

Monitoring Rock Snot

Khan-Bureau began to monitor the situation closely. She observed the prolific growth, collected water chemistry and mucilaginous tufts of Didymo from various locations within the river.

It was apparent from the beginning that the diatom she was observing was different from traditional descriptions of *D. geminata*. Khan-Bureau sent the photos to leading diatom experts worldwide. Their consensus was this is a new species of Didymo, previously not known to science.

Following protocols and documentation, she named the new species *Didymosoplenia hullii* (Khan-Bureau sp. nov.) in honor of the late David Hull M.D., Director of Transplant Surgery at Hartford Hospital. Dr. Hull enjoyed nature and aspired to understand the many facets of science.

Other Species from the "Rock Snot" Group

In an interesting coincidence, while working to build the knowledge base around Didymo, Beauchene and Khan-Bureau found what appeared to be an area covered with it. It was not however, in the usual location, nor was it during the typical time of year. Upon review in the lab, this look alike was determined to be *Cymbella janischii*, a species lumped into the "rock snot" group but a species whose cells look nothing like Didymo.

Furthermore, *C. janischii* is a species endemic to the Pacific Northwest and had not been found on the eastern seaboard with one exception in New York. While Didymo has not manifested itself into the massive mats first documented in New Zealand, last July, many anglers reported thick clumps of "rock snot" throughout the river about 1.5 miles up and downstream of the famed "Church Pool" on the West Branch Farmington River.

Environmental Impacts of Transport of Species

DEEP reminds everyone about the potential impacts of the inadvertent transport of species from one water body to another. Once introduced it is often very difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate.

Simple Steps to Minimize Inadvertent Transport and Introduction:

Before leaving a water body, practice the Clean, Drain, Dry technique on anything that had contact with the water or the bottom, including boats and fishing gear (waders).

Information of nuisance aquatic organisms and invasive species can be found on the DEEP web page at:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322690&deepNav_GID=1630

See photo on next page.

Photo below -- Rock snot (*Didymosphenia hullii*) is currently “blooming”, meaning growing rapidly, in the West Branch of the Farmington River, Barkhamsted. Anyone coming in contact with the river in this area should help to prevent the spread to other waters by practicing “Check, Clean, Dry” of their fishing boots, boats, or other equipment.

