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**ORIGINAL PAPER****The Hidden Diversity of Flagellated Protists in Soil****Running title:** Molecular Techniques Reveal Hidden Diversity of Soil FlagellatesPaul Christiaan Venter, Frank Nitsche, and Hartmut Arndt<sup>1</sup>

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**Protists are among the most diverse and abundant eukaryotes in soil. However, gaps between described and sequenced protist morphospecies still present a pending problem when surveying environmental samples for known species using molecular methods. The number of sequences in the molecular PR<sup>2</sup> database (~130,000) is limited compared to the species richness expected (>1 million protist species) - limiting the recovery rate. This is important, since high throughput sequencing (HTS) methods are used to find associative patterns between functional**

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