

# Diversity of Life

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# The Three Domains

- Developed by Woese in 1978; based on sequences of nucleotides in rRNA

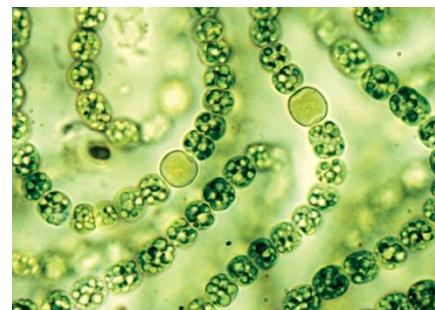
- **Eukarya**

- Animals
- Plants
- Fungi
- “Protists”



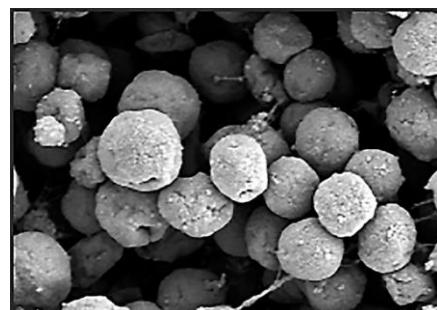
- **Bacteria**

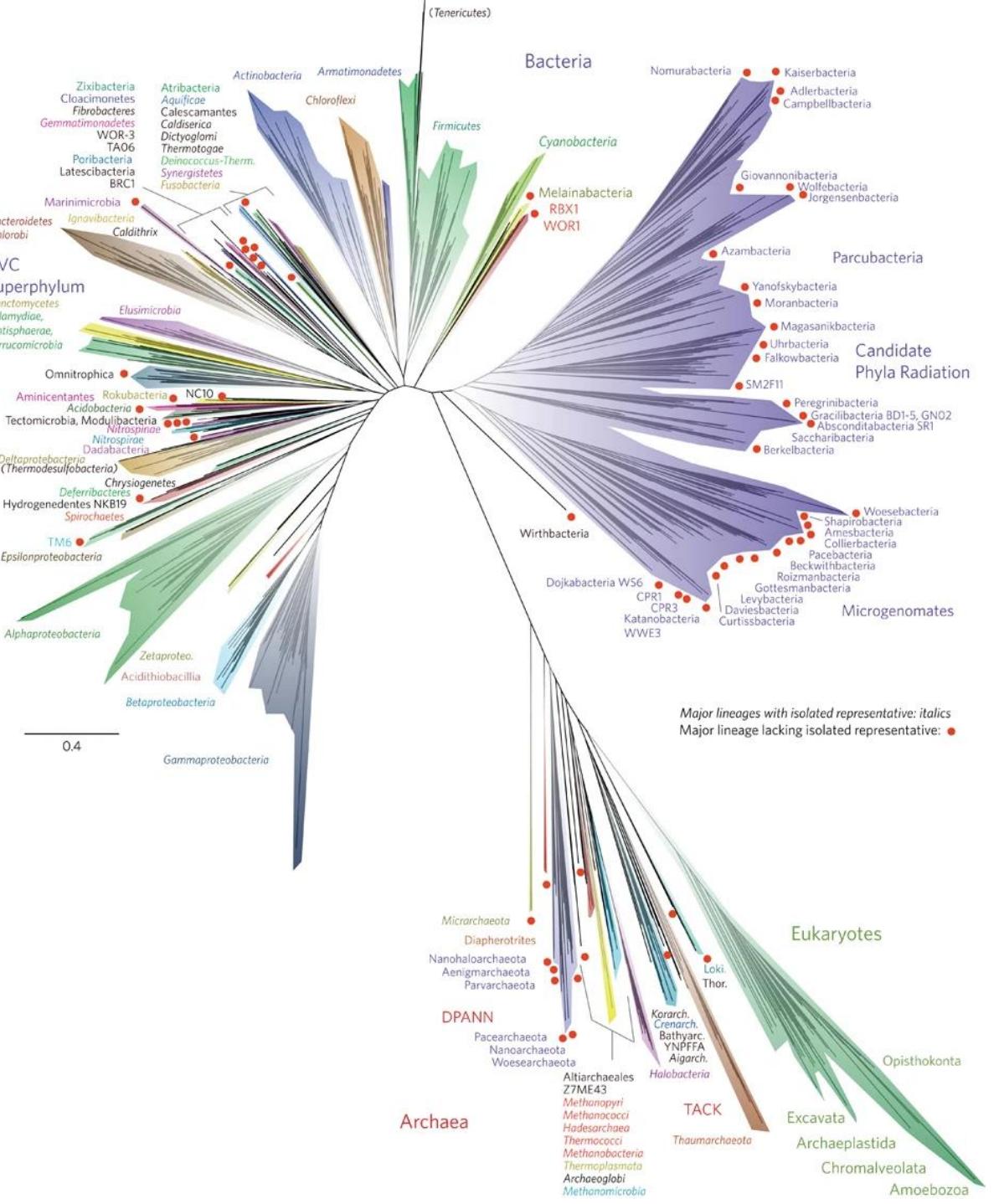
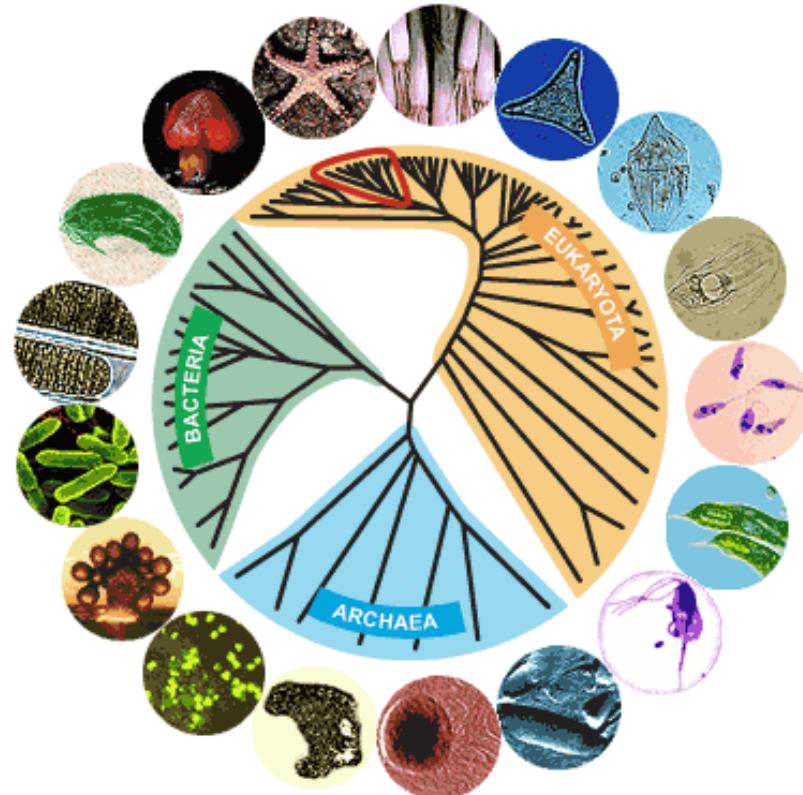
- Cyanobacteria
- Pathogens
- Beneficial gut microbes
- Cheese/yogurt



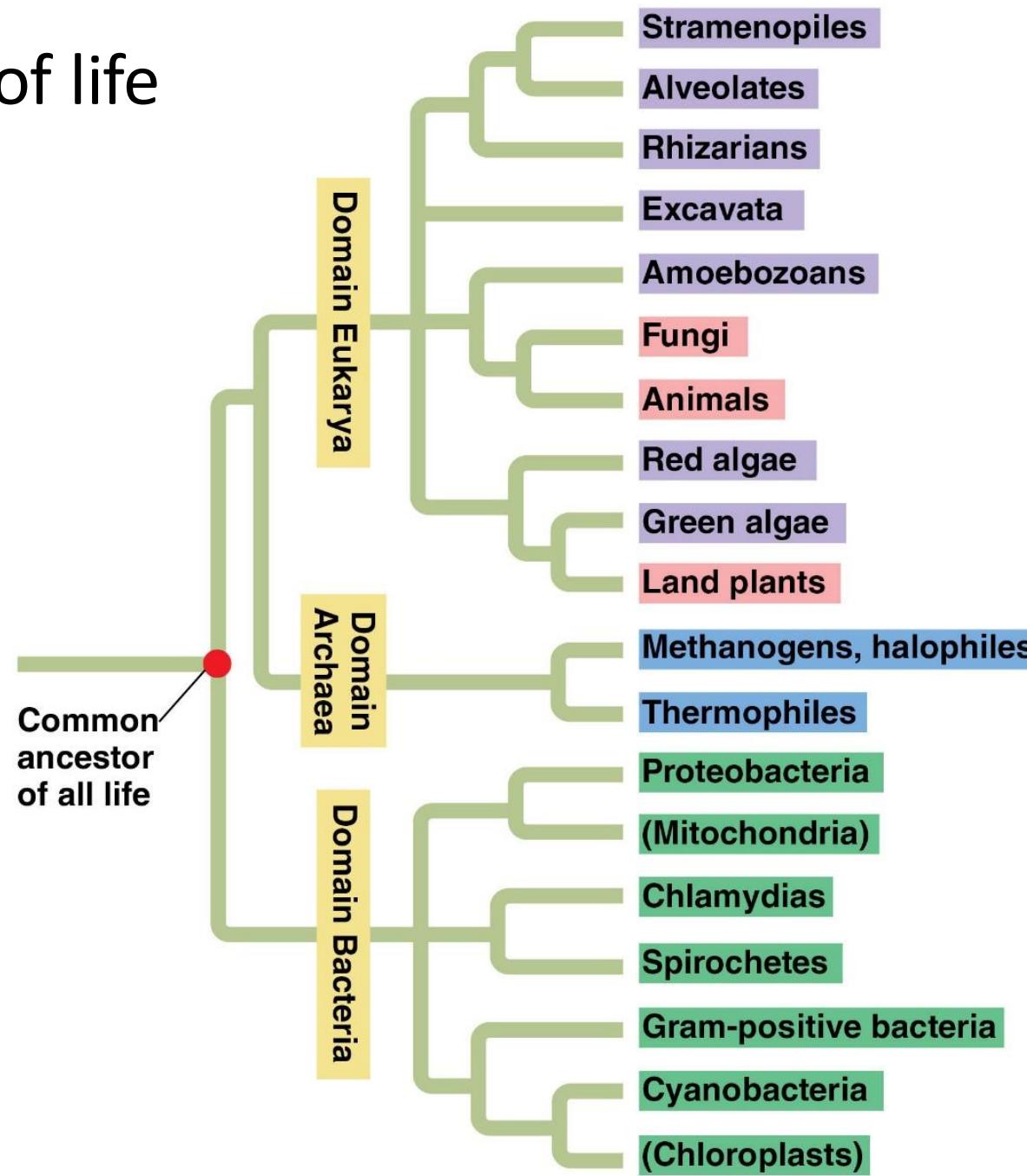
- **Archaea**

- Methanogens
- Extreme halophiles
- Hyperthermophiles

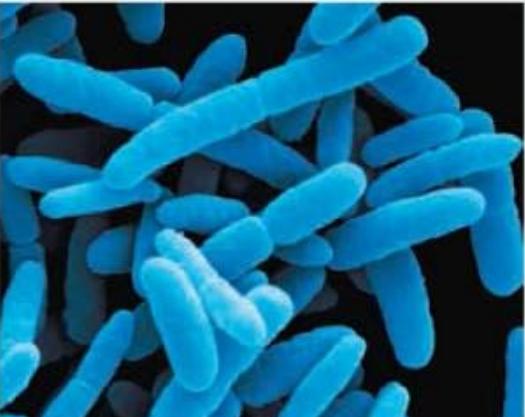
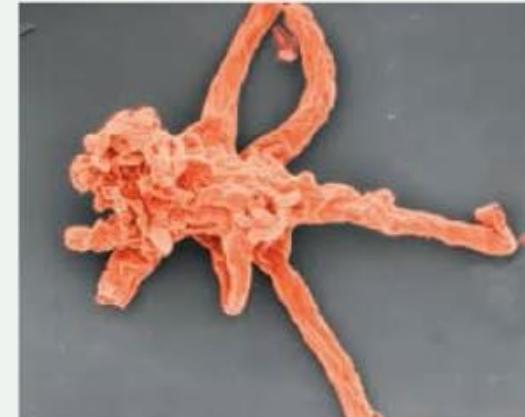




# The three domains of life

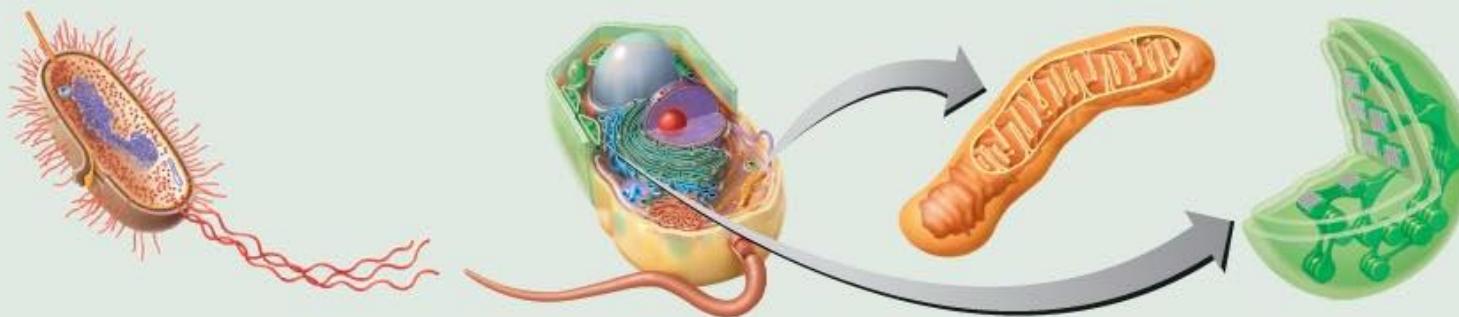


# Characteristics of Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya domains

	Archaea	Bacteria	Eukarya
			
	<i>Sulfolobus</i> sp.	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Amoeba</i> sp.
SEM	1 $\mu$ m	SEM 1 $\mu$ m	SEM 5 $\mu$ m
Cell Type	Prokaryotic	Prokaryotic	Eukaryotic
Cell Wall	Varies in composition; contains no peptidoglycan	Contains peptidoglycan	Varies in composition; contains carbohydrates
Membrane Lipids	Composed of branched carbon chains attached to glycerol by ether linkage	Composed of straight carbon chains attached to glycerol by ester linkage	Composed of straight carbon chains attached to glycerol by ester linkage
First Amino Acid in Protein Synthesis	Methionine	Formylmethionine	Methionine

