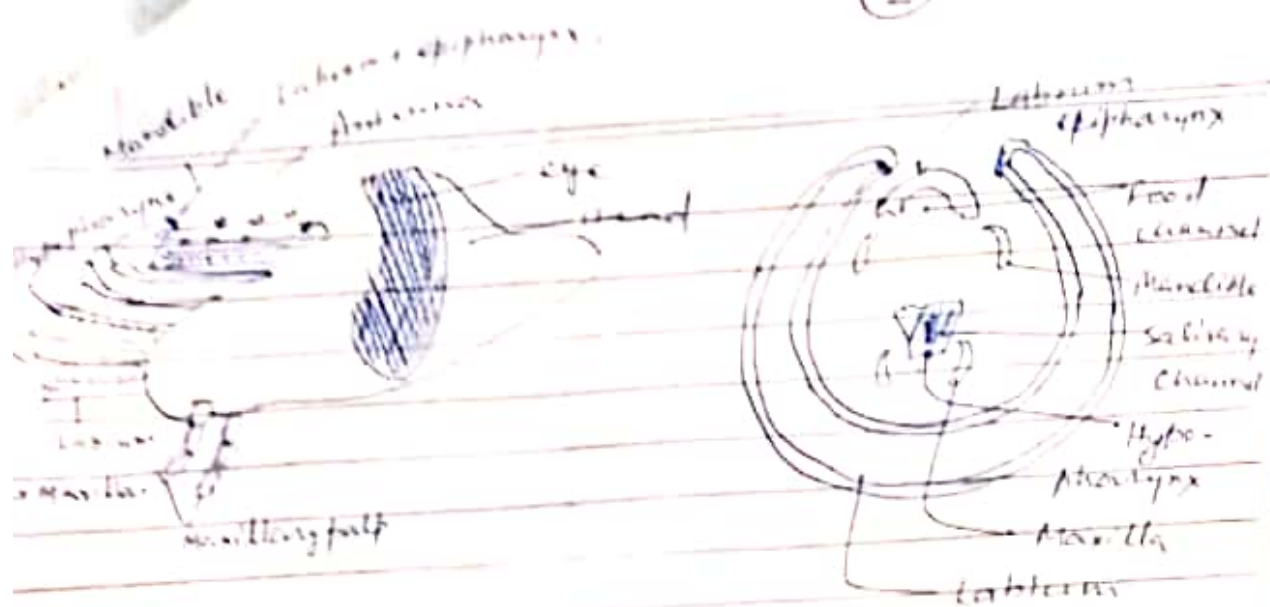


27/04/2022

Mouth parts of insects

## (1) Piercing and sucking type -

- Mouth parts are characterised by a tubule usually jointed enclosing several needle like stylets
- The outer tube is formed by the labium which is the protective structure for the other parts and has nothing to do with the piercing the tissue
- The mandibles and maxillae some times replaced by the labrum, epipharynx and hypopharynx are greatly elongated and slender structure which serve the purpose of piercing the skin of an animal or the epidermis of the plant and also as food channel.



T.S. of mouthparts of mosquito.

By Piercing and Sucking type

② Sponging type :- It is modified for sucking up the liquid food. The mandibles are altogether absent, the maxilla are represented only by two segmented maxillary palp. The labium is greatly modified to form the so-called proboscis. Proboscis is divided into 3 parts -

