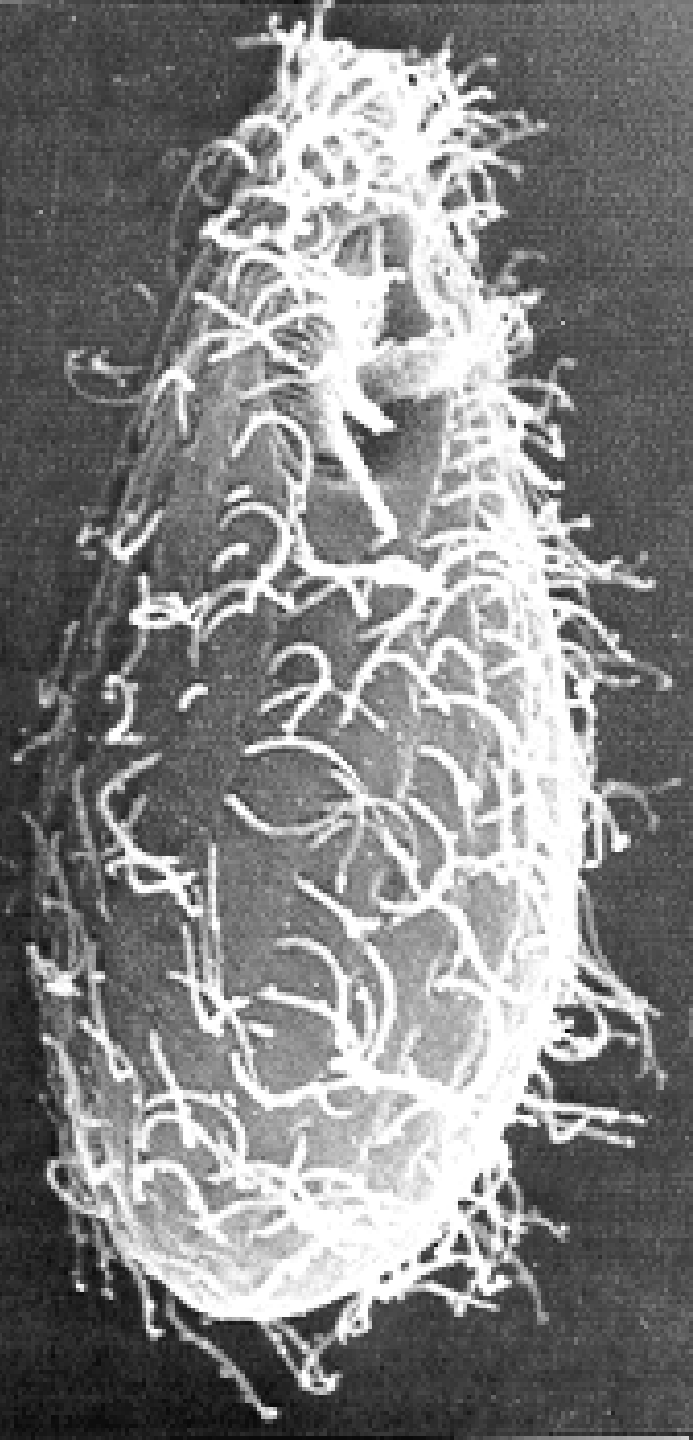
