

1 **Approach for numerically describing and classifying benthic**
2 **animals' polymorphic cells morphology**

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11

12 **Abstract**

13

14 Describing cell morphology is a tricky task, prone to misinterpretation due to subjective
15 nature of the human observer and his vocabulary limitations. Consequently, these limitations
16 actuate prevalence of non-formalized, statistically unverifiable language use. This determines the
17 reason for overlooking cell shape as a viable parameter for describing cell's functional state
18 intricacies. In this study we demonstrate the use of mathematical parameters set for describing
19 two-dimensional fractals, such as: convex hull, density, roundness and asymmetry, for
20 comparative *in vitro* morphological analysis of sprawled starfishes' *Aphelasterias japonica* and
21 *Patiria pectinifera* (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) coelomocytes, and bivalve's *Callista*
22 *brevisiphonata* (Mollusca: Bivalvia) hemocytes. We found that these parameters allow us to
23 describe visually distinguishable but verbally indescribable "chaotic" sprawled cell shapes.
24 Furthermore, resulting numerical cell descriptions differs significantly, enabling for their
25 species-specific grouping and classification. We argue that presented morphometric
26 methodology can be used for describing and classifying cells of any arbitrary morphology, as
27 well as compiling "cell shape - cell functional state" match library for later use in *in vitro*
28 analysis, potentially for cells of any animal.

29

30 **Key Words:** *Callista brevisiphonata*; *Aphelasterias japonica*; morphometry; *Patiria*
31 *pectinifera*; hemocyte; coelomocyte; benthic animals; immune system

32

33 **Introduction**

34

35 The traditional classification of marine invertebrates' hemocytes and coelomocytes
36 consists of a variety of cytological (e.g., cytoplasm granularity, nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio,
37 nuclear chromatin structure), biochemical (e.g., presence of various enzymes), and functional
38 (e.g., phagocytotic ability, granule exocytosis, adhesion to a substrate) characteristics (Duarte
39 2012; Hine 1999; Martin 1990). However, these parameters are not static, as majority of
40 invertebrates' hemolymph's and coelomic fluid's cells are poorly specialized - transformations
41 from one cell type to another have been observed in some species (Yamashita 2001; Dyrinda
42 1997; Fisher 1986). Enzymatic content, cytoplasmic granularity, and other morphological and

43 functional characteristics vary greatly depending on the functional state of the animal organism
44 (Anisimova 2013; Danielli 2011; Martin 1992). Never the less, these parameters are still used for
45 describing and classifying these cells, whilst approaches for differentiating cells based on their
46 sprawling characteristics are undeservedly overlooked. Previously we conducted an visual
47 analysis of cell sprawling in at least ten marine invertebrate species, which clearly demonstrated
48 species-specific sprawling traits (unpublished data). These differences in flattened cell
49 morphology should carry as much biological context as any other more conventional
50 morphometric parameter, because sprawling cell's shape is determined by interactions of
51 complicated matrix-receptor-cytoskeleton complexes (Yuhang 2013), various genetic and
52 epigenetic variations in cell's functional state (Kolyuchkina 2011), degree of substrate adhesion
53 (Rioutl 2013), expression of cell surface receptor sets (Jiun-Hong 1995), and composition or
54 dynamics of cytoskeletal structure (Chernyavskikh 2012). These variables are close among cells
55 of same-species animals and should respond similarity to the same external and internal stimuli,
56 influencing cell's sprawling morphology. Therefore, interpretation of statistically significant
57 numerical parameters describing changes in cell's morphology may be used to determine the
58 presence of various natural and/or artificial factors affecting cell's functional state.

59

60 **Materials and Methods**

61

62 **Animal cells**

63

64 628 bivalve's *Callista brevisiphonata* (Bivalvia, Veneridae) (Carpenter 1864) hemocytes,
65 569 starfish *Aphelasterias japonica* (Echinodermata: Asteroidea)(Bell 1881) coelomocytes, and
66 410 starfish *Patiria pectinifera* (Echinodermata: Asteroidea)(Muller & Troschel 1842)
67 coelomocytes were examined in this study. Animals were harvested in 10-15th of September in
68 the Vostok Bay (waters of the Peter the Great Gulf, Primorsky Krai). Immediately following
69 collection, animals were necropsied. Syringe was used to collect hemolymph from mollusc's
70 pericardial and mantle cavities, and starfishes' coelomic cavity. Immediately after collection,
71 cells were placed onto cover glass, where they were held at room temperature for an hour and
72 fixed with 4% formalin seawater solution. Fixed cells were stained with hematoxylin and eosin,
73 dehydrated, and embedded into Canada balsam.

