**Table S2**

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| **Strain/isolate** | **Species** | **Biovar** | **Description** |
| 2308 | *B. abortus* | 1 | Highly virulent strain recovered in 1940 from an aborted fetus of a cow that had been in contact with cattle experimentally infected with a mixture of *B. abortus* cultures. Widely used within the brucellosis research community. |
| S19 | *B. abortus* | 1 | Vaccine strain S19 (spontaneously attenuated strain; used as a vaccine for the control of cattle brucellosis). |
| RB51 | *B. abortus* | 1 | Vaccine strain (genetically stable. rough morphology mutant). Derived from strain 2308. Rifampicin resistant. |
| 97-4775-11 | *B. abortus* | 1 | Isolated from a bovine in 1997 (France, Dept. 54) |
| 75-17 | *B. abortus* | 3 | Isolated from a cow (France, Dept.35) |
| 83-227 | *B. abortus* | 3 | Isolated from a bovine (Rwanda) |
| 83-233 | *B. abortus* | 3 | Isolated from a bovine (Niger) |
| 79-153 | *B. abortus* | 3 | Isolated from a bovine (Senegal) |
| 82-41 | *B. abortus* | 3 | Isolated from a bovine (Guinée-Bissau, Africa) |
| 99-9971-135 | *B. abortus* | 7 | Isolated in a bovine in 1988 (Mongolia). Proposed new reference strain for *B. abortus* biovar 7 [5] |
| 03-4923-239-D | *B. abortus* | 7 | Isolated in a bovine in 2003 (Turkey) [5] |
| 77-9 | *B. abortus* | 9 | Isolated from a cow (Region Nord, France) |
| 80-133 | *B. abortus* | 9 | Isolated from a dog (Belgium) |
| Mex 51 | *B. canis* |   | Isolated from a dog lymph node (Mexico). Also identified as NCTC11365 |
| 36/94 | *B. ceti* |   | Isolated from a harbour porpoise (Inverness, Scotland) [6] |
| F5/99 | *B. ceti* |   | Obtained from the aborted fetus of a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in California in 1992. Also known as NVSL-92-1350 [7] |
| UK3/05 | *B. ceti* |   | Isolated from a striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) in Scotland. Also known as M13/05/1 [8] |
| 75-3 | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Clinical isolate (Spain) |
| 78-158 | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Isolated from a sheep (Vienne, France) |
| 88-44 | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Clinical isolate (Israel) |
| 1109 | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Clinical isolate from a 74-yr old patient travelling back from India in 2013 (Nimes, France). *B. melitensis* biovar 1 "Indian type" |
| Rev1 | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Vaccine strain (resistant to streptomycin; efficient vaccine for the prophylaxis of brucellosis in small ruminants). |
| 16M+GFP | *B. melitensis* | 1 | Strain 16M transformed with a prokaryotic expression vector encoding GFP (lab-generated fluorescent strain for research). |
| 72-59 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Isolated from a goat (France, Dept.38) |
| 77-47 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Clinical isolate (France, Dept. 83) |
| 78-13 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Isolated from a goat (France, Dept.74) |
| 81-44 | *B. melitensis* | 3 |  |
| 81-140 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Clinical isolate (France, Corsica) |
| 82-73 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Clinical isolate (France, Dept. 31) |
| 82-87 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Clinical isolate (Portugal) |
| 90-129 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Isolated from a bovine (Greece) |
| 91-244 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Isolated from a sheep (Tunisia) |
| 79-185 | *B. melitensis* | 3 | Clinical isolate (Spain) |
| CCM4915 | *B. microti* |  | *Brucella microti* type strain (BCCN 07-01). Isolated from a common vole *(Microtus arvalis)* [9] |
| 5K33 | *B. neotomae* |   | *Brucella neotomae* type strain (ATCC 23459). Isolated from a desert wood rat in the USA [10] |
| 76250 | *B. ovis* |   |   |
| 91268 | *B. ovis* |   |   |
| 91212 | *B. ovis* |   |   |
| 56/94 | *B. pinnipedialis* |   | Isolated from a hooded seal (Inverness, Scotland) [6] |
| 96/408 | *B. pinnipedialis* |   | Isolated from a harbour seal (Washington state, USA). Also named F8/99 [7] |
| UK9/99 | *B. pinnipedialis* |   | Isolated from a hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) in Scotland. Also know as M163/99/10 [8] |
| 04-1361Sisak-4 | *B. suis* | 1 | Isolated from a wild boar in 2004 (Croatia) |
| 15/95 | *Brucella sp.* |   | Isolated from a common seal (Inverness, Scotland). Suspected to belong to the species *B. pinnipedialis* (based on its host and CO2 requirement). |
| 49/94 | *Brucella sp.* |   | Isolated from a white-sided dolphin (Inverness, Scotland). Suspected to belong to the species *B. ceti* (based on its host and CO2 requirement). |
| NF2637 | *Brucella sp.* |   | Atypical strains isolated from wild rodents in Australia [11] |
| NF2653 | *Brucella sp.* |   | Atypical strains isolated from wild rodents in Australia [11] |
| 02/611 | *Brucella sp.* |   | Clinical strain from a 43-yr old patient with osteomyelitis in 2002 (New Zealand). Molecular analysis identified this strain as *B. ceti*-like patient with osteomyelitis. Also named F5/02 [12]. |
| B13-0095 | *Brucella sp.* |   | *B. inopinata*-like strain isolated from a PacMan frog (Texas, USA) [13] |
| ATCC48188 | *O. anthropi* |   | *Ochrobactrum anthropi* reference strain |
| LMG3301 | *O. intermedium* |   | *Ochrobactrum intermedium* type strain |

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