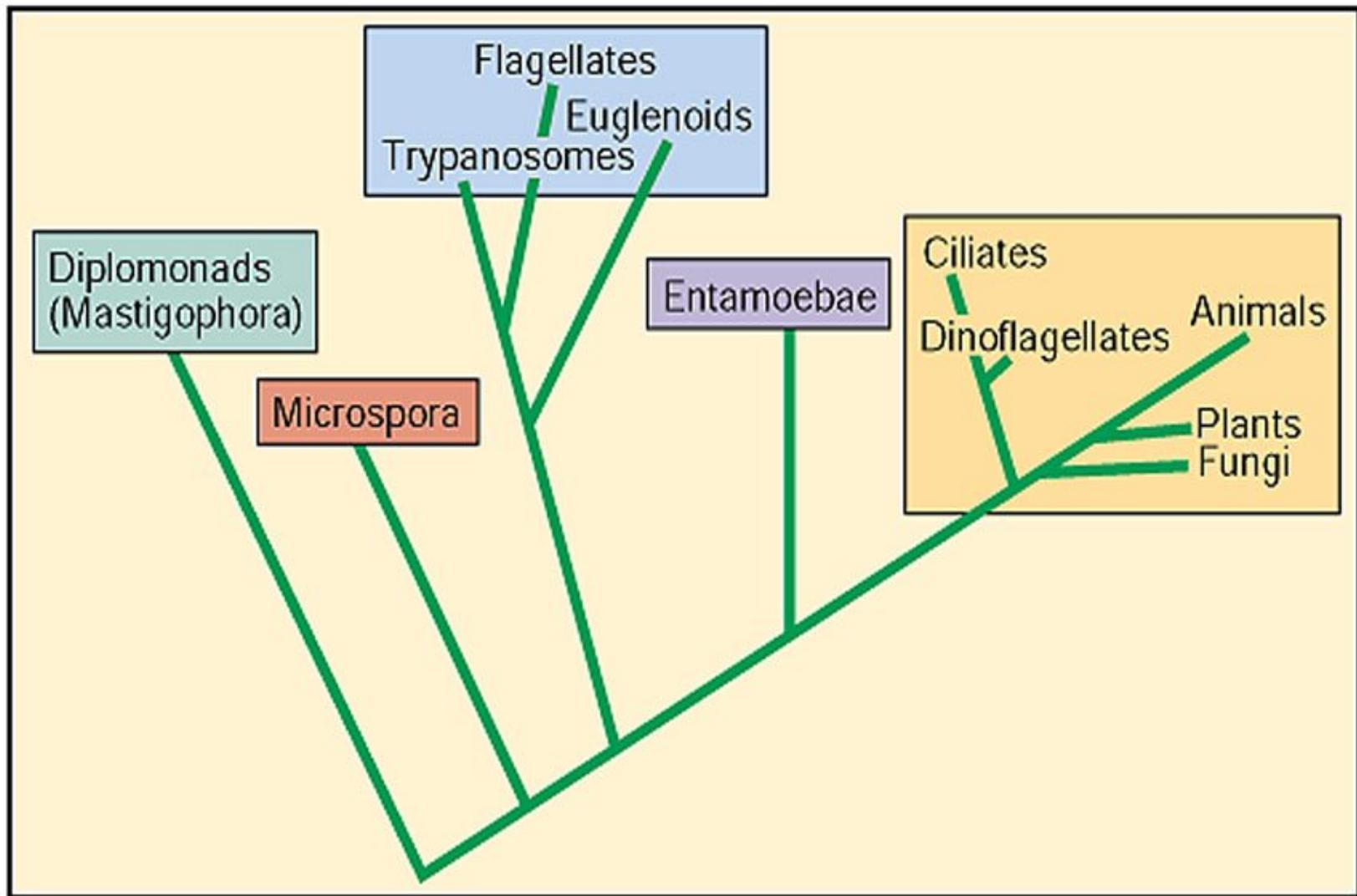


CLADOGRAM OF PROTOZOA RELATIONSHIPS

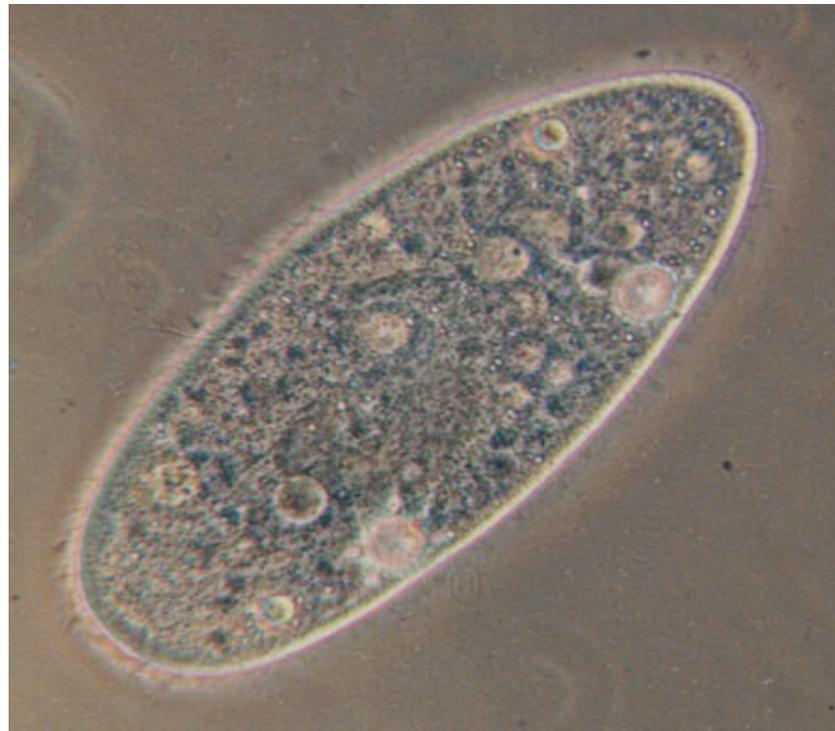
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CLADOGRAM OF PROTOZOA RELATIONSHIPS

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ENDOSYMBIOSIS AND CYTOPLASMIC INHERITANCE IN PARAMECIUM



THIS TOPIC WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING :

Altenburg paper (1948)
–Plasmagene hypothesis
–Kappa body symbiosis



Current understanding
of Kappa bodies (Preer
1974)



Other cytoplasmic inheritance
in *Paramecium* (Meyer 2002)



Paramecium biology
–Cell biology
–Life cycle

ALTENBURG PAPER (1948) INVESTIGATES THE EVIDENCE THAT KAPPA BODIES ARE A SYMBIONT

- ❖ Kappa bodies are elements within Paramecium that cause them to be killers***
- ❖ Killer Paramecium kill other Paramecium in the immediate environment***
- ❖ Kappa particles, thought to be plasmagenes by Sonneborn, but Altenburg suggest they may be symbionts***

THE PLASMAGENE THEORY SUGGESTED KAPPA BODIES WERE GENES WITHIN THE CYTOPLASM

❖ Plasmagenes defined as self-replicating structure capable of producing traits that exist in the cytoplasm and are independent of chromosomal genes.

