Blood meal analysis of tsetse flies (*Glossina pallidipes*: Glossinidae) reveals a reduction in host fidelity when feeding on domestic compared to wild hosts

Manun Channumsin[1, 2*], Marc Ciosi[3, 4], Dan Masiga[4], Harriet Auty[5], C. Michael Turner[6,7] and Barbara K. Mable[1]

*Correspondence: manun_wo@rmutto.ac.th

[1] Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine (BAHCM), Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, University Place, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

[2] Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Rajamangala University of Technology Tawan-Ok, Chonburi, 20110, Thailand

[3] Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology (MCSB), University of Glasgow, University Place, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

[4] International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), P.O. Box 30772, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

[5] Future Farming Systems, Epidemiology Research Unit, Scotland's Rural College, Inverness, IV2 5NA, UK

[6] Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, Sir Graeme Davis Building, University of Glasgow, University Place, Glasgow G12 0PT, UK

[7] The Wellcome Trust, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK

Abstract

Background

Both male and female tsetse flies, haematophagous insects, transmit trypanosomes between hosts and are the cyclical vectors for Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) and Animal African Trypanosomiasis (AAT). Trypanosomes responsible for AAT can be transmitted by tsetse between wild animals and livestock. However, the degree of connectivity between the sylvatic and domestic cycles is unknown. The objectives of this study were to investigate patterns of host feeding in relationship to trypanosome prevalence among Kenyan populations of *G. pallidipes* at the livestock-wildlife interface.

Methodology/Principal Findings

Sources of blood meals of *Glossina pallidipes* were identified by polymerase chain reaction amplification and sequencing of the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene and compared with previous characterization of trypanosome prevalence from the same flies. In the Nguruman region in southern Kenya, the majority (98%) of the 148 flies for which dominant hosts could be resolved fed on single host species and only a single fly had fed on a domestic host; intriguingly this was the only fly confirmed to have fed on cattle. In contrast, in the Shimba Hills region (South Coast), multiple host feeding was more common: 42% inside a fenced wildlife protected area, where 35% of dominant hosts were domestic animals or humans, compared with 62% from traps set along the border to an adjacent village, which was dominated by domestic hosts (77%). Across sites, 44% of flies tested positive for trypanosomes (28/50 domestic hosts; 78/193 wild hosts). Multiple Correspondence Analysis revealed strong correlations between feeding pattern, host type and site but these were resolved along a different dimension than trypanosome status.

50 ***Conclusions/Significance***

51 Our results suggest that host fidelity when feeding on wild hosts in *G. pallidipes*

52 could reduce risk of transmission of trypanosomes to domestic hosts in interface

53 areas and emphasise the importance of considering vector behaviour when

54 designing management interventions.

56 Author Summary

Tsetse flies are the main vectors transmitting trypanosomes, which cause disease in

both humans and animals. Since tsetse flies feed on a wide range of vertebrate

hosts, there is the potential for transmission between wild and domestic animals in

regions where their ranges overlap. In this study, we used molecular methods to

determine the hosts fed on by tsetse flies sampled from three sites in Kenya at the

wildlife-livestock interface. In areas where wildlife dominated, tsetse tended to feed

on single host species, whereas in areas with more domesticated animals, they

tended to feed on multiple hosts. These results suggest either that tsetse flies get

interrupted more while feeding on domestic hosts or that they prefer to feed on

wildlife and so switch hosts more often when feeding on less desirable hosts. Using

data from a previous study on the same samples, we found that trypanosome

prevalence was not correlated with the type or number of hosts fed on. These

results have important implications for understanding the risk of transmission

between wildlife and livestock in regions bordering protected areas but the high host

fidelity for wild hosts suggests that tsetse feeding preferences could reduce risks of

disease transmission to livestock.

Introduction

In sub-Saharan Africa, changes in land use increase encroachment of domestic

livestock into areas that are primarily managed to conserve wildlife. This increases

risks that livestock will be exposed to a wider range of parasites, with potentially

important consequences for disease burden and control. Wildlife can represent

'reservoir communities' (Haydon *et al.* 2002; Viana *et al.* 2014) for multi-host

pathogens that could spill-over into domesticated animals, who could show more

severe clinical disease, given limited opportunity for host-pathogen coevolution in

novel hosts. This could be particularly true for vector-mediated transmission, where,

even if fences are used to reduce contact between domestic and wild hosts,

movement of the vectors could still facilitate parasite sharing across interface areas.

Analysis of blood meals provides a powerful tool for assessing whether

haematophagous insects cross-feed on different types of hosts (Nyingilili *et al.* 2016;

Omondi *et al.* 2015; Snow *et al.* 1988). Although this approach has typically focused

on vectors of particular pathogens, it has also been proposed that blood-sucking flies

that do not themselves transmit the focal parasites could be used as "flying syringes"

to investigate blood-borne pathogen diversity (Bitome-Essono *et al.* 2017; Hoffmann

et al. 2016). Rather surprisingly, blood meals have not been used to investigate the

intraspecific genetic diversity of the hosts, which could be used to infer patterns of

connectivity to feed into epidemiological models.

One particularly complex system where this could be important to understand is

trypanosome-mediated diseases transmitted by tsetse flies in East Africa. Although

there are multiple species of tsetse flies that can transmit multiple species of

trypanosomes, *Glossina pallidipes* is the most economically and medically important

species in Kenya (England & Baldry 1972b), because it transmits both the animal

(Animal African Tryanosomiasis, AAT) and human (Human African

Trypanosomiaasis, HAT) disease-causing species. Wild animals have been reported

as reservoir hosts both for AAT (Anderson *et al.* 2011b; OIE 2013) and HAT (Geigy

et al. 1973a; Geigy *et al.* 1971; Welburn *et al.* 2001; Welburn *et al.* 2005) but the

extent of risk posed to domesticated animals has been hard to assess, partly due to

the difficulty of directly screening wildlife for the presence of trypanosomes (but see

(Geigy & Kauffman.M 1973; Geigy *et al.* 1973b; Heisch *et al.* 1958)).

