

Phylum Mollusca

Second Largest Animal Phylum

Slugs, snails, oysters, clam, scallops,
octopus, and squid



ADW Mollusca Pictures



Citation: Myers, P., R. Espinosa, C. S. Parr, T. Jones, G. S. Hammond, and T. A. Dewey. 2006. The Animal Diversity Web (online). Accessed October 12, 2006 at <http://animaldiversity.org>.

Sponsored in part by the Interagency Education Research Initiative, the Homeland Foundation and the [University of Michigan](http://www.umich.edu/) [<http://www.umich.edu/>](http://www.umich.edu/) [Museum of Zoology](http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/) [<http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/>](http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/). *The ADW Team gratefully acknowledges their support.*

©1995-2006, The Regents of the University of Michigan and its licensors. All rights reserved.

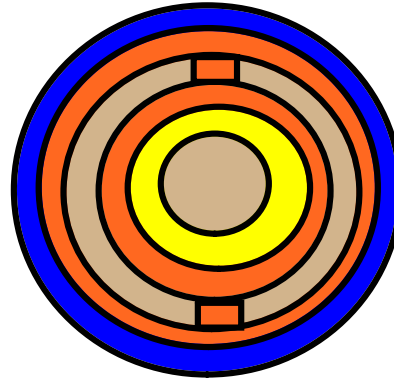
First group to have a true Coelom

Trochophore- larval stage shared by mollusks and annelids

There are 7 classes of Mollusca

Key Characteristics

1. Body Cavity - a true coelom
although it can be small in some animals
like only surrounding the heart



2. Symmetry- most have bilateral symmetry



ADW Mollusca Pictures



3. Three-part Body Plan

- a. Visceral Mass- a central section that contains the mollusk's organs
- b. Mantle- a layer of heavy fold tissue that forms the outer layer of the body
- c. Foot - muscular region used for locomotion

4. Organ System- have organ systems for excretion, X, respiration, digestion, and reproduction

5. Shell- an exoskeleton protecting the soft body



ADW Mollusca Pictures



6. Radula- all except bivalves have these, a *rasping* tongue like organ, has thousands of pointed back *ground* in rows the teeth scrape

Organ Systems

Only coelomates without segmented
bodies, one-way digestive system

Excretion- use their coelomates as a
collecting place for body fluids
Beating Cilia pulls the fluid into tiny
tube structures (nephridia).
The Nephridia recover useful molecules
and the rest leaves through a pore in the
mantle

Circulation- three chambered heart and
open circulatory system

Octopus and Squid have a closed
circulatory system

Respiration-Most use gills, terrestrial snails have a primitive lung like membrane

Reproduction- Most have distinct males and females, some snails and slugs are hermaphrodites, some oysters and sea slugs can change from one sex to another and back again

Class Gastropods

Snails and Slugs

Size microscopic- 1 meter

Some have shells some do not



ADW Mollusca Pictures



Many are herbivore that scrape with their radula

Some slugs are predator, some attack other mollusks by making a hole in the shell and suck out the tissue

Class Bivalves

Most are marine but some are

freshwater

Oysters, mussels, and clams

All bivalves have a 2 part hinged

shell

Abductor muscles- two thick muscles
that connect the valves

Do not have a distinct head or radula

A small nerve ganglion like brain

Have sensory cells that respond to
light and touch

Most reproduce by releasing sperm or
egg into the water

Filter feeding animals

Siphons- hollow tube used for sucking
in and out water

Oyster makes pearls- sand is covered
by a thin sheet of nacre



ADW Mollusca Pictures



Class Cephalopods

Squids, cuttlefish, nautiludes

A large head with tentacles attached

The tentacles have either suction cups
or hooks for seizing prey

The most intelligent
of all invertebrates



ADW Mollusca Pictures



Complex nervous system and a well-developed brains

Capable exhibiting complex behavior

Octopuses can be trained to distinguished between classes of shapes like square and cross

Some species have color vision

The eyes of some giant squid can be 40 cm long.

Squid and octopuses can release a dark *Cloud* to hide the direction of their escape
They are Predators