

1 **The detection of novel and resident marine non-indigenous species using environmental**
2 **DNA metabarcoding of seawater and sediment**

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26

27 **Abstract**

28 1. Biodiversity monitoring in aquatic ecosystems is challenging as it requires taxonomic
29 expertise and is difficult to automate. One expedient approach is the use of environmental DNA
30 (eDNA) surveys to infer species incidence from nucleic acids found in environmental samples.
31 An advantage of eDNA surveys is that they allow rapid detection of non-indigenous species
32 (NIS), lessening the time from introduction to discovery and increasing the likelihood of
33 successful control and / or eradication. Despite this, relatively few studies have compared eDNA
34 and traditional surveys for the study of NIS, or examined the differences between
35 metabarcoding of different environmental sample types.

36 2. We evaluated the ability of eDNA to detect a broad range of native and NIS in urban coastal
37 environments, and compared the results with previously published traditional surveys. We
38 collected water and sediment samples from the same sites and then performed eDNA
39 metabarcoding of 18S rRNA and COI genes.

40 3. We found very different patterns of biodiversity in water and sediment samples; with sediment
41 containing more than two times the number of operational taxonomic units (OTUs) than
42 seawater in some cases. The findings showed the presence of as much variation in assemblage
43 diversity among environmental sample types as amongst geographically-segregated sampling
44 sites. Additionally, species detection within phyla was not consistent in water or sediment
45 samples, indicating that at a broad scale sample type does not perfectly predict taxa detected.

46 4. We found almost perfect agreement in species detection from eDNA and traditional surveys.
47 Additionally, eDNA metabarcoding detected three previously undocumented species
48 introductions. Finally, our work provided a novel high-resolution biodiversity dataset for urban
49 marine environments.

50 5. *Synthesis and applications* Our study showed that the type of eDNA sample dramatically
51 affects the detected biodiversity and that eDNA metabarcoding is accurate for the detection of

52 notorious NIS. Natural resource managers, ecological practitioners and researchers should
53 consider the benefits of integrating molecular tools such as eDNA into applied ecology.

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56 **Keywords**

57 18S, COI; eDNA; sediment; metabarcoding; non-indigenous; non-native.

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75 **Introduction**

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77 Anthropogenic activities are causing a global decrease in biodiversity (Sala and Knowlton 2006;
78 Butchart et al. 2010) that negatively affects ecosystem services and function (Worm et al. 2006).
79 Such impacts create an urgent need for tools that rapidly and accurately monitor species
80 diversity. Traditional biodiversity surveys have been criticised for their lack of standardisation
81 and taxonomic resolution (Oliver & Beattie 1993; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2009). One approach that has
82 the potential to overcome limitations of traditional surveys is the use of nucleic acids found in
83 environmental samples, such as water or sediment, to infer presence or absence of living
84 organisms in the local environment. Such genetic material, known as environmental DNA
85 (hereafter eDNA), is a poly-disperse mixture of tissue, cells, subcellular fragments and
86 extracellular DNA lost to the environment by organisms (Turner *et al.* 2014; Sassoubre *et al.*
87 2016). Studies using eDNA focus on detection from water samples using targeted (single
88 species) methods such as qPCR (Dougherty *et al.* 2016; Simpson *et al.* 2017; Wood *et al.* 2017;
89 Kim *et al.* 2018), or community (multi-species) methods such as metabarcoding (Borrell *et al.*
90 2017; Grey *et al.* 2018; Lacoursière-Roussel *et al.* 2018). Samples can be collected with minimal
91 training and once the methodology is optimised, surveys are highly amenable to automation
92 (McQuillan & Robidart 2017). Thus, eDNA surveys are highly informative (but see specific
93 considerations to ensure validity, Goldberg *et al.* 2016) and can complement traditional methods
94 (Deiner *et al.* 2017). Recent work has identified a vast range of viable protocols for the
95 collection, extraction and detection of target nucleic acids from different environmental samples
96 (Deiner et al., 2018; Spens *et al.* 2016; Sellers *et al.* 2018). Despite the finding that sediment
97 has been shown to harbour 8-1800 times more eDNA compared to water samples in freshwater
98 ecosystems (Turner, Uy & Everhart 2015) relatively few eDNA studies incorporate multiple
99 environmental sample types (Shaw *et al.* 2016). Furthermore, no work to date has compared

100 species richness estimates derived from metazoan target eDNA metabarcoding between
101 seawater and marine sediment samples.

