KeyBase Guide/Documentation

KeyBase is a dichotomous key player that is hosting the Jepson eFlora keys.  
http://keybase.rbg.vic.gov.au

http://keybase.rbg.vic.gov.au/projects/show/11

KeyBase is developed by Niels Klazenga at RBG Victoria

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Contact Niels and he can add you as a manager to the Jepson eFlora project on KeyBase

**How KeyBase Works**

In order to load keys into KeyBase, keys must be in the following tab-delimited format

[couplet number][lead text]["to couplet" number or taxon name]

An example (simplified from actual eflora text):

1[tab]Sepals persistent in fruit [tab]Alyssum alyssoides

1[tab]Sepals early-deciduous; filaments winged and/or toothed[tab]2

2[tab]Fruit glabrous (sparsely hairy), 2.5--4(4.5) mm[tab]Alyssum desertorum

2[tab]Fruit hairy, (3.5)4--6.5(7) mm[tab]Alyssum simplex

To load a new key into KeyBase, a text file formatted as above is loaded into KeyBase by using the "Create New Key" button on the project page. For the key, you must fill in the Key Name, Taxonomic scope, and Geographic scope.

* For names we follow the convention "Genera of Rosaceae", "Species of Rosa", etc.
  + For compound keys, the first key is called e.g. "Groups of Asteraceae", then subsequent keys are called "Asteraceae Group 1", "Asteraceae Group 2", etc.
* Taxonomic scope is the scope of the key. "Rosaceae", "Rosa", "Asteraceae", "Asteraceae Group 1", etc. The taxonomic scope is how the keys link up. For example, The Rosa key knows to nest in the Rosaceae key because one of the Rosaceae terminals ends in "Rosa", and the taxonomic scope of the Rosa key is also "Rosa"
* Geographic scope is always "California".

The key file is then loaded using the "Delimited text" option. Keybase will run checks on the file to check for dead ends, orphan couplets, etc. If the key has an issue it will not load. Otherwise it will successfully load.

To update an existing key:

* Log in
* Go to the "Keys (list)" tab on the project page
* Find the key to update; click on the page icon to the right of the key name
* Upload the new file (there is probably no need to edit the metadata)

Keys are loaded one at a time through the Keybase interface. Keys can also be directly loaded in bulk by Niels given some extra formatting. Since all keys are now loaded and the flora project is revising keys at a slow pace, you may choose not to bother with the bulkloading route.

**Generating Key Files**

Dick Moe wrote a perl script in the KeyBase directory called "make\_keys\_for\_pruning.pl". It pulls the eflora treatments file from ~/DATA/eFlora/eflora\_treatments.txt and parses it into one giant text output. Direct it to an output file with the following command:

$ perl make\_keys\_for\_pruning.pl > output\_file\_name.txt

The output paragraphs (each paragraph is one key) were saved into separate files that were uploaded into KeyBase. All these files were uploaded in this manner were saved in the formatted keys folders

**Note** that some keys may not be represented in these directories since Niels did bulkload a batch of keys for us early in the project

**Monotypic Taxa**

**Parsing Exceptions**

**Filters**