

Finding and Exporting Data

Not sure what tool to use to find and export data? BioMart is used to retrieve data for complex queries, involving a few or many genes or even complete genomes.

BioMart

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1. BioMart basics

BioMart is a biological data mining tool. It allows users to look up specific data of different types using a user friendly interface, just with a few click you can perform complex queries

across organisms. In brief, to set up a query you need to apply "Filters" and declare "Attributes", which are the reported data fields. The results can be visualized on screen and also and download in different file formats, e.g., HTML, XLS. To call the script, in addition to the web graphical user interface (GUI), you can also use web services, Perl API and the URL.

These are the different data types available from BioMart¹:

✓ CHOOSE DATABASE

VectorBase Genes

VectorBase Variation

VectorBase Expression

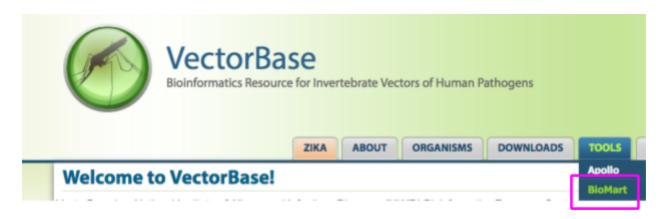
Genes: gene metadata, predicted molecular and bioinformatic information, sequences

Variation: Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms, SNPs

Expression: Transcript data

2. How to use the tool and interpret its output?

a. Quick start



Go to BioMart (from the Tools navigation menu or from the organism pages)

Choose the Genes database

Select *Anopheles gambiae* dataset (or gene set)

Perform a query selecting "Filters" to ask for protein-coding genes:

Filters -> gene -> gene type -> protein_coding

¹ BioMart Genes database works with all VectorBase genomes except with *Anopheles sinensis* (China) and *An. stephensi* (Indian). Based on data availability, only a subset of specie is available for the Variation and Expression databases.

 Click on "Count" (gives total of hits) and on "Results" (shown the hits). Notice that out of the 13763 genes in the genome of Anopheles gambiae, 13024 are coding genes. By default the table shows only 10.



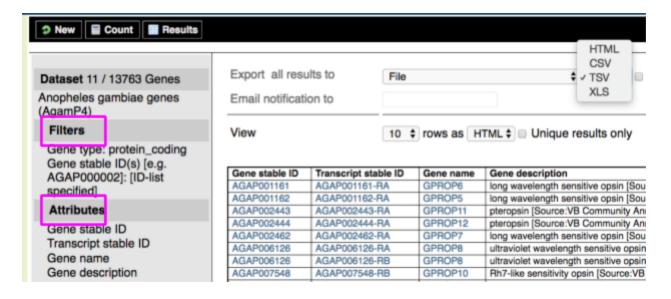
Refine your query with an ID list. Filters -> gene -> Input external references ID list (type, paste or upload file): AGAP013149, AGAP012985, AGAP012982, AGAP001162, AGAP001161, AGAP002462, AGAP006126, AGAP010089, AGAP007548, AGAP002443, AGAP002444

Select "Attributes" to obtain the following gene metadata

Attributes -> Features -> Gene -> Ensembl -> Gene name -> Gene description

Click on 'Count' and 'Results'

Export results to -> File -> XLS -> GO



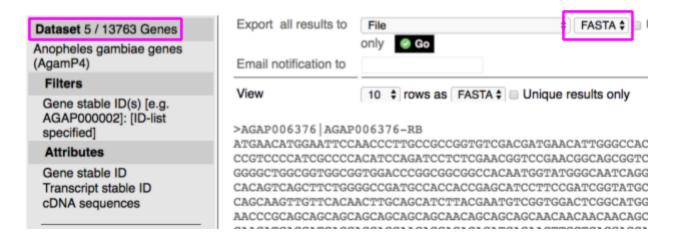
b. Sample queries

Sample query #1

How to export sequence of your genes of interest?

- 1. Create a text file (*.txt) with these gene ID's: AGAP001856, AGAP008288, AGAP004261 AGAP006376, AGAP005655. A sample file provided in the tutorial's page.
- 2. Go to BioMart.

- 3. Choose "Genes" as your DataBase and A. gambiae as your "Dataset".
- 4. Click on "Filters" -> Gene
- 5. Click on the check box for "Input external references ID list". By default you get "Gene stable ID(s)" in the drop down menu. Click on "Choose File" and upload the text file from step 1 or type/copy the gene IDs in the box provided.
- Click on "Attributes" -> Sequences -> SEQUENCES
- 7. Select "cDNA sequences".
- 8. Click on "Count" and later on "Results". You have selected 5 out of the 13,763 A. gambiae genes.
- 9. By default the output is in FASTA format. Click on "Go" to download the results.



