
Tunicates

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1. Ascidian molecular phylogeny, By Xavier Turon

The position of the Appendicularia remains controversial (Swalla et al., 2000), although a recent study suggests that they are the sister group to the aplousobranch ascidians (Stach and Turbeville, 2002). Page 309

1933; Monniot et al., 1991; Van Name, 1945). The relationships between the members of Aplousobranchiata are unclear (Kott, 1990), a fact that is reflected in the poor agreement in its internal classification. Page 310

2. Erosion of phylogenetic signal, By Thomas Stach

The molecular phylogenetic position of Tunicata and internal interrelationship of higher tunicate taxa is controversial. High substitution rates and extreme gene order variability hamper phylogenetic analyses. Page 860

Textbooks classify Tunicata into the subtaxa Ascidiacea, Thaliacea and Appendicularia, but phylogenetic relationships of these subtaxa is under **debate**. Page 861

References

1. Ascidian molecular phylogeny, By Xavier Turon, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 2004, Volume 33, Pages 309–320

2. Erosion of phylogenetic signal, By Thomas Stach, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 2010, Volume 55, Pages 860–870

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