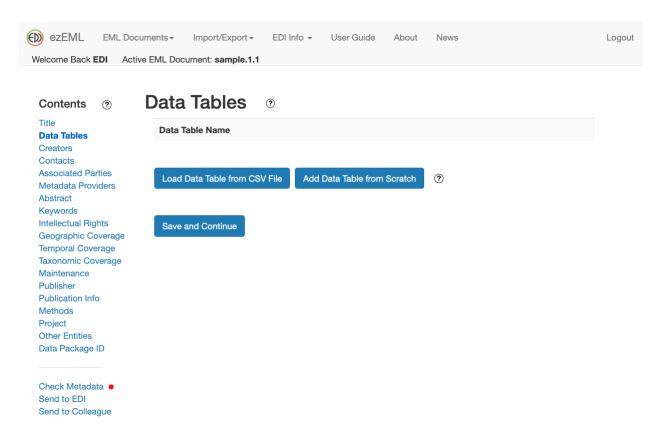
Uploading Data Tables

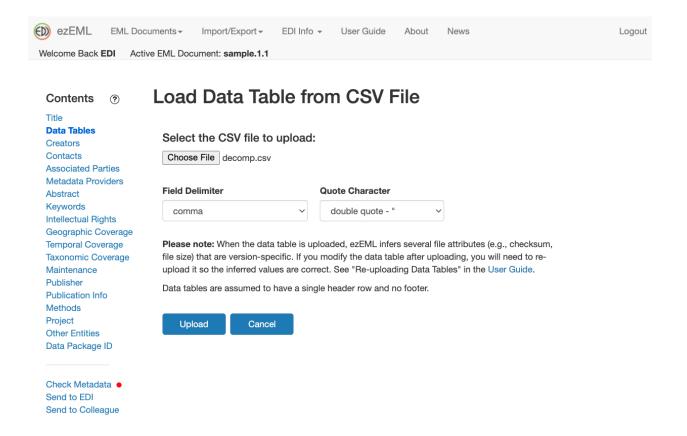
A data package typically contains one or more data tables. These data tables need to be described in the EML metadata. Entering the needed metadata by hand can be laborious and error prone. ezEML assists in this process by letting you upload your data tables in CSV (comma-separated value) format. ezEML then infers many of the needed metadata attributes for you.

To begin uploading data tables, click **Data Tables** in the **Contents** list to go the Data Tables page. Assuming you haven't uploaded any data tables yet, it will look like this:



After you have uploaded one or more data tables, they would be listed on that page.

We want to load the data table from a CSV file, not add it from scratch, so we click the button for that. This takes us to a page where we can select the CSV file to upload:



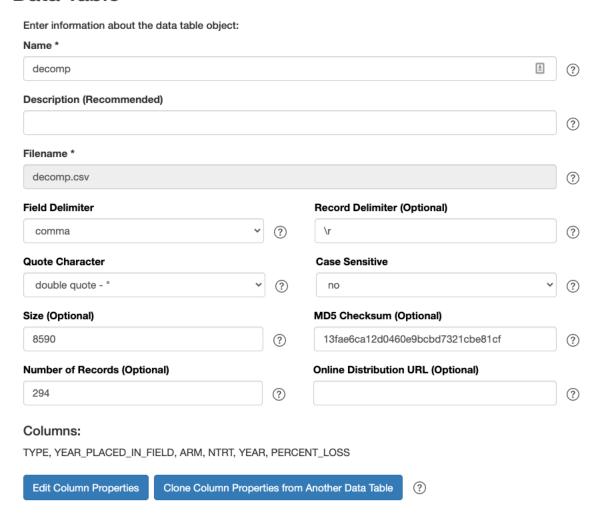
As is common practice, we refer to the file as a CSV (comma-separated value) file, but separators other than commas are supported, including tabs, vertical bars, colons, and semicolons.

In addition, the quote character can be specified, either a double quote (") or single quote ('). The quote character can be used to enclose values in the table that contain the separator within them, which otherwise would be interpreted as multiple values. E.g., if comma is the separator, a value like "Madison, Wisconsin" would be interpreted as two values if not enclosed in quotes.

In the screenshot shown above, we've selected a file called **decomp.csv**. We click **Upload** to cause the file to be uploaded and analyzed by ezEML.

ezEML will display a page that contains the metadata that pertains to the data table as a whole. In part, it looks like:

Data Table 3



You see that ezEML has filled in a number of the values for you. It has done its best to infer the values by analyzing the CSV file. You will probably want to change some values and add others. In the screenshot above, for example, you might change **Name** and **Description** to something like:

Please enter information about the data table object: Name Decomposition data Pescription (Recommended) Decomposition rates measured at a fortnightly frequency in 3 streams ?

At the bottom of the form is information about the data table's **Columns**. In this example, we have:

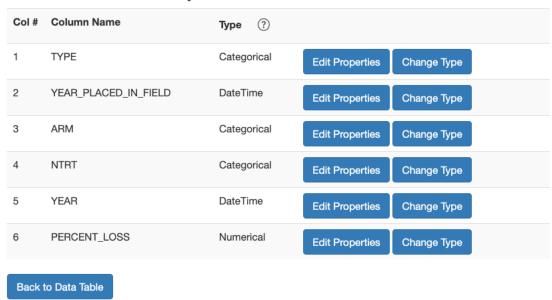
Columns: TYPE, YEAR_PLACED_IN_FIELD, ARM, NTRT, YEAR, PERCENT_LOSS Edit Column Properties Clone Column Properties from Another Data Table ? Save and Continue Cancel

ezEML does its best to infer the needed metadata for the columns, but you will need to do some tweaking.

