

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF DIATOM COMMUNITIES IN THE WISŁOK RIVER WITH APPLICATION OF THEIR INDICATORY ROLE TO THE EVALUATION OF WATER QUALITY

Teresa Noga¹, Jadwiga Stanek-Tarkowska², Anita Pajączek²,
Łukasz Peszek³, Natalia Kochman¹

¹ Department of Biological Foundations of Agriculture and Environmental Education, Faculty of Biology and Agriculture, University of Rzeszów, 2 Ćwiklińskiej Str., 35–601 Rzeszów, Poland, e-mail: teresa.noga@interia.pl; kochman_natalia@wp.pl

² Department of Soil Studies, Environmental Chemistry and Hydrology, Faculty of Biology and Agriculture, University of Rzeszów, 2 Ćwiklińskiej Str., 35–601 Rzeszów, Poland, e-mail: jagodastanek@wp.pl; chuanita66@poczta.fm

³ International Doctoral Studies in Natural Sciences, Faculty of Biology and Agriculture, University of Rzeszów, 2 Ćwiklińskiej Str., 35–601 Rzeszów, Poland, e-mail: lukaspeszek@gmail.com

Received: 2013.06.23
Accepted: 2013.09.06
Published: 2013.10.10

ABSTRACT

Research conducted in 2007–2008 on eight sites designated along the Wisłok River showed great diatoms diversity – indicated a total of 401 diatom taxa. *Achnathidium pyrenaicum*, *A. minutissimum* var. *minutissimum*, *Navicula gregaria*, *N. lanceolata*, *Amphora pediculus*, *Cyclotella meneghiniana*, *Gomphonema olivaceum* var. *olivaceum*, *Nitzschia dissipata* ssp. *dissipata* were most frequent. Based on diatomaceous indices IPS, GDI and TDI has been shown that the upper part of Wisłok had a high and good ecological status. However, the middle and lower section of river was characterized by moderate and poor ecological status, on the base of the IPS and GDI indices (III and IV class). TDI value indicated bad water quality (V class) in the middle and lower section.

Keywords: Bacillariophyceae diatoms; ecology; indices IPS, GDI, TDI; Wisłok River.

INTRODUCTION

Diatoms (Bacillariophyceae) are a specialized group, settling in different types of ecosystems worldwide, for example fresh and salt waters, wet soils, rocks, ice and snow. They are sensitive to many environmental factors, which is why they, especially the benthic species are applied as indicators of changes taking place in the environment and to assess water quality [Siemińska 1964, Lange-Bertalot 1978, 1979a,b Hofmann 1994, Van Dam et al. 1994, Prygiel, Coste 1999, Rakowska 2001]. Water quality is also assessed using computer software (i.a. OMNIDIA) containing ecological and taxonomic data, and providing indicative values of the diatoms [CEMAGREF

1982, Coste, Ayphassorho 1991, Lecointe et al. 1993, Kelly, Whitton 1995, Eloranta, Kwadrans 1996, Kwadrans et al. 1998, Kwadrans 1999].

Many algological studies on benthic diatoms have been conducted in the area of southern Poland. Recently, they have mainly involved the Carpathian Mountains (including the Tatra Mountains, which have featured in about 230 different studies) and the Krakowsko-Częstochowska Upland [Kawecka 1996, 2012, Wojtal 2009]. No algological studies have been conducted on the territory of the Podkarpacie Province, with the exception of the upper and the middle sections of the San River, in which the diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* developed massively in the 90's [Kawecka, Sanecki 2003]. Over the past few

years studies have been carried out on diatom diversity, using their indicative role, in the Wisłok River basin [Noga 2012], in other currents in the Podkarpacie Province [Noga, Siry 2010, Tambor, Noga 2011, Pajaczek et al. 2012, Noga et al. 2012a,b, 2013] and on soil diatoms [Stanek-Tarkowska, Noga 2012a,b].

The aim of the work was to present the ecological characteristics of diatom communities, as well as their application and the usage of diatom indices to assess the water quality of the Wisłok River.

STUDY AREA

The Wisłok River is the largest left-bank tributary of the San River (about 220 km long) – Figure 1. It springs from the Kanasiówka Mountain (823 m a.s.l.) in the Beskid Niski Mountains near the border between Poland and Slovakia. It flows through seven geographical mesoregions located within the Western Carpathian Mountains [Kondracki 2001]. Hence the catchment area of the Wisłok River is characterized by a high differentiation of landscape. The river flows from the area of the Beskid Niski, running further through the Bukowskie Foothills (Pogórze Bukowskie)

and the Jasielsko-Krośnieńska Valley (Kotlina Jasielsko-Krośniewska). The riverbed constitutes a border between the Strzyżowskie Foothills (Pogórze Strzyżowskie) and the Dynowskie Foothills (Pogórze Dynowskie). The lower reaches of the river run through the Rzeszowskie Foothills (Pogórze Rzeszowskie) and the river empties into the San River on the territory of the Subcarpathian Proglacial Valley (Pradolina Podkarpacca). The upper course of the Wisłok River runs through mountainous and forested lands (where only a small degree of environmental transformation can be found), and in the middle and lower sections the river drains areas of industrial and agricultural characters.

A significant part of the catchment area is protected within the Jaślińska Landscape Park and the Czarnorzecko-Strzyżowski Landscape Park. The river's mountainous section ends in an artificial water body, the Besko Reservoir, with a concrete dam in Sienawa. Another reservoir, in the city of Rzeszów (Rzeszów Reservoir) was created to ensure a water supply, flood protection and recreation. The waters of the Wisłok River are used for both communal and industrial purposes. The river is also a receiver of sewage from agricultural areas, which are brought into the river directly or through running currents.

