

NOTE BREVI

Additional remarks on growth anomalies in *Lepidocyclina* (*Nephrolepidina*) *morgani* Lemoine & R. Douvillé

E. SERPAGLI - A. SIROTTI

Istituto di Paleontologia
Università di Modena

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Recently we reported and illustrated growth anomalies in some specimens of *Lepidocyclina* occurring in a new fossiliferous outcrop of « Molasse dei Sassi di Rocca Malatina » formation (Serpagli & Sirotti, 1966a). The anomalies we found consisted chiefly of three « spokes » of equatorial chambers, instead of the single layer occurring in normal forms, meeting near two more or less evident embryonic apparatuses. The presence of two embryonic apparatuses was sometimes deduced from reliable reconstructions of the invisible part of the structure, as evidenced in specimen 7533 illustrated in text - fig. 2 (Serpagli & Sirotti, 1966a). Our observations led us to the conclusion that the anomalous specimen consisted of two individuals fused together. During the biometric study of the lepidocyclines collected from another fossiliferous outcrop of the same formation near the Sassi di Rocca Malatina (modenese Northern Apennines) (text - fig. 1, Serpagli & Sirotti, 1966b) we found a new interesting anomalous specimen that we think must be illustrated for its importance. This specimen proves beyond doubt the hypothesis that we put forward in the previous work (Serpagli & Sirotti, 1966a).

It is, however, interesting to note that this specimen shows no external anomalous

feature. In equatorial section, instead, we can clearly see two distinct complete embryonic apparatuses (text - fig. 1). The only difference between this case and the others previously studied is the different arrangement of the layer of equatorial chambers.

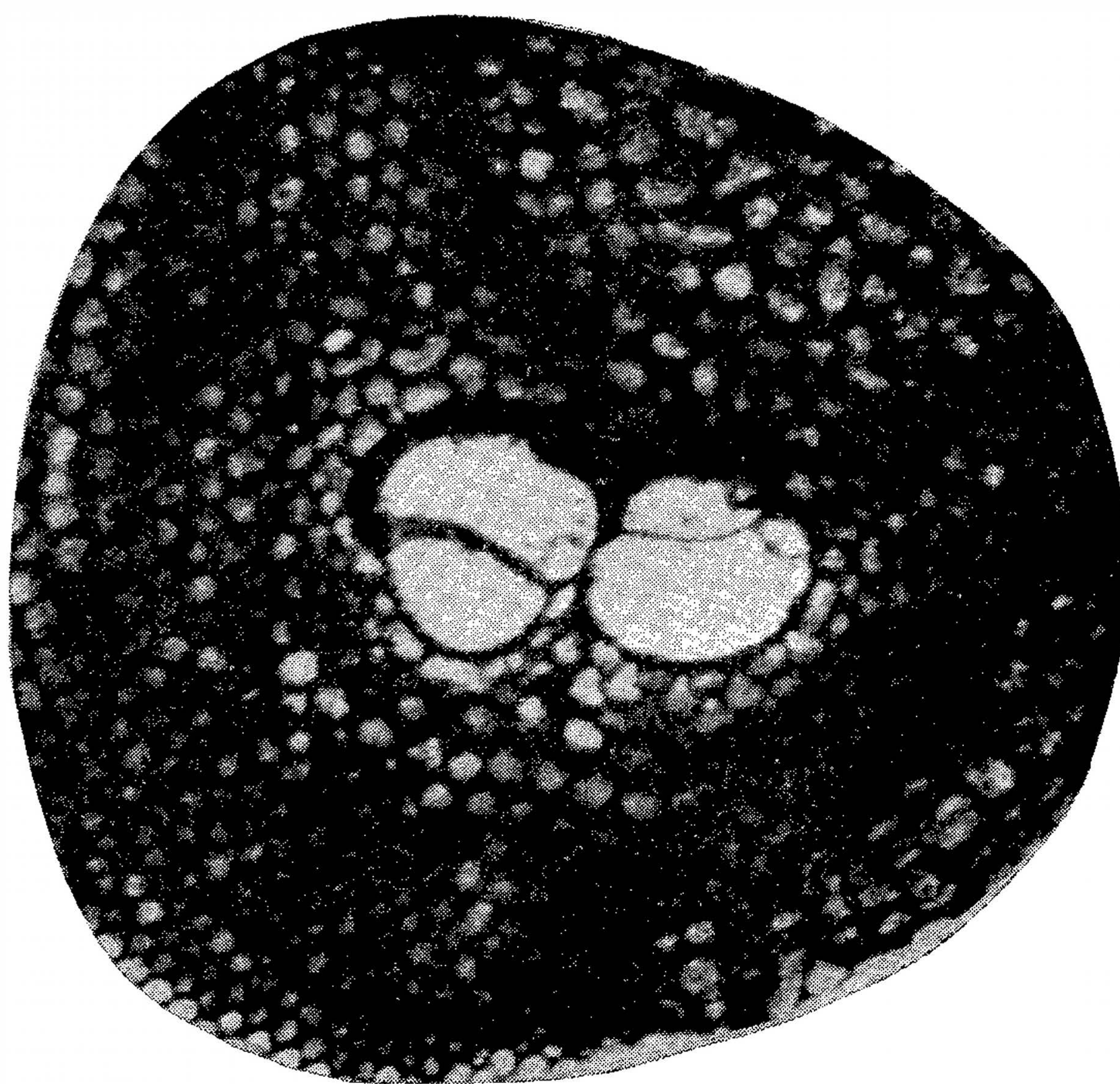


Fig. 1 - *Lepidocyclina* (*Nephrolepidina*) *morgani* Lemoine & R. Douvillé. Anomalous specimen with two embryonic apparatuses (Collection MP 7533).

Similar anomalies have been recently reported also by Meriç (1966) in *Omphalocyclus macroporus* Lamarck and interpreted as cases of trimorphism.

REFERENCES CITED

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