

1 **Evidence for the F200Y (TAC) mutation conferring benzimidazole resistance**
2 **in a southern USA cattle population of *Haemonchus placei* spreading from a**
3 **single emergence**

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24 **Abstract**

25 The benzimidazoles are one of the most important broad-spectrum anthelmintic drug classes
26 for the control of parasitic nematodes of domestic animals and humans. They have been widely
27 used in the livestock sector, particularly in small ruminants for over 40 years. This has resulted in
28 the development and wide spread of resistance in small ruminant gastrointestinal nematode
29 parasite species, including *Haemonchus contortus*. Recently, resistance to benzimidazole drugs
30 has been reported in *Haemonchus placei*, but there is relatively little information on its
31 prevalence. It is important to develop a molecular tools to identify resistance mutations in *H.*
32 *placei* early in their development in order to understand the emergence and spread. Our previous
33 study demonstrated the F200Y (TAC) mutation at their early stage in 6/9 *H. placei* populations
34 derived from southern USA, albeit at low frequencies between 2 and 10%. The present study
35 analysis the phylogenetics of the isotype-1 β -tubulin locus to suggest that F200Y (TAC)
36 mutation has been spread from a single emergence in *H. placei*; likely by the anthropogenic
37 movement of ruminant livestock in southern USA. Population genetic data of *H. placei* using a
38 panel of microsatellite markers revealed little genetic sub-structure, consistent with a high level
39 of gene flow in this region. Overall, these results provide clear genetic evidence for the spread of
40 F200Y (TAC) benzimidazoles resistance mutation to multiple different locations from a single
41 emergence in *H. placei*.

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43 **Keywords:** *Haemonchus placei*, Benzimidazole resistance, isotype-1 β -tubulin, Resistance
44 emergence and spread.

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52 **1. Introduction**

53 Gastrointestinal nematode parasites are the major cause of disease in grazing ruminants,
54 results in billions of US dollars in production losses each year in livestock industry worldwide
55 (Stromberg and Gasbarre, 2006). *Haemonchus placei* represents the most important and highly
56 pathogenic parasite of large ruminants and *Haemonchus contortus* mostly infects sheep and
57 goats, having significant economic losses in tropical and sub-tropical regions (Hoberg et al.,
58 2004; Lichtenfels et al., 1994; Lichtenfels JR, 1994).

59 The mechanism of benzimidazole resistance has been studied in small ruminant nematode
60 parasites and strong evidence exists that three different single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)
61 in the isotype-1 β -tubulin locus are responsible for resistance (Chaudhry et al., 2015a). Despite
62 widespread global concern regarding benzimidazole resistance in *H. contortus* of small
63 ruminants, until recently little attention has been given to the possibility of resistance develop in
64 cattle parasites (Coles, 2002). Nonetheless, benzimidazole resistance is now emerging and
65 represents a serious challenge to the cattle industry worldwide (Sutherland and Leathwick,
66 2011). There have been relatively few studies of the genetic determinants of benzimidazole
67 resistance in *H. placei* (Ali et al., 2019a; Brasil et al., 2012).

68 The understanding how the benzimidazole resistance mutations emerge and spread in
69 nematode parasite populations is an important goal. There are two ways in which adaptive
70 mutations might develop and spread in nematode parasite populations that are under selection.
71 First, benzimidazole resistance could emerge as a new mutation and then spread through
72 populations by host migration, likely as a consequence of animal movements: in this case a
73 single resistance haplotype is present in each population. This has been observed for the
74 benzimidazole resistance conferring allele E198A (GCA) in *H. contortus* (Chaudhry et al.,
75 2015d) and more recently F200Y (TAC) in *H. placei* (Ali et al., 2019b). Second, benzimidazole
76 resistance could repeatedly emerge multiple time by recurrent or pre-existing mutations and
77 migrate between nematode parasite populations as a result of host movement. In this case
78 multiple resistance haplotypes will be present in each population. This has been proposed for
79 benzimidazole resistance alleles F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) of *H. contortus* (Chaudhry et
80 al., 2015a; Chaudhry et al., 2015d; Redman et al., 2015).

81 In the present study, we first use a panel of seven microsatellite markers to show the
82 population genomic structure of *H. placei* and *H. contortus* from three different southern US

83 states and then use the phylogenetic approaches to investigate the emergence and spread of
84 benzimidazole resistance in the *H. placei* populations. The data provide clear evidence for the
85 spread of the *H. placei* F200Y (TAC) resistance mutation from a single emergence. We also
86 analysis the benzimidazole resistance allele frequency in seven *H. contortus* populations of sheep
87 and goats. The F200Y (TAC) mutation was found in all seven populations at high frequency and
88 F167Y (TAC) mutation was present in four populations relatively low frequency. The
89 phylogenetic analysis suggests that the F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) mutations has emerge
90 multiple independent times in the Southern USA.

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92 **2. Materials and Methods**

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94 *2.1. Parasite material, genomic DNA extraction and pyrosequencing genotyping*

95 Parasite materials were obtained from three regions of southern USA, where we anticipated a
96 high *Haemonchus* prevalence. Adult *Haemonchus* worms were harvested from the abomasa of
97 10 cattle, 2 sheep and 4 goats immediately following slaughter at three different locations
98 (Arkansas, Florida, and Georgia). Detail of the 10 cattle parasite populations has been described
99 in a previous report (Chaudhry et al., 2015c). Two and three *Haemonchus* populations of sheep
100 and goats, respectively, were collected from Arkansas (Pop1S, Pop2S, Pop10G, Pop11G,
101 Pop12G) and one goat-derived *Haemonchus* population was collected from Georgia (Pop1G).
102 Four populations (Pop2S, Pop10G, Pop11G and Pop12G) were collected directly from an
103 abattoir, hence the host grazing history was unknown. One population (Pop1S) was collected
104 from a farm, where sheep has been grazed on a single pasture for 6 months prior to necropsy.
105 One population (Pop1G) was collected directly from abattoir, with no grazing history
106 (Supplementary Table S1).

107 Adult worms were fixed in 80% ethanol immediately following removal from the host
108 abomasum. The heads of individual worms were dissected and lysed in single 0.5ul tube
109 containing 40 µl of proteinase K lysis buffer and stored at -80°C as previously described by
110 Chaudhry et al. (2016b). 1 µl of a 1:5 dilution of a neat single worm lysate was used as PCR
111 template and identical dilutions of lysis buffer, made in parallel, were used as negative controls.
112 To prepare pooled lysates of each population, 1 µl aliquots of each individual neat adult worm
113 lysate were pooled. 1 µl of a 1:50 dilution of pooled lysates was used as PCR template.

