

Monitoring Vectors

Predicting the spread of disease is part of how scientists work to protect society. Many illnesses are transmitted from person to person, but what happens if a vector, like mosquitos or ticks, is the source of the problem?

Lyme disease, the Zika virus, and malaria are only a few of the many illnesses spread in this way. Protecting ourselves from vector-borne disease requires identifying the presence of the vector to deploy control measures. DNA barcoding can be used to provide quick and accurate species identification, even from eggs or larvae.

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 biodiversitygenomics.net