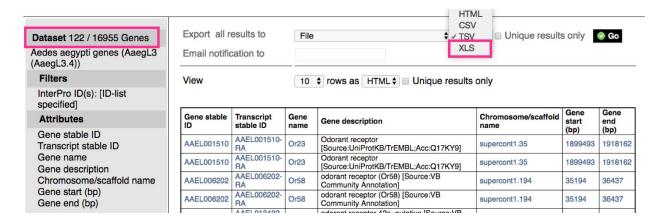
Sample query #2

How to find all the homolog genes for your family of interest?

- 1. Go to BioMart. Choose genes as your database and A. aegypti as your dataset.
- 2. Click on Filters and expand the "Protein domains and families" section. Check the box "Limit to genes with these family or domain IDs", select InterPro ID(s) and type "IPR004117" in the provided box.

² You can obtain this information in the Genome Browser from your gene of interest under Transcript-based displays > Domains & features. Use the InterPro accession in the InterPro website, https://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/. IPR004117 comes back as "Olfactory receptor, insect".

- 3. Click on Attributes and select Features -> GENE -> Ensembl -> Chromosome/scaffold name, gene start (bp), gene end (bp), gene name, and gene description.
- 4. Click on "Count" and "Results". There are 122 genes with this "Olfactory receptor, insect" protein domain in *A. aegypti* genome.
- 5. Export the file XLS format.

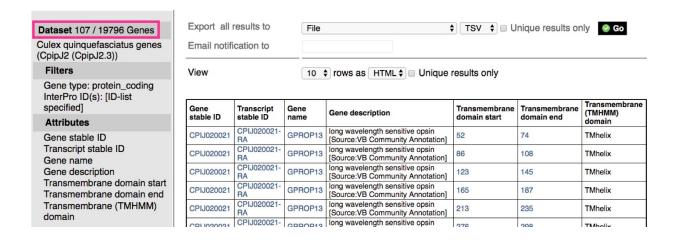


Sample query #3

How to find protein-coding genes with transmembrane domains?

- 1. Go to BioMart. Choose genes as your database and *Culex quinquefasciatus* as your dataset.
- 2. Select the filters
 - GENE -> Gene type -> protein_coding
 - PROTEIN DOMAINS AND FAMILIES -> Limit to genes with these family or domain IDs -> InterPro ID(s): IPR017452³
- 3. Select attributes
 - GENE -> Ensembl -> Gene name -> Gene description
 - PROTEIN DOMAINS -> Protein features -> transmembrane helices start & end
- 4. Click on "Count" and "Results". There are 107 genes with "GPCR, rhodopsin-like, 7TM" protein domain in *C. quinquefascaitus* genome.
- 5. Select an output format to download.

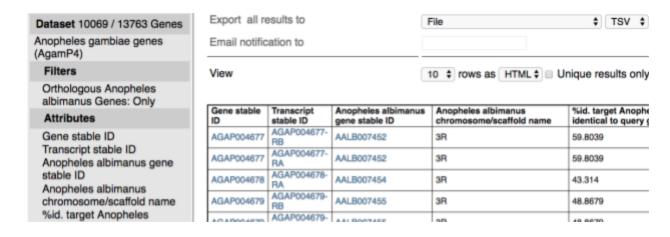
³ IPR004117 comes back as "GPCR, rhodopsin-like, 7TM"



Sample query #4

List of orthologous genes between two species

- 1. Go to BioMart. Choose genes as your database and A. gambiae as your dataset.
- 2. Select the filters
 - Filters: multi-species comparisons ---> Homolog filters ---> Orthologous *An. albimanus*
 - Attributes:
- Homologs ---> Orthologs ---> A. albimanus ---> gene stable ID, chromosome/scaffold, % target & % query, Ortholog confidence [0 low, 1 high]⁴
- 3. Click on Count and Results. There are 10,069 orthologous genes between *A. gambiae and A. albimanus*. The file can be download to sort the genes based on the orthology confidence.



⁴ FAQ: How are "high confidence" orthologs defined?, https://www.vectorbase.org/faqs/how-are-high-confidence-orthologs-defined

Sample query #5

How to join two different datasets?

