

# Hdb2Win

## Update info 2.6 (March 2025)

Application PaleoTax Service Release 19

Application PalCol Service Release 9

Application Oliva Service Release 5

### Introduction

This file describes the modifications compared to programme release 2.5.2 and changes of the published application libraries. Please compare also to the manuals on older versions, and to the additional PDF files on specific functions of the database.

This edition is a major release that modifies the visual appearance of the programme and the data acquisition forms. The new version is better adapted to HDI screens. Hdb2Win 2.6 has more restrictions in order to conserve data consistency. The new version has been profoundly tested under Windows® 11.

### Hdb2Win

#### *Installation*

You will download only one file – hdb260xx.exe – that contains the installation programme and all the files you need to work with Hdb2Win and its applications. The installation file includes the database programme, the structures of the applications PaleoTax SR19, PalCol SR9, and Oliva SR5, as well as the supporting programmes PaleoTax/Graph and PaleoTax/Map.

Application PaleoTax – Database structure and programmes to manage taxonomic, geographic, stratigraphic, specimen, and literature data in **palaeontology**. The structure is clearly **taxon based**. Specimens can be recorded but the function is rudimentary.

Application PalCol – Database structure and programmes to manage taxonomic, geographic, stratigraphic, and specimen data in the **palaeontology**. The structure is clearly **specimen based** and is used to record fossil collections.

Application Oliva – Database structure and programmes to manage taxonomic, geographic, specimen, and literature data in the **biology**. The structure is clearly **specimen based**. There is a strong emphasis on morphometric data and images, as well as data estimation (sediment and size data, geographic distribution). The taxonomy only covers the taxonomic levels between phylum and species and does not deal with citations in the literature, or types. Synonymy is present, but rudimentary.

PaleoTax/Graph – Separate programme to create vector images from data analysis and estimation carried out by any application library. From Hdb2Win version 2.5 on, the functions of the programme can be called from the database interpreter.

PaleoTax/Map – Separate map programme to plot occurrences or localities. Unchanged version.

Start the installation programme – hdb260xx.exe. You probably should have administrator rights to do so. You need to decide which application(s) you want to use. Documentation files will not be installed; please download them separately from the manual page (<https://www.paleotax.de/pvn10.htm>) or through the database programme (Hdb2Win > Application library > Options > Links to help files). A previously installed version does not require un-installation. If you want to do so, use the functionality of the operating system (Start / Control / Programs) uninstalling former versions. Uninstall removes only the programme, but not configuration files stored in 'c:\Users\

<username>\ AppData\Roaming\Hdb2Win'. Uninstall does not remove your databases. The installation of any new Service Release requires the installation of Hdb2Win 2.6 before. You must update existing databases since the new version does not with older versions (see below for explanation).

## Before starting



On high definition or UHD screens it is necessary to set the properties of Hdb2Win (and additional programmes) correctly. Right-click on the symbol on the desktop, select Properties > Compatibility > Change high DPI settings. Here in the bottom box, mark the check box and select "Application".

## Database kernel

1. The visual appearance of most forms of the programme and Application Library has been revised and will hopefully better work in this version. A much wider range of screen sizes is introduced; smaller screens were removed. Hdb2Win 2.6 requires a minimum of 900 pixels screen height and 1200 pixels screen width. Some forms require even larger screens. The programme works now better with a screen height above 1000 pixels.
2. In the Application Library, the size of the main menu, the search menu, and the options can now be changed during run-time. The once selected size is saved and applied when the programme is started on a later occasion.
3. The size of many auxiliary forms of the Hdb2Win can be changed during runtime.
4. The format of the data acquisition forms – a central function – has been updated. How you can adapt fonts and font size of the forms is described below in a separate chapter.
5. The consistency state (and so need of reorganisation) as shown in a varying colour from green to purple in the progress bar in the database but is now controlled by the number of newly added records.

