

NOMENCLATURE OF DIATOMS

The following is a piece of useless but enjoyable information.

In the case of genera and species the names given are based upon;

1. Names of persons, usually diatomists, or persons interested in the subject.
2. Descriptive names, with reference to the shape, manner of growth, or some distinguishing feature. The etymology should be indicated, if not obvious.

About one third of the generic names of the Diatomaceae are based on proper names. Here are just a few;

(I have reduced the number of names and also in the vocabulary section, because of space).

Ardissinia, Bergonia, Carnegia, Debya, Frickea, Grovea, Handmanniana, Huttonia, Janischia, Kittonia, Lauderia, Moelleria, Nitzschia, Okendenia, Peronia Roperia, Smithiella, Temperella, Vanheurckia, Willemoesia.

The genus Valdiviella and species Ortolanae are named after ships.

The origin of some of the generic names, the greater number of these are derived from Greek words, only a few from Latin.

| Greek or Latin word. | Name of diatom's. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Amphora; urn. | Amphora, Amphoropsis. |
| Anthos; flower. | Anthodiscus, Achnanthes. |
| Bacillum; rod, staff. | Bacillaria. |
| Biblos; book. | Biblarium. |
| Calos; beautiful | Calodiscus, Caloneis. |
| Ceras; horn. | Cerataulus, Triceratium |

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| Dens; tooth (L) | Denticella, Denticula. |
| Discos; Disc. | Discosira, Discplea. |
| Encyos; Pregnant. | Encyonema. |
| Ethmos; strainer. | Ethmodiscus |
| Fenestra; window. | Fenestrella. |
| Frustulum (L); small morsel. | Frustulia. |
| Gamma; writing. | Dimerogramma, Tetragramma. |
| Gyros; circle, curve | Gyrosigma, Liparogyra. |
| Helios; sun. | Heliopelta. |
| Homoios; like, similar. | Anomoeoneis, Homeoocladia. |
| Isos; equal. | Isodiscus, Anisodiscus. |
| Isthmos; isthmus. | Isthmia. |
| Lepidus; graceful, charming. | Lepidodiscus. |
| Liber; (L) Libellus. | Libellus. |
| Mastos; breast. | Mastognia, Mastodiscus. |
| Micros; small | Microneis, Micropdiscus. |
| Navis; (L) ship, boat,dim | Navicula. |
| Noton; back. | Eunotia, Eunotogramma. |
| Opsis; face, appearance. | Amphoropsis, Rutilariopsis. |
| Orthos; straight. | Anorthoneis, Orthotropis. |
| Paralia; maritime, marine. | Paralia. |
| Phoraa; dusky | Phaeodactylon. |
| Rhoicos; curved, winding. | Rhoiconcis, Rhoicosphenia. |
| Rutilus; gleaming, brilliant. | Rutilariopsis, Rutilaria. |
| Sigma (the greek letter S) | Pleurosigma, Gyrosigma. |
| Stella (L) star. | Stelladiscus. |
| Tabella (tabula), (L) board, table. | Tabellaria |
| Thrix; hair. | Thalassiothrix |
| Zoon; animal, zoe, life. | Zotheca. |
| Zygon; yoke, pair. | Zygoceros. |