



Dispersion of protists: a case study, using morphological and molecular data

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Morphological features and neutral molecular markers are typically used to assess micro-eukaryote biodiversity. This presentation will review some of the basic concepts associated with these approaches. Then using a single group of free-living marine protists (strombidiid ciliates), we will examine distribution on global and local scales of one species, indicating the potential for allopatric speciation. Finally, a review of recent morphological and molecular data on this species will be used, as a case example, to evaluate how appropriate these tools are to assess biodiversity.