



## Informatics and data products Developments and plans

**Tim Robertson, Andrea Hahn GBIF Secretariat**



**GB27**

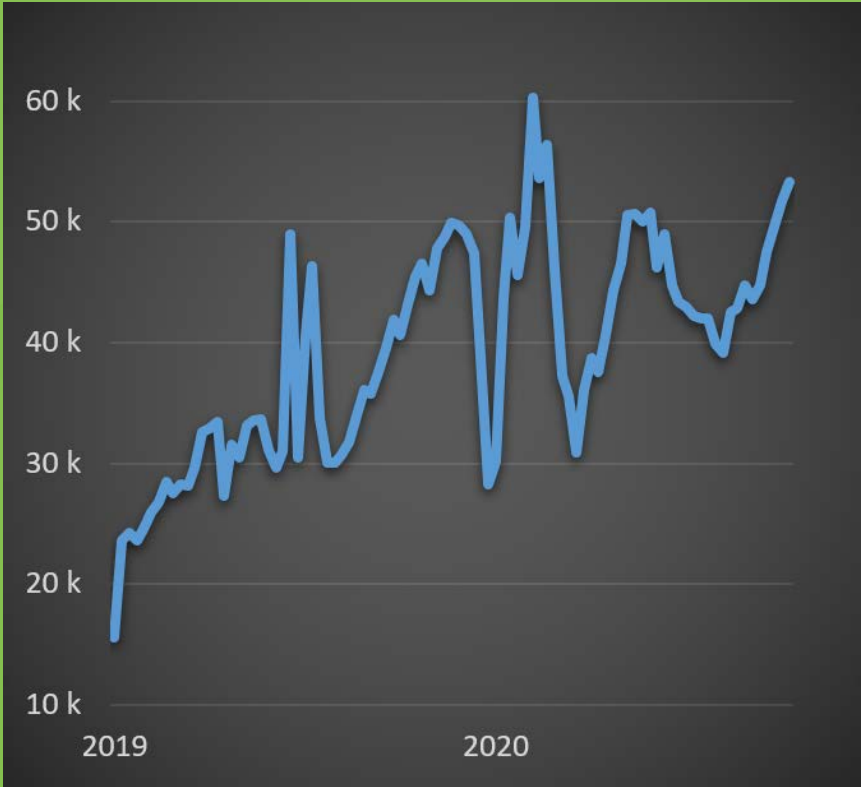




