



## Molecular identification of *Entamoeba* species in savanna woodland chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*)

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Key Words:	Entamoeba, molecular diversity, chimpanzee, savanna, great apes

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2 ***troglodytes schweinfurthii*)**

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27 **Running title:** *Entamoeba* species in savanna chimpanzees

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43 **Summary:** To address the molecular diversity and occurrence of pathogenic species of the  
44 genus *Entamoeba* spp. in wild non-human primates (NHP) we conducted molecular-  
45 phylogenetic analyses on *Entamoeba* from wild chimpanzees living in the Issa Valley,  
46 Tanzania. We compared the sensitivity of molecular (using a genus-specific PCR) and  
47 coproscopic detection (merthiolate-iodine-formaldehyde concentration) of *Entamoeba* spp.  
48 We identified *Entamoeba* spp. in 72 chimpanzee faecal samples (79 %) subjected to species-  
49 specific PCRs for six *Entamoeba* species/groups (*E. histolytica*, *E. nuttalli*, *E. dispar*, *E.*  
50 *moshkovskii*, *E. coli*, and *E. polecki* ST2). We recorded three *Entamoeba* species: *E. coli* (47  
51 %), *E. dispar* (16 %), *E. hartmanni* (51 %). Coproscopically we could only distinguish the  
52 cysts of complex *E. histolytica/dispar/moshkovskii/nuttalli* and *E. coli*. Molecular prevalence  
53 of entamoebas was higher than the prevalence based on the coproscopic examination. Our  
54 molecular phylogenies showed that sequences of *E. dispar* and *E. coli* from Issa chimpanzees  
55 are closely related to sequences from humans and other NHP from GenBank. The results  
56 showed that wild chimpanzees harbour *Entamoeba* species similar to those occurring in  
57 humans; however, no pathogenic species were detected. Molecular-phylogenetic methods are  
58 critical to improve diagnostics of entamoebas in wild NHP and for determining an accurate  
59 prevalence of *Entamoeba* species.

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61 **Key words:** *Entamoeba*, molecular diversity, great apes, chimpanzee, savanna

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66 **Key findings:**

- 67     ▪ first molecular survey of *Entamoeba* spp. in wild great apes
- 68     ▪ *E. coli*, *E. dispar*, and *E. hartmanni* recorded in wild eastern chimpanzees
- 69     ▪ *E. dispar* and *E. coli* closely related to other sequences from non-human primates and
- 70         humans
- 71     ▪ no pathogenic species of *Entamoeba* recorded
- 72     ▪ molecular methods more sensitive than coproscopic ones for detection of entamoebas

73

74 **Introduction**

75         Protists represent important model organisms for studying parasite transmission between

76 non-human primates (NHP) and humans, primarily because of high genetic diversity, lower

77 host specificity, and life cycles that facilitate their transmission (Pedersen et al., 2005). Yet to

78 date, few studies have been conducted on the molecular diversity of protists in populations of

79 wild African great apes (Petrášová et al., 2011; Sak et al., 2013, 2014). Given that humans

80 increasingly encroach upon wild primate habitats (Chapman and Lambert, 2000),

81 understanding the biology and diversity of potentially zoonotic protists is an important part of

82 One Health approach in conservation medicine (<http://www.onehealthinitiative.com>).

83         Cysts of the amoebas of the genus *Entamoeba* are commonly detected in faecal samples

84 of wild NHPs, including chimpanzees, by light microscopy following concentration

85 coproscopic methods (e.g. Ashford et al., 2000; Lilly et al., 2000; Muehlenbein, 2005;

86 Howells et al., 2011; Kooriyama et al., 2012; Kalousová et al., 2014). However, it is difficult

87 if not impossible to differentiate the pathogenic (*Entamoeba histolytica* and *Entamoeba*

88 *nutalli*) from the non-pathogenic species (specifically *Entamoeba dispar* and *Entamoeba*

89 *moshkovskii*), as all the above mentioned species form morphologically indistinguishable

90 cysts with four nuclei (Kebede et al., 2004; Visser et al., 2006). Only molecular techniques  
91 allow distinguishing commensal species from species with confirmed pathogenicity  
92 (Tachibana et al., 2000; Verweij et al., 2001; Stensvold et al., 2010). Moreover, the  
93 distribution of *E. histolytica* and *E. nutalli* remains poorly explored, as they are only recently  
94 separated from each other and known both from NHP and humans (Tachibana et al., 2007,  
95 2009, 2015; Levecke et al., 2010, 2015; Stensvold et al., 2010)

