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B.Sc. PART I (H)

CORE CONCEPT OF PAPER - I

Group - A, Algae

Life-cycle of *Anabaena*

Systematic position

Prokaryota (Bacteria)

Cyanophyta (Cyanophyceae)

Nostocales

Nostocaceae

Anabaena.

Occurrence: This is free-floating watery alga. It is found almost in north east side of Indian paddy-field. Some sp. of *Anabaena* are endophytic and some are found the roots of higher plant as roots of *Azolla* and *cycas*.

Structure: *Anabaena* is a genus filamentous cyanobacteria and blue-green algae.

It is found as plankton. It is known for its nitrogen fixing abilities.

They form symbiotic relationship with certain plants, such as

The mosquito ferns.

Some species of *Anabaena* are endophytes. They live in the roots of cycas and *Azolla*. *Anabaena* are ~~in~~ beaded form, chained and rounded or egg-shaped cells made of large thick-walled cells are present in trichome. These are heterocyst.

Reproduction: These are —

1. Heterocyst: A heterocyst is a differentiated cyanobacterial cell that carries out nitrogen fixation. The heterocyst functions as the site for nitrogen fixation under aerobic conditions. They are formed in response to a lack of fixed nitrogen (NH_4 or NO_3). They contain only photosystem I, which enables them to carry out photophosphorylation and ATP regeneration. These changes provide the appropriate conditions for the function of oxygen sensitive nitrogenase. Heterocyst are of same shape as a vegetative cell and are mutually interdependent.