

Table S1. Pourcentage of infected fleas.

Week post-infection	Strain	Infected fleas (median [range])	positive fleas/fleas used in total
1	WT	95 .0% [85-100%]	56/60
	$\Delta rpiA$	94.7% [80-95%]	53/59
4	WT	87.2% [84.2-90%]	34/39
	$\Delta rpiA$	85.0% [80-90%]	34/40

a, cumulative results of 3 (1 week) and 2 (4 weeks) experiments in which 19 to 20 fleas were collected during each experiment.