Supporting Information:

Standard Inocula Preparations Reduce the Bacterial Diversity and Reliability of Regulatory Biodegradation Tests

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Supporting information is provided as a compilation of closest relatives and their similarities with the sequence of dominant bands excised from the DGGE gels.

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| Table S1 | Nearest neighbour and RDP classification of excised band sequences from the supernatant of activated sludge and its unprocessed counterpart. | S2 |
Table S1. Nearest neighbour and RDP classification of excised band sequences from the supernatant of activated sludge and its unprocessed counterpart.

| Band | Closest relative and accession number | RDP classification* | Percent identity | Origin | Reference |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1,2,5a | *Erwinia persicinus* (AM184098) | family Enterobacteriaceae family | 100.0, a95.5 | Processed vegetables | [46]Randazzo et al. (2009) |
| 1,2,5a | *Klebsiella* sp. HBB9 (EU074057) | Enterobacteriaceae family | 100.0, a95.5 | Grapevine juice | |
| 1,2,5a | *Enterobacter hormaethei* subsp. Steigerwaltii (AJ853890) | Enterobacteriaceae family | 100.0, a95.5 | Surgical skin wound | [47]Hoffmann, H. (2005) |
| 1,2,5a | *Sludge granule bacterium* (EF190022) | Enterobacteriaceae family | 100.0, a95.5 | Sludge granules | [48]Adav et al., (2007) |
| 3 | *Roseobacter* sp. TKW (DQ479380) | class Betaproteobacteria | 81.5 | Kuwaiti coastal water | [49]Al-Sarawi et al. (2008) |
| 4 | *Microscilla* sp. MED571 (EU253600) | no root | 49.3 | NW Mediterranean surface water | |
| 6 | Uncultured bacterium clone FCPS400 (EF516835) | class Betaproteobacteria phylum | 78 | Californian grassland soil | [50]Cruz-Martinez et al (2009) |
| 7 | Uncultured *Dechloromonas* sp. clone KS-488 (EU809559) | *Proteobacteria* genus | 81.4 | Indian soil | [51]Srinivas et al. (2011) |
| 8 | *Flavobacterium gelidacus* type strain LMG21477 (AJ440996) | genus Flavobacterium | 71.4 | Antarctic microbial mat | [52]van Trappen et al. (2002) |

*a Band numbers correspond to those excised from the DGGE gel (Figure 1); a percentage identity for band 5 only; * using the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) Classifier tool.