

**Additional file 1. Database matches for 52 new bacterial 16S rDNA sequences obtained in this study.**

| Ant specimen                             | Query length (bp) | Best BLASTn hit                                    | GB number of best BLASTn hit | E-value | Blochmannia rank <sup>1</sup> | Best match in RDP                                  | GB number of best RDP match | RDP similarity score | Blochmannia rank <sup>1</sup> |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Calomyrmex albertysi</i> 191          | 827               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.965                | 1                             |
| <i>Calomyrmex laevissimus</i> 254        | 787               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.956                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus clarithorax</i> 233        | 808               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ligniperdus</i>                | X92551                       | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. ligniperdus</i>                | X92551                      | 0.988                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus claviscapus</i> 227        | 739               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.978                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus conithorax</i> 187         | 682               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                    | 0.946                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus consobrinus</i> 239        | 772               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.965                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus hyatti</i> 186             | 819               | <i>Blochmannia - C. sayi</i>                       | AY334371                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. sayi</i>                       | AY334371                    | 0.989                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus maritimus</i> 185          | 785               | <i>Blochmannia - C. sansabeanus</i>                | AY334368                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. sansabeanus</i>                | AY334368                    | 0.989                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus vicinus</i> 235            | 805               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vicinus</i>                    | AY334374                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vicinus</i>                    | AY334374                    | 0.985                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus occultus</i> 229           | 757               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.974                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus quercicola</i> 228         | 784               | <i>Blochmannia - C. castaneus</i>                  | AY334377                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. castaneus</i>                  | AY334377                    | 0.993                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sanctaeidei</i> 240        | 747               | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | BX248583                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | AY334381                    | 0.980                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus semitestaceus</i> 242      | 785               | <i>Blochmannia - C. sansabeanus</i>                | AY334368                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. sansabeanus</i>                | AY334368                    | 0.988                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. cf. similimus.</i> 199 | 825               | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                    | 0.988                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus nitidior</i> 201           | 796               | <i>Blochmannia - C. castaneus</i>                  | AY334377                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.978                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus atriceps</i> 203           | 825               | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | BX248583                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | AY334381                    | 0.999                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus atriceps</i> 217           | 794               | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | BX248583                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | AY334381                    | 0.999                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus atriceps</i> 219           | 776               | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | AY334381                    | 0.997                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus rufipes</i> 220            | 784               | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                       | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                      | 0.999                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sericeiventris</i> 213     | 802               | <i>Blochmannia - C. sericeiventris</i>             | AJ245593                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. sericeiventris</i>             | AJ245593                    | 0.997                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus crassus</i> 214            | 766               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                    | 0.979                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus crassus</i> 223            | 755               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.983                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus renggeri</i> 215           | 787               | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                       | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                      | 0.995                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus renggeri</i> 222           | 770               | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                       | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. rufipes</i>                    | X92552                      | 0.994                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 216</i>                | 803               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.974                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 221</i>                | 771               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. fellah</i>                     | EF422835                    | 0.980                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 224</i>                | 758               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                    | 0.981                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus lownei</i> 230             | 786               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. herculeanus</i>                | X92550                      | 0.967                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 260</i>                | 766               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                    | 0.969                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 261</i>                | 751               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                    | 0.978                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 263</i>                | 767               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                    | 0.984                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus suffusus</i> 238           | 748               | <i>Blochmannia - C. balzani</i>                    | AJ245596                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. sansabeanus</i>                | AY334368                    | 0.962                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus vitreus</i> 231ii          | 694               | <i>Blochmannia - C. sericeiventris</i>             | AJ245593                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                    | 0.948                | 1                             |
| <i>Echinopla australis</i> 253           | 773               | <i>Blochmannia - C. abdominalis</i>                | AJ245591                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.965                | 1                             |
| <i>Opisthopsis haddoni</i> 244           | 1432              | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. vitiosus</i>                   | AB018675                    | 0.955                | 1                             |
| <i>Opisthopsis haddoni</i> 256           | 768               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.958                | 1                             |
| <i>Opisthopsis respiciens</i> 192        | 706               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.960                | 1                             |
| <i>Polyrhachis cupreata</i> 252          | 795               | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                    | 0.955                | 1                             |
| <i>Polyrhachis foreli</i> 255            | 730               | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                    | 0.996                | 1                             |
| <i>Polyrhachis decumbens</i> 190         | 736               | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                    | 0.962                | 1                             |
| <i>Polyrhachis sp. 189</i>               | 904               | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis foreli</i>            | AY336986                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Blochmannia - Polyrhachis lamellidens</i>       | AB018680                    | 0.944                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus leonardi</i> 225           | 775               | <i>Blochmannia - C. floridanus</i>                 | BX248583                     | 0       | 1                             | uncultured bacterium                               | DQ124751                    | 0.950                | 4                             |
| <i>Camponotus gasseri</i> 243            | 757               | <i>Blochmannia - C. ulcerosus</i>                  | AY334375                     | 0       | 1                             | 2° symbiont of <i>Planococcus citri</i> (mealybug) | AF322016                    | 0.944                | >20                           |
| <i>Camponotus etiolatus</i> 264          | 743               | <i>Blochmannia - C. vafer</i>                      | AY334369                     | 0       | 1                             | <i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i>                    | DQ822740                    | 0.954                | >20                           |
| <i>Camponotus sp. 259</i>                | 732               | 2° symbiont of <i>Planococcus citri</i> (mealybug) | AF476107                     | 0       | 3                             | <i>Blochmannia - C. festinatus</i>                 | AY196851                    | 0.957                | 1                             |
| <i>Camponotus BCA-01</i> 188             | 748               | 2° symbiont of <i>Planococcus citri</i> (mealybug) | AF476107                     | 0       | 6                             | <i>Enterobacteriaceae bacterium LA20</i>           | DQ822739                    | 0.953                | >20                           |

