

The mitochondrial genome of *Paragonimus westermani* (Kerbert, 1878), the lung fluke representative of the family Paragonimidae (Trematoda)

Among helminth parasites, *Paragonimus* (zoonotic lung fluke) gains considerable importance from veterinary and medical point of view because of its diversified effect on its host. Nearly fifty species of *Paragonimus* have been described throughout the globe. It is estimated that more than 20 million people are infected worldwide and the best known species is *Paragonimus westermani*, whose type locality is probably India and which infects millions of people in Asia causing disease symptoms that mimic tuberculosis. Human infections occur through eating raw crustaceans containing metacercariae or ingestion of uncooked meat of paratenic hosts such as pigs. Though the fluke is known to parasitize a wide range of mammalian hosts representing as many as eleven families, the status of its prevalence, host range, pathogenic manifestations and its possible survivors in nature from where the human beings contract the infection is not well documented in India. We took advantage of the whole genome sequence data for *P. westermani*, generated by Next Generation Sequencing, and its comparison with the existing data for the *P. westermani* complete mitochondrial genome sequence to design precise and specific primers for amplification of mitochondrial genome sequences from the parasite DNA sample. The Ion torrent next generation sequencing platform was harnessed to completely sequence the mitochondrial genome, and applied innovative approaches to bioinformatically assemble and annotate it. A strategic PCR primer design utilizing the whole genome sequence data from *P. westermani* enabled us to design specific primers capable of amplifying all regions of the mitochondrial genome from *P. westermani*. Assembly of NGS data from libraries enriched in mtDNA sequence by PCR gave rise to a total of 11 contigs spanning the entire 14.7 kb mt DNA sequence of *P. westermani* available at NCBI. We conducted gap-filling by traditional Sanger sequencing to fill in the gaps. Annotation of non-protein coding genes successfully identified tRNA regions for the 24 tRNAs coded in mtDNA and 12 protein coding genes. Bayesian phylogenetic analyses of the

concatenated protein coding genes placed *P. westermani* within the family Opisthorchida. The complete mtDNA sequence of *P. westermani* is 15004 base pair long; the lung fluke is the major etiological agent of paragonimiasis and the first Indian representative for the family Paragonimidae to be fully sequenced that provides important genetic markers for ecological, population and biogeographical studies and molecular diagnostic of digeneans that cause trematodiasis.

1 **The mitochondrial genome of *Paragonimus westermani***
2 **(Kerbert, 1878), the lung fluke representative of the family**
3 **Paragonimidae (Trematoda)**
4

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19

20 **Abstract**

21 **Background**

22 Among helminth parasites, *Paragonimus* (zoonotic lung fluke) gains considerable importance
23 from veterinary and medical point of view because of its diversified effect on its host. Nearly
24 fifty species of *Paragonimus* have been described throughout the globe. It is estimated that more
25 than 20 million people are infected worldwide and the best known species is *Paragonimus*
26 *westermani*, whose type locality is probably India and which infects millions of people in Asia
27 causing disease symptoms that mimic tuberculosis. Human infections occur through eating raw
28 crustaceans containing metacercariae or ingestion of uncooked meat of paratenic hosts such as
29 pigs. Though the fluke is known to parasitize a wide range of mammalian hosts representing as
30 many as eleven families, the status of its prevalence, host range, pathogenic manifestations and
31 its possible survivors in nature from where the human beings contract the infection is not well
32 documented in India. We took advantage of the whole genome sequence data for *P. westermani*,
33 generated by Next Generation Sequencing, and its comparison with the existing data for the *P.*
34 *westermani* complete mitochondrial genome sequence to design precise and specific primers for
35 amplification of mitochondrial genome sequences from the parasite DNA sample. The Ion torrent
36 next generation sequencing platform was harnessed to completely sequence the mitochondrial
37 genome, and applied innovative approaches to bioinformatically assemble and annotate it.

38 **Results**

39 A strategic PCR primer design utilizing the whole genome sequence data from *P. westermani*
40 enabled us to design specific primers capable of amplifying all regions of the mitochondrial
41 genome from *P. westermani*. Assembly of NGS data from libraries enriched in mtDNA sequence
42 by PCR gave rise to a total of 11 contigs spanning the entire 14.7 kb mt DNA sequence of *P.*
43 *westermani* available at NCBI. We conducted gap-filling by traditional Sanger sequencing to fill

44 in the gaps. Annotation of non-protein coding genes successfully identified tRNA regions for the
45 24 tRNAs coded in mtDNA and 12 protein coding genes. Bayesian phylogenetic analyses of the
46 concatenated protein coding genes placed *P. westermani* within the family Opisthorchida.

47 **Conclusions**

48 The complete mtDNA sequence of *P. westermani* is 15004 base pair long; the lung fluke is the
49 major etiological agent of paragonimiasis and the first Indian representative for the family
50 Paragonimidae to be fully sequenced that provides important genetic markers for ecological,
51 population and biogeographical studies and molecular diagnostic of digeneans that cause
52 trematodiasis.

53 **Introduction**

54 Among about 50 known species of the genus *Paragonimus*, *Paragonimus westermani*, one of the
55 causative agents of paragonimiasis, was first described as early as in 1878 and is the most well-
56 known species within the genus *Paragonimus* because of its wide geographical distribution and
57 medical importance (Blair, XU & Agatsuma, 1999). Typically, paragonimiasis is a disease of the
58 lungs and pleural cavity but extra-pulmonary paragonimiasis also happens to be an important
59 clinical manifestation. It is a neglected disease that has received feeble attention from public
60 health authorities. As per the recent estimates, about 293 million people are at risk, while several
61 millions are infected worldwide (Keiser & Utzinger, 2009). However, this may be an
62 underestimate as there are still many places where the disease burden has yet to be assessed.
63 There has been an increased recognition of the public health importance of paragonimiasis and
64 other foodborne trematodiasis in recent times (Fried, Graczyk & Tamang, 2004) and some
65 serious concern for *Paragonimus* species outside endemic areas owing to the risk of infection
66 through food habits in today's globalized food supply. In the case of paragonimiasis, this
67 resurgence of interest can partly be attributed to the common diagnostic confusion of

68 paragonimiasis with tuberculosis, as symptoms of the former closely mimic those of the latter,
69 thereby leading to an inappropriate treatment being administered especially in areas where both
70 tuberculosis and paragonimiasis co-occur and create overlapping health issues (Toscano *et al.*,
71 1995). The state-of-the-art molecular biology techniques, next generation sequencing (NGS)
72 technology and their rapid development in contemporary times may provide additional tools for
73 the differential identification of digenean trematode infections to overcome limitations of current
74 morphology-based diagnostic methods. Owing to their high nucleotide substitution rates,
75 parasitic flatworm mitochondrial (mt) genomes have become very popular markers for diagnostic
76 purposes and for resolving their phylogenetic relationships at different taxonomic ranks.
77 Comparative mitochondrial genomics can provide more reliable results and reveal important
78 informations of mtDNA architectural features such as gene order and structure of non-coding
79 regions.

