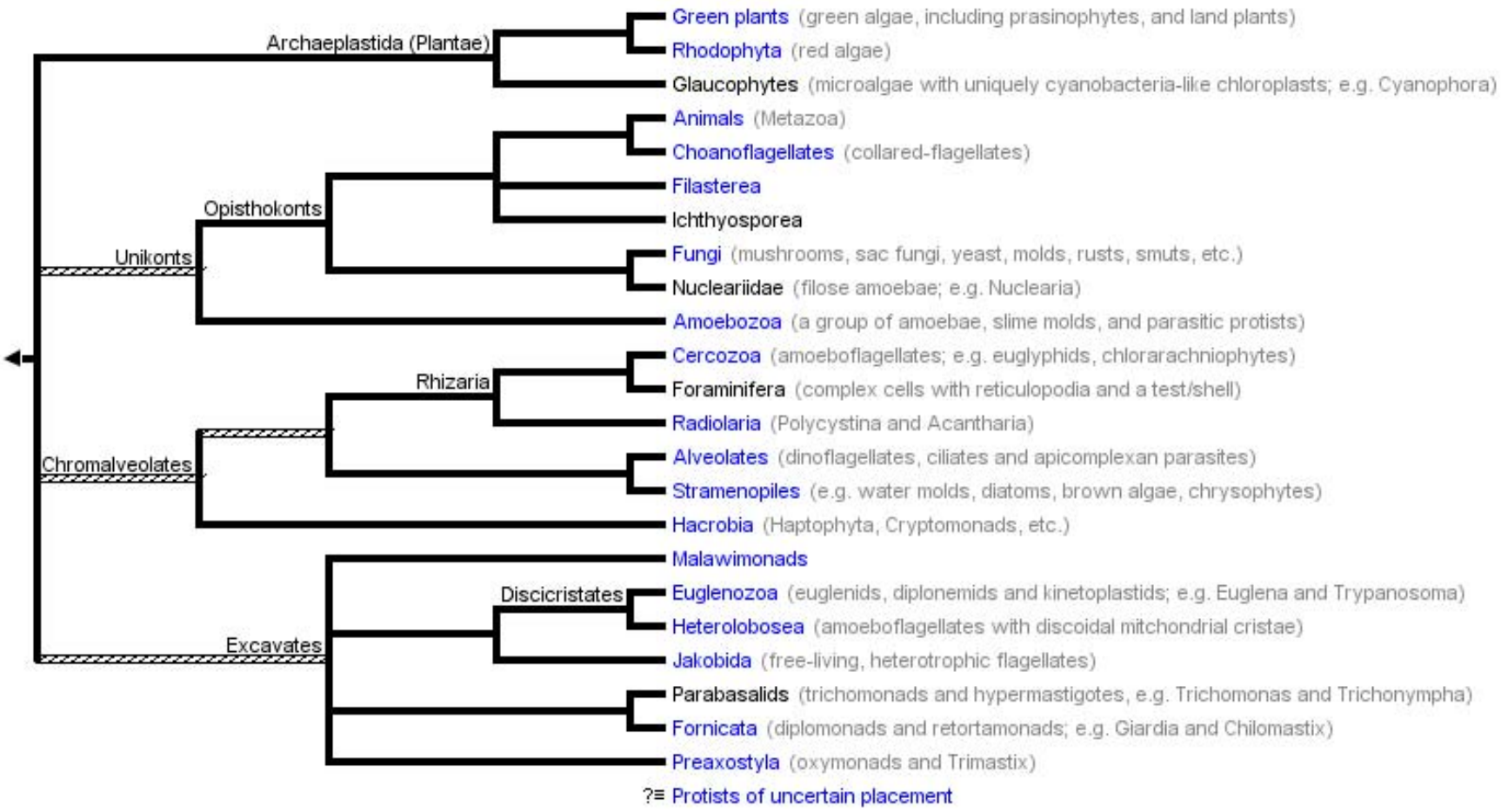
What is a Protist?