# Prokaryotic cell and Eukaryotic organelles

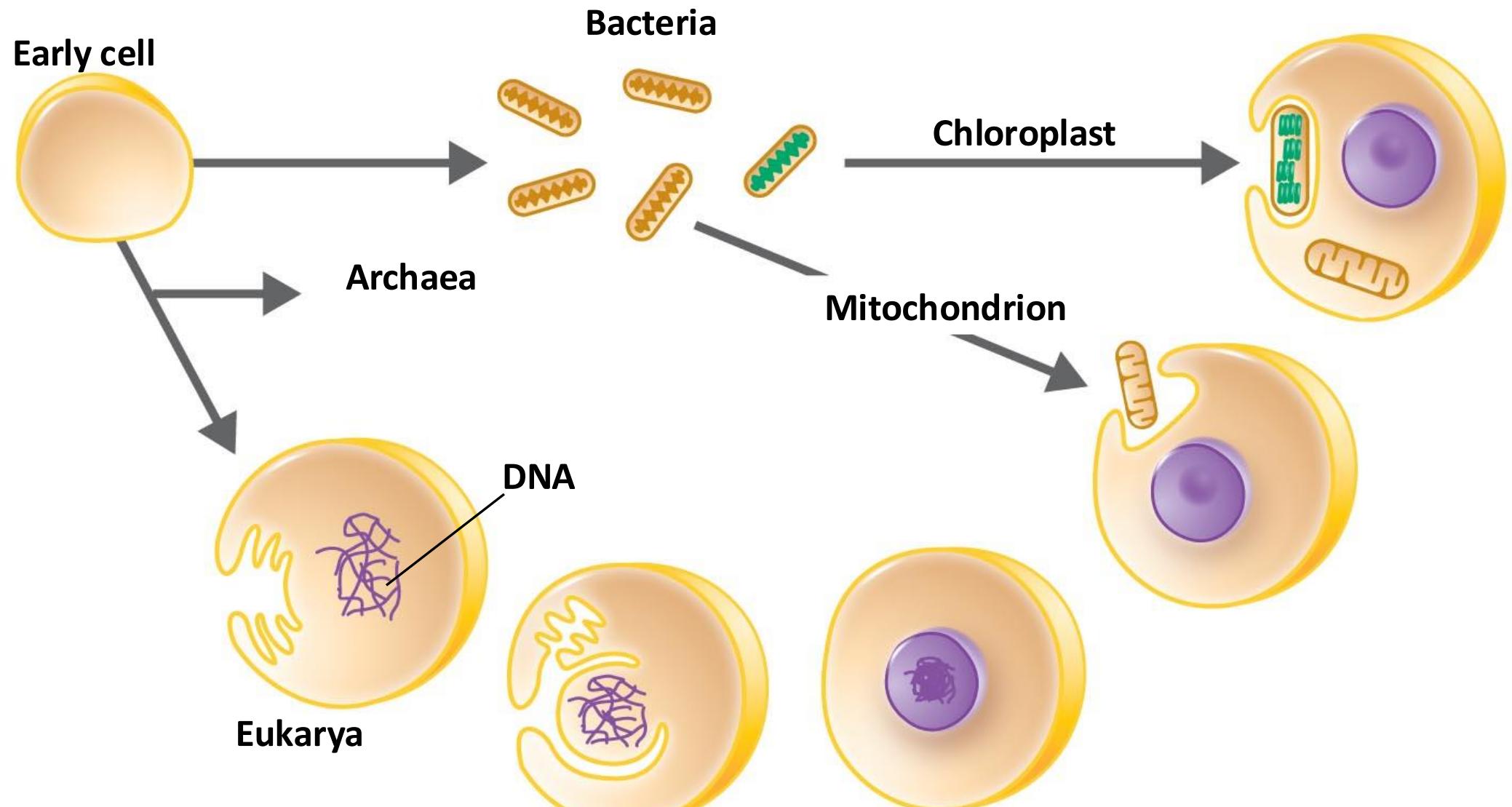
	Prokaryotic Cell	Eukaryotic Cell	Eukaryotic Organelles (Mitochondria and Chloroplasts)
DNA	One circular; some two circular; some linear	Linear	Circular
Histones	In archaea	Yes	No
First Amino Acid in Protein Synthesis	Formylmethionine (bacteria) Methionine (archaea)	Methionine	Formylmethionine
Ribosomes	70S	80S	70S
Growth	Binary fission	Mitosis	Binary fission



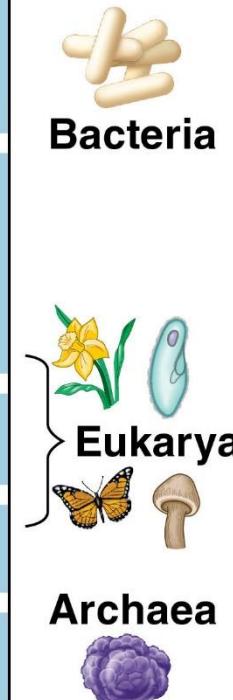
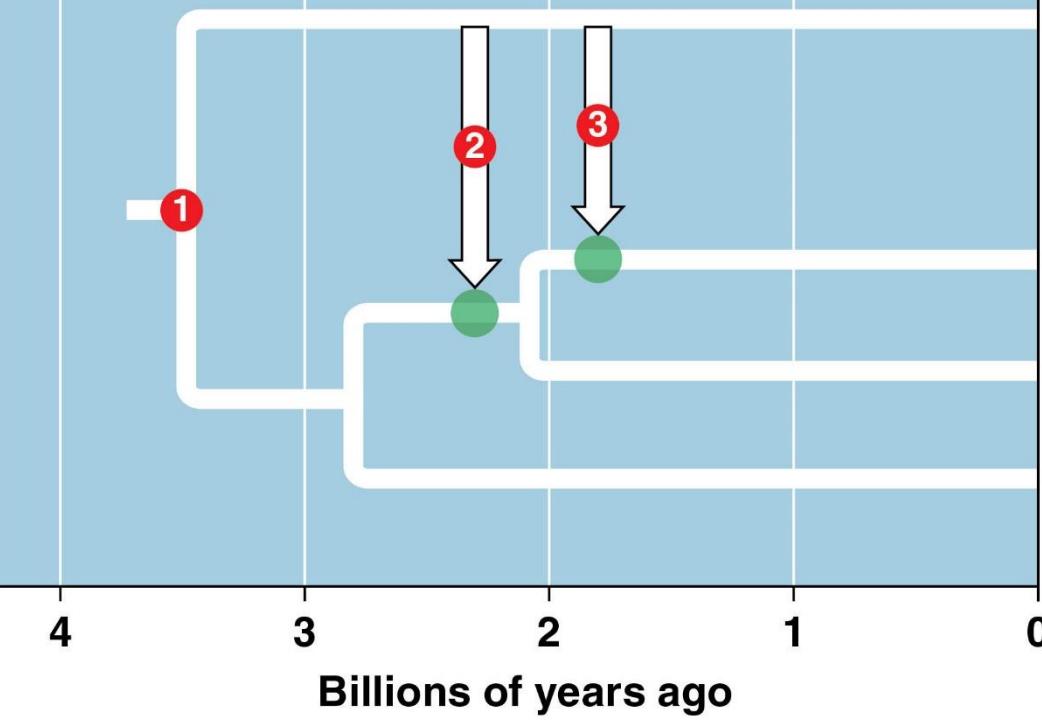
# The Three Domains

- Eukaryotes originated from infoldings of prokaryotic plasma membranes
- Endosymbiotic bacteria developed into organelles

# A model of the origin of Eukaryotes

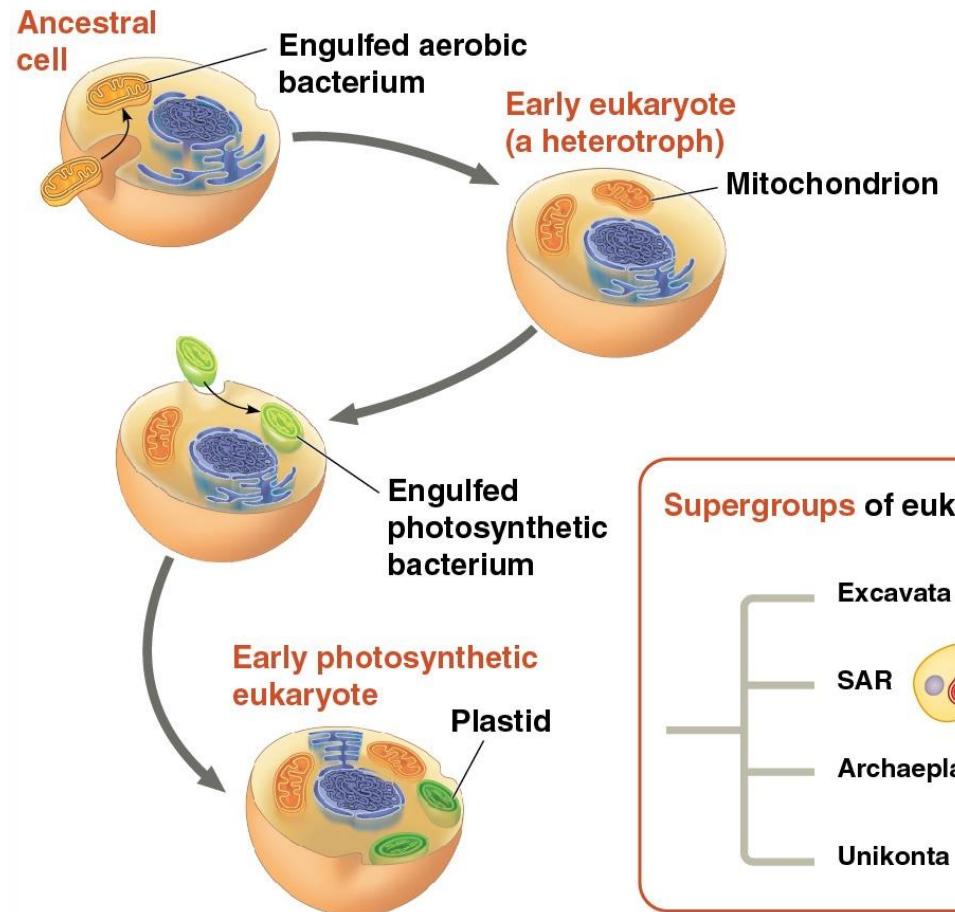


- 1 Most recent common ancestor of all living things
- 2 Gene transfer between mitochondrial ancestor and ancestor of eukaryotes
- 3 Gene transfer between chloroplast ancestor and ancestor of green plants

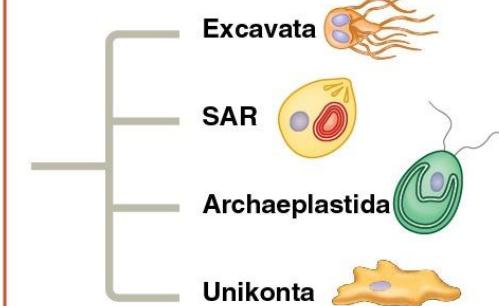


What gave rise to the great diversity of protists, and how have their lineages diverged over time?

Much of protistan diversity can be traced to **endosymbiosis**:



Supergroups of eukaryotes:



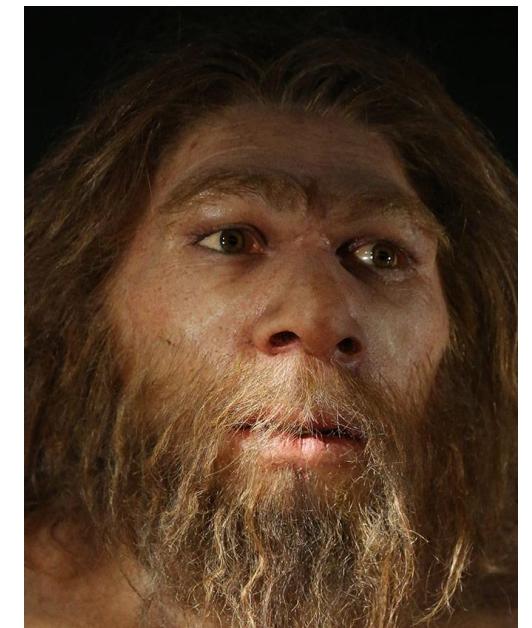
# Scientific Nomenclature

- Common names vary with languages and geography
- **Binomial nomenclature** is used worldwide to consistently and accurately name organisms
  - Genus
  - Specific epithet (species)

*Vulpes vulpes*



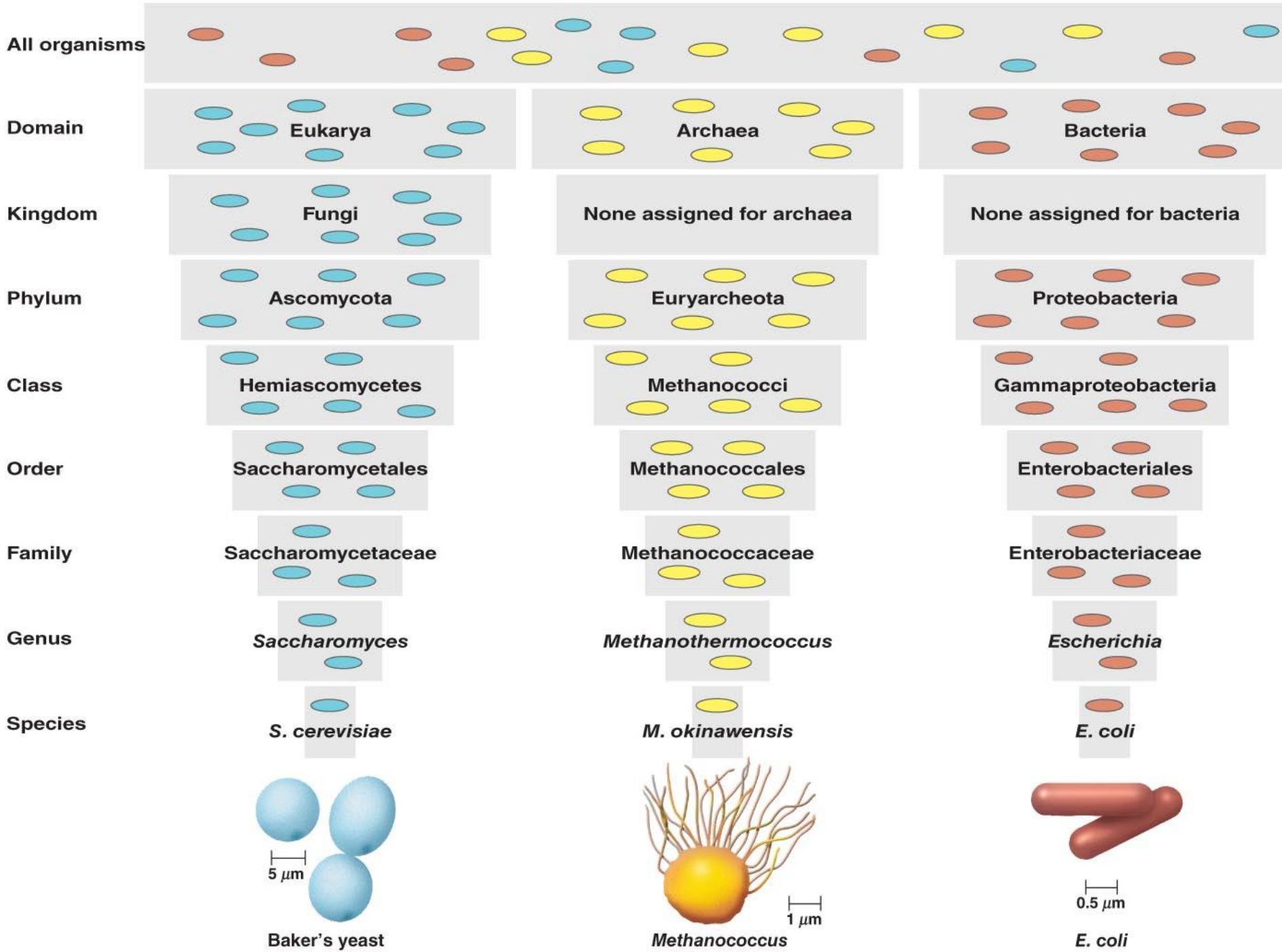
red fox, renard rouge, volpe rossa, Rotfuchs, *madra rua* ("red dog"), Lis rudy, sionnach, 붉은여우, Rødrev, アカギツネ,



