

Shifting gears: the challenges of moving Canadensys to a new platform

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- Canadian aggregator (museum, universities, Non-Profit)
 - 4,873,513 occurrences
 - 66 collections
- Canadian GBIF node (along with CBIF)
- Community teaching
- Tools development

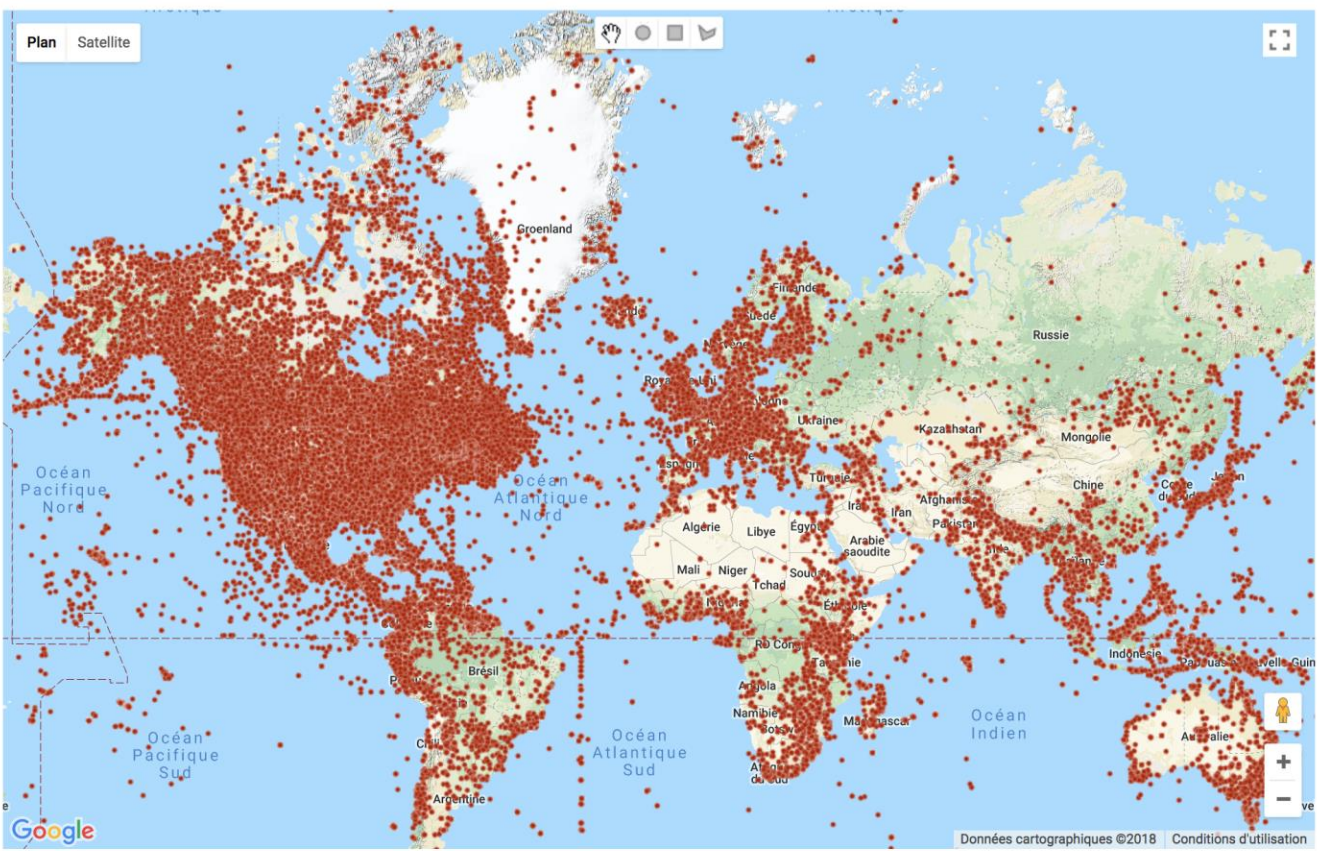


All 3,820,574 records

(showing only georeferenced records: 2,943,309)

Map view | Table view | Stats view

Search | Download | Display



Create a new filter

Scientific name

Filter starts with: Add filter

Delia platura	10542
Chordata	9654
Teleostei	8134
Megaptera novaeangliae	7803
Clupea harengus	7722
Passer domesticus domesticus	7425
Anthomyiidae	7192
Apallates	7124
Phocoena phocoena	6920
Merluccius bilinearis	6314

Current filters

No filters selected.

search current filters

Why switch?

