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Fungi is important to man for the following reasons:

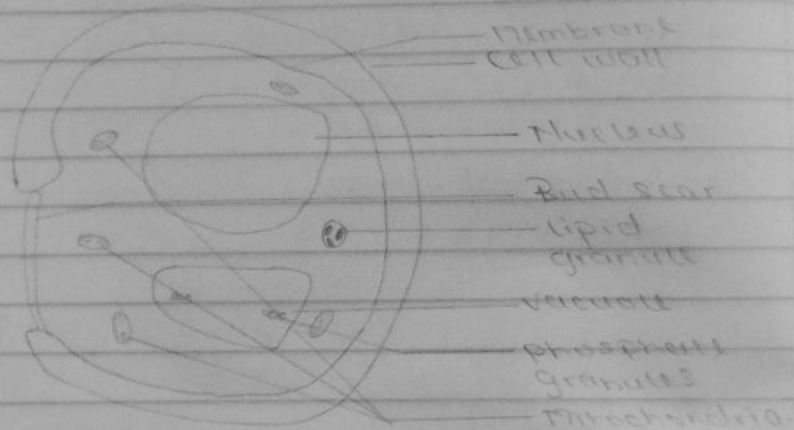
They are responsible for the mediation of the decay of dead organic matter.

Mushrooms are eaten by man

Some fungi are parasites to obnoxious pests of man.

Yeast is important in food industries like bakeries and yogurt making factories.

Cell structure of a unicellular fungus.



Sexual reproduction in a filamentous fungi like *Trichopus stolonifer* undergoes the following steps;

First, two mating types of hyphae grow in the same medium.

A chemical interaction between them causes growth perpendicular to the hyphae in opposite directions, so they can meet with one another.

The growths are delimited by a wall just so the nuclei are isolated in differentiated

- sex organs called gametangia (plural):
- iv) The gametangia fuse in a process called plasmogamy and together they form a zygote which may undergo dormancy for a period.
 - v) The nuclei in the zygote fuse in twos and undergo meiosis independently. It then moves on to germinating under favourable conditions so as to liberate haploid spores at maturity through the production of a fruiting.
 - vi) In summary, sexual reproduction in fungi consists of three stages, plasmogamy, karyogamy and meiosis.

4) Bryophytes are able to survive in their habitat via the following:

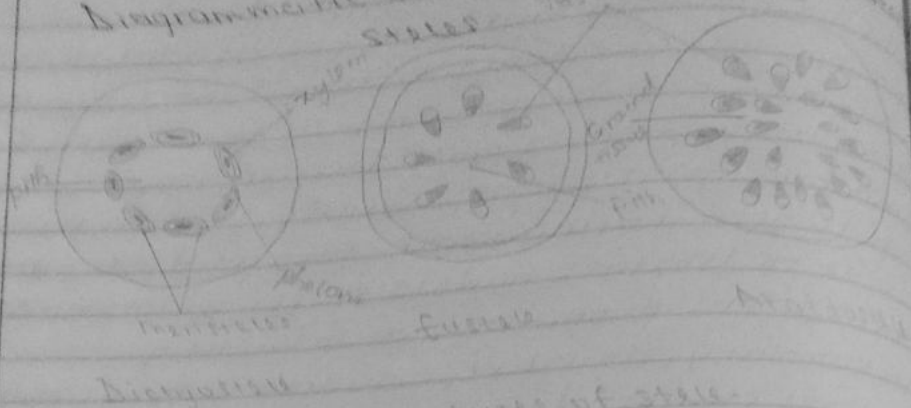
- i) They possess definite structures for water and nutrient absorption from the soil.
- ii) They also possess a waxy cuticle that keeps them from drying out through the process of desiccation.
- iii) They possess gametangia that keep the plants' gametes from drying out.

5) A. Eustele; a type of stele in which the vascular tissue in the stem forms a central ring of bundles around a pith. The vascular bundles are discrete, concentric collateral bundles of xylem and phloem.

B. Atactostele; a type of stele found in monocots in which the vascular tissue in the stem exists as scattered bundles.

C. Diactostele; a type of stele in which the vascular cylinder is broken up into a longitudinal series or network of vascular strands around a pith.

Diagrammatic illustrations of 4th stages



Different types of steles

Life cycle of a primitive vascular plant

