

# Package ‘refdb’

May 9, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** A DNA Reference Library Manager

**Version** 0.1.3

**Maintainer** Francois Keck <francois.keck@gmail.com>

**Description** Reference database manager offering a set of functions to import, organize, clean, filter, audit and export reference genetic data. Provide functions to download sequence data from NCBI GenBank <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>>. Designed as an environment for semi-automatic and assisted construction of reference databases and to improve standardization and repeatability in barcoding and metabarcoding studies.

**License** GPL-3

**URL** <https://fkeck.github.io/refdb/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/fkeck/refdb/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Depends** R (>= 3.1.0)

**Imports** tibble, readr, dplyr, stringr, tidyr, rentrez, taxize, xml2, bioseq, ape, igraph, ggplot2, ggraph, yaml, rlang, rmarkdown, leaflet

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0), covr, DT, knitr, forcats

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Francois Keck [aut, cre, cph] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3323-4167>>)

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-02-27 16:50:02 UTC

## Contents

check_fields . . . . .	3
fields_dbs . . . . .	3
filter_scores . . . . .	4
get_ncbi_taxonomy . . . . .	4
igraph_from_taxo . . . . .	5
make_ncbi_table . . . . .	5
ncbi_taxo_rank . . . . .	6
process_geo_ncbi . . . . .	6
refdb_check_seq_conflict . . . . .	7
refdb_check_seq_homogeneity . . . . .	7
refdb_check_tax_conflict . . . . .	8
refdb_check_tax_typo . . . . .	9
refdb_clean_seq_crop_primers . . . . .	10
refdb_clean_seq_remove_gaps . . . . .	11
refdb_clean_seq_remove_sideN . . . . .	11
refdb_clean_tax_harmonize_nomenclature . . . . .	12
refdb_clean_tax_NA . . . . .	12
refdb_clean_tax_remove_blank . . . . .	13
refdb_clean_tax_remove_extra . . . . .	14
refdb_clean_tax_remove_subsp . . . . .	14
refdb_clean_tax_remove_uncertainty . . . . .	15
refdb_export_dada2 . . . . .	16
refdb_export_idtaxa . . . . .	16
refdb_export_mothur . . . . .	17
refdb_export_utax . . . . .	18
refdb_fill_tax_downstream . . . . .	19
refdb_fill_tax_upstream . . . . .	19
refdb_filter_ref_scope . . . . .	20
refdb_filter_seq_ambiguous . . . . .	21
refdb_filter_seq_duplicates . . . . .	22
refdb_filter_seq_homopolymers . . . . .	22
refdb_filter_seq_length . . . . .	23
refdb_filter_seq_primer . . . . .	24
refdb_filter_seq_stopcodon . . . . .	25
refdb_filter_tax_na . . . . .	25
refdb_filter_tax_precision . . . . .	26
refdb_get_fields . . . . .	27
refdb_import_NCBI . . . . .	27
refdb_merge . . . . .	28
refdb_plot_map . . . . .	29
refdb_plot_seqlen_hist . . . . .	30
refdb_plot_tax_barplot . . . . .	31
refdb_plot_tax_tree . . . . .	31
refdb_plot_tax_treemap . . . . .	32
refdb_report . . . . .	33
refdb_sample_tax . . . . .	34

<i>check_fields</i>	3
refdb_set_fields . . . . .	34
refdb_set_ncbitax . . . . .	36
refdb_write_fields . . . . .	37
valid_taxo_rank . . . . .	37
xml_extract . . . . .	38
<b>Index</b>	<b>39</b>

---

check_fields	<i>Internal check for fields</i>
--------------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Internal check for fields

**Usage**

```
check_fields(x, what = c("source", "id", "taxonomy", "sequence", "marker"))
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database (tibble object).
what	a vector of fields to be checked.

**Value**

Invisible or error.

---

fields_dbs	<i>Functions to set fields for various databases</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Functions to set fields for various databases

**Usage**

```
refdb_set_fields_NCBI(x)
refdb_set_fields_BOLD(x)
refdb_set_fields_PR2(x)
refdb_set_fields_diatbarcode(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database.

**Value**

The function returns x with updated attributes.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
```

---

filter_scores	<i>Scores for filtering operations</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Scores for filtering operations

**Usage**

```
.filter_seq_length(x, gaps)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database  
gaps should gaps be included.

