High throughput single cell genome sequencing gives insights in the generation and evolution of mosaic aneuploidy in *Leishmania donovani*

Gabriel H. Negreira[1], Pieter Monsieurs[1], Hideo Imamura[1], Ilse Maes[1], Nada Kuk[2], Akila Yagoubat[2], Frederik Van den Broeck[1,3], Yvon Sterkers[2], Jean-Claude Dujardin[1,4], Malgorzata A. Domagalska[1]

Authors Affiliation:

[1] Molecular Parasitology Unit, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

[2] MiVEGEC, University of Montpellier, CNRS, IRD, Montpellier, France

[3] Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Transplantation, Rega Institute for Medical Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

[4] Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Keywords: *Leishmania*, single cell genome sequencing, mosaic aneuploidy

Abstract

Leishmania, a unicellular eukaryotic parasite, is a unique model for aneuploidy and cellular heterogeneity, along with their potential role in adaptation to environmental stresses. Somy variation within clonal populations was previously explored in a small subset of chromosomes using fluorescence hybridization methods. This phenomenon, termed mosaic aneuploidy (MA), might have important evolutionary and functional implications but remains under-explored due to technological limitations. Here, we applied and validated a high throughput single-cell genome sequencing method to study for the first time the extent and dynamics of whole karyotype heterogeneity in two *Leishmania* clonal populations representing different stages of MA evolution in vitro. We found that drastic changes in karyotypes quickly emerge in a population stemming from an almost euploid founder cell. This possibly involves polyploidization/hybridization at an early stage of population expansion, followed by assorted ploidy reduction. During further stages of expansion, MA increases by moderate and gradual karyotypic alterations. MA usually affected a defined subset of chromosomes, of which some display an enrichment in snoRNA genes which could represent an adaptative benefit to the amplification of these chromosomes. Our data provide the first complete characterization of MA in *Leishmania* and pave the way for further functional studies.

36 **Introduction**

37 Aneuploidy, i.e., an imbalance in the copy number of chromosomes in a cell, occurs in a
38 wide range of organisms, including both non- and pathogenic unicellular eukaryotes, such as
39 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Candida albicans, Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Leishmania* spp, but
40 also in different types of human cancer cells (Downing et al., 2011; Holland and Cleveland, 2009;
41 Mulla et al., 2014; Rogers et al., 2011; Selmecki et al., 2006; Sterkers et al., 2011). Although
42 generally considered to be detrimental in multicellular organisms, aneuploidy can also be
43 beneficial, in particular for unicellular organisms facing drastic changes in the environment
44 (Gilchrist and Stelkens, 2019; Siegel and Amon, 2012). In pathogens, aneuploidy facilitates rapid
45 adaptation to environmental stresses through changes in gene dosage and may have an impact
46 on both virulence and the development of drug resistance (Beach et al., 2017; Gerstein et al.,
47 2015; Gilchrist and Stelkens, 2019; Hirakawa et al., 2017; Hu et al., 2011; Ni et al., 2013; Reis-
48 Cunha et al., 2017).

49 *Leishmania*, a genus of digenetic protozoan parasites, is emerging as a unique model for
50 aneuploidy (Mannaert et al., 2012). These parasites are responsible for a spectrum of clinical
51 forms of leishmaniasis worldwide and cause 300,000 new cases per year (WHO, 2020). They
52 can be found in two forms during their life cycle: as an extracellular promastigote in the midgut
53 of phlebotomine sand fly vectors and exclusively as intracellular amastigote inside mammalian
54 host phagocytic cells. Thus, *Leishmania* parasites are adapted to these two drastically different
55 environments. From a molecular point of view, *Leishmania*, as other trypanosomatids, is unique
56 in the Eukaryota domain (Adl et al., 2012). This includes the genomic organization in long
57 polycistronic units, the near absence of transcription initiation regulation by RNA polymerase II
58 promoters with gene expression regulation almost exclusively through post-
59 transcriptional mechanisms, and its remarkable genomic plasticity (Clayton, 2019; Reis-Cunha
60 et al., 2017). The *Leishmania* genome is generally considered to be diploid, although all
61 *Leishmania* genomes analyzed hitherto display aneuploidy afecting at least one chromosome,
62 i.e., a polysomy in Chr31 . Moreover, high levels of 'average' aneuploidy (average will be used
63 throughout this paper for features derived from bulk analyses of population of cells) affecting
64 other chromosomes are commonly found by bulk genome sequencing (BGS) of in vitro cultured
65 promastigotes (Downing et al., 2011; Rogers et al., 2011). This average aneuploidy is highly
66 dynamic and changes when cultivated parasite populations are exposed to different
67 environments such as the vector, the vertebrate host or in response to drug pressure (Dumetz

68 et al., 2017; Shaw et al., 2016; Ubeda et al., 2008). In fact, changes in average aneuploidy
69 pattern and not variation in nucleotide sequence are the first genomic modifications
70 observed at populational level during the course of experimental selection of drug resistance
71 (Dumetz et al., 2018; Shaw et al., 2016). Given that these alterations in average somies are
72 reflected in the average amount of corresponding transcripts, and to a certain degree, of
73 proteins, it has been proposed that aneuploidy allows *Leishmania* to adapt by means of rapid
74 changes in gene dosage (Barja et al., 2017; Cuypers, 2018; Dumetz et al., 2017).

75 *Leishmania* parasites exhibit a remarkable cellular heterogeneity in the form of mosaic
76 aneuploidy, where individual daughter cells originating from a single parent (i.e., a clonal
77 population) may display distinct somies (Lachaud et al., 2014; Sterkers et al., 2011). The full
78 extent of mosaic aneuploidy in *Leishmania* and its dynamics during adaptation to new
79 environment remains largely unexplored due to technological limitations. The only estimation
80 of karyotype heterogeneity was based on the FISH studies of a small set of chromosomes, where
81 it was speculated that thousands of karyotypes may co-exist in a clonal population of
82 *Leishmania* promastigotes (Sterkers et al., 2011). Mosaicism was proposed to provide a source
83 of functional diversity within a population of *Leishmania* cells, through gene dosage, but also
84 through changes in heterozygosity (Barja et al., 2017; Sterkers et al., 2012). This diversity of
85 karyotypes would provide an adaptive potential to unpredictable environmental changes
86 during the parasite's life cycle or drug pressure caused by patient treatment (Barja et al., 2017;
87 Sterkers et al., 2012).

88 Here, we applied and validated for the first time a high-throughput, droplet-based
89 platform for single cell genome sequencing (SCGS) of thousands of individual *Leishmania*
90 promastigotes. This allowed the assessment of the degree and the dynamics of the evolution
91 of mosaic aneuploidy in two clonal populations in vitro representing different stages of
92 adaptation to culture conditions. Based on our study, we propose that the early stages of
93 adaptation are characterized by rapid and drastic changes in karyotypes, allowing initial
94 establishment of highly aneuploid cells in a population of almost euploid parasites. In the next
95 steps, the existing highly aneuploid karyotypes further evolve through gradual and moderate
96 changes in somies resulting in a population of aneuploid cells displaying closely related
97 karyotypes. Our findings strongly support the hypothesis that mosaic aneuploidy is a
98 constitutive feature of *Leishmania* parasites, representing a unique source of functional
99 diversity.

100 **Materials and Methods**

101 **Parasites**

102 In the present paper we use the terms population, strain and clone as defined in the
103 supplementary text. *L. donovani* promastigotes were maintained at 26 ˚C in HOMEM medium
104 (Gibco, ThermoFisher) supplemented with 20% Fetal Bovine Serum, with regular passages done
105 every 7 days at 1/25 dilutions. The clones BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 were derived from two
106 strains adapted to culture: MHOM/NP/02/BPK282/0 and MHOM/NP/02/BPK081/0 (Imamura
107 et al., 2016). These clones were submitted to SCGS at 21 (~126 generations) and 7 passages
108 (~56 generations) after cloning respectively (supp. fig.1). Four strains were mixed to create an
109 artificial 'super-mosaic' population of cells (further called super-mosaic): BPK475
110 (MHOM/NP/09/BPK475/9), BPK498 (MHOM/NP/09/BPK498/0), BPK506
111 (MHOM/NP/09/BPK506/0) and HU3 (MHOM/ET/67/HU3). They were kept in vitro for several
112 passages after isolation from patients (respectively 41, 60, 47 and more than 24) and mixed at
113 equivalent ratio just before preparation for SCGS.

114 **Single-cell suspensions preparation and sequencing**

115 Promastigotes at early stationary phase (day 5) were harvested by centrifugation at 1000 rcf
116 for 5 min, washed twice with PBS 1X (calcium and magnesium-free) + 0.04% BSA, diluted to
117 $5x10^6$ parasites/mL and passed through a 5 µm strainer to remove clumps of cells. After
118 straining, volume was adjusted with PBS 1X + 0.04% BSA to achieve a final concentration of
119 $3x10^6$ parasites/mL. The absence of remaining cell doublets or clumps in the cell suspension
120 was confirmed by microscopy. Cell viability was estimated by flow cytometry (BD FACSverse™)
121 using the NucRed™ Dead 647 probe (Life technologies™) following the recommendations of
122 the manufacturer and in all samples was estimated as higher than 95%. SCGS was performed
123 using the Chromium™ single-cell CNV solution (scCNV) from 10X Genomics™. To target an
124 average of 2000 sequenced cells per sample, 4.2 µL of the cell suspensions were used as input,
125 and cell encapsulation, barcoding, whole genome amplification and library preparation were
126 performed following manufacturer's recommendations. Sequencing of the libraries was done
127 with an Illumina NovaSeq™ SP platform with 2x150 bp reads.

128 **Single Cell Somy estimation**

129 Details about the bioinformatics analysis for somy values determination are provided in the
130 supplementary material. In summary, sequence reads were associated to each sequenced cell

131 based on their barcodes and mapped to a customized version of the reference *L. donovani*
132 genome LdBPKv2 (Dumetz et al., 2017) using the Cell Ranger DNA™ software (10X Genomics).
133 The matrix generated by the software with the number of mapped reads per 20kb bins was
134 used as input to a custom script written in R (R Core Team, 2013). In this script, bins with outlier
135 values were excluded, and the mean normalized read depth (MNRD) of each chromosome was
136 calculated for each cell. Cells displaying a high intra-chromosomal variation were removed from
137 downstream analysis. In order to establish the baseline ploidy of each cell, the MNRD values
138 were multiplied by the scale factor (Sc), defined for each cell as the lowest number between 1.8
139 and 5 that leads to the shortest distance to integers when all MNRD values are multiplied by it.
140 The MNRD values multiplied by Sc are referred here as 'raw somies'. To convert the raw somies
141 (continuous) into integer copy numbers (discrete), a univariate gaussian mixture-model was
142 built for each chromosome by an expectation-maximization algorithm based on the distribution
143 of the raw somy values between all cells of the same sample using the Mixtools package
144 (Benaglia et al., 2009). For each possible integer somy, a gaussian mixture-model was generated
145 and each raw somy value was assigned to the rounded mean of the gaussian to which it has
146 higher probability of belonging to.

147 **Karyotype identification and network analysis**

148 A karyotype was defined as the combination of integer somies of all chromosomes in a cell.
149 Karyotypes were numerically named according to their frequency in the sequenced population.
150 To generate the network representing the dissimilarities between the karyotypes, a pairwise
151 distance matrix was built based on the number of different chromosomes between all
152 karyotypes in a sample, and used to create a randomized minimum spanning tree with 100
153 randomizations, using the Pegas R package (Paradis, 2018, 2010). The network visualization was
154 made with the visNetwork package (Almende B.V. et al., 2019).

155 **Doublet detection**

156 The relative fraction of doublets within the super mosaic population has been estimated
157 based on the high number of SNPs found in the HU3 strain when compared to the *L. donovani*
158 reference genome. The three other strains in the super mosaic only show a limited number of
159 SNPs in contrast. Potential doublets were identified by looking for mixture of both SNP profiles
160 (HU3 and non-HU3) in assumed single cell data. This approach was applied using an in-house

161 developed algorithm and the Demuxlet algorithm (Kang et al., 2018), both approaches leading
162 to identical results (see Supplementary Text).

163 **DNA probes and fluorescence in situ hybridization**

164 DNA probes were either cosmid (L549 specific of chromosome 1) or BAC (LB00822 and
165 LB00273 for chromosomes 5 and 22 respectively) clones that were kindly provided by Peter
166 Myler (Seattle Biomedical Research Institute) and Christiane Hertz-Fowler (Sanger Centre). DNA
167 was prepared using Qiagen Large-Construct Kit and labelled with tetramethyl-rhodamine-5-
168 dUTP (Roche Applied Sciences) by using the Nick Translation Mix (Roche Applied Sciences)
169 according to manufacturer instructions. *Leishmania* cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde
170 then air-dried on microscope immunofluorescence slides, dehydrated in serial ethanol baths
171 (50–100%) and incubated in NP40 0.1 % for 5 min at RT. Around 100 ng of labelled DNA probe
172 was diluted in hybridization solution containing 50% formamide, 10% dextran sulfate, 2× SSPE,
173 250 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ salmon sperm DNA. Slides were hybridized with a heat-denatured DNA probe
174 under a sealed rubber frame at 94 °C for 2 min and then overnight at 37 °C and sequentially
175 washed in 50% formamide/2× SSC at 37 °C for 30 min, 2× SSC at 50 °C for 10 min, 2× SSC at 60
176 °C for 10 min, 4× SSC at room temperature. Finally, slides were mounted in Vectashield (Vector
177 Laboratories) with DAPI. Fluorescence was visualized using appropriate filters on a Zeiss
178 Axioplan 2 microscope with a 100× objective. Digital images were captured using a
179 Photometrics CoolSnap CCD camera (Roper Scientific) and processed with MetaView (Universal
180 Imaging). Z-Stack image acquisitions (15 planes of 0.25 µm) were systematically performed for
181 each cell analyzed using a Piezo controller, allowing to view the nucleus in all planes and to
182 count the total number of labelled chromosomes. Around 200 cells [187-228] were analyzed
183 per chromosome.

184 **Bulk Genome Sequencing (BGS)**

185 Genomic DNA from the BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 clones was extracted in bulk using the
186 QIAmp™ DNA Mini kit (Qiagen) following manufacturer's recommendations. PCR-free whole
187 genome sequencing was performed on the Illumina NovaSeq platform using 2x150 bp paired
188 reads. Reads are mapped to the reference genome *L. donovani* LdBPKv2 (available at
189 ftp://ftp.sanger.ac.uk/pub/project/pathogens/Leishmania/donovani/LdBPKPAC2016beta/)
190 using BWA (version 0.7.17) with seed length set to 100 (Li and Durbin, 2009). Only properly
191 paired reads with a mapping quality higher than 30 were selected using SAMtools (Li et al.,

192 2009). Duplicates reads were removed using the RemoveDuplicates command in the Picard
193 software (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/). The average somy values were calculated as
194 described previously (Downing et al., 2011), by dividing the median sequencing depth of a
195 chromosome by the overall median sequencing depth over all chromosomes, and multiplying
196 this ratio by 2. These values were used to define an average karyotype for the sequenced
197 population of cells (Kp).

