

Linking Biodiversity Data Using Evolutionary History

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"How can we do a better job of understanding the diversity of life?"
Paul Hebert



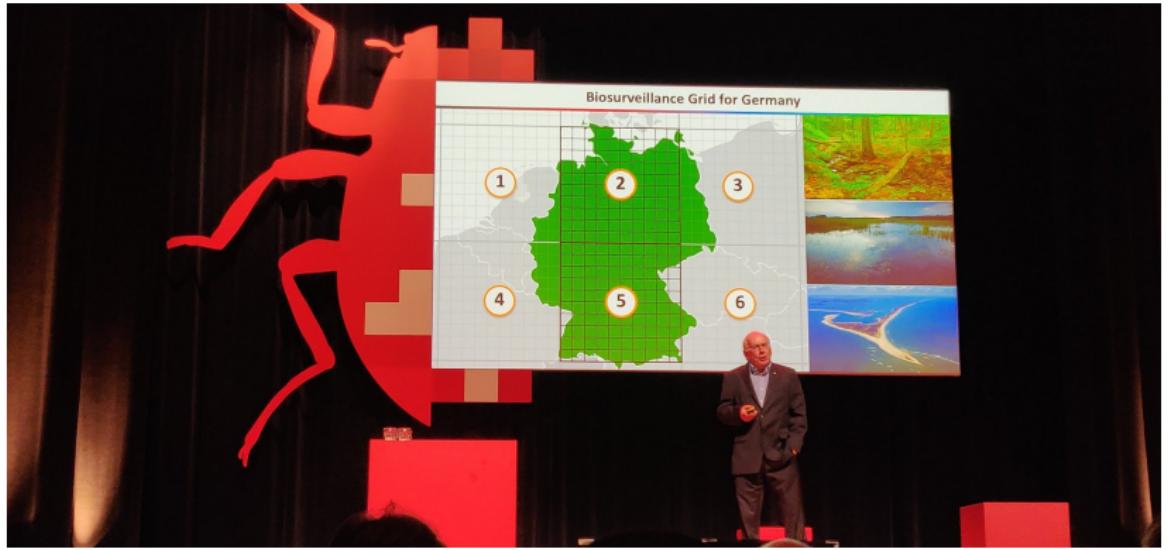


Image ©yvan2935 Twitter

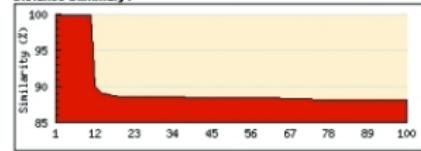


Specimen Identification Request

Identification Summary:

Taxonomic Level	Taxon Assignment	Probability of Placement (%)
Phylum	Arthropoda	100
Class	Insecta	100
Order	Lepidoptera	100
Family	Arctiidae	100
Genus	Neonerta	100
Species	Neonerta dorsipuncta	100

Distance Summary:

[Tree Based Identification](#)[Species Page](#)

1

TOP 10 Matches :

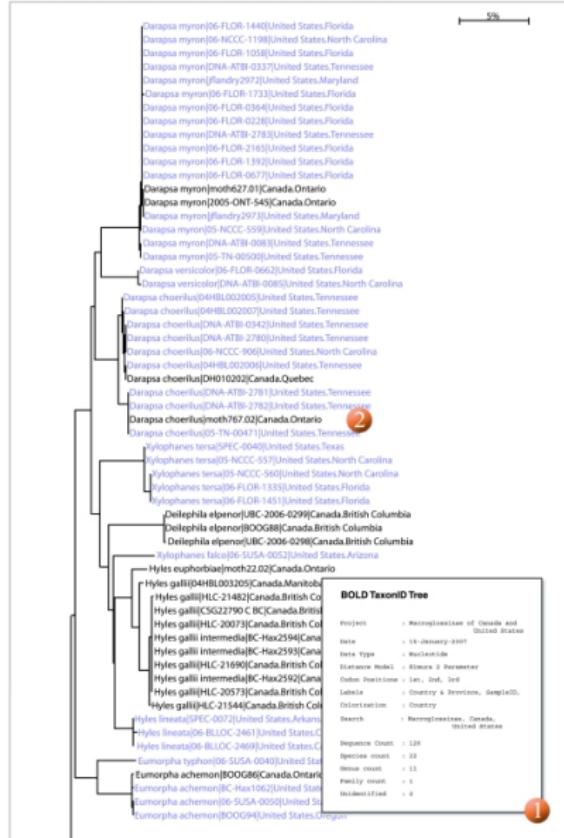
Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species	Specimen Similarity (%)
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	100
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83
			Arctiidae	Neonerta	dorsipuncta	99.83