96 Several studies have used molecular tools for studying of *Entamoeba* spp. in captive  
97 NHP, where both pathogenic *Entamoeba* species and also commensal ones (*E. dispar*, *E. coli*,  
98 *E. hartmanni*, *E. moshkovskii* or *E. polecki* ST2) have been documented (Verweij et al., 2003;  
99 Tachibana et al., 2009; Levecke et al., 2010; Rivera et al., 2010; Regan et al., 2014). To date,  
100 such techniques have not yet been employed in wild-living NHP with the exception of  
101 Tachibana et al. (2015), who molecularly characterized of *Entamoeba nuttalli* strains in wild  
102 toque macaques (*Macaca sinica*) in Sri Lanka. Levecke et al. (2010) molecularly detected  
103 four undetermined *Entamoeba* lineages in captive NHPs, which may also indicate the  
104 presence of yet undescribed species in their wild counterparts.

105 We carried out a survey on the molecular diversity of *Entamoeba* spp. in a community of  
106 savanna chimpanzees living in the Issa Valley, Ugalla (western Tanzania) with emphasis on  
107 species with zoonotic potential. We also focused on species that we assume to naturally occur  
108 in chimpanzees. A recent study (Stensvold et al., 2011) proposed a new nomenclature of  
109 *Entamoeba* species for novel or undetermined lineages and also suggested a division of the  
110 *Entamoeba* spp. to the complexes of uni-, tetra- and octo-nucleated cysts. Accordingly, we  
111 designed PCR protocols to distinguish *E. polecki* ST2 (belonging to entamoebas producing  
112 uninucleated cysts), group of *E. coli* (octonucleated cysts) and, finally, we conducted species-  
113 specific PCR for *E. histolytica* complex (with tetranucleated cysts) to distinguish the

114 pathogenic species (*E. histolytica* and *E. nuttalli*) from the commensal ones (*E. dispar* and *E.*  
115 *moshkovskii*).

116

## 117 **Material and methods**

### 118 *Study site and subjects*

119 The Issa Valley research station is located in the Ugalla region, ~100 km east of Lake  
120 Tanganyika, in western Tanzania. Ugalla covers approximately 3352 km<sup>2</sup> with an elevation  
121 range of 980 – 1712 m above sea level and consists of flat plateaus broken up broad valleys,  
122 steep hills, and severe slopes (Moore, 1994). The Issa Valley is dominated by savanna  
123 (miombo) woodland vegetation, but also has very thin riverine evergreen forest strips,  
124 swamps and grassland (Moore, 1994). The climate of Issa includes a dry season from May to  
125 September and a rainy season from October/November to April/May (Hernandez-Aguilar et  
126 al., 2013). Average annual rainfall is around 1,200 mm (range: 980–1,350 from 2008–2014),  
127 and the temperature varies between 14 and 34 °C. The Issa chimpanzee community is  
128 estimated to number 67 individuals based on preliminary genetic analyses (Rudicell et al.,  
129 2011), and overall, the population density at Issa is estimated to be 0.25 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> (Piel  
130 et al., 2015).

131

### 132 *Sample collection*

133 One hundred and seven faecal samples were non-invasively collected between February  
134 2009 and February 2010 and between March and May 2012 by following chimpanzee parties  
135 and upon encountering fresh nest groups opportunistically; all samples originated from a  
136 single chimpanzee community (Rudicell et al., 2011). Issa chimpanzees are only partially

137 habituated and therefore we could not attribute the faecal samples to specific individuals.  
138 Each faecal sample was stored in 20 ml vials in 96% ethanol and part of the samples (n=33)  
139 was simultaneously stored also in 4% formaldehyde.

#### 140 *Coprosopic analyses*

141 Thirty-three samples fixed in 4% formaldehyde were used for coprosopic analyses  
142 (Supplementary table S1). The standard protocol for detection of *Entamoeba* cysts was  
143 followed and the merthiolate-iodine-formaldehyde concentration (MIFC) technique was used  
144 (Blagg et al., 1955). Two millilitres of sediment suspension was mixed with 5 ml of MIFC  
145 solution, 1 ml of Lugol's iodine, and 6 ml of ether in a 15 ml Falcon tube. Subsequently, it  
146 was centrifuged at 280g for two minutes, the supernatant was discarded and the residual  
147 sediment was examined by light microscopy using  $\times 1,000$  magnification.