198 **Gene Ontology analysis and in silico screening for small RNA**

199 Gene Ontology (GO) classes were obtained from TriTrypDB release 49 (Aslett et al., 2009).
200 As the genome sequence stored on TriTrypDB does not correspond with the reference genome
201 used in this work, the GO annotation was obtained by mapping back all genes to our reference
202 genome using BlastP (Altschul et al., 1997). Clustering of the different chromosomes based on
203 their assigned GO classes was performed using the prcomp command in R.

204 The Rfam (Kalvari et al., 2021) database version 14.4 was used to screen the *L. donovani*
205 BPK282 reference genome using the cmscan algorithm as implemented in Infernal (Nawrocki
206 and Eddy, 2013) using default parameters and setting the search space parameter to 64.

207 **Results**

208 **High throughput single-cell genome sequencing as a reliable tool to explore karyotype**
209 **heterogeneity in *Leishmania* populations**

210 We applied high throughput single-cell genome sequencing (SCGS) to address mosaic
211 aneuploidy in promastigotes of two *Leishmania* clones differing substantially in average
212 aneuploidy (refered here as the 'average populational karyotype', or Kp) as revealed by Bulk
213 Genome Sequencing (BGS): (i) BPK282 cl4, an aneuploid clone showing 7 chromosomes with an
214 average trisomy apart from the usual average tetrasomy in Chr31 and (ii) BPK081 cl8, showing
215 an average disomy for all chromosomes except Chr31 (average tetrasomic); for simplicity, we
216 will call BPK081 cl8 the 'diploid' clone. First analyses of the SCGS data were made with the Cell
217 Ranger DNA™ pipeline. Although the software was developed for mammalian genomes, which
218 are up to 2 orders of magnitude larger than *Leishmania*'s nuclear genome, it allowed detecting
219 (i) aneuploidy, (ii) mosaicism and (iii) large intrachromosomal CNVs, as, for instance, the H- and
220 M- amplicons (Downing et al., 2011) in Chr23 and Chr36 respectively (Suppl. fig 2). However,
221 technical artifacts were noticed especially in BPK081 cl8, where the software's GC bias
222 correction algorithm, designed for the mammalian genome which display a lower average GC
223 content compared to *Leishmania*, ended up overcompensating the depth of bins with high GC
224 content (Suppl. fig 2). Because of that and given our main goal of using SCGS to study mosaic
225 aneuploidy, we built our own analytical bioinformatic pipeline with a higher emphasis on
226 estimating whole chromosomes copy numbers rather than local CNVs (Suppl. fig 3).

227 We evaluated the SCGS method and our analytical pipeline by first addressing their ability to
228 explore karyotype heterogeneity among *Leishmania* cells of clones BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8.
229 Using our analytical pipeline, we identified 208 different karyotypes among the 1516 filtered
230 cells of BPK282 cl4 and 117 karyotypes among the 2378 filtered cells of BPK081 cl8 (fig.1 A-B,
231 Suppl. fig 5 A-B). Moreover, the cumulative SCGS profile of each clone was consistent with their
232 respective Kp (fig. 1A and 1B, left panel). Notably, Chr13, which displays a non-integer average
233 somy value (2.26) in the Kp of BPK282 cl4, was found as disomic and trisomic at relatively high
234 proportions in the SCGS, resulting in a similar cumulative somy (2.34). As expected, the vast
235 majority of cells in BPK081 cl8 displayed an almost diploid karyotype, with only Chr31 displaying
236 a tetrasomy as expected. Small subpopulations of cells displaying highly aneuploid karyotypes
237 were also observed in BPK081 cl8 (discussed below).

238 Mosaic aneuploidy in *Leishmania* has been studied so far with fluorescence in situ
239 hybridization (FISH), the only alternative method available hitherto to estimate the copy
240 number of some chromosomes in individual *Leishmania* cells. As a mutual benchmark of both
241 FISH and SCGS methods, we submitted cells from both BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 to FISH to
242 estimate the copy number of chromosomes 1, 5 and 22 and to compare the obtained results
243 with the values observed in our SCGS data (fig. 1C). Overall, for each chromosome, the same
244 predominant somy was observed with both methods, even when the predominant somy was
245 different between clones. For instance, FISH and SCGS report Chr5 in BPK282 cl4 as trisomic in
246 most cells, while it is reported as mainly disomic in BPK081 cl8 also by both techniques. Most
247 discrepancies between the proportions obtained by both methods are within the 10% error
248 margin previously estimated for FISH (Sterkers et al., 2011 and unpublished results). The main
249 exception is Chr5 in BPK282, which is estimated as trisomic in 93% of the cells with SCGS and
250 66% with FISH. However, SCGS reports proportions which are more consistent with the average
251 somy values obtained by the BGS analysis of each clone. For instance, the weighted mean
252 between somy values obtained with SCGS for Chr5 in BPK282 cl4 results in an average somy of
253 2.95, which is very similar to the average somy value obtained by BGS (2.97), whereas with FISH,
254 the average somy is lower (2.66), suggesting that the proportions observed with SCGS are more
255 accurate.

256 We executed an extra experiment to evaluate the performance of SCGS in dealing with
257 populations with highly heterogeneous karyotypes. In this experiment, a 'super-mosaic'
258 population was generated by mixing 4 different *L. donovani* strains that display very distinct
259 Kp's(Imamura et al., 2016), into a single SCGS run. A total of 1900 promastigotes were
260 individually sequenced, of which, 1636 remained after data filtering. This 'super mosaic'
261 population displayed a high aneuploidy diversity: 388 identified karyotypes in total. As
262 expected, the 1636 promastigotes formed four distinct clusters based on their integer somy
263 values, with discrete differences in the aneuploidy patterns between each cluster (fig. 1D). Since
264 one of the strains (HU3) used in this super mosaic is phylogenetically distant from the other 3
265 strains (BPK475, BPK498 and BPK506), we could distinguish HU3 promastigotes from the others
266 based on their SNP profiles. Interestingly, all HU3 cells were grouped together in cluster C (fig.
267 1D – orange lines in the annotation bar), suggesting that the discrete karyotypic differences
268 between the major clusters reflect differences among the aneuploidy profiles of the four
269 strains, so that each cluster likely represents one of the strains. Thus, this experiment

270 demonstrates that SCGS is effective in distinguishing karyotypes even in very complex
271 populations.

272 The 'super-mosaic' population was also used to estimate the frequency of doublets, i.e, the
273 inclusion in a single droplet of two or more cells sharing the same 10X barcode. Based on the
274 SNP profile of the HU3 line, each dataset with the same barcode containing either none of the
275 HU3-specific SNPs (< 5% of the SNPs), or almost all of the HU3-specific SNPs (> 95% of the SNPs)
276 were defined as singlets, while doublets contained a mixture of HU3-speficic SNPs and positions
277 resembling the reference genome. Using this approach, from the 293 cells that were predicted
278 as HU3 based on their SNP profile (including cells removed from karyotype estimation), 21 were
279 predicted as doublets (fig. 1D; purple lines in the annotation bar), with a detection rate of SNPs
280 varying between 14% and 58%. Since doublets formed by two HU3 cells would still be defined
281 as a singlet and given that HU3 cells correspond to 15,4% of the population, we assumed that
282 the 21 detected HU3+BPK doublets correspond to 84,6% of the total number of doublets
283 containing an HU3 cell. Thus, we estimate that there are ~4 (the extra 15,4%) additional
284 HU3+HU3 doublets, resulting in a total of 25 doublets. Extrapolating this fraction of 25 out of
285 293 HU3 cells to the whole single cell population would correspond to a relative fraction of
286 doublets of 8,53%, a frequency which is higher than anticipated for mammal cells according to
287 the manufacturer's guidelines (~1,4%). From the 21 detected doublets, 3 were originally
288 removed from karyotype estimation due to high intra-chromosomic variation, and 6 displayed
289 a karyotype that was also found in other cells. However, 11 karyotypes were exclusively found
290 in one of the detected doublets (fig. 1E), indicating that a fraction of the low-occurrence
291 karyotypes might be artifacts due to doublets.

292

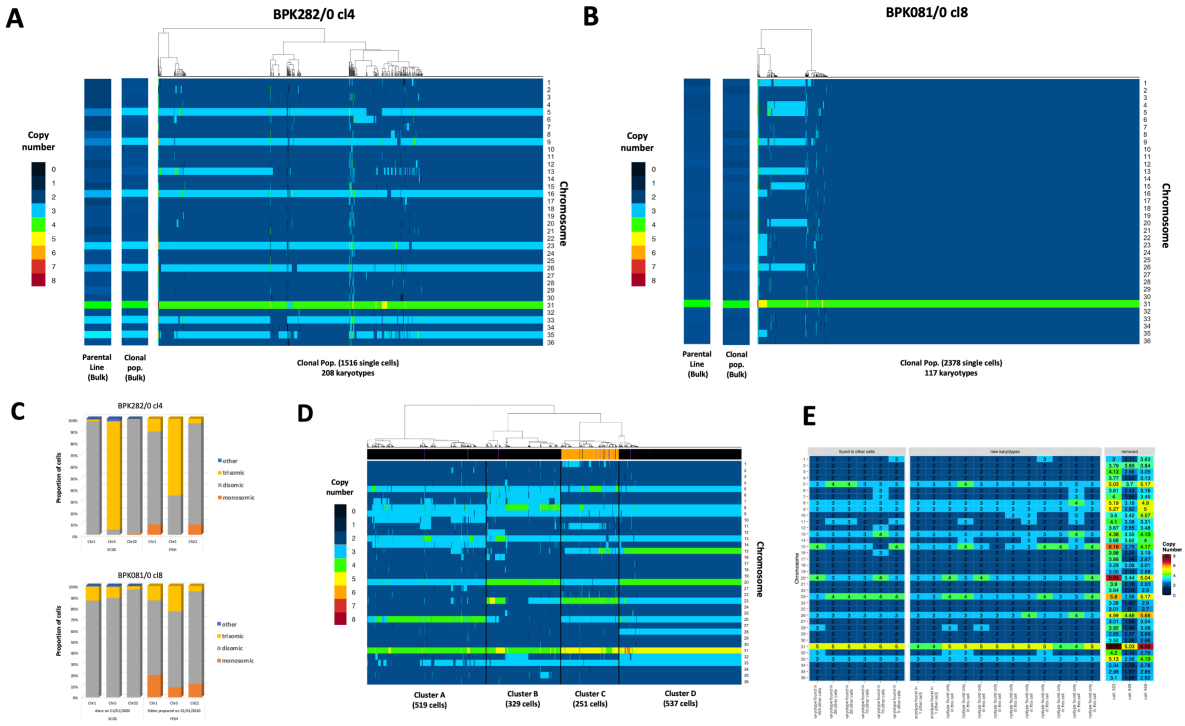


Figure 1 - Mosaic aneuploidy in BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 clones revealed by SCGS and validation of the method. **A-B.** Heat maps displaying the copy number of all 36 chromosomes of promastigotes from BPK282 cl4 (A) or BPK081 cl8 (B) clones (main panels). Each column represents a single parasite. The number of sequenced promastigotes and karyotypes found in each sample is described in the x axis. In each panel, two insets display the Kp of the clonal population used in the SCGS and their respective parental strain. **C.** Comparison between FISH and SCGS. The proportion of cells displaying monosomy, disomy or trisomy for chromosomes 1, 5 and 22 in each method is represented. **D.** Heat map displaying the karyotypes of the promastigotes from 4 different strains mixed in a single SCGS run. Cells were hierarchically clustered according to their karyotypes, forming 4 major clusters. The number of cells in each cluster is indicated in the x axis. The bar at the top of the heatmap indicate if the SNP profile of the cell correspond to a BPK strain (black), a HU3 strain (orange) or a doublet (purple). **E.** Karyotypes of cells marked as doublets. The number of other cells displaying the same karyotype as the doublet is indicated in the x axis labels. Cells that were removed from analysis due to high intra-chromosomal variation and therefore did not have their somy values converted to integers are separated in the right panel, displaying their raw somy values instead. The integer somy values (left panels) or the raw somy values (right panel) are numerically indicated inside the heat map.

293

294 **BPK282 and BPK081 cells display different patterns of karyotype evolution during clonal**
295 **expansion**

296 After validating the SCGS method for resolving complex karyotype heterogeneity in
297 *Leishmania*, we returned to the data of BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 to characterize the
298 karyotypes that are present in each clone. In BPK282 cl4, the most frequent karyotypes were
299 very similar to each other, diverging by copy number changes in 1 to 3 chromosomes when
300 compared to the most frequent karyotype (kar1 – fig. 2A). In BPK081 cl8, however, the nearly
301 diploid kar1, which was present in 82% of the cells, and the 2 next most abundant karyotypes
302 showed very different aneuploidy profiles, diverging by copy numbers of 8 to 10 chromosomes

303 (fig. 2B). In addition, in both clones, the most frequent karyotype (kar1) is similar to the Kp of
304 the respective parent strain from which each clone was derived (fig. 1 A-B, left panel),
305 suggesting that, in each clone, kar1 corresponds to the karyotype of the founder cell, and thus,
306 the other karyotypes of each population arose from their respective kar1.

307 To develop a hypothesis of the karyotype evolution during expansion of both BPK282 cl4 and
308 BPK081 cl8 populations, we built a dissimilarity network based on the number of chromosomes
309 with different copy numbers between each karyotype found in each population (fig. 2C). Both
310 populations of cells are at different stages of expansion (about 126 and 56 generations since
311 cloning, respectively), but we observe in each of them a proportionally comparable number of
312 somy changes events (steps in the network): (i) for BPK282 cl4, 514 steps/126 generations/1516
313 sequenced cells = 0.0027 and (ii) for BPK081cl8, 260 steps/56 generations/2378 sequenced
314 cells = 0.002. However, distinct patterns are observed between both clones. In BPK282 cl4, the
315 most frequent karyotypes (black nodes) are linked to each other by somy changes in only single
316 chromosomes (black lines). Assuming kar1 as the founder of this population, almost every
317 frequent karyotype can be traced back to it through cumulative single copy number alterations.
318 In contrast, the network of BPK081 cl8 shows a very distinct pattern (fig. 2C). Here, the 3 most
319 frequent karyotypes are distant from one another and lack single-step intermediates between
320 them.

