

POND LIFE

By: Alejandro Ariel García Arriaga

Coacalco de Berriozábal estado de México México

INTRODUCTION:

One of the most common observations of the enthusiast microscopist is pond life. It can be found almost everywhere, mainly in the rainy season, although through the year it is also possible to find habitats. Even for less productive samples, if we leave for several days exposed to the free air, with the passage of the days there will surely be several forms of life and at least mosquito larvae.

Pond life is amazing because in a single drop, it is possible to find a lot of tiny beings living together, from very small bacteria to multicellular specimens such as daphnia or ostracods, never forgetting that protozoa and rotifers are also part of the "spectacle".

Since I started to observe, I have found several species of pond life creatures, some of them that I could not capture in a photo, but many of them that I could and are here for this presentation, see below.

DEVELOPMENT:

For the many times that I have had the chance I have collected pond samples, regularly I collect them in transparent glass or plastic bottles that I recycle and wash. These bottles are for example coffee containers, soda bottles or any other container that can be closed safely.

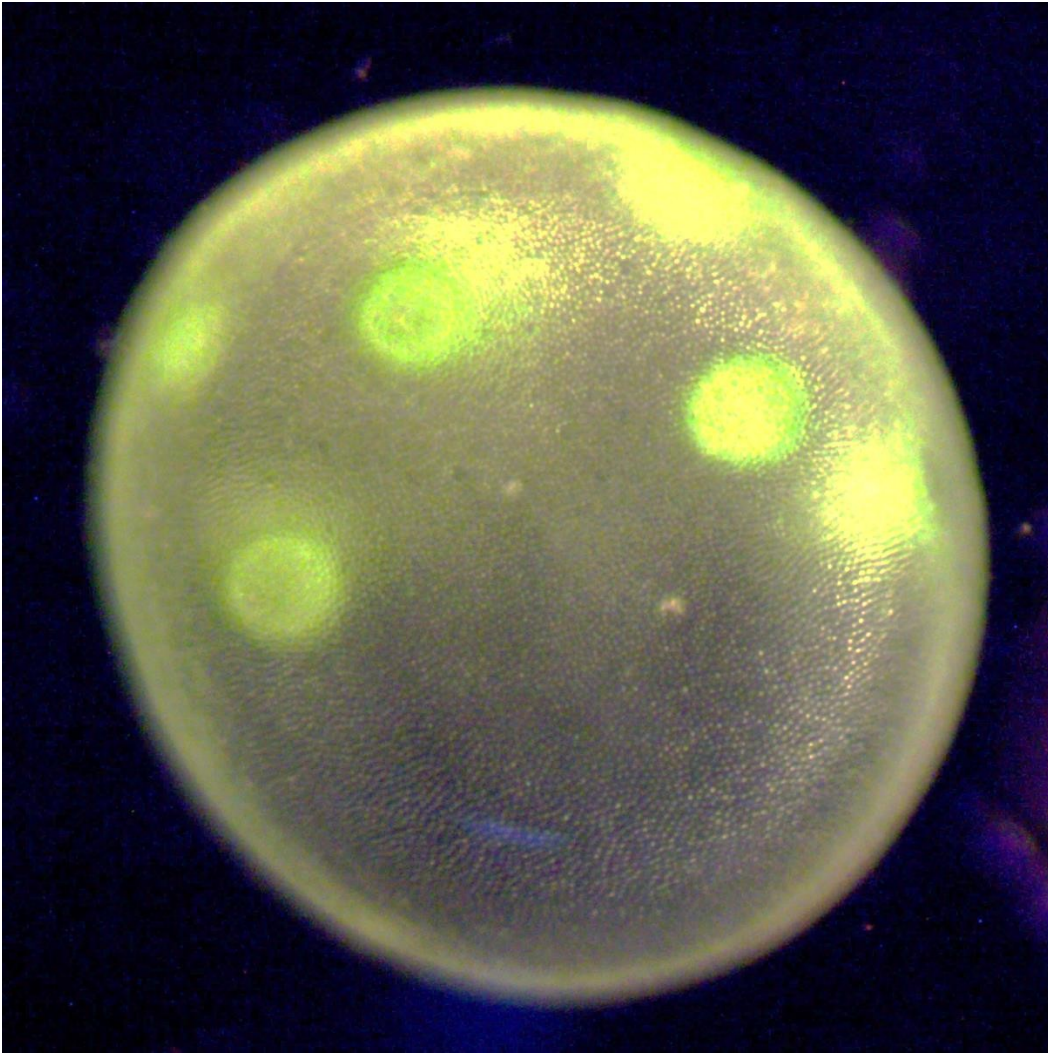


I look for the darkest pond that I could find or the greenest because there are plenty of living beings in those, in the clearer ones it is also possible to find but there are less.

