

Introduction :- In Mammals

- The skin of mammals (Fig. 1.8) is relatively thicker, elastic and waterproof.
- The greatest specialization of epidermis and dermis is T.Y.Z. (III) - 14 reached in this group.
- The epidermis is thickest in mammals.
- It has an outer layer of flattened, keratinized dead cells, the Stratum Corneum.
- The thickness of Stratum Corneum depends upon the amount of wear to which the skin is exposed e.g. it is thickest in the sole.
- The sequence of cell layers in epidermis is as follows:
 - (i) A basal stratum germinativum which rests upon a basement membrane,

(iii) Stratum Spinosum,

(iv) Stratum Granulosum,

(v) Stratum Lucidum and

(vi) Stratum Corneum - outer layer of dead keratinized cells.

Mucous glands are absent in the epidermis of mammals.

- The dermis is greatly developed in mammals.
- It is made up of loose connective tissue, blood vessels and nerves.
- The upper part of the dermis just below the epidermis contains dense mat of fibres parallel to the surface.
- This layer is called papillary layer.

- Below this layer is the reticular layer with abundant intercellular material.
- In the dermis following structures of epidermal origin are found.

(i) **Hair follicle**: Formed by the penetration of epidermis into the dermis. It lodges the hair papilla from which emerges the hair.

(ii) **Sebaceous glands**: Flask-shaped glands which open into the hair follicles. These secrete an oily substance, sebum.

(iii) **Sweat glands**: These are much coiled tube-like glands which open through pores on the surface of the skin.

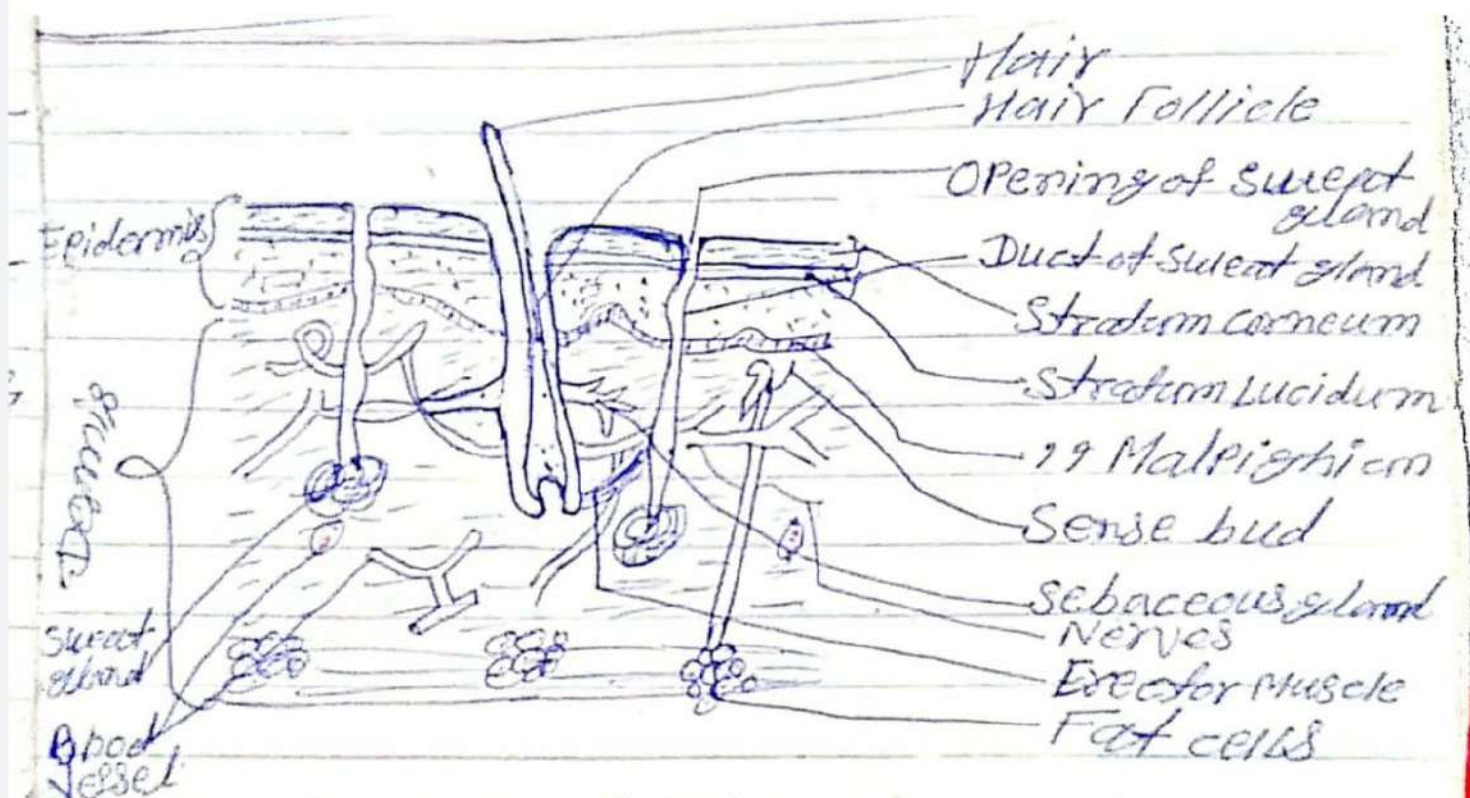


Fig. V.S. of SKIN of Mammal