

Arenicola

Classification:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Annelida

Class: Polychaeta

Subclass: Sedentaria

Family: Arenicolidae

Genus: Arenicola



For Further details [link](#)

Habit and Habitat:

Arenicola marina (the lugworm), refers to its burrowing behavior in sandy beaches.

Lugworms live in burrows, typically in the intertidal zone, where they feed on organic matter in the sand

Characters and distribution

- It is a brownish green burrowing and tubicolous marine polychaete.
- Commonly called 'lug worm' and is found in muddy regions along Mediterranean and European shores.
- It forms "U" shaped burrows which are lined internally with mucus.
- Body cylindrical, vermiform, metamerically segmented and measures about 15 cm. The segments are annulate and without appendages.
- Head not distinct and peristomium and prostomium are distinct and without appendages.
- Body is divisible into three distinct regions i.e., the anterior, middle & posterior. The anterior region comprises of trilobed prostomium, triannulate prostomium and 6 segments which are chaetigerous. The prostomium is without eyes and tentacles. Each segment bears rudimentary, parapodia which comprises a notopodium and a neuropodium. The neuropodial setae are modified into cirri.
- Segments are annulate, peristomium without appendages and pharynx is protrusible and papillate.
- The middle region comprises of 13 segments. Each segment bears a pair of neuropodium and branched gills.
- Posterior region bears indefinite number of segments which are all devoid of parapodia and gills.
- Anus terminal and parapodium comprises of a notopodium and a neuropodium. The neuropodial setae are modified into uncini.
- Nephridia six pairs and the worm is commonly used as fish bait.