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biology (evo-devo), Cambrian fossils that allow the stepwise acquisition of fossils into an increasingly well-supported phylogenetic framework for extant arthropods based on genomic-scale datasets. Both evo-devo and palaeontology make novel predictions about the evolution of segmentation originating in a frontal appendage and then being co-opted into other segmentation of the endodermal midgut in the arthropod stem-group. Insights from development, such as tagmatization being associated with different modes of segments, are complemented by palaeontological evidence for the pattern of tagmatization during ontogeny of exceptionally preserved fossils. Fossil and developmental data together provide evidence for a short head in stem-group arthropods and the mechanism of its formation and retention. Future breakthroughs are expected from identification of molecular signatures of developmental innovations within a phylogenetic framework, and from a focus on later developmental stages to identify the different systems within segmental precursors. Keywords: evo-devo, Arthropoda, palaeontology Questions about deep evolutionary history, such as the origin and evolution of animal body plans, demand a combined approach that takes into account multiple sources of evidences of evide These historical questions are often extremely complex, and are shrouded in the mists of deep time, so that no single approach provides enough information to fully reconstruct the underlying evolutionary events. At the very least, understanding deep evolution requires a sound phylogenetic framework, an adequate fossil record, and a mechanistic/developmental view of morphology [1]. Phylogenetics provides the framework within which we can infer the history of specific characters—how many times a feature evolved and on which branches of the tree of life. Palaeontology calibrates an evolutionary timescale, a putative sequence of events, and direct evidence of extinct morphologies and unique combinations of characters. Development provides insights into the processes by which form is generated, and about the possible transformation series between morphologies. How segmented body plans originated in arthropods exemplifies a question about deep evolutionary history, one for which progress has been informed by these diverse perspectives. Arthropods are by far the most successful animal phylum and their success is largely an outcome of their segmented body. A segmentally arranged body allows for different measures of autonomy of individual segments, which is manifest in the varied tagmatization of the arthropod body. and the 'Swiss Army knife'-like specialization of appendages to perform diverse functions. This modularity in specialization has allowed arthropods is not confined to the present. Indeed, arthropods have probably been the most common and diverse animals throughout their evolutionary history [2], and fossils show that the segmented body plan evolved convergently in three phyla: Arthropoda, Chordata and Annelida, and evolved convergently in the three cases [3]. The segmented body plan evolved convergently in the three cases [3]. three cases probably evolved in a stepwise fashion from an unsegmented ancestor, via recruitment of different metameric organ systems into unified embryonic segments [4]. Beyond this hypothetical scenario (figure 1), we have only patchy data about the evolutionary processes that led to the appearance of the segmented body in arthropods, or about the intermediate stages in this presumed stepwise process. Nonetheless, we can learn about the evolution of the segmented body by understanding the evolution of the developmental process that underlies it—the segmentation process. A scenario for the origin and evolution of arthropod segmentation (based on [4]). (a) A simple bilaterian with a short body; (b) extension of the anterior-posterior axis (A-P); (c) several organ systems become independently metameric and distributed along the A-P axis; (d) metamericand distribute systems are generated together from an undifferentiated segmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of development of the discipline that focuses on tracing changes in developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of development of the discipline that focuses on tracing changes in developmental processes over time, through a tree-based comparison of development of the discipline that focuses on tracing changes in development of the discipline that focuses on tracing changes in the discipline that focus the discipline the discipline that focus the discipline that focus the discipline the where in phylogeny specific developmental characters first evolved or where they were modified. This provides insight into the generation of the characters and how they can be modified through changes in the developmental process. By contrast, the fossil record provides information about the temporal context of morphological changes; minimum dates for when specific character combinations and intermediate character states that are not found in extant species. There is a complementarity between one approach that looks at a single moment in time (the present), but allows mechanistic analyses of developmental processes, and an approach that gives a much deeper temporal perspective but is limited by the unpredictable preservation of a sample of body plans, and of course does not allow experimentation. Integration of evo-devo approaches and fossil data has been a productive approach in the vertebrate world for years [5-7]. Many of the fundamentals of evo-devo have, however, been established using arthropods [8-14], and this early work was instrumental in consolidating the evo-devo have, however, been established using arthropods [8-14], and this early work was instrumental in consolidating the evo-devo have, however, been established using arthropods [8-14], and this early work was instrumental in consolidating the evo-devo have, however, been established using arthropods [8-14], and this early work was instrumental in consolidating the evo-devo have, however, been established using arthropods [8-14], and this early work was instrumental in consolidating the evo-devo have approach as an independent evolution of the fundamental evolution evolution of the fundamental evolution evolution evolution evolution evolution evolution evolution evol and palaeontological perspectives on the origin of various arthropod features (e.g. insect wings [15,16], head segmentation [17], appendages [18] and trunk segmentation [17], but this approach remains under-used in the world of arthropod evolutionary biology. With respect to the specific question we are addressing here—the origin of segmental features—palaeontological effort is concentred in the Cambrian, that being the time period when arthropods first appear in the fossils and their interpretation have steadily improved via the documentation of Cambrian fossils from sites of exceptional preservation [2], which continue to be discovered [20]. These fossils underpin current hypotheses about how a grade of taxa that constitutes the arthropod stem-group reveals the stepwise acquisition of characters, many related to segmentation. Burgess Shale-type fossils—two-dimensional carbonaceous compressions of the cuticle coupled with mineralization of labile tissue such as the gut and muscle—have been the focus of much research, but have been supplemented by finds from other styles of fossils, including larvae [22]). The latter are especially important for preserving series of developmental stages that bridge gaps between embryos (which underpin much evo-devo research) and adult stages, which predominate among Burgess Shale-type fossils [23,24]. In parallel, the representation of species and taxa in the experimental world has increased substantially. sample of extant morphological diversity within arthropods than that represented by the very small sample of model species available until only 15 years ago (e.g. hemimetabolous insects [25,26]; diverse arachnids [27-30] and dipterans [31-34]; non-hexapod pancrustaceans: [35-37]; myriapods [38,39]; and many others). This broader range of model species has allowed the addressing of specific evolutionary questions, such as the origin of different respiratory organs [30], the origin of different respiratory organs [40,41] and the diversity of limbs [18]. Beyond the increase in experimentally tractable model organisms, the explosion of available genomes [42] makes it possible to use bioinformatic approaches to look formatic genetic and regulatory novelties, and makes it easier to plan and develop functional work on an even larger sample of arthropods have shed light on the diversity. With regards to segmentation process in insects and other arthropods [43-49]. The phylogenetic relationships of extant arthropods used as models in evo-devo are resolved with considerable confidence based on genome scale data (figure 2 top, reviewed by Giribet & Edgecombe [50]). High-level insect phylogeny has a well-supported, morphologically coherent framework based on transcriptomic analyses [51], the pattern of 'crustacean' paraphyly with respect to Hexapoda has numerous nodes that are repeatedly recovered with strong support in phylogenomic studies [52,53], and myriapod phylogeny remains more ambiguous, but some key nodes bracketing evo-devo models (such as spiders and scorpions being more closely related to each other than either is to mites, i.e. the Arachnopulmonata hypothesis) are robustly supported [56,57]. Phylogenetic relationships among key experimental model species of Panarthropoda and representative fossil
taxa. Names of fanarthropoda and representative fossil taxa. terminals at the top of the tree are extant genera of experimentally tractable model species. Names of terminals deep within the tree are fossil forms representing stem-groups of various extant taxa. Node names refer to crown-groups. Placement of some of the fossil taxa is still contentious (see text for examples). The phylogenetic position of fossils on the other hand is often contentious. Over a decade or so, a picture had emerged of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group to fully arthropized forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group to fully arthropized forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in the arthropod stem-group (figure 2; reviewed by Daley et al. [58]), a grade that encompasses a transition from vermiform, lobopod-bearing forms in the deepest nodes of the branching sequence in more proximal to the crown-group. Because it samples morphologies between the most recent common ancestor of Onychophora (which lack segmental sclerites) and extant diversity of Arthropoda, this grade is of particular relevance to understanding the evolution of arthropod segmental sclerites) and extant diversity of Arthropoda, this grade is of particular relevance to understanding the evolution of arthropod segmental sclerites) and extant diversity of Arthropoda, this grade is of particular relevance to understanding the evolution of arthropoda segmental sclerites). stem-group in all recent phylogenetic analyses, such as Isoxys and Radiodonta (the clade including Anomalocaris and its relatives), but a few groups that had been assigned to the arthropod stem-group have been reinterpreted as within the arthropod crown-group. This affects some fossil clades that had played a significant role in resolving character acquisition in the arthropod stem-group, such as fuxianhuiids and bivalved hymenocarine arthropods like Canadaspis and Branchiocaris [59,60]. Different interpretations, together with alternative character sets and tree reconstruction methods, have prompted a shift of fuxianhuiids and Hymenocarina into the arthropod crown-group, either within or allied to Mandibulata [61,62]. A combined approach, including both the fossil record and experimental data on extant animals, within a unified phylogenetic framework (figure 2) provides the most complete possible picture of the evolution of the arthropod segmented body. The fossil record contributes data about the sequence of characters acquisition, most informatively when characters that are clustered across multiple nodes in a stem-group. Furthermore, because fossils preserve unique combinations of characters, some of which may be lost in extant taxa, they can serve as the basis for novel hypotheses on the stepwise assembly of the developmental programme that generates segments in extant taxa. Conversely, development provides mechanistic examples of how characters are transformed, which allow linking character states in fossil taxa and suggest putative homologies that are not obvious from the fossils alone. We provide examples of these reciprocities and synergies in the