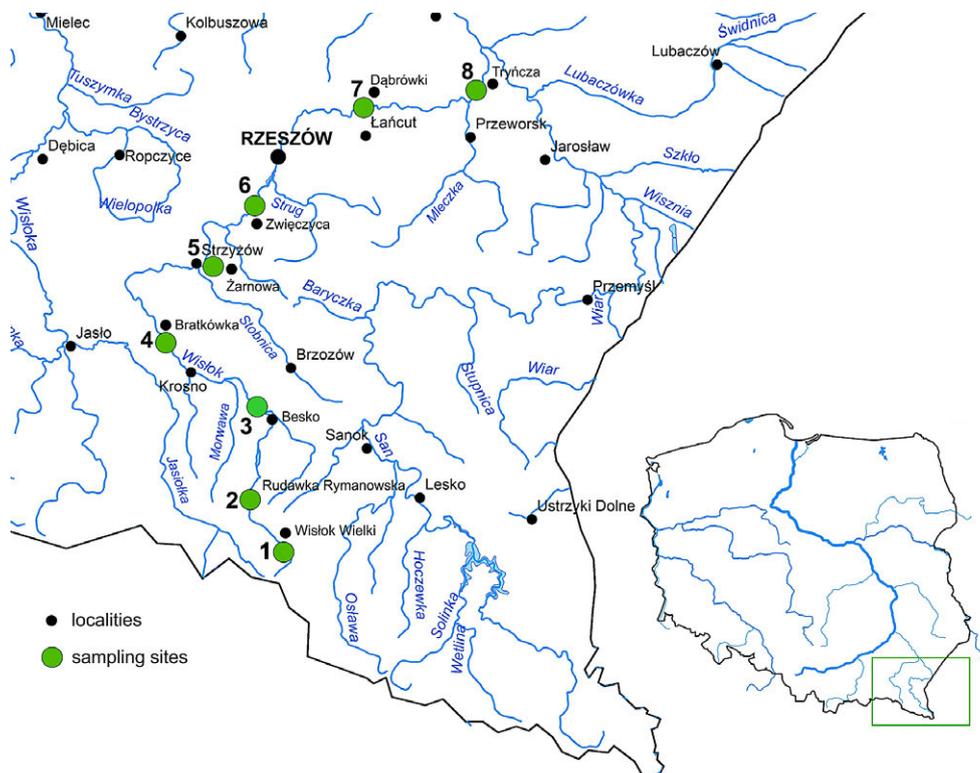


Fig. 1. Location of sampling sites (1–8) at Wisłok River

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials for studies were collected from eight study sites on the Wisłok River in 2007–2008 from all available habitats: rocks, sediments and aquatic macrophytes (Fig. 1).

The collected material was preserved in a 4% solution of formalin. In order to obtain pure valves of diatoms part of the obtained material was subjected to maceration in a mixture of sulphuric acid and potassium dichromate in a proportion of 3:1, and next it was rinsed in a centrifuge (at 2500 revol./min). The diatoms were mounted in permanent diatom slides with synthetic resin – PLEURAX (refractive index 1.75). The material was prepared according to the methods applied by Kawecka [2012].

Diatoms were identified using the “Nikon 80i” light microscope, according to keys: Krammer, Lange-Bertalot [1986–1991], Lange-Bertalot [1993, 2001], Krammer [2000, 2002, 2003], Hofmann et al. [2011].

The number of diatoms was obtained by counting all species in randomly selected microscopic fields of view, up to a total of 400 valves. Species whose participation in a given community was 5% or more were classified as the most numerous.

Diatom classification with the aid of ecological indicators was presented using the list of Van Dam et al. [1994]. The following indicators were taken into consideration: pH, saprobity and trophic state.

In order to calculate diatomaceous indices, the computer program OMNIDIA (version 4.2) was used, which also contains ecological and taxonomic data [Lecoite et al. 1993, Prygiel, Coste 1993].

The analysis of diatom communities was conducted in order to determine the ecological status of the Wisłok River. The results were presented

using selected diatomaceous indices, for which a range of ecological classes of water qualities and the ecological status conforming to them was outlined by mutual agreement, according to Dumnicka et al. [2006] (Table 1).

The indices of organic pollution: IPS – Specific Pollution Sensitivity Index [CEMAGREF 1982] and GDI – Generic Diatom Index [Coste, Ayphassorho 1991] (based on genus) are scaled from 1 to 10 (when water quality increases there is an increase in the value of the indicator). The TDI – Trophic Diatom Index [Kelly, Whitton 1995] is scaled from 1 to 100 (the higher the value, the higher the trophy of water). The percentage participation of species characteristic for organic pollution (PT) must be taken into account during the interpretation of the TDI index. There is a possibility of organic pollution with a participation of above 20% of PT.

RESULTS

The waters of the Wisłok River are characterized by an alkaline reaction (6.6–8.6) and medium to higher values of conductivity, especially in the middle and lower courses. Other chemical parameters, including BOD₅, COD, N_{NH4}-N, N_{NO3}-N, also indicate increased values in the middle and lower sections of the river (Table 2).

401 diatoms taxa were identified in eight determined study sites along the current of the river. A full list of taxa, containing and singling out endangered and rare taxa, was published in 2012 [Noga 2012]. *Achnathidium pyrenaicum* and *A. minutissimum* var. *minutissimum* developed the most numerous in the upper course of the Wisłok River (study sites number 1–3), and *Cocconeis pediculus*, *Diatoma moniliformis* and *Encyonema minutum* developed in small numbers. The middle and lower sections of the river (study sites 4–8) were characterized by numerous developments of *Navicula gregaria* and *N. lanceolata*, which dominated on all studied sites during most of the research seasons. *Amphora pediculus*, *Cyclotella meneghiniana*, *Gomphonema olivaceum* var. *olivaceum* and *Nitzschia dissipata* ssp. *dissipata* also developed numerous (Table 3).

The ecological preferences of diatom communities in terms of pH, saprobity and trophic state were characterized using the Van Dam et al. classification system [1994]. Classification based on pH showed that alkaliphilous diatoms

Table 1. Definitions and thresholds of diatom indices

Water Quality Class*	Ecological state	IPS	GDI	TDI	Trophic state
I	high	> 17	> 17	<35	oligotrophic
II	good	15–17	14–17	35–50	oligo/mesotrophic
III	moderate	12–15	11–14	50–60	mesotrophic
IV	poor	8–12	8–11	60–75	eutrophic
V	bad	<8	<8	>75	hypertrophic

* according to the Decree of the Minister of the Environment from 9 Nov. 2011 (Dz. U. No 257, pos. 1545).

