

PHYLUM-ANNELIDA

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General characters of ANNELIDA:

- They are mostly aquatic; marine or freshwater some terrestrial, burrowing or tubicolous, sedentary or free-living, some commensal and parasitic.
- the body is elongated, triploblastic, bilaterally symmetrical, truly coelomate and vermiform.
- The body is metamerically segmented; externally by transverse grooves and internally by septa into a number of divisions; each division is called a segment, metamere or somite.
- Body organization is of organ grade system.
- The epidermis is of a single layer of columnar epithelial cells, covered by thin cuticle not made of chitin.
- The body wall is contractile or dermo-muscular consisting of outer muscle fiber circular and inner longitudinal.
- Appendages are jointed when present.
- Locomotory organs are segmentally repeated chitinous bristles called setae or chaetae, embedded in the skin. It may be bored by lateral fleshy appendages or parapodia.
- The presence of true schizocoelous coelom usually divided into compartments by transverse septa. Mostly well-developed in leeches. Coelomic fluid with cells or corpuscles.

Examples:

Nereis, Aphrodite, Polynoe, Phyllodoce, Syllis,

Chaetopterus, Arenicola, Owenia, Sabella,

Pheretima, Eutyphesus, Megascolex, Lumbricus.

Tubifex, Aelosoma. Hirudo, Hirudinaria, Polygordius etc