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# Utveckling av en biologisk miljögiftsindikator – kiselalger

## Påverkan av tungmetaller och organiska miljögifter

Presenterat även på 6TH CENTRAL EUROPEAN DIATOM MEETING (CE-DIATOM) 22.-25.3.2012, Innsbruck, Austria



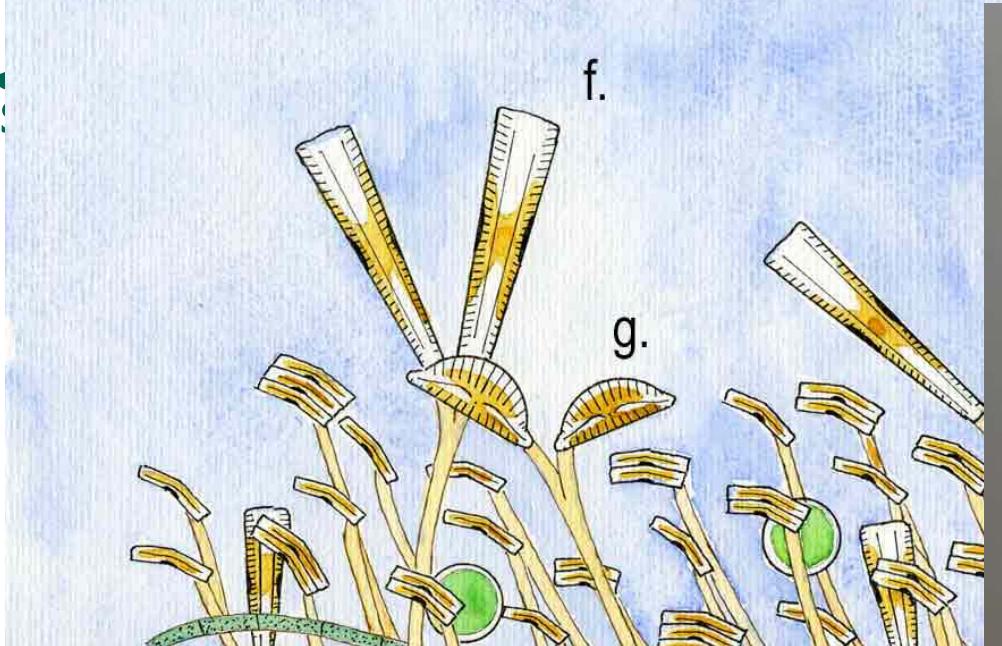
# Kiselalgsmetoden måste utvecklas så att även giftpåverkan indikeras

- Tröskelvärde för **missbildningar** (ofta < 1%)  
kanske olika typer vid olikagifter
- Låg **diversitet & artantal**
- **Toleranta kiselalgstaxa**  
Vissa kiselalger kan utveckla en gifttolerans och sedan en massutveckling  
(t.ex. *Achnanthidium minutissimum*)
- **Speciella levnadsformer / ekologiska grupper**  
Kiselalger som är skyddad från giftpåverkan ökar sin abundans (exempel: mobila, lågprofilerade, slembildande)



ofta < 1%

➡ Pågående projekt



Artwork:  
Martyn Kelly

Tack till *Fortlöpande miljöanalys*



Hans Olofsson, Länsstyrelsen i Dalarna



Marie Eriksson, Pardis Pirzadeh, Hillevi Hägnesten, Vibeke Lirås,  
Länsstyrelsen i Skåne  
Amelie Jarlman, Jarlman Konsult AB

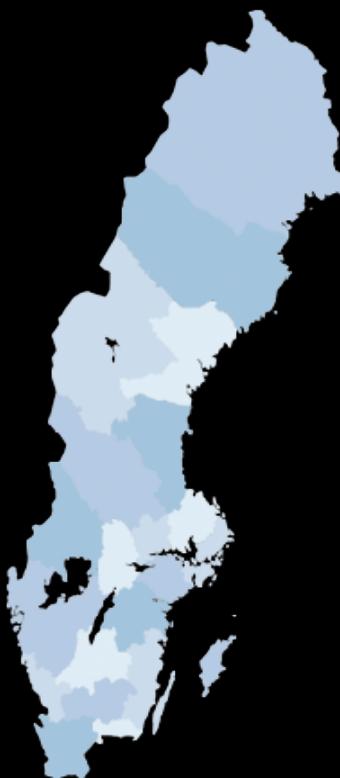
och många fler, särskild på alla Sveriges länsstyrelser



 **WATERS** *Fortlöpande miljöanalys*

# Första resultat

# Diatoms of Dalarna and Norrbottens County – impact of mining industry



- 25 streams Dalarna
- 6 streams Norrbotten
- Heavy metal gradient:
  - Cu 0,05 - 790 µg/l
  - Zn 0,6 - 56000 µg/l
  - Cd 0,001 - 231 µg/l
  - Pb 0,01 - 2100 µg/l



