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ORIGINAL PAPER**Discrepancies Between Molecular and Morphological Databases of Soil Ciliates Studied for Temperate Grasslands of Central Europe****Running title:** Molecular Techniques Reveal the Hidden Diversity of Soil CiliatesPaul Christiaan Venter, Frank Nitsche, Anja Scherwass, and Hartmut Arndt¹

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By measuring the change in soil protist communities, the effect of human land use on grasslands can be monitored to promote sustainable ecosystem functioning. Protists form the active link in the rhizosphere between the plant roots and higher trophic organisms; however, only few morphological species and their ecological values have yet been described in this context. To investigate the communicability between morphological and molecular databases used in the molecular barcoding of protists and in the biomonitoring

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