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**ABBREVIATIONS**

The abbreviations and symbols used throughout this thesis.

$\alpha$	alpha
Asp	aspartic acid
bp	base pair
$\beta$	beta
BSA	bovine serum albumin
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	degree Celsius
$\Delta$	delta
$\delta$	delta
dNTPs	deoxynucleotides triphosphates
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
ddNTPs	dideoxynucleotides triphosphates
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
$\epsilon$	epsilon
EtOH	ethanol
EDTA	ethelene diamine tetraacetate
$\gamma$	gamma
Gln	glutamic acid

g	gram
Hb	haemoglobin
His	histidine
hr	hour
HCl	hydrochloric acid
kb	kilobase
kdal	kilodalton
L	litre
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	magnesium chloride
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	magnesium sulfate
μg	microgram
μl	microlitre
mg	milligram
ml	millilitre
mM	millimolar
min	minute
M	molar
nm	nanometre
nmole	nanomole
%	percent
pmole	picomole

$\psi$	pseudo
OFT	osmotic fragility test
rpm	revolution per minute
sec	second
NaCl	sodium chloride
VentR <sup>®</sup> DNA polymerase	<i>Thermococcus litoralis</i> DNA polymerase
<i>Taq</i> DNA polymerase	<i>Thermus aquaticus</i> DNA polymerase
Tris	Trishydroxymethyl aminomethane
Tris-HCl	Trishydroxymethyl aminomethane solution adjusted pH with HCl
<i>Taq</i> 2 $\Delta$ buffer	modified <i>Thermus aquaticus</i> DNA polymerase buffer containing 2-mercaptoethanol and heat-inactivated BSA
UV	ultraviolet
U	unit
V	volt
vol	volume
$\zeta$	zeta