

LIVER FLUKE (*Fasciola hepatica*)

Classification : —

Phylum — Platyhelminthus.

Class — Trematoda

Order — Digenea

Genus — Fasciola

Sp. — hepatica.

Habitat and habitat : — *Fasciola hepatica* is an endoparasite of sheep and cattle where it infects the bile ducts of the liver its cycle is digenetic, i.e. completed in two hosts, the primary vertebrate host is sheep and secondary or intermediate invertebrate host is the gastropod mollusc. It has also been recorded in other vertebrates like goat, dog, deer, horse and human.

Salient features : — Body is flat, leaf-like and measures about 25 to 35 mm length and 4 to 12 mm in breadth. The triangular anterior region of the body is called the head lobe. The body broadens up to $1/3$ distance behind the head lobe and then progressively narrows posteriorly. It has 2 suckers.

Anterior or oral sucker, surrounded the mouth. The second larger ventral sucker or acetabulum is midventrally present a little distance away from the head lobe. Anterior to the acetabulum a median gonopore is present.

Liver-fluke Causes the disease liver rot in sheep and cattle life cycle is complicated.

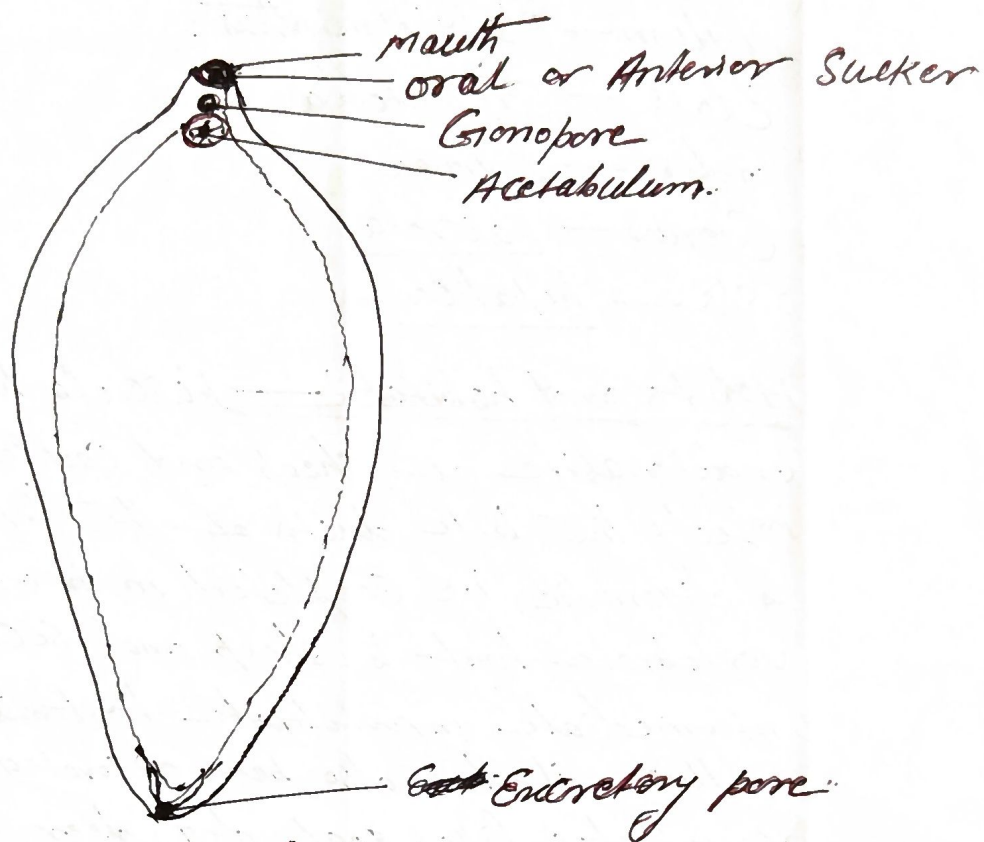


Fig - Fasciola

The liver-fluke lacks respiratory organs and the respiration is largely anaerobic.

The system is well developed and includes numerous minute excretory tubules ending in flame cells, which join the main longitudinal excretory canal. Nervous system is poorly developed and consists of nerve rings, lateral nerves and branches.

Fasciola possesses an incomplete digestive system. The muscular pharynx has a pumping action which enables the ingestion of viscous materials such as blood, other tissue and