**Value**

a numeric vector

---

get_ncbi_taxonomy	<i>Get NCBI taxonomy</i>
-------------------	--------------------------

---

**Description**

Download and parse NCBI taxonomy records

**Usage**

```
get_ncbi_taxonomy(id, verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

id                    A vector of id for records in the NCBI Taxonomy database.  
 verbose             print information in the console.

**Value**

A tibble with each row corresponding to an id and each column to a taxonomic level.

---

igraph_from_taxo	<i>Create a graph from a taxonomic table</i>
------------------	--

---

**Description**

Create a graph representation from a taxonomic classification included in a reference database. For this function to work, taxonomic fields must be set.

**Usage**

```
igraph_from_taxo(x, cols = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x                    a reference database (tibble).  
 cols                an optional vector of column names to use a subset of columns.

**Value**

An **igraph** object representing taxonomic relationships.

---

make_ncbi_table	<i>Parse NCBI XML and make a table</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Parse NCBI XML and make a table

**Usage**

```
make_ncbi_table(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A XML nodeset.

**Value**

A tibble.

---

ncbi_taxo_rank	<i>Taxonomic ranks of the NCBI Taxonomy database</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Taxonomic ranks of the NCBI Taxonomy database

**Usage**

```
ncbi_taxo_rank()
```

**Value**

a vector of ordered ranks

---

process_geo_ncbi	<i>Process coordinate column returned by NCBI</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

Process coordinate column returned by NCBI

**Usage**

```
process_geo_ncbi(x, col = "lat_lon")
```

**Arguments**

x	NCBI dataframe.
col	column name containing geographical coordinates.

**Value**

NCBI dataframe.

---

refdb\_check\_seq\_conflict  
*Check for conflicts in sequences*

---

**Description**

Check for conflicts in sequences

**Usage**

```
refdb_check_seq_conflict(x, na_omit = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

x                    a reference database.  
na\_omit            if FALSE conflicts involving NA taxonomic names are also reported.

**Value**

A list of two-columns tibbles reporting duplicated sequences with different taxonomy.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))  
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib,  
                      taxonomy = c(family = "family_name",  
                                  genus = "genus_name",  
                                  species = "species_name"),  
                      sequence = "DNA_seq",  
                      marker = "marker")  
refdb_check_seq_conflict(lib)
```

---

refdb\_check\_seq\_homogeneity  
*Check for genetic homogeneity of taxa*

---

**Description**

This function assesses the genetic similarity among sequences within each taxa. It takes user defined thresholds (one threshold per taxonomic level) to warn about sequences which are singularly different (based on median distance) from the others. Sequences in the reference database must be aligned.

**Usage**

```
refdb_check_seq_homogeneity(x, levels, min_n_seq = 3)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a reference database (sequences must be aligned).
<code>levels</code>	a named vector of genetic similarity thresholds. Names must correspond to taxonomic levels (taxonomic fields) and values must be included in the interval [0, 1]. For example to assess homogeneity at 5 percents (within species) and 10 percents (within genus): <code>levels = c(species = 0.05, genus = 0.1)</code>
<code>min_n_seq</code>	the minimum number of sequences for a taxon to be tested.

**Details**

For every tested taxonomic levels, the algorithm checks all sequences in every taxa (for which the total number of sequence is  $> \text{min\_n\_seq}$ ) In each taxon, the pairwise distance matrix among all the sequences belonging to this taxon is computed. A sequence is tagged as suspicious and returned by the function if its median genetic distance from the other sequences is higher than the threshold set by the user (`levels` argument).

**Value**

A dataframe reporting suspicious sequences whose median distance to other sequences of the same taxon is greater than the specified threshold. The first column "level\_threshold\_homogeneity" indicates the lowest taxonomic level for which the threshold has been exceeded and the second column "value\_threshold\_homogeneity" gives the computed median distance.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "homogeneity.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_check_seq_homogeneity(lib, levels = c(species = 0.05, genus = 0.1))
```

---

```
refdb_check_tax_conflict
```

*Check for conflicts in taxonomy*

---

**Description**

Check for conflicts in taxonomy

**Usage**

```
refdb_check_tax_conflict(x)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a reference database.
----------------	-----------------------

**Value**

A list of two-columns tibbles reporting for each taxonomic level the taxa with identical names but different upstream taxonomy.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib,
  taxonomy = c(family = "family_name",
    genus = "genus_name",
    species = "species_name"),
  sequence = "DNA_seq",
  marker = "marker")
refdb_check_tax_conflict(lib)
```

---

refdb\_check\_tax\_typo *Check for typos in taxonomic names*

---

**Description**

This function uses the generalized Levenshtein (edit) distance to identify possible issue with taxonomic names.

**Usage**

```
refdb_check_tax_typo(x, tol = 1)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database.  
tol the edit distance below which two taxonomic names are reported.

