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Food and feeding habits

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SEPIA

- ❖ All cephalopods are carnivorous.
- ❖ The food consists chiefly of Crustacea, Mollusca and small fish.
- ❖ The tentacles are rapidly extended and attached to the living prey by the suckers.



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- ❖ Then the tentacles retract, so that the food is brought within the reach of the arms which hold it.
- ❖ The prey is paralysed by the poisonous secretion of the salivary glands, broken into pieces by the jaws and swallowed probably by the aid of the radula.



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SQUIID

- ❖ The squid is carnivorous, feeding on small fish, Crustacea, Mollusca and other squids.
- ❖ The two long tentacles, each of which is retractile into a pouch of the head, can extended forward to seize the prey, when at a distance, by their suction cups and draw it towards the mouth, where it is held firmly by other arms.
- ❖ The jaws cut large pieces which are swallowed rapidly, the small radula probably seldom used.



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MUSSELS

- ❖ The freshwater mussels are found in ponds, lakes, rivers and streams, some in quite and others in flowing waters.
- ❖ They occur more abundantly in waters containing lime as this material is necessary for the production of their shell.
- ❖ They live nearly buried in the mud or sand at the bottom, with only the posterior tips of their shell valves exposed.
- ❖ They may also occur wedged in between the rocks and stones, with the valves slightly spread, and the two siphons exposed.



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- ❖ The food consists of diatoms Protozoa other planktonic micro-organisms and organic detritus brought in by the respiratory water currents.
- ❖ The mussel is typical **filter feeder** and the ctenidia also serve the function to obtain food. It is a sluggish creature, incapable of actively seizing its prey.



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- ❖ Therefore, it obtains its food through current set in water by ciliary movements, in the manner of sedentary organisms.
- ❖ Much like the sessile sponge, mussel must pump large quantities of water through its body, in order to extract food and oxygen and to get rid of the wastes.