

High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)

BioCyc

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Prepared for:

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SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of the BioCyc platform for its conformance with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 (WCAG 2.1).

Overall, there are very few issues with the BioCyc platform. There are, however, some essential WCAG 2.1 A and AA level requirements that need to be met for compliance around navigation and nested controls. Additionally, there are a few other issues with color contrast, alt text, and ARIA implementation. Below are the most critical issues to address to improve system compliance.

Top Findings

- Site Navigation: The navigation menu is inaccessible to keyboard users which blocks them from being able to fully navigate the site. Several of the pages have dual-axis scrolling that cuts off content and makes navigation within the page more difficult. The focus order on the search results page does not follow the logical flow of content and should be remediated to reduce cognitive load.
- 2. **Nested Controls**: There is a significant issue on the search results page where the right panel has several nested controls. This can lead to serious issues with screen readers and interactivity.
- 3. **Color Contrast**: There are minor color contrast issues between the orange buttons and their backgrounds. Interactive elements need to meet at least 3:1 contrast with the background and 4.5:1 contrast with their text.
- 4. **Alt Text**: There is an issue on the genome browser page and the advanced search page with images that have no alt text.

Best Practices

- All page content should be contained by landmarks.
- ◆ Landmarks should have a unique role or role/label/title (i.e. accessible name) combination.
- Ensure elements marked as presentational are consistently ignored.
- ♦ Links should be underlined.
- Heading levels should only increase by one
- ARIA role should be appropriate for the element.
- Page should contain a level one heading.





ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

This report was conducted against the BioCyc Platform and covers a selection of pages and features that were to be tested as a representative sample of the database's conformance to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

The resource was reviewed using a combination of manual and automatic review tools and assistive technologies, including the WAVE Accessibility Assessment tool, Axe Accessibility Assessment tool, WCAG Color Contrast Checker, and NVDA screen reader. PDF content was tested against Section 508 requirements using Adobe Acrobat's accessibility tools and manual analysis. All problems identified by automatic tools were verified manually. This evaluation was performed using Firefox on Windows 11.

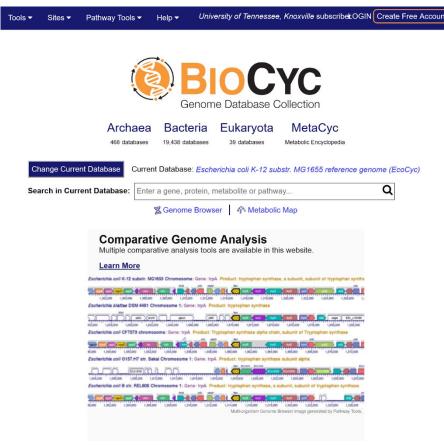
Below are the errors revealed during the accessibility evaluation of the BioCyc platform. Each result shows a summary of accessibility issues and the reason it was flagged. Screenshots are included.





1 Initial Interface

Test Case: Test initial interface/landing page to ensure menus, sub-menus, search box, images, icons, etc. are accessible. https://biocyc-org.utk.idm.oclc.org/



SC 1.4.3: Buttons must meet minimum contrast ratios.

Location(s):

- <button class="pureFreeTrial pure-button" onclick="window.location.href='/intro.shtml" style="width: unset">BioCyc Intro</button>
- <button class="pureFreeTrial pure-button"
 onclick="window.location.href='https://share.hsforms.com/1V2-ild18QzSYZi4Xvkxkkg3ipje'"
 style="width: unset"><!---old form
 onclick="window.location.href='https://share.hsforms.com/1GBRqdFaaSAKBjXodNpBKbA3ipje'
 "style="width: unset"-->Request Free Classroom Use</button>

Reason flagged:

• Element has insufficient color contrast of 2.1 (foreground color: #f89838, background color: #fafafa). Expected contrast ratio of 3:1

SC 2.1.1: All content must be operable through the keyboard.



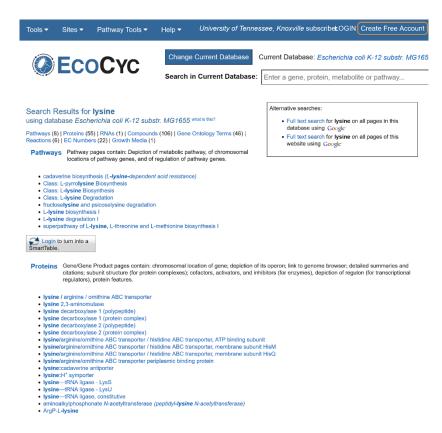


Reason flagged:

The main navigation menu is not navigable using the keyboard, locking very important
navigation functions behind inaccessible menus keeping keyboard users from being able to
navigate the site.

