TOPIC: ANIMAL KIMGDOM PART-V:PHYLUMS: ECHINODERMATA AND CHORDATA

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Phylum Echinodermata

(i) The term "Echinodermata" means spiny skin (Gr., *echinos* = spiny + *dermatos* = skin).



Salient features:

- (1) Echinoderms are exclusively marine beings.
- (2) They are triplobalstic and coelomate animals.
- (3) They have radially symmetrical body.
- (4) They have organ system grade of organization.

(5) They have well developed

(6) They have a water–vascular system with tube–feet for locomotion, feeding and respiration.

- (7) Circulatory system is of the open-type.
- (8) The sensory organs are poorly developed.
- (9) The excretory organs are absent.
- (10) They have pedicellariae.
- (11) Development is indirect.
- (12) The larval forms are bilaterally symmetrical.

Classification of Echinodermata

Subphylum I - Eleutherozoa : Free-living echinoderms

Class 1 - Asteroidea

- Starfishes or sea stars.
- Arms 5 or more and not sharply marked off from the central disc.
- Tube feet in orally placed ambulacral grooves; with suckers.
- Anus and madreporite aboral.
- Pedicellariae present.
- Free-living, slow-creeping, predaceous and scavengerous.

Class 2 - Ophiuroidea

- Brittle-stars and allies.
- Body star-like with arms sharply marked off from the central disc.
- Pedicellariae absent.
- Stomach sac-like; no anus.
- Ambulacral grooves absent or covered by ossicles; tube feet without suckers.

• Madreporite oral.

Class 3 - Echinoidea

- Body not divided into arms; globular (sea urchins), or flattened disc-like (sea-cakes).
- Mouth at lower pole, covered by 5 strong and sharp teeth, forming a biting and chewing apparatus called "Aristotle's Lantern".
- Tube-feet slender with suckers.
- Skin ossicles fused to form a rigid globular, disc like, or heart-shaped shell or test with movable spines.
- 3–jawed pedicellariae present in skin.
- Gut long, slender and coiled.
- Larval forms pluteus and Echinopluteus.
- Examples Sea urchins and sand dollars etc.

Class 4 - Holothuroidea

- Body massive, long and cylindrical like a cucumber
- Mouth at anterior and anus at posterior ends.
- Mouth surrounded by many hollow retractile tentacles.
- Tube feet usually present; sucker-like.
- Skin leathery, but relatively soft, without spines or pedicellariae; may have an endoskeleton of minute calcareous ossicles.
- Respiration and excretion by two long and highly branched tubes (= respiratory tree) extending into coelom from cloaca.
- Larval form Auricularia.
- Examples Holothuria, Cucumaria etc.
- Subphylum II Pelmatozoa: Stalked, sedentary echinoderms.

Class 5 - Crinoidea

• Body flattened and pentamerous.

- Disc enclosed in a hard, cup–shaped calyx formed of calcareous plates.
- Mouth in middle and anus excentral upon a cone, both upon oral surface.
- Tube feet sucker–like; restricted to central disc; can help in food–collection.
- Some forms (sea-lilies) permanently sessile and attached to sea-bottom by a long stalk; others (feather stars) free-swimming.
- Spines and pedicellariae absent in skin.
- Examples Sea lilies and Feather stars (Antedon)

Phylum Chordata

Superclass Pisces

<u>Class 1 - Chondrichthyes (Cartilaginous Fishes)</u>



(1) Mostly marine and predaceous.

(2) Body fusiform or spindle shaped.

(3) Fins both median and paired, all supported by fin rays.

(4) Skin tough containing minute placoid scales and mucous glands.

(5) Endoskeleton entirely cartilaginous, without true bones

(6) Notochord persistent.

(7) Respiration by 5 to 7 pairs of gills.

(8) Heart 2-chambered (1 auricle and 1 ventricle).

(9) Kidneys opisthonephric. Excretion is ureotelic.

(10) Brain with large olfactory lobes and cerebellum. Cranial nerves 10 pairs.

Class 2 - Osteichthyes (Bony fishes)

General Characters:-

(1) Inhabit all sorts of water-fresh, brackish or salt; warm or cold.

(2) Body spindle-shaped and streamlined.

(3) Fins both median and paired, supported by fin rays of cartilage or bone.

(4) Skin with many mucous glands, usually with embedded dermal scales of 3 types; ganoid, cycloid or ctenoid.

(5) Endoskeleton chiefly of bone.



(6) Respiration by 4 pairs of gills on body gill arches

(7) Ventral heart 2-chambered (1 auricle + 1 ventricle).

(8) Adult kidneys mesonephric. Excretion is ureotelic.

(9) Brain with very small olfactory lobes, small cerebrum and well developed optic lobes and cerebellum.

(10) Well developed lateral line system.

Class Amphibia

General characters:-

(1) Aquatic or semi aquatic (freshwater), air and water breathing, carnivorous, cold–blooded, oviparous, tetrapod vertebrates.

(2) Head distinct, trunk elongated. Neck and tail may be present or absent.

(3) Pigment cells (chromatophores) present.



(5) Endoskeleton mostly bony. Notochord does not persist. Skull with 2 occipital condyles.

- (6) Respiration by lungs, skin and mouth lining.
- (7) Heart 3-chambered (2 auricles + 1 ventricle).
- (8) Kidneys mesonephric. Excretion is ureotelic.
- (9) Brain poorly developed. Cranial nerves 10 pairs.
- (10) Nostrils connected to buccal cavity.

Class Reptilia

General characters:-

(1) Predominantly terrestrial, creeping or burrowing.

(2) Body bilaterally symmetrical and divisible into 4 regionshead, neck, trunk and tail.

(3) Limbs 2 pairs, pentadactyle.

(4) Exoskeleton of horny epidermal scales, shields, plates and scutes.

(5) Skin dry, cornified and devoid of glands.

(6) Alimentary canal terminates into a cloacal aperture.

(7) Endoskeleton bony. Skull is with one occipital condyle (monocondylar).

(8) Heart usually 3-chambered, 4-chambered in crocodiles.

(9) Respiration by lungs throughout life.

(10) Kidney metanephric. Excretion is uricotelic.