

Abstract

The Austrian barcode of Life: Looking into the future

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After a productive pilot phase, the Austrian Barcode of Life (ABOL) Initiative now has moved into the main project phase, during which the majority of Austria's biodiversity should be DNA-barcoded. It has become clear that a successful continuation of ABOL will have to rely on collaborative projects, creative ideas to raise money and a continuous support by the major universities. The recently granted HRSM project "Establishment of DNA-Barcoding pipelines at Austrian universities for ABOL, the Austrian biodiversity initiative" represents a major pillar for and a promising first step towards a successful main project phase. Here, I will briefly summarize what the HRSM project is about, what can and what cannot be funded in the framework of this project, and what's been actually done at the various universities involved. I will further briefly discuss the potential of DNA barcoding data as basis for targeting new research questions in basic and applied sciences at universities and its important bridging function between universities, companies as well as society.

Keywords: ABOL, HRSM, collaborative project, DNA-barcoding pipelines.

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