

Spermatophagy in the stallion epididymis: A scanning and transmission electron microscopy study

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The occurrence of phagocytosis of spermatozoa in the epididymis is a controversial issue in male reproductive biology. In this paper we documented, by scanning and electron microscopy, the presence of spermatophages in the lumen of the proximal region of stallion epididymis. Sperm phagocytosis involving the principal cells that line the cauda epididymidis region was also observed. The possible meaning of this process in the removal of damaged, aged or surplus spermatozoa is discussed. These observations were made in samples obtained from random cases, during the course of research work carried out on the stallion male seminar duct system.