

Open Natural Products Research: Curation and Dissemination of Biological Occurrences of Chemical Structures through Wikidata

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1 Abstract

2 As contemporary bioinformatic and chemoinformatic capabilities are reshaping natural products research, major benefits could
3 result from an open database of referenced structure-organism pairs. Those pairs allow the identification of distinct molecular
4 structures found as components of heterogeneous chemical matrices originating from living organisms. Current databases with
5 such information suffer from paywall restrictions, limited taxonomic scope, poorly standardized fields, and lack of interoper-
6 ability. To ensure data quality, references to the work that describes the structure-organism relationship are mandatory. To
7 fill this void, we collected and curated a set of structure-organism pairs from publicly available natural products databases
8 to yield **LOTUS** (natu**R**AL pr**O**duc**T**s occ**U**rre**N**ces databa**S**e), which contains over 500,000 curated and referenced structure-
9 organism pairs. All the programs developed for data collection, curation, and dissemination are publicly available. To provide
10 unlimited access as well as standardized linking to other resources, LOTUS data is both hosted on Wikidata and regularly mir-
11 rored on <https://lotus.naturalproducts.net>. The diffusion of these referenced structure-organism pairs within the Wikidata
12 framework addresses many of the limitations of currently-available databases and facilitates linkage to existing biological and
13 chemical data resources. This resource represents an important advancement in the design and deployment of a comprehensive

14 and collaborative natural products knowledge base.

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19 Graphical abstract

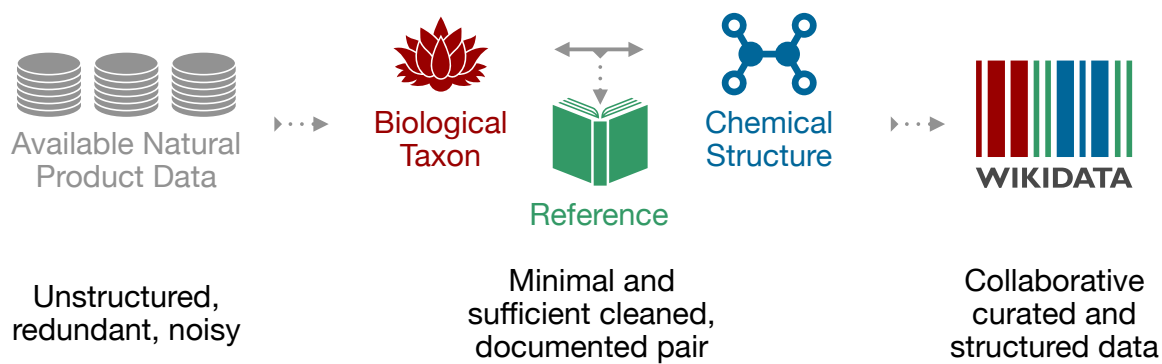


Figure 1: Graphical abstract

20 Introduction

21 Natural products (NPs) research is a transdisciplinary field with interests ranging from the fundamental
22 structural aspects of molecular entities to their effects on living organisms, or the study of chemically-
23 mediated interactions within entire ecosystems. Recent technological and methodological advancements are
24 currently reshaping the field of NP research. This field, which has a long history also deals with significant
25 traditional elements (Allard et al., 2018). In particular, contemporary bioinformatic approaches enable the
26 (re-)interpretation and (re-)annotation of datasets originating from complex biological matrices (Olivon et
27 al., 2017). To efficiently annotate previously-reported NPs, or to identify new entities, these tools rely
28 on properly maintained NP databases (DBs) (Tsugawa, 2018). Assuming that a NP is a chemical entity
29 found in or produced by a living organism (“All natural”, 2007), a NPs DB should at least contain a list of
30 chemical entities, organisms, and the reference to the work describing the established links between them.
31 However, most DBs favor the chemical objects or the biological ones and just a few report the links between
32 these objects. Large and well-structured DBs, composed only of chemical structures (PubChem (Kim et al.,
33 2018), over 100M entries) or biological organisms (GBIF (“GBIF.org”, 2020), over 1,400M entries) are freely
34 accessible but operate independently. Currently, no open, cross-kingdom and comprehensive DB links NPs
35 and their producing organisms, along with information about the experimental works describing those links.
36 It is precisely those referenced structure-organism pairs that are critical for NP and related research but
37 which are scarcely accessible (Cordell, 2017). Pioneering efforts led by Shinbo et al. led to the establishment
38 of KNApSack (Shinbo et al., n.d.), likely the first public curated DB of referenced structure-organism pairs.
39 KNApSack currently contains over 50,000 structures and over 100,000 structure-organism pairs. However,
40 its organism field is not standardized and download is complicated. The NAPRALERT dataset (Graham
41 and Farnsworth, 2010), compiled by Farnsworth and colleagues over five decades, gathers annotated data
42 derived from over 200,000 primary NP literature sources and contains 200,000 distinct compound names
43 and structural elements, along with over 500,000 records of distinct compound/species pairs, with over
44 900,000 records of compound species pairs due to multiple reports of equivalent compound/species pairs
45 from different citations. NAPRALERT is searchable, but the data are not openly available online. Finally,
46 the NPAtlas (van et al., 2019) is a more recent project aimed at complying with the FAIR (Findability,
47 Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse) guidelines for digital assets (Wilkinson et al., 2016) and offering
48 web access. While the NPAtlas encourages submission of new compounds with their biological source, it
49 focuses at the moment on microbial NPs and ignores a wide range of biosynthetically active organisms, such
50 as the plant kingdom.

51 Most of the available NPs DBs provide entries without referencing their origin, thus breaking the precious link
52 for tracing information back to the original data and assessing its quality. Even valuable efforts for compiling
53 NP data made by commercial DB distributors, such as the Dictionary of Natural Products (DNP) are missing
54 documentation of this informational pair, precluding further computational use or exhaustive review. To
55 compensate for these shortcomings, our project aims at curating and disseminating a structured natural
56 product occurrence database (LOTUS). Taking FAIR principles as guidance, we selected Wikidata
57 (WD) for disseminating this resource as it was the best candidate with its focus on cross-disciplinary and
58 multilingual support. It agglomerates referenced structure-organism pairs from publicly available data. After
59 collection and harmonization, each documented structure-organism pair has been curated at the chemical,
60 biological, and reference level, resulting in atomic and computer-interpretable identifiers. It is curated
61 and governed collaboratively by a global community of volunteers, about 20,000 of which are contributing
62 monthly. While closely integrated with Wikipedia and serving as its source for its infoboxes, WD represents
63 information as machine-interpretable statements in the form of subject-predicate-object triples, which can
64 be enriched with qualifiers and references. WD currently contains more than 1 billion statements covering
65 ~90 million entries. Entries can be grouped into classes such as countries, songs, disasters or chemical
66 compounds. Workflows have been established for the reporting of such classes, particularly those of interest
67 to the life sciences, such as genes, proteins, diseases, drugs, or biological taxa (Waagmeester et al., 2020).

68 Building on the above principles and experiences, this report introduces the development and implementation

69 of workflows for NPs occurrence curation and dissemination using **TRUST** (**T**ransparency, **R**esponsibility,
70 **U**ser focus, **S**ustainability and **T**echnology) principles (Lin et al., 2020). The presented data upload and
71 retrieval procedures ensure optimal data accessibility and foster reuse by the research community, by allowing
72 any researcher to contribute and reuse the data with a clear and open license (Creative Commons 0).
73 Despite all these advantages, the WD hosting of the LOTUS project presents some drawbacks. While the
74 SPARQL query language offers a powerful way to interrogate available data, it can also appear intimidating
75 at first for the inexperienced user. Furthermore, some typical queries of molecular DBs such as structural or
76 spectral search are not yet available in WD. To bridge this gap, we decided, in parallel, to host LOTUS in
77 a more traditional format in the naturalproducts.net ecosystem of databases and tools as the LNPN project
78 (<https://lotus.naturalproducts.net>) (LNPN), This repository is periodically updated with the latest
79 LOTUS data. The advantages of this dual hosting are the production of both a community-curated and vast
80 knowledge-based integrated DB (via WD) and a NP community-oriented product, including tailored search
81 modes as described above.

82 We expect that the LOTUS project and its multiple data interaction possibilities will provide a solid basis
83 to establish transparent and sustainable ways to access, share and create knowledge on NPs occurrence and,
84 more widely, participate in the cross-fertilization of the fields of chemistry and biology. Hereafter, we present
85 an overview of the LOTUS blueprint, as a snapshot of where it stands at the time of this document writing.
86 We detail the central collection, curation and dissemination stages. We then expose possibilities for the
87 end user to interact with LOTUS, whether by retrieving, adding or editing data. We finally illustrate the
88 dimensions and qualities of the current LOTUS dataset from the chemical and biological perspectives.

89 Results & Discussion

90 Outline of the LOTUS blueprint

91 To avoid classical pitfalls of public scientific DB creation (Helmy et al., 2016), and to enhance current and
92 future dissemination, WD appears as an ideal repository. Building on the standards established by three
93 existing WD projects in chemistry (Wikidata:WikiProject Chemistry), taxonomy (Wikidata:WikiProject
94 Taxonomy), and source metadata (Wikidata:WikiProject Source MetaData), we created a NPs chemistry
95 oriented subproject (Wikidata:WikiProject Chemistry/Natural products) that inherited the data formats
96 employed in the parent and related WD projects. The central data was constituted of 3 minimal sufficient
97 objects, allowing retrieval of all associated information:

- 98 • A chemical structure, defined by an International Chemical Identifier (InChI) (Heller et al., 2013),
99 a Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry System (SMILES)(Weininger, 1988), and an InChIKey (a
100 hashed version of the InChI) to avoid any possible collisions.
- 101 • A biological organism, defined by its taxon name, taxon ID, and the associated taxonomic DB.
- 102 • A reference describing the structure-organism pair, defined by its corresponding title and a Digital
103 Object Identifier (DOI), a PubMed ID (PMID), or a PubMed Central ID (PMCID).

104 As data formats are inhomogeneous among existing NP DBs, fields related to chemical structure, biological
105 organism, and literature reference are variable and essentially unstandardized. Therefore, LOTUS imple-
106 ments multiple steps of collection, harmonization, curation, and dissemination. Figure 2, stage 1 to 3.
107 LOTUS is elaborated with a Single Source of Truth (SSOT, [Single_source_of_truth](#)) to ensure data re-
108 liability and always propose the latest curated version of the LOTUS data both at WD and LNPN. The
109 SSOT consists of a PostgreSQL DB structuring links and data schema so that every data element is in a
110 single place. By accommodating further data addition (directly as new data sources or at the WD level)
111 the LOTUS processing pipeline is tailored to efficiently include and diffuse novel or curated data. Figure 2,
112 stage 4. This iterative workflow relies both on data addition and data retrieval actions described in the
113 Data interaction section. The overall process leading to referenced and curated structure-organisms pairs is
114 illustrated in Figure 2, and detailed below.