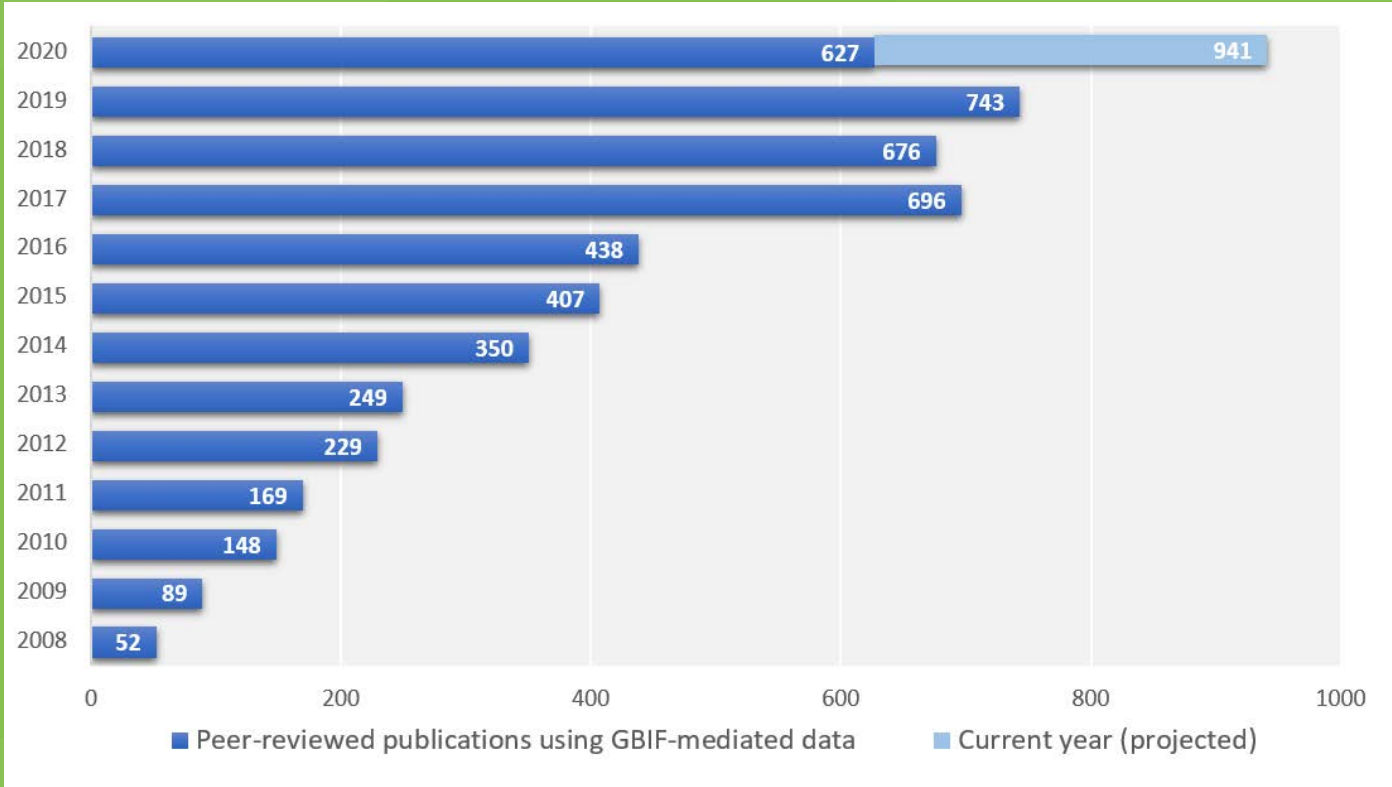
## **GROWTH AND DATA PUBLISHING**



# GROWTH IN USE



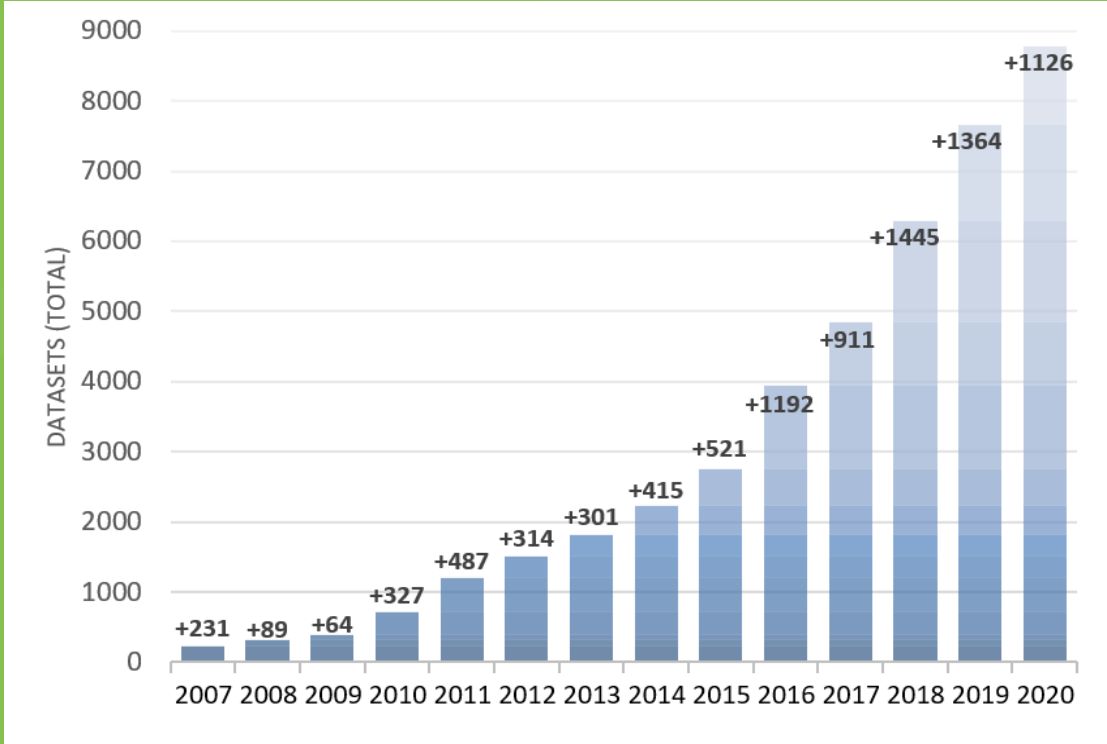
Users of GBIF.org per week  
~ 170k per month now (+20k over 2019)