80 In our present study, we determined the complete mtDNA nucleotide sequence of *P. westermani*,
81 which was collected from several sites in Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh in India, using
82 NGS data generated from total genomic DNA extracts. Phylogenetic analyses were carried out
83 using a supermatrix of all the concatenated mt sequences of 12 protein-coding genes of digenean
84 trematode and cestodes, (taking nematode species as an outgroup) available in public domain
85 (GenBank). This newly sequenced Indian isolate *P. westermani* mt genome sequence along with
86 the one in the RefseQ database of NCBI would provide useful information on both genomics and
87 Paragonimidae evolution, including the biogeographic status of the cryptic species of the lung
88 flukes and other mtDNA sequences available for any member of the trematode group.

89 **Methods**

90 **Parasite material and DNA extraction**

91 Naturally infected freshwater edible crabs (*Barytelphusa lugubris lugubris*) were collected from
92 Changlang District in Arunachal Pradesh (Altitude - 213 mASL, Longitude - 96°-15'N and
93 Latitude - 27°-30'E). The isolation of Metacercariae from the crustacean host muscle tissues was
94 carried out by digestion technique using artificial gastric juice. The 70% alcohol-fixed
95 metacercariae were further processed for DNA extraction and PCR amplification. The lysed
96 individual worms were subjected to DNA extraction by standard ethanol precipitation technique
97 (Sambrook, Fitsch & Maniatis, 1989) and also extracted from the eggs on FTA cards with aid of
98 Whatman's FTA Purification Reagent. DNA was subjected to a series of enzymatic reactions that
99 repair frayed ends, phosphorylate the fragments, and add a single nucleotide 'A' overhang and
100 ligate adaptors (Illumina's TruSeq DNA sample preparation kit). Sample cleanup was done using
101 Ampure XP SPRI beads. After ligation, ~300–350 bp fragment for short insert libraries and
102 ~500–550 bp fragment for long insert libraries were size-selected by gel electrophoresis, gel
103 extracted and purified using Minelute columns (Qiagen). The libraries were amplified using 10
104 cycles of PCR for enrichment of adapter-ligated fragments. The prepared libraries were
105 quantified using Nanodrop and validated for quality by running an aliquot on High Sensitivity
106 Bioanalyzer Chip (Agilent). 2X KapaHiFiHotstart PCR ready mix (Kapa Biosystems Inc.,
107 Woburn, MA) reagent was used for PCR. The Ion torrent library was made using Ion Plus
108 Fragment library preparation kit (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, US) and the Illumina library was
109 constructed using TruSeq™ DNA Sample Preparation Kit (Illumina, Inc., US) reagents for
110 library prep and TruSeq PE Cluster kit v2 along with TruSeq SBS kit v5 36 cycle sequencing kit
111 (Illumina, Inc., US) for sequencing (Biswal et al., 2013).

112 **Amplification, sequencing and assembly**

113 *Ion Torrent Reads*

114 We sheared pooled PCR products to smaller sizes using Bioruptor. Ion Torrent library was
115 constructed as per manufacturer's protocols. PCR products were sonicated, adapter ligated and
116 amplified for x cycles to generate a library and subsequently were sequenced to generate reads of
117 an average of 121 nt SE reads on Ion Torrent. The IonTorrent raw data was processed for 3' low
118 quality bases trimming, and adapter contamination. Since the Ion Torrent data might have host
119 contamination, the processed reads were then aligned to the reference sequence of *Paragonimus*
120 *westermani* mtDNA (NC_002354) available in GenBank, Department of Environmental Health
121 Science, Kochi Medical School, Oko, Nankoku, Kochi, Japan. The alignment was carried out
122 using Tmap Ion Torrent proprietary tool. The mapped reads were extracted in fastq format using
123 custom perl script. These clean reads were used for further bioinformatics analysis in this study.
124 The processed reads as well as mito mapped reads were quality checked using Genotypic
125 Technology Pvt. Ltd., proprietary tool SeqQC.

126 *Illumina Reads*

127 Illumina reads from our unpublished *P. westermani* whole genome data were mapped to
128 *P.westermani* reference sequence (gi|23957831|ref|NC_002354.2|). The alignment was carried out
129 using Bowtie aligner. The mapped reads were extracted in fastq format using custom perl script.
130 We obtained 62874 paired end reads, which aligned to different intervals in the *P.westermani* mt
131 genome, covering ~ 3 kb of the 15 kb mt genome (NC_002354.2). Accordingly, primers were
132 designed at these regions, using sequence information from reference to ensure optimum primer
133 design (Additional file 1). We conducted PCR using 10 ng of genomic DNA from *P. westermani*
134 with the following PCR conditions: 10 ng of FD-2 DNA with 10 uM Primer mix in 10 ul
135 reaction, PCR thermo cycling conditions – 98C for 3min, 35cycles of 98 °C for 30sec, 60°C for
136 30sec, 72 °C for 1min 30sec, final extension 72°C for 3 min and 4°C hold. We gel-eluted the

137 bands (Additional file 1) corresponding to different products, pooled these products and
138 proceeded for NGS library construction. These clean single end reads were also further used for
139 bioinformatics analysis in this study. The illumina mito mapped reads were quality checked using
140 Genotypic Technology Pvt. Ltd., proprietary tool SeqQC. The QC reads are outlined in Table 5.

141 *De-novo Assembly*

142 The ion torrent mapped reads were assembled using Newbler (Quinn *et al.*, 2008) software. The
143 illumina mapped reads were subjected to reference assisted denovo assembly using
144 velvet(Zerbino & Birney, 2008) assembler. Quite a few hash lengths were tested for velvetg.
145 Hash length 65 gave the optimal results in terms of total contig length, N50, and maximum contig
146 length. Therefore, k-mer 65 assembly was considered for further analysis. Sanger reads were also
147 added in the final assembly. The draft sequence was generated using IonTorrent reads, Illumina
148 reads, Sanger reads hybrid high-quality denovo assembly and subsequently the denovo-leftout
149 regions were obtained using reference assisted assembly and consensus calling. Extensive manual
150 curation work was carried out to produce the complete sequence. The complete sequence
151 comprises 15004 bases in total. There were a few regions in the mitochondria, namely ~900 bases
152 in the start and ~1500 bases in the end, where there were few or no sequences at 3x depth. In that
153 case, the consensus sequence was retrieved using VCFtools (Danecek *et al.*, 2008). The
154 consensus sequence was introduced at such regions; the sequences in question are represented
155 with lower case of nucleotides, while the confident regions are represented in upper case in the
156 fasta sequence file. Out of 15004 bases in the sequences, 13188 were confident bases (87.88% of
157 the total), while 1818 bases were low quality bases (12.11% of the total). Mapping of assembled
158 mitochondria against the reference was carried out using online Blastn (Altschul *et al.*, 1990).
159 Blastn results show 85% identical bases between the two, with 99% query coverage with the best
160 e-value possible of 0.0 and with maximum score of 12579. Artemis Comparison Tool (Carver *et*

161 *al.*, 2005) (ACT) was used to generate visual output for mapping of the assembled mtDNA
162 sequence against the reference mt genome (NC_002354).

