Testate amoebae analysis from the Aamiq Wetland, Lebanon.

Richard Payne
Geography, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.
E-mail r.j.payne@manchester.ac.uk

Testate amoebae are a group of micro-organisms which are highly abundant in wetlands. Testate amoebae lie towards the top of the wetland microbial foodweb and are increasingly widely used for a variety of applications in biomonitoring. A sequence of surface sediment samples from the Aamiq Wetland were analysed as part of a broader study of testate amoebae in eastern Mediterranean wetlands. This study aims to investigate the ecology and biogeography of testate amoebae and their potential application in palaeoecology. Fifteen samples were extracted from terrestrial and semi-aquatic locations across the site, prepared using standard methods and examined microscopically at 400X magnification. Taxonomy followed a conservative scheme equivalent to that used in previous studies by the author in the region. Apparent test concentrations were found to be very low and counts of at least 50 tests were obtained from only six of the samples. A full list of taxa is given below; much the most abundant taxa were *Phryganella acropodia* type and *Centropyxis aerophila* type. Most taxa are comparatively widely found in wetlands, but the overall community composition is distinct from other sites in the eastern Mediterranean dataset. Future work will aim to further analyse this dataset and hopefully add more data for the site.

Taxa identified are:

* Arcella hemispherica* Perty 1852  
* Arcella cf. megastoma* Penard 1902  
* Centropyxis aculeata* Ehrenberg 1830 type  
* Centropyxis aerophila* Deflandre 1929 type  
* Centropyxis platystoma* Penard 1890 type  
* Difflugia cf. cylindrus* Ogden 1983  
* Cryptodifflugia oviformis* Penard 1890  
* Euglypha compressa* Carter 1864  
* Euglypha tuberculata* Dujardin 1841  
* Euglypha rotunda* Wailes & Penard 1911 type  
* Phryganella acropodia* Hertwig & Lesser 1874 type  
* Plagiopyxis* spp  
* Tracheleuglypha dentata* Vejdovsky 1882  
* Trinema enchelys* Penard 1878  
* Trinema lineare* Penard 1890