



Funded by
the European Union



DTO-BioFlow

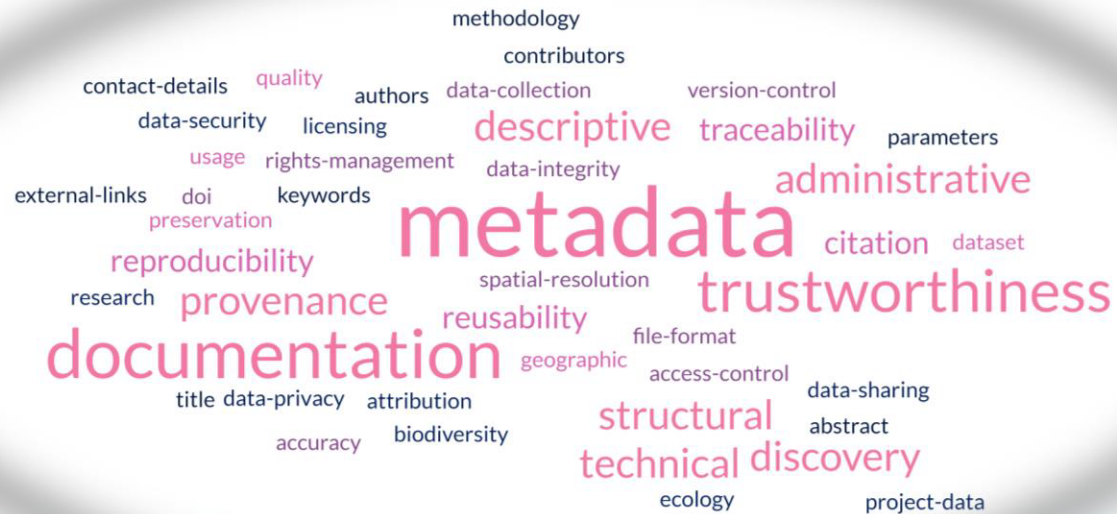
Integration of biodiversity monitoring
data into the Digital Twin Ocean

DTO-BioFlow data training
workshop:

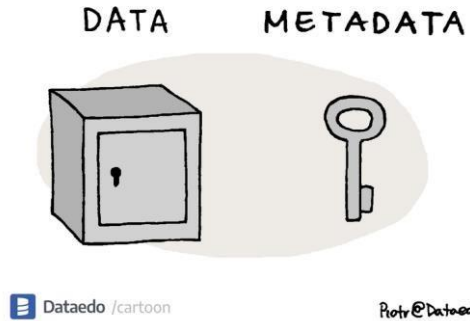
Metadata

Concept

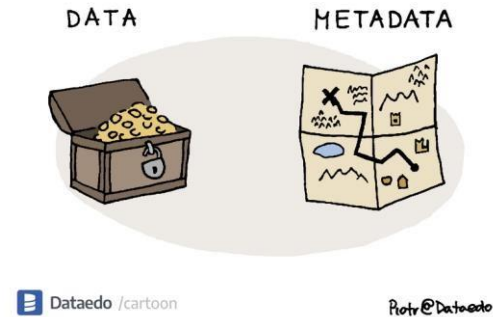
“Metadata serves as a roadmap to guide users to effectively and efficiently find, understand, use and manage data”



