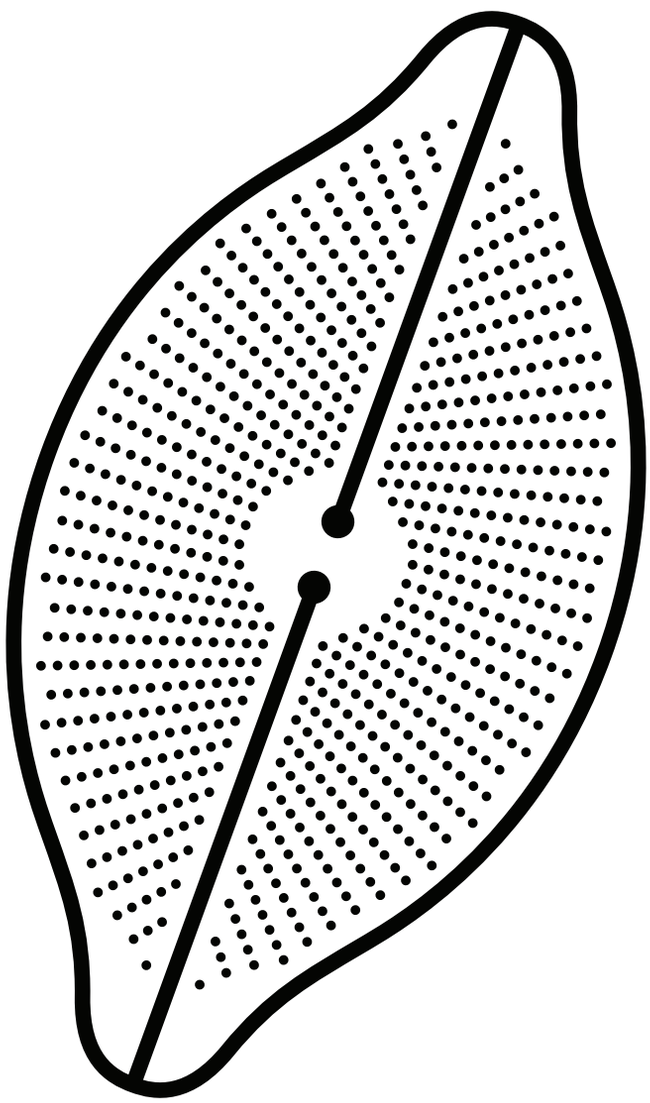
Cosmioneis sp.

In the Auvergne and Ardèche regions in France, a siliceous rock called diatomite can be found. This rock is formed by the accumulation of diatoms at the bottom of ancient volcanic lakes.



Micro Family - from 0,02 to 0,2 mm

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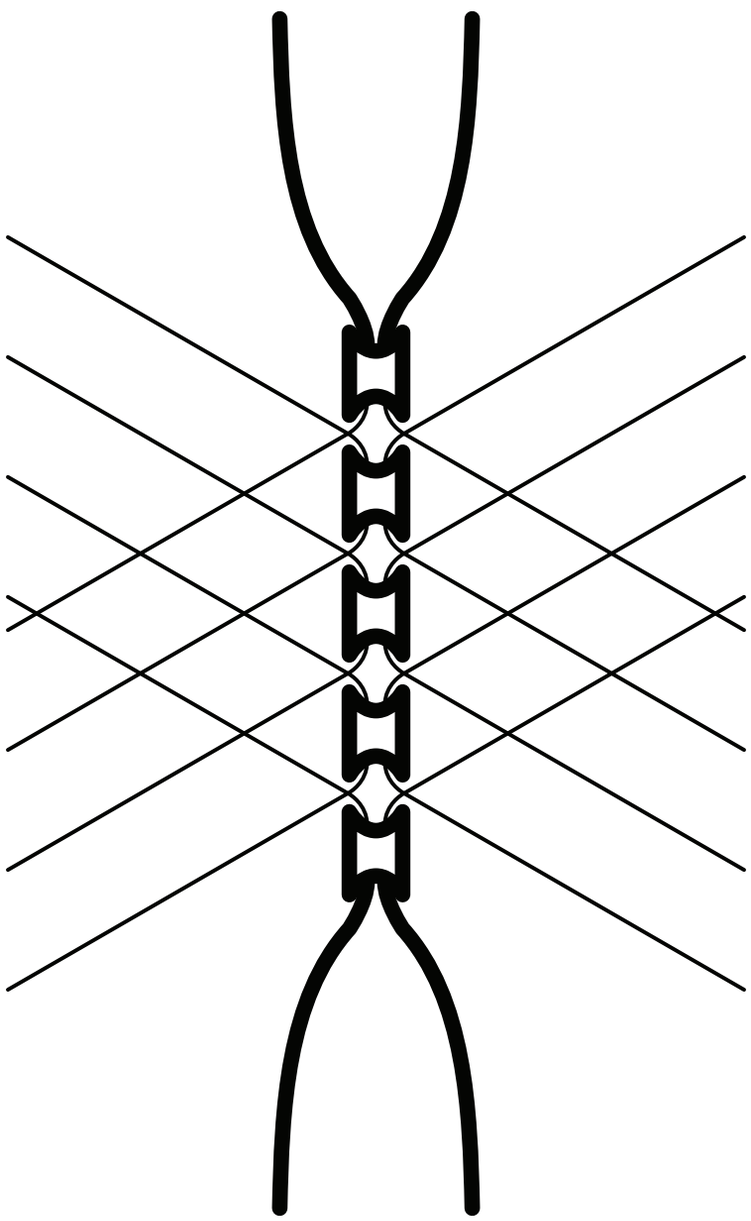
Chaetoceros sp.

Chaetoceros is a group comprising several dozen species of diatom that are present in all oceans. They are mostly marine except 2 freshwater species.



Micro Family - from 0,02 to 0,2 mm

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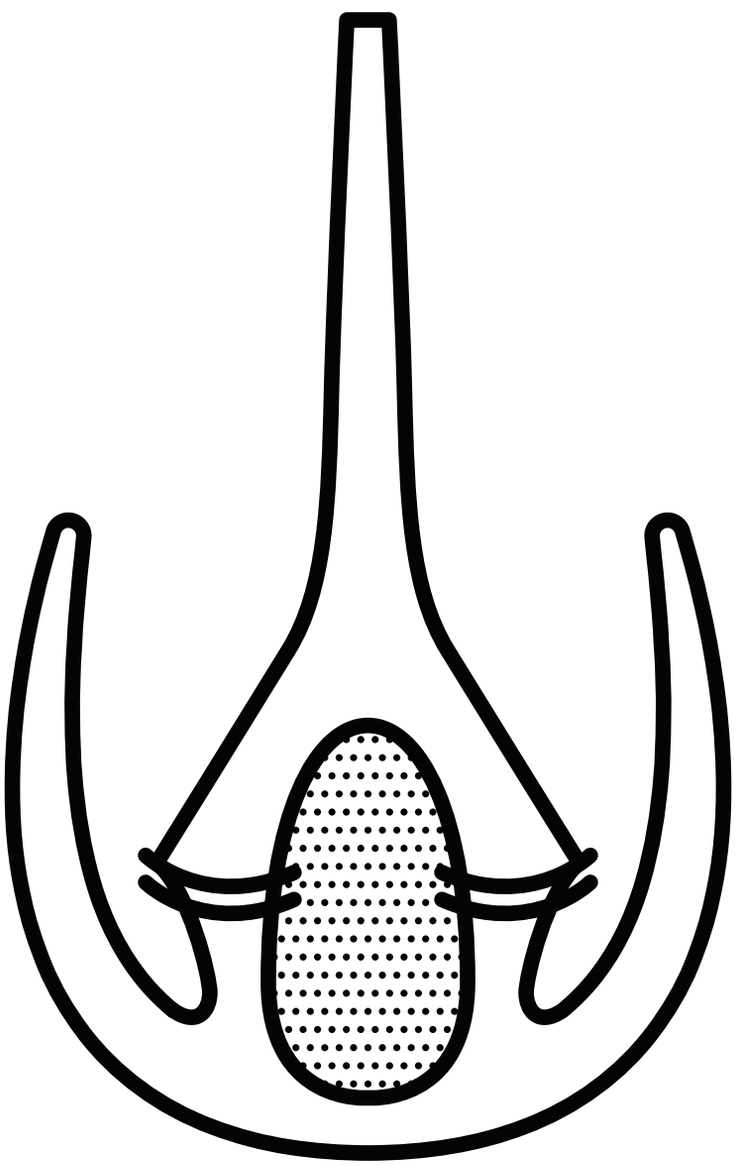
Ceratium sp.

Ceratium belongs to the large group called dinoflagellates. It has 2 flagella that allow it to swim and rotate.



Micro Family - from 0,02 to 0,2 mm

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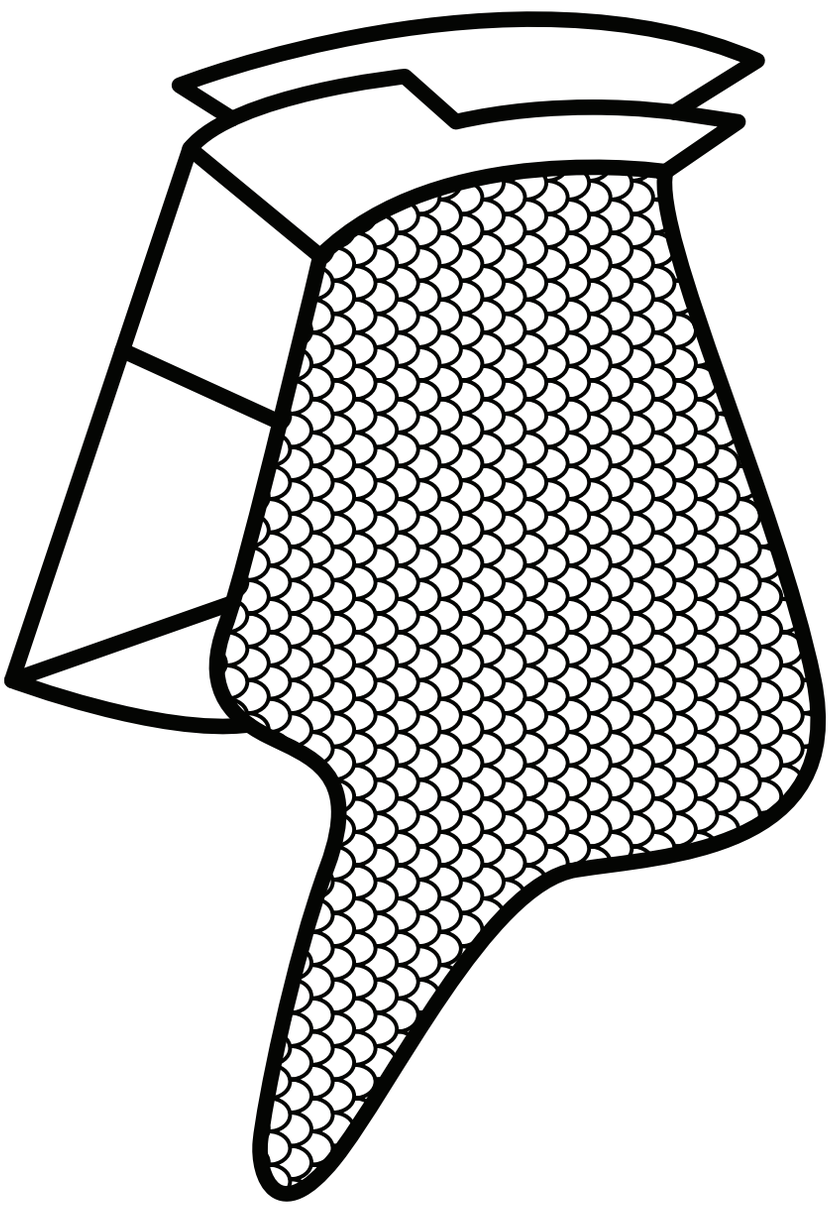
Dinophysis caudata

Dinophysis can multiply when conditions are favourable and provoke blooms containing toxic substances that can make shellfish bad to eat.



