

Vetlesen Distinguished Speaker Series

"The Barcode of Life"

by

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Corless Auditorium, Narragansett Bay Campus



www.barcodinglife.org

We live on a planet populated by million of species, most of which remain unknown despite more than 250 years of scientific effort. Recent advances in genomics are poised to revolutionize our understanding of life's diversity. Momentum is now growing for an international effort to develop a new approach to the identification of life based on DNA barcodes. This work is based on the premise that sequence diversity in a short, standardized segment of the genome can reliably discriminate species in large assemblages of life.

The rise of DNA barcodes will expedite the delivery of identifications and provides hope to those frustrated by the slow progress towards the registration of life's diversity. The development of a DNA barcode system will also have important implications for the conservation of life and for the management of those species with negative impacts on human health or economic systems