

## Division: Chlorophyta (green algae)

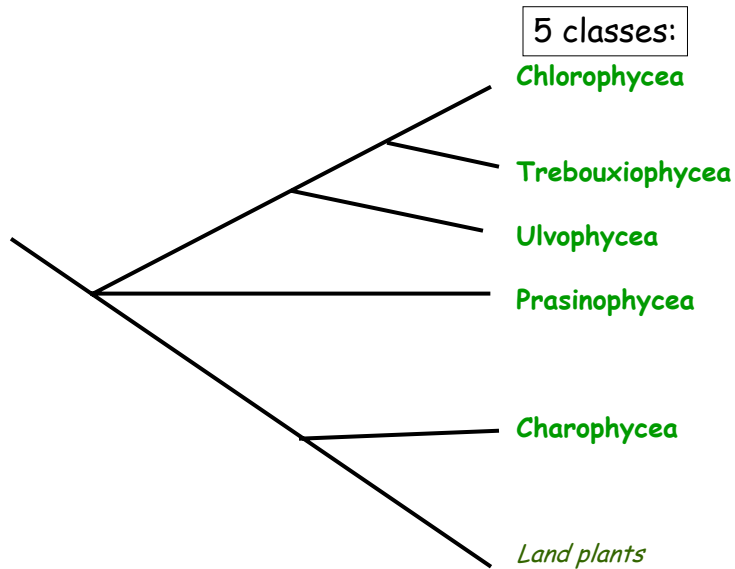


~ 16,000 species  
~ 90% freshwater

## General Green Characteristics.....

- 1) Pigments: chl a,b  
carotenoids: B-carotene, **lutien**, violaxanthin, **neoxanthin**
- 2) Chloroplast structure:
  - envelope:
  - thylakoids:
- 3) Storage product:
- 4) Flagella:

## Phylogenetics of Chlorophyta (morphological, molecular data)



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## Classes.....

**Chlorophyceae** = freshwater

**Trebouxiophyceae** = freshwater and soil

**Ulvophyceae** = marine macroalgae

**Prasinophyceae** = primarily marine flagellates, some freshwater;  
modern representatives of earliest green algae

**Charophyceae** = freshwater; all terrestrial plants are derived from  
Charophycean class

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## Distinguishing among classes based on...

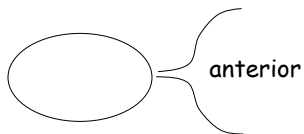
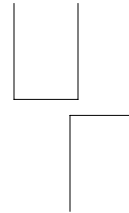
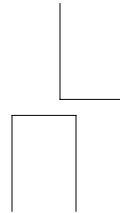
1. How flagella are attached/constructed:
  - basal bodies orientation
  - microtubule roots
2. Cell covering:
  - scales vs. cell wall
3. How cells actually divide:
  - aspects of mitosis and cytokinesis

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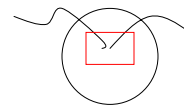
## Distinguishing among classes based on...

1. How flagella are attached/constructed
  - basal bodies orientation
  - microtubule roots

opposite      parallel      clockwise      counterclockwise



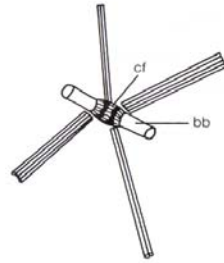
swimming direction



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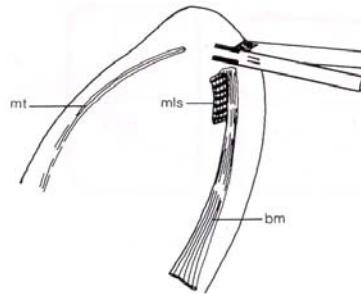
## Distinguishing among classes based on...

