

## Abstract

This thesis addresses the rather neglected diversity of protists inhabiting the anoxic environment of the hindgut of cockroaches (Blattodea excluding Isoptera). I have examined the composition of the eukaryotic hindgut biota of over 200 cockroach species, with a detailed focus on four selected groups of protists: parabasalids (Metamonada, Parabasalia), oxymonads (Metamonada, Preaxostyla, Oxymonadida), ciliates (Alveolata, Ciliophora), and gregarines (Alveolata, Apicomplexa, Eugregarinorida). The results reveal a significant and so far almost unknown diversity of cockroach metamonads. The oxymonads are mostly represented by small polymastigids of the genus *Monocercomonoides* and the newly described genus *Blattamonas*. An exception is the discovery of what is, to date, only the second representative of the genus *Streblomastix*. The majority of the identified parabasalids belong to either the order Hypotrichomonadida or Honigbergiellida. Here the study takes a slight detour to explore the diversity of honigbergiellids as well as other groups of trichomonads inhabiting a somewhat different anoxic environment, namely aquatic sediments. Here, previously unknown diversity of parabasalids is also found. Our findings include the description of a new parabasalid order, Pimpavickida. Other investigated organisms are the morphologically bizarre ciliates of the family Clevelandellidae (Armophorea, Clevelandellida), symbionts of wood-feeding cockroaches, unrelated to termites, of the subfamily Panesthiinae. The study critically responds to a series of several recent publications and also presents the most extensive observations into the diversity, taxonomy, and morphology of this extremely interesting group reported so far. Additionally, we report the discovery of a new genus and species, *Reductitherus cryptostomus* n. gen. n. sp., in the family Nyctotheridae (Armophorea, Clevelandellida), close relatives of Clevelandellidae. The thesis also briefly deals with the higher taxonomy of the APM clade of ciliates, to which Clevelandellida belongs, and with the higher taxonomy of the phylum Apicomplexa, to which the gregarines found in cockroaches belong.