TITLE: Enhancing DNA metabarcoding performance and applicability with bait capture

enrichment and DNA from conservative ethanol

<u>RUNNING TITLE:</u>

Capture enrichment & etDNA for metabarcoding

<u>AUTHORS:</u>

Gauthier M.[1, 2*], Konecny-Dupré L.[1], Nguyen A.[3], Elbrecht V.[4], Datry T.[2], Douady C.J.[1], Lefébure

T.[1*]

<u>AUTHORS AFFILIATION</u>

1. Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS UMR 5023, ENTPE, Laboratoire

d'Ecologie des Hydrosystèmes Naturels et Anthropisés, Villeurbanne, France

2. DYNAM Lab, Research Unit RiverLY, Irstea Centre de Lyon-Villeurbanne, Villeurbanne

Cedex, France

3. Biofidal, Vaulx-en-Velin, France

4. Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, Ontario,

N1G 2W1, Canada

*Corresponding authors: mailys.gauthier@irstea.fr, tristan.lefebure@univ-lyon1.fr

<u>ABSTRACT</u>

Metabarcoding is proposed as an alternative identification tool to compensate for the taxonomic

limitations encountered with traditional morphological approaches. However, metabarcoding comes

with two major impediments which slow down its adoption. First, the picking and destruction of

organisms for DNA extraction are time and cost consuming and do not allow organism conservation

for further evaluations. Second, current metabarcoding protocols include a PCR enrichment step which

induces errors in the estimation of species diversity and relative biomasses. In this study, we first

evaluated the capacity of capture enrichment to replace PCR enrichment using controlled freshwater

macrozoobenthos mock communities. Then, we tested if DNA extracted from the fixative ethanol

(etDNA) of the same mock communities can be used as an alternative to DNA extracted from pools of

whole organisms (bulk DNA). We show that capture enrichment provides more reliable and accurate

representation of species occurrences and relative biomasses in comparison with PCR enrichment for

bulk DNA. While etDNA does not permit to estimate relative biomasses, etDNA and bulk DNA

provide equivalent species detection rates. Thanks to its robustness to mismatches, capture enrichment

is already an efficient alternative to PCR enrichment for metabarcoding and, if coupled to etDNA, is a

time-saver option in studies where presence information only is sufficient.

<u>KEYWORDS</u>

bait capture, ethanol DNA, DNA enrichment, metabarcoding, biomass estimation,

macrozoobenthos

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Reliable and accurate taxa identification is fundamental in biological sciences. Poor taxonomic

identification can lead to cascades of error affecting our knowledge and understanding not only in

theoretical and fundamental biology, but also in applied fields leading to poor management decisions

(Bortolus, 2008). It distorts our ability to infer processes in ecology and evolution, to manage and

conserve human-impacted systems and to carry out human health and resource programs (Bortolus,

2008; Leys, Keller, Räsänen, Gattolliat, & Robinson, 2016; Prié, Puillandre, & Bouchet, 2013). Poor

taxonomic identification occurs when identification to species level is not possible (coarse taxonomic

resolution) or when identification is incorrect (misidentification). Regarding coarse taxonomic

resolution, G. K. Martin, Adamowicz, and Cottenie (2016) investigated macrozoobenthos community

distribution in freshwater streams at different taxonomic level (family, genus and species) and found a

spatial structuration only when the species identification level was reached. Sweeney, Battle, Jackson,

and Dapkey (2011) also showed that differentiation between a human-impacted stream from a non-

impacted one was more accurate when water-quality monitoring metrics were calculated at a species-level resolution. Misidentification in two sloth species induced erroneous biogeographical patterns (de Moraes-Barros, Silva, & Morgante, 2011). In Vietnam, a non-vector species was targeted by Malaria control program because it was misidentified as a reputed vector of the disease (Van Bortel et al., 2001). Difficulties encountered with morphological based taxonomy often results in poor taxonomic identification (Baird & Hajibabaei, 2012; Creer et al., 2016). Cryptic species, limited expertise, damaged or juvenile specimens and even cost and time constraints in the case of applied research are all problems encountered in morphological identification leading to misidentification or coarse taxonomic resolution (Bringloe, Cottenie, Martin, & Adamowicz, 2016; Hajibabaei, Baird, Fahner, Beiko, & Golding, 2016; Ji et al., 2013; Sweeney et al., 2011).

In the past decade, DNA-based identification has been proposed as an alternative to morphological approaches. DNA barcoding uses the sequence of a genetic marker of one specimen, usually of an organelle genome for eukaryotes (e.g. mitochondria for animals and chloroplast for plants, see (Creer et al., 2016) for overview) and assign it to a species name within a reference database (Hebert, Ratnasingham, & de Waard, 2006). DNA barcoding supposedly addresses limitations in morphological identification by accurately discriminating species regardless of their morphology (Sweeney et al., 2011), development stages (Hubert, Delrieu-Trottin, Irisson, Meyer, & Planes, 2010) or sex (Forshaw, 2010). Recent advances in high throuput technologies enabled the emergence of DNA metabarcoding, the barcoding of pool of specimens in a single reaction which permit to work on whole community at once (Pompanon et al, 2011). With metabarcoding, DNA-based identification became a promising method that is more accurate, faster and less expensive than morphological identification (Ji et al., 2013; Stein, White, Mazor, Miller, & Pilgrim, 2013; Valentini et al., 2015). Despite DNA-based identification has been presented as an ideal alternative to morphological identification for more than a decade, it is currently marginally used as a routine identification tool in academic and applied areas. A major roadblock to the democratization of metabarcoding is the absence of standardized metabarcoding protocol that has been established and validated by the scientific community (Leese et al., 2018). This is mainly due to methodological roadblocks

encountered throughout each step of sample processing (i.e. DNA extraction, barcode enrichment,

sequencing, bioinformatic treatment and taxonomic assignment) which need to be resolved before

DNA-based identification is largely adopted. Hereafter, we focused on two major metabarcoding

roadblocks: specimen picking before extraction and barcode enrichment.

Specimen picking is particularly critical for samples with a low targeted organism over substrate

ratio. It aims to separate individuals from substrate (e.g. leaves, sand…) prior to DNA extraction to

avoid PCR inhibition (Elbrecht, Vamos, Meissner, Aroviita, & Leese, 2017) and to limit the quantity

of material to be processed during DNA extraction. This step is time and cost consuming. Direct

extraction from fixative agent, usually ethanol, has been proposed as a time-saver alternative to

specimen picking (Hajibabaei, Spall, Shokralla, & van Konynenburg, 2012; Zizka, Leese, Peinert, &

Geiger, 2018). When fixative agent is used as a DNA template, organisms are not destroyed and are

conserved for further taxonomic work or downstream analyses (Leese et al., 2016). Little research has

been conducted on this alternative (but see (Hajibabaei et al., 2012; Zizka et al., 2018)) and a rigorous

comparison with traditional specimen picking is warranted before it can be used as a standard template

of DNA in biological studies.