163 **In silico analysis for nucleotide sequence statistics, protein coding genes (PCGs)**
164 **prediction, annotation and tRNA prediction**

165 Sequences were assembled and edited by using CLC Genome Workbench V.6.02 with
166 comparison to published flatworm genomes and the assembled whole single mtDNA contig was
167 annotated with the aid of ORF finder tool at NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gorf/gorf.html>)
168 and MITOS, which were subsequently used to search for homologous digenean trematode PWGs
169 already housed in REFSEQ NCBI database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/refseq/>) by using
170 tBLASTn [Altschul et al., 1990). The program ARWEN (Laslett & Canbäck, 2008) was used to
171 identify the tRNA genes by setting the search to predict secondary structures occasionally with
172 very low Cove scores (<0.5) and, where necessary, also by restricting searches to find tRNAs
173 lacking DHU arms (using the trematode tRNA option). Nucleotide codon usage for each protein-
174 encoding gene was predicted using the program Codon Usage at
175 (http://www.bioinformatics.org/sms2/codon_usage.html).The ORFs and codon usage profiles of
176 PCGs were analyzed. The newly sequenced and assembled *P. westermani* mtDNA was annotated
177 using MITOS and the output file was further used to sketch the newly sequenced genome with
178 GenomeVX at <http://wolfe.ucd.ie/GenomeVx/>

179

180 **Phylogenetic analysis**

181 DNA sequences of the 12 protein-coding genes from 13 representative trematodes, cestode and
182 nematode species were retrieved (Table 1), aligned in clustal w and concatenated using
183 MESQUITE (Maddison & Maddison, 2011). The supermatrix was used for generating
184 phylogenetic trees using Bayesian analysis in MrBayes v3.1 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003).
185 The mt genome sequence of the nematode *Ascaris suum* and *Ascaris lumbricoides* were used as

186 an outgroup. For the nucleotide alignment, the GTR+I+G model was used and Bayesian analysis
187 was run for 1,000,000 generations and sampled every 1000 generations. The first 25% of trees
188 were omitted as burn-in and the remaining trees were used to calculate Bayesian posterior
189 probabilities retaining the trees with a majority consensus rule of 50.

190 **Results & Discussion**

191 **Mitochondrial genome organisation of *P. westermani* mtDNA**

192 The two rRNA genes and 12 protein coding genes, typical of flatworms, were identified by
193 comparison of their sequence similarity and secondary structures with those of other
194 flatworms. The mt genome lacks *atp 8* with no characteristic amino acid signatures. Over a
195 longtime gene order remains stable in animal mtDNAs [Boore, 1999; Saccone *et al.*, 1999].
196 Differences in the mtDNA gene order between members of the same family, though rare, can
197 occur in higher taxonomic ranks. A marked difference in the gene order was found among the
198 various trematode, cestode and nematode species as outlined in Fig. 1. The total length for the
199 digenean *P. westermani* (AF219379) is 14,965 bp, and for *Schistosoma japonicum* (NC_002544)
200 and *S. mansoni* (NC_002545) is approximately 14.5 kb as curated by the NCBI staff. Other
201 digeneans possess small mt genomes. The mtDNA sequence of *P. westermani* (Bioproject
202 accession number **PRJNA248332**, Biosample accession sample **SAMN02797822** and SRA
203 **SRX550161**) is 15,004 bp in length and is well within the range of typical metazoan mtDNA
204 sizes (14–18 kb). The mt genome of *P. westermani* is larger than that of other digenean species
205 available in GenBank™ (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>) to date (Table 1). It contains 12
206 protein-coding genes (*cox1-3*, *nad1-6*, *nad4L*, *atp6* and *cytb*), 24 transfer RNA (tRNA) genes and
207 2 ribosomal RNA genes (*rrnL* and *rrnS*) (Fig. 2)(Table 2). The gene arrangement pact of protein-
208 coding genes in *P. westermani* tallies with that of the *Fasciola hepatica* (Le *et al.*, 2000; Le *et al.*,
209 2001), *Opisthorchis felineus* (Shekhovtsov *et al.*, 2010), *Fasciola gigantica* (Liu *et al.*, 2014),

210 *Fasciolopsis buski* (Biswal *et al.*, 2013), *Paramphistomum cervi* [Yan *et al.*, 2013) mt genomes,
211 but different from that seen in *Taenia* and *Ascaris* species (Nakao, Sako & Ito, 2003; Okimoto,
212 Macfarlane & Wolstenholme, 1990) (Fig. 3). An overlapping region spanning nearly 40 bp
213 between 3' nad4L end and nad4 5' end was also seen in *P.westermani*, a feature common to other
214 digenean trematodes. The 12 protein coding genes and their blast hit protein plots are summarised
215 in Fig. 4. The protein plot shows for each gene and each position the quality value if it is above
216 the threshold and the different genes are differentiated with a range of colour codes. Basically, the
217 initial hits used in MITOS [Bernt *et al.*, 2013) correspond to the "mountains" in this plot that
218 visualizes the signal from the BLAST (Altschul *et al.*, 1990) searches. The arrows shown on the
219 top of the plot depict the gene order annotation and the quality values are shown on a log scale.

220 **Genetic Code, nucleotide composition and codon usage**

221 It is a well established fact that mt DNA of parasitic flatworms uses AAA to specify ASN (Lys in
222 the universal code), AGA and AGG to specify Ser (Arg in the universal code), and TGA to
223 specify Trp (stop codon in the universal code). ATG is the usual start codon while GTG and other
224 codons are also used as start codons (Le *et al.*, 2002). The *P. westermani* mtDNA exhibited ATG
225 and ATA as start codons and TAG and TAA as stop codons (Table 3). mtDNA genomes of
226 invertebrates have a tendency to be AT-rich (Wolstenholme, 1992), a feature common in several
227 parasitic flatworm protein coding genes. However, the nucleotide composition is not uniform
228 among the species. For *Schistosoma mansoni*, the AT-rich percentage is 68.7%, whereas for
229 *Fasciola hepatica* it is 63.5% AT and for *P. westermani* only 54.6% AT (Le *et al.*, 2002). The
230 nucleotide composition in the *P. westermani*, Indian isolate was biased towards G and T, which is
231 similar to that of other digeneans, viz. *F. hepatica*, *O. felineus*, *C. sinensis*, *P. cervi* and unlike *S.*
232 *japonicum* and other schistosomes, which are more biased towards A and T. The atomic
233 composition in single stranded DNA exhibits Hydrogen with a frequency of 37.5%, Carbon
234 29.8%, Nitrogen 10.8 %, Oxygen 18.8 % and Phosphorus 3.0% (Table 4).

