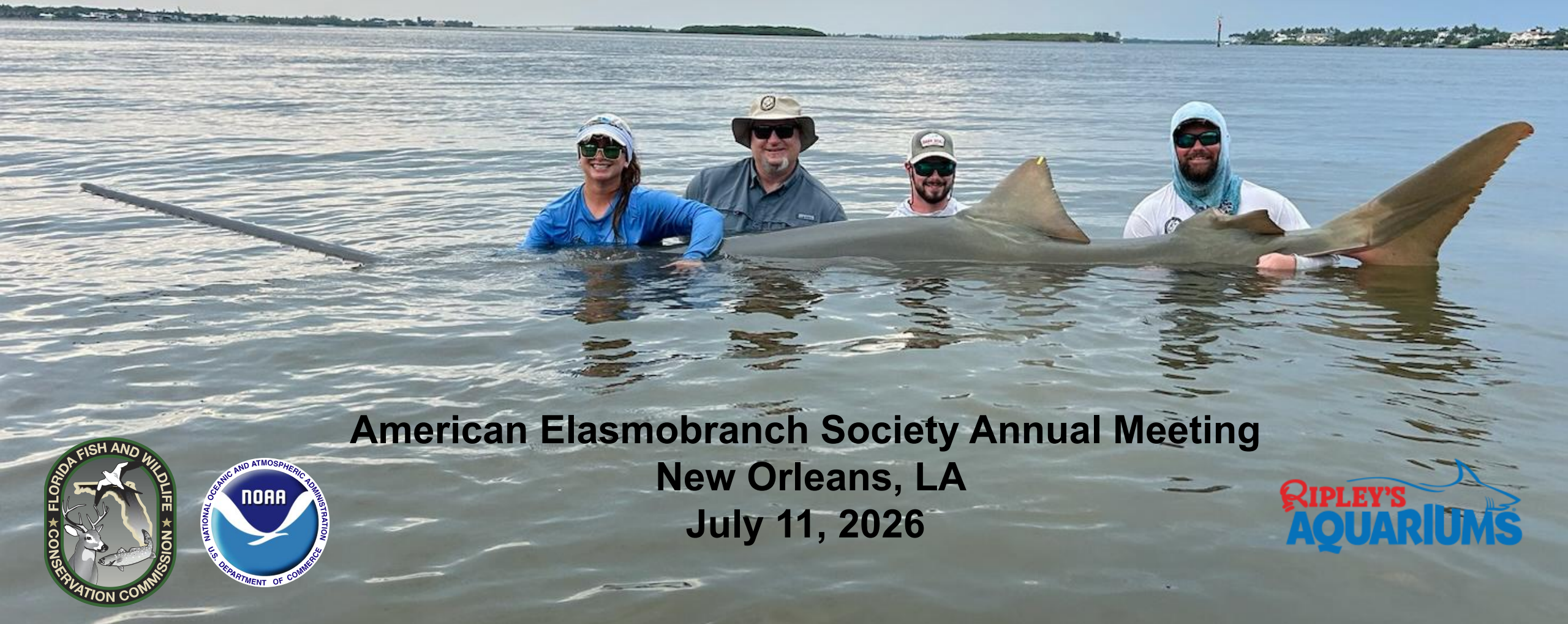


Morphology of Ovarys in Male Smalltooth Sawfish

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**American Elasmobranch Society Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
July 11, 2026**



Outline

- **Brief introduction**
- **Ovotestes in elasmobranchs**
- **Macroscopic morphology**
- **Microscopic morphology**
- **Future research and next talk...**



Brief introduction

- **Weirdness noticed...Our lab & Jim G's lab**
- **Ovary-like tissue consistently present**
- **N = 51 male necropsies**
- **All life stages**

