

LIFE CYCLE OF AURELIA

In Aurelia sexes are separate. But there is no sexual dimorphism. The gonads are horse-shoe shaped, endodermal in origin and located on the floor of the gastric pouches.

The eggs are fertilized in the gastric pouches. Hence fertilization is internal. Development takes place in the oral arms or stolon or stomach or gastric pouches. Development is indirect.

Blastula: The fertilized egg is called zygote. It divides repeatedly. The divi is called cleavage. The cleavage leads to the formation of a hollow ball of cells. This hollow ball is called blastula. The cavity of blastula is called blastocoel.

Gastrula: The blastula soon invaginates to produce a double walled cup-like structure called gastrula. The two layers of the gastrula are the ectoderm and endoderm. The cavity of gastrula is called archenteron. It open to the outside by an opening called blastopore. The gastrula elongates and develop into planula larva.

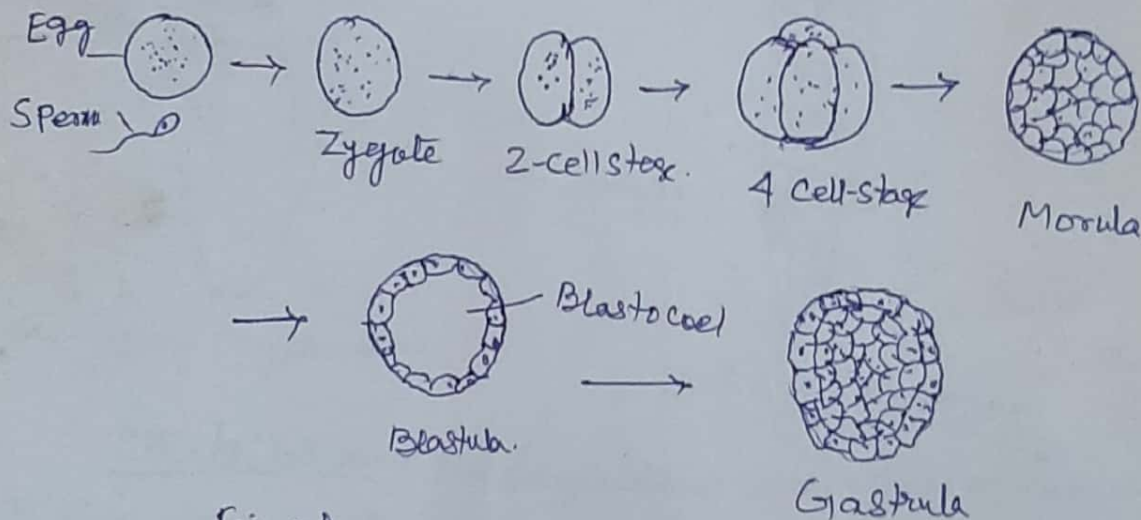


Fig. Cleavage in Aurelia, Blastula and Gastrula.

Planula: It is a free swimming larva. It is cylindrical ^{in shape}. It develop from gastrula. It is covered by cilia. It has a coelenteron and two layer of cells, ectoderm and endoderm. After a short free swimming life, the planula lose its cilia and become attached to the substratum to develop into the next larva called Scyphistoma.

