

Biological Databases of South Australia – Supertable Field Definitions

This information sheet describes the data fields within the Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA) Supertable. Refer to the following links for an Overview of the BDBSA and Supertable:

- [BDBSA Overview](#)
- [Supertable Overview](#)

FLORACODE (Flora only)

Generated from a combination of the first two letters of the dataset (e.g. SU = Survey), the first letter of the taxon group (e.g. P = Plant) and the unique identifiers from the database (Survey and Opportune use VISITNR and SPSEQNR; Plant Population uses POPULATIONNR and VISITNR; State Herbarium of SA (ADHERB) uses the specimen registration identifier - HERBARIUM NUMBER - the unique identifier assigned to each plant specimen as it is integrated into the collection; Reserves uses PLANTSPNR and Roadside Vegetation uses O, U, E to define Overstorey, Understorey and Emergent species, ROADSIDSEGNR and the relevant unique database plant species number). For example, SUP10814-55, OPP1254-55, PPP430-430, AD96832161 or REP1874 or RVPO1181-332.

FAUNACODE (Fauna only)

Generated from a combination of the first two letters of the dataset (e.g. SU = Survey), the first letter of the taxon group (e.g. A=Amphibia, B=Birds, F = Fish, M = Mammalia and R = Reptilia) and the unique identifier from that database (e.g. Survey and Opportune use VISITNR and SPSEQNR, and Reserves uses VERTSPNR). For example, SUM16171-23, OPM487-27 or REB1256.

NSXCODE

Unique code for each taxonomic entity (species name) in the database used to allow record taxonomy to be updated as changes occur.

LATITUDE

The latitude (y) coordinate of the sighting in GDA94 and decimal degrees. For Reserves (RE) records, this is the centroid of the park. For Roadside Vegetation (RV) this is the centroid of the road segment and has been offset by a generic distance of 10 m from the road network. Records made available on public websites will have been denatured to 0.1 degree based on the department's Environmental Sensitivity Data Management Procedure. Please refer to ISDENATURED for confirmation of denaturing.

LONGITUDE

The longitude (x) coordinate of the sighting in GDA94 and decimal degrees. For Reserves (RE) records, this is the centroid of the park. For Roadside Vegetation (RV) this is the centroid of the road segment and has been offset by a generic distance of 10 m from the road network. Records made available on public websites will have been denatured to 0.1 degree based on the department's Environmental Sensitivity Data Management Procedure. Please refer to ISDENATURED for confirmation of denaturing.

MGAZONE

The Map Grid of Australia 1994 (MGA94) Zone that the Eastings and Northings relate to (e.g. Zone 52, 53 or 54 in SA).

EASTING

The Easting (x) coordinate of the sighting in Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinate system. For Reserves (RE) records, this is the centroid of the park. For Roadside Vegetation (RV) this is the centroid of the road segment



and has been offset by a generic distance of 10 m from the road network.

NORTHING

The Northing (y) coordinate of the sighting in Map Grid of Australia 1994 coordinate system. For Reserves (RE) records, this is the centroid of the park. For Roadside Vegetation (RV) this is the centroid of the road segment and has been offset by a generic distance of 10 m from the road network.

ISDENATURED

The department's Environmentally Sensitive Data Management Procedure defines records that have their distribution denatured to 1 decimal (0.1 degree or ~10 km) for public distribution. The Longitude and Latitude have been truncated to 1 decimal place. Those defined as sensitive are classified as 'Environmental Sensitivity – One decimal degree' otherwise records are 'N'.

SOURCE

Abbreviation of the dataset from which the records have come (eg SU = Survey, OP = Opportune, RE = Reserves, PP= Plant Population, AD = State Herbarium of SA ADHERB database, RV = Roadside Vegetation Survey). For more information refer to [BDBSA – Overview Information Sheet](#).

SIGHTINGDATE

The date the sighting occurred. Always check the DATEACCURACY where SIGHTINGDATE is the 1st of a month or year.

DATEACCURACY

Accuracy of the sighting date. If SIGHTING DATE is the 1st of a month or year it may be that the record was observed on that day (D), sometime that month (M), sometime that year (Y), sometime that decade (T) or sometime that century (C).

PATCHID

Populated for records from the Survey and Opportune datasets. It is a Unique identifier for each site, where there may have been several species recorded.

SIGHTINGNR

Populated for Opportune records entered before 2010 when the merge of the Opportune and Survey Databases occurred (where SOURCE = OP). Opportune records after the merge are assigned a PATCHID. SIGHTINGNR is a unique identifier which has been retained to allow interrogation of historical OP records.

