Research article

Title: Phylogenetic placement and contamination screening of Amoebozoa genomic data from the

Protist 10,000 Genomes (P10K) Database

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Abstract

Background: Genomic data are essential for uncovering the evolutionary history, ecological roles, and diversity of life. Yet, microbial eukaryotes like Amoebozoa, an ancient and morphologically diverse lineage, remain critically underrepresented in genomic repositories. This has limited our ability to address fundamental questions in eukaryotic evolution. The Protist 10,000 Genomes (P10K) initiative seeks to fill this gap by generating and compiling genome- and transcriptome-level data for a wide range of microbial eukaryotes. To ensure the reliability of these resources, accurate taxonomic identification and contamination screening are vital. In this study, we aimed to assess the taxonomic consistency and integrity of the P10K database with a phylogenetic-based approach using Amoebozoa as a case study.

Results: Through SSU rDNA/rRNA and COI phylogenetic reconstructions this study confirmed several initial taxonomic identifications provided in the P10K database, resolved ambiguities at higher taxonomic levels, and corrected misassignments among morphologically similar but phylogenetically distant taxa. Moreover, the contamination screening using SSU rDNA/rRNA revealed several amoebozoan data that are contaminated by sequence from other eukaryotic taxa, representing contaminated genomic assemblies.

Conclusion: Phylogenetic placement coupled with contamination screening enabled us to distinguish the higher-quality Amoebozoa datasets currently available in the P10K database from those requiring decontamination or additional sequencing before downstream use. These findings serve as a reference for the future use of these data and as a guide for further sequencing efforts aimed at expanding the taxonomic diversity of Amoebozoa represented at the genomic level. By applying a phylogenetic survey to the Amoebozoa data, we present a framework that can be extended to other microbial eukaryote lineages. Addressing imprecise taxonomic identifications and contamination in certain P10K datasets, as well as data reproducibility, will further enhance the value of this unprecedented genomic resource for protists, with significant potential to illuminate the evolution and diversification of eukaryotic life.

Keywords: Amoebozoa, Arcellinida, Eukaryotic diversity, Comparative genomics, Genomic database curation

Introduction

Genomic-level data are essential for advancing our understanding of the evolution of life on Earth [1, 2]. High-quality genome and transcriptome sequences enable comparative analyses that reveal patterns of genomic evolution, including gene family expansions, horizontal gene transfers, and changes in genome organization and regulatory systems [3, 4]. Such data also clarify phylogenetic relationships through multi-gene and genome-scale reconstructions [5, 6]. Moreover, genomic analyses uncover ecological interactions by identifying metabolic pathways, symbiotic associations, and genetic adaptations to specific environmental conditions [7]. Consequently, genomics has become central to studying life's diversity and complexity.

While genomics has progressed rapidly for major eukaryotic groups such as plants, animals, fungi, and other traditional model systems, most microbial eukaryotes (commonly referred to as protists) remain vastly underrepresented [1, 2]. Although they comprise most of eukaryotic diversity, the majority of lineages within this highly diverse paraphyletic assemblage still lack genomic data [2, 5]. Over the past decade, several initiatives have contributed to fill this gap, such as the Marine Microbial Eukaryote Transcriptome Sequencing Project (MMETSP) for marine microbial genomics [8], the Tree of Life Programme for eukaryotic genome sequencing [9], and the One Thousand Plant Transcriptomes initiative (1KP) for plants, including single-celled algae [10]. Similarly, the Protist 10,000 Genomes (P10K) initiative aims to address the underrepresentation of microbial eukaryotes in genomic databases by generating new genomic data (i.e., genomes and transcriptomes) and compiling previously available data from a wide array of lineages, coupled with taxonomic identification and decontamination procedures [2]. This large-scale effort, consolidated in the P10K database, represents an unprecedented genomic resource for protists and potentially provides a valuable foundation for achieving a comprehensive and integrative view of eukaryotic evolution.

