Atlas of Living Australia
ala.org.au

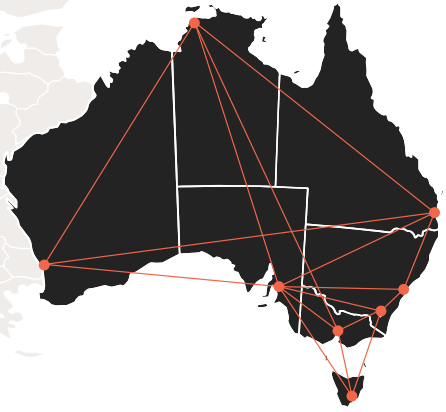
Australia's biodiversity data infrastructure

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is our national biodiversity database. It is a collaborative, open, digital platform that harmonises Australian biodiversity data from multiple sources, making it accessible and reusable.

The ALA's digital platform supports:

- Access to species information
- Data downloads
- Mapping and analysis tools
- Data collection, upload, aggregation and sharing

Part of a global network



GBIF

The ALA is the Australian node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Australia's biodiversity data are available to users around the world through **gbif.org.au**.

The international **Living Atlases** program shares ALA infrastructure and open source code with more than 20 countries around the world.

Partners

The ALA is made possible by contributions from its partners, is supported by **NCRIS** and is hosted by **CSIRO**.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Country

The ALA 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.

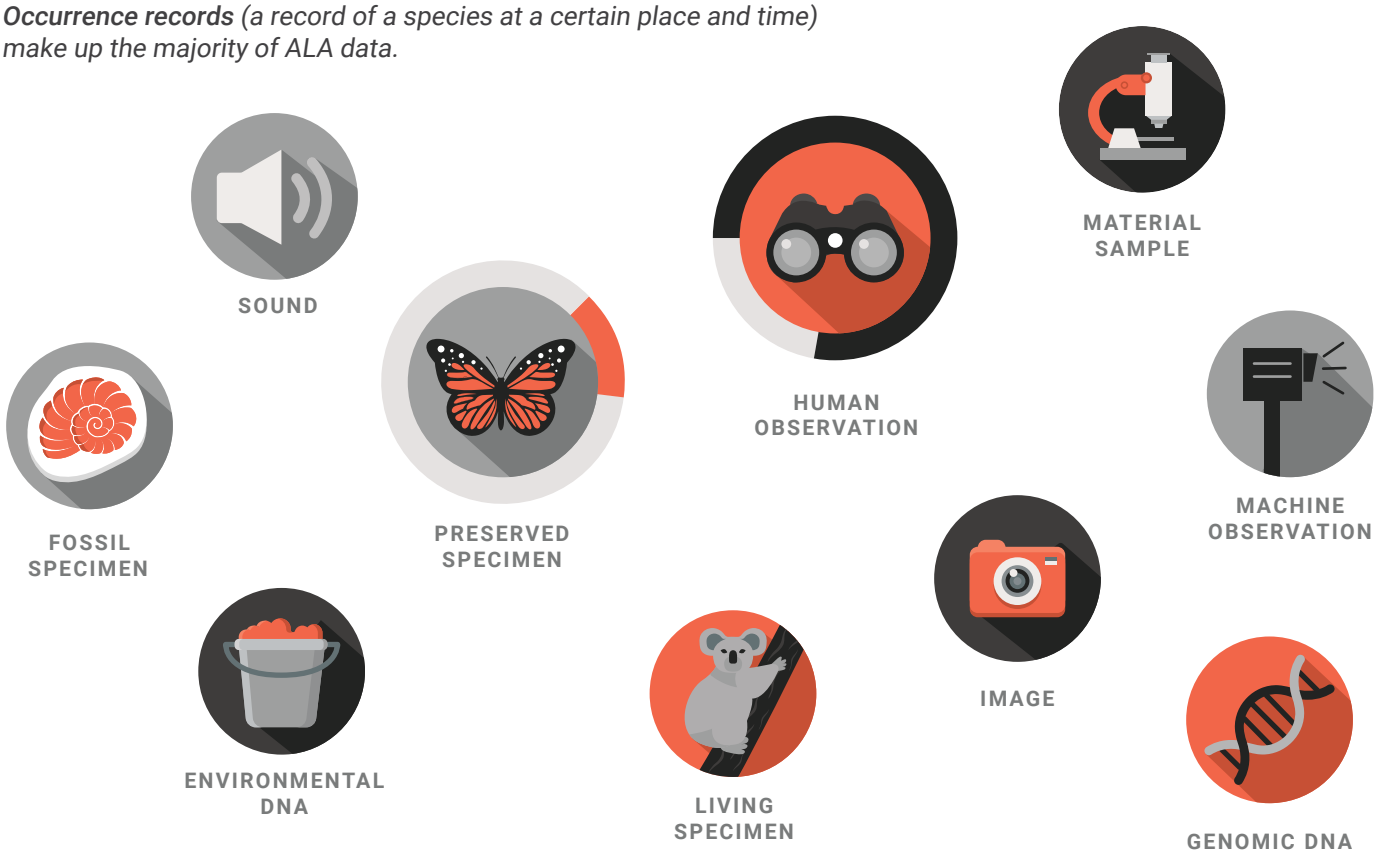
NCRIS
National Research Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