2. Search Results

Test Case: From the initial landing page, conduct a search for "lysine". Test search results page, including filters/refine search (Gene Ontology Terms).



SC 1.4.10: Content must be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without scrolling in two dimensions.

Reason flagged:

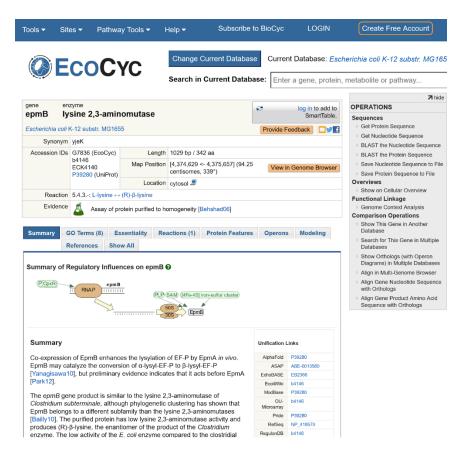
• Scrolling on this page currently occurs both vertically and horizontally. Content should reflow so that scrolling only occurs in one direction.





3. Individual Results

Test Case: Test individual search result landing page & test actual document (lysine 2,3,-aminomutase). https://biocyc.org/gene?orgid=ECOLI&id=G7836-MONOMER#SUMMARY



SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children. **Location(s):**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3. Show on Cellular Overview
- 4. class="navBoxLink">Genome Context Analysis
- 5.

Reason flagged:

• Element has children which are not allowed: li[tabindex]





SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must be contained by particular parents. **Location(s):**

- Get Protein Sequence
- 2.
- BLAST the Nucleotide Sequence
- 4. BLAST the Protein Sequence
- 5. Save Nucleotide Sequence to File
- 6. Save Protein Sequence to File
- 7. Show on Cellular Overview
- 8. Genome Context Analysis
- 9.
- 10. Search for This Gene in Multiple Databases
- 11.
- 12. Align in Multi-Genome Browser

Reason flagged:

Required ARIA parents role not present: menu, menubar, group





SC 1.3.1: elements must be contained in a or .

Location(s):

- id="geneSeqMenu">
- <larrowsin | class="navBoxLink">Get Protein Sequence
- 3.
- 4. <|i class="navBoxLink">BLAST the Nucleotide Sequence
- 5. <|i class="navBoxLink">BLAST the Protein Sequence
- 6. <|ii class="navBoxLink">Save Nucleotide Sequence to File
- 7. <|ii class="navBoxLink">Save Protein Sequence to File</|i>
- 8. id="geneOvMenu">
- 9. <|i class="navBoxLink">Show on Cellular Overview
- 10. id="qcontext">
- 11. <|i class="navBoxLink">Genome Context Analysis
- 12. id="compareOps">
- 13. class="navBoxLink">
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Reason flagged:

List item parent element has a role that is not role="list"

SC 1.4.3: Buttons must meet minimum contrast ratios.

Location(s):

- 1. <input type="button" value="Provide Feedback" onclick="window.open('/feedback.html?' + encodeURIComponent(location), 'bugreport',
 - 'toolbar=no,dependent=yes,height=640,width=620,menubar=no,location=no,scrollbars=yes')">
- <input type="button" value="View in Genome Browser" onclick="location.href='/genbro/genbro.shtml?orgid=ECOLI&gene=G7836&replicon=C OLI-K12"">

Reason flagged:

- Element has insufficient color contrast of 1.6 (foreground color: #f1ba84, background color: #f8f7f0). Expected contrast ratio of 3:1
- Element has insufficient color contrast of 1.7 (foreground color: #f2bb85, background color: #ffffff). Expected contrast ratio of 3:1





SC 1.4.10: Content must be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without scrolling in two dimensions.

Reason flagged:

 Scrolling on this page currently occurs both vertically and horizontally. Content should reflow so that scrolling only occurs in one direction.

SC 2.1.1: All content must be operable through the keyboard.

Reason flagged:

The main navigation menu is not navigable using the keyboard, locking very important
navigation functions behind inaccessible menus keeping keyboard users from being able to
navigate the site.

SC 2.4.3: Focus order must follow logical order.

Reason flagged:

• Focus should move from the top left to the bottom right of the screen in a logical flow. Currently focus moves left to right, then to the right panel, then to the main content.