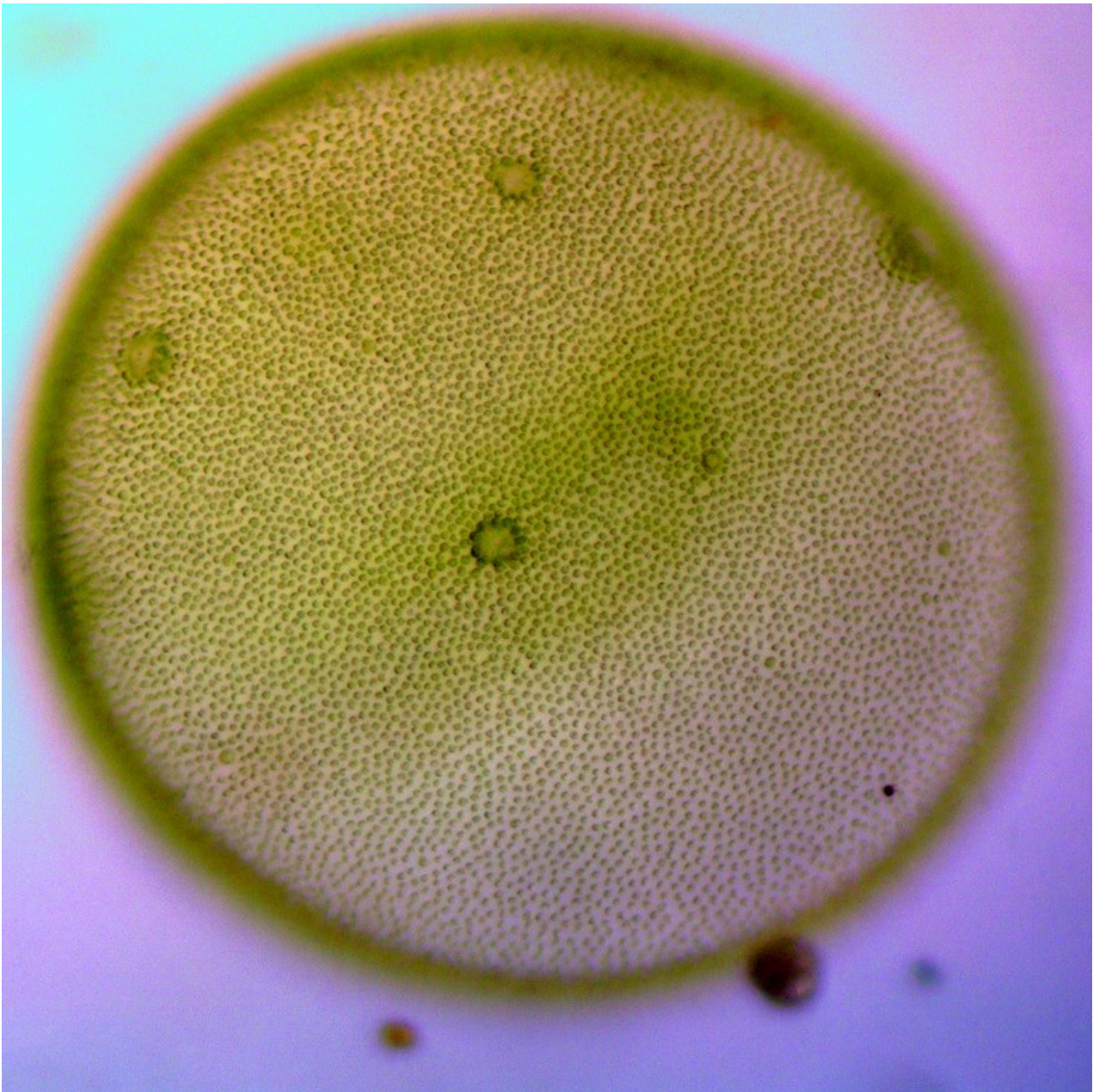
I have had to choose because most of the samples that I have collected are from the flower containers that are found at a local cemetery near my home.

As soon as I get home I take a drop of every container and place it under the microscope.

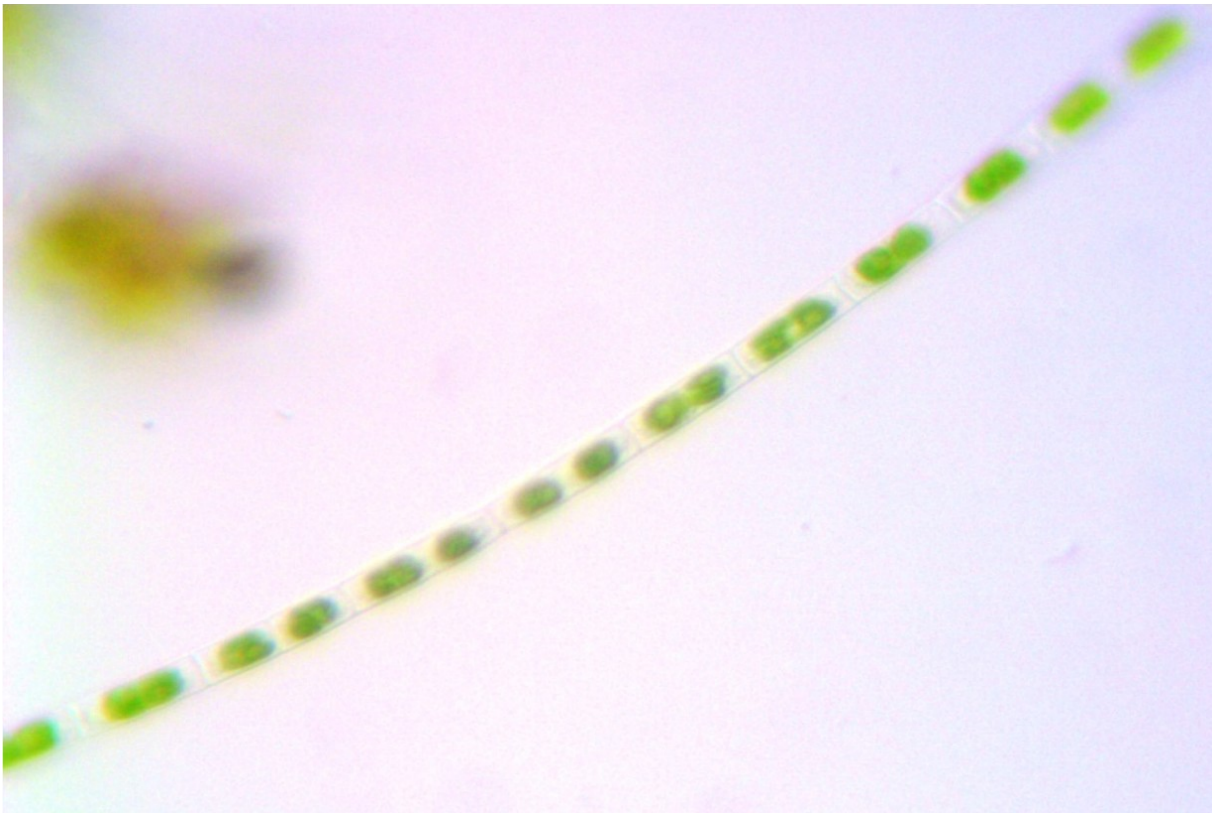
RESULTS:



Volvox darkfield 4x



Volvox brightfield 10x



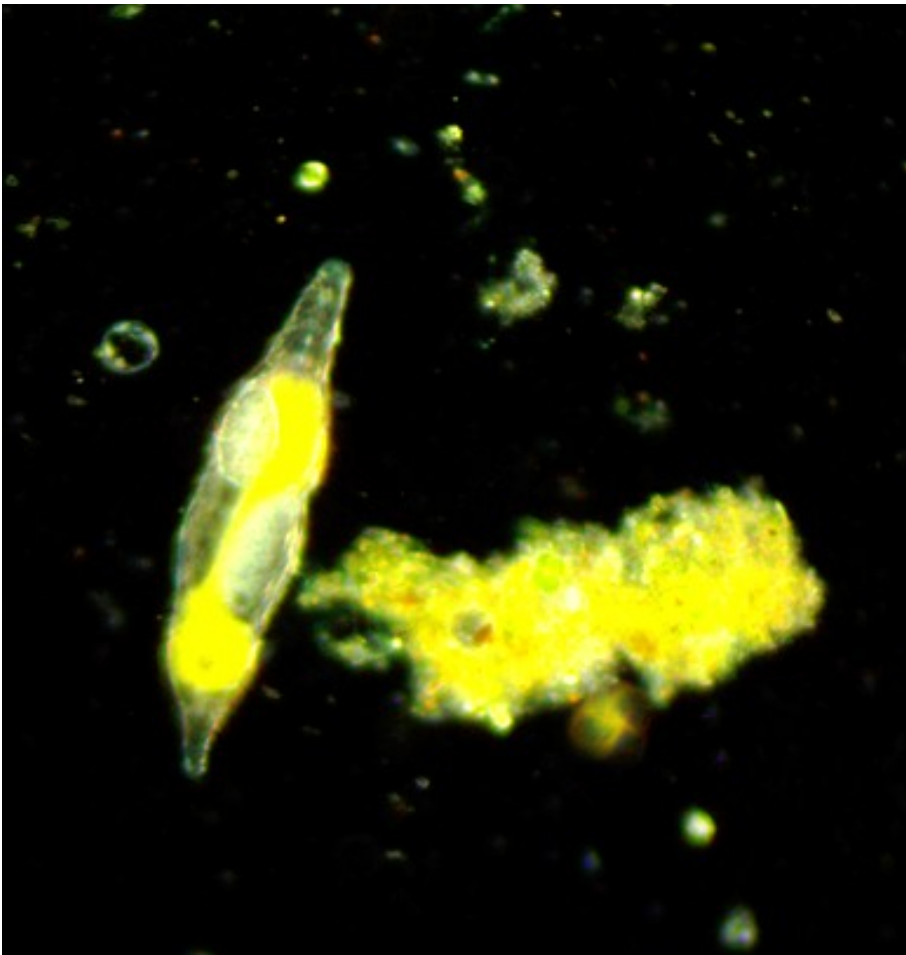
Part of a filamentous algae brightfield 40x



