



**University of Belgrade**  
Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy  
National Institute of the Republic of Serbia



**INRAE**



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*Acronym:* BIOLAWEB Boosting Institute of  
Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy  
in Water Biomonitoring

*Grant No:* 101079234

*Type of action:* HORIZON Coordination and  
Support Actions (HORIZON - CSA)

*Duration:* 36 months



*eDNA Workshop  
Barcoding/Metabarcoding  
Belgrade, October 2023*

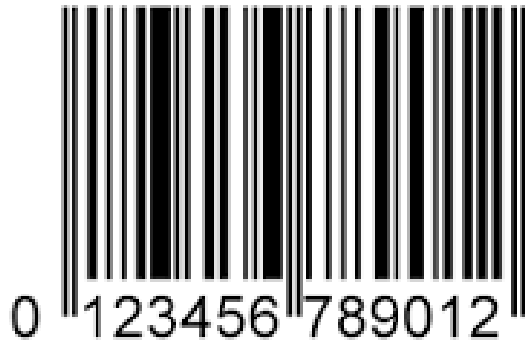
**BIOLAWEB**  
presentation



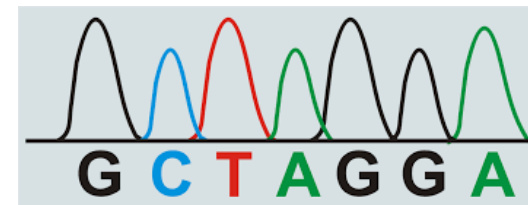
Funded by  
the European Union

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# What is a barcode?

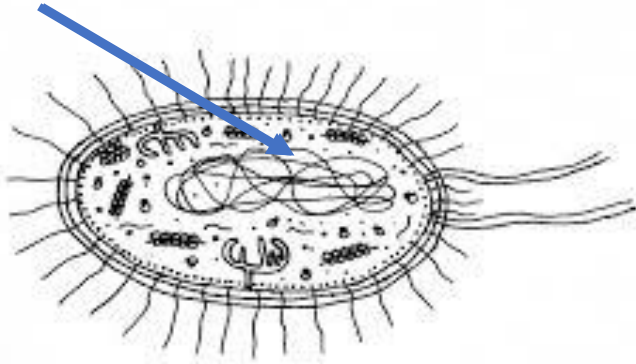


a machine-readable code: in the form of numbers and a pattern of parallel lines to identify a certain item,

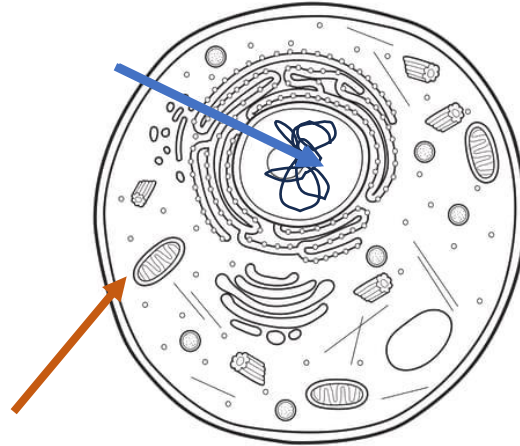


to identify a certain gene/organism

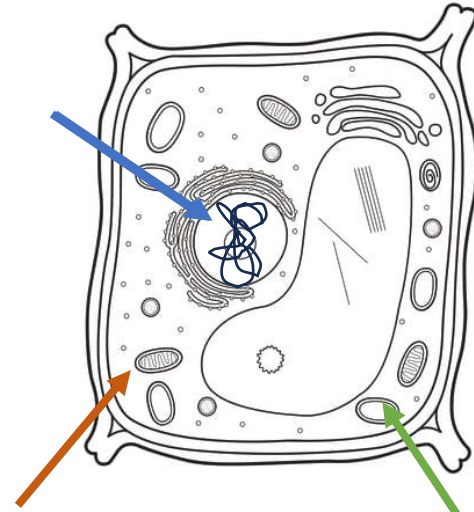
# Barcode



prokaryotic cell



eukaryotic cell (animal)



eukaryotic cell (plant)

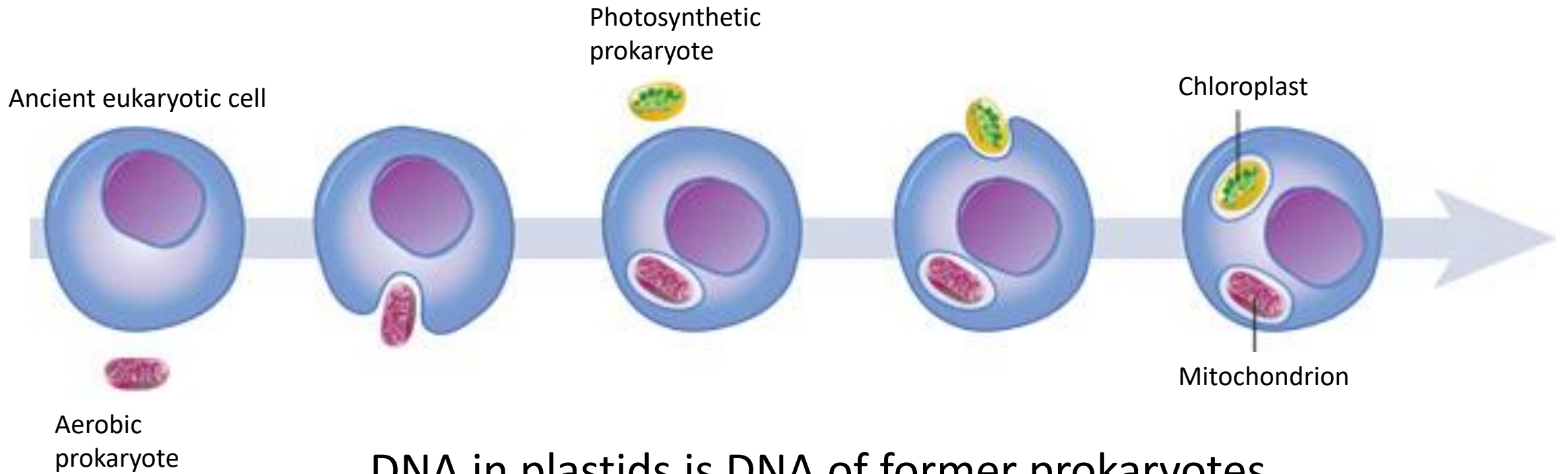
Genomic DNA

chromosomal DNA

Mitochondrial DNA

Chloroplast DNA

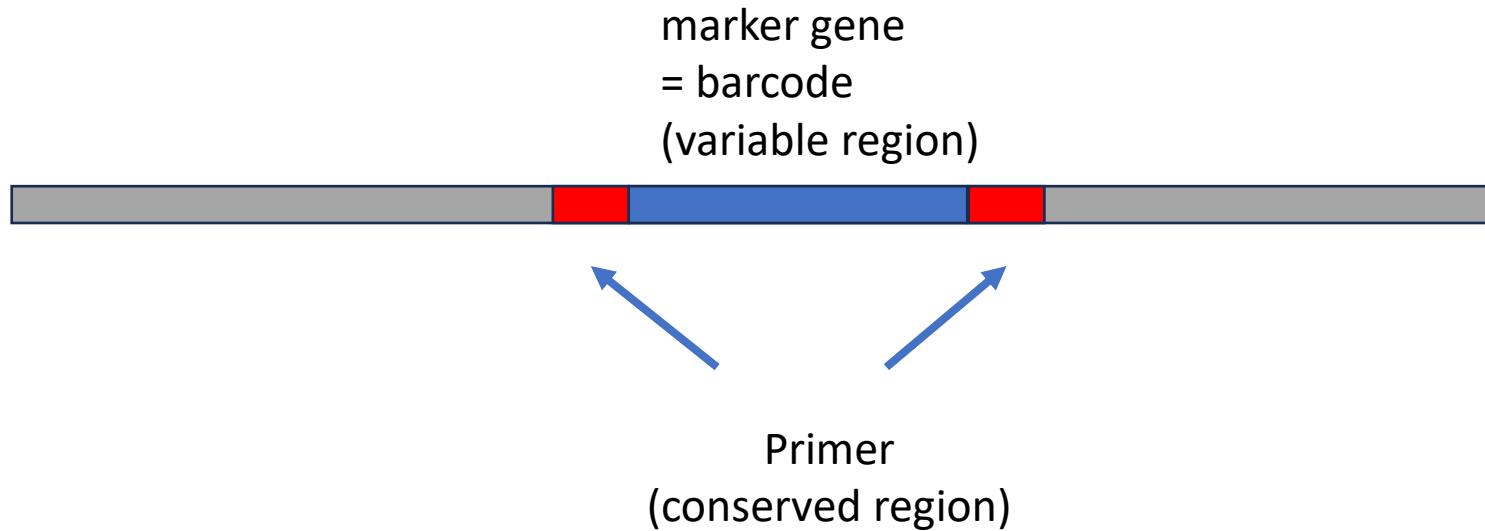
# Barcode



## Barcode

Group of organisms	Marker gene/locus used for barcoding
Animals	COI, <i>Cytb</i> , 12S, 16S
Plants	<i>matK</i> , <i>rbcL</i> , <i>psbA-trnH</i> , ITS
Bacteria	COI, <i>rpoB</i> , 16S, <i>cpn60</i> , <i>tuf</i> , RIF, <i>gnd</i>
Fungi	ITS, TEF1 $\alpha$ , RPB1 (LSU), RPB2 (LSU), 18S (SSU)
Protists	ITS, COI, <i>rbcL</i> , 18S, 28S

