

# How to create a custom reference database for BLAST in SEED2

**Step 1 – download reference sequences as FASTA or create FASTA file from your edited sequences and put desired information into the titles of the sequences, e.g.:**

<Species name>|<ACCESSION#>|<full taxonomy>

Here is example of FASTA:

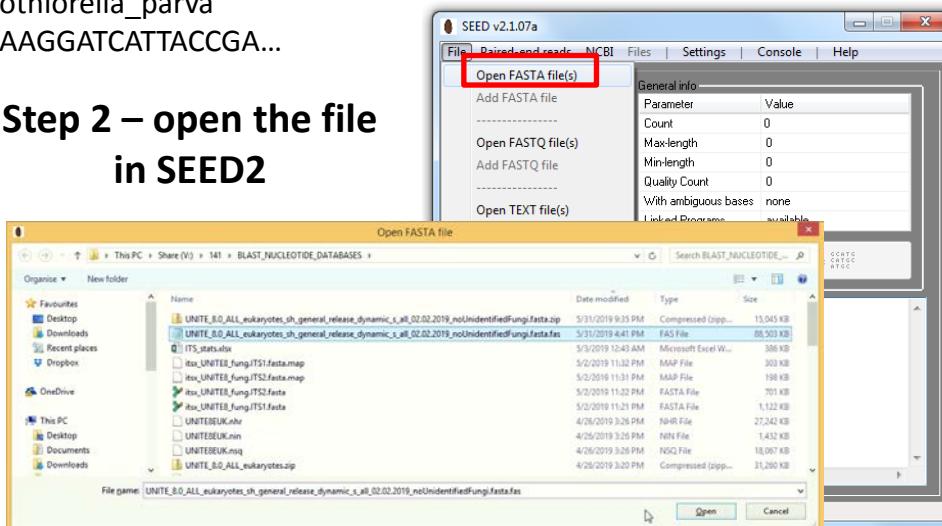
>Thelephora\_sp|UDB014120|k\_Fungi;p\_Basidiomycota;c\_Agaricomycetes;o\_Thelephorales;f\_Theleporaceae;g\_Thelephora;s\_Thelephora\_sp

GGAAGGATCATTACT...

>Dothiorella\_parva|KC898234|k\_Fungi;p\_Ascomycota;c\_Dothideomycetes;o\_Botryosphaerales;f\_Botryosphaeriaceae;g\_Dothiorella;s\_Dothiorella\_parva

AAGGATCATTACCGA...

**Step 2 – open the file in SEED2**



[https://www.mothur.org/wiki/Silva\\_reference\\_files](https://www.mothur.org/wiki/Silva_reference_files)



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We will be offering an R workshop December 18-20, 2019. [Learn more.](#)

## Silva reference files

If you use the SILVA reference files you should be aware of their [dual-use license](#).

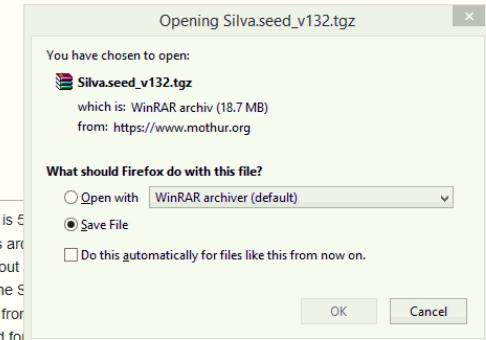
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### Release 132

The SILVA alignment is a reference alignment out previous version of the S sequences available for database that is used for document where you can read about the process that we used to generate these references.

- Full length sequences and taxonomy references (188247 bacteria, 4626 archaea, and 20246 eukarya sequences). This reference could be customized for alignments, but could also be used for classification. The uncompressed version is ~9.9 GB and the compressed version is 348 MB.



<https://unite.ut.ee/repository.php>

### QIIME release (download)

Three sets of QIIME files are released, corresponding to the SHs resulting from clustering at the 97% and 99% threshold levels. The third set of files is the result of a dynamic use of clustering thresholds, such that some SHs are delimited at the 97% level, some at the 97.5% level, some at the 98% level, and so on; these choices were made manually by experts of those particular lineages of fungi. The syntax is the same throughout the three sets of files.

