

Stentor

Stentor spp.

FEATURES

Stentor is a genus of ciliated protozoans. They may be microscopic or large enough to see without the use of a microscope. The body is funnel-shaped but can contract into other shapes. Cilia are present around the upper edge of the funnel. These organisms may be seen in a variety of colors.

BEHAVIORS

Stentor species may be found statewide in Illinois. They can live in colonies or singly in freshwater habitats, particularly ponds. They may attach to plant material or algae in the water but can also move by using cilia. *Stentor* can regenerate from a very small fragment. The cilia around the top of the funnel beat regularly to set up a current in the water. The current can be used to capture food or to move this organism to a new location. They feed on small animals, algae and decaying organic materials.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Eukaryota
Phylum: Ciliophora
Class: Heterotrichea
Order: Heterotrichida
Family: Stentoridae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE



two Stentor feeding



Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; Lake Michigan; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none