

Real-time monitoring of water quality through a holistic approach to particle characterization: 'Particle-omics'

*Tawnya D. Peterson, Paul G. Tratnyek, Joseph A.
Needoba, Ashley N. Anhalt, Ruby Taylor*



Monitoring for pathogens often involves time-intensive or expensive laboratory analyses

- COST: requires accurate identification through microscopy or molecular techniques
- EXPERTISE: requires extensive training in the use of advanced techniques
- RISKS: look for one thing at a time, therefore other potential risks or emerging threats not identified
- RELIABLE INDICATOR: Real-time monitoring can assist in identifying particular organisms only if a diagnostic feature or probe is available

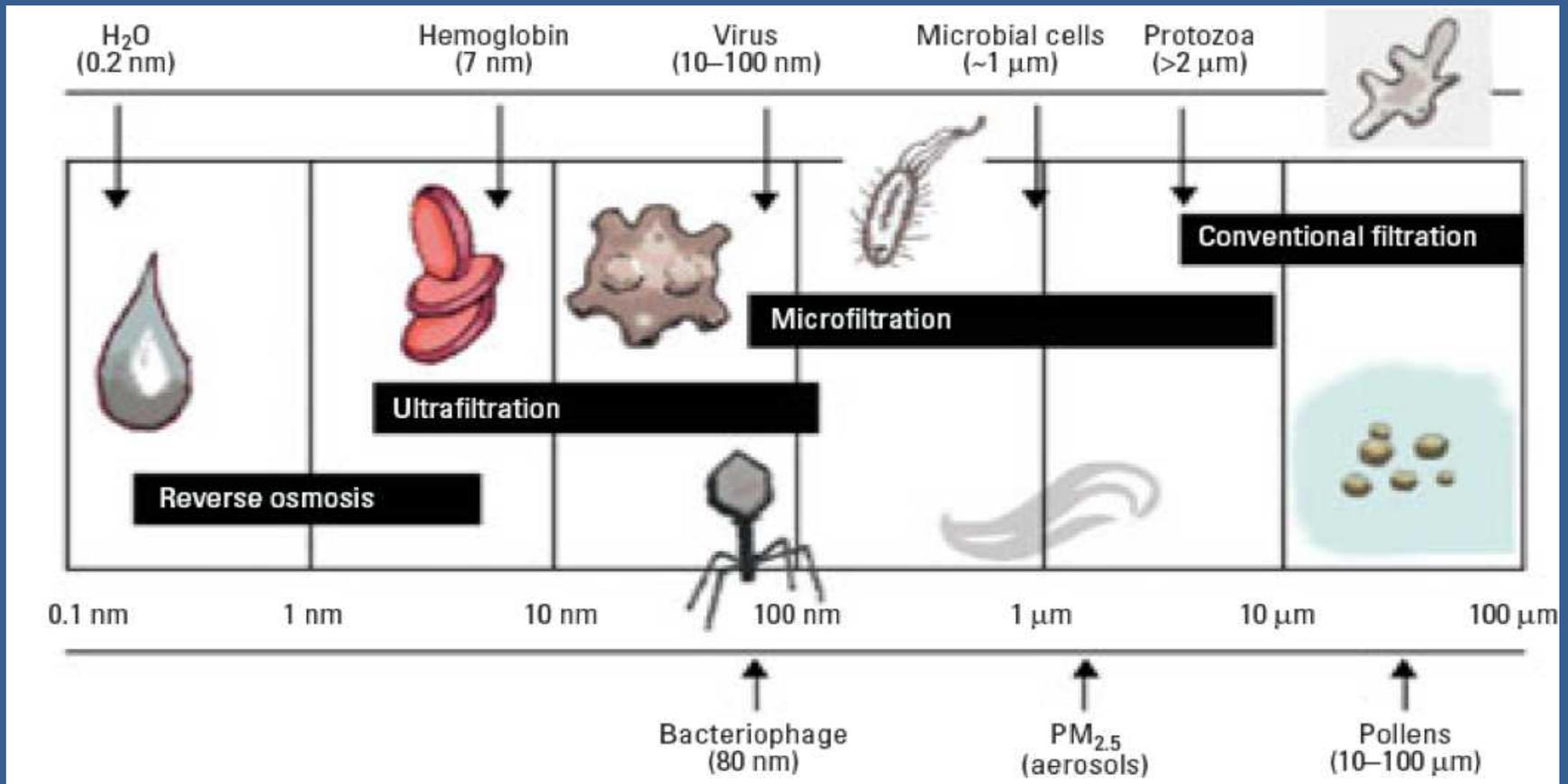
Goal

Develop rapid and cost-effective tools for the detection of threats to water quality

In situ sensors are ideally suited for rapid detection; however, they are often not very specific

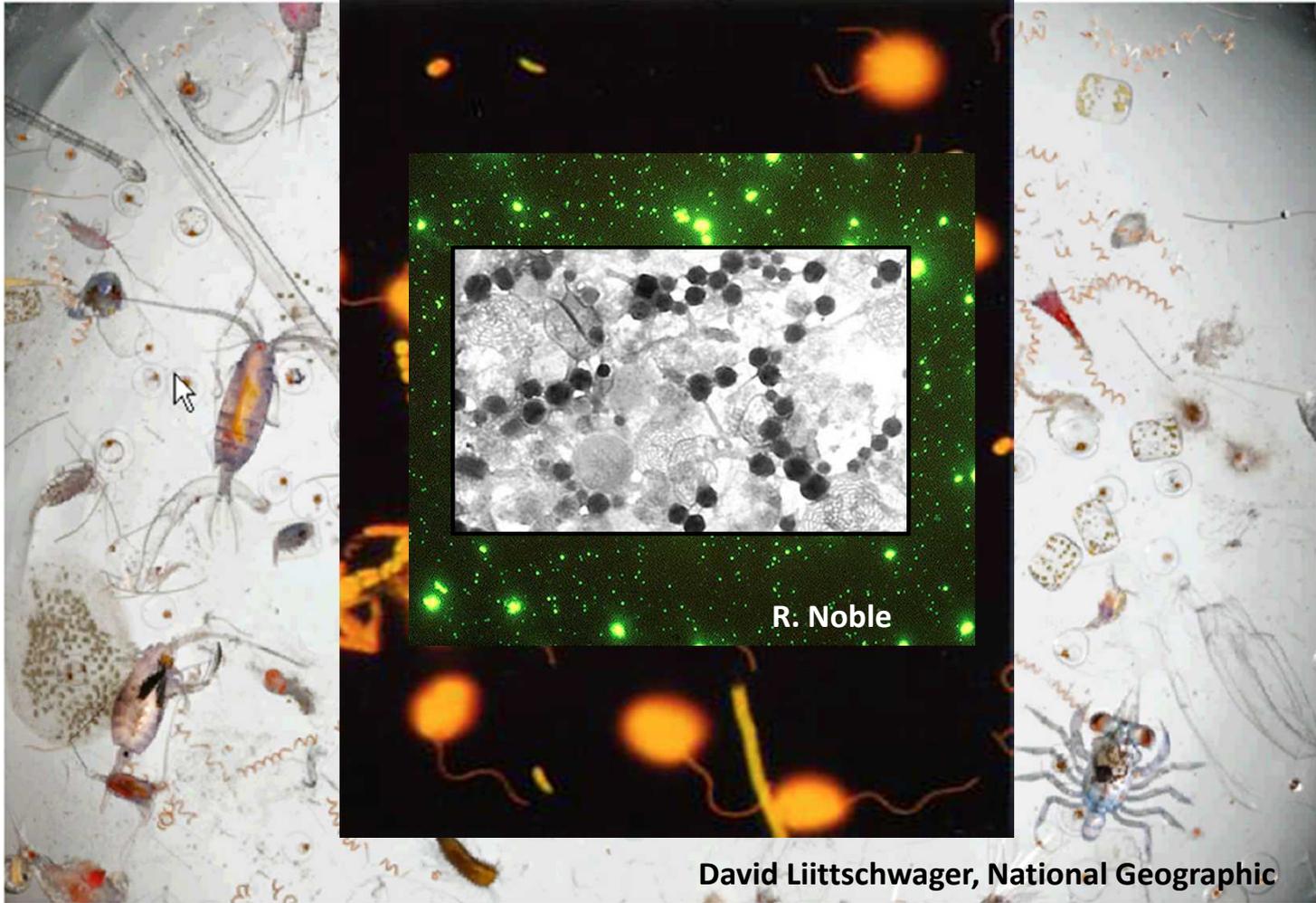
Specific techniques are often labor intensive and/or expensive to implement

Particles are closely tied to water quality



Masciangioli, T.; Zhang, W.-X. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2003, 37, 102A-108A).

A drop of seawater

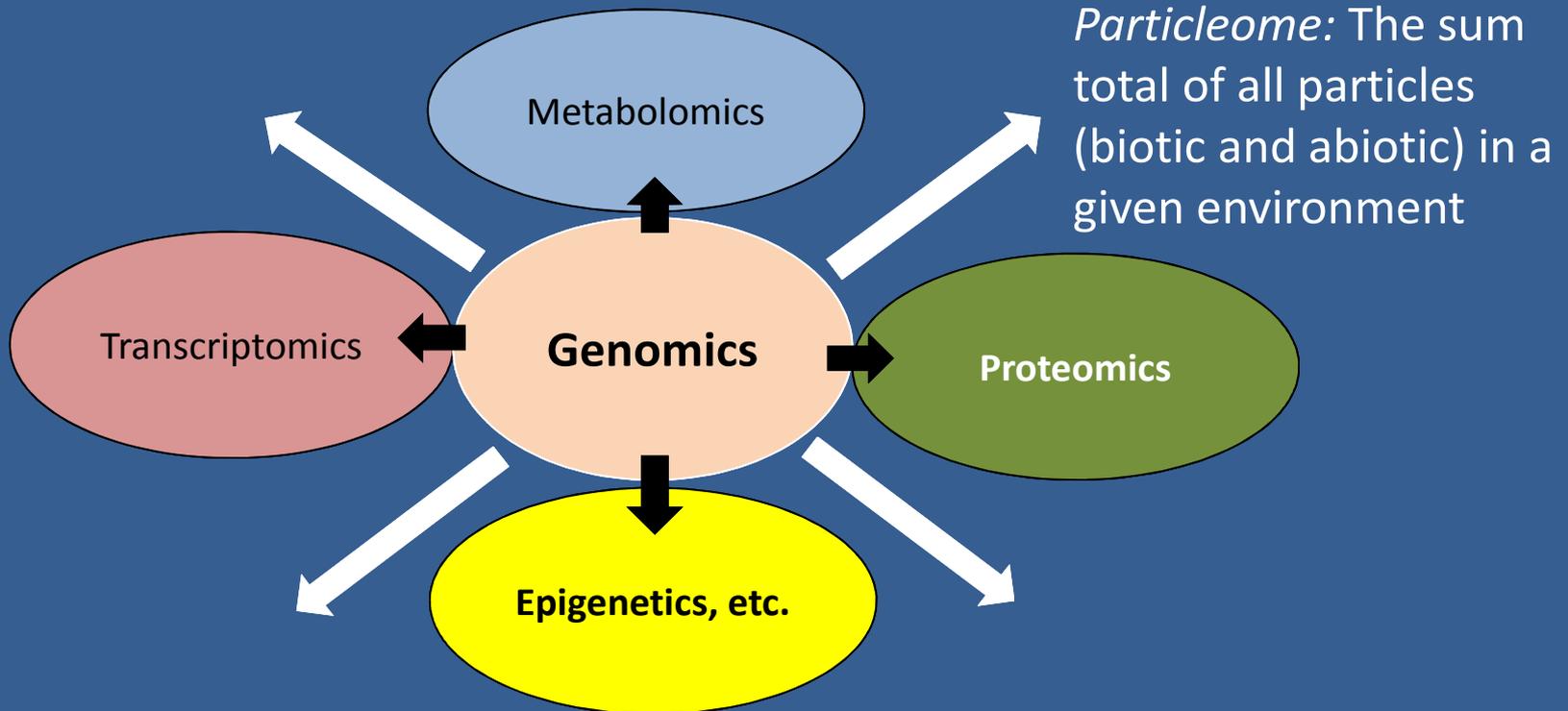


David Liittschwager, National Geographic

An *-omics* approach to particle characterization

Genome → the holistic characteristics of a set of genes corresponding to an organism