Table 2. Physico-chemical parameters on studied sites in the Wisłok River (July 2007 – May 2008)

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Wisłok Wielki	Rudawka Rymanowska	Besko	Bratkówka	Żarnowa	Zwiężczyca	Dąbrówki	Tryńcza
Temperature [°C]	4.8–19.7	5.3–26.5	4.2–26.0	5.0–22.1	3.8–24.2	4.1–25.4	3.7–24.4	3.9–24.9
pH	7.3–8.1	7.4–8.4	7.5–8.2	6.6–7.8	8.0–8.4	8–8.5	7.7–8.5	7.8–8.6
Conductivity [$\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$]	212–327	165–410	299–322	410–553	460–500	467–492	454–514	420–531
BOD ₅ [$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$]	0.9–1.5	0.7–2.1	0.9–2.3	1.6–3.8	1.1–2.3	1.9–7.0	2.3–6.0	1.7–13.0
COD [$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$]	<10.0–12.6	<10.0–22.1	10.6–13.4	12.7–26.2	13.7–28.7	<10.0–44.8	14.0–48.4	<10.0–63.0
N _{NH₄} – N [mg L^{-1}]	<0.1–0.37	0.08–0.11	0.09–0.14	>0.1–1.75	0.163–0.7	0.27–1.21	0.22–1.14	0.38–0.95
N _{NO₂} – N [mg L^{-1}]	0.004–0.01	<0.01–0.004	0.006–0.02	0.02–0.05	0.016–0.04	0.02–0.07	0.03–0.06	0.01–0.06
N _{NO₃} – N [mg L^{-1}]	<0.2–0.71	0.124–0.93	0.53–1.23	1.17–2.4	1.31–2.02	1.11–2.11	0.88–2.45	0.22–2.25
PO ₄ – P [mg L^{-1}]	<0.05–0.06	<0.05	<0.05	0.09–0.44	0.01–0.39	0.12–0.31	0.08–0.22	<0.05–0.18
Total P [mg L^{-1}]	<0.02–0.06	<0.05	<0.05	0.05–0.21	0.07–0.17	0.08–0.18	0.09–0.26	0.15–0.26
Ca [mg L^{-1}]	35.0–54.0	50.0–62.7	47.7–50.0	64.1–76.0	69.0–76.0	72.0–75.0	67.0–76.0	61.0–82.0

Table 3. The characteristic of sampling sites, including dominant species

Site	Description	Dominants
1 Wisłok Wielki	Width: 2–4 m. Depth: 0.1–0.2 m. Insolation: medium (partial shadowed by deciduous trees). Bottom: stony, in summer covered by <i>Cladophora</i> sp., single-family houses and outbuildings in the immediate vicinity of the river. Current: rapid	<i>Achnathidium pyrenaicum</i> , <i>A. minutissimum</i> var. <i>minutissimum</i> , <i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cocconeis pediculus</i> , <i>C. placentula</i> var. <i>lineata</i> , <i>Encyonema ventricosum</i> , <i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> var. <i>olivaceum</i> , <i>Navicula lanceolata</i> , <i>N. reichardtiana</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i> , <i>Rhoicosphenia abbreviata</i>
2 Rudawka Rymanowska	Width: ok. 20 m. Depth: 0.1–0.5 m. Insolation: high. Bottom: stony, with big boulders in bed, surrounded by mixed forest. Current: rapid	<i>Achnathidium pyrenaicum</i> , <i>A. minutissimum</i> var. <i>minutissimum</i> , <i>Cymbella excisa</i> , <i>Diatoma moniliformis</i> , <i>Encyonema ventricosum</i> , <i>Encyonopsis microcephala</i> , <i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> var. <i>olivaceum</i> , <i>Navicula reichardtiana</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i>
3 Besko	Width: ok. 25 m. Depth: 0.3–0.5 m Insolation: high. Bottom: stony with big boulders in bed covered by mosses and <i>Cladophora</i> sp., site near to road, single-family houses around. Current: rapid	<i>Achnathidium pyrenaicum</i> , <i>A. minutissimum</i> var. <i>minutissimum</i> , <i>Cocconeis pediculus</i> , <i>Diatoma moniliformis</i> , <i>Encyonema ventricosum</i>
4 Bratkówka	Width: 10–15 m. Depth: 0.4–0.8 m Insolation: high. Bottom: stony, with a small amount of sand and silt near shore, stones intensively covered by <i>Cladophora</i> sp. and <i>Myriophyllum</i> sp. Current: calm	<i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cocconeis placentula</i> var. <i>lineata</i> , <i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> , <i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> var. <i>olivaceum</i> , <i>Navicula capitatoradiata</i> , <i>N. gregaria</i> , <i>N. lanceolata</i> , <i>N. reichardtiana</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i> , <i>Rhoicosphenia abbreviata</i>
5 Żarnowa	Width: ok. 25 m. Depth: 0.2–0.5 m (near shore) Insolation: high. Bottom: stony, silted near shore, stones covered by <i>Cladophora</i> sp. in summer, meadows and grasslands in the immediate vicinity. Current: calm	<i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cocconeis placentula</i> var. <i>lineata</i> , <i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> , <i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> var. <i>olivaceum</i> , <i>Navicula capitatoradiata</i> , <i>N. gregaria</i> , <i>N. lanceolata</i> , <i>N. reichardtiana</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i>
6 Zwiężczyca	Width: ok. 20–30 m. Depth: 0.2–0.3 m (near shore) Insolation: high. Bottom: intensively silted near shore and covered by rushes. Stagnant water	<i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cocconeis placentula</i> var. <i>lineata</i> , <i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> , <i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> var. <i>olivaceum</i> , <i>Navicula gregaria</i> , <i>N. lanceolata</i> , <i>N. reichardtiana</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i> , <i>Sellephora seminulum</i>
7 Dąbrówki	Width: 15–25 m. Depth: 0.2–1.0 m Insolation: high. Bottom: stony with big boulders in bed, covered by Chlorophyta (maliny <i>Cladophora</i> sp.), fallow lands and bush scrub in the vicinity of river. Current: rapid	<i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cyclotella atomus</i> , <i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> , <i>Navicula lanceolata</i> , <i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> ssp. <i>dissipata</i>
8 Tryńcza	Width: 15–25 m. Depth: from 0.5 (near shore) to 1.0–2.5 m. Insolation: high. Bottom: stony, silted near shore, station near road. Current: calm	<i>Amphora pediculus</i> , <i>Cyclotella atomus</i> , <i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> , <i>Navicula capitatoradiata</i> , <i>N. gregaria</i> , <i>N. lanceolata</i>