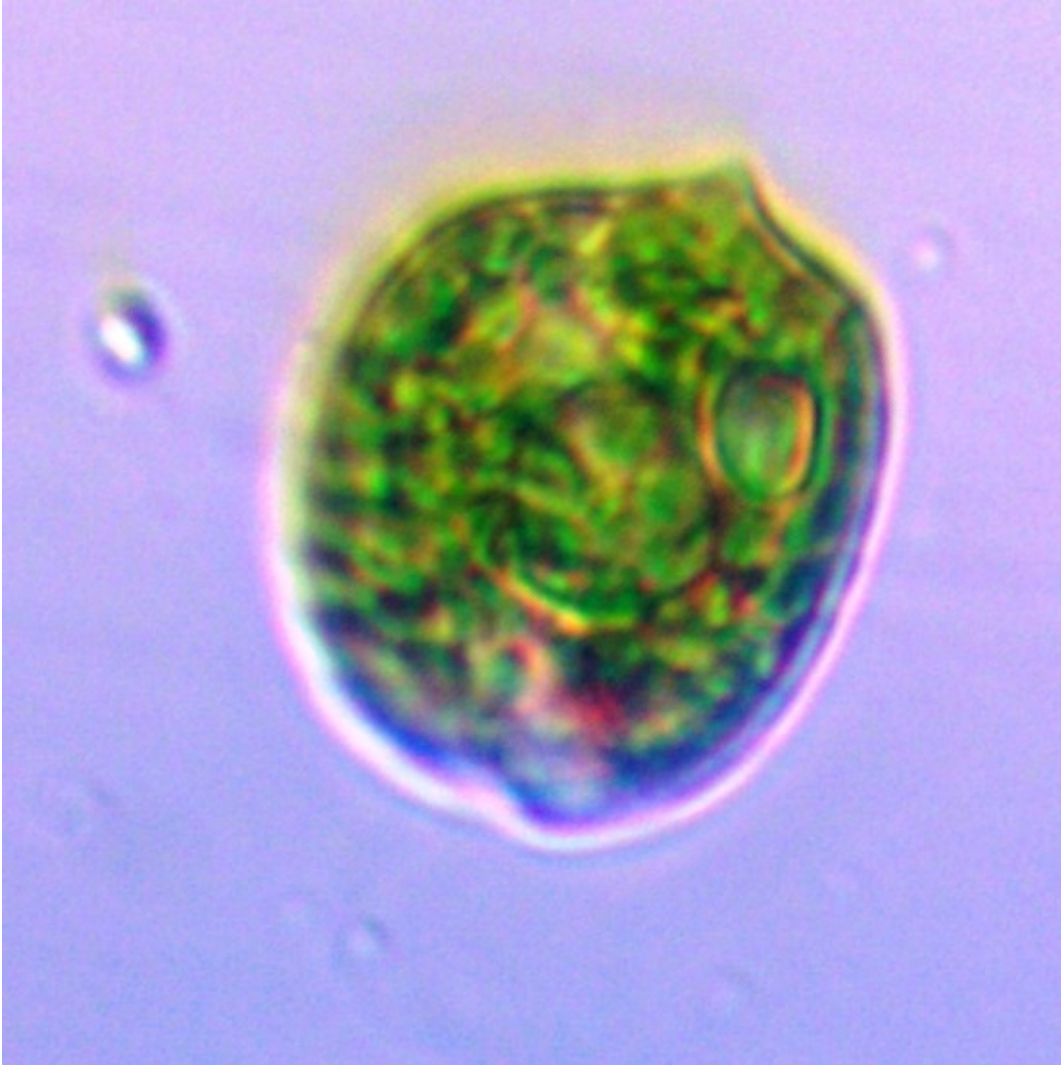
Part of another filamentous algae and *Spirillum* brightfield 40x