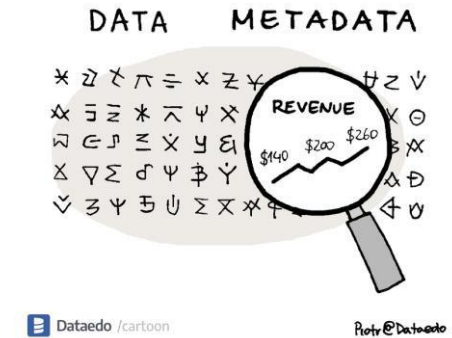
Meta are data that describe other data



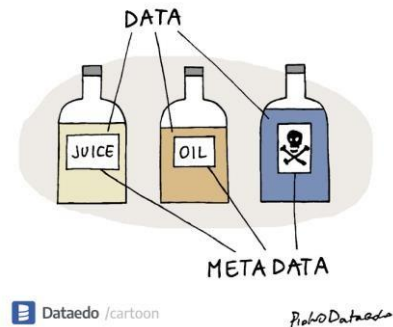
Metadata is the key to data



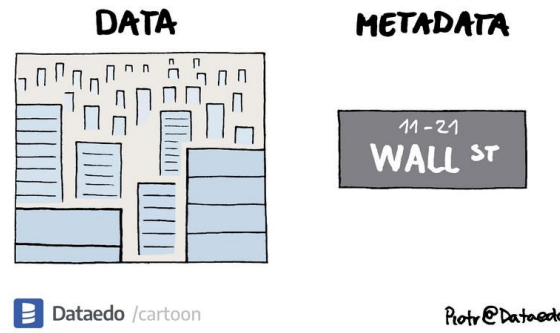
Data is treasure, metadata is a map



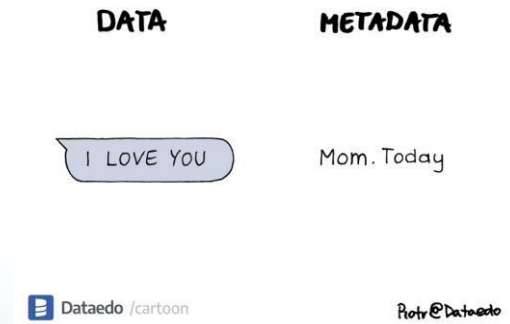
Decoding information



A Matter of Life and Death



How to get to the data?



Context and Source matters

Meta are data that describe other data

There are many different types of metadata – it is not a fixed *thing*: it is defined by what it *does*

Metadata can be used to do the following

- Describe the contents of a data file, e.g. for a spreadsheet you can use metadata to define the column titles, give the units used, define the acronyms
- Describe a set of files, e.g. for a set of images produced by an instrument metadata can be provided, for each file, what the file contains, how and when it was created, file location and name, size, version, technical details...
- Provide the provenance information of a data file/set: who, what, how, where, and when it was created and processed
- Provide data discovery and description, e.g. as in data catalogues

Dataset description metadata

The metadata describing an individual file (spreadsheet, text file, and similar) can include

- The meaning of each column title
- The meaning of acronyms, codes, etc
- The data types for each column (string, float, boolean...)
- For each column title, the term from a controlled vocabulary that defines that column
- The units (and the term from a controlled vocabulary for that unit)

Metadata to describe your own spreadsheets

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	source_mat_id_orig	source_mat_id	chlorophyll	chlorophyll_met	sea_surf_temp	sea_surf_temp	sea_subsurf_tem	sea_subsurf_tem	sea_surf_salinity	s
2	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R1	EMOBON_BPNS_	NA	HPLC	16.848	CTD	16.817	CTD	33.088	C
3	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R2	EMOBON_BPNS_	NA	HPLC	16.848	CTD	16.817	CTD	33.088	C
4	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R3	EMOBON_BPNS_	NA	HPLC	16.848	CTD	16.817	CTD	33.088	C

	A		C	D	E	F	G	H
1	source_mat_id_orig		tax_id	scientific_name	investigation_type	env_material	collection_date	sampling_event
2	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R1	-200um	1874687	marine plankton metagenome	metagenome	seawater [ENVO:00002149]; co	2021-07-01	BPNS_Wa_210701
3	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R2	-200um	1874687	marine plankton metagenome	metagenome	seawater [ENVO:00002149]; co	2021-07-01	BPNS_Wa_210701
4	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R3	-200um	1874687	marine plankton metagenome	metagenome	seawater [ENVO:00002149]; co	2021-07-01	BPNS_Wa_210701
5	EMOBON 210701 330 WaSOP1 3um R4	-200um	1874687	marine plankton metagenome	metagenome	seawater [ENVO:00002149]; co	2021-07-01	BPNS_Wa_210701