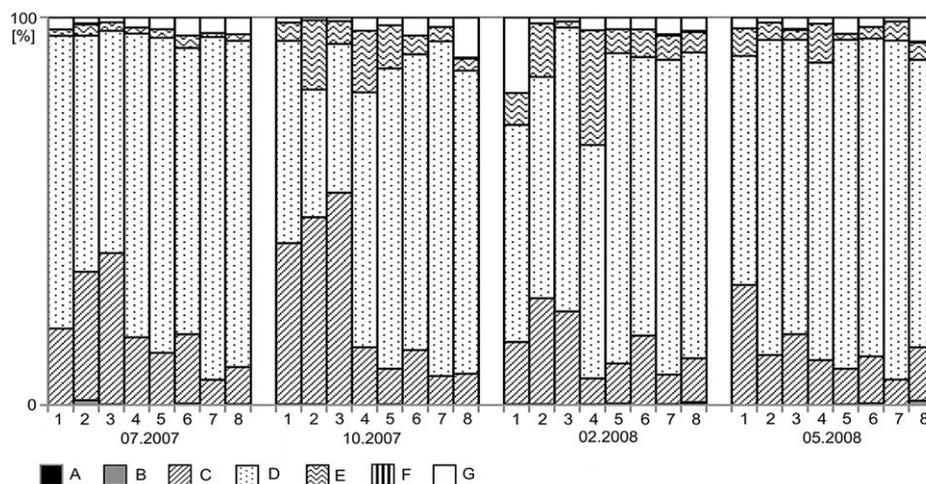


Fig. 2. Classification of ecological indicator values (according to Van Dam et al. 1994). pH range: A – acidobiontic, B – acidophilous, C – neutral, D – alkaliphilous, E – alkalibiontic, F – indifferent, no apparent optimum, G – unknown. Sampling sites: 1–8

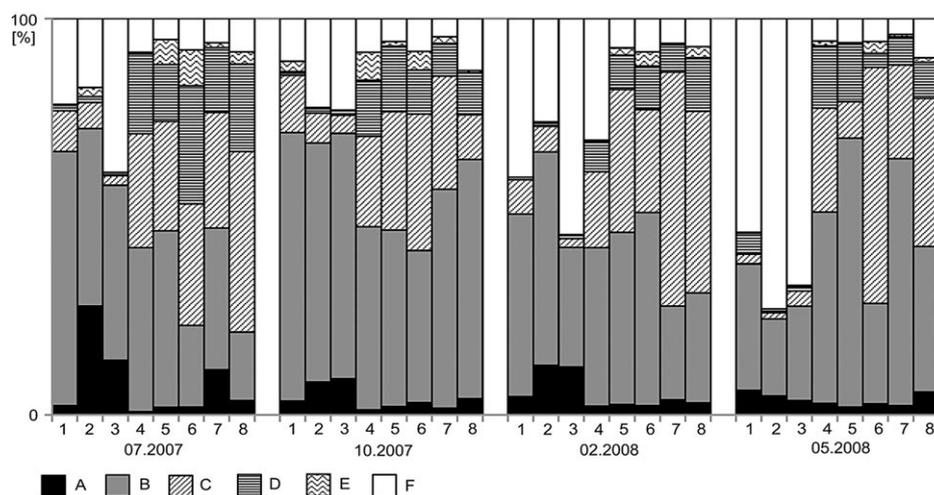


Fig. 3. Classification of ecological indicator values (according to Van Dam et al. 1994). Saprobity range: A – oligosaprobous, B – β -mesosaprobous, C – α -mesosaprobous, D – α -meso-polysaprobous, E – polysaprobous, F – unknown. Sampling sites: 1–8

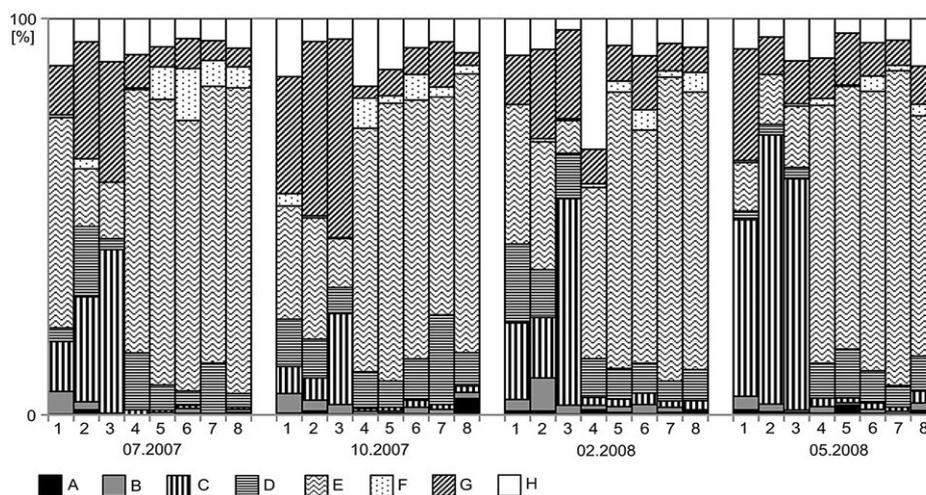


Fig. 4. Classification of ecological indicator values (according to Van Dam et al. 1994). Trophic state range: A – oligotraphentic, B – oligo-mesotraphentic, C – mesotraphentic, D – meso-eutraphentic, E – eutraphentic, F – hypereutraphentic, G – oligo- to eutraphentic, H – unknown. Sampling sites: 1–8

were definitely dominant along the whole length of the Wisłok River, whereas the lower section of the river is characterized by higher participation of circumneutral diatoms, especially during autumn season (Fig. 2). The taxa β -mesosaprobous (II class) dominated on the Wisłok River in terms of saprobity, especially in the upper section. The participation of taxa α -mesosaprobous (III class) increased in the middle and lower currents (Fig. 3). In all research seasons, eutrathentic taxa developed the most numerous in the middle and lower currents of the river. The upper section was characterized by the numerous presence of mesotrathentic (i.a. spring) and oligo- to eutrathentic diatoms (Fig. 4).

