

Interaction forces drive the environmental transmission of pathogenic protozoa RUNNING TITLE: Protozoa-environment interaction forces

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26ABSTRACT

27The protozoan parasites Giardia duodenalis, Cryptosporidium spp. and Toxoplasma gondii 28are environment-resistant pathogens that pose significant risks to public health worldwide. 29Their environmental transmission is closely governed by the physicochemical properties of 30their cysts and oocysts respectively, allowing their transport, retention and survival for 31months in water, soil, vegetables and mollusks, which are the main reservoirs for human 32infection. Importantly, the cyst/oocyst wall plays a key role in that regard by exhibiting a 33 complex polymeric coverage that determines the charge and hydrophobic characteristics of 34parasites' surface. Interaction forces between parasites and other environmental particles may 35be, in a first approximation, evaluated following the Derjaguin-Landau-Verwey-Overbeek 36(DLVO) theory of colloidal stability. However, due to the molecular topography and nano- to 37micro- structure of the cyst/oocyst surface, non-DVLO hydrophobic together with additional 38steric attractive/repulsive forces may play a pivotal role in controlling the parasite behavior 39when submitted to various external conditions. Here, we review several parameters that 40enhance or hinder the adhesion of parasites to other particles and surfaces, and address the 41role of fast-emerging techniques for mapping the cyst/oocyst surface e.g. by measuring their 42topology and the generated interaction forces at the nano- to micro- scale. We discuss why 43characterizing these interactions could be a crucial step for managing the environmental 44matrices at risk of microbial pollution.

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47INTRODUCTION

48The protozoan parasites *Giardia duodenalis*, *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Toxoplasma gondii* 49are major pathogens able to survive in contrasting aquatic or terrestrial environments in order 50to infect a wide range of vertebrate hosts occupying very different ecological niches (34). 51Definitely, their environmental transmission poses significant risks to human health. *Giardia* 52cysts and *Cryptosporidium* and *Toxoplasma* oocysts are typically acquired by consuming 53waters or foods that are inadequately treated to kill or to remove the parasites (29, 59-61, 95, 5496). Resulting infections are among the most prevalent parasitic diseases worldwide. *Giardia* 55and *Cryptosporidium* are responsible for gastrointestinal diseases causing mild to severe 56diarrhea (11, 109), whereas *Toxoplasma* infections may lead to threatening birth defects, 57severe neurological and ocular diseases depending on the parasite and host genetic 58backgrounds (77, 85).

59The environmental impact of these parasites greatly is closely related to their extended 60survival to contrasting climatic conditions and disinfection processes (5, 60, 63), and in their 61ability to interact with other organic or non-organic particles. This latter phenomenon governs 62their transport, retention/release and survival from land to sea (1, 2, 82, 98-100). The 63cyst/oocyst wall plays a key role by forming a highly resistant barrier to a large set of 64physicochemical stressors and by, at the same time, exhibiting surface properties involved in 65parasite-particle interactions (7, 23, 30, 101). Though the biochemical composition and 66molecular architecture of their respective outer wall greatly differ (14, 47, 57, 64, 76, 89, 91) 67(Figure 1), those three parasites could present similar surface interactions with their 68surrounding world due to their bio-physical features (Table 1). Such interactions may be 69described in a first approximation using prediction models of colloidal stability and 70attractive/repulsive forces (110). Importantly, interaction forces depend on the chemistry and 71topography of the macromolecules at the parasite surface, their hydrophobicity and electric

72charge, and on external physicochemical conditions, such as ionic composition of the 73surrounding media and organic contaminations, which can also contribute to promote or 74hinder parasite adhesion (21, 23, 56, 67-69, 74, 110). First measuring interaction forces and 75understanding their origin, then controlling them appear therefore critical in regulating the 76fate of parasites in the different aquatic and telluric environments, and consequently their 77transmission to animals and humans.

78In this review, we describe the different parameters contributing to the interactions between 79the environmentally resistant stages of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Toxoplasma* and other 80particles, and point out the importance of an accurate characterization of underlying forces to 81better predict parasites distribution through the environment and therefore prevent their 82transmission to humans.

