

Package ‘SoilTaxonomy’

July 13, 2022

Title A System of Soil Classification for Making and Interpreting Soil Surveys

Description Taxonomic dictionaries, formative element lists, and functions related to the maintenance, development and application of U.S. Soil Taxonomy. Data and functionality are based on official U.S. Department of Agriculture sources including the latest edition of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy. Descriptions and metadata are obtained from the National Soil Information System or Soil Survey Geographic databases. Other sources are referenced in the data documentation. Provides tools for understanding and interacting with concepts in the U.S. Soil Taxonomic System. Most of the current utilities are for working with taxonomic concepts at the “higher” taxonomic levels: Order, Suborder, Great Group, and Subgroup.

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License GPL (>= 3)

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LazyLoad yes

Repository CRAN

URL <https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilTaxonomy>,
<https://ncss-tech.github.io/SoilTaxonomy/>

BugReports <https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilTaxonomy/issues>

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code_to_level	<i>Determine taxonomic level of a taxonomic letter code</i>
---------------	---

Description

Determine taxonomic level of a taxonomic letter code

Usage

```
code_to_level(code)
```

Arguments

code	A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)
------	--

Value

A character vector containing "order", "suborder", "greatgroup" or "subgroup"

Examples

```
# order level code (1 character)
code_to_level("B")

# subgroup level code (4 characters)
code_to_level("ABCD")

# subgroup level code (5 characters, 4 uppercase + 1 lowercase)
code_to_level("IFFZh")
```

decompose_taxon_code *Decompose taxon letter codes*

Description

Find all codes that logically comprise the specified codes. For instance, code "ABC" ("Anhyturbels") returns "A" ("Gelisol"), "AB" ("Turbels"), "ABC" ("Anhyturbels"). Use in conjunction with a lookup table that maps Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroup taxa to their codes (see [taxon_code_to_taxon](#) and [taxon_to_taxon_code](#)).

Usage

```
decompose_taxon_code(codes)
```

Arguments

codes A character vector of taxon codes to "decompose" – case sensitive

Details

Accounts for Keys that run out of capital letters (more than 26 subgroups) and use lowercase letters for a unique subdivision within the "fourth character position."

Value

A list with equal length to input vector; one character vector per element

See Also

[preceding_taxon_codes](#), [taxon_code_to_taxon](#), [taxon_to_taxon_code](#)

Examples

```
decompose_taxon_code(c("ABC", "ABCDe", "BCDEF"))
```

explainST *Explain a taxon name using formative elements*

Description

Explain a taxon name using formative elements

Usage

```
explainST(x, format = c("text", "html"), viewer = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x	a Subgroup, Great Group, Suborder or Order-level taxonomic name; matching is exact and case-insensitive
format	output format: 'text' 'html'
viewer	show format = 'html' output in browser? default: TRUE

Value

a block of text, suitable for display in fixed-width font

Examples

```
cat(explainST("ids"), "\n\n")                      # -ids (order suffix)
cat(explainST("aridisols"), "\n\n")                # Aridisols (order name)
cat(explainST("argids"), "\n\n")                   # Arg- (suborder)
cat(explainST("haplargids"), "\n\n")               # Hap- (great group)
cat(explainST("typic haplargids"), "\n\n")        # Typic (subgroup)
```

FormativeElements *Identify formative elements in taxon names at Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level*

Description

Identify formative elements in taxon names at Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level

Usage

```
FormativeElements(x, level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

```
OrderFormativeElements(x)
```

```
SubOrderFormativeElements(x)
```

```
GreatGroupFormativeElements(x)
```

```
SubGroupFormativeElements(x)
```

Arguments

x	A character vector containing subgroup-level taxonomic names
level	one of c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")

Value

A list containing \$defs: a data.frame containing taxonomic elements, derivations, connotations and links. And \$char.index: a numeric denoting the position where the formative element occurs in the search text x

Author(s)

D.E. Beaudette, A.G. Brown

Examples

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts", level = "subgroup")
SubGroupFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts")
```

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts", level = "greatgroup")
GreatGroupFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts")
```

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts", level = "suborder")
SubOrderFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts")
```

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts", level = "order")
OrderFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudulfts")
```

getChildTaxa

Get the lower (child) taxa for a taxon name or code

Description

Get the lower (child) taxa for a taxon name or code

Usage

```
getChildTaxa(
  taxon = NULL,
  code = NULL,
  convert = TRUE,
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
)
```

Arguments

taxon	A character vector of taxa (case-insensitive)
code	A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)
convert	Convert results from taxon codes to taxon names? Default: TRUE
level	Filter results to specific level? Default: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

