

HISTORY OF MODELS OF DIATOM MOTILITY

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It is the motility of the colonial diatom *Bacillaria paradoxa* that led to the first publication ever on diatoms by O.F. Müller in 1783: “About a peculiar being in the beach-water”. This concerted motion and that of single diatom cells has captured the imagination of every generation of diatomists, who have puzzled over how they do it, with no obvious moving parts. Ingenious models incorporating real and imagined observations have a long history. As the problem of diatom motility has not yet been solved in any definitive manner, we will review these models for bemusement, instruction and guidance in formulating a research program aimed at achieving an understanding of the mechanism of diatom motility, and its control in response to tactile, “visual”, and other stimuli.

ORAL

NO SPECIAL SESSION

To be sent to phytolab@stcloudstate.edu