

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL SCIENCES

BL 14A - BIODIVERSITY I: THE PLANT KINGDOM

MAJOR ALGAL GROUPS

Group	Common Name	Niche ^(a)	Major Accessory Pigment	Reserve	Flagella ^(a)	Remarks
CHLOROPHYTES	Green algae	m/f/t; varied	chl b.	starch	(2)	Most diverse group
Euglenophytes	Euglenoids	m/f; planktonic	chl b	β 1-3 glucan	2	proeinaceous pellicle instead of wall; facultative autotrophs
PHAEOPHYTES	Brown algae	m; benthic	fucoxanthin (carotenoid)	β 1-3 glucan, mannitol	(2)	Usually macro-algae
Chrysophytes	Golden-brown algae (incl. diatoms)	m/f; planktonic	fucoxanthin (carotenoid)	β 1-3 glucan	(1 - 3)	Diatoms with SiO ₂ walls
RHODOPHYTES	Red algae	m; benthic	phycoerythrin	floridean starch	0	Usually macro-algae
Pyrrophytes	Dinoflagellates	m/f; planktonic	peridinin (carotenoid)	form of starch	2	Internal cellulose wall

NOTES:-

(a) m = marine f = freshwater t = terrestrial

(b) () implies if present