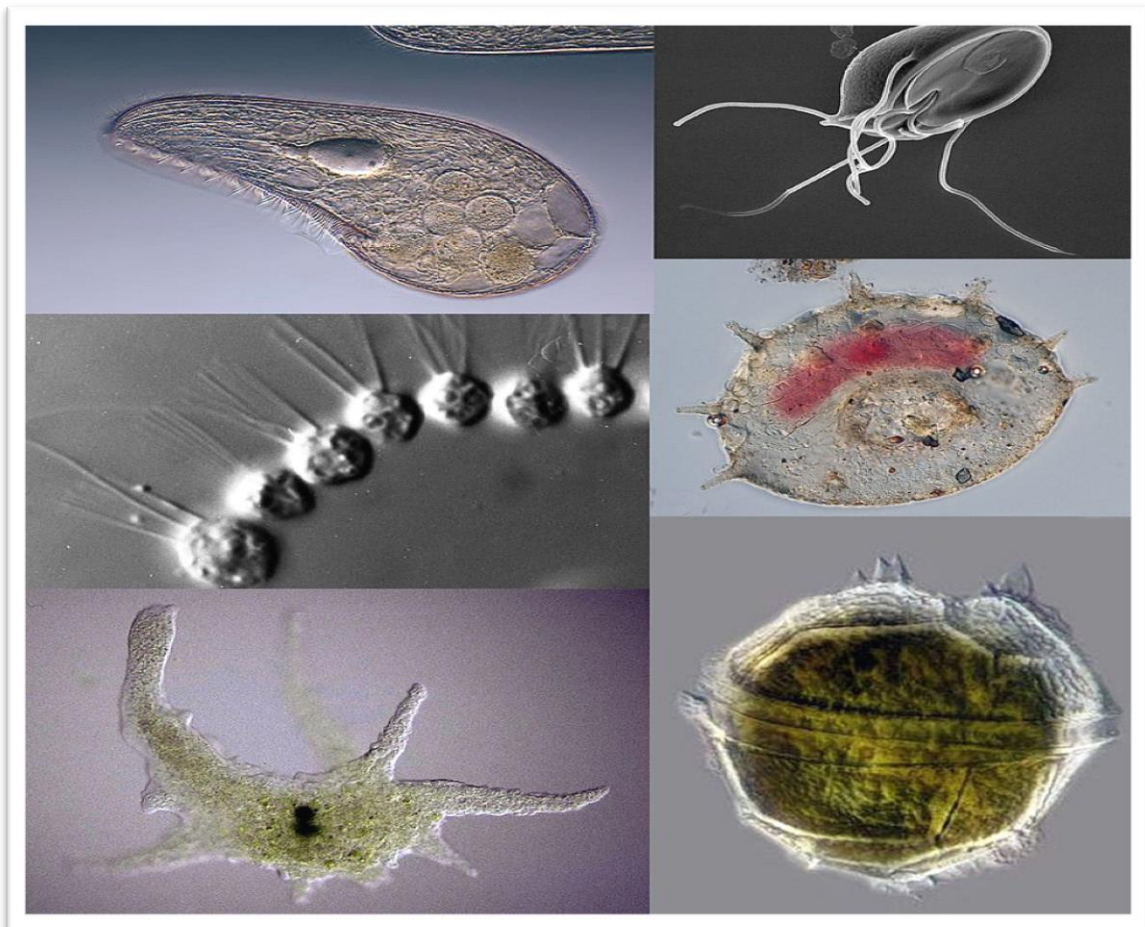


Protozoa

Are a group of single-celled eukaryotes, either free-living or parasitic, that feed on organic matter such as other microorganisms, organic tissues, and debris. The taxon 'Protozoa' fails to meet these standards, and the practices of grouping protozoa with animals, and treating them as closely related, are no longer justifiable. The term continues to be used in a loose way to describe single-celled protists (that is, eukaryotes that are not animals, plants, or fungi) that feed by heterotrophy. Some examples of protozoa are Amoeba, Paramecium, Euglena, and . Trypanosoma



Reproduction

Reproduction in Protozoa can be sexual or asexual. Most Protozoa reproduce asexually through binary fission.

