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·综述·

蟹类精英贮存和裂解研究进展

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Study on spermatophore storage and dehiscence in crab

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Abstract: In general, crab receives copious quantities of seminal fluid during mating, and stores them in special seminal receptacles, viz. spermatheca, for a prolonged period. The spermatheca of the advanced brachyuran crabs has been described for many species. The spermatheca is a dilation of the proximal region of the oviduct connecting it to the ovary. The vagina leads from the base of the spermatheca and opens outside the ovipore. Some crabs have the special structure, such as valve-like tissue, bursa, intermediate chamber. The seminal secretion delivered during mating has been shown to undergo a kind of solidification inside the spermatheca, giving rise to a structure called "sperm plug". In some species the sperm plug extends into the vagina and even protrudes from the vulva. The role of a sperm plug is not certain, but it has been assumed that it helps to prevent the loss of sperm after copulation. The sperm viability during prolonged storage is an interesting question, the seminal substances, together with spermathecal secretions, could provide nutrients and antibacterial substance for sperm maintenance. The anaerobic environment of spermatheca and the unmatured spermatozoa for storage are also the reason for survival in spermatheca. In brachyuran crabs where multiple mating occurs, there is sperm competition for fertilization. Some study revealed the existence of another type spermatophore with smooth and thin spermatophoric walls, so differences in the morphology of the spermatophoric wall were directly related to the degree of dehiscence of spermatophores upon copulation, which supports the hypothesis of different fertilization. So the quantity of ejaculate stored in spermathecae does not necessarily correlate with the mating success of the female, but may also depend on the type of spermatophores and their quantity transferred at the previous mating. In the brachyura, sperm transfer and storage mechanisms are related to the type of fertilization. Whether is internal

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or external needs more research on the fertilization of egg in spermathecae. .

Key words: crab; spermatophore; transfer; spermathecae

甲壳动物在海洋中分布广泛,有多种精子传输方式,大部分产生精巢,粘于雌体腹部或通过交接器输送到纳精囊中^[1]。研究表明,在蟹类交配、精子转移、贮存和受精等过程中,存在如精子竞争和亲体保护,多次受精等众多复杂事件^[2-4]。这些过程主要是以蟹类纳精囊为核心展开,为此本文综述了纳精囊的结构和功能,精子活力的维持、精巢形态、精子竞争和转移等近年研究进展,旨为相关研究提供参考。

1 精巢的接受和贮存

1.1 纳精囊的一般结构

短尾类精子贮存结构比较多样。通常蟹类在交配时获得雄蟹排出的精液,在雌蟹受精囊(seminal receptacles)即纳精囊(spermatheca)中贮存很长时间。

蟹类的纳精囊结构都很相似,一般可分为4个区,分别为输卵管、纳精囊囊部、阴道及阴户(图1^[5],图2^[6])。许多蟹类的纳精囊已有过研究^[7-24]。纳精囊是输卵管和卵巢相联部位前段的膨大,阴道开在纳精囊基部,开口在卵孔处。纳精囊由前端腺质层和后端几丁质区组成,其后端与具几丁质内膜的阴道相联。未交配时,纳精囊很薄、呈现白色、经度方向为透明的扁平囊^[10]。前端腺体层由两层组成,最外层为很薄的上皮,呈现膜状,由有核的上皮细胞组成,内上皮很厚,由两层高度分泌状的细胞组成,前端腺体部呈球形,而后端延长,变平,没有分泌物质。交配后的雌蟹,纳精囊分泌细胞活性很高,大量分泌产物涌到腔中,而后腔周围上皮渐渐消失,内部细胞则有分层,同时后部纳精囊内几丁质层形成特殊的褶皱。

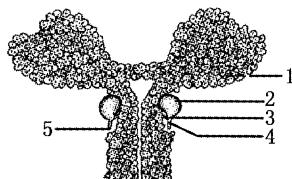


图1 中华绒螯蟹的雌性生殖系统^[5]

Fig. 1 The female reproductive system of *Eriocheir sinensis*

1. 卵巢; 2. 纳精囊; 3. 输卵管; 4. 阴道; 5. 雌生殖孔
1. ovary; 2. spermatheca; 3. oviduct; 4. vagina; 5. vulva

