

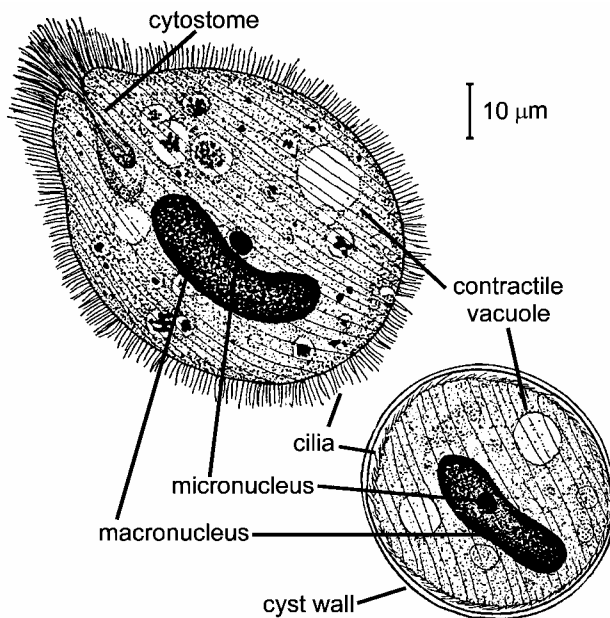
## *Balantidium coli* Handout

### **CILIATES**

- *Balantidium coli* only ciliate infecting humans
- large and diverse group
- majority are free-living
- covered with rows of cilia
- defining characteristic is nuclear dimorphism
  - micronucleus (genetic)
  - macronucleus (somatic)
- sexual reproduction involving conjugation

### ***Balantidium coli***

- world-wide distribution
  - especially prevalent in tropics
  - rarely exceeds 1%
- common in pigs and monkeys
  - unlikely to be reservoirs
- usually non-pathogenic commensal in large intestine
- can invade intestinal epithelium and cause ulceration with dysentery-like symptoms



### **BALANTIDOSIS**

- aka, balantidiasis, balantidial dysentery
- symptoms: acute diarrhea with mucus and blood, cramps
- diagnosis: identify cyst or trophozoite in feces
- treatment: tetracycline or iodoquinol
- prevention: same as other fecal-oral diseases