

# Intestinal worm infections

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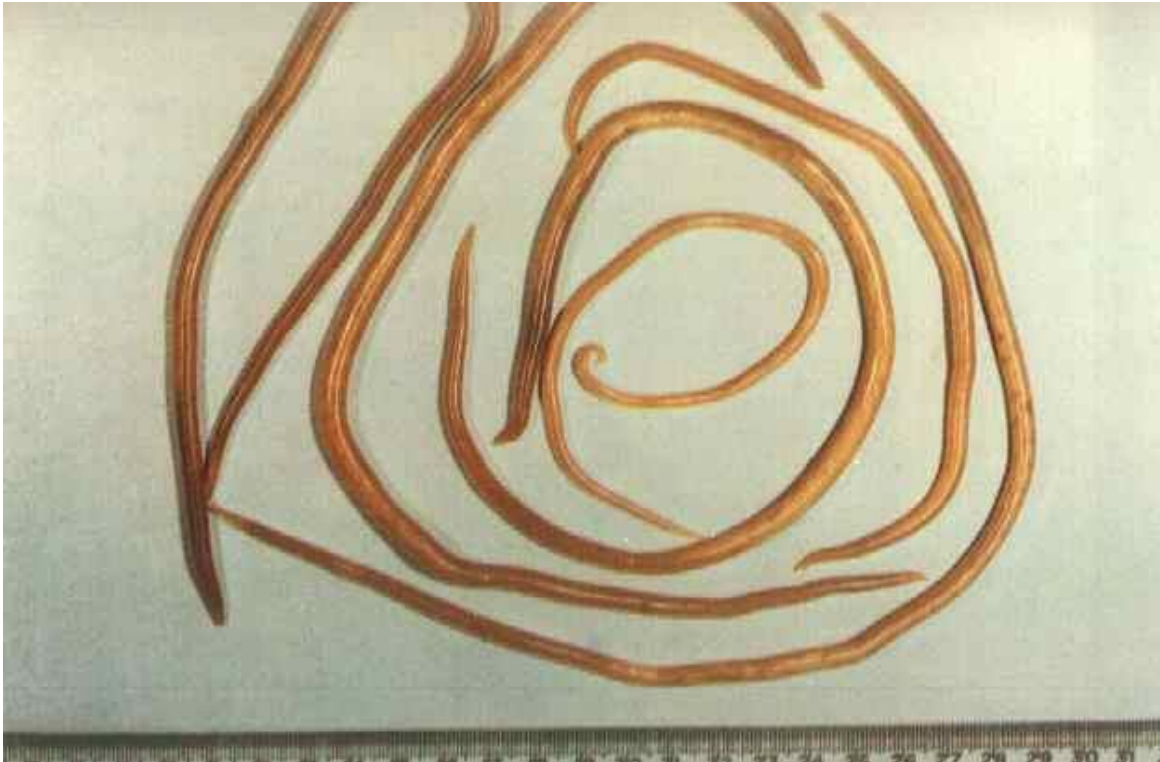
# Four common types of infection

- Roundworm
- Whipworm
- Hookworm
- Pinworm  
(tapeworms)

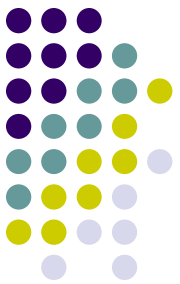
**Roundworms, whipworms and hookworms  
have an obligatory period of development  
in soil**