OBELIA

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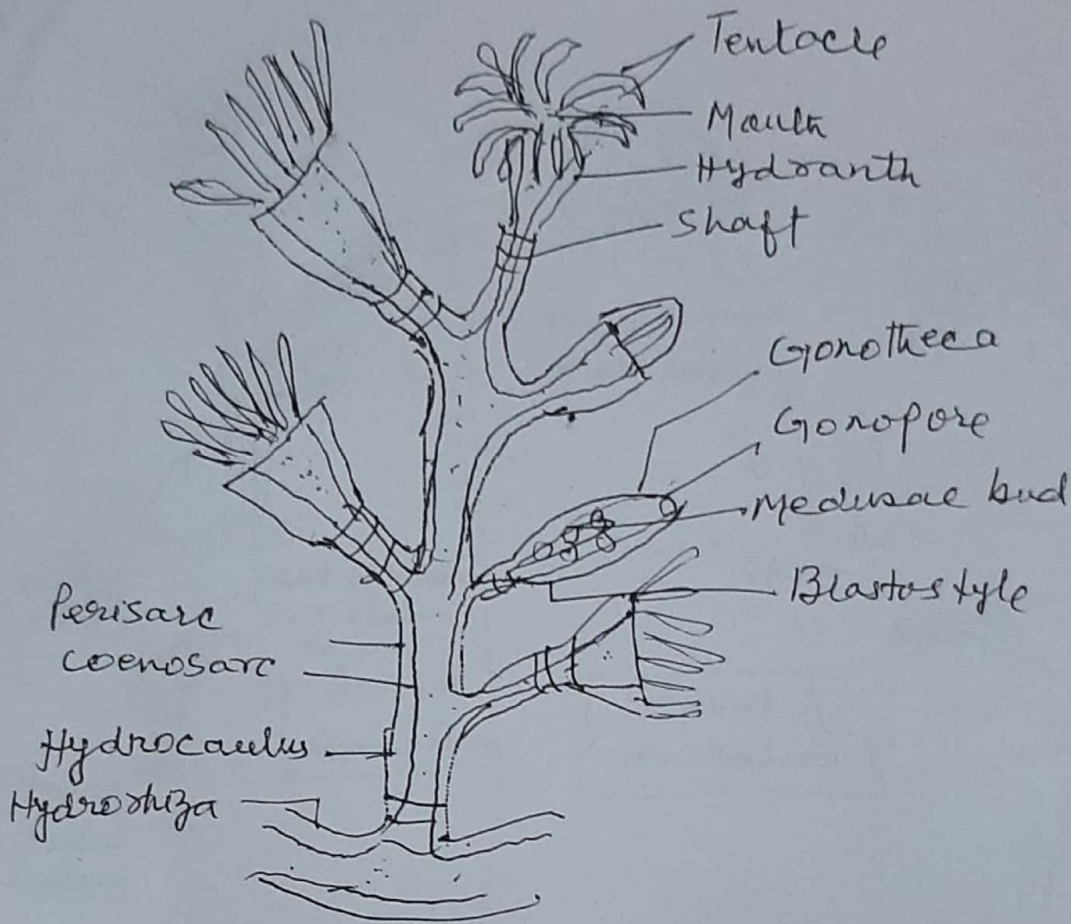


