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2 Urine as a high-quality source of host genomic DNA from wild populations

3 *Short title:*

4 Noninvasive genomic methods

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## Abstract

The ability to generate genomic data from wild animal populations has the potential to give unprecedented insight into the population history and dynamics of species in their natural habitats. However, in the case of many species, it is impossible legally, ethically, or logistically to obtain tissues samples of high-quality necessary for genomic analyses. In this study we evaluate the success of multiple sources of genetic material (feces, urine, dentin, and dental calculus) and several capture methods (shotgun, whole-genome, exome) in generating genome-scale data in wild eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) from Gombe National Park, Tanzania. We found that urine harbors significantly more host DNA than other sources, leading to broader and deeper coverage across the genome. Urine also exhibited a lower rate of allelic dropout. We found exome sequencing to be far more successful than both shotgun sequencing and whole-genome capture at generating usable data from low-quality samples such as feces and dental calculus. These results highlight urine as a promising and untapped source of DNA that can be noninvasively collected from wild populations of many species.

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## Introduction

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The development of methods to generate genetic data from noninvasively collected samples revolutionized the study of wild animal populations, allowing for DNA research without the capture or even observation of species of interest (Kohn & Wayne, 1997; Waits & Paetkau, 2005). While studies of individual DNA markers improved our understanding of behavior, ecology, and evolution, recent advances in massively parallel sequencing strategies make it possible to incorporate information from across the entire genome, giving unprecedented insight into the evolution and population history of non-model species (Ellegren, 2014). However, for many species, it is impossible legally, ethically, or logistically to obtain high-quality tissue samples required for large-scale genomic analyses. It is therefore critically important to develop and evaluate methods for sampling and capturing genome-scale data from noninvasive and alternative sources.

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While a variety of noninvasively collected biological materials have been used in DNA analyses, feces have been the primary target of recent attempts to generate genomic data. Rich in gut epithelial cells and often the most abundant, easiest to collect source of DNA in the environment, feces have long played a role in noninvasive genetic analyses (Constable, Ashley, Goodall, & Pusey, 2001; Hoss, Kohn, Paabo, Knauer, & Schroder, 1992; Kohn & Wayne, 1997). However, the retrieval of DNA from feces presents a number of difficulties. Challenges, including low DNA yields, DNA fragmentation and degradation (Deagle, Eveson, & Jarman, 2006) and the presence of PCR inhibitors, can lead to genotyping errors (Taberlet, Waits, & Luikart, 1999). Moreover, DNA recovered from fecal material is dominated by microbes (>95% exogenous DNA), which further complicates genotyping (Perry, Marioni, Melsted, & Gilad, 2010). For genetic analyses involving small number of markers, these challenges are well

78 understood and can be overcome. However, these problems are exacerbated in massively parallel  
79 sequencing, which typically requires higher quantities and qualities of input DNA, and generates  
80 almost entirely microbial data due to the very low levels of host DNA in samples.

81         The main strategy that has been employed to combat these problems is enrichment of  
82 host DNA. In this vein, there have been three major methodological developments. Perry and  
83 colleagues (2010) first enriched DNA from feces on a genomic scale by using custom  
84 chimpanzee baits designed to capture approximately 1.5 Mb of sequence across six western  
85 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*). While successful, this method required a reference  
86 genome to design baits and was cost prohibitive for producing genome-scale datasets. To address  
87 these challenges, Snyder-Mackler and colleagues developed a protocol to create RNA baits from  
88 high-quality host DNA and improve post-capture enrichment (2016). However, for this method,  
89 bait requirements—notably high-quality host DNA—and low sequencing coverage of host DNA  
90 remain barriers for some study systems and questions. Recently, Chiou and Bergey introduced a  
91 method that exploits differences in CpG-methylation densities between vertebrate and bacterial  
92 genomes to capture host DNA, alleviating the need for high-quality host material or reference  
93 genome to design baits (2018). However, CpG content varies substantially across the genomes of  
94 primates and other mammals (Han, Su, Li, & Zhao, 2008), thus targeting these regions  
95 specifically may bias the regions captured.

96         Despite these improvements to both capture and enrichment, DNA capture from feces is  
97 still far less efficient than from high-quality tissues. This leads to a tradeoff: attempting to  
98 capture large genomic regions leads to very low sequence coverage; however, targeting a subset  
99 of the genome can lead to biases. A compromise would be to target a small subset of the genome  
100 that is biologically important. One potential option is exome sequencing, a capture-based method

101 that targets the entire coding region of the genome, comprising approximately 1.5% of the total  
102 length of the genome. Coding regions are among the best understood in the genome and are of  
103 great evolutionary and conservation interest (Bataillon et al., 2015; George et al., 2011; Hvilsom  
104 et al., 2012). Because exome sequencing is so widely used in human genomics, many  
105 commercial kits are available and much cheaper than custom alternatives. Human exome baits  
106 have been successfully used in a number of nonhuman primate studies (George et al., 2011; Jin  
107 et al., 2012; Vallender, 2011) and have been shown to work in primate species as distantly  
108 related from humans as Strepsirrhines (Webster, Guevara, Lawler, & Bradley, 2018). Moreover,  
109 recent work has shown that exome capture successfully enriches host DNA in chimpanzee fecal  
110 samples (Hernandez-Rodriguez et al., 2018; White et al., 2019). However, some of this work  
111 involves first screening for endogenous content using quantitative PCR (qPCR), which although  
112 successful, can be a limiting factor for smaller labs at the scales for population genomics. For  
113 example, after screening 1,780 fecal samples, White and colleagues estimated 101 samples  
114 contained enough endogenous DNA for sequencing (>1%) (White et al., 2019).

115 In addition to methodological development, turning to other sources of biological  
116 material might improve sequencing success in wild populations. Efforts up to this point have  
117 focused almost exclusively on feces, and many other noninvasive alternatives remain to be  
118 explored. Urine, in particular, is abundant for many large-bodied species, and has been used,  
119 albeit infrequently, as a source of DNA collected noninvasively from the environment (Hedmark  
120 et al., 2004; Sastre et al., 2009; Valiere & Taberlet, 2000). Although difficult to obtain in certain  
121 field conditions, urine contains far fewer microbes than feces, does not contain traces of dietary  
122 DNA, and lacks many inhibiting compounds commonly found in feces that impact PCR success  
123 (Hausknecht, Gula, Pirga, & Kuehn, 2007; Inoue, Inoue-Murayama, Takenaka, & Nishida, 2007;

124 Thomas-White, Brady, Wolfe, & Mueller, 2016). Another source of interest is skeletal material,  
125 which is often found at field sites and in museum collections. Dentin and dental calculus, in  
126 particular, are both capable of yielding host nuclear DNA (Zieseimer et al., 2018). Combining  
127 data from historic populations with those from contemporary populations has the potential to  
128 provide genomic insight into wild populations on a scale not yet fully realized.

