

**PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON THE BENTHIC DIATOM COMMUNITIES
FROM THE SOMEȘUL MARE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES (ȚIBLEȘ,
REBRA, MELEȘ) BETWEEN ILVA MICĂ AND BECLEAN
(BISTRIȚA-NĂȘĂUD COUNTY)**

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Abstract: Preliminary studies on the benthic diatom communities from the Someșu Mare river and its tributaries (Țibleș, Rebra, Meleș) between Ilva Mică and Beclean (Jud. Bistrița-Năsăud). Algal community structure was studied in 12 sample sites located along the Someșu Mare river and three of his affluents, in April, August and October 2004. There have been identified 255 taxa belonging to 36 genera.

Affinities at the level of diatom communities have been tested by cluster analysis using the floristic similarity index of Jaccard. Diatom species have been used to evaluate the saprobic status (Saprobic Index) and the quality of water (Biological Diatom Index) [7] in sampling sites. Based on the SI employed, the upstream water of mountain tributaries (Țibleș, Rebra) is α - β -mesosaprobic, while its downstream water, the Meleș river in headwater and the studied sector of Someșul Mare is β -mesosaprobic. The organic pollution from downstream of river Meleș is moderate to strong (β - α -mezosaprobic), according to the method of Zelinka and Marvan (1961). The BDI values is changed from an excellent water quality (upstream of the Rebra river, in spring and upstream of the Someșu Mare river, in autumn) to a lower one (downstream of the Meleș river, in autumn).

Introduction

Because of their morphological, taxonomical and ecological features, the diatoms are used for biomonitoring of the rivers. The systematic studies on the structure of algal communities from the Someș basin were carried out for Someșu Mare [2,6], Someșu Mic [3], Someșu Cald [3], Someșu Rece [5] and the Someș river [4].

Material and Method

The algae were sampled from the Someșu Mare river and some tributaries: Rebra — derived from Rodnei Mountains, Țibleș — derived from Țibleș Mountains and Meleș — a river from Transylvania plain, using standards methods for benthic river communities. The diatomological samples (epilithic and epipelagic) were prelevated from 12 locations in three successive seasons — April, August, October 2004. The cleaned frustules were mounted in colophony and identified at 100x oil-immersion, based on the monographs of Krammer and Lange-Bertalot [1].

The floristic affinities among communities was investigated by using the similarity index of Jaccard and running the statistical program PAST.

There have been counted at least 800 specimens for each sample in order to calculate those two index (SI and BDI) to estimate the water quality at each station.

Results and Discussion

There have been identified 255 diatom taxa, most of them belonging to the genera *Navicula* (60 taxa), *Nitzschia* (43 taxa), *Cymbella* (19 taxa), *Fragilaria* (17 taxa), *Surirella* (14 taxa), *Gomphonema* (13 taxa) (Tab. 1).

The dendrogram of floristic similarities among the diatom communities grouped them according to season and station. The highest floristic similarity of 68-69% was found in autumn, between the Ilva Mică and Rebrîşoara stands, respectively downstream Beclean, between epilithic and epipellic samples. The communities occurring in the river Meleş formed a distinct group and joined the other communities at 23% similarity level (Fig. 1).

