Diatom Identification Guide

Identification of diatoms is crucial to measuring the biotic integrity of lakes and streams. Before the Diatoms of North America project, inconsistent taxonomy threatened accurate assessment of biotic condition.

Most species are found in marine habitats, but a few taxa occur inland including Achnanthes caroliniana. Freshwater diatoms are commonly associated with eutrophic and dystrophic habitats. Many common species previously classified in this genus are now recognized as species of Achnanthidium, Planothidium, and other genera.

Identification guide: 1. Choose a type of Habit (overall structure). Algae are colonial - cells united in packets, either joined side-to-side, loosely attached, united in common jelly, etc - but not simply joined end-to-end as in a filament.

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Diatom Identification Guide (1981) - Achnanthes (Diatoms) - New York State University of Science and Technology (SUNY).

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