129         In this study, we evaluate the success of several sources of host DNA and capture  
130 methods in generating genome-scale data in a population of wild, endangered animals.  
131 Specifically, we extracted and captured endogenous DNA from feces, dental calculus, dentin,  
132 and urine recovered from wild chimpanzees (*P. t. schweinfurthii*) from Gombe National Park,  
133 Tanzania. From these data we compared the success of whole-genome capture and targeted  
134 exome capture. We demonstrate that urine harbors the highest concentration of endogenous  
135 DNA of the materials sampled in this study. For other sources, whole-genome sequencing  
136 appears possible, but not cost-effective. Employing a targeted approach, such as exome capture,  
137 reduces the amount of sequence obtained in the genome, but it may result in increased  
138 sequencing efficiency. Finally, we show that genotypes generated from fecal and urine samples  
139 exhibit high levels of concordance and argue that genotypes from urine are less subject to  
140 contamination. Together, our results demonstrate that, while further methodological advances  
141 might improve host DNA extraction in feces, dentin, and dental calculus, urine is a promising  
142 source of noninvasive DNA from which genome-scale data can be easily generated. We  
143 anticipate the ability to generate genomic data from urine to be broadly useful across study  
144 systems, including many protected species.

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## Materials and Methods

147 *Sample Collection and Extraction*

148 We collected fecal samples in RNAlater from four wild chimpanzees as described (Stone  
149 et al., 2010) (7069, 7150, 7365, and 7507) from Gombe National Park between August 2011 and  
150 January 2014 and shipped them to the University of Pennsylvania for storage at -80°C. Using a  
151 sterile cut pipette tip, we removed roughly 200 µL of the fecal slurry and extracted DNA using  
152 QIAamp DNA Stool Minikit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's protocol. To obtain enough  
153 DNA, we repeated this process 8-12 times for each sample, then pooled and desiccated each  
154 sample down to 50-100 µL. We combined a total of 2 µg of DNA and molecular grade H<sub>2</sub>O into  
155 a 50 µl tube and then sheared DNA using a Covaris Sonicator for 4min at 150 bp according to  
156 manufacturer specifications.

157 We retrieved dental calculus from two skeletons (individuals 7057 and 7433; less than ten  
158 mg per sample) and dentin from one skeleton (individual 7057; less than 50 mg per sample) at  
159 the University of Minnesota using a sterile dental scaler. We decontaminated calculus using  
160 exposure to UV irradiation for five min. This was followed by an initial 0.5M EDTA (Ambion)  
161 wash in a 2.0 mL tube for 15 min. We subjected samples to a two day 0.5 EDTA and proteinase  
162 K (10 mg/mL; Qiagen) digestion, at which point we combined the resulting solution with 12 mL  
163 of PB buffer and followed standard MinElute PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen) protocol. Our dentin  
164 protocol followed previously published methods (Nieves-Colón et al., 2018). We did not shear  
165 dental calculus and dentin samples prior to shotgun library builds.

166 We collected urine from seven wild Gombe chimpanzees—three with matched fecal  
167 samples (7150, 7365, and 7507) and four others (7072, 7323, 7535, and 7650)—in the early  
168 morning using fresh plastic bags attached to sticks suspended below chimpanzee nests. We  
169 immediately transferred between 10 mL and 30 mL of urine to a 50 mL tube and centrifuged the

170 material for ten min at 3k rpm. We removed supernatant and covered the resulting pellet with 5  
171 mL of RNAlater for storage in the field. In the lab, we extracted samples using the Urine DNA  
172 Isolation Kit (Abcam) according to manufacturer protocols. We sheared the resulting elution  
173 using the Covaris sonicator as previously described and desiccated the resulting solution down to  
174 20  $\mu$ L.

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### 176 *Shotgun Build and Amplification*

177 We built shotgun libraries using the resulting elutions from feces, urine, dentin, and  
178 calculus extractions. For initial blunt end repair, we added a total of 20  $\mu$ L (~800 ng) of DNA to  
179 5.0  $\mu$ L NEB Buffer, 0.50  $\mu$ L dNTP mix (2.5mM), 4.0  $\mu$ L BSA (10 mg/mL), 5.0  $\mu$ L ATP  
180 (10mM), 2.0  $\mu$ L T4 PNK, 0.40  $\mu$ L T4 Polymerase, and 13.10  $\mu$ L ddH<sub>2</sub>O. We incubated this  
181 solution at 15°C for 15 min followed by 25°C for 15 min. We then cleaned the solution using  
182 PCR MinElute Purification Kit according to manufacturer protocol before eluting into 18  $\mu$ L EB  
183 buffer. For adapter ligation, we added 18  $\mu$ L of template DNA to 20  $\mu$ L Quick Ligase Buffer, 1.0  
184  $\mu$ L Solexa Mix (Meyer & Kircher, 2010), and 1.0  $\mu$ L Quick Ligase and incubated the solution at  
185 room temperature for 20 min. We then cleaned again using PCR MinElute Purification (Qiagen)  
186 according to manufacturer protocol and eluted the solution into 20  $\mu$ L EB buffer. For the final  
187 fill in portion of the shotgun build, we added 20  $\mu$ L of template DNA to 4.0  $\mu$ L Thermo pol  
188 buffer, 0.50  $\mu$ L dNTP mix (2.5mM), 2.0  $\mu$ L Bst polymerase, and 13.50  $\mu$ L ddH<sub>2</sub>O. We incubated  
189 the solution at 37°C for 20 min followed by 80°C for 20 min. We amplified shotgun libraries  
190 using Amplitaq Gold before splitting libraries into four identical PCR reactions which contained  
191 9.0  $\mu$ L of DNA, 9.27  $\mu$ L PCR Buffer II (10x), 9.27  $\mu$ L MgCl<sub>2</sub> (25mM), 3.68  $\mu$ L dNTP mix  
192 (10nM), 2.21  $\mu$ L BSA (10 mg/mL), 2.0  $\mu$ L P5 primer, 2.0  $\mu$ L P7 primer, 61.09  $\mu$ L of ddH<sub>2</sub>O,



193 and 1.48  $\mu$ L of Amplitaq Gold enzyme. We used the following PCR conditions: initial  
194 denaturation at 95°C for 15 min, followed by cycling of 95°C for 30 sec, 58°C for 30 sec, and  
195 72°C for 45 sec, with a final elongation of 72°C for ten min. We amplified each sample between  
196 8 and 13 cycles (Table S1) using Illumina adapter primers with unique forward and reverse  
197 barcodes. We then purified samples using the Minelute PCR Purification Kit according to  
198 manufacturer protocol before eluting into 30  $\mu$ L of EB buffer. We used a total of 7  $\mu$ L of  
199 amplified calculus, dentin, and fecal DNA for each of the capture sets. For urine, we desiccated  
200 amplified material from 30  $\mu$ L down to 7  $\mu$ L before undergoing a single exome capture.

201

#### 202 *Whole-Genome and Exome Capture Kits*

203 We used two whole-genome kits (chimpanzee and human baits) and one human exome  
204 kit to capture host DNA from the variety of samples. For the whole-genome chimpanzee kit,  
205 Arbor Biosciences produced a custom whole-genome capture MYBaits kit using *Pan troglodytes*  
206 *schweinfurthii* DNA. Genomic DNA extracted from the blood of a chimpanzee (Stone et al.,  
207 2010) was used as source material for baits. We pooled extractions for a total of 5  $\mu$ g of DNA  
208 which Arbor Biosciences then used to produce the whole-genome capture baits. For the human  
209 whole-genome capture baits, we used a MYcroarray whole-genome human capture kit (using  
210 African/Masai male DNA). Finally, we also used the IDT xGen Exome Research Panel (v1.0), a  
211 commercially available human exome capture kit.

