

- Development is indirect involving a larval stage.
- The early embryology of *Amphioxus* is simple and straightforward.
- The early development of *Amphioxus* is of great phylogenetic significance because it resembles with those of invertebrates like Echinodermates on one hand and vertebrates on other hand.
- Development of *Amphioxus* was described by many scientists viz., Hatscheck (1882, 1888), Wilson (1983), Cerfontaine (1906) and Conklin (1932).
- The work of Conklin is most recent and accepted one.

Fertilizaion

- Fertilization is external, taking place in the surrounding sea water where eggs and spermatozoa are shed.
- Before fertilization, the ovum has an outer thin vitelline membrane, enclosing a peripheral cytoplasmic layer, central yolky cytoplasm mainly towards the vegetal pole and a fluid filled germinal sac or nucleus towards the animal pole.
- During fertilization the sperm enters the egg near the vegetal pole.

Presumptive area