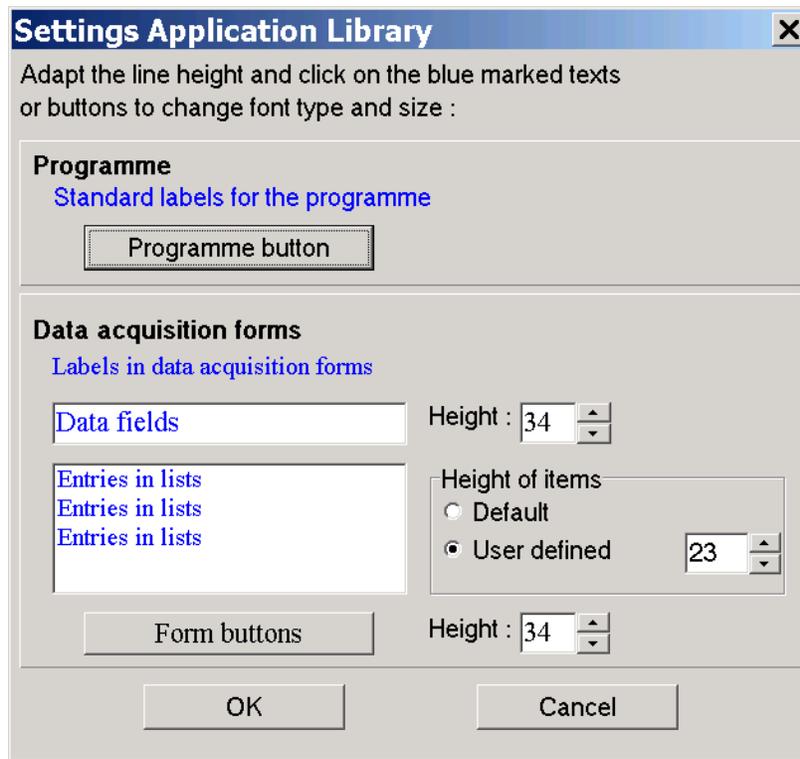
### *How to set fonts and font size for the data acquisition forms*

First the changes compared to older versions.

1. System and acquisition form fonts and font sizes are now globally defined. There are different fonts and font sizes for
  - the text of the programme,
  - the buttons of the programme,
  - the labels in the data acquisition forms,
  - the data fields in forms,
  - the lists in forms.
2. The height of the data fields and the buttons in the data acquisition forms are defined globally. These values are not anymore recalculated based on the size of the selected data acquisition form.
3. The height of the programme buttons is defined globally.

Now a short introduction how to set fonts, the font size, the line and button height.

When starting version 2.6 for the first time, a font selection menu appears. Here, you may select font names, font size. You will immediately see the result. The same applies for the height of the buttons and data fields. This menu can be also called through Hdb2Win > Application Library > Options > Adapt Fonts.



There are two sections, one for the programme, one for the data acquisition forms. Clicking on the blue "Standard labels for the programme", the font and the font size can be modified, but not the font style or font colour. For the programme buttons, the height and font size can be stepwise modified. In the lower section ("Data acquisition forms") you may modify the font type, font size, line height, the height of the buttons, and the height of list items.

After opening your database (before you have to apply the new service release) you will see whether you like the selected fonts and font size. When you change your computer screen it may make sense to adapt the fonts again.

As you know, most data acquisition forms have a frame. If it concerns a table with many data fields (as the species in PaleoTax or Oliva, or the specimens in PalCol) this frame should cover the entire form. Depending on the screen configuration, it may happen, that this frame is much smaller as the available space, or, even worse, it exceeds the available space. You may correct this value. On the first page of the option menu of the Application library, there is a new option: the "Correction height of forms (%)".