following. The deepest branches of the arthropod stem-group are represented by large-bodied Cambrian lobopodians such as Jianshanopodia [63], Megadictyon [64] and Siberion [65]. appendage pair is specialized as an enlarged raptorial pair of limbs bearing strong, elongate spines along their inner margins, but like the trunk appendage is shared by the so-called gilled lobopodians—exemplified by the early Cambrian Kerygmachela (figure 3a) and Pambdelurionthat are broadly agreed to branch more crownward of the giant lobopodians in the arthropod stem-group. Traces of neural tissue innervating the frontal appendages (fa). (a) The 'gilled lobopodian' Kerygmachela kierkegaardi; (b-e) disarticulated Anomalocaris canadensis frontal appendages. Scales: (a-c) 10 mm, (d-e) 5 mm. (a) courtesy of J. Vinther; (b-e) courtesy of A. Daley (from [66]). Radiodonta, exemplified by the famous Anomalocaris. Radiodonts have an arthropodized frontal appendage, in most members of the group this being the only conspicuously arthropodized appendage in the body. Various theories interpret other segmental body parts, notably a fringe of dorsal setal blades and series of paired ventral flaps, as appendicular derivatives, homologues of the rami of biramous appendages in arthropods [68,69], but the frontal appendage most clearly depicts apomorphies of arthropodization. The radiodont frontal appendage has discrete sclerotized articles/podomeres that are articulated to each other on their dorsal side at hinges and are separated from each other on their ventral sides by desclerotized triangular, telescoping fields of arthrodial membrane [66] (figure 3b-e). Most podomeres bear ventral spines as well. Extant panarthropods present two character states, each corresponding to one of the two states observed in frontal appendages in the arthropodized limbs with a more or less conserved array of elements, and the annulated, lobopodial limbs of onychophorans and tardigrades. The network patterning the arthropodized limb is conserved to a very high degree among all arthropods [18,70]. The gap genes that pattern the proximo-distal axis of arthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropods that predates arthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that these genes have a conserved role in limb development in panarthropod limbs are expressed in the same register in onychophorans [71,72], demonstrating that the same register in onychophorans [71,72], dem were instrumental in the evolution of panarthropod limbs and in their subsequent arthropodization. Schematic of gap gene expression domains in limbs of onychophorans and in the different arthropod classes. The proximal side of the limb is to the left. Lighter colours represent lower expression levels or downregulation during development. Redrawr with a revised phylogeny from [70]. See source for references. (Online version in colour.) Radiodonts and more crownward taxa in the arthropodization did not happen in a piecemeal manner (e.g. one segment at a time posteriorly from an origin in the protocerebral segment). Rather, it was co-opted by the rest of the head and trunk segments simultaneously [18] and, notably, was abandoned in the protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and
specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular and specifically a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about whether the labrum is or is not appendicular about about a transformed protocerebral segment (acknowledging a prolonged debate about about about crownward of radiodonts in the arthropod stem-group, such as isoxyids, display arthropodization of all head and trunk limbs, presumed to be a shared derived character retained by a deutocerebral first appendage (antenna or chelicera), a monophyletic group united by a deutocerebral first appendage (antenna or chelicera), encompassing all crown-group arthropods and a set of stem-group taxa. The detailed similarity in the structure of the arthropodized trunk limbs in more crownward groups suggests that these are serially homologous structures. Homology implies that they are underlain by the same GRN or character identity network (CHiN, [74]), even though they are found on positionally non-equivalent segments. If this is indeed the case, then the modified limb patterning GRN (which allows arthropodization of the limb) was co-opted from the frontal appendage to other appendages. The concept of co-option is a central tenet in the theory of novelty within the evo-devo conceptual framework [75-78]. According to the accepted paradigm, novel structures can arise through the recruitment of existing GRNs to novel locations. For this to happen, all that is required is for a key gene, high in the GRN's hierarchy, to be activated ectopically, and this will suffice for the activation of the entire network and the generation of a complete structure in a new location, in essence creating an evolutionary novelty. Arthropod tagmata are fundamentally defined by differentiation of segmental structures, such as differentiation of segmental structures, such as differentiation of segmental structures in the structure of batches of appendages. many of the mechanisms responsible for the presence or the absence of appendages on specific segments—characteristic for different tagmata. Dll is generally considered to be the main signal for the initiation of the limb development programme [5,79]. The identity of the segments and the identity of the appendages they bear (if any) are mostly under the control of Hox genes, often directly regulating Dll [80], although it is clear that this is only a partial description of the tagma differentiation process. In most cases, Hox gene expression defines broad domains along the anterior-posterior (A-P) axis, but does not define the borders between tagmata [81]. The fossil record predicts that the plesiomorphic state (post-recruitment of arthropodized limbs to the trunk) is a series of more or less homonomous appendages on all post-cephalic segments. However, most arthropod lineages show examples of segments. However, most arthropod lineages on all post-cephalic segments. into head, thorax and abdomen, but tagmatization is also well known from extinct groups. Fuxianhuids, for example, have a pendages on the anterior part of the trunk [82], analogous to the abdomen of extant arthropods (e.g. hexapods). Complex patterns of limb loss and regional differentiation are known in stem- and crown-group chelicerates [83]. Some arthropods display different ontogenetic modes of segment generation in different tagmata. This is best studied in insects, specifically in the milkweed bug Oncopeltus fasciatus, in which thoracic segments are generated simultaneously, whereas abdominal segments are generated sequentially [48]. While this guestion has not been addressed specifically in other insects, expression data from the cricket Gryllus bimaculatus [84] suggest this may be a common pattern, at least in hemimetabolous insects. This pattern is not seen in Holometabola, which could indicate a secondary loss of region-specific segmentation modes. In Myriapoda, the head segments are formed segments, which form in strict A-P sequence [46]. Spiders have a different prosomal and opisthosomal segmentation process [85,86] and in the mite Tetranychus the pair-rule orthologue Pax-3/7 is expressed only in the prosoma [87]. Ontogenetic data for fossil taxa are rare, but there are at least some cases that conform to this pattern. The ontogeny of Fuxianhuia protensa shows that tergites form at a terminal growth zone, and moults involving tergite addition alternate with ones in which a limbless abdominal segment is shed into the appendage-bearing thorax [82]. If fuxianhuiids are stem-group arthropods, as is widely accepted, an association between tagmosis (including presence versus absence of appendages on tagmata) and different modes of segment generation predates the origin of the arthropod crowngroup. Thus, we would predict that different modes of segment generation within a single species existed very early in arthropod evolution. The fossil record shows that the ancestral arthropod so fewer segments than that of extant arthropod so fewer segments than that of extant arthropod so fewer segments than the ancestral arthropod head was composed of fewer segments than that of extant arthropod so fewer segments than the ancestral arthropod so fewer segments than the ancestral arthropod so fewer segments than the ancestral arthropod head was composed of fewer segments than the ancestral arthropod so fewer segments than the a Jianshanopodia and the gilled lobopodians Kerygmachela and Pambdelurion) had a single-segment head, the protocerebral segment bearing the sole appendage [17,67] (figure 3a). This situation of a head composed of a single protocerebral segment bearing the sole appendage [17,67] (figure 3a). for the most part correspond to this level of organization, but the number of head segments in this clade is ambiguous because of whether or not three segments associated with small flaps and in some cases paired gnathobase-like structures [90] are a part of the head or the trunk. Taxa closer to the euarthropod crown-group, such as Fuxianhuia [91], have three head segments, in this case being ocular, an antennule and a so-called 'SPA'—a specialized post-antennal appendage. On this basis, it has been proposed that a three-segmented head in Fuxianhuia corresponds to a three-segmented brain as an ancestral state for Deuteropoda [17], composed of proto-, deuto- and tritocerebral segments. We caution, however, that the head segmentation of Fuxianhuia is under dispute, with evidence that taxa once viewed as having a comparable three-segmented head, such as Branchiocaris [92], later being shown to have mandibles and post-mandibular mouthparts [61]. Evo-devo work shows that there is a distinct difference between the way in which the anterior three segments (the pre-gnathal segments) are patterned in all extant arthropods relative to more posterior segmented head, and in chelicerates [94], which have a complex cephalothorax (prosoma) rather than a distinct head. Differences include a lack of involvement of pair-rule genes and a different regulation of segment polarity genes in the anterior segments [80], and an unusual mode of segment generation, which involves segmental genes being expressed in single stripes or patches in the pre-gnathal domain and then splitting to give two or three stripes that correspond to individual segments [48,93,94]. There is also some evidence for differences in the expression of segment atom through 'stripe-splitting' in different arthropod taxa. (a,b) Blastoderm stages of the milkweed bug Oncopeltus fasciatus (Insecta). An anterior patch of wingless expression domains. (c,d) Early development of the centipede Strigamia maritima (Myriapoda). showing the expression of hedgehog. The anterior expression stripe representing the ocular segment (blue arrow) and intercalary (yellow arrow) are presenting the mandibular segment (red arrow) are presented arrow). appears independently. (e-g) Early germband embryo of the spider Parasteatoda tepidariorum (Chelicerata), showing expression of hedgehog starts as a single stripe, which splits once to give a stripe representing the pedipalpal segment (Pp) and a second stripe that soon splits again to give the stripes representing the ocular segment (Ce, cephalic lobe) and the cheliceral segment (ch). Adapted (a,b) from [93] and (e-g) from [94]. (Online version in colour.) We suggest that the unusual three anterior segments in extant arthropods represent the ancestral three-segment head found in Cambrian taxa that are near or within the arthropod crown-group. Under this hypothesis, the ancestral head segments were already developmentally distinct from the trunk segments at the time of their first appearance, and this difference has been maintained throughout their evolutionary history. It is still seen in all extant arthropods, as well as in Cambrian larvae that provide evidence for simultaneously developing head segments (a so-called 'head larva') being an ancestral character of crown-group arthropods [23]. This interpretation, which relies on combined data from an ancestral singlesegment head. Metameric gut diverticula are a common character in many stem-group arthropods. Based on the typical restriction of the trunk (or much of the trunk) versus a tube-shaped gut more anteriorly, the diverticula provide a basis for distinguishing the midgut from the foregut and hindgut in fossils. The midgut was strongly segmented in the arthropod stem-group (figure 6c), as well as in some groups that have been interpreted as either stem-group or crown-group arthropods, such as megacheiran 'great appendage arthropods' (figure 6d) and trilobitomorphs (figure 6e,f). Throughout this evolutionary grade, the morphology of the midgut diverticula is conserved, being relatively large, reniform organs with a distinctive radiating canal system, underpinning their homology. This hypothesis that the gut was segmented at the origin of