# Swedish Classification of the Heavy Metal Gradient - Concentration

Class	Description	Cu	Zn	Cd	Pb
1	Very low conc.	≤ 0,5	≤ 5	≤ 0,01	≤ 0,2
2	Low conc.	0,5 - 3	5 - 20	0,01 - 0,1	0,2 - 1
3	Mod. to high conc.	3 - 9	20 - 60	0,1 - 0,3	1 - 3
4	High conc.	9 - 45	60 - 300	0,3 - 1,5	3 - 15
5	Very high conc.	> 45	> 300	> 1,5	> 15

Swedish Environmental Agency – Environmental Quality Criteria for Lakes and Streams (report 4913) 1999

# Most teratological forms under maximum heavy metal concentration

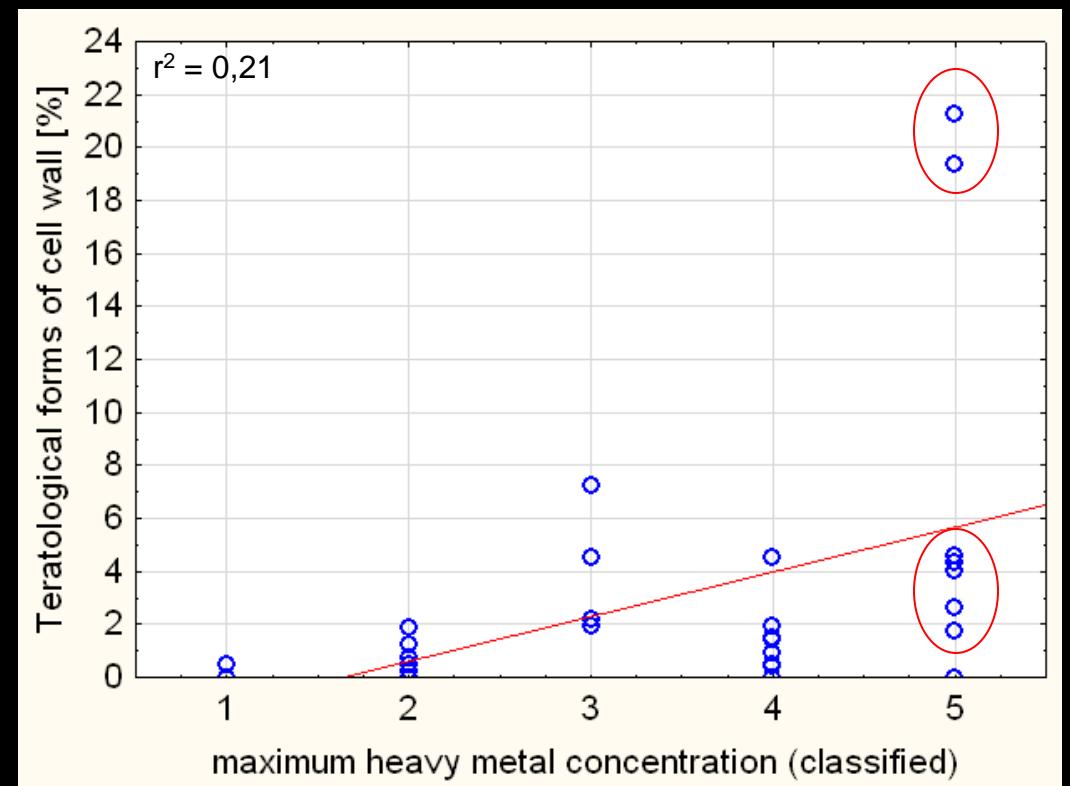
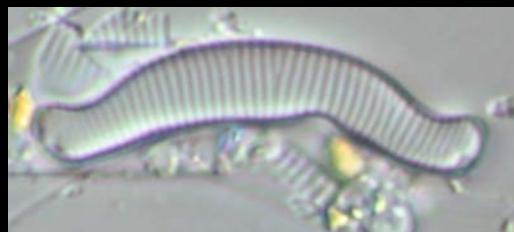
Metals measured:

**Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb,**

Cr, Ni, As, Co, V

Classification:

Highest concentration class (1-4 metals)