PCR enrichment bias is often considered as the most problematic roadblock in metabarcoding

because it may alter species detection and relative abundance recovery of species (Elbrecht & Leese,

2017; Leese et al., 2018; Piñol, Senar, & Symondson, 2018). Prior to sequencing, DNA barcodes are

first amplified by PCR using primers that may not have the same number of mismatches across taxa

(Piñol, Mir, Gomez-Polo, & Agustí, 2015). Consequently, amplification efficiency is expected to be

non-equal across taxa, leading from under-amplification to no amplification of some taxa in the worst

case scenario. PCR bias was demonstrated for fungi (Bellemain et al., 2010), bacteria (Frank et al.,

2008), invertebrates (Piñol et al., 2015) and vertebrates (Arif, Khan, Al Sadoon, & Shobrak, 2011).

Other factors affect PCR like GC content (Aird et al., 2011) or inhibitors that can remain after DNA

extraction but primer bias is commonly presented as the major cause of biases in metabarcoding (e.g.

(Elbrecht & Leese, 2015; Piñol et al., 2015; Pinto & Raskin, 2012)). In consequence, a lot of work

focused on primer design to decrease PCR biases with, for instance, the use of several primer pairs,

degenerated primers or amplification of several DNA barcodes (Drummond et al., 2015; Elbrecht &

Leese, 2017; Elbrecht et al., 2016; Gibson et al., 2015; Jusino et al., 2019; Leray & Knowlton, 2017;

Zhang, Chain, Abbott, & Cristescu, 2018). These efforts increased the species detection rate but the

quantitative bias was not solved completely (Piñol et al., 2018).

Avoiding PCR enrichment will, by definition, solve the PCR bias issue (Porter & Hajibabaei,

2018). Low (Linard, Crampton-Platt, Gillett, Vogler, & Timmermans, 2015) or high (Porter &

Hajibabaei, 2018) coverage metagenome sequencing (i.e. sequencing a community DNA without any

enrichment) can be used to assemble entire organelle genomes. This approach provides an efficient

way to recover species richness and taxa relative biomass, although the proportion of organelle reads

is extremely low making metagenome sequencing much more expensive than PCR metabarcoding

(Bista et al., 2018; Gómez-Rodríguez, Crampton-Platt, Timmermans, Baselga, & Vogler, 2015; Zhou

et al., 2013). Furthermore, only a small part of an organelle genome is usable for taxonomic

assignment as reference databases mostly contain barcode sequences (e.g. COI for metazoan, 16S for

bacteria, ITS for fungi, (Creer et al., 2016)). Although methods are being developed to reduce

organelle genome sequencing cost (Macher, Zizka, Weigand, & Leese, 2017), the construction of

exhaustive organelle genome reference databases will be a long-term and expensive process. Another

PCR-free alternative is capture enrichment where targeted sequences hybridize to baits and are

retrieved by magnetism (Dowle, Pochon, C. Banks, Shearer, & Wood, 2016). Contrary to metagenome

sequencing, capture enrichment increases the proportion of targeted reads reducing the sequencing

cost. Baits are long oligonucleotides (more than 60 bp) which are designed from reference sequences.

Capture enrichment should be more robust to identify taxa in a community than PCR enrichment

because (i) thousands of different baits can be designed and (ii) when sequences are unknown or

species are polymorphic, few mismatches between the baits and the targeted sequences are not

expected to bias DNA enrichment as they would do with PCR primers. For example, one bait designed

for a species of the genus *Danio* permitted to detect others *Danio* species in the Amazon basin where

the reference species was absent (Mariac et al., 2018). In a single study, capture enrichment was

compared to PCR enrichment and was found to detect more taxa but was unable to estimate relative

abundances (Dowle et al., 2016). Liu et al. (2016) and Wilcox et al. (2018) have shown that relative

abundances can be recovered with capture enrichment if species-specific corrections were to be

applied to take into account variation in the number of mitochondria copy number among species (Liu

et al., 2016; Wilcox et al., 2018)). Such corrections are unfortunately not suitable to the complexity of

field samples. Dowle et al. (2016) study was based on natural communities only described at a coarse

taxonomic level (family to genus level) and with indirect biomass measurements. Thus, the capacity of

capture enrichment to both describe a community diversity and its relative biomass without species-

specific biomass corrections still need more testing using controlled communities.

In this study, we first investigated the capacity of cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI) gene capture

enrichment to detect taxa and retrieve initial biomass without species specific correction. Second, we

evaluated if DNA extracted from ethanol (etDNA) can be used as an alternative to organism picking

and homogenization (bulk DNA) by comparing species detection and initial biomass recovery of the

two DNA templates with PCR and capture enrichment. Tests were carried out using two types of

freshwater mock communities (MC): (i) low diversity MC (10 species) with variable dry biomass

across taxa and (ii) high diversity MC (52 taxa) with homogeneous biomass across taxa from (Elbrecht

& Leese, 2015).

MATERIALS & METHODS

1. Mock community design

Freshwater macrozoobenthos specimens for the 10 species mock communities (MC) were sampled

from various streams in east of France during May 2017, except for two species, *Gammarus fossarum*

and *Chironomus riparius*, which came from Irstea livestock, France (ECOTOX team, RiverLy,

France). The 10 species were chosen to represent a wide taxonomic range and because they can be

easily identified to the species level by the naked eye (table 1). Two hundred milliliters of ethanol

96% (EtOH) were dispense in bottles and individuals were placed alive in the ethanol. Eight samples

with different relative biomass for the 10 species were constructed (table 1). Samples were then stored

for 6 months at 4°C until DNA extraction. DNA was extracted from the whole organisms (bulk DNA)

and from the preservative EtOH (etDNA).

The 52 taxa mock communities were designed by Elbrecht and Leese (2015). In a nutshell, for ten

different MC, a roughly similar dry biomass was collected from 52 taxa identified to the lowest

taxonomic level based on morphology, and the homogenized tissue pool was then extracted for each

sample using a salt extraction protocol (see (Elbrecht & Leese, 2015) for details). Because the biomass

was fairly homogeneous among taxa in these MC, we only use these MC to compare the performance

of capture and PCR enrichment in predicting species occurrences.

