

# 1    **Targeted enrichment outperforms other enrichment** 2    **techniques and enables more multi-species RNA-Seq analyses**

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## 34 **Abstract**

35 Enrichment methodologies enable analysis of minor members in multi-species transcriptomic analyses.

36 We compared standard enrichment of bacterial and eukaryotic mRNA to targeted enrichment with

37 Agilent SureSelect (AgSS) capture for *Brugia malayi*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and the *Wolbachia*

38 endosymbiont of *B. malayi* (wBm). Without introducing significant systematic bias, the AgSS-

39 quantitatively enriched samples, resulting in more reads mapping to the target organism. The AgSS-

40 enriched libraries consistently had a positive linear correlation with its unenriched counterpart

41 ( $r^2=0.559-0.867$ ). Up to a 2,242-fold enrichment of RNA from the target organism was obtained

42 following a power law ( $r^2=0.90$ ), with the greatest fold enrichment achieved in samples with the largest

43 ratio difference between the major and minor members. While using a single total library for prokaryote

44 and eukaryote in a single sample could be beneficial for samples where RNA is limiting, we observed a

45 decrease in reads mapping to protein coding genes and an increase of multi-mapping reads to rRNAs in

46 AgSS enrichments from eukaryotic total RNA libraries as opposed to eukaryotic poly(A)-enriched

47 libraries. Our results support a recommendation of using Agilent SureSelect targeted enrichment on

48 poly(A)-enriched libraries for eukaryotic captures and total RNA libraries for prokaryotic captures to

49 increase the robustness of multi-species transcriptomic studies.

## 50      **Introduction**

51      Dual species transcriptomic experiments have been increasingly employed as a method to analyze the  
52      transcriptomes of multiple species within a system[1-9]. However, obtaining a sufficient quantity of  
53      reads from each organism is a major issue when simultaneously analyzing the transcriptomes of multiple  
54      organisms within a single sample. When extracting total RNA from a host sample, the signal from host  
55      transcripts typically overwhelms the signal from secondary organism transcripts under most biologically  
56      meaningful conditions. Differential enrichments have been designed to physically extract RNA from  
57      secondary organisms in samples by depleting the highly abundant rRNAs and selecting transcripts based  
58      on differing properties between the two organisms, such as the differential poly-adenylation status of  
59      transcripts [10]. However, in eukaryote-eukaryote dual species transcriptomics experiments, these  
60      differences are often not present. Additionally, methods used to enrich for prokaryotic RNA from  
61      samples dominated by eukaryotic RNA can fail when the poly(A)-depletion method is unable to remove  
62      eukaryotic long non-coding RNAs that lack 3'-polyadenylation, and when the efficacy of rRNA  
63      depletion is low, as observed with some organisms.

64      The Agilent SureSelect platform serves as a hybridization-based enrichment method that uses specific  
65      baits to target transcripts of interest ([www.genomics.agilent.com](http://www.genomics.agilent.com)). By designing sequence-specific baits  
66      for an organism, it becomes possible to extract transcripts of interest, such as mRNAs, while avoiding  
67      unwanted RNA types, such as rRNAs and tRNAs. In dual species transcriptomics, one of the main  
68      advantages of the Agilent SureSelect system is the ability to extract reads in systems where an organism  
69      has low relative abundance [11]. To test the efficacy of the Agilent SureSelect platform on multiple dual-  
70      and tripartite-species systems where insufficient numbers of reads are obtained from the minor  
71      member(s), we designed Agilent SureSelect baits for: (1) *Brugia malayi*, a filarial nematode and the  
72      causative agent of lymphatic filariasis, (2) wBm, the obligate mutualistic *Wolbachia* endosymbiont of *B.*

73 *malayi* and (3) *Aspergillus fumigatus* AF293, a fungal pathogen known to cause aspergillosis in  
74 immunocompromised individuals.

75 In filarial nematode transcriptomics, it is relatively straightforward to isolate nematode samples from  
76 the mammalian/definitive host while minimizing contaminating host material. Therefore, the *Brugia*  
77 transcriptome can be easily obtained from poly(A)-enriched RNA from *Brugia* samples originating from  
78 the mammalian definitive host, which is often an experimentally infected gerbil (*Meriones*  
79 *unguiculatus*). However, sampling the *Wolbachia* endosymbiont transcriptome in these worms is  
80 problematic because the endosymbionts contribute less RNA to the total RNA pool. Therefore, wBm  
81 reads are overwhelmed by *B. malayi* reads and must be enriched using a rRNA- and poly(A)-depletion. In  
82 the mosquito vector host, the parasitic worms develop in the thoracic muscles where they are not easily  
83 isolated. Therefore, whole infected mosquito thoraces containing the larval *B. malayi* are used for RNA  
84 isolation. As such the *B. malayi* reads are overwhelmed by reads from those of the mosquito vector,  
85 typically experimentally infected *Aedes aegypti*, and the reads of endogenous wBm are even further  
86 dwarfed compared to samples obtained from the definitive host. In a separate dual-species  
87 transcriptomics experiment examining *A. fumigatus* infections, *A. fumigatus* reads are overwhelmed by  
88 reads from the human or mouse host making it difficult to analyze the fungal transcriptome in this host-  
89 pathogen interaction. For each eukaryotic system, the performance of the poly(A)-enrichment was  
90 compared to that of poly(A)-enrichment supplemented with the Agilent SureSelect platform in  
91 extracting *B. malayi* and *A. fumigatus* reads. Additionally, the efficacy of the Agilent SureSelect platform  
92 in extracting prokaryotic reads was determined by comparing the total RNA Agilent SureSelect capture  
93 to the RiboZero-treated, poly(A)-depletion method in extracting wBm reads.

94 **Methods**

95 **Mosquito preparation**

96 *Aedes aegypti* black-eyed Liverpool strain mosquitoes were obtained from the NIH/NIAID Filariasis  
97 Research Reagent Resource Center (FR3) and maintained in the biosafety level 2 insectary at the  
98 University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO). Desiccated mosquito eggs were hatched in deoxygenated  
99 water and the larvae maintained on a slurry of ground TetraMin fish food (Blacksburg, VA, USA) at 27 °C  
100 and 80% relative humidity. Female pupae were separated from males using a commercial larval pupal  
101 separator (The John Hock Company, Gainesville, FL, USA) and maintained on cotton pads soaked in  
102 sucrose solution. Adult female mosquitos were deprived of sucrose ~8 h prior to blood feeding.  
103 Mosquitoes were infected with the *B. malayi* FR3 strain by feeding on microfilaremic cat blood (FR3)  
104 through parafilm via a glass jacketed artificial membrane feeder. Microfilaremic cat blood was diluted  
105 with uninfected rabbit blood to achieve a suitable parasite density for infection (100-250 mf  
106 (microfilariae)/20 µL) and mosquitoes were allowed to feed to repletion. Mosquitoes were maintained  
107 in insect incubators until time of worm harvest.

108 **Nematode preparation**

109 To examine larval development in the vector, groups of mosquitoes were sampled at 18 h post infection  
110 (hpi), 4 days post infection (dpi), and 8 dpi. Because larval development occurs in the thoracic muscle of  
111 the mosquito, thoraces of infected mosquitoes containing larval *B. malayi* were separated from the  
112 head, abdomen, legs, and wings; flash frozen in liquid nitrogen; and stored at -80 °C prior to RNA  
113 isolation. To generate third stage larvae (L3) of *Brugia malayi*, infected mosquitoes at 9-16 dpi were  
114 processed in bulk using the NIAID/NIH Filariasis Research Reagent Resource Center (FR3) Research  
115 Protocol 8.4 ([www.filariasiscenter.org](http://www.filariasiscenter.org)). Larvae were isolated in RPMI media containing 0.4 U penicillin  
116 and 4 µg streptomycin per mL (RPMI + P/S), flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C. To  
117 generate fourth larval stages (L4) and adult worms, freshly isolated L3s were injected into the peritoneal

118      cavities of Mongolian gerbils (*Meriones unguiculatus*). Briefly, male Mongolian gerbils three months of  
119      age or older (Charles River, Wilmington, MA, USA) were anesthetized with 5% isoflurane, immobilized  
120      on a thermal support, and administered ocular Paralube. The inguinal region for each gerbil was shaved  
121      and disinfected with iodine. Infections were performed by delivering L3 larvae into the peritoneal cavity  
122      using a butterfly catheter, which was left in place and flushed afterwards with 1 mL warmed RPMI + P/S  
123      to ensure delivery of all larvae. Afterwards, gerbils were removed from the plane of anesthesia and  
124      allowed to fully recover in a hospital cage prior to returning to group housing. Worms were later  
125      harvested by euthanizing the gerbils and soaking the peritoneal cavities in warm RPMI + P/S. Worms  
126      were washed in warm RPMI + P/S to remove traces of gerbil tissue and flash frozen with liquid nitrogen  
127      and stored at -80 °C. All animal care and use protocols were carried out in accordance with the relevant  
128      guidelines and regulations and were approved by the UWO IACUC.

### 129      **Mosquito/Nematode/*Wolbachia* RNA isolation**

130      Mosquito thoraces were combined with TRIzol (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA, USA) at a ratio of 1 mL TRIzol  
131      per 50-100 mg mosquito tissue while nematode samples were processed using a 3:1 volume ratio of  
132      TRIzol to sample. β-mercaptoethanol was added to a final concentration of 0.1%. The tissues were  
133      homogenized in a TissueLyser (Qiagen, Germantown, MD) at 50 Hz for 5 min. The homogenate was  
134      transferred to a new tube and centrifuged at 12,000 x g for 10 min at 4 °C. After incubating at room  
135      temperature for 5 min, 0.2 volumes of chloroform were added. The samples were shaken by hand for 15  
136      s, incubated at room temperature for 3 min, then loaded into a pre-spun, phase lock gel heavy tube  
137      (5Prime, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) and centrifuged for 5 min at 12,000 x g at 4 °C. The upper phase was  
138      removed to a new tube and one volume of 100% ethanol was added prior to loading onto a PureLink  
139      RNA Mini column (Ambion, Austin, TX). The samples were then processed following manufacturer  
140      instructions, quantified using a Qubit fluorometer (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA) and/or a NanoDrop  
141      spectrometer (NanoDrop, Wilmington, DE, USA). The RNA was then shipped on dry ice to the University

142 of Maryland where it was treated with the TURBO DNA-free kit (Ambion, ThermoFisher Scientific,  
143 Waltham, MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

144 ***A. fumigatus* infection**

145 Two different models of invasive aspergillosis, both using male BALB/c mice, were employed [12, 13]. In  
146 the non-neutropenic model, the mice were immunosuppressed with 5 doses of cortisone acetate, with  
147 500 mg/kg administered subcutaneously every other day four days pre-infection. In the leukopenic  
148 model, the mice were administered cyclophosphamide, 250 mg/kg intraperitoneally, and cortisone  
149 acetate, 250 mg/kg subcutaneously, on two days pre-infection. On day 4 after infection, the mice were  
150 given a second dose of cyclophosphamide, 200 mg/kg intraperitoneally, and cortisone acetate, 250  
151 mg/kg subcutaneously. All mice were infected by placing them in a chamber containing an aerosol of *A.*  
152 *fumigatus* conidia for 1 h. On days 2 and 4 for the non-neutropenic model and on days 4 and 7 for the  
153 leukopenic model, 3 mice per time point were sacrificed, after which their lungs were harvested and  
154 stored in RNAlater (Ambion, ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) for subsequent RNA isolation.

