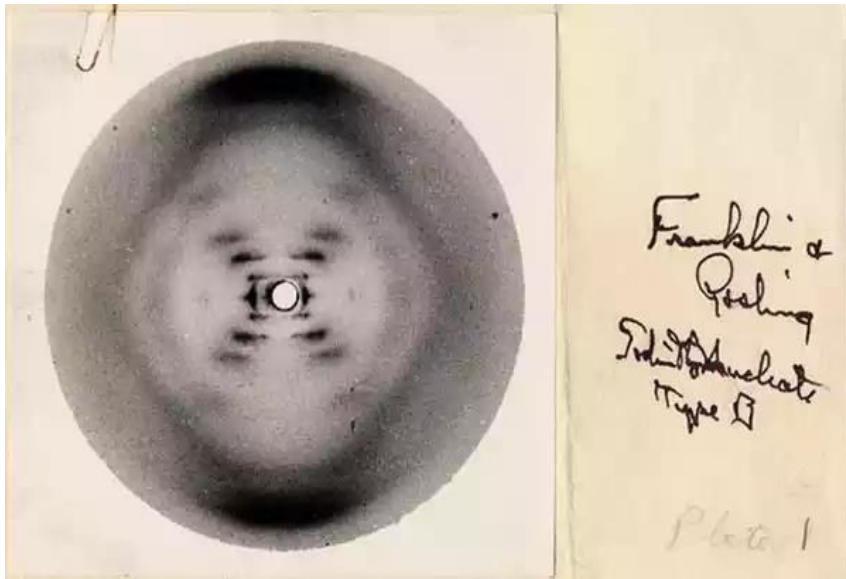


Sweetpotato ontology status

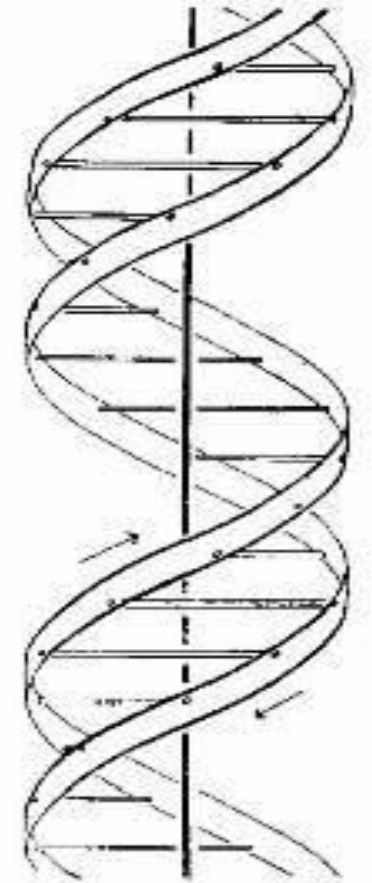
Reinhard Simon, CIP

GT4SP/SASHA workshop, Nairobi, Kenya, 6-9th of June, 2016





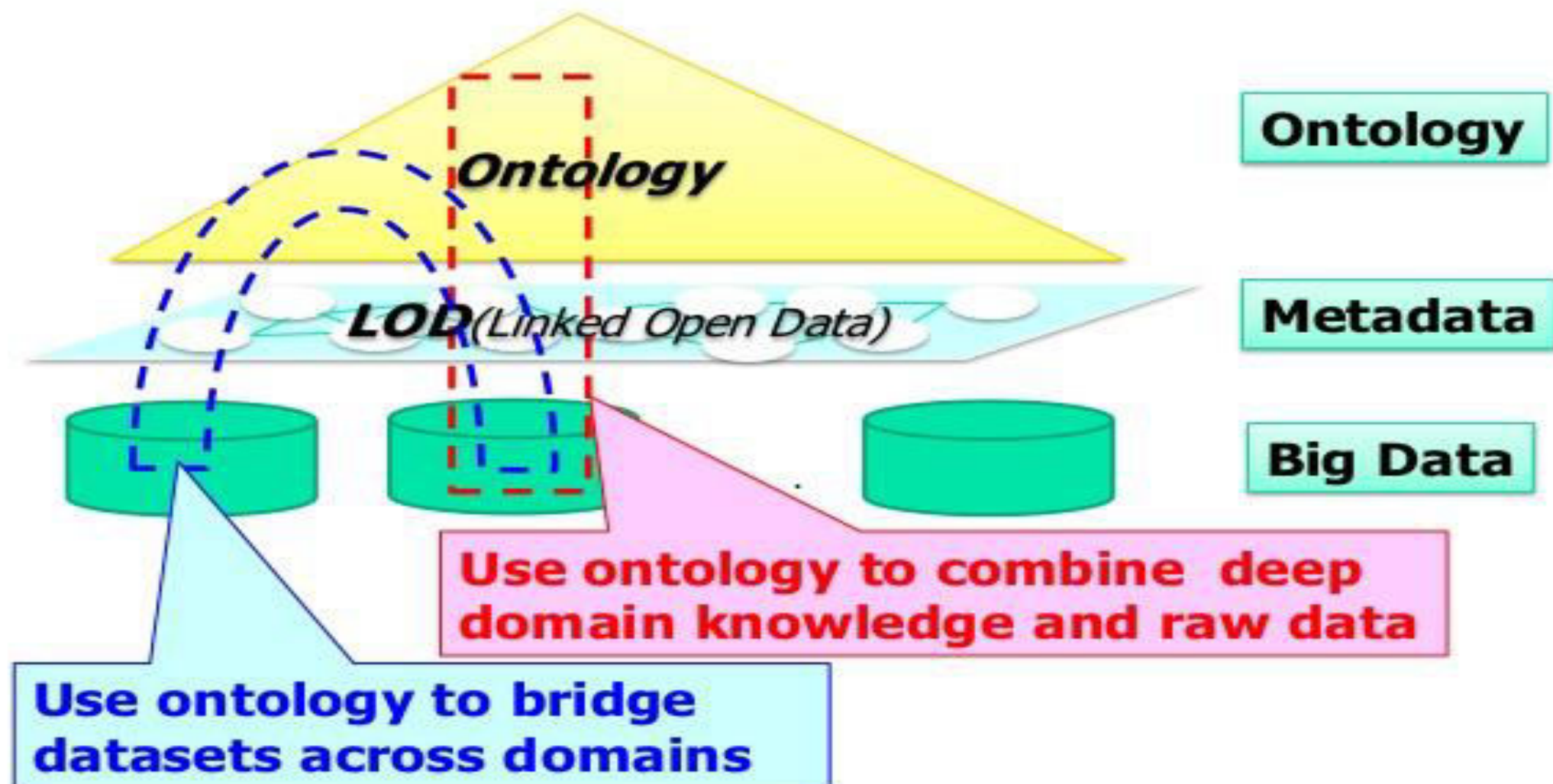
A case of big data ...
The DNA model



This figure is purely diagrammatic. The two ribbons symbolize the two phosphate-sugar chains, and the horizontal rods the pairs of bases holding the chains together. The vertical line marks the fibre axis