74

75 Cell visualization

76

77 Zeiss Axiovert 200M Apotome microscope was used for visualization. Two-dimensional
78 contours of sprawled cells were sketched by hand from the tabled computer screen onto
79 transparencies, which were later scanned for further processing. A single pixel outline of the
80 external cell boundary was used to generate cell's contour image. Contour images were later
81 filled to generate cell silhouettes.

82

83 Image processing

84

85 Pictures of cells were digitized and converted into a one-bit format. A fractal analysis was
86 performed using a FracLac 2.5 plugin for ImageJ 1.41 image analysis software. The linear
87 parameters were counted using ImageJ 1.41 and Photoshop SC3.

88 14 cell shape descriptors were used: *Area*; *Circularity*: $4\pi \cdot \text{area} / \text{perimeter}^2$, (**Circ**);
89 *Feret's Diameter* – the longest distance between any two points along the object boundary, also
90 known as maximum caliper, (**Feret**); *Aspect ratio*: major_axis/minor_axis of object, (**AR**);
91 *Roundness*: $4 \cdot \text{area} / (\pi \cdot \text{major_axis}^2)$, (**Round**); *Density*=Foreground Pixels/Hull Area, (**Density**);
92 *Hull's Perimeter* – perimeter of the convex hull drawn around the object, (**Hull'sPer**); *Hull's*
93 *Circularity* – Circularity of the convex hull = $4\pi \cdot \text{area} / \text{perimeter}^2$, (**Hull'sCirc**); *Max/Min Radii*
94 *from Hull's Centre of Mass* – the ratio of maximum and minimum radii from the centre of
95 mass for the convex hull to an exterior point, (**M/MHull'sCM**); *Max/Min Radii from Circle's*
96 *Centre* – The ratio between the maximum and the minimum radii from the circle's centre to a
97 point on the convex hull, (**M/M RadCirc**); *Perimeter* of cell, (**Per**); *Roundness* of the outline
98 picture of cells, (**Round out**). For more details about the nonlinear parameters, see the software
99 website: <http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/plugins/fraclac/FLHelp/UseFracLac.htm>.

100 We also used our own parameters, describing cell asymmetry: ratio of two circular
101 segment areas, which were generated by drawing a line over an encircled cell image dividing it
102 into two most uneven parts (**1/2half**); ratio of encircled cell's cell-free and cell's areas
103 (**in50/out50**).

104

105 Statistical analysis

106

107 Statistical analysis was carried out using STATISTICA 6.0 and NCSS 2007. Paired
108 differences between characteristics were tested using the independent samples t-Test. Correlation
109 between parameters was measured with Pearson's linear correlation analysis. Results were
110 considered significant when $P < 0.05$.

111 Highly correlated parameters, such as those describing the similar morphological
112 properties and having similar mutual arrangement of the mean values and standard error of the
113 mean, among cells of all studied species, were excluded from the analysis. The factor analysis
114 reduces the model dimensionality by describing the variance represented by the original
115 parameters in terms of a smaller number of latent variables (Uberla 1997; Gordon 1999). We
116 used R-mode factor analysis. The factors were extracted by using principal axis factoring and
117 orthogonally rotated by using varimax rotation. The number of significant factors was chosen
118 using Kaiser criterion, Cattell scree plot test and interpretability of factors (Uberla 1997; Costello
119 and Osborne 2005).

120

121 Results and Discussion

122

123 Invertebrate hemolymph and coelomic fluid's cells serve a protective function,
124 implementing specific cellular responses upon encountering a foreign body: phagocytosis –
125 devourment of detected microscopic particles, encapsulation - cell flattening along the foreign
126 body too large to be phagocytosed, and, if foreign body's surface greatly exceeds cell's size -
127 sprawling over the substrate in an attempt to isolate it (Ratner 1983).