From the Tree of Life Project

www.tolweb.org



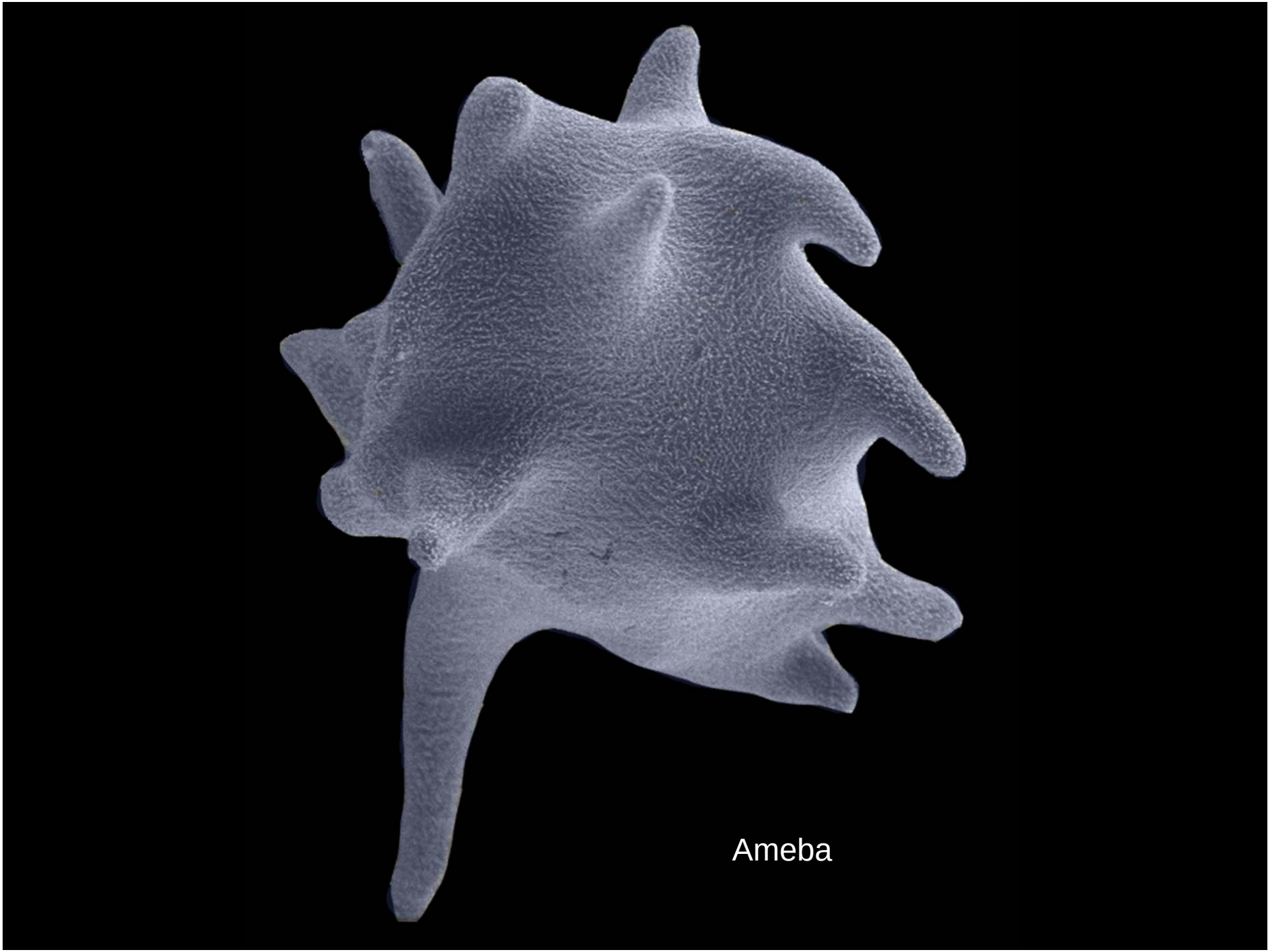
- All of these organisms are composed of eukaryotic cells
- Note the relationship between green plants, animals, and fungi
- Animals and fungi more similar because they share similar evolutionary pathway
- Protists = all eukaryotic organisms that are not a green plant, animal, or fungi


