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Sub. Biology

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3. Chemotaxonomy

It is the system based on the evidences from chemical constituents (enzymes, hormones, proteins, amino acids, etc.), some specific chemicals (usually secondary metabolites) and the chemical nature of proteins have been utilised to establish similarities and relationships. For example, the presence of raphides has been found to be common in 35 families of plants.

Algae

Algae are chlorophyll-bearing, simple, thalloid, autotrophic and largely aquatic (both freshwater and marine) organisms.

The important salient features of algae are given below

Habitat

These are found in both freshwater and marine habitats. Some algal forms are also found in moist habitats like wet rocks and soil, tree trunks, etc. Some of them are also found in close association with fungi (lichen) and animals (e.g., on sloth bear).

Thallus Organisation

The plant body (thallus) is without differentiation. The basic form and size of algae is highly variable, and ranges from filamentous (e.g., Ulothrix and Spirogyra) to colonial (e.g., Volvox). These are attached on the substratum with the help of holdfast.