

Fig. Planula larva

(2)

Scyphistoma: It develops from the planula larva. It is trumpet-shaped and it looks like a Hydra, hence it is also called hydratuba. It is a sedentary larva found attached to rocks with the help of basal disc. The free end bears a short manubrium. The manubrium bears a square-shaped mouth. The mouth is surrounded by tentacles.

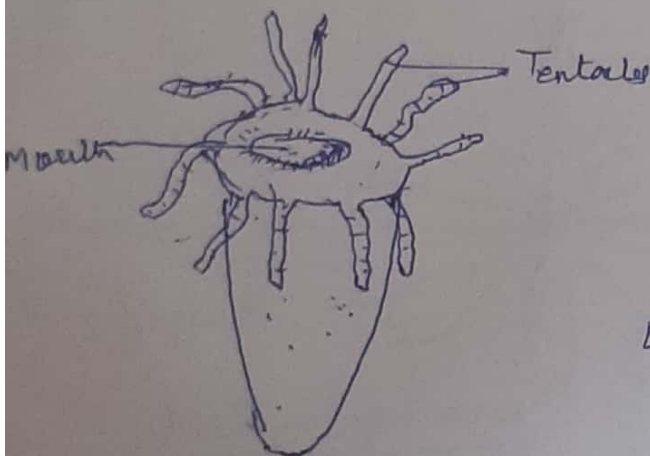
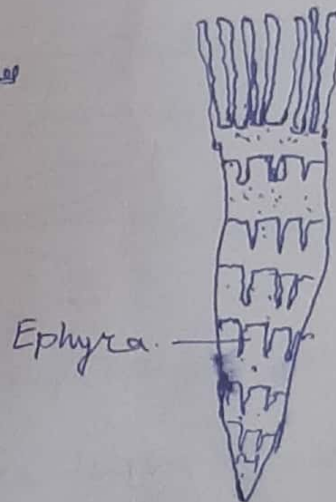


Fig. Young Scyphistoma

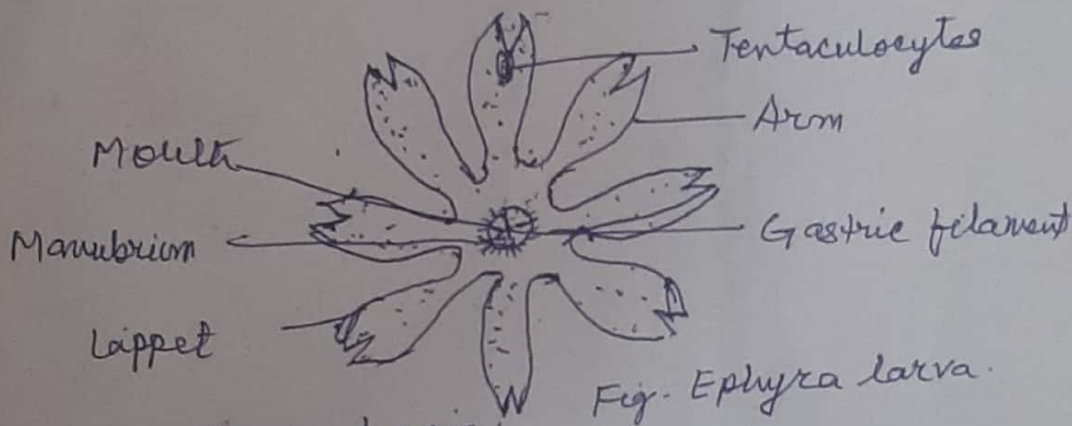


Scyphistoma

Strobilation: The Scyphistoma undergoes a process of transverse fission called Strobilation. The resulting individual is called ephyra larva. They are arranged one above the other. The Scyphistoma with many ephyra larvae is ^{called} ~~known~~ strobila. When fully matured, the ephyra larva gets separated and becomes a free swimming larva.

Ephyra larva: It develops from Scyphistoma by strobilation. It is a free swimming larva.

It is a medusoid form. It has a tetramerous symmetry. It is umbrella-shaped. It has eight bilobed arms. The tip of each arm has a notch with two marginal lappets. The notch contains a tentaculocyst. The centre of sub-umbrellar side has a short manubrium and a mouth. The gastrovascular system with gastric filament is present. The larva swims actively and feeds on minute organisms.



Metamorphosis:

The ephyra larva grows in size the space between the arms is filled up. Mesogloea increase in thickness. Four oral arms appear. The margin develops tentacles. Now the ephyra becomes an Aurelia.

Alternation of generations:

In the life history of Aurelia, sexual reproduction alternates with asexual reproduction this is called alternation of generation. Aurelia reproduces by sexual reproduction. The fertilized egg develop into ephyra larva by asexual reproduction by Scyphistoma. Scyphistoma represent asexual generation. Hence there is