

This article was downloaded by: [New York University]
On: 06 October 2014, At: 19:15
Publisher: Taylor & Francis
Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number:
1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer
Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 7

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah13>

XI.—The follicle-cells in Salpa

Maynard M. Metcalf^a

^a The Biological Laboratory of the Woman's College Baltimore

Published online: 22 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Maynard M. Metcalf (1898) XI.—The follicle-cells in Salpa , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 7, 1:1, 89-96, DOI: [10.1080/00222939808677925](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939808677925)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222939808677925>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not

be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

The subject might have been discussed at great length, but fortunately Linnæus himself already (1758) has decided in favour of the type specimen, as he, in putting the letters "M. L. U.," signifying "Museum Ludovicæ Ulricæ," after the diagnosis, refers to that specimen, although it was not described before 1764. Thus there can be no doubts in this case. In 1895, when publishing his 'Revision der Tarantuliden,' Kræpelin was informed by letters from Carl Aurivillius to which species "*Phalangium reniforme*" belonged. He was thus enabled to give the synonyms in that work as follows:—

Tarantula reniformis (Linnæus).

- = *Tarantula lunata*, Fabr.
- = *Phrynus ceylonicus*, C. L. Koch.
- = *Phrynus scaber*, Gerv.
- = *Phrynichus reniformis*, Karsch.
- = *Phryniscus Deflersi*, Simon.
- = *Phrynichus Jayakari*, Pocock.

According to Kræpelin * this species *Tarantula reniformis* (Linn.) embraces several forms to which, by different authors, have been given several different names. To judge from the descriptions and from the table given by Pocock, the Linnean specimen most closely agrees with "*Ph. Deflersi*," Simon.

As a curious fact, it might be mentioned that Thunberg retained the Linnean name on the label belonging to the 'Mus. Lud. Ulr. Reg.,' but to a specimen of the same kind belonging to his own "donatio" he gave the name "*lunatum*," while he named two specimens of *Neophrynus palmatus* (Herbst), Kræpelin, *reniforme*. In this, I suppose, he was influenced by the descriptions given by Fabricius in his work 'Entomologia Systematica,' t. ii. pp. 432 and 433, where the name "*reniformis*" is used for a short-armed and "*lunata*" for a long-armed form.

XI.—*The Follicle-cells in Salpa.*

By MAYNARD M. METCALF †.

THROUGH the courtesy of Professor Brooks, of the Johns Hopkins University, I have been enabled to examine a number of finely preserved embryos of several species of *Salpa*, and I desire, after briefly referring to certain points in

* Abh. aus d. Geb. d. naturwiss. Bd. xiii. (Hamburg, 1895).

† From the 'Johns Hopkins University Circulars,' November 1897, pp. 3-5.

recent papers upon *Salpa* embryology, to describe such of the results of my study as bear upon the nature and rôle of the follicle-cells.

Since the publication fifteen years ago of Salensky's careful studies [see references at end of paper] interest in the development of this genus has centred more around the follicle-cells and their rôle than around any other point. Salensky showed that the young embryo was composed in part of a few true blastomeres derived from the fertilized egg, but more largely of a great mass of cells derived by proliferation from the follicle. He claimed that the true blastomeres early disappear, serving probably to nourish the inwandering follicle-cells, from which the adult organism is derived. That is, according to Salensky, the fertilized ovum serves merely as food for its unfertilized sisters (the follicle-cells), which are the really important elements.

