Title: Extensive transmission and variation in a functional receptor

for praziquantel resistance in endemic *Schistosoma mansoni*

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One Sentence Summary: Population genomics and functional genetics of
praziquantel resistance in *Schistosoma mansoni*

Abstract: Mass-drug administration (MDA) of human populations using praziquantel
monotherapy has become the primary strategy for controlling and potentially
eliminating the major neglected tropical disease schistosomiasis. To understand how
long-term MDA impacts schistosome populations, we analysed whole-genome
sequence data of 570 *Schistosoma mansoni* samples (and the closely related
outgroup species, *S. rodhaini)* from eight countries incorporating both publicly-
available sequence data and new parasite material. This revealed broad-scale
genetic structure across countries but with extensive transmission over hundreds of
kilometres. We characterised variation across the transient receptor potential
melastatin ion channel, $TRPM_{PZQ}$, a target of praziquantel, which has recently been
found to influence praziquantel susceptibility. Functional profiling of $TRPM_{PZQ}$
variants found in endemic populations identified four mutations that reduced channel
sensitivity to praziquantel, indicating standing variation for resistance. Analysis of

parasite infrapopulations sampled from individuals pre- and post-treatment identified

instances of treatment failure, further indicative of potential praziquantel resistance.

As schistosomiasis is targeted for elimination as a public health problem by 2030 in

all currently endemic countries, and even interruption of transmission in selected

African regions, we provide an in-depth genomic characterisation of endemic

populations and an approach to identify emerging praziquantel resistance alleles.

INTRODUCTION

Schistosomiasis is a neglected tropical disease which currently infects 250 million people across 78 endemic nations (*1*, *2*). Infections are prevalent among children, including pre-school-aged children, as well as adults in low and middle-income countries, with 90% of infections occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. The etiological agents of schistosomiasis are freshwater snail-borne parasitic trematodes of the genus *Schistosoma* (principally *Schistosoma mansoni, S. japonicum,* and *S. haematobium*). These parasitic worms dwell in the host's blood vessels, often for years, where they lay eggs, many of which become trapped in host tissues, resulting in a spectrum of pathologies including anaemia, stunted growth, genital lesions, fever and irreversible organ damage (*3*). Recognising the severe and widespread impact of this disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed praziquantel monotherapy, distributed as part of mass drug administration (MDA) programmes, as the primary strategy for schistosomiasis control (*4*, *5*). In 2020 alone, 76.9 million people (representing 44.9% of those requiring treatment), predominantly school-aged children, were treated with praziquantel for schistosomiasis (*6*). Such treatment campaigns have resulted in an overall decrease in the prevalence of schistosomiasis among school-aged children by approximately 60% (*7*, *8*). Based on such successes, the WHO launched its 2021-2030 NTD roadmap and revised Guidelines for the Control and Elimination of Schistosomiasis (*1*). These set ambitious goals to eliminate schistosomiasis as a public health problem in all endemic countries (defined as reducing the proportion of heavy-intensity infections to <1%) and complete interruption of transmission in selected regions by 2030, primarily through the escalating use of praziquantel MDA (*9*).

Although MDA programmes have, in general, resulted in large-scale reductions in

schistosomiasis prevalence and morbidity in endemic regions (*7, 10, 11*), some of

these prevalence reductions have proven to be reversible over short timescales and,

despite years of repeated MDA, persistent hotspots of infection remain (*12–15*).

Ongoing surveillance projects have also revealed substantial heterogeneity in

infection prevalence, intensity and morbidity within and between endemic regions

(*16–18*). This includes potential variability in parasite response to praziquantel,

which, given the current lack of available vaccines or alternative antischistosomal

drugs, represents a major threat to the control and elimination of schistosomiasis

(*19–21*). In combination with other public health measures, MDA programmes are

expected to dramatically alter patterns of schistosome transmission and exert

selective pressure for praziquantel resistance. However, despite over twenty years of

MDA in some areas, there is no consistent evidence that sustained praziquantel

administration has impacted parasite population genetic structure or diversity (*22–*

25). Likewise, while there is clear evidence that resistance to praziquantel can be

rapidly selected for in laboratory settings (*26–29*), there is limited evidence of

established praziquantel resistance in endemic *S. mansoni* populations (*30*). This

contrasts with that of emerging or established heritable resistance, particularly in the

veterinary helminths, to every other class of anthelmintic used (*31–34*). Part of the

explanation lies in the fact that, until recently, we neither knew the precise mode of

action of praziquantel against schistosomes nor had any molecular markers to

monitor potential praziquantel resistance amongst natural *Schistosoma* spp.

populations. Recent efforts have, for the first time, identified the molecular target of

praziquantel, a transient receptor potential (TRP) melastatin ion channel

(*Sm*.TRPM$_{PZQ}$) (*35–38*). This discovery permits evaluation of praziquantel efficacy

and resistance risk, although such resistance-conferring alleles have only been

identified in a single isolate from endemic populations (*37*). Characterising the

transmission and recent evolution of schistosome populations is, therefore, of broad

epidemiological importance as a means to understand how parasite populations are

structured and how they are changing in response to interventions aimed at

controlling schistosomiasis.

Here, we have used whole-genome sequencing to characterise genomic variation

from globally dispersed populations of the major human infective species *S. mansoni*

(and the closely related outgroup species, *S. rodhaini)* (*39–41*). Our analyses focus

on populations within endemic regions of East Africa, primarily those found around

Lake Victoria, one of the largest foci of schistosomiasis infections and a target of

long-term MDA efforts (*7, 20*). We aimed to quantify variation within the newly

identified candidate praziquantel resistance locus, *Sm*.TRPM$_{PZQ}$ (*36, 37, 42*), to

determine the prevalence of potential resistance-conferring mutations. This also

included extensive WGS of *S. mansoni* from within individual hosts before and after

praziquantel administration to quantify the immediate genetic impact of treatment.

These data raise significant implications regarding the standing variation of potential

praziquantel resistance in human schistosome population and represent an

important resource for assessing the efficacy of current interventions and guiding

future treatment strategies.

