

Axopodial degradation by arsenic ions and pH in the heliozoon
Raphidiophrys contractilis

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In this study, we have observed the effect of pH and arsenic ions on the heliozoon *Raphidiophrys contractilis*. In the presence of arsenic ions and pH variations, this heliozoon shows different sensitivities; axopodial degradation is one of these. Most organisms have adapted to life in water of a specific pH, and may die if the pH changes even slightly. At extremely high or low pH values the water becomes unsuitable for most organisms. The accumulation of trace elements, such as arsenic, in the environment is a potential risk to human health due to their transfer in aquatic systems. It is important to monitor and ensure the quality of our aquatic environments. The heliozoon *R. contractilis* might be used as a bio-indicator to monitor and assess water quality.