**Table S2** Expression values (Cq) of 15 candidate reference genes in *Populus tomentosa*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | CK | 3 days | 6 days | 9 days |
| miR1444b | 26.16 | 24.19 | 25.84 | 27.55 |
| miR156a | 29.24 | 28.61 | 29.70 | 28.11 |
| miR156g | 27.92 | 26.86 | 28.16 | 26.53 |
| miR172a | 29.90 | 28.85 | 31.48 | 27.40 |
| miR172b-5p | 28.96 | 27.80 | 29.50 | 26.09 |
| miR172d | 29.84 | 28.74 | 31.21 | 27.32 |
| miR390a | 29.94 | 29.63 | 28.87 | 26.60 |
| miR390d-3p | 29.28 | 28.11 | 28.08 | 27.39 |
| miR397a | 33.32 | 30.92 | 30.99 | 30.25 |
| miR399f | 32.69 | 33.45 | 33.99 | 31.97 |
| miR408-3p | 33.55 | 33.54 | 33.25 | 32.70 |
| miR6421-3p | 34.13 | 33.93 | 32.92 | 33.81 |
| miR159a | 29.99 | 26.64 | 28.89 | 26.25 |
| 5.8S rRNA | 24.13 | 21.33 | 23.92 | 21.01 |
| miR6427-3p | 27.96 | 27.38 | 27.65 | 26.36 |

Note: CK denotes the mock-inoculation