

ORAL PRESENTATION

UPDATES TO NEW TAXON CURATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE ANSP DIATOM HERBARIUM

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The Diatom Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANSP) is home to over 5000 nomenclatural types as well as the Diatom New Taxon File (DNTF), a card catalog of diatom names and literature citations maintained in its original form through 2012. The first phase of the DNTF digitization project has been completed; all cards are now digitally and publicly available on our website, <http://symbiont.ansp.org/dntf/>. In an ongoing effort to maintain records of ANSP type specimens associated with these names, we also present an updated inventory of our types collection, which now includes records of unmounted original material. This update sparked a lively internal discussion on type designations, especially the meaning of the term “isotype” as it applies to admixture diatom samples. We attempt to clarify ambiguous type designations by distinguishing between cited and uncited (iso)types, and propose to reclassify slides previously designated as “isotypes” that were made from original material, but neither made nor seen by the original author. We hope that these distinctions aid in our understanding of intended species descriptions and promote careful consideration of type designations for name-bearing taxa.