3

4

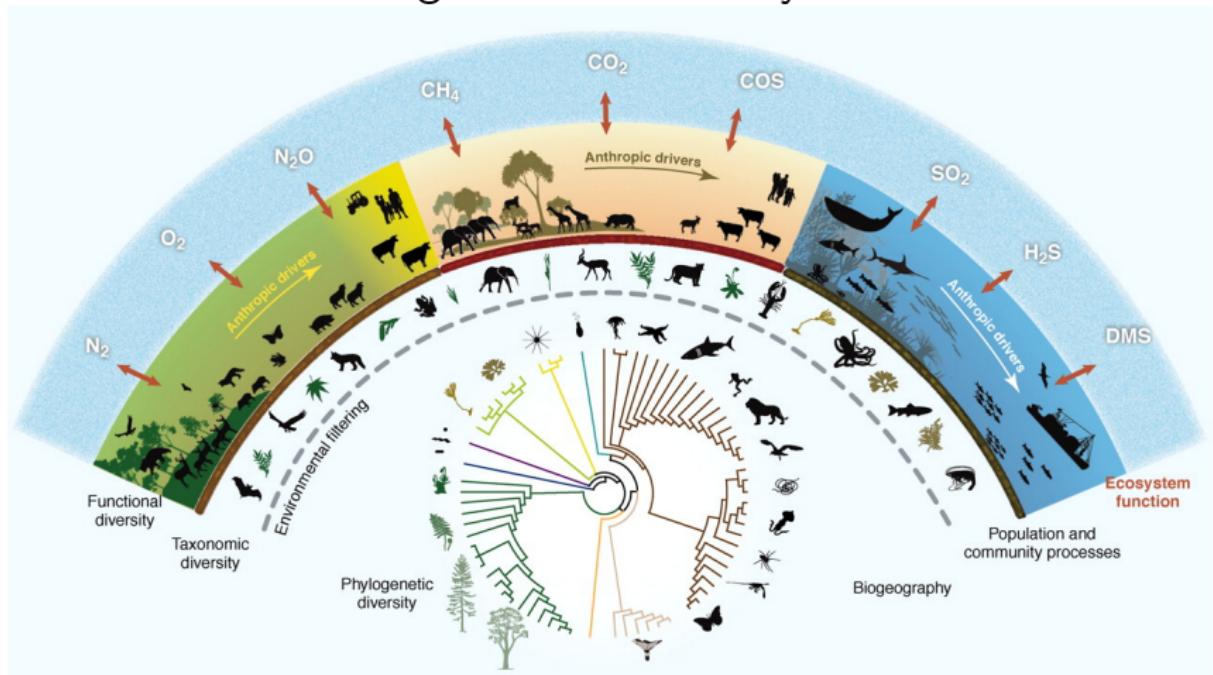
2

Ratnasingham and Hebert (2007)

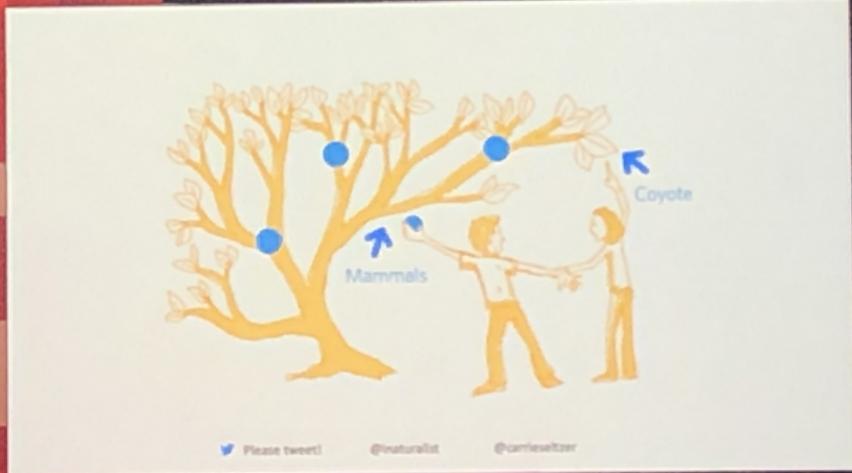


Barcodes allow us to identify, name, and place lineages in their evolutionary context

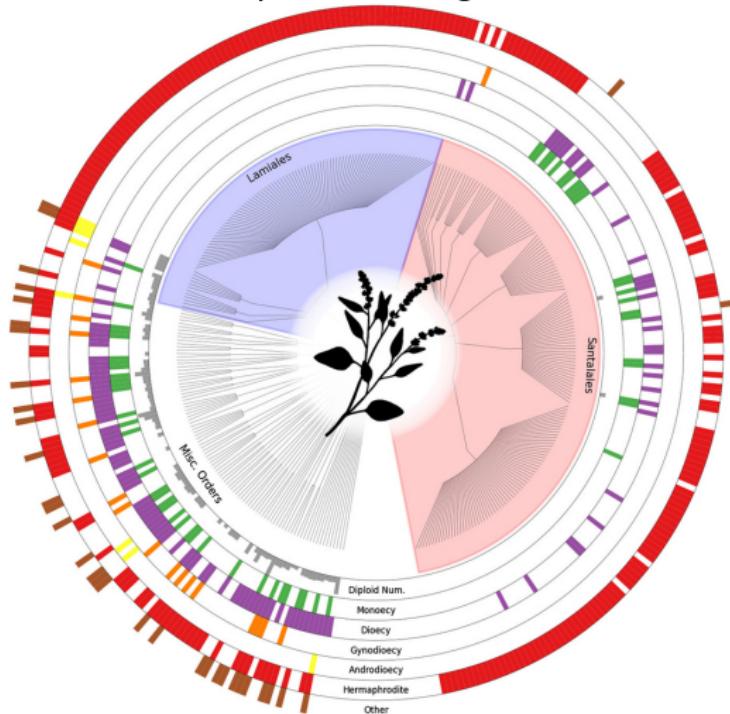
Evolutionary context provides a framework for understanding and conserving global biodiversity



Taxonomy is often used as a proxy for shared evolutionary history



Evolutionary transitions in plant mating



Tree of Sex Consortium (2014)

at best taxonomy is a coarse representation of evolutionary history

at worst taxonomy is a mis-representation of evolutionary history

at worst taxonomy is a mis-representation of evolutionary history

Traditional Taxonomic Groupings Mask Evolutionary History: A Molecular Phylogeny and New Classification of the Chromodorid Nudibranchs

Rebecca Fay Johnson , Terrence M. Gosliner



Johnson and Gosliner (2012)

Why do we use taxonomy as a proxy for shared evolutionary history?

Why do we use taxonomy as a proxy for shared evolutionary history?

Phylogenies:

don't include all the species we are interested in,
keep changing,
are hard to access.



What we have is artisanal
when we need industrial.

Paul Herbert



▶

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Goal: Build a tree of all life.

