

Combined Extraction Method for Mitochondrial DNA and Proteins from Hair for Human Identification

How to get the most out of your sample

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When nuclear DNA is lacking, Alternatives are needed

Nuclear DNA (STRs/ SNPs) is the gold standard



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mtDNA (SNPs, maternal lineage) is a good but limited alternative



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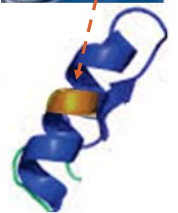
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nsSNPs lead to SAPs/ GVPs

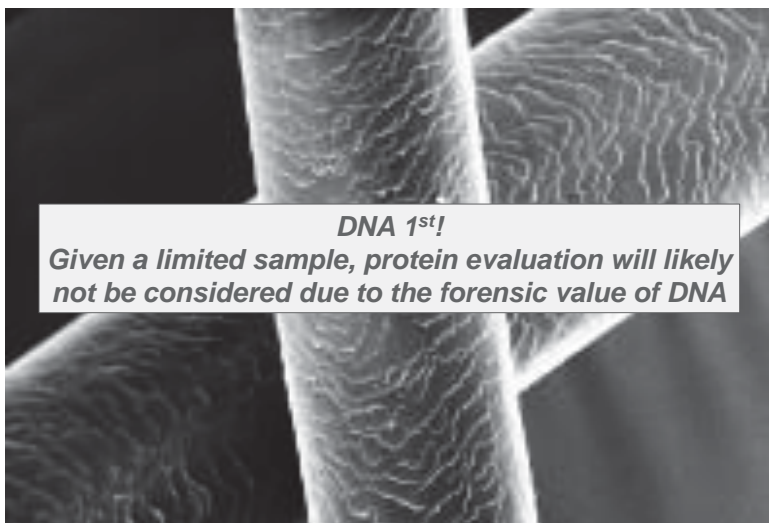
- Discriminatory power: 1 in 12,500*
- *Can mtDNA and protein signatures provide complete discrimination?*



*Parker et al 2016.

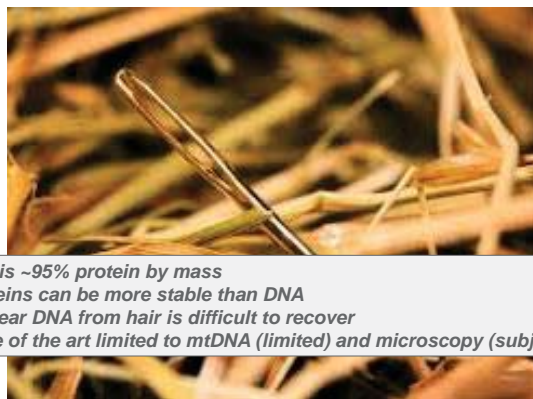
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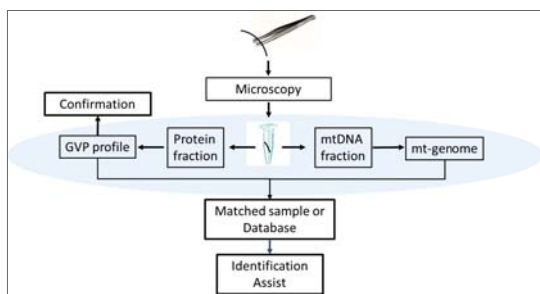
DNA 1st!
 Given a limited sample, protein evaluation will likely not be considered due to the forensic value of DNA

Hair: DNA “needle” in a protein “haystack”

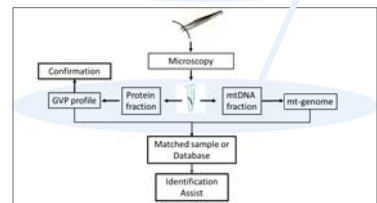


- Hair is ~95% protein by mass
- Proteins can be more stable than DNA
- Nuclear DNA from hair is difficult to recover
- State of the art limited to mtDNA (limited) and microscopy (subjective)

