers
let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU	AACCTACTCTATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw rv	CGAACCTACTCTATGCTCTCCAG ACCCTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7b	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUGUGUU	ACCTAACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTA	fw rv	GCACCTAACATGCTCTCCAG ACCCTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA
let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	ATCTACACATGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGTCTCCACTTAACTAT	fw rv	CCATCTACACATGCTCTCCAG GCACCTGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTA

### MiRNA profiling in mouse tissues

miRNA	miRNA sequence (5' - 3')	RT primer		qPCR primers
mmu-miR-122-5p	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUUUUG	GTCACACTCAAGCTCTCCAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGACTCCACGCCAAACA	fw rv	GTCACACTCAAGCTCTCCAG GGTGGAGTGTGACAATGGTG
mmu-miR-30c-1-3p	CUGGGAGAGGGUUGUUUACUCC	CCCTGTCGGATATGTGAGACGCTACGTTGATACCTCAAGTGAAGTGAGTAA	fw rv	CCCTGTCGGATATGTGAGAC GCTGGGAGAGGGTTGTTT
mmu-miR-615-5p	GGGGUCCCCGGUGUCGGAUC	GACCCCGCTAGCTATGAGGTACAGTTGGTACCTGACTCTTGTGATCCG	fw rv	GACCCCGCTAGCTATGTC GGGGTCCCCGGTGCT
mmu-miR-193a-3p	AACUGCCUACAAGUCCAGU	TTGTAGGCCTTGAGTCTCGTAGAGTTGCTACGAGATATGATAAAGTGGG	fw rv	TTGTAGGCCTTGAGTCC GGAACCTGGCTACAAGTCC
mmu-miR-1a-3p	UGGAAUUAAGAAGUAUUGUAU	TTTACATTAGGGCACTGCTCTAGAGTTGCTAGGACTACGGACTTATACAT	fw rv	GGTTACATTAGGGCACTGCTC CGGGTGAATGTAAAGAAGTATG
mmu-miR-21a-5p	UAGCUUAUCAGACUGAUGUUGA	ATAAGCTACAACGACCAAGCTAGAGAACCTAGCTACCCACTACTCAACA	fw rv	CGCATAAGCTACAACGACCAAG CGGGTAGCTTATCAGACTGATGT
mmu-miR-24-3p	UGGCUAGUUCAGCAGGAACAG	CTGAGCCAAGACGAATCTGCTAGAGTTGCTAGCAGAGCCCTTAACTGTTC	fw rv	CTGAGCCAGCAGCAATAC GTGGCTCAGTTCAGCAGG



let-7c	<del>TGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTGTGGTTG</del> <del>TAGTAGGTTGTATGGTTG</del> TGAGGTAGTAGGTTGTATGGTTGG
let-7d	AGAGGTAGTAGGTTGCATAGTTG
let-7e	<del>TAGGAGGTTGTATAGTTG</del> TGAGGTAGGAGTTGTATAGTTGG
let-7f	<del>AGTAGATTGTATAGTTGG</del> TGAGGTAGTAGATTGTATAGTTGGC
let-7g	TGAGGTAGTAGTTTGTACAGTTG
let-7i	TGAGGTAGTAGTTTGTGCTGTTG
miR-21	TAGCTTATCAGACTGATGTTGAGG

**Note:** Primers striken-through were taken from supplementary file 1 from Benes et al., 2015, *Scientific reports*, 5, 11590, but failed to amplify. They were then replaced with primers from supplementary file 2 from the same publication, which contained primers with optimized melting temperature.

#### Limit of Detection: Cq values

miRNA target input in RT reaction	1000	500	250	125	62.5	31.25	15.63	7.81	3.91	no target control
Cq	31.53	32.92	33.61	34.73	35.11	35.81	n.d.	35.99	n.d.	n.d.
	31.17	32.72	33.45	34.52	34.90	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
	31.11	32.34	33.82	34.06	33.62	35.04	n.d.	36.53	n.d.	n.d.
	31.29	32.13	33.29	33.60	34.17	36.58	36.66	n.d.	36.58	n.d.
	31.42	32.56	32.87	34.19	35.43	34.37	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
	31.11	32.50	32.72	35.62	35.39	35.44	36.41	35.59	n.d.	n.d.

