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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Caecal qPCR + melting curve | MC.Eimeria | Infection detection (presence/absence) | Primary | 185/336 | 55.1% |
| Caecal qPCR + melting curve | eimeriaSpecies | Species identification | Primary | 169/336 | 50.3% |
| Amplicon sequencing*2* | amplicon\_species | Backup species identification | Backup | 134/336 | 39.9% |
| *1*Primary method: Caecal tissue qPCR with melting curve analysis for both detection and species ID | | | | | |
| *2*Backup method: Used only when qPCR species identification failed | | | | | |