Each SH is given a stable name of the accession number type, here shown in the FASTA file of the dynamic set:

>SH099456.05FU\_FJ357315\_refs  
CACAATATGAAGGCAGGGCTGGCACTCCTTGAGAGGACCGGC...

SH099456 = accession number of the SH

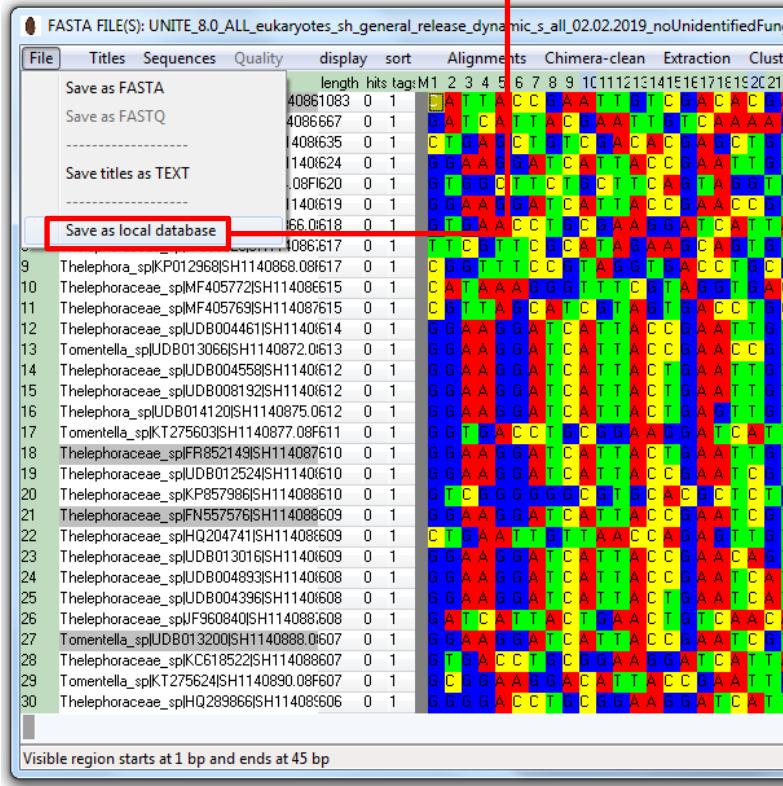
05FU = global key release 5, organism group FUngi

FJ357315 = GenBank/UNITE accession number of sequence chosen to

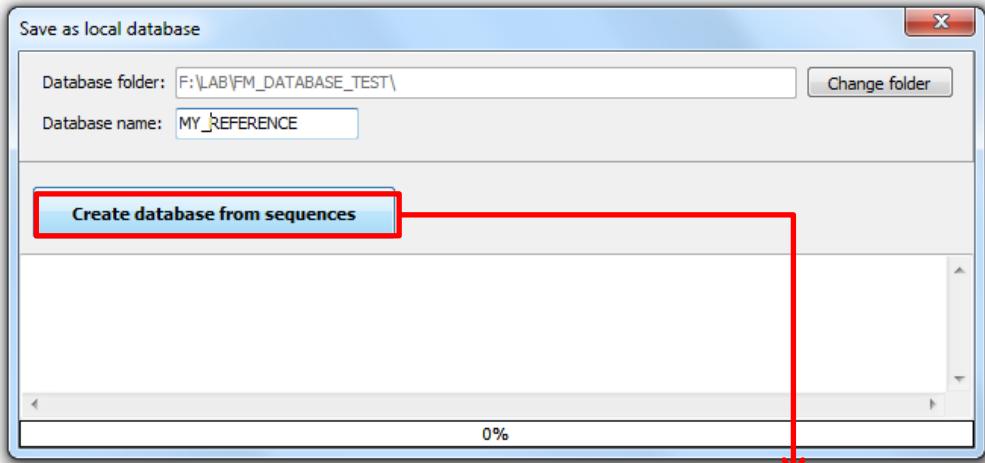
refs = this is a manually designated Refs

