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| **Issue** | **Bacterial Fractionation** | ***In Situ* Lysis** |
| Yield of DNA | 1-5 μg/g | 1-20 μg/g |
| Representative of community | Less representative because of cell sorption | More representative, unaffected cell sorption |
| Source of DNA recovered | Only bacteria | Mostly bacteria but also fungi and protozoa |
| Degree of DNA shearing | Less shearing | More shearing |
| Average size of DNA fragments | 50 kb | 25 kb |
| Degree of humic contamination | Less contaminated | More contaminated |
| Ease of methodology | Low, laborious | Faster, less labor-intensive |