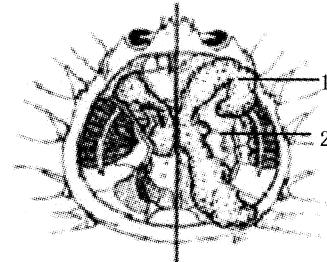


图2 牧人魁蟹雌性生殖系统^[6]

Fig. 2 Dorsal view of female reproductive anatomy of *Chionoecetes opilio*
1. 卵巢; 2. 纳精囊
1. ovary; 2. spermatheca

有些种类的纳精囊具有特异结构(图3)。中华绒螯蟹(*Eriocheir sinensis*)、日本绒螯蟹(*Eriocheir japonicus*)和近方蟹(*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*)纳精囊和输卵管处有一膜状结构^[18]。首长黄道蟹(*Cancer magister*)纳精囊近阴道开口处则有特殊的侧囊(bursa)结构,导致其受精行为具有不同于一般的复杂特性,对侧囊的功能有4个假设,可能具有短期贮存精子功能、分泌作用,仅是进化的遗迹或是雌体纳精囊的延伸,对其在受精上的作用,需要进一步研究^[19]。牧人魁蟹(*Chionoecetes opilio*)则具有一明显的中间室结构(intermediate chamber),其在生殖行为上有独特的作用,也增大了生殖的复杂性^[13]。纳精囊结构受交配和脱皮影响很大,交配影响纳精囊的分泌活力,从而影响卵巢的发育^[10]。

1.2 精子塞(sperm plug)

交配时输入的精液分泌物,在纳精囊中发生固化,产生一个“精子塞”或“精子栓”的结构。有些种,精子塞一直延伸到阴道,甚至阴户(图4)^[24]。精子塞已在交配后的多种黄道蟹及其它五个太平洋种中发现^[19]。普通滨蟹(*Carcinus maenas*)纳精囊中的精子塞很紧密、呈圆形^[24]。通过染色可区分为两个部分,精子塞表面的精子成一薄层分布。精子塞保留的时间长短不一,其作用还不太明确,可能是用于防止交配后精子的丢失。Hartnoll^[24]认为短尾类始祖的精子几乎不能存放在雌体输卵管中,而可能粘于胸部或如原始短尾类存放在浅的外皮的纳精囊中,包围精子以一种能够变硬的介质传输,且一直保留到受精。

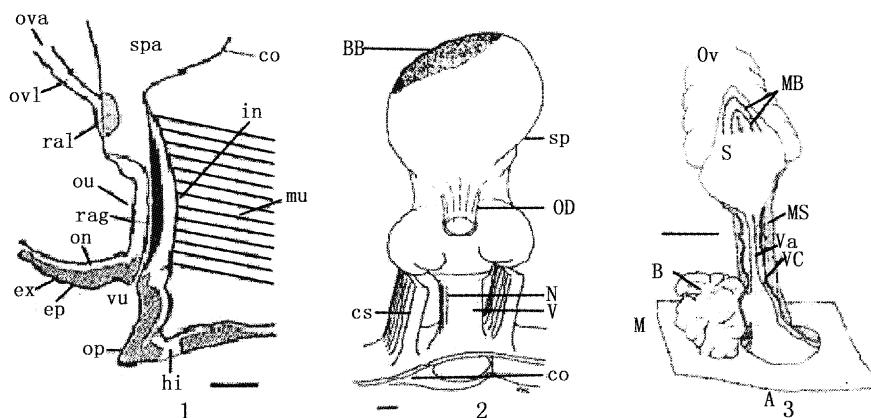


图3 三种具有特殊结构的纳精囊

Fig. 3 Three kings of spermatheca with special structure

1. 中华绒螯蟹纳精囊有一特殊的瓣膜结构。Co. 柱状上皮; ep: 外表皮; hi: 活动关节; in: 内壁; mu: 肌肉; op: 盖; ou: 外壁; ovar: 卵巢; spa: 纳精囊; vag: 阴道; val: 膜状组织; vu: 阴户