Tsetse flies are generalist feeders on a wide variety of vertebrate host species

(Weitz 1963), including: dogs (Eloy & Lucheis 2009; Lisulo *et al.* 2014); cats

(Clausen *et al.* 1998; Maudlin *et al.* 2004); horses (Maudlin *et al.* 2004); chickens

(Clausen *et al.* 1998); ruminants (Clausen *et al.* 1998; Maudlin *et al.* 2004; Nyawira

2009; Turner 1987); antelopes (Turner 1987); elephants (Muturi *et al.* 2011b;

Nyawira 2009); warthogs (Nyawira 2009); and reptiles (Turner 1987). There is thus

high potential for vector-mediated connection between parasite sylvatic and

domestic cycles in wildlife-livestock interface areas. However, the frequency with

which tsetse vectors cross-feed on different types of hosts where they occur

sympatrically has not been clearly established and so the relative risks of increased

trypanosome infections in livestock living near wildlife remains a critical gap in

knowledge (Auty *et al.* 2016b). Although three trypanosome species are traditionally

associated with the disease in livestock (*T. brucei*, *T. congolense*, and *T. vivax*), a

higher diversity has been identified in wildlife (Auty *et al.* 2012), which could

potentially increase risks of disease if transmission from wildlife to domesticated

animals and humans is common.

Complex interactions among trypanosomes, vertebrate hosts and tsetse flies likely

increase the difficulty of controlling and eradicating trypanosomes but few studies

have attempted to combine investigation of host-feeding patterns in relation to

trypanosome infection with intrinsic factors of tsetse flies distributed in different

regions. Identification of hosts through blood meal analyses is a highly useful tool

that has been used to predict host preferences and feeding behaviours across a

wide range of vectors (Gariepy *et al.* 2012; Haouas *et al.* 2007; Kent 2009). A

commonly used approach has been to use polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based

techniques to amplify and sequence host DNA from blood meal contents in the guts

of fed flies. This has largely been based on mitochondrial genes due to their high

copy number and the extensive databases available due to their use as universal

markers for DNA barcoding (Hebert *et al.* 2003; Lah *et al.* 2012; Pradhan *et al.*

2015). For example, Muturi *et al.* (Muturi *et al.* 2011b) surveyed blood meals of *G.*

swynertoni from Tanzania and *G. pallidipes* from Kenya and Uganda using primers

targeting the mitochondrial cytochrome b (cytB) and cytochrome oxidase I (COI)

genes. African elephants, African buffalo, warthogs, lizards, giraffes, spotted hyenas

baboons and Nile Monitor lizards were identified as sources of blood contained in

tsetse abdomens. However, this was not compared to the relative availability of

hosts to determine whether there were biases in host preferences. In the Serengeti

ecosystem in Tanzania, which holds a high number and wide range of wild animals,

a thorough investigation of blood meal composition in tsetse flies based on

sequencing of the cytB gene compared to surveys of host density revealed strong

preferences for particular hosts, which varied by species of fly (G. *swynnertoni* vs *G.*

pallidipes (Auty *et al.* 2016a). This clearly demonstrated the value of relating feeding

patterns to host densities but also the usefulness of using DNA sequencing to

identify the range of diversity of hosts present. However, trypanosome prevalence

was not quantified in that study and no domestic hosts were identified in the blood

meals; so, relative host preferences for wildlife compared to livestock could not be

determined.

The relative risks of transmission between host types could depend not only on

differences in the feeding behaviours of flies but also on their relative susceptibility to

different species of trypanosomes. Since both sexes of tsetse flies feed on blood

meals, they are both at risk of exposure to trypanosomes from infected vertebrate

hosts after they emerge from their puparium (Jackson 1946). Relative prevalence

and transmissibility could also vary by sex, age or species of fly. For example, higher

prevalence of trypanosomes in females could be due to their longer lifespan

compared to males (Nash 1936), which could increase both the number of hosts that

they feed on and the length of time that they harbour trypanosomes. However, the

consequences for transmission could also vary by species of trypanosomes. (e.g

Peacock *et al.* (2012)).. Moreover, host feeding activity could be influenced by

tsetse-specific factors. For example, old females are thought to be less active than

younger ones, especially those in their first three weeks of their life (Jackson 1946).

However, differences between sexes and age groups can also differ by species of

tsetse (Moloo *et al.* 1992) (Wamwiri *et al.* 2013) so it is important to assess feeding

behaviours separately for each species.

Furthermore, the availability of preferred and nonpreferred hosts could alter feeding

patterns in a way that could affect the risk of transmission, even within species of

tsetse. For example, the feeding-interval time for *G. pallidipes* is approximately two

days but that of males has been found to be longer than that for females (Turner

1987) and times can extend to three days in mature tsetse flies seeking their

preferred hosts (Bouyer *et al.* 2007). More frequent feeding might occur if flies are

disrupted while feeding or if they abandon a host that they perceive to be unsuitable.

The dominance of nonpreferred hosts in a particular geographic area could thus

result in more frequent host switching and so increased rates of multiple feeding and

potentially higher exposure to a diverse range of parasites. In East Africa, *G.*

pallidipes is widespread and has been demonstrated to feed on a wide range of

hosts, including bovines (Clausen *et al.* 1998; England & Baldry 1972a; Muturi *et al.*

2011b; Okoth *et al.* 2007; Turner 1987), suids (Bett *et al.* 2008; Okoth *et al.* 2007),

elephants (Muturi *et al.* 2011b; Nyawira 2009), antelopes (Allsopp *et al.* 1972b) and

cattle (Muturi *et al.* 2011b). Warthogs, bushbuck and African buffalo have been

suggested as the preferred hosts (Boakye *et al.* 1999; Clausen *et al.* 1998;

Langridge *et al.* 1963; Leak 1998; Muturi *et al.* 2011b; Nyawira 2009; Okoth *et al.*

2007) but this varies by geographic region (Auty *et al.* 2016a; Farikou *et al.* 2010;

Muturi *et al.* 2011b; Snow *et al.* 1988; Spath 2000) and relative preference for

domestic and wild hosts has not been specifically assessed.   Disease control

measures might need to be specifically targeted to the particular communities of

tsetse flies, vertebrate hosts and trypanosome species present in a particular region

(Auty *et al.* 2016b).   However, what are lacking are comparisons between

trypanosome prevalence in geographic regions that differ in community composition

of potential hosts, particularly at wildlife-livestock interface areas.

In a previous study, we established that the prevalence of trypanosomes in two

regions of Kenya (Nguruman and the Shimba Hills) showed complex relationships

with geographic location, tsetse specific factors (age, sex and fly species), species of

trypanosome and the presence of an endosymbiont, *Sodalis glossinidius*

(Channumsin *et al.* 2018). Here we focus on one of the four species of tsetse found

in these regions (G*. pallidipes*) to investigate how blood feeding behavior of flies and

host availability affect the potential for cross-transmission of parasites between wild

and domestic hosts.   Specifically, we aimed to determine whether: 1) tsetse flies

sampled from wildlife-livestock interface areas feed on both domestic and wild hosts;

2) the number of different host species fed on by individual flies varies by site or host

type; 3) trypanosome prevalence varies by host type or species. We hypothesise

that the type of hosts recently fed on would be associated with trypanosome status:

specifically, that tsetse fly populations where multiple-host feeding is more frequent

would show a higher prevalence of trypanosomes. We also used the blood meal

data to examine mtDNA haplotype diversity for the most commonly fed on hosts, in

the context of previous blood meal analyses from Kenya and the bordering Serengeti

ecosystem in Tanzania (Auty *et al.* 2016a; Muturi *et al.* 2011a).