arthropods (the diverticula being present in giant lobopodians such as Jianshanopodia [98]) could only be formulated based on information to this are remipedes, which are unique in having paired segmental midgut diverticula, up to 32 pairs along the length of the midgut [98]. However, the deeply nested systematic position of remipedes within Pancrustacea (as sister group of hexapods) negates the possibility that their serially repeated midgut diverticula are a plesiomorphy retained from the arthropod stem-group. Segmental midgut diverticula (mgd) in Cambrian total-group Arthropoda. (a,b) The 'gilled lobopodian' Pambdelurion whittingtoni, scales 20 mm; (c) the isoxyid Isoxys acutangulus, scale 5 mm; (d) the megacheiran Leanchoilia superlata, scale 5 mm; (e,f) the trilobitomorph Kuamaia lata: left side of thorax, showing exopod flap (ef,) lamellar setae (ls) and diverticula on three segments, scales: (e) 2 mm and (f), 5 mm. (Online version in colour.)We cannot directly study the developmental origin of midgut segmentation, as we have no extant examples that are experimentally tractable. However, we can gain insights from what we know about germ layers in segmentation of arthropod laboratory models. All other metameric organ systems originate from undifferentiated mesoderm and ectoderm segmental precursors, which do not normally contribute to endodermal structures at all [99,100]. It is possible that the endodermal structures are 'entrained' to ectodermal structures are 'entrained' to ectodermal structures are 'entrained' to ectodermal structures at all [99,100]. It is possible that the endodermal structures are 'entrained' to ectodermal structures are 'entrained' to ectodermal structures at all [99,100]. It is possible that the endodermal structures at all [99,100]. which suggests that metamerism in different structures may have evolved independently and was secondarily integrated. Midgut diverticula could be an example of an individually metameric organ system that was not recruited into the main segmentation process and was thus more easily lost. taxa dorsal ectodermal and endodermal structures (tergites and midgut diverticula, respectively) are matched segmentally, but they are out of synchronization with the ganglia of the ventral nerve cord and limbs (which are in turn in segmentally, but they are out of synchronization with the ganglia of the ventral nerve cord and limbs (which are in turn in segmentally matched to each other). Fuxianhuia protensa, which has one pair of diverticula matched to each of its anterior, appendage-bearing trunk segments [101]. It has long been known that fuxianhuiids have many more trunk appendages than tergites [91], and the discovery of the ventral nerve cord in the trunk of the fuxianhuiid Chengjiangocaris kunningensis showed that ganglia of the nerve cord correspond to the distribution of appendages [102]. The regular, alternating pattern of terminal tergites addition and shedding of abdominal tergites addition addi derived mode of appendage development [82]. Fuxianhuiids are thus potentially relevant to discussion about dorsoventral decoupling in arthropods more generally [101], or lack of integration of different organ systems into one segmentation system. We must clarify that regardless of fuxianhuiids' exact position (in the arthropod crown-group or in the stem), they probably lost integration rather than displaying an ancestral unintegrated state. This type of mismatch has taken place several times throughout arthropod evolution, and is found both in fossil and extant taxa [103]. These observations about character covariation in fossils could inspire experiments that look at genetic linkages between segmentation mechanisms in the tergites and gut systems and at the possible role of re-segmentation in defining the position of different structures in (extant) model systems [104]. From the perspective of evo-devo, aspects of dorsoventral decoupling have been explored in some detail in millipedes, particularly using Glomeris marginata as a model for gene expression [39,105]. At the level of segment polarity gene expression, the ventral side of the embryo (e.g. sternites and legs) in G. marginata corresponds to patterns seen in other arthropods, whereas dorsal segmentation deviates in many respects. much less detail. Dorsal and ventral decoupling of segmentation is manifest even at the level of delimiting the posterior boundary of the head, which conspicuously differs in various groups (reviewed in [107]). The adult dorsoventral axis is represented in the germ band as a medio-lateral axis [108], and the mismatch can easily take place through changes in patterning during the germband stage. A comparative developmental approach to patterning along the dorsoventral axis of the germ band, with the level of segmental mismatch known from the fossil record as a reference point, should be highly informative for understanding the conservation or lability of developmental integration among the units that make up a segment. There are groups for which evo-devo gives us an understanding of segmental mechanisms (such as Hexapoda—informed by such models as Drosophila melanogaster and Tribolium castaneum) but palaeontology provides limited insights because key regions of tree space (such as the hexapod stem-group) are essentially unsampled. Conversely, there are other groups for which palaeontology gives us insights into the acquisition of segmental features, such as the arthropod stem-group, but evo-devo is challenged because extant taxa with features of interest are separated from their closest living relative by long branches, i.e. they have been subjected to so many evolutionary steps that understanding character evolution is difficult. Fossil chelicerates, for example, provide evidence of unique patterns of tagmosis that are not retained by extant forms, yet are critical to inferring ancestral states. Thus, stem-group 'synziphosurine' euchelicerates depict a

combination of a shield-like prosoma, an articulated set of opisthosomal tergites and a tail spine [83]. As outlined in the examples above, the fossil record gives us a 'search image' for features to look for in comparative embryology, e.g. endodermal segmental characters force a rethink of how segments could have been generated ancestrally. It provides a possible explanation for patterns seen in development, such as pre-gnathal segments. Fossils also supply direct ontogenetic data for parts of true space that are not represented by living taxa. Wholly extinct groups like trilobites, for example, allow for quantitative tree-based analysis of modes of trunk segmentation [109]. Lastly, palaeontology informs on rates of evolution of features of interest from an evo-devo perspective. This is most powerfully understood in the context of molecular time-trees calibrated by fossils, which constrain the origin of many segmental traits in arthropods to a window of time spanning the terminal Ediacaran and the Terreneuvian Series of the Cambrian [51,58,110-112]. Conversely, evo-devo provides mechanistic explanations for phenomena we observe in the fossils. It also raises hypotheses (e.g. germband reconstructions [108]) about the possible sequence of evolutionary events, which can potentially be corroborated by the fossil record, e.g. gradual integration of metameric systems into coherent segments. Evo-devo also provides linkages between different characters through identification of gene pleiotropies and developmental integration—neither of which are obvious from fossils or from general morphology. The two disciplines operate under different conceptual frameworks. These are partly overlapping (notably, both are fundamentally rooted in tree thinking), but each has much to learn from the other. Looking forward, many of the conflicts in recent phylogenetic trees aiming to place early derived fossil arthropods stem from differing interpretations of fossilized morphology. Burgess Shale-type fossils, as exquisite as they can be, are afflicted by taphonomy (decay compaction, fragmentation, patchy mineralization, etc.), and teasing apart original anatomy and taphonomic artefacts is often complicated using polarized light and/or immersion in liquid [113], but have more recently provided additional data using such approaches as fluorescence microscopy [114], laminography [115] and computed micro-tomography [116]. These techniques may resolve some of the current controversies about homologies in fossil taxa that complicate character coding. The future also holds the prospect of genomic sequences as an additional source of information for understanding the evolution of morphology. A continued improvement in taxon sampling and an increased quality of genome sequencing and genome annotation will allow us to look for molecular signatures of developmental innovations within a phylogenetic framework. This will make it easier to generalize from the small sample of experimentally tractable species to species in under-sampled regions of the tree, and to possibly extrapolate to extinct taxa using our understanding of development from extant diversity. closed by bringing in insights from the fossil record. Most work on the development of segmental organization of the segmental precursors. In terms of the segmental organization of the segmental organization of the segmental precursors are and the segmental organization of the segmental organization of the segmental precursors. the expression of segment polarity genes. However, the morphology that is under selection, and which we see varying in the diversity of arthropods and their extinct relatives, is manifested later. The differentiation of repeated units of differentiation of the di focusing attention on later stages in development. A research agenda aimed at understanding the later stages and their diversity that takes advantage of genomic datasets and that integrates with the fossil record, which is for the most part post-embryonic, has the potential to paint a much more complete and nuanced picture of the evolution of the arthropod segmented body plan. For fossil images, we thank Allison Daley, Diego García-Bellido, Jakob Vinther and the Royal Ontario Museum. For embryo images, we thank Michael Akam and Hiroki Oda. This article has no additional data. A.D.C. and G.D.E. conceived the study, wrote the manuscript and prepared the figures. We declare no competing interests. We received no funding for this study. 1. Chipman AD, Erwin DH. 2017. 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Three-dimensionally preserved appendages in ar Early Cambrian stem-group pancrustacean. Curr. Biol. 29, 171-177. (10.1016/j.cub.2018.11.060) [DOI] [PubMed] [Google Scholar] This section collects any data citations, data availability statements, or supplementary materials included in this article. This article has no additional data. Articles from Proceedings of the Royal Society B:
Biological Sciences are provided here courtesy of The Royal Society In many arthropods, production and differentiation of new segments are not completed by the end of embryogenesis but continue, in different form and degree, well after hatching, in some cases up to the last post-embryonic molt. The post-embryonic addition of new segments is called anamorphosis and the taxa that present this mode of development. Alternative to this development. Alternative to this development, where the number of segments remains constant throughout the whole post-embryonic life. Completing the spectrum of options for the ontogenetic variation in the number of segments, there is the much less common process of desegmentation), where the number of segmentation (or regressive segmentation), where the number of segments decreases at some point of the post-embryonic development; this is limited to a reproductively immature condition or to a larval phase, when present. Anamorphosis: Numbers and Modes Segmentation is a combination of multiple developmental processes that span from the first expression of segmentation is a combination of multiple developmental processes that span from the first expression of segmentation is a combination of multiple developmentation genes to the complete display of all the morphological features of a mature segmental body unit. developmental patterning (which may involve size, shape, limb formation, etc.), the "segmental stage" at which a segment can be considered "laid down" is an arbitrary choice. For instance, in the anostracan crustacean Artemia, this was identified either with the "segmental stage c," at which the segment can be considered "laid down" is an arbitrary choice. For instance, in the anostracan crustacean Artemia, this was identified either with the "segmental stage c," at which the segment can be considered "laid down" is an arbitrary choice. 1946), or with the appearance of a stripe of Engrailed protein at the prospective posterior boundary of the segment (Williams et al., 2012). For our comparative purposes, we count as developmental addition of a new segment the first morphological appearance of a segmental unit as traditionally recognized by descriptive morphology (not necessarily the same for all taxa), irrespective of how close it is to its final morphology (e.g., disregarding presence/absence of limb buds). We calculated a degree of anamorphosis as the percentage of segments that are added during post-embryonic life, from 0% in epimorphic taxa, to >95% in the longest millipedes (see Supplementary Table 1 for details on segment count). Independent from the degree of anamorphosis, three main modes of anamorphosis are recognized, as first proposed by Enghoff et al. (1993) for millipedes. In euanamorphosis, segment number increases at each molt throughout the whole post-embryonic life, to terminate only with the death of the animal. In teloanamorphosis, segment number also increases throughout the animal's life, but both the number of molts and the schedule of segment addition at each molt are fixed for a given species and sex. Finally, in hemianamorphosis, the post-embryonic development includes a first anamorphic phase, through a first batch of stages (instars) separated by molts, followed by an epimorphic phase where molts take place without further increase in the number of body segments. Taxonomic Survey Anamorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of anamorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of an epimorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of a epimorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of a epimorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of a epimorphosis in Extant Arthropods The distribution of segmentation modes in arthropods. Phylogeny based on Giribet and Edgecombe (2019), Chipman and Edgecombe (2019) (fossils), Howard et al. (2018) (Branchiopoda and Malacostraca). p. plesiomorphic condition; a, apomorphic condition; H, hemianamorphosis; T teloanamorphosis; Eu, eunanamorphosis; Ep, epimorphosis; Epim., Epimorphosis; Epim., Epimorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectognatha. Color of boxes and figures inside each box (percentage of body segments added post-embryonically) express the degree of anamorphosis; Epim., Ecto., Ectographical the hypothesized plesiomorphic condition in the taxon. Details in Supplementary Table 1. In Chelicerata, these are all epimorphic to the exclusion of the Acariformes. Within the Pycnogonida and Acariformes, a few lineages have independently evolved epimorphic development (Lindquist, 1984; Brenneis and Arango, 2019). Most myriapod lineages are hemianamorphic. Epimorpha, which includes the Scolopendromorpha. Euanamorphosis and teloanamorphosis are found among the Helminthomorpha millipedes exclusively, where both modes may have evolved once or several times independently (Miyazawa et al., 2014). Within the Pancrustacea, hemianamorphosis is the most common developmental mode among the "crustacean" (non-Hexapoda) lineages, but epimorphic development has evolved in some lineages, in association with direct development, whereas teloanamorphosis has possibly evolved in Copepoda (Huys, 2014) and euanamorphosis in Remipedia (Koenemann et al., 2009). Within the Hexapoda, only the Protura are hemianamorphic, while the Collembola, Diplura, and Insecta are epimorphic. Anamorphosis in Fossil Arthropods Ontogenetic series are available for several fossil arthropods, both stem- and crown-group. Many of these show anamorphic development and hemianamorphosis seems to be the most common mode of segmentation in these ancient forms also exhibits some distinctive features with respect to extant taxa. Many Phosphatocopina, interpreted either as stem-group Pancrustacea (Haug and Haug, 2015) or stem-group Mandibulata (Chipman and Edgecombe, 2019), were anamorphic with indirect development (Haug and Haug, 2015), hatching as so-called head larva. In contrast to modern anamorphic taxa, no segments were added with the first few molts, that is, anamorphosis was in some way delayed. Another peculiar feature of anamorphosis in these early forms was that, similar to trilobites, segments first emerged as dorsally non-articulated units forming a single shield, the pygidium. The most anterior pygidial segments developed articulation in successive stages, in a process that in trilobites is called segment release. Trilobita, variably assigned to stem-group arthropods, stem-group mandibulates (Giribet and Edgecombe, 2019), mostly developed hemianamorphic (Paterson and Edgecombe, 2006), whereas Zhang and Clarkson (2009) made the case for an epimorphic eodiscoid species. Delayed anamorphosis might have characterized trilobite post-embryonic development as well. Evidence for an even earlier phase of trilobite ontogeny), is weak (Hughes et al., 2006). Phylogenetic distribution of anamorphosis in extant taxa and information from extinct forms concur to indicate hemianamorphic development as the primitive condition in arthropods (Hughes et al., 2014; Haug and Haug, 2015; Brenneis et al., 2014; Haug and Haug, 2015; Brenneis et al., 2006). al., 2017). Uncertainties on key nodes of arthropod phylogeny and incomplete information on post-embryonic segmentation in several taxa prevent a formal analysis of the evolution of this developmental character at the level of the whole clade. complementing the phylogenetic distribution of the character in Figure 1 with some available information at lower taxonomic level, four different evolutionary transitions can be recognized. (i) Partial embryonization of segmentation (less anamorphic segmentation), with a consequent reduction in the degree of anamorphosis, seems to have occurred frequently. Millipedes usually have four trunk segments at hatching, but several species from different clades (Polyzoniida, Platydesmida, Julida, Stemmiulida, Spirobolida) hatch with more, up to 38 segments (Minelli, 2015; Supplementary Table 1). In centipedes, interpretation of the phylogenetic pattern crucially depends on the identity of the taxon that is sister to Epimorpha, either Lithobiomorpha. In the first case, mainly supported by molecular data, from the primitive condition represented by Scutigeromorpha. In the first case, mainly supported by molecular data, from the primitive condition represented by Scutigeromorpha. complete embryonization in Geophilomorpha. In the second case, mainly supported by morphological data (other than segmentation mode), a progressive embryonization from Scutigeromorpha to Epimorpha would have
occurred. Among crustaceans, from a primitive condition of hatching as a nauplius larva, many lineages have independently evolved shorter anamorphic development, hatching as a more advanced-stage larva (e.g., metanauplius in Cephalocarida and Mystacocarida). This cannot generally be interpreted as a systemic heterochronic change, because different aspects of segmentation (segment appearance, segment appearance, segment appearance). (autonomous nutrition, locomotion, muscular, and nervous systems) are not necessarily associated (Fritsch et al., 2015; Jirikowski et al., 2015; J of segmentation (epimorphosis) has evolved several times independently: at least in one trilobite species (Zhang and Clarkson, 2009), in Some lineages of Malacostraca (but see below), in Cladocera and twice among the Hexapoda, i.e., in Collembola and Ectognatha. In some cases, this process is associated with the evolution of direct from indirect development (many crustaceans) and a shortening of the metameric trunk (e.g., Branchiura and Cladocera). However, the opposite is observed in Geophilomorpha, where epimorphosis is associated with the most segment-rich trunks among the arthropods. It must also be noted that epimorphosis can evolve from anamorphosis not only by embryonization of the addition of most posterior segments, but also from the suppression of the addition of those segments (suppressed anamorphosis), as suggested for some lineages of Acariformes (Bochkov, 2009; Bolton et al., 2017). (iii) Partial deembryonization of sequential segmentation from an anamorphosis, is apparently less common. Stem-group Pancrustacea hatched as head larvae of five segments, whereas the primitive condition for crown-group Pancrustacea is thought to be a four-segment nauplius (Haug and Haug, 2015). According to Scholtz (2000), Euphausiacea and Dendrobranchiata would have evolved a "new" nauplius secondarily (and in parallel) from primitive Malacostraca with shorter anamorphosis, but this has been questioned more recently (Akther et al., 2015; see also below). In centipedes, if Lithobiomorpha are actually sister to Epimorpha (see above), the former would have extended anamorphosis from a shorter Craterostigmomorpha-like condition. (iv) Partial de-embryonization of embryonic sequential segmentation from epimorphosis (secondary anamorphosis), seems to be even more rare, and putative cases are uncertain. In Pycnogonida, some Nymphonidae might have returned to anamorphosis (Brenneis et al., 2017), but uncertainties on the phylogeny of epimorphic, Acariformes would have evolved anamorphosis secondarily. However, due to the persisting instability of phylogenetic hypotheses about the major clades of Euchelicerata (Giribet and Edgecombe, 2019), it is not unparsimonious to hypothesize that the Acariformes simply retained the plesiomorphic chelicerate condition (Bochkov, 2009; Bolton et al., 2017). The phylogeny in Figure 1 would support epimorphosis as plesiomorphic for the Malacostraca, with secondary independent transition to anamorphosis in some derived taxa, compatible with the presence of a zoea-like larva as the plesiomorphic condition for the group (Jirikowski et al., 2015). However, in consideration of the similarities between the nauplii in anamorphic malacostracans and the differences in the direct development of epimorphic malacostracans, other authors have put forward the opposite hypothesis, i.e., the retention of the primitive condition of malacostracan groups (Akther et al. 2015; Haug and Haug, 2015). Anamophosis and epimorphosis are not fundamentally distinct developmental modes, the latter being only the lower extreme degree of the former. This is more than an arithmetic truism. In several clades, e.g., in decapod crustaceans, segment number is the same in anamorphic lineages. Among the most fundamentally distinct developmental modes, the latter being only the lower extreme degree of the former. polymeric epimorphic clade, the Geophilomorpha, Brena and Akam (2013) discovered a minimal leftover of anamorphosis in the species Strigamia maritima, where 2-3 terminal segments) are added after hatching, during the first embryoid stages (see below). However, the opposite evolutionary transitions, embryonization vs. de-embryonization of segment formation, might not have the same evolvability, the former having apparently occurred more often than the latter. Genetics of Anamorphic development, as well as in embryonic sequential segmentation, the new segments appear sequentially in anteroposterior progression from a subterminal region referred to as "segment addition zone" (SAZ; Janssen et al., 2010). This is also often referred to as the proliferative, or growth) zone, but SAZ is to be preferred because it makes no assumption of localized and continuous cell proliferative, or growth) zone, but SAZ is to be preferred because it makes no assumption of localized and continuous cell proliferative. information about morphogenesis and gene expression associated with anamorphosis is scarce, and current investigations are mainly concerned with the evolution of embryonic simultaneous segmentation from embryonic sequential segmentation from embryonic sequential segmentation from embryonic sequential segmentation from embryonic segmenta found in the anostracan crustaceans Artemia and Thamnocephalus (Manzanares et al., 2020), in the thecostracan crustacean Sacculina (Gibert et al., 2000) and in the centipede Lithobius (Bortolin et al., 2011). The involvement of Notch signaling is increasingly emerging as a common feature of sequential segmentation throughout the Bilateria. Williams et al. (2012) showed that blocking Notch signaling causes a specific, repeatable effect on segmentation in the role of Notch in the regulation of sequential segmentation. Despite the paucity of experimental data on the developmental genetics of anamorphosis, some indirect information can be seen as a natural experiment, where postembryonic segmentation, a process not easily accessible to current