

DBFOSSIL

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MANUAL

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1.0 What is DBFossil

2.0 Working with DBFossil

2.1 Fossils

2.2 Locations

2.3 Literature and storage

2.4 Searching the database

1.0 What is DBFossil

DBFossil is a powerful tool for hobby palaeontologists to keep control over their fossil collection and don't mix up fossils with storage, literature and locations. Now it is simple to maintain the collection.

It is mainly a software for indexing fossils with as many pictures as wanted. The classification of the fossil is divided into 4 entries: class, super-order, order, family and species. Locations can contain many formations and layers, also pictures can be appendant to locations. The third big advantage is maintaining literature and combine them to fossils via page, plate and figure. Everybody knows a good storage system is an advantage as well. So put your fossil into a certain storage and save it with this program. It will not get lost again.

To search for fossils from a certain location or from a certain formation the tool consists of a powerful search engine. If the literature is combined with fossils it is easy afterwards to look for literature occurrence of a special fossil.

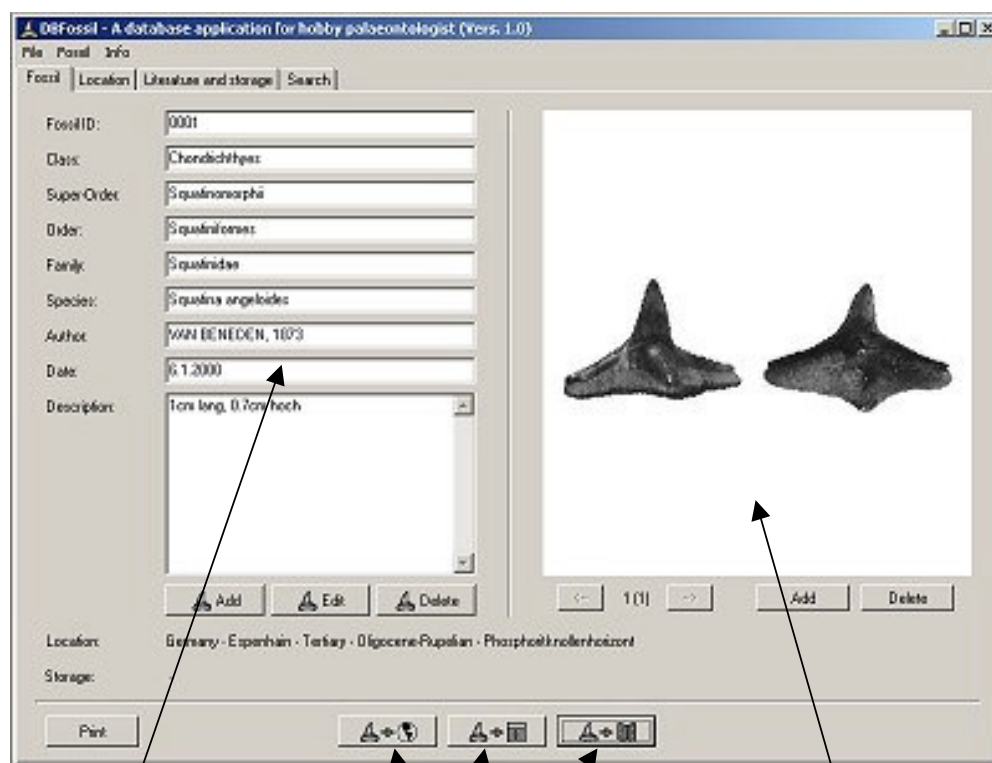
All these topics and how to work with DBFossil are described in the following chapters.

2.0 Working with DBFossil

The following chapters describe how to work with DBFossil to get a powerful tool.

2.1 Fossils

The tab sheet fossil is divided into three areas. The left area is for the classification of the fossil with a description field. The right is for images of the fossil. At the bottom the associations of the fossil with location, storage and literature can be done.



Classification

Associations

Images

To add a fossil simply click at the 'Add' button beneath the description field. Then insert the data you need for classification and do a small description. To help you not rewriting the last classifications the fields contain the information's of the last fossil shown. But you can delete all given entries by clicking on the button 'Clear'. Remember the fossil-ID must be unique otherwise you can not save the entered data. To save the data proceed with 'Add'.

To edit a fossil click on the button 'Edit'. Then you can make changes. Save the changes with 'Save'.

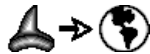
Deleting a fossil is as simple as adding and editing. Just click on 'Delete' and confirm the deletion.

The pictures on the right side can be added or deleted at any time. The arrows indicate (when enabled) that you have more than one picture associated to the fossil. Just use the arrow buttons to browse between them. The number before the brackets shows your position relative to the quantity of pictures, displayed in the brackets.