This work

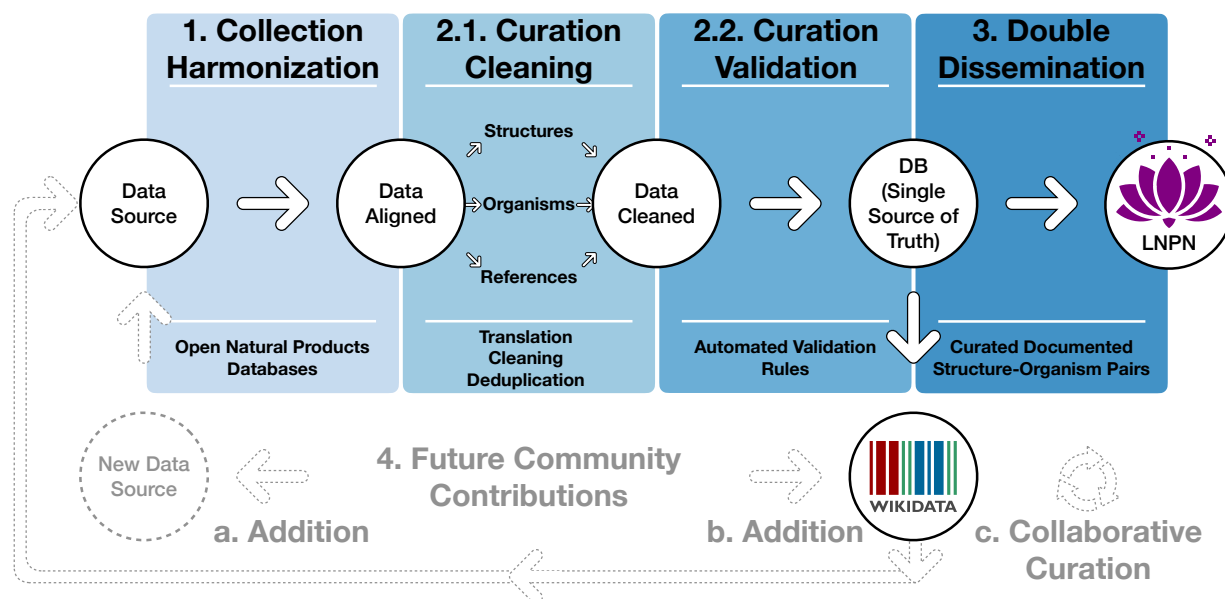


Figure 2: LOTUS process overview. The process consists of three main steps: Collection and Harmonization (1), Curation (2) and Dissemination (3). It was conceived to integrate Future contributions (4) either as new data addition (a. and b.) or as curation of existing data (c.) and thus build an iterative virtuous circle empowering the community to participate in the global NPs occurrences documentation effort.

115 All the steps of the process can be found in the <https://gitlab.com/lotus7> project and <https://github.com/mSorok/LOTUSweb>. At the time of submission, this leads to 742,041 entries consisting of a curated
116 chemical structure, a curated biological organism, and a curated reference available on WD and LNP. Since the LOTUS data volume is expected to increase over time, a frozen (as of 2021-02-23) tabular version
117 of this dataset with its associated metadata is available at <https://osf.io/hgjdb/>. This frozen dataset is
118 the one that has been used to generate Figures 4 and 6.
119
120

121 Collection and harmonization

122 Initial data were collected from the recently published COLleCtion of Open NatUral producTs (CO-
123 CONUT)(Sorokina et al., 2021). All DBs referred to as open-access in COCONUT and containing referenced
124 structure-organism pairs were used. They were complemented with COCONUT's own structure-organism
125 documented pairs (Sorokina and Steinbeck, 2020) and the following additional DBs: Dr. Duke (Duke, 2016),
126 Cyanometdb (Jones et al., 2020), Datawarrior (Sander et al., 2015), a subset of NAPRALERT (Graham
127 and Farnsworth, 2010), Wakankensaku ("Wakankensaku", n.d.), and DiaNat-DB (Madariaga-Mazón et al.,
128 2021). The list of data sources is available in Supplementary Table S1. All necessary scripts for collection
129 and harmonization can be found in the lotusProcessor repository in the src/1_gathering directory and the
130 process is detailed in the corresponding Methods section (Ibezim et al., 2017), (Boonen et al., 2012)(Pilón-
131 Jiménez et al., 2019), (Sharma et al., 2014), (Yabuzaki, 2017), (Sorokina and Steinbeck, 2020), (Zhang et al.,
132 2019), (Afendi et al., 2012), (Haug et al., 2020), (Kautsar et al., 2020), (Derese, Solomon et al., 2015), (Ntie-
133 Kang et al., 2017), (Zeng et al., 2018), (Choi et al., 2017), (Tomiki et al., 2006), (Pilon et al., 2017), (Huang et
134 al., 2018), (Rothwell et al., 2013), (Giacomoni et al., 2017), (Nupur et al., 2016),(Sawada et al., 2012), (Hat-
135 herley et al., 2015), (Klementz et al., 2016), (Davis and Vasanthi, 2011), (Yue et al., 2014), (Kim et al.,
136 2015), (Günthardt et al., 2018), (Gu et al., 2013). All subsequent iterations with additional data sources

137 (either the updated versions of the same data sources or new ones), will first compare the new data sources
138 with previously collected ones at the SSOT level in order to curate data only once.

139 Curation

140 As described in Figure 2, the data curation process was divided into alignment, cleaning, and validati-
141 on stages. Cleaning of each of the three central objects (the chemical, the biological, and the reference
142 object) of the referenced pairs was performed before realignment. The overall process is detailed in the
143 corresponding Methods section. Given the size of the data (more than 2.5M initial entries), manual va-
144 lidation was not possible. An especially problematic point of the curation process was encountered while
145 treating the references. If organisms are often reported at least by their canonical name, structures by their
146 SMILES, InChI or InChIkey, references suffer from insufficient reporting standards. The major inconve-
147 nience is poor information retrieval²⁶. Better reporting together with new tools such as Scholia (<https://scholia.toolforge.org/>)
148 (Nielsen et al., 2017), relying on Wikidata, Fatcat (<https://fatcat.wiki/>),
149 or Semantic Scholar (<https://www.semanticscholar.org/>) should allow improved information retrieval
150 in the future. Despite the poor standardization of the initial reference field, this last object is crucial to
151 establish the validity of the structure-organism pair. After the curation of the chemical and biological ob-
152 jects, the references were thus exploited to assess the quality of the documented structure-organism pair.
153 In addition to the entries we curated as we processed the data, we also manually analyzed 420 referenced
154 structure-organism pairs to establish rules for automatic filtering of the curated entries. This filter (detailed
155 in the corresponding Methods section) was then applied to all entries. To confirm the efficacy of the filtering
156 process, a second representative set of 100 entries was subsetted and its manual validation led to a rate of
157 97% of true positives. See results of the two manual validation steps in Supporting Information S2. Resulting
data are available in the dataset shared at <https://osf.io/hgjdb/>. In Table 1, we show an example of a

	Structure	Organism	Reference
Be- fore cura- tion	Cyathocaline	Stem bark of <i>Cyathocalyx zeylanica</i> CHAMP. ex HOOK. f. & THOMS. (Annonaceae)	Wijeratne E. M. K., de Silva L. B., Kikuchi T., Tezuka Y., Gunatilaka A. A. L., Kingston D. G. I., J. Nat. Prod., 58, 459-462 (1995).
After cura- tion	VFIIVOHWCNHINZ- UHFFFAOYSA- N	<i>Cyathocalyx zeylanicus</i>	10.1/NP50117A020

Table 1: Example of a given referenced structure-organism pair before and after curation

158 referenced structure-organism pair before and after the curation process, which resolved the structure to an
159 InChIKey, the organism to a valid taxonomic name and the reference to a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).
160 Challenging examples encountered during the curation process development were compiled in an edge case
161 table (<tests/tests.tsv>), which allowed automatic unit testing (see corresponding Methods section). These
162 tests allow a continuous revalidation of any change made to the code, making sure no corrected error can
163 reappear.
164

165 The alluvial plot in Figure 3 illustrates the individual contribution of each curated DBs and original sub-
166 category to the final structure, organism and reference categories. For example, the high contribution of
167 NAPRALERT and UNPD (Gu et al., 2013) is highlighted. The important contribution of the DOI category
168 of references to the validated references is also clearly visible. Combining the results of the automatic curation
169 pipeline and our manually curated entries, led to the establishment of four categories (manually validated,
170 manually rejected, automatically validated, and automatically rejected) of documented structure-organism
171 pairs that constituted the SSOT DB. Out of a total of more than 2M pairs, manually and automatically
172 validated pairs constituted over 740,000 pairs, or circa 30 %, which were selected for dissemination on WD.
173 They were constituted from over 250,000 structures, over 30,000 organisms, and over 75,000 references. The
174 technical details of the curation cleaning and validation processes are described in the corresponding methods
175 section. All necessary programs for curation can be found in the [lotusProcessor](#) repository under [src/2_cu-
176 rating](#) and [src/3_analysing](#).

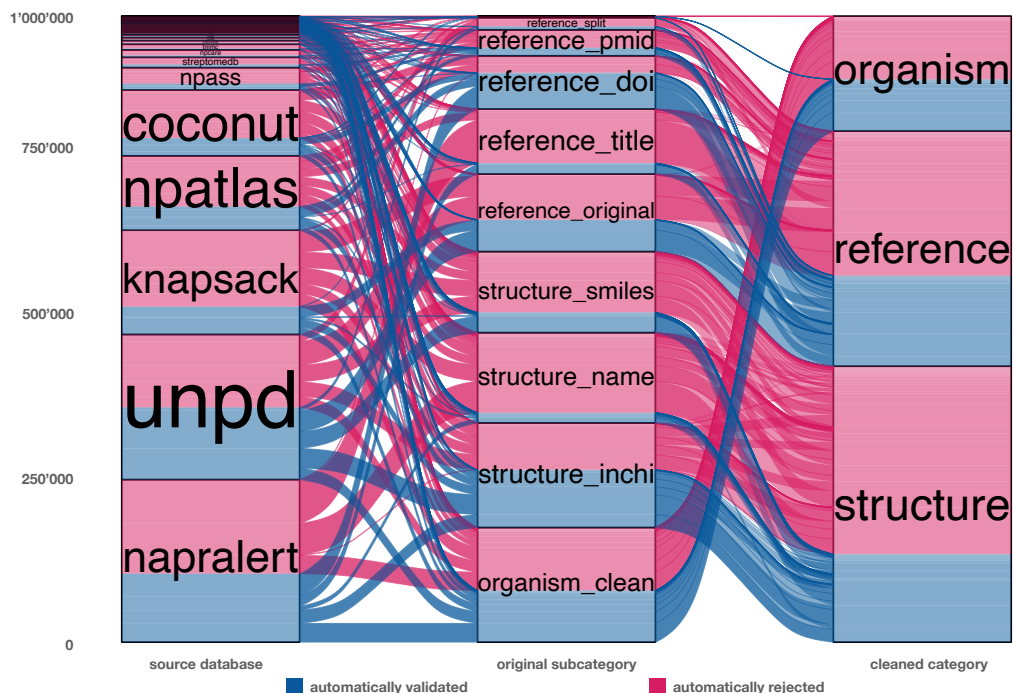


Figure 3: Alluvial plot of the LOTUS data flux during the automated curation and validation process: it represents the relative proportion of individual entries' data streams and repartition by database (first block), their harmonized subcategories for curation (second block), and their final validation status (third block). Automatically validated entries are represented in blue and rejected ones in red.

