

# Package ‘benthos’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Marine Benthic Ecosystem Analysis

**Description** Preprocessing tools and biodiversity measures (species abundance, species richness, population heterogeneity and sensitivity) for analysing marine benthic data. See Van Loon et al. (2015) <[doi:10.1016/j.seares.2015.05.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seares.2015.05.002)> for an application of these tools.

**Version** 2.0-0

**Date** 2026-02-11

**Depends** R (>= 4.5.0)

**Imports** dplyr (>= 1.2.0), readr, tibble, tidyselect, utils

**Suggests** testthat (>= 2.1.0), rmarkdown, knitr, ggplot2, tidy

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**LazyData** true

**Encoding** UTF-8

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Dennis Walvoort [aut, cre, cph]

**Maintainer** Dennis Walvoort <[dennis.Walvoort@wur.nl](mailto:dennis.Walvoort@wur.nl)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-02-11 15:20:02 UTC

## Contents

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| benthos-package . . . . . | 2 |
| abundance . . . . .       | 3 |
| ambi . . . . .            | 4 |
| as_accepted . . . . .     | 5 |
| bray_curtis . . . . .     | 6 |

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| eqr . . . . .              | 6         |
| genus_to_species . . . . . | 7         |
| get_ambi . . . . .         | 8         |
| get_iti . . . . .          | 8         |
| harmonize . . . . .        | 9         |
| hill . . . . .             | 9         |
| hpie . . . . .             | 11        |
| hurlbert . . . . .         | 12        |
| is_azoic . . . . .         | 13        |
| is_binomen . . . . .       | 13        |
| iti . . . . .              | 14        |
| margalef . . . . .         | 15        |
| northsea . . . . .         | 16        |
| oosterschelde . . . . .    | 17        |
| pool . . . . .             | 18        |
| read_ambi . . . . .        | 18        |
| read_beqi2 . . . . .       | 19        |
| read_iti . . . . .         | 20        |
| read_ref . . . . .         | 21        |
| read_taxa . . . . .        | 22        |
| read_twn . . . . .         | 23        |
| rygg . . . . .             | 24        |
| shannon . . . . .          | 25        |
| simpson . . . . .          | 26        |
| species_richness . . . . . | 27        |
| strip_spaces . . . . .     | 28        |
| total_abundance . . . . .  | 28        |
| to_worms . . . . .         | 29        |
| <b>Index</b>               | <b>30</b> |

---

benthos-package

*Marine Benthic Ecosystem Analysis*


---

## Description

**benthos** provides functions for facilitating the analysis of marine benthos data. Examples are indicators like species abundance, species richness, Margalef’s index of diversity, Shannon’s Entropy, AZTI’s Marine Biotic Index, and the Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI). In addition functions for data pooling, genus-to-species conversion and validation and conversion of species names to those recommended by the World Register of Marine Species are provided.

## Details

All functions are designed to work seamlessly with the **dplyr**-package which implements a grammar for structured data manipulation.

The **benthos**-package contains functions for estimating various species abundance, species richness, species heterogeneity and species sensitivity measures:

- total abundance ([total\\_abundance](#))
- abundance ([abundance](#))
- species richness ([species\\_richness](#))
- Margalef's index of diversity ([margalef](#))
- Rygg's index of diversity ([rygg](#))
- Hurlbert's Expected Number of Species ([hurlbert](#))
- Simpson's measure of concentration ([simpson](#))
- Hurlbert's probability of interspecific encounter (PIE) ([hpie](#))
- Shannon's index or entropy ([shannon](#))
- Hill's diversity number ([hill](#))
- AZTI Marine Biotic Index (AMBI) ([ambi](#))
- Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI) ([iti](#))
- Bray-Curtis dissimilarity ([bray\\_curtis](#))

In addition, functions are available for data preparation, e.g.:

- data pooling ([pool](#))
- genus to species conversion ([genus\\_to\\_species](#))

For an overview of all the functions in the package click on the index link at the bottom of this page.

### Author(s)

Dennis Walvoort <dennis.walvoort@wur.nl>

### See Also

The **BEQI2**-package on CRAN, and the package vignettes.