Green Plant


Animal

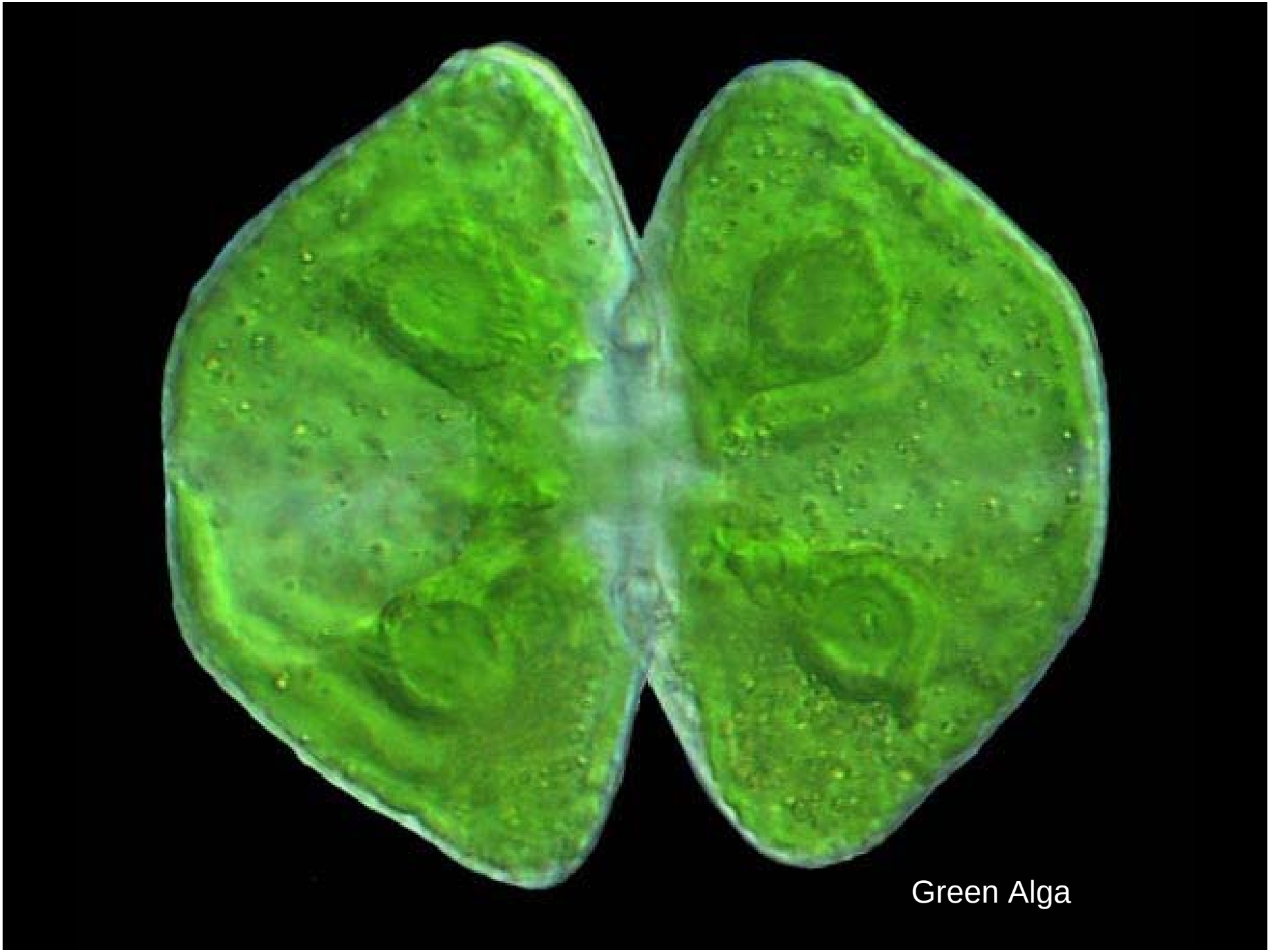
Fungi

The following slides show a diverse group of organisms which are referred to as the protists.