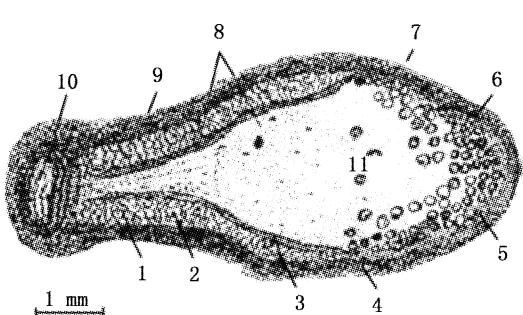
2. 牧人魁蟹纳精囊具有中间室。BB. 黑色带; Co. 表皮隔膜; M. 斜肌; OD. 输卵管; sp. 纳精囊; V. 阴道

3. 首长黄道蟹纳精囊的侧囊(Bursa)。A. 前部; B. 囊; M. 中央; MB. 黑色素带; MS. 肌肉鞘; Ov. 卵巢; S. 纳精囊腹表面; Va. 阴道; VC. 阴道狭窄处

1. Schematic illustration of the valve-like tissue of the spermatheca of female *Eriocheir sinensis*.^[18] Co. columnar epithelium; ep. Epicuticle; hi. Hinge; in. inner wall; mu. Muscles; op. operculum; ou. outer wall; ova. Ovary; ovi. oviducts; spa. Spermatheca; vag. Vagina; val. Valve-like tissue; vu. Vulva

2. The intermediate chamber of spermatheca of *Chionoecetes opilio*.^[13] BB. black band; CO. insertion of coxa; CS. Cuticular septum; M. oblique muscles; OD. Oviduct; SP spermatheca; V. Vagina.

3. Bursa of the female *Cancer magister*.^[19] A. anterior; B. bursa; M. medial; MB. melanin bands; MS. muscular sheath; Ov. ovary; S. ventral surface of spermatheca; Va. vagina; VC. vaginal constriction

图4 远洋梭子蟹(*Portunus pelagicus*)的精子塞^[15]Fig. 4 Diagrammatic drawing of frontal section of gonoduct of *Portunus pelagicus* at late-copulation stage showing two components of the plug^[15]

1. 新的分泌物 ; 2. 泡状分泌物 ; 3. 原始表皮 ; 4. 精荚 ; 5. 分泌物 ; 6. 壁 ; 7. 纳精囊的前部 ; 8. 塞状物质 ; 9. 阴道 ; 10. 生殖孔开口 ; 11. 雄性基质

1. new secretion ; 2. frothy secretion ; 3. original cuticle ; 4. spermatophore ; 5. secretion ; 6. wall ; 7. anterior half of the spermatheca ; 8. plug ; 9. vagina ; 10. genital opening ; 11. male matrix

精子塞或许是这种介质的残余物。

精子塞可分为两种类型,可能具有不同的功能。短尾类精子塞可能有助于防止后续的交配,保护或保持精子及营养作用。梭子蟹^[8,19]和蜘蛛蟹(*Libinia emarginata*)^[25]具有内部型精子塞,不能

阻止纳精囊的通道或后续的交配。第2种类型为外部型。外部型精子塞填充在阴道,阻止到达阴户,因而可以阻止后续的交配。虽然不堵塞阴户,首长黄道蟹的精子塞填充在阴道的前半段,阻断纳精囊通道,可能是外部来源^[19]。Diesel^[25]认为外部精子塞是由雌蟹产生,这种塞有利于雌蟹,因为可以阻止进一步的交配,减少雄体之间的竞争,从而避免软壳雌蟹的受伤。Jensen等^[19]认为首长黄道蟹不能通过纳精囊的收缩产生高度纤维样的塞状组织,另外雄性交接器不能达到阴道狭窄点,此处为精子塞开始处。因为雄体不能察觉精子塞的存在,因而精子塞不能减少雄体之间的竞争,但可以起到阻止后续交配产物到纳精囊中。

对于精子塞的成份还没有详细研究。最初由Spalding提出但没有进行组织化学测试,因此不能确定腺体分泌物和密封剂本身的成份^[26]。牧人魁蟹阴道中发现的精子塞完全由酸性粘多糖组成。Bawab和El-Sherief^[15]认为密封剂具有酚单宁。El-Sherief^[27]没有检出精子塞蛋白的氨基酸成份,因为这些氨基酸可能与苯醌迅速发生反应,变成壳硬蛋白(sclerotins)。据报道这些蛋白质的氨基酸成份,特别是赖氨酸的θ-氨基酸组,有助