Methods

Sampling and tsetse fly characterisation

The *G. pallidipes* samples used in this study for host blood meal analysis were the

same as those described in Channumsin et al. (2018), where details of the sampling

strategy are provided (but see Supplementary Table 1 for locations of the traps).

Tsetse flies were collected from three sites that differ in anticipated levels of

abundance of livestock and wildlife. Two sites were sampled in the Shimba Hills

National Reserve (Kwale County, in the coastal region of Kenya), which is a

relatively small (250 km^2) protected area separated from surrounding agricultural

areas by a wildlife fence. There is extensive habitat for tsetse flies, including on the

park boundaries. Buffalo Ridge and Zungu Luka (approximately 20 km apart), have

different types of vegetation and levels of human activity. Buffalo Ridge is in a

fenced wildlife protected area in the middle of a thicket forest, where many tourists

visit all year, while Zungu Luka has a woodland type of vegetation, and is located on

the border of the park close to an inhabited rural area. In contrast, the Nguruman

region contains lowland woodland patches surrounded by open savannah; habitats

which have been found to host a large number of *G. pallidipes* and *G. longipennis*

(Brightwell *et al.* 1997).   The sampling site (Mukinyo) is at the border of the

Olkiramatian group ranch, which is a wildlife conservancy where the distribution of

domestic and wild tsetse host overlap because there are no fences.

Characteristics of the flies and presence of trypanosomes were taken from

Channumsin et al. (2018). Whole flies were preserved in 95% ethanol and stored at -

80°C. Sex and species of flies were determined based on morphological characters,

and age was based on a wing fray score (Jackson 1946).   Presence of

trypanosomes was determined using general primers targeting the ITS-1 region of

the rDNA array (CF: 5' CCGGAAGTTACCGATATTG 3' and BR: 5'

TTGCTGCGTTCTTCAACGAA 3'; (Njiru *et al.* 2005)) that allow identification of

trypanosome species based on size of amplicons.   For blood meal analyses in this

study, we used DNA extracted from abdomen samples from the *G. pallidipes* (N =

577) samples described in Channumsin et al. (2018).

239   Identification of type and number of hosts from *G.*
240   *pallidipes* blood meals

Although two sets of primers were tested for efficiency and reliability of amplification

of vertebrate hosts from tsetse fly flood meals we selected primers developed by

Kocher *et al.*, (1989) targeting a 359 bp fragment of the mitochondrial gene

cytochrome   B   (cytb)   gene   in   mammals   (Cb1:   5'

CCATCCAACATCTCAGCATGATGAAA   3'   and   Cb2:   5'

GCCCCTCAGAATGATATTTGTCCTCA 3'), for comparison with Auty et al. (2016a)

and because they showed more reliable amplification in a pilot study

(Wongserepipatana 2016) than primers targeting the mitochondrial cytochrome C

oxygenase 1 (CO1) gene (VF1d-t1 and VR1d-t1) (Ivanova *et al.* 2007). PCR cycling

was carried out in 25 µl reaction mixtures containing: 1X Invitrogen PCR buffer; 0.2

mM dNTP mixture; 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$ (Thermo Scientific); 0.5 µM of each primer; 1 unit

of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Invitrogen Inc, Carlsbad, CA., U.S.A.); and 2 µl tsetse

abdomen DNA template. Samples were pre-heated at 94°C for 5 min, denatured at

94°C for 30 sec, annealed at 55°C for 45 sec, then extended at 72°C for 30 sec, with

35 cycles of the amplification and a final extension at 72°C for 10 min (Muturi *et al.*

2011b). PCR products were visualised using 1.5% UltraPure[TM] Agarose gels

(Invitrogen, Paisley) with 2% Ethidium Bromide (Invitrogen, Paisley) in 1X TBE buffer

(108 g of Tris Base, 55 g of Boric acid and 40 ml of 0.5 M EDTA). Results were

visualised and analysed by a gel documentation system (UVIpro Platinum, UVITEC,

Cambridge, UK or GeneDoc, BioRad Inc, UK).

The feeding status of tsetse flies was classified as follows: flies showing cytb

amplicons of the expected size (359 bp) were classified as "fed" and negative

amplifications as "unfed", with sequencing of the cytb fragment used to identify host

species fed on. Since "unfed" would include false negatives for PCR amplification,

analyses were only conducted based on the "fed" products. PCR products at ≥ 20

ng/15 µl were cleaned using ExoSAP-IT PCR Clean-up Kits (GE Healthcare). In

cases where the yield of PCR products was lower than this threshold, multiple PCR

products were concentrated and QIAquick Gel Extraction Kits (Qiagen Inc, Paisley,

UK) were applied to extract the PCR products from agarose gels. All purified

samples were sent for Sanger sequencing in both forward and reverse directions,

using the Sequencing Service at the University of Dundee.

Chromatogram sequences were corrected and aligned using the Sequencher

software program, version 5.3 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI USA). The

Basic Local Alignment Tool for somewhat similar sequences (BLASTn) (Altschul *et*

al. 1990), was used to identify the closest matching sequences in the GenBank

database to determine the host identity of each consensus sequence.

Chromatographs with only single peaks based on direct sequences were classified

as "single host feeding". Sequences that showed more than one clear peak at

multiple positions were classified as "multiple host feeding". While the difficulty of

resolving the phase of mutations precluded identification of all hosts from direct

sequencing of multiple-peak products, the dominant host was determined based on

BLASTn analysis of the most prominent peaks. Multiple-peak sequences that clearly

showed the presence of more than one host species but for which a dominant

sequence was not resolved, were considered as "multiple feeding" but were

excluded from statistical analyses.

A subset of samples was rechecked to confirm host-feeding patterns by cloning

using TOPO®-TA Cloning Kits (Invitrogen, UK), with at least six plasmids of each

sample sent for sequencing, after purifying using QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kits

(Qiagen Inc, Paisley, UK). Ten samples whose chromatographs showed double or

triple peaks at single positions in the direct sequences were cloned to confirm that

multiple peaks were due to feeding on multiple host species rather than poor quality

sequences (five from Buffalo Ridge; three from Zungu Luka; two from Mukinyo). An

additional seven samples that appeared to have fed on single hosts but with

ambiguous peaks were also cloned (five from Buffalo Ridge and two from Zungu

Luka).

