



Supplementary Figure S1. Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR analysis targeting *Rickettsia tra* genes in different tick cell lines. Representative agarose gel analysis showing that *Rickettsia-traA*, *traB*, *traD*, *traG* and *traH* genes were only found in the ISE6 tick cell line, panels A, B and C. Initially, we detected *traA* and *traD* amplicons in the *Rhipicephalus microplus* tick cell line BME26 passage number 23. However, these results appear to indicate contamination with DNA extracted from ISE6 as similar size amplicons were not detected in a later passage (s 105). The *Aedes vexans* mosquito-embryo cells were used as negative (-VE) and inhibition control (+ VE) for *Rickettsia tra* genes, tick β -actine genes (T1), and the *Rickettsia*-genus specific 17kDa antigen gene.