

# Cell aggregation of the ciliate *Euplotes aediculatus* in a starved condition

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## SUMMARY

*Euplotes aediculatus* in Petri dish cultures was found to show cell clustering in starved conditions. During the initial stage of cell clustering, cells became excluded from patches of small "windows", with dead *Euplotes* cells frequently located in the center. Cell clusters were finally formed by enlargement and integration of the cell-free windows, enclosing cells into small areas. In fact, *E. aediculatus* cells that had been killed by freezing induced avoidance responses of the same species. The factor was water-soluble and heat-resistant. A similar avoidance response was also induced by dead cells of some other protozoan species such as other ciliates and *Peranema*, but not by *Amoeba*, *Euglena*, or a species of fungi.