**Iodamoeba butschlii**

**Introduction**

*Iodamoeba butschlii* is a non-pathogenic amoeba with world wide distribution although not as common as *E. coli* or *E. nana*. Its life cycle is similar to that of *E. histolytica* but is non invasive.

**Morphology of cysts**

Cysts of *I. butschlii* are 9 - 15μ in diameter and have one nucleus in mature cysts usually eccentrically placed. Chromatoid bodies are not present. Glycogen is present as a compact well defined mass staining dark brown with iodine.

**Morphology of trophozoites**

Trophozoites of *I. butschlii* are 8 - 20μ and are actively motile. On a permanently stained faecal smear, a nucleus with a large karyosome is evident. Chromatin bodies form striations around the karyosome. The cytoplasm appears granular containing vacuoles with ingested bacteria and debris.

**Laboratory Diagnosis**

Laboratory diagnosis is made by finding the characteristic cysts in an iodine stained, formol-ether concentration method. Trophozoites are difficult to detect in a wet preparation.