

2. Data Discovery

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Motivation

- Explore what data are currently available on the database
- Identify structure of data of interest to inform access

R Data Discovery

Let's set up our environment to get ready to explore the database.

Load packages

```
# minimal packages for RIBBiTR DB data discovery
librarian::shelf(tidyverse, dbplyr, RPostgres, DBI, RIBBiTR-BII/ribbitrrr)
```

Establish database connection

```
# establish database connection
dbcon = hopToDB("ribbitr")
```

Connecting to database... Success!

Load database metadata

Data structure: Schemas, tables, columns and rows

The RIBBiTR database is organized into “schemas” (think of these as folders), which can contain any number of tables. Each table consists of columns (“variables”) and rows (“entries”).

Metadata: Data about data

We keep track of information regarding what tables, and columns exist in the database, and what information they are designed to describe, using table and column metadata. To begin our process of data discovery, let's learn what tables are present in the data by loading the table metadata.

Table Metadata

```
# load table "all_tables" from schema "public"
mdt = tbl(dbcon, Id("public", "all_tables")) %>%
  collect()
```

Some basic database commands

Before we take a look at the metadata you just pulled, let's understand the command we just ran.

- `dplyr::tbl()` - This function is used to create a “lazy” table from a data source. To specify the source, we provide the database connection `dbcon`, as well as a pointer or “address” for the table of interest using the `Id()` function. A “lazy” table means that the data only pulled when explicitly asked for. See `collect()` below.
- `dbplyr::Id()` - This function is a pointer to pass hierarchical table identifiers (you can think of this as an address for a given table). In this case we use it to generate an pointer for the table “all_tables” in schema “public”.
- `dplyr::collect()` - the `tbl()` function generates a “lazy” table, which is basically a shopping list for the data you want to pull. In order to actually pull the data from the server to your local machine (ie. “do the shopping”) we need to pipe in the `collect()` function.

Also try: Run the code above without `collect()`, to see what a lazy table looks like.

Now let's take a look at the table metadata to explore what schemas and tables exist.

```
view(mdt)
```

Column metadata

Suppose our interest is in the `survey_data` schema. Let's take a closer look at the tables here by collecting metadata on table columns in this schema.

```
# load table "all_columns" from schema "public"
mdc = tbl(dbcon, Id("public", "all_columns")) %>%
  filter(table_schema == "survey_data") %>%
  collect()
```

Notice we used the `dplyr::filter()` command on the lazy table *before* running `collect()`. This effectively revised the shopping list before going to the store, rather than bringing home the entire store and then filtering for what you want in your kitchen. Much less (computationally) expensive!

Let's check out the column metadata, and see what you can learn.

```
view(mdc)

# list the columns in our column-metadata table
colnames(mdc)
```

[1] "table_schema"	"table_name"
[3] "column_name"	"definition"
[5] "units"	"accuracy"
[7] "scale"	"format"
[9] "natural_key"	"reviewed"
[11] "data_type"	"character_maximum_length"
[13] "numeric_precision"	"datetime_precision"
[15] "is_nullable"	"column_default"
[17] "ordinal_position"	"pg_description"
[19] "key_type"	

Curious about what a certain metadata column means? There's metadata for that (metametadata?)!

```
# view metadata on metadata columns
view(mdc %>% filter(table_name == "metadata_columns"))
```

A few columns to point out:

- definition
- units
- data_type
- natural key

(more on keys later)

Our first(?) data table

Ok, let's try to apply some of what we have learned by pulling directly from a data table. We can begin by taking a look at the visual encounter surveys (VES).

```
# create lazy table for ves (visual encounter survey) table
db_ves = tbl(dbcon, Id("survey_data", "ves"))
```

Do these functions look familiar? Turns out, we were pulling data all along! Of course, this is a lazy table (ie. shopping list) so it doesn't look like data yet. Let's see what we can learn from it before going to the store to collect the data.

What columns the table contains:

```
# return columns of lazy table
colnames(db_ves)
```

```

[1] "species-ves"          "count-ves"          "detection_location"
[4] "microhab"            "life_stage"         "sex"
[7] "comments-ves"        "microhab_moredetail" "observer-ves"
[10] "visual_animal_state" "ves_id"             "survey_id"

```

How many total rows a table contains:

```

# count rows
db-ves %>%
  summarise(row_count = n()) %>%
  pull(row_count)

```

```

integer64
[1] 28390

```

The pull() function executes a query to return a single column or variable, synonymous with the collect() function which returns a collection of variables as a table.

How many rows after filtering for unknown species:

```

# count rows with known species
db-ves %>%
  filter(!is.na(species-ves),
         species-ves != "unknown-species") %>%
  summarise(row_count = n()) %>%
  pull(row_count)

```

```

integer64
[1] 28232

```

How many rows corresponding to a each life stage:

```

# count rows by life stage
db-ves %>%
  select(life_stage) %>%
  group_by(life_stage) %>%
  summarise(row_count = n()) %>%
  arrange(desc(row_count)) %>%
  collect()

```

```
# A tibble: 8 x 2
  life_stage row_count
  <chr>      <int64>
1 tadpole      10276
2 adult         9551
3 subadult      7162
4 <NA>          764
5 eggmass       625
6 egg           9
7 juvenile       2
8 metamorph      1
```

Also try

Python Data Discovery

Let's set up our environment to get ready to explore the database.

Load packages

```
# minimal packages for Python DB data discovery
import ibis
from ibis import _
import pandas as pd
import dbconfig
```

Establish database connection

```
# Establish database connection
dbcon = ibis.postgres.connect(**dbconfig.ribbitr)
```

Load database metadata

Data structure: Schemas, tables, columns and rows

The RIBBiTR database is organized into “schemas” (think of these as folders), which can contain any number of tables. Each table consists of columns (“variables”) and rows (“entries”).

