

A curiosity is also the occurrence of an endemic neotenic salamander species described as *Ambystoma subsalsum* (Taylor 1943), which later was re-classified as *Ambystoma taylori* (Brandon et al. 1981; Flores-Vilella 1993).

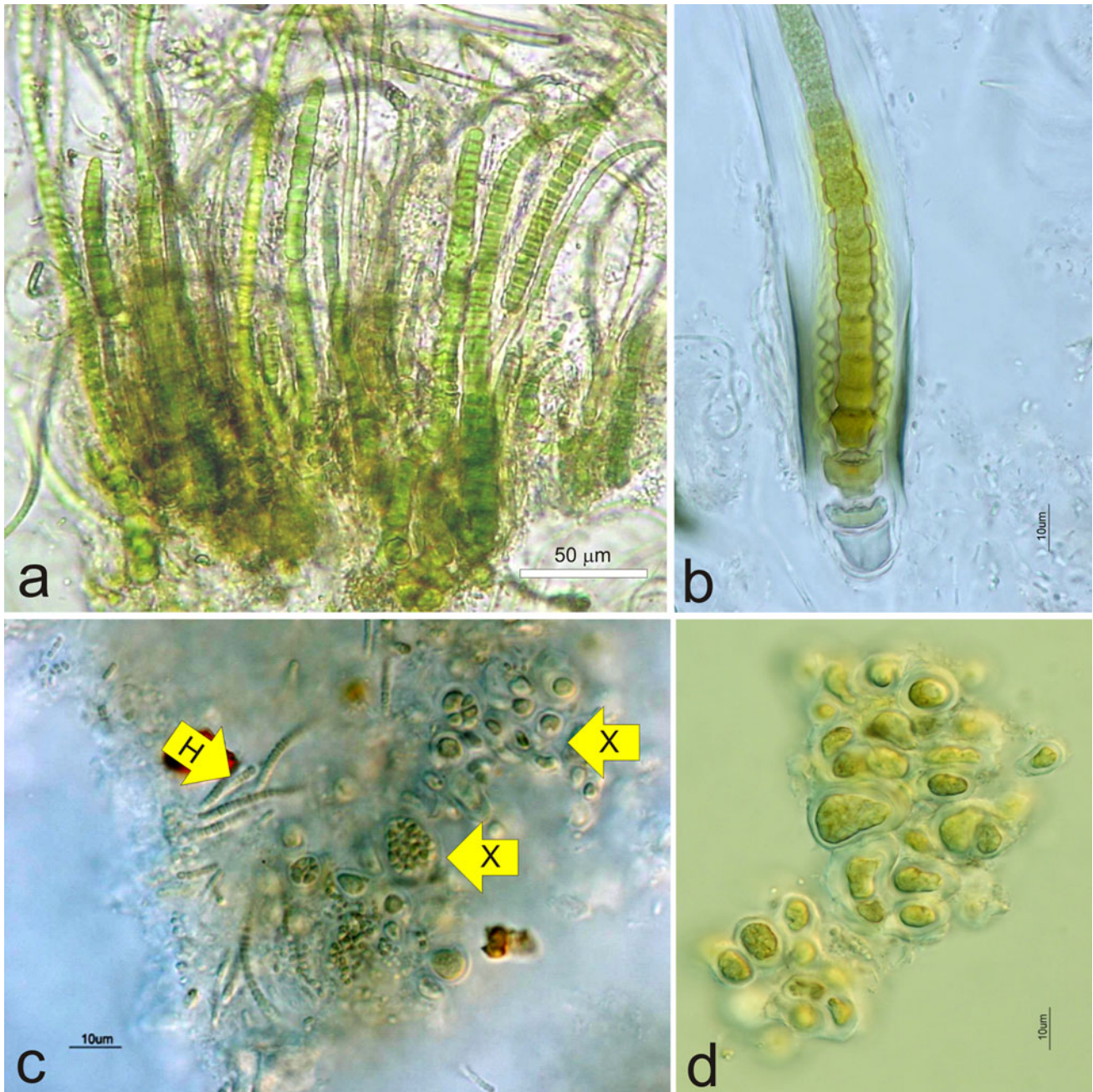
#### Aquatic macrophytes

According to Ramirez-Garcia and Novelo (1984) and Ramirez-García and Vázquez-Gutiérrez (1989), two species

of macrophytes have been identified in Alchichica, these are: *Rupia maritima* and *Cyperus laevigatus*.

#### Molecular characterization of the cyanobacterial diversity

The taxonomy of the microbialite-associated cyanobacteria was determined (in addition to the classical morphological method—see results by Tavera and Komárek (1996) and examples on Fig. 5) by molecular analyses based on the



**Fig. 5** Examples of characteristic phototrophic microorganisms composing the shallow water mats. **a, b** *Rivularia* sp. **c** *Heteroleibleinia profunda* (arrow H), *Xenococcus candelariae* (arrows X). **d** Ulvophycidae s.l.