He says (page 362):—"Aus den vorgeführten Stadien lässt sich der Schluss ziehen, dass die Blastomeren fortwährend an Zahl abnehmen, bis sie endlich ganz verschwinden. Diese Erscheinung kann auf zweierlei Weise erklärt werden. Entweder gehen die Blastomeren unter allmählicher Verkleinerung zu Grunde—sie könnten als Nährmaterial für die Bildungszellen dienen—oder sie verändern unter fortwährender Theilung Form und Bau und vermischen sich so mit den Gonoblasten, dass sie endlich von den letzteren nicht zu unterscheiden sind. Diese Frage durch directe Beobachtung entscheiden ist sehr schwer, und bei dem Material, das mir zu Gebote stand, war das unmöglich. Ich will deshalb hier nur Thatsachen vorführen, welche für und gegen diese beiden Voraussetzungen sprechen können. Erstens will ich bemerken, dass Form und Bau der Blastomeren so charakteristisch ist, dass sie mit den Gonoblasten schwer zu verwechseln sind. Selbst bei den kleinen Blastomeren, wie wir in Fig. 2 sehen, kann man nach dem Kern jedes Blastomer, wenn es auch nur von Gonoblastengrösse ist, ganz gut von den Gonoblasten unterscheiden. Der Blastomerkern ist rund, opak, färbt sich mit Carmin besser als der eines Gonoblasten, welcher letzterer eine ovale Form besitzt und ein kleines punktförmiges Kernkörperchen beherbergt. Zweitens will ich darauf aufmerksam machen, dass man in dem zuletzt betrachteten Stadium Blastomerenkerne antrifft, welche noch ihre Grösse behalten, aber deren Begrenzung nicht so scharf ist wie es in den Blastomeren der früheren Stadien der Fall ist. Sie verlieren also ihre scharfen Contouren, was schon darauf hinweist, dass diese Kerne in der That solchen Veränderungen unterliegen, welche ihr Absterben sehr wahrscheinlich

machen. Endlich gegen die Verwandlung der Blastomeren in Gonoblasten-ähnliche Zellen spricht auch der Umstand, dass man nie Übergangsformen antrifft, was doch der Fall sein müsste, wenn eine solche Verwandlung in der That existirte. Auf Grund aller dieser Thatsachen bin ich zur Überzeugung gelangt, dass die Blastomeren in der That allmählich schwinden, um die Hauptrolle bei der Entwicklung den Gonoblasten zu überlassen."

Todaro, in 1881, had described a peculiar fragmentation of the blastomeres, by which each broke up into numerous small nucleated cells. Salensky, referring to this point, describes the phenomena as follows (page 99):—"Das Protoplasma derselben [of the blastomeres], welches in allen früheren Stadien feinkörnig, beinahe homogen war, zerfällt jetzt in kleine mannigfaltig gestaltete Parzellen, die theils um den Kern, theils in der Peripherie der Zellen gelagert sind. Als ich zum ersten Mal diesen eigenthümlichen Zerfall des Protoplasma beobachtete, glaubte ich es mit dem Product der Einwirkung der Conservations—oder Färbeflüssigkeit—zu thun zu haben. Derselbe kommt aber so beständig in gewissen Stadien der Entwicklung, namentlich nach dem ersten Forschungsstadium, vor, und erscheint von der Art des Conservirung so unabhängig, dass ich bald zur Überzeugung gelangte, dass diese Veränderungen des Protoplasma normale Entwicklungsvorgänge darstellen."

He speaks in another place (page 125) of "kleinen polyedrischen Protoplasmastückchen, in welchen ich trotz aller Mühe selbst an sehr schön gefärbten Präparaten, keinen Kern zu unterscheiden im Stande war. Ich muss deshalb die Zellennatur dieser Protoplasmastückchen vollständig in Abrede stellen."

From these quotations it is seen that he denies the cellular nature of the bodies within the blastomeres, but offers no explanation of their true nature.

More recent papers by Brooks, Heider, and Korotneff have dealt with the relations between blastomeres and follicle.

Brooks, in 1893, confirmed Salensky's description of the complex character of the young embryo, pointing out with the greatest clearness that the follicle-cells multiply very rapidly by *amitotic* division, the resulting cells pushing in among the blastomeres, which for a long time remain few in number.

