

# Plant Data Management for Phenotyping Experiments

Data standards and use cases for plant scientists

Cyril Pommier, Célia Michotey, Anne Françoise Adam Blondon



# PLANT PHENOTYPING STANDARDS : WHY



# Why should we standardize research data?

- To enable anyone (including yourself) to reuse it: **metadata about the experiment (who did it, for what purpose, where and how)**
- To enable the (automatic) integration with other types of data: **unique identification of the concepts used to link different data sets**

Phenotype 1 = **measurement** on a **cultivar** in an environment-**GPS1-time1**

Phenotype 2 = **measurement** on a **cultivar** in an environment-**GPS2-time2**

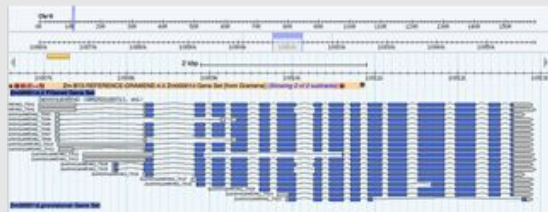
Genotype = observed marker's alleles on a **cultivar**

Climate 1 = climatic data at **GPS1-time1**

- To enable knowledge discovery: **metadata about the experiment, controlled vocabularies, ontologies**

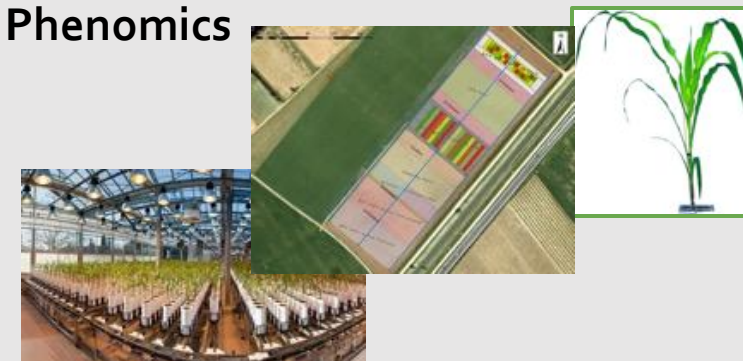
# Genome / Environment / Phenome

## Genetics & Genomics



Homogenous (Mostly)  
Central Access (Mostly)

## Phenomics



Heterogenous  
Distributed

**Plant Breeding**  
Genetic variations by Traits

**Climate Change Studies**  
Genotype by Environment  
Phenology

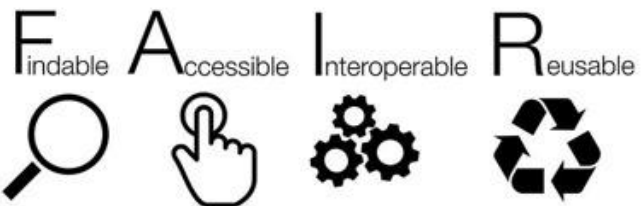
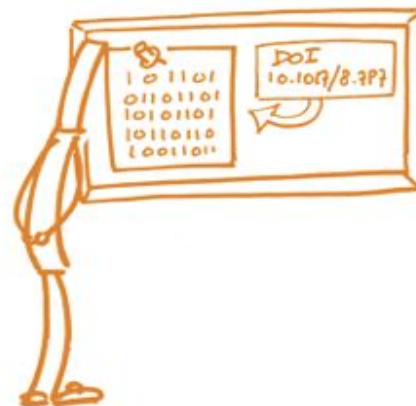
## Environment



Heterogenous  
Distributed

# FAIR Data Principles

Wilkinson et al., **The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship.**  
*Scientific Data 3 (2016)*



**FINDABLE**

Unique identifiers and metadata are used to allow data to be located quickly and efficiently

**ACCESSIBLE**

Data is open, free and universally available for research discovery efforts

**INTER-OPERABLE**

A common programming language is used to allow use in a broad range of applications

**REUSABLE**

All data is clearly described and outlines associated data-use standards

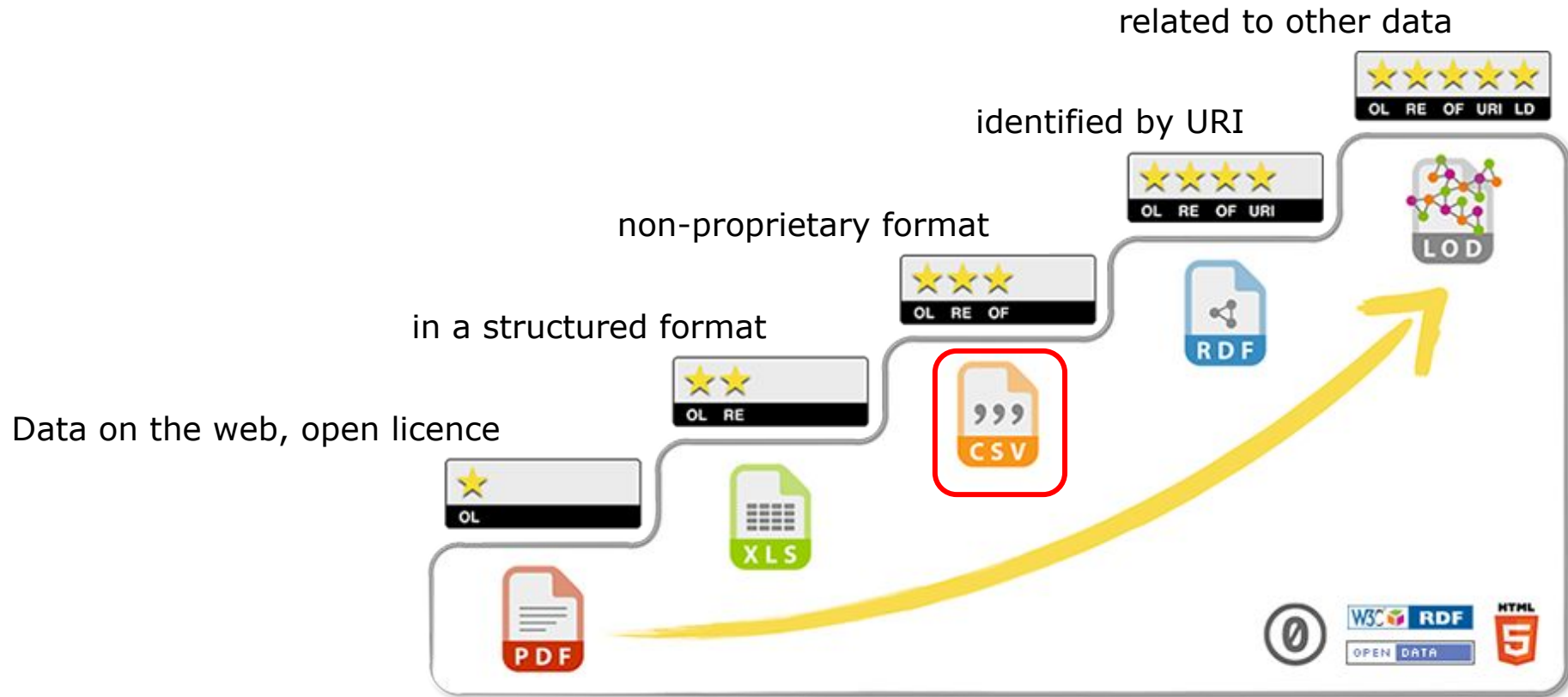
**Ids  
Metadata  
Index**

**Open Protocols  
Permanent Metadata**

**Semantics  
Linked Data  
Vocabularies**

**License  
Well described  
Provenance  
Standards**

# 5 stars Open Data



Progressing towards FAIR and Open Data requires a multidisciplinary cooperation :

- Biologists
- Bioinformaticians
- Specialists of ontologies/semantics

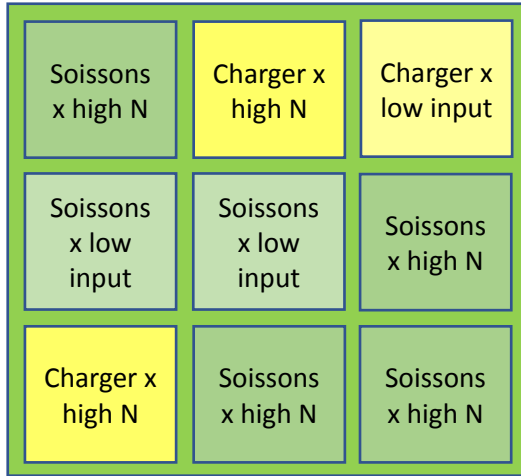


# Plant phenomics Data

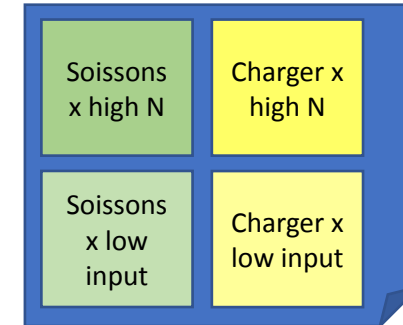
- Heterogenous data
- Different spatial scales
  - Metabolites
  - organ (leaf)
  - group of group of plants
  - whole experimental field
- Different time scales
  - Single measure
  - Time series : every 15 minutes
- Environment
- Complex life cycle

# Phenotyping data life cycle

Raw data

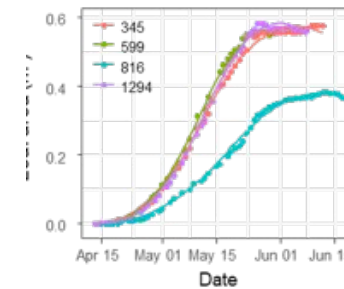


Elaborated data



Expe	Genotype	Treatment	Nitrogen	Date	Rep	Height
De	Soissons	low input	15,32	15/11/2011	1	5
De	Soissons	low input	15,31	16/11/2011	2	7
Cz	Soissons	low input	10	16/11/2011	5	6

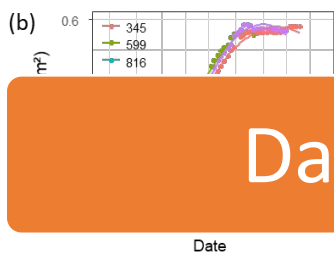
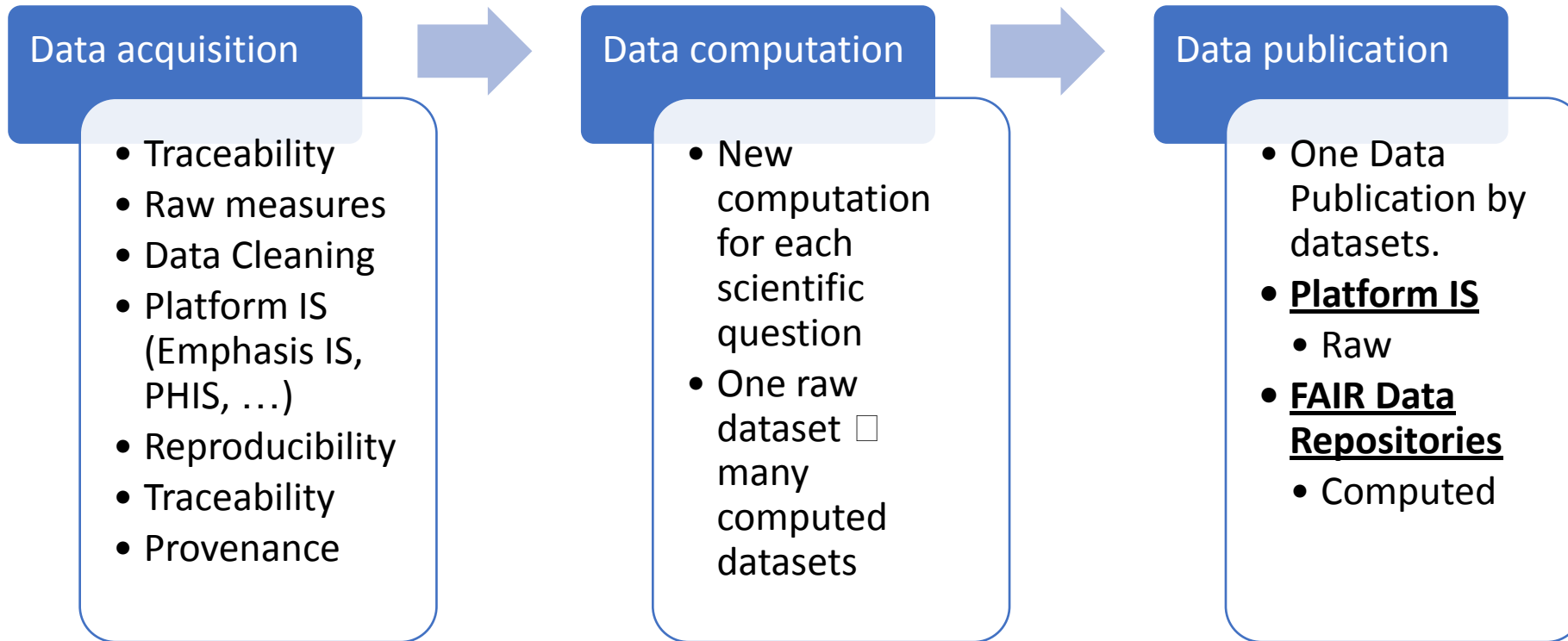
Expe	Genotype	Treatment	Height
De	Soissons	low input	6
Cz	Soissons	low input	6





