B.Sc First year Zoology Honours

Paper-1

The six pairs of abdominal appendages are known as pleopods or swimmerets; they help the prawn in swimming.

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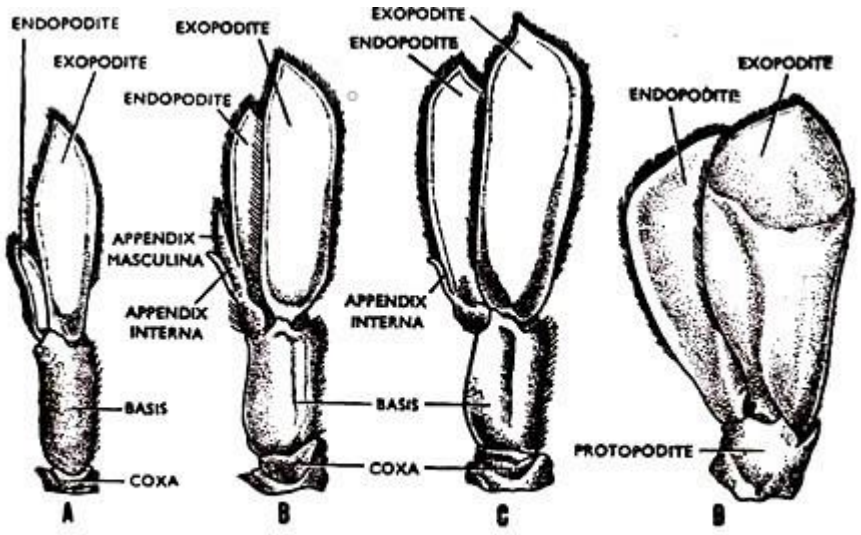

Abdominal appendages of a male prawn (right side, ventral view); A=first pleopod, B=second pleopod, C=third pleopod, D=uropod. Fourth and fifth pleopods are similar to C.

Abdominal Appendages:

There are six pairs of abdominal appendages called pleopods or swimmerets which help the prawn in swimming. The last pair are specially called uropod's because they form with the telson a powerful tail-fin which is used for leaping backward.

Each pleopod is a typical biramous type of appendage. Its protopodite consists of a short proximal coxa and an elongated distal basis. The basis carries a pair of leaf-like rami, the outer exopodite and the inner endopodite. Both the rami are covered with tactile setae. The endopodite is smaller than the exopodite.

Each of the second, third, fourth and fifth pleopod bears on the inner side of its endopodite a hook-like rod called appendix interna. The appendices internae of the two sides interlock with one another during the breeding season, thereby forming a efficient basket for carrying eggs. The second pleopod, in male, bears another additional rod-like process, called appendix masculina .

The uropod has a protopodite of only one segment. The rami are oval and fan-like; exopodite is divided by a fine suture and bears a spine near its base, but the endopodite is undivided. Both the rami are covered with setae along their margins.