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Morphological and molecular studies on Sri Lanka

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Abstract: Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is an emerging disease in

400 cases having been reported since 2001. However, the morphol status of the Sri Lankan strain of *Leishmania* is not known yet. The study the morphology and to analyze the phylogenetic position to pr expansion of the disease and thereby to develop an effective contro Morphology of the amastigote of the Sri Lankan isolate was checke and electron microscopic observation. Presence of amastigotes with confirmed in skin biopsy samples. The promastigote had the charac kinetoplastid cell in cultures. The kinetoplast minicircle DNA has be *Leishmania* for a long time and also for phylogenetic studies on try. The kinetoplast minicircle was amplified using PCR and subsequent samples obtained from Sri Lankan patients with cutaneous lesions. I cytochrome b gene has been recently shown to be useful for identifi analysis of the genus *Leishmania*. The nucleotide sequence of the c Lankan *Leishmania* was determined using the semi-nested PCR an obtained. Phylogenetic analysis using these sequences unambiguous. Lankan isolate of *Leishmania* belongs to *L. donovani* complex. H isolate forms a distinct lineage within the complex and probably rep

Key words: [Sri Lankan *Leishmania*](#), [cytochrome b gene](#), [phylog](#), [minicircle](#), [kinetoplast DNA](#)

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