114 Pyrosequence genotyping was performed to target the rDNA ITS-2 and codons F167Y (TAC),
115 E198A (GCA) and F200Y (TAC) of isotype-1 β -tubulin of the *H. placei* and *H. contortus* was
116 described in our previously studies (Chaudhry et al., 2014; Chaudhry et al., 2015b).

117

118 2.2. Microsatellite genotyping

119 Six previously published microsatellites (Hcms3561, Hcms53265, Hpms43, Hpms52,
120 Hpms53, Hpms102) were selected as a potentially useful markers based on their properties
121 (Chaudhry et al., 2015a; Chaudhry et al., 2016b; Santos et al., 2017). These studies were produce
122 a clear unambiguous genotypes with either a single or double Genescan peak on single worms as
123 anticipated for single markers in both *H. placei* and *H. contortus*. Individual worm genotyping
124 was performed from six *H. placei* populations (Pop76C, Pop9C, Pop80C, Pop85C, Pop88C,
125 Pop87C) and 4 *H. contortus* populations (Pop1G, Pop10G, Pop11G, Pop12G) contained F200Y
126 (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) resistance associated SNP. A summary of primers sequences, allele
127 ranges, PCR amplification and bioinformatics analysis was described in our previous studies
128 (Chaudhry et al., 2016a; Santos et al., 2017)

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130 2.3. Phylogenetic analysis of the isotype-1 β -tubulin locus

131 For the isotype-1 β -tubulin gene, a fragment zencompassing parts of exons 4 and 5 including
132 codons F167Y (TTC-TAC), E198A (GAA-GCA) and F200Y (TTC-TAC) for *H. placei* (325bp)
133 and *H. contortus* (328bp) were amplified. Pooled lysates were made of six *H. placei* populations
134 (Pop9C, Pop76C, Pop80C, Pop87C, Pop88C, Pop85C), in which F200Y (TAC) was detected
135 and seven *H. contortus* populations (Pop1S, Pop2S, Pop10G, Pop11G, Pop12G, Pop1G,
136 Pop86C) in which F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) was detected. Amplicons were cloned into
137 PJET 1.2/BLUNT vector (Thermo scientific) and sequenced using standard procedures were
138 described by Chaudhry et al. (2015b). For the phylogenetic analysis, sequences were aligned
139 with *H. placei* isotype-1 β -tubulin sequences (Acc No KJ598498) and edited using Geneious Pro
140 5.4 software (Drummond AJ, 2012). A previously described approaches were used to filter the
141 isotype-1 β -tubulin sequences to remove SNPs occurring only once in the dataset and ensure
142 PCR-induced mutations was not included in the analysis (Chaudhry et al., 2015d; Redman et al.,
143 2015). The aligned sequences were then imported into the CD-HIT software (Huang et al., 2010)
144 to calculate the number of unique haplotypes present in each population (Table 4). Construction

145 of network tree of the isotype-1 β -tubulin haplotypes has been described in our previous studies
146 (Chaudhry et al., 2015a; Chaudhry et al., 2016b).

147

148 **3. Results**

149

150 *3.1. Confirmation of *H. placei* and *H. contortus* species in southern USA*

151 Seven out of the 10 cattle populations were identified as 100% *H. placei* (P24; **G** genotype),
152 one population (Pop86C from Georgia) was identified as 100% *H. contortus* (P24 **A** genotype),
153 one population (Pop9C) was identified as 97% *H. contortus* (P24 **A** genotype) and 3% *H. placei*
154 (P24; **G** genotype) and one population (H85) was identified as *H. placei* except single worm with
155 a heterozygous **A/G** at position P24, suggesting that it may be *H. placei* / *H. contortus* hybrid
156 (Supplementary Table S1 & Fig. 1). In the present study, between 29 and 32 individual
157 *Haemonchus* worms were pyrosequence genotyped for the rDNA ITS-2 P24 SNP (64 worms
158 from sheep and 125 worms from goats) and all worms identified as *H. contortus* (P24 **A**
159 genotype) (Supplementary Table S1 & Fig. 1).

160

161 *3.2. Frequency of the F167Y, E198A, F200Y polymorphisms in *H. placei* and *H. contortus** 162 *isotype-1 β -tubulin locus*

163 Six of the 9 *H. placei* populations had F200Y (TAC) benzimidazole resistance associated
164 SNP at frequencies between 2 to 10% (data in Supplementary Table S2). The benzimidazole
165 resistance associated SNP F167Y (T**A**C) and E198A (G**C**A) was not detected in any of the
166 populations. In the present study, benzimidazole resistance-associated SNPs were found in all 7
167 populations with the F200Y (T**A**C) mutation at high frequencies between 82-100% and 4
168 populations with the F167Y (T**A**C) mutation at low frequencies between 7-24% (Supplementary
169 Table S2). The benzimidazole resistance associated SNP E198A (G**C**A) was not detected in any
170 of the populations.

171

172 *3.3. Population genetic structure of *H. placei* and *H. conrotus**

173 Six *H. placei* and 4 *H. contortus* populations were successfully genotyped using a panel of six
174 microsatellite markers. To measure the level of genetic diversity between populations, the
175 diversity index value was estimated. All populations were polymorphic at all loci, with the

176 overall number of alleles per locus (A) ranging from 3 to 16 in *H. placei* and 2 to 10 in *H.*
177 *contortus* respectively. There was a number of unique alleles (A_U) specific to each population
178 and broadly similar alleles were observed in each population (Table 1). There was some
179 significant departure from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, even after Bonferroni correction, in 4
180 out of the 36 loci combinations for *H. placei* and 3 out of the 24 loci combinations for *H.*
181 *contortus*, respectively (Table 1). There were no major departures from linkage equilibrium for
182 any particular combination of loci across all populations indicating that alleles at these loci were
183 randomly associated. *H. placei* and *H. contortus* showed a high level of overall genetic diversity
184 in all populations, the mean allele richness (A_C) was 7.750 ± 0.603 and 5.292 ± 0.479
185 respectively and expected heterozygosity (H_e) was 0.705 (range: 0.042-0.701) and 0.488 (range:
186 0.048-0.546) respectively (Table 1). To measure the level of genetic structure between
187 populations, the AMOVA and Fixation index (F_{ST}) value was estimated. The percentage of
188 variation that partitioned between 6 *H. placei* populations was 0.042% and 4 *H. contortus*
189 populations was 0.015%. This was reflected by levels of pairwise F_{ST} estimates with a maximum
190 of 0.09 for 13 out of 15 possible pairwise comparisons in *H. placei*, and maximum of 0.02 for 4
191 out of 6 possible pairwise comparisons in *H. contortus*, showing significant genetic
192 differentiation (Table 2).

193

194 3.4. Haplotype distribution and the network analysis of isotype-1 β -tubulin locus of *H. placei* and 195 *H. contortus*

196 A 325bp fragment of *H. placei* isotype-1 β -tubulin was cloned and sequenced from six
197 populations individually, DNA template was pooled from between 29 to 36 worms
198 (Supplementary Table S1) and maximum of 12 clones were sequenced per population
199 (Supplementary Table S3). Based on the analysis of each population separately, a single F200Y
200 (TAC) resistance-conferring haplotype (Hr3 F200Y) was present in all six populations relatively
201 high frequencies (Supplementary Table S3; Fig. 2A), demonstrating evidence of single
202 emergence of benzimidazole resistance mutations. In contrast, one population (Pop87C)
203 contained a single susceptible haplotype, three populations (Pop9C, Pop76C, Pop85C) contained
204 a maximum of 2 susceptible haplotypes, one population (Pop87C) contained 3 susceptible
205 haplotypes and one populations (Pop88C) contained a maximum of 4 susceptible haplotypes
206 (Supplementary Table S3, Fig. 2A).

207 A total of five susceptible and one resistant unique haplotypes of *H. placei* isotype-1 β -tubulin
208 were identified among 39 and 13 sequences of six *H. placei* populations (Supplementary Table
209 S3). The network tree was produced to examine the phylogenetic relationship between six
210 isotype-1 β -tubulin haplotypes (Fig. 3A). The analysis showed that the F200Y (TAC) resistance
211 SNP was present on a single (Hr3 F200Y) haplotype in the tree (Fig. 3A). This resistance
212 haplotype was more closely related to one or more susceptible haplotypes and represented three
213 populations from Arkansas (Pop9C, Pop76C, Pop80C), two populations from Georgia (Pop87C,
214 Pop88C) and one population from Florida (Pop85C) (Fig. 3A) suggests that this mutation arose
215 once and spread to the multiple different locations of southern USA through the flow of drug
216 resistance alleles.

217 In contrast, a 328bp of *H. contortus* isotype-1 β -tubulin was cloned and sequenced from seven
218 populations individually, DNA template was pooled from between 29 to 32 worms
219 (Supplementary Table S1) and maximum of 15 clones were sequenced per population
220 (Supplementary Table S3). Based on the analysis of each population separately, one population
221 (Pop1S) contained a maximum of 4 F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) resistance haplotypes, one
222 population (Pop10G) had 3 F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) resistance haplotypes. Moreover,
223 four populations (Pop2S, Pop11G, Pop12G, Pop86G) contained a maximum of 2 F200Y (TAC)
224 and F167Y (TAC) resistance haplotypes and one population (Pop13G) contained a maximum of
225 2 F200Y (TAC) resistance haplotypes (Supplementary Table S3; Fig. 2B). In all these seven
226 populations had high frequencies of F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) resistance-conferring
227 haplotypes (Supplementary Table S3; Fig. 2B), demonstrating evidence of multiple time
228 emergence of benzimidazole resistance mutations. The benzimidazole susceptible haplotypes
229 were not detected in any of the populations.

230 A total of 6 resistant unique haplotypes of *H. contortus* isotype-1 β -tubulin were identified
231 among 85 sequences of seven *H. contortus* populations (Supplementary Table S3). The network
232 trees were produced to examine the phylogenetic relationship between six isotype-1 β -tubulin
233 haplotypes (Fig. 3B). The analysis showed that the F200Y (TIC) resistance associated haplotype
234 Hr12 was present in seven populations (Pop1S, Pop2S, Pop10G, Pop11G, Pop12G, Pop1G,
235 Pop86C), Hr23 resistance haplotype present in two populations (Pop10G, Pop1S), Hr16 and
236 Hr22 haplotype present in Pop1G and Pop1S populations from Arkansas and Georgia (Fig. 3B).
237 Similarly, the F167Y (TIC) resistance associated haplotype (Hr29) present in five populations

238 (Pop1S, Pop2S, Pop10G, Pop12G, Pop1G) and Hr20 resistance haplotype was present in
239 Pop86C population from Arkansas and Georgia (Fig. 3B). The overall results suggests that
240 F200Y (TTC) and F167Y (TTC) arose multiple time and spread to the different locations of
241 southern USA through the flow of drug resistance alleles.

242

243 **4. Discussion**

244 The control of parasitic nematodes in ruminants is heavily dependent on the use of
245 benzimidazole drug. They have been intensively used in the livestock sector for over 40 years
246 (Chaudhry, 2015). This has led to the development of resistance in a number of small ruminant
247 parasite species including *H. contortus* (Chaudhry, 2015). Benzimidazole resistance has been
248 reported in closely related cattle parasite *H. placei*, but there is relatively little information on its
249 prevalence (Ali et al., 2019a; Brasil et al., 2012). In the present study, we proposed that
250 benzimidazole conferring resistance would be at early stage of development in *H. placei* as
251 compared to *H. contortus* in southern USA due to less drug selection pressure in cattle as
252 compared to small ruminants.

253 We demonstrated the allele frequency of known benzimidazole resistance–conferring
254 mutations in *H. placei* populations of cattle from southern USA (Chaudhry et al., 2015c). We
255 have detected the F200Y (TAC) mutation in 6 out of 9 *H. placei* populations. These results
256 suggest that the F200Y (TAC) resistance mutation is likely to be present in many *H. placei*
257 populations in southern US cattle, observed by Brasil et al. (2012) and Ali et al. (2019b). The
258 presence of this mutation at a low frequency would not be expected to result in detectable loss of
259 efficacy of benzimidazole drug (Ali et al., 2019a). In the present study, phylogenetic analysis of
260 *H. placei* F200Y (TAC) resistance haplotype (Hr3) supports the hypothesis that it emerged from
261 a single resistance mutation. Indeed, in this case, it appears that this mutation has spread to
262 multiple different locations in southern USA and this mutation is present on a single haplotype in
263 all 6 of the *H. placei* populations. In contrast, there was a high level of sequence diversity of
264 susceptible haplotypes (five different susceptible haplotypes in the dataset). Hence, given this
265 high level of susceptible haplotypes in southern USA, it would be extremely unlikely that the
266 F200Y (TAC) mutation repeatedly arose only on the same haplotype (Hr3) in future. The fact
267 that this mutation has single emergence illustrates the role of animal movement in the spread of
268 this resistance allele. There have been relatively few studies of the molecular genetics of

269 benzimidazole resistance in *H. placei* in cattle. Recently, Ali et al. (2019b) also look in to the
270 evidence for the single emergence of the F200Y (TAC) resistance mutation and spread in
271 Pakistani *H. placei* populations through unregulated animal movement.

