# Package 'dwctaxon'

December 15, 2025

```
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Version 2.0.4
Description Edit and validate taxonomic data in compliance with Darwin Core
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```

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dct_a	add_row Add row(s) to a taxonomic database	

# **Description**

Add one or more rows to a taxonomic database in Darwin Core (DwC) format.

## Usage

```
dct_add_row(
  tax_dat,
  taxonID = NULL,
  scientificName = NULL,
  taxonomicStatus = NULL,
  acceptedNameUsageID = NULL,
  acceptedNameUsage = NULL,
  new_dat = NULL,
  fill_taxon_id = dct_options()$fill_taxon_id,
  fill_usage_id = dct_options()$fill_usage_id,
  taxon_id_length = dct_options()$taxon_id_length,
  stamp_modified = dct_options()$stamp_modified,
  stamp_modified_by_id = dct_options()$stamp_modified_by_id,
  stamp_modified_by = dct_options()$stamp_modified_by,
  strict = dct_options()$strict,
)
```

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## Arguments

tax\_dat Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

taxonID Character or numeric vector; values to add to taxonID column. Ignored if

new\_dat is not NULL.

scientificName Character vector; values to add to scientificName column. Ignored if new\_dat

is not NULL.

taxonomicStatus

Character vector; values to add to taxonomicStatus column. Ignored if new\_dat

is not NULL.

acceptedNameUsageID

Character or numeric vector; values to add to acceptedNameUsageID column.

Ignored if new\_dat is not NULL.

acceptedNameUsage

Character vector; values to add to acceptedNameUsage column. Ignored if

new\_dat is not NULL.

new\_dat A dataframe including columns corresponding to one or more of the above argu-

ments, except for tax\_dat. Other DwC terms can also be included as additional columns. All rows in new\_dat will be appended to the input data (tax\_dat).

fill\_taxon\_id Logical vector of length 1; if taxon\_id is not provided, should values in the

taxonID column be filled in by generating them automatically from the scientificName? If the taxonID column does not yet exist it will be created. Default

TRUE.

fill\_usage\_id Logical vector of length 1; if usage\_id is not provided, should values in the

acceptedNameUsageID column be filled in by matching acceptedNameUsage to scientificName? If the acceptedNameUsageID column does not yet exist it

will be created. Default TRUE.

taxon\_id\_length

Numeric vector of length 1; how many characters should be included in automatically generated values of taxonID? Must be between 1 and 32, inclusive.

Default 32.

stamp\_modified Logical vector of length 1; should the modified column of any newly cre-

ated or modified row include a timestamp with the date and time of its creation/modification? If the modified column does not yet exist it will be created.

Default TRUE.

stamp\_modified\_by\_id

Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedByID column of any newly created or modified row include the ID of the current user? If the modifiedByID column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC stan-

column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedByID" is required in extra\_cols. The current user

ID can be specified with the user\_id option. Default FALSE.

stamp\_modified\_by

Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedBy column of any newly created or modified row include the name of the current user? If the modifiedBy column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedBy" is required in extra\_cols. The current user can be

specified with the user\_name option. Default FALSE.

dct\_check\_mapping

Logical vector of length 1; should taxonomic checks be run on the updated taxonomic database? Default FALSE.
Additional data to add, specified as sets of named character or numeric vectors; e.g., parentNameUsageID = "6SH4". The name of each must be a valid column name for data in DwC format. Ignored if new\_dat is not NULL.

## **Details**

fill\_taxon\_id and fill\_usage\_id only act on the newly added data (they do not fill columns in tax\_dat).

If "taxonID" is not provided for the new row and fill\_taxon\_id is TRUE, a value for taxonID will be automatically generated from the md5 hash digest of the scientific name.

To modify settings used for validation if strict is TRUE, use dct\_options().

## Value

Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

## **Examples**

```
tibble::tibble(
  taxonID = "123",
  scientificName = "Foogenus barspecies",
  acceptedNameUsageID = NA_character_,
  taxonomicStatus = "accepted"
) |>
  dct_add_row(
   scientificName = "Foogenus barspecies var. bla",
  parentNameUsageID = "123",
  nameAccordingTo = "me",
  strict = TRUE
)
```

dct\_check\_mapping

Check mapping of usage taxonomic IDs

## **Description**

Check that values of terms like 'acceptedUsageID' map properly to taxonID in Darwin Core (DwC) taxonomic data.

# Usage