84SURFACE CHEMISTRY OF THE CYST/OOCYST WALL

85The biochemical nature of the macromolecules at the cyst/oocyst surface inherently 86contributes to the interactions between the parasites and their environment. Thanks to the 87combination of powerful imaging analysis techniques such as confocal laser-scanning 88microscopy and immunoelectron microscopy, and chemical methods e.g. gas 89chromatography-mass spectrometry, the list of described macromolecules composing the 90cyst/oocyst wall surface have been recently extended (57, 64, 76, 91).

91The quadranucleate cysts of *Giardia duodenalis* form in the intestinal lumen of the infected 92host following a complex multifactorial process (70). The cyst wall is 300 to 500 nm thick 93and mainly consists in a surface filamentous layer (Figure 1) and is built with materials that 94originate from encystation-specific secretory vesicles appearing in the encysting parasites (44, 9564). The biochemical composition and structural arrangement of the filamentous layer consist 96in a dense network of curled fibrils of *N*-acetylgalactosamine measuring ~10 nm in diameter

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97(13). These fibrils are closely associated with certain wall proteins called cyst wall proteins 98(CWP) (13). Four major proteins have been identified in the cyst wall. They include the 99CWP1-3 proteins, which harbor *N*-terminal leucine-rich repeats together with a C-terminal 100cysteine-rich region, and a fourth belonging to the family of cysteine-rich non-variant-specific 101surface proteins of *Giardia* (25). Aside, an epidermal growth factor-like cyst protein has been 102shown to be involved in the cyst wall formation, in partnership with the non-variant-specific 103surface protein (16). The thick filamentous outer layer of the cyst wall has been shown to be 104fully impermeable to water-soluble substances, enhancing the survival of cysts in water and 105resistance to disinfectants (5).

106The four infective sporozoites of Cryptosporidium are protected by a complex multilayer wall 107of 50-70 nm thickness that forms while the oocyst develops in the intestinal cells of the 108infected hosts (47, 57, 89). The oocyst wall of Cryptosporidium is mainly built with materials 109released sequentially by different subsets of specific organelles found in the cytoplasm of the 110fertilized macrogamete, the so-called wall forming bodies (103). Current proposed data show 111an inner layer of glycoproteins and a central lipid-protein layer covered by an outer glucose-112rich glycocalyx (12, 57, 87) (Figure 1). Large molecular weight cysteine-rich proteins, namely 113Cryptosporidium oocyst wall proteins (COWPs), are thought to form extensive disulphide 114bridges and, consequently, matrices in the inner layer that chiefly provides the overall 115mechanical strength of the oocyst wall (103, 108). The glycocalyx, decorating the wall 116structure and facing the surrounding media, provides at the same time immunogenicity and 117potential attachment possibilities (57, 87). The outcomes of physical and chemical treatments 118of the oocyst wall indicate that the glycocalyx is delicate and highly susceptible to 119disinfectants such as sodium hypochlorite, and to conservative agents like formalin (43, 47). 120The wall of the sporulated oocyst of Toxoplasma encloses two sporocysts containing each 121 four infectious sporozoites (36, 104). As a conserved feature among Coccidia, the double122 layered wall of the Toxoplasma oocyst forms a highly resistant and impermeable shell (3). 123Nonetheless, the outer layer can be stripped off easily in a rather easy way using chemical 124treatments, so the robustness of the oocyst wall appears to be mainly due to its inner layer 125(76). The \sim 100 nm thick oocyst wall forms while the oocyst is still housed by the enterocytes 1260f cats, the definitive hosts of the parasite (37). This structure is built with materials released 127sequentially by different types of wall forming bodies present in the cytoplasm of the 128macrogamete/early stage oocyst (37). The oocyst wall of Toxoplasma (and of related 129coccidian parasites) is at more than 90% made of proteins, with two identified types so far, 130namely cysteine- and tyrosine-rich proteins (76) (Figure 1). In Toxoplasma, three cysteine-131rich oocyst wall proteins (OWP), TgOWP1-3, out of the seven encoded by the parasite 132genome, have been recently characterized biochemically (91). They are structurally 133homologuous to COWPs and TgOWP3 localizes specifically in the outer layer. In contrast, 134tyrosine-rich proteins are small molecules that form protein-protein dityrosine crosslinks 135responsible for the hardening and natural blue autofluorescence of oocysts under UV light (4). 136Such proteins have been identified in the oocyst and sporocyst walls of the closely related 137Coccidia Eimeria (3), but not in the Toxoplasma oocyst which however exhibits the same 138typical autofluorescence (73).

