Erik M. Pilgrim, Research Biologist, in EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory

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Area of Expertise: My main area of interest is in the use of molecular genetic techniques to provide more accurate and detailed depictions of aquatic communities, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coastal habitats. My work entails developing molecular DNA methods for application to bioassessment and environmental monitoring, and for the detection and tracking of aquatic invasive species. Currently, I am the lead PI in developing DNA barcoding and Next Generation DNA Sequencing for biological monitoring programs.

Select Publications:

Mitchell, R., A. Pollard, L. Yuan, AND E. Pilgrim. Comparing metagenomic and morphological periphyton assemblage data to major environmental gradients: A pilot study from the National Rivers and Stream Assessment. Society of Freshwater Science 2016 Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA, May 22 - 26, 2016.

White, B., E. Pilgrim, L. Boykin, E. Stein, AND R. Mazor. Comparison of four species-delimitation methods applied to a DNA barcode data set of insect larvae for use in routine bioassessment for use in routine bioassessment. Freshwater Science. The Society for Freshwater Science, Springfield, IL, 33(1):338-348, (2014).

Jackson, J., J. Battle, B. White, E. Pilgrim, E. Stein, P. Miller, AND B. Sweeney. Cryptic biodiversity in streams: a comparison of macroinvertebrate communities based on morphological and DNA barcode identifications. Freshwater Science. The Society for Freshwater Science, Springfield, IL, 33(1):312-324, (2014).

View research publications by Erik Pilgrim.

Education:

- Ph.D. in Biology, Utah State University 2006
- M.S. in Biological Sciences, Wright State University, 2000
- B.S. in Biology, University of Cincinnati, 1993

Professional Experience:

- Research Biologist, USEPA, ORD/NERL/EERD, MERB 2009 to present
- Student Services Contractor USEPA, ORD/NERL/EERD, MERB 2006 to 2008