<u>Be a citizen scientist and put the Whitsundays on the scientific map with i-naturalist</u>

We all know that there are amazing creatures big and small all around us, many not documented or studied. If we want to conserve species, the first step is knowing that they are here. That is where you come in. If you want to be a citizen scientist it is very easy: this guide is for **i-naturalist**, a global database of observations contributed by all kinds of people from scientists to school students. You don't need to be an expert: if you add a photo the software will try to match it to a known species. Then the experts on the app will work out if this is correct: it will send you updates so you can see how your observations are going. Their website contains much more information.

https://www.inaturalist.org/

First you need to register an account aqnd download the app. You can save your favourite places to make uploading observations really easy. The text below explains the basics.

What Are Observations?

An observation records an encounter with an individual organism at a particular time and location. This includes encounters with signs of organisms like tracks, nests, or things that just died. When you make an observation, you'll record:

Who you are
You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations

Where you saw it
Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public

What you saw
Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**

When you saw it
Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist
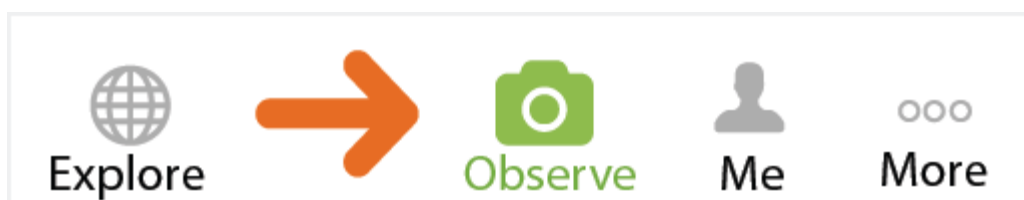
Evidence of what you saw
By including evidence like a **photo or sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles

Your observations don't need to include all of these parts, but they do in order to become research quality observations for science. Remember, you should make separate observations for each separate organism you encounter.

If you observed something that is not wild, like a garden plant or a lion in the zoo, make sure to mark it as captive/cultivated to prevent it from becoming research quality.

How to Make an Observation with your iPhone

- Tap **observe**.

Details

2

What did you see?

What did you see?

3

Q Frog|

iNaturalist

Notes...

4

5

Geo Privacy

Captive / Cultivated

Projects

Save

6

Observations are automatically counted by collection proects and can't be added manually

Edit Location

The app should fetch your location automatically and display it on the map. If it doesn't, go to the Settings app and tap Privacy to enable Location Services for iNaturalist

- Add one or more photos as **evidence**.

- Choose **what** you saw.

- **When** you saw it should be added automatically.

- **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If it doesn't, check Privacy in the Settings app.

- **Save** your observation.

- **Upload** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the Upload button. You can turn off automatic upload from the app settings from the Me tab.

- Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.

How to Make an Observation with your Android

- Tap the **observe** button from the My Observations tab.

Choose one of the computer vision suggestions, search for something else, or type in 'Placeholder' if offline

Observations are automatically counted by collection projects and can't be added manually

The app should fetch and display your location automatically. If it doesn't, tap through to get your location manually.

- Add one or more photos as **evidence**.
- Choose **what** you saw.
- **When** you saw it should be added automatically.
- **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If this doesn't happen, check app permissions in the Settings app.
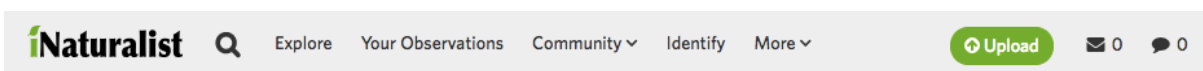- **Save** your observation.

- **Sync** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the button. You can turn off auto upload from the Settings tab.

- Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.

Make an observation from the Web

- Start by clicking the green **Upload** button from the header when you are logged in.

From the upload page, begin by dragging in one or more photos. Each photo will create an 'observation card' that you can edit before submitting. You can also use the 'Add' button in the upper left to create observation cards without photos or the 'More Import options' menu to upload a CSV or import from external sites.

- Choose **what** you saw from the suggestions or by searching for a name. If you can't find what you're looking for, leave it blank or use some placeholder text. If you entered a scientific name that's not recognized, click 'Search external name providers' to first import the organism from elsewhere. Use the sidebar to let us know if the organism you observed was [captive or cultivated](#).
- Use the calendar to enter **when** you observed the organism
- Type in an address and select from the places offered in order to calculate coordinates and an accuracy circle describing **where** you were. You'll probably also need to zoom into the map and manually adjust the marker position and accuracy circle size.
- **Submit** your observation.
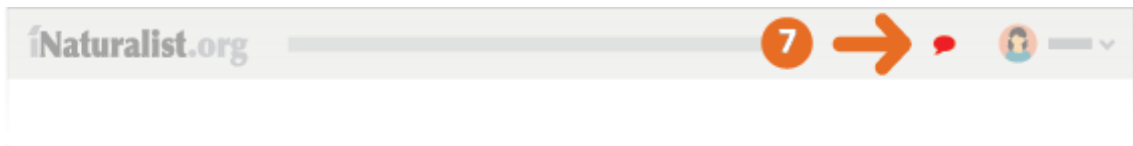
- Check back for **updates** on your observations by the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.