1. How flagella are attached/constructed
  - basal bodies orientation
  - microtubule roots



a

cruciate



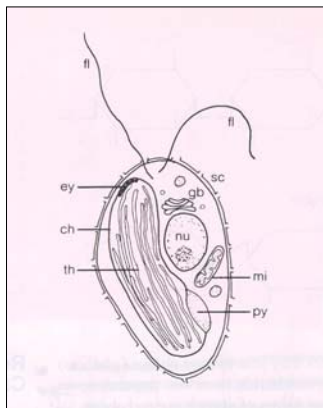
b

broad-band

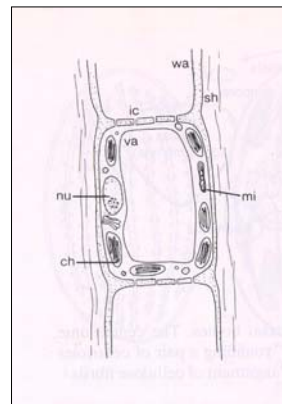
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## Distinguishing among classes based on...

2. Cell covering
  - scales vs. cell wall



Scales are made of complex polysaccharides secreted from golgi



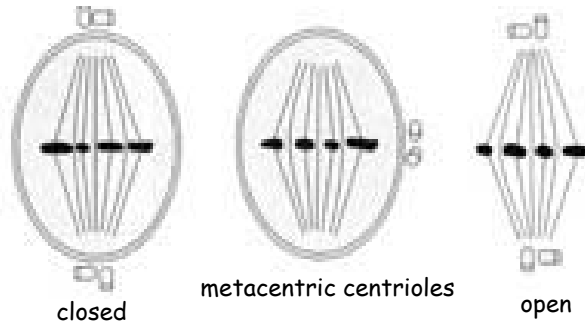
Cell wall = usually cellulose

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## Distinguishing among classes based on...

### 3. How cells actually divide: (aspects of mitosis and cytokinesis)

- open vs. closed mitotic spindle
- phycoplast vs. phragmoplast
- furrowing vs. cell plate formation in center of cell

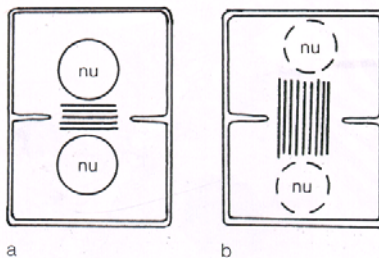


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- furrowing vs. cell plate formation in center of cell



**Phycoplast:** microtubules  
parallel to dividing plane

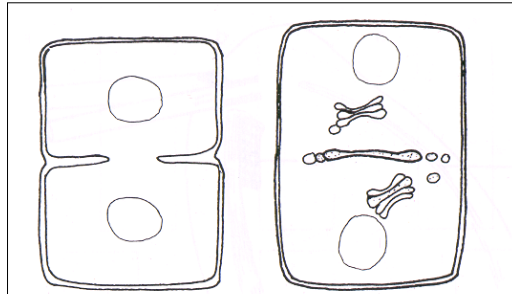
**Phragmoplast:** double  
microtubules perpendicular  
to dividing plane

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## Distinguishing among classes based on...

### 3. How cells actually divide: (aspects of mitosis and cytokinesis)

- open vs. closed mitotic spindle
- phycoplast vs. phragmoplast
- furrowing vs. cell plate formation in center of cell



furrowing = most algae

cell plate formation = a few algae and land plants

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## Morphology

### Chlorophyta.....

- easiest **division** to identify **visually**
- usually bright, grass-green color

Except.....



Snow algae



*Trentepohlia* parasitic  
on Monterey Cypress



*Dunaliella*

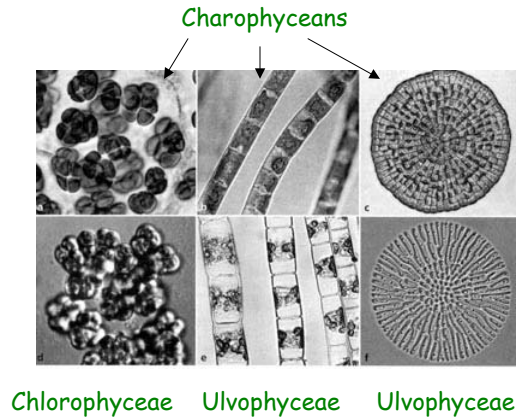
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## Morphology

For **classes**.....

