



Understanding the life cycle of a parasite is an important step in disease prevention. This is because different medications target different stages of a parasite's life cycle. Learn more about the life cycle of tapeworms and fleas to learn more about the stages they go through. Here are some examples. The life cycle of a parasite is illustrated using animation. Read on for more information! To learn more about parasite life cycles, visit Medicines for Malaria Venture.

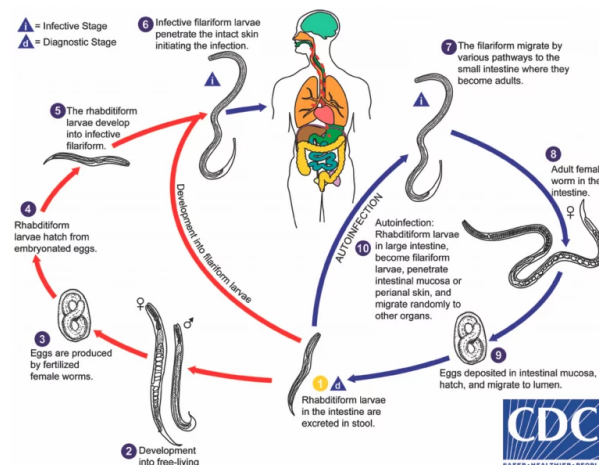
Upon infection, a parasite has to find a new host. The life cycle of a parasite is highly complex. Some parasites live on one host species only while others can infect a wide range of animals and plants. Some of the more complex life cycles are indirect and adapt to host physiology and behavior. Because of this, they are over-dispersed in a population and most individuals have only a single parasite. Some individuals may carry many parasites.

Depending on the species, a parasite may affect up to 25% of the population. Roundworms and pinworms are the most common types of parasites in animals and may infect as much as 25% of the world's population. Pinworms and other parasitic worms are easily picked up in crowded environments. To learn more about the life cycle of a parasite, read the following.

In addition to influencing the final host population, a parasite's life cycle can also affect trophic niche specialization. In addition, parasite-mediated competition can lead to trophic niche specialization. These parasites may have the capacity to alter the behaviors of non-host species, which has important implications for the fitness of conspecifics. Changing the trophic level of a host can also alter the food web.

In addition to the trophic niche, the parasite may cause competitive interactions with non-host species. They may also alter the energy flux in the food web. These interactions may inform evolutionary perspectives as they identify the implications of the parasite's life cycle for selection. The effects of parasitism on the food web are often proportional to the number of hosts and the degree of parasitism. This knowledge is essential for the development of conservation and disease management.

The life cycle of a parasite consists of three stages: larva, adult, and pupa. The first stage requires a fecal host. The third stage of life involves a sexual life cycle. In both stages, the parasite feeds on bacteria found in the feces of the intermediate host. The larvae develop to the infective stage. These stages are termed direct and indirect.



The rhabditid 'threadworms' are tiny and live in the mucous membrane of their host. These worms produce eggs and can cause serious haemorrhagic enteritis in humans. The camallanid 'guinea worms' are larger and have prominent anterior lips. During the larval stage, the worms migrate through the body tissues, where they develop into free-swimming cercaria.