**Value**

A list of two-columns tibbles reporting for each taxonomic level the pairs of taxonomic names sharing the same upstream taxonomy and for which the generalized Levenshtein (edit) distance is below the tol value.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib,
  taxonomy = c(family = "family_name",
    genus = "genus_name",
    species = "species_name"),
  sequence = "DNA_seq",
  marker = "marker")
refdb_check_tax_typo(lib)
```

---

refdb\_clean\_seq\_crop\_primers

*Crop genetic sequences with a set of primers*

---

## Description

Crop genetic sequences with a set of primers

## Usage

```
refdb_clean_seq_crop_primers(  
  x,  
  primer_forward,  
  primer_reverse,  
  max_error_in = 0.1,  
  max_error_out = 0.1,  
  include_primers = TRUE  
)
```

## Arguments

`x` a reference database with a defined sequence field.

`primer_forward` primer forward.

`primer_reverse` primer reverse.

`max_error_in`, `max_error_out`  
maximum error for a match (frequency based on primer length).

`include_primers`  
a logical indicating whether the detected primers are included in the cropped sequences.

## Value

A reference database.

## Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))  
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)  
refdb_clean_seq_crop_primers(lib, "AGT", "TTTA")
```

---

refdb\_clean\_seq\_remove\_gaps  
*Remove gaps from genetic sequences*

---

**Description**

Remove gaps from genetic sequences

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_seq_remove_gaps(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database with a defined sequence field.

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_seq_remove_gaps(lib)
```

---

refdb\_clean\_seq\_remove\_sideN  
*Remove repeated side N from genetic sequences*

---

**Description**

Remove repeated side N from genetic sequences

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_seq_remove_sideN(x, side = "both")
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database with a defined sequence field.  
side which side to clean. Can be one of "left", "right" or "both" (default).

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_seq_remove_sideN(lib)
```

---

```
refdb_clean_tax_harmonize_nomenclature
      Harmonize taxonomic name nomenclature
```

---

**Description**

Harmonize taxonomic name nomenclature

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_tax_harmonize_nomenclature(x, cols = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_harmonize_nomenclature(lib)
```

---

```
refdb_clean_tax_NA      Convert missing taxonomic names to NA
```

---

**Description**

Convert missing taxonomic names to NA

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_tax_NA(x, cols = NULL, hybrid = TRUE, uncertain = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.
hybrid	hybrids are converted to NA (default TRUE).
uncertain	taxa with qualifiers of uncertainty (cf., aff., etc.) are converted to NA (default FALSE).

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_NA(lib)
```

---

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_blank

*Remove blank characters from taxonomic names*

---

**Description**

Remove blank characters from taxonomic names

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_blank(x, cols = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_remove_blank(lib)
```

---

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_extra
```

*Remove extra words from taxonomic names*

---

### Description

Remove extra words from taxonomic names

### Usage

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_extra(x, cols = NULL)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.

### Details

As the function can match words like "g.", "s." or "x", which can have a signification in some nomenclatures, it is recommended to execute [refdb\\_clean\\_tax\\_harmonize\\_nomenclature](#) first.

### Value

A reference database.

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb")) lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_remove_extra(lib)
```

---

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_subsp
```

*Remove subspecific information from taxonomic names*

---

### Description

Remove subspecific information from taxonomic names

### Usage

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_subsp(x, cols = NULL)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.

**Value**

A reference database.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_remove_subsp(lib)
```

---

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_uncertainty

*Remove terms indicating uncertainty in taxonomic names*

---

**Description**

Remove terms indicating uncertainty in taxonomic names

**Usage**

```
refdb_clean_tax_remove_uncertainty(x, cols = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy and organism fields.

**Value**

A reference database.

