

Preliminary report

Establishment of faunal and taxonomic database of ciliated protozoa for infrastructure development in taxonomy and ecology in Japan

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Taxonomic and ecological studies on ciliated protozoa have been carried out in various areas in Japan since the end of the 19th century. However, the data from these studies have not been integrated into a database. The purpose of this study is establishment of faunal and taxonomic database using published information about free-living ciliates in Japan. We collected books, scientific journals and research bulletins, and made 1) a list of the literature, 2) a list of recorded species, and 3) a list of ciliate habitats. The total number of collected publications on ciliates was 405 (21 descriptions of new species; 384 records) as of October 1, 2005. The total number of ciliate species counted in this study is larger than that of species surveyed in a report of Japanese biota (Nakayama, 2003) based on our preliminary results. It was clarified that most of the literature was about ciliates in freshwater environments. In addition, about 70% of the reports were part of investigations of plankton. Our study will contribute to basic research, such as taxonomy and ecology, but also to applied sciences such as environmental assessment using ciliate species.