

Characteristic Features of Phylum Hemichordata

- Hemichordata is bilaterally symmetrical and triploblastic animal.
- They are exclusively marine animals.
- They can be solitary or in colonies.
- Hemichordata have a true body cavity or coelom.
- The digestive tract is complete with an anus and can be in the form of a U shaped tube or straight.
- A buccal diverticulum is present in the proboscis.
- Body is divided into three regions – Proboscis, Collar and Trunk.

- **Circulatory system** in open type.
- **Respiration** occurs through gills.
- The proboscis has a glomerulus, which is the excretory organ.
- A primitive nervous system is present.
- Sexes are separate or united.
- Reproduction is mostly sexual reproduction.
- **Fertilization** is external.
- Development is mostly indirect. But a few species exhibit direct development.