Cq values of a two-fold dilution series of a let-7d synthetic miRNA. cDNA was diluted 10 x in qPCR reactions.

#### MiRNA profiling in mouse tissues: Cq values and relative quantities

##### Two-tailed RT-qPCR: singleplex

Cq values

Sample	122-5p	193a-3p	1a-3p	21a-5p	24-3p	30c-1-3p	let-7a
brain	26.52	30.83	30.66	26.66	21.13	30.54	22.08
cereb.	28.02	30.57	29.67	25.85	20.81	29.00	20.33
heart	28.79	30.67	21.23	25.01	20.18	29.22	21.97
kidney	32.15	27.26	32.86	24.38	21.49	29.76	22.76
liver	18.23	27.89	35.81	23.41	23.46	32.91	23.67
lung	28.36	28.24	28.21	23.60	19.79	30.26	21.36
muscle	23.33	27.47	20.19	25.95	21.75	31.62	23.27
negative control	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	36.91	n.d.	n.d.



Relative expression

Sample	122-5p	193a-3p	1a-3p	21a-5p	24-3p	30c-1-3p	let-7a
brain	6.82	0	5.19	0	2.36	5.4	2.12
cereb.	5.1	0.52	5.63	0.78	2.63	6.15	3.42
heart	4.21	0.47	14.45	1.56	3.32	5.29	1.71
kidney	0	3.77	2.86	2.17	1.89	5.39	1
liver	14.93	3.21	0	3.25	0	0	0
lung	4.8	2.98	7.55	3.16	3.65	6.66	2.1
muscle	9.79	3.38	15.68	0.6	1.78	3.67	0.53

Cq Values are presented as average of 2 qPCR replicates. Fold-changes were calculated relative to the sample with the lowest expression for a given miRNA. For the calculation, missing data were replaced with the max. Cq + 4, or with Cq 40 if a result was over 40.

**Hybridization experiment:**

Sequences of mRNA probes with highlighted complementary regions to spiked miRNAs are shown. Nucleotides in red are perfectly complementary between mRNA probe and miRNA target. Only sites with at least seven consecutive complementary nucleotides are shown.

>nNOS cds + miR-34a, let-7i

ATGGAAGAATATGAGTTCAGCGTTAAACAACCTGCAGCCGAATGTTATATCTGTGCGCCTCTTTAAGCGCA  
AAGTAGGAGGGCTGGGATTCCTGGCTAAGCAAAGGAGGAACAAACCACCTGTAATTATTTCTGATTTAAT  
TCGGGGAGGAGCAGCAGAACAGAGTGGGTTGGTGCAAGTAGGGGATATTATCTTAGCTGTGAATGATAGG  
CCCCTTGATAGATG**CCAGCTATGAAAGTGCC**CTGGAGATACTGCGTAGCATTTCCTCAGAGACTTTTGTTG  
TACTGATCCTTAGAGGTCCAGAAGGATTACAACCCACTTGGAGACCACCTTTTCTGGAGATGGAACACC  
CAAGACCATTTCGAGTCACCAGACCTCTTTGTTCTAAGTCCAAGTCAGCTGAATTGACAAGTCAGAGCCTT  
TATAGCAAAGATCACATGGTGGACAGTGCCACAAGTTCAGCTGGCTCTTCTTGGCAGGAGGTTTCATCAGC  
TTCTTAACTTGAATGGACTTGATGGTGGTAAAGGTGATGACATCAGCATCAGCCCTAGCCTTAACAGAGG  
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TGCCCTGCTTTGTGAGAGGAGCTCCAAGTTTCAAATGCCGAAGACCCACAGGTCCCCTGCATTCTGAT  
AGGACCAGGCACTGGTATTGCTCCATTTAGGAGTTTTTGGCAGCAGCGTCTCTACGATA TGCAGCACAGA  
GGACTGAAACCCTTGTCCCATGATCTTGGTCTTTGGGTGTAGGGAATCCAAAATTGACCACATCTACAAAG  
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ATGTTGTGAAAGAGAGCGGAAATCTGACGATAGAAGAAGCTGGGGCCTTCATCAGCAAGCTAAGGGATGA  
CAATCGGTACCATGAAGATATTTTTGGAGTCACTCTTAGGACATATGAAGTTACAAATCGACTCAGATCT  
GAATCTATTGCATTATTGAGGAAAGCAAAAAGGACTCAGATGAGGTTTTCTGTCTATAA

