Parasites and Parasitic Diseases

Parasitic organisms
- Protozoa: e.g., Plasmodium species that cause malaria
- Helminths: e.g., Schistosoma species that cause bilharziasis or snail fever

Features characteristic of parasites
- Multiple stages in life cycle
- Multiple hosts common
- Evasion of host immunity
- Animal reservoirs
- Arthropod vectors help in spread
- Cyst or egg stages survive in environment
- Latent dormant stages cause relapse

Multiple stages: Echinococcus

Multiple hosts: Hydatid cysts

Evasion of host immune responses: cysticercus and larva migrans
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Animal reservoirs: Angiostrongylus

Arthropod vector: Mosquitos and filariasis

Survival of eggs and cysts: Cryptosporidium

Latent stages causing relapses: malaria