

# CyanoHAB training

---



## PHYTOPLANKTON MONITORING NETWORK

JEN MAUCHER FUQUAY, M.S., PMN COORDINATOR

CSS CONTRACTOR, NOAA CHARLESTON LAB



*Promoting a better understanding of Cyano Harmful Algal Blooms by way of volunteer monitoring*



# What is PMN?



**Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is a national volunteer organization that monitors for potential Harmful Algal Blooms**

Train citizen scientists to:

- *Collect samples from coastal or freshwater environments*
- *Identify potentially harmful algal/cyanobacterial species*
- *Enter information into NOAA database*

NOAA scientists can then:

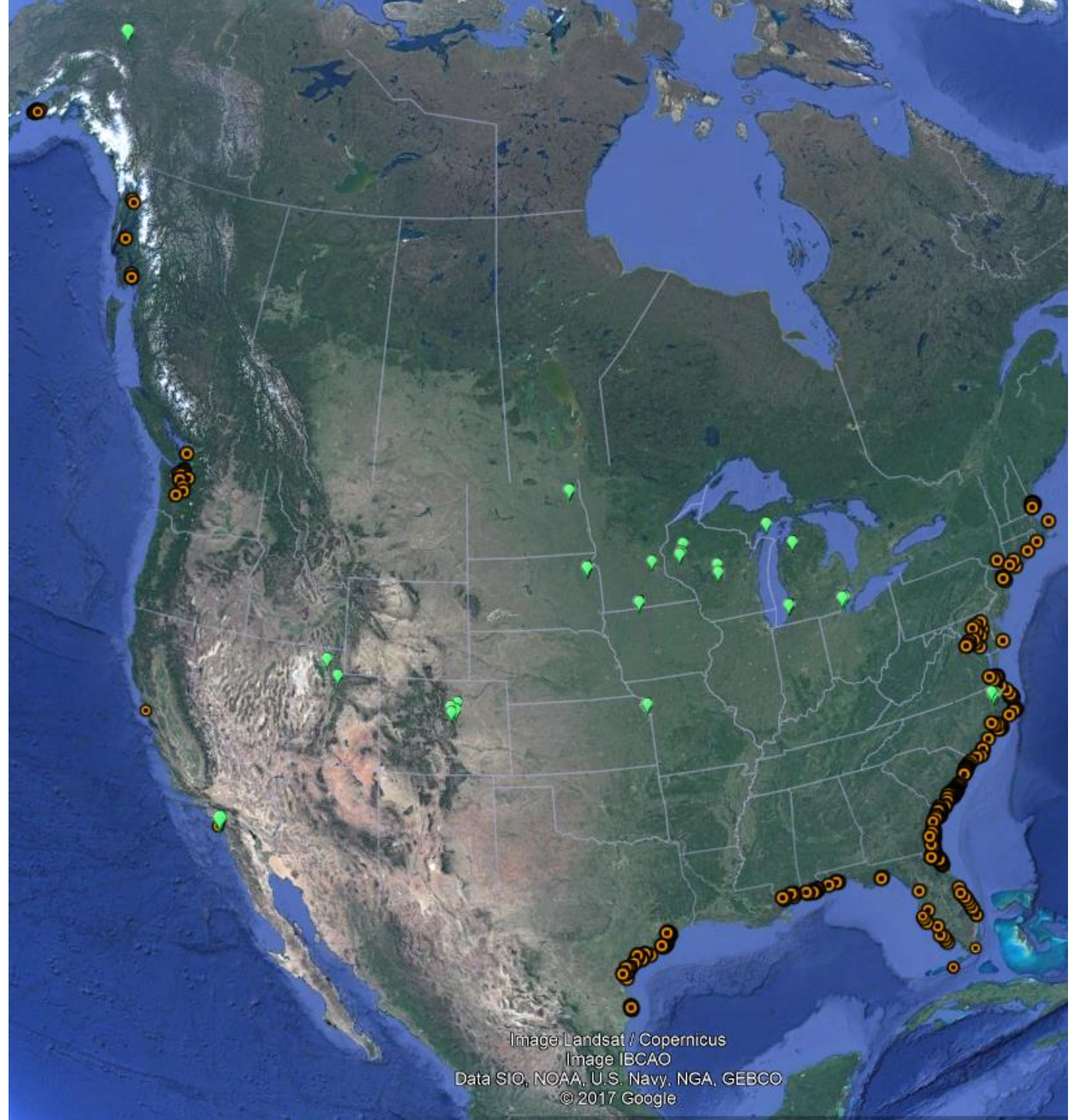
- *Analyze water samples for HAB toxins*
- *Alert state/local agencies to presence of bloom*
- *Identify temporal and geographic HAB trends*



# *PMN sample sites*

Participants include:

- School groups
- Civic groups
- Aquariums
- Tribal communities
- National, State & local gov't entities
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Interested individuals

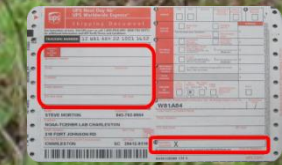




# Volunteer Equipment

Volunteers are loaned all sampling equipment

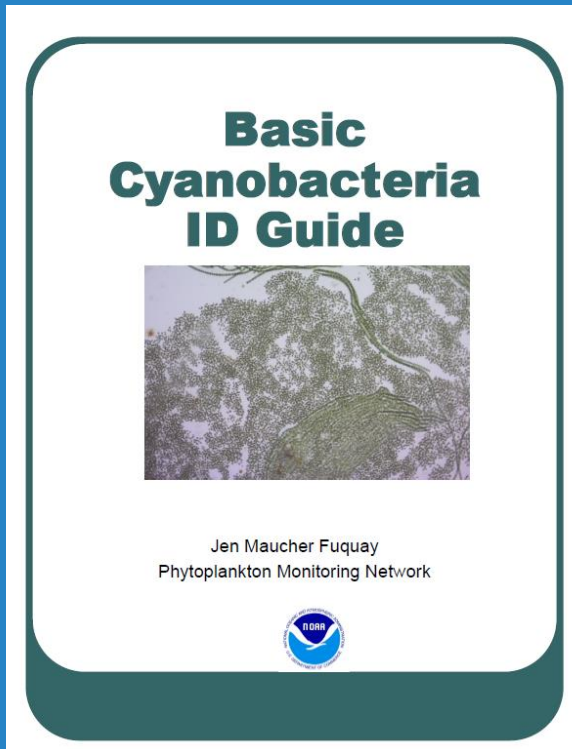
- Thermometer
- 5 gridded slides
- Cover slips
- 1L & 125 mL bottles
- 30 mL of Lugol's for sample preservation
- Pre-paid overnight shipping label and shipping envelopes
- Identification sheets for target species



2.5mL



# TRAINING

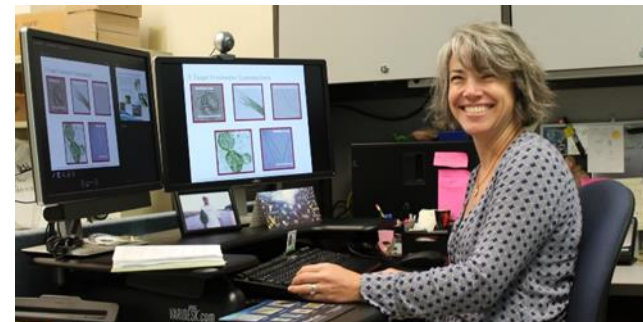


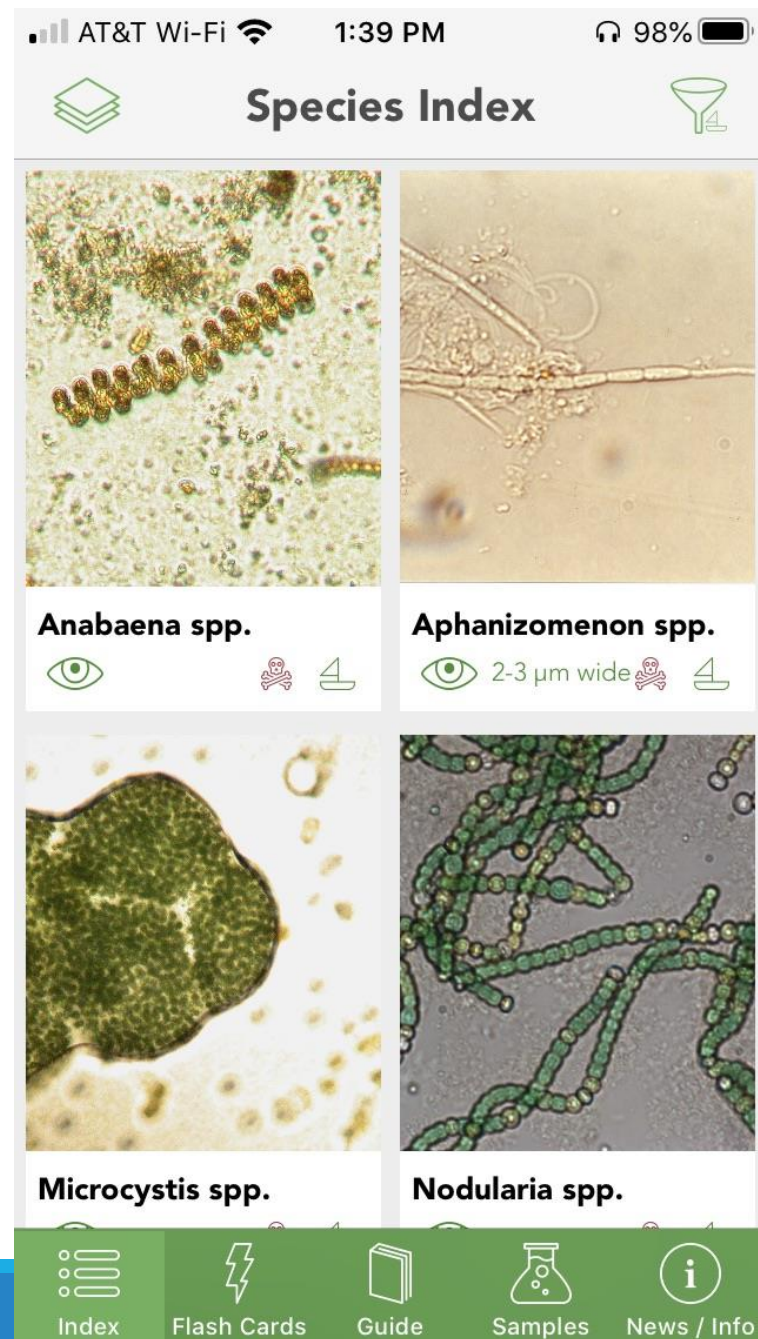
Remote or in person training covers:

- Background of HABs
- Sampling protocols
- How to ID target organisms

**Feedback on IDs provided!!**

Data entry QC'd by PMN





# 'PHYTO' app

- Includes freshwater species!
  - More pictures!
  - More pronunciations!
  - Can enter data from iPhone or iPad!
- (sorry Android users... not quite ready yet!)

Developed by PMN volunteer  
Shawn Gano to assist with and  
improve volunteer's identification  
skills of marine algae & cyanos

<http://youtu.be/ltzxoB06De0>





# WHAT IS A HAB?

## Harmful Algal Bloom

# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Harmful algal blooms, or HABs, occur when colonies of microscopic algae grow out of control. These blooms are a growing problem in every U.S. coastal and Great Lakes state. While we can't prevent these blooms, we can be better prepared. NOAA leads many research efforts to help coastal communities counter the environmental and health effects associated with these "red tide" events.



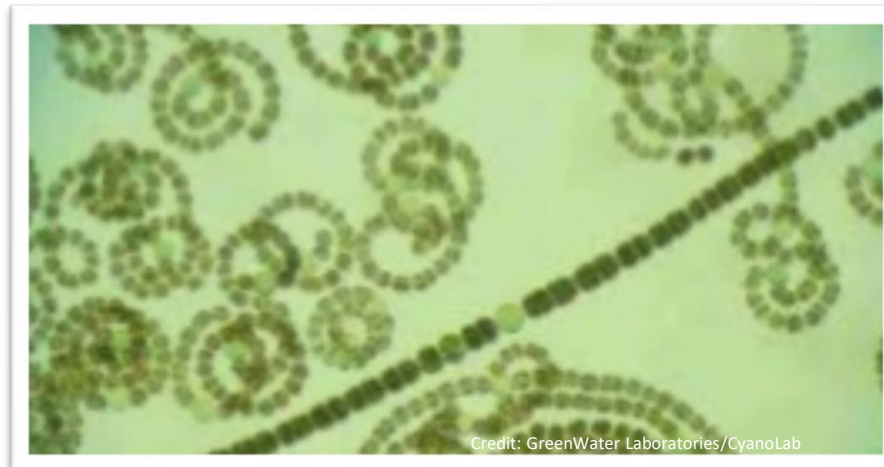
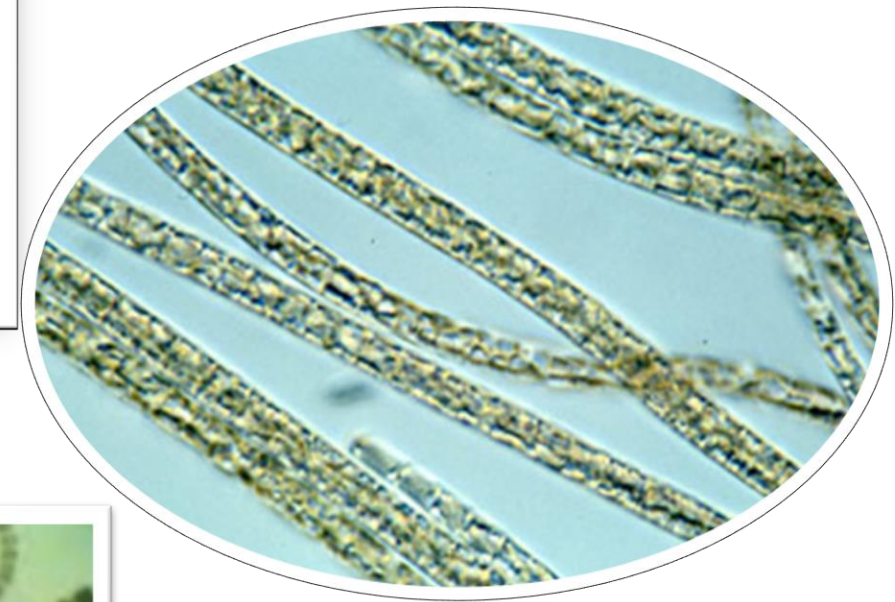
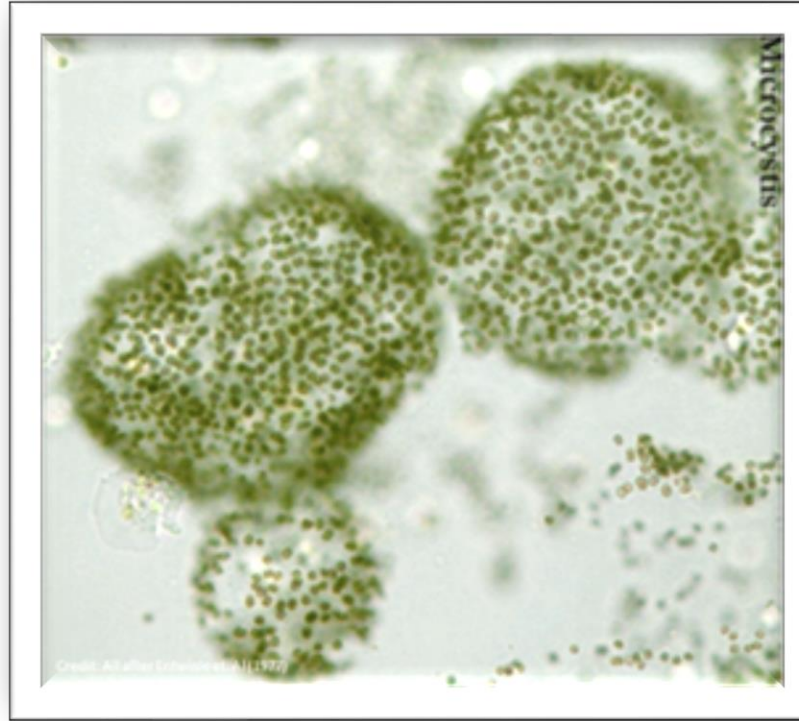
Sometimes, microscopic algal species in waterways around the nation grow out of control. Some of these algal blooms can contaminate water and shellfish, kill animals, and make humans sick.

# What are we looking for?

In freshwater environments the main culprits are **CYANOBACTERIA**

Not true algae, although we still call them HABs

CyanoHABs = Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom





# PMN Target Cyanobacteria

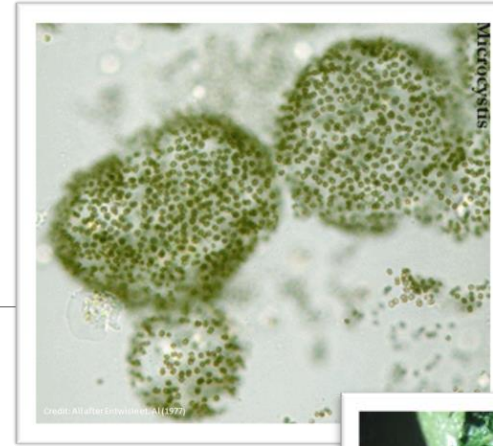
These 5 groups selected as they are generally found in surface waters, so they can be easily sampled. Many have mechanisms to keep them buoyant in the water column.

Have been several taxonomic (name) changes in the past few years.



# CYANOBACTERIA

- Formerly called blue-green algae
- Prokaryotic (primitive cell type)
- Microscopic
- Can photosynthesize
  - Beneficial oxygen producers for water and atmosphere
- Can form dense 'blooms' when conditions are right aka **cyanoHAB**







# ALGAE BLOOM INGREDIENTS

Some Increasing With Climate Change

## MORE HEAVY PRECIPITATION

Washes additional  
nutrients into waters

## WARMING WATER

Favors growth of  
some types of  
toxic algae

Source: USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment, 2016

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

**Cyanos like it still, hot and nutrient rich**



**Can you tell if these  
algae blooms contain  
bacteria that's harmful  
to humans and animals?**

Sight alone is not enough to  
determine whether an algae bloom  
is toxic or nontoxic. If you see algae  
blooms in your area, notify your  
local health department for testing.  
And remember:  
when in doubt, stay out!

# Clean Water or Green Water?

<http://www2.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/harmful-algal-blooms>



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

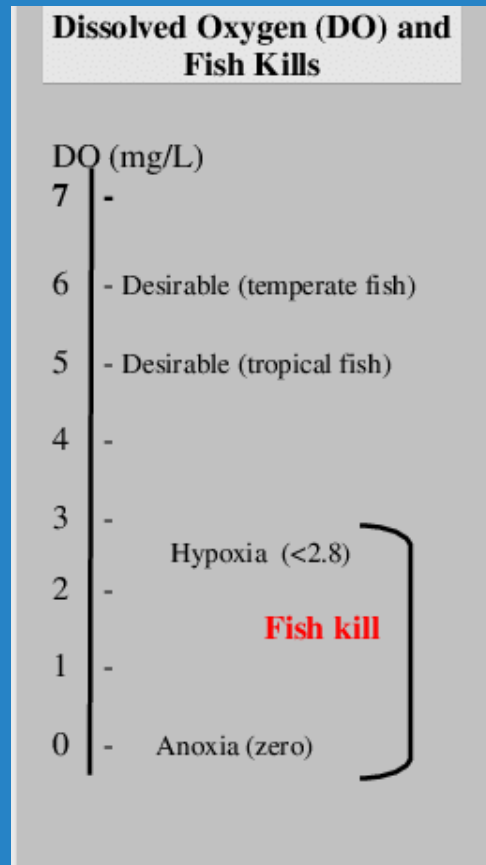
Best to have microscopic identification to know what organisms are causing the bloom- not all are harmful



# What do you mean by “harmful”?

- Scum can block sun to submerged plants & ↓ dissolved O<sub>2</sub> (DO)
- Dying blooms also ↓ O<sub>2</sub>

Hypoxia/anoxia can kill aquatic life



# What do you mean by “harmful”?

## Production of Toxins

- Drinking and recreational waters can be affected
- Human and animal illness/mortalities primarily through ingestion

### Salem extends water advisory for at least two more weeks

Updated Jan 30, 2019; Posted Jun 10, 2018



The city of Salem is extending its drinking water advisory for at least two more weeks.

### Toxic Algae Kills Dogs Across the Country

By Lindsay Kalter

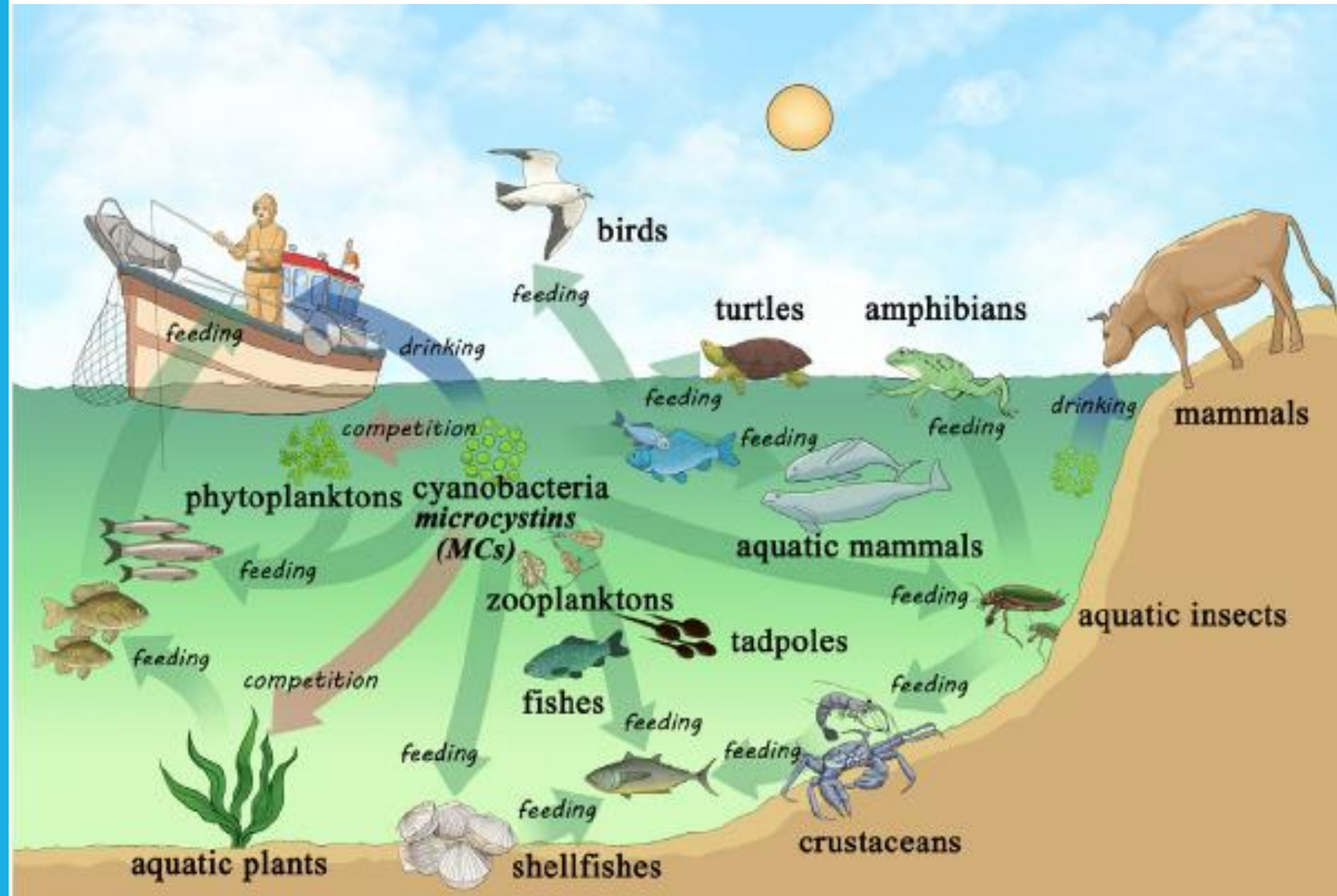
<https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/news/20190814/toxic-algae-kills-dogs-across-the-country>





# Cyanotoxins in the food web

Example of microcystins shown to demonstrate how various organisms can be exposed to cyanotoxins



Many different groups (genera) of cyanos can potentially make toxins.