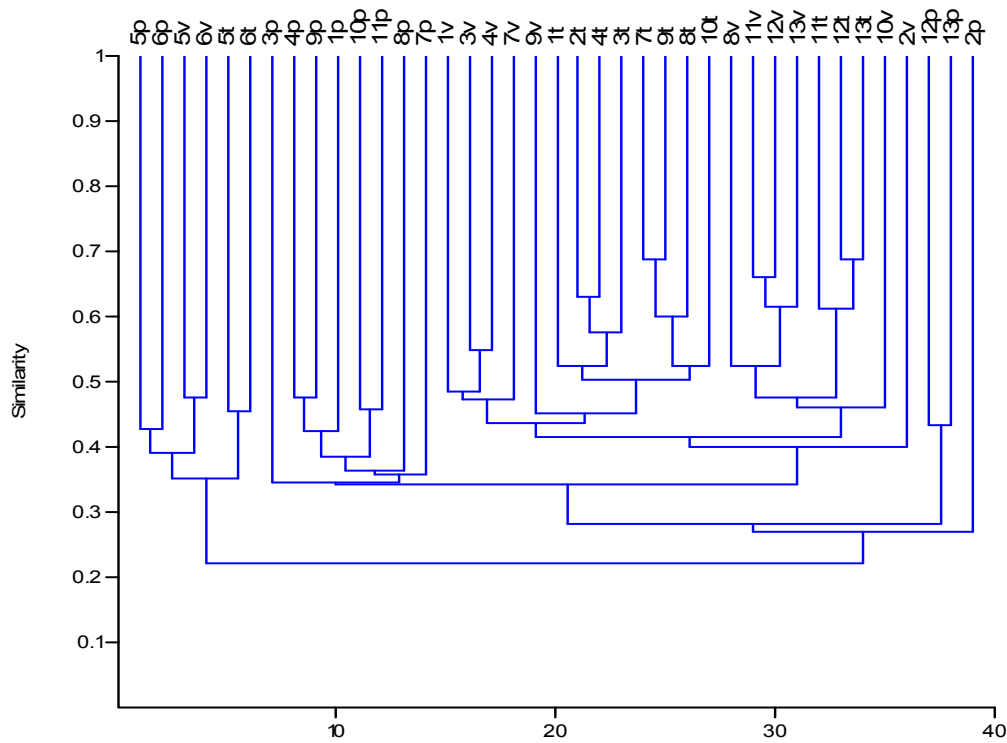


Fig. 1: Dendrogram showing the floristic similarities of the investigated diatom communities
 p=spring (April); v=summer (August); t=autumn (October). Țibleş: 1=Zagra, epilithic; 2=Mocod, epilithic; Rebra: 3=Parva, epilithic; 4=Rebra, epilithic; Meleş: 5=Bidiu, epipellic; 6=Beclean, epipellic; Someşu Mare: 7=upstream Ilva Mică, epilithic; 8=downstream, Ilva Mică, epilithic; 9=Rebrîşoara, epilithic; 10=Salva, epilithic; 11=upstream Beclean, epilithic; 12=downstream Beclean, epilithic; 13=downstream Beclean, epipellic.

The values of the Saprobic Index (Tab. 2) varies between 1.7 and 2.2, indicating the I-II quality class for the headwater of the mountain tributaries, the II quality class for the lower portion of Țibleş and Rebra rivers, the upstream of the Meleş river and the whole studied sector of the Someşu Mare river, the most polluted water belonging to the downstream of the Meleş river (II-III quality class).

According to the Biological Diatom Index (Tab. 2) ranging between 1.0 and 17.6, the water quality belongs to all quality classes: excellent water (upstream of the Rebra river, in April and upstream of the Someşu Mare river, in October), good water (upstream of the studied river, except Meleş river), acceptable water (Meleş, in spring and downstream of the Someşu Mare river, the whole year), ordinary water (Meleş, in summer and only upstream of this tributary, in autumn), respectively an inferior water, downstream of the Meleş river, in October.

Table 2: Values of the SI and BDI.

Rivers	Țibleș		Rebra		Meleș		Someșul Mare						
Sampling sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Saprobity Index — SI													
April	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1
August	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.8
October	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
Biological Diatom Index — BDI													
April	16.2	11.7	17.6	14.9	10.4	10.8	16.7	16.5	14.8	13.9	11.2	11.4	11.0
August	14.5	13.5	16.5	14.5	7.9	8.7	13.4	13.3	14.0	13.6	9.0	9.7	11.9
October	13.9	13.7	15.2	15.5	7.3	1.0	17.5	16.6	17.1	12.3	12.4	11.6	11.5

Legend: 1=Zagra, epilithic; 2=Mocod, epilithic; 3=Parva, epilithic; 4=Rebra, epilithic; 5=Bidui, epipellic; 6=Beclean, epipellic; 7=upstream Ilva Mică, epilithic; 8=downstream, Ilva Mică, epilithic; 9=Rebrișoara, epilithic; 10=Salva, epilithic; 11=upstream Beclean, epilithic; 12=downstream Beclean, epilithic; 13=downstream Beclean, epipellic.

Conclusions

The 255 diatom taxa inhabiting the Someșul Mare river and three of its tributaries were used to evaluate their water quality: an excellent water (upstream of the Rebra river, in April and upstream of the Someșul Mare river, in October) towards an inferior water, downstream of the Meleș river, in October. These studies should be continued in order to compare the structure of the algal communities in successive years.

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DATE PRELIMINARE ASUPRA COMUNITĂȚILOR BENTONICE DE DIATOMEE
DIN RÂUL SOMEȘUL MARE ȘI AFLUENȚI (ȚIBLEȘ, REBRA, MELEȘ)
ÎNȚRE ILVA MICĂ ȘI BECLEAN (JUD. BISTRIȚA-NĂȘĂUD)

(Rezumat)

În materialul algologic prelevat am identificat, până în prezent, 255 de taxoni, genul cel mai bine reprezentat fiind *Navicula* (60 de taxoni).

Valoarea maximă a gradului de afinitate floristică este de 68-69% între comunitățile algale de toamnă, epilitice, amonte Ilva Mică și Rebrășoara. Se distinge grupul comunităților de diatomee epipelice din Meleș, acesta asociindu-se cu restul comunităților la o valoare de 23% similaritate.

Conform indicelui de saprobitate, apa cursului superior al afluenților de munte aparțin clasei de calitate I-II (poluare redusă), cursul inferior al acestora, Meleșul în cursul superior și sectorul studiat al Someșului Mare se încadrează clasei de calitate II (poluare moderată), iar cursul inferior al Meleșului, în clasa II-III, este caracterizat de o poluare moderată până la puternică (domeniul critic α - β -mezosaprob).

Valorile indicelui biologic de diatomee (IBD) indică o apă de calitate excelentă (pe cursul superior al râului Rebra, primăvara și al Someșului Mare, toamna) până la o apă de calitate inferioară pe cursul inferior al Meleșului, toamna.