155 ***A. fumigatus* RNA isolation**

156 Each lung sample was placed in a lysing matrix C tube (MP Biomedicals, Santa Ana, CA, USA) with a  
157 single 0.25 inch diameter ceramic sphere (MP Biomedicals, Santa Ana, CA, USA) and homogenized with a  
158 bead beater (FastPrep FP120, Qbiogene, Montreal, Quebec, Canada). The RNA was isolated using the  
159 RiboPure kit (Ambion, ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) following the manufacturer's  
160 instructions, treated with DNase I (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), and purified using the  
161 RNA clean & concentrator kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA, USA).

162 **Illumina NEBNext Ultra Directional RNA libraries without capture**

163 Whole transcriptome libraries were constructed for sequencing on the Illumina platform using the  
164 NEBNext Ultra Directional RNA Library Prep Kit (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA). When  
165 targeting eukaryotic mRNA, polyadenylated RNA was isolated using the NEBNext Poly(A) mRNA

166 magnetic isolation module. When targeting bacterial mRNA, samples underwent rRNA- and poly(A)-  
167 reductions, as previously described [10, 14]. SPRIselect reagent (Beckman Coulter Genomics, Danvers,  
168 MA, USA) was used to purify cDNA between enzymatic reactions and perform size selection. For  
169 indexing, the PCR amplification step was performed with primers containing a 7-nt index sequence.  
170 Libraries were evaluated using the GX touch capillary electrophoresis system (Perkin Elmer, Waltham,  
171 MA) and sequenced on a HiSeq2500 generating 100-bp paired end reads.

172 ***Wolbachia* custom RNA capture**

173 Pre-capture libraries were constructed from 500-1000 ng of total RNA samples using NEBNext Ultra  
174 Directional RNA Library Prep kit (NEB, Ipswich, MA, USA). First strand cDNA was synthesized without  
175 mRNA extraction to retain non-polyadenylated transcripts and was fragmented at 94 °C for 8 min. After  
176 adaptor ligation, cDNA fragments were amplified with 10 cycles of PCR before capture. *Wolbachia*  
177 transcripts were captured from 200 ng of the amplified libraries using an Agilent SureSelectXT RNA (0.5-  
178 2 Mbp) bait library designed specifically for wBm. Library-bait hybridization reactions were incubated at  
179 65 °C for 24 h then bound to MyOne Streptavidin T1 dynabeads (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). After  
180 multiple washes, bead-bound captured library fragments were amplified with 18 cycles of PCR. The  
181 libraries were loaded on a HiSeq4000 generating 151-bp paired end reads.

182 ***B. malayi* custom RNA capture**

183 Pre-capture libraries were constructed from 1000 ng of total RNA samples using NEBNext Ultra  
184 Directional RNA Library Prep kit (NEB #E7420, Ipswich, MA, USA). Except where noted, poly(A)-  
185 enrichment according to the manufacturer's protocol was used. In comparisons of capture on poly(A)-  
186 enriched libraries with total RNA libraries, total RNA libraries were constructed after first strand cDNA  
187 was synthesized without mRNA extraction to retain non-polyadenylated transcripts and fragmented at  
188 94 °C for 8 min. After adaptor ligation, cDNA fragments were amplified for 10 cycles of PCR before  
189 capture. *B. malayi* transcripts were captured from 200 ng of the amplified libraries using an Agilent

190 SureSelectXT Custom (12-24 Mbp) bait library designed specifically for *B. malayi*. Library-bait  
191 hybridization reactions were incubated at 65 °C for 24 h then bound to MyOne Streptavidin T1  
192 Dynabeads (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). After multiple rounds of washes, bead-bound captured library  
193 fragments were amplified with 16 cycles of PCR. The libraries were loaded on a HiSeq4000 generating  
194 151-bp paired end reads.

### 195 ***Aspergillus* custom RNA capture**

196 Pre-capture libraries were constructed from 700 ng of total RNA samples using NEBNext Ultra  
197 Directional RNA Library Prep kit (NEB #E7420, Ipswich, MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's  
198 protocol. Briefly, mRNA was extracted with oligo-d(T) beads and reverse-transcribed into first strand  
199 cDNA with random primers. First strand cDNA was fragmented at 94 °C for 8 min. After adaptor ligation,  
200 cDNA fragments were amplified in thermocycler for 10 cycles before capture. *Aspergillus* transcripts  
201 were captured from 100 ng of amplified libraries Agilent SureSelectXT Custom (12-24 Mbp) bait library  
202 for *A. fumigatus*. Libraries were incubated at 65 °C for 24 h then bound to MyOne Streptavidin T1  
203 Dynabeads (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). After multiple rounds of washes, bead-bound captured  
204 library fragments were amplified with 16 cycles of PCR. The libraries were loaded on a HiSeq4000  
205 generating 151-bp paired end reads.

### 206 **Sequence alignment, feature counts, and fold enrichment calculations**

207 The sequence reads originating from all samples used in all *B. malayi* and *A. fumigatus* AF293  
208 comparisons were mapped to the *B. malayi* genome WS259 ([www.wormbase.org](http://www.wormbase.org)) or *A. fumigatus*  
209 AF293 genome CADRE34 ([www.aspergillusgenome.org](http://www.aspergillusgenome.org)), respectively, using the TopHat v1.4 [15] aligner.  
210 Read counts for all genes were obtained using HTSeq (v0.5.3p9) [16], with the mode set to "union." For  
211 the *B. malayi* genome, RNAmmer v1.2 [17] identified 5 protein-coding genes (WBGene00228061,  
212 WBGene00268654, WBGene00268655, WBGene00268656, WBGene00268657) overlapping with  
213 predicted rRNAs. Reads overlapping with these genes were excluded from all gene-based analyses.

214 The sequencing reads for the wBm comparisons were mapped to the wBm assembly [18] using Bowtie  
215 v0.12.9 [19]. Counts for each wBm gene were calculated by summing the sequencing depth per base  
216 pair, obtained using the DEPTH function of SAMtools v1.1 [20], for each of the unique genomic positions  
217 in each gene. This value was then divided by the average read length for the sample, yielding a read  
218 count value for each gene. Across all comparisons, read counts were normalized between each of the  
219 different samples through a conversion to transcripts per million (TPM).  
220 The fold enrichment,  $F_e$ , of reads belonging to an organism conferred by the Agilent SureSelect  
221 compared to the other enrichment techniques was calculated as

$$F_e = \left( \frac{M_{AGSS}}{S_{AGSS}} \right) / \left( \frac{M_{poly(A)}}{S_{poly(A)}} \right)$$

222 the ratio of the number of reads mapped with Agilent SureSelect capture ( $M_{AGSS}$ ) to the number of  
223 reads sequenced with Agilent SureSelect capture ( $S_{AGSS}$ ) divided by the ratio of number of reads  
224 mapped with poly(A)-enrichment or the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion ( $M_{poly(A)}$ ) to the number of reads  
225 sequenced with poly(A)-enrichment or the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion ( $S_{poly(A)}$ ). By taking a ratio of the  
226 percentage of mapped reads for each enrichment technique, the fold enrichment value represents an  
227 amount of enrichment conferred by the Agilent SureSelect when compared to the other enrichment  
228 technique for a given sample. The fold enrichment values when comparing the efficacy of Agilent  
229 SureSelect capture on poly(A)-enriched libraries to total RNA libraries were calculated similarly as

$$F_e = \left( \frac{M_{AGSS-poly(A)}}{S_{AGSS-poly(A)}} \right) / \left( \frac{M_{AGSS-total RNA}}{S_{AGSS-total RNA}} \right)$$

230 where  $M_{AGSS-poly(A)}$  and  $S_{AGSS-poly(A)}$  represent the mapped and sequenced reads from poly(A)-  
231 enriched Agilent SureSelect capture libraries, while  $M_{AGSS-total RNA}$  and  $S_{AGSS-total RNA}$  represent the  
232 mapped and sequencing reads from Agilent SureSelect capture from the total RNA libraries.

233 **Results**

234 **Comparison of poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect to only poly(A)-enrichment**  
235 **for *B. malayi***

236 Poly(A)-enriched, Agilent SureSelect libraries were compared to only poly(A)-enriched libraries from six  
237 RNA samples originating from three different time points of the *B. malayi* vector life stages (18 hpi, 4  
238 dpi, and 8 dpi) (**Figure 1a**). Across these six samples, the poly(A)-enrichment alone yielded 0.38-23.35%  
239 of reads mapping to the *B. malayi* genome, with 61.25-82.51% of reads mapping to the *A. aegypti*  
240 genome. Of the poly(A)-enriched libraries capture using the Agilent SureSelect baits, 56.14%-81.52% of  
241 reads mapped to the *B. malayi* genome, with 2.28-24.02% of reads mapping to the *A. aegypti* genome  
242 (**Supplementary Table 1**). The fold enrichment conferred to libraries captured with Agilent SureSelect  
243 was found to be inversely proportional to the number of reads mapped to its poly(A)-enrichment only  
244 counterpart, such that experiments with the fewest reads mapped in the poly(A)-enrichment had the  
245 highest fold enrichment with the Agilent SureSelect capture. The 18 hpi samples, which have the lowest  
246 percentage of mapped reads to the *B. malayi* genome has the greatest fold enrichment (110-146x) while  
247 the 8 dpi samples, with the highest percentage of *B. malayi* mapped reads, has the lowest fold  
248 enrichment (3-4x).

