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Regeneration in sponges (Porifera): comparative investigation



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To understand evolutionary history of the diverse regeneration mechanisms, regeneration processes must be studied in early-evolved metazoans in addition to the traditional bilaterian and cnidarian models.





Sponges are known to possess remarkable reconstitutive and regenerative abilities



Porifera



The aims of this study are:

- 1) To show the variety of morphogeneses during reparative regeneration in different sponges with different organisation;
- 2) To discover the cells, involved in the regeneration;
 - 3) To highlight the correlation between tissue organization and morphogenetic mechanisms involved in sponge's regeneration.

Epithelia characters in sponges

	AB polarity	Cell junctions: larvae	Cell junctions: adults	Basement membrane larvae	Basement membrane adults
Demospongiae					
Calcarea					
Homoscleromorp ha					

Models

Current models

Oscarella lobularis



Ereskovsky et al. 2015



Sycon ciliatum



Adamska et al. In prep.

Leucosolenia variabilis



Ereskovsky et al. 2017; Lavrovet et al. 2018

New models

Aplysina cavernicola Suberites domuncula Clathrina arnesenae Clathrina clathrus





Borisenko et al. 2015, 2016





Current models Cellular Wound Anatomy characters Demospongiae Hexactinellida Porifera Calcarea Homoscleromorpha

Halisarca dujardini: no cell junctions; no basement membrane; archaeocytes

Sycon ciliatum & Leucosolenia variabilis: cell junctions; no basement membrane; no archaeocytes

Oscarella lobularis: true epithelium; no archaeocytes

Epithelial morphogenesis and transdifferentiation

Regenerative membrane in Calcarea



Epithelial morphogenesis and transdifferentiation

<u>Homoscleromorpha</u>

Choanoderm transdifferentiation during *Oscarella* regeneration

Spreading of the **pinacoderm** sheet on the wound surface

during Oscarella regeneration





Cell transdifferentiation



The continuous epithelium appears on the wound edge. It forms due to the joining of the intact exopinacocytes and endopinacocyte arising from the choanocytes through their transdifferentiation

Leucosolenia variabilis





Regeneration in Sycon: cellular mechanisms

EM analysis demonstrated that at 24 hrs all exposed choanocyte chambers are covered by pinacocytes, with a combination of migration of pinacocytes and transdifferentiation of choanocytes observed within hours from the dissection.



Mesenchymal-epithelial transformations Demospongiae



Halisarca dujardini regeneration and the origin of new exopinacocytes and choanocytes. (A) Intact sponge. (B) I stage of regeneration: formation of "regenerative plug". (C) II stage of regeneration: wound healing and formation of a "blastema". (D) III stage of regeneration: restoration of ectosome and choanosome. Grey—exopinacocytes, blue—choanocytes, red—archaeocytes.

(Borisenko et al. 2015)

Mesenchymal-epithelial transformations

Demospongiae: Halisarca dujardini



Wound (ectosome) 24h of regeneration: Mesohylar cells, migrating to the wound surface

Borisenko et al. 2015

Choanocytes transdifferentiation during regeneration



Different cells fate and the main sources of new exopinacoderm during a regeneration sponge models



Cell proliferation during regeneration



Sycon

Leucosolenia 24h





Oscarella, Sycon, Leucosolenia: We did not detect any changes in cell proliferation neither in the wound nor in the adjacent intact areas. Sycon, Leucosolenia: Proliferation is virtually absent from the forming regenerative membrane and is not limited to its vicinity.

Regeneration in Halisarca: cell proliferation

Unwounded sponge after 6 h incubation with EdU

EdU incorporation after 24 h incubation

Wound surface after 12 h of regeneration

Wound surface at 24 h of regeneration Parallel section



Negative control for A without EdU

Negative control for C

EdU only

Red—DNA, green —EdU

Perpendicular section of Wound surface at 24 h of regeneration

Borisenko et al. 2015

Wnt pathway is implicated in axial patterning and regeneration in the demosponge *Halisarca dujardini*

Multiple Wnt pathway components were identified, including 10 *Wnt* and 5 *frizzled* genes, in addition to single *disheveled* and *beta-catenin* genes.



HdWntK at the wound border



Regeneration in Sycon: detection of differentially expressed genes by RNA-Seq

Within hours of dissection, multiple Wnt and Tgf-beta pathway components, including their key transcrption factors are upregulated, as are also several other developmental transcription factors.

Many of these genes are highly expressed in the osculum of intact sponges.





<u>Genes</u>* with statistically significant higher expression in top than bottom. Genes* with statistically significant higher expression in top than middle.

Adamska et al. In prep.

Expression of SciTgfBU during regeneration

Intact specimen

3 hrs

12 hrs

48 hrs











Main stages of regeneration in model sponges

	Retraction of the wound surface	Regenerating "plug" formation	Alignment of the wound edges	Regeneration membrane (epithelization)	Formation of blastema	Restoration of ectosome & choanosome
Oscarella Iobularis	+	+	+	+	-	+
Sycon ciliatum	-	+	+	+	-	+
Leucosolenia variabilis	+	-	+	+	-	+
Halisarca dujardini	+	+	+	+	+	+

Basic morphogenetic and cellular processes during models regeneration

	Spreading (flattening) of epithelial sheets	Fusion of epithelial sheets	Cell transdifferentia tion	Epithelial- mesenchymal transitions	Active local cell proliferation	Participation of stem-cells
Oscarella Iobularis	+	+	+	-	-	+
Sycon ciliatum	+	+	+	-	-	+
Leucosolenia variabilis	+	+	+	-	-	+
Halisarca dujardini	-	-	+	+	+	+
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Homoscleromorpha and Calcarea regeneration conclusions

- 1 The basic morphogenetic processes during Homoscleromorpha and Calcarea regeneration are spreading (flattening) and fusion of epithelial sheets.
- 2 This regeneration accompanied by **transdifferentiation** of differentiated cells in the wound area.
- 3 The regeneration in **Calcarea and Homoscleromorpha** is **morphallactic**, when lost body parts are replaced by the remodeling of the remaining tissue accompanying with cells transdifferentiation.
- 4 The main sources of new exopinacoderm are: intact pinacoderm, surrounding the wound surface, intact choanoderm.

Demosponges regeneration conclusions

1 - The main mechanism during *Halisarca* regeneration is a mesenchymal morphogenesis by mesenchymal-epithelial transformations.

2 - This regeneration involves intervention of **polypotent cells** - *archaeocytes* and *choanocytes* - that migrate to the injured area where form a **blastema** with dedifferentiated cells.

3 - The **regeneration in** *Halisarca* has **epimorphosis** features that require blastema formation, active cellular dedifferentiation and proliferation prior to the replacement of the lost body part.

4 - There are **three main sources of the new exopinacoderm** during regeneration: choanocytes, archaeocytes and (rarely) endopinacocytes.

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