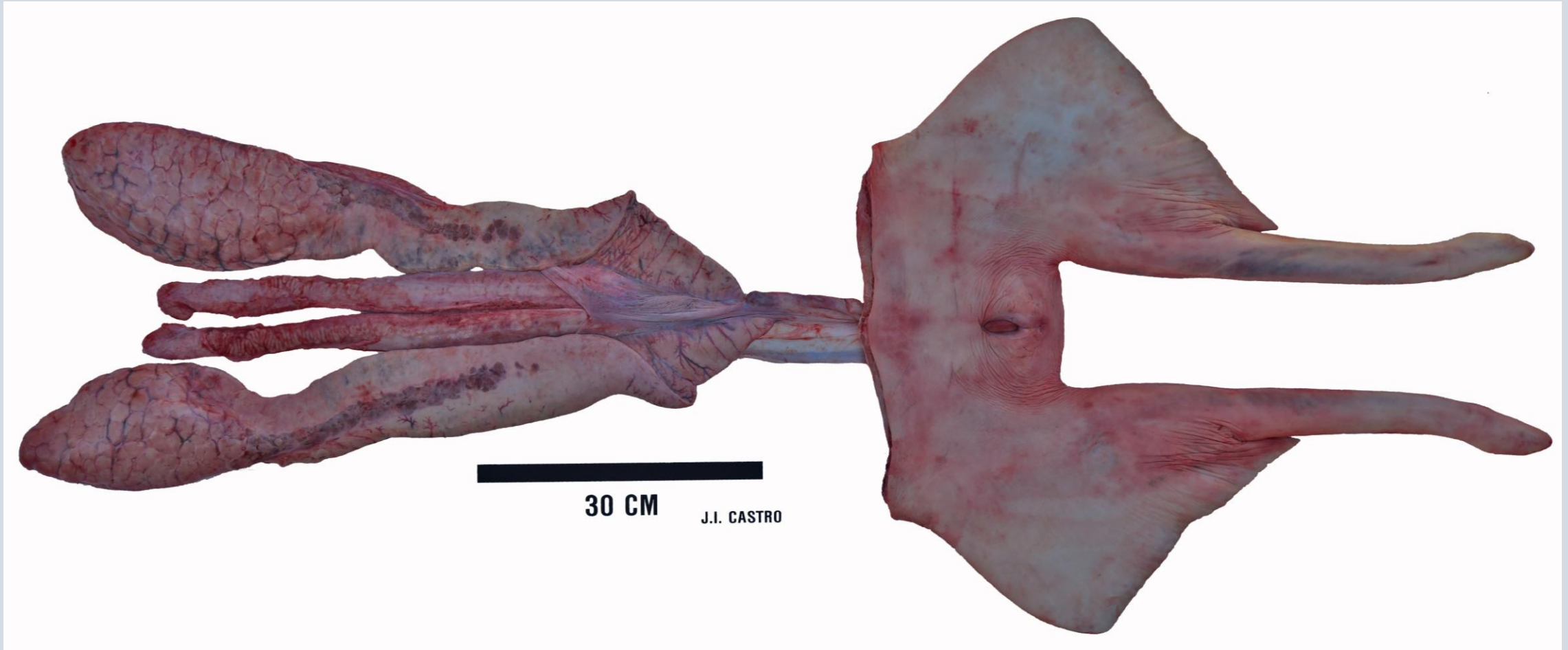


Ovotestes in elasmobranchs

- Rare and usually anomalous
- Consistently found in 3 species:
 - Sixgill shark (Daniel 1934)
 - Broadnose sevengill shark (Daniel 1934)
 - Longhead catshark (Iglésias et al. 2005)
- Variations



