Abstract

Even in the ecological studies, the correct identification of the species is of basic importance in the work. In order to get an accurate interpretation of water quality, the counting of diatoms using scanning electron microscopy was employed for three *Nitzschia* species similar to each other and difficult to differentiate. As a result, the use of scanning electron microscopy as a necessary complement of light microscopy diatom examination is recommended.

Key index words
diatoms, *Nitzschia*, SEM diatom counting, water pollution, water quality assessment.