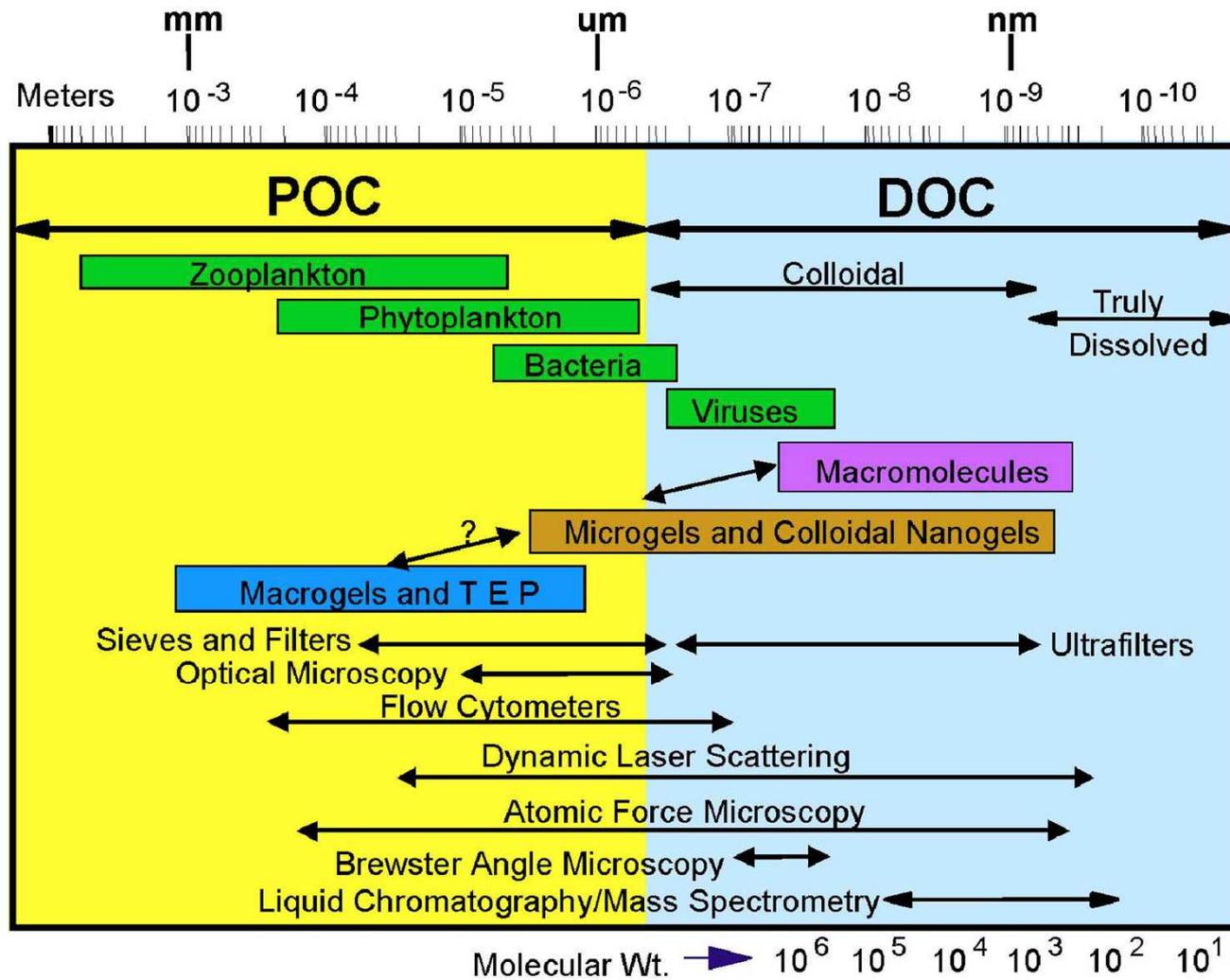
No one gene operates in isolation



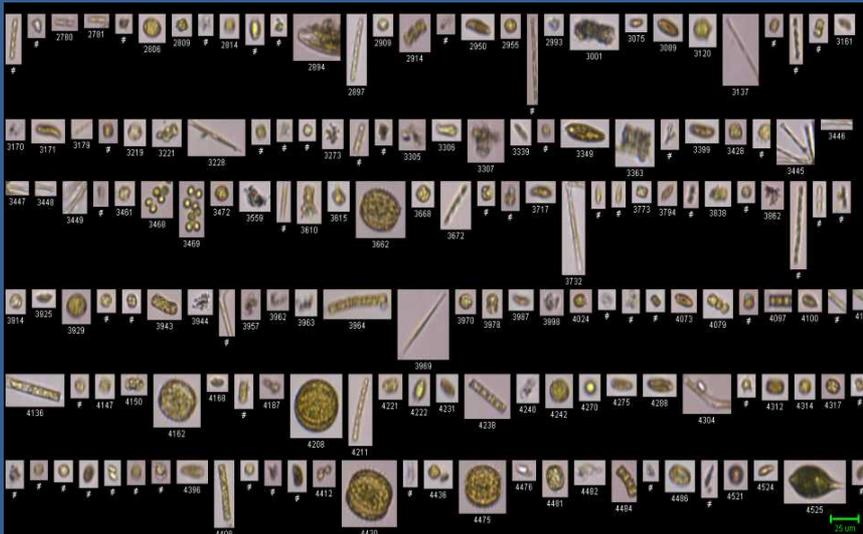
Why use an *-omics* approach?

- Difficult to identify a single property that defines water quality
- Changes in holistic properties might be more sensitive and less expensive to track
- Move from a biomarker approach to a fingerprinting approach to identify threats to water quality
- Apply multivariate statistical techniques to real-time data, borrowing from bioinformatics

A variety of techniques are used to characterize particles



FlowCAM

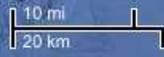


- Detects individual cells by scatter and/or fluorescence induced by laser light excitation;
- Rapidly counts and photographs individual particles;
- Distinguishes the shape and unique fluorescence properties of each cell in a sample;
- Provides a suite of particle properties (35 variables) as well as a set digital images of the particles.

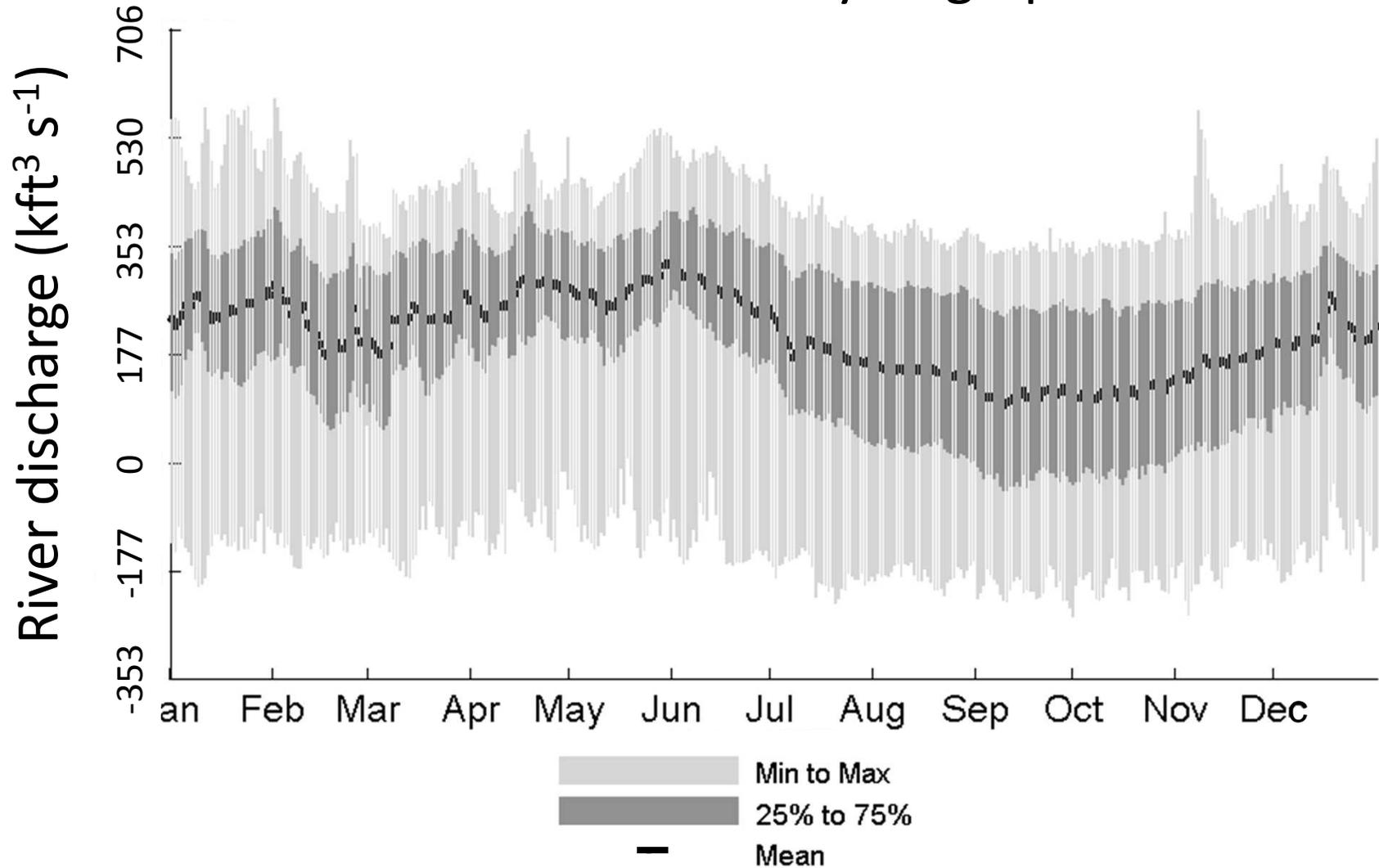
Data Analysis

- Data reduction: Principal Component Analysis, (=Empirical Orthogonal Function analysis)
- Correlation analysis: correlate EOFs to environmental variables or to presence of pathogen of interest
- Example data set: Columbia River (Land Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory, LOBO)