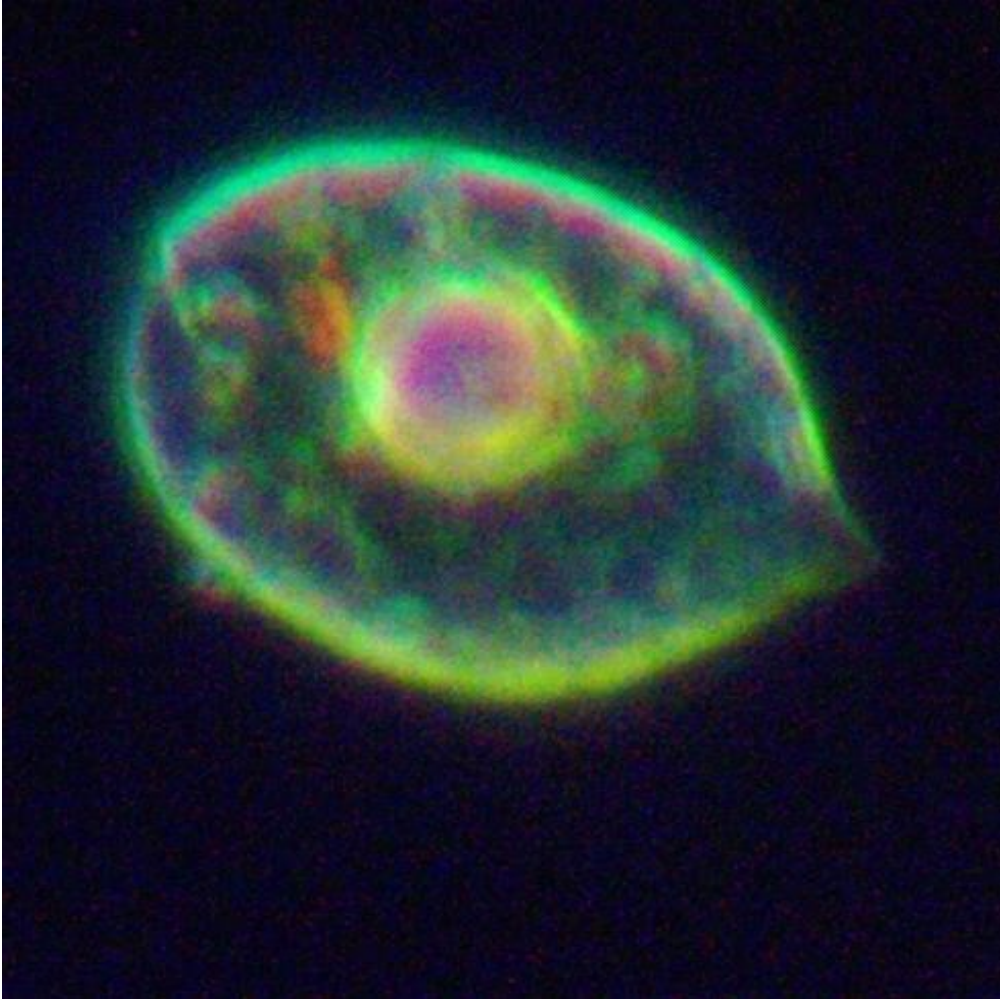
A nematode worm brightfield 10x



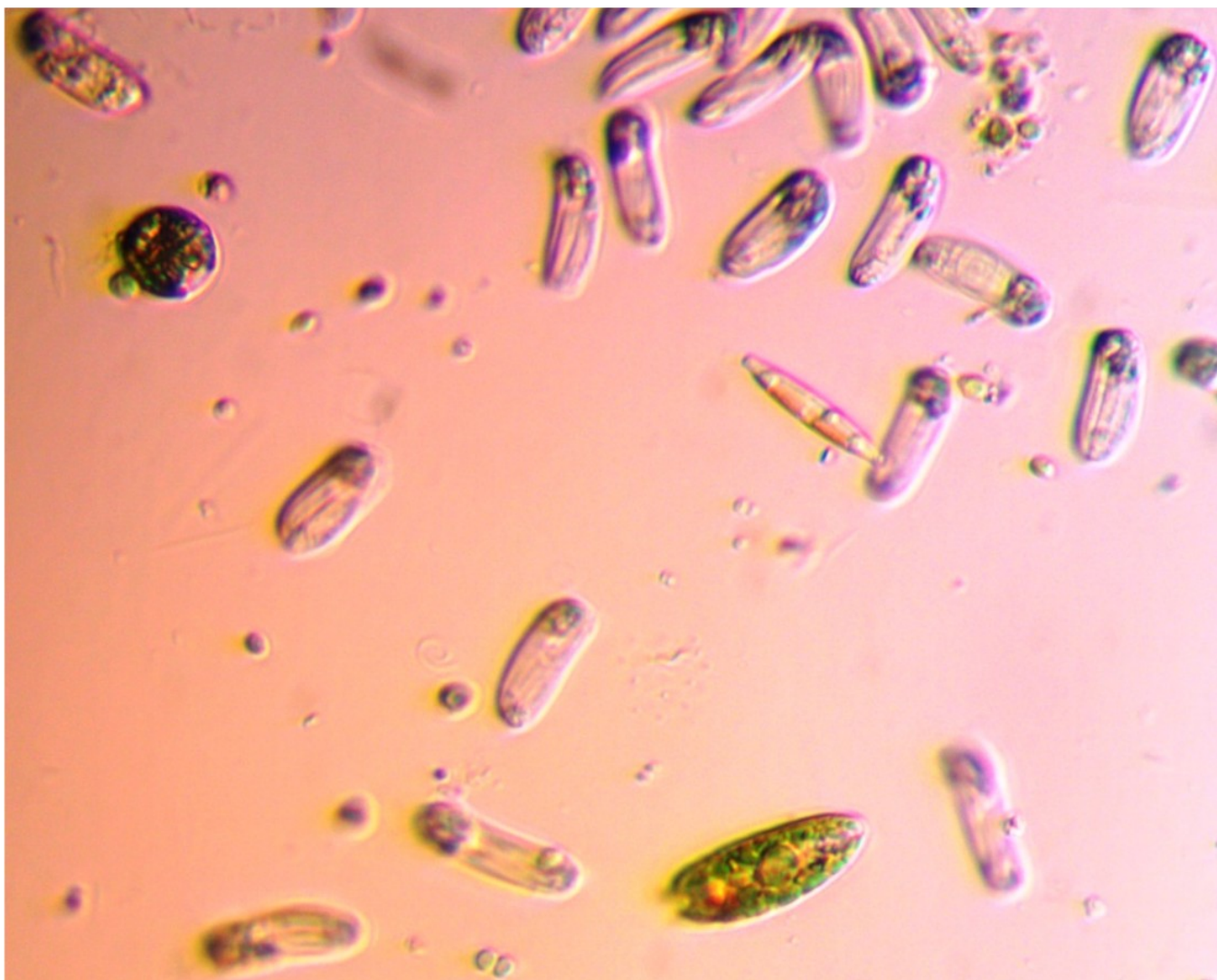
Habrotrocha darkfield 10x



Phacus brightfield 40x