102
103 Non-indigenous species (NIS) are those that have been transported from their native range
104 through human action into a novel geographic location. The impacts of NIS are well documented
105 and they can pose a severe threat to natural ecological systems, agriculture, biodiversity and
106 human health (Bax *et al.* 2003; Lovell, Stone & Fernandez 2006; Ricciardi *et al.* 2013; Mazza *et*
107 *al.* 2014). Most marine NIS have spread globally via vectors such as transoceanic shipping,
108 aquaculture, the construction of canals interconnecting large water bodies and capture aquarium
109 industry (Molnar *et al.* 2008; Nunes *et al.* 2014). At fine (10s of km) geographical scales, other
110 vectors such as recreational boating significantly enhance the spread and subsequent impact of
111 NIS (Clarke Murray *et al.* 2011). Along coastal areas, NIS studies have highlighted the
112 importance of monitoring marinas and harbours (Ashton *et al.* 2006), as these are hotspots of
113 NIS. In these habitats, sessile marine NIS often outcompete native species and dominate
114 artificial hard substrata (Glasby *et al.* 2007; Dafforn *et al.* 2009). Marinas and harbours have
115 distinct ecological and physico-chemical conditions compared to the surrounding natural
116 environment (Rivero *et al.* 2013; Foster *et al.* 2016). Consequently, there is a need for specific
117 sampling and surveying protocols to study both native and NIS in these ecologically distinct
118 environments.

119
120 The detection of NIS has been performed traditionally by surveys standardised by time or by
121 reaching a species discovery asymptote (Ashton *et al.* 2006; Campbell, Gould & Hewitt 2007;
122 Bishop *et al.* 2015). Moreover, traditional NIS surveys require expert taxonomic skills that are
123 inherently time consuming and are not typically amenable to automation (Darling *et al.* 2017). In
124 addition, the results of such surveys reflect only species that are being targeted at the time, with
125 no ability to retrospectively separate erroneously grouped species in light of new discoveries.

126 This is particularly important considering that between 9,000-35,000 marine species (2.7% of
127 the total number of estimated marine species) are cryptic (i.e., morphologically similar but
128 genetically distinct) (Appeltans *et al.* 2012). Indeed, many common global sessile marine
129 invaders are morphologically indistinguishable and contain cryptic lineages as revealed by
130 genetic studies, highlighting the need for the use of genetic tools to accurately assess species
131 invasions (Pérez-Portela *et al.* 2013; Rius *et al.* 2017). The use of eDNA as monitoring tool of
132 NIS has great potential, mainly because it tackles limitations of the existing biodiversity
133 monitoring tools.

134
135 Here we tested the efficacy of eDNA metabarcoding for exploring the biodiversity of several
136 distinct marinas. We first documented the differences in both alpha and beta diversity of different
137 eDNA sample types (seawater and sediment). We then compared the eDNA metabarcoding
138 results with traditional methods and identified a number of key NIS that are both introduced in
139 the study region and / or elsewhere. Subsequently, we identified a number of previously
140 unrecorded NIS in the study region. Finally we discuss the strengths and weaknesses of eDNA
141 metabarcoding for detecting marine NIS.

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143

144 **Methods**

145

146 *Study sites*

147 Four marinas were selected from around the United Kingdom to represent variation in modelled
148 invasion potential (Pearce, Peeler & Stebbing 2012), known NIS present (Bishop *et al.* 2015)
149 and surrounding benthic habitat type (Calewaert *et al.* 2016). Importantly, all chosen marinas
150 have been surveyed previously for NIS and so there is a good understanding of the expected
151 NIS in these areas (Wood, Bishop & Yunnie 2015a; b; Wood *et al.* 2016). Marina access was

152 contingent on anonymity and so marina names and exact locations are not presented, Fig.1a
153 shows approximate locations. Marina *TQ* is an open marina subject to tides and varying salinity
154 located in Southampton Water on the north coast of the English Channel. Marina *PQ* is a loch
155 marina open during high tide to the Bristol Channel and the Celtic Sea. Marina *TB* is located at
156 the mouth of the River Blackwater open to the North Sea. Marina *HH* is located on the Isle of
157 Anglesey and is open to the Celtic Sea.