1	LogsheetColumnTitle	DataTypeIn	Observable_property_url	Unit	Unit_URL
2	alkalinity	xsd:float	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/ALKYZZXX/	mEq/l	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/MEQL/
3	alkalinity_method	xsd:string	NA	NA	
4	ammonium	xsd:float	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P35/current/EPC00009/	umol/l	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UPOX/
5	ammonium_method	xsd:string	NA	NA	
6	bac_prod	xsd:float	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P02/current/UPTH/	ug/m3/d	https://data.emobon.embrc.eu/ns/unit_vocab#"Micrograms
7	bac_prod_method	xsd:string	NA	NA	
8	biomass	xsd:list	https://data.emobon.embrc.eu/ns/observableproperty_vocab#Bior	g/l	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/GPRL/
9	biomass_method	xsd:list	NA	NA	

Metadata for DwC-A files

A	D	C	D	E	F	G	H
occurrenceID	env_broad_scale	env_local_scale	env_medium_scale	DNA_Sequence	SOP	target_gene	pcr_primer_forward
ARMS_BelgiumCoast	marine benthic biotope	sandy sediment	marine reef biome	TGGTGGAGTGATT	https://github.com/arms-mbon/docur	18S	GGWACWGGWTGAACWC
ARMS_BelgiumCoast	marine benthic biotope	sandy sediment	marine reef biome	TGGTGGAGCGATT	https://github.com/arms-mbon/docur	18S	GGWACWGGWTGAACWC
ARMS_BelgiumCoast	marine benthic biotope	sandy sediment	marine reef biome	TGGTGGAGCGATT	https://github.com/arms-mbon/docur	18S	GGWACWGGWTGAACWC
ARMS_BelgiumCoast	marine benthic biotope	sandy sediment	marine reef biome	TGGTGGAGTGATT	https://github.com/arms-mbon/docur	18S	GGWACWGGWTGAACWC

1	occurrenceID	basisOfRecord	institutionCode	datasetName	occurrenceStatus	eventID	materialSampleID	eventDate	oi
2	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	MaterialSample	ARMS-MBON	data_release_001	present	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_2019	2019-09-24/2020-	
3	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	MaterialSample	ARMS-MBON	data_release_001	present	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_2019	2019-09-24/2020-	
4	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	MaterialSample	ARMS-MBON	data_release_001	present	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_2019	2019-09-24/2020-	
5	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	MaterialSample	ARMS-MBON	data_release_001	present	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_2019	2019-09-24/2020-	
6	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	MaterialSample	ARMS-MBON	data_release_001	present	ARMS_BelgiumCoast	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_2019	2019-09-24/2020-	

occurrenceID

An identifier for the dwc:Occurrence (as opposed to a particular digital record of the dwc:Occurrence). In absence of a persistent global unique identifier, construct one from a combination of identifiers in the record that will most closely make the dwc:occurrenceID globally unique. See also <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:occurrenceID>

Examples: <http://arctos.database.museum/guid/MSB:Mamm:233627>; 000866d2-c177-4648-a200-ea4007051b9; urn:catalog:UWBM:Bird:89776

basisOfRecord

The specific nature of the data record. See also <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:basisOfRecord>

Examples: MaterialEntity; PreservedSpecimen; FossilSpecimen; LivingSpecimen; MaterialHumanObservation; MachineObservation; Taxon; Occurrence; MaterialCitation

Qualname <http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/basisOfRecord>
Namespace <http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/>
Group Record-level
Data Type Vocabulary: http://rs.gbif.org/vocabulary/dwc/basis_of_record_2024-02-19.xml
Required true

env_broad_scale

In this field, report which major environmental system your sample or specimen came from. The systems identified should have a coarse spatial grain, to provide the general environmental context of where the sampling was done (e.g. were you in the desert or a rainforest?). We recommend using subclasses of ENVO's biome class: http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/ENVO_00000428. Format (one term): termLabel [termID]. Format (multiple terms): termLabel [termID]termLabel [termID]termLabel [termID]. Example: Annotating a water sample from the photic zone in middle of the Atlantic Ocean, consider: oceanic epipelagic zone biome [ENVO:01000033]. Example: Annotating a sample from the Amazon rainforest consider: tropical moist broadleaf forest biome [ENVO:01000228]. If needed, request new terms on the ENVO tracker, identified here: <http://www.obofoundry.org/ontology/envo.html>

