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Once fully developed, this molecular means of estimating PMI can be used on samples collected anywhere in the world (provided temperatures are not too extreme – little RNA decay occurs in frozen samples). Knowledge of local insect fauna and life cycles is not necessary. Where such information is available, our approach provides an independent means of estimating PMI, increasing the confidence of the estimates. Additionally, this technique has the potential to generate a PMI beyond the time frame forensic entomology can provide. In some of our studies, reliable RNA data could be collected long after the heads had become completely skeletonized. Upon complete skeletonization, carrion insects depart the carcass and little information using insects can be obtained. A moderately equipped molecular biology lab and a minimally trained technician is all that is required to do the analysis. The reagents themselves are relatively inexpensive, costing between \$50-100 per assay.

