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Darwin's Gemmules and Development

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ABSTRACT Nowadays, Darwin's pangenesis hypothesis and his gemmule idea are considered to have been completely denied. However, the pangenesis hypothesis constituted, whereof we now often forget, an integral and essential part of Darwinism. There offered a hypothesis that probably to the certain period of embryonic development yet unidentified substances of specialized cells, tissues and organs of foetus, but not those of maternal organism, are cumulated in oocyte cytoplasms. These substances, so-called Darwin's gemmules (DGs), take part in determination and differentiation of a future embryo's cells. The approaches of experimental detection of DGs are also discussed.