

# Sea Star Immune Organ Axial Organ Cells in S.E.M

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#### Abstract

Two types of immune axial organ cells were observed in S.E.M. Among them we found a macrophage-like cell with "velum" and a lymphocytic one.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The sea star axial organ, "an ancestral lymphoïd organ", includes conjonctive cells and mainly lymphocytes (Sea star B lymphocytes and sea star T lymphocytes (ref. 1)) and phagocytes which play the role of macrophages.

In the present study, we have a look on the whole axial organ cell morphology by the use of S.EM.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

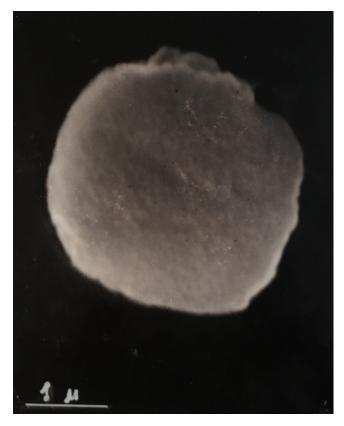
The sea stars Asterias rubens from french coasts were used. Axial organ was excised and dilacerated.

Obtained axial organ cells were fixed with alcohol 50°, then 90°, 100° and treated with the critical point.

Observations were performed with a S.E.M Hitachi.

#### RESULTS

First, a lymphocyte-like cell was observed as following:



Second a phagocyte cell type with "velum", pseudopods, was oberved as following:

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These observed cells are small and are sometimes called: "The minuscules"

The lymphocyte one corresponds to  $4\mu$  in diameter, the phagocyte one to :7,  $8\mu$  in diameter

### **CONCLUSION**

It is the first time that invertebrate immune cells are

shown in S.EM. It seems to be of special interest, at our knowledge.

## REFERENCE

 Leclerc, M. (2012) Amer. J. Immunol ;8(4), 191-195

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