- Old Explorer has reached its limits
- Technical update needed (Servers, OS)
- Sustainable development
- Community support (technical)
- Community needs (scientific)
 - Visualization
 - Automation
 - Analyses

Occurrence records

Customise filters

4,873,513 results for [all records]

Narrow your results

Taxon

Identification

Location

Occurrence

Record

Assertions

Attribution

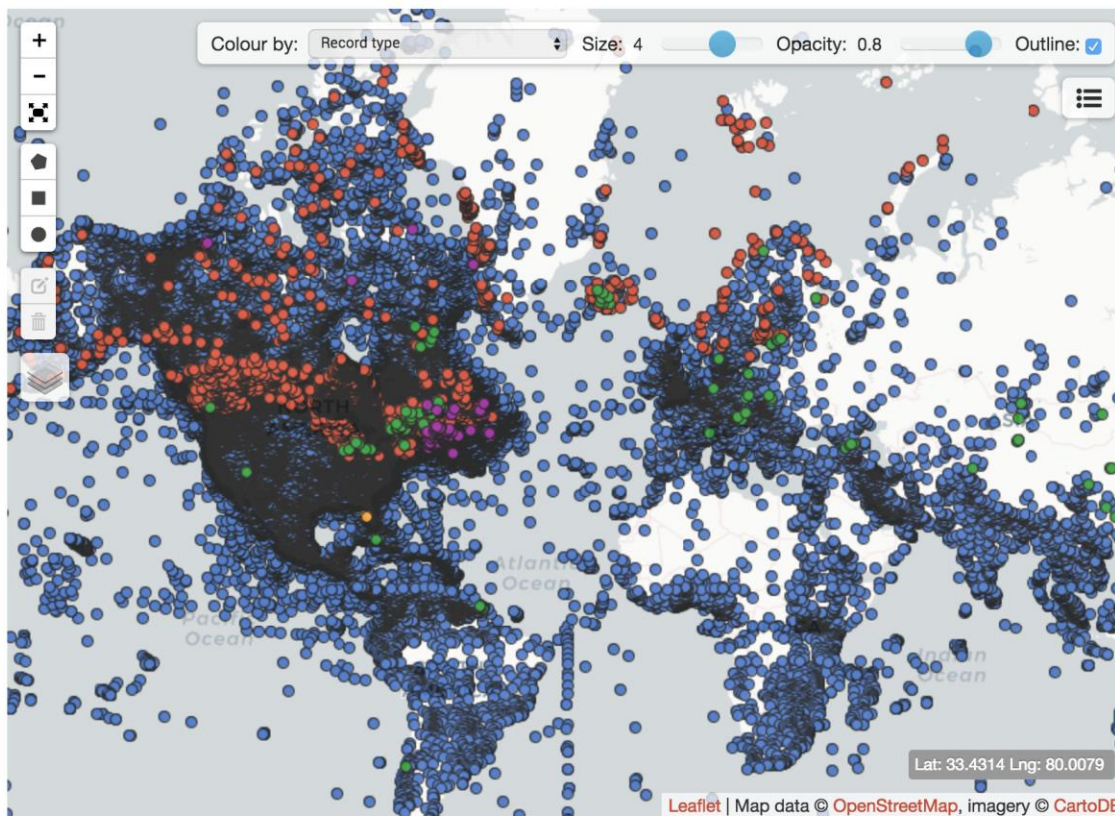
Records

Map

Charts

Record images

Download map





Canadensys Institutions and collections

Learn about the institution, the collections they hold and view records of specimens that have been databased. Currently only the collections of "" Canadensys Collections partners are shown. Over time this list will expand to include all natural history collections in Canada.