```
dct_check_mapping(
  tax_dat,
  on_fail = dct_options()$on_fail,
  on_success = dct_options()$on_success,
  col_select = "acceptedNameUsageID",
```

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```
quiet = dct_options()$quiet
)
```

# Arguments

tax_dat	Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.
on_fail	Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".
on_success	Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".
col_select	Character vector of length 1; the name of the column (DwC term) to check. Default "acceptedNameUsageID".
quiet	Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.

#### **Details**

The following rules are enforced:

- Value of taxonID may not be identical to that of the selected column within a single row (in other words, a name cannot be its own accepted name, parent taxon, or basionym).
- Every value in the selected column must have a corresponding taxonID.

col\_select can take one of the following values:

- "acceptedNameUsageID": taxonID corresponding to the accepted name (of a synonym).
- "parentNameUsageID": taxonID corresponding to the immediate parent taxon of a name (for example, for a species, this would be the genus).
- $\bullet$  "originalNameUsageID": taxonID corresponding to the basionym of a name.

#### Value

Depends on the result of the check and on values of on\_fail and on\_success:

- If the check passes and on\_success is "logical", return TRUE
- If the check passes and on\_success is "data", return the input dataframe
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "error", return an error
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "summary", issue a warning and return a dataframe with a summary of the reasons for failure

# **Examples**

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```
dct_check_mapping(bad_dat, on_fail = "summary", quiet = TRUE)
```

dct\_check\_sci\_name

Check scientificName

# **Description**

Check for correctly formatted scientificName column in Darwin Core taxonomic data.

# Usage

```
dct_check_sci_name(
  tax_dat,
  on_fail = dct_options()$on_fail,
  on_success = dct_options()$on_success,
  quiet = dct_options()$quiet
)
```

# Arguments

tax_dat	Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.
on_fail	Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".
on_success	Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".
quiet	Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.

## **Details**

The following rules are enforced:

- scientificName may not be missing (NA)
- scientificName must be unique

## Value

Depends on the result of the check and on values of on\_fail and on\_success:

- If the check passes and on\_success is "logical", return TRUE  $\,$
- If the check passes and on\_success is "data", return the input dataframe
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "error", return an error
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "summary", issue a warning and return a dataframe with a summary of the reasons for failure

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# **Examples**

```
dct_check_sci_name(
  data.frame(scientificName = NA_character_),
  on_fail = "summary", quiet = TRUE
)
dct_check_sci_name(data.frame(scientificName = "a"))
```

dct\_check\_taxon\_id

Check taxonID

# Description

Check for correctly formatted taxonID column in Darwin Core taxonomic data.

# Usage

```
dct_check_taxon_id(
  tax_dat,
  on_fail = dct_options()$on_fail,
  on_success = dct_options()$on_success,
  quiet = dct_options()$quiet
)
```

# **Arguments**

tax_dat	Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.
on_fail	Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".
on_success	Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".
quiet	Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.

#### **Details**

The following rules are enforced:

- taxonID may not be missing (NA)
- taxonID must be unique

#### Value

Depends on the result of the check and on values of on\_fail and on\_success:

- If the check passes and on\_success is "logical", return TRUE
- If the check passes and on\_success is "data", return the input dataframe
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "error", return an error
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "summary", issue a warning and return a dataframe with a summary of the reasons for failure

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## **Examples**

```
dct_check_taxon_id(
  data.frame(taxonID = NA_character_),
  on_fail = "summary", quiet = TRUE
)
dct_check_taxon_id(data.frame(taxonID = 1))
```

# Description

Check that taxonomicStatus is within valid values in Darwin Core taxonomic data

# Usage