However, to fully exploit the potential of this newly available genomic resource for protists, three key challenges must be considered: (1) accurate taxonomic identification, (2) the presence of contaminated genomic data resulting from non-target eukaryotic contamination, and (3) data interpretation and reproducibility [11, 12]. Specifically, the taxonomic identification of the P10K database relies on small subunit ribosomal DNA (SSU rDNA) retrieval and BLAST similarity searches against curated SSU databases, including SILVA, PR^2, and NCBI's NT (nucleotide sequence) database

[2]. Although informative, a BLAST-based approach is less accurate than phylogeny-based methods

for taxonomic identification and may lead to a less precise classification of the target groups. Regarding

contamination, protists typically inhabit environments with high eukaryotic microbial diversity, several

prey on other organisms, many host endosymbionts, and most are often difficult to isolate as

monoeukaryotic cultures or single cells [13–15]. As a result, genomic-level sequencing efforts might

produce contaminated assemblies that contain not only the genome of the target organism but also

sequences from other eukaryotic organisms [16, 17]. While P10K performs a decontamination strategy

to remove bacterial, archaeal, viral, fungal, and other eukaryotic contaminants from ciliate data; for

other protist groups, only bacterial, archaeal, and viral contaminants are filtered out [2]. Finally, the

P10K database currently lacks photo-documentation and detailed information, for instance, about the

sequencing platforms used for each sample (i.e., Illumina, Oxford Nanopore, or PacBio Sequel II),

which are essential for deeper interpretation and reproducibility of the data. In this context, accurate

taxonomic identification, assessment of eukaryotic contamination, and the availability of more detailed

sample information are most essential for the effective downstream use of data in the P10K database.

Here, we present a survey of the taxonomic identification and contamination screening of the P10K

database using Amoebozoa as a case study. Amoebozoa is an ancient clade of heterotrophic

organisms, estimated to have originated around 1.5 billion years ago, and it exhibits remarkable

morphological and ecological diversity [13, 15, 18]. Because Amoebozoa are heterotrophic and often

share habitats with a wide range of eukaryotic organisms, making them particularly prone to sequence

contamination, they serve as an ideal model group for evaluating the accuracy of taxonomic

identification and contamination assessment in the P10K database. In short, we retrieved all publicly

available Amoebozoa genomes from the P10K database, representing the three major amoebozoan

clades; Tubulinea, Evosea, and Discosea [13]. From these data, we conducted phylogenetic analyses

using two commonly employed molecular markers: small subunit ribosomal DNA/RNA (SSU

rDNA/rRNA or 18S) and cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI, also known as CO1 or cox1). This

phylogenetic investigation enables the phylogenetic placement and contamination screening of

Amoebozoa genomic data present in the P10K database, leading to the identification of higher-quality

data, while also highlighting those that require decontamination or additional sequencing prior to

downstream analyses. Additionally, we present some strategies that can mitigate contamination during

sample preparation and discuss how the availability of more detailed metadata directly associated to

each sample can improve the interpretation, usability, and reproducibility of P10K data. Ultimately, this

study serves as a proof of concept for using a phylogenetic framework to improve taxonomic

identification and contamination assessment within the P10K dataset, as an approach that can be

extended to other taxa represented in the database.

Methods

Datasets construction

We retrieved genomic-level assemblies for the 201 amoebozoans from the P10K database based

on the taxonomic annotations provided on the platform (**Supplementary Information - Table S1**). We

constructed a small subunit ribosomal DNA/RNA (SSU rDNA/rRNA) dataset considering all 201 of these

assemblies. Further, we constructed a cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) dataset focusing only on

the testate amoebae order Arcellinida (Tubulinea), since this marker is well sampled for this lineage as

it has been traditionally used for phylogenetics in arcellinids. To construct datasets for the small subunit

ribosomal DNA/RNA (SSU rDNA/rRNA) and cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) markers, we

extracted sequences from these assemblies using similarity searches implemented in BLAST+

v2.16.0+ and a custom Python script (**Supplementary Information - File S1**). For each marker, the

script automated the creation of BLAST databases using makeblastdb and performed local blastn

searches for each query sequence in a multi-FASTA file against each Amoebozoa genomic data.