249 A principal component analysis (PCA) using the  $\log_2$ -TPM values for the 11,085 predicted *B. malayi*  
250 protein-coding genes reveals that the *B. malayi* samples cluster based on life stage rather than library  
251 preparation (**Figure 2a**), suggesting that the capture does not introduce a systematic bias to the  
252 transcriptome of a sample. The exceptions are the 18 hpi vector poly(A)-enrichment-only samples,  
253 which we attribute to these samples having an insufficient number of reads mapped to features  
254 (143,078 and 212,342 reads, accounting for <20 reads per gene assuming equal distribution) to  
255 accurately represent the transcriptome. Supporting this, in the 18 hpi samples, an average of 2,460  
256 protein coding genes (22.18% of the *B. malayi* protein coding genes) had reads mapping to them in the  
257 poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect samples but not its poly(A)-enriched counterpart, while in the 4 dpi  
258 and 8 dpi samples, an average of 952 (8.58%) and 566 (5.09%) genes, respectively, had reads mapping to

259 them from the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect libraries but not the poly(A)-enriched libraries.  
260 Collectively, across all 6 samples, 392 unique genes were detected in only the poly(A)-enrichment, but  
261 not the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect libraries in at least one comparison. The Agilent SureSelect  
262 probe design was based on an older version of the annotation compared to the version used for feature  
263 calling, and as such, 91 of these 392 genes were not covered by a probe.  
264 The  $\log_2$  TPM values from the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect and the poly(A)-enriched libraries had  
265 a positive linear correlation with  $r^2$  values ranging from 0.559-0.867 (**Figure 2b**). The 4 dpi and 8 dpi  
266 correlations were the strongest (**Figure 2b**), for the reasons discussed above, namely that fewer reads  
267 were recovered from the 18 hpi vector samples without Agilent SureSelect enrichment. To identify  
268 individual genes in which the library preparations affected the calculated TPM, the  $\log_2$  ratio of the  
269 poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect TPM relative to the poly(A) enrichment TPM for each gene was  
270 calculated (**Figure 2c**). Genes with relatively similar expression levels in the two library preparations  
271 would have a  $\log_2$  ratio of 0 while genes more highly expressed in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
272 SureSelect preparation would be  $>0$  and genes more highly expressed in the poly(A) enrichment would  
273 be  $<0$ . Genes with a  $\log_2$ -ratio value of  $>3$  standard deviations from the mean were defined as having  
274 significantly altered levels of expression between the two libraries. Across all six comparisons, the  
275 number of genes with significantly higher TPM values in the Agilent SureSelect libraries never accounted  
276 for  $>0.31\%$  ( $<34$  genes) of all protein-coding genes in the *B. malayi* genome. The number of genes with  
277 significantly higher TPM values in the poly(A)-enrichment ranged from 0.93%-1.52% (103-168 genes) of  
278 all protein-coding genes in *B. malayi* across the six comparisons (**Supplementary Table 1**).

279 **Comparison of poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect and only poly(A)-enrichment  
280 for *A. fumigatus***

281 The *A. fumigatus* AF293 transcriptome from poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect and poly(A)-enriched  
282 only libraries were compared for 11 RNA samples from immunocompromised mice or neutropenic mice

283 infected with *A. fumigatus* AF293 (**Figure 1a**). Of the 11 samples, 6 samples originated from three  
284 replicates of immunocompromised mice taken 2 dpi and 4 dpi with *A. fumigatus*. The remaining 5  
285 samples consist of two replicates of neutropenic mice taken 4 dpi with *A. fumigatus* and three replicates  
286 of neutropenic mice taken 7 dpi with *A. fumigatus*.  
287 Across all 11 samples, the total percentage of reads mapping to *A. fumigatus* from the poly(A)-enriched  
288 samples was consistently  $\leq 0.02\%$ , while 0.30%-11.74% of reads mapped in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
289 SureSelect samples. In the poly(A)-enrichment only samples, a maximum of 27,531 reads mapped to *A.*  
290 *fumigatus* AF293, accounting for <3 reads/gene if they were evenly distributed. As such, comparisons  
291 between Agilent SureSelect and poly(A)-enriched libraries are not possible.  
292 There are 4,168-7,387 genes (41.68%-76.70%) that are identified only in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
293 SureSelect libraries but not the poly(A)-enriched libraries, compared to the maximum of 52 genes  
294 identified only in the poly(A)-enriched libraries across all *A. fumigatus* comparisons (**Supplementary**  
295 **Table 2**). For all 11 comparisons, using the Agilent SureSelect methodology conferred a 614x to 1,212x  
296 fold enrichment of *A. fumigatus* AF293 reads relative to the poly(A)-enrichment, demonstrating the  
297 power of this technology in dual-species transcriptomics, going from data that was unamenable to a  
298 traditional transcriptomics analysis to obtaining data where robust statistical tests can be performed.  
299 The proportion of reads mapping to features relative to the total number of reads mapped is consistent  
300 between samples of the same library preparation, with *A. fumigatus* poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect  
301 samples ranging from 52.23-54.87% and the poly(A)-enrichment samples ranging from 45.89-51.22%.

302 **Comparison of total RNA Agilent SureSelect to rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted for the**  
303 **bacterial *Wolbachia* endosymbiont wBm**

304 With both of the previously discussed biological systems, we tested the effectiveness of the Agilent  
305 SureSelect platform to study eukaryote-eukaryote host-pathogen interactions. By enriching for wBm  
306 reads in *B. malayi* samples, we sought to test the effectiveness of Agilent SureSelect libraries in

307 extracting prokaryotic reads. The standard protocol for Agilent SureSelect capture in eukaryotes relies  
308 on capturing targets from poly(A)-enriched libraries, but for prokaryotic samples the capture is  
309 performed on total RNA libraries. These total RNA Agilent SureSelect libraries were compared to rRNA-,  
310 poly(A)-depleted library preparations from nine *B. malayi* samples taken at various stages of the life  
311 cycle to analyze the transcriptome of its *Wolbachia* endosymbiont, wBm (**Figure 1b**). Three RNA samples  
312 were obtained from the mammalian portion of the *Brugia* lifecycle where worms are large enough to be  
313 physically separated from the mammalian tissue. These RNA samples generate predominantly *Brugia*  
314 reads with a minority of *Wolbachia* reads. Of these three samples, one sample was recovered at 24 dpi,  
315 representative of female worms just prior to the final L4 to adult molt, while the other two samples are  
316 from two reproductively mature adult females recovered 7 months post-infection. The other six samples  
317 are from the vector portion of the *B. malayi* lifecycle where tripartite RNA samples are obtained,  
318 consisting of predominantly mosquito reads, with a smaller percentage of *Brugia* reads, and an even  
319 smaller percentage of *Wolbachia* reads. These six samples consisted of two *A. aegypti* replicates each of  
320 the 18 hpi, 4 dpi, and 8 dpi with *B. malayi*, representative of the L1 through early L3 *B. malayi* life stages.  
321 Of the six samples taken from the vector life stages, at most 1,552 reads (<0.01% of sequenced reads)  
322 mapped to the wBm genome from the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted samples, of which 729 reads were  
323 identified as mapping to protein-coding genes for an average of <1 read mapped/gene (**Supplementary**  
324 **Table 3**). In contrast, the rRNA-, poly(A) depleted adult female *B. malayi* samples taken from the  
325 mammalian host had a minimum of 17,107 reads mapping to wBm protein-coding genes, equating to  
326 ~20 reads/gene while the 24 dpi sample had 246,549 reads mapped to protein-coding genes, equating  
327 to ~294 reads/gene.  
328 The Agilent SureSelect-enriched samples had an increased number of wBm-mapping reads for all 9  
329 samples, with 20.4-37.4 million reads (18.68%-32.53%) mapping to wBm genes for the three gerbil  
330 samples and 0.2-4.0 million reads (0.46-6.43% of sequenced reads) mapping to wBm genes for the

331 mosquito vector samples. The total RNA Agilent SureSelect libraries from gerbil samples were 20-41x  
332 fold enriched for wBm reads relative to the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted libraries while the libraries from  
333 vector samples were 353-2,242x fold enriched. The proportion of wBm reads mapped to protein-coding  
334 genes were consistently higher in the Agilent SureSelect in both the gerbil and vector samples, ranging  
335 from 88.31-92.44% and 44.34-56.14%, respectively, compared to the 10.62-20.11% and 45.21-58.73%  
336 observed in the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted samples. This difference in the number of wBm reads mapping  
337 to protein-coding genes can be partially attributed to a greater number of reads mapping to rRNAs in  
338 the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted samples, with 18.73-33.82% of wBm mapped reads mapping to rRNAs  
339 compared to 0.1-2.1% observed in the total RNA, Agilent SureSelect samples (**Supplementary Table 3**).  
340 A principal component analysis using the TPM values of the three gerbil life stage comparisons  
341 demonstrates that individual samples segregate based on library preparation (**Figure 3a**). All three of the  
342 total RNA Agilent SureSelect samples are clustered close together, while the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted  
343 samples are further distributed, likely due to the insufficient coverage of the wBm transcriptome in the  
344 absence of Agilent SureSelect enrichment. The mosquito vector life stage samples were not used for the  
345 principal component analysis due to an insufficient number of reads mapping in the poly(A)-depletion  
346 portion of the comparison to compare the two enrichment methods. Like the *B. malayi* comparisons,  
347 the  $\log_2$  TPM values from the wBm Agilent SureSelect libraries and the rRNA- and poly(A)-depletion  
348 libraries made from mammalian life stages had a positive linear correlation with  $r^2$  values ranging from  
349 0.575-0.744 (**Figure 3b**).  
350 A total of 45 unique genes (~5.4% of protein-coding genes in wBm) were detected in at least one of the  
351 three gerbil comparisons in the sample treated using the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion libraries but not its  
352 total RNA Agilent SureSelect counterpart. Of these 45 genes, 41 were not covered by any of the Agilent  
353 SureSelect probes while the remaining four genes had <11% of their length covered by a probe. To  
354 identify genes with significantly greater expression in one enrichment method over the other, a cutoff of

355 two standard deviations from the  $\log_2$  ratio of the Agilent SureSelect TPM to the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted  
356 TPM was used (**Figure 3c**). Genes with a  $\log_2$  ratio of  $>2$  standard deviations below the average  $\log_2$  ratio  
357 were determined to have significantly higher expression in the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion sample while  
358 genes with a  $\log_2$  ratio  $>2$  standard deviations above the average, were identified as having significantly  
359 higher expression in the total RNA Agilent SureSelect sample. Across the three comparisons, a total of  
360 30 unique genes had TPM values significantly higher in the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted sample compared to  
361 the Agilent SureSelect sample in at least one comparison. Of these genes, 17 genes were not covered by  
362 any probe, six genes had  $<17\%$  of their length covered by a probe, and the remaining seven genes are  
363 covered in the entirety of their length by the probe design. Additionally, there were 152 unique genes  
364 ( $\sim 18.1\%$  of protein-coding genes in *wBm*) detected in the total RNA, Agilent SureSelect but not the  
365 poly(A)-depletion in at least one of the comparisons. Of the 152 genes, 114 had average TPM values in  
366 the bottom quartile of the expressed genes across the three Agilent SureSelect samples, highlighting the  
367 ability of the Agilent SureSelect preparation to detect low abundance transcripts.