```
dct_check_tax_status(
   tax_dat,
   on_fail = dct_options()$on_fail,
   on_success = dct_options()$on_success,
   valid_tax_status = dct_options()$valid_tax_status,
   quiet = dct_options()$quiet
)
```

# **Arguments**

	tax_dat	Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.
	on_fail	Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".
	on_success	Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".
valid_tax_status		
		Character vector of length 1; valid values for taxonomicStatus. Each value must be separated by a comma. Default accepted, synonym, variant, NA. "NA" indicates that missing (NA) values are valid. Case-sensitive. (see Examples).
	quiet	Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.

#### Value

Depends on the result of the check and on values of on\_fail and on\_success:

- If the check passes and on\_success is "logical", return TRUE
- If the check passes and on\_success is "data", return the input dataframe
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "error", return an error
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "summary", issue a warning and return a dataframe with a summary of the reasons for failure

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#### References

```
https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:taxonomicStatus
```

## **Examples**

```
# The bad data has an taxonomicStatus (third row, "foo") that is not
# a valid value
bad_dat <- tibble::tribble(</pre>
  ~taxonID, ~acceptedNameUsageID, ~taxonomicStatus, ~scientificName,
  "1", NA, "accepted", "Species foo",
  "2", "1", "synonym", "Species bar",
  "3", NA, "foo", "Species bat"
)
dct_check_tax_status(bad_dat, on_fail = "summary", quiet = TRUE)
# Example of setting valid values of taxonomicStatus via dct_options()
# First store existing settings, including any changes made by the user
old_settings <- dct_options()</pre>
# Change options for valid_tax_status
dct_options(valid_tax_status = "provisionally accepted, synonym, NA")
tibble::tribble(
  ~taxonID, ~acceptedNameUsageID, ~taxonomicStatus, ~scientificName,
  "1", NA, "provisionally accepted", "Species foo",
  "2", "1", "synonym", "Species bar",
  "3", NA, NA, "Strange name"
) |>
  dct_check_tax_status()
# Reset options to those before this example was run
do.call(dct_options, old_settings)
```

dct\_drop\_row

*Drop* row(s) *of a taxonomic database* 

## **Description**

Drop one or more rows from a taxonomic database in Darwin Core (DwC) format by taxonID or scientificName.

## Usage

```
dct_drop_row(tax_dat, taxonID = NULL, scientificName = NULL)
```

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# Arguments

tax\_dat Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

taxonID Character or numeric vector; taxonID of the row(s) to be dropped.

scientificName Character vector; scientificName of the row(s) to be dropped.

#### **Details**

Only works if values of taxonID or scientificName are unique and non-missing in the taxonomic database (tax\_dat).

Either taxonID or scientificName should be provided, but not both.

#### Value

Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format

## **Examples**

```
# Can drop rows by scientificName or taxonID
 dct_drop_row(scientificName = "Cephalomanes atrovirens Presl")
dct_filmies |>
 dct_drop_row(taxonID = "54133783")
# Can drop multiple rows at once by providing multiple values for
# scientificName or taxonID
dct_filmies |>
 dct_drop_row(
   scientificName = c(
      "Cephalomanes atrovirens Presl",
      "Trichomanes crassum Copel."
 )
dct_filmies |>
 dct_drop_row(
    taxonID = c(
      "54133783", "54133783"
```

dct\_fill\_col

Fill a column of a taxonomic database

# Description

Fill a column in a taxonomic database in Darwin Core (DwC) format.

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## Usage

```
dct_fill_col(
  tax_dat,
  fill_to = "acceptedNameUsage",
  fill_from = "scientificName",
  match_to = "taxonID",
  match_from = "acceptedNameUsageID",
  stamp_modified = dct_options()$stamp_modified)
```

# **Arguments**

tax_dat	Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.
fill_to	Character vector of length 1; name of column to fill. If the column does not yet exist it will be created.
fill_from	Character vector of length 1; name of column to copy values from when filling.
match_to	Character vector of length 1; name of column to match to.
match_from	Character vector of length 1; name of column to match from.
stamp_modified	Logical vector of length 1; should the modified column of any newly created or modified row include a timestamp with the date and time of its creation/modification? If the modified column does not yet exist it will be created. Default TRUE.

## **Details**

Several terms (columns) in DwC format come in pairs of "term" and "termID"; for example, "acceptedNameUsage" and "acceptedNameUsageID", where the first is the value in a human-readable form (in this case, scientific name of the accepted taxon) and the second is the value used by a machine (in this case, taxonID of the accepted taxon). Other pairs include "parentNameUsage" and "parentNameUsageID", "scientificName" and "scientificNameID", etc. None are required to be used in a given DwC dataset.

Often when updating data, the user may only fill in one value or the other (e.g., "acceptedNameUsage" or "acceptedNameUsageID"), but not both. The purpose of dct\_fill\_col() is to fill the missing column.

match\_from and match\_to are used to locate the values used for filling each cell. The values in the match\_to column must be unique.

The default settings are to fill acceptedNameUsage with values from scientificName by matching acceptedNameUsageID to taxonID (see Example).

When adding timestamps with stamp\_modified, any row that differs from the original data(tax\_dat) is considered modified. This includes when a new column is added, in which case all rows will be considered modified.

#### Value

Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

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# **Examples**