321

322

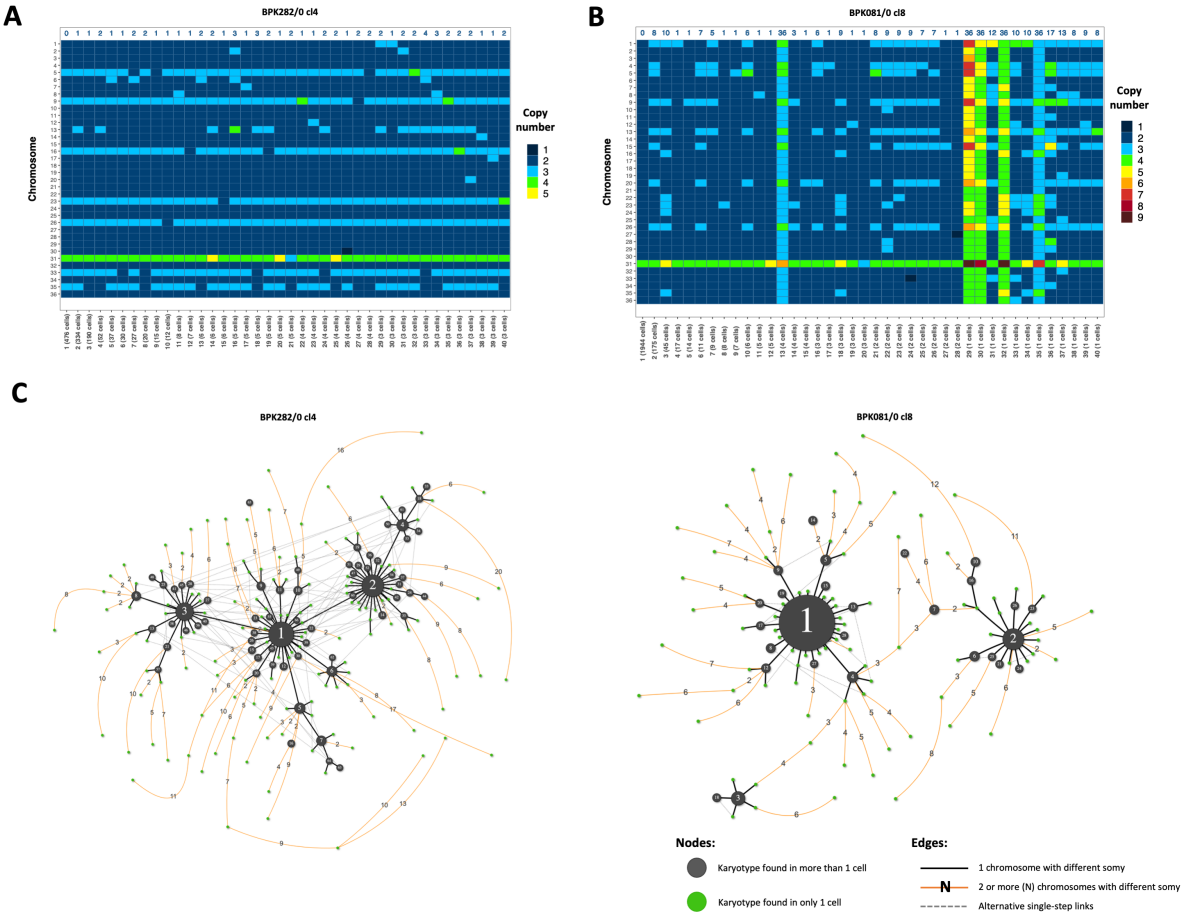


Figure 2 - BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 display different profiles in the dissimilarity relationship between karyotypes. A-B. Heat map depicting the 40 most frequent karyotypes in BPK282 cl4 (A) and BPK081 cl8 (B) clones. The blue numbers in the top indicate the total number of chromosomes with a different somy compared to kar1. **C.** Network representing the dissimilarity relationship between karyotypes in each clone. Black nodes represent karyotypes found in more than one cell, with their size proportional to the number of cells. Green nodes indicate karyotypes which occur only once. Black lines link two karyotypes which diverge by a somy difference in a single chromosome, while orange lines link karyotypes diverging by two or more chromosomes with different somy, with the number of divergent chromosomes indicated in the edge. Dashed grey lines show alternative links between karyotypes with a single somy divergency. Polyploidy karyotypes were not included in the networks.

323

324 **Selective forces restrict high frequencies of polysomies to a specific group of chromosomes**

325 We and others have demonstrated that high frequencies of polysomies were restricted to a
326 specific subset of chromosomes when comparing the Kp's of 204 *L. donovani* strains previously
327 analyzed by BGS (Barja et al., 2017; Imamura et al., 2016). To address if the same applies to
328 single *Leishmania* cells, we created a diverse artificial population by randomly selecting and
329 merging the data of equal numbers of single cells from BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 as well as
330 from each cluster of the super mosaic, assuming each cluster represents one of the mixed
331 strains. In this artificial population, we observed that at least 16 chromosomes are consistently
332 disomic in the vast majority of cells in a clone/strain-independent manner (fig. 3A). All these
333 chromosomes also show an average disomy in the Kp of most of the 204 strains mentioned
334 above (supp. fig. 7A-B). Conversely, apart from the usually tetrasomic Chr31, 8 chromosomes
335 (Chr5, Chr8, Chr9, Chr13, Chr20, Chr23, Chr26 and Chr33) are found with 3 or more copies in
336 most cells of BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8, again fitting with previous observations made on the
337 204 *L. donovani* strains (Barja et al., 2017; Imamura et al., 2016). However, it is unclear whether
338 (i) the disparity in the frequency of polysomies between chromosomes is due to intrinsic
339 differences in the chances of overamplification of each chromosome along the expansion of the
340 population (some chromosomes being specifically 'unstable') or (ii) if every chromosome has
341 the potential to become polysomic but the expansion of polysomies in a population is
342 determined by selective pressures. To address this, we revisited the karyotype network of each
343 population (including the 'super-mosaic' – supp. fig. 7C), to investigate which were the
344 chromosomes that were more prone to somy alterations in the rare karyotypes (i.e., karyotypes
345 occurring in only a single cell), compared to the common karyotypes (i.e., karyotypes occurring
346 in 2 or more cells) (fig. 3B). As expected, the 16 chromosomes which are predominantly found
347 as disomic display little, if any, alteration events in their copy numbers in the common
348 karyotypes. However, between the rare karyotypes, all chromosomes are susceptible to somy
349 alterations with relatively similar frequencies, although polysomy-prone chromosomes still
350 display a higher alteration frequency (p-value < 0.0001 – supp. fig. 7D). These observations
351 suggest that the capacity for aneuploidy is not restricted to a specific group of 'unstable'
352 chromosomes.

353 We also investigated the role of the synchronous fluctuation in the copy number of multiple
354 chromosomes in determining the abundance of karyotypes. For that, we estimated Pearson
355 correlations between the copy number of chromosomes across equal numbers of cells from all

356 clones/strains sequenced here (supp. fig. 7E). Between the 8 polysomy-prone chromosomes
357 and among the cells with common karyotypes, we observed numerous and relatively strong
358 correlations, with the strongest correlations occurring between Chr5 and Chr9, and Chr8 and
359 Chr20 (fig. 3C). On the other hand, between cells with rare karyotypes, there were fewer and
360 in general weaker correlations (fig. 3D). These observations suggest that the expansion of
361 polysomies in a population happens in an interdependent manner between chromosomes.

362 **Functional characterization of the polysomy-prone chromosomes**

363 In order to investigate potential features specific to the polysomy-prone chromosomes that
364 could be related to their higher frequency of polysomies, we first applied an unsupervised Gene
365 Ontology (GO) analysis to look for enrichment of biological functions in the polysomy-prone
366 chromosomes. However, no obvious relationships between chromosomal gene content and
367 prevalence of polysomies could be found (supp. fig. 8A). We then tried a supervised approach.
368 Since highly aneuploid karyotypes are more frequently observed in in vitro promastigotes than
369 in amastigotes, we reasoned that the amplification of the polysomic-prone chromosomes might
370 affect pathways related to the promastigote stage. Thus, we selected enriched GO classes which
371 were obtained from a previously published study in which we studied differential expression
372 between promastigote and amastigote cell cultures (Dumetz et al., 2017). The distribution of
373 the corresponding genes on the polysomy-prone chromosomes was compared to the
374 distribution on chromosomes with a stable disomy. However, this approach also did not
375 disclose biological functions located on the amplified chromosomes (supp. fig. 8B). Alternatively
376 to GO analysis, we finally performed an in silico scan for small non-coding RNAs to investigate
377 their distribution throughout the *L. donovani* genome. This suggested an enrichment of small
378 RNAs in some of the polysomy-prone chromosomes, especially small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs
379 - fig. 3E). A significant number of hits for snoRNAs are mapped to Chr5, Chr26 and Chr33, which
380 are among the chromosomes with the most frequent polysomies, as well as Chr35, which is
381 trisomic in the majority of BPK282 cl4 cells and is also trisomic in the Kp of several *L. donovani*
382 strains (Imamura et al., 2016). Although preliminary, this observation suggests a potential
383 relationship between the snoRNAs content of a chromosome and its prevalence of polysomies
384 in cultivated promastigotes.

385

386

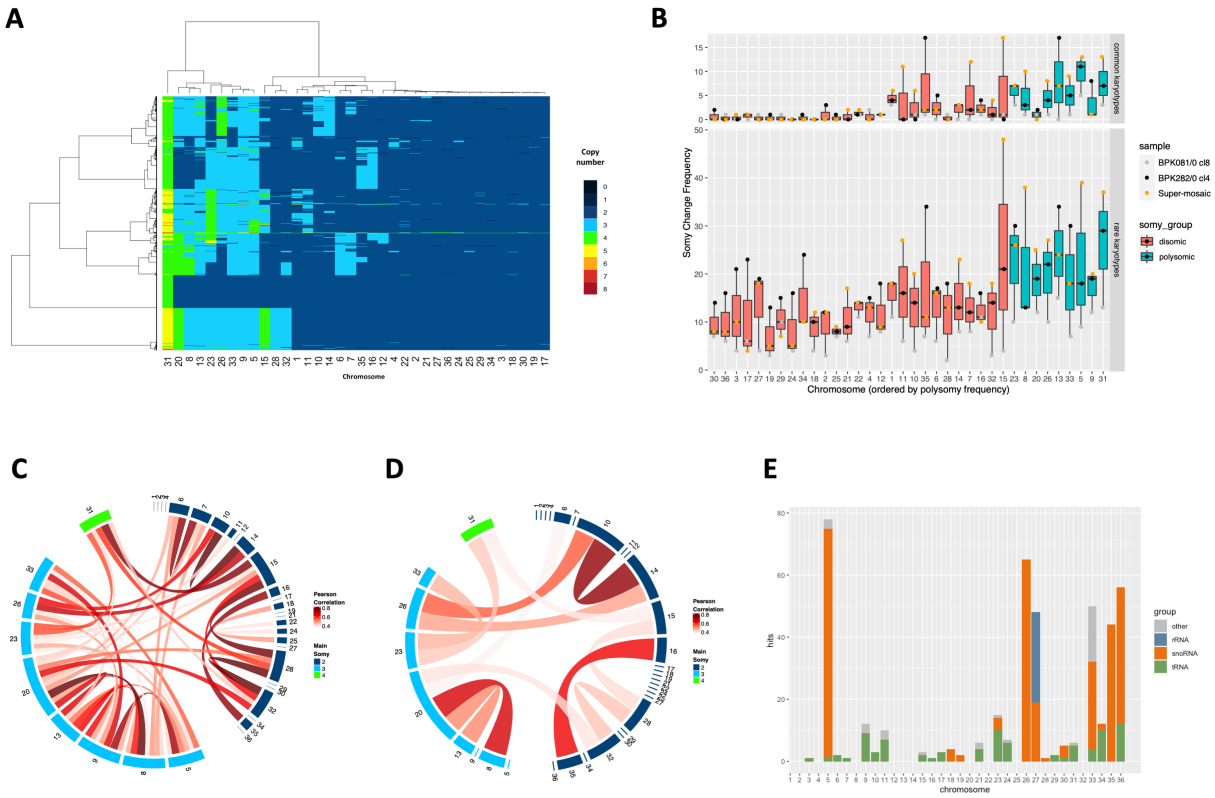


Figure 3 - High frequencies of polysomies are restricted to a group of chromosomes. A. Heat map depicting the copy number of the 36 chromosomes across promastigotes from different clones/strains. Here, 251 promastigotes of each cluster of the mixed sample and from BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 are represented. Chromosomes are hierarchically clustered based on their somy values. **B.** Boxplot indicating the number of somy change events for each chromosome among the common karyotypes (found in 2 or more cells – top panel) or the rare karyotypes (found in only one cell - bottom) in the 3 samples submitted to SCGS. **C**-**D.** Chord diagrams representing the Pearson correlation between the somies of all chromosomes among cells displaying the common karyotypes (**C**) or the rare karyotypes (**D**). Only correlations higher than 0.4 and with p.value lower than 0.05 are represented. **E.** Distribution of small non-coding RNAs across *L. donovani* genome. Ribosomal RNAs (rRNA), small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs) and transporter RNAs (tRNAs) were identified based on the Rfam database.

387

388 **SCGS reveals particular karyotypes among rare single cells**

389 As shown above, kar2 and kar3 of BPK081 cl8 show a baseline diploidy, i.e., the majority of
390 chromosomes are disomic, with 8 to 10 trisomic chromosomes and tetrasomy or even a
391 pentasomy for for Chr 31. However, we found in the same population 4 cells displaying a
392 karyotype (kar13) with an aneuploidy profile similar to kar2, but with all chromosomes showing
393 one extra copy (two extra copies for Chr31 - fig. 2B); thus in kar11, baseline somies are trisomic,
394 8 chromosomes (the same as kar2) are tetrasomic and Chr31 is hexasomic, constituting a
395 triploid karyotype (see supplementary text for details on how cells ploidies are determined).
396 Similarly, at least 1 cell showed another karyotype (kar35) with baseline triploidy and
397 aneuploidy on the same chromosomes as kar3 (fig. 2B) . Tetraploid karyotypes were also
398 observed among BPK081 cl8 cells, but it is not possible to rule out that these are in fact doublets
399 between two 2n cells with different karyotypes. Noteworthy, tetraploid karyotypes were not
400 found in BPK282 cl4 and the only 3 cells identified with a potential baseline triploidy exhibited
401 an aneuploidy pattern very distinctive from any other karyotype in that population (supp. fig.
402 6). Moreover, within the BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 populations, we also observed rare cells
403 displaying chromosomes with an estimated somy of 0 (nullisomy). The bam file of these cells
404 showed that no reads were mapping to these chromosomes, suggesting that in these cells,
405 these chromosomes were absent (fig. 4A). Nullisomic chromosomes were found in all the
406 populations sequenced here: among which, 4 in BPK081 cl8 (0,15% of the sequenced cells) and
407 15 from BPK282 cl4 (0,88%). Moreover, the aneuploidy profile of these nullisomic cells was not
408 similar to any other karyotype identified in each sample (fig. 4B). Partial chromosome deletions
409 were also observed, as for instance in Chr13 and Chr36 of the cell 688 from BPK282 cl4, in the
410 Chr36 of the cell 266 from BPK081 cl8.

