**Supplementary Table 1:**Optimization of assay conditions for measurement of *A2* and *amastin* in *Leishmania donovani* infected tissues.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annealing temperature (◦C)** | | **58◦C** | | | **60◦C** | | | **62◦C** | | |
| **Template (ng/µL)** | | **25** | **50** | **100** | **25** | **50** | **100** | **25** | **50** | **100** |
| ***A2* (copies/µL)** | 100nM | 2.9 | 6.7 | 1.06 | 2 | 2.2 | 0.78 | 1.01 | 3.1 | 0.94 |
| 250nM | 1.6 | 4.1 | 0.97 | 0.53 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 1 | 1.11 | 0.38 |
| 500nM | 1.04 | 1.6 | 0.76 | 0.49 | 1.3 | 0.54 | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.19 |
| ***amastin***  **(copies/µL)** | 100nM | 1.19 | 1.7 | 0.37 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.32 | 0.59 | 0.31 |
| 250nM | 0.85 | 1.13 | 0.31 | 0.49 | 0.59 | 0.11 | 0.17 | 0.42 | 0 |
| 500nM | 0.38 | 1.04 | 0.25 | 0.18 | 0.36 | 0.22 | 0.09 | 0.38 | 0.18 |

For measurement of *A2* and *amastin*, assay optimization was performed with cDNA from hepatic tissues of *L. donovani* infected hamsters as described in Materials and methods. Data was expressed in copies/µL as generated by BioRad QuantaSoft software version 1.7.4.