Eimeria detection methods in field mice

Summary of hierarchical approach for infection status and species assignment

Detection Method[1]	Variable Name	Purpose	Priority	Sample Size (n/total)	Success Rate	Notes
Caecal qPCR + melting curve	MC.Eimeria	Infection detection (presence/absence)	Primary	185/336	55.1%	Direct infection status from melting curve
Caecal qPCR + melting curve	eimeriaSpecies	Species identification	Primary	49/336	14.6%	Species ID from melting curve patterns
Amplicon sequencing	amplicon_species	Backup species identification	Backup	134/336	39.9%	Used when qPCR species ID unavailable

[1] Final species assignment: 49 from qPCR + 120 from amplicon = 169 total mice