Specifically, the script executed the commands *makeblastdb -in P10KID.fasta -dbtype nucl* and *blastn*

-query marker_query -db P10K.fasta -outfmt [script_default_choice] (**Supplementary Information -**

File S1). The script retrieved the top five hits per genomic data file, extracting each aligned region along

with 1000 bp of upstream and downstream flanking sequence. This approach enabled recovery of

extended SSU and COI regions suitable for downstream phylogenetic analyses and compatible with

Amoebozoa SSU and COI data available in the PR^2 database [19] and NCBI. The orientation of each

retrieved sequence was assessed, and sequences were reverse complemented when necessary to

match the strand of the original query. For the query sequences, we used SSU rDNA/rRNA data from

the PR^2 database for three representative species of the major amoebozoan clades: *Arcella vulgaris*

WP (Tubulinea; GenBank: HM853762.1), *Dictyostelium discoideum* (Evosea; GenBank: AM168040.1),

and *Acanthamoeba castellanii* Neff (Discosea; GenBank: U07416.1). As the COI query sequence, we

considered the sequence of *Arcella uspiensis* (SRR5396453).

To build a phylogenetically informative datasets, we combined the retrieved sequences with

previously published SSU rDNA/rRNA and COI datasets for Amoebozoa, as well as sequences from

the PR^2 database for SSU [13, 15, 19, 20]. For SSU, we curated a non-redundant dataset broadly

representative of the major lineages in Amoebozoa (Tubulinea, Evosea, and Discosea) and for COI a

dataset broadly representative of the major lineages in Arcellinida, for both markers excluding

environmental sequences. This strategy ensured a robust and interpretable dataset for our phylogenetic

framework. From a preliminary phylogenetic reconstruction, we curated the SSU and COI datasets

used to generate the main trees in this study. This initial analysis allowed us to identify and remove

identical or highly similar sequences that resulted from retrieving the top five BLAST+ hits per genome.

It also enabled visual inspection of the tree to detect SSU sequences that either failed to cluster within

Amoebozoa or formed unusually long branches. Many of these were short sequences (<200 bp) and

were excluded from downstream analyses, while some long branches corresponded to full-length

sequences that likely represented contaminants. These were retained for further contamination

screening.

For contamination screening, we focused on the SSU rDNA/rRNA dataset. After the initial

phylogenetic reconstruction (see *Phylogenetic reconstructions* section), any SSU sequences from

P10K genome assemblies that represented long branches or did not branch within the Amoebozoa

clade were selected for further analysis. These sequences were subjected to additional BLAST+

searches against the PR^2 database, a curated SSU resource representing eukaryotic diversity, using

our custom script and the same parameters described above (**Supplementary Information - File S1**).

To perform this search locally, we downloaded the complete PR^2 database and used it as the reference

for the BLAST+ similarity search. This approach allowed us to retrieve SSU sequences from the PR^2

database that were similar to those of the putative contaminant eukaryotes and to assign their

taxonomic affiliations through subsequent phylogenetic analyses.

Phylogenetic reconstructions

All phylogenetic reconstructions in this study were based on multiple sequence alignments (MSAs)

generated using MAFFT v7.490 with the E-INS-I algorithm and 1000 refinement iterations. Alignments

were produced with the following command: *mafft --genadpair --maxiterate 1000 input.fasta >*

output_aligned.fasta. Automated alignment trimming was performed with trimAl v1.2, using the

command *trimal -in input_aligned.fasta -out output_aligned_trimmed.fasta -keepheader -gt [threshold]*,

where the gap threshold was set to 0.3 for SSU rDNA/rRNA and 0.5 for COI. Phylogenetic trees were

inferred from the trimmed alignments using the maximum likelihood method implemented in IQ-TREE

v2.3.6, with ModelFinder for model selection and node support assessed via 1,000 ultrafast bootstrap

replicates and 1,000 SH-aLRT tests. The analysis was executed with the command *iqtree2 -s*

aligned_trimmed.fasta -alrt 1000 -bb 1000 -m TEST.

