

S2 Table: comparison of approaches for *var* gene de novo assembly

	Soap Cap3	Soap K21	Soap K51	Oases Cap3	Oases K21	Oases K37	Oases K61	Trinity	Soap K21 no filter	Soap K51 no filter	Soap K51 human filter
Correctly assembled ECS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Correctly assembled CS2	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Redundancy in EIC	1.048	1.003	1.005	1.389	3.010	2.307	1.601	1.464	1.004	1.004	1.004
# of genes found by both qPCR and assembly in EIC	40	23	37	40	28	36	35	30	23	39	40
Pearson Correlation between qPCR and assembly RPKM	0.877	0.961	0.928	0.559	0.925	0.595	0.460	0.765	0.886	0.786	0.804