Illumina iSeq 100 and MiSeq exhibit similar performance in freshwater fish environmental DNA metabarcoding

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Abstract

Environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis is a method of detecting DNA from environmental samples and is used as a biomonitoring tool. In recent studies, Illumina MiSeq has been the most extensively used tool for eDNA metabarcoding. The Illumina iSeq 100 (hereafter, iSeq), one of the high-throughput sequencers (HTS), has a relatively simple workflow and is potentially more affordable than other HTS. However, its utility in eDNA metabarcoding has still not been investigated. In the present study, we applied fish eDNA metabarcoding to 40 water samples from river and lake ecosystems to assess the difference in species detectability and composition between iSeq and MiSeq. To check differences in sequence quality and errors, we also assessed differences in read changes between the two HTS. There were similar sequence qualities between iSeq and MiSeq. Significant difference was observed in the number of species between two HTS, but no difference was observed in species composition between the two HTS. Additionally, the species compositions in common with the conventional method were the same between the two HTS. According to the results, using the same amplicon library for sequencing, two HTS would exhibit a similar performance of fish species detection using eDNA metabarcoding.

Introduction

Environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis methods can detect the DNA fragments shed from macro-organisms in environmental samples (water, sediment, or air). The eDNA methods can provide information on the distribution, abundance, seasonal change, and migration of species[1–4] and can facilitate biodiversity monitoring activities[5,6]. Furthermore, eDNA methods use environmental samples for DNA detection, permitting non-invasive and non-destructive surveys in target species, habitats, and ecosystems[7]. One of the eDNA methods, eDNA metabarcoding, can detect multiple species from an environmental sample simultaneously using high-throughput sequencer (HTS)[8–11]. eDNA metabarcoding has been applied to detect both vertebrate[9,12–15] and invertebrate[16–18] compositions in communities. In addition, eDNA metabarcoding can detect higher levels of species diversity[19,20] or complementary species diversity compared to conventional monitoring methods[10,21].

Illumina MiSeq is the mainstream HTS for the detection species composition using eDNA metabarcoding[3, 9, 12, 16, 22]. In early 2019, the Illumina iSeq 100 (iSeq), which is a simpler and more affordable HTS system, was released[23]. The differences between iSeq and MiSeq are as follows, 1) base-calling systems, 2) the structure of the flow cell for loading the sequencing library, 3) the sequencing workflow[23]. The iSeq is simpler and requires less preparation using the cartridge, while the MiSeq requires relatively more preparation steps, including pre- and

post-run wash of the flow channel. Such differences between the two sequencing approaches could influence species detectability and the sequencing quality during eDNA metabarcoding. Although some eDNA studies using iSeq have been reported [24–26], no comparative studies of sequencing performance and species detectability between iSeq and MiSeq have been performed in the eDNA metabarcoding.

In the present study, we applied fish eDNA metabarcoding using iSeq and MiSeq approaches to freshwater samples including river and lake ecosystems. We compared the sequence quality such as phred score and change rate of sequence read in pre-processing, and species detectability between iSeq and MiSeq. In addition, to evaluate the capacity of iSeq and MiSeq to detect species based on eDNA metabarcoding, we compared fish species compositions between eDNA metabarcoding (iSeq and MiSeq) and conventional methods.

Results

HTS using iSeq and MiSeq. In iSeq, the passing Filter (% PF), ≧ % Q30 (Read 1), and ≧ % Q30 (Read 2) were 80.80, 96.80, and 95.30%, respectively (Supplementary Fig. S1). In MiSeq, Passing Filter (% PF), ≧ % Q30 (Read 1), and ≧ % Q30 (Read 2) were 95.05, 97.30, and 96.48%, respectively (Supplementary Fig. S1). The % PF value of iSeq was slightly lower than that of MiSeq; however, this was due to differences in the %PF calculation

methods[27]. The Q30 values of Read 1 and 2 were not remarkably different between iSeq and MiSeq.

In total, 3,325,177 and 2,154,367 read sequences were determined using iSeq and MiSeq, respectively. The sequencing depth and sequence per sample were consistent between iSeq and MiSeq in each processing step (Supplementary Table S2 and S3). From the results of spearman's correlation tests, there were significant positive correlations between sequence reads of iSeq and MiSeq in merge pairs, quality filtering, and denoising step, respectively (ρ = 0.991, 0.991 and 0.993, $p < 0.01$, respectively; Table 1). Besides, there was significant positive correlation between the read ratio of iSeq and MiSeq after pre-processing ($\rho = 0.993$, $p < 0.01$; Table 1).

Taxonomic assignment of sequence read. Sequence reads obtained from iSeq and MiSeq in the river and lake samples after pre-processing are listed in Table 2. After the denoising step, most sequence reads in iSeq and MiSeq could be taxonomically assigned to fish species. In total, 154 and 168 representative iSeq and MiSeq sequences, respectively, were assigned to fish species (Assigned Reads in Table 2). After the taxonomic assignment, 102 and 101 freshwater fish sequences with ≧ 99 % identity were retained in iSeq and MiSeq, respectively. Low numbers of sequence reads of two species (*Rhinogobius* sp. and *Tridentiger* sp.) were

retained from negative control samples (NC41–43) of iSeq and MiSeq (Supplementary Table S4 and S5), which could be due to cross-contamination among samples. The species were commonly observed throughout the samples, and the source of contamination could not be identified. Therefore, we did not assess cross-contamination across the samples using negative control samples.