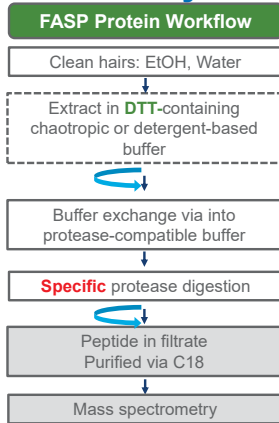
Goal
 Develop a workflow that enables the analysis of proteins from hair samples without sacrificing DNA analysis



1. Optimize protein protocol for ease-of-use and sensitivity
2. Ensure compatibility with mtDNA forensic sample processing
3. Extract and analyze DNA and protein from the same sample

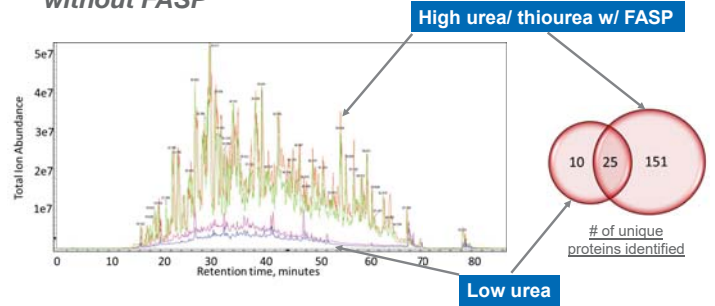


1. Optimize protein protocol for ease-of-use and sensitivity



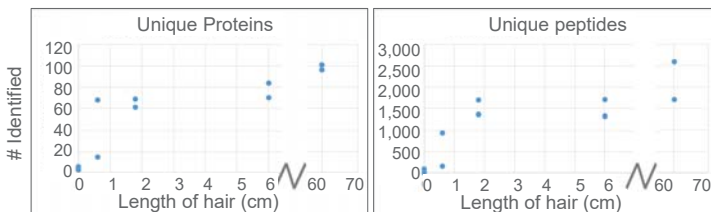
1. Optimize

- High urea/ thiourea extraction buffer paired with FASP found to be superior to SDS/FASP or low urea/thiourea without FASP



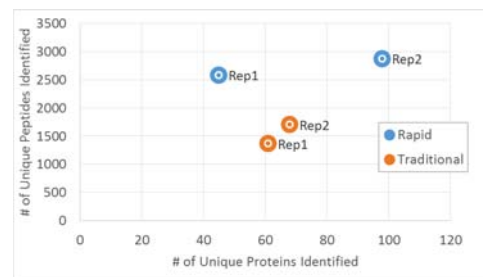
1. Optimize

- Rough working limit of >0.6 cm of hair established to identify unique peptides and proteins

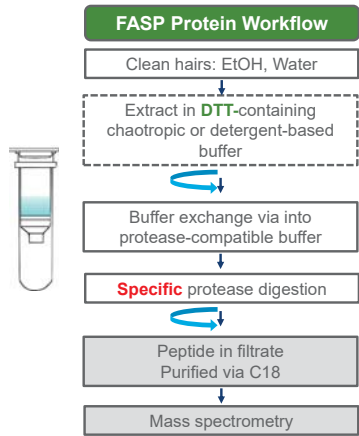


1. Optimize

- Rapid trypsin + lysC (45 minutes, 70 °C) can be used in place of traditional trypsin + lysC (O/N, RT)

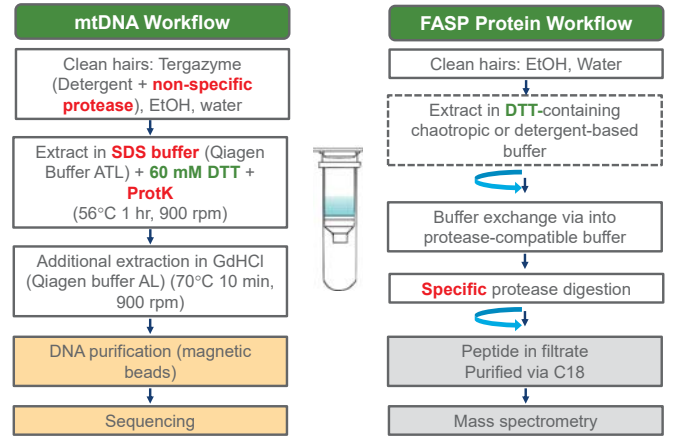


Gold standard spin-column mtDNA workflows differ from spin-column protein workflows



