

Protocol dialogue for the collection of geolocalized records

1. Begin with Acknowledgment and Appreciation

- Thank the person sincerely for their participation and for sharing their observations.
- Emphasize the importance of their contribution to the project and to fungal conservation.
- Reinforce that each report adds valuable knowledge about a critically endangered species.

2. Introduce Yourself and Explain the Project

- State your name, institutional affiliation, and role in the project.
Example: "My name is Lara Thornton, and I'm a biologist working with CONICET."
- Briefly explain the focus of the study: that *Phlebopus bruchii* is a critically endangered species, and the project aims to understand its distribution to guide conservation actions.
- Highlight the importance of citizen science in collecting geo-referenced presence records.
Example: "Your report is essential for helping us map where this species still exists and identify areas that need protection."

3. Request for Photographic Evidence

- Politely ask the participant to share any photos they may have taken of the fungus.
- Explain that photographic evidence significantly enhances the reliability of identification and enables the research team to verify the observation.
- If possible, ask for multiple angles (e.g., cap, stem, surrounding habitat) and mention image clarity.
Example: "If you took any photos of the fungus, especially close-ups or pictures of the habitat, they would be incredibly helpful for confirming the record."

4. Key Questions for Identification of *Phlebopus bruchii*

To help confirm whether the species you found is *P. bruchii*, please answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible:

Location and Habitat

- Where did you find the mushroom? (Please describe or send coordinates.)
- What kind of environment was it in? (e.g., forest edge, open grassland, near water, etc.)

- Were there native or exotic plant species nearby? If so, which ones?

Specimen Characteristics

- Did you collect the specimen?
- If cut, did the mushroom bruise blue (change color) when exposed to air?

5. Confirm Identification and Request Geolocation Data

- Based on the provided answers and images, assess whether the observation is likely to be *Phlebopus bruchii*.
- If identification seems correct, kindly confirm this with the participant.
- Request precise geolocation data (GPS coordinates if available). Explain that accurate location information is critical for mapping the species' distribution and informing conservation efforts.
- Reassure the participant that the data will be used strictly for scientific and conservation purposes.

Example: "Based on your description and photos, this seems to be Phlebopus bruchii. Could you please share the GPS location or describe exactly where you found it? This helps us better understand its distribution and protect its habitat."