158

159 *Environmental DNA sampling*

160 Surveys were conducted during May 2017. A total of 24 sampling points were randomly selected
161 within each site. At each point 50ml of water was collected from 10cm below the surface using a
162 sterile 60ml luer lock syringe and filtered through a 0.22mm polyethersulfone Sterivex filter
163 (Merck Millipore, Massachusetts USA). After collecting seawater from eight locations (400ml
164 total volume) the filter was changed, resulting in a total of three filters per site. To test the effect
165 of different sample preservation methods sampling was performed in duplicate. One set of three
166 filters had ~1.5ml sterile Longmire's solution (100mM Tris, 10mM EDTA, 10mM NaCl, 0.5%
167 SDS) applied in the inlet valve (Renshaw et al. 2015). The second set of three filters were kept
168 on ice for no longer than eight hours before being frozen at -20°C. During the surveys, a
169 sediment sample was collected at the start and then after every 3rd water sample, for a total of 9
170 per site. We used a UWITEC Corer (UWITEC, Mondsee, Austria) to collect a sediment core
171 (600mm tall x 60mm diameter). Using a sterile disposable spatula, a subsample of 10-20g of
172 sediment was taken from the top 2cm of the core, taking care to avoid sampling the sides of the
173 core. The subsample was stored in a sterile plastic zip container and kept on ice for no longer
174 than eight hours before begin frozen at -80°C. Due to equipment malfunction no sediment
175 sample could be taken for Site HH. Disposable gloves were changed after collection of each
176 sample. All reused equipment was washed thoroughly and soaked in 10% bleach between sites,
177 before rinsing in DNase-free sterile water.

178

179 *eDNA extraction*

180 DNA extractions were performed in a PCR-free cleanroom, separate from main laboratory
181 facilities. No high copy templates, cultures or amplicons were permitted in this sterile laboratory.
182 DNA extractions from water samples followed Spens et al. (2016) using the SX_{CAPSULE} method.
183 Briefly, preservative solution was removed from the outlet and filters were dried at room
184 temperature for two hours, 720µl Qiagen buffer ATL (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and 80µl
185 Proteinase K was added to the filter and all samples were digested overnight at 56°C. After
186 digestion, samples were processed using the Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit as per
187 manufacturer instructions. The final elution was 200µl PCR grade water.

188 Sediment extractions were performed using the Qiagen DNeasy Powermax Soil Kit using the
189 manufacturer recommended protocol. For each site the nine samples were mixed to form three
190 pooled samples; for each extraction, 10g of pooled sample was processed. A total of ten
191 samples were processed, three each per site with a single no blank, as per manufacturer's
192 instructions.

193

194 *Inhibition testing*

195 To ensure extracted DNA was free of PCR inhibitors a Primer Design Real-Time PCR Internal
196 Control Kit (PrimerDesign, Southampton, UK) was used. qPCR reactions were performed
197 following the manufacturer's protocol. Inhibition due to co-purified compounds from DNA
198 extraction protocols would produce an increase in cycle threshold number in comparison to no
199 template controls. All samples were successfully processed and no samples showed indication
200 of PCR inhibition.

201

202 *Primer selection & library preparation*

203 Two sets of primers were chosen for metabarcoding the environmental samples: a 313bp
204 section of the standard DNA barcoding region of the cytochrome c oxidase subunit I gene (COI)
205 using primers described in Leray et al. (2013); and a variable length target of the hypervariable
206 v4 region of the nuclear small subunit ribosomal DNA (18S) using primers from Zhan *et al.*
207 (2013). Sequencing libraries were prepared using a 2-step PCR approach as detailed in Bista *et*
208 *al.* (2017), this method amplifies the target region in PCR 1 annealing universal adapters onto
209 which sample specific indices and sequencing primers are annealed in PCR 2. In contrast to
210 Bista *et al.* (2017) we used unique dual-matched indexes for PCR 2 to avoid index crosstalk
211 associated with combinatorial indexing (MacConaill et al. 2018). PCR 1 was prepared in a PCR-
212 free room, separate from main laboratory facilities. PCR conditions and reaction volumes are
213 detailed in Supplementary Information 1. Blank filters, DNA extraction kits and positive controls
214 where collected, extracted and sequenced as the experimental treatments (detailed in
215 Supplementary Information 1). Samples were pooled at an equimolar ratio and sequenced using
216 the Illumina MiSeq instrument (Illumina, San Diego, USA) with a V3 2 x 300bp kit.

217

218 *Bioinformatic analyses*

219 Samples were demultiplexed using the Illumina MiSeq control software (v 2.6.2.1). The
220 demultiplexed data was analysed using a custom pipeline written in the R programming
221 language (R Core Team 2018) hosted at <https://github.com/leholman/metabarTOAD>, the steps
222 are as follows. Forward and reverse paired end reads were merged using the `-fastq_mergepairs`
223 option of USEARCH v.10.0.240 (Edgar 2013) with maximum difference of 15, percent identity of
224 80% and quality filter set at maximum expected errors of 1. Both the forward and reverse primer
225 sequences were matched using Cutadapt v.1.16 (Martin 2011) and only sequences containing
226 both primer regions were retained. Sequences were discarded if they were outside of a defined
227 length boundary (303-323bp for COI, 375-450bp for 18S) using Cutadapt. Sequences were then
228 pooled, singletons were discarded and sequences were quality filtered with a maximum

229 expected error of 1 using the `-fastq_filter` option of `vsearch v.2.4.3` (Rognes *et al.* 2016).
230 Sequences were then denoised and chimeras filtered using the `unoise3` algorithm implemented
231 in `USEARCH`. The resultant OTUs were curated using the `LULU` package v.0.1.0 in R (Frøslev
232 *et al.* 2017). An OTU by sample table was produced by mapping the merged and trimmed reads
233 against the curated OTUs, reporting a single best hit within 97% of the query sequence. The
234 OTU x sample table was filtered in R as follows. To minimise the chance of spurious OTUs
235 being included in the final dataset any record with less than 3 raw reads were changed to zero
236 and any OTU that did not appear in more than one sample was removed from the analysis.
237 OTUs found in negative controls were removed from the analysis.

