

DI (S/B)

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Fasciola hepatica (The Sheep Liver Fluke)

INTRODUCTION:- The trematodes, belonging to the class Trematoda, are all parasitic. They are commonly called 'flatworm' or 'flukes' (Anglo-Saxon. fluc = flat), on account of their flat, leaf-like form. Flukes inhabit liver and bile duct of vertebrates like cattle, sheep, goat, rabbit, pig, dog and man. Fasciola hepatica is the common liver-fluke of sheep. F. gigantica (F. indica), the liver fluke of cattle, is however a more familiar species in India. Fasciolopsis buski occurs as an intestinal parasite in man and pig, while Clonorchis (= Opisthorchis) sinensis, the Chinese liver fluke is the causative organism of clonorchiasis in human beings in Oriental countries like Japan, Vietnam, Korea and South-eastern China. The present account mostly relates to Fasciola hepatica, the sheep liver fluke which is one of the most widely studied trematodes. Its structure and life history are well-known, but physiology is not much understood, because it is difficult to keep the parasites outside their hosts in a situation where they may be observed.

and used in experiments. There are 14 species
of Liver fluke in world.

Fasciola hepatica