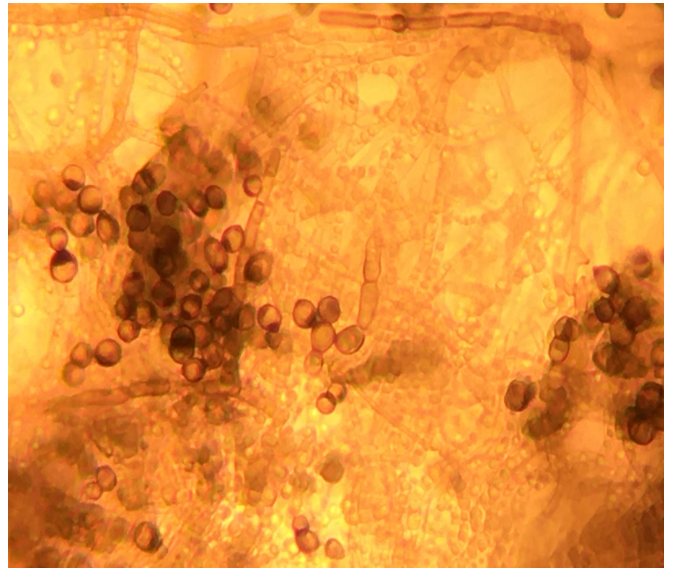
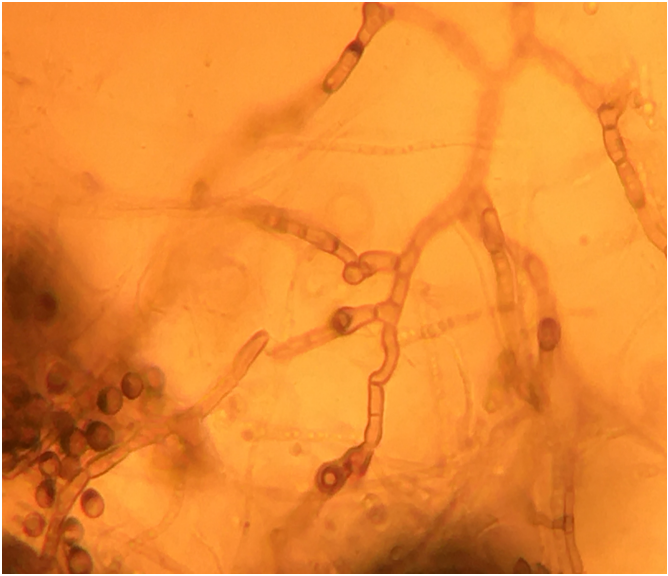
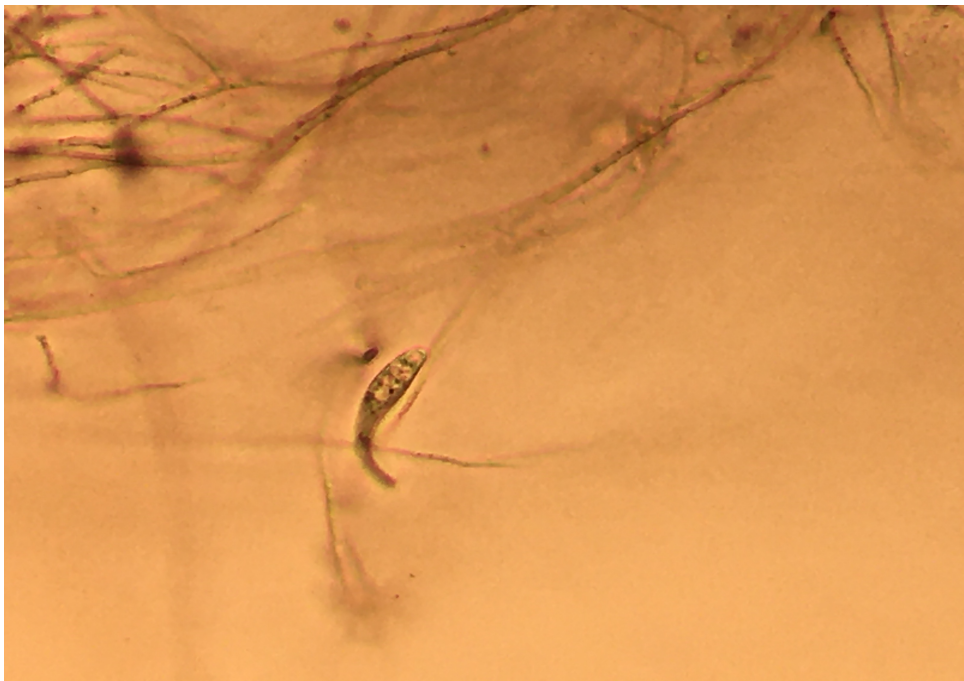


What is growing in my toilet?

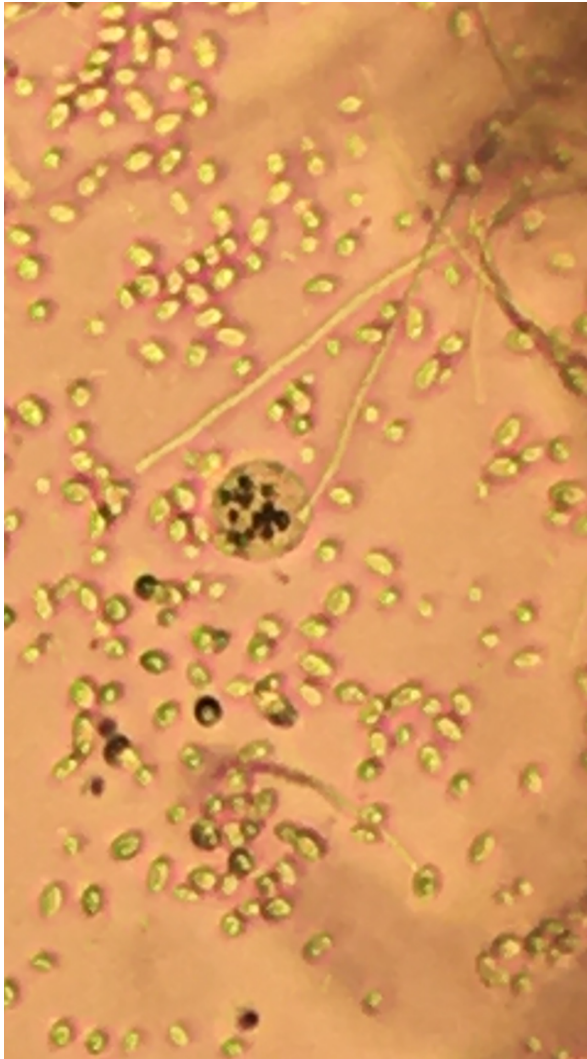
We have a bathroom in the basement, where the toilet is never used. I have to flush it occasionally, because some black ring appears at the perimeter of the water. Sometimes I forget and then the growth gets ugly. Our city water is good and drinkable. I was wondering where does this growth come from? Well, at least I wanted to see what it is. I put some of this stuff on a slide and looked at it under the microscope at 200 and 400 power. The pictures were taken with an iPhone.



Most of it is some type of fungus.



This protozoan was very much alive. I guess the chlorine doesn't harm it. It looks like one of a *Lionotus* type ciliates.



I have no idea what this is. Looks like a Volvox but its way too small to be one. Those other items must be spores?

At least I now know that the bulk of this black stuff is fungus. Where does it come from? Are the spores for it in the city water? Our city water comes from ground water. I guess these spores survive the city's water treatment.

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