1. Proximal cone like, rostrum bearing the maxillary palp.

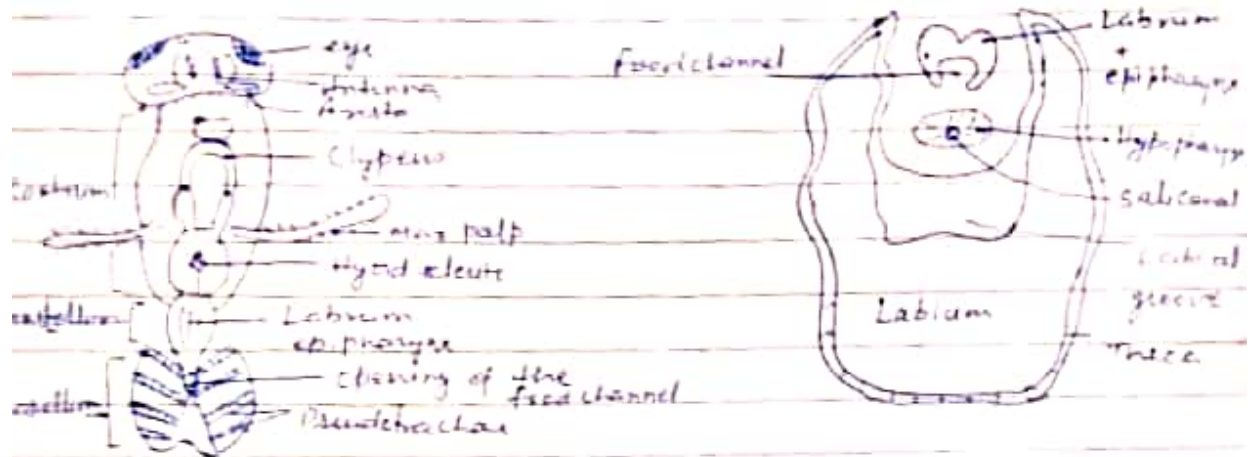
2. Middle - hypostellum with a mid dorsal groove serving as the food passage & a ventral heart shaped plate called stiva.

3. The distal is labellum (oral disc) consisting of two expanded lobes labellae, the underside of which is made up of numerous transverse channels in its membranous wall. These channels are called as Pseudotracheae.

(3)

It leads to the food passage. The liquid

feed is first collected to the pseudotracheae and then passed on the food channel formed by labrum, epipharynx and hypopharynx lying in mid dorsal groove of the haustellum.



M.P. of Housefly

T.S. of M.P. of Housefly

Fig - Sponging type

(3) Siphoning type :- 1. Labium greatly reduced, maxillary palps rudimentary and the mandibles usually entirely wanting.

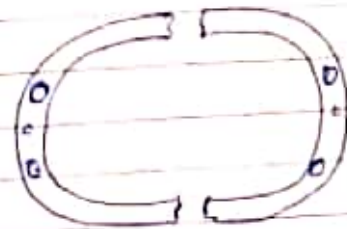
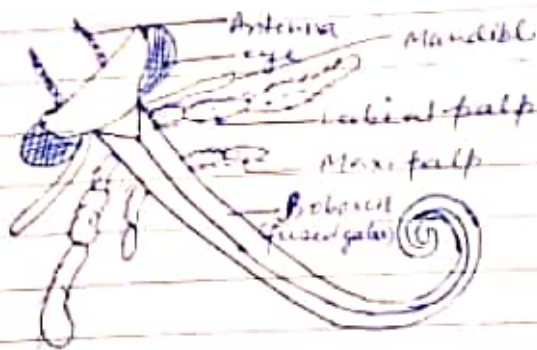
2. The labium is represented only by the large hairy or scaly 3 segmented labial palps and a very small triangular basal plate.

3. The essential working parts are formed by the maxillary parts of which, the gales are greatly elongated & jointed to form a slender hollow tube (proboscis) which is coiled up under the head like a watch spring when not in use. Proboscis is not capable of piercing the skin of an animal or the epidermis of a leaf or fruit except in rare instances.

4. Feeding is done by uncoiling this tube & protruding the tip into some

(4)

exposed liquid such as the nectar in the nectary of a flower and then sucking the liquid through the proboscis. e.g. - Moths & butterflies.



