

Contents

Preface to the First Edition	ix
Preface to the Second Edition	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii
1 Introduction to Freshwater Algae	1
1.1 General introduction	1
1.1.1 Algae – an overview	1
1.1.2 Algae as primary producers	2
1.1.3 Freshwater environments	2
1.1.4 Planktonic and benthic algae	2
1.1.5 Size and shape	4
1.2 Taxonomic variation – the major groups of algae	5
1.2.1 Microscopical appearance	8
1.2.2 Biochemistry and cell structure	8
1.2.3 Molecular characterisation and identification	10
1.3 Blue-green algae	13
1.3.1 Cytology	13
1.3.2 Morphological and taxonomic diversity	14
1.3.3 Ecology	15
1.3.4 Blue-green algae as bioindicators	16
1.4 Green algae	17
1.4.1 Cytology	18
1.4.2 Morphological diversity	18
1.4.3 Ecology	19
1.4.4 Green algae as bioindicators	22
1.5 Euglenoids	22
1.5.1 Cytology	23
1.5.2 Morphological diversity	23
1.5.3 Ecology	24
1.5.4 Euglenoids as bioindicators	24
1.6 Yellow-green algae	24
1.6.1 Cytology	24
1.6.2 Morphological diversity	25
1.6.3 Ecology	25
1.6.4 Yellow-green algae as bioindicators	26

1.7	Dinoflagellates	26
1.7.1	Cytology	26
1.7.2	Morphological diversity	28
1.7.3	Ecology	28
1.8	Cryptomonads	29
1.8.1	Cytology	29
1.8.2	Comparison with euglenoid algae	30
1.8.3	Biodiversity	31
1.8.4	Ecology	31
1.8.5	Cryptomonads as bioindicators	32
1.9	Chrysophytes	32
1.9.1	Cytology	32
1.9.2	Morphological diversity	32
1.9.3	Ecology	32
1.9.4	Chrysophytes as bioindicators	33
1.10	Diatoms	34
1.10.1	Cytology	35
1.10.2	Morphological diversity	38
1.10.3	Ecology	40
1.10.4	Diatoms as bioindicators	41
1.11	Red algae	41
1.12	Brown algae	42
2	Sampling, Biomass Estimation and Counts of Freshwater Algae	43
A.	PLANKTONIC ALGAE	43
2.1	Protocol for collection	43
2.1.1	Standing water phytoplankton	44
2.1.2	River phytoplankton	47
2.2	Mode of collection	48
2.2.1	Phytoplankton trawl net	48
2.2.2	Volume samplers	50
2.2.3	Integrated sampling	51
2.2.4	Sediment traps	52
2.3	Phytoplankton biomass	53
2.3.1	Turbidity	53
2.3.2	Dry weight and ash-free dry weight	54
2.3.3	Pigment concentrations	55
2.4	Flow cytometry: automated analysis of phytoplankton populations	60
2.5	Biodiversity of mixed-species populations: microscope counts and biovolumes	63
2.5.1	Sample preservation and processing	63
2.5.2	Chemical cleaning of diatoms	64
2.5.3	Species counts	65
2.5.4	Conversion of species counts to biovolumes	72
2.5.5	Indices of biodiversity	77
2.6	Biodiversity within single-species populations	78
2.6.1	Molecular analysis	78
2.6.2	Analytical microscopical techniques	79

B. NON-PLANKTONIC ALGAE	83
2.7 Deep-water benthic algae	84
2.7.1 Benthic-pelagic coupling	84
2.7.2 Benthic algae and sediment stability	85
2.7.3 Invertebrate grazing of benthic algae	86
2.8 Shallow-water communities	86
2.8.1 Substrate	86
2.8.2 Algal communities	89
2.9 Algal biofilms	90
2.9.1 Mucilaginous biofilms	91
2.9.2 Biomass	91
2.9.3 Taxonomic composition	92
2.9.4 Matrix structure	94
2.10 Periphyton – algal mats	95
2.10.1 Inorganic substratum	95
2.10.2 Plant surfaces	95
 3 Algae as Bioindicators	 101
3.1 Bioindicators and water quality	101
3.1.1 Biomarkers and bioindicators	101
3.1.2 Characteristics of bioindicators	102
3.1.3 Biological monitoring versus chemical measurements	103
3.1.4 Monitoring water quality: objectives	104
3.2 Lakes	107
3.2.1 Contemporary planktonic and attached algae as bioindicators	107
3.2.2 Fossil algae as bioindicators: lake sediment analysis	108
3.2.3 Water quality parameters: inorganic and organic nutrients, acidity and heavy metals	111
3.3 Wetlands	121
3.3.1 Marshes	121
3.3.2 Peatlands	123
3.4 Rivers	123
3.4.1 The periphyton community	123
3.4.2 River diatoms	123
3.4.3 Evaluation of the diatom community	124
3.4.4 Human impacts and diatom indices	126
3.4.5 Calculation of diatom indices	128
3.4.6 Practical applications of diatom indices	130
3.4.7 Nitrogen-fixing blue-green algae	135
3.5 Estuaries	135
3.5.1 Ecosystem complexity	136
3.5.2 Algae as estuarine bioindicators	137
 4 A Key to the More Frequently Occurring Freshwater Algae	 141
4.1 Introduction to the key	141
4.1.1 Using the key	141
4.1.2 Morphological groupings	142

4.2	Key to the main genera and species	142
4.3	List of algae included and their occurrence in the key	249
4.4	Algal identification: bibliography	251
Glossary		253
References		259
Index		269