

Life-forms, cell-sizes and ecological guilds of diatoms in European rivers



Diatoms are a very diverse group of microalgae that encompass about 100 000 taxa. This makes an excellent bioindicator especially of rivers. The majority of biotic indices based on diatoms are constructed on species pollution-sensitivities. Nevertheless, recent studies showed the interest to use complementary metrics for biomonitoring: life-forms, cell-sizes and ecological guilds. Unfortunately, taxa memberships to such metrics are scattered in numerous floras and papers. Therefore, studies using such metrics often referred to grey literature or home-made checklists. The objective of this paper is to make available to the scientific community an important check-list of taxa frequently observed in European rivers with their memberships to these metrics. After defining these metrics, 1115 taxa were codified using Biofresh and Omidia codes in an Excel file. Metrics memberships were then explored in a taxonomical framework. It clearly appears that metrics memberships are determined by taxonomy. Life-forms and cell sizes taxa memberships and their study in the framework of evolutionary history of diatoms is a field that is worth studying for a better understanding of diatoms ecology. Such inputs should be beneficial for the future improvement of diatom-based monitoring tools.

Auteurs du document : F. Rimet, A. Bouchez

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