

Browsing Movebank within R

Marco Smolla

Abstract

This vignette gives examples of how to browse the Movebank database within R and how to import data for the `move` package. It explains how to login, search for studies, get sensor types, animal and study IDs. Finally, it shows how to create a `move` object from a study to use it with the `move` package.

Keywords: movebank, move, R.

Introduction

The provided functions allow you to search for studies stored in Movebank, browse them and download¹ them. A possible workflow could look like this:

1. Login to Movebank
2. Search for a study name and ID
3. Get information about the used tags and animals
4. Download the study data or create a `move` object

Login to Movebank

There are two ways to login. Either you login every time you use the functions that presented in this vignette. Or you use the `movebankLogin()` function to login to Movebank and create an object (a `CURLHandle`) that stores your login information. You can pass this object on to every function you use to skip the login process. Use your username and password which you use to login to web based Movebank.

```
> #curl <- movebankLogin(username="user", password="password")
```

NOTE: You can name the `CURLHandle` any way you want. It does not have to be `curl`.

Search for a study name and ID

You can use the `searchMovebankStudies()` function to search within the study names for a specific study. For example, if you want to find all studies that worked with goose try the following:

¹If you have the rights to do so.

Affiliation:

Marco Smolla

Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology, Radolfzell, Germany

E-mail: marco.smolla@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk