DATE CONVERSION

CESP Project: Strengthening Zimbabwe’s GBIF node through collaboration with GBIF Spain

# INTRODUCTION

Importing and adjusting dates from different databases to the Darwin Core standard, sometimes can be a hard and time-consuming task due to the different formats this information can come from. Through this use case, we will parse, normalize and standardize dates from an original database to the recommendations made by the Darwin Core standard.

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION

[*Date Parsing*](http://data.canadensys.net/tools/dates) is an online tool, developed by [*​Canadensys*](http://www.canadensys.net/)​ (Canadian GBIF node), which allows fastly parsing and standardizing dates according to the ISO 8601 (YYYY-MM-DD), as it is recommended by the Darwin Core standard.

# YOU WILL NEED

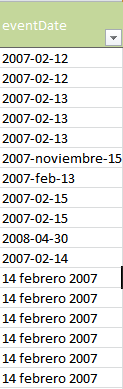
GBIF.ES Name Parser tool: ​<http://data.canadensys.net/tools/dates>

Standardized document: [Use Case 4 - Dates Mexican Fish.xlsx](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NrjIidAJ6bFYXBm5ShA66D_4FXsWXoZ0/view?usp=sharing)

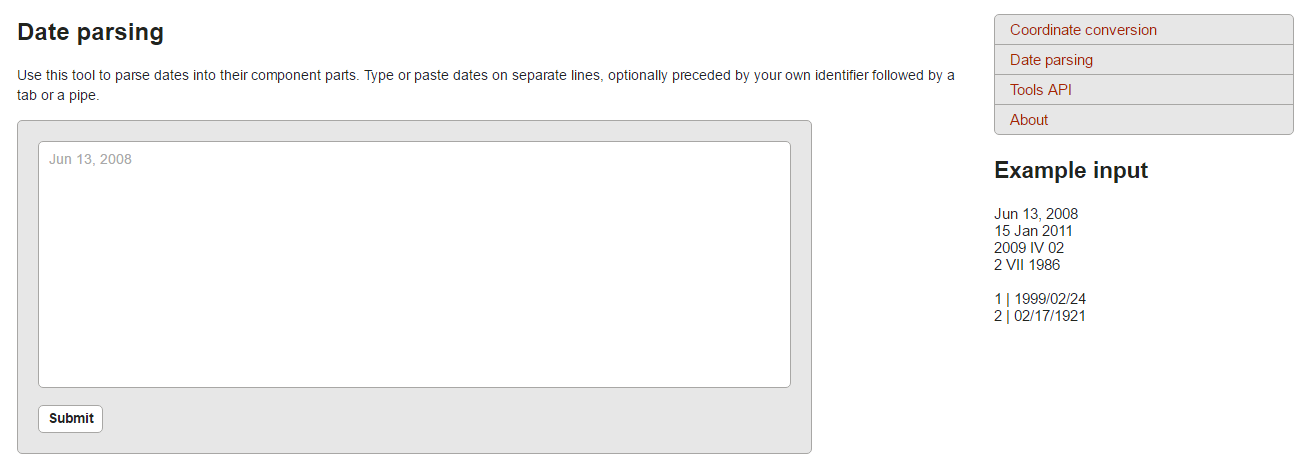
INSTRUCTIONS

***Step 1.* Date conversion**

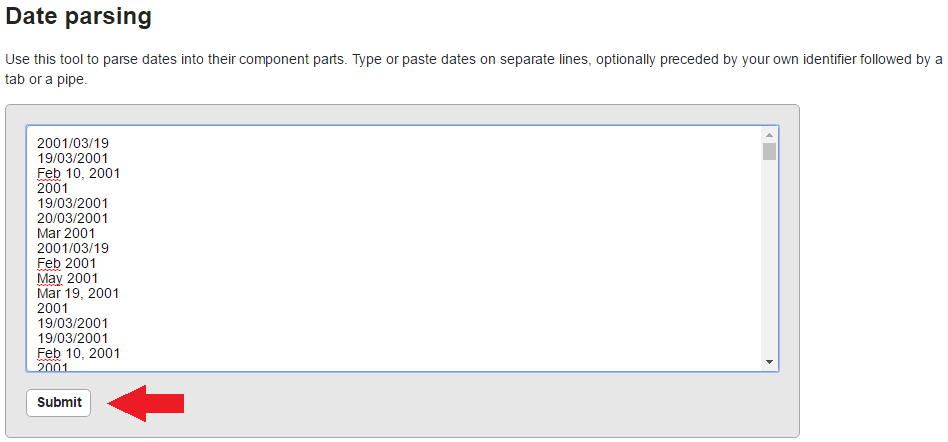
1. Open the Standardized Excel document. You will find a column called **eventDate** containing the collection dates presented in different formats. These dates need to be standardized according to the **ISO 8601,** which is the same applied by the Darwin Core standard (***YYYY-MM-DD***). Copy the information of the eventDate column (Ctrl + C).