Based on the sequencing results, retained iSeq and MiSeq sequences were assigned to 69 and 68 freshwater fish species, subspecies, or genera, respectively (Supplementary Table S4 and S5). The genera that were assigned to multiple candidate species are listed in Supplementary Table S6. To assess differences in species composition between iSeq and MiSeq, we used NMDS ordination, and the fish communities of iSeq and MiSeq at each site were plotted at almost similar coordinates (Fig. 1 (a)). From the results of PERMANOVA and PERMDISP, no differences of fish species compositions per samples were observed between iSeq and MiSeq (PERMANOVA, p = 0.95940 and PERMDISP, p = 0.51480 in Table 3). Sixty-eight fish species detected in MiSeq were also detected in iSeq and Japanese striped loach *Cobitis biwae* typeB was detected in L11 only from iSeq. The number of species per sample ranged from 4 to 27, in iSeq, and 4 to 26, in MiSeq. The differences in the number of species between iSeq and MiSeq ranged from 0 to 4. However, species that were detected by iSeq only often had low read counts (11 to 32 reads per species, Supplementary Table S7). For

107 example, 15 and 12 species were detected in the iSeq and MiSeq at R5; however, the numbers
108 of reads of the three species detected only in the iSeq were 11 (*Lepomis macrochirus*), 11
109 (*Oncorhynchus masou* subsp.), and 28 (*Tachysurus nudiceps*), respectively (Supplementary
110 Table S7). All species detected only in iSeq remained after adjusting the number of sequence
111 reads between iSeq and MiSeq using rarefaction at each site. For some species, the number of
112 sequence reads were below the cut-off value (10 reads) for the pre-processing step after the
113 rarefaction (Supplementary Table S7). For example, at R5, number of sequence read for *L.*
114 *macrochirus* and *O. masou* subsp. were below the cut-off value, while that for *T. nudiceps* was
115 above the cut-off value.
116
117 **Comparison of fish species composition between eDNA methods and conventional**
118 **methods.** R23–27 river samples were used for the comparisons between the two sequencers
119 and the conventional methods (Fig. 2). A total of 30, 30, and 29 species were detected in R23–
120 27 using the iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods, respectively (Supplementary Table S8).
121 The number of species detected by iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods were 14–19, 14–
122 19, and 8–16 in each site in R23–27, respectively (Supplementary Table S8). The number of
123 species detected by iSeq and MiSeq was higher than that detected the conventional methods
124 in all survey sites (deep green in Fig. 2). Based on the results of repeated measured ANOVA,

there were significant differences among methods (F = 9.061, p = 0.0088), among sites (F = 4.827, p = 0.0282 in Supplementary Table S9). However, based on the results of the subsequent Tukey-Kramer test, there were no significant differences among the three methods ($p > 0.05$, Supplementary Table S10).

Fish species compositions detected by HTS or captured by conventional methods in each river are shown in Figure 3. Some fish species were detected only in HTS through the five sites (e.g., *Pseudorasbora parva* and *Silurus asotus*). Three fish species, *Cobitis* sp. BIWAE type A, *Pseudobagrus aurantiacus* and *Oryzias latipes*, were observed only in the conventional methods (Fig. 3). However, other species observed in the conventional methods were also detected in HTS. No similarities were observed among fish species observed only in conventional methods at each site. To assess differences in species composition among the three methods, we used NMDS ordination (Fig. 1 (b)). In NMDS ordination, the fish communities of iSeq and MiSeq at each site were plotted at almost similar coordinates. Based on the results of PERMANOVA and PERMDISP analyses, there were no significant differences in species composition evaluated by iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods (PERMANOVA, p = 0.48450 and PERMDISP, p = 0.18510 in Table 4).

Discussion

143 Here, we observed that iSeq and MiSeq could obtain similar sequence qualities and fish fauna
144 in eDNA metabarcoding. As mentioned previously, the SBS chemistry of iSeq is distinct from
145 that of MiSeq in sequencing workflow and base-calling, as well as distinct cartridge structures
146 and flow cell mechanisms. However, such differences would not influence sequence quality in
147 eDNA metabarcoding activities. From the results of two sequencing, high % PF and ≧ Q30
148 values in R1 and R2 have been obtained from the iSeq and MiSeq, respectively
149 (Supplementary Fig. S1). The % PF value of iSeq was slightly lower than that of MiSeq
150 (80.8% vs. 95.05%). In the iSeq, because template generation and the associated preliminary
151 filtration steps are not applied, which leads to lower %PF values compared with MiSeq.
152 Although % PF is much lower with the iSeq, it will not affect performance or data quality[27].
153 In addition, we obtained similar quality of sequence data from iSeq and MiSeq, and a few
154 sequencing errors were observed in both HTS (Supplementary Fig. 1). Furthermore, the rate
155 of change in the number of sequence reads in each process of the analytical pipeline was
156 almost similar between iSeq and MiSeq (Supplementary Fig. S2-5). These changes in each
157 step were positively correlated between the two HTS (Table 1). These results indicate that
158 sequence qualities obtained from iSeq and MiSeq are similar and no sequence biases of the
159 differences in sequencers are observed.
160 The freshwater fish fauna in the rivers and lakes identified by MiFish metabarcoding

161 exhibited differences in the number of species or species composition between iSeq and
162 MiSeq. A higher number of species per sample in iSeq than that in MiSeq could be due to the
163 differences in the obtained sequence reads between the two sequencers. Species detected only
164 in the iSeq had relatively low numbers of reads (11–32 reads, Supplementary Table S7).
165 Sequence reads of these species remained after the rarefaction step, but some species have
166 been fewer than 10 sequence reads after rarefaction (Supplementary Table S7). For example,
167 at site 5, number of sequence read for *L. macrochirus* and *O. masou* subsp. were below the
168 cut-off value, while that for *T. nudiceps* was above the cut-off value. At L4, all species
169 detected only by iSeq after rarefaction (*Opsariichthys platypus*, *Candidia temminckii*,
170 *Tribolodon brandtii*, and *Rhynchocypris oxycephalus jouyi*) were below the cut-off value.
171 These species may have been eliminated by pre-processing before the taxonomic assignment.
172 Therefore, for the same sequence depth, the difference in the number of species between iSeq
173 and MiSeq will be much smaller. Such results indicate that the number of species that can be
174 detected by iSeq and MiSeq are approximately similar if the same sequence library is used.
175 Based on the results of the comparisons of the numbers of species among the three
176 methods, the number of species detected by eDNA metabarcoding was higher than those of
177 conventional methods in each river, including many species that were only detected by HTS
178 (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). For many fish species detected only in HTS, hundreds to tens of thousands

179 of sequence reads per species are obtained at each site and are unlikely to be potential
180 contaminations from other samples (Supplementary Table S4 and S5). Therefore, these fishes
181 are likely to be those that have been dropped by conventional methods because of the
182 limitation of survey efforts (survey time and extent of survey area). Alternatively, the fish
183 fauna of HTS may also contain the fish species inhabiting upstream from the sampling site
184 and may reflect a wider range of fish fauna than conventional methods[29,30]. Some species
185 were only observed in each river by conventional methods, but many of these species were
186 also detected in HTS at other survey sites (e.g., *Anguilla japonica* in R25). Therefore, there
187 was no common trend and ecological traits in fish species observed only by conventional
188 methods. Of these species, three species (*Cobitis* sp. BIWAE type A, *Pseudobagrus*
189 *aurantiacus*, and *Oryzias latipes*) have been observed only in conventional methods
190 throughout five survey sites (Fig. 3). However, from the results of statistical analysis, there
191 were no statistically significant differences in the numbers of observed species among the
192 three methods. This statistical result could be due to the complementary effect of the number
193 of species detected only by each method. The nMDS plot and statistical analyses also show
194 that there was little difference in species composition among the three methods (Fig. 1 (b)). In
195 previous studies, eDNA metabarcoding has exhibited "higher diversity" or "complementary"
196 results when compared to the results of conventional methods[10, 11, 19]. Such complementary

197 results in iSeq and MiSeq support the findings of previous studies.