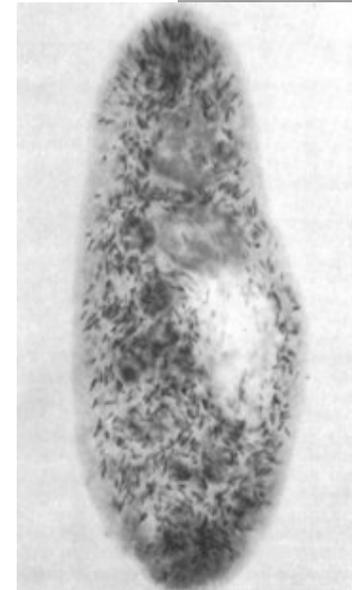
❖ The trait that Kappa bodies produce is the killing factor

❖ Kappa bodies are inherited through the cytoplasm and not through chromosomes

❖ Sonneborn wrote in 1976, “It was awful of me to be so attached to a pet idea. That was an ordeal between my mind and my heart and it took a while for the mind to win and the heart to accept. Impersonal scientific objectivity is a goal to be sought by hard self-discipline; we are not born with it.”

ALTENBURG'S EVIDENCE THAT KAPPA BODIES ARE SYMBIONTS IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE

- ❖ *Preer (1948) showed Kappa is large enough to see under a light microscope*
- ❖ *38° C kills Kappa but not Paramecium*
- ❖ *Division of Kappa and Paramecium is independent of each other*
- ❖ *There is an upper limit of the number of Kappa in Paramecium*
- ❖ *More likely a symbiont than a parasite*



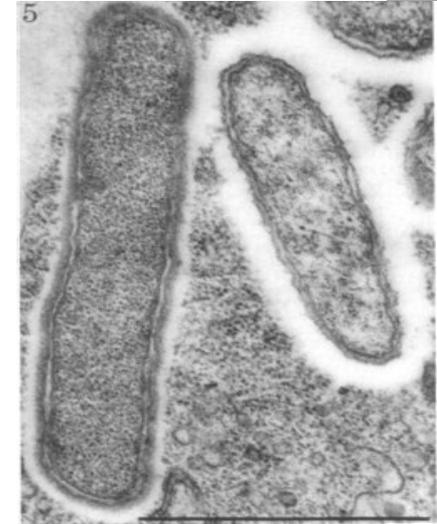
Paramecium with symbiont

PREER (1974) REVIEWED THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT KAPPA BODIES ARE SYMBIONTS

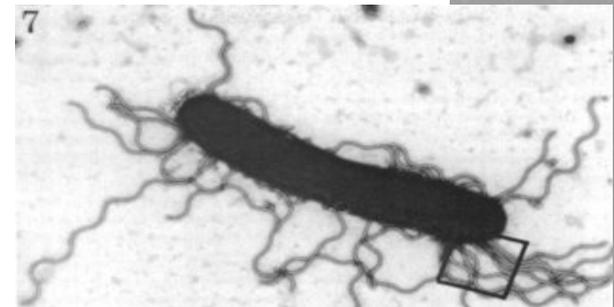
❖ Kappa contains DNA, RNA, protein, and lipids in proportions expected in bacteria