# Plant Phenotyping Life cycle

## Raw data long term conservation



**Data**

Genotype	traitement	height
Charger	low input	5
Charger	high N	2

**Knowledge**

Variety charger  
intensity cultural practice

# PLANT DATA STANDARDS : WHO

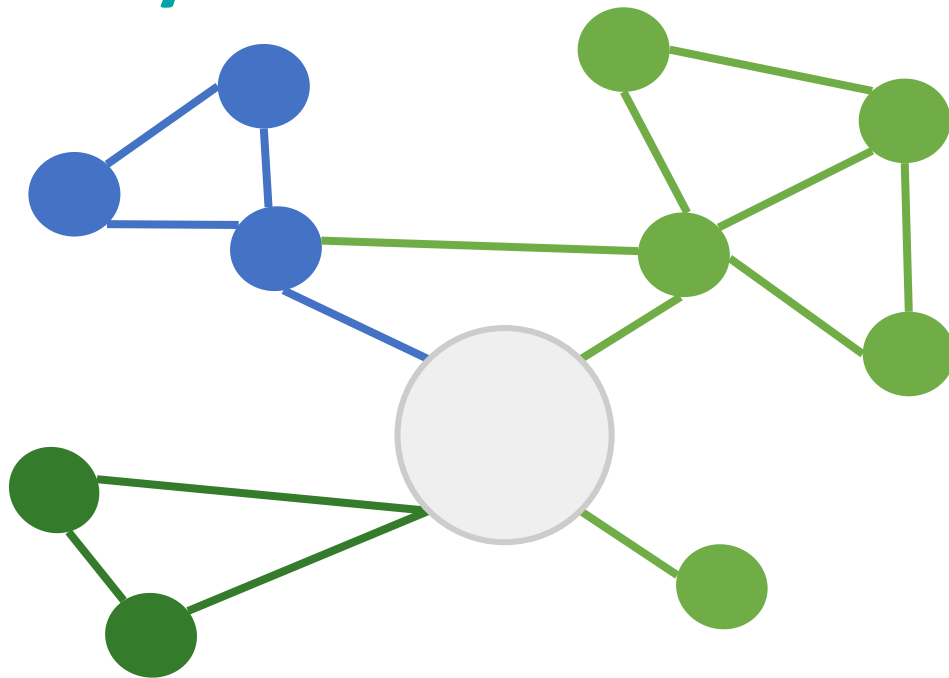


# Interoperability is an International endeavour

**National Networks**



**Global Networks**



**European Networks**



**International data standards**

Web services

RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

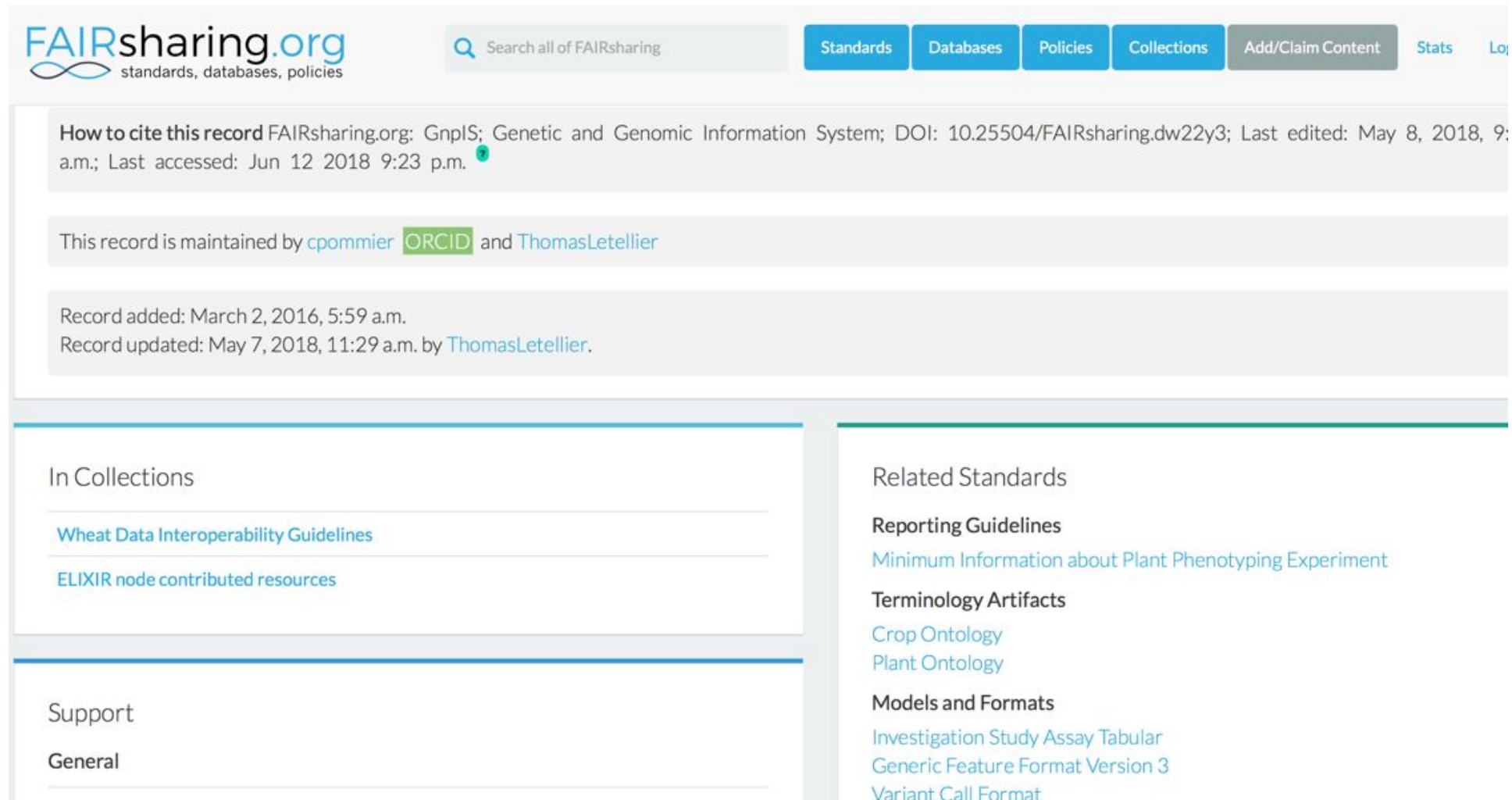
Minimal information

Controlled vocabularies  
Trait dictionaries

MCPD



# Sharing standards: standards registries



**FAIRsharing.org** standards, databases, policies

Search all of FAIRsharing

Standards Databases Policies Collections Add/Claim Content Stats Log

**How to cite this record** FAIRsharing.org: GnpIS; Genetic and Genomic Information System; DOI: 10.25504/FAIRsharing.dw22y3; Last edited: May 8, 2018, 9: a.m.; Last accessed: Jun 12 2018 9:23 p.m.

This record is maintained by [cpommier](#) [ORCID](#) and [ThomasLetellier](#)

Record added: March 2, 2016, 5:59 a.m.  
Record updated: May 7, 2018, 11:29 a.m. by [ThomasLetellier](#).

**In Collections**

- [Wheat Data Interoperability Guidelines](#)
- [ELIXIR node contributed resources](#)

**Support**

**General**

**Related Standards**

**Reporting Guidelines**

- [Minimum Information about Plant Phenotyping Experiment](#)

**Terminology Artifacts**

- [Crop Ontology](#)
- [Plant Ontology](#)

**Models and Formats**

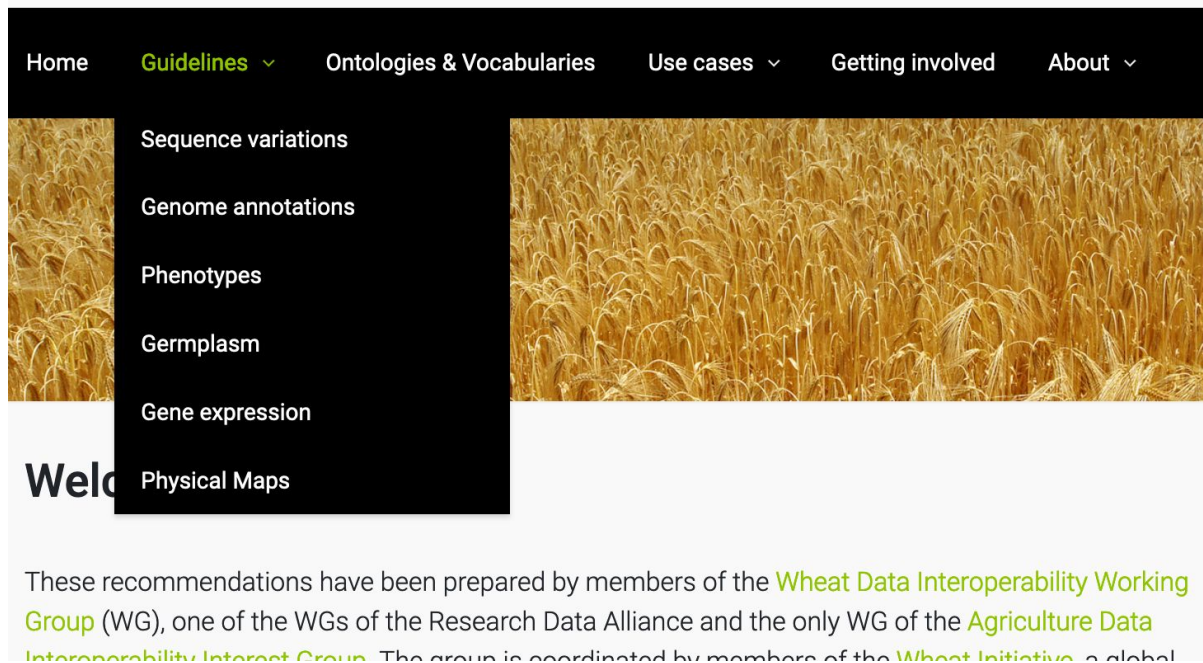
- [Investigation Study Assay Tabular](#)
- [Generic Feature Format Version 3](#)
- [Variant Call Format](#)



# Community driven recommendations

- WheatIS:  
<http://wheatis.org/DataStandards.php>

## Wheat Data Interoperability Guidelines



Home Guidelines ▾ Ontologies & Vocabularies Use cases ▾ Getting involved About ▾

- Sequence variations
- Genome annotations
- Phenotypes
- Germplasm
- Gene expression
- Physical Maps

Welcome

These recommendations have been prepared by members of the [Wheat Data Interoperability Working Group](#) (WG), one of the WGs of the Research Data Alliance and the only WG of the [Agriculture Data Interoperability Interest Group](#). The group is coordinated by members of the [Wheat Initiative](#), a global

- Community story



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OPINION ARTICLE

**REVISED** Developing data interoperability using standards: A wheat community use case [version 2; referees: 2 approved]

Esther Dzale Yeumo<sup>1</sup>, Michael Alaux <sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Arnaud<sup>3</sup>, Sophie Aubin<sup>1</sup>, Ute Baumann<sup>4</sup>, Patrice Buche<sup>5</sup>, Laurel Cooper <sup>6</sup>, Hanna Ćwiek-Kupczyńska<sup>7</sup>, Robert P. Davey <sup>8</sup>, Richard Allan Fulss<sup>9</sup>, Clement Jonquet <sup>10,11</sup>, Marie-Angélique Laporte<sup>3</sup>, Pierre Larmande <sup>12,13</sup>, Cyril Pommier <sup>2</sup>, Vassilis Protonotarios <sup>14</sup>, Carmen Reverte <sup>15</sup>, Rosemary Shrestha<sup>9</sup>, Imma Subirats<sup>16</sup>, Aravind Venkatesan <sup>12</sup>, Alex Whan<sup>17</sup>,  Hadi Quesneville <sup>2</sup>

[+ Author details](#)

 This article is included in the [Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition gateway](#).

