

Portal Worksheet

Search for six of the animals that you recorded from the video you watched in class using the iDigBio Portal (<https://www.idigbio.org/portal/search>). Try using “search all fields” by entering the common name for three of the animals and then try searching using the scientific name field by entering the genus and species for the three different animals. You can use www.eol.org to find scientific names.

For each search be sure to look at a few of the specimen records by clicking on the “view” button on the right side of the “List” tab. Look at images by clicking over to the “Media” tab. Fill out the table and answer the questions below.

Name of animal	Search field	Number of records

Which search field gave you the most records? _____.

Which search field was the most accurate and why?

What types of data do scientists collect about specimens (hint there are five subheadings under “Data” in each specimen record).

What data would you need if you were a scientist studying the geographic distribution of a species through time?

Design a research question that could be answered in part with data from iDigBio.