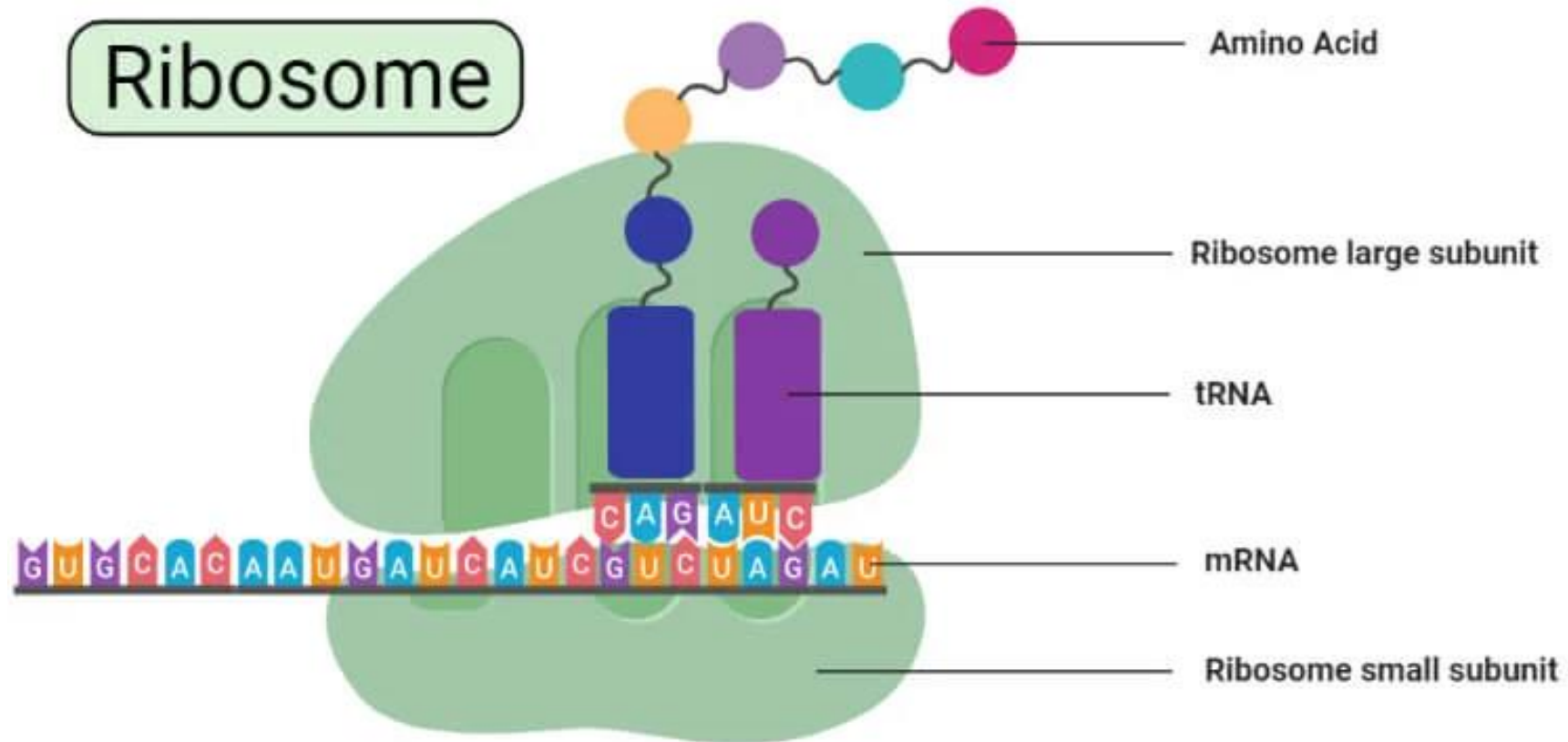
# Barcode selection



- (i) significant interspecific genetic variability
- (ii) conserved flanking sites for developing universal PCR primers
- (iii) rel. short sequence length depending on sequence technology



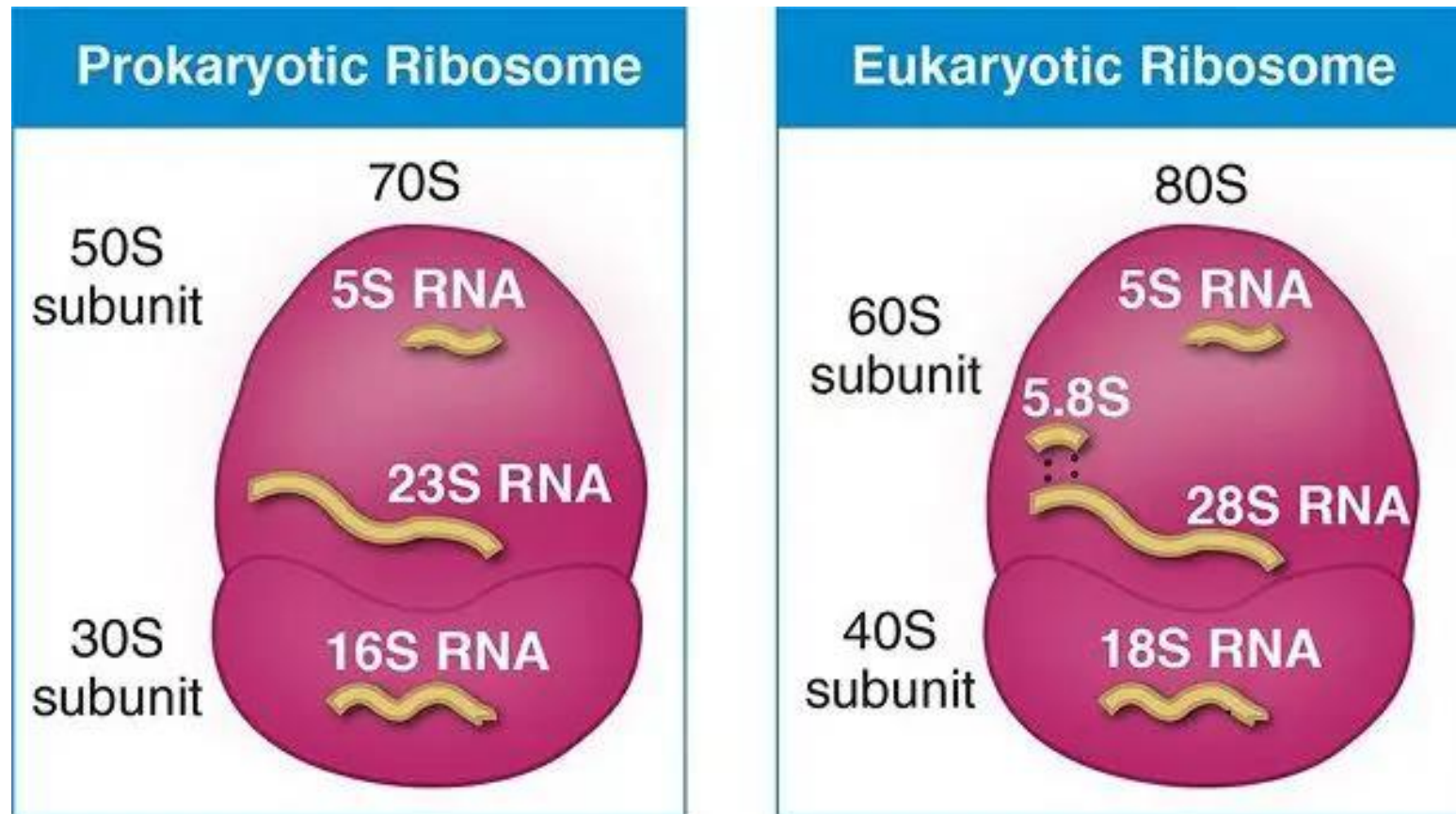
Example: Marker genes like 16S can be found in all organisms or like 18S in eukaryotic cells



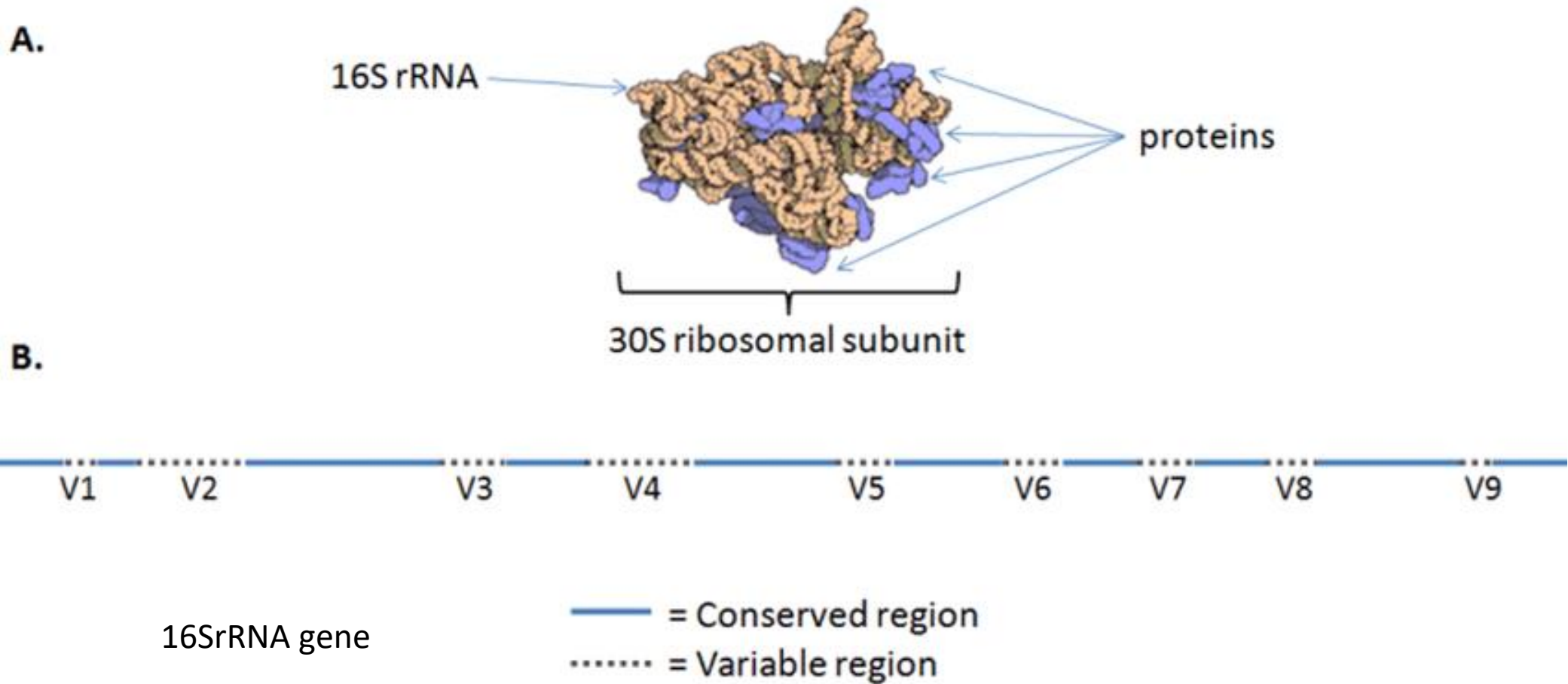


# Barcode

16S rRNA gene is coding for 16S rRNA not for proteins!