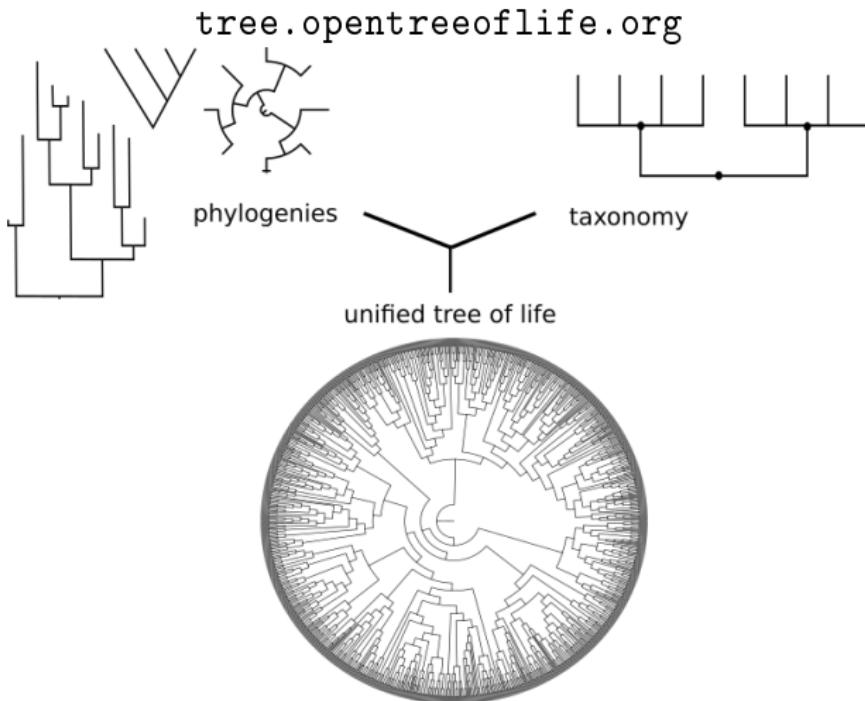


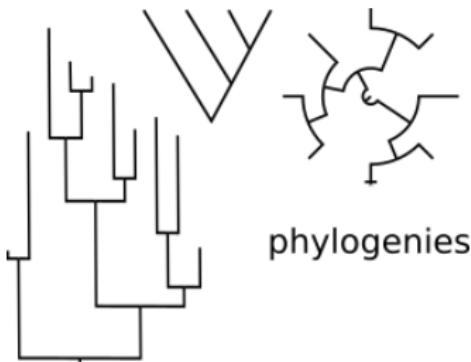
Goal: Build a tree of all life.

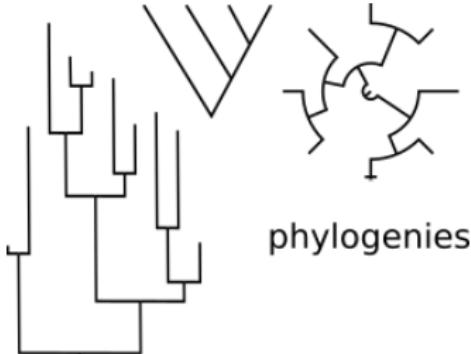
Every named species

Updated as new data becomes available

Freely and easily accessible







Current synthetic tree

1,212 community curated representative phylogenies

87,682 tips from phylogeny

New draft posted October 9, 2019, will be updated with more
input trees every few months

Redelings and Holder (2017)

Input trees

253 individual curators of 4,431 uploaded studies

Easy to use browser based interface

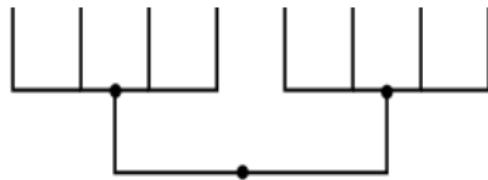
Trees can be uploaded from any source, does not have to be own data

Files are json representation of NeXML phylogenetic data format

Data store is hosted publicly on GitHub

github.com/OpenTreeOfLife/phylesystem-1
McTavish et al. (2015)





taxonomy



taxonomy

2.7 million named taxa

Merges NCBI, Index fungorum, Silva, IRMNG, GBIF and other taxonomies

Scaffold for combining ranked phylogenetic estimates

New drafts released as inputs change

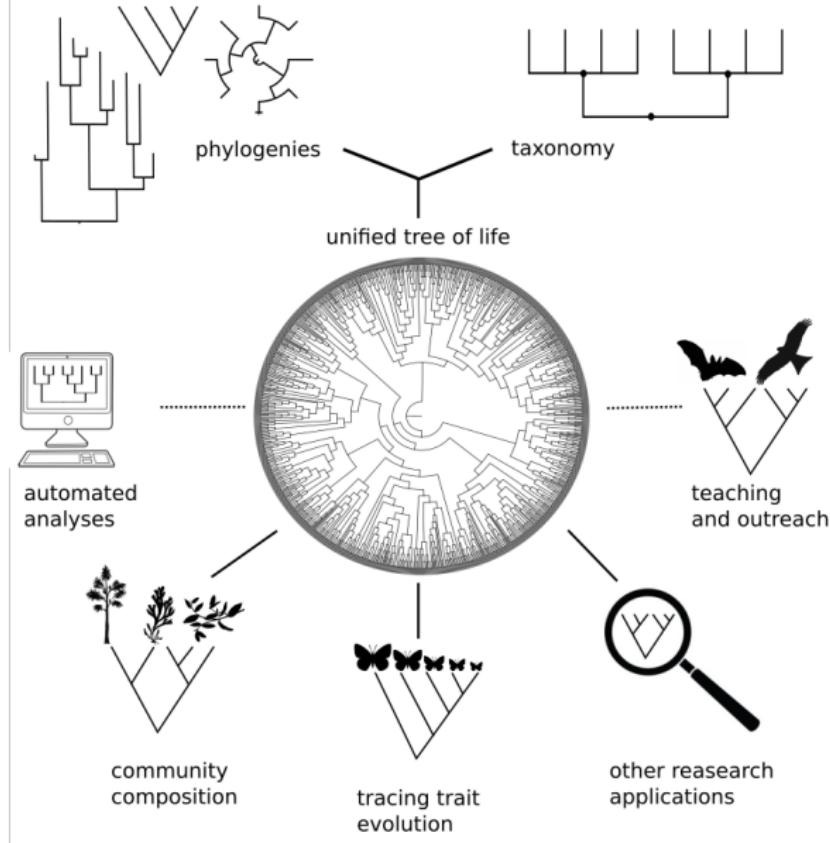
Rees and Cranston (2017)

Taxonomic versioning

OpenTree Taxonomy (OTT) v.3.1 published October 14, 2019

Includes newest NCBI updates

Version including updated GBIF names forthcoming in November.