molecular methodologies, is brought under the eye of the investigator. The extended similarities found in embryonic sequential segmentation of segmentation can perhaps indicate a common basic mechanism among lineages with different degree of anamorphosis up to epimorphosis. This could be based on the same clock-and-wavefront mechanism inferred from data on embryonic segmentation in a small number of model species, and hypothesized to be ancestral and conserved among arthropods (Clark et al., 2019). Anamorphosis in Context Beyond the arbitrariness of what to count as the appearance of a new segment, the previous descriptions might suggest that anamorphosis is a well-defined phenomenon, and that its evolution can be confidently traced whenever reliable developmental and phylogenetic information is available. only broad comparative purposes. On a closer inspection, seeking for mechanistic explanations, anamorphosis remains surrounded by uncertainties that can be locally resolved only by overcoming the idealizations hidden in the traditional concepts of hatching. separates embryonic from post-embryonic phases neatly. More or less embryo-like (embryoid) hatchlings are described for many arthropod groups, under a variety of taxon-specific terms (Minelli and Fusco, 2013; Fritsch and Richter, 2015; Haug, 2020; Supplementary Table 1). Focusing on taxonomic distribution and morphological and functional characteristics of these embryoid stages, three facts highlight the evolutionary flexibility of arthropod developmental schedules. First, conditions at hatching are often different between closely related taxa (e.g., in many spiders there is a pronymph with incompletely articulated appendages, but not in all). Second, this diversity is associated with a diversity in the number of molts the animal undergoes before and after the beginning of its active life. In most pterygote insects, three embryonic cuticles are shed before hatching, but only two in the cyclorrhaphous flies (Konopová and Zrzavý, 2005). Third, the condition at hatching is not necessarily correlated to segmentation schedule. For example, epimorphic hexapod hatchlings are anything between an active juvenile and a vermiform pronymph, while anamorphic myriapods hatch in conditions so different as the very active larva I of Lithobius and the motionless pupoid of Pauropus (Minelli et al., 2006). Situated at one extreme of both embryonic and post embryonic phases, where the methodologies used in the study of each phase are less effective, development around hatching time is little investigated, and recent work is disclosing unsuspected situations. For example, two embryoid stages were traditionally reported for the geophilomorph centipedes, whereas a recent closer scrutiny in Strigamia maritima revealed five stages (Brena, 2014). The Multifaceted Larva Many arthropods, in particular among the Pancrustacea, begin post-embryonic life as larvae. However, the term larva has been applied to immatures with very different, although non-mutually exclusive characteristics. These include forms that differ morphologically from the adult have different ecological niches than the corresponding adult, or transform into an adult by a metamorphosis (see Haug (2020) for a detailed account), thus the qualification of development as either direct or indirect is somehow a matter of degree or requires qualitative specification (e.g., for some intermediate cases Fritsch et al. (2013) introduced the term pseudo-direct development). The evolution of post-embryonic segmentation, although potentially independent from other developmental features of juvenile stages, can be found to be variably associated to larval evolution, as for instance when the evolution of direct development coincides with a transition to epimorphosis. The Complexity associated to larval evolution of direct developmentation as for instance when the evolution of direct development coincides with a
transition to epimorphosis. Segment Description and comparative analysis of anamorphosis assume that we are dealing with unambiguously countable units, the segmental structures (especially those of internal anatomy) are in register, as they can have different period or phase. Thus, a more realistic depiction of arthropod body organization is obtained by dissociating the serial homology of individual periodic structures (e.g., legs or sclerites), or segmentation, from the concept of the segment as a body module (e.g., Budd, 2001; Minelli and Fusco, 2004; Fusco, 2008; Fusco, 2008; Fusco, 2008; Fusco and Minelli, 2013; Hannibal and Patel, 2013). This accounts for the occurrence of so-called "segmental mismatch," i.e., the discordance between different segmental series within the same animal, and of a number of segmental abnormalities (Leśniewska et al., 2009), but also for the high disparity in arthropod segmental abnormalities (Leśniewska et al., 2009), but also for the high disparity of the segmentation process (Minelli, 2020). Conclusions We advise that for a better understanding of the developmental changes underlying the evolution of arthropod segmentation, some key concepts should be applied in a critical way. The putative embryonic/post-(articulation in temporal units for comparative purposes) within each of the two main phases of arthropod development (Minelli et al., 2006). During embryonic time, or with reference to a series of events such as blastoderm formation, gastrulation, etc. During post-embryonic development, periodization is mainly based on temporal units delimited by molts, generally referred to as stages or instars. In both phases, some developmental events to be recognized as "ordinator" and all other events as "ordered." Periodization cannot be other than a relative framework, and the same is true for the passage from embryonic life. Evolutionary developmental biology seems to be over-preoccupied with boundaries, both in space (e.g., those between segments) and time (e.g., those between stages) However, these boundaries can easily hide both the continuity of many co-occurring developmental processes and the independence exhibited to a different degree by the same set of processes (Minelli et al., 2006). As an alternative, for instance, rather than defining embryonic development on the basis of its putative boundaries (fertilization, when the case, and hatching), it seems more sensible to define it based on "what it is," that is as a special context for early developmental events, characterized by the fact that the latter run protected by the body of a parent (or a host) or by a shell, that are stabilized in physical parameters, occur in relatively small-size living systems, are supplied with energy and materials from the parent, etc. None of these features is necessary, nor sufficient for defining the embryonic/post-embryonic/post de-embryonization of segmentation in evolution reveal the robustness of the developmental processes can go on for years. Evolution is about change, and to study evolutionary change we need flexible conceptual frameworks and data formats. Author Contributions Both authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication. Conflict of Interest The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest. Acknowledgments Jason Dunlop, Gregory D. Edgecombe, David A. Legg, Nigel C. Hughes, Jørgen Olesen, and Stefan Richter provided precious help in collecting and checking information on which the article is based. Jørgen Olesen, Stefan Richter, and the two reviewers provided useful comments on an earlier version of the ms. Supplementary Material The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: References Akther, H., Agersted, M. D., and Olesen, J. (2015). Naupliar and metanaupliar development of the ancestral status of the free-living nauplius in malacostracan evolution. 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Among the insects, development is associated with the process known as metamorphosis, which can take place in two different ways. In some insects, such as bed bugs and cockroaches, the newly hatched young look like miniature versions of the adults. They go through a number of stages, separated by a series of moults. This is known as incomplete metamorphosis, in which the young stages show no resemblance at all to the adults. Here a special immobile stage, the pupa, occurs
between the larva and the adult. When the adult insect emerges from the pupal stage it ceases to grow, so there is no truth in the idea that, for example, small flies can become large flies. Biologist at Statens SkadedyrslaboratoriumAuthor of: "Pests in House and Home""Bed Bugs - Bites, Stings and Itches""Food Pests - Only danish)"Stuefluen" (Common Housefly - Only danish)"Stuefluen" (Common Housefly - Only danish) Latest posts by Henri Mourier (see all) Article Open access 15 March 2023 Article Open access 25 January 2022 Developmentally, arthropods proceed from an egg, through larval and/or nymphal stages, to the adult. Generally, the term "larva" applies to stages in which major morphological changes occur, and these stages are often fixed in number. The term "nymph" is applied to stages which change in little other than size between molts, and are usually indeterminate in number. Of course, given the diversity of the arthropods, there has developed a diversity of nomenclature for the different larval or nymphal stages that rivals that of the Platyhelminthes. Arthropods are usually ectoparasites, and may require 1 or more hosts to complete their life cycle. Many species move freely from one host to another, but others become attached permanently. Some species complete the entire life cycle on the host, but others attach only to feed and mate. Aquatic hosts usually harbor crustacean parasites, whereas terrestrial hosts harbor insects and arachnids. As a library, NLM provides access to scientific literature. Inclusion in an NLM database does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by NLM or the National Institutes of Health. Learn more: PMC Disclaimer | PMC Copyright Notice . 2025 Apr 16;292(2045):20242950. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2024.2950 The segmented body is a hallmark of the arthropod body plan. Morphological segments are formed during embryogenesis, through a complex procedure involving the activation of a series of gene regulatory networks. The segments of the arthropod body are organized into functional units known as tagmata, and these tagmata are different among the arthropod classes (e.g. head, thorax and abdomen in insects). Based on embryological work on segment generation in a number of arthropod species, coupled with a survey of classical descriptions of arthropod tagmata: the pre-gnathal segments, a tagma that is formed through the activity of a segment-addition zone that may be embryonic or post-embryonic tagmata may fuse post-embryonic tagmata may fuse post-embryonic tagmata may fuse post-embryonic tagmata. This framework is consistent with the evolution of tagmosis seen in the early arthropod fossil record. It also calls for a re-thinking of the decades-old division of arthropod development into short-germ versus long-germ development, a re-thinking of questions of segment identity, Hox genes in tagma differentiation. Keywords: arthropods, tagma, segment identity, Hox genes in tagma differentiation and the role of Hox genes in tagma differentiation. These segments are usually organized into higher level units, each composed of several segments, known as tagmata (tagma in singular). The segments of the adjoining tagmata by a distinct morphological boundary. While the nature and composition of the tagmata vary among arthropod classes, they are more or less conserved at the level of the class, and are often used as defining characters of the class. The term 'tagmata' itself is used relatively loosely in the literature, corresponding to the inherent variability in tagmata. lot of attention to the defining features of different tagmata, and to the variability in their composition, but there has been almost no recent discussion of the evolutionary history of the tagmata or of their development. I present a synthesis of what is known about tagmosis (the arrangement of segments into tagmata) from comparative morphology, from developmental biology and from the fossil record. I use this synthesis to suggest a novel model for the evolution of arthropod tagmata. I argue that conserved elements of developmental tagmosis form the basis for much of the observable tagmata. I argue that conserved elements of developmental tagmosis have been extensively reviewed by Fusco & Minelli [1], and will not be repeated here. I will give a brief overview of the typical tagmosis pattern in the main arthropod lineages, emphasizing the most likely plesiomorphic condition for each lineage. The basic chelicerate body plan is composed of two tagmata, usually known as the prosoma (or cephalothorax) and opisthosoma (or abdomen). This is most clearly seen in the terrestrial arachnids, exemplified by spiders. The prosoma includes four pairs of keeding or sensory appendages and the chelicerae. The anterior-most segment of the prosoma carries the eyes and the labrum. The opisthosoma normally does not carry walking appendages, but may carry breathing appendages, or specialized structures such as spinnerets. There are numerous minor variations on this theme, and these have been reviewed extensively by Dunlop & Lamsdell [2]. In pycnogonids, the number of walking appendages can vary, and the opisthosoma is rudimentary or nonexistent [3]. Some arachnids have a subdivided opisthosoma (e.g. scorpions), whereas in others there is no clear border between the prosoma and opisthosoma (e.g. acarids, opiliones). Nonetheless, it is generally accepted that the two-tagma structure is ancestral to extant chelicerates, as are four pairs of walking appendages and two sensory/feeding appendage pairs in the prosoma [2]. The myriapod body plan consists of a head and a mostly homonomous trunk. The head is composed of six segments: three pre-gnathal segments and three gnathal segments include the three parts of the brain and carry eyes on

