Distribution and Taxonomy of the *Aulacoseira distans* Species Complex Found in Japanese Harmonic Artificial Reservoirs

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Abstract To examine the distribution of the *Aulacoseira distans* species complex in Japanese artificial reservoirs, surface water samples from 109 reservoirs were observed. *Aulacoseira pusilla* and *Aulacoseira tenella* were found in many reservoirs. No other taxon from this species complex was found. The *A. distans* species complex, with the exception of *A. pusilla* and *A. tenella*, may not exist in Japanese harmonic artificial reservoirs.

Key words: Aulacoseira distans, distribution, Japan, taxonomy.

Introduction

Small species of *Aulacoseira* are commonly found in harmonic lakes (Haworth, 1988; Tuji and Houki, 2001). However, the taxonomy of these species in Japan is still confused, especially in the bio-monitoring field.

Hustedt's European flora (1930) is widely used by Japanese diatomists (Tuji, 2009). In this flora, Hustedt described *Melosira distans* (Ehrenb.) Kütz. with three varieties: var. *alpigena* Grunow, var. *lirata* (Ehrenb.) Bethge and var. *pfaffiana* (Reinsch) Grunow; and two forms: *M. distans* var. *lirata* f. *seriata* O.Müll. and f. *lacustris* (Grunow) Bethge; all of these have small valves (diameter is $4-20\mu$ m) and having areolae on valve face (Hustedt, 1930: 92–93).

Krammer and Lange-Bertalot (1991), Haworth (1988) and Krammer (1991), are also used for the identification of the *A. distans* species complex. However, it still remains difficult to identify Japanese specimens in this complex. Denys *et al.* (2003) pointed out that '*Aulacoseira subborealis* (Nygaard) L.Denys *et al.* is widely distributed in rivers and lakes in W-Europe ..., but has been reported only rarely because of confusion

with other taxa. It appears to develop especially well in more alkaline and rather eutrophic, highly turbid fresh water'; this species has also been reported from Japan (Tsugeki *et al.*, 2006). Tuji and Houki (2004) and Tuji and Williams (2006b) examined type material of *Melosira pusilla* F.Meister and proposed the new combination *Aulacoseira pusilla* (F.Meister) Tuji et Houki. Tuji and Williams (2006b) also made *A. subrealis* a synonym of *A. pusilla*. This synonymy has since been accepted (Houk and Klee, 2007).

I have also tackled other members of the *Aula-coseira distans* species complex (Tuji, 2006, 2010b; Tuji and Williams, 2006a, 2007; Wata-nabe *et al.*, 2005). With the exception of *A. pusilla*, the *Aulacoseira distans* species complex should be found in humic rather than harmonic lake. However, these species have been reported from Japanese artificial reservoirs. Because of the importance of biological monitoring in artificial reservoirs, the taxonomy and distribution of the *Aulacoseira distans* species complex needs to be clear.



Fig. 1. Site map of Japanese reservoirs (Res.) examined in this study, and existence of a. Aulacoseira pusilla and b. Aulacoseira tenella. black dot: present; white circle: absent. 1: Taisetsu. 2: Kanayama. 3: Katsurazawa. 4: Ashibetsu. 5: Izarigawa. 6: Hoheikyo. 7: Jozankei. 8: Iwaonai. 9: Kanoko. 10: Tokachi. 11: Pirika. 12: Nibutani. 13: Satsunaigawa. 14: Takisato. 15: Chubetsu. 16: Shijushida. 17: Tase. 18: Yuda. 19: Ishibuchi. 20: Naruko. 21: Gosho. 22: Kamahusa. 23: Shirakawa. 24: Sagae. 25: Aseishigawa. 26: Tamagawa. 27: Shichikashuku. 28: Miharu. 29: Gassan. 30: Surikamigawa. 31: Fujiwara. 32: Aimata. 33: Sonohara. 34: Shinaki. 35: Ikari. 36: Kawamata. 37: Kawaji. 38: Futase. 39: Miyagase. 40: Oishi. 41: Tedorigawa. 42: Omachi. 43: Okawa. 44: Sagurigawa. 45: Unazuki. 46: Yokokawa. 47: Miwa. 48: Koshibu. 49: Shintoyone. 50: Yahagi. 51: Maruyama. 52: Yokoyama. 53: Hachisu. 54: Nagashima. 55: Origawa. 56: Amagase. 57: Kuzuryu. 58: Managawa. 59: Sarutani. 60: Sugesawa. 61: Haji. 62: Shimajigawa. 63: Yasaka. 64: Hattabara. 65: Nukui. 66: Tomata. 67: Haizuka. 68: Yanase. 69: Ishitegawa. 70: Nomura. 71: Odo. 72: Nakasujigawa. 73: Kanogawa. 74: Nagayasuguchi. 75: Tsuruda. 76: Midorikawa. 77: Shimoke. 78: Matsubara. 79: Yabakei. 80: Kyuragi. 81: Ryumon. 82: Fukuji. 83: Arakawa. 84: Aha. 85: Fungawa. 86: Benoki. 87: Kanna. 88: Haneji. 89: Yagisawa. 90: Shimokubo. 91: Kusaki. 92: Naramata. 93: Iwaya. 94: Agigawa. 95: Misogawa. 96: Muro. 97: Shorenji. 98: Takayama. 99: Hitokura. 100: Nunome. 101: Hiyoshi. 102: Ikeda. 103: Sameura. 104: Shingu. 105: Terauchi. 106: Urayama. 107: Hinachi. 108: Tomisato. 109: Takizawa. 110: Tokuyama.