Metadata: Data about data

We keep track of information regarding what tables, and columns exist in the database, and what information they are designed to describe, using table and column metadata. To begin our process of data discovery, let's learn what tables are present in the data by loading the table metadata.

Table Metadata

```
# load table "all_tables" from schema "public"
mdt = dbcon.table(database = "public", name = "all_tables").to_pandas()
```

Some basic database commands

Before we take a look at the metadata you just pulled, let's understand the command we just ran.

- `ibis.table()` - This function is used to create a “lazy” table from a data source. To specify the source, we modify the database connection `dbcon`. We specify the schema for the table as `public` (note `ibis` calls this “database”), as well as the table name `all_tables`. A “lazy” table means that the data only pulled when explicitly asked for. See `execute()` below.
- `ibis.to_pandas()` - the `table()` function generates a “lazy” table, which is basically a shopping list for the data you want to pull. In order to actually pull the data from the server to your local machine (ie. “do the shopping”) we need to collect the lazy table by chaining the `to_pandas()` function.

Also try: Run the code above without `to_pandas()`, to see what an uncollected lazy table looks like.

Now let's take a look at the table metadata to explore what schemas and tables exist.

```
print(mdt)
```

	table_schema	table_name	column_count	table_description
0	bay_area	amphib_dissect	41	None
1	bay_area	amphib_parasite	11	None
2	bay_area	water_quality_info	27	None
3	bay_area	site	25	None
4	bay_area	wetland_info	25	None
..
58	kira_pep	survey	17	None
59	kira_pep	ves	9	None

60	kira_pep	capture	24	None
61	kira_pep	metadata_tables	4	None
62	kira_pep	metadata_columns	19	None

[63 rows x 4 columns]

Column metadata

Suppose our interest is in the `survey_data` schema. Let's take a closer look at the tables here by collecting metadata on table columns in this schema.

```
# load table "all_columns" from schema "public"
mdc = (
    dbcon.table(database="public", name="all_columns")
    .filter(_.table_schema == 'survey_data')
    .to_pandas()
)
```

Notice we used the `ibis.filter()` command on the lazy table *before* calling `to_pandas()`. This effectively revised the shopping list before going to the store, rather than bringing home the entire store and then filtering for what you want in your kitchen. Much less (computationally) expensive!

Let's check out the column metadata, and see what you can learn.

```
# view dataframe
print(mdc)
```

	table_schema	table_name	...	pg_description	key_type
0	survey_data	region	...	None	FK
1	survey_data	site	...	None	None
2	survey_data	site	...	None	None
3	survey_data	site	...	None	None
4	survey_data	capture	...	None	None
..
335	survey_data	ves	...	None	None
336	survey_data	ves	...	None	None
337	survey_data	ves	...	None	None
338	survey_data	ves	...	None	None
339	survey_data	ves	...	None	FK

[340 rows x 19 columns]


```
# list the columns in our column-metadata table
mdc.columns
```

```
Index(['table_schema', 'table_name', 'column_name', 'definition', 'units',
      'accuracy', 'scale', 'format', 'natural_key', 'reviewed', 'data_type',
      'character_maximum_length', 'numeric_precision', 'datetime_precision',
      'is_nullable', 'column_default', 'ordinal_position', 'pg_description',
      'key_type'],
      dtype='object')
```

Curious about what a certain metadata column means? There's metadata for that (metametadata?)!

```
# view metadata on metadata columns
metameta = mdc[mdc['table_name'] == 'metadata_columns']
print(metameta)
```

	table_schema	table_name	...	pg_description	key_type
5	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	PK
6	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
8	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
9	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
10	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
11	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
12	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
13	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
14	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
99	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
254	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
255	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	PK
256	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
257	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
258	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	PK
259	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
260	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
261	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None
263	survey_data	metadata_columns	...	None	None

[19 rows x 19 columns]

A few columns to point out:

- definition

- units
- data_type
- natural key

(more on keys later)

Our first(?) data table

Ok, let's try to apply some of what we have learned by pulling directly from a data table. We can begin by taking a look at the visual encounter surveys (VES).

```
# create lazy table for ves (visual encounter survey) table
db_ves = dbcon.table(database="survey_data", name="ves")
```

Do these functions look familiar? Turns out, we were pulling data all along! Of course, this is a lazy table (ie. shopping list) so it doesn't look like data yet. Let's see what we can learn from it before going to the store to collect the data.

What columns the table contains:

```
# return columns of lazy table
db_ves.columns
```

```
['species_ves', 'count_ves', 'detection_location', 'microhab', 'life_stage', 'sex', 'comment']
```

How many total rows a table contains:

```
# count rows
(db_ves
 .count()
 .execute())
```

28390

The `ibis.execute()` function executes a query and returns the result, regardless of the format. This is synonymous with the `to_pandas()` function which returns query results as a pandas dataframe where possible.

How many rows after filtering for unknown species:

```
# count rows with known species
filtered_row_count = (
    db-ves
    .filter(_.species-ves.notnull() & (_.species-ves != 'unknown-species'))
    .count()
    .execute()

print(filtered_row_count)
```

28232

How many rows corresponding to a each life stage:

```
# count rows by life stage
life_stage_counts = (
    db-ves.group_by('life_stage')
    .aggregate(row_count=_.count())
    .order_by(_.row_count.desc())
    .to_pandas()
)

print(life_stage_counts)
```

	life_stage	row_count
0	tadpole	10276
1	adult	9551
2	subadult	7162
3	None	764
4	eggmass	625
5	egg	9
6	juvenile	2
7	metamorph	1

DBeaver Data Discovery

[Previous Tutorial: Connection Setup](#) | [Next Tutorial: Data Pulling](#)