Beaver Army Terminal



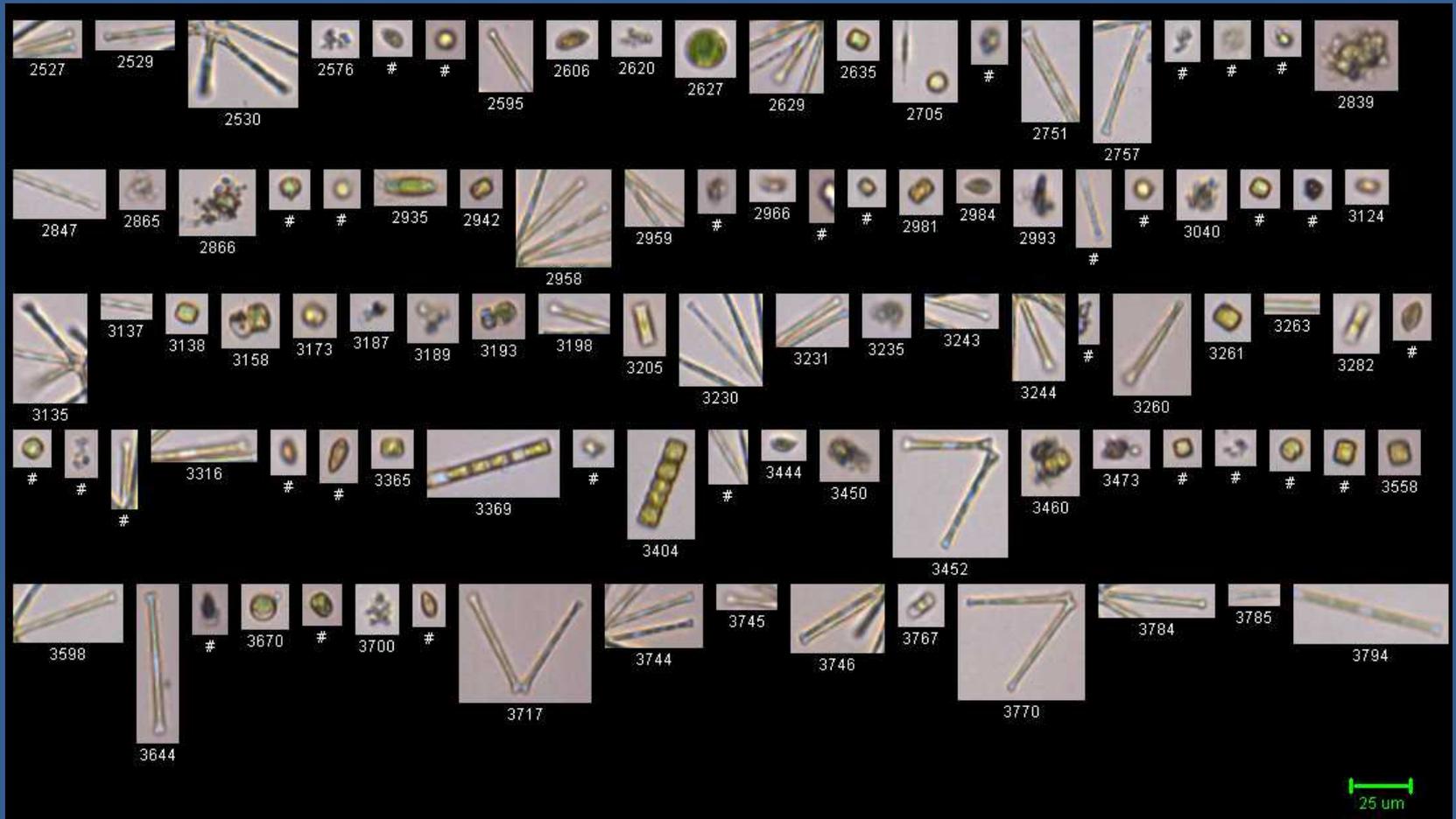
Columbia River Hydrograph



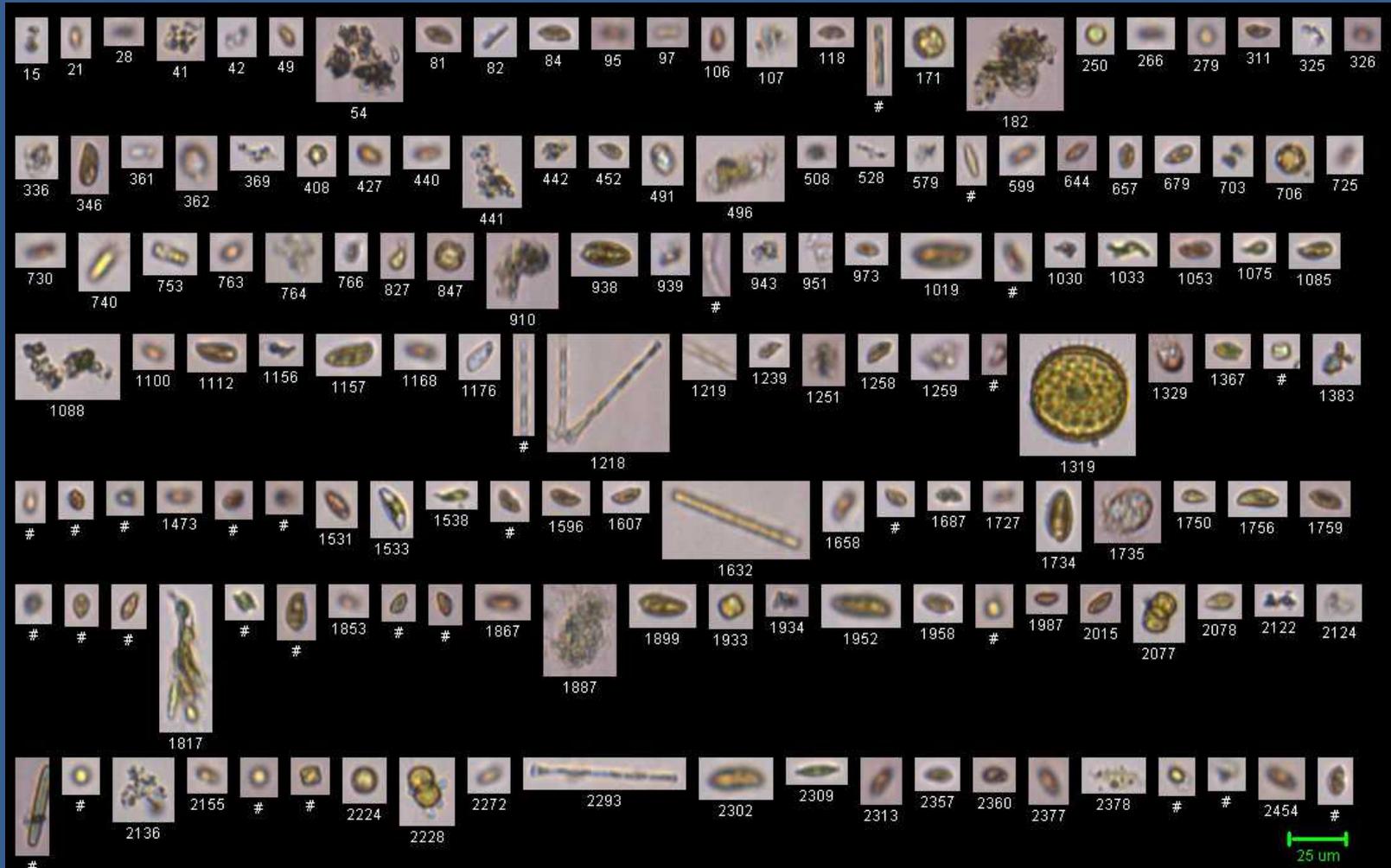
3/23/2011: Pre-freshet



4/20/2011: spring bloom (pre-freshet)