# PLANT DATA STANDARDS





# Data standards for FAIR

## Semantic

- Description of the data
- Controlled vocabularies: term name and definitions
- Ontologies: semantic links between terms
- *Biologist driven*



## Persistent Unique Identifiers

URI, gene ID, accessions ID, Trait ID, DOI,...

## Structure

- Formatting and Organizing the data
- Data Models
- Standards : CSV, VCF, GFF, MIAPPE ([www.miappe.org](http://www.miappe.org)) , etc...
- *Biologist & Computer scientist driven*



## Technical

- Data integration and sharing
- Interoperability : tools and systems
  - GA4GH
  - Breeding API [www.brapi.org](http://www.brapi.org)
- *Computer scientist driven*



# Phenotype Semantic Standard: Ontologies



# Phenotype Semantic Standard: Ontologies



- Describing traits/features in specific plant species
- Crop Ontology Trait + Method + Scale Semantic model
- Dedicated presentation



# Context

## • Need

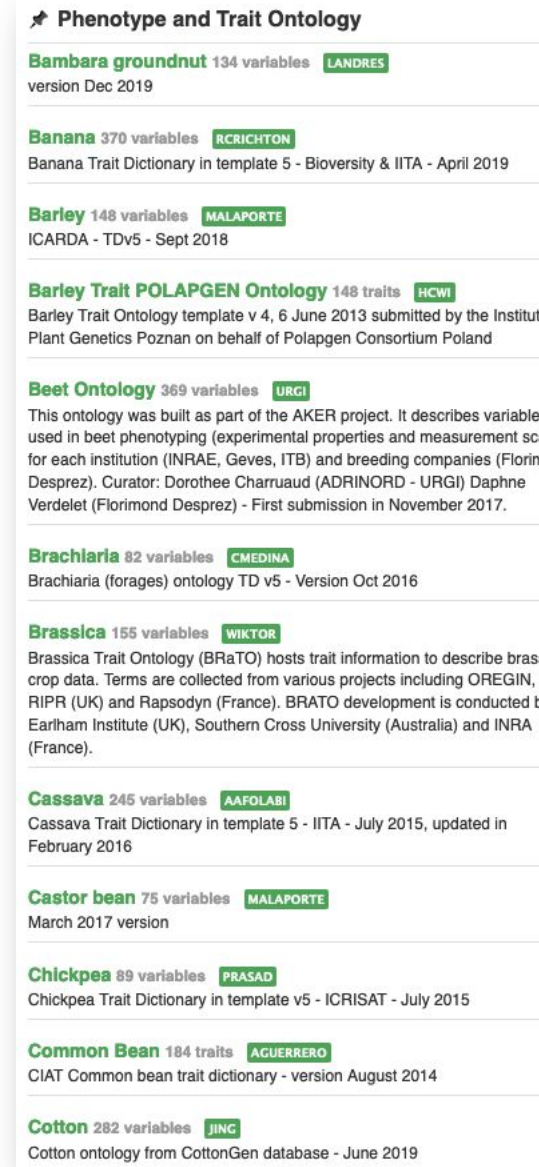
- ◆ Data annotation and FAIRness (reusability, findability)
- ◆ Must capture crop specificities

Study	Genotype	CIR	HT	SUR
Domaine de Valcros	6579	600	17	1
Domaine de Valcros	6580	482	14	1

Study	Genotype	H	CIR
La Nerthe	6579	23	650
La Nerthe	6580	28	514

## • Solution

- ◆ Controlled vocabularies & ontologies to annotate phenotypes: “Crop Ontology”
- ◆ Crop-specific vocabulary, community established
- ⇒ 31 ontologies crop-specific available (including woody plants):  
[www.cropontology.org](http://www.cropontology.org)



✦ **Phenotype and Trait Ontology**

- Bambara groundnut** 134 variables **LANDRES**  
version Dec 2019
- Banana** 370 variables **RCRICHTON**  
Banana Trait Dictionary in template 5 - Bioversity & IITA - April 2019
- Barley** 148 variables **MALAPORTE**  
ICARDA - TDv5 - Sept 2018
- Barley Trait POLAPGEN Ontology** 148 traits **HCWI**  
Barley Trait Ontology template v 4, 6 June 2013 submitted by the Institut Plant Genetics Poznan on behalf of Polapgen Consortium Poland
- Beet Ontology** 369 variables **URGI**  
This ontology was built as part of the AKER project. It describes variable used in beet phenotyping (experimental properties and measurement scores) for each institution (INRAE, Geves, ITB) and breeding companies (Florim Desprez). Curator: Dorothee Charruaud (ADRINORD - URGI) Daphne Verdelet (Florimond Desprez) - First submission in November 2017.
- Brachiaria** 82 variables **CMEDINA**  
Brachiaria (forages) ontology TD v5 - Version Oct 2016
- Brassica** 155 variables **WIKTOR**  
Brassica Trait Ontology (BRaTO) hosts trait information to describe brassica crop data. Terms are collected from various projects including OREGIN, RIPR (UK) and Rapsodyn (France). BRATO development is conducted by Earlham Institute (UK), Southern Cross University (Australia) and INRA (France).
- Cassava** 245 variables **AAFOLABI**  
Cassava Trait Dictionary in template 5 - IITA - July 2015, updated in February 2016
- Castor bean** 75 variables **MALAPORTE**  
March 2017 version
- Chickpea** 89 variables **PRASAD**  
Chickpea Trait Dictionary in template v5 - ICRISAT - July 2015
- Common Bean** 184 traits **AGUERRERO**  
CIAT Common bean trait dictionary - version August 2014
- Cotton** 282 variables **JING**  
Cotton ontology from CottonGen database - June 2019

# Phenotyping variable model

**Variable** = trait + method + scale

Trial	Genotype	CIR	HT	FLO
Domaine de Valcros	6579	600	17	2002-05-27
Domaine de Valcros	6580	482	14	2002-04-27

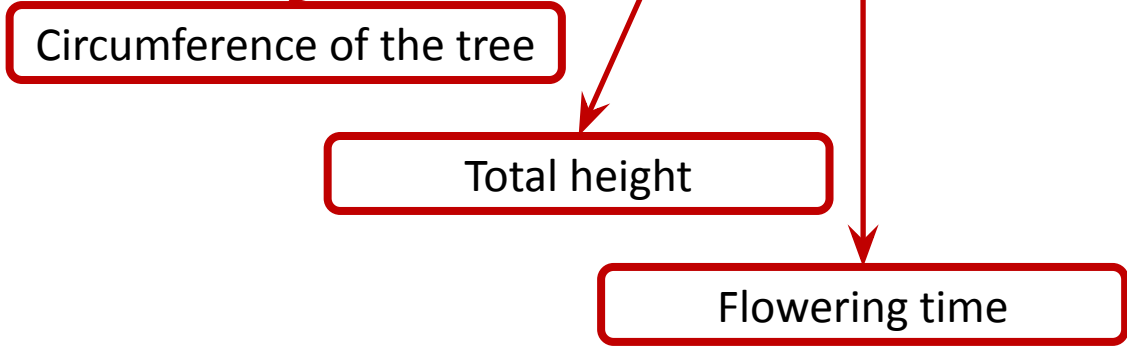
## The phenotypic observation

Variable	<b>Variable ID</b>
	Variable name
	Variable synonyms
	Context of use
	Growth stage
	Variable status
	Variable Xref
	Institution
	Scientist
	Date
	Language
	Crop

# Phenotyping variable model

Variable = **trait** + method + scale

Trial	Genotype	CIR	HT	FLO
Domaine de Valcros	6579	600	17	2002-05-27
Domaine de Valcros	6580	482	14	2002-04-27



What is the studied character?

Trait	<b>Trait ID</b>
	Trait
	Trait class
	Trait description
	Trait synonyms
	Main trait abbreviation
	Alternative trait abbreviations
	Entity
	Attribute
	Trait status
Trait Xref	



# Phenotyping variable model

Variable = trait + **method** + scale

Trial	Genotype	CIR	HT	FLO
Domaine de Valcros	6579	600	17	2002-05-27
Domaine de Valcros	6580	482	14	2002-04-27

Measured at breast height with a graduated ribbon

Measured from soil to crown with a pole or a clinometer

Interpolation after visual assessment

How is it observed?

Method	<b>Method ID</b>
	Method
	Method class
	Method description
	Formula
	Method reference

# Phenotyping variable model

Variable = trait + method + **scale**

Trial	Genotype	CIR	HT	FLO
Domaine de Valcros	6579	600	17	2002-05-27
Domaine de Valcros	6580	482	14	2002-04-27

cm

mm

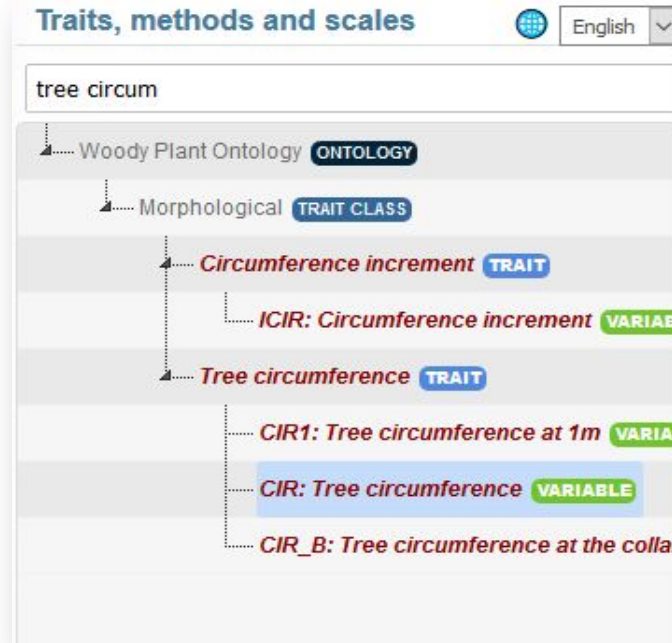
Calendar date

How is it expressed (unit or scale)?