272 We have confirmed the allele frequency of benzimidazole resistance mutations in *H.*
273 *contortus* populations of sheep and goats. The F200Y (TAC) mutation was present in all 7
274 populations at high frequency and F167Y (TAC) mutation was found in 4 out 7 populations
275 relatively low frequency. The F200Y (TAC) resistance conferring SNP is widespread and
276 repeatedly present at high frequencies in many developed countries including New Zealand,
277 Sweden, France, Australia and UK (Bisset SA et al., 2014; Hoglund et al., 2009; Kotze et al.,
278 2012; Redman et al., 2015; Silvestre and Humbert, 2002). In contrast, the other known
279 benzimidazole resistance mutation F167Y (TAC) is more variable in its prevalence. Although
280 the F167Y (TAC) has been detected in France and Canada, it is generally less widespread and at
281 much lower frequencies than F200Y (TAC) mutation except in UK (Barrère et al., 2012; Barrere
282 et al., 2013a; Barrere et al., 2013b; Silvestre and Cabaret, 2002). In the present work, we also
283 found that benzimidazole resistance are well advance in southern USA, and the F200Y (TAC) is
284 the predominant resistance mutation in *H. contortus* populations.

285 There have studies investigating the emergence and spread of benzimidazole resistance in *H.*
286 *contortus* populations of small ruminants, where resistance is at early stages. These studies
287 demonstrated that F200Y (TAC) and F167Y (TAC) mutation emerged multiple time in small
288 ruminants (Chaudhry et al., 2016b; Redman et al., 2015). Knowledge of the emergence of *H.*
289 *contortus* resistance in those studies makes it very likely that the movement of livestock is an
290 important element in the spread of benzimidazole resistance alleles in small ruminants. However,
291 this is difficult to investigate and demonstrate in the present southern USA, where benzimidazole
292 resistance is well advanced almost at the level of fixation, for example F200Y (TAC) mutation is
293 present in all populations examined at high frequencies. Therefore, the diversity of the resistance
294 alleles and the complexity of their relationships to susceptible alleles, makes it difficult to use
295 genetic analysis to definitively demonstrate that particular resistance allele has emerge and then
296 spread from one location to another in southern USA.

297 The data reported in the present study reveal a high genetic diversity among *H. placei*
298 populations (allele richness 7.750 ± 0.603 , expected heterozygosity 0.705) and *H. contortus*
299 (allele richness 5.292 ± 0.47 , expected heterozygosity 0.488). Similar studies have described a

300 evidence of high genetic diversity in *H. contortus* populations (Chaudhry et al., 2015a; Chaudhry
301 et al., 2016b; Hunt et al., 2008; Redman et al., 2015), but there are very few reports on *H. placei*
302 (Ali et al., 2018). The impact of the high level of genetic diversity will not influence the
303 benzimidazole resistance mutation rate under the impact of drug selection pressure, when
304 compared both susceptible and resistant *H. contortus* and *H. placei* populations (Ali et al., 2018;
305 Chaudhry et al., 2016a). In the present study, a low, but significant level of genetic
306 differentiation has also been observed in the populations of *H. placei* (F_{st} estimates maximum of
307 0.09) and *H. contortus* (F_{st} estimates maximum of 0.02). Similar finding suggest that genetic
308 differentiation does occur at low but significant level in *H. contortus* populations (Chaudhry et
309 al., 2015a; Chaudhry et al., 2016b; Hunt et al., 2008; Redman et al., 2015) and a few reports in
310 *H. placei* (Ali et al., 2018). The consequences of low levels of population genetic differentiation
311 in part reflect high levels of animal movement (Hunt et al., 2008). If the gene flow is high, the
312 F200Y (TAC), E198A (GCA) and F167Y (TAC) resistance mutations potentially spread in the
313 regions under the influence of drug selection. These observations have also been recognized in
314 *H. contortus* and *H. placei* studies (Ali et al., 2019b; Chaudhry et al., 2015a; Chaudhry et al.,
315 2016b; Redman et al., 2015; Yin et al., 2016).

316

317 **Conclusions**

318 The present study in the southern USA, where benzimidazole resistance in *H. placei* is at early
319 stages, provides a simpler situation from where to draw conclusions as compared to *H. contortus*.
320 The single emergence of F200Y (TAC) resistance mutations in *H. placei* and its subsequent
321 spread is clearly defined. The way in which this mutation has become widespread provides a
322 clear illustration of the role of migration in the spread of resistance alleles. The results of the
323 high level of genetic diversity in southern US *H. placei*, may be explained by large effective
324 population size and high mutation rate. Furthermore, low levels of genetic differentiation results
325 into the animal movement may have led to the increase of gene flow of *H. placei* populations in
326 this region. There is need for the better understanding of farming practices and the parasite
327 epidemiology to inform sustainable control of gastrointestinal nematode parasites in different
328 part of the world. This includes better emphasis on the importance of biosecurity measures and
329 quarantine dosing in managing the emergence of resistance in the regions where there is
330 considerable movement of animals. Our results suggest that the spread of resistance alleles in

331 different locations play an important role in producing the complex patterns of resistance seen at
332 the early stage of development.

333

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339 Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

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341

342 **Figure Legends**

343

344 **Fig. 1.** Distribution of *Haemonchus* spp. identified in southern USA. Geographic locations of
345 abattoirs/farms are indicated with small black circles in three states (A) Arkansas (B) Georgia
346 (C) Florida. Each pie chart represents a single parasite population taken from an individual host.
347 The final letter of the parasite population name indicates the host species of origin (S, sheep; G,
348 goat; C, cattle). Black shading represents worms identified as *H. placei* (Homozygous **G** at ITS-2
349 rDNA P24), vertical line shading represents worms identified as *H. contortus* (Homozygous **A** at
350 ITS-2 rDNA position P24) and light dot represents worms identified as putative hybrids
351 (heterozygous **A/G** at ITS-2 rDNA P24).

