

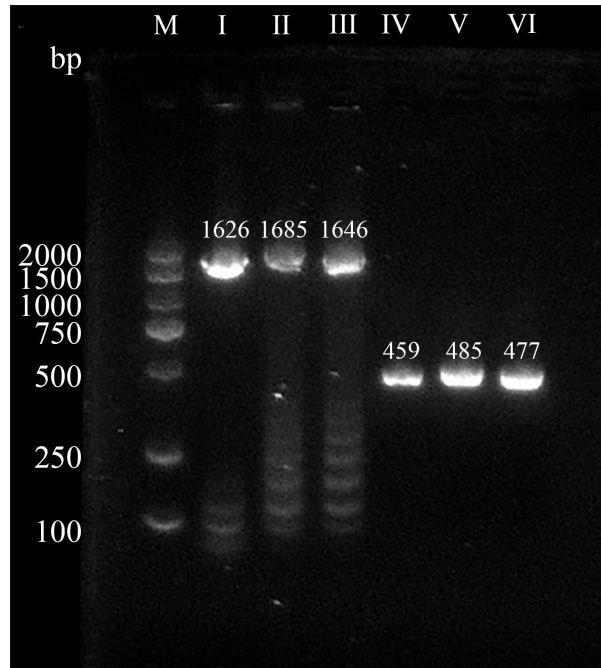


FIGURE S3 | PCR validation of the ciliate-specific primer pair CSv24F/CSv24R using genomic DNA from three unculturable ciliate species. Genomic DNA was provided by the Laboratory of Protozoology, Ocean University of China. Lanes I–III: positive controls amplified with the universal eukaryotic primers 82F/EUKB; lanes IV–VI: amplification with CSv24F/CSv24R. Templates were *Caenomorpha medusula* LS2015031901 (Armophorea; lanes I and IV), *Rhinakis faurei* SQH2023031301 (Nassophorea; lanes II and V), and *Chlamydodon bourlandi* WCC2018070401 (Phyllopharyngea; lanes III and VI). Expected amplicon sizes are indicated above the corresponding lanes.