RESULTS

The genetic diversity of geographically dispersed isolates supports high transmission in endemic regions

We analysed whole-genome sequence data from 574 *Schistosoma* samples (n = 570 *S. mansoni* and n = 4 *S. rodhaini* ; hereafter all referred to as accessions) isolated from eight countries, including 207 new *Schistosoma* samples sequenced for this study (Fig. 1A; Table 1; Supplementary Data 1) (*39–41*). Most accessions were derived from Lake Victoria (88.3%), a major focus of *S. mansoni* infection. These included published sequence data from miracidial samples isolated from infected children between 2014 and 2017 from either the Koome & Damba Islands (hereafter referred to as the Koome Islands; n = 174) (*41*) or Southern Uganda (n = 164) (*39*), with a median of two isolates sequenced per child (range 1-11). We sequenced an additional 164 miracidia from just three children from Southern Uganda (n = 89, 51 & 23 miracidia per child), including both pre- (n = 82) and post-praziquantel treatment (n = 82) sampling (*20*). The only other Lake Victoria accessions were derived from cercariae shed from snails captured in Northern Tanzania (n = 31) or Southern Uganda (n = 2). Of the remaining samples, two were cercariae from the shoreline of Lake Albert, four were cercariae from a passaged strain originally isolated in Lake Albert, 17 were miracidia collected from children living in Eastern Uganda, and ten were published adult-stage isolates of passaged laboratory strains originally sampled from Kenya (n = 1), Senegal (n = 3), Cameroon (n = 1), Guadeloupe (n = 4) or Puerto Rico (n = 1) (*40*). As an outgroup, we included four *S. rodhaini* accessions, two cercarial isolates from Tanzania and two adult-stage isolates of passaged lab strains from isolates originally sampled in Burundi. We mapped sequence reads from all 574 accessions to the *S. mansoni* reference

genome, and after variant calling and quality control, we identified 35,146,249 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and 6,632,156 indels across all accessions (Supplementary Data 2).

To characterise population structure, we produced a maximum likelihood phylogeny and performed principal component analysis using unlinked autosomal variants. These analyses distinguished accessions sampled in East Africa from those in West Africa and the Caribbean (Fig. 1B,C). The only exception was a single laboratory-passaged isolate from coastal Kenya that clustered with West African accessions, consistent with previous analyses of this sample (40, 43). Within Eastern Africa, populations from Lake Victoria, Lake Albert and Eastern Uganda formed distinct but partially overlapping clusters. Pairwise measures of the fixation index (F_{ST}) showed limited population differentiation between Lake Victoria, Lake Albert and Eastern Uganda (range F_{ST} = 2.49×10^{-2} - 4.59×10^{-2}) and negligible differentiation between Lake Victoria populations, despite the geographic separation of up to 300 km (range F_{ST} = 2.41×10^{-3} - 4.07×10^{-3}, Supplementary Fig. 1A). East African populations had comparable levels of nucleotide diversity (range median π = 2.35×10^{-3} - 3.35×10^{-3}; Supplementary Fig. 1B) and effective population size (N_e) estimates (range N_e = 58,004-64,063; Supplementary Fig. 2; Supplementary Data 3) suggesting shared recent population histories. Analyses of population ancestry for individual accessions identified similar population compositions across all Lake Victoria populations with variable ancestry contributions from Lake Albert and West African populations (Fig. 1F, Supplementary Data 4). Accessions from Eastern Uganda displayed variable, mixed ancestry from Lake Victoria, Lake Albert and West Africa populations, suggesting migration from multiple regions.

Ancestry analyses revealed low levels of *S. rodhaini* admixture (range: 0.00-2.32%),

potentially indicative of interspecific hybridisation, across most unrelated *S. mansoni*

accessions (Fig. 1D; Supplementary Data 4). In East Africa, *S. mansoni* and *S.*

rodhaini are broadly sympatric and share both intermediate and definitive hosts, with

S. mansoni infecting both specific primate and rodent species and *S. rodhaini*

infecting rodents, allowing opportunities for inter-species pairings and hybridisation.

However, due to the small number of *S. rodhaini* isolates included in this study (*n* =

4) and the lack of a non-admixed, outgroup population, the incidence of recent

admixture and/or historic introgression was not investigated further.

Fig. 1: Population structure of *Schistosoma* accessions. A. Global distribution of the 574

Schistosoma accessions used in this study. Sampling locations are coloured by

geographical divisions: Puerto Rico (PR; brown), Guadeloupe (GP; orange), Senegal (SN;

dark purple), Cameroon (pink), Coastal Kenya (KE; teal), Lake Albert (dark blue), Eastern

Uganda (red), Southern Uganda (light blue), Koome group islands (yellow), Northern

Tanzania (dark green). Black points represent the sampling coordinates of *S. rodhaini*

accessions. **B.** The maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree was inferred using 188,923

autosomal single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and all 574 accessions. Branches are

coloured based on the subdivisions described in a), and the tree is rooted on *S. rodhaini*.

Highlighted clade 'C1' represents all West African (Senegalese and Cameroonian),

Caribbean (Puerto Rican and Guadeloupean) and Coastal Kenyan accessions. **C.** Principal

component analysis (PCA) of genetic differentiation between 505 unrelated *S. mansoni*

accessions using 214,445 autosomal SNPs. Points are coloured and shaped based on the

groups described in (A). **D.** ADMIXTURE plots illustrating the inferred ancestry of 505

unrelated *S. mansoni* and four *S. rodhaini* accessions. Here, we assume five populations (K)

are present, inferred using 10-fold cross-validation and a standard error estimation with 250

bootstraps. Y-axis values show the admixture proportions for each accession, and colours

for each population were assigned based on the majority ancestry of each geographical

division.

Table 1: Sample information and history of praziquantel treatment.

Species	Country	Region	Development Stage			Sampling stage			Reference
			Adults	Cercariae	Miracidia	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	Not applicable	
S. mansoni	Uganda	Lake Albert	1	6	0	0	0	7	Herein; Crellen et al. 2016
	Uganda	Eastern Uganda	0	0	17	17	0	0	Berger et al. 2021
	Uganda	Southern Uganda	1	2	328	201	127	3	Herein; Berger et al. 2021
	Uganda	Koome Islands	0	0	174	123	51	0	Vianney et al. 2022
	Tanzania	Northern Tanzania	0	31	0	0	0	31	Herein
	Kenya	Coastal Kenya	1	0	0	0	0	1	Crellen et al. 2016
	Cameroon		1	0	0	0	0	1	Crellen et al. 2016
	Senegal		3	0	0	0	0	3	Herein; Crellen et al. 2016
	Puerto Rico		1	0	0	0	0	1	Crellen et al. 2016
	Guadeloupe		4	0	0	0	0	4	Crellen et al. 2016
S. rodhaini	Tanzania	Northern Tanzania	0	2	0	0	0	2	Herein
	Burundi		2	0	0	0	0	2	Herein; Crellen et al. 2016

This study included 574 accessions, sequenced from parasite samples derived from snail hosts (cercariae), humans (miracidia) or laboratory-passaged strains (adults). Publicly-available data (n = 339) and new sequencing data (n = 208; defined as "herein") were generated for this study. Miracidia accessions were sampled pre-treatment with praziquantel (40 mg/kg) or four weeks post-treatment.