Scale	Scale ID
	Scale name
	Scale class
	Decimal places
	Lower limit
	Upper limit
	Scale Xref
	Category 1
	Category 2
	...
Category n	

# Tree Variable example1

[https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO\\_357:0000019](https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO_357:0000019)



- 1 Trait
- 3 Variables
- 3 methods

<b>Tree circumference</b> (TRAIT)	
Identifier	CO_357:1000012
Name	Tree circumference
Description	Circumference of the tree main stem
Synonyms	Tree girth
Main abbreviation	CIR
Alternative abbreviations	CIRC Circ CI Girth
Entity	trunk
Attribute	circumference
Status	Standard for INRA
Class	Morphological

<b>CIR: Tree circumference</b> (VARIABLE)	
Ontology name	Woody Plant Ontology
Identifier	CO_357:0000019
Name	CIR
Synonyms	Tree circumference Tree girth C130 Ci130 CIR[Adonis]
Context of use	Research-intensive characterization Trial evaluation Breeding criterion
Status	Standard for INRA
Institution	INRA
Scientist	Célia Michotey
Date	13/03/2017
Crop	Woody Plant

<b>Ribbon 130cm protocol</b> (METHOD)	
Identifier	CO_357:2000017
Name	Ribbon 130cm protocol
Description	Measured at 130cm from the ground (approximately breast height) with a graduated ribbon
Class	Measurement
<b>mm</b> (SCALE)	
Identifier	UO:0000016
Name	mm
Data type	Numerical
Xref	<a href="http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/">http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/...</a>

# Tree Variable example2

[https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO\\_357:0000082](https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO_357:0000082)

Traits, methods and scales English

survival

Woody Plant Ontology **ONTOLOGY**

Stress **TRAIT CLASS**

Survival **TRAIT**

ESDET: Detailed health status **VARIABLE**

**SUR: Survival** **VARIABLE**

SUR\_Rate: Survival rate **VARIABLE**

Terminal bud status **TRAIT**

Withered leaves **TRAIT**

## SUR: Survival **VARIABLE**

**Ontology name** Woody Plant Ontology  
**Identifier** CO\_357:0000082  
**Name** SUR  
**Synonyms** Survival  
 Health status  
 ES  
 S  
 MOR  
 SUR[Adonis]  
**Context of use** Trial evaluation  
**Status** Standard for INRA  
**Institution** INRA/IBET  
**Scientist** Célia Michotey  
**Date** 13/03/2017  
**Crop** WoodyPlant

## Survival **TRAIT**

**Identifier** CO\_357:1000070  
**Name** Survival  
**Description** Assessment of the survival state of the tree

**Synonyms** Health status  
**Main abbreviation** SUR  
**Alternative abbreviations** S  
 SR

Survival  
 Survie  
 Etat sanitaire  
 ES  
 Vivants  
 MOR  
**Entity** tree  
**Attribute** survival  
**Status** Standard for INRA  
**Class** Stress

## Visual scoring **METHOD**

**Identifier** CO\_357:2000003  
**Name** Visual scoring  
**Description** Visual assessment with a reference scoring scale  
**Class** Estimation

## Survival scoring scale **SCALE**

**Identifier** CO\_357:3000036  
**Name** Survival scoring scale  
**Data type** Nominal  
**Decimal places** 0  
**Min** 0  
**Max** 2

**Categories** 0 = Alive  
 1 = Dead  
 2 = Doubtful

# Wheat phenology : Ear emergence

[https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO\\_321:1000035](https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO_321:1000035)

**Traits, methods and scales** English

Search terms...

Booting time **TRAIT**

Booting time **TRAIT**

Double ridge time **TRAIT**

Ear at 1cm **TRAIT**

Ear emergence **TRAIT**

- D.Z55\_d: Ear emergence (Z55) / D.Z55.DAYS\_SUM\_d **VARIABLE**
- D.Z55\_dd: Ear emergence (Z55) / D.Z55.DAYS\_SUM\_dd **VARIABLE**
- D.Z55\_jj/mm/aa: Ear emergence (Z55) / D.Z55.DAYS\_SUM\_jj/mm/aa **VARIABLE**

Emergence time **TRAIT**

**D.Z55\_jj/mm/aa: Ear emergence (Z55) / D.Z55.DAYS\_SUM\_jj/mm/aa** **VARIABLE**

**Ontology name** Wheat Crop Ontology

**Identifier** CO\_321:1000035

**Name** D.Z55\_jj/mm/aa

**Synonyms** Ear emergence (Z55) / D.Z55.DAYS\_SUM\_jj/mm/aa

**Growth stage** Z55 (Ear half emerged)

**Xref** WIPO:0000035

**Institution** INRA

**Scientist** Jacques Le Gouis

**Date** 15/06/2016

**Crop** Wheat

**Ear emergence** **TRAIT**

**Identifier** CO\_321:1010012

**Name** Ear emergence

Raw data: Emergence date

**jj/mm/aa** **SCALE**

**Identifier** CO\_321:1030008

**Name** jj/mm/aa

**Data type** Time

Computed: degree days

**dd** **SCALE**

**Identifier** CO\_321:1030013

**Name** dd

**Data type** Duration



# Vitis Phenology : Flowering

[https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO\\_356:1000011](https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/ontologyportal#termIdentifier=CO_356:1000011)

Phenological **TRAIT CLASS**

- Autumn coloration of leaves **TRAIT**
- Budbreak **TRAIT**
- Flowering **TRAIT**
  - DOY\_FLO: Day of Year Flowering (50%) **VARIABLE**
  - FLO\_50: Flowering date (50%) **VARIABLE**
  - FLO\_END: Flowering end **VARIABLE**
  - FLO\_OIV\_302: Time of full bloom **VARIABLE**
  - FLO\_START: Flowering start **VARIABLE**
  - HS\_Tmax\_B10\_BudFlo: Heat sums with Tmax **VARIA**
  - MI-FLO-relativ: Flowering date (50%) relative to Chas

## Raw data: Flowering date

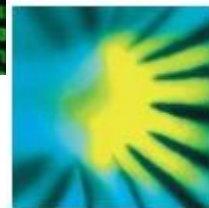
<b>Calendar date</b> <b>SCALE</b>	
Identifier	CO_356:4000003
Name	Calendar date
Data type	Time

## Computed: degree days

<b>Tmax_Heatsummations</b> <b>METHOD</b>	
Identifier	CO_356:3000172
Name	Tmax_Heatsummations
Description	Heat summation with maximum temperatures
Formula	=sum(max(Tmax-tb),0)
Class	Measurement
<b>Degree.days</b> <b>SCALE</b>	
Identifier	CO_356:4000038
Name	Degree.days
Data type	Numerical



# Phenotype Structure Standard : MIAPPE MINIMUM INFORMATION ABOUT A PLANT PHENOTYPING EXPERIMENT



## New Phytologist

Methods | Open Access |

### Enabling reusability of plant phenomic datasets with MIAPPE 1.1

Evangelia A. Papoutsoglou , Daniel Faria, Daniel Arend, Elizabeth Arnaud, Ioannis N. Athanasiadis, Inês Chaves, Frederik Coppens, Guillaume Cornut, Bruno V. Costa, Hanna Ćwiek-Kupczyńska, Bert Droesbeke, Richard Finkers, Kristina Gruden, Astrid Junker, Graham J. King, Paweł Krajewski, Matthias Lange, Marie-Angélique Laporte, Célia Michotey, Markus Oppermann, Richard Ostler, Hendrik Poorter, Ricardo Ramirez-Gonzalez, Živa Ramšak, Jochen C. Reif, Philippe Rocca-Serra, Susanna-Assunta Sansone, Uwe Scholz, François Tardieu, Cristobal Uauy, Björn Usadel, Richard G. F. Visser, Stephan Weise, Paul J. Kersey, Célia M. Miguel, Anne-Françoise Adam-Blondon, Cyril Pommier ... [See fewer authors](#) ^

First published: 14 March 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.16544> | Citations: 10

## MIAPPE Overview and use cases

Plant Data Management for Phenotyping Experiments

02 April 2021 / webinar / Cyril Pommier

# Phenotype Structure Standard

Minimum Information for Biological and Biomedical Investigations

A collection of the historical MIBBI foundry reporting guidelines. The minimum information standard is a set of guidelines for reporting data derived by relevant methods in biosciences. If followed, it ensures that the data can be easily verified, analysed and clearly

- Biologist Friendly
- Minimal and sufficient list of metadata:
  - The objective of the experiment
  - Who contributed to the experiment
  - What were the experimental procedures
  - What was the biological material experimented
  - ...

# Phenotype Structure Standard



## Minimal Information About Plant Phenotyping Experiment : version 1.1

[www.miappe.org](http://www.miappe.org)

- Many stakeholders
  - ◆ Elixir, Emphasis, Bioversity, North American PPN
- Open Community:
  - ◆ Request for comments
  - ◆ Github Feature requests
  - ◆ Mailing lists
  - ◆ Meetings & Workgroups
- Crops and woody plants

Papoutsoglou *et al.* (2020) Enabling reusability and interoperability of plant phenomic datasets with MIAPPE 1.1. *New Phytol*, 227:260-273; <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.16544>

MIAPPE				
line #	MIAPPE Check list	Definition	Example	Cardinality
DM-1	<b>Investigation</b>	Investigations are research programmes with defined aims. They can exist at various scales (for example, they could encompass a grant-funded programme of work, the various components comprising a peer-reviewed publication, or a single experiment).		1 per MIAPPE submission
DM-2	<b>Investigation unique ID</b>	Identifier comprising the unique name of the institution/database hosting the submission of the investigation data, and the accession number of the investigation in that institution.	EBI12345678	0-1
	<b>Investigation title</b>	Human-readable string summarising the investigation.	Adaptation of Maize to Temperate Climates, Mid-Density Genome-Wide Association Genetics and Diversity Patterns Reveal Key Genomic Regions, with	1

Environment				
line#	Environment parameters	Definition	Example	Format
ENV-1	Non-exhaustive list of Environment Parameters.			
ENV-2	<b>Environment parameters</b>			
ENV-3	<b>Growth facility</b>			
ENV-4	<b>Air temperature</b>	List of hourly air temperature throughout the experiment.	22 °C	Numeric
ENV-5	<b>Organ temperature</b>	List of hourly organ temperatures throughout the experiment.	18 °C	Numeric

Experimental Factors				
line #	Factor type	Definition	Example factor values	Format
TR-1	Non-exhaustive list of Experimental Factors that can be applied.			
TR-2	<b>Seasonal environment</b>	A plant treatment (EO:0001001) involving an exposure to a given conditions of regional seasons.	Spring season; dry season	Plant Environment Ontology:'EO_0007038'
TR-3	<b>Air treatment regime</b>	The treatment involving an exposure to wind/air with varying degree of temperature, which may depend on the study type or the regional environment.	28/25°C ( Day/Night )	Plant Environment Ontology:'EO_0007161'
TR-4	<b>Soil temperature regime</b>	A physical plant treatment (EO:0007316) involving an exposure to varying degree of temperature, which may depend on regional environment.	27/25°C ( Day/Night )	Plant Environment Ontology:'EO_0007161'
TR-5				



# Capturing important information about phenotyping experiments using the MIAPPE standard

## Two examples to illustrate how to capture important information about the phenotyping experiments:

- **MAIZE:** [1] Millet *et al.* 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.15454/IASSTN>): A multi-site experiment in a network of European fields for assessing the maize yield response to environmental scenarios.
- **POPLAR:** [2] Monclus *et al.* 2012 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-2229-12-173>): Integrating genome annotation and QTL position to identify candidate genes for productivity, architecture and water-use efficiency in *Populus* spp

# Millet et al 2019 [1] - Material&methods section on phenotyping experiments

- A panel of **256 maize hybrids** was grown with **two water regimes** (irrigated or rainfed).
- **Location**: seven fields in 2012 and 2013, plus one site in Chile in 2013
- This resulted in 29 experiments defined as the combination of one year, one site and one **water regime**, with two and three **repetitions** for rainfed and irrigated treatments, respectively.
- A detailed **environmental characterisation** was carried out, with hourly records of micrometeorological data and soil water status, and associated with precise measurement of phenology.
- « **grain.yield** »: yield adjusted at 15% grain moisture, in ton per hectare (t ha<sup>-1</sup>). « **grain.number** »: number of grain per square meter. « **grain.weight** »: individual grain weight (mg). « **anthesis** »: male flowering (pollen shed), in thermal time cumulated since emergence (d20°C). « **silking** »: female flowering (silking emergence), in thermal time cumulated since emergence (d20°C). « **plant.height** »: plant height, from ground level to the base of the flag leaf (highest) leaf (cm). « **tassel.height** »: plant height including tassel, from ground level to the highest point of the tassel (cm). « **ear.height** »: ear insertion height, from ground level to ligule of the highest ear leaf (cm).



