

Ultrastructure of dermal and defence glands in
Cyphophthalmus duricorius JOSEPH, 1868
(Opiliones: Sironidae)

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Abstract: The structure of dermal glands and defence glands is described in a species of Cyphophthalmi. The dermal glands consist of different cell types that discharge their secretion into a microvilli bordered cavity before reaching the cuticle-lined duct system. The paired sac-like defence glands are composed of an excretory channel, a non-secretory area and a secretory area. These three parts are characterized by a different arrangement of cells. The secretory area includes a number of glandular units, probably derived from dermal glands, producing a heterogeneous secretion that is discharged via numerous small ducts into the wide cuticle-lined lumen.

Key words: Cyphophthalmi, defence gland, dermal gland, ozophore