2. DNA extraction of the 10 species mock communities

Bulk DNA. For each MC, individuals were picked up and sorted by species in petri dishes. They

were let to dry overnight and dry biomass for each species was weighted. Mollusc shells and

Trichoptera cases were removed prior to the weighing. Individuals were pooled together and the entire

community was grounded with a bead mill MM200 (Retsch) during 4 min at 30 Hz. The whole

homogenate was extracted (mean ± SD: 245.8 ± 28.6 mg) with FastDNA® Spin Kit for Soil (MP

Biomedicals, USA) following manufacturer's protocol. The extracted DNA was purified with

Agencourt AMPure XP purification beads (Beckman Coulter, USA) to further remove solvents.

etDNA. For each mock community, roughly 50 mL of preservative ethanol was collected. Glycogen

and sodium acetate were added to precipitate DNA and samples were placed at -80°C for at least 72

hours. After centrifugation, ethanol was removed and after total ethanol evaporation, the dried residue

was dissolved in the buffer solution of NucleoSpin Tissue® kit (Macherey-Nagel Gmbh, Germany)

and DNA was extracted following manufacturer's instructions.

3. COI mock community reference databases

The 10 species reference database was built by sequencing the COI Folmer region of each species

of the 10 species mock communities (Folmer, Black, Hoeh, Lutz, & Vrijenhoek, 1994). One specimen

per species was extracted following the same protocol as for bulk DNA. PCR reactions were

performed in a total volume of 25 µL with 1X of PCR standard buffer (including 3 mM $MgCl_2$,

Eurobio, France), 0.05 U/µL of EurobioTaq DNA polymerase (Eurobio, France), 0.8 mM of each

dNTP (Eurogentec, Belgium), 0.1 mg/mL of BSA (New England BioLabs, USA), 0.4 µM of each

primer (LCO1490/HCO2198, Table S1) and 0.5 µL of template DNA. The amplification consisted in

an initial denaturation at 95°C for 3 min, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 20 s,

annealing at 51°C for 30 s and extension at 72°C for 45 s, with a final extension at 72°C for 5 min.

Purified template DNA was sequenced on both strands with the PCR primers using standard Sanger

sequencing (Biofidal, France). All sequences were manually checked for errors and clean up with

Finch TV software 1.4.0. This protocol did not work for one species (*Heptagenia sulphurea*) and its

sequence was downloaded from NCBI to complete the 10 species reference database (GenBank

Accession Number HE651395.1).

The 52 taxa reference database was already available for the 52 taxa MC (Elbrecht & Leese, 2017).

It includes the haplotypes of all organisms used in their experiment, leading to a reference database of

212 COI sequences. For one taxon (Nematoda), Elbrecht and Leese (2017) could not get any

amplification. Since this taxon is missing in Elbrecht and Leese (2017) haplotype reference database,

it was not taken into account for downstream analysis.

4. Amplicon sequencing and analysis

Library preparation and sequencing. For the 10 species and 52 taxa MC bulk DNA, a 421 bp

fragment within the COI Folmer region was amplified with the BF2/BR2 primer set with Illumina

Nextera tails which is well suited for freshwater macrozoobenthos (Elbrecht & Leese, 2017), Table

S1). For etDNA, a shorter region of 178 bp (Fwh1 primer set with Illumina Nextera tails, (Vamos,

Elbrecht, & Leese, 2017), Table S1) was targeted because we assumed ethanol DNA to be more

degraded than bulk DNA. PCR reactions were performed in triplicates in a total volume of 25 μL with

1X of PCR buffer (including 3mM $MgCl_2$ and 400 μM each dNTP, QIAGEN® Multiplex PCR kit,

Qiagen, Germany), 0.5 μM of each primer and 10 ng of template DNA for bulk DNA or 5 μL of

template DNA for etDNA. The amplification consisted in an initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min,

followed by 25 (bulk DNA) or 35 (etDNA) cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at 50°C

(bulk DNA) or 52°C (etDNA) for 30 s and extension at 72°C for 2 min, with a final extension at 72°C

for 10 min. Triplicate PCR products were pooled and purified with Agencourt AMPure XP

purification beads (Beckman Coulter, USA) and quantified using QuantiFluor® dsDNA System

(Promega, USA). Ten ng of each purified PCR products were then used in a second PCR to dual index

each sample with a unique tag combination (Table S3 for tag combinations details) and to add

Illumina adapters. PCR reactions were performed in a total volume of 25 μL with 1X of PCR buffer

(BIOAmp® Blend Mix, Biofidal, France), 2.5 nM of $MgCL_2$, 200 μM of each dNTP, 0.25 μM of

Illumina primer (Table S1) and 0.02 U/μL of HOT BioAmp Taq (Biofidal, France). PCR products

were purified with Agencourt AMPure XP purification beads (Beckman Coulter, USA), quantified

using QuantiFluor® dsDNA System (Promega, USA) and pooled at the same concentration (2 nM) for

sequencing. The PCR amplicon libraries were sequenced using a 2*250 paired-end V3 MiSeq

sequencing kit (Biofidal, France).

Bioinformatic analysis. Reads were delivered demultiplexed and adapter trimmed. The reads of the

52 taxa mock communities, bulk DNA and etDNA of the 10 species mock communities were

processed independently with the same bioinformatic pipeline. First, forward and reverse reads were

merged with Vsearch 2.8.4 with a minimum overlapping of 10 nucleotides and a maximum difference

of the overlapping region of 5 nucleotides (Rognes, Quince, Nichols, Flouri, & Mahé, 2016). Then, the

primer regions were removed from the merged reads with cutadapt 1.9.1 (M. Martin, 2014) and the

reads were quality filtered (maximum expected error (ee) of 1, minimum length of 200, no Ns

allowed) and dereplicated with Vsearch. Sequences observed less than twice (≤ 2 reads) were

removed. Then, chimeras were *de novo* detected and removed with Vsearch. Finally, sequences were

clustered with a similarity cutoff of 97% identity into MOTUs (Molecular Operational Taxonomic

Units). MOTUs were assigned to species using the 10 species reference database or the 52 taxa

reference database with the blastn algorithm (Camacho et al., 2009). Only alignments with an e-value

under 1E-10, a query cover over 200 bases for bulk DNA and over 90 bases for etDNA and an identity

over 97% were conserved as good alignments for further analysis. MOTUs were also compared to a

complete COI protein reference database made from 8 taxa (*Asellus aquaticus* ADA69754.1*, Daphnia*

pulex AAD33231.1*, Dinocras cephalotes* AGZ03516.1*, Gammarus fossarum* YP_009379680.1*,*