#### 148 *Molecular analyses and sequencing of Entamoeba spp.*

149 All faecal samples (n=107) preserved in 96% ethanol were molecularly analysed  
150 (Supplementary table S1). Two hundred milligrams of each sample was dried overnight at 37  
151 °C, and then the total DNA was extracted using the kit PSP® Spin Stool DNA kit (Stratec)  
152 following the manufacturer's protocol. First, we the samples positive for *Entamoeba* were  
153 identified using semi-nested PCR, amplifying the conservative part of SSU rRNA gene  
154 specific for the *Entamoeba* genus. PCR conditions are described below, and all primers are  
155 summarized in Table 1. In the first round of this semi-nested PCR, our designed reverse  
156 primer, Entam\_5 (Table 1) with Entam\_1 as a forward one were used. In the second PCR  
157 round, published primers, namely forward Entam\_1 and reverse Entam\_2 were used (for more  
158 details see Table 1). The size of amplicons was approximately 650 bp. Then, only samples  
159 positive for *Entamoeba* spp. were screened using PCRs specific for six *Entamoeba* species  
160 (based on the part of the SSU rRNA gene): (i) *Entamoeba histolytica* (size of product: 475



161 bp), (ii) *E. nuttalli* (size of product: 848 bp), (iii) *E. dispar* (size of product: 195 bp), (iv) *E.*  
162 *moshkovskii* (size of product: 580 bp), (v) *E. coli* (size of product: 290 bp), and (vi) *E. polecki*  
163 ST2 (size of product: 680 bp) (for more detail see Table 1 and Figure 1). All species-specific  
164 PCRs were performed separately to prevent the competitive inhibition of *Entamoeba* spp.  
165 DNA.

166 For all PCRs, the published conditions listed in Table 1 were followed, except for the first  
167 round of semi-nested PCR: five minutes at 95°C, 35 cycles of one minute at 95°C, 60°C and  
168 72°C, and final elongation for 10 minutes at 72°C. For positive controls, isolates from *in vitro*  
169 cultures (*E. histolytica*, *E. dispar*, *E. moshkovskii*, and *E. coli*) were used, whereas in the case  
170 of *E. nuttalli* an isolate obtained from faeces of a Hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) from  
171 a sanctuary for exotic animals was used (AAP, the Netherlands; see Levecke et al., 2010) and  
172 an isolate of *E. polecki* ST1 from faeces of a domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*) for the *E.*  
173 *polecki* was used. For sequencing, all amplicons from species-specific PCRs were used and  
174 amplicons from the genus-specific PCR; the PCR products were purified using the Qiagen  
175 extraction gel kit. Each sample was bi-directionally sequenced (using primers from second  
176 round of semi-nested PCR and species specific primers for confirmation) and used for  
177 phylogenetic analyses (see below).

178

#### 179 *Phylogenetic and statistical analyses*

180 A data set consisting of 193 SSU rRNA gene sequences of the genus *Entamoeba* was  
181 created, including the sequences obtained in the present study. The sequences using the  
182 MAFFT method (Katoh et al., 2002) were aligned with the help of the MAFFT 7 server  
183 (<http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>) with the G-INS-i algorithm at default settings. The  
184 alignment was manually edited in BioEdit 7.0.4.1. The final data set contained 585 aligned

185 characters and is available from the corresponding author upon request. Phylogenetic trees  
186 were constructed by maximum likelihood and Bayesian methods. Maximum likelihood  
187 analysis was performed in RAxML 7.0.3 (Stamatakis, 2006) under the GTRGAMMAI model.  
188 Bootstrap support values were generated in RAxML from 1000 pseudoreplicate data sets.  
189 Bayesian analysis was carried out using MrBayes 3.2 (Ronquist et al., 2012) under the GTR +  
190 I +  $\Gamma$  + covarion model. Four MCMCs were run for two million generations until the average  
191 standard deviation of split frequencies based on last 75 % of generations was lower than 0.01.  
192 The trees were sampled every 500th generation. The first 25 % of trees were removed as  
193 burn-in. The McNemar test was performed in GraphPad (<http://graphpad.com/>) to compare  
194 the sensitivity of *Entamoeba* spp. detection using either the coproscopic or PCR method.