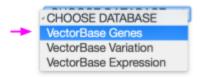
BioMart queries are run against a single species database, but if you click on the lower "Dataset" link, queries can "join" a second dataset. The results of the second dataset are connected and depend on the first one.

This second dataset could be in the gene, variation or expression databases. For query #4 add *A. gambiae* variation (short variants, SNPs and INDELs) as the second dataset

Anopheles albimanus										
chromosome/scaffold name %id. target Anopheles albimanus gene identical to query gene %id. query gene identical to target Anopheles albimanus gene Anopheles albimanus orthology confidence [0 low, 1 high]	Gene stable ID	Transcript stable ID	Anopheles albimanus gene stable ID	Anopheles albimanus chromosome/scaffold name	Niid. target Anopheles albimanus gene identical to query gene	filid. query gene identical to target Anopheles albimanus gene	Anopheles albimanus orthology confidence [0 low, 1 high]	Variant name	Variant source	Chromi
	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	38	43.314	41.9718	0	W15I-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 291799	Ag- GVP- 0.1	24.
	AGAP004678	ACJAP004678- RA	AALB007454	38	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 244262	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	21.
Dataset 9080398 / 9080398 SNPs	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3R	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 289726	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	21.
Anopheles gambiae Short Variants (SNPs and indels excluding flagged variants) (AgamP4)	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3A	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 154111	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	21.
Filters	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3R	43.314	41.9718	0	rs3573527	dbSNP	21.
[None selected] Attributes	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3R	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 238489	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	2L
Variant name Variant source Chromosome/scaffold name Chromosome/scaffold position start (bp) Chromosome/scaffold position end (bp)	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3R	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 255195	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	2L
	AGAP004678	AGAP004678- RA	AALB007454	3R	43.314	41.9718	0	WTSI-Ag- GVP-0.1- SNP-2L- 282353	WTSI- Ag- GVP- 0.1	2L

3. Questions and practice exercises

Instructions: Please take note of how do you reach your answerer including the specific "Filters" and "Attributes" used in each case. Use BioMart "Genes" database, to solve these exercises.

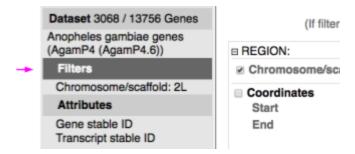


To find the number of results matching the filters you have provided, click on "Count" (see below) - to see the first few rows of the results and the attributes you have selected, click on "Results".

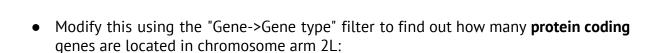


a. Gene content - using "Filters"

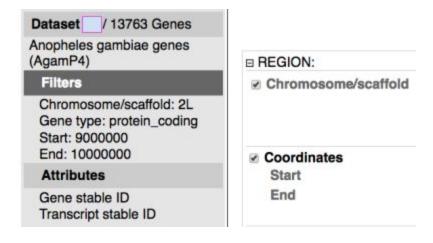
- Choose Database: VectorBase Genes
- Choose Dataset: Anopheles gambiae genes
- Click on "Filters"
- Explore the different filter types by expanding and contracting each section of the form.



How many genes are there on An. gambiae chromosome arm 2L?



• Add one more filter to find all protein coding genes are between nucleotides 9,000,000 -10,000,000 of 2L? (**Hint**: you can not use periods or commas, see below)

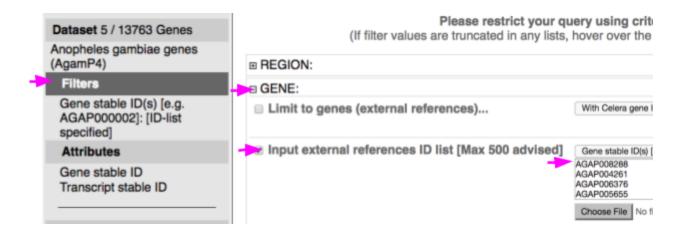


To start a new session click on "New"



Now you are going to filter your results using a list of An. gambiae gene IDs.
Use the sample genes located in Tutorial page:
VectorBase_BioMart_SampleGenes_2017.txt

You can copy-paste in the IDs (see below) or upload the file containing IDs from your computer:

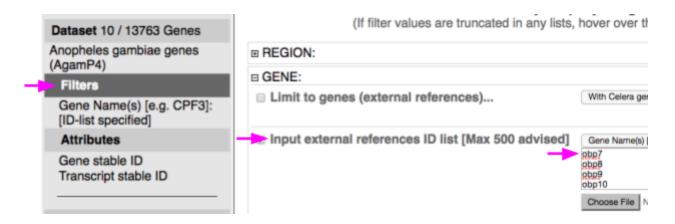


• Click on "Count" and "Results". Results are presented in a Table format. What are the (default) columns of the table?