Physella acuta YP_008994230.1*, Radix balthica* HQ330989.1*, Sericostoma personatum* AJR19241.1*,*

Thremma gallicum AJR19254.1) present in one or both MCs using diamond 0.9.22 (blastx, more

sensitive option, e-value threshold of 1E-10 (Buchfink, Xie, & Huson, 2014). This allowed us to detect

COI sequences even if they did not belong to the species used in the MC. We also estimated the rate of

contamination by comparing the quality filtered reads to a protein database containing the proteomes

of 100 eukaryotic species from Ensembl (Zerbino et al., 2017) and Ensembl Metazoa (Kersey et al.,

2017) as well as the proteomes of 837 prokaryotic species retrieved from the Microbial Genome

Database for Comparative Analysis (Uchiyama, Mihara, Nishide, & Chiba, 2015) selecting one

species per genus. Sequences were assigned to coarse taxonomic groups (archaea, eubacteria, fungi,

plant, protist, protostomia− here Arthropoda, Annelida, Brachiopoda, Mollusca, Nematoda and

Platyhelminthes − and other metazoa −corresponding to Deuterostomia) using the best diamond hit

(blastx, more sensitive option, e-value threshold of 1E-10).

5. Capture sequencing and analysis

Bait design. While one of the primary goals of the present study is to assess capture versus PCR

enrichment efficiency using mock communities, we chose to develop a larger set of baits that could be

used in future assessment of French freshwater macrozoobenthos diversity. Up to now and aside from

non-Chironomidae dipteran, 3,245 macrozoobenthos species belonging to 22 orders have been

identified in small and medium streams of France (Aukema & Rieger, 2013; Coppa, 2019; D'Hondt &

Ben Ahmed, 2009; Dusoulier, 2008; Gargominy et al, 2011; Grand & Boudot, 2007; Henry &

Magniez, 1983; Le Doaré & Vinçon, 2019; Pattée & Gourbault, 1981; Piscart & Bollache, 2012;

Queney, 2011; Serra et al, 2015; Souty-Grosset et al, 2006; Thomas, 2019; Tillier, 2019; Vallenduuk,

2004). One hundred twenty two species of six orders can be considered as marginal in streams and

were thus discarded. All the available COI sequences were downloaded for the 3,123 remaining

species from GenBank and BOLD with PrimerMiner 0.18 in December 2016 (Elbrecht & Leese,

2016). Four orders had less than half of their known taxa with available COI barcode and were

discarded. Within the 12 remaining orders, the species without COI sequences were barcoded

whenever possible, i.e. when tissues could be obtained. Organisms were extracted using Chelex

(BioRad, USA) and the PCR and sequencing conditions were identical to those of section 3 of the

methods. Sequences were deposited on GenBank (97 species, GenBank Accession Numbers

MK584300:MK584515). At the end, 1,525 species out of 1,689 known species had a barcode

available, representing more than 90% of the targeted species (Table S2). For bait development,

sequences were processed by order. First, COI sequences were aligned with blastx 2.7.1 to a reference

Drosophila yakubai COI sequence (Accession Number: NC_001322.1) and identical sequences were

collapsed using a perl script (http://github.com/TristanLefebure/collapse_to_uniq_seq). Then, 120 bp

baits were constructed *in silico* using BaitFisher with a tilling of 60 bp and a cluster threshold of 5%,

leading to a total of 15,038 baits generated from 100,367 unique sequences (Mayer et al., 2016). The

COI *in silico* baits were then sent for RNA bait synthesis to Arbor Biosciences (USA).

Library preparation, hybridization and sequencing. Starting quantity of DNA was 1 μg for bulk

DNA (10 and 52 taxa MC) and between 14 and 57 ng for etDNA. DNA of each sample was sheared

into approximately 600 bp nucleotide fragments by ultrasound sonication with a Qsonica Q800R

(Qsonica, USA). Library preparation was conducted using NEBNext® Ultra^{TM} II DNA Library Prep

Kit for Illumina® (New England BioLabs, USA) following manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, after

sheared DNA end repair, the 5' ends were phosphorylated and the 3' ends were A-tailed. Then,

Illumina Nextera tails (Table S1) were ligated to the DNA fragments followed by a clean-up and a size

selection of 500-700 nucleotides long fragments with Agencourt AMPure XP purification beads

(Beckman Coulter, USA). Finally, DNA fragments were amplified to dual index the libraries (Table

S3 for tag combinations details) and to add Illumina adapters (Table S1). COI capture enrichment was

conducted using myBaits® Custom kit following manufacturer's instructions (Arbor Biosciences,

USA). One hundred ng of library DNA was used for capture enrichment for bulk DNA and 230 ng for

etDNA following manufacturer's instructions for degraded DNA. Baits were diluted 10 times and

hybridization lasted 24h for both DNA templates with the exception that hybridization for etDNA was

done at 55°C instead of 65°C following manufacturer's instructions for degraded DNA. The final

library amplification was performed in a total volume of 50 µL per reaction with the KAPA HiFi DNA

Polymerase (Kapa Biosystems, USA) with P5 and P7 Illumina primers (Table S1) using the following

conditions: initial denaturation at 98°C for 2 min, followed by 21 cycles of denaturation at 98°C for 20

s, annealing at 60°C for 30 s and extension at 72°C for 1 min, with a final extension at 72°C for 5 min.

Capture library concentrations were determined by qPCR with a KAPA qPCR kit (KAPA Library

Quant Kit, Kapa Biosystems, USA) and pooled at the same concentration for sequencing. The capture

libraries were sequenced using a 2*300 paired-end V3 MiSeq sequencing kit (Biofidal, France).

Bioinformatic analysis. Reads were delivered demultiplexed and adapter trimmed. As for PCR

analysis, the reads of the 52 taxa MC, bulk DNA and etDNA of the 10 species MC were processed

independently with the same bioinformatic pipeline. First, forward and reverse reads were merged

with Vsearch with a minimum overlapping of 10 nucleotides and a maximum difference of the

overlapping region of 5 nucleotides (Rognes et al., 2016). Because shearing could lead to fragment

longer than 600 nucleotides, merged and non-merged sequences were conserved for downstream

bioinformatic steps. Reads were then quality filtered (maximum ee of 1, minimum length of 150, 50

Ns allowed) with Vsearch. Because the bait set contained baits for other genes for other projects (i.e.