128 Within few minutes of placing hemolymph onto artificial substrate its cells settle, adhere,
129 form different size conglomerates and flatten, forming either almost continuous cell coating, or a
130 network of contiguous pseudopodia of self-assembled into cell-streams cells. Predominance of
131 conglomeration over flattening is species-specific and depends on whether adhesion to substrate
132 prevails over intercellular adhesion (Isayev 1994). This ratio may also vary depending on the
133 cultivation conditions. For example, bivalve's *Mizuhopecten yessoensis* hemocytes
134 predominantly form aggregates when cultivated with the addition of autologous hemolymph or

135 FBS, and leave the aggregates to flatten over a substrate, if seawater is used instead (Demenok
136 1997).

137 Examined marine invertebrate's cells formed a wide range of various shapes: from round
138 cells with poorly developed boundaries, to cells with complex irregular shapes with long
139 pseudopodia and fractal outlines as a result of maximum flattening. Cells of all studied animals
140 were clearly visually distinguishable, but the differences could hardly be conveyed using verbal
141 terms. This extreme variability of shapes determines hemocytes and coelomocytes as an ideal
142 model for testing suggested morphometric methodology.

143 Contrary to neuron morphology which's classical morphometry is well developed
144 (Pushchin 2014), morphological description of flattened fibroblast-like cells *in vitro* is hardly
145 formalized. Meanwhile, an overwhelming number of studies exploring the influence of
146 biochemical, morphological, physiological, and genetic parameters in cell behavior changes
147 during cell shape transformation use statistically unverifiable language for describing cell shape.
148 Usually, *in vitro* morphometric studies of sprawling cells concentrate on a rather narrowly-
149 specific problems and use methodology which can be used for describing shapes of only certain
150 cell types, cultured under highly specific conditions (Kozlowski 2012; Xiong 2010). This
151 narrowing is a result of a wide chaotic variety and "abnormality" of shapes of various species'
152 flattened cells. Usually, attempts to describe a whole range of possible amoeboid cells shapes *in*
153 *vitro* result in a set of rather generalized, non-specific morphometric parameters, describing only
154 general features of a two-dimensional objects, such as: object's area, convex hull's area,
155 roundness, or density. However, if suggested methodology which provides a numerical
156 description of cell's morphology is demonstrated to work with a wide variety of cell shapes, it
157 could effectively replace the non-formalized language used to describe and classify cell
158 morphology in most of studies.

159 Methodology suggested in this research uses parameters describing cell's roundness,
160 convex hull properties, circumcircle, asymmetry relative to the optical center, and density.
161 Therefore, the full spectrum of characteristics applicable to a non-specific two-dimensional one-
162 bit images of "abnormal", from the viewpoint of Euclidean geometry, shapes, any of which
163 could be taken by studied cells, was covered.

164 A factor analysis grouped all parameters into 3 factors consisting of characteristics
165 describing different aspects of cell's morphology. Factor 1 included cell size characteristics, such

