



Tribophyceae

A class of Golden-brown Algae

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A class of Ochrophyta (golden-brown algae) that occur primarily in freshwater. Tribophyceans include a variety of morphological types i.e. flagellates, coccoid forms, filaments, siphonaceous coenocytes.

Tribophyceans can be distinguished from green algae by using iodine-potassium iodide solution. The intraplasmidic starch of the green forms will be stained blue-black or purple, whereas no staining will occur in cells of the starch-free tribophyceans. These cells contain a distinctive xanthophyll which when treated with hot HCL gives a blue-green color to the chloroplast.



Our lab performed this method with a QC of starch solution. The organism being examined, was determined to not be Chlorophyta, as we first thought. *Tribonema* is the family of Tribophyceae that was found in this sample from Red Bank, NJ. In Northern latitudes *Tribonema* is one of the first of the algae to appear in ditches and swamps after the ice thaw