Functionally relevant genomic variation influences praziquantel sensitivity

A transient receptor potential (TRP) melastatin ion channel ($Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$; Smp_246790) has recently been proposed as the target of praziquantel ([35–38]). This candidate gene underlies variation in praziquantel susceptibility, at least within schistosome laboratory populations ([35–37, 44]). Mutagenesis of key residues within the praziquantel binding site of TRPM$_{PZQ}$ (located in the transmembrane voltage-sensor-like domain, VSLD) resulted in the loss of sensitivity to praziquantel ([36]).

Consistent with previous genomic surveys ([39, 41]), analysis of haplotype diversity using the integrated haplotype score (iHS) did not suggest that $Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$ was under positive selection in Lake Victoria populations (Supplementary Fig. 3, Supplementary Data 5,6). However, analysis of variation within $Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$ identified a high degree of variability with a predicted 496 amino acid changes at 433/2268 residues (Fig. 2), with mutations at 174 of these residues found only in single accessions (Supplementary Data 7). We generated point mutations to modify 12 $Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$ residues, and used an *in vitro* Ca^{2+} reporter assay ([35]) to assess their impact on $Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$ function. Eight of these mutants, all conservative amino acid substitutions, exhibited similar praziquantel sensitivity (range EC$_{50}$ = 0.49-0.96 μM) to the wild-type $Sm.$TRPM$_{PZQ}$ channel (EC$_{50}$ = 0.74 μM [standard error (SE) = 0.17]; Fig. 3A; Supplementary Data 8; Supplementary Fig. 4). Mutants p.T1624K and p.R1843Q exhibited a decreased sensitivity to praziquantel (EC$_{50}$ = 1.41 μM [SE = 0.23] and EC$_{50}$ = 1.11 μM [SE = 0.08], respectively) and two mutants (p.Y1554C, p.Q1670K) caused a complete loss in praziquantel sensitivity (Fig. 3B; Supplementary Data 8; Supplementary Fig. 5).

Fig. 2: Genetic variation in the candidate mediator of praziquantel susceptibility, the

transient potential receptor channel _Sm._TRPM_PZQ_. Mutational frequency along the protein

structure of _Sm._TRPM_PZQ_ (_Smp_246790_). Frequencies of mutations are reported across 550

S. mansoni accessions (y-axis), representing samples from Eastern Uganda (_n_ = 17),

Southern Uganda (_n_ = 328), the Koome islands (_n_ = 174) and Northern Tanzania (_n_ = 31).

X-axis values represent the location of the mutations on the protein, and bars (and terminal

points) are coloured by the predicted impact of each mutation. Structure of _Sm._TRPM_PZQ_: N-

terminal TRPM homology region (MHR) domain, ankyrin-like repeat domain (AD), pre-S1

helix (shaded), TM-spanning helices (1-6), pore helices (PH), TRP domain (TRP), rib helices

(R), pole helices (P), coiled-coil (CC) region and the COOH terminal NUDT9H domain

(NUDT9H).

Seven of the twelve mutations mapped within an existing homology model for the

transmembrane-spanning region of Sm.TRPM$_{PZQ}$, enabling structural insight into

these functional effects (Fig. 3C) (36). Four mutations had no impact on praziquantel

action (p.V1405I, p.L1476I, p.S1341N & p.F1399Y; Fig. 3A): p.V1405I and p.L1476I

are found within extracellular loops of the channel, p.S1341N lies the COOH-terminal

cytoplasmic domain and p.F1399Y, while within the voltage-sensor like domain

(VSLD) of the channel that harbours the praziquantel binding site, is remote (~10Å

away) from the praziquantel binding poise (Fig. 3C). Mutation p.T1624K (~2-fold

lower sensitivity; Fig. 3B) projects into the extracellular milieu before the start of S6

and may cause sub-optimal orientation of the S6 helix. The other variant associated

with lower sensitivity (p.R1843Q; Fig. 3B) lies outside the existing TRPM$_{PZQ}$

homology model but is predicted to localise within the COOH-terminal coiled-coil

region of the channel, which is involved in subunit interaction (45). Tetramer

misfolding and lower channel expression would explain the decreased sensitivity of

this variant.

The first of the two mutations that caused a complete loss of praziquantel sensitivity

(Fig. 3B), p.Y1554C, is found in the S5 helix (Fig. 3C). This residue projects toward

S6, where it is predicted to interact with a tyrosine residue (Y1636) in the S6 helix.

This cysteine mutant would be expected to disrupt this interaction, which is likely

important for the appropriate orientation of the helices that form the pore-forming

domain. The second, p.Q1670K, introduces a positive charge within the intracellular

TRP helix close to the bilayer interface. This is a critical region for channel gating,

and the mutation likely impacts the orientation of the TRP helix relative to the bilayer

and interactivity with the S4/S5 loop of Sm.TRPM$_{PZQ}$, which regulates TRPM channel

activation (*46*). The deleterious effects of p.Y1554C and p.Q1670K are, therefore,

consistent with the known importance of these regions for channel function (*36*).

Of the four mutations that decreased or eliminated praziquantel sensitivity, three

(p.Y1554C, p.Q1670K, p.T1624K) were only found in a heterozygous state in single

accessions (Supplementary Data 7,9,10). p.R1843Q was far more common, with

homozygous variants (c.5528G>A) identified in 3.68% (n = 21 accessions across the

entire dataset; n = 15 miracidia from 12 individuals) of accessions and heterozygous

in 22.6% of accessions (n = 129 accessions across the entire dataset; n = 120

miracidia from 68 individuals). This variant was also more prevalent in post-treatment

populations (5.05% of post-treatment accessions; n = 9 miracidia from 8 individuals)

compared to pre-treatment populations (1.75% of pre-treatment accessions; n = 6

miracidia from 4 individuals; Supplementary Data 10), although accessions with this

variant (and all other evaluated variants) did not form a distinct subpopulation

(Supplementary Fig.s 6-9). In addition to the mutations analysed via targeted

mutagenesis, we identified a second high-prevalence homozygous frameshift

mutation, p.Q1915fs, in 94.0% of accessions. Park and colleagues (*36*) reported that

truncation mutations (Δ1914) of the C-terminal NUDT9H domain do not impact the

TRP channels' responsiveness to praziquantel.