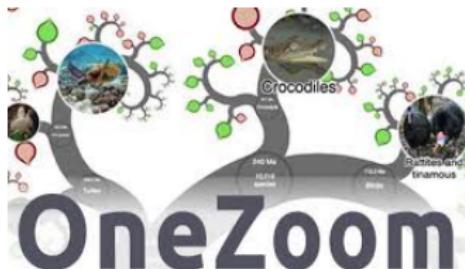
Open Tree resources are available via a range of implementations

- Browser interface, `tree.opentreeoflife.org`
- Open Tree of Life API
-  python wrapper
- R Open Tree of Life (rotl) 

CC0 license provides fully open access for downstream re-usability

CC0 license provides fully open access for downstream re-usability

Open Tree provides the tree backend for:



How can we integrate phylogenetic estimates into biodiversity research?

How can we integrate phylogenetic estimates into biodiversity research?

Case study: What is the evolutionary diversity of the species found at the UC Merced Vernal Pools Reserve

Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve
The first University of California Natural Reserve in the San Joaquin Valley

The mission of the UC Natural Reserve System is to contribute to the understanding and wise stewardship of the Earth and its natural systems by supporting university level teaching, research, and public service at protected natural areas throughout California.

This Reserve consists of 6,561 acres of protected land and encompasses the most extensive vernal pool landscape that remains in California. It provides a habitat for many threatened and endangered plants and animals. The Reserve is an use natural environment faculty and to conduct research and it is ideal for trips and a wide variety of education.

Open by reservation only. Please pols.ucmerced.edu

Cows are a necessary management tool on the Reserve. Cattle keep the grass populations in check, thereby helping the health of the vernal pools and the rare flowers found there.

Fairy Meadow
They derive their name from a clump of sheep. These species are a highly endangered species that, like the vernal pools, are threatened by lack of water.

Vernal Pools
Vernal pools are small, seasonal wetlands that develop in winter when shallow depressions in the grasslands fill after rains. These pools occur over a layer of impermeable clay beds prevents water from draining into the soil. Hundreds of pool

Meadowfoam
In spring, these tall growing wildflowers create a brilliant carpet that covers ground surrounding vernal pools.

Succulent Owl's Clovers
The Reserve is the of their occurrences in California. All these flowers are synthetic, they minerals and water attaching their roots to those of neighbor plants.

California Tiger Salamander
Tiger Salamanders depend on vernal pools and cattle ponds for breeding and laying in winter and residing beneath the ground squirrel burrow holes and in the soil.

Burrowing Owl
These unusual owls require nesting and shelter in open areas.

Get data from Global Biodiversity Information Facility

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The top navigation bar includes links for "Get data", "Share", "Tools", and "Inside GBIF". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main header features the text "Free and open access to biodiversity data" over a background image of two birds. Below the header, there are tabs for "OCCURRENCES", "SPECIES", "DATASETS", "PUBLISHERS", and "RESOURCES". A search bar is positioned below these tabs. At the bottom of the page, there are four news cards:

- Occurrence records**: 1,350,018,387 (News)
- Datasets**: 47,040 (Data use)
- Publishing Institutions**: 1,529 (Event)
- Peer-reviewed papers using data**: 3,957 (News)

Below the news cards, there are two additional news items:

- WhereNext wins 2019 GBIF Ebbe Nielsen Challenge** (23 October 2019)
- Using open data to indicate progress toward targets on conserving genetic divers...** (13 October 2019)

Facility

Get data Share Tools Inside GBIF

Occurrences

SEARCH OCCURRENCES | 6,800 WITH COORDINATES

Simple Advanced

License

Scientific name

Search

Explore Major groups

Animalia	6,703
Plantae	97

Basis of record

Location

including coordinates
 POLYGON((-120.45565 37.35309, -120.36587 37.35309, -120.36587 37.35309, -120.45565 37.35309, -120.45565 37.35309))

Year

Month

Dataset

Country or area

United States of America

Issues and flags

Media type

Publisher

Institution code

Collection code

TABLE GALLERY MAP TAXONOMY METRICS DOWNLOAD

© OpenStreetMap contributors, © OpenMapTiles, GBIF.

6,909 records in GBIF

The screenshot shows the GBIF Occurrences search results page. At the top, there are navigation links: Get data, Share, Tools, Inside GBIF, and a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. On the right, there are icons for user profile, login, and other site functions. Below the header, the title "Occurrences" is displayed with a dropdown arrow. A search bar shows the query "SEARCH OCCURRENCES | 6,909 RESULTS". To the left is a sidebar with a "Search all fields" input and various filters: Simple (selected), Advanced, License, Scientific name (with a checked checkbox for Arthropoda), Basis of record, Location, including coordinates (with a checked checkbox for POLYGON[[120.45565 37.35309, 120.36587 37...]), Year, Month, Dataset, Country or area (with a checked checkbox for United States of America), Issues and flags, Media type, Publisher, Institution code, Collection code, Catalog number, and Type status. The main content area displays a table with 6,909 rows of occurrence data. The columns are: TABLE, GALLERY, MAP, TAXONOMY, METRICS, and DOWNLOAD. The data includes columns for Scientific name, Country or area, Coordinates, Month & year, Basis of record, Dataset, Kingdom, and Phylum. The first few rows of data are:

TABLE	GALLERY	MAP	TAXONOMY	METRICS	DOWNLOAD		
Coris albinas Say, 1823	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Branca canadensis (Linnaeus, 1758)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Branca canadensis (Linnaeus, 1758)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Tringa melanoleuca (Gmelin, 1789)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Pseudacris aliena (Jaworski, Mackay & Rich.)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Larus delawarensis Ord, 1815	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 January	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Ardea herodias Linnaeus, 1758	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Calyptrata anna (Lesson, 1829)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Sialia sialis (Linnaeus, 1798)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Euphagus cyanocephalus (Wagler, 1829)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Zonotrichia leucophrys (J.J. Forster, 1772)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Sayornis saya (Bonaparte, 1823)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos Gmelin, 1789	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Ardea herodias Linnaeus, 1758	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Sayornis nigricans (Swainson, 1827)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Ardea alba Linnaeus, 1758	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 February	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata
Branca canadensis (Linnaeus, 1758)	United States of America	37.4N, 120.4W	2019 March	Human observation	Naturalist Research-grade Observations	Animalia	Chordata

GBIF.org (17 October 2019) GBIF Occurrence Download
<https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.9bigak> #CiteTheDoi!



Black Saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*) Research Grade



lunasare
19 observations



Observed:
Sep 10, 2019 8:39 AM PDT

Submitted:
Sep 10, 2019 10:27 AM PDT



Activity



lunasare suggested an ID

ID Withdrawn 1mo



joshualincoln suggested an ID

Improving 1mo



Community Taxon

What's this?

Black Saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*)

Cumulative IDs: 3 of 3



Agree

About

Projects (1)



kathyclaypolebiggs suggested an ID

1mo



Black Saddlebags

Tramea lacerata



kathyclaypolebiggs commented

1mo



So glad for this submission as it upgrades a prior sight only record for the species in Merced County! Could you please also submit this to Odonata Central where we record all such records. <https://www.odonatacentral.org>



lunasare suggested an ID

1mo



Black Saddlebags

Tramea lacerata



kathyclaypolebiggs commented

1mo



September 10, 2019

Merced County

iNatalist

University of California, Merced, Merced

!! Black Saddlebags *Tramea lacerata* -photograph updates prior sight only record CA Chart



Open Tree taxonomy: **Tramea lacerata**

The current taxonomy version is [ott3.1 \(click for more information\)](#). See the OTT documentation for [an explanation of the taxon flags used](#) below, e.g., `extinct`

Taxon details

species [Tramea lacerata](#) ncbi:126233 (gbif:1428475, irmng:10341497) sibling_higher (OTT id 340907)

[View this taxon in the current synthetic tree](#)

Lineage

[life](#) > [cellular organisms](#) > [Eukaryota](#) > [Opisthokonta](#) > [Holozoa](#) > [Metazoa](#) > [Eumetazoa](#) > [Bilateria](#) > [Protostomia](#) > [Ecdysozoa](#) > [Panarthropoda](#) > [Arthropoda](#) > [Mandibulata](#) > [Pancrustacea](#) > [Hexapoda](#) > [Insecta](#) > [Dicondylia](#) > [Pterygota](#) > [Palaeoptera](#) > [Odonata](#) > [Epiprocta](#) > [Anisoptera](#) > [Cavilabiata](#) > [Libellulidae](#) > [Tramea](#)

Can access taxon information directly from the Open Tree API's

```
~$ curl -X POST https://api.opentreeoflife.org/v3/taxonomy/taxon_info -H 'content-type:application/json' -d '{"source_id":"gbif:1428475"}'  
[  
  "flags": [  
    "sibling_higher"  
,  
  ],  
  "is_suppressed": false,  
  "is_suppressed_from_synth": false,  
  "name": "Tramea lacerata",  
  "ott_id": 340907,  
  "rank": "species",  
  "source": "ott3.1draft2",  
  "synonyms": [],  
  "tax_sources": [  
    "ncbi:126233",  
    "gbif:1428475",  
    "irmng:10341497"  
,  
  ],  
  "unique_name": "Tramea lacerata"
```

API documentation at <https://github.com/OpenTreeOfLife/germinator/wiki/Open-Tree-of-Life-Web-APIs>

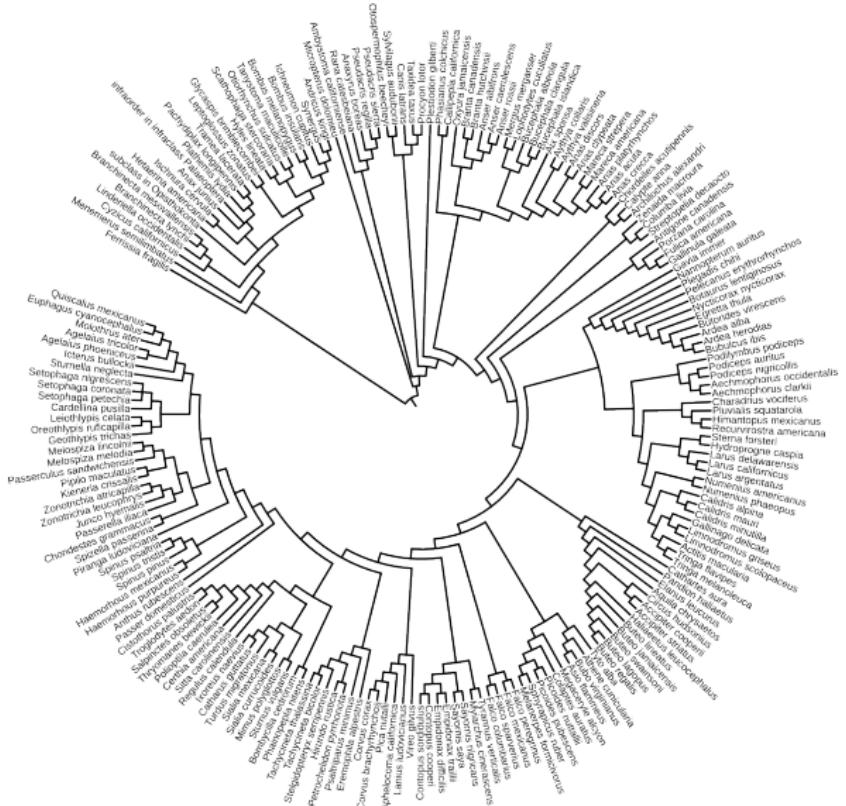
Use the GBIF ids to get a synthetic tree for all species in the reserve



