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Nov 22, 2021

Protocols for eDNA/eRNA extraction from marine samples V.2

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dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bz95p986 Luca Mirimin

This document provides a series of protocols used to extract eDNA or eRNA from marine environmental samples such as small and large volume (filtered) water, sediment or (fine mesh net) plankton. Specifically, these protocols are recommended for use following sampling as described in Mirimin et al. (2021; Environmental DNA sampling protocols for the surveillance of marine non-indigenous species. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.by7rpzm6>).

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bz95p986

Luca Mirimin, Dulaney Miller, Sara Fernandez 2021. Protocols for eDNA/eRNA extraction from marine samples. **protocols.io**
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bz95p986>
Luca Mirimin



protocol

Sara Fernandez, Dulaney L. Miller, Luke E. Holman, Arjan Gittenberger, Alba Ardura, Marc Rius, Luca Mirimin, Environmental DNA sampling protocols for the surveillance of marine non-indigenous species in Irish coastal waters, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 172, 2021, 112893, ISSN 0025-326X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112893>

eDNA, eRNA, extraction, environmental samples, protocol

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Nov 22, 2021

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While these protocols can be adapted and used for a wide range of sources and sample types, these protocols are recommended for samples collected using the methods described in:

Luca Mirimin, Dulaney Miller, Sara Fernandez 2021. Environmental DNA sampling protocols for the surveillance of marine non-indigenous species. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.by7rpzm6>

PROTOCOL 1 - eDNA extraction from water samples (low volume water)

Micropipette set (1-1000ul) and relevant filter tips
Microcentrifuge to accommodate 1.5-2.0mL tubes
Bead beater
Incubator (at last up to 60C)
Vortexer for 1.5-2.0mL tubes

Ethanol (96-100%) (not denaturated alcohol)

 [QIAgen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit, 50](#)

[rxn Qiagen Catalog #69504](#) In 2 steps

 [Oakton™ Glass beads for Mills Fisher Scientific](#) Step 2.1

 [DNA-](#)

[ExitusPlus Applychem Catalog #A7089](#) Step 2.1

 [Buffer ATL \(tissue lysis](#)

[buffer\) Qiagen Catalog #19076](#) In 2 steps

 [Proteinase K,](#)

[2mL Qiagen Catalog #19131](#) In 2 steps

10mL tubes suitable to beat beater
1.5mL microtubes

PROTOCOL 2 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume water)

Micropipette set (1-1000ul) and relevant filter tips
Pipettes 1-10mL
Centrifuge to accommodate 1.5-2.0mL microtubes
Centrifuge capable of spinning 50 ml tubes at 2500 x g using swing-out rotor
Rocker/shaker for HV filter capsules
Incubator (at last up to 60C)
Vortexer for 1.5-2.0mL tubes with adapter for 50mL

 [PowerMax® Soil DNA Isolation](#)

[Kit Mobio Catalog #12988-10](#) In 2 steps

PROTOCOL 3 - eDNA/eRNA co-extraction from water samples (high volume water)

Micropipette set (1-1000ul) and relevant filter tips

Pipettes 1-10mL (not needed if extracting from small volume samples)

Centrifuge to accommodate 1.5-2.0mL microtubes

Centrifuge capable of spinning 50 ml tubes at 2500 x g using swing-out rotor (not needed if extracting from small volume samples)

Rocker/shaker for HV filter capsules (not needed if extracting from small volume samples)

Incubator (at last up to 60C)

Vortexer for 1.5-2.0mL tubes with adapter for 50mL (adapter not needed if extracting from small volume samples)

 [ZR-Duet™ DNA/RNA MiniPrep Plus Zymo](#)

[Research Catalog #D7003](#) Step 4.1

 [SuperScript II reverse transcription kit Life Technologies](#) Step 4.2

PROTOCOL 4 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume tow net)

Micropipette set (1-1000ul) and relevant filter tips

Microcentrifuge to accommodate 1.5-2.0mL tubes

Incubator (at last up to 60C)

Vortexer for 1.5-2.0mL tubes

 [QIAgen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit, 50](#)

[rxn Qiagen Catalog #69504](#) In 2 steps

 [Buffer ATL \(tissue lysis](#)

[buffer\) Qiagen Catalog #19076](#) In 2 steps

 [Proteinase K,](#)

[2mL Qiagen Catalog #19131](#) In 2 steps

1.5mL microtubes

PROTOCOL 5 - eDNA extraction from sediment samples

Micropipette set (1-1000ul) and relevant filter tips

Microcentrifuge to accommodate 1.5-2.0mL tubes

Incubator (at last up to 60C)

Vortexer for 1.5-2.0mL tubes

Weighing scale (up to 10g)

Make sure to establish a Risk Assessment to mitigate any adverse effect on users while carrying out any of these protocols. Useful information (e.g. Safety Data Sheets) should be sourced from the relevant suppliers who procured the materials.

To minimize risk of sample contamination, note that all protocols should be carried out in dedicated eDNA extraction laboratories/rooms.

