

23/ Introduction:- In Amphibians

- The skin of amphibians (fig. 1.5) is loose fitting unlike that of the fishes in which it is tight-fitting.
- Amphibian skin is moist and frequently slimy.
- The outer dead horny layer of the epidermis, the stratum corneum, appears first in this group.
- It is apparently due to terrestrial habit.
- In most amphibians the stratum corneum is periodically shed (ecdysis).

- The epidermis has many layers of cells, the innermost being the stratum germinativum and the outermost is the stratum corneum.
- In toads the stratum corneum is thicker. In most of the amphibians the epidermis possesses sensory papillae which appear as microscopic bumps or warts on the skin. Below the epidermis is a thin basement membrane.
- The dermis is relatively thin and is made up of two layers - an upper loose stratum spongiosum and an inner compact stratum compactum.
- The pigment cells or chromatophores are found in the upper portion of the dermis.
- Embedded in the dermis are found mucous and poison glands which are epidermal derivatives.
- The dermis is richly supplied with blood vessels.

- The integument of amphibia does not have scales except in the Gymnophiona where skin is thick and contains group of dermal scales.

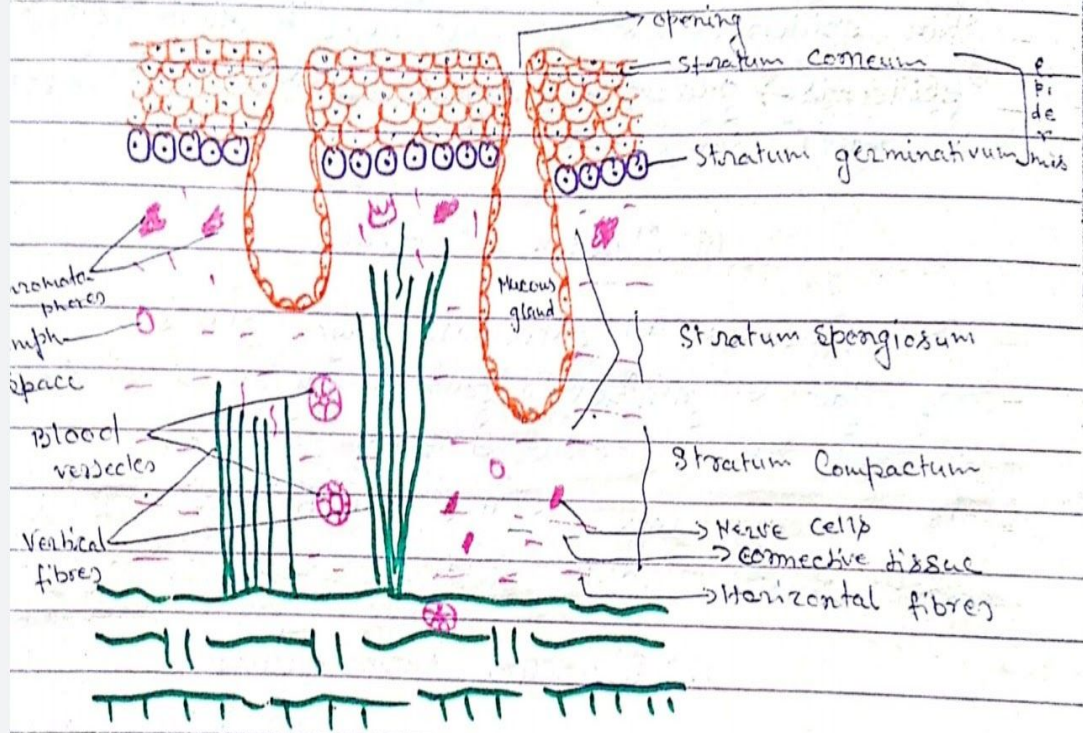


Fig:- V.S of frog