---

abundance

*Abundance*

---

### Description

The number of individuals in each taxon.

### Usage

```
abundance(taxon = NULL, count)
```

### Arguments

|       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| taxon | character vector containing taxa |
| count | numeric vector containing counts |

**Value**

numeric vector with abundance per taxon.

**Note**

due to pooling, the abundance is not necessarily an integer

**Examples**

```
abundance(
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),
  count = c(4, 6)
)
```

---

ambi

*AZTI Marine Biotic Index (AMBI)*


---

**Description**

AZTI Marine Biotic Index (AMBI) according to Borja et al. (2000).

**Usage**

```
ambi(taxon, count, group = NULL)
```

```
has_ambi(taxon, group = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| taxon | species names                           |
| count | counts of individuals (numeric)         |
| group | sensitivity groups I, II, III, IV, or V |

**Details**

The index is given by:

$$c_b = \frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=2}^5 (i-1)p_i$$

where  $p_i$  is the proportion of species in sensitivity group  $i$ .

**Value**

numeric vector of length 1 containing the AMBI

## Functions

- `has_ambi()`: tests if an AMBI sensitivity group is available for taxon (returns TRUE (available) or FALSE (unavailable))

## References

Borja, A., J. Franco and V. Perez, 2000. A Marine Biotic Index to Establish the Ecological Quality of Soft-Bottom Benthos Within European Estuarine and Coastal Environments. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 40:1100-1114

## Examples

```
ambi(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(4, 6)  
)  
  
data(oosterschelde)  
has_ambi(oosterschelde$TAXON)
```

---

as\_accepted

*Convert Taxon Names to Comply with WoRMS/TWN*

---

## Description

Taxon names are standardized according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) database. The conversion is case-insensitive. For this conversion, the TWN-list (Taxa Water management the Netherlands) is used, extended with species of the Southern North Sea. See references below for download locations.

## Usage

```
as_accepted(taxon, taxa = NULL)
```

## Arguments

`taxon`            [character](#) vector, containing taxon names  
`taxa`            an optional table usually created with [read\\_taxa](#).

## Value

character vector with WoRMS/TWN compliant species names

## References

<https://www.marinespecies.org/>  
<https://taxainfo.nl/>

---

|             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| bray_curtis | <i>Bray-Curtis Dissimilarity</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Bray-Curtis Dissimilarity

**Usage**

```
bray_curtis(n1, n2)
```

**Arguments**

|    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| n1 | abundances of species at site 1 |
| n2 | abundances of species at site 2 |

**Value**

Bray-Curtis dissimilarity (0..1, 0 = equal, 1 = different)

**Note**

species in n1 and n2 need to be aligned

**Examples**

```
n1 <- c(11, 0, 7, 8, 0)
n2 <- c(24, 37, 5, 18, 1)
bray_curtis(n1, n2)
```

---

|     |                                       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| eqr | <i>Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR)</i> |
|-----|---------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

The ecological quality ratio is the ratio between a parameter value and its reference value:

$$EQR = \frac{x - bad}{ref - bad}$$

Depending on bad and ref, the EQR usually (but not necessarily!) varies between 0 (bad ecological quality) and 1 (ecological quality equals the reference status).

**Usage**

```
eqr(x, bad, ref)
```

**Arguments**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| x   | numeric vector containing benthic indices |
| bad | the value for a bad status                |
| ref | the value for a reference status          |

**Value**

numeric vector with EQR-values: low values indicate bad ecological quality and high values indicate good ecological quality.

---

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| genus_to_species | <i>Genus to Species Conversion</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This algorithm reallocates the counts of taxa, that are only identified at the genus level to taxa in the same sampling unit and of the same genus but that are identified on the species level. The redistribution of counts is proportional to the number of counts at the species level.

**Usage**

```
genus_to_species(is_genus, count)
```

**Arguments**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| is_genus | logical vector with elements TRUE if the corresponding taxon is on the genus level, and FALSE if it is on the species level. |
| count    | numeric vector with elements giving the counts of each corresponding taxon.  |

**Value**

numeric vector with updated counts. The counts for the taxon on the genus level have been set to zero.

**Note**

Parameters `is_genus` and `count` are of the same length and correspond to the same taxon. The resulting counts are not necessarily integers.

**Examples**