The location and storage of the fossil are shown as labels at the lower left side.

There are three associations the fossil can be combined to: location with information on formation, storage and literature.

a) To associate the fossil with a location click on the left button with followed picture on top:



Then a dialog opens with a choice box to choose a location from:

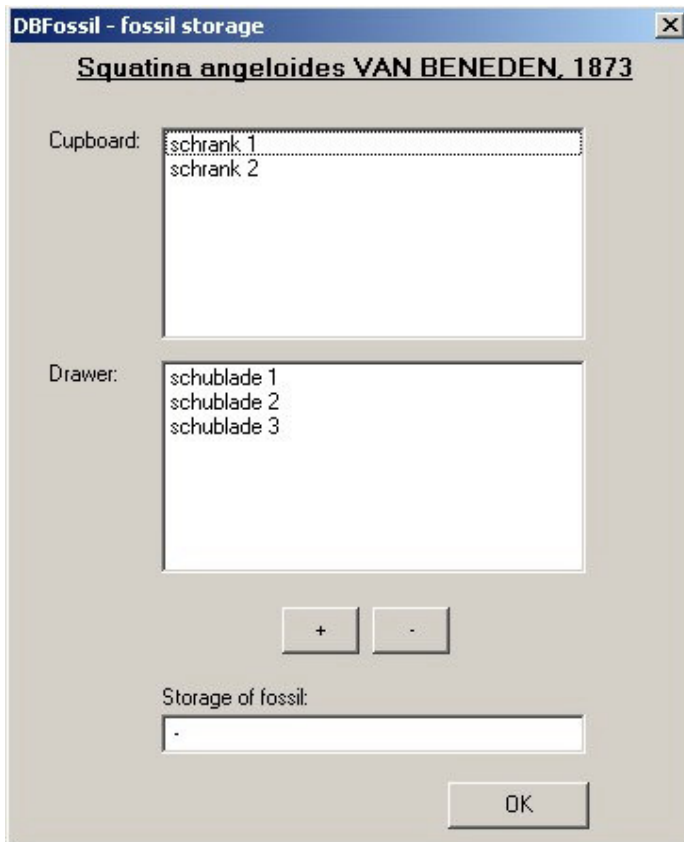


Use the '+' button to associate the fossil with a location and the '-' button to disassociate. At the top the species name is displayed. If you have a lot of locations you can use the filter option to decrease the amount of entries. The location consists of country, location, formation, sub-formation and layer. So the association not only combines the fossil with a location but with formation and layer information's as well. Click 'End' to close the dialog. After closing the location is displayed.

b) To associate the fossil with a storage click on the middle button with followed picture on top:

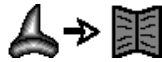


Then a dialog opens in which the storage of the fossil can be entered.



At first select a cupboard. After this selection drawer belonging to this cupboard are filled in the drawer section. Then select the drawer with the mouse and press the add button. If the fossil has already an association with a storage it is shown in the text field at the bottom otherwise a minus is displayed. To delete the association press the button with a minus on it.

c) To associate the fossil with literature click on the right button with followed picture on top:



DBFossil - fossil found in literature

Squatina angeloides VAN BENEDEN, 1873

Name	Author	Town	File	Year	Int.ID
Fauna und Palökologie des marinen Mitteloligozäns der L	Arnold Müller	Altenburg		1983	1

Page	Plate	Figur
127	XVI	20-25

Chosen literature (Internal ID: 1)

Page:

Plate:

Figure:

Clear Save

Filter:

Name:

Author:

File:

Use filter

OK

Occurrences

Available literature

Entering additional data

Filter options of literature

A fossil can be described in a literature. To find this description this association is very important. To make this association simply select the literature the fossils is described. After the selection enter the data for page, plate and/or figure in the text fields in the middle of the bottom. Click save to save them into the database. Since the fossil can be described on more than one page or plate enter as many data you want. All occurrences of this fossil in the selected literature will be displayed left in the occurrences.

