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**British Fresh-Water Algae**

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[Introduction.]

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# BRITISH FRESH-WATER ALGÆ.\*

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Algæ are usually associated under five classes, which are taken in variable order, according to the judgment of the author, and may thus be enumerated :—

I. CHLOROPHYLLOPHYCÆ, with the cell contents mostly of a chlorophyll green.

II. PHYCOCHROMOPHYCÆ, with the cell contents mostly of a bluish green.

III. MELANOPHYCÆ, with the cell contents olive, brownish, or blackish.

IV. RHODOPHYCÆ, with the cell contents rosy, purple, crimson or violet.

V. DIATOMOPHYCÆ, with an incombustible siliceous skeleton.

Other arrangements have been proposed, but the above will answer for all practical purposes. The third class are all marine, and the majority of the fourth, so that, exclusive of Diatoms, which are a special study, the fresh water Algæ are mainly included in the first two classes.

## CLASS I. CHLOROPHYLLOPHYCÆ.

Plants aquatic or aërial, one, or two, or many-celled, either single or associated in families. Either branched or simple. Cell wall not siliceous but combustible, sometimes composed of successive layers, or strata, of a gelatinous substance. Cell contents chlorophyllose, sometimes crimson, flesh-coloured or reddish-brown, often with a central or lateral nucleus. Starchy granules very rare. Vegetation by cell division. Fecundation often sexual. Propagation either by oospores or zygospores or gonidia, which are motionless or agile (*zoogonidia*).—*Rabh. Alg. iii. p. 1.*

\* Exclusive of Desmidiæ and Diatomacæ.