```
genus_to_species(is_genus = c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE), count = c(3, 10, 20))
genus_to_species(is_genus = c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE), count = c(1, 10, 20))
```

---

`get_ambi`*Get Supplementary AMBI Sensitivity Groups*

---

**Description**

This function gets sensitivity groups that are supplementary to the AMBI of Borja et al., (2000)

**Usage**

```
get_ambi(which = "NL")
```

**Arguments**

`which` which AMBI supplement? Currently only the Dutch supplement is available (which = "NL")

**Value**

a data frame with columns TAXON containing taxa and GROUP containing Dutch AMBI-groups

**References**

Borja, A., J. Franco and V. Perez, 2000. A Marine Biotic Index to Establish the Ecological Quality of Soft-Bottom Benthos Within European Estuarine and Coastal Environments. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 40:1100-1114

---

`get_iti`*Get Infaunal Trophic Index*

---

**Description**

This function gets the sensitivity groups to estimate the infaunal trophic index of Gittenberger et al., (2011)

**Usage**

```
get_iti()
```

**Value**

a data frame with columns TAXON containing taxa and GROUP containing the ITI-groups of Gittenberger & Van Loon (2013).

**References**

Gittenberger A. and W. van Loon, 2013. Sensitivities of marine macrozoobenthos to environmental pressures in the Netherlands. *Nederlandse Faunistische Mededelingen* 41: 79-112.

---

harmonize

*Harmonize Case*

---

### Description

Convert text to the most occurring case. In case of ties, the first occurrence in sorted order will be taken.

### Usage

```
harmonize(x)
```

### Arguments

x                    character vector

### Value

character vector with harmonized names (i.e., same case)

### Examples

```
x <- c("F00", "Foo", "bar", "F00", "bar", "F00", "Bar")
y <- harmonize(x)
stopifnot(all.equal(y, c("F00", "F00", "bar", "F00", "bar", "F00", "bar")))
```

---

hill

*Hill's Diversity Numbers*

---

### Description

According to Hill (1973): *"a diversity number is figuratively a measure of how many species are present if we examine the sample down to a certain depth among its rarities. If we examine superficially (e.g., by using  $N_2$ ) we shall see only the more abundant species. If we look deeply (e.g., by using  $N_0$ ) we shall see all the species present."*

### Usage

```
hill(taxon, count, a = 0)
```

```
hill0(taxon, count)
```

```
hill1(taxon, count)
```

```
hill2(taxon, count)
```

**Arguments**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| taxon | character vector containing taxa   |
| count | numeric vector containing counts   |
| a     | exponent in Hill's diversity number (R, with special cases for a in {0, 1, 2} (see details)) |

**Details**

Hill's diversity numbers are given by:

$$N_a = \sum i = 1^S (p_i^a)^{1/(1-a)}$$

Special cases are:

$N_{-\infty}$  reciprocal of the proportional abundance of the rarest species;

$N_0$  total number of species present;

$N_1$  exp(H), where H: Shannon's index (see also [shannon](#));

$N_2$  reciprocal of Simpson's index (see also [simpson](#));

$N_{\infty}$  reciprocal of the proportional abundance of the commonest species.

**Value**

numeric vector of Hill's numbers

**Functions**

- `hill0()`:  $N_0$
- `hill1()`:  $N_1$
- `hill2()`:  $N_2$

**References**

Hill, M.O., 1973. Diversity and Evenness: A Unifying Notation and Its Consequences. *Ecology* 54:427-432

**See Also**

[species\\_richness](#), [shannon](#), [simpson](#)

**Examples**

```
hill(
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),
  count = c(6, 12),
  a = 0
)
hill0(
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),
```

