How to collaborate with the QBOL project

General terms and conditions

1. QBOL is an EU project focusing on DNA barcoding of quarantine organisms.
    In March 2009 this EU funded project started on DNA barcoding of important plant pathogens. An international consortium, coordinated by dr. Peter Bonants from Plant Research International (Wageningen, The Netherlands), will collect DNA barcodes from many plant pathogenic quarantine organisms, store these sequences in a central database that will be accessible for free using the internet. In addition QBOL seeks to develop a DNA bank and train end-users to perform DNA barcode identification.
    All these activities should help National Plant Protection Organisations to accurately identification quarantine plant pathogenic organisms.
    Interested in collaborating with the QBOL consortium? Please contact coordinator Peter Bonants: peter.bonants@wur.nl.

2. Before working on certain pathogens or submitting samples for the QBOL project, please contact the QBOL coordinator of the taxon you would like to contribute to and receive a 'standard' for the information you will need to provide to complete a DNA barcode accession.

    QBOL coordination of barcoding of taxa

Taxon	Coordination and contact
Central coordination QBOL	Peter Bonants, Plant Research International, the Netherlands peter.bonants@wur.nl
Barcoding of fungi	Ewald Groenewald, Central Bureau of Fungal Cultures, the Netherlands e.groenewald@cbs.knaw.nl
Barcoding of arthropods	Dr. Jean-Yves Rasplus, National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), France: rasplus@supagro.inra.fr
Barcoding of bacteria	Dr. Martine Maes, Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO), Belgium martine.maes@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
Barcoding of nematodes	Dr. Juerg Frey, Agroscope Changins-Waedenswil Research Station (ACW), Switzerland juerg.frey@acw.admin.ch
Barcoding of viruses	Dr. Neil Boonham, FERA (Food and Environment Research Agency), United Kingdom neil.boonham@fera.gis.gov.uk
Barcoding of phytoplasmas	Dr. Mogens Nicolaisen, University of Aarhus, Denmark mogens.nicolaisen@agrsci.dk

3. Coordination is required with respect to the taxonomy and selection of exemplar taxon. A taxon sampling list for each of the six taxonomic groups listed above has been compiled and is available via: www.qbol.org/qlists.

    Please review the appropriate list, make suggestions on which pathogens from which collections you can contribute too. Please inform the coordinator of the taxon involved.

4. Vouchers: submitting specimens to database collections
    All samples included in the QBOL project must be vouchered in a recognized and public available culture collection located at an academic institution, museum, or government facility and carefully identified by specialists. The vouchering of specimens into collections can be done by the person providing the specimen or if so desired by the QBOL coordinator of the taxon involved. In the former case, the voucher information (e.g., name and accession number) must be provided with the specimen. In the latter case, the voucher information will be forwarded to the donor of the specimen by the QBOL coordinator of the taxon involved. In both cases, the voucher information will be made available along with the sequence data in the QBOL database.

If necessary, the specimen can be sent to the QBOL collections. Prior to sending material, please coordinate with the QBOL coordinator of the taxon involved.

Permits may be necessary for shipment of some material and therefore the necessary documentation will need to be obtained.

5. Submitting DNA samples to QBOL databases
DNA samples obtained from the specimens can be sent to the QBOL DNA bank. Check with the central coordinator of QBOL to determine the most appropriate method of shipment (e.g., lyophilized, frozen, etc.).

6. Submitting data to QBOL databases
The QBOL databases will be designed in a specific way for the 6 taxa. Obtained data (sequences and other characteristics) for the specimens you work on need to be included into the QBOL database in a specific format as detailed in the barcoding standard.
Please check the corresponding database on www.qbol.org or contact the QBOL coordinator of the taxon involved.

7. Sequencing of specimens
QBOL protocols will inform you how to extract DNA, amplify with (generic) primers the barcoding region and determine the sequence of the barcoding region. Trace files of sequencing reactions should be saved and included into the QBOL database.

We encourage sending of specimen to be barcoded to QBOL coordinators of the taxon involved. Once specimens have been received, the target loci will be amplified and sequenced. Once sequences have been proofed, they will be posted in the QBOL database and notification returned to the person/laboratory that provided the specimen.

It may be necessary for some species to select other additional genes to be used as barcoding regions. In that case protocols including primer sequences need to be written and added to QBOL databases.

8. Determination of other characters
If you are interested in determination of other characters of the specimen (e.g. morphology) please look into the QBOL database design of your taxon which fields are included into the database or contact the QBOL coordinator of the taxon involved.

We want to make sure that for any specimen, for which other characters are sampled, molecular data will also be determined.

9. Ownership /Intellectual property
No intellectual rights can be obtained from specimen or DNA sequences from those specimens, that have been obtained from or collected by third parties.

Ownership remains with the party submitting the specimen, DNA and sequence.

The databases will be made available free of charge and the DNA bank will be made available on non-profit basis for end-users to help them with the correct identification of quarantine organisms and their related plant pathogens.

10. Benefits
All parties collaborating with QBOL will be properly acknowledged. Logo's of institutes can be sent to be displayed on the website. Use of the QBOL databases is permitted.
Representatives of collaborating institutes are invited for the final QBOL meeting in February 2012 in the Netherlands.