Fig. 3: Functional profiling of variants of the transient potential receptor channel

***Sm*.TRPM$_{PZQ}$.** Concentration-response relationships for consensus Sm.TRPM$_{PZQ}$ sequence

compared with twelve Sm.TRPM$_{PZQ}$ variants, which exhibit an average EC$_{50}$ to ±PZQ of **(A)**

<1 μM (green) or **(B)** >1 μM (orange). Constructs for which no praziquantel-evoked activity

was observed (Y1554C, Q1670K) are shown in (b) in red. Results represent mean±sem

from at least three independent transfections. **C.** *Inset*, homology model of the

transmembrane spanning region (residues 1100 to 1800) of a *Sm*.TRPM$_{PZQ}$ monomer from

[2]. The enlarged view shows the location of the functionally profiled variants. Praziquantel

and residues within 5Å of the praziquantel binding poise (white) are shown at the base of the

voltage-sensor-like domain (VSLD) of the channel, with the S5 and S6 pore-forming helices

to the left.

Le Clec'h and colleagues recently identified three putative marker variants for

praziquantel resistance in selected laboratory lines (*37*). The first of these was a

homozygous SNP predicted to result in a synonymous mutation (*Sm.*TRPM$_{PZQ}$-

2723187C; p.I1020I), which we identified in 6.14% ($n = 35$, $n = 30$ miracidia from 21

individuals) of accessions (Supplementary Data 7,9,10). This mutation was nearly

twice as common in post-treatment populations (8.43% of accessions; $n = 15$

miracidia from 10 individuals) compared to pre-treatment populations (4.40% of

accessions; $n = 15$ miracidia from 13 individuals). A further 24.9% of accessions had

a single copy of this marker. The second and third markers were 150 kb deletions

adjacent to *Smp_246790* (~1.22 Mb) and *Smp_345310* (~3.18-3.33 Mb),

respectively. Structural variant genotyping did not identify the former variant in our

accessions, but we did find a series of long homozygous deletions (69.9-215.0 kb)

located between 3.02-3.36 Mb in 43.3% of genotyped accessions ($n = 170$ of 393

genotyped accessions; Supplementary Data 11, Supplementary Fig. 10). However,

the 150 kb deletion was not enriched in post-treatment populations, and neither the

deletion nor p.I1020I clustered phylogenetically (Supplementary Fig. 9).

Host infrapopulations reveal the extent of genetic relationships and evidence of treatment failure

Sampling and analysis of the parasite population from within a single host (defined as the 'infrapopulation') across specific time points has the potential to identify instances of treatment failure, which may be indicative of praziquantel resistance. However, these infrapopulations are thought to be highly heterogeneous (*25*, *47*, *48*), and previous genomic surveys of *S. mansoni* have only included small numbers of parasites from the same individuals (max *n* = 11) (*39*, *41*, *49*, *50*) reducing the likelihood of identifying related parasites. To provide greater resolution of infrapopulation structure and evaluate the impact of praziquantel treatment, we analysed pairwise kinship between 164 sequenced miracidia sampled pre- or post-praziquantel treatment from a total of three donors: Bb1 (*n* = 47 pre-treatment, *n* = 42 post-treatment), Bu3 (*n* = 33 pre-treatment, *n* = 19 post-treatment) and Bu1 (*n* = 2 pre-treatment, *n* = 21 post-treatment) and reanalysed the 174 accessions from the Vianney et al. (*41*) survey (98 donors, *n* = 123 pre-treatment, *n* = 51 post-treatment).

Fig. 4: Relatedness between *Schistosoma mansoni* accessions from endemic regions.

A. Ternary plots representing pairwise relationships between accessions using the three

relatedness coefficients K_0, K_1, and K_2, representing the probabilities that at a given locus,

the two accessions shared zero, one or two-allele identity-by-descent, respectively. Each

point represents a pairwise relationship between two accessions, showing whether each

accession was from the same (triangles) or different (circles) donor. Points are coloured by

the inferred relationship: first-degree (pink), second-degree (green), third-degree (orange) or

unrelated (blue). Only accessions from three Southern Ugandan donors and all Koome

Island donors are shown. **B.** Inferred relationships within and between donors. The outer

lines represent each donor; within each line, individual accessions are shown coloured by

whether they were sampled before (dark grey) or after (light grey) treatment with

praziquantel. Coloured lines represent the same pairwise relationships as a). For donors

Bb1 and Bu3, all relationships are shown below the circular plot and shown in boxes where

they are grouped into pre-treatment samples, post-treatment samples, and pre- and post-

treatment samples (spanning treatment). Within the boxes, dotted lines represent

relationships inferred by NgsRelate but were found to have a lower degree or no-relation by

Sequoia. **C.** The effect of praziquantel treatment on nucleotide diversity (π) was calculated

for each donor infrapopulation (Bb1, Bu1 and Bu3) and all Koome group island samples.

Nucleotide diversity was calculated in 5 kb non-overlapping windows across each autosome

for each pre-treatment (purple) and post-treatment (yellow) population (including related

samples). For all boxplots, the central line indicates the median, and the top and bottom

edges of the box indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles, respectively. The maximum whisker

lengths are specified as 1.5 times the interquartile range. **D.** Identification of a circulating

lineage of *S. mansoni* on Damba Island (the northernmost island of the Koome group

islands). We identified a cluster of nine accessions, all with third-degree identical by descent

relationships, which clustered phylogenetically with accessions from Lake Albert.

We identified 49 first-degree relationships, 13 second-degree relationships and 34

third-degree relationships (Fig. 4A; Supplementary Data 12). Forty-seven of the 49

first-degree relationships were between accessions sampled from the same donor;

the remaining two were between donors and have previously been identified as

potentially mislabelled accessions (*41*). Estimates of the coefficient of inbreeding (*f*)

using the condensed identity coefficients also revealed low levels of inbred

relatedness (median *f* = 0.000227; range *f* = 1×10^{-6} - 0.35) in 18.8% of parents

(Supplementary Data 13) (*51*). Within infrapopulations of donors Bb1, Bu1 and Bu3,

we identified three first-degree relationships between pre-treatment accessions and

23 between post-treatment accessions. Most of these were found in infrapopulations

from Bb1, represented by three independent clusters of four accessions (Fig. 4B,C).

