



AQUATIC ECOLOGY 11

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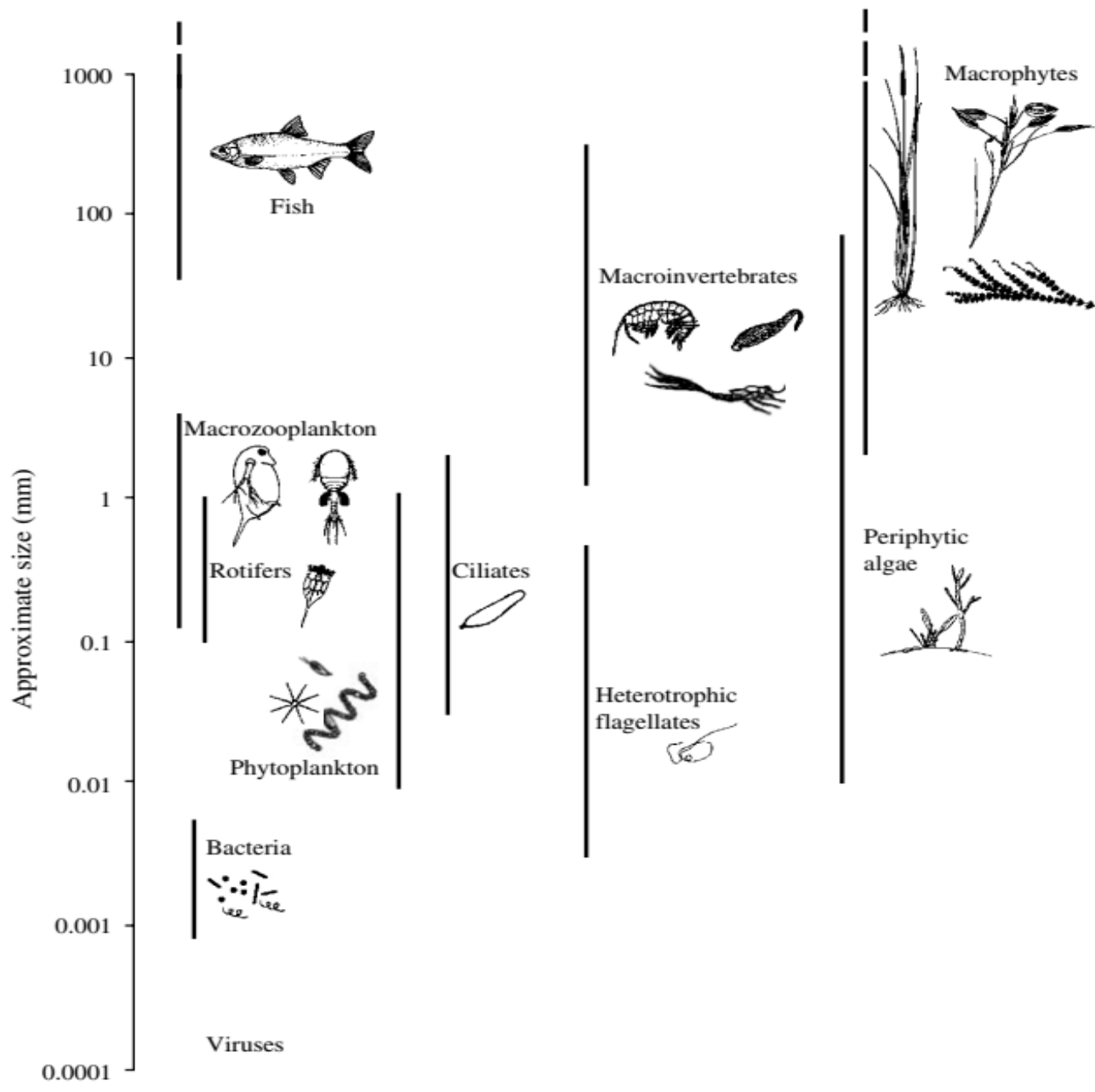
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Some ecological community definitions

- Plankton: Cannot move freely in water.
- Necton: Can swim freely in water against waves
Example: Fish
- Benthos: Attached organisms and live on the surfaces

Benthic organisms

- Phytobenthos: Plants live attached
- Zoobenthos: Animals live in benthic region
- Macrozoobenthos: Organisms such as insect larvae or crustaceans



SIZE SPECTRUM

Smallest organisms in aquatic ecosystems

- The knowledge about viruses in aquatic ecosystems and their role are still limited
- Viruses may have a important role in aquatic ecosystems by infecting organisms

- Viruses are small obligate intracellular parasites
- Their size change between 20 and 200 nm
- They consist of genetic material covered by a protein coat
- They can not reproduce without help from a host organism

- Viruses are the most diverse communities in plankton
- Composition and structure depend on seasons, water characteristics, geographic location and many other factors