

# Package: SoilTaxonomy (via r-universe)

June 15, 2026

**Title** A System of Soil Classification for Making and Interpreting Soil Surveys

**Description** Taxonomic dictionaries, formative element lists, and functions related to the maintenance, development and application of U.S. Soil Taxonomy. Data and functionality are based on official U.S. Department of Agriculture sources including the latest edition of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy. Descriptions and metadata are obtained from the National Soil Information System or Soil Survey Geographic databases. Other sources are referenced in the data documentation. Provides tools for understanding and interacting with concepts in the U.S. Soil Taxonomic System. Most of the current utilities are for working with taxonomic concepts at the ``higher" taxonomic levels: Order, Suborder, Great Group, and Subgroup.

**Version** 0.2.8

**Maintainer** Andrew Brown <andrew.g.brown@usda.gov>

**Depends** R (>= 3.5)

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyLoad** yes

**URL** <https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilTaxonomy>,  
<https://ncss-tech.github.io/SoilTaxonomy/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilTaxonomy/issues>

**Imports** stats, utils, stringr, data.table

**Suggests** testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, markdown, soilDB, ape, data.tree

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**LazyData** false

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Andrew Brown [aut, cre], Dylan Beaudette [aut]

**Repository** <https://cran.r-universe.dev>  
**Date/Publication** 2025-07-11 05:00:06 UTC  
**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/cran/SoilTaxonomy>  
**RemoteRef** HEAD  
**RemoteSha** 962ec7c955b49ee11e30285fc69b831e8bd9450a

## Contents

code_to_level . . . . .	3
decompose_taxon_code . . . . .	3
explainST . . . . .	4
extractSMR . . . . .	5
FormativeElements . . . . .	6
get_ST_family_classes . . . . .	7
get_ST_features . . . . .	8
getChildTaxa . . . . .	9
getLastChildTaxon . . . . .	10
getParentTaxa . . . . .	11
getTaxonAtLevel . . . . .	12
getTaxonCriteria . . . . .	13
getTaxonSMR . . . . .	14
isValidST . . . . .	15
level_hierarchy . . . . .	15
level_to_taxon . . . . .	16
newick_string . . . . .	17
parent_level . . . . .	18
parse_family . . . . .	19
preceding_taxon_codes . . . . .	20
relative_taxon_code_position . . . . .	20
SoilTaxonomyLevels . . . . .	21
ST . . . . .	22
ST_criteria_13th . . . . .	23
ST_family_classes . . . . .	24
ST_features . . . . .	24
ST_formative_elements . . . . .	25
ST_higher_taxa_codes_12th . . . . .	25
ST_higher_taxa_codes_13th . . . . .	26
ST_SMR_13th . . . . .	26
taxon_code_to_taxon . . . . .	27
taxon_to_level . . . . .	28
taxon_to_taxon_code . . . . .	28
taxonTree . . . . .	29
WRB_4th_2022 . . . . .	30

**Index**

**31**

---

code_to_level	<i>Determine taxonomic level of a taxonomic letter code</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

Determine taxonomic level of a taxonomic letter code

**Usage**

```
code_to_level(code)
```

**Arguments**

code            A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)

**Value**

A character vector containing "order", "suborder", "greatgroup" or "subgroup"

**Examples**

```
# order level code (1 character)
code_to_level("B")

# subgroup level code (4 characters)
code_to_level("ABCD")

# subgroup level code (5 characters, 4 uppercase + 1 lowercase)
code_to_level("IFFZh")
```

---

decompose_taxon_code	<i>Decompose taxon letter codes</i>
----------------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Find all codes that logically comprise the specified codes. For instance, code "ABC" ("Anhyturbels") returns "A" ("Gelisol"), "AB" ("Turbels"), "ABC" ("Anhyturbels"). Use in conjunction with a lookup table that maps Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroup taxa to their codes (see [taxon\\_code\\_to\\_taxon](#) and [taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code](#)).

**Usage**

```
decompose_taxon_code(codes)
```

**Arguments**

codes            A character vector of taxon codes to "decompose" – case sensitive

**Details**

Accounts for Keys that run out of capital letters (more than 26 subgroups) and use lowercase letters for a unique subdivision within the "fourth character position."

