

**Table S1** - The 18S-rDNA sequences used in this study and their GenBank/NCBI accession numbers.

<b>Class/species<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Accession number</b>
Armophorea Lynn, 2004	
<i>Brachonella</i> sp.	AJ009664
<i>Brachonella</i> sp.	AJ009665
<i>Caenomorpha</i> sp.	AJ009659
<i>Caenomorpha</i> sp.	AJ009660
<i>Caenomorpha</i> sp.	AJ009663
<i>Caenomorpha uniserialis</i>	U97108
Caenomorphidae gen. sp.	AJ009658
Caenomorphidae gen. sp.	AJ009661
Caenomorphidae gen. sp.	AJ009662
<i>Metopus contortus</i>	Z29516
<i>Metopus palaeformis</i>	AY007450
<i>Metopus palaeformis</i>	AY007451
<i>Metopus palaeformis</i>	AY007452
<i>Metopus palaeformis</i>	AY007453
<i>Metopus palaeformis</i>	M86385
<i>Nyctotheroides deslierresae</i>	AF145353
<i>Nyctotheroides parvus</i>	AF145352
<i>Nyctotheroides</i> sp.	AF147882
<i>Nyctotherus cordiformis</i>	AJ006711
<i>Nyctotherus cordiformis</i>	AJ006712
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009700
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009701
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009702
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009703
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009704
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ009705
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AJ222678
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AY007454
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AY007455
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AY007456
<i>Nyctotherus ovalis</i>	AY007457
<i>Nyctotherus velox</i>	AJ006713
Uncultured Armophorida	AJ862394
Uncultured Armophorida	AJ862409
Uncultured Armophorida	AJ862421
Uncultured <i>Brachonella</i> -like ciliate	AY821928
Uncultured <i>Caenomorpha</i>	AJ862380
Uncultured <i>Caenomorpha</i>	AJ862384
Uncultured <i>Caenomorpha</i> -like ciliate	AY821933
Uncultured caenomorphid	AY821936

Uncultured metopid ciliate	AY821930
Uncultured metopid ciliate	AY821942
Uncultured <i>Metopus</i>	AJ862383
Uncultured <i>Metopus</i>	AJ862385
Colpodea Small & Lynn, 1981	
<i>Bresslaua vorax</i>	AF060453
<i>Bursaria truncatella</i>	U82204
<i>Colpoda aspera</i>	EU039892
<i>Colpoda cucullus</i>	EU039893
<i>Colpoda inflata</i>	M97908
Heterotrichea Stein, 1859	
<i>Blepharisma americanum</i>	AM713182
<i>Chattonidium setense</i>	AM295495
<i>Climacostomum virens</i>	EU583990
<i>Condylostentor auriculatus</i>	DQ445605
<i>Condylostoma curva</i>	EU379939
<i>Condylostoma spatiosum</i>	DQ822483
<i>Eufolliculina uhligi</i>	U47620
<i>Fabrea salina</i>	EU583991
<i>Gruberia</i> sp.	L31517
<i>Peritromus faurei</i>	EU583993
<i>Peritromus kahli</i>	AJ537427
<i>Spirostomum ambiguum</i>	L31518
<i>Stentor coeruleus</i>	AF357145
<i>Stentor polymorphus</i>	FN659823
Karyorelictea Corliss, 1974	
<i>Geleia fossata</i>	AY187925
<i>Geleia simplex</i>	AY187927
<i>Loxodes striatus</i>	AM946031
<i>Parduczia orbis</i>	AY187924
<i>Trachelocerca ditis</i>	GQ167153
Litostomatea Small & Lynn, 1981	
<i>Amphileptus aeschtae</i>	EU242510
<i>Amylovorax dogieli</i>	AF298825
<i>Anoplodinium denticulatum</i>	AM158470
<i>Arcuospathidium muscorum</i>	DQ411859
<i>Balantidium coli</i>	AF029763
<i>Bitricha tasmaniensis</i>	AF298821
<i>Didinium nasutum</i>	U57771
<i>Dileptus</i> sp.	AF029764
<i>Enchelyodon</i> sp.	U80313
<i>Enchelys polynucleata</i>	DQ411861

<i>Epiphyllum shenzhenense</i>	GU574809
<i>Hemiophrys macrostoma</i>	AY102173
<i>Hemiophrys procera</i>	AY102175
<i>Isotricha intestinalis</i>	U57770
<i>Isotricha prostoma</i>	AM158456
<i>Lacrymaria marina</i>	DQ777746
<i>Litonotus pictus</i>	GQ351701
<i>Loxophyllum rostratum</i>	DQ411864
<i>Monodinium</i> sp.	DQ487196
<i>Ophryoscolex caudatus</i>	AM158467
<i>Phialina salinarum</i>	EU242508
<i>Polycosta turniae</i>	AF298818
<i>Polyplastron multivesiculatum</i>	U57767
<i>Spathidium stammeri</i>	DQ411862
<i>Trachelotractus entzi</i>	FJ463745

Nassophorea Small & Lynn, 1981

<i>Colpodidium caudatum</i>	EU264560
<i>Furgasonia blochmanni</i>	X65150
<i>Leptopharynx costatus</i>	EU286811
<i>Nassula</i> sp.	EU286810
<i>Obertruria georgiana</i>	X65149
<i>Orthodonella apohamatus</i>	DQ232761
<i>Pseudomicrothorax dubius</i>	FM201298
<i>Zosterodasys agamalievi</i>	FJ008926
<i>Zosterodasys transverses</i>	EU286812

