

Abstract

Touch DNA is still a relatively new discovery in forensic genetics, but it is used very often as evidence in court proceedings. Nevertheless, its definition is not uniform and the source of DNA in touch deposits is not completely explored. This work summarizes all sources of DNA in touch traces found so far. At the same time, it will provide a brief look on the research carried out on these experimentally deposited traces in laboratories and how the information obtained can be applied in real cases in forensic practice. Finally, DNA extraction methods and the best methods discovered so far to isolate DNA from touch traces will be summarized.

Key words:

Touch DNA, Touch traces, Trace DNA, Forensic genetics, cell-free DNA, Corneocytes, DNA extraction, Casework, Criminology