**Value**

A list with equal length to input vector; one character vector per element

**See Also**

[preceding\\_taxon\\_codes](#), [taxon\\_code\\_to\\_taxon](#), [taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code](#)

**Examples**

```
decompose_taxon_code(c("ABC", "ABCDe", "BCDEF"))
```

---

explainST

*Explain a taxon name using formative elements*

---

**Description**

Explain a taxon name using formative elements

**Usage**

```
explainST(x, format = c("text", "html"), viewer = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

x                a Subgroup, Great Group, Suborder or Order-level taxonomic name; matching is exact and case-insensitive

format          output format: 'text' | 'html'

viewer          show format = 'html' output in browser? default: TRUE

**Value**

a block of text, suitable for display in fixed-width font

**Examples**

```

cat(explainST("ids"), "\n\n")           # -ids (order suffix)
cat(explainST("aridisols"), "\n\n")     # Aridisols (order name)
cat(explainST("argids"), "\n\n")        # Arg- (suborder)
cat(explainST("haplargids"), "\n\n")    # Hap- (great group)
cat(explainST("typic haplargids"), "\n\n") # Typic (subgroup)

```

---

extractSMR	<i>Extract Soil Moisture Regime from Subgroup or Higher Level Taxon</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

Extract Soil Moisture Regime from Subgroup or Higher Level Taxon

**Usage**

```
extractSMR(taxon, as.is = FALSE, droplevels = FALSE, ordered = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

taxon	character. Vector of taxon names.
as.is	Return character labels rather than an (ordered) factor? Default: FALSE
droplevels	Drop unused levels? Default: FALSE
ordered	Create an ordinal factor? Default: TRUE

**Value**

an (ordered) factor of Soil Moisture Regimes, or character vector when as.is=TRUE

**Examples**

```
extractSMR(c("aquic haploxeralfs", "typic epiaqualfs", "humic inceptic eutroperox"))
```

---

FormativeElements	<i>Identify formative elements in taxon names at Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level</i>
-------------------	--

---

**Description**

Identify formative elements in taxon names at Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level

**Usage**

```
FormativeElements(x, level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

```
OrderFormativeElements(x)
```

```
SubOrderFormativeElements(x)
```

```
GreatGroupFormativeElements(x)
```

```
SubGroupFormativeElements(x)
```

```
get_ST_formative_elements(
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
)
```

**Arguments**

x	A character vector containing subgroup-level taxonomic names
level	one of c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")

**Value**

A list containing \$defs: a data.frame containing taxonomic elements, derivations, connotations and links. And \$char.index: a numeric denoting the position where the formative element occurs in the search text x

get\_ST\_formative\_elements(): a data.frame containing descriptors of formative elements used at the specified level

**Author(s)**

D.E. Beaudette, A.G. Brown

**Examples**

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudults", level = "subgroup")
SubGroupFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudults")
```

```
FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiudults", level = "greatgroup")
```

```

GreatGroupFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiuults")

FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiuults", level = "suborder")
SubOrderFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiuults")

FormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiuults", level = "order")
OrderFormativeElements("acrudoxic plinthic kandiuults")

```

---

get\_ST\_family\_classes *Get soil family / series differentiae and class names*

---

## Description

All parameters to this function are optional (default NULL). If specified, they are used as filters.

## Usage

```

get_ST_family_classes(
  classname = NULL,
  group = NULL,
  name = NULL,
  chapter = NULL,
  page = NULL,
  multiline_sep = "\n",
  multiline_col = "criteria"
)

```

## Arguments

classname	optional filtering vector; levels of ChoiceName column from NASIS metadata
group	optional filtering vector; one or more of: "Mineral Family", "Organic Family", "Mineral or Organic"
name	optional filtering vector; one or more of: "Mineralogy Classes", "Mineralogy Classes Applied Only to Limnic Subgroups", "Mineralogy Classes Applied Only to Terric Subgroups", "Key to the Particle-Size and Substitute Classes of Mineral Soils", "Calcareous and Reaction Classes of Mineral Soils", "Reaction Classes for Organic Soils", "Soil Moisture Subclasses", "Other Family Classes", "Soil Temperature Classes", "Soil Moisture Regimes", "Cation-Exchange Activity Classes", "Use of Human-Altered and Human-Transported Material Classes"
chapter	optional filtering vector for chapter number
page	optional filtering vector; page number (12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy)
multiline_sep	default "\n" returns multiline_col column as a character vector concatenated with "\n". Use NULL for list
multiline_col	character. vector of "multi-line" column names to concatenate. Default: "criteria"; use NULL for no concatenation.

**Details**

This is a wrapper method around the package data set `ST_family_classes`.

**Value**

a *data.frame*

a subset of `ST_family_classes` *data.frame*

**See Also**

`ST_family_classes` `ST_features` `get_ST_features()`

**Examples**

```
# get classes in chapter 17
str(get_ST_family_classes(chapter = 17))

# get classes on page 323
get_ST_family_classes(page = 323)

# get the description for the mesic temperature class from list column
str(get_ST_family_classes(classname = "mesic")$description)
```

---

get\_ST\_features

*Get soil diagnostic horizons, characteristics and features*

---

**Description**

All parameters to this function are optional (default NULL). If specified, they are used as filters.

