

Please read before taking eDNA samples

Before you head into the field

If necessary, get permission from landowners to access the sampling site(s). We recommend always consulting or involving traditional custodians before sampling.

Beware of contamination. Any DNA on gear such as buckets and waders could lead to false positives, so make sure to rinse all your gear in a 10% bleach solution before setting out.

Make sure you read and understand the sampling instructions. For all instructions and directional videos, please visit wilderlab.co/directions.



Understand the limitations

eDNA is not an exhaustive biological monitoring method and is usually recommended as complementary to additional surveillance. The genetic reference database is still incomplete for many Australian taxa, and water conditions such as pH and temperature can affect detection sensitivity.

Our multispecies tests have been designed to maximise detections for key Australian taxa, but this is not exhaustive to all groups. If you have any questions about the scope of our tests, don't hesitate to get in touch.

While sampling

Take care in and around the water. Always sample with a buddy and don't take any unnecessary risks.

Avoid contaminating the water you are filtering. Avoid wading in still waters such as lakes and wetlands, and sample upstream from where you enter the water in rivers and streams.

For riverine systems, do not sample after significant rainfall. Increased dilution and stirred-up sediment can worsen detection rates. Instead, sample during low rainfall periods (no more than 10 mm of rain in the past 24 hours).



Six reps is best

We recommend taking six sample replicates at a single site. This method is optimal for detecting fish, insects, and other important groups. The six-rep method is currently widely used as the standardised sampling protocol.

Do not split up six-rep kits

Six-rep kits contain two large syringes and are intended for use at a single site at a single point in time. Using syringes at different sites will lead to cross contamination.

After sampling

Fill in the sample submission form before sending samples to our lab. Unsubmitted samples cannot be processed, and late submissions can cause lengthy delays. You can find the online submission form at wilderlab.com.au/submit-samples.



Let us know how you got on!

Feedback on unexpectedly detected or undetected species helps us to improve our tests and reference databases, and feedback on the ordering/sampling process helps us make eDNA more accessible. Send us an email at info@wilderlab.co