

DIATOMS AND ALGAE OF CANADA: A WEBSITE DOCUMENTING THE DIVERSITY OF CANADA

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The mandate of the National Museum (Canadian Museum of Nature) is to document for prosperity the diversity of life across Canada. The current collection and database includes 232,300 identifications from 50,000 collections with ca. 13,000 images. The presentation of this data and potential use to scientists and persons interested in diatom diversity and taxonomy is evident. To this end the database is linked to the globally recognized GBIF in coordination with other databases. In addition to the classical presentation of museum collections, we will be releasing (2020) new taxa identification pages to assist in the identification of Canadian diatoms and when appropriate with environmental data. The website/pages (like others) will contain simple taxonomic descriptions genera and species with the identification of key features, similar species and notes on community associations. The webpage presented here is an example of the data presentation, which will be linked to the national algae collection for Canada. Finally, we are exploring the use of a shape recognition search tool to assist in navigating and searching through the web pages.