

Fungi.

Character:

- 1) Thallus like structure i.e. plant body can not differentiated into root, stem, leaf.
- 2) Fungi ~~are~~ lack of chlorophyll. so they can not produce their own food. Fungi are heterotrophic. they may be parasitic or saprophytic.
- 3) component of the cell wall is mainly chitin.
- 4) Fungi body consist of hyphae. hyphae are unitedly form mycelium.

Nutrition in fungi

Fungal nutrition is heterotrophic type. On the basis of mode of nutrition fungi may be grouped into 2 categories — i) parasitic, ii) saprophytic.

1) Parasitic: The fungi which grow on other living organism and derive their nutriment from the living tissue of the host are called parasitic fungi.

Parasitism may be 2 type →

Obligate parasite:

Some parasitic fungi obtain their food entirely from the living protoplasm found the host cell and maintain their mode of life through out the life cycle as parasite. These are called obligate parasite.

Facultative parasite:

When fungi pass their mode of life as saprophyte at the beginning and later on under certain condition become Parasite they are called facultative parasite.

Saprophyte:

The fungi which live on dead or decaying organic plant and animal known as saprophyte.

saprophytic fungi may be of 2 types →

Obligate Saprophyte:

Fungi which live only on dead or decaying organic matter and maintain their mode of life throughout of the life cycle as saprophyte.

Facultative Saprophyte:

Fungi which are normally parasite but according to circumstances pass their mode of life as saprophyte are known as facultative saprophyte.

Certain fungi live in close association with algae and higher group of plants. They may derive their nutrition from the following association —

1) Symbiosis:

Certain fungi live in close association with algae forming a compact thallus known as lichen. In this type association both are mutually benefited. Such type nutrition is called symbiosis.

2) Mycorrhiza:

Certain fungi live in close association with roots of higher plants. This type of association is known as mycorrhiza.