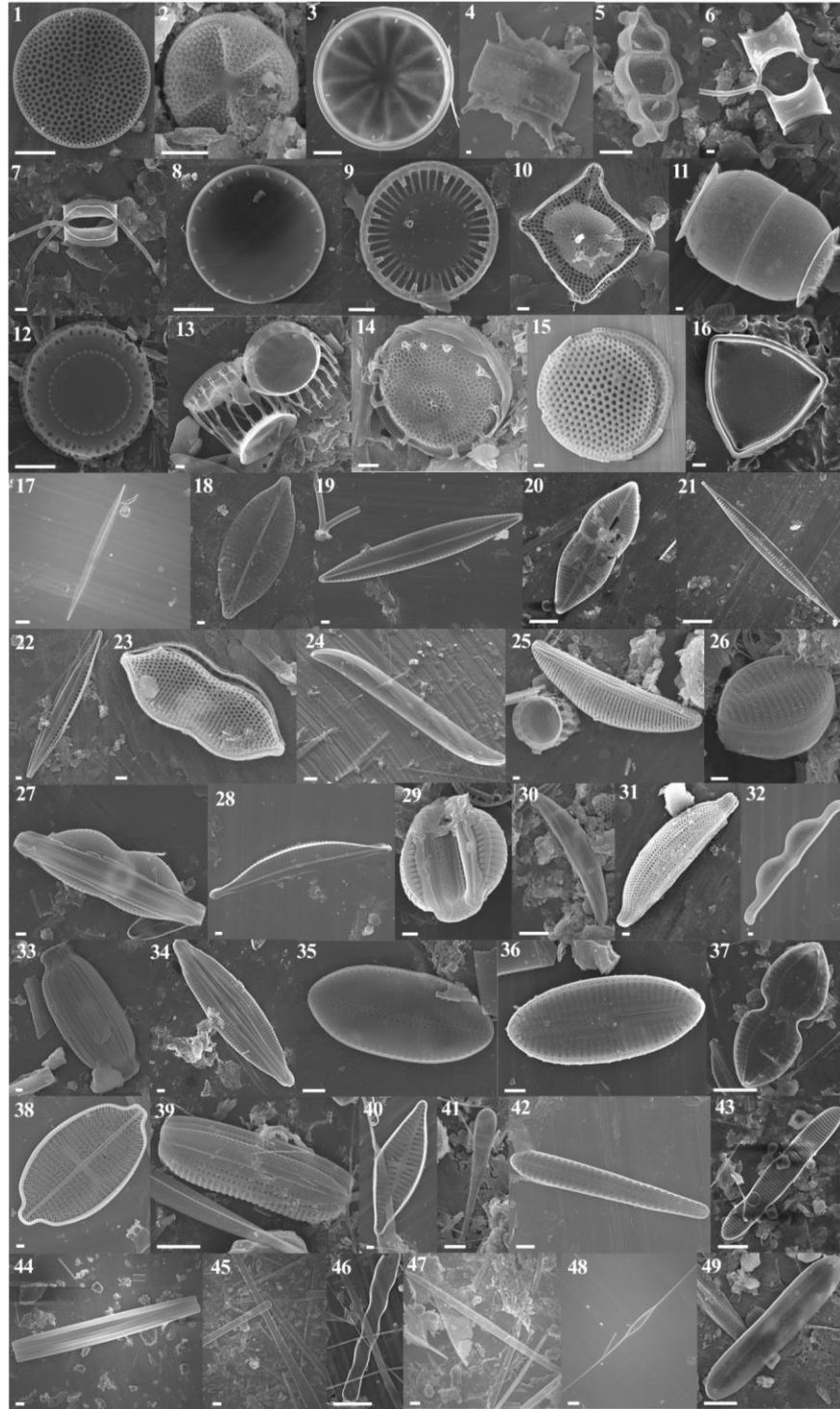


**Figure S1.** Development of biofouling communities over a period of 28 days on acrylic panels submerged at a depth of 2m at Al Mouj Marina.



**Figure S2.** Scanning electron micrographs of the fouling diatom taxa observed within biofilms developed from Day 1 to day 28 at Al Mouj Marina. Numbers on the top right hand corner of each image corresponds to the probable taxon in Figure 3.



**Figure S3.** Dot plot showing the bacteria-diatom pairs contributing to significant non-random associations at each time point. Different coloured dots denote the different time points and closed dots indicate positive associations while open dots indicate negative associations. Bacterial taxa are shown on the left side of the plot and diatom taxa shown on the top.