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Gold standard spin-column mtDNA workflows differ from spin-column protein workflows



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2. Ensure compatibility with mtDNA forensic sample processing

- Rigorous washing protocols do not impact peptide yields



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2. Ensure compatibility

- Rigorous washing procedures reduces background contamination

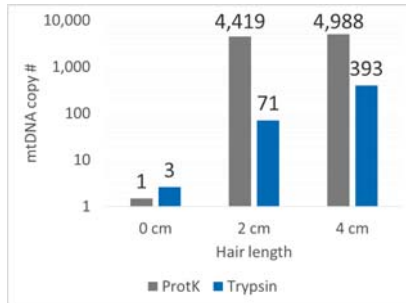
Sample	# Unique Proteins	# Unique Peptides
EtOH, Water washing	8	50
LC/MS system blank	2	2
Tergazyme, EtOH, water	2	2

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3. DNA and protein from One sample

- *Rapid Trypsin can substitute for ProtK but mtDNA yields are lower*



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3. DNA and protein from One sample

- *Mito profiles (Precision ID mtDNA whole genome panel) can be obtained from trypsinized hair*

Sample	Donor	Enzyme	Hair length	# Mapped Reads	Haplogroup prediction* (Missing, private mutations)
BN1	#2	ProtK	4 cm	1,575,760	T1a1 (0, 2)
BN2	#2	ProtK	2 cm	1,767,023	T1a1 (0, 0)
BT1	#2	Trypsin	4 cm	1,454,222	T1a1 (0, 1)
BT2	#2	Trypsin	2 cm	1,135,412	T1a1 (0, 1)
B (saliva)	#2	ProtK	Saliva	1,738,314	T1a1 (0, 1)
2800M**	2800M	N/A	N/A	1,949,741	H1c+T152C (0/0)
NC	None	ProtK	N/A	54,491	--
TC	None	Trypsin	N/A	56,140	--

*<https://empop.online/>

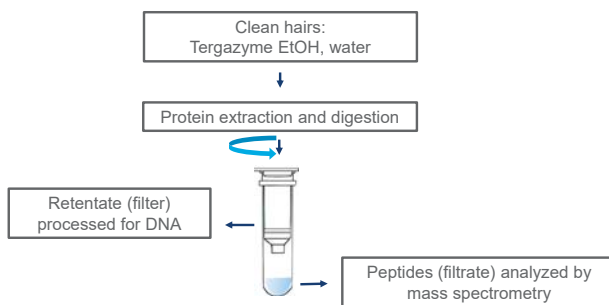
**Corroborated by <http://forensic.yonsei.ac.kr/presentation/113.pdf>; <https://www.promega.com/resources/profiles-in-dna/2016/analyzing-data-from-next-generation-sequencers-using-the-powerseq-automiloy-system/>

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3. DNA and protein from One sample

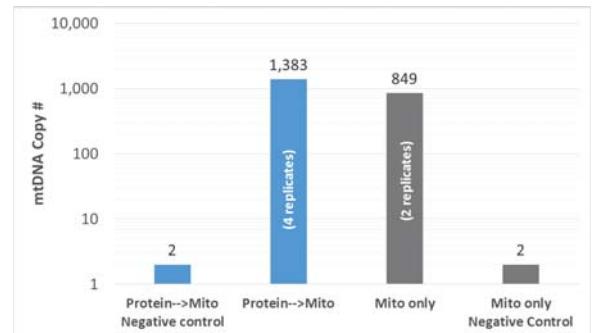
- *Can we extract proteins first then DNA without compromising DNA yields?*



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3. DNA and protein from One sample

- *mtDNA can be recovered following protein digestion*



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Summary and Next Steps

- Summary

- ✓ Developed easy spin column-based format with rapid digestion
- ✓ Working limit approaching ~0.6 cm of hair
- ✓ Rigorous washing procedures reduces background contamination without impacting peptide yields
- ✓ Whole mito genome profiles can be obtained from trypsinized hair
- ✓ mtDNA can be recovered following protein digestion