238

239 *Taxonomic assignment*

240 Assigning correct taxonomy to an unknown set of marine sequences can be challenging as
241 large databases require vast computational resources for query matching; many databases
242 contain errors and the taxonomy of some marine groups is uncertain. With such limitations in
243 mind, we assigned taxonomy using a `BLAST v.2.6.0+` search (Camacho *et al.* 2009) returning
244 the single best hit from databases within 97% of the query. The MIDORI database
245 (UNIQUE_20180221) (Machida *et al.* 2017) was used for the COI data and the SILVA database
246 (SSU r132) (Quast *et al.* 2013) was used for the 18S rRNA data. The `match taxa` tool from the
247 World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) (WoRMS Editorial Board 2018) was used to filter
248 the data for marine species and check the classification. Remaining annotations were checked
249 against the World Register of Introduced Marine Species (WRIMS) (Ahyong *et al.* 2018) to
250 determine non-indigenous status.

251

252 *Statistical analyses*

253 All statistical analyses were conducted in R v3.5.0. The `Vegan` R package v.2.5.2 (Oksanen *et*
254 *al.* 2011) was used to rarefy samples to the minimum sample read depth for each amplicon. The

255 number of OTUs per site/condition was calculated as the number of OTUs with a non-zero
256 number of normalized reads after summing the reads across all three site level replicates. To
257 test if there was a significant difference between the number of OTUs generated by sediment
258 and water eDNA, individual non-summed replicate sample data was used to build a linear
259 regression model following the formula *number_of_OTUs~sedimentorwater*site* implemented in
260 R using the function `lm()`. Non-metric multidimensional scaling ordination plots were generated
261 from Bray-Curtis dissimilarity values derived using `Vegan`. A Permutation Analysis of Variance
262 (PERMANOVA) (Balakrishnan et al. 2014) was performed using the Bray Curtis dissimilarity
263 following the model *dissimilarity_matrix~sedimentorwater*site* implemented in R using the
264 function `adonis` from the `vegan` package. OTUs with taxonomic assignment were separated into
265 those found in sediment, water or both media and the OTUs were then collapsed at the Phylum
266 level to explore taxonomic patterns of detection in water or sediment. Phyla with less than eight
267 OTUs were combined. To test for non-random counts of species detection between water and
268 sediment within taxa an exact binomial test was performed between counts of species detected
269 in water and sediment. Half the number of counts for species detected in both water and
270 sediment were added to water and sediment, with non-integer values conservatively rounded up
271 to the nearest whole number. A Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons was applied
272 across the p values from the exact binomial tests. Records from manual surveys previously
273 conducted for non-native invertebrates at the sample sites (Wood, Bishop & Yunnie 2015a; b;
274 Wood *et al.* 2016) were compared with the detected species from metabarcoding data.

275

276

277 **Results**

278

279 *Raw sequencing results & OTU generation*

280 Sequencing produced a total of 17.8 million paired end reads, with 15.2 million sequences
281 remaining after paired end read merging and quality filtering. The average number of sequences
282 per sample after filtering (excluding control samples) was $200,185 \pm 64,019$ (s.d). No template
283 control samples contained an average of $811 \pm 3,402$ (s.d) sequences. One control sample
284 contained ~15,000 sequences that mapped to an operational taxonomic unit (OTU) that had
285 100% identity match to a sequence of a terrestrial fungi (Genbank: FJ804151.1), excluding this
286 OTU gives an average of 51 ± 94 (s.d) sequences per no-template control sample. Denoising
287 produced 8,069 OTUs for COI and 2,433 for 18S with 6,435 and 1,679 remaining respectively
288 after LULU curation. Taxonomic annotation identified 395 OTUs from the 18S rRNA dataset
289 against the SILVA database and 219 OTUs from the COI dataset against the MIDORI database.
290 Taxonomic data from WoRMS could be retrieved for 204 of the annotated COI OTUs and 138 of
291 the 18S OTUs.