The values of diatomaceous indices in the upper course of the Wisłok River indicated waters of good and very good quality (second and first class) corresponding to a good and a high ecological status. Only study site number one was characterized by worse water quality (especially according to TDI index values). Values of diatomaceous indices in the upper course of the river differed slightly in all research seasons. Also, a small participation of taxa resistant to organic pollution (PT=1.0–7.7%) was noted. The middle and lower sections of the Wisłok River were characterized by worse water quality – third and fourth class when based on the IPS and GDI indexes and fifth class according to the TDI index. Moreover, the participation of taxa resistant to organic pollution increased to even above 50% on some study sites (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

Waters of the Wisłok River in their middle and lower sections were characterized by an alkaline reaction (6.6–8.6), average to increased values of conductivity and BOD₅, COD, N_{NH4}–N and N_{NO3}–N. Similar values of conductivity were noted in the lower section of the Wisłoka River [Augustyn et al. 2012]. Other studied currents on the territory of the Podkarpacie Province also have increased values of some chemical parameters. The small Matysówka stream, running through Rzeszów, was characterized by a higher content of ammonium nitrogen, phosphates and other nitrate concentrations, which are similar to the Wisłok River [Noga et al. 2013]. The catchment area of the Wisłok River is a receiver of various types of pollution (sewage, surface flows from farming lands, wild rubbish dumps, etc.) and it is distinguished from others by an increased content of organic

Table 4. The values of diatomaceous indices IPS, GDI, TDI and %PT calculated for individual sites in the Wisłok River (1–8) in four studied seasons

07.2007				
Site	IPS	GDI	TDI	%PT
1	16.8	13.5	62.7	5.7
2	16.9	15.6	33.8	5.8
3	18.8	16.4	36.0	1.6
4	12.3	11.2	66.4	18.1
5	11.2	10.1	80.4	17.9
6	8.8	10.9	76.3	19.4
7	11.0	12.1	82.5	7.1
8	8.5	12.1	80.0	9.5
Average	13.04	12.74	64.76	10.64
10.2007				
Site	IPS	GDI	TDI	%PT
1	16.1	13.4	66.4	7.7
2	17.0	16.4	36.1	1.0
3	18.5	16.3	37.4	2.1
4	12.3	10.1	90.5	24.5
5	12.6	10.3	91.0	16.5
6	11.4	10.6	79.5	27.7
7	13.8	11.6	89.2	18.2
8	13.4	10.4	86.7	6.9
Average	14.38	12.38	72.1	13.07
02.2008				
Site	IPS	GDI	TDI	%PT
1	15.6	12.3	65.4	2.9
2	17.0	15.4	46.8	2.0
3	18.6	16.7	29.4	2.4
4	11.4	12.0	84.7	11.1
5	12.9	11.3	81.1	28.4
6	12.6	11.2	75.7	20.1
7	13.1	12.1	85.4	50.5
8	11.9	11.5	82.3	36.5
Average	14.13	12.81	68.85	19.23
05.2008				
Site	IPS	GDI	TDI	%PT
1	18.4	16.5	36.8	1.3
2	19.1	17.1	30.3	1.3
3	18.5	16.3	37.3	3.3
4	14.0	12.0	87.9	33.0
5	14.4	10.6	89.1	9.0
6	11.8	11.2	85.8	56.4
7	13.6	10.4	90.7	19.4
8	13.1	11.8	77.8	30.0
Average	15.36	13.23	66.96	19.21

Ecological status IPS, GDI, TDI	high	good	moderate	poor	bad

pollution and biogenic compounds [WIOŚ 2009]. The character of the catchment area, the type of surface and the good oxygenation connected with it result in the fact that the water quality of the Wisłok River is better, in comparison to small currents within its catchment area.

The alkaline character of the water of the Wisłok River is also reflected in the ecological preferences of the species of diatoms occurred in it. A dominant group were alkaliphilous diatoms (mainly occurring at $\text{pH} > 7$), taking into consideration the water reaction, among which *Achnanthydium pyrenaicum* occurred frequently. It is considered as an alkali-phil species [Van Dam et al. 1994, Lange-Bertalot, Steindorf 1996], whereas according to Hofmann [1994] it has a pH towards neutral. Circumneutral diatoms, mainly occurring at pH – values of about 7 [Van Dam et al. 1994], developed numerous in the upper section of the river.

Diatoms characteristic for β -mesosaprobous waters, belonging to the second class of quality, predominated on the majority of the study sites. The most numerous group in the middle and lower sections made up α -mesosaprobous taxa (third class), especially on the study sites number 6 in Zwięczyca and 8 in Tryńcza. A considerable share of diatoms belonging to an unknown category was noted in the study sites in the upper course of the river in connection with the numerous development of *Achnanthydium pyrenaicum*, which was not taken into consideration in the classification system according to Van Dam et al. [1994].

With reference to diatom requirements in relation to trophic, mesotraphentic, oligo- and eutraphentic taxa, that is those with a wide spectrum of occurrence, predominated in the upper course of the Wisłok River. *Achnanthydium minutissimum* var. *minutissimum*, which has a wide ecological amplitude and develops from oligo- to eutrophic conditions [Krammer, Lange-Bertalot 1986–1991], occurred numerous. The middle and lower sections of the river (study sites 4–8) were characterized by the most numerous occurrence of eutraphentic diatoms, which prefer very fertile waters. *Navicula lanceolata* and *N. gregaria*, which are found as halophilic taxa, were the most frequently dominants. *Navicula lanceolata* is one of the most frequently occurring taxa in different types of water ecosystem. It develops best in mesotrophic and eutrophic waters [Krammer, Lange-Bertalot 1986–1991, Van Dam et al. 1994, Lange-Bertalot, Steindorf 1996, Hofmann et al. 2011, Kawecka 2012].

Diatom communities in the Wisłok River indicate similar ecological preferences regarding pH, saprobity and trophic in comparison to other studied currents on the territory of the Podkarpackie Province [Noga, Siry 2010, Tambor, Noga 2011, Bernat, Noga 2012, Pajęczek et al. 2012].

Studies conducted in 2007–2008 indicated a huge species richness of diatoms in the Wisłok River. The occurrence of more than 400 taxa was noted on eight study sites [Noga 2012]. Other studied inflows of the Wisłok River are characterized by a huge species richness, for example Matysówka – 271 taxa, Mlecza – 277 taxa, Morawa – 244 taxa and Różanka – 202 taxa [Pajęczek et al. 2012, Noga et al. 2013].