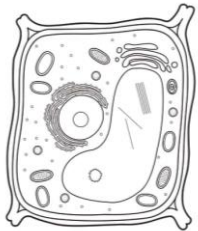
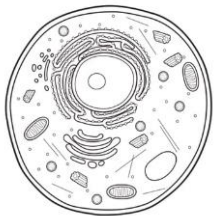
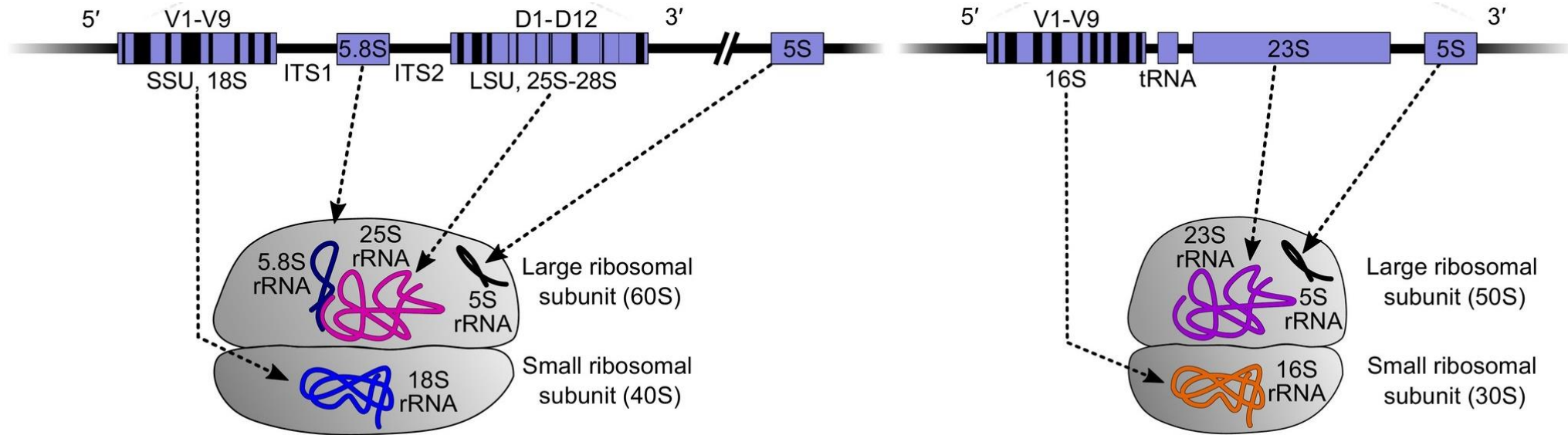


# Barcode

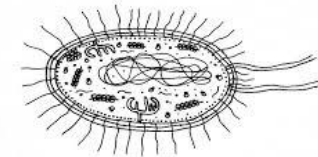


# Barcode

Ribosomal genes  
- organized in an operon



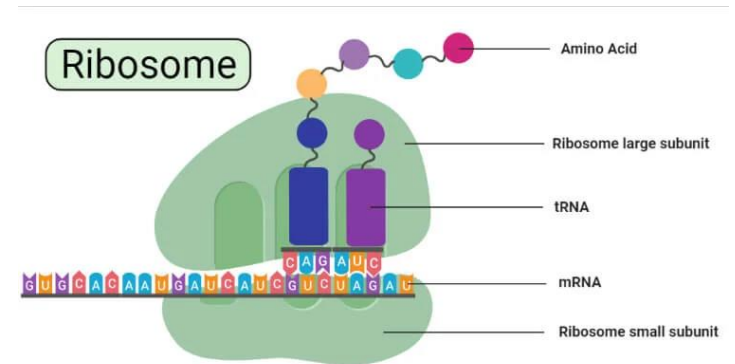
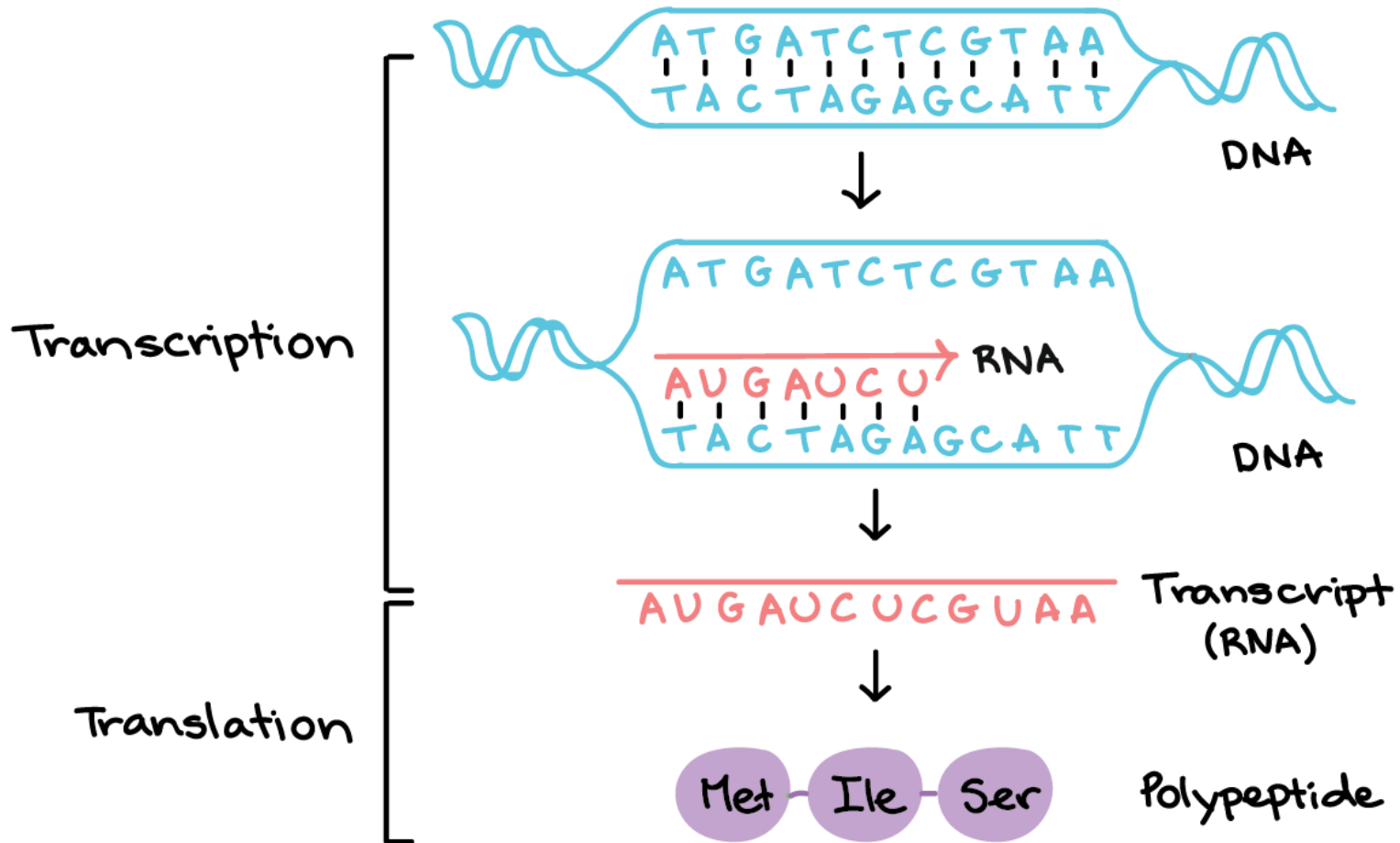
eukaryotic cell (animals, plants)



