

Supplementary File S2: Quantification of *R. rickettsii* strains Sheila Smith and Iowa during the infection of host endothelial cells, *in vitro*. Genomic DNA from each sample was extracted at the end of the time point and rickettsial load was quantified using citrate synthase (cs) primers as described in methods. Both *R. rickettsii* str. Sheila Smith and Iowa exhibited similar levels of infection all time points and no significant differences in the rickettsial load were observed between the strains.