352

353 **Fig. 2.** Frequency histograms showing resistant and susceptible isotype-1 β -tubulin haplotypes
354 identified from six *H. placei* populations in panel A and seven *H. contortus* populations in (panel
355 B). F200Y (TTC)/ F167Y (TTC)/E198A (GAA) susceptible haplotypes are shown in blue,
356 F200Y (**TAC**) resistant haplotypes in red colour and F167Y (**TAC**) resistant haplotypes in green
357 colour.

358

359 **Fig. 3.** Median joining network of the *H. placei* (panel A) and *H. corturtus* (panel B) isotype-1
360 β -tubulin sequences generated in Network 4.6.1. A full median network containing all possible
361 shortest trees was generated by setting the epsilon parameter equal to the greatest weighted
362 distance (epsilon = 10). All unnecessary median vectors and links are removed with the MP
363 option (Polzin and Daneschmand, 2003). The size of circle representing each haplotype is
364 proportional to its frequency in the dataset and the colours in the circles reflect the spread of this
365 haplotype in each population as indicated on the colour key on the inset map. The number of
366 mutations separating adjacent sequence nodes or median vectors is indicated along connecting
367 branches and the length of the lines connecting the haplotypes is proportional to the number of
368 nucleotide changes. The most probable ancestral node is determined by rooting the network to a
369 closely related outgroup *H. contortus* (Hc) against *H. placei* network (GenBank accession
370 number **X67489**) and outgroup *H. placei* (Hp) against *H. contortus* network (GenBank accession
371 number **KJ598498**). The text providing the name of each haplotype is colour coded as follows;

372 susceptible haplotypes F200Y (TTC)/ F167Y (TTC)/E198A (GCA) is in black text; F200Y
373 (TAC) resistant haplotype is in blue text; F167Y (TAC) resistant haplotype is in green text.

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379 **References**

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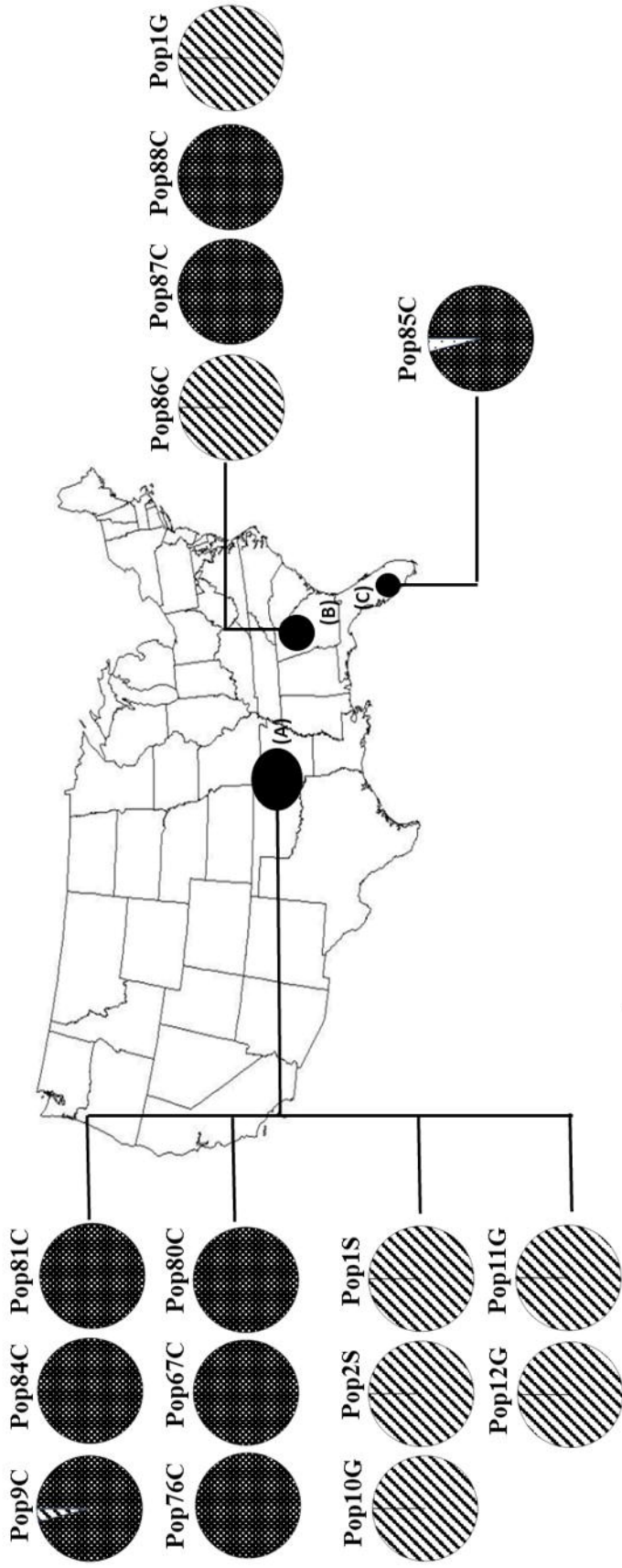
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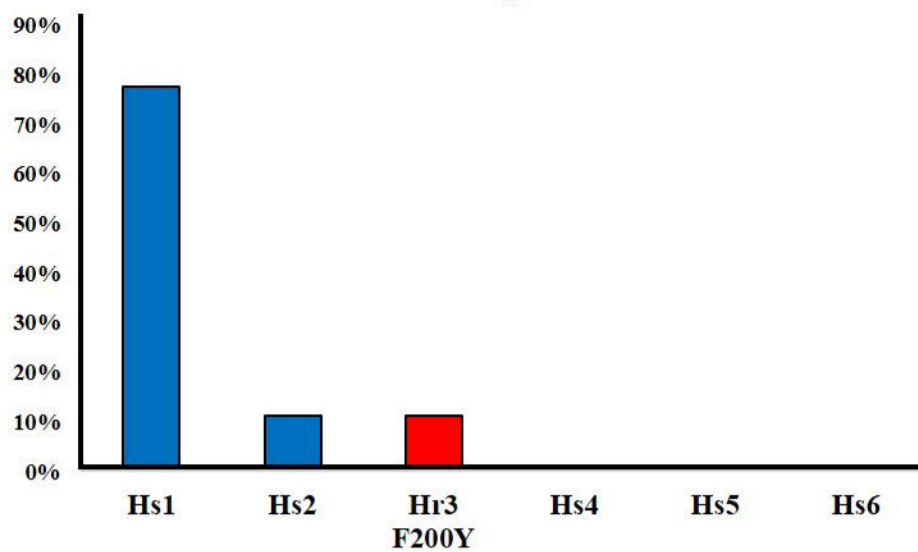
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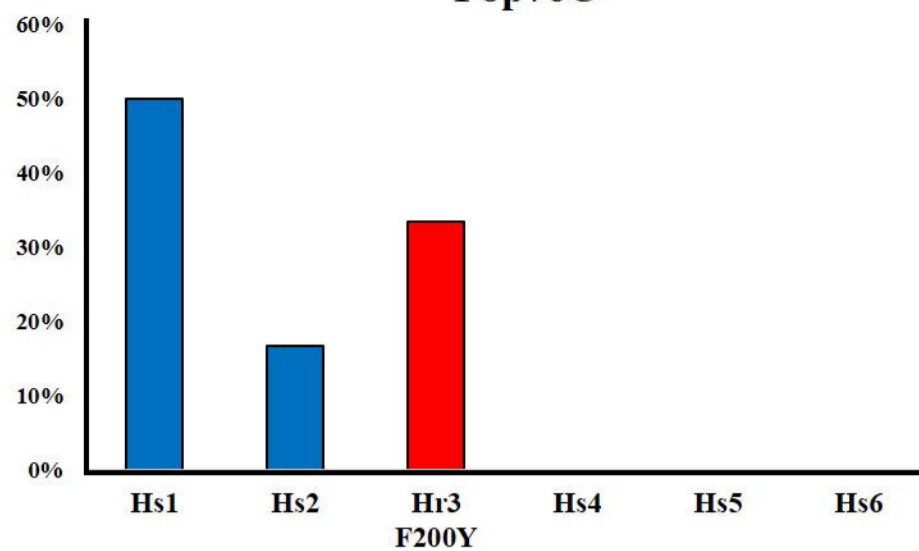
 *H. placei*
 *H. contortus*
 Hybrid