2 main classes of toxins:

- *Hepatotoxins affect the liver*
- *Neurotoxins affect the nervous system*

Some can potentially make more than one type of toxin

**TABLE A1. CYANOBACTERIA AND THEIR ASSOCIATED CYANOTOXINS**

Cyanobacterial Genera	Hepatotoxins		Neurotoxin	
	CYLINDRO-SPERMOPSIN	MICROCYSTINS	ANATOXIN	SAXITOXINS
<i>Anabaena/Dolichospermum</i>	x	x	x	x
<i>Anabaenopsis</i>		x		
<i>Aphanizomenon</i>	x		x	x
<i>Aphanocapsa</i>		x		
<i>Cylindrospermopsis</i>	x			x
<i>Haplosiphon</i>		x		
<i>Lyngbya (Plectonema)</i>	x			x
<i>Microcystis</i>		x		
<i>Nostoc</i>		x		
<i>Oscillatoria (Planktothrix)</i>		x	x	x
<i>Phormidium</i>			x	
<i>Pseudanabaena</i>		x		
<i>Raphidiopsis</i>	x		x	
<i>Umezakia</i>	x			
<i>Synechococcus</i>		x		
<i>Synechocystis</i>		x		

Information adapted from Jennifer Graham, USGS



## HEALTH EFFECTS OF INGESTION, INHALATION & CONTACT WITH CYANOTOXINS

Every year, Americans fall ill after being exposed to harmful cyanotoxins. This contact can come in many forms, but most results from being in or around water that contains dangerous levels of algae. Below are examples of how cyanotoxins can affect you, based on the route of contact.



### INGESTION

- Fever
- Headache
- Drowsiness
- Loss of Coordination

### CONTACT

- Eye & Ear Irritation



### INGESTION

- Vomiting
- Sore Throat
- Incoherent Speech

### INHALATION

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Difficulty Breathing



### INGESTION

- Tingling
- Burning
- Numbness
- Muscular Twitching

### CONTACT

- Skin Irritation
- Rash & Lesions



### INGESTION

- Nausea
- Cramping
- Diarrhea

***Can you tell toxins are present just by the organism present or the water changing color?***

**NO!**

## **Complicating factors:**

1. Not all toxic blooms are discolored.
  - Water can be toxic but look normal
2. Not all species can produce toxins
3. Not all species that CAN make toxins always DO
4. Not just one form of toxin exists
  - Many different forms (congeners) of toxins exist
  - Toxicity of congeners can vary

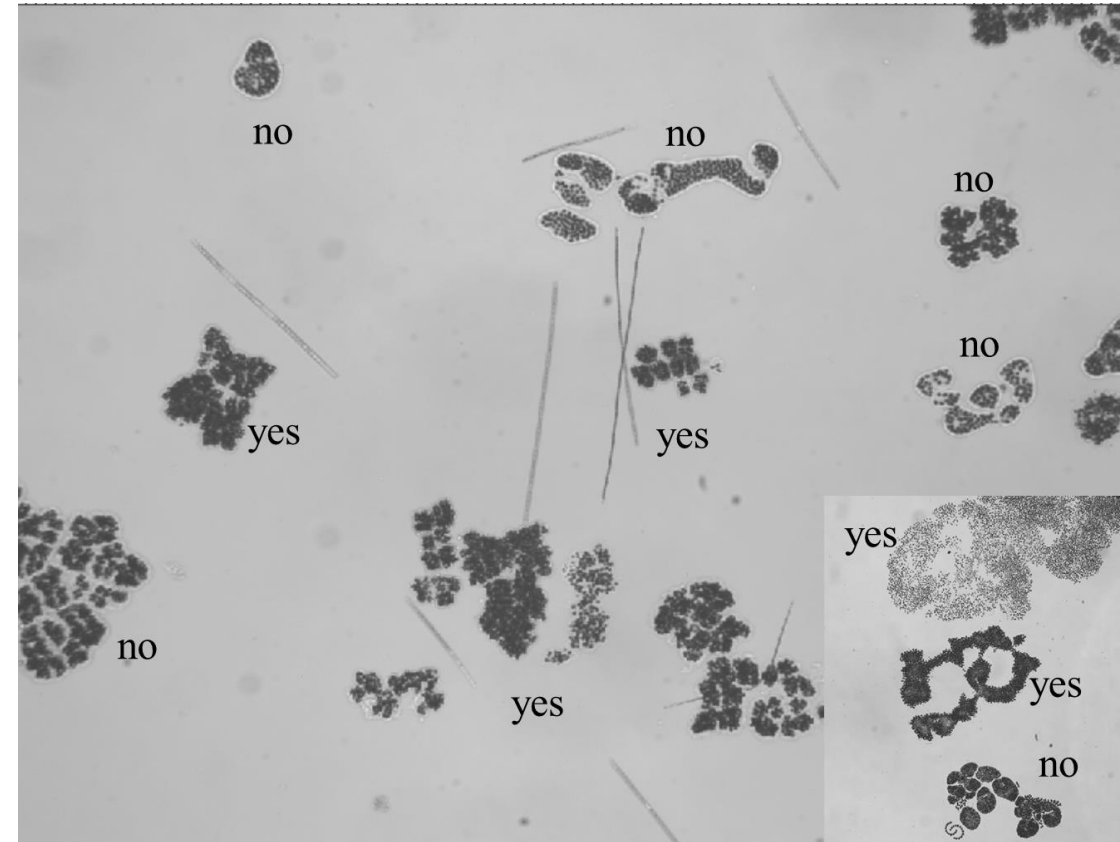
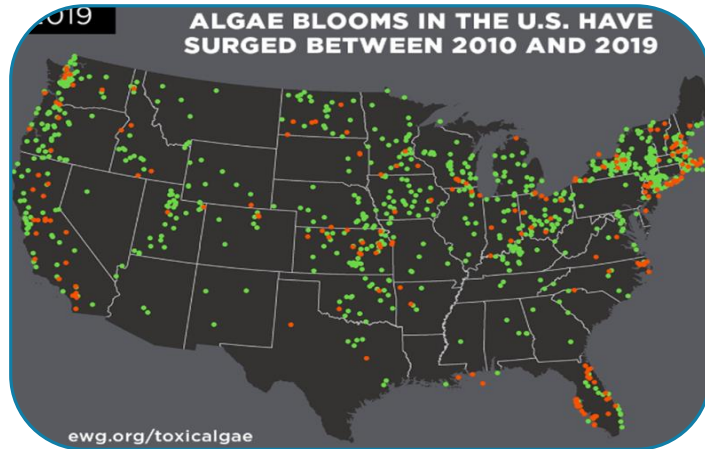


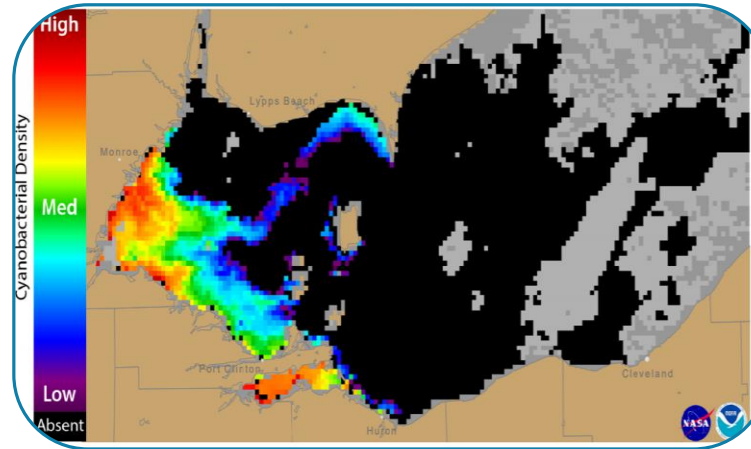
Photo blatantly stolen from Barry Rosen @USGS



# Why We Monitor cyanoHABs



HABs are increasing in duration, frequency, and geographical distribution



Data helps us understand, forecast, and prepare for harmful algal blooms



Monitoring can act as early warning system for potential toxin exposure

# Why PMN?

---

**Problem:** Very few government or private institutions have the capacity or capability to monitor thousands of lakes (and reservoirs), from the Great Lakes to small residential lakes annually impacted by HABs.

**Solution:** Engage local citizens in environmental monitoring of potentially harmful cyanobacteria to aid NOAA scientists and others in their research.





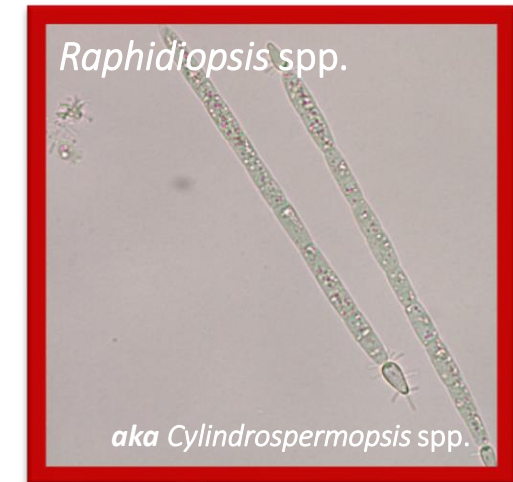
# EPA Office of Water & PMN

---



- **Freshwater CyanoHAB monitoring started in 2015 as interagency agreement between EPA and NOAA**
- **Based on PMN's coastal marine monitoring program established in 2001**
- **Modified marine protocols for freshwater**
- **Looking for 5 target organisms**

# PMN Target Cyanobacteria





# MONITORING RESULTS

MARINE (2001-2019)

FRESHWATER (2016-19)

## Volunteer Reported Blooms > 200

Potentially toxic species= 57 events

### ***Confirmed toxic events = 14***

- 10 Domoic Acid (TX, MS, NC, AK)
- 1 Okadaic Acid (TX)
- 2 Saxitoxin (AK)
- 1 Microcystin (MS)

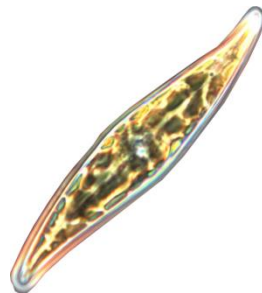
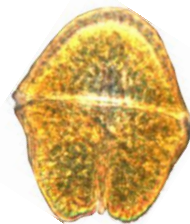
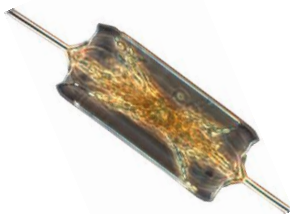
## Volunteer Reported Blooms 37

### ***Confirmed toxic events = 9***

- Microcystis (ID, MI/OH, MN)
- Aphanizomenon (ND)
- Dolichospermum (GA, ID, CO)



# PROTOCOLS



Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

Promoting a better understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms by way of Volunteer Monitoring



# SITE SELECTION:

Where you  
sample is  
completely up to  
you.



## Things to consider:

- Can you do it safely and legally?
- Can you get to the site on a consistent basis?
  - Minimum is every other week for one year/season (ice out to ice in)

## Common criteria:

- Somewhere you've seen blooms/discolored water before
- Somewhere that is important to you or your community
  - Ex. Neighborhood pond/lake
- Just interested to see what is in your water

Don't necessarily need to sample on same day or same time

- Schedule according to what works best for you

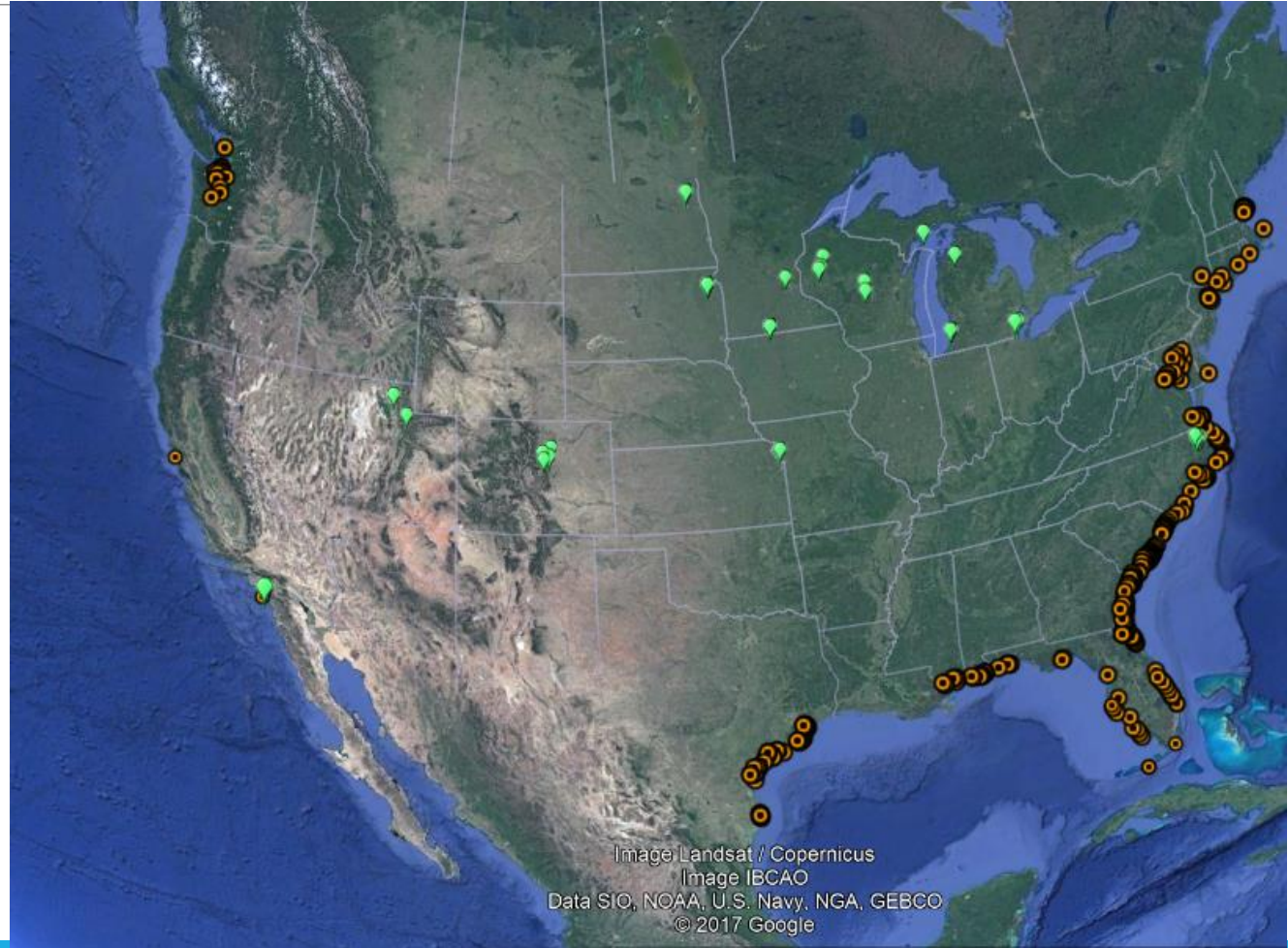


# WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

1. A site name
2. GPS coordinates

Ex. Harrisville Harbor 44.6589, -83.2875

This allows us to get your site info into data entry portal and make you a dot on the map



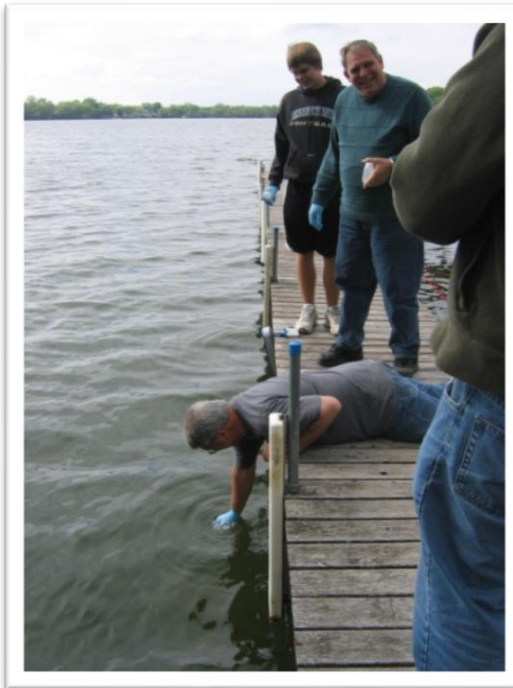


# Sampling Overview

---

- 1) *Collect sample*** at least once every two weeks during the sampling season (*1 year/season minimum*)
- 2) *Analyze sample*** identifying target algae/cyanos
- 3) *Take*** digital pictures to send into the PMN
- 4) *Input*** data into the PMN database
- 5) *Ship*** sample to PMN as required

# 1. Collect Sample



## Step 1:

Collect Whole Water  
Live Surface Samples  
125 ml & 1 L

- 125 mL and 1 L bottles will be provided to volunteers
- Wear gloves when sampling
- Dip bottles to collect samples
- Collect air & water temperatures, optional weather data and note any other observations (water color, odor, etc)

Phytoplankton Monitoring Network  
Promoting a better understanding of harmful algal blooms by use of Volunteer Monitoring

### HAB SCREENING DATA SHEET

Freshwater Cyanobacteria

FIELD DATA REQUIRED		TARGET SPECIES SCREENING LIST		
		No	Yes	Elevated
Name:	<i>Aphanizomenon</i> spp.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>Anabaena</i> spp.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sampling Site:	<i>Cylindrospermopsis</i> spp.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>Microcystis</i> spp.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<i>Oscillatoria</i> spp.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sample Date:				
Sample Time:	If water is visibly discolored and a target species is identified, please send pictures to <a href="mailto:pmn@noaa.gov">pmn@noaa.gov</a> and contact staff to confirm sample shipment for toxin analysis.			
Water Temp (°C):				
◇ OPTIONAL				
Weather:	Sunny   Partly Cloudy   Mostly Cloudy   Cloudy   Rain	None	YES	Elevated
Wind direction:	N   NE   E   SE   S   SW   W   NW	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wind speed (mph):	0-5   5-10   10-15   15-20   20-25   25+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tides:	High   Low   Incoming   Outgoing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air Temp (°C):				
pH:				
Dissolved Oxygen (ppm):				
Barometric pressure (mmHg):				
SHIPPING INFORMATION				
<input type="radio"/> - No samples needed				
<input type="radio"/> - Contact PMN staff to confirm shipment of samples for testing.				
- preserve 125 mL bottle with Lugol's				
- do NOT add Lugol's to 1 liter bottle.				
- use overnight shipping label to ship both bottles				



# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring

## Network

### [1a. Preserve Sample]



If samples cannot be analyzed within 8 hrs, you can preserve the 125mL sample on site.

#### *Lugol's solution:*

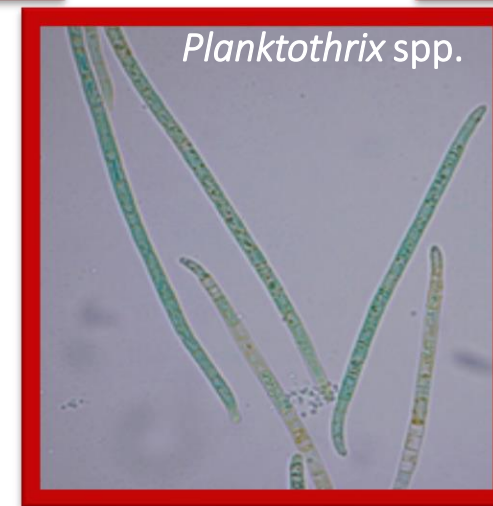
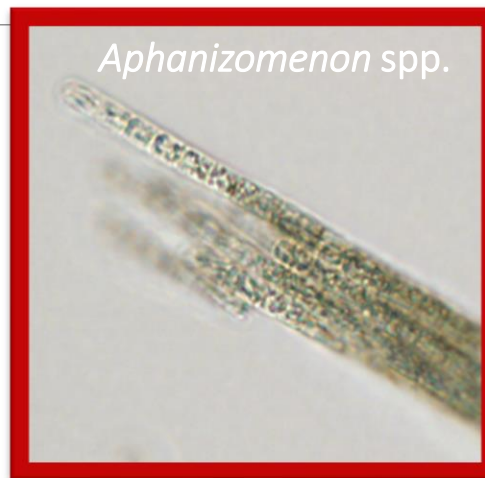
*Iodine*

*Potassium iodine*

*Glacial acetic acid*

1. Add 2.5 mL to 125mL bottle
2. **NEVER** add Lugol's to live 1 Liter bottle!
3. Keep *ALL* sample bottles out of direct sunlight and heat.
  - Can bring small cooler with reusable ice pack

## 2. Sample analysis- Look for targets

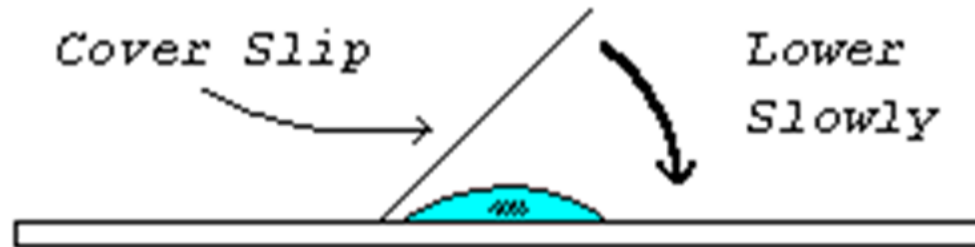




# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

## 2. Sample analysis

- A. Gently mix **125 mL bottle** by inverting 2x
- B. Take sample from middle of bottle & add **2 drops** to gridded slide



# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

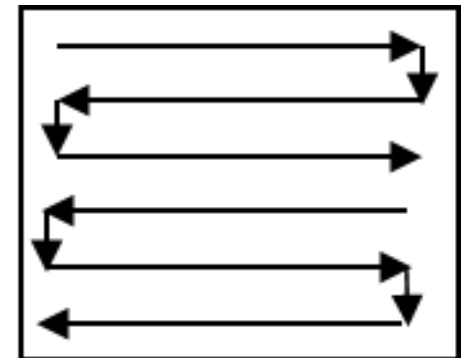
## 2. Sample analysis

### C. Scan entire slide

- Use **10X** objective to scan each square of grid
- Go up to **40X** objective when needed to ID
- Use 'lawn mower method' to view ALL squares

### D. Identify any **target species** that may be present and photograph (used to QC IDs made)

### E. Keep track of how often you observe each target as you go as you go



# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

## 3. Photograph sample!!

### A. Take photos of target organisms observed

- Use highest magnification (40X objective =400X total)
- May need multiple photos of one organism
- At least one photo for each target (need representative example of each target group seen to confirm ID)
- Can use cell phone camera- [see this video](#) on how!

This is important for our data quality- IDs need to be confirmed by PMN staff



# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

## 3. Photograph sample!!

### B. Upload all photos into one file

- Can be Word doc, PowerPoint, PDF
- Be sure each photo is labeled with name of organism and total magnification used (40X objective= 400X total)
- File name/title page should include sample date

### C. Email file to [pmn@noaa.gov](mailto:pmn@noaa.gov)



Microcystis  
aeruginosa  
(cyanobacterium)  
7/2/19

Bob Carey  
Marina del Rey, CA.  
1/27/19  
All photos 400X unless otherwise noted.

# Important to Remember...

○ You are *only* responsible for reporting on the 5 target freshwater algae species!

○ There may be lots of other “stuff” in the water - feel free to investigate, explore and have fun!

○ *Keep in mind that sometimes you may not see any target species but data still needs to be entered every time!*

## 4. Data Entry

At end of analysis you should have a relative abundance noted for how often you saw each target group.

- **NO** counting of cells/natural units

**No**= zip, zilch, zero

**Yes**= 1-60% slide coverage

**Elevated** = >60% with discoloration

**None-Some-Lots**

### FIELD DATA

◆ REQUIRED

Name:

*Aphanizomenon* spp.

Sampling Site:

*Anabaena* spp.

*Cylindrospermopsis* spp.

*Microcystis* spp.

*Oscillatoria* spp.

Sample Date:

Sample Time:

Water Temp (°C):

If water is visibly discolored and a target species is identified, please send pictures to [pmn@noaa.gov](mailto:pmn@noaa.gov) and contact staff to confirm sample shipment for toxin analysis.

No Yes Elevated

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

### OPTIONAL

Weather: Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Cloudy | Cloudy | Rain

Wind direction: N | NE | E | SE | S | SW | W | NW

Wind speed (mph): 0-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-25 | 25+

Tides: High | Low | Incoming | Outgoing

Air Temp (°C):

pH:

Dissolved Oxygen (ppm):

Barometric pressure (mmHg):

None YES Elevated

☐ ☐ ☐

Centric Diatoms

☐ ☐ ☐

Pennate Diatoms

☐ ☐ ☐

Dinoflagellates

☐ ☐ ☐

Cyanobacteria

☐ ☐ ☐

Ciliates

☐ ☐ ☐

Other Zooplankton

☐ ☐ ☐

SHIPPING INFORMATION

☐ - No samples needed

◆ - Contact PMN staff to confirm shipment of samples for testing.

