ESA 2022 Talk

There are currently over 112 million records in the Atlas of Living Australia, or ALA.

Outline:

* There are a lot of records available in the ALA
* You can download them from the website, but with many scientists using R to do transparent analyses, there is a need to be able to download data in R easily
* In 2014, the ALA made the R package **ALA4R**. At the time, this was groundbreaking because it was flexible in allowing users to download lots of types of data using publicly accessible programming interfaces, or APIs.
* But it had lots of problems too
* Other packages first released at the same time had similar problems of not being super user friendly. Other packages for downloading taxonomic data made around the same time also have similar syntax issues, that mainly reflective of a time when R didn’t have any particular standards
* But then the tidyverse came and simplified R syntax
  + Use certain naming standards
  + Added piping
  + Creating a recognised vocabulary for functions
* In galah