于产生丹宁化作用。赖氨酸可能是精子塞的重要成份,以弥补酚类氨基酸的减少,赖氨酸可能提供一种蛋白质支链之间互相交联的作用^[1]。

精子塞中含有大量固醇类脂类^[27],特别是含有大量的磷脂^[15]。磷脂的存在可能和丹宁化有关,一些自然丹宁化组织中存在着磷脂。磷脂也是十足目甲壳动物精英的丹宁化基质。普通滨蟹血液中的磷脂被认为是其身体中酚丹宁化的基质。一个新的发现是,大黄蜂精子塞中存在着非常简单的非特异性的亚油酸^[28]。Bawab 和 El-Sherief^[15]发现精子塞中存在多酚氧化酶,而血液中的酪氨酸酶系统产生的多酚有助于表皮蛋白的硬化。由于蟹类纳精囊富有血液供应,有助于保证大量的多酚来源。丹宁化及其几丁质和脂类性质,使得交配时形成的精子塞得以迅速变得坚硬、抗性强、不能穿透。Radha 和 Subramoniam^[29]认为精子塞的硬化可能是由特别的酸性粘多糖成份如硫酸软骨素等完成的。Jayasankar 和 Subramoniam^[30]认为精液蛋白酶与交配时精子塞的形成和溶解有关。

1.3 精子活力保持

甲壳动物精子长期贮存的活力维持是一个未解的难题。精液和纳精囊分泌物与精子活力保存有很大关系,可能为精子的长期贮存提供营养。高等短尾类的纳精囊腺体活力较强,和卵巢发育周期相关^[20,23,31]。交配后的雌蟹,精子聚集在上皮细胞的顶部边缘,纳精囊分泌物含有大量的蛋白质,PAS 阳性反应,除精液外提供合适的液态介质用于延长精子的保存。纳精囊的背上皮是分泌性的,但其分泌物的具体作用还未知。可能具有精子塞溶解^[8],精子塞形成^[15],精英裂解^[9,32,33],精子活力的保持^[34]和纳精囊中细菌群体的维持^[33,35]等作用。

首长黄道蟹的纳精囊背部上皮有助于腔中黑色素化(melanin),黑化可能有保护和破坏两种作用,参与对外源物质和病兆死亡体组织的免疫反应;黑色素是杀菌剂,有助于排除纳精囊中细菌和其它有害物质^[1]。牧人魁蟹纳精囊的上皮分泌物可能有利一些形态同源的微生物的生长,这些微生物的终产物可能有助于排除条件微生物或为精子代谢提供基质^[33,35]。首长黄道蟹纳精囊没有发现细菌,黑色素有助于消除这些细菌。此外,黑色素通过吸收代谢产生的自由基以保护细胞,低

温鱼类能够吸收脂类代谢时产生的自由基,通过吸收代谢时的自由基,黑色素同样有助于提高精子存活^[19]。

Benhalim 和 Moriyasu^[16]在初次交配和老的不育的雌牧人魁蟹纳精囊中发现有较高的细菌群体。细菌对纳精囊的侵入将会破坏精英和内部的精子,尤其是初次及老的不育的雌蟹。交配时雄蟹来源的高度酸性精液中缺少细菌,说明雄性精液具有抗微生物功能。研究发现,细菌不能在纳精囊的无氧环境中生存很久。Johson^[34]认为美味优游蟹的精子塞可以堵住精子的丢失,提供对有害物质的机械和化学的障碍。Benhalim 和 Moriyasu^[36]发现精液放置在纳精囊的不同位置,可能发挥不同的作用,中输精管来源的精液起精子营养作用,后输精管来源的精液作为抗菌剂,也作为精英裂解的催化剂。这和 Sasikala 和 Subramoniam^[37]假设相一致。生化分析和抗菌实验表明,青蟹精液的确具有较强的抗菌能力^[38]。