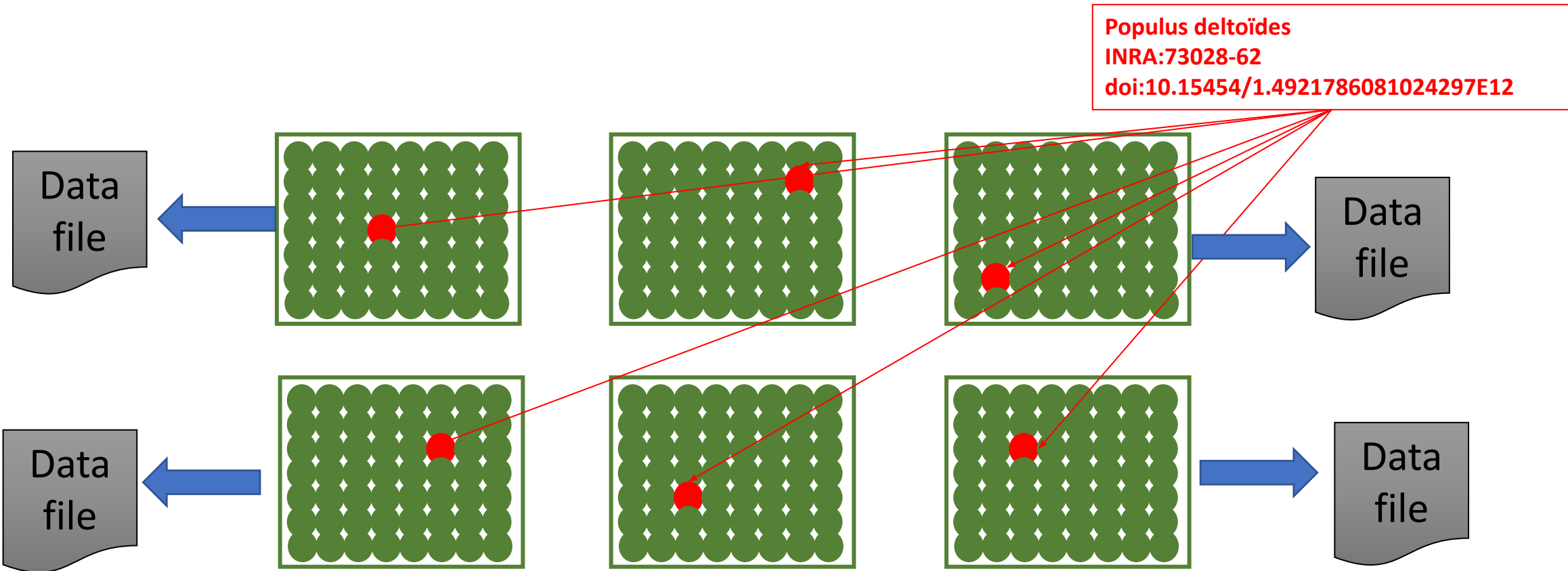
# Monclus et al 2012 [2] - Material&methods section on phenotyping experiments

- **3 Field trial** established in April 2003 **located** in France (Ardon, 47°49'41"N, 1°54'39"E, 110 m), Italy Cavallermaggiore ((44° 43' 0" N) , (7° 41' 0" E)), UK Headley ((51° 7' 0" N) , (-1° 10' 0" W) )
- The **biological material** consisted of a cloned 336 F1 progeny from an interspecific cross between the female *Populus deltoides* (Bartr. Ex Marsh.) '73028-62' from Illinois and the male *P. trichocarpa* (Torr. and Gray) '101-74' from Washington State.
- The **trial was established** from 25 cm- homogenous hardwood cuttings planted at a plant density of 6670 trees per ha. The trial was and consisted in 6 randomized complete blocks where each F1 genotype and each parent was represented by one replicate.
- **Circumference and stem height** were measured at the end of the first (winter 2003–2004) and second (winter 2004–2005) as described in Dillen et al. Forest Ecol Manag. 2007, 252 (1–3): 12-23). Growth increment in height and circumference during the second growing season were calculated.
- **Leaf traits** were measured in 2003: one fully illuminated mature leaf was collected on each tree according to Monclus et al. <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-8137.2005.01407.x> ). Six calibrated discs of lamina were cut from this leaf, dried at 50 °C during 48 °C and weighed, and specific leaf area (SLA, cm<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) was computed. Leaf discs were ground to fine powder for analysis of leaf carbon isotope composition ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ), carbon ( $C_M$ ) and nitrogen ( $N_M$ ) contents. One-milligram subsamples of ground material were used for measuring the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by combustion and its <sup>13</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>/<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> ratio by a continuous flux isotope ratio mass spectrometer. The discrimination between atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and plant material was calculated.



# MIAPPE 1.1 Overview

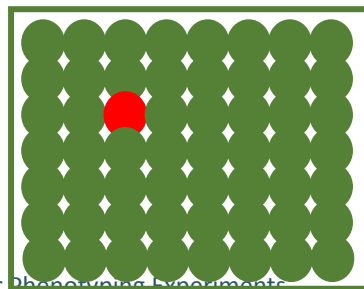
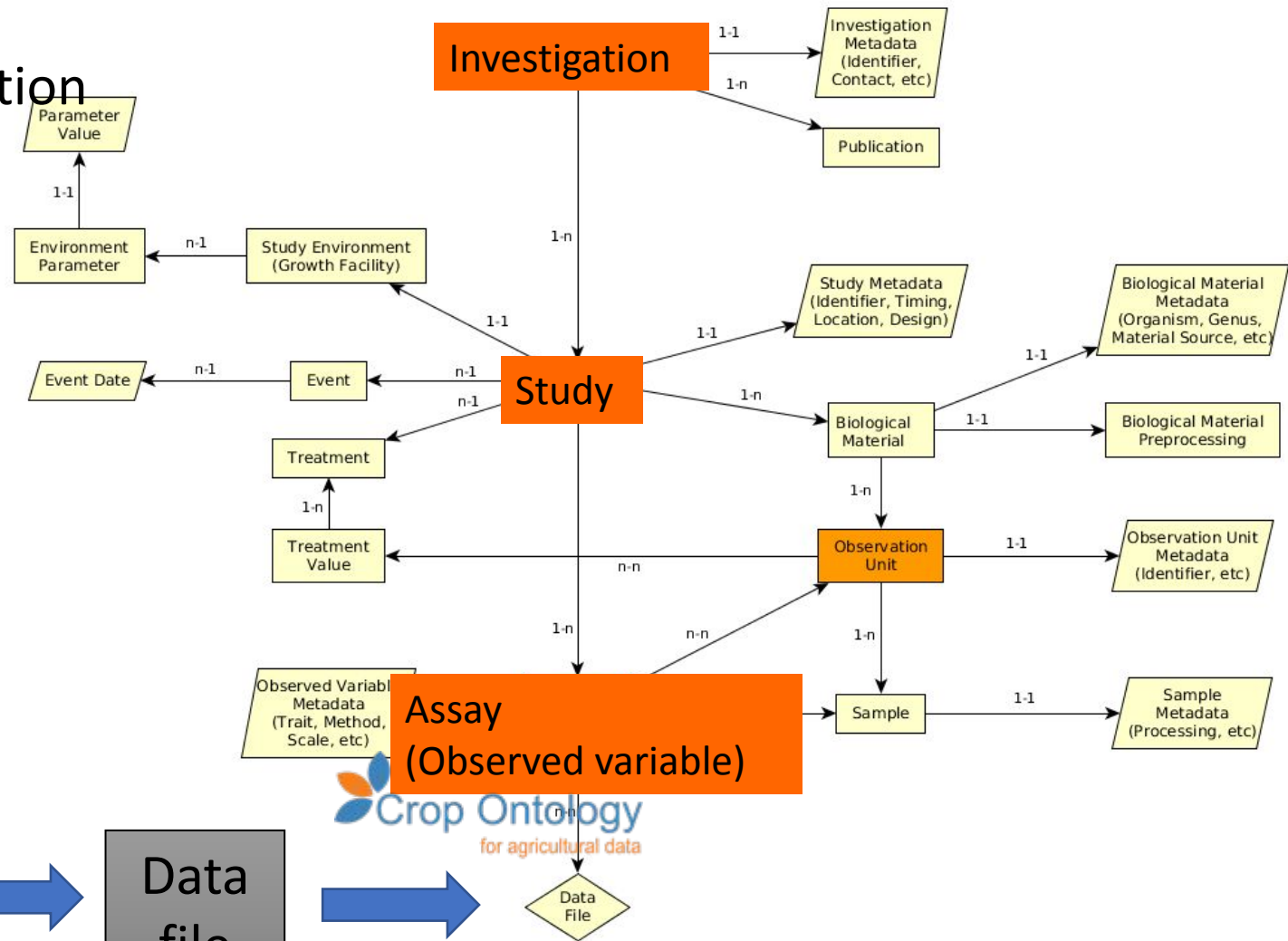
Typical Dataset: Monclus *et al.*, 2012, [2]



- 6 randomized blocks
- 1 observation unit = one tree
- No treatment
- 6 replicates defined by their position in each block: row and column

# MIAPPE V1.1 Overview: the (ISA) backbone

- **Investigation:** whole dataset
- **Study** : one experiment in one location for one to several year
- **Assay:** Level + Trait + Method + Scale/Unit
- **Level:**
  - Plant
  - Microplot
  - Block
  - Trial
  - ...



# MIAPPE V1.1 Overview: Data file content

- Any format (Near Infra Red Spectrum, Images, Image Archives references, ....)
- Mostly tabular
- Metadata on each column header

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Accession Number	Trial Site	Campaign	Circum1: Tree circumference at 1 year	Date [Circum1]	Height1: Tree total height at 1 year	Date [Height1]	Shoots3: Number of resprouts at 3 years	Date [Shoots3]
661300270	Ardon	2004	45.645632645603683	12/01/2004	284.3	12/01/2004		
661300270	Ardon	2005					14.630625	12/05/2005
661300444	Ardon	2004	38.96112577281653	12/01/2004	228.8	12/01/2004		
661300444	Ardon	2005					8.5030559999999991	12/05/2005
661300312	Cavallermaggiore	2004	52.4	01/01/2004	249.9	01/01/2004		
661300312	Cavallermaggiore	2005					12.9816090000000001	01/05/2005
661300371	Cavallermaggiore	2004	45.74	01/01/2004	230.2	01/01/2004		
661300371	Cavallermaggiore	2005					10.3041	01/05/2005
661300487	Cavallermaggiore	2004	72.52	01/01/2004	309.8	01/01/2004		
661300487	Cavallermaggiore	2005					10.6798239999999998	01/05/2005
661300585	Cavallermaggiore	2004	71.739999999999995	01/01/2004	305.7	01/01/2004		
661300585	Cavallermaggiore	2005					10.9561000000000001	01/05/2005
661300468	Headley	2004	45.27	01/01/2004		247	01/01/2004	
661300468	Headley	2005					15.8881960000000002	01/05/2005
661300469	Headley	2004	70.9300000000000007	01/01/2004		313	01/01/2004	
661300469	Headley	2005					13.2714489999999999	01/05/2005
661300533	Headley	2004	57.67	01/01/2004	258.8	01/01/2004		