292

293 *Biodiversity detection*

294

295 The effect of different water eDNA sample preservation techniques differed between the target
296 amplicons. The 18S rRNA amplicon produced significantly more OTUs in samples preserved by
297 freezing compared to Longmire's preservation method, while the COI amplicon showed no
298 significant difference between preservation treatments (see Supplementary Information 2 for
299 details). As a conservative approach all subsequent analyses used sample data from frozen
300 samples. The minimum number of reads per sample was 137,624 for the COI dataset and
301 117,915 for the 18S dataset and so samples were rarefied to this number of reads. More OTUs
302 in total were detected in the sediment samples compared to the water samples across all sites
303 and both markers as shown in Figure 1b,d. In all cases, both water and sediment samples
304 detected unique OTUs but the mean proportion of unique OTUs detected in water was lower
305 (49.2%) in comparison to sediment (73.8%). A 2-way ANOVA testing the effect of eDNA type of

306 environmental sample on number of OTUs generated indicated a significant effect ($p < 0.001$) of
307 sample type for both 18S rRNA and COI (See Supplementary Information 3 for full model
308 output). Ordination plots of Bray-Curtis dissimilarity (Fig. 1c,e) showed that OTUs in eDNA found
309 in sediment and water differ in community structure as much as among sites in ordination space.
310 Additionally, the PERMANOVA model indicated highly significant differences ($p < 0.001$) between
311 sites and eDNA medium in both the 18S rRNA and COI datasets. Furthermore, eDNA detection
312 medium in the PERMANOVA model explained 23.2% and 32.5% of the variation in the 18S and
313 COI data respectively, while the site explained 34.2% and 30.5% in the COI and 18S rRNA data
314 (See Supplementary Information 4 for full model output). At phylum level (Figure 2), taxonomy
315 does not perfectly predict medium of detection, however a binomial goodness of fit test shows
316 non-random detection proportions in the Nematoda (Bonferroni corrected $p = 0.005$), with eDNA
317 detections mostly in sediment.

318

319 *Detection of non-indigenous species*

320 In total 16 NIS to the study region and 30 species documented as NIS in other countries were
321 detected across the four sites (see Supplementary Table 1 for full list). Out of the detected NIS
322 seven were present in the list of 21 NIS previously detected in manual non-native invertebrate
323 surveys at the sites. As shown in Fig. 3 the results of the eDNA surveys closely matched those
324 of the manual survey results. Only a single detection differed from the manual surveys, an eDNA
325 false-negative detection of *Bugula neritina* at Site HH. Remapping of the cleaned reads to the
326 *Bugula neritina* COI region (Genbank Accession: KY235450.1) indicated that 5 reads from a
327 single replicate corresponded with *Bugula neritina*. These reads were lost during data filtering
328 and so did not feature in the final dataset. A detection of note was 199 reads from the sediment
329 of Site TQ mapping to an OTU corresponding with *Arcuatula senhousia* (Asian Date Mussel), a
330 previously undocumented NIS for the UK. Targeted visual surveys on tidal mudflats within two
331 kilometres of Marina TQ confirmed the presence of this species in proximity to the sampling site.

332 Furthermore, COI sequences generated from these physical samples (Genbank Accession:
333 MH924820 and MH924821) matched to known *A. senhousia* sequences confirming the eDNA
334 detection (see Supplementary Information 5 for details of DNA barcoding). Additionally, the
335 nematode *Cephalothrix simula* and the oligochaete *Paranais frici* were also detected using
336 eDNA at site TQ. Both are new species introductions to the United Kingdom, previously
337 undocumented in academic literature.

338

339 **Discussion**

340

341 We demonstrated that very different community composition can be detected in seawater and
342 sediment samples, affirming the importance of integrating multiple sample types for obtaining a
343 full assessment of community composition. We also found that eDNA metabarcoding shows
344 excellent concordance with traditional methods for the detection of NIS. Finally, we
345 demonstrated that eDNA metabarcoding can detect novel species introductions. This study
346 emphasises the need to have a thorough understanding of the effects of environmental sample
347 types both at the level of whole community and for specific species of concern. eDNA
348 metabarcoding continues to be used in both regional and global biodiversity surveys.