Two possible way to use ontology for big data



What is 'ontology'?

- From Greek:
 - 'ontos' ~ the authentic essence of being / reality
 - 'logos' ~ word / reasoning

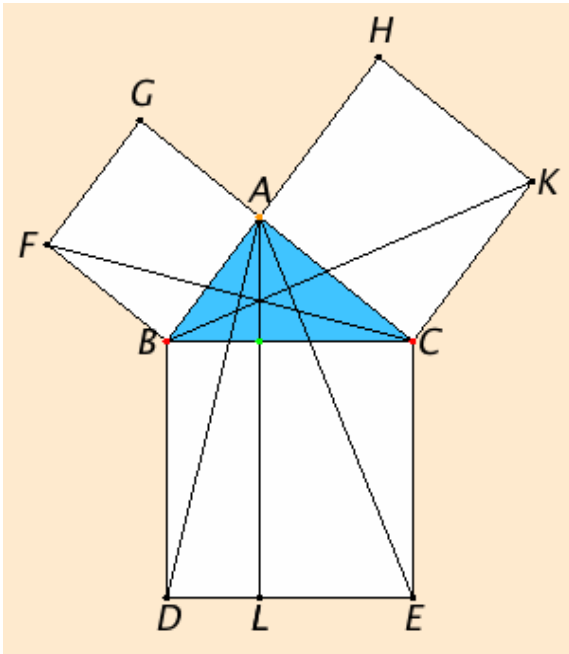
• Ontology: 'Reasoning about reality' (as opposed to mere opinions)

- Formal system of knowledge organization
- Definition of terms and relationships