Examples: forest biome [ENVO:01000174]

Qualname <https://w3id.org/mixs/0000012>
Namespace <https://w3id.org/mixs/>
Group environment
Data Type
Required false

env_local_scale

In this field, report the entity or entities which are in your sample or specimen's local vicinity and which you believe have significant causal influences on your sample or specimen. Please use terms that are present in ENVO and which are of smaller spatial grain than your entry for env_broad_scale. Format (one term): termLabel [termID]. Format (multiple terms): termLabel [termID]termLabel [termID]termLabel [termID].

Metadata for DwC-A files

☐ Name	Type
 eml.xml	XML File
 event.txt	Text Document
 extendedmeasurementorfact.txt	Text Document
 meta.xml	XML File
 occurrence.txt	Text Document

meta.xml - Notepad

```
File Edit Format View Help
<archive xmlns="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/text/" metadata="eml.xml">
  <core encoding="UTF-8" fieldsTerminatedBy="\t" linesTerminatedBy="\n" fi
    <files>
      <location>event.txt</location>
    </files>
    <id index="0" />
    <field index="1" term="http://purl.org/dc/terms/modified"/>
    <field index="2" term="http://purl.org/dc/terms/language"/>
    <field index="3" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/datasetID"/>
    <field index="4" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/datasetName"/>
    <field index="5" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/dynamicProperties"/>
    <field index="6" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/eventID"/>
    <field index="7" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/parentEventID"/>
    <field index="8" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/samplingProtocol"/>
    <field index="9" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/sampleSizeValue"/>
    <field index="10" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/sampleSizeUnit"/>
    <field index="11" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/samplingEffort"/>
    <field index="12" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/eventDate"/>
    <field index="13" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/eventTime"/>
    <field index="14" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/startDayOfYear"/>
    <field index="15" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/endDayOfYear"/>
    <field index="16" term="http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/year"/>
```

Dataset description metadata

The metadata describing an individual file (spreadsheet, text file, and similar) can include

- The meaning of each column title
- The meaning of acronyms, codes, etc
- The data types for each column (string, float, boolean...)
- For each column title, the term from a controlled vocabulary that defines that column
- The units (and the term from a controlled vocabulary for that unit)

The metadata describing a set of files can include

- File name, file location, file size, file type
- Link to a sample ID (where that file was created from a sample)
- Date, location, and method of creation
- Technical values (images, videos...)

Metadata to describe a file-set

ObservatoryID	UnitID	EventID	Filename	Filetype	PlateNumber	Position	Download URL
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_Belgium_zbe1_190924 - 200303_001.jp	Image	Not Provided	Not Provided	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_1B.JPG	Image	1	Bottom	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_1B_1.JPG	Image	1	Bottom	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_1T.JPG	Image	1	Top	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_1T_1.JPG	Image	1	Top	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_2B.JPG	Image	2	Bottom	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_2B_1.JPG	Image	2	Bottom	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_2T.JPG	Image	2	Top	https://files.plutof.u
BelgiumCoast	AZBE1	ARMS_BelgiumCoast_AZBE1_20190924_20200303	ARMS_zbe1_190924-200303_IMG_2T_1.JPG	Image	2	Top	https://files.plutof.u

Column title	Definition	Data type	Property	ObservablePropertyUri	Unit	UnitURL
ObservatoryID	Observatory identifier	xsd:string	schema:identifier	none	none	none
UnitID	ARMS unit identifier	xsd:string	schema:identifier	none	none	none
EventID	Sampling event identifier	xsd:string	schema:identifier	http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/eventID	none	none
Filename	File name	xsd:string	schema:name	none	none	none
Filetype	File type	xsd:string	schema:fileFormat	none	none	none
PlateNumber	ARMS plate number (0 at bot	xsd:integer	schema:description	none	none	none
Position	ARMS plate face (top/bottom	xsd:string	schema:description	none	none	none
Download URL	URL to download the image	xsd:anyURI	schema:url	none	none	none

