

How to search the CAB Thesaurus

Choosing the language

The CAB Thesaurus is available in English, Portuguese or Spanish. Once a language is chosen from the drop-down list all searches and browsing will be in that language.

Browsing the thesaurus

From the Home page click "All terms A-Z" in the top menu. Then to browse alphabetically, click on "All" or a letter of the alphabet under "All Terms A-Z" in the central panel. Clicking on a term in the term list will display the term record.

To browse by term subject category or technical category, first click "Browse by subject / category" in the top menu, then click on "Subject Category" or "Technical Categories" to display appropriate lists of categories. Click on one of these categories to display a list of terms that belong to that category. Clicking on a term in the term list will display the term record.

On the term record display:

- Clicking on a related term will display its term record.
- Clicking on a subject category or technical category will list all terms within that category.

Searching terms

Search terms by entering the first few letters of the term or the entire term in the Search Thesaurus text box, then click the arrow or the "Search" button. When the "Search results" are displayed, clicking on a term will display the term record.

Search Options

The following search options are available:

Language

Select the language from the drop down list upon which the search will be performed.

Search type

Determines whether to look for *terms which begin with the text entered* or *terms which contain the text entered*.

Example 1

Searching for 'plant' with "Search type" set to "terms begin with text" will find

- [plant \(industrial\)](#) add
 - [plant analysis](#) add
 - [plant anatomy](#) add
 - [plant breeding](#) add
- etc

Example 2

Searching for 'plant' with "Search type" set to "terms contain text" will find

- [abortion \(plants\)](#) add
 - [acaricidal plants](#) add
 - [algicidal plants](#) add
 - [Alisma plantago-aquatica](#) add
- etc

Results format

Determines what information is displayed in the results:

- "simple term list" is an alphabetical list of the terms, one row per term
- "terms + relationships" displays the term record for each term. This search is slower than the simple list.
- "terms + hierarchy" displays the 2-way formatted hierarchy for each term. In this format, periods (".") denote narrower terms, and colons (":") denote broader terms. This search can be slow, depending on the number of levels each hierarchy has.

Terms per page

Determines how many terms per page to include in the results. A higher number will display more information, thus making it slower. However, a lower number might force you to click "Next >" in order to find the term.

Match terms

Determines whether to search alphabetically for terms which are *equal or greater* (alphabetically) than the text entered or whether an *exact match* is required. These two options apply only where the "Search type" is "term begins with text".

Example 1

With the Search String equal to "qa"
and "Search type" set to "term begins with text"
and "Match terms" set to "Equal or Greater"

The result is:

- [Qalyub virus](#) add
- [Qatar](#) add
- [Q-I relationships](#) add
- [Qinchuan](#) add
- [Qing Hai](#) add
- [Qinghai](#) add
- [qinghaosu](#) add
- [qinghaozhi](#) add
- [quackery](#) add

etc

Note that words beginning "qi" and "qu" are *greater* alphabetically than "qa".

Example 2

With the Search String equal to "qa"

and "Search type" set to "term begins with text"

and "Match terms" set to "Exact prefix"

The result is:

- [Qalyub virus](#) add
- [Qatar](#) add

In this example there are only two words that begin with "qa".

Term type

Determines whether results should display *all* terms in the thesaurus that match the search criteria or only *top terms*. These two options apply only where the "Search type" is "term begins with text". A top term is a term that sits at the top of the thesaurus hierarchy. That means a top term does not have any Broader Terms. For example, the following is the Term Record for the top term "eukaryotes". Notice there are no Broader Terms, only Narrower Terms.

eukaryotes add

Portuguese

[organismos eucariotes](#)

Spanish

[eucariotas](#)

Technical Categories

[COM Common Name \(Organisms\)](#)

[P Plural Form](#)

Narrower Term

[animals](#) add

[fungi](#) add

[plants](#) add

Related Term Broader

[organisms](#) add

Subject Category

[ON Organism Names](#)

When "top terms" is chosen, the search will perform significantly slower.

Creating a search string using the Search String box

Clicking on an **add** button will add the adjacent term to the Search String box. The search string can be extended by adding further terms. Once complete the search string may be sent to a search engine by clicking "Send to CAB Direct" or "Send to Google" or "Send to Yahoo". The search results are displayed in a separate browser tab. The "Send to CAB Direct" option will work only if your institution has a subscription to this service.

The Search String box is fully editable. A search string may be edited at any time.

If you want to clear the search string box, click on the "Clear Search" button below the box.

The search string can handle Boolean operators, such as OR, AND and NOT. The default operator is OR but that can be edited to something else. It is recommended that Boolean operators be typed in upper case.

Send feedback

When a term record is displayed, the "Send Feedback" option is shown on the top right of the screen. Clicking on this opens the default mail client on your computer, with the current (or first) term as the subject, and the predefined recipient *thesaurus@cabi.org*.