Micro Family - from 0,02 to 0,2 mm

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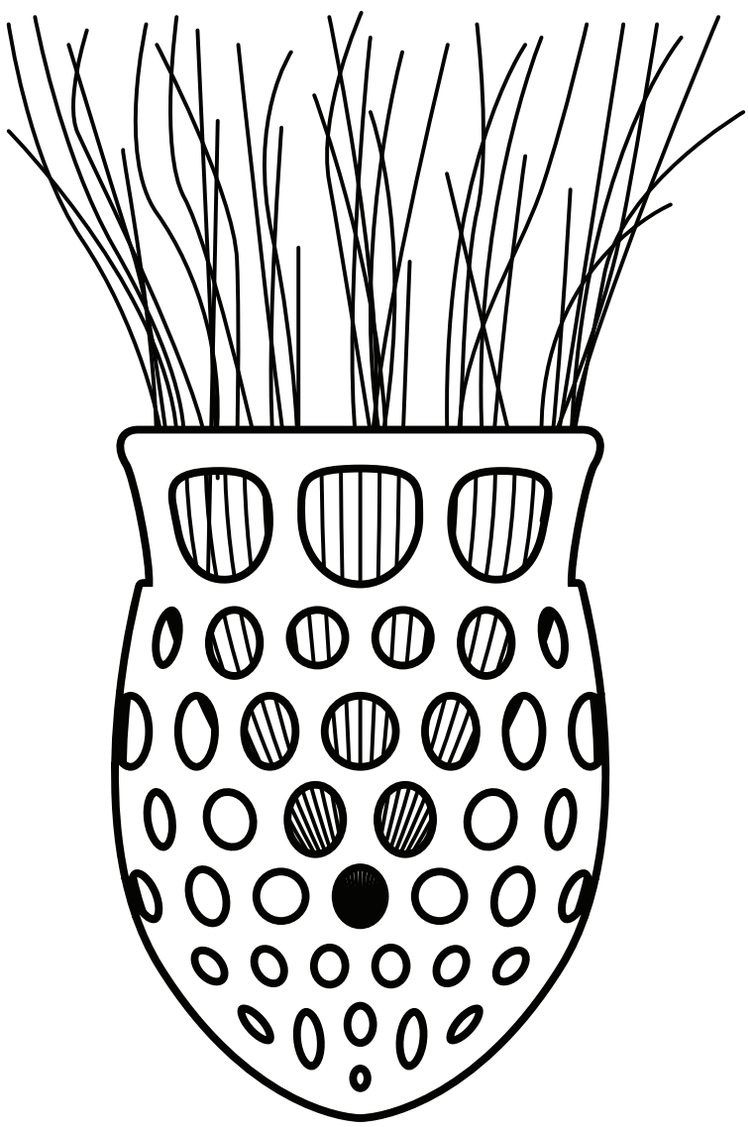
Dictyocysta sp.

Ciliates are small unicellular zooplanktonic organisms. They are very diverse and abundant in both seawater and freshwater. Some of them, like tintinids, produce a casing called a lorica.



Micro Family - from 0,02 to 0,2 mm

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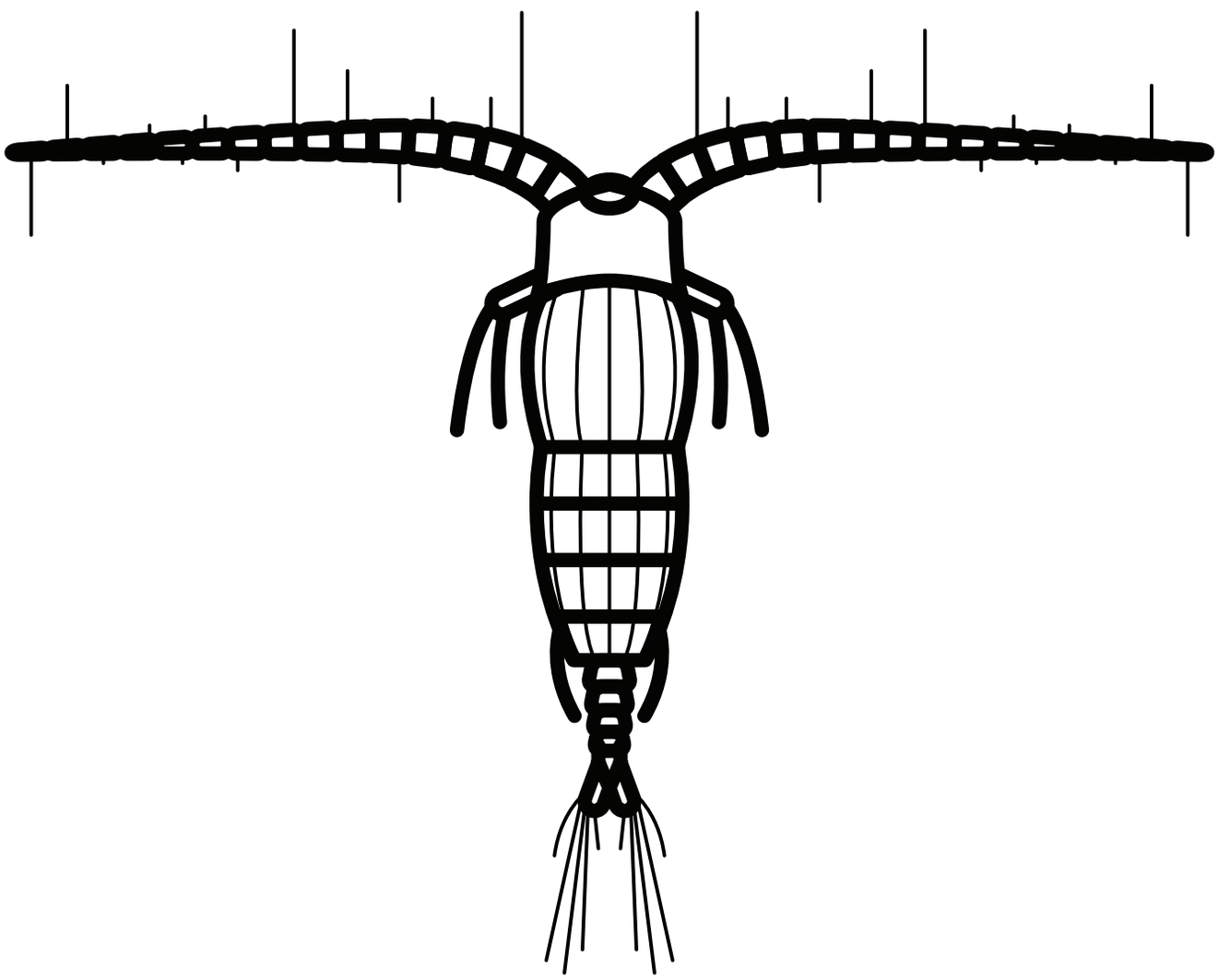
Copepoda

The term « copepod » has 2 greek roots : kope meaning oar and podos meaning foot. The name of these animals refers to their oar-like legs.



Meso Family - from 0,2 to 20 mm

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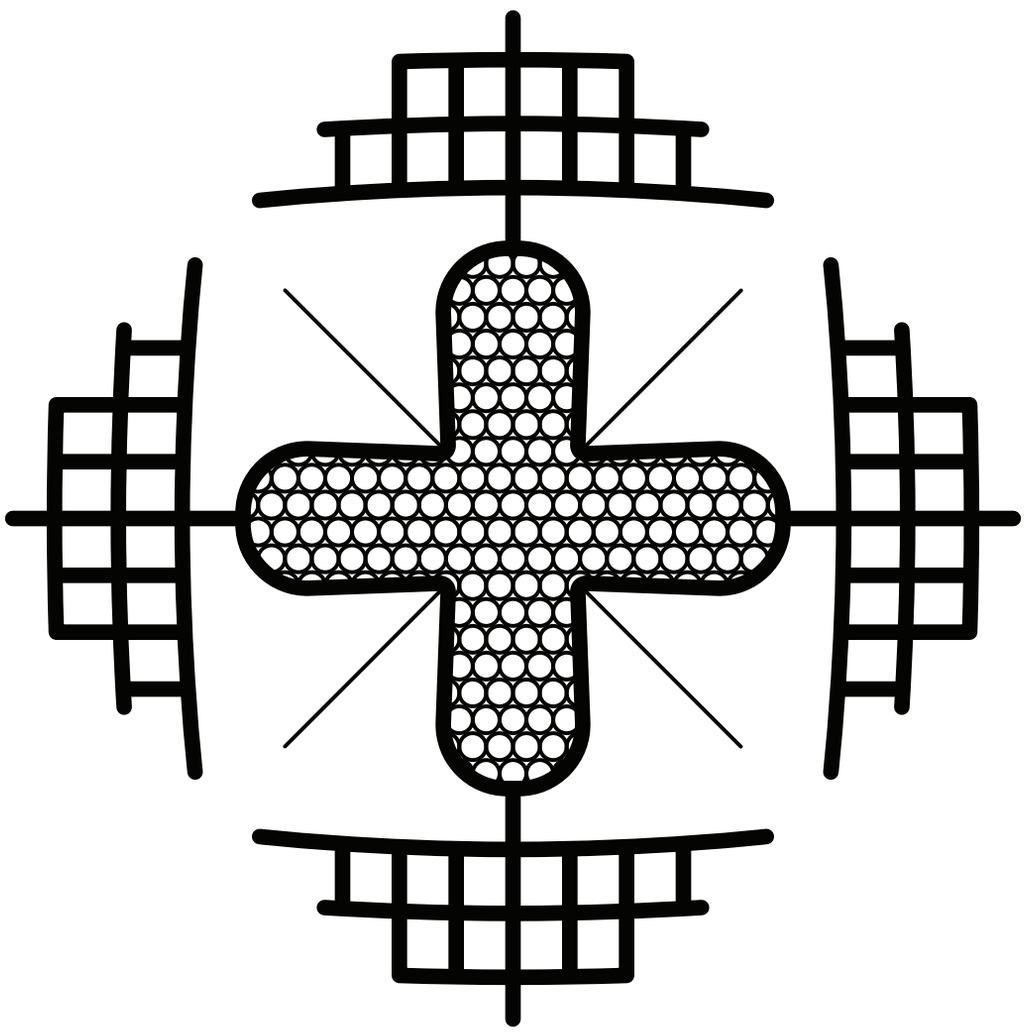
Lithoptera sp.

