



# Molecular Standard Operating Procedure (MSOP)

for

Marine Biodiversity Observation network for genetic  
monitoring of hard-bottom communities  
(ARMS-MBON)

Version

1.0

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## Purpose

This document contains the Standard Operating Procedures for working with the molecular data of the ARMS-MBON ([www.arms-mbon.eu](http://www.arms-mbon.eu)) project. The samples containing the material are sent by each observatory to HCMR for processing (see the [Handbook](#) for details).

## DNA Extraction

This protocol is used for each of the three ARMS fractions (motile 100µm – 500µm, motile 500µm – 2mm, and sessile).

### Materials:

- Falcon tubes containing the samples stored in DMSO
- DNA-extraction kit (DNeasy PowerSoil Kit or DNeasy PowerSoil Pro Kit)
- Sterile pipettes and pipette tips
- DNA-decontaminating solution
- agarose/EtBr gel and loading buffer
- DNA size ladder

### Procedures:

1. Wear gloves at all times. Carefully clean the bench station(s) and pipettes.
2. Proceed to DNA extraction using the DNA-extraction kit, as recommended by the manufacturer. Use about 0.5 grams of wet material from each sample. Extract each replicate sample separately.
3. Evaluate the quality of the extracted DNA by gel electrophoresis and quantify it using a spectrophotometer.
4. Store the DNA at -20 °C until further processing.

## PCR amplification and sequencing

### Materials:

- Primers

Primer Name	Sequence	Target gene	Target group	Amplicon size (bp)	Reference
All18 SF	5'-TGGTGCATGGCCG TTCTTAGT-3'	18S rRNA	metazoa, fungi, protozoa, plants	200--500	Hardy et al. 2010
All18SR	5'-CATCTAAGGGCAT CACAGACC-3'				
mlCOIintF	5'-GGWACWGGWTG AACWGTWTAYCCY CC-3'	COI	metazoa	313	Leray et al. 2013

gHCO2198	5'-TAIACYTCIGGRTG ICCRAARAAYCA-3'				Geller et al. 2013
ITS1f	5'-CTTGGTCATTTAG AGGAAGTAA-3'	ITS	fungi	250--600	Gardes & Bruns 1993
ITS2	5'-GCTGCGTTCTTCA TCGATGC-3'				White et al. 1990

- 5' tails used for the first-step PCR

Primer Name	Sequence
1st_PCR_for	5'-TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAG-[locus-specific sequence] -3'
1st_PCR_rev	5'-GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAG-[locus-specific sequence] -3'

- Extracted DNA
  - KAPA HiFi HotStart PCR Kit and KAPA Taq PCR Kit
  - Qubit® dsDNA HS Assay Kit or Quant-iT PicoGreen dsDNA Assay Kit (ThermoFisher/Invitrogen)
  - AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) or NucleoMag® NGS Clean-up and Size Select (Macherey-Nagel)
  - KAPA Illumina Library Quantification Kit and Illumina Library Quantification DNA Standards
  - Thermal cycler
  - Dedicated pipettes and pipette tips
  - PCR reaction tubes and/or plates
  - PCR grade water
  - agarose/EtBr gel and loading buffer
  - MiSeq Reagent kit v3 (600 cycles)
1. Wear gloves at all times. Carefully clean the bench station(s) and pipettes.
  2. Mix the biological replicate samples in equimolar amounts, so that you end up with one tube for each sample (i.e. for each MaterialSample-ID).
  3. PCR amplification is performed targeting three gene regions: COI (metazoa), 18S rRNA (metazoa) and ITS (fungi), using the Two-Step PCR Approach.
  4. The first-step PCR is performed with the aforementioned primers containing a universal 5' tail as specified in the Nextera library protocol from Illumina.
    - The first-step PCR for the COI:  
Amplification reaction mix:
      - 3.0 µl 10x KAPA Taq buffer A,
      - 0.6 µl MgCl<sub>2</sub> (25 mM),
      - 0.75 µl KAPA dNTP Mix (10 mM),
      - 1.8 µl from each primer (10 µM),
      - 0.9 µl KAPA Taq DNA polymerase (5.0 U/µl)
      - The final volume was 30.0 µl per reaction.