411

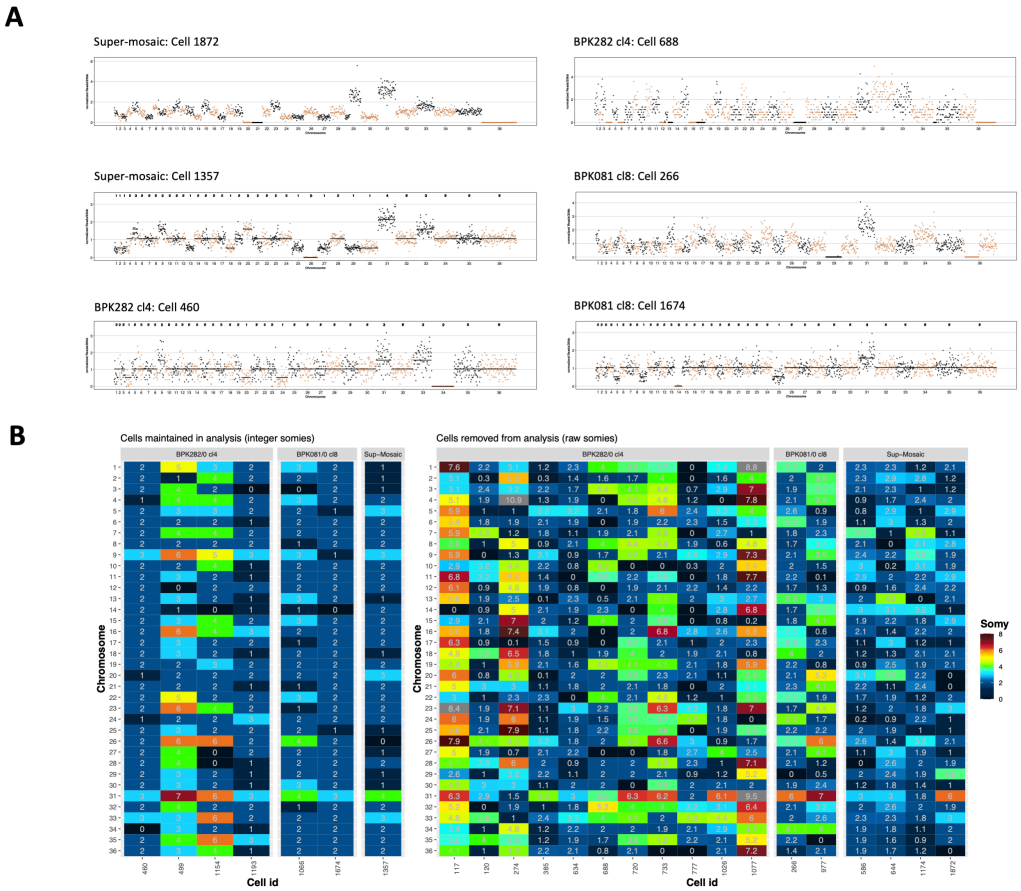


Figure 4 - Cells with nullisomic chromosomes. A. Example of cells displaying one or more nullisomic chromosomes. The dots represent the normalized read depth of each 20kb bin. The integer somy values calculated for each cell are depicted in the top part of each box for cells that were not excluded from analysis. A black line shows the integer somy values divided by the cell's scale factor (Sc) for comparison. **B.** Karyotype of all cells with at least one nullisomic chromosome identified in our SCGS data. Cells that were removed from analysis and therefore did not have their somy values converted to integers are separated in the right panel, displaying their raw somy values instead.

415

416 **Discussion**

417 Cellular heterogeneity is increasingly implicated as one of the major sources of adaptative
418 potential for unicellular pathogens (Bagamery et al., 2020; Seco-Hidalgo et al., 2015). We
419 explored here a specific manifestation of this phenomenon, i.e., mosaic aneuploidy, in a unique
420 model, *Leishmania*. By applying a high-throughput SCGS method, we could determine for the
421 first time the complete karyotype of thousands of individual *Leishmania* cells from two distinct
422 clonal populations in vitro. We found a high level of mosaic aneuploidy, affecting essentially the
423 same, limited subset of chromosomes. We explored the evolution of mosaicism in both
424 populations, starting from two distinct founder karyotypes, one nearly euploid and another
425 highly aneuploid. We highlighted the adaptive potential of mosaic aneuploidy for unicellular
426 organisms such as *Leishmania*, living in rapidly varying environments.

427 The present SCGS study allowed us to evaluate and extend hypotheses on mosaic aneuploidy
428 in *Leishmania* previously based on FISH measurements (Sterkers et al., 2012, 2011). Although
429 some divergencies were observed here between FISH and SCGS, our data are in agreement with
430 most predictions. Accordingly, mosaic aneuploidy was confirmed in all populations sequenced
431 here, and karyotypes frequency distributions, in particular for BPK282/0 cl4 clone (208
432 karyotypes among 1516 cells), were similar to the distribution predicted with FISH data
433 obtained for 7 chromosomes of a long-term cultivated *Leishmania major* population (~250
434 karyotypes in ~2000 cells - Sterkers et al., 2012 – fig. 4). In BPK081/0 cl8, proportionally fewer
435 karyotypes were identified compared to BPK282/0 cl4, which might be a consequence of either
436 a reduced tendency of the founder diploid karyotype to somy alterations and/or due to the fact
437 this clone was at an ealier stage of expansion in vitro (~56 generations, compared to the ~126
438 generations in BPK282). Indeed, when normalizing the number of karyotypes, similar values
439 were observed for both clones: respectively $10exp^{-4}$ and $9exp^{-4}$ new
440 karyotypes/generation/sequenced cell.

441 Our SCGS data, however, does not corroborate the previous assumptions that all
442 chromosomes are found with at least two somy states (Sterkers et al., 2012, 2011), as high
443 levels of somy variation were restricted to a subset of chromosomes in our experimental
444 conditions. We also observed a higher tendency of FISH to report trisomies and monosomies in
445 chromosomes which were defined by SCGS as mostly disomic in almost all cells of BPK282/0 cl4

446 and BPK081/0 cl8 clones, as chr01 and chr22. This discrepancy is likely due to accuracy
447 limitations in FISH.

448 The SCGS data reported here also allowed us to draw some hypothesis regarding the origin
449 and evolution of mosaic aneuploidy in vitro. We have previously demonstrated that intracellular
450 amastigotes sequenced directly from patient samples usually display a diploid Kp similar to the
451 Kp of the BPK081 cl8 clone, although variations in somies were observed in some samples
452 (Domagalska et al., 2019). However, when these amastigotes were isolated from patients or
453 experimental animals and transformed to promastigotes in vitro, in most cases their Kps
454 progressively evolve towards highly aneuploid profiles (Domagalska et al., 2019; Dumetz et al.,
455 2017; Giovanni Bussotti, a et al., 2018). Thus, the 2 clones here studied provide complementary
456 models to understand the dynamics of the emergence of mosaic aneuploidy in vitro; BPK081/0
457 cl8 which founder karyotype had the diploid profile, representing an early stage of adaptation
458 to culture; and BPK282/0 cl4, which founder karyotype was already highly aneuploid (likely
459 kar1), representing later stages.

460 In the BPK081 cl8, a minority of highly aneuploid subpopulations were observed, contrasting
461 with the the founder diploid karyotype (kar1), indicating that at early stages of clonal expansion
462 in culture, the evolution of mosaicism starts with drastic changes in karyotypes, in this case the
463 observed changes in somy of 8 to 10 chromosomes leading to highly aneuploid cells (kar2 and
464 kar3). These drastic changes in somies could occur through cumulative small steps, i.e., somy
465 alterations in single chromosomes at each cell division, followed by fixation and further
466 expansion of the fittest aneuploidies and loss of intermediate links between these karyotypes
467 during clonal evolution. Alternatively, kar2 and kar3 in BPK081 cl8 may have originated
468 independently from kar1 by simultaneous amplifications of multiple chromosomes. However,
469 the presence of potentially triploid cells which resemble kar2 and kar3 opens other possibilities.
470 On one hand, polyploidization has been demonstrated as an important mechanism in yeasts for
471 quickly generating multiple and highly discrepant aneuploid karyotypes from a single parent
472 through assorted mis-segregation of chromosomes during downstream cell divisions (Gerstein
473 et al., 2015). In case a similar mechanism occurs in *Leishmania*, these 3n karyotypes found in
474 BPK081 cl8 could represent an intermediate step between whole genome polyploidization
475 event and reversion to aneuploid kar2 and kar3. On the other hand, 3n karyotypes could be
476 reminiscent of hybridization, which was recently shown to occur in vitro (Louradour et al.,

477 2020); the common observation of 3n karyotypes in *Leishmania* after hybridization in sand flies
478 supports this hypothesis (Akopyants et al., 2009; Inbar et al., 2019, 2013; Romano et al., 2014).

479 Surrounding the 3 major karyotypes in the network of BPK081/0 cl8, other minor karyotypes
480 with single somy alterations are observed, suggesting that once a successful karyotype expands,
481 small variations of it are continuously generated by small changes in somies. This pattern is
482 more evident in the karyotype network of BPK282/0 cl4, where almost all karyotypes which are
483 found in at least 2 cells are at one somy change distance from another karyotype, suggesting
484 that these karyotypes were also continuously generated by cumulative steps of small somy
485 alterations. Accordingly, the founder karyotype of this clone (likely kar1) was already highly
486 aneuploid and well adapted to culture, as the parent population from which BPK282/0 cl4 was
487 isolated was already in culture for 21 passages (supp. fig. 1).

488 Highly aneuploidy Kps are observed in most in vitro cultured *Leishmania* promastigotes
489 analysed so far by BGS (Franssen et al., 2020; Imamura et al., 2016; Van den Broeck et al., 2020).
490 This usually affects a specific group of chromosomes, largely overlapping with the 8 polysomy-
491 prone chromosomes described here. The early amplifications reproducibly observed in the Kp
492 of parasite populations in transition from in vivo to in vitro (Domagalska et al., 2019; Giovanni
493 Bussotti, a et al., 2018) suggest an adaptative role for specific polysomies in adaptation to
494 culture. However, the mechanisms that determine which chromosomes are amplified are still
495 poorly understood.

496 By investigating which chromosomes were more prone to somy alterations in rare and
497 common karyotypes, we gathered evidence suggesting that all chromosomes can be
498 stochastically amplified during population expansion, potentially at different rates, but selective
499 forces likely dictate the higher frequency of polysomies observed in some chromosomes.
500 Changes in the average chromosome copy numbers of cell populations are directly reflected in
501 the average amount of transcripts encoded by the genes present on these chromosomes (Barja
502 et al., 2017; Dumetz et al., 2017) and to a certain degree also affect the average amount of
503 certain proteins (Cuypers, 2018). Consequently, aneuploidy might lead to dosage imbalances
504 between the product of genes located in chromosomes that display different somies. The
505 frequently observed co-modulation of multiple chromosomes – estimated with Pearson
506 correlations here and across the Kp of 204 *L. donovani* isolates as previously described (Barja et
507 al., 2017) – might reflect a dynamic compensation mechanism that reduces these imbalances

508 and at the same time increases the dosage of key genes. Our GO analyses did not reveal any
509 enrichment of biological functions in the (co-)amplified chromosomes. However, we observed
510 an enrichment of snoRNA genes in some of the polysomy-prone chromosomes, accordingly
511 Chr05, Chr26, Chr33 and Chr35. This class of small RNAs is involved in the extensive processing
512 of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) characteristic of trypanosomatids, directly affecting ribosomal
513 biosynthesis and ultimately translation, both increased in cultured promastigotes (Jara et al.,
514 2017; Martínez-Calvillo et al., 2019). Amplification of these chromosomes as seen in many cells
515 in vitro might ultimately boost the translation capacity of the cells due to a consequent higher
516 abundance of snoRNAs. At the time of submission of the present article, a very recent study
517 supporting and further addressing this hypothesis was pre-printed (Piel et al., 2021).

518 The high diversity of karyotypes identified in both models here described is in agreement
519 with the idea of mosaic aneuploidy being a constitutive feature in *Leishmania* (Lachaud et al.,
520 2014) . The generation of karyotypic heterogeneity represents a source of functional diversity,
521 due to variations in genes dosage (Dumetz et al., 2017), and it is also expected to facilitate the
522 removal of detrimental mutations and the fixation of beneficial haplotypes (Barja et al., 2017;
523 Sterkers et al., 2012). Although in a given environment some very different karyotypes might
524 be limited to low frequencies, they may provide to the population a major (pre-)adaptation
525 potential to unpredictable environmental changes, such as a change of host or drug pressure
526 associated to chemotherapy (Dumetz et al., 2018, 2017; Shaw et al., 2016, 2020). Time-lapse
527 SCGS studies of populations of parasites during clonal expansion under stable or varying
528 environments are needed to test this pre-adaptation hypothesis. Combining SCGS with single-
529 cell transcriptomics could also allow to understand better the impact of gene dosage imbalance
530 on transcription with a single cell resolution. Thus, high throughput single-cell sequencing
531 methods represent a remarkable tool to understand key aspects of *Leishmania* biology and
532 adaptability.

533

Acknowledgements

This study received financial support from the Flemish Ministry of Science and Innovation (SOFI Grant MADLEI) and the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research (FWO, post-doctoral grant to FVdB). A.Y. was recipient of a grant from the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) within the frame of the “Investissements d'avenir” programme (ANR 11-LABX-0024-01 “ParaFrap”).

Author contributions

All authors have approved the submitted version of this manuscript and have agreed both to be personally accountable for their own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. This work was conceived and designed by GN, JCD & MAD. Data were acquired and analyzed by GN, PM, HI, IM, NK, AY, YS, JCD and MAD. Data interpretation was made by GN, PM, FVdB, YS, JCD and MAD. Paper was drafted by GN, PM, JCD and MAD and substantively revised by HI, FVdB and YS.

548 **References**

549 Adl SM, Simpson AG, Lane CE, Lukeš J, Bass D, Bowser SS, Brown M, Burki F, Dunthorn M, Hampl
550 V, Heiss A, Hoppenrath M, Lara E, Lynn DH, Mcmanus H, Mitchell EAD, Mozley-Stanridge SE,
551 Parfrey LW, Pawlowski J, Rueckert S, Shadwick L, Schoch C, Smirnov A, Spiegel FW, Ca SA. 2012.
552 The revised classification of eukaryotes HHS Public Access. *J Eukaryot Microbiol Microbiol*
553 **59**:429–493. doi:10.1111/j.1550-7408.2012.00644.x.The

554 Akopyants NS, Kimblin N, Secundino N, Patrick R, Peters N, Lawyer P, Dobson DE, Beverley SM,
555 Sacks DL. 2009. Demonstration of Genetic Exchange During Cyclical Development of
556 Leishmania in the Sand Fly Vector. *Science (80-)* **324**:265 LP – 268.
557 doi:10.1126/science.1169464

558 Almende B.V., Thieurmel B, Robert T. 2019. visNetwork: Network Visualization using "vis.js"
559 Library.

560 Altschul SF, Madden TL, Schäffer AA, Zhang J, Zhang Z, Miller W, Lipman DJ. 1997. Gapped BLAST
561 and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programs. *Nucleic Acids Res*
562 **25**:3389–3402. doi:10.1093/nar/25.17.3389

563 Aslett M, Aurrecoechea C, Berriman M, Brestelli J, Brunk BP, Carrington M, Depledge DP, Fischer
564 S, Gajria B, Gao X, Gardner MJ, Gingle A, Grant G, Harb OS, Heiges M, Hertz-Fowler C, Houston
565 R, Innamorato F, Iodice J, Kissinger JC, Kraemer E, Li W, Logan FJ, Miller JA, Mitra S, Myler PJ,
566 Nayak V, Pennington C, Phan I, Pinney DF, Ramasamy G, Rogers MB, Roos DS, Ross C, Sivam D,
567 Smith DF, Srinivasamoorthy G, Stoeckert CJ, Subramanian S, Thibodeau R, Tivey A, Treatman C,
568 Velarde G, Wang H. 2009. TriTrypDB: A functional genomic resource for the Trypanosomatidae.
569 *Nucleic Acids Res* **38**:457–462. doi:10.1093/nar/gkp851

570 Bagamery LE, Justman QA, Garner EC, Murray AW. 2020. A Putative Bet-Hedging Strategy
571 Buffers Budding Yeast against Environmental Instability. *Curr Biol* 1–16.
572 doi:10.1016/j.cub.2020.08.092

573 Barja PP, Pescher P, Bussotti G, Dumetz F, Imamura H, Kedra D, Domagalska MA, Chaumeau V,
574 Himmelbauer H, Pages M, Sterkers Y, Dujardin J-C, Notredame C, Späth GF. 2017. Haplotype
575 selection as an adaptive mechanism in the protozoan pathogen Leishmania donovani. *Nat Ecol*
576 *Evol* **1**:1961–1969. doi:10.1038/s41559-017-0361-x

577 Beach RR, Ricci-Tam C, Brennan CM, Moomau CA, Hsu P hsin, Hua B, Silberman RE, Springer M,
578 Amon A. 2017. Aneuploidy Causes Non-genetic Individuality. *Cell* **169**:229-242.e21.
579 doi:10.1016/j.cell.2017.03.021

580 Benaglia T, Chauveau D, Hunter DR, Young D. 2009. {mixtools}: An {R} Package for Analyzing
581 Finite Mixture Models. *J Stat Softw* **32**:1–29.