Dominant hosts resolved were classified as "wild" or "domestic" (the latter including

humans, livestock and companion animals). For all unambiguous direct and cloned

sequences, separate alignments were made for each host species identified through

BLASTn, using Sequencer version 5.3 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI

USA). Sequences were exported to Se-Al version 2.0 (Rambaut 1996) to manually

align and prune sequences to the same length and DNAsp version 5.0 (Librado &

Rozas 2009) was used to resolve variants into unique haplotypes within host

species.   For sequences identified as human, samples were compared to the Asian

variant sequenced from the main investigator; any sequences matching those were

considered as possible contaminants and so were excluded from further analyses.

306 Statistical Analyses

Generalised linear models (as implemented in R version 3.3.2 (Team 2016) were

used to test whether feeding behaviour of the flies (single vs multiple hosts) was

influenced by site, type of host (domestic vs wild), tsetse-specific traits (sex, age) or

the presence of trypanosomes. The full model included interactions between type of

host with site, sex and age of the flies, as well as interactions between site with

tsetse specific factors and trypanosome presence. Feeding behaviour was modelled

as a binary response variable, using the logit link function. Model selection was

performed using likelihood ratio tests to find the minimum model that best explained

the data. The same approach was used to test whether the presence of

trypanosomes was explained by feeding behaviour, host type, site, or tsetse-specific

factors, including all pairwise interactions and a three-way interaction between sex,

age and site, based on conclusions from the previous study (Channumsin *et al.*

2018). Model fit was assessed using pseudo R^2 (as implemented in the R package,

BaylorEdPsych (Beaujean 2012)).   Given the wide range of hosts that the flies feed

on, the influence of particular host species on trypanosome prevalence was

considered only qualitatively.

Given the complexities of possible associations between variables (Channumsin *et*
al. 2018), multivariate analyses were applied to visualise graphic correlations of
trypanosome status with tsetse intrinsic factors and feeding patterns for the *G.*
pallidipes samples for which feeding patterns and dominant host species could be
assigned. Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA), as implemented in the
FactoMineR package (version 1.30 (Le *et al.* 2008)) was used, considering the
categorical variables: site, presence or absence of *Trypanosoma spp*, sex, age,
feeding pattern (single vs multiple) and dominant host type (domestic vs wild).
Variation along pairs of principal component axes was visualised using "ggplot2()"
(Ginestet 2011) in R (Team 2016).

Host species diversity

To assess how intraspecific variation among the hosts identified in our study related
to that found in previous cytb-based tsetse fly blood meal analysis surveys in eastern
Africa we downloaded and aligned popset sequences from: 1) a study comparing
wild host usage in the Nguruman region of Kenya (where Mukinyo is located) and
the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania (Muturi *et al.* 2011b); and 2) a survey
conducted in the Serengeti that had also quantified wild host usage in relation to
host density (Auty *et al.* 2016a). We selected these studies because they had
sequences available for all flies screened using the same cytb primer set that we
used, rather than just unique host haplotypes found; although Muturi et al. (2011)
had also surveyed a site In Uganda, only domestic cattle were identified as hosts at
that site. We used DNAsp version 5.0 (Librado & Rozas 2009) to collapse the
alignment into unique haplotypes and to compute the relative frequency of each in
the various geographic locations represented in the three studies. Minimum

spanning networks were then plotted using PopArt (Leigh & Bryant 2015), to indicate

relative frequencies across the sampling sites.

Results

Identification of type and number of hosts from *G. pallidipes* blood meals

From 573 *G. pallidipes*, 128 flies showed no evidence of a recent blood meal based

on lack of amplification products following screening with the Cb1 and Cb2

primers; although these were classified as "unfed", the possibility that some

represented failure of the PCR meant that they were excluded from analyses

(Table 1). The remaining 445 flies showed amplified products of the expected size,

which were sequenced and used to classify feeding status (Table 1; Supplementary

Table 2). Among these "fed" flies, chromatograms of 198 samples were not of

sufficient quality to reliably determine the source of the blood meals (these were

classified as "unidentified"), but the proportion of samples for which hosts could

be reliably identified varied by site (Table 1). For 197 of the 247 samples for which

dominant hosts could be resolved to species, a single amplification product was

apparent in the chromatographs; these were classified as having recently fed on a

single host. Cloning of seven of these samples confirmed amplification of DNA

from only a single host species (Supplementary Table 2). The chromatographs for

the other 50 samples clearly showed multiple peaks that could be confidently

attributed to feeding on multiple hosts rather than poor sequence quality. The

dominant host could be identified to species for these 50 samples. Cloning of 10

of these cytb PCR products confirmed the amplification of DNA from more than

one host, with up to four different host species identified in single flies

(Supplementary Table 3).

There was no apparent detection bias in relation to age of the flies in being able

to resolve blood meals, with the relative proportions of flies with unidentified

hosts, or having fed on single or multiple hosts similar across age categories

(Supplementary Figure 1) and roughly in proportion to the number flies sampled in

a particular age category (Figure 1; Supplementary Table 4).

Most sequences obtained from human hosts among the samples screened were

similar to cytb sequences identified from tsetse blood meals in the Serengeti,

Tanzania (type 2) or Zambia (type 3) (Supplementary Table 6). However, three

samples with evidence of only a single host matched an Asian haplotype from

Taiwan (type 1: one from each of the three sites), which is the ethnic origin of the

primary researcher; these were excluded from analyses because they were

suspected contaminants.

There was extensive variation among sites in both the degree of multiple feeding

and host types (Table 1; Figure 1). The two sites from the Shimba Hills (Buffalo

Ridge and Zungu Luka) showed a higher proportion of flies that appear to have fed

on multiple hosts than the site from Nguruman (Mukinyo): 41.8% from Buffalo

Ridge; 61.5% from Zungu Luka, compared with 2.0% from Mukinyo. However, this

appeared to be influenced by the type of host. At Mukinyo, only a single fly fed

recently on a domestic host (identified as single feeding on cattle) and only 3/149

flies with dominant wild hosts identified had fed on more than one host species

(confirmed by cloning for two of the individuals; Supplementary Table 3). In

contrast, 77% of dominant hosts were identified as domestic for Zungu Luka and

23/30 of these had fed on multiple host species, compared with only 1/9 of the

flies for which dominant sequences were identified as wild hosts. All three

multiple feeding flies cloned from this site had fed on humans, with one also

having fed on both domestic (goat, mouse) and wild (antelope) hosts, one having

also fed on a single wild host (bushbuck) and another on a domestic host (chicken)

(Supplementary Table 3). The site in the middle of the fenced wildlife protected

area close to this site (Buffalo Ridge) showed a much higher proportion of flies

that had fed on wild hosts (65.5%) but most individuals with a dominant domestic

host had fed on multiple species (18/19 for domestic hosts, compared with 5/36

for wild hosts). Cloning revealed that all five of the individuals classified as

multiple feeding screened had fed on humans and at least one other domestic

animal; four of the individuals had also fed on a wild host (Supplementary Table

3).