#### 195 2.6. Prediction of the secondary structure of the SSU rRNA molecule

196 A secondary structure of the SSU rRNA of *Entamoeba histolytica* was obtained as inferred  
197 from GenBank sequence X65163 from Comparative RNA Web Site  
198 ([www.rna.icmb.utexas.edu](http://www.rna.icmb.utexas.edu)). The conservative elements of the secondary structure of other  
199 *Entamoeba* sequences were identified manually by inspecting the alignment used for the  
200 phylogenetic analysis (see above).

201

### 202 3. Results

#### 203 3.1. PCR and coproscopy based prevalence of *Entamoeba* spp.

204 The multinuclear thick-walled cysts of *Entamoeba* spp. were coproscopically detected in  
205 three out of 33 faecal samples (9%). The cysts of complex  
206 *E. histolytica/dispar/moshkovskii/nuttalli* and *E. coli* were identified. The prevalence of  
207 *Entamoeba* species using molecular tools in the same dataset of samples was higher and

208 reached 58% (19/33). The PCR method was significantly more sensitive for the detection of  
209 *Entamoeba* spp. than the MIFC technique (McNemar:  $\chi^2 = 14.1$ ; d.f. = 1;  $p=0.0002$ ).

210 Using genus-specific PCR targeting the SSU r DNA, 72 samples positive for *Entamoeba*  
211 spp. (72/107; 67%) was identified. Species-specific PCR assays revealed the presence of two  
212 *Entamoeba* species, namely 33 samples positive for *E. coli* (33/107; 31%), and 10 samples  
213 positive for *E. dispar* (10/107; 9%). Neither the pathogenic *Entamoeba* species such as *E.*  
214 *histolytica* or *E. nuttalli* nor commensal *E. moshkovskii* or *E. polecki* ST2 were detected in  
215 any sample. However, 36 samples that were positive for *Entamoeba* spp. using genus specific  
216 primers remained negative in all six protocols of species-specific PCRs. The amplicons were  
217 sequenced and BLAST was used to identify similar sequences in GenBank. All sequences  
218 obtained were highly similar to *Entamoeba hartmanni* (98% similarity). Finally, all samples  
219 that were positive using the genus-specific PCR were sequenced to prevent misdiagnosis of *E.*  
220 *hartmanni*. *E. hartmanni* was documented in 34 samples (34/107; 32%). For details see the  
221 Supplementary table S1.

222 The combination of genus- and species/group-specific PCR revealed co-infections of two  
223 or three species of entamoebas: *E. hartmanni* /*E. coli* (10 samples), *E. hartmanni* /*E. dispar*  
224 (1 sample), and *E. hartmanni* /*E. coli* /*E. dispar* (1 sample); for details see the Supplementary  
225 table S1.

226

### 227 3.2. Molecular identification of *Entamoeba* spp.

228 The newly determined SSU rRNA sequences were subjected to BLAST search against the  
229 GenBank nr/nt database (megablast with default parameters). Twenty samples (for details see  
230 the Supplementary table S1) contained identical SSU rRNA gene sequences, which shared  
231 96% to 98% similarity with all GenBank sequences of *E. hartmanni*, for accession numbers

232 see Fig. 2. SSU rRNA gene sequences of two further samples (T2041 and T3766) were  
233 identical and shared 98% to 99% similarity with sequences of *E. coli* subtype 2 (see Stensvold  
234 et al., 2011). The sequence of T2003 differed in a single nucleotide from sequences of T2041  
235 and T3766. The sequence of T3403 shared 99% similarity with sequences of *E. dispar*, *E.*  
236 *nuttalli* and sequences AB197936 and AB426549 of *E. histolytica*. To confirm phylogenetic  
237 position of the obtained *Entamoeba* samples, a phylogenetic analysis of the genus *Entamoeba*  
238 including the new sequences was performed. Topology of the resulting phylogenetic tree was  
239 consistent with results from BLAST searches (Figure 2), with a few notable exceptions.

