

Protista – Protozoans

Protozoans are typically heterotrophic, motile, unicellular organisms of small size. Protozoans usually live in water, but they can also be found in moist soil or inside other organisms.

Some protozoans engulf whole food and are termed **holozoic**; others are **saprotrophic**, and they absorb nutrient molecules across the plasma membrane. Still others are **parasitic** and are responsible for several significant human infections. Their food is digested inside food vacuoles, and freshwater protozoans have “contractile” vacuoles for the elimination of water.

The protozoans we will study can be placed in four groups according to their type of locomotor organelle:

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|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| phylum Sarcodina | Amoeboids | Pseudopods | <i>Amoeba</i> |
| phylum Ciliophora | Ciliates | Cilia | <i>Paramecium</i> |
| phylum Zoomastigophora | Zooflagellates | Flagella | <i>Trypanosoma</i> |
| phylum Sporozoa | Sporozoa | No locomotion | <i>Plasmodium</i> |