



Lecture No.: 17

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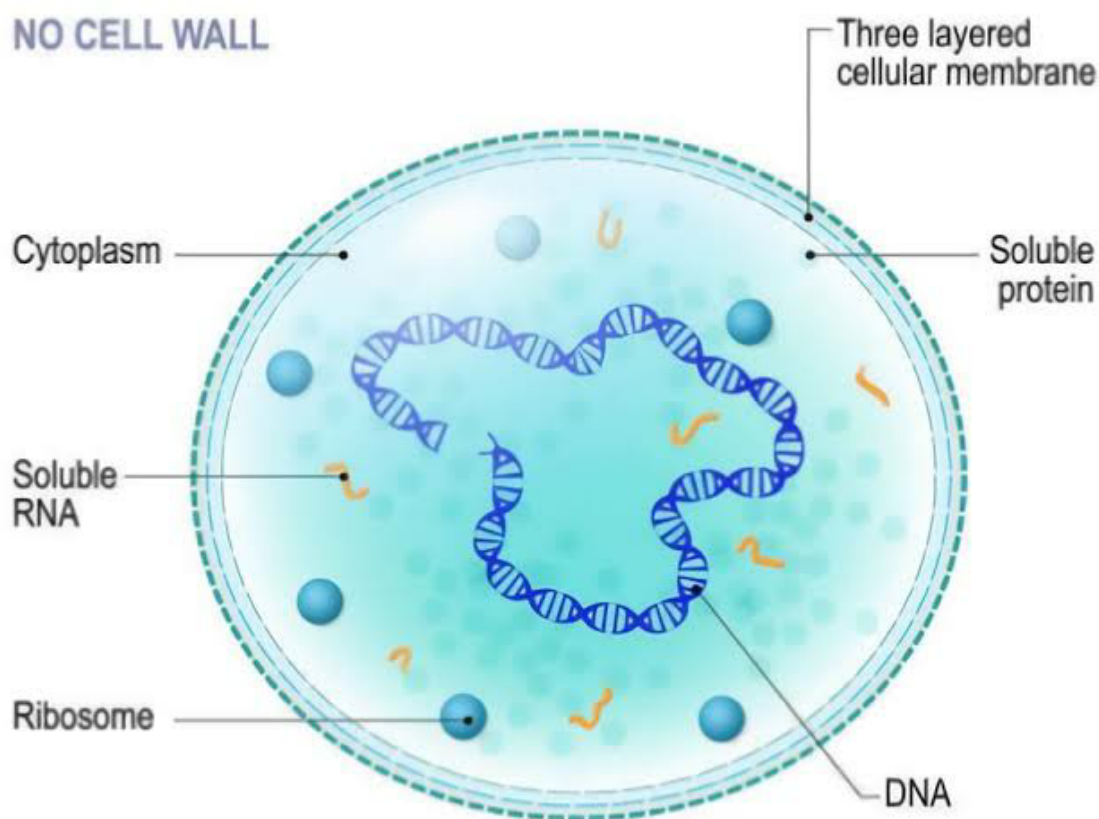
CORE CONCEPT OF
Group C - Microbiology

HONOUR'S PART 1

Paper - 1

MYCOPLASMA

PLEURO PNEUMONIA LIKE ORGANISM - PPLO



Originally mycoplasma was included among bacteria and placed in the class schizomycetes. In 1966, the international committee of the bacterial nomenclature separated mycoplasma from bacteria. The prokaryotic organisms lack a cell-wall. Some resemble Wall-less forms of known bacteria but others seem to be left closely related and their relation to bacteria is unclear. Cells are bounded by a triple layered membrane and can pass through a



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bacteriological filter. It belongs to mycoplasmataceae family. They are called " jokers of microbial world " because they have no shape. These are the smallest known cellular organisms with an average diameter of 0.3 to 0.9 μm . They are completely insensitive to enzymes and penicillin. They reproduce only by binary fission. They are pathogenic to plants, animals and also to human beings. They can be killed only by certain antibiotics such as Tetracycline. The cases of infertility in human beings are largely attributed to the infections caused by mycoplasma. The mycoplasmal plant diseases include little leaf of brinjal, sandal spike etc. Its shape is anaerobic gram negative rods, anaerobic gram negative straight and helical rods. Its outermost membrane is made up of lipoprotein and it is filled with DNA and RNA. Its outermost wall is about 100A° thick.

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