198 Studies of eDNA metabarcoding have been increasing annually, and it is attracting the
199 attention of researchers and stakeholders as a time- and cost-efficient method for detecting
200 species composition and diversity[28]. Traditionally, MiSeq has been used extensively for eDNA
201 metabarcoding[3, 9, 12, 16, 23]. Recently, some comparative studies using iSeq and other HTS,
202 particularly MiSeq, have been reported in the medical field[31,32]. These studies show that iSeq
203 can be used for whole-genome sequencing and targeted sequencing of pathogenic bacteria
204 with accuracy similar to MiSeq. Some eDNA studies have been reported for the detection of
205 fish community and aquatic plants, but have not compared the accuracy between iSeq and
206 MiSeq[24–26]. Our results indicate that iSeq can be used for eDNA metabarcoding and has
207 similar levels of species detectability to MiSeq. Despite the differences in sequencing depths,
208 iSeq and MiSeq revealed similar fish fauna at each site. Furthermore, the differences in the
209 number of species and species compositions between iSeq and MiSeq have been much
210 smaller after the rarefaction. The results suggest that fish fauna from iSeq and MiSeq can be
211 compared directly if library preparation is performed using similar processes. The iSeq has
212 some limitations such as the unavailability of different kits with different lead lengths (max. 2
213 × 150 bp) and the number of leads (max. pair-end 4 million leads) compared to MiSeq. In
214 contrast, the iSeq has fewer working procedures than MiSeq because of the use of cartridges

215 and no need to clean the flow path. Therefore, iSeq may have lower cross-contamination risk
216 between sequencing runs than MiSeq. Future research should evaluate cross-contamination
217 risks such as the tag jumping rate among the Illumina indices and false-positive and false-
218 negative detection of fish species between the two HTS. In addition, comparison of
219 sequencing performance between iSeq and MiSeq should be also examined for eDNA
220 libraries using other filtering methods (e.g., Sterivex and other materials).
221

222 **Materials and Methods**

223 **Sample collection and filtration.** We used 40 water samples for eDNA metabarcoding
224 from 27 sites in 9 rivers and 13 lakes in Japan from 2016 to 2018 (Fig. 4). Sampling ID and
225 detailed information for each site are listed in Supplementary Table S1. In the river water
226 sampling, 1-L water samples were collected from the surface of at the shore of each river
227 using bleached plastic bottles. In the field, a 1-ml Benzalkonium chloride solution (BAC,
228 Osvan S, Nihon Pharmaceutical, Tokyo, Japan)[33] was added to each water sample to suppress
229 eDNA degeneration before filtering the water samples. We did not include field negative
230 control samples in the HTS library, considering the aim of the presents study. The lake
231 samples were provided by Doi et al. (2020)[34] as DNA extracted samples. In the lake samples,
232 1-L water samples were collected from the surface at shore sites at each lake. The samples

233 were then transported to the laboratory in a cooler at 4°C. Each of the 1-L water samples was
234 filtered through GF/F glass fiber filter (normal pore size = 0.7 μm; diameter = 47 mm; GE
235 Healthcare Japan Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) and divided into two parts (maximum 500-ml
236 water per 1 GF/F filter). To prevent cross-contamination among the water samples, the filter
237 funnels, and the measuring cups were bleached after filtration. All filtered samples were
238 stored at -20°C in the freezer until the DNA extraction step.
239
240 **DNA extraction and library preparation.** The total eDNA was extracted from each
241 filtered sample using the DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany).
242 Extraction methods were according to Uchii *et al.*[35], with a few modifications. A filtered
243 sample was placed in the upper part of a Salivette tube and 440 μL of a solution containing
244 400 μL Buffer AL and 40 μL Proteinase K added. The tube with the filtered sample was
245 incubated at 56°C for 30 min. Afterward, the tube was centrifuged at 5000 ×*g* for 3 min, and
246 the solution at the bottom part of the tube was collected. To increase eDNA yield, 220-μL
247 Tris-EDTA (TE) buffer was added to the filtered sample and the sample re-centrifuged at
248 5000 ×*g* for 1 min. Subsequently, 400 μL of ethanol was added to the collected solution, and
249 the mixture was transferred to a spin column. Afterward, the total eDNA was eluted in 100-μL
250 buffer AE according to the manufacturer's instructions. All eDNA samples were stored at -

251 20°C until the library preparation step.

252 In the present study, we used a universal primer set “MiFish” for eDNA metabarcoding[9].

253 The amplicon library was prepared according to the following protocols. In the first PCR, the

254 total reaction volume was 12 μL, containing 6.0μL 2× KOD buffer, 2.4 μL dNTPs, 0.2 μL

255 KOD FX Neo (TOYOBO, Osaka, Japan), 0.35 μL MiFish-U-F (5’-

256 *ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTNNNNNN*GTCGGTAAAACTCGTGCCA

257 GC -3’), MiFish-U-R (5'-

258 *GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCTNNNNNN*CATAGTGGGGTATCTAAT

259 CCCAGTTTG -3’), MiFish-E-F (5’-

260 *ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTNNNNNN*RGTTGGTAAATCTCGTGCC

261 AGC -3’) and MiFish-E-R (5’-

262 *GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCTNNNNNN*GCATAGTGGGGTATCTAA

263 TCCTAGTTTG -3’) primers with Illumina sequencing primer region and 6-mer Ns, and 2 μL

264 template DNA. The thermocycling conditions were 94°C for 2 min, 35 cycles of 98°C for 10

265 s, 65°C for 30 s, 68°C for 30 s, and 68°C for 5 min. The first PCR was repeated four times for