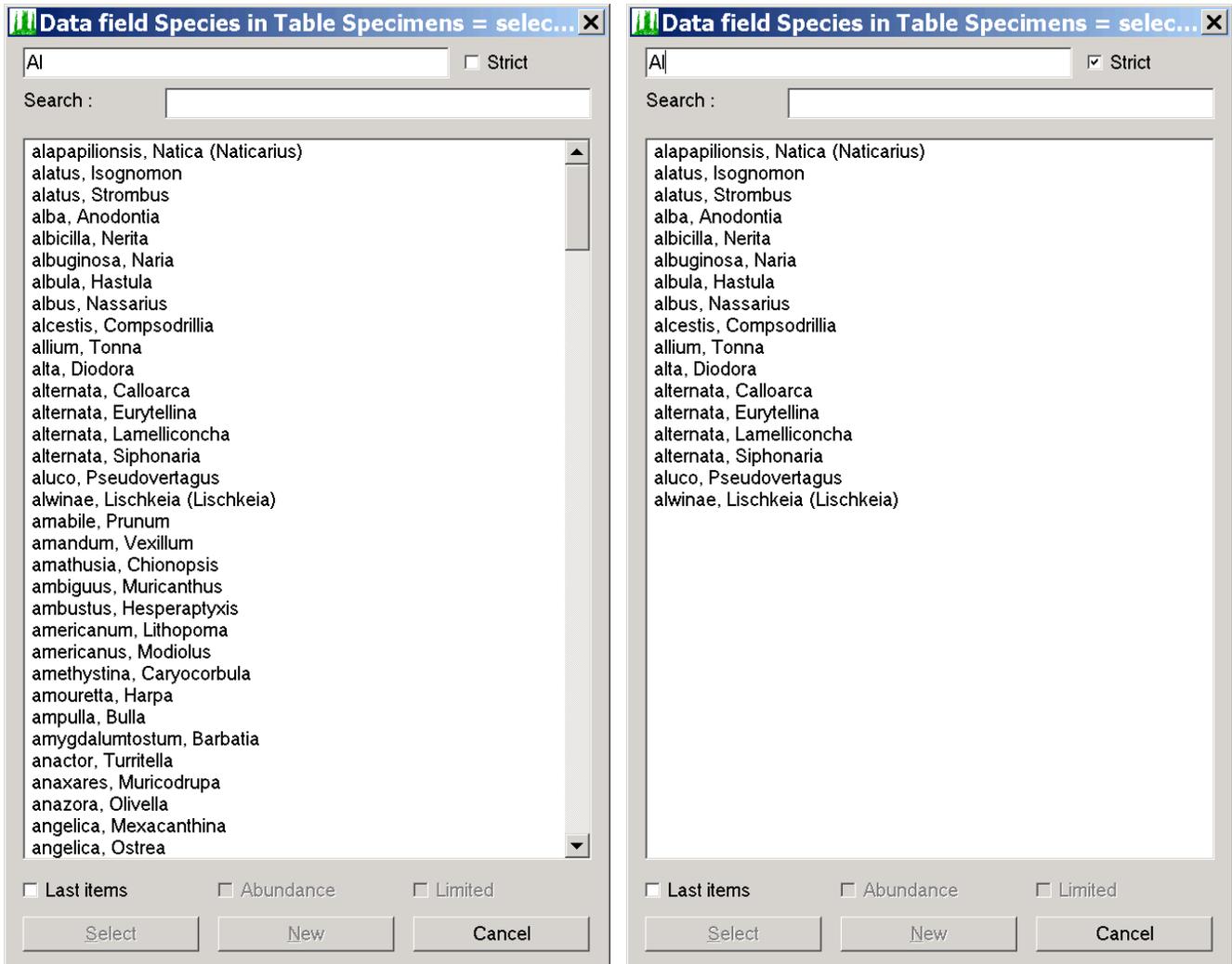


Per default, this value is set to 100 (percent). If it seems that the forms of your application library are exceeding the available space of the file cards, the value should be reduced. In contrary, if there remain much space at the bottom of the form, the value should be increased.

