GBIF Important Fields

**basisOfRecord**

This denotes the nature of the collection and can be one of the following:

* Preserved specimen
* Fossil specimen
* Living specimen
* Material sample
* Human observation
* Machine observation
* Unknown

**coordinateUncertaintyInMeters**

If a record has latitude and longitude coordinates (which is mandatory for our purposes), this field will contain the assumed distance from those coordinates in which the species was recorded within.

From Darwin Core references: *“The horizontal distance (in meters) from the given decimalLatitude and decimalLongitude describing the smallest circle containing the whole of the Location. Leave the value empty if the uncertainty is unknown, cannot be estimated, or is not applicable (because there are no coordinates). Zero is not a valid value for this term.”*

**country**

Obviously this is the country in which the occurrence location is recorded. It will always be set to ‘US’ for our purposes.

**decimalLatitude**

From the Darwin Core references: *“The geographic latitude (in decimal degrees, using the spatial reference system given in geodeticDatum) of the geographic center of a Location. Positive values are north of the Equator, negative values are south of it. Legal values lie between -90 and 90, inclusive.”*

**decimalLongitude**

From the Darwin Core references: *“The geographic longitude (in decimal degrees, using the spatial reference system given in geodeticDatum) of the geographic center of a Location. Positive values are east of the Greenwich Meridian, negative values are west of it. Legal values lie between -180 and 180, inclusive.”*

**goedeticDatum**

This should always be ‘WGS84’

From the Darwin Core references: *“The ellipsoid, geodetic datum, or spatial reference system (SRS) upon which the geographic coordinates given in decimalLatitude and decimalLongitude as based.”*