

# ASCARIS LUMBRICOIDES

Q. Describe the external feature and life cycle of *Ascaris lumbricoides*

Ans - *Ascaris lumbricoides*, commonly known as round worm or eel worm is a common endoparasite of the small intestine of human, lying freely in the lumen.

The body is elongated cylindrical, pointed at both ends. The female is about 20-40 cm in length and about 2 to 2.5 cm in diameter. The male is about 15-30 cm in length. Male and female can be distinguishable by the characteristics, male has curved tail where as female has straight tail. The male has a cloacal aperture. Two chitinous penial setae project from the cloaca.

The body wall consists of smooth elastic cuticle. The body surface are marked by narrow white lines. There are four longitudinal line, a dorsal, a ventral and two lateral lines.

The mouth is situated anterior tip of the body. It is bounded by three lips one median dorsal and two ventro lateral. Each lip has three labial papillae, one single and two double. These are tangoreceptor. Other head sense organ is absent.

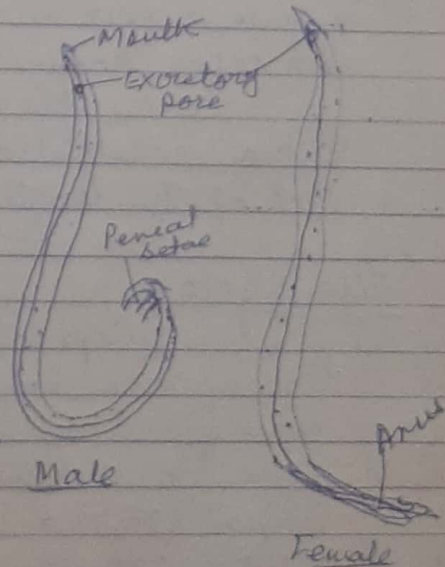
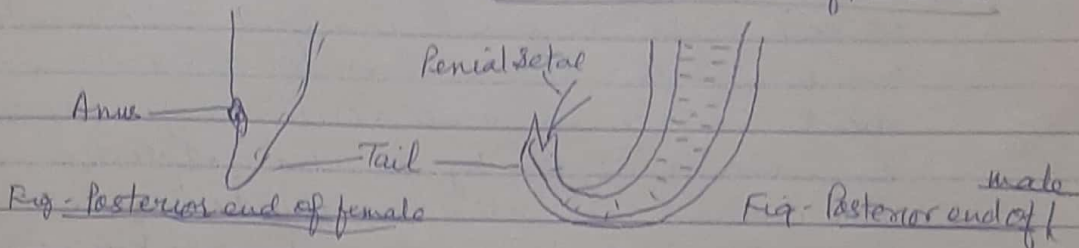
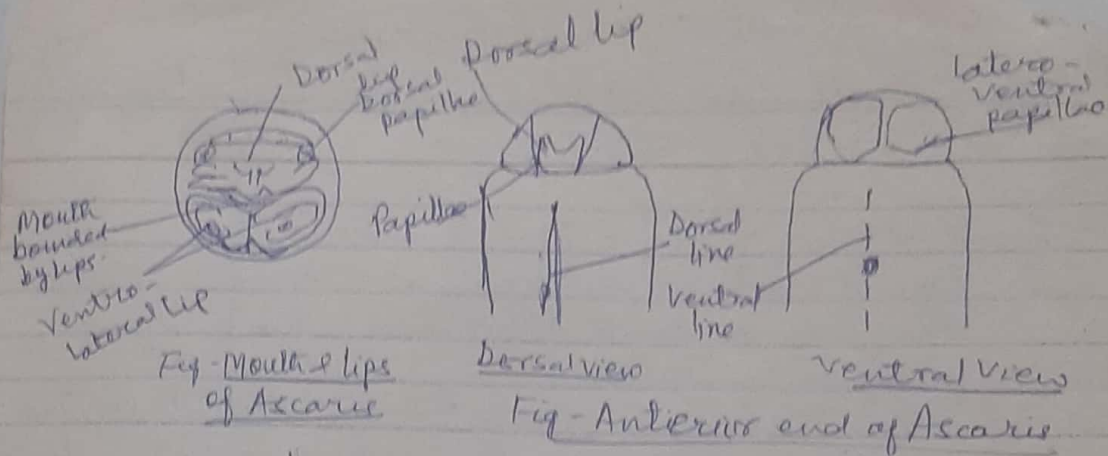


Fig - *Ascaris lumbricoides*

The excretory pore is a minute aperture on the ventral side about 2 mm from the anterior end.



In male anterior to cloacal aperture there are 60 pairs of precloacal papillae and posterior to cloacal aperture there are five pairs of papillae are present they are also called phasmids. The female has an anus a little in front of posterior end. In male a pair of chitinous needle called penial setae project from cloacal aperture. In the female, the genital aperture or vulva is situated on the ventral surface, about  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the length of body from anterior end.

### Life Cycle:

Copulation takes place in the intestine of man. Eggs are fertilized into the upper part of uterus. About 15,000 to 200,000 eggs are released per day. According to Gram (1925) a single female can produce 27,00,000 eggs during its life.

In the process of copulation male thrust its penial setae into gonopore or