

Parental care (Hippocampus, Hyla)
Semester - III (CC-14) Practical
Dr. Poojara Kumari

①

A Seahorse (Fish) is any of 46 species of small marine fish in the genus Hippocampus. Comes from Ancient Greek, *hippokampus* from *hippos* meaning "horse" and *kampus* meaning "Seamaster" wikipedia.

The hippocampus the half horse half fish creature from Greek mythology. They are fish but they have a horse like head, a monkey like tail and a kangaroo like pouch. They live in water breathe through gills and have a swim bladder. They do not have caudal fins and have a long snake-like tail. Although they are bony fish they do not have scales but rather thin skin stretched over a series of bony plates.

Scientific name : Hippocampus

Class - Actinopterygii

Phylum - Chordata

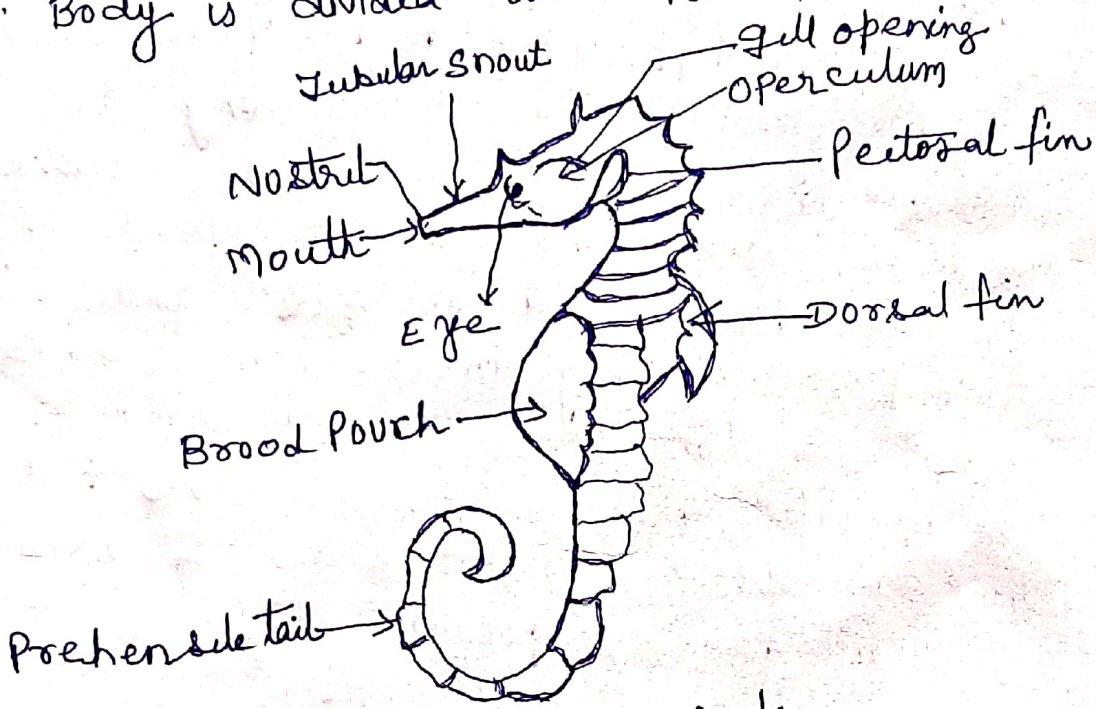
Kingdom - Animalia

Family - Syngnathidae

Order - Syngnathiformes.

Parental care is a behavioural and evolutionary strategy. It refers to any behaviors on the part of either or both parents that help their offspring survive. In fishes it includes all the post-spawning care of the offsprings by the parents.

1. They are called as Seahorse because its anterior end is shaped like the neck and head of a horse. They swim upright displaying their tails and gyrating their trunks in graceful manner, holding a weed with their tails.
2. Body is divided into head, trunk and tail.



Hippocampus male

3. Body is covered by a rigid exoskeletal armour of ring-like bony plates.
4. Hippocampus is a vertically swimming fish. It has deviated from fish like appearance with arching neck and snout like horse abdomen like Pigeon and Prehensile tail like ^{langur} monkey.

Hyla (Tree Frog)

③

Hyla faber shows peculiar parental care.