Jeyalectumie 和 Subramoniam^[39]针对精子代谢,详细研究了青蟹精液的生化成份及相关代谢酶的活力变化。结果表明未交配的雌蟹纳精囊内含物有机物质较低,交配后由于精液的来源,纳精囊中充满了大量的有机物质。随着精子在纳精囊的贮存,对糖的利用较少,而脂类和蛋白则几乎没有多少改变。纳精囊内含物中有很低的 SDH 活力和中等的 LDH 活力,但是 FR 的活力则特别的高,这表明精子在纳精囊中行无氧糖酵解过程。在逆向 TCA 循环中,FR 催化延胡索酸生成琥珀酸。宽额大额蟹纳精囊中精子乳酸氧化成丙酮酸超过丙酮酸还原成乳酸的速度,SDH 活力高于 FR,比值为 5.7:1,贮存在纳精囊中的精子消耗其环境中的氧,氧吸收速率很低,这都说明纳精囊中贮存精子以无氧代谢为主。另外,其中含有高的脂类和相对较少的糖,进一步证明精子在纳精囊采用无氧呼吸手段。精子代谢时对糖利用的进一步证据来自不同低温离体冷冻保存青蟹精英研究^[40]。

牧人魁蟹纳精囊中精英具有介于成熟和不成熟精子细胞之间的细胞或在成熟精子细胞和精子之间,这是首次有关输精管以外精子在精英中的发育^[41]。如果不成熟的精子细胞转移到纳精囊后不能发育为成熟精子细胞或最终发育为精子,并不代表着精子浪费。相反,因为不成熟精子具有更精细的细胞质和结构,更适于长期保存的存

活。因此可以说,不成熟精子细胞的转移和在纳精囊中的成熟可能是牧人魁蟹精子对长期贮存的一个适应,从而减少精子的浪费,有助于提高贮存精子的受精率^[42]。

综上所述,纳精囊分泌的能杀菌的黑色素,精液的抗菌功能,精子塞封闭的无氧的纳精囊内环境及以未成熟的精子前体形式贮存,得以将纳精囊中的精子贮存很长一段时间,仍能具有较高的受精能力。

1.4 精子竞争

Parker^[43]认为,至少两个雄体的精液之间授于一个雌体卵时存在精子竞争现象。在那些多雄性亲体并具有精子贮存器官,精子竞争机制将会导致产生单个亲体。精子竞争可分为两大类,即精子分层和精子移去。短尾类精子竞争研究还很少,尽管它们有较高级的精子长期贮存及用于多次受精的精子贮存器官,在组织学和行为上类似于具有精子竞争行为的脊椎或无脊椎动物^[44]。Diesel^[25,44]研究了尖头蟹(*Inachus phalangiu*)精子可能的竞争现象,这种蟹授精和受精发生在纳精囊,雄蟹将竞争者的精子,推向背部,通过精液硬化封闭对手的精子,导致最后交配的雄性精子优先受精。野外和实验室中和多个雄体交配的雌牧人魁蟹,纳精囊中贮存的精液具分层现象(图5);实验室交配的后代的基因型表明其为单个亲体,说明产卵前最后一个授精的雄体获得子代的亲体权,主要的机制可能是精子分层作用;而在野外抓获的雌体,后代的微卫星标记也表明是单个

亲本,但这些幼体亲本的精子分布在纳精囊纵切的背末端,这表明其雄性亲本一直守护到产卵,然后雌蟹再与其它雄蟹交配^[45]。精液有时会起到内部精子塞的作用^[44,46],至少在一定程度上能够封住竞争雄体的精子,但也不能完全排除雄性附肢会破坏已贮存的精子的可能性^[47]。这只是一个推断,对短尾类精子竞争的普遍意义还需更多研究。

交配对象选择好后,竞争将在雄性配子之间继续进行。在内部受精种类,精子竞争发生前必须有三个条件:(1)雌体必须保留精子;(2)雌体必须接受多个雄体的精子,在单个脱皮/交配周期或跨周期贮存精子;(3)保存的精子受精时必须使用^[43]。所有短尾类具有外-中胚层来源的(纳精囊)或外胚层来源的(受精囊 thelycum)精子贮存器官^[48]。Diesel^[25]将纳精囊分为两种类型:背部型(dorsal type)和腹部型(ventral type),腹部型输卵管和阴道在腹部相通,在受精时向上,最后进入纳精囊的精子可能更为有利,因为它的精子放置在最接近输卵管处,在位置上阻止竞争精子接近卵母细胞。背部型纳精囊的背部通向输卵管,腹部开口通向阴道,彼此相隔很远,首先交配的蟹应该具有优势,卵母细胞和它的精子首先相遇。