Many parasitic Protozoa reproduce both asexually and sexually. However, sexual reproduction is rare among free-living protozoa and it usually occurs when food is scarce or the environment changes drastically. Both isogamy and anisogamy occur in Protozoa with anisogamy being the more common form of sexual reproduction

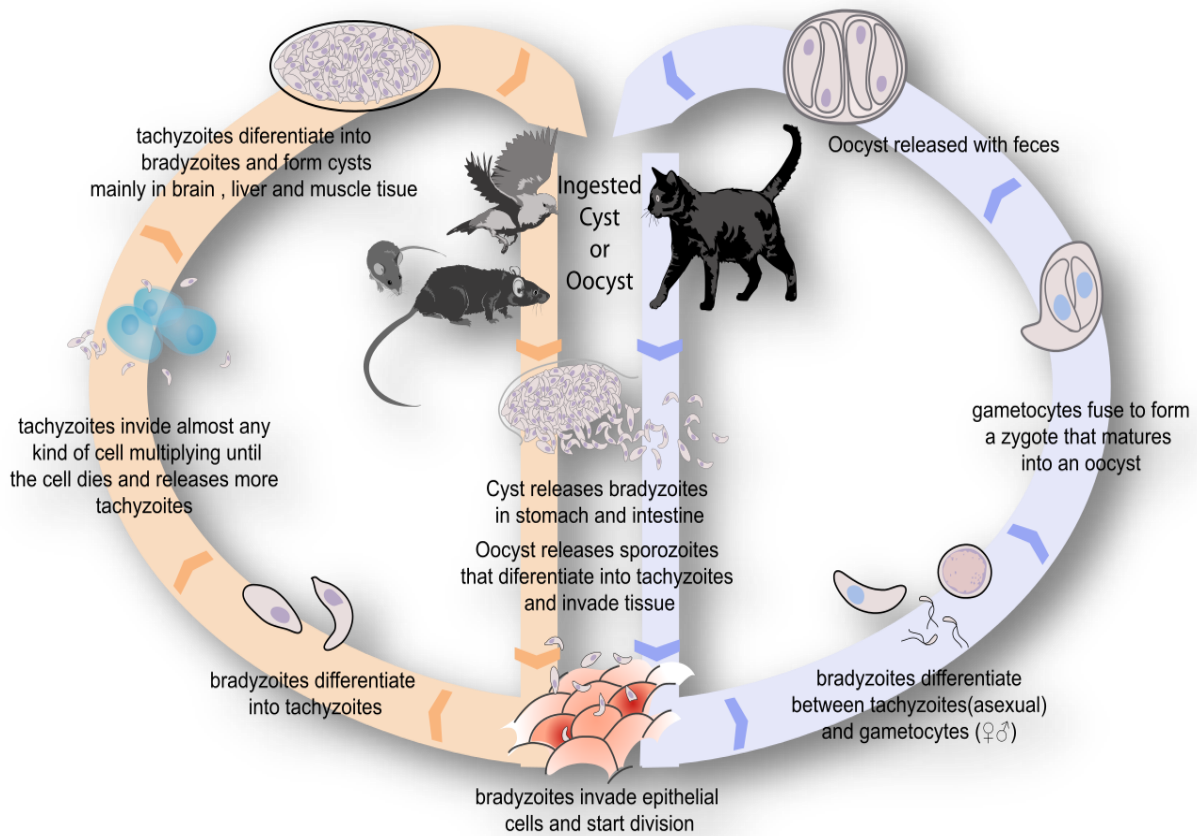
Feeding

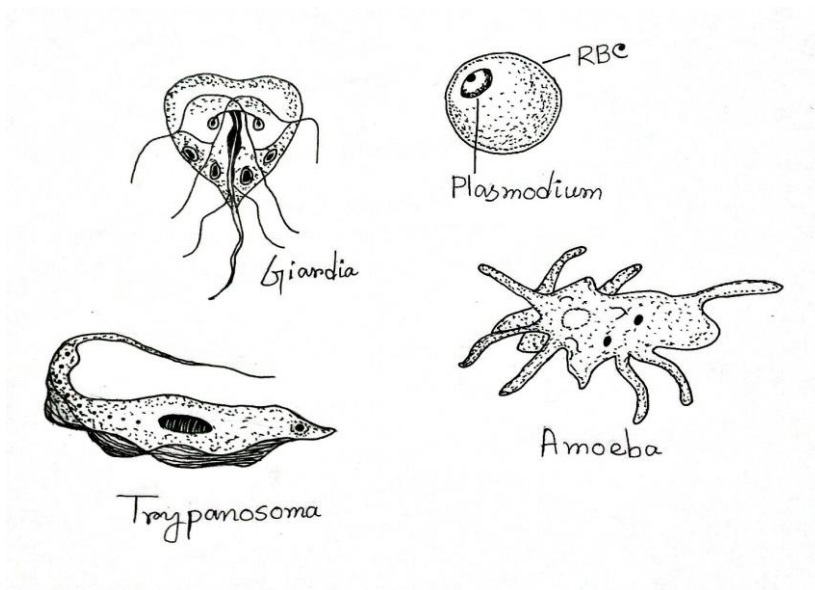
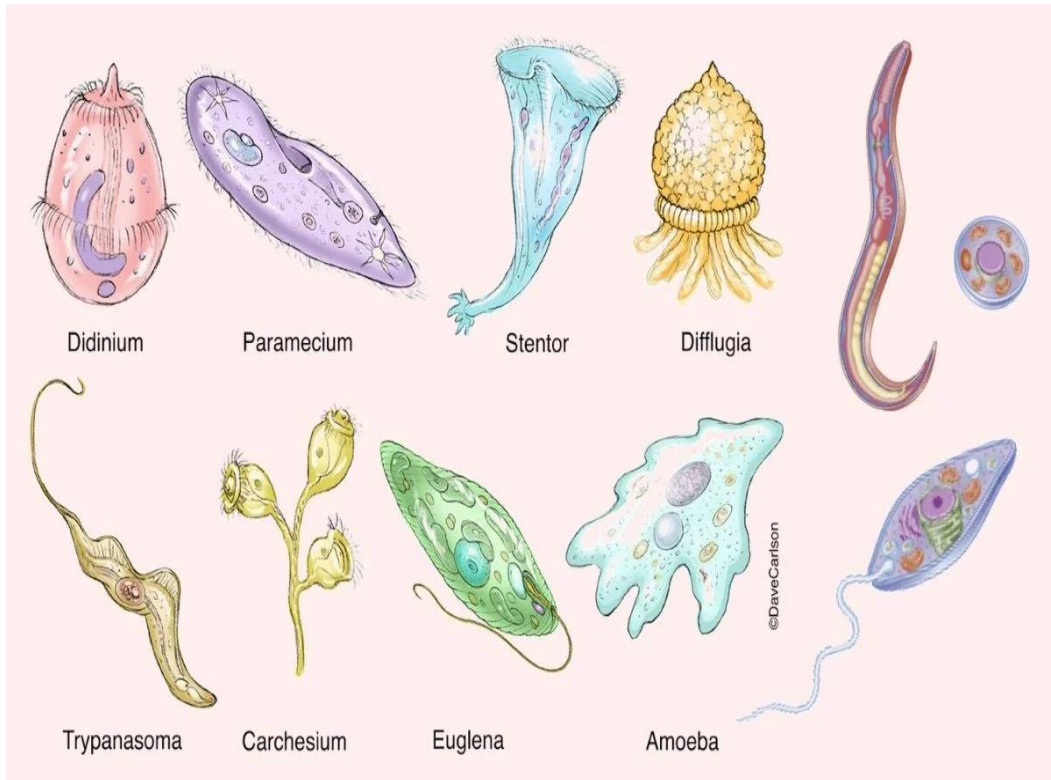
All protozoa are heterotrophic, deriving nutrients from other organisms by ingesting them whole by phagocytosis or taking up dissolved organic matter or micro-particles (osmotrophy). Phagocytosis may involve engulfing organic particles with pseudopodia (as amoebae do), taking in food through a specialized mouth-like aperture called a cytostome, or using stiffened ingestion organelles.

Motility

Organisms traditionally classified as protozoa are abundant in aqueous environments and soil, occupying a range of trophic levels. The group includes flagellates (which move with the help of undulating and beating flagella). Ciliates (which move by using hair-

like structures called cilia) and amoebae (which move by the use of temporary extensions of cytoplasm called pseudopodia).





Locomotion:

1. Flagella
2. Cilia
3. Pseudopodia
 - a. Lobopodia
 - b. Filipodia
 - c. Rhizopodia
 - d. Axopodia