*Homo neanderthalensis*

# The Taxonomic Hierarchy

- A series of subdivisions developed by Linnaeus to classify plants and animals
- **Eukaryotic species:** a group of closely related organisms that breed among themselves



# Classification of Eukaryotes

- **Protista:**

- a “catchall kingdom” for a variety of organisms
- unicellular or multicellular
- autotrophic and heterotrophic

- **Fungi:**

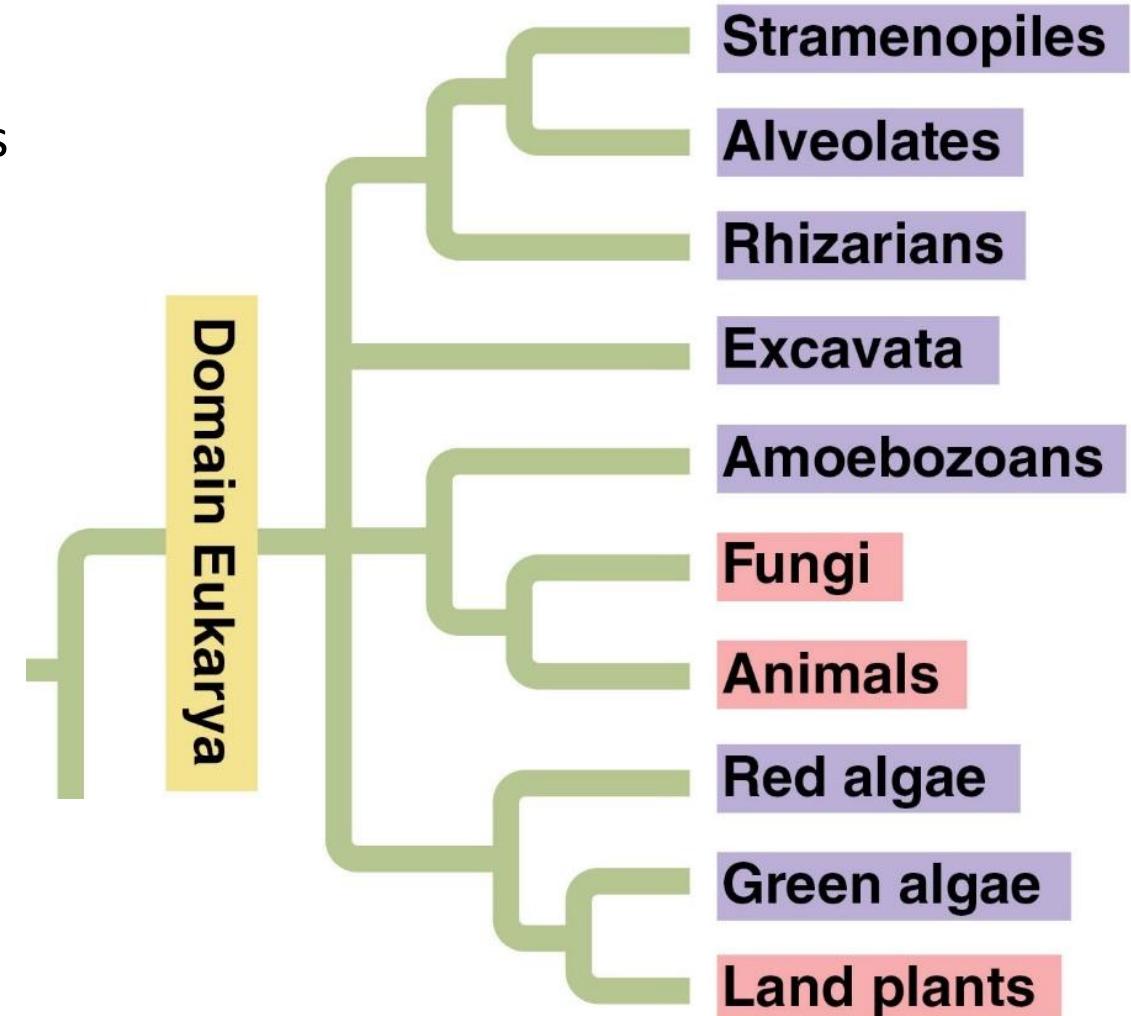
- unicellular or multicellular
- cell walls of chitin
- develop from spores or hyphal fragments
- heterotrophs

- **Plantae:**

- multicellular
- cellulose cell walls
- undergo photosynthesis (autotrophs)

- **Animalia:**

- multicellular
- no cell walls
- heterotrophs



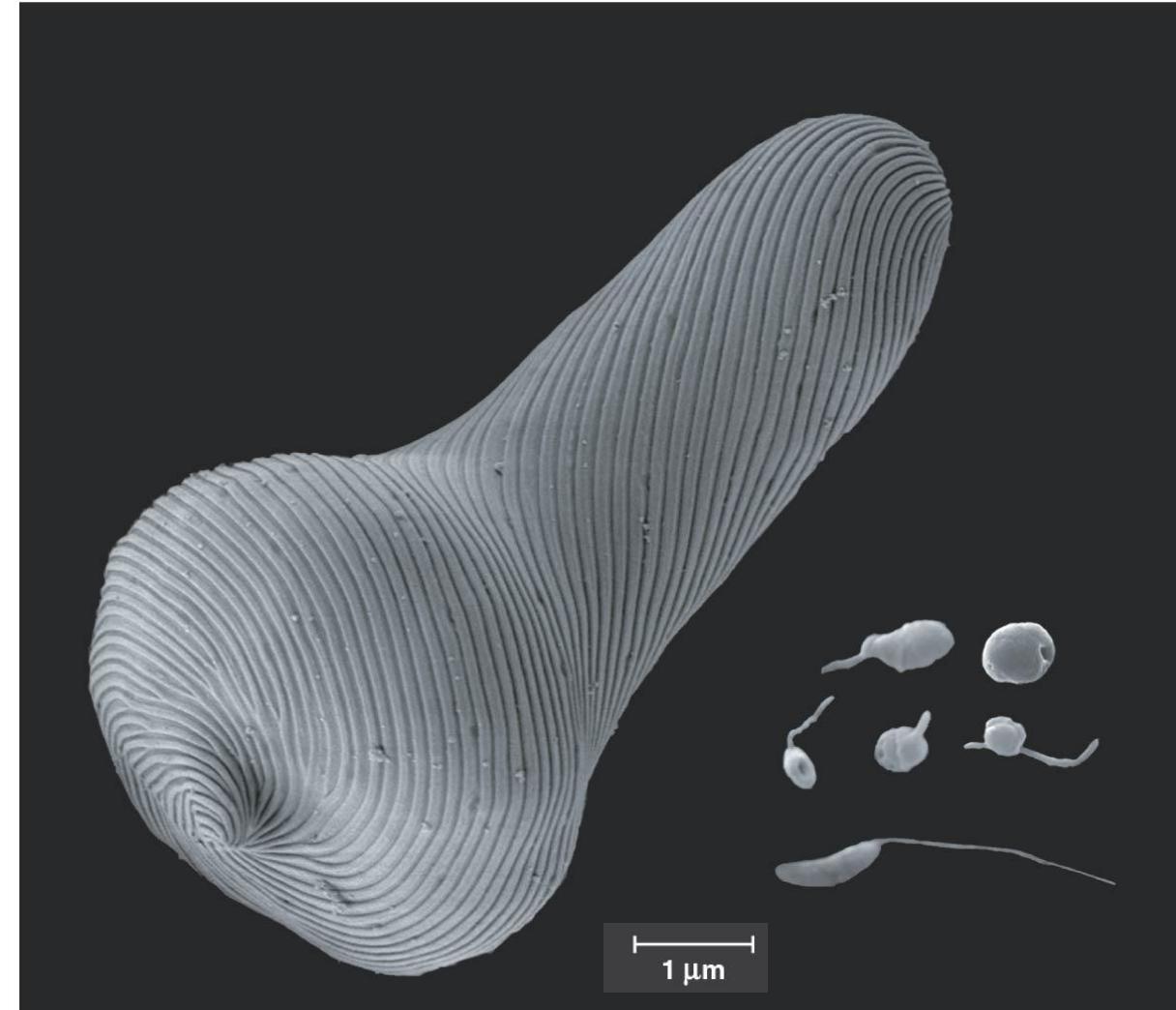
# Most eukaryotes are single-celled organisms

- **Protist** is an informal term used to refer to all eukaryotes that are not plants, animals, or fungi
- This group is no longer considered a kingdom because some protists are more closely related to plants, fungi, or animals than other protists

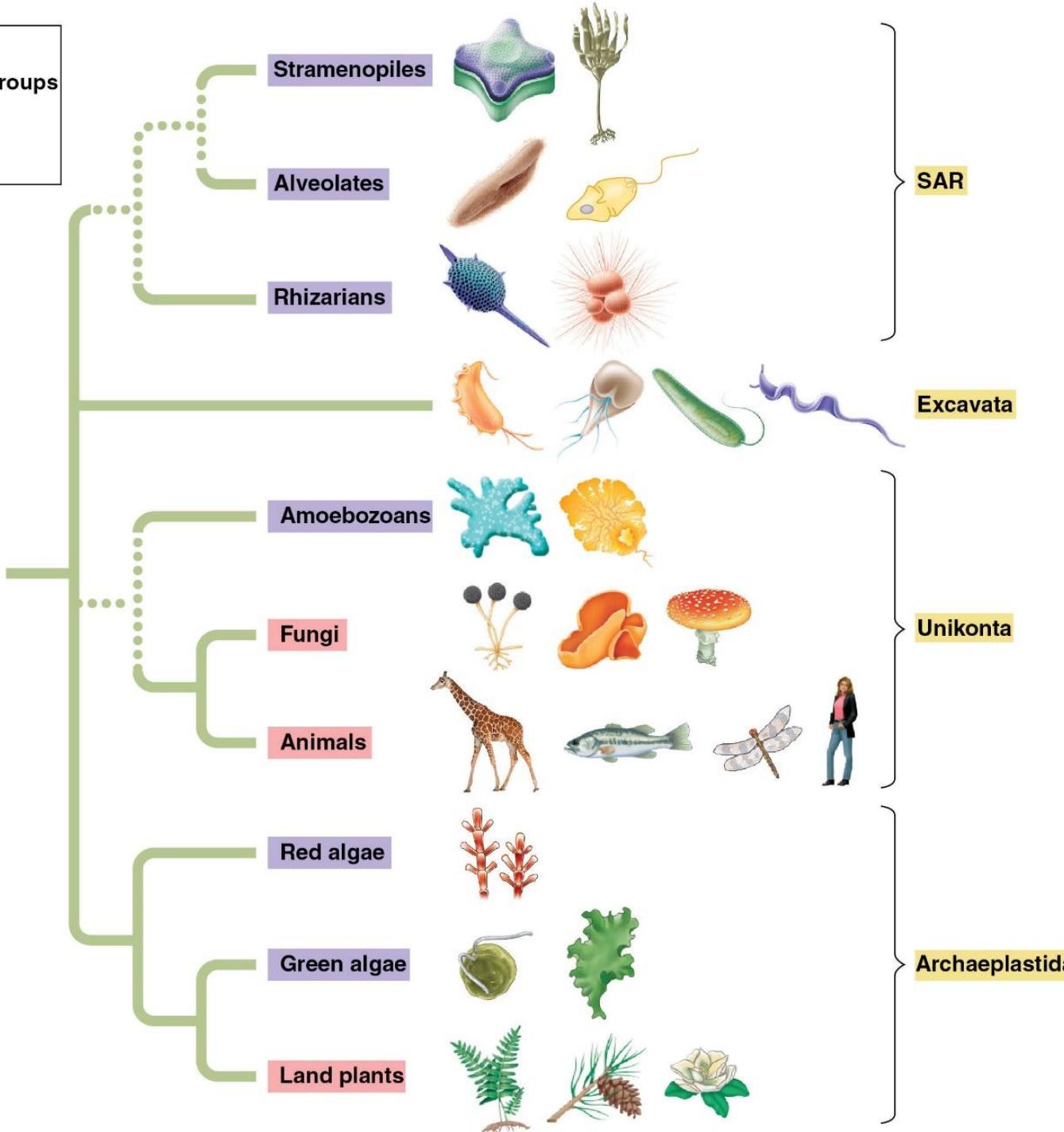


# Most eukaryotes are single-celled organisms

- Advances in eukaryotic systematics have caused the classification of protists to change significantly
- Protists constitute a polyphyletic group, and Protista is no longer a kingdom

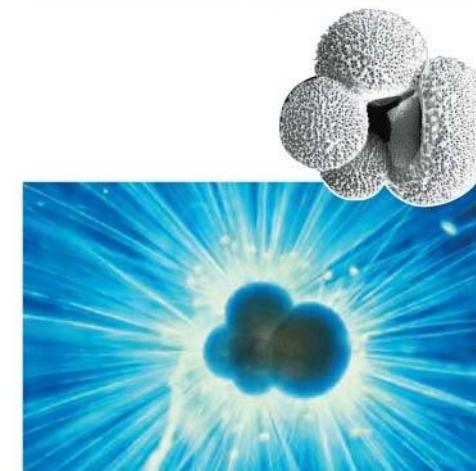
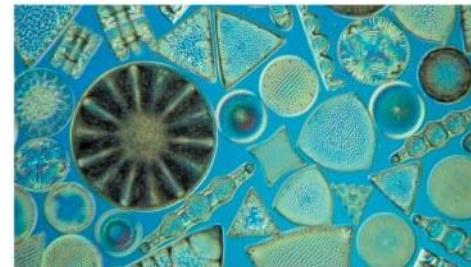
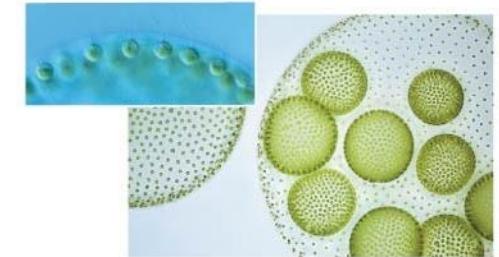