```
count = c(6, 12)
)
```

---

 hpie
 

---

*Hurlbert's Probability of Interspecific Encounter (PIE)*


---

### Description

The probability that two individuals selected at random (*without* replacement) from a sample will belong to different species is given by (Hurlbert, 1971, p.579, Eq. 3):

$$\Delta_1 = \sum_{i=1}^S \left(\frac{N_i}{N}\right) \left(\frac{N - N_i}{N - 1}\right) = \left(\frac{N}{N - 1}\right) \Delta_2$$

where  $\Delta_2$  (Hurlbert, 1971, p.579, Eq. 4) is the probability that two individuals selected at random (*with* replacement) from a sample will belong to different species:

$$\Delta_2 = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^S \pi_i^2$$

where  $N_i$  is the number of individuals of the  $i$ th species in the community,  $N$  is the total number of individuals in the community,  $\pi_i = N_i/N$ , and  $S$  is the number of species in the community. Note that Hurlbert's PIE hpie is the complement of [simpson](#).

### Usage

```
hpie(taxon, count)
```

### Arguments

|       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| taxon | character vector containing taxa |
| count | numeric vector containing counts |

### Value

A numeric vector with the probability of interspecific encounter (PIE).

### References

Hurlbert, S.H., 1971. The Nonconcept of Species Diversity: A Critique and Alternative Parameters. *Ecology* 52:577-586.

### See Also

[simpson](#), [hurlbert](#)

**Examples**

```
hpie(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(6, 12)  
)
```

---

hurlbert

*Hurlbert's Expected Number of Species*

---

**Description**

The expected number of species in a sample of n individuals:

**Usage**

```
hurlbert(taxon, count, n = 100L)
```

**Arguments**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| taxon | character vector containing taxa           |
| count | numeric vector containing counts           |
| n     | number of individuals in a standard sample |

**Value**

expected number of species in a sample of n individuals

**References**

Hurlbert, S.H., 1971. The Nonconcept of Species Diversity: A Critique and Alternative Parameters. *Ecology* 52:577-586.

**Examples**

```
hurlbert(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(4, 6),  
  n = 8  
)
```

---

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| is_azoic | <i>Test for Azoic Samples</i> |
|----------|-------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Case-insensitive test for taxa starting with 'azoi'

**Usage**

```
is_azoic(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    character vector containing taxa

**Details**

Azoic samples need special attention during data analysis. They should be marked as 'azoic', and taken care of during analysis. Note that an azoic sample is not the same as a record where a taxon has zero counts. The latter should be removed from further analysis, whereas the former provides important information.

**Value**

logical vector, with elements TRUE for azoic samples, and FALSE otherwise.

---

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| is_binomen | <i>Binomial Names</i> |
|------------|-----------------------|

---

**Description**

is\_binomial tests for valid binomial names, generic\_name extracts the genus to which the species belongs, specific\_name extracts the species within the genus.

**Usage**

```
is_binomen(x)
```

```
generic_name(x)
```

```
specific_name(x)
```

```
strip_sp(x)
```

**Arguments**

x **character** vector, containing the binomial name(s) of species (a.k.a. binomen or scientific name)

**Value**

character vector with either the generic name or the specific name of the species.

**Functions**

- `generic_name()`: extracts the genus to which the species belongs
- `specific_name()`: extracts the species within the genus
- `strip_sp()`: strips postfix sp. or spp. from a binomen

**Examples**

```
is_binomen("Venerupis corrugata") # TRUE
generic_name("Venerupis corrugata") # Venerupis
specific_name("Venerupis corrugata") # corrugata
generic_name("venerupis corrugata") # NA (genus part should be capitalized)
```

---

 iti

---

*Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI)*


---

**Description**

Computes the Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI) according to Gittenberger & van Loon (2013).

**Usage**

```
iti(taxon, count, group = NULL)
```

```
has_iti(taxon, group = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| taxon | species names                        |
| count | counts of individuals (numeric)      |
| group | sensitivity groups I, II, III, or IV |

**Details**

The Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI) is given by

$$\text{ITI} = 100 \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{(4-i)}{3} p_i$$

where  $p_i$  is the proportion of species in class  $i$ , where

- group I are suspension feeders (highest quality);
- group II are interface feeders
- group III are surface deposit feeders and
- group IV are subsurface deposit feeders (lowest quality).

**Value**

numeric vector of length 1 containing the ITI

**Functions**

- `has_iti()`: tests if an ITI sensitivity group is available for taxon (returns TRUE (available) or FALSE (unavailable))

**References**

Gittenberger A. and W. van Loon, 2013. Sensitivities of marine macrozoobenthos to environmental pressures in the Netherlands. *Nederlandse Faunistische Mededelingen* 41: 79-112.

**Examples**