139In conclusion, current models of the surface chemistry of the environmentally resistant stages 140of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Toxoplasma* strongly suggest a wall coverage made of 141complex polymeric matrices. This coverage determines the charge and hydrophobic 142characteristics of parasites' surface, which are expected to generate and modulate electrostatic 143attractive / repulsive interactions with the surrounding particles (Table 1).

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145PARASITE-PARTICLE INTERACTIONS

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146Due to their size, shape and electrical charges, it is tempting to predict parasite adhesion 147 following the Derjaguin-Landau-Verwey-Overbeek (DLVO) theory of colloidal stability (26, 14872, 114). This theory takes into account the electrostatic repulsion between surface charges, 149which strongly depends on ionic strength of the surrounding liquid, and electro-dynamic 150attractions due to London-van der Walls forces. At large distances, repulsion is less important 151than attraction, resulting in an overall attraction, whereas a repulsive barrier due to the 152glycocalyx must be overcome to reach irreversible adhesion when the interparticle distance 153becomes small enough. However, applied to the Cryptosporidium oocyst, parasite-silica 154interaction models do not closely fit with the DVLO theory at separations < 35 nm because of 155the roughness of the oocyst surface and of the extension of the surface macromolecules from 156the surface into the electrical double layer (20). Thus, some other forces that are not included 157in the DLVO approximation may have an important contribution to parasite-particle 158interactions, notably hydrophobic and steric repulsion forces (19, 20, 23). At the nano scale, 159adhesion strongly depends on the topography (surface roughness) and on the molecular 160coverage of the parasite surface by macromolecules creating potential attractive / repulsive 161 forces. Surface properties can be investigated by using several physical methods (111), among 162which is atomic force microscopy (AFM). AFM gives valuable information about the surface 163topography by directly allowing its imaging at nm-scale resolution, and allows force 164 measurements in physiological media, with unfixed samples (40, 118). AFM uses a nano-165 finger, at the extremity of a very soft, several micrometers long spring, to gently delineate the 166surface (imaging mode), to indent the objects surface by pressing on them allowing to gain 167measurement of mechanical properties of the objet through its Young modulus (force mode, 168mechanics) (46, 80) or to probe the adhesion of surface molecules when decorated with 169suitable haptens and pulling the lever off the surface until all built bridges are broken, 170allowing to directly quantify the force that those bridges can sustain (force mode, adhesion).

171Different variants of adhesion force measurements have been employed so far in cell biology 172(38, 65, 92-94, 107, 112). This technique is now fast-emerging to study environmental 173pathogens (119). To date, AFM has been employed only to observe the surface topography of 174the oocyst of *Cryptosporidium parvum* and measure its mechanical properties (8, 9, 18, 19). 175AFM images describe a rather rough landscape at the oocyst surface, while the measurements 176of its mechanical properties indicate that it is as hard as siliceous materials (18).

177Any modification of the parasite surface chemistry may promote or hinder adhesion. In lab-178scale experiments using a radial stagnation point flow system to investigate adhesion kinetics 179of Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia cysts, enzymatic treatments by proteinase K or 180pepsine have been found to seriously damage the outer layer of the parasites (69). While the 181surface glycocalyx of Cryptosporidium oocysts prevent their adhesion to quartz surfaces by 182 imposing a steric repulsion, proteolytic enzymes that cause such a degradation naturally 183enhance their attachment to the very same surfaces (68, 69, 74). Under conditions close to 184natural field ones, dissolved ions and organic contaminants deeply impact the surface 185properties of the parasites. Dissolved calcium ions in solution tend to apparently diminish 186negative charges at the parasite surface, consequently abolishing repulsion, and thus 187enhancing attachment of Cryptosporidium oocysts to sand grain surface (68). Using packed-188bed beads columns to investigate the behavior of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in granular porous 189media (as a model for sand), Kim et al. showed that increasing ionic strength of the media 190promotes parasite retention in conjunction with a low velocity of the solution flow (62). It has 191been shown, as one may have expected, that parasites exhibit variation in their zeta potential 192when suspended in water-based solutions differing by their conductivity, pH and dissolved 193 organic carbon concentrations. For instance, Toxoplasma oocysts are negatively charged and 194tend not to aggregate to other particles in freshwater solutions ($\zeta = -16.16$ mV) while their 195global charge becomes near to neutral in higher-ionic-strength solutions that mimic the