Results and discussion

Phylogeny-based taxonomic identification of P10K amoebozoan data

Amoebozoan small subunit ribosomal DNA/RNA (SSU rDNA/rRNA) sequences were successfully

retrieved from 151 of the 201 genomic datasets available for Amoebozoa in the P10K database

(**Supplementary Information - Table S1**). Given the established use of the Cytochrome c oxidase

subunit I (COI) marker in Arcellinida phylogenetics, we also specifically targeted this marker for

arcellinid taxa. Arcellinid COI sequences were successfully recovered from 40 of the 59 genomic data

available for Arcellinida (**Supplementary Information - Table S1**). Phylogenetic analyses based on

SSU rDNA/rRNA and COI were largely congruent, supporting most of the original taxonomic

assignments in the P10K database (**Figs. 1 and 2**). Moreover, they enabled a more precise

identification for 43 taxa, including a refined classification at the genus and family levels for taxa initially

classified only at the family or higher levels (**Figs. 1 and 2**; **Supplementary Information - Table S1**).

As species-level identification typically requires extensive morphological and morphometric data in

addition to molecular evidence, we adopted a conservative approach and assigned identifications at

the genus level based on our phylogenetic results. However, it is worth noting that several genomic

data from the P10K database originate from well-established cultures of widely used and shared strains,

some originally available in the NCBI database, for which detailed morphological data are available in

the literature, allowing confident species-level identifications (**Figs. 1 and 2**; **Supplementary**

Information - Table S1).

Notably, seven original taxonomic assignments from the P10K database were not corroborated

by our phylogenetic reconstructions (**Figures 1 and 2**; **Supplementary Information - Table S1**). This

was most apparent within Arcellinida, where misidentifications primarily involved closely related or

morphologically similar genera and families. Although Arcellinida are well known for their test (shell),

which provides informative taxonomic characters, convergent evolution has led to similar shell

morphologies across distantly related lineages. For example, species of *Difflugia* (Difflugiidae),

Hyalosphenia (Hyalospheniidae), and *Netzelia* (Netzelliidae) often possess rounded, ovoid, or

elongated shells, which can lead to misidentification if other shell features (e.g., aperture shape,

composition) or cellular characteristics are not considered [21, 22]. Consistent with this, our analyses

revealed that several taxa initially assigned to Difflugiidae (infraorder Longithecina) belong to

Hyalospheniidae (Hyalospheniformes) or Netzelliidae (Sphaerothecina) (**Supplementary Information**

- Table S1). These infraorders are distantly related, with their last common ancestor estimated to have

lived over 500 million years ago [15, 23], making such misassignments evolutionarily significant.

Outside Arcellinida, only one notable case of misidentification was observed: *Pessonella* sp. PRA-29,

a culture originally submitted to the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) under the genus

Pessonella, was later described as a new genus and species, *Armaparvus languidus*, representing the

correct taxonomic identification for this organism [24].

Contamination screening of the P10K amoebozoan data

Non-amoebozoan SSU sequences were retrieved from 58 of the 201 genomic datasets available

for Amoebozoa in the P10K database (**Supplementary Information - Table S1**). The phylogenetic

analysis of these non-amoebozoan SSU and SSU sequences from the PR^2 database reveals a

widespread contamination of the P10K amoebozoan dataset by a taxonomically diverse set of

eukaryotic lineages, mirroring the ecological complexity of the environments these protists inhabit

(**Figure 3 and Supplementary Information - Table S1**). Among the contaminant groups were fungi

and metazoans, including sequences from arthropods and nematodes, likely introduced via soil

particles, organic debris, or sample handling procedures (**Figure 3**). SSU sequences affiliated with

ciliates were particularly abundant, with representatives spanning multiple clades such as Vorticellidae,

