Topic- Biting Mechanism of Snakes

T.D.C. Part II - Zoo (SUBJ)

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The biting mechanism is a complicated following process:-

① Opening of the Mouth:-

In resting condition the mouth remains closed and the fangs lie incurved within the mouth. At this the posterior end of quadrate lies ahead of the posterior end of pterygoid. When the snake is ready to strike the mouth opens by the contraction digastric muscles as a result of which the lower jaw is depressed.

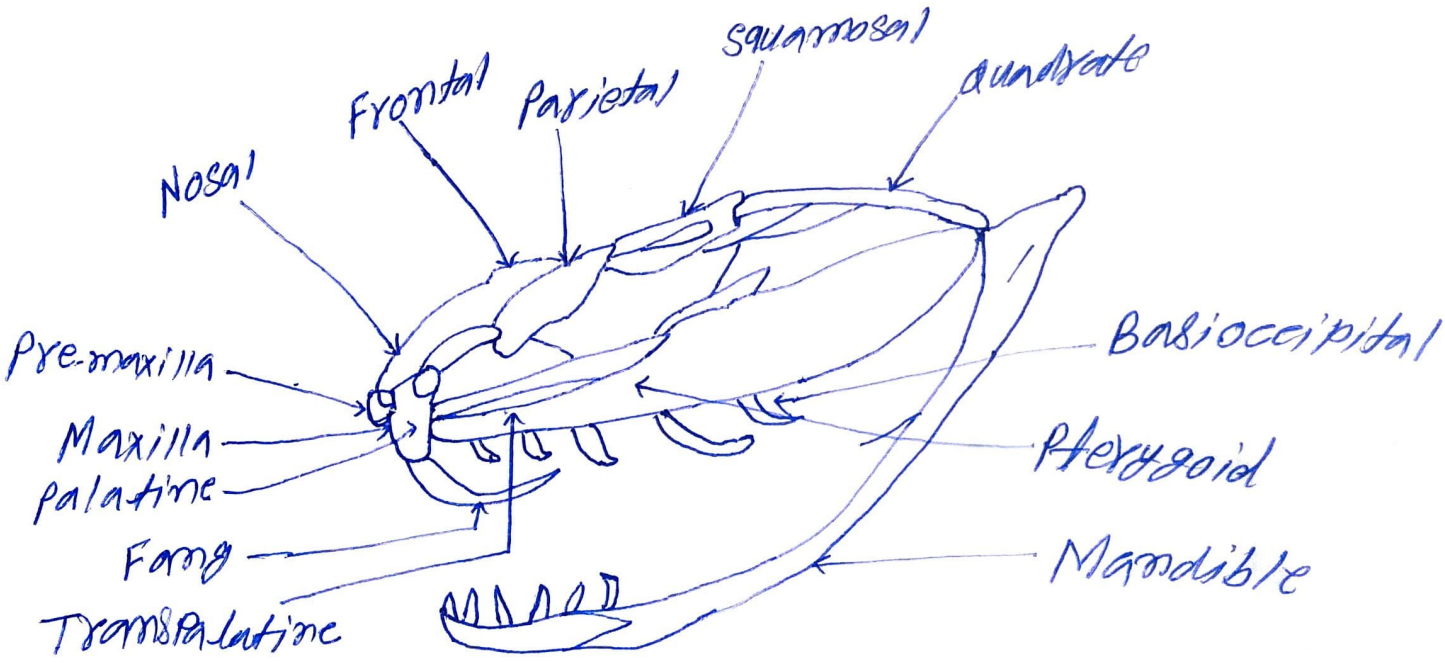
② Rotation of Maxill:-

As the mandible is lowered the distal end of the quadrate is ~~thrust~~ forward, consequently pushing forward the pterygoid and ectopterygoid bones also. This action is aided by the contraction of sphenopterygoid muscles. The forward and upward movement of the ectopterygoid brings about the rotation of the maxilla and the fangs become erected into a vertical position.

③ Closure of the Mouth:-

This is brought about by the contraction of the temporalis muscles pulling up the lower jaw. As the mouth closes the fangs are inserted into the body of the prey.

(4) Injection of Venom:-

As the fangs are pierced, the master muscles contract and squeeze the poison gland forcing the poison through the fang.

The biting apparatus is so constructed that all the actions take place automatically. With the raising of lower jaw all the related bones are brought to their normal position.