



than *Taq* polymerase)<sup>77–80</sup>. Uniform priming with random hexamers results in uniform amplification of all DNA within a sample. In contrast, SWGA takes advantage of the fact that every species has different mutational biases that create over- and under-represented sequence motifs within their genomes<sup>49</sup>. Motifs that are over-represented in the target microbial genome, but under-represented in the tick genome, are used to create primer sets (2–20 primers each 6–12bp in length) for  $\phi$ 29 reactions that amplify only the target microbial genome<sup>50</sup>. We have used these technologies to develop successful SWGA protocols to sequence a variety of microbial species without prior culturing including: *Wolbachia pipientis* (fruit flies)<sup>49</sup>, multiple *Plasmodium* species (primate blood)<sup>51</sup>, *Trypanosoma cruzi* (triatomine bug), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (human) and *B. burgdorferi* (ticks). Here we describe three representative cases. *W. pipientis* - a maternally-inherited bacterium in fruit flies - accounts for ~2% of MiSeq reads from genomic extracts of infected fruit flies<sup>49</sup>. Thus, 98% of reads are wasted on non-target DNA if *W. pipientis* is sequenced directly from fly genomic extracts. However, sequencing *W. pipientis* from the same fly extract after SWG amplification results in ~70% of sequencing reads mapping to *W.*