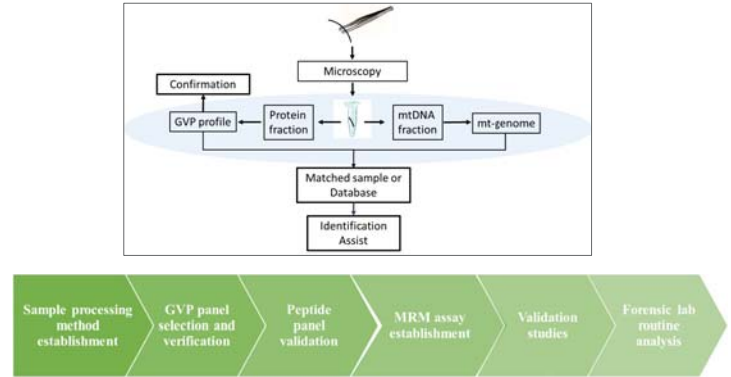
- Next steps

- Proteomic and mtDNA profiles of mito DNA following protein digestion
- Sensitivity analysis, validation
- Other relevant samples (e.g., touch)

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GVP Path to forensic laboratory implementation



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It can be done

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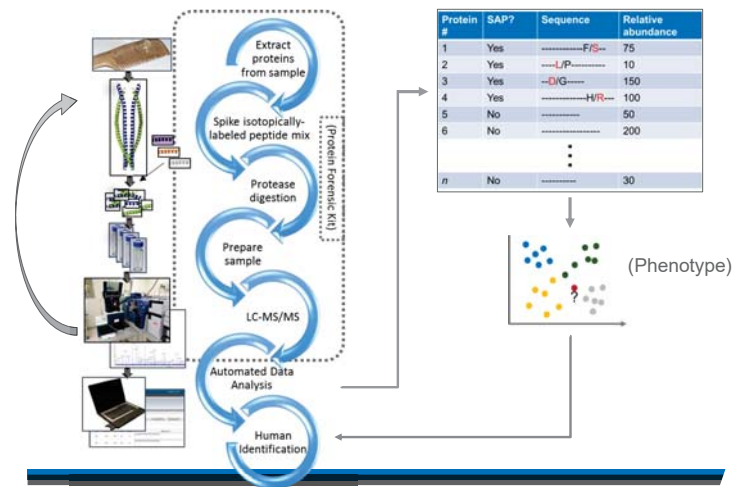
Backup slides

Can combined mtDNA-protein profiles be used to...

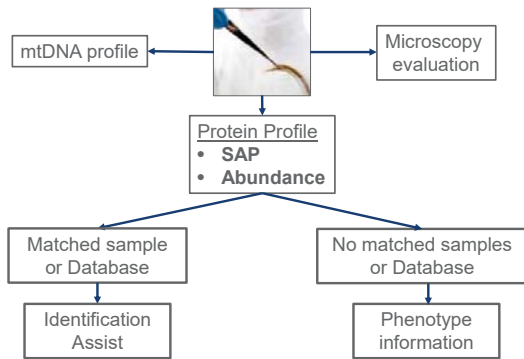
- Discriminate one human from another?
- Distinguish ethnicity?
- Distinguish head hair from different body sites?
- Provide other identifying information?
 - Animal vs. human hair?
 - True hair color/ has hair been dyed/ bleached?
 - Exposure?
 - Other phenotypes?

