

DNA Barcoding

Aboard the Beagle and on inshore expeditions, scientists, students and teachers will collect traditional animal and plant specimens (or photographic vouchers where appropriate) relating both to specific research projects (below) and general Beagle-based surveys, and for each specimen collected or observed, researchers will be expected to collect tissue samples for DNA analysis.

Just as the name suggests, [DNA barcoding](#) is proposed as a way of accessing information about an organism by “scanning”, or reading off, a short, informative length of its DNA. Reference databases must first be assembled, and the Beagle voyage will play a key role in populating international barcoding databases with specimen-linked DNA sequence data.