Mouthparts of Butterfly

T.S. of Proboscis of butterfly

Fig - Siphoning type

#### (4) CHEWING AND LAPPING TYPE :-

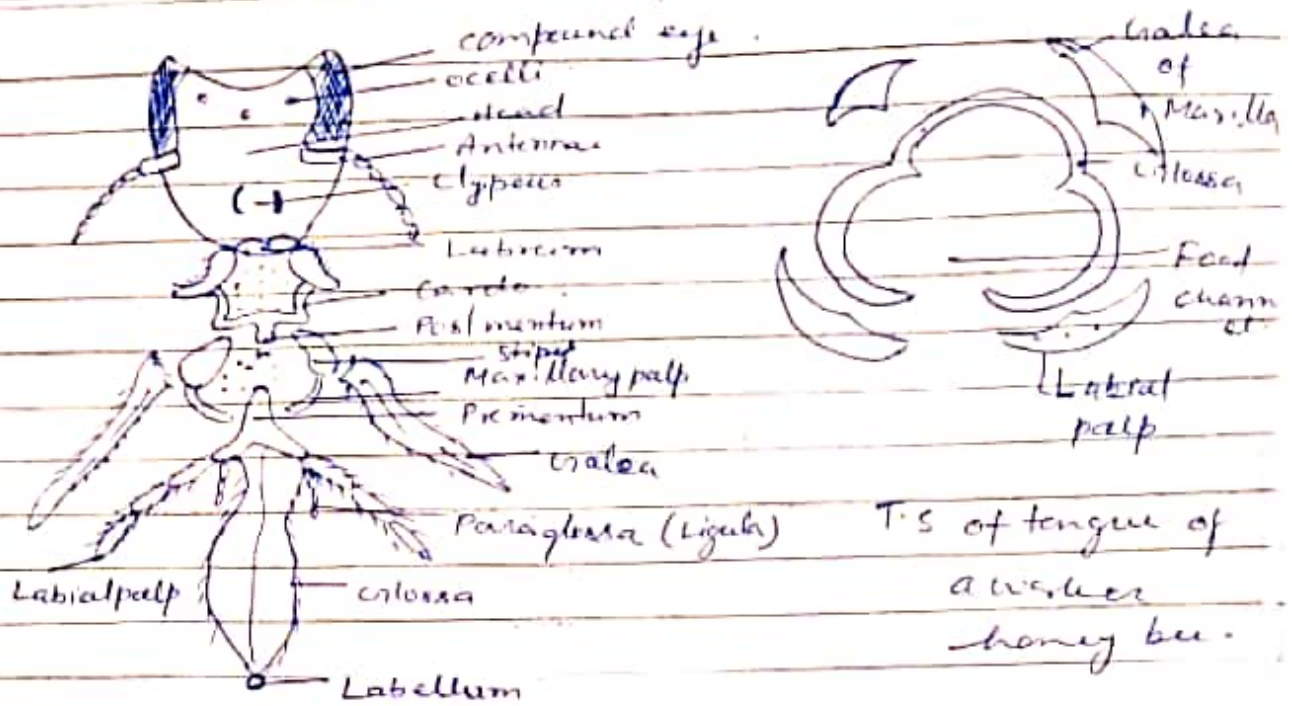
This type is modified for collecting nectar and pollen & liquid food from flower & molding the wax. - Bees & wasps.

1. The Labrum lies beneath the clypeus.
2. The mandibles are situated on either side of the labrum and are smooth & spatulate.
3. In the maxilla the lacinia is absent.
- \* The maxillary palp is vestigial but the galea has become elongated & blade like.
4. The labium is jointed basally to the triangular post mentum or submentum and the muscle filled prementum or mentum.

The paraglossa are greatly reduced while the glossa are united and hairy. It is greatly elongated forming the retractile lingular tongue which terminate distally in a pair - spoon or lakellum. The

(5)

labial palp are also elongated



T.S of tongue of a worker honey bee.

Fig - Head & a mouth parts of worker honey bee (in front view)

Fig chewing and lapping type

(6) Rasping - Sucking type eg - Thrips.

The mouth parts are somewhat intermediate in structure between piercing and cutting & chewing type. They are also asymmetrical. The right mandible is reduced while the left one is elongated along with the maxilla and perhaps also hypopharynx to form the stylate of the piercing type. They are adapted to move in and out through a circular opening at the apex of cone shaped head. Each stylate are contained in a separate pouch. The

(5)

stylet do not enter deeply into the wound rather they rasp to reach & suck the syrup, what goes out on the surface by the mouth; rather than the mouthparts (stylets). Both part of palps (maxillary & labial) are present. It is found in flower thrips.

(6) Degenerate type :- The mouth parts of nymphs are very similar to those of the adult. The mouthparts of larvae are basically of chewing type, regardless of the nature of the mouthparts of their parent. These become somewhat reduced in the larvae of certain order. eg - Lepidoptera, Diptera, Trichoptera & Hymenoptera.