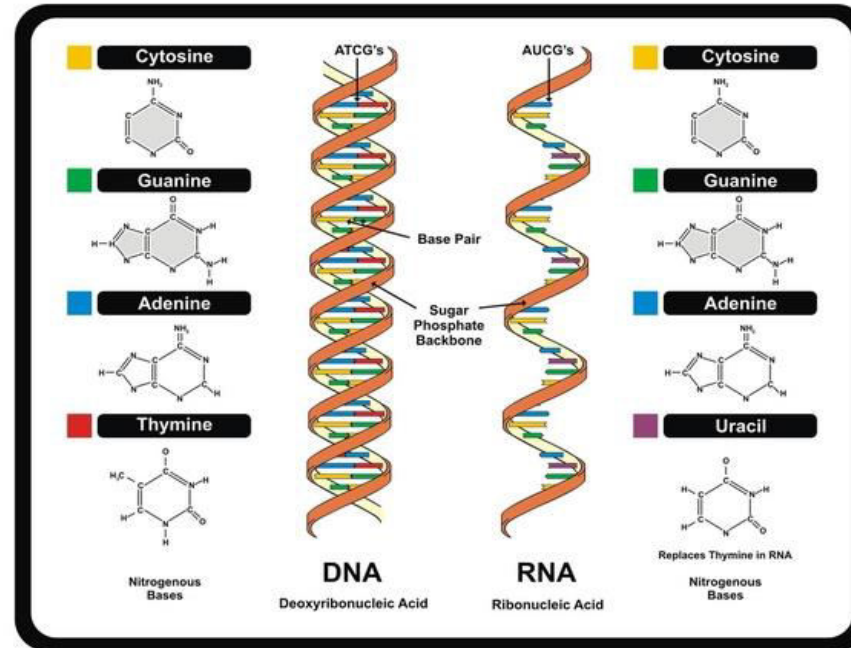


Parmenides: ~500 BC

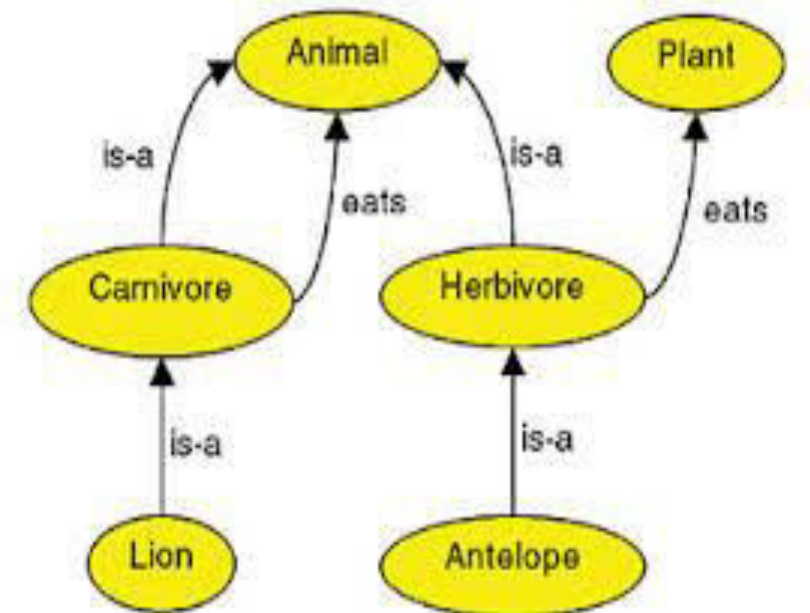
Ontology examples



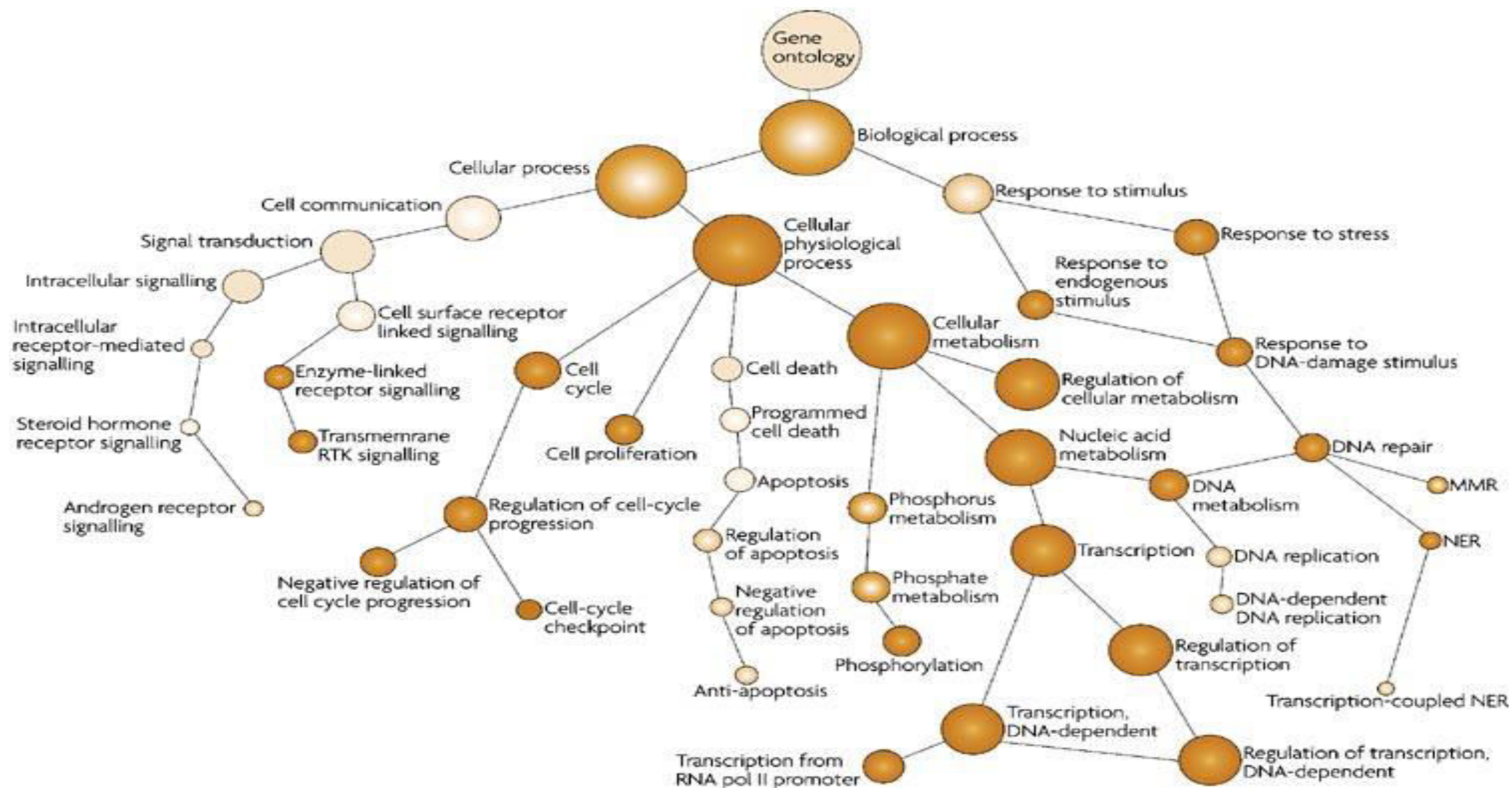
Euclid's geometry as an early example of consistent use of definitions and relationships

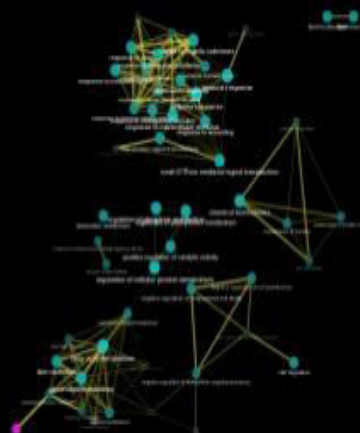


Chemical structures to capture domain knowledge in a very dense way.



Ontologized visualization of an ecological network with well-defined relationships.





Gene Ontology Network Enrichment Analysis

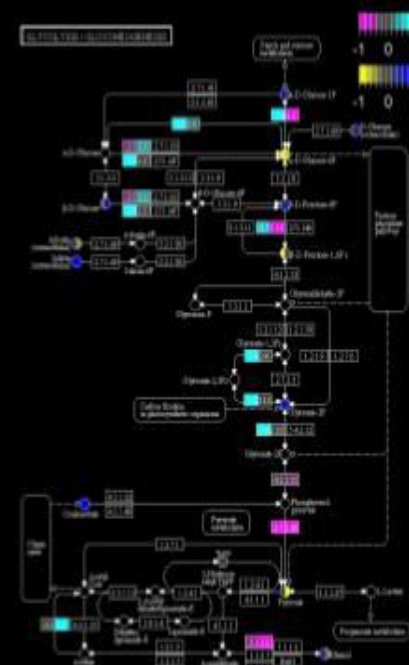
Dmitry Grapov, PhD

UC DAVIS
GENOME CENTER

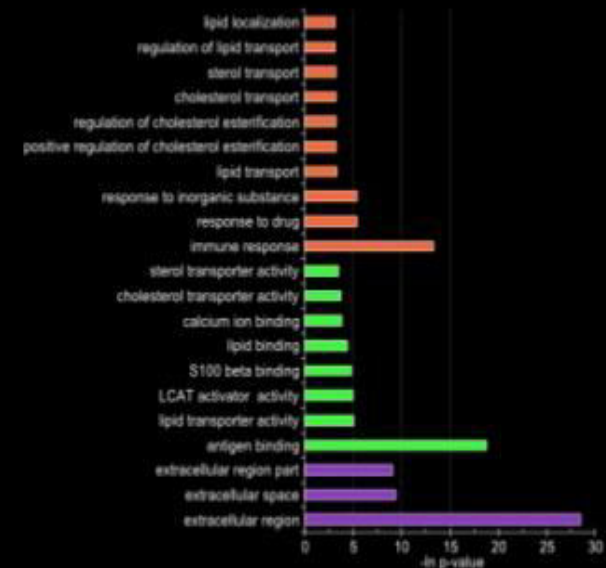
Enrichment or Overrepresentation analysis