```
# Fill acceptedNameUsage with values from scientificName by
# matching acceptedNameUsageID to taxonID
(head(dct_filmies, 5)) |>
    dct_fill_col(
      fill_to = "acceptedNameUsage",
      fill_from = "scientificName",
      match_to = "taxonID",
      match_from = "acceptedNameUsageID"
)
```

dct\_filmies

Taxonomic data of filmy ferns

# Description

Taxonomic data of filmy ferns (family Hymenophyllaceae) in Darwin Core format. Non-ASCII characters have been converted to ASCII, so some author names may not be as expected. Meant for demonstration purposes only, not formal data analysis.

## Usage

```
dct_filmies
```

# **Format**

Dataframe (tibble), with 2451 rows and 5 columns. For details about data format, see <a href="https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#taxon">https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#taxon</a>.

## **Details**

Modified from data downloaded from the Catalog of Life under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 license.

#### **Source**

```
https://www.catalogueoflife.org/
```

# **Examples**

```
dct_filmies
```

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dct\_modify\_row

Modify row(s) of a taxonomic database

# **Description**

Modify one or more rows in a taxonomic database in Darwin Core (DwC) format.

# Usage

```
dct_modify_row(
  tax_dat,
  taxonID = NULL,
  scientificName = NULL,
  taxonomicStatus = NULL,
  acceptedNameUsageID = NULL,
  acceptedNameUsage = NULL,
  clear_usage_id = dct_options()$clear_usage_id,
  clear_usage_name = dct_options()$clear_usage_name,
  fill_usage_name = dct_options()$fill_usage_name,
  remap_names = dct_options()$remap_names,
  remap_parent = dct_options()$remap_parent,
  remap_variant = dct_options()$remap_variant,
  stamp_modified = dct_options()$stamp_modified,
  stamp_modified_by_id = dct_options()$stamp_modified_by_id,
  stamp_modified_by = dct_options()$stamp_modified_by,
  strict = dct_options()$strict,
  quiet = dct_options()$quiet,
  args_tbl = NULL,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

tax\_dat Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

taxonID Character or numeric vector of length 1; taxonID of the row to be modified (the

selected row).

scientificName Character vector of length 1; scientificName of the row to be modified if taxonID

is NULL, OR the scientificName to assign to the selected row if taxonID is pro-

vided (see Details).

taxonomicStatus

Character vector of length 1; taxonomicStatus to assign to the selected row.

acceptedNameUsageID

Character or numeric vector of length 1; acceptedNameUsageID to assign to the selected row.

acceptedNameUsage

Character vector of length 1; acceptedNameUsage to assign to the selected row.

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clear\_usage\_id Logical vector of length 1; should acceptedNameUsageID of the selected row be set to NA if the word "accepted" is detected in tax\_status (not case-sensitive)? Default TRUE.

clear\_usage\_name

Logical vector of length 1; should acceptedNameUsageID of the selected row be set to NA if the word "accepted" is detected in tax\_status (not case-sensitive)? Default TRUE.

fill\_usage\_name

remap\_parent

Logical vector of length 1; should the acceptedNameUsage of the selected row be set to the scientificName corresponding to its acceptedNameUsageID? Default TRUE.

Logical vector of length 1; should the acceptedNameUsageID be updated (remapped) remap\_names for rows with the same acceptedNameUsageID as the taxonID of the row to be modified? Default TRUE.

