Testate amoebae analysis from the Aamiq Wetland, Lebanon.

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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