Publications citing use of GBIF-mediated data

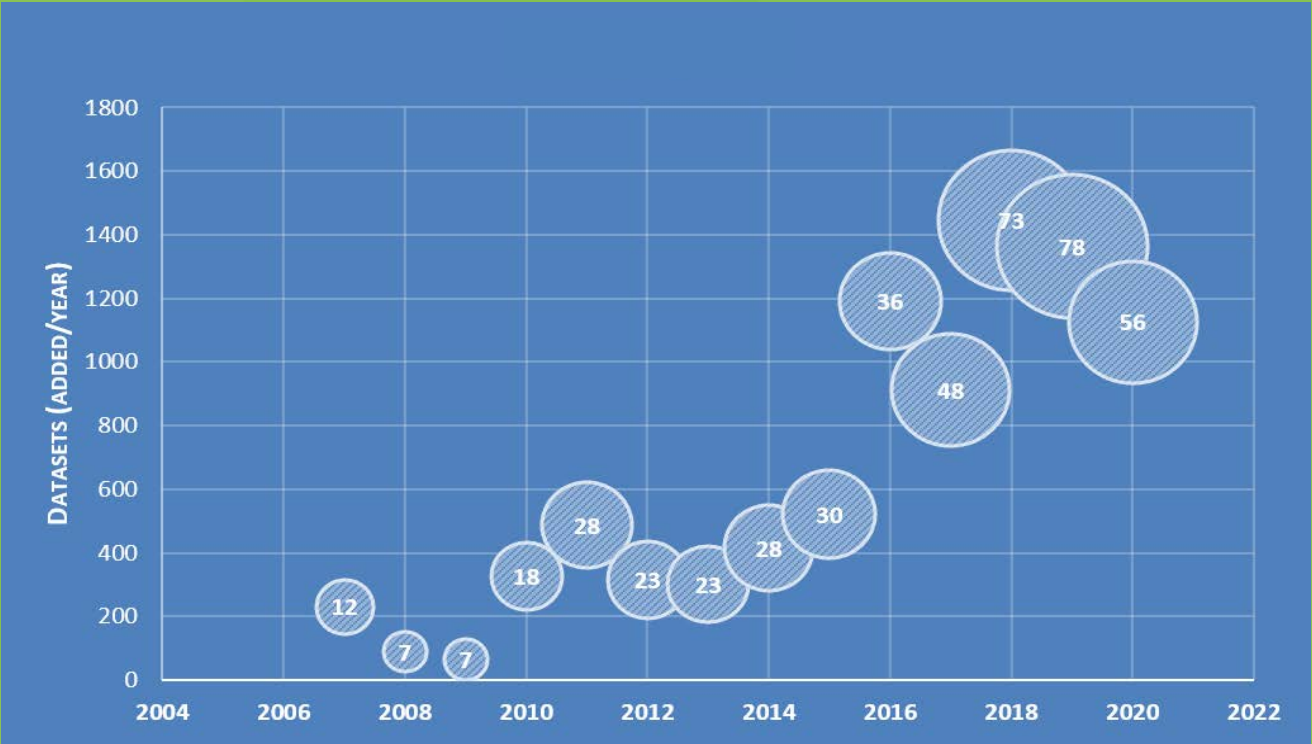
status: Aug 2020

# IPT (INTEGRATED PUBLISHING TOOLKIT)



not showing: 2385 datasets from UMS PatriNat (2020)