-preserve 125 mL bottle with Lugol's

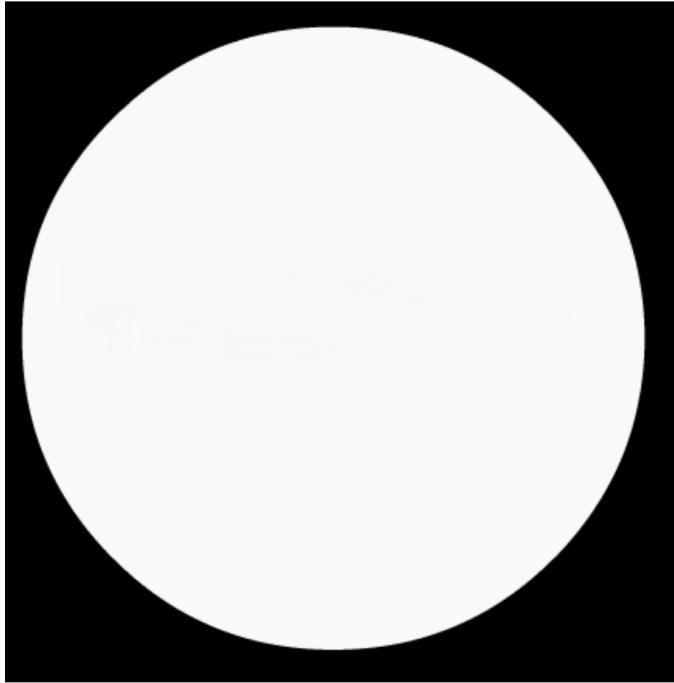
-do NOT add Lugol's to 1 liter bottle.

-use overnight shipping label to ship both bottles



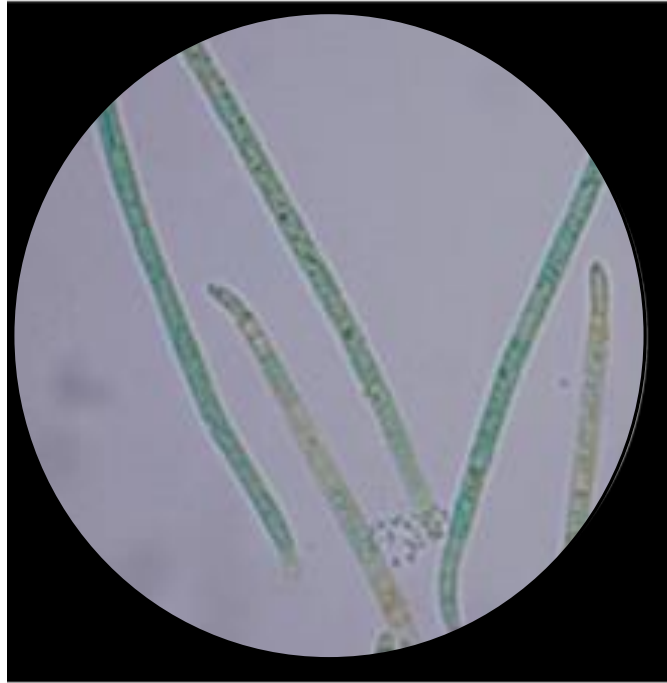
# RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

NO= NONE



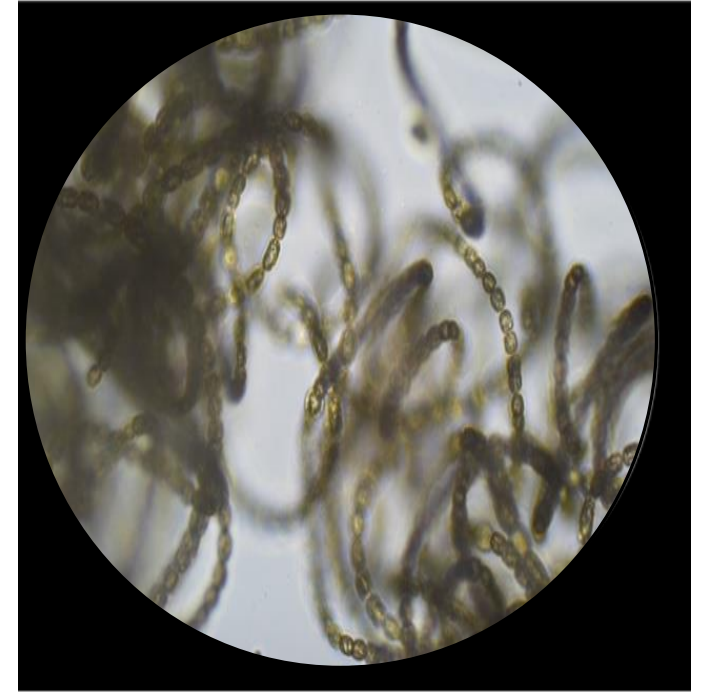
0%

YES= SOME



Present in 1-60% of grids  
Even 1 present is a yes.  
Sporadically seen across slide

ELEVATED= LOTS

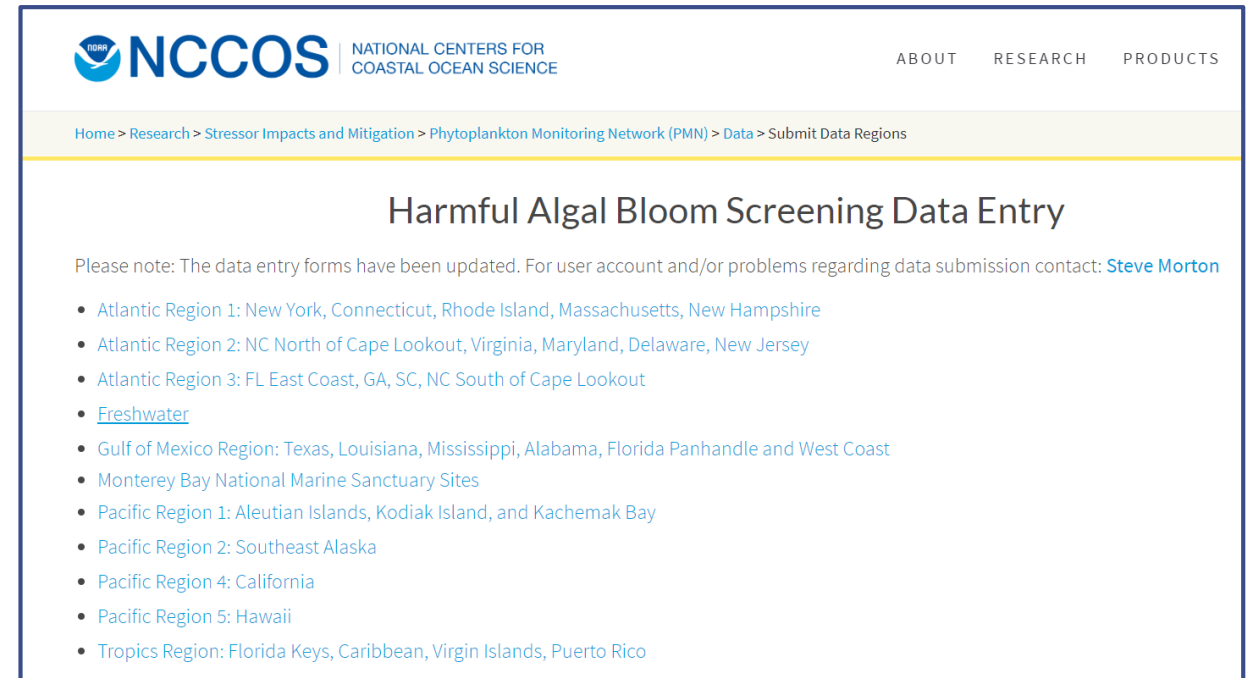


Present in >60% of grids  
Target is dominant organism  
Seen predominately across slide

# 4. Data Entry

Data entered online for each sample using the NOAA PMN website

- If NO targets are observed on slide, data still needs to be entered!



The screenshot displays the NOAA NCCOS website. The header includes the NOAA NCCOS logo and the text "NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE". Navigation links for "ABOUT", "RESEARCH", and "PRODUCTS" are visible. A breadcrumb trail reads: "Home > Research > Stressor Impacts and Mitigation > Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) > Data > Submit Data Regions". The main heading is "Harmful Algal Bloom Screening Data Entry". A note states: "Please note: The data entry forms have been updated. For user account and/or problems regarding data submission contact: [Steve Morton](#)". Below this is a bulleted list of regions:

- Atlantic Region 1: New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
- Atlantic Region 2: NC North of Cape Lookout, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey
- Atlantic Region 3: FL East Coast, GA, SC, NC South of Cape Lookout
- [Freshwater](#)
- Gulf of Mexico Region: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida Panhandle and West Coast
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sites
- Pacific Region 1: Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island, and Kachemak Bay
- Pacific Region 2: Southeast Alaska
- Pacific Region 4: California
- Pacific Region 5: Hawaii
- Tropics Region: Florida Keys, Caribbean, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico

# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

## 5. IF you have an obvious bloom

- If your state/organization already has toxin testing capabilities, you do not need to send us a sample
- Follow their shipping protocols
  - We would appreciate the sharing of results to keep track of toxic cyanoHAB events

*If you do NOT have any access to microcystins testing, then.....*



Sample bottle from August 2015 Microcystis bloom in Lake Erie (credit: Tom Green)

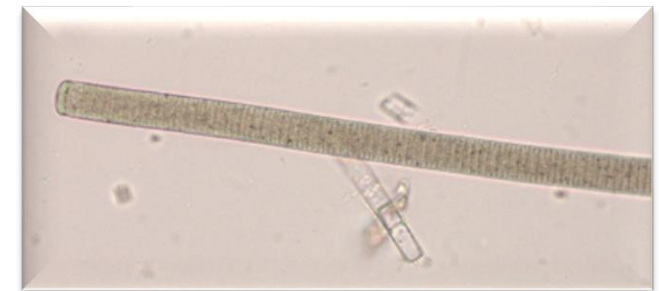
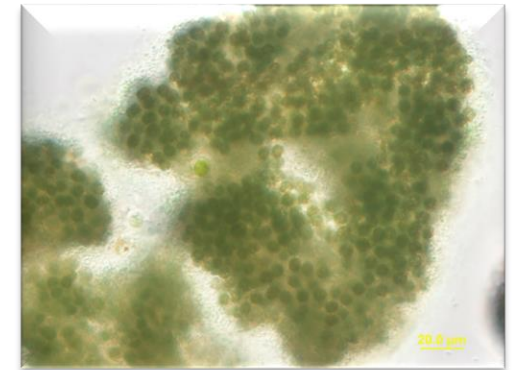
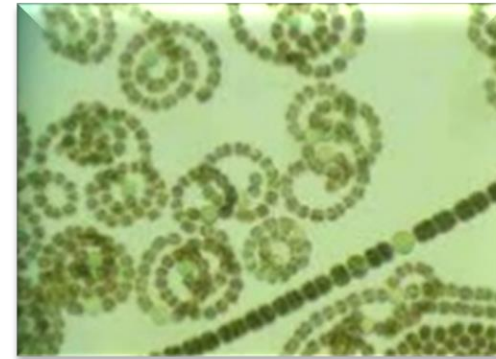


# Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network

## 5. IF you have an obvious bloom

- Contact PMN immediately
- **Freeze** 1 L sample bottle
  - Leave headspace in bottle
  - DO NOT add Lugol's to this bottle!
- Photos used to confirm ID
- You will be given instructions on whether to mail sample for toxin analysis and how to prep samples

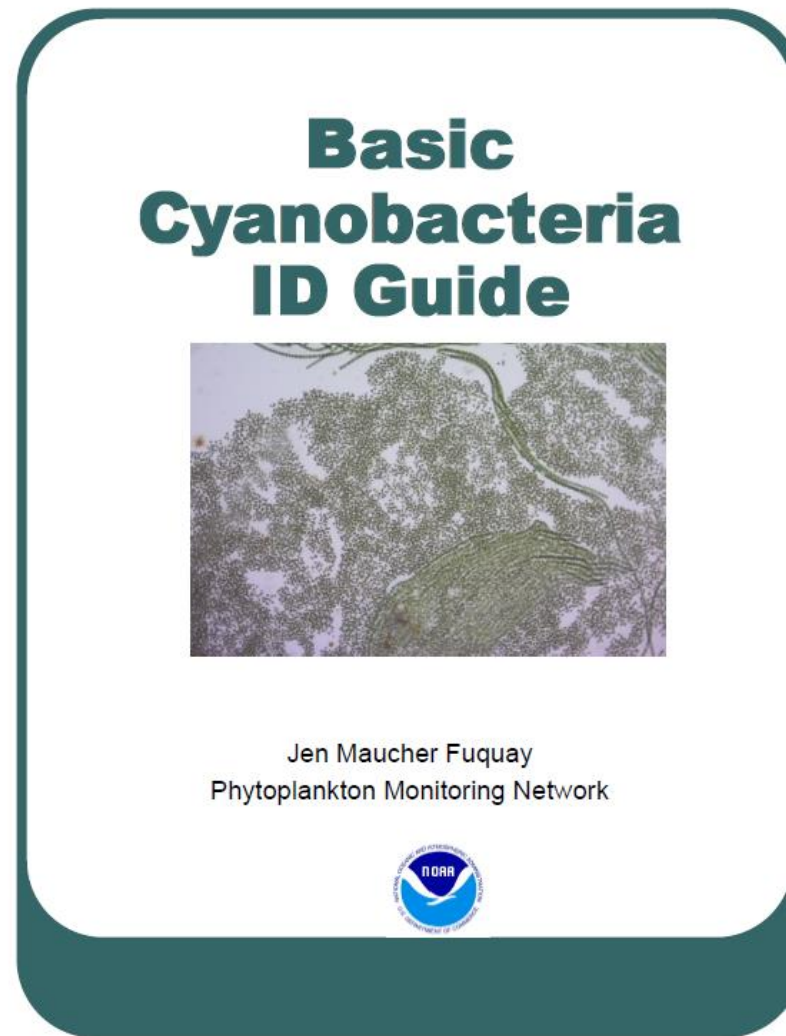
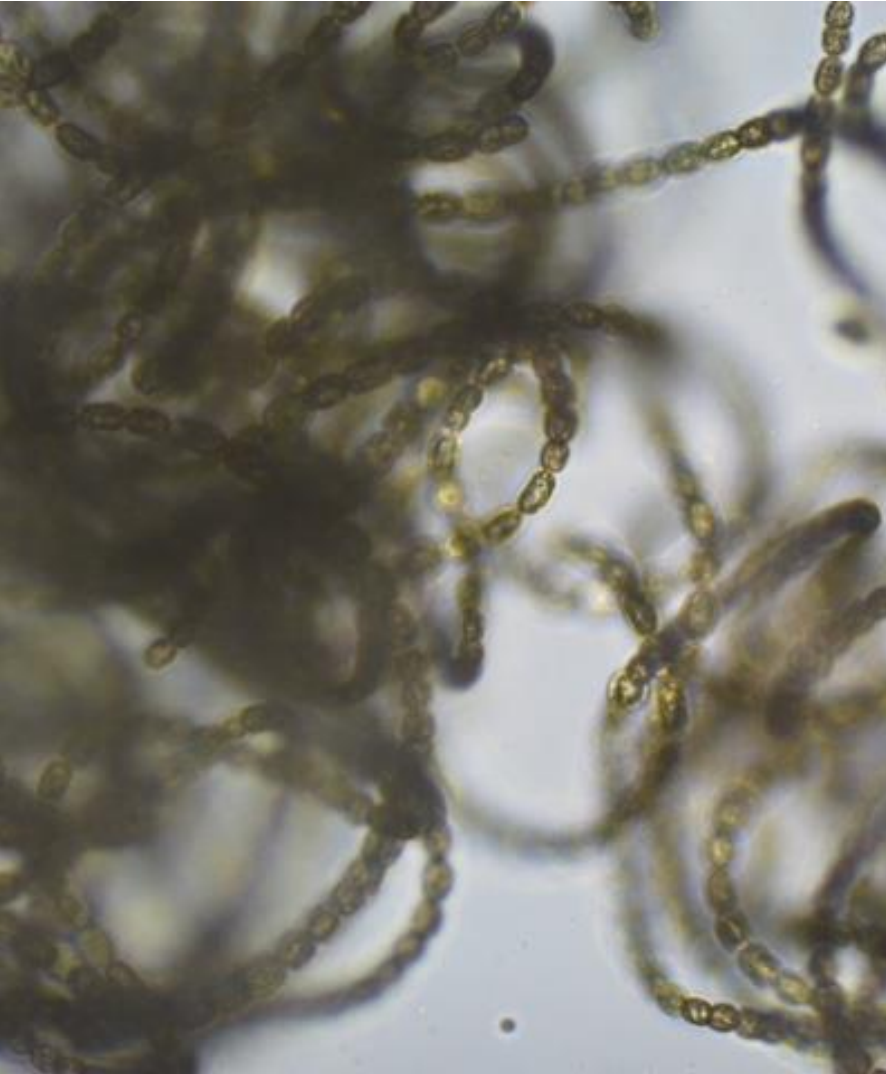
*Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Planktothrix are all potential microcystins producers*



# Sampling Summary

---

- 1) *Collect sample*** at least once every two weeks during the sampling season (*1 year/season minimum*)
- 2) *Analyze sample*** identifying target algae/cyano
- 3) *Take*** digital pictures to send into the PMN
- 4) *Input*** data into the PMN database
- 5) *Ship*** sample to PMN as required



# CYANOBACTERIA ID

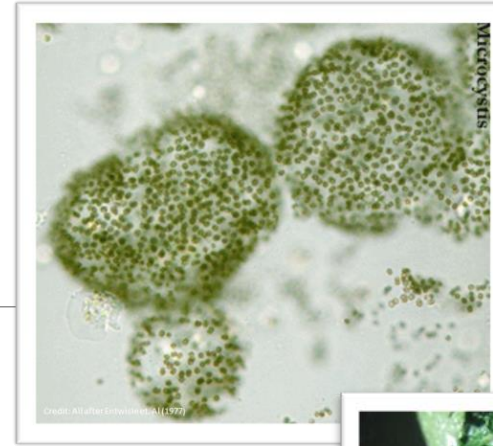


Phytoplankton Monitoring Network  
Promoting a better understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms by way of Volunteer Monitoring



# CYANOBACTERIA

- Formerly called blue-green algae
- Prokaryotic (primitive cell type)
- Microscopic
- Can photosynthesize
  - Beneficial oxygen producers for water and atmosphere
- Live in fresh, brackish, marine water
- Unicellular, multicellular, colonial forms



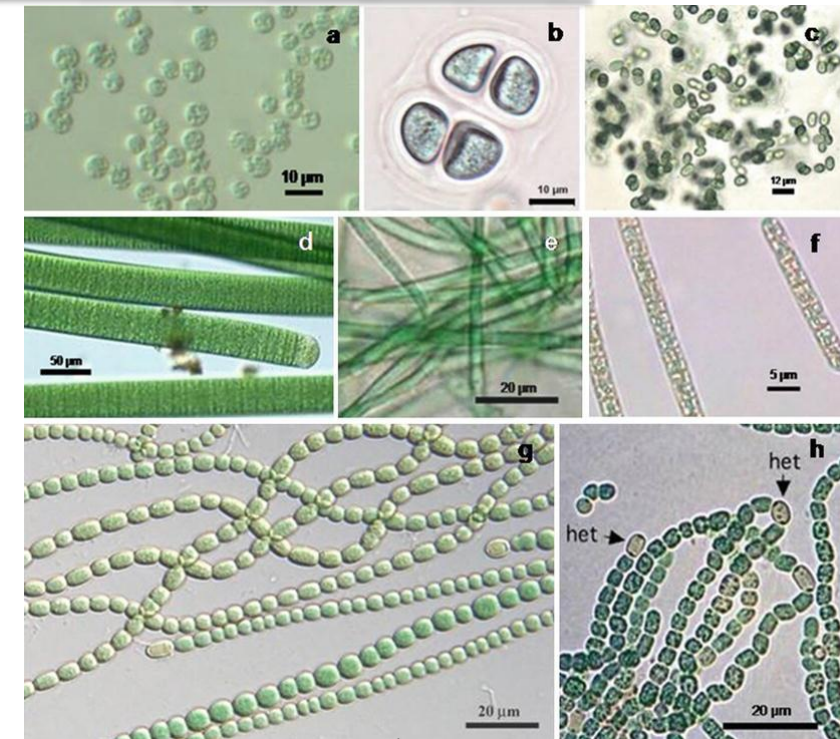
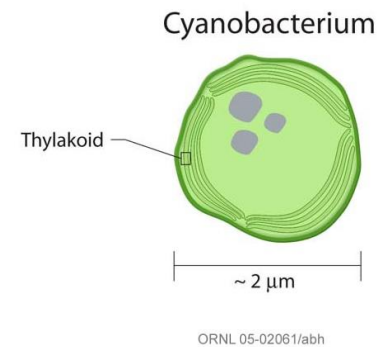
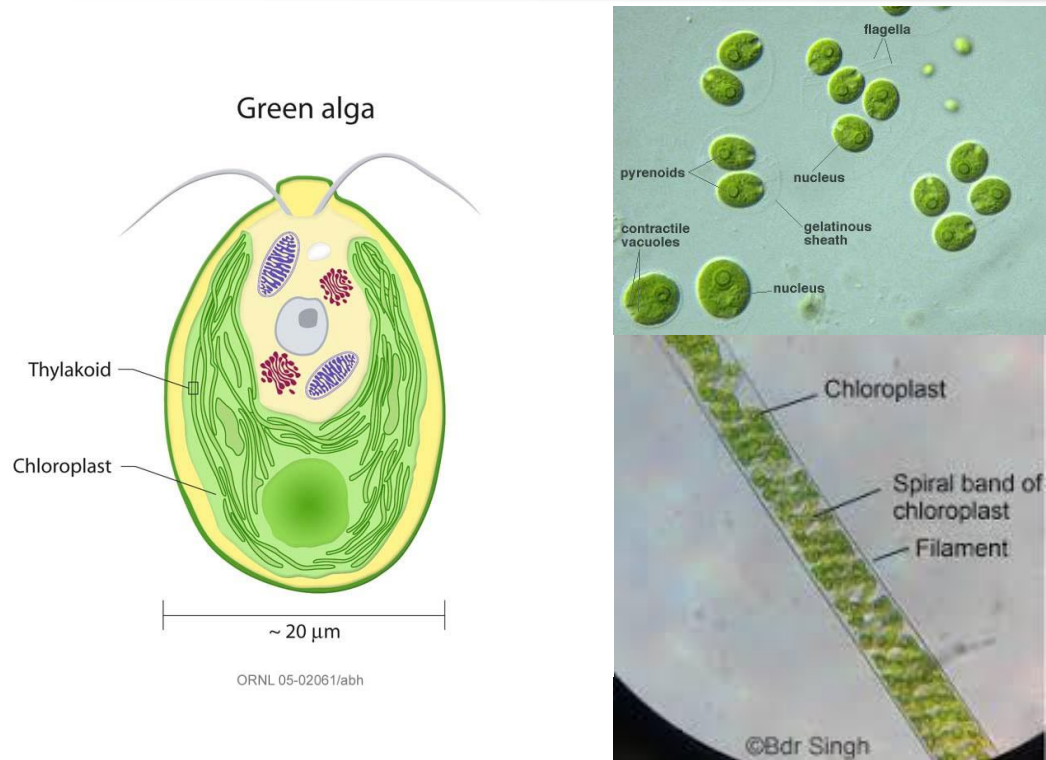
# Algae vs Cyanos

# GREEN ALGAE

- Large cell size
- Have complex cell structures & organelles

# CYANOBACTERIA

- Much smaller
- Lack membrane bound organelles



(Sood et al, 2015)