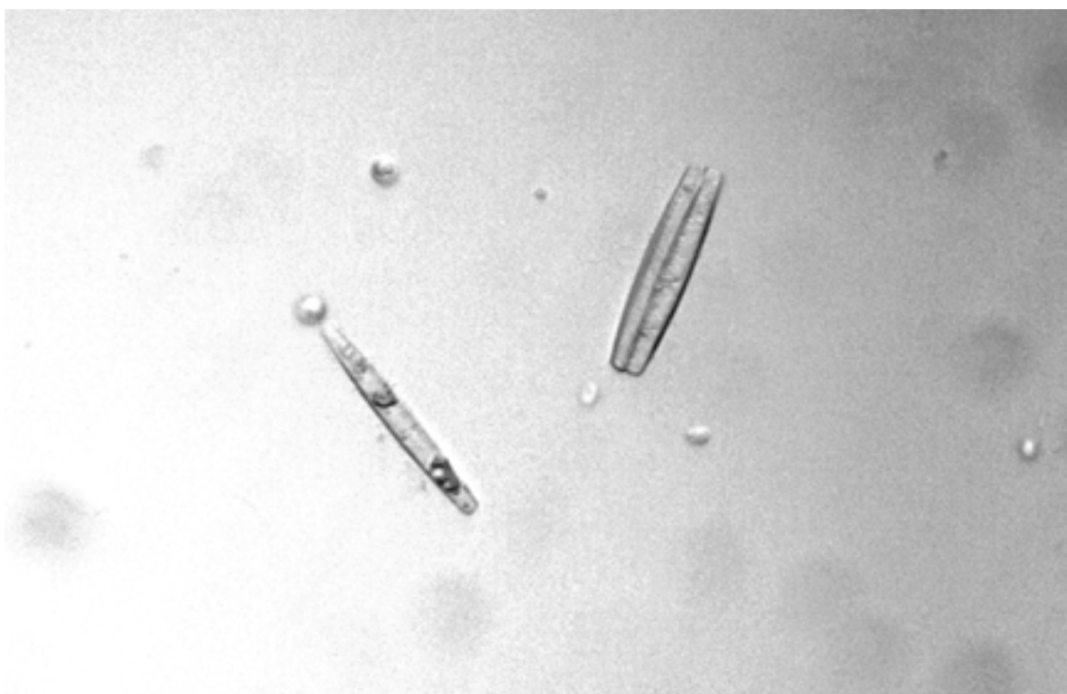
Phacus darkfield 40x



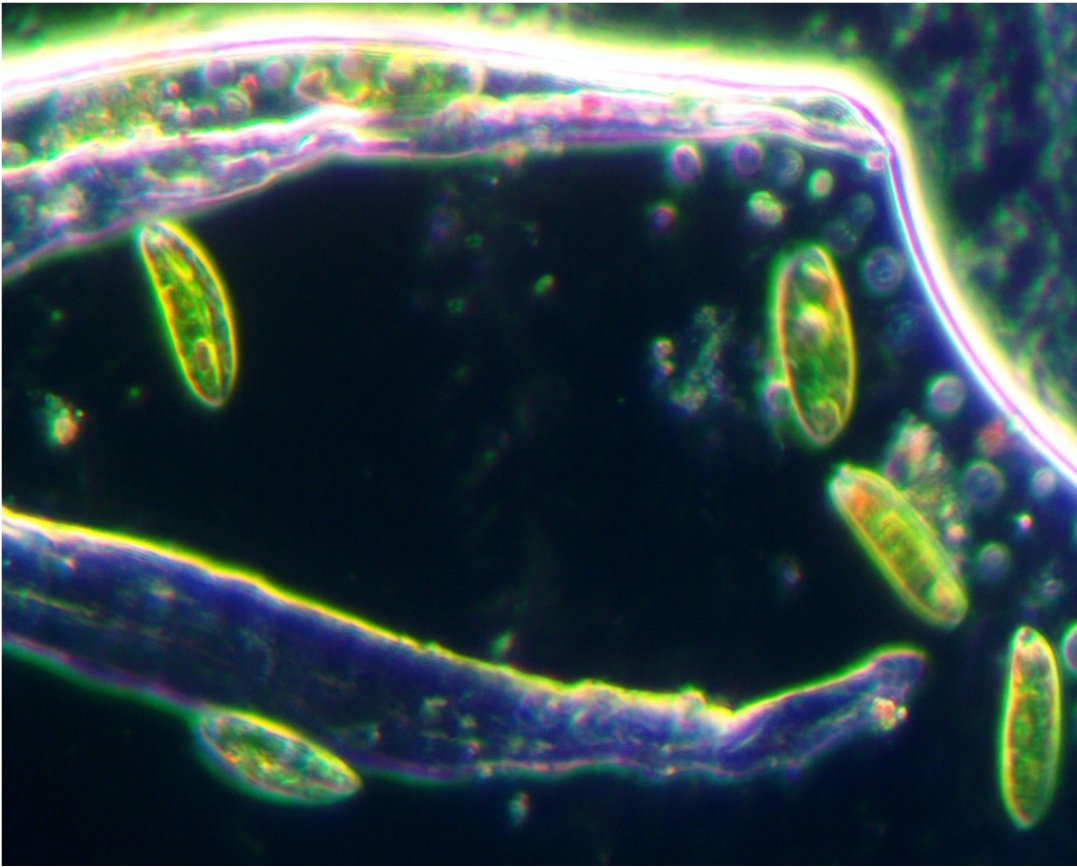
Two species of *Euglena* and a diatom oblique illumination 40x



