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(54) **Title:** COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR STABILIZING NUCLEIC ACIDS IN BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

(57) **Abstract:** Methods, compositions, and kits for stabilizing both human and microbial deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) present in complex biological samples, such as feces, are disclosed. In particular, aqueous compositions for stabilizing DNA contained in biological samples at ambient temperature are disclosed, together with associated methods and kits using same. In one aspect, the compositions comprise a chelating agent present at a concentration of at least about 150 mM, and the composition has a pH of at least about 9.5.



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