Datasets published through IPT installations,  
cumulative



status: Sept 2020

newly mobilized IPT datasets per year  
circles: number of countries involved





# **NAMES INFRASTRUCTURE**

In partnership with the Catalogue of Life



# MODERNIZING THE CATALOGUE OF LIFE

## Complete and completing (Nov 2020)

- New infrastructure deployed to manage data publication and assembly of the taxonomy
  - A new data exchange standard (COL Data Package)
  - An evolution of GBIF ChecklistBank -> COL ChecklistBank
  - A workbench for editors to review and assemble
  - A new suite of APIs and R-based library (rOpenSci)
  - Developed in collaboration, hosted by GBIF
- Deployment of public interfaces
  - New COL website (November)
  - Migration of historical annual checklists (2006-2019)

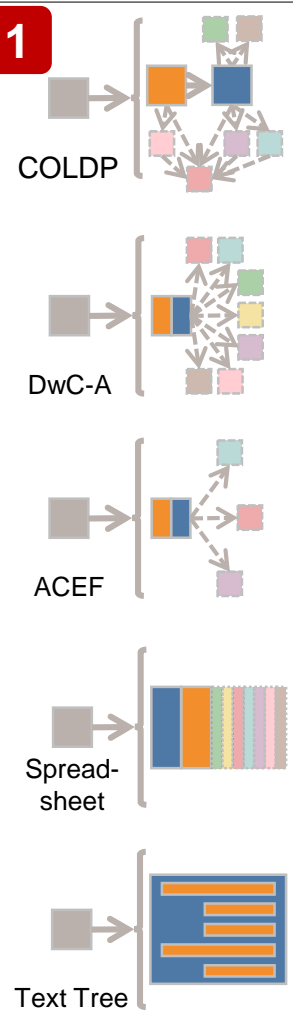
## Upcoming

- Expand the taxonomy with content necessary for GBIF
  - Automate reports on gaps
- Semi-automate assembly (with review)
- Integrate with GBIF.org
  - New backbone end 2020



## Communities

Prepare and curate  
checklists



## Data Publishing

COL Repository or other web  
repositories

**2a**  
Publish directly

Intermediate  
Repository

Primary datasets

**2b**  
Register

## ChecklistBank

Storage and access to  
checklists

Primary  
datasets

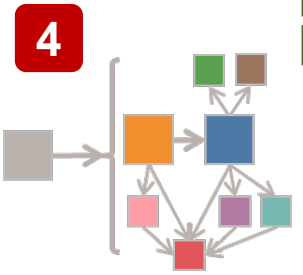
Standardised  
datasets

**3**

Secondary copies

## Workbench

Construct and publish  
integrated checklist



- COL Checklist
- Sector source mappings
- Two views:
  - Reviewed (contributed sectors)
  - Comprehensive (incl. unreviewed)
- API for both views
- Links to data sources