```
iti(taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"), count = c(4, 6))
```

---

 margalef

---

*Margalef Index of Diversity*


---

**Description**

Margalef Index of Diversity is given by

$$D = \frac{S-1}{\ln(N)}$$

**Usage**

```
margalef(taxon, count)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| taxon | taxa names (character) |
| count | counts (numeric)       |

**Details**

For  $N = 1$ , the index is set to 0.

**Value**

Margalef diversity index (numeric vector of length 1)

**Examples**

```
margalef(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(4, 6)  
)
```

---

northsea

*MWTL North Sea Benthos Data*

---

**Description**

MWTL North Sea Benthos Data

**Usage**

```
northsea
```

**Format**

An object of class `tbl_df` (inherits from `tbl`, `data.frame`) with 24983 rows and 9 columns.

---

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| oosterschelde | <i>Oosterschelde Marine Benthos Data</i> |
|---------------|--|

---

**Description**

Oosterschelde data set. The Oosterschelde is located in the southwest of the Netherlands.

**Usage**

oosterschelde

**Format**

An object of class `tbl_df` (inherits from `tbl`, `data.frame`) with 4269 rows and 8 columns.

**Details**

The Oosterschelde data contains the following columns:

- ID sample identifier
- HABITAT specification of the habitat
- AREA sampled area
- DATE sampling date (YYYY-MM-DD, ISO 8601)
- TAXON standardized taxon code (see WoRMS-website <https://www.marinespecies.org/>)
- COUNT number of individuals of 'TAXON'

**Note**

This is not the original data set, but a simplified version of it meant for didactic purposes only! For instance it only contains taxa identified at the species level. Other taxa have been removed.

**Source**

Rijkswaterstaat Water, Transport and Living Environment, Department of Information Management, Lelystad, The Netherlands (contact: [servicedesk-data@rws.nl](mailto:servicedesk-data@rws.nl))

---

pool                                      *Pooling*

---

### Description

This function randomly assigns samples to pools of approximately equal area

### Usage

```
pool(sample_id = seq_along(area), area, target_area, max_try = 100L)

.pool(sample_id = seq_along(area), area, target_area, max_try = 100L)
```

### Arguments

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| sample_id   | sample identifier   |
| area        | sampling area of sample_id (in the same units as target_area)                                   |
| target_area | vector of length 2 containing the lower and upper bound of the pooled area (same units as area) |
| max_try     | maximum number of unsuccessful pooling tries before the algorithm gives up.                     |

### Value

vector with identifiers (integers) indicating the pool to which each sample belongs (NA for samples that could not be pooled)

### Functions

- .pool(): internal function not supposed to be called directly.

---

read\_ambi                                      *Read and Validate AMBI Sensitivity Data*

---

### Description

This function reads and checks files with AMBI sensitivity data. The data should be stored in 'comma separated values' format (csv) consisting of two columns:

**TAXON** species name;

**GROUP** Roman numeral (I, II, III, IV, V) giving the sensitivity group

### Usage

```
read_ambi(filename)

validate_ambi(x)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| filename | name of the AMBI sensitivity file (character) |
| x        | table in AMBI-format                          |

**Details**

The function performs the following tasks:

- checks the existence of filename;
- checks availability of required columns (case insensitive);
- removes redundant spaces;
- removes duplicated records.

**Functions**

- `validate_ambi()`: validator for AMBI-format

**References**

Borja, A., J. Franco and V. Perez, 2000. A Marine Biotic Index to Establish the Ecological Quality of Soft-Bottom Benthos Within European Estuarine and Coastal Environments. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 40:1100-1114

---

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| read_beqi2 | <i>Read and Validate BEQI2 Input Files</i> |
|------------|--|

---

**Description**

This function reads and checks BEQI2 input files. The format has been specified in Van Loon (2013) and is described in the vignette of the BENMMI-package.

**Usage**