Coleps, and *Pseudomicrothorax* (**Figure 3**). Additional contaminants included lineages within the

Stramenopiles such as *Paraphysomonas* and *Poterioochromonas*, as well as centrohelid heliozoans

(Haptista) and cercozoans (Rhizaria) (**Figure 3**). Several photosynthetic eukaryotes represented

another major group of contaminants, including land plants, especially angiosperms of the Fabaceae

family, likely introduced through pollen or plant debris, as well as green algae from the Chlorophyceae

(e.g., *Chlamydomonas*, *Hyalomonas*) and Zygnematophyceae, the closest relatives of land plants

(**Figure 3**). Collectively, these findings demonstrate that contamination in amoebozoan assemblies is

both frequent and taxonomically widespread, encompassing multiple branches of the eukaryotic tree.

Quality assessment of the P10K amoebozoan data

Based on the results from single-marker retrieval, phylogenetic inference, and quality assessment,

we were able to evaluate the current state of Amoebozoa genomic data in the P10K database. As a

relative measure, we can consider samples to be of relatively higher quality if they contain the SSU

marker (and COI for arcellinids), show no signs of contamination based on SSU phylogenetic

reconstruction, and have a BUSCO completeness score of at least 50% (**Figure 4; Supplementary**

Information - Table S1). These samples are more likely to yield meaningful results in downstream

analyses, including phylogenomics and comparative genomics (**Figure 4; Supplementary**

Information - Table S1). It is important to note, however, that the SSU-based contamination screening

we used as an exploratory assessment of the amoebozoan P10K data has limitations and cannot, on

its own, detect all sources of potential contamination. Therefore, incorporating additional markers for

further screening is advisable before using the data in downstream analyses. Similarly, while we chose

a relatively low BUSCO threshold (≥50%) to include a broader range of potentially useful genomic data.

More stringent completeness cutoffs, as well as additional quality metrics such as genome contiguity,

N50 values, and assembly size, are required depending on the downstream applications of the data

and should be considered accordingly. On the other hand, the P10K samples lacking key markers,

flagged as contaminated based on SSU phylogenetic inference, or with BUSCO scores below 50%

represent more incomplete and lower-quality genomic data (**Figure 4; Supplementary Information -**

Table S1). In this context, several of the amoebozoan genomic data available in the P10K database

require decontamination or further sequencing prior to downstream analysis (**Figure 4D;**

Supplementary Information - Table S1). Finally, this quality assessment of the P10K genomic

resource highlights that several major Amoebozoa lineages remain unsampled at the genomic level

and serves as a useful guide for targeted sampling efforts aimed at expanding the taxonomic diversity

sampled for genomic data.

Widespread Contamination in Protist Genomes: Sources, Impacts, and Mitigation Strategies

While the widespread contamination identified in amoebozoan genome assemblies is certainly

undesirable, it is consistent with the natural ecological context not only of Amoebozoa but of microbial

eukaryotes in general. Protists typically inhabit complex microbial communities, including soil, biofilms,

freshwater and marine sediments, mosses, and decaying organic matter, where they coexist and

interact with a wide diversity of organisms [13, 21, 25]. Like many free-living protists, amoebozoans are

predatory and feed on bacteria, algae, fungi, and other eukaryotic cells, or form close physical

associations with them, such as transient or stable endosymbiotic relationships [13, 21]. These

ecological interactions, combined with the technical difficulty of isolating single amoebozoan cells free

from other microbial associates, make the presence of contaminant sequences in genome assemblies

not only possible but likely [16]. Many species cannot be maintained in long-term axenic or

monoeukaryotic cultures, and even those that can often require extensive purification efforts to

eliminate co-cultured organisms [26].

