

Museum Specimen

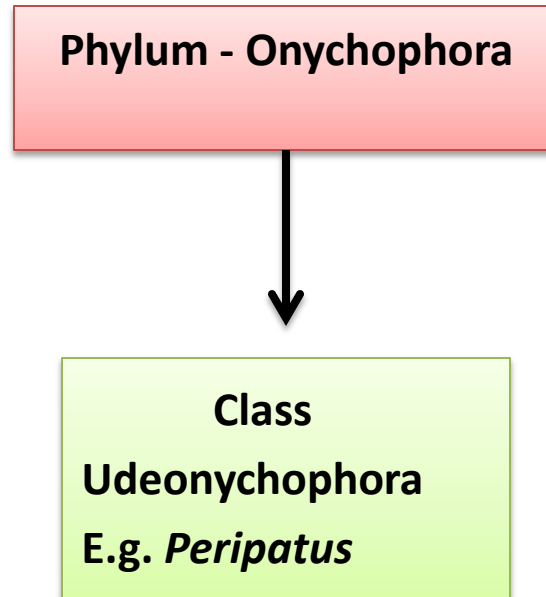
Phylum Onychophora

Specimen for Phylum Onychophora –
Peripatus

Compiled by Dr. Sadqua Shameem
- Diagram credits -

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Flow chart – Onychophora



Peripatus

Common name: Velvet worms

Geographical Distribution :The various species occur only in restricted parts of tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand Central and South America, Mexico. West Indies , Malaysia, Sumatra, India and other localities.

Scientific Classification with Justifications –

Phylum: Onychophora : Presence of non-jointed legs with claws

Class: Udeonychophora - Onychophoran consisting of the terrestrial onychophora with ventral mouths.

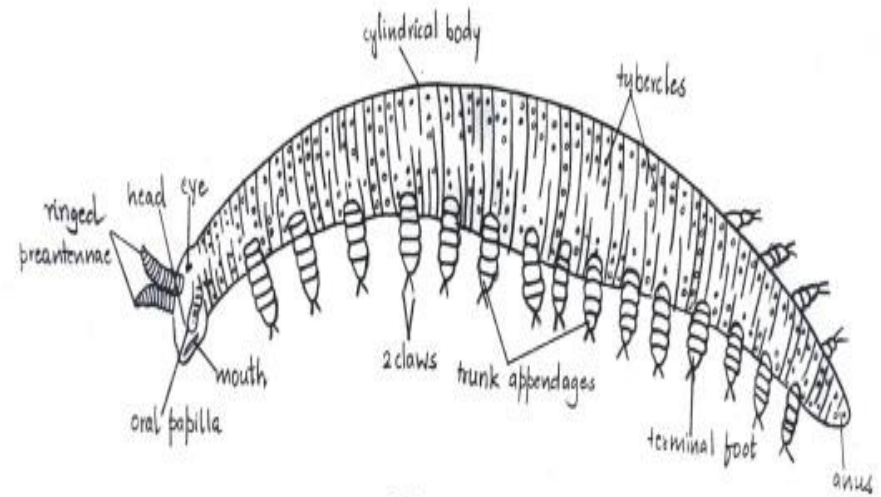
Genus: *Peripatus*



Peripatus

Characteristic features:

1. The body is cylindrical elongated, bilaterally symmetrical and small.
2. It is not divided into definite segments.
3. A firm exoskeleton is absent.
4. Presence of antennae. (Arthropoda)
5. Absence of true head. (Annelida)
6. A series of short, stumpy, conical legs arise ventrolaterally from the trunk
7. A leg is made of a conical proximal part and a short distal part or foot, terminating
8. in a pair of sickle-shaped horny claws.
9. Peripatus is a living fossil.. It has characteristics of both the Annelida and the
10. Arthropoda and is referred to as the “connecting link” between two phyla.



Peripatus

Additional resources :

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMKHmWT3dZg

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbZP_OOal-Q