368 **Comparison of Agilent SureSelect *B. malayi* transcriptome data from total RNA  
369 and poly(A)-enriched samples**

370 For eukaryote transcriptome experiments, the Agilent SureSelect platform is typically preceded by  
371 construction of a poly(A)-selected library that is then hybridized to the bait probes. The poly(A)-  
372 enrichment step serves to remove high abundance, non-mRNA transcripts, such as rRNAs, tRNAs, and  
373 other ncRNAs. For bacterial samples, libraries must be constructed on total RNA since bacterial mRNAs  
374 lack the poly(A) tails present in eukaryotes. For eukaryote-prokaryote transcriptomic experiments, it  
375 may be advantageous to use the Agilent SureSelect platform for both bacteria and eukaryotes on the  
376 same single library constructed from total RNA, especially for clinical samples where RNA may be  
377 limiting. Therefore, we sought to compare the Agilent SureSelect enrichment on a library constructed

378 from total *B. malayi* RNA with one constructed following poly(A)-enrichment using two samples taken  
379 from the mosquito vector portion of the *B. malayi* life stages at 18 hpi and 8 dpi (**Figure 1c**).  
380 For both the 18 hpi and 8 dpi timepoints, most genes yield comparable  $\log_2$  TPM values between the  
381 two enrichment methods (**Figure 4a**) with <1.5% of genes having a bias towards a particular library  
382 construction protocol (**Figure 4b**). However, despite the 8 dpi comparison yielding a similar number of  
383 genes detected unique to each enrichment method, in the 18 hpi sample comparison, 1,033 genes (9.3%  
384 of all protein-coding genes) were detected only in the Agilent SureSelect, poly(A)-enriched library while  
385 323 (2.91%) were only detected with the Agilent SureSelect, total RNA library (**Supplementary Table 4**).  
386 In both cases, a majority of the genes detected in only one library construction method were within the  
387 bottom 20% of expressed genes in the sequencing data collected, with 815 genes (78.9%) in the  
388 selection conducted with the total RNA library and 233 genes (72.14%) in the selection conducted with  
389 the poly(A)-enriched library. Similarly, in the 8 dpi sample comparison, 2.35% (261 genes) of *B. malayi*  
390 protein-coding genes were identified only in the target captured poly(A)-enriched library while 1.71%  
391 (189 genes) were identified only in the target captured total RNA library. Again, in both cases, a majority  
392 of the genes detected in only one library construction method were within the bottom 20% of expressed  
393 genes in the sequencing data collected, with 236 genes (90.42%) in the selection conducted with the  
394 poly(A)-enriched RNA library and with 179 genes (94.71%) in the selection conducted with the total RNA  
395 library. Based off these results, both Agilent SureSelect methods can detect low abundance transcripts,  
396 but the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect was able to select for a greater number of these transcripts  
397 in both comparisons.  
398 The percentage of reads mapping to the *B. malayi* genome were greater in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
399 SureSelect samples compared to the total RNA Agilent SureSelect samples, with 56.14% and 80.13% of  
400 reads mapping to the *B. malayi* genome, compared to 22.96% and 69.84%, of reads mapped for the 18  
401 hpi and 8 dpi samples respectively. The poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect samples were enriched for

402 reads mapping to *B. malayi* by 2.4x for the 18 hpi sample and 1.1x for the 8 dpi sample relative to the  
403 total RNA Agilent SureSelect. Additionally, in the 18 hpi and 8 dpi poly(A)-enriched RNA, Agilent  
404 SureSelect samples, 46.63% and 46.35% of their mapped reads mapped to protein-coding genes while in  
405 the total RNA Agilent SureSelect only 20.22% and 32.21% mapped to protein-coding genes  
406 (**Supplementary Table 4**). This is explained by the increased number of multi-mapping reads observed in  
407 the total RNA Agilent SureSelect samples, with 70.29% and 39.29% of the total number of mapped reads  
408 in the 18 hpi and 8 dpi vector samples multi-mapping to the *B. malayi* genome. In comparison, only  
409 5.93% and 5.42% of mapped reads were multi-mapping in the 18 hpi and 8 dpi poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
410 SureSelect samples. A total of 80.82% and 69.86% of these multi-mapping reads in the total RNA Agilent  
411 SureSelect 18 hpi and 8 dpi vector samples were found to be mapping to the *B. malayi* rRNAs compared  
412 to only 13.76% and 1.56% in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect samples (**Supplementary Table 4**).  
413 The Agilent SureSelect platform on poly(A)-enriched RNA was able to obtain both a higher percentage of  
414 *B. malayi* mapped reads and a higher percentage of *B. malayi* reads mapping to protein-coding genes.  
415 Therefore, we recommend the use of the Agilent SureSelect enrichment on poly(A)-enriched libraries for  
416 eukaryotic systems whenever possible.

## 417 Discussion

418 With multi-species RNA-Seq experiments emerging at the forefront of experimental designs for  
419 transcriptome analyses, novel methods are being developed to more efficiently extract the  
420 transcriptomes for multiple organisms from a single sample. By comparing the transcriptomes  
421 generated with standard enrichment methods, such as poly(A)-enrichment or rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion,  
422 against the Agilent SureSelect platform, we sought to independently validate the use of the Agilent  
423 SureSelect in enriching for transcripts originating from a specific organism of interest while minimizing  
424 any type of library bias on the transcriptome. When analyzing the *B. malayi* transcriptomes of samples  
425 prepared with or without the Agilent SureSelect, most genes could be detected using both library  
426 preparations. However, the samples prepared using the Agilent SureSelect enriched the number of  
427 reads mapped by 3x-146x compared to samples enriched only with a poly(A)-enrichment and were  
428 consistently able to detect a greater number of genes, most of which were low abundance transcripts.  
429 Similarly, in the *A. fumigatus* comparisons, the poly(A)-enrichment by itself was unable to extract a  
430 sufficient number of *A. fumigatus* reads to accurately represent the transcriptome of the sample. When  
431 the poly(A)-enrichment was supplemented with Agilent SureSelect capture, the enrichment of *A.*  
432 *fumigatus* reads was increased 614-1,212x. When using the Agilent SureSelect instead of the rRNA-,  
433 poly(A)-depletion preparation for the *Wolbachia* endosymbiont wBm transcriptome, the Agilent  
434 SureSelect samples were enriched for wBm mapped reads by 20-41x in the gerbil life cycle samples and  
435 353-2,242x in the vector life cycle samples.  
436 For each of these samples, if the fold enrichment for the number of mapped reads in the poly(A)-  
437 enriched or total RNA Agilent SureSelect is plotted against the percentage of reads mapped in its  
438 poly(A)-enrichment or poly(A), rRNA depletion counterpart, the data follow a power law (**Figure 5**). As  
439 expected, the fold enrichment obtained with the Agilent SureSelect capture is inversely proportional to  
440 the percentage of mapped reads obtained using the currently used enrichment methods of poly(A)-

441 enrichment to capture eukaryotic RNA or rRNA- and poly(A)-depletion to capture bacterial RNA from  
442 multi-species samples, indicating samples with a lower relative abundance of RNA from the target  
443 organism yield the greatest fold enrichment.

444 While the Agilent SureSelect can enrich a sample for transcripts of interest, the platform requires probes  
445 designed for each gene to avoid any enrichment bias. Most instances of the Agilent SureSelect failing to  
446 detect a gene that was detected in samples enriched using only the poly(A)-enrichment or rRNA-,  
447 poly(A)-depletion was due to a lack of designed probes for the gene. Because the *B. malayi* annotation is  
448 currently being updated, the baits were designed with an older annotation than the one used for  
449 feature counting. Similarly, the bait design for wBm was based on the annotation published by Foster et  
450 al [18] while the annotation used for feature counting originated from GenBank (NC\_006833.1). In both  
451 cases, there were genes able to be detected with the poly(A)-enrichment or depletion, but not the  
452 Agilent SureSelect. Additionally, several genes were observed to have significantly higher expression  
453 values in the poly(A)-enrichment or rRNA, poly(A)-depletion samples compared to their Agilent  
454 SureSelect counterpart.

455 These results illustrate the power and advantages of using probe-based enrichment to facilitate the  
456 analysis of samples that are the most biologically relevant, like those in animal tissue at a biologically  
457 relevant multiplicity of infection. The Agilent SureSelect platform serves as a method to extract reads  
458 from a secondary or tertiary organism in a sample as well as to detect low abundance transcripts. Using  
459 this platform, we successfully extracted a sufficient number of reads to represent the *B. malayi* and  
460 wBm transcriptomes in the vector portion of the *B. malayi* life cycle, the *A. fumigatus* transcriptome in a  
461 mouse infection, and the wBm transcriptome in the mammalian portion of the *B. malayi* life cycle.  
462 Provided a transcriptome experiment has an adequate bait design, we believe the Agilent SureSelect  
463 platform to be ideal and necessary in enriching samples for multi-species transcriptomic experiments,  
464 especially those in which secondary organisms are of low abundance.

465

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## 470 **Author Contributions**

471 MC and JCDH wrote the manuscript. LT, HL, SL, NK, XZ, and REB performed sample preparation, library  
472 construction, capture experiments, and/or sequencing. MC and AS conducted bioinformatic data  
473 analysis. LJT, LS, CMF, DAR, JMF, VMB, and JCDH were involved in study design and data interpretation.  
474 SGF and MLM provided samples. All authors read, edited, and approved the manuscript.