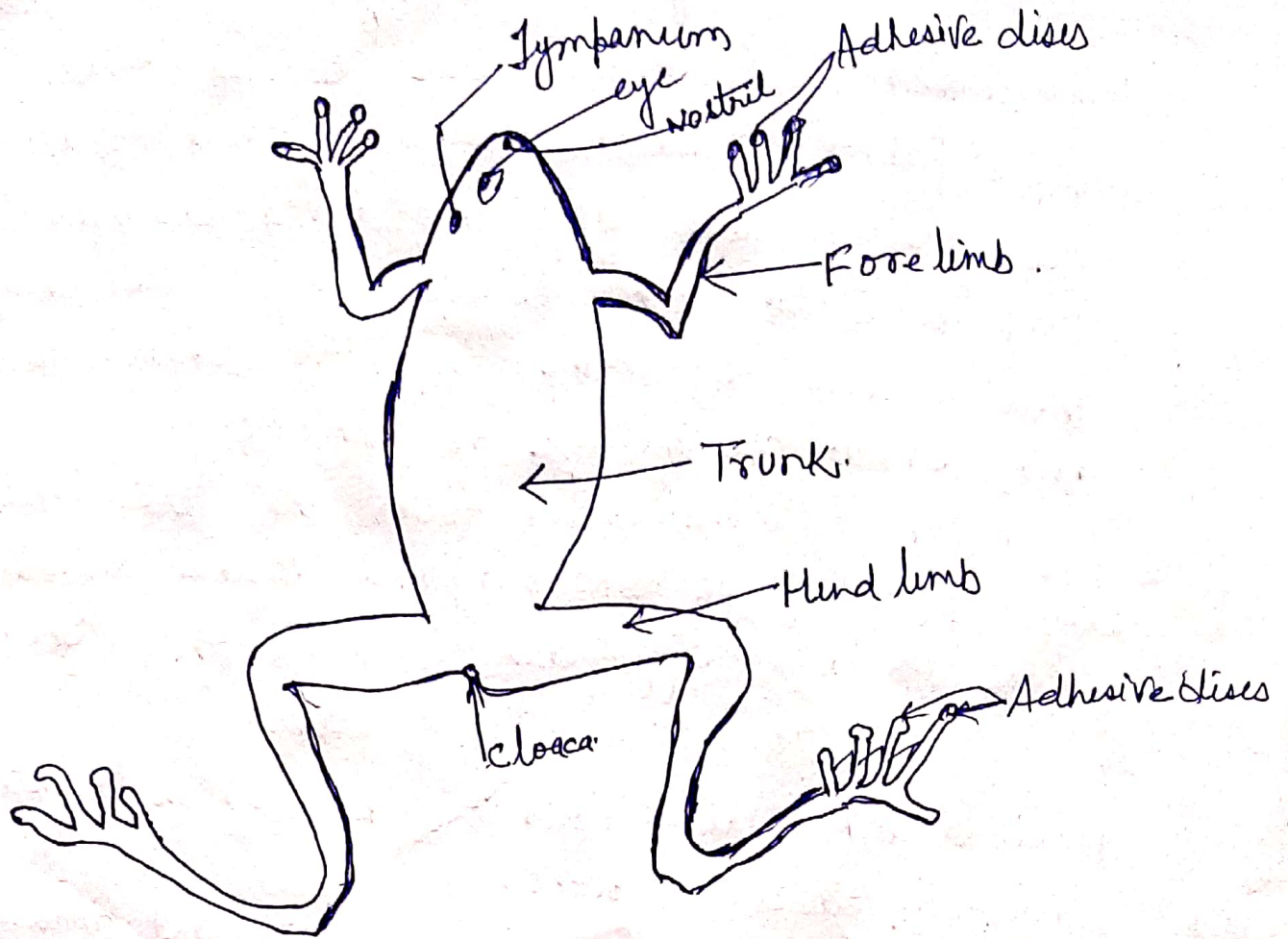
Hyla faber, arborea, vesicolour and Hyla regia etc are all tree living frogs and adapted from amphibious to arboreal life. They also change their colour according to their environmental and show camouflage or mimicry.

Hyla faber comes down from the trees. Females dig up mud of shallow pond make small nurseries and eggs are laid in them. The larva hatch and go into submerged water.

Habit and habitat - Hyla is arboreal in habit living on trees and rocks.

Comments:

- ① The body of Hyla is 3-8 cm in size and divided into head and trunk.
- ② Terminal bone of each digit is claw shaped and all toes contain expanded adhesive discs or cushions, which are used to climb trees or rocks.
- ③ Voice is often loud. Eyes well developed with horizontal pupil.
- ④ upper jaw toothed lower jaw without teeth.
- ⑤ Eyes well developed with horizontal pupil. Tympanum distinct.
- ⑥ Skin of belly contains hygroscopic glands, which help in adhering the frog with leaf, twigs or stem. Fertilization external. Eggs are laid in water. Development includes tadpole larva.



Hyla

Identification - This Anura Contains adhesive discs
in limb toes