```
read_beqi2(filename)
```

```
validate_beqi2(x)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| filename | name of BEQI2 input file (character) |
| x        | table in BEQI2-format                |

## Details

The function performs the following tasks:

- checks the existence of filename;
- checks availability of required columns (case insensitive);
- make column names with aggregation data case-insensitive;
- removes redundant spaces;
- checks if DATE-field adheres to ISO 8601 (YYYY-mm-dd);
- constructs a unique identifier ID by concatenating columns OBJECTID and DATE;
- checks that each ID has a unique AREA;
- checks azoic samples for VALUE=0;
- removes records with VALUE=0, not belonging to azoic samples;
- checks VALUE-field on missing values;
- checks if VALUE-field is an integer;

## Functions

- `validate_beqi2()`: validator for BEQI2-format

## References

Willem van Loon, 2013. BEQI2 INPUT FORMAT. See the package-vignette of the BENMMI-package.

---

read\_iti

*Read and Validate Infaunal Trophic Index Files*

---

## Description

This function reads and checks files containing Infaunal Trophic Index (ITI) data (Gittenberger & Van Loon, 2013)

## Usage

```
read_iti(filename)
```

```
validate_iti(x)
```

## Arguments

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| filename | name of the ITI file (character). |
| x        | table in ITI-format               |

## Details

The function performs the following tasks:

- checks the existence of filename;
- checks availability of required columns (case insensitive), i.e., TAXON and GROUP;
- removes redundant spaces;
- removes duplicated records;
- checks if all ITI classes are I, II, III, or IV

The column 'GROUP' contains the Roman numerals I, II, III, and IV, with the following meaning:

- I:** suspension feeders;
- II:** interface feeders;
- III:** surface deposit feeders;
- IV:** subsurface deposit feeders.

## Value

A data frame with columns TAXON containing taxa and GROUP containing user-defined ITI-groups (see Gittenberger & Van Loon, 2013).

## Functions

- `validate_iti()`: validator for ITI-format

## References

Gittenberger A. and W. van Loon, 2013. Sensitivities of marine macrozoobenthos to environmental pressures in the Netherlands. *Nederlandse Faunistische Mededelingen* 41: 79-112.

---

read\_ref

*Read and Validate Habitat References Files*

---

## Description

This function reads and checks files with reference values

## Usage

```
read_ref(filename, indicators = c("S", "H", "AMBI"))
```

```
validate_ref(x, indicators = c("S", "H", "AMBI"))
```

**Arguments**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| filename   | name of the habitat reference file (character)      |
| indicators | indicators to be processed (character, see details) |
| x          | table in REF-format                                 |

**Details**

The function performs the following tasks:

- checks the existence of filename;
- checks availability of required columns (case insensitive);
- removes redundant spaces
- removes duplicated records

Argument indicators is a character vector of additional benthic indicators to be checked for. For example, if indicators = "ITI", then the habitat reference file should also contain columns ITIREF and ITIBAD. Implemented indicators are N, LNN, S, D, SN, SNA, H, L, AMBI, ITI, PIE, N2 (see package vignette).

The format of the habitat reference file is documented in the BEQI2-package vignette.

**Functions**

- validate\_ref(): validator for REF-format

**References**

Van Loon, W, 2013. Loon2013-BEQI2-Specs-Ecotopes-27nov.doc

---

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| read_taxa | <i>Read and Validate Taxa Data</i> |
|-----------|------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This function reads files in the taxa format.

**Usage**

```
read_taxa(filename)

get_taxa()

validate_taxa(x)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| filename | name of taxa file    |
| x        | table in taxa-format |

**Details**

Taxa files have the following format:

**group** taxonomic group

**provided** provided taxon name

**accepted** accepted taxon name

**level** taxonomic level

Other columns are allowed, but silently ignored.

**Functions**

- `get_taxa()`: get default taxa list (TWN list extended with species Southern North Sea)
- `validate_taxa()`: validator for taxa-format

---

 read\_twn

*Read and Validate Taxa Waterbeheer Nederland (TWN) Data*


---

**Description**

This function reads files in the Taxa Waterbeheer Nederland (TWN) format.

**Usage**

