



## THE GOALS

#1 Gather  
**1000+ flying squirrel droppings** across Finland.

#2 Create  
new **genetic monitoring tools** for the Siberian flying squirrel.



Learn more at  
[biodiversitygenomics.org](http://biodiversitygenomics.org)

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## HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE ARE FLYING SQUIRRELS NEARBY?

Look up recent observations on [laji.fi](http://laji.fi)  
or apps like  
**iNaturalist**.



## WHY DROPPINGS?

Poop is a non-invasive source of DNA. For flying squirrels, they are the main indicator in routine monitoring practices and they are easy to collect without disturbing the animal.

## WHY DO WE NEED SO MANY?

No two individuals share the same genetic blueprint. To make sure our tools work reliably, we need DNA samples from all across the country.

## HOW DOES GENETIC MONITORING WORK?

By analyzing specific locations, patterns, and mutations in the genome we can answer management-relevant questions:

- Is the flying squirrel male or female?
- What did it eat?
- How are the flying squirrels in a population related/connected?
- Are there barriers or corridors for flying squirrel movement
  - ... in forests?
  - ... in urban areas?





## Flying squirrel Citizen Science Project

Help us gather flying squirrel DNA from all over Finland & learn more about conservation research!

**Contact us** via Instagram, Facebook, or e-mail. We will send a **sampling kit\*** to your address.

### \*Sampling kit

- > detailed instructions (Finnish or English)
- > for each sample: 1x pair of clean rubber gloves, and 1x collection bag
- > a trash bag for used equipment

### Look up the results!

All participants **get access** to the findings that we gather from their samples!  
(e.g. gender, diet, relationship between individuals)

2.

Go to the tree with the flying squirrel droppings and put on a pair of **clean rubber gloves**.



3.

Use your gloved hand to place about 20 droppings into the **collection bag**.



4.

**Note down** information about the sample and area. Store bags cool and dry.



5.

**Send** all filled sample bags back to the lab at Oulu University.



**Found flying squirrel droppings?**

**Contact us!**



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 **UNIVERSITY OF OULU**  
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