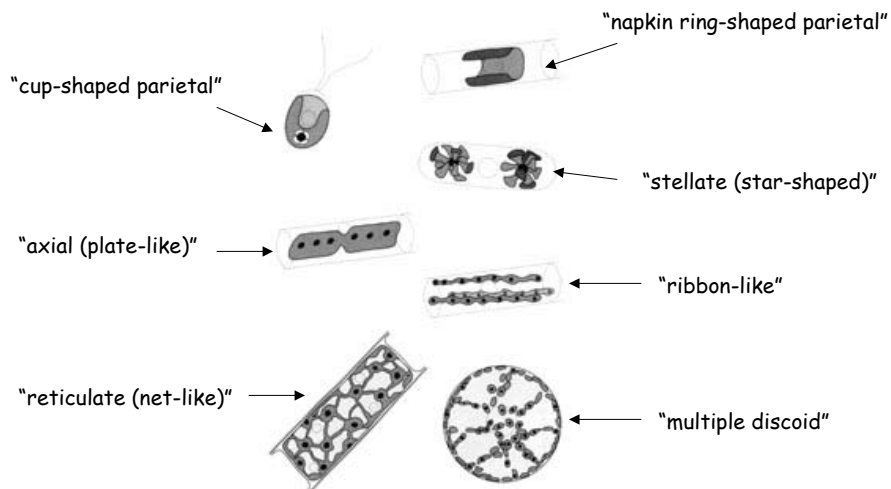
.....any easy "rules" using external thallus morphology?

- **Prasinophyceans** are all unicells, but...



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## Diversity in chloroplast shape.....



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## Algal Life Cycles

### General Terms.....

Isogamy - sexual fusion between **flagellated gametes** that are **similar** in size and shape

Anisogamy - sexual fusion between **flagellated gametes** of distinctly **different** sizes

Oogamy - sexual fusion between a **flagellated gamete** (sperm) and **non-flagellated gamete** (egg)

Sporophyte - spore-producing phase in alternation of generations

Gametophyte - gamete- producing phase in alternation of generations

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## Green Algal Life Cycles

Three main patterns:

- 1) Haplontic
- 2) Diplontic
- 3) Alternation of Generations
  - Isomorphic
  - Heteromorphic

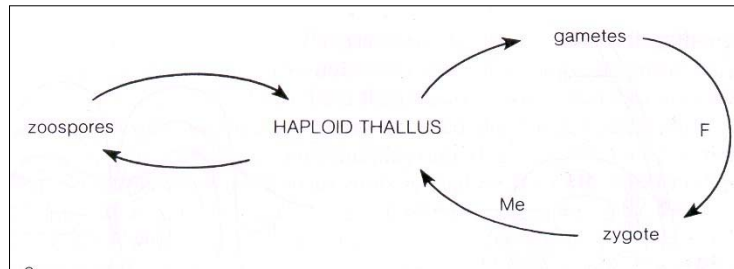
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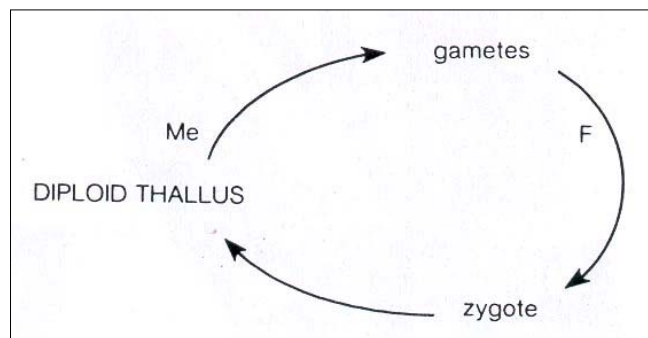