**Warning**

Marks of taxonomic uncertainty provided by specialists are not without value. The consequences of their deletion must be well understood by the user before using this function.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_clean_tax_remove_uncertainty(lib)
```

---

refdb\_export\_dada2      *Export reference database for DADA2*

---

### Description

Write reference database in formats which can be used with the functions of the package **dada2**.

### Usage

```
refdb_export_dada2(x, file, mode = "taxonomy")
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
file	a path to the file to be written.
mode	character string to determine the type of file to produce. Use "taxonomy" to produce a file for function assignTaxonomy or "species" to produce a file for function assignSpecies.

### Value

No return value, called for side effects.

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_export_dada2(lib, tempfile())
```

---

refdb\_export\_idtaxa      *Export reference database for DECIPHER (IDTAXA)*

---

### Description

Write a reference database in file formats which can be used to train the IDTAXA classifier implemented in DECIPHER.

### Usage

```
refdb_export_idtaxa(x, file, taxid = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
file	a file path without extension. This will be used to create a .fasta file and two .txt files.
taxid	should the taxid file be generated (can be very slow with large databases)

**Details**

The functions generates three files.

- A fasta files containing the sequences with their IDs. This file must be imported as a DNASTringSet to be used with DECIPHER, using eg:

```
Biostrings::readDNASTringSet("ex_seqs.fasta")
```

- A text files containing the sequence taxonomic assignment. This file must be imported as a character vector to be used with DECIPHER, using eg:

```
readr::read_lines("ex_taxo.txt")
```

- A text file ("taxid") containing the taxonomic ranks associated with each taxon. This is an asterisk delimited file which must be imported as a dataframe (see LearnTaxa), using eg:

```
readr::read_delim("ex_ranks.txt", col_names = c('Index', 'Name', 'Parent', 'Level', 'Rank'), delim = "*", quote = "")
```

The taxid file can be very slow to write for large datasets. Therefore it is not generated by default.

**Value**

No return value, called for side effects.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_export_idtaxa(lib, tempfile())
```

---

refdb\_export\_mothur     *Export reference database for Mothur*

---

**Description**

Write a reference database in formats which can be used with Mothur.

**Usage**

```
refdb_export_mothur(x, file)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
file	a file path. This will be used to create a .fasta file and a .txt file.

**Value**

No return value, called for side effects.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_export_mothur(lib, tempfile())
```

---

refdb\_export\_utax      *Export reference database for USEARCH/VSEARCH*

---

**Description**

Write a reference database in utax format.

**Usage**

```
refdb_export_utax(x, file, verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
file	a file path. This will be used to create a .fasta file.
verbose	print information in the console.

**Value**

No return value, called for side effects.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_export_utax(lib, tempfile())
```

---

refdb\_fill\_tax\_downstream  
*Fill missing data in taxonomy*

---

**Description**

Replace NA values in taxonomic classification using upstream ranks.

**Usage**

```
refdb_fill_tax_downstream(x, qualifier = "indet.")
```

**Arguments**

`x` a reference database.  
`qualifier` a string to add the new labels. Default ensure that `refdb_clean_tax_NA` will correctly identify the label as NA.

**Value**

A reference database.

**See Also**

`refdb_fill_tax_upstream` to replace NA values using downstream data.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))  
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)  
refdb_fill_tax_downstream(lib)
```

---

refdb\_fill\_tax\_upstream  
*Fill missing data in taxonomy*

---

**Description**

Replace NA values in taxonomic classification using downstream ranks.

**Usage**

```
refdb_fill_tax_upstream(x, qualifier = "undef.")
```

**Arguments**

`x` a reference database.

`qualifier` a string to add the new labels. Default ensure that `refdb_clean_tax_NA` will correctly identify the label as NA.

**Value**

A reference database.

**See Also**

`refdb_fill_tax_downstream` to replace terminal NA values using upstream data.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_fill_tax_upstream(lib)
```

---

`refdb_filter_ref_scope`

*Filter records by taxonomic scope of studies*

---

**Description**

Filter records by taxonomic scope of studies

**Usage**

```
refdb_filter_ref_scope(x, max_tax)
```

**Arguments**

`x` a reference database (tibble).

`max_tax` the maximum (widest) taxonomic focus of the study.

**Details**

A reference field (one ore more columns) must be set to use this function. If reference is not available (NA) for a record, the record is not dropped.

**Value**

a reference database (tibble).

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
lib$refs <- rep("REF_1", nrow(lib))
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib, reference = "refs")
refdb_filter_ref_scope(lib, max_tax = "family_name")
```

---

refdb\_filter\_seq\_ambiguous

*Filter sequences based on their number of ambiguous character.*

---

### Description

Filter sequences based on their number of ambiguous character.

