



QuickStart and Installation Troubleshooting

Updated September 2024

For more detail, refer to the main installation guide:

https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/content/software/v8/BRAHMS_installation.pdf

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For licensing enquiries, contact brahms@innovation.ox.ac.uk

For technical enquiries, contact brahms@biology.ox.ac.uk

<https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/News>

Evaluation license

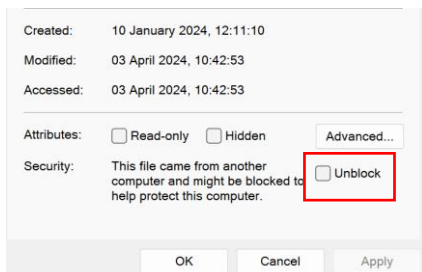
For evaluations, you do not need a special license file. However, Oxford University Innovation (OUI) asks you to agree to their standard terms and conditions. Thus, the first step is to complete their online Evaluation Request form: <https://process.innovation.ox.ac.uk/software/p/14165t/brahms-trial/1>. OUI will send you a verification email.

Getting the BRAHMS software

If you do not have the software already, contact brahms@biology.ox.ac.uk and we will send the system in a single zip file.

Opening your software zip

Downloaded zips that contain certain types of software files are blocked for security reasons. If you right-click on the brahms.zip file and choose **Properties > Security**, you can see if it is blocked. If so, select the **Unblock** tick box. Once unblocked, you can open the zip using any extraction software. If you have any issues running BRAHMS after opening the software (typically you might only see the System menu), we recommend opening the software zip with 7z rather than Windows extraction. 7z is free software and can be downloaded from <https://www.7-zip.org/download.html>



You can check the zip file Properties > Security tab to make sure it is not blocked.

Logging in

The top-level software folder includes the file BRAHMS.exe. Run this. Log into BRAHMS using the *Personal* Data Location (this is the default). Use **Windows Authentication**. This uses your Windows identity and thus you do not need to add a password.



After installation, log in using Window Authentication to the Personal database. No password will be needed.

When you first log in, the system creates an empty database called brahms.db in a folder named Documents/BRAHMS. This process takes place quickly, usually less than a minute. For those interested, this is an SQLite database file. Linking to MSSQL Server or PostgreSQL data stores is discussed in the main guide.

A note on passwords

When you **first** log in to a new database, the user and password you use are stamped into the database. When you next log in, use the same user/password. Otherwise, you will not be able to log in. You can add additional users and passwords using “BRAHMS Authentication” and/or “Windows Authentication”. Adding users is explained in the [BRAHMS guide](#) section ‘**Managing user accounts and permissions > Editing the user list**’. In

summary, BRAHMS authentication requires you to enter a user name and a password. Windows authentication requires no username or password as it knows your identity from your Windows account login.

The Database Projects Manager

Initially, the default personal data store has no database project. Thus, the system auto-opens the **Database Projects Manager** screen with options **New** and **Import**. Import, not discussed here, is used to import data from a BRAHMS XML folder.

This form auto-opens when there are no database projects available in the current data store.

- Select **New** and when prompted, provide a project title.
- Select **Save**
- When prompted, **Load Project**. The Load text replaces the Save text at the bottom of the form.

Linking to the conifer demo database

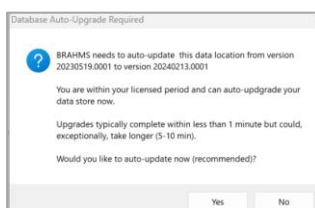
The conifer database includes all published conifer names as well as specimen data across the group, almost all referenced for mapping.

- Download the database zip file from <https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/brahms/support/conifers> .
- Open coniferdbv8.zip to create the file brahms.db. Copy this file to your Documents\BRAHMS folder overwriting the default brahms.db.
- Log into BRAHMS again, selecting Data Location: Personal and using the credentials as below:

Authentication: BRAHMS Authentication

User name: Demo

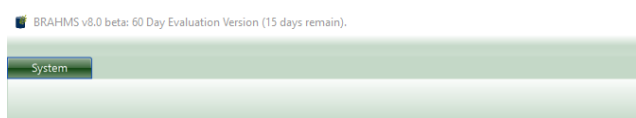
Password: demo (lower case)



*If you see the Auto-Upgrade message as shown here, respond **Yes**.*

Troubleshooting

The most common installation issue is that after logging in, you only see a partial menu as below:



Menu incorrectly displayed.

The reason for this is almost always that the BRAHMS software zip has a security block. The solution is to delete the BRAHMS folder and re-open the software zip using 7z [as noted above](#).