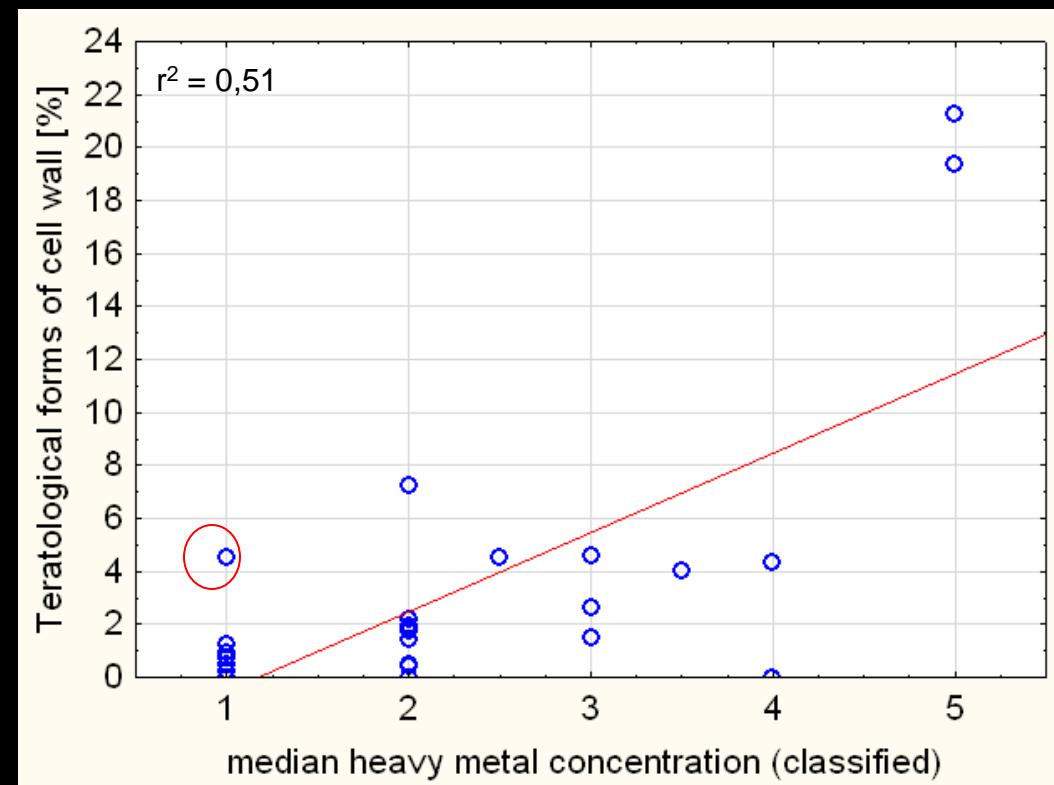
4 metals  
in class  
5, highest  
conc.

less  
metals in  
class 5

# Better correlation of teratological forms including all heavy metals (median class)



Classification:  
Median of  
all nine  
concentration  
classes





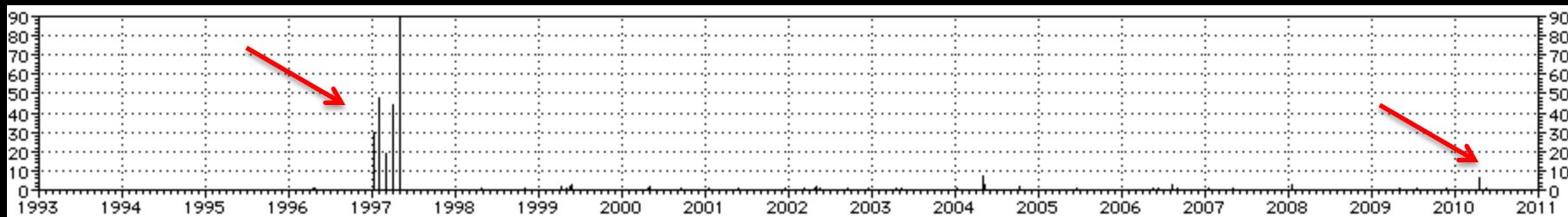
Fortlöpande miljöanalys



*Psammothidium  
subatomoides*  
Bukhtiyarova &  
Round, 1996

## Exception 1: Göljån

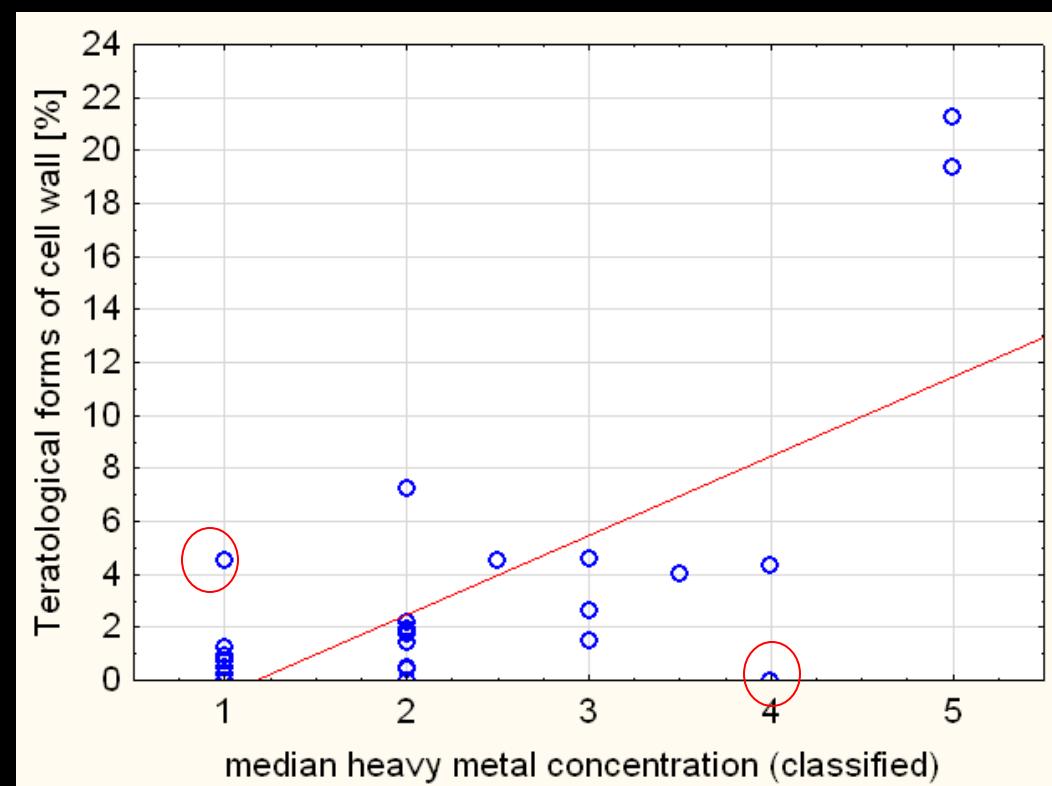
- Göljån:  
"too high" % of teratological valves - why?
- Naturally copper rich bedrock
- Flash flood August 1997 –  
since then regular spring floods  
with enhanced copper levels up  
to moderate concentrations