A

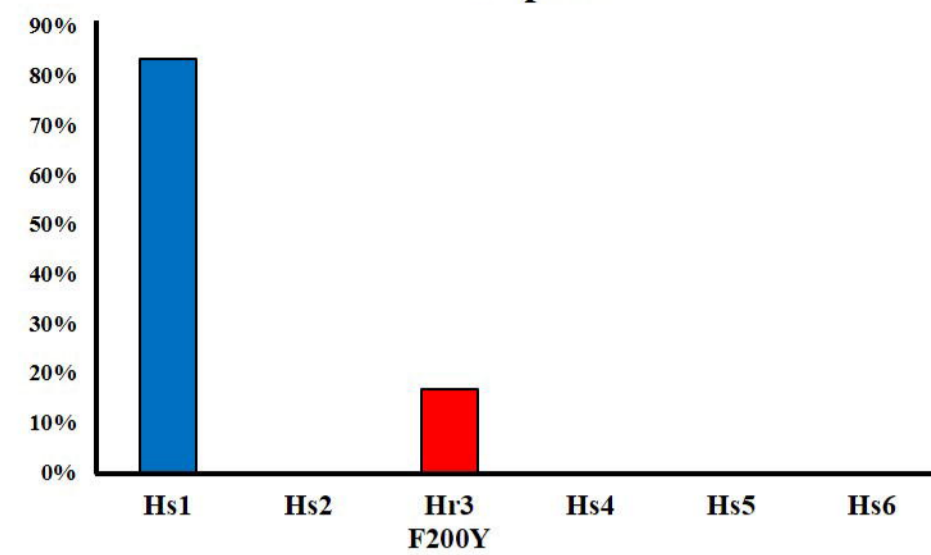
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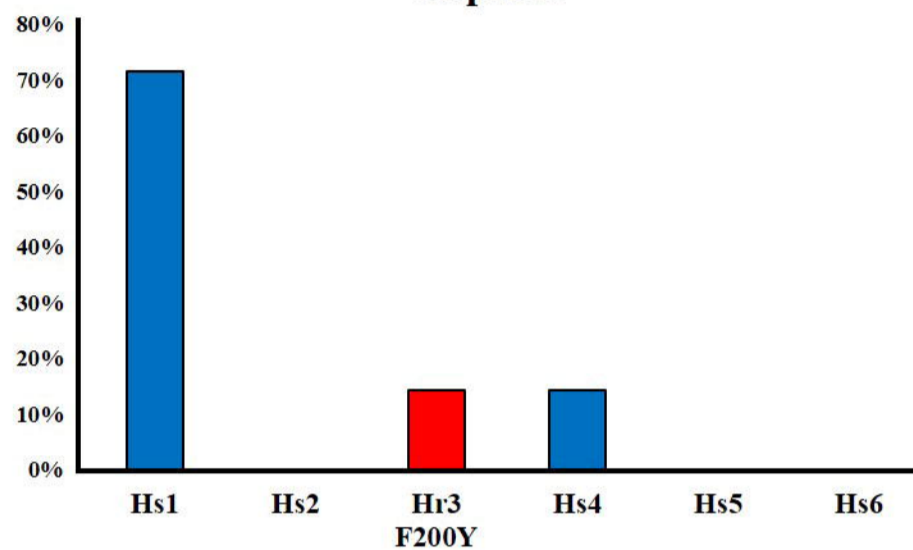
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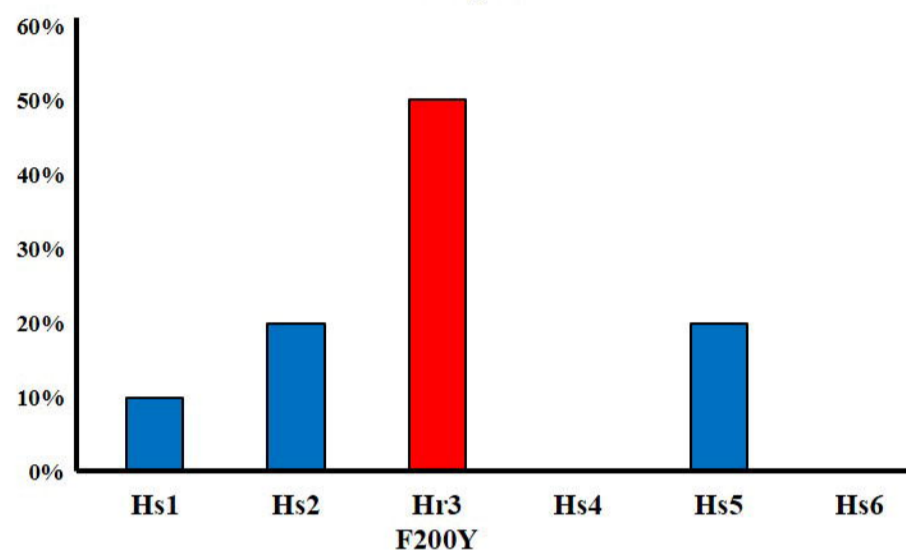
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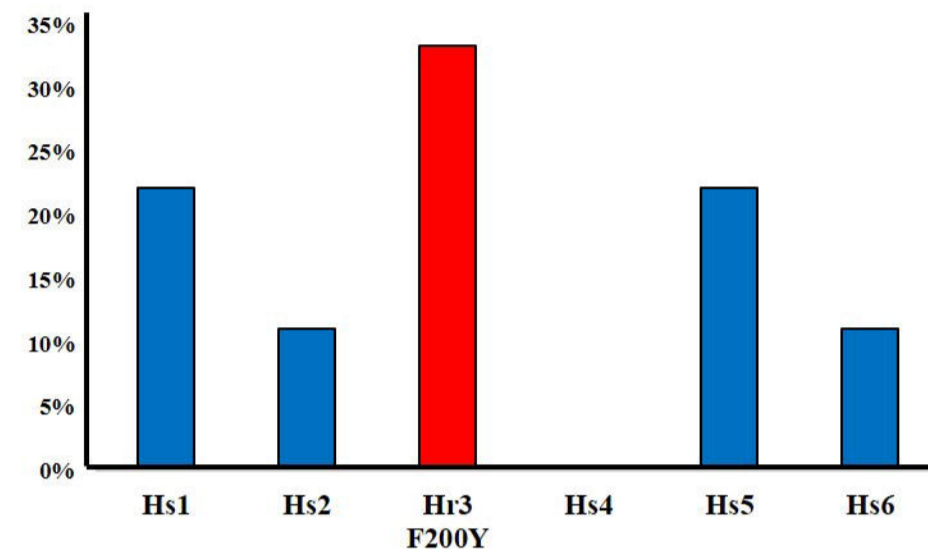
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Pop87C