Key	
	Eukaryote supergroups
	Protist clades
	Nonprotist clades

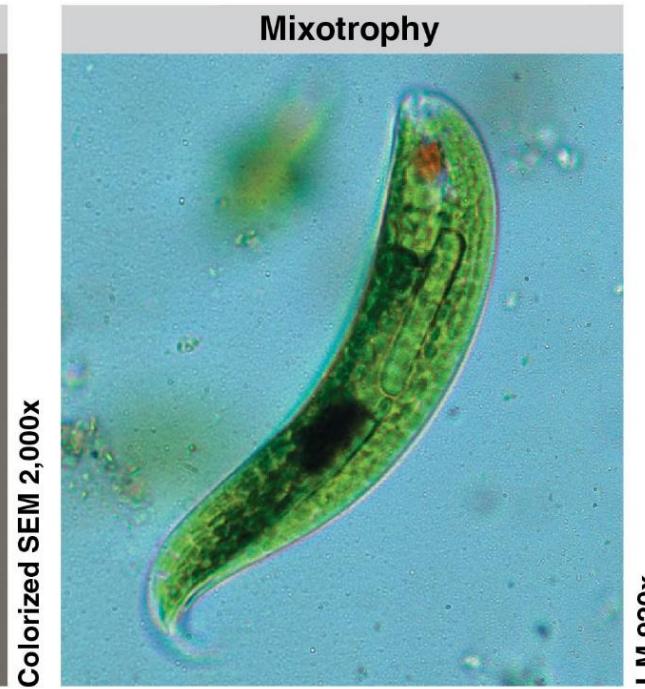


# Structural and Functional Diversity in Protists

- Protists exhibit more structural and functional diversity than any other group of eukaryotes
- Though most protists are unicellular, there are some colonial and multicellular species
- Single-celled protists can be very complex, as all biological functions are carried out by organelles in each individual cell

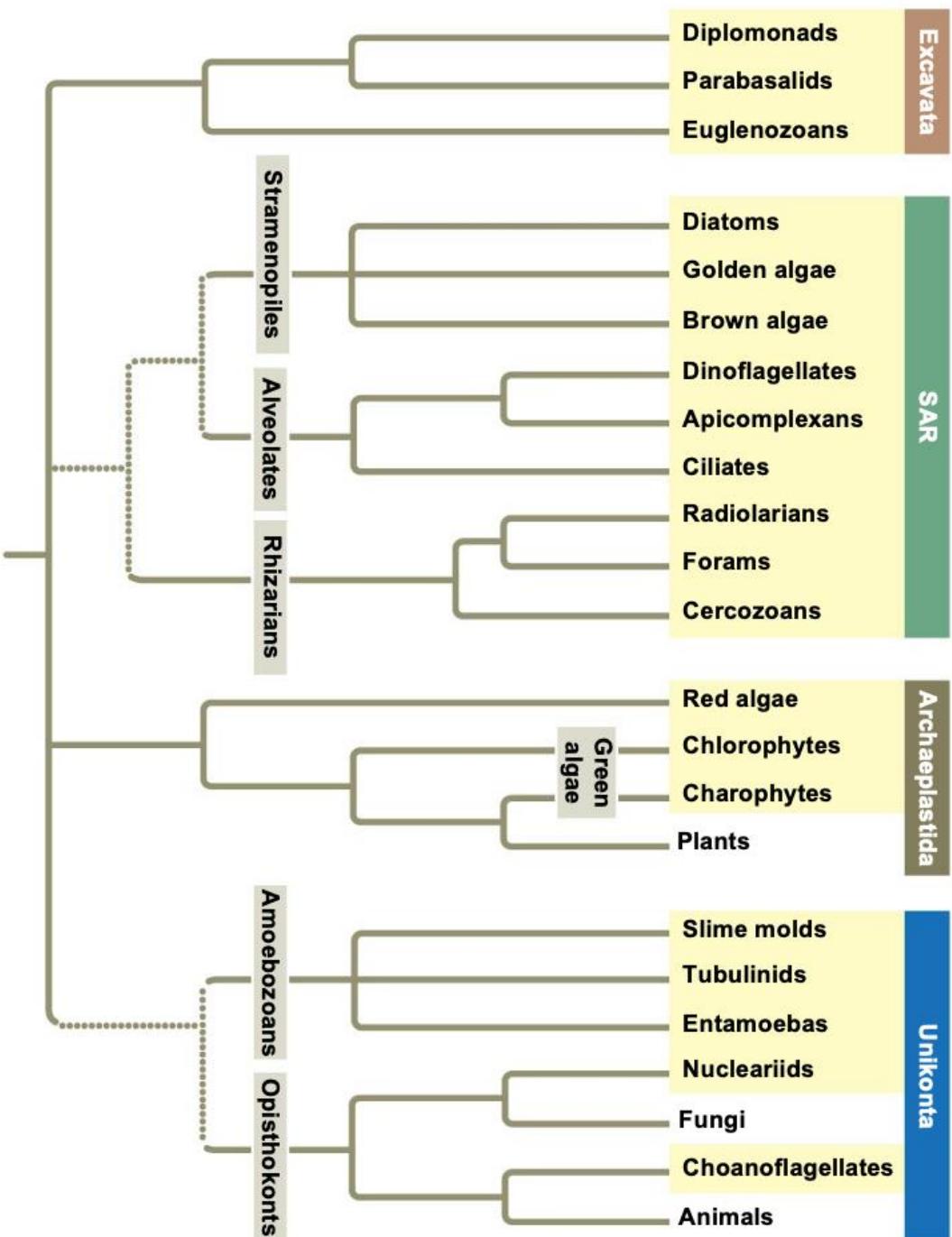


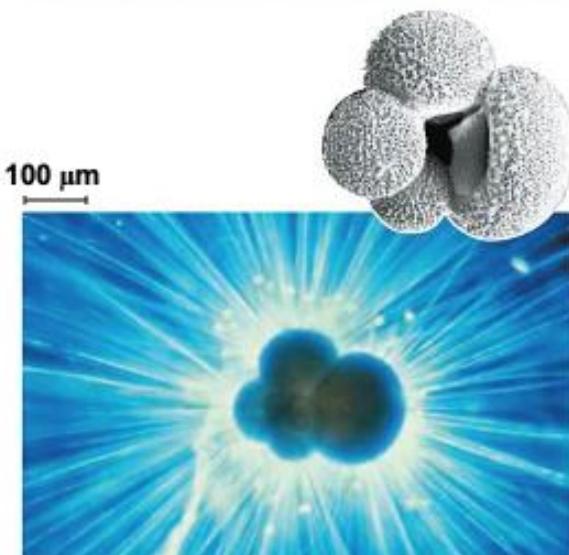
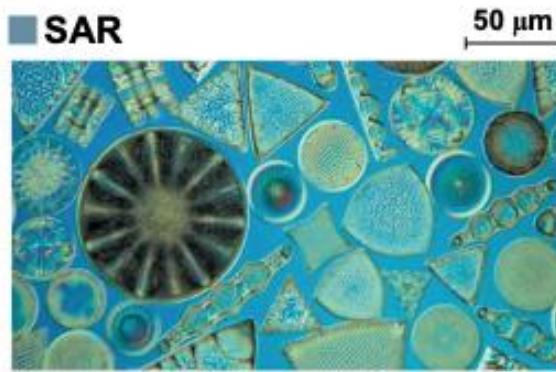
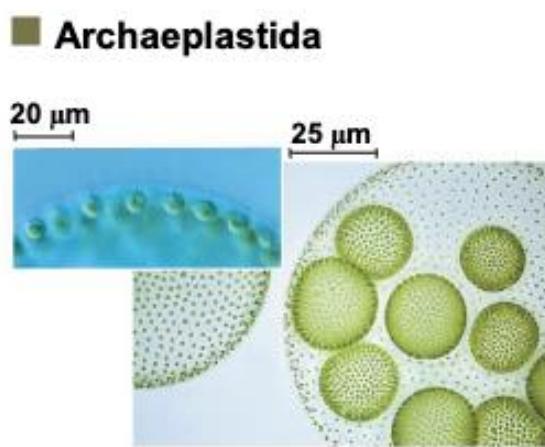
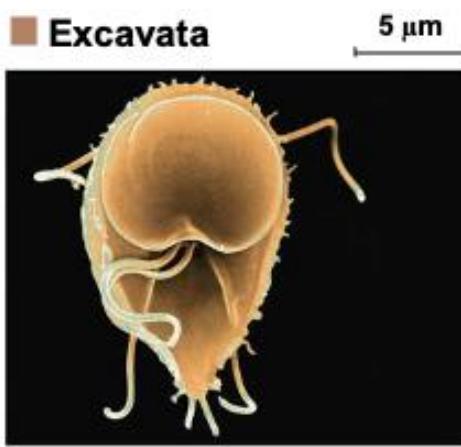
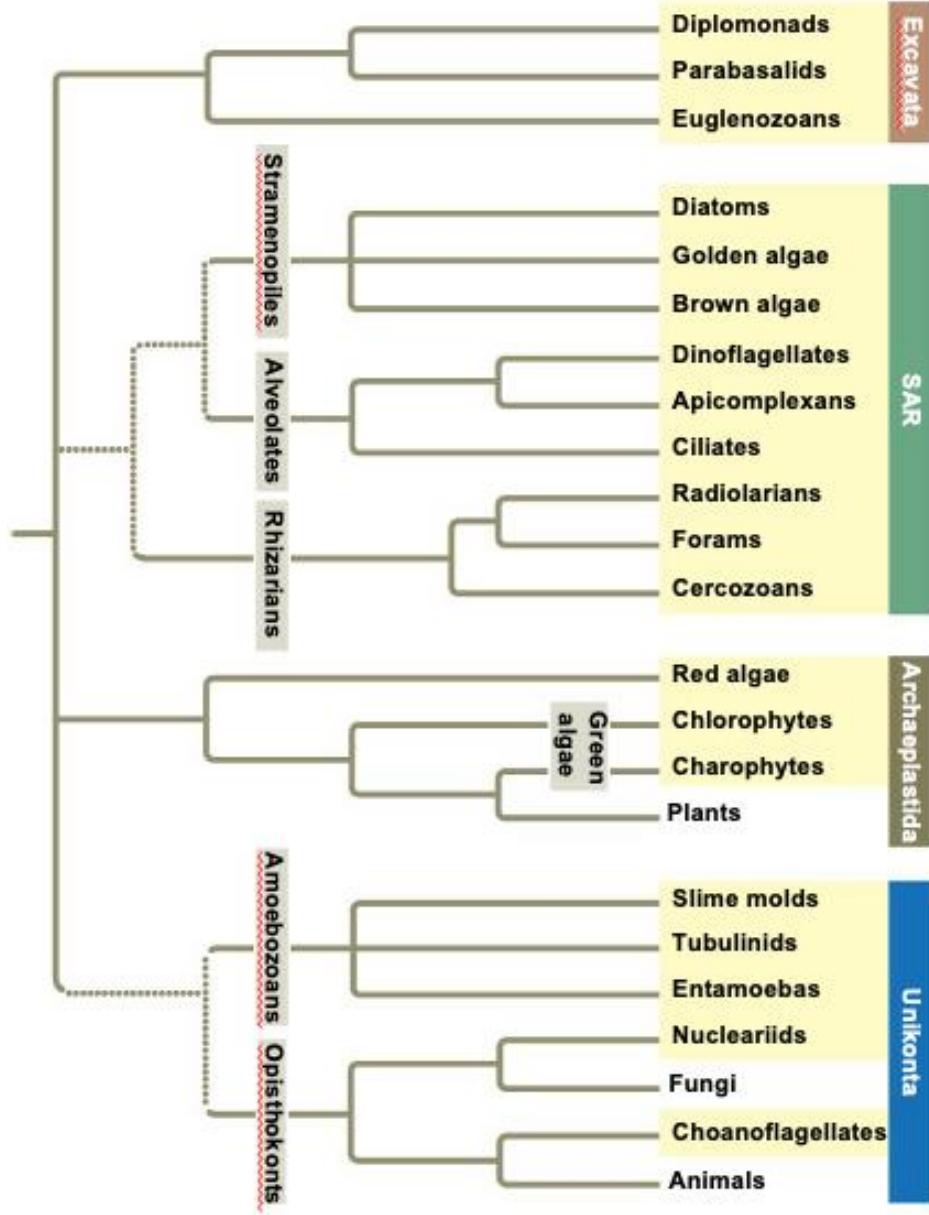
- Protists, the most nutritionally diverse of all eukaryotes, include
  - **Photoautotrophs**, which contain chloroplasts
  - **Heterotrophs**, which absorb organic molecules or ingest larger food particles
  - **Mixotrophs**, which combine photosynthesis and heterotrophic nutrition
- Some protists reproduce asexually, while others reproduce sexually



# Four Supergroups of Eukaryotes

- Our understanding of the evolutionary relationships among protist groups continues to change rapidly
- One current hypothesis divides all eukaryotes (including protists) into four supergroups





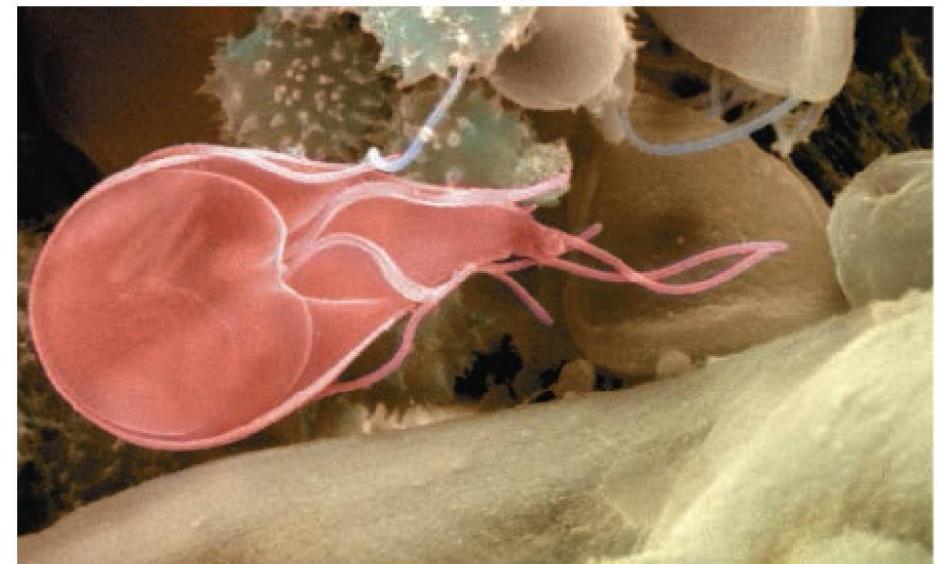
# Exploring protistan diversity

## Excavata

- This supergroup includes three clades: parabasalids, diplomonads, and euglenozoans
  - For example, *Giardia intestinalis* is a parasite that causes intestinal infections in mammals
- Some members have an “excavated” feeding groove on one side of the body