Lithoptera (which means « stone wing ») has a strontium sulphate skeleton resembling a star or a satellite. The cell hosts many yellow algal cells living in symbiosis.



Meso Family - from 0,2 to 20 mm

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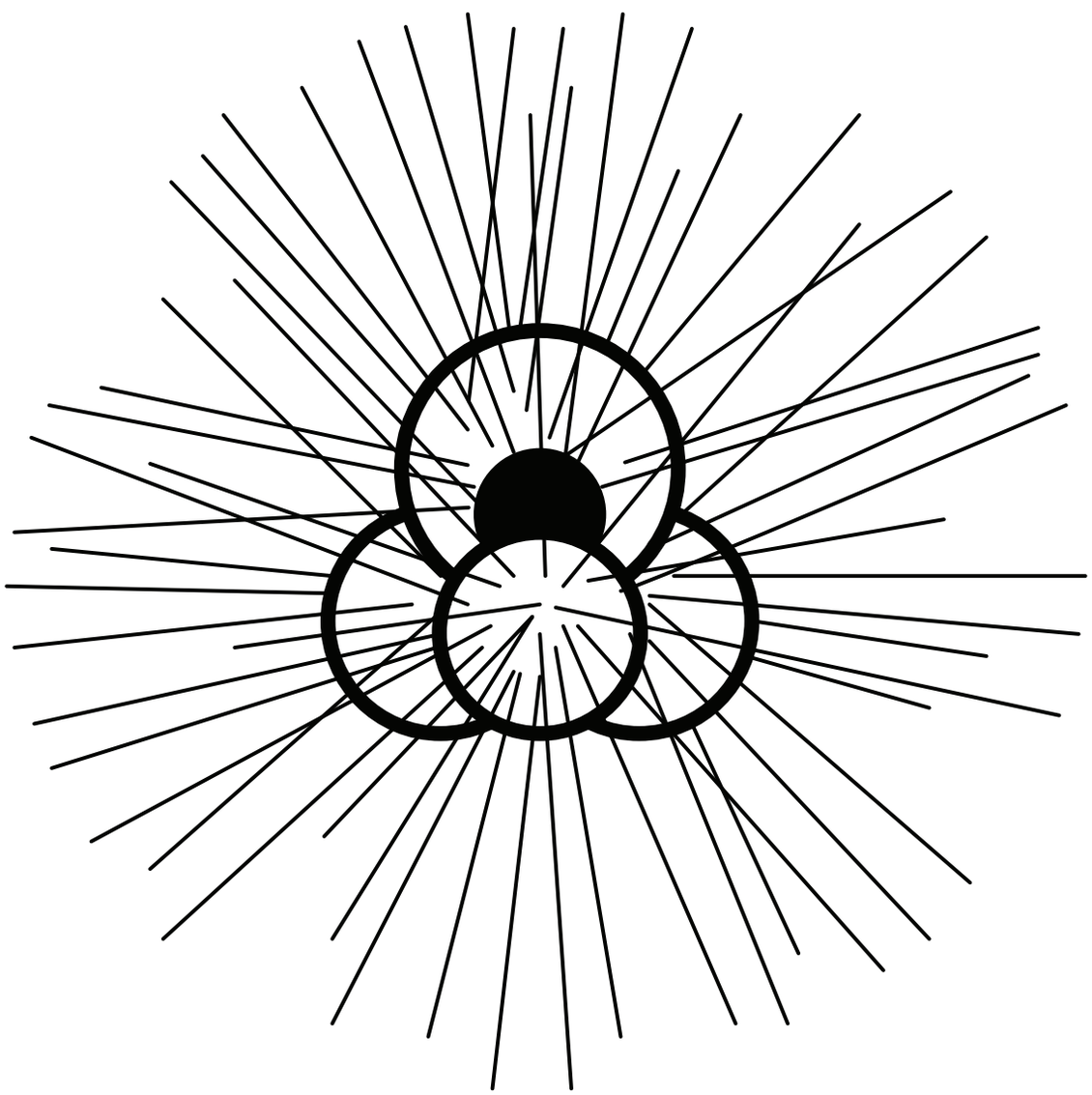
Globigerina sp.

The mineral skeletons of foraminiferans like Globigerina (in calcite) can be preserved in sediments for millions of years. These fossils are often used by geologists to date ancient rocks.



Meso Family - from 0,2 to 20 mm

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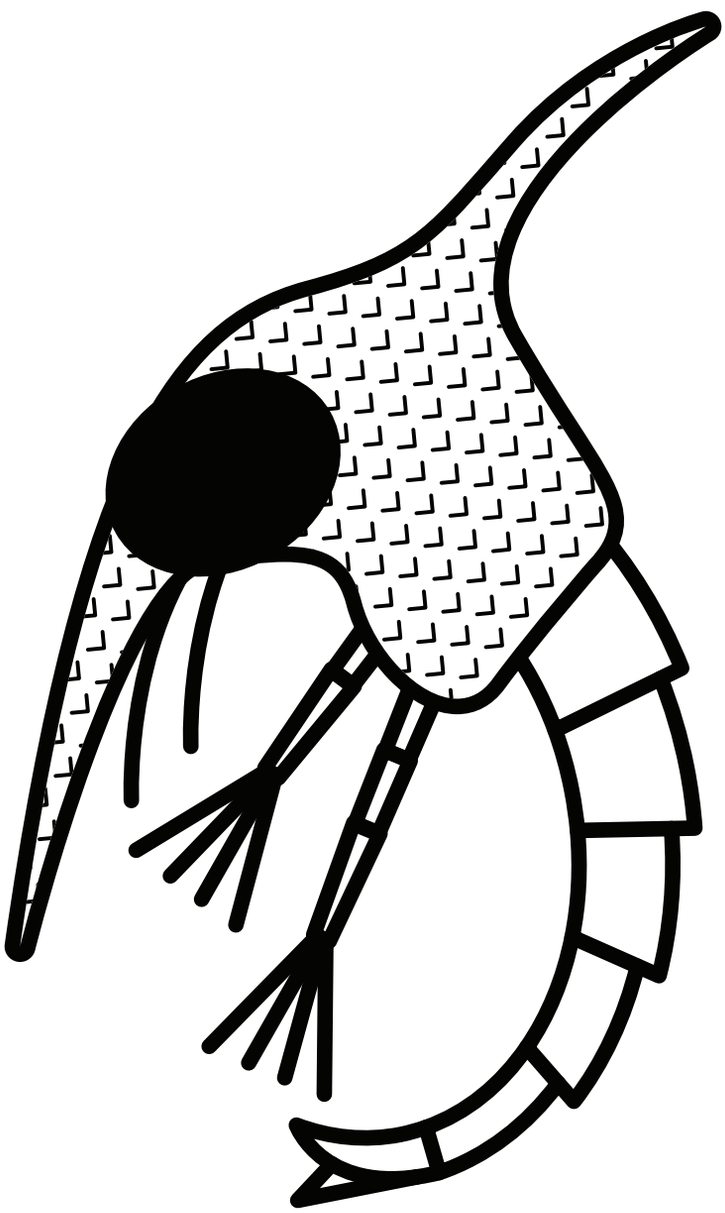
Larve Zoe – Crabe

The Zoe larva is a temporary plankton species. It is part of the plankton only during it’s larval life. It gets bigger by eating other plankton and ends up transforming into a crab !



Meso Family - from 0,2 to 20 mm

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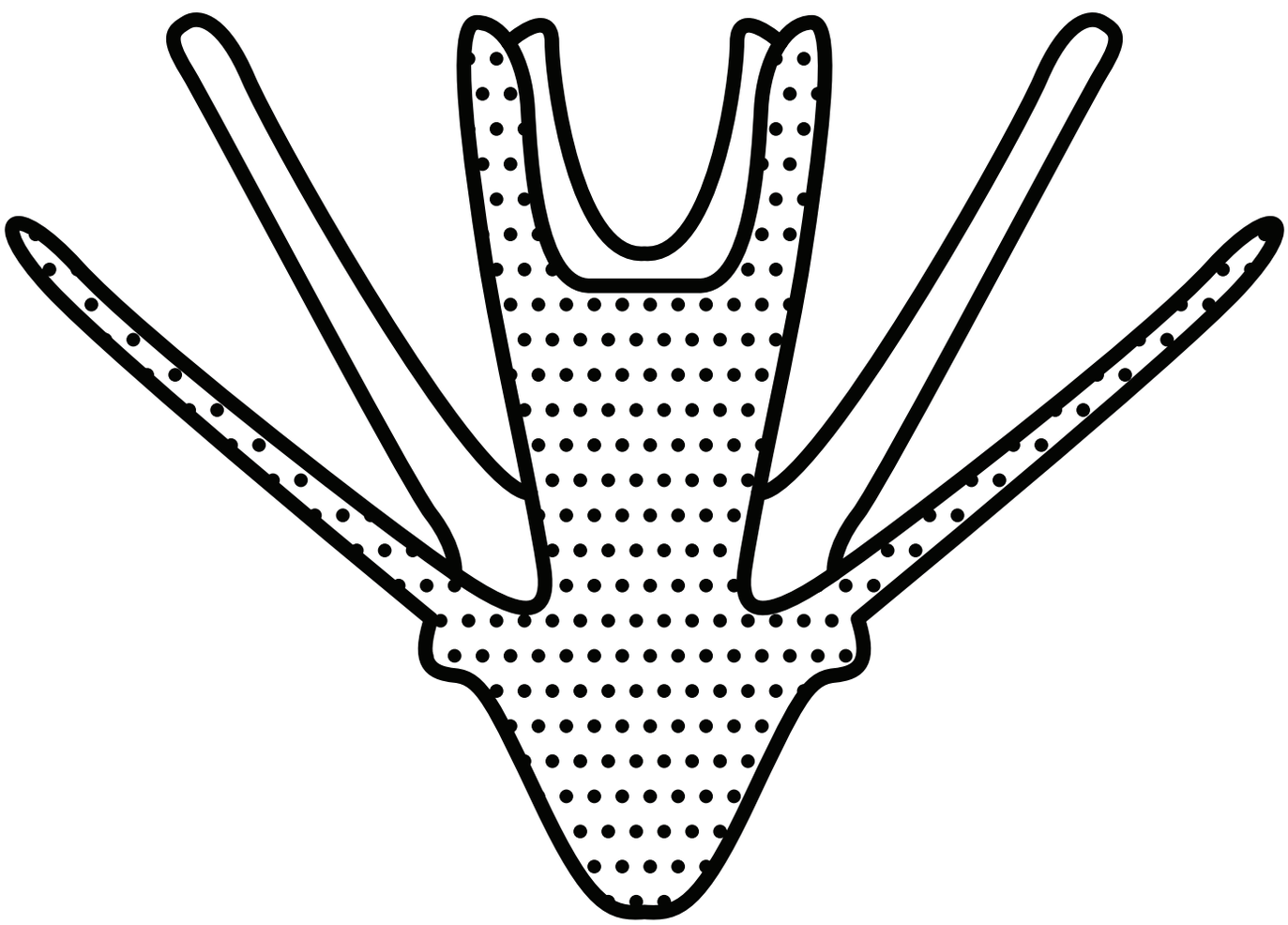
Larve Pluteus – Oursin

The Pluteus larva is a member of the echinoderm family. Echinoderm means « spiny skin ». Sea urchins and starfish are the best known echinoderms.