196conditions encountered in estuarine and seawater ($\zeta = -1.84$ and -2.81 mV respectively), thus 197leading to efficient parasite aggregation with other particles in these environments (101). 198According to different studies, the oocyst of *Cryptosporidium parvum* has an isoelectric point 199of 2.2-3.3 at which electrostatic repulsion forces are abolished (6, 19, 30, 53). In contrast, 200when placed in presence of dissolved compounds from natural organic matters, parasites 201exhibit an absolute increase of their negative charges and of their hydrophobicity, possibly 202due to the adsorption of clays, humic and fulvic acids onto their surface. This may thus 203enhance transport rather than parasite sedimentation (24, 81, 82, 88, 101).

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205SURFACE INTERACTIONS DRIVE THE TRANSPORT AND SURVIVAL OF 206PARASITIC PROTOZOA

207At the field-scale, such interactions critically affect the behavior of these pathogens and their 208distribution in terrestrial and aquatic environments. Transport of parasitic protozoa in soil 209follows the colloid filtration theory suggesting that the size of these microorganisms control to 210a large extend their transport in granular media (45). However, the theory does not take into 211account the surface characteristics of the parasites, their viability state, and their reversible 212interactions with soil grain surfaces, which promote or inhibit the terrestrial transport of 213parasitic protozoa (97). Soil physicochemical properties e.g. mineralogy, natural organic 214matter content, and pH critically affect the parasite-particle interactions and the mobilization 215behavior of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts (43, 52, 79 81, 82). Spatial dissemination of excreted 216parasites depends also on local hydrodynamic forces and occurs mainly by leaching, typically 217following heavy rainfalls, leading to the possible entering of the parasites in waters (39, 84). It 218has been shown that vegetated wetlands may efficiently retain parasites while degraded 219habitats promote pathogen pollution of waters with great impacts on humans and animals 220(100, 106).

221The ability of waterborne Giardia cysts and Cryptosporidium oocysts to settle contributes to 222either their transport in waters or their retention in sediments. Their respective settling 223velocity has been determined following the Stokes law, taking into account the parasite 224diameter and its specific gravity (Table 1). The settling velocity of unattached parasites is 225relatively low (e.g. 0.35 µm.s⁻¹ for Cryptosporidium) (78), however, when attached to 226particles, the very same parasites settle faster (~1.3 µm.s⁻¹) mainly due to an increase of the 227apparent diameter of the objects and of their specific gravity (49, 78). These parasites are 228likely to be associated to fecal or soil particles before entering rivers or water reservoirs, so 229settling may occur more or less efficiently depending on the size of particles, suggesting that 230some particle-attached parasites may travel along rivers (35). Also, aggregation of the 231 parasites with particles does not preclude neither their survival in water beds for months nor 232their re-distribution from sediments due to local water turbulences (99). This latter 233phenomenon may cause recurrent parasitic contaminations as observed in certain surface 234waters used for drinking (85, 98, 99). Overall, one must consider that such interactions could 235be responsible for the amazing persistence of infective parasites in water and solid matrices, 236in conjunction with variations of local physical and chemical conditions (63).

237If recent investigations on the molecular coverage and surface forces of *Cryptosporidium*, 238*Giardia* and *Toxoplasma* parasites have provided important information on the parasite 239behavior at different spatial and time scales, they have also enlightened some technical limits 240when working with protozoan cysts and oocysts. In particular, parasites used for imaging, 241force-based and transport experiments should be carefully purified and stored in order to 242prevent any modification or loss of their macromolecular coverage caused by chemical agents 243or by disparities in parasite's populations (6). As a consequence, bleach-sterilized, formalin-244treated or heat-inactivated parasites may exhibit modified surface properties and are therefore 245not suitable for such interaction experiments (9, 42, 68, 69, 88). To overcome this drawback 246and because of the biohazard risks associated with the manipulation of resistant parasites, 247some authors have proposed to use surrogate microspheres and they have been successfully 248employed for transport experiments. Typically, these substrates are fluorescent glass or latex 249beads that are designed or decorated to mimic the size and surface properties of the targeted 250parasites (48). These surrogates allow a relatively good prediction of the behavior of the 251parasites in waters and soils, including their removal by granular porous media or their 252adhesion to vegetated strips (24, 81, 82, 100, 101). Interestingly, divergent behaviors have 253been observed between the surrogate microspheres and the parasites they mimic under 254particular conditions of ionic strength and organic contamination close to natural field ones. 255This behavior could be linked to the existence of subtle differences in their respective surface 256chemistry (48, 82).