# Morphology basics

**Aerotopes-** gas vesicles

**Akinete(s)-** thick walled resting spore

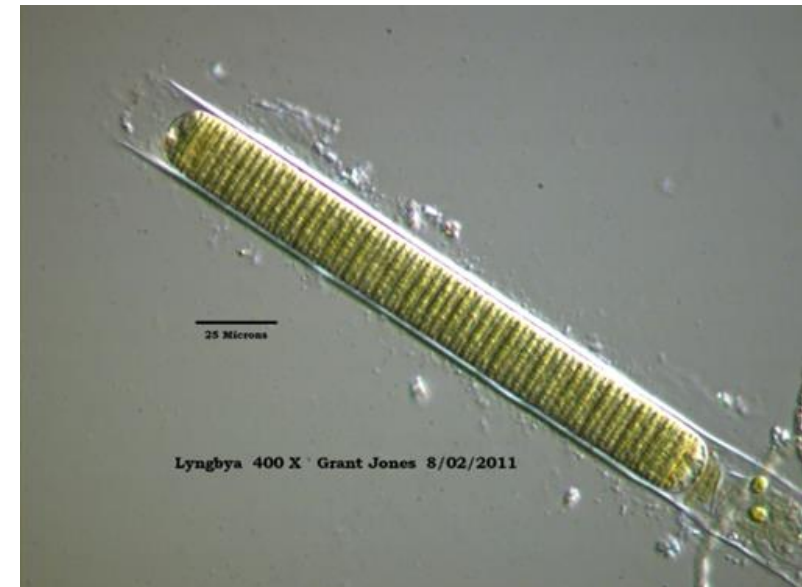
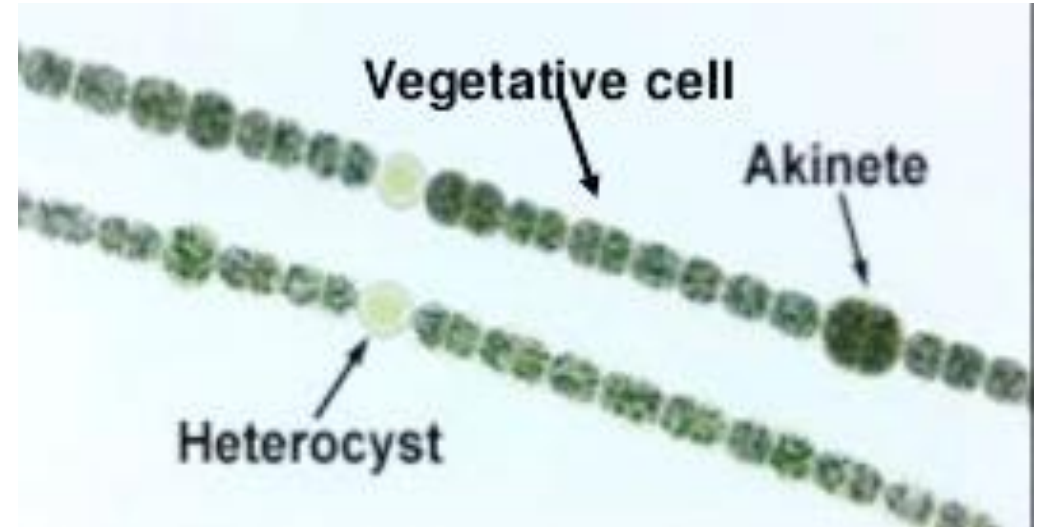
**Heterocyte(s)-** site of nitrogen fixation; also thick walled but clear

**Trichome(s)-** a row of cells which are connected

**Unbranched-** trichome does not have offshoots

**Untapered-** cells at end of trichome are generally same size as rest of cells

**Sheath-** outer covering of entire trichome made of polysaccharides



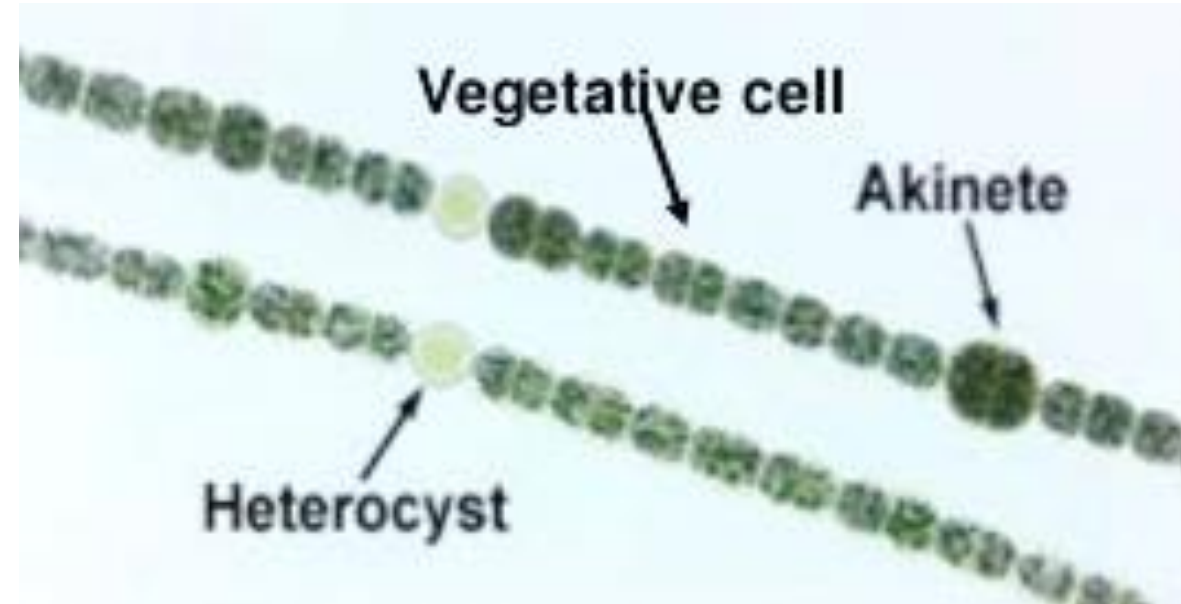


# *Dolichospermum* spp.

Some *Anabaena* has now been re-classified as *Dolichospermum*

- Filamentous
- Unbranched & untapered
- Trichomes usually solitary
- No sheath\*
- Can be straight, curved or spirally coiled

*N-Fixer*

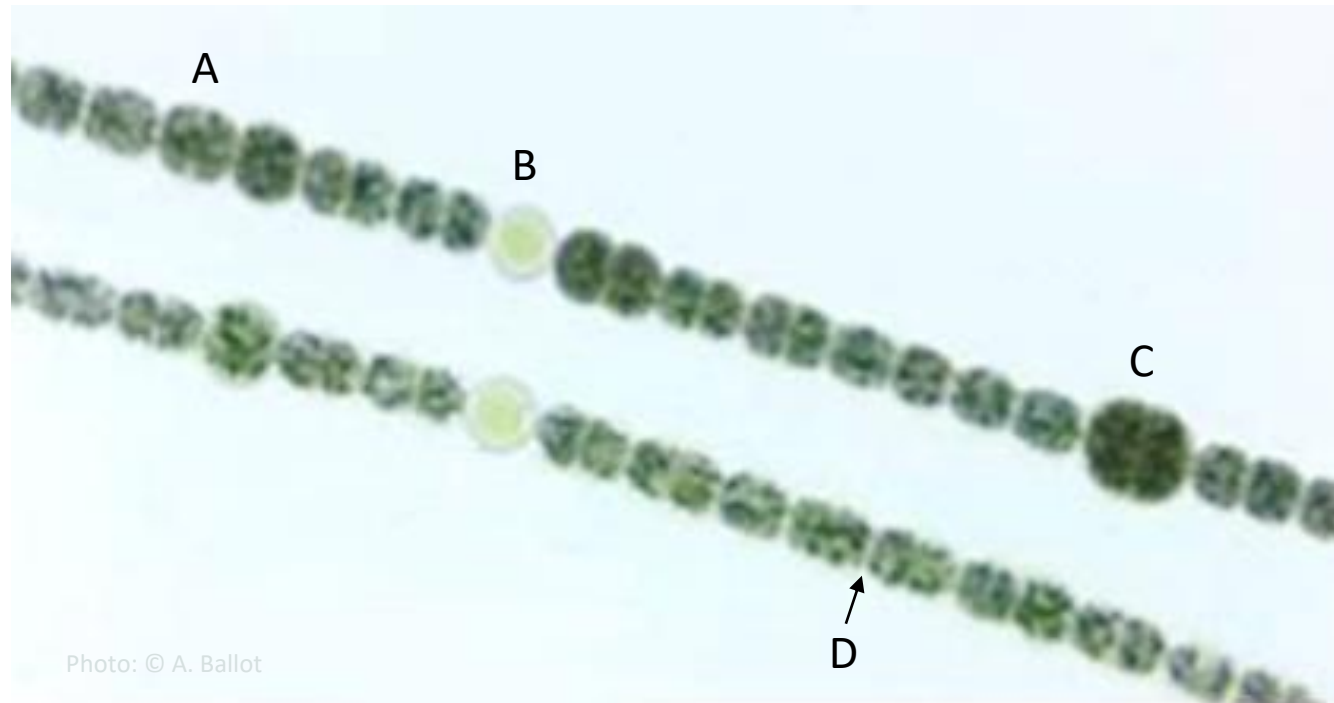


Credit: GreenWater Laboratories/CyanoLab

# *DOLICHOSPERMUM*

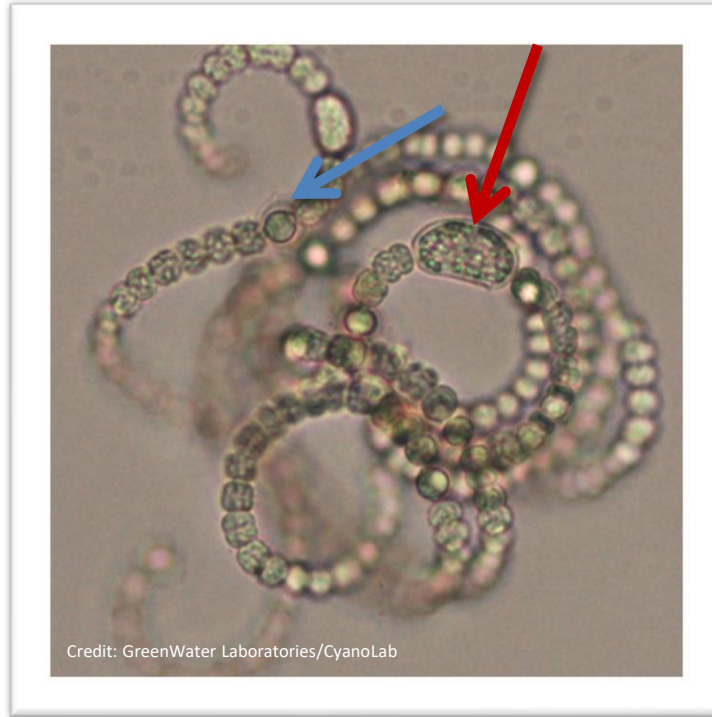
## Things to look for:

- A. Cells rounded or barrel shaped with aerotopes
- B. Heterocytes are intercalary
- C. Akinetes are intercalary
- D. Cells constricted at cross walls



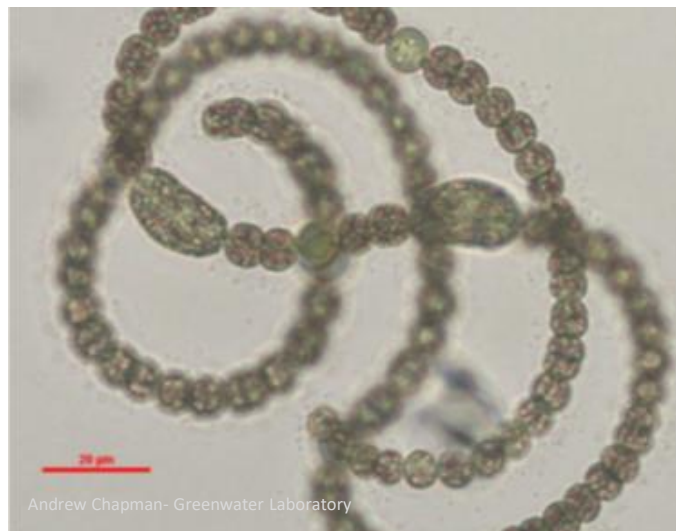
# *Dolichospermum* spp.

*N-Fixer*



*Akinetes known to survive more than 64 years in sediment*





**Dolichospermum can be confused with Nostoc, but Nostoc trichomes form colonies**



**Nostoc**  
(a cyanobacterium)

On the left is a colony of filaments ("trichomes") within a gelatinous matrix. Above is a closer view of several trichomes.

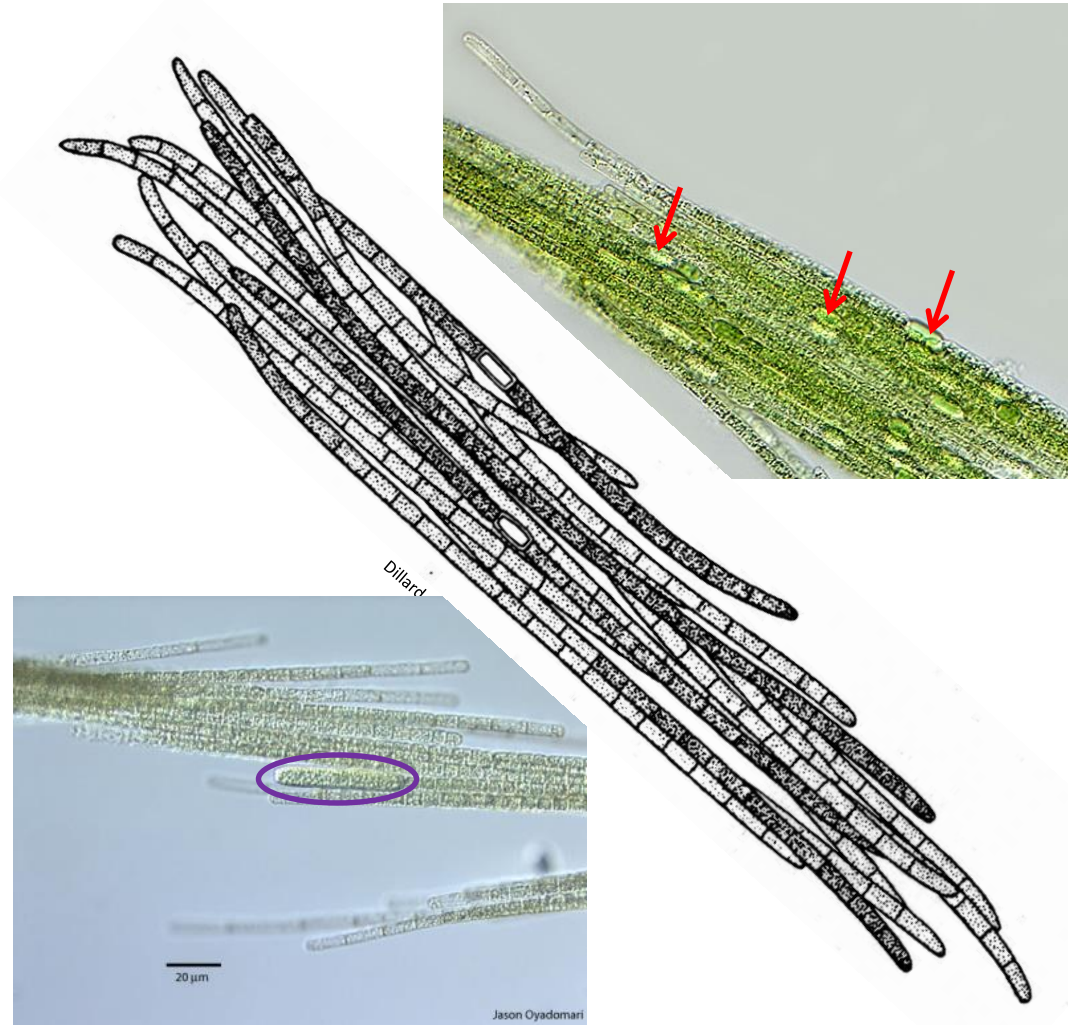
Copyright Charles Krebs 2005

# *Aphanizomenon* spp.

*N-Fixer*

*Approximately 15 known species*

- Filamentous, straight, unbranched trichomes
- Tapered at both ends
- No sheath
- Trichomes arranged in parallel layers.
- Has **heterocysts** and forms **akinetes**
- Can form winter & summer blooms



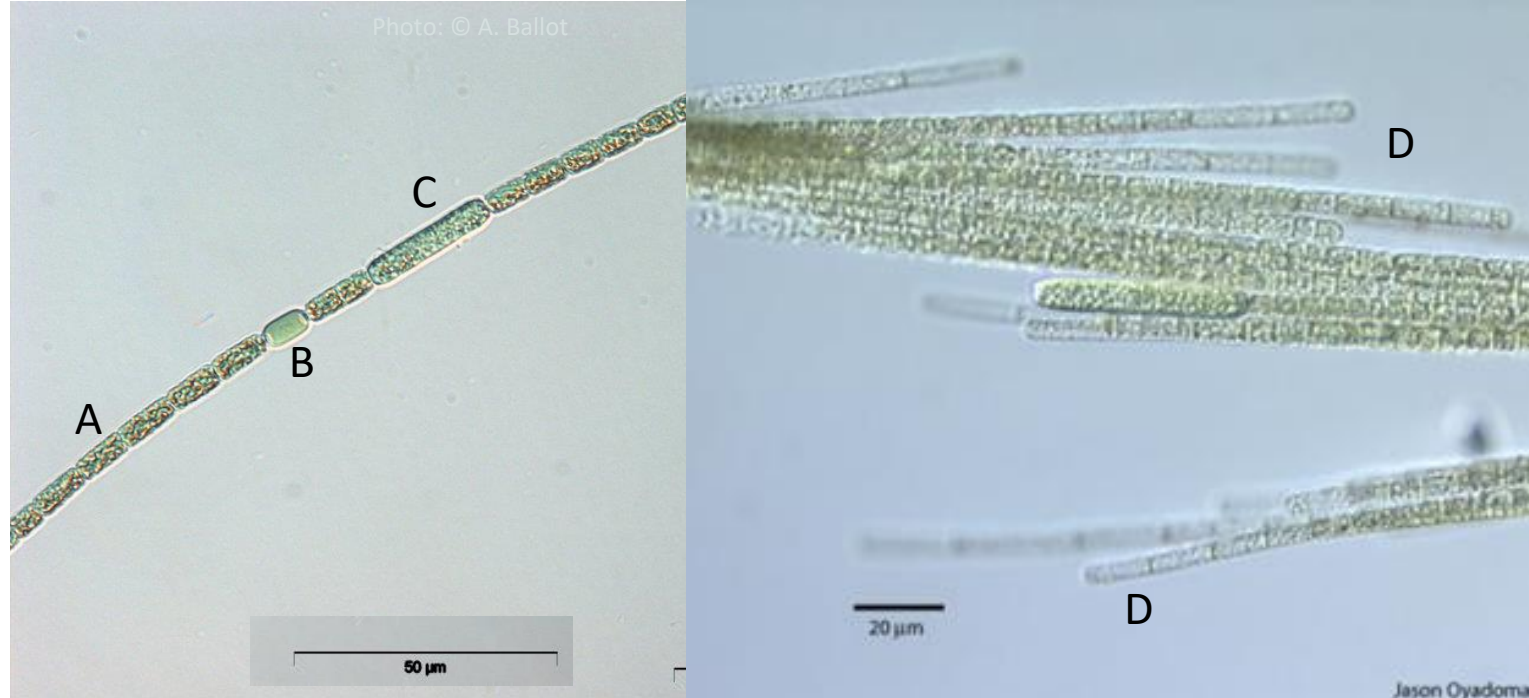
*Akinetes known to survive more than 18 years in sediment*



# *Aphanizomenon*

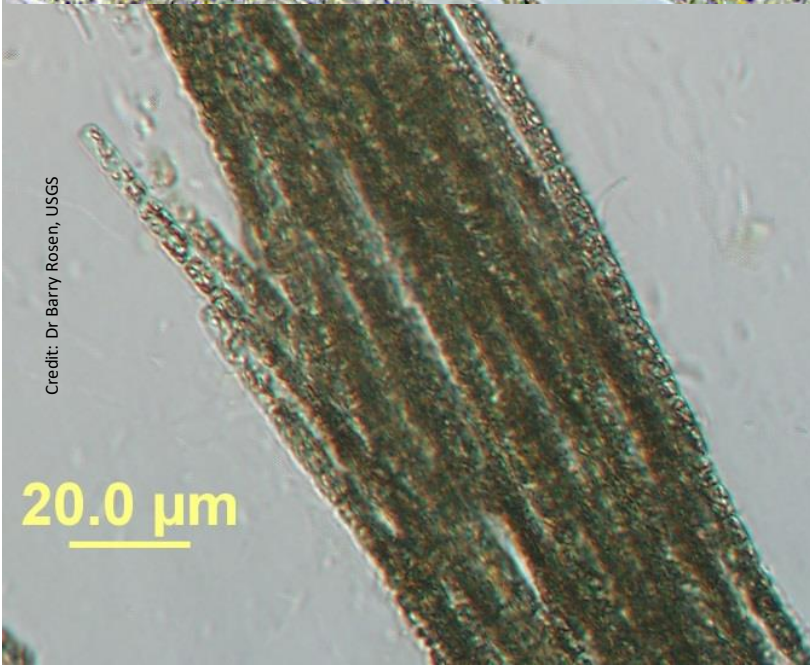
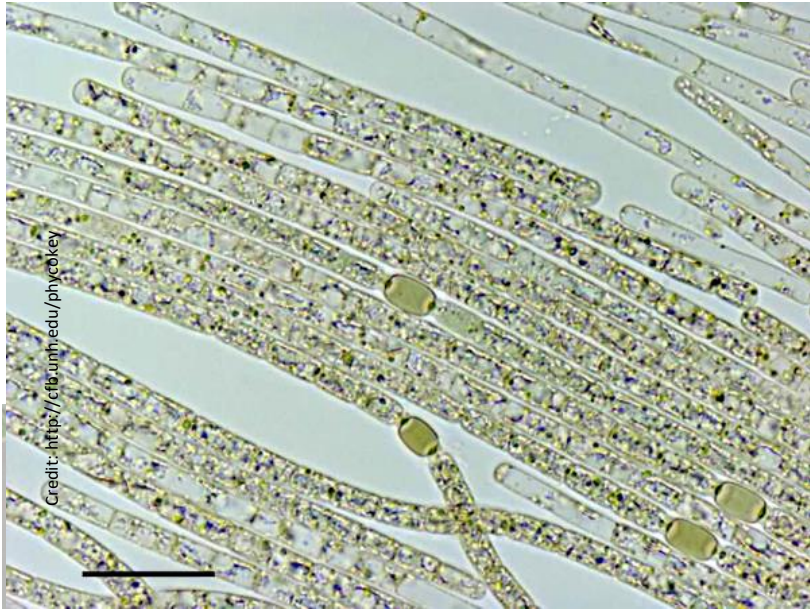
## Things to look for:

- A. Aerotopes (facultative) in cylindrical shaped cells
- B. Heterocytes are intercalary (facultative)
- C. Akinetes usually cylindrical and intercalary
- D. Terminal ends are elongated and may be “empty” looking





## *Aphanizomenon* spp.



Can be confused with :

### *Planktothrix*-

Can look similar to individual Aphan. trichomes, especially in absence of heterocytes.