212 For feces, we used an input total of 7  $\mu$ L of amplified material regardless of concentration  
213 for each of the three capture kits: the *P. t. schweinfurthii* MYBaits capture, the human MYBaits  
214 capture, and the IDT xGen Exome Research Panel. For the chimpanzee whole-genome capture  
215 MYBaits kit, we captured each sample according to MYbaits Kapa HiFi HotStart ReadyMix

216 protocol with a hybridization time of 24 hours and a final post-capture PCR amplification of 14  
217 cycles. We purified all samples post-capture through removal of beads, cleanup using the  
218 MinElute PCR Purification Kit, and elution into 30  $\mu$ L. We re-amplified a second time using  
219 identical PCR conditions, with the number of cycles dependent upon the outcome of  
220 quantification from a Bioanalyzer DNA 1000 chip (Agilent). We purified all samples post-  
221 capture using the MinElute PCR Purification Kit according to manufacturer specifications and  
222 eluted into 30  $\mu$ L.

223 For the MYbaits human whole-genome kit, we captured each of the four amplified fecal  
224 samples in the same manner, using the same amount of starting amplified material. However,  
225 during the final phase of the MYBaits protocol, all samples were amplified 14 cycles instead of  
226 the usual 12 cycles. As such, no samples were re-amplified post-capture after we confirmed high  
227 concentrations using a Bioanalyzer DNA 1000 chip.

228 For the xGen Exome Research Panel, from IDT, the unique P5 and P7 7 nt barcodes used  
229 to identify the amplified samples necessitated custom xGen Universal Blocking oligos from IDT.  
230 We used a total of 7  $\mu$ L of amplified material from each sample (greater than the suggested 500  
231 ng input of DNA) for the capture in accordance with manufacturer protocol. The exception to  
232 this was for urine, which we desiccated from a starting volume of 30  $\mu$ L, due to the initial low  
233 concentrations. We amplified each capture pool to 12 cycles using KAPA HiFi Hotstart  
234 ReadyMix, purified each using Agencourt AMPure beads, and eluted into 22  $\mu$ L of EB Buffer  
235 (Qiagen) as suggested by the protocol. Lastly, we quantified the samples using a Bioanalyzer  
236 High Sensitivity DNA chip and amplified each for six more cycles.

237 Samples were then pooled (see Table 1 for breakdown) before being sent for sequencing  
238 at the Yale Center for Genome Analysis. Samples were sequenced on four different Illumina

239 HiSeq2500 Rapid runs (2x100 paired-end) and an Illumina HiSeq2500 standard run (2x150  
240 paired-end).

241

242 *Read Processing, Read Mapping, Variant Calling, and Depth of Coverage*

243 Before mapping reads, we examined read quality using FastQC (v0.11.7;  
244 <http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>) and MultiQC (v1.5.dev0; (Ewels,  
245 Magnusson, Lundin, & Källér, 2016)), and trimmed adapters and low-quality sequence from  
246 reads using BBDuk (v37.90; <https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/>) with the following  
247 parameters: “ktrim=r k=21 mink=11 hdist=2 tbo tpe qtrim=rl trimq=10 minlength=30”. Using  
248 default parameters, we mapped reads to the chimpanzee reference genome (panTro4; (Waterson,  
249 Lander, Wilson, The Chimpanzee, & Analysis, 2005)) with BWA-MEM (v0.7.17-r1188; (Heng  
250 Li, 2013). We then used SAMtools to fix mate pairings, and sort and index BAM files (v1.7;  
251 (Heng Li & Durbin, 2009). Because we sequenced some of the samples across multiple lanes  
252 (Table S1), we used Sambamba to merge BAM files from these samples using default  
253 parameters (v0.6.6; (Tarasov, Vilella, Cuppen, Nijman, & Prins, 2015). Note that we only  
254 merged BAM files within individual, biological material, and sequencing library (i.e., samples  
255 from the same individual but different source material or capture method were left unmerged and  
256 treated separately, as these were different units in our analyses). Finally, we marked duplicates  
257 using Picard (v2.18.10; <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>).

258 We next called variants on each processed BAM file separately using Genome Analysis  
259 Toolkit’s (GATK’s) HaplotypeCaller with default parameters (v4.0.8.1; (Van der Auwera et al.,  
260 2013)). We then filtered each VCF using BCFTools (v1.6; (H. Li et al., 2009)). We included  
261 sites for which mapping quality  $\geq 20$ , site quality (QUAL)  $\geq 30$ , and genotype quality  $\geq 30$ .

262           Because some of the downstream coverage analyses are affected by differing number of  
263 raw reads across samples, we downsampled merged BAM files (without duplicate marking) to  
264 40 million reads. To do so, we used SAMtools view (v1.7; (H. Li et al., 2009)) with the flag “-s  
265 *downsample\_fraction*”, where *downsample\_fraction* is equal to 40 million divided by the  
266 sample’s total number of raw reads. Note that for analyses requiring downsampling, we only  
267 included samples with 40 million or more reads. We next marked duplicates, as above, using  
268 Picard (v2.18.10; <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>). We used downsampled BAM files for  
269 coverage analyses, but not endogenous content estimates or variant calling.

270           To calculate depth of coverage from BAM files, we first used SAMTOOLS view (v1.7;  
271 (H. Li et al., 2009) with the flags ‘-F 1024 -q 20’ to remove duplicates and only retain reads with  
272 the minimum mapping quality of 20. We then used Bedtools GenomeCov (v2.27.1; (Quinlan &  
273 Hall, 2010)) with the flag -bg to output a bedgraph file with coverage statistics. Next, again using  
274 Bedtools, we intersected bedgraph files with Ensembl coding sequences (CDS) for the panTro4  
275 genome downloaded from the UCSC Table Browser (Karolchik et al., 2004). Finally, using a  
276 custom python script, “Compute\_histogram\_from\_bed.py” (see Data Accessibility), we  
277 calculated histograms of CDS depth.

278

## 279 *Analysis*

280           We used the SAMtools stats tool to calculate basic metrics related to fraction of reads  
281 mapping, duplicates, etc. (v1.7; (H. Li et al., 2009)) across all sample types. We calculated these  
282 metrics both with and without duplicates, and for primary and downsampled BAM files. To  
283 remove duplicates, we first used SAMtools view with the ‘-F 1024’ flag, before piping output to  
284 SAMtools stats. From these metrics, we estimated post-capture endogenous content as the

285 fraction of reads mapping to the reference genome. To test for statistical differences in post-  
286 capture endogenous content among sample sources we used an ANCOVA test in R (R  
287 Development Core Team, 2014).

288         Within R, we generated “reverse cumulative” plots (Reed, Meade, & Steinhoff, 1995) of  
289 coverage across CDS for feces vs. urine and exome vs. whole-genome for feces  
290 (“plot\_coverage.R”; see Data Accessibility). These plots display the proportion of total panTro4  
291 CDS (Y-axis) covered by X or more reads (where X is a value on the X-axis).