235 **Transfer and ribosomal RNA genes section**

236 A standard cloverleaf structure is generally seen for most of the tRNAs. There are exceptions that
237 include tRNA(S), in which the paired dihydrouridine (DHU) arm is missing as in all parasitic
238 flatworm species and tRNA(A), in which the paired DHU-arm is missing as in cestodes contrary
239 to trematodes. Previous studies indicate structures for tRNA(C) that somewhat vary among the
240 parasitic flatworms. In some species, a paired DHU-arm is missing (*Schistosoma mekongi* and
241 cestodes), whereas it is present in others (*F.hepatica* and *F. buski*). It is noteworthy that the *P.*
242 *westermani* Indian isolate exhibited 24 tRNA genes, 1 TV replacement loop tRNA genes and 2 D
243 replacement loop tRNA genes. The tRNA GC range varied from 37.9% to 59.4%. (Fig. 5).
244 Ribosomal large and small subunits in parasitic flatworms are unremarkable. They are smaller
245 than those in most other metazoans but can be folded into a recognizable, conserved secondary
246 structures (Le *et al.*, 2001). The *rrnL* (16S ribosomal RNA) and *rrnS* (12S ribosomal RNA) genes
247 of *P. westermani* were identified by sequence comparison with those of closely related
248 trematodes and these ribosomal genes were separated by tRNA-C (GCA).

249 **Non-coding regions**

250 There are one or two longer non-coding region(s) (NR) in every genome comprising stable stem-
251 loop structures that are associated with genome replication or repeat sequences. Previous studies
252 report repeats in the NR of many animal mt genomes that may be an outcome of slippage-
253 mismatching mechanisms (Le, Blair & McManus, 2001). In parasitic flatworms, NRs vary in
254 length and complexity. The NR is divided by one or more tRNA genes into a SNR and a LNR in
255 digenean trematodes. A common feature of LNRs is the presence of long repeats. In the present
256 study the *P. westermani* mtDNA though didn't exhibit significant demarcation of LNR and SNR,
257 there were regions with repeats with total number of 3158 variants with a total of 1722 SNPs and
258 1436 INDELS.

259 **Phylogenetic analysis**

260 Several genetic markers from nuclear rDNA regions and mtDNA of flukes have been employed
261 in some systematic and population genetic studies of helminth parasites [7-14]. As of now the
262 full-length mt genomes of 14 digenean, 34 cestode and 70 nematode species have been
263 determined, characterized, and are published in GenBank. It is confirmed that alignments with
264 more than 10,000 nucleotides from mtDNAs can provide ample information for phylogenetic
265 resolution, hypothesis building and evolutionary interpretation of the major lineages of
266 tapeworms. Use of complete mtDNA sequences for phylogenetic analyses are more reliable and
267 informative (Waeschenbach, Webster & Littlewood, 2012). In the present study, a phylogenetic
268 tree inferred from concatenated nucleotide sequences of the 12 protein-coding genes (shown in
269 Fig. 2) is well supported by very high posterior probabilities (100%). Two large clades are visibly
270 informative: one contains members of the Family Schistosomatidae, and the other includes
271 members representing the sequence of families in order of increasingly derived status:
272 Opisthorchiidae, Paragonimidae, Paramphistomidae and Fasciolidae (Trematoda); Ascarididae
273 (Nematoda) and Taeniidae (Cestoda). This arrangement was seen in the tree based on nucleotide
274 sequences, in which a clade containing Fasciolidae and Paragonimidae was strongly supported
275 and *P. cervi* was sister to this clade. *P. westermani* claded with *Opisthorchis felineus* and
276 *Clonorchis sinensis*. Members representing Taeniidae served as an outgroup (Fig. 3).

277 **Conclusions**

278 In this study, we took advantage of the whole genome sequence data for *P. westermani*, generated
279 by NGS technology and its comparison to existing data for the *P. westermani* mitochondrial
280 genome sequence for designing precise and specific primers for amplification of mitochondrial
281 genome sequences from the parasite DNA sample. Here we present and discuss the complete
282 sequence of the coding region of the mitochondrial genome of *P. westermani*, the Indian lung
283 fluke isolate, which possesses the same gene order as that of other Digenea (Opisthorchiidae and

284 Paramphistomatidae) and consists of 12 PCGs, 24 tRNAs and 2 rRNAs. There are long repetitive
285 regions in the fluke that can serve as diagnostic markers with phylogenetic signals. The complete
286 mtDNA sequence of *P. westermani* will add to the knowledge of digenean mitochondrial
287 genomics and also provide an important resource for studies of inter- and intra-specific
288 variations, biogeographic studies, heteroplasmy of the flukes belonging to Paragonimidae and a
289 resource for comparative mitochondrial genomics and systematic studies of Digenea.

290 **Availability of supporting data**

291 Sequence reads have been deposited at the National Center for Biotechnology Information
292 [Bioproject: PRJNA248332, Biosample : SAMN02797822 and SRA: SRX550161]

293 **Authors' contributions**

294 VT, AB and DKB conceived of the study and participated in its design, coordination and
295 manuscript writing. DKB and AB performed the computational analysis and maintained the
296 computer programs used for the analysis. VT and AC performed the molecular experiments
297 associated with the parasite. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

298 **Acknowledgements**

299

300 We would like to acknowledge Dr. Sudip Ghatani, Department of Zoology, NEHU, Shillong for
301 collecting the biosamples and M/s Genotypic Technologies, Bangalore, India for carrying out
302 NGS sequencing for this project, especially the efforts of Dr. Deepti Saini for the primer design
303 strategy.

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Figure 1

Comparative Synteny map of the representative species for the helminth mtDNA illustrating the protein coding genes, tRNAs, rRNAs etc.