> Logical vector of length 1; should the parentNameUsageID be updated (remapped) to that of its accepted name if it is a synonym? Will also apply to any other rows with the same parentNameUsageID as the taxonID of the row to be modified. Default TRUE.

remap\_variant Same as remap\_names, but applies specifically to rows with taxonomicStatus of "variant". Default FALSE.

stamp\_modified Logical vector of length 1; should the modified column of any newly created or modified row include a timestamp with the date and time of its creation/modification? If the modified column does not yet exist it will be created. Default TRUE.

stamp\_modified\_by\_id

Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedByID column of any newly created or modified row include the ID of the current user? If the modifiedByID column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedByID" is required in extra\_cols. The current user ID can be specified with the user\_id option. Default FALSE.

stamp\_modified\_by

Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedBy column of any newly created or modified row include the name of the current user? If the modifiedBy column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedBy" is required in extra\_cols. The current user can be specified with the user\_name option. Default FALSE.

Logical vector of length 1; should taxonomic checks be run on the updated taxonomic database? Default FALSE...

Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE..

A dataframe including columns corresponding to one or more of the above arguments, except for tax\_dat. In this case, the input taxonomic database will be modified sequentially over each row of input in args\_tbl. Other DwC terms can also be included as additional columns, similar to using ... to modify a single row.

other DwC terms to modify, specified as sets of named values. Each element of the vector must have a name corresponding to a valid DwC term; see dct\_terms.

strict

quiet args\_tbl

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#### **Details**

taxonID is only used to identify the row(s) to modify and is not itself modified. scientificName can be used in the same way if taxonID is not provided (as long as scientificName matches a single row). If both taxonID and scientificName are provided, scientificName will be assigned to the scientificName of the row identified by taxonID, replacing any value that already exists.

acceptedNameUsageID and acceptedNameUsage must match existing values of acceptedNameUsageID and acceptedNameUsage in the input data (tax\_dat). On default settings, either can be used and the other will be filled in automatically (fill\_usage\_id and fill\_usage\_name are both TRUE).

Any other arguments provided that are DwC terms will be assigned to the selected row (i.e., they will modify the row).

If remap\_names is TRUE (default) and acceptedNameUsageID is provided, any names that have an acceptedNameUsageID matching the taxonID of the selected row (i.e., synonyms of that row) will also have their acceptedNameUsageID replaced with the new acceptedNameUsageID. This applies to acceptedNameUsage as well. This behavior is not applied to names with taxonomicStatus of "variant" by default, but can be turned on for such names with remap\_variant.

If remap\_parent is TRUE (default) and the parentNameUsageID of the selected row is a synonym, the parentNameUsageID will be changed to that of the accepted name (of the parent taxon). This will also apply to any other row with the same parentNameUsageID as the selected row. This applies to parentNameUsage as well.

If clear\_usage\_id or clear\_usage\_name is TRUE and taxonomicStatus includes the word "accepted", acceptedNameUsageID or acceptedNameUsage will be set to NA respectively, regardless of the values of acceptedNameUsageID, acceptedNameUsage, or fill\_usage\_name.

Can either modify a single row in the input taxonomic database if each argument is supplied as a vector of length 1, or can apply a set of changes to the taxonomic database if the input is supplied as a dataframe via args\_tbl.

#### Value

Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format

## **Examples**

```
# Swap the accepted / synonym status of
# Cephalomanes crassum (Copel.) M. G. Price
# and Trichomanes crassum Copel.
dct_filmies |>
    dct_modify_row(
        scientificName = "Cephalomanes crassum (Copel.) M. G. Price",
        taxonomicStatus = "synonym",
        acceptedNameUsage = "Trichomanes crassum Copel."
) |>
    dct_modify_row(
        scientificName = "Trichomanes crassum Copel.",
        taxonomicStatus = "accepted"
) |>
    dct_validate(
        check_tax_status = FALSE,
        check_mapping_accepted_status = FALSE,
```

