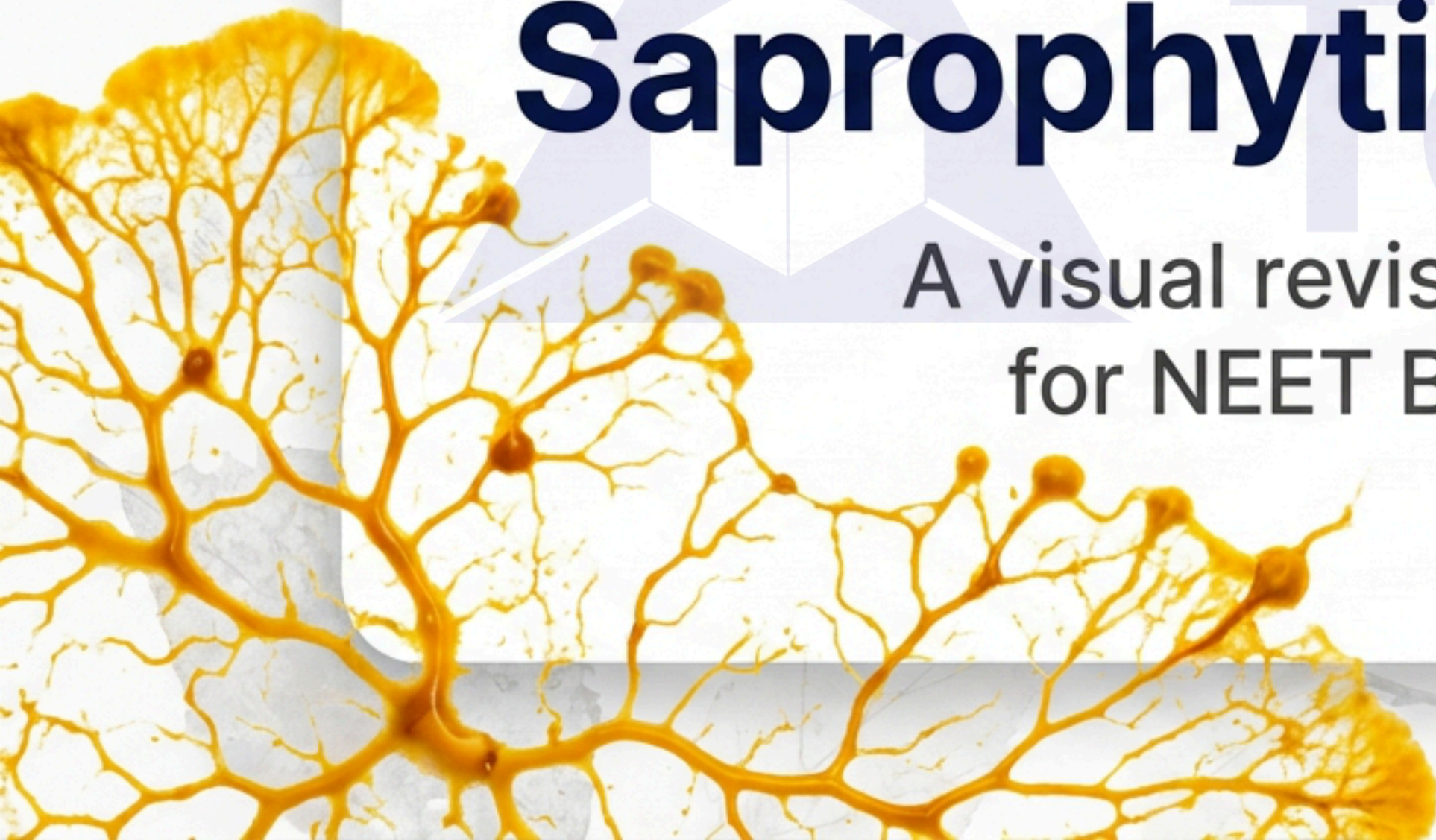


Kingdom: Protista

Slime Moulds: Saprophytic Protists

A visual revision guide
for NEET Biology.





The Saprophytic Lifestyle

Slime moulds are exclusively saprophytic. They do not produce their own food, nor do they hunt living prey.

Nutrition Mode:
Feed on decaying organic matter.

Distinct from photosynthetic or parasitic protists.

Movement & Engulfment



1. **Locomotion:** The body creeps actively along damp, decaying surfaces.

2. **Consumption:** It physically engulfs organic material as it moves.

Action: Phagocytosis / Engulfing organic debris.