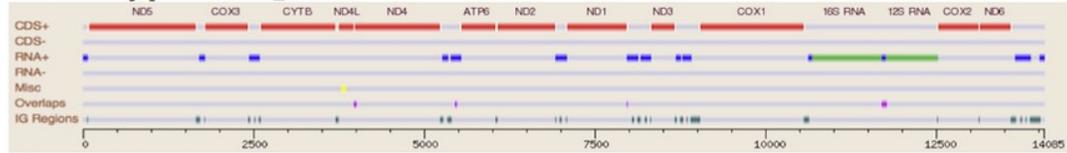
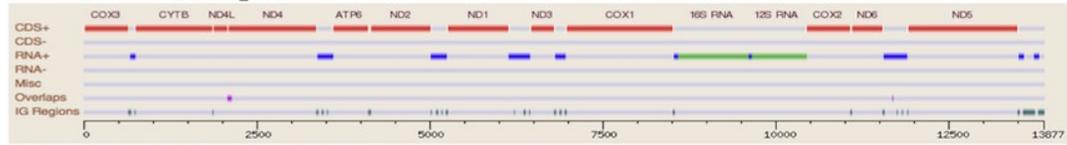
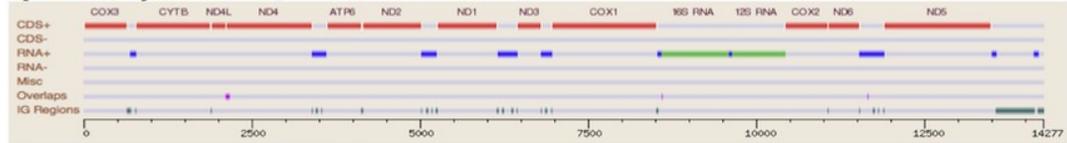
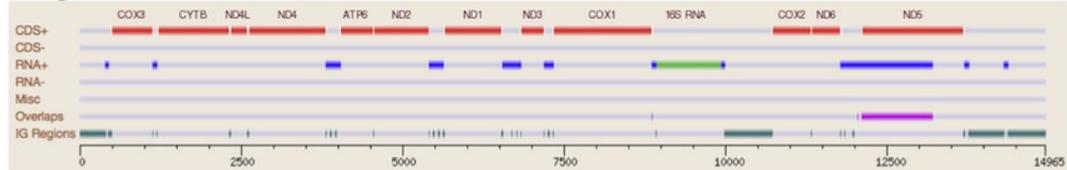
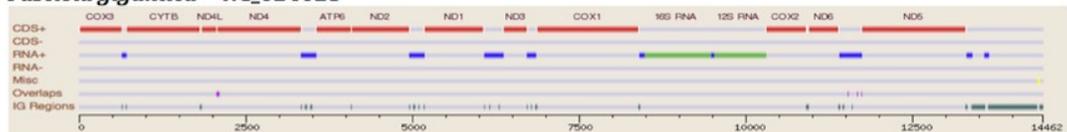
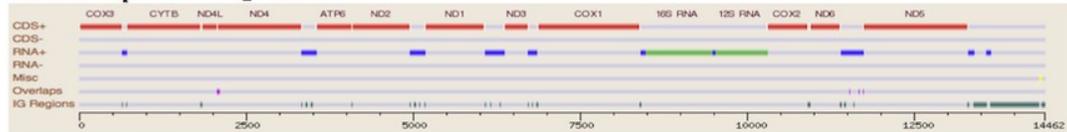
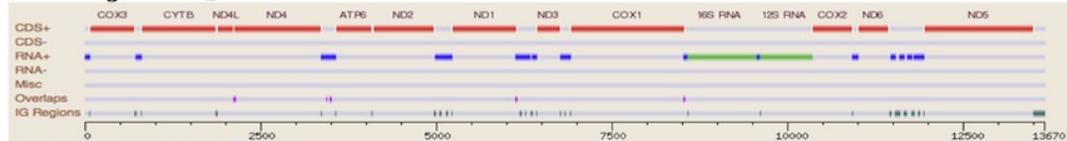
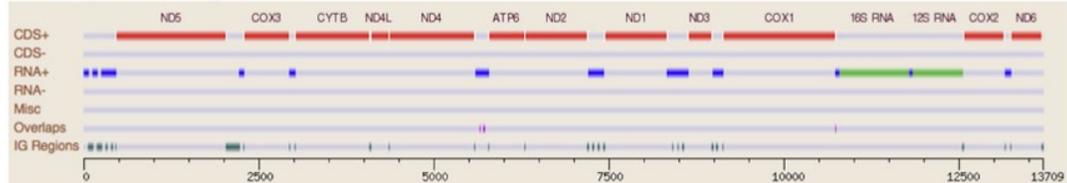
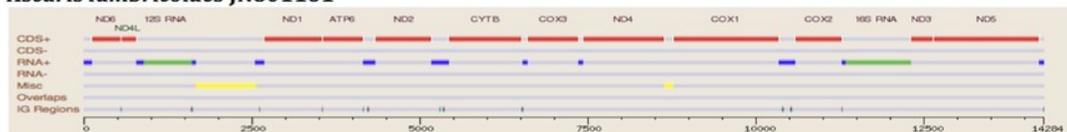
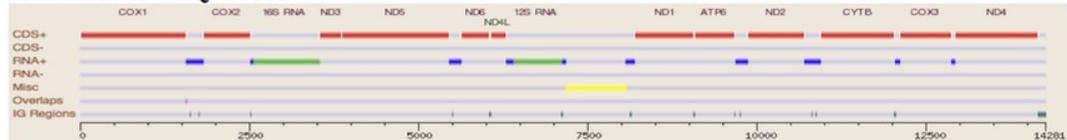
Schistosoma japonicum* NC_002544**Clonorchis sinensis* NC_012147*****Opisthorchis felineus* NC_011127*****Paragonimus westermani* NC_002354*****Fasciola gigantica* NC_024025*****Fasciola hepatica* NC_002546*****Taenia saginata* NC_009938*****Taenia solium* NC_004022*****Ascaris lumbricoides* JN801161*****Ascaris suum* HQ704901**

Figure 2

Circular genome map of *Paragonimus westermani* mtDNA

The manual and in-silico annotations with appropriate regions for *P. westermani* mtDNA and annotated GenBank flat file for *P. westermani* were drawn into a circular graph in GenomeVX depicting the 12 PCGs and 24tRNAs.

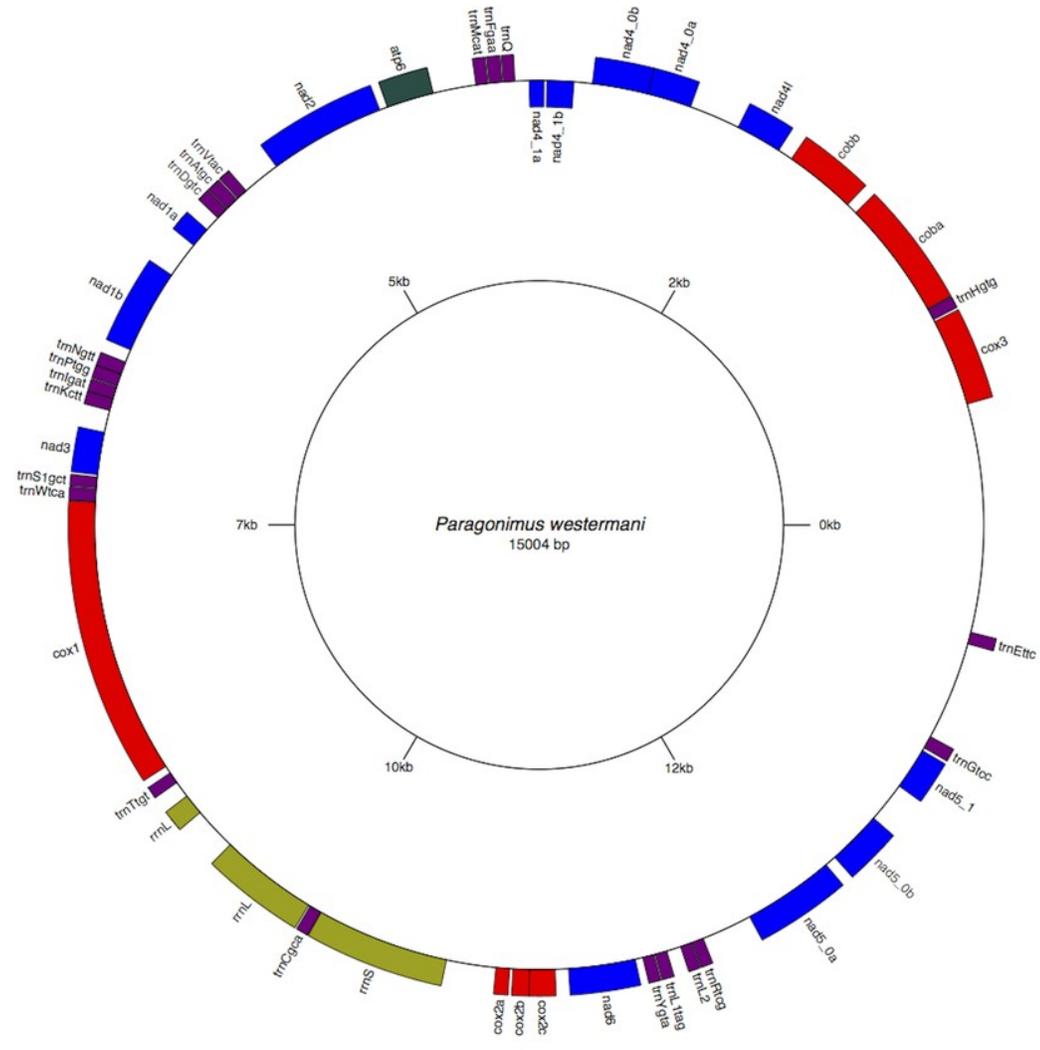


Figure 3

Inferred Phylogenetic relationship among the representative helminth mtDNA species of the concatenated 12 protein coding genes