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```
check_sci_name = FALSE
# Sometimes changing one name will affect others, if they map
# to the new synonym
dct_modify_row(
 tax_dat = dct_filmies |> head(),
 scientificName = "Cephalomanes crassum (Copel.) M. G. Price",
 taxonomicStatus = "synonym",
 acceptedNameUsage = "Cephalomanes densinervium (Copel.) Copel."
)
# Apply a set of changes
library(tibble)
updates <- tibble(</pre>
 scientificName = c(
    "Cephalomanes atrovirens Presl",
    "Cephalomanes crassum (Copel.) M. G. Price"
 ),
 taxonomicStatus = "synonym",
 acceptedNameUsage = "Trichomanes crassum Copel."
)
dct_filmies |>
 dct_modify_row(args_tbl = updates) |>
 dct_modify_row(
    scientificName = "Trichomanes crassum Copel.",
    taxonomicStatus = "accepted"
 )
```

dct\_options

Get and set function arguments via options

# **Description**

Changes the default values of function arguments.

# Usage

```
dct_options(reset = FALSE, ...)
```

## **Arguments**

Logical vector of length 1; if TRUE, reset all options to their default values.

Any number of argument = value pairs, where the left side is the name of the argument and the right side is its value. See Details and Examples.

# **Details**

Use this to change the default values of function arguments. That way, you don't have to type the same thing each time you call a function.

The arguments that can be set with this function are as follows:

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#### Validation arguments:

• check\_col\_names: Logical vector of length 1; should all column names be required to be a valid DwC term? Default TRUE.

- check\_mapping\_accepted\_status: Logical vector of length 1; should rules about mapping of variants and synonyms be enforced? Default FALSE. (See dct\_validate()).
- check\_mapping\_accepted: Logical vector of length 1; should all values of acceptedNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.
- check\_mapping\_original: Logical vector of length 1; should all values of originalNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.
- check\_mapping\_parent: Logical vector of length 1; should all values of parentNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.
- check\_mapping\_parent\_accepted: Logical vector of length 1; should all values of parentNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an accepted name? Default FALSE.
- check\_sci\_name: Logical vector of length 1; should all instances of scientificName be required to be non-missing and unique? Default TRUE.
- check\_status\_diff: Logical vector of length 1; should each scientific name be allowed to have only one taxonomic status? Default FALSE.
- check\_tax\_status: Logical vector of length 1; should all taxonomic names be required to have a valid value for taxonomic status (by default, "accepted", "synonym", or "variant")? Default TRUE.
- check\_taxon\_id: Logical vector of length 1; should all instances of taxonID be required to be non-missing and unique? Default TRUE.
- extra\_cols: Character vector; names of columns that should be allowed beyond those defined by the DwC taxon standard. Default NULL. Providing column name(s) that are valid DwC taxon column(s) has no effect.
- on\_fail: Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".
- on\_success: Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".
- skip\_missing\_cols: Logical vector of length 1; should checks be silently skipped if any of the columns they inspect are missing? Default FALSE.
- valid\_tax\_status: Character vector of length 1; valid values for taxonomicStatus. Each value must be separated by a comma. Default accepted, synonym, variant, NA. "NA" indicates that missing (NA) values are valid. Case-sensitive.

## **Editing arguments:**

- clear\_usage\_id: Logical vector of length 1; should acceptedNameUsageID of the selected row be set to NA if the word "accepted" is detected in tax\_status (not case-sensitive)? Default TRUE.
- clear\_usage\_name: Logical vector of length 1; should acceptedNameUsage of the selected row be set to NA if the word "accepted" is detected in tax\_status (not case-sensitive)? Default TRUE.
- fill\_taxon\_id: Logical vector of length 1; if taxon\_id is not provided, should values in the taxonID column be filled in by generating them automatically from the scientificName? If the taxonID column does not yet exist it will be created. Default TRUE.

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fill\_usage\_id: Logical vector of length 1; if usage\_id is not provided, should values in the
acceptedNameUsageID column be filled in by matching acceptedNameUsage to scientificName? If the acceptedNameUsageID column does not yet exist it will be created. Default
TRUE.

- fill\_usage\_name: Logical vector of length 1; should the acceptedNameUsage of the selected row be set to the scientificName corresponding to its acceptedNameUsageID? Default TRUE.
- remap\_names: Logical vector of length 1; should the acceptedNameUsageID be updated (remapped) for rows with the same acceptedNameUsageID as the taxonID of the row to be modified? Default TRUE.
- remap\_parent: Logical vector of length 1; should the parentNameUsageID be updated (remapped) to that of its accepted name if it is a synonym? Will also apply to any other rows with the same parentNameUsageID as the taxonID of the row to be modified. Default TRUE.
- remap\_variant: Same as remap\_names, but applies specifically to rows with taxonomicStatus of "variant". Default FALSE.
- stamp\_modified: Logical vector of length 1; should the modified column of any newly created or modified row include a timestamp with the date and time of its creation/modification? If the modified column does not yet exist it will be created. Default TRUE.
- stamp\_modified\_by: Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedBy column of any newly created or modified row include the name of the current user? If the modifiedBy column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedBy" is required in extra\_cols. The current user can be specified with the user\_name option. Default FALSE.
- stamp\_modified\_by\_id: Logical vector of length 1; should the modifiedByID column of any newly created or modified row include the ID of the current user? If the modifiedByID column does not yet exist it will be created; note that this is a non-DWC standard column, so "modifiedByID" is required in extra\_cols. The current user ID can be specified with the user\_id option. Default FALSE.
- taxon\_id\_length: Numeric vector of length 1; how many characters should be included in automatically generated values of taxonID? Must be between 1 and 32, inclusive. Default 32.

#### **General arguments:**

- quiet: Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.
- strict: Logical vector of length 1; should taxonomic checks be run on the updated taxonomic database? Default FALSE.
- user\_name: Character vector of length 1; the name of the current user. Default "".
- user\_id: Character vector of length 1; the ID of the current user. Default "".

#### Value

Nothing; used for its side-effect.

# **Examples**

# Show all options
dct\_options()

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```
# Store existing settings, including any changes made by the user
old_settings <- dct_options()

# View one option
dct_options()$valid_tax_status

# Change one option
dct_options(valid_tax_status = "accepted, weird, whatever")
dct_options()$valid_tax_status

# Reset to default values
dct_options(reset = TRUE)
dct_options()$valid_tax_status

# Multiple options may also be set at once
dct_options(check_taxon_id = FALSE, check_status_diff = TRUE)

# Reset options to those before this example was run
do.call(dct_options, old_settings)</pre>
```