**5a**

**5b**

Standardised access  
to any checklist

## Users

Web and machine  
access



Catalogue of Life







# **GBIF.ORG INFRASTRUCTURE**





# NEW GBIF.ORG FILTERS

## Presence / Absence filter

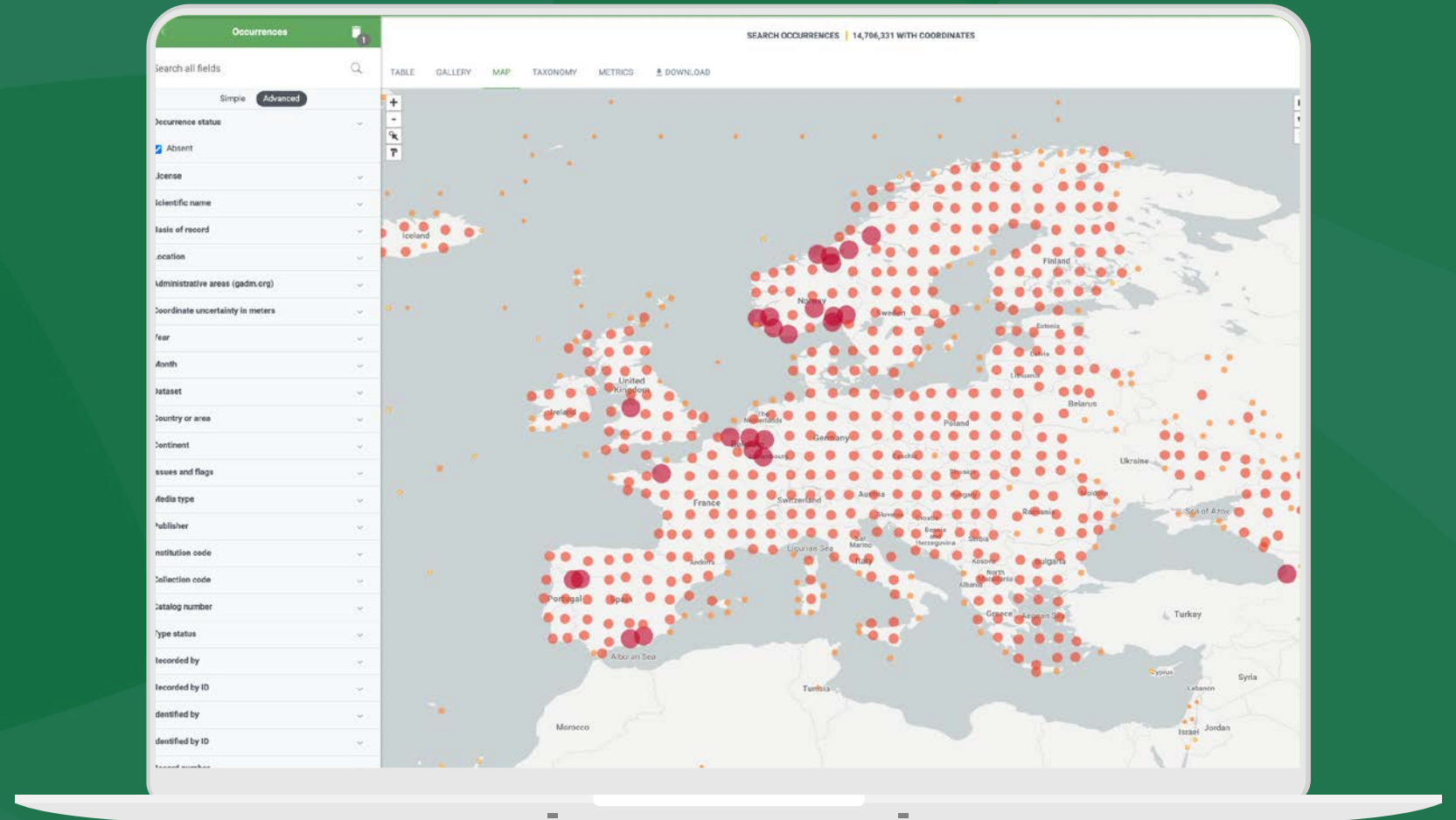
- All records declared as present or absent
- 14,7 million records of absence

## Search by person identifiers

- Recorded by or identified by
- Variety of identifier schemas (e.g. from ORCID, WikiData)
- Working for TDWG Attribution group