Meso Family - from 0,2 to 20 mm

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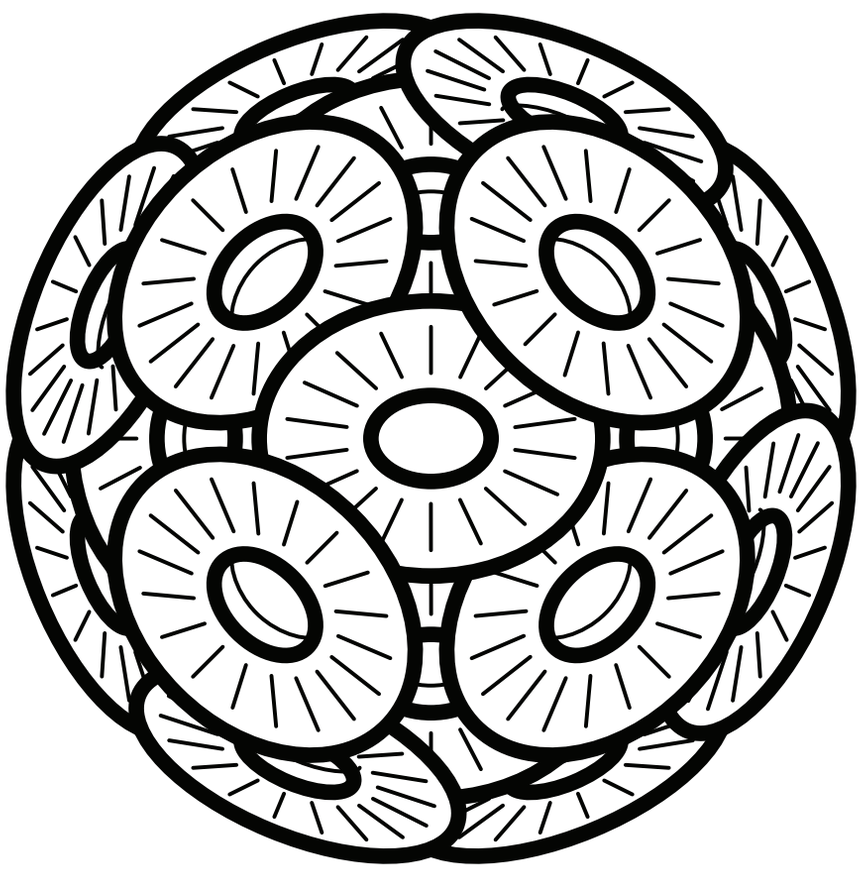
Emiliania huxleyi

Coccolithophores like Emiliania can be very abundant in the oceans. When they die, they sink to the deep oceans. Over geological time they form a well known type of rock : chalk !



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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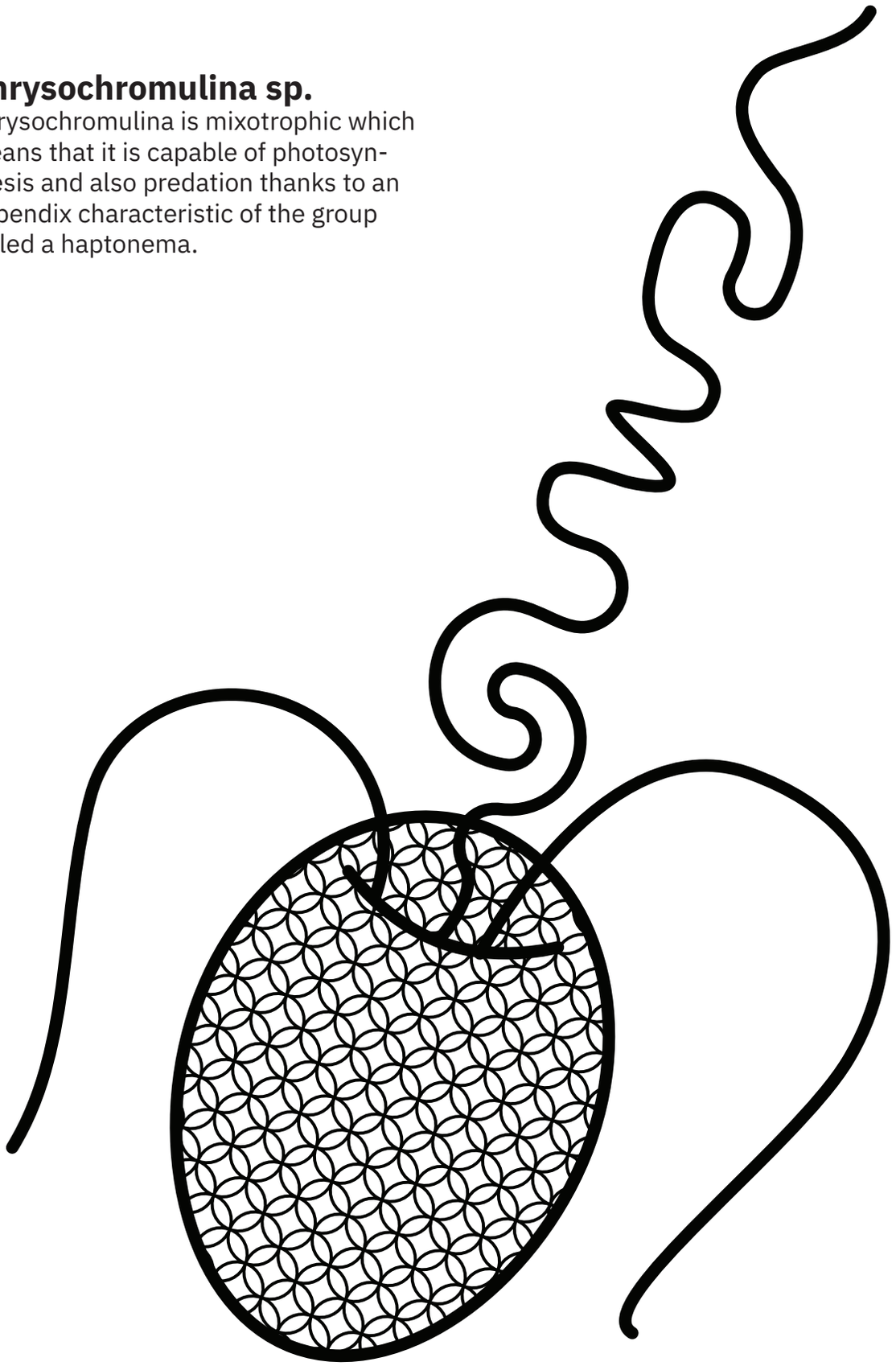
Chrysochromulina sp.

Chrysochromulina is mixotrophic which means that it is capable of photosynthesis and also predation thanks to an appendix characteristic of the group called a haptonema.



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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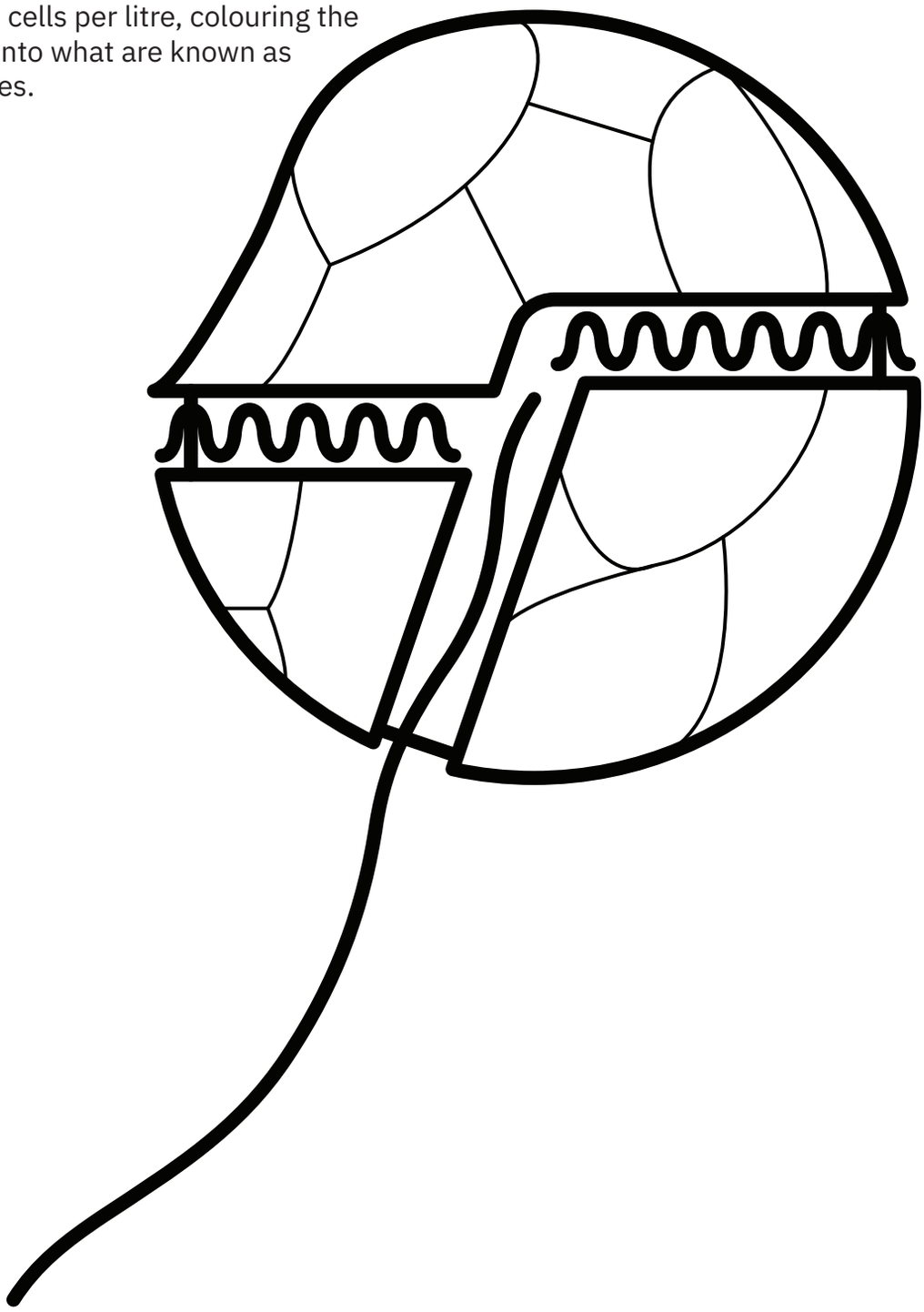
Alexandrium sp.

Alexandrium is a microalga that produces toxins that can paralyze humans. This species can reproduce very quickly to attain concentrations of several million cells per litre, colouring the water into what are known as red tides.