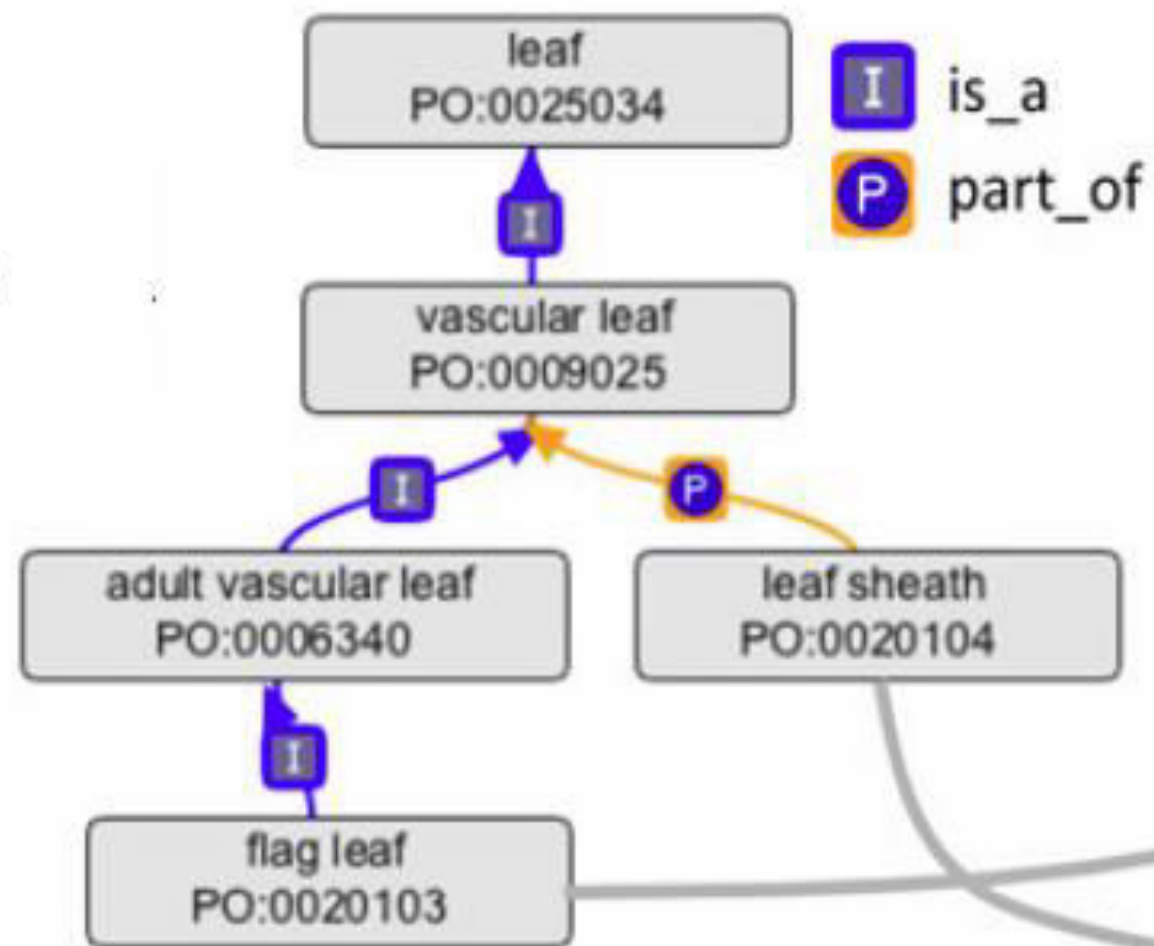


Biochemical Pathway



Biochemical Ontology





Filter tree view

Filter by aspect

Aspect

☐ All
☐ Plant Anatomy
☐ Plant Development Stage

Filter Annotation Objects Counts

Data source

☐ AgBase
☒ All
☐ COSMOSS
☐ Gramene Genes

☐ all : all [110950] 


☐  **PO:0025131 : plant anatomical entity [110899]** 


☐  PO:0025117 : plant anatomical space [5]

☐  PO:0009011 : plant structure [110899]

☐  PO:0025161 : portion of plant substance [2]

☐  **PO:0009012 : plant structure development stage [102919]** 

☐  PO:0025338 : collective plant structure development stage [49645]

☐  PO:0025339 : plant organ development stage [46618]

☐  PO:0025423 : plant tissue development stage [1]

☐  PO:0001170 : seed development stage [30763]

☐  PO:0025368 : trichome development stage [50]

☐  PO:0007033 : whole plant development stage [101903]

[Graphical View](#)

[Permalink](#)

[Download as XML](#)

[Download as flat file](#)



The Plant Ontology: Linking Genomic and Phenomic Data Across Plant Taxa

Plant Ontology Consortium Members and Curators*:

Laurel D. Cooper*, Justin Elser, Justin Preece and Pankaj Jaiswal*:

Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Ramona L. Wallis* and Dennis W. Stevenson: The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

Maria A. Gandolfo: Department of Plant Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Ontology Consultants:

Chris Mungall: Gene Ontology, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Berkeley, CA

Barry Smith: OBO Foundry, Department of Philosophy, University at Buffalo, NY

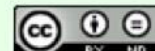
www.plantontology.org



 has participant

Last updated 2012-04-04, SVN Version: 1491

How can we improve the PO? [Send us your suggestions](#) OR [Contact the Plant Ontology Consortium](#)



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AmiGO Copyright © 1999-2007 [the Gene Ontology](#)

In summary...

Why to build an ontology?

