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Trichuris trichiura
(Whipworm)



Geographical distribution

- World wide common is tropical & temperate zone.

Habitat

- Adult worm lives in large intestine of man, particularly Caecum & also in vermiform appendix.

Morphology

Shape : resembles whip. The anterior 3/5 is thin & posterior 2/5 is thick & stout like handle of whip.

- lives in caecum , its whole anterior portion is embedded in mucus membrane.
- Anterior : long oesophagus
- Posterior : intestine & sex organs

Male : 3 to 4cm in length, caudal is coiled

Female : 4 to 5 cm in length, caudal: coma

Adults of *T. trichiura*



EGG

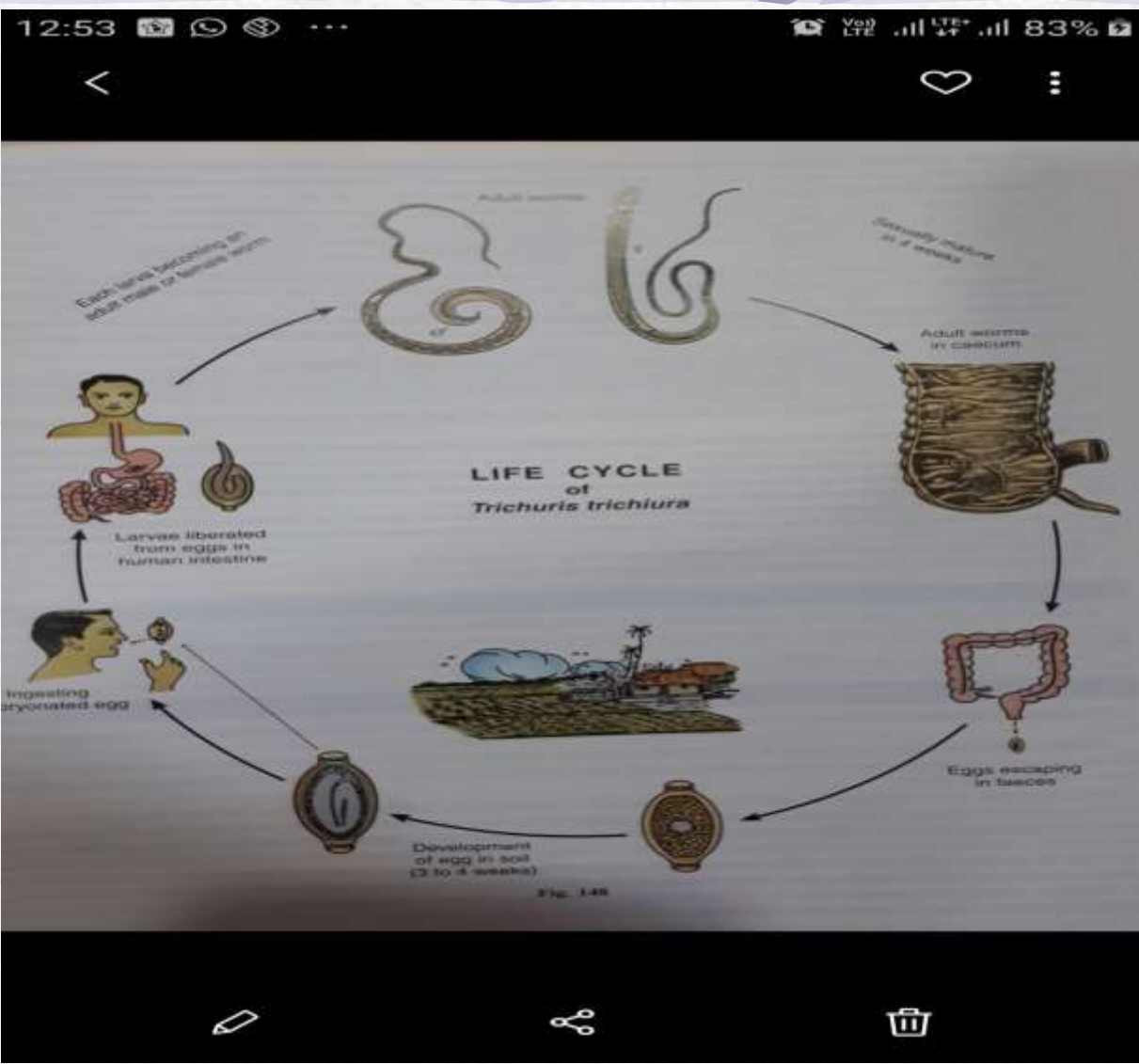
- Shape : it is barrel or spindle
- Size : 50 x 25 μ m
- Colour: brownish(bile stained)
- Contains unsegmented ovum when eggs are freshly passed
- Floats in saturated solution of common salt.