|                                      |      |   |          |   |    |   |          |       |     |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|-------|-----|
| <i>Camponotus</i> sp. 262            | 758  | 2° symbiont of <i>Planococcus citri</i> (mealybug)  | AF476107 | 0 | 13 | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> bacterium LA20  | DQ822739 | 0.958 | >20 |
| <i>Camponotus saundersi</i> 265      | 713  | Uncultured bacterium clone PB1_aai26f03             | EU460325 | 0 | 5  | <i>Rahnella</i> sp. NJ-65                 | AJ842247 | 0.954 | >20 |
| <i>Camponotus papago</i> 232         | 772  | Uncultured bacterium from <i>Tetropium</i> (beetle) | AM946408 | 0 | 6  | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> bacterium LA20  | DQ822739 | 0.953 | >20 |
| <i>Notostigma carazzi</i> 226        | 1202 | <i>Sodalis glossinidius</i> str. 'morsitans'        | AP008232 | 0 | 44 | uncultured bacterium                      | EU136818 | 0.949 | >20 |
| <i>Opisthopsis PG01</i> 258 -clone 1 | 864  | <i>Blochmannia</i> - <i>C. festinatus</i>           | AY196851 | 0 | 1  | <i>Blochmannia</i> - <i>C. festinatus</i> | AY196851 | 0.965 | 1   |
| <i>Opisthopsis PG01</i> 258 -clone 2 | 864  | <i>Blochmannia</i> - <i>C. ulcerosus</i>            | AY334375 | 0 | 1  | <i>Pantoea</i> sp. LUP                    | EF474461 | 0.977 | 3   |

<sup>1</sup> "Blochmannia rank" lists the order that a *Blochmannia* sequence first appeared in the list of top hits. When this value is ">20" for the RDP comparisons, no *Blochmannia* sequences appeared in the top 20 matches reported. The vast majority (45/50) of sequences most closely matched a published *Blochmannia* 16S rDNA sequence in NCBI (compared using BLASTn) and/or the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP; compared using SeqMatch). These numbers exclude the two *Opisthopsis PG01* clones, which were selected based on their match to *Blochmannia* (see Methods) and are listed in grey font at the end of the table.