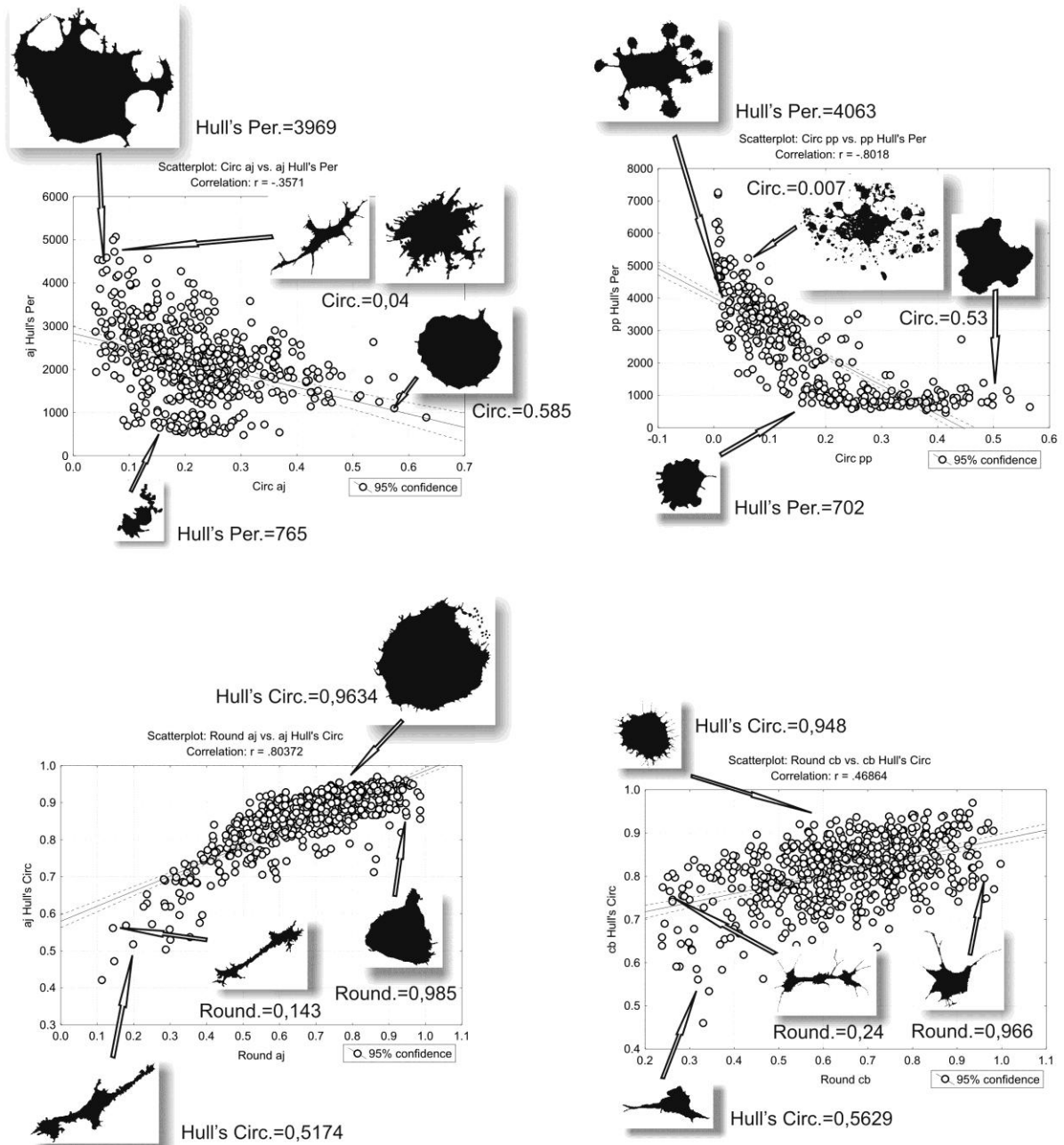
166 as: Area and Hull'sPer; factor 2 was loaded with parameters describing roundness and cell
167 elongation: Round, Hull'sCirc, MMHull'sCM, and MMRadCirc; factor 3 reflected various
168 features of cell asymmetry: in50/out50 or 1/2half. The factor load was species-specific in some
169 cases, but generally, the same loadout was used for cells of all species. As a result, all
170 investigated characteristics were grouped into three categories with a detectable level of
171 correlations amongst parameters inside single category. These were categories describing cell's
172 dimensional characteristics, roundness, and asymmetry.

173 Some characteristics demonstrated high correlation levels in all studied cells, while others
174 were species-specific (Table 1). For example: cell area and convex hull - parameters describing
175 the overall cell size were highly correlated in cells of all three species ($r=0.90, 0.72,$ and 0.85 in
176 *A. japonica*, *C. brevisiphonata*, and *P. pectinifera*, respectively). Lowest correlation with *C.*
177 *brevisiphonata* cells can be explained by the fact that their cells have longest and thinnest
178 pseudopodia. Relatively small cell body combined with extremely long (several times exceeding
179 cell body diameter) pseudopodium, significantly increases convex hull perimeter, whilst
180 insignificantly increasing total cell area.

181 Another example: species-specific correlations of Circ and Hull'sPer, which were almost
182 not correlated in coelomocytes of *A. japonica*, weakly anti-correlated in hemocytes of *C.*
183 *brevisiphonata*, and strongly anti-correlated in coelomocytes of *P. pectinifera* ($r=-0.36; -0.58; -$
184 0.80 , respectively). This difference in correlation suggest that these parameters describe slightly
185 different cell morphological aspects in different species, correlation between which is not so
186 obvious. Circ was lowest in large *P. pectinifera* cells, which were highly fragmented - their
187 cytoplasm densely stacked with droplets. *P. pectinifera* Circ values were magnitudes lower than
188 minimal Circ of *A. japonica* cells which had virtually no fragmentation. The smallest Circ in this
189 species belonged to a heterogeneous group of rod-like cell sub-population, with partially
190 fragmented cytoplasm and well developed microsculpture, presented as pseudopodia of varying
191 sizes. In *P. pectinifera* highest values of Hull's Perimeter corresponded to cells with highly
192 fragmented cytoplasm. This determined anti-correlation of Circ and Hull's Perimeter, however
193 cell morphology was highly varying: among *P. pectinifera* cells with highest Hull's Perimeter
194 values, there were cells with highly fragmented droplet-shaped cytoplasm, cells with various
195 kinds of convexities, and, something exclusive for *P. pectinifera* – rounded nubs at the
196 pseudopodia ends. This explains significant differences in correlation between these parameters

197 among cells of this species. The maximum values of Hull's Perimeter in *A. japonica* cells
198 corresponded to cells with a varying Circ parameter values: among these cells there were none
199 with simple microsculpture, however this level of fractal boundaries was found among cells with
200 average Hull's Perimeter, making visual identification of a morphological property determining
201 high of Hull's Perimeter values impossible (Fig. 1 a-b).