349

350 The majority of research using eDNA to detect aquatic macrofauna is based on the collection of
351 water samples, while sediment samples have received comparatively less attention. We found
352 dramatic differences in species richness in sediment and water samples, observing a
353 consistently greater number of OTUs detected in sediment compared to water. Shaw *et al.*
354 (2016) found that sediment 12S rRNA metabarcoding detected fewer fish compared to water in
355 a freshwater lotic environment. Our results indicated a similar trend when considering only fish
356 species; with more fish being detected in seawater samples compared to sediment samples (5
357 in water, 2 in sediment and water), but the opposite when considering all OTUs. More broadly,

358 taxonomy at the level of phylum did not predict if a species will be detected in water, sediment or
359 both sample types (except the Nematoda, whose members are predominantly benthic
360 inhabitants). It is likely, as seen in the case of fish above, that at lower taxonomic levels the
361 species-specific ecology of eDNA (sensu Barnes & Turner 2015) will result in convergent eDNA
362 occupancy in different sample types. However, further work is needed to clarify how eDNA
363 partitions into adjacent environmental samples across the tree of life. Our study showed that at
364 the level of phyla detection was not significantly different between sediment and water for most
365 taxa. Similarly, we showed that for most NIS both water or sediment samples served as an
366 excellent media for detection.

367
368 Current eDNA metabarcoding research has identified large variation in the detected diversity
369 across small spatial scales in both sediment (Nascimento *et al.* 2018) and seawater (O'Donnell
370 *et al.* 2017). Additionally fractionation of environmental samples (i.e. sorting samples by particle
371 size class) can produce significant differences in the metabarcoding results between fractions
372 (Wangensteen *et al.* 2018a; b) indicating that reliable variation can be discovered at a scale of
373 site. Here we found similar patterns, with site and eDNA sample type containing approximately
374 equivalent OTU biodiversity. Future research should explore how eDNA extracted using different
375 sample types and extraction methods affects the detection of biodiversity, especially as eDNA
376 metabarcoding moves from an experimental technique to a routine monitoring tool (Pawlowski *et*
377 *al.* 2018; Aylagas *et al.* 2018).

378
379 We found that eDNA metabarcoding of water samples accurately detects many NIS species, as
380 seen in previous work (Borrell *et al.* 2017; Grey *et al.* 2018; Lacoursière-Roussel *et al.* 2018).
381 Additionally, we identified the presence of NIS in sediment samples for the first time. In
382 comparing these data to those collected using traditional methods we found almost perfect
383 agreement in NIS presence. The single false-negative was found to be a result of bioinformatic

384 parameters, identifying that choices made during sequence processing can have an effect on
385 the detectability of species in eDNA samples. Indeed, this has previously been shown in
386 metabarcoding of bulk samples (Scott *et al.* 2018) and work is urgently needed to determine
387 optimal bioinformatic parameters, the effects of primer binding sites and the role of DNA
388 barcodes in reference databases for the detection of NIS in eDNA samples. It is therefore
389 important to combine eDNA metabarcoding with traditional surveys where possible, as both
390 methods provide reciprocal validation data (e.g. important NIS may be missed using molecular
391 techniques or eDNA metabarcoding detects rare species that often missed by traditional
392 surveys). We identified several NIS currently unrecorded in the UK and confirmed the detection
393 with targeted local surveys to confirm the presence of *A. senhousia*. The case of *A. senhousia* is
394 particularly relevant when evaluating eDNA metabarcoding for NIS detection as the species is
395 spreading globally (Bachelet *et al.* 2009), has the potential to dramatically alter benthic
396 biodiversity (Crooks 2001; Mistri 2003) and may have long remained undetected. Future
397 research should evaluate the sensitivity of eDNA metabarcoding for the detection of novel
398 species introductions, which may allow an unprecedented level of accuracy during early stages
399 of invasion. The incorporation of autonomous sampling (McQuillan & Robidart 2017) and eDNA
400 biobanking (Jarman, Berry & Bunce 2018) could also help the rapid detection of NIS by
401 improving DNA reference databases for specific geographical regions that have high biosecurity
402 risk, providing an invaluable resource for biodiversity managers and researchers alike.

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411 **Author Contributions**

412 L.E.H. and M.R. designed the experiment, L.E.H. collected samples, generated and analysed
413 the data, designed all figures and wrote the first draft of the paper. All authors contributed
414 critically to the drafts and gave final approval for publication.

415

416

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425

426 **Data accessibility**

427 Raw Illumina sequencing data is available from the European Nucleotide Archive under
428 accession number (pending).

429 Associated metadata, script and intermediate files can be found on GitHub with the following
430 DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1453959.