**Usage**

```
get_ST_features(
  group = NULL,
  chapter = NULL,
  name = NULL,
  page = NULL,
  multiline_sep = "\n",
  multiline_col = "criteria"
)
```

**Arguments**

group	optional filtering vector; one of: "Surface", "Subsurface", "Mineral", "Organic", "Mineral or Organic"
chapter	optional filtering vector for chapter number
name	optional filtering vector; these are the "names" of features used in headers
page	optional filtering vector; page number (12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy)
multiline_sep	default "\n" returns multiline_col column as a character vector concatenated with "\n". Use NULL for list
multiline_col	character. vector of "multi-line" column names to concatenate. Default: "criteria"; use NULL for no concatenation.

**Details**

This is a wrapper method around the package data set ST\_features.

**Value**

a subset of ST\_features *data.frame*

**See Also**

ST\_features ST\_family\_classes get\_ST\_family\_classes()

**Examples**

```
# get all features
str(get_ST_features())

# get features in chapter 3
str(get_ST_features(chapter = 3))

# get features on pages 18, 19, 20
get_ST_features(page = 18:20)

# get the required characteristics for the mollic epipedon from list column
str(get_ST_features(name = "Mollic Epipedon")$criteria)
```

---

getChildTaxa

*Get the lower (child) taxa for a taxon name or code*

---

**Description**

Get the lower (child) taxa for a taxon name or code

**Usage**

```
getChildTaxa(
  taxon = NULL,
  code = NULL,
  convert = TRUE,
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
)
```

**Arguments**

taxon	A character vector of taxa (case-insensitive)
code	A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)
convert	Convert results from taxon codes to taxon names? Default: TRUE
level	Filter results to specific level? Default: "order","suborder","greatgroup","subgroup"

**Value**

A named list, where names are taxon codes and values are character vectors representing parent taxa

**Examples**

```
# suborder children of "Mollisols"
getChildTaxa("Mollisols", level = "suborder")

# get all children within a great group, given a subgroup
getChildTaxa(getTaxonAtLevel("Ultic Haploxerales", "greatgroup"))
```

---

getLastChildTaxon      *Get last child taxon in Keys at specified taxonomic level*

---

**Description**

Get last child taxon in Keys at specified taxonomic level

**Usage**

```
getLastChildTaxon(level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup"))
```

**Arguments**

level	Get child taxa from keys at specified level. One of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup"
-------	--

**Value**

A data.frame containing key (parent key), taxon (last taxon name), code (letter code), position (relative taxon position)

**Examples**

```
# get last taxa in suborder-level keys
x <- getLastChildTaxon(level = "suborder")

# proportion of keys where last taxon has "Hap" formative element
prop.table(table(grepl("^Hap", x$taxon)))
```

---

getParentTaxa	<i>Get the higher (parent) taxa for a taxon name or code</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Must specify either taxon or code. taxon is used if both are specified.

**Usage**

```
getParentTaxa(
  taxon = NULL,
  code = NULL,
  convert = TRUE,
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
)
```

**Arguments**

taxon	A character vector of taxa (case-insensitive)
code	A character vector of taxon codes (case sensitive)
convert	Convert results from taxon codes to taxon names? Default: TRUE
level	level Filter results to specific level? Default: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

**Value**

A named list, where names are taxon codes and values are character vectors representing parent taxa

**Examples**

```
getParentTaxa("ultic haploxera1fs")

getParentTaxa(code = c("ABCD", "DABC"))

getParentTaxa("folists", convert = FALSE)
```

---

getTaxonAtLevel	<i>Get the taxon name at the Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level</i>
-----------------	--

---

### Description

Get the taxon name at the Soil Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level

### Usage

```
getTaxonAtLevel(x, level = "order", simplify = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

x	A character vector containing subgroup-level taxonomic names
level	one of c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")
simplify	Return a vector when level has length 1? Default: TRUE. Otherwise, a data.frame is returned.

### Value

A named character vector of taxa at specified level, where names are the internal Soil Taxonomy letter codes. When length(level) > 1? a data.frame is returned with column names for each level.

### Examples

```
# default gets the soil order
getTaxonAtLevel(c("typic haplargids", "typic glacistels")) #, level = "order")

