Supplementary Table 2. Results of different algorithms to determine best reference gene for the gene expression assay in redheaded buntings (*Emberiza bruniceps*).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gene  Algorithm | *ba* | *hprt1* | *ppia* | Parameters to evaluate potential reference gene | Best reference gene |
| Best Keeper | std dev [± CP] | | | std dev [± CP] <1  std dev [± x-fold]<2 | *ba* |
| 0.98 | 1.99 | 2.45 |
| std dev [± x-fold] | | |
| 0.98 | 3.97 | 5.46 |
| GeNorm | M (Stability value) | | | The lower M value, the better | *hprt1* |
| 0.107 | 0.094 | 0.132 |
| NormFinder | M (Stability value) | | | The lower M value, the better | *ba* |
| 0.050 | 0.096 | 0.085 |