Value

A named list, where names are taxon codes and values are character vectors representing parent taxa

Examples

```
# suborder children of "Mollisols"
getChildTaxa("Mollisols", level = "suborder")

# get all siblings within a great group, given a subgroup
getChildTaxa(getTaxonAtLevel("Ultic Haploxerales", "greatgroup"))
```

getLastChildTaxon	<i>Get last child taxon in Keys at specified taxonomic level</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Get last child taxon in Keys at specified taxonomic level

Usage

```
getLastChildTaxon(level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup"))
```

Arguments

level	Get child taxa from keys at specified level. One of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup"
-------	--

Value

A data.frame containing key (parent key), taxon (last taxon name), code (letter code), position (relative taxon position)

Examples

```
# get last taxa in suborder-level keys
x <- getLastChildTaxon(level = "suborder")

# proportion of keys where last taxon has "Hap" formative element
prop.table(table(grepl("^Hap", x$taxon)))
```

getParentTaxa	<i>Get the higher (parent) taxa for a taxon name or code</i>
---------------	--

Description

Must specify either taxon or code. taxon is used if both are specified.

Usage

```
getParentTaxa(
  taxon = NULL,
  code = NULL,
  convert = TRUE,
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
)
```

Arguments

taxon	A character vector of taxa (case-insensitive)
code	A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)
convert	Convert results from taxon codes to taxon names? Default: TRUE
level	level Filter results to specific level? Default: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

Value

A named list, where names are taxon codes and values are character vectors representing parent taxa

Examples

```
getParentTaxa("ultic haploxera1fs")
getParentTaxa(code = c("ABCD", "DABC"))
getParentTaxa("folists", convert = FALSE)
```

getTaxonAtLevel	<i>Get the taxon name at the Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Get the taxon name at the Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level

Usage

```
getTaxonAtLevel(x, level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

Arguments

x	A character vector containing subgroup-level taxonomic names
level	one of c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")

Value

A named character vector of taxa at specified level, where names are the internal Soil Taxonomy letter codes.

Examples

```
# default gets the soil order
getTaxonAtLevel(c("typic haplargids", "typic glacistels")) #, level = "order")

# specify alternate levels
getTaxonAtLevel("humic haploxerands", level = "greatgroup")

# can't get subgroup (child) from great group (parent)
getTaxonAtLevel("udifolists", level = "subgroup")

# but can do parents of children
getTaxonAtLevel("udifolists", level = "suborder")
```

get_ST_family_classes *Get soil family / series differentiae and class names*

Description

All parameters to this function are optional (default NULL). If specified, they are used as filters.

Usage

```
get_ST_family_classes(
  classname = NULL,
  group = NULL,
  name = NULL,
  chapter = NULL,
  page = NULL,
  multiline_sep = "\n",
  multiline_col = "criteria"
)
```

Arguments

classname	optional filtering vector; levels of ChoiceName column from NASIS metadata
group	optional filtering vector; one or more of: "Mineral Family", "Organic Family", "Mineral or Organic"
name	optional filtering vector; one or more of: "Mineralogy Classes", "Mineralogy Classes Applied Only to Limnic Subgroups", "Mineralogy Classes Applied Only to Terric Subgroups", "Key to the Particle-Size and Substitute Classes of Mineral Soils", "Calcareous and Reaction Classes of Mineral Soils", "Reaction Classes for Organic Soils", "Soil Moisture Subclasses", "Other Family Classes", "Soil Temperature Classes", "Soil Moisture Regimes", "Cation-Exchange Activity Classes", "Use of Human-Altered and Human-Transported Material Classes"
chapter	optional filtering vector for chapter number
page	optional filtering vector; page number (12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy)
multiline_sep	default "\n" returns multiline_col column as a character vector concatenated with "\n". Use NULL for list
multiline_col	character. vector of "multi-line" column names to concatenate. Default: "criteria"; use NULL for no concatenation.

Details

This is a wrapper method around the package data set ST_family_classes.

Value

a *data.frame*
 a subset of ST_family_classes *data.frame*

See Also

ST_family_classes ST_features get_ST_features()

Examples

```
# get classes in chapter 17
str(get_ST_family_classes(chapter = 17))

# get classes on page 323
get_ST_family_classes(page = 323)

# get the description for the mesic temperature class from list column
str(get_ST_family_classes(classname = "mesic")$description)
```

get_ST_features	<i>Get soil diagnostic horizons, characteristics and features</i>
-----------------	---

Description

All parameters to this function are optional (default NULL). If specified, they are used as filters.

Usage