prokaryotic cell

# Barcode

DNA is important in several processes



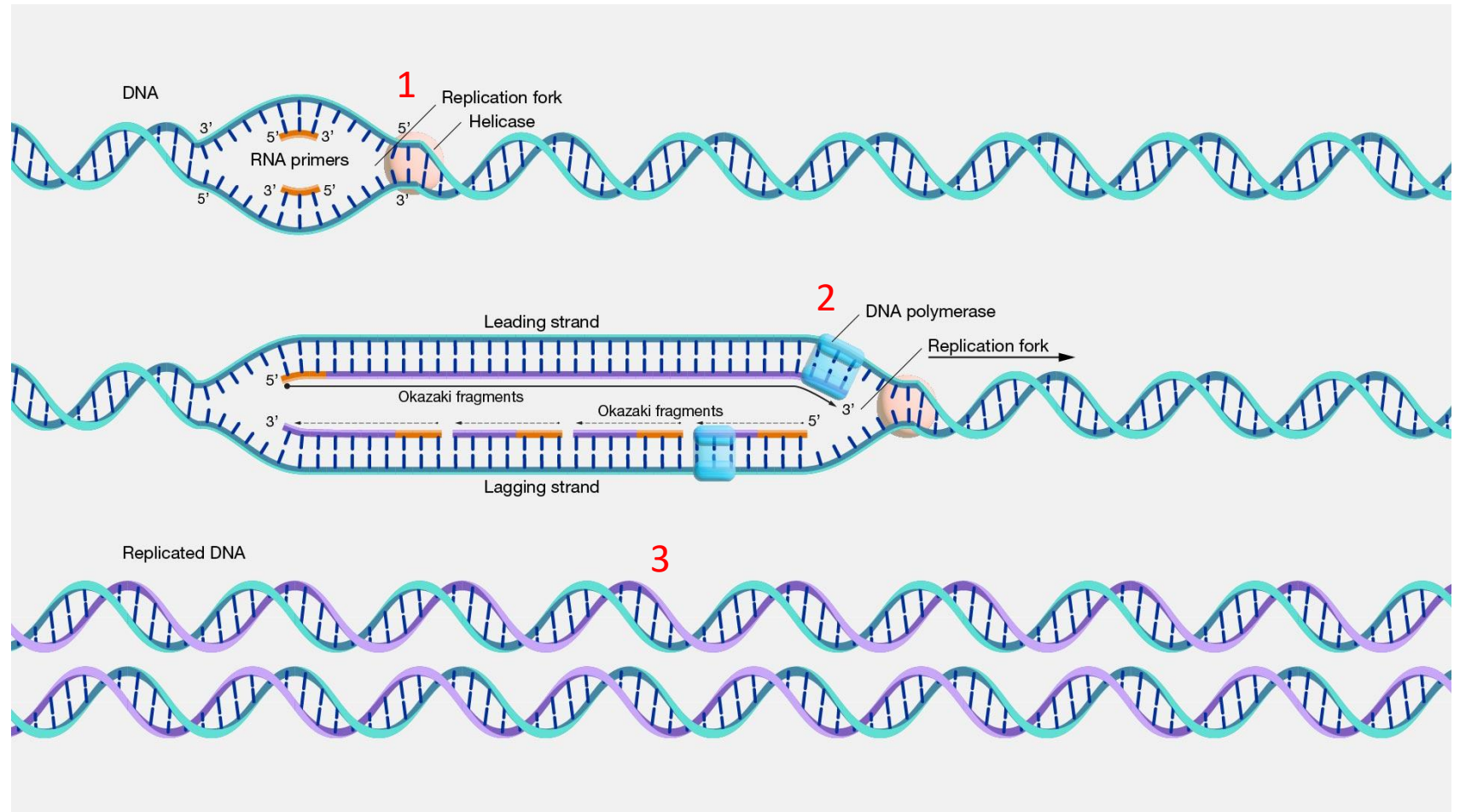
# Barcode

## DNA replication

1 initiation

2 elongation

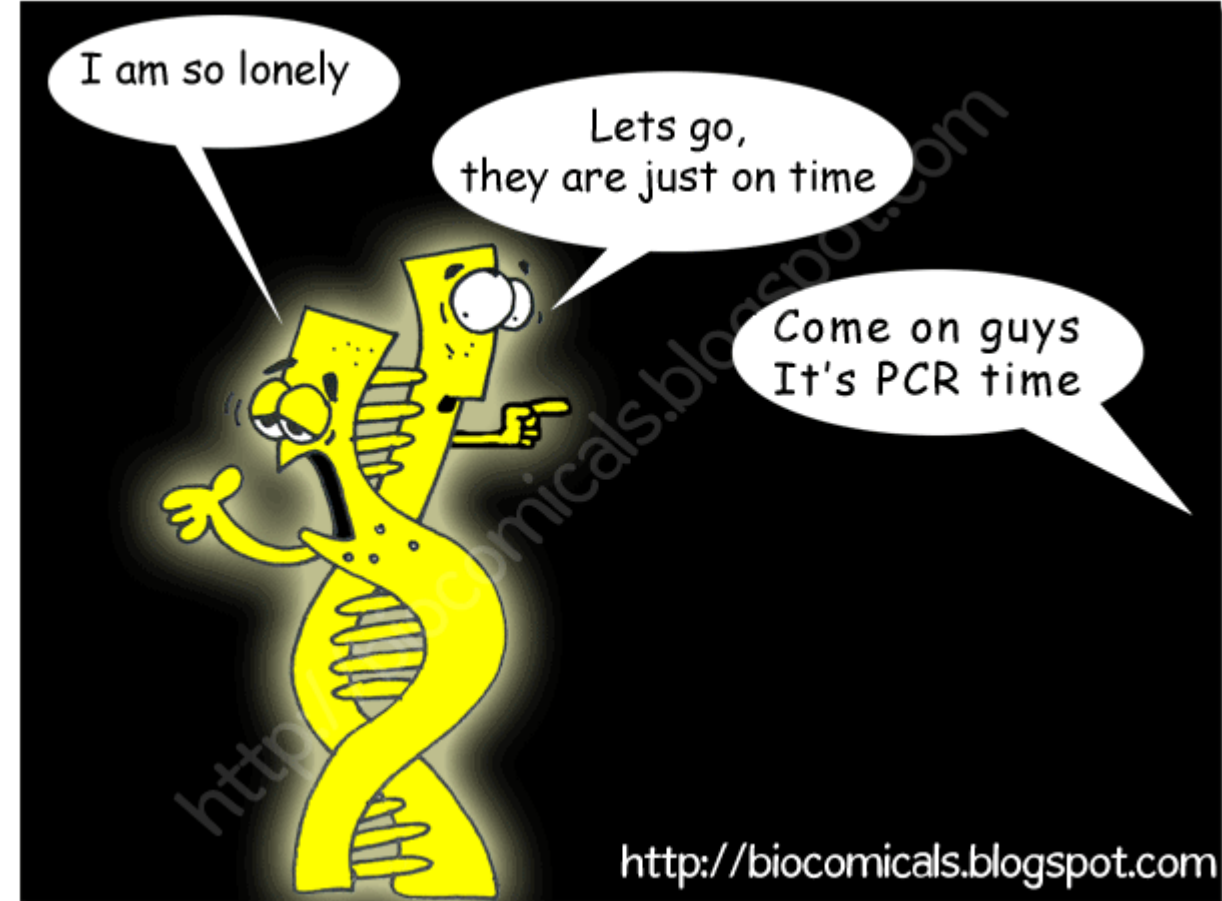
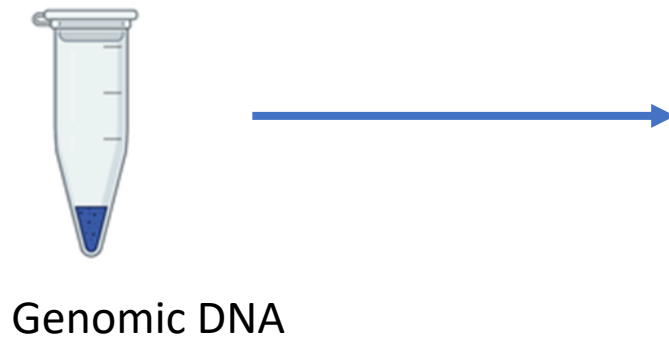
3 termination