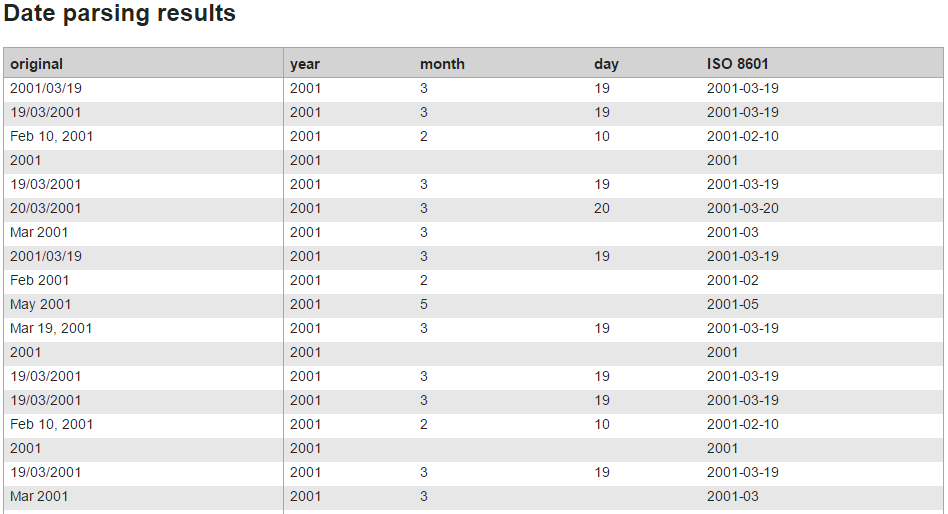
1. Open the ​[*Date Parsing*](http://data.canadensys.net/tools/dates) tool.



1. Paste the already copied information from the eventDate column. Delete the title “eventDate” and click “**Submit**” to start the date conversion.

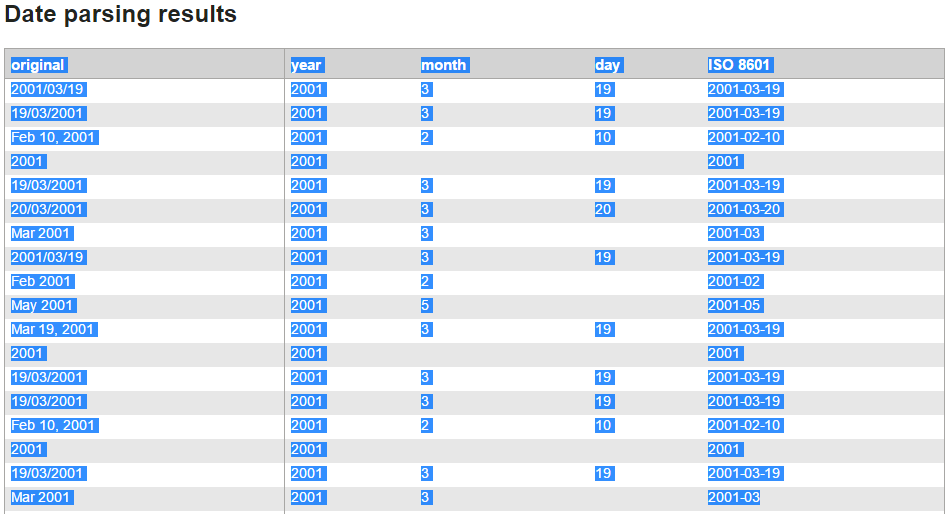
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After clicking “**Submit**”, you will get the following result. Please, note the “**ISO 8601**” column contained the requested information needed to be included in the standardized file.

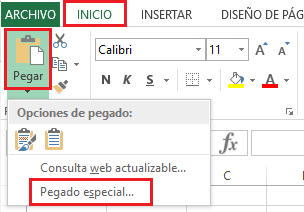


**Step 2. Import the results to the standardized file**

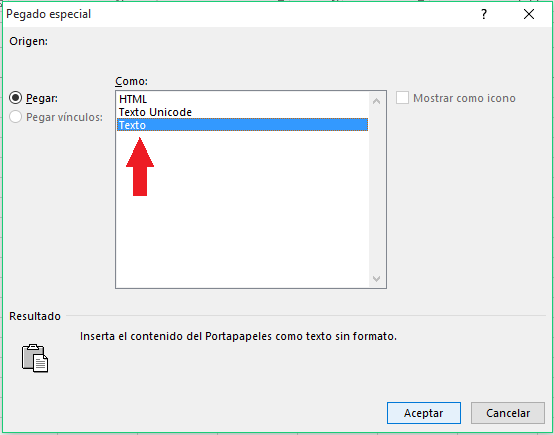
1. From the Date Parsing website, select and copy the generated results (Ctrl + C).

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1. In the standardized Excel document, open a new empty sheet.
2. Paste the copied table in this new sheet using the “special paste” functionality.



Then, choose the “**text**” option and click **Accept**.



1. Paste this information in the corresponding fields of the Standardized file.
2. Save the results.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In order to detect possible mistakes made during the dates conversion, it might be useful to include the original dates in the standardized document. The Darwin Core standard provides a field called “[VerbatimEventDate](http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/#verbatimEventDate)” where we can include this information.