202 Another pair: Round and Hull'sCirc, were maximally correlated in *A. japonica cells* and
203 least correlated in *C. brevisiphonata* (0.80 and 0.47, respectively). The minimum values of
204 Round in cells of both species correspond to elongated rod-shaped cells. The maximum values of
205 Round in *A. japonica* corresponded to rounded cells without long asymmetric pseudopodia. On
206 the other hand, in *C. brevisiphonata* high Round values coincided with both rounded cells and
207 cells of an irregular shape, with one or more long, asymmetrically arranged, pseudopodia. Round
208 is calculated as a ratio of cells area to cell main axis length, i.e. degree of elongation or
209 roundness of the ellipse encircling the cell. This allows for a high degree of freedom in cell
210 shape. In both species, smallest Hull'sCirc values correspond to elongated cells, whilst highest
211 Round values are typical for cell with a more rounded shape. This makes Hull'sCirc ideal for
212 describing cell roundness, and Round – its elongation. Unlike *C. brevisiphonata*, *A. japonica*
213 coelomocytes rarely had a single, long processe, nor was their cytoplasm fragmented as in *P.*
214 *pectinifera* coelomocytes. This fitted their cells into “elongated - rounded” dualism framework,
215 which is simultaneously described by both Round and Hull'sCirc, whereas hemocytes of *C.*
216 *brevisiphonata* are take-up a much larger variety of asymmetric shapes with long processes,
217 which determines the lack of correlation between these parameters in this species (Fig. 1 b-c).
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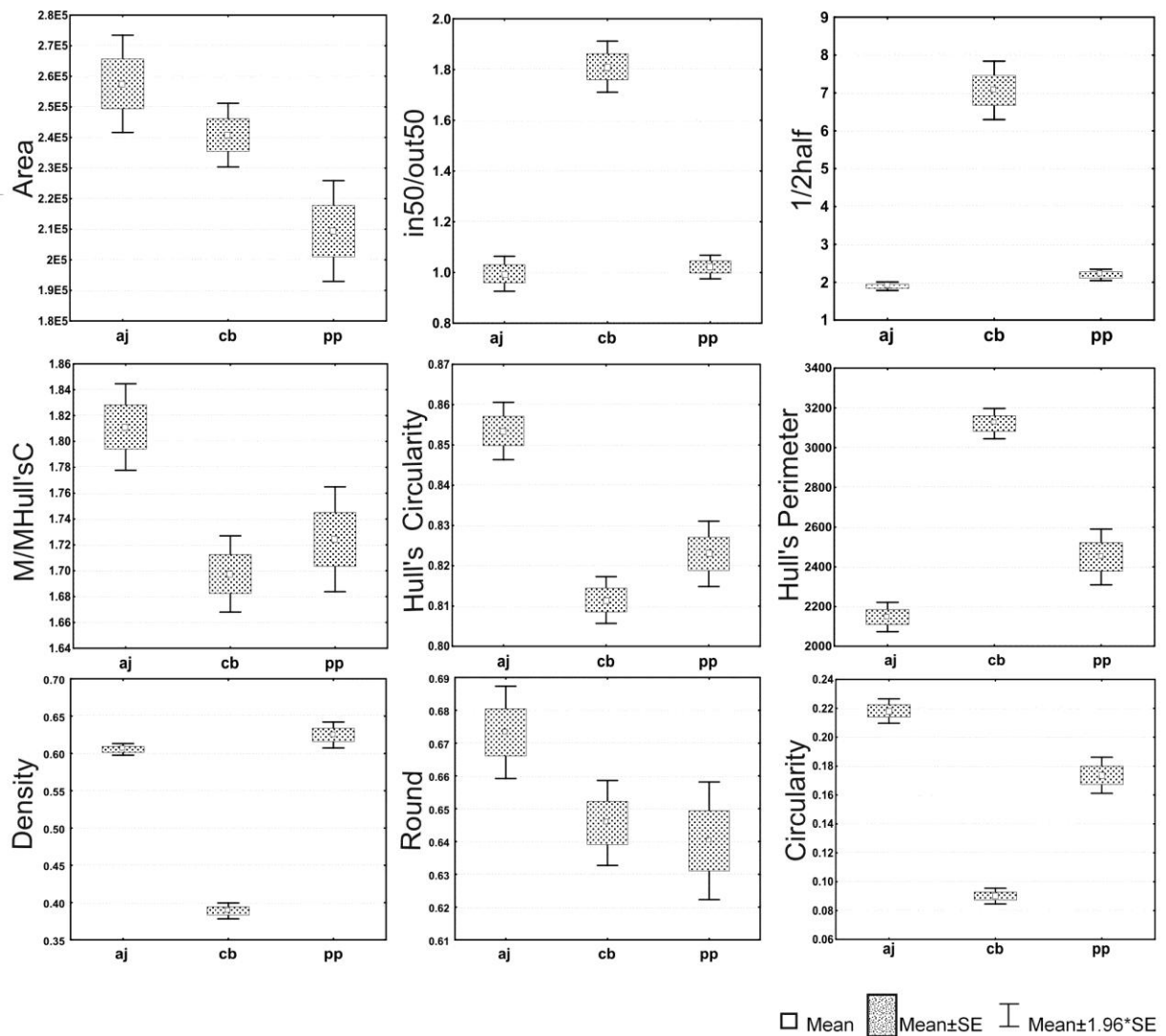
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221 Fig. 1 Scatterplots of (a.) Circularity vs Hull's Perimeter, *A. Japonica*; (b.) Circularity vs
 222 Hull's Perimeter, *P. pectinifera*; (c.) Roundness vs Hull's Circularity, *A. Japonica*; (d.) Roundness
 223 vs Hull's Circularity, *C. Brevisiphonata*

