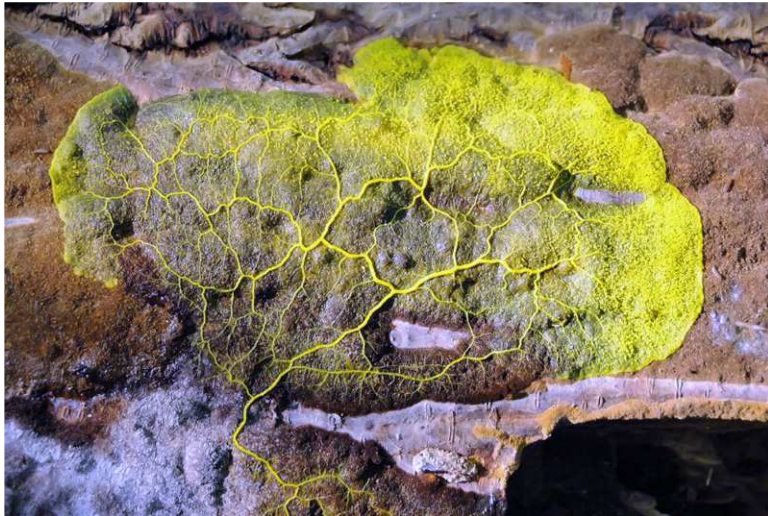


Common Slime Mold

*Physarum polycephalum* Schweinitz



OVERALL: Patapsco Female Institute, 7/30/2010, R. Orr.

OVERALL: MPENA, 6/4/2016, B. Ott.

Common Slime Mold

*Physarum polycephalum* [or near]  
*Physaraceae*

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**ID:** Supposedly, one of the most common slime molds; found on decayed logs and many other substrates. The fruiting body looks like small connected yellow globs. The plasmodium is a network of veins.

**Habitat:** Decaying wood, fruiting bodies of fleshy fungi, sometimes on living plants.

**Description:** Yellow-gray (rarely white) w/ scattered clusters of yellow/white minute granules. Plasmodium yellow.

**Frequency:** Fairly common.

**Locations:** BRNBR, CEDLP, GONRA, HIRIP, MCHPV, MPENA, MURHL, PAFEI, SYRIV, WSTRP.

**Notes:** Mycobank 247580. Identification based on macro characteristics, not spore examination. There are many other species in genus. "Widely used in laboratory studies. Similar species occur in nature. This protist may be seen without a microscope; *P. polycephalum* is typically yellow in color, and eats fungal spores, bacteria, and other microbes. The main vegetative phase of *P. polycephalum* is the plasmodium (the active, streaming form of slime molds). The plasmodium consists of networks of protoplasmic veins, and many nuclei. It is during this stage that the organism searches for food. The plasmodium surrounds its food and secretes enzymes to digest it." \* Cannot be distinguished from *Badhamia utricularis* in plasmodial stage.

**References:** \* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physarum\\_polycephalum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physarum_polycephalum)