Provenance metadata

These metadata should describe

- Who did the work
- Where the work was done (samples collected, samples processed)
- When the work was done (ditto)
- How the work was done (protocols followed, methodologies employed, software and instrument settings)
- What was used (instruments, devices, software, links/IDs for physical samples and data used, links/IDs for physical samples or data created)

And ideally the metadata should provide this information for each activity step carried out

Provenance metadata

The provenance metadata for the sampling activity (Step 1)

<Sampling>

name: water sampling
activity-type: sampling
spatial-coverage: see Belgian EEZ
temporal-coverage: 2021-01-01
agent: see Jane Smith
protocol: see BigProject_WaterSamples
result: see BigProject_belgium_water_10m
device: see NiceMarineStation rosette#1
permit: see ABS permit

The provenance metadata for the observing activity (Step 2)

<Observing>

name: in-situ measurement of water properties
activity-type: observing
spatial-coverage: see Belgian EEZ
temporal-coverage: 2021-01-01
agent: see Jane Smith
protocol: see CTD_standard_procedure_2
result: <http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P02/current/TEMP>, <http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P02/current/TEMP>

Agents

name: Jane Smith
identifier: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-0001-0001>
email: jane.smith@somewhere.com
role: field and laboratory technician
organization:
name: Nice Marine Station
identifier: <https://edmo.seadatanet.org/report/00000>
website: <https://NiceMarineStation.eu>
email: info@nicemarinestation.eu

Locations

name: Belgian EEZ
identifier: <http://marineregions.org/mrgid/3293>
geography: latitude: 51.249995, longitude: 2.85327

Samples

identifier: BigProject_belgium_water_10m
description: water sample to determine plankton community and extract DNA
keyword: coastal sea water - http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/ENVO_00002150, marine plankton metagenome - NCBI:txid1874687

Protocols

name: BigProject_WaterSamples
description: Collecting and pre-filtering (removal of larger particles) of water samples to be used later for FlowCam and eDNA work
distribution: https://www.protocols.io/BigProject_WaterSamples.pdf

Devices

name: NicemarineStation rosette#1
type: Niskin bottles on a Rosette sampler
platform:
identifier: IMO:1234567
type: research vessel - <http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/L05/31>
name: RV OurBigShip

Provenance in DwC-A files

decimalLatitude

The geographic latitude (in dwc:geodeticDatum) of the

locationID

An identifier for the set of dcterms:Location information. specific to the data set. See also <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:locationID>

eventDate

The date-time or interval during which a dwc:Event occurred. dwc:Event was recorded. Not suitable for a time in a day

samplingProtocol

The names of, references to, or descriptions of the methods or protocols used. See <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:samplingProtocol>

samp_collec_method

The method employed for collecting the sample

samp_mat_process

Any processing applied to the sample during or after retrieving the sample from environment. dwc:sampleMaterialProcessing accepts OBI, for a browser of OBI (v 2018-02-12) terms please see <https://www.obidata.org/obidata/term/obi:0000001>

recordedBy

A list (concatenated and separated) of names of people, groups, or organizations responsible for recording the original dwc:Occurrence. The primary collector or observer, especially one who applies a personal identifier (dwc:recordNumber), should be listed first. See also <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms/#dwc:recordedBy>

Catalogue metadata

These metadata are to allow data to be discovered and described in a data catalogue

- Discovery

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Contributors
- External links
- Project data

- Administrative

- Contact name
- Contact affiliation
- Contact email
- Contact ID
- Citation
- License

- Descriptive

- Taxonomic coverage
- Geographic coverage
- Temporal coverage
- Parameters measured
- Methodology
- Instruments, platforms



Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT)

Example catalogue metadata form

<https://www.eurobis.org/submit>

General

Person filling in this form *   Institute *  

Contact email *  

Dataset description

Dataset title *  

Acronym  

Citation *  

Access Constraints *  

Abstract *  

Description +  

Keyword(s) *   [lookup]

Habitat +  
☐ Marine waters ☐ Brackish waters ☐ Fresh waters ☐ Terrestrial

Taxonomic cover

Taxonomic scope  [lookup in WoRMS]

☐ The taxonomic names have been matched with WoRMS names 

What type(s) are the data points? 

