

6.2. ANTHELMINTIC DRUGS

6.2.1. Introduction

Anthelmintic drugs act locally to remove the parasites from gastrointestinal tract. Several types of worms may enter other body tissues; anthelmintic drugs act on these parasitic infections. The worm parasites of humans belong to two phyla, i.e., *Nemathelminthes* (round-worms) and *Platyhelminthes* (flatworms). The round worms are hookworms, whipworms, pinworms, *Strongyloides stercoralis*, *Trichinella spiralis*, and *Wuchereria bancrofti*.

6.2.2. Classification

Anthelmintic drugs are classified as follows:

- 1) **Piperazines:** Diethylcarbamazine citrate and Piperazine citrate.
- 2) **Benzimidazoles:** Albendazole, Mebendazole, and Thiabendazole.
- 3) **Heterocyclics:** Oxamniquine and Praziquantel.
- 4) **Natural Products:** Ivermectin and Avermectin.