Python code on Github,

https://github.com/McTavishLab/biodiversity_next

Animals of the vernal pools (6,708 records of 205 species)



Tree vis via <https://itol.embl.de>, phylogenies from 34 studies

Automatic download of references for phylogenetic inferences used in induced subtree (34 studies went into the animal tree).

Cho, S., Zwick A., Regier J., Mitter C., Cummings M.P., Yao J., Du Z., Zhao H., Kawahara A.Y., Weller S.J., Davis D.R., Baixeras J., Brown J.W., & Parr C. 2011. Can deliberately incomplete gene sample augmentation improve a phylogeny estimate for the advanced moths and butterflies (Hexapoda: Lepidoptera)?. *Systematic Biology* 60 (6): 782-796.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/syr079>

Hedtke, S.M., Patiny S., & Danforth B. 2013. The bee tree of life: a supermatrix approach to apoid phylogeny and biogeography. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 13: 138.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-2148-13-138>

Meredith, R.W., Janecka J., Gatesy J., Ryder O.A., Fisher C., Teeling E., Goodbla A., Eizirik E., Simao T., Stadler T., Rabosky D., Honeycutt R., Flynn J., Ingram C., Steiner C., Williams T., Robinson T., Herrick A., Westerman M., Ayoub N., Springer M., & Murphy W. 2011. Impacts of the Cretaceous Terrestrial Revolution and KPg Extinction on Mammal Diversification. *Science* 334 (6055): 521-524.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1211028>

Yuchi Zheng, John J. Wiens, 2016, 'Combining phylogenomic and supermatrix approaches, and a time-calibrated phylogeny for squamate reptiles (lizards and snakes) based on 52 genes and 4162 species', *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, vol. 94, pp. 537-547
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2015.10.009>

Wright, April M., Kathleen M. Lyons, Matthew C. Brandley, David M. Hillis. 2015. Which came first: The lizard or the egg? Robustness in phylogenetic reconstruction of ancestral states. *Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B: Molecular and Developmental Evolution* 324 (6): 504-516
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jez.b.22642>

Potential for biodiversity loss

SPECIES | ACCEPTED

Branchinecta mesovallensis Belk & Fugate, 2000

Published in: Belk, D.; Fugate, M. (2000). Two New Branchinecta (Crustacea: Anostraca) from the Southwestern United States. *The Southwestern Naturalist*. 45(2): 111-117.
source: Catalogue of Life