- ☐ presence
- ☐ counts
- ☐ biomass
- ☐ density
- ☐ other- specify:

Any other parameter(s) measured? 

Geographical cover

Geographical scope *  [lookup]

Min. lat + Min. lon + Max. lat Max. lon

Temporal cover

Date of first record *  year month day
Date of last record  year month day

Temporal resolution 
 Not relevant

Findability

Reusability

Findability

Reusability

Int

Example catalogue metadata form

<https://www.eurobis.org/submit>

Measurements *

Parameter	Unit	Method/Protocol	
			Remove
Add			

The dataset

Indicate how we can obtain or reference your dataset * 

Findability

Upload dataset file (max. 10MB) 

No file chosen

☐ Request DOI 

Reusability

File format + 



Status of the data collection * 



Basis of the distribution records 

People involved

Name and contact of person	Institute	Role	
		Contact Co-ordinator Data creator Data owner	Remove
Add			

Reference

Findability

Reference(s) of publication(s) that was based on this dataset (one reference per textfield) + 

Reusability

Reference(s) of publication(s) that describe this dataset in detail (one reference per textfield) + 

Catalogue metadata

Arqueomonitor project: Abundance of the Bucentaure and Fougueux shipwrecks benthic communities, Cadiz Bay (Spain) 2012-2013

[Create DOI](#)

Citation

González Duarte, M. M.; Bethencourt Núñez, M.; (2019): Arqueomonitor project: Abundance of the Bucentaure and Fougueux shipwrecks benthic communities, Cadiz Bay (Spain) 2012-2013. <https://marineinfo.org/id/dataset/6251>

Contact: [Bethencourt Núñez, Manuel](#)

Integrated Marine Information
System (IMIS)

Access data



Archived data



Availability:  This dataset is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#).

Special collections:

available through EurOBIS [619]

EMODNET [552]

Catalogue metadata

Ecological Metadata Language
(EML)

→ the «emk.xml» file in a DwC-A

```
<eml:eml xmlns:eml="eml://ecoinformatics.org/eml-2.1.1"
  xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="eml://ecoinformatics.org/eml-2.1.1 http://rs.gbif.org/schema/eml-gbif-profile/1.2/eml.xsd"
  packageId="https://ipt.vliz.be/eurobis/resource?id=arqueomonitor/v1.0" system="http://gbif.org" scope="system"
  xml:lang="en">

  <dataset>
    <alternateIdentifier>https://ipt.vliz.be/eurobis/resource?r=arqueomonitor</alternateIdentifier>
    <title xml:lang="en">Arqueomonitor project: Abundance of the Bucentaure and Fougueux shipwrecks benthic communities,
    <creator>
      <individualName>
        <givenName>Manuel Maria</givenName>
        <surName>González Duarte</surName>
      </individualName>
      <organizationName>Universidad de Cadiz</organizationName>
    </creator>
    <metadataProvider>
      <individualName>
        <givenName>Cristian</givenName>
        <surName>Muñoz Mas</surName>
      </individualName>
      <organizationName>Balearic Islands Coastal Observing and Forecasting System</organizationName>
    </metadataProvider>
    <associatedParty>
      <individualName>
        <givenName>Tomás</givenName>
        <surName>Fernández Montblanc</surName>
      </individualName>
      <organizationName>Universidad de Cadiz</organizationName>
    </associatedParty>
    <role>pointOfContact</role>
    </associatedParty>
    <associatedParty>
      <individualName>
        <givenName>Manuel</givenName>
        <surName>Bethencourt Núñez</surName>
      </individualName>
      <organizationName>Universidad de Cadiz</organizationName>
    </associatedParty>
    <role>pointOfContact</role>
    </associatedParty>
    <pubDate>
      2024-02-27
    </pubDate>
    <language>en</language>
    <abstract>
      <para>This dataset contains abundance data of the benthic community around the shipwrecks Bucentaure and
```



DTO-BioFlow

Integration of biodiversity monitoring
data into the Digital Twin Ocean

THANKS!