## Search by Administrative Areas

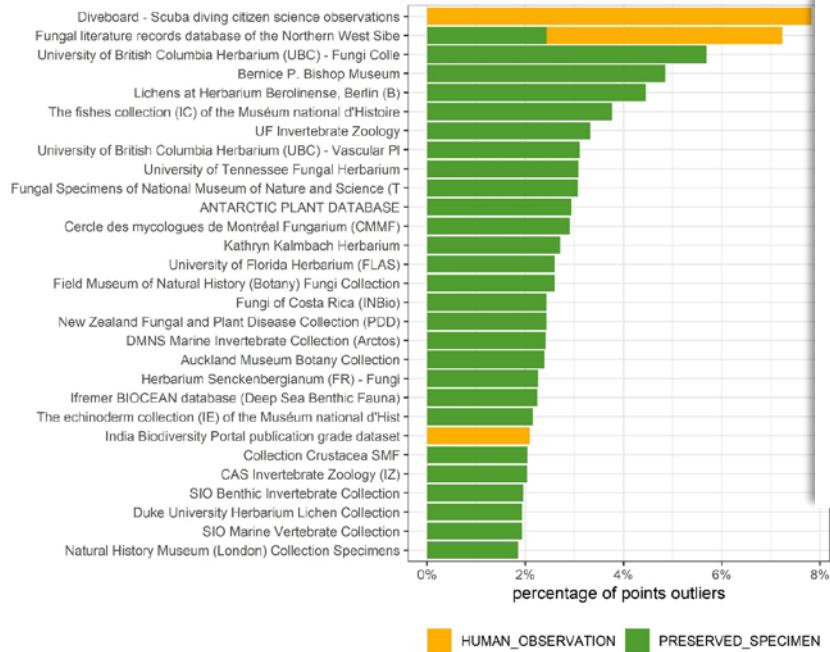
- Uses 3 levels from the GADM.org database e.g. country / state / county
- Using the API can report counts by e.g. county level



# DATA QUALITY - OUTLIER DETECTION

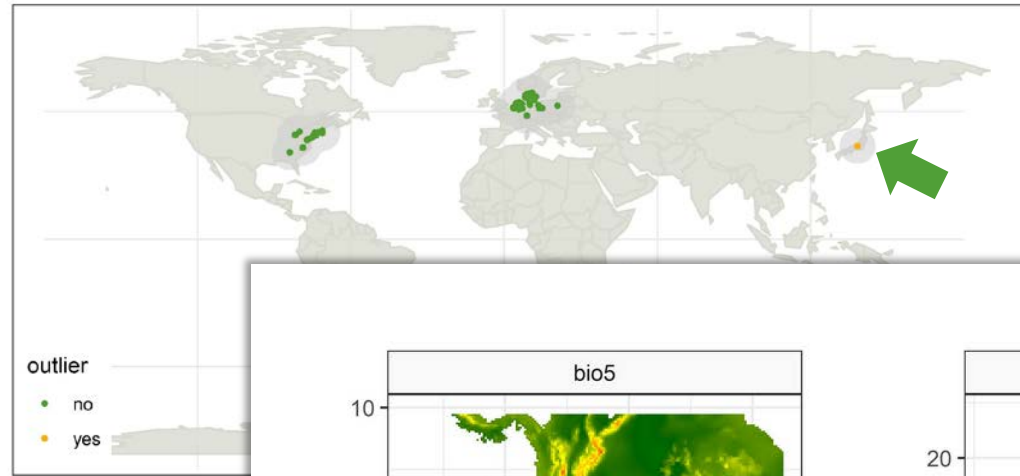
## Percentage of dataset outliers

percentage of unique points (datasetkey,specieskey,lat-lon) that are dbscan outliers