# MIAPPE main sections – Investigation

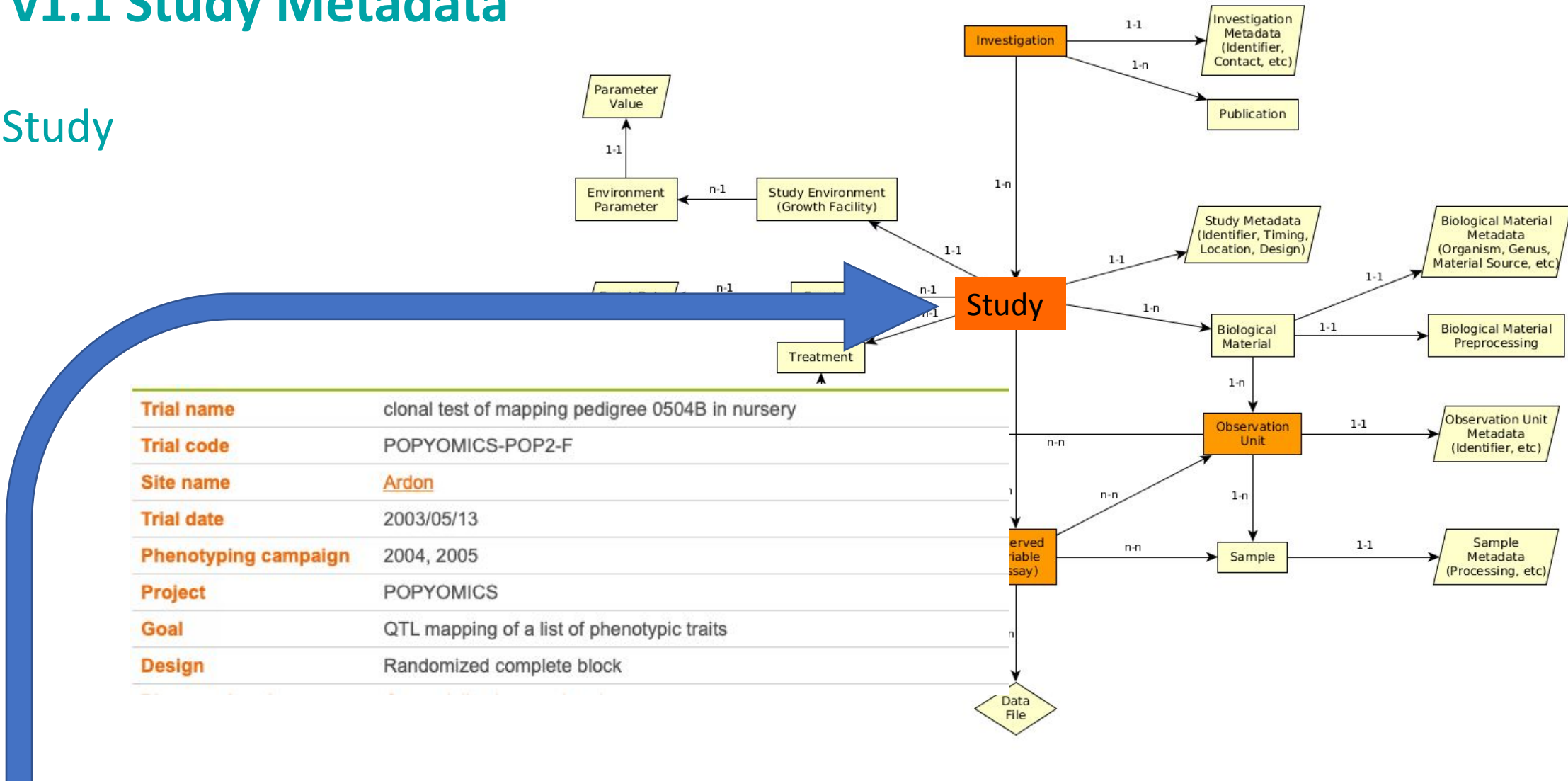
- **Investigations are research programmes with defined aims.** They can exist at various scales: e.g. grant-funded programme of work with various published components; a single experiment.
- One investigation holds one to many studies.
- **Metadata**
  - ◆ **Similar to Archive deposition**
  - ◆ **DOI, title, description, associated publications/people, ...**
- **Examples Investigation :**
  - **MAIZE [1]:** the whole set of multilocal and pluriannual phenotyping experiments
  - **POPLAR [2]:** the whole set of multilocal measurements over three years

# MIAPPE main sections – Study

- **A "study" (or experiment)**
  - ◆ One study = one location
  - ◆ comprises a series of assays (or measurements) undertaken to answer a particular biological question.
  
- **Metadata**
  - ◆ **experiment as a whole**
  - ◆ **timing, location, statistical design, cultural practices (but not event lists), etc...**
  
- **Examples of Studies:**
  - **MAIZE [1] : 37 studies: year x location x treatment (Gaillac 2012 rain, Gaillac 2013 watered, ...)**
  - **POPLAR [2] : 3 locations over one to several years (Ardon\_2003) (Ardon\_2003-2005)**

# MIAPPE v1.1 Study Metadata

- Poplar Study



<b>Trial name</b>	clonal test of mapping pedigree 0504B in nursery
<b>Trial code</b>	POPYOMICS-POP2-F
<b>Site name</b>	<u>Ardon</u>
<b>Trial date</b>	2003/05/13
<b>Phenotyping campaign</b>	2004, 2005
<b>Project</b>	POPYOMICS
<b>Goal</b>	QTL mapping of a list of phenotypic traits
<b>Design</b>	Randomized complete block

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Accession Number	Expe location	Campaign	Circum1: Tree circumference at 1 year	Date [Circum1]	Height1: Tree total height at 1 year	Date [Height1]	Shoots3: Number of resprouts at 3 years	Date [Shoots3]
661300276	Ardon	2004	45.645632645603683	12/01/2004	284.3	12/01/2004		
661300276	Ardon	2005					14.630625	12/05/2005
661300444	Ardon	2004	38.96112577281653	12/01/2004	228.8	12/01/2004		
661300444	Ardon	2005					8.5030559999999991	12/05/2005



# • MIAPPE main sections – Biological material

- **Biological material being studied**
- Plus its source (stock center, gen bank, etc...).
- **Crucial** for integrating phenotyping data with genomic or genetic data.
- **Metadata**
  - ◆ **Minimal fields from Multicrop Passport Descriptor (MCPD) standard**
  - ◆ **GPS location for forest tree / in situ material provenance**

**Source of the material used:**  
accession, cultivar/variety, region  
of provenance, laboratory cross, ...



**Biological material used in the study:** seed lot, cuttings...



**Plant Samples used in the study:**  
detached leaves, ...

## MCPD identification system:

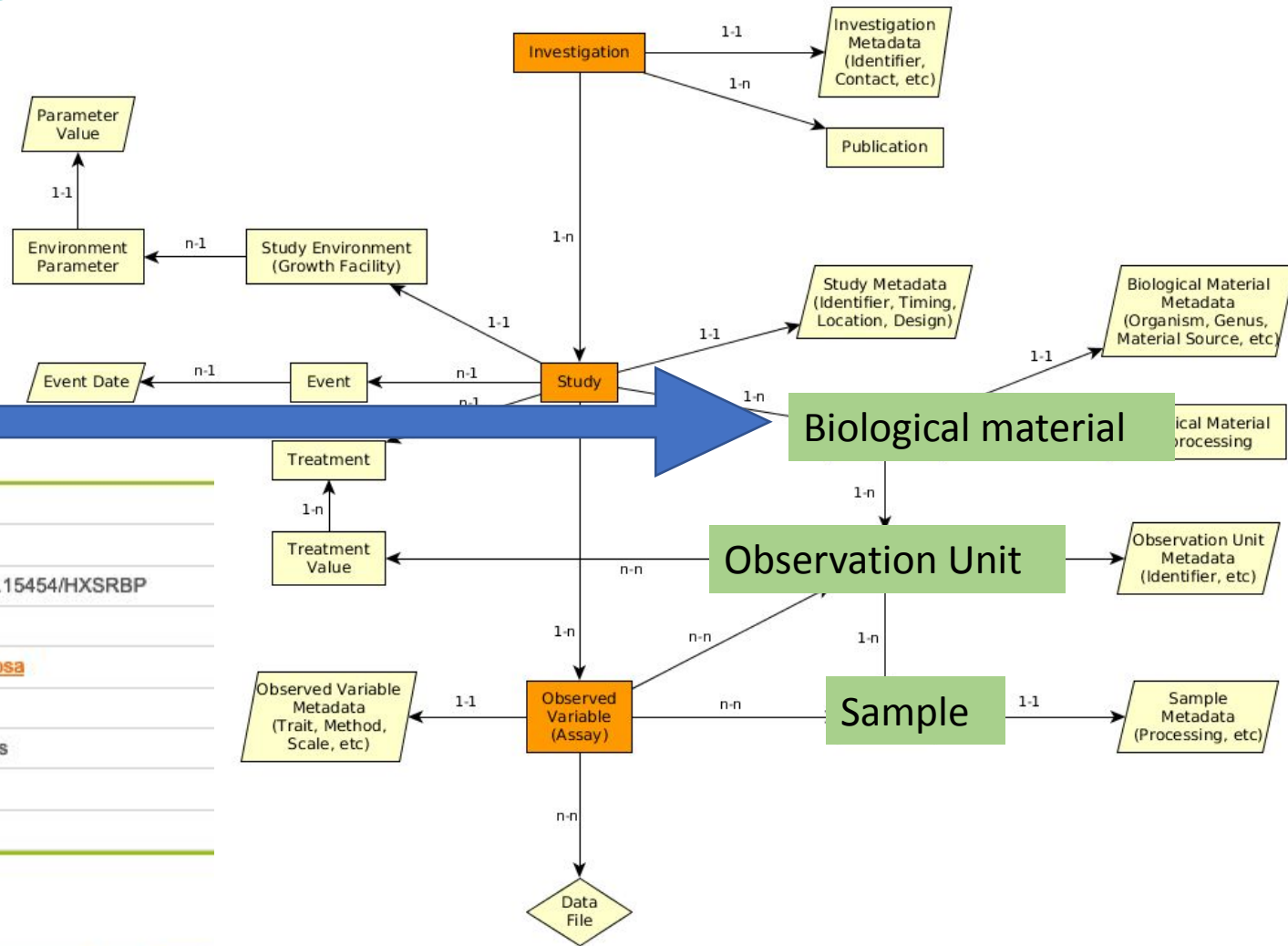
- Genebank/Lab + Species + accession number (mandatory)
- DOI

- Lab + internal accession number (mandatory)
- URI

- Lab + internal accession number (mandatory)
- BioSample ID

# MIAPPE main sections – Biological material

- Plant Material
  - Identification
  - Description
- Multi Crop Passport Descriptor



IDENTIFICATION	
Accession number	661300333
Accession name	661300333
Permanent Unique Identifier	<a href="https://doi.org/10.15454/HXSRBP">https://doi.org/10.15454/HXSRBP</a>
Synonyms	0054B115
species	<i>Populus x generosa</i>
Pedigree	-
Biological status	Interspecific cross
Genetic nature	Clone
Comment	-

HOLDING	
Holding stock center	<a href="#">Forest BRC (I)</a>
Presence status	

A	B	C	F	G	H	I		
Accession Number	Trial Site	Campaign	Circum1: Tree circumference at 1 year	Date [Circum1]	Height1: Tree total height at 1 year	Date [Height1]	Shoots3: Number of resprouts at 3 years	Date [Shoots3]
661300270	Ardon	2004	45.645632645603683	12/01/2004	284.3	12/01/2004		
661300270	Ardon	2005					14.630625	12/05/2005
661300444	Ardon	2004	38.96112577281653	12/01/2004	228.8	12/01/2004		
661300444	Ardon	2005					8.5030559999999991	12/05/2005