About 18 liters of surface water samples from 109 Japanese artificial reservoirs were collected in August 2009 (summer), and sent to our laboratory by refrigeration within three days (mostly two days) without fixation (Table 1, Fig. 1). Additionally, samples from 50 selected sites within the 109 total sites were collected from March to May 2010 (spring) and 22 sites were collected from September to October 2011 (autumn), were examined. About one liter of surface water sample was filtered using PTFE membrane filters having $1.0 \mu m$ openings (JAWP04700, Millipore) and dried up with an incubator (ITD-20E, ALP) at 60°C.

The membrane filters were cut into small pieces (about 5 mm square) and attached to an SEM stub using carbon adhesive tape. These stubs were sputtered coated with platinum and examined using a SEM (JSM-6390 with LaB_6 gun, JEOL).

We have also examined specimens from Lake Kasumigaura (collected monthly during 2012 to 2014 by M. Nakagawa), Lake Kitaura (see Tuji, 2010a: nos41), L. Ippeki (TNS-AL54289, Coll. 19 Feb. 2004 by A. Tuji), Lake Izunuma (stub Ak438, Coll. 21 Aug. 2012 by A. Tuji) and Lake Imuta (TNS-AL-10153, Coll. 6 Feb. 1985 by T. Watanabe) for comparison with artificial reservoirs' samples.

All samples, SEM stubs and photographs are housed in the micro-algal herbarium in National Museum of Nature and Science (TNS) (Table 1).

Results and Discussion

1. *Aulacoseira pusilla* (F.Meister) Tuji et Houki, Bull. Nat. Sci. Mus., ser. B. 30: 38.

(Figs 2–16)

Basionym: *Melosira pusilla* F.Meister, Arch. Hydrobiol. 8: 306. *pl. IV*, *f. 2.* 1913.

Lectotype (designated in Tuji & Houki 2004): Slide numbered "A3/61" with Meister's label in BRM!

Isotype: Slide in Tempère et Peragallo (1913,

no. 801, 2nd edition), BM69152 in BM!

Type locality: Lake Suwa, Nagano Prefecture, Japan.

Synonym: *Aulacoseira subborealis* (Nygaard) L.Denys, Muylaert et Krammer, Nova Hedwigia 77: 410.

 \equiv Melosira italica var. subborealis Nygaard, Folia Limnologica Scandinavica 8: 74. pl. 1. f. 8. pl. 2. f. 13–19. pl. 6. f. 24–25. 1956.

Aulacoseira pusilla was found in 25 of the 109 reservoirs from the summer 2009 samples, in 20 of the 49 spring 2010 samples, in 7 of the 22 autumn 2011 samples and in 44 of the 109 total (Table 1, Figs. 2–16). Though this taxon is found during the winter in Lake Biwa and its Naiko lagoons (Lake Katata, Tuji and Houki, 2001), it was commonly found in the summer 2009; grazing pressure may cause this difference, as Denys et al. (2003) have pointed out, this species is found frequently 'in more alkaline and rather eutrophic, highly turbid fresh water'. I have checked the COD, total nitrate and total phosphate of these reservoirs, but no clear relationship was found. A. pusilla was also found in Lake Izunuma (Figs. 4, 5) and Lake Kitaura (Fig. 2).