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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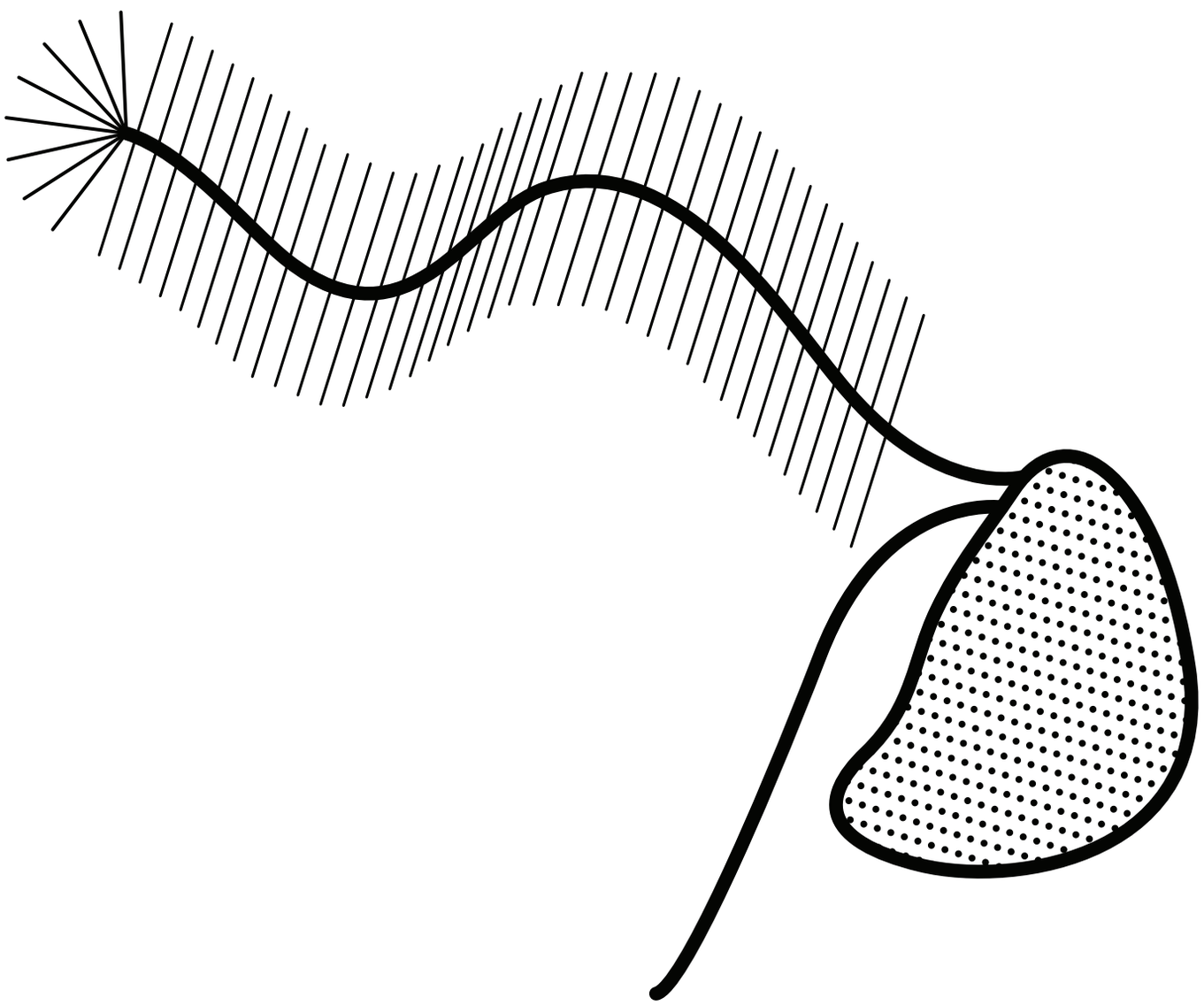
Cafeteria roenbergensis

The name Cafeteria roenbergensis was given to this organism because it has a ferocious appetite which provoke many discussions between the scientists that discovered it in the cafeteria of the Rønbjerg laboratory in Danemark.



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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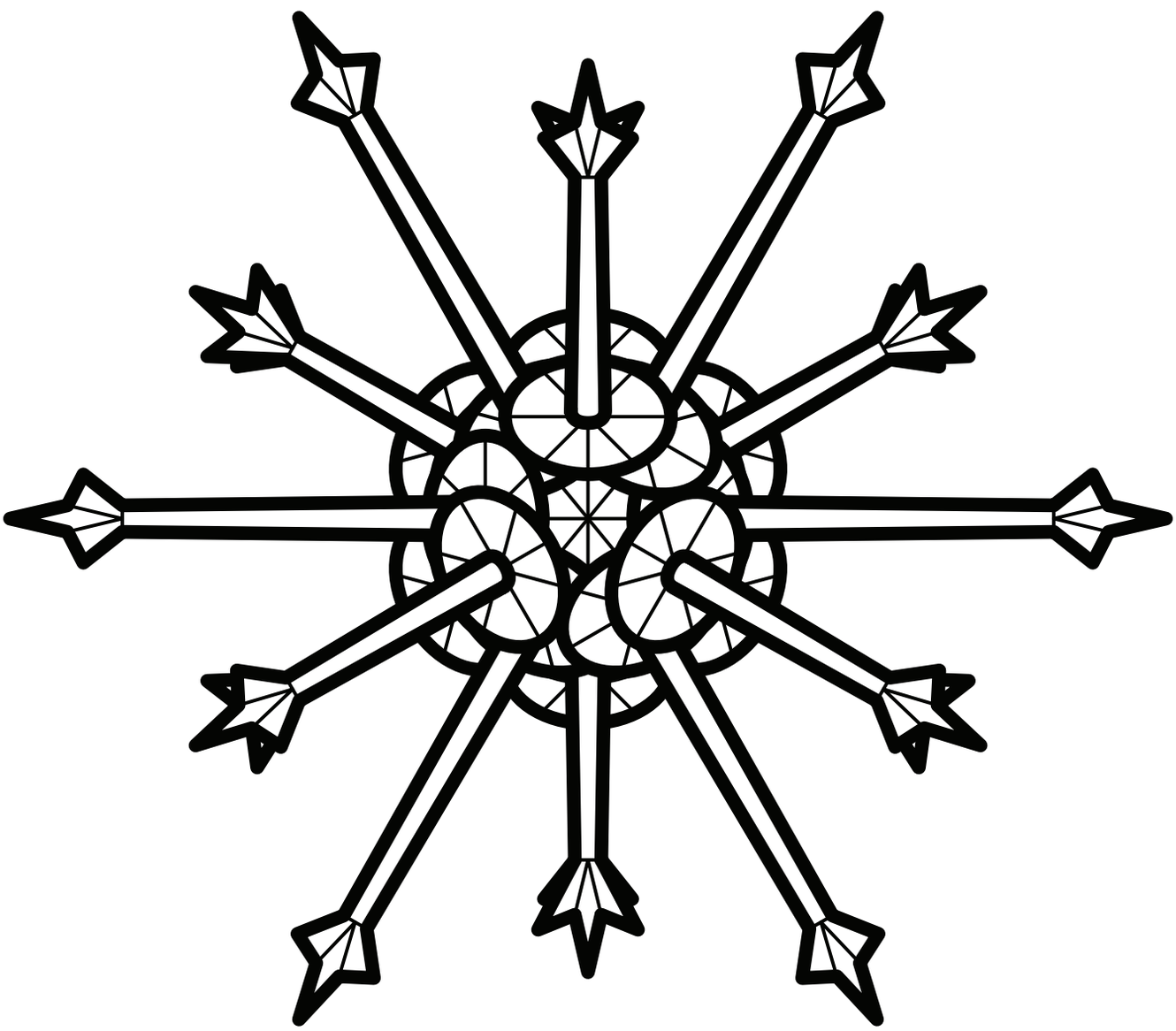
Rhabdosphaera sp.

Rhabdosphaera sp. is a species of coccolithophore possessing ornamented calcite plates.



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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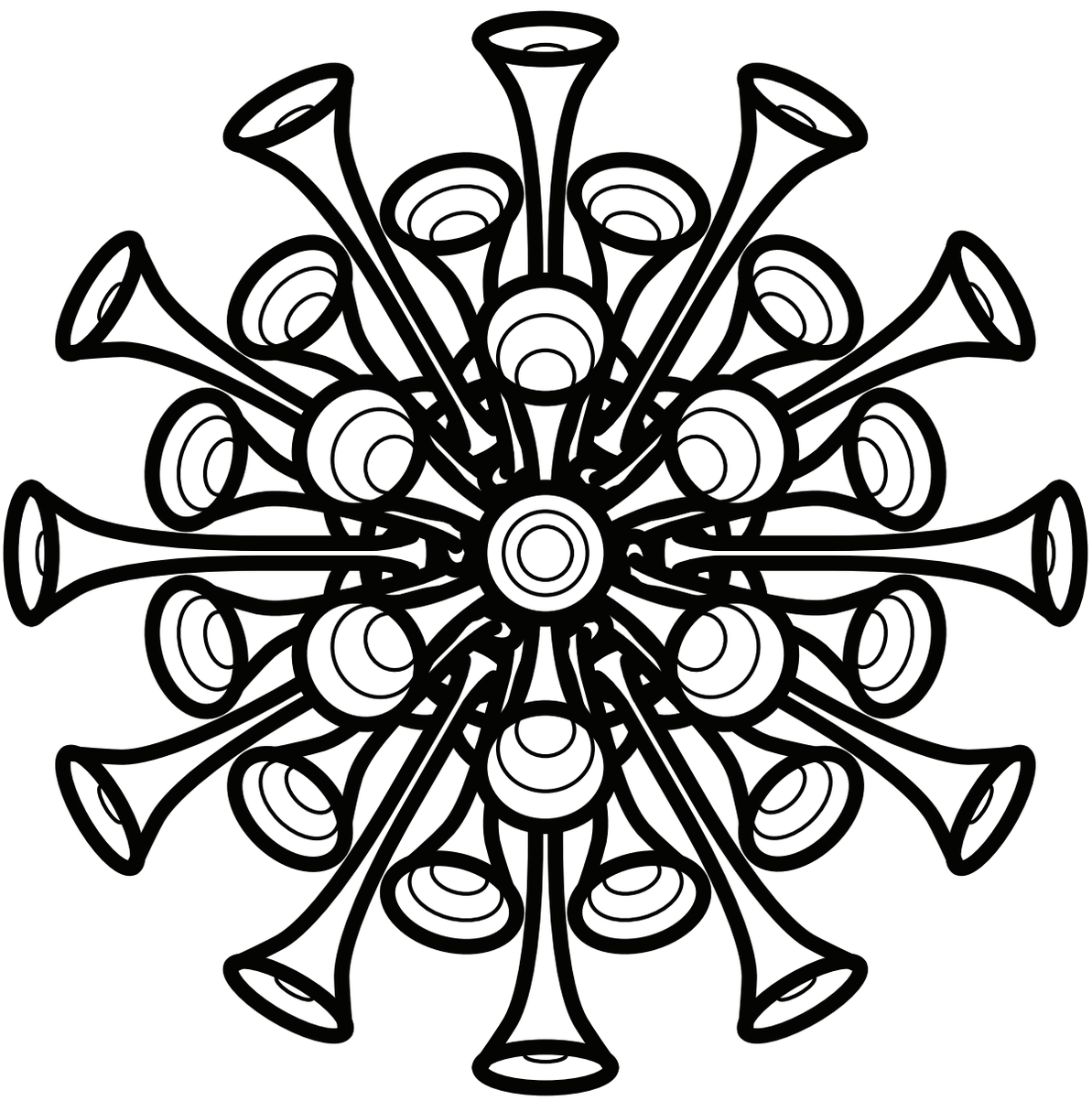
Discosphaera sp.