240 In the resulting tree, sequence T3403 appeared closely related to *E. dispar* sequences  
241 Z49256 (isolate from a human) and AB282661 (isolate from a rhesus monkey). The third  
242 GenBank sequence labelled as *E. dispar*, EF204917, occupied a different position within  
243 *E. histolytica/E. nuttalli/E. dispar* complex suggesting a possibility that it has been originally  
244 misidentified and belongs, in fact, to *E. histolytica*. To confirm the identity of T3403, the  
245 secondary structure of its SSU rRNA gene was examined and two features distinguishing *E.*  
246 *dispar* from the closely related *E. histolytica* (including the sequence EF204917) and *E.*  
247 *nuttalli* were identified: (i) A:G (instead of G:A) base pair within the stem of helix 10  
248 (positions 181 and 198 in the sequence Z49256; for terminology of conservative elements see  
249 Wuyts et al., 2001), and (ii) GTAAG motif within helix E10\_1 (positions 211–215 in the  
250 sequence Z49256).

251 Because our sequences affiliated with *E. hartmanni* were relatively divergent SSU rRNA  
252 gene sequences, the secondary structure of the corresponding SSU rRNA molecule was  
253 examined as well. They possessed a unique motif ACT in the loop in helix 17, which  
254 contrasted with all other *E. hartmanni* sequences, (including those obtained from NHP)  
255 having GTAA in the corresponding area (positions 438–441 in the sequence FR686371).

256

#### 257 4. Discussion

258 The diversity of amoebas infecting great apes is poorly understood, despite the fact that their  
259 cysts are commonly reported in general parasitological studies on free ranging and captive  
260 NHP (e.g. Gillespie et al., 2010; Howells et al., 2011). Most of these studies suffer from  
261 methodological challenges in identification of amoebas to the species/lineage level. In the  
262 present study, we investigated the molecular diversity of amoebas of the genus *Entamoeba* in  
263 a community of wild eastern chimpanzees in Issa Valley, Tanzania.

264 Comparing the results of “classic” microscopy with PCR, we clearly showed the  
265 limitations of microscopic detection. The microscopy failed to detect the cysts of entamoebas  
266 in 16 out of 19 PCR positive samples. Low sensitivity of microscopy/MIF corresponds well  
267 with previous data in Kalousová et al. (2014) who reported only 6.7 % prevalence of  
268 *Entamoeba* spp. in Issa chimpanzees.

269 Using species specific diagnostic PCR assays, we identified three *Entamoeba* species,  
270 namely *E. dispar*, *E. coli*, and a new sequence variant of *E. hartmanni*. Among the  
271 *Entamoeba* species, those with tetranucleated cysts deserve more attention, as this group  
272 includes also pathogenic *E. histolytica* and *E. nuttalli*. Previous microscopy-based studies  
273 detecting the tetranucleated cysts have presumed occurrence of pathogenic entamoebas in  
274 chimpanzees (e.g. Sleeman et al., 2000; Lilly et al. 2002; Gillespie et al., 2010), implying  
275 possible cross-transmission between humans and PHP. Our data demonstrate that the presence  
276 of tetranucleated cysts does not necessarily mean the presence of pathogenic amoebas.  
277 Tetranucleated cysts could rather represent the commensal amoebae such as *E. dispar* in case  
278 of our sample set.

279 Our phylogenetic analysis showed that the sequence of *E. dispar* is closely related to  
280 isolates from Nepalese rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) (AB282661) and from humans

281 (Z49256; the clade of *E. dispar* isolates has 93% bootstrap support). Our *E. coli* sequence  
282 clustered with human-derived isolates and with one sequence from a captive western lowland  
283 gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). Moreover, the sequence fell into *E. coli* ST2 group, which has  
284 been identified from captive NHP and from humans who have recently travelled in tropical  
285 Africa or Asia (Stensvold et al., 2011). Based on present analyses, one can only speculate if *E.*  
286 *dispar* and *E. coli* ST2 found in Issa chimpanzees occur naturally in the Issa community or  
287 originate from humans. Given Issa chimpanzees do not regularly encounter humans aside  
288 from researchers; it is likely that both *E. dispar* and *E. coli* naturally occur in these apes.  
289 Future studies targeting the presence of amoebas in other Issa primate species can help to  
290 uncover the epidemiology of non-pathogenic amoeba infections.

