

LARFORMS (contd)Class - III. Echinodea :- Echinopluteus Larva

Larva is formed after gastrulation. Prostula becomes conical, one side of which flattens to form the oral surface. Stomodaeal invagination communicates with archenteron and gut is differentiated into mouth, oesophagus, stomach and intestine. Blastopore remains is larval anus.

Larva begins to form projections which develop into arms. There ~~are~~ ^{are} six arms namely, preoral, anterolateral, anterodorsal, postoral, posterodorsal and posterolateral. Posterodorsal arms are very short and directed on wards or backwards. In some cases, anterodorsal arms may also ~~not~~ not develop. Thus a fully developed echinopluteus may have 5 or even 4 pairs of arms instead of usual six. Tips of the arms are pigmented and

are supported by calcareous skeletal rods. Locomotion is by ciliated bands, which in some cases become thickened and known as epaulettes. An Arabacia and Cidaris, larva develops special ciliated lobes, between the arm bases known as vibratile lobes, auricular lobes or auricles.

Class: IV: Holothuroidea, Auricularia Larva

After gastrulation and formation of coelomic sacs and gut, the embryo becomes a free-swimming larva called auricularia larva, within 3 days. It is transparent, pelagic about 0.5 to 1 mm in length. It swims about by a ciliated band which forms preoral loop and an oral loop.

Internally, larva has a curved gut with speciform stomach, hydrocoel and right and left somatocoels.

Some giant auricularias of unknown adults reported from Bermuda, Japan and Canary islands measure about 15 mm in length and possess a foilly flagellated band.