INTRODUCTION

In April 2005 a diatom, provisionally identified as Mediopyxis helysia, was observed in low abundances in samples from Stonehaven, in the north east of Scotland (56°57.8’N 02°06.2’W) (Figure 1). This recently described diatom (Kühn et al., 2006) has been recorded as a species new to the Gulf of Maine, the German Bight and the Bay of Fundy in 1996, 2003, and 2002 respectively (Kühn et al., 2006; Martin & LeGresley, 2008).

DISCUSSION

Although the diatom is large it may not have been detected previously at this site as it is present in very low abundances and historically it may have been recorded as an unidentified diatom species. This diatom is currently included in the target list of species monitored at sites around the Scottish coast to improve our knowledge of the distribution of this species in Scottish waters. Further work is being carried out to establish cultures in order to allow more detailed examination of the cell using electron microscopy.

REFERENCES