```
get_ST_features(
  group = NULL,
  chapter = NULL,
  name = NULL,
  page = NULL,
  multiline_sep = "\n",
  multiline_col = "criteria"
)
```

Arguments

group	optional filtering vector; one of: "Surface", "Subsurface", "Mineral", "Organic", "Mineral or Organic"
chapter	optional filtering vector for chapter number
name	optional filtering vector; these are the "names" of features used in headers
page	optional filtering vector; page number (12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy)
multiline_sep	default "\n" returns multiline_col column as a character vector concatenated with "\n". Use NULL for list
multiline_col	character. vector of "multi-line" column names to concatenate. Default: "criteria"; use NULL for no concatenation.

Details

This is a wrapper method around the package data set `ST_features`.

Value

a subset of `ST_features` *data.frame*

See Also

`ST_features` `ST_family_classes` `get_ST_family_classes()`

Examples

```
# get all features
str(get_ST_features())

# get features in chapter 3
str(get_ST_features(chapter = 3))

# get features on pages 18, 19, 20
get_ST_features(page = 18:20)

# get the required characteristics for the mollic epipedon from list column
str(get_ST_features(name = "Mollic Epipedon")$criteria)
```

isValidST	<i>Check for valid taxonomic level (Order, Suborder, Great Group, Subgroup)</i>
-----------	---

Description

Checks needle for matches against a single level of Soil Taxonomy hierarchy: order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup. Matches are case-insensitive.

Usage

```
isValidST(needle, level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

Arguments

needle	vector of taxa
level	single level of Soil Taxonomy hierarchy; one of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

Value

logical vector, same length as needle

Examples

```
isValidST('typic haploxera1fs', level = 'subgroup')
```

level_to_taxon	<i>Get all taxa at specified level</i>
----------------	--

Description

Convenience method for getting taxa from ST_unique_list

Usage

```
level_to_taxon(level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

Arguments

level character. One or more of "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

Value

A character vector of taxa at the specified level

Examples

```
# get all order and suborder level taxa
level_to_taxon(level = c("order", "suborder"))
```

parse_family	<i>Parse components of a "family-level" taxon name</i>
--------------	--

Description

Parse components of a "family-level" taxon name

Usage

```
parse_family(family, column_metadata = TRUE, flat = TRUE)
```

Arguments

family	character. vector of taxonomic families, e.g. "fine-loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic ultic haploxeralfs"
column_metadata	logical. include parsed NASIS physical column names and values from family taxon components? Default: TRUE requires soilDB package.
flat	logical Default: TRUE to return concatenated family-level classes for "taxminalogy" and "taxfamother"? Alternately, if FALSE, list columns are returned.

Value

a data.frame containing column names: "family" (input), "subgroup" (parsed taxonomic subgroup), "subgroup_code" (letter code for subgroup), "class_string" (comma-separated family classes), "classes_split" (split class_string vector stored as list column).

In addition, the following column names are identified and returned based on NASIS (National Soil Information System) metadata (via soilDB package):

- "taxpartsize", "taxpartsizemod", "taxminalogy", "taxceactcl", "taxreaction", "taxtempcl", "taxfamhahatmatcl", "taxfamother", "taxsubgrp", "taxgreatgroup", "taxsuborder", "taxorder"

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace('soilDB')) {
  families <- c("fine, kaolinitic, thermic typic kanhapludults",
              "fine-loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic ultic haploxeralfs",
              "euic, thermic typic haplosaprists",
              "coarse-loamy, mixed, active, mesic aquic dystrudepts")

  # inspect parsed list result
  str(parse_family(families))
}
```

preceding_taxon_codes *Get taxon codes of preceding taxa*

Description

Find all codes that logically precede the specified codes. For instance, code "ABC" ("Anhyturbels") returns "AA" ("Histels") "ABA" ("Histoturbels") and "ABB" ("Aquiturbels"). Use in conjunction with a lookup table that maps Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroup taxa to their codes (see [taxon_code_to_taxon](#) and [taxon_to_taxon_code](#)).

Usage

```
preceding_taxon_codes(codes)
```

Arguments

codes A character vector of codes to calculate preceding codes for

Details

Accounts for Keys that run out of capital letters (more than 26 subgroups) and use lowercase letters for a unique subdivision within the "fourth character position."