16S, NAD1, NAD4, NAD5, CYTB, and ATP6) and because their presence in the bait set can alter

downstream results, the reads corresponding to these genes were removed from the quality filtered

reads in all downstream analysis. They were recovered with a blastn on a reference database (blastn-

short, e-value threshold of 1E-10) containing the complete sequence of NAD1, NAD4, NAD5, CYTB

and ATP6 genes of 8 species (*Asellus aquaticus* ADA69754.1*, Daphnia pulex* AAD33231.1*, Dinocras*

cephalotes AGZ03516.1*, Gammarus fossarum* YP_009379680.1*, Physella acuta* YP_008994230.1*,*

Radix balthica HQ330989.1*, Sericostoma personatum* AJR19241.1*, Thremma gallicum* AJR19254.1),

the 16S of the 10 species MC (Table S1) and the 16S corresponding to the 52 taxa MC (downloaded

from NCBI). The remaining reads were assigned to species using the 10 species reference database or

the 52 taxa reference database using BLAST algorithm (Camacho et al., 2009). Only alignments with

an e-value over 1E-10, a query cover over 250 and an identity over 97 were used for taxonomic

assignment. As for amplicon, filtered reads were also compared to a complete COI protein reference

database to estimate the total number of COI reads and to a protein database to estimate the rate and

origin of contaminations.

6. Capture efficacy

Capture efficacy (sensus (Cha & Thilly, 1993)) was evaluated by measuring the percentage of COI

reads for each capture library (i.e. capture specificity) and the X-fold enrichment (i.e. capture

efficiency) as in Maggia et al. (2017). The percentage of COI reads is the ratio of the number of COI

reads assigned with diamond on the COI protein database to the number of quality filtered reads. To

estimate the X-fold enrichment, four samples from the 10 species MC were sequenced without any

enrichment. The X-fold enrichment was calculated using the ratio of the percentage of COI reads from

the capture library to the percentage of COI reads from the enrichment-free library.

7. Species detection and initial biomass recovery

To compensate for sequencing effort as well as total biomass variation among samples, read count

assigned to species and biomass (mg) were transformed in proportion of reads and proportion of

biomass, respectively.

Species detection. A species was considered present in a sample when represented by at least one

read. We calculated the detection sensitivity (*S*) which measures the number of detection success to

the total number of trials ($S = \frac{total\ number\ of\ species\ detected}{number\ of\ samples\ *\ number\ of\ taxa}$).

Biomass recovery. For the bulk DNA and etDNA of the 10 species MC, logistic models were built

to investigate the relationship between read proportion and biomass proportion. For each DNA

template and enrichment method, we compared sets of mixed effects models (i.e. no fixed effect and

biomass as fixed effect with no random effect, random intercept, random intercept and slope by

species or samples) using Aikake's Information Criterion (AIC, (Burnham & Anderson, 2002)). We

also summarized to what extent each method was able to predict species biomass by comparing the

observed read proportions to the expected read proportions where read proportion perfectly predict

biomass proportion (i.e. a y=x relationship). To this aim, we calculated the mean absolute error (MAE)

for each method as follow: $\frac{1}{n} \sum |observed - expected|$ (Willmott & Matsuura, 2005). The lower

the MAE is, the closer the observed read proportions are to the expected read proportions.

All statistical analyses were conducted with R (R Core team, 2018). All logistic models relating

biomass proportion to read proportion were fitted using lme4 package (glmer functions, with a Logit

link and a Binomial family, (Bates, Mächler, Bolker, & Walker, 2014)).

RESULTS

1. Sequencing results

For bulk DNA, amplicon sequencing produced 60,337 to 365,331 raw reads and capture

sequencing 165,089 to 857,040 raw reads per sample. For etDNA, amplicon sequencing produced

209,425 to 365,331 raw reads and capture sequencing 217,240 to 911,484 raw reads (Table 2). In both

approaches, the capture sequencing effort was higher but a higher proportion of reads was discarded

through the bioinformatic pipeline, particularly for etDNA (Table 2).

2. Capture efficacy

The percentage of COI reads after capture enrichment (i.e. capture specificity) ranged from 5.89 to

77.90% (mean ± se: 49.68% ± 26.03) for bulk DNA and from 12.50 to 28.05% (mean ± se: 19.09% ±

5.82) for etDNA (Table 2, Table S5). For bulk DNA, the 52 taxa MC showed higher and more

homogeneous results (mean ± se: 69.30% ± 6.51) in comparison with bulk DNA of the 10 species MC

(mean 25.16% ± 18.81). The percentage of COI reads that were subsequently assigned to a MC

species was very heterogeneous among DNA template and enrichment methods. Amplicons on bulk

DNA gave the best results (mean: 96.45% COI assignment), followed by capture on bulk (62.33 %),

amplicon on etDNA (46.36 %) and finally capture on etDNA (33.71 %). Reads that do not match to

the reference MC COI database can have multiple origins including contamination from other

organisms. The majority of reads were assigned to protostomians for all but one experiment -- capture

enrichment on etDNA -- where half of the reads belonged to eubacteria and the other half to

protostomians (Table 2, Figure S2). The average X-fold enrichment (i.e. capture efficiency) was 1331

(range: 275-3692) meaning that on average 1331-fold more COI reads were sequenced with capture

enrichment than without any enrichment.

3. PCR and capture enrichment for bulk DNA

Species detection. Capture enrichment detected systematically more species (S=0.96) than PCR

(S=0.68) among the 10 species MC (Figure 1). In PCR libraries, three species were never detected,

belonging to Gastropoda (*Ancylus fluviatilis* and *Physella acuta*) and Amphipoda *(Gammarus*

fossarum). With capture enrichment, every species was detected in 5 out of 8 samples (Figure 1). In

the 52 taxa MC, we found the same pattern, with capture enrichment (S=0.96) detecting more species

than PCR enrichment (S=0.93) (Figure 2). Each enrichment method failed to detect a small but

different set of taxa.

Biomass recovery. Whatever the enrichment method, following the AIC, the best mixed model to

predict initial species biomass using species read proportion was the model combining biomass as a

fixed effect and species as a random effect on the intercept and slope (Table 3). This suggests that the

mean read proportion between species is different independently of their biomass and that the

relationship between biomass proportion and read proportion also differs among species (Figure 3).

Using this type of mixed models, a significant relationship between biomass and read proportion was

found for both enrichment methods (PCR: p-value=0.024; capture: p-value=0.001, Figure 3). The

mean absolute errors between observed and expected read proportion if biomass proportions were to

be perfectly translated into read proportions (i.e. y=x relationship) were higher for PCR (MAE=0.11)

than for capture (MAE=0.056). Under a scenario where there is no relationship between biomass and

read proportions and where each species contribute to the same read proportion independently of its

biomass (i.e. 1/10 read proportion), the MAE would be of 0.07, again highlighting that the PCR

enrichment step wiped out most of the biomass signal. While absolute biomass variations may be lost,

we also tested if biomass ranks could be recovered using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

Again PCR enrichment performed poorly compared to capture enrichment (average Spearman rho

0.53 and 0.67 for PCR and capture enrichment, respectively).