Trees were inferred using MrBayes v3.1. A, tree inferred from concatenated nucleotide sequences of 12 protein-coding genes, using the cestode *Echinococcus granulosus* as the outgroup. Posterior support values are given at nodes. Differences in the gene order in the mitochondrial genomes of parasitic flatworms from the Trematoda and Cestoda and taking Nematoda (*Ascaridida*) as an outgroup are indicated on the phylogenetic leaf nodes. See text for more details.

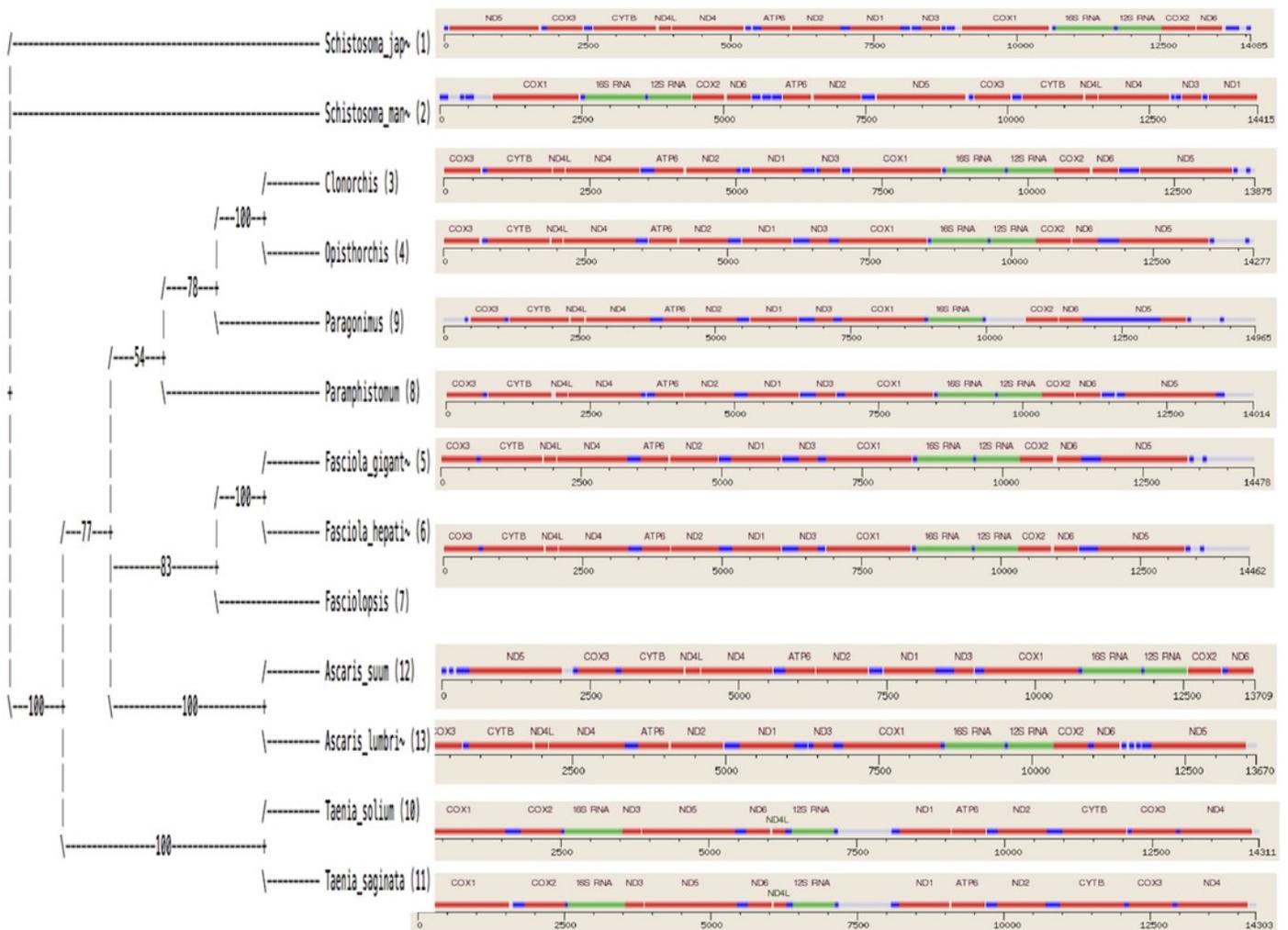


Figure 4

Summarized 12 protein coding genes and their blast hit protein plots

The protein plot depicts the quality value for each gene and each position if it is above the threshold and the different genes are differentiated with a range of colour codes. The hits used in MITOS correspond to the "mountains" in this protein plot that visualizes the signal from the BLAST searches. The arrows shown on the top of the plot depict gene order annotation and the quality values are shown on a log scale.

