**S5 Table**: Relative abundance of Families in the faeces of horses and ponies with an overall median relative abundance over 0.4 % at the three sampling points presented as median and 25/ 75 percentiles in brackets.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Family** | **Breed** | **t1** | **t2** | **t3** |
| Ruminococcaceae | Horses | 25.0a(22.5/29.1) | 24.2a (22.7/31.9) | 21.4b# (19.0/22.6) |
|  | Ponies | 24.5 (23.9/32.2) | 27.2 (24.1/33.9) | 25.2\* (20.9/26.1) |
| Lachnospiraceae | Horses | 23.9a (20.5/25.6) | 22.9ab (20.8/26.4) | 31.3b (25.9/32.5) |
|  | Ponies | 22.7 (20.7/23.3) | 22.7 (20.8/25.0) | 26.8 (24.0/28.6) |
| p-251-o5 | Horses | 14.1 (10.6/15.5) | 12.4 (8.88/ 13.8) | 11.5 (8.59/13.9) |
|  | Ponies | 12.9 (6.38/13.8) | 9.96 (7.23/11.9) | 8.55 (3.08/ 10.3) |
| Prevotellaceae | Horses | 10.8 (8.12/11.9) | 9.97 (7.55/11.7) | 11.6 (10.1/ 13.0) |
|  | Ponies | 8.34 (6.46/9.94) | 10.4 (6.83/13.2) | 9.88 (5.34/12.3) |
| Rikenellaceae | Horses | 7.15 (5.33/7.65) | 5.63 (4.19/6.39) | 4.80# (4.18/6.17) |
|  | Ponies | 7.40ab (4.51/8.17) | 5.58a (4.77/5.93) | 6.80b\* (5.56/9.50) |
| F082 | Horses | 2.66a# (1.81/2.84) | 4.46a (2.13/9.44) | 1.50b# (1.10/1.88) |
|  | Ponies | 6.34\* (4.09/9.94) | 5.67 (3.29/7.00) | 5.16\* (2.65/5.74) |
| Christensenellaceae | Horses | 2.95 (2.55/3.25) | 3.29 (2.99/3.68) | 3.33(2.99/3.96) |
|  | Ponies | 3.31 (2.96/3.71) | 4.30 (3.33/4.85) | 3.87(3.08/6.95) |
| Spirochaetaceae | Horses | 3.15 (1.78/3.92) | 1.70 (1.62/2.46) | 2.39 (1.72/3.13) |
|  | Ponies | 1.90 (1.58/2.90) | 1.80 (1.58/2.00) | 1.70(0.94/2.25) |
| Family XIII | Horses | 1.91 (1.67/2.27) | 1.91 (1.85/2.42) | 2.01 (1.64/2.86) |
|  | Ponies | 1.80 (1.64/1.97) | 2.15(1.90/2.46) | 3.09(1.48/4.26) |
| Bacteroidales UCG-001 | Horses | 1.14 (0.94/1.84) | 0.90 (0.62/1.39) | 0.60# (0.52/0.93) |
|  | Ponies | 1.22 (1.02/1.64) | 0.90 (0.75/1.13) | 1.21\*(1.03/142) |
| Fibrobacteraceae | Horses | 1.90a(1.06/2.45) | 0.98b (0.85/1.29) | 1.11b# (0.59/1.84) |
|  | Ponies | 0.78 (0.51/2.31) | 0.80 (0.65/1.70) | 0.38\* (0.09/0.88) |
| Paludibacteraceae | Horses | 0.68 (0.26/0.81) | 0.35 (0.19/1.15) | 0.26 (0.13/0.67) |
|  | Ponies | 0.44 (0.17/1.66) | 0.57 (0.34/1.07) | 0.12 (0.05/ 0.79) |
| Muribaculaceae | Horses | 0.75 (0.61/1.17) | 1.55 (1.10/1.74) | 1.24 (0.84/2.81) |
|  | Ponies | 0.93a (0.47/1.93) | 1.62b (1.13/2.64) | 1.14a (0.72/1.57) |
| Bacteroidales RF16 group | Horses | 0.81a (0.59/1.00) | 0.45ab (0.28/0.63) | 0.29b(0.13/0.50) |
|  | Ponies | 0.62a (0.36/0.89) | 0.40ab (0.35/0.49) | 0.17b (0.14/0.28) |
| Veillonellaceae | Horses | 0.31 (0.12/0.38) | 0.57 0.41/0.70) | 0.49 (0.39/0.57) |
|  | Ponies | 0.32a (0.27/0.64) | 0.81b (0.41/1.24) | 0.39a (0.23/0.84) |

a, b medians with different subscript letters differ significantly within a row (p < 0.05)

\*, # medians with different subscript symbols differ significantly within a column (p < 0.05