Special Issue

Species in Diatom Communities Shift as a Consequence of Water Quality Changes

Message from the Guest Editor

Diatoms represent the main group within the phytobenthos (Rovira et al., 2012), with a large taxonomic diversity especially in lotic ecosystems (Morais et al., 2009). Today, there is still a low number of studies that relate the changes of diatom indices in response to water quality variations, by taking into account the time required for diatom communities to respond to water quality. It is clear that these naturally occurring processes of changes in the chemical and physical composition of water would have slower reaction times. In the meantime, the results of these experimental studies enable water managers to begin to address this issue of ecological succession and functioning structures of these organisms, as they are closer to the ecological status designation given in the Water Framework Directive, and giving greater importance to the changes in these benthic diatom communities with changes in water quality.

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