

NEWLY FOUND DIATOM SPECIES FOR FLORA OF KARA-BOGAZ-GOL BAY (CASPIAN SEA)

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The electron microscopic study of diatoms (Bacillariophyta) from the hypersaline bay of Kara-Bogaz-Gol was carried out for the first time using a scanning electron microscope. This made it possible to identify 8 species and varieties of diatoms new to the flora of the bay, which are capable of surviving under water salinity from 44.0 to 240.0‰. The populations of *Staurosira binodis* and *Fragilaria capucina* from Kara-Bogaz-Gol Bay are characterized by fewer structural elements on the valves than their number previously specified in available taxonomic diagnoses. The sizes of the *S. binodis* valves from the bay also do not agree with generally accepted diagnoses. Their salinity limit is determined where the reduction in the number of structural elements of diatom valves occurs under conditions of the bay. *Aulacoseira ambigua*, *Planothidium lanceolatum*, *S. binodis*, *F. rumpens*, *F. vaucheriae*, *F. famelica* and *Pantocsekiella ocellata* are for the first time recorded for the Caspian Sea.

Keywords: Bacillariophyta, floristic finds, variability, salinity, Kara-Bogaz-Gol, Caspian Sea

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