


VAUCHERIA

Q. Describe the structure, reproduction and position of Vaucheria.

Ans → Systematic Position →

Class - Chlorophyceae
Order - Siphonales
Family - Vaucheriaceae
Genus - Vaucheria  (1935)
Frisch

Systematic Position →

Class - Xanthophyceae
Order - Heterosiphonales
Family - Vaucheriaceae
Genus - Vaucheria
Blakmann and Smith (1954)

Occurrence and structure of the Thallus

• Vaucheria usually grows either in fresh water or terrestrial or even marine. • Filamentous thallus is tubular. It includes about 40 species. Out of that 9 species reported from India. Some of them are terrestrial like Vaucheria sessilis and Vaucheria hamata. Vaucheria amphibia grows in water as well as on land. Vaucheria sessilis and Vaucheria geminata are common Indian species. Which is found during winter season.

The filament of Vaucheria is yellowish green, cylindrical, tubular, branched, accepted and it is attached by means of narrow colourless rhizoids (Hold fast) like branches which anchor the plant in muddy substratum.

The thallus is provided with a cell wall which is thin and composed of two layers. The outer most layer is made up of Pectose and inner layer is made up of Cellulose. Due to pectose it is smooth to touch. Inside cell wall there is prominent single central vacuole and protoplasm. Many chloroplast are present towards the inner side of the cell wall. Oil drops occurs as the reserve food material (Pyrenoid are absent). In protoplasm there is multi nucleate structure scattered. Due to its multi nucleate structure the thallus is called Coenocytic. The entire thallus is attached with a substratum by means of colourless holdfast.

Fig →

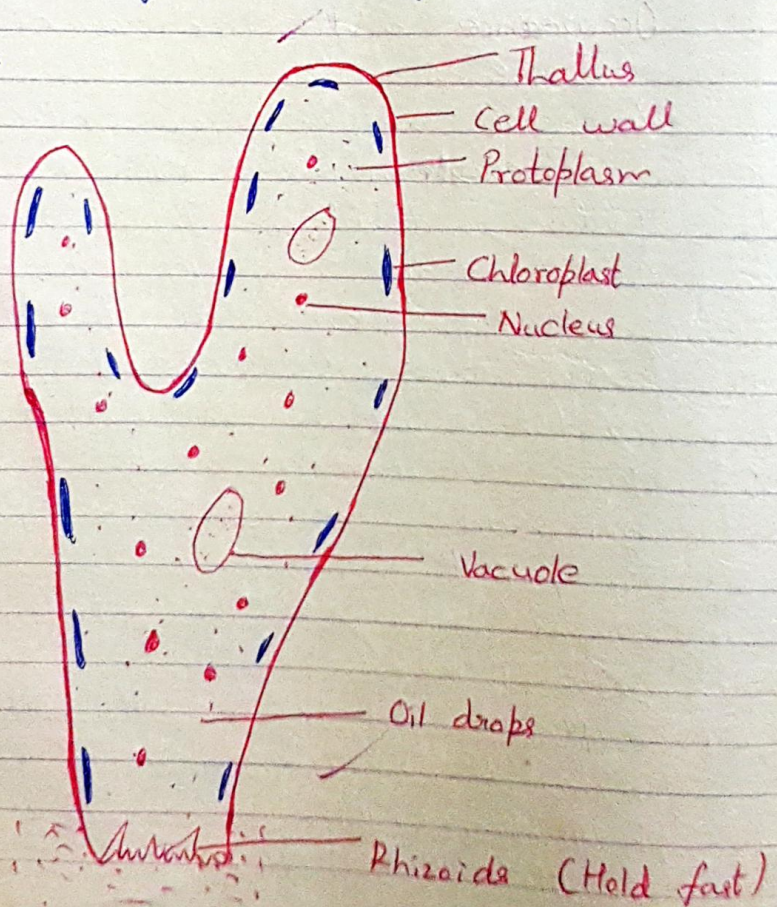


Fig - Thallus of Vaucheria in detail

Reproduction → It reproduces by three methods.
They are

1. Vegetative Reproduction → Under favourable conditions it takes place by fragmentation of the filament. And each fragment by repeated cell division develops a new thallus of Vaucheria.

2. Asexual Reproduction → This type of reproduction may be taken place both in favourable and unfavourable conditions. In aquatic species Asexual reproduction takes place by means of Zoospores formation under favourable conditions, and in terrestrial species it takes place by means of Aplanospores, Aplanosporangia, Hypnospores and Cyst formation under unfavourable conditions.

(a) By means of Zoospores formation → The thalloids of the Vaucheria behave like a Zoosporangia. Where a septum is formed and each Zoosporangia produces a series of zoospores. A Zoosporangia is cut off from the end of the branch by means of a septum. But before the septum is formed, protoplasm, nuclei, plastids etc. move towards the apical portion of the thallus. The terminal portion of the thallus swells slightly where protoplasm, nuclei, plastids are inserted in this portion. Then a septum is formed where the zoosporangia is cut off from the parent plant. And on return of favourable conditions the dense internal centropylasm of the zoosporangia divides and redivides and forms a

zoospores. These form zoospores are multi nucleate, multi-flagellate and globose. So they are known as synzoospores or compound zoospores.

