

Supplementary Table 1. Descriptive statistic analyses of the transcriptional regulation of five candidate reference genes tested in five independent experimental conditions in apple, using the software BestKeeper. Absent data (-) corresponds to unviable calculations due to differentially regulated transcription under the given experimental conditions.

| Experiment | Plant organs | | Fruit developmental stage | | Fruit ripening at room temperature | | Ethylene treatment on cold stored apple | | Cold storage conditions | |
|--|---------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|---|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| | coeff. of corr. [r] | p-value | coeff. of corr. [r] | p-value | coeff. of corr. [r] | p-value | coeff. of corr. [r] | p-value | coeff. of corr. [r] | p-value |
| Candidate reference genes | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 0.863 | 0.338 | 0.957 | 0.001 | 0.734 | 0.003 | 0.893 | 0.001 | 0.722 | 0.001 |
| H1 | 0.595 | 0.594 | 0.795 | 0.001 | 0.748 | 0.002 | 0.763 | 0.010 | 0.750 | 0.001 |
| NAP1 | 0.995 | 0.191 | 0.817 | 0.001 | 0.916 | 0.001 | 0.920 | 0.001 | 0.590 | 0.006 |
| PDI | 1.00 | 0.003 | 0.974 | 0.001 | 0.611 | 0.020 | 0.605 | 0.006 | 0.900 | 0.001 |
| UBC | 0.987 | 0.104 | 0.949 | 0.001 | 0.741 | 0.002 | 0.861 | 0.001 | 0.890 | 0.001 |
| Candidate reference genes SD<1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | - | - | 0.957 | 0.001 | 0.734 | 0.003 | - | - | - | - |
| H1 | - | - | 0.795 | 0.001 | 0.748 | 0.002 | 0.853 | 0.002 | 0.883 | 0.001 |
| NAP1 | - | - | 0.817 | 0.001 | 0.916 | 0.001 | - | - | 0.754 | 0.001 |
| PDI | - | - | 0.974 | 0.001 | 0.611 | 0.020 | 0.913 | 0.001 | 0.856 | 0.001 |
| UBC | - | - | 0.949 | 0.001 | 0.741 | 0.002 | 0.986 | 0.001 | 0.817 | 0.001 |