



bacteria

representative specimen

Kingdom: Monera
Division/Phylum: Schizophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Bacteria are microscopic, unicellular, prokaryotes (no defined nucleus). They have a variety of shapes and may be found in chains or clusters. Each cell acts as an individual, though. Most bacteria can survive under extreme conditions. None of the bacteria in the Division Schizophyta are capable of making their own food.

BEHAVIORS

Bacteria may be found nearly everywhere on earth. They reproduce by binary fission or conjugation. These organisms play extremely valuable roles in ecology, health and research. Two specific examples are illustrated. *Flavobacterium columnare* is a soil bacterium that is also found in water. *Aeromonas hydrophila* is a common bacterium in all the waters of Illinois. This rod-shaped prokaryote moves in straight lines using flagella. Some strains of this bacterium can cause illness in fishes and amphibians.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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