SPECIESTYPE

Identifies the taxa group (e.g. A=Amphibia, B=Birds, F = Fish, M = Mammalia, P = Plants and R = Reptilia) of the observation, that is used in the FLORACODE and FAUNACODE.

VISITNR

Identifies the unique visit identifier of the database for the visit that is used in the FLORACODE and FAUNACODE.

SPSEQNR

Unique species number from the database that is used in the FLORACODE and FAUNACODE.

POPULATIONNR (Flora only)

Only populated for Plant Population records, (where SOURCE = PP). It is a unique identifier for each plant population recorded.

RELIABNR

Estimation of positional accuracy of the coordinates (In Reserves this field is generated by spatially determining the maximum distance from the centroid to the boundary of the reserve). The positional accuracy is a combination of the distance of the coordinates to the real location on the ground and the distance of the species observed. In Roadside Vegetation (RV) this is derived from the length of



the road segment). The description of these codes is available in RELIABDESC.

RELIABDESC

Description of RELIABNR, and relates to the positional reliability of the coordinates, (e.g. 0-5 m, 1-10 km, etc.).

CLASSNR (Fauna only)

Unique identifier for taxonomic Class of species. Descriptions are in CLASSNAME.

SPRELIABCODE

An indication of the reliability of the species coordinates and/or taxonomy identity.

The field contains a mixture of codes from the different databases. Survey and Opportune displays as just Y (Reliable) or N (Not Reliable). For Roadside Vegetation data it has been Presumed (P) that species identity is reliable. The roadside survey method requires consultants to collect representative specimens during a survey and have them identified by the herbarium. Both Reserves and Plant Populations have a more complicated reliability code. Reserves codes are A = accepted, N = not accepted, R = redundant, Q = questionable, P = presumed and X = extinct. Plant Population codes are 1=Voucher in a state herbarium: ID by herbarium staff or taxonomist, 2 = ID by herbarium staff or taxonomist, 3 = ID by experienced field botanist, 4 = Unconfirmed field sighting, and 5 = Correct ID doubtful.

Flora: A filter has been applied to the dataset so that only records with Y or A or P or Null or 1–4 are included.

Fauna: A filter has been applied to the dataset so that only records with Y or A or P or Null are included. There are no Fauna records in Plant Populations or Roadside Vegetation Databases.

SURVEYNR

Survey Number allocated for a unique project. It is only populated in the Survey and Opportune datasets.

SURVEYNAME

The Name of the project relating to SURVEYNR.

OBSERVER

The person(s) who observed the species.

ISVOUCHERED

Whether the specimen was vouchered and lodged with herbarium (for plants) or SA Museum (for fauna) (Yes = Y, No = Blank or N). However, for Plant Population records, if SPRELIABNR = 1, then this field is populated with Y (regardless of visit). All roadside vegetation data = N. Consultants collect representative specimens during a survey that are identified by the herbarium but they are not officially lodged with the herbarium.

HERBREGION (Flora only)

The Herbarium Region the sighting was recorded in. It is generated by spatially overlaying the records in Survey, Opportune, Roadside Vegetation and Plant Populations with the Herbarium Regions spatial layer. For Reserves records it is populated via a table that relates Reserve Names with Herbarium Regions.

METHODNR (Fauna only)

A code to record the method used to observe and/or collect specimens of fauna species. Descriptions are in METHODDESC. Records with the following METHODNRs have not been included in the dataset: 23 (subfossil: within pellet), 73 (subfossil: within cave deposit), 76 (subfossil: within midden), and 77 (subfossil: within deposit).

METHODDESC (Fauna only)

Description of observation/collection method used, related to METHODNR.

ISCURRENT

Is the taxonomy applied to the species observation current? If Y, the taxonomy is current, or if N, the



taxonomy has been updated and the record taxonomy needs to be resolved to reflect this revision.

ISINDIGENOUS

Identification of species as introduced/native: introduced = N; native = Y; not certain if native or introduced = ?

SPECIES

Taxonomic name for species observed (combined GENUSNAME and SPECIESNAME) e.g. '*Acacia ligulata*'.
Taxonomic names that no longer are current (ISCURRENT = N) have (NC) appended after the species name.

GENUSNAME

Taxonomic genus of species observed e.g. '*Manorina*'.

SPECIESNAME

Taxonomic species name (doesn't include genus) of species observed e.g. '*flavigula*'.

