



# Lifecycles

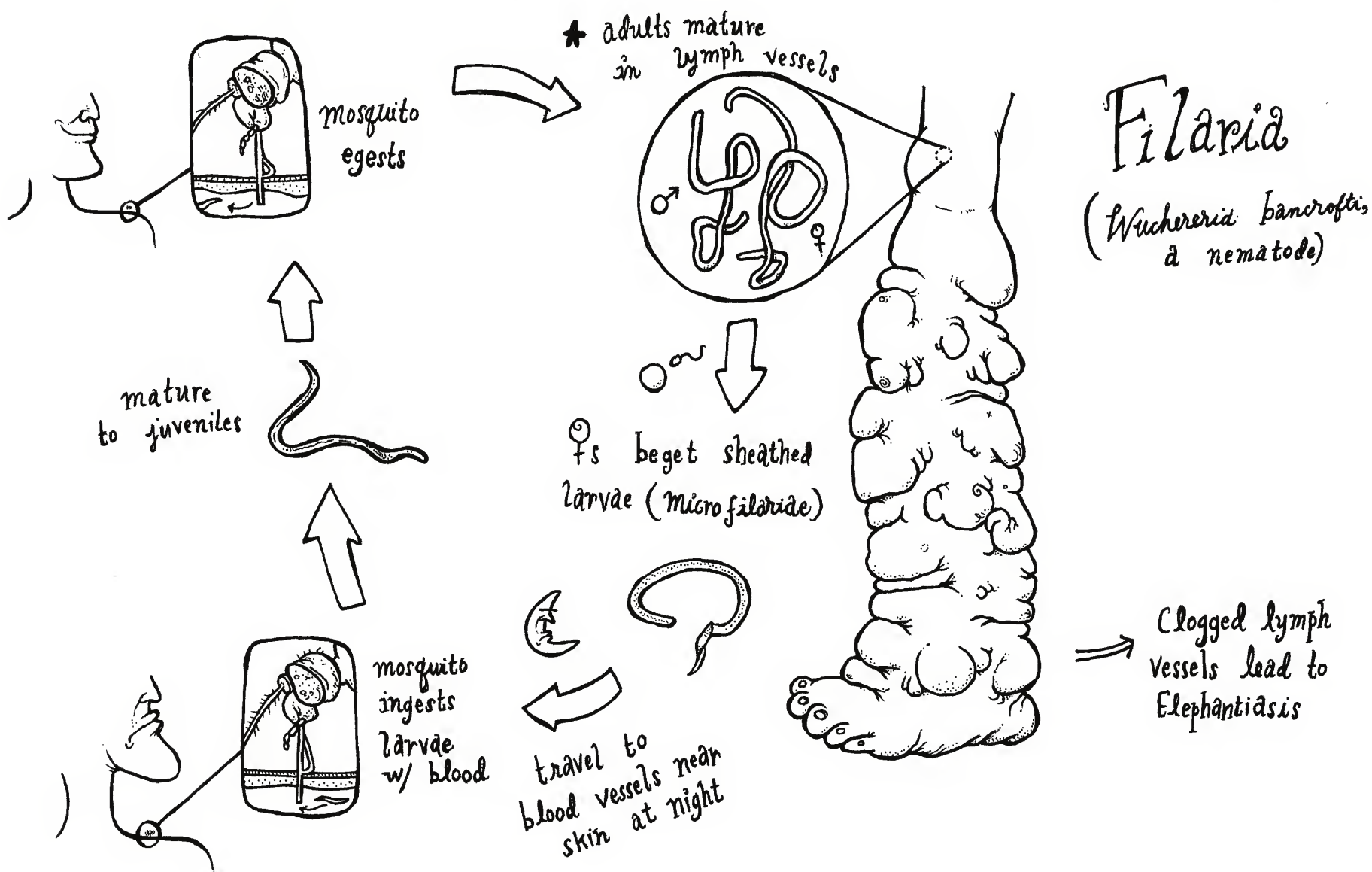
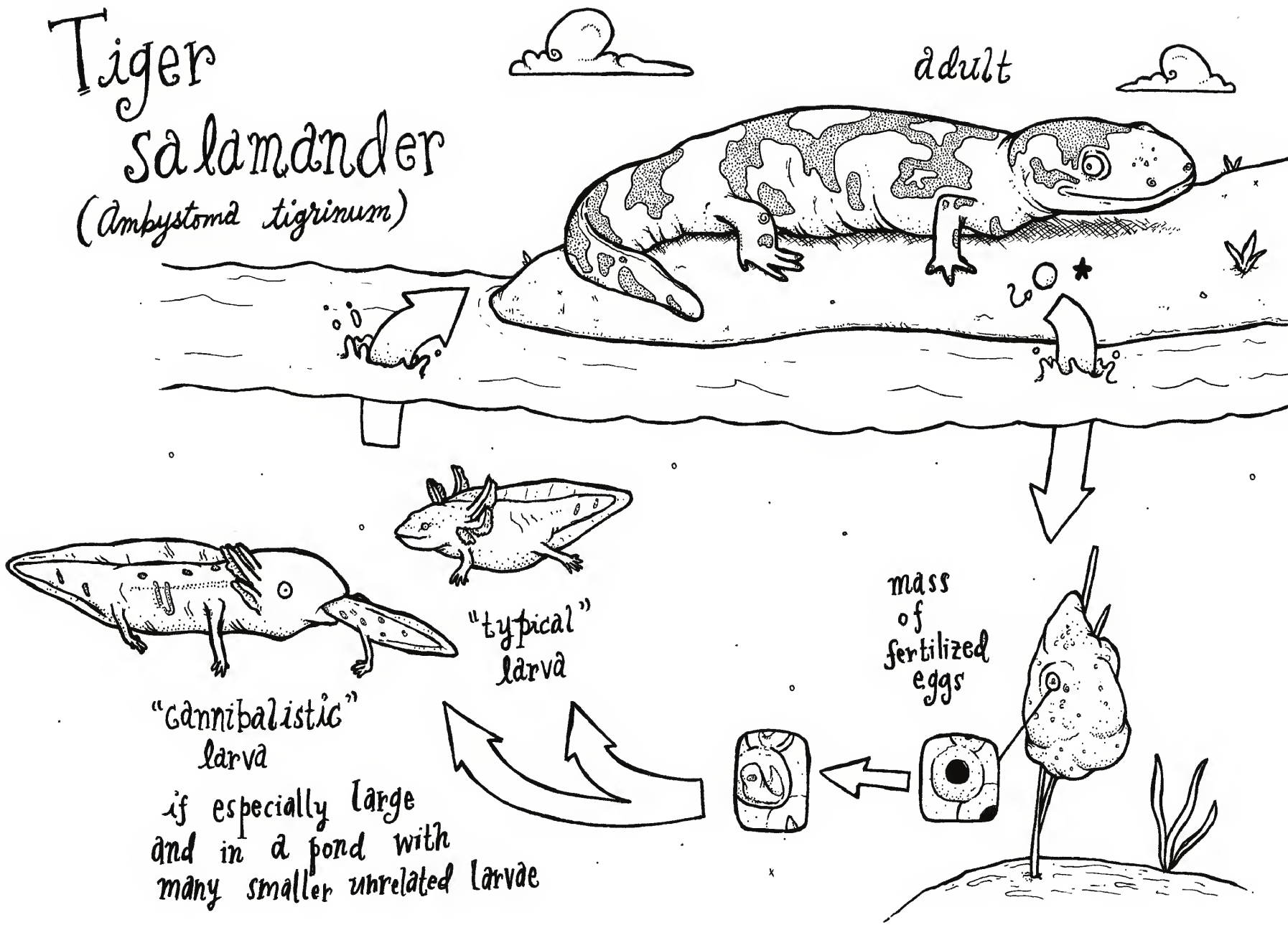
by Manvir Singh