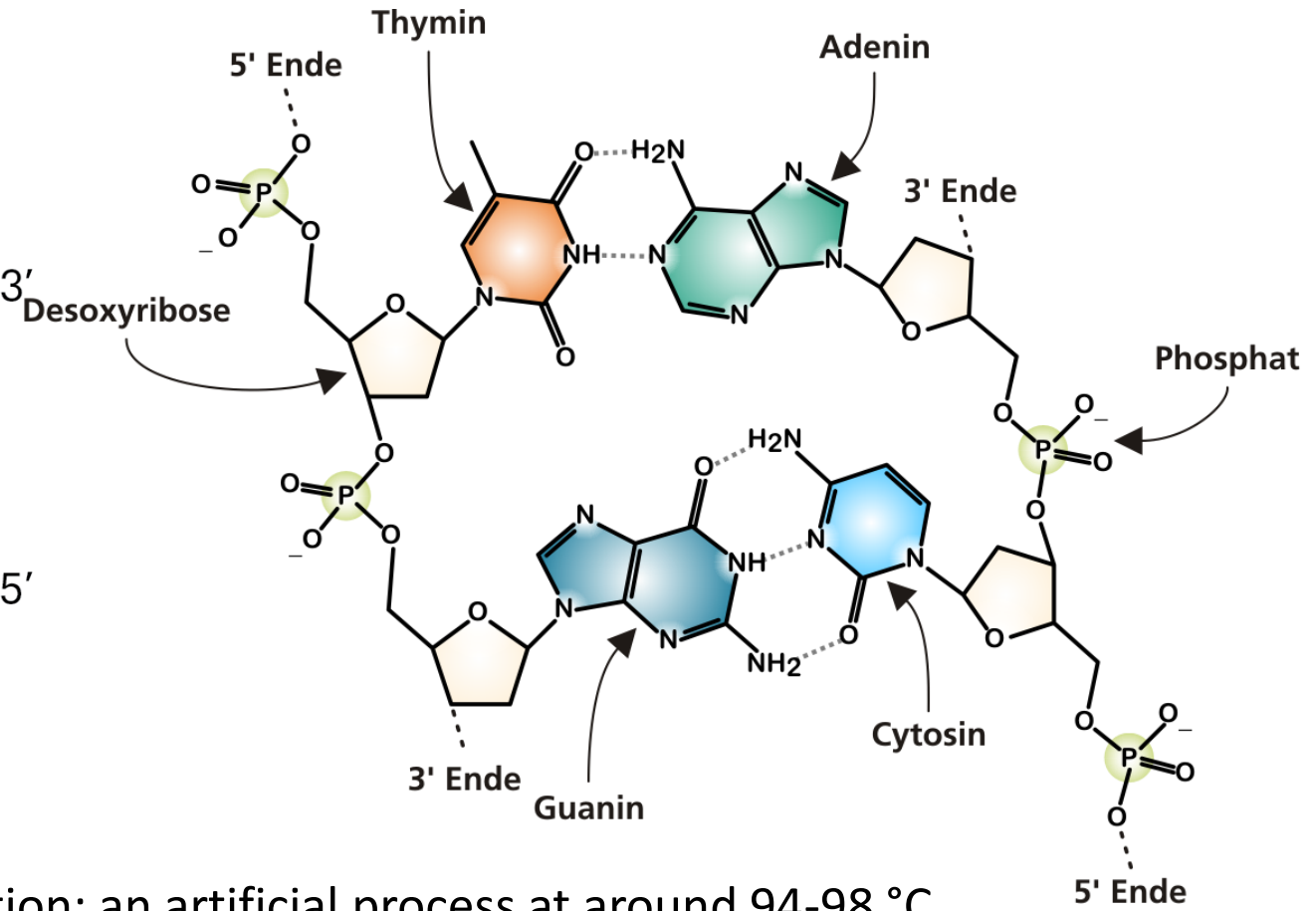
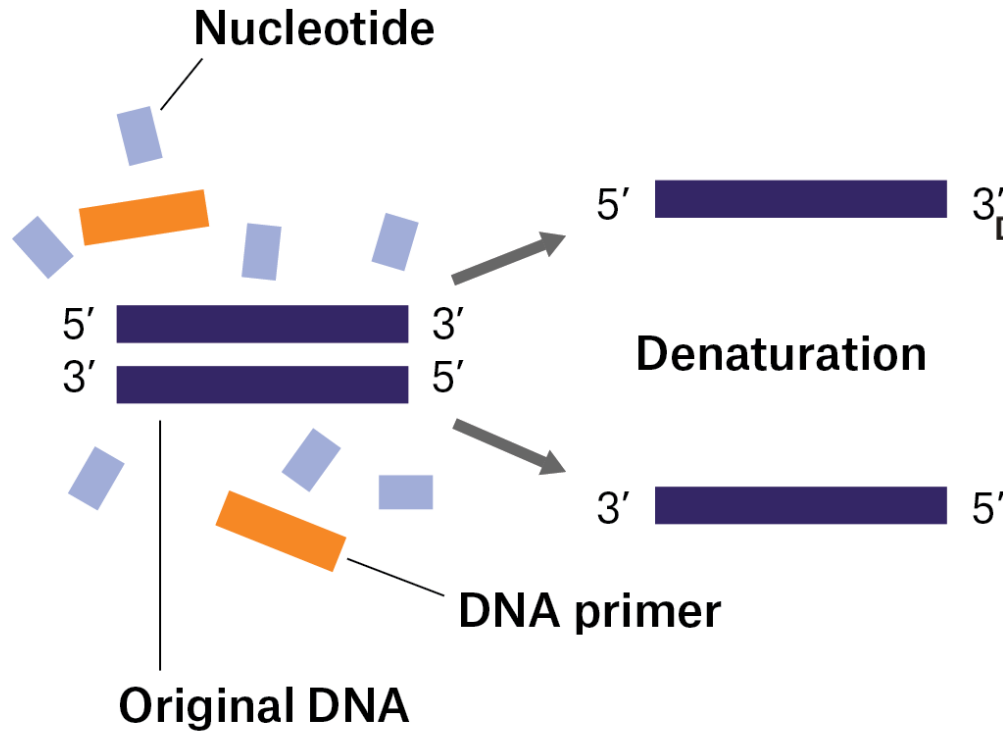
- DNA replication takes place in the cytoplasm in prokaryotes and in the nucleus in eukaryotes.
- a natural process, at body temperature

## Barcoding

PCR = Polymerase chain reaction  
A method to multiply DNA

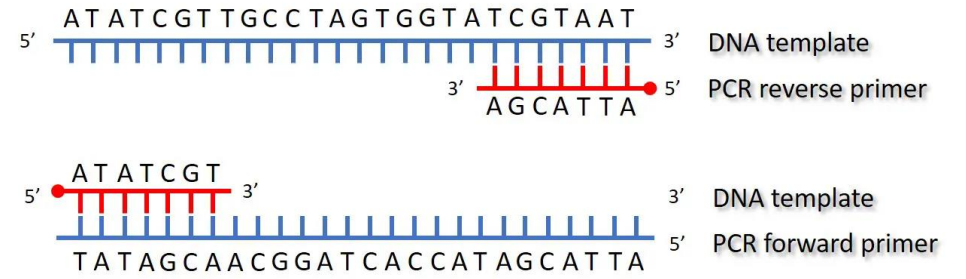
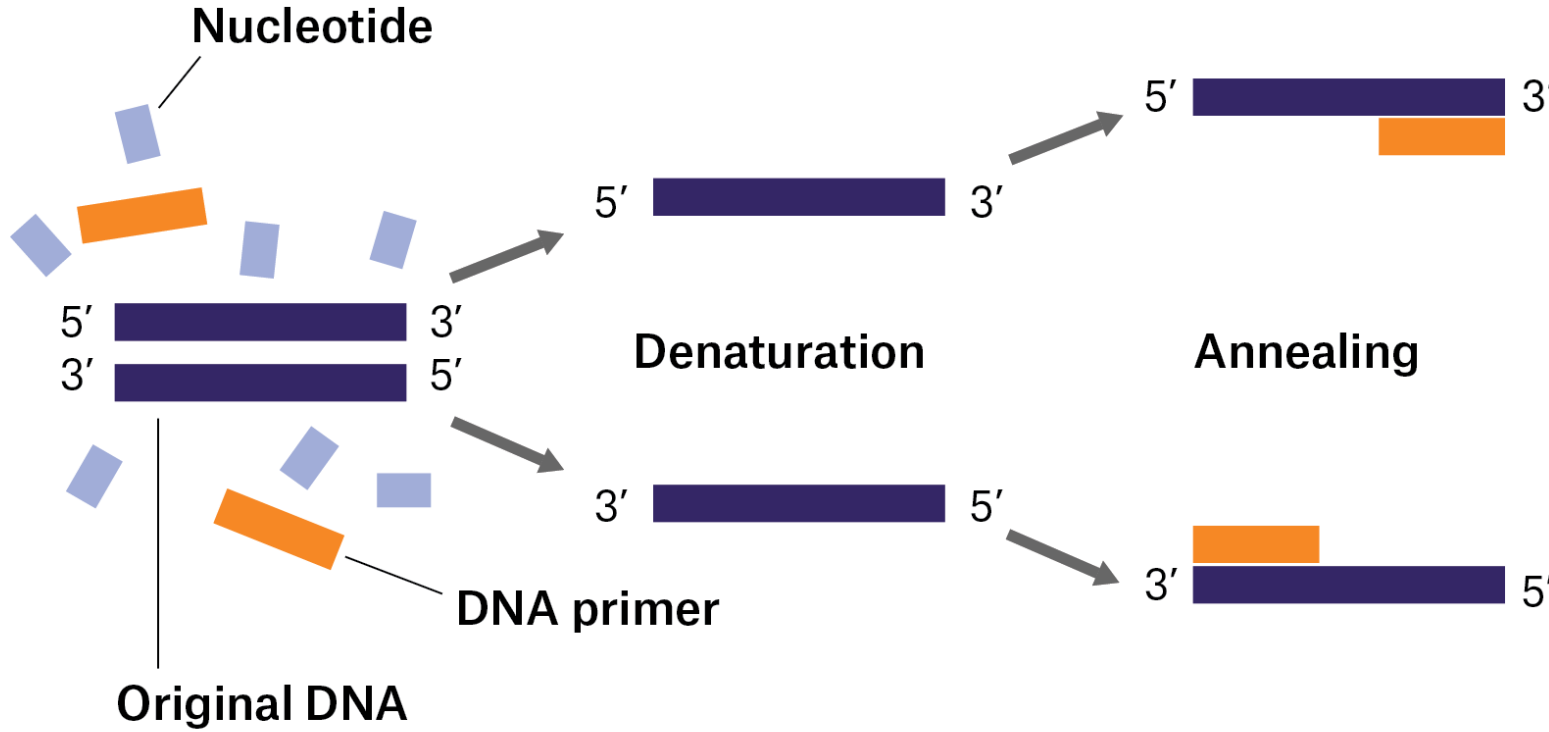


