

The head is usually somewhat square shaped, with four (rarely six) lateral sucking discs placed symmetrically round the central pore which represents the mouth. This central pore is the anterior termination of the two lateral excavations in the parenchyma of the body already alluded to. It is surrounded by a crown of hooklets arranged in one or more rows, and of various sizes and shapes in the different species. The design of these hooklets in combination with the sucking discs is to anchor the animal firmly to the intestinal mucous membrane, so as to enable it to nourish itself with the alimentary juices of the animal which it infests.

The hooklets probably fall off with age.

The body is ribbon-like, very long, white, marked by transverse lines dividing it into joints.

The mature joints or proglottides are bisexual, rupturing successively one after another. The joints nearest the head are always younger than those more remote. Each new joint budding from the posterior aspect of the head or scolex pushes backward the next in age. The transverse striations are very obscure among the newer joints.

The genital pores are usually alternate, the males larger and more anterior, the females smaller and more posterior. Male and female organs perfect. The resting scolices according to species assume the cystic forms, that with a hand-like appendage or that without any appendage.

The active scolices vary much with the strobila in length and breadth. The embryos are armed with six hooklets, small and active.

The eggs of those species assuming the cystic form are very small, yellow. Those of the species assuming the two latter forms are larger and lighter in colour. Habitat of mature animal, the intestines. This family is very extensively distributed, being frequently found in the human intestines and in mammalia generally. The resting scolices are found in the serous cavities and various tissues of the smaller and more defenceless animals of whatever species which are preyed upon by the larger and more formidable ones. They also undoubtedly occur occasionally in the same animal whose intestines are infested by the perfect tapé worm. In the former case the six-hooked embryos are cast into the outer world enveloped in their egg-shells and subsequently swallowed. In the latter they escape from the egg shells in the intestine of the animal subject to the mature