2 精荚的裂解和受精

2.1 精荚的裂解

蟹类精荚的裂解过程在青蟹中已有研究。青蟹精荚在自来水中会慢慢膨大,精荚膜中会形成一个椎形凸出物,突起破裂会释放精子;精荚对色素也具有通透性^[49]。青蟹的精荚直到排卵时才裂解,只有在排卵时才会发现游离的精子,表明排卵释放代谢物使得精荚因为渗透压作用而膨大,同时释放精子^[10]。纳精囊中精子从精荚释放机制和时间,在短尾类中还没有研究清楚,但毫无疑问,在其它蟹类纳精囊中也存在游离的精子^[25]。

蟹类精荚可能只是进化遗迹结构(vestigial structure),最初功能是在精子转移到外面时保护精子细胞防止有害的环境影响,现在可能仅是包裹精子细胞,将其转移到雌体^[1,8,50]。牧人魁蟹具有两种形态类型精荚,一个具有皱褶的精荚壁,主要在青春期及具新壳或软壳的成熟雄蟹中发现;另一种为平薄的精荚壁,主要在硬壳和老壳的雄蟹中发现;在纳精囊中前者具有较低的裂解率,后

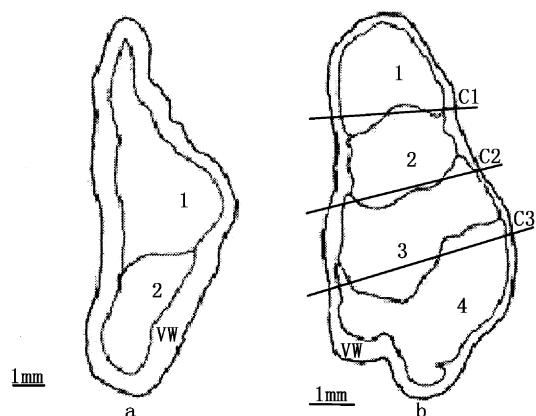


图5 牧人魁蟹纳精囊中含有多少层精液(EJ)^[45]

Fig. 5 The several ejaculates (EJ) of the spermathecae, each with many spermatophores caged by amorphous matter

a. 为控制条件下的交配; b. 为野生自然交配情况
a. female from the controlled matings; b. female from the wild

者则在 40 min 内迅速裂解^[6,26]。在初次和多次抱卵蟹的纳精囊中主要含有皱褶的精英壁,这可能意味着光滑型精英主要用于立即受精,而皱褶型精英主要贮存于纳精囊中^[51],这一结论对蟹类繁殖动力学提出了新的看法,即纳精囊中贮存的精液量和雌蟹的受精成功并不直接相关,还可能和精英类型及其所占比例有关。如果雌蟹和具平滑型精英的雄蟹交配,纳精囊贮存的精液则会很少,相反和具皱褶精英的雄蟹交配,贮存量则会很多,因此仅仅根据纳精囊中贮存的精液量是不能确定其繁殖潜力的。

张口蟹(*Chasmagnathus granulata*)精子在纳精囊中无明显的分布状况,也没有抱团现象^[11],这和红星梭子蟹(*Portunus sanguinolentus*)^[9],尖头蟹^[9,25]及巨大拟滨蟹(*Pseudocarcinus gigas*)一致。因此张口蟹纳精囊中精子可能具有混合机制,这和方蟹科的宽额大额蟹、相手蟹(*Sesarma reticulatum*)一致^[52]。

Hinsch^[52]发现蜘蛛蟹能够进行硬壳交配,受精继交配后立即发生,精英到达雌体后立即裂解。圆趾蟹(*Ovalipes ocellatus*)为软壳交配,精子贮存一段时间,精英到交配后的早上还保存完整^[52]。宽额大额蟹(*Metopograpsus messor*)为硬壳交配种类,交配后 24 h 内可以在纳精囊中发现精英,说明精英的裂解具有时序性^[53]。

