Table 4. Comparison of bacterial numbers in the rhizosphere quantified in this study with a selection of studies reported in the literature using other methods.

Reference	Organisms	Bacterial cells or colony-forming units				Plant and growth conditions	Quantification method
		Per cm root	Per g soil	Per cm^3 root	Per mm^2 root		
This study[a]	Total bacteria *Pseudomonas* Filamentous	2.6×10^5 2.5×10^4 1.0×10^4	4.42×10^7 4.2×10^6 1.7×10^6	1.3×10^8 1.3×10^7 5.0×10^6	1.7×10^4 1.6×10^3 6.3×10^2	Wheat seminal roots, field	FISH, confocal microscopy
Briones *et al.* (2002)	Bacteria			4.0×10^8		Rice, flooded in soil in pots	FISH, confocal microscopy
Lübeck *et al.* (2000)	Bacteria				1.8×10^5	Sugar beet, soil in pots	FISH, confocal microscopy
Watt *et al.* (2003)	Bacteria	2×10^6 (base) to 2×10^7 (tip)				Wheat seminal roots, field	DAPI (bacteria)
	Pseudomonas	1×10^4 (base) to 1.5×10^5 (tip)					*Pseudomonas* (culturing)
van Vuurde and Schippers (1980)		2×10^4 (tip) to 2×10^5 (base)				Wheat, soil, pot	Culturing
Simpfendorfer *et al.* (2002)	Aerobic bacteria *Pseudomonas* Filamentous			8.6×10^7 8.0×10^6 8.0×10^6		Wheat, field	Culturing
Gochnauer *et al.* (1989)	Total viable bacteria *Pseudomonas* Filamentous			10^9 7.5×10^7 (sheathed roots) 3.9×10^7 (bare roots) 0 (sheathed roots) 3.1×10^5 (bare roots)		Maize, field	Culturing
Persello-Cartieaux *et al.* (2001)	*Pseudomonas* inoculated into growth medium	4×10^4 to 10^6				*Arabidopsis*, phytagel, soil	Culturing, microscopy of GFP-labelled bacteria
Chin-A-Woeng *et al.* (1997)	*Pseudomonas* inoculated onto germinated seed	10^5 (tip) to 10^6 (base)				Tomato, sand	Electron microscopy

a. Bacteria were expressed in a range of units by estimating root and rhizosphere diameter and volume, and dry weights to compare with other published values.