# specify alternate levels
getTaxonAtLevel("humic haploxerands", level = "greatgroup")

# can't get subgroup (child) from great group (parent)
getTaxonAtLevel("udifolists", level = "subgroup")

# but can do parents of children
getTaxonAtLevel("udifolists", level = "suborder")

# specify multiple levels (returns a list element for each level)
getTaxonAtLevel("hapludolls", c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

---

getTaxonCriteria	<i>Get Taxon Criteria from the Keys to Soil Taxonomy</i>
------------------	--

---

## Description

Get Taxon Criteria from the Keys to Soil Taxonomy

## Usage

```
getTaxonCriteria(  
  taxon = NULL,  
  code = NULL,  
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup")  
)
```

## Arguments

taxon	<i>character.</i> Vector of taxon names (order to subgroup level). These values are converted to taxon "codes"
code	<i>character.</i> Vector of taxon codes.
level	<i>character.</i> One or more of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

## Value

A named list. Each list element is named based on the input value (either taxon or code) and contains a data.frame derived from dataset ST\_criteria\_13th.

## See Also

[taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code\(\)](#), [ST\\_criteria\\_13th](#)

## Examples

```
getTaxonCriteria(c("mollic haplocryalFs", "abruptic durixeralfs"))  
  
getTaxonCriteria(code = "ABC", level = c("greatgroup"))
```

---

 getTaxonSMR

*Lookup Pre-calculated Soil Moisture Regimes by Taxon*


---

### Description

Helper function for using latest version of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy standard lookup table for soil moisture information.

### Usage

```
getTaxonSMR(
  taxon = NULL,
  code = NULL,
  as.is = FALSE,
  droplevels = FALSE,
  ordered = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

taxon	<i>character.</i> Vector of taxon names (order to subgroup level). These values are converted to taxon "codes"
code	<i>character.</i> Vector of taxon codes.
as.is	<i>logical.</i> Return character labels rather than an (ordered) factor? Default: FALSE
droplevels	<i>logical.</i> Drop unused levels? Default: FALSE
ordered	<i>logical.</i> Create an ordinal factor? Default: TRUE

### Value

*character* or *factor* (when as.is=FALSE) containing soil moisture regime labels extracted from 13th edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy taxa using extractSMR()

### See Also

[extractSMR\(\) ST\\_SMR\\_13th](#)

### Examples

```
getTaxonSMR(c("aridisols", "haploxera1fs", NA, "abruptic durixeralfs", "ustic haplocryalfs"))
```

---

isValidST	<i>Check for valid taxonomic level (Order, Suborder, Great Group, Subgroup)</i>
-----------	---

---

**Description**

Checks needle for matches against a single level of Soil Taxonomy hierarchy: order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup. Matches are case-insensitive.

**Usage**

```
isValidST(needle, level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

**Arguments**

needle	vector of taxa
level	single level of Soil Taxonomy hierarchy; one of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

**Value**

logical vector, same length as needle

**Examples**

```
isValidST('typic haploxera1fs', level = 'subgroup')
```

---

level_hierarchy	<i>Order of Hierarchical Levels in Soil Taxonomy</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Creates an ordered factor such that different levels (the values used in level arguments to various SoilTaxonomy package functions) in the Soil Taxonomy hierarchy can be distinguished or compared to one another.

**Usage**

```
level_hierarchy(
  x = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup", "family"),
  family = TRUE,
  as.is = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

x	Passed as input to factor(); defaults to full set: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup", "family",
family	Allow "family" as input in x? Used for validating inputs that must be a "taxon above family".
as.is	Return x "as is" (after validation)? Shorthand for unclass(taxon_hierarchy()) to return simple character vector.

**Details**

The levels of Soil Taxonomy hierarchy include: "family", "subgroup", "greatgroup", "suborder", "order". The "order" is a level above "suborder". "subgroup" and above are "taxa above family". Note: "family" is always included as the "lowest" level when the result is an ordered factor, even when family-level input is disallowed by family=FALSE.

**Value**

An ordered factor with the values "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup". or character when as.is=TRUE.

**Examples**

```
# is great group a taxon above family?
level_hierarchy("greatgroup") > "family"

# is order lower level than suborder?
level_hierarchy("order") < "suborder"

# what levels are above or equal to a particular taxon's level?
level_hierarchy(as.is = TRUE)[level_hierarchy() >= taxon_to_level("aquisalids")]

## this produces an error (used for checking for taxa above family)
# level_hierarchy("family", family = FALSE)
```

---

level_to_taxon	<i>Get all taxa at specified level</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Convenience method for getting taxa from ST\_unique\_list

**Usage**

```
level_to_taxon(level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"))
```

**Arguments**

level                    character. One or more of "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"

**Value**

A character vector of taxa at the specified level

**Examples**