- To share common understanding of the structure of information among people or software agents
- To enable reuse of domain knowledge
- To make domain assumptions explicit
- To analyze domain knowledge

In summary...

Why to build an ontology?

- To share common understanding of the structure of information among people or software agents
- To enable reuse of domain knowledge
- To make domain assumptions explicit
- To analyze domain knowledge

How to build an ontology?



Basic ideas

- Yours will be different from mine
- Iterative process
- Initially, start with nouns and verbs
- A noun will be a class, attribute or instance
- A verb will be the relation
- Iterations are needed to further clarification

Methodology

- Define concept
- Organize them to taxonomy
- Define relations among the classes
- Define attributes and their values
- Define instances
- Define axioms and function

Building the ontology ...

- Sources to use
 - Experts
 - Ask everything want to know
 - Always keep manners
 - Grab their terminology
 - Documents
 - literatures, documents, technical information, etc.
 - Highlight underlying nouns and verbs
 - Existing ontologies
 - You are not the first one to think about that domain
 - Existing ontologies can be fully or partially reused



Building the ontology ...

- Sources to use
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<http://www.croponontology.org>

The Crop Ontology

a resource for enabling access to breeders' data

Elizabeth Arnaud¹, Luca Matteis¹, Marie Angelique Laporte¹, Herlin Espinosa², Glenn Hyman², Rosemary Shrestha³, Arlett Portugal⁴, Pierre Yves Chibon⁵, Medha Devare⁶, Akimola Akintunde⁷, Jeffrey W. White⁸, Mark Wilkinson⁹, Caterina Caracciolo¹⁰, Fabrizio Celli¹⁰, Graham McLaren⁴

¹Biodiversity International, France, ²International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia, ³Genetic Resources Program (GRP), Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT), Mexico, ⁴Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) c/o CIMMYT, ⁵IR Plant Breeding, University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, ⁶International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center - South Asia Regional Office (CIMMYT-SARO), Nepal, ⁷International Black Sea University (IBSU), Georgia, ⁸Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (UPM-INIA), Spain, ⁹Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Office for Partnership, Italy

Generation Challenge Programme Workshop, 13th January 2014
In Plant and Animal Genomics Conference, San Diego, USA, 11-15th January 2014



CGIAR Crop Lead Centers



Since 2008





Dimensions of a phenotype

Environmental
Conditions

Light
Water
Nutrients
Temperature
Soil

Molecular

Chemical

Physiological

Developmental

Socio Economic

Cultural

Attributes



Understanding the GxE
interaction and the
heritability of adaptive
traits

Variety/genotype/
environment

Time



Harmonization and access to data

Breeders' data are often unstructured data - Complex free text used for phenotypes description

- No semantic coherence :
 - Same trait given different names by scientists
 - One trait named the same way for various species but refers to different plant structures
- Data and metadata are NOT interoperable and often not online

'Fruit colour'

Bean pod color



Rice grain or caryopsis colour



Maize Kernel Colour





Phenotype

It is a composite of an entity (e.g. fruit) and an attribute (e.g. shape) with a value (e.g. round):

Entity + Attribute = Trait

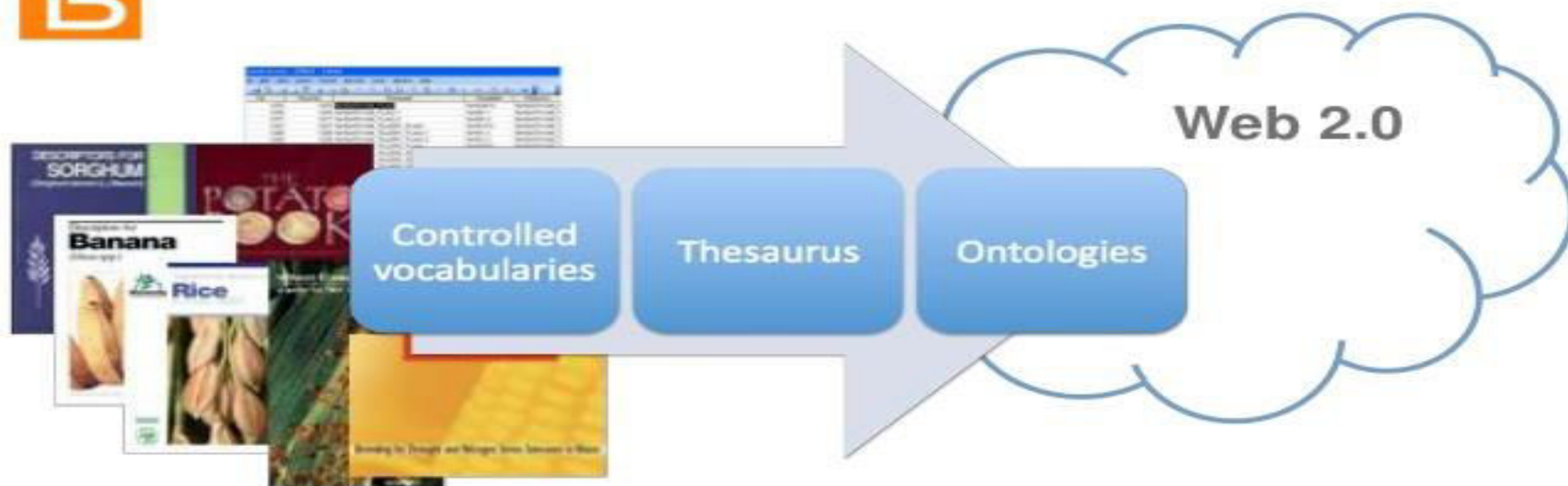
**Entity + (Attribute + Value) = Phenotype
(observed)**

fruit + (shape + round) = fruit shape round

-> round fruit is the phenotype



A range of controlled vocabularies



- From the controlled vocabularies build valid semantic ontologies consumable by Web 2.0
- Best practices

