

OOOH, what's that stuff on the bottom of my river?

What is a huge traveler, in colors from brown to white, and looks like a sewage spill? Well, you may wish that you didn't know. It's *Didymosphenia geminata* that lurks in your rivers. Didymo has been stable for about 200 years, but is now going wild! If you don't like nasty rivers, or the look of sewer spills, well guess what, you may be making it spread!

Didymo is a problem that's starting now. Well, it's been on our earth from maybe even before you were born, but is now being found all over the world! Didymo forms stalks that grow into each other to form 10-to-12 inch thick mats that clog up the bottom of your rivers. Didymo is the largest cell in the diatom family. Diatoms start as microscopic single celled organisms full of carbon with 2 chambers. Even though it's called a single celled organism, it has two chambers so it is called a diatom. Didymo used to only form in cold, nutrient free waters, but now it likes warm nutrient waters, which shows that it's adapting, and global warming may be in charge. Didymo has a silica shell, and is pretty much made of carbon. Didymo started invading New Zealand, and China in 2004. Didymo has come from a couple of areas and is all over the world now. Didymo has been out in our world for millennia but has only begun to spread from around the 1800's, and still is traveling all over our world, stuffing up our rivers!

Didymo is all of a sudden appearing all over the world. Here are some reasons. First, our earth is under climatic change (for example global warming) so Didymo has to adapt to warmer, more nutritious waters so it is able to travel in more waters now. Climate change has affected Didymo to make bigger, thicker mats also. Next, Didymo is invading our rivers because Didymo is gripping onto objects and is traveling from river to river. Here are some objects that spread it; boats, rubber boots, felt waders, snowmobiles, tires, plus more. To stop it spreading, make sure you scrub these items with hot water, a two percent solution of bleach, and five percent solution of salt for at least 1 minute. Then dry for 48 hours. Didymo is ruining our rivers.

Didymo is now a raging monster because humans are changing our earth. Didymo is a hazardous thing to our tourists in Vermont. Now that I've learned more about *Didymosphenia geminata*, I'm worried that the little Didymo we once had will become unstoppable. I've read that fish aren't being affected very much, and that it isn't very hazardous, but I believe that may be true now, but in the future, Didymo may ruin water later and I may still be alive to witness it. I hope that people finally realize that Didymo is not cordial, but extremely evil. This is what I believe is our future of Didymo. What do you think?

#### Bibliography

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