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Extensive Gallery: <https://medium.com/@shrean>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@Shuckle24>

## **Microscopy: Following Euplotes**

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Microscopic life on Earth is complex and vast and utterly spectacular. I have only recently dipped my toes into observing living specimens, and I'm enthralled by how much complexity and vigor I can get from just dirt and water.

Last week, an Euplotes Ciliate graced my slide, which is a funny little blobular creature with tiny legs. It was a pleasure to observe.

Watch the full video here:

 [Following Euplotes | Light Microscopy Microscopy | #microscope #...](#)

## Euplotes

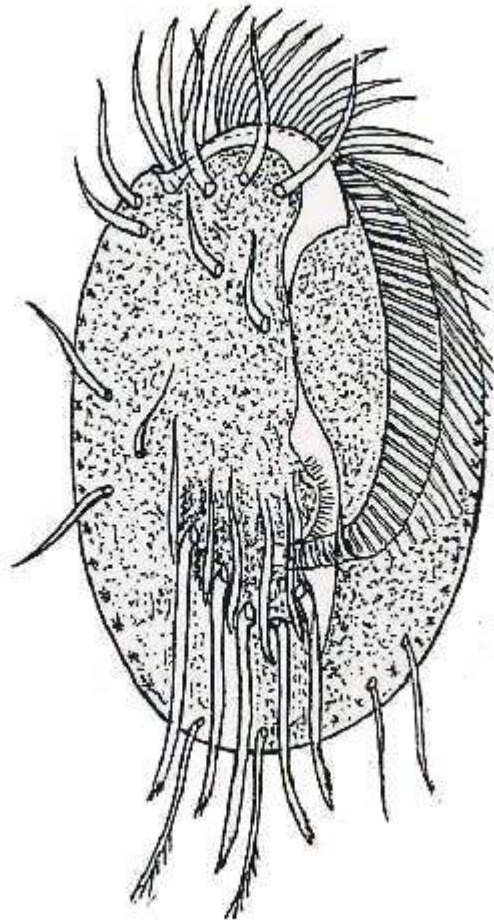


Image Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The Euplotes is a genus of ciliates in the subclass Euplotia. They're widely found in marine and freshwater environments, as well as soil and moss. I found mine in a water-dirt culture.

The shape, as you can roughly see from the video, is inflexible and ovoid. Perhaps the most characteristic part of the Euplotes is its 'cirri', the thin leg-like protrusions that the Euplotes uses for swimming and feeding. The cirri are made of thick tufts of cilia, a short, hair-like membrane protrusion common in many eukaryotic cells, including some human ones. The cirri on the ventral (frontal) part of the Euplotes are strong, allowing it to 'walk' or 'crawl' on submerged detritus, as seen in one (labelled) part of the video

above. While swimming, the cilia beat in synchronized waves, propelling the organism forward in the swift and determined motions seen above.

Sources: [Wikipedia](#), [Nikon's MicroscopyU](#)

*All videos were viewed with a compound light microscope at 160x total magnification. Videos were taken with a mid-range phone camera, which was attached to the microscope eyepiece with the OpenOcular 3.0 adapter. Videos were processed and adjusted using DaVinci Resolve.*

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