# Barcoding



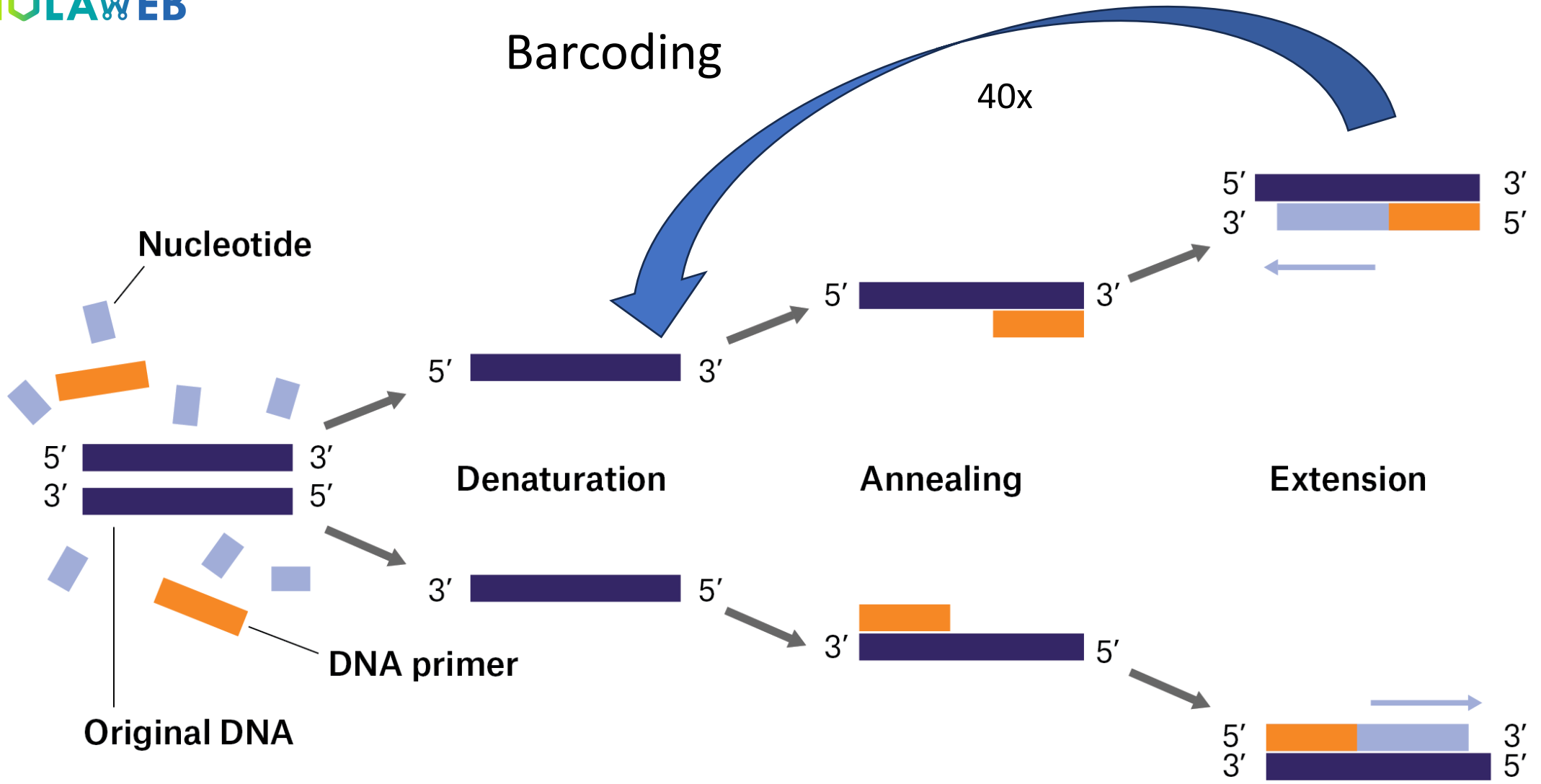
Denaturation: an artificial process at around 94-98 °C

# Barcoding



Primer annealing: an artificial process at around 45-62 °C





Extension: an artificial process at around 70-72 °C  
Needs: Enzyme DNA polymerase + nucleotides

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding

Must match the PCR technology

Up to 3.4 kb is possible

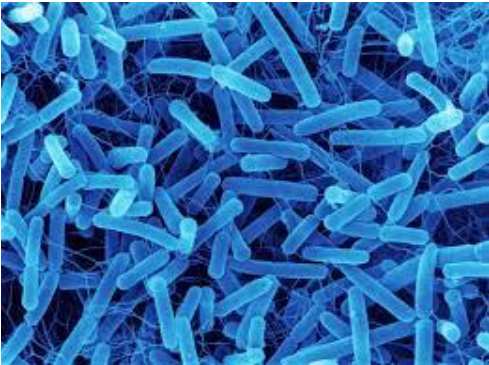
Often 200 -1000 b



PCR machine



The perfect barcode does not exist to target diverse organism groups



## Barcode selection

### How do you select?

From other studies (publications)

- tested
- known bias
- check them against Ref. libraries

May be they are not suitable to your study

Group of organisms	Marker gene/locus used for barcoding
Animals	COI, <i>Cytb</i> , 12S, 16S
Plants	<i>matK</i> , <i>rbcL</i> , <i>psbA-trnH</i> , ITS
Bacteria	COI, <i>rpoB</i> , 16S, <i>cpn60</i> , <i>tuf</i> , RIF, <i>gnd</i>
Fungi	ITS, TEF1 $\alpha$ , RPB1 (LSU), RPB2 (LSU), 18S (SSU)
Protists	ITS, COI, <i>rbcL</i> , 18S, 28S

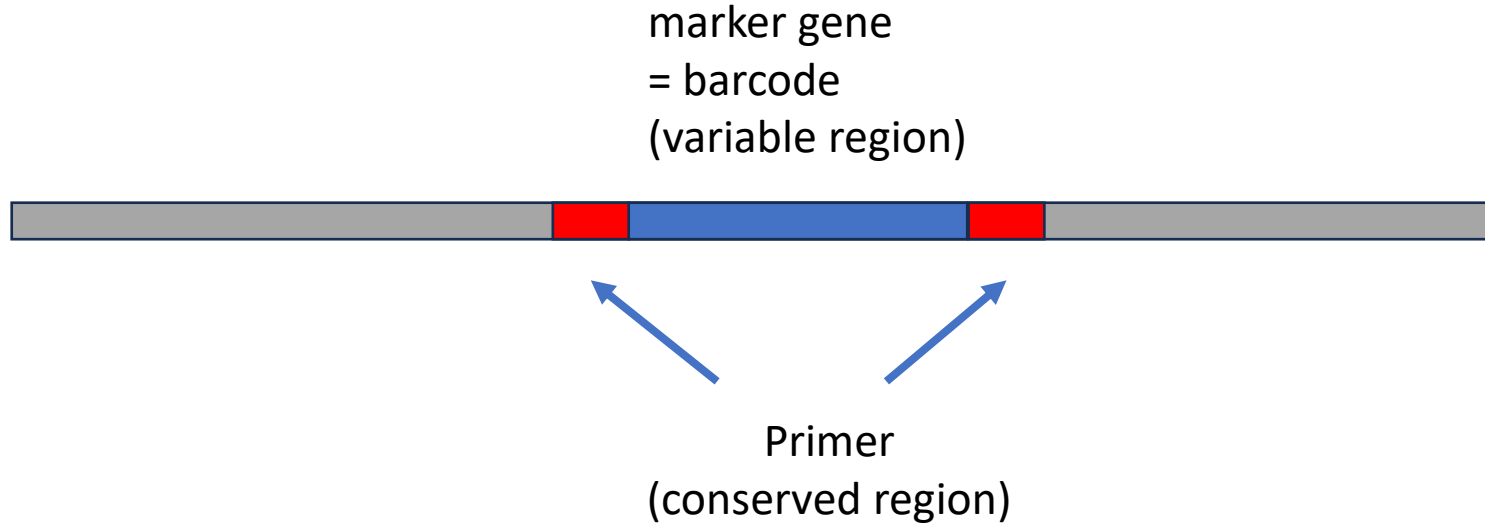
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA\\_barcoding#cite\\_note-88](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA_barcoding#cite_note-88).

### Design your own primer

- using reference sequences closest to your unknown organism
- needs optimization and time

## Barcode selection: Primer

To target a group of organisms



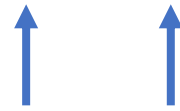
- (i) significant interspecific genetic variability
- (ii) conserved flanking sites for developing universal PCR primers
- (iii) rel. short sequence length depending on sequencing technology



# Barcode selection: Primer

To target a single species

marker gene  
= barcode  
(variable region)



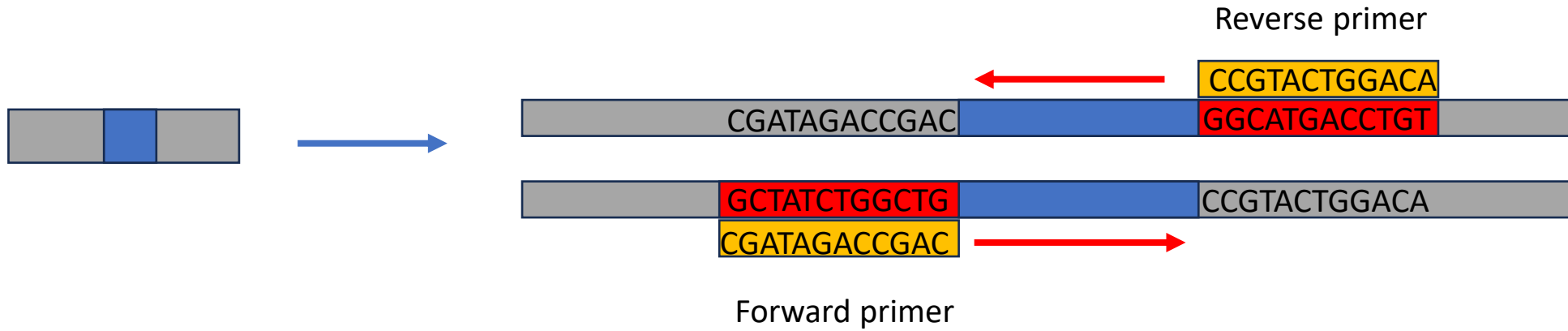
Primer  
(variable region)

- (i) significant intraspecific genetic variability
- (ii) rel. short sequence length depending on sequencing technology or qPCR

