Table 1: BIOGRAPHY structure, with each variable, content, and coding options (from the PLHD Working Group Documentation)

Column name	Column contents	More notes on contents
StudyID[1]	Study number	Number. Each study is assigned an arbitrary identifying number that is an integer.
AnimID[2]	ID	Code, not long name. Includes only the observed products of live births. Character.[3]
AnimName	Long name	Long name. Character
Birthgroup	Group of birth	Character. ID of the group. Is allowed to be unknown. If unknown, leave blank or \N to signify "null" (the database equivalent of a missing value). Do not use the word unknown or null. Birthgroup is allowed to be a non-study group.
BGCertainty		The degree of certainty about which group this animal was born into. Character: C or U for certain or uncertain. If Birthgroup is Unknown, BGCertainty MUST BE either C or left blank or \N; cannot be Uncertain.
Sex	Sex	M, F or U for Male, Female or Unknown respectively. Character
MomID	Mother's ID	Mother's ID. Is allowed to be unknown (blank or \N). Character. Values in this column may or may not also occur in the AnimID column in another row.
FirstBorn	Is this animal its mother's first known live born	Y, N, U for Yes, No or Uncertain respectively. Character
Birthdate	Birth date	Animal's birth date. The birth date is either the exactly known date of birth or it is a point within an estimated range of possible birthdates. Most often this is the midpoint between when the mother was last seen without an infant (minimum possible birth date) and first seen with an infant (maximum possible birth date). Date: dd-Mmm-yyyy.[2]
BDMin	BD Minimum	Estimated earliest birth date. Must differ from Birthdate whenever earliest possible birth date is >7 days before Birthdate. Date: dd-Mmm-yyyy.
BDMax	BD Maximum	Estimated latest birth date. Must differ from Birthdate whenever latest possible birth date is >7 days after Birthdate. Date: dd-Mmm-yyyy.

Column name	Column contents	More notes on contents
BDDist	BD Distribution	Probability distribution of the estimated birth date given BDMin, Birthdate, and BDMax. Must be either normal (N) or uniform (U). If N, construct the probability distribution so that BDMin and BDMax represent $\pm$ 2 standard deviations of Birthdate. If U, the probability distribution is truncated at BDMin and BDMax with equal Birthdate probability within this range. If Birthdate is not at the midpoint of BDMin and BDMax, distribution must be U. If Birthdate is at the midpoint of BDMin and BDMax, distribution may be N or U. Character
Entrydate	Date the animal was first seen.	Date on which the animal is first sighted in the study population, either because the animal is recognized and ID'd as of that date or because strong inference indicates group membership from that date. Study population is the studied population at the time of the animal's entry into it. You are allowed to have Entrydate = Birthdate only if Birthdate=BDMin=BDMax. Date: dd-Mmm-yyyy.
Entrytype	Type of entry into population	Birth, immigration, start of confirmed ID, initiation of close observation for any other reason. B, I, C, O for birth, immigration into the study population, confirmed ID, and beginning of observation, respectively. Use of C versus O varies by study; they will be treated as functionally equivalent by database users for this reason. B, I, C, O are defined the same way as Starttype options in the FertilityIntervals Table.[3]
Departdate	Date the animal was last seen alive or known to have been alive.	Date on which the animal was last seen alive in the population. Fresh corpse allows last date alive to be estimated. Date: dd-Mmm-yyyy.
DepartdateError	Time between departdate and the first time that the animal was confirmed missing. Expressed as fraction of a year (number of days divided by number of days in a year).	May not assign a zero to DepartdateError if the number of days between Departdate and the first time that the animal was confirmed missing or considered missing in retrospect was >15 days. If unknown, leave blank or \N to signify "null" (the database equivalent of a missing value). Do not use the word unknown or null. Criteria for when an animal was confirmed or considered missing vary by study.

Column name	Column contents	More notes on contents
Departtype	Type of departure. D, E, P, O for death, emigration, permanent disappearance and end of observation respectively. Character	D, E, P, O for death, emigration, permanent disappearance and end of observation respectively (including most recent census). May = StopType in FertilityTable. D is allowed only where evidence is strong: body found, or circumstantial evidence indicates poor health or other mortality risks, or violations of population-specific behavior patterns. Most Ds in wild populations involve sudden disappearances. If animal that disappears is a member of the typically non-dispersing sex, then D is allowed in absence of corpse or other circumstantial evidence. If animal that disappears is a member of the dispersing sex, then D is allowed when (1) disappearance occurs before the youngest known dispersal in your population, or (2) body is found or other circumstantial evidence leads you in your expert opinion to assign D. Additional information, such as locations associated with risk, may be used to assign D. Otherwise assign permanent disappearance. Do not assign D based solely on inferred risks associated with age.

[1]Links to the STUDY POPULATION and FERTILITY.
[2]Links to the FERTILITY.
[3]Some studies had a few exceptions to isomorphism of AnimID and an individual; these records and other study-specific documentation are kept by the individual researchers.