



XVI European Diatom meeting

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DIATOMA SPECIES FROM SALINE HABITATS (VOJVODINA REGION, SERBIA)

Danijela Vidaković^{1*}, Ljubica Vlaović¹, Frederic Rimet², Jelena Krizmanić³, David Williams⁴, Jelena Avdalović¹ & Zlatko Levkov⁵

¹University of Belgrade, Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, Njegoševa 12, Belgrade 11000, Serbia

²Université Savoie-Mont Blanc, INRAE, CARTEL, Thonon-les-Bains, France

³University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac", Takovska 43, Belgrade 11000, Serbia

⁴The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, UK

⁵Institute of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, R. Macedonia

*daca.vidakovic89@gmail.com

The genus *Diatoma*, Bory (1824), comprises a relatively small number of species characterised by distinct morphological features, including silicified transapical ribs, a raised central sternum, and fine striae composed of small round areolae. Although predominantly freshwater and commonly occurring in planktonic and benthic habitats as chain-forming colonies, *Diatoma* species have also been recorded in brackish and saline environments. Some taxa exhibit tolerance to elevated nutrient levels, highlighting their potential as indicators of eutrophication.

Diatom and water samples for analysis were collected in spring 2023 from three saline habitats in the Vojvodina Region, Serbia: the artificial sandpit lake "Peskara", the shallow saline natural lake Pečena Slatina, and the saline channel Slatina. According to physicochemical parameters, all three localities have pH values above 8 and are hyposaline or subsaline.

One of the dominant taxa in the artificial sandpit lake "Peskara" (51.06%) was a *Diatoma* species that has unique morphological characters different from known species: linear valves with almost parallel margins in larger specimens, linear to linear-elliptic in smaller specimens, broadly rounded and not protracted ends, and distantly positioned primary ribs, clearly distinguishing this taxon from other known *Diatoma* species, such as *D. elongata*, *D. tenuis*, *D. problematica*, and *D. moniliformis*.

The poster illustrates *Diatoma* taxa from saline habitats in the Vojvodina Region and other comparable *Diatoma* species.