

Catalogue of Diatom Names Resurrected: DiatomBase will be the new authority resource for diatom names and more

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There has been a long history of Catalogues documenting the names given to the great diversity of diatoms. Some of these catalogues were limited in distribution and impact, including the published catalogues of Habirshaw, Chase and Peragallo. More complete, widely distributed and widely cited catalogues of diatom names included the multi-volume sets of Mills and, especially, Van Landingham. Other, unpublished resources available only by physically visiting them included Index Nominum Algarum (INA, a reference on the names published for all algae) and New Species File at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP).

The catalogues of VanLandingham, INA and ANSP were collaboratively integrated into a single database and made available on line and presented by Fourtanier and Kociolek as the Catalogue of Diatom Names. It was developed and supported at the California Academy of Sciences, and attempted to resolve conflicts and make additions of names not found, or published subsequently, from these three sources of information. In its first iteration, the Catalogue of Diatom Names contained 64,000+ names derived from over 12,000 references. It debuted in 2005, and in 2010 alone it was accessed by over 30,000 unique IP addresses and over 5,000,000 pieces of information were downloaded. The database kept growing until 2011, but has not been updated since.

Names are an important reference for all aspects of Biology, and the World Register of Marine Species is one portal to access names and other information about species occurring in marine environments. It was developed at VLIZ, and in 2015 it contained over 500,000 names. The source of diatom names for WoRMS has been AlgaeBase.

A new collaboration between the editors of the Catalogue of Diatom Names and VLIZ will result in a new, reliable resource for diatom names, with input from experts worldwide. This new collaboration takes the Catalogue of Diatom Names and integrates it into the VLIZ Aphia database structure, to support WoRMS as well as a standalone resource for diatom nomenclature, called DiatomBase.

This talk describes this history of diatom names and the future organization and development of DiatomBase within the context of VLIZ.