SUBSPECIES (Fauna only)

Taxonomic sub-species name e.g. '*melanotis*'.

CLASSNAME (Fauna only)

Taxonomic class of species: AVES (birds), MAMMALIA (mammals), REPTILIA (reptiles), AMPHIBIA (amphibians).

SUBCLASSNAME (Fauna only)

Taxonomic sub-class of species.

COMNAME

Common name of species observed e.g. 'Black-eared Miner'.

SPECIESCONSTAT (Fauna only)

SPECIES with ISINDIGENOUS preceding Species, and State and National Conservation Ratings appended after Species

(ESACTSTCODE and NPWSACTSTATCODE) e.g. '**Alauda arvensis*' or '*Dasyercus byrnei* AUS: VU SA: V'.

FAMILYNAME (Flora only)

Taxonomic Family Name of Species.

WEEDSTATUS (Flora only)

Weed status provides a definition of plant species that have been declared under Section 177 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The species are declared Not for Sale within South Australia

ESACTSTATUSCODE (National rating)

National conservation rating of the species based on the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered, EX = Extinct.

Flora: An asterisk denotes ratings that need to be qualified for a variety of reasons, such as changes to taxonomy or nomenclature since listing or because a species assessed as 'presumed extinct' had to be listed under the Endangered category. Further details are available from the Vascular Plant Metadata document on the departmental web page: [BDBSA Information sharing](#).

Fauna: A value of 'ssp.' indicates that the species observation was identified to the species level, but this species has been divided into two or more sub-species, and at least one subspecies has been given a conservation rating.

It is recommended that users investigate the conservation rating of subspecies that are found in their region of interest when assessing these records.

NPWACTSTATUSCODE (State rating)

South Australian conservation rating of the species based on the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. R = Rare, V = Vulnerable, E = Endangered.

Flora: An asterisk denotes ratings that need to be qualified for a variety of reasons, such as changes to



taxonomy or nomenclature since listing or because a species assessed as 'presumed extinct' had to be listed under the Endangered category. Further details are available from the Vascular Plant Metadata document on the departmental web page: [BDBSA Information sharing](#).

Fauna: A value of 'ssp.' indicates that the species observation was identified to the species level, but this species has been divided into two or more sub-species, and at least one subspecies has been given a conservation rating.

It is recommended that users investigate the conservation rating of subspecies that are found in their region of interest when assessing these records.

BIOREGSTATUSCODE

Conservation status category codes for each IBRA subregion, reviewed as part of the [Regional Species Conservation Assessment Project](#) undertaken between 2008 and 2014. The rating defined is based on the IBRA subregion version 6.2 or IMCRA region that the record falls in (refer to CONSERVATION.RSCA_Subregions). The status category codes are RE = Regionally Extinct, CR = Critically Endangered; EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, RA = Rare, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern, DD = Data Deficient, NE = Not Evaluated. All categories except RE and RA are based on IUCN categories. Further details on the definition of each code are contained in the appendices of the regional reports located at the above website.

PARK_ID

PARK_ID is an automatically generated identifier from the department's Protected Area Information System (PAIS) database. This is derived via a spatial overlay of the sighting with the appropriate spatial dataset. For roadside vegetation records the sighting location has been set at a generic offset of 10 m from the road centre line. These records are in road reserves which come under the care, control and management of local government authorities and the SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI). Due to variations in spatial accuracy this location could fall within a park but as roadside

vegetation is within the road corridor then it is assumed that the roadside vegetation should not fall in a park and no spatial overlay has been done.

RESERVETYPE

Reserve type for Reserve designated by RENDRDERIVED field (if the sighting was recorded within the boundaries of a Reserve). CP = Conservation Park, CR = Conservation Reserve, GR = Game Reserve, HA = Heritage Agreement, LF = Locality Forest, LG = Local Government Reserve, LR = Local Reserve, NF = Native Forest, NT = National Trust, NP = National Park, RP = Recreation Park, RR = Regional Reserve, WA = Wilderness Area. This is derived via a spatial overlay of the sighting with the appropriate spatial dataset. For qualification on roadside vegetation species locations refer to the details under PARK_ID.

RESERVECODE

Reserve Code for Reserve is a number designated for each reserve (if the sighting was recorded within the boundaries of a Reserve). Reserve Code uniquely identifies the Reserve (e.g. 1012). This is derived via a spatial overlay of the sighting with the appropriate spatial dataset. For qualification on roadside vegetation species locations refer to the details under PARK_ID.