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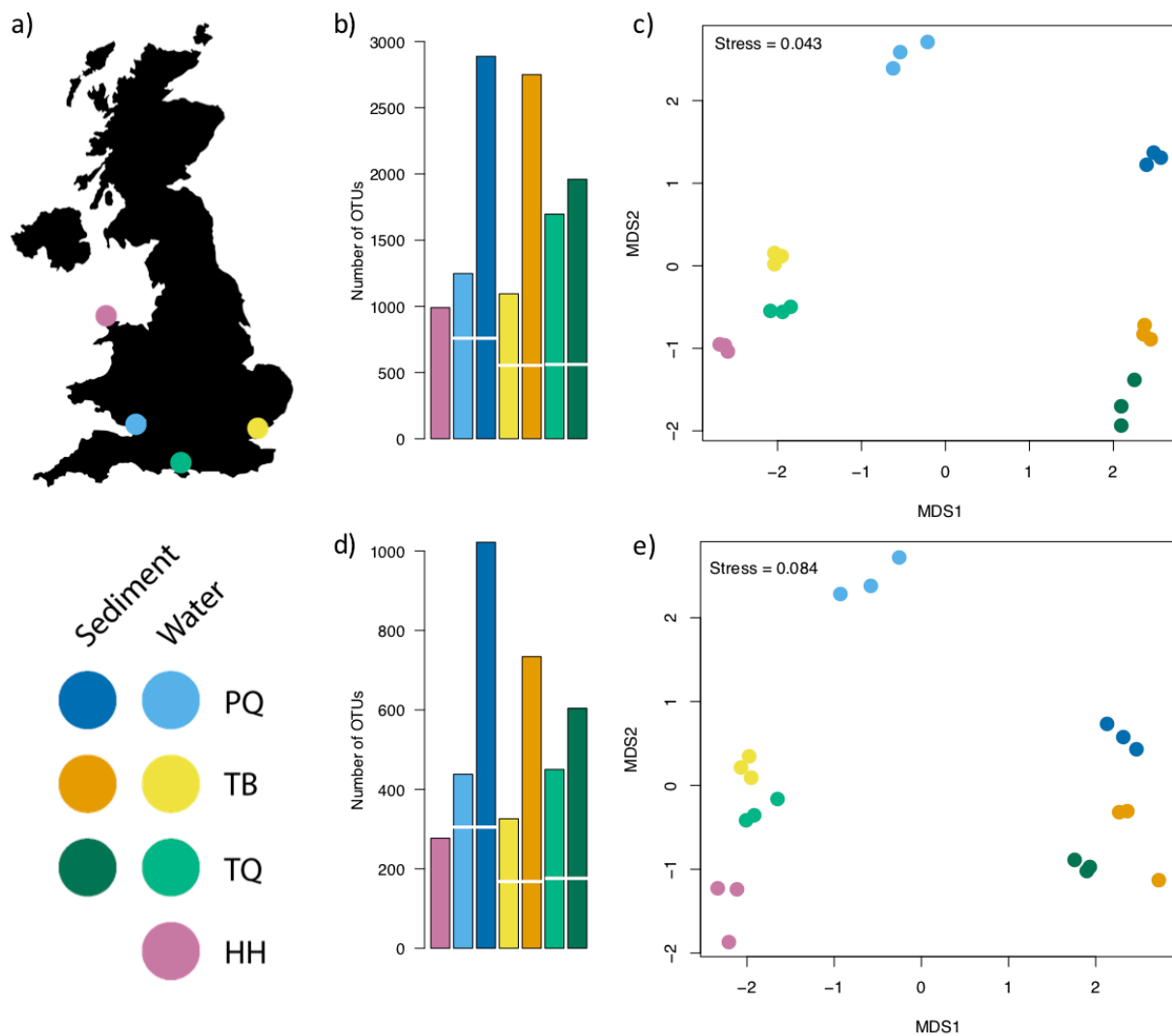
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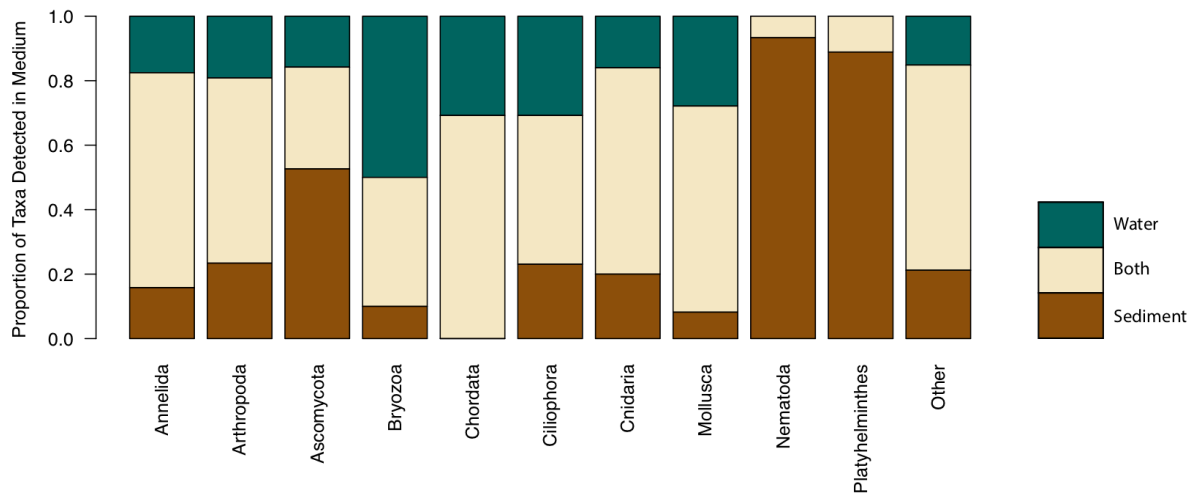
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 653 **Fig. 1.** a) Map of United Kingdom indicating the geographic position of the sampled sites, a legend is
 654 provided below indicating the four sites (PQ, TB, TQ and HH) and colours for water and sediment eDNA
 655 samples for each site. Barplots detailing number of OTUs detected across sampling sites and eDNA
 656 sample type for COI b) and 18S rRNA d) metabarcoding of UK marinas, the break in bars indicates the
 657 number of shared OTUs between sediment and water eDNA samples. Non-metric multidimensional
 658 scaling ordination plots based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarities between: c) COI and e) 18S rRNA
 659 metabarcoding of marina sediment and water eDNA samples.