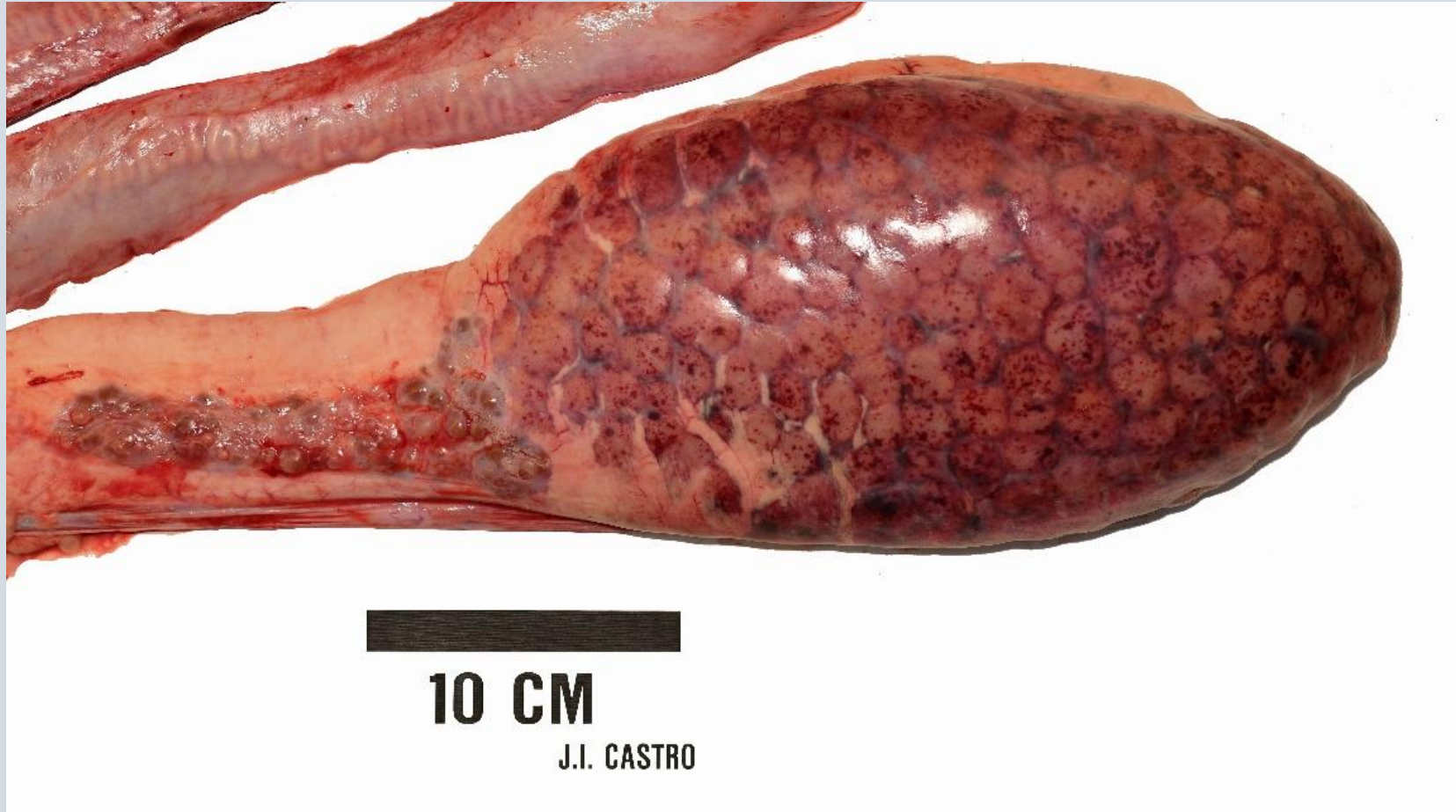
Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish

Testis lobes like other rays:



Smalltooth sawfish



Cownose ray

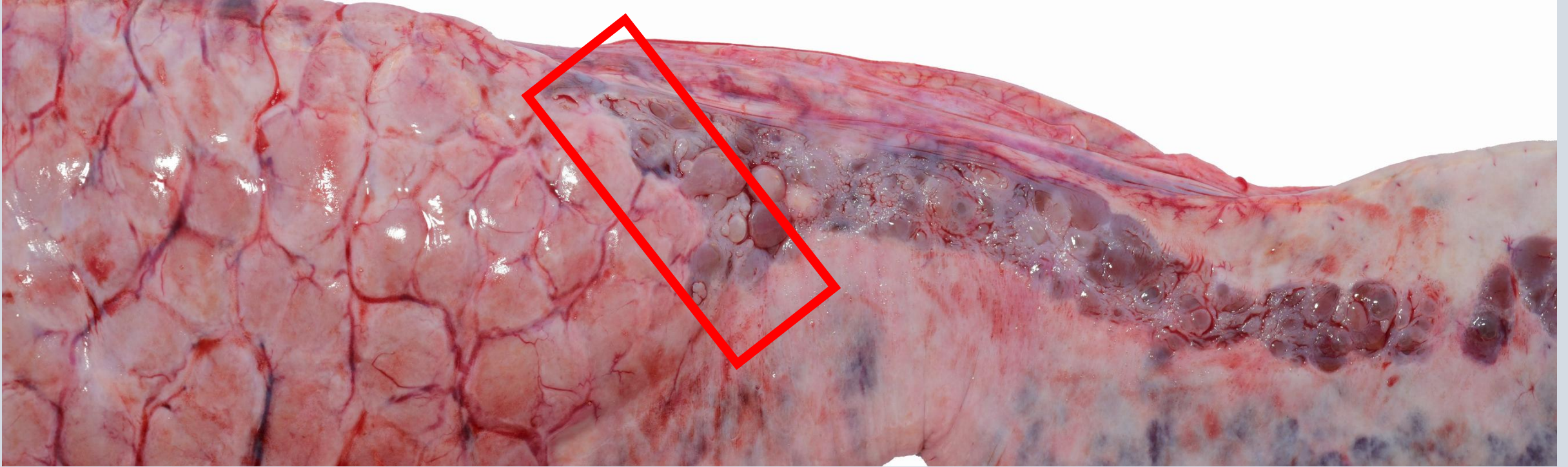
From Poulakis (2013)



