

## General overview of phycological research on Hungarian rivers between 1988 and 1997

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**Key words:** Hungary, phytoplankton, Danube, literature review



\* Map of Hungary with main watercourses

### Abstract

During the last decade numerous papers were published about phycological research in Hungarian rivers and related waters or wetlands. This summary provides a full list of these 76 publications, many in local journals, that may be useful for phycologists working on similar topics in other countries.

### Résumé

De nombreux articles portant sur la recherche algale dans les cours d'eau et dans les zones humides de Hongrie ont été publiés durant ces dix dernières années. Les activités de surveillance de la qualité de cours d'eau ont déjà fait l'objet d'une publication (Padisák et al., 1991); le présent article vise à fournir une liste complète des 76 publications portant sur la recherche algale en Hongrie. Mis à part des articles

portant sur les aspects méthodologiques et théoriques, la systématique, la phycogéographie et la floristique, l'essentiel des travaux publiés a porté sur le Danube. Le phytoplancton du Danube est étudié depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années de même que l'eutrophisation, conséquence de la charge en nutriments et de la construction d'une série de barrages sur le cours amont du fleuve. De nombreuses études ont été menées sur la composition floristique, la colonisation, l'émigration et l'immigration d'espèces, et sur l'évolution saisonnière du périphyton. Des investigations algologiques ont été réalisées sur les affluents et les bras-mort du Danube, notamment dans trois secteurs: la région de Szigetköz au nord de la Hongrie, la région de Budapest et la réserve naturelle de Gemenc au sud du pays. Les autres cours d'eau ont fait l'objet de moins d'attention de la part des scientifiques. Le phytoplancton de la rivière Tisza a été régulièrement étudié à Szolnok. Les algues ont été étudiées sur l'ensemble du cours de la rivière Zagyva. Une étude complète de la rivière Maros a fait l'objet d'une monographie incluant un chapitre sur les algues. Seules quelques études sur les algues de cours d'eau en Hongrie ont été publiées.

## Introduction

Phycological research on running waters in Hungary has a long history. During the past 10 years, scientific research covered many aspects of phycology such as taxonomy, floristics and ecology. Because of its importance, most studies were carried out in the Danube and many others concerned the dead-arms and backwaters. The aim of this paper is to summarize the phycological research in Hungary during the past decade and to provide a full list of publications, many of them published in local journals, that may be useful for phycologists dealing with similar topics elsewhere.

## Methodology, papers of general importance

The diatom collection of the amateur diatomologist László Vida (1932-1985) was donated to the Botanical Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum. It consists of 439 permanent slides mostly from Hungary, but also from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and Norway (Buczkó, 1988). Biographies and publication lists of Tibor Hortobágyi (1912-1990), Gábor Szemes (1907-1993) and István Kiss (1910-1990) are available in papers made up in commemoration of these scientists (Padisák & Hegewald, 1992; Padisák et al., 1993; Kiss, 1995). A short biography of the famous diatomologist József Pantocsek (1846-1916) has also been published (Ács, 1996).

Methodological studies have concerned periphyton (Ács & Kiss, 1991a) and the phytoplankton sampling procedures (Kiss et al., 1995a, b) in large rivers. Chlorophyll-biomass relationships of data deriving from turbid shallow lakes (Vörös & Padisák, 1991) probably apply to rivers better than relationships from clear water lakes, because phytoplankton dynamics, species composition and disturbance regime in rivers and turbulent, turbid shallow lakes can be quite similar (Reynolds et al., 1994; Padisák, 1994). Schmidt and Kiss (1989) reported on teratological forms of diatoms and green algae. The river water quality monitoring activity in Hungary was summarized (Padisák et al., 1991) and a review about the use of algae in monitoring water quality was also published (Padisák, 1993).

## Taxonomy, phycogeography, floristics

Taxonomic, morphological and ecological studies have mostly concerned centric diatoms, namely *Actinocyclus normannii* (Kiss et al., 1990), *Cyclotella atomus* (Genkal & Kiss, 1993), *C. caspia* (Kiss et al., 1988), *C. tripartita* (Scheffler & Padisák, 1997a, b), *Skeletonema potamos* (Kiss et al., 1994), *Stephanodiscus invisitatus* (Kiss, 1988; Genkal & Kiss, 1991) and chlorococcacean algae (Schmidt, 1992; Schmidt et al., 1994). Schmidt et al. (1990) reported on the occurrence of *Goniostomum latum*, while Kiss and Kristiansen (1994) dealt with the silica-scaled flagellate flora and Németh (1996b) with new and interesting algae from different groups. Detailed floristic papers on centric diatoms were published by Kiss and Nausch (1988) and Kiss and Padisák (1990).