291 We did not include the species-specific PCR for *E. hartmanni* into our protocol because we  
292 did not record the tetra-nucleated cysts typical for *E. hartmanni* in our previous study (for  
293 more details see Kalousová et al., 2014). Spherical cysts of *E. hartmanni* are smaller, approx.  
294 5–10 µm, while the cysts of *E. histolytica*-complex are more than 10 µm in diameter (Ash and  
295 Orihel, 2007). However, using genus-specific PCR followed by sequencing, we identified  
296 many samples that were positive for *E. hartmanni* using genus-specific PCR followed by  
297 sequencing. Our sequences branched within the well supported lineage of *E. hartmanni*, that  
298 included isolates from humans (FR686374–79; AF149907) and captive NHP such as the  
299 barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) (FR686369, FR686372), patas monkey (*Erythrocebus*  
300 *patas*) (FR686373), woolly monkey (*Lagothrix lagotricha*) (FR686366, FR686368), vervet  
301 monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) (FR686373), and Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)  
302 (FR686370). However, based on the SSU rRNA secondary structure, our sequence represents  
303 a novel sequence variant, different from other sequences of this species, as well as those  
304 obtained from NHP (see Stensvold et al., 2011). It is currently not possible to provide further  
305 details regarding the morphology and biology of this novel variant, because we have not

306 obtained trophozoites, which are necessary for final identification. Nevertheless, it is likely  
307 that *E. hartmanni* is non-pathogenic for chimpanzees similar to *E. hartmanni* in humans (Sard  
308 et al., 2011).

309 We have demonstrated that wild chimpanzees that do not live in close proximity to a large  
310 human population nonetheless harbour several *Entamoeba* species closely related to those  
311 occurring in humans. We found the microscopic detection to be unreliable for diagnostics of  
312 amoebas, due to low sensitivity and inability to distinguish between pathogenic and non-  
313 pathogenic species with similar cyst morphology. In summary, molecular-phylogenetic  
314 methods are fundamental for improving diagnostics of *Entamoeba* spp. in wild NHP and for  
315 understanding the epidemiology and zoonotic transmission of these parasites.

316

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467 Figure legends:

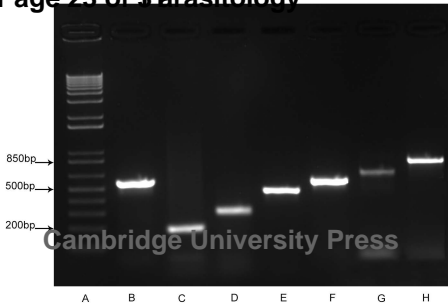
468 Figure 1. The products of *Entamoeba* genus-specific PCR and several *Entamoeba* species-  
469 specific PCRs conducted on the samples used as positive controls (note: only for  
470 demonstration of the feasibility of the species-specific PCRs): (A) marker, (B) *Entamoeba*-  
471 genus specific PCR from culture of *Entamoeba* invades, (C) *Entamoeba dispar* (~195 bp), (D)  
472 *Entamoeba coli* (~290 bp), (E) *Entamoeba histolytica* (~475 bp), (F) *Entamoeba moshkovskii*  
473 (~600 bp), (G) *Entamoeba polecki* ST2 (~680 bp), (H) *Entamoeba nuttalli* (~848 bp).

474

475 Figure 2. Unrooted phylogenetic tree of the genus *Entamoeba* based on partial SSU rRNA  
476 gene sequences. The tree was constructed by the maximum likelihood method  
477 (GTRGAMMAI model). The values at the branches represent statistical support in maximum  
478 likelihood bootstrap values/Bayesian posterior probabilities. Support values below 50%/0.50  
479 are not showed or are represented by an asterisk (\*). New sequences are in bold.