177 Dissemination

178 Ideally, researchers should benefit from all results of studies in their field and adjacent areas immediately
179 upon publication. This is considered as the foundation of scientific investigation and a prerequisite for
180 effectively directing new research efforts based on available prior information. To achieve this, research
181 results have to be made publicly available and reusable. As computers are now the main instrument of any
182 scientist, this data needs to be computer interpretable, publications should contain structured data to be
183 efficiently organized and summarized in a DB-compatible form. Following the FAIR guidelines, we chose
184 WD as the repository for the referenced structure-organism pairs. Hosting on WD enables the documented
185 research data on NPs to be integrated with the pre-existing body of chemical and biological knowledge. The
186 flexibility of SPARQL queries, the language used to query WikiData and many other resources, allows users
187 to efficiently retrieve and query data. Besides, by being hosted on a dynamic platform, the quality of the
188 data is expected to evolve continuously, benefiting from the curation by the different user communities of
189 WD.

190 Despite the numerous advantages of the WD-based hosting of LOTUS, in particular its independence from
191 individual lab funding, some limitations were anticipated. SPARQL queries, despite their power, are complex
192 and often require a good understanding of the models and the structure of the data. This can discourage
193 some end users as it requires there is a steep learning curve. Furthermore, traditional ways to query NP DBs
194 such as structural or spectral searches are currently not within the scope of WD. Based on the pre-existing
195 COCONUT DB template, LOTUS data is also hosted at <https://lotus.naturalproducts.net> (LNPN) to
196 facilitate such structure-based searches. The double diffusion of LOTUS on WD and at LNPN addresses these
197 shortcomings: the WD hosting allows to benefit from the integration of the uploaded data within the whole
198 WD knowledge base and elaborated SPARQL queries to explore this dataset under various angles. The WD

199 hosting also opens the community curation possibilities which will guarantee a dynamic and evolving data
200 repository. On the other hand, LNPN hosting allows the user to perform structural searches more classically
201 (e.g., by drawing the molecule). In the future, versions of LOTUS and COCONUT augmented by predicted
202 MS spectra are expected to be hosted at the naturalproducts.net portal and should allow mass, fragment
203 and spectral based queries. To facilitate queries focussed on specific taxa (e.g., “return all molecules found in
204 the Asteraceae family”), a unified taxonomy is paramount. As taxonomy is a complex and always evolving
205 field, we decided to keep all the taxon identifiers from all accepted taxonomic DB for a given taxon name.
206 This implies that for a given name, multiple taxonomies, coming from different taxonomic DB, are allowed.
207 We expect initiatives such as the Open Tree of Life (OTL) (<https://tree.opentreeoflife.org/>) (Rees
208 and Cranston, 2017) to gradually reduce those discrepancies and WD to efficiently help in this direction.
209 OTL also benefits from regular expert curation and new data. As the taxonomic identifier property for
210 this database did not exist in WD, we requested and obtained its creation (P9157). After the previously
211 described curation process, all validated entries were thus made available through WD and LNPN. LNPN
212 will be regularly mirroring WD LOTUS through the SSOT as described in Figure 2. Below, we will describe
213 the various ways to interact with data hosted at WD and LNPN.

214 Data interaction from the user point of view

215 The data being available in multiple formats, the possibilities to interact with the LOTUS data are numerous.
216 We provide hereafter some basic and more advanced examples on how to retrieve, add and edit LOTUS data.

217 Data retrieval

218 LOTUS data can be queried and retrieved either on WD directly or on LNPN. Both of these options present
219 unique advantages. Wikidata offers modularity at the cost of a potentially complex access to the data.
220 LNPN offers a Graphical User Interface (GUI) with chemical structure drawing possibility, easy structural
221 or biological filtering and advanced chemical descriptors, but with a more rigid structure. A frozen (2021-
222 02-23) version of LOTUS data is available at <https://osf.io/hgjdb/>. Hereafter we detail finer approaches
223 to directly interrogate the up-to-date LOTUS data both in WD and LNPN.

224 Wikidata

225 The simplest way to search for NPs occurrence information in WD is by directly typing the name of a
226 chemical structure in the “Search Wikidata” lookup field. For example by typing erysodine the user lands
227 on the WD page for this compound (Q27265641). Scrolling down to the “found in taxon” statement gives
228 a view of the biological organisms reported to contain this chemical compound. Under each taxon name,
229 clicking on the reference link will then display the scientific publication documenting the occurrence. For more
230 elaborated queries, the usual way is to write SPARQL queries in the [Wikidata Query Service](#). Below are some
231 examples of simple or more elaborated requests which can be done using this service. A generic SPARQL
232 query - listed in Table 2 as “Which compounds are found in a biological organism, according to which
233 references?” - retrieves all chemical compounds (Q11173) or group of stereoisomers (Q59199015) found in
234 taxon (P703) taxon stated in bibliographic reference (Q10358455) is available here: <https://w.wiki/335C>.
235 Data can then be exported in various formats, such as classical tabular formats, json or html tables. At
236 the time of publication, it returned 798,853 entries. A frozen result of the query is available at <https://osf.io/xgyhm/>. Targeted queries allowing to interrogate LOTUS data from the angle of each one of the
237 three objects constituting the referenced structure-organism pairs can be built. Users can, for example,
238 retrieve a list of all reported structures in a given organism (e.g., structures found in Citrus aurantium
239 (Q61127949) <https://w.wiki/sFp>). Alternatively, all organisms containing a given chemical structure can
240 be queried (e.g., here all organisms in which beta-sitosterol (Q121802) was reported <https://w.wiki/dFz>).
241 For programmatic access, the [WikidataLotusExporter](#) repository also allows retrieval in RDF format and as
242 tsv tables. As previously mentioned, some typical queries of molecular DBs such as structural search are not
243 yet available in WD. It is a general issue, as the SPARQL language does not support a simple integration
244

Questions	Wikidata SPARQL query
What are the compounds present in Mouse-ear cress (<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>)? Which organisms are known to contain the 2D structure of beta-sitosterol?	https://w.wiki/32y8 https://w.wiki/334q
Which taxa have chemical compounds related to (but different from) beta-sitosterol?	https://w.wiki/334s
What are examples of organisms where compounds were reported to be produced by a sister organism but not the organism itself?	https://w.wiki/3359
Which <i>Zephyranthes</i> species lack compounds known from at least two sister species?	https://w.wiki/335x
How many compounds are structurally similar to compounds labelled as antibiotics? Results are grouped by the parent taxon of the organism they were found in.	https://w.wiki/32Qb
Which compounds are found in a biological organism, according to which references?	https://w.wiki/335C
Which compounds have an indolic scaffold?	https://w.wiki/32KZ
How many structure-organism pairs have been referenced by these authors? (Here, we compare two senior natural products chemists and co-authors of this paper with the late Ferdinand Bohlmann).	https://w.wiki/32\$bn

Table 2: Potential questions about referenced structure-organism relationships and the corresponding Wikidata SPARQL query that provides an answer

of such queries. To address this issue, Galgonek et al. developed an in-house SPARQL engine that allows utilization of Sachem, a high-performance chemical DB cartridge for fingerprint-guided substructure and similarity search (Kratochvíl et al., 2018). The engine is used by the Integrated Database of Small Molecules (IDSM) that operates, among other things, several dedicated endpoints allowing structural search in selected small-molecule datasets via SPARQL (Kratochvíl et al., 2019). To allow substructure and similarity searches via SPARQL also on compounds from WD, we created a dedicated IDSM/Sachem endpoint for WD as well. The endpoint indexes isomorphical (P2017) and canonical (P233) SMILES code available in WD. To ensure that data are kept up-to-date, SMILES codes are downloaded from WD automatically daily. The endpoint allows users to run federated queries (<https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-federated-query/>) and thus proceed to structure-oriented searches on the LOTUS data hosted at Wikidata. For example, the following SPARQL query, <https://w.wiki/32KZ>, will return a list of all organisms producing the indolic scaffold. The list is aggregated at the parent taxa level of the containing organisms and ordered by the number of scaffold occurrences.

LNPN

In the search field of the LNPN interface, simple queries can be achieved by typing in the molecule name (e.g. *protopine*), pasting a SMILES string or an return all compounds found in a given organism by typing the organism name at the species or any higher taxa level (e.g. *Tabernanthe iboga*). Alternatively, structure can be directly drawn in the Structure search interface (<https://lotus.naturalproducts.net/search/structure>). Refined search mode combining multiple search criteria is available in the Advanced search interface (<https://lotus.naturalproducts.net/search/advanced>). From LNPN the bulk data can be retrieved as an SDF or SMILES file, or as a MongoDB dump via <https://lotus.naturalproducts.net/download>.

Data addition

A strong advantage of LOTUS is that the possibility is given for users to contribute to the NPs occurrences documentation effort by adding new data or editing uploaded data.

All of the data managed by LOTUS is stored in the SSOT. The SSOT is also used to avoid reprocessing elements that have already been previously obtained such as a structure from a name, a bibliographical reference from a citation or a taxonomic identifier from a taxon name. However, at the moment, we are not opening the SSOT for direct write access to the public in order to maintain its coherence and allow us to make the schema evolve. To add or modify data in LOTUS, the users can employ the following approaches.

275 Source databases

276 The LOTUS process will regularly re-import both the current source DBs and new ones. New and modified
277 information from those DBs will be checked against the SSOT and if not present or updated they will follow
278 the curation pipeline and will be further stocked into SSOT. Any researcher can, thus, contribute to these
279 DBs as a means of providing new data for LOTUS, keeping in mind the delay between data addition and
280 subsequent inclusion into LOTUS.

281 Wikidata

282 The currently favored approach to add new data to LOTUS is to edit directly on Wikidata. This data will
283 then be imported into the SSOT database. There are several ways to interact with Wikidata which depend
284 on the technical skills of the user and the volume of data to be imported/modified.

285 Manual upload

286 Any researcher interested in NPs occurrence reporting will be able to manually add the data directly in WD,
287 without programming language barriers of any kind. The only prerequisite is to create a Wikidata account
288 and follow the general object editing guidelines (<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Tours>). Re-
289 garding the addition of NPs centered objects (documented structure-organisms pairs) please refer to
290 the WikiProject Chemistry/Natural products group page [https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Chemistry/Natural_products)
291 [WikiProject_Chemistry/Natural_products](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Chemistry/Natural_products).