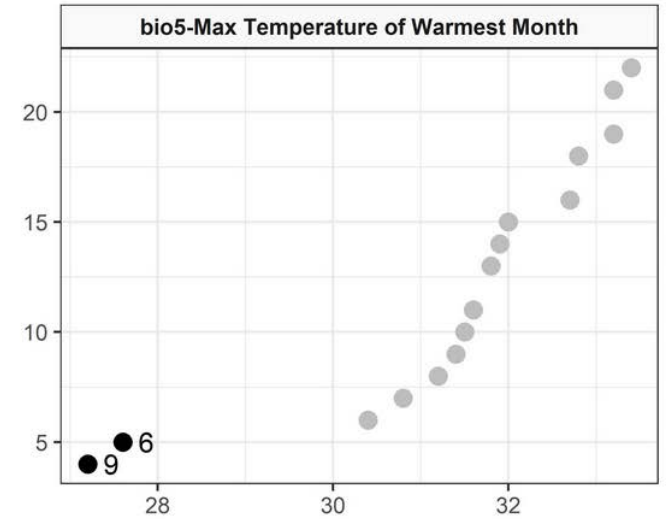
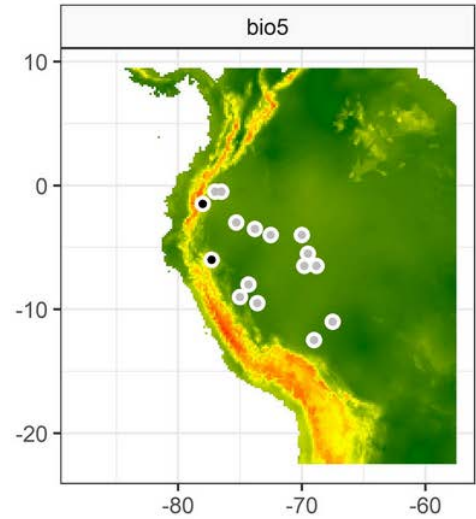


2020 datasets with more than 10K unique points  
DBSCAN settings: eps=1500km, minPts=3  
All outliers with establishmentmeans = NULL  
Only species with less than 20K unique lat-lon points run

datasets – distance-based



species – distance-based



species - environmental

Mammalia - Primates - Leontocebus fuscicollis  
specieskey=8493215  
outlier gbifids: 1920812594 2576278969 2244307771

ⓘ This is an experimental feature that highlights possible duplicate and/or related occurrences.

CURRENT

**Anochetus madagascarensis** Forel, 1887

Animalia > Arthropoda > Hymenoptera > Formicidae > Anochetus > Anochetus madagascarensis

Preparations: 100% EtOH

Dataset: AntWeb

Publisher: California Academy of Sciences

Basis of record: Preserved specimen

📍 12.8S, 45.1E 📅 February 15, 1999

1

RELATED OCCURRENCES

**Anochetus madagascarensis** Forel, 1887

Animalia > Arthropoda > Hymenoptera > Formicidae > Anochetus > Anochetus madagascarensis

Dataset: A revision of Malagasy species of Anochetus Mayr and Odontomachus Latreille (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

Publisher: Plazi.org taxonomic treatments database

Basis of record: Preserved specimen

📍 12.8S, 45.1E 📅 February 15, 1999 📄 Treatment

Similar because Same accepted species Same date Same coordinates Same country Same recorder name

Details

2

**Anochetus madagascarensis** Forel, 1887

Animalia > Arthropoda > Hymenoptera > Formicidae > Anochetus > Anochetus madagascarensis

Dataset: International Barcode of Life project (iBOL)

Publisher: The International Barcode of Life Consortium

Basis of record: Material sample

📍 12.8S, 45.1E 📅 February 15, 1999 🖼️ 1 image 🧬 Sequenced

Similar because Same accepted species Same date Same coordinates Same country Identifiers overlap

Details

3



# Clustering

- Example shows a specimen record (1), a taxonomic revision (2), a DNA sequence (3)
- Grouped using location, identification, date, local identifiers and type status (so far) and fuzzy matching
- Stored as annotations against the records
- Interface allows easy comparison of the fields on the record (details)
- Purpose
  - Richer model of related information for researchers
  - Transferring information between institutional databases (images, sequences, new identifications) which may reduce effort spent
  - Aid in deduplicating data
  - Known to contribute towards data quality improvements
  - Contribution towards the Extended Digital Specimen / Open Digital specime concept (US and DiSSCo initiatives)



# USING GBIF IN CLOUD ENVIRONMENTS

## Growing interest in big data tools

- Google Big Query increasingly being used
- Google / Amazon / Microsoft etc clouds being used by several partners
- Opportunities with science computing clouds like the European Open Science Cloud
- Simplify research, ease integrations with other datasets

## New download formats

- Apache Avro format
- Bionomia-specific format to reduce computation on client side
- Services to easily move GBIF downloads onto cloud environments (underway)

## GBIF data as public datasets

- Strong interest expressed on the GBIF community forum
- Requires new citation service (underway)
- Exploring possibilities during 2021

The top half of the image features a white background with faint, grey line art. The art includes various geometric shapes like circles, lines, and polygons, as well as scientific symbols such as a sunburst, a ruler, and a microscope. A small green horizontal line is positioned above the main title.

