

# Monitoring the Environment



Robber Fly



# Protect our Planet!

While they are vital to our survival, many human activities such as mining, agriculture and urbanization have a huge impact on the natural world. By monitoring the environment, we can try to understand (and minimize) the long-term consequences of our actions.

Measuring biodiversity is one way to evaluate the health of an ecosystem, but an effective survey of biodiversity requires the identification of thousands of specimens. Fortunately, DNA barcoding can provide quick, accurate, and affordable specimen identification.

## What is a DNA barcode?

Every species on the planet has its own unique barcode written in its DNA, like every product on a store shelf. And like those barcodes, this small piece of DNA can be used to identify unknown specimens.

For more information about how DNA barcoding can help advance research visit:

[ibol.org](http://ibol.org)

[biodiversitygenomics.net](http://biodiversitygenomics.net)



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