

# **ALGAE**

**The focus will be less on taxonomy and more on the importance of algae in the coral/reef ecosystem**

# Green Algae (Chlorophyta)

*Halimeda*



*Caulerpa sertularioides*



*Codium*



*Caulerpa racemosa*



# Brown Algae (Phaeophyta)

*Dictyota* spp.



*Padina* spp



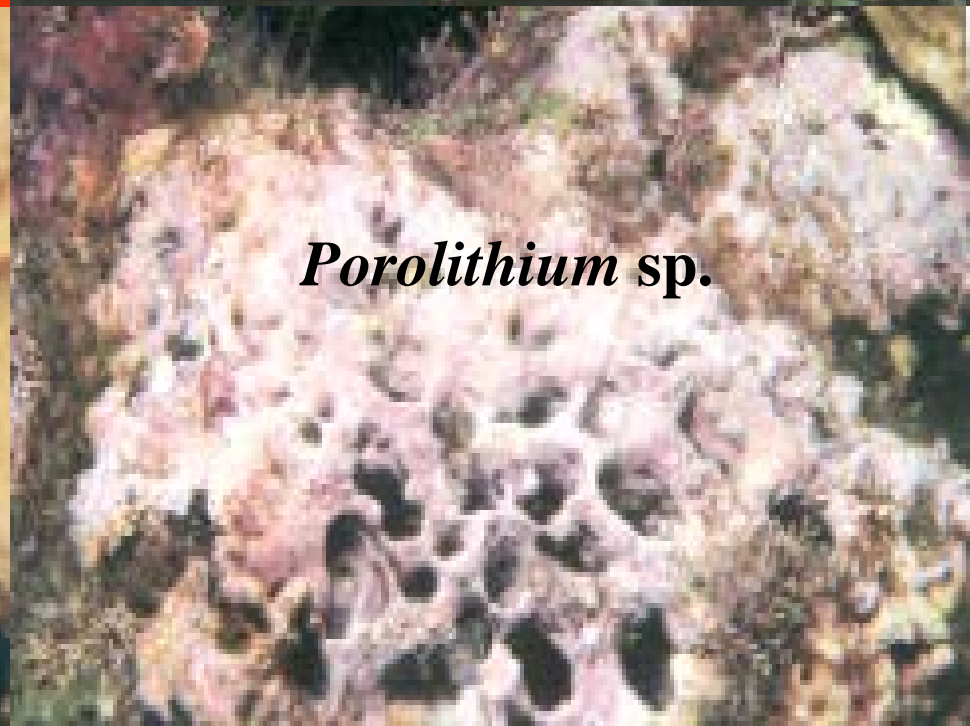
**Red Algae  
(Rhodophyta)**



*Galaxaura* sp.

