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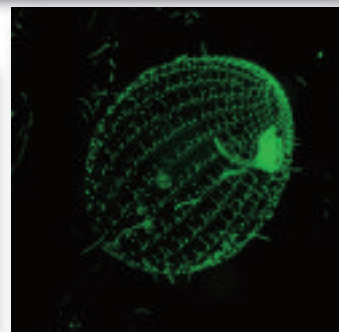
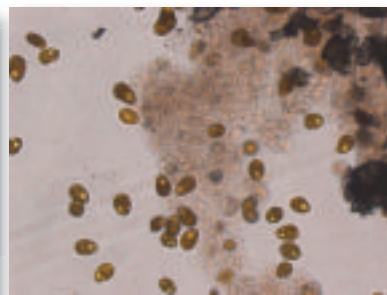
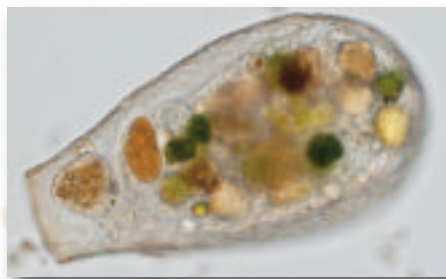


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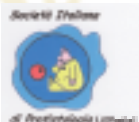
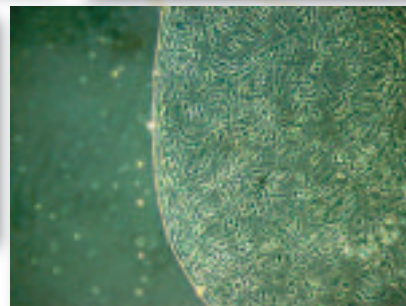
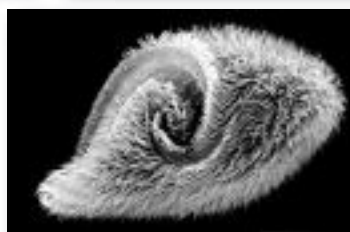
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POSTER SESSION



50 - Naked Amoebae in Soils of Biogeocenoses of the Forest and Steppe Zone (Ukraine)

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Naked amoebae stand out from all other soil-inhabiting protists. They form a group of various numerous and widely distributed soil organisms. In the soil, they are participants of various processes including the circulation of matter. They also support the soil fertility. The species composition of these protists was hence studied in the course of research of the fresh-water fauna of Ukraine. There are no previous studies of amoebae in soils of Ukraine. Ours is a first study to describe the species composition of amoebae in the soils of the forest and steppe zone of Ukraine where all stages can be seen of the gradual transition from forests to steppe. Eighteen amoebae species were found in the soils under study. The most common species, found in all biotopes, were *Thecamoeba striata* Schaeffer, 1926, *Mayorella cantabrigiensis* Page, 1983, *Cochliopodium* sp., *Vahlkampfia* sp. (1) and *Vahlkampfia* sp. (2). The amoebae species characteristic of steppe soils were *Vannella lata* Page, 1988, *Vannella* sp.; under shrubs that was *Vexillifera* sp.; in high wood stands *Stenamoeba stenopodia* Smirnov et al., 2007, *T. striata*; in sparse woods *Rhizamoeba* sp., *Vahlkampfia* sp. (1). In the soils of forest and steppe biogeocenoses, the majority of amoebae belonged to the families Hartmannellidae Page, 1974, Mayorellidae Schaeffer, 1926 and Thecamoebidae Schaeffer, 1926. Together those families made up 68 % of all species diversity. Most of the found species were eurybionts, living in a wide range of soils and most common in the forest biogeocenoses of Ukraine. The most common naked amoebae morphotypes were monopodial, mayorellian, striate and eruptive.