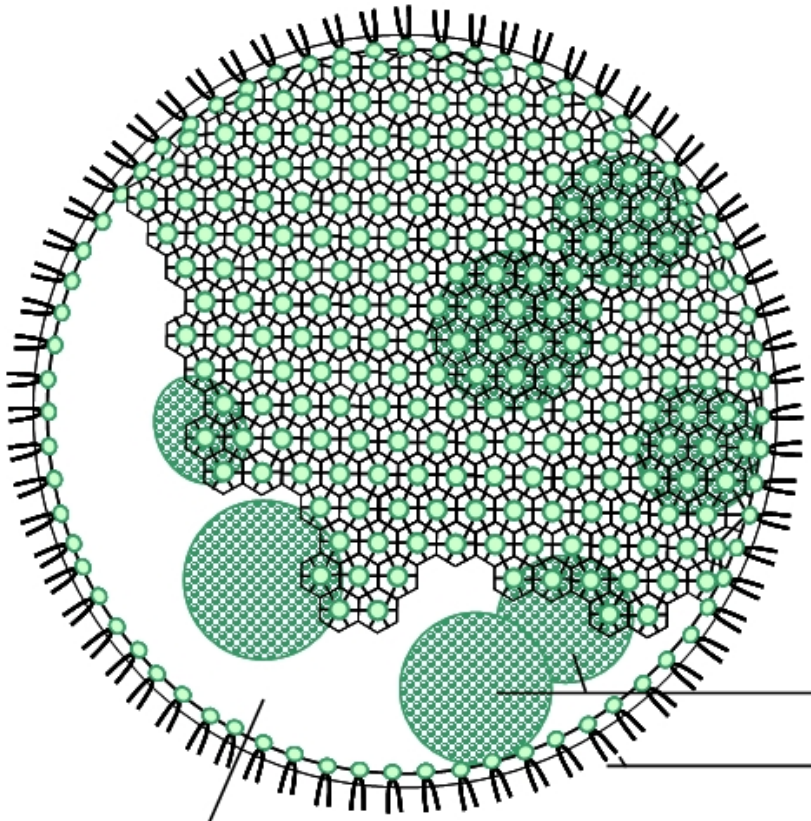

Ameba


Amoebozoa
20µm


100 µm

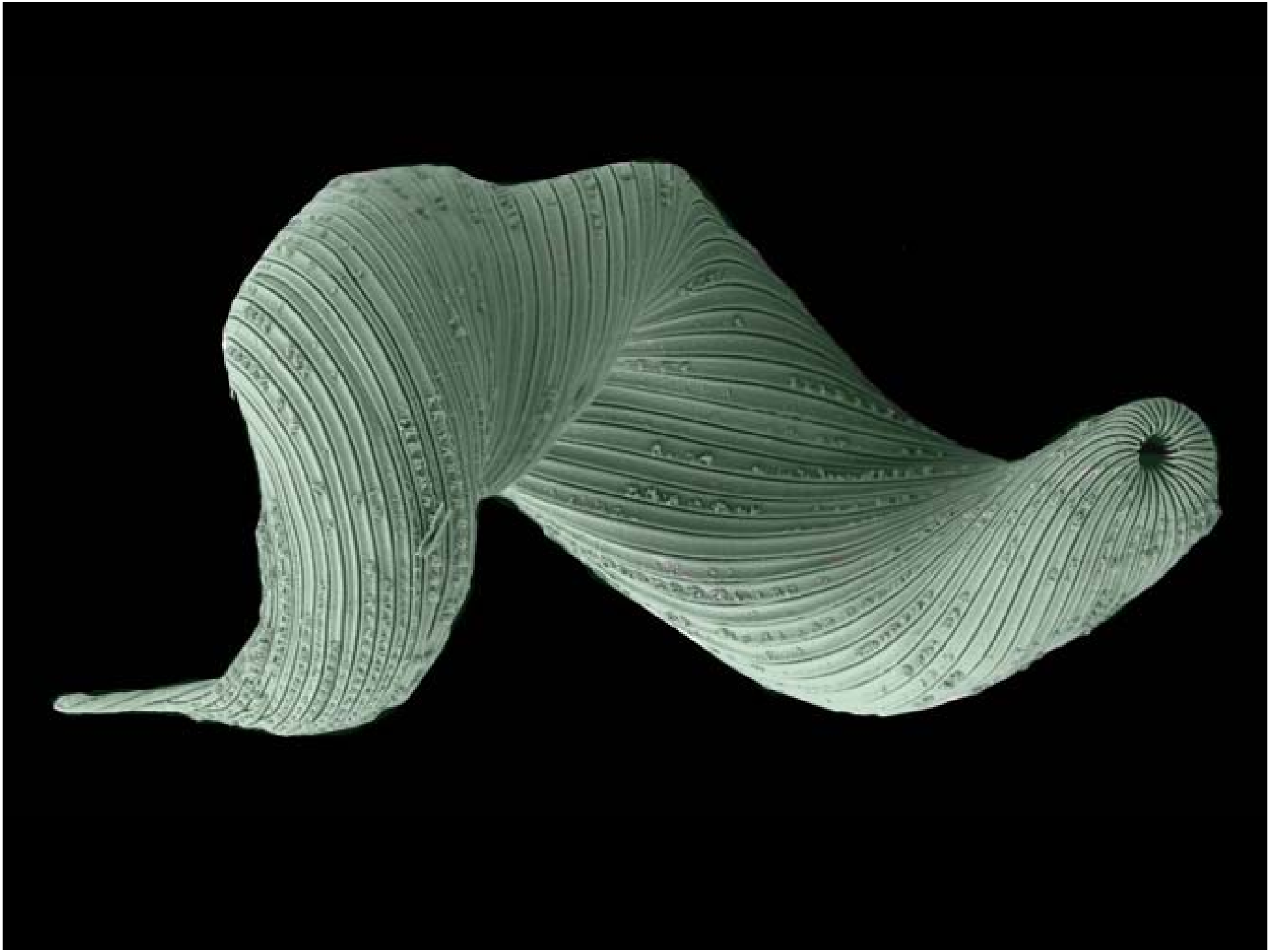

Green Alga

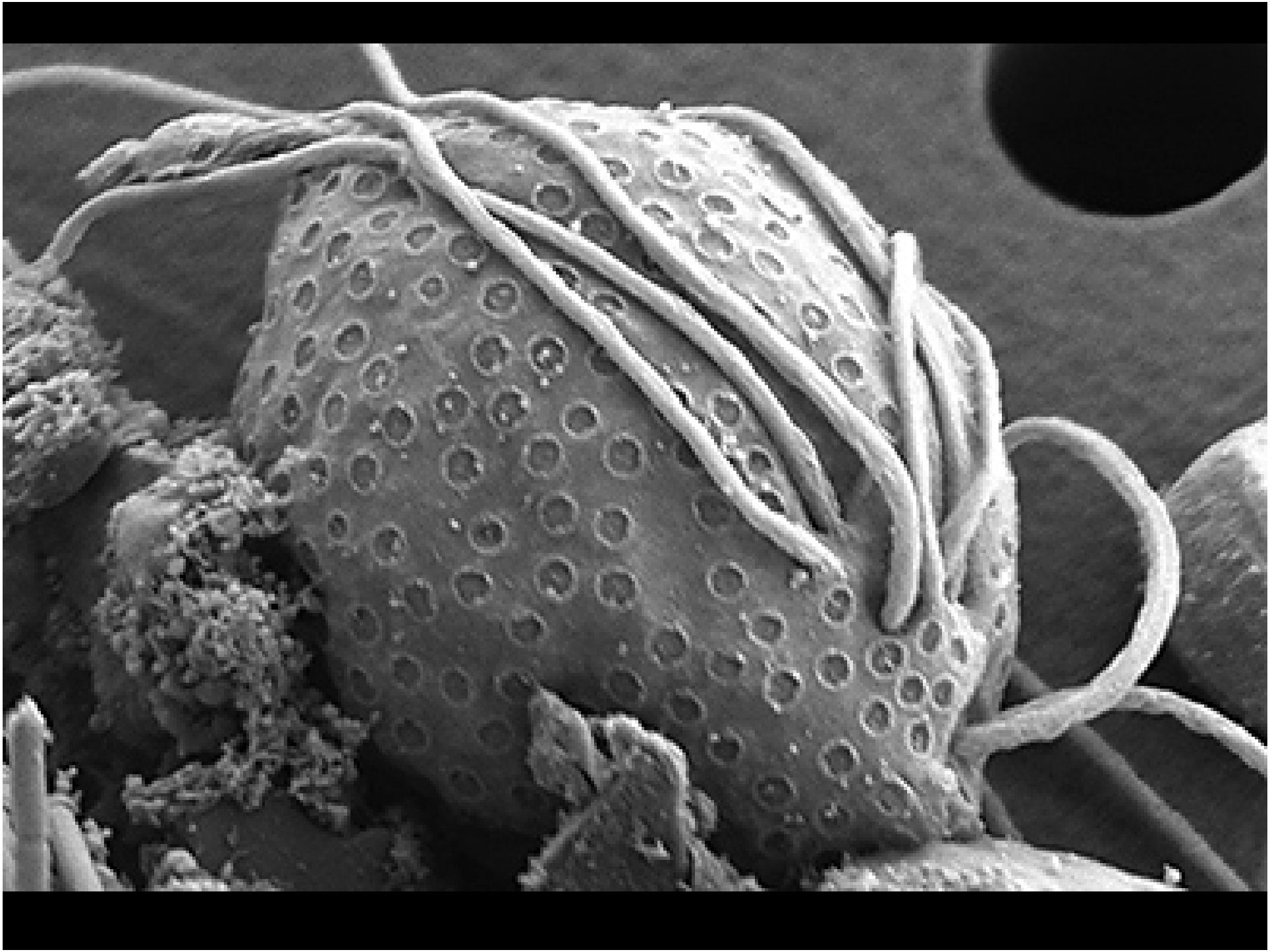
Volvox

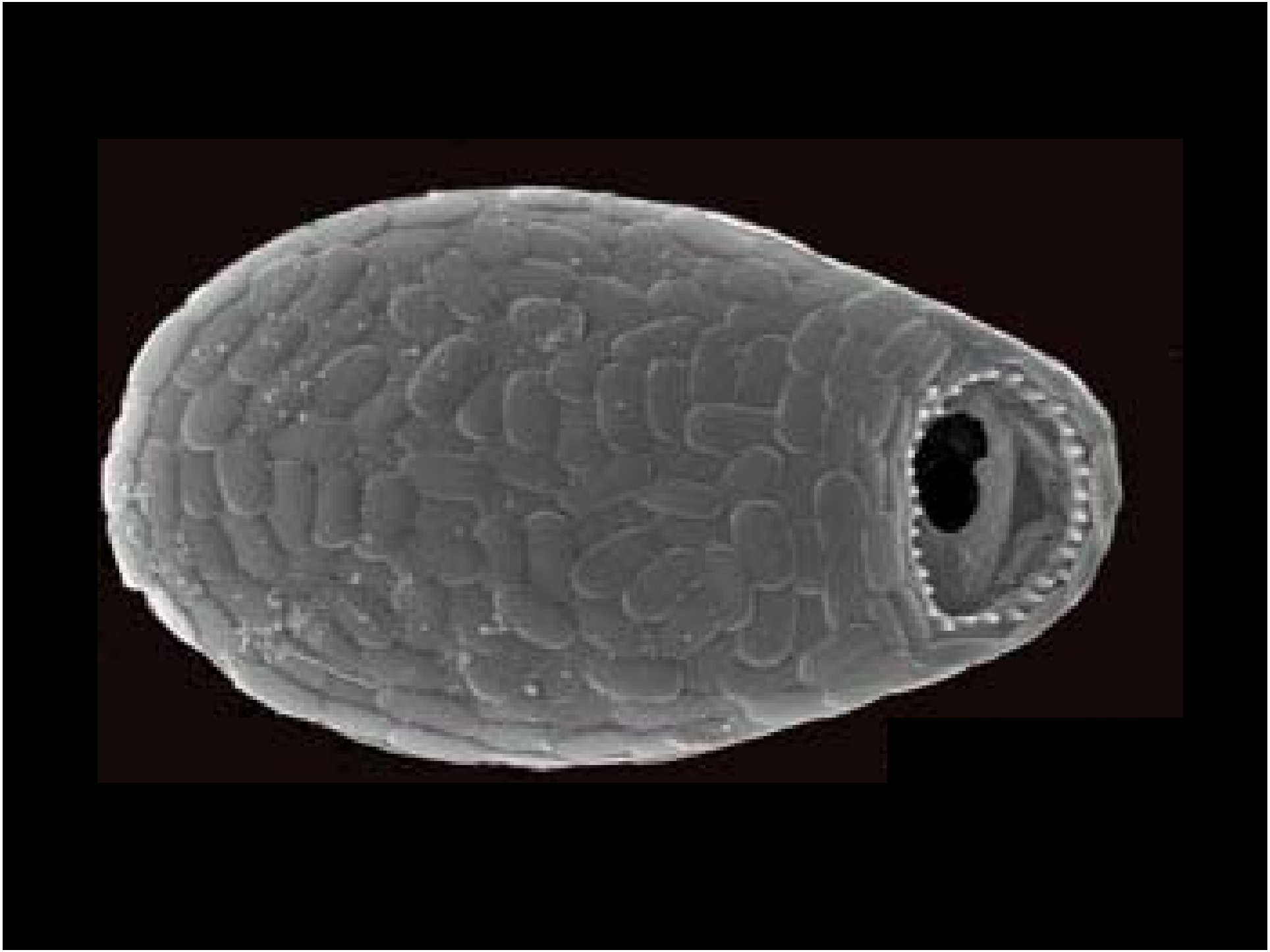


Volvox

Volvox is a hollow ball of 500 - 50 000 cells, called a colony or coenobium, each with a pair of hair-like appendages called flagella. The flagella beat in synchrony, allowing the colony of cells to swim. One pole is the anterior (head) end as this always leads. Each cell possesses a green chloroplast containing the green pigment chlorophyll. Chlorophyll captures energy from sunlight which *Volvox* uses to make the food it needs by **photosynthesis**.