Mid-valley fairy shrimp In English

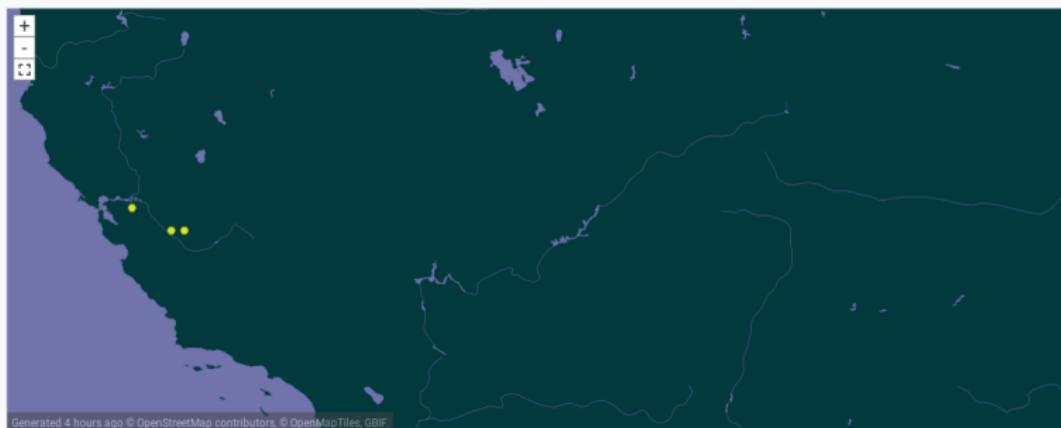
OVERVIEW

METRICS

REFERENCE TAXON 

161 OCCURRENCES

5 GEOREFERENCED RECORDS



Any year

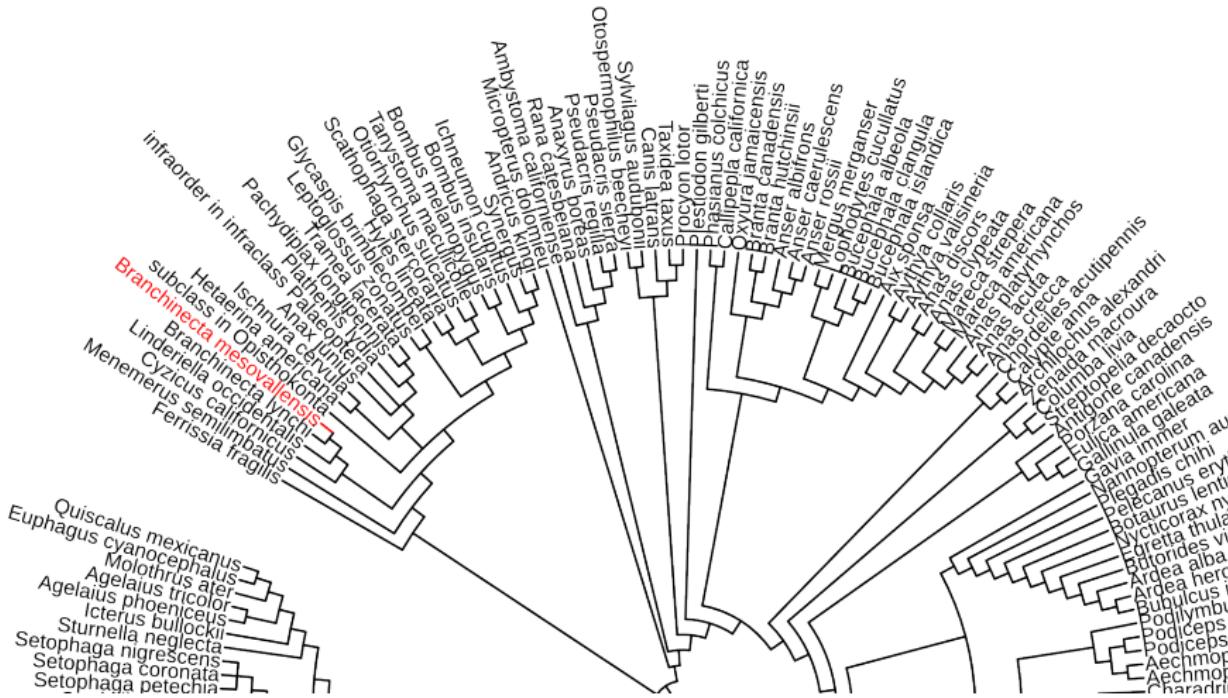
1992 - 2006



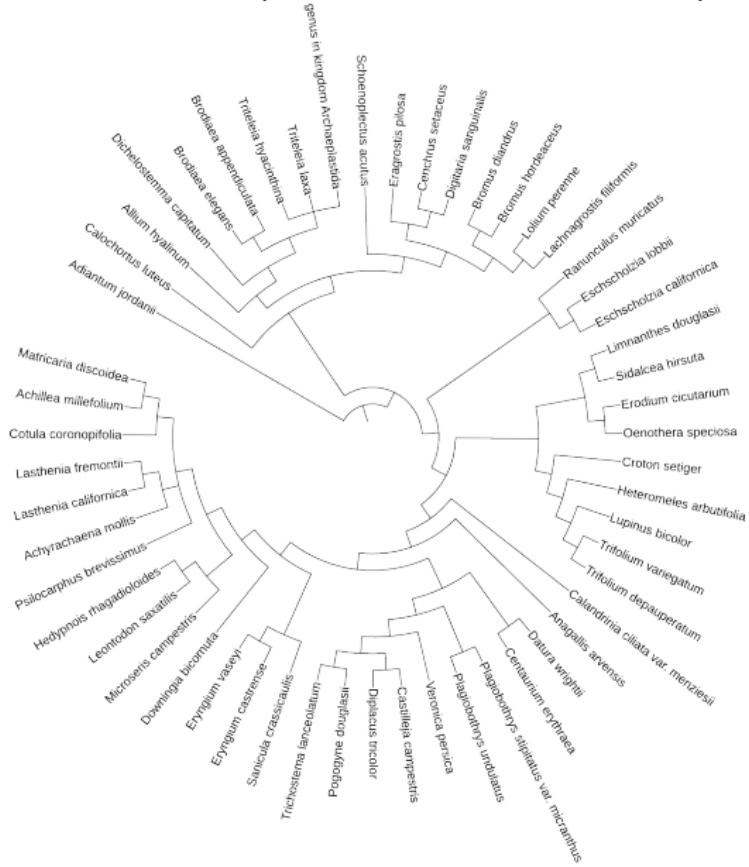
EXPLORE AREA



IUCN STATUS



Plants of the vernal pools (100 records of 61 species)



67 studies inform the relationships in the plant tree

Miao Sun, Douglas E. Soltis, Pamela S. Soltis, Xinyu Zhu, J. Gordon Burleigh, Zhiduan Chen, 2015, 'Deep phylogenetic incongruence in the angiosperm clade Rosidae', *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, vol. 83, pp. 156-166
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2014.11.003>

Magallon, Susana, Sandra Gomez-Acevedo, Luna L. Sanchez-Reyes, Tania Hernandez-Hernandez. 2015. A metacalibrated time-tree documents the early rise of flowering plant phylogenetic diversity. *New Phytologist* 207 (2): 437-453
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nph.13264>

Sun, Yanxia, Michael J. Moore, Shoujun Zhang, Pamela S. Soltis, Douglas E. Soltis, Tingting Zhao, Aiping Meng, Xiaodong Li, Jianqiang Li, Hengchang Wang. 2016. Phylogenomic and structural analyses of 18 complete plastomes across nearly all families of early-diverging eudicots, including an angiosperm-wide analysis of IR gene content evolution. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 96: 93-101
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2015.12.006>

Zhang S., Soltis D., Li D., Yang Y., & Yi T. 2011. Multi-gene analysis provides a well-supported phylogeny of Rosales. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 60(1): 21-8.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2011.04.008>

Wang, Hengchang, Michael J. Moore, Pamela S. Soltis, Charles D. Bell, Samuel F. Brockington, Roolse Alexandre, Charles C. Davis, Maribeth Latvis, Steven R. Manchester, and Douglas E. Soltis. 2009. Rosid radiation and the rapid rise of angiosperm-dominated forests. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106, no. 10 (March 10): 3853 -3858. doi:10.1073/pnas.0813376106.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0813376106>

Potential for biodiversity loss

Calochortus luteus Douglas ex Lindl.