We also identified one first-degree and four second-degree relationships spanning

treatment arms, suggesting bi- and uni-parental survival, respectively. Both of the

first-degree relatives were also homozygous for the *Sm.*TRPM$_{PZQ}$-2723187C marker;

however, none of the second-degree relatives had a homozygous or heterozygous

copy. Additionally, we did not identify any homo- or heterozygous variants of

p.R1843Q in any of the first- or second-degree relatives spanning treatment. We

also found no evidence of reduced nucleotide diversity in post-treatment populations

(Fig. 4C) and low genetic differentiation between pre- and post-treatment populations

(range mean F_{ST} = 1.24×10^{-3} - 1.75×10^{-3}, Supplementary Fig. 11).

Examination of third-degree relationships within the Vianney and colleagues (*41*)

dataset identified a cluster of nine related accessions, all localised to Damba Island

and found in all four of the sampled villages (Fig. 4B,D). Phylogenetic analysis

showed all nine formed a distinct clade with six accessions from Lake Albert

(Supplementary Fig. 12), suggesting that these are derived from a recently imported

lineage from Lake Albert, recently dispersed across Damba Island.

DISCUSSION

As efforts to interrupt transmission and eliminate schistosomiasis as a public health problem intensify over the next decade, the escalating use of MDA is expected to result in increased selective pressures, altered transmission dynamics and widespread reductions in schistosome populations (*1*, *9*). The consequences of such large-scale changes to schistosome populations are unclear but provide a strong incentive for genomic surveillance to detect and monitor such changes. In this study, we have, to our knowledge, assembled the most comprehensive collection of *Schistosoma* whole-genome sequencing data to date, including samples from across eight countries and two major foci of infection.

Praziquantel resistance represents a credible threat to schistosomiasis control if it were to establish in endemic populations. Despite over 50 years of use, $TRPM_{PZQ}$ has only recently been identified as a direct target of praziquantel and a genetic determinant of reduced praziquantel susceptibility (*36*, *37*). We identified extensive, low-frequency variation within this gene and used this variation database to inform the targeted mutagenesis of 12 residues, focusing on mutations at potential key residues. We identified four mutations in our population genetic analyses that reduced or ablated channel responsiveness to praziquantel functional genetic *in vitro* assays, and while only one (p.R1843Q) was present in more than a single accession, all represent standing variation for praziquantel resistance in endemic populations. Both p.R1843Q and p.I1020I (the latter a marker for praziquantel resistance in passaged laboratory lines (*37*)) variants were present in multiple accessions, indicating potential variability in praziquantel efficacy in these populations. Both mutations were also more prevalent in post-treatment parasite

populations than their pre-treatment counterparts. However, our analyses and others

(*23*, *25*, *39*) have shown that post-treatment populations do not typically represent

subpopulations of pre-treatment parasites, which may result from reinfection or

under-sampling. It is possible that the increased prevalence of these mutations is

unrelated to praziquantel administration. It is clear, nevertheless, that despite the

asymmetrical per-host sampling of this study, these variants remain widespread in

parasite populations sampled from a wide range of hosts, showing that they are

prevalent across Lake Victoria. Further work should also be undertaken to determine

to what extent the mutations we identified impact the *in vivo* efficacy of praziquantel

and parasite fitness. Profiling these specific SNPs in the context of other changes

within $TRPM_{PZQ}$ in the same samples, reflecting broader allelic variation, is also

necessary.

Our analyses have demonstrated how genomic surveillance of parasites can help

identify variants contributing to reduced praziquantel efficacy in endemic populations

and provide structural and functional insights into $TRPM_{PZQ}$ that will permit a better

understanding of praziquantel efficacy in schistosomes. While we only characterised

a small proportion of the total variation we observed, our results survey genetic

variation within endemic regions where praziquantel has seen extensive use. These

data provide candidate variants for functional investigations and serve as a database

of variation for retrospective surveys once further resistance-conferring mutations

are identified. However, it is notable that a large proportion of our dataset was

derived from donors living in regions of long-term praziquantel administration.

Targeted mutagenesis identified four mutations in endemic populations that reduced

channel sensitivity to praziquantel, indicating standing variation for resistance. Whilst

we did identify both standing variation for future resistance evolution and instances

of treatment failures here, the apparent lack of obvious high-frequency resistance-

conferring mutations is encouraging as these populations have been under long-term

MDA pressure. The variable coverage of MDA may have allowed substantial refugia

populations to exist in untreated humans, snails and animal reservoirs. Refugia

would reduce the selection pressure for resistance, an approach that has been

deliberately employed in veterinary systems (*52–54*). Alternatively, reduced

praziquantel susceptibility might be linked to regulatory changes in expression or

RNA splicing (*37*), neither of which would be identified by our analyses. Considering

how recently *Sm.*TRPM$_{PZQ}$ was recognised as a mediator of praziquantel sensitivity,

future functional investigations will likely reveal additional relevant variants.

Despite involving a small number of donors, our analyses of host infrapopulation

dynamics represent the most thorough genomic characterisation of a host

infrapopulation of any parasitic helminth. Our analyses found that host

infrapopulations are exceptionally diverse, consistent with both autopsy studies and

genetic surveys, which have found that individual worm burdens range from one up

to hundreds or thousands of worm pairs per individual in low and high-endemicity

regions, respectively (*55, 56*). Despite this, we did find evidence of sibling

relationships within both treatment arms, with indications of a higher degree of post-

treatment relatedness. We also found evidence of post-treatment parental survival,

suggesting either ineffective treatment or higher praziquantel tolerance within these

populations. However, the limited number of these accessions limited any formal

analyses of the possible genetic basis of reduced praziquantel efficacy. Consistent

with previous genetic studies, these only represented a small proportion of the

overall post-treatment populations (*25*), suggesting that most post-treatment

samples represent either infection with additional parasites and/or parasites missed

in pre-treatment sampling.

To conclude, we have characterised endemic *S. mansoni* populations at multiple

spatial scales ranging from comparisons across major foci of infection to individual

parasite infrapopulations. Our variation analysis within a candidate praziquantel

resistance loci enabled us to identify multiple novel resistance-conferring mutations.