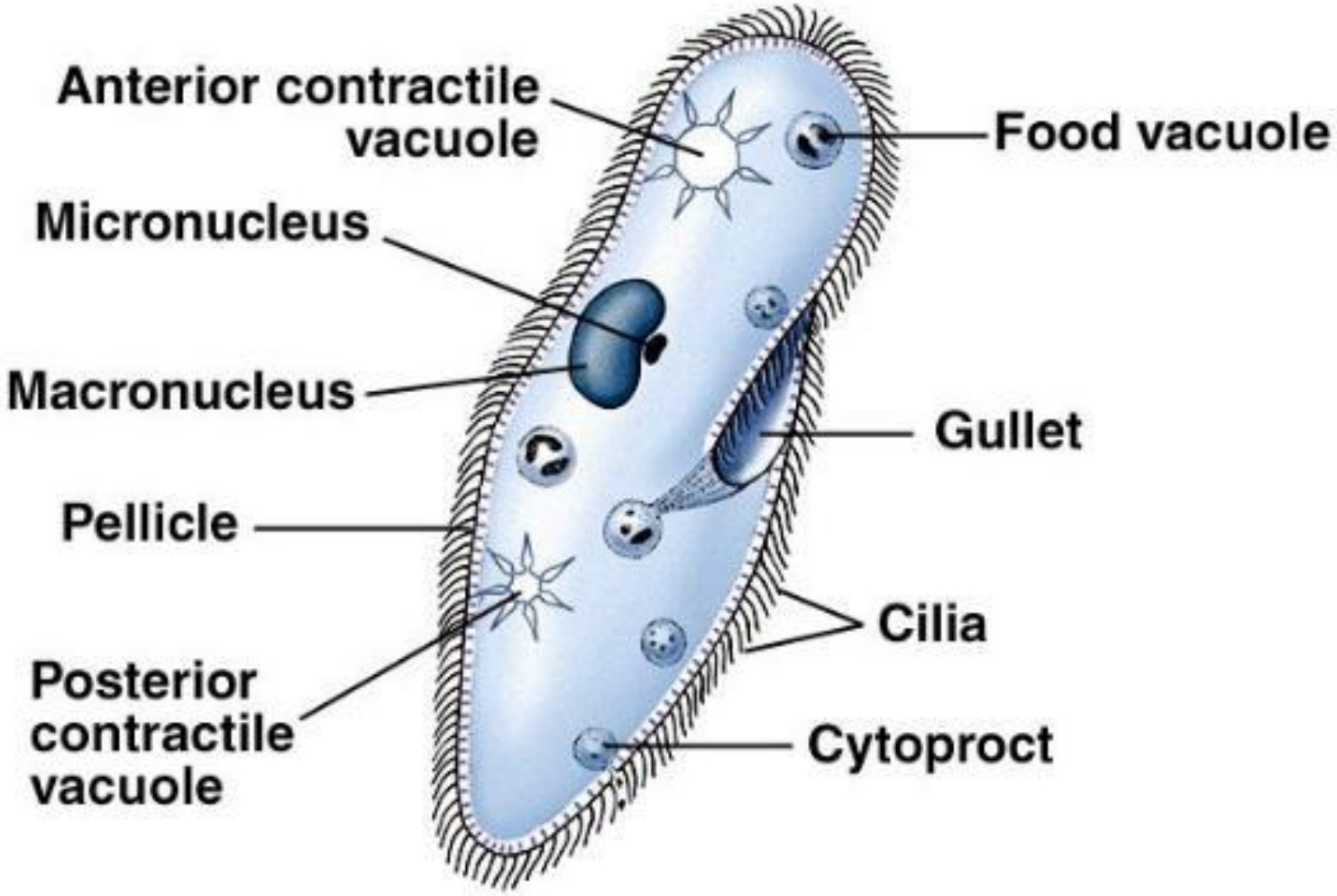




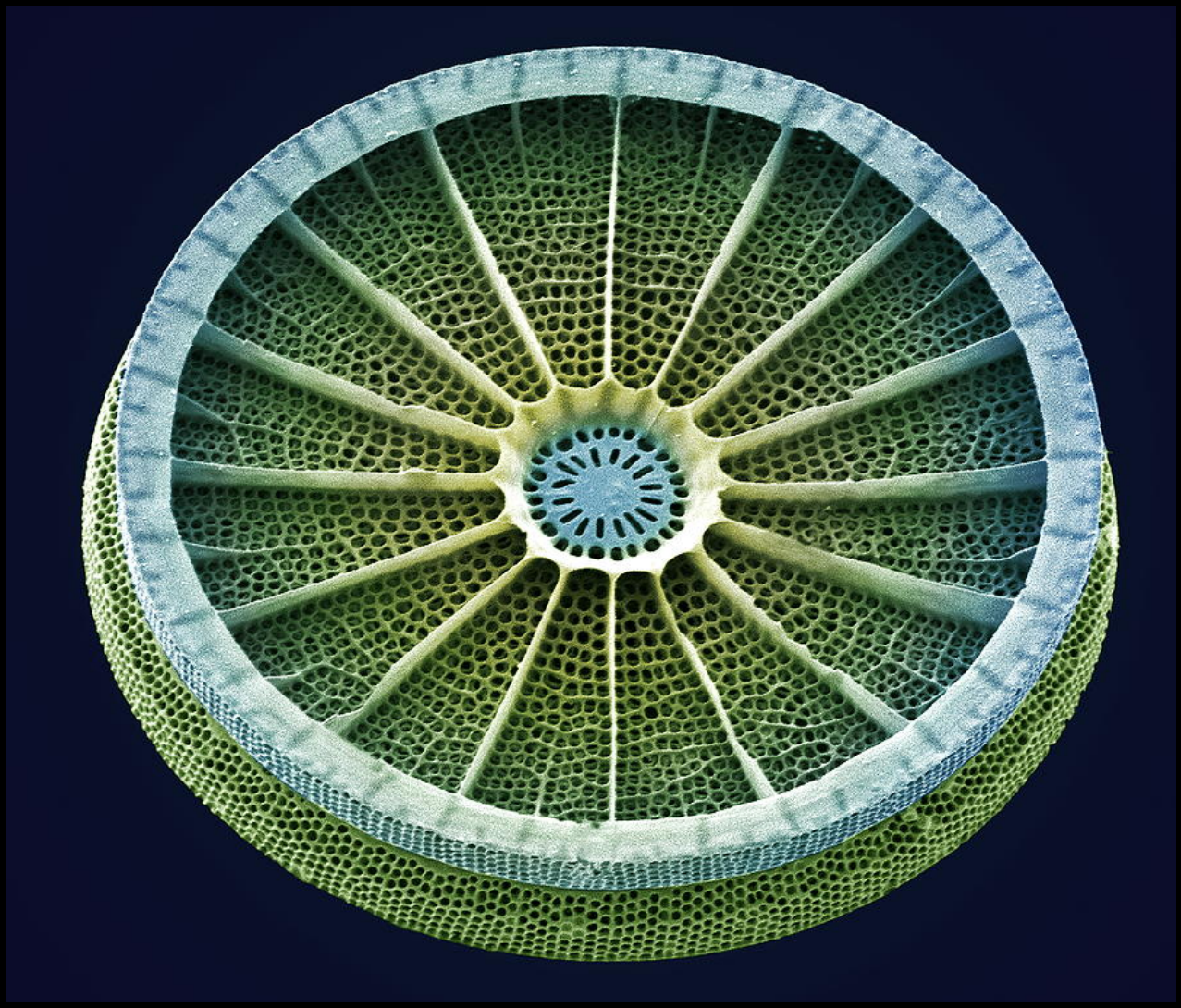


Paramecium