2.2 受精

甲壳动物精子受精可能发生在内部或外部。奔水束腹蟹(*Parathelphusa hydrodromus*)交配发生在 7—11 月份,产卵只发生在 3—4 月份,精英贮存在纳精囊,保持存活状况^[1]。亚洲瓣蟹(*Emerita asiatica*)受精发生在外部,产卵前精英柄粘附于生殖孔附近的腹肢处,直到产卵时,精英才会释放精子。这说明外部受精时,产卵和精英的粘附存在一个时间关系^[1]。

一般认为短尾类属于体内受精(internal fertilization)(图 6)^[54],但其具体意义还有争论。Binford^[55]认为雇工哲蟹(*Menippe mercenaria*)受精发生在卵巢,因为在成熟卵表面发现精子,且许多可以发育成胚胎。Lee 和 Yamazaki^[18]认为这可能是人为操作时造成的假象。Spalding^[8]也报道普通滨蟹的受精发生在卵巢腔或输卵管内。另外对红星梭子蟹^[9]和蜘蛛蟹^[50]的研究表明,精子在纳精囊和成熟卵表面相接触,而后的受精发生

在体外,这和 Ryan^[9], Hinsch^[50]及康现江等^[2]的研究结果相类似^[9,50,56]。据 Lee 和 Yamazaki^[18]估计中华绒螯蟹卵子进入纳精囊到排到体外,只大该为 1 秒钟的时间,不足以在纳精囊中发生完全的受精过程。产卵时,纳精囊的表皮褶皱理论上可能起到混合精卵,加强精卵相遇机率或收集和引导卵子从输卵管向阴户移动的作用^[26,57]。对牧人魁蟹的受精有几个假设,首先是交配或排卵前海水对精液或纳精囊基质的稀释,然后外界海水进入精英导致其膨大和裂解,最后,海水对精子产生刺激作用引起顶体反应,产生着卵和受精行为^[6]。

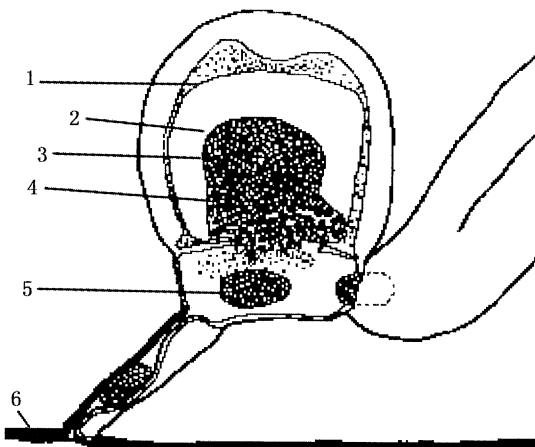


图 6 尖头蟹的产卵过程^[54]

Fig. 6 Schematic diagram representing a seminal receptacle of *Inachus phalanxgium* during spawning

1. 精子细胞 ; 2. 精子胶 (s I b,s II) ; 3. 精子胶 ; 4. 精子胶 (s I a) ; 5. 卵母细胞 ; 6. 胸板.

1. sperm cells ; 2. sperm gel (s I b,s II) ; 3. spermatophores ; 4. sperm gel (s I a) ; 5. oocyte ; 6. sternum.

最近对脊椎动物精子贮存的研究表明,动物界产卵受精可分为两种基本类型,卵生(oviparity)和胎生(viviparity)。前者又可分为 ovuliparity(卵释放后在外部进行受精或激活); zygotiparity(受精卵或雌核发育的卵保留在雌体一段时间)和 embryoparity(胚胎在雌体中发育到一定阶段,再释放到雌生殖管,然后从卵膜中孵化出),其中 ovuliparity 存在一种内部精子相会(internal gametic association)的亚型,雌雄配子在雌生殖管相遇,然后释放到外部进行受精^[58]。短尾类蟹受精是否属于这种类型,还需要对纳精囊中卵的受精状况作进一步研究,才能得出结论。

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