

Package ‘TaxSEA’

November 15, 2025

Type Package

Title Taxon Set Enrichment Analysis

Version 1.3.0

Description TaxSEA is an R package for Taxon Set Enrichment Analysis, which utilises a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test analyses to investigate differential abundance analysis output for whether there are alternations in a-priori defined sets of taxa from public databases (BugSigDB, MiMeDB, GutMGene, mBodyMap, BacDive and GMRepoV2) and collated from the literature. TaxSEA takes as input a list of taxonomic identifiers (e.g. species names, NCBI IDs etc.) and a rank (E.g. fold change, correlation coefficient). TaxSEA be applied to any microbiota taxonomic profiling technology (array-based, 16S rRNA gene sequencing, shotgun metagenomics & metatranscriptomics etc.) and enables researchers to rapidly contextualize their findings within the broader literature to accelerate interpretation of results.

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData false

VignetteBuilder knitr

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

biocViews Microbiome, Metagenomics, Sequencing, GeneSetEnrichment, RNASeq

URL <https://github.com/feargalr/taxsea>

BugReports <https://github.com/feargalr/taxsea/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.5.0)

Suggests BiocStyle, bugsigdbr, fgsea, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

Imports stats, utils

Config/testthat/edition 3

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/TaxSEA>

git_branch devel
git_last_commit 99cb66a
git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29
Repository Bioconductor 3.23
Date/Publication 2025-11-14
Author Feargal Ryan [aut, cre] (ORCID:
 <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1565-4598>>)
Maintainer Feargal Ryan <feargalr@gmail.com>

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get_ncbi_taxon_ids	<i>Retrieve NCBI Taxonomy IDs for a list of taxon names</i>
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Description

This function takes a vector of taxon names and returns a vector of NCBI taxonomy IDs by querying the NCBI Entrez API.

Usage

```
get_ncbi_taxon_ids(taxon_names)
```

Arguments

taxon_names A character vector of taxon names

Value

A character vector of NCBI taxonomy IDs corresponding to the input taxon names

Examples

```
taxon_names <- c("Escherichia coli", "Staphylococcus aureus")  
taxon_ids <- get_ncbi_taxon_ids(taxon_names)
```

`get_taxon_sets`*Retrieve Taxon Sets from TaxSEA Library*

Description

Retrieve from the TaxSEA database which taxon sets (metabolite producers and disease signatures) contain a taxon of interest.

Usage

```
get_taxon_sets(taxon_to_fetch = taxon)
```

Arguments

`taxon_to_fetch` The taxon to search for in the TaxSEA database.

Value

A character vector containing the names of taxonomic sets where the specified taxon is present.

Examples

```
# Retrieve sets for Bifidobacterium longum
get_taxon_sets(taxon="Bifidobacterium_longum")
```

`NCBI_ids`*NCBI IDs Dataset*

Description

A dataset for mapping NCBI IDs to species/genus names. This named vector allows for lookup of NCBI IDs associated with species or genus names.

Usage

```
NCBI_ids
```

Format

A named vector where:

names NCBI IDs

values Species or genus names

Source

NCBI

Examples

```
data(NCBI_ids)
# Can look up either with or without spaces
NCBI_ids["Bifidobacterium_breve"]
NCBI_ids["Bifidobacterium breve"]
```

TaxSEA

*TaxSEA: Taxon Set Enrichment Analysis***Description**

TaxSEA enables rapid annotation of changes by testing for enrichment of pre-defined taxon sets.

Usage

```
TaxSEA(
  taxon_ranks,
  lookup_missing = FALSE,
  min_set_size = 5,
  max_set_size = 100,
  custom_db = NULL
)
```

Arguments

taxon_ranks	A named vector of log2 fold changes between control and test groups.
lookup_missing	Logical indicating whether to fetch missing NCBI IDs. Default is FALSE.
min_set_size	Minimum size of taxon sets to include in the analysis. Default is 5.
max_set_size	Maximum size of taxon sets to include in the analysis. Default is 100.
custom_db	A user-provided list of taxon sets. If NULL (default), the built-in database is used.

Value

A list of data frames with taxon set enrichment results.

See Also

- <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkac868> for MiMeDB
- <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkab1019> for GMrepo
- <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkab786> for gutMGene
- <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-023-01872-y> for BugSigDB

Examples

```
data("TaxSEA_test_data")
taxsea_results <- TaxSEA(TaxSEA_test_data)
```

TaxSEA_db	<i>TaxSEA Database A dataset containing taxon sets. Each item in the list is a taxon set, and each member within a taxon set is a taxon.</i>
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Description

TaxSEA Database A dataset containing taxon sets. Each item in the list is a taxon set, and each member within a taxon set is a taxon.

Usage

```
TaxSEA_db
```

Format

A list of vectors. Each vector contains character strings representing taxa.

Source

See READ ME.

Examples

```
data(TaxSEA_db)
all_sets <- names(TaxSEA_db)
GABA_producers<-TaxSEA_db[["MiMeDB_producers_of_GABA"]]
```

TaxSEA_test_data	<i>TaxSEA Test Data</i>
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Description

A dataset containing taxon ranks and taxon IDs.

Usage

```
TaxSEA_test_data
```

Format

A data frame with two columns:

rank Character vector representing taxon ranks

id Character vector representing taxon IDs

Source

See READ ME.

Examples

```
data(TaxSEA_test_data)
test_results <- TaxSEA(TaxSEA_test_data)
```

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