

A glimmer of hope for an Endangered soft coral: the first observations of reproductive strategies, and early-life cycle of the temperate soft coral *Dendronephthya australis* (Octocorallia: Alcyonacea)

Meryl F. Larkin^{1,3*}, Tom R. Davis^{2,3}, David Harasti^{1,3}, Stephen D. A. Smith^{3,4}, Tracy D. Ainsworth⁵ and Kirsten Benkendorff³

¹ Fisheries Research, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, Taylors Beach, NSW 2316, Australia.

² Fisheries Research, NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 4321, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia, 2450.

³ National Marine Science Centre, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Southern Cross University, Bay Drive, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia, 2456.

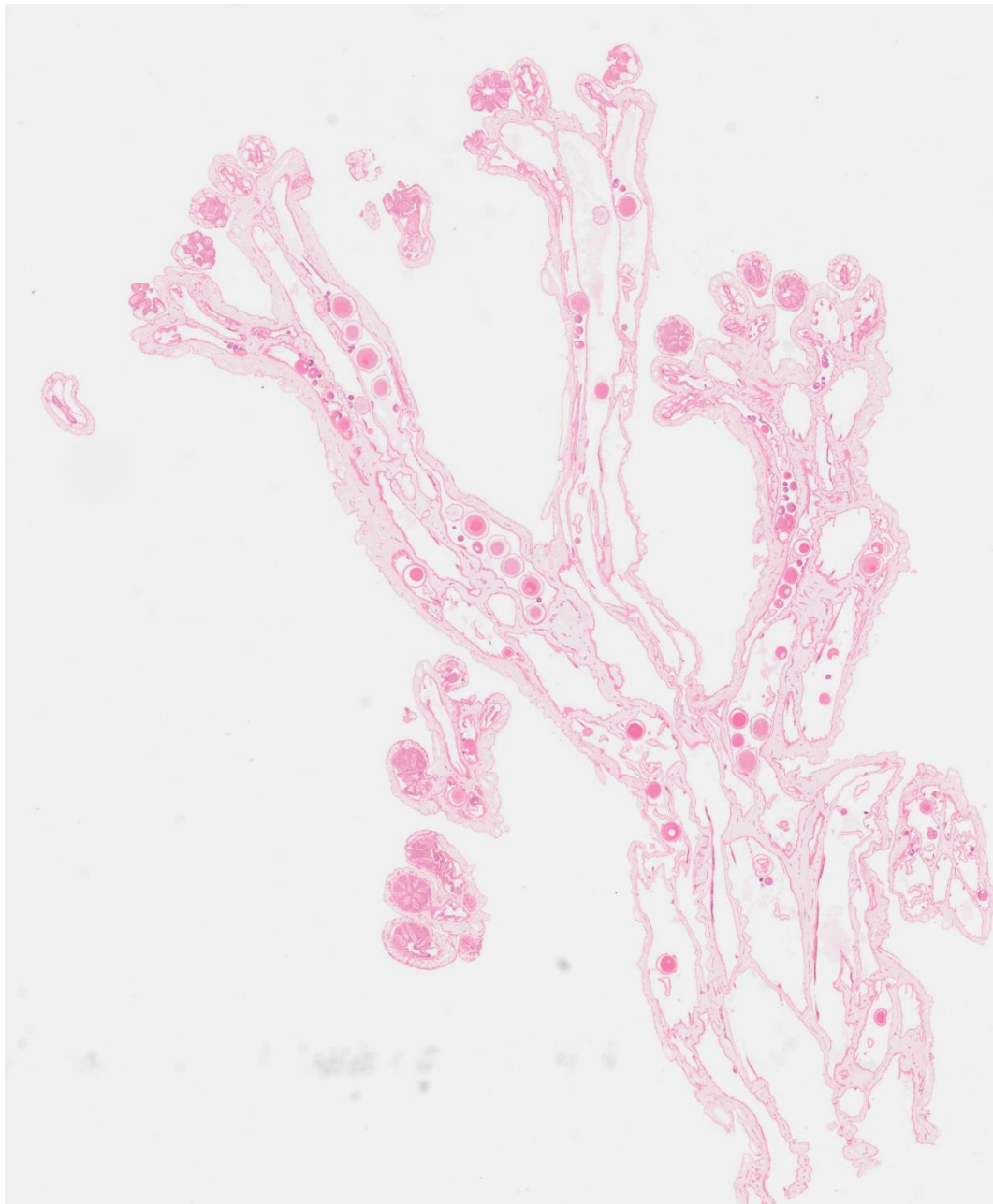
⁴ Aquamarine Australia, Mullaway, NSW, 2456 Australia.