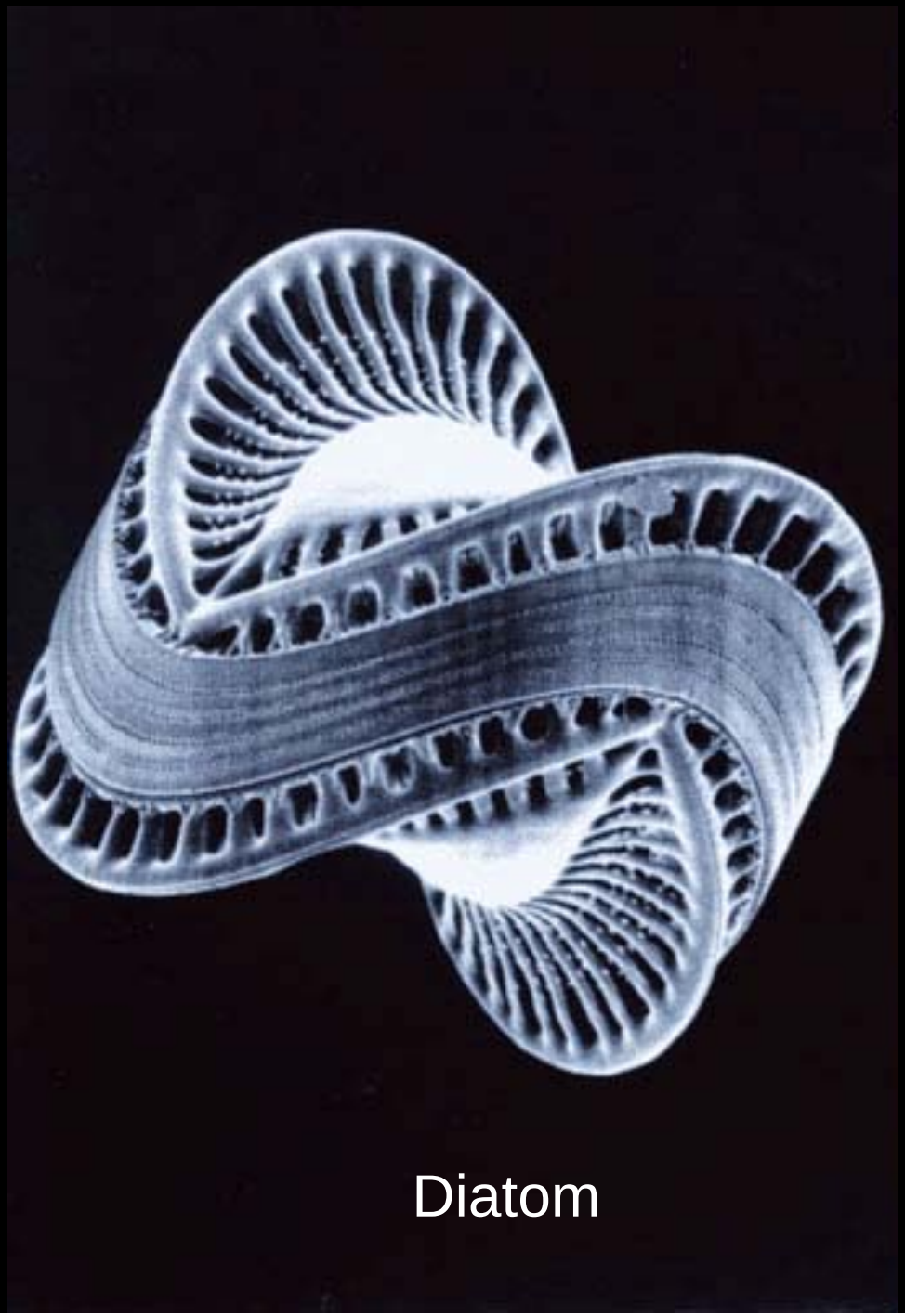
Ciliate – *Paramecium*



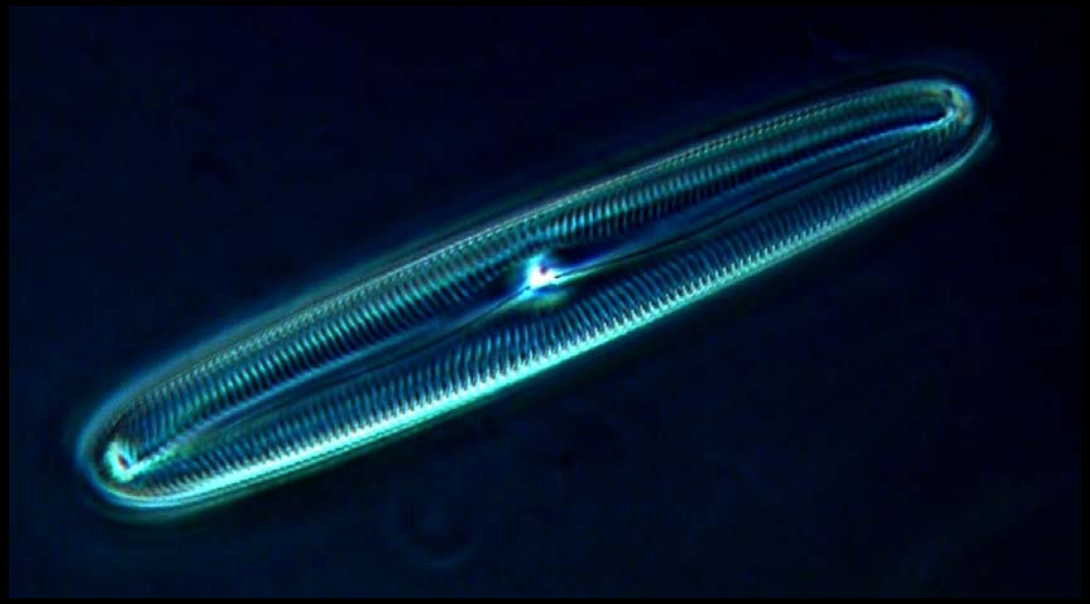
