## **Supplementary Table 1.**

Summary of 1262 mtDNA molecule topologies observed by transmission electron microscopy. Molecules are grouped into monomer (top 2 rows) and multimer (subsequent rows) forms.

Molecular species		N of 1262	%
Relaxed double-stranded DNA: one genome unit length circles	(In)	1104	87.5
Circles with complex topology: supercoiled, gapped or twisted	$\infty$	91	7.2
Branched-circular lariats: Double-stranded DNA (35) Partially single-stranded DNA (18)	1n	53	4.2
Branched circular: non-lariat	1n/_	4	0.3
Multimer circles: unicircular or potential recombination intermediates	2n 3n	10	0.7