```
# get all order and suborder level taxa
level_to_taxon(level = c("order", "suborder"))
```

---

newick\_string                    *Generate Newick Tree Format Parenthetic Strings*

---

**Description**

This function generates **Newick tree format** strings for a single tree. Taxa are assigned relative positions within their parent to indicate the order that they "key out."

**Usage**

```
newick_string(
  x = NULL,
  level = c("suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"),
  what = c("taxon", "code")
)
```

**Arguments**

x                        Optional: a taxon name to get children of.

level                    Level to build the tree at. One of "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup". Defaults to "suborder" when x is not specified. When x is specified but level is not specified, level is calculated from `taxon_to_level(x)`.

what                    Either "taxon" (default; for taxon names (quoted for subgroups)) or "code"

**Details**

The output from this function is a character string with parenthetical format encoding a single tree suitable for input into functions such as `ape::read.tree()`. Multiple trees can be combined together in the file or text string supplied to your tree-parsing function of choice.

**Value**

character. A single tree in parenthetical Newick or New Hampshire format.

**Examples**

```

if (requireNamespace("ape")) {
  par(mar = c(0, 0, 0, 0))

  # "fan"
  mytr <- ape::read.tree(text = newick_string(level = "suborder"))
  plot(mytr, "f", rotate.tree = 180, cex = 0.75)

  # "cladogram"
  mytr <- ape::read.tree(text = newick_string("durixeralfs", level = "subgroup"))
  plot(mytr, "c")

  # "cladogram" (using taxon codes instead of subgroups)
  mytr <- ape::read.tree(text = newick_string("xeralfs", level = "subgroup", what = "code"))
  plot(mytr, "c")

  dev.off()
}

```

---

parent_level	<i>Parent/Child Hierarchy</i>
--------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Parent/Child Hierarchy

**Usage**

```
parent_level(level, n = 1)
```

```
child_level(level, n = 1)
```

**Arguments**

level	character. Initial level name of a taxon. Vectors include values that are one of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup", "family"
n	Number of levels above/below (parent/child). Default: 1

**Value**

character. Level name of parent or child at specified level above input level.

**Examples**

```

parent_level('subgroup')

child_level('greatgroup')

parent_level('family', 3)

```

```
# no level above order
parent_level('family', 5)
```

---

parse_family	<i>Parse components of a "family-level" taxon name</i>
--------------	--

---

## Description

Parse components of a "family-level" taxon name

## Usage

```
parse_family(family, column_metadata = TRUE, flat = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

family	character. vector of taxonomic families, e.g. "fine-loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic ultic haploxeralfs"
column_metadata	logical. include parsed NASIS physical column names and values from family taxon components? Default: TRUE requires soilDB package.
flat	logical Default: TRUE to return concatenated family-level classes for "taxminalogy" and "taxfamother"? Alternately, if FALSE, list columns are returned.

## Value

a data.frame containing column names: "family" (input), "subgroup" (parsed taxonomic subgroup), "subgroup\_code" (letter code for subgroup), "class\_string" (comma-separated family classes), "classes\_split" (split class\_string vector stored as list column).

In addition, the following column names are identified and returned based on NASIS (National Soil Information System) metadata (via soilDB package):

- "taxpartsize", "taxpartsizemod", "taxminalogy", "taxceactcl", "taxreaction", "taxtempcl", "taxfamhahatmatcl", "taxfamother", "taxsubgrp", "taxgreatgroup", "taxsuborder", "taxorder"

## Examples

```
if (requireNamespace('soilDB')) {
  families <- c("fine, kaolinitic, thermic typic kanhapludults",
              "fine-loamy, mixed, semiactive, mesic ultic haploxeralfs",
              "euic, thermic typic haplosaprists",
              "coarse-loamy, mixed, active, mesic aquic dystrodepts")

  # inspect parsed list result
  str(parse_family(families))
}
```

---

```
preceding_taxon_codes Get taxon codes of preceding taxa
```

---

### Description

Find all codes that logically precede the specified codes. For instance, code "ABC" ("Anhyturbels") returns "AA" ("Histels") "ABA" ("Histoturbels") and "ABB" ("Aquiturbels"). Use in conjunction with a lookup table that maps Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroup taxa to their codes (see [taxon\\_code\\_to\\_taxon](#) and [taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code](#)).

### Usage

```
preceding_taxon_codes(codes)
```

### Arguments

codes                    A character vector of codes to calculate preceding codes for

### Details

Accounts for Keys that run out of capital letters (more than 26 subgroups) and use lowercase letters for a unique subdivision within the "fourth character position."