After returning the favourable condition the synzoospores comes out from the zoosporangium. By means of a pore. And begins to germinate. At the time of germination all flagella are withdrawn and secretes a double layer wall around it. After some time the outer wall ruptures and the inner wall germinate in the form of a germ tube. Ultimately the germ tube by repeated cell division. They develop a new thallus of Vaucheria.

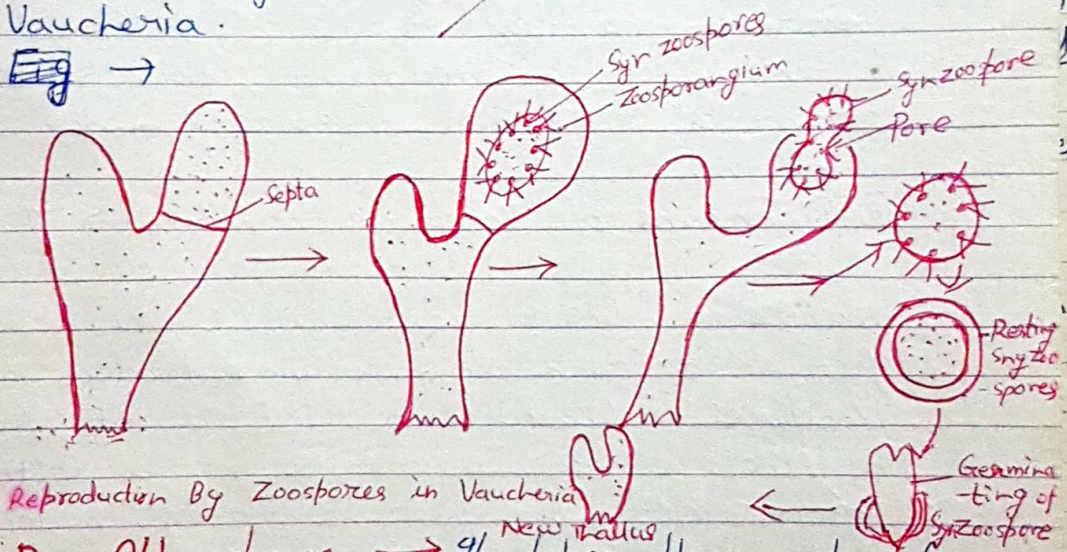


Fig - Asexual Reproduction By Zoospores in Vaucheria

② By Aplanospores → It takes place under unfavourable condition in terrestrial plant only. They develop within Aplanosporangium. They are non-motile spores. They form like synzoospores but there is absent of flagella. On returning favourable condition each Aplanospore comes out from Aplanosporangium. Through a pore and after taking some rest they germinate and

R

produce a new thallus of Vaucheria on returning favourable condition.

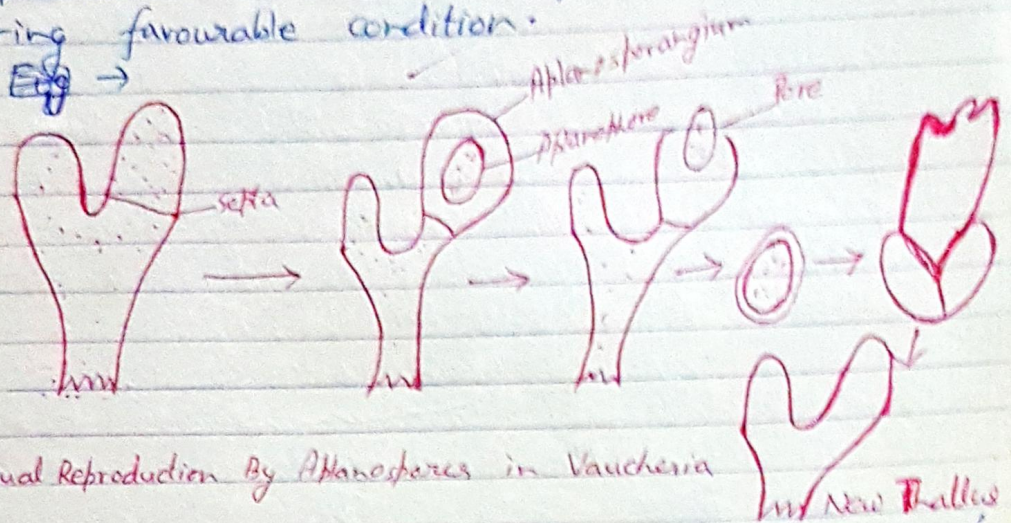


Fig- Asexual Reproduction By Aplanospores in Vaucheria

© By Akinetes formation → Akinetes may be form in any part of thallus under unfavourable condition. The protoplast of the thallus divides into small parts. And each parts surrounded by thick cell wall. Which is known as Akinetes. After returning favourable condition they are detached by a pore of the thallus and after returning favourable condition each Akinetes germinate and form a new thallus of Vaucheria. Occasionally the Akinetes may germinate, when they still of the thallus.

