**S1 Table. Oligonucleotide sequences and qPCR conditions for *var*ATS and TARE-2 assays.** Primers were purchased from Eurofins. The *var*ATS probe and all qPCR reagents were purchased from Applied Biosystems/Life Technologies.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | varATS | TARE-2 |
| Oligonucleotide sequences | | |
| Primer-fw (5’-3’) | cccatacacaaccaaytgga | ctatgttgcacttacatgcayaat |
| Primer-rev (5’-3’) | ttcgcacatatctctatgtctatct | tgacctaagaagtavaataatgatga |
| Probe (5’-3’) | 6-FAM-trttccataaatggt-NFQ-MGB | - |
| qPCR reaction conditions (final concentration in qPCR mix) | | |
| Total volume | 12 (25)$ | 25 (25)$ |
| DNA volume | 4 (5)$ | 4 (5)$ |
| TaqMan® Gene Expression Mastermix | 1x | - |
| Power SYBR® Green mix | - | 1x |
| Primer (each fw & rev) | 800 nM | 200 nM |
| Probe | 400 nM | - |
| qPCR cycling conditions | | |
| Pre-incubation | 2 min – 50°C | 2 min – 50°C |
| Initial denaturation | 10 min – 95°C | 10 min – 95°C |
| Denaturation | 15 sec – 95 °C | 15 sec – 95 °C |
| Annealing & Elongation | 1 min – 55°C | 1 min – 57°C |
| Number of cycles | 45 | 45 |
| Melt Curve | - | 57-95°C, 0.3°C increment |
| Positivity threshold | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| Standard material for quantification | Plasmid | gDNA of parasite dilution row |
| Platform | StepOne Plus® Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) | StepOne Plus® Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) |

$ Brackets: volumes used for sensitivity and specificity tests on parasite culture and for PNG samples.