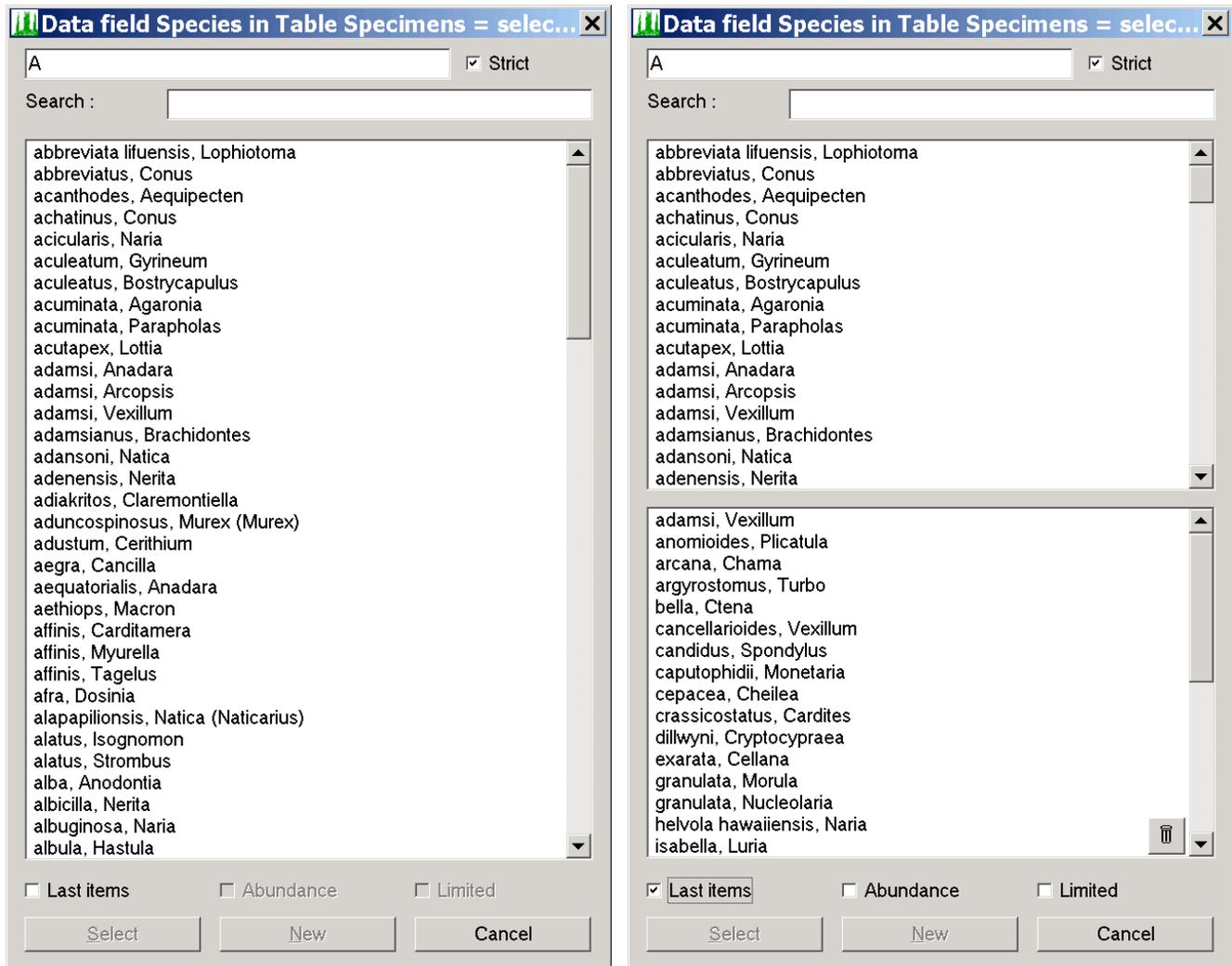
### Selection table

The function that allows to select items from a subordinated table, has been modified.

(1) There is a check box labelled 'Strict'. When marked, the items must start with the entered letters, otherwise also items larger than the entered letters are shown. See the example below, species names startint with AL.



(2) When selecting an item (in the example below the species from the principal table in Oliva), you may by checking 'Last items' open a second list with recently selected items. This can be very helpful, but boring, when you work with other species (or with other localities). In version 2.6 is therefore a (trash-bin) button that empties the list.