# Exception 2: Södra bæk Skyttgruva



Classification:  
Median of  
all nine  
concentration  
classes



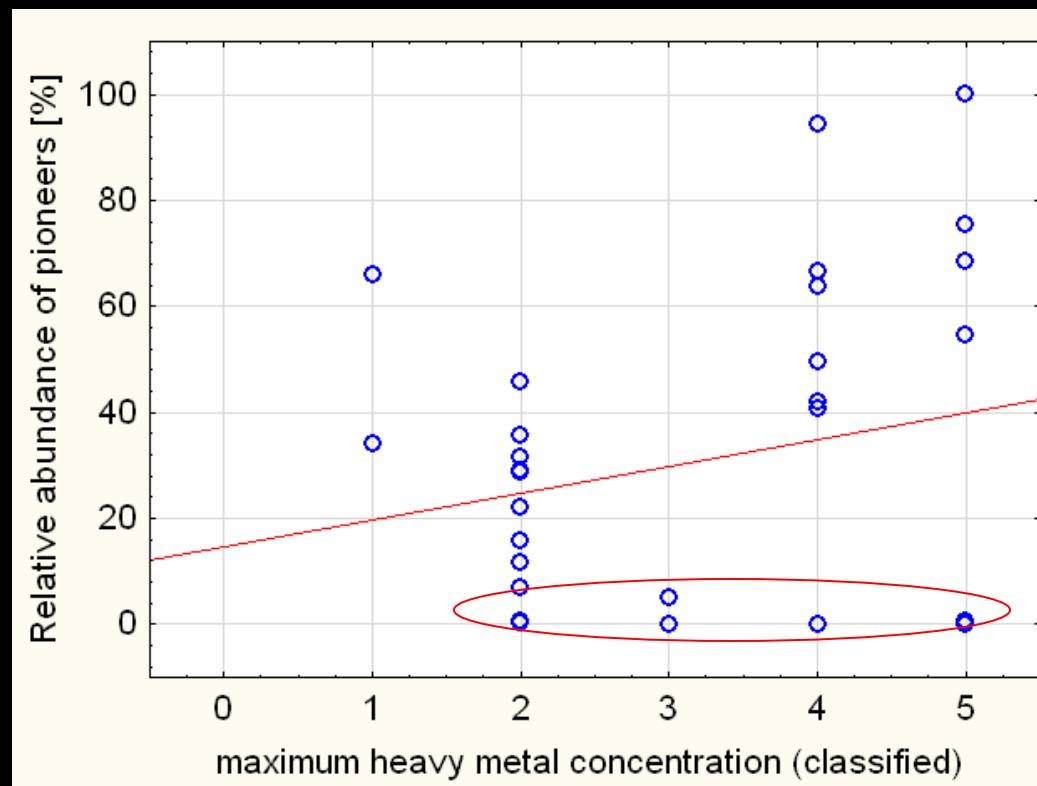


## Exception 2: Södra bæk Skyttgruva

- S. bæk Skyttgruva: No teratological valves at all despite Cu, Zn and Cd being in class 5 ?
- Only one taxon:  
*Achnanthidium minutissimum* group
- Known to develop tolerance to heavy metals
- Also known as pioneer taxon (early colonizer after disturbances)\*