Excavata

5  $\mu$ m



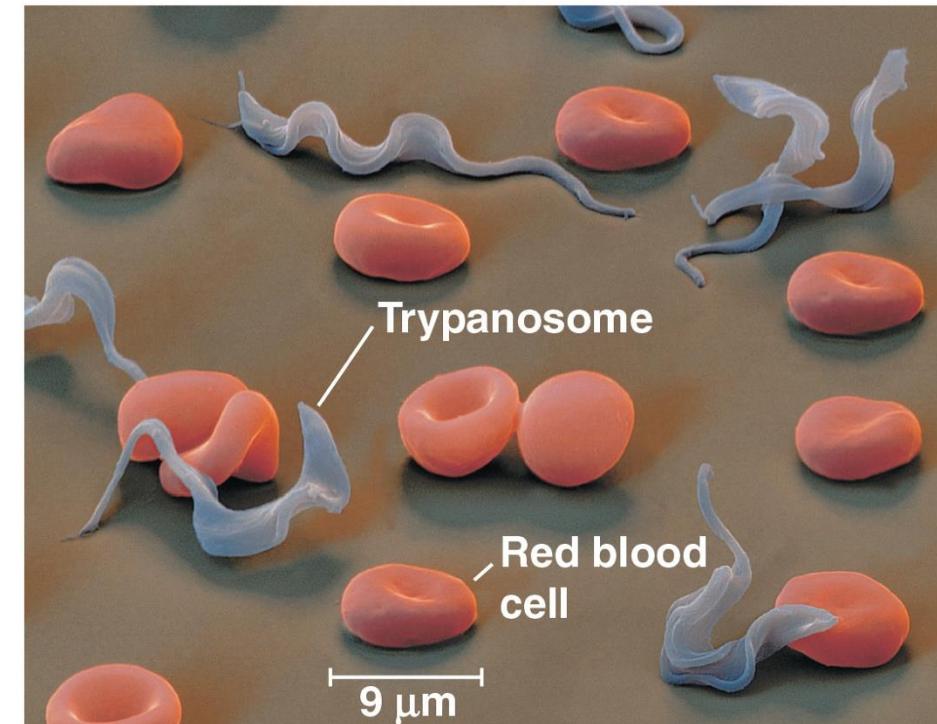
*Giardia intestinalis*, a diplomonad parasite



Excavata

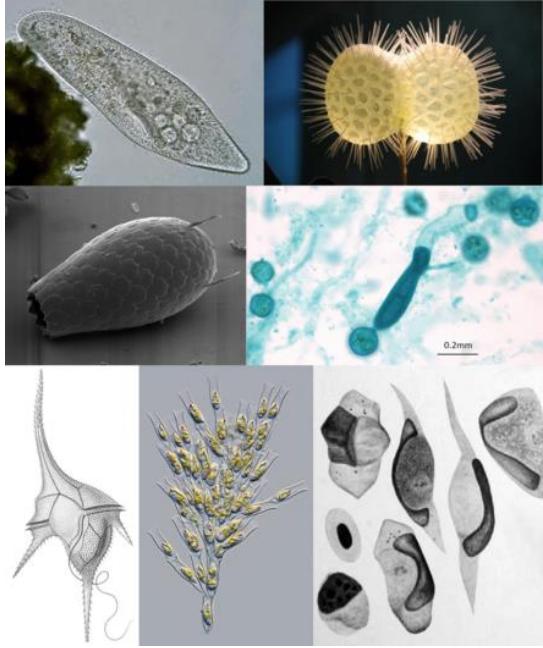
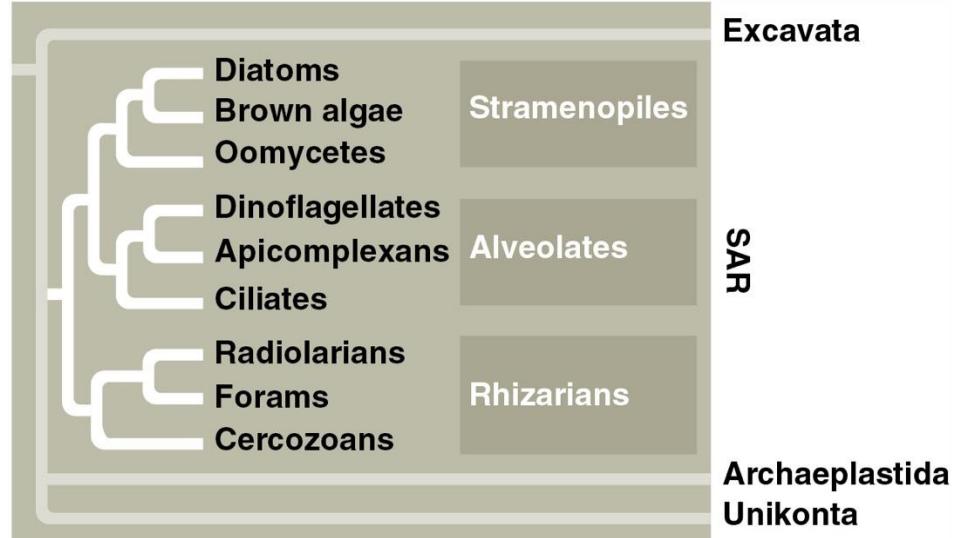
SAR  
Archaeplastida  
Unikonta

- Some species parasitize animals, plants, and other protists
  - For example, members of the genus *Trypanosoma* infect humans, causing sleeping sickness in about 10,000 people per year



# SAR

- This supergroup includes three large clades: Stramenopila, Alveolata, and Rhizaria



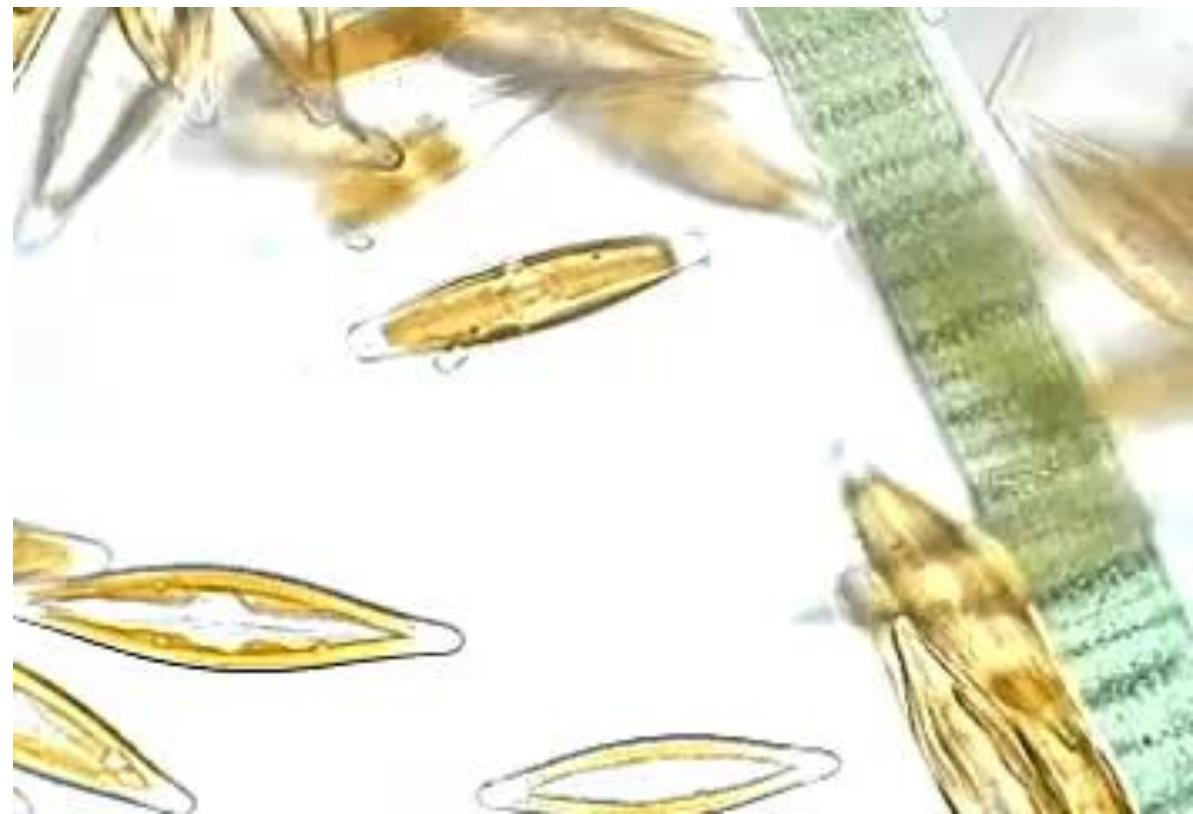
- Stramenopiles** include some of the most important photosynthetic organisms on Earth
  - Diatoms**, oomycetes, and brown algae are three important groups of stramenopiles



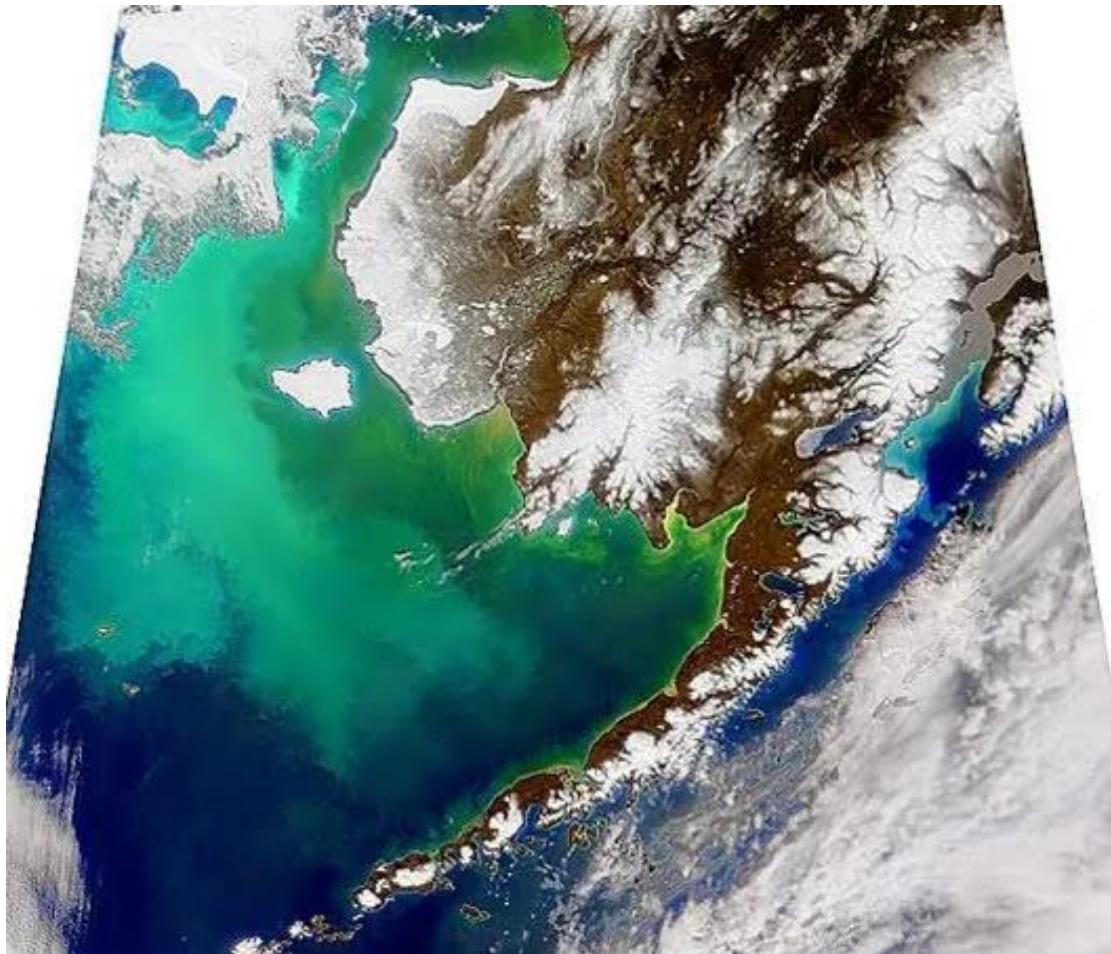
# Diatoms

- **Diatoms** are unicellular algae with a unique two-part, glass-like wall of silicon dioxide
- The wall withstands pressure up to 1.4 million kg/m<sup>2</sup>, protecting diatoms from the crushing jaws of predators
- Including about 100,000 species, diatoms compose much of the phytoplankton in the ocean and lakes
- Diatoms are so abundant and widespread that their photosynthetic activity affects global CO<sub>2</sub> levels

SiO<sub>2</sub>



- After a diatom bloom, many dead individuals fall to the ocean floor, where decomposition is slow
- The breakdown and release of carbon stored in the diatoms on the ocean floor can take centuries
- Promoting diatom blooms by fertilizing the ocean with essential nutrients is a proposed approach to reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels



# Ocean-based carbon dioxide removal (ocean CDR)

## BIOLOGICAL CARBON PUMP



# Brown Algae

- **Brown algae** are the largest and most complex multicellular algae
- Most are marine, including many species commonly called “seaweeds”
- Plantlike structures: the rootlike **holdfast**, which anchors the alga, and a stemlike **stipe**, which supports the leaflike **blades**
- Some have gas-filled, bubble-shaped floats to keep photosynthetic structures near the water surface
- Brown algae lack the true tissues and organs found in plants