These remain at low frequencies in studied populations but demonstrate standing

variation from praziquantel resistance in endemic populations undergoing MDA. Our

analyses also provide a resource for retrospective or confirmatory support of

functional analyses of this recently identified locus. Finally, our extensive sequencing

of host infrapopulations provided an in-depth genomic characterisation of parasite

diversity and how this is impacted by praziquantel treatment. Overall, our study

summarises *S. mansoni* genomic diversity and represents a resource to assess the

efficacy of current interventions and guide future treatment strategies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data analysed here incorporated whole-genome accessions from published

datasets from eight countries and 205 new *Schistosoma* sample data (Fig. 1A; Table

1; Supplementary Data 1). The sections below describe the origin, collection, and

ethical approval of samples, focusing only on the parasite samples sequenced for

this study and not previously published accessions.

Collection and ethical approval for the sampling of Ugandan miracidia

The collection of all Ugandan miracidial samples was undertaken as part of the

monitoring, evaluation and disease control activities conducted by the Vector Control

Division of the Ministry of Health (Uganda), the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative and

Imperial College London. All methods and data collection were approved by the

Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (Memorandum of

Understanding: sections 1.4, 1.5, 1.6) and the Imperial College Research Ethics

Committee (EC NO: 03.36. R&D No: 03/SB/033E). The Head of the Vector Control

Division informed local district officials, and the headteachers of each school were

informed about the study and requested to provide informed consent to allow

sampling to be performed within the school. Parents of the children were informed of

the study through school meetings, where they were provided with detailed

information regarding the purpose of the study and technical staff were present to

answer questions. Parents were requested to provide informed consent for their

children to participate in the study, and in addition, any children aged ten or older

were asked to give informed consent after receiving complete information about the

study. Participation was voluntary, access to treatment was not dependent on

participation in the study, and children could withdraw or be withdrawn from the

study at any time.

Stool samples were collected from each child, and duplicate Kato-Katz thick smears

were conducted (*57*). A Pitchford–Visser funnel was used to wash and filter parasite

eggs from the remaining stool sample, and the filtrate was stored overnight (*58*).

Miracidia were hatched the following day and were transferred into two sequential

dishes of nuclease-free water to dilute bacterial contaminants before being

individually fixed onto Whatman FTA-indicating classic cards (*59, 60*). Between 1-3

days following testing, children with evidence of parasitic infection were treated with

praziquantel (40 mg/kg) for schistosomiasis and albendazole (400 mg) for soil-

transmitted helminths. Children were retested 25-27 days following treatment, and in

cases of incomplete *S. mansoni* clearance, miracidia were sampled again, and

treatment was re-administered.

Collection and ethical approval for the sampling of Ugandan *S. mansoni*

cercariae

The FTA-preserved Ugandan *S. mansoni* cercariae were collected as part of snail

collection surveys conducted between 2007 and 2010 as part of the EU-CONTRAST

programme, a consortium of European and African researchers (CONTRAST

EU/INCO.Dev contract No. 032203) in association with the Schistosomiasis Control

Initiative (*61*) and provided via SCAN. The Ethical Review Board of the Uganda

National Council of Science & Technology approved the surveys.

Collection and ethical approval for the sampling of Tanzanian *S. mansoni*

cercariae

Tanzanian *S. mansoni* cercariae were originally collected as part of snail collection

surveys undertaken in the Mwanza region and Geita regions of Northern Tanzania

between January 2012 and December 2015 (*62*) as part of the Schistosomiasis

Consortium for Operational Research and Evaluation (SCORE) snail project (*63*) and

archived within the Schistosomiasis Collection at the Natural History Museum

(SCAN) (Emery et al., 2007). Survey sites were picked based on their proximity

(within 5-15 metres) to schools and were identified based on local information about

water activities (bathing, fishing, water collection) (*63*). *Biomphalaria* spp. snails were

collected by scooping using handheld metal sieve scoops or dredging using a metal

dredge dropped from a boat and dragged 10 m back to shore. Scooped/dredged

snails were hand-collected with forceps and placed into collection jars. All snails

were placed in 24-well ELISA plates under direct light for at least four hours to

induce shedding, and cercariae from each shedding snail were individually collected

in 3 µL of water using a Gilson pipette and fixed on Whatman FTA cards (*59, 60*).

COX-1 identification of *S. mansoni* was performed as described in Gouvras *et al.*

(62).

Origin of the Senegalese *S. mansoni* laboratory (adult worm) sample

Both *S. mansoni* Senegalese isolates (FS0001 and FS0002) originated from

approximately 30 *Biomphalaria pfeifferi* with patent *S. mansoni* infections found in

the Western principal irrigation canal in the Ndiengue District of Richard Toll (*64*).

The strain was originally sampled in 1993 and then maintained at the School of

Biological Science, University of Wales (Bangor, United Kingdom) and subsequently

in the helminGuard laboratory (Süelfeld, Germany) (*65*).

Origins of the *S. rodhaini* (adult worms and cercariae) samples

The adult *S. rodhaini* adult worm sample (RZ0001) was provided by SCAN from a

laboratory-passaged *S. rodhaini* strain originally isolated from infected *Biomphalaria*

snails collected in Burundi in 2000. The sample used here represented the 6th

passage through laboratory *Biomphalaria glabrata* and *Mus musculus*, under the

Home Office project license numbers 70/4687 (before 2003) and 70/5935 (2003-

2008) (*59*).

The two *S. rodhaini* cercariae analysed here originated from the Mwanza region of

Tanzania. They were collected as part of the SCORE xenomonitoring project and

provided by SCAN. Species identification was confirmed by Sanger sequence

analysis of a partial region of the *cox1* gene, the ITS1+2 rDNA region, and a partial

region of the 18S rDNA region using the methods described in Pennance *et al*.,

2020.

DNA extraction and sequencing

The DNA from individual miracidia and cercariae were isolated from the Whatman

FTA cards using methods described by (*66, 67*). A 2mm Harris micro-punch was

used to punch out the FTA disc containing the DNA. Within a well of a 96 PCR plate,

individual samples on individual punches were lysed in 30 µL of the following buffer:

30 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0 (Sigma Aldrich), 0.5% Tween 20 (Sigma Aldrich), 0.5%

NP40/IGEPAL CA-630 (Sigma Aldrich) and 1.25 µg/mL of Protease reagent (Qiagen;

cat 19155). Punches were incubated at 50°C for 1 h, then heated to 75°C for 30

mins. DNA was extracted from adult worms using the Qiagen MagAttract HMW kit

(PN-67653) following the manufacturer's instructions. The DNA from the two

individual Senegalese adult worms was extracted using the Qiagen MagAttract HMW

kit (PN-67653) following the manufacturer's instructions.

