

# ***INTRODUCTION TO PARASITOLOGY***

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### **What is parasitism:-**

Evolutionary ecology, **parasitism** is a symbiotic relationship between specieses, where one organism, the **parasite**, lives on or in another organism, the host, causing it some harm, and is adapted structurally to this way of life. The entomologist E.O.Wilson has characterised parasites as "predators that eat prey in units of less than one".

Parasites include protozoans such as the agents of malaria, sleeping sickness, and amoebic; animals such as hookworms, lice, mosquito, and vampire bats; fungi such as honey fungus and the agents of ringworm; and plants such as mistletoe, dooder, and the broomrapes.

### **What is parasitology :-**

**Parasitology** is the study of parasites, their hosts, and the relationship between them. As a biological discipline, the scope of parasitology is not determined by the organism or environment in question but by their way of life. The subject is often broken up into simpler, more focused units, which use common techniques, even if they are not studying the same organisms or diseases. Much research in parasitology falls somewhere between two or more of these definitions. In general, the study of prokaryotes falls under the field of bacteriology rather than parasitology.



Figure:- *Toxoplasma gondii*

### **Relationship to Parasitology with other sciences:-**

Parasitology, an important part of biology, is the science responsible for the study of parasitism, that is, the relationship between parasite, host, and environment, in the understanding that parasite is that living being that is housed and/or fed by another living being during part or all of

its life, generally who is staying is of different species, of greater size, and more developed structure than the host; the parasite is understood. The relationship between living beings is complex; therefore, the study of it must be constant and from different approaches, with the purpose of increasing and deepening knowledge about it.

**Probable Questions:-**

1. What is parasite?
2. What is parasitism?
3. What is parasitology?
4. What is the connection between parasitology with other sciences?