

UTOPIA: an automatically UpdaTed, cOmPlete and consistent ITS reference dAtabase

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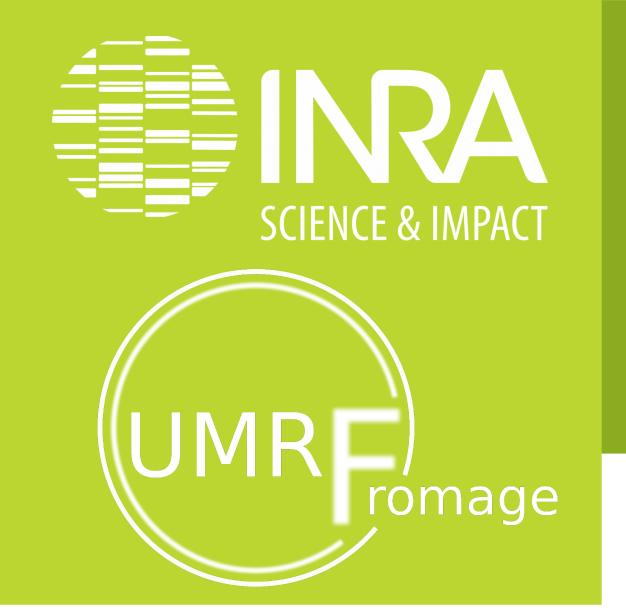
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UTOPIA:

AN AUTOMATICALLY UPDATED, COMPLETE AND CONSISTENT ITS REFERENCE DATABASE

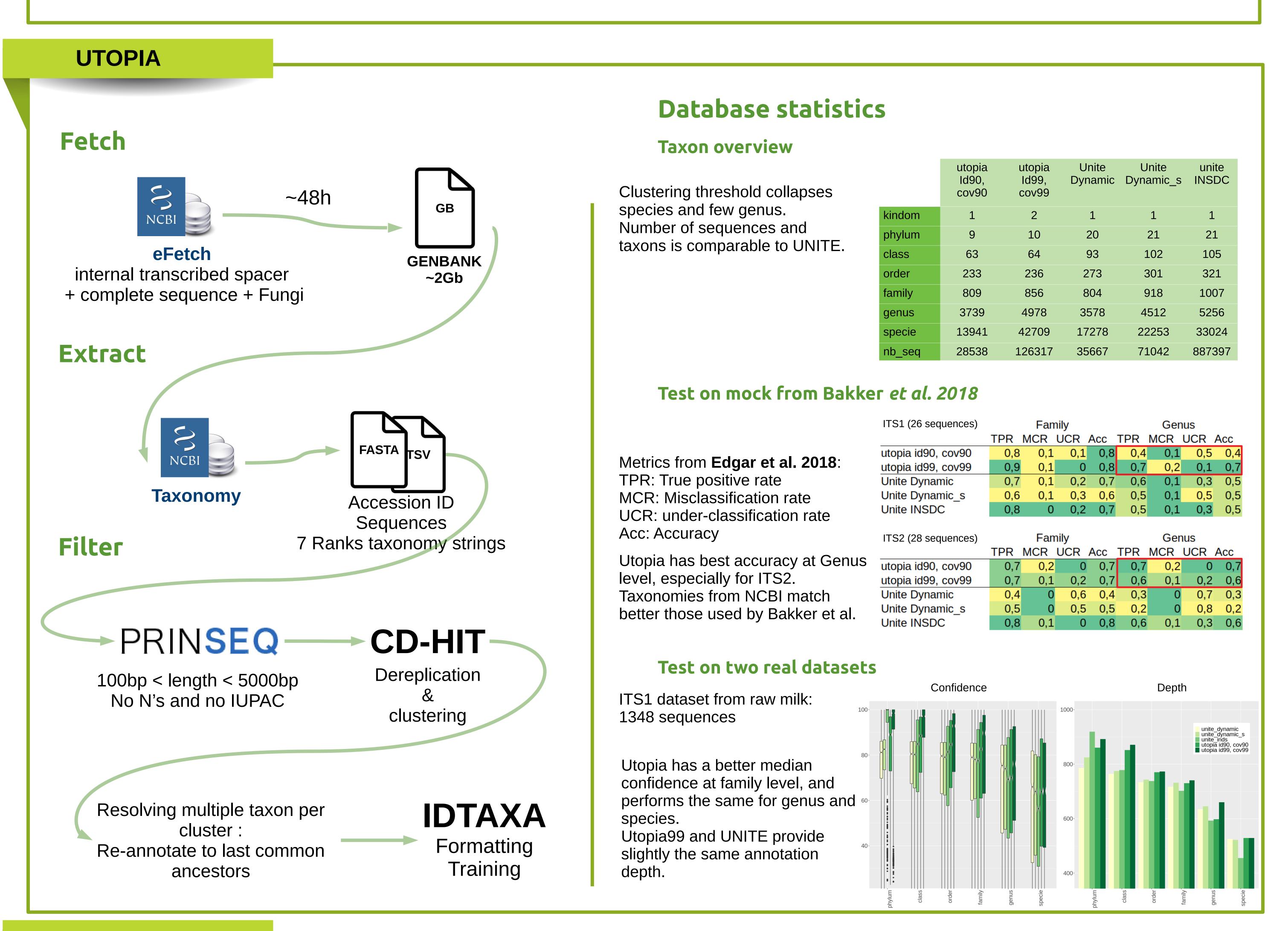
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Context

Taxonomic assignment in metabarcoding analysis is a critical and challenging step. As more organisms being sequenced, taxonomy is evolving fast with multiple taxa rearrangement and thousand of new sequences uploaded each year. The internal transcribed spacer (ITS) is an ubiquitous sequence used as a barcode to identify fungi species in complex environmental samples.

Currently used databases like UNITE, offer a good and reliable reference, but update frequency is generally low, and new strain sequences can take several years to be integrated. UTOPIA provides a workflow that produce an updated ITS reference database directly from the NCBI genbank and taxonomy database.



Conclusions

We provide to the community a protocol and scripts to build an updated ITS database locally from the very last release of NCBI. Our database is created, filtered, and clustered fully automatically. Taxonomy is processed to obtain a 7 ranks assignment for each sequence and formated to fit commonly used programs such as IDTAXA, or Phyloseq.

However we show here that UTOPIA is at least as good as UNITE in term of depth of annotation in real data and better in accuracy on the Bakker *et al.* mock community making our database a good alternative to assign fungus community with the latest sequences and taxonomies available.

Available on **git** repository at : https://forgemia.inra.fr/umrf/utopia



