

Second Nordic-Baltic diatom intercalibration/harmonization exercise 2009

Dear Nordic-Baltic diatom colleagues !

(please spread the letter to anybody in our region who might be interested)

Please feel invited to the second Nordic-Baltic diatom intercalibration/harmonization exercise. For those unfamiliar with the first exercise in 2007, please check the webpage http://www.ma.slu.se/ShowPage.cfm?OrgenhetSida_ID=7806 for background information and www.norbaf.net for information on the results.

The intercalibration is organized by [NorBAF](http://www.norbaf.net) (Nordic Network - Benthic Algae in Freshwater, www.norbaf.net) and the Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment, SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, www.ma.slu.se).

It is important to harmonize the diatom identification of the Nordic-Baltic diatomists in order to improve comparisons between different diatom studies, especially as diatom monitoring has increased because of the Water Framework Directive. Based on the experience from the activities in 2006 and 2007, the NorBAF participants agreed on another diatom intercalibration in 2009. SWEDAC (Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment) is informed about our activities and the participation of Swedish laboratories and consultants. This time, the Nordic-Baltic exercise will also be part of the ongoing European exercise in the frame of ECOSTAT.

The diatom intercalibration will be performed as follows:

1. All participants will receive a setup of 3-4 untreated diatom samples and will have to prepare their slides themselves.
2. Preparation, identification and enumeration of the diatoms will follow the Swedish Standard method using diatoms for environmental monitoring ('[Påväxt i rinnande vatten – kiselalgsanalys](#)'). In: Handbok för miljöövervakning: Sötvatten, Version 3:1 : 2009. Short English description in 'Environmental Quality Criteria – Lakes and Watercourses. Swedish EPA, report no. 5050). Download method at http://www.naturvardsverket.se/upload/02_tillstandet_i_miljon/Miljoovervakning/undersokning_typ/sotvatten/pavaxt.pdf.
3. The Swedish Standard taxa list must be used when reporting results (deadline 30.9.2009). The list will be sent to all participants.
4. The counts will be evaluated according to Kelly (2001). The results of each participant will be compared with the results of two auditors, familiar with the Swedish Standard method and the Nordic flora (Amelie Jarlman, Jarlman Konsult AB, and Bernt Sandell, BS Sötvattenkonsult).
5. All results will be published on NorBAFs homepage. The participants can choose if they wish to be published with name or anonymously on the homepage. Every participant will get a personal report on possible identification errors. A general information on the dominant taxa and most common errors will be published, with photos, on the NorBAF homepage.
6. The price for the intercalibration exercise will be 3000 SEK. For Master students from the Nordic countries, there is the possibility to apply to the Nordic School of Phycology (<http://www.nordicphycology.info>) for funding.

Deadlines:

- 30 April 2009 – Announcement of interest and address (to which the samples will be sent) to Maria Kahlert (maria.kahlert@vatten.slu.se)
- 15 May 2009 - Samples will be sent to the participants
- 30 September 2009 - Results must be sent to Maria Kahlert (maria.kahlert@vatten.slu.se)

Kind regards,

Maria Kahlert, network coordinator

Reference:

Kelly, M. (2001): Use of similarity measures for quality control of benthic diatom samples. *Wat. Res.* Vol. 35 (11), 2784-2788.