### Value

A list with equal length to input vector; one character vector per element

### See Also

[decompose\\_taxon\\_code](#), [taxon\\_code\\_to\\_taxon](#), [taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code](#)

### Examples

```
preceding_taxon_codes(c("ABCDE", "BCDEF"))
```

---

```
relative_taxon_code_position
```

*Determine relative position of taxon within Keys to Soil Taxonomy (Order to Subgroup)*

---

### Description

The relative position of a taxon is [number of preceding Key steps] + 1, or NA if it does not exist in the lookup table.

**Usage**

```
relative_taxon_code_position(code)
```

**Arguments**

code                    A character vector of taxon codes to determine the relative position of.

**Value**

A numeric vector with the relative position of each code with respect to their individual Keys.

**Examples**

```
# "ABCD" -> "Gypsic Anhyturbels", relative position 7
# "WXYZa" does not exist, theoretical position is 97
# "BAD" -> "Udifolists", relative position is 5

relative_taxon_code_position(c("ABCD", "WXYZa", "BAD"))

# [1] 7 NA 5
```

---

SoilTaxonomyLevels      *Get (Ordered) Factors based on Soil Taxonomy Key position*

---

**Description**

Get (Ordered) Factors based on Soil Taxonomy Key position

**Usage**

```
SoilTaxonomyLevels(
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"),
  as.is = FALSE,
  ordered = TRUE
)

SoilMoistureRegimeLevels(as.is = FALSE, ordered = TRUE)

SoilTemperatureRegimeLevels(as.is = FALSE, ordered = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

level                    One of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"  
as.is                    Return character labels rather than an (ordered) factor? Default: FALSE  
ordered                    Create an ordinal factor? Default: TRUE

**Value**

an (ordered) factor or character vector (when `as.is=TRUE`)

**Examples**

```
SoilTaxonomyLevels("order")
```

```
SoilTaxonomyLevels("order", ordered = FALSE)
```

```
SoilTaxonomyLevels("order", as.is = TRUE)
```

```
SoilTaxonomyLevels("suborder")
```

---

ST

*Soil Taxonomy Hierarchy*

---

**Description**

The first 4 levels of the US Soil Taxonomy hierarchy (soil order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup), presented as a `data.frame` (denormalized) and a list of unique taxa.

**Usage**

```
data(ST)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 2665 rows and 9 columns.

**Details**

Ordered based on the unique letter codes denoting taxa from the 13th edition of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy.

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/soil-taxonomy>

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST\_criteria\_13th      *Keys to Soil Taxonomy Criteria (13th Edition)*

---

**Description**

A lookup table relating taxon codes to specific criteria from the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (13th Edition)

**Usage**

```
data(ST_criteria_13th)
```

**Format**

An object of class `list` of length 3153.

**Details**

A `list` containing one element per taxon code at order to subgroup level. Each element contains a `data.frame` with 1 row per criterion, and 8 columns:

Each `data.frame` contains the following columns:

- `content` (text content of criterion)
- `chapter` (chapter number)
- `page` (page number)
- `key` (key name or level)
- `taxon` (taxon name)
- `code` (taxon code)
- `clause` (sequence number of criterion within taxon)
- `logic` (logical meaning of criterion)
  - One of:
    - \* `FIRST` (first)
    - \* `OR` (either this criterion OR the next criterion at same level)
    - \* `END` (end of hierarchical key)
    - \* `NEW` (go to new page/taxon specified)
    - \* `AND` (this criterion AND the next criterion at same level)
    - \* `HAVE` (criteria that must be met)
    - \* `LAST` (end of subgroup key)

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 2022. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 13th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST_family_classes	<i>Family-level Classes for Soil Taxonomy</i>
-------------------	---

---

**Description**

A database of family-level class names for Soil Taxonomy.

**Usage**

```
data(ST_family_classes)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 194 rows and 8 columns.

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST_features	<i>Epipedons, Diagnostic Horizons, Characteristics and Features in Soil Taxonomy</i>
-------------	--

---

**Description**

A `data.frame` with columns "group", "name", "chapter", "page", "description", "criteria". Currently page numbers and contents are referenced to 12th Edition Keys to Soil Taxonomy and derived from products in the ncss-tech SoilKnowledgeBase repository (<https://github.com/ncss-tech/SoilKnowledgeBase>).

**Usage**

```
data(ST_features)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 84 rows and 6 columns.

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST\_formative\_elements *Formative Elements used by Soil Taxonomy*

---

**Description**

A database of formative elements used by the first 4 levels of US Soil Taxonomy hierarchy (soil order, suborder, greatgroup, subgroup).