dct\_terms

Darwin Core Taxon terms

# Description

A table of valid Darwin Core terms. Only terms in the Taxon class or at the record-level are included.

## Usage

dct\_terms

#### **Format**

Dataframe (tibble), including two columns:

- group: Darwin Core term group; either "taxon" (terms in the Taxon class) or "record-level" (terms that are generic in that they might apply to any type of record in a dataset.)
- term: Darwin Core term

with two additional attributes:

- retrieved: Date the terms were obtained
- url: URL from which the terms were obtained

# **Details**

Modified from data downloaded from TDWG Darwin Core under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 license.

#### Source

```
https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#taxon
```

## **Examples**

dct\_terms

dct\_validate

Validate a taxonomic database

# Description

Runs a series of automated checks on a taxonomic database in Darwin Core (DwC) format.

# Usage

```
dct_validate(
  tax_dat,
  check_taxon_id = dct_options()$check_taxon_id,
  check_tax_status = dct_options()$check_tax_status,
  check_mapping_accepted = dct_options()$check_mapping_accepted,
  check_mapping_parent = dct_options()$check_mapping_parent,
  check_mapping_parent_accepted = dct_options()$check_mapping_parent_accepted,
  check_mapping_original = dct_options()$check_mapping_original,
  check_mapping_accepted_status = dct_options()$check_mapping_accepted_status,
  check_sci_name = dct_options()$check_sci_name,
  check_status_diff = dct_options()$check_status_diff,
  check_col_names = dct_options()$check_col_names,
  valid_tax_status = dct_options()$valid_tax_status,
  extra_cols = dct_options()$extra_cols,
 on_success = dct_options()$on_success,
 on_fail = dct_options()$on_fail,
  skip_missing_cols = dct_options()$skip_missing_cols,
  quiet = dct_options()$quiet
)
```

# **Arguments**

tax\_dat Dataframe; taxonomic database in DwC format.

check\_taxon\_id Logical vector of length 1; should all instances of taxonID be required to be non-missing and unique? Default TRUE.

check\_tax\_status

Logical vector of length 1; should all taxonomic names be required to have a valid value for taxonomic status (by default, "accepted", "synonym", or "variant")? Default TRUE.