Contaminant sequences can significantly impact genomic-level downstream analyses. They may

compromise gene prediction, reveal artifactual patterns of gene family evolution, mislead functional

annotations, and introduce biases in comparative genomic studies [4, 27, 28]. More specifically,

contamination can lead to overestimation of genomic complexity and distorts analyses of gene family

evolution by introducing homologs or paralogs from unrelated lineages, which can result in artificial

expansions or contractions of gene families and misrepresentation of evolutionary trajectory studies [4,

27, 28]. Functional annotation is similarly affected, as contaminant sequences may be erroneously

assigned to the target genome, leading to inaccurate inferences about metabolic capabilities, signaling

pathways, or ecological roles [4, 27, 28]. Similarly, assemblies that include sequences from diverse

eukaryotic contaminants may cluster incorrectly in phylogenomic datasets, leading to artifactual

phylogenetic trees [29]. Technically, contamination can also affect genome completeness metrics by

artificially increasing the number of expected genes detected. This may create the false impression of

high assembly quality and completeness, even when substantial portions of the assembly are derived

from non-target organisms [16]. Ultimately, unaddressed contamination undermines efforts to draw

biologically meaningful conclusions about evolution, diversity, and functional biology from genomic

data.

Given these challenges, several strategies that are not reported to be used by the P10K initiative

have been successfully used to reduce contamination in protist genomic-level data generation efforts,

including for Amoebozoa [13, 15, 23]. For taxa that can be cultivated, growing cultures through multiple

generations can help eliminate contaminant organisms that were initially co-isolated with the target

taxon [13, 15, 23]. Other effective practices include visual inspection of cultures to detect fungi or small

eukaryotes, filtration of culture media, and rigorous sterile handling during DNA and RNA extraction.

For species that must be isolated as single cells from environmental samples, useful techniques include

repeated transfers of the cell through filtered sterile water followed by overnight starvation in sterile

medium [13, 15, 23]. These procedures allow cleaning of the cells and digestion of prey items, reducing

the risk of capturing genetic material from non-target organisms derived from their environment or food

source.

Even when applying these methods, it is not possible to guarantee that genomic data will be

completely free from contamination, particularly when working with environmentally derived specimens.

Therefore, comprehensive screening of genome assemblies remains essential. When contamination is

detected, identifying the phylogenetic affinities of non-target sequences can guide decisions on data

curation and inform subsequent analyses [29]. As corroborated in this study, combining single marker-

based phylogenetic screening with genome-level examination provides a powerful and generalizable

strategy for distinguishing genuine genomic content from artifactual sequences, especially SSU that

have been traditionally sequenced from diverse eukaryotes and for which comprehensive curated

databases like PR^2 are available. Importantly, this strategy couples the strengths of likelihood-based

phylogenetics, which outperform similarity-based approaches such as BLAST by incorporating explicit

models of molecular evolution and statistically grounded inference [30, 31]. These features allow for

more accurate reconstruction of evolutionary relationships, particularly among divergent or closely

related taxa, where mere sequence similarity may be misleading [31, 32]. This approach serves as a

guide for data curation and ensures that genomic data accurately represent the biology and evolutionary

histories of the target protist lineages.

Reproducibility of the P10K data

Currently, the P10K database lacks photo-documentation and detailed metadata directly

associated with each sample, which impairs both the reproducibility and deeper interpretation of the

data. In particular, the absence of voucher images of specimens or cultures from which the data were

derived prevents taxonomic confirmation and revision. Without such reference material, especially for

uncultivable organisms, it becomes impossible to attempt re-isolation of the target taxa for additional

sequencing efforts aimed at generating more complete genomic data. Moreover, the integration of

morphological documentation with phylogenetic analyses would not only improve taxonomic accuracy

and robustness, but also enable more comprehensive, integrative discoveries that combine molecular

and morphological information. Ideally, the database could include voucher photographs and, when

possible, images of multiple specimens of the same taxon from environmental samples or cultures. This

would facilitate further morphometric analyses and potentially contribute to the utility of the P10K

dataset for researchers who study protists using both molecular and morphological approaches.