## 475 **Competing Financial Interests Statement**

476 We have no competing financial interest.

## 477 **Data availability**

478 The data set(s) supporting the results of this article are available in the Sequence Read Archive (SRA)  
479 repository. The *B. malayi* datasets are available in SRP068692, the wBm datasets are available in  
480 SRP068711, and the *A. fumigatus* datasets are available in PRJNA421149.

481

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539 **Figure Legends**

540 **Figure 1. Sample and library preparation**

541 This schematic illustrates the sample (auburn rectangle) and library (blue rectangle) preparation  
542 workflow terminating in the libraries that were loaded on the Illumina sequencer. **(a)** For *B. malayi* and  
543 *A. fumigatus*, a poly(A)-selected sample was created from an aliquot of total RNA that was used to  
544 create a poly(A)-selected library. **(b)** The *B. malayi* or *A. fumigatus* Agilent SureSelect (AgSS) baits were  
545 subsequently used to capture the targeted RNA from poly(A)-selected libraries. **(c)** For AgSS-enriched  
546 wBm libraries, an RNA library was constructed from an aliquot of total RNA that underwent targeted  
547 enrichment with the *Wolbachia* AgSS baits. Unlike the eukaryotic enrichments, the bacterial AgSS  
548 capture is performed on total RNA. For a limited number of libraries described in the text, an RNA library  
549 was constructed from an aliquot of total RNA (i.e. without poly(A)-enrichment) that underwent targeted  
550 enrichment with the *Brugia* AgSS baits. **(d)** For poly(A)/rRNA-depleted libraries enriched for wBm, an  
551 aliquot of total RNA from either mosquito thoraces or adult nematodes was enriched for bacterial  
552 mRNA by removing Gram-negative and human rRNAs with two RiboZero removal kits and  
553 polyadenylated RNAs with DynaBeads.

554 **Figure 2. Comparison of the poly(A)-enriched to the poly(A)-enriched Agilent**  
555 **SureSelect *B. malayi* transcriptomes from 18 hpi, 4 dpi, and 8 dpi vector life**  
556 **stages**

557 **(a)** A principal component analysis (PCA) plot was generated using the  $\log_2$  TPM values for the poly(A)-  
558 enriched only (circles) and poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect (triangles) *B. malayi* from 18 hpi (red), 4  
559 dpi (green), and 8 dpi (blue) vector samples. The size of each symbol denotes the number of reads  
560 mapped to protein-coding genes for each sample. The samples cluster based on *B. malayi* sample rather  
561 than by the enrichment method, indicating the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect does not  
562 substantially differ from its poly(A)-enrichment only counterpart in representing the *B. malayi*  
563 transcriptome for the shown samples. Samples with the lowest number of reads (e.g. the 18 hpi

564 samples) cluster further from their replicates than expected, likely attributed to an insufficient number  
565 of reads and indicating that enrichment is most desirable in these situations. **(b)** For each sample, the  
566  $\log_2$  TPM values for genes in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect samples were plotted against the  
567  $\log_2$  TPM values for genes in the poly(A)-enrichment only samples when expression was observed with  
568 both enrichment methods for the sample. Genes with similar expression in the Agilent SureSelect and  
569 the poly(A)-enrichment samples are expected to lie close to the identity line ( $x=y$ ; red). Genes whose  
570 expression values are more elevated in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect sample compared to the  
571 poly(A)-enrichment sample lie below the identity line while genes more elevated in the poly(A)-  
572 enrichment compared to the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect lie above the identity line. **(c)** For all  
573 genes expressed using both enrichment methods for each sample, the frequency distribution of the  $\log_2$ -  
574 transformed ratio of the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect TPM to the poly(A) enrichment TPM was  
575 plotted. Genes with  $\log_2$  ratio values  $>0$  have higher expression values in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
576 SureSelect sample while  $\log_2$  ratio values  $<0$  are representative of genes with higher expression values  
577 with the poly(A) enrichment. Significantly biased genes were defined as those differentiating by  $>3$   
578 standard deviations (red) from the mean of the  $\log_2$ -transformed ratio values (red). Across each  
579 comparison, the number of genes with significantly elevated expression in the Agilent SureSelect  
580 comprised at most 0.31% of the total number of *B. malayi* protein-coding genes while the number of  
581 genes with significantly elevated expression in the poly(A)-enrichment samples comprised at most  
582 1.52% of *B. malayi* protein-coding genes.

583 **Figure 3. Comparison of the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted to the total RNA Agilent**  
584 **SureSelect wBm transcriptomes from the female 24 dpi and adult *B. malayi* life**  
585 **stages**

586 **(a)** A principal component analysis of the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted (triangle) and total RNA Agilent  
587 SureSelect (circle) wBm transcriptome from three samples of the *B. malayi* gerbil life stage was  
588 conducted, with one sample from female 24 dpi *B. malayi* (red) and two samples from adult female *B.*

589 *malayi* (blue). The size of each point is relative to the number of reads mapped to protein-coding genes  
590 for each sample. In this instance, the samples no longer cluster based on the sample type. Instead, the  
591 samples distinctly cluster apart based on enrichment method, most likely due to the smaller number of  
592 reads present in samples lacking the Agilent SureSelect capture. Consistent with this, the sample with  
593 the fewest reads, one of the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted adult females, is most distant. The three samples  
594 enriched using the Agilent SureSelect cluster together, possibly indicating the similarity of wBm  
595 transcriptomes originating from female 24 dpi and adult *B. malayi*. **(b)** For each sample, the  $\log_2$  TPM  
596 values for genes detected with the Agilent SureSelect capture on total RNA were plotted against the  $\log_2$   
597 TPM values for genes detected with the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion when a gene was detected in both  
598 enrichments. Genes with similar expression in both the total RNA Agilent SureSelect and the rRNA-,  
599 poly(A)-depleted samples are expected to lie close to the identity line ( $x=y$ ; red). Genes whose  
600 expression values are more elevated in the total RNA Agilent SureSelect compared to the rRNA-, poly(A)-  
601 depletion lie below the identity line while genes more elevated in the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion  
602 compared to the total RNA Agilent SureSelect lie above the identity line. **(c)** The frequency distribution  
603  $\log_2$ -transformed ratio of the total RNA Agilent SureSelect TPM to the rRNA- and poly(A)-depleted TPM  
604 for each gene detected in both enrichment methods was plotted. The blue, dashed line indicates the  
605 mean  $\log_2$ -transformed ratio while the red dashed line marks two standard deviations from the mean  
606  $\log_2$ -transformed ratio. Genes with  $\log_2$  ratio values  $>2$  standard deviations above or below the mean  
607 were marked as biased towards the rRNA-, poly(A)-depletion, total RNA Agilent SureSelect or the rRNA-,  
608 poly(A)-depletion, respectively. Across all 9 comparisons, an average of  $\sim 2.9$  genes were detected with  
609 significantly higher expression with the total RNA Agilent SureSelect while an average of  $\sim 7.1$  genes had  
610 significantly higher expression in the rRNA-, poly(A)-depleted samples.

611 **Figure 4. Comparison of the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect to the total RNA**  
612 **Agilent SureSelect *B. malayi* transcriptomes from 18 hpi and 8 dpi vector life**  
613 **stages**

614 (a) For both the 18 hpi and 8 dpi vector samples, the  $\log_2$  TPM values for each *B. malayi* gene detected  
615 in both the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect and the total RNA Agilent SureSelect were plotted  
616 against one another. Most genes in both plots fall along the identity line ( $y=x$ ; red), indicating their  
617 similar expression values in both the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect and the total RNA Agilent  
618 SureSelect libraries. (b) A histogram of the  $\log_2$  ratios of the poly(A)-enriched Agilent SureSelect TPM to  
619 the total RNA Agilent SureSelect TPM was generated for each sample using all genes detected with both  
620 enrichment methods. The blue dashed line marks the average  $\log_2$  ratio value while the red lines mark  
621 three standard deviations from the average  $\log_2$  ratio. Genes with  $\log_2$  ratio values  $>3$  standard  
622 deviations above the average are marked as significantly elevated in the poly(A)-enriched Agilent  
623 SureSelect while genes with  $\log_2$  ratio values  $>3$  standard deviations below the average are marked as  
624 significantly elevated in the total RNA Agilent SureSelect samples. For both the library preparations,  
625  $\leq 1.4\%$  (155 genes) of protein-coding genes are biased towards a single enrichment method, indicating  
626 no significant bias towards an enrichment.

627 **Figure 5. Scatter plot of the percentage of poly(A)-enrichment or depletion**  
628 **reads mapped against the fold enrichment value observed using the Agilent**  
629 **SureSelect follows a power law**

630 The fold enrichment value for each sample used in the poly(A)-enrichment/depletion versus Agilent  
631 SureSelect comparisons for *B. malayi* (red), *A. fumigatus* (blue), and wBm (green) was calculated by  
632 taking the ratio of the percentage of Agilent SureSelect reads mapped to the percentage of poly(A)-  
633 enrichment/depletion reads mapped. The relationship between these fold enrichment values and the  
634 percentage of the poly(A)-enrichment/depletion reads mapped to the reference genome can be fitted  
635 to a power law. The inversely proportional relationship between the Agilent SureSelect fold enrichment  
636 values and the percentage of reads mapped using the percentage of reads mapped using the poly(A)-

637 enrichment/depletion indicates that the fold enrichment conferred using the Agilent SureSelect  
638 platform exponentially increases with the exponential decrease of the percentage of reads mapped  
639 using the standard enrichment/depletion methods until an ~1300-fold enrichment.  
640

