

How the development of molecular microbial ecology can inform current eDNA approaches

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Biography:

Dr Anna Hopkins is a Senior Lecturer in molecular ecology and co-lead of the Molecular Ecology and Evolution Group at Edith Cowan University. Her research broadly focuses on using molecular tools in conservation and environmental management with special interests in fungal ecology, soil biology and fungal-fauna interactions.

Abstract:

Molecular tools using 'omic' techniques are well-established methods in microbial ecology and there are many synergies with the eDNA approaches currently being explored. This presentation draws on our collective experience of using molecular tools in microbial ecology and working with eDNA and in doing so highlights some of the key similarities between the two fields. For example, we will explore the importance of understanding the biology of the target organism, how to deal with a lack of clear taxonomic information and bias in sampling methods. We outline how we can draw on previous molecular microbial ecology research to develop robust and informative eDNA tools for future projects looking at a broader range of organisms and sample types.

ABOUT eDNA

The Southern environmental DNA Society (SeDNA) is a newly established Australian and New Zealand society of environmental DNA researchers and end users. We aim to promote best practices and help the adoption of methods across sectors.

Our mission is promoting science and industry collaboration across Australia and New Zealand to advance best practice eDNA methods and adoption in government, private and community sectors.

Visit our website to find more about the society and what we do here. Membership registration is open on our website.

<https://sednasociety.com/>

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In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia & New Zealand and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all peoples today.