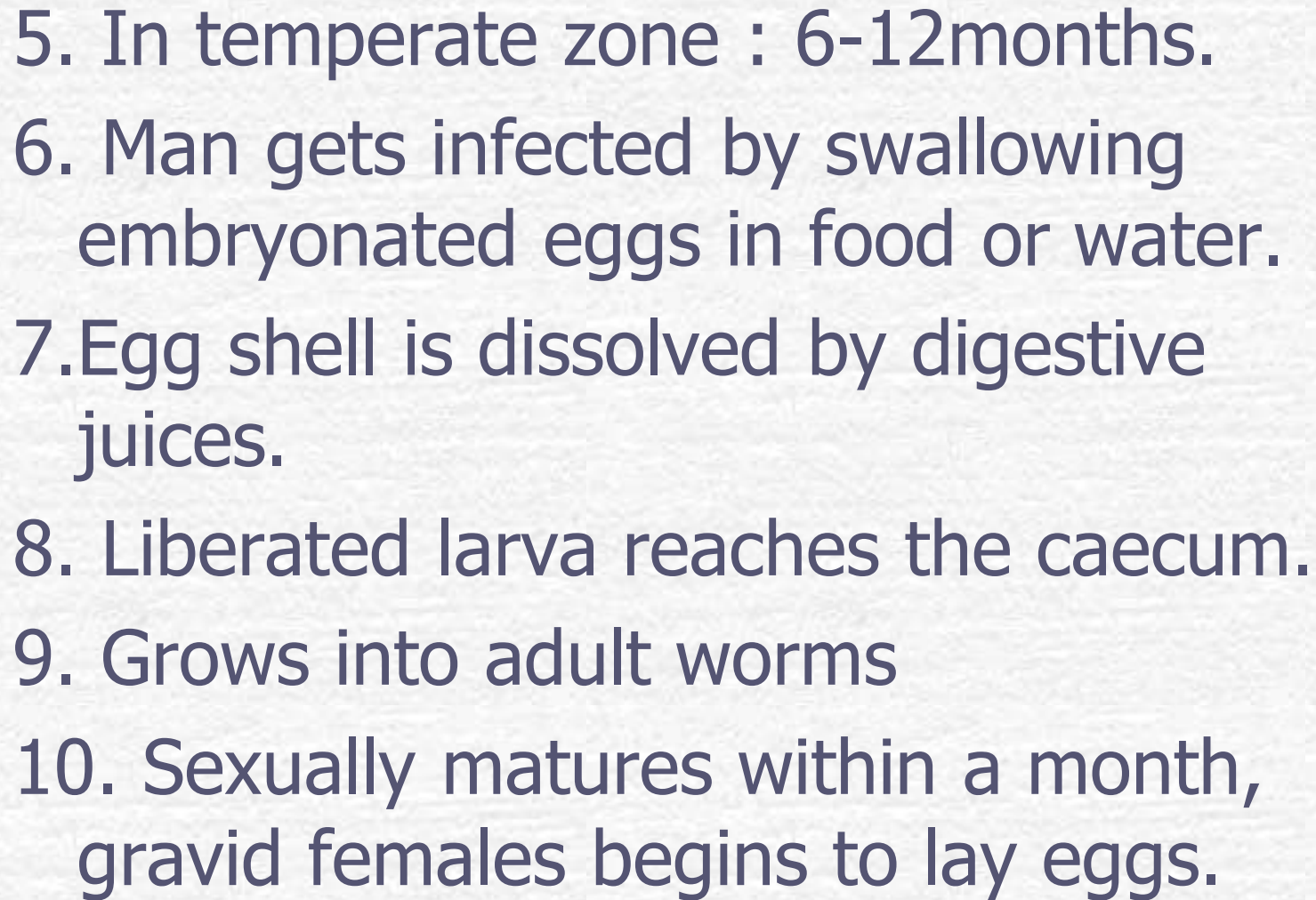
Eggs of *T. trichiura*
under the high power

Life Cycle

1. Site of habitat: Caecum
2. Infective stage: embryonated eggs
3. Mode of infection: swallowing infected egg in food or water
4. Host – Man (No intermediate host)
5. Life span of adult is about 3-5years.



1. Worm passes its life cycle in one host
:Man
2. A change of Host is necessary for continuance of the species.
3. Eggs passed from faeces are are further developed in water or damp earth.
4. A rhabditiform larva develops within the egg in 3 to 4 weeks in tropical climate

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5. In temperate zone : 6-12months.
 6. Man gets infected by swallowing embryonated eggs in food or water.
 7. Egg shell is dissolved by digestive juices.
 8. Liberated larva reaches the caecum.
 9. Grows into adult worms
 10. Sexually matures within a month, gravid females begins to lay eggs.

Pathogenesis & clinical features

Trichuriasis

Light infection: Asymptomatic

Middle infection: are usually abdominal pain, anorexia, diarrhea, constipation .

Heavy infection: Bloody mucus diarrhea, weight loss, prolapse of the rectum may occur.

Diagnosis

- Finding the characteristics of eggs by direct microscopical examination of feacal smear.
- Egg count will reveal the degree of infection.
- Adult worms may occ. Present in stool.
- Proctoscopy examination shows worm in rectal mucosa.

Treatment

- Mebendazole 100mg BD for 3days
- Albendazole 400mg OD for 3days

Prophylaxis

- 1. Proper disposal of night soil.
- 2. Prevention of consumption of uncooked vegetables.
- 3. Eating fruits after washing properly.