source: Catalogue of Life

Yellow mariposa lily In English

OVERVIEW

METRICS

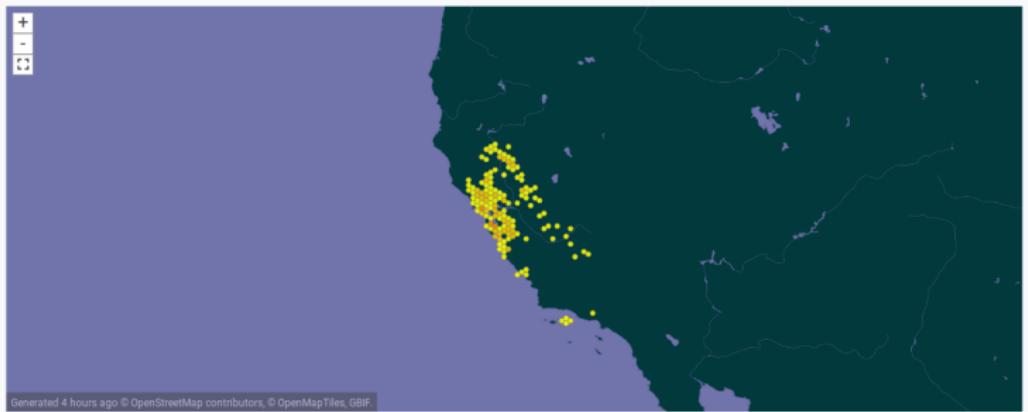
REFERENCE TAXON

1,436 OCCURRENCES

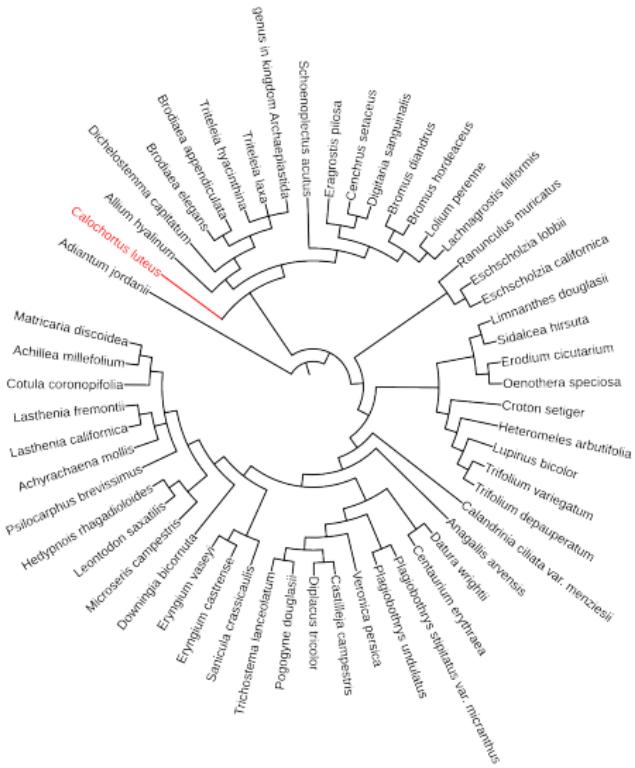
882 OCCURRENCES WITH IMAGES



983 GEOFERENCED RECORDS



Generated 4 hours ago © OpenStreetMap contributors © OpenMapTiles, OBIF



Conclusions

Phylogeny not taxonomy, can and should be used to capture evolutionary relationships among taxa.

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Open Tree cross-links phylogenetic and taxonomic information across biodiversity informatics resources

Conclusions

Phylogeny not taxonomy, can and should be used to capture evolutionary relationships among taxa.

Open Tree cross-links phylogenetic and taxonomic information across biodiversity informatics resources

A variety of tools and approaches provides wide access to Open Tree resources

Coming soon!

Automated updating with new genetic data

Branch lengths / Node ages

Private data stores

Custom synthesis

Links to wikidata

Holder, McTavish  ABI

Cranston 

Contribute your knowledge!
tree.opentreeoflife.org/curator



Thank You



NSF ABI 1759846

Mark Holder

Karen Cranston



NSF AVATOL 1208809

AVATOL PI'S: Burleigh,
Crandall, Cranston, Gude,
Hibbett, Holder, Katz, Ree,
Smith, Soltis, Williams

Lab group:

Martha Kandziora

Luna Luisa Sanchez Reyes

Lesly Lopez Fang

Jasper Toscani-Field

Joseline Velasquez

Citations

- Johnson, R. F. and Gosliner, T. M. (2012). Traditional Taxonomic Groupings Mask Evolutionary History: A Molecular Phylogeny and New Classification of the Chromodorid Nudibranchs. *PLOS ONE*, 7(4):e33479.
- McTavish, E. J., Drew, B. T., Redelings, B., and Cranston, K. A. (2017). How and Why to Build a Unified Tree of Life. *BioEssays*, 39(11).
- McTavish, E. J., Hinchliff, C. E., Allman, J. F., Brown, J. W., Cranston, K. A., Holder, M. T., Rees, J. A., and Smith, S. A. (2015). Phylesystem: a git-based data store for community-curated phylogenetic estimates. *Bioinformatics*, 31(17):2794–2800.
- Naeem, S., Duffy, J. E., and Zavaleta, E. (2012). The Functions of Biological Diversity in an Age of Extinction. *Science*, 336(6087):1401–1406.

Ratnasingham, S. and Hebert, P. D. N. (2007). bold: The Barcode of Life Data System (<http://www.barcodinglife.org>). *Molecular Ecology Notes*, 7(3):355.

Redelings, B. D. and Holder, M. T. (2017). A supertree pipeline for summarizing phylogenetic and taxonomic information for millions of species. *PeerJ*, 5:e3058.

Rees, J. A. and Cranston, K. (2017). Automated assembly of a reference taxonomy for phylogenetic data synthesis. *Biodiversity Data Journal*, (5).

Tree of Sex Consortium (2014). Tree of Sex: A database of sexual systems. *Scientific Data*, 1:140015.