**Blade**



**Stipe**

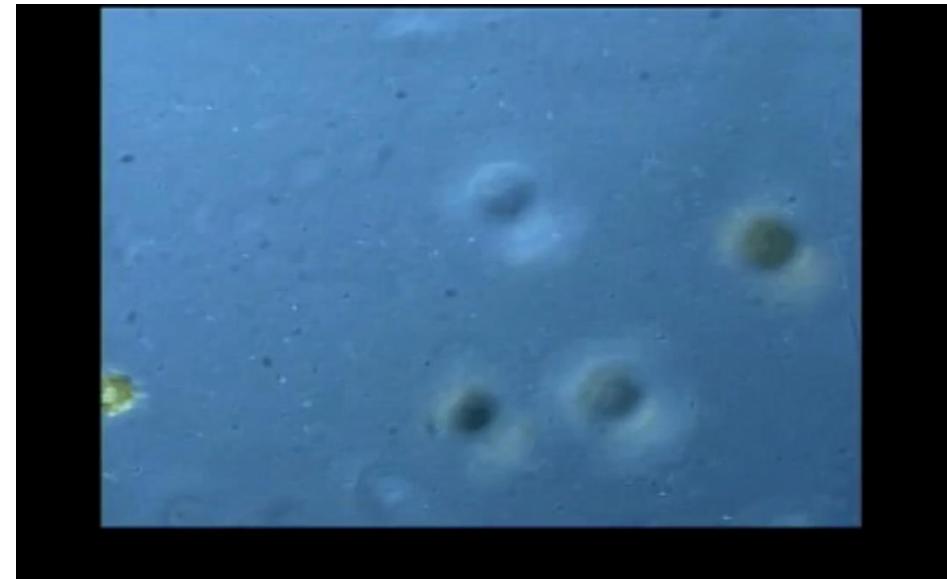
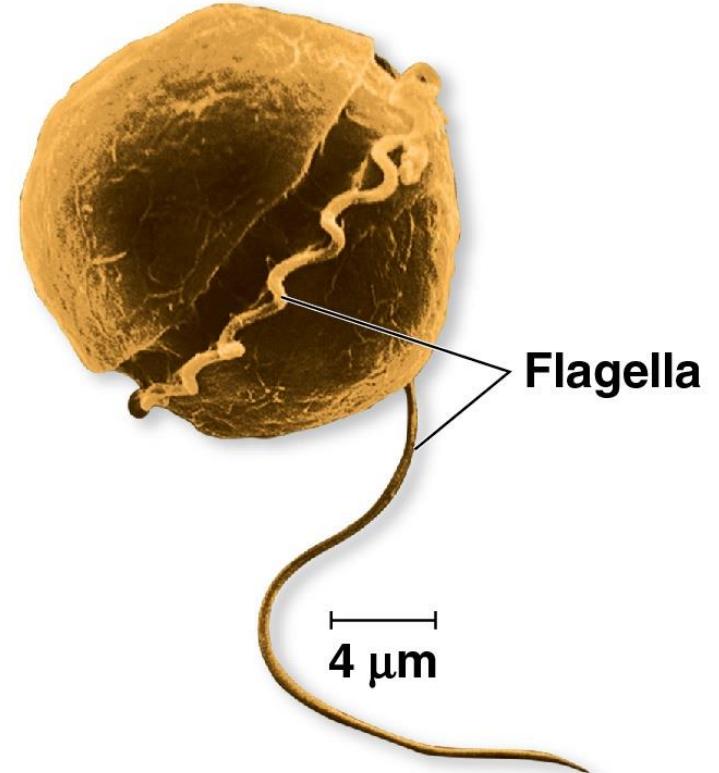
**Holdfast**

- Brown algae are important commodities for humans
  - Some species are eaten (e.g. *Laminaria*)
  - Algin, a gel-forming substance found in the cell wall, is used as a thickener in many processed foods



# *Dinoflagellates*

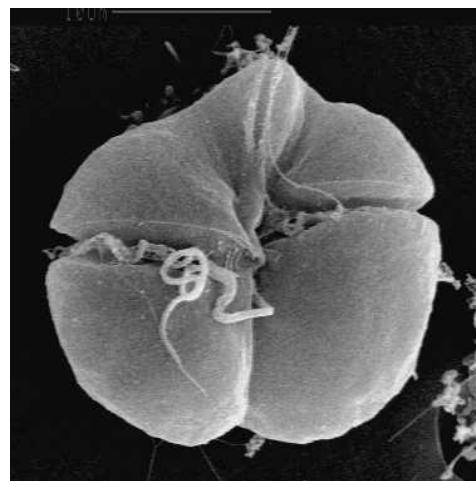
- **Dinoflagellates** are abundant components of marine and freshwater phytoplankton
- They have two flagella housed in the grooves of armor-like cellulose plates that surround the cell
- Beating of the spiral flagella causes dinoflagellates to spin as they move through the water



- Dinoflagellate blooms cause “red tides” where the water appears brownish red or pink due
- Ocean warming caused by climate change is facilitating more frequent red tides



*Karenia brevis*



Red tide in the Gulf of  
Carpentaria in Australia

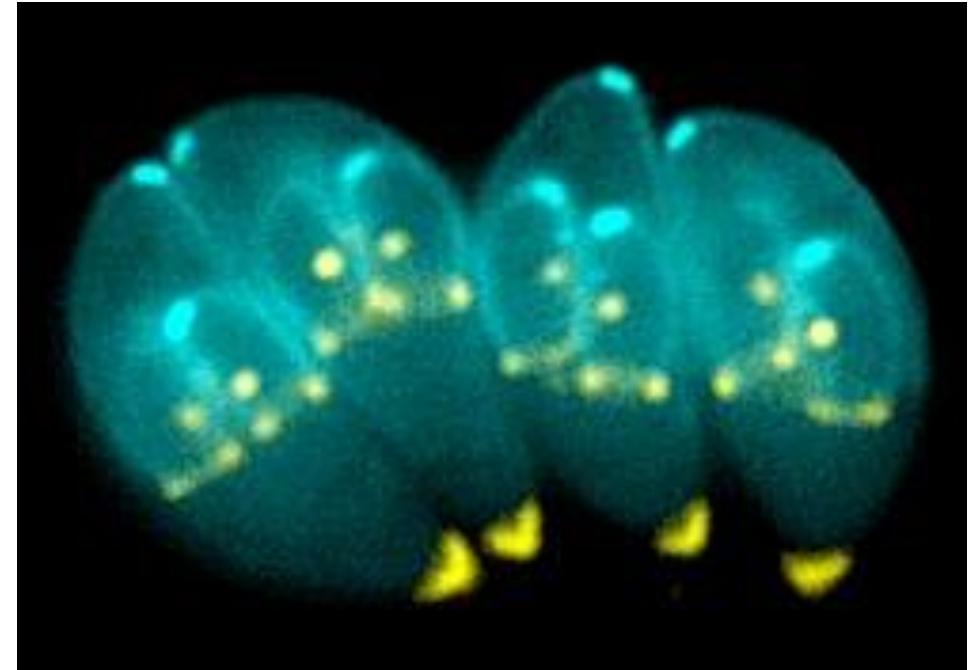


- Red tides are toxic and can cause massive kills of invertebrates and fishes
- Humans who eat molluscs that have accumulated the toxins are affected as well, sometimes fatally.



# Apicomplexans

- Nearly all **apicomplexans** are parasites of animals
- They spread through the host as infectious cells
- E.g: Toxoplasmosis

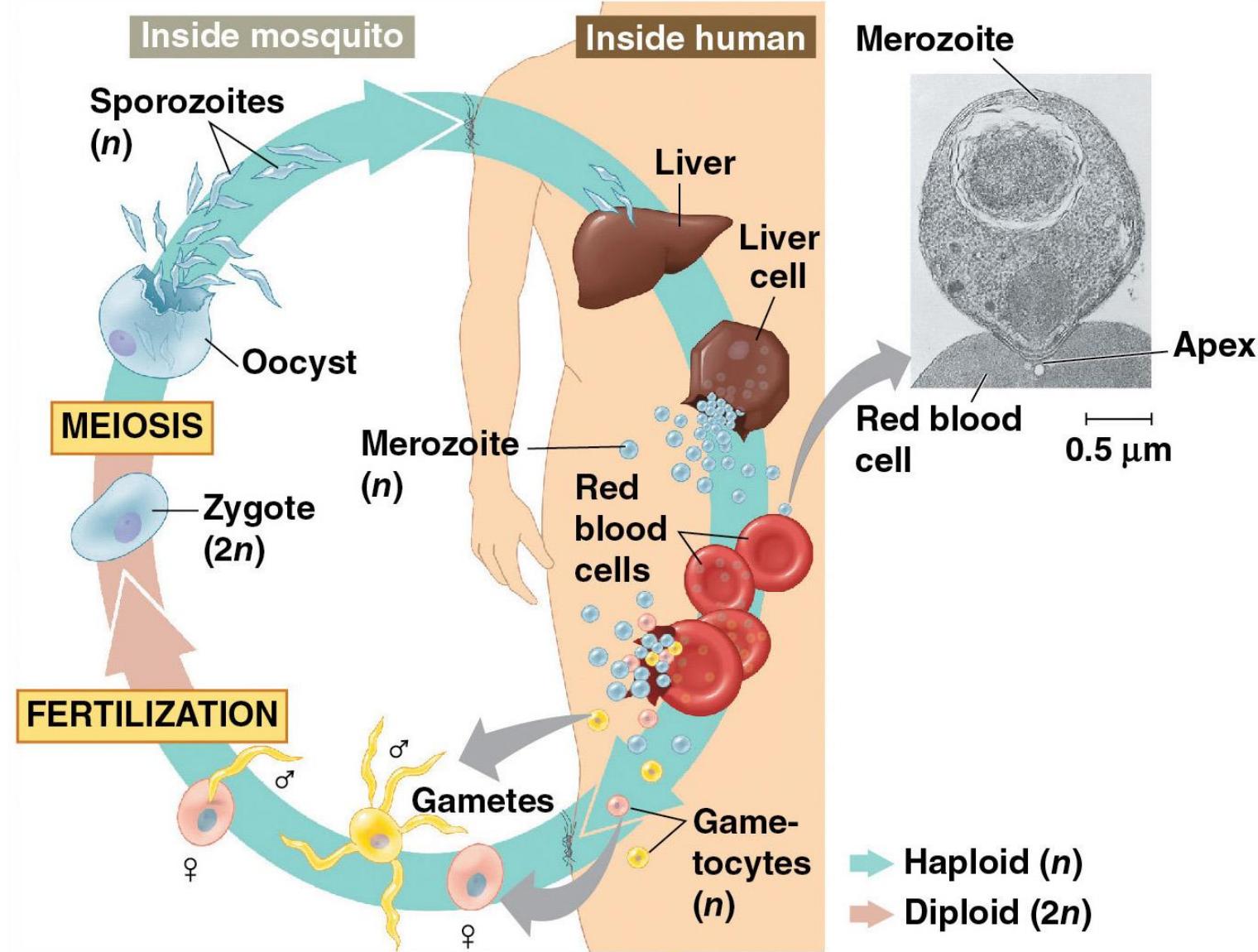


*Toxoplasma gondii*



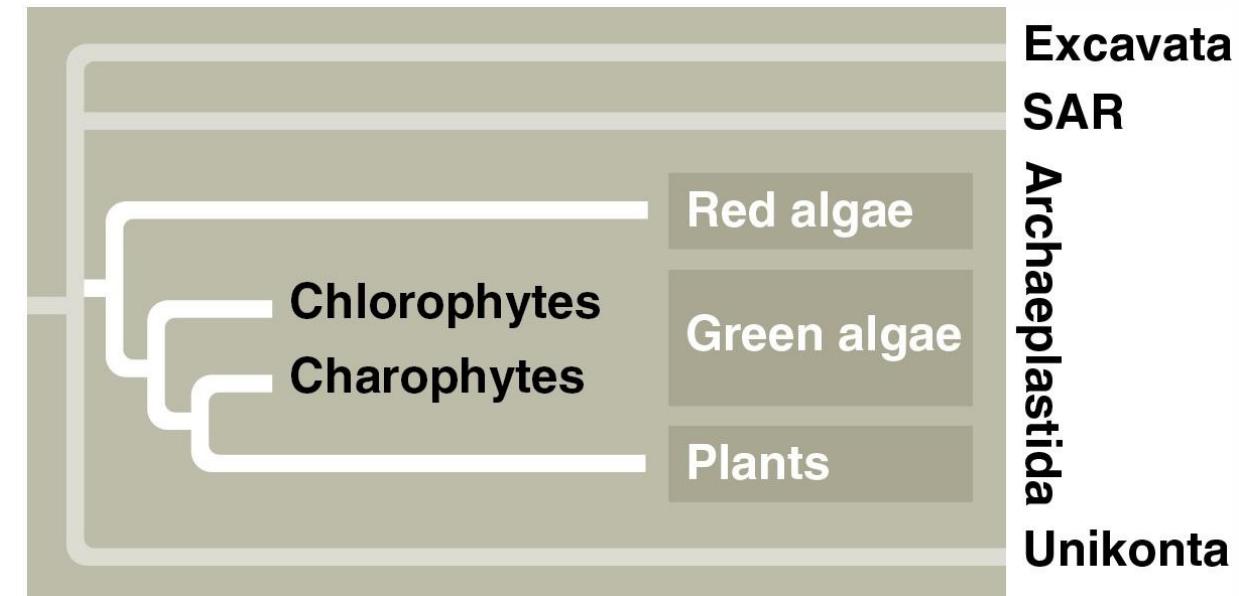
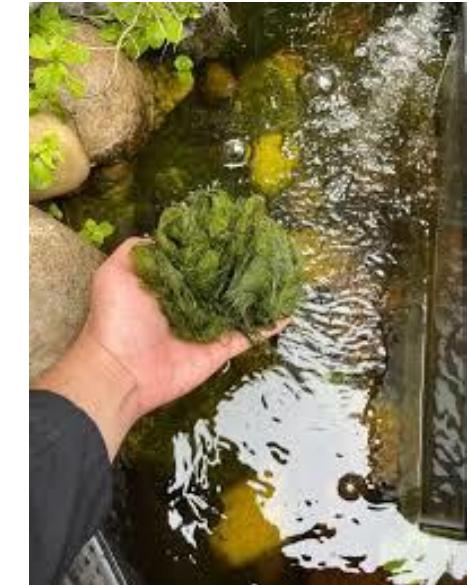
*Felis catus*

- Most life cycles include both sexual and asexual stages, and require two or more different hosts
  - E.g.: *Plasmodium*, the parasite causing malaria, lives in both mosquitoes and humans



# Red algae and green algae are the closest relatives of plants

- A heterotrophic protist acquired a cyanobacterial endosymbiont
- The photosynthetic descendants of this ancient protist evolved into red algae and green algae
- Plants are descended from the green algae
- **Archaeplastida** is the supergroup that includes red algae, green algae, and plants
  - Red and green algae include unicellular, colonial, and multicellular species



# Red Algae

- An accessory pigment called phycoerythrin masks the green of chlorophyll giving **red algae** its color
- Color varies from greenish-red in shallow water to dark red or almost black in deep water
- Most are multicellular; the largest are seaweeds
- Red algae are common in coastal waters of tropical oceans
- Some species are consumed by humans, such as *Porphyra* ("nori") that is used to wrap sushi

► *Bonnemaisonia hamifera*

20 cm



◀ Dulse (*Palmaria palmata*)