#### check\_mapping\_accepted

Logical vector of length 1; should all values of acceptedNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.

#### check\_mapping\_parent

Logical vector of length 1; should all values of parentNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.

## check\_mapping\_parent\_accepted

Logical vector of length 1; should all values of parentNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an accepted name? Default FALSE.

# check\_mapping\_original

Logical vector of length 1; should all values of originalNameUsageID be required to map to the taxonID of an existing name? Default TRUE.

## check\_mapping\_accepted\_status

Logical vector of length 1; should rules about mapping of variants and synonyms be enforced? Default FALSE. (see Details).

check\_sci\_name Logical vector of length 1; should all instances of scientificName be required to be non-missing and unique? Default TRUE.

#### check\_status\_diff

Logical vector of length 1; should each scientific name be allowed to have only one taxonomic status? Default FALSE.

# check\_col\_names

Logical vector of length 1; should all column names be required to be a valid DwC term? Default TRUE.

# valid\_tax\_status

Character vector of length 1; valid values for taxonomicStatus. Each value must be separated by a comma. Default accepted, synonym, variant, NA. "NA" indicates that missing (NA) values are valid. Case-sensitive.

#### extra\_cols

Character vector; names of columns that should be allowed beyond those defined by the DwC taxon standard. Default NULL. Providing column name(s) that are valid DwC taxon column(s) has no effect.

#### on\_success

Character vector of length 1, either "logical" or "data". Describes what to do if the check passes. Default "data".

on\_fail

Character vector of length 1, either "error" or "summary". Describes what to do if the check fails. Default "error".

#### skip\_missing\_cols

Logical vector of length 1; should checks be silently skipped if any of the columns they inspect are missing? Default FALSE.

quiet

Logical vector of length 1; should warnings be silenced? Default FALSE.

### **Details**

For check\_mapping\_accepted\_status and check\_status\_diff, "accepted", "synonym", and "variant" are determined by string matching of taxonomicStatus; so "provisionally accepted" is counted as "accepted", "ambiguous synonym" is counted as "synonym", etc. (case-sensitive).

For check\_mapping\_accepted\_status, the following rules are enforced:

• Rows with taxonomicStatus of "synonym" (synonyms) must have an acceptedNameUsageID matching the taxonID of an accepted name (taxonomicStatus of "accepted")

- Rows with taxonomicStatus of "variant" (orthographic variants) must have an acceptedNameUsageID matching the taxonID of an accepted name or synonym (but not another variant)
- Rows with taxonomicStatus of "accepted" must not have any value entered for acceptedNameUsageID
- Rows with a value for acceptedNameUsageID must have a valid value for taxonomicStatus.

Default settings of all arguments can be modified with dct\_options() (see Examples).

Most columns are expected to be vectors of class character, but this is not checked for all columns. Columns (DwC terms) with names including 'ID', for example 'taxonID', may be character, numeric, or integer.

#### Value

Depends on the result of the check and on values of on\_fail and on\_success:

- If the check passes and on\_success is "logical", return TRUE
- If the check passes and on\_success is "data", return the input dataframe
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "error", return an error
- If the check fails and on\_fail is "summary", issue a warning and return a dataframe with a summary of the reasons for failure

## **Examples**

```
# The example dataset dct_filmies is already correctly formatted and passes
# validation
dct_validate(dct_filmies)
# So make some bad data on purpose with a duplicated scientific name
bad_dat <- dct_filmies</pre>
bad_dat$scientificName[1] <- bad_dat$scientificName[2]</pre>
# The incorrectly formatted data won't pass
try(
 dct_validate(bad_dat)
# It will pass if we allow duplicated scientific names though
dct_validate(bad_dat, check_sci_name = FALSE)
# Individual checks can also be turned or off with dct_options()
# First save the current settings before making any changes
old_settings <- dct_options()</pre>
# Let's allow duplicated scientific names by default
dct_options(check_sci_name = FALSE)
# The data passes validation as before, but we don't have to specify
# `check_sci_name = FALSE` in the function call
```

dct\_validate(bad\_dat)

# Reset options to those before this example was run
do.call(dct\_options, old\_settings)

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