The TaqMan qPCR assay was validated by: (a) testing with known mixtures of clonal DNA; and (b) comparing copy-number estimates for each *Symbiodinium* cell (North Bay colonies) with those obtained from the independent SYBR qPCR assay. TaqMan and SYBR qPCR methods gave highly congruent results, implying that the number of *ITS2* copies present within the genome that were not detected by either TaqMan probe was negligible.