292         Using exome data, we examined genotype concordance between paired urine and fecal  
293 samples for three individuals (7150, 7507, 7365), and paired calculus and dentin samples for one  
294 individual (7057). To estimate concordance, we ensured that variant calls were made at identical  
295 sites in the paired samples. We did this by first using BCFtools merge (v1.6; (H. Li et al., 2009))  
296 with the flag “-m all” to merge the paired (urine and feces, or calculus and dentin) exome VCF  
297 files for each individual. We then conducted a second round of variant calling using GATK’s  
298 HaplotypeCaller (v4.0.8.1; (Van der Auwera et al., 2013)) as described above, with the addition  
299 of the flag “-ERC BP\_RESOLUTION” and the merged VCF as an interval file via the “-L” flag.  
300 These flags force HaplotypeCaller to call genotypes at the same sites—any site called in either  
301 the urine or fecal sample (or calculus or dentin sample) from a given individual—in both  
302 samples. We then, for each site, compiled genotype, depth, mapping quality, and genotype  
303 quality measures from the newly generated VCFs using the custom Python script  
304 “Compare\_vcfs.py”. From this compiled dataframe, we removed “random” (containing  
305 “\_random”) and unplaced (containing “chrUn”) scaffolds. We then used the Python script  
306 “Process\_dropout.py” (see Data Accessibility) to estimate genotype concordance for paired  
307 samples at four different minimum depths (4x, 6x, 8x, and 10x). The script finds all sites passing

308 minimum quality thresholds (minimum depth  $\geq$  value described previously, mapping quality  $\geq$   
309 30, and genotype quality  $\geq$  30) in both samples, and from those sites counts the number of sites  
310 with shared genotypes, genotypes consistent with allelic dropout, and ambiguous genotypes. We  
311 considered genotypes consistent with dropout if one of the two samples was heterozygous, while  
312 the other was homozygous for one of the alleles in the first sample's genotype (e.g., "0/1" in  
313 urine and "1/1" in feces would be counted as dropout in feces). Genotypes were classified as  
314 ambiguous if they were not shared and did not fit a pattern consistent with dropout; for example,  
315 if the urine sample had a genotype of "1/1" while the fecal sample had a genotype of "0/2".

316

#### 317 *Data Accessibility*

318 We deposited raw reads in NCBI's Sequence Read Archive  
319 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) under Bioproject PRJNA508503. We implemented the full  
320 assembly and analysis pipeline in Snakemake (Köster & Rahmann, 2012), and managed software  
321 using Bioconda (Grüning et al., 2018). All code, scripts, and software environments are available  
322 on Github ([https://github.com/thw17/Gombe\\_noninvasive\\_genomic\\_methods](https://github.com/thw17/Gombe_noninvasive_genomic_methods)).

323

324

## Results

325 We processed a total of 14 samples from ten different chimpanzees in Gombe National  
326 Park, Tanzania from urine (n=7), feces (n=4), dental calculus (n=2), and dentin (n=1) (Table S1).  
327 We then captured and sequenced samples using at least one of the following: undirected shotgun  
328 amplification (n=2), MYBaits *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii* capture (Arbor Biosciences; n=4),  
329 MYBaits *Homo sapiens* capture (Arbor Biosciences; n=6), xGen (human) Exome Research Panel

330 (IDT; n=26) (Table S1). In total, we analyzed 38 different combinations of individual, source,  
331 and sequencing protocol (Table S1).

332 Concentrations of extracted DNA varied widely across samples (Table S1). Initially,  
333 concentrations ranged from 0.11 ng/ $\mu$ L to 65.6 ng/ $\mu$ L with a single urine sample from 7365 too  
334 low to be measured. Sequencing success was similarly variable (Table S2). After merging BAM  
335 files from the same sample across multiple runs, we generated between 6.9 and 169.5 million  
336 reads per sample and while we successfully produced data for the problematic urine sample  
337 (individual 7365), it produced the fewest reads (Table S2). We observed high duplication rates  
338 likely resulting from PCR amplification during library construction and capture in most, but not  
339 all samples (range from 0.05% to 89.4%; Table S2). In general, exome capture had higher  
340 duplication rates than whole-genome capture, which, in turn, had higher duplication rates than  
341 shotgun sequencing (Table S2; Figure S1). We also observed a linear increase in duplication rate  
342 with an increasing number of mapped reads for whole-genome capture, but not exome capture or  
343 shotgun sequencing (Figure S1). After filtration and duplicate removal, we were left with  
344 between 1.4 and 26.2 million passing reads per sample (Table S2).

345 Interestingly, we found that samples ranged in the amount of post-capture endogenous  
346 DNA (i.e., DNA from the host after sequence capture, as opposed to other sources) from 33.9%  
347 to 99.1% (Figure 1; Table S2). We discovered that this effect was driven by the source of the  
348 sample (Figure 1; ANCOVA:  $F(3,18) = 125.493$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). Upon further investigation, a post  
349 hoc Tukey test revealed that urine (n = 7; mean endogenous percentage = 96.4%) had  
350 significantly more endogenous DNA than dentin ( $p = 0.03$ ; n=1; mean=75.9%), feces ( $p < 0.001$ ;  
351 n= 12; mean= 44.9%), and calculus ( $p < 0.001$ ; n=6 ; mean=38.3% ).

352 We evaluated capture success using reverse cumulative plots to assess the proportion of  
353 CDS in PanTro4 (i.e., the fraction of sequence in PanTro4 annotated as coding sequence)  
354 sequenced at different depths. For all samples, we started with a fixed 40 million reads before  
355 duplicate removal. We first used fecal samples to compare exome capture with whole-genome  
356 capture, and found that exome capture, despite its higher duplication rate, led to broader and  
357 deeper coverage across CDS than whole-genome capture (Figure 2). In addition, when  
358 comparing urine and fecal samples (exome capture), urine outperformed feces (Figure 3). Across  
359 all urine samples, more than 90% of CDS was captured, while only two fecal samples generated  
360 data covering more than 50% of CDS (Figure 3). This pattern became even more pronounced as  
361 depth increased; for example, at a minimum depth of 8x, more than 75% of CDS was captured in  
362 all urine samples, while all fecal samples fell below 10% CDS covered (Figure 3). Finally, when  
363 comparing calculus and dentin, we found more than 85% of CDS was captured for the single  
364 dentin sample, with 20% of CDS captured at a minimum depth of 8x (Figure 4). However, less  
365 than 25% of CDS was captured in both analyzed calculus samples, which decreased to less than  
366 1% at a minimum depth of 8x (Figure 4).