4. PCR and capture enrichment for etDNA

Globally, etDNA was a better template than bulk DNA to detect species for both PCR and capture

enrichment (Figure 1). Concerning PCR enrichment, one species was never detected in etDNA

samples instead of three for bulk DNA and detection sensitivity was higher for etDNA (S=0.85) than

for bulk DNA (S=0.69). The species that were never detected were also different between the two

DNA templates. However, these discrepancies instead of being link to the DNA template can also be

the result of using different primers for the two DNA templates (BF2/BR2 for bulk DNA; fwh1 for

etDNA). We subsequently tested the influence of the primers by re-extracting etDNA from the 10

species MC and amplifying it both with the fwh1 primer set and the BF2/BR2 primer set with the

same PCR protocols used in section 4 of the methods. When clustering all these samples based on

their species occurrence (presence/absence) patterns, we observed that samples clustered in almost all

cases by enrichment method and PCR primers and not by DNA template (Figure 4). Therefore, the

DNA template has little to no impact on species detection compared to the enrichment method and

primers. Concerning initial biomass recovery, the same models as for bulk DNA were selected for

etDNA using the AIC (Table 3). However, contrary to bulk DNA, for both enrichment methods, no

significant relationship between biomass proportion and read proportion was found (PCR: p-

value=0.37; capture: p-value=0.58). The difficulty to infer biomass from read proportion using etDNA

was also supported by high MAE values (0.102 and 0.104 for PCR and capture enrichment,

respectively) and low rank correlations (average Spearman rho= 0.40 and 0.28 for PCR and capture

enrichment, respectively).

DISCUSSION

Capture versus PCR enrichment for metabarcoding

Capture enrichment consistently led to higher species detection rates compared to PCR enrichment

whatever the DNA template or sample taxonomic complexity. Using capture, in the 10 species MC,

only one species was missed in one third of the samples where it was at low abundance (dry biomass <

1 mg). In the 52 taxa MC, capture enrichment also globally performed better that PCR enrichment in

terms of species detection (20 against 35 failed detections, respectively). Nevertheless, both methods

missed different sets of taxa. In PCR enrichment, the commonly missed taxa systematically presented

1 or 2 mismatches with the primer pair (Figure S1) reinforcing the view that primer mismatches are

the main cause for species non-detection (Elbrecht et al., 2017). Regarding capture enrichment, 8 taxa

had no bait designed for them (i.e. Ceratopogonidae, Blephariceridae, Dicranota, Simuliidae,

Tipulidae, Trombidiformes, Dugesia and *Daphnia pulex*) but only two taxa (*Daphnia pulex* and

Dugesia) were almost systematically missed. These two taxa have COI haplotypes that are at a

divergence of at least 15% to any bait whereas the 6 detected taxa have haplotypes that are closer to

baits originally designed for other taxa (Figure S1). For both enrichment methods, the divergence to

the oligonucleotide (i.e. primer or bait) appears to be a determinant factor for species detection.

Nevertheless, capture enrichment is much more robust to this divergence issue as it combines three

characteristics that PCR enrichment misses. First, capture enrichment is less sensitive to mismatches

(18 mismatches or 15% divergence) than PCR (2 mismatches or 5% divergence). Second, because

thousands of different baits are designed for a given 120-base region, the probability to encounter

mismatches is reduced with capture. Finally, several 120-base regions (5 in this study leading to a total

cover of 600 bases) are targeted, increasing the probability to design at least one functional bait for a

given species even if this species was not in the database used to design the baits. This ability to detect

more robustly known and unknown biodiversity is a pivotal step towards a better understanding of

ecosystem function and structure.

Capture enrichment also yields read proportions that are better predictors of species relative

biomasses than PCR enrichment for bulk DNA. Both enrichment methods presented a positive

relationship between relative biomass proportion and read proportion but this relationship was closer

to a linear y=x relationship for capture enrichment. That said, a random species effect still remained in

the capture enrichment model. Its origin could be attributed to a bait bias similar to the primer bias

encountered in PCR enrichment but it can also be explained by other factors. Indeed, using a

mitochondrial marker to reconstruct an entire dry biomass community is eventually doomed to fail.

First, the amount of mitochondrial DNA belonging to a species in a sample will vary as a function of

the average number of mitochondrial genomes per cell which is likely to vary extensively among

species, life stages and tissues (Rooney et al, 2015). Wilcox et al. (2018) found that total initial species

DNA abundances could be recovered using capture enrichment if a correction was applied to

normalize for variation in the number of mitochondrial genome per cell. Second, dry biomass

proportions are a very rough estimator of cell numbers. Thus, variability in cell number per biomass

and in mitochondria per cell combines to blur the biomass/read proportion relationship. A similar

mock community experiment but with precise knowledge of the number of mitochondrial genome per

species in a sample is needed to better test for the existence of bait biases. One can argue that even if

capture enrichment yields good estimates of each species mitochondrial genome proportion in a

sample, this estimate will still be a poor biomass or abundance proxy. Interestingly, here we found that

read proportions from gene capture enrichment already provides biomass rank estimates which in

many ecological contexts would already be informative and may be sufficient.

Ethanol DNA as a fast alternative to bulk DNA for species detection

Our results demonstrate the potential of etDNA to replace bulk DNA for macrozoobenthos samples

if only species occurrence data is required. Species detection was not determined by DNA template

but by the enrichment method and the primer pair used. Hence, species detection with etDNA was

equivalent to species detection with bulk DNA. Nonetheless, no relationship between read proportion

and biomass proportion was highlighted for etDNA. For biomass recovery to work with etDNA, each

species should release a quantity of DNA in the ethanol proportionally to its biomass. However, the

release of DNA in the ethanol might differ among development stages or species. When put alive in

ethanol, some individuals regurgitate and release a lot of their DNA (Anderson et al., 2013). For

example, in the class Gastropoda, one sub-class has an operculum which isolates them from the

environment. When put in ethanol, these gastropods close their shell and the quantity of DNA released

will be lower than for other gastropods without operculum. Also, after ethanol fixation, depending on

the presence of a shell or a thick exoskeleton, the amount of released DNA during the soaking period

may also be extremely variable across taxa. In conclusion, while DNA from ethanol offers a fast and

non-destructive way to identify the species in a sample, differences in the way species release their

DNA in ethanol seem to prevent the use of ethanol for quantitative estimates.