Using the type of feeding behaviour (single vs multiple hosts) as a binary response

variable, the final model selected by maximum likelihood included a significant

interaction between host type (domestic vs wild) and age of the flies (LRT: χ_2= 8.9,

df = 8, p = 0.012), as well as a significant effect of site (LRT: χ_2= 13.7, df = 8, p =

0.001). There was no effect of sex of the flies (LRT: χ_2= 0.01, df = 9, p = 0.995), or

presence of trypanosomes (LRT: χ_2= 3.56, df = 9, p = 0.172). Pseudo R^2 indicated

that the model explained a substantial amount of the variation (McFadden's = 0.63;

count = 0.93). Although the number of individuals was small, at all three sites, only

juvenile flies fed multiple times when they had access to wild hosts, whereas young

flies fed multiple times more often than the other age classes when exposed to

domestic hosts (Figure 1). There were fewer old flies than the other age classes at

all sites but they were at highest frequency at Mukinyo, where they fed singly on wild

hosts; only a single juvenile had fed recently on a domestic host.

Host composition varied across sites (Table 2), with buffalo dominating in the two

wildlife protected areas (Buffalo Ridge and Mukinyo) and humans predominating in

the site bordering the SHNR (Zungu Luka), where no buffalo were detected

(Supplementary Figure 2). Mukinyo had a wider range of wild hosts than Buffalo

Ridge but elephants, antelope and warthog were found at both sites. Buffalo

Ridge also shared most of the same domestic host species as Zungu Luka,

demonstrating that flies moved across the fenced interface to feed. Only a single

fly (from Mukinyo) was confirmed to have fed on domestic cattle.

Prevalence of *Trypanosoma spp*. in relation to *G. pallidipes* feeding patterns

Prevalence of *Trypanosoma spp*. in relation to *G.*

***pallidipes* feeding patterns**

Across sites, 44% (n = 107) of the flies for which hosts could be identified to species

tested positive for any trypanosome species, with 56% associated with dominant

domestic hosts and 40% with wild (Table 1). Of the three most abundant host

species, flies that had fed on humans and elephants had the highest prevalence of

trypanosomes (51.8% and 51.4%, respectively), followed by buffalo (38.5%). Of flies

feeding on multiple hosts, 58% tested positive for trypanosomes, compared to 40%

that had fed on single hosts, but this was influenced by the higher rate of infection in

Zungu Luka (61.5%), where single feeding was rare, compared to Buffalo Ridge

(36%) and Mukinyo (42%). Coinfections between more than one species of

trypanosomes occurred in 7.2% of flies (n = 18), including four with domestic hosts

dominant but all of which had fed on multiple host species (two from Buffalo Ridge

and two from Zungu Luka) (Supplementary Table 5). The remainder of flies with

coinfections showed patterns of single feeding on buffalo (three from Buffalo Ridge

and seven from Mukinyo) or elephants (four from Mukinyo

As found in our previous study (Channumsin *et al.* 2018), generalised linear models

using trypanosome presence as a response variable were not very informative,

possibly due to lack of orthogonality between explanatory variables related to tsetse

specific factors and site of study.   Initial model selection using LRTs retained

interactions between fly sex and age, fly age and site, as well as an individual fixed

effect of host feeding pattern (single vs multiple).   However, final LRTs to test the

significance of the variables included in the final model resulted in a significant effect

only of host feeding pattern (LRT: χ_2= 5.08, df = 2, p = 0.02), with flies that had

recently fed on more than one host being more likely to test positive for

trypanosomes than those that had fed on only a single host.   However, testing the fit

of the two models using pseudo-R^2 indicated that only a small amount of the

variation in trypanosome presence was explained by either model (more complex

model: McFadden's = 0.08; count = 0.65; minimal model: McFadden's = 0.11; count

= 0.65).

For this reason, multivariate ordination analyses were used to visualise associations

between variables.   Based on MCA analyses, strong correlations among site of *G.*

pallidipes collection, host feeding pattern and type of host were apparent in

dimension 1 (Table 3; Figure 2).   Trypanosome status was resolved primarily along

dimension 2, showing a positive association with juvenile male flies, while

trypanosome negative flies tended to be found in young female flies.

Trypanosoma vivax was the predominant species identified in all populations

sampled (59 individuals as a single infection and 16 in coinfections with other

species of trypanosomes) and occurred in association with all hosts, except for the

two hyaena samples and the single cattle sample (Supplementary Table 5).

Trypanosoma congolense was also found at all sites (18 as a single infection and 13

in coinfections) and in many different host species. *Trypanosoma brucei* spp. was

present in seven single and six coinfections and was only found in flies that recently

fed on buffalo, elephants and humans.

Host species diversity

In addition to identifying just the species of host from the blood meals, intraspecific

variation in mtDNA haplotypes within wild host species was found in our samples

(Figure 3; Supplementary Table 6). Comparing intraspecific variation to other studies

(Supplementary Table 7), diversity across the three Kenyan sample sites in our

study was lower than that in the Serengeti samples obtained by Auty et al. (2016)

and Muturi et al. (2011), except for elephants, for which all three haplotypes found

amongst our samples were found in other populations (Figure 3a). Buffalo (Figure

3b) had 16 haplotypes (7 of which were also found in our study), but most were

differentiated by single nucleotide substitutions. Giraffes had five haplotypes but

only one of the two most frequent in the Serengeti was found at the Kenyan sites

(Figure 3c). The BLAST analysis revealed that there is not a very comprehensive

database of antelope species available in GenBank and so not all of the haplotypes

we identified could be identified to species (Figure 3d): three haplotypes were at

least 98% similar to bushbuck (*Tragelephus scriptus*), and one to Lesser Kudu (99%

to *Tragelaphus imberbis*) but the other two divergent haplotypes were not similar to

any named species in the database (Supplementary Table 6). Three haplotypes

were at least 98% similar to bushbuck; one was 99% similar to lesser Kudu and two

were highly divergent and showed <95% similarity to bushbuck. However, the latter

two were found in single clones, in flies that had fed on at least one other host.