The analysis of the structure of diatom communities was also applied in order to determine the ecological status of the Wisłok River. Based on the IPS [CEMAGREF 1982], GDI [Coste, Ayphassorho 1991] and TDI [Kelly, Whitton 1995] diatomaceous indices, the upper section of the Wisłok River had a high or good ecological status. A moderate and poor ecological status was noted on study site number one, based on the GDI and TDI indices. The first study site, in the Wisłok Wielki, was located close to the neighbourhood of residential houses and outbuildings. The surrounding area is not connected to a sewage system and that is probably why household and farming sewage is directly channelled into the river.

The middle and lower sections of the River Wisłok were characterized by a moderate and poor ecological status, based on the IPS and GDI diatomaceous indices (third and fourth class). TDI index values indicated bad water quality (fifth class). The participation of taxa resistant to organic pollution (PT) increased, even to $>50\%$ on some studying sites. An increase of PT values above 40% might prove huge organic pollution and cause an increase in eutrophication [Kelly, Whitton 1995, Kelly et al. 2001].

The IPS and GDI indices are found to be the most reliable to assess the ecological state of rivers on the territory of Poland. The TDI index decreases the quality of the studied waters considerably, as in other rivers and streams in Poland [Kwandrans et al. 1998, 1999, Kawecka et al. 1999, Dumnicka et al. 2006, Szczepocka 2007, Szczepocka, Szulc 2009, Rakowska, Szczepocka 2011, Noga et al. 2013, Noga et al. – in press]. The IPS index also works well in assessment of water qualities on the territory of Central Europe [Blanco et al. 2007].

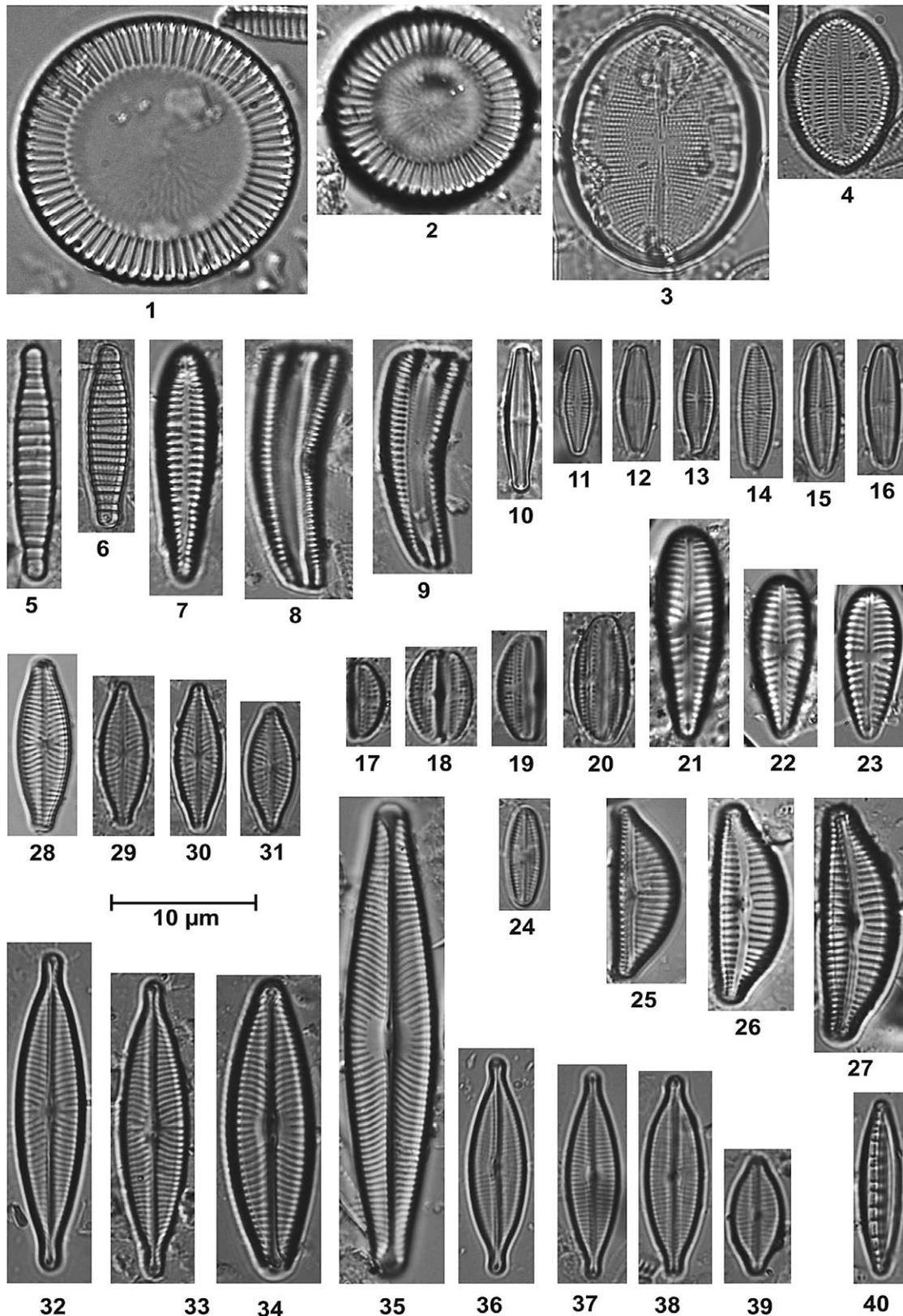


Plate I. Selected dominant diatoms taxa in the Wisłok River: 1–2 *Cyclotella meneghiniana* Kütz., 3 *Cocconeis pediculus* Ehrenb., 4 *C. placentula* var. *lineata* (Ehrenb.) Van Heurck, 5–6 *Diatoma moniliformis* Kütz., 7–9 *Rhoicosphenia abbreviata* (Ag.) Lange-Bert., 10–13 *Achnantheidium minutissimum* (Kütz.) Czarnecki var. *minutissimum*, 14–16 *A. pyrenaicum* (Grunow) Round & Bukht., 17–20 *Amphora pediculus* (Kütz.) Grunow, 21–23 *Gomphonema olivaceum* (Hornemann) Bréb. var. *olivaceum*, 24 *Sellaphora seminulum* (Grunow) D.G. Mann, 25 *Encyonema ventricosum* (Agardh) Grunow, 26–27 *Cymbella excisa* Kütz., 28–31 *Navicula reichardtiana* Lange-Bert., 32–33 *N. capitatoradiata* Germain, 34–35 *N. lanceolata* (Ag.) Kütz., 36–39 *N. gregaria* Donkin, 40 *Nitzschia dissipata* (Kütz.) Grunow ssp. *dissipata*.

