

ZEBRAFISH
Volume 14, Number 1, 2017
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DOI: 10.1089/zeb.2016.1348

A Low-Cost Method of Skin Swabbing for the Collection of DNA Samples from Small Laboratory Fish

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- Alternative to fin-clipping, potentially less invasive
- Compare DNA samples from zebrafish and three-spined sticklebacks collected via fin clipping and skin swabbing
- Examine the potential risk of cross contamination between individual fish netted together

Results:

- Quick to obtain, approx. 15 sec
- No bacterial infection, stress symptoms etc. observed after 4 weeks
- Fin clip gave more DNA, but swabbing gave sufficient amounts
- No evidence of cross contamination was observed
- Authors do not recommend swabbing on fish smaller than 20 mm, due to handling risks
- Further studies on welfare benefits needed