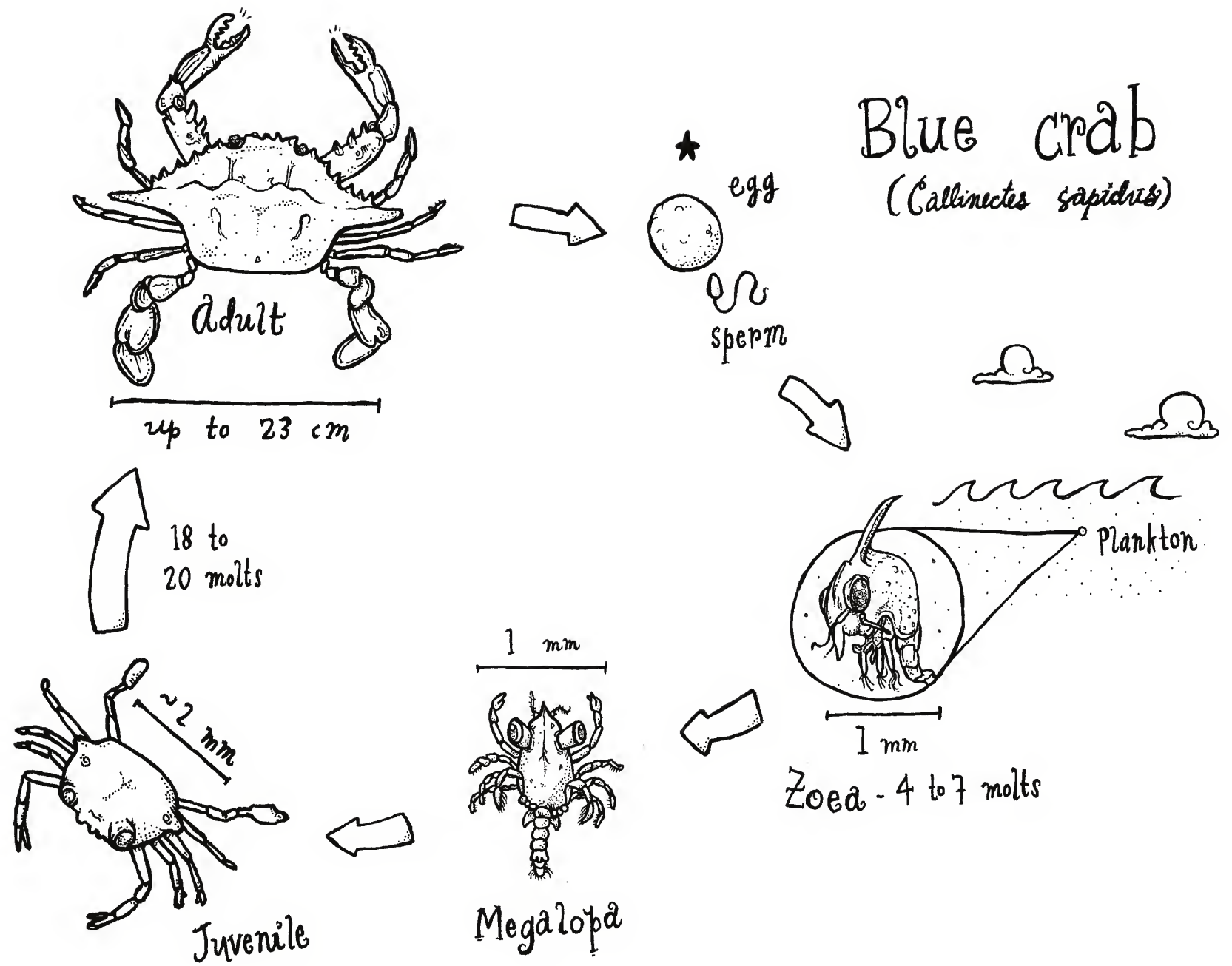
Most of us have a pretty biased view of lifecycles that is shaped by our knowledge of familiar organisms. Our own lifecycles are quite simple - we come out of other humans looking like little people, grow to a larger size, and create more people. Yet many animals live more complicated lives than our own - tadpoles and caterpillars look nothing like their parents but later metamorphose into adults. This pamphlet builds on this foundation, introducing readers to a wonderful diversity of organisms and lifestyles. I chose these organisms to highlight certain features including transformations in body forms, changes in habitat, and a dependence on other organisms. As you peruse through the pamphlet, keep in mind that organisms experience many environmental problems, like how to propagate or avoid competition, and a lifecycle acts as a dynamic solution to these pressures. Enjoy!

