

POSTER PRESENTATION

DIATOMS FROM THE HIGHEST LAKES AND STREAMS IN THE WORLD, HIMALAYAN RANGE, NEPAL

Jeffery R. Stone¹, Joseph Mohan¹, Kirsten Nicholson², Klaus Neumann², Carolyn Dowling², & Subodh Sharma³

¹Department of Earth and Environmental Systems, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809, USA, ²Department of Geological Sciences, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306, USA, ³Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel 45200, Nepal

A set of more than 60 water and algae samples were collected between two expeditions in 2016 and 2017 from streams and lakes leading from the Mount Everest base camp to Sagarmatha National Park (SNP), Nepal. Among other diatoms, these samples include a recently proposed new *Lindavia* species described from Gokyo Cho, a lake near Mount Everest in the Himalayan Mountain Range. Here we present a more complete assessment of the diatoms observed in samples from these expeditions and explore the potential for human activity as vectors for the distribution in this unique high-elevation ecosystem.