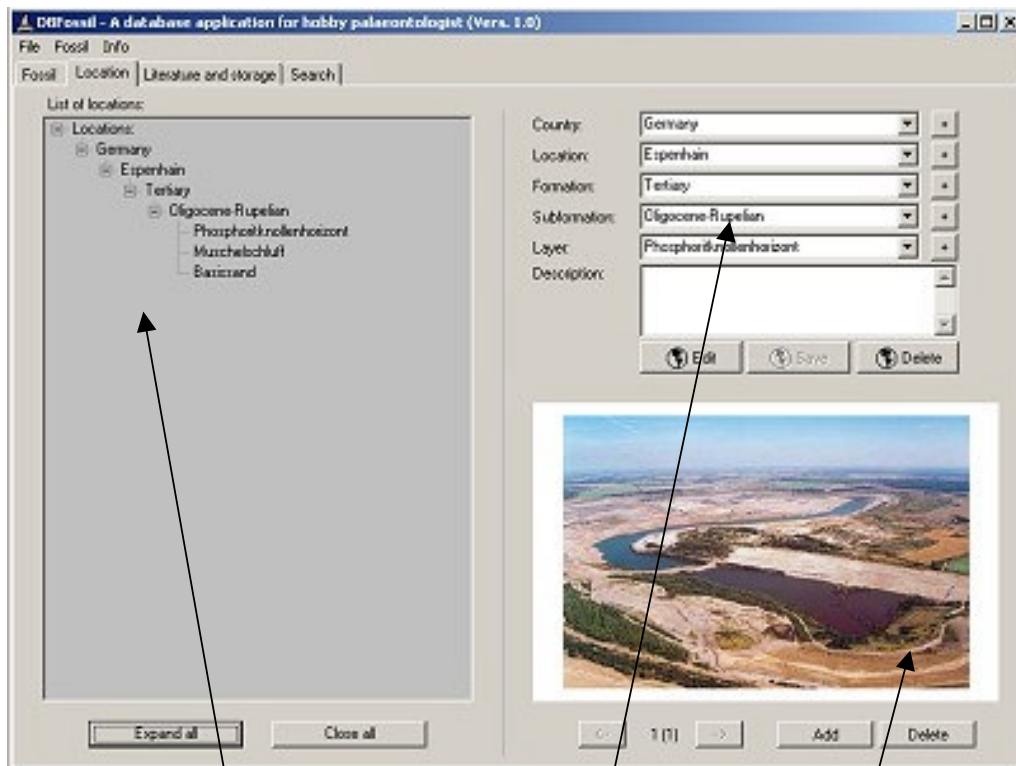
This association is not saved internal with ids but with names. If you select fossil a with id 1 and make this association fossil b with id 2 (if it has the same species name)

will have the same associations. So it is not necessary to do it twice or more. It is the same species.

To delete an association click “clear”. The filter option can be used to filter the literature in names, author or files. This decreases the list. Useful if the list has more than 50 entries which will be reached very fast.

To print the fossil and its classification, storage and its location/formation click on the print button. A PDF file will be created and shown, if an acrobat reader is installed. Afterwards the document can be printed from within acrobat reader.

2.2 Locations



Tree view

Locations with
their formations

Images

The tree view gives an overview over all locations of a country. Also all formations or sub formations found at a location can be displayed.

You can add a new country by pressing the add button. Enter the new country name. Afterwards you can enter the new location name. If you do not wish to enter a location name you can proceed with the formation. After pressing the add button you can select the formation you like to add. You can choose only one formation at a time. Then you can select a sub formation. Afterwards you can enter a layer. At the end enter a description and maybe a picture. To save all entered data click on the save button.

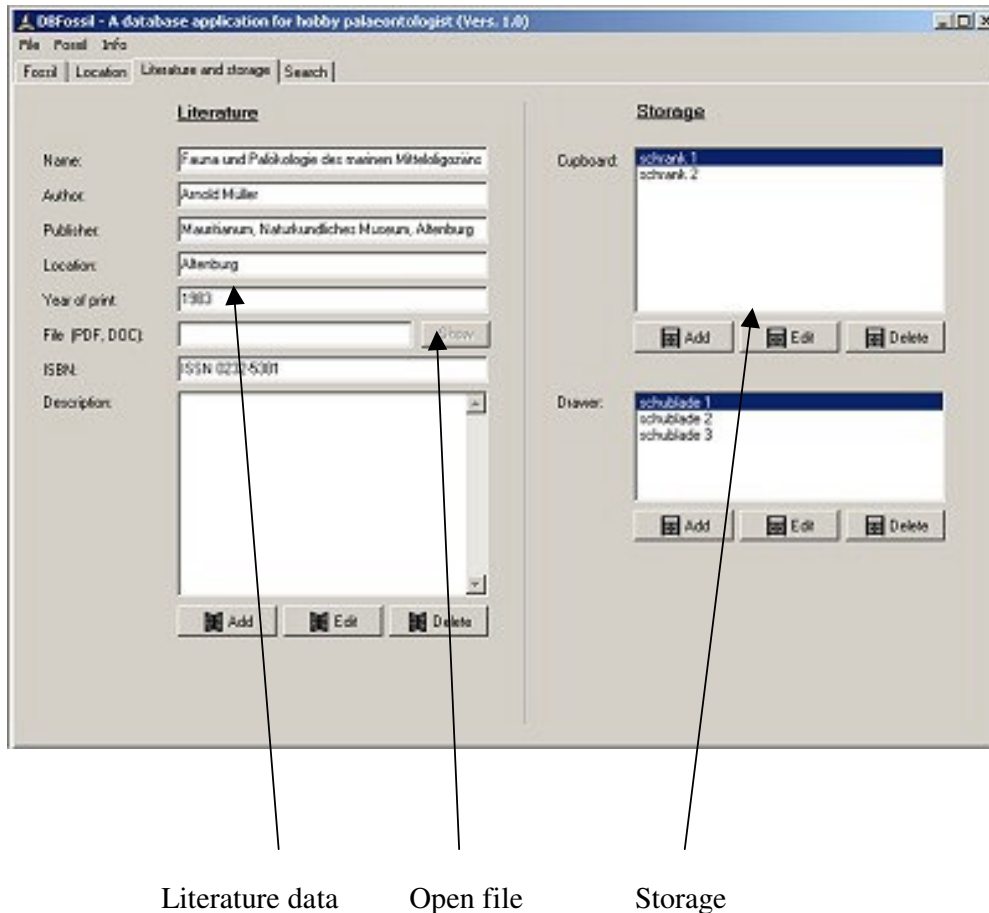
To add data to existing data, just press the add button of the data you want to add. For example adding a new sub formation just press the add button besides the sub formations and select the one you like. Then you can enter a layer or save it without any additional data (without any layers and descriptions).