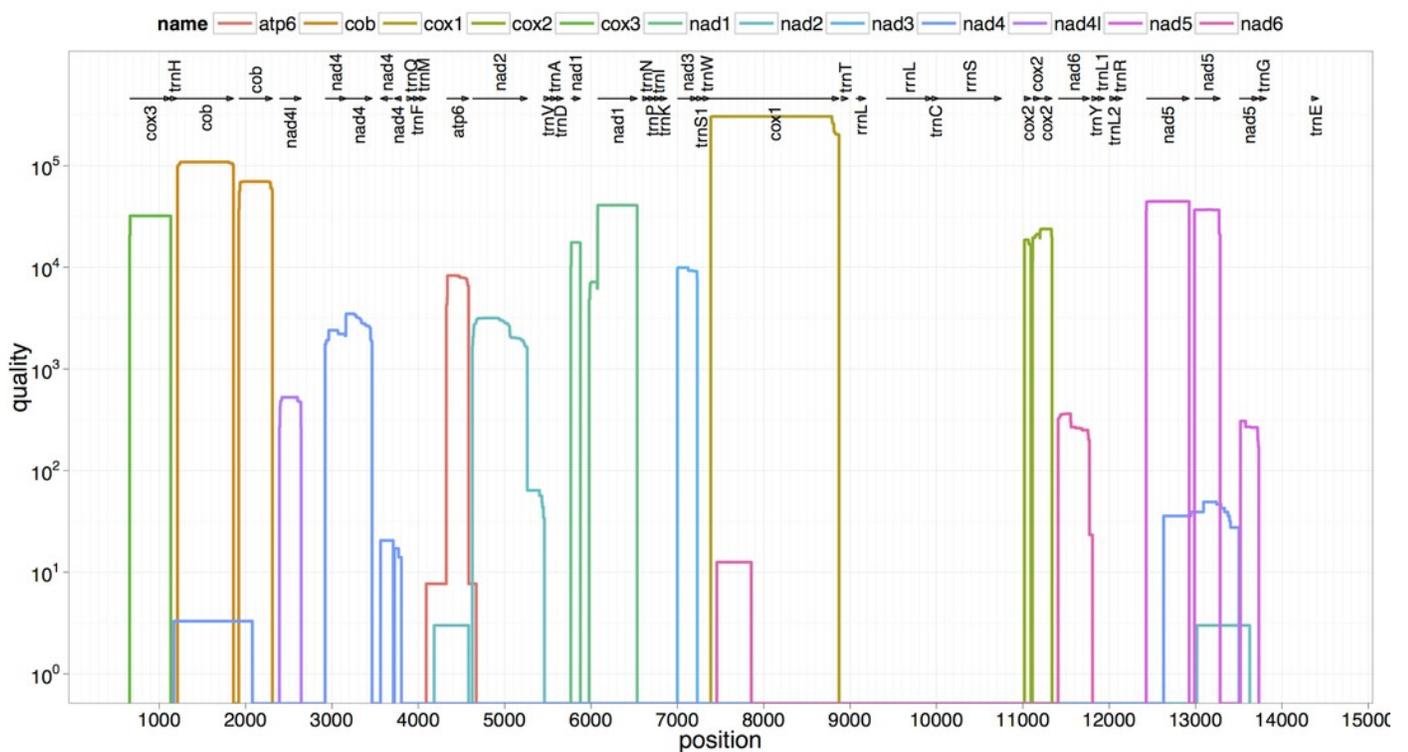


Figure 5

24 tRNA secondary structures predicted using ARWEN

Table 1 (on next page)

mt DNA nucleotide sequence statistics information of representative helminth parasites

Table 1. Mitochondrial DNA Nucleotide sequence statistics information of selected digenean trematodes, cestodes and nematodes

Sequence type	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA
Length	14,118 bp circular	14,462 bp circular	5,004 bp circular	14,277bp circular	14014 bp circular	13,875bp circular	14,478 bp circular	14,415bp circular	14,085bp circular	13,670bp circular	13,709 bp circular	14,281 bp circular	14,284 bp circular
Organism Name	<i>Fasciolopsis buski</i>	<i>Fasciola hepatica</i>	<i>Paragonimus westermani</i>	<i>Opisthorchis felineus</i>	<i>Paramphistomum cervi</i>	<i>Clonorchis sinensis</i>	<i>Fasciola gigantica</i>	<i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>	<i>Schistosoma japonicum</i>	<i>Taenia saginata</i>	<i>Taenia solium</i>	<i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i>	<i>Ascaris suum</i>
Accession	Submitted to GenBank	NC_002546	NC_002354	EU921260	NC_023095	FJ381664	NC_024025	NC_002545	NC_002544	NC_009938	NC_004022	JN801161	NC_001327
Modification Date	submitted	01-FEB-2010	submitted	18-AUG-2010	14-JAN-2014	01-JUL-2010	01-MAY-2014	14-APR-2009	01-FEB-2010	14-APR-2009	01-FEB-2010	01-DEC-2011	11-MAR-2010
Weight (single-stranded)	4396.507	4,499.496 kDa	4,066.455 kDa	4,437.683 kDa	4,363.551 kDa	4,311.834 kDa	4,504.913 kDa	4,482.165 kDa	4,371.002 kDa	4,242.425 kDa	4,251.992 kDa	4,428.619 kDa	4,429.881 kDa
Weight (double-stranded)	8721.667	8,934.244 kDa	9,270.244 kDa	8,820.283 kDa	8,657.348 kDa	8,571.888 kDa	8,944.06 kDa	8,904.302 kDa	8,700.11 kDa	8,443.711 kDa	8,467.723 kDa	8,443.711 kDa	8,822.899 kDa
Annotation table													
Feature type	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
CDS	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Gene	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Misc. feature	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2
rRNA	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
tRNA	22	22	24	22	22	22	22	23	23	22	22	22	22

Table 2 (on next page)

P. westermani mtDNA annotations showing PCGs and tRNA in dot bracket format

Name	Start	Stop	Strand	Length	Structure
cox3	658	1134	+	477	
trnH(gtg)	1147	1209	+	63	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
cob-a	1213	1860	+	648	
cob-b	1922	2311	+	390	
nad4l	2393	2644	+	252	
nad4_0-a	2922	3167	+	246	
nad4_0-b	3163	3465	+	303	
nad4_1-b	3564	3710	-	147	
nad4_1-a	3725	3805	-	81	
trnQ(---)	3882	3944	+	63	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnF(gaa)	3951	4020	+	70	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnM(cat)	4027	4092	+	66	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
atp6	4326	4583	+	258	
nad2	4627	5262	+	636	
trnV(tac)	5470	5531	+	62	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnA(tgc)	5539	5610	+	72	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnD(gtc)	5615	5681	+	67	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
nad1-a	5767	5877	+	111	
nad1-b	6077	6535	+	459	
trnN(gtt)	6606	6675	+	70	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnP(tgg)	6676	6743	+	68	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnI(gat)	6749	6812	+	64	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnK(ctt)	6815	6880	+	66	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
nad3	7001	7231	+	231	
trnS1(gct)	7244	7302	+	59	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnW(tca)	7308	7375	+	68	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
cox1	7379	8872	+	1494	
trnT(tgt)	8914	8977	+	64	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
rrnL	9067	9181	+	115	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
rrnL	9417	9951	+	535	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
trnC(gca)	9961	10025	+	65	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
rrnS	10028	10751	+	724	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).
cox2-a	11020	11094	+	75	
cox2-b	11112	11204	+	93	
cox2-c	11201	11338	+	138	
nad6	11410	11772	+	363	
trnY(gta)	11814	11876	+	63	(((((.....)))).(((.....)))....((.....)))).

trnL1(tag)	11883	11947	+	65	.((((((..((.....)).(((.....))))....(((.....)))))))).
trnL2(---)	12025	12086	+	62	((((((..((.....)).(((.....))))....(((.....)))))))).
trnR(tcg)	12091	12154	+	64	((((((..((.....)).(((.....))))....(((.....)))))))).
nad5_0-a	12430	12927	+	498	
nad5_0-b	12989	13285	+	297	
nad5_1	13506	13733	+	228	
trnG(tcc)	13751	13820	+	70	((((((..((.....)).(((.....))))....(((.....)))))))).
trnE(ttc)	14358	14422	+	65	((((((..((.....)).(((.....))))....(((.....)))))))).