### Usage

```
refdb_filter_seq_ambiguous(x, max_ambig = 3L, char = "N")
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
max_ambig	maximum number of ambiguous character.
char	characters interpreted as ambiguous (vector).

### Value

A tibble (filtered reference database).

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_seq_ambiguous(lib)
```

---

refdb\_filter\_seq\_duplicates  
*Filter duplicated sequences.*

---

**Description**

Exclude duplicated sequences. This is based both on sequences and taxonomy. NA values are assumed to be comparable.

**Usage**

```
refdb_filter_seq_duplicates(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    a reference database.

**Value**

A tibble (filtered reference database).

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_seq_duplicates(lib)
```

---

refdb\_filter\_seq\_homopolymers  
*Filter sequences based on their number of repeated character.*

---

**Description**

Filter sequences based on their number of repeated character.

**Usage**

```
refdb_filter_seq_homopolymers(x, max_len = 16L)
```

**Arguments**

x                    a reference database.  
max\_len            maximum number of repeated character (homopolymer).

**Value**

A tibble (filtered reference database).

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_seq_homopolymers(lib)
```

---

refdb\_filter\_seq\_length

*Filter sequences based on their number of character.*

---

**Description**

Filter sequences based on their number of character.

**Usage**

```
refdb_filter_seq_length(x, min_len = NULL, max_len = NULL, gaps = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
min_len, max_len	minimum and maximum sequence lengths. Use NULL (default) to ignore.
gaps	if TRUE gaps are accounted.

**Value**

A tibble (filtered reference database).

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_seq_length(lib, 50L)
```

---

`refdb_filter_seq_primer`*Filter sequences based on the presence of primers.*

---

## Description

Filter sequences based on the presence of primers.

## Usage

```
refdb_filter_seq_primer(  
  x,  
  primer_forward = NULL,  
  primer_reverse = NULL,  
  max_error_forward = 0.1,  
  max_error_reverse = 0.1  
)
```

## Arguments

`x` a reference database.  
`primer_forward` forward primer.  
`primer_reverse` reverse primer.  
`max_error_forward`, `max_error_reverse`  
maximum error for match (frequency base on primer length).

## Value

A tibble (filtered reference database).

## Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))  
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)  
refdb_filter_seq_primer(lib, "ACTA")
```

---

 refdb\_filter\_seq\_stopcodon

*Filter sequences based on their number of of stop codons.*


---

### Description

Filter sequences based on their number of of stop codons.

### Usage

```
refdb_filter_seq_stopcodon(x, max_stop = 0, code, codon_frame = NA)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
max_stop	maximum number of stop codons.
code	an integer indicating the genetic code to use for translation (see <a href="#">genetic-codes</a> ).
codon_frame	an integer giving the nucleotide position where to start translation. If NA (the default), the three different frames are tested and the frame producing the lowest number of stop codons will be used.

### Value

A tibble (filtered reference database).

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_seq_stopcodon(lib, code = 5)
```

---

 refdb\_filter\_tax\_na *Filter records NA taxa*


---

### Description

Remove records where taxa is NA if it is not the only representant of the upper clade. Note that the function maybe slow on large datasets. //EXPERIMENTAL//

### Usage

```
refdb_filter_tax_na(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database. (column name of the reference database).

**Value**

A tibble (filtered reference database).

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_tax_na(lib)
```

---

refdb\_filter\_tax\_precision

*Filter records based on their taxonomic precision.*

---

**Description**

Filter records based on their taxonomic precision.

**Usage**

```
refdb_filter_tax_precision(x, min_tax)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database.

min\_tax minimum taxonomic level (column name of the reference database).

**Value**

A tibble (filtered reference database).

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_filter_tax_precision(lib, min_tax = "family_name")
```

---

refdb\_get\_fields      *Get fields of a reference database*

---

**Description**

Get fields of a reference database

**Usage**

```
refdb_get_fields(x, silent = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x                    a reference database.  
silent                if TRUE silently and invisibly returns fields.

**Value**

The list of fields is returned invisibly.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))  
refdb_get_fields(lib)
```

---

refdb\_import\_NCBI      *Download and import NCBI Nucleotide records*

---

**Description**

This function allows to search and download data from the the NCBI Nucleotide database. Additionally it uses the NCBI Taxonomy database to get the sequence taxonomic classification.

