

## POSTER PRESENTATION

### DIATOMS IN PHILATELY: POSTAGE STAMPS DEPICTING DIATOMS

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For topical stamp collectors, there are only thirteen postage stamps that have been released worldwide which depict diatoms. The earliest diatom stamp was released in 1963 by South Georgia (Falkland Islands) and depicts *Sheshukovia* or *Triceratium* cells on a ten shilling "plankton and krill" that was part of a 16 stamp set of Antarctic marine life. Antarctic diatoms have continued to be the most popular subjects for diatom stamps. As a primary food source for the krill *Euphausia*, *Corethron criophilum* and *Chaetoceras* spp. have been portrayed on stamps issued by Poland, the British Antarctic Territory, and the Australian Antarctic Territory. Other Antarctic subjects have been packice diatoms and the food web supporting whales in two issues by the French Southern and Antarctic Territories. Marine plankton from more temperate waters have been highlighted as parts of larger sets on plankton diversity (Portugal, Monaco) or natural history (Isle of Man). Some of these stamps have also been parts of commemorative sets issued to honor special events such as the centennial of the Port Erin Marine Laboratory, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conservation Commission on Antarctic Marine Life, and Monaco's Musée Océanographique. To date, however, no diatom specific stamp set has been issued, nor has a freshwater diatom been depicted on a postage stamp.