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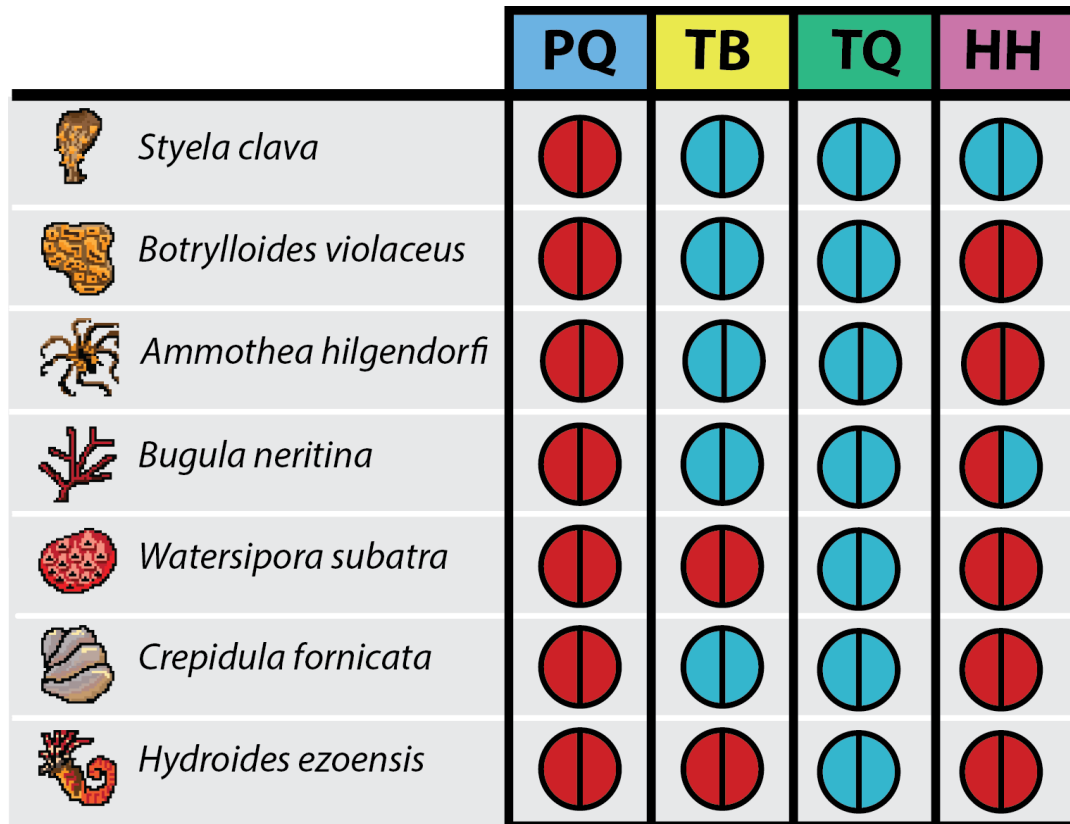


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663 **Fig. 2.** Horizontal stacked barchart detailing proportion of OTUs detected in eDNA from sediment, water
664 or both across the top 10 phyla for pooled 18S rRNA and COI metabarcoding of UK marinas.

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669 **Fig. 3.** Presence absence diagram for seven non-indigenous species across four sampling sites. For each

670 species-location the left semi-circle indicates the detection using eDNA metabarcoding surveys of 18S

671 rRNA and COI fragments, and the right semi-circle indicates the detection from traditional manual

672 surveys. Blue indicates a positive detection for that species-location and red indicates no detection.

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