⁵ University of New South Wales, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Kensington, NSW, 2033 Australia.

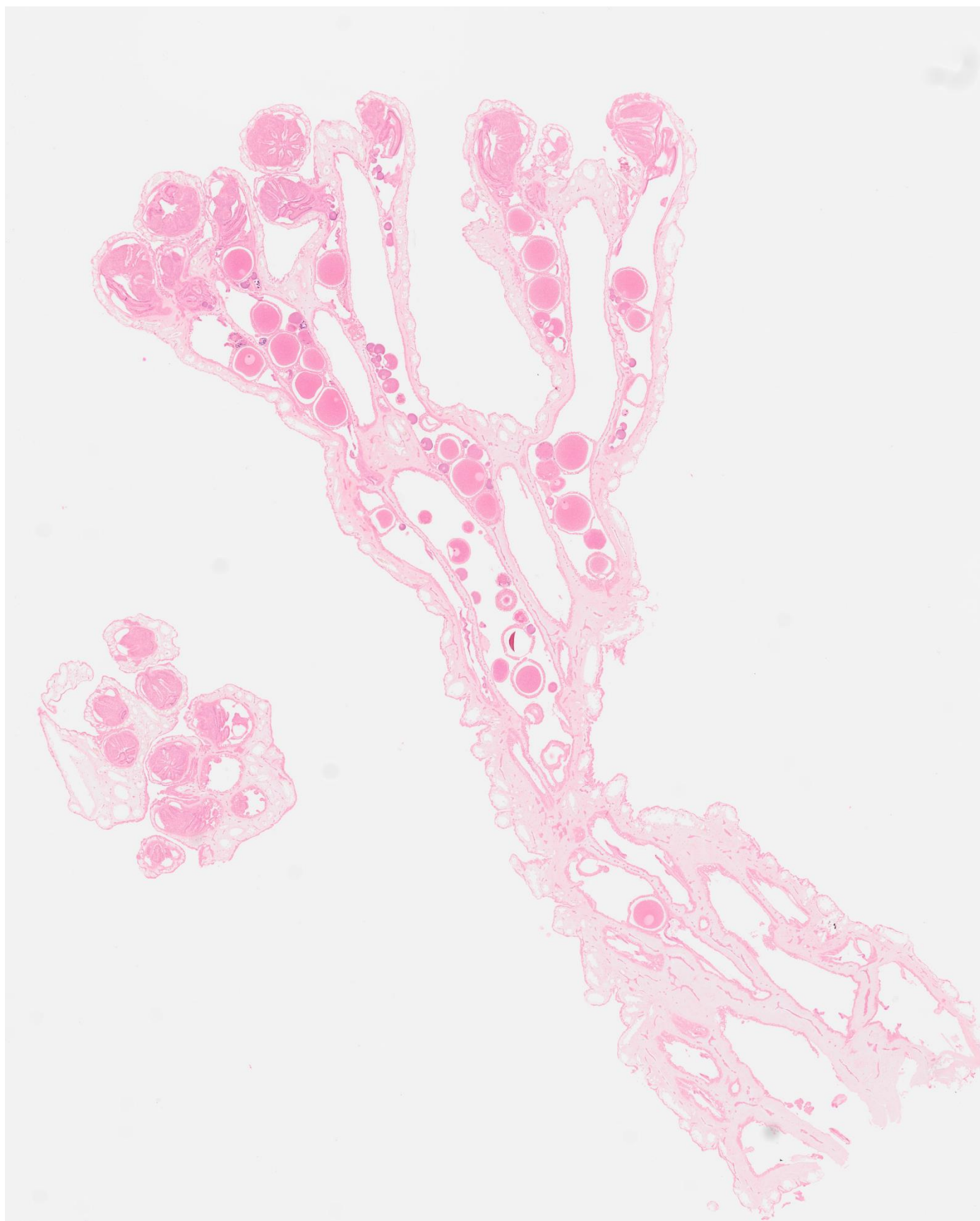
*Corresponding author email: m.larkin.12@student.scu.edu.au

