

The family Fasciolidae is an important group of trematodes including serious pathogens of humans and livestock. The life cycle is divided into two phases – sexual reproduction in the definitive host body (large land mammals) and an asexual reproduction in the intermediate host body (aquatic snails of the family Lymnaeidae and Planorbidae). Development within the snail host is characterized by production of large amounts of parasite larvae (sporocyst, rediae, cercariae). Cercariae released from the snail immediately start to transform into metacercariae, the larval stages infectious for definitive host. Snail phase of infection is generally accompanied by number of mostly negative symptoms (massive pathological changes, often followed by reduction of fertility). This summary reveals that current knowledge concerning the ontogenetic development of fasciolids in the intermediate host is uncomplete and unequally investigated. According to this summary is also obvious that some of the published findings are universally valid for all members of the family Fasciolidae and other are characteristic only for particular species.