BALANOGLOSSUS: DISTINCT FEATURES

- It measures 10cm to 2.5metres, depending on species.
- Worm-like body divisible into three regions.
 - >Anterior proboscis which is conical.
 - >Middle collar which is funnel like
 - >Posterior trunk which is cylindrical and further divided into:
 - Branchiogenital region, hepatic region & abdominal region.
- Notochord represented by small buccal diverticulum.
- Development includes tornoria larva

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LOCALIZATION OF INTERNAL ORGANS

Proboscis

- It contains heart vesicle, central sinus and buccal diverticulum.
- · coelom opens to exterior by proboscis pore

Collar

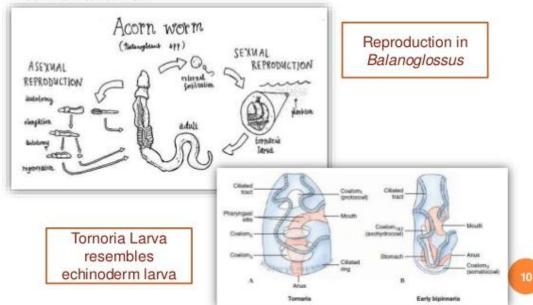
 It contains the mouth and collar coelom, which open to dorsal surface through collar pore.

Trunk

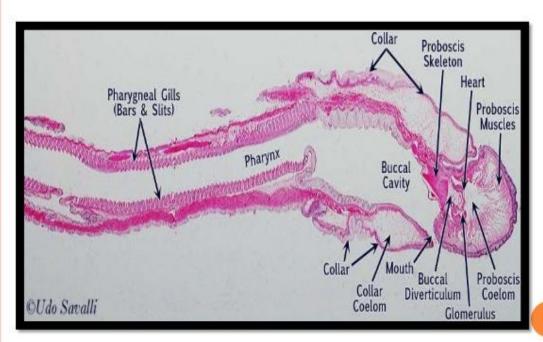
- · It contains-pharynx, gonads or hepatic region.
- Branchio-genital region contains: genital wings with gonad, branchial region with paired gills, hepatic caecae.

REPRODUCTION

 Fertilization is external and development includes tornoria larva.



INTERNAL MORPHOLOGY



AFFINITIES OF HEMICHORDATES

With Annelids

· Worm-like and segmented body.

With Echinoderms

 Blastopore, enterocoelus coelom and ciliated bands in the respective larvae.

With Chordates

 Presence of pharyngeal gill slits, nerve cord and so-called notochord.

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