266 each sample, and the replicated samples were pooled as a single first PCR product for use in

267 the subsequent step. The pooled first PCR products were purified using the Solid Phase

268 Reversible Immobilization select Kit (AMPure XP; BECKMAN COULTER Life Sciences,

269 Indianapolis, IN, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The DNA concentrations
270 of purified first PCR products were measured using a Qubit dsDNA HS assay kit and a Qubit
271 3.0 fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). All purified first PCR
272 products were diluted to 0.1 ng/μL with H_2O, and the diluted samples were used as templates
273 for the second PCR. In the first PCR step, the PCR negative controls (four replicates) were
274 included in each experiment. A total of three PCR negative controls were included in the
275 library (PCR Blank 1–3 samples in Supplementary Table S1, S2, S4, and S5).
276 The second PCR was performed to add HTS adapter sequences with 8-bp dual indices. The
277 total reaction volume was 12 μL, containing 6.0 μL 2× KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix, 1.4
278 μL forward and reverse primer (2.5 μM), 1 μL purified first PCR product, and 2.2 μL H_2O.
279 The thermocycling conditions were 95°C for 3 min, 12 cycles of 98°C for 20 s, 72°C for 15 s,
280 and 72°C for 5 min.
281 Each Indexed second PCR product was pooled in the equivalent volume, and 25 μL of the
282 pooled libraries were loaded on a 2% E-Gel SizeSelect agarose gels (Thermo Fisher
283 Scientific), and a target library size (ca. 370 bp) was collected. The quality of the amplicon
284 library was checked using an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer and Agilent 2100 Expert (Agilent
285 Technologies Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA), and the DNA concentrations of the amplicon
286 library were measured using Qubit dsDNA HS assay Kit using a Qubit 3.0 fluorometer.

287

288 **High-throughput sequencing.** Amplicon library was sequenced using iSeq and MiSeq
289 platforms (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). To normalize the percentage of pass-filtered read
290 numbers, the sequencing runs using the same libraries were performed using iSeq i1 Reagent
291 and MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 Micro. Both sequencing was performed with 8 million pair-end
292 reads and 2×150 bp read lengths. Each library was spiked with approximately 20% PhiX
293 control (PhiX Control Kit v3, Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) before sequencing runs
294 according to the recommendation of Illumina. The wells of cartridges in the iSeq run were
295 loaded with 20 μL of 50 pM library pool, and sequencing performed at Yamaguchi University,
296 Yamaguchi, Japan. The wells of cartridges for MiSeq runs were loaded with 600 μL of 16 pM
297 library pool, and sequencing performed at Illumina laboratories (Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan).
298 Subsequently, the sequencing dataset outputs from iSeq and MiSeq were subjected to pre-
299 processing and taxonomic assignments. All sequence data are registered in the DNA Data
300 Bank of Japan (DDBJ) Sequence Read Archive (DRA, Accession number: DRA10593).

301

302 **Pre-processing and taxonomic assignments.** We used the USEARCH v11.0667[36] for all
303 data pre-processing activities and taxonomic assignment of the HTS datasets obtained from
304 the iSeq and MiSeq platforms[16, 37]. First, pair-end reads (R1 and R2 reads) generated from

305 iSeq and MiSeq platforms were assembled using the “fastq_mergepairs” command with a
306 minimum overlap of 10 bp. In the process, the low-quality tail reads with a cut-off threshold
307 at a Phred score of 2, and the paired reads with too many mismatches (> 5 positions) in the
308 aligned regions were discarded[38]. Secondly, the primer sequences were removed from the
309 merged reads using the “fastx_truncate” command. Afterward, read quality filtering was
310 performed using the “fastq_filter” command with thresholds of max expected error > 1.0 and
311 > 50 bp read length. The pre-processed reads were dereplicated using the “fastx_uniques”
312 command, and the chimeric reads and less than 10 reads were removed from all samples as
313 the potential sequence errors. Finally, an error-correction of amplicon reads, which checks and
314 discards the PCR errors and chimeric reads, was performed using the “unoise3” command in
315 the unoise3 algorithm[39]. Before the taxonomic assignment, the processed reads from the
316 above steps were subjected to sequence similarity search using the “usearch_global”
317 command against reference databases of fish species that had been established previously
318 (MiFish local database v34). The sequence similarity and cut off E-value were 99 % and 10^{-5},
319 respectively. If there was only one species with ≧ 99 % similarity, the sequence was assigned
320 to the top-hit species. Conversely, sequences assigned to two or more species in the ≧ 99 %
321 similarity were merged as species complex and listed in the synonym group. Generally, the
322 species complexes were assigned to the genus level (e.g., Asian crucian carp *Carassius* spp.).

323 Species that were unlikely to inhabit Japan were excluded from the candidate list of species
324 complexes. For example, the sequence of one of bitterling *Acheilignathus macropterus*
325 included other different two species, *A. barbatus* and *A. chankaensis*, as the species of the 2nd
326 hit candidate; however, the two species are not currently found in Japan. Therefore, the
327 sequence was assigned to *A. macropterus* in the present study. Because we used only
328 freshwater fish species, we removed the operational taxonomic units (OTUs) assigned to
329 marine and brackish fishes from each sample. Finally, sequence reads of each fish species
330 were arranged into the matrix, with the rows and columns representing the number of sites
331 and fish species (or genus), respectively.

332 We evaluated sequence quality based on 1) the percentage of clustering passing filter (%
333 PF) and 2) sequencing quality score ≧ % Q30 (Read1 and Read2) between iSeq and MiSeq
334 platforms. The % PF value is an indicator of signal purity for each cluster[40]. The condition
335 leads to poor template generation, which decreases the % PF value[40]. In the present study, a
336 >80 % PF value was set as the threshold of sequence quality in iSeq and MiSeq runs.
337 Sequence quality scores (Q score) measure the probability that a base is called incorrectly.
338 Higher Q scores indicate lower probability of sequencing error, and lower Q scores indicate
339 probability of false-positive variant calls resulting in inaccurate conclusions[41]. In the present
340 study, the % Q30 values (error rate = 0.001 %) were used for the comparison of sequence

quality between iSeq and MiSeq. The parameters were collected directly using Illumina BaseSpace Sequence Hub. We also evaluated changes in sequence reads in pre-processing steps between iSeq and MiSeq platforms. Sequence reads were assessed based 1) merge pairs, 2) quality filtering, and 3) denoising. In each step, the change in the number of reads before and after processing was calculated. The calculated numbers of sequence reads are listed in Supplementary Table S2 and S3 in series.