224 Out of 14 parameters selected for the analysis, 3 parameters, which were highly
 225 correlated ($r \geq 0.9$) with all of the other parameters and similar mutual ratio of mean values
 226 among cells of all three-studied species, were excluded. Among remaining parameters, mean

227 standard error of some were overlapping, and those that remained could reliably separate cells
 228 among two, and, more rarely – of all three species. *A. japonica* cells could be characterized by
 229 significantly high Round, Circ, Hull'sCirc, and MMHull'sCM, and low Hull'sPer values. *C*
 230 *brevisiphonata* cells could be identified by highest Hull'sPer, 1/2half, and in50/out50 and lowest
 231 Circ and Density. *P. pectinifera* cells had smallest Area values, and average, but statistically
 232 distinguishable from the rest Circ and Hull'sPer values (Fig. 2).

233



234

235 Fig. 2 Mean values of parameters that reliably distinguish cells from at least one of the
 236 species from cell of two other species. aj - *Aphelasterias japonica*, cb - *Callista brevisiphonata*,
 237 pp - *Patiria pectinifera*

238

239 Chosen parameters formed “cell’s digital profile” - a set of numeric values which reliably
240 distinguished cells from all three studied invertebrate species among themselves. This digital
241 profile was specific to cells of same species and distinguishes them from cells of other species
242 (see Table 2). Paired comparison using t-test always resulted in statistically significant
243 differences between cells of any two species (see Table 3).

244 When exploring cell morphology, the main interest, from the biological viewpoint, is
245 identification of factors determining flattened hemocytes and coelomocytes morphology in
246 different invertebrates species. Initial hypothesis suggested searching for ecological aspects for
247 cell functional differences, which are reflected in the cell’s morphology and dictate cells shape
248 variations among studied animals. However, we did not find any significant environmental
249 differences. *C. brevisiphonata* lives on sandy and sandy-aleuritic sediments at depths ranging
250 from 8-10 to 30-40 m, burrowing at shell-depth into the bottom layer. *P. pectinifera* inhabits
251 sandy, rocky, and silty grounds up to a depth of 40 m. *A. japonica* inhabits rocky grounds up to
252 depths of 40-50 m, more rarely - on silty sands with an admixture of pebbles and rocks, shell
253 deposits. *C. brevisiphonata* is suffering from predation by starfishes of both species. All animals
254 were collected from the same area and constitute the most common species of invertebrates in
255 that area. Previously we suggested that intercellular adhesion with subsequent cell aggregates
256 retraction *in vitro* predominates in bivalve hemocytes, because it mimics *in vivo* thrombosis and
257 wound contraction after sustaining an injury. In echinoderms, this retraction is absent due to
258 rigidity of the external integuments, and adhesion to a substrate predominates (Demenok 1997).
259 However, this assumption was correct only for *M. yessoensis*, which’s hemocytes form large
260 retracting conglomerates *in vitro* (Dziuba 1992). In cells of other bivalve species, including those
261 explored in this study, as well as in echinoderm coelomocytes, adhesion to the substrate prevails
262 over intercellular adhesion and retracting aggregates are not formed. But regardless of whether
263 environmental differences determine hemocytes and coelomocytes shapes in different species
264 and whether nuances of their morphology are subjected to the natural selection, it seems certain
265 that cell shape is genetically determined as a result of certain cell physiology nuances, such as
266 the cytoskeleton structure, cell behavior, etc. Therefore, identifying underling genetic and
267 cytophysiological changes in species-specific cellular response and tying them with definite cell
268 shapes seems logical. This enables for prediction of cell’s physiological features under normal

