

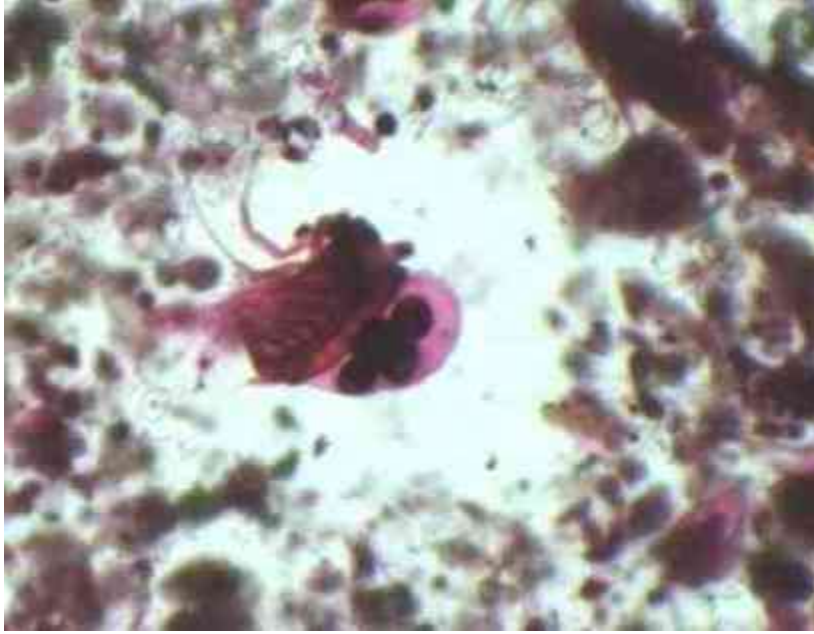
October 4, 2022 Lake Survey

On October 4, 2022, an aquatic lake survey was conducted by a biology class from Utica University. Plankton nets were used to collect small organisms from the water column. An interesting organism that was collected in several plankton nets was a zooplankton named *Holopedium gibberum*, which consists of a pea-sized gelatinous ball (similar to a fish egg) containing the shrimp-like organism.

The jellylike mantle makes this zooplankton organism many times bigger than its actual size thereby scaring away predators but also acting as a kind of flotation control mechanism as it migrates.

Like many zooplankton, the *H. gibberums* migrate upwards towards the surface around sunset and return to deeper water in the daylight hours. The organism has six legs that help it swim; as a filter feeder, it separates out plankton or nutrients suspended in water. They are often found in oligotrophic or low nutrient conditions.

While the mantle helps its buoyancy and aids in scaring potential predators, these globby coverings are eventually shed in its life cycle often ending up blown on shore where they can be mistaken for tiny pieces of plastic or pollution.



Note the jelly-like mantle (clear area) surrounding the above organism



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