# *Large roundworm*

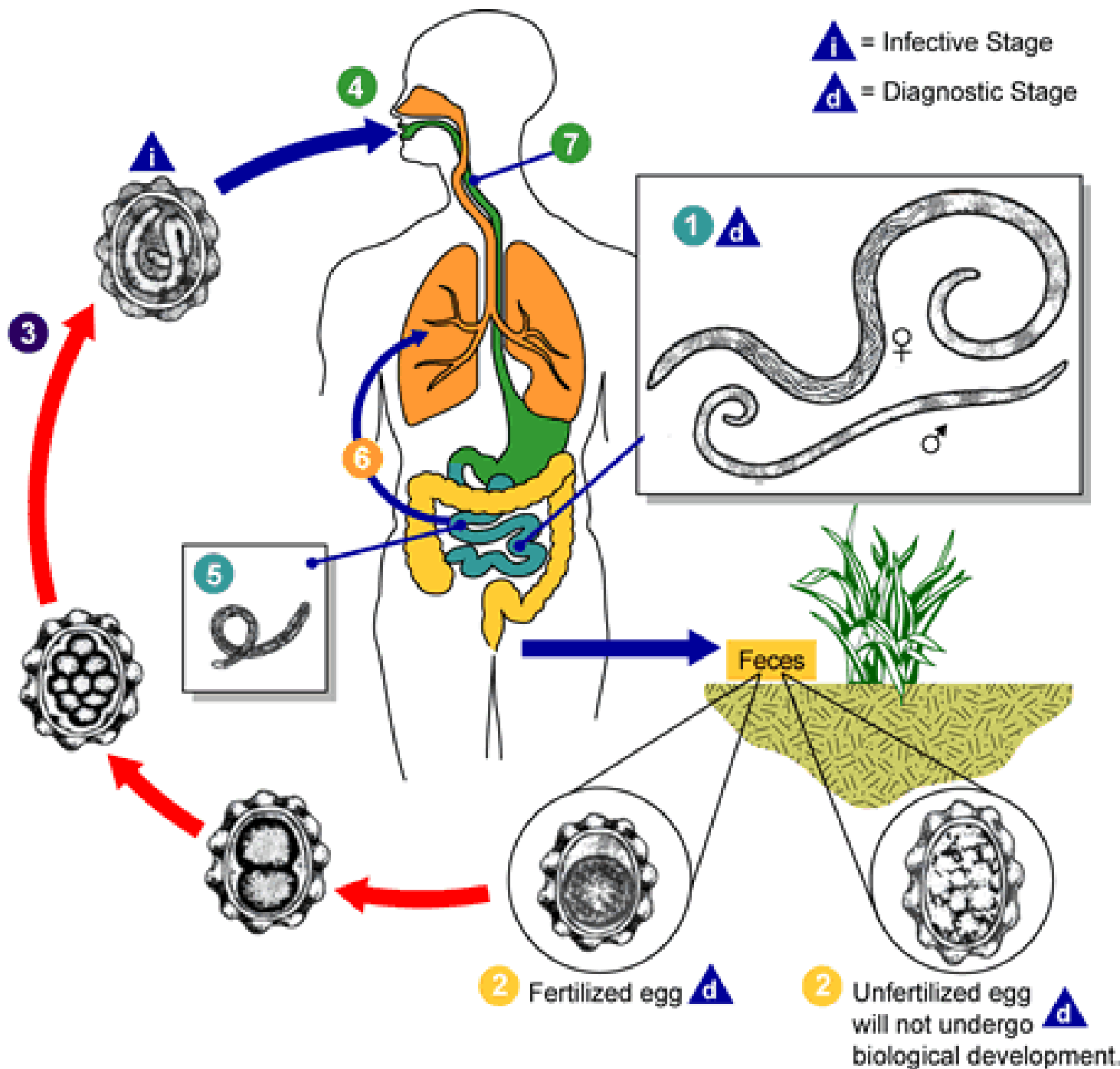
**Scientific name:** *Ascaris lumbricoides*



Adult worms (upto 30 cm in length)



