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Multi-site, high-frequency monitoring of marine ecosystem using environmental DNA

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Caribbean Coral Reef food web 249 species, 3,313 interactions (Opitz 1996)



Lights of the second se



Understanding complex systems requires large amount of data ("Big Data"), which allow determining the parameters that characterize the complex system (high dimensionality, nonlinearity)

"Big Data" and sophisticated analysis enables better understanding:

- Knowing the present status
- Forecasting the future dynamics (Ye et al. 2015, McGowan et al. 2017)
- Understand the mechanism behind the dynamics (Deyle et al. 2016, Ushio et al. 2018)

Ecosystem monitoring is the key process to understand the ecological complexity



Not easy to get "Big Data", as contemporary methods are costly and destructive and/or less effective to identify species or cover a large area



- Environmental DNA (eDNA) is DNA that can be extracted from environmental samples, such as water, soil and air.
- eDNA originates from various sources such as feaces, urine, muscus, gametes, etc.
- eDNA in the water are decomposed within a week and can be used to detect organisms or determine the species composition
- eDNA allows non-invasive, species-resolved monitoring of biodiversity.

eDNA metabarcoding – how to know the fish using water samples



blood test for ecosystem

Credit: Nature Metrics



MiFish Pipeline

Analyzing Fish eDNA amplified by MiFish primers.

Get Started Now 🔶

MiFish is a set of universal PCR primers for metabarcoding environmental DNA (eDNA) that are shed into waters from fishes. MiFish primers target a hypervariable region of fish mitochondrial 12S rRNA gene (approximately 160-190 bp), which contains information to identify fishes to taxonomic family, genus and species except for some closely related congeners. After amplification by MiFish primers, MiFish pipeline accepts your sequence data in FASTQ (paired-end or single file) or FASTA format and returns a



- Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium (one of the world's largest)
- > 249 fish species in the four large tanks (36~7500 m³)
- > 10L of water sampled from each tank and analysed by eDNA metabarcoding

	KUROSINIO	tropical fish	deep-sea	mandrove
222 002 (14)				mangrore
JZZ ÖÖZ (14)	2 568 008 (5)	1 299 788 (4)	259 191 (3)	212 643 (2)
053 184 (93.4%)	2 375 892 (92.5%)	1 237 546 (95.2%)	245 201 (94.6%)	194 545 (91.5%)
86 446 (6.6%)	192 116 (7.5%)	62 242 (4.8%)	13 990 (5.4%)	18 098 (8.5%)
49	75	159	15	8
80	63	105	13	8
68 (93.3%)	61 (96.8%)	95 (90.5%)	13 (100%)	8 (100%)
465	7500	700	230	35.6
	053 184 (93.4%) 36 446 (6.6%) 19 30 38 (93.3%) 465	053 184 (93.4%) 2 375 892 (92.5%) 36 446 (6.6%) 192 116 (7.5%) 19 75 30 63 58 (93.3%) 61 (96.8%) 465 7500	053 184 (93.4%)2 375 892 (92.5%)1 237 546 (95.2%)36 446 (6.6%)192 116 (7.5%)62 242 (4.8%)1975159306310538 (93.3%)61 (96.8%)95 (90.5%)4657500700	053 184 (93.4%)2 375 892 (92.5%)1 237 546 (95.2%)245 201 (94.6%)36 446 (6.6%)192 116 (7.5%)62 242 (4.8%)13 990 (5.4%)19751591530631051358 (93.3%)61 (96.8%)95 (90.5%)13 (100%)4657500700230

93.3% of the fish species (168 species of 59 family, 123 genus) detected only from a "bucket of water"

www.nature.com/scientificreports

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN Environmental DNA metabarcoding reveals local fish communities in a species-rich coastal sea

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Environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding has emerged as a potentially powerful tool to assess aquatic community structures. However, the method has hitherto lacked field tests that evaluate its effectiveness and practical properties as a biodiversity monitoring tool. Here, we evaluated the ability of eDNA metabarcoding to reveal fish community structures in species-rich coastal waters. Highperformance fish-universal primers and systematic spatial water sampling at 47 stations covering ~11 km² revealed the fish community structure at a species resolution. The eDNA metabarcoding based on a 6-h collection of water samples detected 128 fish species, of which 62.5% (40 species) were also observed by underwater visual censuses conducted over a 14-year period. This method also detected other local fishes (≥23 species) that were not observed by the visual censuses. These eDNA metabarcoding exist will enhance marine ecosystem-related resarch, and the method will

Maizuru-Nishi Bay

2L water sampling from 47 stations covering 10km² of Maizuru-Nishi Bay

Detected from the 6H survey were 128 local fish species, which include >60% of the 80 species observed in the past 140 diving surveys

How to maximize the potential merit

1. High-frequency eDNA Monitoring

Weekly monitoring with eDNA metabarcoding for >3 years The amount of eDNA quantified for all detected fish species

Time-series of eDNA of 10 dominant species in Maizuru Bay

Ushio et al. (2017)

visual observation

How to maximize the potential merit

2. Multi-site eDNA Monitoring

eDNA Monitoring of 567 coastal sites in 3 months

Date Started : 5 June, 2017 Date Completed : 30 August, 2017 Monitoring Sites : 567 sites Northernmost: Soya Misaki (lat. 45.52°N) Southernmost: Minami-Io Island (lat. 24.22°N) Westernmost: Nosappu Misaki (long. 145.82°E) Easternmost: Yonaguni Island (long. 122.68°E) Number of people Joined : 114 (accumulated)

The top 10 species most frequently detected from the 567 sites

285 sites

284 sites

279 sites

Japanese rock fish メバル属 Sebastes spp.

Spotbelly Greenling クジメ Hexagrammos agrammus

Snake blenny ヘビギンポ Enneapterygius etheostomus

Surfperch ウミタナゴ Ditrema temmincki temmincki

Motleystripe rainbowfish ホンベラ Halichoeres tenuispinis

クサフグ

276 sites

Grass puffer Takifugu niphobles

Largescale Blackfish

Japanese black porgy

Japanese anchovy

Engraulis japonicus

カタクチイワシ

Acanthopagrus schlegelii

Girella punctata

メジナ

クロダイ

184 sites

Blenny イソギンポ Parablennius yatabei

- 1,218 fish species of 136 family detected
- This is 43.5% of all Japanese "coastal" species (2,800 species)

- eDNA provide a non-destructive tool for species-resolved biodiversity monitoring of fish, enabling high-frequent or multisite biodiversity monitoring
- eDNA monitoring provides "Big Data", which may provide more information than the contemporary monitoring methods
- We believe that eDNA monitoring will open a new era of datadriven marine ecology
- How the eDNA data should be analyzed is an open question, given some weakness of eDNA monitoring (contamination, dead/alive not distinguishable, unclear whether eDNA amount reflects fish amount, spatial/temporal scale of monitoring unclear)
- eDNA is a "young" method and more study is required to confirm its utility

The eDNA Society

- The eDNA Society was founded on 27th April 2018 to promote the eDNA science and its social implementation with an aim to realize the sustainable use of ecosystem service.
- ✓ The 1st Annual Meeting was held in Tokyo on 29th-30th September 2018 with 309 participants.