# *Aphanizomenon* bloom

*Will be filamentous*



Credit: GreenWa



Aphanizomenon Flos-Aquae Credit: Klamath Valley Botanicals



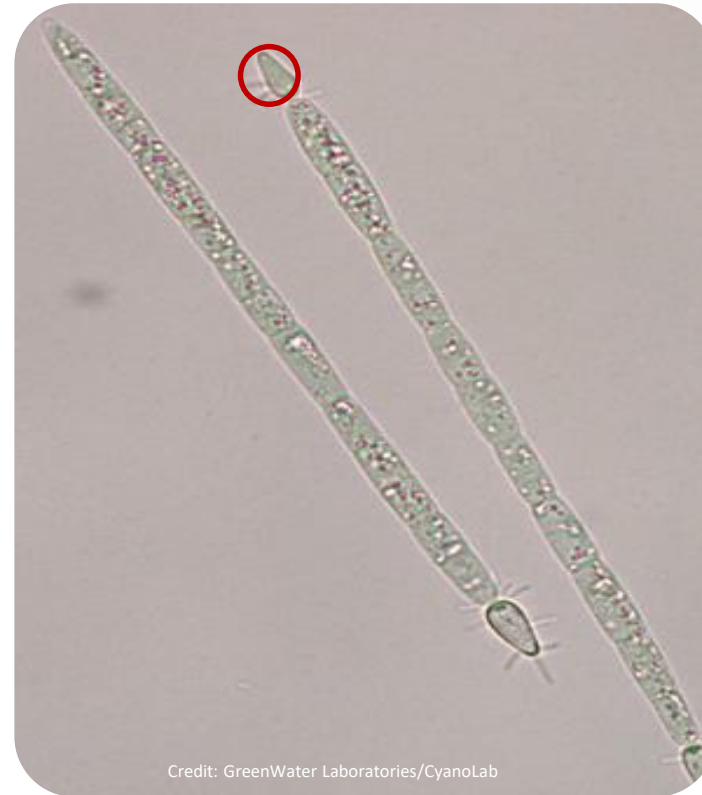


# *Raphidiopsis* spp.

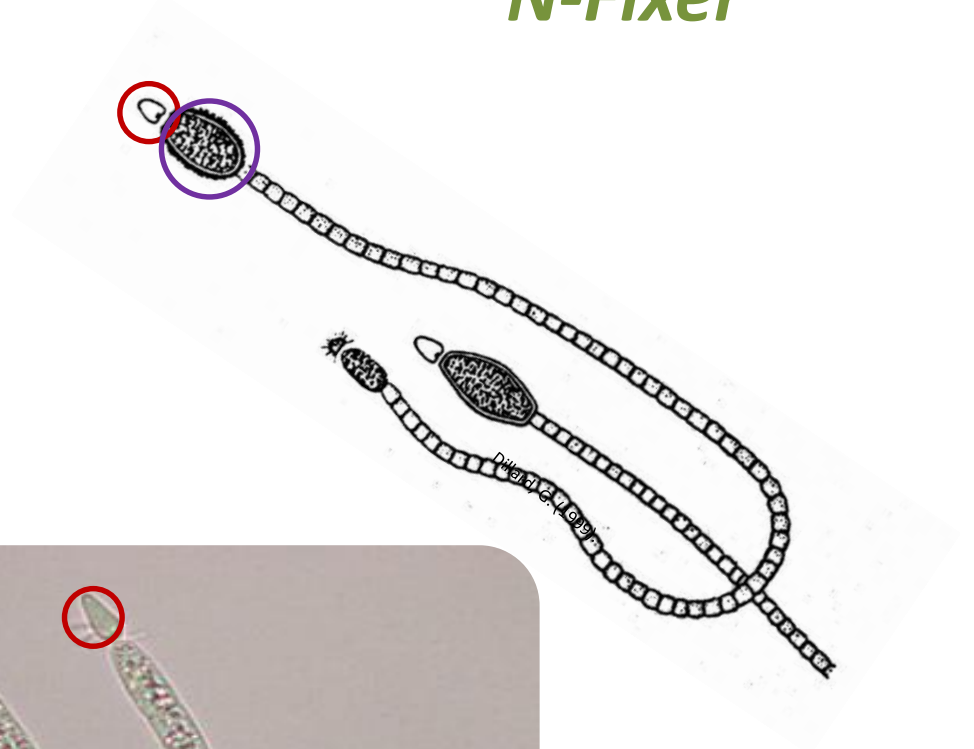
*Cylindrospermopsis* has now been re-classified as *Raphidiopsis*

- Filamentous, unbranched
- Trichomes are straight, curved or coiled; solitary
- No sheath
- **Heterocysts** always terminal!
- **Akinetes** form behind or slightly distant from heterocysts (gives asymmetric appearance)

*N-Fixer*



Credit: GreenWater Laboratories/CyanoLab



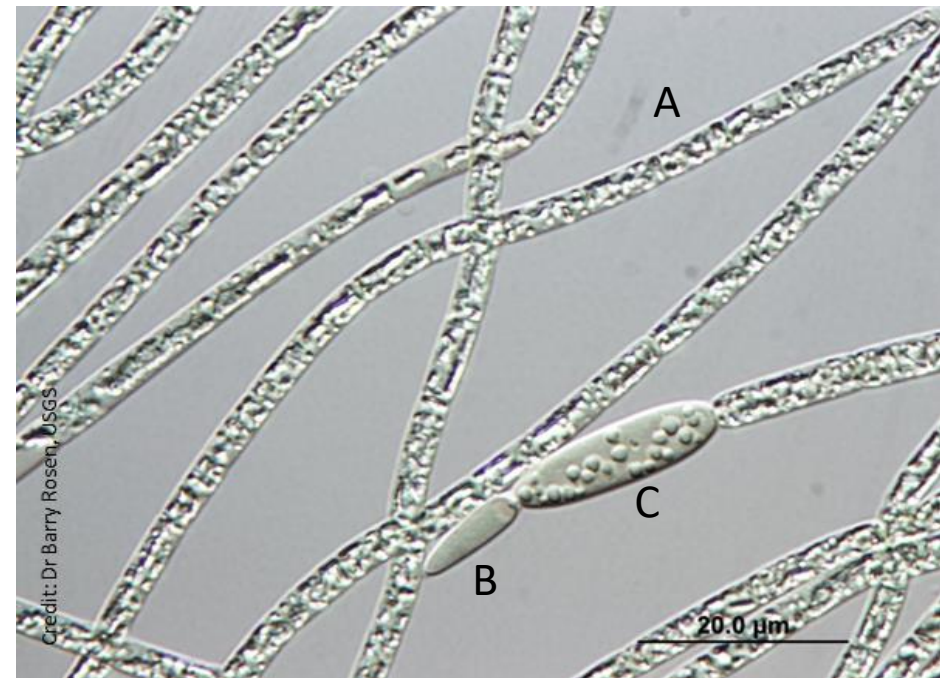


# RAPHIDIOPSIS



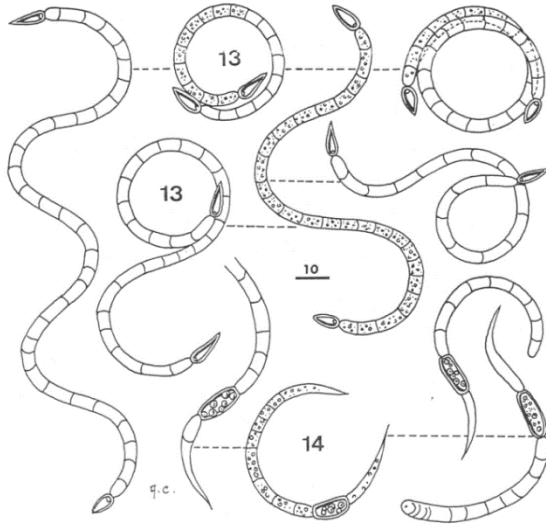
## Things to look for:

- A. Cells cylindrical with aerotopes
- B. Heterocytes (when present) are always terminal at one or both ends
- C. Akinetes (when present) usually 1-3 cells back from heterocytes
- D. Terminal cells conical or pointy when lacking heterocyte(s).



## *Raphidiopsis* spp.

Coute & Bouvy (2004)



Used to be confused with but now related to:

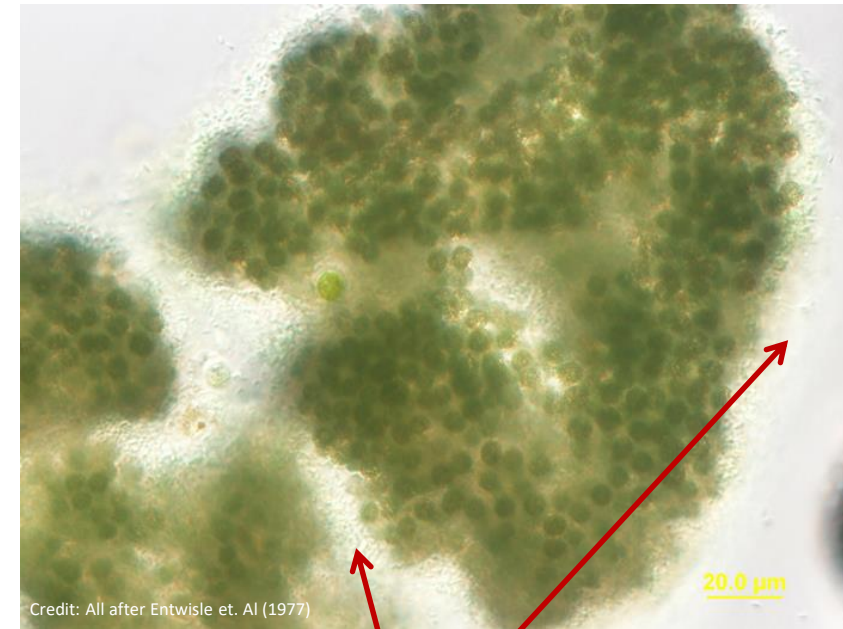
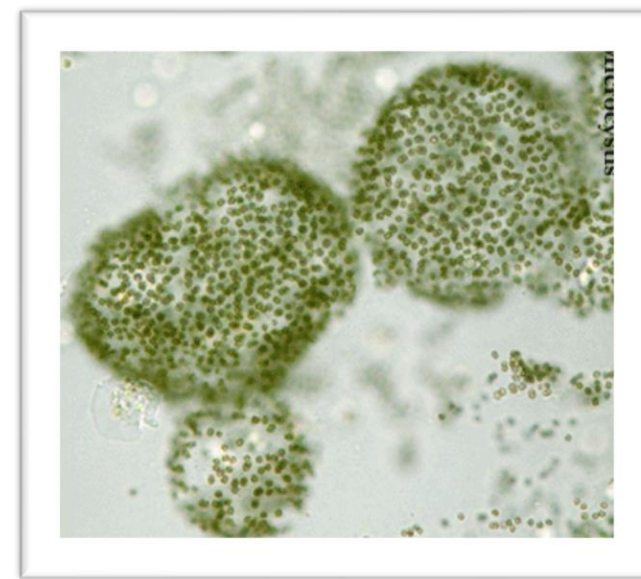


has tapered terminal cells, NO heterocysts, and any akinetes will always be near middle of chain, never at end

## *Microcystis* spp.

*Approximately 25 known species*

- Colonial
- Unicellular but held together by snotty sheath
- Colonies are irregular, cloud-like (3D) with hollow spaces
- Buoyant due to gas vesicles
- Smells bad!
- Zebra mussels selectively reject *Microcystis* cells



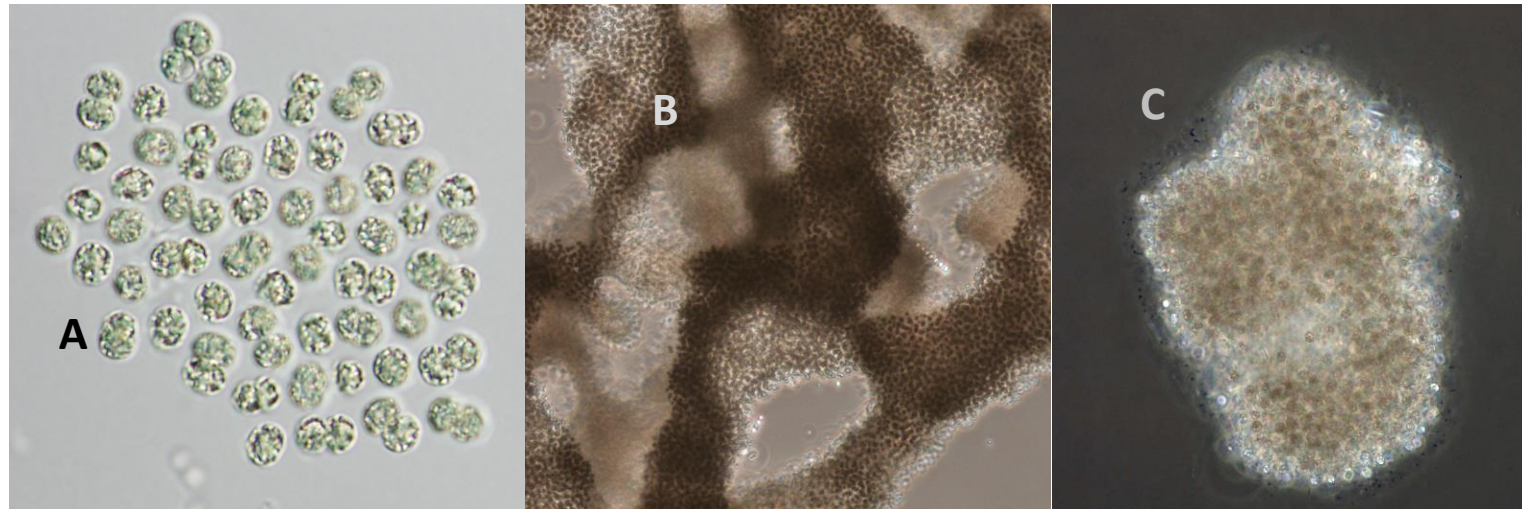
Held together by  
mucilaginous sheath



# *Microcystis*

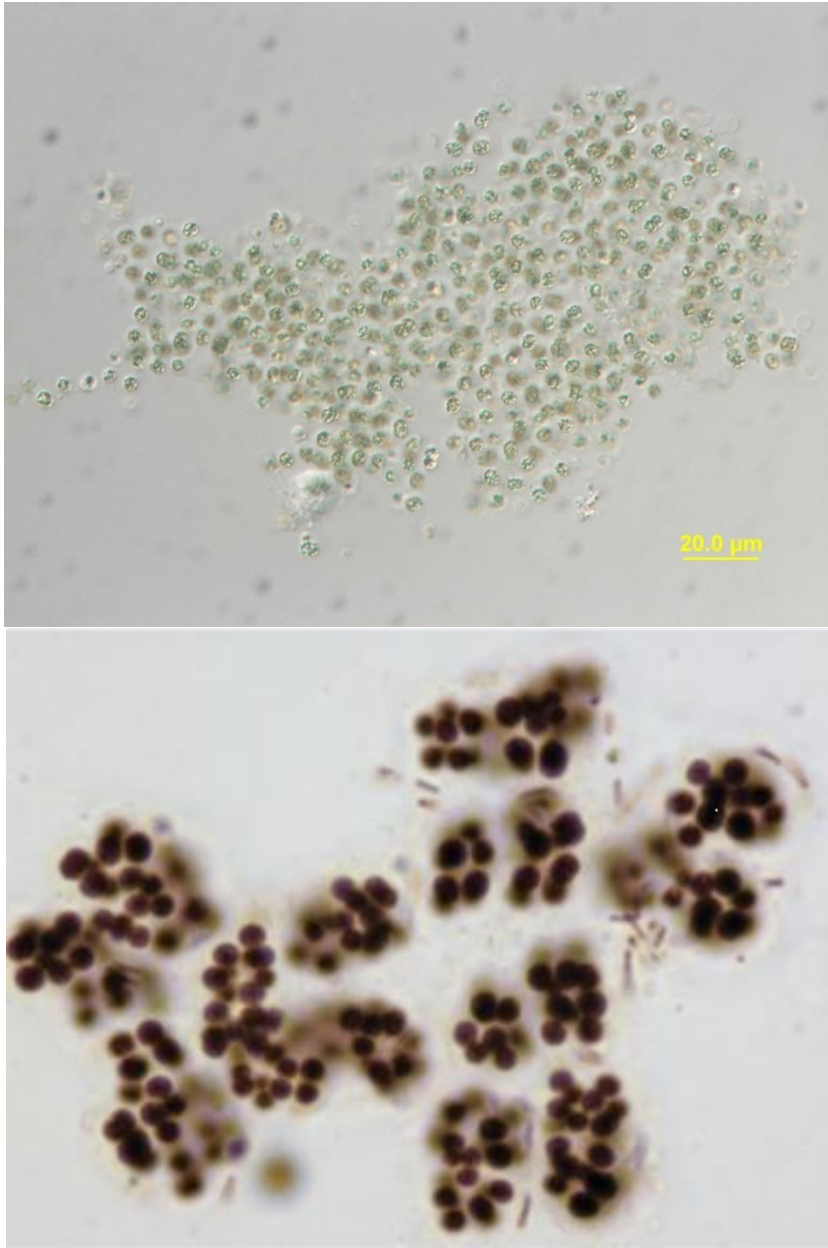
## Things to look for:

- A. Rounded cells with aerotopes
- B. Cells in colony may be
  - A. loosely associated
  - B. clathrate
  - C. densely packed
- C. Mucilage can vary in thickness



# *Microcystis* spp.

Credit: Dr Barry Rosen, USGS



Can be confused with :

*Woronichinia* sp.



*Woronichinia* makes a hollow ball of cells



# *Microcystis* bloom

Will NOT be filamentous  
and will be quite stinky

Image by Jason Orydon



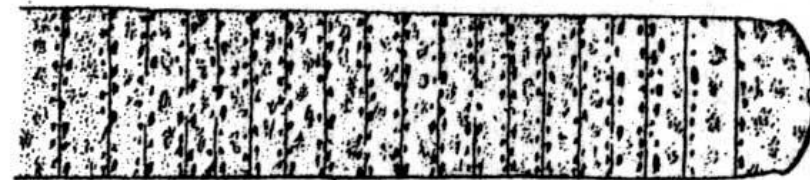


# *Planktothrix* morphotype

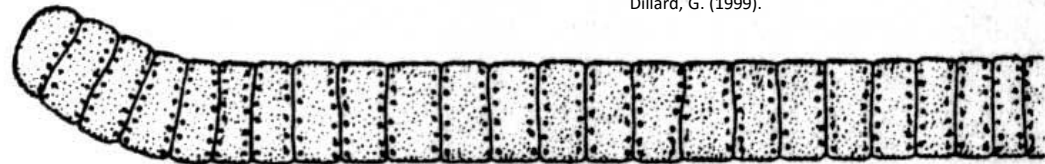
More than 100 known species

Formerly classified as *Oscillatoria*

- Filamentous, unbranched
- Trichomes cylindrical, straight or slightly wavy
- No sheath
- No heterocysts
- No akinetes
- Motile with gliding oscillations



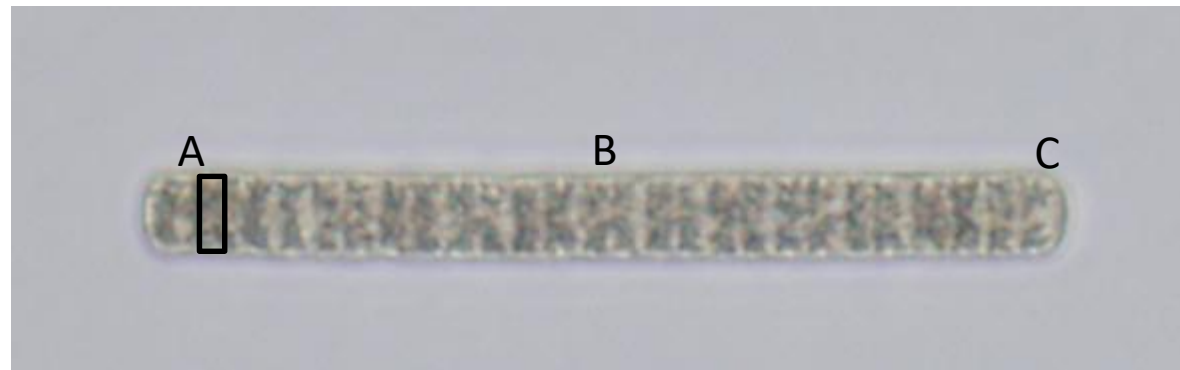
Dillard, G. (1999).



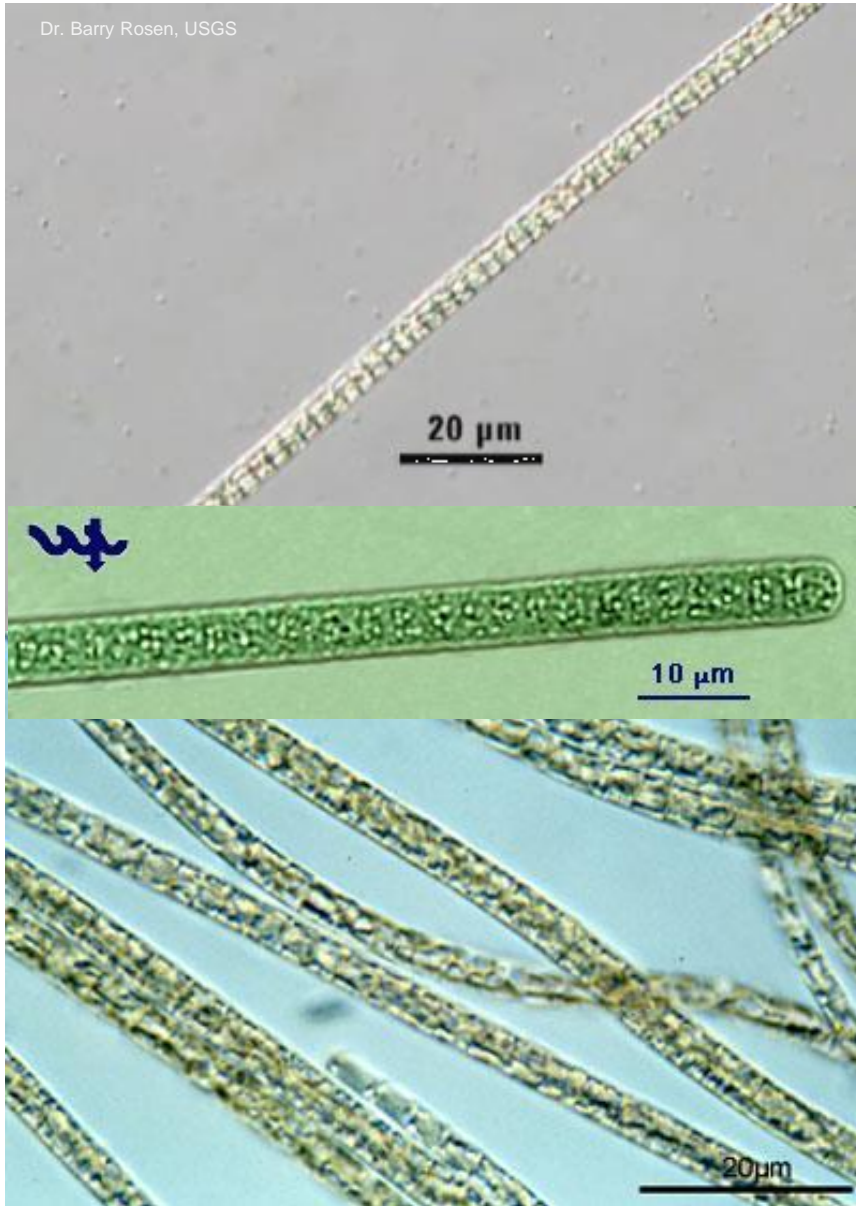
# ***PLANKTOTHRIX***

## Things to look for:

- A. Cells cylindrical; mostly wider than long
- B. LOTS of aerotopes throughout cells
- C. Terminal cells rounded
  - No heterocytes (not a  $N_2$  fixer)
  - No akinetes

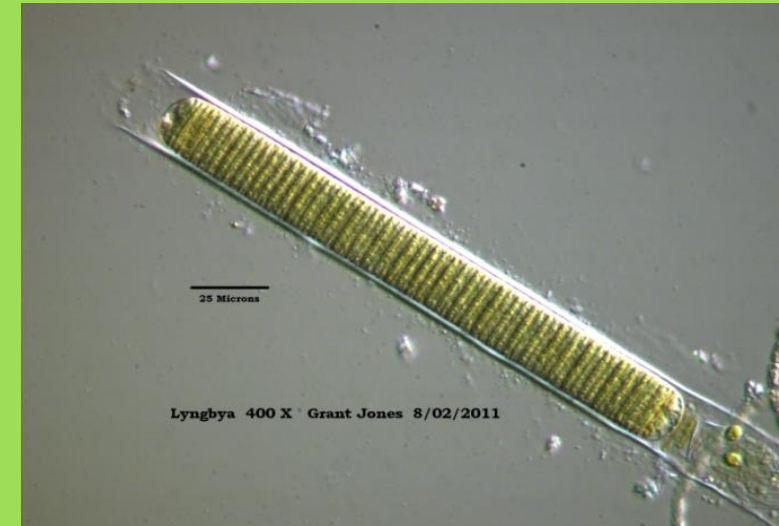


# *Planktothrix* morphotype.



Can be confused with :