367 We measured genotype concordance in the three individuals for which we sequenced at  
368 least 40 million reads each for paired fecal and urine samples (Table 1; 7150, 7365, 7507) and a  
369 single additional individual for paired dentin and calculus (7057). Likely due to the differences  
370 in endogenous DNA content and coverage described above, we obtained very few variant sites  
371 (i.e., sites with one or both alleles differing from the reference genome) passing quality and  
372 depth filters in feces compared to urine (Table 1). For example, at a minimum depth of 10x, we  
373 obtained 227, 368, and 2014 sites from the fecal samples from the three individuals, while we  
374 obtained 4952, 93,244, and 115,955 sites from the same individuals from urine samples. In total,



375 we were able to compare between 59 and 1,309 sites depending on the individual and depth  
376 threshold used (Table 1). Overall, genotypes were overwhelmingly concordant, with less than  
377 11% of sites discordant across all comparisons. Most discordant sites were consistent with a  
378 pattern of allelic dropout—that is, one sample was heterozygous, while the other was  
379 homozygous for one of the two alleles present in the first sample. Among these dropout sites, at  
380 a minimum depth of 10x, feces exhibited higher rates of dropout than urine in two of our three  
381 comparisons (fecal dropout = 2-8% of all sites; urine dropout = 0.8-4% of all sites). We also  
382 observed “ambiguous” sites—discordant sites inconsistent with the dropout pattern described  
383 above—at 1-3% of all sites (Table 1). For calculus and dentin, we compared between 27 and 291  
384 shared sites and observed calculus as having the highest dropout rates of any source of DNA at  
385 depth thresholds of 8x and 10x (17.86% and 18.42%, respectively). Although we observed less  
386 dropout in dentin, these rates are comparable to our highest observed dropout rates for feces  
387 (7.89% dropout at a depth of 10x in dentin, 7.86% dropout in feces at a depth of 10x for  
388 individual 7507).

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## Discussion

391 The development of noninvasive genomic methods is critically important for studying  
392 wild populations, particularly those that cannot otherwise be legally or ethically sampled. In this  
393 study, we evaluated four biological sources of DNA that can be sampled from wild populations  
394 of many taxa: feces, urine, dentin, and dental calculus. Feces and urine may be noninvasively  
395 sampled from contemporary living populations, while dentin and dental calculus can often be  
396 sampled from skeletal collections of wild populations present in collections at museums and field  
397 sites. We assessed the quality of these sources in three different ways. First, we determined post-

398 capture endogenous content, the amount of captured DNA is derived from the host. Next, we  
399 evaluated the breadth and depth of sequencing coverage across genomic targets. Finally, we  
400 measured the concordance of genotypes between pairs of samples captures from different  
401 sources from the same individual.

402 In regard to post-capture endogenous content, of the four sources, we found that urine  
403 samples contained the highest proportion of host DNA. While post-capture endogenous content  
404 was similar in calculus and feces (ranging from approximately 30-50%), all urine samples  
405 contained more than 95% host DNA. Previous studies have demonstrated both that host DNA is  
406 present in urine and can be successfully extracted and amplified (Hausknecht et al., 2007;  
407 Hayakawa & Takenaka, 1999; Hedmark et al., 2004; Nota & Takenaka, 1999; Valiere &  
408 Taberlet, 2000; Waits & Paetkau, 2005); however, our results show for the first time that urine in  
409 fact has an high fraction of host DNA compared to other sources of DNA, like feces, that are far  
410 more commonly used in genetic studies of wild animals, and thus is well-suited for genomic  
411 analysis. While we measured post-capture endogenous content in the same way across the  
412 sources of DNA that we tested, we are unable to determine for certain from this study whether  
413 the difference in endogenous content directly reflect raw differences in the fraction of host DNA  
414 across sources. We cannot easily envision a process that would cause sources of DNA to differ in  
415 endogenous content after capture but not before, but future work could aim to measure pre-  
416 capture differences to confirm our results.

417 We found that these differences in endogenous content meaningfully impact downstream  
418 sequencing success, as exome capture and sequencing of urine samples led both broader and  
419 deeper coverage across the coding sequence of the chimpanzee reference genome than any of the  
420 other sources of DNA. With the exception of a single problematic sample, all of the urine

421 samples captured more than 90% of coding sequence at a depth of 4x or greater (after duplicate  
422 removal), despite extremely high duplication rates. This means that, without optimization or any  
423 other methodological considerations, our urine samples produced sufficient data for most  
424 evolutionary and population genetic analyses. In contrast, not a single fecal, calculus, or dentin  
425 sample in our study produced enough data for downstream analyses (Figures 3 and 4). Rather  
426 than suggest that any of these sources of DNA are more or less useful for genomic analyses, we  
427 instead argue that these results indicate that urine might work well “out of the box” similar to  
428 other high-quality sources like blood and other tissues, while the other sources that we tested  
429 require additional methodological considerations for use, like the many developments for feces  
430 (Chiou & Bergey, 2018; Perry et al., 2010; Snyder-Mackler et al., 2016).

431 Our analyses revealed that genotypes generated from feces and urine from the same  
432 individual were broadly concordant, especially when a minimum depth threshold of 10x was  
433 used. Urine fared better generally, with fewer sites ambiguously discordant or consistent with  
434 dropout. However, we only had paired fecal and urine samples for three individuals, so these  
435 results must be taken as preliminary. Regardless of whether genotypes from urine are  
436 comparable or better than those of feces, the low rates of allelic dropout underscore the quality of  
437 urine as a source of DNA for genomic analyses. In addition, while we are unable to test it at this  
438 time, we hypothesize that urine might be less susceptible to problematic contamination than  
439 feces. As discussed above, estimates of the proportion of exogenous DNA in urine before capture  
440 are unknown; however, it is well known that feces contain overwhelmingly exogenous DNA  
441 (Chiou & Bergey, 2018; Perry et al., 2010; Qin et al., 2010). In addition to the microbiota that  
442 dominate feces, fecal samples also contain dietary DNA from food items consumed by the host  
443 (Bradley et al., 2007; Clayton et al., 2016). In the case of chimpanzees, food items include a

444 wide array of plant and animal items, including nonhuman primate prey (Gilby, 2006; Hobaiter,  
445 Samuni, Mullins, Akankwasa, & Zuberbühler, 2017; Mitani, Watts, & Muller, 2002; Pruett et  
446 al.; Uehara, 1997). Because of the extremely high proportion of microbiota in feces, some sort of  
447 DNA capture is required to target endogenous DNA (Chiou & Bergey, 2018; Hernandez-  
448 Rodriguez et al., 2018; Perry et al., 2010; Snyder-Mackler et al., 2016; White et al., 2019).  
449 However, baits can successfully capture sequence across more than 65 million years of  
450 divergence (i.e., across the entire primate order) and much of this captured sequence will map to  
451 a reference genome equivalently divergent (Webster et al., 2018). This means that the same baits  
452 designed to capture host DNA in the feces will also likely successfully capture DNA from  
453 primate prey species and that these contaminant sequences will successfully map to the host  
454 reference genome, introducing artifacts into genotyping. This possibility needs to be studied  
455 further, but if present in our samples, it would artificially increase our observed rates of allelic  
456 dropout for urine (calculated as heterozygous sites in feces that are homozygous for one of the  
457 alleles in urine). We thus consider our estimates of allelic dropout in urine to be conservative  
458 overall.

459 Our analyses of genotype concordance in dentin and calculus were limited, as we only  
460 had a single individual with data from both sources and we recovered very little usable data in  
461 the calculus sample. However, in that comparison, we observed a rate of allelic dropout in  
462 calculus more than double that of any other tissue. Our estimates for dentin were similar to feces  
463 at our most rigorous depth threshold. These results are consistent with previous research showing  
464 that yields and quality of host genetic material are lower in calculus compared to dentin (Mann et  
465 al., 2018). Yet, calculus has been used to recover full mitochondrial and nuclear genomes from

466 human calculus samples (Ozga et al., 2016; Ziesemer et al., 2018). We therefore suggest that  
467 more work is needed to explore and optimize DNA capture from calculus in wild populations.