# Pioneers increase in a heavy metal gradient

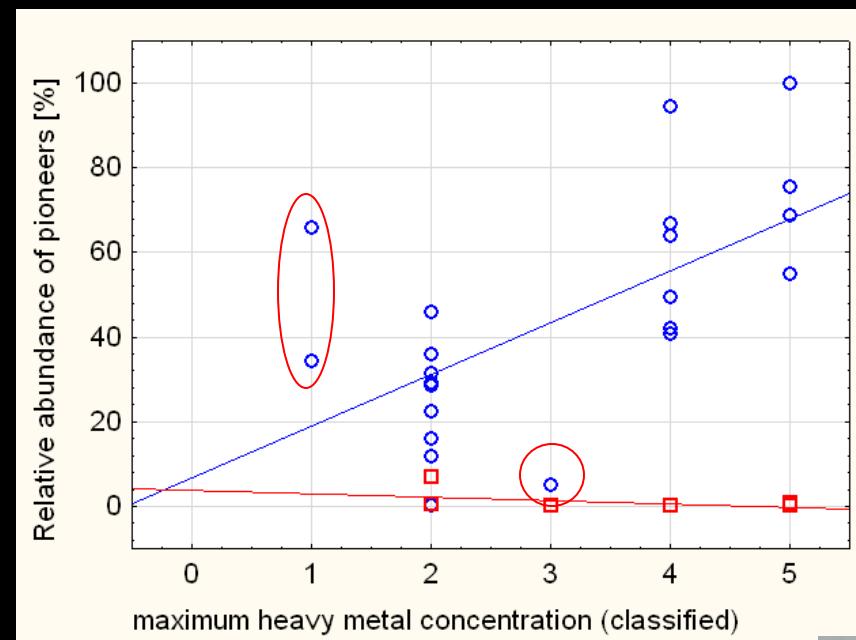
Pioneers in  
present  
dataset:  
*Achnanthidium  
minutissimum*  
group\*  
and *Amphora  
pediculus* s.l.



Dominance  
(> 60%) of  
Eunotia – not  
classified as  
pioneers



# Pioneers increase in a heavy metal gradient



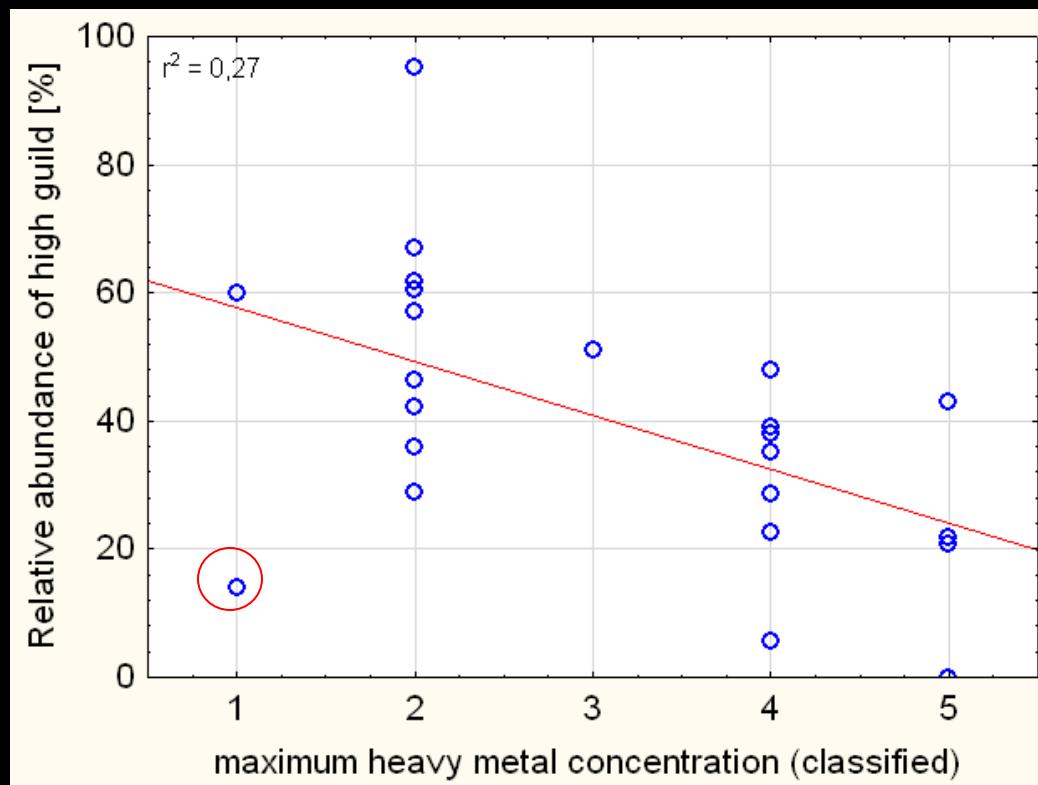
Luossajoki, outlet Ala Lombolo  
impacted by **mercury** (old mining reservoir,  
high mercury concentration in sediments)

Göljän again  
40 % *Psammothidium subatomoides*  
Not (yet?) classified as pioneer