*Lyngbya*-  
Has a visible sheath



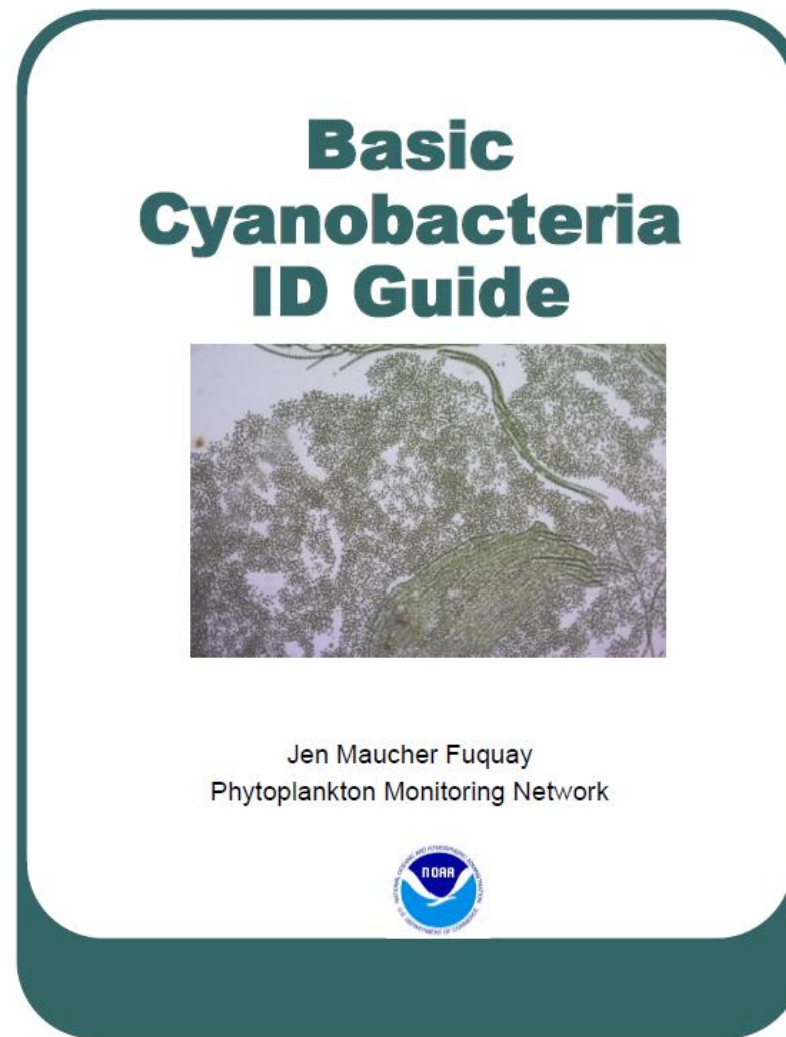
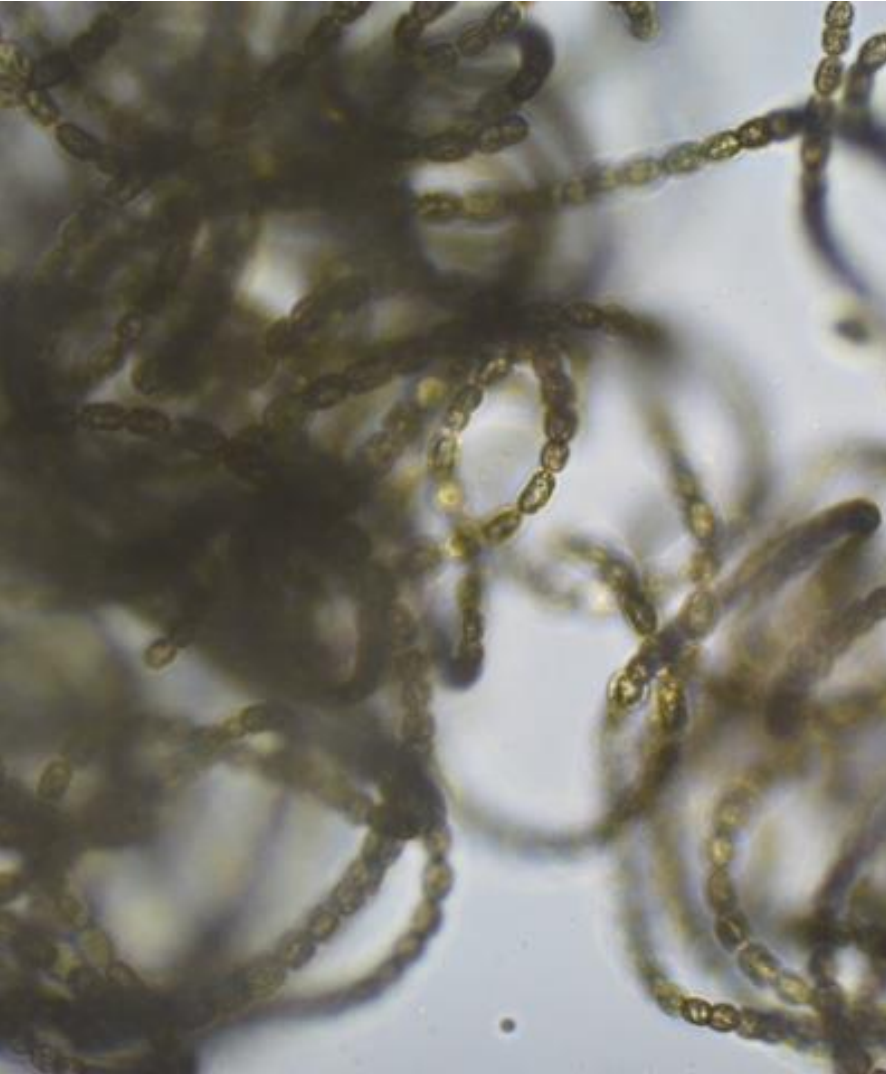


# *Planktothrix* bloom

Filamentous

Can be red or green depending on species





# CYANOBACTERIA PRACTICE



Phytoplankton Monitoring Network  
Promoting a better understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms by way of Volunteer Monitoring



# ID PRACTICE

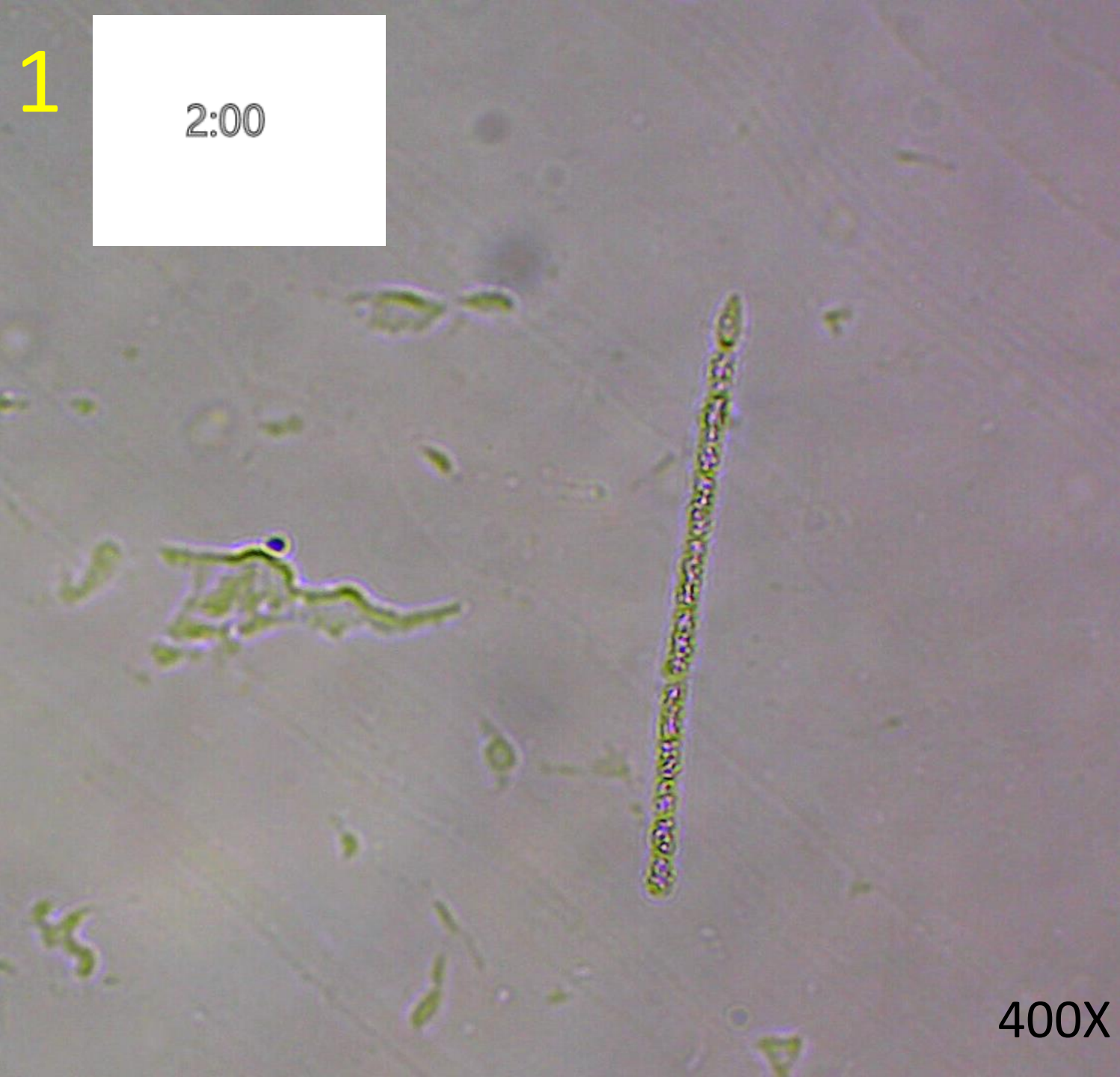
- Slides are fixed in glutaraldehyde (no color) or Lugol's (all brown)
- Have your ID guide handy if you have one
- There will be 2 minutes for each target to figure out what it is
  - Do not type in answer in chat box or turn on microphone!
  - Write down what you think each one is
- We will go over that target then move on to the next one
- Bonus environmental sample at the end!

*Thank you to Andrew Chapman (Greenwater Labs) for samples!*



1

2:00



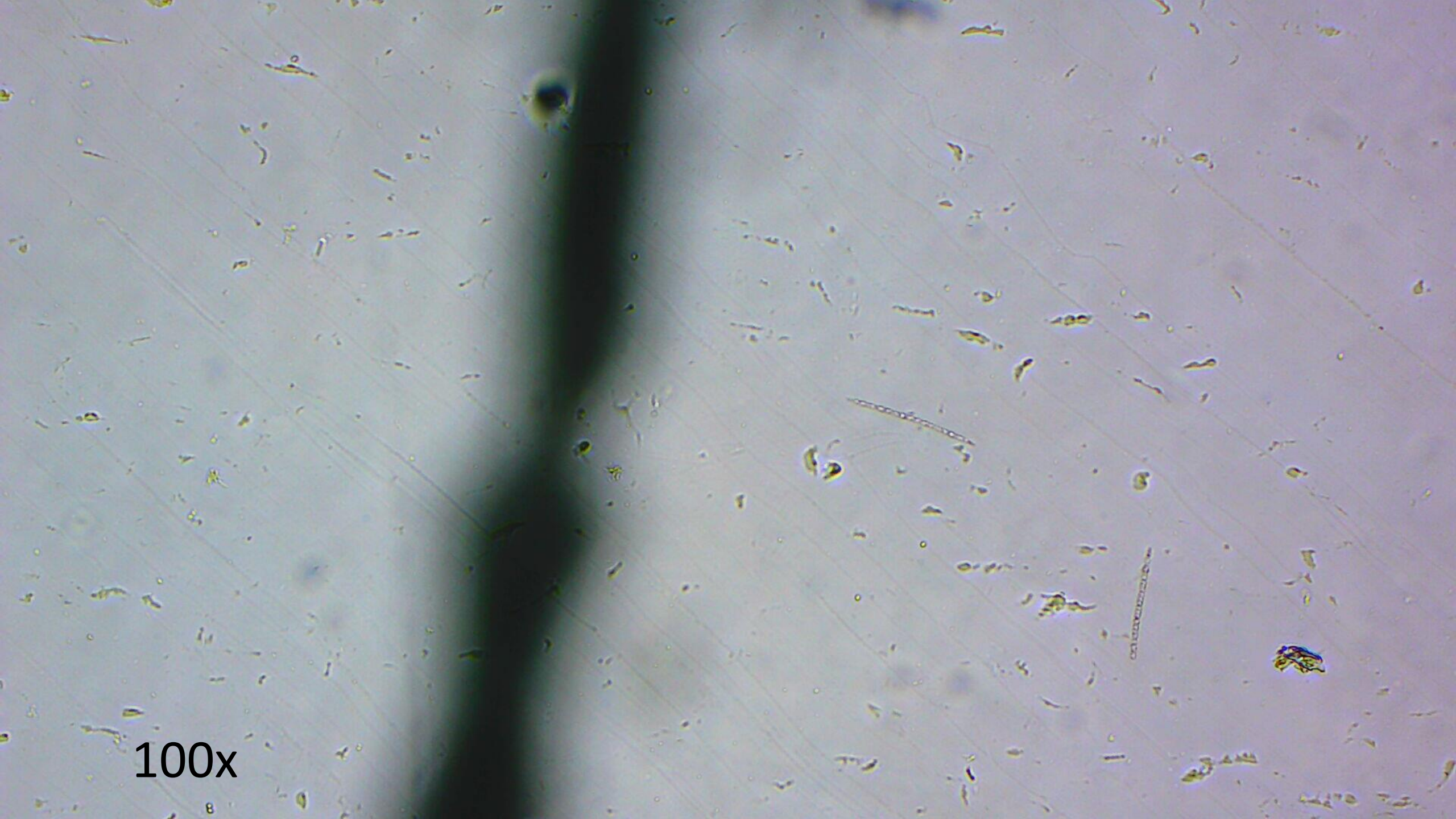
400X





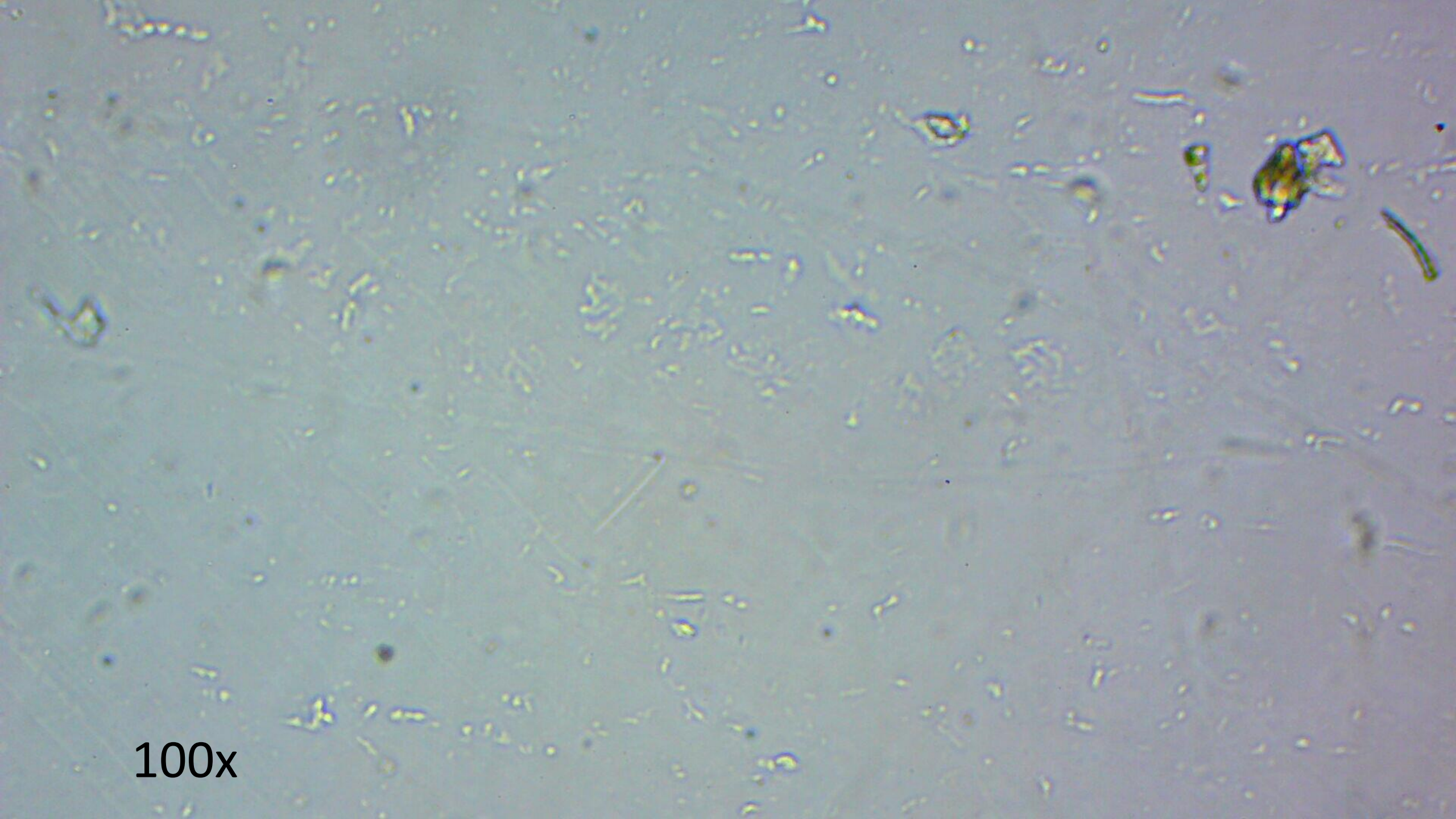






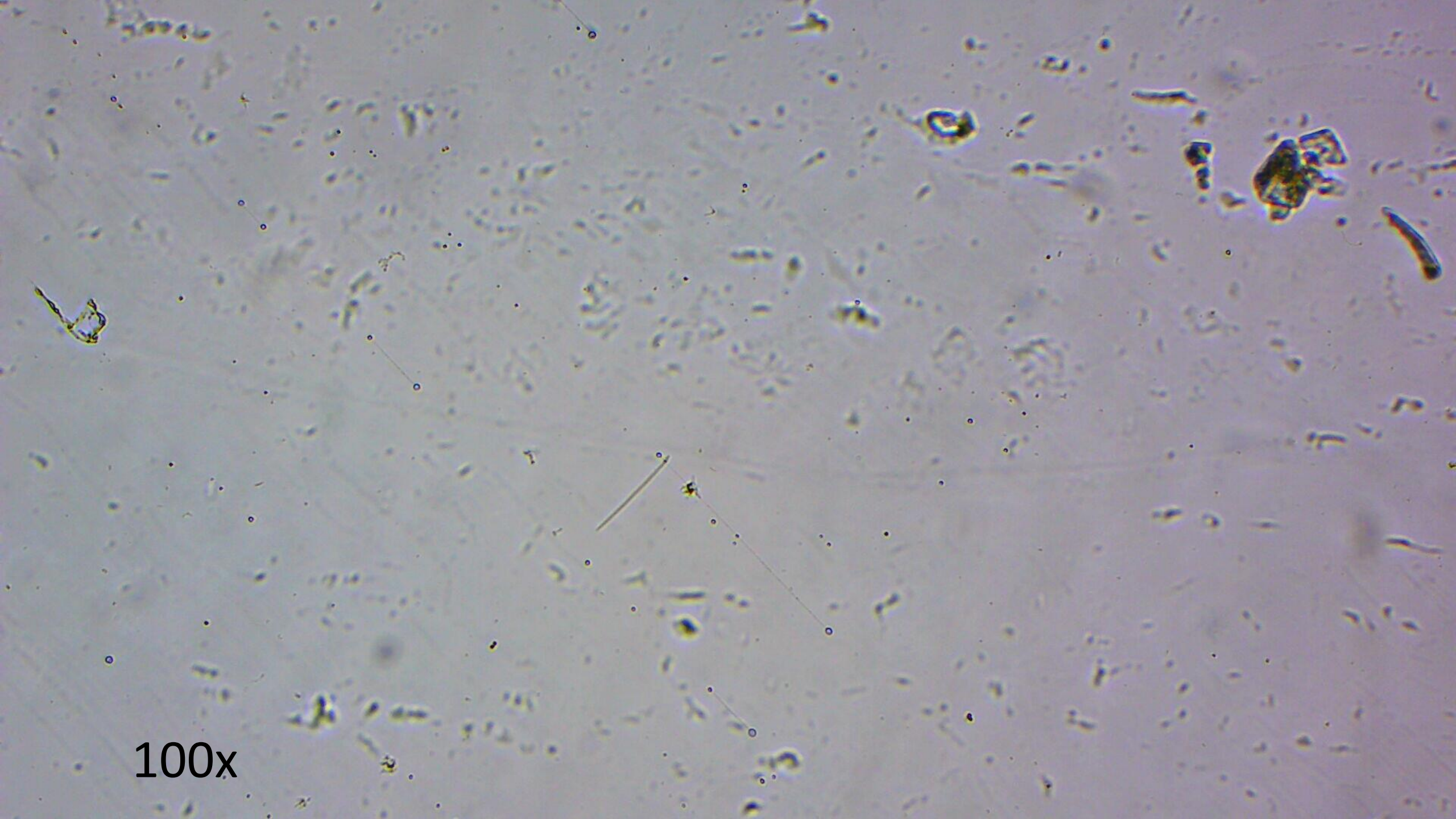
100x





100x



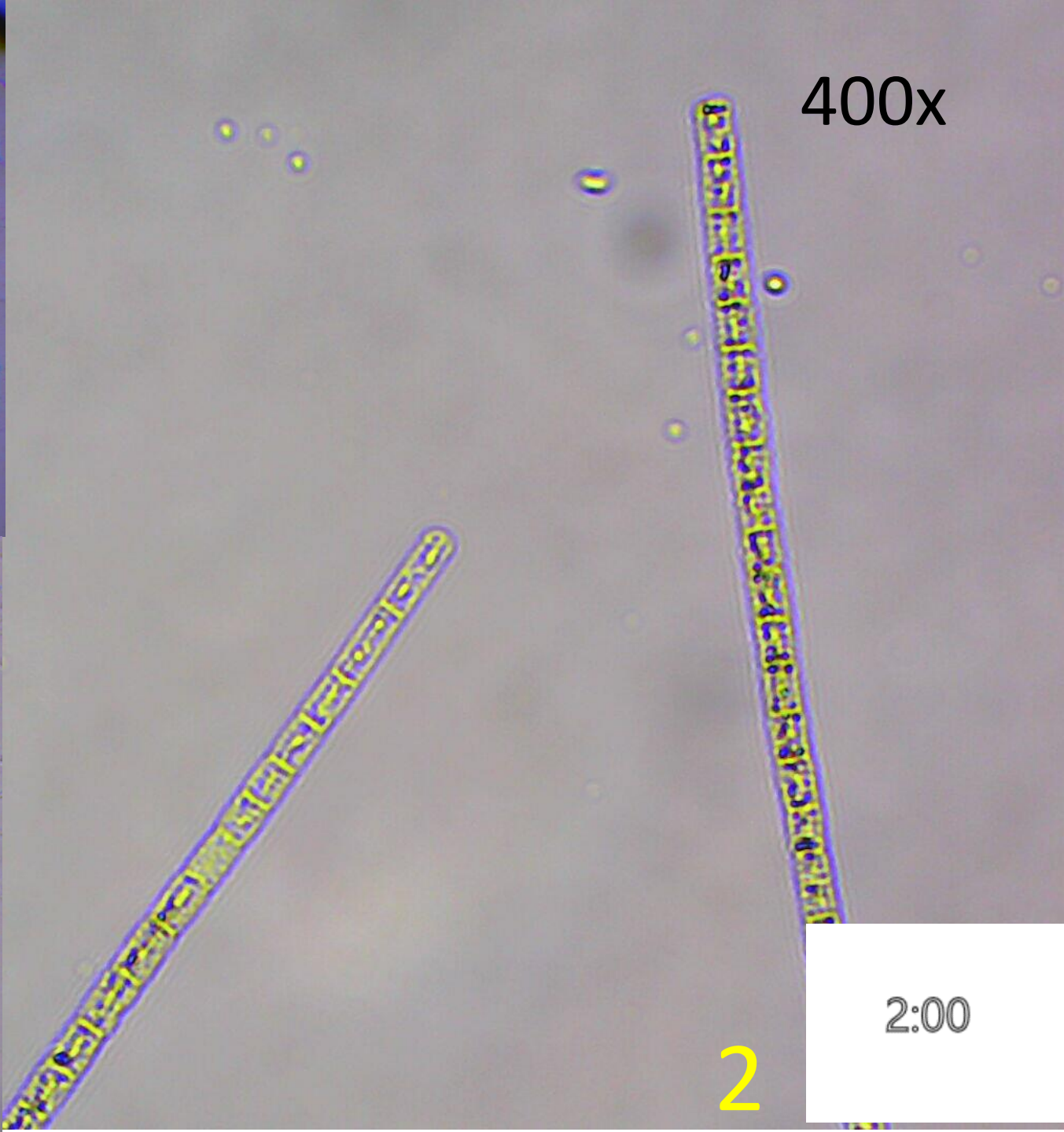
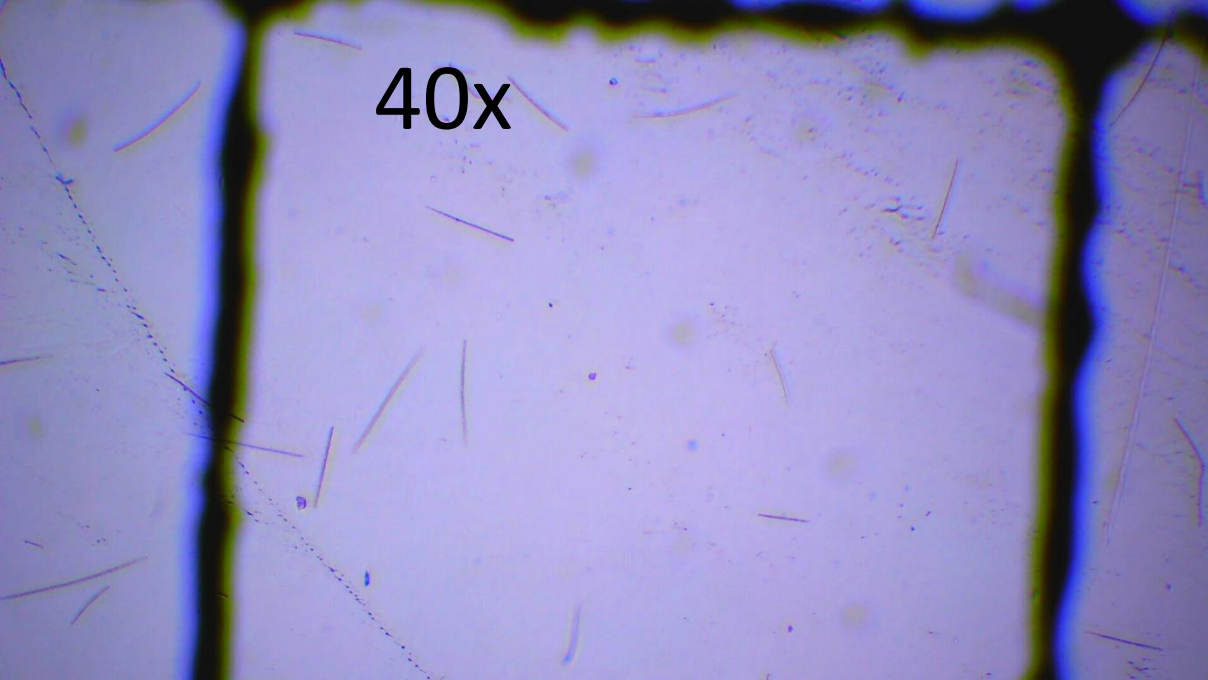


