Preface

This compilation was instigated during graduate school in 2004 as an open-ended reference file. As a relative newcomer to the field, I worked hard to get a handle on the phytolith literature. This document started as a basic inventory system to keep track of procured phytolith articles.

As the list grew larger than original expectations (i.e., as other particles of interest were encountered via the microscope!) this compilation also became a useful mechanism to help retrieve articles of interest—i.e., as a memory aid! As research encountered new particles—diatoms, spicules, charcoal, calcium oxalate, statocysts, etc.—additional categories were added to the reference file (albeit these other categories' coverage is less comprehensive).

The original list—organized by author—remains very useful. However, as the file burgeoned, I decided to re-sort a duplicate copy of all citation entries by relevant topic to make it easier to rapidly locate information. Thus, there are two parts in the current format: the first section is organized by *primary author*, while the longer second portion is *topical*. The table of contents (pages iii-v) provides the topical headings. Articles in the first portion that I have not yet assigned to a category in the second section were added to a "bucket list" at the end of the document ["Unassigned Misc. Articles"] so that they would not be overlooked in future sorting.

As far as the phytolith references, this document is relatively complete through 2009. Since graduation, when my university library privileges ended, article acquisitions have been much more limited as has my ability to keep abreast of the current literature. I have hard copies of basically all of the articles and books listed through 2009 (other than dissertations, theses, and manuscripts). Availability of publications since 2009 has been limited.

That being said, I do believe that the current document has significant functionality, and thus I decided to formalize the file and make copies available. Two earlier versions of this compilation were distributed on a limited basis for peer feedback, but were never formally published.

I welcome publication notifications (and reprints or pdf files when available) from authors and will be glad to continue to maintain and update the base reference file and release updated versions of this volume every few years (1) if there are enough new entries to the volume to merit, (2) if the volume seems to remain relatively comprehensive in the phytolith area, and (3) if colleagues deem this effort worthwhile. Thus, colleague input and support will be needed for there to be future versions of this compilation.

Details about any omissions from the current data base or any errors found in this document are most welcome (typographical, category assignments, etc.). Also, many articles should be assigned to multiple topical areas; thus, researchers are welcome to point out citations that should be included in other categories. Recommendations on how to make this document more useful are most welcome (i.e., format, organization, categories, content, etc.). Thank you for your support—it is appreciated.

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