Comparing sequence quality and fish fauna between iSeq and MiSeq.

To test a relationship of remained sequence reads between iSeq and MiSeq in each pre-processing part, we performed spearman's rank correlation test in each step. In the present study, however, the sequencing run by iSeq and MiSeq was performed only once each for the same sample. Therefore, we could not assess the variabilities of the sequence read in quality checks and taxonomic assignment in the same samples between iSeq and MiSeq.

Before the comparison of fish fauna, rarefaction curves were illustrated for each sample in both iSeq and MiSeq to confirm that the sequencing depth adequately covered the species composition using the "rarecurve" function of the "vegan" package ver. 2.5-6 (https://github.com/vegandevs/vegan) in R ver. 3.6.2[42]. In the present study, the differences in the numbers of sequence reads among samples were confirmed in the two sequencers, but

359 rarefaction curves were saturated in all iSeq and MiSeq samples (Supplementary Fig. S6 and
360 S7). We performed a rarefaction using the "rrarefy" function in "vegan" package to match up
361 the iSeq sequence depths of each sample with that of MiSeq. However, the number of species
362 in each sample on the iSeq have not changed before or after the rarefaction. Therefore, we
363 have used the raw data set before the rarefaction for the subsequent analyses.

364 We compared the species detection capacities of iSeq and MiSeq based on environmental
365 DNA metabarcoding. Using fish faunal data obtained from iSeq and MiSeq, non-metric
366 multidimensional scaling (NMDS) was performed in 1000 separate runs using the
367 "metaMDS" functions in the "vegan" package ver. 2.5-6. For NMDS, the dissimilarity of the
368 fish fauna was calculated based on the incidence-based Jaccard indices. To evaluate the
369 differences in species composition and variance across sites between the two HTS, we
370 performed a permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) and the
371 permutational analyses of multivariate dispersions (PERMDISP) with 10000 permutations,
372 respectively. For the PERMANOVA and PERMDISP, we used the "adonis", and "betadisper"
373 functions in the "vegan" package ver. 2.5-6.

374

375 **Comparison of fish species detectability between eDNA metabarcoding and conventional**
376 **methods.** We evaluated species detectability between the two HTS by comparing the fish

species lists of the two HTS with lists from conventional methods. Five sampling sites were selected from Kyushu and Chugoku districts (R23–27 in Fig.4). The fish fauna data obtained by conventional methods were based on the results of a previous study[43]. The conventional surveys were conducted through hand-net sampling and visual observation by snorkeling (see a previous study[43] for the detailed methods). The count data of each species were replaced with the incidence-based datasets (presence or absence) for comparing with the eDNA metabarcoding datasets. Fish sequence reads of each sampling site obtained by eDNA metabarcoding were also replaced with the incidence-based data.

To test the detectability of species observed by conventional methods, the fish species compositions in five rivers were compared between the eDNA metabarcoding (iSeq and MiSeq) and the conventional methods. To visualize the differences in the species composition between HTSs and conventional methods, heat maps were illustrated for each sampling site. To assess differences in the number of species among methods at each river, the repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed among iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods. If a significant difference was found in repeated measures ANOVA, the Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison test was performed to analyze differences among methods.

Using fish faunal data obtained from iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods, the NMDS

395 was performed in 1000 separate runs with Jaccard indices. The PERMANOVA was performed
396 with 1000 permutations to assess the differences in fish fauna among the methods and sites.
397 Furthermore, to evaluate variance across sites among methods, the PERMDISP was also
398 performed with 1000 permutations. To visualize the number of species in each method and the
399 number of common species between methods, Venn diagrams were illustrated for each river
400 using the "VennDiagram" package ver. 1.6.2 in R[44].
401
402
403 **Data availability**
404 All data of the iSeq and MiSeq sequencing was shared in DRA (Accession number:
405 DRA10593), and all used data, including all detected species by iSeq, MiSeq, and
406 conventional methods, were shared in Supplementary Tables.
407
408
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522 sequencing cartridge kit for the iSeq run.

523

524 **Author Contributions**

525 Y.A. and H.D. designed the study concept. R.I. and M.G. collected field samples, and M.G.,

526 H.D. and S.M. conducted a library preparation and iSeq sequencing. R.N., Y.A., S.M. and

527 H.D. designed the methodology of data analyses and analyzed the data. R.N. and Y.A. led the

528 writing of the manuscript, with critical contributions from all co-authors. R.N. prepared Fig.

529 1–3. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

530

531 **Additional Information**

532

533 **Supplementary information** is available for this paper at Supplementary Figure S1 toS7, and

534 Supplementary Table S1 to S10.

535 **Correspondence** and requests for materials should be addressed to R.N.

536 **Competing Interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

537

538 **Figure Legends**

539

540 **Figure 1 Two-dimensional NMDS plot of fish community using lake and river samples.**

541 (a) fish community of lake and river samples using iSeq and MiSeq. (b) fish community of

542 five river samples using iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods. Blue triangles, green

543 inverted triangles, and diamond shapes indicate the points of iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional

544 methods, respectively. Labels with these shapes also indicate iSeq (-i), MiSeq (-M), and

545 conventional methods (-C). The NMDS plots are performed based on incidence-based Jaccard

546 index.

547

548 **Figure 2 Venn diagrams for comparison of the number of species between high**

549 **throughput sequencers and conventional methods in 5 river samples.** Blue, green, and

550 orange circles indicate the species of eDNA of iSeq, eDNA of MiSeq, and conventional

551 methods, respectively. Deep green circles in R24, 25, and 27 indicate the species of two

552 sequencers because of fully-overlapping species composition between iSeq and MiSeq. Note

553 that the size of each circle does not represent a difference in the number of species.

554

555 **Figure 3 Heat map for comparison of the species compositions between high throughput**

556 **sequencers and conventional methods in 5 river samples.** Orange and white cells show the

557 detection and non-detection of the species in each method. Abbreviations of i, M, and C

558 indicate iSeq, MiSeq, and Conventional methods, respectively.

559

560

561 **Figure 4 Sampling sites used in the present study.** Blue circles and orange triangles show

562 the locations of the river and lake samples, respectively. Detailed information on each site is

563 listed in Supplementary Table S1.