# High guild taxa vs. heavy metals

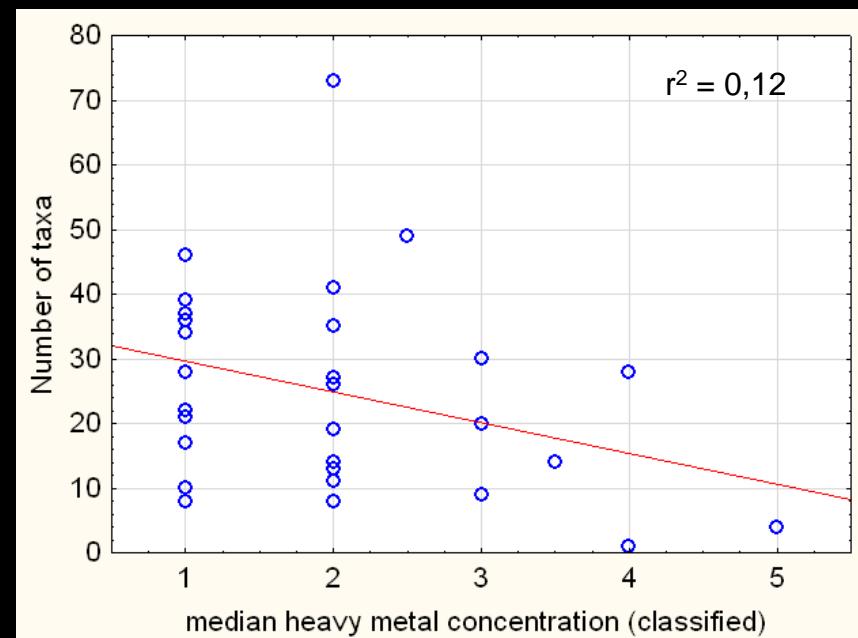
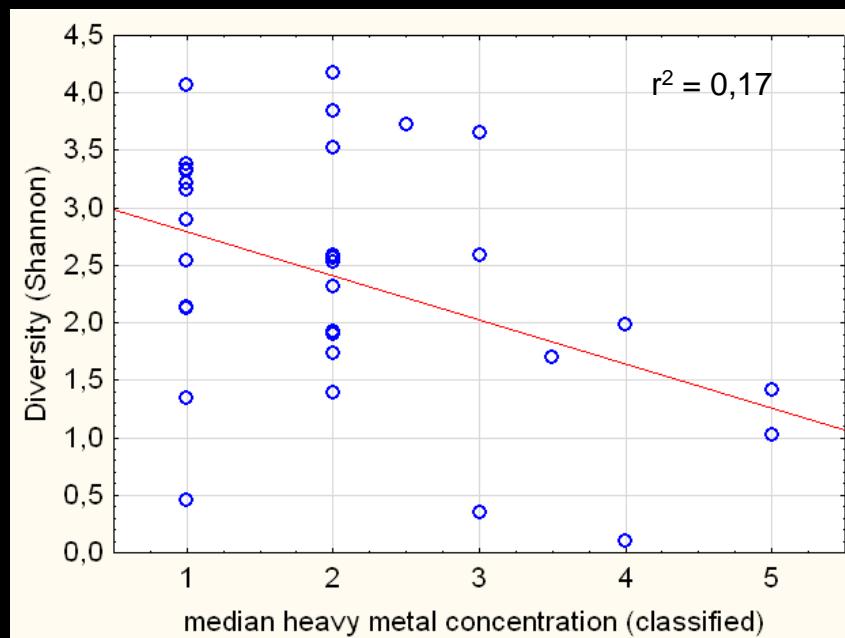
High guild taxa (here for example *Aulacoseira*, *Tabellaria*, *Gomphonema*, *Brachysira*) do decrease with increasing metal toxicity in the present study.



Luossajoki, outlet Ala Lombolo  
impacted by **mercury**



# Diversity and taxa richness vs. heavy metals



Both diversity and number of taxa decrease with increasing heavy metal concentration, but correlation is weak.

# Sammanfattning

## Metallpåverkan

- Tröskelvärde för missbildningar:  
    > 2% troligtvis påverkat ✅
- Låg diversitet & artantal ✅
- Toleranta kiselalgstaxa ?
- Speciella levnadsformer / ekologiska grupper ✅  
    pionjärtaxa é<sup>+</sup>  
    högväxande taxa ê

# Pågående arbete

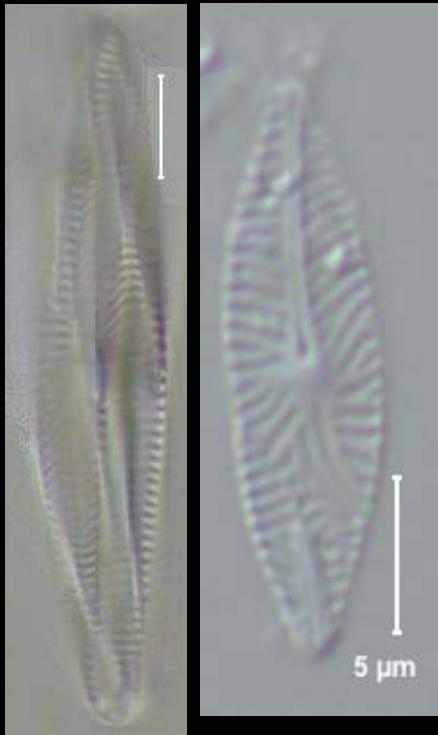
- Påverkan av organiska miljögifter
- Orsaker för den höga variationen av alla olika faktorer
- In med mera data
- Skapa index!  
    Måste vara multimetriskt,  
    eftersom ingen parameter för sig är tillräckligt säkert