Oligohymenophorea Puytorac et al., 1974

<i>Anophyroides haemophila</i>	U51554
<i>Bromeliophrya brasiliensis</i>	AJ810075
<i>Epicarchesium abrae</i>	DQ190462
<i>Frontonia didieri</i>	DQ885986
<i>Glaucoma scintillans</i>	AJ511861
<i>Glaucomides bromelicola</i>	AJ810077
<i>Ophryoglena catenula</i>	U17355
<i>Opisthonecta minima</i>	EF417834
<i>Paramecium caudatum</i>	AB252003
<i>Paranophrys marina</i>	FJ858379
<i>Paratetrahymena wassi</i>	GQ292767
<i>Pseudocohnilembus persalinus</i>	AY835669
<i>Tetrahymena corlissi</i>	U17356
<i>Urocentrum turbo</i>	EF114300
<i>Vorticella fusca</i>	DQ190468
<i>Zoothamnium pluma</i>	DQ662854
<i>Zoothamnopsis sinica</i>	DQ190469

Phyllopharyngea Puytorac et al., 1974	
<i>Chilodonella uncinata</i>	AF300284
<i>Chlamydodon excocellatus</i>	AY331790
<i>Discophrya collini</i>	L26446
<i>Dysteria procera</i>	DQ057347
<i>Ephelota</i> sp.	DQ834370
<i>Hartmannula sinica</i>	EF623827
<i>Isochona</i> sp. OOSW-3	AY242118
<i>Tokophrya quadripartita</i>	AY102174
<i>Trithigmostoma steini</i>	X71134
Plagiopylea Small & Lynn, 1985	
<i>Epalxella antiquorum</i>	EF014286
<i>Lechriopyla mystax</i>	AF527757
<i>Plagiopyla frontata</i>	Z29440
<i>Plagiopyla nasuta</i>	Z29442
<i>Trimyema compressum</i>	Z29438
<i>Trimyema minutum thermophilum</i>	AJ292526
Prostomatea Schewiakoff, 1896	
<i>Coleps hirtus</i>	U97109
<i>Coleps spetai</i>	AM292312
<i>Levicoleps biwae</i>	AB354737
<i>Prorodon teres</i>	X71140
<i>Tiarina fusa</i>	FJ858217
Spirotrichea Bütschli, 1889	
<i>Amphisiella magnigranulosa</i>	AM412774
<i>Amphisiella milnei</i>	DQ845293
<i>Apodiophrys ovalis</i>	GU477634
<i>Aspidisca magna</i>	EU880598
<i>Aspidisca steini</i>	AF305625
<i>Caryotricha minuta</i>	EU275202
<i>Certesias quadrinucleata</i>	DQ059581
<i>Diophryopsis hystrix</i>	EF486861
<i>Diophrys apoligothrix</i>	EU189068
<i>Diophrys parappendiculata</i>	EU267928
<i>Diophrys scutum</i>	DQ353851
<i>Euplotes aediculatus</i>	M14590
<i>Euplotes charon</i>	AJ305249
<i>Euplotes harpa</i>	AJ305252
<i>Euplotes minuta</i>	AJ305246
<i>Euplotes raikovi</i>	EF094974
<i>Euplotes rariseta</i>	AJ305248
<i>Euplotes trisulcatus</i>	EF690810
<i>Euplotes vannus</i>	AY361854

<i>Euplotes woodruffi</i>	AF452710
<i>Euplotidium arenarium</i>	Y19166
<i>Eutintinnus pectinis</i>	AY143570
<i>Favella ehrenbergii</i>	GU574768
<i>Gastrocirrhus monilifer</i>	DQ864734
<i>Gastrostyla steinei</i>	AF164133
<i>Heterodiophrys zhui</i>	GU477635
<i>Holosticha bradburyae</i>	EF123706
<i>Kiitricha marina</i>	AY896768
<i>Moneuplotes crassus</i>	AY361895
<i>Novistrombidium sinicum</i>	FJ422990
<i>Onychodromus grandis</i>	AJ310486
<i>Onychodromus quadricornutus</i>	X53485
<i>Oxytricha longa</i>	AF164125
<i>Parabirojimia multinucleata</i>	FJ156104
<i>Parabirojimia similis</i>	DQ503584
<i>Paradiophrys irmgard</i>	EU189070
<i>Licnophora lyngbycola</i>	DQ445606
<i>Licnophora macfarlandi</i>	AF527758
<i>Phacodinium metchnikoffi</i>	AJ277877
<i>Prodiscocephalus borrori</i>	DQ646880
<i>Protocruzia adherens</i>	AY217727
<i>Protocruzia contrax</i>	DQ190467
<i>Protogastrostyla pulchra</i>	EF194083
<i>Pseudoamphisiella lacazei</i>	DQ777743
<i>Pseudoamphisiella quadrinucleata</i>	EU518416
<i>Pseudokeronopsis flava</i>	AY881634
<i>Salpingella acuminata</i>	EU399536
<i>Spirotontonia turbinata</i>	FJ422994
<i>Strobilidium caudatum</i>	AY143573
<i>Strombidinopsis acuminata</i>	FJ790207
<i>Strombidium purpureum</i>	U97112
<i>Stylonychia mytilus</i>	EF535730
<i>Trachelostyla pediculiformis</i>	DQ057346
<i>Uroleptus gallina</i>	AF164130
<i>Uronychia multicirrus</i>	EU267929
<i>Urostyla grandis</i>	EF535731

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<sup>a</sup>Names are listed according to the NCBI/GenBank accession number.