★ ⇒ start reading lifecycle here

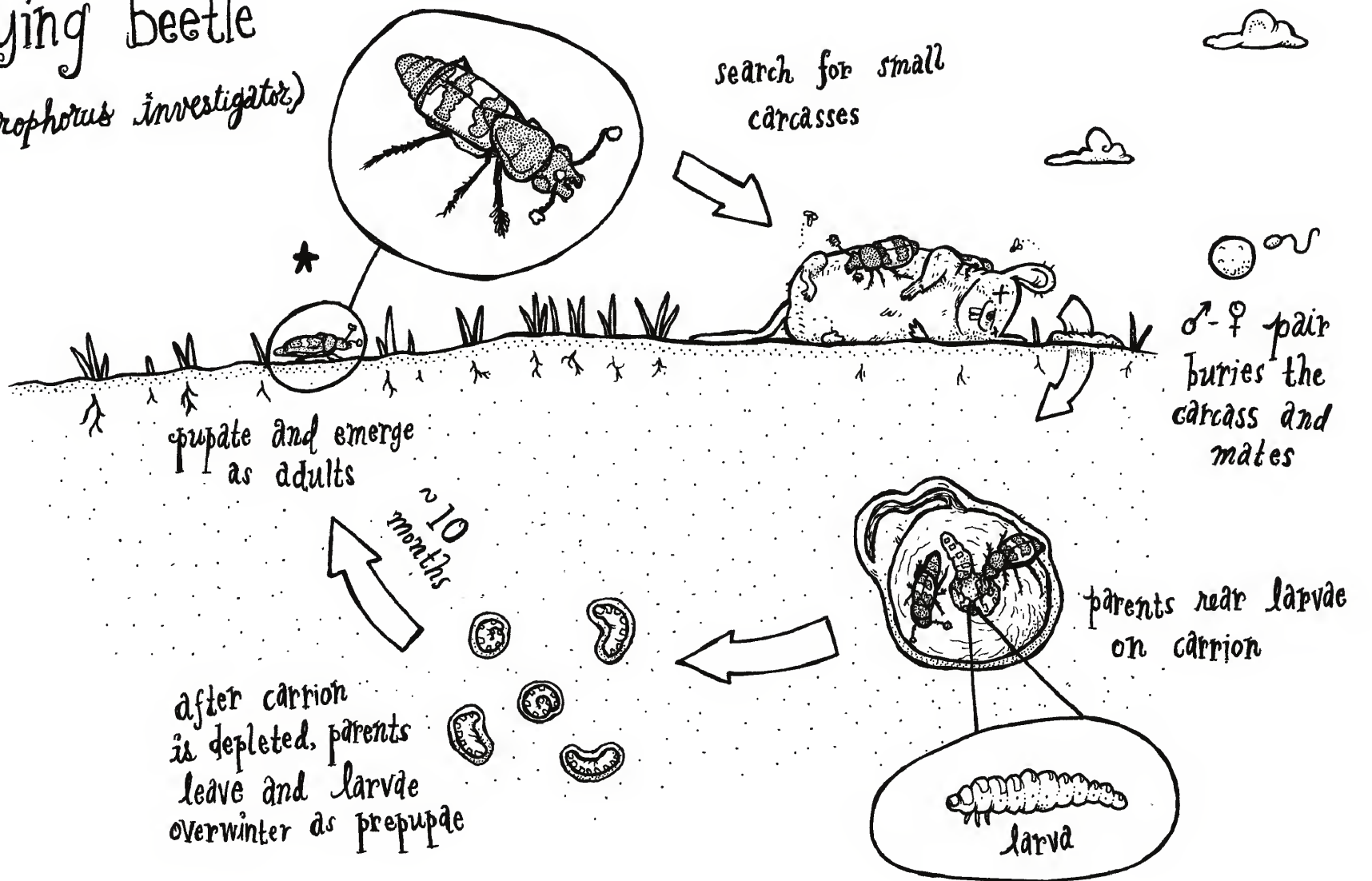
# Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)

adult



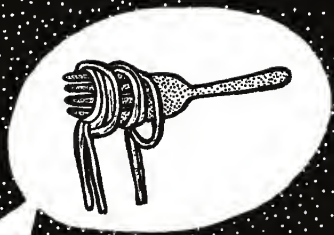


## Burying beetle (*Nicrophorus investigator*)

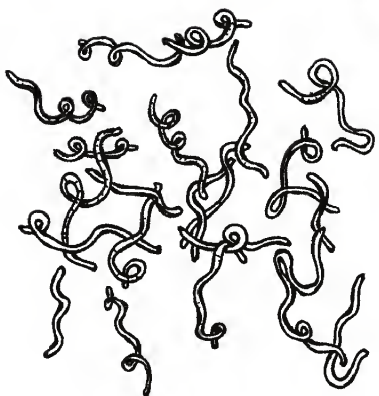


# Samoaan palolo worm

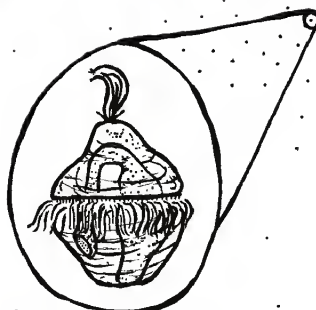
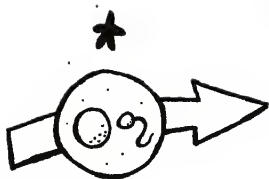
(*Palola viridis*, an annelid)