▼ Nori

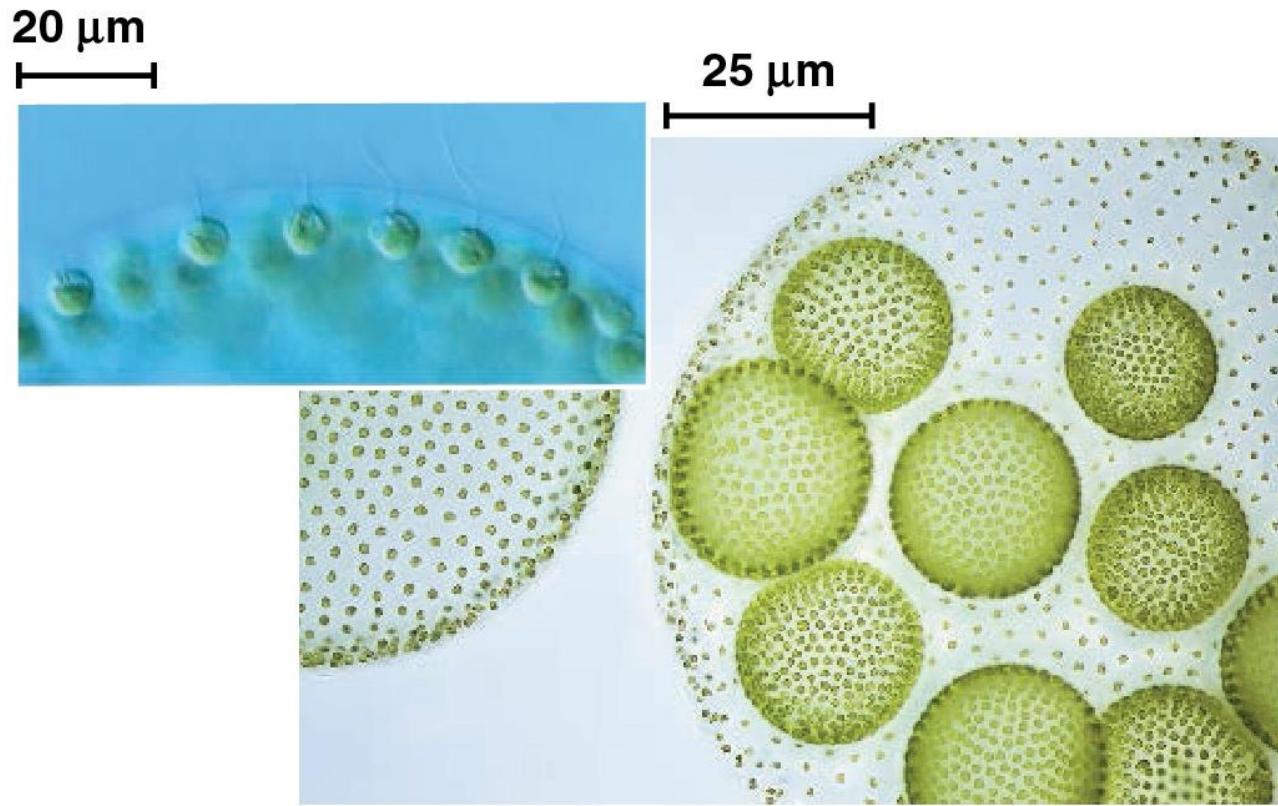


# Green Algae

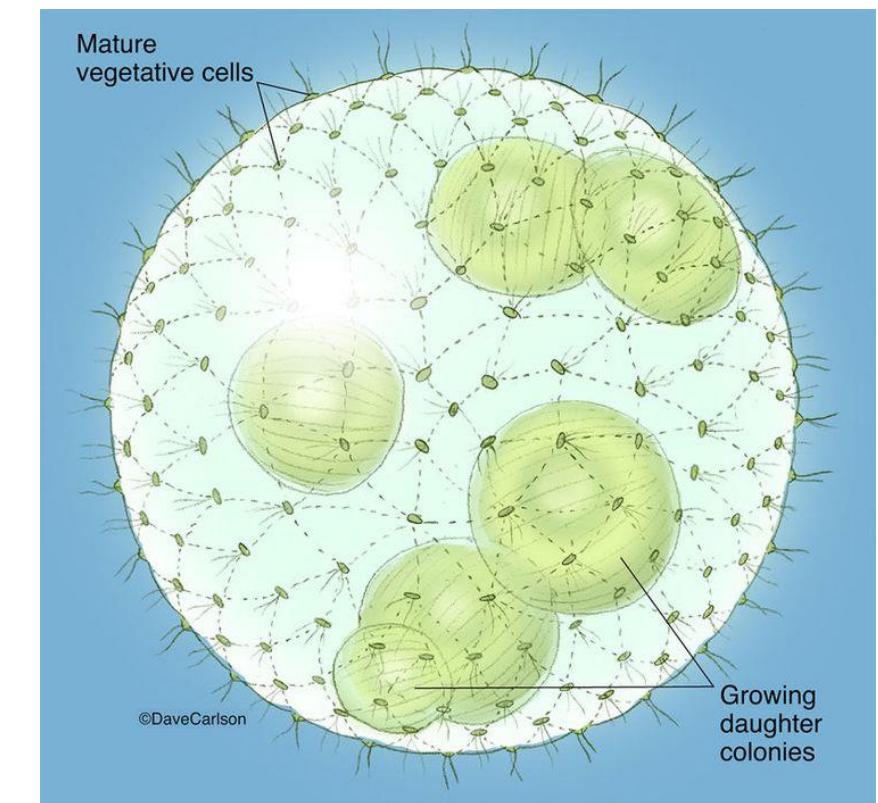
- **Green algae** are named for their green chloroplasts, which are structurally and chemically similar to ones found in plants

# Green Algae

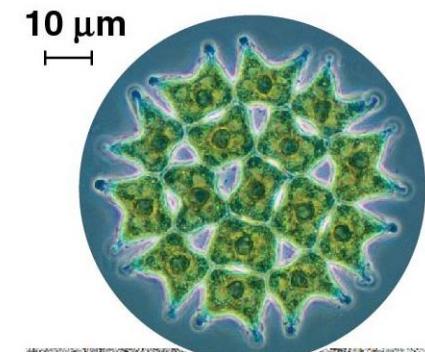
- For example, *Volvox* is a multicellular green algae



*Volvox*, a multicellular freshwater green alga



- Larger size and greater complexity evolved in green algae by three different mechanisms:
  1. Formation of colonies from individual cells
  2. Formation of true multicellular bodies by cell division and differentiation
  3. Repeated division of nuclei with no cytoplasmic division



(a) *Pediastrum*, a pond alga



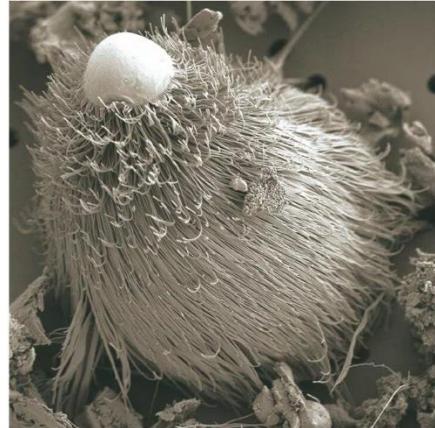
(b) *Ulva*, or sea lettuce



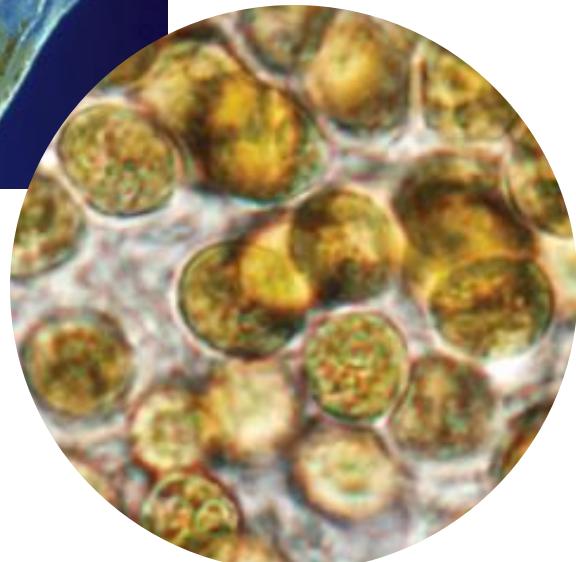
(c) *Caulerpa*, an intertidal chlorophyte

# Symbiotic Protists

- Some protist symbionts benefit their hosts
  - Dinoflagellates nourish coral polyps that build reefs
  - Wood-digesting protists inhabit the gut of termites



hypermastigote



# Parasitic Protists

- Some protists are parasitic
  - *Plasmodium* causes malaria
  - *Pfiesteria shumwayae* is a dinoflagellate that kills fish
  - *Phytophthora infestans* causes potato late blight, which contributed to the Irish famine of the 19th century
  - *Phytophthora ramorum* causes sudden oak death



*Phytophthora infestans*



10  $\mu$ m



*Pfiesteria shumwayae*



*Phytophthora infestans*

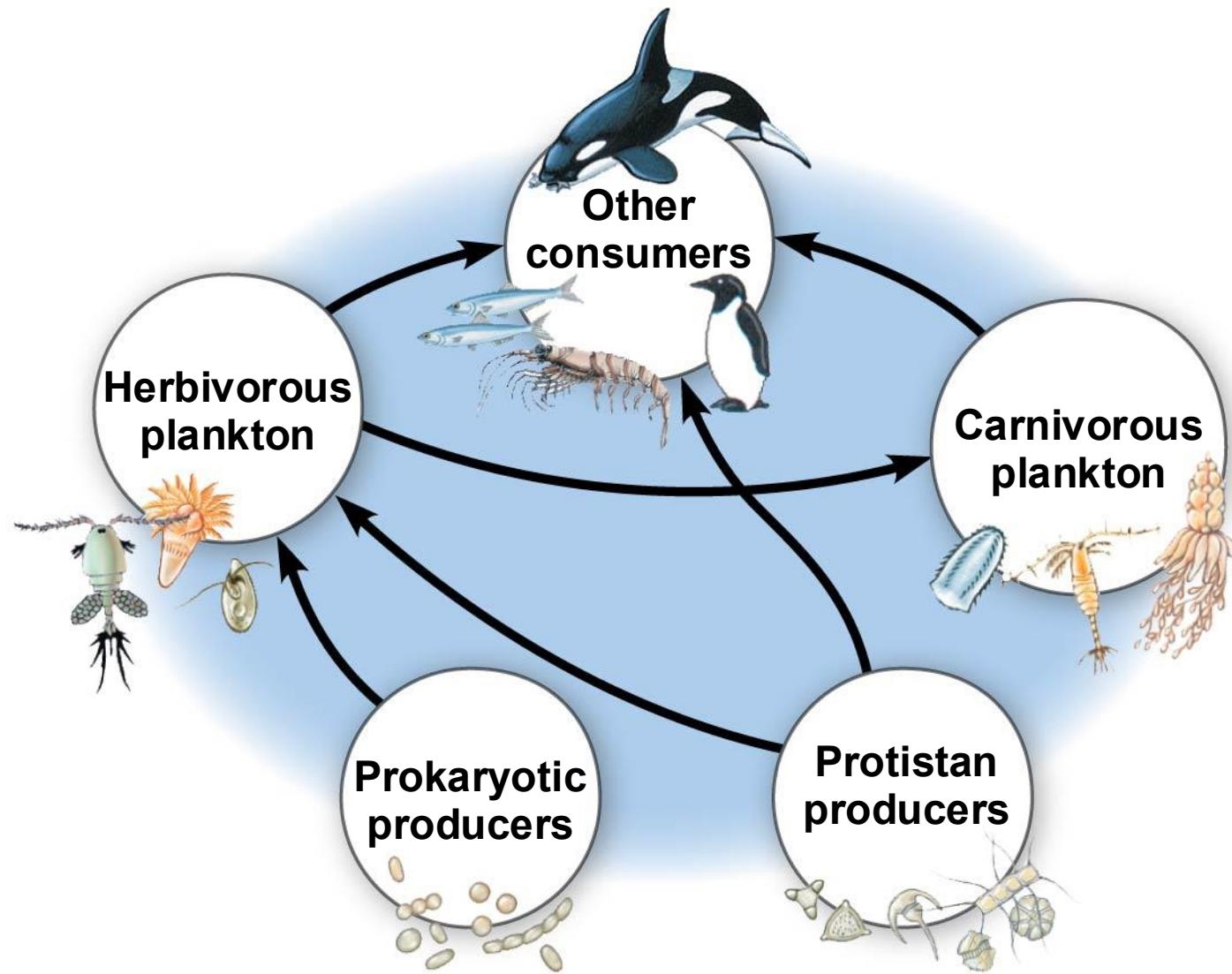


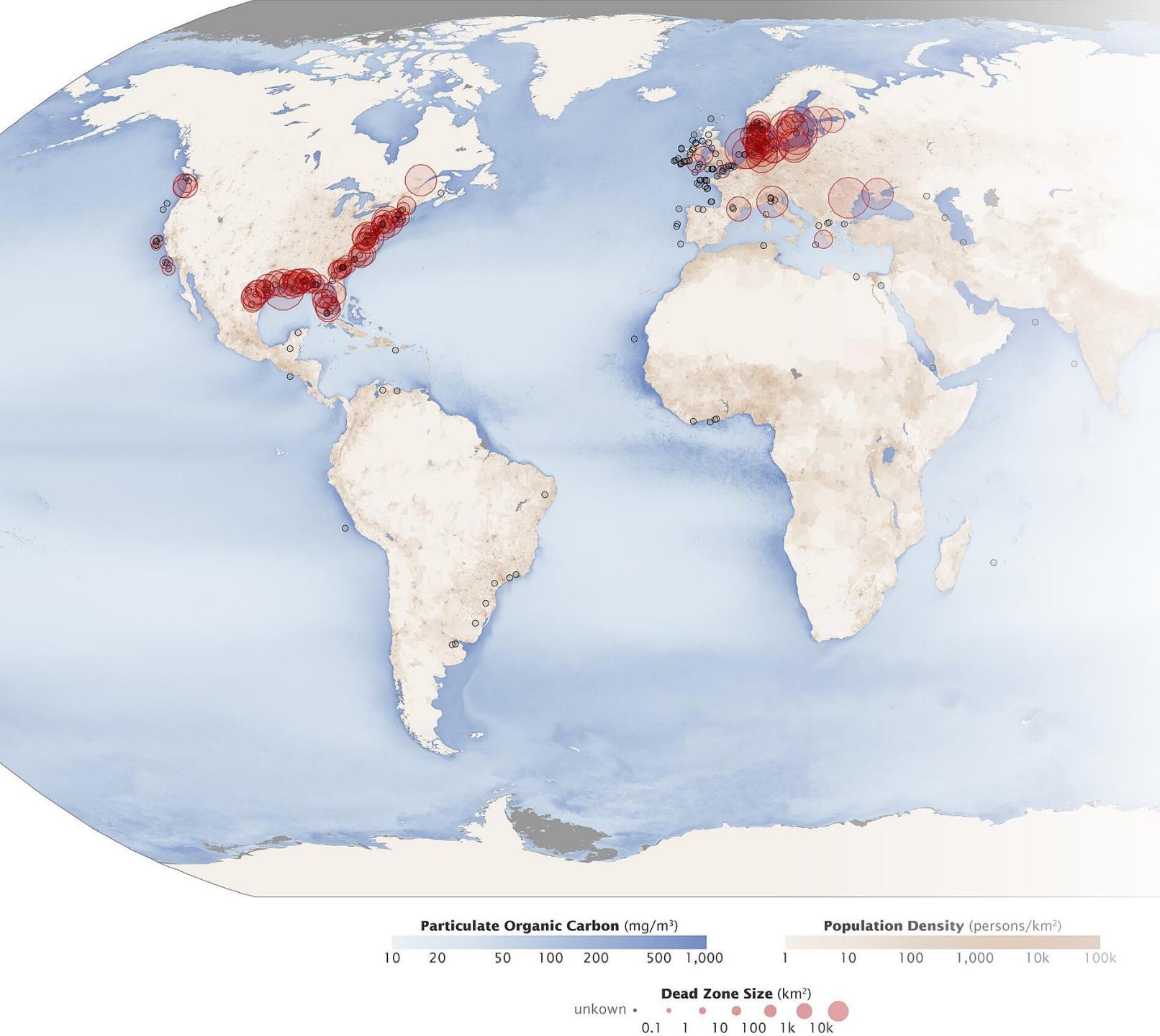


# Photosynthetic Protists

- Many protists are important **producers** that obtain energy from the sun to convert  $\text{CO}_2$  to organic compounds
- In aquatic communities, photosynthetic protists and prokaryotes are the main producers
- All other organisms are **consumers** that directly or indirectly depend on producers for food





