## S1 text: Preliminary characterization

#### 1. T. brucei isolates from cattle grown in mice

We inoculated and successfully grew 3 recently isolated *Trypanosoma brucei brucei* strains from cattle (Table 1) and made fresh stabilates.

#### Table 1

| Isolate ID | Simplified name | Source<br>Village/Parish | Source District | Date of Isolation |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tb065BAPC  | MAK65           | Bunya                    | Apac            | 01/02/2016        |
| Tb236BAPC  |                 | Bunya                    | Apac            | 01/02/2016        |
| Tb098AAPC  | MAK98           | Apuru                    | Apac            | 30/07/2016        |

For simplicity Tb065BAPC and Tb098AAPC are designated MAK65 and MAK98 in the paper, emphasizing their original characterization at Makerere University. References in this text are at the end of the text.

### 2. PCR characterization

### Internal transcribed spacer (ITS)

We confirmed *Trypanozoon* status in all isolates by carrying out internal transcribed space (ITS) PCR, which yields a band size of approximately 480bp [1]. We confirmed that the parasites were *T. brucei brucei*, and therefore not infective for humans, by PCR for the *SRA* gene [2]. Human-infective *T. brucei rhodesiense* yield a product of 284bp. In both cases *T. b. rhodesiense* LW042 [3] was used as a positive control.



Fig 1: PCR confirmation that MAK65 and MAK98 are *T. brucei brucei*: positive PCR for ITS-1 and negative result for *SRA*.

#### **Microsatellites**

Genotyping of the *T. brucei* strains was carried out using microsatellites designated for *T. brucei* (Table 1) as described in [4].

The three recently isolated strains were again compared with *T. b. rhodesiense* human isolate LW042 (Fig 2). Tb236B and MAK65 were similar and could be distinguished from both MAK98 and LW042. This was probably because Tb236B and MAK65 were isolated from cattle in the same village/parish. Since we wanted to investigate different strains, Tb236B was not studied further.

Fig 2: Microsatellite analysis.



Microsatellite analysis of 1-Tb236B, 2-MAK65, 3-LW042, 4-MAK98 using the primers shown in Table 2.

| Т | a | b | le | 2 |  |
|---|---|---|----|---|--|
|   | 1 |   |    | - |  |

| Locus      | Primer   | Sequence                  | Primer   | Sequence                     |
|------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| (code)     | (outer)  | (5'-3')                   | (nested) | (5'-3')                      |
| Ch2/PLC    | PLC-G2   | ttaagtggacgacgaaataacaaca | 2/PLC-G  | caacgacgttggaagagtgtgaac     |
| (MS-1)     | PLC-H4   | ttcaaacaccgtccccctcaataat | 2/PLC-H3 | ccactgacctttcatttgatcgctttc  |
| Ch4/M12C12 | M12C12-C | aaacctcatccagtcgcactgg    | M12C12-A | tggacacacagaagcctaccg        |
| (MS-2)     | M12C12-B | taccctcatcaagtggtcg       | M12C12-D | agtgtggtggtgcgtgcaaacttgg    |
| Ch5/JS2    | JS2-C    | agtaatgggaatgagcgtcaccag  | JS2-AFAM | gattggcgcaacaactttcacatacg   |
| (MS-3)     | JS2-D    | gatcttcgcttacacaagcggtac  | JS2-B    | ctttcttccttggccattgttttactat |

# References

1. Njiru Z, Constantine C, Guya S, Crowther J, Kiragu J, Thompson R, et al. The use of ITS1 rDNA PCR in detecting pathogenic African trypanosomes. Parasitol Res. 2005;95:186-92. doi: 10.1007/s00436-004-1267-5.

2. Radwanska M, Chamekh M, Vanhamme L, Claes F, Magez S, Magnus E, et al. The serum resistance-associated gene as a diagnostic tool for the detection of *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2002;67:684-90.

3. Mulindwa J, Mercé C, Matovu E, Enyaru J, Clayton C. Transcriptomes of newly-isolated *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* reveal hundreds of mRNAs that are co-regulated with stumpy-form markers. BMC genomics. 2015;16:1118. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10.1186/s12864-015-2338-y, PMID: 26715446.

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