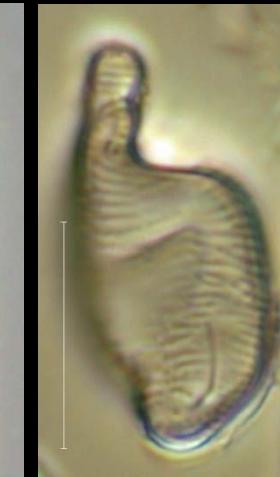
**WATERS**

Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management  
*Fortlöpande miljöanalys*

PROTECTION AGENCY

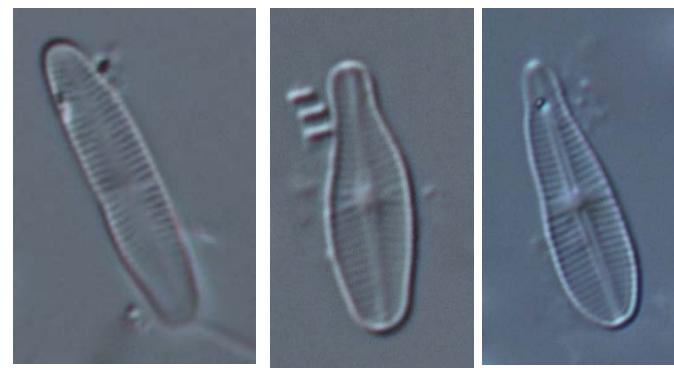


Tack

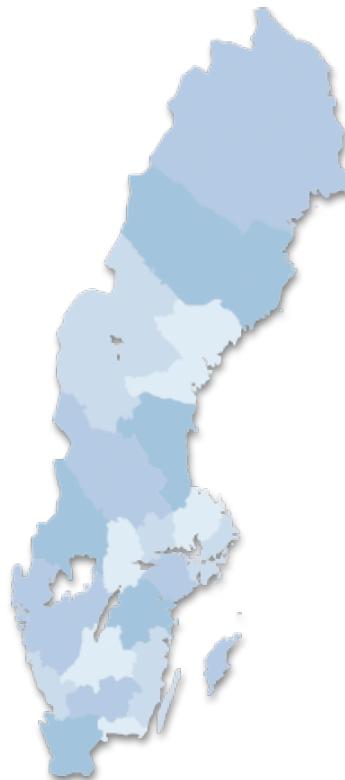




# Back to the teratological valves...



# Diatoms of Skåne County – impact of agriculture



- 30 streams
- Toxin measurement of  
**EUs priority substances** both in  
**water samples** and  
with **passive samplers**





# Toxins found in Sweden in present study

- **Toxins > 10 x AA-EQS**

Imidakloprid (insecticide)

Brominated diphenylethers (industrial applications, often flame retardant)

Tributyltin (biocide, anti-fouling)

Octylphenols (industrial applications, in rubber, pesticides and paints)

Diflufenican (herbicide)

- **Toxins > 1 x AA-EQS**

Terbutylazin (herbicide)

Propoconazol (fungicide)

Glyfosat (herbicide)

Isoproturon (herbicide)

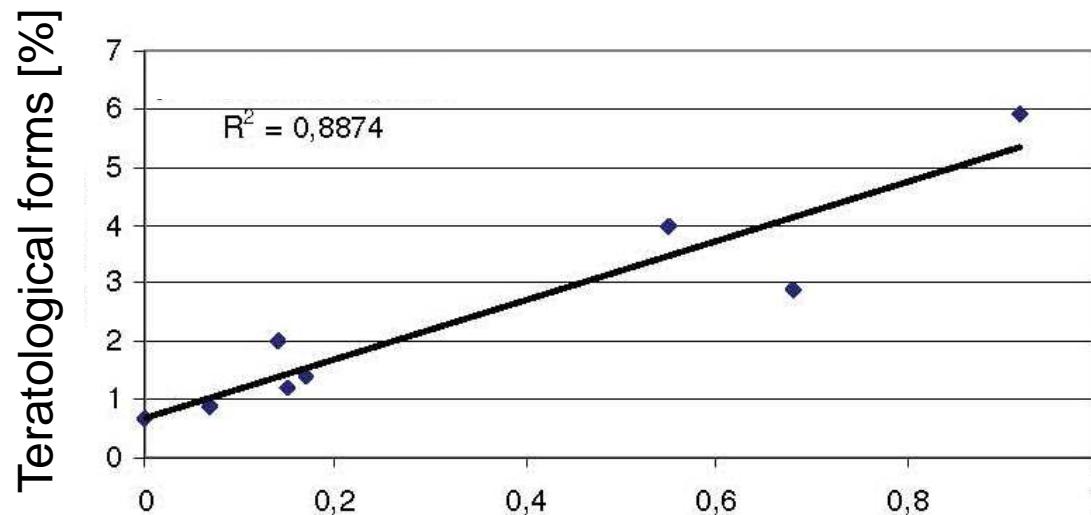
EU directive priority substances 2012

AA: annual average value

EQS: environmental quality standard



# Teratological forms in a toxin gradient



Sum of detected toxin concentration [µg/l]

