



FIGURE 22.3. Microsporidians are intracellular parasites that have lost many of the basic features of eukaryotes: Their genome is smaller than in many bacteria, and they have lost much basic metabolism (see p. 198). They lack mitochondria, but their nuclear genome contains many mitochondrion-derived genes. Although originally thought to be distantly related to other eukaryotes, microsporidians are in fact highly modified fungi. The figure shows *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* within a human host cell.

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