



Newsletter May 2018
The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is a collaborative, digital and open infrastructure that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources, making it accessible for everyone.

Director's Message

This month the Australian Academy of Science released its ambitious ten year plan for taxonomy and biosystematics: [Discoversing Biodiversity: A decadal plan for taxonomy and biosystematics in Australia and New Zealand 2018-2027](#).



The plan, supported by Sir David Attenborough, addresses the need for "hypertaxonomy" – an accelerated effort to document species in this megadiverse part of the world before mid-century. It also addresses the technological revolution underway to facilitate access to different types of biodiversity knowledge (distribution, conservation status, traits, genomics, biochemistry, etc.). At the ALA, we are very aware that this explosion in data will require technological advances in data management, machine learning and 3D imaging, areas that we're continuing to explore in partnership with the biological sciences community.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our ALA newsletter. In the last three months, we've celebrated a milestone for our digitisation platform DigVol, explored how to incorporate new types of data into the ALA, and launched two new apps facilitating data collection.

Regards,
Dr John La Salle, Director, Atlas of Living Australia

Highlights

2018-2027 plan for taxonomy and biosystematics in Australia and New Zealand

Australian Academy of Science's plan seeks to use new and emerging technologies, develop key infrastructure, and create a unified and dynamic science to serve the needs of society, government, industry and the unique biodiversity of Australia and New Zealand.



[Read more](#)

eDNA Workshop

The Atlas of Living Australia is exploring the opportunities and implications of incorporating different types of data (e.g. genomic and trait data) into our existing databases. In April, we contributed to a CSIRO workshop on eDNA in Perth.



[Read more](#)

The Tracks App

Rangers from the Central Land Council (CLC) now have the capacity to track threatened species in both English and Warlpiri as part of a comprehensive data collection, storage and management mobile app supported by the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).



[Read more](#)

DigVol: digitising the world's collections

Crowdsourcing platform designed to digitise natural history collections, reaches 3,000 registered volunteers.



[Read more](#)

See Search app

Portia Victoria launched a new app to enable volunteers and citizen scientists to better monitor Victoria's unique marine life and environments.



[Read more](#)

Updates

Spatial Portal updates

Updates to the Atlas of Living Australia's mapping and analysis tool – the Spatial Portal – are nearly complete. We've made it faster, cleaner and prettier while keeping the same functionality. The new version will be running in parallel to the current version. Look out for the link on the header of the Spatial Portal to try it out.

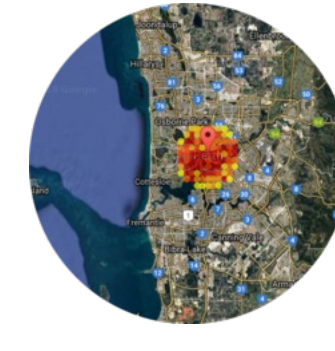


spatial.ala.org.au

Tips & Tricks

Explore your area

Want to know what species are likely to live in your backyard? Use the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) to see all species that have been recorded in your particular city or postcode.



[Read more](#)

Using the Atlas of Living Australia in the classroom – Classification

Geoff Guymer uses his experience working in remote communities in the Northern Territory to give a classification activity a local Indigenous focus.



[Read more](#)

Image of the Issue

Every day new images of Australia's amazingly diverse species are uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

We like to pick a feature image for our newsletter to showcase our biodiversity as well as the photographic talents of our ALA community.

For this edition, we chose an image by Nick Shaw of *Phyllodesmium psalmdmiei*, a surprisingly beautiful sea slug.



For more info see [Teacher adds first colour images of underwater species to ALA](#).

[Recent sightings](#) displays all new images as they are uploaded to the ALA.

Coming up in our next edition...

Trait data

The Atlas of Living Australia is embracing the challenges presented by the wonderfully varied and complex world of traits. In our next edition we will be reporting back from a series of trait data workshops in Australia and overseas.



National Science Week Schools Competition

To celebrate National Science Week (11-19 August 2018), we will be running our Atlas of Living Australia School Biodiversity Image Competition again.



[Read more](#)

ALA Dashboard for May 2018



Handy Links & Resources

The Spatial Portal
Use mapping tools to explore species, location and environment data.

Search species
Find images, taxonomic and location information for Australian species.

Record a sighting
Upload your own species image and location information.

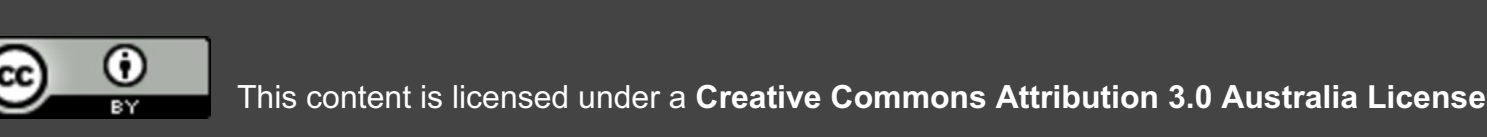


The ALA is made possible by contributions from its many partners. It receives support through the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and is hosted by CSIRO.

Atlas of Living Australia | www.ala.org.au | support@ala.org.au

The Atlas of Living Australia acknowledges Australia's Traditional Owners and pays respect to the past and present Elders of the nation's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We honour and celebrate the spiritual, cultural and customary connections of Traditional Owners to country and the biodiversity that forms part of that country.

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