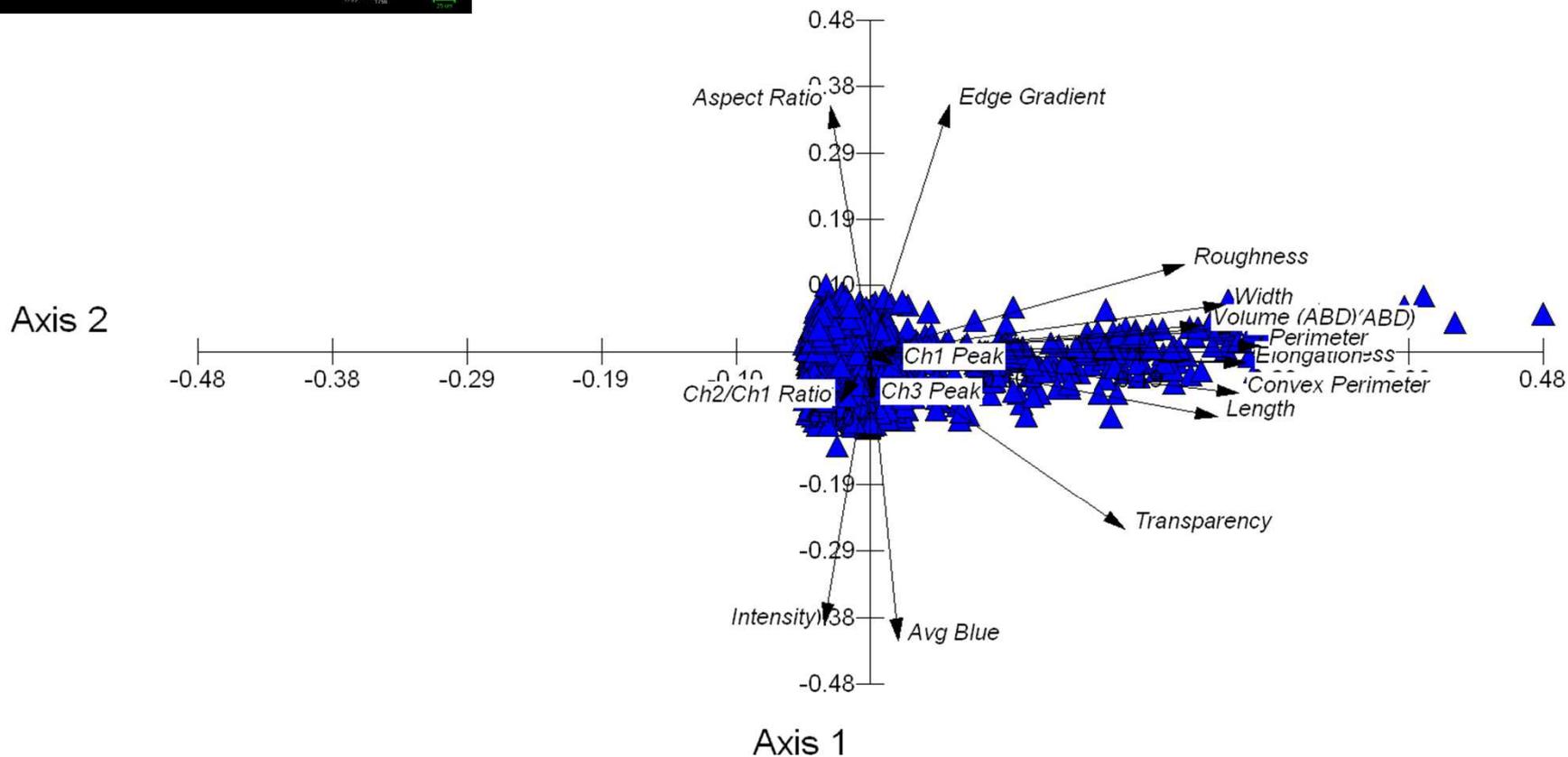


10/29/2010: fall/winter

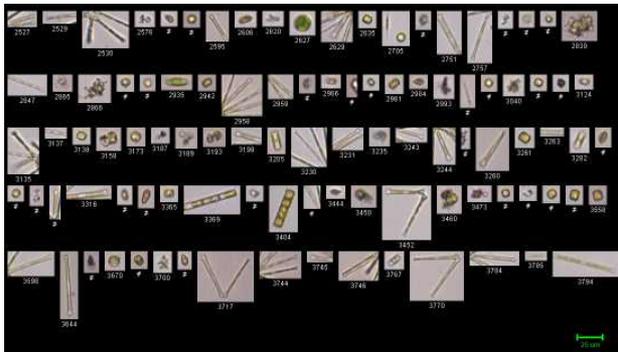




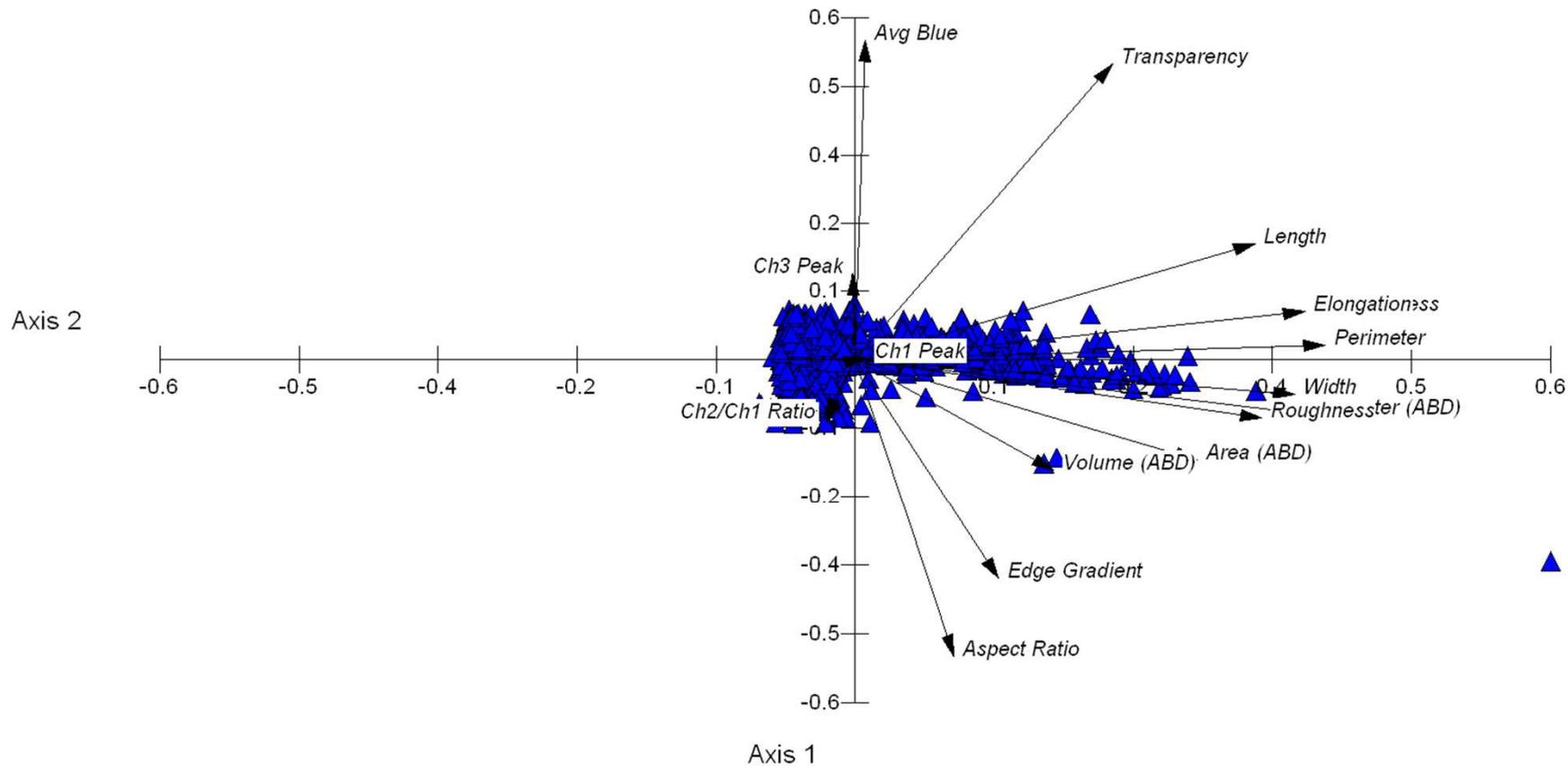
PCA case scores: 3/23/2011



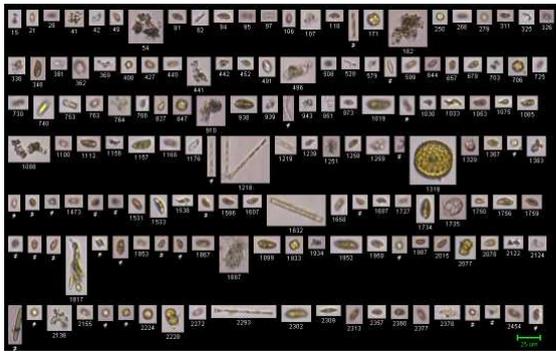
Vector scaling: 0.84



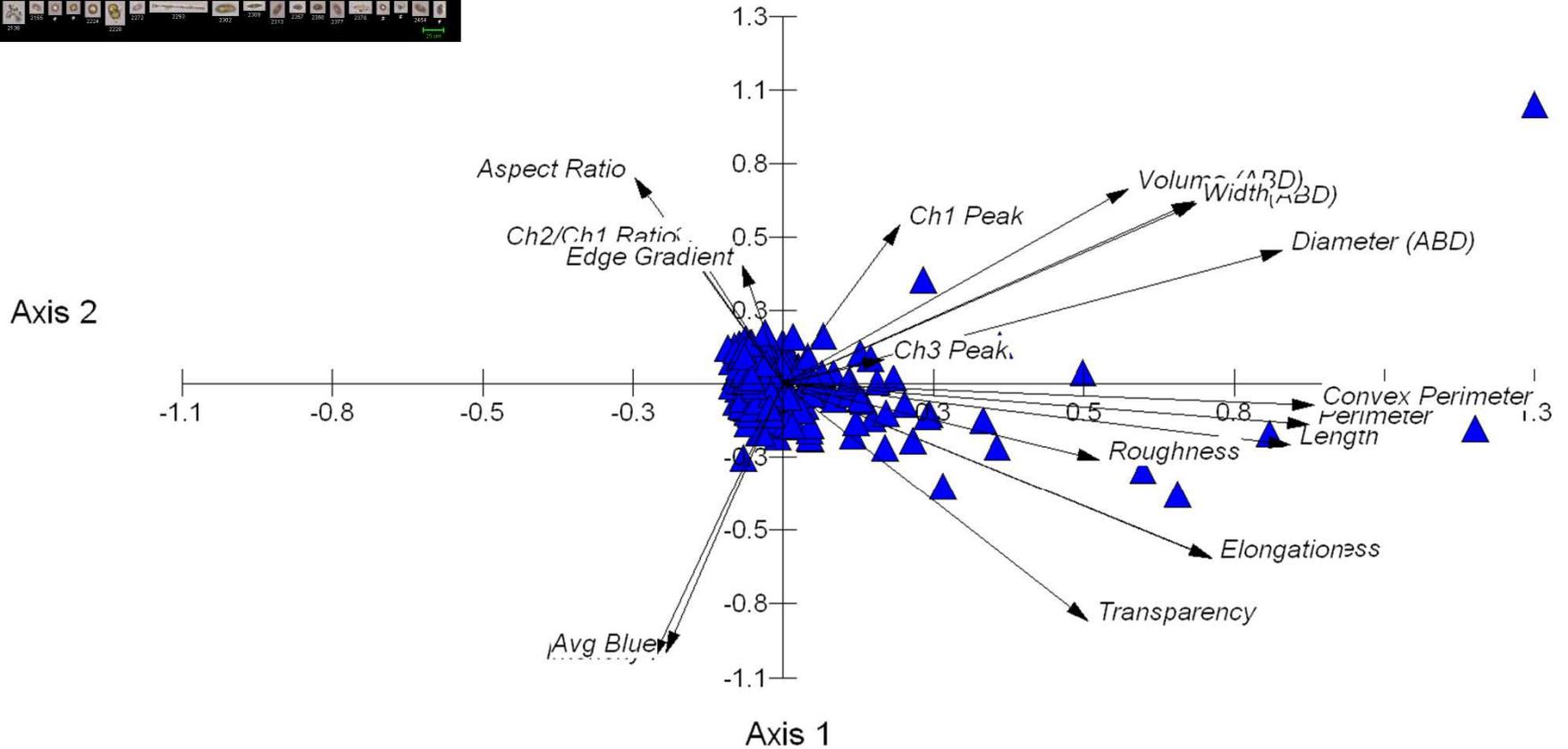
PCA case scores 4/20/2011



Vector scaling: 1.12



PCA case scores: 10/29/2010

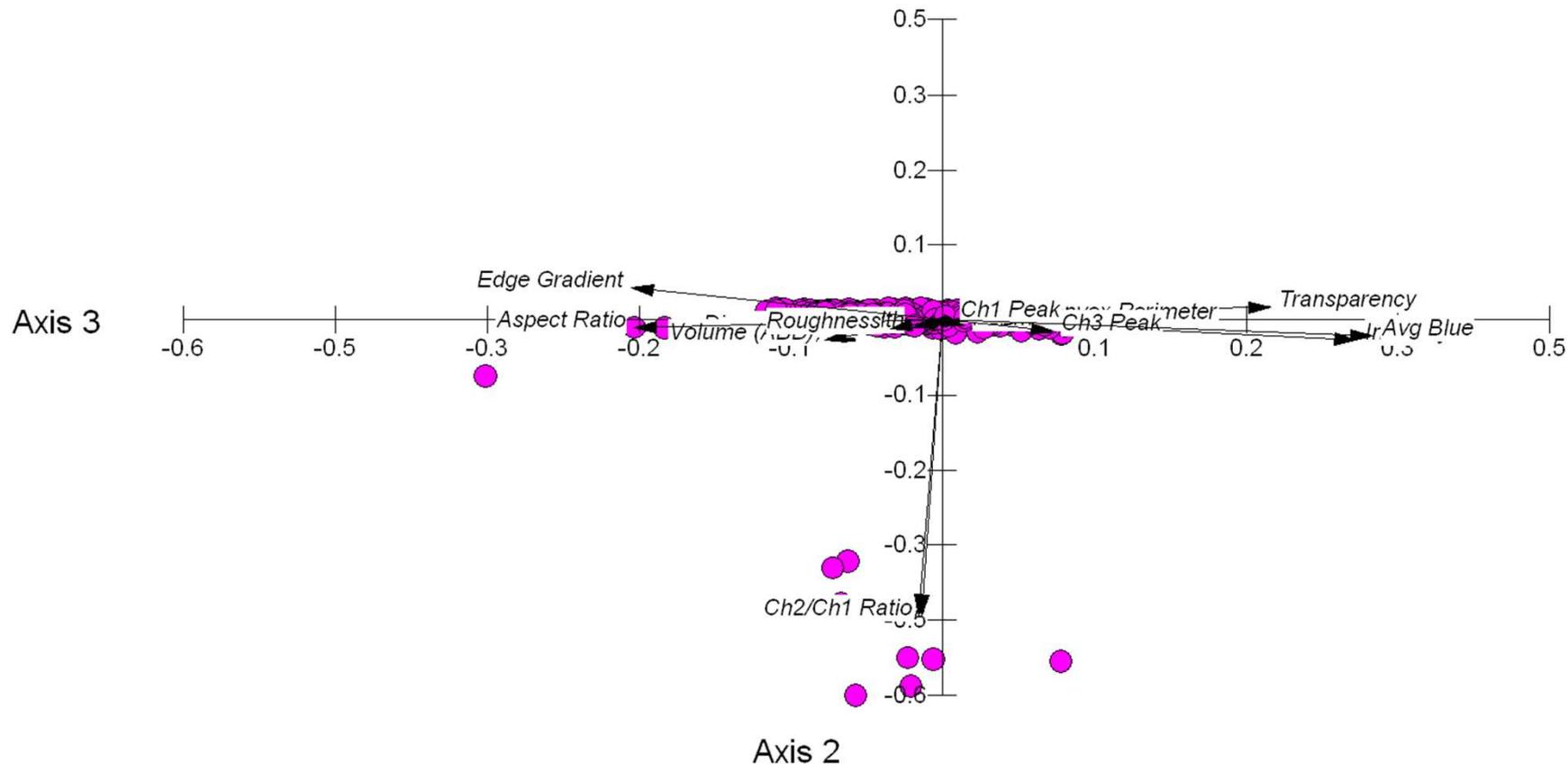


Vector scaling: 2.62

Axis 2 = PC 2: blue, transparency (hetero vs. autotroph?)