Click on "New"

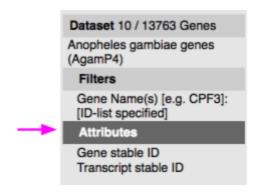


- Again, choose *An. gambiae* genes
- Filter using the Gene Names (symbols) OBP1, OBP2, ... OBP10
 Type them in the provided box. <u>Hint</u>: See the screenshot below for guidance when using the ID list limit filter:

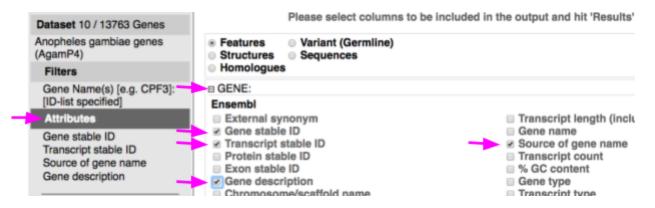


- Think about filters that may be relevant to you.
- Keep the query using 10 OBP gene symbols to start the next section

b. Gene information - defining "Attributes"



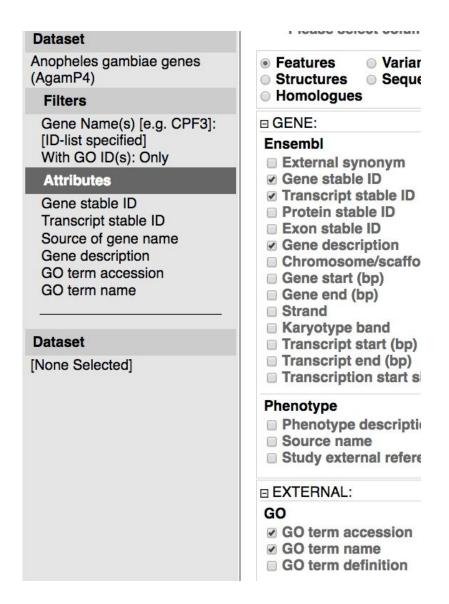
• Show "Gene name" (or symbol) and "Gene description" (or function)



 Select one or more of the GO (Gene Ontology) attributes from the "External" section. How many of these 10 OBP genes have GO terms?

<u>Hint</u>: use the "Unique results only" checkbox and remove the "Transcript stable ID" attribute.

	Answer
None of the OBP genes have GO terms associated with them.	
Some of the OBP genes have GO terms associated with them.	
All of the OBP genes have GO terms associated with them.	



Note, you can also answer this question using a Filter (Filter -> Gene -> Limit to genes -> with GO ID(s))

Dataset	Please restrict your query using cr (If filter values are truncated in any lists, hover over th		
Anopheles gambiae genes (AgamP4)	⊞ REGION:		
Filters	□ GENE:		
Gene Name(s) [e.g. CPF3]: [ID-list specified] With GO ID(s): Only	✓ Limit to genes (external references)	With GO ID(s) ● Only ■ Excluded	

• Do these genes have literature citations (Sequence Publications ID)?

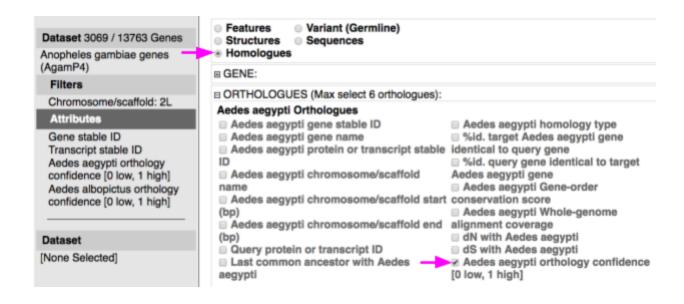
	Answer
None of the OBP genes have publications associated with them.	
Some of the OBP genes have publications associated with them.	
All of the OBP genes have publications associated with them.	

