



protozoa

representative species

Kingdom: Protista
Division/Phylum: Protozoa
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Protozoa are microscopic, single-celled, animal-like protists. Some have shells. Many different organisms are found in the Division Protozoa including common organisms like Paramecium spp. and Amoeba spp. Protozoa exhibit a variety of shapes and sizes.

BEHAVIORS

Protozoa may be found statewide in Illinois. These organisms live anywhere that water or moist soil is present. They may be found in an animal's body, too. Protozoa can form their body into a hard-walled cyst when conditions are bad. The cyst may be carried by the wind or mobile animals from one location to another. Some protozoa are parasites (take food and shelter from a host organism, giving nothing back in return) while others are free-living predators. Some are symbiotic (live in close association with an organism of a different species). For instance, one species lives in the intestine of termites, digesting the food for the termite and receiving a food supply and protection in return.

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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