In the artificial reservoir, the valves of *A*. *pusilla* are 5–7.5 μ m in diameter, with a mantle height of 3–4 μ m. The ratio of the mantle height to valve diameter is 0.4–0.7, and the ratio of the cell length to cell diameter is 0.8–1.5. The valve face is flat. The circular areolae on the mantle run in a spiral with 20–26 pervalvar striae/10 μ m and 25–30 areolae/10 μ m. A Lake Kitaura individual (Fig. 2) had a narrow valve diameter (4.5 μ m) and relatively high mantle height to valve diameter ratio value (0.9). Since Potapova (2010) reported the ratio of mantle height to valve diameter close to 1 or <1 for this taxon in North America, it may fall within the morphological variation reported for this taxon.

2. *Aulacoseira tenella* (Nygaard) Simonsen, Bacillaria 2: 63. 1979.

(Figs. 17–29)

Basionym: Melosira tenella Nygaard, Folia

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12 Z			Sampling date			Autometica socialla						Aulacoustra tenella					
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1	Tasetsu Vanacara	Tarsetsu-Ko	12 Aug.		1												
3	Katsurazawa	Katsurazawa-Ko	6 Aug		1												
4	Ashibetsu	Ashibetsu-Ko	6 Aug.		16 Sep.												
5	Izarigawa	Enwa-Ko	26 Aug.		1												
5	Toyodarakyo	Jozan-Ko Sastan-Ko	17 Aug.	May	1 30 Sep.	174	+.0135			_					_	-	
8	Iwacoai	Iwacras-Ko	11 Aug.	10 May	1		ajoras	-						_	_		
9	Kanoko	Oketo-Ko	5 Aug		1												
10	Tokachi	Higashitsisetsu-Ko	12 Aug.		21 Sep.			11									
11	Prika	Prika-Ko	3 Aug.	May	Sep.	275	4,0303	_		504	sy2778				_	_	
12	Saturnari	Nibutani-Ko	20 Aug.	A.Con	1			1000						-	_		
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15	Chubetsu	Chubetsu-Ko	t3 Aug.		0.0				an cinte	-							
16	Shijushida	Nanbukatatuji-Ko	19 Aug.		1												
17	Tase	Tase-Ko	19 Aug.	May	14 Sep.					506	#10101				1.1		
10	Tuda	Jahihuchi	12 Aur	Vuy	1										_		
20	Naruco	Arao	26 Aug.	10 May	1 14 Sep.	254	4/2182	_		587	0,2153			_	_		
21	Gasho	Gosho	12 Aug.		000743	1000				2220							
22	Kamahusa	Kamahusa	30 Sep.		1												
23	Shrakawa	Shirakawa	19 Aug.	1000	1		-										
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26	Тападама	Hosen	19 Aug.	May	1			- T									
27	Shichikashuku	Shichikashuku	4 Aug.		1	100		1000		0							
28	Mharu	Sakura	19 Aug.	10 May	1	292	dy1101	455	ay 1995			1.1	Contraction of the				
29	Gassan	Asahigassan	26 Aug.		0.0-	293	dy1762			114	4.0835	290	dy1771				
31	Futwars	Futuration	5 Aug		a seep.					100	share-a	295	dy1449				
32	Amata	Akaya	5 Aug		1												
\$3	Sonohara	Sonohara	5 Aug.	3 Mar.	14 Sep.			457	dy1973							509	dy2893
34	Shinegi	Joshuyunako	5 Aug				+										
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37	Kawai	Yashio	5 Aug	3 Mar		301	dy1480		-de-ader								
38	Nee	Chichibu	5 Aug		1												
39	Myagase	Miyagase	6 Aug	3 Mar.	1												
40	Oishi	Oishi	19 Aug.		1												
41	Omachi	Tedon	5 Aug. 17 Aug.	Nuy				-							_		
43	Okawa	Wakasato	5 Aug.		1												
44	Sangokugawa	Shakunage	19 Aug.	10 May	5ep.			100									
46	Unazuki	Unezpuki	20 Aug.	10 May	10000			402	dy2050								
48	Tokokawa	Shiroimonoguni	19 Aug.		1												
28	Kentuku	Krahitu	4 Aug	3 Mar	1	342	+.0892	400	4-2055						_		
49	Shintoyone	Midori	18 Aug.	4 Mar.	1		alcone	-									
50	Yahagi	Okuyahagi	19 Aug.	Nar.	1			405	dy2082								
51	Maruyama	Maruyamasosui	12 Aug.		1												
