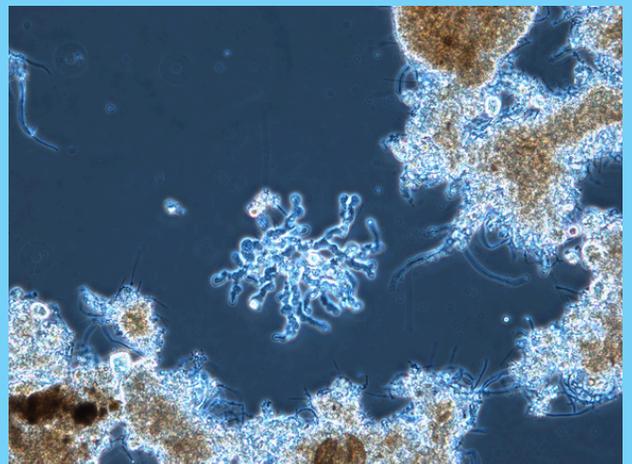
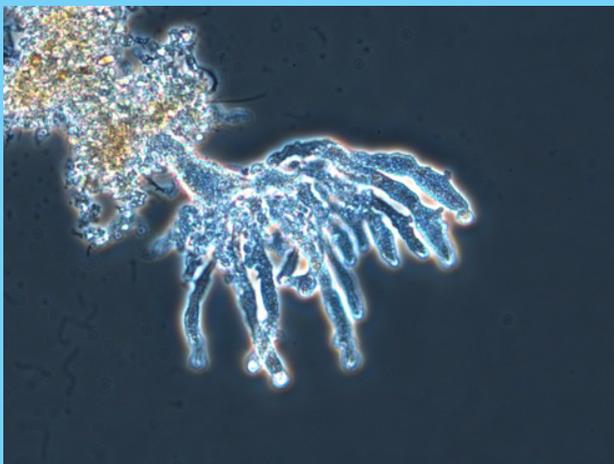


WASTEWATER BUG SPOTLIGHT

ZOOGLOEA

Zoogloea (from the Greek words for “animal glue”) refers to large colonies of immobile floc-forming bacteria that stick together in a jelly-like polysaccharide matrix. In healthy wastewater treatment systems, these bacteria gather into soft, branching clusters that resemble miniature fingers under a microscope. This formation of zoogloea is often referred to as “fingered zoogloea” and can indicate effective wastewater treatment.

Zoogloea are capable of lowering biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and enhancing the formation of floc, both of which are beneficial when treating wastewater. Zoogloea also play a role in phosphorus removal and the biosorption of metals—making them small but powerful partners in turning wastewater into cleaner water.



Zoogloea found under the microscope at the City's El Estero Water Resource Center, magnified x100



El Estero
WATER RESOURCE CENTER

For more information on
wastewater treatment visit
SantaBarbaraCA.gov/ElEstero