582 Clayton C. 2019. Regulation of gene expression in trypanosomatids: Living with polycistronic
583 transcription. *Open Biol* **9**. doi:10.1098/rsob.190072

584 Cuypers B. 2018. A systems biology approach for a comprehensive understanding of molecular
585 adaptation in Leishmania donovani.

586 Domagalska MA, Imamura H, Sanders M, Van den Broeck F, Bhattarai NR, Vanaerschot M, Maes
587 I, D'Haenens E, Rai K, Rijal S, Berriman M, Cotton JA, Dujardin J-C. 2019. Genomes of Leishmania
588 parasites directly sequenced from patients with visceral leishmaniasis in the Indian
589 subcontinent. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* **13**:e0007900. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0007900

590 Downing T, Imamura H, Decuypere S, Clark TG, Coombs GH, Cotton JA, Hilley JD, De Doncker S,
591 Maes I, Mottram JC, Quail MA, Rijal S, Sanders M, Schönian G, Stark O, Sundar S, Vanaerschot
592 M, Hertz-Fowler C, Dujardin J-C, Berriman M. 2011. Whole genome sequencing of multiple
593 Leishmania donovani clinical isolates provides insights into population structure and
594 mechanisms of drug resistance. *Genome Res* **21**:2143–2156. doi:10.1101/gr.123430.111

595 Dumetz F, Cuypers B, Imamura H, Zander D, D'Haenens E, Maes I, Domagalska MA, Clos J,
596 Dujardin J-C, De Muylder G. 2018. Molecular Preadaptation to Antimony Resistance in
597 *Leishmania donovani* on the Indian Subcontinent. *mSphere* **3**:e00548-17.
598 doi:10.1128/mSphere.00548-17

599 Dumetz F, Imamura H, Sanders M, Seblova V, Myskova J, Pescher P, Vanaerschot M, Meehan
600 CJ, Cuypers B, De Muylder G, Späth GF, Bussotti G, Vermeesch JR, Berriman M, Cotton JA, Volf
601 P, Dujardin J-C, Domagalska MA. 2017. Modulation of aneuploidy in leishmania donovani during
602 adaptation to different in vitro and in vivo environments and its impact on gene expression.
603 *MBio* **8**:1–14. doi:10.1128/mBio.00599-17

604 Franssen SU, Durrant C, Stark O, Moser B, Downing T, Imamura H, Dujardin JC, Sanders MJ,

605 Mauricio I, Miles MA, Schnur LF, Jaffe CL, Nasereddin A, Schallig H, Yeo M, Bhattacharyya T,
606 Alam MZ, Berriman M, Wirth T, Schönian G, Cotton JA. 2020. Global genome diversity of the
607 *Leishmania donovani* complex. *Elife* **9**:1–44. doi:10.7554/eLife.51243

608 Gerstein AC, Fu MS, Mukaremera L, Li Z, Ormerod KL, Fraser JA, Berman J, Nielsen K. 2015.
609 Polyploid titan cells produce haploid and aneuploid progeny to promote stress adaptation.
610 *MBio* **6**:1–14. doi:10.1128/mBio.01340-15

611 Gilchrist C, Stelkens R. 2019. Aneuploidy in yeast: Segregation error or adaptation mechanism?
612 *Yeast* **36**:525–539. doi:10.1002/yea.3427

613 Giovanni Bussotti, a B, Evi Gouzelou B, Mariana Côrtes Boité, c Ihcen Kherachi D, Zoubir Harrat,
614 d Naouel Eddaikra D, Jeremy C. Mottram, e Maria Antoniou F, Vasiliki Christodoulou F, Aymen
615 Bali, g H, Fatma Z. Guerfali, g, h Dhafer Laouini, g H, Maowia Mukhtar I, Franck Dumetz, j Jean-
616 Claude Dujardin, j K, Despina Smirlis L, Pierre Lechat, a Pascale Pescher B, Adil El Hamouchi M,
617 Meryem Lemrani, m Carmen Chicharro N, Ivonne Pamela Llanes-Acevedo, n Laura Botana, n
618 Israel Cruz, n Javier Moreno, n Fakhri Jeddi, h O, Karim Aoun, h O, Aïda Bouratbine, h, o Elisa
619 Cupolillo c GFS. 2018. Leishmania Genome Dynamics during Environmental Adaptation Reveal
620 Strain-Specific Differences in Gene Copy Number Variation, Karyotype Instability, and Telomeric
621 Amplification. *MBio* **9**:1–18. doi:10.1128/mBio.01399-18

622 Hirakawa M, Chyou D, Huang D, Slan A, Bennett R. 2017. Parasex Generates Phenotypic
623 Diversity and Impacts Drug Resistance and Virulence in . *Genetics* **207**:1195–1211.
624 doi:10.1534/genetics.117.300295/-/DC1.1

625 Holland AJ, Cleveland DW. 2009. Boveri revisited: Chromosomal instability, aneuploidy and
626 tumorigenesis. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* **10**:478–487. doi:10.1038/nrm2718

627 Hu G, Wang J, Choi J, Jung WH, Liu I, Litvintseva AP, Bicanic T, Aurora R, Mitchell TG, Perfect JR,
628 Kronstad JW. 2011. Variation in chromosome copy number influences the virulence of
629 Cryptococcus neoformans and occurs in isolates from AIDS patients. *BMC Genomics* **12**.
630 doi:10.1186/1471-2164-12-526

631 Imamura H, Downing T, van den Broeck F, Sanders MJ, Rijal S, Sundar S, Mannaert A,
632 Vanaerschot M, Berg M, de Muylder G, Dumetz F, Cuypers B, Maes I, Domagalska MA,
633 Decuypere S, Rai K, Uranw S, Bhattarai NR, Khanal B, Prajapati VK, Sharma S, Stark O, Schönian

634 G, de Koning HP, Settimo L, Vanhollebeke B, Roy S, Ostyn B, Boelaert M, Maes L, Berriman M,
635 Dujardin J-C, Cotton JA. 2016. Evolutionary genomics of epidemic visceral leishmaniasis in the
636 Indian subcontinent. *Elife* **5**:1–39. doi:10.7554/eLife.12613

637 Inbar E, Akopyants NS, Charmoy M, Romano A, Lawyer P, Elnaiem DEA, Kauffmann F, Barhoumi
638 M, Grigg M, Owens K, Fay M, Dobson DE, Shaik J, Beverley SM, Sacks D. 2013. The Mating
639 Competence of Geographically Diverse Leishmania major Strains in Their Natural and Unnatural
640 Sand Fly Vectors. *PLoS Genet* **9**. doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1003672

641 Inbar E, Id JS, Id SAI, Romano A, Nzelu CO, Owens K, Sanders MJ, Id DD, Id JAC, Grigg ME, Id
642 SMB, Id DS. 2019. Whole genome sequencing of experimental hybrids supports meiosis-like
643 sexual recombination in Leishmania 1–28.

644 Jara M, Berg M, Caljon G, de Muylder G, Cuypers B, Castillo D, Maes I, Orozco M del C,
645 Vanaerschot M, Dujardin J-C, Arevalo J, Cuypers B, del Carmen Orozco M, Vanaerschot M,
646 Dujardin J-C, Arevalo J. 2017. Macromolecular biosynthetic parameters and metabolic profile in
647 different life stages of Leishmania braziliensis: Amastigotes as a functionally less active stage.
648 *PLoS One* **12**:1–22.

649 Kalvari I, Nawrocki EP, Ontiveros-Palacios N, Argasinska J, Lamkiewicz K, Marz M, Griffiths-Jones
650 S, Toffano-Nioche C, Gautheret D, Weinberg Z, Rivas E, Eddy SR, Finn RDD, Bateman A, Petrov
651 AI. 2021. Rfam 14: expanded coverage of metagenomic, viral and microRNA families. *Nucleic*
652 *Acids Res* **49**:D192–D200. doi:10.1093/nar/gkaa1047

653 Kang HM, Subramaniam M, Targ S, Nguyen M, Maliskova L, McCarthy E, Wan E, Wong S, Byrnes
654 L, Lanata CM, Gate RE, Mostafavi S, Marson A, Zaitlen N, Criswell LA, Ye CJ. 2018. Multiplexed
655 droplet single-cell RNA-sequencing using natural genetic variation. *Nat Biotechnol* **36**:89–94.
656 doi:10.1038/nbt.4042

657 Lachaud L, Bourgeois N, Kuk N, Morelle C, Crobu L, Merlin G, Bastien P, Pagès M, Sterkers Y.
658 2014. Constitutive mosaic aneuploidy is a unique genetic feature widespread in the Leishmania
659 genus. *Microbes Infect* **16**:61–66. doi:10.1016/j.micinf.2013.09.005

660 Li H, Durbin R. 2009. Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform.
661 *Bioinformatics* **25**:1754–1760. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp324

662 Li H, Handsaker B, Wysoker A, Fennell T, Ruan J, Homer N, Marth G, Abecasis G, Durbin R. 2009.
663 The Sequence Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. *Bioinformatics* **25**:2078–2079.
664 doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp352

665 Louradour I, Ferreira TR, Ghosh K, Shaik J, Sacks DL. 2020. In Vitro Generation of Leishmania
666 Hybrids. *Cell Rep* **31**:107507. doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2020.03.071

667 Mannaert A, Downing T, Imamura H, Dujardin J-C. 2012. Adaptive mechanisms in pathogens:
668 Universal aneuploidy in Leishmania. *Trends Parasitol* **28**:370–376. doi:10.1016/j.pt.2012.06.003

669 Martínez-Calvillo S, Florencio-Martínez LE, Nepomuceno-Mejía T. 2019. Nucleolar Structure and
670 Function in Trypanosomatid Protozoa. *Cells* **8**:421. doi:10.3390/cells8050421

671 Mulla W, Zhu J, Li R. 2014. Yeast: A simple model system to study complex phenomena of
672 aneuploidy. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* **38**:201–212. doi:10.1111/1574-6976.12048

673 Nawrocki EP, Eddy SR. 2013. Infernal 1.1: 100-fold faster RNA homology searches.
674 *Bioinformatics* **29**:2933–2935. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btt509

675 Ni M, Feretzaki M, Li W, Floyd-Averette A, Mieczkowski P, Dietrich FS, Heitman J. 2013.
676 Unisexual and Heterosexual Meiotic Reproduction Generate Aneuploidy and Phenotypic
677 Diversity De Novo in the Yeast Cryptococcus neoformans. *PLoS Biol* **11**.
678 doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001653

679 Paradis E. 2018. Analysis of haplotype networks: The randomized minimum spanning tree
680 method. *Methods Ecol Evol* **9**:1308–1317. doi:10.1111/2041-210X.12969

681 Paradis E. 2010. Pegas: An R package for population genetics with an integrated-modular
682 approach. *Bioinformatics* **26**:419–420. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp696

683 Piel L, Rajan KS, Bussotti G, Varet H, Legendre R, Douché T, Giai-gianetto Q, Chaze T, Vojtkova
684 B. 2021. Post-transcriptional regulation of Leishmania fitness gain. *bioRxiv*.

685 R Core Team. 2013. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing.

686 Reis-Cunha JL, Valdivia HO, Bartholomeu DC. 2017. Gene and Chromosomal Copy Number
687 Variations as an Adaptive Mechanism Towards a Parasitic Lifestyle in Trypanosomatids. *Curr*
688 *Genomics* **19**:87–97. doi:10.2174/1389202918666170911161311

689 Rogers MB, Hilley JD, Dickens NJ, Wilkes J, Bates PA, Depledge DP, Harris D, Her Y, Herzyk P,
690 Imamura H, Otto TD, Sanders M, Seeger K, Dujardin J-C, Berriman M, Smith DF, Hertz-Fowler C,
691 Mottram JC. 2011. Chromosome and gene copy number variation allow major structural change
692 between species and strains of Leishmania. *Genome Res* **21**:2129–42.
693 doi:10.1101/gr.122945.111

694 Romano A, Inbar E, Debrabant A, Charmoy M, Lawyer P, Ribeiro-Gomes F, Barhoumi M, Grigg
695 M, Shaik J, Dobson D, Beverley SM, Sacks DL. 2014. Cross-species genetic exchange between
696 visceral and cutaneous strains of *Leishmania* in the sand fly vector. *Proc Natl Acad Sci*
697 **111**:16808–16813. doi:10.1073/pnas.1415109111

698 Seco-Hidalgo V, Osuna A, De Pablos LM. 2015. To bet or not to bet: Deciphering cell to cell
699 variation in protozoan infections. *Trends Parasitol* **31**:350–356. doi:10.1016/j.pt.2015.05.004

700 Selmecki A, Forche A, Berman J. 2006. Aneuploidy and isochromosome formation in drug-
701 resistant Candida albicans. *Science (80-)* **313**:367–370. doi:10.1126/science.1128242

702 Shaw C, Lonchamp J, Downing T, Imamura H, Freeman TM, Cotton JA, Sanders M, Blackburn G,
703 Dujardin J-C, Rijal S, Khanal B, Illingworth CJR, Coombs GH, Carter KC. 2016. In vitro selection of
704 miltefosine resistance in promastigotes of Leishmania donovani from Nepal: Genomic and
705 metabolomic characterization. *Mol Microbiol* **99**:1134–1148. doi:10.1111/mmi.13291

706 Shaw CD, Imamura H, Downing T, Blackburn G, Westrop GD, Cotton JA, Berriman M, Sanders
707 M, Rijal S, Coombs GH, Dujardin JC, Carter KC. 2020. Genomic and Metabolomic Polymorphism
708 among Experimentally Selected Paromomycin-Resistant Leishmania donovani Strains.
709 *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* **64**. doi:10.1128/AAC.00904-19

710 Siegel JJ, Amon A. 2012. New insights into the troubles of aneuploidy. *Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol*
711 **28**:189–214. doi:10.1146/annurev-cellbio-101011-155807

712 Sterkers Y, Lachaud L, Bourgeois N, Crobu L, Bastien P, Pagès M. 2012. Novel insights into
713 genome plasticity in Eukaryotes: Mosaic aneuploidy in Leishmania. *Mol Microbiol* **86**:15–23.
714 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2958.2012.08185.x

715 Sterkers Y, Lachaud L, Crobu L, Bastien P, Pagès M. 2011. FISH analysis reveals aneuploidy and
716 continual generation of chromosomal mosaicism in Leishmania major. *Cell Microbiol* **13**:274–

717 283. doi:10.1111/j.1462-5822.2010.01534.x

718 Ubeda JM, Légaré D, Raymond F, Ouameur AA, Boisvert S, Rigault P, Corbeil J, Tremblay MJ,
719 Olivier M, Papadopoulou B, Ouellette M. 2008. Modulation of gene expression in drug resistant
720 Leishmania is associated with gene amplification, gene deletion and chromosome aneuploidy.
721 *Genome Biol* **9**. doi:10.1186/gb-2008-9-7-r115

722 Van den Broeck F, Savill NJ, Imamura H, Sanders M, Maes I, Cooper S, Mateus D, Jara M, Adaui
723 V, Arevalo J, Llanos-Cuentas A, Garcia L, Cupolillo E, Miles M, Berriman M, Schnaufer A, Cotton
724 JA, Dujardin JC. 2020. Ecological divergence and hybridization of Neotropical Leishmania
725 parasites. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **117**:25159–25168. doi:10.1073/pnas.1920136117

726 WHO. 2020. Ending the neglect to attain the sustainable development goals: a road map for
727 neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030: overview. World Health Organization.