SC 2.4.4: Links must have discernible text.

Location(s):

- 1. <i class="fa fa-question-circle green"></i>
- </i class="fa fa-question-circle green"></i>
- 3.

Reason flagged:

- Element does not have text that is visible to screen readers
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element has no title attribute

SC 4.1.2: Elements must only use supported ARIA attributes.

Location(s):

1. Unification Links





 Relationship Links

Reason flagged:

• ARIA attribute is not allowed: aria-expanded="false"

SC 4.1.2: Interactive controls must not be nested.

Location(s):

- class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top ui-tabs-active ui-state-active" role="tab" tabindex="0" aria-controls="SUMMARY" aria-labelledby="ui-id-1" aria-selected="true" ariaexpanded="true">Summary
- 2. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="GO" aria-labelledby="ui-id-2" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">GO Terms (8)
- 3. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="ESS" aria-labelledby="ui-id-3" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Essentiality
- 4. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="RXNS" aria-labelledby="ui-id-4" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Reactions (1)
- 5. <|i class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="FTRS" aria-labelledby="ui-id-5" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Protein Features
- 6. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="TU" aria-labelledby="ui-id-6" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Operons
- 7. class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="MODL" aria-labelledby="ui-id-7" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Modeling
- 8. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="REFS" aria-labelledby="ui-id-8" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">References
- 9. <|ii class="ui-state-default ui-corner-top" role="tab" tabindex="-1" aria-controls="showAll" aria-labelledby="ui-id-9" aria-selected="false" aria-expanded="false">Show All

Reason flagged:

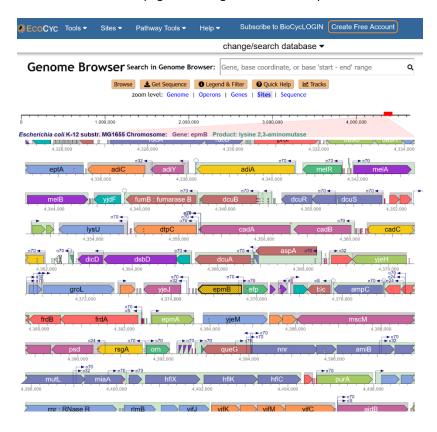
• Using a negative tabindex on an element inside an interactive control does not prevent assistive technologies from focusing the element (even with aria-hidden="true")





4. Genome Browser

Test Case: Test "View in Genome Browser" page. Test "Legend and Filter" options.



SC 1.1.1: Images must have alternate text.

Location(s):

1.

Reason flagged:

- Element does not have an alt attribute
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element has no title attribute
- Element's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.

Location(s):

1. <div class="menubar-wide-margin-border" role="menubar" tabindex="0">

Reason flagged:

Element has children which are not allowed: img[tabindex]





SC 3.1.2: Frames must have an accessible name.

Location(s):

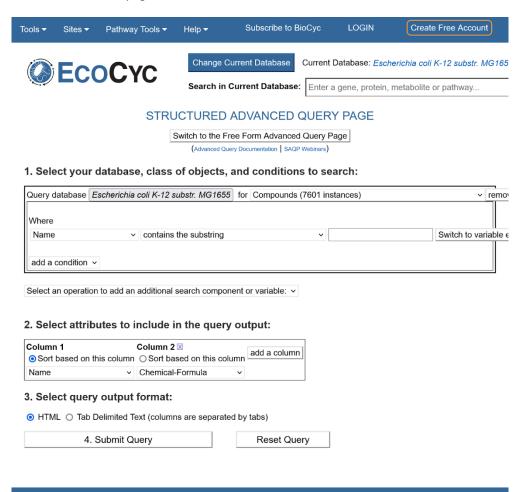
1. <iframe class="genbro-iframe" src="genbro.html" style="width: 100vw; height: 100vh; border-width: 0px;"></iframe>

Reason flagged:

- Element has no title attribute
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

5. Advances Search Page

Test Case: Test advanced search page.







SC 1.1.1: Images must have alternate text.

Location(s):

1.

Reason flagged:

- Element does not have an alt attribute
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element has no title attribute
- Element's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

SC 1.4.10: Content must be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without scrolling in two dimensions.

Reason flagged:

• Scrolling on this page currently occurs both vertically and horizontally. Content should reflow so that scrolling only occurs in one direction.

SC 2.4.2: Documents must have <title> element to aid in navigation.

Location(s):

1. <html lang="en" class="yui3-js-enabled">

Reason flagged:

• Document does not have a non-empty <title> element

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