Discosphaera and Rhabdosphaera are closely related species that had the same name for a long time. Scientific advances allow more and more different species to be distinguished, notably via comparison of their genetic composition.



Nano Family - from 0,002 to 0,02 mm

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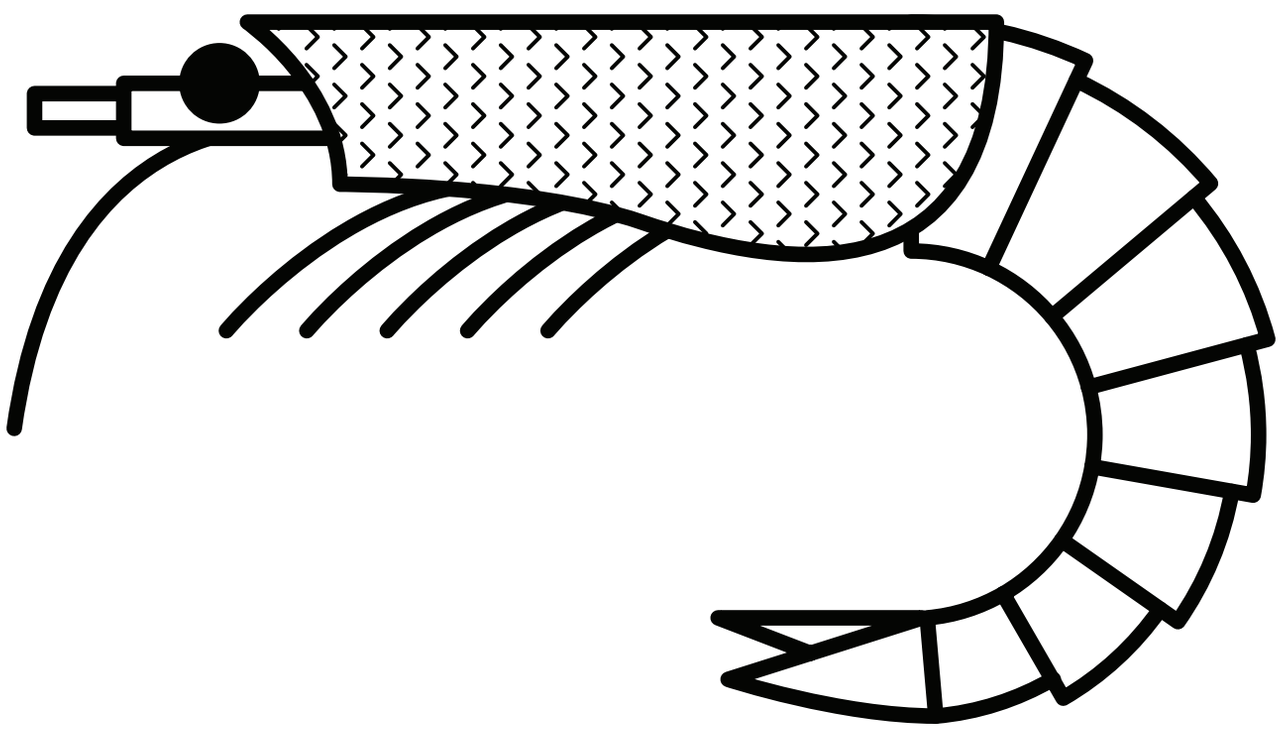
Euphausia sp.

The krill, small crustaceans, are key for feeding of baleen whales (without teeth). A blue whale can eat 5 tonnes of krill each day !



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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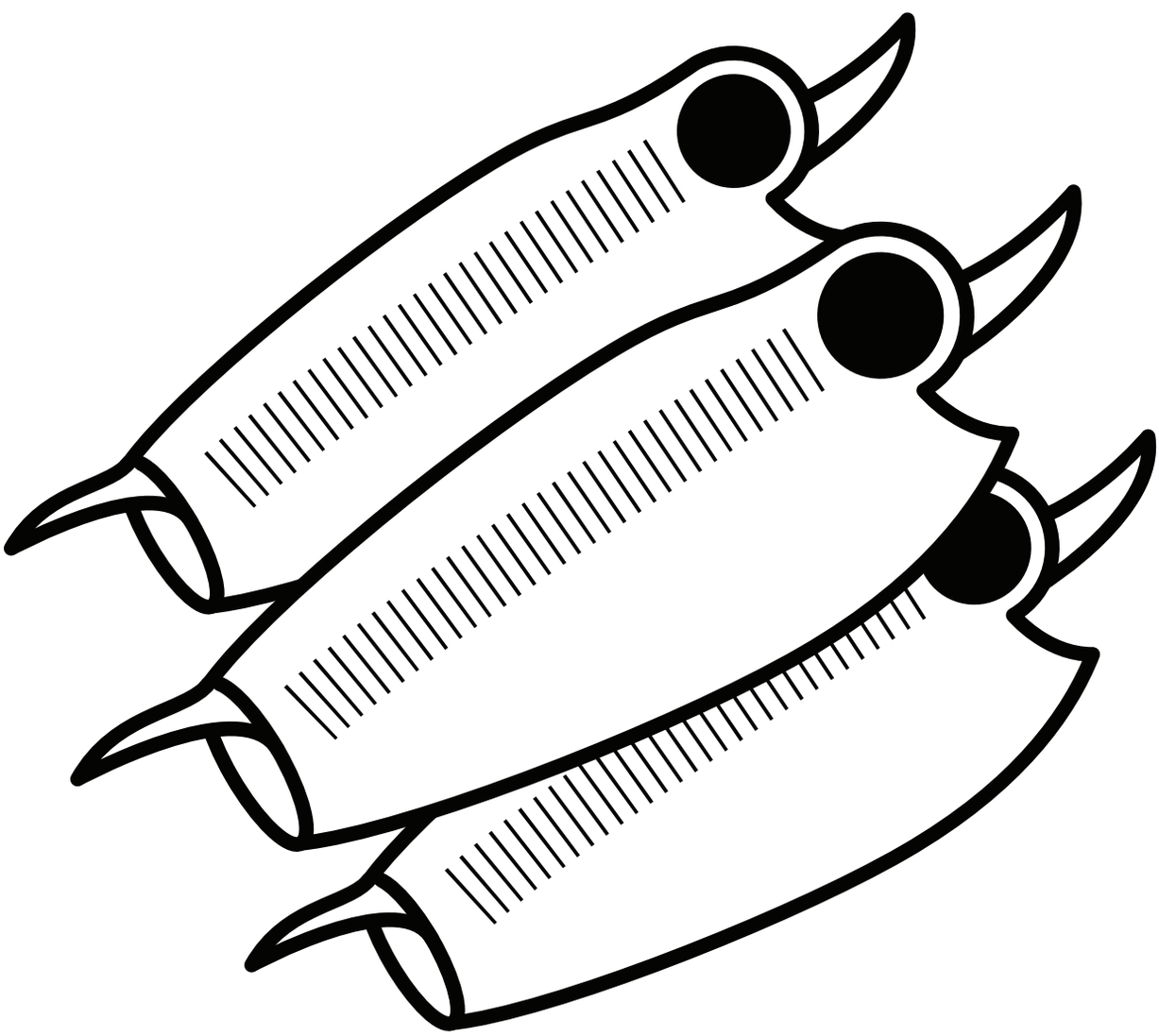
Salpa sp.

Salps are organisms that form long chains of individuals « hand in hand » in the water. They are even capable of communicating between themselves by electrical signals.



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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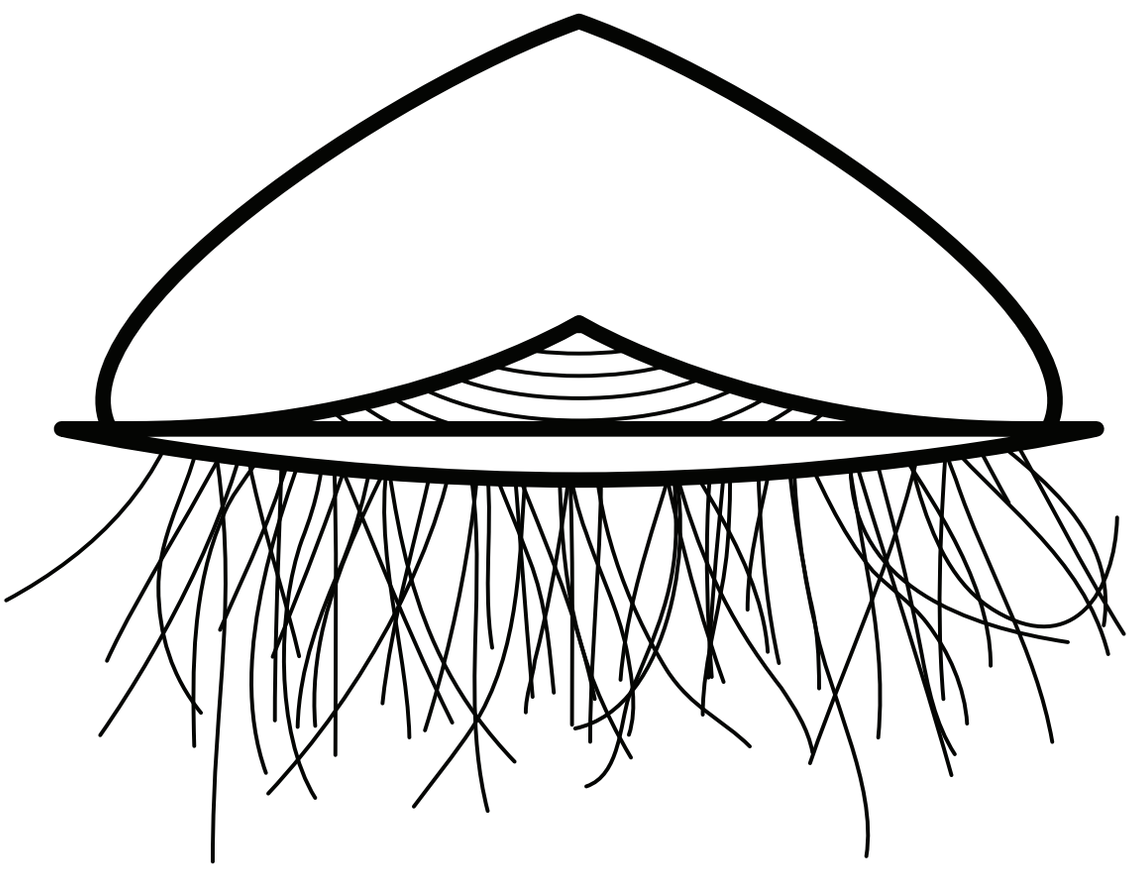
Velella velella

Velella comes from the latin « velum » which means « sail », referring to the cartilaginous membrane on its floating disc. It moves at the surface of the water by the action of the wind on its sail.



