

Two-step storage of feces for DNA analysis

Materials needed:

50 mL tubes containing silica gel beads

Ethanol (pharmacy grade, 97%), 90% should also work

Empty 50 mL tubes

Preparation:

Pour approximately 30 ml of ethanol into empty tubes for sample collection.

Collection:

Collect each fresh feces sample (approx 5 g) into a tube containing ~ 30 ml ethanol

Label, but remember this tube will be discarded.

Processing (next day)

The bolus of the fecal sample collected into ethanol should be transferred into fresh silica tubes for further drying.

This can be done by carefully pouring off the ethanol with the tube loosely capped and using kimwipes to transport solid material to the new tube.

This tube should be labelled, preferably in a manner that indicates the ethanol step was used (for example, 159E). Store at RT.

reference: Nsubuga AM, Robbins MM, Roeder A, Morin P, Boesch C and Vigilant L (2004) Factors affecting the amount of genomic DNA extracted from ape feces and the identification of an improved sample storage method. *Molecular Ecology* 13: 2089-2094.