# **COLLECTIONS CATALOGUE**





## COLLECTIONS CATALOGUE GLOBAL CONSULTATION

- Part of the EU Synthesys+ project and run as an initiative under the Alliance
- A virtual workshop held over 2 weeks
- Two two-hour preparatory webinars to introduce the Ideas Paper  
<https://doi.org/10.35035/p93g-te47>
  - Available in English, French, Spanish and simplified Chinese
- GBIF community forum <https://discourse.gbif.org/g/Collections-catalog>
- Daily summaries, in multiple languages
- Outcomes document to be drafted



## SOME OUTCOMES

- Many communities need information on collections
- Interest in a core set of common data elements
- Each community has specific needs; may document collections at different levels of granularity
- GBIF can:
  - bring together complementary information
  - promote a consistent approach to the common elements
  - help national nodes showcase their collections and the value they offer
  - Use the DOI-based citation and usage tracking to add value to nodes and to individual collection institutions.
- The catalogue may serve as a mechanism to attract funding; global partnerships to maintain biodiversity collections
- The GRSciColl Catalogue
  - Holds a basic core suitable to act as a stub for any collection
  - Can act as a first step towards better linking

# ENHANCING THE GRSCICOLL COLLECTIONS CATALOGUE

- Monthly synchronisation with Index Herbariorum
- Collaboration with iDigBio
  - Data imported from iDigBio catalogue
  - GRSciColl powering the iDigBio collections catalogue
  - Collaborative editing responsibility
- Early exploration of synchronisation with NCBI BioCollections\*
- Linking ~170M specimen-related occurrences to GRSciColl

2021

- Mature the processes around collaborative editing
- Deploy an enhanced collections catalogue portal
- Aim to broaden integrations (Australia)
- Explore a sample profile of the TDWG collections description standard

- NCBI <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biocollections>
- Visual concept of collection catalogue <https://labs.gbif.org/visual-concepts/>
- iDigBio collections powered by GBIF infrastructure <http://beta.idigbio.org/portal/collections> (beta version)

The screenshot displays the GRSciColl Collections Catalogue interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Natural History Collections, Institutions, Collections, Specimens, People, and About. Below this, a header section for 'Hacettepe University Biodiversity Advanced Research Center Herbarium' is visible, including a DOI (10.15468/5nille) and a list of major groups (Magnoliopsida, Liliopsida) and people (Jane Franklin, Viggo Mortensen). The main content area shows a list of specimens, with three entries visible. Each entry includes a thumbnail image of the specimen, the species name, the collector, the date, the location, the number of images, the number of citations, and a 'More' link. The first entry is for *Lepilaena cylindrocarpa* Benth., collected on 13 July 2015 in Taiwan. The second entry is for *Hyphaene guineensis* Schumach. & Thonn., collected on 13 July 2015 in Estonia. The third entry is for *Hyphaene guineensis* Schumach. & Thonn., collected on 13 July 2015 in the British Indian Ocean Territory. The interface also includes a search bar and various filters (Where, When, Evidence, Quality, More filters).





## HOSTED PORTALS

- Introduced at GB26 as part of work to lower technical threshold for participation in GBIF
- Raised interest from many GBIF Participants and partners
- Development work ongoing this year
  - Reworking our APIs (GraphQL-based)
  - Developing the first modules of user interfaces (ReactJS-based)
- Represents the next phase of infrastructure for GBIF
  - Will be consistent with GBIF
  - Will contribute to the envisaged collections catalogue



# THANK YOU!

[trobertson@gbif.org](mailto:trobertson@gbif.org)

[ahahn@gbif.org](mailto:ahahn@gbif.org)

