

Update on locus choice for barcoding plants 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

On 25-26<sup>th</sup> Sept, a group of research teams with comparative data on seven candidate barcoding loci (atpFH, rbcL, rpoC1, rpoB, matK, trnH-psbA, psbKI) met at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to evaluate the data and come to a decision about which locus/loci should be designated the universal DNA barcode for plants.

The sequence data were supplied by Korea University, NHM London, RBGE Edinburgh, RBG Kew/ University of Aberystwyth, Smithsonian Institute, University of British Columbia, University of Guelph, University of Johannesburg. Input on data analyses was provided by researchers from New York Botanic Garden and NCBI, and sequence trace quality assessments by University of Guelph.

Based on these data and subsequent discussions a decision was reached on a plant barcode. A formal proposal is being prepared for consideration by CBoL, along with a scientific paper. There will be a formal announcement/press release when the peer reviewed paper is published, and the proposal has been accepted by CBoL.

We appreciate that people with barcoding projects already funded will be keen to get on with their research. Although the results are embargoed prior to publication, we are happy to provide advance notice of the plant barcode being suggested, on the understanding that this information should only be used for research purposes and not passed to third parties. The request for confidentiality at this point is to avoid violating the pre-publication data release embargo from the journal.

If you are waiting to start a plant barcoding project, and need this information now, please send an e-mail to [barcoding@rbge.ac.uk](mailto:barcoding@rbge.ac.uk) including the following text:

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I am currently undertaking a barcoding project on [\*\*specify plant group and/or geographical region\*\*] and request advanced information on the plant barcode that is to be included in the proposal to CBoL. I will not pass this information to third parties other than colleagues working on the same barcoding project in my laboratory, and understand that this information is currently confidential. I appreciate that you cannot guarantee that CBoL will approve the barcode proposal, and that the information you are providing is just what you will be recommending to CBoL.

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