

Preliminary Findings in the Evolutionary Development of Class Occlupanida

The study of Class Occlupanida has long been a neglected field of research in both evolutionary biology and taxonomy. It is only recently with the securing of grant funding by The Holotypic Occlupanid Research Group (HORG) that such research has gained traction in the often moribund annals of zoological study.

This paper thus seeks to redress a failure to properly quantify the evolution of this common but neglected class of animal.

It should be noted from the outset that while HORG has conducted sterling work on the taxonomy of Occlupanida, some of the assumptions regarding the life cycle of this creature have not been peer reviewed and as such no endorsement is made of their ongoing research.

In order to make postulations regarding the evolution it is first necessary to discuss the gross morphology as rigorous scientific methodology demands¹ The pioneering taxonomists have focused on dentition to assign niche and hierarchical separation of the various orders. However it should be noted that such classification ignores salient features such as the presence or lack thereof of side spiracles which may hold vital clues to the evolution of Occlupanidans. Dissection of orders Archignata and Toxodonta reveal vastly separated morphologies with Archiganata showing pure bilateral symmetry and Toxodonta a vertically mirrored symmetry. Examination shows Occlupanidans to be monocellular but it needs to noted from the outset that such observations were performed on captive specimens and not on Occlupanidans in the wild. It will later be revealed that sexual selection accounts for the varying morphologies and the proposed taxonomic tree submitted by HORG is incorrect and falls within the Lamarckian² inheritance error of suggesting that form follows function. It will be shown that ontogeny recaptures phylogeny as proposed by S.J Gould in 1977³. Chromatographic analysis of Occlupanidans show that the cells are high in both ethylenes and vinyls. It is surmised that the ethylene is derived from the ethanol (a product of fermentation) that Occlupanidans use as a food source.

¹ http://www.horg.com/horg/?page_id=921

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamarckism>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontogeny_and_Phylogeny_%28book%29

While Occlupanidans exhibit a near global distribution, the fossil record of Phylum Plasticae is disturbingly opaque. The first recorded specimen excavated has been carbon dated to 1823 and appears as a large and flexible sheet resembling the modern item of rain wear clothing generically termed macintosh. Note feeding tube and simple alimentary canal with a small mouth with large lips and triple cloacae (two small and one large). Form suggests that this was an aquatic filter feeder discharging the waste water through the larger bottom cloacae and reserving the secondary and tertiary cloacae for solid waster disposal and reproductive respectively.



Figure 1 Early Plasticae

Later specimens dated from 1898 reveal a less flexible, smaller and more symmetrical round shaped Plasticae with a single round central mouth. This approximates the more recent form of Occlupanida with exception of size.



Figure 2 Plasticae carbon dated to early 1900 BCE

The question can now be raised on what factors determined the form of Occlupanida we have come to know. It can now be postulated that the form is derived from sexual selection. It would be in the interest of Occlupanida to attract mates to come to it rather than visa versa and in so doing avoid unnecessary predation. To do so shapes that most closely resembled the food source from a distance would attract more females than other shapes.

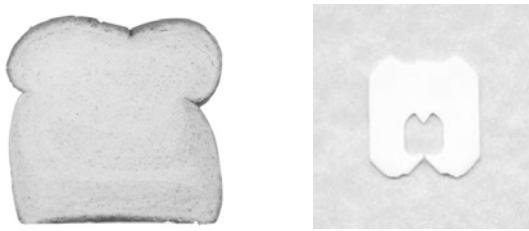


Figure 3 Comparison of Bread Slice and Adstringosaccus Bediae.

It should be noted that the size variation suggests that it is not an attempt at camouflage but instead presents itself as mimicking behaviour.

The next factor to examine is the method of reproduction of Occlupanida. The presence of spiracles in the vertically mirrored specimens suggest that such Occlupanida suggest that such specimens are at some point of the life cycle attached to its neighbours to form a single complex multicellular creature akin to slime mould⁴

Like the slime mould, a shortage of food forces the deconstruction of the multicellular being into smaller autonomous parts to disperse and seek out more or even alternative food sources in a wider milieu.

Sexual reproduction and the evidenced sexual display would thus occur only in unicellular form and the transfer of DNA would result in multitudinous new forms of Occlupanidans each adapted to the new milieu under the Darwinian dictates of survival of fittest. These novel environments may span from bread packets, biscuit packets even to in the adventurous few to colonoscopy bags.

In conclusion it is held that HORG's phylogeny is flawed and a new model of phylogeny proposed in a flattened hierarchy wherein it is held that spiricule bearing members of Occlupanida merely represent scattered remains of the asexual multicellular form and are bilaterally symmetrical.

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slime_mold