Position	Saliva	Frequency	Quality	BN2	Frequency	Quality	BT2	Frequency	Quality
73	G	100	37427.9	G	100	36669.1	G	100	36951.2
152	C	100	37697.9	C	100	37742.6	C	100	37515.7
195	C	100	37342.6	C	100	37484.8	C	100	37127.9
263	G	100	37769.1	G	100	37667.6	G	100	37051.6
311	C	99.9	14816.8	NO VARIANT CALLED			C	100	14878.4
709	A	100	37032.7	A	100	36486.8	A	95.1	32524.5
759	G	100	36553.5	G	100	37576.8	G	100	36937.9
1438	G	100	36388	G	100	37631.1	G	100	37600.1
1888	A	100	37666.1	A	96.3	34089.9	A	97.2	34928.3
2706	G	100	37382.9	G	100	35800.3	G	100	35649.7
4216	C	100	37181.3	C	100	35083.6	C	100	35475.2
4769	G	100	37866.8	G	100	37894.8	G	100	29667.4
4917	G	100	36679	G	100	36296.7	G	100	30027.2
7028	T	100	36871.2	T	100	36406.4	T	95.1	33025.5
8697	A	100	7671.85	A	100	9902.94	A	97.5	3479.31
8860	G	100	37747.9	G	100	37779.3	G	100	32373.7
9899	C	100	37660.2	C	100	35758.9	C	92.5	30794.8
10463	C	100	37243.4	C	100	29705.6	C	97	23907
11251	G	100	37007.7	G	100	35978	G	91.5	24316.8
11719	A	100	36965.1	A	100	36002.6	A	100	35998.9
12633	A	100	36970	A	100	36748.1	A	100	35306.8
13368	A	100	36800.1	A	100	35810.8	A	97	34718
14766	T	100	37534.2	T	100	35713.1	T	100	37662.9
14905	A	100	37729.3	A	100	36560.1	A	97.2	23896.4
15326	G	100	37592.8	G	100	37565.5	G	100	37748.2
15452	A	100	37060.4	A	100	34983.3	A	100	35915.8
15607	G	100	37223.4	G	100	36613.2	G	96.8	34545.7
15928	A	100	37052.9	A	100	36960.1	A	96.8	34572.4
16126	C	100	37177.5	C	100	37021.9	C	100	37271.4
16163	G	100	36335.6	G	100	35282.5	G	100	36070.7
16186	T	71.3	17318.3	T	71.9	17638.2	T	71.2	17300
16189	C	100	36132.2	C	100	36495.2	C	100	36907
16294	T	100	36586.2	T	100	36881.3	T	100	35892.7
16519	C	100	37431	C	100	37550.7	C	100	37492.4
16642	G	100	37660.1	G	100	36308	G	100	37645.8

How do we do it?



Using protein sequence *and* abundance provides unique and complementary information



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Why success can be achieved: Key challenges can be overcome

- Sample preparation optimization
 - Currently investigating SDS vs urea-based extraction, detection limits, QC measures, degradation/ inhibition studies
 - Integrated sample processing
 - Mass spectrometry detection limits are improving
- Methodology can be standardized and independently verified in a manner similar to DNA-based forensics
 - Evaluated four NGS platforms, and based on sponsor criteria, down-selected one for implementing STR genotyping of human DNA samples
 - Currently evaluating a number of different RapidDNA and nanopore-based sequencing devices for field-based human identification applications

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Step 3: Extract and analyze DNA and protein from the same sample

- *Mito profiles can be obtained from trypsinized hair*

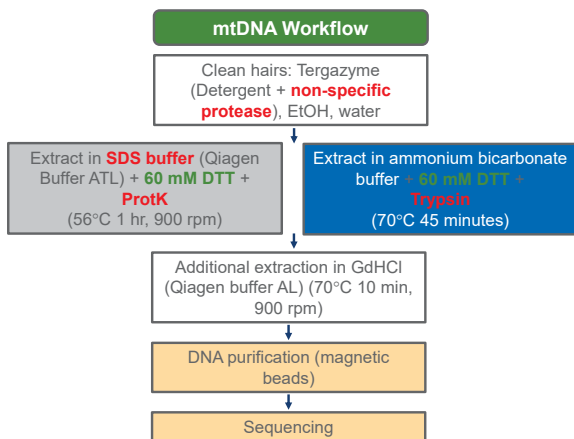
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NC	None	ProtK	N/A	54,491	H1c2/ H1c(T152C)/ H1c/ H1(T152C)/ H1(T16189C)
TC	None	Trypsin	N/A	56,140	H1c2/ H1a1/ H1c

*<https://dna.jameslick.com/mithap/>

**Corroborated by <http://forensic.yonsei.ac.kr/presentation/113.pdf>; <https://www.promega.com/resources/profiles-in-dna/2016/analyzing-data-from-next-generation-sequencers-using-the-oversono-automitov-system/>

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Step 1: Optimize protein protocol for ease-of-use and sensitivity

- *Filter passivation*