**Usage**

```
refdb_import_NCBI(  
  query,  
  full = FALSE,  
  max_seq_length = 10000,  
  seq_bin = 200,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  start = 0L  
)
```

## Arguments

query	a character string with the query.
full	a logical. If FALSE (the default), only a subset of the most important fields is included in the result.
max_seq_length	a numeric giving the maximum length of sequences to retrieve. Useful to exclude complete genomes.
seq_bin	number of sequences to download at once.
verbose	print information in the console.
start	an integer giving the index where to start to download. For debugging purpose mainly.

## Details

This function uses several functions of the **rentrez** package to interface with the NCBI's EUtils API.\*

## Value

A tibble.

## Errors

Error in `curl::curl_fetch_memory(url, handle = handle)` : transfer closed with outstanding read data remaining  
This error seems to appear with long sequences. You can try to decrease `max_seq_length` to exclude them.

## Examples

```
try(silo_ncbi <- refdb_import_NCBI("Silo COI"))
```

---

refdb\_merge

*Merge reference databases*

---

## Description

Merge several reference database by common fields.

## Usage

```
refdb_merge(..., keep = "fields_all")
```

**Arguments**

... reference databases (tibbles).  
 keep determines which columns to keep. Can be "fields\_all" (default), "fields\_shared" or "all" (see Details).

**Details**

Columns are merged only if they are associated to the same field.

The keep argument determines which columns are returned as follow. "fields\_all" (the default) returns all the fields existing in all the reference databases. "fields\_shared" returns only the fields shared by all the reference databases. "all" returns all the columns of all the databases. Columns which are not associated to a field are not merged and are prefixed with the name of the object they originated from.

**Value**

a merged reference database (tibble).

**Examples**

```
lib_1 <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib_1 <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib_1)
lib_2 <- lib_1
refdb_merge(lib_1, lib_2)
```

---

 refdb\_plot\_map

*Plot an interactive map*


---

**Description**

This functions generate an interactive maps showing the location of the records of a reference database. Note that only records with latitude and longitude data will be displayed.

**Usage**

```
refdb_plot_map(x)
```

**Arguments**

x a reference database.

**Value**

An interactive map object from the **leaflet** package.

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib, latitude = "lat", longitude = "lon")
refdb_plot_map(lib)
```

---

refdb\_plot\_seqlen\_hist

*Plot an histogram of sequence lengths*

---

### Description

Plot an histogram of sequence lengths

### Usage

```
refdb_plot_seqlen_hist(x, remove_gaps = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database
remove_gaps	a logical (default TRUE to control whether gaps (-) should be removed prior computing sequence lengths.

### Value

A ggplot object. This means the plot can be further customized using **ggplot2** compatible functions.

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_plot_seqlen_hist(lib)
```

---

`refdb_plot_tax_barplot`*Barplots of the number of records for the most represented taxa*

---

**Description**

Generate a multipanel plot where, for each taxonomic level, a barplot represent the number of records available in the reference database for the most represented taxa.

**Usage**

```
refdb_plot_tax_barplot(x, show_n = 10)
```

**Arguments**

`x` a reference database.  
`show_n` an integer value indicating the number of taxa to show in each panel.

**Value**

A ggplot object.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib, latitude = "lat", longitude = "lon")
refdb_plot_tax_barplot(lib)
```

---

`refdb_plot_tax_tree` *Reference database taxonomy tree*

---

**Description**

Represent the hierarchical structure of the taxonomic information of a reference database as a tree.

**Usage**

```
refdb_plot_tax_tree(  
  x,  
  leaf_col = NULL,  
  color_col = NULL,  
  freq_labels = 0,  
  expand_plot = 0.5  
)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database.
leaf_col	a column name referring to the taxonomic level for the leaves of the tree. If not provided (NULL) the function tries to find a relevant level.
color_col	a column name referring to the taxonomic level for the color of the leaves (must be higher or equal to the level of leaf_col). If not provided (NULL) the function tries to find a relevant level.
freq_labels	a numeric value to adjust the number of printed labels (minimum frequency). Default is zero which means all non-NA labels are printed.
expand_plot	a value to expand the limits of the plot. Useful if the labels are too long.

### Details

The underlying graph is computed using the non-exported function `igraph_from_taxo`.

### Value

A **ggplot2** (**ggraph**) object. This means the plot can be further customized using **ggplot2** compatible functions.

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_plot_tax_tree(lib)
```

---

refdb\_plot\_tax\_treemap

*Reference database treemap*

---

### Description

Represent the hierarchical structure of the taxonomic information of a reference database as a set of nested rectangles (treemap).

