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Prototheca wickerhamii

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Prototheca wickerhamii*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C114271.

A species of achlorophyllous, spherular green alga that grows in aggregates with multiple internal cleavages, in the phylum Chlorophyta. This alga is non-spore forming, non-fermentative, metabolizes glucose, galactose and trehalose, does not utilize potassium nitrate, and reproduces asexually by internal septation and cleavage. *P. wickerhamii* are found saprophytically on decaying organic matters and can cause protothecosis and systemic algaemia in humans.