**You've Learned the Theory.
Let's Test Them Now.**

$$E=mc^2$$



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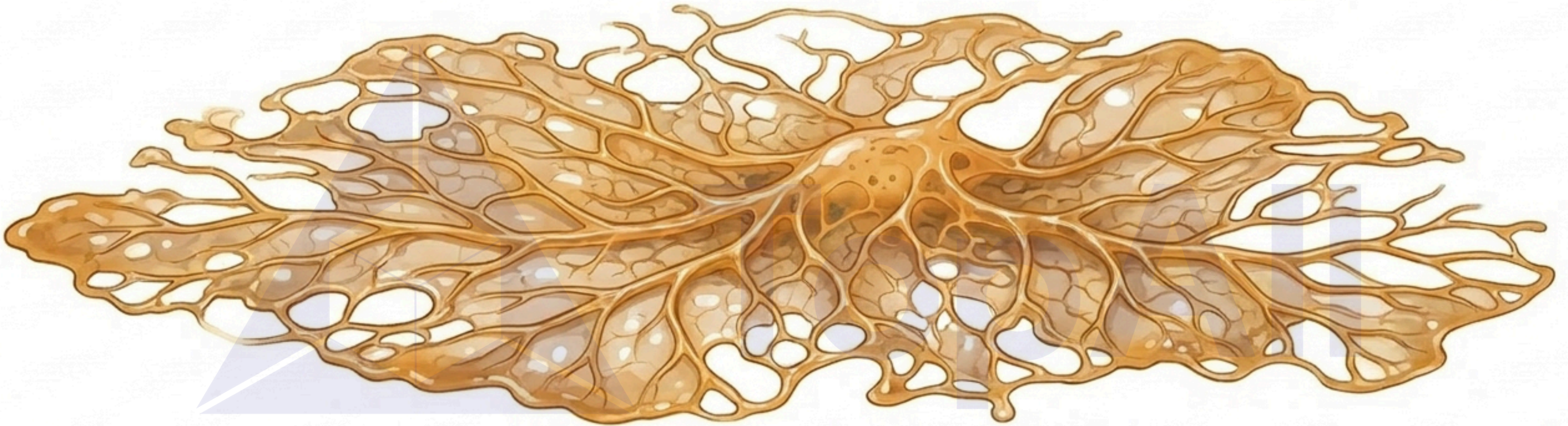
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Phase 1: Suitable Conditions

Favorable Environment
(Abundant moisture & food)