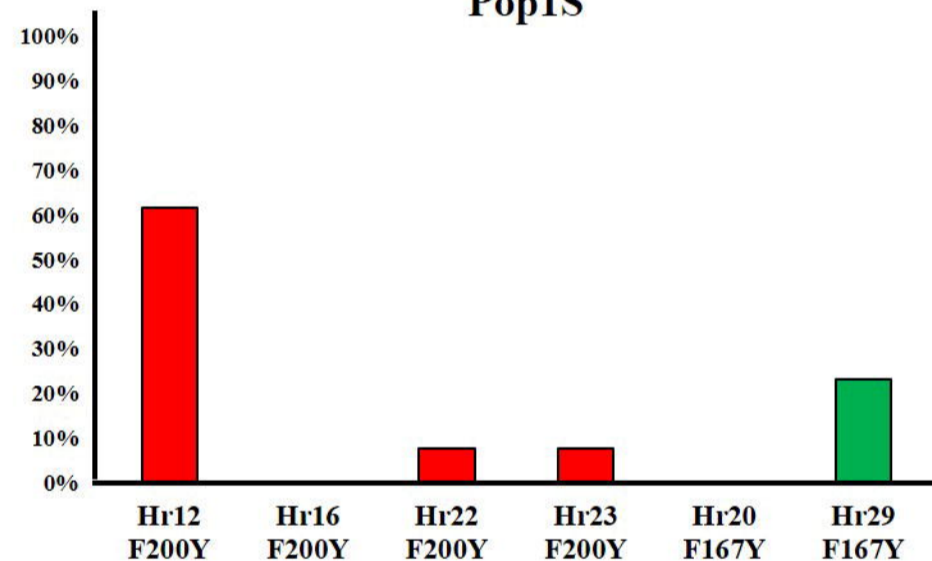
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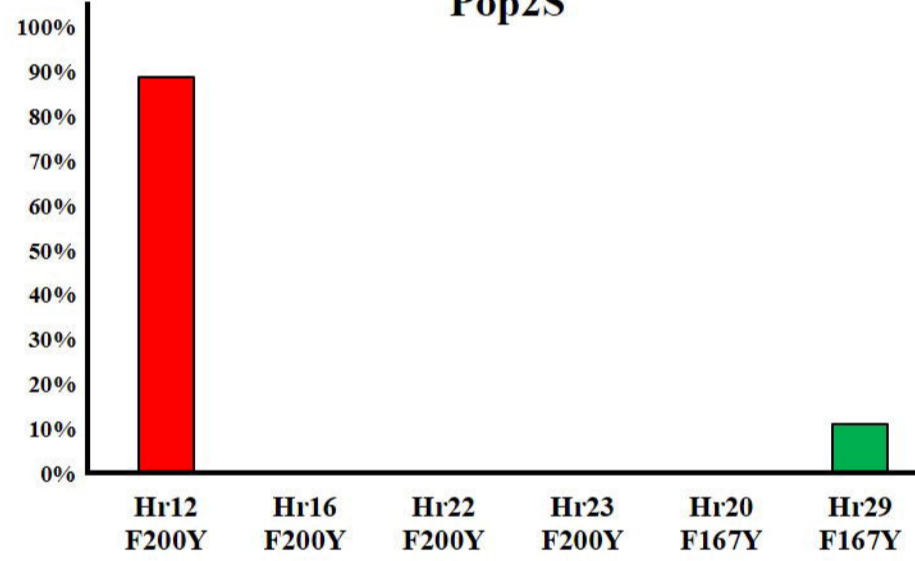
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B

