

Protochordates

Q - Give an account of general characters & classification of protochordates.

Give characters of protochordates, classify upto order, giving characters and examples of each order.

A. General characters of protochordates.

- (i) It is lower chordates and primitive chordates and appeared earlier during evolution.
- (ii) Have a flexible, rod like elastic axial structure extending entire length of body. Composed of vacuolated cells filled with jelly like substance and covered by two sheaths.
- (iii) Have a dorsal tubular nerve cord above the notochord at some time in the life cycle.
- (iv) Have paired vascular pharyngeal gill clefts for respiration. These also assist in feeding.
- (v) Have a well developed enterocoelous coelom (Expt. urochordates).
- (vi) Have a metameric segmented triploblastic body with bilateral symmetry.
- (vii) Closed circulatory system with a ventral heart (Expt. hemichordate and urochordata).
- (viii) Have an exoskeleton formed in mesoderm (if skeleton is present).
- (ix) Do not have skull, vertebral column, jaws and paired appendages.
- (x) Have a post-oral tail at some stages of life.



4) Mouth small round body and ...  
habitat

~~1) The phylum is divided into three classes~~

protostomata & divided into three classes

Sub phylum: Hemichordata

& is divided into three classes

Class - I - Enteropneusta

Class - II - Phlebobranchia

Class - III - Planctosphaerules