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Novel *Aulacoseira* and *Stephanodiscus* from the Pliocene Hadar Formation, Afar Depression, Ethiopia

The Paleolimnology laboratory at Indiana State University presents novel species places in *Aulacoseira* and *Stephanodiscus* from the Pliocene Hadar Formation, Afar Depression, Ethiopia. Specimens were collected from drill core material as part of the Hominin Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project (HSPDP), an interdisciplinary investigation of the climate and environmental context of East Africa during human evolution. Five newly described species and preliminary environmental interpretations are presented herein. The Hadar Formation diatom assemblage also represents a newly revealed excerpt of the evolution of *Aulacoseira* and *Stephanodiscus* from freshwater lakes in Africa. The Hadar Formation diatom assemblage is compared to previously reported diatoms from Lake Malawi and fossil material from the Gadeb region of Ethiopia as well as extant species. Several other taxa from HSDPD material that remain unclassified are also presented.