564

Pre-processing step	Correlation (ρ)
Merge pairs	0.991**
Quality filtering	0.991**
Denoising	0.993**
Taxonomic assignment	0.993**

**: Correlation test, $p < 0.01$

Table 1 Spearman's correlations (ρ) on the number of sequence read per sample in each pre-processing step between iSeq and MiSeq

575

	iSeq		MiSeq	
Read Ratio				
Denoised Read	3010341	100.0%	1914412	100.0%
Assigned Read	2732599	90.8%	1687629	88.2%
OTU Ratio				
Total OTUs	154	100.0%	168	100.0%
OTU(Freshwater)	102	66.2%	101	60.1%
OTU (Marine and Brackish)	24	15.6%	22	13.1%
Under 99 % Identity	28	18.2%	45	26.8%

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580

581 **Table 2** Ratio of sequence reads and operational taxonomic unit (OTU) count after denoising

582

583

584

	Df†	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F value	R^2	Pr (>F)
PERMANOVA						
HTS‡	1	0.1337	0.13374	0.47625	0.00607	0.95940
Residuals	78	21.9038	0.28082		0.99393	
Total	79	22.0375			1.00000	
PERMDISP						
HTS‡	1	0.00554	0.00554	0.42830		0.5148
Residuals	78	1.00819	0.01293			

† Degree of Freedom (Df)

‡ High throughput sequencers (iSeq and MiSeq)

585

586 **Table 3** Statistical results of Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA) and Permutational Multivariate Analysis of

587 Dispersion (PERMDISP) for comparisons of species composition between iSeq and MiSeq

588

	Df†	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F value	R^2	Pr (>F)
PERMANOVA						
Methods‡	2	0.35707	0.17853	0.96117	0.13808	0.48450
Residuals	12	2.22894	0.18574		0.86192	
Total	14	2.58600			1.00000	
PERMDISP						
Methods‡	2	0.01696	0.00848	1.94810		0.18510
Residuals	12	0.05224	0.00435			

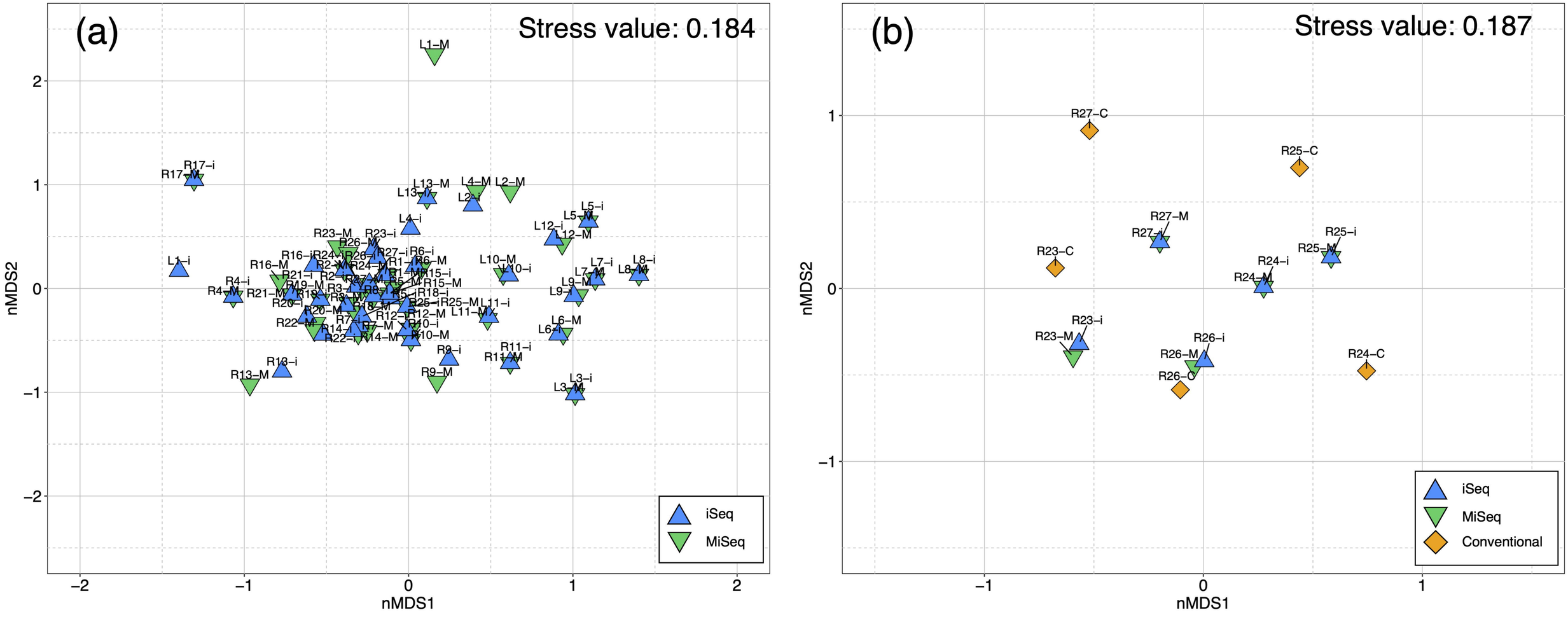
† Degree of Freedom (Df)