# • MIAPPE main sections – Observed Variable (Assay)

## • An Observed Variable (assay)

- ◆ specific measurement.
- ◆ Targets a trait
- ◆ with a method and a scale.
- ◆ Trait: Phenotype or Environment

## • Metadata

- ◆ Crop Ontology Trait Dictionary:
- ◆ **trait, method, scale**

## • Example:

- In each study of Millet *et al.* [1] :
  - ◆ Plant level: 20 variables
  - ◆ Genotype/ Study level: 19 variable both phenotype and environment
  - ◆ Plot level: 9 variables
  - ◆ *E.g. Female flowering days to silking D20deg*
  - ◆ *E.g. Plant height (cm)*

**FFLW\_D20deg: Female flowering days to silking D20deg** VARIABLE

<b>Synonyms</b>	Female flowering days to silking D20deg FFLW
<b>Growth stage</b>	Flowering
<b>Crop</b>	Maize

**Silking time** TRAIT

<b>Identifier</b>	CO_322:0000031
<b>Name</b>	Silking time
<b>Description</b>	Silking time
<b>Synonyms</b>	Female flowering time
<b>Main abbreviation</b>	Silk
<b>Alternative abbreviations</b>	S FFW
<b>Entity</b>	Flower
<b>Attribute</b>	Silking time
<b>Class</b>	Phenological

**Thermal time between emergence and silking – Computation** METHOD

<b>Identifier</b>	MIPO:0000027
<b>Name</b>	Thermal time between emergence and silking – Computation
<b>Description</b>	Calculated as equivalent days at 20 °C unit between emergence and 50% anthesis.
<b>Reference</b>	B. Parent, O. Turc, Y. Gibon, M. Stitt and F. Tardieu (2010) Modelling temperature-compensated physiological rates, based on the co-ordination of responses to temperature of developmental processes. Journal of Experimental Botany
<b>Class</b>	Computation

**D20deg: days equivalent time at 20 °C** SCALE

<b>Identifier</b>	MIPO:0000030
<b>Name</b>	D20deg: days equivalent time at 20 °C
<b>Data type</b>	Numerical

**PTHT: Plant height (cm)** VARIABLE

<b>Ontology name</b>	Maize Traits
<b>Identifier</b>	MIPO:0000006
<b>Name</b>	PTHT
<b>Synonyms</b>	Plant height (cm)
<b>Xref</b>	CO_322:0000994
<b>Crop</b>	Maize

**Plant height** TRAIT

<b>Identifier</b>	CO_322:0000994
<b>Name</b>	Plant height
<b>Description</b>	Plant height from the base to the top part (in reproductive stages to the top of the tassel).
<b>Main abbreviation</b>	PH
<b>Entity</b>	Plant
<b>Attribute</b>	height
<b>Class</b>	Agronomical

**PH - Measurement** METHOD

<b>Identifier</b>	CO_322:0000995
<b>Name</b>	PH - Measurement
<b>Description</b>	Recommended to take multiple plants and measure the height from the base of a plant to the top of the tassel, enter the data individually in the FieldBook and calculate the average.
<b>Reference</b>	DTMA drought phenotyping protocol. 2009. CIMMYT. Magorokosho et al. 2010. Characterization of maize germplasm grown in eastern and southern Africa: Results of the 2009 regional trials coordinated by CIMMYT. Zimbabwe

# Metadata

Observed Variable: Trait + Method + Scale

## Traits, methods and scales

English

HT: Tree total height **VARIABLE**

- Search terms...
- Terminal bud diameter **TRAIT**
  - Tree circumference **TRAIT**
  - Tree diameter **TRAIT**
  - Tree flexuosity **TRAIT**
  - Tree height **TRAIT**
  - HT: Tree total height **VARIABLE**
  - HTm: Tree total height in m **VARIABLE**
  - Tree ring width **TRAIT**
  - Tree shape **TRAIT**
  - Tree status **TRAIT**
  - Type c ep ee **TRAIT**
  - Volume **TRAIT**
  - Whorl defects **TRAIT**
  - Wood axial parenchyma high **TRAIT**
  - Wood axial parenchyma thickness **TRAIT**
  - Wood density **TRAIT**

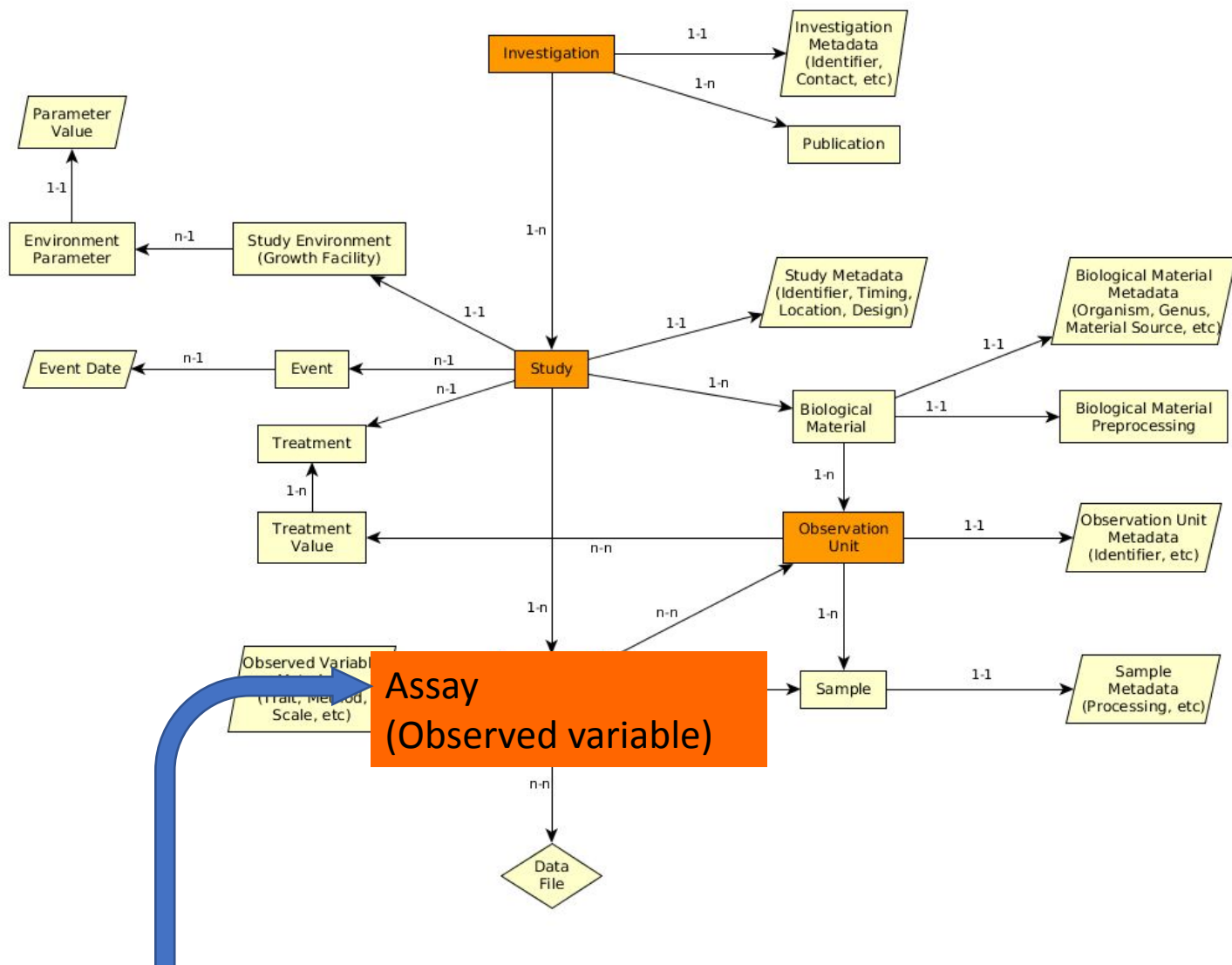
**Ontology name** Woody Plant Ontology  
**Identifier** CO\_357:0000048  
**Name** HT

**Tree height** **TRAIT**  
**Identifier** CO\_357:1000037  
**Name** Tree height  
**Description** Total height of the tree, from the ground to the tallest part of the crown  
**Main abbreviation** HT  
**Alternative abbreviations** Height, HP, HPL, h, H, TH, Height.F, Height.LUK, Height.I

**Entity** tree  
**Attribute** height  
**Status** Standard for INRA & GenTree project  
**Class** Morphological

**Tree height protocol** **METHOD**  
**Identifier** CO\_357:2000027  
**Name** Tree height protocol  
**Description** Measured from soil to basis of the apical meristem or bud (depending of time in season) with a pole or a clinometer  
**Reference** GenTree\_protocols\_0.99.pdf page 16, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree\\_measurement#Height](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_measurement#Height)  
**Class** Measurement

**cm** **SCALE**  
**Identifier** CO\_357:3000107  
**Name** cm



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Accession Number	Trial Site	Campaign	Circum1: Tree circumference at 1 year	Date [Circum1]	Height1: Tree total height at 1 year	Date [Height1]	Shoots3: Number of resprouts at 3 years	Date [Shoots3]
661300270	Ardon	2004	45.645632645603683	12/01/2004	284.3	12/01/2004		
661300270	Ardon	2005					14.630625	12/05/2005
661300444	Ardon	2004	38.96112577281653	12/01/2004	228.8	12/01/2004		
661300444	Ardon	2005					8.5030559999999991	12/05/2005



# • MIAPPE main sections – Observation Unit, Samples

## • Observation units

- ◆ objects in the study
- ◆ Observations/measures are made on observation units
- ◆ Treatments values are made on observation units
- ◆ Also used for environmental variables.

## • Metadata are specific to MIAPPE: identifiers, location, replication, treatments, ...

## • A sample

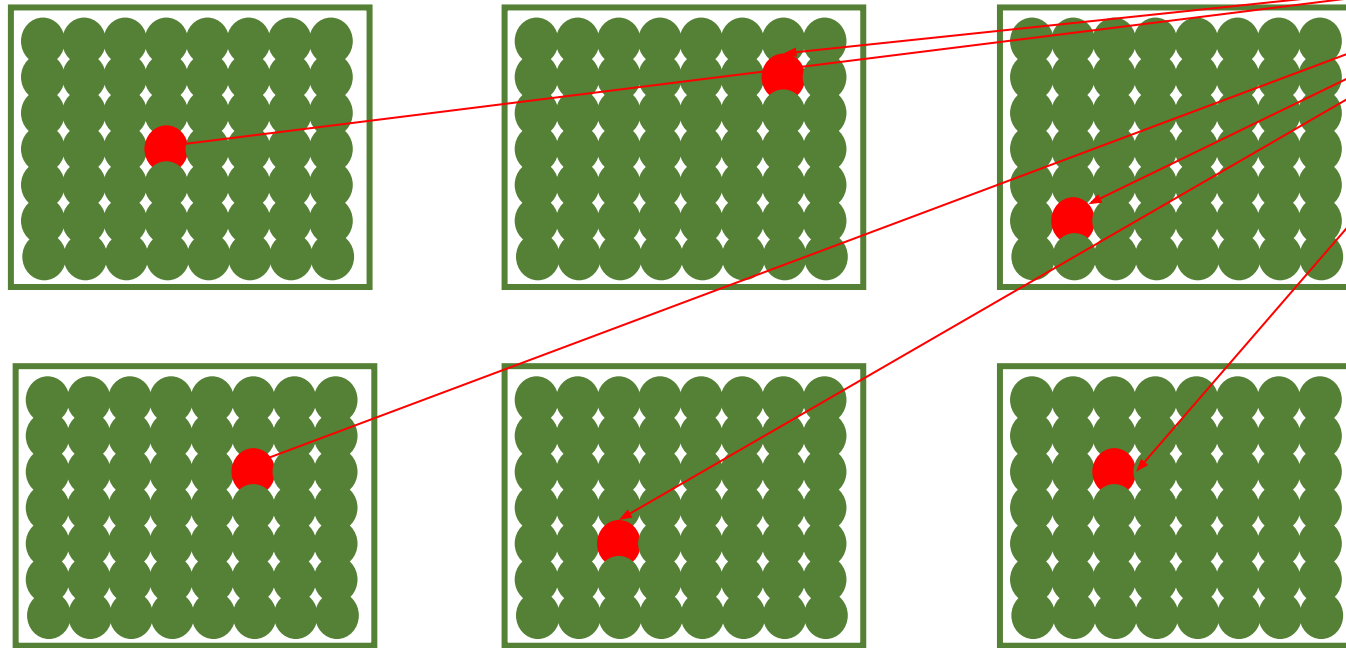
- portion of plant tissue extracted from an observation unit
- sub-plant observations and/or molecular studies.

