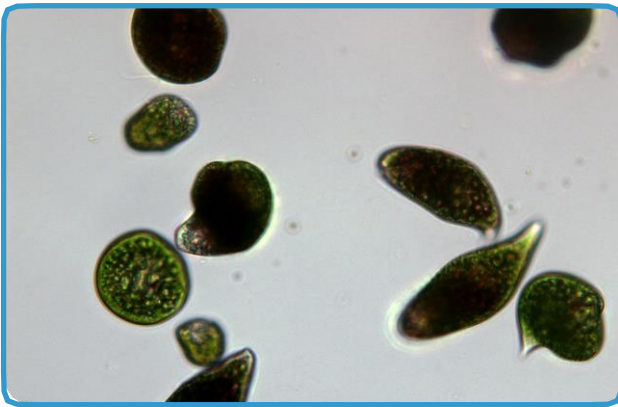


IDENTIFICATION GUIDE: Euglenoids

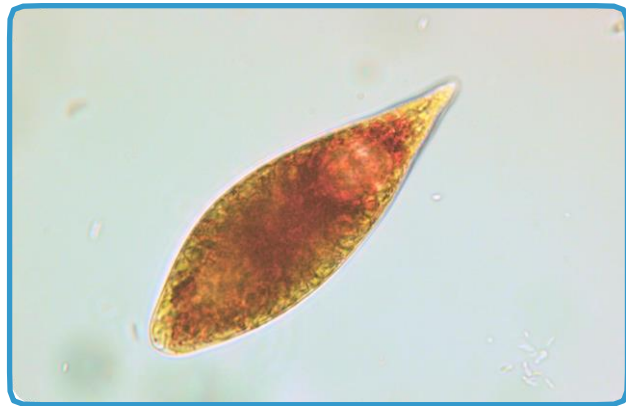
fact sheet



Red and green euglenoid (*Euglena*) bloom
(Photo: Ed Holland)



Euglena viewed under microscope.



Euglena viewed under microscope.

Algal Group:

Euglenophyta

Description:

Euglenoids are solitary cells that move about using a single whip-like tail. While some euglenoids are flexible and change shape frequently, others are rigid and do not change shape.

Habitat:

Euglenoids can be found in fresh, estuarine and marine waters. They can also be found in moist soil or mud. Euglenoids are most common in slow moving or still waters with high nutrient concentrations. Blooms are most likely to occur during the summer in freshwater ponds and ditches receiving nutrient-rich waste or nonpoint source runoff.

Significance:

Euglenoid blooms may color the water green, reddish brown, or red. Their motility allows blooms to appear and disappear without reason. Intense surface films of euglenoids are often described as “spilled paint”. Many species of euglenoids are considered indicators of organic water pollution. There are reports of euglenoids producing toxins at aquaculture facilities but not in ordinary ponds, lakes, or rivers.

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources

Learn more: www.algae.nc.gov