Table 2. *P. westermanni* mtDNA annotations showing PCGs and tRNA in dot bracket format

Table 3(on next page)

Codon usage for *Paragonimus westermani* mt DNA

Table 3. Codon usage for *Paragonimus westermani* mt DNA

AmAcid	Codon	Number	/1000	Fraction
Ala	GCG	57.00	11.40	0.27
Ala	GCA	38.00	7.60	0.18
Ala	GCT	75.00	15.00	0.36
Ala	GCC	39.00	7.80	0.19
Cys	TGT	208.00	41.59	0.76
Cys	TGC	67.00	13.40	0.24
Asp	GAT	91.00	18.20	0.72
Asp	GAC	36.00	7.20	0.28
Glu	GAG	111.00	22.20	0.69
Glu	GAA	51.00	10.20	0.31
Phe	TTT	310.00	61.99	0.74
Phe	TTC	109.00	21.80	0.26
Gly	GGG	168.00	33.59	0.34
Gly	GGA	89.00	17.80	0.18
Gly	GGT	166.00	33.19	0.34
Gly	GGC	66.00	13.20	0.13
His	CAT	44.00	8.80	0.61
His	CAC	28.00	5.60	0.39
Ile	ATT	97.00	19.40	0.71
Ile	ATC	40.00	8.00	0.29
Lys	AAG	66.00	13.20	1.00
Leu	TTG	226.00	45.19	0.34
Leu	TTA	110.00	22.00	0.17
Leu	CTG	92.00	18.40	0.14
Leu	CTA	35.00	7.00	0.05
Leu	CTT	147.00	29.39	0.22
Leu	CTC	56.00	11.20	0.08
Met	ATG	89.00	17.80	0.80
Met	ATA	22.00	4.40	0.20
Asn	AAA	55.00	11.00	0.45
Asn	AAT	44.00	8.80	0.36
Asn	AAC	24.00	4.80	0.20
Pro	CCG	34.00	6.80	0.26
Pro	CCA	20.00	4.00	0.15
Pro	CCT	57.00	11.40	0.43
Pro	CCC	22.00	4.40	0.17
Gln	CAG	42.00	8.40	0.64
Gln	CAA	24.00	4.80	0.36
Arg	CGG	51.00	10.20	0.35
Arg	CGA	26.00	5.20	0.18
Arg	CGT	51.00	10.20	0.35
Arg	CGC	19.00	3.80	0.13
Ser	AGG	125.00	25.00	0.21
Ser	AGA	57.00	11.40	0.09
Ser	AGT	76.00	15.20	0.13
Ser	AGC	36.00	7.20	0.06
Ser	TCG	56.00	11.20	0.09
Ser	TCA	52.00	10.40	0.09
Ser	TCT	134.00	26.79	0.22
Ser	TCC	68.00	13.60	0.11
Thr	ACG	37.00	7.40	0.29
Thr	ACA	20.00	4.00	0.16
Thr	ACT	43.00	8.60	0.34
Thr	ACC	27.00	5.40	0.21
Val	GTG	156.00	31.19	0.29
Val	GTA	58.00	11.60	0.11
Val	GTT	256.00	51.19	0.48
Val	GTC	65.00	13.00	0.12
Trp	TGG	159.00	31.79	0.58
Trp	TGA	113.00	22.60	0.42
Tyr	TAT	74.00	14.80	0.57
Tyr	TAC	55.00	11.00	0.43

End	TAG	66.00	13.20	0.50
End	TAA	66.00	13.20	0.50

Table 4(on next page)

Atomic composition and nucleotide distribution Table of *Paragonimus westermani* mtDNA

Table 4. Atomic composition and Nucleotide distribution Table of *Paragonimus westermani* mtDNA

Atomic composition					
As single-stranded					
Atom	Count	Frequency			
Hydrogen (H)	185664	0.375			
Carbon (C)	147756	0.298			
Nitrogen (N)	53610	0.108			
Oxygen (O)	93068	0.188			
Phosphorus (P)	15004	0.03			
As double-stranded					
Atom	Count	Frequency			
Hydrogen (H)	368285	0.374			
Carbon (C)	293261	0.298			
Nitrogen (N)	111847	0.114			
Oxygen (O)	180050	0.183			
Phosphorus (P)	30008	0.031			
Nucleotide distribution table					
Nucleotide	Count	Frequency			
Adenine (A)	2571	0.171			
Cytosine (C)	2284	0.152			
Guanine (G)	4535	0.302			
Thymine (T)	5614	0.374			
C + G	6819	0.454			
A + T	8185	0.546			
Counts of di-nucleotides					
1.pos\2.pos	A	C	G	T	
A		562	389	857	763
C		391	430	505	958
G		882	592	1492	1568
T		736	873	1680	2325
Frequency of di-nucleotides					
1.pos\2.pos	A	C	G	T	
A		0.037	0.026	0.057	0.051
C		0.026	0.029	0.034	0.064
G		0.059	0.039	0.099	0.105
T		0.049	0.058	0.112	0.155

Table 5(on next page)

Summary of illumina and Ion-Torrent quality control reads

Table 5. Ion Torrent and Illumina reads

Ion torrent reads		
S.No	1	2
Fastq file name	processed_reads.fastq	mapped_mito.fastq
Fastq file size	239.71 MB	71.55 MB
Time taken for Analysis	8.75 Seconds	2.76 Seconds
Maximum Read Length	260	260
Minimum Read Length	35	35
Mean Read Length	121	117
Total Number of Reads	890504	292832
Total Number of HQ Reads 1*	890442	292822
Percentage of HQ Reads	99.993%	99.997%
Total Number of Bases	107866584 bases	34145801 bases
Total Number of Bases in Mb	107.8666 Mb	34.1458 Mb
Total Number of HQ Bases 2*	105216008 bases	33218357 bases
Total Number of HQ Bases in Mb	105.2160 Mb	33.2184 Mb
Percentage of HQ Bases	97.543%	97.284%
Total Number of Non-ATGC Characters	0 bases	0 bases
Total Number of Non-ATGC Characters in Mb	0.000000 Mb	0.000000 Mb
Percentage of Non-ATGC Characters	0.000%	0.000%
Number of Reads with Non-ATGC Characters	0	0
Percentage of Reads with Non-ATGC Characters	0.000%	0.000%
Illumina reads		
S.No	1	
Fastq file name	SE_ill.fastq	
Fastq file size	14.56 MB	
Time taken for Analysis	0.48 Seconds	
Maximum Read Length	100	
Minimum Read Length	50	
Mean Read Length	96	
Total Number of Reads	62874	
Total Number of HQ Reads 1*	62874	
Percentage of HQ Reads	100.000%	
Total Number of Bases	6053872 bases	
Total Number of Bases in Mb	6.0539 Mb	
Total Number of HQ Bases 2*	5982733 bases	
Total Number of HQ Bases in Mb	5.9827 Mb	
Percentage of HQ Bases	98.825%	
Total Number of Non-ATGC Characters	410 bases	
Total Number of Non-ATGC Characters in Mb	0.000410 Mb	
Percentage of Non-ATGC Characters	0.007%	
Number of Reads with Non-ATGC Characters	240	
Percentage of Reads with Non-ATGC Characters	0.382%	