292 A tutorial for the manual creation and upload to WD of a documented structure-organism pairs is available
293 in Supplementary Information . While direct WD upload is possible, future contributors are still encouraged
294 to use the LOTUS curation pipeline as a preliminary step to strengthen initial data quality. The added data
295 will then benefit from the curation and validation stages implemented in the LOTUS processing pipeline.

296 Batch and automated upload

297 At the end of the previously described curation process, more than 500,000 referenced structure-organisms
298 were validated for WD addition. To automate the WD upload process, we wrote a set of scripts that auto-
299 matically process the curated outputs, group references, organisms, and compounds together, check if they
300 are already present in WD (using SPARQL and direct connection to WD), and insert or update the enti-
301 ties as needed (upserting). These scripts can be used for batch upload of properly curated and referenced
302 structure-organism pairs to WD. Scripts for data addition on WD can be found in the repository [Wikidata-](#)
303 [LotusImporter](#). The [Xtools](#) page offers an overview of the latest [WikidataLotusImporter](#) activity.

304 Data editing

305 Even if correct at a given time point, scientific advances can invalidate the data later on. Thus, possibilities
306 to continuously edit the data are desirable and guarantee data quality and sustainability. Community-
307 maintained knowledge bases such as WD allows such a process. WD presents the advantage of allowing both
308 manual and automated correction. Field-specific robots ([SuccuBot](#), [KrBot](#), [Pi_bot](#), and [ProteinBoxBot](#)),
309 ([SuccuBot](#), [KrBot](#), [Pi_bot](#)), ([SuccuBot](#), [KrBot](#), [Pi_bot](#)), ([SuccuBot](#), [KrBot](#), [Pi_bot](#)), which have gone
310 through an approval process, can make multiple thousands of edits without the need for human decision-
311 making. This helps in automatically reducing the amount of incorrect data but remains incomplete. However,
312 manual curation by experts remains the highest standard. Valuing this quality, we suggest interested users
313 to follow the manual curation tutorial in Supplementary Information .

314 The Scholia platform offers an example of a powerful and user-friendly edition interface for scientific refe-
315 rences. The adaptation of such a framework to edit the LOTUS documented structure-pairs could facilitate
316 the collection of manual experts curation inputs in the future.

317 Data interpretation

318 To illustrate the nature and dimensions of the LOTUS dataset we showcase hereafter selected data inter-
319 pretation examples. We first describe the distribution of biological organisms according to the number of
320 related chemical structures and likewise the distribution of chemical structures across biological organisms
321 (Figure 4). We then picture individual DBs coverage using upset plot depiction, which allows the visualiza-
322 tion of multiple intersecting datasets (Figure 5). In these two previous interpretations we take the cases of
323 sitosterol, for the chemical structure and of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, for the biological organisms, to provide well
324 documented entries to the reader. Finally, we present a chemically-informed taxonomical tree qualitatively
325 illustrating the overall chemical and biological coverage of LOTUS by linking family-specific classes of che-
326 mical structures to their taxonomic position (Figure 6). Figure 4 and 6 were generated using the frozen table
327 (at the 23.02.21) available here <https://osf.io/hgjdb/>. Figure 5 required a dataset containing information
328 from a commercial DB (DNP) and is thus not available for public distribution. All scripts used for figures
329 generation are available in the `lotusProcessor` repository in the `src/4_visualizing` folder.

330 Organisms per structure and structure per organisms distribution

331 As depicted in Figure 4, on average, 3 organisms are reported per chemical structure and 11 structures per
332 organism. Half of the structures are reported in only 1 organism and 5 structures or fewer are reported in
333 half of the organisms. Metabolomics studies suggest that these numbers are clearly underrated (Noteborn
334 et al., 2000)(Wang et al., 2019). Such numbers suggest that a better reporting of the metabolites during
335 a phytochemical investigation could greatly improve coverage. A bias partly explaining this incomplete
336 coverage may come from the fact that, usually, only newly described or bioactive structures are accepted for
publication in classical NPs research journals.

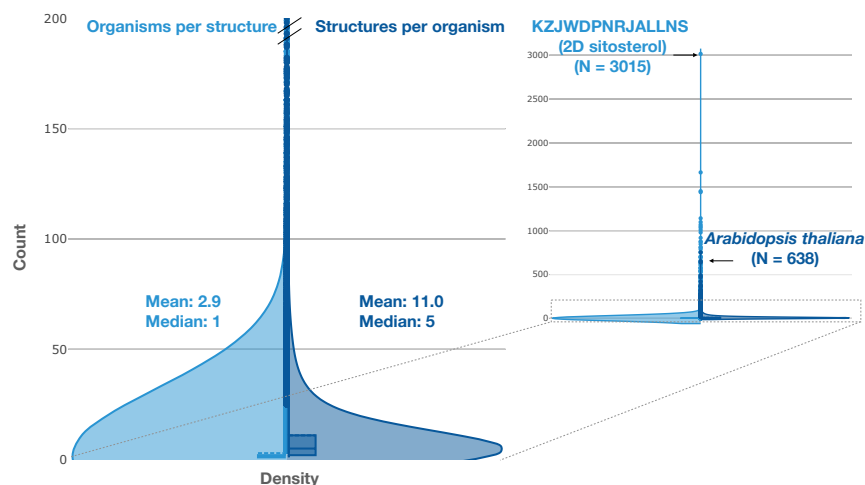


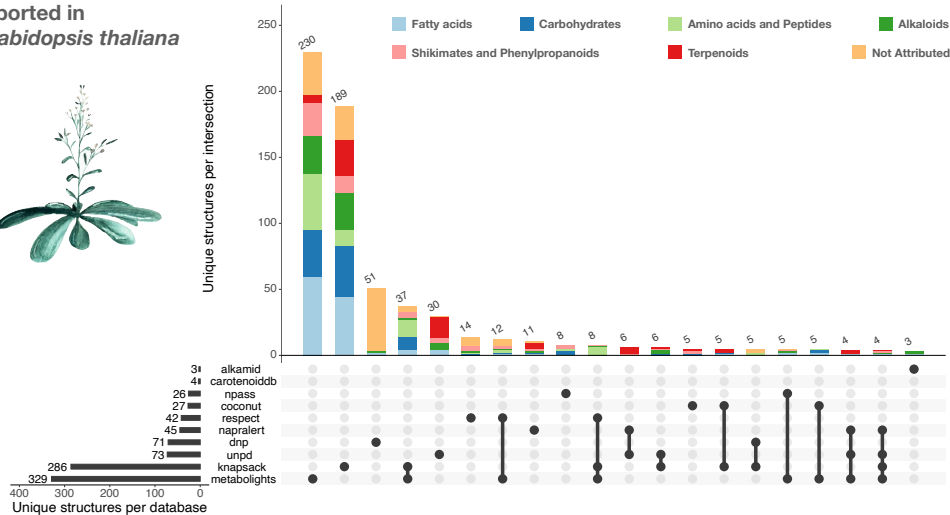
Figure 4: Violin plot representing the density of structures found in organisms and organisms containing structures. Number of organisms linked to the 2D structure of sitosterol (KZJWDPNRJALLNS) and the chemical diversity of *Arabidopsis thaliana* are highlighted as two notable examples.

337

338 Individual DB contribution to LOTUS

339 The added value of assembling all available NPs DBs in WD is illustrated in Figure 5, showing the individual
340 DBs contribution to all chemical structures found in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (“Mouse-ear cross”; Q147096) (A)
341 and all taxa containing the two-dimensional structure corresponding to sitosterol (Q121802) and (Q63409374)
342 (B), a compound of ubiquitous occurrence in higher plants.

A. Structures (2D) reported in *Arabidopsis thaliana*



B. Organisms containing KZJWDPNRJALLNS (2D sitosterol)

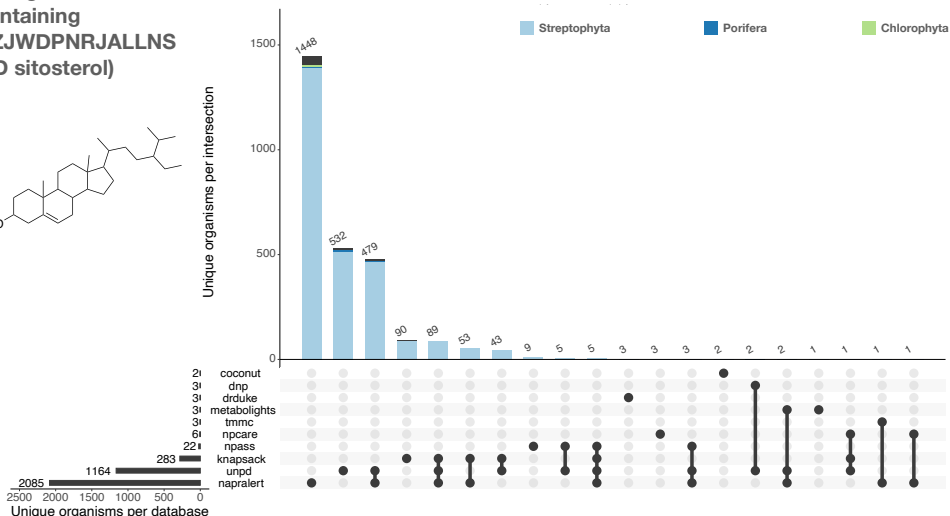
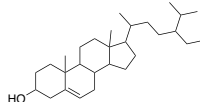


Figure 5: Upset plots of the individual DBs contribution to 2D structures found in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (A) and organisms containing the 2D structure of sitosterol (KZJWDPNRJALLNS) (B). Upset plots are evolved Venn diagrams, allowing to represent intersections between multiple sets. The horizontal bars on the lower left represent the number of corresponding entries per database. The dots and their connecting line represent the intersection between two sets. The vertical bars indicate the number of entries in the intersection. For example, 479 organisms containing the structure of sitosterol are present in both UNPD and NAPRALERT, which in turn, respectively report 1164 and 2085 organisms containing the structure of sitosterol.

343 Figure 5.A shows that the chemical pathways distribution (according to NPClassifier (Kim et al., n.d.) across
 344 DBs is not conserved. Note that being specially tailored for NPs, NPClassifier was preferred over Classy-
 345 Fire (Feunang et al., 2016) but both chemical taxonomies are available as metadata in the frozen LOTUS
 346 export (<https://osf.io/hgjob/>) and in LNPN. Both classification tools return a chemical taxonomy for

347 individual structures, thus allowing their grouping at higher hierarchical levels, in the same way as it is
348 done for biological taxonomies. This upset plot indicates the poor overlap of preexisting NP DBs and the
349 added value of an aggregated dataset. This is also illustrated in Figure 5.B, where the number of organisms
350 for which the 2D structure of sitosterol (KZJWDPNRJALLNS) has been reported for each intersection is
351 shown. NAPRALERT has by far the highest number of entries (2085 in total), while other DBs complement
352 this well (UNPD, for example, has 532 organisms where sitosterol is reported that are not overlapping with
353 the ones reported in NAPRALERT). Interestingly, sitosterol is documented in only 3 organisms in the DNP,
354 highlighting the importance of a better systematic reporting of ubiquitous metabolites and the interest of
355 multiple data sources agglomeration.

