

Package ‘phyloatlas’

June 4, 2026

Type Package

Title Access to the 'Phylo-Species Atlas' of Empirical Phylogenies

Version 0.1.0

Description Provides convenience functions to fetch standardized phylogenetic trees and per-tree provenance metadata from the 'Phylo-Species Atlas' <<https://github.com/franciscorichter/phylo-species-atlas>> directly from R. The atlas is a curated collection of empirical species-level trees covering Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukaryota, organized into 62 partitions of life with tip labels normalized against a shared dictionary of standardized species identifiers. Functions load any of the standardized trees with species labels resolved from the dictionary, list available trees, and inspect per-tree provenance.

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

URL <https://github.com/franciscorichter/phylo-species-atlas>,
<https://franciscorichter.github.io/phylo-species-atlas/>

BugReports <https://github.com/franciscorichter/phylo-species-atlas/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.0)

Imports ape, utils

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), withr

Config/testthat/edition 3

VignetteBuilder knitr

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Francisco Richter [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0924-4613>>)

Maintainer Francisco Richter <richtf@usi.ch>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-06-04 12:00:02 UTC

Contents

atlas_clear_cache	2
atlas_info	2
list_trees	3
load_atlas_tree	4

Index	6
--------------	----------

atlas_clear_cache	<i>Clear the in-memory cache</i>
-------------------	----------------------------------

Description

The dictionary and metadata files are downloaded once per R session and cached. Call this if you want to force a re-download (for example after switching ‘phyloatlas.base_url’).

Usage

```
atlas_clear_cache()
```

Value

Invisibly ‘NULL’. Called for its side effect of emptying the internal cache environment.

See Also

Other atlas: [atlas_info\(\)](#), [list_trees\(\)](#), [load_atlas_tree\(\)](#)

Examples

```
# Safe to run unconditionally – just empties the in-session cache.
atlas_clear_cache()
```

atlas_info	<i>Get metadata for a single tree</i>
------------	---------------------------------------

Description

Get metadata for a single tree

Usage

```
atlas_info(name)
```

Arguments

name Tree name without the `.nwk` extension (e.g. `"mammals"`, `"birds"`, `"seed_plants"`). Must be a length-1 non-`'NA'` character string. Use `[list_trees()]` to see all available names.

Value

A one-row data frame with all metadata columns from `[list_trees()]`, or `'NULL'` (with a warning) if no tree by that name exists. Also returns `'NULL'` (with a diagnostic message, no warning) if the atlas metadata cannot be downloaded.

See Also

Other atlas: [atlas_clear_cache\(\)](#), [list_trees\(\)](#), [load_atlas_tree\(\)](#)

Examples

```
info <- atlas_info("mammals")
if (!is.null(info)) info
```

list_trees

List trees available in the Phylo-Species Atlas

Description

Returns a data frame describing every standardized tree in the atlas: name, study, number of tips, whether the tree is time-calibrated, plus provenance fields (year, journal, DOI, coverage) when available.

Usage

```
list_trees()
```

Value

A data frame with one row per tree, ordered by group, with columns `'name'`, `'group'`, `'study'`, `'ntips'`, `'dated'`, `'year'`, `'journal'`, `'doi'`, `'crown_ma'`, `'described_species'`, `'coverage_pct'`, `'data_source'`, `'download_url'`, `'methods_brief'`, `'notes'`, and `'study_full'` (the long-form study citation from the provenance file). Returns `'NULL'` with a single diagnostic message if the atlas metadata cannot be downloaded (e.g. no internet); never throws on network failure.

See Also

Other atlas: [atlas_clear_cache\(\)](#), [atlas_info\(\)](#), [load_atlas_tree\(\)](#)

Examples

```
trees <- list_trees()
if (!is.null(trees)) {
  head(trees)
  subset(trees, dated & ntips > 1000)
}
```

load_atlas_tree

Load a tree from the Phylo-Species Atlas

Description

Downloads a standardized Newick tree from the atlas and resolves its integer tip IDs to species names using the shared dictionary.

Usage

```
load_atlas_tree(name, resolve_labels = TRUE)
```

Arguments

name Tree name without the `.nwk` extension (e.g. `"mammals"`, `"birds"`, `"seed_plants"`, `"condamine_Vangidae"`). Use `[list_trees()]` to see all available names.

resolve_labels If `'TRUE'` (default) tip labels are replaced with standardized species names from `'dictionary.csv'`. Set to `'FALSE'` to keep the raw integer IDs (faster, avoids downloading the dictionary).

Value

An object of class `"phylo"` from the **ape** package. If `'resolve_labels = TRUE'` (the default), tip labels are species names from the standardized dictionary; otherwise tip labels are integer IDs as character strings.

See Also

Other atlas: [atlas_clear_cache\(\)](#), [atlas_info\(\)](#), [list_trees\(\)](#)

Examples

```
# Offline demo using a small bundled tree (does not hit the network):
demo_path <- system.file("extdata", "tree_demo.nwk", package = "phyloatlas")
tree <- ape::read.tree(demo_path)
tree
```

```
# Live atlas fetch (requires internet):
tree <- try(load_atlas_tree("mammals"), silent = TRUE)
```

```
if (!inherits(tree, "try-error")) plot(tree, show.tip.label = FALSE)

# Keep integer IDs to skip the 18 MB dictionary download:
tree <- try(load_atlas_tree("birds", resolve_labels = FALSE), silent = TRUE)
```

Index

* atlas

- atlas_clear_cache, 2
- atlas_info, 2
- list_trees, 3
- load_atlas_tree, 4

atlas_clear_cache, 2, 3, 4
atlas_info, 2, 2, 3, 4

list_trees, 2, 3, 3, 4
load_atlas_tree, 2, 3, 4