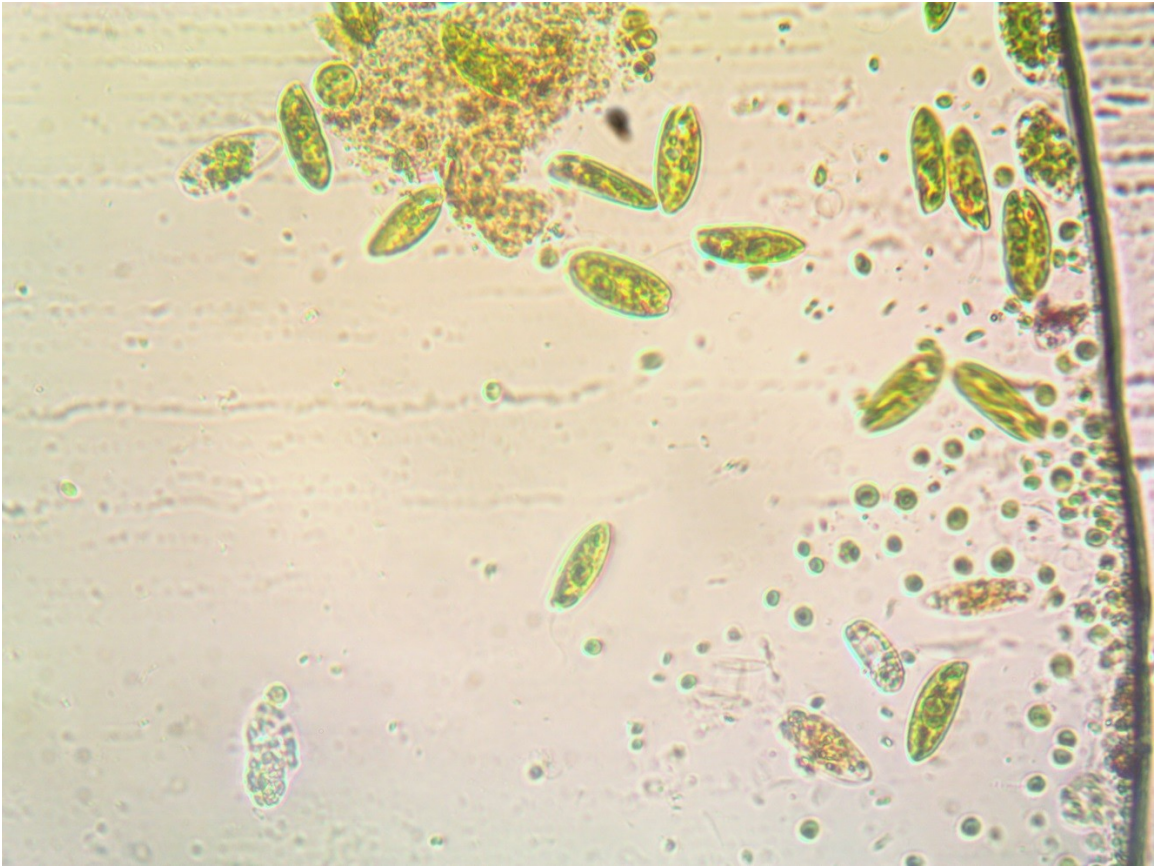
Green algae brightfield 40x



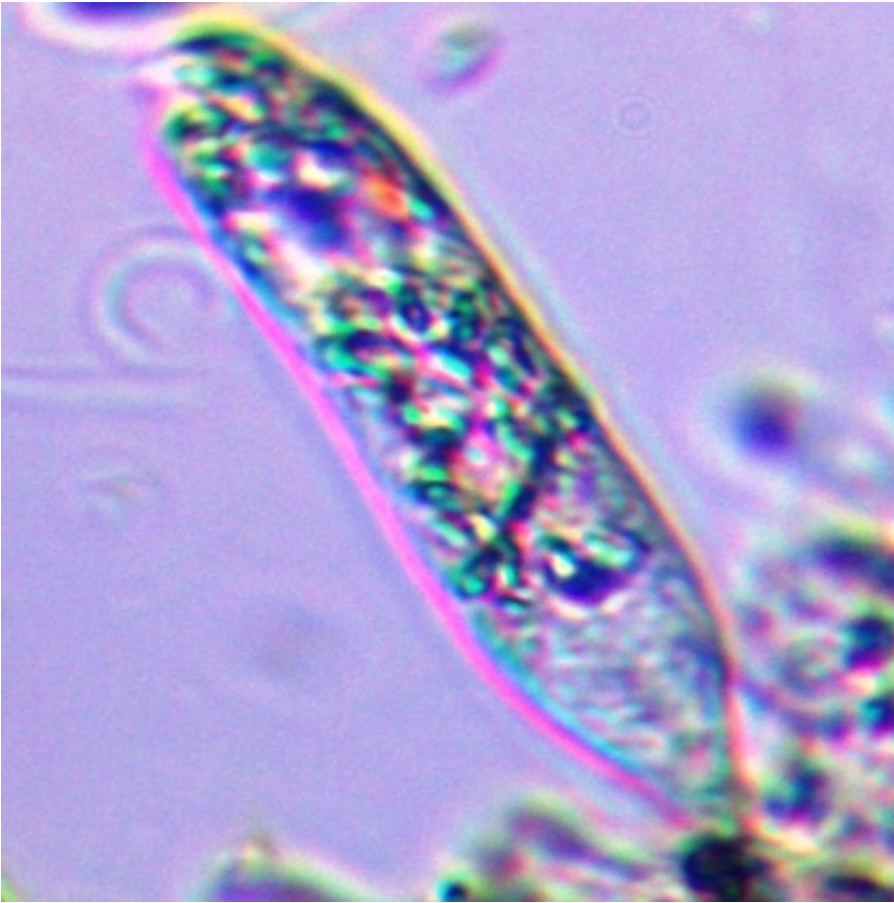
Diatoms brightfield 40x gray scale



Euglena darkfield 40x

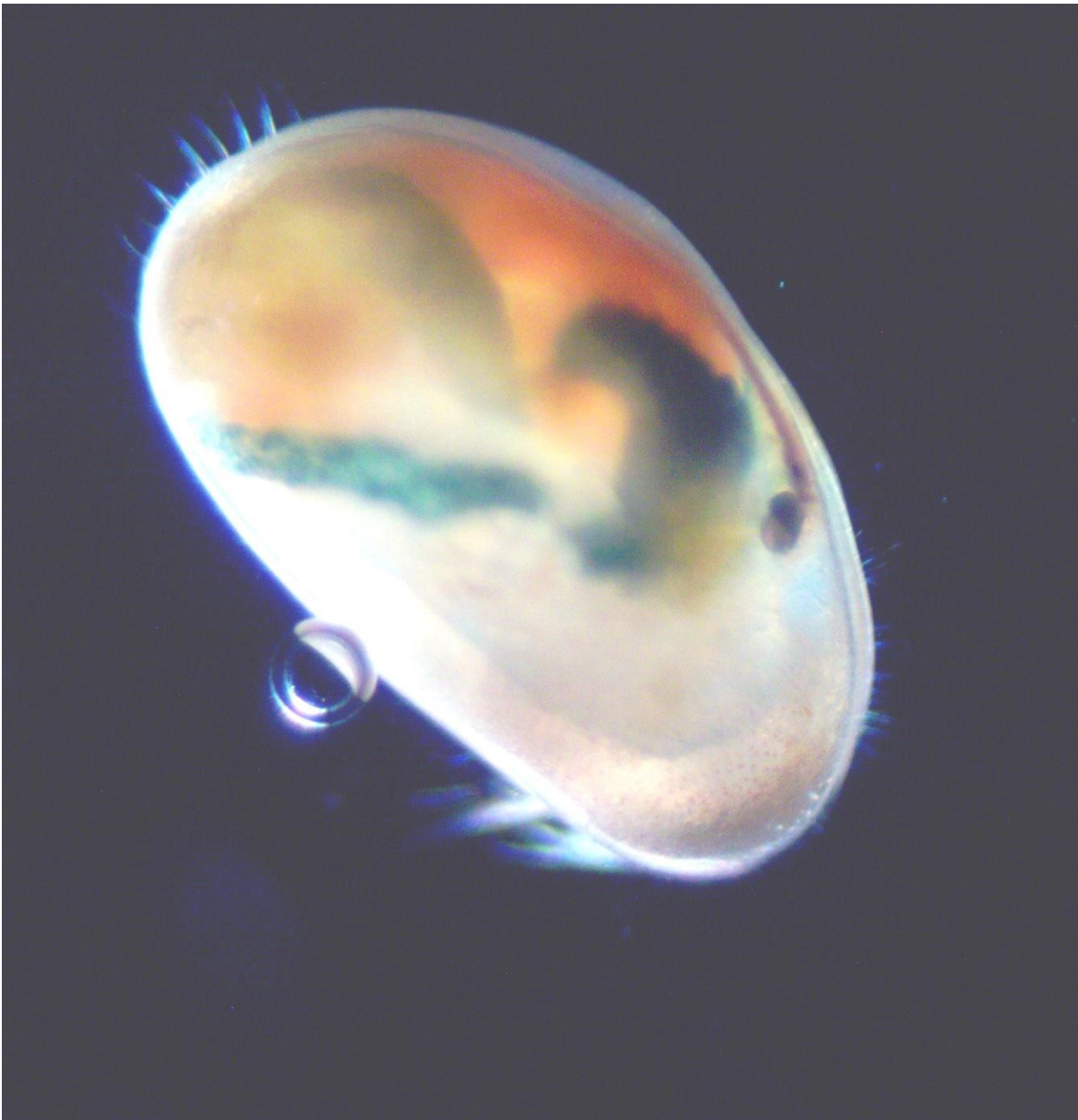


Euglena brightfield 40x



Astasia obliqua 40x

Two characters of pond life that we should not miss are:



Ostracods darkfield 4x



Daphnia Rheinberg illumination blue purple filter 4x

CONCLUSION:

There are many, many more that I have not had the chance to observe and others that I could not capture in a photo because of different circumstances. But today I present the ones I have and that surely will encourage other microscopists - mainly those that are beginning to take advantage of every pond as their way looking for the experience of observing the marvelous micro world within it.

Email author: doctor2408 AT yahoo DOT com DOT mx

(Above in anti-spam format. Copy string to email software, remove spaces and manually insert the capitalised characters.)

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