

		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	U17257_Karp	-	1453	1453	1453	1453	1453
2	D38623_Karp	0	-	1459	1459	1459	1459
3	LANM01000019_Karp	0	0	-	1480	1480	1480
4	LYMA02000036_Karp	0	0	0	-	1480	1480
5	LS398548_Karp	0	0	0	0	-	1480
6	SRX1761260_Karp	0	0	0	0	0	-

		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	U17256_Gilliam	-	1440	1457	1457	1457	1457
2	L36222_Gilliam	0	-	1440	1448	1448	1448
3	D38622_Gilliam	0	0	-	1459	1459	1459
4	LANO01000030_Gilliam	0	0	0	-	1501	1501
5	LS398551_Gilliam	0	0	0	0	-	1501
6	SRX1761334_Gilliam	0	0	0	0	0	-

		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	U17258_Kato	-	1459	1459	1459	1459	1459
2	D38624_Kato	1	-	1459	1459	1459	1459
3	LANN01000025_Kato_PP	1	0	-	1501	1501	1501
4	LY337763_Kato	1	0	0	-	1501	1501
5	LS398550_Kato	1	0	0	0	-	1501
6	SRX1761385_kato	1	0	0	0	0	-

	pre-genome x pre-genome
	pre-genome x genome
	genome x genome

Supplemental Table 4. Comparison among duplicate sequences of 16S rRNA gene between prototype strains. Above diagonal = length of sequence comparison; below diagonal = number of nucleotide differences between paired sequences.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 U17256_Gilliam	-	1440	1457	1457	1457	1457
2 L36222_Gilliam	0	-	1440	1448	1448	1448
3 D38622_Gilliam	0	0	-	1459	1459	1459
4 LANO01000030_Gilliam	0	0	0	-	1501	1501
5 LS398551_Gilliam	0	0	0	0	-	1501
6 SRX1761334_Gilliam	0	0	0	0	0	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 U17257_Karp	-	1453	1453	1453	1453	1453
2 D38623_Karp	0	-	1459	1459	1459	1459
3 LANM01000019_Karp	0	0	-	1480	1480	1480
4 LYMA02000036_Karp	0	0	0	-	1480	1480
5 LS398548_Karp	0	0	0	0	-	1480
6 SRX1761260_Karp	0	0	0	0	0	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 U17258_Kato	-	1459	1459	1459	1459	1459
2 D38624_Kato	1	-	1459	1459	1459	1459
3 LANN01000025_Kato_PP	1	0	-	1501	1501	1501
4 LY337763_Kato	1	0	0	-	1501	1501
5 LS398550_Kato	1	0	0	0	-	1501
6 SRX1761385_kato	1	0	0	0	0	-

	pre-genome x pre-genome
	pre-genome x genome
	genome x genome

Supplementary Table 4. Pairwise comparisons of 16S rRNA gene sequences of *Orientia tsutsugamushi* prototype strains Gilliam, Karp, and Kato maintained in separate laboratories, including gene sequences published in the early 1990's (pre-genome) and complete or near-complete genome sequences (genome).