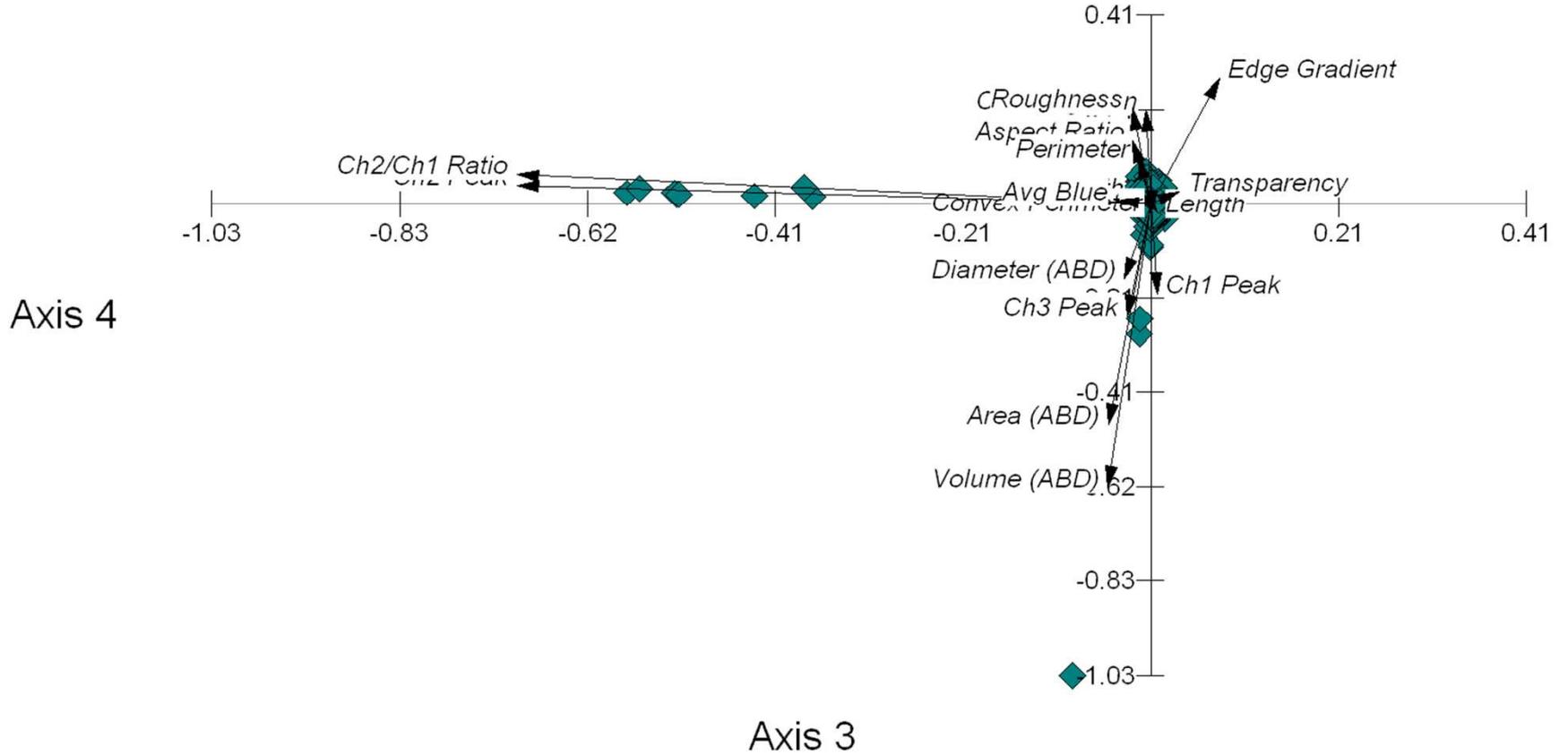
Axis 3 = phycoerythrin fluorescence/chl fluorescence

PCA case scores: 4/20/2011

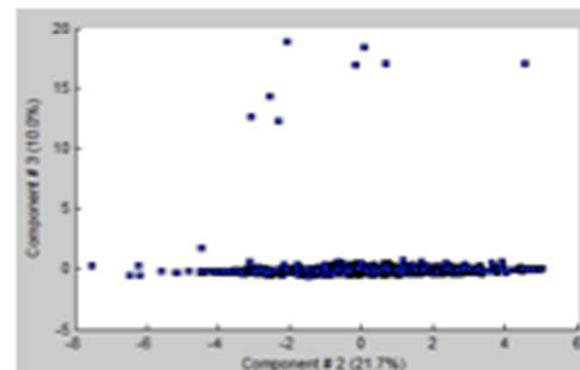
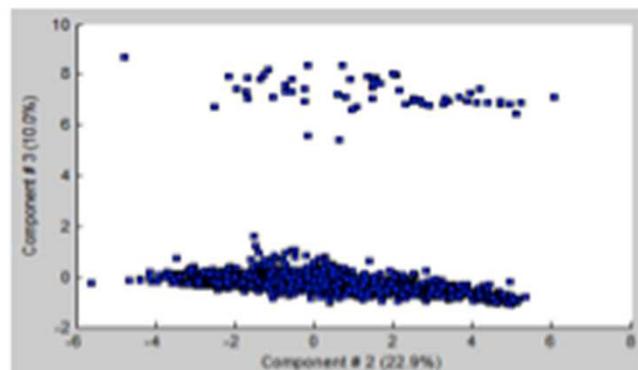
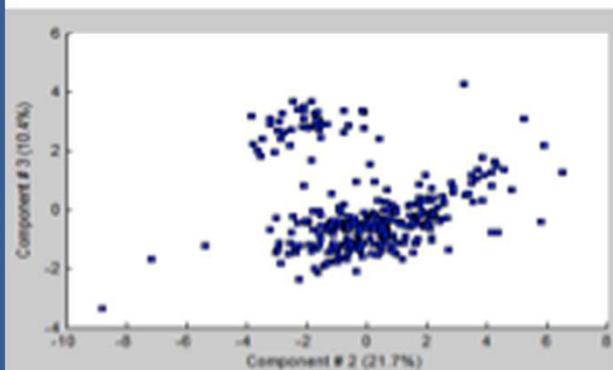
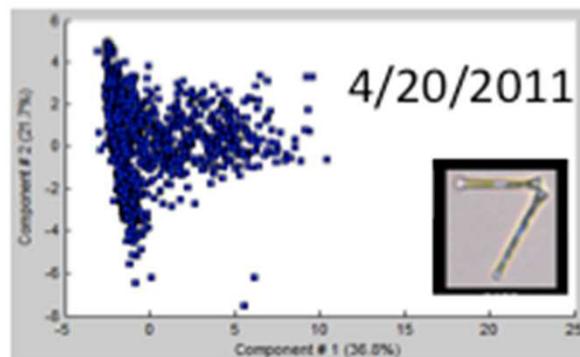
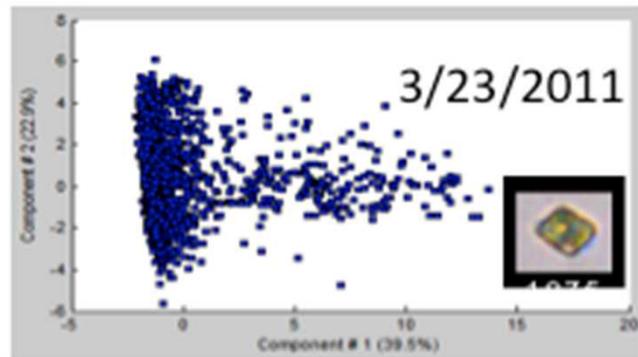
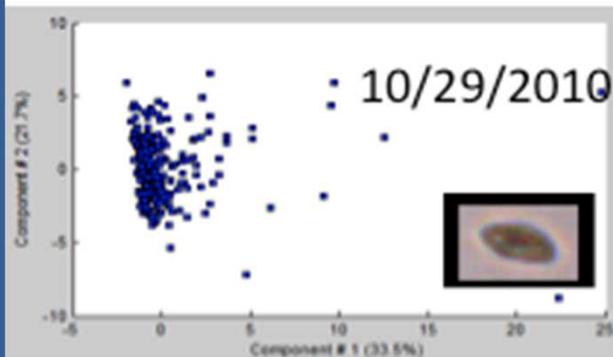
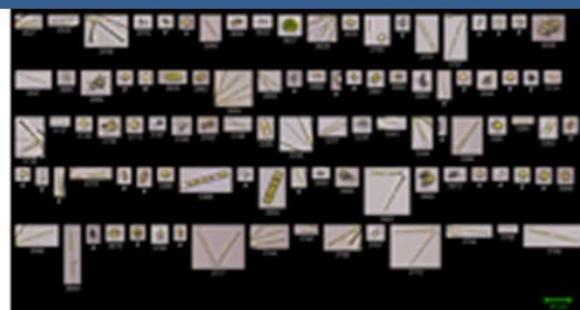
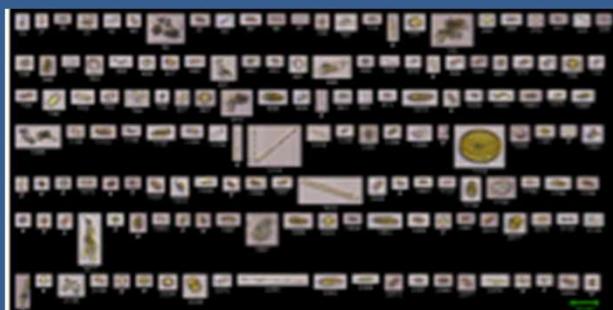


