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Brief History

- One celled body performs all the biological activities like multicellular animals. So they are termed as "Acellular" organism, proposed by Dobell.
- Protozoans were first studied by Leeuwenhoek. And the name Protozoa was coined by Goldfuss.
- The branch of study of protozoans is known as Protozoology.

Salient Features

- (1) Protozoans are the simple and primitive organisms.
- (2) Body level of organisation of Protozoans is Protoplasmic level.
- (3) They are free living or parasitic.
- (4) Consists of uninucleate or multinucleate protoplasm mostly naked or some have body bounded by delicate membrane or a firm pellicle; Lorica or shell.
- (5) In few groups of protozoa CaCO_3 & Silica shell's exoskeleton is found. Example: Radiolarian group & Foraminiferan group.
- (6) Number of nuclei varies from one to many. Few show nuclear dimorphism. Example: Paramecium.
- (7) Body performs all necessary biological activity so in them sub cellular - Physiological division of labour is found.
- (8) All the free living forms are aquatic.
- (9) They are asymmetrical or radially symmetrical or bilaterally symmetrical.
- (10) They are unicellular (acellular).
- (11) They have protoplasmic grade of organization.