Ensure that each protocol and list of materials is checked before starting any of the procedures. Specifically, make sure that all key materials(e.g. kits) have not been modified or discontinued by the relevant supplier.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Note that these nucleic acid extraction protocols have been adapted and tested in conjunction with sampling protocols as detailed in:



Environmental DNA sampling protocols for the surveillance of marine non-indigenous species
by Luca Mirimin

PREVIEW

RUN



See also the relevant peer-reviewed publication here:

Fernandez S, Miller DL, Holman LE, Gittenberger A, Ardura A, Rius M, Mirimin L (2021). Environmental DNA sampling protocols for the surveillance of marine non-indigenous species in Irish coastal waters.. Marine pollution bulletin.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112893>

1.1 Overview of protocols included in this document:

A	B
Protocol title	Description/purpose
PROTOCOL 1 - eDNA extraction from water samples (low volume water)	Extracting eDNA from filter membranes following filtration of low volume marine water (e.g. 1L)
PROTOCOL 2 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume water)	Extracting eDNA from High Volume filter capsules (e.g. 1 µm polyethersulfone filter membrane with an Effective Filtration Area of 1,300 cm ²)
PROTOCOL 3 - eDNA/eRNA co-extraction from water samples (high volume water)	Co-extracting eDNA and eRNA from filter membranes following filtration of marine water
PROTOCOL 4 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume tow net)	Extracting eDNA from marine samples collected with a fine mesh (e.g. 50µm) plankton net
PROTOCOL 5 - eDNA extraction from sediment samples	Extracting eDNA from marine sediment

PROTOCOL 1 - eDNA extraction from water samples (low volume water)

15m

2 Extract eDNA using the

[QIAgen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit, 50](#)

[rxn Qiagen Catalog #69504](#)

following

manufacturer's instructions on "*Purification of Total DNA from Animal Tissues (Spin-Column Protocol)*", with the following modifications:

- 2.1 Following sample collection as per "*Protocol for collection of water samples (low volume water)*", cut each filter membrane in half with scissors and place it in a [10 mL](#) tube containing 0.25 g of 0.1 mm glass beads and 0.25 g of 0.5 mm glass beads [Oakton™ Glass beads for Mills Fisher Scientific](#) or equivalent. Both scissors and tweezers used for cutting and handling the membranes should be decontaminated with

[DNA-](#)

[ExitusPlus Applychem Catalog #A7089](#)

(or equivalent) prior to

use.

- 2.2 Add [720 µL](#) of

[Buffer ATL \(tissue lysis](#)

[buffer\) Qiagen Catalog #19076](#)

, [950 µL](#) of

distilled water and 100 µL of Proteinase K

[Proteinase K](#),

[2mL Qiagen Catalog #19131](#)

(2 mg/L final

concentration).

2.3 Bead beat the mixture for  **00:15:00** at half speed using a

15m

Mixer Mill MM 400

Retsch

MM400



(or equivalent)

2.4 Follow subsequent steps as per manufacturer's recommendations


2.5 During the final elution phase, add  **100 µL** of

[Buffer](#)

[AE Qiagen Catalog #19077](#)

and spin through the column.

Repeat the step above for a final total volume of  **200 µL** .

Store extract at  **-20 °C** .

PROTOCOL 2 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume water)

3

[PowerMax® Soil DNA Isolation](#)

Extract eDNA using the [Kit Mobio Catalog #12988-10](#) following manufacturer's instructions.

3.1

Note that some initial modifications should be incorporated when extracting from samples collected using a semi-automated eDNA sampler.

Mark II InDepth eDNA sampler
Semi-automated water sampler

Applied Genomics Mark II [↗](#)

Further details are available at [Biodiversity and eDNA Survey, Analysis and Monitoring | Applied Genomics](#)

PROTOCOL 3 - eDNA/eRNA co-extraction from water samples (high volume water)

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The following protocol was adapted from Pochon *et al.* (2017)

Pochon X, Zaiko A, Fletcher LM, Laroche O, Wood SA (2017). Wanted dead or alive? Using metabarcoding of environmental DNA and RNA to distinguish living assemblages for biosecurity applications.. PloS one.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187636>

4.1 Co-extract eDNA and eRNA using

[✕ ZR-Duet™ DNA/RNA MiniPrep Plus Zymo](#)

Research Catalog #D7003

following manufacturer's recommendations.

Store eDNA at **-20 °C** and eRNA at **-80 °C**.

To monitor possible crosscontamination in the extraction process, include a negative control in the DNA isolation step, consisting of the same components but no starting material, to be processed alongside the eDNA/eRNA samples throughout all subsequent steps. In case there is a contamination, it can be detected after sequencing.

4.2 Reverse Transcribe eRNA into cDNA using

[☒ SuperScript II reverse transcription kit](#) **Life Technologies** or equivalent kit.

cDNA can be stored at $\delta -20^{\circ}\text{C}$.

PROTOCOL 4 - eDNA extraction from water samples (high volume tow net)

5 Extract eDNA using the

[☒ QIAgen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit](#), 50

rxn Qiagen Catalog #69504

following

manufacturer's instructions on "*Purification of Total DNA from Animal Tissues (Spin-Column Protocol)*", with the following modifications:

5.1 Following sample collection as per "*Protocol for collection of water samples (high volume tow net)*", mix by briefly vortexing and place a $\square 15\text{ mL}$ sub-sample into a new clean $\square 50\text{ mL}$ falcon tube (conical bottom). Centrifuge at max speed to form a pellet. Remove supernatant by pipetting.

5.2 Add $\square 1350\text{ }\mu\text{L}$ of

[☒ Buffer ATL \(tissue lysis](#)

buffer) Qiagen Catalog #19076

, $\square 100\text{ }\mu\text{L}$

[☒ Proteinase K,](#)

2mL Qiagen Catalog #19131

and follow manufacturer's

recommendations for all subsequent steps. Including an overnight incubation step.

5.3 During the final elution phase, add $\square 100\text{ }\mu\text{L}$ of

[☒ Buffer](#)

AE Qiagen Catalog #19077

and spin through the column.

Repeat the step above for a final total volume of $\square 200\text{ }\mu\text{L}$.

Store extract at $\delta -20^{\circ}\text{C}$.

PROTOCOL 5 - eDNA extraction from sediment samples

6 Extract eDNA from a $\square 5\text{ g}$ sub-sample using

[☒ PowerMax® Soil DNA Isolation](#)

Kit Mobio Catalog #12988-10

following

manufacturer's recommendations.