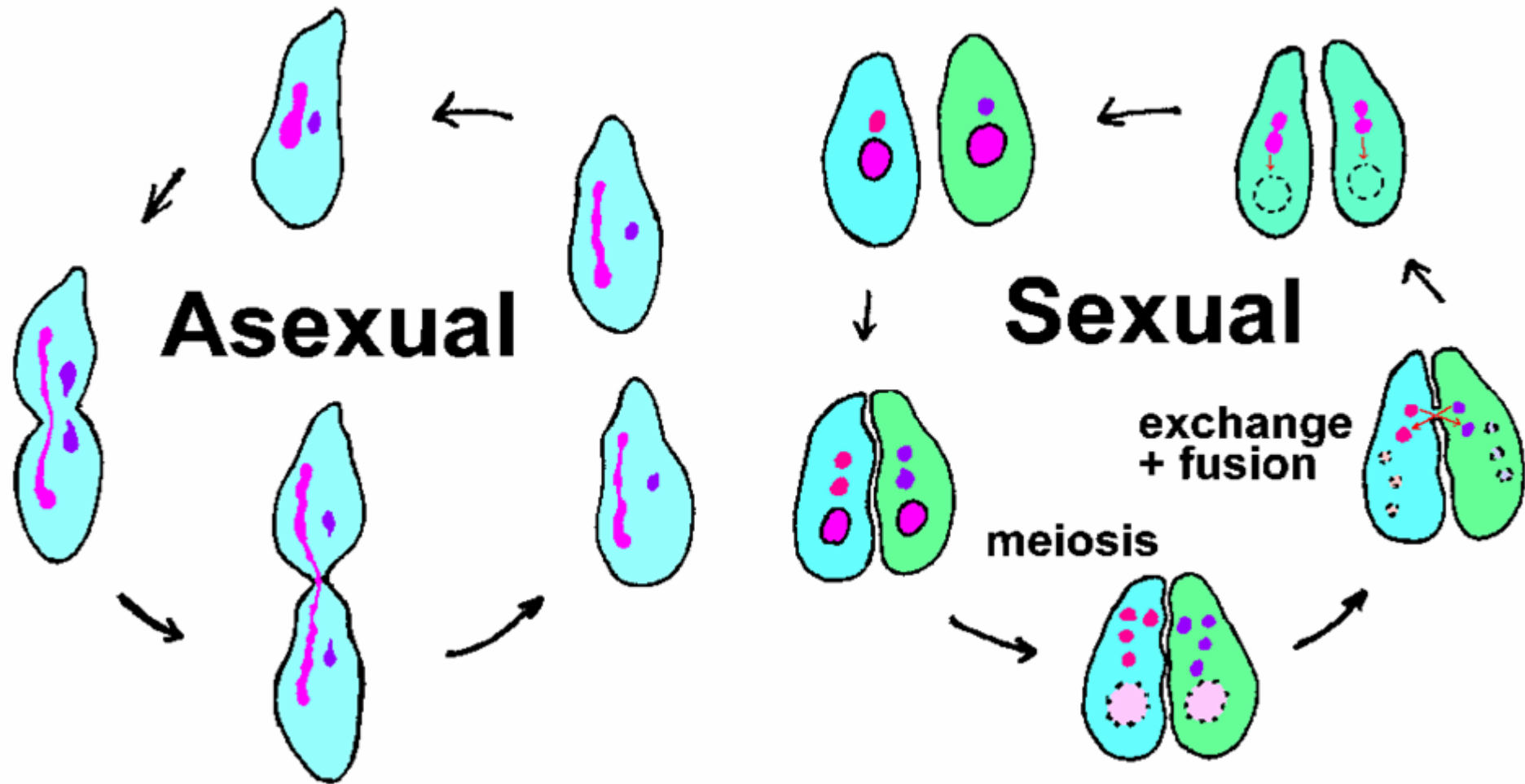


