

from the junction of the neck and the body. These canals anastomose in such a fashion as to give a 'honey-comb' like appearance. They descend to the posterior end where they terminate at the excretory bladder. The excretory bladder is triangular, the broad end receiving the longitudinal canals and the narrow end communicating with the exterior (figures 1 and 2).

The incubation medium of Holt & Withers⁴ is for staining esterases; however, this method also stains certain lipids but as the excretory canals were not stained when the specimens were pre-incubated with eserine, it may be concluded that it is the esterases present in the canals which take up the stain. The Holt & Withers⁴ method was slightly modified in that the percentage of ferrocyanide was halved.

This indicates that there is some difference between the esterases present in the nervous system and the osmoregulatory systems.

Hunter¹ has suggested that the canals, apart from excretion might also aid in scolex movements as he

found more canals in motile scolices. Mackiewicz³ suggests that the number of tubules directly correlated with the metabolic activity and explained as active role of canals which influence body and scolex movements.

The present findings concur with the conclusions of Mackiewicz³ as the presence of esterases does indicate neuromuscular activity of the canals.

One of the authors (U.R.) is thankful to C.S.I.R. for financial assistance.

21 January 1982

1. Hunter, G. W., III, 1930, III. *Biol. Monographs*, II 1927, 186.
2. Blanchard, E. *Ann. des. Sc. Nat. Zool.*, 3rd series 1848, 10, 321.
3. Mackiewicz, J. S., *Exp. Parasitol.*, 1972, 31, 417.
4. Holt, S. J. and Withers, R. F. D., 1952 in *Histochemistry, theoretical and applied*, (ed.) A. G. E. Pearson, 1968, p. 267, Churchill & Co.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATERIALS AND TESTING - THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS CONFERENCE

The Materials and Testing Group of the Institute of Physics in collaboration with the Plastics and Rubber Institute is organising a conference entitled "Materials and Testing" - the inter-relationships' on 8-9 July 1982 at the University of London. The lectures will be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street and residential accommodation will be at Commonwealth Hall, Cartwright Gardens, London WC1H 9EB.

The purpose of this two day conference is to provide a forum to cross the boundaries between "materials" and "testing". An examination will be made of the inter-relationship between microstructure and mechanical properties, mechanical properties with structural design and integrity assessment through soundy based non-destructive means. The scope is wide including metals, polymers, concrete, ceramics, composites and glasses.

Invited speakers include: Professor F. M. Burdekin (UMIST), Dr. J. F. Knott (University of Cambridge), Dr. A. J. Kinlock (MOD), Dr. P. Melville (CEGB), Mr. R. S. Sharpe (Harwell), Dr. W. Reynolds (Harwell) and Dr. G. Curtis (Harwell).

Further information may be obtained from: The Meeting Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX, UK.

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM ON MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS AND BIOCRYSTALLOGRAPHY

In connection with the sixtieth birthday celebrations of Prof. G. N. Ramachandran, a Special Symposium on Molecular Biophysics and Biocrystallography will be held at the Department of Crystallography and Biophysics, University of Madras, from December 28-31, 1982.

Original research papers are invited to the symposium broadly covering the following topics: Structure of Collagen and Related Topics; Theoretical Approaches (classical and quantum chemical) to Conformation of Biopolymers; Magnetic Resonance and Chiroptical Methods of Study of Conformations of Biopolymers; Statistical Applications in Crystallography; Methods in Crystal Structure Analysis; Crystal Structure Analysis of Constituents of Biopolymers and Other Molecules of Biological Interest; Structure and Dynamics of Proteins and Nucleic Acids; Biomolecular interactions. Abstracts of papers limited to 200 words are to be sent before 30th August 1982.

A Festschrift Volume is also planned, with articles contributed by leading scientists on topics covering Crystallography and Molecular Biophysics.

Symposium correspondence and general correspondence may be addressed to Dr. N. Yathindra and Dr. S. Parthasarathy respectively, Department of Crystallography and Biophysics, University of Madras, Guindy Campus, Madras 600 025.