

Study on Red Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*)



What is the study about?

The purpose of the study is to carry out a population analysis using genetic data of the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) across its range in the western Atlantic Ocean.

This population analysis will enable us to paint a clearer picture of the invasion of this species. Apart from many more exciting aspects along the way, the genetic population analysis will ultimately give us all a deeper understanding of how the invasion process of the species really functions and what the future might hold.

This is so important because it's very hard to do something about such a complex problem, if you don't know much about it. With the planned study we hope to close this knowledge gap, which will enable all of us to act appropriately in the future.



How can I help?

It is not be feasible for us to travel around and get all the samples ourselves. So carrying out this study is impossible without the help of people who are willing to assist and we very much depend on you for the success of this study.

The fact that only DNA from the fish is needed makes it quite easy to help. What's needed are fin clips/tissue samples from 20-25 individuals from your local population.



How can I collect the samples?

This part is actually a lot easier than one might think. If you want to help out and be part of this study, we are going to send you a package with liquid filled tubes (the liquid is non-alcoholic, non-combustible and only around 1ml per tube, so shipping is no problem).

You then just have to get a tissue sample from an individual fish (this can be a fin clip or a piece of muscle tissue).

You place this fresh tissue sample in one of the tubes filled with the liquid (this liquid will preserve the DNA during transport), close the tube again and ship the package back to us by regular post, once you collected the 20-25 samples.

We will cover all the shipping costs for you and provide you with all the material and you need.

There is no need for cooling the tubes with the samples and you can safely store them at room temperature - although keeping them in your fridge (please, not freezer!) is never a bad idea. We will also include a step-by-step instruction sheet and if you have questions of any kind don't hesitate to contact us via mail or phone (Kidán Patanant B.Sc.; Technical University of Munich, Germany; kidan.patanant@gmail.com; +49 176/78400037).

We hope we can make this study a collective effort to get insights into the invasion of the red lionfish. Credit will be given to you and we will happily include you in the acknowledgment section of the paper (if you like) we plan to publish about the results of the study.

Thanks so much in advance,
We hope to hear back from you!

Kidan Carlos Patanant, B.Sc.
Technical University of Munich
Wissenschaftszentrum Weihenstephan
85354 Freising, Germany
Mail: kidan.patanant@gmail.com

