

Excretory organs are nephridia
 nephridia occurs in all segments excepting 1st 3 & last segment

ectodermal in origin

small, coiled tubular structure & occur in huge number

* 3 kind of nephridia –

- 1. SEPTAL NEPHRIDIA
- 2. INTEGUMENTARY NEPHRIDIA
- 3. PHARYNGEAL NEPHRIDIA



Fig. 66.21. Pheretima. Different types of nephridia and general plan of their distribution.

SEPTAL NEPHRIDIA

It remain attached to the 2 faces of septum
occur from 15 th segment beckward
in each segment there are 80-100 nephridia

STRUCTURE OF SEPTAL NEPHRIDIA

- Main body formed by straight lobe & narrow, spirally twisted loop
- funnel like nephrostome
- short neck
- terminal nephridial duct
- nephrostome or funnel is a rounded structure



- mouth of the funnel communicates with coelom provided with large upper lip & small lower lip
- lips are cilliated
- main lobe consist of proximal & distal limb
- terminal ducts opens into septal excretory canal

INTEGUMENTARY NEPHRIDIA

- Smaller in size
- occur on inner surface of integument in all segment except first 2
- they occur 200-250 in each segment
- Iack nephrostome
- open to outside by nephridiopores

PHARYNGEAL NEPHRIDIA

- as large as septal nephridia
- occur in 3 pairs
- present on 4, 5, 6 th segment on either side of pharynx & oesophagus
- nephrostome absent
- they have digestive function, called peptic nephridia
- opens to alimentary canal

septal & pharyngeal nephridia open into alimentary canal- ENTERONEPHRIC

Integumentary nephridia open to the outside directly- EXONEPHRIC

Enteronephric system helps in conservation of water in body

PROTONEPHRIDIA

- primitive type
- it terminates in coelom as blind tube
- closed end are provided with tube cells or solenocytes
- solenocyte is a rounded cilliated cell connected to protonephridia by thin tube
- excretory fluid enters through walls of nephridial tubules
- fluid driven into lumen of nephridium by flagellum
- forced to exterior through nephridiopore
- found in some polychaetes such as Glycera,
 Vanadis

METANEPHRIDIA

- far advanced
- inner end of metanephridia opens into coelom by cilliated dfunnel or nephrostome
- other end opens through nephridiopore
- it opens at both ends
- seen in- many polychaetes Neanthes, oligochaetes
 Lumbricus