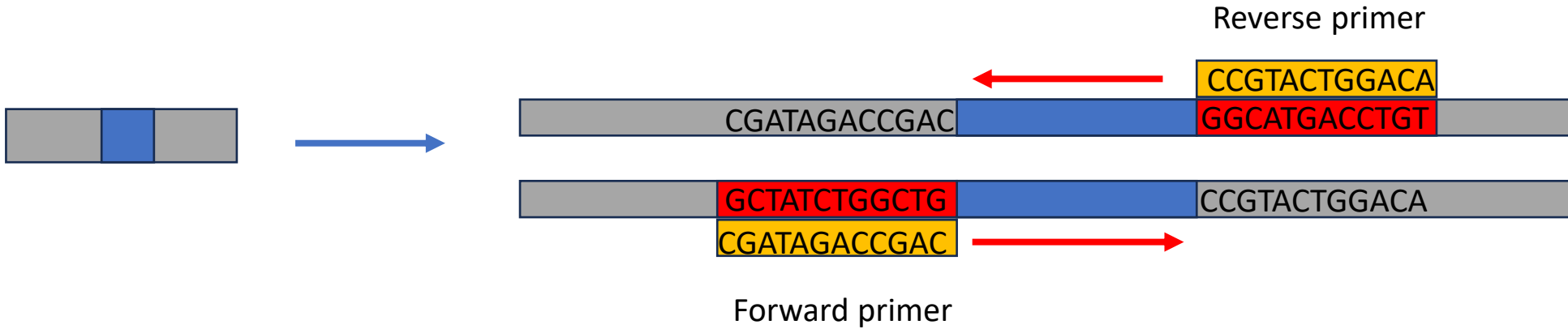


# Barcode selection: Primer

## Primer



# Barcode selection: Primer



Degenerate primers



CGATAGACCGAC

CGATACACCGAC

CGATASACCGAC

Code	Description
M	AC
R	AG
W	AT
S	CG
Y	CT
K	GT
V	ACG
H	ACT
D	AGT
B	CGT
N	ACGT



## Barcode selection: Primer

How to make your primers?



[Markets](#)[RUO Products](#)[Company](#)[Contact](#)[EN](#)[Integrated DNA Technologies acquires Archer™ next generation sequen](#)[Integrated DNA Technologies acquires Archer™ next generation sequencing research assay](#)[Order by stock par](#)[PRODUCTS & SERVICES](#) ▾ [APPLICATIONS & SOLUTIONS](#) ▾ [SUPPORT](#)[Order by stock part number »](#)[PRODUCTS & SERVICES](#) ▾ [APPLICATIONS & SOLUTIONS](#) ▾ [SUPPORT & EDUCATION](#) ▾

## PrimerQuest™ Tool

Design primers or assays for PCR, qPCR, or sequencing (any species).

- Customization of ~45 parameters, allowing qPCR assay designs:
  - With specific primer, probe, or amplicon criteria
  - Across a specified location
- Design algorithm includes multiple checks to reduce primer-dimer formation
- Provides flexible sequence entry and batch entries (up to 50 sequences)

## OligoAnalyzer™ Tool

Understand the expected properties of your oligos *before* you order them.

- Calculator for GC content, melting temperature ( $T_m$ ), molecular weight, extinction coefficient,  $\mu\text{g}/\text{O}1$  nmol/OD, and more
- Identify secondary structure potential
- Minimize dimerization
- Use NCBI BLAST™

# Self-Dimer

4 bp, delta G = -6.6 kc/m (bad!) (worst= -36.6)

5' GGGAAAATCCAGGATCTAT 3'

|||| |||

3' TATCTAGGACCTTAAAAGGG 5'

## Cross dimer

5'-CGGAAACAAGGAGGA

|||| |

3'-TATGAAGGACCTTACTTCC-5'

## Hairpin

5'-GTCAGGATC

|||

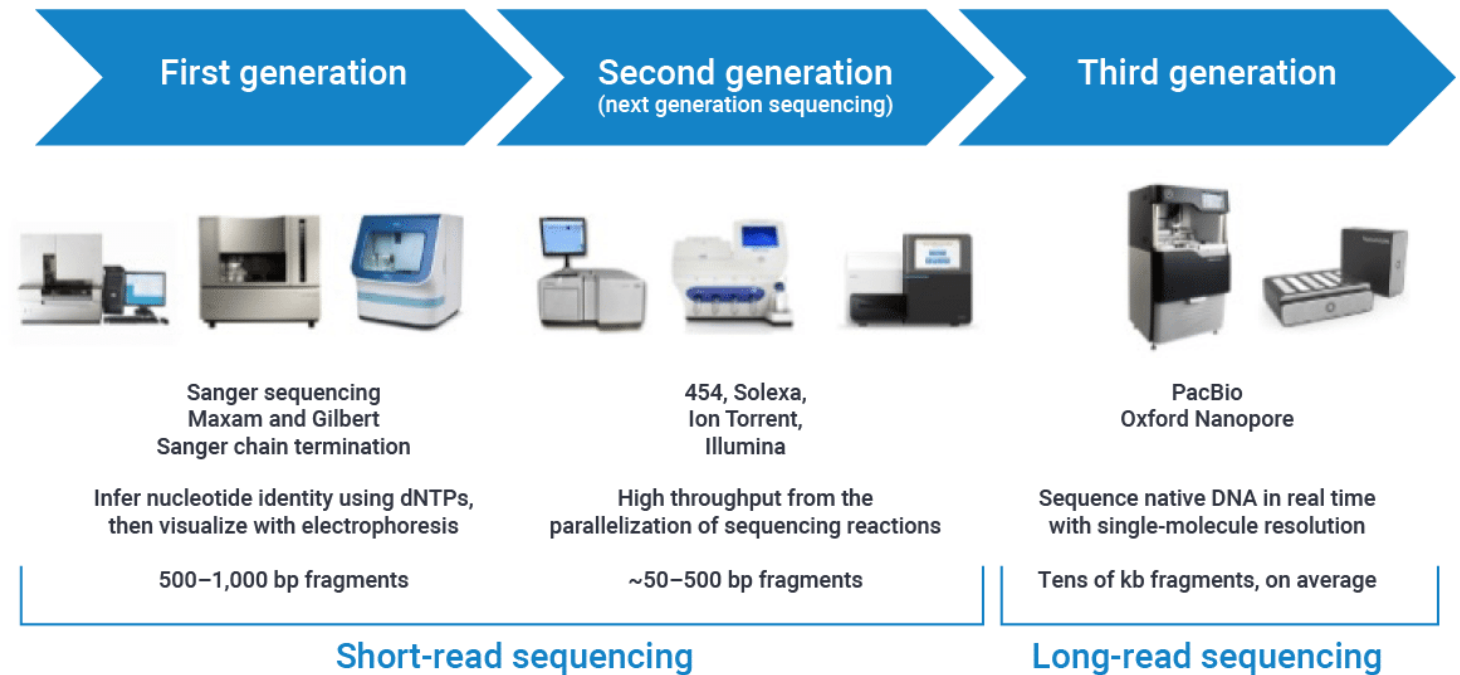
3'-CTATGTACGCCTTA

# Barcode selection

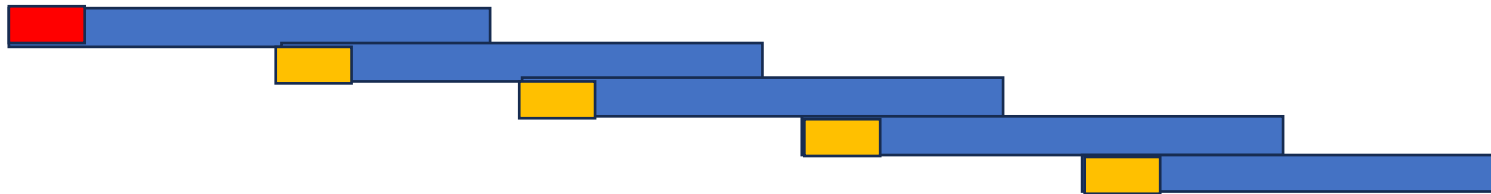
Must match the sequencing technology

16S  
matK  
rbcL


ca. 1500 bp  
ca. 1600 bp  
ca. 1500 bp



PCR > 1000 bp



f  Internal forward primers

r  Internal reverse primers

f

r

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Reference libraries

A prerequisite to assign your sequence(s) and identify your taxon

sample



← Reference library: Sequence/taxon

Primer design



Reliability increases with the number of confirmed sequences and taxa

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Reference libraries



A



B

- as complete as possible



C

- as best curated as possible



D



E

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Reference libraries curated

BOLD SYSTEMS

[DATABASES](#)
[IDENTIFICATION](#)
[TAXONOMY](#)
[WORKBENCH](#)
[RESOURCES](#)
[LOGIN](#)
Q

BOLD = Barcode of Life Database

## PUBLIC DATA PORTAL - RECORD LIST

PUBLIC DATA ▾
?
SEARCH

**Specimens:** DWC XML TSV


**Sequences:** FASTA TRACE

**Combined:** XML TSV

**Map:** Generate from ▾

Records 1 to 100 Page 1 2 3 4 5 next>> Records Per Page 100 ▾

- BBYUK2012-12 - Nitella sp. [rbclLa:552]**  
Taxonomy: Charophyta, Charophyceae, Charales, Characeae, Nitella  
Identifiers: CCDB-18344-H3[sampleid], 05-074[fieldid], BABY-6276[museumid]  
Depository: Research Collection of B. A. Bennett  
Collected in: Canada, Yukon Territory
 


- CYTC5629-12 - Chara vulgaris [COI-5P:1000,COII:748,COXIII:798,atp6:756]**

## Results Summary

---

Found **458** published records, with **458** records with sequences, forming **0** BINs (clusters), with specimens from **19** countries,



# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Reference libraries not curated