collected  
and prized as  
delicacy



epitokes  
disintegrate,  
releasing egg  
or sperm

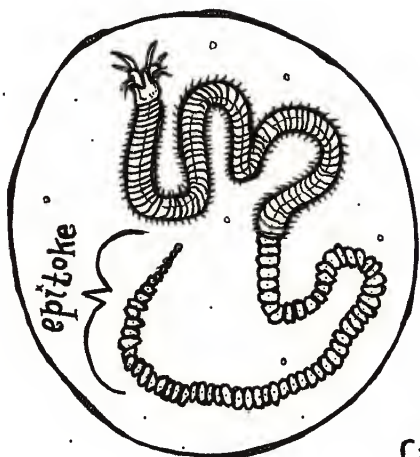


trochophore  
larva

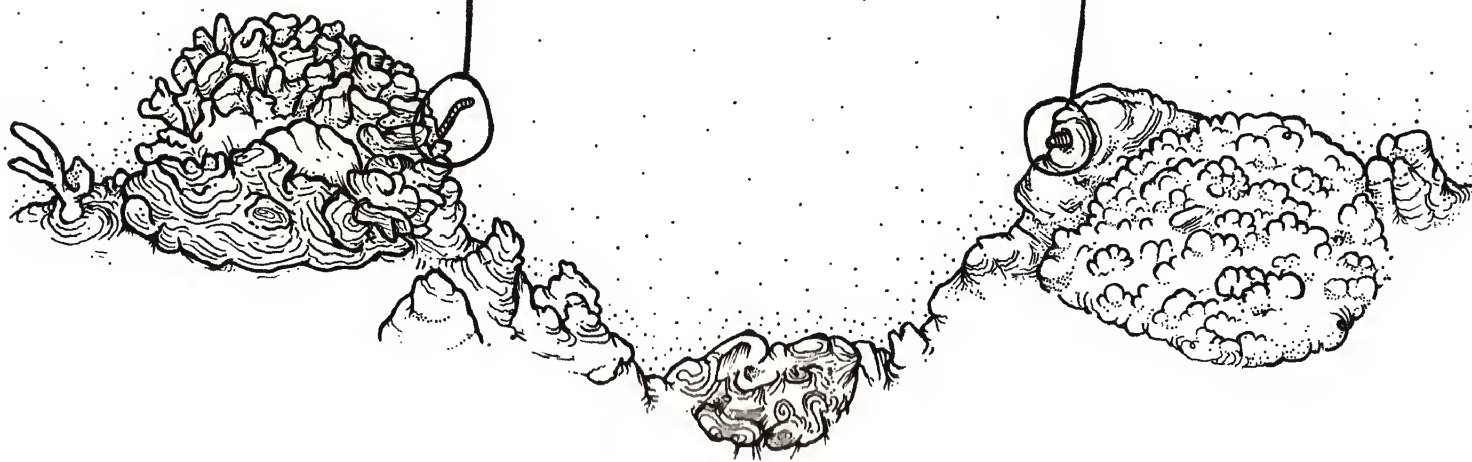
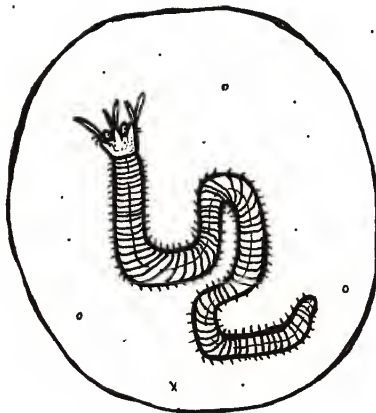
plankton

on one October  
or November night,  
mass numbers of  
worms release their  
epitokes  
(synchronized to  
lunar cycle)

