

**Topic: Morphology and Life history of Obelia**  
**Class: B.Sc Part –I (Hons.)**  
**Paper- I**  
**Group – A**

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- **The Obelia is a trimorphic colony, that is, having three kinds of zooids which are as follows:**
- 1. Polyps or hydranths (nutritive zooids);
- 2. Gonangia or blastostyles (budding zooids);
- 3. Medusae, (sexual zooids).

- In fact, to start with Obelia is a monomorphic form having polyp only but later due to the development of blastostyle
- It becomes a dimorphic colony and finally medusae bud over the blastostyle in a mature colony, then it becomes a trimorphic colony.

## Polyp or Hydranth:

- The colony of Obelia has many polyps (Gr., polypus – many-footed) or hydranths (Gr., hydra = water serpent; anthos = flower) or gastro zooids.
- Each polyp is very much like a miniature Hydra.
- It has a cylindrical body attached to the axis of the hydrocaulus by its proximal end and free at its distal end.
- It is covered by a cup-shaped hydro theca.

- The free distal end is produced into a conical elevation, the hypostome or manubrium which is about one-third of the length of the hydranth.
- The hypostome is surrounded by a circle of numerous (about 24) tentacles.
- The tentacles are longer than hypostome, tapering and filiform.

- The apex of the hypostome bears a terminal aperture called mouth which is capable of great dilation and contraction.
- Below the hypostome is the stomach region of the polyp.
- The body and manubrium of the polyp enclose a spacious enteric cavity or gastro vascular cavity.

- The polyp is protected in hydro theca, which is prolongation of the perisarc.
- At the base of the polyp, it forms ring-like horizontal shelf at which the polyp rests.