Another limitation affecting data accessibility and reproducibility is the lack of clear information on the

specific sequencing platforms used for each sample (e.g., Illumina with short or long-insert libraries,

Oxford Nanopore, or PacBio Sequel II). Since each platform has characteristic error profiles and biases,

this metadata is critical for downstream analyses and informed interpretation of the genomic data. Thus,

the incorporation of photo-documentation and detailed metadata for each sample could substantially

contribute to the scientific value, reproducibility, and long-term impact of the P10K database.

Conclusions

This study presents a comprehensive phylogenetic assessment of taxonomic assignments and

contamination across Amoebozoa genomic datasets in the P10K database. By using SSU rDNA/rRNA

and COI markers, we confirmed many of the original classifications, refined others, and identified multiple cases of misidentification within morphologically similar lineages. Additionally, we uncovered widespread contamination by diverse eukaryotic lineages, including fungi, metazoans, green algae, and other protists. These findings highlight the ecological complexity of protist-associated environments and the inherent challenges of obtaining contamination-free genomic data for target lineages. Despite these challenges, our results demonstrate that single-marker phylogenetic screening, particularly using SSU, provides a reliable and scalable strategy for verifying taxonomic identity and for an exploratory detection of contamination. By improving the taxonomic resolution and reliability of available genome assemblies, this work contributes to downstream evolutionary, ecological, and functional genomic studies of Amoebozoa enabled by the genomic resources available in the P10K database. More broadly, our framework offers a practical and generalizable approach for curating the growing volume of genomic data from protists. As genomic resources for microbial eukaryotes continue to expand, phylogenetically aware data curation efforts, alongside the strategies to minimize contamination and improve data reproducibility discussed here, will be critical to ensuring data accuracy. Accordingly, the P10K project already envisions improving the reliability of its genomic data in future developments by providing, for instance, bioinformatic tools for multiple sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis, made available through the P10K database. Ultimately, this will maximize the impact of the genomic data available through the P10K initiative in addressing major biological questions, including the origins of complex traits, symbioses, multicellularity, and the diversification of eukaryotic life on Earth.

Availability of data and materials

All compiled and curated SSU and COI datasets associated with this manuscript are publicly available on FigShare at https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.29814947

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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Authors' contributions

Alfredo L. Porfirio-Sousa: Conceptualization, Data curation, Visualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Robert E. Jones**: Investigation, Data curation, Writing – review & editing. **Matthew W. Brown:** Investigation, Writing – review & editing. **Daniel Lahr:** Investigation, Writing – review & editing. **Alexander K. Tice:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Visualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Resources, Supervision, Funding acquisition.

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Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing

During the preparation of this work the authors used ChatGPT GPT-4o to improve the readability and language of the first draft of the manuscript. After using this tool, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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Figures

Figure 1. The phylogenetic placement of Amoebozoa genomic data from the P10K focused on
the major groups Evosea and Discosea. Maximum-likelihood phylogenetic trees constructed from
the Small Subunit ribosomal RNA (SSU) inferred from a subset of the curated dataset presented in
Figure S1. **A.** Focuses on the major Amoebozoa group Evosea. Phylogenetic reconstruction was
conducted using IQ-TREE v2.3.6, with ModelFinder identifying the best-fit substitution model
(TIM2+F+R4). **B.** Focuses on the major Amoebozoa group Discosea. Phylogenetic reconstruction was
conducted using IQ-TREE v2.3.6, with ModelFinder identifying the best-fit substitution model
(GTR+F+G4). Node support was assessed using both ultrafast bootstrap (UFBoot) and the
Shimodaira–Hasegawa approximate likelihood ratio test (SH-aLRT). Support values are reported as
SH-aLRT / UFBoot, with values ≥80/95 considered indicative of strong support. For clarity, high-support
values are omitted in this figure, as well as support values for nodes above the nodes indicated by the
arrows, which are represented mostly by flat branches. The complete tree, including all support values,
is shown in Figures S2 and S3. Stars indicate genomic data reassigned to a different taxonomic identity
than reported in the P10K database. Filled circles mark indicate cases with refined taxonomic
resolution. Filled squares denote more conservative identifications (e.g., genus or family level) rather
than the more specific genus or species-level identification originally provided in the P10K database.
'C' indicates putative chimeric genomes containing sequences from multiple eukaryotes and 'AC'
denotes intra-Amoebozoa contamination.

