

THE GENUS *CRATICULA* IN IOWA WETLANDS (USA)

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This paper discusses the taxonomy, distribution, and abundance of diatoms belonging to the genus *Craticula* from Iowa wetland mitigation sites. Twelve sites created to replace wetland habitat lost to highway development were studied and compared with three natural wetland control sites in the same agricultural region. Samples were collected during April, June, August, and October 2005 from these 15 shallow alkaline hard-water wetlands that vary in age from 1 year to over 1000 years. The distribution and abundance of diatom taxa in prepared slides of these samples are being compared with taxa of other protists and micro-invertebrates observed in wet mounts at the time of collection. *Craticula* taxa occur in greater numbers (13 known and 4 undescribed) and abundance (>5% in five of 88 samples) in some of these wetlands than previously reported in the Midwestern United States. These specimens provide useful information for taxonomic re-consideration.