

Fehlen jeder Spur einer Umwandlung der Beine des 7. ♂ Rumpfdoppelsegmentes zu Copulationsorganen, hat Schmidt fast ganz außer Acht gelassen.« Wenn er nun darauf mit jenen citierten Worten antwortet, so erregt das unwillkürlich Heiterkeit und erinnert an gewisse Abwege, auf welche die heutige Zoologie durch übertriebene Histiologie theilweise verleitet ist¹, so daß manche Autoren den »Wald (Organe) vor Bäumen (Zellen) nicht mehr sehen«.

19. November 1896.

5. Nephridia and Genital Ducts.

By Edwin S. Goodrich, University Museum, Oxford.

eingeg. 22. November 1896.

In the last No. of the Zoologisches Centralblatt (vol. III. No. 22) Prof. R. S. Bergh has reviewed my paper "On the Coelom, Genital Ducts and Nephridia" (Quart. Journ. Micr. Sc. v. 37. 1895). It is a great privilege for me to have had my work criticised by so competent a reviewer, and one whose observations form no inconsiderable part of the evidence on which is built the theory there advocated; yet, I cannot help thinking that Prof. Bergh has somewhat misunderstood my position. He makes the statement, and lays great stress on it, that the foundation of my argument lies in the assertion that the "true nephridia" are always derived from the ectoderm (»die echten Nephridien seien immer ectodermalen Ursprungs«): now, I was particularly cautious not to make this assertion, and not to rest any conclusion merely on whether the rudiments of the nephridia are derived from this or that germ-layer, a question of secondary importance. I consider, therefore, that Prof. Bergh's lengthy criticisms on this point are entirely beside the mark. Nevertheless, as I pointed out, there is considerable evidence in favour of the view that the "true nephridia" are of epiblastic origin; and should this be proved true, it cannot be denied that it might be considered as important additional evidence for the theory. Personally, I am not enclined to attach overwhelming importance to the often uncertain details of embryonic development, which seem to be less trustworthy than the broad teachings of comparative anatomy. It appears, however, that here we have a case in which the conclusions derived from anatomy are fully confirmed by observations made in embryology. The one thing essential for the theory (denn damit steht oder fällt meine ganze Theorie) is that the

¹ Diesen Vorwurf will ich übrigens gegen Herrn P. Schmidt im Allgemeinen nicht erheben!

rudiments (anlagen) of the "true nephridia" and of the "peritoneal funnels" should not be of identical origin¹.

The reviewer appears still to hold to the view that the nephridia of the Oligochaeta are homologous not with the nephridia (excretory organ) of the Platyhelminths and Nemertines, but with the follicle-ducts of the latter; I contend that recently ascertained facts concerning the anatomy and development of these organs render that theory untenable. It may be said that, if the theory which I on the other hand advocate be true, I should be able to show an Annelid with an undoubted coelom into which the "true nephridia" do not open — to this I can answer, that I believe I am now in a position to supply this long sought link in the chain of argument (*Nephtys* and *Glycera*: as I hope to show in a forthcoming paper).

Finally I venture to say, contrary to the opinion of Prof. Bergh, that the theory I support is not built »auf fliegenden Sand«, but on the solid and unassailable rock of fact, namely — that throughout the Coelomata we find follicles, or pouches, into which are shed the genital cells, and from which these cells are led to the exterior by "peritoneal funnels".

6. Die Berechtigung des Gattungsnamens *Homandra*.

Von R. v. Lendenfeld, Czernowitz.

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Für den von Haeckel (1872, Die Kalkschwämme Bd. II. p. 83) als *Ascandra falcata* beschriebenen Schwamm, habe ich (1891, Die Spongien der Adria I. Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool. Bd. 53. p. 228 [sep. p. 44]), weil er in Bezug auf seinen Bau wesentlich von den anderen *Ascandra*-Arten Haeckel's und den eigentlichen Asconiden überhaupt abweicht, das neue Genus *Homandra* aufgestellt. In einer jüngst erschienenen Arbeit über die systematische Eintheilung der Homocoela hat nun Minchin (1896, Suggestions for a natural Classification of the *Asconidae*. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 6. Bd. 18. p. 358) die von mir (l. c.) 1891 aufgestellte Gattung anerkannt, den Namen *Homandra* jedoch durch *Ascandra* ersetzt.

Er hat nämlich alle anderen Arten des Haeckel'schen Genus *Ascandra* unter die beiden von ihm neu aufgestellten aber mit alten

¹ The point is not whether the rudiment of the 'true nephridium' be derived from epiblast or mesoblast, but from peritoneum. Observations show that, although in the Annelids it may in the course of development take up a position in the septum or in the peritoneum itself, the rudiment can be distinguished before the coelom has been hollowed out and, therefore, before the peritoneum has been formed

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