

**Table S2: Enrichment of zygotes during purification using “Percoll only” method**

Parasite/ Cell	Before Purification	Percoll, 1000xg, 30 min		
		upper band	middle band	lower band
RBC	6.7x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.3x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.4x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.3x10 <sup>8</sup>
Gam	5.2x10 <sup>7</sup>	6.0x10 <sup>6</sup>	0	1.7x10 <sup>6</sup>
Zygote	2.7x10 <sup>7</sup>	6.4x10 <sup>6</sup>	0	9.0x10 <sup>5</sup>
Mac Gam	0	0	0	0
Zygote %	0.4 %	0.5 %	0 %	0.6 %

Absolute total numbers of RBCs and different parasite stages before and after each purification step are shown. Enrichment of zygotes is indicated by the percentage of zygotes in the whole population after each purification step (Zygote %). RBC = red blood cells; Gam = gametocytes; Mac Gam = macrogametocytes.