Table 1: 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 | | | | | | |