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CORE CONCEPT OF PART I(H)

Group - A Algae

General Account :-

1. Linnaeus (1757) first introduced the term algae.
2. The algae represents chlorophyll bearing heterogeneous assemblage of plants in which O_2 is evolved as a by product in photosynthesis.
3. They are largely aquatic but some are terrestrial. Depending on the habitat conditions algae are of different types -
 - (i) Lithophytic algae - which grow on rocks e.g. diatoms.
 - (ii) Halophytic algae - which grow in saline habitat e.g. *Chlamydomonas ehrenbergi*.
 - (iii) Cryophytic algae - grow in frozen habitats. e.g. *Sphaerella*.

(iv) Parasitic algae — which grow parasitically on other living organisms. e.g. *Cephaluroscofea* (causes rust of coffee).

(v) Thermal algae — which grow in hot water springs. e.g. *Mastigocladus*

(vi) Epiphytic algae — which grow epiphytically on other plants. e.g. *Coleochaete*, *Bulbochaete*.

(vii) Symbiotic algae — which grow in symbiotic association with other organisms e.g. *Anabaena* *Cycadae* with the roots of cycas. *Anabaena azolla* within the leaves of *Azolla* *Nostoc* sp. within the thallus of *Anthoceros* etc.

The cells constituting the algal thalli are of two types — prokaryotic and Eukaryotic.

The prokaryotic cells are the characteristic of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) while eukaryotic cells are found in rest of the algal groups.