

Pila

1. The body is enclosed in a thick, spirally coiled, dextral globular shell.
2. The shell is a broad cone, coiled round a central axis, the columella, in a spiral manner.
3. The top of the shell is called apex.
4. Starting from the apex, the whorls are larger in size, the last or the body whorl being the largest (Fig. 26.11).

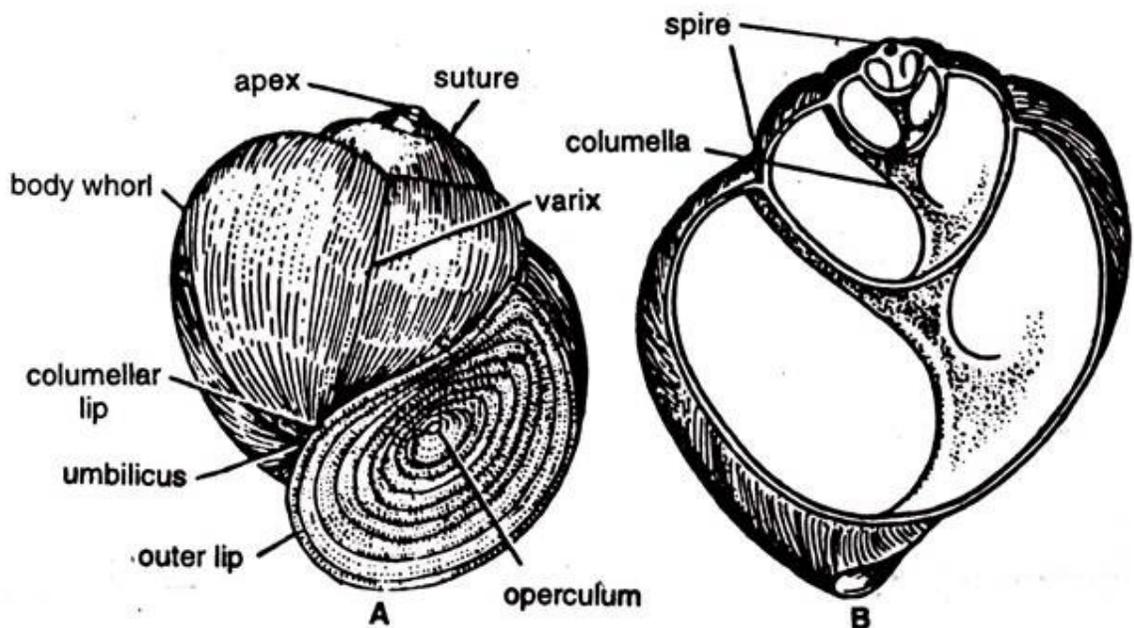


Fig. 26.11. *Pila globasa* A. An entire shell, B. Half of the shell ground off

5. The whorl next to the body whorl is penultimate whorl.
6. The junction of two successive whorls is known as suture.

7. A large aperture called mouth is present in the body whorl. The margin of the aperture is smooth and known as peristome.
8. The aperture can be closed by an operculum which is a flat calcareous plate, lunate-oblong in outline.

2. External Features of the Apple Snail:

1. The body is soft, slimy and lodged within the shell.
2. It is attached to the columella, the spirally twisted axis of the shell, by a columellar muscle arising from the foot.
3. The muscle prevents the animal from extending out of the shell beyond a certain limit and also helps to withdraw it into the shell.
4. The body is divisible into head, foot and visceral mass (Fig. 26.12).

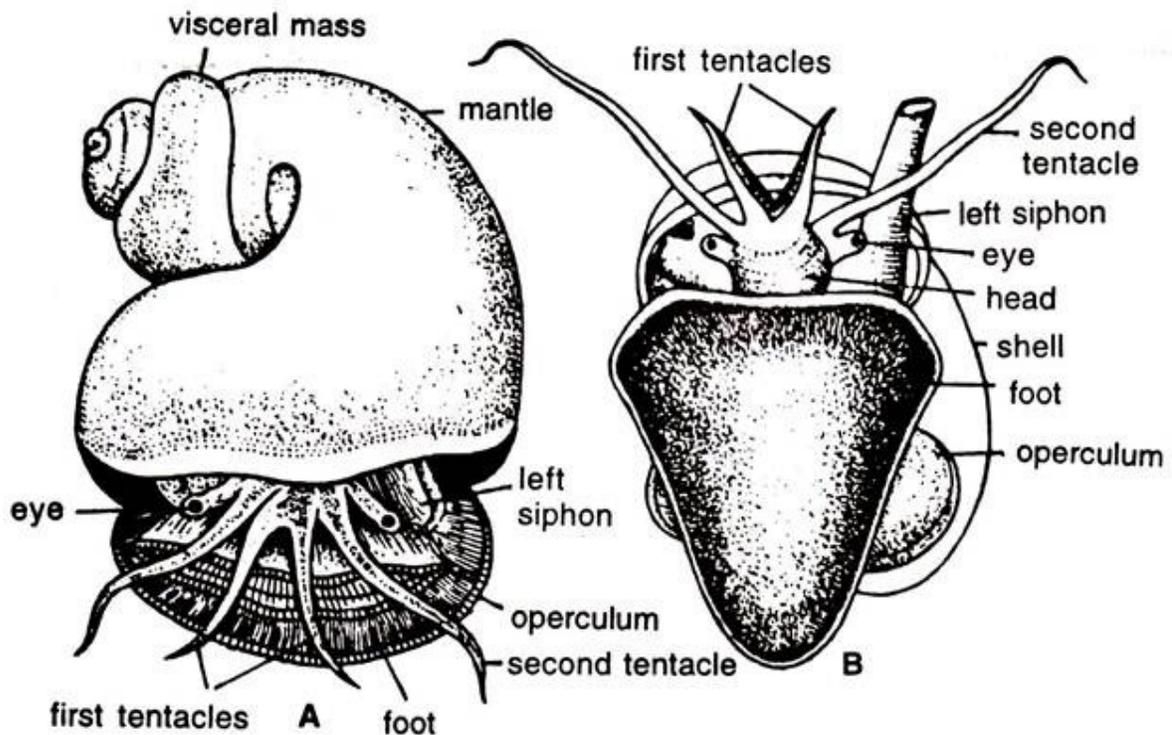


Fig. 26.12. *Pila* sp. Shell removed A. Dorsal view, B. Ventral view

5. The head is well-marked and drawn anteriorly into a snout.

6. The head carries two pairs of tentacles:

i. The shorter pair are anterolateral in position and called labial palps or first tentacles.

ii. The longer pair or second tentacles are thread-like and bear stalked eyes at the base.

7. Two fleshy projections called nuchal lobes or pseudopodia are seen on the two sides of the head. The left nuchal lobe is highly developed and form the respiratory siphon.

8. The mouth is a vertical slit at the end of the snout. True lips are absent. The plicate edges serve as lips.

9. The anus is a small round aperture. It is anteriorly placed at about 6 mm distance from the right pseudopodium.

10. The foot is highly muscular and more or less triangular in shape. If viewed ventrally, the sole or the creeping surface is flat.

11. The operculum is attached to the dorsal surface of the posterior part of the foot.

12. In a retracted state, the mantle forms a cloak over the anterior part of the body including the head and its appendages.