Plasmodium malariae



Diatom

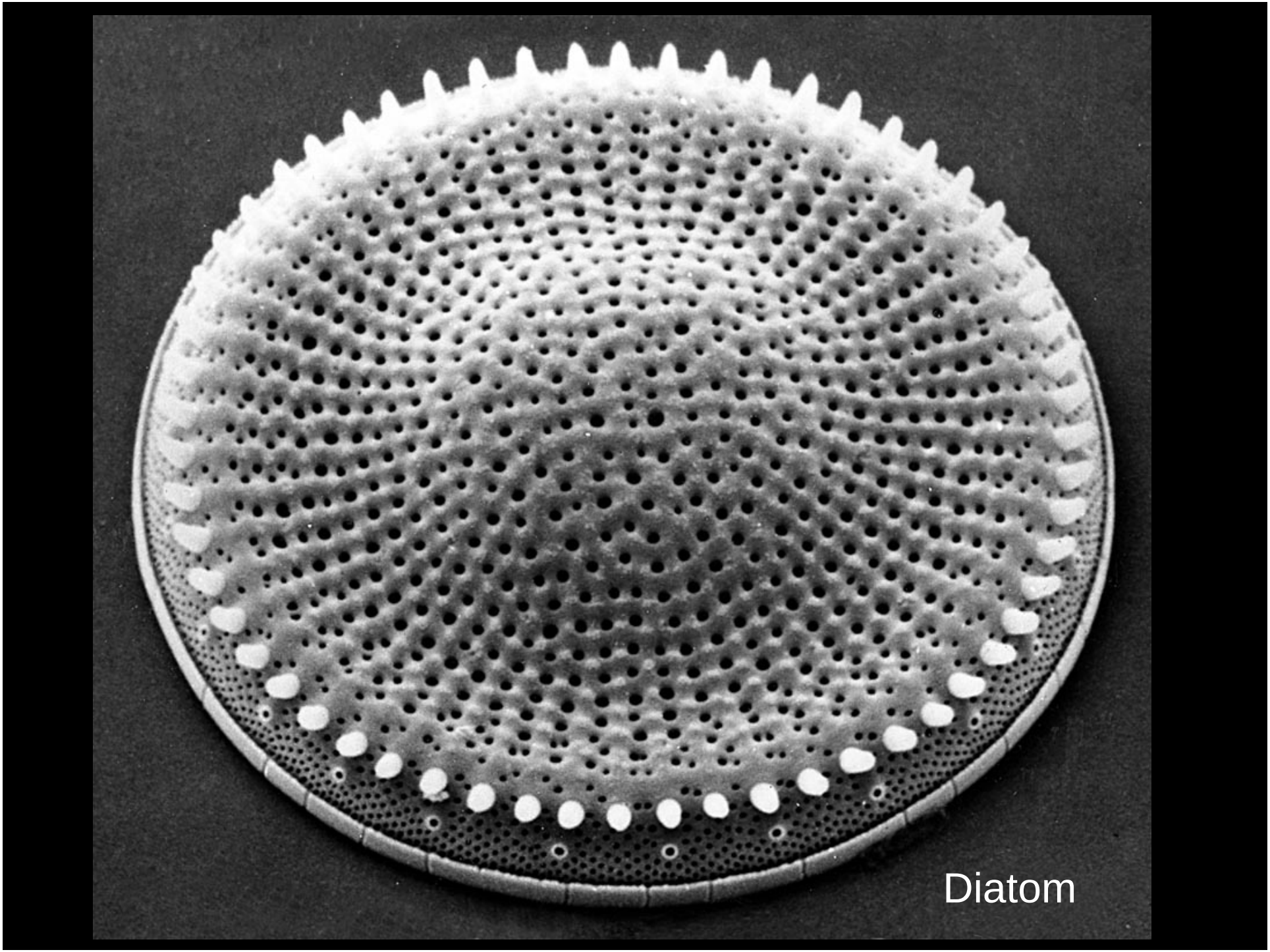


Diatom



Diatom

Diatom


Diatom