CSIRO

Platalea (Platibis) flavipes (Yellow-Billed Spoonbill), Kym Nicolson, 2018 (CC-BY)

Types of data in the ALA

Occurrence records *(a record of a species at a certain place and time) make up the majority of ALA data.*



Other data in the ALA helps to provide a context for understanding biodiversity data.

SPECIES INFORMATION
(taxonomy, conservation status, published literature)

SPATIAL INFORMATION
(maps, geolocation references etc.)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAYERS
(temperature, rainfall, humidity etc.)

CONTEXTUAL LAYERS
(state and territory boundaries, protected areas, regions)

MODELLED DATA
(species distribution models, abundance, endemism, rarity, absences etc.)

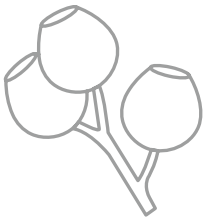
ALA data partners

The ALA works with organisations across Australia to make their data accessible and reusable.

MUSEUMS AND NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

UNIVERSITIES

SCIENCE AGENCIES



INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

INDIVIDUALS

COMMUNITY GROUPS, CONSERVATION GROUPS

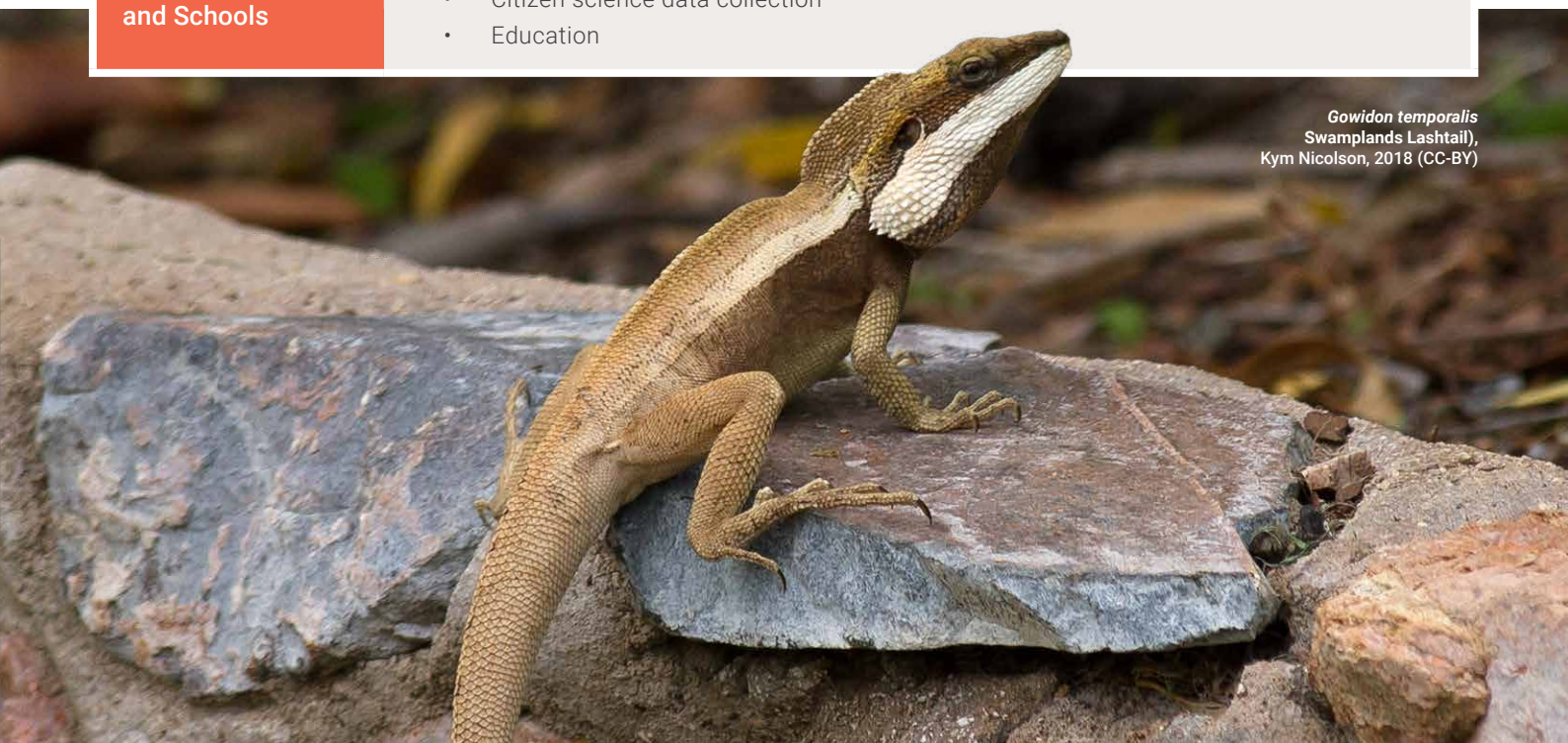
GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRY

ALA benefits many sectors

The ALA is a critical resource for biodiversity scientists, policy makers, land managers, educators and students.

Research	• Biodiversity, biodiscovery, systematics, taxonomy research • Ecoscience research, field data collection, environmental monitoring and conservation • Digitisation and transcription of collections, labels and literature
Government and Land Management	• Environmental monitoring, conservation, planning and policy development • Biosecurity • Land management, ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation
Community and Schools	• Community environmental management • Citizen science data collection • Education



Gowidon temporalis **Swamplands Lashtail), Kym Nicolson, 2018 (CC-BY)**

ALA core features

Access species information

Search ALA data by scientific name, dataset, identifier, habitat, institution, or collection. You can view:

- species occurrence data
- species names and classification
- dataset statistics
- species images
- scientific literature references

Download data

- Filter search results to show only the data you need
- Download a complete table of records, or predefined datasets
- Data downloads include DOI, metadata, licencing information and biodiversity occurrence records

Map and analyse data

Use ALA map-based tools to explore relationships between species, location and environment.

- Explore by location (suburb, postcode, reserve, state or user defined area)
- Spatial analysis tools enable tabulations, statistics and modelling
- Push data to common cloud analysis platforms
- For a full list of tools visit **ala.org.au**

Collect and share data

- Set up automatic data transfers to share your organisation's data
- Upload your own research data
- Collect, store manage and share data collected in the field
- Upload species lists
- Design your own data collection app using ALA open source tools
- Record individual observations
- Digitise and transcribe museum labels and archive records

Improving data quality

- ✓ Technical and consistency checks
- ✓ Geographic and time checks
- ✓ Checks for species distribution outliers
- ✓ Data quality check results visible to all users
- ✓ Data owners are notified if users flag data quality issues