

# UniProt.ws: A package for retrieving data from the UniProt web service

Marc Carlson

February 1, 2014

## 1 Configuring `uniport.ws`

The *UniProt.ws* package provides a `select` interface to the UniProt web service.

```
> library(UniProt.ws)
```

If you already know about the `select` interface, you can immediately learn about the various methods for this object by just looking at its help page.

```
> help("UniProt.ws")
```

When you load the *UniProt.ws* package, it creates a `UniProt.ws` object. If you look at the object you will see some helpful information about it.

```
> UniProt.ws
```

```
"UniProt.ws" object:
```

```
An interface object for UniProt web services
```

```
Current Taxonomy ID:
```

```
9606
```

```
Current Species name:
```

```
Homo sapiens
```

```
To change Species see: help('availableUniprotSpecies')
```

By default, you can see that the `UniProt.ws` object is set to retrieve records from *Homo sapiens*. But you can change that of course. In order to change it, you first need to look up the appropriate taxonomy ID for

the species that you are interested in. Uniprot provides support for over 20 thousand species, so there are a few to choose from! In order to make this easier, we have provided the helper function `availableUniprotSpecies` which will list all the supported species along with their taxonomy ids. When you call the `availableUniprotSpecies` function, it's recommended that you make use of the `pattern` argument to limit your queries like this:

```
> availableUniprotSpecies(pattern="musculus")
```

	taxon ID	Species name
1	520121	Anthocoris musculus
2	208057	Anthoscopus musculus
3	238007	Apomys musculus
4	9771	Balaenoptera musculus
5	197864	Blepharisma musculus
6	10090	Mus musculus
7	35531	Mus musculus bactrianus
8	10091	Mus musculus castaneus
9	57486	Mus musculus molossinus

Once you have learned the taxonomy ID for the species of interest, you can then change the taxonomy id for the `UniProt.ws` object using the

```
> taxId(UniProt.ws) <- 10090
> UniProt.ws
```

```
"UniProt.ws" object:
An interface object for UniProt web services
Current Taxonomy ID:
10090
Current Species name:
Mus musculus
To change Species see: help('availableUniprotSpecies')
```

As you can see the species has now changed from *Homo sapiens* to *Mus musculus*.

## 2 Using `uniport.ws`

Once you have pointed the `uniport.ws` to use the appropriate organisms, you can make use of the standard set of methods in a `select` interface. Specifically: `columns`, `keytypes`, `keys` and `select`.

You will probably notice that there are a large number of columns that can be retrieved.

```
> head(keytypes(UniProt.ws))
```

[1]	"UNIPROTKB"	"UNIPARC"	"UNIREF50"
[4]	"UNIREF90"	"UNIREF100"	"EMBL/GENBANK/DDBJ"

And most (but not all) of these fields can also be used as keytypes.

```
> head(columns(UniProt.ws))
```

[1]	"UNIPROTKB"	"UNIPARC"	"UNIREF50"
[4]	"UNIREF90"	"UNIREF100"	"EMBL/GENBANK/DDBJ"

If necessary you can also look up the keys of a given type. But please be warned that the web service is slow at this particular kind of lookup. So if you really want to do this kind of operation you are probably going to want to save the result to your R session.

```
> egs = keys(UniProt.ws, "ENTREZ_GENE")
```

Finally, you can loop up whatever combinations of columns, keytypes and keys that you need when using `select`.

```
> keys <- c("22627", "22629")
> columns <- c("PDB", "UNIGENE", "SEQUENCE")
> kt <- "ENTREZ_GENE"
> res <- select(UniProt.ws, keys, columns, kt)
> head(res)
```

	ENTREZ_GENE	PDB	UNIGENE
1	22627	<NA>	Mm.471625
2	22627	<NA>	Mm.234700
3	22629	<NA>	Mm.332314

  

1	MDDREDLVYQ	AKLAEQAERY	DEMVESMKKV	AGMDVELTVE	ERNLLSVAYK	NVIGARRASW	RIISSIEQKE	ENKGGE
2	MDDREDLVYQ	AKLAEQAERY	DEMVESMKKV	AGMDVELTVE	ERNLLSVAYK	NVIGARRASW	RIISSIEQKE	ENKGGE
3		MGDREQLLQR	ARLAEQAERY	DDMASAMKAV	TELNEPLSNE	DRNLLSVAYK	NVVGARRSSW	RVISSIE