the first segment and a pair of antennae on the third segments. The gnathal segments carry feeding appendages. The myriapod trunk may display a number of lineage specific novelties, such as a mid-body transition zone in many centipedes. or a mismatch between dorsal and ventral segments, such as the centipede venom-claw or the posterior-most segment, or gonopods used for sperm transfer in millipedes. In some cases, there is some degree of regionalization within the trunk [4]. Nonetheless, none of these specializations alters the basic tagmosis of the myriapod body plan, which is always composed of a head and a trunk. The non-hexapod pancrustaceans display a bewildering array of tagmosis patterns [5]. In all cases, the anterior-most tagma is a six-segment mandibulate head, although the head is not always separated by a clear morphological boundary from the tagma behind it. Indeed, the head is often covered by a head shield or carapace that also covers segments posterior to the head. The region covered by the carapace is sometimes known as a cephalothorax, although this is a very different structure from the one known by the same name in chelicerates. The trunk of malacostracan crustaceans is usually divided into two regions, known as a pereon and pleon. The pereon carries walking appendages, as well as maxilipedes, which are modified appendages used in feeding. The pleon usually does not have walking appendages, but often has other modified appendages. In brachyurans, as well as in other 'crab-like' crustaceans, most or all of the pleon is reduced and folded ventrally under the pereon [5,6]. Insects and their close relatives in Hexapoda have the most consistent pattern of tagmata: a six-segment mandibulate head, a three-segment thorax with walking appendages and an abdomen with usually between 9 and 11 segments or as few as 6 in Collembola, which normally does not carry appendages [7]. There are minor variations on this structure. For example, in some hyperdages [7]. There are minor variations on this structure. number of adult abdominal segments. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that the ancestral pattern of tagmosis is the common three-tagma structure. The earliest arthropod sister groups, onychophorans and tardigrades [8]. The head is composed of a single segment, with no additional segments attached to it [9]. While there may be some regionalization and specialization lobopodians (such as Kerygmachela and Pambdelurion), as well as diverse organisms as Opabinia and the radiodonts, also have a single pair of large raptorial or sensory appendages [10,11]. Members of these groups display varying degrees of regionalization. The size of the segments and appendages varies along the body axis, but without a sharp discontinuity. The neck region in radiodonts is a distinct structure in some gilled lobopodians and radiodonts, and it may be composed of a number of segments [12,13]. All this considered, while members of the gilled lobopodian/radiodont grade start to show increasing levels of regionalization, there are no obviously differentiated tagmata. Deuteropoda is the clade that includes both crown-group arthropods and the upper stem group. Members of Deuteropoda have three pre-gnathal segments [14]. In the upper stem group, these three segments comprise the entire head (but see O'Flynn et al. [15] for a different viewpoint). These head segments often bear specialized appendages (sometimes called 'great appendages'). In some cases, there are 1-3 specialized appendages (sometimes called 'great appendages'). these animals as having a distinct head and trunk, as in myriapods, although the head is composed of only three segments. It is not clear whether the specialized post-cephalic appendages should be considered part of an expanded head, as in extant mandibulates, or modified trunk segments, since there is no sharp morphological boundary. These appendages may be the precursors of the gnathal segments in mandibulate arthropods. Tagmosis in trilobites and its development have been studied fairly extensively due to the excellent fossil record of these animals, which allows the reconstruction of complete post-embryonic developmental series, most notably in Aulacopleura konincki [20,21]. The trilobite body is divided into three tagmata: the cephalon (or head), thorax and pygidium. The posterior border of the cephalon is clear and stable and is established in the earliest recoverable stages, which have a head only, or a head with a single additional segment. However, the thorax and pygidium are dynamic, with new segments being added to the pygidium in successive moults, and then 'released' to the thorax, to maintain a more-or-less stable number of thoracic segments, and a growing number of segments and in the border between them throughout ontogeny. In this sense, they are unlike the tagmata in all extant arthropods. Stem-group chelicerates all have a distinction between a prosoma and an opisthosoma, but the number of segments in each of these tagmata and the identity of the appendages carried on these segments do not always conform to what is found in extant chelicerates. The diversity and evolution of tagmata in fossil chelicerate taxa were also discussed in the review by Dunlop & Lamsdell [2]. Stem-group mandibulates have a typical head tagma and variable posterior tagmata. Their diversity has been reviewed by Waloszek & Maas [23]. A more recent alternative framework for the mandibulates have a typical head tagma and variable posterior tagmata. stem group is outlined by Izquierdo-López & Caron [24]. They reconstruct only two segments posterior to the pre-gnathal segments, rather than the three found in extant mandibulates. The basis for tagma differentiation is laid down during embryonic development. While this statement sounds intuitively almost obvious, the embryonic basis of tagmosis has hardly been studied, and has only been looked at explicitly in a handful of species. There is, however, enough implicit information in both classical and modern descriptions of embryonic development to be able to draw some general conclusions. I argue that embryonic regionalization of segments forms a more conserved and ancient tagmosis than the apparent tagmosis seen in the adult body plan. The connection between regionalization of embryonic segments and adult tagmata is not direct, and there is often a mismatch between the two. The most obvious example is in the PGS. There is an ongoing debate about the evolutionary origin of these units [25,26], with Lev & Chipman [27] arguing that they should not even be considered segments. However, regardless of these differently and stand on their own as a distinct embryonic unit, despite being incorporated into the adult head (in mandibulates) or prosoma (in chelicerates). In mandibulates, the three posterior segments of the head, the gnathal segments, are indistinguishable from the segments immediately posterior to them during the early stages of development. In most insects, the gnathal and thoracic segments that form together and are of similar size and shape, until the differentiation of the appendages (mouthparts or walking legs) [28-31]. In myriapods, the gnathal segments are identical to trunk segmen [34-36], although this is probably mostly due to the presence of walking limbs on prosomal segments, which affect the segments' morphology. In many cases, there are also differences in species where all segments are formed during embryogenesis (epimorphic development). Species where some of the segments are formed post-embryonically (anamorphic development) are discussed in §4. The similarity between gnathal and thoracic segments is not limited to their morphology in the germ-band stage. In many cases, they also develop through a similar developmental programme This similarity has been best demonstrated in the milkweed bug Oncopeltus fasciatus (figure 1a). In this species (and in other hemipterans), early development can be divided into a blastoderm stage and a germ-band stage [37-39]. In the blastoderm stage, the embryo is composed of a single layer of cells covering an ovoid yolk mass. The cells of the blastoderm then undergo a process of invagination, to form a germ-band that is embedded inside the yolk. The segmentation process begins already in the blastoderm stage, with orthologues of the Drosophila segmentation process begins already in the blastoderm stage. [40]. During this early phase of segmentation, the gnatho-thoracic segments are patterned at the molecular level, and the borders between them are established by the interactions of the segmentation of the different modes of segment generation in four insect species. (a) In the milkweed bug Oncopeltus fasciatus, two of the pre-gnathal segments (red) and the gnatho-thoracic segments (red) and the (blue) are patterned sequentially in the germ band. The third pre-gnathal segment, is patterned during abdominal segment, is patterned during abdominal segment, is patterned during abdominal segment, the intercalary segment, is patterned during abdominal segment are patterned during abdominal segment. rapidly and sequentially in a pre-patterned field, which then condenses to form the germ-band, where abdominal segmentation takes place. (c) In the well-studied fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, all segments are patterned simultaneously in the blastoderm, followed rapidly by the condensation of the germ-band. (d) In the flour beetle Tribolium castaneum, all segments are patterned sequentially. However, there is a difference in rate between the gnatho-thoracic segmentation. Germ-band condensation occurs simultaneously with gnatho-thoracic segmentation (marked with a broad black arrowhead). During the invagination process, the embryonic tissues condense to give the germ-band, and shortly afterwards, the gnatho-thoracic segments can be seen morphologically [41]. About halfway through the invagination process, a specialized embryonic zone
