

3 **Supplementary materials:**

4 **Supplementary Material 1. RNA extraction**

5 For RNA extraction, 250 $\mu$ L of blood or 250mg of the supernatant obtained from  
6 manually homogenized tissue (achieved by homogenizing the tissue with a micro pastel) was  
7 combined with 750 $\mu$ L of Trizol LS reagent (TRIZOL™ Reagent, Invitrogen™). The mix was  
8 vortexed for 1 minute and incubated at room temperature for 5 minutes. The mix was added  
9 with 200  $\mu$ L of chloroform, vortexed for 15 seconds, and incubated for 15 minutes before  
10 centrifugation at 12,000 x g for 15 minutes. The aqueous phase was transferred to a 1.5 ml  
11 microtube and added with 500  $\mu$ L isopropanol. The solution was incubated at room  
12 temperature for 10 minutes and centrifuged at 12,000 x g for 10 minutes. The supernatant was  
13 discarded, and 1000  $\mu$ L of 70% ethanol was added to the tube. The solution was then  
14 centrifuged at 7,500 x g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was discarded and air-dried for 10  
15 minutes. The RNA pellet was resuspended in 20 $\mu$ L of sterile distilled water and stored in the -  
16 20°C freezer until use.

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18 **Supplementary Material 2.  $\beta$ -actin qPCR**

19 Genomic  $\beta$ -actin was amplified from DNA samples under the following conditions:  
20 the reaction mixture contained a final concentration of 10  $\mu$ M of forward  
21 (GTSTGGATYGGHGGHTCBATC) and reverse (GAYTCRTCRTAYTCCTSCCTTG)  
22 primers, and the HEX-labeled probe (ACCTTCCAGCAGATGTGGATC) (Piorkowski et al.  
23 2014) prepared by mixing 20  $\mu$ L of 10  $\mu$ M forward primer, 20  $\mu$ L of 10  $\mu$ M reverse primer,  
24 and 3.75  $\mu$ L of 10  $\mu$ M probe. The qPCR cycling protocol for  $\beta$ -actin consisted of an initial  
25 denaturation at 95 °C for 5 min, and 45 cycles of 95 °C for 10 s, 50 °C for 20 s, and 72 °C for  
26 20 s.

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### 28 **Supplementary Material 3. Metabarcoding 16S rRNA gene analysis**

29         A metabarcoding 16S analysis was performed to explore the microbial composition  
30 present in the samples. This advanced analysis can detect the presence of other bacteria  
31 potentially involved in the epizootic, offering a more comprehensive view of the  
32 microbiological situation (Loman and al, 2013). High-throughput sequencing of the 16S  
33 rRNA gene (variable regions V3-V4) was performed by Novogene (Novogene 16S Amplicon  
34 QIIME2) on extracted DNA from blood and lung tissue samples (N=4), using specific primers  
35 (341F: CCTAYGGGRBGCASCAG, 806R: GGACTACNNGGGTATCTAAT). Briefly, PCR  
36 reactions were carried out with 15 µL of Phusion® High-Fidelity PCR Master Mix (New  
37 England Biolabs), 0.2 µM of forward and reverse primers, and 10 ng of template DNA.  
38 Thermal cycling consisted of initial denaturation at 98°C for 1 min, followed by 30 cycles of  
39 denaturation at 98°C for 10 s, annealing at 50°C for 30 s, and elongation at 72°C for 30 s, and  
40 a final elongation at 72°C for 5 min. The PCR products of proper size were selected through  
41 2% agarose gel electrophoresis.  
42 The same amounts of PCR products from each sample were pooled, end-repaired, A-tailed,  
43 and ligated with Illumina adapters using the TruSeq® DNA PCR-Free Sample Preparation  
44 Kit (Illumina, USA), following the manufacturer's recommendations. The library quality was  
45 checked with Qubit® 2.0 Fluorometer (Thermo Scientific) and real-time PCR for  
46 quantification, while a bioanalyzer (Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100) was used for size distribution  
47 detection. Quantified libraries were pooled and sequenced on an Illumina nextseq 2000  
48 platform to generate 250bp paired-end raw reads. Paired-end reads were assigned to samples  
49 based on their unique barcode and truncated by cutting off the barcode and primer sequence.  
50 Paired-end reads were merged using FLASH (V1.2. 1 1). To make the results of bioinformatic  
51 analysis more accurate and reliable, splicing and filtering of raw data were done to obtain

52 clean data using Fastp (Version 0.23.1) software. Based on clean data, DADA2 of QIIME2  
53 software (Version QIIME2-202202) was used for noise reduction and to obtain initial  
54 Amplicon Sequence Variants (ASVs). Representative sequences of each ASV were annotated  
55 to obtain the corresponding species information (QIIME2 software), and multiple sequence  
56 alignment was performed to study phylogenetic relationships and the differences in dominant  
57 species among samples. The top 10 taxa of each sample at each taxonomic rank (Phylum,  
58 Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species) were selected to plot the distribution histogram of  
59 relative abundance.

60 **References:**

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