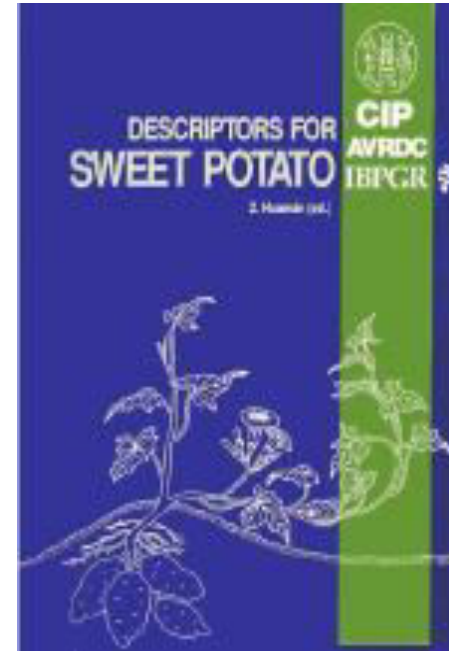


Crop Ontology themes

- ✚ General germplasm information
- ✚ Phenotype and traits
- ✚ Plant anatomy and development
- ✚ Location and environment
- ✚ Trial management and experimental design
- ✚ Structural and functional genomics

Sweetpotato ontology

- Based on
 - FAO/IBPGRI/CIP descriptors
 - CIP/SASHA
 - NCSU
- Total: 206 variables
- [Http://croponontology.org](http://croponontology.org)



Recent activities

- Continued consultation with cropontology community on best practices (PAG 2016, PhenoHarmonis conference, May)
- GT4SP meeting at NCSU adding/harmonizing NCSU traits & reviewing existing traits
- adding traits from drought research on sweetpotato
- update on crop ontology web-site on-going (to enable review at this meeting)

News

- [Workshop PhenoHarmoniS 'Semantics for Harmonization and Integration of Phenotyping and Agronomy Data'](#), 9th-13th May 2016, Montpellier
- **Release of the Trait Dictionary template v5 (TDv5)!** integrates standard variables which are the combination of a trait, a method and scale. *NB: upload of TD in version 4 not supported anymore.*
- **Trait Dictionaries version 5:** cassava, chickpea, cowpea, groundnut, lentil, pigeon pea, soybean, sweet potato, rice and wheat. Click on a term to display the variables.
- **Mapping CO terms to high level reference ontologies** (TO, PO, PATO, CHEBI, EO, PDO, etc) is in progress
- Crop Ontology is partner of the **Planteome** project (NSF-awarded project #1340112). [Planteome site](#)
- Crop Ontology participates to the **Agroportal** pilot project - [release of a beta version 1.0](#)
[To upload an ontology](#)
- Guidelines are available at the [Crop Ontology wiki](#) (new guidelines coming soon for the template 5)
- To get the code of your crop ontology, please contact helpdesk: helpdesk@cropontology-curationtool.org
Crop and Agronomy Ontology Community Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/ho4j922>

[Add New Terms](#)[API](#)[Help](#)[Agtrials](#)[Annotation Tool](#)[Register](#)[Login](#)[Latest](#)☐ OBO Ontology☐ Trait Dictionary

General Germplasm Ontology

FAO/Bioversity Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors 109

terms [ELIZABETHARNAUD](#)

FAO/Bioversity Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors V.2.1 [MCPD V.2.1] standard, developed and co-authored by Alercia, A; Diulgheroff, S; Mackay, M.



Germplasm 386 terms

[SHRESTHA](#)

germplasm



ICIS germplasm method 166 terms

[SHRESTHA](#)

ICIS germplasm methods



Phenotype and Trait Ontology

Banana 67 variables

[RCRICHTON](#)

Banana Trait Dictionary in template 5 - Bioversity & IITA - May 2016 - characterization and breeding variables



Location and Environmental Ontology

Country and Location 1118 terms

[SHRESTHA](#)

Describes official ISO 3166-1 alpha-2, alpha-3 and numeric country codes along with location names.



Crop Research 256 terms

[SHRESTHA](#)

Describes experimental design, environmental conditions and methods associated with the crop study/experiment/trail and their evaluation.



Plant Anatomy & Development Ontology

Banana Anatomy 149 terms

[ELIZABETHARNAUD](#)

Banana Anatomy



Plant Ontology 1710 terms

[COOPERL](#)

The Plant Ontology describes plant anatomy and morphology and stages of development for all plants. The goal of the PO is to establish a semantic framework for meaningful cross-species queries across gene expression



Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD

SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS

English

Abiotic stress trait

is_a

Reaction to drought

is_a

Visual estimation of the plant response to limited water

method_of

RctDro 5 pt. Scale

scale_of

Reaction to flooding

is_a

Reaction to heat

is_a

Reaction to high soil temperature

is_a

Reaction to salinity

is_a

Reaction to shade

is_a

Reaction to soil

is_a

Storage Root Defects

is_a

Agronomic trait

is_a

Biochemical trait

is_a

Biotic stress trait

is_a

Morphological trait

is_a

Variables

RnDrt_Et_1to9

Term information

Visual estimation of the plant response

Permalink

General

0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000464

Method class

Estimation

Method description

The reaction is estimated by observing visually the appearance of plants in response to limited water availability

Method name

Visual estimation of the plant response to limited water availability

Method reference

Huaman1991:Def_7.1

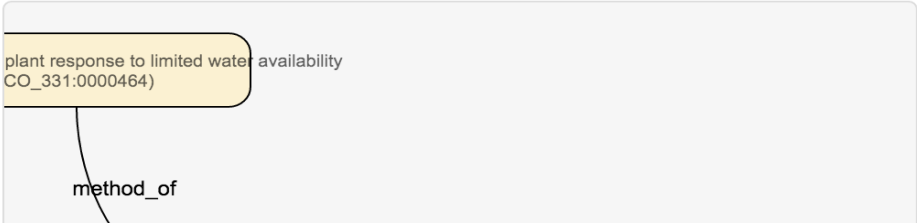
created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:09:24 UTC 2016

name

Visual estimation of the plant response to limited water availability

Add a new attribute



Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS English

Sweet Potato

Abiotic stress trait

is_a

Agronomic trait

is_a

Average commercial root weight

is_a

Estimated marketable yield per hectare - Method

method_of

t/ha

scale_of

Biomass yield

is_a

Foliage total yield

is_a

Growing season

is_a

Harvest index

is_a

Marketable root yield

is_a

Number of commercial storage roots

is_a

Number of non-commercial storage roots

is_a

Number of plants established

is_a

Number of plants harvested

is_a

Variables

RtACRW_Cp_g

Term information

Estimated marketable yield per hectare Permalink General 0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000314