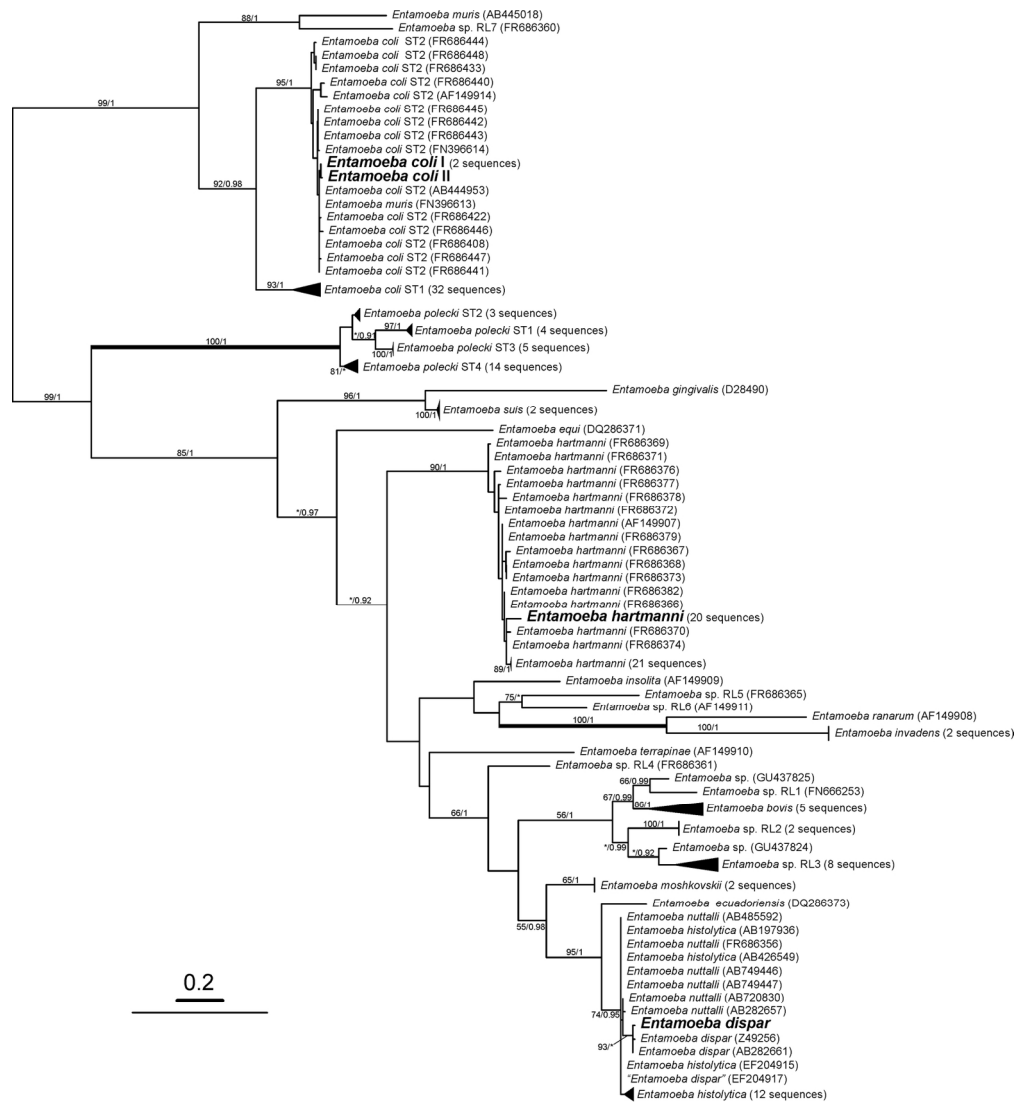
Table 1. List of primers used in diagnostic PCR for detection of *Entamoeba* genus and in species-specific PCRs; univ – universal, fwd – forward, rev – reverse, SN-PCR – semi-nested PCR, SS-PCR – species/group-specific PCR.