100x



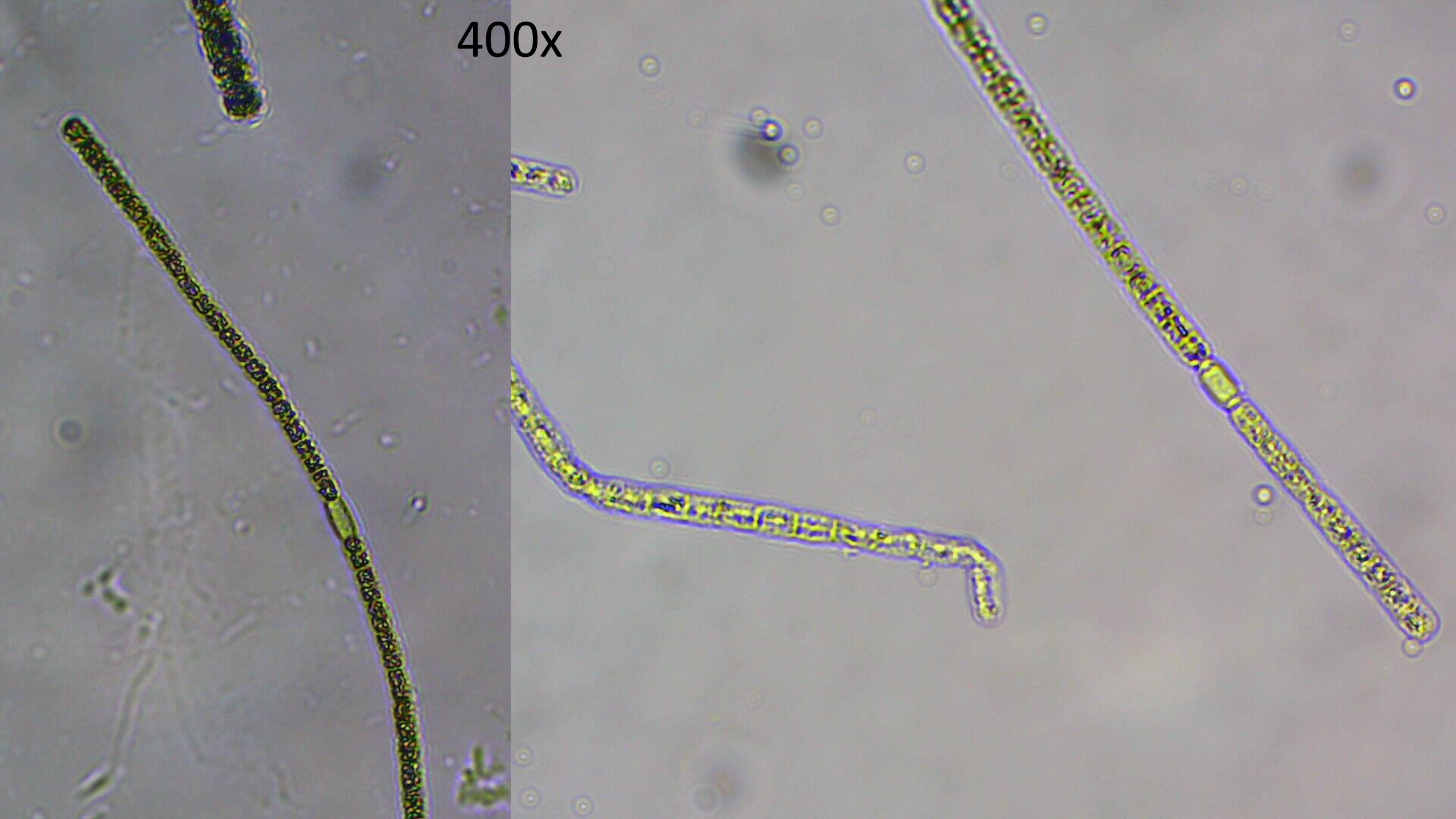
# 400X



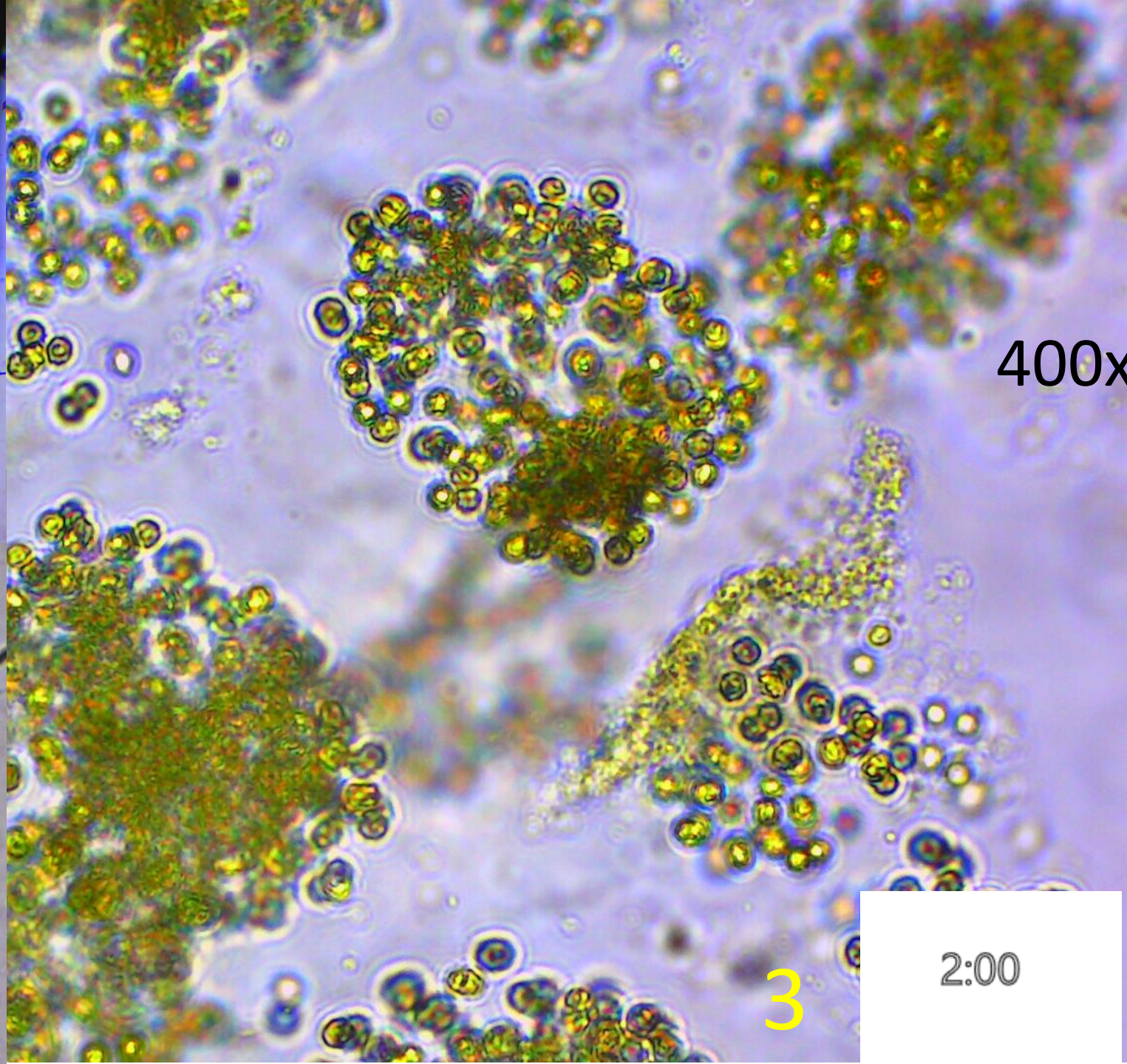
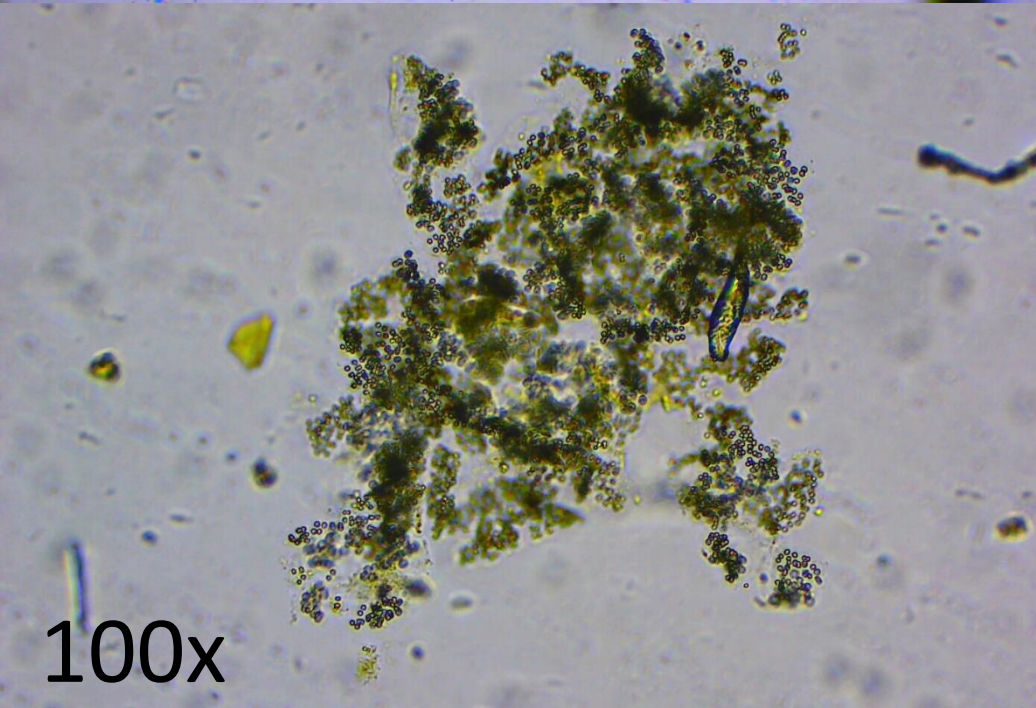
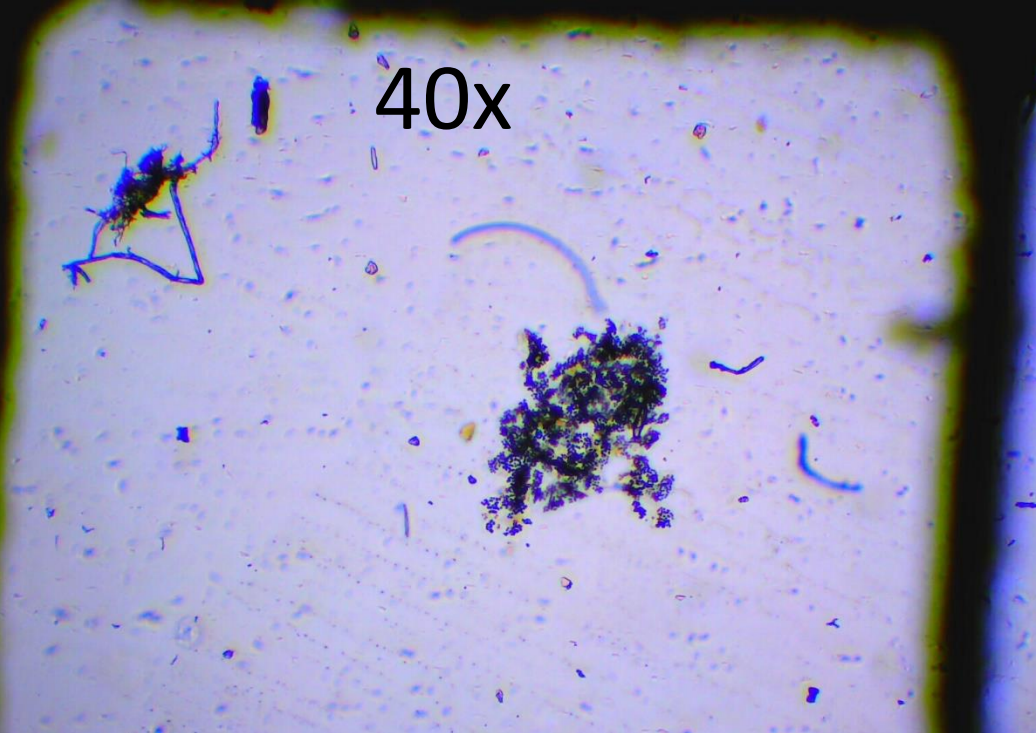




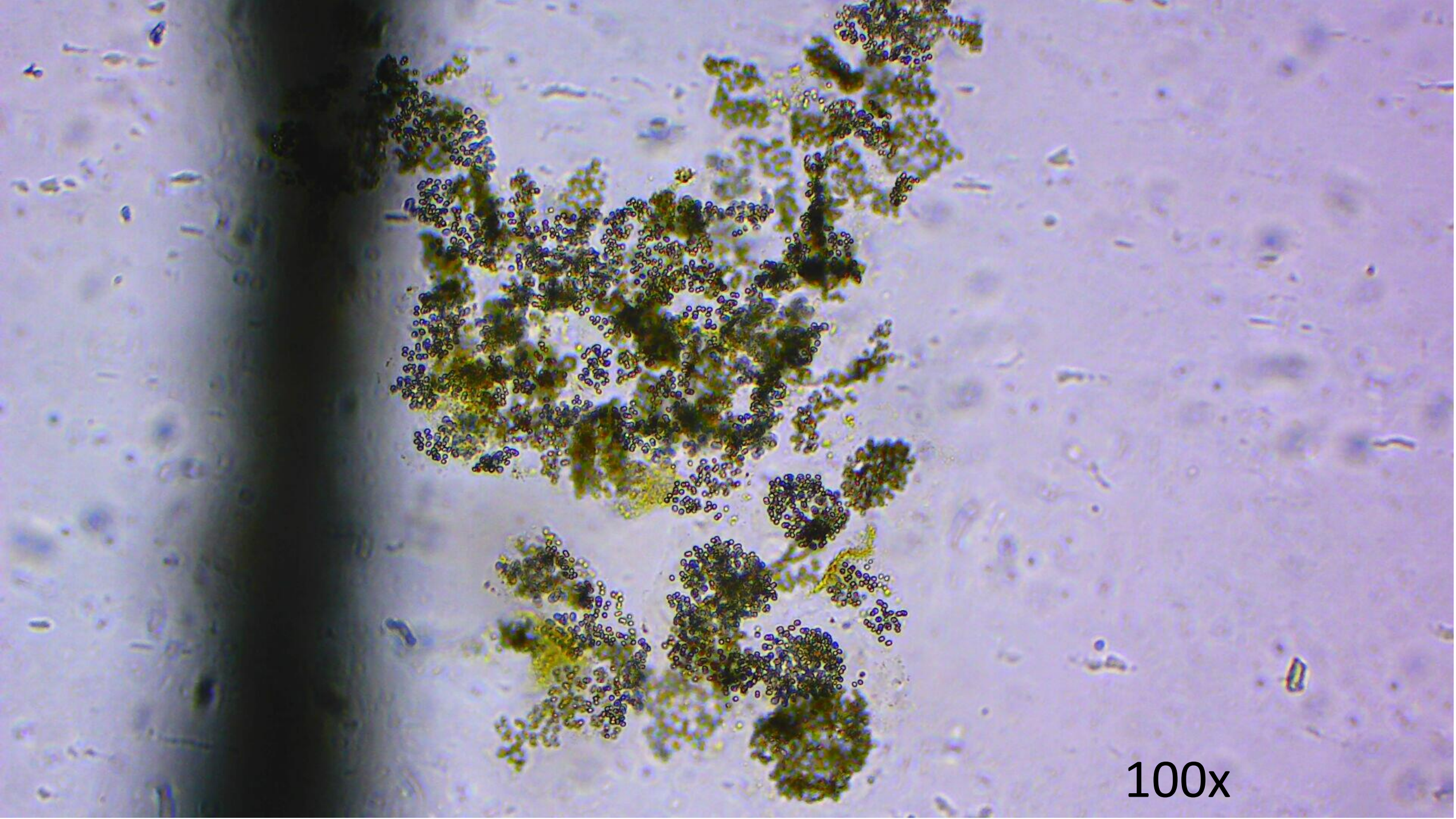
400x







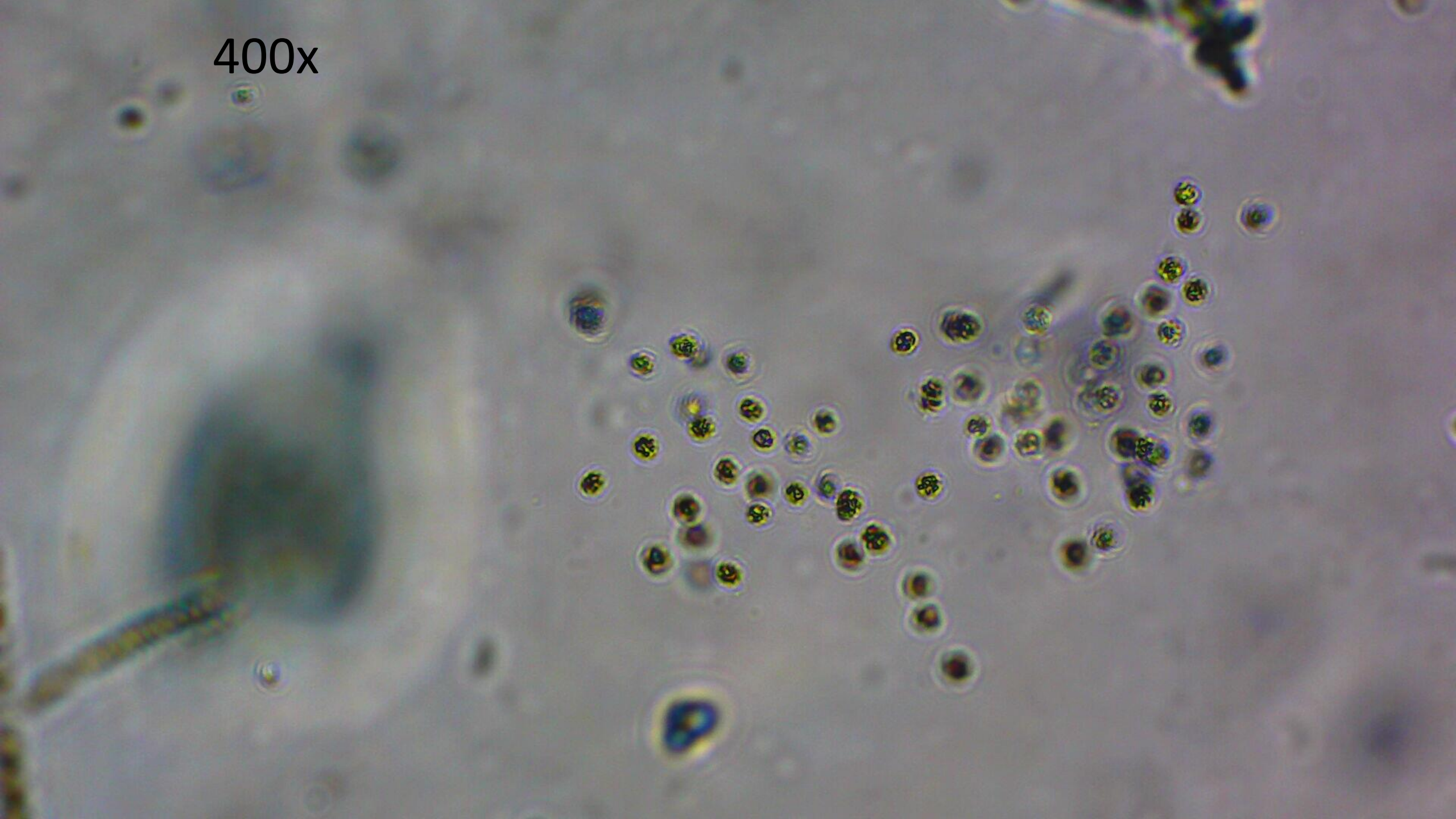




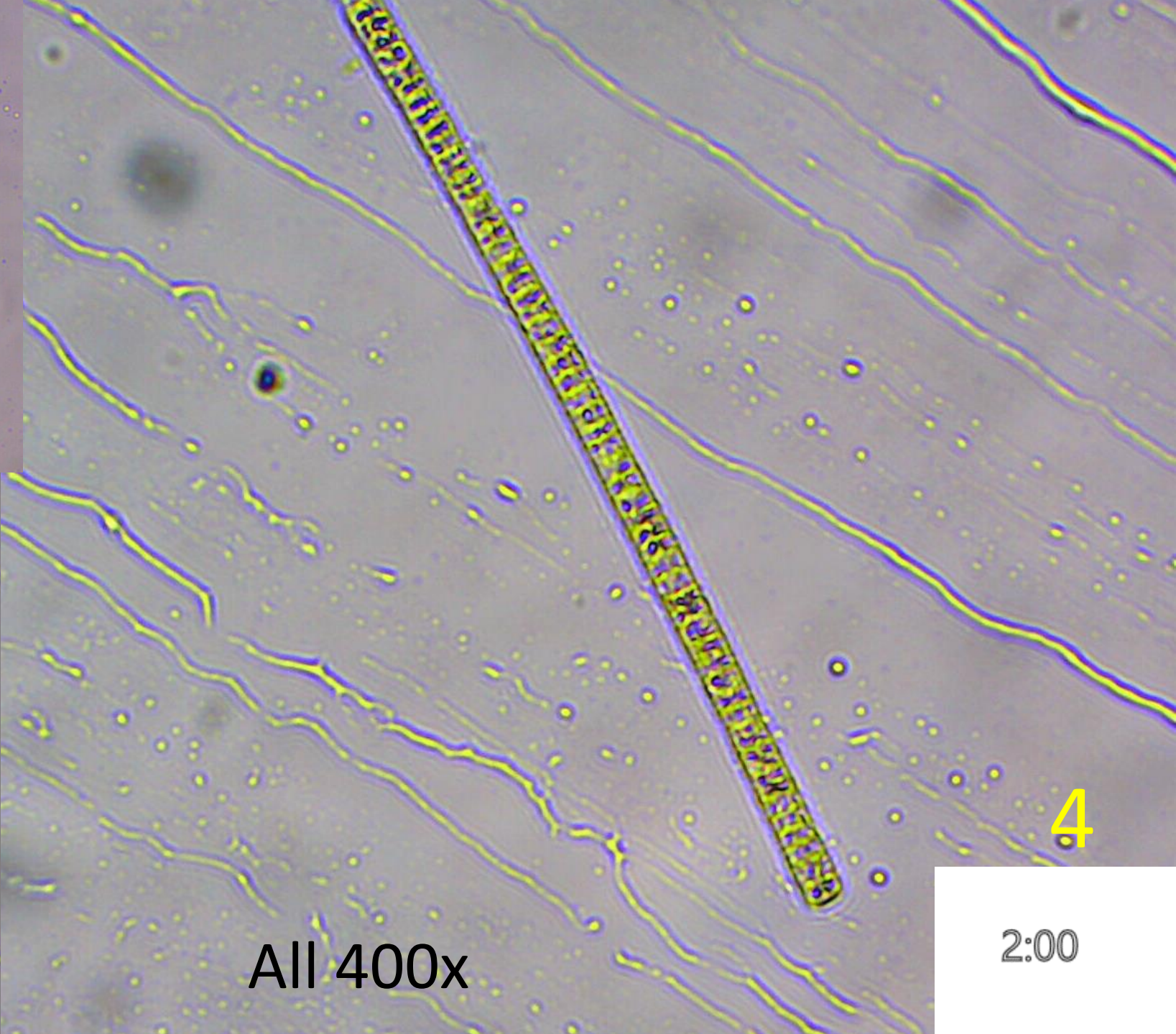
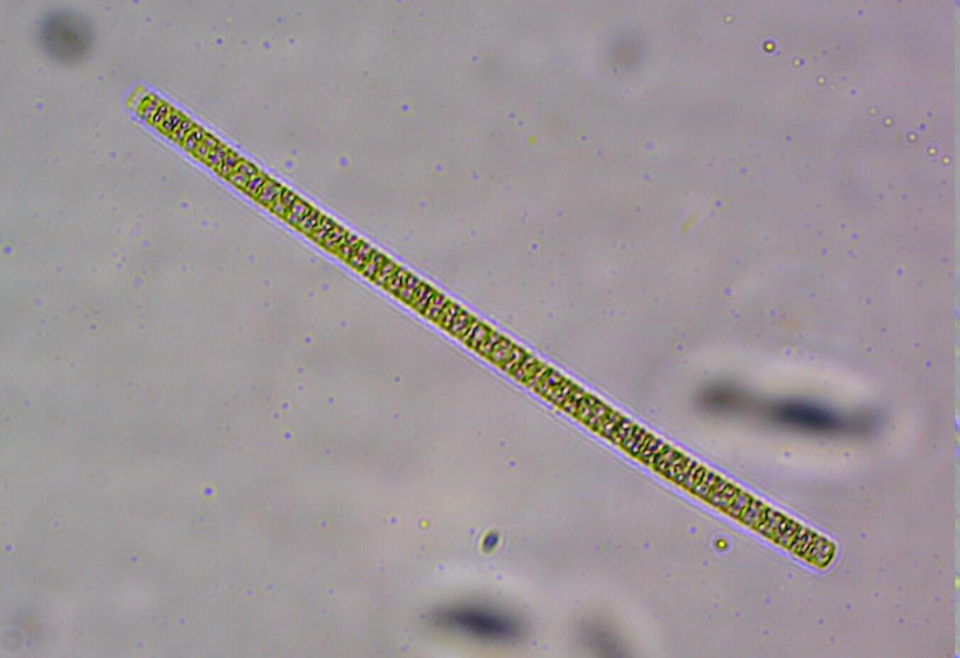
100x