356 Chemically-informed taxonomic tree

357 A summary of the biological and chemical diversity covered by LOTUS is illustrated in Figure 6. To
358 limit biases due to underreporting while keeping a reasonable display size, only families with at least 50
359 reported structures were kept for this illustration. Organisms were classified according to the OTL taxonomy
360 and structures according to NPClassifier. The tips were labeled according to the biological family and
361 colored according to their biological kingdom belonging. The bars represent structure specificity of the most
362 characteristic chemical class of the given biological family (the higher the more specific), calculated as the
363 square of the number of structures reported in the chemical class within the given family, over the product
364 of the number of reported structures in the chemical class and the number of reported structures in the
365 biological family.

366 In Figure 6, it is possible to spot highly specific compound classes such as trinervitane terpenoids in the
367 Termitidae, rhizoxin macrolides in Rhizopodaceae or typical quassinoids and limonoids from Simaroubaceae
368 and Meliaceae, respectively. More generic tendencies can also be observed. For example, within the fun-
369 gal kingdom, Basidiomycotina appears to have a higher biosynthetic specificity toward terpenoids than
370 the rest of the members, which mostly focus on polyketides production. When observed at a finer scale
371 (down to the structure level), such chemotaxonomic representation can give valuable insights. For example,
372 among all chemical structures, only two were found in all biological kingdoms, namely heptadecanoic acid
373 (KEMQGTRYUADPNZ-UHFFFAOYSA-N) and beta-carotene (OENHQHLEOONYIE-JLTXGRSLSA-N).
374 We specifically looked at the repartition of the sitosterol scaffold (KZJWDPNRJALLNS) within the overall
375 biological taxonomy. For this we plotted the presence/absence of the sitosterol scaffold, and its two superior
376 chemical classification, namely stigmastane and steroid derivatives, over the taxonomic tree used in Figure
377 6. The comparison of these three chemically-informed taxonomic trees clearly highlighted the increasing
378 speciation of the sitosterol biosynthetic pathway in the Archaeplastida kingdom, while the upper classes
379 were distributed across all kingdoms. See Supplementary Information . As illustrated, the possibility to
380 interrogate data at multiple precision levels is valuable. As recently shown in the frame of spectral annota-
381 tion (Dührkop et al., 2020), lowering the precision level of the annotation allows a broader coverage together
382 with greater confidence. Genetic studies investigating the involved pathways and organisms carrying the
383 genes responsible for the biosynthesis of these structures would be of interest to confirm the previous obser-
384 vations. These selected data interpretations establish the importance of reporting not only new structures
385 but also novel occurrences of known structures in organisms. Then only, comprehensive chemotaxonomic
386 studies will allow a better understanding of living organisms' metabolomes.

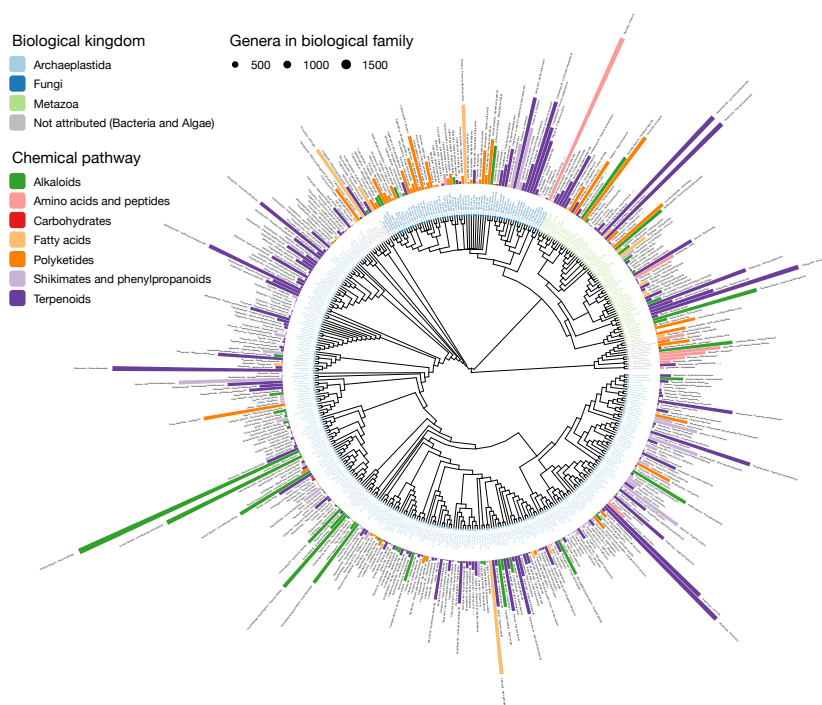


Figure 6: The chemical and biological diversity within LOTUS. The tree corresponds to the biological taxonomy, with kingdom as label color. The size of the leaves node corresponds to the number of genera reported in the family. The outer bars correspond to the most specific chemical class found in the biological family. The height of the bar is proportional to a specificity score corresponding to the square of the number of structures reported in the chemical class within the given family, over the product of the number of reported structures in the chemical class with the number of reported structures in the biological family. The bar colors correspond to the chemical pathway (NPClassifier classification system) of the most specific class.

387 Conclusion and perspectives

388 As it stands, the compiled data are still imperfect and partly biased. Indeed, and as discussed, in the
389 context of bioactive NPs research, published data tend to highlight novel structures or compounds for which
390 an interesting bioactivity has been measured. Ubiquitous compounds are poorly documented. This gives,
391 for the time being, a partial view of the actual metabolome of the organisms, with maybe the exception
392 of thoroughly studied model organisms. With LOTUS and the associated WD distribution and editing
393 possibilities, we anticipate community collaboration to correct such bias. The dissemination of referenced
394 structure-organism pairs through WD together with harmonized data format makes it possible to query NPs
395 research generated knowledge from a radically novel perspective. Researchers involved in NPs research and
396 specialized metabolism should benefit from it, whether in the fields of ecology and evolution, chemical ecology,
397 drug discovery, biosynthesis pathway elucidation, chemotaxonomy or similar research thematics. However,
398 to incentivize community efforts, data contribution to open repositories should also be better acknowledged
399 in academia and data re-use should be acknowledged (Cousijn et al., 2019; Cousijn et al., 2018; Pierce et al.,
400 2019).

401 The possibilities for expansion and future applications of WD hosted LOTUS data are significant. For exam-
402 ple, properly formatted spectral data (e.g. obtained by mass spectrometry or nuclear magnetic resonance)
403 can be linked to the WD entries for chemical compounds. MassBank (Horai et al., 2010) and SPLASH

404 ([Wohlgemuth et al., 2016](#)) identifiers are already reported in Wikidata, and this can be used to report Mass-
405 Bank records for *Arabidopsis thaliana* compounds: <https://w.wiki/335H>. Such possibilities should help to
406 bridge experimental data results obtained early in the research process to previously reported and formatted
407 data and thus open exciting perspectives in the fields of dereplication and NPs annotation. We previously
408 demonstrated that taxonomically-informed metabolite annotation critically improves the NPs annotation
409 process ([Rutz et al., 2019](#)). The availability of an open repository linking chemical objects to both their
410 spectral information and biological occurrences will facilitate and improve such applications.

411 As shown in Fig. S1, observing the chemical and biological diversity at various granularity levels offers
412 clear advantages. Regarding the chemical objects it will be important to implement chemical taxonomies
413 annotations of the entries in WD. However this is not a straightforward task and stability and coverage
414 issues will have to be addressed. Existing chemical taxonomies such as ChEBI, ClassyFire or NPClassifier are
415 evolving and we need to make sure tools using those annotations are updated accordingly. Repositioning NPs
416 in their biosynthetic context is also a major challenge. The fact that LOTUS is disseminated on WD should
417 facilitate its integration to projects such as [WikiPathways](#) and help in this complex task ([Martens et al.,](#)
418 [2021](#)).

419 In the field of ecology, molecular traits are gaining increased attention ([Sedio, 2017](#); [Kessler and Kalske, 2018](#)).
420 Classical plant traits (e.g. leaf surface area, photosynthetic capacities, etc.) could perfectly be associated
421 with WD biological organisms entries, and thus, allow the integration and comparison with organisms'
422 associated chemicals. Likewise, the association of biogeography data documented in repositories such as
423 GBIF could be further exploited in WD to pursue the exciting but understudied thematic of “chemodiverse
424 hotspots” ([Defossez et al., 2021](#)). Other NPs related information are of great interest but very poorly
425 formatted. For example, traditional medicine is the historical and empiric approach of mankind to encounter
426 bioactive products from Nature. The amount of knowledge generated in our history of the use of medicinal
427 substances represents a fascinating sum of information which could be valued and conserved in our digital
428 era if appropriately formatted and shared ([Cordell, 2017](#); [Allard et al., 2018](#)).

429 As seen, all these future developments could be accommodated in the WD knowledge base. Behind the scenes,
430 all these resources are representing data as graphs that can be interconnected. The craft of appropriate
431 federated queries will allow to navigate these graphs and fully exploit their potential ([Waagmeester et](#)
432 [al., 2020](#); [Kratochvíl et al., 2018](#)). The development of interfaces such as RDFFrames ([Mohamed et al.,](#)
433 [2020](#)) should also facilitate the use of the wide arsenal of existing machine learning approaches to automate
434 reasoning on these knowledge graphs.

435 Overall, the LOTUS project is expected to efficiently allow access to greater quality and quantity of data and
436 ultimately pave the way towards a global open natural products database. We believe that the integration
437 of NPs research results in such open knowledge DB can only help to fuel a *virtuous cycle of research habits*
438 *aiming to better understand Life and its chemistry.*

439 Methods

440 Data collection and harmonization

441 Before their inclusion, source DBs overall quality was manually assessed to evaluate the quality of referenced
442 structure-organism pairs and lack of ambiguities in the links between data and references. This led to thirty-
443 six DBs identified as valuable LOTUS input. Data from the proprietary Dictionary of Natural Products
444 (DNP v 29.1) was also used for comparison purposes only and is not publicly disseminated. FooDB (<https://foodb.ca/>)
445 was also curated but not publicly disseminated since its license did not allow sharing in WD.
446 Supplementary Table S1 gives all necessary details regarding DBs access and characteristics.

447 Manual inspection of each DB revealed that the structure, organism, and reference fields were widely variable
448 in format and contents, thus requiring standardization to be comparable. The initial stage consisted of the
449 writing of a tailored script for the extraction of relevant data and their categorization from each DB. It led
450 to three categories: fields relevant to the chemical structure described, to the producing biological organism,
451 and the reference describing the occurrence of the chemical structure in the producing biological organism.
452 This process resulted in categorized columns for each DB, providing an initial harmonized format for each
453 table before alignment.

