

Photobiont Diversity

*Genetic diversity of lichen photobionts
and related organisms*

PhotobiontDiversity.org: A searchable database of photobiont sequences

Posted on [November 5, 2013](#) by [heath.obrien](#)

After six months of working on this project, I've amassed a collection of over 5,500 sequences from lichen photobionts and their relatives. Storage and retrieval of this data using text files has become increasingly unwieldy for me, and I suspect that very few other people have been bothering to access the [github](#) repository where the data are archived. In an effort to improve accessibility, I've migrated this blog to a dedicated web server and created a searchable SQL database that can be accessed right from the blog. Below the banner, you'll find a "Photobiont Sequences" tab, that will allow you to select green algae or cyanobacteria, specific genes, or the entire database. You can search for specific photobiont or host species, or filter the table using the selection boxes below each column.

My hope is that people who are interested in a particular group of lichens can use these tables to find out what photobiont(s) they are associated with. This information is not consistently encoded in Genbank, so until now it has usually required a laborious literature search to obtain it. Please let me know if you find this to be useful and if there are additional enhancements that you would like to see. I will be adding high-resolution trees for each group in the coming weeks, and hope to make them searchable as well if I can overcome the technical challenges of doing so. I'm also hoping to add links to Genbank for all of the sequences in the database.

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