>fos cds + miR-34a, let-7i

ATGTATCACGCCTTCTCAGCAACACTGACTACGATGCAGCTTCTTCCCGTTGCAGCAGTGCATCTCCAG  
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>foxile + miR-155, miR-21

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TATTGGACCTTGGACCCAAACTGTGAAAAAATGTTTGACAACGGAACTTCCGCAGAAAGAG**GAAAAGAA**  
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TGTCTTCGGCTACTTACATGTTTTGTAAATGTTTAAATATTTTATATGTATTATAGCTAAATTCAGTGTGG  
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>tuba4b + **miR-155**, **miR-21**

GCACAGGCTCCGGTGAGATTTCTCCCCTGGCTTTTCTCAAACGACCGACAGACCGTCATCCAAGACAGCA  
ATCATGAGGGAATGCATCTCAGTTCACGTGGGGCAGGCAGGAGTGCAGATGGGCAATGCATGCTGGGAGT  
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TCAGTGGCAAAGAAGATGCAGCCAATAACTATGCCAGAGGACATTACACCATTGGCAAGGAAATCATTGA  
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GTGCTGTGTGCATGTTAAGTAACACCACCGCCATTGCTGAGGCCTGGGCTCGTCTGGATCACAAGTTTGA  
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GAGGCCCGTGAAGATATGGCTGCCCTGGAGAAGGATTATGAAGAGGTTGGAATTGACTCCTATGAAGATG  
AAGATGAAGGAGAGGAGTAATTATTTCTTCTTCCATCATCTTAATTGGAATATGCAAGATATTTTTTTT  
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TTTTTAATGTGAATATCTTATTTGTAGCAGTTGAGGTTATTTTAGTGAAAAAATGTGCAAAATTTAAAA  
AAAAAAAAAAAA



**Cost estimate:**

		<b>Two-tailed RT-qPCR</b>	<b>TaqMan</b>	<b>Quanta</b>	<b>miQPCR</b>
<b>Cost per: (USD)</b>	<b>Assay</b>	25.85	254.27	11.97	11.97
	<b>RT reagents/rxn</b>	2.44	0.74	4.82	7.25
	<b>qPCR reagents/rxn</b>	0.43	0.91	0.43	0.43
	<b>Assay + 20 RT and 60 qPCR reactions</b>	100.62	323.81	134.21*	182.83**

Cost was estimated based on reaction volumes and reagents used as described in Materials and methods. Prices were taken from vendor/distributor websites as of June 2017, without VAT and special discounts. Prices for kits with comparable size were taken (usually 50 rxn/ RT kit, 500 rxn/PCR mastermix). Assay cost was calculated based on prices for custom oligonucleotides from Integrated DNA Technologies, except for TaqMan, where the sequences are proprietary and assays are sold commercially.

\* Cost of another widely used commercial method based on poly(A) tailing - miRCURY LNA™ microRNA qPCR system (Exiqon) is 354.7 USD (assay 152.1 USD, RT reagents/rxn 7.2 USD, qPCR reagents/rxn 1.0 USD)

\*\* miQPCR method requires additional initial purchase of pre-adenylated linker ( ~ 850 USD)