Warthogs showed particularly high haplotype diversity in the Serengeti, but only 3

haplotypes were found at our sites (Figure 3e). Excluding sequences that were

identical to the sequence obtained from the main investigator (of Asian origin), three

other human haplotypes were found, one of which was also found in the Serengeti

(Figure 3f). A single haplotype was found for hyaenas (*Crocuta crocuta*); although

this species was identified as the dominant host only for two flies from Mukinyo, the

same haplotype was found in the Serengeti.

Single haplotypes were found for all of the domestic hosts except humans: mouse

(*Mus musculus*), chickens (*Gallus gallus*), goat (*Capra hircus*) and cattle (*Bos*

taurus). For cattle, Muturi et al. (2011) found the same haplotype as in our sample

from Mukinyo, along with two that differed by one bp substitution each in samples

from Uganda. Auty et al. (2016) did not find any domestic hosts in their Serengeti

sampling.

Discussion

Our results suggest that blood meal analysis of tsetse flies provides a useful tool for

assessing the potential for cross-species transmission of parasites between

domestic and wild hosts in interface areas between human settlements and wildlife

protected areas. Although host preferences were not specifically assessed in our

study, rates of host switching appeared to be higher on flies that had fed on

domestic hosts compared to wild hosts. While feeding on multiple hosts could

increase transmission of parasites between host species, the high host fidelity of

flies feeding on wild hosts could reduce risk of transmission from wildlife to livestock

or humans. Site-specific differences and age distribution of the flies also may have

influenced the feeding patterns in different types of host. As in our previous study

(Channumsin *et al.* 2018), MCA suggested that prevalence of trypanosomes was

associated more with geographic location than with intrinsic tsetse factors but

feeding patterns and type of host also explained some of the variance. Together,

these results suggest that differences in host communities in different regions could

influence the risk of transmission between vectors and hosts in complex ways.

Haplotype networks comparing cytb variation within host species that tsetse had fed

on from Kenya and Tanzania indicated the potential to use intraspecific variation in

mammals to infer patterns of host movement and connectivity, if more variable

genetic markers were used. The value of blood-feeding arthropods as "flying

syringes" (Bitome-Essono *et al.* 2017) could thus have added value for noninvasive

sampling of wild animals for conservation genetics purposes and to infer connectivity

among hosts that could inform epidemiological models, rather than just identifying

hosts and pathogens to species.

535   Feeding patterns of *G. pallidipes*: Type of hosts

We identified the dominant hosts for 46% of the *G. pallidipes* samples screened

(56% of the samples that showed positive amplification products), which is

comparable or higher than previous studies using the same primers (Auty *et al.*

2016a; Bitome-Essono *et al.* 2017). We found extensive variation among the species

fed on in two different geographic areas. In the Shimba Hills, where a fenced wildlife

protected area is located within a few km of human settlements, flies fed on both

domestic and wild hosts, with blood meals from both host types detectable within

individual flies. In contrast, in the Nguruman region, which is within 70 km of one of

the highest density wildlife populations in the region (the Seregenti National Park in

Tanzania), only a single fly was identified that had fed on a domestic host. This is

consistent with Muturi et al. (2011a), who also did not identify domestic hosts in their

survey of the Nguruman region, despite finding predominantly cattle at a site

surveyed in Uganda. Snow et al. (1988) suggested that, even though flies in areas

dominated by cattle fed readily on these domestic hosts, a positive correlation

between the number of wild herbivores and the abundance of *G. pallidipes*

suggested that feeding success was poor on local livestock (based on a low density

of flies where cattle were numerous). This could help to explain decreased density

of tsetse traversing from wildlife-protected areas through to livestock dominated

areas in interface areas (Lord *et al.* 2018).

Surprisingly, no domestic cattle were detected in our study from the Shimba Hills,

despite the proximity to farms with mixed herds of cattle, sheep and goats (Njenga *et*

al. 2011). However, domestic hosts were also not identified in the Shimba Hills

region in a previous study based on host detection using haemagglutinin assays

(Snow *et al.* 1988). This could indicate that flies avoid livestock when more

favourable hosts are present. However, there also could be seasonal differences, as

trypanosome prevalence in cattle was high (33.9%) in Kwale County, in a previous

study that also found *G. pallidipes* at high abundance (Mbahin *et al.* 2013). At

Mukinyo a single individual fed on domestic cattle but there was a very low

proportion of flies that fed on multiple hosts (2%) and a predominance of buffalo

(71%) among the samples where the dominant host could be identified. Although our

blood meal analysis cannot predict host preferences, it is possible that buffalo are

abundant hosts that are easy to feed on and so flies could learn to return to the

same host species (Bouyer *et al.* 2007).

Our finding of African buffalo as the main hosts of *G. pallidipes* in Nguruman and

Buffalo Ridge supports previous reports that ruminants are attractive to adult *G.*

pallidipes, *G. fuscipes* and *G. brevipalpis* (Allsopp *et al.* 1972a; Harraca *et al.* 2009).

However, host selection has been found to vary extensively by population

(Supplementary Table 8). Differences across studies could be due to differences in

methodology but also could be due to microhabitat differences (Spath 2000), such

as seasonal variation in host availability, the vegetation type or cover at particular

sites, or particular environmental conditions in different years, which affects overlap

of habitat and activities between tsetse flies and hosts (Allsopp *et al.* 1972a; Clausen

et al. 1998). It is interesting that no buffalo were detected at Zungu Luka, despite its

close proximity to Buffalo Ridge, where buffalo were the most frequent host. This

could suggest that flies feeding in human settlements move into the park to feed on

wildlife but once feeding on their preferred wildlife, they do not move out into the

human-settled regions or that flies do not move very far. Our results cannot confirm

host preferences because we do not have robust data on host availability (Auty *et al.*

2016a) but the directionality of movements of flies in interface areas would be

interesting to assess. Preferences for different wild host species in tsetse flies do

not necessarily reflect host densities in large wildlife protected areas (Allsopp *et al.*

1972a; Auty *et al.* 2016a), and variation in host preference of domestic hosts has

been found in the absence of wildlife (England & Baldry 1972b). However, specific

choice tests between domestic and wild hosts could reveal important information

about preferences that could inform control interventions, as has been done for

malaria-carrying mosquitos (Lyimo & Ferguson 2009). Nevertheless, the finding of

flies collected in the same traps feeding on both wild and domestic hosts

emphasizes the high potential for cross- feeding between these host types when

they occur sympatrically.