Formula

ACRW = CRW / NOCR

Method class

Computation

Method description

(Weight of commercial storage roots/ Number of non-commercial roots

Method name

Estimated marketable yield per hectare - Method

Method reference

Grueneberg2016:Def_36

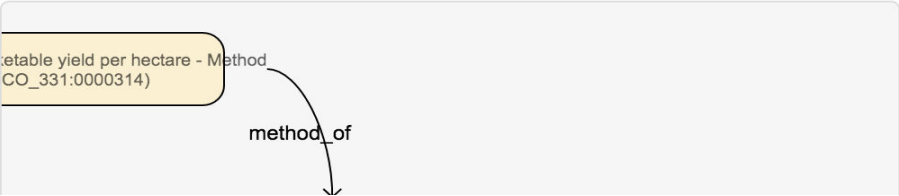
created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:08:28 UTC 2016

name

Estimated marketable yield per hectare - Method

Add a new attribute



Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD

SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS

English

+

Harvest index

is_a

+

Marketable root yield

is_a

+

Number of commercial storage roots

is_a

+

Number of non-commercial storage roots

is_a

+

Number of plants established

is_a

+

Number of plants harvested

is_a

+

Number of plants planted

is_a

+

Number of plants with storage roots

is_a

+

Number of storage root damages

is_a

+

Percentage of marketable roots

is_a

+

Relative Storage Root Yield

is_a

+

Sprouting ability

is_a

-

Storage Root Yield relative to check

is_a

-

No method name found

method_of

-

No scale name found

scale_of

+

Storage root cracking

is_a

Variables

RtYldChk_Cp_pct

Term information

Storage Root Yield relative to check

Permalink

General

0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000425

Trait description

Overall calculation of relative root yield

Attribute

relative yield

Entity

Root

Main trait abbreviation

RtYldChk

Trait Xref

NCSU2016

Trait class

Agronomic trait

Trait name

Storage Root Yield relative to check

Trait status

Recommended

created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:10:42 UTC 2016

Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD

SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS

English

+

Harvest index

is_a

+

Marketable root yield

is_a

+

Number of commercial storage roots

is_a

+

Number of non-commercial storage roots

is_a

+

Number of plants established

is_a

+

Number of plants harvested

is_a

+

Number of plants planted

is_a

+

Number of plants with storage roots

is_a

+

Number of storage root damages

is_a

+

Percentage of marketable roots

is_a

+

Relative Storage Root Yield

is_a

+

Sprouting ability

is_a

-

Storage Root Yield relative to check

is_a

-

No method name found

method_of

No scale name found

scale_of

+

Storage root cracking

is_a

Variables

RtYldChk_Cp_pct

Term information

Storage Root Yield relative to check

Permalink

General

0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000425

Trait description

Overall calculation of relative root yield

Attribute

relative yield

Entity

Root

Main trait abbreviation

RtYldChk

Trait Xref

NCSU2016

Trait class

Agronomic trait

Trait name

Storage Root Yield relative to check

Trait status

Recommended

created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:10:42 UTC 2016

Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOADSHOW OBSOLETE TERMSEnglish

Sweet Potato

+

Abiotic stress traitis_a

+

Agronomic traitis_a

-

Biochemical traitis_a

+

Amylose contentis_a

-

Anthocyanin contentis_a

-

Anthocyanin - Methodmethod_of

mg/g DW

scale_of

+

Asparagine contentis_a

+

Cyanidin contentis_a

+

Peonidin contentis_a

+

Phenol contentis_a

+

Total Monomeric Anthocyanin contentis_a

+

Biotic stress traitis_a

+

Morphological traitis_a

Variables

RtFlsAnt_Ms_mgpergDW

Term information

Anthocyanin - MethodPermalinkGeneral0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000552

Method class

Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

Method name

Anthocyanin - Method

Method reference

NCSU-TBD2016

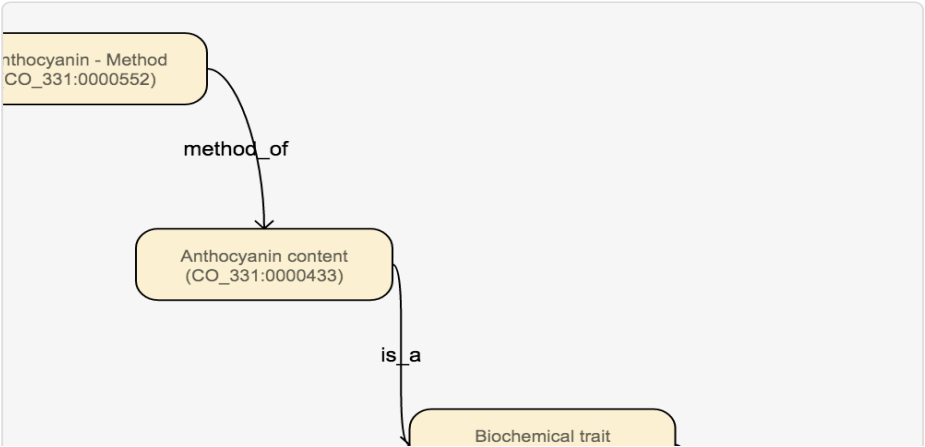
created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:10:50 UTC 2016

name

Anthocyanin - Method

Add a new attribute



Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS English

Sweet Potato

+

Abiotic stress traitis_a

+

Agronomic traitis_a

-

Biochemical traitis_a

- +

Amylose contentis_a

-

Anthocyanin contentis_a
 - Anthocyanin - Methodmethod_ofmg/g DWscale_of

+

Asparagine contentis_a

+

Cyanidin contentis_a

+

Peonidin contentis_a

+

Phenol contentis_a

+

Total Monomeric Anthocyanin contentis_a

+

Biotic stress traitis_a

+

Morphological traitis_a

Variables

RtFlsAnt_Ms_mgpergDW

Term information

Anthocyanin - MethodPermalinkGeneral0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000552