### Usage

```
refdb_plot_tax_treemap(x, cols = NULL, freq_labels = c(0.01, 0.003))
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a reference database.
<code>cols</code>	a vector of column names referring to taxonomic levels to include in the treemap. If not provided (NULL) the function tries to find a relevant subset of columns.
<code>freq_labels</code>	a numeric vector of length two to adjust the number of printed labels (see Details). Only the columns provided in the <code>cols</code> argument are represented in the treemap. Large labels are printed for the highest rank, while light text labels are printed for the lowest rank. Intermediate ranks are drawn but their names are not shown. The number of labels printed are determined by <code>freq_labels</code> . The first value gives the threshold for the highest rank (large labels) and the second value gives the threshold for the lowest rank (light text labels). The underlying graph is computed using the non-exported function <code>igraph_from_taxo</code> .

**Value**

A **ggplot2** (**ggraph**) object. This means the plot can be further customized using **ggplot2** compatible functions.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)
refdb_plot_tax_treemap(lib)
```

---

refdb\_report

*Compile a report with different checks*


---

**Description**

This function produce an HTML report to investigate potential issues in a reference database.

**Usage**

```
refdb_report(x, file = NULL, view = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a reference database.
<code>file</code>	the file (path) to write the report. If NULL the report is written in the user temp directory.
<code>view</code>	A logical. If TRUE (default), the file is instantly opened in the web browser.

**Value**

The function invisibly returns the file where the report was written.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib,
  taxonomy = c(family = "family_name",
    genus = "genus_name",
    species = "species_name"),
  sequence = "DNA_seq",
  marker = "marker")

tmp <- tempfile()

refdb_report(lib, tmp, view = FALSE)
```

---

refdb_sample_tax	<i>Sample records within taxa</i>
------------------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

This function can be useful to keep a maximum of records per taxa. This function require dplyr dev version to work because of slice\_sample. Will be exported once available.

**Usage**

```
refdb_sample_tax(x, n_max = 10, cols = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database.
n_max	maximum number of records to keep for each taxa.
cols	an optional vector of column names. If NULL (default), the function is applied to the columns associated with the taxonomy field.

**Value**

A reference database.

---

refdb_set_fields	<i>Associate columns to fields</i>
------------------	------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Associate columns to fields so they are recognized and appropriately treated by refdb functions.

**Usage**

```
refdb_set_fields(
  x,
  source = NA,
  id = NA,
  organism = NA,
  taxonomy = NA,
  sequence = NA,
  marker = NA,
  latitude = NA,
  longitude = NA,
  reference = NA,
  config_yaml = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

x	a reference database (tibble).
source	name of the column which contains the data source.
id	name of the column which contains the record IDs.
organism	name of the column which contains the names of the organisms.
taxonomy	a vector of column names.
sequence	name of the column which contains the sequences.
marker	name of the column which contains marker names.
latitude	name of the column which contains latitudes (WGS 84)
longitude	name of the column which contains longitudes (WGS 84).
reference	a vector of column names.
config_yaml	a file path to a YAML file

**Details**

Taxonomy reordering. NA to ignore, NULL to delete. Fields set using config\_yaml always overwrite those set by arguments

**Value**

The function returns x with updated attributes.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))
lib <- refdb_set_fields(lib,
  taxonomy = c(family = "family_name",
    genus = "genus_name",
    species = "species_name"),
  sequence = "DNA_seq",
  marker = "marker")
```

---

refdb_set_ncbitax	<i>Replace the current taxonomy using the NCBI Taxonomy database</i>
-------------------	--

---

### Description

Replace the current taxonomy using the NCBI Taxonomy database

### Usage