Vector scaling: 0.65

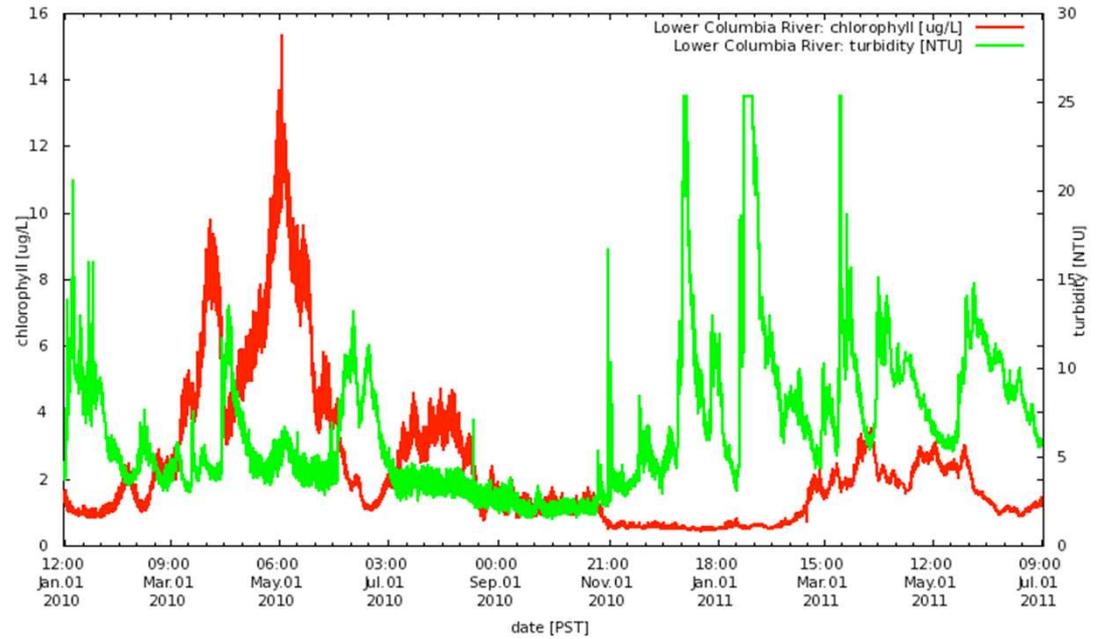
PCA case scores: 4/20/2011



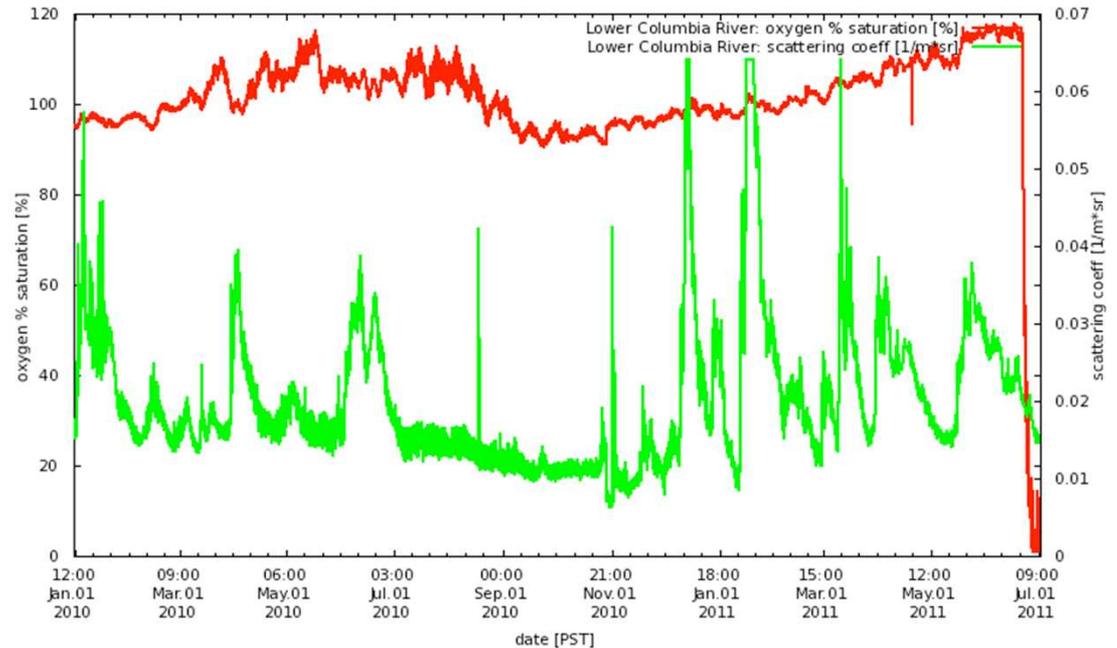
Vector scaling: 0.99



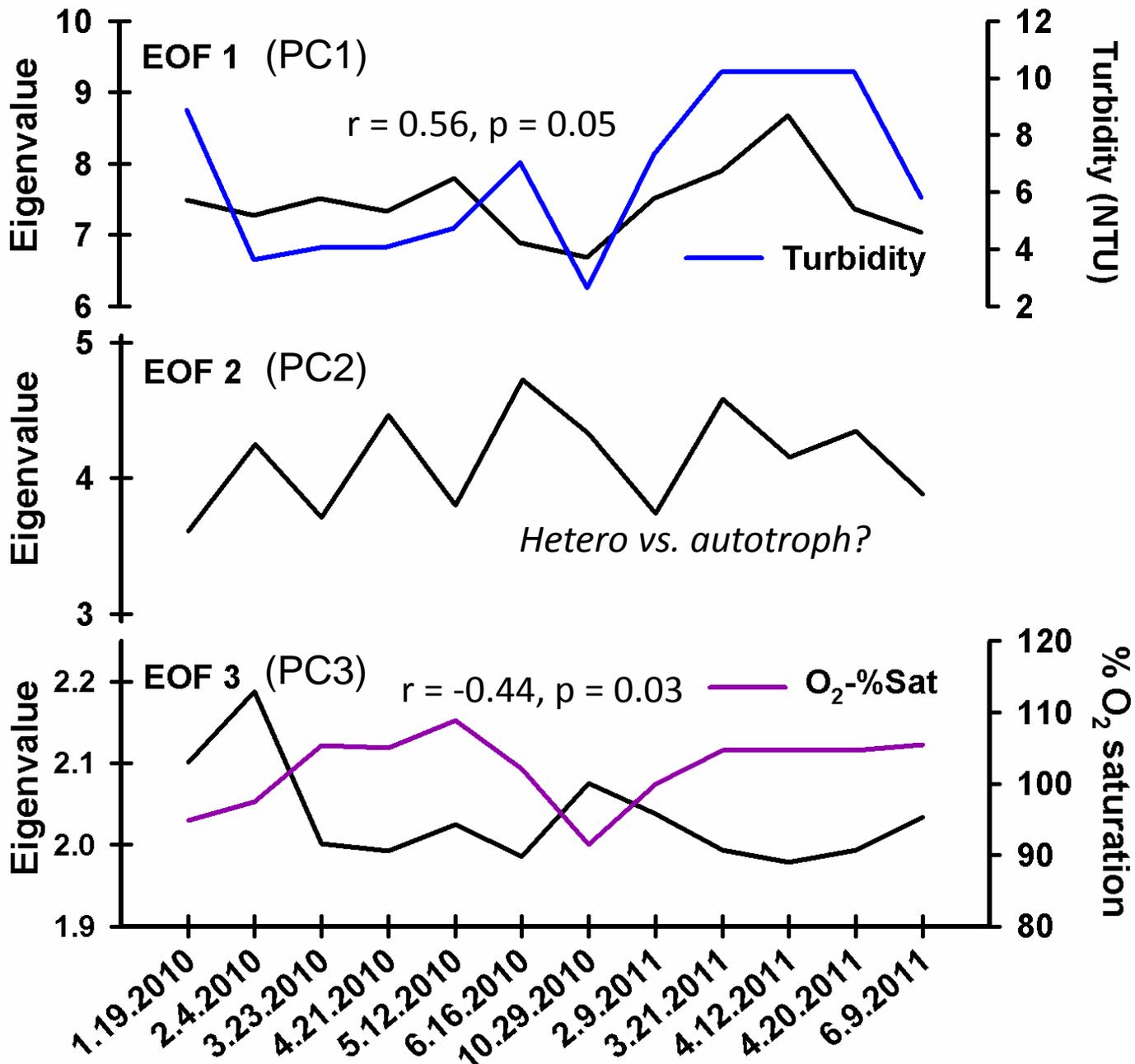
— chl
— turbidity



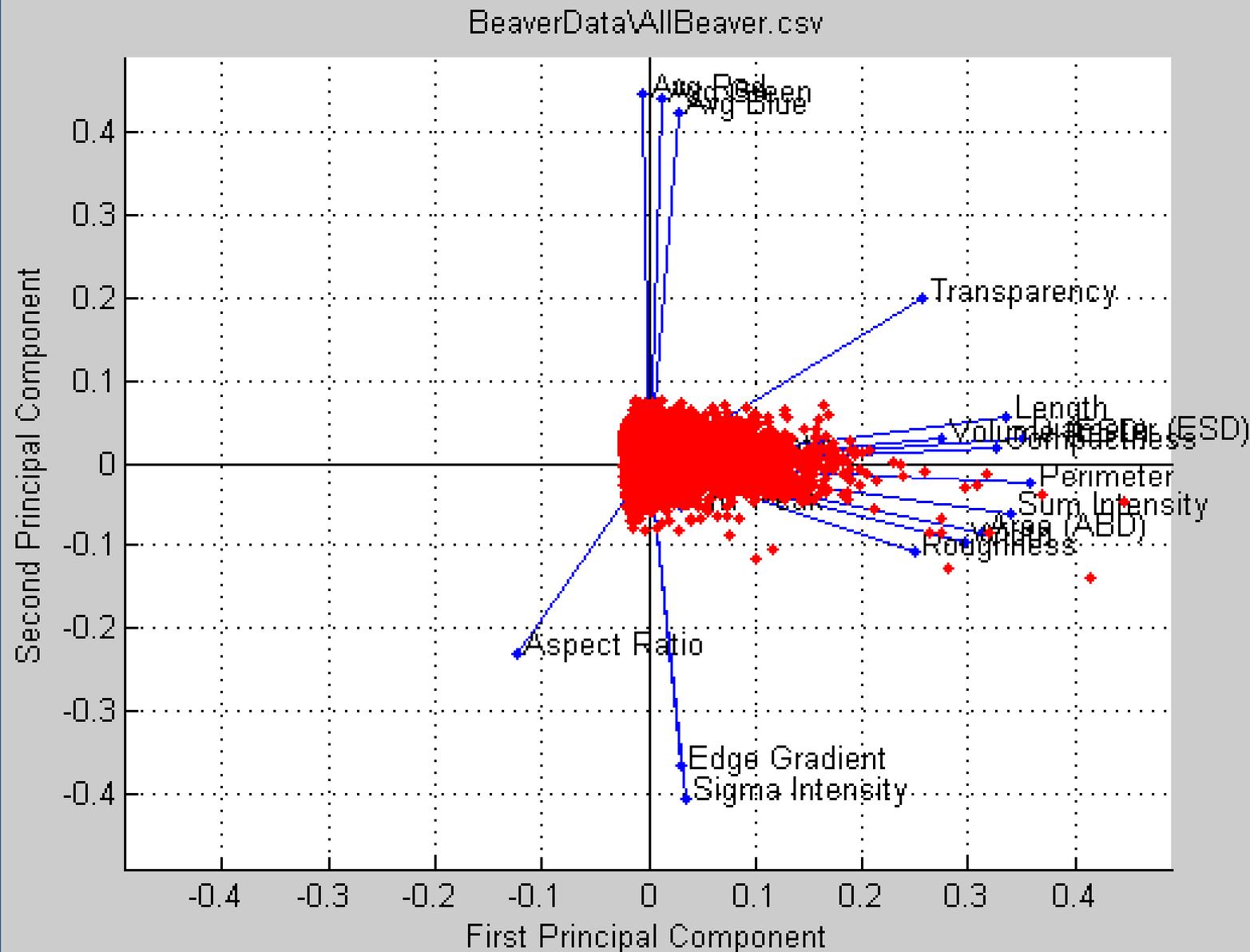
— %O₂ sat
— scattering



Variance



Global PCA



Vision

Automated data collection

FlowCAM

Dynamic Laser Scatter

Flow Cytometer

Zeta potential

Atomic Force Microscopy

Data Processing

Data QA/QC

Data interfacing

Data reduction

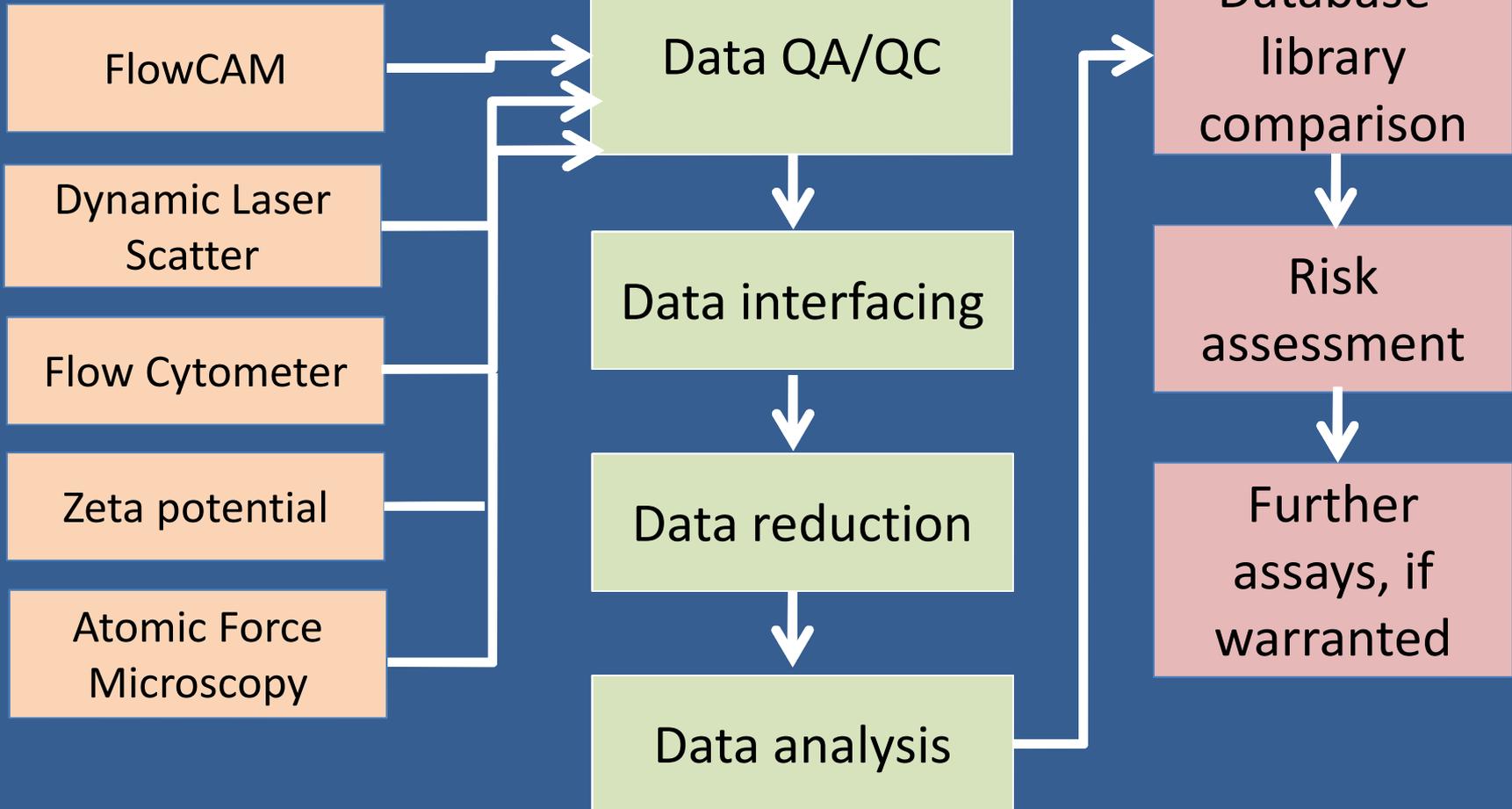
Data analysis

Data Analysis

Database-library comparison

Risk assessment

Further assays, if warranted



Challenges