Primer name	Primer characterization	Primer sequence (5'–3')	Reference
Entam1	univ. fwd for SN-PCR (1.,2.md)	GTTGATCCTGCCAGTATTATATG	Verweij et al (2001)
Entam2	univ. rev. for SN-PCR (2.md)	CACTATTGGAGCTGGAATTAC	Verweij et al (2001)
Entam5	univ. rev. for SN-PCR (1.md)	CRACTACGAGCKTTTAAWCAC	our designed
EnthF	fwd <i>E. histolytica</i> for SS-PCR	ATGGCCAATTCATTCAATGA	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EnthR	rev <i>E. histolytica</i> for SS-PCR	TACTTACATAAAGTCTTCAAATGT	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EntnF	fwd <i>E. nuttalli</i> for SS-PCR	ATTTTATACATTTGAAGACTTTGCA	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EntnR	rev <i>E. nuttalli</i> for SS-PCR	CTCTAACCGAAAATTAGATAACTAC	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EntdF	fwd <i>E. dispar</i> for SS-PCR	GTTAGTTATCTAATTCGATTAGAAC	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EntdR	rev <i>E. dispar</i> for SS-PCR	ACACCACTTACTATCCCTACCTA	Suzuki et al. (2008)
EntaF	fwd <i>E. moshkovskii</i> for SS-PCR	ATGCACGAGAGCGAAAAGCAT	Hamzah et al. (2006)
EmR	rev <i>E. moshkovskii</i> for SS-PCR	TGACCGGAGCCAGAGACAT	Hamzah et al. (2006)
Entcoli_100F	rev <i>E. coli</i> for SS-PCR	GAAGCTGCGAACGGCTCATTAC	Stensvold et al. (2011)
Entcoli_390R	fwd <i>E. coli</i> for SS-PCR	CACCTTGTAAGCCACTACC	Stensvold et al. (2011)
EpolF	rev <i>E. polecki</i> for SS-PCR	GGAAAGGCTCATTATAACAGTTATAG	newly designed
EpolR	fwd <i>E. polecki</i> for SS-PCR	CCTCATTATTATCCTATGCTTC	newly designed



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Unrooted phylogenetic tree of the genus *Entamoeba* based on partial SSU rRNA gene sequences. The tree was constructed by the maximum likelihood method (GTRGAMMAI model). The values at the branches represent statistical support in maximum likelihood bootstrap values/Bayesian posterior probabilities. Support values below 50%/0.50 are not showed or are represented by an asterisk (\*). New sequences are in bold.

156x170mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**Supplementary table S1.** Summary of all molecularly analyzed fecal samples from Issa chimpanzees together with overview of their molecular positivity (for *Entamoeba* spp., *E. hartmanni*, *E. dispar*, and *E. coli*) and the positivity based on the microscopy examination following MIF technique (performed only in 33 samples).

Evidence No	<i>Entamoeba</i> spp.	<i>E.</i> <i>hartmanni</i>	<i>E. dispar</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	positivity in microscopy
T1991/09	+	+	neg	neg	+
T1992/09	+	neg	neg	+	+
T1993/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T1994/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T1995/09	+	+	+	neg	neg
T2003/09	+	neg	neg	+	+
T2004/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2005/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2006/09	+	+	neg	neg	neg
T2011/09	+	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2037/09	+	neg	+	neg	neg
T2038/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2039/09	+	+	neg	neg	neg
T2040/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2041/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg

T2043/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2044/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2045/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2057/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2058/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg
T2059/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg
T2060/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2061/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg
T2071/09	+	+	neg	neg	neg
T2072/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2073/09	+	+	neg	neg	neg
T2074/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg
T2075/09	+	neg	neg	+	neg
T2076/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2077/09	+	+	neg	+	neg
T2081/09	neg	neg	neg	neg	neg
T2082/09	+	+	neg	neg	neg
T2083/09	+	+	+	neg	neg
T3386/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3387/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3388/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA

T3389/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3390/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3391/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3392/12	+	neg	+	+	NA
T3393/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3394/12	neg	neg	+	neg	NA
T3395/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3396/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3397/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3398/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3399/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3400/12	+	neg	+	neg	NA
T3401/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3402/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3403/12	+	neg	+	neg	NA
T3404/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3405/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3406/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3407/12	+	neg	+	neg	NA
T3409/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3410/12	+	neg	+	neg	NA

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T3411/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3412/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3413/12	+	neg	+	neg	NA
T3414/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3415/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3416/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3417/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3418/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3419/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3738/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3739/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3740/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3741/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3742/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3743/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3744/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3745/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3746/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3747/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3748/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3749/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA

T3750/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3751/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3752/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3753/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3754/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3755/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3756/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3757/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3758/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3759/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3760/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3761/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3762/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3763/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3764/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3765/12	+	+	neg	+	NA
T3766/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3767/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3768/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3769/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3770/12	+	+	neg	+	NA

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T3771/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3772/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3773/12	+	neg	neg	neg	NA
T3774/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3775/12	+	neg	neg	+	NA
T3776/12	+	+	neg	neg	NA
T3777/12	neg	neg	neg	neg	NA

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