develops  
into adult  
and settles  
in reef

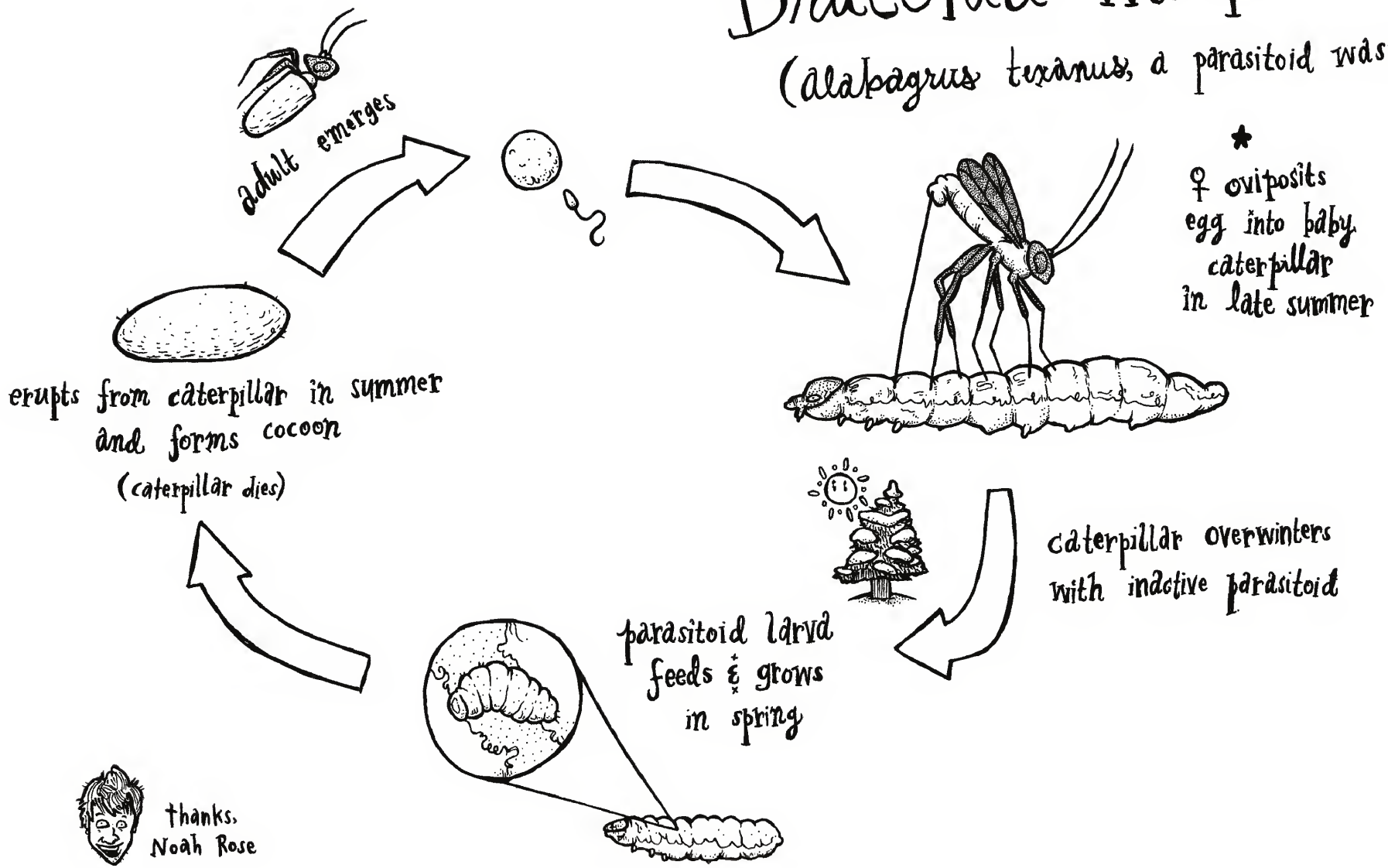


Worm buds  
swimming, gamete-  
filled chunk of body  
called epitoke



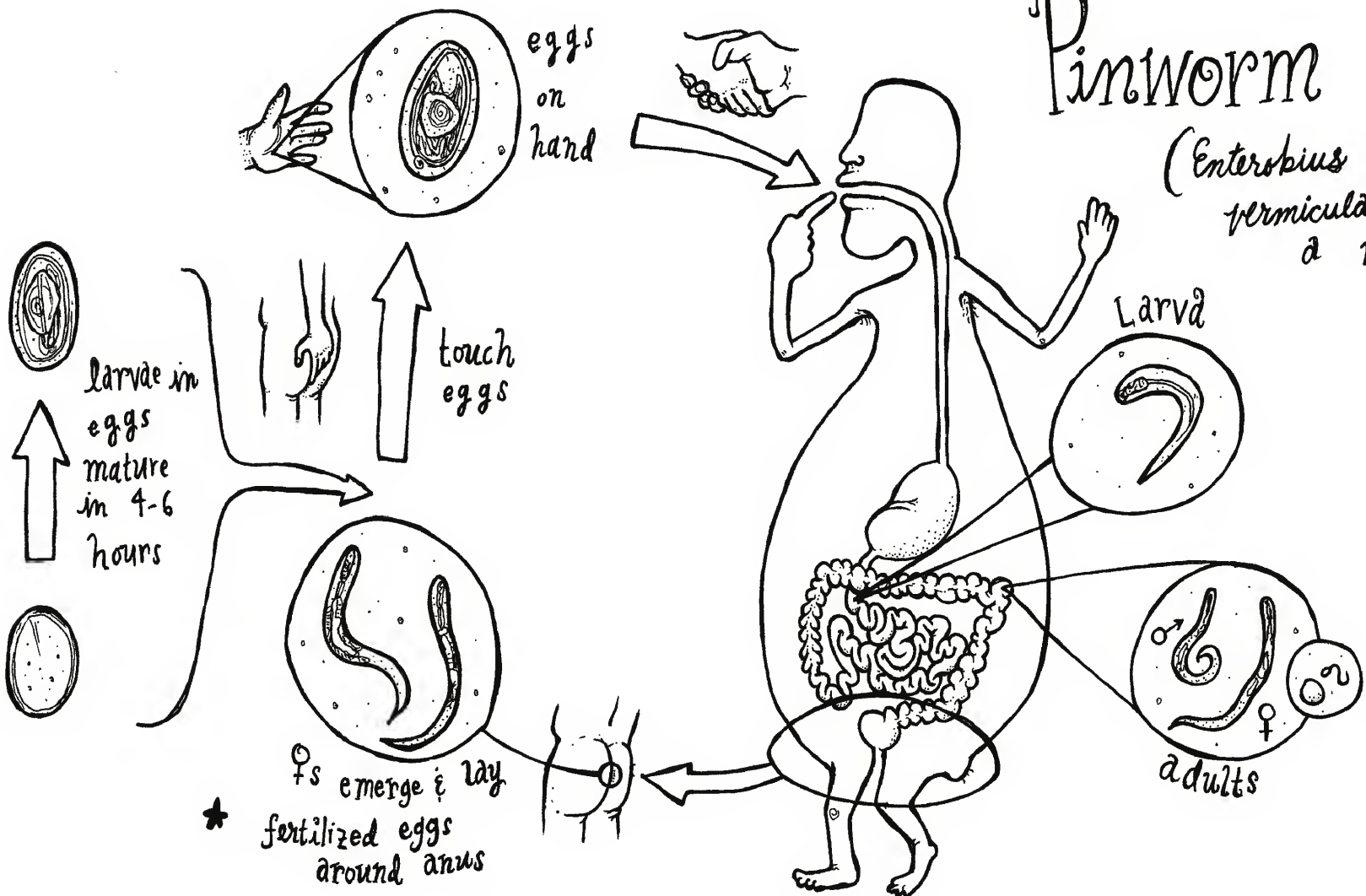
# Braconid wasp

(*Alabagrus texanus*, a parasitoid wasp)



# Pinworm

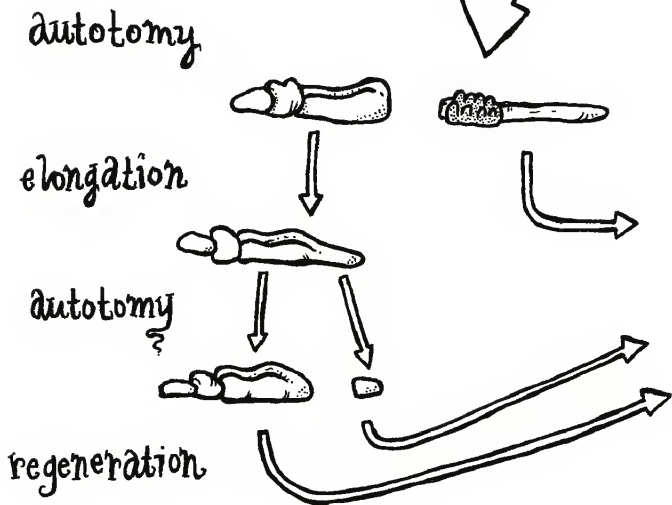
(*Enterobius vermicularis*, a nematode)