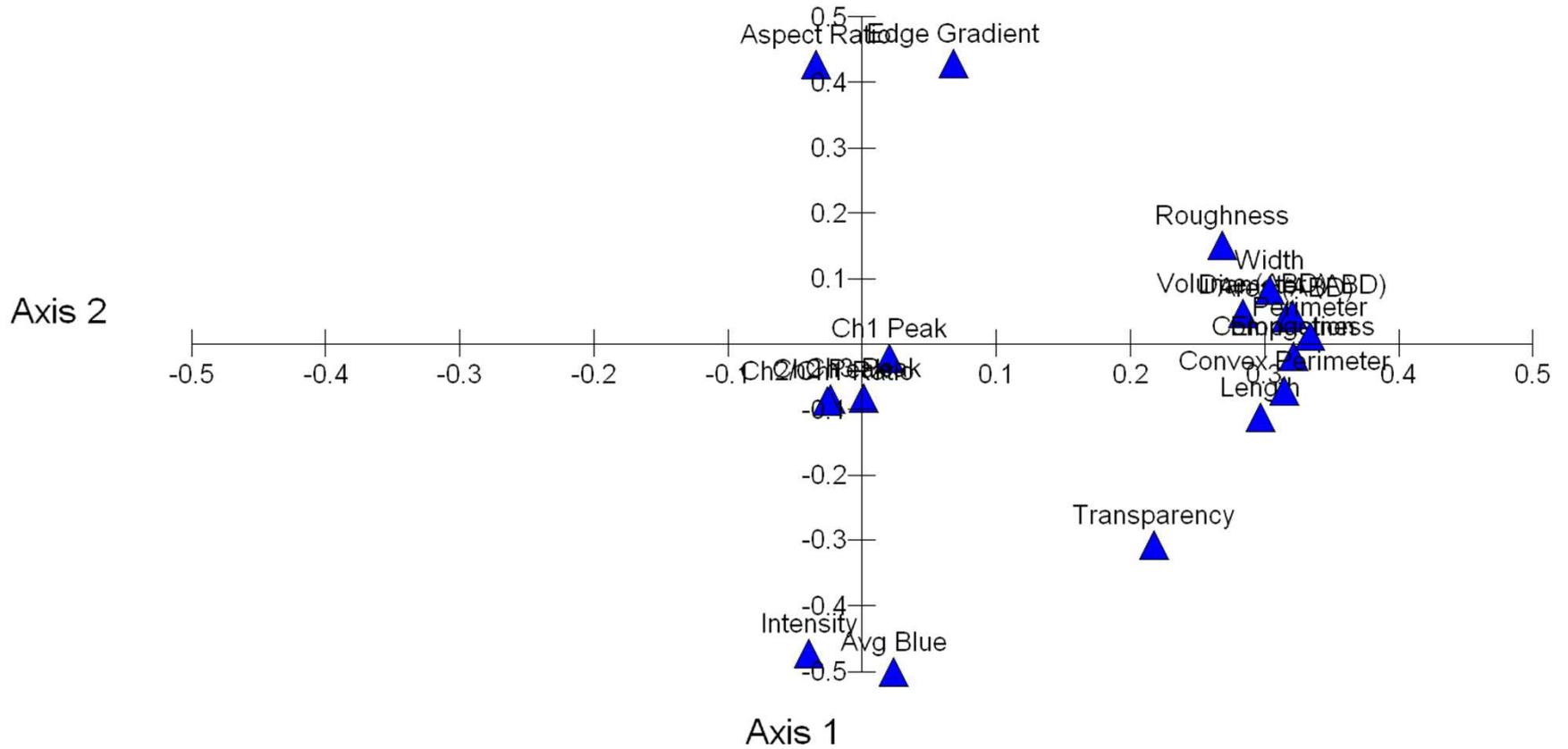
- Large size range of particles in the natural environment
- Different size ranges often requires different technique to measure particles → Data interfacing
- Obtaining comprehensive and representative databases/libraries that provide meaningful diagnostics

Summary and ongoing work

- Through particle-omics, we seek to characterize holistic properties of the particle load in water to identify meaningful changes or qualities
- Goal 1: perform laboratory tests using perturbations to assess sensitivity of the approach
- Goal 2: build a library of data and images for the lower Columbia River
- Goal 3: develop a standardized workflow for data processing