454 For all thirty-eight DBs, if a single file or multiple files were accessible via a download option or FTP,
455 data was collected that way. For some DB, data was scraped (cf. Supplementary Table S1). All scraping
456 scripts written to automatically retrieve entries can be found in the `lotusProcessor` repository in the `src/1_-`
457 `gathering` folder (under each respective DB subfolder). Data extraction scripts for the DNP are available and
458 should allow license owners to further exploit the data (`src/1_gathering/db/dnp`). The chemical structure
459 fields, organism fields, and reference fields were manually categorized into three, two and ten subcategories,
460 respectively. For chemical structures, "InChI", "SMILES", and "chemical name" (not necessarily IUPAC).
461 For organisms, "clean" and "dirty", meaning lot text not referred to the canonical name was present or the
462 organism was not described by its canonical name. For the references, the original reference was kept in the
463 "original" field. When the format allowed it, references were divided into: "authors", "doi", "external", "isbn",
464 "journal", "original", "publishing details", "pubmed", "title", "split". The generic "external" field was used for
465 all external cross-references to other websites or DBs (for example, "also in knapsack"). The last subcategory,
466 "split" corresponds to a still non-atomic field after the removal of parts of the original reference. Other field
467 titles are self-explanatory. The producing organism field was kept as a single field.

468 Data curation

469 Alignment

470 To perform the alignment of all previously collected and harmonized DB, sixteen columns were chosen as
471 described above. Upon DBs alignment, resulting subcategories were divided and subject to further cleaning.
472 The "chemical structure" fields were divided into files according to their subcategories ("InChI", "names" and
473 "SMILES"). A file containing all initial structures from all three subcategories was also generated. The same
474 procedure was followed for organisms and references.

475 Cleaning

476 To obtain the minimal sufficient object for WD dissemination (an unambiguously referenced structure-
477 organism pair), the initial sixteen columns had to be translated and cleaned into three fields: the reported
478 structure, the canonical name of the producing organism, and the reference describing the occurrence. The
479 structure was reported as InChI, together with its SMILES and InChIKey3D translation. The biological
480 organism field was reported as three minimal necessary and sufficient fields, namely its canonical name and
481 the taxonID and taxonomic DB corresponding to the latter. The reference was reported as four minimal
482 fields, namely reference title, DOI, PMID, and PMCID, one being sufficient. For the forthcoming translation

483 processes, automated solutions were used when available. However, for specific cases (common or vernacular
484 names of the biological organisms, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) names, and conversion between
485 digital reference identifiers), no solution existed, thus requiring the use of tailored dictionaries. The initial
486 entries (containing one or multiple producing organisms per structure, with one or multiple accepted names
487 per organism) were cleaned in over 2M referenced structure-organism pairs.

488 Chemical structures

489 To retrieve as much information as possible from the original structure field(s) of each of the DBs, the
490 following procedure was followed. Allowed structural fields for the DBs were divided into two types: struc-
491 tural (InChI, SMILES) or nominal (chemical name, not necessarily IUPAC). If multiple fields were present,
492 structural identifiers were preferred over structure names. Among structural identifiers, when both iden-
493 tifiers led to different structures, InChI was preferred over SMILES. SMILES were translated to InChI
494 using the RDKit (2020.03.3) implementation in Python 3.8 (src/2_curating/2_editing/structure/1_translating/smiles.py). They were first converted to ROMOL objects which were then converted to InChI. When
495 no structural identifier was available, the nominal identifier was translated to InChI first thanks to OPSIN30,
496 a fast Java-based translation open-source solution (<https://github.com/dan2097/opsin>). If no translation
497 was obtained, chemical names were then submitted to the CTS31, once in lower case only, once with the
498 first letter capitalized. If again no translation was obtained, candidates were then submitted to the Che-
499 mical Identifier Resolver (<https://cactus.nci.nih.gov>) via the `cts_convert` function from the webchem
500 package (Szöcs et al., 2020). Before the translation process, some typical chemical structure-related greek
501 characters (such as α , β) were replaced by their textual equivalents (alpha, beta) to obtain better results. All
502 pre-translation steps are included in the `preparing_name` function are available in src/r/preparing_name.R.

504 The chemical sanitization step sought to standardize the representation of a collection of chemical structures
505 coming from different sources. It consisted of three main stages (standardizing, fragment removal, and unchar-
506 ging) achieved via the MolVS package. The initial standardizer function consists of six stages (RDKit Sani-
507 tization, RDKit Hs removal, Metals Disconnection, Normalization, Acids Reionization, and Stereochemistry
508 recalculation) detailed here (<https://molvs.readthedocs.io/en/latest/guide/standardize.html>). In
509 a second step, the FragmentRemover functionality was applied using a list of SMARTS to detect and re-
510 move common counterions and crystallization reagents sometimes occurring in the input DB. Finally, the
511 Uncharger function was employed to neutralize molecules when appropriate.

512 MarvinSuite was used for traditional and IUPAC names translation, Marvin 20.19, ChemAxon (<https://www.chemaxon.com>). When stereochemistry was not fully defined, (+) and (-) symbols were removed
513 from names. All details are available in the following script: src/2_curating/2_editing/structure/4_enriching/naming.R.

516 Chemical classification of all resulting structures was done using classifyfireR (Feunang et al., 2016) and
517 NPClassifier API ([link](#)).

518 Biological organisms

519 The cleaning process at the biological organism's level had three objectives: convert the original organism
520 string to (a) taxon name(s), atomize fields containing multiple taxon names, and deduplicate synonyms. The
521 original organism strings were treated with Global Names Finder (GNF) (<https://github.com/gnames/gnfinder>) and Global Names Verify (GNV) (<https://github.com/gnames/gnverify>), both tools coming
522 from the Global Names Architecture (GNA) a system of web-services which helps people to register, find,
523 index, check and organize biological scientific names and interconnect on-line information about species
524 (<http://globalnames.org>). GNF allows scientific name recognition within raw text blocks and searches for
525 found scientific names among public taxonomic DB. GNV takes names or lists of names and verifies them
526 against various biodiversity data sources. Canonical names, their taxonID, and the taxonomic DB they were
527 found in were retrieved according to the parameters described in the methods. When a single entry led to
528 multiple canonical names (accepted synonyms), all of them were kept (cf. Discussion). Because both GNF
529

530 and GNV recognize scientific names and not common ones, common names were translated before a second
531 resubmission.

532 Dictionaries

533 To perform the translations from common biological organism name to latin scientific name, specialized
534 dictionaries included in DrDuke, FooDB, PhenolExplorer were aggregated together with the translation
535 dictionary of GBIF Backbone Taxonomy ([https://www.gbif.org/dataset/d7dddbf4-2cf0-4f39-9b2a-
536 bb099caae36c](https://www.gbif.org/dataset/d7dddbf4-2cf0-4f39-9b2a-bb099caae36c)). The script used for this was `src/1_gathering/translation/common.R`. When the canoni-
537 cal translation of a common name contained a specific epithet which was not initially present, the trans-
538 lation pair was discarded (for example, “Aloe” translated in “Aloe vera” was discarded). Common na-
539 mes corresponding to a generic name were also discarded (for example “Kiwi” corresponding to the syn-
540 onym of an *Apteryx* spp. (<https://www.gbif.org/species/4849989>)). When multiple translations we-
541 re given for a single common name, the following procedure was followed: the canonical name was split
542 into species name, genus name, and possible surnames. For each common name, genus names and spe-
543 cies names were counted. If both the species and genus names were consistent at more than 50%, they
544 were considered consistent overall and, therefore, kept (for example, “Aberrant Bush Warbler” had “*Ho-
545 rornis flavolivaceus*” and “*Horornis flavolivaceus intricatus*” as translation; as both the generic (“*Ho-
546 rornis*”) and the specific (“*flavolivaceus*”) epithets were consistent at 100%, both (“*Horornis flavoliva-
547 ceus*”) were kept). When only the generic epithet had more than 50% consistency, it was kept (for ex-
548 ample, “Angelshark” had “*Squatina australis*” and “*Squatina squatina*” as translation, so only “*Squatina*”
549 was kept). Some unspecific common names were removed (see <https://osf.io/gqhcn/>) and only com-
550 mon names with more than three characters were kept. This resulted in 181,891 translation pairs further
551 used for the conversion from common names to scientific names. For TCM names, translation dictionaries
552 from TCMID, TMMC, and coming from the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia were aggregated. The
553 script used for this was `src/1_gathering/translation/tcm.R`. Some unspecific common names were removed
554 (see <https://osf.io/zs7ky/>). Careful attention was given to the Latin genitive translations and custom
555 dictionaries were written (see <https://osf.io/c3ja4/>, <https://osf.io/u75e9/>). Organ names of the pro-
556 ducing organism were removed to avoid wrong translation (see <https://osf.io/94fa2/>). This resulted in
557 7070 translation pairs. Both common and TCM translation pairs were then ordered by decreasing string
558 length, first translating the longer names to avoid part of them being translated incorrectly.

559 Translation

560 To ensure compatibility between obtained taxonID with WD, the taxonomic DB 3 (ITIS), 4 (NCBI), 5
561 (Index Fungorum), 6 (GRIN Taxonomy for Plants), 8 (The Interim Register of Marine and Nonmari-
562 ne Genera), 9 (World Register of Marine Species), 11 (GBIF Backbone Taxonomy), 12 (Encyclopedia of
563 Life), 118 (AmphibiaWeb), 128 (ARKive), 132 (ZooBank), 147 (Database of Vascular Plants of Canada
564 (VASCAN)), 148 (Phasmida Species File), 150 (USDA NRCS PLANTS Database), 155 (FishBase), 158
565 (EUNIS), 163 (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), 164 (BioLib.cz), 165 (Tropicos - Missouri Botani-
566 cal Garden), 167 (The International Plant Names Index), 169 (uBio NameBank), 174 (The Mammal Spe-
567 cies of The World), 175 (BirdLife International), 179 (Open Tree of Life), 180 (iNaturalist) and 187 (The
568 eBird/Clements Checklist of Birds of the World) were chosen. All other available taxonomic DBs are listed at
569 <http://index.globalnames.org/datasource>. To retrieve as much information as possible from the original
570 organism field of each of the DB, the following procedure was followed: First, a scientific name recognition
571 step, allowing us to retrieve canonical names was carried (`src/2_curating/2_editing/organisms/subscripts/1-
572 cleaningOriginal.R`). Then, a subtraction step of the obtained canonical names from the original field was
573 applied, to avoid unwanted translation of parts of canonical names. For example, *Bromus mango* contains
574 “mango” as a specific epithet, which is also the common name for *Mangifera indica*. After this subtraction
575 step, the remaining names were translated from vernacular (common) and TCM names to scientific names,
576 with help of the dictionaries. For performance reasons, this cleaning step was written in Kotlin and used
577 coroutines to allow efficient parallelization of that process (`src/2_curating/2_editing/organisms/2_transla-`

578 [ting_organism_kotlin/](#)). They were subsequently submitted again to scientific name recognition ([src/2.curating/2_editing/organisms/3_cleaningTranslated.R](#)).