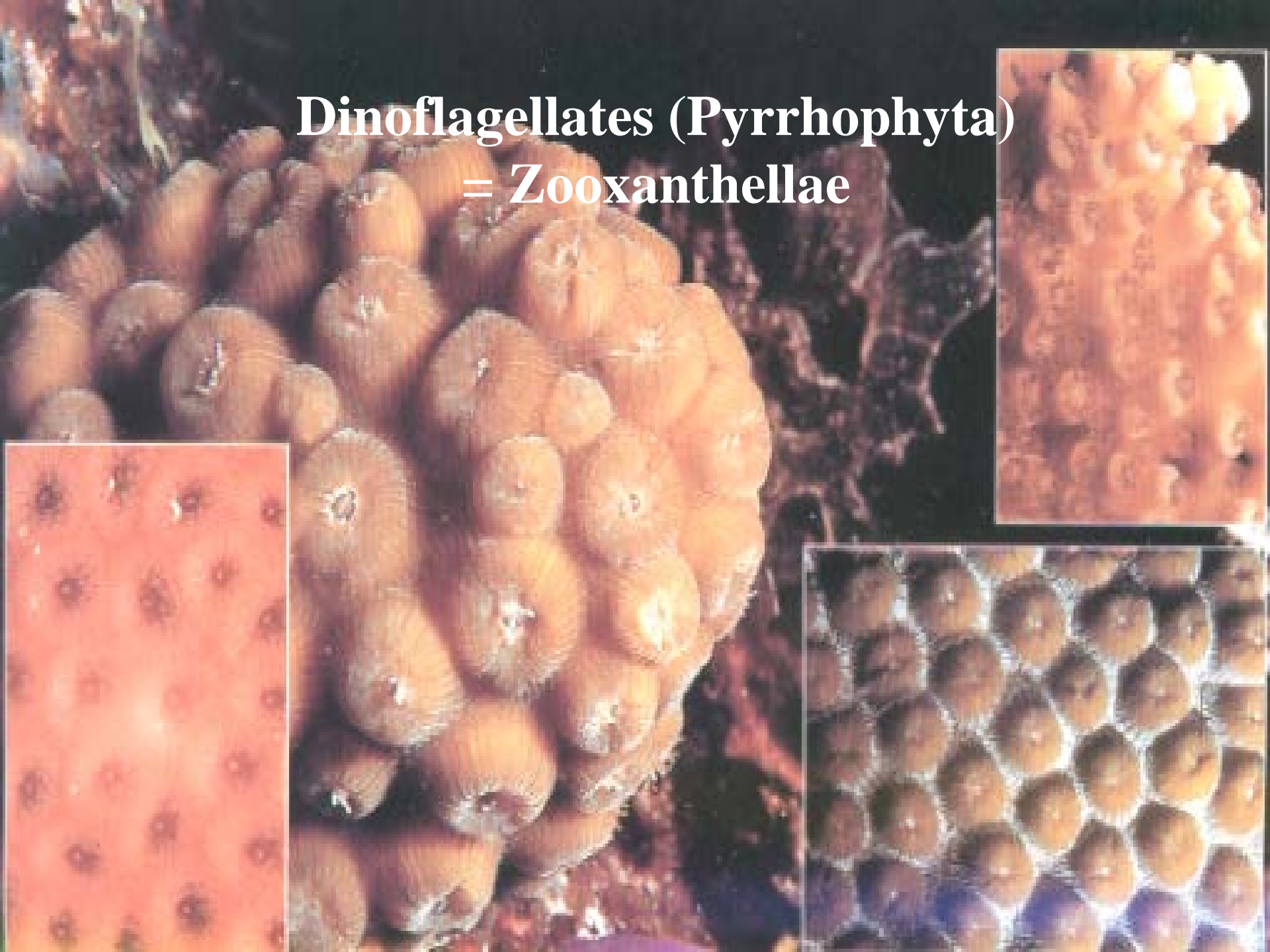


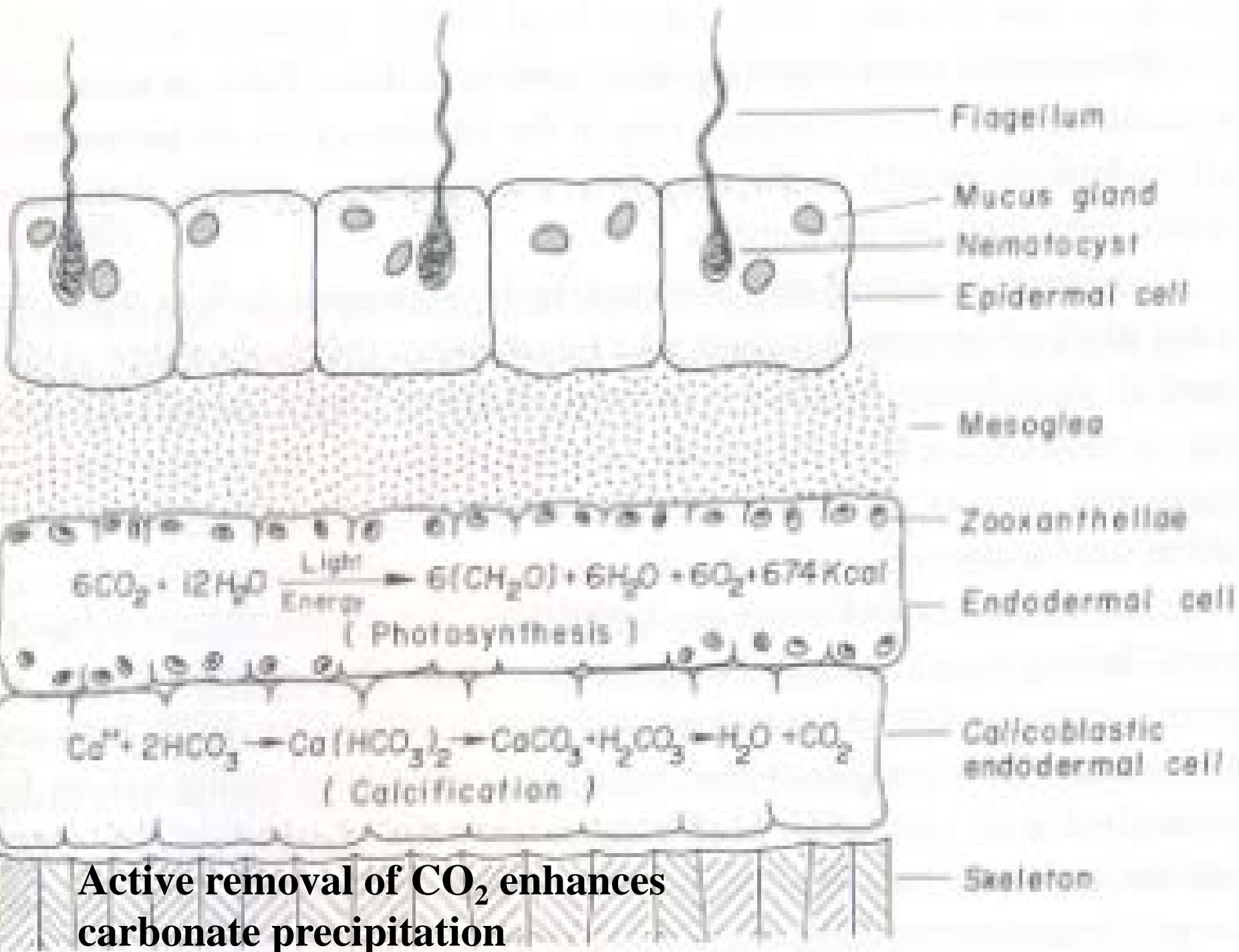
*Jania* sp.



*Porolithium* sp.

**Dinoflagellates (Pyrrhophyta)  
= Zooxanthellae**





## **FOOD SOURCE**

**Corals are known microcarnivores, feeding on zooplankton; this source may not be sufficient to sustain coral only providing 10-20% of daily energy needs.**