**Usage**

```
data(ST_formative_elements)
```

**Format**

An object of class `list` of length 4.

**References**

S. W. Buol and R. C. Graham and P. A. McDaniel and R. J. Southard. Soil Genesis and Classification, 5th edition. Iowa State Press, 2003.

---

ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_12th

*Letter Code Lookup Table for Position of Taxa within the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (12th Edition)*

---

**Description**

A lookup table mapping unique taxonomic Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroups to letter codes that denote their logical position within the Keys.

**Usage**

```
data(ST_higher_taxa_codes_12th)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 3082 rows and 2 columns.

**Details**

The lookup table has been corrected to reflect errata that were posted after the print publication of the 12th Edition Keys, as well as typos in the Spanish language edition.

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

Soil Survey Staff. 2014. Claves para la Taxonomía de Suelos, 12th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_13th

*Letter Code Lookup Table for Position of Taxa within the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (13th Edition)*

---

**Description**

A lookup table mapping unique taxonomic Order, Suborder, Great Group and Subgroups to letter codes that denote their logical position within the Keys.

**Usage**

```
data(ST_higher_taxa_codes_13th)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 3153 rows and 2 columns.

**References**

Soil Survey Staff. 2022. Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 13th ed. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/keys-to-soil-taxonomy>

---

ST\_SMR\_13th

*Soil Moisture Regimes used in the Keys to Soil Taxonomy (13th Edition)*

---

**Description**

A `data.frame` containing taxon codes and the Soil Moisture Regime associated with that taxon.

**Usage**

```
data(ST_SMR_13th)
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.frame` with 3082 rows and 2 columns.

**Details**

Future revisions of this data set may additionally include the Soil Moisture Subclass.

**References**

S. W. Buol and R. C. Graham and P. A. McDaniel and R. J. Southard. Soil Genesis and Classification, 5th edition. Iowa State Press, 2003.

---

taxon\_code\_to\_taxon     *Convert taxon code to taxon name*

---

**Description**

Convert taxon code to taxon name

**Usage**

```
taxon_code_to_taxon(code)
```

**Arguments**

code                    A character vector of Taxon Codes

**Value**

A character vector of matching Taxon Names

**See Also**

[decompose\\_taxon\\_code](#), [preceding\\_taxon\\_codes](#), [taxon\\_to\\_taxon\\_code](#)

**Examples**

```
taxon_code_to_taxon(c("ABC", "XYZ", "DAB", NA))
```

---

taxon\_to\_level      *Determine taxonomic level of specified taxa*

---

**Description**

Taxa that resolve to a subgroup level taxon and contain a comma ", " are assumed to be "family"-level.

**Usage**

```
taxon_to_level(taxon)
```

**Arguments**

taxon      character vector of taxon names at Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup level.

**Value**

character of taxonomic hierarchy levels (such as "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup", "family") for each element of input vector.

**Examples**

```
# get the taxonomic levels for various taxa
taxon_to_level(c("gelisols", NA, "foo", "typic folistels", "folistels"))
```

---

taxon\_to\_taxon\_code      *Convert taxon name to taxon code*

---

**Description**

Convert taxon name to taxon code

**Usage**

```
taxon_to_taxon_code(taxon)
```

**Arguments**

taxon      A character vector of taxon names, case insensitive

**Value**

A character vector of matching taxon codes

**See Also**

[decompose\\_taxon\\_code](#), [preceding\\_taxon\\_codes](#), [taxon\\_code\\_to\\_taxon](#)

**Examples**

```
taxon_to_taxon_code(c("Anhyturbels", "foo", "Cryaquands", NA))
```

---

taxonTree

*Create a data.tree Object from Taxon Names*

---

**Description**

This function takes one or more taxon names and taxonomic levels as input.

**Usage**

```
taxonTree(
  taxon,
  level = c("order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup"),
  root = "Soil Taxonomy",
  verbose = TRUE,
  special.chars = c("|--", "|", "|", "-"),
  file = "",
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

taxon	A vector of taxon names
level	One or more of: "order", "suborder", "greatgroup", "subgroup". The lowest level is passed to <code>getChildLevel()</code> to generate the leaf nodes.
root	Label for root node. Default: "Soil Taxonomy"; NULL for "unrooted" tree.
verbose	Print tree output? Default: TRUE
special.chars	Characters used to print the tree to console. Default: <code>c(" --", " ", " ", "-")</code> . For fancy markup try: <code>c("\u251c", "\u2502", "\u2514", "\u2500")</code>
file	Optional: path to output file. Default: "" prints to standard output connection (unless redirected by <code>sink()</code> )
...	Additional arguments to <code>data.tree::as.Node.data.frame()</code>

**Details**

A subclass of `data.tree Node` object is returned. This object has a custom `print()` method

**Value**

A SoilTaxonNode (subclass of data.tree Node) object (invisibly). A text representation of the tree is printed to stdout when verbose=TRUE.

