



Helpfile for the validation of SBtab files

Creating SBtab files is a straightforward task, but it is crucial to have an eye on the details. If the syntax is not followed precisely, the automated tasks (like SBML conversion) cannot be processed. On our website you can upload your SBtab file and automatically validate it. The online validator should help you with all general problems in the creation of SBtab files by showing you a list that holds all the issues of your file:

The screenshot shows the SBtab Online Validator web interface. At the top is the SBtab logo. Below it, the text 'Online Validator' is displayed. A section for file upload includes the text 'Upload SBtab file (.tsv, .csv, .xls):' followed by a button 'Datei auswählen' and the text 'Keine ausgewählt'. Below this is a 'Submit' button. A section titled 'SBtab files that belong to the document Test' contains a list of files, with 'sbtabs_reaction_single_Reaction.tsv' selected. To the right of this file are 'Validate' and 'Remove' buttons. Below the file list, the 'File validation of sbtabs_reaction_single_Reaction.tsv:' section displays several error messages: 'The name of the SBtab table is not defined. Line: !!SBtab Level='1' Version='0.1' Document='Test' TableType='Reaction'', 'The SBtab file has an unknown column: !GeneName. Please use only supported column types!', 'The SBtab file has an unknown column: !MetabolicRegulators. Please use only supported column types!', and 'An identifier for a data row must not begin with "+" or "-: [R2', 'F16P + 2 H2O <=> F6P + Pi', 'R01015', 'fbp', '+ ATP', 'extracellular', '', 'Hill kinetic', 'True', 'True]'. At the bottom left of the interface is a link 'Back to main page'.

In very rare cases you will get the error message:

“The file that you uploaded is no SBtab file. Please only use .tsv, .csv, or .xls format. If it still does not work out, please consult the SBtab specification.”

If this is the case, please first verify that you are using one of the supported file formats for your SBtab file (.csv, .tsv, .xls). If the problem persists, something elementary seems to be wrong with the syntax of your SBtab file. Please consult the SBtab specification that you can find on our website to build a new file. You can also have a look at the example SBtab files which we provide. They should be a good starting point on building your own SBtab.

The SBtab developers will be happy to answer you any further questions which are not explained either in this manual or in the SBtab specification:

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