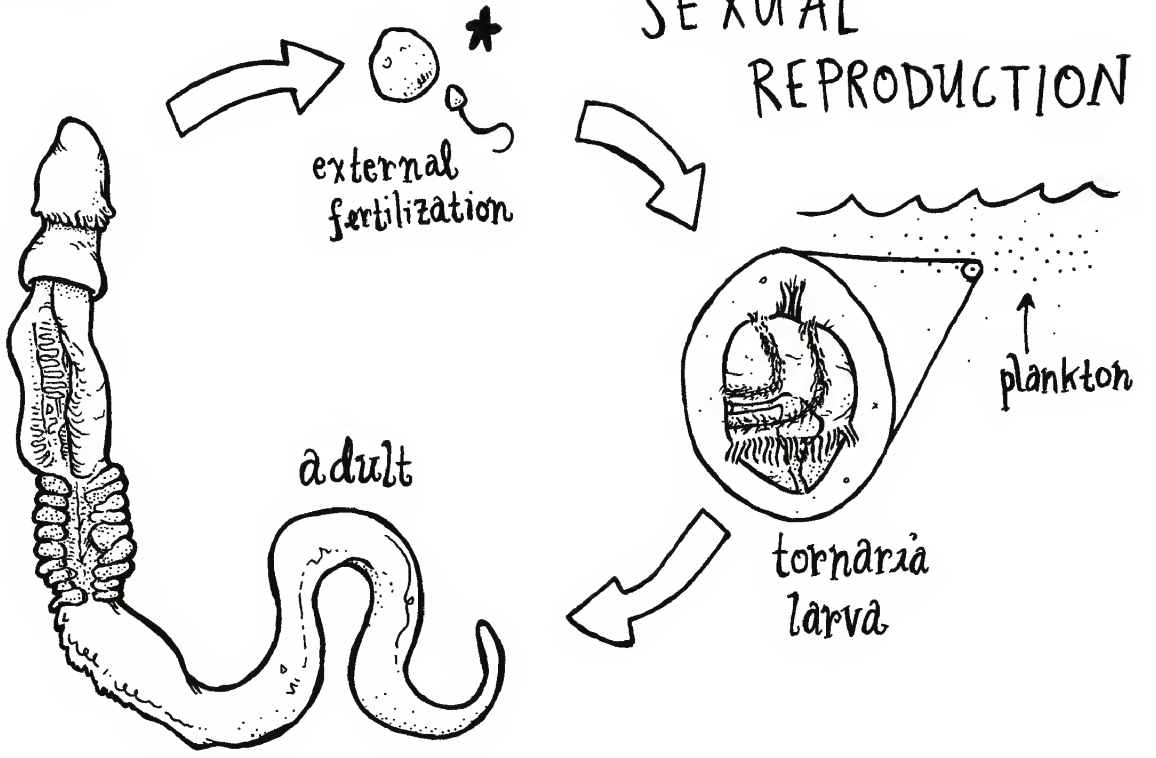
# Acorn worm

(*Balanoglossus sinodensis*)

## ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION



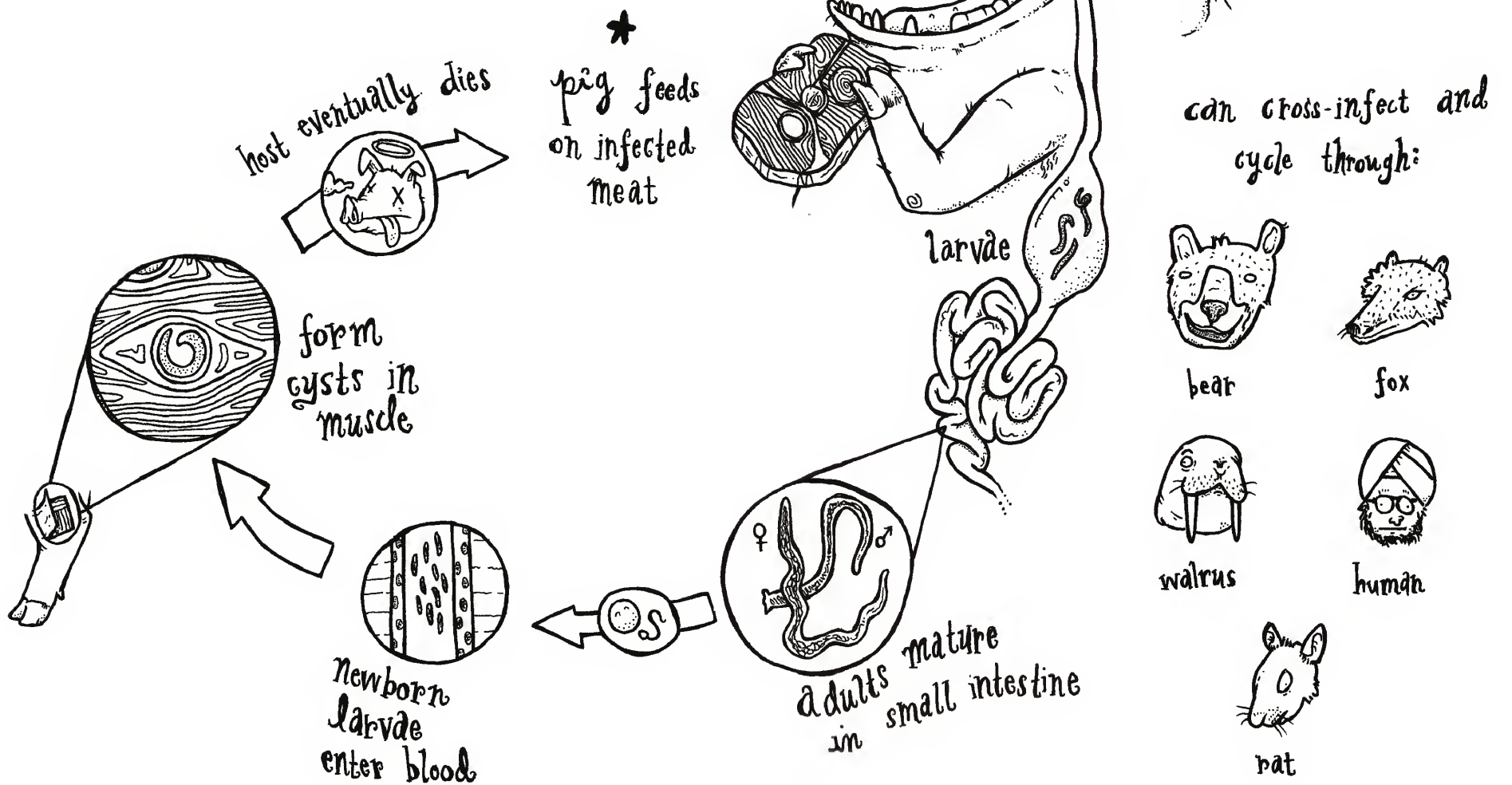
## SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

