

DNA extraction Method for NZS sediment samples

All sediment samples were extracted using the 'FASTDNA SPIN kit for soil' (MP Biomedicals, USA) following the instructions of the manufacturer with a small number of modifications. The modifications were as follows; the samples (approximately 400-500mg of wet sediment) were weighed into an eppendorf tube to which the MTT and sodium phosphate buffer (supplied with the kit) were added, this was inverted several times and then the buffers and sediment were transferred to the lysing matrix tube supplied with the kit. The tubes were placed in a Hybaid RiboLyser and processed for 30 seconds on setting 6, removed, placed on ice for 30 seconds and followed by a second processing at the same settings. The final step, the elution of the DNA from the spin column, was repeated by reloading the flow thru on the spin column again and incubating it at room temperature (5minutes) and centrifuging (1min at 14 000 G) it again. DNA was quantified using the PicoGreen kit (MolecularProbes) and diluted to 10ng/ul.