

# Mixed Pond Life

Catalogue Code: L 4.20

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Code: WC34 Pond III, photosynthetic Microlife

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Code: BK54.10 Freshwater Invertebrates

Code: BK54.11 Colour Guide to Invertebrates of Australia Inland Water

Code: BK54.12 Ponding

Code: BK54.13 Australian Guide to Pond Life

Code: BK54.15 Australian Freshwater Life

Code: BK54.16 Aquatic Life in Freshwater Ponds

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As soon as you receive your mixed pond life culture, remove the lid. In your culture, you will find microscopic and macroscopic organisms along with several specimens of pond weed. To obtain maximum value from your culture, we suggest you tip approximately three quarters into a larger vessel such as a small empty white ice-cream or margarine container for macroscopic examination. Retain the smaller portion for direct microscopic examination. Don't forget to check for organisms which remain adhering to the sides and bottom of the original container such as leeches and planaria.

### **Microscopic Examination:**

Allow the solution to settle, then add 1 drop of your mixed pond life to one drop of "Protoslo" or methyl cellulose solution on a microscope slide and mix gently. Add a coverslip and examine under low power using maximum contrast, i.e. with the iris diaphragm almost closed. Locate and centre organisms before swinging to high power.

Microscopic specimens likely to be present include:

Amoeba, Paramecium, Euglena, Rotifers, Stentor, Chlorella, Chlamydomonas, segmented worms, together with other varieties of green and blue-green algae.

To maintain the microscopic organisms for some weeks, transfer them to a glass petri dish containing 2-3 grains of uncooked rice. Store in a dark cupboard at room temperature. Alternatively, if you wish to maximise growth of algae, store a petri dish on a laboratory bench in indirect light at room temperature.

### **Macroscopic Examination:**

Macroscopic specimens possibly present include;

Tubifex (sludge worms), Planaria (flat worms), Ostracods, Backswimmers, Mosquito larvae, Daphnia, Leeches, Damselfly Nymphs.

Pond Weed species: Duckweed, Azolla, Spirogyra.

Should you wish to try to maintain some of the macroscopic organisms present in this culture, add the contents to an already established small fresh water aquarium maintained at room temperature in indirect light containing no fish, tadpoles, etc. Because of natural competitive pressures, and water chemical content, not all organisms present in the culture will survive. Dilution factors can also make it difficult for small organisms to be located. Remember, sampling from the bottom sludge will increase your chances of finding organisms.