

**TRAIT BASED AND FUNCTIONAL GROUP APPROACHES IN ALGAL ECOLOGY**

Jelleg-alapú (trait-based) és funkcionális csoportosítások az  
algaökológiában

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Trait-, guild- and functional group based methods became widespread in analyses of spatial and temporal patterns of aquatic assemblages. The extended use of such groupings can be explained by their joint feature: they decrease structural complexity of large data sets by decreasing the number of categories largely without losing functional attributes. Thus, relating assemblages changes to environmental drivers is greatly enhanced. This lecture will review the existing trait-, guild- and functional group based methods developed for phytoplankton and attached diatoms, their common and distinctive features along with demonstration of some case studies.