728

729

730 Supplementary text to

731 **High throughput single cell genome sequencing gives insights in the generation and evolution of mosaic**
732 **aneuploidy in *Leishmania donovani***

733 by

734 Gabriel H. Negreira[1], Pieter Monsieurs[1], Hideo Imamura[1], Ilse Maes[1], Nada Kuk[2], Akila Yagoubat[2], Frederik
735 Van den Broeck[1], Yvon Sterkers[2], Jean-Claude Dujardin[1,3], Malgorzata A. Domagalska[1]

736

737 **Table of Contents**

738 ***Definitions and Glossary*** ***33***
739 ***Supplementary methods*** ***34***
740 **Single-cell DNA sequence data analysis** **34**
741 **Doublet detection** **37**
742 ***Supplementary results & discussion*** ***38***
743 **Sequencing statistics** **38**
744 ***Supplementary References*** ***40***
745 ***Supplementary Figures*** ***41***

746

747

748

749 **Definitions and Glossary**

750 In the present paper, we use the following definitions for population, strains and clones;
751 adapted from the nomenclature of salivarian trypanosomes (Baker et al., 1978). Accordingly:

752 - A population is a group of *Leishmania* cells present at a given time in a given culture or
753 host;

754 - A strain is a population derived by serial passage in vitro from a primary isolate (in our
755 case, from patient samples) without any implication of homogeneity but with some degree of
756 characterization (in our case bulk genome sequencing).

757 - A clone is derived from a strain and is a population of cells derived from a single
758 individual presumably by binary fission.

759 Other terms are defined in the following glossary:

Term	Definition
Bulk Genome Sequencing (BGS)	Whole genome sequencing performed in a group of cells combined as a single sample.
Single Cell Genome Sequencing (SCGS)	Genome sequencing performed in single cells individually.
Somy	The number of copies of a given chromosome in a cell.
Polysomy	A somy higher than 2.
Karyotype	The set of copy numbers of all chromosomes in a cell.
Cell Karyotype	The karyotype of a cell determined by SCGS.
Populational Karyotype (Kp)	The average karyotype of a population determined by BGS.
Ploidy	The most frequent somy in a karyotype.
Euploidy	A condition where all chromosomes display the same somy in a cell.
Aneuploidy	A condition where one or more chromosomes display a somy that diverges from the other chromosomes in the same cell.
Mosaic Aneuploidy	A condition where different aneuploid karyotypes co-exist in the same population.
Cell scale factor (Sc)	The lowest number between 1.8 and 5 by which when the average normalized read depths of all chromosomes in a cell are multiplied the resulting numbers are the closest to integers as possible.
Raw somy	The average normalized read depth of a chromosome multiplied by Sc.
Integer somy	The integer value assigned to a raw somy.

760 **Supplementary methods**

761 **Single-cell DNA sequence data analysis**

762 Illumina Base call files (BCL) were demultiplexed and converted to FASTQ files using the
763 cellranger-dna mkfastq command of the CellRanger™ DNA pipeline (10X Genomics). The FASTQ
764 files were then used as inputs to the cellranger-dna cnv command in order to associate reads
765 to individual cells based on their 10X barcodes and to map reads to a customized version of the
766 LdBPKv2 *L. donovani* reference genome (available at
767 ftp://ftp.sanger.ac.uk/pub/project/pathogens/Leishmania/donovani/LdBPKPAC2016beta/),
768 where 'N's were added to the ends of chromosomes 1 to 5 to reach the 500kb minimum size
769 allowed by the CellRanger DNA pipeline. The pipeline divides the genome into adjacent 20kb
770 bins and outputs a CSV file containing the number of reads mapped to each bin. This file was
771 used to estimate chromosomes copy number in a custom script written in R.

772 An overview of the steps performed by the script is shown in supp. fig. 3A. The script first
773 removes bins with a low number of mapped reads by eliminating any bin showing an average
774 depth of 0.5 read/cell. Then, the difference between the median number of reads of each bin
775 and the chromosomal median is calculated. Bins with outlier values are determined using the
776 boxplot.stats function from the R package grDevices v3.6.2. These outlier bins are removed
777 from downstream analysis (supp. fig. 3B). This also excludes common local-CNVs found in some
778 *L. donovani* strains, as for instance the H-Locus and the M-Locus in Chr23 and Chr36 respectively
779 (Downing et al., 2011), present in the BPK strains/clones but absent in the HU3 strain. After
780 removal of outlier bins, the bins depths are normalized by the cell mean and are used to
781 estimate intrachromosomal variation (ICV). ICV is determined for each cell by dividing each
782 chromosome in 3 segments and calculating the ratio between the segment with the highest and
783 the segment with lowest depth. The mean of the five highest ICV values (i.e. the 5 most variable
784 chromosomes in a cell) is assigned as its ICV-score. The distribution of ICV-scores in each sample
785 was graphically analyzed in order to determine a threshold for exclusion of noisy cells. This
786 threshold was defined as 2.0 for BPK282 cl4 and 1.7 for the BPK081 cl8 and the 'super-mosaic'
787 samples.

788 The copy number of chromosomes in a cell is defined based on their normalized mean depth
789 (NMD), i.e., the mean of the normalized depth values of the 20kb bins of a chromosome. In this
790 sense, NMDs reflects the relative differences in copy number between chromosomes, but

791 absolute copy numbers must be inferred based on the ratios between NMDs of different
792 chromosomes in a cell. Thus, considering that chromosomes copy numbers must be integers,
793 the script uses an approach to determine absolute copy numbers which consists of multiplying
794 NMDs by a scale factor which minimizes distances between the multiplied NMDs and integers.
795 Therefore, the scale factor is defined as the lowest value between 1.8 and 5 which results to
796 the closest approximation of NMDs to integers when they are multiplied by this factor. As the
797 scale factor is directly affected by the ploidy of the cell, the limitation of the scale factor to
798 values higher than 1.8 heuristically assumes that the lowest baseline ploidy of a cell is 2n. This
799 was done to prevent that 2n cells with no odd somy value would be scaled as 1n cells.

800 In order to determine the scale factor, the script multiply the NMDs of a cell by 1000
801 equidistant numbers between 1.8 and 5. For each multiplication, the difference between the
802 resultant values and their closest integers is calculated for each chromosome and averaged.
803 The value that results in the lowest average distance to integers is then assigned to the cell as
804 its scale factor (supp. fig. 3C). In case two or more scale factors result in the same average
805 distance to integers, the one with the lowest value is chosen.

806 Since *Leishmania* chromosomes are biased in GC content (Imamura et al., 2020), with small
807 chromosomes (Chr1 to Chr5) displaying a higher GC content than others, amplification bias due
808 to differences in GC content can have a negative impact in the determination of the copy
809 number of these chromosomes. Plotting the distribution of NMD values leads to different
810 peaks, each peak representing one of the somy values, however, the peaks of these small
811 chromosomes with high GC content are shifted relative to the other chromosomes (supp. fig.
812 3D upper panel). Thus, to compensate for chromosome-specific amplification and to further
813 define the somies of the cells, the above explained scale factor are used at two levels, i.e., at
814 population level (all cells combined) as well as at single cell level (defined for each cell). In this
815 sense, the script first defines a single scale factor to the whole population (Sp) by which NMDs
816 are multiplied and the distribution peak of the scaled NMDs of each chromosome is adjusted
817 to the closest integer (supp. fig. 3D bottom panel). Then, these values are divided back by Sp
818 and based on this output a second scale factor is defined for each cell (Sc). Thus, the NMDs of
819 the chromosomes in a cell after bias compensation multiplied by the cell's Sc defines the 'raw
820 somies' of the chromosomes of that cell.

821 Despite the fact that the abovementioned steps have moved the NMDs distribution closer
822 to integer values, those values are still floating-point numbers. To determine the cells
823 karyotypes, the raw floating-point somies are converted to integer copy numbers using
824 Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs). To generate a GMM for each chromosome, a vector
825 containing all raw somy values determined for that chromosome among the filtered cells in a
826 sample is used as input to the normalMixEM function of the mixtools R (Benaglia et al., 2009),
827 following the defined rules bellow:

828 1) The possible integer values are defined as the number of different integers found when
829 all values in the vector are rounded to the closest integer.
830 2) The number of components (k) is determined as the total number of possible integer
831 values.
832 3) The ratio between means (μ) of k gaussians are constrained to the ratios between the
833 possible integer values.
834 4) If for a given gaussian, less than 5% of the values are inside the interval between μ-0.2
835 < μ < μ+0.2, the standard deviation (σ) of that gaussian is arbitrarily limited to 0.1.
836 5) At least 5 iterations must be performed before a gaussian is defined.

837 Thus, for each chromosome in a sample, a gaussian is built for each possible integer somy
838 (supp. fig. 3E). Raw somies are then converted to the rounded μ of the gaussian of which they
839 have the higher probability of belonging to. Since the GMMs must be built between cells sharing
840 the sample baseline ploidy, and as the vast majority of cells in all samples sequenced in the
841 present study had a scale factor lower than 2.5 and consequently were considered 2n cells
842 (supp. fig. 3F), the GMMs were applied only to 2n cells. Moreover, since the number of non-2n
843 cells were always very low, GMMs could not be built separately for cells with other baseline
844 ploidies. Thus, cells which baseline ploidy was different than 2 were treated differently. In this
845 case, cells with intermediate somies, i.e, with at least one raw somy values that are at a distance
846 greater than 0.4 from its closest integers, were considered unresolvable and were removed
847 from downstream analysis. The reminiscent had their raw somy values simply rounded to the
848 closest integer. Karyotypes were then defined as the concatenated set of integer somy values
849 found in a cell.

850 **Doublet detection**

851 Two different methods were used for doublet detection, i.e. an in-house developed
852 methodology and Demuxlet (Kang et al., 2018), both exploiting the difference in SNP profile
853 between HU3 cells versus other cell lines.

854 The in-house developed approach uses the following methodology: 1) Homozygote SNPs for
855 the HU3 strain are predicted based on the genome of the HU3 strain sequenced by BGS (data
856 not shown). 2) For each of those HU3 homozygote SNPs, the occurrence of this SNP is derived
857 for each of the single cells in the 4-strains mixture sample (further called 'super-mosaic'). Given
858 the low sequencing depth per cell (on average around 1x), this will report the absence or
859 presence for each SNP. 3) For the HU3 cells in the super-mosaic, the majority of SNPs should be
860 detected, while for the other three strains no SNPs should be detected. In case of a doublet
861 consisting of a HU3 cell with a cell from one of the other three strains, two different scenarios
862 can occur: If the sequencing depth is low, only the allele of one of the two cells can be predicted,
863 while in case of a sufficient sequencing depth (at least 2x), both alleles (either the HU3 or the
864 reference allele) can be detected, resulting in an allele frequency of 50%. In both cases, overall
865 detection rate of the homozygote SNPs should be around 50%. In order to compensate for
866 sequencing errors and differences in sequencing depth, libraries detecting between 10% and
867 90% of the HU3 homozygote SNP list were classified as doublets. Homozygote SNPs where
868 predicted based on the genome of the HU3 strain. Genetic variants were detected using the
869 mpileup and call command of BCFftools (version 1.10.2). The view and query command of
870 BCFtools were used to filter out genetic variants fulfilling the following conditions 1) minimum
871 sequencing depth of 100, 2) only SNPs i.e., removing indels, 3) biallelic, 4) homozygous. In a
872 second step, for each single cell those SNP positions are checked using the bcftools mpileup
873 command.

874 Demuxlet was run using the default parameters with the following input: 1) the bam file
875 returned by the Cell Ranger software, produced for the single-cell experiment with the super-
876 mosaic, 2) a vcf file describing the two different SNP profiles, i.e., the SNP profile for HU3, and
877 the SNP profile for the three other strains.

878 **Supplementary results & discussion**

879 **Sequencing statistics**

880 Summary of sequencing statistics is provided in table S1. The BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8
881 were sequenced with the same targeted depth (75.000 reads per cell) but BPK282 cl4 sample
882 displayed a depth which was lower than anticipated (29.192 reads per cell). This was due to a
883 high fraction (53.3%) of reads without a cell barcode in this sample, which according to the
884 manufacturer indicates free floating DNA or a problem during library prep, but which unlikely
885 affect copy number estimation. The scCNV library of the super-mosaic sample was sequenced
886 deeper (209.000 reads per cell) to better allow the distinction between doublets. Higher
887 coverage depths per cell were also associated with lower intra-chromosomal variation and
888 lower frequency of intermediate somy values (supp. fig. 4A-B). This explains why sample
889 BPK282 cl4 displayed a higher overall ICV score compared to the other samples.

890 The noisy nature of whole genome amplification ultimately leads, in some cases, to the
891 existence of raw somy values are at similar distances from two integers. Although the
892 conversion of raw somies into integers could be achieved by simply rounding the raw somy
893 values to the closest integers, this could overestimate the number of karyotypes identified in a
894 population, as the wrong determination of a somy value of a single chromosome in a single cell
895 is sufficient to lead to a new artificial karyotype. Thus, in order to convert the raw somy values
896 into integers, we used a more stringent approach by constructing GMMs based on the
897 distribution of raw somy values of each chromosome among cells in a given sample. One of the
898 consequences of using this approach is that the frequency of which an integer somy value is
899 present in a population influences the probability of a raw somy value to be assigned to this
900 integer. This favors that intermediate somy values are assigned to the most frequent integer
901 somy values in the population, reducing the chances of misinterpreting an intermediate value
902 as a new, rare integer, and consequently greatly reducing the number of artificial karyotypes
903 caused by the misinterpretation of a somy. This is evident, for example, when comparing the
904 number of karyotypes identified in the BPK282 cl4 sample using the GMMs (207 karyotypes)
905 and when raw somies are just rounded to their closest integers (525 karyotypes - supp. fig. 4D).

