

# Package: phyloatlas (via r-universe)

June 5, 2026

**Type** Package

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

**Version** 0.1.0

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

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

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

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

**Depends** R (>= 4.0)

**Imports** ape, utils

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

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Repository** <https://franciscorichter.r-universe.dev>

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**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/franciscorichter/phylo-species-atlas>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** 66123e0019b27adf1d96a6190e21de3e5241314b

**RemoteSubdir** phyloatlas

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

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

### Usage

```
atlas_clear_cache()
```

### Value

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

### See Also

Other atlas: [atlas\\_info\(\)](#), [list\\_trees\(\)](#), [load\\_atlas\\_tree\(\)](#)

### Examples

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

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atlas_info	<i>Get metadata for a single tree</i>
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### Description

Get metadata for a single tree

### Usage

```
atlas_info(name)
```

**Arguments**

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

**Value**

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

**See Also**

Other atlas: [atlas\\_clear\\_cache\(\)](#), [list\\_trees\(\)](#), [load\\_atlas\\_tree\(\)](#)

**Examples**

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

---

list\_trees

*List trees available in the Phylo-Species Atlas*

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**Description**

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

**Usage**

```
list_trees()
```

**Value**

A data frame with one row per tree, ordered by group, with columns 'name', 'group', 'study', 'ntips', 'dated', 'year', 'journal', 'doi', 'crown\_ma', 'described\_species', 'coverage\_pct', 'data\_source', 'download\_url', 'methods\_brief', 'notes', and 'study\_full' (the long-form study citation from the provenance file). Returns 'NULL' with a single diagnostic message if the atlas metadata cannot be downloaded (e.g. no internet); never throws on network failure.

**See Also**

Other atlas: [atlas\\_clear\\_cache\(\)](#), [atlas\\_info\(\)](#), [load\\_atlas\\_tree\(\)](#)

## Examples

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

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load_atlas_tree	<i>Load a tree from the Phylo-Species Atlas</i>
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## Description

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

## Usage

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

## Arguments

name	Tree name without the '.nwk' extension (e.g. "mammals", "birds", "seed_plants", "condamine_Vangidae"). Use <code>[list_trees()]</code> to see all available names.
resolve_labels	If 'TRUE' (default) tip labels are replaced with standardized species names from 'dictionary.csv'. Set to 'FALSE' to keep the raw integer IDs (faster, avoids downloading the dictionary).

## Value

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

## See Also

Other atlas: [atlas\\_clear\\_cache\(\)](#), [atlas\\_info\(\)](#), [list\\_trees\(\)](#)

## Examples

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

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

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

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

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