

Apr 17, 2023

# Ambrecht et al. 2020: An optimized method for the extraction of ancient eukaryote DNA from marine sediments

DOI

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x54v9dw3qg3e/v1](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x54v9dw3qg3e/v1)

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**Protocol Citation:** Linda Ambrecht 2023. Ambrecht et al. 2020: An optimized method for the extraction of ancient eukaryote DNA from marine sediments. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.x54v9dw3qg3e/v1>

**Manuscript citation:****Citation**

Linda Armbrecht, Salvador Herrando-Pérez, Raphael Eisenhofer, Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff, Christopher J. S. Bolch, Alan Cooper  
(2020). An optimized method for the extraction of ancient eukaryote DNA from marine sediments.  
Molecular Ecology Resources.

[10.1111/1755-0998.13162](https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.13162)[LINK](#)

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**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

**Created:** February 13, 2023

**Last Modified:** April 19, 2023

**Protocol Integer ID:** 76894

**Keywords:** ancient DNA, diatoms, dinoflagellates, haptophytes, Maria Island, metagenomics, plankton, seafloor, Tasmania, ancient eukaryote dna from marine sediment, using marine sediment, combinations of sedadna extraction treatment, sedadna extraction treatment, ancient eukaryote dna, marine sediment, dna binding in silica spin column, dna, dna binding, refrigerated sediment, method for the extraction, extraction

## Abstract

Four combinations of sedaDNA extraction treatments using marine sediments collected at a water depth of 104 m off Maria Island in Tasmania are compared. These methods contrast frozen versus refrigerated sediment, bead-beating induced cell lysis versus ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) incubation, DNA binding in silica spin columns versus in silica-solution.

All four methods worked to varying degrees; see paper for recommended shotgun library preparation



## Attachments



[Armbrecht et al. 202...](#)

848KB

## Guidelines

DNA extractions:

- **Bead-beating + spin column (DNeasy PowerLyzer PowerSoil Kit, Qiagen; "Kit")**
- **Bead-beating + liquid silica in QG Buffer ("Si4" and "Si20")**
- **EDTA + MinElute ("EDTA")**
- **EDTA + bead-beating + liquid silica in QG Buffer ("Combined", or "Com")**

## Troubleshooting

### Before start

#### **Sediment processing and pretreatment:**

Core section processing, sedaDNA extractions and sequencing library preparations took place at ACAD's ultraclean forensic facilities following aDNA decontamination standards (Willerslev & Cooper, 2005). We placed the three sediment core sections into zip-lock bags sterilised with UV light and manually homogenized them for ~5 min. From each section, two 1 cm<sup>3</sup> subsamples were transferred into two separate 15 ml centrifuge tubes using a sterile disposable spatula. One subsample was kept at 4°C and the other at -20°C for one month. The samples were prepared for the different extraction methods in a glove box decontaminated (3% bleach) between consecutive subsamples.



## Method 1: Bead-beating + spin column (DNeasy PowerLyzer PowerSoil Kit, Qiagen; "Kit")

3m 25s

1 This technique was applied to 0.25 g of sediment subsamples stored at 4 °C , following the **manufacturer's protocol** with the some modifications:

1.1 **TRANSFER** sediment into individual bead-tubes using a disposable, sterile spatula

1.2 **APPLY** bead-beating in three runs of 00:00:20 with 00:00:05 breaks using a Precellys 24 homogenizer

55s

**CENTRIFUGE** at 10319  $\mu\text{L}$  for 00:00:30

1.3 **RETAIN** all optional 00:05:00 incubation steps at 4 °C per the kit's protocol

5m

1.4 **ELUTE** DNA in 80  $\mu\text{L}$  of Buffer EB instead of the customary C6 solution and store at -20 °C

## Method 2: Bead-beating + liquid silica in QG Buffer ("Si4" and "Si20")

1h 32m

2 This lysis process was applied to 0.25 g of the subsamples stored at both 4 °C and -20 °C

2.1 **FOLLOW** the same protocol as described in Section 1 down to step 10 of the manufacturer's instructions (addition of Solution C3 and subsequent centrifugation)

**AFTER** this step...

2.2 **TRANSFER** the supernatant to 15 mL centrifuge tubes containing a DNA-binding buffer

### Note

#### DNA Binding Buffer

- 100  $\mu\text{L}$  silica-solution (Sigma Aldrich)
- 3 mL modified Buffer QG ( 2.7 mL Buffer QG, 46  $\mu\text{L}$  H<sub>2</sub>O, 39.08  $\mu\text{L}$  Triton X-100, 24.66 Molarity NaCl, and 164.5 Molarity NaOAc (Brotherton et al., 2013)



2.3 **STIR** on a rotary mixer for 00:00:00 at Room temperature

5m

**CENTRIFUGE** at 4500 rpm for 00:05:00

**DISCARD** supernatant

**RESUSPEND pellet in** 900  $\mu$ L of DNA-binding buffer

2.4 **RE-CENTRIFUGE** at 14000 rpm for 00:01:00

16m

**DISCARD** the supernatant

**WASH** the pellet twice in 80 % ethanol

**DRY** pellet for 00:15:00 at 37 °C

**RESUSPEND** pellet in 80  $\mu$ L Buffer EB

2.5 **FOLLOWING** incubation for 00:10:00 at 50 °C , centrifuge at 14.000 rpm for 00:01:00

11m

**STORE** the supernatant (free of silica) in a sterile Lo-bind tube (Eppendorf) at -20 °C

### Method 3: EDTA + MinElute ("EDTA")

3m

3 This technique was applied to 0.25 g sediment subsamples stored at 4 °C following **Slon et al. (2017)** with minor modifications

3.1 **ADD** 1 mL of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) to the sediment in a 2 mL screw-cap tube

**PLACE** samples on a rotary mixer and mix at 25 rpm , Overnight at Room temperature

3.2 **CENTRIFUGE** at 13.000 rpm for 00:03:00

3m





**PURIFY** the DNA using the MinElute Kit (Qiagen) as **per the manufacturer's instructions**

3.3 **BIND** DNA using the kit's spin column

**ELUTE** the DNA in  80  $\mu\text{L}$  of Buffer EB

## Method 4: EDTA + bead-beating + liquid silica in QG Buffer ("Combined", or "Com")

3m




4 **INCUBATE**  0.25 g of three frozen sediment subsamples in EDTA overnight as in **step 3.1 of the above section "EDTA + MinElute ("EDTA")"**, EXCEPT use only  0.75 mL to keep volumes consistent with a subsequent step (below)

4.1 **CENTRIFUGE** at  13.000 rpm for  00:03:00

3m


**KEEP** supernatant at  4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$

**PROCESS** pellet separately using bead-beating and DNA purification, as in **Method 2** (above)

4.2 **RECOMBINE** the resulting  0.75 mL DNA-solution purified from the pellet (step 10 of DNeasy Kit protocol) with  0.75 mL EDTA supernatant to make  1.5 mL total

**ADD**  6 mL modified QG buffer with  100  $\mu\text{L}$  liquid silica

**PROCEED** as described in **Method 2** (above)

4.3 **ELUTE** the DNA in  100  $\mu\text{L}$  Buffer EB

## Citations

Linda Armbricht, Salvador Herrando-Pérez, Raphael Eisenhofer, Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff, Christopher J. S. Bolch, Alan Cooper. An optimized method for the extraction of ancient eukaryote DNA from marine sediments [10.1111/1755-0998.13162](https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.13162)