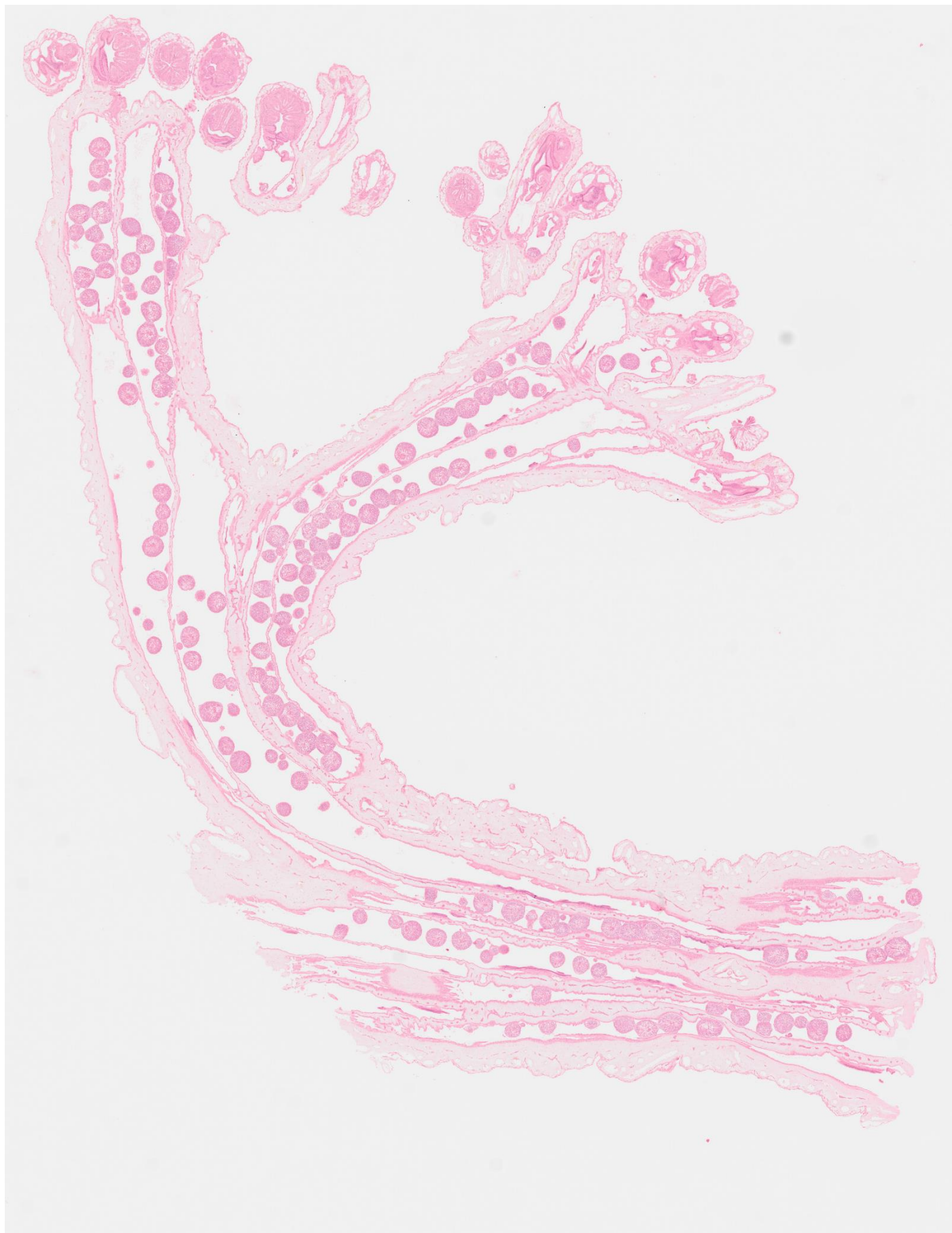
Supplementary Material 1: Histological images of *Dendronephthya australis* gametogenesis, samples D1-8