## Danube research

### Main stream

The Danube's phytoplankton is dominated by centric diatoms and chlorococcacean algae. This explained most of the taxonomic studies mentioned above. The population dynamics of the summer centric diatom, *Skeletonema potamos*, was described based on daily investigations (Kiss et al., 1994). An interesting diurnal cyclicity in phytoplankton numbers and chlorophyll *a* was explained by growth conditions and discharge (Kiss, 1996). The phytoplankton of the Danube has been studied regularly for a long time and the results have been published in papers (Kiss, 1991a, 1994a; Kiss et al., 1991; Kiss & Genkal 1997; Schmidt, 1994; Németh, 1996a) dealing with phytoplankton development in individual years. An analysis (Kiss, 1991b) of the existing data demonstrated that phytoplankton numbers and biomass increased significantly during recent decades partly because of enrichment in mineral nutrients (Kiss, 1991b, 1994b) and partly as a consequence of the construction of a chain of reservoirs in the upper river. After comparison of the Danube's diatoms at Vienna and Budapest (Kiss & Nausch, 1988) a recent study has compared the phytoplankton in the Danube's reservoirs from Germany to Hungary (Kiss & Genkal, 1996). Matter and energy flow (Tamás-Dvihally, 1993), trophic interactions with bacteria (V. Balogh et al., 1994), crustacean plankton (Bothár & Kiss, 1990, 1995) and ciliates (Kiss & Csutor-Bereczky, 1990) have also been studied. An active biomonitoring technique based on *Cladophora glomerata* tests was developed to assess effect of heavy metals (Oertel, 1991, 1993).

Numerous studies carried out on periphytic algae concerned floristic composition, colonization, emigration and immigration of species and seasonal succession. Discharge proved to be a major factor affecting periphyton development (Ács & Kiss, 1991a, b, 1993a, b; Makk & Ács, 1996, 1997).

### Side-arms, backwaters

Algological investigations on the side-arms and backwaters of the Danube have been concentrated in three areas: Szigetköz in northern Hungary, the vicinity of Budapest and the Gemenc Protected Landscape Area in southern Hungary.

In connection with the construction of the "C-variant" of the Gabcikovo power plant and the consequent unilateral diversion of the mainflow of the Danube, numerous studies have started to assess the environmental impact of the above actions. Species composition and biodiversity of both plankton and periphyton was thoroughly studied (Németh, 1989, 1990, 1996b; Buczkó & Ács, 1992, 1994) and a long-term periphyton monitoring system was developed (Buczkó & Ács, 1995; Ács & Buczkó, 1996; Buczkó et al., 1997). The effect of decreased flow velocity on phytoplankton development was studied in enclosures (Németh & Gulyás, 1990; Gulyás et al., 1991) and matter- and energy flow was also studied (Horváth & Bartalis, 1996). The effect of the Gabcikovo reservoir on the algae are summarized in recent papers (Buczkó et al., 1997; Kiss, 1997).

In a small backwater of the Danube at Göd, population dynamics during a winter bloom of diatoms (Kiss & Genkal, 1993) and *Synura petersenii* (Kiss & Kristiansen, 1994) were described. Preliminary algological investigations were carried out in the Soroksár dead-arm near Budapest (Barreto et al., 1997).

The Gemenc Protected Landscape Area in southern Hungary supports one of the largest original gallery forests in Europe. The algal flora of dead-arms and backwaters was studied by Schmidt and Káldi-Fehér (1996) and winter phytoplankton blooms were also observed (Schmidt, 1997). An extended project (Csányi et al., 1992, 1994) aimed to assess the effect of water level fluctuations on water chemistry, phytoplankton and zooplankton.

## Other Hungarian rivers

As compared to the Danube, fewer scientific efforts have aimed to explore other Hungarian running water systems. *Scenedesmus grahneisii* (Schmidt, 1992) and, more prominently, *Goniostomum latum* (Schmidt et al., 1990), were repeatedly found in different side-arms and backwaters. The phytoplankton of R. Tisza was regularly studied at Szolnok (Kelemen, 1992) and that of R. Zagyva once only, but along the whole river section (Káldiné-Fehér, 1994). The limnology of the R. Maros was summarized in a monograph

(Hamar & Sárkány-Kiss, 1995), which contains a separate chapter on algae (Hamar, 1995). Uherkovich (1994) published about the algal flora of some small streams in southern Hungary. Apart from this study, only the Laskó stream at Egerszalók has been studied phycologically (Estók & Milinki, 1989).

## Activity of Hungarian phycologists in other countries

In the taxonomic papers mentioned above, comparative materials of many localities were used:

- for *Actinocyclus normannii* (Kiss et al., 1990) from the rivers Svratka, Vtava, Dyje (Czech Republic), Danube, Kolárovo (Slovakia), Dordogne, Fensf, Oise (France), Spree, Müggelsee (Germany), Volga and Caspean See (Russia) and
- for *Cyclotella atomus* (Genkal & Kiss, 1993) from the rivers Danube, Dnepr (Ukraine), Amur, Yenitsei, Ob, Selengga, Volga and its tributaries (Russia), and Vistula (Poland).

Material for papers about *Cyclotella tripartita* (Scheffler & Padisák, 1997a, b) was obtained exclusively from Stechlinsee, Germany, which represents a lake type (deep, oligotrophic) that is not found in Hungary.

For comparisons of the Danube phytoplankton, samples were collected in Austria, Germany and Hungary (Kiss & Nausch, 1988; Kiss & Genkal, 1996).

Uherkovich (1993) included floristic studies on the rivers Dunajec and Hnilec among small water bodies in Central Slovakia and Pajak and Kiss (1990) investigated the phytoplankton of the Vistula above and below the Goczalkowice reservoir, Poland.

## Acknowledgements

Material for this review was collected from the databank "Flora et Iconographia Algarum Hungariae" (Botanical Department, Hungarian National History Museum) and from the collection "Algological Papers from Hungary" (Hungarian Algological Society).

I thank Dr Éva Ács for her help during the preparation of the manuscript.

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