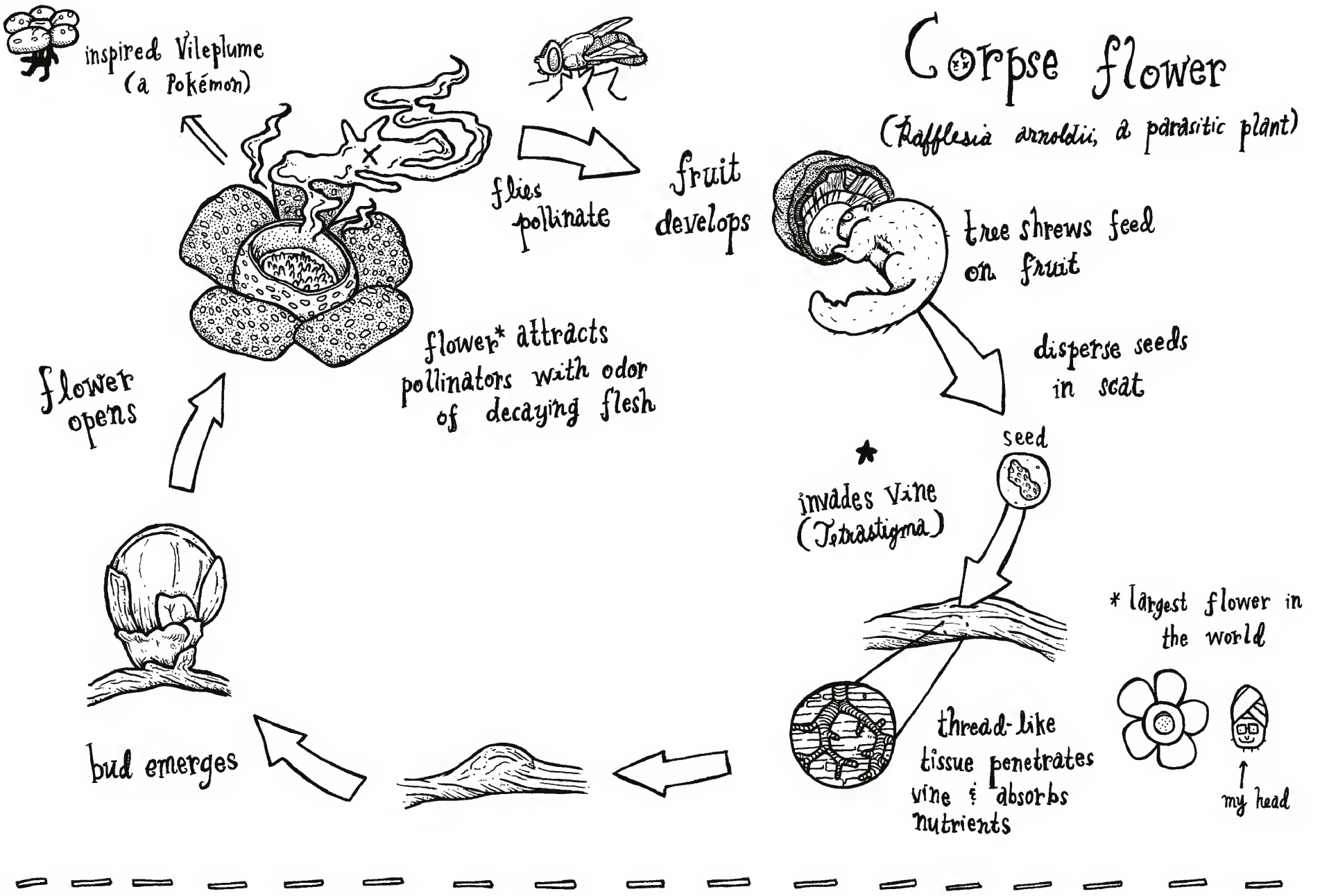


# Trichina worm

(*Trichinella spiralis*, another nematode)

