

Topic: Morphology and Life history of Obelia

Class: B.Sc Part –I (Hons.)

Paper- I

Group – A

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Alternation of Generations and Metagenesis of Obelia:

- It is clearly evident from the life history of Obelia that there is an alternation of polypoid and medusoid generations.
- The polypoid generation is asexual and produces polyps and blastostyles by asexual budding.
- The blastostyle also produces medusae by asexual budding.
- The medusae do not produce medusae but they give rise to gametes, which after fertilisation develop into a polypoid colony from which medusae are produced again by budding.

- Thus, an asexual polypoid generation alternates with a sexual medusoid generation.
- This phenomenon is known as alternation of generations, till recently.
- The term alternation of generations means that the individual exists in two distinct forms,
- which alternate each other regularly in the life history.

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- One individual possesses the power to reproduce the other by asexual reproduction, which again by sexual reproduction gives rise to the next generation.
 - Therefore, a true alternation of generations is always between a diploid asexual and haploid sexual generations, as is exhibited by fern plant.