Click a button to only show those organisms.

all collections

show all 66 collections.



microorganisms

protists, bacteria, viruses.



algae

macro- and micro-algae, brown, red, green etc..



plants

vascular plants and bryophytes.



fungi

macro- and micro-fungi, lichens.



vertebrates

fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.



invertebrates

insects and other animals without backbones.



fossils

fossils.

66 collections in total.
All are currently visible on the map.

Map

List

Click on a map pin to see the collections at that location. Use the map controls to zoom into an area of interest. Or drag your mouse while holding the shift key to zoom to an area.



 indicates there are multiple collections at this location.

Why ALA?

- **Active** development
- Living Atlases **Community**
- Not only an Explorer, but also...
 - ... a **spatial portal**
 - ... a **crowdsourcing platform**
 - ... a **citizen science platform**
 - ...

More **powerful** but more **complex**

“Great look, but how can I search for occurrences of specific species in my region and/or my collection?”

“Great work! But I found the new Explorer not as straightforward as the old one. It was easier to do searches in the old one.”

“The drop-down menu for the regions in the Advanced search is empty.”

“Some collections does not have the same number of occurrences on the Explorer and on the IPT.”

How to best address these questions
and problems?

Tutorials

Tutorial n°1: How to have access to all the occurrences of a specific taxon?

Friday, 15 December 2017

Before

You were able to do that easily in the **old Explorer**, by using the 'Scientific Name' filter. For example, if I need all the occurrences of *Taraxacum officinale*, I will:

- Choose the 'Scientific Name' filter
- Type the latin name of the taxon you are looking for
- Click on the 'Search' button

[View the video](#)



Now

Even if the research is not using the same path in the **new Explorer**, it is as easy to have access to all the data for a particular taxon.

Different options are available for your research:

1. Simple Search:

This type of search will look for the key word(s) you are searching in every terms in the database, leading to a non-restrictive set of answer. It is then possible to add a filter based on the scientific name, in order to focus the search precisely on what you are looking for:

[View the video](#)



2. Advanced Search:

In order to limit the results to the scientific name only, you can go in the Advanced Search, and type the name of the taxon you are interested in:

[View the video](#)

The Advanced Search allows the use of several filters, like the country, the state/province, the event date, the institution/collection/dataset, and the group of interest (plants, animals, insects, bryophytes, birds, etc.)

3. Search a list of taxa:

It is now possible to get all the occurrences of a list of species. To do so, go in the Advanced Search, click on the 'Batch taxon search' tab, and type or copy/paste the list of species (one name per line).

[View the video](#)

[Intro: New Explorer: Get to know it!](#)

[Tutorial n°2: how to get all the occurrences of a given place?](#)

All the tutorials published on the New Explorer are available [HERE](#).



All posts

2018

2017

2016

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2011

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Checklists

Collection management

Darwin Core

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Explorer

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Look

- Best features in old and new Explorer
- What users loved in the old Explorer?
- What are the important tools to keep?

Merge strong features of old and new Explorer to make it more user-friendly?

Workshops

- Pan-Canadian workshops (GBIF CESP program)
- Mentor Network
- Local workshops (conferences, university courses, target audience)
- Give access to all material and documentation

Community feedback

- Internal communication (mailing list, forms)
- Social networks
- Direct feedback from users at the Université de Montréal Biodiversity Centre
- Issue tracking on GitHub

Technical enhancing

- Fix bugs quickly when possible
- Be proactive
- Be part of the solution
- Develop for the community
- Share and document our progress

What have we learned in the process?

- Teaching is crucial. Listening too!
- Acknowledge and understand that there are different types of audience
- Do not move too fast, but react quickly
- Keep a buffer time (keep different tools)
- Importance to keep the communication channel open
- Be open to suggestions

- ALA framework includes powerful tools, and great support from the Living Atlases Community.

Want to continue the discussion?

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