**Supplementary information:**

50 µm

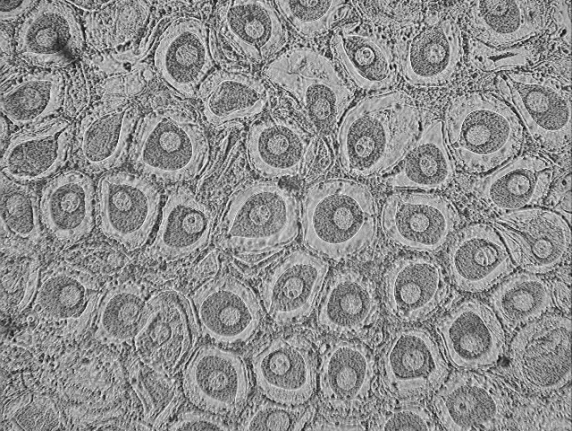
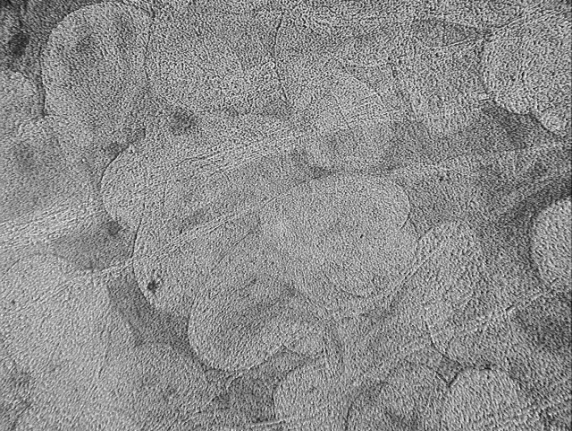
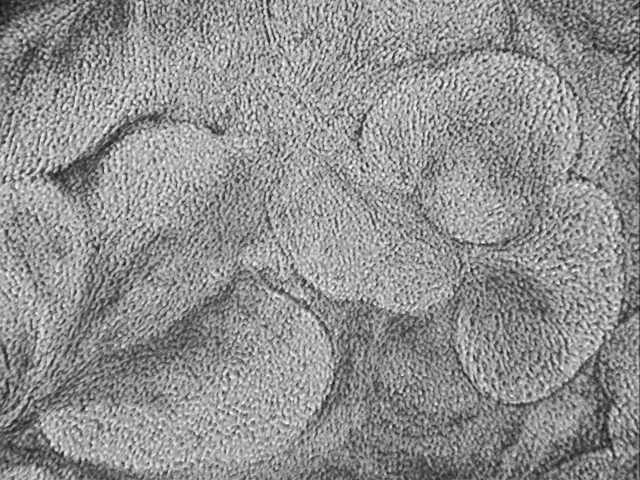
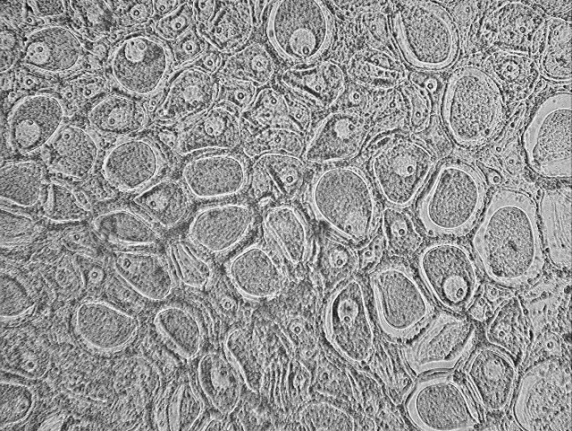
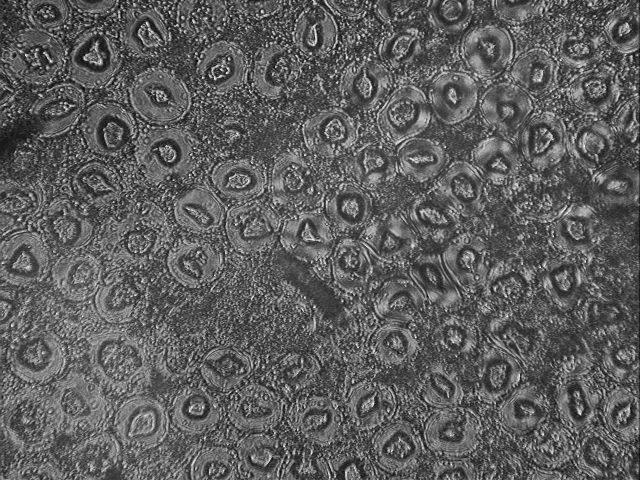
50 µm

50 µm

50 µm

50 µm

50 µm



**A**

**F**

**E**

**D**

**B**

**C**

**Fig. A.** Stages of reproductive cycle observed in *Cerastoderma edule* following the classification previously described by Seed and Brown (1977): **(A)** Developing male (stage 1). **(B)** Developing female (stage 1). **(C)** Developing male (stage 2). **(D)** Developing female (stage 2). **(E)** Ripe male (stage 3). **(F)** Ripe female (stage 3).

**Table A.** Morphometric descriptors of samples of *C. edule* collected from sites in SW England, (Mean **±** SE)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Site | N | Weight (g) | Length (mm) | Dry tissue Weight(g) | Shell Volume(g) |
| May | Padstow | 96 | 9.93 ± 0.39a | 30.53 ± 0.35 ac | 0.36 ± 0.03ab | 5.68 ± 0.20a |
| June | Plym | 60 | 15.48 ± 0.55b | 34.20 ± 0.44b | 0.55 ± 0.04 | 8.47 ± 0.42bc |
|  | Noss Mayo | 55 | 19.39 ± 0.80c | 35.78 ± 0.58 b | 0.71 ± 0.02c | 7.77 ± 0.29 b |
|  | Bantham | 56 | 18.57 ± 0.92c | 34.46 ± 0.64 b | 0.67 ± 0.03 c | 8.73 ± 0.42 bd |
| July | Kingsmill | 55 | 12.45 ± 0.27 abc | 31.57 ± 0.25 c | 0.33 ± 0.01a,b | 6.71 ± 0.18 ac |
|  | Looe | 52 | 22.70 ± 0.76 | 36.39 ± 0.39 b | 0.68 ± 0.03 c | 10.21± 0.33d |
|  | L. Anderton | 67 | 11.08 ± 0.43 bc | 31.79 ± 0.34c | 0.42 ± 0.02a | 5.75 ± 0.21 a |
|  | Wacker Quay | 50 | 10.58 ± 0.43 ac | 28.91 ± 0.41a c | 0.27 ± 0.01b | 4.48 ± 0.24 a |
|  | Antony | 53 | 12.12 ± 0.40 ac | 30.19 ± 0.38 a | 0.27 ± 0.01b | 5.17 ± 0.26 a |

Means that do not share the same letter within columns are significantly different