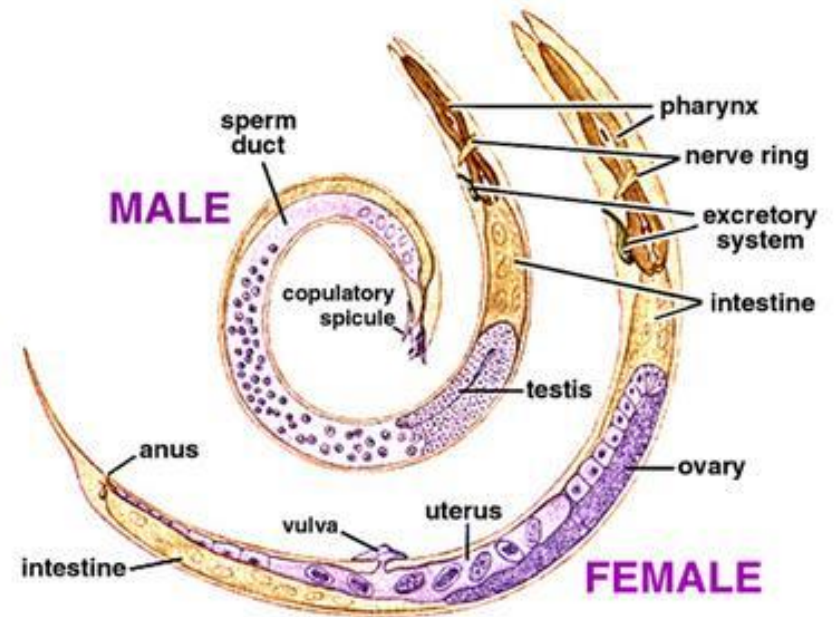
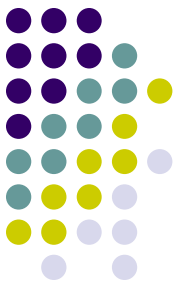
▲<sub>i</sub> = Infective Stage  
▲<sub>d</sub> = Diagnostic Stage





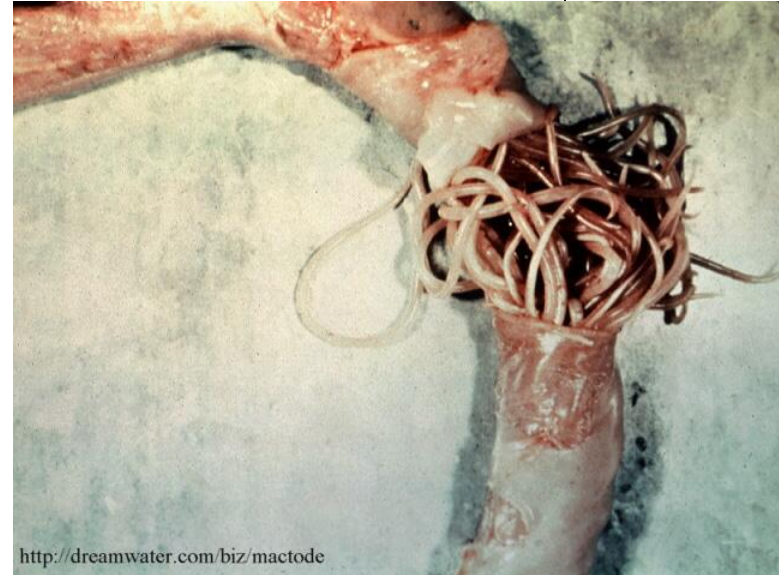
# Life cycle

- Largest Intestinal nematode ♂ < ♀
- Single host: only parasitizes humans
- Adult worms live in small intestine; eggs passed out in faeces; obligatory period of development in soil
- Climatic conditions must be suitable for eggs to develop
- New infections acquired by ingestion of infective eggs
- Larvae migrate through lungs during maturation
- Life span is 10-12 months



# Clinical features

- Most infections are light and asymptomatic
- Malnutrition and stunting of growth in children
- Intestinal obstruction and other complications in heavy infections (few cases)



# Epidemiology



- Extremely common in tropics and subtropics where sanitation is poor
- Children have the highest prevalence and the heaviest infections
- Most individuals have a few worms; a few have many worms