- DNA template concentration is about 10.0 ng/μl.

First PCR protocol:

- 95 °C for 5 min;
- 16 cycles at 95 °C for 10 s, 62 °C (-1 °C/cycle) for 30 s, 72 °C for 1 min;
- 24 cycles at 95 °C for 10 s, 46 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 1 min;
- 72 °C for 7 min

- The first-step PCR for the 18S rRNA:

Amplification reaction mix:

- 6.0 μl 5x KAPA HiFi Fidelity buffer,
- 6.0 μl Trehalose (1 M),
- 0.9 μl KAPA dNTP Mix (10 mM),
- 1.8 μl from each primer (5 μM),
- 0.6 μl KAPA HiFi HotStart DNA polymerase (1.0 U/μl)
- The final volume was 30.0 μl per reaction.
- DNA template concentration is about 10.0 ng/μl.

First PCR protocol:

- 95 °C for 3 min;
- 30 cycles at 98 °C for 20 s, 58 °C for 15 s, 72 °C for 15 s;
- 72 °C for 3 min

- The first-step PCR for the ITS:

Amplification reaction mix:

- 3.0 μl 10x KAPA Taq buffer A,
- 0.75 μl KAPA dNTP Mix (10 mM),
- 1.5 μl from each primer (10 μM),
- 0.9 μl KAPA Taq DNA polymerase (5.0 U/μl)
- The final volume was 30.0 μl per reaction.

DNA template concentration is about 10.0 ng/μl.

First PCR protocol:

- 95 °C for 5 min;
- 35 cycles at 95 °C for 30 s, 52 °C for 30 s, 68 °C for 30 s;
- 68 °C for 10 min

5. Purify 20 μl of the resulting PCR amplicons using magnetic beads, at a ratio 1:1 (magnetic beads: PCR product).
6. Quantify the purified PCR amplicons using fluorometric quantitation.
7. Use the purified and quantified PCR amplicons as templates for the second-step PCR in order to include the indexes (barcodes), as well as the Illumina adaptors. A different set of indexed primers should be used for each sample.

*Indexed forward primers for the second-step PCR:*

Primer Name	Sequence	Index name
NGS_i5_S502	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACCTCTCTATTC GTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S502
NGS_i5_S503	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTATCCTCTTC GTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S503

NGS_i5_S505	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACGTAAGGAGT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S505
NGS_i5_S506	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACACTGCATAT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S506
NGS_i5_S507	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACAAGGAGTAT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S507
NGS_i5_S508	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACCTAAGCCTT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S508
NGS_i5_S510	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACCGTCTAATTC GTCGGCAGCGTC-3	S510
NGS_i5_S511	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTCTCCGTC GTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S511
NGS_i5_S513	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCGACTAGT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S513
NGS_i5_S515	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTTCTAGCTTC GTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S515
NGS_i5_S516	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACCCTAGAGTT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S516
NGS_i5_S517	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACGCGTAAGAT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S517
NGS_i5_S518	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACCTATTAAGT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S518
NGS_i5_S520	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACAAGGCTATT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S520
NGS_i5_S521	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACGAGCCTTAT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S521
NGS_i5_S522	5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTTATGCGAT CGTCGGCAGCGTC-3'	S522

*Indexed reverse primers for the second-step PCR:*

<b>Primer Name</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Index name</b>
NGS_i7_N701	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTCGCCTTAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N701
NGS_i7_N702	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCTAGTACGGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N702
NGS_i7_N703	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTTCTGCCTGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N703

