Eating, digestion & excretion

- Most molluscs have muscular mouths with radulae "tongues", bearing many rows of chitinous teeth, which are replaced from the rear as they wear out.
- The Fadula page of primary function of scraping bacteria and algae off rocks,
- and is associated with the odontophore, a cartilaginous supporting organ.
- The radula is unique to the molluscs and has no equivalent in any other animal.
- Molluscs' mouths also contain glands that secrete slimy mucus, to which the food sticks. Beating cilia (tiny "hairs") drive the mucus towards the stomach, so the mucus forms a long string called a "food string".

Circulatory system

- Molluscs' circulatory systems are mainly open.
 Although molluscs of are coelomates, their coelores are peakeed to fairly small spaces enclosing the heart and gonads.
- The main body cavity is a hemocoel through which blood and coelomic fluid circulate and which encloses most of the other internal organs.
- These hemocoelic spaces act as an efficient hydrostatic skeleton. The blood contains the respiratory pigment hemocyanin as an oxygencarrier.

Hazards

- Mollusc species can also depresent hazards or pests for human activities.
 The bite of the blue-ringed octopus is often fatal;
- The bite of the blue-ringed octopus is often fatal; causes inflammation that can last for over a month.
- Stings from a few species of large tropical cone shells can also kill,
- but their sophisticated, though easily produced, venoms have become important tools in neurological research.

Hazards (cont'd)

- Schistosomiasis (bilharzia bilharziosis or snail fever) is transmitted to humans via water snail hosts eview page 23
- affects about 200 million people.
- Snails and slugs can also be serious agricultural pests,
- and accidental or deliberate introduction of some snail species into new environments has seriously damaged some ecosystems.