

Data Needed From Research Permittees

Your data is extremely valuable to us! We are charged by Congress to inform our management decisions with the best scientific data available. Datasets come in a wide variety of formats, but often with minor modifications your data can easily interface with existing NPS databases. Please contact Dr. Michael Kunze, I&M Data Manager (865-436-1703 or michael_kunze@nps.gov), as early as possible in your study to discuss mutual access to datasets and compatibility.

For georeferenced species record data, we strongly recommend using the ATBI Desktop Database (see below). This document addresses data fields we strongly recommend be considered as appropriate for most datasets shared with the parks, as well as minor complications about various data fields which are automatically taken care of when the ATBI interface program is used, but tend to be some source of headache otherwise.

Here is a list of data fields:

1. General information, identical for all submitted records (7 columns):

- Project title
- Collector
- Collection Method
- Determinator and Year of species determinations
- Specimen preservation and depository

2. Main data records, the part which is similar for most projects (12 columns):

- SiteCode
- Verbal site description to pinpoint exact place on map
- UTM coordinates with Datum specified
- Collection date (in date format)
- Genus, Species, and subspecific epithet in separate columns
- Count (precise number or estimate)
- Specimen description (individual, colony, or life stage, if applicable)
- Notes (separate columns for locality and specimen found)

3. Project-specific data fields:

- Measurements or project-specific observations
- Possibly links to other specimens (e.g. host – parasite or other associations)

Data should be stored in a relational database with separate tables for Localities, Collection Events, Specimens, and Species List. Referential integrity of relationships needs to be enforced, in order to avoid inconsistencies. (E.g., the Notes columns mentioned above reside in respective tables.) The Park uses the service-wide Natural Resources Database Template (NRDT) in general and the ATBI database specifically for specimen collections/observations. A desktop edition can be downloaded from: http://www.dlia.org/atbi/science/desktop_database/index.shtml

Non-sensitive data may be posted on the Park's website served by:

http://tremont22.campus.utk.edu/ATBI_start.cfm