It is more difficult to interpret patterns of feeding on humans because of the potential

for biting during setting traps or sampling or contamination during DNA extractions or

PCR amplifications (England & Baldry 1972b). Humans have been suggested as

inappropriate hosts because they camouflage their odours, apply chemical

repellents, and react strongly to tsetse bites, which could result in unsuccessful

feeding (Baylis 1996; Baylis & Nambiro 1993; Hargrove 1976) that would lead to

host switching. Hargrove (1976) found that the presence of humans not only

repelled tsetse flies but also inhibited the landing response to approach other

potential hosts nearby. The relatively high proportion of blood meals containing

human DNA was thus not expected. Most of the mtDNA haplotypes we identified

from human samples were consistent with those expected regionally and one

haplotype was shared with those found from the Serengeti (Figure 3); we also did

not find evidence of feeding on humans in Mukinyo. However, we cannot completely

rule out biases leading to an apparently high rate of human feeding.

Feeding patterns of *G. pallidipes*: Number of hosts

We found that the propensity for feeding on single compared to more than one host

species was determined by an interaction between age of the flies and site, as well

as the type of host fed on, with more multiple feeding involving domestic hosts,

which could further reflect a preference for feeding on wildlife. Cloning and

sequencing revealed that flies feeding on domestic hosts had fed on up to four

different host species and confirmed that single feeding was more common in flies

feeding on wildlife. Theoretically, the number of clones could be used to predict

which host was last fed on, but this would also depend on the rate of feeding of the

fly (e.g. if they were interrupted and switched hosts very rapidly, more than one

blood meal might have a similar DNA concentration) and lack of bias in PCR

amplifications. There also could be behavioural differences that could result in

detection biases: 1) flies might feed more thoroughly on their preferred hosts,

increasing the blood meal volume from that host; 2) flies might feed multiple times on

the same host species occurring at high local densities; or 3) hosts might differ in

effective defense mechanisms, resulting in low blood meal volumes due to

interrupted feeding (Torr *et al.* 2001). If feeding on an initial host is interrupted or too

low quality ("unsuccessful"), flies might switch hosts. Unsuccessful feeding of tsetse

flies on cattle have been attributed to host defense (69%) and competition with other

biting insects (31%) (Schofield & Torr 2002). Wild animals might react less to tsetse

flies feeding and/or be surrounded by less other biting insects than domesticated

animals. Nevertheless, our results suggest higher host fidelity when feeding on wild,

compared to domestic, hosts.

Prevalence of *Trypanosoma spp*.

There was not a clear association between prevalence of trypanosomes, type of host

or host-feeding patterns in the tsetse flies. However, the lack of an association is

consistent with the MCA, which suggested a stronger correlation among feeding

pattern, host type and site than trypanosome status, sex and age of tsetse flies. We

hypothesised that feeding on multiple hosts could increase risk of trypanosome

infection in flies but that was not apparent in the MCA (Figure 2), possibly due to the

much stronger effects of site on feeding patterns and type of hosts. Bouyer *et al.*,

(2007) suggested that repeated feeding on the same host species was likely to

increase risk of trypanosome transmission within species, but to decrease risk

between species. Leak (1998) suggested that trypanosome infection might influence

feeding success and feeding behaviour of the flies. For example, high numbers of *T.*

congolense, which attach to the cuticle of the proboscis, could interrupt feeding and

result in more frequent probing. Alternatively, nutritional status of the flies could

affect their relative susceptibility to trypanosome establishment (Kubi *et al.* 2006).

Thus, an association between the frequency of feeding and trypanosome infection

status should be further studied in laboratory experiments to test whether

trypanosome infection causes a feeding pattern change or differences in feeding

patterns promote trypanosome infection.

There are also could be differences in the susceptibility of different host species to

trypanosomes, regardless of the feeding rate by tsetse. Although African buffalo

were the most frequent dominant hosts detected, a larger proportion of flies that had

fed on African elephants were trypanosome positive. This could support previous

suggestions that African buffalo might be resistant to trypanosome infection

(Grootenhuis *et al.* 1990; Olubayo *et al.* 1996). Other studies have reported an

association between trypanosome infections and particular species of wild animals

(Anderson *et al.* 2011a; Snow *et al.* 1988). Nevertheless, our results do not suggest

an increased prevalence of trypanosomes in communities where both domestic and

wild hosts are fed on that would suggest increased risks in livestock interface

regions.

667   Diversity of host species

Comparison of mtDNA haplotype diversity in the most frequent hosts with published

studies suggested higher diversity in African buffalo and warthogs than in elephants

and giraffes. However, this comparison highlights some limitations of blood meal

analyses based on using only a single genetic marker. We found that a higher

proportion of hosts could be resolved from Mukinyo than the other areas, possibly

due to the dominance of wild hosts. However, there is also potential that biases in

PCR amplification could have influenced this pattern. In the Shimba Hills, although

goats were identified from flies sampled from both sites, there were also additional

samples that matched goats in BLAST analyses that were not included in the

analysis because it was difficult to determine whether the sequences represented

multiple feeding or just poor sequence quality. Both in the sequences from Auty et al.

(2016) and our sequences, warthog tended to include more ambiguous base calls

than the other hosts, which might have inflated diversity estimates. Previous studies

comparing the relative reliability of cytb and COI mtDNA (e.g. (Muturi *et al.* 2011a)

have found that neither alone amplifies products from all potential host types

present. Differences in amplification biases and sequence quality between host type

sequences could thus bias the interpretation of single vs multiple feeding and the

propensity for feeding on domestic vs wild hosts.

Moreover, blood meal analyses rely on completeness of reference databases. We

found several cytb haplotypes that were closest to antelope in BLAST but the

similarity was too low to resolve to species (93%); this lack of reference sequences

could have lead to underestimates of host usage in previous blood meal analyses.

We took a conservative approach to host identification by basing analyses only on

the dominant host species identified in each fly, but this could represent either the

most recent blood meal or the hosts on which most efficient feeding occurred. There

has been a recent shift towards using next generation sequencing approaches for

amplicon based host identification (Hoffmann *et al.* 2016; Reeves *et al.* 2018) that

would allow consideration of relative read numbers for hosts in mixed samples; while

this could provide more powerful information on feeding behaviour of

haemotophagous insects the same issues with availability of reference databases

and amplification biases still need to be overcome. Non-PCR based assays such as

high resolution melting point analysis (Farikou *et al.* 2010; Omondi *et al.* 2015) or

NGS alternatives such as hybrid sequence capture (Barrow *et al.* 2019; Metsky *et al.*

2019) might thus provide a more comprehensive assessment of feeding patterns

and range of hosts fed on.