We will skip **Clone Column Properties from Another Data Table** for now. It is explained in the "Cloning Column Properties" section of this User Guide.

Clicking Edit Column Properties brings up a page like:

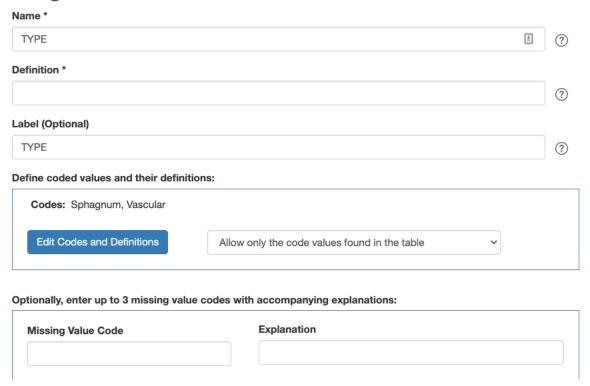
Columns of decomp



Data table columns can have one of four **Variable Types**: Categorical, Numerical, Text, or DateTime. ezEML infers the variable type based on the values in the uploaded data table, but there may be cases where you want to override the variable type inferred by ezEML for a given column. To do so, click the **Change Type** button for the column in question and select the desired variable type.

Let's suppose, though, that you are happy with the variable types as shown. You will still need to edit the columns' properties to fill in metadata that ezEML cannot get from the CSV file. In the screenshot above, suppose you click **Edit Properties** for the TYPE column. You will see a screen like:

Categorical Column



(Only part of the form is shown above.)

ezEML has used the column name (TYPE, in this case) for the **Name** and **Label** fields. Change them, as desired. The column's **Definition** is not something that is provided in the data table, but it is required. We can fill in something like:



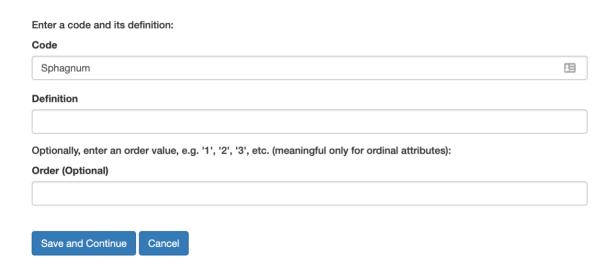
The TYPE variable in this example is a categorical variable with two category codes: Sphagnum and Vascular. ezEML is able to pick up the codes from the table, but it cannot know the code definitions. Click **Edit Codes and Definitions** to go to a page where the codes are listed:

Code Definitions for TYPE



We see that the definitions are missing for the codes, so we click **Edit** for each, bringing up forms like:

Code Definition for TYPE

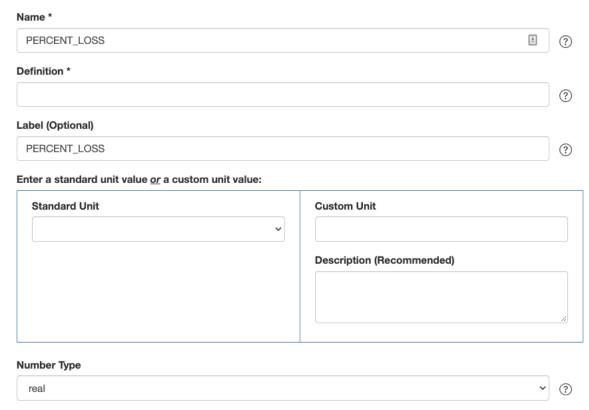


Enter the definition for the code and click OK. Do that for each code. When you are done editing the column's properties, click Save and Continue to return to the column list.

Proceeding in this way, one column at a time, you can supply the column metadata required by EML.

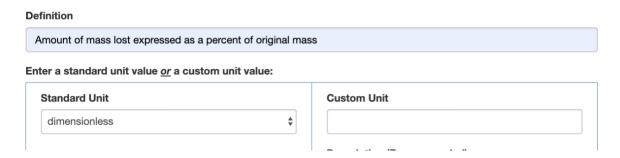
In our example, there was a numerical column called PERCENT_LOSS. Numerical columns require their units to be specified. Click **Edit Properties** for the PERCENT_LOSS column to bring up a form like:

Numerical Column



(Only part of the form is shown above.)

EML defines a list of standard units, mainly from the SI standard. If the appropriate unit for the variable in question is a standard unit, select it from the list. In this example, PERCENT_LOSS is a dimensionless percentage, so we select dimensionless from the list – and we've also filled in the column's **Definition**:



In some cases, the variable's unit is not among the standard units. In such a case, fill in a **Custom Unit** and **Description**, as in this example taken from a different data table:

Definition Mass of 1-cm lengths of Sphagnum stems beneath the capitula per m2 Enter a standard unit value or a custom unit value: Standard Unit Custom Unit gramsPerSquaredMeterPerCentimeter Description (Recommended) gramsPerSquaredMeterPerCentimeter

How do you know when you've made all of the needed modifications to an uploaded data table's metadata to satisfy EML's requirements and recommendations? ezEML's **Check**Metadata feature will check the metadata for you. See **Checking Your Metadata** in this User Guide.