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class : Deg - 1 (Hons.)

Paper : I (Group: A - Algae)

Chapter : Chlorophyceae (Chara)

Topic : Chara (Continued)

Lecture No. - 26

Chara : Reproduction

- The chara plant normally reproduces sexually and sometimes vegetatively.
- Asexual reproduction by means of asexual spores is not known to take place.
- Vegetative reproduction is usually brought about by (a) bulbils - small masses of cells, usually spherical or star-shaped, formed on the stem, at the node or on the rhizoid, and (b) Protonema like outgrowths formed at the nodes.

Sexual Reproduction:

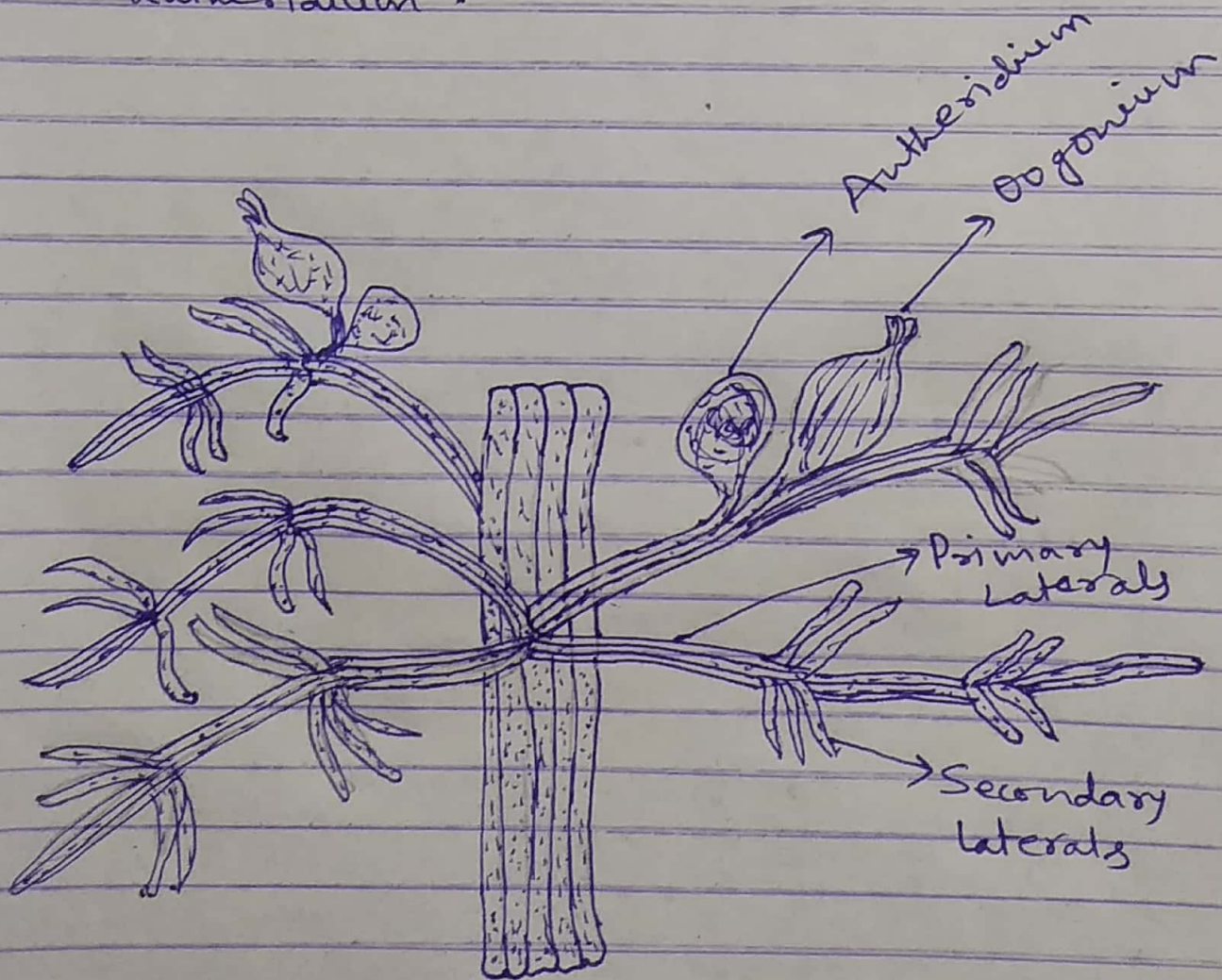
Chara always reproduces sexually.

Sexual reproduction is oogamous.

The sex organs are large and highly specialized and complicated in structure.

The male sex organ is a large, round, bright yellow or red structure, called antheridium (or bilobule).

- The female sex organ or Oogonium, also called nucule is a large, oval body covered with a multicellular envelope.
- Most of the species of chara is homothallic but a few are heterothallic. The former are protandrous.
- The orange or red antheridia and the oval oogonia lie in pairs at the upper nodes of primary laterals.
- The oogonium always lies above the antheridium.



(Fig: A branch of chara showing the position of sex organs)

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