**Hepatic flukes (liver trematodes)**

Phylum: Platyhelminthes

Class: Trematoda

Subclass: Digenea

Order: Prosostomata

1-Family: Fasciolidae

***A)) Fasciola hepatica* (sheep liver fluke)**

*Fasciola hepatica* also commonly known as sheep liver fluke.

**Geographical distribution**: cosmopolitan.

**Habitat:** adult worm lives in the liver bile duct of definitive host.

**Morphology:**

1-Shape: broad and leaf like with head lobe (give it shouldered appearance).

2-Size: 2-3cm in len

gth by 0.8-1.3cm in breadth.

3-Oral and ventral suckers: oral sucker is smaller than the ventral sucker.

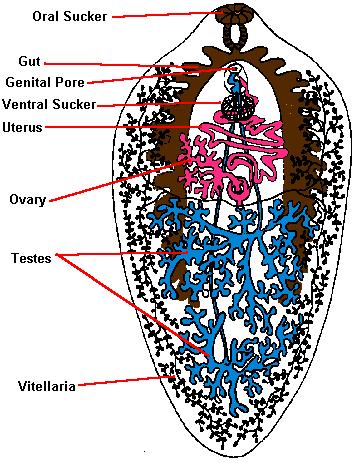
4-Intestinal caeca: the ceca are highly branched extend to the posterior end.

5-Ovary: branched ovary in front the anterior testis, on the right side of the mid line.

6-Vitelline glands: highly branched and occupy lateral fields from shoulder to

posterior end of worm.

7-Testis: the two testes are highly branched, in middle part of the body.

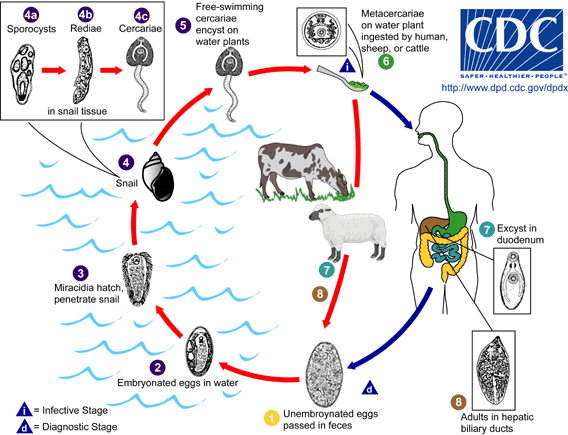
Adult worm of *Fasciola hepatica*

**Life cycle**

**Intermediate host:** Intermediate hosts of *F. hepatica* are freshwater snails from Family Lymnaeidae *(Lymnaea* Sp*.*)

**Definitive host:** sheep, goat, cattle and man.

**Infective form :** Metacercariae encysted on water plants that are ingested by human.



Life cycle of *Fasciola hepatica*

**Disease:**

It cause fascioliasis, liver rot, the most important symptoms are

1- Digestive disturbances

2- Abdominal pain.

3- Diarrhea

4- Anemia.

5- Loss of weight.

6- Enlarged liver.

7- Necrosis of liver tissues along pathway of worms

8- Irregular fever

9- Jaundice.

**Diagnosis**

1- Clinical information, and the source of infection may help to provide a diagnosis.

2- Diagnosis depends mainly on the recovery and identification of eggs in stool

specimens.

The eggs can be detected in the feces either by direct microscopy or by

concentration techniques. In heavy infections, adult worms can be detected

in the stool, especially during treatment

**Treatment:**

Bithinol is recommended for treatment of fascioliasis.

**Prevention and control**

1- Treatment and isolation of infected person.

2- Sterilization of night soil (human faeces) before being used as fertilizer (by using

10% ammonium sulfate to kill the eggs).

3- Steps should be taken to kill the molluscan hosts by using copper sulfate solution.

4- Avoidance of use of raw vegetables.

5- Washing of fruits and vegetables with water befor eating.

6- Avoidance of keeping food materials in open conditions.