The future of DNA barcoding: reflections from early career researchers

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Abstract

Over the last two decades, the use of DNA barcodes has transformed our ability to identify and assess life on our planet. Both strengths and weaknesses of the method have been exemplified through thousands of peer-reviewed scientific articles. In the light of novel sequencing approaches, currently capable of generating millions of reads at low cost, we reflect on the questions: what will the future bring for DNA barcoding? Will identification of species using short, standardized fragments of DNA stand the test of time? We present reflected opinions of early career biodiversity researchers in the form of a SWOT-analysis and discuss answers to these questions.

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