**S2 Table. Primer sets and thermal profiles used for the absolute quantification of the respective genes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Target gene** | **Source of standard** | **Primer** | **References** | **Thermal profile** | **No. of cycles** |
| AOA | *Nitrosomonas europaea* | amo19F, CrenamoA16r48x | 28,29 | 94°C-45s/ 55°C-45s/ 72°C-45s | 40 |
| AOB | *Fosmid clone 54d9* | amoA1F, amoA2R | 30 | 94°C-45s/ 59°C-45s/ 72°C-45s | 40 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

\* Touchdown: -1°C per cycle