**Table S4**. Summary of the four datasets of V6-16S rRNA amplicon sequences obtained from the two tick pools after associating their geographic origin with the 5'-end barcodes.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tick stage and No.**  **of *I. ricinus*** | **Geographic Region** | **V6 -16S rRNA reads** | **Read average length (bp)c** |
| Nymphs (N=100) | TN Regiona | 109,930 | 170.5 |
| Nymphs (N=100) | BL Regionb | 136,960 | 168.7 |
| Adults (N=20) | TN Region | 124,345 | 169.5 |
| Adults (N=20) | BL Region | 114,645 | 168.3 |

a TN Region: Trento Province

b BL Region: Belluno Province

c Average length of the V6 amplicon reads after trimming the barcode and primer sequences