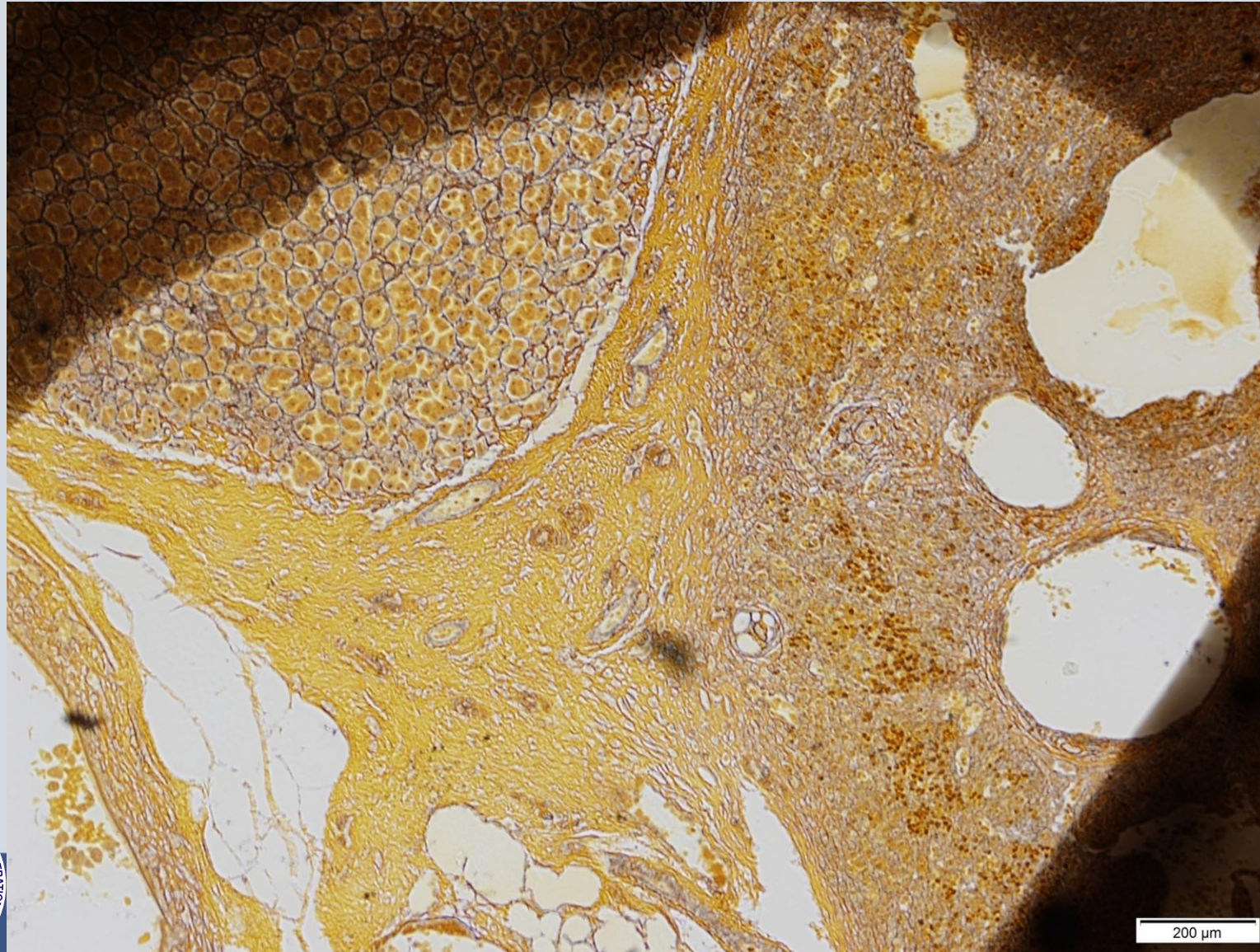
Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



