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The data provided are the basis of the 48 million year old uppermost early Eocene Messel Shale food web and habitat-based lake and forest subwebs in Dunne *et al.* 2014 *PRSB*. The first worksheet (Keys), also Appendix 1, provides keys relevant for interpreting the second and third worksheets (Appendices 2 and 3). It specifies numbers associated with different lines of evidence, habitats, and certainty, as well as abbreviations for trophic roles of terrestrial invertebrates. The second worksheet/appendix (Messel Taxa) gives the complete list of 700 taxa of the full Messel Shale food web along with several types of additional information for each taxon. The third worksheet/appendix (Messel Links) provides the complete list of feeding links among the 700 taxa along with several types of additional information for each link. The fourth worksheet (Appendix 4) gives 206 references associated with the taxa and link data.