Value

A list with equal length to input vector; one character vector per element

See Also

[decompose_taxon_code](#), [taxon_code_to_taxon](#), [taxon_to_taxon_code](#)

Examples

```
preceding_taxon_codes(c("ABCDE", "BCDEF"))
```

```
relative_taxon_code_position
```

Determine relative position of taxon within Keys to Soil Taxonomy (Order to Subgroup)

Description

The relative position of a taxon is [number of preceding Key steps] + 1, or NA if it does not exist in the lookup table.

Usage

```
relative_taxon_code_position(code)
```

Arguments

code A character vector of taxon codes to determine the relative position of.

Value

A numeric vector with the relative position of each code with respect to their individual Keys.

Examples

```
# "ABCD" -> "Gypsic Anhyturbels", relative position 7
# "WXYZa" does not exist, theoretical position is 97
# "BAD" -> "Udifolists", relative position is 5

relative_taxon_code_position(c("ABCD", "WXYZa", "BAD"))

# [1] 7 NA 5
```

ST

Soil Taxonomy Hierarchy

Description

The first 4 levels of the US Soil Taxonomy hierarchy (soil order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup), presented as a `data.frame` (denormalized) and a list of unique taxa.

Usage

```
data(ST)
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 2665 rows and 4 columns.

References

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/survey/class/taxonomy/>

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/class/taxonomy/?cid=nrcs142p2_053580

ST_family_classes	<i>Family-level Classes for Soil Taxonomy</i>
-------------------	---

Description

A database of family-level class names for Soil Taxonomy.

Usage

```
data(ST_family_classes)
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 193 rows and 8 columns.

References

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/class/taxonomy/?cid=nrcs142p2_053580

ST_features	<i>Epipedons, Diagnostic Horizons, Characteristics and Features in Soil Taxonomy</i>
-------------	--

Description

A `data.frame` with columns "group", "name", "chapter", "page", "description", "criteria". Currently page numbers and contents are referenced to 12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy and derived from products in the ncss-tech SoilKnowledgeBase repository (<https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilKnowledgeBase>).

Usage

```
data(ST_features)
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 84 rows and 6 columns.

References

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/class/taxonomy/?cid=nrcs142p2_053580

ST_formative_elements *Formative Elements used by Soil Taxonomy*

Description

A database of formative elements used by the first 4 levels of US Soil Taxonomy hierarchy (soil order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup).

Usage

```
data(ST_formative_elements)
```

Format

An object of class `list` of length 4.

References

S. W. Buol and R. C. Graham and P. A. McDaniel and R. J. Southard. Soil Genesis and Classification, 5th edition. Iowa State Press, 2003.

ST_higher_taxa_codes_12th

Letter Code Lookup Table for Position of Taxa within the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (12th Edition)

Description

A lookup table mapping unique taxonomic Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroups to letter codes that denote their logical position within the Keys.

Usage

```
data(ST_higher_taxa_codes_12th)
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 3082 rows and 2 columns.

Details

The lookup table has been corrected to reflect errata that were posted after the print publication of the 12th Edition Keys, as well as typos in the Spanish language edition.

References

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/class/taxonomy/?cid=nrcs142p2_053580

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Claves para la Taxonomía de Suelos, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_051546.pdf

taxon_code_to_taxon *Convert taxon code to taxon name*

Description

Convert taxon code to taxon name

Usage

```
taxon_code_to_taxon(code)
```

Arguments

code A character vector of Taxon Codes

Value

A character vector of matching Taxon Names

See Also

[decompose_taxon_code](#), [preceding_taxon_codes](#), [taxon_to_taxon_code](#)

Examples

```
taxon_code_to_taxon(c("ABC", "XYZ", "DAB", NA))
```

taxon_to_level	<i>Determine taxonomic level of specified taxa</i>
----------------	--

Description

Taxa that resolve to a subgroup level taxon and contain a comma ", " are assumed to be "family"-level.

Usage

```
taxon_to_level(taxon)
```

Arguments

taxon	character vector of taxon names at Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level.
-------	--

Value

character of taxonomic hierarchy levels (such as "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup", "family") for each element of input vector.

Examples

```
# get the taxonomic levels for various taxa
taxon_to_level(c("gelisols", NA, "foo", "typic folistels", "folistels"))
```

taxon_to_taxon_code	<i>Convert taxon name to taxon code</i>
---------------------	---

Description

Convert taxon name to taxon code

Usage

```
taxon_to_taxon_code(taxon)
```

Arguments

taxon	A character vector of taxon names, case insensitive
-------	---

Value

A character vector of matching taxon codes

See Also

[decompose_taxon_code](#), [preceding_taxon_codes](#), [taxon_code_to_taxon](#)

Examples

```
taxon_to_taxon_code(c("Anhyturbels", "foo", "Cryaquands", NA))
```

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