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**Taxonomische und ökologische
Revision der Ciliaten des Saprobien-
systems. Band II: Peritrichia,
Heterotrichida, Odontostomatida**

By W. Foissner, H. Berger and F. Kohman. Published by Bayerisches Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft (1992). DM80.00, pp. 502. ISSN: 0176-4217.

The second volume in this series of four covers the peritrichs (which include the attached, bell-like forms such as *Vorticella*), the heterotrichs (which include the enormous *Stentor* and the two genera most commonly associated with anoxic waters *Metopus* and *Caenomorpha*) and the odontostomes, which tend to be heavily sculptured, bearing cilia in tufts rather than in longitudinal rows (including genera such as *Saprodinium*).

In covering the bulk of the attached forms, including epibionts, this volume is particularly useful for the technique of 'river dipping' where artificial substrates, such as glass slides, are left in the water for a week or so and then recovered to examine the flora that has colonized the surface. This technique is powerful because many water bodies, particularly those that flow (lotic), do not contain sufficient ciliates for direct enumeration.

As with the first volume the standard of production is exceptionally high and the illustrations are marvellous. Once again, the German text is easy for the non-German reader to handle. The tables relating ecology to water quality seem to be comprehensive and those drawn from the literature are supplemented by many new observations. The user should be aware that the authors have striven to present as full a picture as possible and have not critically edited the data, which given the present state of our understanding is the best strategy, in my view. Once again I commend this book most highly as a high quality product at a give-away price.

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