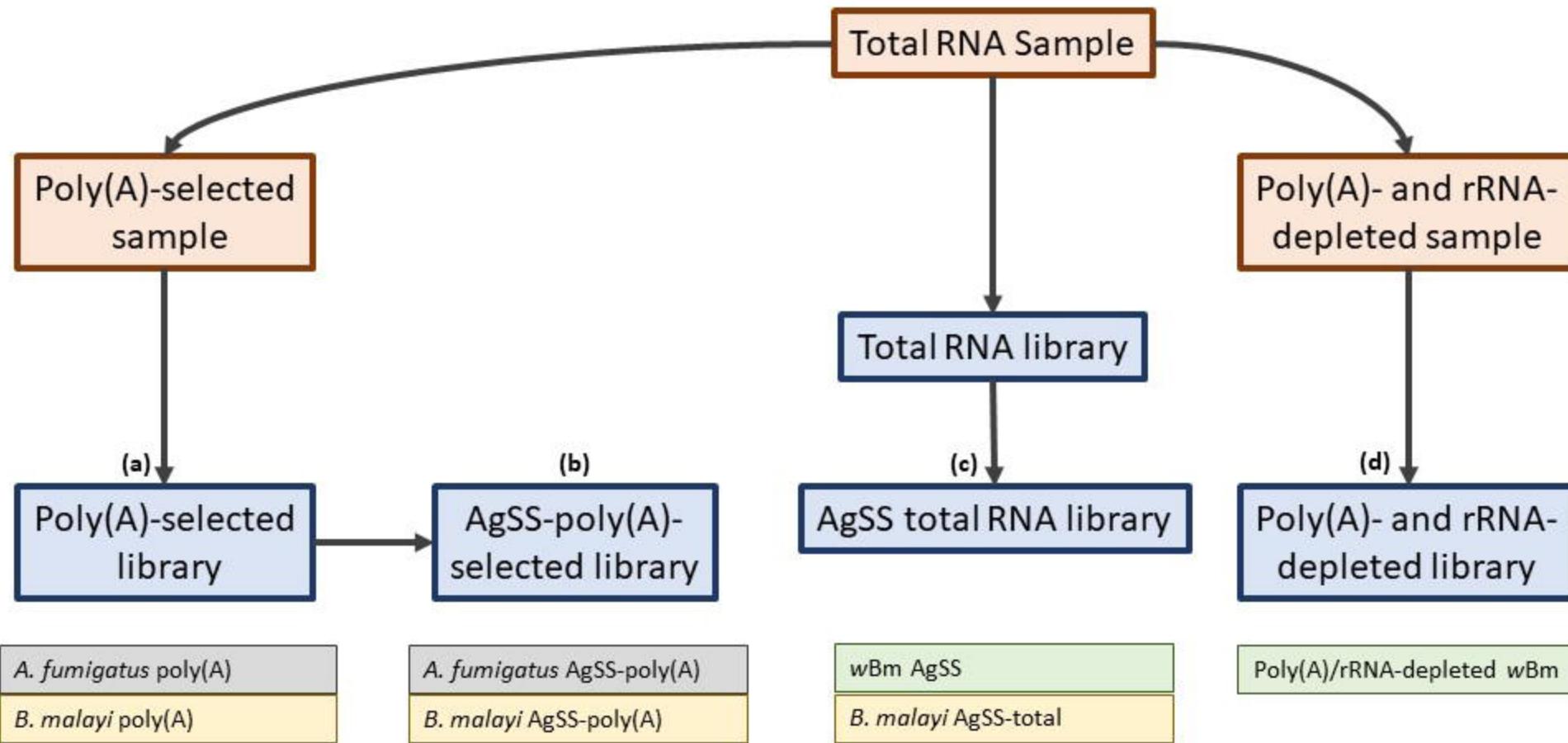
641 **Supplementary Files**

642 **Supplementary Table 1: RNA-Seq statistics for poly(A)-enriched Agilent**  
643 **SureSelect and poly(A)-enrichment libraries from *B. malayi* samples collected**  
644 **following infection of the mosquito vector**

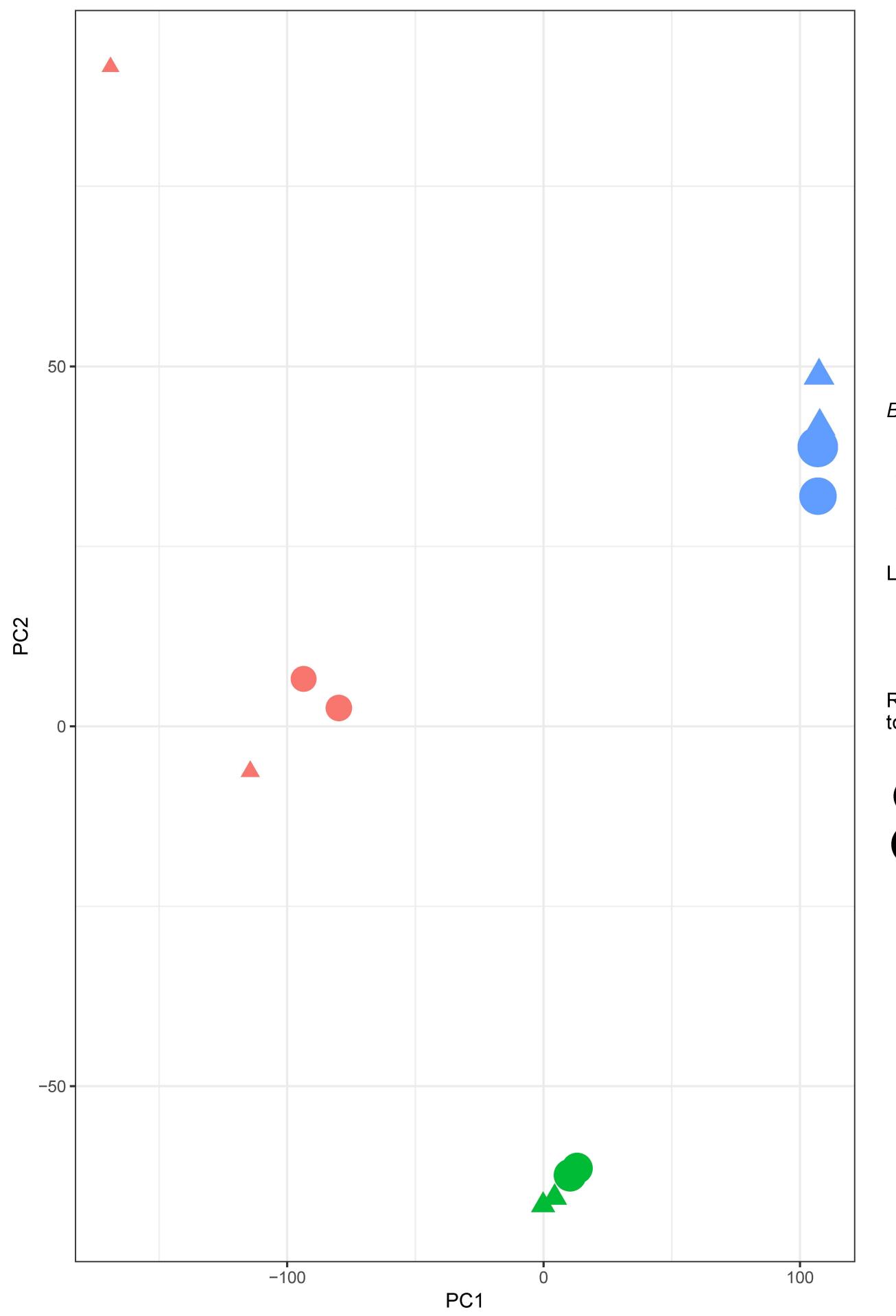
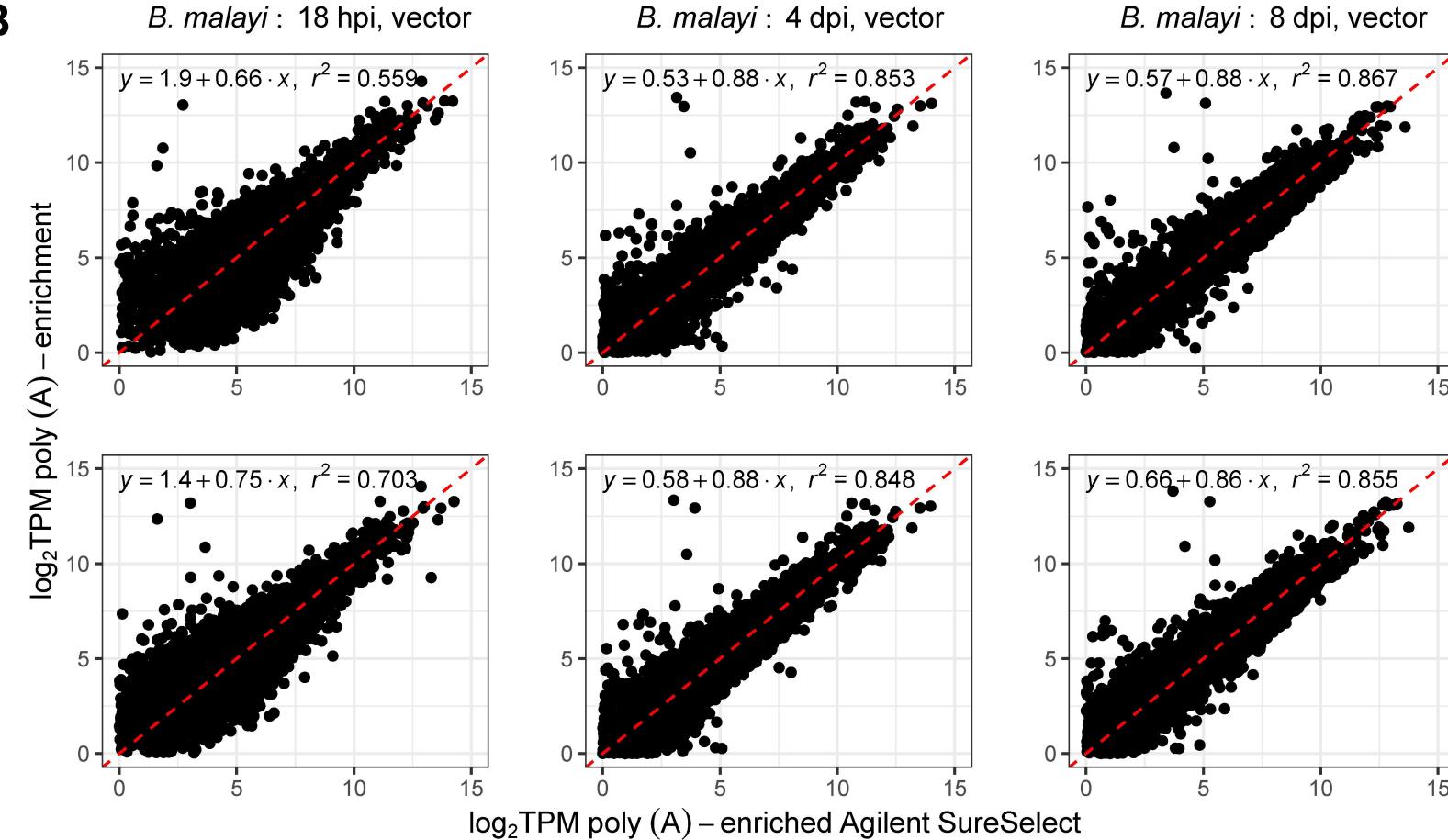
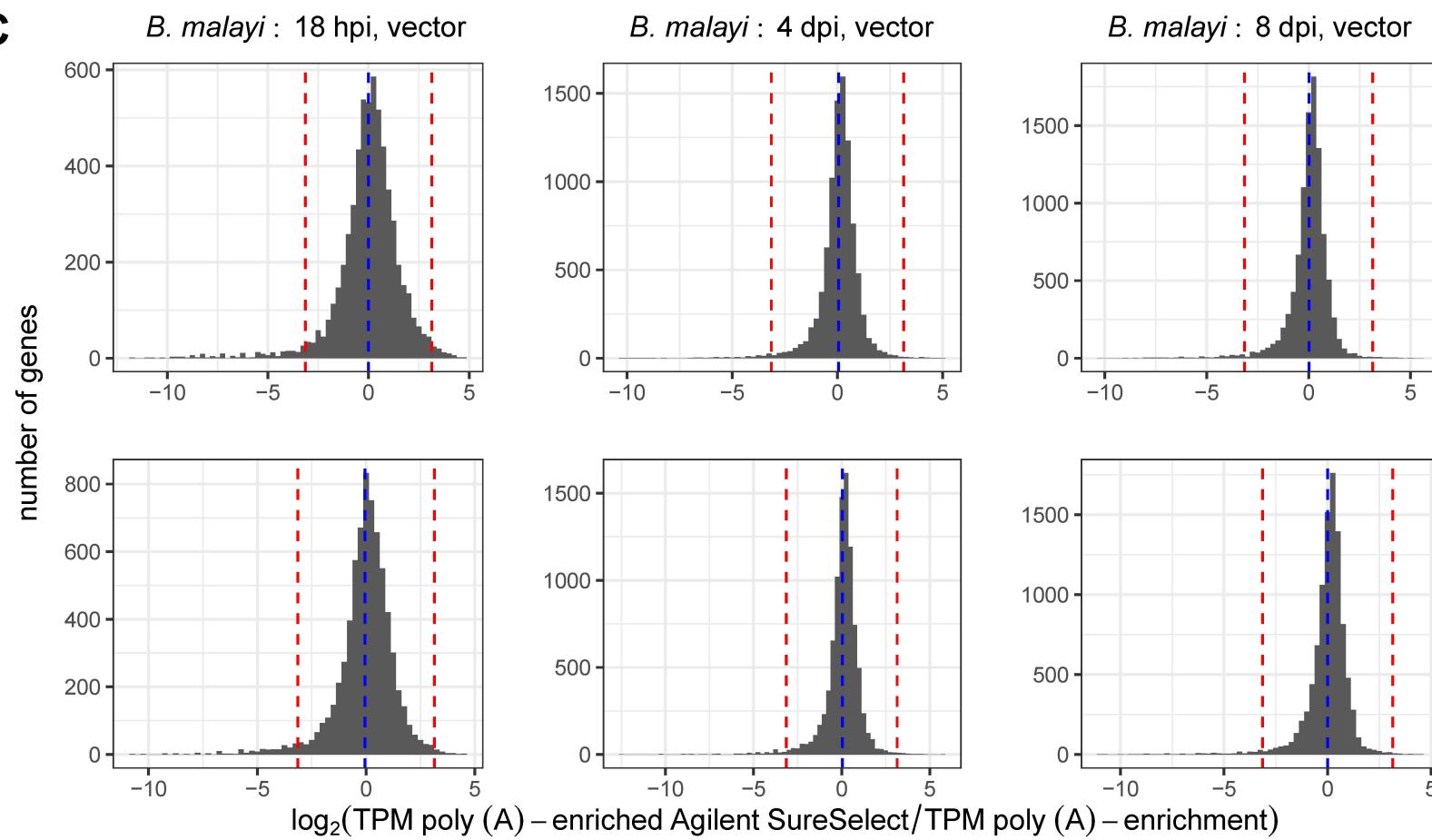
645 **Supplementary Table 2: RNA-Seq statistics for Agilent SureSelect and poly(A)-**  
646 **enrichment libraries from *A. fumigatus***