906 Noisy data had also an impact on the scaling of the NMDs of cells into raw somies, as
907 differences between chromosomes NMDs becomes less discrete. In the 3 samples submitted to
908 SCGS here we noticed a higher ICV-score in a large fraction of cells which were scaled to baseline

909 ploidies different than 2 (supp. fig. 4C). These cells were removed from karyotype estimation
910 either due to their ICR-score being above the threshold, or due to the presence of unresolvable
911 intermediate somy values as described in the supplementary materials and methods.

912

913 **Supplementary References**

914 Baker JR, Brown KN, Godfrey DG. 1978. Proposals for the nomenclature of salivarian
915 trypanosomes and for the maintenance of reference collections. *Bull World Health Organ*
916 **56**:467–480.

917 Benaglia T, Chauveau D, Hunter DR, Young DS. 2009. Mixtools: An R package for analyzing finite
918 mixture models. *J Stat Softw* **32**:1–29. doi:10.18637/jss.v032.i06

919 Downing T, Imamura H, Decuypere S, Clark TG, Coombs GH, Cotton JA, Hilley JD, De Doncker S,
920 Maes I, Mottram JC, Quail MA, Rijal S, Sanders M, Schönian G, Stark O, Sundar S, Vanaerschot
921 M, Hertz-Fowler C, Dujardin J-C, Berriman M. 2011. Whole genome sequencing of multiple
922 Leishmania donovani clinical isolates provides insights into population structure and
923 mechanisms of drug resistance. *Genome Res* **21**:2143–2156. doi:10.1101/gr.123430.111

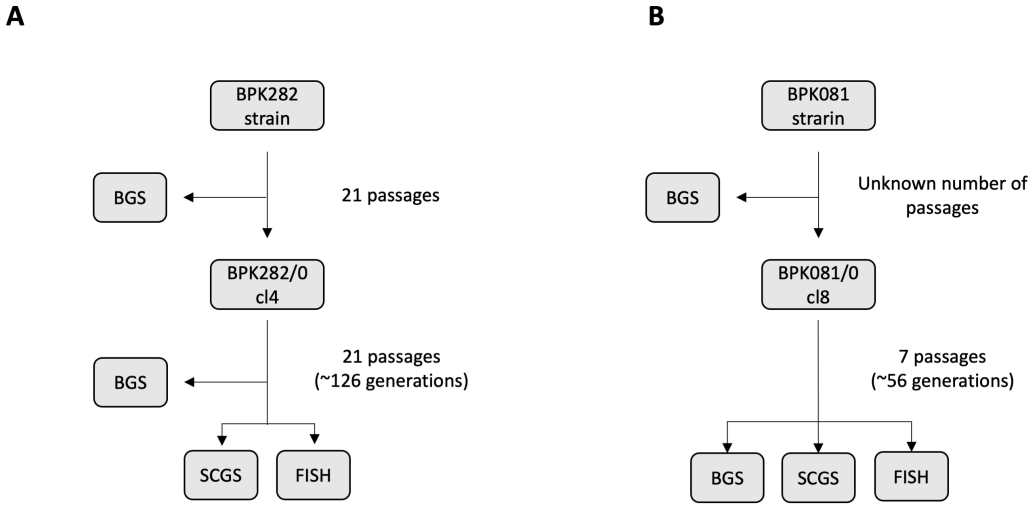
924 Imamura H, Monsieurs P, Jara M, Sanders M, Maes I, Vanaerschot M, Berriman M, Cotton JA,
925 Dujardin JC, Domagalska MA. 2020. Evaluation of whole genome amplification and
926 bioinformatic methods for the characterization of Leishmania genomes at a single cell level. *Sci*
927 *Rep* **10**:1–13. doi:10.1038/s41598-020-71882-2

928 Kang HM, Subramaniam M, Targ S, Nguyen M, Maliskova L, McCarthy E, Wan E, Wong S, Byrnes
929 L, Lanata CM, Gate RE, Mostafavi S, Marson A, Zaitlen N, Criswell LA, Ye CJ. 2018. Multiplexed
930 droplet single-cell RNA-sequencing using natural genetic variation. *Nat Biotechnol* **36**:89–94.
931 doi:10.1038/nbt.4042

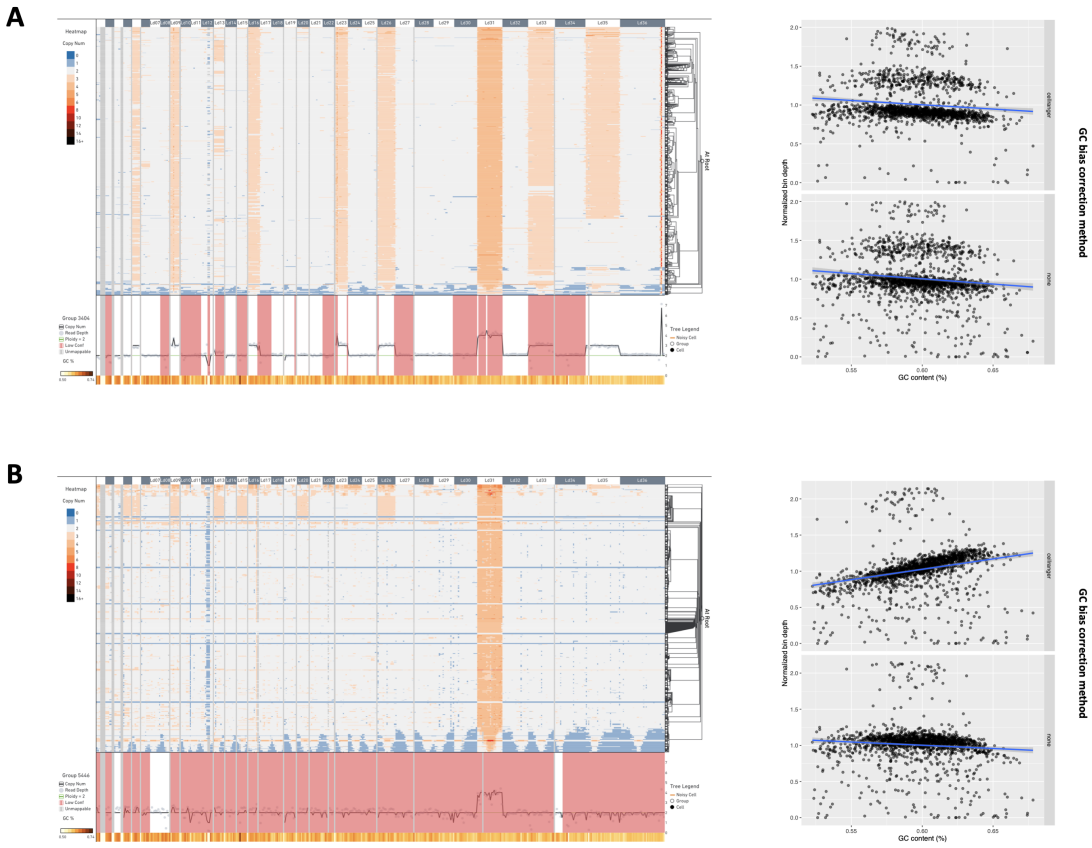
932

933

934 **Supplementary Figures**



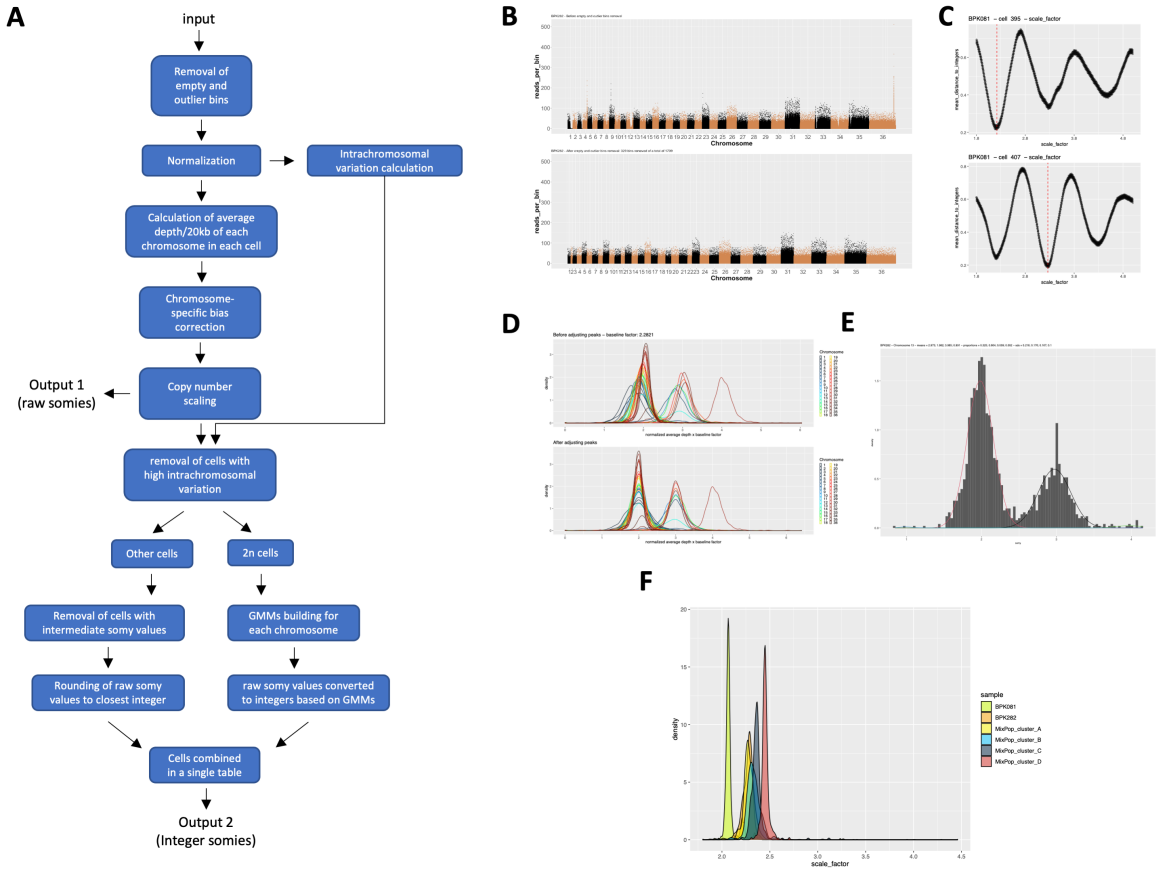
Supplementary figure 1 – Flow chart of the two clonal populations used in the present study. For BPK282 cl4, SCGS and FISH were performed in cultures at the same passage number. BGS was performed previously at passage 13 after cloning. For BPK081 cl8, all experiments were performed with the same culture. Number of generations is roughly estimated as 26+((p-1)*5)), where p is the number of passages. This is done assuming that it takes about 26 generations to reach a total of ~$7x10^7$ cells starting from 1 cell, an approximation to the total number of cells usually found in a culture flask with 5mL of culture medium at the moment the first passage is done, and also assuming that each subsequent passage represents ~5 generations.



Supplementary figure 2 - CNV profile of BPK282 cl4 and BPK081 cl8 calculated with the Cell Ranger™ pipeline and visualized with the Loupe™ scDNA Browser software (10X Genomics). In each sample, cells (rows) are arranged in 512 clusters, the maximum number of clusters allowed by the software. CNVs (columns) are depicted in windows of 80kb. Insets on the left display the effect of the the GC bias correction algorithm of the Cell Ranger™ pipeline on the normalized read depth of bins (top) when compared to no bias correction (bottom).

935

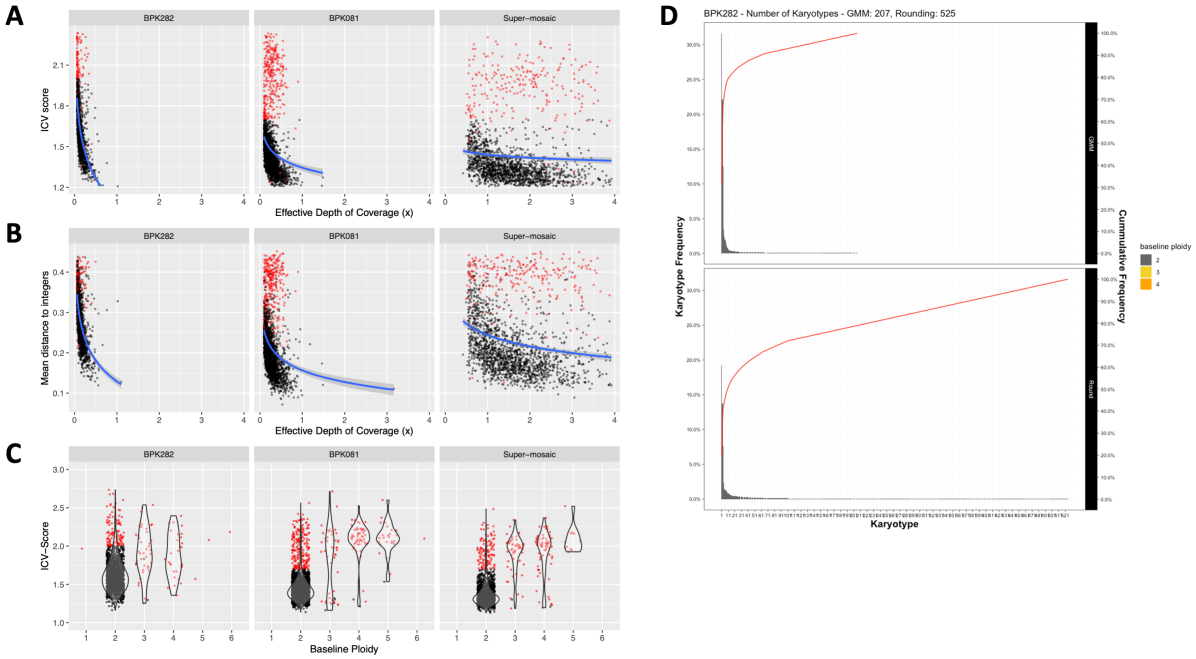
936



Supplementary figure 3 - Bioinformatics pipeline for somy estimation. **A.** Flow chart of the script developed to estimate chromosomes copy numbers based on their average depth/20kb bin. The input file is a matrix containing the read count of each 20kb bin for each cell. Two output files are generated, one with the raw somy values (floating points) and another with integer somy values. **B.** An example of the effect of the removal of empty and outlier bins in the BPK282 cl4 data. In this step, small intrachromosomal CNVs are also removed. **C.** Example of the determination of the scale factor for a 2N cell in the BPK081/0 cl8 sample with karyotype 2 (top panel) and a 3N cell with karyotype 13 (bottom panel). Y-axis represents the mean distance to integers when the NMDs of that cell are multiplied by a given scale_factor (x-axis). Red dashed line denotes the scale factor value defined for that cell. **D.** An example of the chromosome-bias correction step in the BPK282 cl4 data. **E.** Example of a Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) built for chromosome 13 in the BPK282 cl4 data. The histogram represents the distribution of raw somy values for this chromosome in this sample, while the gaussian curves represent the GMM built for it. In this step, a gaussian is built for each integer, and raw somy values are assigned to the integer corresponding to the gaussian to which they have the higher probability. **F.** Distribution of the scale factors between all cells sequenced in this study.