705   Conclusions

Identification of the hosts that *G. pallidipes* fed on based on direct PCR sequencing

revealed evidence for both use of a wide range of hosts and multiple feeding bouts

by individual flies. However, in wildlife dominated areas, there was a much stronger

tendency for flies to feed on single host species compared to a site on the edge of a

conservation area, where domestic hosts were more common and flies fed on up to

four different detectable host species. If this indicates that domestic animals are not

preferred hosts, this could have important implications for understanding risk of

transmission of trypanosomes between wildlife and livestock. Our results also

highlight the potential to use blood meals not only to characterize pathogen diversity

in relation to host usage but also to quantify genetic variation among hosts and

patterns of population genetic structure that could inform epidemiological models of

transmission risk between different geographic areas or types of hosts.

718   Data Availability

719   Sequences have been deposited to Genbank, with accession numbers MN148732-

720   MN148768 (Supplementary Table 9).

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Table 1. Summary of blood meal analysis results based on direct sequencing. Cytb negative samples were classified as "unfed flies" but were not considered in the analyses since they could represent lack of amplification rather than lack of feeding. Single host feeding refers to cases where the cytb sequence had only single chromatograph peaks. Multiple host feeding were samples for which cytb was amplified but the sequences showed multiple peaks but the dominant sequence could be identified to species. Flies showing strongly amplified cytb PCR products but for which the number or type of host species could not be confirmed due to poor sequencing quality are labelled as "not identified". The number of flies that tested positive for the presence of trypanosomes is indicated in parentheses. The final column shows the percent of samples for which dominant hosts could be identified for each population, with the % of those testing positive for trypanosomes in parentheses. The human samples that were potential contaminants were excluded but none tested positive for trypanosomes.

Site	Single Feeding		Multiple Feeding		Not identified	Total Fed	"Unfed"	Total Screened	% Identified
	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild					
Zungu Luka	7 (3)	8 (5)	23 (15)	1 (1)	60 (31)	99 (55)	29 (22)	128 (77)	31 (62)
Buffalo Ridge	1 (1)	31 (8)	18 (8)	5 (3)	62 (23)	118 (43)	33 (10)	150 (53)	37 (36)
Mukinyo	1(1)	146 (60)	0	3 (2)	76 (22)	226 (85)	66 (20)	292 (105)	51 (42)

Table 2. Dominant host species resolved from blood meal analysis *G. pallidipes* sampled from the Shimba Hills (Buffalo Ridge and Zungu Luka) and the Nguruman region of Kenya, based on direct sequencing of cytb. Homozygous amplicons were classified as "single" feeding whereas sequences with multiple peaks were classified as having fed on "multiple" hosts. The dominant host was identified based on BLASTn. The relative abundance of the various host species is expressed as the total % of sequences for which the dominant host could be identified within that site. Species are ordered by relative abundance of wild and domestic hosts.

Site	Buffalo Ridge			Zungu Luka			Mukinyo		
Host	Single	Multiple	Total %	Single	Multiple	Total %	Single	Multiple	Total %
Buffalo	25	3	50.9	0	0	0.0	105	2	71.3
Elephant	2	1	5.5	1	1	5.1	29	1	20.0
Antelope	2	1	5.5	6	0	15.4	1	0	0.7
Warthog	2	0	3.6	1	0	2.6	5	0	3.3
Giraffe	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	4	0	2.7
Hyaena	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	2	0	1.3
Human[a]	1	9	18.2	6	11	43.6	0	0	0.0
Goat	0	7	12.7	1	7	20.5	0	0	0.0
Mouse	0	2	3.6	0	4	10.3	0	0	0.0
Chicken	0	0	0.0	0	1	2.6	0	0	0.0
Cattle	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0.7
Total	32	23		14	25		147	3	

[a] Excluding potential contaminants

Table 3. Adjusted eta squared of the combination of variables in dimensions 1-3 in the MCA analysis, showing the variation explained for trypanosome status (positive or negative), Site (Mukinyo, Buffalo Ridge or Zungu Luka), Feeding pattern (single or multiple), Sex (male or female), Age (young, juvenile or old) and Host type (wildlife or domestic).

Variables	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3
Trypanosome status	0.059	0.203	0.206
Site	0.712	0.031	0.564
Feeding pattern	0.776	0.004	0.004
Sex	0.002	0.466	0.161
Age	0.024	0.565	0.200
Host Type	0.853	0.010	0.000

Figure 1. Distribution of flies across sites in relation to age, feeding behaviour and type of hosts fed on, showing flies feeding on: a) single wild hosts; b) single domestic hosts; c) multiple hosts with a wild host dominant; d) multiple hosts with a domestic host dominant. Flies were divided into young, juvenile and old age categories based on wing fray scores. Flies from all age classes at Mukinyo (white bars) fed predominantly on single wild host species (note the resulting larger scale for graph a), whereas feeding on a mixture of domestic and wild hosts was more common at the Shimba Hills sites, Buffalo Ridge (grey) and Zungu Luka (black). Note that only juvenile flies fed multiple times when a wild host was dominant.

Figure 2. Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA), showing associations of

dimension 1 (Dim 1; 30.3 % of the variance) and 2 (Dim 2; 16.0% of the variance) in

relation to age category (young, juvenile, old), feeding pattern (single or multiple),

host type (domestic or wildlife), sex (male or female), site (Buffalo Ridge, Zungu

Luka or Mukinyo), and *Trypanosoma spp.* status (positive or negative). This figure

clearly shows the strong association between feeding pattern and host type, driven

by the differences in fly behaviour at Mukinyo compared to Zungu Luka resolved

along dimension 1. Trypanosome status was not explained by variation along

dimension 1 but was more related to age and gender of the flies resolved along

dimension 2.

Figure 3. Minimum spanning networks indicating intraspecifc diversity and relative frequency of haplotypes between populations from this study, combined with previous blood meal analyses in Kenya and Tanzania. Intraspecific variation for: a) elephants; b) buffalo; c) giraffes; d) antelope; e) warthogs; f) humans. Note that human type 1 matched the ethnic origin of the main investigator (Asian); samples with this haplotype were considered as contaminants and excluded from analyses. The two antelope sequences labelled "unknown" were found only in single clones, with a more dominant host predominating, and had no close match using BLASTn. Circle sizes are proportional to the frequency of each haplotype (see Supplementary Table 7 for values); notches on branches indicate the number of nucleotide substitutions separating haplotypes; colours represent the population of origin (white = Buffalo Ridge; grey = Mukinyo; black = Zungu Luka; blue = Serengeti (from Auty et al. 2016; Muturi et al. 2011); green = Nguruman (from Muturi et al. 2011).