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# Chloroplast

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Chloroplast*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C13199.

Photosynthetic organelle containing chlorophyll, the photosynthetic pigment, in cells of leaves and young stems of higher plants. Lens-shaped and rather variable in size but approximately 5  $\mu$ m long. Surrounded by a double membrane and contains circular DNA (though not enough to code for all proteins in the chloroplast). Like the mitochondrion, it is semi-autonomous. It resembles a cyanobacterium from which, on the endosymbiont hypothesis, it might be derived. Chlorophyll is associated with the membrane of vesicles (thylakoids) that are stacked to form grana.