Optimising capture enrichment for metabarcoding

Despite capture enrichment already delivers better results than PCR enrichment in terms of species

detection or biomass prediction, the efficiency and specificity of this emerging approach can still be

optimized for metabarcoding purposes. Although capture enrichment was efficient to enrich the COI

sequences of the macrozoobenthos present in our samples with an enrichment of at least 275-fold

compared to non-enriched libraries, the percentage of COI reads was highly heterogeneous and low

for some samples. The specificity of the capture enrichment was particularly low when the diversity of

the sample was low (25% of COI reads for the 10 species MC compared to 69% for the 52 taxa MC).

How the taxonomic diversity of a sample influences the efficiency of capture enrichment remains

unexplained and warrants further experiments where the impact of a gradually increasing sample

diversity is tested while controlling for other factors such as the extraction protocol or the overall

phylogenetic diversity.

The specificity of capture enrichment estimated by the number of COI reads that matched a taxa

included in the MC was systematically lower than with PCR enrichment (about 40% of the COI reads

did not match MC taxa). When looking at the coarse taxonomic composition of the COI reads

sequenced after capture enrichment, we found that for bulk DNA, most of the reads (> 95%) were

assigned to protostomians ruling out the possibility that bacterial or plant COI contaminations alone

are reducing capture specificity. DNA from other protostomians that interact with the taxa included in

the MC (e.g. preys or parasites) may contaminate the samples and reduce capture specificity.

Nevertheless, we would expect the same to happen with PCR enrichment which is not the case.

Alternatively, Li, Schroeder, Ko, and Stoneking (2012) found that the robustness of capture to

mismatches is also a drawback when targeting mitochondrial genes: in addition to capture the targeted

mitochondrial gene, it also captures nuclear copies of this gene (NUMTs). The lower specificity of

capture enrichment observed in our samples, but not observed with PCR enrichment, might therefore

be explained by rampant NUMT contaminations.

For capture enrichment on etDNA, we estimated that almost half of the reads belonged to

eubacteria and the other half to protostomians. This is likely to be linked to the regurgitation of gastric

microbiota and the release of epidermic microbiota by some species. By this process, bacterial DNA

may actually dominate the ethanol DNA. In this experiment, a lower hybridization temperature was

used for etDNA (55°C) than for bulk DNA (65°C) in the hope of capturing more fragmented DNA.

Retrospectively, this lower temperature is likely to have decreased the specificity of the capture

enrichment and increased the representation of bacterial DNA. Noteworthy, 95% of the bacterial reads

did not share any similarity with the mitochondrial COI, again reinforcing the idea that the large

amount of bacterial reads in etDNA samples is probably the result of the combination of non-stringent

hybridization conditions and bacterial DNA dominance in etDNA.

As found in this study and others (Liu et al., 2016; Mariac et al., 2018), the divergence between the

targeted DNA and the baits is a crucial factor in capture enrichment. As such, to recover all taxa in a

community, the bait design must be optimized to reduce this divergence. The priority is thus to design

baits using a reference database that is exhaustive. While reference DNA barcodes are available for

most species for some groups, this is far from being the case for many groups (e.g. (Sonet et al.,

2013)). Knowing the divergence threshold of 15% (this study) over which species are not captured and

detected, alternative strategies could be deployed to barcode key missing taxa in the reference

databases. Indeed, a very limited set of baits is sufficient to represent a whole family or a genus

(Mariac et al., 2018) if the intra-group genetic diversity is lower than the divergence threshold. This

diversity is heterogeneous between taxa group, for example the maximum intra-family COI

divergence in Gammaridea (Amphipoda) is 30% but is only 17% in Chloroperlidae (Plecoptera).

Therefore, prior investigations are needed to establish the diversity of each group and the number of

taxa that have to be described before a robust set of baits can be designed. Another alternative would

be to design baits from a set of representative COI sequences and mutate them according to a given

divergence to obtain a set of baits that can hybridize to most of sequences. Such baits would permit to

capture non-barcoded or even new species but could also reduce capture specificity by capturing

untargeted sequences such as bacteria genes or NUMTs.

CONCLUSION

Capture enrichment is a robust alternative to PCR enrichment for metabarcoding. Its main

advantage is to provide better species detection thanks to its robustness to mismatches. At this point,

while performing much better than PCR enrichment, absolute biomass reconstruction is not applicable

without species mitogenome copy number correction and is therefore not tractable for community

studies where hundreds of species can be encountered. Yet, biomass rank ordination appears to be

robust and could be used for ecological purpose. Albeit more bacterial contamination, the use of

etDNA coupled to capture enrichment presents interesting compromises. It saves a lot of time by

ignoring the organism picking step and permits to save organisms for further analyses. However,

etDNA should be used for studies where quantitative information is not required. Finally,

standardization of the capture method is important for a large application in biodiversity studies.

Efforts have to be put to standardize lab protocols, in particular hybridization temperature, and more

importantly on bait design which is instrumental for the specificity and efficiency of the method.

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DATA ACCESSIBILITY

Additional reference sequences developed for bait design are available on Genbank (Accession Numbers MK584300:MK584515 for the 216 seq). COI and 16S sequences barcoded for the 10 species MC assignment are available on GenBank (Accession Numbers MK584516:MK584524 for COI and MK584525:MK584534 for 16S). The bait set designed for this study is available on Zenodo (Zenodo (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2581410). FASTQ files from PCR and capture enrichment are available on NCBI (Accession Number XXXXX). Scripts for bioinformatic analysis are available on GitHub (https://github.com/mailysgauthier/bioinf-cap-PCR).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Samples of the 10 species MC were collected by MG. Methodology design was conceived by MG, TL, CD, VE and TD. Laboratory work was conducted by MG, LKD, AN. Data analysis was conducted by MG, TL and VE. MG and TL led the writing of the manuscript. All authors contributed to write the manuscript.

