

Author's Reply: The "male seed" equivalent as Herophilos spermatozoa's concept

Dear Editor,

In my article "Herophilos the great anatomist of antiquity" published in *Anatomy* in 2015,^[1] I mentioned that "He recognized that the testicles produced spermatozoa".

We do not have enough evidence about Herophilos writings only a few indirect mentions from Galen and few others like Heinrich von Staden who assembled the fragmentary evidence concerning Herophilos writings. In this von Staden's translation and essays in page 288, he declared that Herophilos made a remarkable study of male reproductive organs but he also tried to account for the generation of "male seed".^[2]

The "male seed" theory was pointed out before Aristotle's times as a part of human reproduction and this notion mentioned by Herophilos may be correspondent to spermatozoa's concept.

Although during Herophilos time there is no evidence that any tool was already invented to improve the resolving power of human vision, many important information and inventions for ancient times were lost with destruction of the Alexandria library and it may be possible that perhaps among them there were useful and

unknown instruments for improving the power of human vision.

However, by his advantageous human anatomical dissection, Herophilos has been credited with giving the best description of the reproductive system up to that time and gives a sense that he recognized that testicles produced the "male seed" or its comparable spermatozoa.^[3]

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