CILIATES



- ***Balantidium coli* only ciliate infecting humans**
- **large and diverse group**
 - **majority are free-living**
- **covered with rows of cilia**
- **defining characteristic is nuclear dimorphism**
 - **micronucleus (genetic)**
 - **macronucleus (somatic)**
- **sexual reproduction involving conjugation**

Ciliate Reproduction



Balantidium coli

- world-wide distribution
 - especially prevalent in tropics
 - rarely exceeds 1%
- common in pigs and monkeys
 - unlikely to be reservoirs
- usually non-pathogenic commensal in l. intestine
- can invade intestinal epithelium and cause ulceration with dysentery-like symptoms

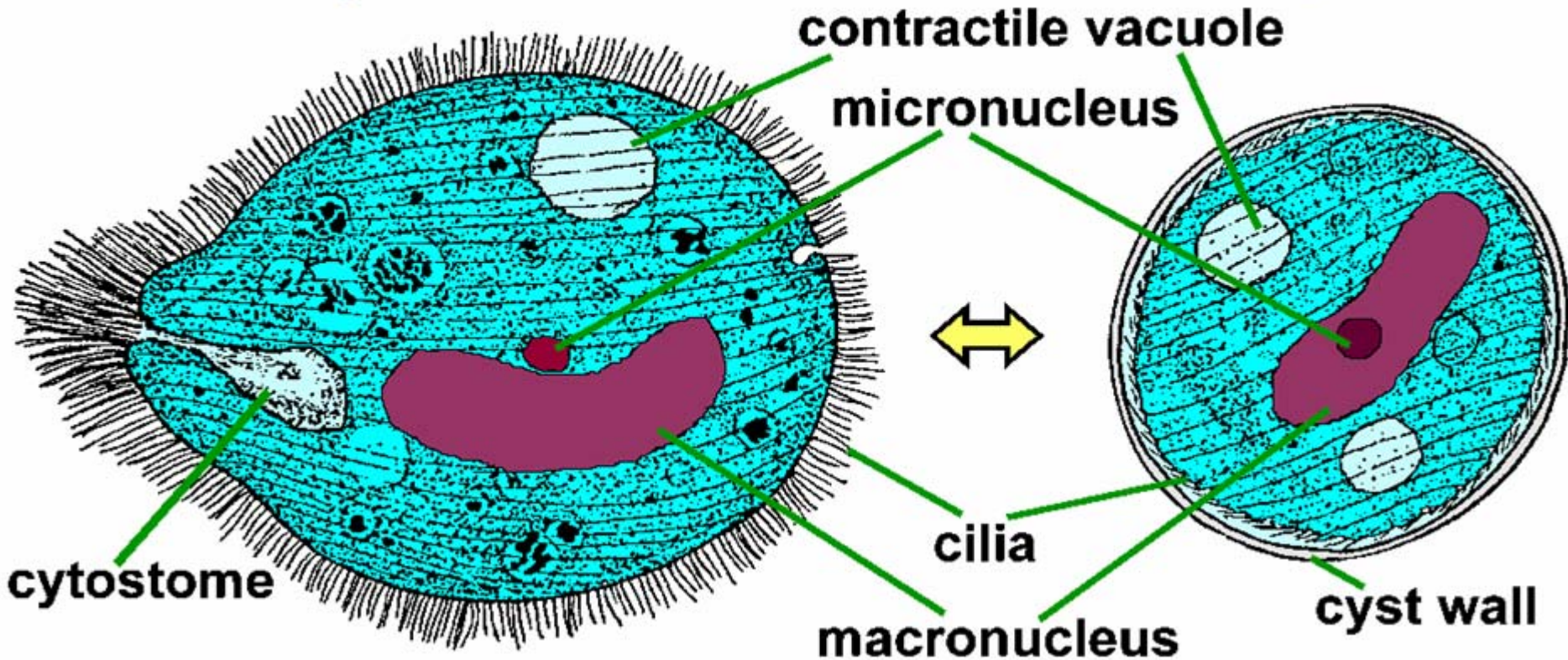
Balantidosis

- aka, balantidiasis, balantidial dysentery
- symptoms: acute diarrhea with mucus and blood, cramps
- diagnosis: identify cyst or trophozoite in feces
- treatment: tetracycline or iodoquinol
- prevention: same as other fecal-oral diseases

Balantidium coli

trophozoite

cyst



~70 x 45 μm
(up to 200 μm)

~55 μm

unstained

trichrome

eosin

