



# Evidence of Sea Star Monocytes Evolving in Phagocytes: Asterias Rubens T.E.M Observations

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## Abstract

Sea star Axial organ (A.O) cells were observed in T.EM: Evidence of primitive monocytes was done: They contained azurophile particles and a reniform nucleus, sometimes a phagosome appeared and amoeboid images were seen. These cells, in a second time, evolve mainly in phagocytes which may be assimilated to Vertebrate Macrophages, with functional phagosomes and azurophile particles. The sea star monocytes are smaller in diameter (4 to 5 $\mu$ ) than Vertebrate ones.

**Keywords:** Invertebrates; Sea Star ; Monocytes ; Lymphocytes; Macrophages; Platelets

## Introduction

Observation of sea star *Asterias rubens* T and B lymphocytes have already been performed in TEM [1,2]. It was asserted by biochemistry and biophysical assays. Second sea star platelets were so observed [3]. In a third time, we confirm the existence of sea star Monocytes which, mainly, evolves in Phagocytes corresponding to vertebrate macrophages.

## Materials and Methods

Sea star *Asterias rubens* were obtained from the Marine Institute of Arcachon (France)

Axial organs (A.O) were excised and:

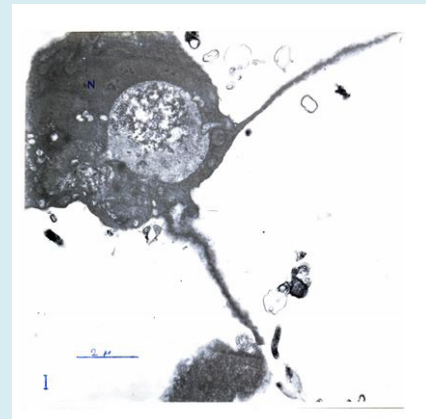
- Either the whole cellular population was conserved and so observed in TEM
- Or the whole A.O was separated into B and T cell subpopulations according the well-known method of Julius and al [4].

Cells were fixed with glutaraldehyde in cacodylate buffer as precedently described No post-coloration was operated [1].

Observations were done with a Hitachi Microscope.

## Results

As seen in Figure 1:



**Figure 1:** Monocyte with digitations. (N): Nucleus.

We observe a reniform Nucleus (N). Besides of it: azurophile particles smaller than  $0,2 \mu$ , these particles may correspond to lysosomes villous digitations which evoke ciliatures (2) and a small phagosome are present.



**Figure 2:** Spheroidal Monocyte.  
N (Nucleus); P (Phagosome).



**Figure 3:** True Phagocyte. Observe the Phagosome greatly opened.

In Figure 2 We see a circular cell with a nucleus containing fine chromatine. The cell diameter is about  $4-5 \mu$ . Azurophile particle are always present. In the last figure III, the cell is longer than the two precedent ones and culminates at  $8 \mu$ . There is no azurophile particles in the cytoplasm. The phagosome is greatly opened on the outside: it is a true phagocyte Figure 3.

### Conclusion

The sea star *Asterias rubens* presents T and B lymphocytes, Monocytes, Macrophages and Platelets, in T.E.M observations. The evolution of Monocytes in Phagocytes, resembling to evolution of macrophages, in Vertebrates was shown in this work through 3 Figures.

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