

Charophytes

January 12, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Charophytes Latest News

Research conducted at 27 test lakes in northeastern Germany revealed that the abundance of charophytes increased.

About Charophytes

- Charophytes are a **type of green algae**.
- Fossils of Charophytes have been found **going back to the Silurian Period** (443 million years ago).
 - This was the period when **plants moved from water to land**—and Charophytes are considered the closest living relatives to land plants.
- **Habitat:** Charophytes grow in **silt, mud, peat or sand**, often as the first plants to colonize newly-cleared areas.
- **Distribution:** These “plants” are found **on all continents except Antarctica**.

Features of Charophyte

- They have **no true leaves, stems nor fruits**.
- These are generally submergent and are loosely attached to the sediment by thin rhizome- like structures called 'holdfasts'.
- Seeds can remain **dormant for years**.
- Charophytes have been found in water as deep as 213 feet.
- They **are unable to grow** or are restricted in growth **in turbid or murky waters**.

Benefits of Charophyte

- Charophytes are underwater plants that play a crucial role in the water quality and biodiversity of lakes;
- They stabilize the **lake bed, produce oxygen, promote water clarity**, and provide habitat for numerous aquatic organisms.

Source: **PHYS**

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