

Phylum Placozoa

Parazoa

- Phylogenetic position is controversial-conflicting results from ribosomal and mtdna studies
 - often been seen as the "living ancestor" of animals (basal)
 - Is it a sister to all animals, bilaterians, or does it fit in the cnidarians?

sister to the bilaterians

sister to the Eumetazoa

Srivastava et al Nature 2008. 104 nuclear genes found genes in *Trichoplax* associated with advanced cell types and processes

Phylogeny based on molecular data

Higher Metazoa: Ciliata, Diliata

Cnidaria: Hydrozoa, Scyphozoa, Anthozoa

Ctenophora

Porifera

Ball et al. 2004 Nature Reviews Genetics

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sister to all animals

Phylum Placozoa

Parazoa

- Schierwater et al. PLOS 2009
- "Total Evidence" analysis
 - sum of morphological evidence, the secondary structure of mitochondrial ribosomal genes, and sequence data from mitochondrial and nuclear genes
 - Bilateria* and *Diploblasts* are sister groups
 - Placozoa* is basal to all diploblasts

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Placula hypothesis

Attempt to explain evolution of metazoans from protists

Flagellated protozoans unite to form a plate-like metazoan organism.

The one-layered protist form (a) evolves to the two-layered "placula" (b,c). Cells of the upper layer form the ectoderm, while cells of the lower layer (orange) adopt a feeding function and later invaginate to form the endoderm (d-g)

a b c d

e f g

Placula transformation cross section "oral" view

Diplox expression (6) "oral" view

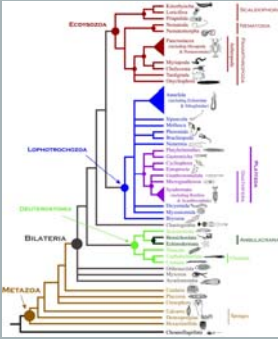
Cnidarian

Trichoplax

Eumetazoa

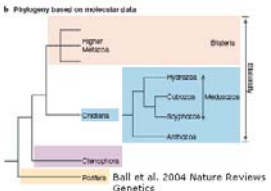
Innovations:

- 1) true epithelia
 - permit establishment of regulated compartments
 - control passage of materials
 - chemical environment can be controlled
- 2) bodies with definite axes
 - e.g. anterior-posterior or oral-aboral
- 3) tissues and cells with greater differentiation
 - muscle and nervous tissues present
- 4) gut
- 5) often with large, complex, motile bodies



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Radiata



Radial symmetry as a character is likely on it's way out – other molecular/developmental characters would replace

Cnidaria: hydras, jellies, sea anemones, and coral animals

Ctenophora: Comb jellies

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Eumetazoa

Diploblasty versus Triploblasty

- number of tissue layers forming during gastrulation
- Diploblast:
 - epidermis derived from ectoderm
 - gastrodermis derived from endoderm
- triploblastic: three embryonic tissues (germ layers:)
 - ectoderm: outer layer - skin and nervous tissue
 - endoderm: inner layer - lines digestive tract
 - mesoderm: middle layer - muscles, bones, circulatory system, organs

Parazoa and Eumetazoa: Radiata are diploblasts (maybe??)

- It's looking like ctenophores and cnidarians might have mesoderm

Mouth formation in a deuterostome
(Echinoderm, sea urchin)

Blastopore Gut Mouth Anus

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Sources: Gilbert and Raunio 1997, fig 16.11; Wolpert 1998 fig 6.19

Larval forms of protostomes and deuterostomes

Apical tuft
Stomodaeum
Mesoderm

Trochophore larva of Mollusc (marine snail)

Mouth
Anus

Pluteus larva of Echinoderm (sea urchin)
