

Tapeworms

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Platyhelminthes

Class: Cestoda

Subclasses: Eucestoda



For Further details [Link](#)

Habit and habitat

Bile Ducts: The adult flukes reside in the bile ducts and liver of their primary hosts.

Freshwater Environments: The intermediate snail hosts live in freshwater habitats such as slow-flowing rivers, streams, and marshy areas

Endoparasitic: Tapeworms are endoparasites, meaning they live inside the body of their host.

Intestinal Dwelling: Adult tapeworms primarily reside in the small intestine of their definitive host, attaching to the intestinal lining using their scolex (head).

Nutrient Absorption: They absorb nutrients from the host's digested food through their body wall.

Reproduction: Tapeworms reproduce sexually, producing eggs that are shed in the host's feces.

Characteristics

- They are triploblastic, acoelomate, and bilaterally symmetrical.
- They may be free-living or parasites.
- The body has a soft covering with or without cilia.
- Their body is dorsoventrally flattened without any segments and appears like a leaf.
- They are devoid of the anus and circulatory system but have a mouth.
- They respire by simple diffusion through the body surface.
- They have an organ level of organization.
- They do not have a digestive tract
- The space between the body wall and organs is filled with connective tissue parenchyma which helps in transporting the food material.
- They are hermaphrodites, i.e., both male and female organs are present in the same body.
- They reproduce sexually by fusion of gametes and asexually by regeneration by fission and regeneration. Fertilization is internal.
- The life cycle is complicated with one or more larval stages.
- They possess the quality of regeneration.
- The flame cells help in excretion and osmoregulation.
- The nervous system comprises the brain and two longitudinal nerve cords arranged in a ladder-like fashion.