## • Metadata : identifiers, information about processing, ...

# MIAPPE main sections – Observation Unit, Samples

Example: Monclus *et al.*, 2012, [2]

**Populus deltoïdes**  
INRA:73028-62  
doi:10.15454/1.4921786081024297E12



6 randomized blocks

1 observation unit = one tree

No treatment

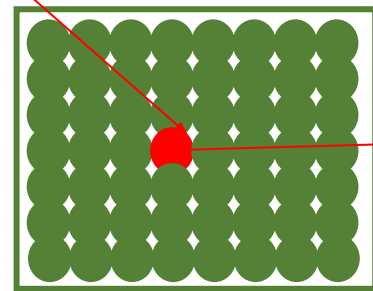
6 replicates defined by their position in each block: row and column



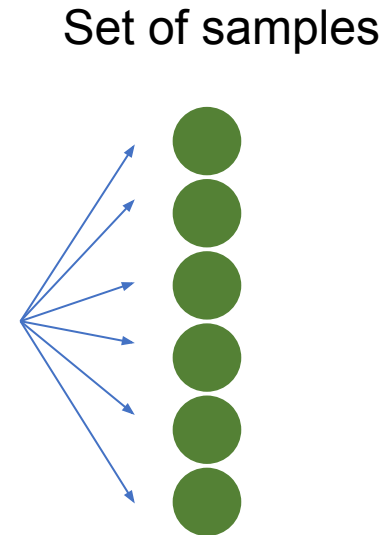
# MIAPPE main sections – Observation Unit, Samples

**Example:** Monclus *et al.*, 2012, [2]

**Populus deltoïdes**  
**INRA:73028-62**  
**doi:10.15454/1.4921786081024297E12**  
**[observation unit] : Block1-Row4-Col4**



One leaf

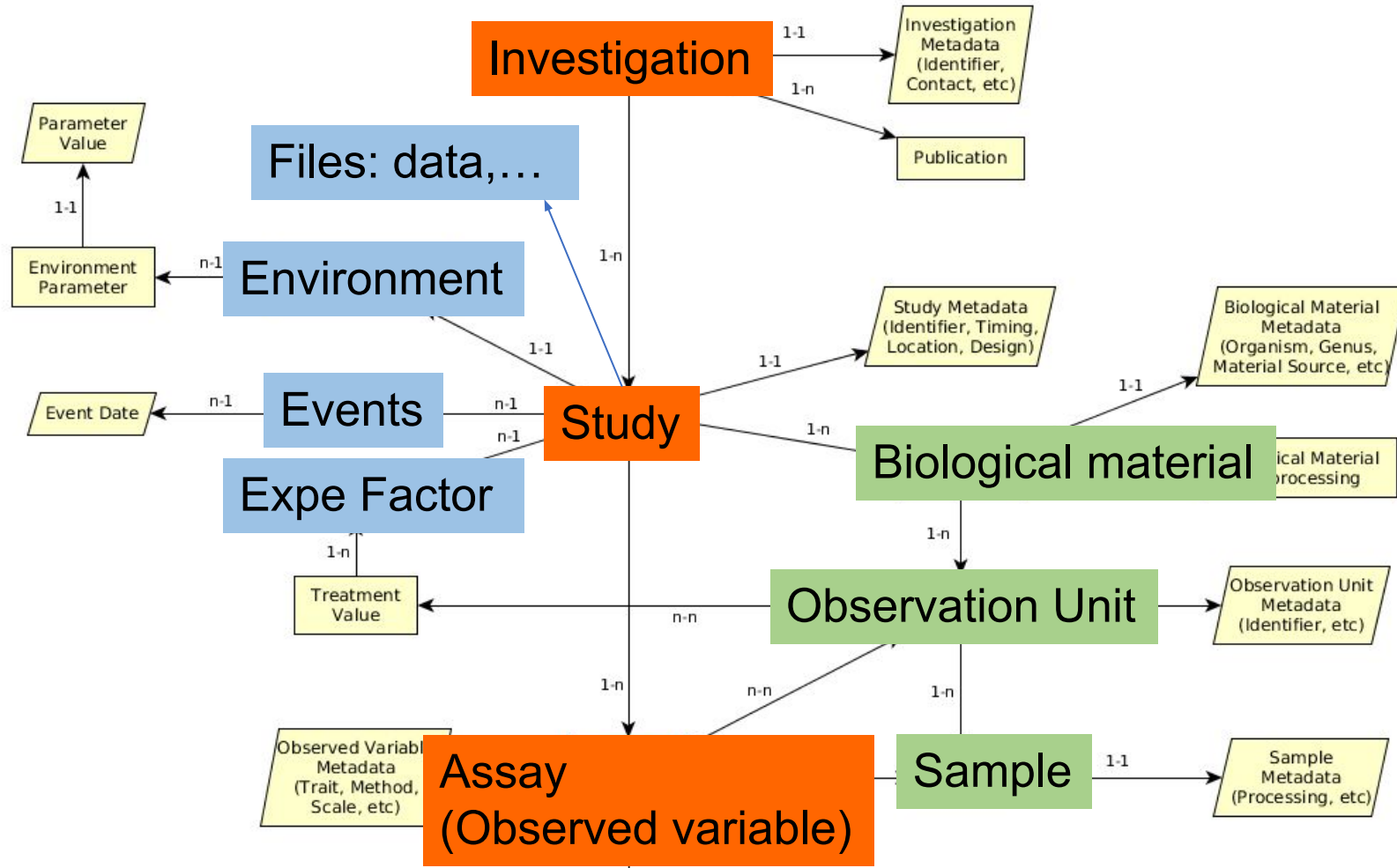


6 leaf disks


For each tree of each block  
 = for each observation unit

Different types of processing of the leaf disks depending on the measurement: can be captured by different sets of samples (e.g. if subsampling generates repetitions) or in the method of the observed variable.

# MIAPPE V1.1 data model – Other Important sections



- **MIAPPE main sections – Experimental Factor**
- **Biotic or abiotic experimental factor**
  - ◆ Its effects are evaluated in the study.
  - ◆ Takes different values in the observation units
- **Metadata: name, description and value**
- **Example : Maize dataset [2]**
  - ◆ Two Experimental factors/treatments: Rainfed, Watered
  - ◆ Identified by dedicated metadata
  - ◆ Block organisation
  - ◆ Study the effect of Environment/Drought on the Biological material



GENOTYPE ID		TREATMENT	Trial Name	Trial Site	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL
Accession Number	Accession Name	water_regime			BLOCK	PLOT	REPLICATE
FR19_H	FR19_H	rainfed	KWS Karlsruhe 2011	Karlsruhe	5	124	1
FR19_H	FR19_H	rainfed	KWS Karlsruhe 2011	Karlsruhe	10	250	3
FR19_H	FR19_H	rainfed	KWS Karlsruhe 2013	Karlsruhe	11	401503	2
FR19_H	FR19_H	watered	KWS Karlsruhe 2012	Karlsruhe	23	400353	1
FR19_H	FR19_H	watered	KWS Karlsruhe 2011	Karlsruhe	2	6	1
FR19_H	FR19_H	rainfed	KWS Karlsruhe 2012	Karlsruhe	16	401451	2

# • MIAPPE main sections – Event

## • Event

- ◆ Discrete occurrence at a particular time
- ◆ Natural, e.g. rain, unwanted pathogen attack
- ◆ Cultural practice, e.g. planting, watering, etc.
- ◆ Whole study level or at the observation unit level
- ◆ It is not the studied Factor but an additional information

## • Metadata: name, description, time/date

## • Examples: In Poplar, [2]

- the field establishment date, 2003.
- the orchard was subjected to 15mm of rain on March 15, 2012 (fiction).



Study	Event		
	Name	Description	Date
Monclus <i>et al.</i> , 2012	Rain	15mm of rain on the orchard	2012-03-15

Plant Data Management for Phenotyping Experiments

02 April 2021 / webinar / Cyril Pommier

# • MIAPPE main sections – Environment

## • Environment parameters

- ◆ Constant throughout the study
- ◆ Did not change between observation units or assays.
- ◆ Environment characteristics that vary over time, i.e. environmental variables, should be recorded as Observed Variables

## • Metadata :name, value

## • Example:

Environment parameter	Environment parameter Value
Sowing density	20 seeds/m <sup>2</sup>
Rooting medium composition	Ca (XEO:00058): 5 mg/L; ...

# Take home message

## Semantic

- Description of the data
- Controlled vocabularies: term name and definitions
- Ontologies: semantic links between terms
- *Biologist* driven



## Structure

- Formatting and Organizing the data
- Data Models
- Standards : CSV, VCF, GFF, MIAPPE ([www.miappe.org](http://www.miappe.org)) , etc...
- *Biologist & Computer scientist* driven



## Persistent Unique Identifiers

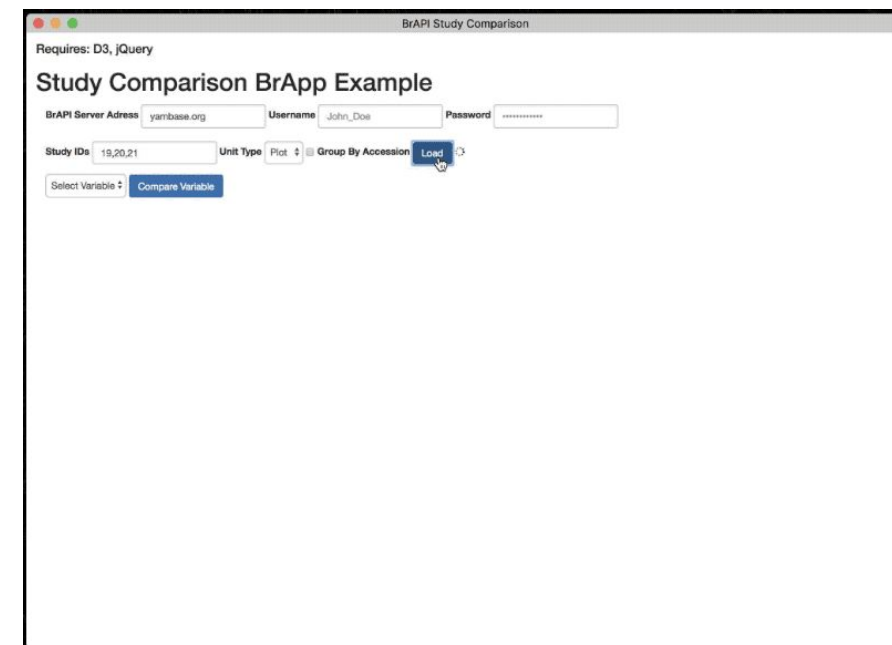
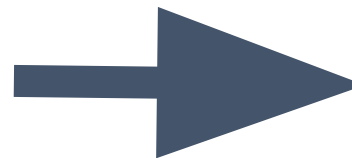
accessions ID,  
Trait ID, DOI,...

## Technical

- Data integration and sharing
- Interoperability : tools and systems
  - GA4GH
  - Breeding API [www.brapi.org](http://www.brapi.org)



*Computer scientist* driven





# Take Home message

Standardizing your data is

- Good for you
- Good for others
- Getting easier
- Contribution Welcomed !

# Thank you!

