

Bryozoans –

Jelly Blobs is a term often used for a type of single cell animals called Bryozoans. Several varieties live in freshwater and attach in colonies to twigs, limbs, ropes and dock posts in the water. They look like brown blobs of jelly. If you look at them closely they have small star-like structures that are different groups of the animals, called zooids. Bryozoans have been around for about 500,000,000 years

- **Bryozoans Description** - Round or oval shaped blobs of jelly like material attached to things in the water. Color is shades of clear to mottled browns, depending on how much silt is in the water. They feel solid but slimy to the touch.

Bryozoans Size - The balls can be as big as two feet across and contain 2,000,000 individual zooids. Most are smaller, with a one food across blob fairly big in most waters.

- **Bryozoans Distribution** - Different kinds of jelly blobs are found in almost all freshwater worldwide, Freshwater bryozoan colonies are usually found around branches that have fallen into still water.
- **What Bryozoans Eat**- They capture and digest diatoms, green algae, bacteria, rotifers, protozoa, tiny crustaceans or nematodes with their tiny tentacles.
- **Bryozoan Reproduction** - Asexual reproduction is the norm, through budding to form new animals, but sexual reproduction does take place.
- **Bryozoans Life Cycle** - A single zooid can attach to something in the water and reproduce by budding, building a colony that looks like the blob you see. Some die off in the winter, with just a few individuals surviving to start a new colony in the spring.
- **Bryozoans Problems** - These blobs may look and feel bad, but they actually indicate good water quality.
- **Jelly Blobs or Bryozoans** are common and do not cause problems. They indicate good water quality. These tiny animals that are similar to corals should not bother you, unless they are on your dock ladders and ropes.



