

## David Williamson (1930-2023)

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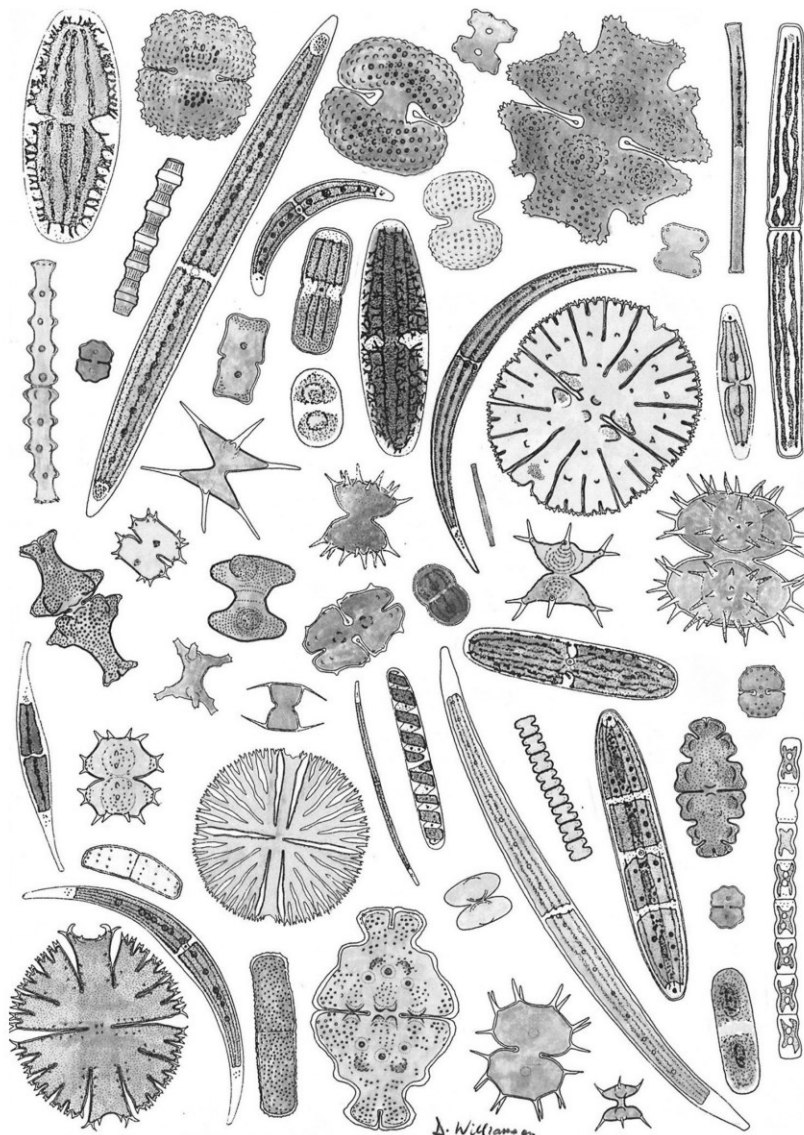
In late November, I received the news that David Williamson had passed away at the age of 93. David was a chemist who developed an early interest in microscopy and aquatic life. It wasn't until around the age of 40 that he became fascinated with desmids. Like many, he was an amateur in this field. Nevertheless, he became the author or co-author of over 40 articles on desmids.

David possessed an exceptional talent for creating illustrations of desmids (fig. 1). He is well-known for his contributions to various books, including "The

Freshwater Algae Flora of the British Isles" and "A Practical Guide to the Desmids of the West of Ireland," where his illustrations were featured.

Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of meeting him in person, but I corresponded with him several times regarding taxonomic issues related to desmids.

With the passing of David Williamson, the community loses yet another of the few researchers dedicated to this beautiful group of algae.



Desmids. Courtesy of David B. Williamson.

Figure 1. Desmid drawings by David Williamson