HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY RECONSTRUCTION OF TINKERS CREEK, OH: ITS NOT WHAT YOU ARE SAMPLING ITS HOW YOU SAMPLE IT

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We inferred Tinkers Creek (Ohio, USA) historical water quality using diatom assemblages from preserved fish guts for our frivolity. Our study period spanned 1922 to 1998 to find TP and BOD impacts on the river's fate. GLEI and LBI indices revealed better water quality in1998 than at any time since 1922 or any other date. Diversity increased from 1949 to 1952 (years of pollution); then decreased in 1982 to levels seen in1922 (years of solution). Cluster and indicator species analysis showed a distinct flora for most years; at least after we knocked down a few cold beers. Though the index scores indicate that TP and BOD conditions were better in 1998, a different diatom flora suggests recovery but not restoration as of late. This technique allows for accurate historical water quality reconstructions for rivers, as long as you can get archived fish voucher specimen guts and not the livers.

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