Interesting diatoms from a special habitat
Egy különleges élőhely különleges kovaalgái

Éva Ács¹, Keve T. Kiss¹, Péter Dobosy¹, Mónika Duleba¹, Luc Ector², István Grigorszky¹,³, Zsuzsa Trabert¹, Csaba F. Vad⁴, Carlos E. Wetzel² & Angéle Földi⁵

¹MTA Centre for Ecological Research, Danube Research Institute, 1113 Budapest, Karolina út 29, Hungary; ²Environmental Research and Innovation Department (ERIN), Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), 41 rue du Brill, L-4422 Belvaux, Luxembourg; ³University of Debrecen, Department of Hydrobiology, H-4032 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1, Hungary; ⁴WasserCluster Lunz, Dr. Carl Kupelwieser Promenade 5, AT-3293, Lunz am See, Austria; ⁵MTA Centre for Ecological Research, GINOP Sustainable Ecosystems Group, 8237 Tihany, Klebelsberg K. u. 3, Hungary; e-mail: acs.eva@okologia.mta.hu

The epiphytic diatoms of the soda ponds of bomb craters were sampled in 2014. The small ponds (area: 7.1-86.5 m², depth: 4 to 60 cm) are located in the northern part of the Kiskunság National Park (47°7.403’N, 19°8.187’E), near the village of Apaj in Hungary. Their salinity ranges from fresh water to moderately saline levels (conductivity of 1.3 to 7.1 mS cm⁻¹). This area has patchy surface salinization, because the flow pattern of groundwater results extensive surface salinization in those discharge areas where the infiltrating freshwater does not superimpose the upwelling saline water. The salts origin from the overpressured NaCl-type water of the Pre-Neogene basement and the NaHCO₃-type water of the Neogene sediments. The ponds can be characterized by different areal extent, depth and salinity, various conductivity, hydroperiod (1–9 months, the deepest ones do not dry out in years with high amount of precipitation due to probably more or less continuous supply by groundwater), plant coverage and width of macrophyte belt. All of the ponds were sampled except for the ones with very short (shorter than one month) hydroperiod.

A total of 80 diatom taxa, representing 33 genera, were identified in these ponds. The genus Nitzschia was represented by the largest number of species (16), followed by the genus Gomphonema with 9 taxa. IndVal analysis identified 15 species with significant indicator values for ponds. Some interesting, rare or new diatoms for Hungarian flora have also been recorded, including Gomphonema jadwigiae, Halamphora dominici, Navicula wiesneri, Nitzschia austriaca, N. vitrea, Surirella poisionis.