400x





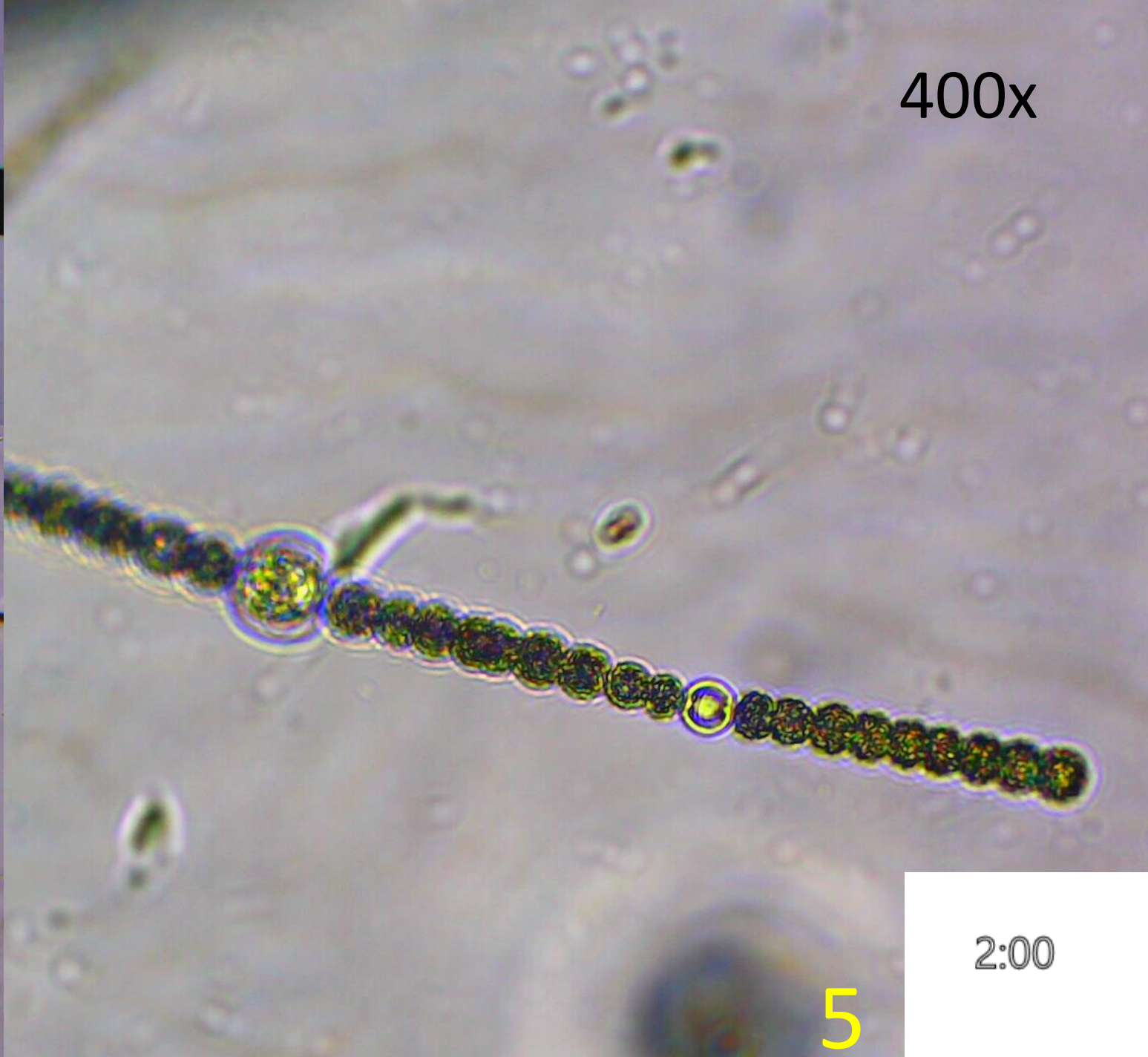
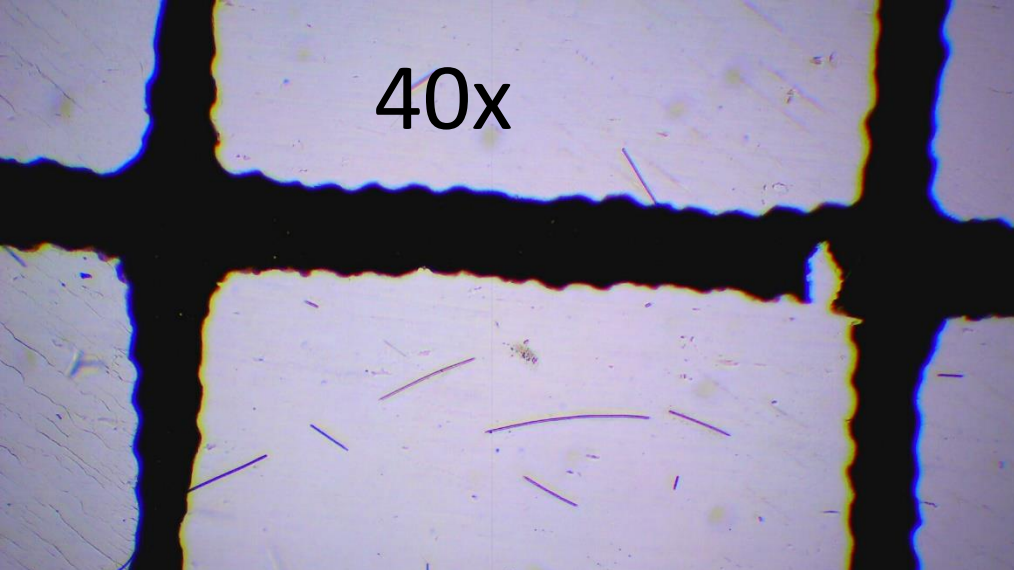


All 400x

4

2:00



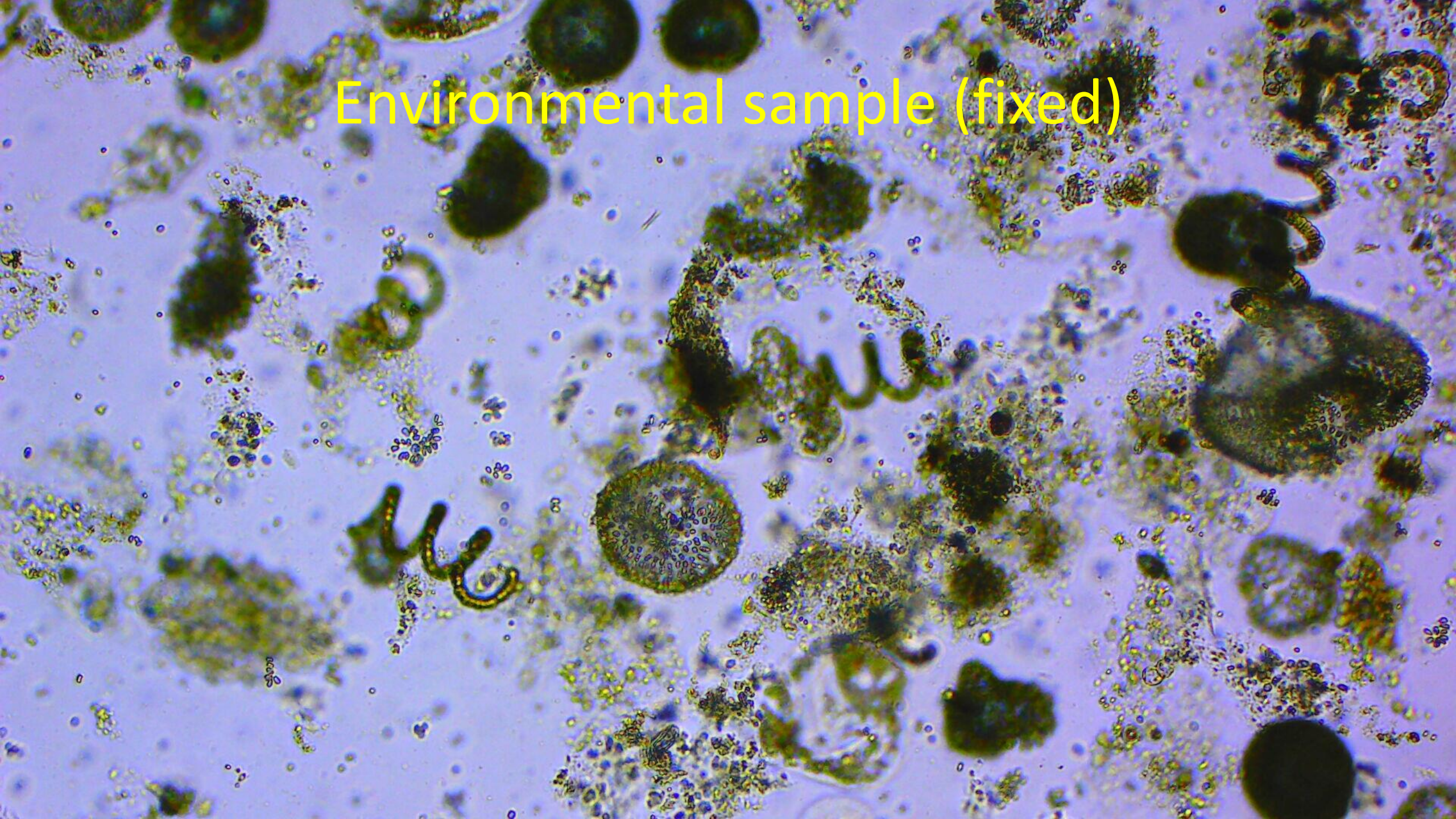




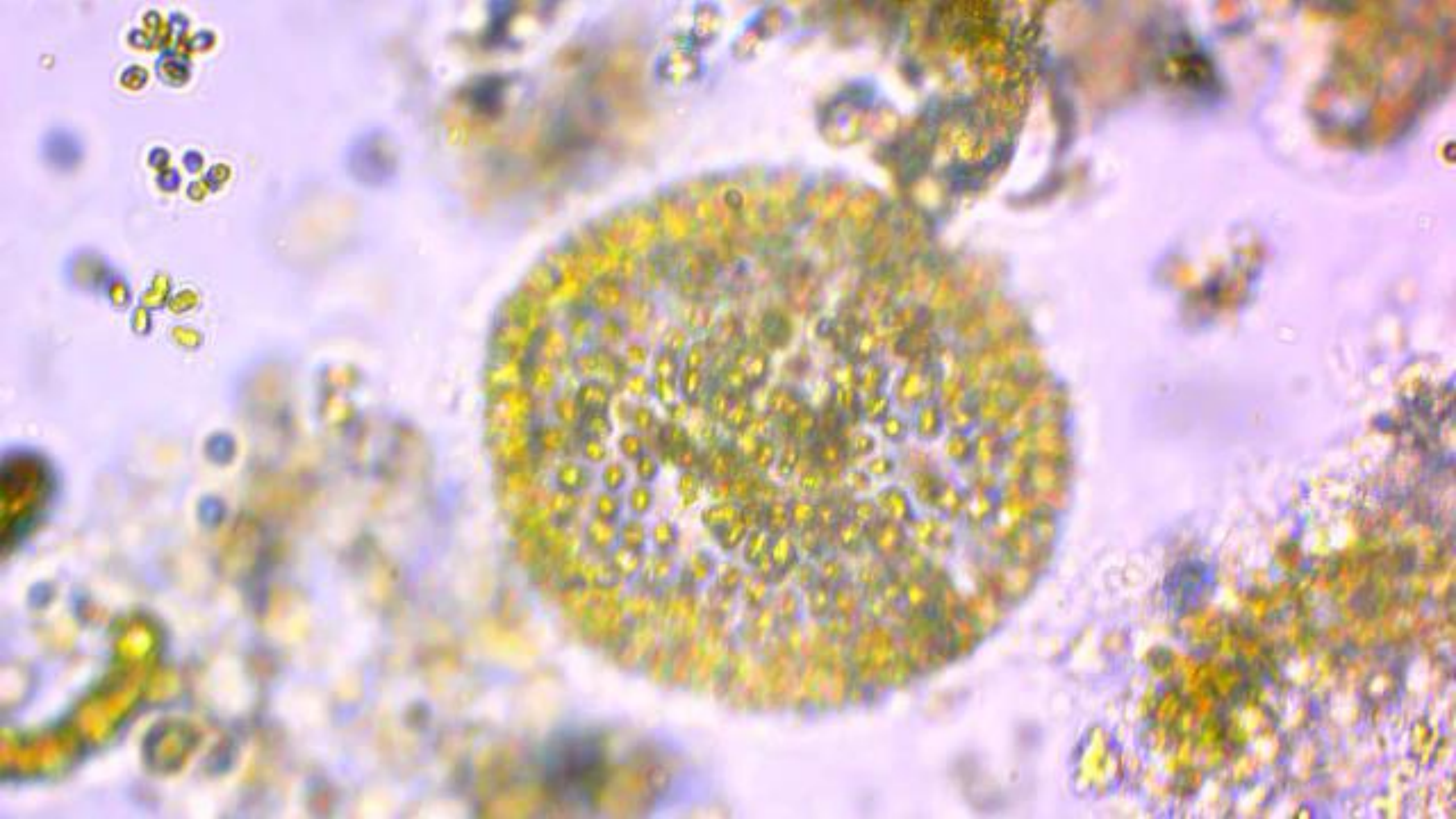




Environmental sample (fixed)



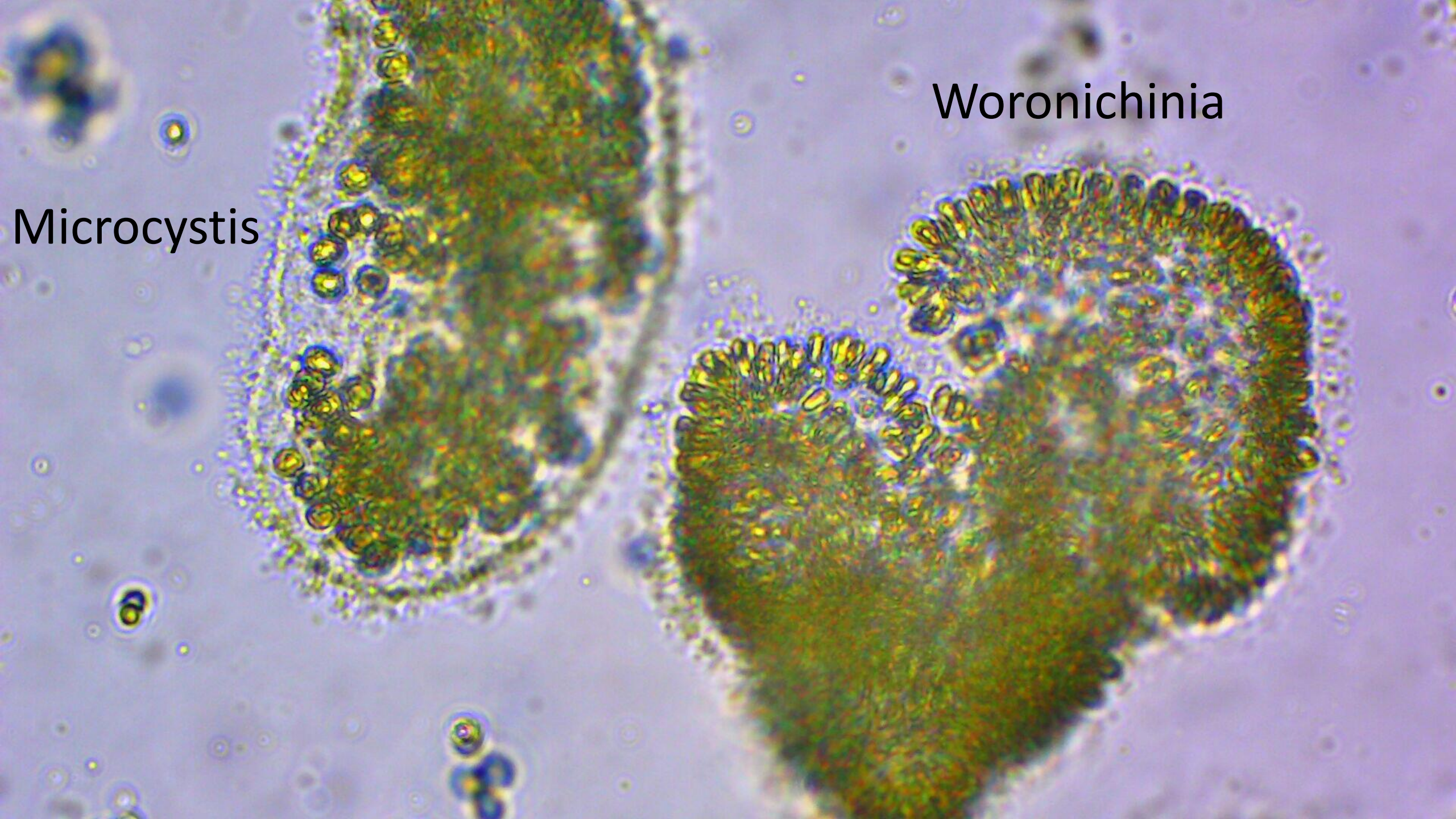




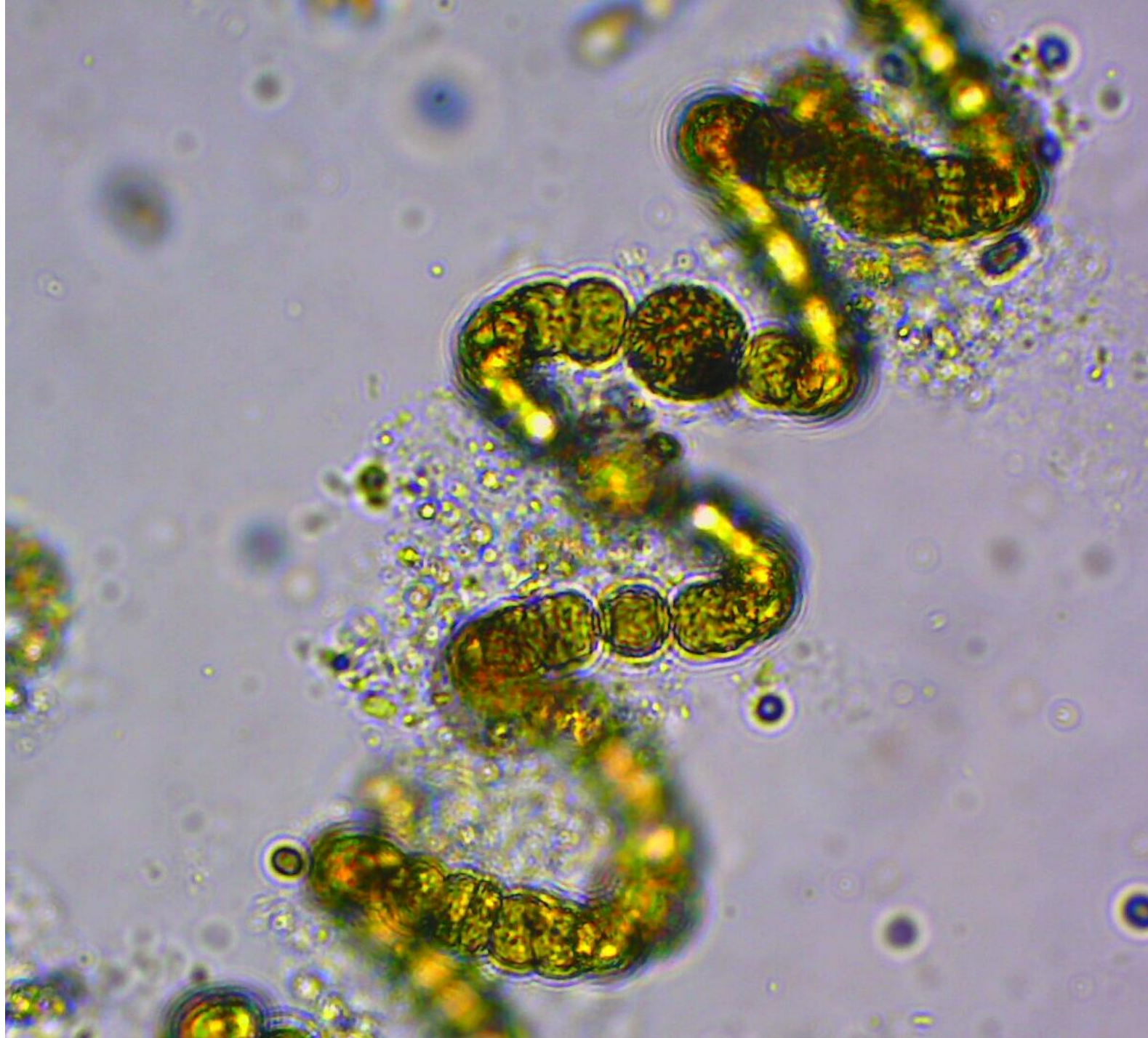


Microcystis

Woronichinia











*Staurostrum (Desmid)*



*Pediastrum (Sphaeropleales)*



# Funding partners





# For More Information

Steve Morton, Ph.D.  
NOAA/NOS/NCCOS  
331 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC 2941

[Steve.Morton@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Morton@noaa.gov)



Jen Maucher Fuquay, M.S.  
NOAA/NOS/NCCOS; CSS contractor  
219 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC 29412

[Jennifer.Maucher@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Maucher@noaa.gov)

Links:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/stressor-impacts-mitigation/pmn/> - PMN website

<http://youtu.be/ItzxoB06De0> - Phyto app demo

