**Additional file 5: Text S2. Detailed protocols of sample storage test.**

* **Liquid nitrogen**: the pellets were flash frozen using liquid nitrogen and samples stored at -80°C.
* **RNAlater:** the pellets were resuspended in 500 μL of RNAlater and incubated at 4°C for 1 hour. Then, the cells were pelleted again, the RNAlater removed, and the samples stored at -20°C and -80°C.
* **RNAProtect:** the pellets were resuspended in 500 μL of RNAProtect and incubated 5 min. at room temperature. Then, the cells were pelleted again, the RNAProtect removed, and the samples stored at -80°C.
* **LifeGuard:** the pellets were resuspended in 500 μL of LifeGuard and stored at -20°C. The cells were pelleted and the LifeGuard removed before the DNA/RNA co-extractions.
* **Formamide:** the pellets were resuspended in 200 μL of formamide and stored at -20°C. The cells were pelleted and the formamide removed before the DNA/RNA co-extractions.