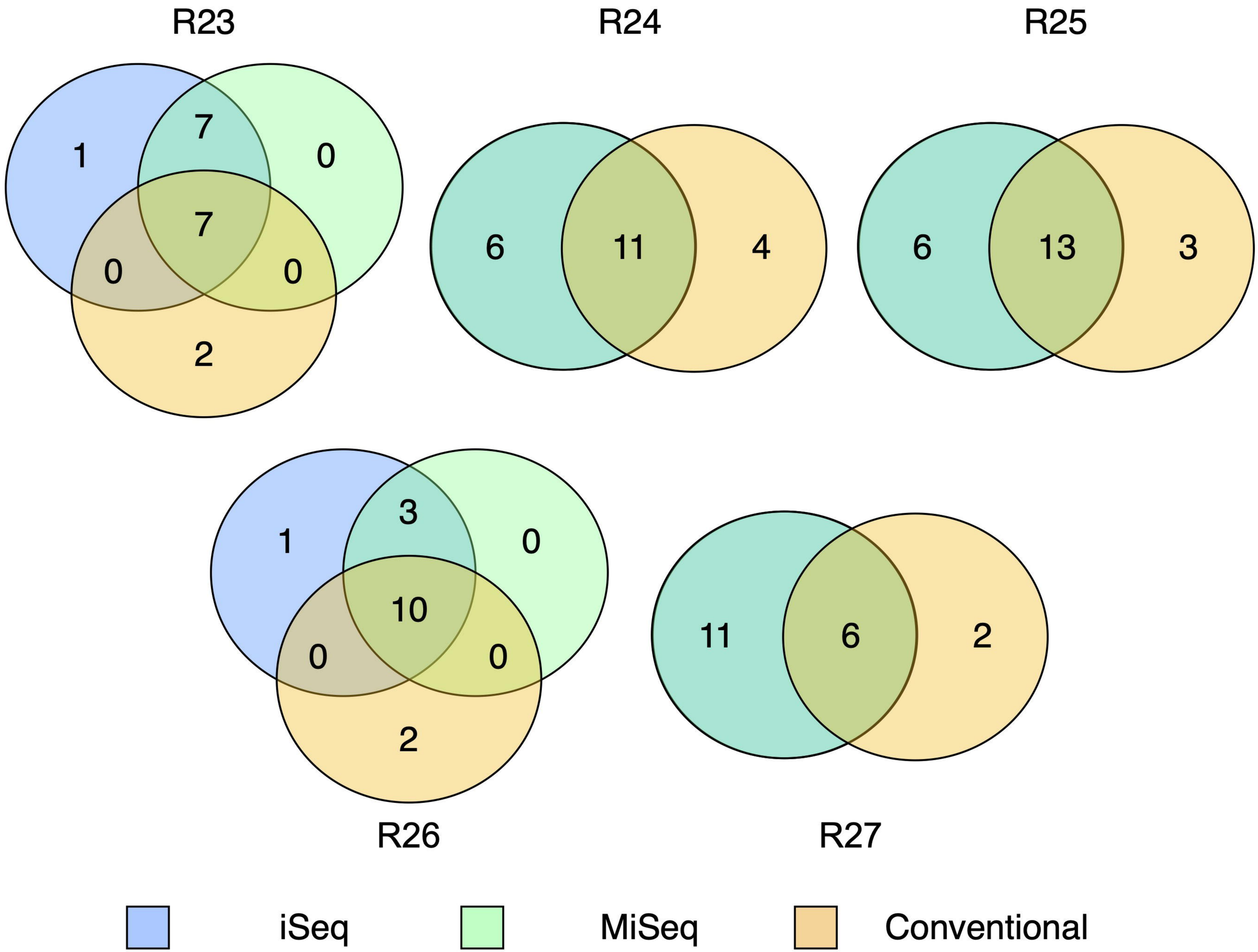
‡ Species detection methods (iSeq, MiSeq, and Conventional)