580 After full resolution of canonical names, all obtained names were submitted to `rotl` ([Michonneau et al., 2016](#))
581 to obtain a unified taxonomy.

582 References

583 The Rcrossref package (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rcrossref/>) interfacing with the
584 Crossref (<https://www.crossref.org>) API was used to translate references from their original subcategory
585 (“original”, “publishingDetails”, “split”, “title”) to a DOI, the title of its corresponding article, the journal it was published in, its date of publication and the name of the first author. The first
586 twenty candidates were kept and ranked according to the score returned by Crossref, which is a solr
587 score (see: https://lucene.apache.org/core/8_8_0/core/org/apache/lucene/search/similarities/TFIDFSimilarity.html). For DOI and PMID, only a single candidate was kept. All parameters are available
588 in `src/functions/reference.R`. All DOIs were also translated with this method, to eventually discard any
589 DOI not leading to an object. PMIDs were translated, thanks to the `entrez_summary` function of the `rentrez`
590 package (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rentrez/>). Scripts used for all subcategories of references
591 are available in the folder `src/2_curating/2_editing/reference/1_translating/`. Once all translations
592 were made, results coming from each subcategory were integrated, (`src/2_curating/2_editing/reference/2_integrating.R`)
593 and the producing organism related to the reference was added for further treatment. Because
594 the crossref score was not informative enough, at least one other metric was chosen to complement it. The
595 first metric was related to the presence of the producing organism’s generic name in the title of the returned
596 article. If the title contained the generic name of the organism, a score of 1 was given, else 0. Regarding the
597 subcategories “doi”, “pubmed” and “title”, for which the same subcategory was retrieved via crossref or `rentrez`,
598 distances between the input’s string and the candidates’ one were calculated. Optimal string alignment
599 (restricted [Damerau-Levenshtein distance](#)) was used as a method. Among “publishing details”, “original”
600 and “split” categories, three additional metrics were used: If the journal name was present in the original
601 field, a score of 1 was given, else 0. If the name of the first author was present in the original field, a score of 1
602 was given, else 0. Those three scores were then summed together. All candidates were first ordered according
603 to their crossref score, then by the complement score for related subcategories, then again according to their
604 title-producing organism score, and finally according to their translation distance score. After this reranking
605 step, only the first candidate was kept. Finally, the Pubmed PMCID dictionary ([PMC-ids.csv.gz](#)) was used
606 to perform the translations between DOI, PMID, and PMCID. (`src/2_curating/2_editing/reference/3_cleaning.R`)
607
608
609

610 Realignment

611 In order to fetch back the referenced structure-organism pairs links in the original data, the cleaned
612 structures, cleaned organisms and cleaned references were re-aligned with the initial entries. This resulted
613 in over 6.2M referenced structure-organism pairs. Those pairs were not unique, with redundancies
614 among DB and different original categories leading to the same final pair (for example, entry reporting
615 `InChI=1/C21H20O12/c22-6-13-15(27)17(29)18(30)21(32-13)33-20-16(28)14-11(26)4-8(23)5-12(14)31-19(20)7-1-2-9(24)10(25)3-7/h1-5,13,15,17-18,21-27,29-30H,6H2/t13-,15+,17+,18-,21+/m1/s1` in *Crataegus oxyacantha* or `InChI=1S/C21H20O12/c22-6-13-15(27)17(29)18(30)21(32-13)33-20-16(28)14-11(26)4-8(23)5-12(14)31-19(20)7-1-2-9(24)10(25)3-7/h1-5,13,15,17-18,21-27,29-30H,6H2/t13-,15+,17+,18-,21+/m1/s1`
616 in *Crataegus stevenii* both led to `OVSQVDMCBVZWGM-DTGCRPNFSA-N` in *Crataegus monogyna*).
617
618
619 After deduplication, over 2M unique structure-organism pairs were obtained.
620

621 After the curation of all three objects, all of them were put together again. Therefore, the original aligned
622 table containing the original pairs was joined with each curation result. Only entries containing a structure,
623 an organism, and a reference after curation were kept. Each curated object was divided into minimal data
624 (for Wikidata upload) and metadata. A dictionary containing original and curated objects translations was

625 written for each object to avoid those translations to be made again during the next curation step. ([src/2-](#)
626 [curating/3.integrating.R](#))

627 Validation

628 The pairs obtained after curation were of different quality. Globally, structure and organism translation was
629 satisfactory whereas references translations were not. Therefore, to assess the validity of the obtained results,
630 a randomized set of 420 referenced structure-organism pairs was sampled in each reference subcategory and
631 validated or rejected manually. Entries were sampled with at least 55 of each reference subcategory present (to
632 get a representative idea of each subcategory) ([src/3_analysing/1_sampling.R](#)). An entry was only validated
633 if: i) the structure (as any structural descriptor that could be linked to the final sanitized InChIKey) was
634 described in the reference ii) the producing organism (as any organism descriptor that could be linked to the
635 accepted canonical name) was described in the reference and iii) the reference was describing the occurrence
636 of the chemical structure in the biological organism. Results obtained on the manually analyzed set were
637 categorized according to the initial reference subcategory and are detailed in Table S2. To improve these
638 results, further cleaning of the references was needed. This was done by accepting entries whose reference
639 was coming from a DOI, a PMID, or from a title which restricted Damerau-Levenshtein distance between
640 original and translated was lower than ten or from one of the three main journals where occurrences are
641 published (i.e., Journal of Natural Products, Phytochemistry, or Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry)
642 (cf. Methods). For “split”, “publishingDetails” and “original” subcategories, the year of publication of the
643 obtained reference, its journal, and the name of the first author were searched in the original entry and if at
644 least two of them were present, the entry was kept. Entries were then further filtered to keep the ones where
645 the reference title contained the first element of the detected canonical name, except the DOI not coming
646 from COCONUT. To validate those filtering criteria, an additional set of 100 structure-organism pairs were
647 manually analyzed. F0.5 score was used as a metric. F0.5 score is a modified F1 score where precision has
648 twice more weight than recall.

649 The F-score was calculated with $\beta = 0.5$, as in Equation 1.

$$F_{\beta} = (1 + \beta^2) \cdot \frac{\textit{precision} \cdot \textit{recall}}{(\beta^2 \cdot \textit{precision}) + \textit{recall}}$$

650 Based on this first manually validated dataset, filtering criteria ([src/r/filter.R](#)) were established to maximize
651 precision and recall. Another 100 entries were sampled, this time respecting the whole set ratios. After manual
652 validation, 97% of true positives were reached on the second set. A summary of the validation results is given
653 in Supplementary Table S2. Once validated, the filtering criteria were established to the whole curated set to
654 filter entries chosen for dissemination. ([src/3_analysing/2_validating.R](#))

655 Unit testing

656 To provide robustness of the whole process and code, a system of unit tests and partial data full-tests were
657 written. They can run on the developer machine but also on the CI/CD system (GitLab) for each commit
658 in the codebase.

659 Those tests assess that the functions are providing results coherent with what is expected and especially for
660 edge cases that have been detected along with the development. The Kotlin code has tests based on Junit
661 and code quality control checks based on Ktlint, Detekt and Ben Mane’s version plugin.

662 Data dissemination

663 Wikidata

664 All the data produced for this work has been made available on WD under a Creative Commons 0 license
665 according to <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Licensing>. This license is a “No-right-reserved”

666 license that allows most reuses.

667 **Lotus.NaturalProducts.Net (LNPN)**

668 The web interface is implemented following the same protocol as described in the COCONUT publication¹⁵
669 i.e. the data is stored in a MongoDB repository, the backend runs with Kotlin and Java, using the Spring
670 framework and the frontend is written in React.js, and completely Dockerized. In addition to the diverse
671 search functions available through this web interface, an API is also implemented, allowing a programmatic
672 LNPN querying. The complete API usage is described in the “Documentation” page of the website. LNPN
673 is part of the NaturalProducts.net portal, an initiative aiming to gather diverse open NP collections and
674 open tools in the same place.

675 **Data interaction**

676 **Data retrieval**

677 Bulk retrieval of a frozen (2021-02-23) version of LOTUS data is also available at <https://osf.io/hgjdb/>.
678 [WikidataLotusExporter](#) allows the download of all chemical compounds with a “found in taxon” property.
679 That way, it does not only get the data produced by this work, but any that would have existed beforehand or
680 that would have been added directly on Wikidata by our users. It makes a copy of all the entities (compounds,
681 taxa, references) into a local triplestore that can be queried with SPARQL as is or converted to a TSV file
682 for inclusion in other projects. It is currently adapted to export directly into the SSOT thus allowing a direct
683 reuse by the processing/curation pipeline.

684 **Data addition**

685 **Wikidata**

686 Data is loaded by the Kotlin importer available in the [WikidataLotusImporter](#) repository under a GPL V3
687 license and imported into WD. The importer processes the curated outputs grouping references, organisms
688 and compounds together. It then checks if they already exist in WD (using SPARQL or a direct connection
689 to WD depending on the kind of data). It then update or insert, also called upsert, the entities as needed.
690 The script currently takes the tabular file of the documented structure-organism pairs resulting from the
691 LOTUS curation process as input. It is currently being adapted to use directly the SSOT and avoid an
692 unnecessary conversion step. To import references, it first double checks for the presence of duplicated DOIs
693 and utilize the Crossref REST API ([https://www.crossref.org/education/retrieve-metadata/rest-
694 api/](https://www.crossref.org/education/retrieve-metadata/rest-api/)) to retrieve metadata associated with the DOI, the support for other citation sources such as Europe
695 PMC is in progress. The structure related fields are only subject to limited processing: basic formatting of
696 the molecular formula by subscripting of the numbers. Due to limitations in Wikidata, the molecule names
697 are dropped if they are longer than 250 characters and likewise the InChI strings are dropped if longer than
698 1500 characters.

699 Uploaded taxonomical DB identifiers are currently restricted to ITIS,GBIF,NCBI Taxon, Index Fungorum,
700 IRMNG, WORMS, VASCAN and iNaturalist. The taxa levels are currently limited to family, subfamily,
701 tribe, subtribe, genus, species, variety. The importer checks for the existence of each item based on their
702 InChI-Key and upserts the compound with the *found in taxon* statement and the associated organisms and
703 references.

704 **LNPN**

705 At the moment LNPN has been importing data directly from the frozen tabular data of the LOTUS dataset
706 (<https://osf.io/hgjdb/>). Later on, LOTUS will directly feed from the SSOT.

