

THE DIATOM GENUS *ACTINELLA* IN HAWAII

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The diatom genus *Actinella* is known from South and North America, New Zealand, and Madagascar, with fossil occurrences in Japan and Europe. The genus reaches its highest diversity in South America, with over 60 species having been described, mostly from the Amazon region.

We examined samples from 6 of the Hawaiian Islands, including Lanai, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and the big island of Hawaii, have documented the taxonomy, valve ultrastructure and distribution of the genus across the island. We have found 4 morphological entities on the islands, including *A. punctata*, a morphotype similar to *A. punctata*, and two morphologies that appear to be new to science. *Actinella punctata* was found on the big island of Hawaii and Molokai, in almost all of the sites that were sampled. The morphotype similar to *A. punctata* was found only on the big island, while the other two morphotypes were found only on Molokai

In this poster we present LM and SEM observations of these four morphological groups, and provide descriptions and distribution records for the species. Based on morphological data, it appears as though the genus *Actinella* may have dispersed to Hawaii from South America.

POSTER