Acknowledgement

This study was supported partly by the Polish Ministry of Education and Science for 2007–2010 (grant no. N304 0143 2/0936).

REFERENCES

1. Augustyn Ł., Kaniuczak J., Stanek-Tarkowska J. 2012. Wybrane właściwości fizykochemiczne i chemiczne wód powierzchniowych Wisłoki przeznaczonych do spożycia. *Inżynieria Ekologiczna*, 28: 7–19.
2. Bernat P., Noga T. 2012. Różnorodność zbiorowisk okrzemek potoku Trzcianka. *Rocznik Przemyski*, 48(3): 29–44.
3. Blanco S., Bécares E., Cauchie H.M., Hoffmann L., Ector L. 2007. Comparison of biotic indices for water quality diagnosis in the Duero Basin (Spain). *Arch. Hydrobiol. Suppl.*, 16(3-4): 267–286.
4. CEMAGREF 1982. Etude des méthodes biologiques quantitative d'appréciation de la qualité des eaux. Rapport Division Qualité des Eaux Lyon – Agence financière de Bassin Rhone – Méditerranée – Corse, Pierre – Bénite, pp. 218.
5. Coste M., Ayphassorho H. 1991. Étude de la qualité des eaux du Bassin Artois-Picardie à l'aide des communautés de diatomées benthiques (Application des indices diatomiques). Rapport Cemagref. Bordeaux – Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie, Douai, pp. 277.
6. Dumnicka E., Jelonek M., Kwandrans J., Wojtał A., Żurek R. 2006. Ichtyofauna i status ekologiczny wód Wisły, Raby, Dunajca i Wisłoki. Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, pp. 220.
7. Eloranta P., Kwandrans J. 1996. Testing the use of diatoms and macroalgae for river monitoring in Finland. [In:] B.A. Whitton, E. Rott (eds), *Use of algae for monitoring rivers II*. Institut für Botanik, Universität Innsbruck, pp. 119–124.
8. Hofmann G. 1994. Aufwuchs-Diatomeen in Seen und ihre Eignung als Indikatoren der Trophie. *Bibliotheca Diatomologica* 30. J. Cramer, Berlin – Stuttgart, pp. 241.
9. Hofmann G., Werum M., Lange-Bertalot H. 2011. Diatomeen im Süßwasser – Benthos vom Mitteleuropa. Bestimmungsfloren Kieselalgen für die ökologische Praxis. Über 700 der häufigsten Arten und ihre Ökologie. [In:] H. Lange-Bertalot. (ed.), A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., pp. 908.
10. Kawecka B. 1996. Glony. [In:] Z. Mirek, Z. Głowacki, K. Klimek, H. Piękoś-Mirkowa (eds), *Przyroda Tatrzańskiego Parku Narodowego. Tatrzy i Podtatrze*. T. 3. Zakopane – Kraków, pp. 347–361.
11. Kawecka B. 2012. Diatom diversity in streams of the Tatra National Park (Poland) as indicator of environmental conditions. *W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków*, pp. 213.
12. Kawecka B., Sanecki J. 2003. *Didymosphenia geminata* in running waters of southern Poland – Symptoms of change in water quality? *Hydrobiol.*, 495: 193–201.
13. Kawecka B., Kwandrans J., Szykowski A. 1999. Use of algae for monitoring rivers in Poland – Situation and development. [In:] *Use of algae for monitoring rivers III*. J. Prygiel, B.A. Whitton, J. Bukowska (eds), Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie: pp. 57–65.
14. Kelly M.G., Whitton B.A. 1995. The Trophic Diatom Index: a new index for monitoring eutrophication in rivers. *J. Appl. Phycol.*, 7: 433–444.
15. Kelly M.G., Adams C., Graves A.C., Jamieson J., Krokowski J., Lycett E.B., Murray-Bligh J., Pritchard S., Wilkins C. 2001. *The Trophic Diatom Index: A User's Manual*. Revised Edition. Environment Agency, Bristol, BS32 4UD: 1–74.
16. Kondracki J. 2001. *Geografia regionalna Polski*. PWN, Warszawa, pp. 463.
17. Krammer K. 2000. The genus *Pinnularia*. Vol. 1. [In:] H. Lange-Bertalot (ed) *Diatoms of Europe*. A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., pp. 703.
18. Krammer K. 2002. *Cymbella*. [In:] *Diatoms of Europe 3*. H. Lange-Bertalot (ed.), A.R.G., Gantner Verlag K.G., Rugell, pp. 584.
19. Krammer K. 2003. *Cymbopleura, Delicata, Navicymbula, Gomphocymbellopsis, Afrocybella*. [In:] *Diatoms of Europe 4*. H. Lange-Bertalot (ed.), A.R.G., Gantner Verlag K.G., Rugell., pp. 530.
20. Krammer K., Lange-Bertalot H. 1986–1991. Bacillariophyceae. 1–4. [In:] H. Ettl, J. Gerloff, H. Heyning., D. Mollenhauer (eds), *Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa 2(1–4)*. G. Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart – New York – Jena.
21. Kwandrans J. 1999. Wykorzystanie okrzemek do oceny jakości wody w monitoringu europejskich wód płynących. XVII Sympozjum Sekcji Fykologicznej. Szczeciń – Łukęcin. Akademia Rolnicza. Streszczenia komunikatów: pp. 11.
22. Kwandrans J., Eloranta P., Kawecka B., Wojtał K. 1998. Use of benthic diatom communities to evaluate water quality in rivers of southern Poland. *J. Appl. Phycol.* 10: 193–201.
23. Kwandrans J., Eloranta P., Kawecka B., Wojtał K. 1999. Use of benthic diatom communities to evaluate water quality in rivers of southern Poland. [In:] *Use of algae for monitoring rivers III*. J. Prygiel, B.A. Whitton, J. Bukowska (eds.), Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie: 154–156.