468       Taken together, we suggest using urine as a primary source of noninvasive genomic  
469 DNA. However, urine is not universally available in sufficient quantities for collection and  
470 extraction, and its availability and collectable volume will vary by organism body size, study  
471 habitat, and level of habituation. When using other noninvasive biological materials, our results  
472 build on previous research (Chiou & Bergey, 2018; Hernandez-Rodriguez et al., 2018; White et  
473 al., 2019) showing that targeting a smaller subset of the genome leads to an increase in usable  
474 data. In particular, we argue that exome capture is an ideal option, as it targets a small subset of  
475 the genome commonly used in evolutionary analyses and there are commercially available  
476 human kits that can be used across the entire primate order (Webster et al., 2018). However, like  
477 other methods of DNA capture, exome capture requires additional considerations when working  
478 with noninvasive samples. First, a multitude of factors impact the quality of host genomic  
479 material in a natural environment, including time elapsed since excretion (DeMay et al., 2013),  
480 field/laboratory storage conditions (Nsubuga et al., 2004; Panek et al., 2018), and enzymatic  
481 activity (Deagle et al., 2006). Second, depending on sample quality, it may be necessary to  
482 undergo repeated extractions for the same sample, along with multiple double stranded DNA  
483 library builds and multiple indexing amplifications. Third, a single capture of the indexed DNA  
484 library may lead to a higher duplication rate, which has been cited in several studies as being a  
485 barrier to inexpensive and accurate host genome capture (Bansal & Pinney, 2017; Ebbert et al.,  
486 2016; García-García et al., 2016).

487       Noninvasive samples have been used across a variety of disciplines for addressing many  
488 evolutionary and ecological questions (Beja-Pereira, Oliveira, Alves, Schwartz, & Luikart, 2009)

489 including investigations into dietary niches, social structures, and diversity of endangered  
490 animals (Carroll et al., 2018). Chimpanzees, currently listed as endangered on the IUCN red list,  
491 are considered to be flagship species and indicators of environmental stressors in the surrounding  
492 area (Wrangham, 2008). Thus, noninvasive genomic methods are critical for monitoring the  
493 health of wild populations as well as aspects of local adaptation and population history important  
494 for conservation management. This is especially important for small, isolated populations such as  
495 that of Gombe National Park, for which there is an effort to maintain genetic diversity (Pusey,  
496 Pintea, Wilson, Kamenya, & Goodall, 2007). The results of our study highlight urine as a  
497 promising and untapped source of DNA for this and other genomic work in not only  
498 chimpanzees, but wild populations of other protected species as well.

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### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

510 The authors declare no competing interests.

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## 712 **Data Accessibility**

713 We deposited raw reads in NCBI's Sequence Read Archive

714 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) under Bioproject PRJNA508503 (Ozga et al., 2020). We

715 implemented the full assembly and analysis pipeline in Snakemake (Köster & Rahmann, 2012),

716 and managed software using Bioconda (Grüning et al., 2018). All code, scripts, and software

717 environments are available on Github

718 ([https://github.com/thw17/Gombe\\_noninvasive\\_genomic\\_methods](https://github.com/thw17/Gombe_noninvasive_genomic_methods)).

719

## 720 **Author Contributions**

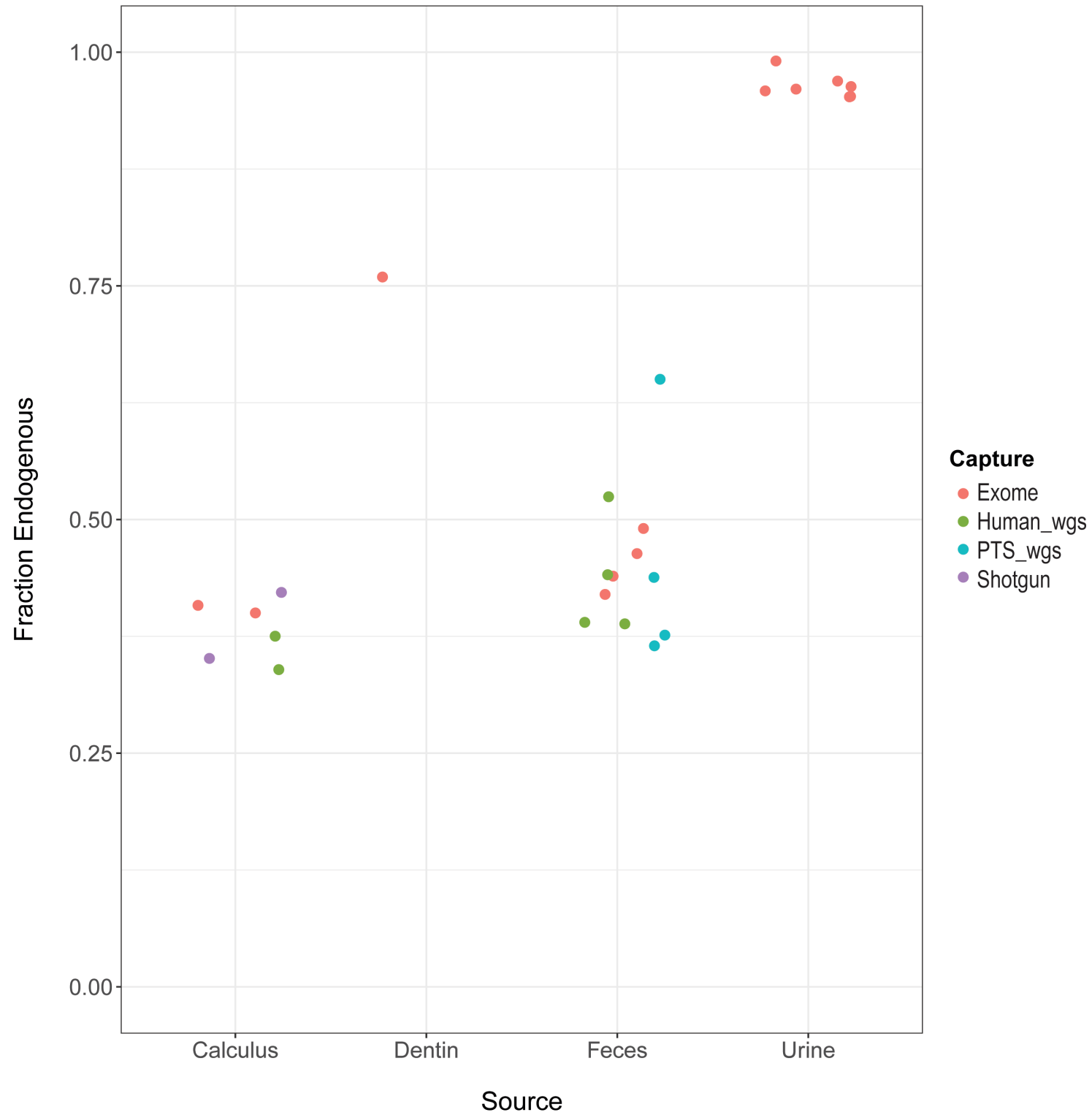
721 ATO, THW, and ACS designed the study. RSN, ICG, AP, YL, and BH provided samples. ATO