D1 (female), sampled 10/2/22

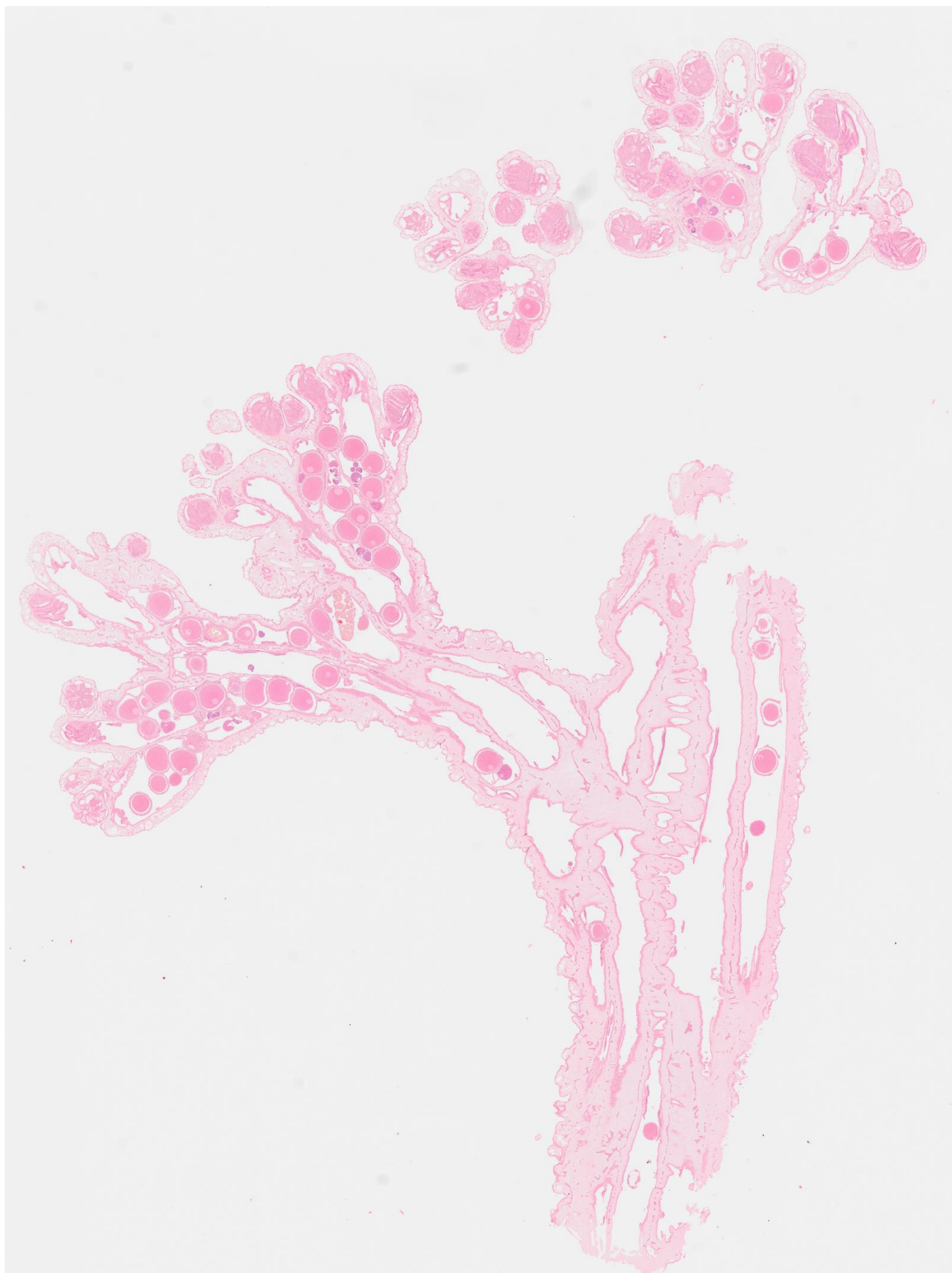


D2 (female), sampled 9/3/22