52	Yokoyama	Okubi	19 Aug.	D Mar	1			450	+-1350								
56	Kazato	Orizana	19 Aug.	o ivar.				400	092.000						_		
58	Amagase	Hon	6 Aug		1												
57	Kuzuryu	Kuzuryu	6 Aug	1 Mar.													
58	Managawa	Manahime	3 Aug.		2 Sep.	322	dy1094									_	
60	Sandani	Network	3 Aug.	3.the	1			470	4-2304					-	_		
61	Doste	Yachao	5 Aug	11 Mar.	1			409	dv2310								
62	Shmazigawa	Takase	4 Aug	3 Mar.	1			100									
63	Yasaka	Yasaka	tt Aug.	2 Mar.	1	327	dy1719							471	nj2337		
64	Yadawara	Ashida	5 Aug	3 Mar.	7 Sep.	327	dy2687			511	\$12965					_	
60	Tomata	Okumu	S Aug.	2 Mar	1 11 Sec.	329	dy1555	-		-				-	_		
67	Hazuka	Hazuka	25 Aug.		ta seep.			1200		1000							
68	Yanase	Kinsha	4 Aug.		1	332	dy1819					332	dy1823				
69	laidegawa	Shiresepi	5 Aug.	Mar.	1			474	ay2369			1.11			1.1		
70	Nomura	Asagin	17 Aug.	1 Mar.	Į.			475	dy2390								
72	Nakasuiman	Hotaru-Ko	IS Aug.		1	336	4/0501	1000									
73	Kanogawa	Kanogawa	10 Aug.		Sep.					_							
74	Nagayasuguchi	Nagayasugucha	16 Aug.	Mar.	1												
75	Tsuruta	Otsuru	3 Aug	2 Mar.	1			477	dy2421								
78	Midorikawa	Higomidorikawa	18 Aug.	4 Mar.										-	_		
28	Matsubara	Barn	14 500	10 Mar.	6 Sec.			_		_		272	dv6271	_	_		
79	Yabakei	Yabakei	12 Aug.	2 Mar.	1000	343	dy1155	400	ds2470								
80	Kyuragi	Sayono	5 Aug.			344	dy0643		194								
81	Ryumon	Hanjaku	5 Aug.		1	345	sty1000										
62	Fukuchi	Fukugami	20 Aug.	10 Mar.	7.0	345	dy0995	401	dy2490					401	z)(2401		
8.4	Arasawa	Arakawa	20 Aug.	13 Mar.	roep.	240	+-1085	-		_					_	-	
85	Fundama	Funce	18 Aug.		1	349	4,0777					349	dy6779				
88	Benoki	tuno	19 Aug.	3 Mar.	13 Oct.	350	dy1196	403	dy2518	520	ey3409	350	dy1192	463	0/2519	520	dy3385
87	Kanna	Kanna	12 Aug.	0.9293	1			23/23		10000				1000	125022	10000	
88	Hanep	Salonakemio	12 Aug.	T Mar.	6 Sep.			_		_					_	_	
90	Shimokubo	Kanna	5 Avr.	7 Mar													
91	Kusski	Kusaki	3 Aug		1			1200									
92	Naramata	Naramata	6 Aug.		1												
93	Iwaya	Tosenkyokanayama	13 Aug.	10.00	1			12.100	2								
04	Aggawa	Aggiwa	4 Aug.	1 Mar.	1			-400	092500					-	_		
98	Muro	Maro	24 Aug.		1												
97	Shorena	Shorenji	21 Aug.	4 Mar.				407	dy2578								
88	Такауатта	Tsukigase	19 Aug.	T Mar.	26 Sep.	362	dy1110										
99	lkko	Chimyo	18 Aug.	-11 Mar.				-									
100	Nunome	Nunome	12 Aug.	4.00-	1			-	+ -								
102	Ikeda	Reda	10 AUg. 4 Aug.	+ Mar.	1	300	4/1653	490	ayana)								
103	Sameura	Sameura	4 Aug		1		at read										
104	Shingu		4 Aug		1												
105	Terauchi	Minagi	11 Aug.	10 Mar.	13 Sep.			491	dy2623	518	4(0445						
106	Ursyama	Chichibusakura	4 Aug	3 Mar.	Sep.							367	dy1402	-			
108	Tomasto	Hon	21 Aug.		540					1							
100	Takizawa	Okuchichibumomie	5 Aug														
110	Tokumenta	Tokusama	12 Aug.	3 Mar.	1					1							

Table 1. List of Japanese reservoirs examined in this study, sampling date and voucher SEM stub specimens (Stab) and photograph numbers (Photo). All SEM stubs and photographs are housed in TNS



Figs. 2–16. Aulacoseira pusilla. SEM. 2. Lake Kitaura (nos 41), stub ak405. 3. Takayama Res. stub ak488. 4–5. L. Izunuma, stub ak438. 6. Fukuji Res. stub ak346. 7. Ryumon Res. stub ak. 345. 8. Ikeda Res. stub ak366. 9. Shorenji Res. stub ak487. 10. Kyuragi Res. stub ak344. 11. Nukui Res. stub ak329. 12. Agigawa Res. stub ak486. 13. Kawamata Res. stub ak300. 14. Miharu Res. stub ak456. 15. Kawaji Res. stub ak301. 16. Kawaji Res. stub ak458.