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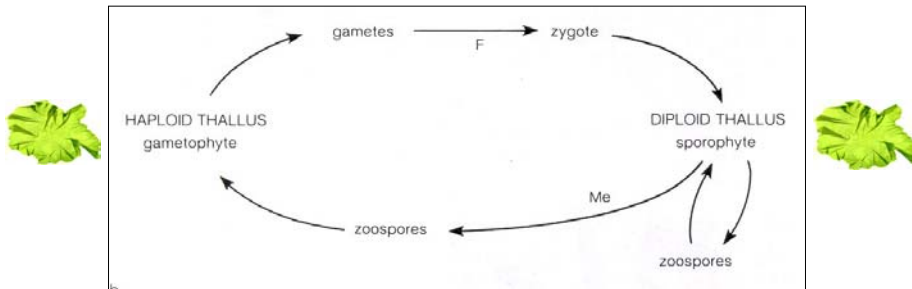
"animal-like" life history

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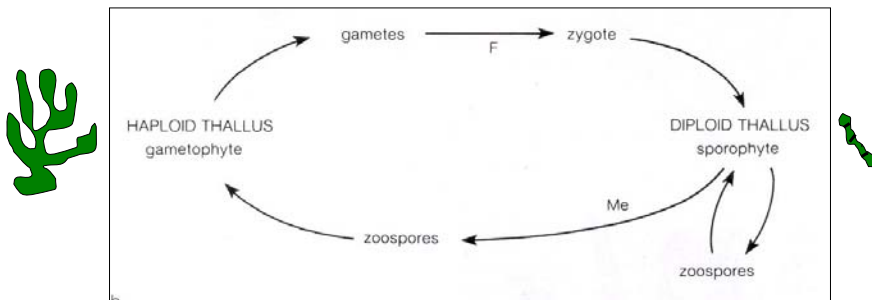


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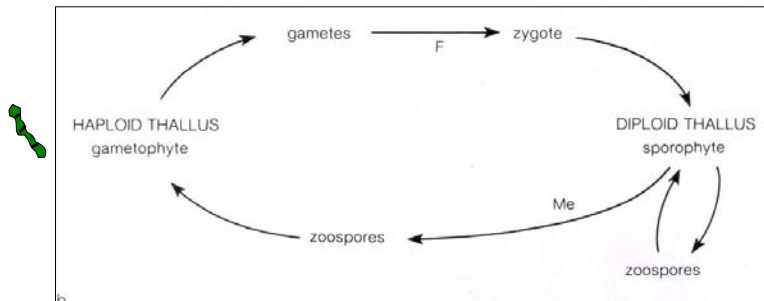
"haplodiplontic"

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## Green Algal Life Cycles

Three main patterns:

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- 2) Diplontic
- 3) Alternation of Generations
  - Isomorphic
  - Heteromorphic

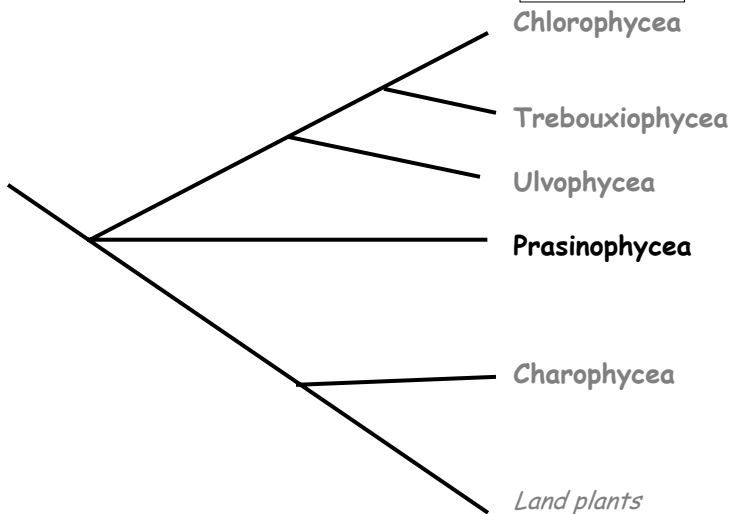


"diplohaplontic"