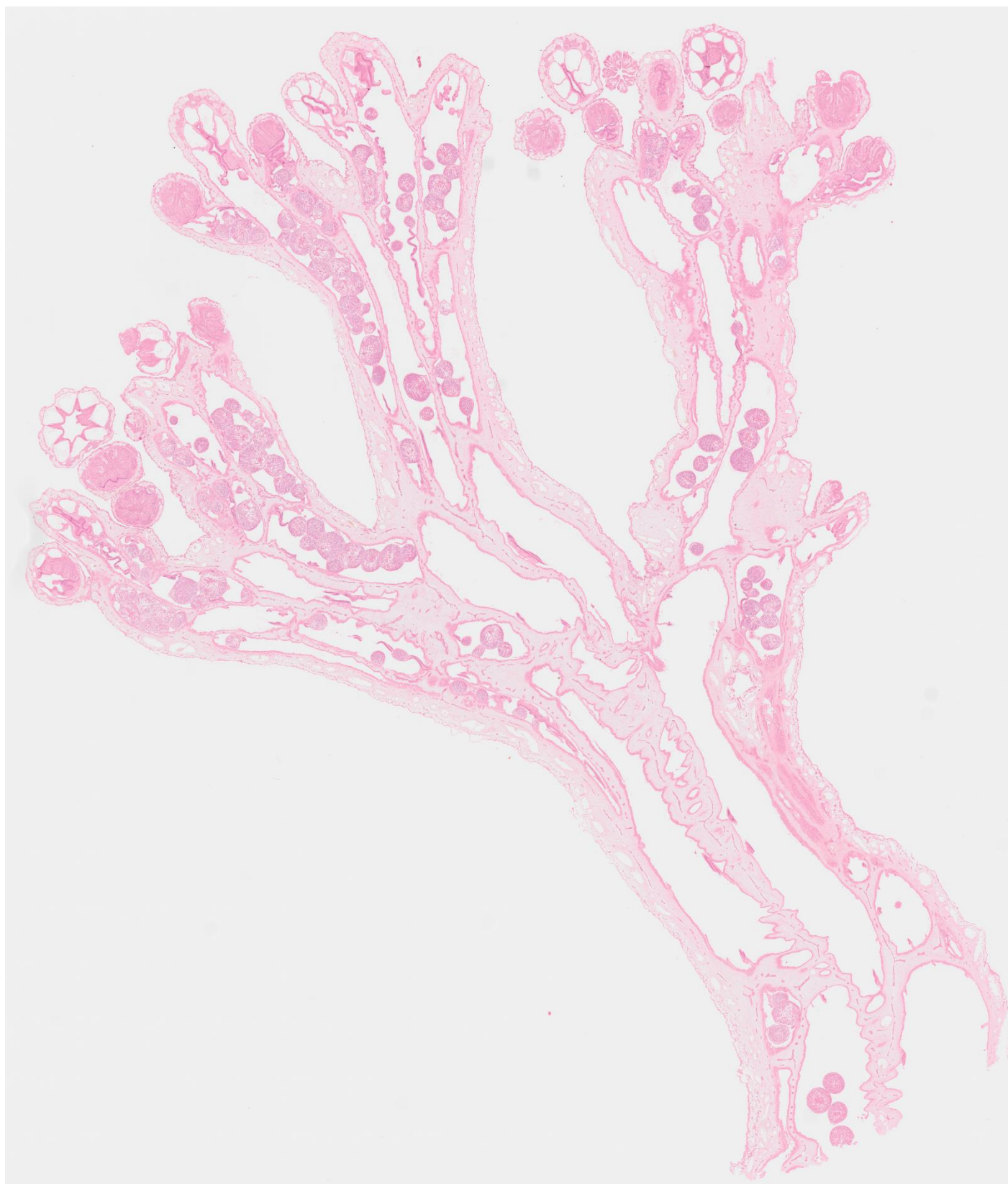




D4 (female), sampled 9/3/22

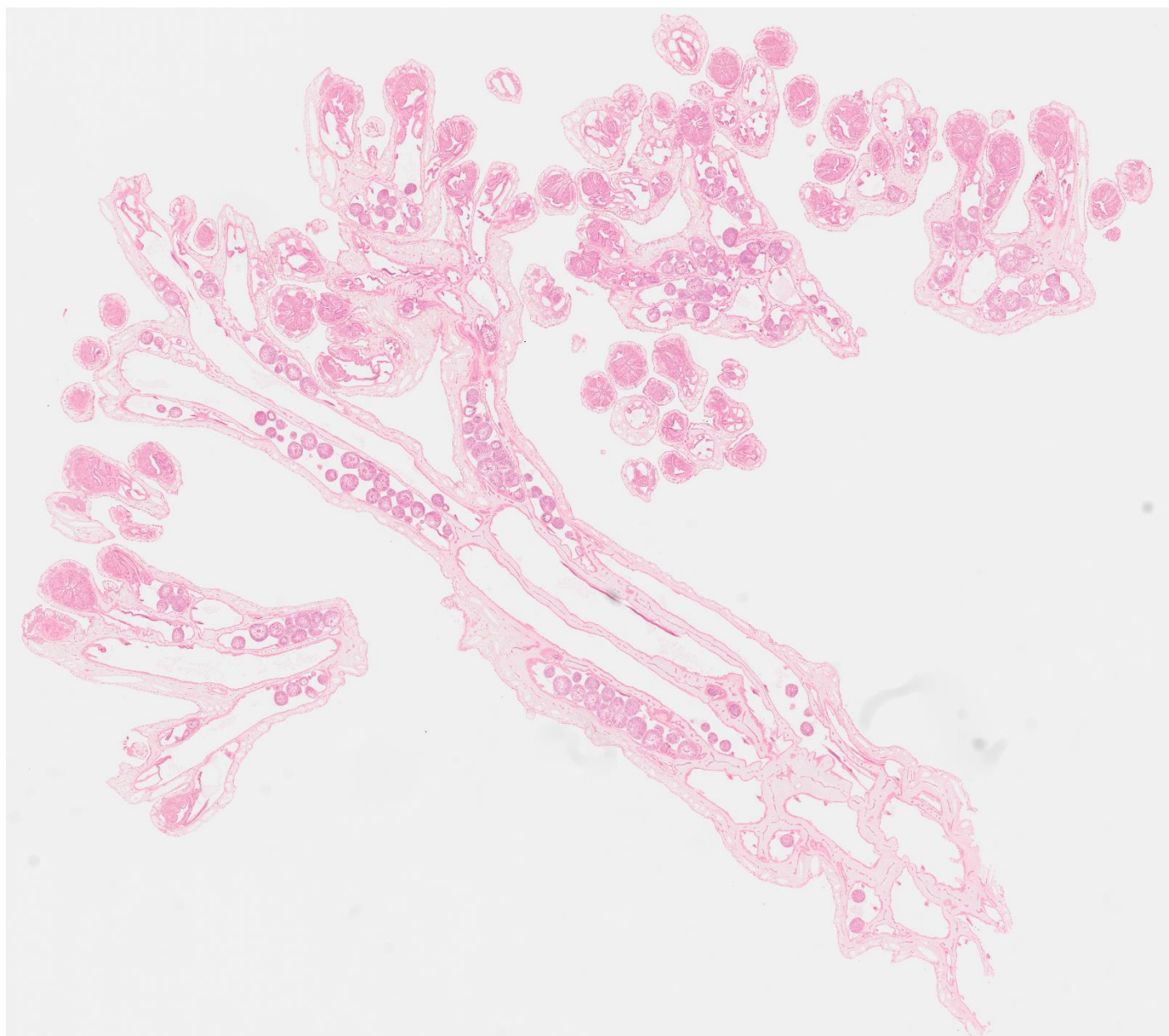


D5 (male), sampled 11/2/22





D7 (male), sampled 10/2/22



D8 (male), sampled 11/3/22



D9 (female), sampled 11/2/22