Method class

Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

Method name

Anthocyanin - Method

Method reference

NCSU-TBD2016

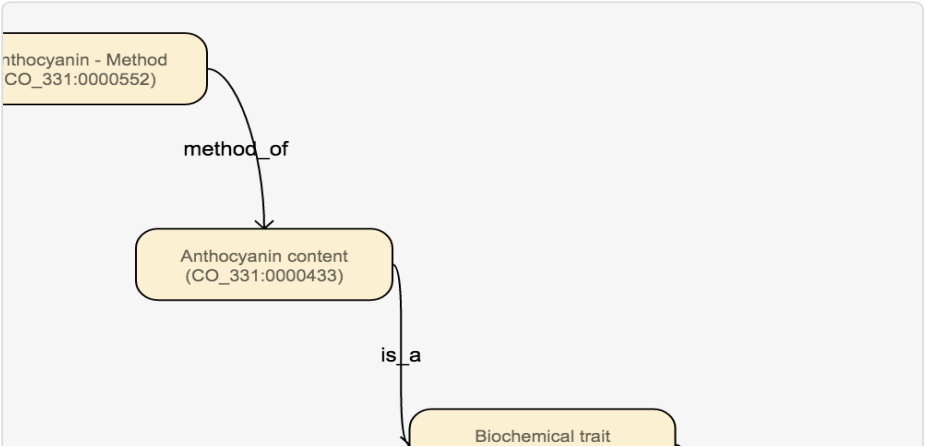
created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:10:50 UTC 2016

name

Anthocyanin - Method

Add a new attribute



Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD

SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS

English

Sweet Potato

+

Abiotic stress trait

is_a

+

Agronomic trait

is_a

+

Biochemical trait

is_a

-

Biotic stress trait

is_a

+

Alcidodes sp. damage

is_a

-

Millipede damage

is_a

+

Observation of an average or all storage roots within a s

method_of

+

Reaction to Aphids

is_a

+

Reaction to Bacterial stem and root rot

is_a

+

Reaction to Bacterial wilt

is_a

+

Reaction to Beetles

is_a

+

Reaction to Black rot

is_a

+

Reaction to Brown ring rot

is_a

Variables

RtsMillIDam_Et_1to9

Term information

Observation of an average or all storage

Permalink

General

0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000557

Method class

Estimation

Method description

Visual estimation

Method name

Observation of an average or all storage roots within a single plant or plot

Method reference

CIP_SASHA_2016

created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:10:56 UTC 2016

name

Observation of an average or all storage roots within a single plant or plot

Add a new attribute

```
graph TD; A[Observation of an average or all storage roots within a single plant or plot  
CO_331:0000557] -- method_of --> B[Millipede damage]
```

Traits, methods and scales

DOWNLOAD

SHOW OBSOLETE TERMS

English

Leaves per plant

is_a

Length to Diameter Ratio of roots

is_a

Mature Leaf Color

is_a

Mature Leaf Size

is_a

Nodes per vine

is_a

Number of Lenticels

is_a

Number of sepal veins

is_a

Oxidation in Storage Roots

is_a

Petiole Pigmentation

is_a

Petiole length

is_a

Plant Type

is_a

Predominant Flesh color

is_a

Observation of predominant Flesh color described from

method_of

Predominant Skin color

is_a

Predominant Vine Color

is_a

Variables

RtFlsColP_Et_1to9

Term information

Observation of predominant Flesh color

Permalink

General

0 Comments

Identifier

CO_331:0000059

Method class

Estimation

Method description

Visual estimation

Method name

Observation of predominant Flesh color described from cross and longitudinal sections made about the middle of freshly harvested storage roots

Method reference

Huaman1991:Def_4.2.5.1, Grueneberg2010:Def_26

created_at

Mon Jun 06 12:07:50 UTC 2016

name

Observation of predominant Flesh color described from cross and longitudinal sections made about the middle of freshly harvested storage roots

Add a new attribute

nd longitudinal sections made about the middle of freshly harvested storage roots
CO_331:0000059)

On-going work & issues

- Re-view utility of traits & measurement methods
- Document measurement methods
- Harmonization of variable names
- Avoidance of trait duplication
- Maintaining backward compatibility with existing data

More research needed on

- Not including 'sub-sampled variables'
 - That is the application has to take care of time-series variables of same type or several biological samples from a field
- How to best include photographic information

More emphasis on meta-data for an experiment

- Minimum information on a plant phenotyping experiment (MIAPPE)
- Is a **checklist** what to document about the experimental context
- http://cropnet.pl/phenotypes/?page_id=15

Minimum Information About a Plant Phenotyping Experiment (MIAPPE)

Attributes (concepts, subconcepts - in terms of ontology) marked by asterisk (*) are essential for a description of experiment (e.g. by Poorter et al. [26]); the rest forms an extended description. For some attributes examples of possible values are listed.

Checklist section	Attributes	Source list / Biosharing ID / Reference	Recommended ontologies
General metadata	Unique identifier* Title* Description* Submission date Public release date Publications Laboratory address and contact details	Default ISA-Tab configuration [1]	OBI, Ontology for Biomedical Investigations [2] CRO, Crop Research Ontology [3]
Timing and location	Timing: Start of experiment (date)* Duration (days/months/years)* Experiment location: Geographic location* Latitude and longitude Altitude Inclination and aspect Habitat	Poorter et al. [4] Morrison et al. [5] CIMR [6]: Environmental Analysis Context [7]	OBI, Ontology for Biomedical Investigations [2] GAZ, Gazetteer [9]
Biosource	Organism (taxon)* Intraspecific_name* Intraspecific_rank Common name Genotype Organism age Life stage Seed preparation: Seed source* Pretreatments Conservation conditions	MxS Plant-associated environmental package [10] Yilmaz et al. [11] FAO/Bioversity Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors V.2 (MCPD V.2) [12]	UNIPROT Taxonomy [13] NCBI Taxonomy [14]

Next steps

- Reviewing traits and variables for adequateness & measurement procedures (breeders)
- updating references to protocols
- vice-versa: updating protocols to CO-identifiers
- establishing a process of review