He further showed that, as Salensky described, these migrated follicle-cells give rise to outlines or models of the organs. He, however, took issue with Salensky as to the ultimate fate of blastomeres and follicle, claiming and clearly

showing that in the later stages the follicle-cells composing the outlines of the organs are replaced by true blastomeres, which give rise to the adult. He says (page 27):—"Stated in a word, the most remarkable peculiarity of the *Salpa* embryo is this. It is blocked out in follicle-cells, which form layers and undergo foldings and other changes, which result in an outline or model of all the general features in the organization of the embryo. While this process is going on the development of the blastomeres is retarded, so that they are carried into their final positions in the embryo while still in a very rudimentary condition. Finally, when they have reached the places they are to occupy they undergo rapid multiplication and growth, and build up the tissues of the body directly, while the scaffolding of follicle-cells is torn down and used up as food for the true embryonic cells."

Brooks's figs. 1 and 2, plate xlii., also fig. 12, pl. ix., as well as his descriptions, demonstrate that the peculiar granular bodies seen within the blastomeres at certain stages of development are not an indication of the fragmentation or degeneration of the blastomeres, but are nuclei of follicle-cells that have been ingested and are undergoing digestion. This statement I have fully confirmed, as described a few pages beyond. The amitotic division of the migrating follicle-cells confirms the belief that they are on the road to degeneration, and in the centre of the embryo there are found masses of such disintegrating cells.

Heider's account of the embryology of *Salpa fusiformis*, published in 1895, differs in certain points from preceding accounts.

He interprets the granular bodies in the protoplasm of the blastomeres as ingested follicle-cells, and figures them as containing nuclei (pl. i. figs. 4, 10 a, 10 b), and largely from this observation argues, as Brooks had shown, that the follicle-cells serve as food for the blastomeres.

Heider places emphasis upon the unequal cleavage of the *Salpa* ovum, claiming, contrary to Salensky and Brooks, that, except in the early stages, the micromeres cannot be distinguished from the follicle-cells, and that organ rudiments, which are apparently formed from follicle-cells, are really composed of small blastomeres.

The insufficient reference in Heider's paper to Brooks's monograph may perhaps be explained by the fact that Heider's paper was practically complete before Brooks's work was published.

Korotneff's several papers are the most recent dealing with this subject. This author denies Heider's contention that

the smaller blastomeres are difficult to distinguish from follicle-cells, figuring and describing them as distinctly different, even in advanced embryos. On this point, then, Salensky, Brooks, and Korotneff agree in opposition to Heider.

As to the nature of the granular bodies in the protoplasm of the blastomeres, Korotneff says [Korotneff, iii. p. 342] :—
 “ In meiner Schrift über die Embryologie von *S. democratica* habe ich mich gegen die Vermuthung von Heider, wonach diese Ablagerungen keine Dotterpartikelchen, sondern von den Blastomeren verzehrte Follikelzellen seien, ausgesprochen. Jetzt kann ich meine Meinung bekräftigen und ganz positiv behaupten, dass in den als Dotterplättchen bezeichneten Gebilden niemals eine Spur von Kernen zu sehen ist ”—
 which is certainly true, at least for *S. hexagona* and *S. pinnata*, since these granular bodies are not ingested cells, but ingested follicle nuclei, as Brooks had shown, and as is evident in the material I have worked upon. The needle-like bodies figured by Korotneff in the protoplasm of the blastomeres of *S. cordiformis-zonaria* I have not seen described before. They appear from his figures to be peculiarly arranged chromatin particles within the ingested follicle nuclei. (Compare Korotneff, iii. plate xiii. fig. 14.)