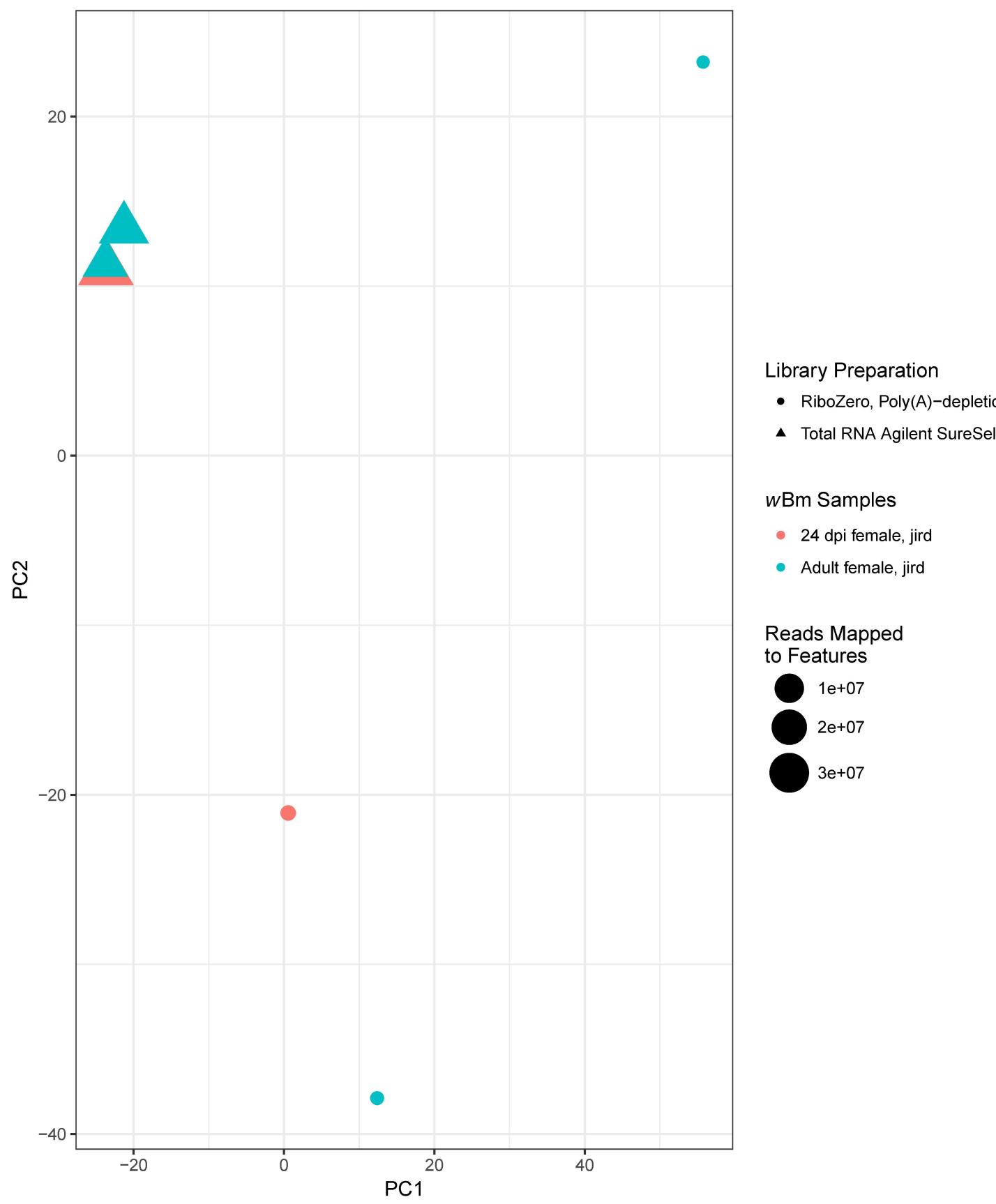
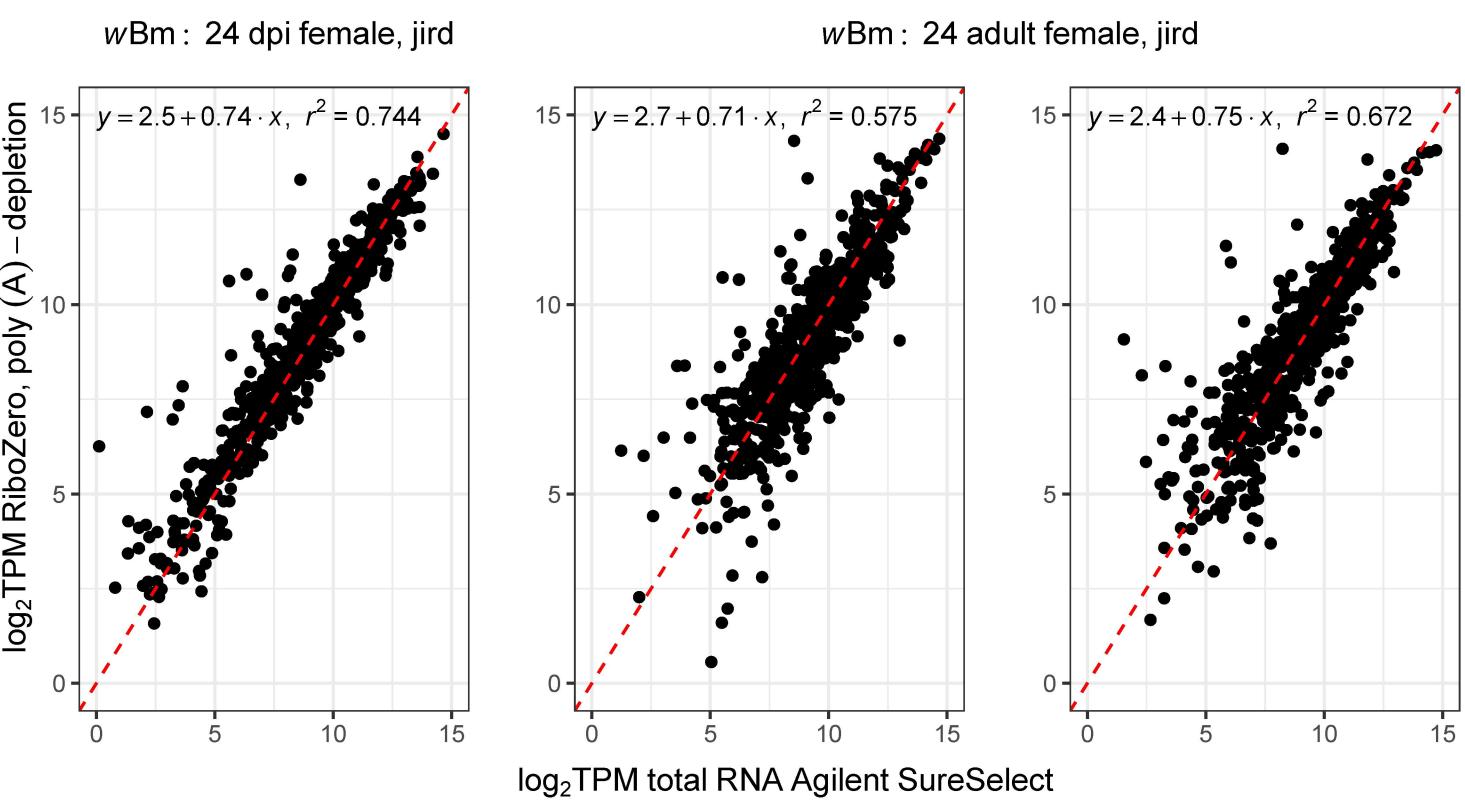
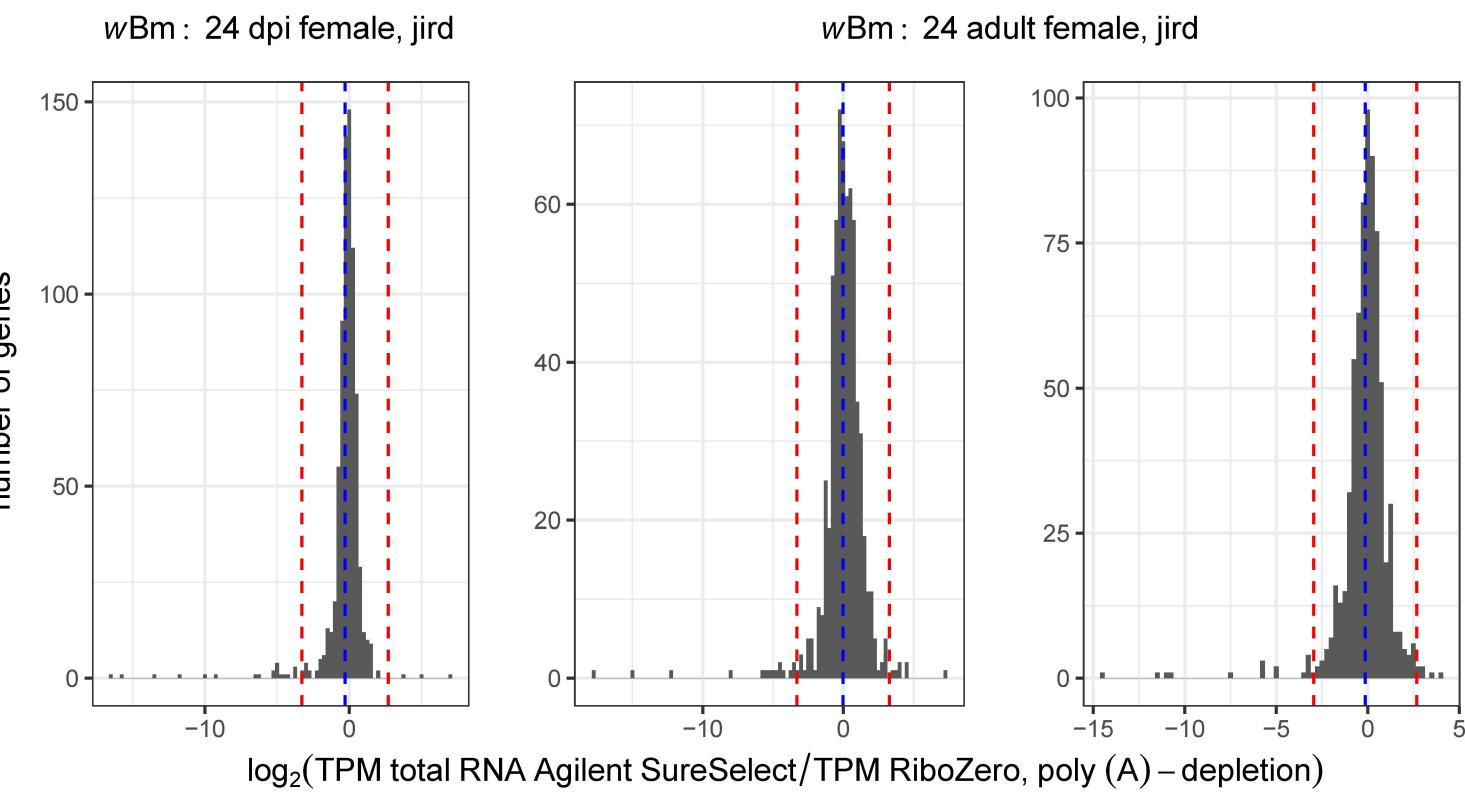
647 **Supplementary Table 3: RNA-Seq statistics for Agilent SureSelect and rRNA-,**  
648 **poly(A)-depletion libraries from *wBm***

