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Dichotomous Key to Flinn Protozoa

Catalog No. Various

Publication No. 10204

This simple dichotomous key and its accompanying drawings are included to assist students in identifying common protozoans normally found in our cultures. It is suggested that methyl cellulose solution (Flinn Catalog No. M0155) be used as a slowing agent for fast moving protozoans.

1. a. Slow-creeping (sliding) or floats without apparent motion 2
   b. Exhibits other distinct motion patterns 3
2. a. Small, creeps using pseudopodia (moving arm-like feet); single distinct-shaped nucleus ..... *Amoeba*
   b. Large, creeps using pseudopodia; many (hundreds) of small nuclei ..... *Pelomyxa*
3. a. Colonial; spherical with more than 32 cells in colony ..... *Volvox*
   b. Not colonial 4
4. a. Cells have hair-like structures (cilia) 5
   b. Cells move with flagella (long whip-like organ) 6
5. a. Body covered with cilia 7
   b. Body has cilia in specialized areas or groups of cilia 8
6. a. One visible locomotor flagella; cell elongated ..... *Euglena*
   b. Two visible locomotor flagella; cell oval-shaped ..... *Chlamydomonas*
7. a. Body trumpet-shaped; usually attached to substrate ..... *Stentor*
   b. Body elongated; not attached to substrate 9
8. a. Cell on stalk; often attached to debris ..... *Vorticella*
   b. Cell not on stalk; two distinct bands of cilia ..... *Didinium*
9. a. Large cell, 1–3 mm in length; very elongated, almost worm-like in shape; contracts under stimulation .. *Spirostomum*
   b. Smaller cells; not long and thin—like worm 10
10. a. Small cell with "cigar-shaped" body, rounded ends; swims in a corkscrew-like fashion ..... *Paramecium*
    b. Medium cell with pear-like shape (bulbous on one end compared to the other end) ..... *Blepharisma*

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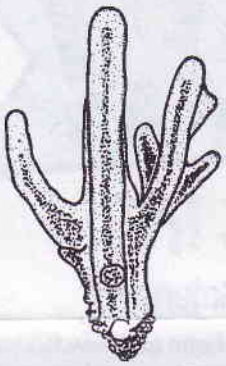
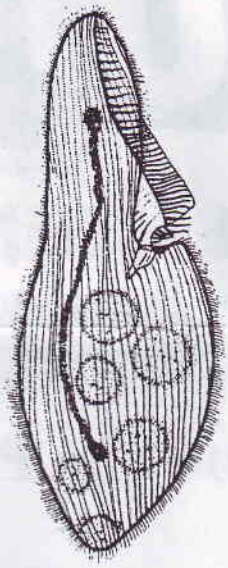
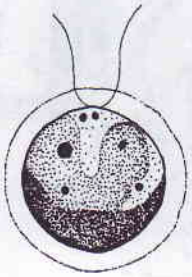


Amoeba



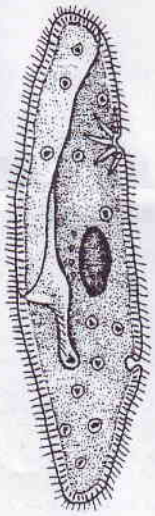
Blepharisma



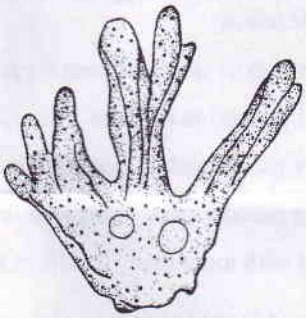
Chlamydomonas

Didinium

Euglena



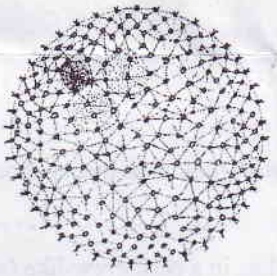
Paramecium



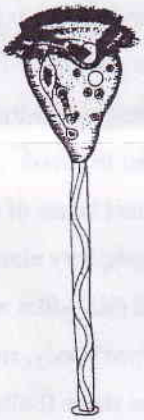
Pelomyxa

Spirostomum

Stentor



Volvox



Vorticella