



“THE BOTTOM DROPPED OUT OF MY BARGE!”

This was the problem someone recently faced. When we heard about it we were sympathetic, for the barge in question was a houseboat, and most of the owner's worldly goods had vanished in the catastrophe.

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These anaerobic organisms, first described in 1895 by Beijerinck, are capable of reducing sulphates to sulphides. Their activities, often accompanied by the production of hydrogen sulphide, may result in the corrosion of buried iron pipes and the steel hulls of barges.

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*Electron micrograph:
desulphovibrio
desulphuricans*



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