

**Topic: Morphology and Life history of Obelia**

**Class: B.Sc Part –I (Hons.)**

**Paper- I**

**Group – A**

**Faculty Name : Dr. Kumari Sushma Saroj**

**Department: Zoology**

**College: Dr. L. K. V. D College, Tajpur, Samastipur**

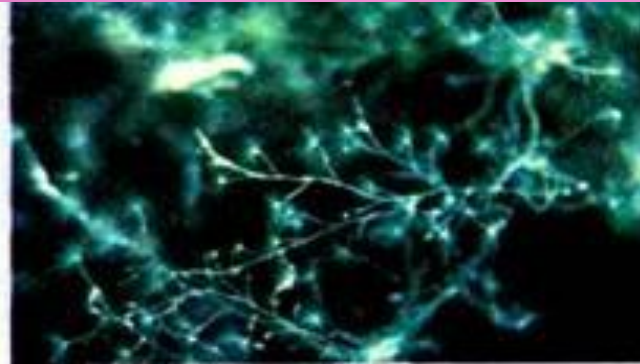
## Habit and Habitat of Obelia:

- Obelia is sedentary, marine colonial form found attached on the surface of sea weeds, molluscan shells, rocks and wooden piles in shallow water up to 80 metres in depth.
- Obelia is cosmopolitan in distribution, forming a whitish or light-brown plant-like fur in the sea; hence, the common name sea-fur is assigned to it.

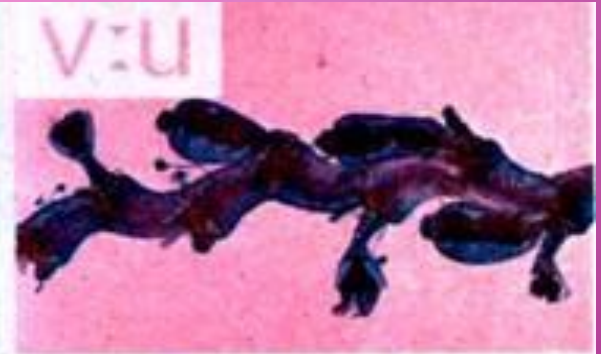
# Obelia



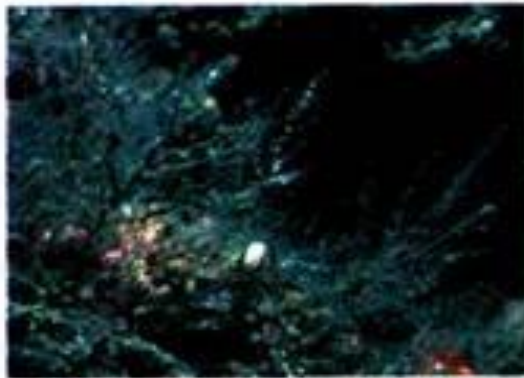
*Obelia geniculata.*



*Obelia.*



*Obelia-gonangia.*



*Obelia-hydrorhiza* and  
*hydrocaulus.*



Hydranth-feeding polyp.



Medusa of *Obelia.*

## **Obelia Colony – A Gross Structure:**

- Each colony of Obelia consists of a horizontal thread-like root called hydrorhiza which is attached to a weed or any substratum.
- From hydrorhiza arises a vertical branching stem about 2.5 cm long which is known as a hydrocaulus.
- The hydrorhiza and hydrocaulus are hollow tubes.

- The hydrocaulus bears zooids or polyps on either side in a cymose formation.
- At the growing ends of the main branches are immature club-shaped polyps.
- Each polyp has a stem and a terminal head called a hydranth.
- The hydranths are feeding polyps, they feed by capturing minute animals and larvae.
- Towards the base of the hydrocaulus in the axils of the polyps, are reproductive polyps called blastostyles.