Library preparation was performed using a low-input enzymatic fragmentation-based

library preparation method (*68*). For each sample, 20 µL of lysate (or extracted DNA)

was mixed with 50 µL of TE buffer (Ambion 10 mM Tris-HCL, 1 mM EDTA) and 50

µL of Ampure XP beads followed by a 5 min binding reaction at room temperature.

Magnetic bead separation was used to separate genomic DNA, which was then

washed twice with 75% ethanol. Beads were resuspended in 26 µL of TE buffer. To

perform DNA fragmentation and A-tailing, each sample was immediately mixed with

7 µL of 5x Ultra II FS buffer and 2 µL of Ultra II FS enzyme and incubated on a

thermal cycler for 12 min at 37°C followed by 30 min at 65°C. Adaptor ligated

libraries were prepared by adding 30 µL of ligation mix, 1 µL ligation enhancer (New

England BioLabs), 0.9 µL nuclease-free water (Ambion) and 0.1 µL duplexed

adapters to each well followed by incubation for 20 min at 20°C. Libraries were

purified and eluted by adding 65 µL of Ampure XP beads and 65 µL of TE buffer.

Libraries were amplified by adding 25 µL KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix (KAPA

Biosystems) and 1 µL PE1.0 primer to 21.5 µL of the library. Each sample was

thermal-cycled as follows: 98 °C for 5 min, then 12 cycles of 98°C for 30 sec, 65°C

for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min and finally 72°C for 5 min. Ampure beads were used to

purify amplified libraries using a 0.7:1 volumetric ratio of beads to library. Each

library was then eluted into 25 µL of nuclease-free water. Library concentrations

were adjusted to 2.4 nM and pooled, followed by sequencing on the Illumina

NovaSeq 6000 using 150 bp paired-end chemistry.

Variant discovery and annotation

In addition to the whole-genome sequencing of samples described above, sequence

data for 407 *S. mansoni* accessions (*39–41*) and one *S. rodhaini* accession (*40*)

were included in this study. Raw sequencing reads from all 682 accessions were

trimmed using BBDuk (https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/bb-tools-user-

guide/) to remove low-quality bases and adapter sequences. Trimmed sequence

reads were aligned to the *S. mansoni* (SM_V9, WormBase ParaSite v16) (*69*)

reference genome using BWA mem (v.0.7.17) (*70*). PCR duplicates were marked

using PicardTools MarkDuplicates (as part of GATK v.4.2.0.0) (*71*). Variant calling

was performed per sample using GATK HaplotypeCaller (v.4.2.0.0) in gVCF mode,

retaining both variant and invariant sites. Individual gVCFs were merged using GATK

CombineGVCFs, and joint-call cohort genotyping was performed using GATK

GenotypeGVCFs. Variant sites with only single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)

were separated from indels and mixed sites (variant sites that had both SNPs and

indels called) using GATK SelectVariants. GATK VariantFiltration was used to filter

both groups independently. SNPs were retained if they met the following criteria:

$QD \geq 2.0$, $FS \leq 60.0$, $MQ \geq 40.0$, $MQRankSum \geq -12.5$, $ReadPosRankSum \geq -8.0$,

$SOR \leq 3.0$. Variant sites containing indels or mixed sites were retained if they met

the following criteria: $QD \geq 2.0$, $FS \leq 200.0$, $ReadPosRankSum \geq -20.0$, $SOR \leq 10.0$.

VCFtools (v.0.1.15) was used to exclude accessions with a high rate of variant site

missingness (missing genotype called at >5% of sites) and subsequently used to

remove sites where >10% of accessions had a missing genotype (*72*). This formed

the primary VCF file used for almost all analyses. For analyses of nucleotide

diversity and fixation index (F_{ST}), we produced a second filtered VCF file. We used

VCFtools to filter both variant and invariant sites with >80% missing variants,

enforced a minimum mean read depth of 5, a maximum mean read depth of 500,

removing variant sites found to be significantly out of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (*p*

< 0.001), and only retained SNPs. Functional annotation of SNPs and indels in the

primary VCF file was performed using SnpEff (v.5.0e) (*73*) with gene annotations

(v.9) downloaded from WormBase ParaSite (*74*) V17. Repetitive elements in the *S.*

mansoni assembly were annotated using RepeatModeler and RepeatMasker (*75*).

Depth of coverage

For each sample, the depth of read coverage was calculated in 2 kb windows along

each chromosome using bedtools coverage (v.2.30.0) (*76*).

Sample relatedness

We estimated pairwise relatedness between accessions from the same endemic

regions. We subsampled to only autosomal SNPs and ran NgsRelate (*77*) using

default parameters. As an additional line of evidence, we first used PLINK (v.2.0)

(*78*) to exclude SNPs found to be in strong linkage disequilibrium. The genome was

then scanned in sliding windows of 50 SNPs, increasing in steps of 10 SNPs and

SNPs within windows with squared correlation coefficients >0.2 were removed.

Using this filtered subset of SNPs, we performed pedigree reconstruction using

Sequoia (*79*). Pairwise relationships were first classified based on the coefficient of

kinship score (θ) calculated by NgsRelate. NgsRelate was first run on all 570 *S.*

mansoni samples to identify relationships between datasets or populations. After

confirming these relationships did not occur, NgsRelate was rerun on individual

populations from Southern Uganda, Northern Tanzania and Koome Islands.

Additionally, samples from Berger et al. (*39*) were excluded from these analyses due

to both highly elevated inbreeding coefficients in this dataset. Pairwise relationships

with $\theta > 0.354$ were classified as monozygotic twins, $0.354 > \theta \geq 0.177$ were

classified as first-degree relatives, $0.177 > \theta \geq 0.0884$ were classified as second-

degree relatives and $0.0884 > \theta \geq 0.0442$ were classified as third-degree relatives. In

addition, first-, second-, and third-degree relationships were only considered valid if

the maximum likelihood estimate of sharing 1 IBD allele (K_1) was greater than 0.05.

Instances where both NgsRelate and Sequoia identified the same first-degree

relationships were designated 'high-confidence' relationships. GGtern was used to

plot all three maximum likelihood estimates of sharing 0, 1 or 2 IBD alleles (K_0, K_1,

and K_2), and Circos (*80*) and Gephi (*81*) were used to visualise pairwise relationships

between different donors.

Population genomic structure and diversity

We removed variants found at minor allele frequencies < 0.05 and excluded all

variants found on the Z chromosome, W chromosome and mitochondrial genome.