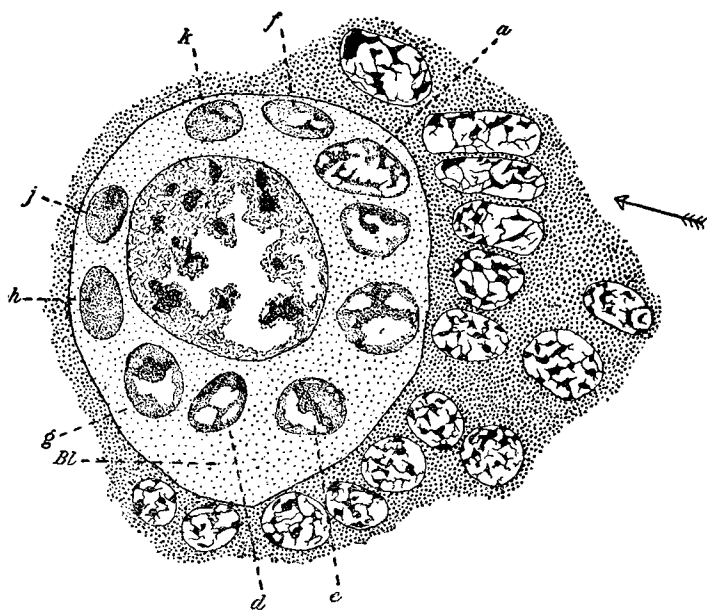
Korotneff fully confirms Brooks's description (without, however, mentioning Brooks) of the disintegration of the follicle-cells in the central region of the embryo, speaking of a retrogressive metamorphosis of the kalymmocytes, “ welche ganz blass werden, sich schlecht färben, und zuletzt nur noch in Spuren zu erkennen sind. Kurz und gut, die Kalymmocyten gehen ganz zu Grunde, und ihre Bruchstücke dienen gewiss den Histogenen [blastomeres] als Nährmaterial ” [by osmosis]. (Korotneff, iii. p. 335.)

Korotneff denies Brooks's statement that the organs are blocked out in follicle-cells, which later are replaced by blastomeres, saying that the organ rudiments are from the first composed of blastomeres. If he is not contending over definitions his statements on this point are difficult to understand, for his figures show with the greatest clearness just the condition of affairs Brooks has described. [Compare Korotneff, iv. Taf. xviii. fig. 5 (rudiment of cloaca composed of follicle-cells alone), figs. 6, 7, and 8 (rudimentary walls of amniotic cavity composed wholly of follicle-cells), fig. 9 (pharynx rudiments composed chiefly of follicle-cells) &c.]

I wish now to call particular attention to my own observations upon the nature of the disputed bodies within the protoplasm of the blastomeres of *Salpa*.

After having examined several hundred blastomeres, all showing the intra-protoplasmic bodies under discussion, I have selected a single blastomere to figure and describe, not because there are not many others showing a similar condition, but because this seems sufficient to establish the point.

The blastomere figured is one of five appearing in a section of an embryo of *S. hexagona* at that stage of development when the follicular epithelium of one half the surface of the embryo is most rapidly proliferating—about the stage shown in Brooks's fig. 2, pl. xi. The arrow indicates the direction of movement of the follicle-cells as they wander into the



Portion of a section of a young embryo of *Salpa hexagona*, showing one blastomere and fifteen migrated follicle-cells.

BL=blastomere; N=nucleus of blastomere; a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k=nuclei of follicle-cells ingested by the blastomere.

centre of the embryo, where, as described by Brooks, many of them degenerate. The figure is carefully drawn with a Leitz $\frac{1}{2}$ immersion objective and a number 8 compensating ocular.

The large blastomere, BL, has a very large nucleus, N, and evenly granular protoplasm, which does not stain deeply with

hæmatoxylin, borax-carmin, or saffranin. Outside the blastomere is a mass of more coarsely granular and deeply staining protoplasm, in which no cell-walls can be discovered, but in which appear many nuclei, all exactly resembling the nuclei of the follicular epithelium. These have a definite chromatic reticulum with rather small nodal swellings and no nucleolus.