722 completed the lab work. THW analyzed the data. MAW and ACS provided laboratory space and

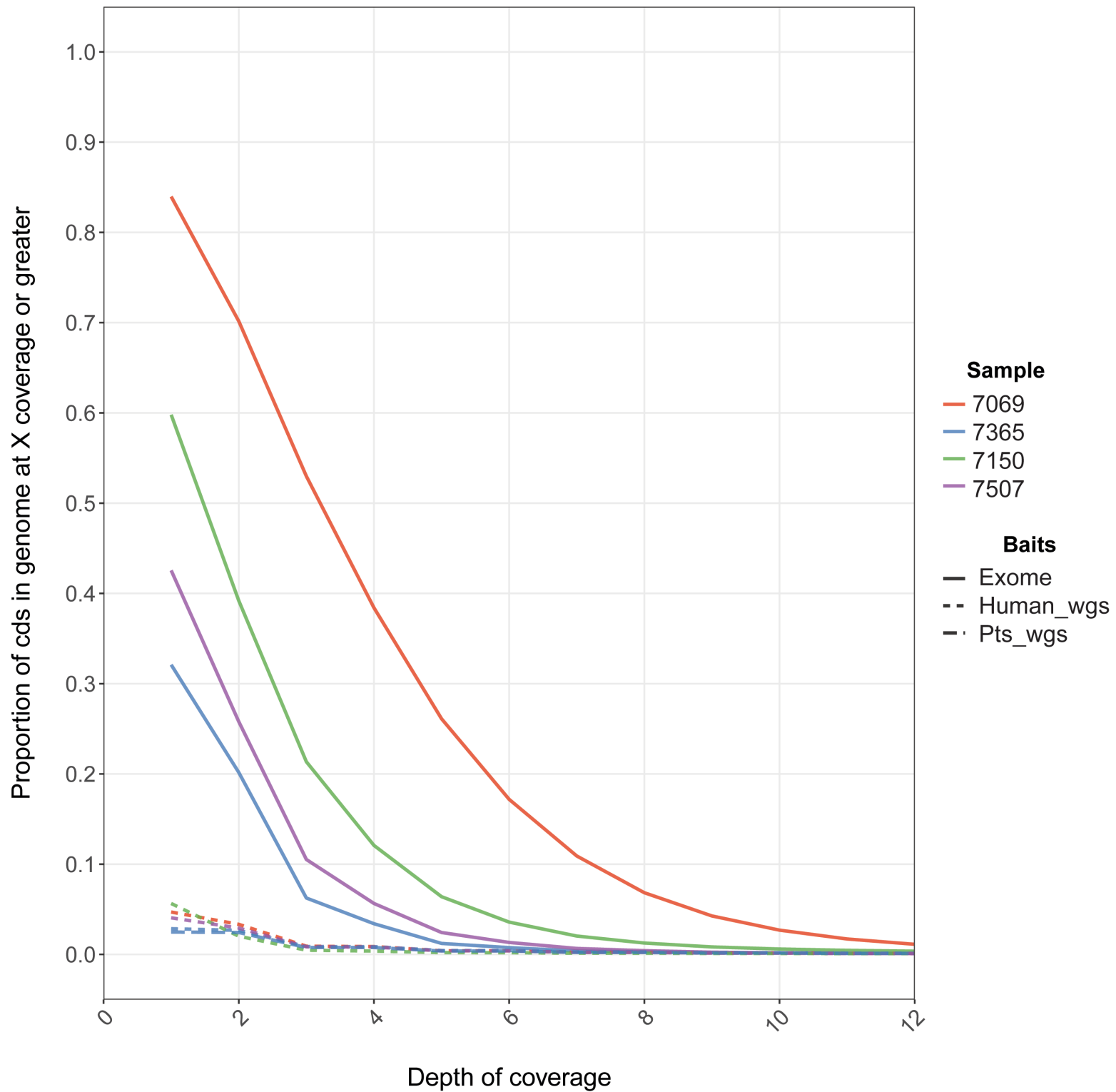
723 funding. ATO and THW wrote the manuscript. All authors revised and approved the manuscript.

724

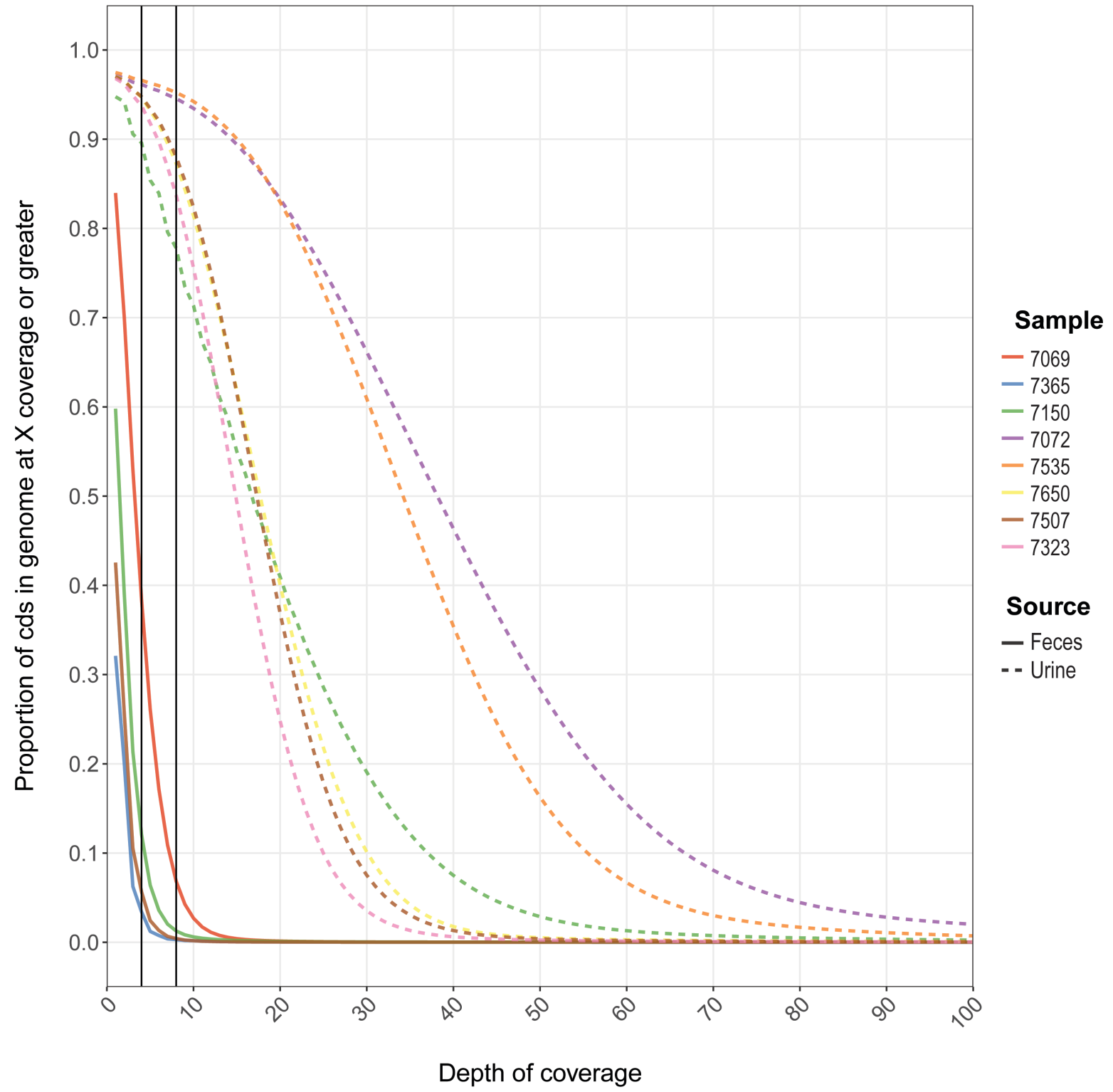
# Endogenous content of different sources of DNA



