# ALGAE

CLASS - XI



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## **HABITAT**

- Algae are autotrophic, diverse group of eukaryotic organisms, ranging from unicellular to multicellular forms.
- \* Aquatic (fresh water and marine) and terrestrial environment.
- \* They also occur in moist stones, soils, wood, on snow and on ice.



Marine Algae



Algae on wood

## SHAPE AND SIZE OF ALGAE

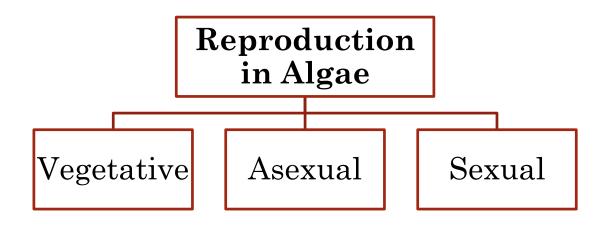
Microscopic unicellular eg. Chlamydomonas

Colonial forms eg. Volvox

SHAPE AND SIZE

Filamentous forms eg.Ulothrix,
Spirogyra

Marine forms eg. Kelps



- 1. Vegetative reproduction is by fragmentation.
- 2. Asexual reproduction is by the production of different types of spores, the most common being the **zoospores**.
- 3. Sexual reproduction takes place through fusion of two gametes. Gametes may be isogamy or anisogamy or oogamy.

## SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

- I. Isogamy Fusion of two morphologically identical gametes. e.g. Spirogyra
- II. Anisogamy Fusion of two dissimilar gametes, i.e., one gamete is smaller than the other. e.g. some species of *Chlamydomonas*
- Oogamy Fusion between one large, non-motile female gamete and a smaller, motile male gamete. e.g. *Volvox, Fucus*

## **USEFULNESS OF ALGAE**

Source of food

Used as biofertilizer

Sewage treatment

Alternative to chemical dyes and colouring agents

Commercial uses Agar

#### ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ALGAE

- 1. At least a half of the total carbon dioxide fixation on earth is carried out by algae through photosynthesis.
- 2. Major component in aquatic food chain as primary producers.
- 3. Porphyra, Laminaria and Sargassum are used as food.
- 4. Algin (brown algae) and carrageen (red algae) are used as hydrocolloids, which is a fibrous structure holds water and used to transport seedling.
- 5. Agar is used as commercial products.
- 6. Gelidium, Graularia are used to grow microbes, make ice creams and jellies.
- 7. Chlorella and Spirullina are rich in proteins and used as food supplements.

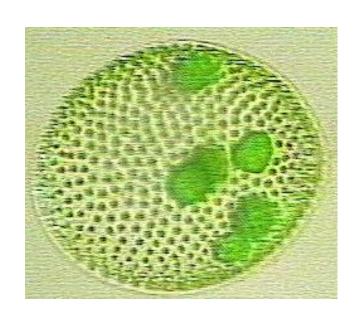
Chlorophyceae (Green Algae) Classification Phaeophyceae (Brown Algae) of Algae Rhodophyceae (Red Algae)

## CHLOROPHYCEASE (GREEN ALGAE)

- Unicellular / colonial / filamentous
- ❖ Pigments chlorophyll a and b
- chloroplasts may be discoid, plate-like, reticulate, cup-shaped, spiral or ribbonshaped
- Store bodies pyrenoids, oil droplets
- \* Rigid cell wall made of an inner layer of cellulose and an outer layer of pectose

## CHLOROPHYCEASE (GREEN ALGAE)

- Vegetative reproduction by fragmentation
- Asexual reproduction by zoospores
- Sexual reproduction by isogamous / anisogamous / oogamous
- e.g. Chlamydomonas,
   Volvox, Ulothrix,
   Spirogyra and Chara



Volvox

## PHAEOPHYCEASE (BROWN ALGAE)

- Marine habitats
- ❖ Vary in shape and size from simple branched, filamentous forms (*Ectocarpus*) to profusely branched forms kelps about 100 m height.
- \* Body consists of holdfast, a stalk, stipe and frond.
- Pigments chlorophyll a, c, carotenoids, xanthophylls, fucoxanthin
- \* Food is stored as carbohydrates in the form of laminarin or mannitol.
- Cell wall covered by algin, a gelatinous coating.

- Vegetative reproduction by fragmentation.
- Asexual reproduction by biflagellate zoospores.
- Sexual reproduction may be isogamous, anisogamous or oogamous
- e.g. Ectocarpus, Dictyota,
   Laminaria, Sargassum and
   Fucus



Sargassum

## Rhodophycease (Red algae)

- Habitat some fresh water, brackish water, mostly in salt water
- ❖ Pigments chlorophyll a and d,
  r-phycoerythrin
- ❖ Food is stored as Floridean starch, which is similar to amylopectin and glycogen in structure.
- Vegetative reproduction is by fragmentation
- Asexually by non-motile spores
- Sexually by non-motile gametes
- e.g. Polysiphonia, Porphyra, Gracilaria, Gelidium



Gracilaria



Gelidium