TABLE AND FIGURE CAPTIONS

831   Table 1. Dry biomass in mg and number of individuals (italic) of freshwater invertebrate species in
832   the 10 species mock communities.
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Species	Mock community							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chironomus riparius	1.84 *(5)*	1.83 *(5)*	2.58 *(5)*	2.42 *(5)*	3.66 *(10)*	4.62 *(11)*	3.89 *(10)*	4.44 *(10)*
Epeorus assimilis	102.32 *(5)*	55.53 *(6)*	77.89 *(5)*	96.47 *(5)*	62.94 *(4)*	110.73 *(4)*	114.80 *(4)*	74.23 *(4)*
Heptagenia sulphurea	15.73 *(5)*	20.79 *(5)*	21.08 *(5)*	18.02 *(5)*	38.31 *(10)*	28.19 *(10)*	32.58 *(10)*	38.37 *(10)*
Isoperla rivulorum	37.97 *(5)*	31.88 *(5)*	36.28 *(5)*	30.89 *(5)*	35.11 *(6)*	33.39 *(6)*	36.22 *(6)*	39.47 *(6)*
Nemurella picteti	2.83 *(5)*	2.49 *(5)*	2.34 *(5)*	3.60 *(5)*	0.50 *(1)*	0.97 *(1)*	0.77 *(1)*	0.56 *(1)*
Hydropsyche siltalai	68.42 *(5)*	53.15 *(5)*	53.63 *(5)*	53.32 *(5)*	80.36 *(8)*	66.27 *(8)*	86.71 *(8)*	79.86 *(8)*
Athripsodes aterrimus	6.10 *(6)*	6.68 *(5)*	7.87 *(5)*	6.23 *(5)*	9.10 *(6)*	7.96 *(6)*	5.39 *(6)*	7.01 *(6)*
Physella acuta	23.30 *(5)*	24.85 *(5)*	23.03 *(5)*	31.30 *(5)*	16.81 *(4)*	15.22 *(4)*	13.25 *(4)*	20.68 *(4)*
Ancylus fluviatilis	13.42 *(5)*	18.16 *(5)*	18.40 *(5)*	15.42 *(5)*	20.79 *(8)*	20.47 *(8)*	23.21 *(8)*	15.98 *(8)*
Gammarus fossarum	23.07 *(5)*	20.28 *(5)*	16.89 *(5)*	16.72 *(5)*	4.4 *(1)*	4.02 *(1)*	5.17 *(1)*	3.76 *(1)*

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Table 2. Assessment of COI PCR and capture enrichment specificity on two types of DNA templates. "% of COI reads": percentage of reads that align to the COI protein reference database, "% of COI reads assigned to a MC species": percentage of the number of reads that were successfully assigned to a species using the COI nucleotide reference databases to the COI assigned reads and "% of non-protostomian reads": percentage of reads that align to non-protostomian groups. Indicated values are mean number and standard deviation. For sample values, see Table S4 (PCR enrichment) and Table S5 (Capture enrichment). 10 sps: 10 species MC; 52 taxa:52 taxa MC.

bulk DNA	Mock community	Raw reads	Quality filtered reads	% COI reads	% of COI reads assigned to a MC species	% of non-protostomian reads (contaminants)
PCR enrichment	10 sps	170,026 ± 40,272	114,701 ± 31,160	49.54 ± 4.83	96.01 ± 3.24	2.77 ± 1.30
	52 taxa	135,168 ± 40,871	91,935 ± 32,720	42.33 ± 4.61	96.55 ± 3.80	2.37 ± 1.36
Capture enrichment	10 sps	493,967 ± 288,240	243,483 ± 86,526	25.16 ± 18.81	61.17 ± 5.55	10.73 ± 3.78
	52 taxa	553,825 ± 165,868	264,694 ± 75,864	69.30 ± 6.51	63.27 ± 1.96	5.31 ± 1.70
Enrichment-free	10 sps	921,863 ± 68,162	574,443 ± 43,547	0.023 ± 0.028	26.14 ± 9.21	31.66 ± 1.96
etDNA	Mock community	Raw reads	Quality filtered reads	% COI reads	% of COI reads assigned to a MC species	% of non-protostomian reads (contaminants)
PCR enrichment	10 sps	283,644 ± 52,944	233,856 ± 43,256	62.97 ± 4.47	46.36 ± 11.47	18.61 ± 12.78
Capture enrichment	10 sps	517,202 ± 234,942	309,637 ± 147,304	19.09 ± 5.82	33.71 ± 10.96	56.81 ± 10.17

844　　　Table 3. Testing the link between read proportion (dependant variable) and initial biomass
845　proportion. Only relative ΔAIC to the best model are shown. Models with and without fixed effect
846　(biomass proportion) and two random effects (species and sample) were built. For each random effect,
847　three models were built: no random effect, random intercept and random intercept and slope. Best
848　models correspond to the models with relative ΔAIC of 0. Ø means that the model could not be tested.

			Random effect		
bulk DNA	*Fixed effect*	*Random effect*	*None*	*Intercept*	*Intercept + slope*
PCR enrichment	1	Species	2,012,800	31,216	Ø
		Sample		2,012,802	
	biomass proportion	Species	537,148	6,674	0
		Sample		496,237	382,656
Capture enrichment	1	Species	320,984	9,223	Ø
		Sample		320,986	
	biomass proportion	Species	185,777	5,154	0
		Sample		185,322	182,666
etDNA	*Fixed effect*	*Random effect*	*None*	*Intercept*	*Intercept + slope*
PCR enrichment	1	Species	2,602,013	121,099	Ø
		Sample		2,602,015	
	biomass proportion	Species	1,897,689	97,590	0
		Sample		1,894,974	1,748,461
Capture enrichment	1	Species	195,670	43,136	Ø
		Sample		195,672	
	biomass proportion	Species	166,761	26,717	0
		Sample		166,760	102,699

Figure 1: Taxa recovery performance assessed using read proportion for PCR (left) and capture
(right) enrichment and for bulk (top) and ethanol (bottom) DNA on the 10 species mock community.
Sequence abundances are shown for each taxa (in rows) and mock community (in column). A crossed
out cell indicates no assigned read. For detailed read counts, see Table S6.

Figure 2: Taxa recovery performance using read proportion for PCR (left) and capture (right)
enrichment on the 52 taxa mock communities of Elbrecht and Leese (2015). Sequence abundances are
shown for each taxa (in rows) and mock community (in column). A crossed out case indicates that no
sequence was assigned to a given taxa in a given mock community. For detailed read counts, see
Table S7.

Figure 3: Relationship between biomass proportion and read proportion for PCR (left) and capture
(right) enrichment method. Logistic mixed model predictions with random intercept and slope by
species are shown (solid line). The dashed red line corresponds to the expected linear relationship
where one unit of read proportion equals to one unit of biomass proportion.
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870   Figure 4: Hierarchical clustering based on the species occurrence of 10 samples (1 to 10) analysed
871 using two different DNA templates (etDNA and bulk DNA) and three enrichment methods (BF2/BR2
872 amplicon, Fwh1 amplicon and capture). The clustering was made using Jaccard distances and the
873 Ward algorithm. etDNA1 and etDNA2 correspond to the first and second extraction of DNA from
874 ethanol, respectively.

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