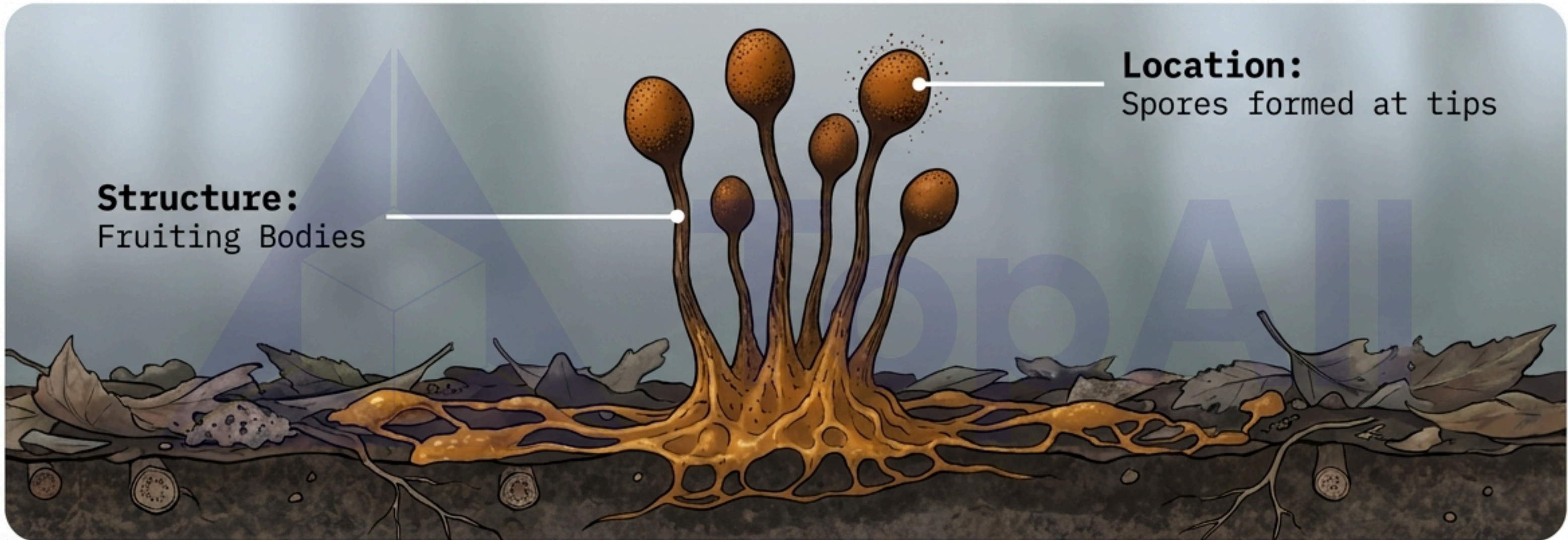
Several Feet

When conditions are optimal, individual cells fuse to form a massive, multinucleate aggregation. May grow and spread over several feet across the forest floor.

Formation: Plasmodium

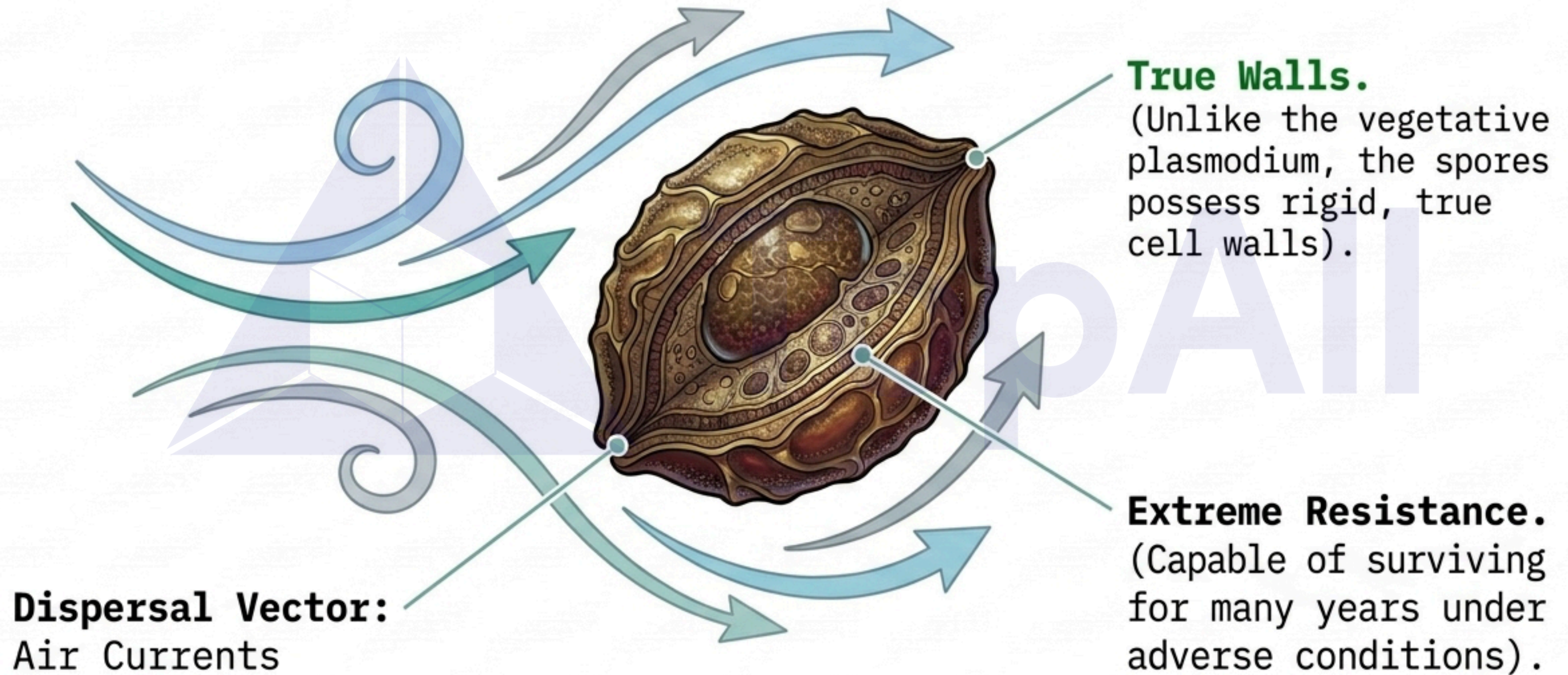
Phase 2: Unfavourable Conditions

Environmental Stress
(Lack of food/moisture)



The plasmodium differentiates to ensure species survival.

The Anatomy of Survival: Spores



True Walls.