250 million sequences  
ca. 160 000 taxa

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Chara spp. (matK)

matK primer and rbcL primer from former studies to be tested for metabarcoding

F-matK-Chara AGAATGAGCTTAAACAAGGAT  
R-matK-Chara ACGATTTGAACATCCACTATAATA

rbcLa-F ATGTCACCACAAACAGAGACTAAAGC Levin et al. 2003  
rbcLa-R GTAAAATCAAGTCCACCRCG

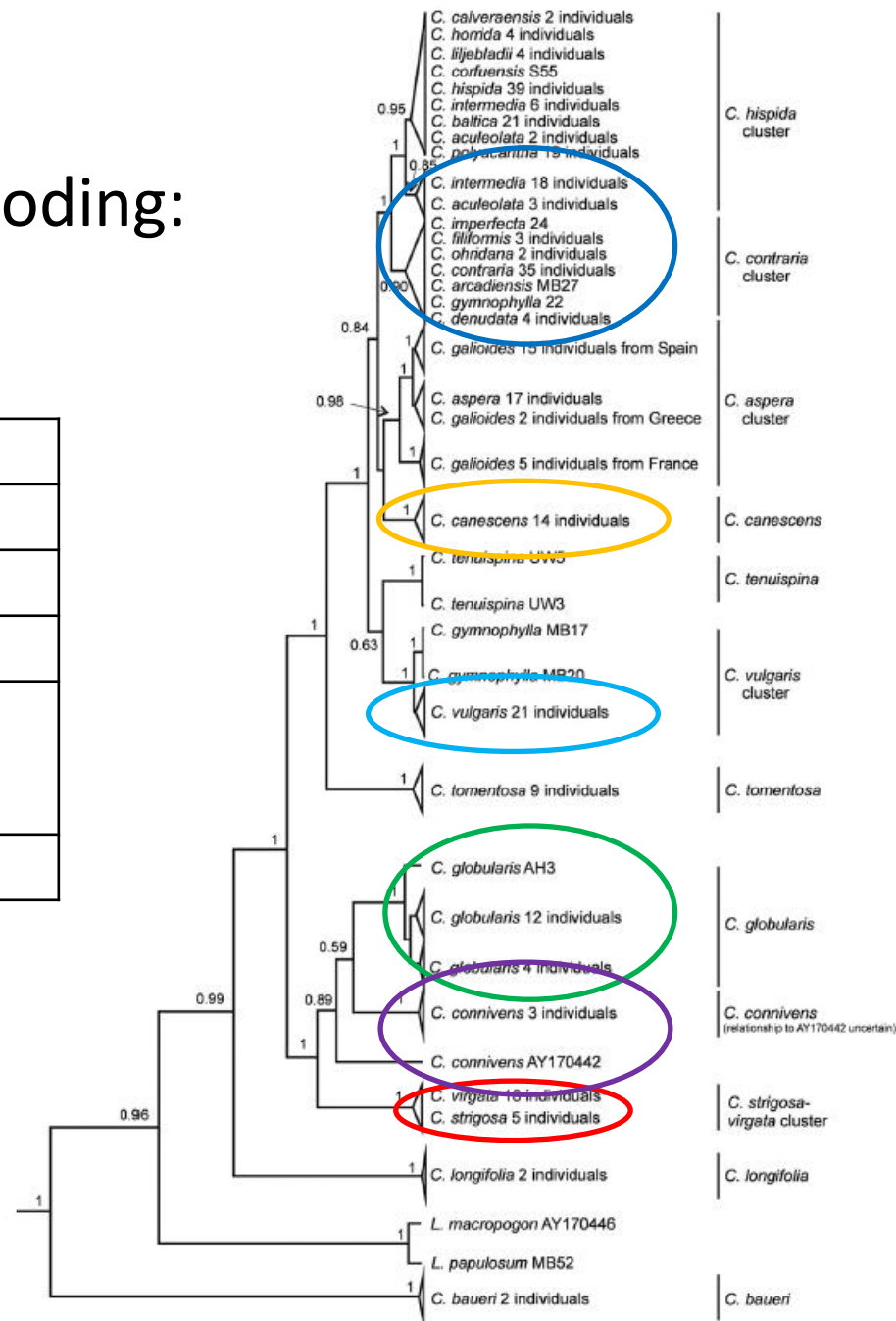
Chara-matK-BT2F DATATGGCAACAYCAAAAGAC  
Chara-matK-BT2R ATACAGACCATGCAGCYTT

matKF2 AATGAGCTTAAACAAGGATTC  
matKR1a CGTCCATGTAGATCTAATACTAG

Chara\_matKF2 GAACGAATCCGTGATAAAAGC  
Chara\_matKR2 CTTCGGCCTTTCAAAAAGAA

# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Chara spp. (matK)

<i>Chara virgata</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara contraria</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara globularis</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara connivens</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara canescens</i>	Pečena Slatina; Plava banja
<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	Markovačko Lake



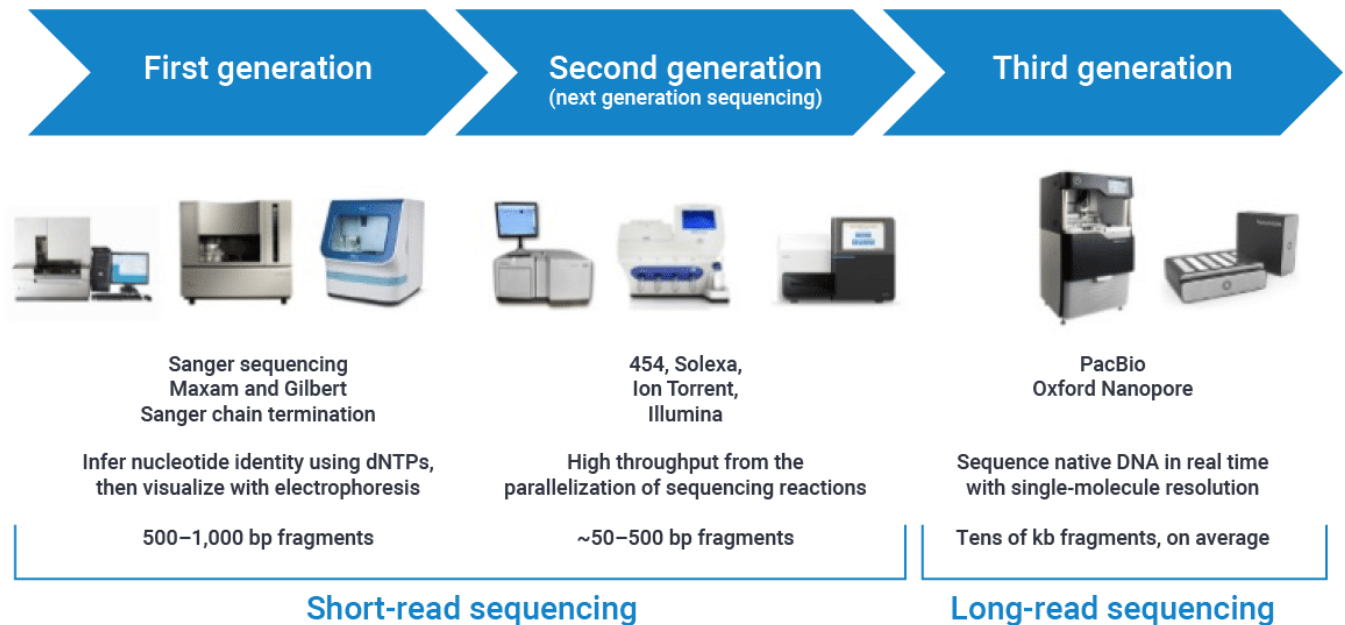
Schneider et al. 2016:  
345 *Chara* matK sequences



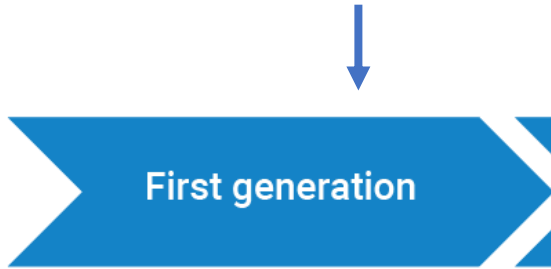
# Barcoding/Metabarcoding: Chara spp.

- For several Characean taxa in Serbia metabarcoding is expected to work fine
- for some Characean taxa (*Chara contraria*) new markers have to be found

<i>Chara virgata</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara contraria</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara globularis</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara connivens</i>	Sava lake
<i>Chara canescens</i>	Pečena Slatina; Plava banja
<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	Markovačko Lake



Macrophyte (Characeae) barcoding/metabarcoding



Sanger sequencing  
Maxam and Gilbert  
Sanger chain termination

Infer nucleotide identity using dNTPs,  
then visualize with electrophoresis

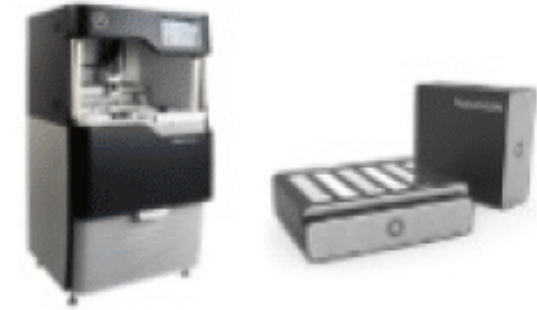
500–1,000 bp fragments

short DNA fragments



Reference library Characeae (matK, rbcL, ITS)

BOLD = Barcode of Life Database



PacBio  
Oxford Nanopore

Sequence native DNA in real time  
with single-molecule resolution

Tens of kb fragments, on average

short to ultra long DNA or RNA fragments

## Take home message

DNA related methods are cheaper and faster in the long run

However, a cooperation between taxonomists and molecular biologist is also a must in the future even with a good reference library

If not the risk of misinterpretations of data is high

# Acknowledgement



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Funded by  
the European Union



**Thank you for your attention!**

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