```
refdb_set_ncbitax(  
  x,  
  min_level = "species",  
  force_species_name = TRUE,  
  verbose = TRUE  
)
```

### Arguments

x	a reference database (tibble) with one or several columns giving the taxonomy of each record and explicitly indicated in the field taxonomy. See <a href="#">refdb_set_fields</a> .
min_level	minimum taxonomic level at which taxonomy should be replaced. Default is the finest level ("species").
force_species_name	if TRUE, species not found in NCBI Taxonomy will keep their original names instead of NAs.
verbose	print information in the console.

### Value

The reference database with the NCBI taxonomy for the genus level and higher ranks. (the original taxonomy above the genus level is removed).

### Examples

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "baetidae_bold.csv", package = "refdb"))  
lib <- refdb_set_fields_BOLD(lib)  
try(refdb_set_ncbitax(lib))
```

---

refdb_write_fields	<i>Write fields to a file</i>
--------------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

This function can be used to save fields defined using e.g. `refdb_set_fields` to a file. Data are saved in YAML and can be read again using the `config_yaml` argument of `refdb_set_fields`.

**Usage**

```
refdb_write_fields(x, file)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a reference database with some fields to be saved.
<code>file</code>	a path to the file to write.

**Value**

No return value, called for its side effects.

**Examples**

```
lib <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ephem.csv", package = "refdb"))
tmp <- tempfile()
refdb_write_fields(lib, tmp)
```

---

valid_taxo_rank	<i>Ranks considered as valid by refdb</i>
-----------------	---

---

**Description**

Ranks considered as valid by refdb

**Usage**

```
valid_taxo_rank()
```

**Value**

a vector of ordered ranks.

**References**

This is a simplified version of the list `rank_ref` available in **taxize**.

**Examples**

```
valid_taxo_rank()
```

---

`xml_extract`*Extract XML elements*

---

**Description**

Combine `xml_find_first` and `xml_text` to extract elements.

**Usage**

```
xml_extract(x, xpath)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	A document, node, or node set.
<code>xpath</code>	A string containing a xpath expression.

**Value**

A character vector, the same length as `x`.

# Index

.filter\_seq\_length (filter\_scores), 4

check\_fields, 3

fields\_dbs, 3

filter\_scores, 4

genetic-codes, 25

get\_ncbi\_taxonomy, 4

igraph\_from\_taxo, 5

make\_ncbi\_table, 5

ncbi\_taxo\_rank, 6

process\_geo\_ncbi, 6

refdb\_check\_seq\_conflict, 7

refdb\_check\_seq\_homogeneity, 7

refdb\_check\_tax\_conflict, 8

refdb\_check\_tax\_typo, 9

refdb\_clean\_seq\_crop\_primers, 10

refdb\_clean\_seq\_remove\_gaps, 11

refdb\_clean\_seq\_remove\_sideN, 11

refdb\_clean\_tax\_harmonize\_nomenclature, 12, 14

refdb\_clean\_tax\_NA, 12

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_blank, 13

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_extra, 14

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_subsp, 14

refdb\_clean\_tax\_remove\_uncertainty, 15

refdb\_export\_dada2, 16

refdb\_export\_idtaxa, 16

refdb\_export\_mothur, 17

refdb\_export\_utax, 18

refdb\_fill\_tax\_downstream, 19

refdb\_fill\_tax\_upstream, 19

refdb\_filter\_ref\_scope, 20

refdb\_filter\_seq\_ambiguous, 21

refdb\_filter\_seq\_duplicates, 22

refdb\_filter\_seq\_homopolymers, 22

refdb\_filter\_seq\_length, 23

refdb\_filter\_seq\_primer, 24

refdb\_filter\_seq\_stopcodon, 25

refdb\_filter\_tax\_na, 25

refdb\_filter\_tax\_precision, 26

refdb\_get\_fields, 27

refdb\_import\_NCBI, 27

refdb\_merge, 28

refdb\_plot\_map, 29

refdb\_plot\_seqlen\_hist, 30

refdb\_plot\_tax\_barplot, 31

refdb\_plot\_tax\_tree, 31

refdb\_plot\_tax\_treemap, 32

refdb\_report, 33

refdb\_sample\_tax, 34

refdb\_set\_fields, 34, 36

refdb\_set\_fields\_BOLD (fields\_dbs), 3

refdb\_set\_fields\_diatbarcode (fields\_dbs), 3

refdb\_set\_fields\_NCBI (fields\_dbs), 3

refdb\_set\_fields\_PR2 (fields\_dbs), 3

refdb\_set\_ncbitax, 36

refdb\_write\_fields, 37

valid\_taxo\_rank, 37

xml\_extract, 38