forms at the posterior of the germ band, and it is from this posterior zone, known as the segment addition zone (SAZ) or growth zone, that the abdominal segmentation is unique to hemipterans, or whether this distinction can be seen in the development of other insects. An analysis of an additional species of hemimetabolous insects, together with a survey of reported segmentation patterns in other insects, suggests that this may be a general pattern—at least in hemimetabolous insects—although the details may vary. In the German cockroach Blattella germanica (figure 1a), the gnathal and thoracic segments are patterned sequentially at the level of segment polarity genes, but the pair rule gene even-skipped is expressed more or less simultaneously in all gnatho-thoracic segments, and fades sequentially, with hedgehog expression coming up in its place. Only after all of the gnatho-thoracic segments, and fades sequentially, with hedgehog expression stripes come up, does the SAZ form and abdominal segments appear sequentially, driven by a cyclic expression of even-skipped [31]. In the cricket Gryllus bimaculatus, gnatho-thoracic stripes of hedgehog expression come up rapidly and sequentially. There is then a gap of a few hours before the SAZ forms and abdominal segments arise sequentially. analysis of the pattern in these three hemimetabolous insects shows that the main difference is in the embryonic environment in which they are formed. Gnatho-thoracic segments are patterned within a pre-existing embryonic field or anlage, whereas abdominal segments are formed from a posterior domain where axial elongation is taking place—the SAZ. Detailed descriptions of segmentation in additional hemimetabolous insects are rare, but a survey of the literature suggests a similar pattern in many cases (see electronic supplementary material, table S1 for examples). Anterior segments form within a pre-existing field, without addition of new tissue, and posterior segments form from the existing description, but the data are consistent with the border being the thoracic-abdominal border. Even in short-germ insects such as the grasshopper Schistocerca, the early embryonic field encompasses only the gnathal segments added sequentially. Since hemimetabolous insects form a paraphyletic group, basal to the more widely studied Holometabola, we can assume that the pattern described above is the ancestral segmentation mode for insects. This pattern was thus presumably lost in Holometabola, otherwise, it would have been discovered before, given the extensive body of work on holometabola, otherwise, it would have been discovered before. the case? In the well-studied red flour beetle Tribolium castaneum (figure 1d), a study of the dynamics of segment generation showed that the thoracic segment generation rate during abdominal segmentation [44]. Indeed, looking at the germ band of T. castaneum, the SAZ is only evident during abdominal segmentation, with gnatho-thoracic segments being patterned in a rapidly condensing—but not extending—embryonic field. In the parasitic jewel wasp Nasonia vitripennis, where there is a transition in segment generation between the six anterior segments (the gnatho-thoracic segments) and the posterior abdominal segments [45]. The first three pair-rule stripes arise in what has been called 'progressive segmentation'—e.g. sequential segmentation without an SAZ [46]. Even in Drosophila melanogaster, the paradigm for simultaneous, long-germ segmentation, there are two patterning centres: an anterior patterning centre responsible for gnathal and thoracic segments, and a posterior centre responsible for abdominal segments [47-49]. Even when all obvious evidence of a difference in segmentation, there is a vestige hinting at an ancestral distinction between two groups of segmentation. There is not a lot of information about embryonic segmentation in different crustaceans. Most crustaceans for which we have any information display indirect development, hatching as a larva with only three visible segments—two pairs of antennal segments and the mandibular segment. This type of larva is known as a nauplius [50], and is discussed in §4 on post-embryonic segmentation. Species with direct development are formed during embryogenesis, there is an early developmental stage where the three nauplius', and is usually understood to be homologous to the recently hatched nauplius of indirect developing species [51,52]. An example of such development can be seen in the branchiopod Daphnia magna [53,54]. In this species, the naupliar segments do not follow a strict anterior-posterior segments. However, the posterior segments, which will form part of the adult head, appear at a slight delay relative to the thoracic segments, suggesting the possibility of a somewhat different mechanism underlying their formation, relative to the sequential, SAZ-based formation, relative to the sequential, SAZ-based formation, relative to the sequential, SAZ-based formation of thoracic segments. through posterior stem cells known as ectoteloblasts [55,56]. In this mode of segmentation, every division of the ectoteloblasts has been studied in the isopod Porcellio scaber (among others) [57-59]. The anterior segments, including the pre-gnathal and gnathal segments, are formed through cell rearrangements prior to the activity of the ectoteloblasts. All segments from the first thoracic segment onwards are formed through cell rearrangements prior to the activity of the ectoteloblast. the pre-gnathal and gnathal segments, in addition to the first thoracic segment. Studying the neural development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. [60] showed that the central nervous system in the naupliar region (pre-gnathal + mandibular neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. [60] showed that the central nervous system in the naupliar region (pre-gnathal + mandibular neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. 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[60] showed that the central nervous system in the nauplicar neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. [60] showed that the central nervous system in the nauplicar neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. [60] showed that the central nervous system in the nauplicar neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca), Vilpoux et al. [60] showed that the central nervous system in the nauplicar neuromeres) development of two crayfish species (members of Malacostraca short lag, after which the posterior neuromeres develop sequentially. The best studied model for crustacean embryonic segmentation is the amphipods, P. hawaiensis displays a simultaneous mode of segment generation, which is almost certainly derived [61,62]. In all amphipods, ectodermal cells assemble into a grid, without going through the sequential ectoteloblast divisions typical of other malacostracans. The pre-gnathal and mandibular segments) display a slightly different mode of assembly, whereas there is no noticeable difference in the way all other segments are formed. In the centipede Strigamia maritima (figure 2a), a 'head bulge' appears from the germ disc before segmentation begins, and the FGS form within this bulge [33]. The gnathal segments, the segments form sequentially. initially with a two-segment periodicity of a segmentation clock [64]. There is a shift from a pattern where two segments are patterned from each stripe of even-skipped expression to one where each even-skipped stripe generates a single segment [65]. Schematic representation of the different modes of segmentation in four arthropod species. (a) In geophilomorph centipedes (such as Strigamia maritima), the germ band condenses (black arrowhead) during the segmentation of the pre-gnathal segments (red) and the gnathal segments (green), without the activity of a segment addition zone. Trunk segments (blue) are formed mostly two at a time (transparent fill and dotted lines indicate that not all segmentation is probably similar to that of geophilomorph centipedes, anterior segmentation is probably similar to that of geophilomorph centipedes, and the segment addition zone. although there is very little data). Four trunk segments and the limb-bearing segments are patterned rapidly within the early embryonic disc. The disc then condenses to give the germ-band, and opisthosomal segments are patterned sequentially from a segment-addition zone. (d) In crustaceans without a nauplius stage, the pre-gnathal segments and the mandibular segments and the mandibular segments and the mandibular segments and the mandibular segments are patterned embryonically. stage (not shown), the main difference is that hatching is heterochronically shifted to after the end of segmentation. The only diploped species is not very different from that of the centipede S. maritima. Segmentation is sequential throughout, with the first few
segments appearing more or less simultaneously, with no obvious difference between gnathal segments. This mismatch is only seen in the trunk segments, and not in the head segments, where dorsal and ventral segments are aligned. The anterior-most trunk segment also shows no dorsoventral mismatch [66]. In spider segmentation, the prosomal segments are patterned rapidly within the initial germ disc, without any extension of the disc (figure 2c). After prosomal segments are formed, the SAZ begins to function, generating single segments sequentially through a cyclic process [35,67-69]. This pattern is seen both in the house spider Cupiennius salei and in the house spider Parasteatoda tepidariorum. A similar pattern is seen both in the wandering spider Cupiennius salei and in the house spider Cupiennius salei and in the house spider Parasteatoda tepidariorum. are usually not as clear. Both in the whip scorpion Phrynus marginemacultus [70] and in the harvestman Phalangium opilio [71], the prosomal segments are formed sequentially from an SAZ. There are two main modes of post-embryonic (or anamorphic) segmentation found within arthropods. The first is addition of segments within a nauplius/post-nauplius larva (figure 2d). In this mode, segment addition is not normally accompanied by moulting. Although there are moults during the segment addition process, they are few relative to the number of segments added. The process occurs continuously and at a relatively constant rate [72]. This mode of post-embryonic segmentation is found in some crustacean taxa and may be ancestral to Pancrustacea. The second mode is the addition of segments in sequential moults, in an animal that hatches with functional walking limbs. This is the case in a number of myriapod taxa and in some crustaceans, and it is also found to a limited extent (addition has been studied in only a handful of crustacean species [72-74]. In all cases, the two antennal segments and the mandibular segment form rapidly in embryogenesis. The development of the ocular segment, which lies anterior to the antennal segments, is usually not described explicitly, but it is probably determined early in larval development. dynamics of development. In the fairy shrimp Thamnocephalus platyurus, the thoracic and abdominal segments are different in shape and size, but arise similarly [72]. Centipedes of the orders Scutigeromorpha (figure 2b) and Lithobiomorpha hatch from the egg with four or six to eight leg-bearing segments, respectively. Additional segments are added one or two at a time in successive moults, up to a total of 15 leg-bearing segments [4]. Most millipedes also hatch with seven leg-bearing segments in successive moults, with no clear final number of segments [4]. The development of the pycnogonids (sea spiders) is very diverse, but the most common mode of development involves the hatching of a pronymphon larva that includes the pre-gnathal segments (hereafter PGS) and an additional one or two segments, similar to the situation in crustaceans with a nauplius. Additional segments are added in successive moults [75]. The arthropod fossil record indicates that post-embryonic segment addition was much more phylogenetically diverse in the past. A number of fossil taxa have a rich enough fossil record that allows reconstruction of post-embryonic developmental stage found for trilobites is a head larva, with no externally obvious segmentation. It is not clear how many segments these larvae contain, but based on exceptionally preserved fossils of adult trilobite heads, they probably contain five segments, presumably including the PGS and two additional cephalic appendages [76]. 