*Ascaris lumbricoides*



Fertile



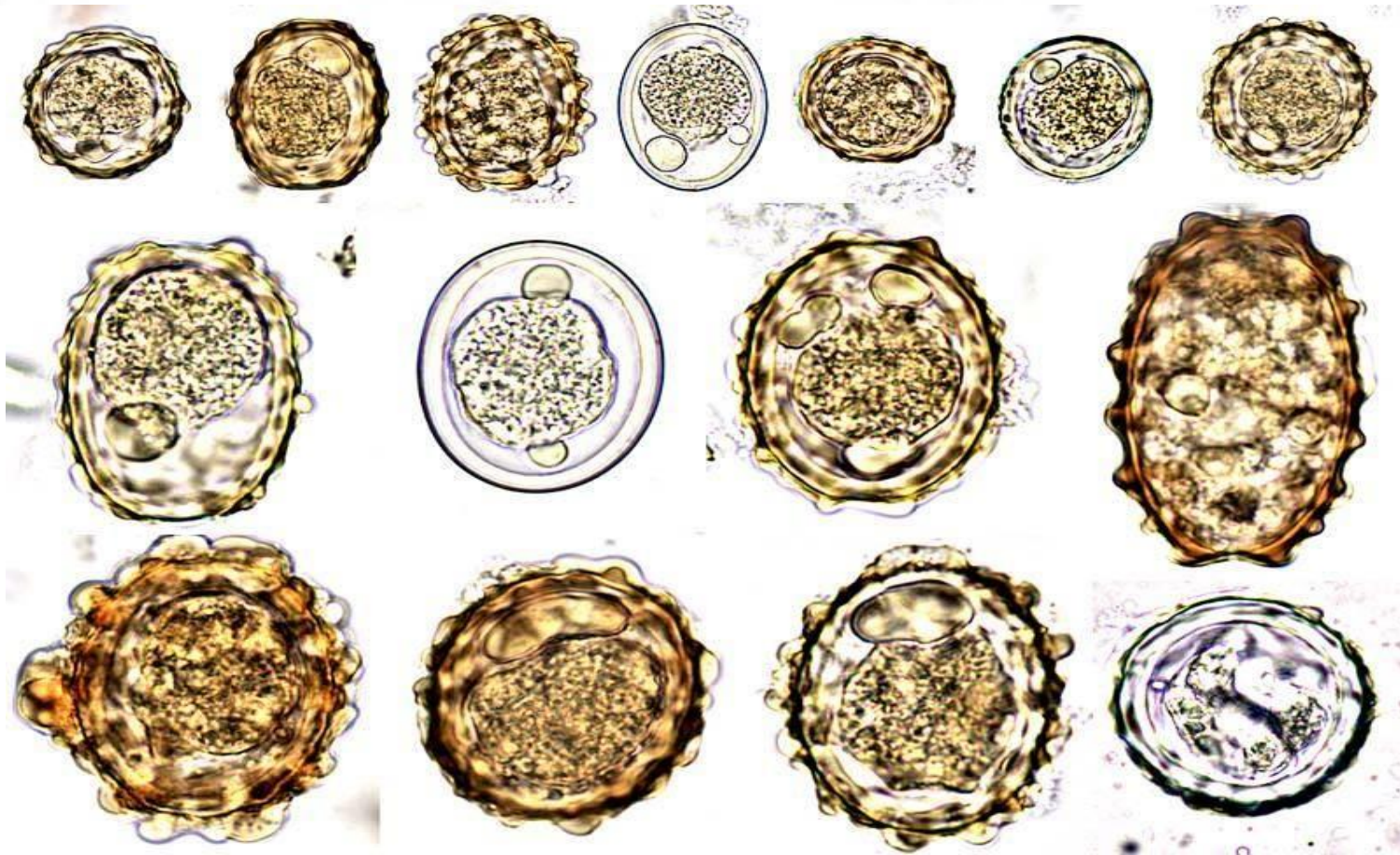
Decorticated



Embryonated

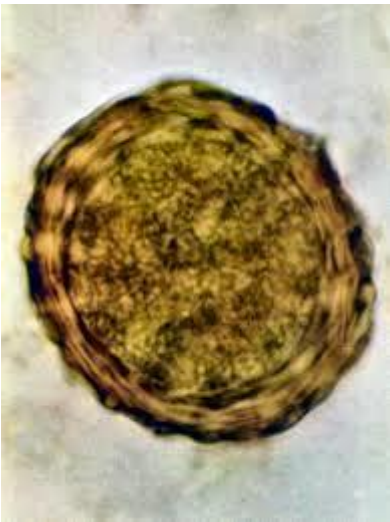
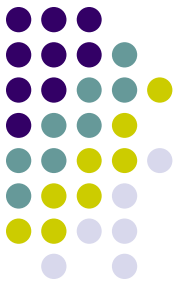


Unfertilized



# Diagnosis of infection

- Demonstration of eggs in faeces





# Treatment

- Deworming medicines: mebendazole, albendazole
- Treat entire household together
  - Frequently requires re-treatment because of environmental contamination
  - Clothing and linen

# Prevention and control

- Personal hygiene is important