

Chapter 07

DIVERSITY IN LIVING ORGANISMS

ECHINODERMATA:

In Greek, *echinos* means hedgehog (spiny mammal), and *derma* means skin. These animals have an endoskeleton of calcareous ossicles and, hence, the name Echinodermata. All are marine with organ system level of organisation. The adult echinoderms are radially symmetrical but Larve are bilaterally symmetrical. They are triploblastic and coelomate animals.

Digestive system is complete with mouth on the lower side and anus on the upper side.

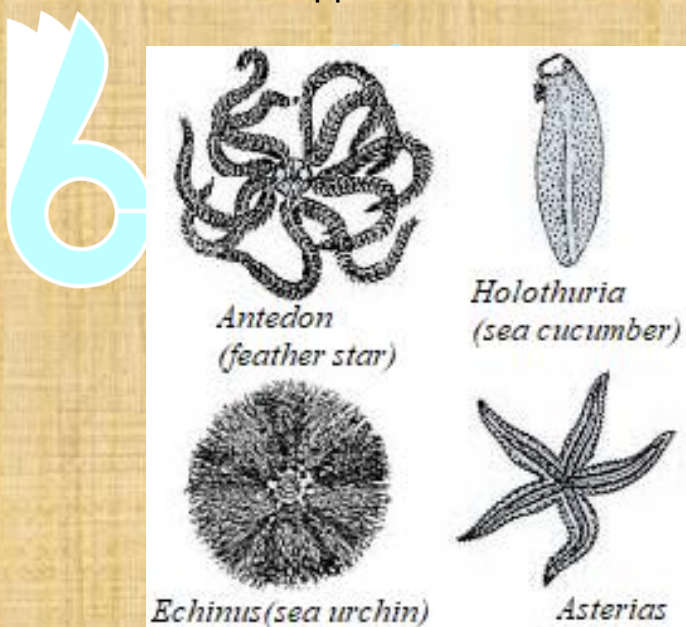


Figure: Echinodermata

PROTOCHORDATA:

These animals are bilaterally symmetrical, triploblastic and have a coelom.

- ❖ Gills present at some phase of life.

- ❖ Notochord is present which is a long rod-like support structure that runs along the back of the animal separating the nervous tissue from the gut.
- ❖ Notochord provides a place for muscles to attach for ease of movement.

Examples:

Balanoglossus, herdmania, and Amphioxus.

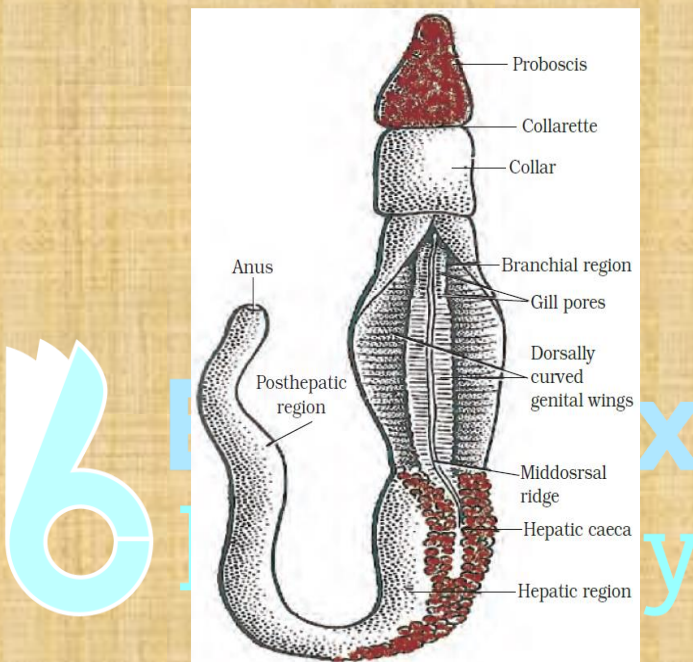


Figure: Protochordata: *Balanoglossus*