## **TOPIC: PLATYHELMINTHES: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS(II)**

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#### Order - Rhabdocoela

Small, usually less than 3mm.

Simple pharynx and sac-like intestine.

Proto-nephridial excretory system.

One or two gonads.

Yolk gland present or absent.

Marine, freshwater or terrestrial forms.

Free-living, commensal or parasitic forms.

**Order –**Rhabdocoela classified into following suborder:-

#### Suborder-Notandropora

Exclusively fresh water forms.

Pharynx simple.

Testis single compact mass, penis unarmed.

Yolk glands absent.

Asexual fission occurs with formation of chains of zooids. E.g. *Catenula* 

#### Suborder-Opisthandropora

Marine or freshwater forms. Testis compact and penis unarmed.

Yolk glands absent. Found paired nephridia. Eg. Macrostomum and Microstomum.

## Suborder-Lecithopora

Marine or freshwater and terrestrial forms. Pharynx bulbose. Separate ovaries. Yolk glands present. Mostly free living. Reproduction sexual. *E.g.* Mesostoma.

#### Suborder- Temnocephalida

Freshwater ecto-commensal forms. Pharynx dolii form. Simple gonopore. Eg. Temnoceph ala.

# **Order - Alloecoela**

Moderate- sized, between 1and 10 mm. Pharynx simple, bulbous or plicate. Intestine straight or branched. Proto-nephridia paired, usually branched. Testes numerous. Penis papilla mostly present. Mostly marine, common in littoral sand and mud. Some freshwater and brakishwater forms.

Order – Alloecoela divided into four suborders.

### Suborders- Archopora

Marine forms. Pharynx plicate. Female reproductive organ primitive. Male copulatory apparatus. *Eg. Proporoplana.* 

# Suborder-Lecithoepitheliata

Marine or freshwater and terrestrial forms. Pharynx simple or bulbose. Female ducts simple Yolk glands absent. *Eg. Prorhynchus and Geocentrophora.* Suborder- Cumulata

Marine or freshwater forms. Pharynx plicate or bulbose. Penis unarmed. Yolk glands present. *Eg- Hypotrichina.* 

### Suborder- Seriata

**Several** Marine forms but some freshwater forms. Pharynx plicate.

Intestine usually with lateral diverticula.

Statocyst mostly present.

Female reproductive system consists of separate ovaries.

Yolk glands present. *Eg. Otoplana.* 

# Order - Tricladida

This is large size turbellarians.

Size 2 to 60 cm in length.

Mouth mid-ventral, pharynx plicate and intestine with three branches, each with many diverticula. Proto-nephridia as lateral networks with many nephridiopores. Testes numerous, ovaries two. Yolk glands present Marine, freshwater or terrestrial forms. Order – Tricladida divided into three suborders:-

# Suborder- Maricola

Exclusively marine forms. A pair of eyes. Typical penis papilla. Only sexual reproduction. *Eg. - Ectoplana.* 

# Suborder- Plaudicola.

Mostly freshwater and some brackish water forms. Eyes two to many or some time completely absent. Sexual reproduction shows. *Eg. Planaria* 

# Suborder- Terricola

Terrestrial, tropical and subtropical forms. Body elongated. Eyes more than two. Bursa absent. Asexual reproduction shows. *Eg. Bipalium.* 

# Order - Polycladida

Moderate-sized, 2 to 20 mm. Pharynx plicate. Intestine highly branched. Gonads many, scattered. Yolk glands absent. Male and female gonopores separate. Marine, many bottom dwellers of littoral zone. Order – Polycladida classified into two sub order:-

## Suborder-Acotylea

Pharynx vertical. Sucker absent. Tentacles nuchal type. Eyes absent. *Eg. Notoplana.* 

#### Suborder-Cotylea