```
read_twn(filename)
```

```
get_worms()
```

```
validate_twn(x)
```

**Arguments**

filename      name of TWN file (character)

x              table in TWN-format

**Details**

The function adds a new column `taxon`. Its contents depending on TWN-status:

**status = 10** taxonname

**status = 20** prefername

**status = 80** parentname

**Value**

a tibble with four columns:

**GROUP** TWN/WoRMS taxon group

**LEVEL** TWN/WoRMS taxon level

**FROM** taxon name to convert from

**TO** taxon name to convert to

**Functions**

- `get_worms()`: get default WoRMS list (TWN list extended with species Southern North Sea)
- `validate_twn()`: validator for TWN-format

**References**

<https://taxainfo.nl/>

---

rygg

*Rygg's Index of Diversity*

---

**Description**

Rygg's index of diversity is given by

$$SN = \frac{\ln(S)}{\ln(\ln(N))}$$

**Usage**

`rygg(taxon, count, adjusted = FALSE)`

**Arguments**

`taxon` taxa names (character)

`count` counts (numeric)

`adjusted` (defaults to FALSE)

**Details**

The adjusted version of Rygg's index which gives more consistent values for smaller  $S=2$ ,  $N=2$ ,  $N=3$  and  $S=3$ ,  $N=3$  is

$$SN = \frac{\ln(S)}{\ln(\ln(N + 1) + 1)}$$

**Value**

Rygg's index of diversity (numeric vector of length 1)

**Note**

Rygg's index is not defined for  $N = \exp(1)$ . For  $N \leq \exp(1)$ , rygg returns `NA_real_`.

**References**

Rygg, B. (2006). Developing indices for quality-status classification of marine soft-bottom fauna in Norway. Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Oslo, Norway. NIVA Report SNO 5208-2006.

**Examples**

```
rygg(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(4, 6)  
)
```

---

shannon

*Shannon's Index or Entropy*

---

**Description**

Compute entropy according to Shannon (1948)

**Usage**

```
shannon(taxon, count, base = 2)
```

**Arguments**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| taxon | taxa names (character)  |
| count | counts (numeric)  |
| base  | the base with respect to which logarithms are computed. Defaults to 2 (unit: bits). |

**Value**

Shannon's entropy

**References**

Shannon, C. E., 1948. A Mathematical Theory of Communication. Bell System Technical Journal 27: 379-423.

**Examples**

```
shannon(
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),
  count = c(4, 6)
)
```

---

simpson

*Simpson's Measure of Concentration*


---

**Description**

The probability that two individuals selected at random (with replacement, Hurlbert, 1971, p.579) from a sample will belong to the same species. For an infinite sample Simpson's Index is given by (Peet, 1974):

$$\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^S p_i^2$$

For a finite sample by:

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^S \frac{n_i(n_i - 1)}{N(N - 1)}$$

where  $p_i$  the proportion of the individuals in species  $i$ ,  $n_i$  the number of individuals in species  $i$  (relative [abundance](#)), and  $N$  the total number of individuals ([total\\_abundance](#)). The finite sample case has been implemented in function `simpson` (and `simpson_`).

**Usage**

```
simpson(taxon, count)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| taxon | character vector containing taxa |
| count | numeric vector containing counts |

**Value**

The probability that two individuals selected at random from a sample will belong to the same species.

**References**

Peet, R. K. 1974, The Measurement of Species Diversity. Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics 5:285-307.

**See Also**

[hpie](#)

**Examples**

```
simpson(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(6, 12)  
)
```

---

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| species_richness | <i>Species Richness</i> |
|------------------|-------------------------|

---

**Description**

Species richness ( $S$ ) is defined as the number of taxa (lowest identification level possible) per sampling unit (data pool or box core sample).

