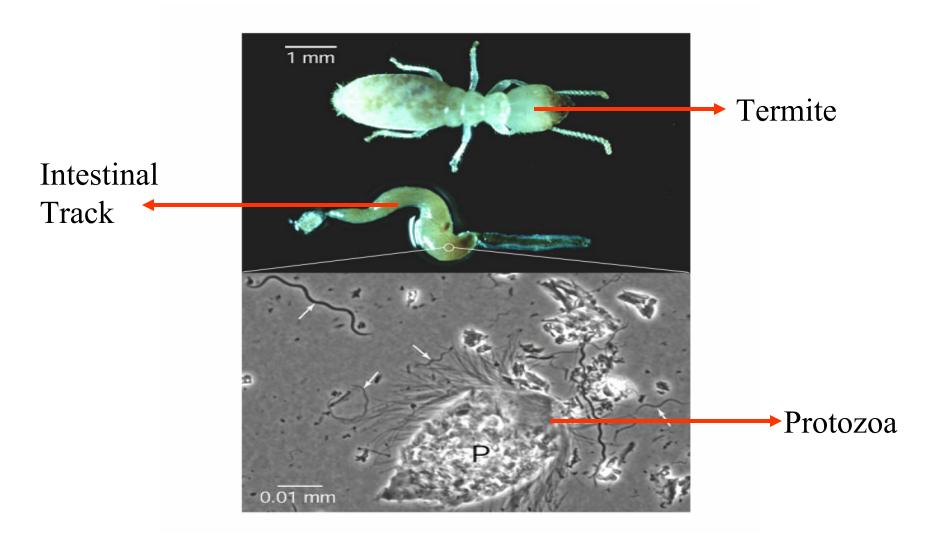
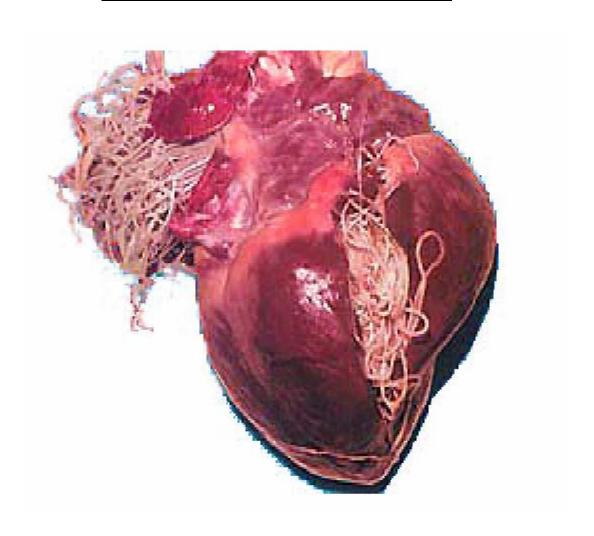


Athlete's foot is a skin disease, usually starting between the toes or on the bottom of the feet, which can spread to other parts of the body. It is caused by a fungus that commonly attacks the feet, because the wearing of shoes and hosiery fosters fungus growth. The signs of athlete's foot are dry scaly skin, itching, inflammation, and blisters.



Termites are nature's recyclers, breaking down and returning to the soil the cellulose-containing materials of fallen trees and decaying wood. Termites derive nutrition from wood and other cellulose materials.

They cannot digest the cellulose themselves. Instead they are dependent on one-celled protozoa in their stomachs that break down the cellulose into simpler compounds that the termites can use as food.



Once considered a parasite of southern climates, the heartworm (Dirofilaria immitis) is now recognized as a major, global pest affecting dogs, wolves, coyotes, and foxes. A mosquito serves as the intermediate host for the larval stage of the worm. Adult heartworms can reach 12 inches in length and can remain in the dog's heart for several years. Female heartworms bear live young – thousands of them in a day. The worms grow and multiply, infesting the chambers on the right side of the heart and the arteries in the lungs. They can also lodge in the veins of the liver and the veins entering the heart.



Epiphytes, or air plants, grow everywhere but can be found mainly on the branches, trunks, and even the leaves of trees. The name 'epiphyte' comes from the Greek word 'epi' meaning 'upon' and 'phyton' meaning 'plant'. Epiphytes grow on sides of tall trees in an attempt to be closer to the sunlight. They have no roots, and collect water and nutrients from the air. They begin their life in the canopy from seeds or spores transported there by birds or winds.





Cerambycid beetle



Pseudoscorpions are small, predaceous arthropods, mostly less than 1 centimeter is length. These scorpion like animals have pincers (chlicera) like scorpions, but lack a sting. Pseudoscorpions are common, but usually overlooked because of their small size and because they are concealed in the soil or under the bark of trees.

A few species of pseudoscorpions disperse by concealing themselves under the wing covers (elyatra) of large beetles such as the cerambycid beetle. The pseudoscorpions gain the advantage of being dispersed over wide areas while simultaneously being protected from predators. The beetle is, presumably, unaffected by the presence of the hitchhikers.



In many bee-pollinated flowers, there is a region of low ultraviolet reflectance near the center of each petal. This pattern is invisible to humans because our visual spectrum does not extend into the ultraviolet. Bees, however, can detect ultraviolet light. The contrasting ultraviolet pattern (called a nectar guide) helps a bee quickly locate the flower's center. This adaptation benefits both the flower (more efficient pollination) and the bee (rapid collection of nectar).