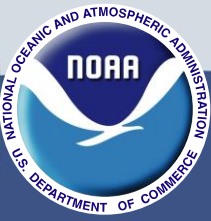
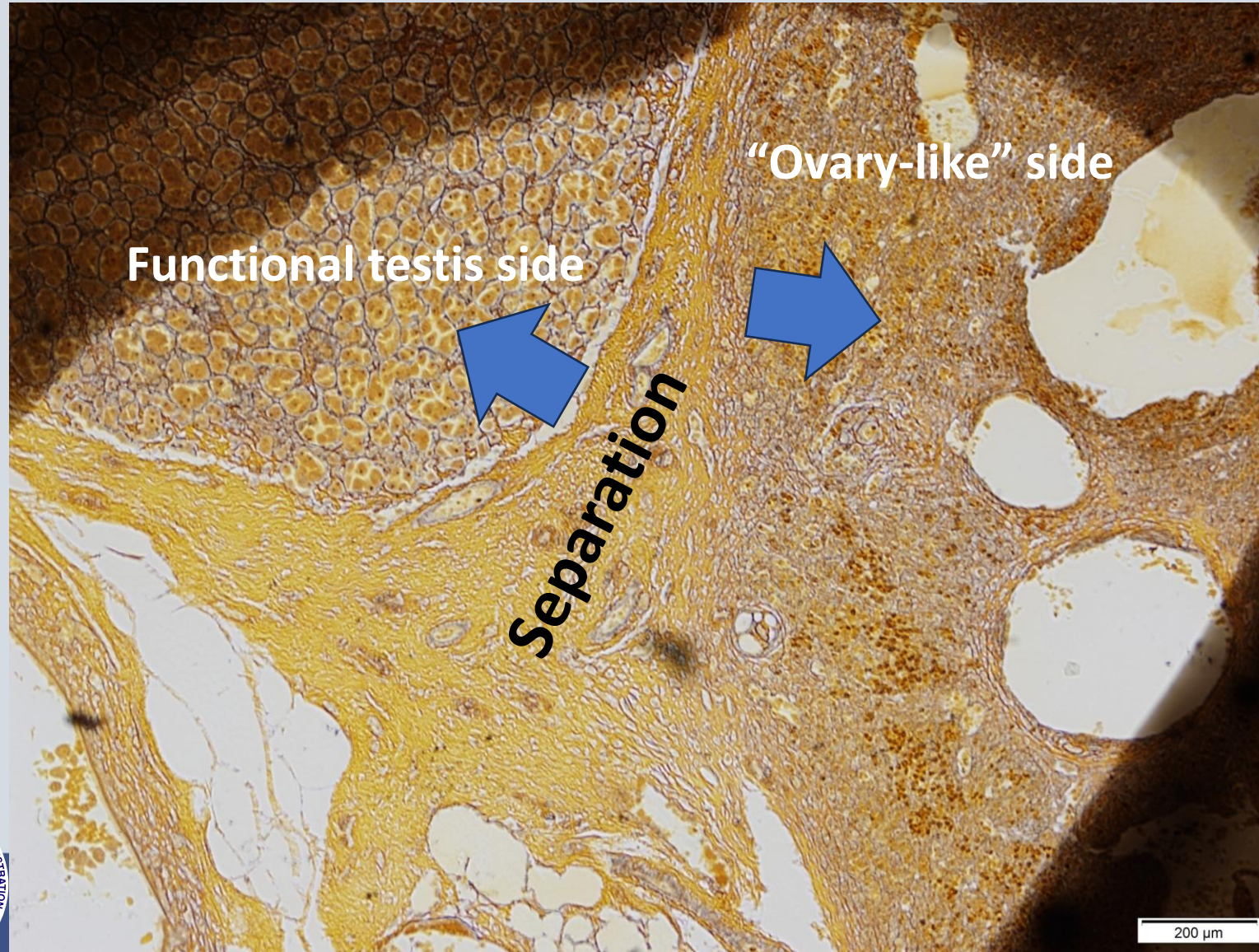
Macroscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