	□ EXTERNAL:	
Dataset 10 / 13763 Genes	GO	
Anopheles gambiae genes (AgamP4)	 	 GO term evidence code GO domain
Filters	GO term definition	
Gene Name(s) [e.g. CPF3]: [ID-list specified] With GO ID(s): Only	GOSIIm GOA GOSIIm GOA Accession(s)	☐ GOSIim GOA Description
Attributes	External References (max 3)	
Gene stable ID Transcript stable ID Source of gene name Gene description GO term accession GO term name Sequence Publications ID	Celera gene ID Celera peptide ID Celera transcript ID ChEMBL ID European Nucleotide Archive ID European Nucleotide Archive ID GO ID GOSlim GOA ID ImmunoDB ID	 NCBI gene ID PDB ID RefSeq DNA ID RefSeq peptide ID RFAM ID Ribosomal Protein Gene DB ID ✓ Sequence Publications ID STRING ID tRNAScan-SE ID

• Query these 10 proteins Pfam domains

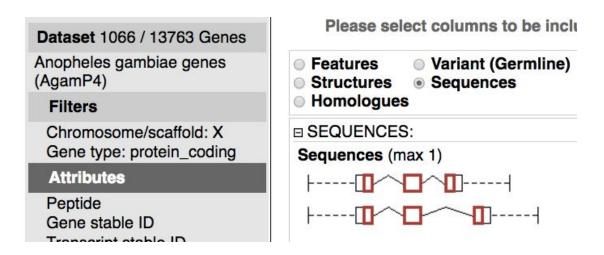
 Features Structures Homologues Variant (Germline) Sequences 	
⊞ GENE:	
⊞ EXTERNAL:	
☐ PROTEIN DOMAINS AND FAMILIES:	
Domains	
□ CDD ID	MS head cast ID
□ CDD start	MS head cast sta
□ CDD end	MS head cast en
■ MS larva ID	MS pupa ID
■ MS larva start	MS pupa start
■ MS larva end	MS pupa end
MS head ID	MS salivary glan
■ MS head start	MS salivary glan
MS head end	MS salivary glan
MS male reproductive ID	■ MS salivary glan
MS male reproductive start	MS salivary glan
MS male reproductive end	MS salivary glan
MS malphigian tubule ID	PANTHER ID
MS malphigian tubule start	■ PANTHER start
MS malphigian tubule end	□ PANTHER end
MS midgut ID	✓ Pfam ID

- Start a new session and select *An. gambiae* chromosome arm 2L.
- Show ortholog assignments for *Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus*. Select ortholog confidence [0 low, 1 high]. How many *A. gambiae* genes have ortholog to these two species?



c. Other outputs – Attributes → Sequences

- Start a new session and choose A. gambiae
- Filter for the protein-coding genes on chromosome X. Click "Count" and "Result"
- Investigate the sequence export options (<u>Hint</u>: Click on the circle next to "Sequences" and click on the plus sign next to "SEQUENCES")



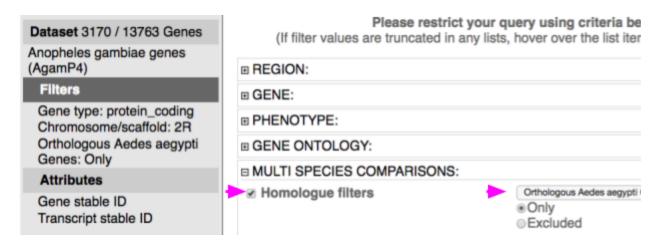
Look at the various options for download



- Investigate the following, but please note that you don't need to actually download the files, just review the resulting output in the HTML version
 - o cDNA sequence → Results
 - o Coding sequence → Results
 - o 1kb upstream of each locus (e.g. for promoter motif prediction analysis) → Results

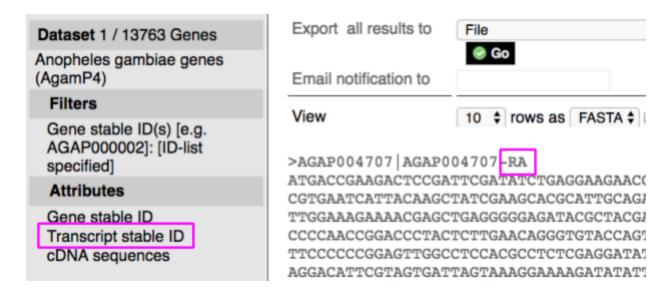
d. Advanced Practice Exercises

- Start a new session and choose A. gambiae
- Find protein-coding genes on *A. gambiae* chromosome 2R with orthologous *A. aegypti* genes.



Can you add further species?

 Start a new session. Download the splice variants in cDNA format for the gene AGAP004707



• Come up with a meaningful query that relates to your area of interest.

If you need help with any question and its answer contact us at info@vectorbase.org. Because VectorBase data, tools and resources are updated every two months (6 release cycles per year), answers to these exercises will change too.