

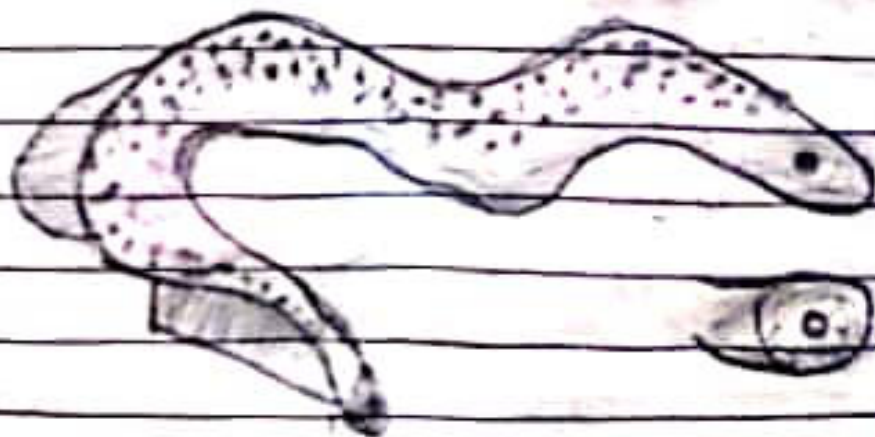
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Ques: Cyclostomata ka Classification ko
dikhay hua chitra a Indian Karyy.

Ans: The Cyclostomata are the
modified and degenerate offshoot
of the primitive vertebrate stock.
Due to their circular mouth
they are named Cyclostomata.



Cyclostomata is a group of agnathic that comprises the living jawless fishes: the lampreys and hagfishes. Both groups have jawless mouths with horny epidermal structures that function as teeth, and branched arches that are internally positioned instead of external as in jawed fish.

They are parasitic, usually feeding on fish in their adult stage. Morphologically, they resemble eels. They are known to be the only living vertebrates without true jaws, hence called Agnatha. Cyclostomata includes hagfishes and lampreys.

Characteristics of cyclostomata :-

- i) The body is round and elongated like an eel.

ii) The paired fins are absent

iii) Median fin with cartilaginous rays.

iv) No paired appendages

v) The skin is soft and smooth, devoid of any scales.

vi) Spleen is absent.

vii) The exoskeleton is absent. The endoskeleton is cartilaginous with no bones.

Also read: Chordata:

Sub-divisions of Cyclostomata:

The Cyclostomes are sub-divided into two major orders:

→ Petromyzontiformes:-

eg:- Myxine, Paramyxine.

Lampreys or lampet eels belong to this order.

→ They are found in both marine and freshwater.

→ They have a ventral mouth with many horny teeth.

→ The notochil is present dorsally.

→ They possess a well-developed dorsal fin.

→ The dorsal and ventral roots of spinal nerves are separate.

→ The development is indirect.

→ Eg: petromyzon, lampetrae.

Myxiniiformes :-

→ Hagfishes represent this order:

→ They are found exclusively in the marine environment.

→ They have a terminal mouth with few teeth.

→ They have no buccal cavity.

→ The notochord is terminal.

→ They possess 6-14 pairs of gill slits.

→ The dorsal and ventral roots of the spinal nerves are not separate.

→ Eggs are large and few in number.

→ The dorsal fin is usually absent or weak.