(Unlike the vegetative plasmodium, the spores possess rigid, true cell walls).

Extreme Resistance.

(Capable of surviving for many years under adverse conditions).

Dispersal Vector:
Air Currents

Lifecycle Synthesis & Review

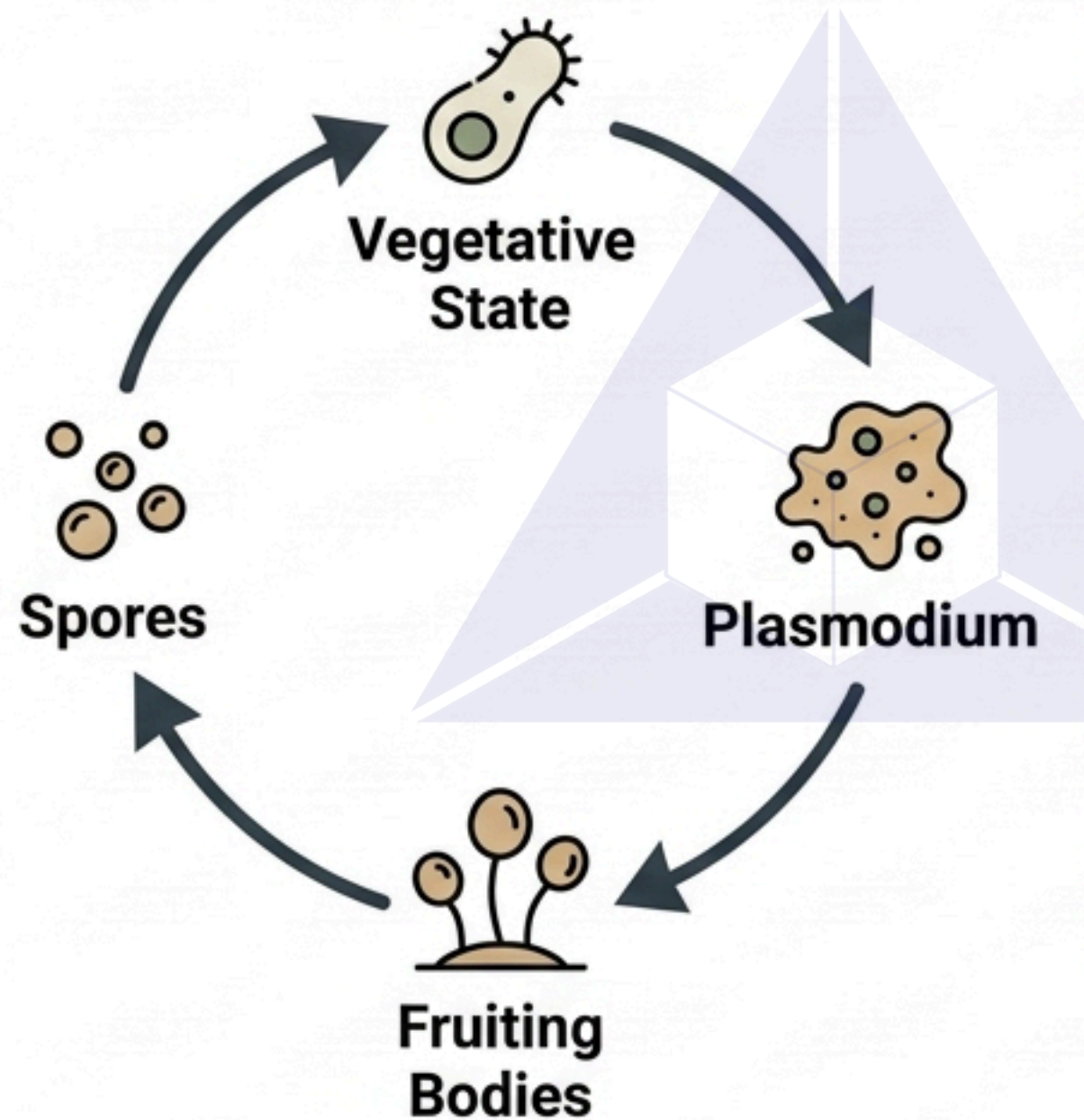


Fig 2.4(c): Slime mould

Key Takeaways

NEET ALERTS:

1. **Nutrition:** Exclusively saprophytic.
2. **Triggers:** Suitable = Plasmodium | Unfavourable = Fruiting Bodies.
3. **Spore Anatomy:** Spores possess **true walls** (highly resistant, air-dispersed).



You've Learned the Theory.

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