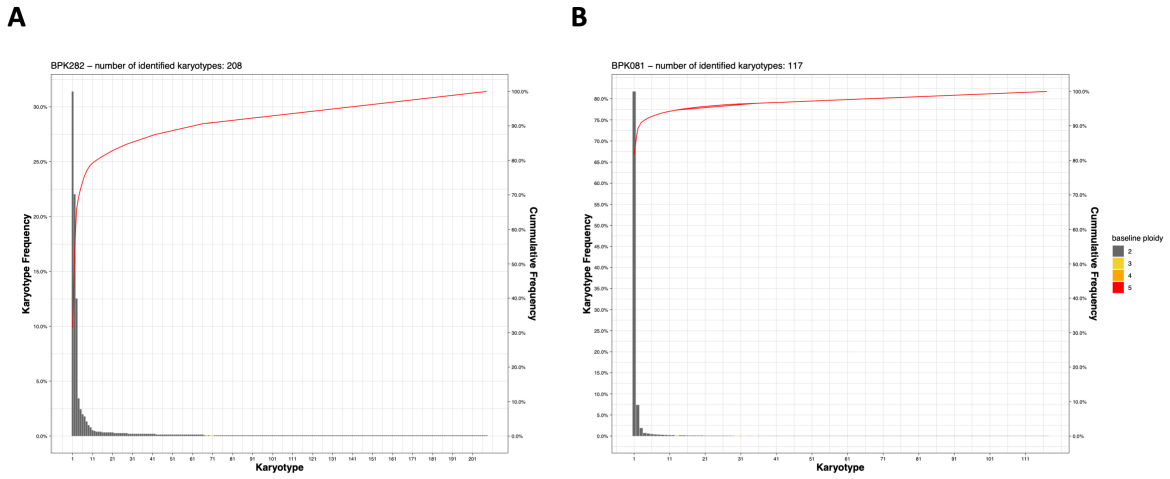
937

938

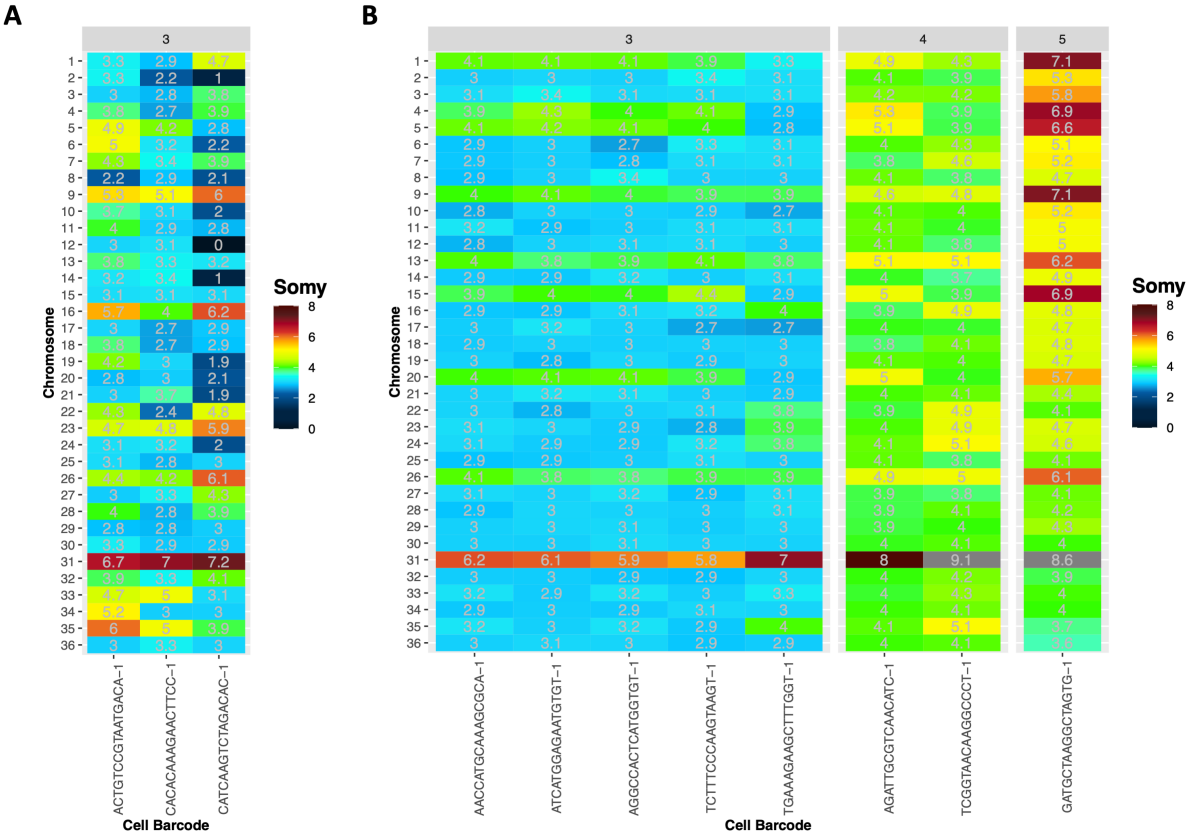


Supplementary figure 4 – The relationship between the depth of coverage per cell and the cells ICV-score (**A**), mean distance to integers (**B**) and the relationship between the baseline ploidy defined for a cell – which is a direct consequence of the cells scale factor – and the cells ICV-score (**C**). Red dots represent cells which were removed from karyotype estimation. **D.** Comparison of the number and distribution of karyotypes identified in BPK282 when using the GMMs (top) and when raw somies are simply rounded to their closest integers (bottom).

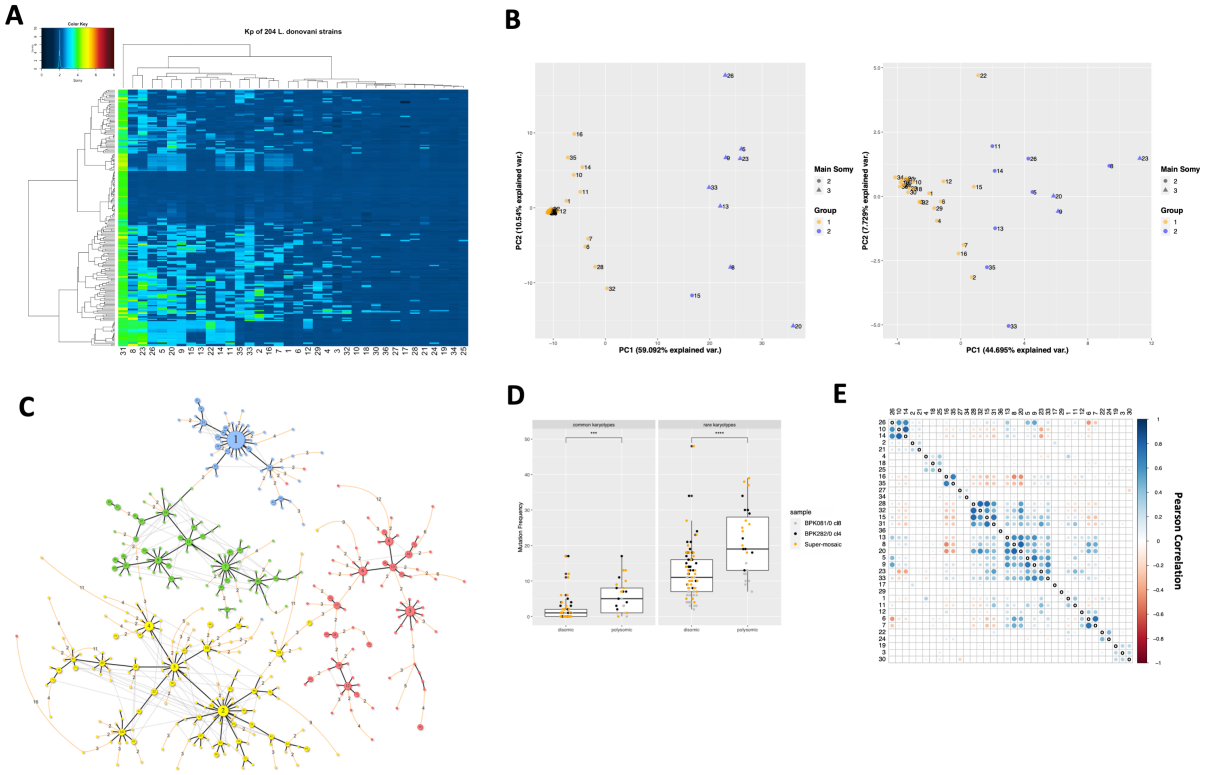
941



Supplementary figure 5 - Frequency distribution of the karyotypes identified in **A.** BPK282 cl4 and **B.** BPK081 cl8 clones.



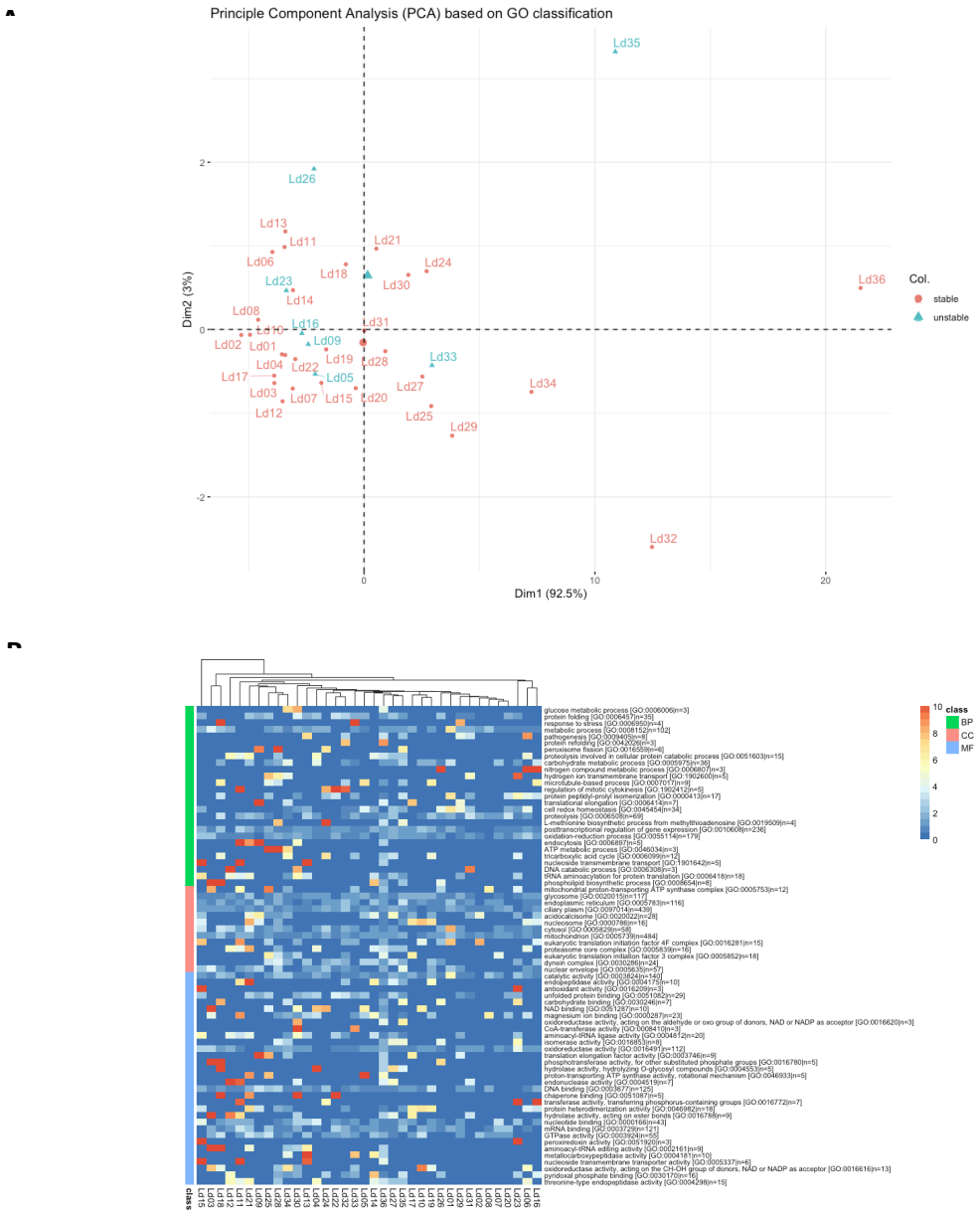
Supplementary figure 6 - Raw somy values of potentially polyploid cells in BPK282 cl4 (**A**) and BPK081 cl8 (**B**) clones. Plots are separated by the baseline ploidy of the cells (indicated in the top).



Supplementary figure 7 – Supporting images for Fig 3 in the main text. **A.** Somies observed in the BGS data of 204 *L.donovani* strains (rows) with chromosomes (columns) hierarchically clustered. Data from Imamura H. et al, 2016. **B.** Principal Component Analysis constructed based on the somy values of each chromosome (dots) found in the 1554 cells from 6 different strains/clones (left panel) or among the Kp's of 204 *L. donovani* strains (right panel). **C.** Karyotype Network of the 'super-mosaic' population. Color of the nodes indicate the cluster to which each karyotype belongs. Yellow: Cluster A; Red: Cluster B; Green: Cluster C; Blue: Cluster D. **D.** Comparison of the frequency of somy change events between the polysomy-prone chromosomes and the chromosomes which are usually found as disomic. *** = p.value <0.001 and **** = p.value <0.0001 (T-test). **E.** Pearson correlation matrix used to generate the chord diagram in figure 3C in the main text. Correlations with p-value higher than 0.05 are not shown.

944

945



Supplementary figure 8 – **A.** Principal component analysis (PCA) based on the Gene Ontology (GO) annotation. Based on the GO annotation provided by TriTrypDB, the percentage of each GO category (minimal category size set to 10, maximum category size set to 500), the chromosome by GO category percentage matrix is used as input for the PCA analysis. Chromosomes indicated as "stable" due to their stable disomy are indicated in red, chromosomes which showed frequent changes in ploidy level are indicated in cyan. No obvious clustering of unstable chromosomes is observed based on their GO classification **B.** Heatmap showing the ratio of the genes assigned to a GO class over the total number of genes per GO class (colour code between 0% and 10%), calculated per chromosome. The list of GO classes shown in this heatmap are significantly enriched promastigote-specific GO classes, derived based on the transcriptomics data as available in Dumetz et al. 2017, and are grouped over the three main categories i.e. Biologial Process (BP), Cellular Compartment (CC) and Molecular Function (MF). No clear clustering of polysomy-prone chromosomes based on the GO classification was observed.

946

947