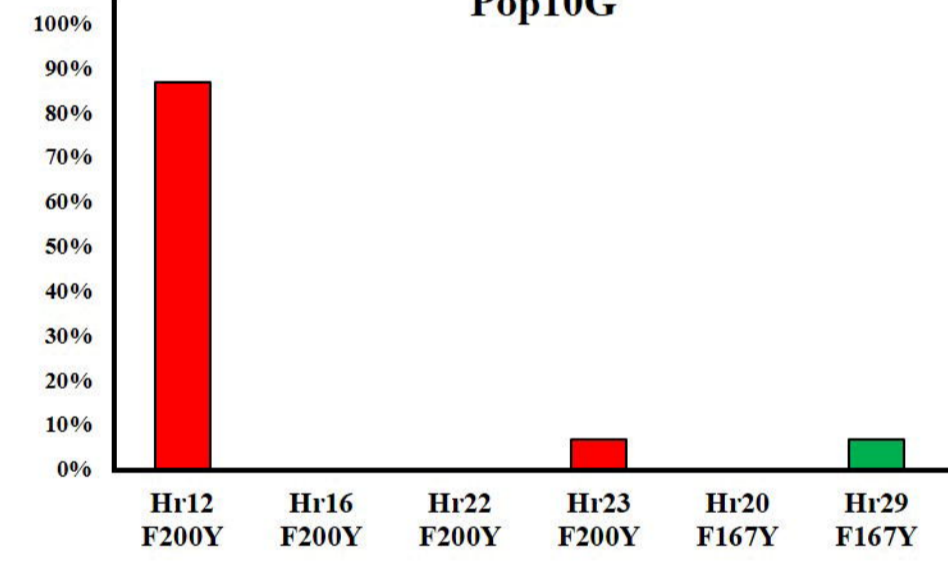
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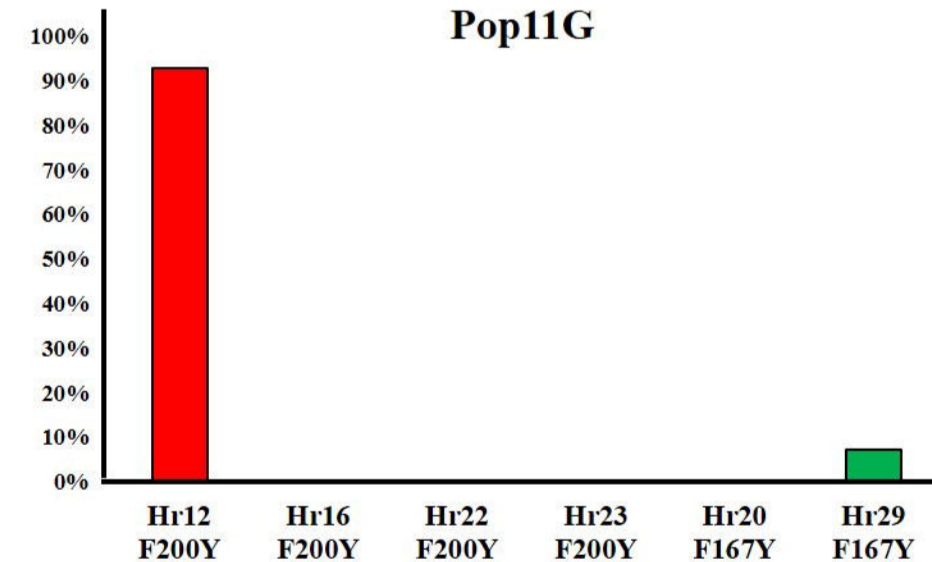
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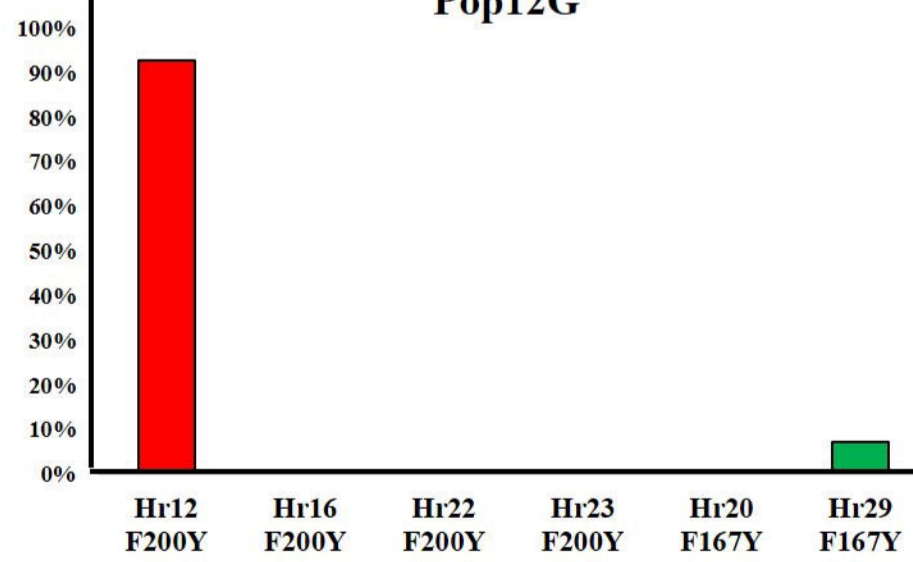
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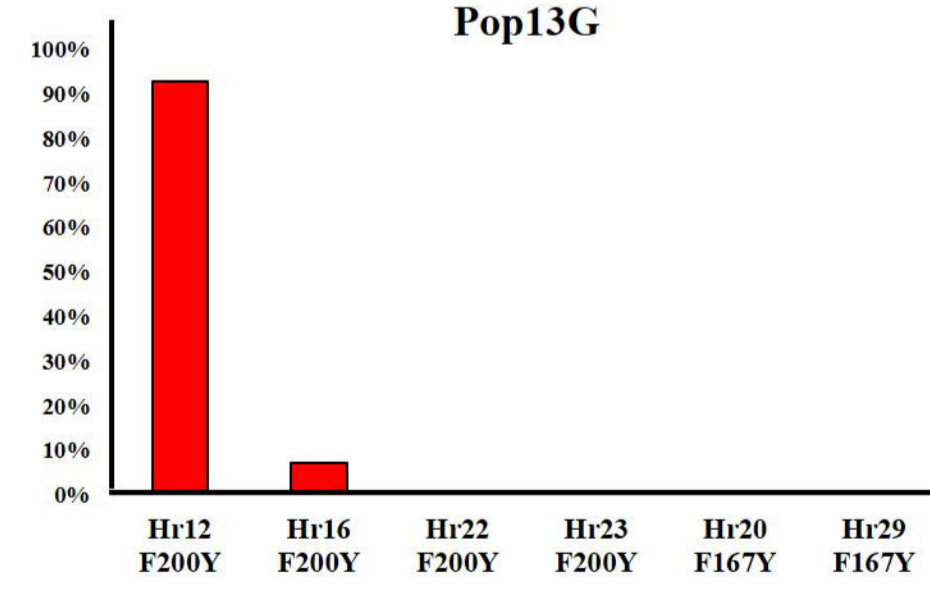
Pop11G



Pop12G



Pop13G



Pop86G

