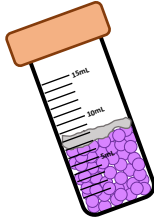


# Scat Collection for Host/Prey DNA

## Pre-Collection

Add silica desiccant beads and tissue to collection container.



Silica beads should take up just under half of total container volume.

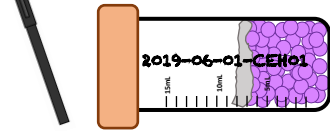
Gather and organize collection materials.



Materials include collection container, gloves, data sheet, GPS unit, and permanent markers.

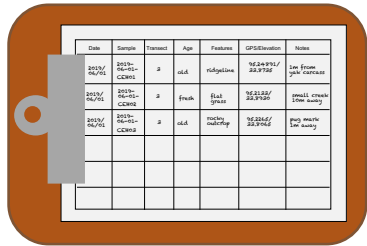
## Collection

Label collection container and lid using permanent marker.

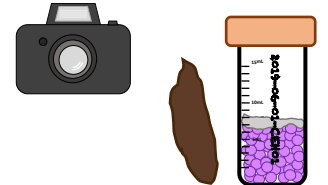


The following format should be used in labeling—  
[YEAR-MONTH-DAY-COLLECTOR'S INITIALS-SCAT NUMBER]

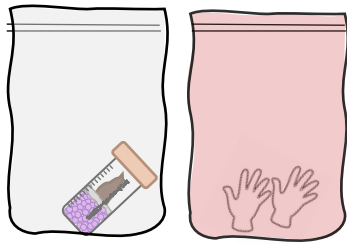
Fill out data collection sheet.



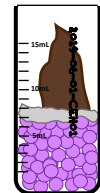
Take picture of empty labeled collection container next to scat.



Dispose of gloves and put container with scat into collection bag.



Place piece of scat into collection container, remove gloves, and secure lid.



Do not stuff container full of scat. Scat must be loose so desiccant can dry out the scat in order to preserve the DNA.

Put on gloves and break off a full cross-section of the scat sample.



Chunks of scat that are fresher/less dry are best as the DNA is less degraded. Can use sticks/rocks to handle scat if no gloves available. Do not touch scat with bare hands.

## Post-Collection

Keep labeled, organized samples in a cool, dry place until sent or transported to lab.



Be sure to adhere to all shipping and transportation regulations.

Store samples long-term at a consistent room temperature, fridge, or freezer.

