

3. The Anterior Head-Cavities of *Acanthias*.

(Preliminary notice.)

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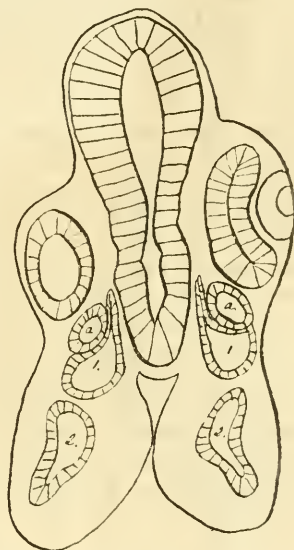
eingeg. 22. März 1890.

Acanthias embryos have a pair of head-cavities anterior to the »premandibular cavities« of Balfour.

These cavities are somewhat wedge-shaped. The point of each extends forward and outward below the optic vesicle, while the base lies anterior to the base of the mandibular cavity, and dorsal to the lateral prolongations of the so-called »first« head-cavity, i. e. that cavity which meets the corresponding cavity of the opposite side below the point of the notochord.

Van Wijhe¹ has figured a pair of cavities which he found in *Galeus*, anterior to the premandibular. He had however, but two specimens of *Galeus*, both at the beginning of stage *K*, and finding that in these embryos the walls of the anterior cavities were somewhat thinner where they came in contact with the walls of the premandibular cavity, he supposes the anterior cavities to be cut off from the premandibular, adding, »die Abschnürung hat wohl noch nicht lange stattgefunden«.

In *Acanthias* the anterior head-cavity, is from the first independent. It arises, shortly after the formation of the premandibular, as a split in the anterior mesoderm.



The accompanying camera outline from a horizontal section through the base of the anterior cavities, through the lateral prolongations of the premandibular cavity, and through the body of the mandibular, shows their relations to one another in the plane of the section.

However, as the mandibular cavity extends upward, it at the same time extends forward, so that its anterior part lies just above the base of the anterior cavity.

Thus the wall of the anterior cavity comes in contact with the walls of both the premandibular and the mandibular cavities, but its lumen is not continuous with that of either cavity.

In the angle towards which the three cavities converge lies the ciliary ganglion.

¹ Über die Mesodermsegmente und die Entwicklung der Nerven des Selachierkopfes. Amsterdam, 1882.

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