**Supplementary Table 1. Validation of a series of sections analysed during *E. invadens* encystation.** Cells that showed characteristic ultrastructural features were manually counted in 20 sections at each time point during the encystation. n.v., not visible. n.d. not detected.

 Encysting time post induction

Ultrastructures Characteristics 0 hr 4 hr 8 hr 12 hr 16 hr 20 hr 24 hr 32 hr 48 hr 72 hr

Nucleus n.v. 14 17 15 17 11 12 6 6 6 2

 1 6 3 5 3 9 8 12 7 7 7

 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 4 3 8

 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3

 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0

Vesicles multivesicular bodies (>50%) 0 0 0 7 15 16 14 20 15 13

Cytoplasmic glycogen scattered 20 14 18 7 0 0 0 0 0 0

 accumulated 0 6 2 13 13 13 4 2 0 0

 n.v. 0 0 0 0 7 7 16 18 20 20

Chromatoid bodies <2 nm length 1 2 8 10 1 2 2 2 2 0

 ≥2 nm length 0 2 1 4 10 11 4 0 2 2

Cyst walls n.d. 20 20 20 15 6 2 2 0 0 0

 fragmented structure 0 0 0 5 14 15 12 12 7 4

 coated 0 0 0 0 0 3 6 8 13 16