Within the protoplasm of the blastomere as shown in this one section are seven bodies similar in size to the follicle nuclei just described, but quite different in appearance. I believe them to be ingested follicle nuclei. They do not stain so deeply as the nuclei outside, though they are much darker than the protoplasm of the blastomeres in which they lie. We do not find in them the clear cut chromatin reticulum with sharp contours, such as we see in the follicle nuclei, but in certain of them we do find what appears to be such a chromatic reticulum degenerating because undergoing digestion. Observe especially the nucleus *a*. The reticulum is evident, and I think no one can doubt that the body is really a nucleus. Compared with the follicular nuclei the reticulum is seen to stain less deeply and the fibrils and nodal masses do not have sharp contours. The whole appearance indicates the beginning of disintegration. I believe this nucleus to have been ingested but a short time previous to the killing of the embryo. At *b* and *c* are nuclei which have gone further in the process of degeneration, the chromatin threads being more diffuse. At *d*, *e*, *f*, and *g* we see a further stage in the same process, and at *h*, *j*, and *k* we observe within the ingested nuclei an almost evenly granular mass of disintegrating chromosomes. In other blastomeres and in another section of this same blastomere one can observe the last step in the degeneration, a mere mass of debris no longer delimited by a nuclear membrane from the surrounding protoplasm of the blastomere.

Notice that the less degenerated of these ingested nuclei lie on the side nearer the periphery of the embryo. The inwandering follicle-cells, as they push toward the centre of the embryo, penetrate the blastomeres that lie in their path. Apparently the most recently ingested nuclei, entering from the peripheral side, crowd the partly digested ones toward the inner side of the blastomere, giving the appearance figured. Not every section of a blastomere shows such diagrammatic arrangement, but this condition is noticeably frequent. The section figured was chosen because of the diagrammatic way in which it shows this point and because of the clearly nuclear nature of the body *a*.

As before mentioned, Brooks has given exactly this interpretation of the bodies within the blastomeres, and this confirmatory note would be uncalled for except for Heider's and Korotneff's more recent papers giving a different interpretation. It is possible that in *S. runcinata-fusiformis* (the species Heider studied) not only the follicle nuclei but also their cytoplasm may be ingested by the blastomeres; but I am more inclined to believe Heider was mistaken when he figured these bodies as nucleated cells. His figures are not drawn with careful attention to detail, so it is hard to judge from them. In *S. pinnata* and *S. hexagona* no cell-walls can be made out in the mass of migrated follicle-cells. It is therefore by no means probable that the cytoplasm of the follicle-cells could be seen if it were ingested with the nuclei. This is especially true in view of the digestive action upon these bodies within the blastomeres.

Korotneff's and Salensky's statements that these bodies contain no trace of a nucleus within them is, of course, true if they be themselves nuclei.

References to Literature.

- TODARO.—“Sui primi fenomeni dello sviluppo delle *Salpe*.” Atti Reale Accad. Lincei, Trans. vol. iv. p. 86.
- . “Sur les premiers phénomènes de la développement des *Salpes*.” Arch. Ital. d. Biol. vol. ii. p. 1.
- SALENSKY.—“Neue Untersuchungen über die Embryonale Entwicklung der *Salpen*.” Mittheil. a. d. zool. Stat. zu Neapel, 4 Bd. pp. 90-171 and 327-402.
- BROOKS.—“The Genus *Salpa*.” Memoirs from the Biological Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins Univ. vol. ii. pp. 1-303.
- HEIDER.—“Beiträge zur Embryologie von *Salpa fusiformis*, Cuv.” Abhandl. d. Senkenb. naturf. Ges. Bd. xviii. pp. 367-455.
- KOROTNEFF.—“I. Tunicatenstudien.” Mitth. a. d. zool. Stat. zu Neapel, 11 Bd. pp. 335-367.
- . “II. Embryologie der *Salpa democratica* (*mucronata*).” Zeitsch. f. wiss. Zool. 59 Bd. p. 29.
- . “III. Zur Embryologie von *Salpa cordiformis-zonaria* und *musculosa-punctata*.” Mitth. a. d. zool. Stat. zu Neapel, 12 Bd. pp. 331-352.
- . “IV. Zur Embryologie von *Salpa runcinata-fusiformis*.” Zeitsch. f. wiss. Zool. 62 Bd. pp. 395-414.

The Biological Laboratory of the
Woman's College of Baltimore.
May 13th, 1897.