

Mo'orea eDNA Project / Projet eDNA

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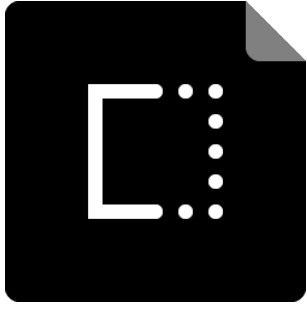
Contributors:

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Project Description:

In February 2025, the Island Sustainability Program cohort sampled eDNA (environmental DNA) from different locations around Mo'orea, French Polynesia. eDNA is DNA collected in aggregate from the environment rather than from an individual organism. It allows for rapid monitoring and measurement of biodiversity and species presence without collecting a living sample. eDNA serves as a proxy for biodiversity, as the eDNA sample can be sequenced to detect the number and types of species that have shed their genetic material in the water. The sample is parsed apart by DNA sequencing methods like metagenomics and metabarcoding, in which the sequence is compared against existing DNA libraries. Sampling biodiversity from different sites across Mo'orea allows us to assess how the species composition and richness of ecological communities varies across an island ecosystem. This also allows us to examine how different factors such as salinity, distance from the ocean, pristine versus impacted reef, proximity to population centers, and anthropogenic inputs impacts biodiversity.

Project Notices



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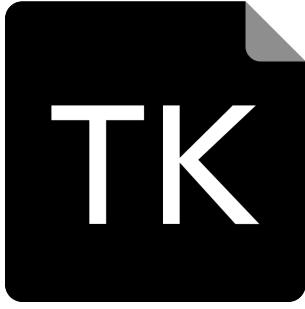


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