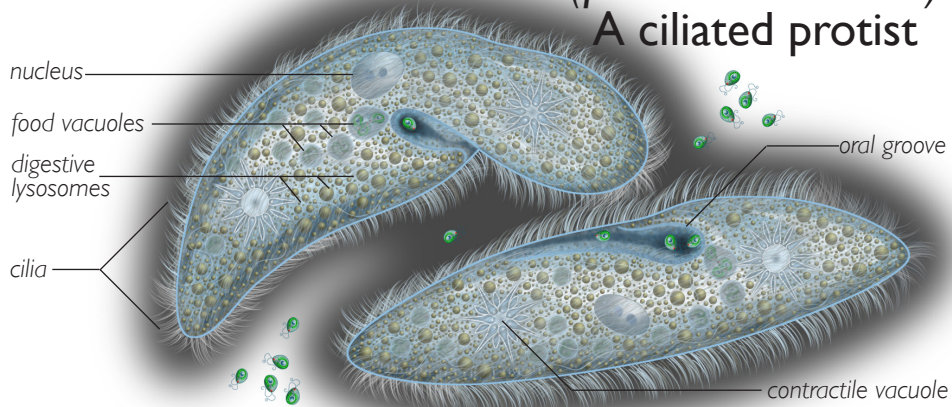


Paramecium

(pair-uh-ME-see-um)
A ciliated protist



single-celled organism
a common protozoan of weedy
shallows and pond bottoms
several species
covered with cilia
length .5 - 2 mm

The star-shaped contractile vacuoles at each end of a paramecium pump excess water from the cell. Food organisms such as micro algae and bacteria are drawn into the oral groove by a cilia-powered feeding current.