24. Lange-Bertalot H. 1978. Diatomeen – Differenti-
alarten anstelle von Leitformen: ein geeigneteres
Kriterium der Gewässerbelastung. Arch. Hydro-
biol. Suppl. 51. Algological Studies 21: 393–427.
25. Lange-Bertalot H. 1979a. Pollution tolerance of
diatoms as a criterion for water quality estimation.
Nova Hedwigia 64: 285–304.
26. Lange-Bertalot H. 1979b. Toleranzgrenzen und
Populationsdynamic bentischer Diatomeen bei
unterschiedlich starker Abwassebelastung. Arch.
Hydrobiol. Suppl. Stud. 23: 184–219.
27. Lange-Bertalot H. 1993. 83 New taxa and much
more than 100 taxonomic clarifications supple-
mentary to Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa. Vol.
2/1-4. J. Cramer, Berlin – Stuttgart.
28. Lange-Bertalot H. 2001. *Navicula sensu stricto*. 10
genera separated from *Navicula sensu lato*. *Frus-
tulia*. [In:] H. Lange-Bertalot (ed.) Diatoms of Eu-
rope. A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., pp. 526.
29. Lange-Bertalot H., Steindorf A. 1996. Rote liste
der limnischen Kieselalgen (Bacillariophyceae)
Deutschlands. Schrittenreihe für Vegetationskunde
28: 633–677.
30. Lecointe C., Coste M., Prygiel J. 1993. OMNIDIA:
software for taxonomy, calculation of diatom in-
dices and inventories management. Hydrobiol.,
269/270: 509–513.
31. Noga T. 2012. Diversity of diatom communities in
the Wisłok River (SE Poland). [In:] K. Wołowski,
I. Kaczmarska, J.M. Ehrman & A.Z. Wojtal (eds),
Phycological Reports: Current advances in algal
taxonomy and its applications: phylogenetic, eco-
logical and applied perspective. Institute of Botany
Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, pp. 109–128.
32. Noga T., Siry K. 2010. Różnorodność flory okrze-
mek w potoku Łubienka (Pogórze Dynowskie, Pol-
ska SE). *Zeszyty Naukowe PTiE i PTG*, 12: 75–86.
33. Noga T., Stanek-Tarkowska J., Irlík E., Soliwoda K.,
Peszek Ł. 2012a. Nowe stanowiska *Didymosphe-
nia geminata* w Ropie i Białej Tamowskiej (Polska
południowa). *Inżynieria Ekologiczna*, 30: 257–265.
34. Noga T., Stanek-Tarkowska J., Kocielska-Streb
M., Kowalska S., Ligęzka R., Kloc U., Peszek Ł.
2012b. Endangered and rare species of diatoms
in running and standing waters on the territory of
Rzeszów and the surrounding area. [In:] J. Kostec-
ka, J. Kaniuczak (eds.), Practical Applications of
Environmental Research. Nauka dla Gospodarki.
3/2012. pp. 331–340.
35. Noga T., Stanek-Tarkowska J., Peszek Ł., Pajączek
A., Kowalska S. 2013. Use of diatoms to asses
water quality of anthropogenically modified Ma-
tysówka stream. *Journal of Ecological Engineer-
ing*, 14(2): 1–11.
36. Pajączek A., Musiałek M., Pelczar J., Noga T. 2012.
Diversity of diatoms in the Mleczka River, Mor-
wawa River and Różanka Stream (tributaries of the
Wisłok River, SE Poland), with particular reference
to threatened species. [In:] Phycological Reports:
Current advances in algal taxonomy and its applica-
tions: phylogenetic, ecological and applied perspec-
tive, K. Wołowski, I. Kaczmarska, J.M. Ehrman,
A.Z. Wojtal (eds). Institute of Botany Polish Acad-
emy of Sciences, Krakow, pp. 129–152.
37. Prygiel J., Coste M. 1993. The assessment of water
quality in the Artois–Picardie water basin (France)
by the use of diatom indices. *Hydrobiol.*, 269/270:
343–349.
38. Prygiel J., Coste M. 1999. Progress in the use of dia-
toms for monitoring rivers in France. [In:] Use of
algae for monitoring rivers III. J. Prygiel et al. (eds),
Agence de l’Eau Artois-Picardie pp. 165–179.
39. Rakowska B. 2001. Studium różnorodności okrze-
mek ekosystemów Polski niżowej. *Rozprawy Ha-
bilitacyjne UŁ*. Wydawnictwo UŁ, Łódź, pp. 77.
40. Rakowska B., Szczepocka E. 2011. Demonstration
of the Bzura River restoration using diatom indi-
ces. *Biologia*, 66(3): 411–417.
41. Siemińska J. 1964. Bacillariophyceae – Okrzemki.
[In:] K. Starmach (ed.) *Flora Słodkowodna Polski*
6. PWN, Warszawa.
42. Stanek-Tarkowska J., Noga T. 2012a. Zbiorowiska
okrzemek rozwijające się na glebach pyłowych
pod uprawą kukurydzy w rejonie Podkarpacia.
Fragm. Flor. Geobot. Polonica, 19(2): 525–536.
43. Stanek-Tarkowska J., Noga T. 2012b. Diversity of
diatoms (Bacillariophyceae) in the soil under tradi-
tional tillage and reduced tillage. *Inżynieria Eko-
logiczna*, 30: 287–296.
44. Szczepocka E. 2007. Benthic diatoms from the
outlet section of the Bzura River 30 years ago and
presently. *Oceanol. Hydrobiol. St.* 36(1): 255–260.
45. Szczepocka E., Szulc B. 2009. The use of benthic
diatoms in estimating water quality of variously
polluted rivers. *Oceanol. Hydrobiol. St.* 38(1):
17–26.
46. Tambor A., Noga T. 2011. Różnorodność flo-
ry okrzemek w rzece Lubcza i potoku Lubenia
(Podgórze Rzeszowskie, Polska SE). *Rocznik
Przemyski*, 47(3): 105–118.
47. Van Dam H., Martens A., Sinkeldam J. 1994. A
coded checklist and ecological indicator Values of
freshwater diatoms from the Netherlands. *Nether-
lands J. Aquatic Ecol.*, 28: 117–133.
48. WIOŚ – Rzeszów. 2009. Raport o stanie środowiska
w Województwie Podkarpackim.
49. Wojtal A. 2009. Diatom flora of the Kobylan-
ka stream near Kraków (Wyżyna Krakowsko-
Częstochowska Upland, S Poland). *Polish Bot.
Journal*, 54(2): 129–330.