Fig. Obelia Colony

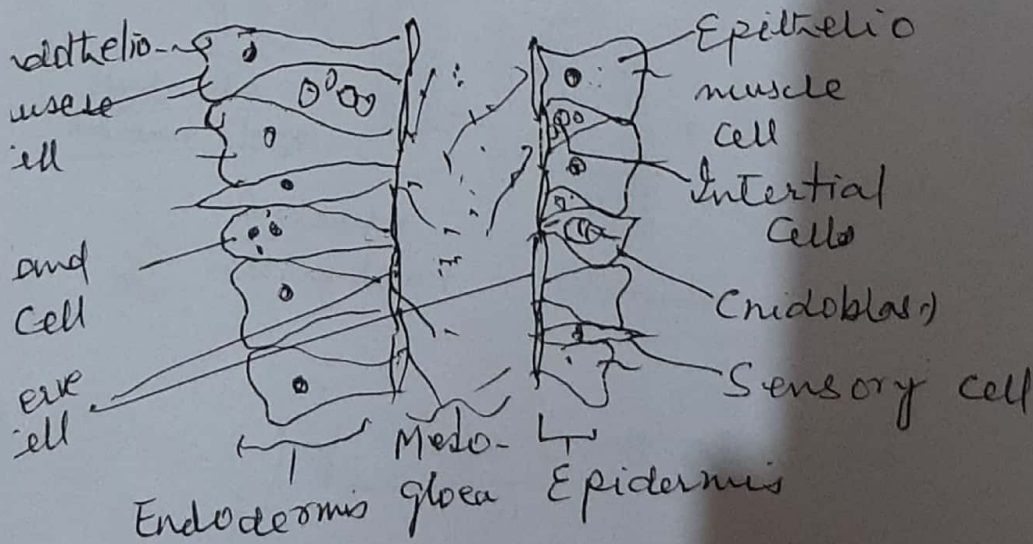


Fig. T.S. of Body wall of obelia

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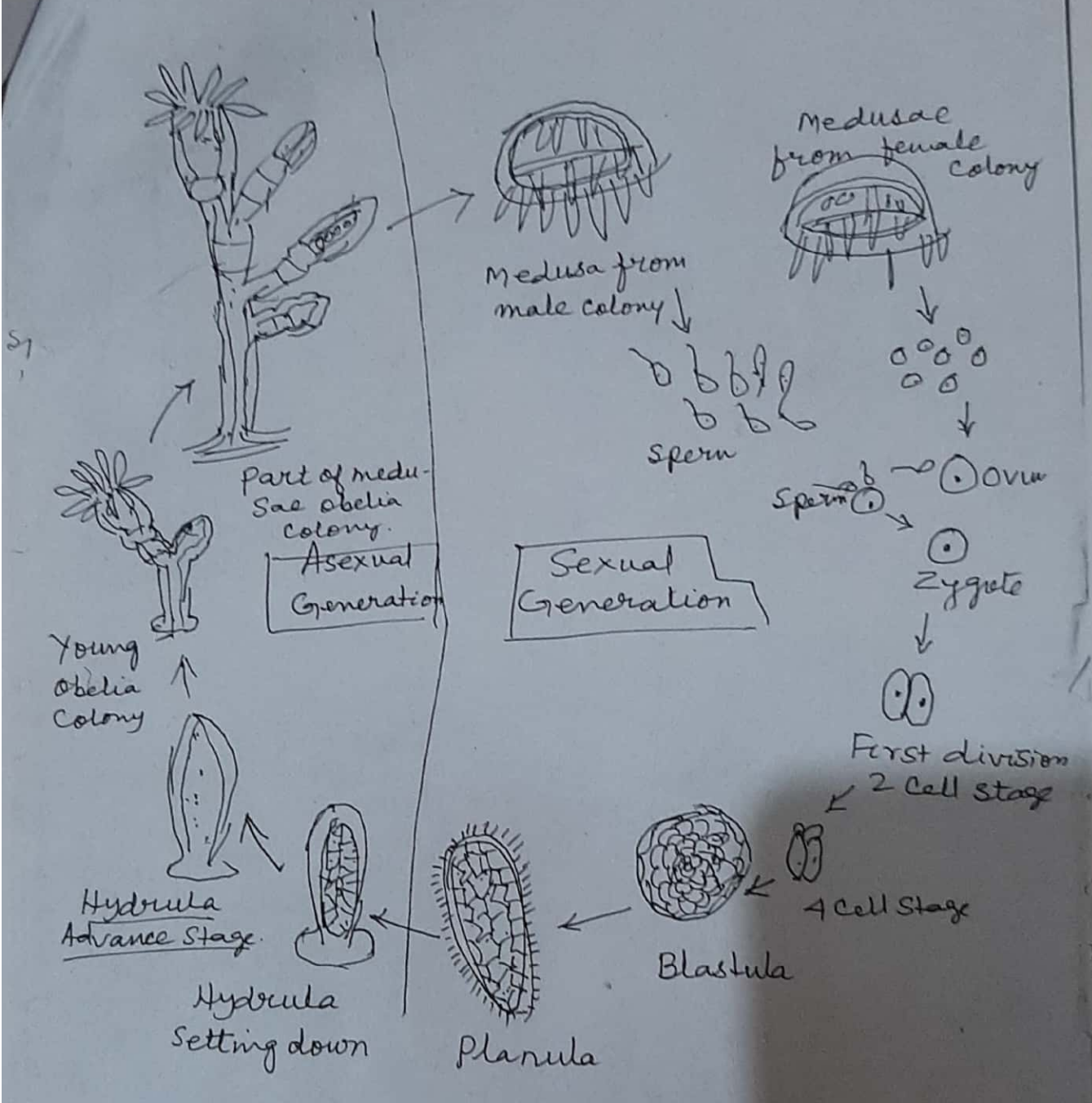


Fig. Life cycle of obelia.