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258IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

259It has been well demonstrated that the monitoring of protozoan parasites in complex matrices 260as well as their removal and/or inactivation may be greatly impaired due to their interactions 261with organic and inorganic contaminants (5, 31). For instance, these interactions critically 262affect the recovery rates of waterborne cysts and oocysts along the different steps of the 263process. Sampling surface waters may be problematic because the particle-attached parasites 264likely settle through gravity faster than free parasites in water bed and thus may not be 265sampled (98, 99). More importantly, aggregation of parasites impacts their purification when 266using immunomagnetic separation (IMS) techniques or floatation on dense solutions in case 267of high organic contamination (15, 31, 66, 71, 113). Parasite-particle complexes exhibit a 268greater specific gravity and cannot be readily separated by floatation (55, 90, 98) whereas 269particles can also mask the antigenic sites at the parasite surface, thus hampering the antigen 270recognition by specific antibodies one can use for IMS or immunofluorescence techniques.

271The use of dispersant solutions, chelating agents, detergents or biosurfactants is not always 272successful in order to prevent unwanted parasite-particle interactions during sample 273processing (54, 75). Furthermore, even the surface of purified parasites may be still coated 274 with divalent cations and organic substances (humic and fulvic acids) that may interfere with 275downstream applications such as polymerase chain reaction, which usually give useful 276information on the species, viability and genetic type of the detected parasites (41, 58, 102). 277Interestingly, interactions have a dual role in promoting or preventing parasite removal and/or 278inactivation depending on treatment methods. Water industrials take advantage of these 279surface properties in order to remove the parasites from raw waters by using coagulant agents 280such as aluminum-based salts, iron-based salts or organic polymers. Such agents enhance the 281 aggregation of parasites with other particles, allowing the flocculation of the newly formed 282complexes and their removal following controlled settling (5). Another significant 283 contribution of the particular surface properties relies on interactions that may occur between 284parasites and sand during their transport through granular porous media in water treatments, 285allowing parasite retention on sand filters (62, 110). In contrast, unwanted parasite-particle 286interactions are clearly detrimental when using physical or chemical disinfectants. UV has 287been shown to inactivate Cryptosporidium and Giardia at doses commonly applied by water 288industrials (>40 mJ/cm²) (51), while for *Toxoplasma* a complete and reliable inactivation has 289been reported in some studies but not others (33, 116). Parasites entrapped in soft mollusk 290tissues or attached to sediments may not be totally inactivated at these doses (10, 105). Also, 291the success of chemical-based inactivation processes may also be compromised for such 292chlorine and ozone-resistant microorganisms (5, 33, 117). The presence of organic and 293inorganic compounds associated to parasites in water may require the use of higher ozone 294doses to achieve parasite inactivation, which may lead to the formation of potentially harmful 295by-products such as bromates (115). In a similar way, Cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia 296cysts entrapped in pipe-wall biofilms survive to the concentrations of free chlorine usually 297used in drinking water systems (2, 50). The capacity of the *Toxoplasma* oocyst to interact with 298biofilms has not been investigated so far. Such investigations would be of great interest since 299the implication of biofilm cannot be ruled out for elucidating recurrent cases of waterborne 300toxoplasmosis in several areas (60).