To edit a location click on the edit button. Correct the data. The formation and sub formation fields are read only. Save the new data and close it again.

To delete a location click on the delete button. It is not possible to delete all formations from a certain location at once. You have to delete every entry by clicking the delete button.

The picture will be saved to the data which is displayed. If you have more than one formation then the picture will be displayed only to one formation. For this reason it is a good idea to save a location without any additional data first and then adding formations (each formation of a location will have an unique id). Then add the pictures to this location without any data. Then you will find your pictures a lot easier.

2.3 Literature and storage



This tab sheet is used for literature and storage. Literature can be either a book, printed paper or a file on a computer. If it is a file the show button is enabled and can be used to open the document.

Information's like pages, size, how many plates or something else can be entered in the description field. There are no fields for such data. It would complicate the application.

The add, edit and delete button for literature and storage describe their function by caption. I would repeat myself if I describe every button on this tab sheet.

Just adding a drawer is a little bit more complicated. To add a drawer you must select a cupboard first. That's it. But without any selection you can not add one.

2.4 Searching the database

The last topic is the one I am most proud of. This tab sheet contains internal a lot of database stuff.

The screenshot shows the DBFossil application window with the 'Search' tab selected. The interface is divided into three main sections: Fossil, Location, and Literature. Each section contains a list of fields with checkboxes to select which fields should be included in the search results. Below these sections is a 'Start search' button. At the bottom of the window is a table displaying the search results.

Class	Superorder	Order	Family	Species	Author	Country	Location
Chondrichthyes	Squalinorhphi	Squaliniformes	Squalinidae	Squalino-angeloides	VAN BENEDEEN, 1873	Germany	Espernhain
Chondrichthyes	Galeonorhphi	Lamniformes	Otodonidae	Parotodus benedens	(LE HON, 1871)	Germany	Espernhain
Chondrichthyes	Galeonorhphi	Lamniformes	Lamnidae	Carcharodes angustidens	(AGASSIZ, 1843)	Germany	Espernhain
Crustacea	Eupoda	Decapoda	Goneplacidae	Coelona beloum	SCHLÜTER, 1879	Germany	Espernhain
Gastropoda			Aporrhaidae	Drepanochelus speciosus	(SCHLOTHEIM, 1820)	Germany	Espernhain
Nemata		Sarsia	Dudongidae	Haltherium schnei	(KAUP, 1838)	Germany	Espernhain

Checkbox

Filter

Search
result

Start
search

To search for information you have to check the fields (checkboxes) you want to have displayed in your search results. Then start the search by pressing search button. This may take some time depending on your data and your machine. You can use filters too. They are only effective if any of the check boxes of the group is checked.

If you double click a record the data will be shown. If you searched only for fossils, the tab sheet fossils will be displayed with this fossil.

Examples:

a) listing all fossils with a location and show only species, country, location and formation:

check species on fossils, country, location and formation on location and start search.

b) listing all fossils with a location and show only species, country, location and formation, filter by formation tertiary:

check species on fossils, country, location and formation on location, select formation tertiary from list box and start search.

c) list all literature from a species:

check species on fossils, name, author and file of literature, enter the species name and start search. As search result also page, plate and figure are displayed.

d) list all fossil which occur in this literature:

check species on fossils, name, author and file of literature, enter the name of the literature or name the file and start search.