269 and pathological conditions using only detailed morphological analysis. This approach also
270 provides a methodological basis for environmental monitoring, since functional changes in cell
271 immunity of widespread species are indicators of environment's ecological state, and,
272 consequently, it's inhabitants health state (Canesi, 2007; Bouilly 2006; Isayev 1995).

273

274 **Conclusion**

275

276 The species-specific marine invertebrates' hemolymph and coelomic fluid's cell behavior
277 can be statistically significantly described by a set of numerical values, characterizing sprawling
278 cell's shape, such as: roundness, density, elongation, asymmetry, and its dimensional
279 characteristics, like: size, circumcircle, and convex hull. Whether suggested methodology can
280 differentiate between cells under various natural or artificial conditions, as well as its
281 applicability to classify cells of phylogenetically related species, remains unanswered.

282 Here we demonstrated that suggested methodology can be used to numerically describe *in*
283 *vitro* sprawled cell shapes of different marine invertebrates' species, generating cell's digital
284 profile which could be used for statistically significant comparison. This method effectively
285 complements classical methods for *in vitro* description of marine invertebrates' immune cells,
286 but is not limited to them, and theoretically can be used for vertebrates' cells as well, due to
287 generality of structural and functional properties in both taxa (Browne 2013).

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289 **References**

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389

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Tables

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	Area												
Circ.	-0.20 -0.21 0.63	Circ.											
Feret	0.83* 0.65* 0.85*	-0.40† -0.58† -0.78†	Feret										
AR	-0.17 -0.11 0.10	-0.28 -0.11 -0.25	0.23 0.22 0.36	AR									
Round	0.25 0.16 -0.12	0.29 0.12 0.27	-0.14 -0.19 -0.37	-0.84* -0.93* -0.93*	Round								
Density	-0.44 0.08 -0.49	0.74* 0.83* 0.66*	-0.10 -0.55 -0.64	0.53 -0.19 -0.44	-0.56 0.21 0.44	Density							
Hull'sPer	0.90* 0.72* 0.85*	-0.36† -0.58† -0.80†	0.98* 0.98* 0.96*	0.08 0.12 0.23	0.03 -0.08 -0.24	-0.21 -0.53 -0.53	Hull'sPer						
Hull'sCirc	0.29 0.37 -0.11	0.28 0.10 0.43	-0.18 -0.11 -0.44	-0.82† -0.47† -0.76†	0.80† 0.47† 0.75†	-0.67 0.26 0.43	-0.003 0.03 -0.37	Hull'sCirc					
M/M Hull'sCM	-0.05 -0.19 -0.28	-0.01 0.10 0.35	0.15 0.03 -0.23	0.34 -0.47 0.35	-0.42 -0.34 -0.38	0.20 0.09 0.03	0.05 -0.11 -0.37	-0.50 -0.63 -0.26	M/M Hull'sCM				
M/M RadCirc	-0.21 -0.17 -0.15	-0.12 -0.01 0.13	0.07 0.03 -0.07	0.53 0.31 0.36	-0.58 -0.31 -0.40	0.36 -0.02 -0.14	-0.06 -0.07 -0.21	-0.63 -0.54 -0.37	0.68* 0.76* 0.71*	M/M RadCirc			
1/2half	-0.09 -0.03 0.13	-0.22 -0.16 -0.24	0.17 0.25 0.29	0.24 0.07 0.29	-0.29 -0.08 -0.33	0.36 -0.27 -0.41	0.11 0.21 0.22	-0.43 -0.30 -0.45	0.19 0.11 0.11	0.17 0.06 0.13	1/2half		
in50/out50	-0.11 -0.25 0.08	-0.17 -0.12 -0.27	0.01 -0.20 0.22	0.13 -0.09 0.12	-0.19 0.06 -0.18	0.29 -0.14 -0.18	-0.04 -0.22 0.19	-0.26 -0.12 -0.33	0.15 0.05 0.17	0.27 0.07 0.31	-0.002 -0.29 -0.06	in50/out50	
Perimeter	0.83* 0.74* 0.66*	-0.56 -0.59 -0.69	0.86* 0.89* 0.78*	0.01 0.02 0.03	0.06 0.008 -0.05	-0.12 -0.47 -0.22	0.90* 0.93* 0.87*	0.09 0.17 -0.22	-0.04 -0.13 -0.42	-0.11 -0.09 -0.30	0.06 0.09 0.05	-0.03 -0.18 0.21	Perimeter
Round out	0.23 0.17 -0.10	0.32 0.13 0.27	-0.19 -0.28 -0.36	-0.82* -0.70* -0.89*	0.92* 0.71* 0.94*	-0.57 0.24 0.45	-0.02 -0.12 -0.23	0.85* 0.71* 0.80*	-0.48 -0.57 -0.43	-0.62 -0.48 -0.46	-0.35 -0.17 -0.38	-0.22 0.02 -0.25	0.03 -0.03 -0.05

