

Revisions

Reviewer 1

1. *The title of this article is not specific.*

Since the title of a Review should be less than 12 words (the rule of this journal) it appears difficult to be more specific. Nonetheless, we extended the title. The new title: "Stem cell autotomy and niche interaction in different systems."

2. We shortened the two sections: "Abstract" and "early observations ..."

Reviewer 2

- We changed the subtitle. The new subtitle:
"Intriguing parallels in the action of immortal germline stem cells (in male insects) compared with somatic stem cells maintaining tissue homeostasis (erythrocyte and thrombocyte formation) and axonal autodestruction."
- We trimmed the abstract down.
- We modified the title, see above.
- *Page 33: As the signalling pathway for mammalian stem cell self-renewal...*
We added three figures. Figure X demonstrates the signalling interactions between insect GSCs and their niche in *Drosophila melanogaster*, where the interaction are best known. Figure Z shows a section of a mammalian seminiferous tubule harbouring the putative GSC and main part of the complex niche. Figure Y demonstrates the signalling interactions between a GSC and its niche.
- *Concerning an illustrative graph for governing GSC autonomy at the molecular level...*
This would be highly speculative since molecular studies on autotomizing GSCs are still in progress. We would therefore prefer to discuss the possibilities – as we have we have done.
- *Figure 1. A subheading should be used to describe the figure...*
We have provided a subheading and rephrased the legend of Figure 1, and we also labelled the structures.
- *Figure 2a The limited...*
The labelling of Figure 2 was revised. Abbreviations that were not explained in the legend were taken off.
The GSCs were identified by developmental studies in combination with electron microscopic studies by Klein (2000). We included this on page 6.
We included a sentence that refers to the structure of the lepidopteran apical complex in Figure 3d.
- *Figure 3*
We provided a panel that indicates the meaning of the colours.
- *Figure 4*
We provided a list abbreviations under legend of the figure.
- *Figure 5*
We provided a subtitle and gave a description of the insets.
We labelled GSC and AC.
- *Figure 6*
We explain the color scheme.
- *Figure 8*
We described the color scheme.
- We included "Conclusive remarks"