**Table S1 Overview of main methods employed by included studies**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study** | **DNA extraction method** | **16S rRNA gene preparation method** | **Sequencing technology/ platform** | **Primer set** |
| [1] | Non-proprietary: See original article for details | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger | 8/27F-1391R |
| [2] | NA | DGGE band sequencing | Sanger | NA |
| [3] | Soil DNA Extraction Kit (Mo Bio) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI Prism 3700 DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1492R |
| [4] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA amplicon pyrosequencing | 454 Genome Sequencer FLX (Roche Applied Science) | 8/27F-519R |
| [5] | Non-proprietary : See original article for details | 16S rRNA amplicon pyrosequencing | 454 Genome Sequencer FLX (Roche Applied Science) | 341F-534R |
| [6] | Two methods: QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen)/ Non-proprietary: See original article for details | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI PRISM 3100 DNA Analyser, (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1492R |
| [7] | Non-proprietary: See original article for details | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI Prism 3700 DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1492R |
| [8] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / “Genetic analyser” (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1494R |
| [9] | Fecal DNA Isolation Kit (Mo Bio) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI 3730 DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | U968-L1401 |
| [10] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI 3730xl DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1391R |
| [11] | Non-proprietary : See original article for details | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger | 8/27F-1391R |
| [12] | See original article for details | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI Prism 3100 DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1492R |
| [13] | NA | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger  | NA |
| [14] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / 3130 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1494R |
| [15] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / ABI 3730 DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | W02-W18 |
| [16] | QIAamp Stool DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / Licor sequence analyser (LI-COR Inc.) | 8/27F-1492R |
| [17] | Power Soil DNA Extraction Kit (Mo Bio) | DGGE band sequencing | Sanger / ABI 3730xl DNA Analyser (Applied Biosystems) | 968F-1401R |
| [18] | Ultra Clean Soil DNA Extraction Kit (Mo Bio) | 16S rRNA gene clone libraries | Sanger / 337 DNA Sequencer (Applied Biosystems) | 8/27F-1525R |

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