[Learn about the ALA](https://wpprod2017.ala.org.au/atlas-information-hub/) > [About the ALA](https://wpprod2017.ala.org.au/about-the-atlas/)

**Knowledge base**

**About the ALA**

The Atlas of Living Australia provides free, online access to information about Australia’s biodiversity.

It is collaborative, open infrastructure that pulls together biodiversity data from multiple sources, and makes it accessible and reusable.

The information available includes species information and occurrence records (based on field observations, specimens from biological collections, and surveys), photographs, sound recordings, maps, molecular data, and links to additional literature. Powerful mapping tools allow users to explore and analyse this information.

The ALA is used for research, environmental monitoring, conservation planning and management, education, and citizen science activities.

Funding for the ALA comes from the Australian Government through the [National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)](https://www.education.gov.au/national-collaborative-research-infrastructure-strategy-ncris). It is a node of the [Global Biodiversity Infrastructure Facility (GBIF)](http://www.gbif.org/).

#### At a glance information

#### Occurrence Records

70,031,639

#### Species

499,057

#### Data downloads

1,149,398

#### Registered users

36,051

#### Our mission

To lead the digital transformation of Australia’s biodiversity knowledge, promoting excellence and enabling collaboration in biodiversity research.

#### Our focus

The ALA pulls together two basic types of information about Australia’s living things: species and environments. We create tools for our users to share and analyse this data in different ways.

We are committed to the principles of open data and infrastructure.

#### Our users

The ALA is designed for scientists, industry staff, policy makers and the general public with an interest in biodiversity and the environment.

We create tools to help users capture, share and interrogate biodiversity information in increasingly efficient ways.

#### Our impact

By enabling science, industry and policy makers to work more efficiently, we impact many diverse areas of Australian biodiversity research and sustainability practice.

We are an essential resource for biodiversity conservation, sustainable ecosystem development, new species discoveries, systematics (relationships between living things), taxonomy (naming and classification), digitisation of biological collections, natural resource management and environmental impact assessments.

#### Governance

The ALA is made possible thanks to contributions from our many partners.

[**ALA partners**](https://rawgit.com/AtlasOfLivingAustralia/front-end-static/master/ALA%20Website%20Recreation%20in%20BS3%202017/article-IEK.html)

Note: need an ALA partner’s page

The ALA receives support from the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), the Super Science Initiative and the Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme.

[**ALA Governance Structure**](https://rawgit.com/AtlasOfLivingAustralia/front-end-static/master/ALA%20Website%20Recreation%20in%20BS3%202017/article-IEK.html)

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