

Abstract:

This work examines the importance of the priority effect on diatom community composition. In ecology, the priority effect refers to the influence of history in the community assembly, where the order of colonization of a site by each species matters. The priority effect can be both inhibitory and positive for species. Inhibition occurs when a species that appears first at a site negatively affects a later colonizer, for example by reducing the availability of space or resources. A positive priority effect occurs when an earlier colonizer alters abiotic or biotic conditions in a way that positively affects a species arriving later. This bachelor's thesis will discuss the importance of the priority effect on the establishment of diatom communities. It will compile publications in which there is direct or indirect evidence of the priority effect on a time scale of several decades. The thesis will also discuss phenomena related to the priority effect such as invasiveness of communities and long-term persistence of species on sites.

Key words: diatoms, invasiveness, monopolization effect, priority effect, protist