
PHE National Parasitology Reference Laboratory, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, 3rd Floor Mortimer Market, Centre, Capper Street, London WC1E 6JB, TEL: +44 (0) 207 383 0482, FAX +44 (0) 207 388 8985

Iodamoeba butschlii

Introduction

Iodamoeba butschlii is a non-pathogenic amoeba with world wide distribution although not as common as *E. coli* or *E. nana*. Its life cycle is similar to that of *E. histolytica* but is non invasive.

Morphology of cysts

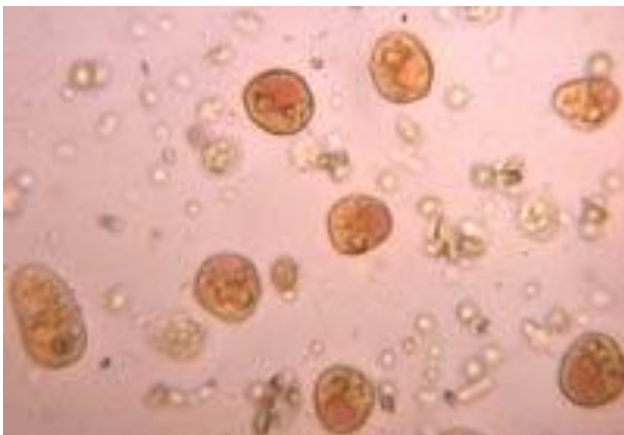
Cysts of *I. butschlii* are 9 - 15 μ in diameter and have one nucleus in mature cysts usually eccentrically placed. Chromatoid bodies are not present. Glycogen is present as a compact well defined mass staining dark brown with iodine.

Morphology of trophozoites

Trophozoites of *I. butschlii* are 8 - 20 μ and are actively motile. On a permanently stained faecal smear, a nucleus with a large karyosome is evident. Chromatin bodies form striations around the karyosome. The cytoplasm appears granular containing vacuoles with ingested bacteria and debris.

Laboratory Diagnosis

Laboratory diagnosis is made by finding the characteristic cysts in an iodine stained, formol-ether concentration method. Trophozoites are difficult to detect in a wet preparation.



Cysts of *Iodamoeba butschlii*