**Examples**

```
# hapludults and hapludalfs (to subgroup level)
taxonTree(c("hapludults", "hapludalfs"))

# alfisols suborders and great groups
taxonTree("alfisols", root = "Alfisols", level = c("suborder", "greatgroup"))
```

---

WRB\_4th\_2022

*World Reference Base for Soil Resources (4th Edition, 2022)*


---

**Description**

World Reference Base for Soil Resources (4th Edition, 2022)

**Usage**

```
data(WRB_4th_2022)
```

**Format**

An object of class list of length 3.

**Details**

A list containing three *data.frame* elements "rsg", "pq", and "sq" providing information on the 'Representative Soil Groups', 'Principal Qualifiers,' and 'Supplementary Qualifiers,' respectively. Each element has the column "code" which is a number (1-32) referring to the position in the Reference Soil Groups, and the column "reference\_soil\_group" which is the corresponding group name. The "pq" and "sq" qualifier name columns (primary\_qualifier and supplementary\_qualifier) contain individual qualifier terms. Related qualifiers are identified using qualifier\_group column derived from qualifier names separated with a forward slash " / "

- The *data.frame* "rsg" has column "criteria", describing the logical criteria for each Reference Soil Group.
- The *data.frame* "pq" has qualifier names in column "principal\_qualifier"
- The *data.frame* "sq" has column "supplementary\_qualifier".

**References**

IUSS Working Group WRB. 2022. World Reference Base for Soil Resources. International soil classification system for naming soils and creating legends for soil maps. 4th edition. International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), Vienna, Austria.

# Index

## \* datasets

- ST, [22](#)
- ST\_criteria\_13th, [23](#)
- ST\_family\_classes, [24](#)
- ST\_features, [24](#)
- ST\_formative\_elements, [25](#)
- ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_12th, [25](#)
- ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_13th, [26](#)
- ST\_SMR\_13th, [26](#)
- WRB\_4th\_2022, [30](#)

child\_level (parent\_level), [18](#)

code\_to\_level, [3](#)

decompose\_taxon\_code, [3](#), [20](#), [27](#), [29](#)

explainST, [4](#)

extractSMR, [5](#)

extractSMR(), [14](#)

FormativeElements, [6](#)

get\_ST\_family\_classes, [7](#)

get\_ST\_features, [8](#)

get\_ST\_formative\_elements  
(FormativeElements), [6](#)

getChildTaxa, [9](#)

getLastChildTaxon, [10](#)

getParentTaxa, [11](#)

getTaxonAtLevel, [12](#)

getTaxonCriteria, [13](#)

getTaxonSMR, [14](#)

GreatGroupFormativeElements  
(FormativeElements), [6](#)

isValidST, [15](#)

level\_hierarchy, [15](#)

level\_to\_taxon, [16](#)

newick\_string, [17](#)

OrderFormativeElements  
(FormativeElements), [6](#)

parent\_level, [18](#)

parse\_family, [19](#)

preceding\_taxon\_codes, [4](#), [20](#), [27](#), [29](#)

relative\_taxon\_code\_position, [20](#)

SoilMoistureRegimeLevels  
(SoilTaxonomyLevels), [21](#)

SoilTaxonomyLevels, [21](#)

SoilTemperatureRegimeLevels  
(SoilTaxonomyLevels), [21](#)

ST, [22](#)

ST\_criteria\_13th, [13](#), [23](#)

ST\_family\_classes, [24](#)

ST\_features, [24](#)

ST\_formative\_elements, [25](#)

ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_12th, [25](#)

ST\_higher\_taxa\_codes\_13th, [26](#)

ST\_SMR\_13th, [14](#), [26](#)

ST\_unique\_list (ST), [22](#)

SubGroupFormativeElements  
(FormativeElements), [6](#)

SubOrderFormativeElements  
(FormativeElements), [6](#)

taxon\_code\_to\_taxon, [3](#), [4](#), [20](#), [27](#), [29](#)

taxon\_to\_level, [28](#)

taxon\_to\_taxon\_code, [3](#), [4](#), [20](#), [27](#), [28](#)

taxon\_to\_taxon\_code(), [13](#)

taxonTree, [29](#)

WRB\_4th\_2022, [30](#)