

Role of the Morphogenetic Cell Movements in the Differentiation of the Marginal Zone Lateral Fragments in *Triturus vulgaris* (Amphibia: Caudata) Early Stage Gastrula

Plamen G. Georgiev¹, Victoria G. Necheva¹, Veselin Ts. Penkov¹

Abstract: The impact of tangential tension and associated morphogenetic movements on the differentiation of lateral fragments of the marginal zone in *Triturus vulgaris* L. has been studied. For this purpose we have stimulated experimentally a folding in the dorsal end of the presumptive lateral zones. In these conditions the percentage of the axial differentiations of lateral explants has been increasing. At the same time the percentage of lateral derivatives (mesenchime and kidney tubules) has decreased, while the percentage of ventral structures (blood cells and mesothelium) has stayed almost unchanged. The obtained results confirm the observations that in *Triturus* as well as in Anuran species studied by other authors the tangential tension and the structural cell movements in the different sectors of the marginal zone are of great importance for the correct dorso-ventral specification of mesodermal differentiations.

Key words: *Triturus vulgaris*, involution, convergent, intercalation, morphogenetic movements, marginal zone