

**Figure S1.** Histopathology and immunohistochemistry analyses of the organs of uninfected C3H/HeN mice. As a control, the liver (A,B), spleen (C,D), lungs (E,F) and kidneys (G,H) of uninfected mice were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (A,C,E,G) or processed for anti-R. *rickettsii* immunohistochemistry (brown) with hematoxylin counter stain (B,D,F,H). No histological changes or immunohistochemical labeling were observed in the organs of control mouse. (Scale bar =  $20 \mu m$ ).