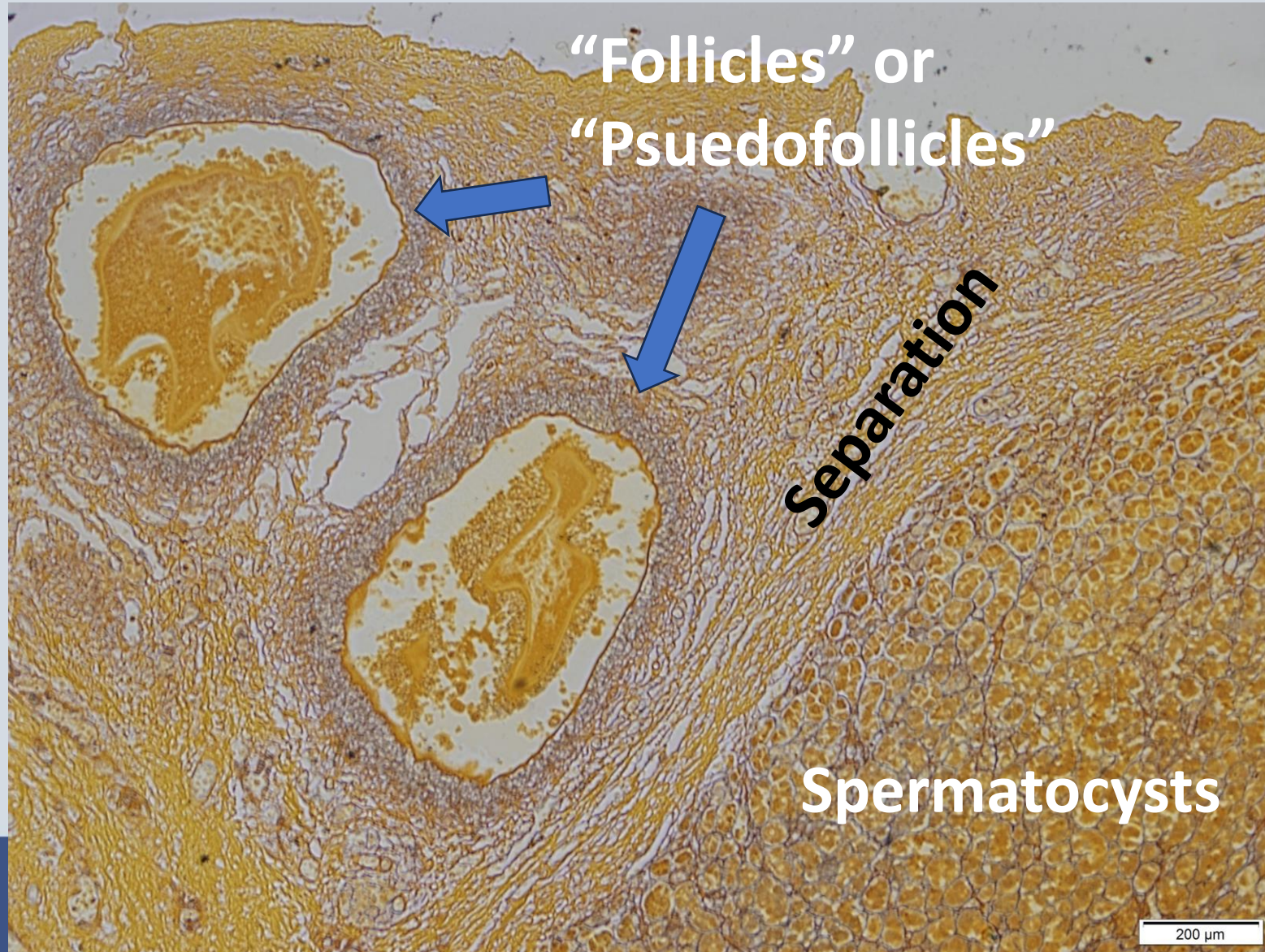
Microscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



Microscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish

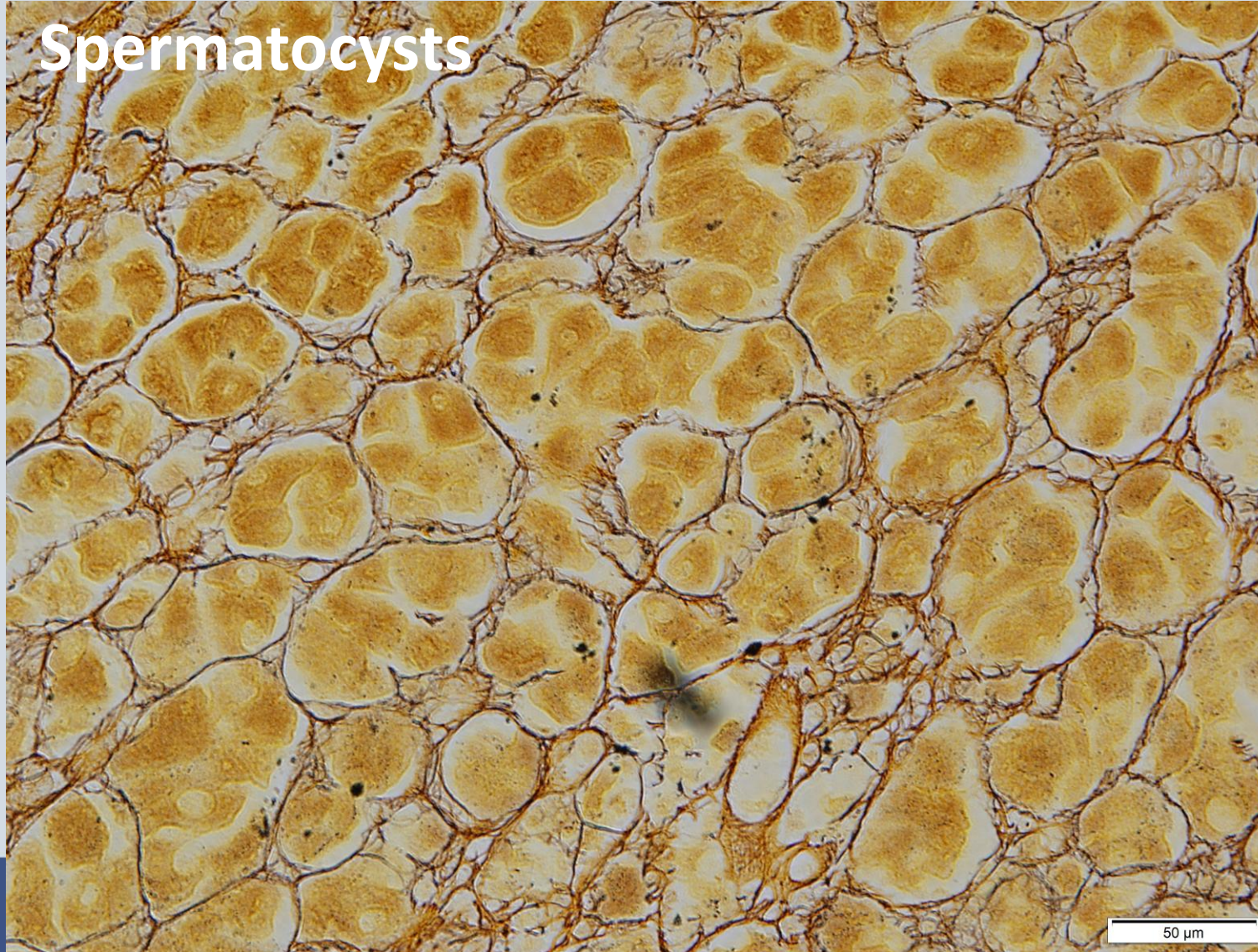


Microscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish



Microscopic morphology in smalltooth sawfish

Spermatocysts



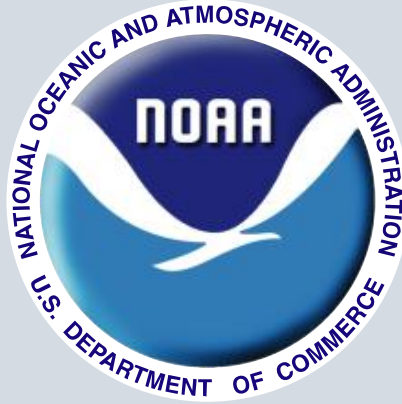
Future research and next talk...

- **Why is the ovary-like tissue consistently there?!**
- **What is its purpose?!**
- **Ovotestes in the other 4 sawfishes?**
- **Insights from other sawfishes in aquariums...?**
- **Stay tuned for Alex's talk next...samples from 2024 spinning event used for gene expression profiling!**



Acknowledgments

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& Patrick Wilson**

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ESA Section 10 permits
to Gregg Poulakis,
Tonya Wiley, John Carlson, and
Colin Simpendorfer