**Algae themselves are not be digested, but 94-98% of organic carbon produced by algae is utilized by the coral host.**

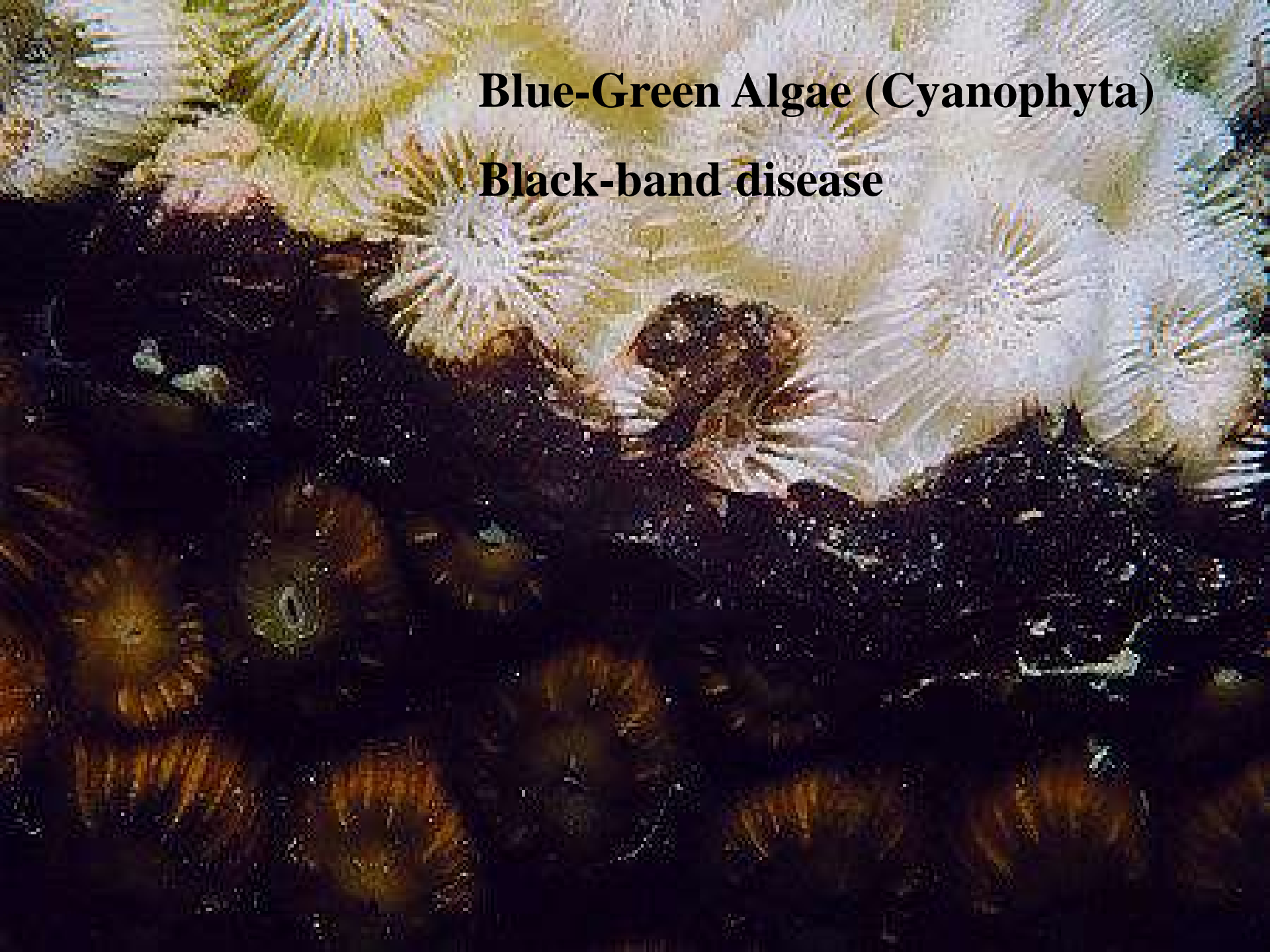
## **EXCRETION**

**Zoothanthellae remove phosphorus as a waste product of coral. Dissolved phosphate may inhibit calcification.**

**Zoothanthellae remove waste CO<sub>2</sub> from coral.**

**Blue-Green Algae (Cyanophyta)**

**Black-band disease**





## **RESOURCES**

Littler, D. S., M. M. Littler, K. E. Bucher, and J. N. Norris. 1989. Marine Plants of the Caribbean. A Field Guide from Florida to Brazil. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 263 p.

Humann, P. 1993. Reef Coral Identification. New World Publications, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida. 239 p.