

GBIF IPR principles *

Access to data – GBIF is an open-access facility. All users have equal access to data in databases shared with GBIF, although they are asked to respects conditions set by data providers.

Attribution – GBIF works to ensure that the source of data is acknowledged by users and requires that attribution is maintained in subsequent uses of the data.

Biodiversity data – GBIF promotes the free dissemination of biodiversity data and does not assert any proprietary rights whatsoever to the data in databases that are affiliated with GBIF.

Data collection – GBIF asks for reasonable assurance from data providers that data collection was consistent with applicable laws, regulations and requirements for prior informed consent.

Data validity – Users acknowledge that the validity of GBIF-mediated data cannot be assured. GBIF disclaims responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of the data as well as for the suitability of its application for any particular purpose.

Software, websites, publications, etc. – GBIF claims appropriate IPR on websites, search engines, software products or publications that are developed by GBIF itself. GBIF then makes these freely and openly available for use by others.

Technology transfer – GBIF promotes non-exclusive transfer of technologies developed by GBIF or its partners, especially in conjunction with training and capacity building programs.

* As governed by the GBIF Memorandum of Understanding, Paragraph 8



free and open access to biodiversity data



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Thyridia psdifi L.



GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY
INFORMATION
FACILITY

www.gbif.org

Secretariat
Universitetsparken 15
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark

Tel.: +45 35 32 14 70
Fax: +45 35 32 14 80
Email: info@gbif.org

GBIF Data Policy

www.gbif.org



GBIF Data Policy

GBIF's mission is to make the world's biodiversity *data* freely and openly available via the Internet.

Biodiversity data such as those mediated by GBIF are necessary for the advancement of science, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resource management, policy-making, and education and public awareness.

Basics about GBIF with respect to data sharing and intellectual property rights (IPR):

- At the core of GBIF's work is enabling a positive and respectful data sharing-and-use environment that benefits science and society, and contributes to a sustainable future.
- The GBIF network handles only biodiversity *data*. GBIF does not deal with specimen holdings, nor with materials that are derived from biodiversity studies or from nature. Thus, GBIF-related IPR and other legal issues are minimised to only those that apply to *data*.
- The GBIF Memorandum of Understanding Paragraph 8 governs GBIF with regard to IPR issues (see overleaf).
- GBIF is advised on issues associated with IPR by a *pro bono* Legal Advisory Group (proLEG) of 10 attorneys from all regions of the world.
- GBIF asserts no rights to the data shared via the GBIF network. Data providers retain all rights and responsibilities associated with the data they make available.
- GBIF's open access data policy is based on trust and good will. GBIF endorses ethical use of data, and demands that data users provide attribution to the sources of data that they use (see the GBIF Data Use Agreement, data.gbif.org/tutorial/datauseagreement).
- GBIF strongly advocates for the open sharing of scientific data, especially when the research has been supported by public funds.
- GBIF does not operate as a commercial venture - GBIF neither charges its users nor pays the data providers in the network.
- GBIF data-sharing services and GBIF-mediated data are global *public goods*.

Rights and responsibilities of data providers

Data providers have the right to individual and/or institutional recognition for contributions to the public good, and attribution as the source of data when those data are used.

Data providers are responsible for deciding which data will be made available and what use restrictions (if any) will be applied.

Data providers are expected to describe the reliability and quality of the data they share so that users can determine the fitness of the data for their own purposes.

Data providers are guided by the GBIF Data Sharing Agreement: data.gbif.org/tutorial/datasharingagreement

Rights and responsibilities of data users

Data users are guided by the GBIF Data Use Agreement: data.gbif.org/tutorial/datauseagreement

Data users are expected under all circumstances to give attribution to the providers of data that they use.

Data users contribute to the positive and respectful data sharing-and-use environment that benefits science and society when they provide helpful feedback on data quality to data providers.