2-3 months before diatom sampling

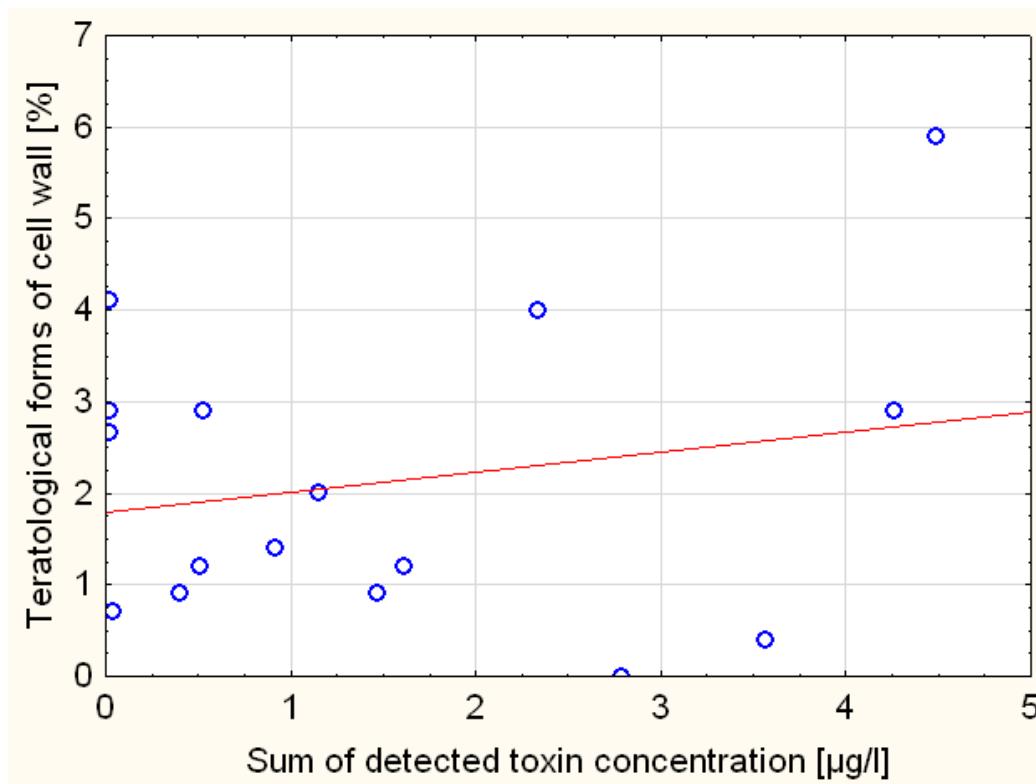
(pilot study sept 2010, n=8)

Strongest correlations with **sum of the detected toxin concentrations**.

**Not** with number of detected toxins or with **Toxindex** (according to priority substance EU directive 2012).

Strongest correlation with concentrations **2-3 months before diatom sampling**.

# Adding more sites makes picture complicated...



Unfortunately,  
data not  
always  
available for  
period 2-3  
months  
before  
sampling...



# Diatoms, toxins and metals

Further work:

- more streams with seasonal information available for both toxins and diatoms will be included
- test of only herbicide impact
- detailed analysis of toxicity indices – maybe signal now vanishes in noise?
- different taxa sensitive to different toxins or metals?
- other traits/guilds?
- Al? Hg?
- Teratological valves: Diatoms only sensible during sexual reproduction?

# Funding

- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, via the "Common regional sub-programs"
  1. WFD prioritized toxins ("PRIO program")
  2. Regional environmental monitoring  
Project leader: County Administrative Board Blekinge
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency via Environmental Object Projects (Miljömålsprojekt)
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency via Research Department (Waterbody Assessment Tools for Ecological Reference conditions and status in Sweden (WATERS))
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences via research program Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Fortlöpande miljöanalys (FoMA) och miljöövervakning)

## Kemiska provtagningar

- Passiva provtagningar
- Vattenkemiska analyser

PRIO-projektet

## Kiselalgsprovtagningar

- fältprovtagning
- taxonomisk analys
- räkna deformerade skal

Delprogrammet kiselalger i  
rinnande vatten (Ny  
kompletterande ansökan för 2011)  
Enskilda länsstyrelser (?)  
Ev stöd från PRIO-projektet (?)

## Statistisk analys och framtagande av index

Miljömålsprojekt (ansöker om  
pengar för 2011)

Förändring i befintliga bedömningsgrunder  
(för att ta hänsyn till ev effekt av miljögifter om  
sådana framkommer av analyserna)

Waters

# References

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