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# Anabaena

Immediately on receipt of your Anabaena culture loosen the cap and place the bottle in indirect sunlight.

Anabaena is a filamentous blue-green algae, member of the Phylum Cyanophyta, and Order Nostocales.

Filaments (trichomes) are composed of beadlike cells with heterocysts present (ie. cells which are large and different in shape from the vegetative cells). Anabaena can be differentiated from Nostoc in that they have no definite tegument or membrane enclosing the cell mass, and hence the colony is soft and formless. The filaments also contain akinetes, reproductive cells which have a thick cell wall and a dense concentration of food material.

## CULTURE MEDIUM

Anabaena can be maintained in soil extract solutions prepared by steaming 20gm of good quality garden soil in 200 ml of pond water for one hour on two successive days. Cultures should be maintained at 20°C ( $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) in indirect sunlight for several weeks. However a more reliable medium for growth is Algal Culture Medium concentrate as supplied by Southern Biological. 20 ml of this concentrate is sufficient to make one litre of use-solution when diluted with pond water.

*NOTE:* Blue green algae are common agents of algal pollution in fresh water, and can also in some cases, be pathogenic. Hence, care should be taken to inactivate these cultures before disposing of them into waste water systems. Use either boiling water or undiluted sodium hypochlorite (bleach).

Catalogue Code: L 1.10



## Supporting Products for Anabaena.

### Culture Medium

Code: CM 10 Algal Culture medium.

### Prepared Microscope Slides.

Code: PMS 24.05 Anabaena, blue green algae.

Code: PMS 24.01 Mixed blue green algae

### Books

Code: BK 6.21 Culturing Algae

Code: BK 31.59 Freshwater Algae in Australia.

### Posters

Code: WC34 Pond III, Photosynthetic Microlife