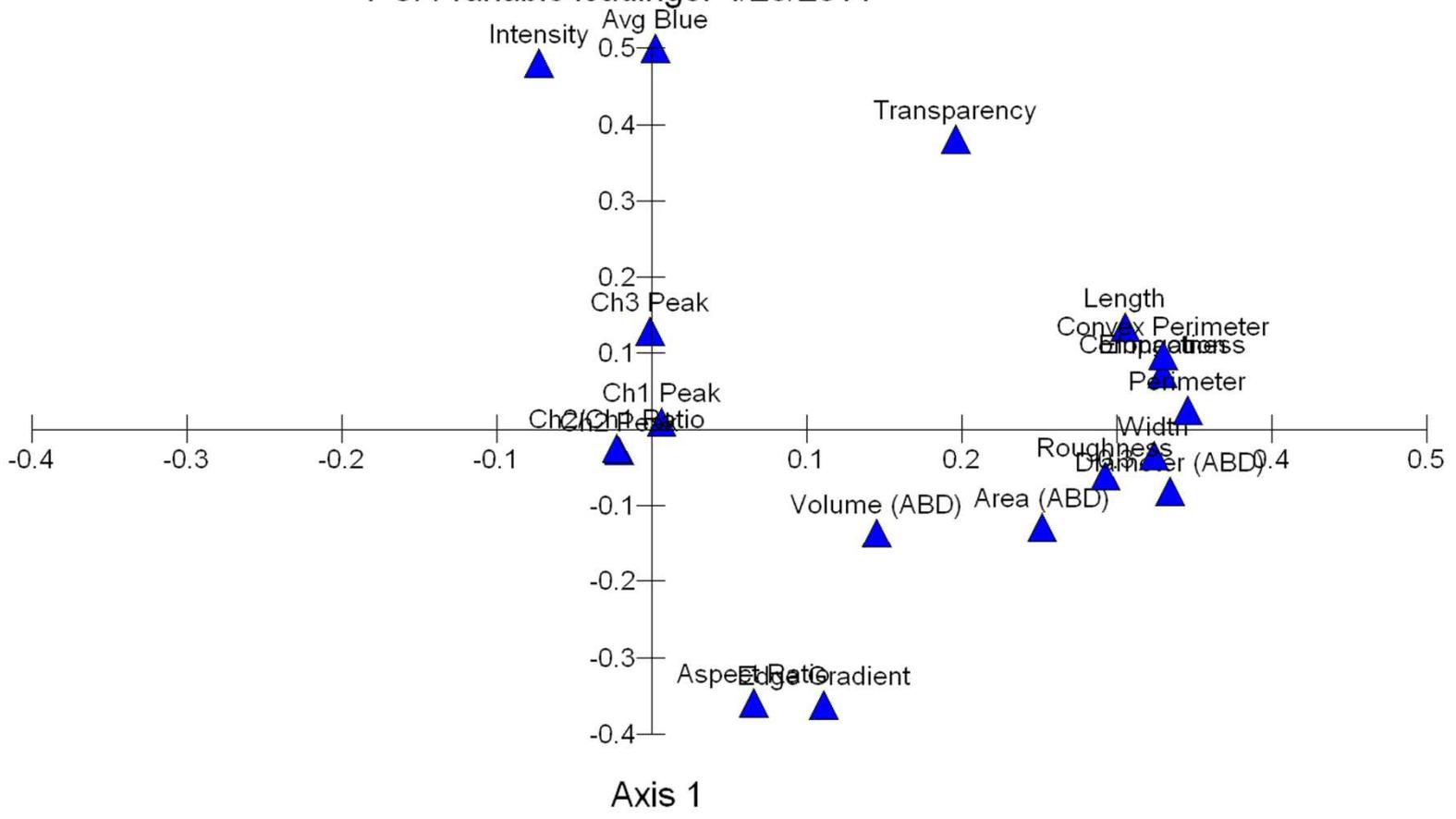


PCA variable loadings: 3/23/2011

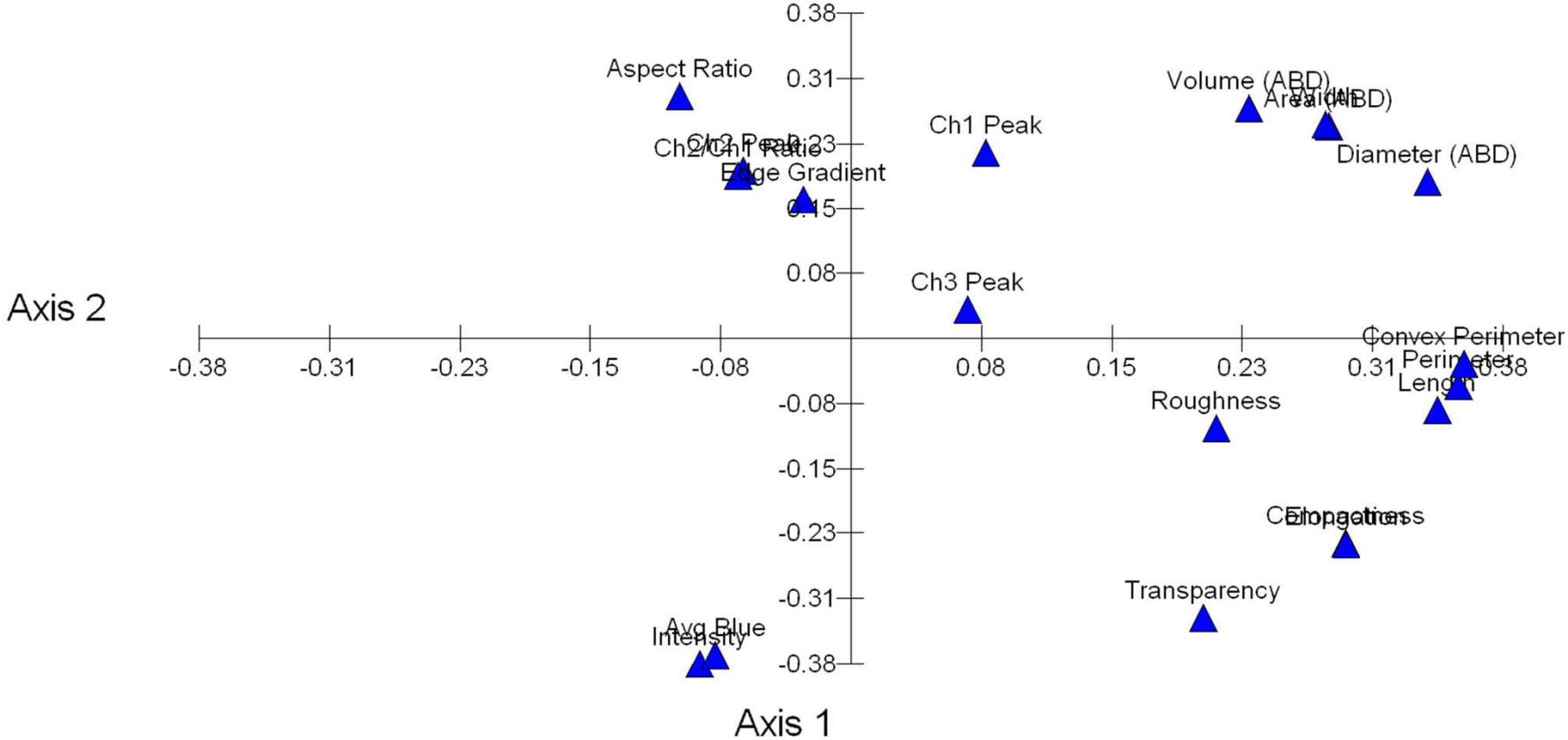


PCA variable loadings: 4/20/2011

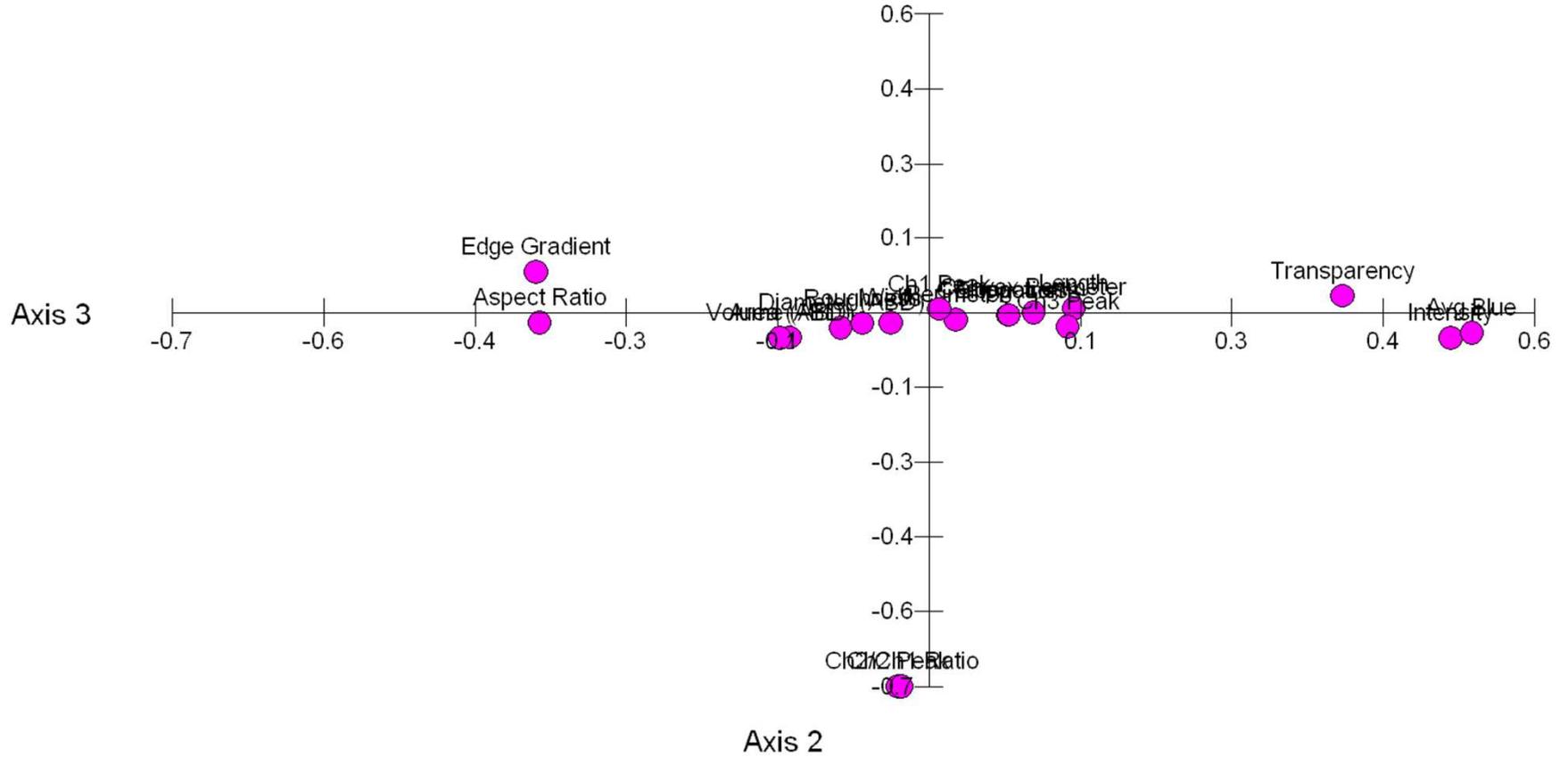
Axis 2



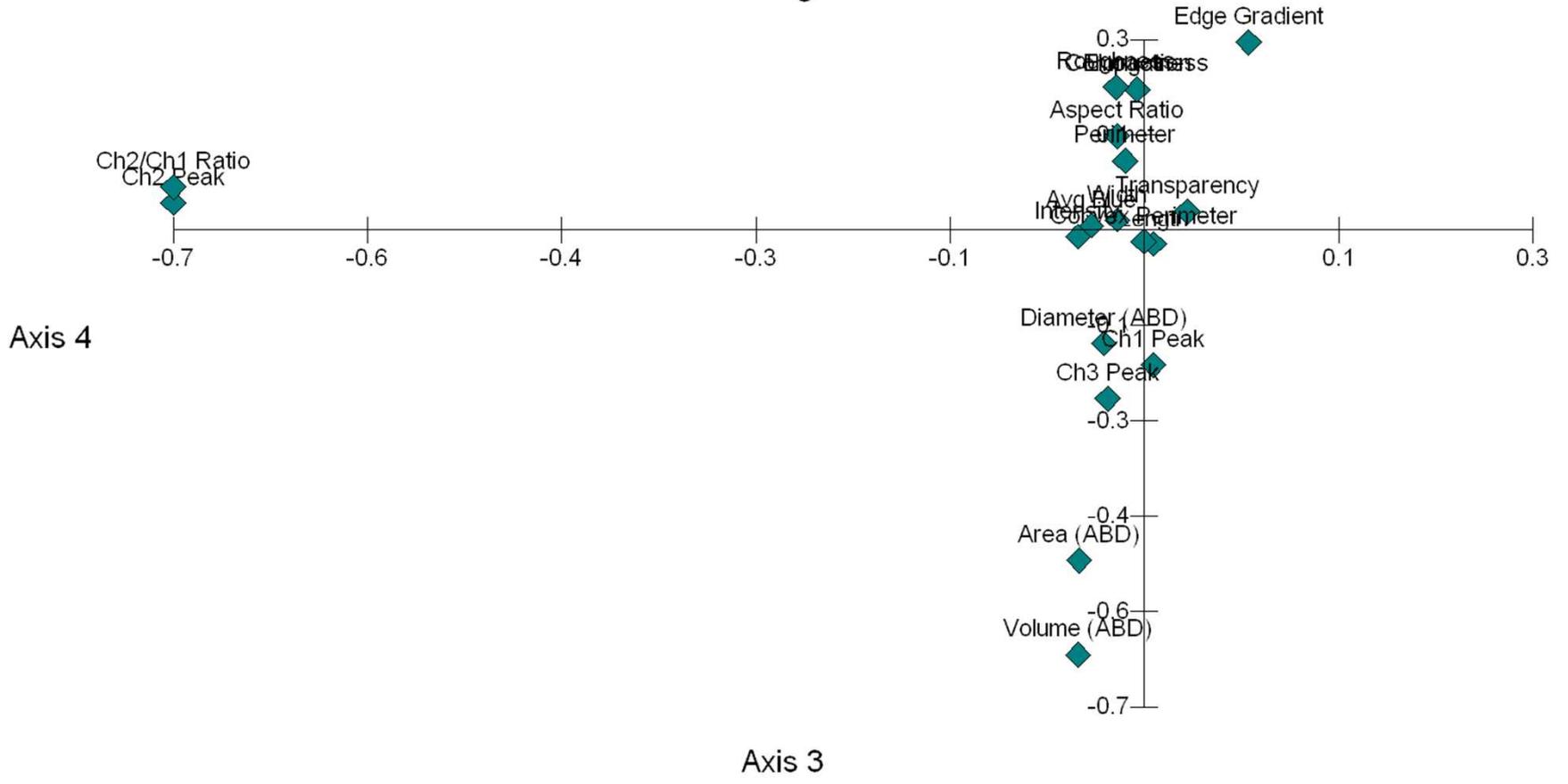
PCA variable loadings: 10/29/2010



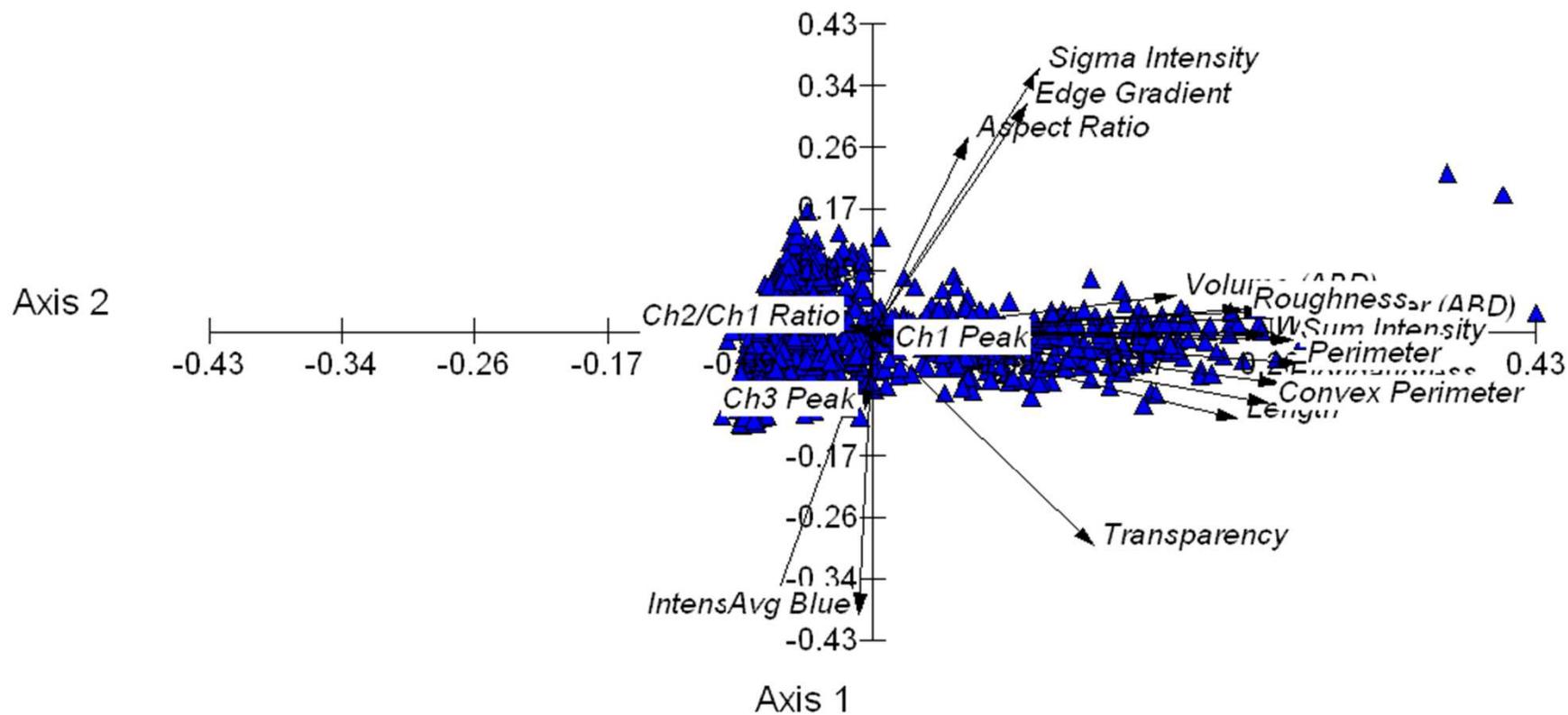
PCA variable loadings: 4/20/2011



PCA variable loadings: 4/20/2011



PCA case scores: 4/20/2011



Vector scaling: 0.86