301Modeling the fate and transport of parasitic protozoa may offer a valuable tool for risk 302assessment. Microbial pathogen modeling basically incorporates specific information about 303microbial dynamic in conjunction with soil composition, hydrological dynamic, climatic 304conditions, vegetation, and land management (35). It has been well demonstrated that 305mathematical models for bacteria are not suitable for predicting the fate and transport of 306parasitic protozoa (17, 28, 35). In particular, fecal indicators fail to approach water 307contamination by Cryptosporidium and Giardia parasites because of the ability of oocysts and 308cysts to interact and aggregate reversibly with other particles compared to other 309microorganisms (35, 49). Several specific models have been successfully used for estimating 310protozoan loads in watersheds in some particular contexts (17, 28, 35). To our knowledge, no 311 such models exist for Toxoplasma oocysts at a large scale mainly because too few information 312is available on their transport properties, survival and prevalence throughout the environment 313(31, 60, 100). Modeling parasitic protozoa incorporates therefore several major challenges, 314among which exact parasite surface characterization, the determination of inactivation rate, 315and improvements in the separation and molecular methods that are used to detect and 316characterize them in complex matrices. The first point is especially crucial when studying 317what happens following inactivation processes, in order to assess divergent aggregation and 318settling behaviors observed between viable and non-viable parasites.

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320CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

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321The circulation of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Toxoplasma* parasites in the different 322environmental sources leading to potential human infections strongly depends on how the 323parasites interact with their surrounding media, mainly other organic and inorganic particles. 324Hydrophobic, steric and electrostatic attractive/repulsive forces created by the polymeric 325coverage of the parasite surface greatly enhance or hinder parasite adhesion following the 326environmental physicochemical factors. They contribute to parasite adhesion to natural 327organic matters, promoting thus their retention in soils or increasing their deposition kinetic in 328waterbeds. Consequently, such interactions make parasite fluxes hard to predict on a large 329scale, affecting therefore the management of resources at risk of microbial pollution.

330An accurate characterization of parasite-particle interactions clearly requires additional 331information on the topography and on the molecular composition of the outer surface of the 332cyst/oocyst wall. The combination of powerful microscopic and spectroscopic techniques, 333such as fluorescence microscopy, AFM and/or Raman scattering microscopy, may give new 334insights on the biochemical nature and arrangement of surface macromolecules as well as the 335adhesive and mechanical properties of the robust wall (27, 86). To date, only the surface of 336the oocyst of *Cryptosporidium parvum* has been mapped in terms of force and mechanics, and 337most efforts should focused now on the surface of other medically-important 338*Cryptosporidium* species, *Giardia* cysts and *Toxoplasma* oocysts and on the interaction forces 339that might result from the micro- and nano- structures of their coats.

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	Giardia	Cryptosporidium	Toxoplasma gondii	References
	duodenalis cyst	spp. oocyst	oocyst	
Size (µm) Wall	7-10 x 5	3.8-6.3 x 4.6-8.4 ^{<i>a</i>}	10 x 12	11, 60, 109
Thickness (nm)	300-500	50-70	~100	14, 37, 57
Number of layers	2	3	2	
Outer wall thickness (nm)	250	8	30	
Surface biochemistry	Matrix of	Glucose-rich	Possible polymeric	14, 37, 57, 64,
	filamentous	glycocalyx	cross-links of	76, 103
	GalNAc		Cys-/ Tyr-rich	
	homopolymer		proteins	
	and Cys-rich			
Zeta potential (mV)	proteins -33.5 in distilled	-25.0 in	-43.7 in ultrapure	30, 88, 101
	H ₂ O at pH 6.4	deionized H ₂ O	H ₂ O (conductivity	
		(conductivity	4 μ S.cm ⁻¹ at pH	
		83.9 μ S.cm ⁻¹ at	6.7)	
Specific gravity	1.013-1.117	pH 6.5) 1.009-1.08	1.050-1.100	22, 31, 55, 78,
Settling velocity (μ m.s ⁻¹) 813 ^{<i>a</i>} depending on species	0.84-1.4	0.35-1.31	Not reported	83, 120 22, 78, 121

TABLE 1: Physicochemical characteristics of the environmentally resistant stages of *Giardia* 812*duodenalis*, *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Toxoplasma gondii*.

814LEGEND TO FIGURE 1: Schematic drawing of the different walls of the *Giardia* cyst, and 815*Cryptosporidium* and *Toxoplasma* oocysts. OW: outer wall; CW: central wall; IW : inner 816wall.

817FIGURE 1