Figure 2. The phylogenetic placement of Amoebozoa genomic data from the P10K focused on
the major group Tubulinea. A. The maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed from the Small
Subunit ribosomal RNA (SSU) inferred from a subset of the curated dataset presented in Figure S1,
focuses on the major Amoebozoa group Tubulinea. Phylogenetic reconstruction was conducted using
IQ-TREE v2.3.6, with ModelFinder identifying the best-fit substitution model (TIM3e+G4). The length of
branches depicted as dashed lines have been reduced by 50% for presentation purposes. **B.** The
maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree of cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) inferred from a curated
dataset generated in the present study, focusing on Arcellinida order (Tubulinea:Amoebozoa)
comprising COI sequences retrieved from genomes and transcriptomes available in the P10K
database, along with reference sequences made available by previous. Phylogenetic reconstruction
was conducted using IQ-TREE v2.3.6, with ModelFinder identifying the best-fit substitution model
(GTR+F+I+G4). Node support was assessed using both ultrafast bootstrap (UFBoot) and the
Shimodaira–Hasegawa approximate likelihood ratio test (SH-aLRT). Support values are reported as
SH-aLRT / UFBoot, with values ≥80/95 considered indicative of strong support. For clarity, high-support
values are omitted in this figure, as well as support values for nodes above the one indicated by the
arrow, which are represented mostly by flat branches. The complete tree, including all support values,
is shown in Figures S4 and S5. Stars indicate genomic data reassigned to a different taxonomic identity
than reported in the P10K database. Filled circles mark indicate cases with refined taxonomic
resolution. Filled squares denote more conservative identifications (e.g., genus or family level) rather
than the more specific genus or species-level identification originally provided in the P10K database.
'C' indicates putative chimeric genomes containing sequences from multiple eukaryotes and 'AC'
denotes intra-Amoebozoa contamination.

Figure 3. Contamination-screening phylogenetic tree. The maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed from the Small Subunit ribosomal RNA (SSU), inferred from a curated dataset generated in the present study, comprises SSU sequences of putative non-Amoebozoan contaminants retrieved from genomes and transcriptomes available in the P10K database, along with reference sequences from the PR^2 database (indicated by PR^2 IDs), identified through BLAST+ similarity searches using the putative contaminant SSU sequences as queries. Phylogenetic reconstruction was conducted using IQ-TREE v2.3.6, with ModelFinder identifying the best-fit substitution model (TN+F+I+G4). Node

support was assessed using both ultrafast bootstrap (UFBoot) and the Shimodaira–Hasegawa
approximate likelihood ratio test (SH-aLRT). Support values are reported as SH-aLRT / UFBoot, with
values ≥80/95 considered indicative of strong support. For clarity, high-support values are omitted in
this figure, as well as support values for nodes above the one indicated by the arrow, which are
represented mostly by flat branches. The complete tree, including all support values, is shown in Figure
S6. The taxonomic identification of Amoebozoa taxa corresponding to the displayed P10K ID codes is
shown in parentheses.

Figure 4. Summary of Amoebozoa P10K database sample counts by taxonomic group, focusing on the key parameters used to evaluate the data. A. presence of SSU or COI. **B.** BUSCO completeness score. We considered the BUSCO score of each sample as originally provided in the P10K database and reported in Gao et al. (2024). **C.** contamination by another eukaryotic lineage. **D.** sample quality assessment. Higher-quality samples are defined as those with SSU (and COI in the case of Arcellinida), a BUSCO score ≥50%, and no contamination identified based on the SSU. Lower-quality samples are those that require decontamination or further sequencing prior to reliable downstream analysis. The bars represent the total number of Amoebozoa samples in the P10K database available for each taxonomic group. The samples considered as higher quality are highlighted in the Supplementary Information – Table S1.