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## Chlorophyte Diversity.....

5 classes:



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### Class Prasinophyceae:



1. How flagella are attached/constructed:
  - basal bodies orientation = variable
  - microtubule roots = variable
2. Cell covering:
  - scales vs. cell wall = scales
3. How cells actually divide:
  - spindle = open or closed
  - microtubule organization = phragmoplast or phycoplast
  - division by = furrow

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### Class Prasinophyceae:

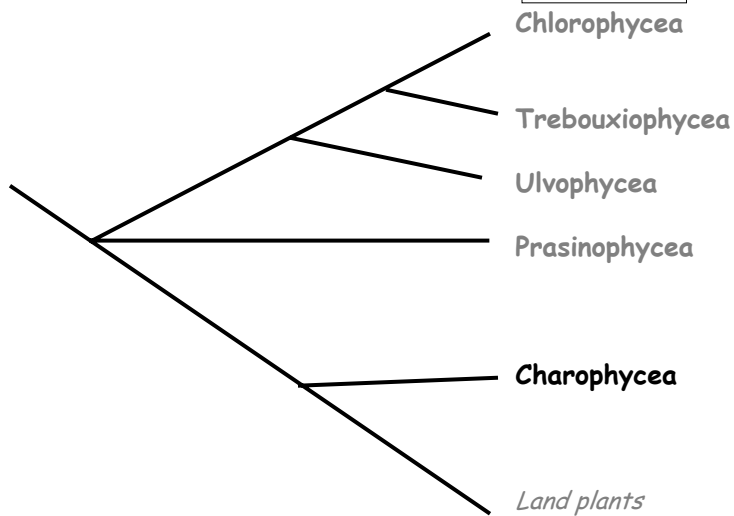


- ✓ modern representatives of ancestral green
- ✓ unicells, mostly marine flagellates
- ✓ one plastid with one pyrenoid
- ✓ haplontic, isogamous reproduction
- ✓ mostly asexual

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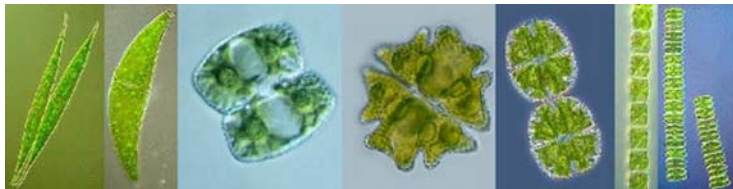
## Chlorophyte Diversity.....

5 classes:



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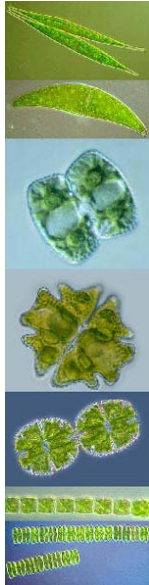
## Class Charophyceae:



1. How flagella are attached/constructed:
  - basal bodies orientation = parallel
  - microtubule roots = broad band
2. Cell covering:
  - scales vs. cell wall = wall
3. How cells actually divide:
  - spindle = open
  - microtubule organization = phragmoplast
  - division by = furrow

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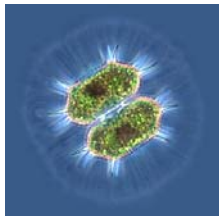
## Class Charophyceae:



- ✓ most closely related to terrestrial plants
- ✓ usually unicells or filaments, but sometimes colonies and more complex forms
- ✓ freshwater
- ✓ haplontic, oogamous reproduction
- ✓ dormant zygotes

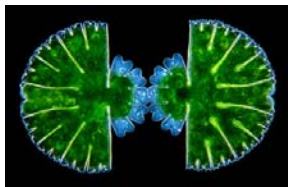
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## Class Charophyceae:



### desmids.....

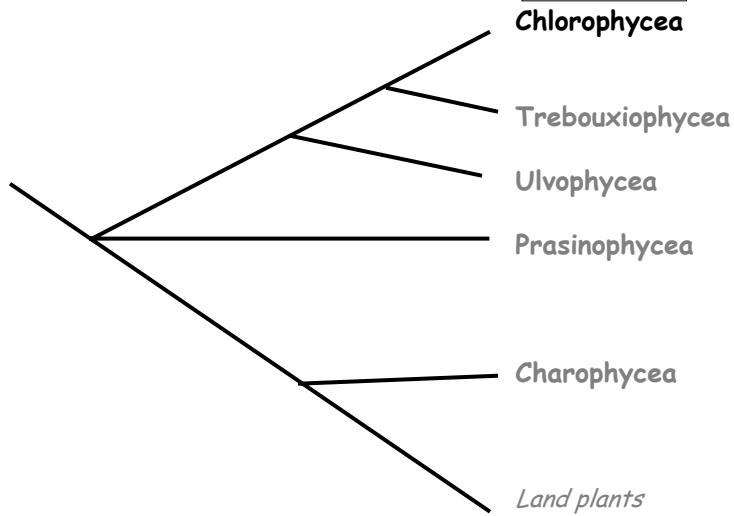
- 2 semi-cells that are mirror images
- asexual fragmentation; sexual conjugation
- new half is a different age
- movement through mucilage secretion



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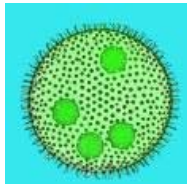
## Chlorophyte Diversity.....

5 classes:



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## Class Chlorophyceae:



1. How flagella are attached/constructed:
  - basal bodies orientation = clockwise
  - microtubule roots = cruciate
2. Cell covering:
  - scales vs. cell wall = wall
3. How cells actually divide:
  - spindle = closed
  - microtubule organization = phycoplast
  - division by = furrowing

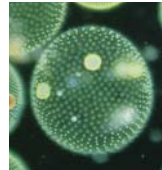
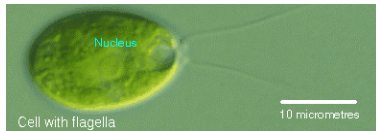
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## Class Chlorophyceae:

- ✓ 7000+ spp
- ✓ mostly freshwater
- ✓ unicells, colonies, coenocytes, filaments,
- ✓ haplontic life history, with "hypnozygote" = thick walled resting stage
- ✓ isogamous, anisogamous, and oogamous species

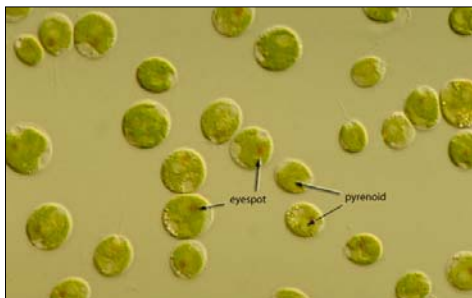
### Celebrity genera:

*Chlamydomonas*, *Volvox*, *Dunaliella*



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## *Chlamydomonas*- algal lab rat