NGS_i7_N704	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGCTCAGGAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N704
NGS_i7_N705	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATAGGAGTCCGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N705
NGS_i7_N706	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCATGCCTAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N706
NGS_i7_N707	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGTAGAGAGGTCTC GTGGGCTCGG-3'	N707
NGS_i7_N710	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCAGCCTCGGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N710
NGS_i7_N711	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTGCCTTTGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N711
NGS_i7_N712	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTCCTCTACGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N712
NGS_i7_N714	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTCATGAGCGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N714
NGS_i7_N715	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCCTGAGATGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N715
NGS_i7_N716	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTAGCGAGTGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N716
NGS_i7_N718	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGTAGCTCCGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N718
NGS_i7_N719	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTACTACGCGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N719
NGS_i7_N720	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATAGGCTCCGGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N720
NGS_i7_N721	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGCAGCGTAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N721
NGS_i7_N722	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCTGCGCATGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N722
NGS_i7_N723	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGAGCGCTAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N723
NGS_i7_N724	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATCGCTCAGTGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N724
NGS_i7_N726	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGTCTTAGGGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N726
NGS_i7_N727	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATACTGATCGGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N727

NGS_i7_N728	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTAGCTGCAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N728
NGS_i7_N729	5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATGACGTCGAGTCTCG TGGGCTCGG-3'	N729

8. The amplification reaction mix of the second PCR contains:
- 6.0 µl 5x KAPA HiFi Fidelity buffer,
  - 0.75 µl KAPA dNTP Mix (10 mM),
  - 3.0 µl from each indexed primer (10 µM),
  - 0.75 µl KAPA HiFi HotStart DNA polymerase (1.0 U/µl)
- The final volume was 30 µl per reaction.  
DNA template concentration is about 20.0 ng/ µl.
- The second PCR protocol is:
- 95 °C for 3 min;
  - 8 cycles at 98 °C for 20 s, 55 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 30 s;
  - 72 °C for 5 min.
9. Purify 20 µl of the resulting PCR amplicons and quantify them.
10. Calculate the concentration of the PCR amplicons (nM) using the equation (1000000\*Concentration in ng/ul)/(Total amplicom length in bp\*660).
11. Create an amplicon sequencing pool by mixing the PCR amplicons in equimolar amounts (at a desired final concentration of 10 nM).
12. Quantify the amplicon pool using the Illumina Library Quantification Kit and dilute it to the desired concentration, according to the Illumina sequencing protocol.
13. Sequence the amplicon pool using a MiSeq Reagent Kit v3 (2 × 300-cycles).
14. Submit the raw sequence files to the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) (Amid et al. 2019).
15. Analyse the sequences using the PEMA pipeline (Zafeiropoulos et el. 2020).  
Examples of parameter values that could be a starting point for the analysis are shown below.

*Example parameters for the tools invoked by PEMA:*

Tool	Parameter	Parameter Value		
		COI	18S rRNA	ITS
trimmomatic (v.0.38)	maxInfo	Yes	Yes	Yes
	targetLength	200	200	200
	strictness	0.3	0.3 or 0.5	0.3
	seedMismatches	2	2	2
	palindromeClipThreshold	30	30	30
	simpleClipThreshold	15	15	15
	leading	10	10	10

	trailing	15	15	15
	minlen	100	100	100
PANDaseq (v. 2.11)	pandaseqAlgorithm	simple_bayesian	simple_bayesian	simple_bayesian
	pandaseqMinlen	150	150	150
	minoverlap	20	20	20
	threshold	0.6	0.6	0.6
SWARM (v. 2)	d	10	1	5 or 20
	removeSingletons	Yes	No	No

#### Deviations from the MSOP:

In the 18S rRNA amplifications of the pilot 2018 samples, the protocol that was followed was slightly different: a) the 1st PCR primers included the barcodes and b) the ligation of the adaptors was performed with the TruSeq DNA PCR-free amplicon workflow.

#### References

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