We then removed all variants found within repetitive regions identified using

RepeatMasker and finally removed variants found to be in strong linkage

disequilibrium, as above. Principal component analysis was performed with the

remaining 188,923 autosomal SNPs using PLINK. Admixture analyses were

performed using ADMIXTURE (*82*) with K values (number of hypothetical ancestral

populations) ranging from 1 to 20, 10-fold cross-validation and standard error

estimation with 250 bootstraps. The lowest cross-validation error (CV) value was

found for K = 5 (Supplementary Fig. 13).

We used publicly-available scripts to convert all 188,923 autosomal SNPs into Phylip

format (https://github.com/edgardomortiz/vcf2phylip/vcf2phylip.py) and remove

invariant sites (https://github.com/btmartin721/raxml_ascbias/ascbias.py).

Phylogenomic inference was performed using IQ-TREE (*83*), using the best-fit

substitution model with ascertainment bias correction selected by ModelFinder

(GTR+F+ASC+R10) and 1000 ultrafast bootstraps. The resulting phylogeny was

visualised using ggtree (*84*).

pixy (v.1.2.3.beta1) (*85*) was used to calculate autosomal nucleotide diversity (π)

and the fixation index (F_{ST}) in 5 kb non-overlapping, sliding windows for each

population using the secondary (mixed variant and invariant sites) VCF. Negative F_{ST}

values were corrected to 0 before calculating genome-wide median values.

Watterson's estimator (Θ) was calculated using Scikit-allel (*86*). Effective population

size (N_e) was using a per-generation mutation rate (μ) of 8.1×10^{-9} (*40*) and the

following equation:

742                          $$Ne = \Theta/4\mu$$

The coefficient of inbreeding (F) was calculated using VCFtools to assess per-

sample homozygosity. Comparisons of samples within and between study sites can

be found in Supplementary Fig. 14A-C.

The impact of praziquantel treatment on population genomic diversity

pixy (v.1.2.3.beta1) was used to calculate autosomal nucleotide diversity (π) in 5 kb

non-overlapping, sliding windows for each pre- and post-treatment population using

the secondary (mixed variant and invariant sites) VCF and including related

accessions (*85*).

Structural variant genotyping and annotation

Structural variants for each sample were detected using LUMPY (v.0.2.13) and

genotyped using SVTyper (v.0.7.0) as implemented in the Smoove (v.0.2.7) pipeline

(https://github.com/brentp/smoove) (*87, 88*). Using this pipeline, we first performed

single-sample calling using the BWA-aligned reads to the *S. mansoni* reference

genome. This was followed by merging called variants and sample-wise re-

genotyping across all 570 *S. mansoni* accessions. Structural variants intersecting

coding regions were annotated using the reference GFF file. We then filtered

variants based on the Smoove author's recommendations, where heterozygous calls

with MSHQ>=3, deletions with DHFFC>=0.7 and duplications with DHFFC<=1.25

were excluded. Due to inconsistent coverage and whole-genome amplification of the

original libraries, all accessions from Berger et al. (*39*) were excluded from structural

variant analyses after genotyping.

Inference of demographic history

We ran SMC++ (v.1.15.2) (*89*) on each autosome using a per-generation mutation

rate of 8.1×10^{-9} and a generation time of 85 days. For Southern Ugandan, Koome

Island, Northern Tanzanian, and Eastern Ugandan populations, we randomly subset

them down to $n = 12$ unrelated accessions, providing replicates where populations

had more than 24 accessions. For all other populations, only single accessions were

analysed.

Screening for recent admixture

Analysis of passaged laboratory strains also identified a single probable *S. mansoni-*

S.rodhaini hybrid (RZ0001), which displayed high heterozygosity, intermediate

admixture proportions and intermediate phylogenetic positioning, consistent with an

early-generation (F_1 - F_3) hybrid, this sample was excluded from further analyses

(Supplementary Fig. 15; Supplementary Data 2) (*90, 91*).

Analysis of candidate praziquantel resistance genes

We inspected SnpEff annotated variants within the candidate praziquantel resistance

gene (*Smp_24790*), focusing on isoform 5 (*Smp_246790.5* in the v9 annotation), the

only full-length isoform containing the predicted binding site. Frequencies of

functionally impactful mutations were calculated using only Lake Victoria accessions.

The maximum-likelihood phylogeny produced previously was annotated to highlight

accessions containing specifically functionally impactful mutations. We excluded a

single indel, p.Met1fs, which was a frameshift variant and a short repeat from the

analysis; for completeness, information on this variant is still reported in

Supplementary Data 7,9,10.

Ca^{2+} reporter assays

Ca^{2+} imaging assays were performed using a Fluorescence Imaging Plate Reader

(FLIPR^{TETRA}, Molecular Devices). HEK293 cells (naïve or transfected with specific

TRPM$_{PZQ}$ variants) were seeded (20,000 cells/well) in a black-walled clear-bottomed

poly-d-lysine coated 384-well plate (Corning) in DMEM growth media supplemented

with 10% FBS. This medium was removed after 24hrs, and the cells were loaded

with a fluorescent Ca^{2+} indicator (Fluo-4 NW dye, Invitrogen) by incubation (20 µL

per well, 1 h at 37°C) in Hanks' balanced salt solution (HBSS) assay buffer

containing probenecid (2.5 mM) and HEPES (20mM). Dilutions of praziquantel

(Sigma) were prepared in this same buffer, but without probenecid and dye, in flat

shape 384-well plates (Greiner Bio-one, Germany). The Ca^{2+} reporter assay was

performed at room temperature by monitoring fluorescence (raw fluorescence units)

before (basal, 20s) and after the addition of praziquantel (an additional 250s). For

quantitative analyses, peak fluorescence in each well was normalised to the maximal

response of the reference channel sequence and concentration-response curves

were plotted using the sigmoidal dose-response function in Origin.

List of Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Data 1 to 14

Supplementary Figs 1 to 15

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Author contributions
DJB conceived and designed the study with input from JAC, MR, AE, FA, SB, MB,
JSM and JPW. TC, NBK, EMT, PHLL and JPW planned and coordinated the
collection of samples from Bugoto and Bukagabo Beach schools, which was carried
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MR, AE and FA curated the SCAN collection and coordinated sample delivery. HH
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samples. For all other samples, DJB extracted and amplified DNA, and planned and
coordinated the sequencing. JSM and SKP performed Ca^{2+} reporter assays and
modelling analysis. DJB analysed all other data and wrote the paper with input from
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