'Orsten'-type fossilization is an exceptional mode of preservation wherein small individuals are fossilized in exquisite detail through phosphatic replacement of organic tissues. Late Cambrian Orsten fossils provide a wealth of information about larval development in crustaceans and their relatives. These fossils indicate that the nauplius is a very early invention within the crustacean lineage, and that sequential post-naupliar segment addition was established and common by the late Cambrian [77,78]. Developmental series for a number of stem and putative crown group arthropods Leanchoilia [83,84] and Chandianella [82], and the putative crown arthropods Leanchoilia [83,84] and Fuxianhuia [85]. All of these cases indicate that post-embryonic segment addition was found throughout arthropod phylogeny in the early stages of their evolution. However, none of these developmental series is as complete as that of trilobites, so we do not know the minimal number of segments with which these animals hatched from the early ne many different patterns of tagmosis found in extant arthropods emerged from an unknown ancestral pattern. I suggest that ancestral patterned differently. Over evolutionary time, the segments that were patterned using different developmental mechanisms evolved differential morphologies and different functional roles. The original differences in development are preserved as tagma borders. In some cases, the mode of development has changed so the developmental borders are not immediately obvious. In many cases, additional tagmata evolved as sub-divisions of the original ones. In other cases, there has been fusion within and between adult tagmata, masking the original ones. In other cases, there has been fusion within and between adult tagmata evolved as sub-divisions of the original borders, although these can still be seen in development (figure 3). A schematic tree of the main panarthropod groups mentioned in the text, with the major evolutionary events related to tagmosis mapped on the tree. The tips are extant genera for which there exist developmental data. Genera listed vertically represent fossil species for which there exist developmental data. undifferentiated trunk region. (b) Post-embryonic segment addition appeared in stem-group arthropods. This may also represent the first appearance of the three-segment head, representing a novel developmental tagma with a unique mode of segment generation: the pre-gnathal region. (d) The common ancestor of Arthropoda already had three distinct developmental tagmata: the pre-gnathal segments developing in a pre-existing field, and a tagma with segment release between the pygidium and the thorax. (f) All extant arachnids have a prosoma composed of the pre-gnathal segments formed in a pre-existing field, and an opisthosoma, with a variable number of segments formed in each tagma varies, but the general arrangement is the same as in extant arachnids. (g) In myriapods, the number of segments formed within a pre-existing field is three or four, including the gnathal segments and possibly one post-gnathal segment. (h) The nauplius appeared early in the evolution of Pancrustacea, although it is not clear if it is a synapomorphy of the entire clade. All pancrustaceans have a pre-gnathal region and a tagma including segments developing within a pre-existing field is variable and may be as low as a single segment in some lineages. (i) In Malacostraca, the segment addition zone functions via specialized stem cells: ectoteloblasts. (j) In insects, the thorax, a novel tagma, first appears. It is composed of three of the segments, fusing with the head as in other mandibulates. (k) In Holometabola, the developmental distinction between gnatho-thoracic segments and abdominal segments is masked, with the evolution of novel segments (i) the anterior three segments, via a developmental mechanisms: (i) the anterior three segments were patterned via three mechanisms: (i) the anterior three segments were patterned via three mechanisms that did not involve pair-rule gene homologues, and probably including a mechanism of 'stripe-splitting'; (ii) a number of trunk segments, probably numbering on the order of 5-10 segments, probably numbering on the order of segments. embryonic tissue (progressive segmentation); and (iii) posterior segments were patterned sequentially, through the activity of a segment addition zone (growth zone), which involved axis extension via a combination of the sAZ. Vestiges of these three segmentation mechanisms can be found in almost all extant arthropods. I raise the intriguing possibility that originally, the distinction between the second segmentation from an SAZ), was a distinction between embryonic and post-embryonic segmentation. In a previous paper [86], I made the implicit assumption that the common ancestor of all arthropods was a direct development evolved convergently in different lineages. This was based mostly on lack of evidence for indirect development in the fossil record Subsequently, Wolfe [87] argued that metamorphosis was ancestral, based on phylogenetic considerations. With the new data available, I suggest a revised and intermediate solution. The last arthropod common ancestor was hemianamorphic (i.e. some segments were formed in embryogenesis and some post-embryonically). forming segments were generated via an SAZ in a gradual process, with new segments probably appearing during the moulting process. Indeed, the SAZ may have evolved as a developmental mechanism for post-embryonic segment generate all segments during embryonic development, we cannot say for certain when post-embryonic segmentation, and by extension the SAZ, evolved. However, the fact that we find post-embryonic segments formed in a pre-existing field (hereafter PEF segments) varies in different arthropods. This field still exists as a clear and distinct field in arachnids and in insects. In insects, it comprises four segments (walking limbs). In crustaceans with a nauplius larva, it may have been lost, with only one post-PGS segment (the mandibular segment) patterned not via the SAZ. Nonetheless, in some crustaceans, the first few post-naupliar segments appear simultaneously, which may be a vestige of this mechanism. In myriapods, the pre-existing
field is not as distinct, but the dynamics of segmentation suggests that the SAZ only starts generating segments from the first or second trunk segment, indicating that at least the embryonic gnathal segments are within this field. Most of the diversity of developmental tagmosis modes in different arthropods can be seen as stemming from variation in three parameters: (i) the number of segments patterned under each of the mechanisms, (ii) the point in development at which the germ band condenses and gastrulation takes place, and (iii) the stage of development at which the embryo hatches. The latter two are based on heterochronic shifts, which can occur fairly rapidly and easily from an evolutionary point of view. The former tends to be conserved at high taxonomic levels, although departures from the taxon-typical mode can be found. The diversity of arthropods is such that there are many examples of unusual development and tagmosis. The strangeness of these examples should not distract us from identifying the deeply rooted ancestral pattern. For nearly a century, the literature on insect and arthropod development has made the distinction between short-germ development and long-germ development [88-90]. The difference lies in the extent of the embryo that is patterned before gastrulation, or germ-band condensation. In long-germ development only a small part of the axis is (usually only the head). Intermediate-germ is used for cases where the head and thorax are patterned prior to gastrulation. Short- and long-germ development are often also used to make a distinction between simultaneous and sequential segmentation, although this was not the original meaning of the terms. germ development in the context of the difference between the modes of segmentation exist in almost all arthropods, except for in the most extreme cases of long-germ simultaneous segmentation and germ-band condensation relative to the segmentation process. The head of mandibulate arthropods (myriapods, crustaceans and insects) incorporates segments from two embryonic tagmata: the PGS and the PEF segments [91,92]. The fossil record shows that the ancestral head in crown group arthropods was composed of only the PGS [26]. The evolution of the mandibulate head initially involved the fusion of the entire PEF tagma with the PGS to give rise to the six-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two PEF segments and a five-segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two performs and the segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two performs and the segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two performs and the segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest this may have originally been only two performs and the segment head (although stem mandibulate fossils suggest the segment head larvae in §6d). Insects are the largest class within arthropods and the most conservative in terms of their overall body plan. Perhaps one of the sources of the insects' success is the tightly integrated thorax, which specializes in locomotory function, and has no direct equivalent in any other arthropods class. The uniqueness of the insect thorax extends to its developmental origin. There is no other case where the PEF tagma subdivides into two functional adult tagmata. In myriapods and in non-hexapod crustaceans, the PEF is small—probably only three segments—and is entirely incorporated into the mandibulate head. In insects, this tagma encompasses six segments, half of which are incorporated into the head and half of which form the thorax. This realization puts the evolution of the insect body plans that might be found in the fossil record. The term 'head larva' is often used to describe larval forms that comprise only 3-4 segments, essentially the PGS and possibly plesiomorphic for Pancrustacea), but head larvae are also found in some pycnogonids and in horseshoe crabs. Because of their highly derived post-embryonic development mode, it is difficult to incorporate these forms into the current model. However, looking at the cases where there is an embryonic nauplius) helps clarify the situation. As mentioned above, many crustaceans exhibit a slightly different mode of segmentation in the anterior few gnathal/trunk segments, suggesting that there is an anterior tagma. The evolution of head larvae involved an extreme heterochronic shift in the time of hatching relative to segment formation. The postponement of segmentation to the post-embryonic period obscures the different segmentation modes, and they may even be lost in some lineages. The view articulated by Fusco & Minelli [1] is that tagmata are derived from an ancestral embryonic tagmat are derived from an ancestral embryonic tagmat are derived from an ancestral embryonic tagmata are derived from an ancestral embryonic tagmat all SAZ-derived tagmata are homologous (it is already generally accepted that the PGS are homologous across arthropods). However, although similar terms are used in different lineages (cephalothorax, trunk), there is no way to unambiguously homologize specific segments or structures within a given tagma across arthropod phylogeny. When comparing species with the same number of segments in a specific tagma, it may be possible to equate a segment in the same position with a segment in a given position with a segment in the same positing positing position with a segment in the sam genes are the earliest determinants of segment identity in arthropods. Specific Hox genes confer tagma fate (e.g. Antennapedia is responsible for thoracic fate). Data on the development of numerous arthropods reviewed above indicate that the difference between the thorax and abdomen in insects or between the prosoma and opisthosoma in arachnids is determined very early in development, before the segments are visible morphologically, even before the segmentation cascade is completed, and indeed before Hox gene shave a role in specific segment identity and this is supported by an enormous body of evidence, not only from Drosophila melanogaster, but from many other species [93]. Nonetheless, we must reconsider their role in determining higher level identity (i.e. the distinction between segments belonging to differences. I suggest a two-phase model for segment identity determination. The first phase defines tagma identity based on embryonic differences are currently unknown. The second phase defines the morphological differences between the segments and is responsible for the development of segment- and tagma-specific modifications. This phase is largely driven by Hox genes. The level of integration and mutual regulation and mutual regulation and development of tagmosis have been discussed intermittently in the arthropod literature for decades, but there has never been an attempt to offer a synthetic model for tagmosis. Most of the data presented in this paper have been known for many years. Crucial pieces of the puzzle were provided by the more recent study of segmentation in hemimetabolous insects within the context of tagma identity. I have attempted to provide a model of tagmosis that takes into account morphology, embryonic segmentation, developmental dynamics, phylogeny and data from the fossil record. I have attempted to identify the core conserved elements of the developmental dynamics, phylogeny and data from the fossil record. tagmosis that have mostly led to confusion in the field. The synthetic model I present provides a relatively simple explanation for the observed patterns of extant and fossil arthropod body plans and also opens a slew of new questions that can—and should—be studied experimentally in a range of arthropod species. This paper is the outcome of several years of work on different modes of segmentation in my lab, and would not have been possible without the work is cited throughout the paper. I am grateful to my long-time friend and collaborator Greg Edgecombe for discussions and comments on an earlier version of this paper. did not require ethical approval from a human subject or animal welfare committee. Supplementary material is available online [94]. I have not used AI-assisted technologies in creating this article. A.C.: conceptualization, funding acquisition, writing—review and editing. I declare I have no competing interests. The work in my lab was funded by the Israel Science Foundation grants no. 570/21 and no. 120/16. 1. 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