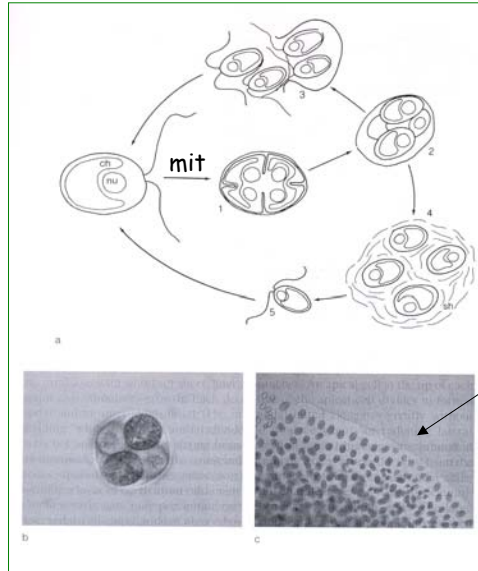
- cup-shaped chloroplast, orange eyespot
- scientists sequenced and mapped genome in 2003
- used as a model to determine how gene expression works
- use mutations to determine where genes are on chromosomes

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## *Chlamydomonas* life history.....

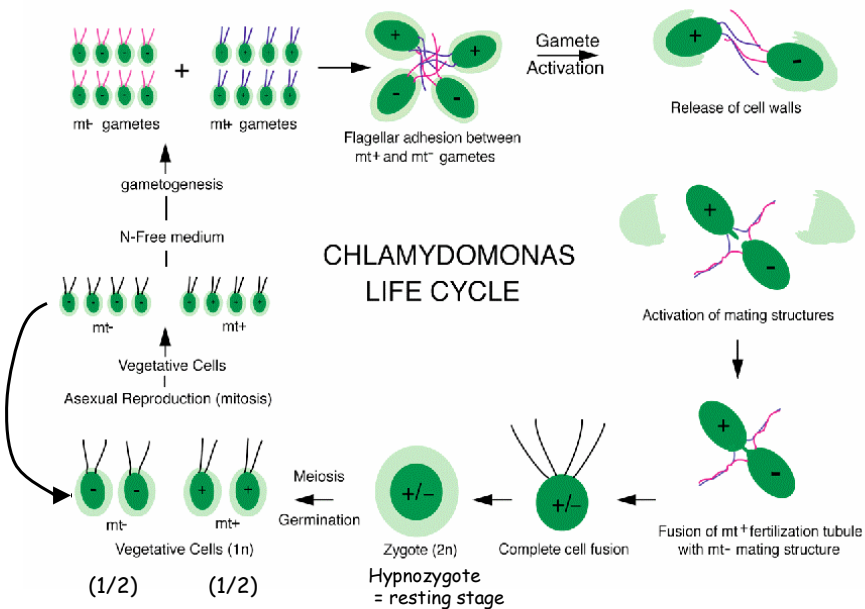
usually asexual...



"palmaroid stage"  
→ formed under moist but not fluid conditions

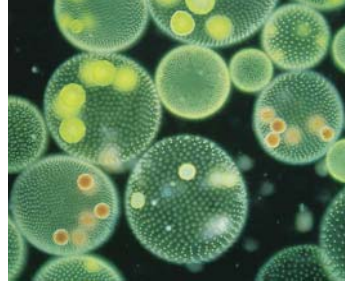
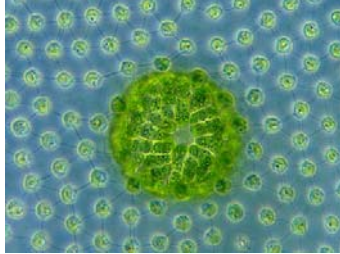
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## sexual reproduction in unfavorable conditions.....



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## Volvox.....