392 Table 1. Correlation matrix of cell morphology descriptors. In each cell r values for animals in
 393 order: *A. Japonica*, *C. brevisiphonata*, *P. pectinifera*. * - significant correlation between
 394 parameters (among all of the animals); † - significant species-specific correlation (grouping
 395 descriptor))

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	Mean	Confidence - +95.000%	Mean	Confidence - +95.000%	Mean	Confidence - +95.000%
	<i>A. japonica</i>	<i>A. japonica</i>	<i>C. brevisiphonata</i>	<i>C. brevisiphonata</i>	<i>P. pectinifera</i>	<i>P. pectinifera</i>
Area	257566	241635-273497	240782	230346-251219	209396*	192867-225926
Circ	0.2181*	0.2097-0.2266	0.09001*	0.0845-0.0954	0.1736*	0.1611-0.1861
Round	0.6732*	0.6591-0.6873	0.6457	0.6326-0.6586	0.6402	0.6222-0.6582
Density	0.6054	0.5976-0.6131	0.3888*	0.3781-0.3994	0.6247	0.6073-0.6422
Hull'sPer	2150.97*	2077.2-2224.7	3121.09*	3044.6-3197.5	2449.82*	2308.9-2590.7
Hull'sCirc	0.8534*	0.8463-0.8605	0.8115	0.8056-0.8173	0.8229	0.8148-0.8311
M/M Hull'sCM	1.8111*	1.7776-1.8447	1853608	1.6679-1.7271	1951493	1.6836-1.765
1/2half	1.895	1.7819-2.008	7.0679*	6.2945-7.8411	15008	2.0431-2.3452
in50/out50	0.9951	0.9258-1.0644	1.8114*	1.7106-1.9122	1.0216	0.975-1.0683

398 Table 2. Average values and their confidence intervals for cell morphology descriptors. * -
399 significant difference between descriptors of different species

A. japonica: C. brevisiphonata			A. japonica: P. pectinifera			C. brevisiphonata: P. pectinifera		
	t-value	p		t-value	p		t-value	p
Area	2087363	0.078400	Area	4.0387	0.000050	Area	471589	0.000930
Circ.	25.4720	0.000000	Circ.	6.0008	0.000000	Circ.	-13.5236	0.000000
Round	2354386	0.004660	Round	2507423	0.004100	Round	0.4928	0.622220
Density	31.6484	0.000000	Density	-2.1856	0.029080	Density	-24.0048	0.000000
Hull'sPer	-17.8892	0.000000	Hull'sPer	-4.0151	0.000060	Hull'sPer	2624482	0.000000
Hull'sCirc	9.0149	0.000000	Hull'sCirc	1157576	0.000000	Hull'sCirc	-2.3069	0.021250
M/MHull'sCM	5.0136	0.000001	M/MHull'sCM	228703	0.001180	M/MHull'sCM	-1.0721	0.283910
1/2half	-12.3948	0.000000	1/2half	-3.1783	0.001520	1/2half	2659941	0.000000
in50/out50	-12.8456	0.000000	внутр50/внеш50	-0.5745	0.565760	in50/out50	2571979	0.000000

400 Table 3. Results of paired t-test comparison of cell descriptors of all species