

## CRUSTACEAN LARVAE

1. Crustacea is a class of Phylum Arthropoda.
2. The word Crustacea has originated from a latin word 'crusta' = shell.
3. Members of this class are recognized by the presence of a hard covering around the head and thorax, commonly called as the Cephalothorax.
4. They also bear biramous appendages.

### TYPES OF LARVAE

In class Crustacea, the life cycle is either direct or indirect. Indirect life cycle involves various forms of larvae, which can be situated under the following heads:

#### NAUPLIUS LARVA

1. It is the simplest and most commonest type of larva, found in most marine crustacean and a few Melacostracans.
2. Body is minute with 3 distinct regions.
3. Besides a nauplius eye, it also bears 3 pairs of jointed appendages. They are: Antennule- uniramous & helps in balancing, Antennae- biramous & helps in locomotion and Mandibles- biramous and helps in manipulation of food.
4. In brachiopods, nauplius larva changes into adult but in other forms of crustacean, it may give rise to other intermediate larval forms, such as Metanauplius, protozoaea, Zoaea, Cypris, Mysis, etc.

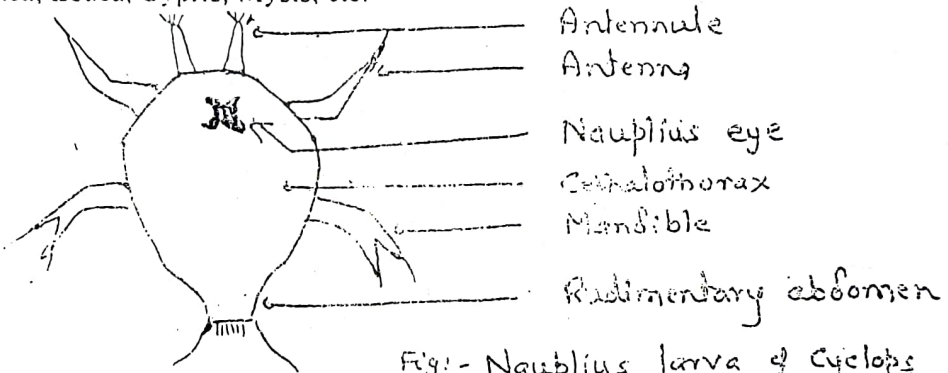


Fig: Nauplius larva of Cyclops

#### B. METANAUPLIUS LARVA

1. After moulting and growth, nauplius larva changes into the Metanauplius larva.
2. Body is divisible into a broad cephalothorax and an elongated abdomen terminating into a pair of caudal furca.
3. Besides the three pairs of appendages, it also bears the rudiments of 4 pairs of appendages, which represent the 2 pairs of maxillae and 2 pairs of maxillipedes of the adult.
4. In some decapods, it forms the 1<sup>st</sup> larval stage.

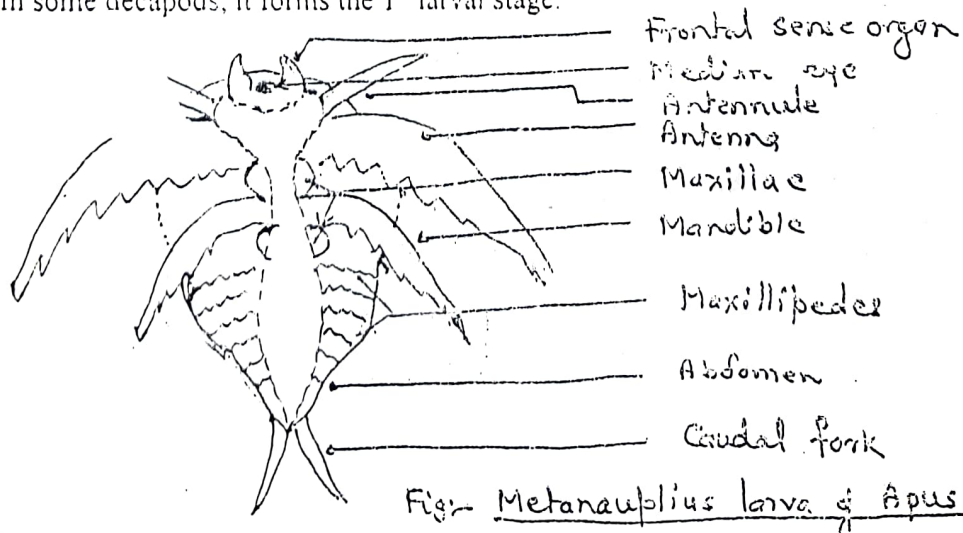


Fig: Metanauplius larva of Apus