❖ Kappa contains electron transport system with cytochromes similar to bacteria and not eukaryotes

❖ Electron microscopy clearly showed that Kappa is prokaryotic



Electron micrograph of symbionts



Electron micrograph of flagellated Kappa

CURRENT INFORMATION HAS SHOWN WHY KAPPA INDUCES KILLING AND THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BACTERIA SYMBIOSIS

- ❖ Kappa bodies kill other Paramecium by releasing toxins into the environment***
- ❖ The presence of the symbiont makes the host resistant to the toxin***
- ❖ Kappa bodies are transmitted by the cytoplasm during asexual division***
- ❖ Many other types of symbionts found***
- ❖ Kappa is the most common***

sigma

gamma

lambda

alpha

pi

delta

omega

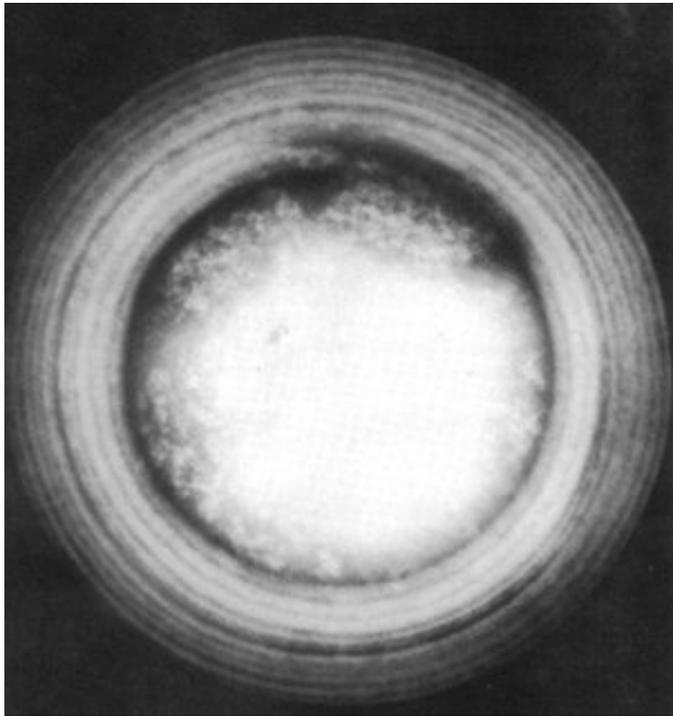
mu

THE DISCOVERY OF BACTERIAL SYMBIONTS WITHIN PARAMECIUM ALLOWS FOR THEIR TAXONOMIC CLASSIFICATION

- ❖ Kappa, mu, gamma, and nu are in genera Caedobacter***
- ❖ Alpha bodies are in the genera Cytophaga***
- ❖ Lambda and sigma are in genera Lyticum***
- ❖ Delta bodies are in genera Tectobacter***

DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN FOUND BETWEEN KAPPA BODIES IN THE SAME HOST

Some Kappa bodies contain refractile (R) bodies



❖ R body is a type of inclusion body

❖ When genes from one organism are within another organism and are transcribed, a inactive protein may form

Magnified image of coiled R body (2)

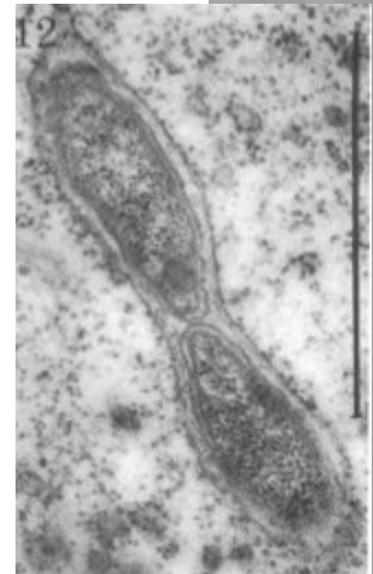
KAPPA BODIES MAY CONTAIN 'R' BODIES AND IT AFFECTS THEIR REPRODUCTIVE CAPABILITY

❖ Non bright Kappa bodies do not contain R bodies but can reproduce

❖ Bright Kappa bodies do contain R bodies but cannot reproduce

❖ Non bright produce other non bright, but occasionally a non bright turns into a bright

❖ Toxicity associated only with Brights



Dividing symbiont

THERE IS STILL UNSOLVED QUESTIONS REGARDING KAPPA BODY SYMBIOSIS

❖ What benefit does Paramecium get from the symbiosis?

❖ How does the presence of a Kappa body induce resistance to the toxin?

❖ Resistance can be overcome with large toxin dose

❖ The presence of Kappa with or without R bodies induces resistance to the toxin