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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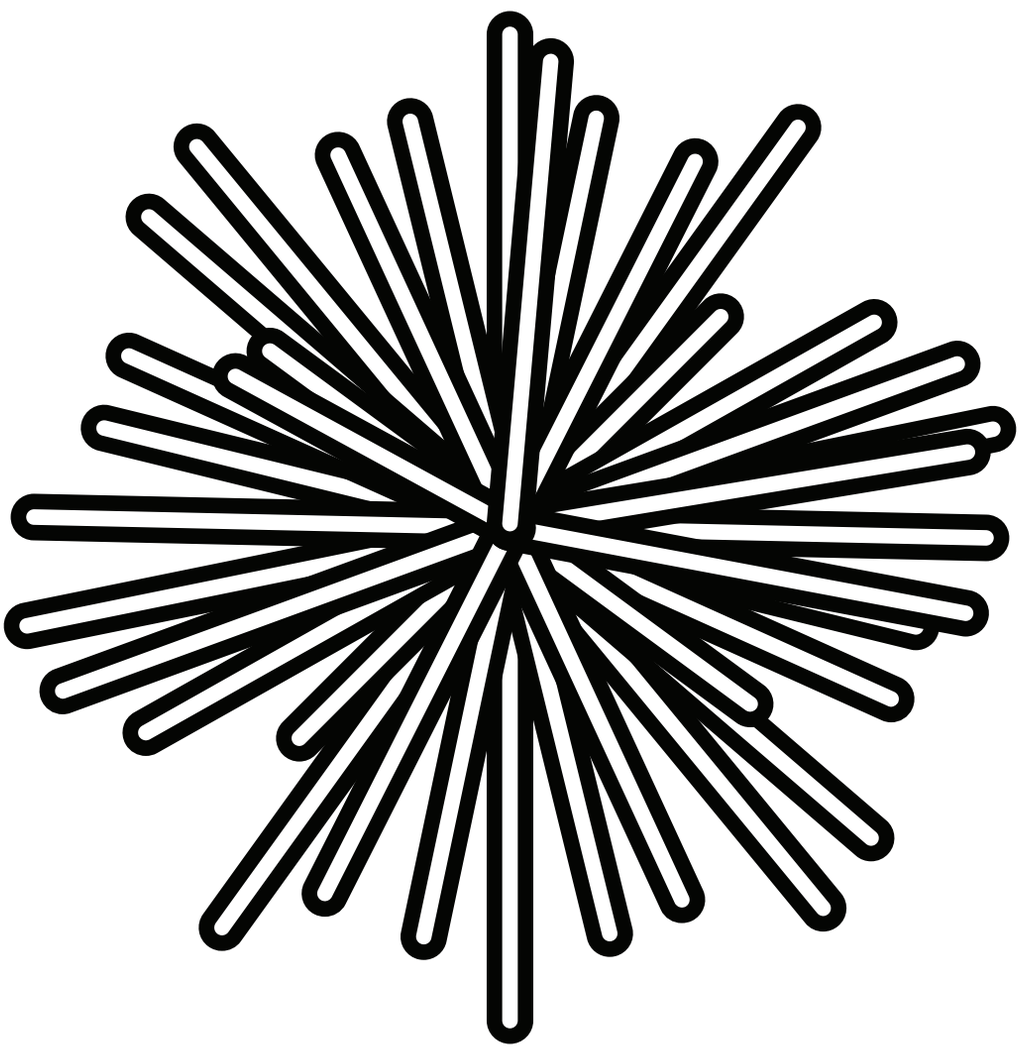
Trichodesmium sp.

Trichodesmium comes from the greek « trikhos » which means « hair » and « desmion » which means « bundle ». Trichodesmium means « bundle of hairs ». Trichodesmium can be abundant under certain conditions, forming blooms that are visible with the naked eye.



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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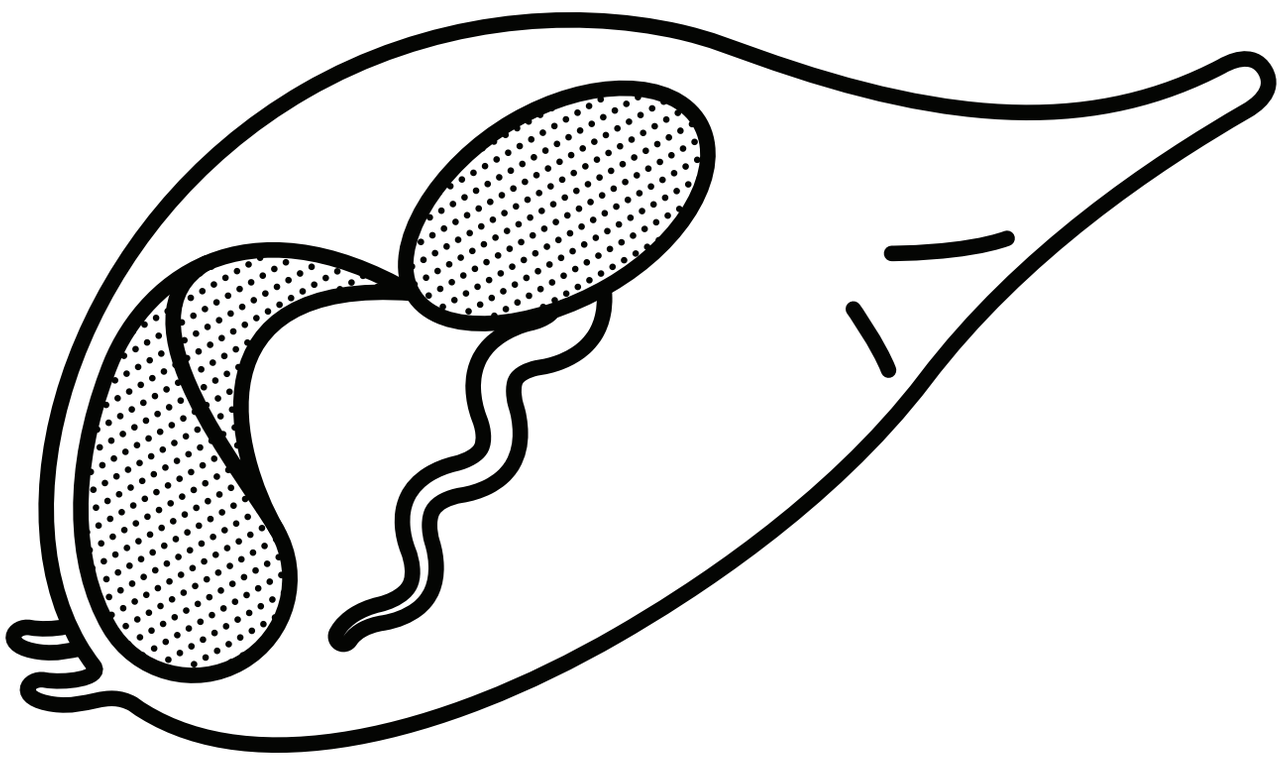
Oikopleura dioica

Oikopleura dioica looks like a tadpole. Its tail is equivalent to the ancestor of our vertebral column. Oikopleura lives in a cubicle that it builds around itself and renews regularly.



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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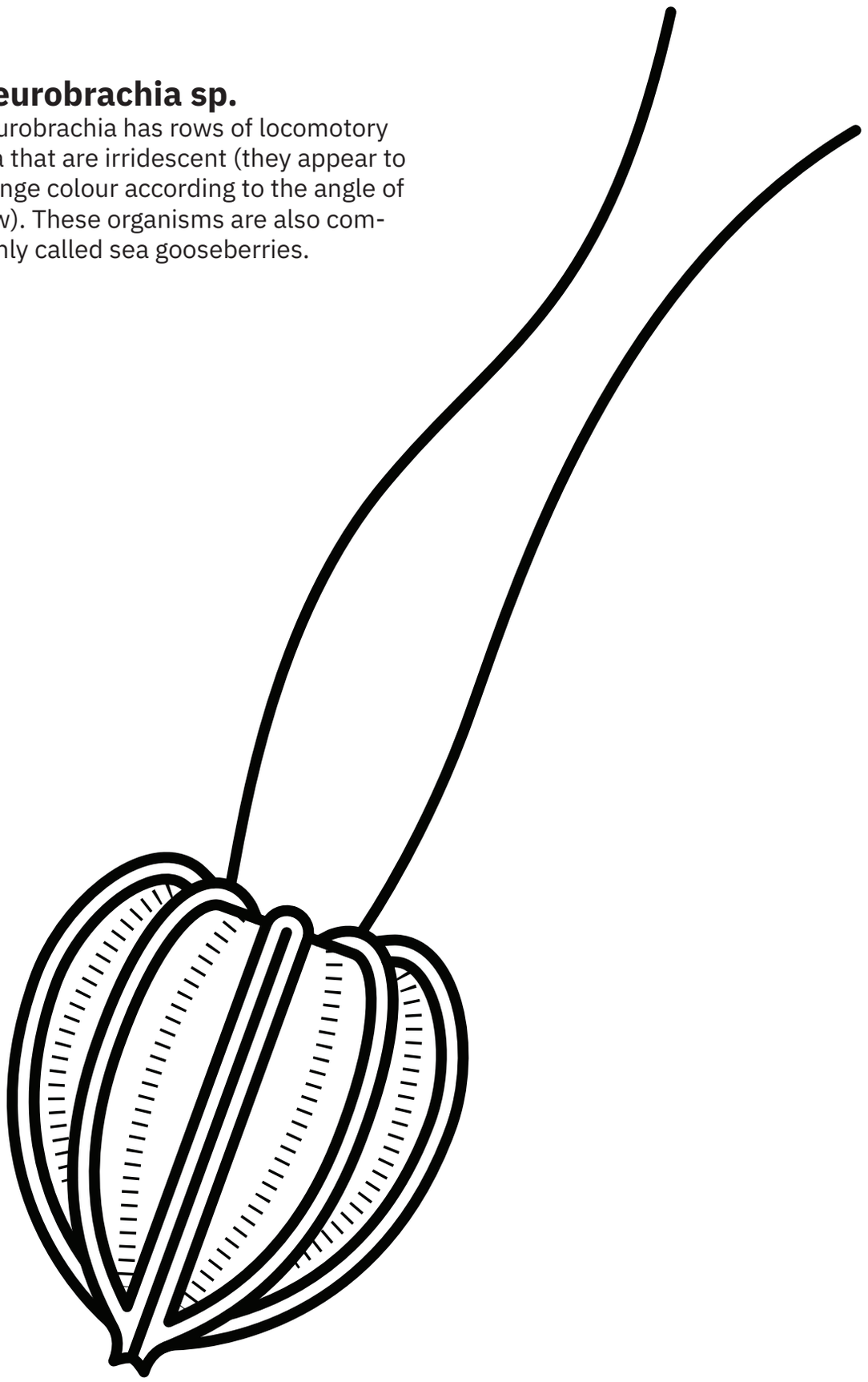
Pleurobrachia sp.

Pleurobrachia has rows of locomotory cilia that are irridescent (they appear to change colour according to the angle of view). These organisms are also commonly called sea gooseberries.