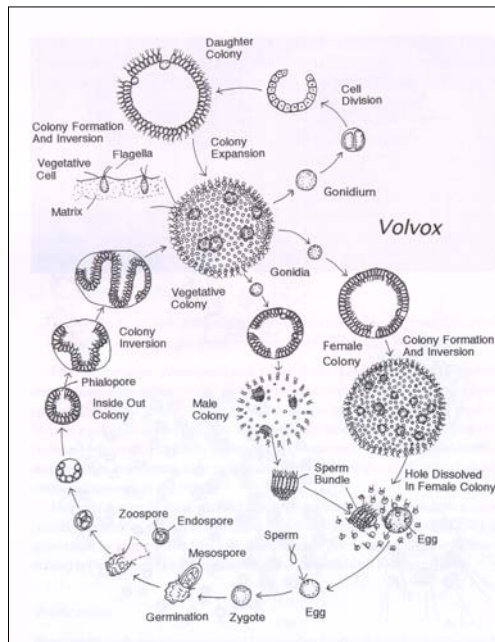


- spherical colonies of 500 - 40,000 cells
- each colony contains a large number of somatic cells and a small number of reproductive cells

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## Volvox life history...

- oogamous
- haplontic
- gonidium = a cell that divides to form a daughter colony
- meiospore = spore formed from meiosis
- zoospore = spore with flagella



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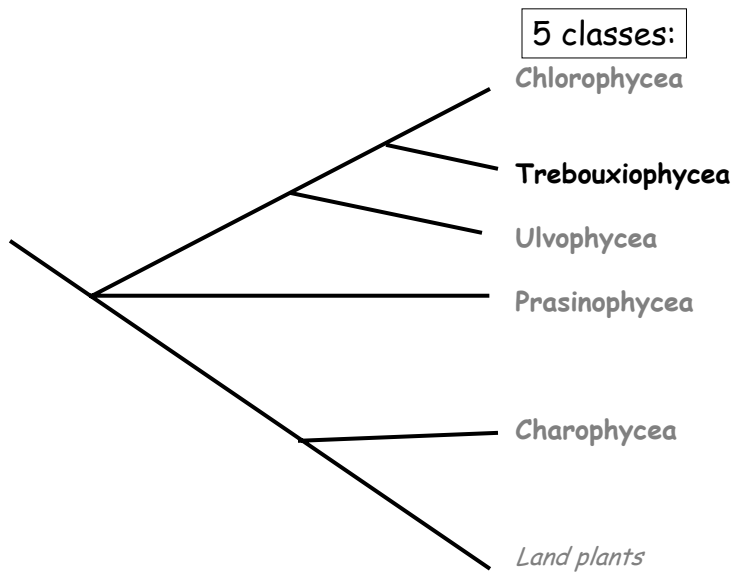
### *Dunaliella*.....



- common in salt ponds
- packed with beta-carotene to protect from UV irradiance
- commercial value (beta-carotene) = used for food coloring and in pharmaceuticals

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### *Chlorophyte Diversity*.....



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### Class Trebouxiophyceae:



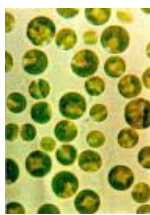
1. How flagella are attached/constructed:
  - basal bodies orientation = counterclockwise
  - microtubule roots = cruciate
2. Cell covering:
  - scales vs. cell wall = wall?
3. How cells actually divide:
  - spindle = closed; **metacentric**
  - microtubule organization = phycoplast
  - division by = furrow

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### Class Trebouxiophyceae:

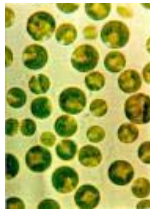
- ✓ freshwater and terrestrial algae
- ✓ unicells, filaments, blades

#### Celebrity genus: *Chlorella*



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### *Chlorella.....*



- unicellular
- endosymbiont in freshwater animals;
- used by *Melvin Calvin* to investigate carbon fixation in plants (Calvin cycle)
- marketed as a dietary supplement

#### Health Benefits:

- Help your body remove the heavy metals and other pesticides in your body
- Improve your digestive system, including decreasing constipation
- Focus more clearly and for greater duration
- Balance your body's pH
- Help Eliminate bad breath