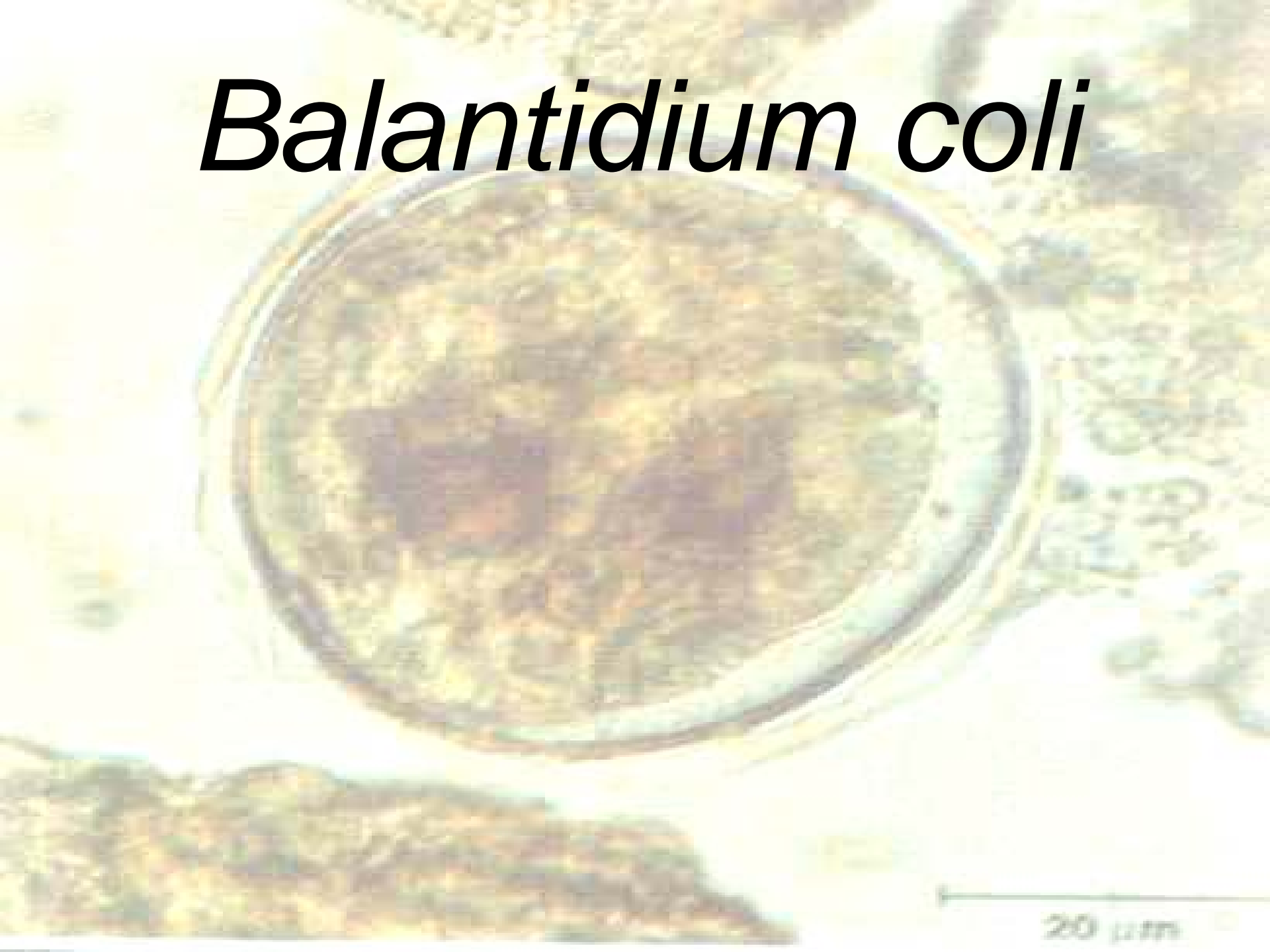


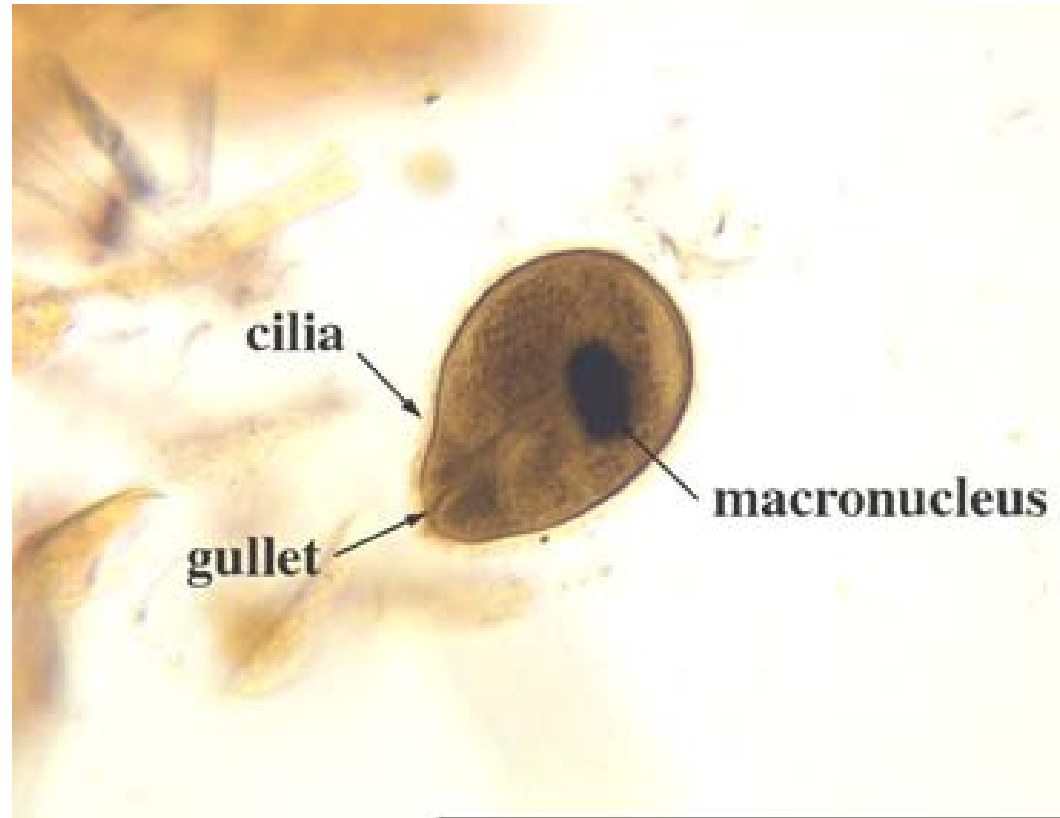
Balantidium coli



20 μm

Morphology

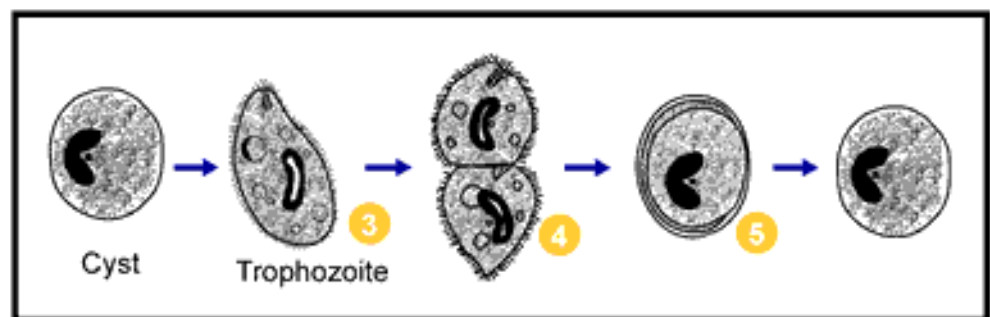
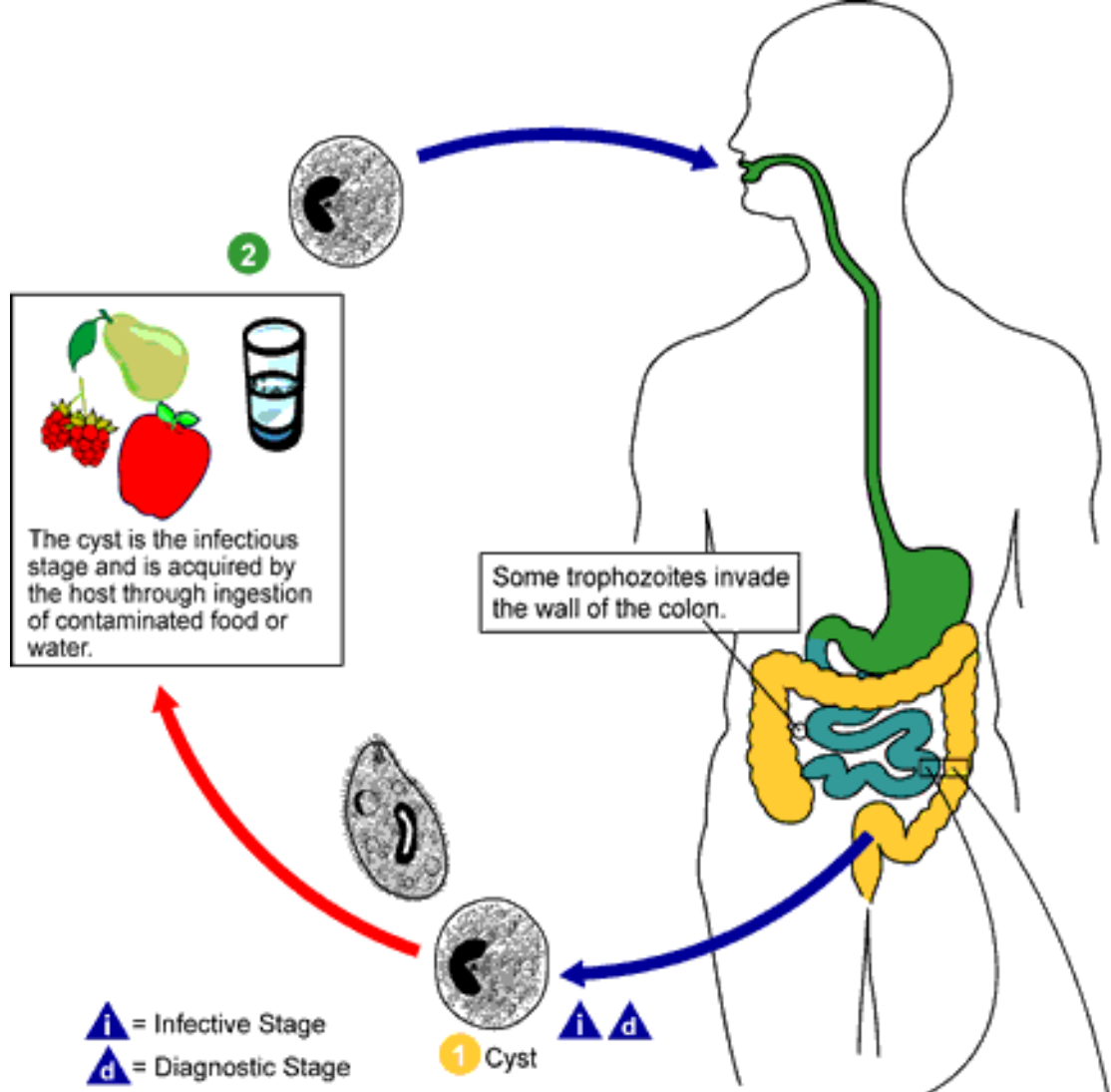
- It is the largest protozoan parasitizing humans
- It is ciliated and has both a trophozoite and cyst stage
- Trophozoite is 50-200 microns long and 40-70 microns wide



Life Cycle



- Trophozoite in intestine of man, monkeys, and pigs
- Large intestine → encyst → excreted in feces → ingested → excyst → trophozoite → large intestine where it feeds on cells of the intestinal wall, bacteria, and mucus



Epidemiology

- Worldwide in warm and temperate climates
- Human infections occur due to contact with hogs (which also have another species *B. suis* that does not infect humans) and also in institutions for the mentally impaired.
- It is usually sporadic, but epidemics have occurred

Trophozoite

Cyst

Diagnosis

- Demonstration of the parasites in the feces of the patient

50µm

Symptomatology

- Diarrhea or dysentery
- Abdominal cramps
- Tenesmus
- Nausea and vomiting
- Occasionally blood and mucus in stools
- Can also cause anorexia, headache, insomnia, colonic tenderness, lethargy, weight loss, anemia
- Many cases are asymptomatic
- Invasion in peritoneum, urinary tract, and vagina; rarely, liver involvement reported.

Treatment

- Diiodohydroxyquinoline (Diodoquin)
- Tetracycline
- Metronidazole
- Paromomycin (Humatin)

Prevention

- Proper disposal of feces
- Avoidance of contact with hog feces



Balantidium coli

Oregon State Public Health Laboratories