Figs. 17–29. Aulacoseira tenella. SEM. 17. Benoki Res. stub ak483. 18. Fukuji Res. stub ak481. 19. Sonohara Res. stub ak509. 20. Fukuji Res. stub ak346. 21. Sagae Res. stub ak288. 22–23. Yasaka Res. stub ak471. 24. Gassan Res. stub ak293. 25. Yanase Res. stub ak068. 26. Yagisawa Res. stub ak353. 27. Ikari Res. stub ak299. 28. Fujiwara Res. stub ak295. 29. Gassan Res. stub ak293.

Limnologica Scandinavica 8: 76. pl. 1. f. 12–15. pl. 1. f. 1–12. 1956.

 \equiv Aulacoseira distans var. tenella (Nygaard) R.Ross in Hartley, J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. 66: 606. 1986.

≡ Melosira distans var. *tenella* (Nygaard) M.Florin, Proc. Sixth Symp. Diat. 50. 1981.

Aulacoseira tenella is a unique taxon, having a very small mantle height to valve diameter ratio, very short triangle spines and its valve face covered with evenly spaced areolae; it is found in many reservoirs. Since these characters agree with the descriptions given in Florin (1981), Eloranta (1986) and Siver and Kling (1997), it is identified here as *A. tenella*.

A. tenella was found in 9 of the 109 reservoirs in summer 2009 samples, in 3 of the 49 in spring 2010 samples, in 2 of the 22 autumn 2011 samples, and in 12 of the 109 total (Table 1, Figs. 17–29). Since it was not found in Hokkaido, and only found in western Japan in spring, *A. tenella* may prefer high water temperature. It is defined as an acidophilous taxon (Nygaard, 1956; Florin, 1981; Camburn and Kingston, 1986), but we cannot assess it using the reservoir samples. *A. tenella* was also found in Japanese natural lakes, Lake Ippeki and Lake Imuta, where the pH of both were under 7 (6.2 and 6.5).

In artificial reservoirs, the valves are $6.5-9\mu$ m in diameter, with a mantle height of $1.5-2.3\mu$ m. The ratio of the mantle height to valve diameter is 0.18–0.25, and the ratio of the cell length to cell diameter is 0.45–0.5. The valve face is flat. The circular to ellipse areolae on the mantle, run straight and 21–25 areolae/10 μ m with 2–3 (rarely 1) areolae in each row. Two to threecelled colonies were commonly found.

3. Other Aulacoseira distans species complex.

We also found *Aulacoseira granulata* (Ehrenb.) Simonsen, *A. ambigua* (Grunow) Simonsen f. *ambigua* and *A. ambigua* f. *japonica* (F.Meister) Tuji et D.M.Williams from these reservoirs. However, other *A. distans* (Ehrenb.) Simonsen species members, such as *A. pfaffiana* (Reinsch) Krammer and *A. nivalis* (W.Sm.) Eng-

lish et Potapova, were not found in this study.

Examination of type material for *Melosira* pfaffiana Reinsch ($\equiv A. pfaffiana$) and *Melosira* nivalis W.Sm ($\equiv A. nivalis$) were undertaken by Tuji and Williams (Tuji, 2010b, Tuji and Williams, 2006a). Tuji (2010b) proposed A. pfaffiana as a synonym of A. nivalis. A. nivalis is found in high moor in Yaku-shima (Tuji and Williams, 2006a, recorded as A. pfaffiana) and Kama-numa (Tanaka and Nagumo, 2007). Since A. nivalis also has a low ratio of mantle height to valve diameter and areolae on valve face, A. tenella has been mis-identified as A. nivalis. A. distans species complex members, with the exception of A. pusilla and A. tenella, may not exist in Japanese harmonic artificial reservoirs.

A. pusilla and A. tenella can be understood as members of the A. distans species complex due to their small size and areolae on the valve face. However, A. distans var. distans is an extinct species, and its species complex, with the exception A. pusilla and A. tenella, are found in humic water-bodies. Thus it is important to distinguish A. pusilla and A. tenella from other members of the A. distans species complex and it is important to avoid the usage of A. distans sensu lato which would include both species.

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