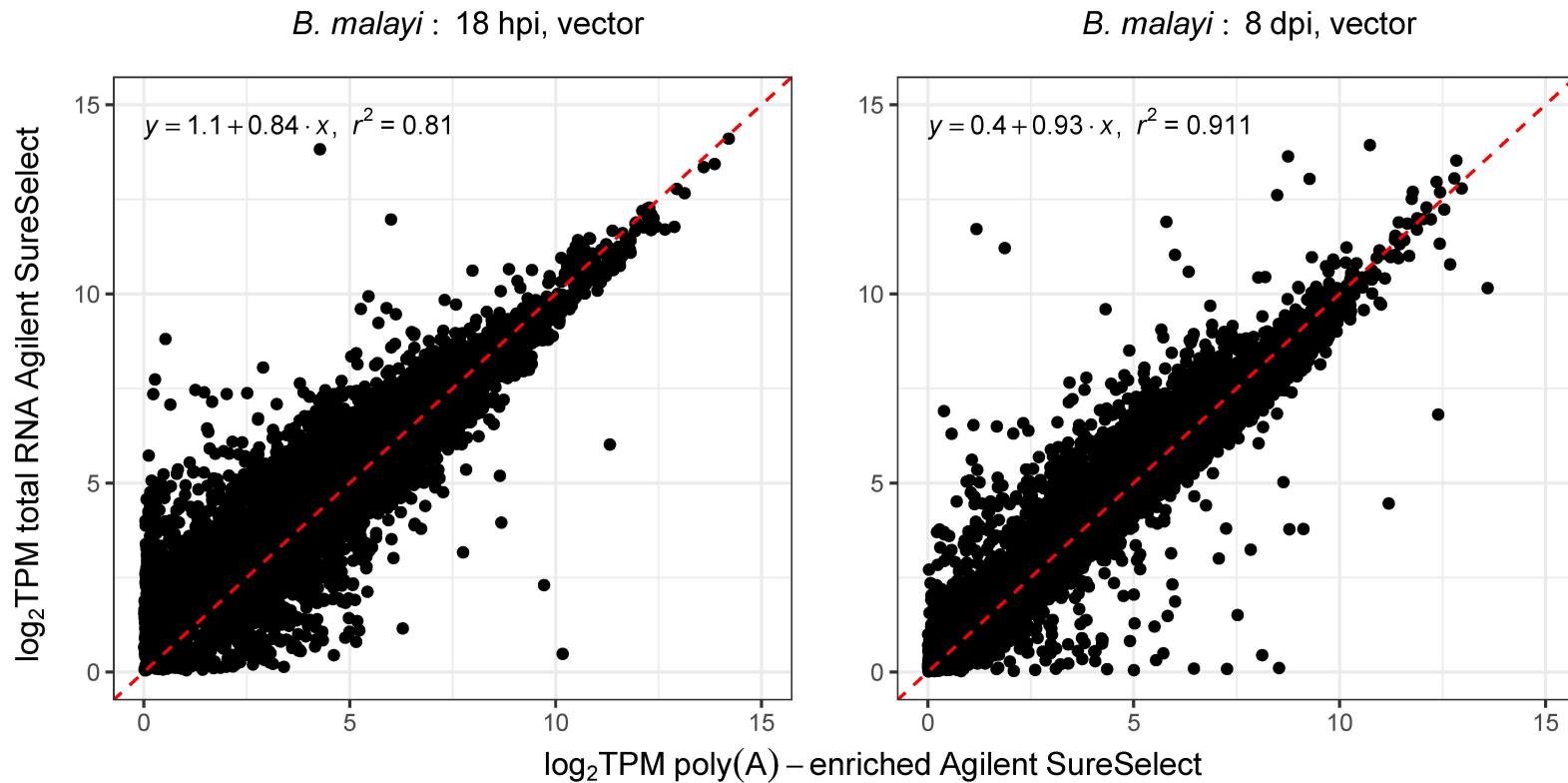
649 **Supplementary Table 4: RNA-Seq statistics for *B. malayi* transcriptome data**  
650 **using Agilent SureSelect with total RNA or poly(A)-enriched RNA**



Target Organism	Method 1	Method 2	Comparison	Sample type
<i>Brugia</i>	Poly(A)-selected	AgSS-poly(A)-selected	Poly(A) v. AgSS-poly(A)	Mosquito thoraces & Adult worms
<i>Aspergillus</i>	Poly(A)-selected	AgSS-poly(A)-selected	Poly(A) v. AgSS-poly(A)	Mouse tissue
<i>Wolbachia</i>	Poly(A)/rRNA-depleted	AgSS-total	Poly(A)/rRNA-depleted v. AgSS-total	Mosquito thoraces & Adult worms
<i>Brugia</i>	AgSS-poly(A)-selected	AgSS-total	AgSS-poly(A) v. AgSS-total	Mosquito thoraces

**A****B****C**

**A****B****C**

**A****B**