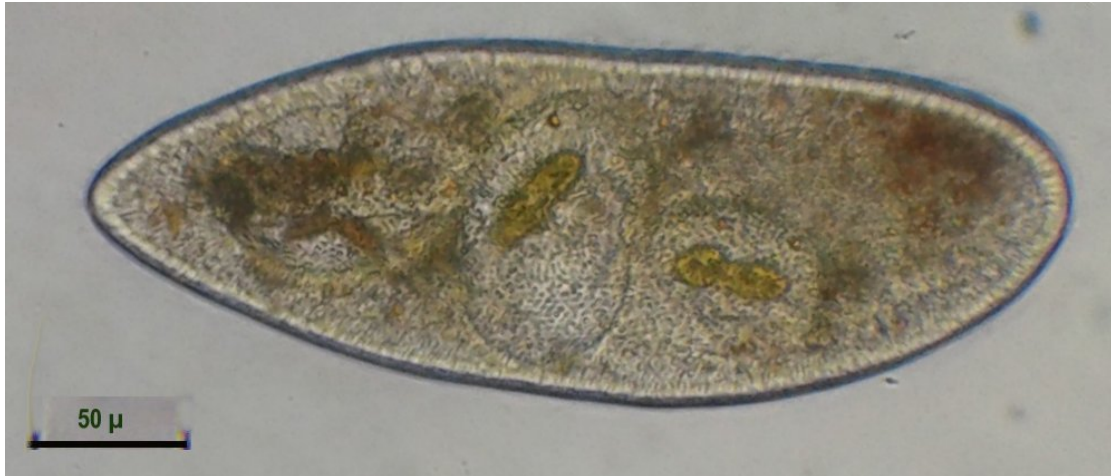


A LARGE PROTOZOAN : FRONTONIA

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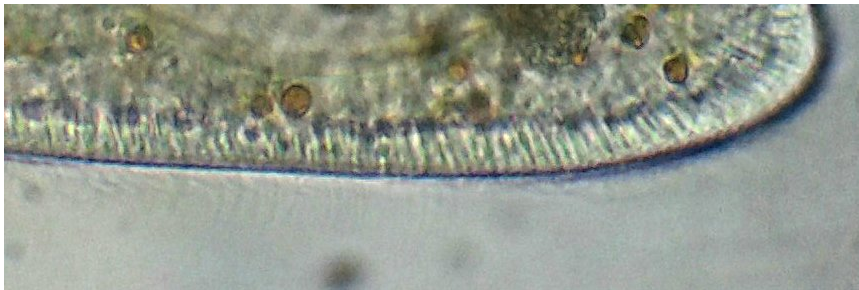
At first glance, this protozoan, encountered in a marine sample, resembles a paramecium. Which is not surprising because belonging to the order Peniculida. As Peniculids, the *Frontonia* are related to members of the genus *Paramecium*.

Its large size (which can reach 600 μm) and its relatively slow movements allow many details to be observed at high magnifications: the size of the specimen is: 319 μm long and 111 μm wide.



We notice in this specimen at least 3 diatoms ingested and in the process of digestion. Its diet includes diatoms, bacteria, filamentous algae and also other protozoa.

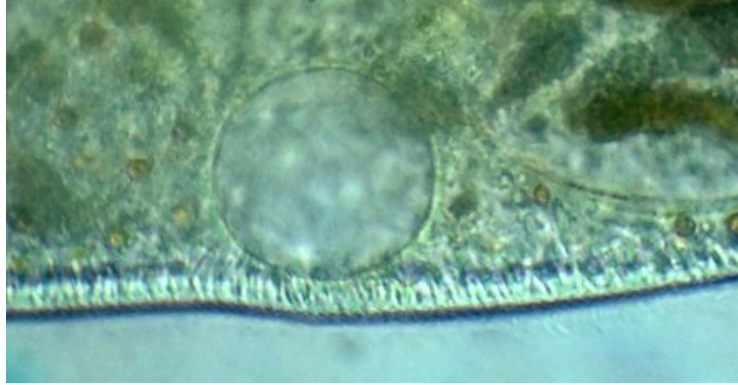
The ciliature is continually moving and we can see, under the membrane, very numerous trichocysts; we can also see a few ciliae (blurred) on the left of the image.



The small cytostome is positioned in profile here (arrow). It should be remembered that the protozoan is not flat but has an overall ovoid shape (Image at X40).



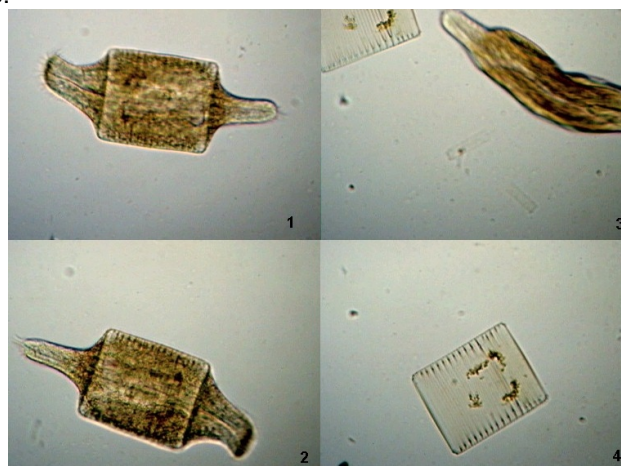
The following image shows an empty vacuole probably pulsative vacuole that formed during observation.



In the same sample another specimen rather fond of algae fragments: focusing on the membrane shows the trichocysts in the form of small dots.



One might wonder how a protozoan can eliminate undigested diatom frustules: no problem for this other species (not a *Frontonia*) which gets rid of a *Striatella* diatom frustule in this sequence of images!



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