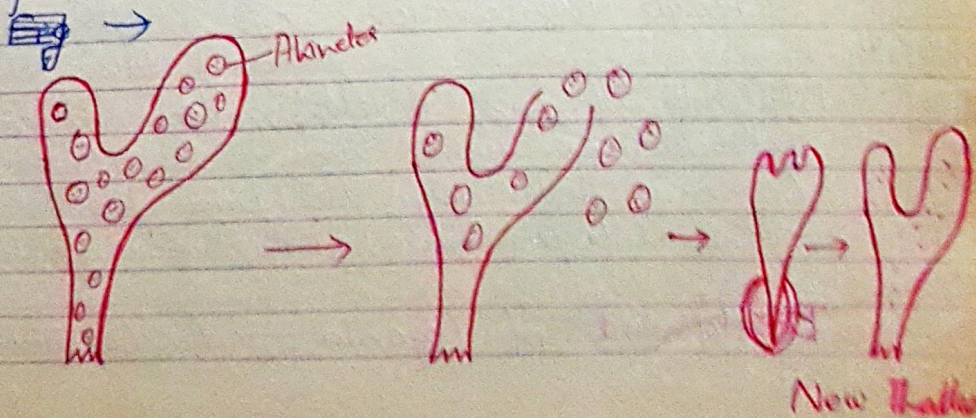


Fig- Asexual Reproduction by Akinetes in Vaucheria

① By Hypnozooids or Cyst formation → Under unfavourable condition the protoplasm of the thallus gets divided into a square like chamber which form thick wall and each part is known as Hypnozooid. After returning favourable condition they germinate directly and forms a new thallus of Vaucheria.

Some times each Hypnozooid may be broken off into a number of thin minutes cells. That cell are known as Cysts. These cysts escapes out through a pore of the thallus and germinate immediately to form a new thallus of Vaucheria under favourable condition.

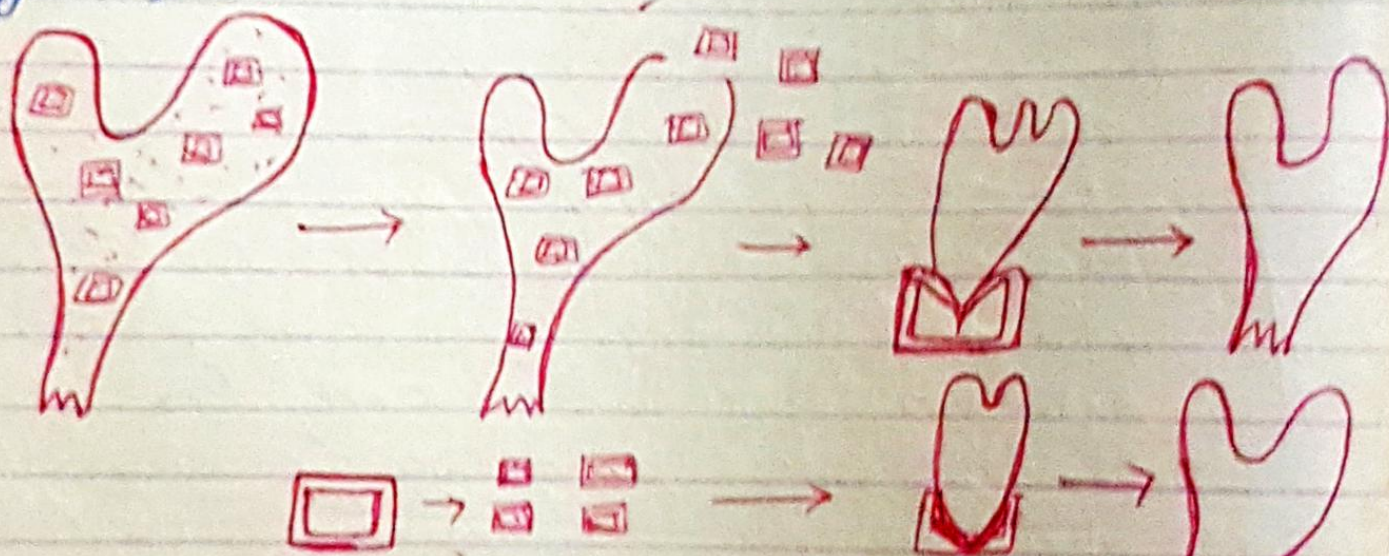


Fig - Asexual Reproduction by Hypnozooids in Vaucheria