707 **Data edition**

708 We adapted the bot framework [WikidataLotusImporter](#) so that, in addition to batch upload, it could also
709 edit erroneously created entries on WD. As massive edits have a large potential to disrupt otherwise good
710 data, we are always using a progressive deployment of this script where it starts by editing progressively 1,
711 10, 100 entries that are manually checked. Once we get those 100 entries validated, we run the full script
712 and check its behavior at regular intervals. Here is an example of a corrected entry [https://www.wikidata.
713 org/w/index.php?title=Q105349871&type=revision&diff=1365519277&oldid=1356145998](https://www.wikidata.org/w/index.php?title=Q105349871&type=revision&diff=1365519277&oldid=1356145998)

714 **Curation interface**

715 We are currently working on a web-based (Kotlin, Spring Boot for the back-end and TypeScript with Vue
716 for the front-end) curation interface that will allow us to mass-edit entries and navigate quickly in the SSOT
717 to curate new or existing entries. We are thinking about making that interface open to the public so they
718 can curate the entries of the database in yet another way. As with the rest of our approach, any modification
719 made in this curation interface will be mirrored on WD and LNP.

720 Code availability

721 All programs written for this work can be found in the following group: <https://gitlab.com/lotus7>. The
722 source data curation system is available at <https://gitlab.com/lotus7/lotusProcessor>. This program
723 takes the source data as input and outputs curated data, ready for dissemination. In the first iteration, the
724 source data corresponds to all mentioned open natural products DBs. Afterward, data uploaded to Wikidata
725 (and thus potentially corrected) is integrated as additional source data.

726 The first step of the process is to check if the source data has already been processed. If not, all three elements
727 (biological organism, chemical structures, and references) are submitted to various steps of translation and
728 curation, before validation for dissemination.

729 The Wikidata importer is available at <https://gitlab.com/lotus7/wikidataLotusImporter>. This pro-
730 gram takes the processed data resulting from the lotusProcessor subprocess as input and uploads it on
731 Wikidata. As a first step, it performs a SPARQL query, to check which objects already exist. If needed,
732 it creates the missing objects. It then updates the content of each object. It finally updates the chemical
733 compound page with a “found in taxon” statement complemented with a “stated in” reference.

734 The Wikidata exporter is available at <https://gitlab.com/lotus7/wikidataLotusExporter>. This pro-
735 gram takes the structured data in Wikidata corresponding to chemical compounds found in taxa with a
736 reference associated as input and exports it in both RDF and tabular format for further use. Then, two
737 options are possible:

738 The end-user can directly use the exported data.

739 The exported data, which can be new or modified since the last iteration is used as new source data in
740 lotusProcessor.

741 The LNP website and processing system is available at <https://github.com/mSorok/LOTUSweb>. This
742 project takes the processed data resulting from the lotusProcessor as input and uploads it on [https://
743 lotus.naturalproducts.net](https://lotus.naturalproducts.net). The repository is not part of the main GitLab group as it benefits from
744 already established pipelines from Pr. Steinbeck and Dr. Sorokina. The website allows searching the data
745 from different points of views, complemented with taxonomies for both on chemical and biological sides.
746 Many chemical molecular properties and molecular descriptors not available in Wikidata are also given.

747 A special *preprint* branch with code at the time of publication is available.

748 A frozen version of the code is also available in the LOTUS OSF repository (<https://osf.io/pmgux/>).

749 R version used was 4.0.4 (2021-02-15) – “Lost Library Book”³². Packages used were, in alphabetical order:

750 ChemmineR (3.42.1) (Cao et al., 2008), chorddiag (0.1.2) (Flor, 2020), ClassifyfireR (0.3.6) (Feumang et al.,
751 2016), data.table (1.13.6) (Dowle and Srinivasan, 2020), DBI (1.1.1) (R Special Interest Group on Data-
752 bases (R-SIG-DB) et al., 2021), gdata(2.18.0) (Warnes et al., 2017), ggalluvial (0.12.3) (Brunson, 2020),
753 ggfittext (0.9.1) (Wilkins, 2020), ggnewscale (0.4.5) (Campitelli, 2021), ggraph (2.0.4) (Pedersen, 2020), gg-
754 star (1.0.1) (Xu, 2021), ggtree (Yu et al., 2017), ggtreeExtra (1.0.1) (Xu and Yu, 2021), Hmisc (4.4-2) (Jr
755 et al., 2020), jsonlite (1.7.2) (Ooms, 2014), pbmcapply (1.5.0) (Kuang et al., 2019), plotly (4.9.3) (Sie-
756 vert, 2020), rcrossref(1.1.0) (Chamberlain et al., 2020), readxl (1.3.1) (Wickham and Bryan, 2019), rentrez
757 (1.2.3) (Winter, 2017), rotl (3.0.11) (Michonneau et al., 2016), rvest (0.3.6) (Wickham, 2020), splitstacks-
758 hape (1.4.8) (Mahto, 2019), RSQLite (2.2.3) (Müller et al., 2021), stringdist (0.9.6.3) (Loo, 2014), stringi
759 (1.5.3) (Gagolewski, 2020), tidyverse (1.3.0) (Wickham et al., 2019), treeio (1.14.3) (Wang et al., 2020),
760 UpSetR (1.4.0) (Gehlenborg, 2019), vroom(1.3.2) (Hester and Wickham, 2020), webchem (1.1.1) (Szöcs et
761 al., 2020), XML (3.99-05) (Lang, 2020), xml2(1.3.2) (Wickham et al., 2020).

762 Python version used was 3.8.6 (<https://www.python.org/>). Packages used were, in alphabetical order:

763 Molvs (0.1.1) (<https://github.com/mcs07/MolVS>), pandas (1.1.4) (Reback et al., 2020), rdkit
764 (2020.09.2) (“RDKit: Open-source cheminformatics”, n.d.)

765 Kotlin packages used were:

766 Common: Kotlin 1.4.21 up to 1.4.30, Univocity 2.9.0, OpenJDK 15, Kotlin serialization 1.0.1, konnector
767 0.1.27, Log4J 2.14.0

768 Wikidata Importer Bot:, WDTK 0.11.1, CDK 2.3 (Willighagen et al., 2017), RDF4J 3.6.0, Ktor 1.5.0,
769 KotlinXcli 0.3.1, Wikidata data processing: Shadow 5.0.0

770 Quality control and testing: Ktlint 9.4.1, Kotlinter 3.3.0, Detekt 1.15.0, Ben Mane’s version plugin 0.36.0,
771 Junit 5.7.0

772 Additional executable files:

773 [GNFinder](#) v.0.11.1, [GNVerify](#) v.0.1.0, [OPSIN](#) v.2.5.0

774 Data availability

775 This manuscript has been released as a pre-print at bioRxiv.

776 A snapshot of the obtained data at the time of publication is available at the following OSF repository
777 (datasets): <https://osf.io/pmgux/>.

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790 **Author contributions**

	Con- cep- tu- al- iza- tion	Data cu- ra- tion	For- mal anal- ysis	Fund- ing ac- qui- sition	In- ves- ti- gation	Method- ology	Project ad- min- is- tration	Re- source	Soft- ware	Sup- er- vi- sion	Val- i- da- tion	Vi- su- al- iza- tion	Writ- ing - orig- inal draft	Writ- ing - re- view and edit- ing	LNP Web- site	PNNAP IDSM	PRSA data	EMW data	Wiki
AR	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X					X
CS				X				X						X	X				
DM														X					X
EW														X					X
GFP				X				X						X		X			
JB	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X			X
JGa														X			X		
JGr														X		X			
J-				X				X		X				X					
LW														X					
JV				X				X									X		
MS									X					X	X				
P- MA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X					X
RP																			X
RS														X					X

Table 3: Author contributions

791 **Competing interests**

792 The authors declare no competing interest.

793 **Supplementary Information**

794 **Supplementary Table S1**

795 Available at <https://gitlab.com/lotus7/lotusProcessor/-/blob/d8e4bf34761da454dac6880f0b3398bb0965e03b/docs/dataset.csv>

Table S1: Natural Products databases curated within LOTUS. Commercial and restricted databases are not disseminated (except for NAPRALERT subset, in accordance with owners).

796

797 **Supplementary Table S2**

reference type	true positives	false positives	false negatives	true negatives	relative abundance	precision	recall	F0.5 score	true positives Validation	false positives Validation
original	80	6	7	11	0.31	0.93	0.92	0.92	26	1
pubmed	37	1	5	6	0.3	0.97	0.88	0.92	3	1
doi	115	6	0	6	0.19	0.95	1	0.97	39	1
title	38	2	0	16	0.12	0.95	1	0.97	6	0
split	8	0	15	27	0.08	1	0.35	0.52	4	0
publishingDetails	1	0	1	32	0.01	1	0.5	0.67	NA	NA
Total	279	15	28	98	1	NA	NA	NA	78	3
Corrected total	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.96	0.89	0.91	NA	NA

Table S2: Summary of training and validation statistics of the database curation

798 **Supplementary File S1**

799 Available at <https://osf.io/7dk8h/>

800 **Supplementary Figure S1**

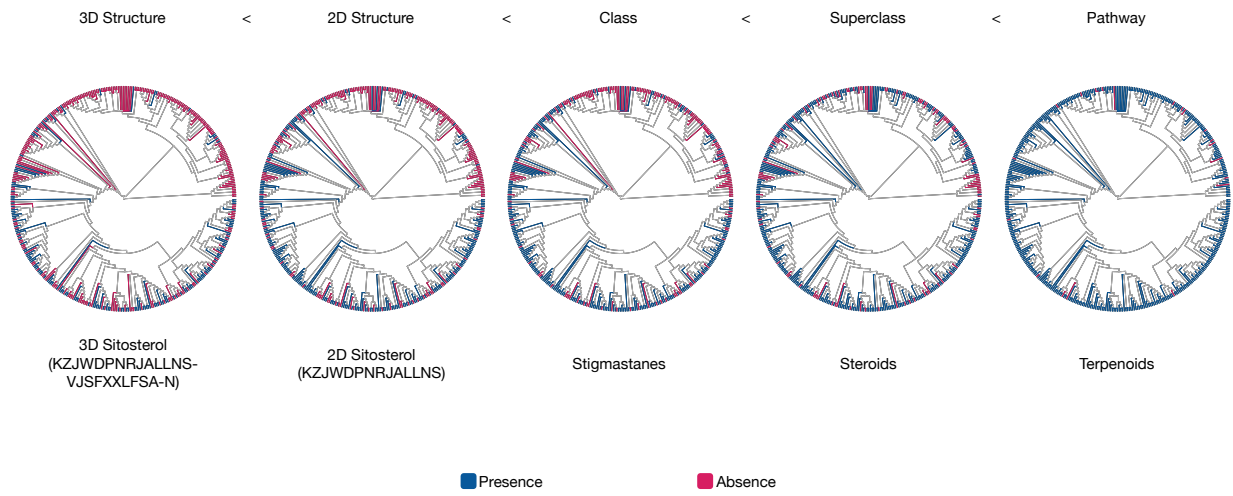


Figure S1: Complement to Figure 6

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