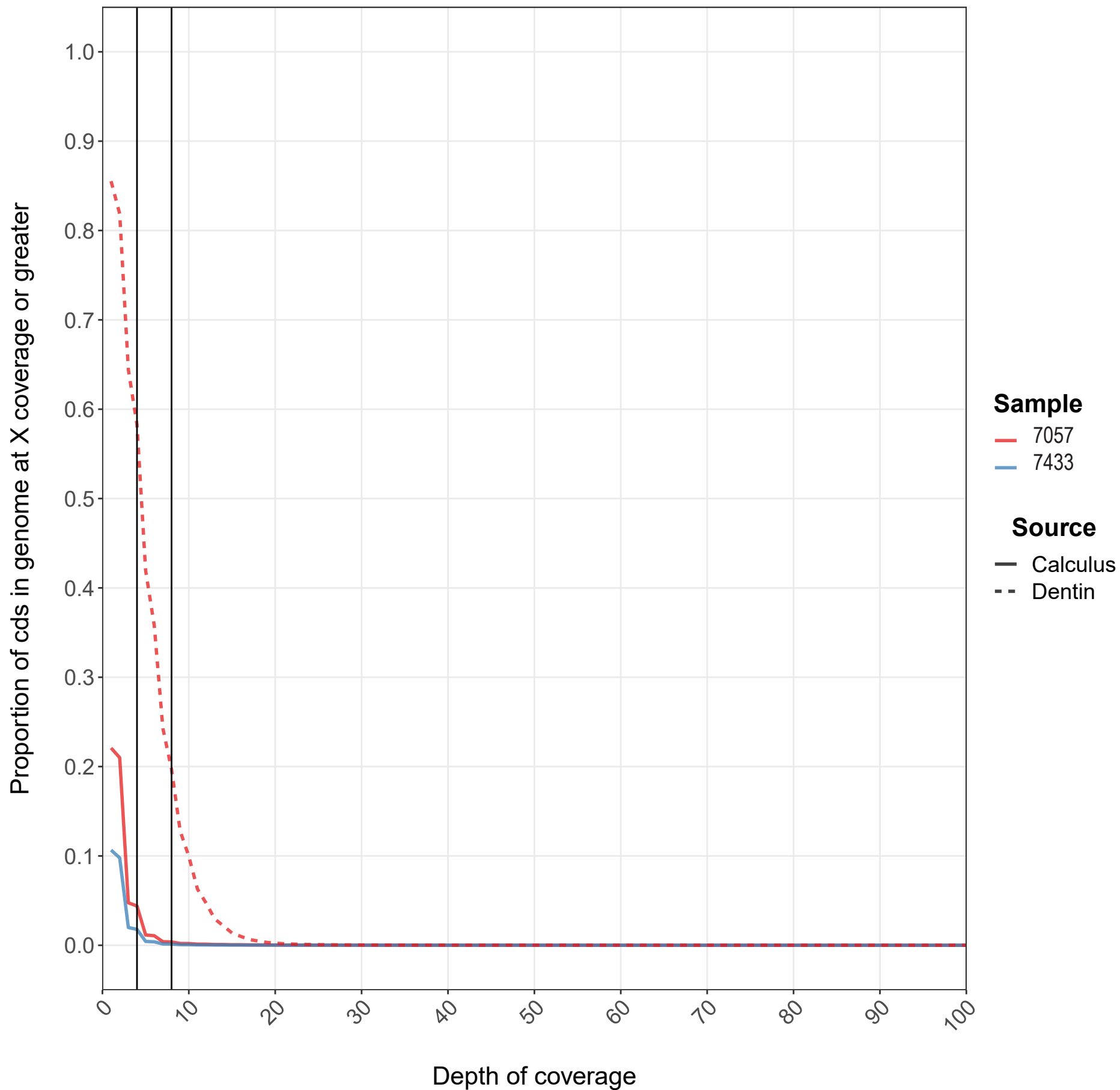
# Callable sites in PanTro4 Ensembl CDS



# Callable sites in PanTro4 Ensembl CDS



# Callable sites in PanTro4 Ensembl CDS



Individual ID	Depth <sup>a</sup>	Source	Passing Variant Sites <sup>b</sup>	Passing in Both <sup>c</sup>	Shared Sites <sup>d</sup>	Dropout Sites <sup>e</sup>	Ambiguous Sites <sup>f</sup>	Dropout Rate <sup>g</sup>
7365	4	Feces	2,484	453	441	3	5	0.66%
7365	4	Urine	17,127	453	441	4	5	0.88%
7365	6	Feces	711	147	139	3	4	2.04%
7365	6	Urine	11,522	147	139	1	4	0.68%
7365	8	Feces	315	79	74	3	1	3.80%
7365	8	Urine	7,486	79	74	1	1	1.27%
7365	10	Feces	227	59	54	3	1	5.08%
7365	10	Urine	4,952	59	54	1	1	1.69%
7150	4	Feces	9,933	4,317	3,918	38	26	0.88%
7150	4	Urine	107,629	4,317	3,918	335	26	7.76%
7150	6	Feces	5,039	2,580	2,391	38	19	1.47%
7150	6	Urine	103,639	2,580	2,391	132	19	5.12%
7150	8	Feces	2,947	1,778	1,650	36	16	2.02%
7150	8	Urine	98,441	1,778	1,650	76	16	4.27%
7150	10	Feces	2,014	1,309	1,212	36	15	2.75%
7150	10	Urine	93,244	1,309	1,212	46	15	3.51%
7507	4	Feces	3,153	1,497	1,436	19	14	1.27%
7507	4	Urine	144,600	1,497	1,436	28	14	1.87%
7507	6	Feces	1,284	666	629	19	9	2.85%
7507	6	Urine	135,002	666	629	9	9	1.35%
7507	8	Feces	611	362	332	18	9	4.97%
7507	8	Urine	125,793	362	332	3	9	0.83%
7507	10	Feces	368	229	203	18	6	7.86%
7507	10	Urine	115,955	229	203	2	6	0.87%
7057	4	Calculus	3,555	322	291	10	8	3.11%
7057	4	Dentine	74,516	322	291	13	8	4.04%
7057	6	Calculus	1,291	132	113	10	3	7.58%
7057	6	Dentine	58,088	132	113	6	3	4.55%
7057	8	Calculus	349	56	40	10	2	17.86%
7057	8	Dentine	40,438	56	40	4	2	7.14%



7057	10 Calculus	115	38	27	7	1	18.42%
7057	10 Dentine	27,190	38	27	3	1	7.89%