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Front cover illustration

Scanning electron micrograph of an *Achromatium oxaliferum* cell from a freshwater sediment. The sample was fixed by freeze-spraying. The cell envelope has shrunk to reveal intracellular calcite inclusions. Initial constriction of the cell prior to cell division is evident. The organism is approximately 80 µm in length. Photograph taken by Ken J. Clarke, IFE, Windermere, and supplied by Ian Head, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. See the paper by Head and others in this issue, pp. 2341–2354.

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