

MUSEUM SPECIMENS AND SLIDES

1. *Balanoglossus*

Classification :

Phylum	...Hemichordata	→	Solitary, soft-bodied, coelomate with numerous gill-slits.
Class	...Enteropneusta	→	Alimentary canal straight, two rows of caeca.
Genus	... <i>Balanoglossus</i>		

Comments :

1. *Balanoglossus* (Fig. 19.1) is commonly known as acorn worm.

2. Body is soft and cylindrical having ciliated surface reaching a length of 10-50 cm.

3. The body is divisible into short conical proboscis, collar and a long trunk.

4. Proboscis has thick muscular walls and its cavity-proboscis coelom opens to the exterior by a proboscis pore.

5. Collar is short, muscular, cylinder-like, enclosing a pair of coelomic cavities (collar coelom) opening by a pair of collar pores on the dorsal surface.

6. Trunk is superficially ringed (devoid of segmentation). It is divisible into anterior branchio-genital region, a middle hepatic region and a posterior abdominal region.

7. In the branchio-genital region are present a pair of genital wings formed by internal gonads and a branchial groove having numerous paired gill-slits arranged into two rows.

8. In the hepatic region are present double rows of hepatic caeca.

9. Alimentary canal is straight and anus is present on the posterior end of the body.

10. Sexes are separate and fertilization is external.

11. Development includes a free-swimming pelagic larva, the tornaria.

Habit and habitat. *Balanoglossus* is a burrowing and exclusively marine animal. It is found in shallow waters between tide marks along the coasts of warm and temperate oceans.

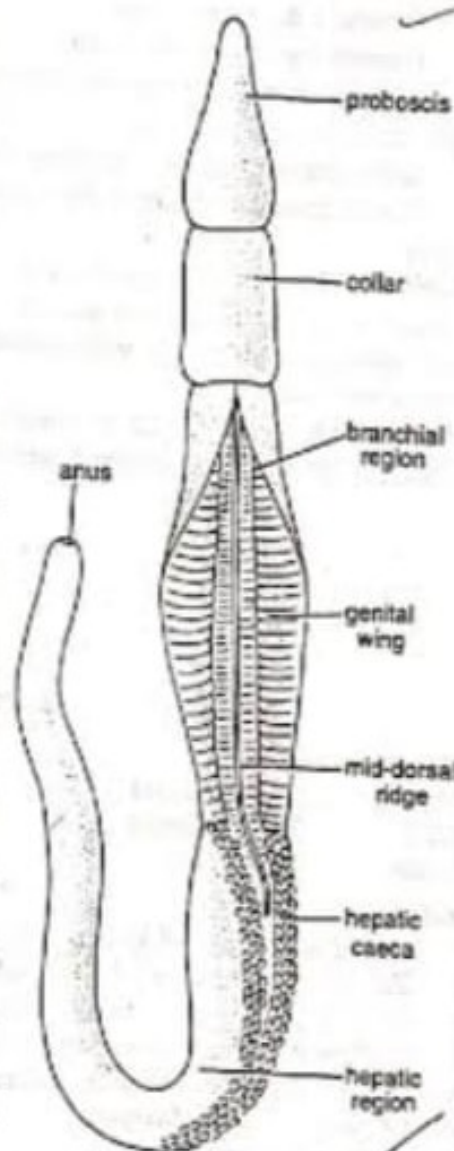


Fig. 19.1. *Balanoglossus*.