(reps = this is an automatically chosen Reps)

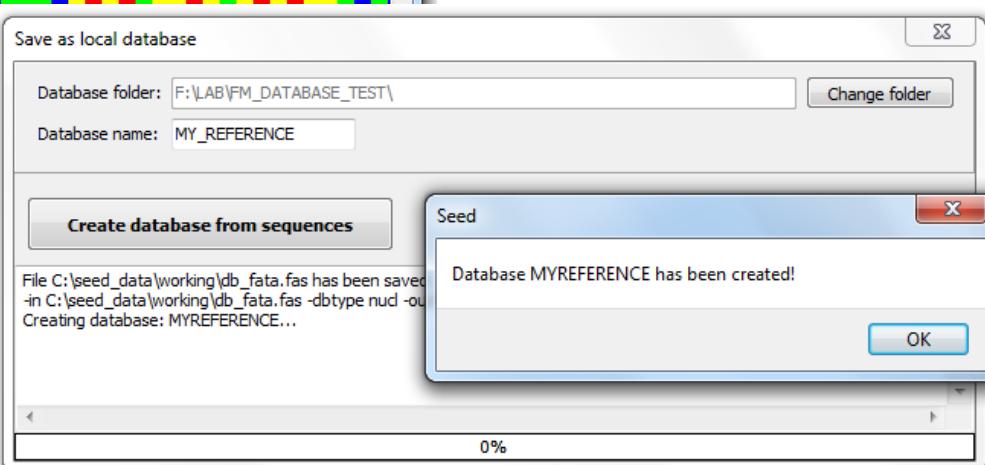
## Step 3 – save FASTA as local database



↓ name your reference database



...build the database



This step will generate 3 binary files in database "folder":

MYREFERENCE.nhr	5.2.2020 11:36	Soubor NHR	26 329 kB
MYREFERENCE.nin	5.2.2020 11:36	Soubor NIN	1 381 kB
MYREFERENCE.nsq	5.2.2020 11:36	Soubor NSQ	17 509 kB

## Step 4 – use the reference database for BLAST identification

The screenshot illustrates the workflow for performing a BLAST search using a local database. It shows three main windows:

- Top Window:** A sequence viewer window titled "FASTA FILE(S): ITS\_OTUs [SeqCount: 5191 Ambiguous: 0 Min-len: 40 Max-len: 395 Max-qual: 0 Min-qual: 13]". The "Identification" tab is selected, showing options for "NCBI BLAST", "Taxonomy by name", and "Taxonomy by accession or taxID".
- Middle Window:** A "NCBI BLAST (ITS\_OTUs)" window. The "Run BLAST (settings)" button is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the "Tasks were closed" status is shown.
- Bottom Window:** A "BLAST settings" dialog box. It includes:
  - DATABASE SOURCE:** Radio buttons for "remote (NCBI)" and "local". The "local" option is selected and highlighted with a red box.
  - Select local database file(s):** A browse button is highlighted with a red box.
  - Number of threads:** Set to 1.
  - Specified Database:** F:\LAB\FM\_DATABASE\_TEST\
  - Restrict search with the given Entrez query:** A dropdown menu shows "NOT (environmental samples[organism] OR metagenomes[organism] OR unidentified[organism])".
  - Choose a BLAST program to run:** Set to "blastn".
  - Parameters:** Type: megablast, Tasks at the same time: 10, Results per sequence: 10, E-value threshold: 0.00001.

Annotations with red arrows and boxes highlight specific steps:

- An arrow points from the "Identification" tab in the top window to the "NCBI BLAST" button in the bottom window.
- An arrow points from the "Run BLAST (settings)" button in the middle window to the "Select local database file(s)" button in the bottom window.
- An annotation on the right side of the bottom window reads: "select the database folder and the reference database".
- A large red arrow points from the "RUN (removes previous results)" button in the bottom window back up towards the "Run BLAST (settings)" button in the middle window, with the text "...run BLAST" written below it.