## Applications

User, who have installed Hdb2Win version 2.6 for the first time **do not need to do anything** since their structure is already on the current level of PaleoTax SR19 / PalCol SR9 / Oliva SR5. For users of former versions it is necessary to bring the database to the new Service Release (in this version all published applications). It is, as always, recommended to make backup copies of your database before applying a Service Release, even if there is only a small amount of changes in the database sensu stricto. See also the separate file sr.pdf (in both English and German). The service routine has been improved and should not stop when the name of the database folder differs from the corresponding PTX and DOK files.

You will be not able to work with the new programme version and older Service Releases. You will be not able to work with older programme versions with the new Service Releases.

### *PaleoTax*

You will find the programme SR19.PRF in the folder 'c:\Documents and Settings\

### ***PalCol***

You will find the programme SR9.PRF in the folder 'c:\Documents and Settings\\Documents\Hdb2Win\PCL\_SR9' (Windows XP) or 'c:\Users\\Documents\Hdb2Win\PCL\_SR9' (more recent versions). Load the file with the interpreter, start it, read carefully the instructions and answer properly the questions. All data acquisitions forms were modified. There is also a new manual in the German language (palcol-9.pdf)

### ***Oliva***

You will find the programme SR5.PRF in the folder 'c:\Documents and Settings\\Documents\Hdb2Win\OLI\_SR5' (Windows XP) or 'c:\Users\\Documents\Hdb2Win\OLI\_SR5' (more recent versions). Load the file with the interpreter, start it, read carefully the instructions and answer properly the questions. All data acquisitions forms were modified. There are again more programmes for data analysis, and some programmes where improved. There is also a new manual, one version with changes marked in a different colour (oliva-5m.pdf) and a 'clean' version (oliva-5.pdf).

## **Additional programmes**

Some applications of PaleoTax/Graph were overhauled and improved. Please compare to the detailed and expanded manual PGraph-26.pdf. PaleoTax/Map was not updated.

## **Manuals**

- The is a new manual in English and German that introduces to general functions of the database.  
Hdb26Ger.pdf  
Hdb26Eng.pdf
- The manual for Hdb2Win version 2.1 is still valid for PaleoTax versions 2.2 up to 2.6. There are not too many changes since then, and practical everything new is documented in the PDFs on following programme versions. Read the manual (available online for free). Check the F.A.Q. Both answer most questions.
- The following documents were published after the printed manual:  
info220.pdf  
info221.pdf  
info222.pdf  
info23.pdf  
info231.pdf  
info232.pdf  
info24.pdf  
info241.pdf  
info242.pdf  
info25.pdf  
info251.pdf  
info252.pdf  
info26.pdf (this file)
- An extensive description of the Interpreter is provided in IP-26.pdf.
- An instruction how to create new applications is available since Hdb2Win version 2.4 (CB-26.pdf).
- The options of the database are altogether documented in the new options-26.pdf (bilingual; version Hdb2Win 2.6).
- The editor of the forms is documented in forms-26.pdf.

- Data analysis in the Application library PaleoTax is back with better functions to graph the results and an improved manual ptx-de-sr19.pdf.
- The updated manual (oliva-5.pdf) on the Oliva application comes not anymore with a short introduction on the database system itself. This is now a separate document.
- The additional programme PaleoTax/Graph comes with a new manual (PGraph-26.pdf).
- Please look at Hdb2Win > Application Library > Options > Links to help files.

Be aware that from 2022 on, the server paleotax.de is certified and the correct address is now

<https://www.paleotax.de>

---

Advice, wishes and comments are always welcome, also if I cannot realise them on the spot. They are not forgotten, but sometimes they demand structural or conceptual changes. Some are impossible to realise. A reminder could be helpful. I acknowledge comments by users.

Hdb2Win / PaleoTax © H. Löser 1993-2025

Published March 2025

Internet <https://www.paleotax.de>

E-Mail [info@paleotax.de](mailto:info@paleotax.de)

Document E:\T\DOK\HDB2WIN\info26.doc