RESERVENAME

Reserve Name concatenated with Reserve Type for NPWSA Reserve, if the sighting is within a Reserve. For example, 'Althorpe Islands (CP)'. For Heritage Agreements, Reserve Name is the Reserve Code with the Reserve Type e.g. '1012 (HA)'. This is derived via a spatial overlay of the sighting with the appropriate spatial dataset, except for some records where the source is 'RE' the type is not concatenated. For qualification on roadside vegetation species locations refer to the details under PARK_ID.

NUMOBSERVED

Number of individuals observed (e.g. when a flock of birds is observed rather than an individual). This can include an exact number (eg; 1, 5, 17) or number ranges or words to



describe how many were observed when an exact number is not possible (eg; many, >1000, 30-40). If no count was performed on the individuals observed then the number observed would be recorded as 'present but not counted'.

If a species was searched for but no individuals were observed then number observed would be 'none detected'. A filter has been applied to the Supertable dataset so that all records defined as 'none detected' (ie: absence records) have been removed.

NRMDISTRICT

Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Districts spatial dataset. If outside of South Australia, the field is populated with 'No District'.

NRMREGION

Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Regions spatial dataset. If outside of South Australia, the field is populated with 'No Region'.

LOCATIONCOMM

The location comment (LOCATIONCOMM) provides a general description of the location where the observation occurred. This field should be used to verify the coordinates of the observation if there is a question as to their accuracy. For roadside vegetation records this is the name of the road at time of survey and a generated distance to a gazetted location (e.g. town, suburb, mountain).

HABITATCOMM

The habitat comment (HABITATCOMM) provides a general description of the habitat where the observation occurred. This comment can be used to provide further evidence or ecological context about a species observation. For roadside vegetation records this is the vegetation association defined for each roadside segment.

SIGHTINGCOMM

The sighting comment is used to store further details and evidence about the species observation that are not able to be stored in individual database fields. This is commonly used for third party datasets to store all other values that BDBSA does not accommodate, and as such provides important context for records. For roadside vegetation this is defined for all records as 'Collected using the department's Roadside Vegetation Survey Methodology' to indicate the process of the sighting method. Users should refer to the manual for more explanation of how species observations have been derived.

MUSEUMHERBMNR

Observations based on voucher specimens are generally lodged with the State Herbarium of SA (plants) or the South Australian Museum (animals). This process provides confirmation of species identity and allows update of records as species taxonomy changes. The MUSEUMHERBMNR field stores the ID assigned to the specimen as it is integrated into the collections (HERBARIUM Number and SAM registration number). These IDs are useful if further detail is requested from the State Herbarium or SA Museum. Also see the ISVOUCHERED field in relation to MUSEUMHERBMNR.

NRMREGION

Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the NRM Regions spatial dataset.

BIOREGION

The IBRA or IMCRA region code based on current published version. Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the IBRA and IMCRA spatial datasets. IBRA and IMCRA overlap for the Islands of South Australia and the IBRA region takes precedence.

BIOREGIONNAME

The IBRA or IMCRA region name based on current published version. Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the IBRA and IMCRA spatial datasets.



IBRA and IMCRA overlap for the Islands of South Australia and the IBRA region takes precedence.

BIOSUBREGION

The IBRA subregion or IMCRA region code. Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the IBRA subregions version 6.2 and IMCRA spatial datasets. IBRA and IMCRA overlap for the Islands of South Australia and the IBRA region takes precedence. Used to derive the BIOREGSTATCODE.

BIOSUBREGIONNAME

The IBRA subregion or IMCRA region name. Derived via spatial overlay of species observations with the IBRA subregions version 6.2 and IMCRA spatial datasets. IBRA and IMCRA overlap for the Islands of South Australia and the IBRA region takes precedence. Used to derive the BIOREGSTATCODE.

DISTRIBNCODE

Code to identify distribution of project observations (based on surveynr) by department.

DISTRIBUTNCODE = 1, 2 and NULL are records for public access (mostly dept. as the custodian); 3, 4, 5 are records for access by approved clients and department staff only.

DISTRIBDESC

More detail of specific conditions to clarify the distribution of the project (based on SURVEYNR) by department.

Preferred way to cite this information sheet:

Department for Environment and Water (20XX). Biological Databases of South Australia – Supertable Field Definitions.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Science/Information_data/Biological_databases_of_South_Australia (insert date web page accessed)



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia,
Department for Environment and Water

For more information

Department for Environment and Water

Email: DEWBioDataSupport@sa.gov.au