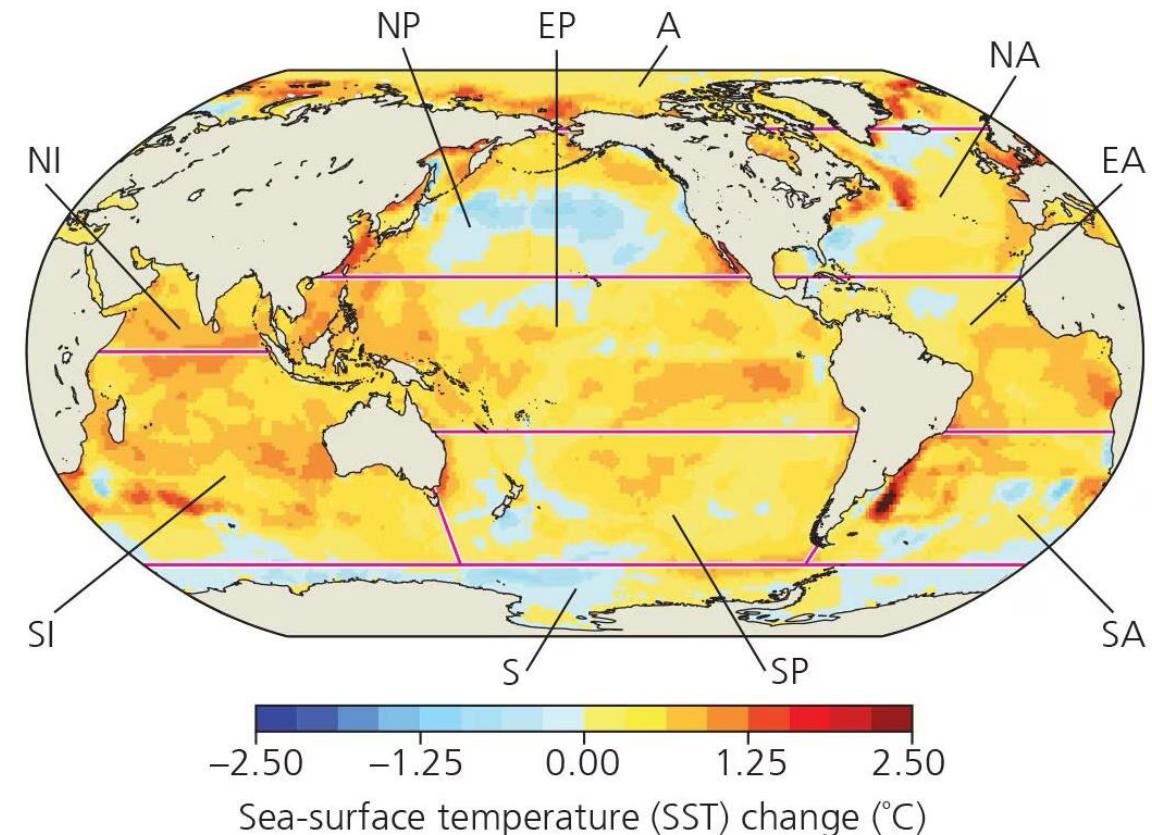
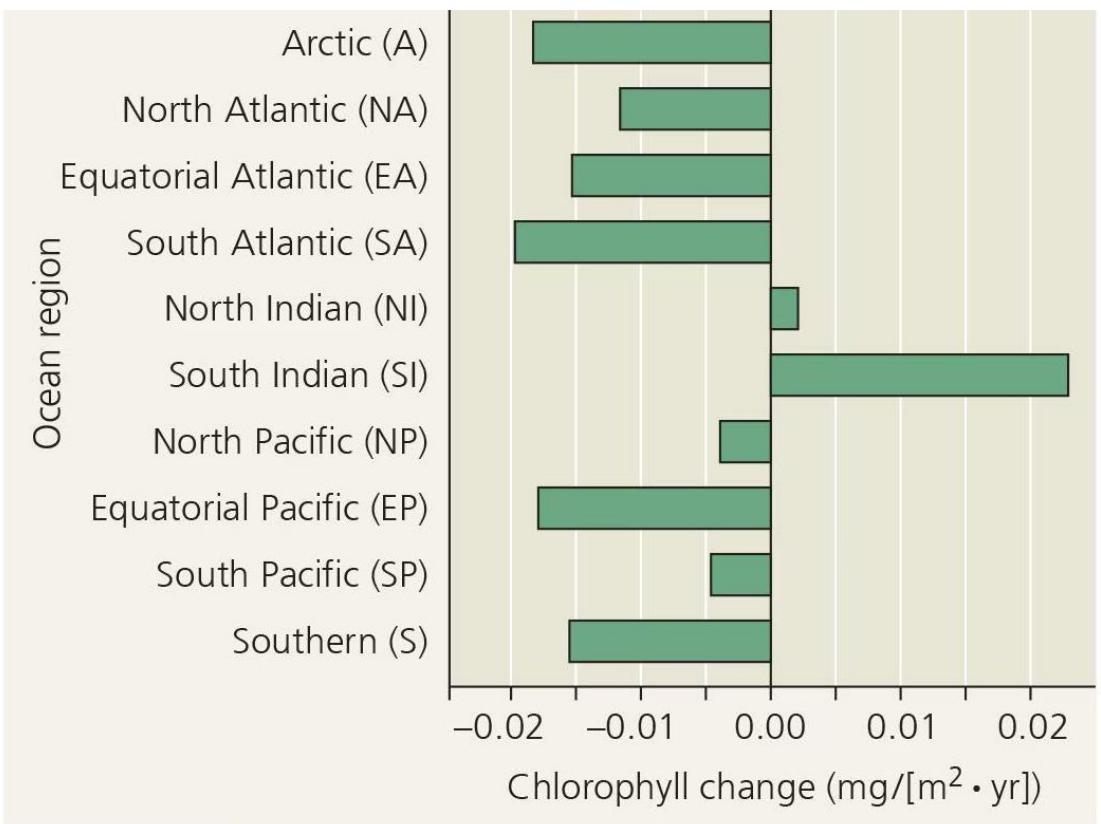


# Photosynthetic Protists

- Photosynthetic protists are limited by nutrients; populations explode when nutrients are added
- Population booms can have major ecological consequences, such as the formation of marine “dead zones”

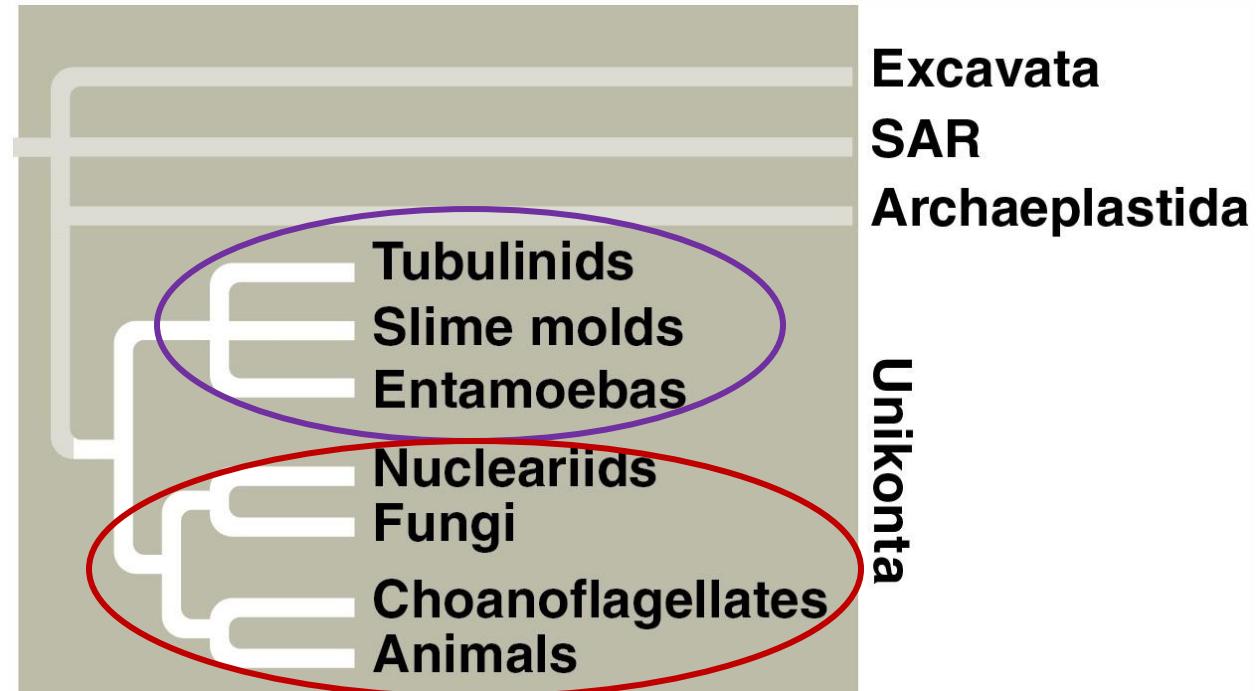


- Growth and biomass of photosynthetic protists and prokaryotes have declined with increasing sea surface temperature
- Phytoplankton communities rely on upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water from the below
- Warm surface water acts as a barrier to upwelling



Unikonts include protists that are closely related to fungi and animals

- The supergroup **Unikonta** includes animals, fungi, and some protists
- The two major clades of unikonts are the **amoebozoans** and the **opisthokonts** (animals, fungi, and related protists)



# Unikonts include protists that are closely related to fungi and animals

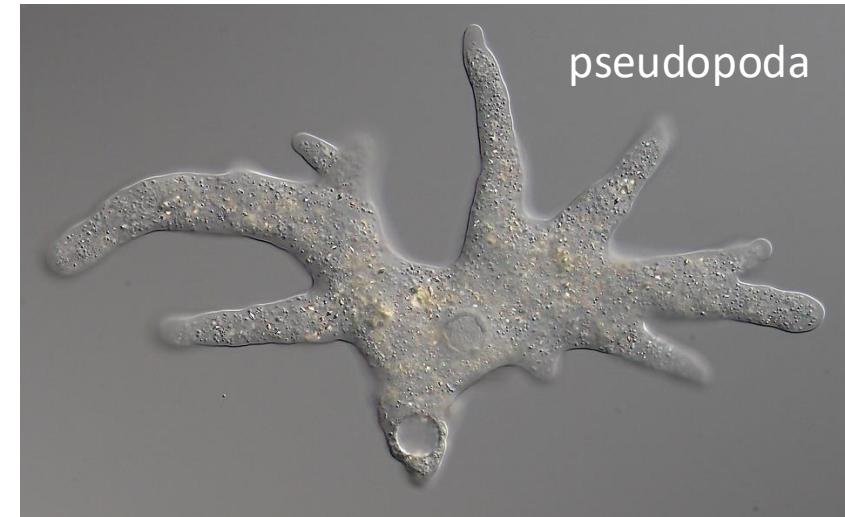
animals



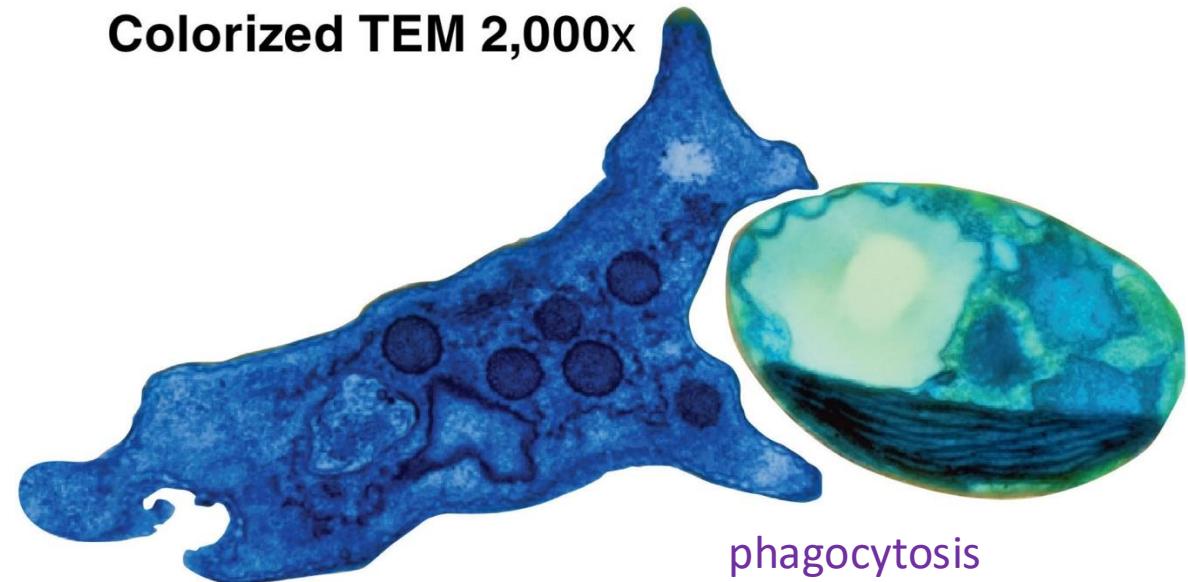
fungi



Amoeba



**Colorized TEM 2,000x**





# Extra

