

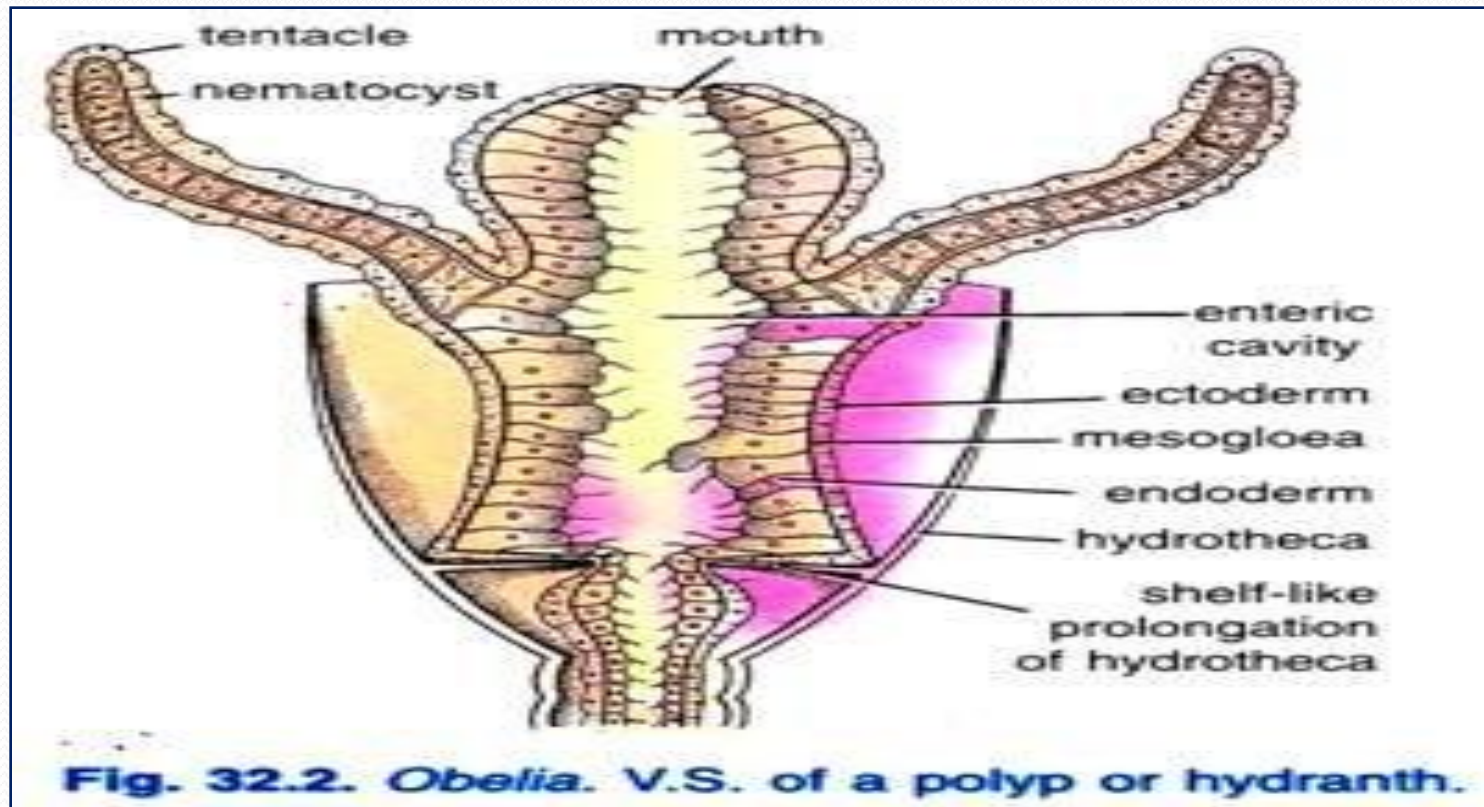
**Topic: Morphology and Life history of Obelia**  
**Class: B.Sc Part –I (Hons.)**  
**Paper- I**  
**Group – A**

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# Obelia: V.S. of a polyp or hydranth



## Endoderm:

- It has long, granular epitheliomuscular cells, their muscle processes point outwards and are circular.
- Endoderm cells have flagella which produce a current in the enteron.
- They can also form pseudopodia for engulfing food.
- The endoderm of tentacles has cubical, vacuolated cells with thick walls.

- In the endoderm layer are nerve cells and club-shaped gland cells which produce digestive enzymes.
- Mesogloea is a thin jelly-like substance with no structure or cells.
- On each side of the mesogloea is a nerve net composed of nerve cells and their fibres, the two nerve nets are inter-connected.

- Polyp is the nutritive zooid of the colony.
- It is carnivorous and feeds upon aquatic crustaceans, nematodes and other worms.
- Tentacles help in catching and conveying the prey to the mouth.
- Digestive juice is secreted in the gland cells of gastrodermis and the process of digestion is extracellular as well as intracellular.