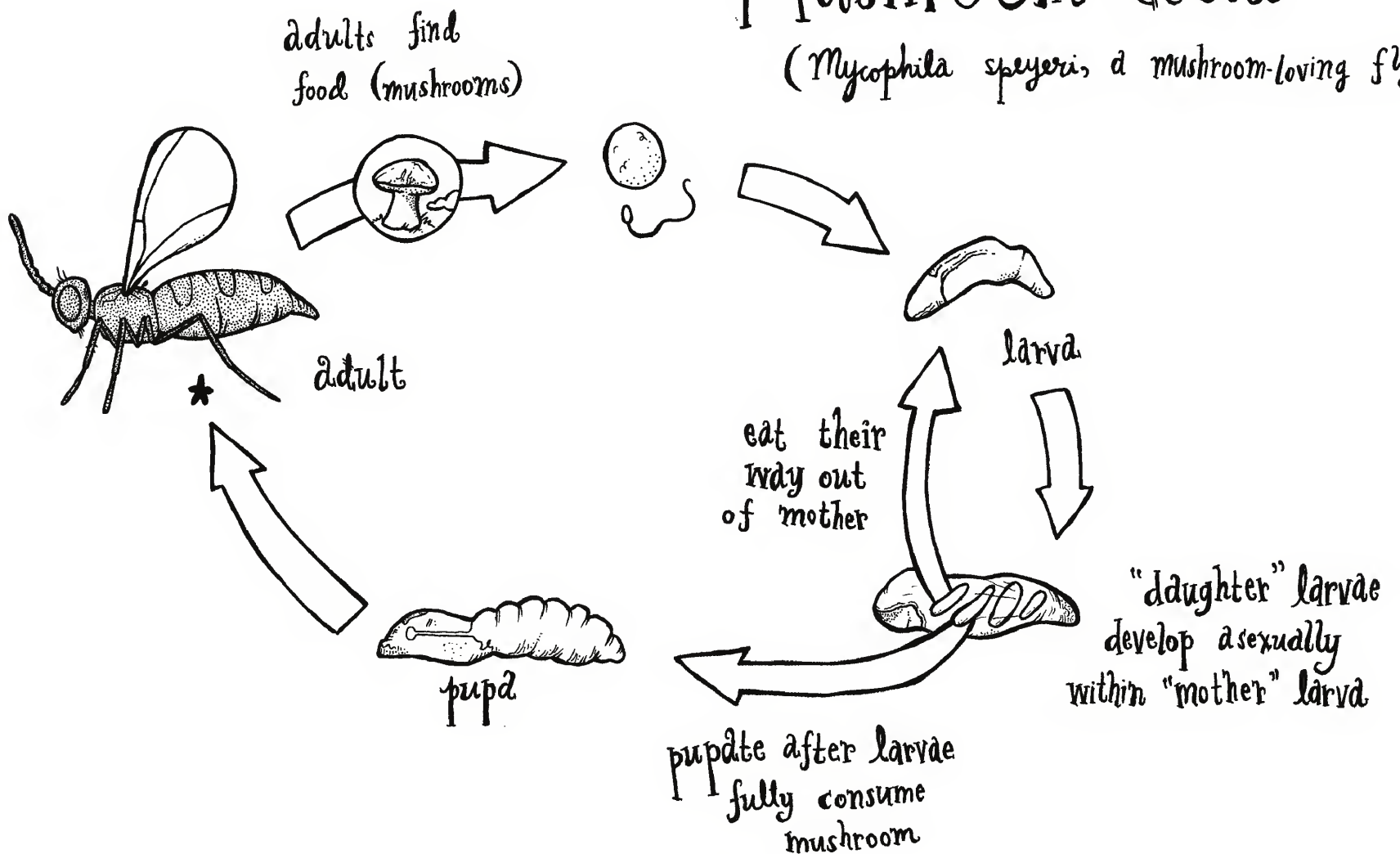
(cannibalism)



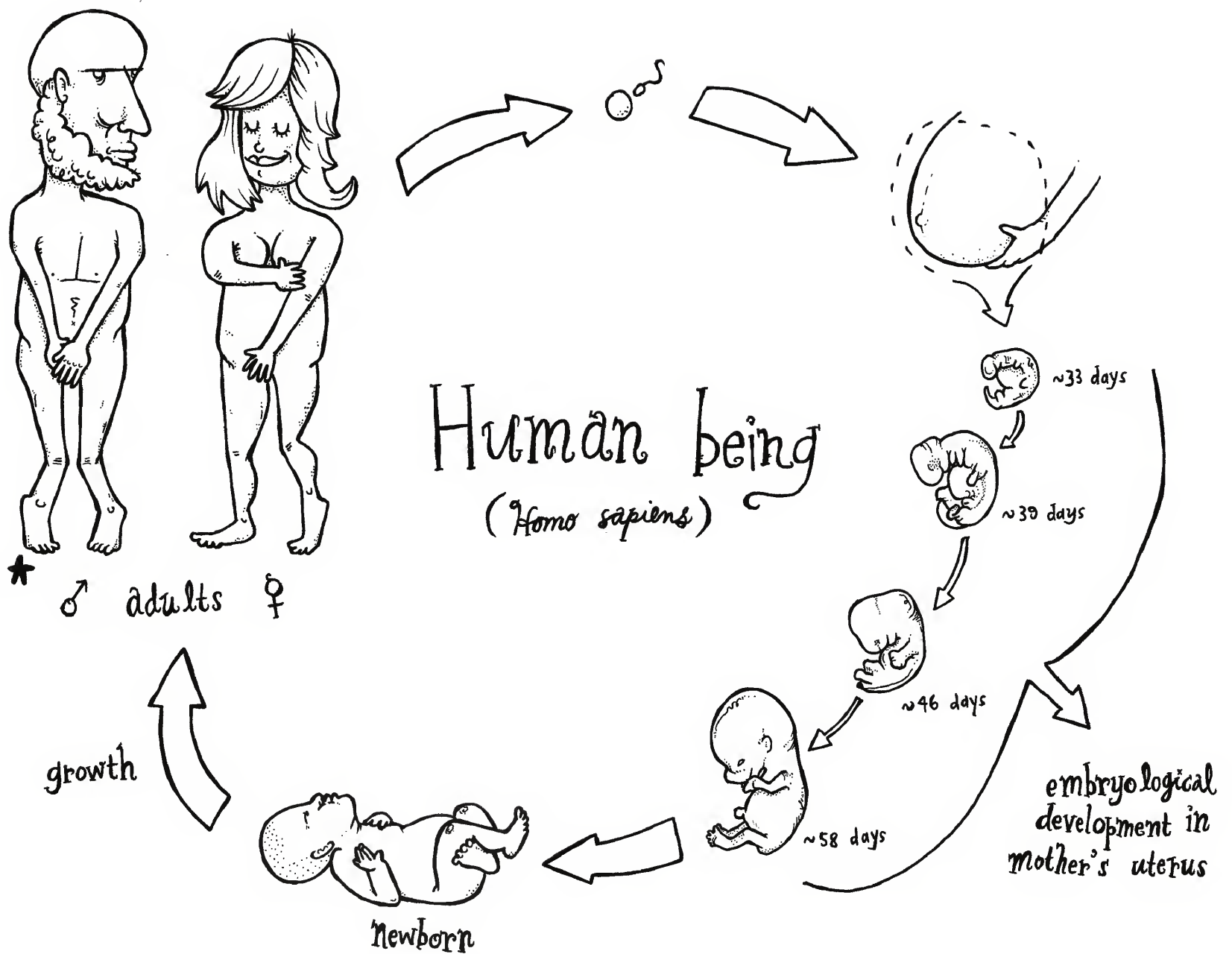


## Mushroom cecid

(*Mycophila speyeri*, a mushroom-loving fly)



Check out S.J. Gould's essay, "Organic Wisdom, or Why Should a Fly Eat Its Mother from Inside"



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This pamphlet would've been impossible without the valuable help and guidance of Casey Dunn. Learn more about the unexpected world of biology at [creaturecast.org](http://creaturecast.org).

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