Macro Family - more than 20 mm

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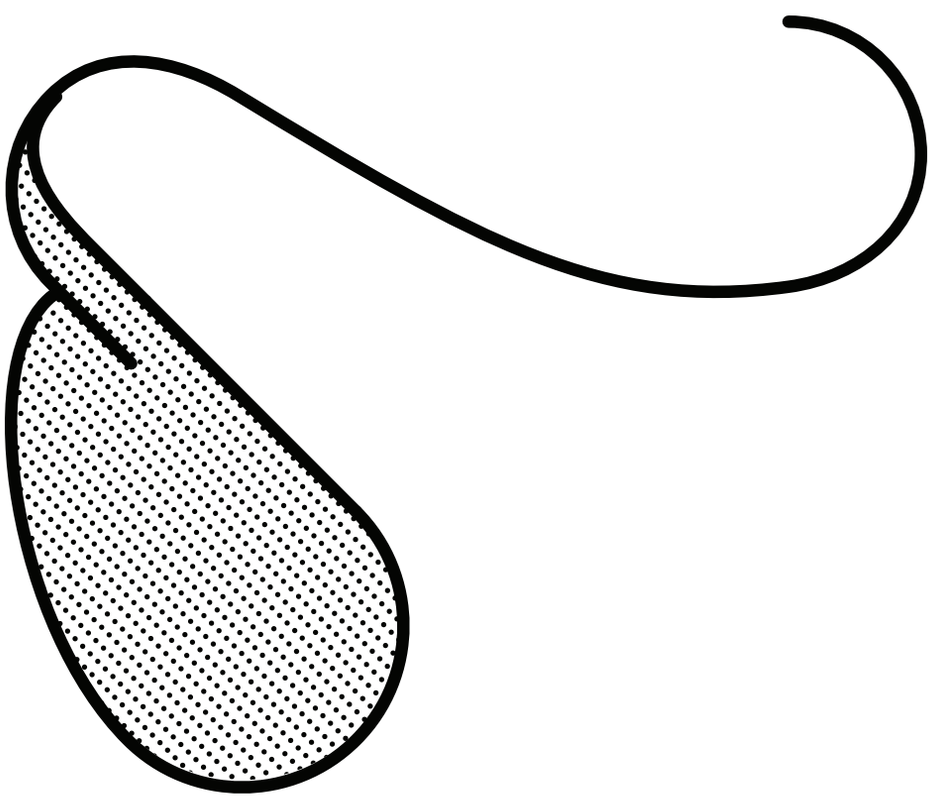
Micromonas sp.

1960 : Description of Micromonas pusilla, one of the most abundant microalgae in temperate coastal waters. Up to 30 000 Micromonas cells can be found in each millilitre of sea-water.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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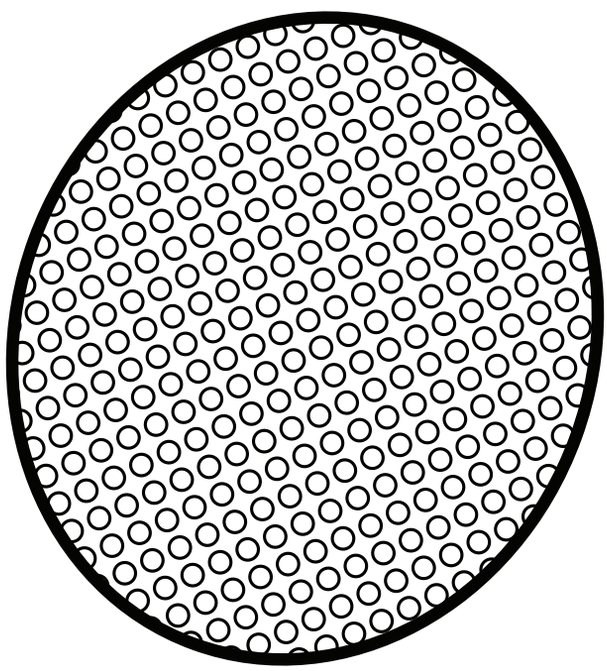
Ostreococcus sp.

Ostreococcus is a unicellular algal species first observed in the Thau lagoon in the south of France and described in 1995. It is the smallest eukaryotic cell known, measuring only 0.8 µm.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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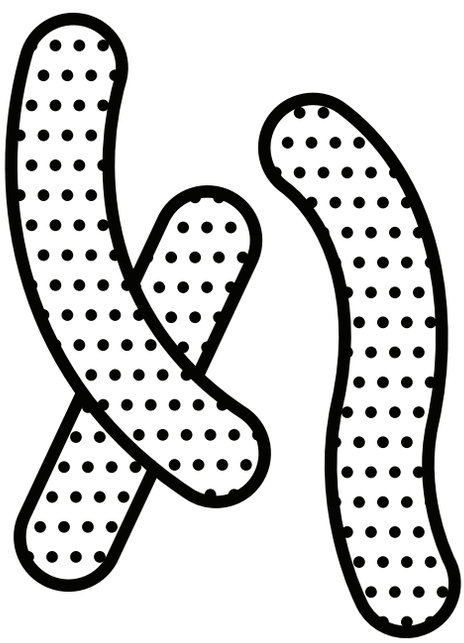
Pelagibacter sp.

Pelagibacter is one of the smallest and most abundant organisms in surface oceans : it is a member of the bacterial lineage. Bacteria are unicellular organisms the DNA of which is not confined within a nucleus. These organisms are also called prokaryotes.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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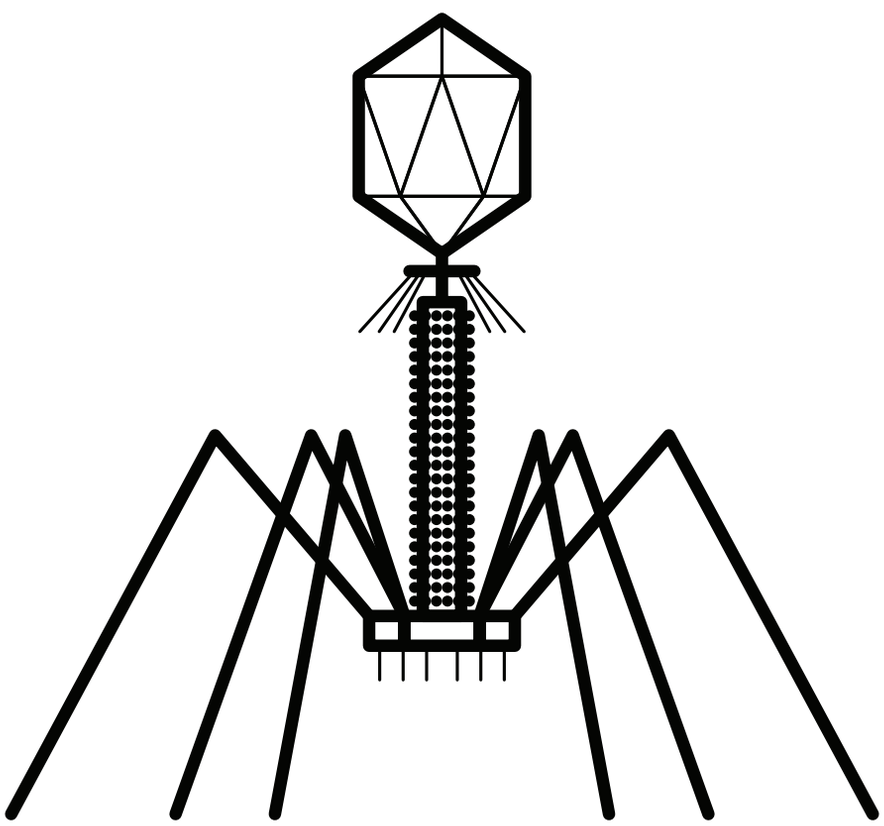
Phage

A phage is a virus that only infects bacteria, like Pelagibacter or Prochlorococcus for example. On average there are 10 million viruses in each millilitre of seawater.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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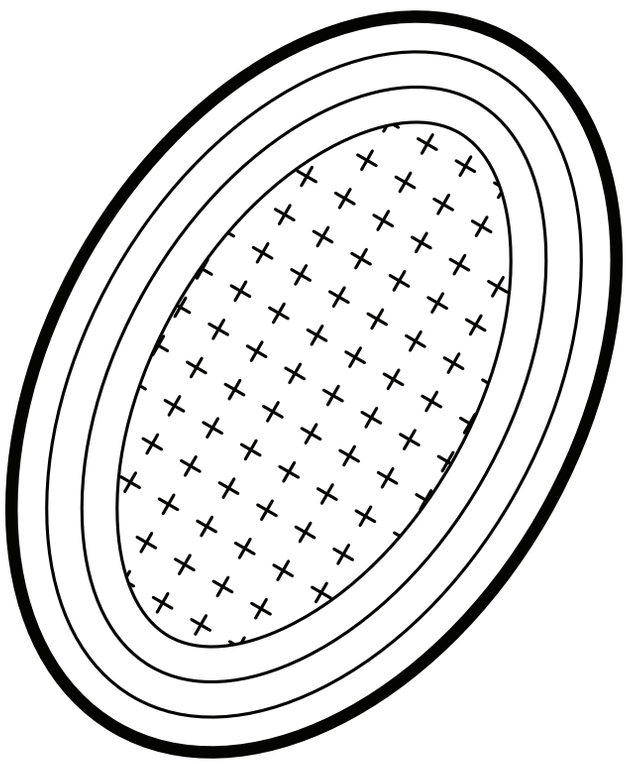
Prochlorococcus sp.

Cyanobacteria were at the origin of oxygen on Earth, appearing 3.7 billion years ago. Prochlorococcus is a bacteria that undertakes photosynthesis.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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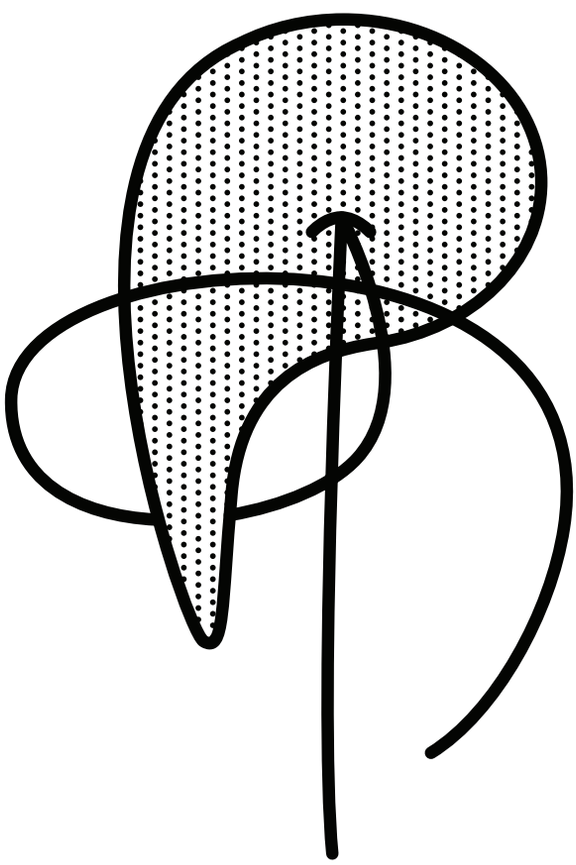
Amoebophrya

Amoebophrya is a plankton that parasitizes other plankton!
It is capable of infecting microalgae, even though some are toxic, and kills them in order to grow and reproduce.



Pico Family - from 0,0002 to 0,002 mm

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