The study of cestodes parasitic in fishes and other vertebrates is of great antiquity, and it is certain that many of them were known and recognized by the most primitive people. Systematic accounts of these parasites are, however, of comparatively recent date. It is impossible and unnecessary to refer to all of them. Only a few of important ones are being cited.

Redi (1684) described certain larval tapeworms from fishes. In 1729 he obtained a number of other cestodes. He was probably the first helminthologist who studied these worms from a systematic point of view.

Pallas (1760) and Goeze (1782) dealt with a number of cestode worms from fishes. Bloch (1779), Fabricius (1780), and Abildgaard (1790) gave an account of a number of cestode parasites in certain fishes.

Zeder (1800) gave 'A First Account of the Natural History of the Tapeworms'. Rudolphi (1809-1810) proposed the first extensive scheme of classification of the parasitic worms.

Beneden (1850) studied the cestodes in particular, especially those from marine fishes. He erected many new genera and species, and of the latter he gave very full
Descriptions and good illustrations.

Diesing (1850, 1854 and 1863) published most elaborate and lengthy systematic accounts of the cestodes. Monticelli (1892) placed together in a group which he called Cestodaria all those cestodes in which the body was unsegmented and contained a single set of genital organs.

Braun (1894–1900) raised the cestodes to a class and divided them into five orders. A thorough reappraisal of the systematic position of caryophyllaeideans by Nybelin (1922), based chiefly on morphological characteristics and including a review of the species marks the beginning of the period that is largely characterised by descriptions of new species by Woodland (1923, 1924), Bovien (1926), Poche (1926), Baylis (1928), Meggitt (1930), Hunter (1927, 1929), Moghe (1925, 1931). Hunter (1930) studied caryophyllidean systematics, with some attention to their growth, pathological effects and host distribution.

Southwell made elaborate studies on cestodes. In 1930 he gave a detailed account of cestodes from India, Ceylon and Burma in Fauna of British India series. Wardle and Mcleod (1952) furnished a detailed account of the tapeworms of the world. They summarized what was hitherto known about their classification, structure, life histories and ways of life. This work provided descriptions of and identification keys for all the known families and genera.
of tapeworms and the majority of the known species.

The systematics of tapeworms of vertebrates were dealt as a whole by Yamaguti (1959) in his book Systema Helminthum (Vol. II).

Dubinina (1964) gave a detailed account of the tapeworms of the family Ligulidae of the USSR dealing with their morphology, developmental cycle, evolution and phylogeny, species composition and pathogenic influence of ligulid plerocercoids on fish and possible measures for control of ligulosis.

A great deal of work on caryophyllidean cestodes was carried out by Mackiewicz (1959, 1963, 1968). A synopsis of caryophyllidean morphology was given by Mackiewicz (1970). In 1972 he gave a review of Caryophyllidea. In this he summarized all the information with a brief survey of literature, morphology, ultrastructure, biology, host parasite relationships, phylogeny, zoogeography and classification. In 1981 he gave a review of classification and evolution of Caryophyllidea. The same year he also gave a synoptic review of the Caryophyllidea of India, Pakistan and Burma.

Tadros (1966) had given classification of the family Bothriocephalidae. In 1968 he had given redescription of Polyonchobothrium clarias, with a brief review of the genus Polyonchobothrium Diesing, 1854 and the identity of


Verma (1928) described some cestodes from Indian fishes including four new species of Tetraphyllidea and revised keys to the genera *Acanthobothrium* and *Gangesia*. Singh (1948) recorded a new cestode, *Gangesia lucknowia* from a freshwater fish, *Eutropiichthys vacha* with a revised key to the species of the genus. Johri (1956) described a new cestode species, *Senga lucknowensis* from *Mastacembellus armatus*.

Gupta (1961) described three new genera and four new species of Caryophyllaeiidae from intestine of freshwater siluroid fishes.

Others who have made contributions in India are Rao (1959), Shinde (1972), Ramadevi (1973), Deshmukh and Shinde (1975), Chincholikar et al. (1976), Shinde and Chincholikar (1977), Malhotra et al. (1980, 1981) and Niyogi et al. (1982).