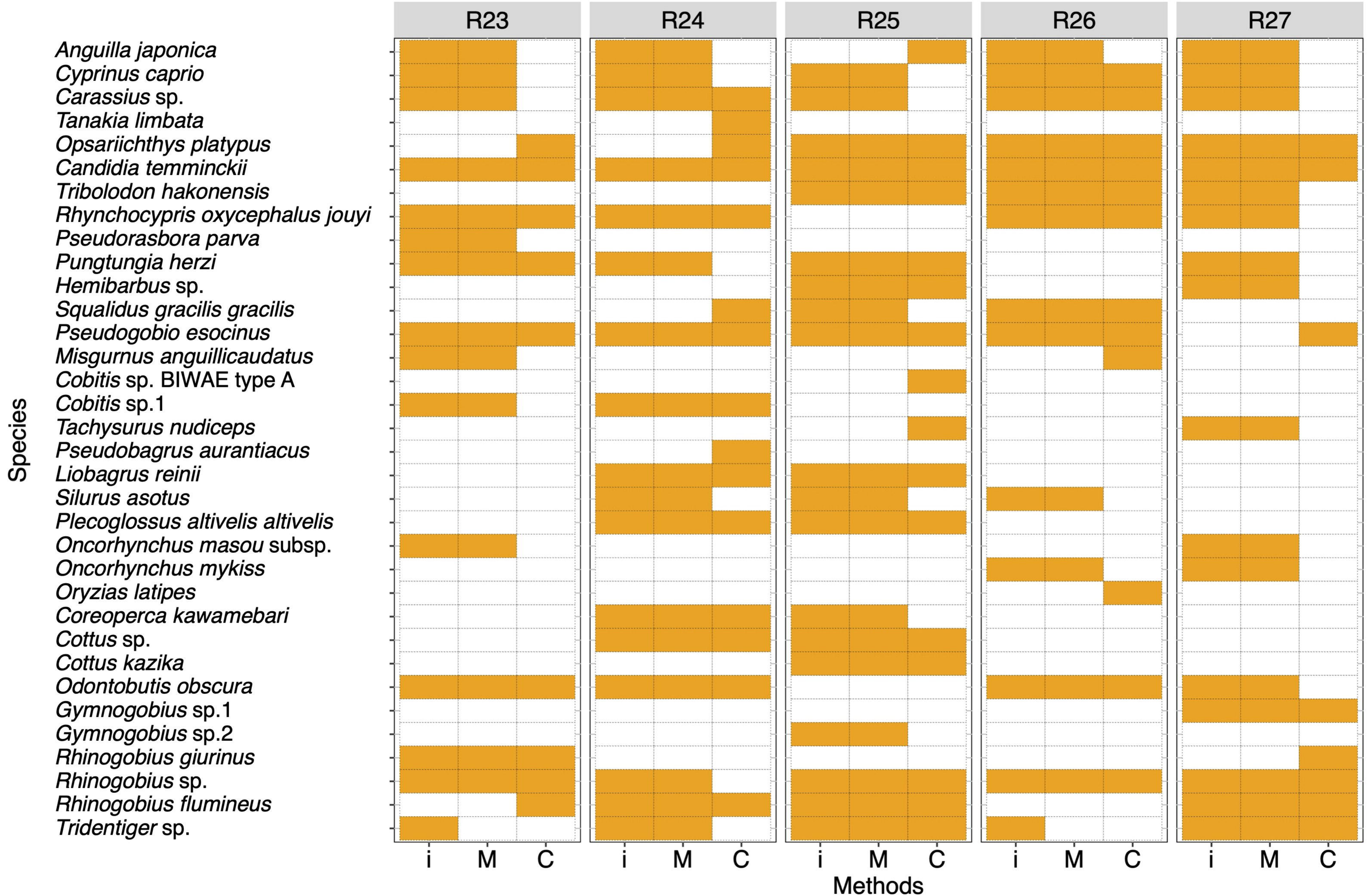
589

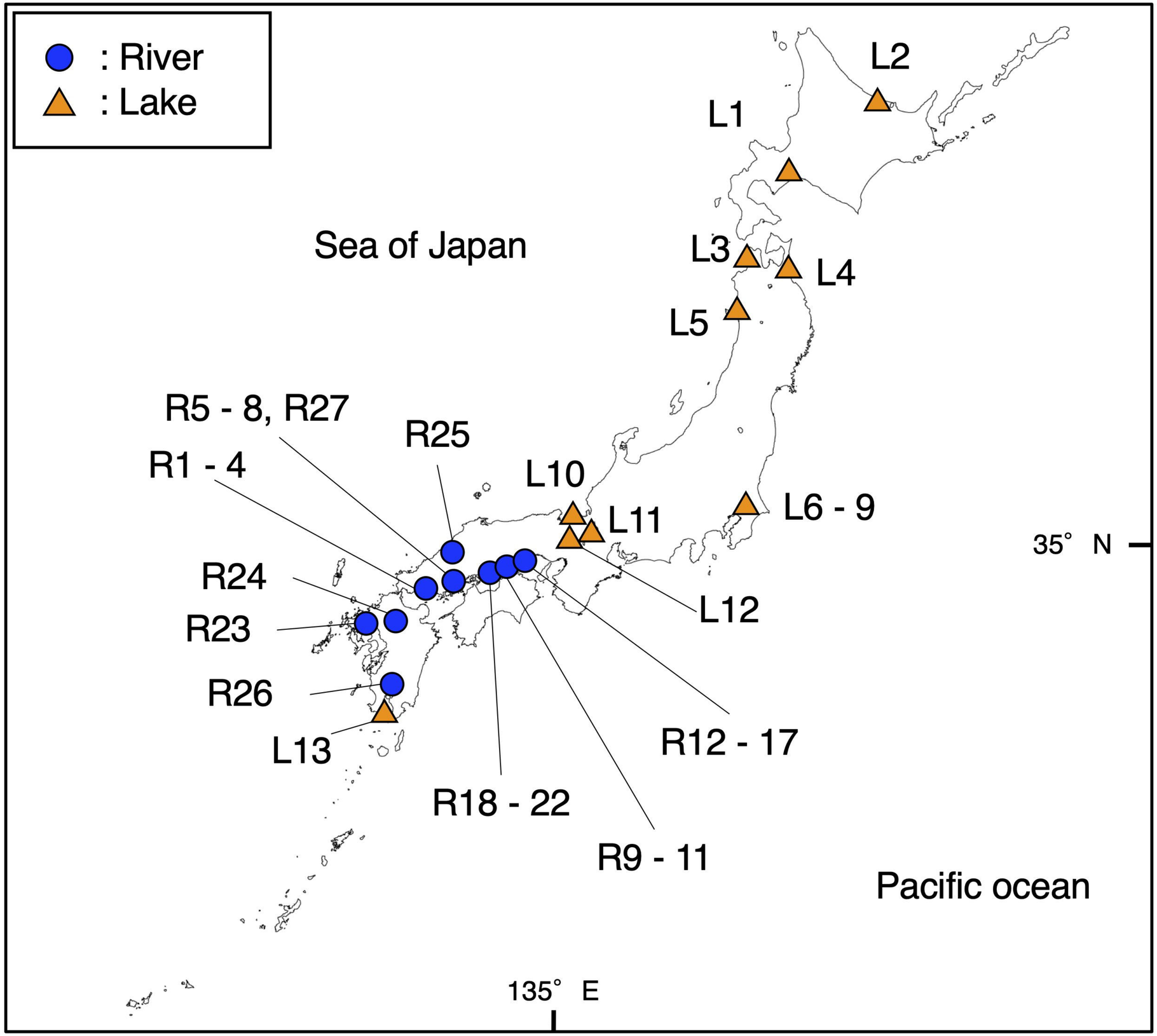
590 **Table 4** Statistical results of Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA) and Permutational Multivariate Analysis of

591 Dispersion (PERMDISP) for comparisons of species composition among iSeq, MiSeq, and conventional methods


(a)
Stress value: 0.184
nMDS1
nMDS2
iSeq
MiSeq
(b)
Stress value: 0.187
R27–C
R25–C
R27–M
R27–i
R25–i
R25–M
R23–C
R24–i
R24–M
R23–i
R23–M
R26–i
R26–M
R26–C
R24–C
iSeq
MiSeq
Conventional


R23
1
7
0
7
0
0
2
R24
6
11
4
R25
6
13
3
R26
1
3
0
10
0
0
2
R27
11
6
2
iSeq
MiSeq
Conventional


R23
R24
R25
R26
R27
Species
Anguilla japonica
Cyprinus caprio
Carassius sp.
Tanakia limbata
Opsariichthys platypus
Candidia temminckii
Tribolodon hakonensis
Rhynchocypris oxycephalus jouyi
Pseudorasbora parva
Pungtungia herzi
Hemibarbus sp.
Squalidus gracilis gracilis
Pseudogobio esocinus
Misgurnus anguillicaudatus
Cobitis sp. BIWAE type A
Cobitis sp.1
Tachysurus nudiceps
Pseudobagrus aurantiacus
Liobagrus reinii
Silurus asotus
Plecoglossus altivelis altivelis
Oncorhynchus masou subsp.
Oncorhynchus mykiss
Oryzias latipes
Coreoperca kawamebari
Cottus sp.
Cottus kazika
Odontobutis obscura
Gymnogobius sp.1
Gymnogobius sp.2
Rhinogobius giurinus
Rhinogobius sp.
Rhinogobius flumineus
Tridentiger sp.
i M C
Methods


: River
: Lake
L2
L1
Sea of Japan
L3
L4
L5
R5 - 8, R27
R25
R1 - 4
L10
L11
L6 - 9
35° N
R24
L12
R23
R26
L13
R12 - 17
R18 - 22
R9 - 11
Pacific ocean
135° E