**Usage**

```
species_richness(taxon, count = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| taxon | taxa names (character)                         |
| count | number of individuals for each taxon (numeric) |

**Value**

species richness (integer vector of length 1)

**Examples**

```
species_richness(  
  taxon = c("Euspira pulchella", "Nephtys cirrosa"),  
  count = c(4, 6)  
)
```

---

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| strip_spaces | <i>Remove Redundant Spaces</i> |
|--------------|--------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This function removes redundant spaces from character vectors

**Usage**

```
strip_spaces(x)
```

**Arguments**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| x | character vector |
|---|------------------|

**Value**

character vector without trailing or multiple spaces

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| total_abundance | <i>Total Abundance</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

**Description**

The total number of individuals.

**Usage**

```
total_abundance(count, na.rm = FALSE)
```

```
lnn(count, na.rm = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| count | counts (numeric)  |
| na.rm | Should missing values (including NaN) be removed? (logical) |

**Value**

total number of individuals (integer)

**Functions**

- `lnn()`: natural log of total abundance + 1

**Examples**

```
total_abundance(count = c(4, 6))
```

---

`to_worms`*Convert Taxon Names to Comply with WoRMS*

---

## Description

Taxon names are standardized according to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) database. The conversion is case-insensitive. For this conversion, the TWN-list (Taxa Water management the Netherlands) is used, extended with species of the Southern North Sea. See references below for download locations.

## Usage

```
to_worms(taxon, worms = NULL)
```

```
is_worms(.data = NULL, taxon)
```

```
is_worms_(.data, taxon)
```

```
is_accepted(taxon)
```

## Arguments

`taxon` [character](#) vector, containing taxon names

`worms` an optional table usually created with [read\\_twn](#).

`.data` data in a `data.frame`, `tibble`, `data.table`, `database` etc.

## Value

character vector with WoRMS compliant species names

TRUE for WoRMS compliant species names, FALSE otherwise.

TRUE for WoRMS/TWN compliant species names, FALSE otherwise.

## Functions

- `is_worms()`: check if a taxon complies with WoRMS
- `is_worms_()`: as `is_worms` but suitable for calling from a function (see package **lazyeval**).
- `is_accepted()`: check if a taxon complies with WoRMS/TWN

## References

<https://www.marinespecies.org/>

<https://taxainfo.nl/>

# Index

- \* **datasets**
  - northsea, 16
  - oosterschelde, 17
  - .pool (pool), 18
- abundance, 3, 3, 26
- ambi, 3, 4
- as\_accepted, 5
  
- benthos (benthos-package), 2
- benthos-package, 2
- bray\_curtis, 3, 6
  
- character, 5, 14, 29
  
- eqr, 6
  
- generic\_name (is\_binomen), 13
- genus\_to\_species, 3, 7
- get\_ambi, 8
- get\_iti, 8
- get\_taxa (read\_taxa), 22
- get\_worms (read\_twn), 23
  
- harmonize, 9
- has\_ambi (ambi), 4
- has\_iti (iti), 14
- hill, 3, 9
- hill0 (hill), 9
- hill1 (hill), 9
- hill2 (hill), 9
- hpie, 3, 11, 26
- hurlbert, 3, 11, 12
  
- is\_accepted (to\_worms), 29
- is\_azoic, 13
- is\_binomen, 13
- is\_worms (to\_worms), 29
- is\_worms\_ (to\_worms), 29
- iti, 3, 14
  
- Inn (total\_abundance), 28
  
- margalef, 3, 15
  
- NA\_real\_, 25
- northsea, 16
  
- oosterschelde, 17
  
- pool, 3, 18
  
- read\_ambi, 18
- read\_beqi2, 19
- read\_iti, 20
- read\_ref, 21
- read\_taxa, 5, 22
- read\_twn, 23, 29
- rygg, 3, 24
  
- shannon, 3, 10, 25
- simpson, 3, 10, 11, 26
- species\_richness, 3, 10, 27
- specific\_name (is\_binomen), 13
- strip\_sp (is\_binomen), 13
- strip\_spaces, 28
  
- to\_worms, 29
- total\_abundance, 3, 26, 28
  
- validate\_ambi (read\_ambi), 18
- validate\_beqi2 (read\_beqi2), 19
- validate\_iti (read\_iti), 20
- validate\_ref (read\_ref), 21
- validate\_taxa (read\_taxa), 22
- validate\_twn (read\_twn), 23