**Enteromonas hominis**

**Introduction**

*Enteromonas hominis* is a small flagellate and is rarely encountered. It is found in both warm and temperate climates and is considered to be non-pathogenic.

**Morphology of the cyst**

The cyst is oval and is 6-8μm in length. It has up to 4 nuclei with a bipolar tendency.

**Morphology of the trophozoite**

The trophozoite is oval and 4-10μm in length. It has a jerky rotation. It has 4 flagella, 3 anterior flagella and one adheres to the body ending in a tail. It has one nucleus with a large karyosome which is evident in a stained preparation.

**Laboratory Diagnosis**

The cysts are seen in a formol-ether concentrate. The cysts have no distinguishing characteristics and thus can be confused with *E. nana* or even yeasts. The characteristic trophozoites can be seen in a permanently stained faecal smear.

**Retortamonas intestinalis**

**Introduction**

*Retortamonas intestinalis* like *Enteromonas hominis* is a small flagellate and is rarely encountered. It is found in both warm and temperate climates and is considered to be non-pathogenic.

**Morphology of the cyst**

The cyst is small and pear shaped. It is 4-7μm with 1 large nucleus frequently near the centre. The fibril arrangement from the nucleus is suggestive of a birds beak. This is characteristic.

**Morphology of the trophozoite**

The trophozoite is small, measuring between 4 and 9μm. Its movement is jerky and rotational and has 2 anterior flagella and a prominent cytosome which can be seen in an unstained preparation. It has a relatively large nucleus at the anterior end with a small compact karyosome.
Laboratory Diagnosis

The small pears shaped cysts are uncharacteristic in an unstained formol-ether preparation. However, the addition of iodine reveals the characteristic bird beak fibrillar arrangement in the pear shaped cyst.

In a fresh stool preparation, the 2 anterior flagella and cytosome can be seen in the trophozoite. In a permanently stained preparation, the large nucleus with small central karyosome is diagnostic.