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A user-friendly guide to the ciliates (*Protozoa*, *Ciliophora*) commonly used by hydrobiologists as bioindicators in rivers, lakes, and waste waters, with notes on their ecology

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The usefulness of ciliates in ecosystem assessment is well known to most protistologists and many pollution ecologists. However, their wider and proper use has been hampered over the years because of debates about taxonomy, limited and widely dispersed ecological information, and the difficulty of obtaining accurate identification literature.

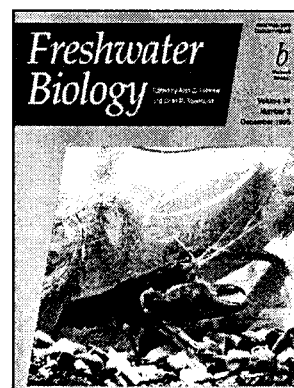
This guide is designed to solve these problems and to allow renewed and increased use of ciliates as bioindicators. Main groups and species are keyed dichotomously on forty-seven flow charts using simple characters usually recognizable in live specimens. Species with conspicuous characters, e.g. large size or distinct colour, are shown on thirty-two separate charts to aid identification. There is also a key showing the main ecological characteristics (biomass, food preference, salinity tolerance, preferred occurrence and saprobiological classification) of each species, and a description of ciliate communities typically found in natural and polluted habitats.

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