

Figure 3.

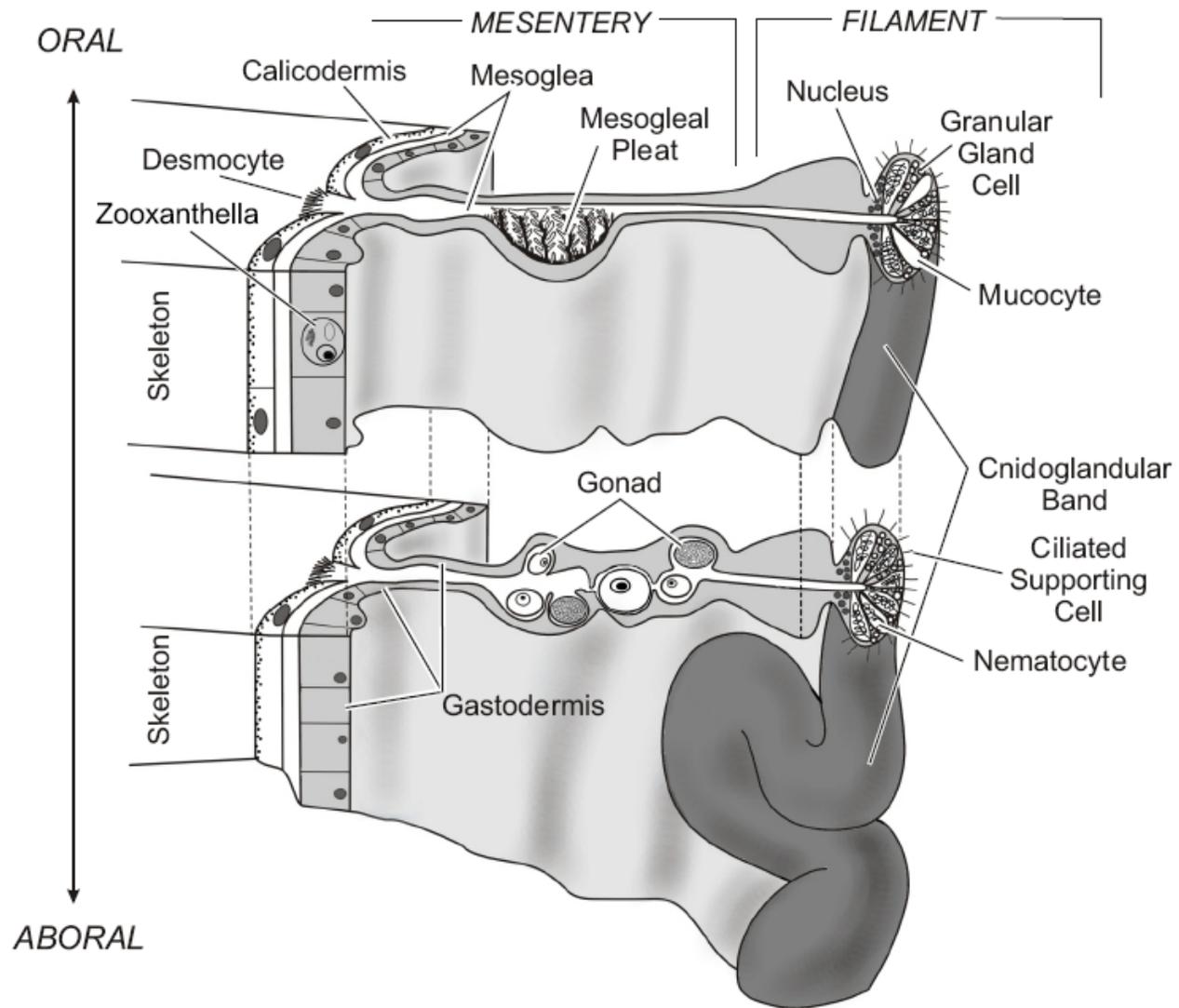
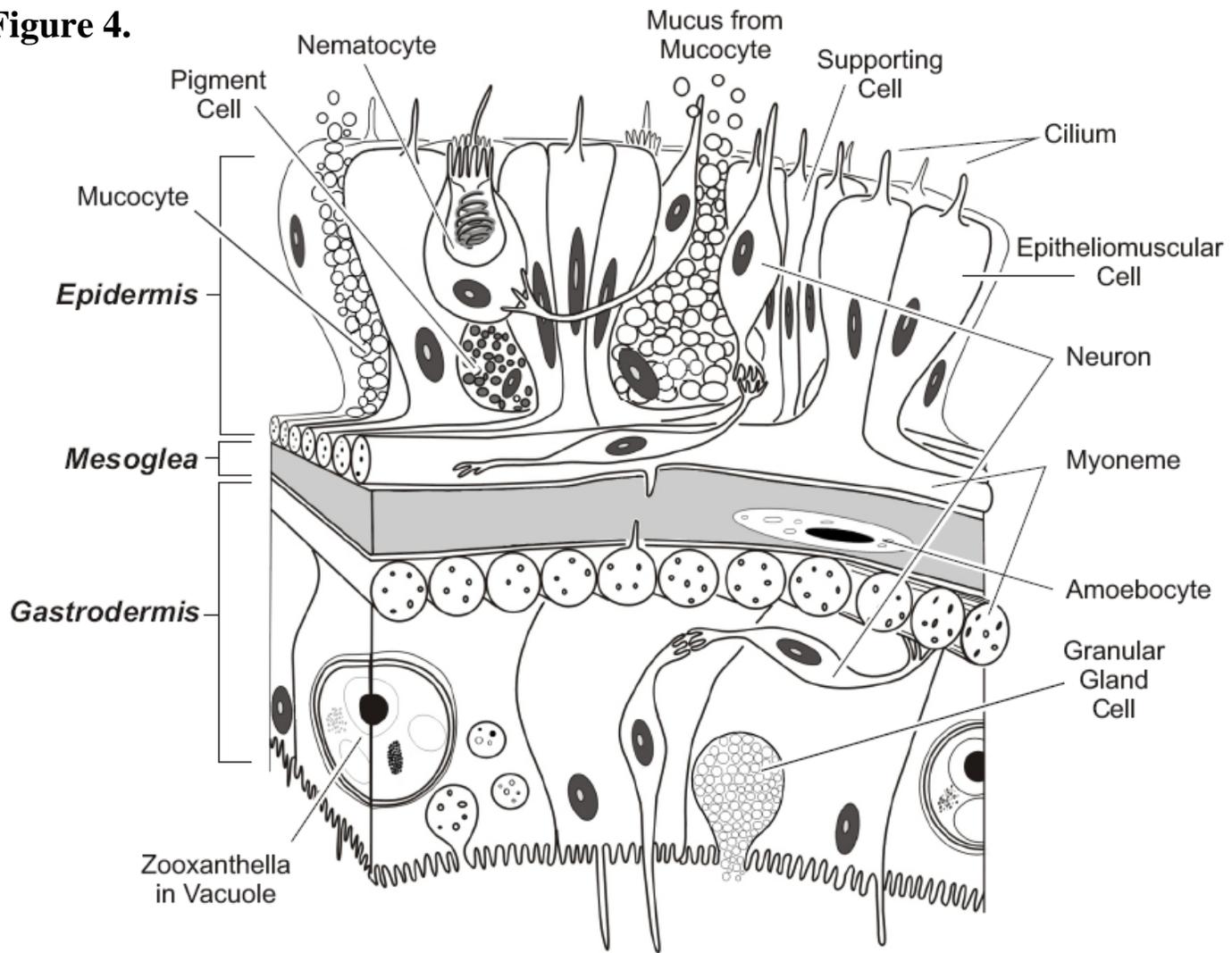


Figure 4.



HISTOPATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF CORAL TISSUE

Three regions and their accompanying structures and *tissue types* are examined:

1. Coenenchyme

- a. Gastrovascular canals (*surface and basal body walls*)

2. Polyp

- a. Oral

tentacles (surface body wall)

oral disk (surface body wall)

peristome (surface body wall)

actinopharynx (actinopharynx body wall)

- b. Aboral

body

wall (surface and basal)

mesenteries (complete or incomplete)

proximal

mesogleal pleats

gonads

filaments

lobes

cnidoglandular band

gastric cavity

3. Skeleton

- a. septa
- b. columella
- c. corallum
- d. basal plate

RECOMMENDED FORMAT FOR DESCRIBING HISTOLOGY AND HISTOPATHOLOGY OF CORALS

Signalment/History:

Specimen information (genus-species, common name, shape descriptors);

Description of affected coral (color change, tissue loss, skeletal damage, growth anomaly, other descriptors);

Sample information (identification number, healthy tissue, diseased tissue, other species, sediment/soil/sand, water);

Reef descriptors (name, general location, type, depth, GPS coordinates);

Collection site data (water clarity, map, transect information, disturbance signs, photos, videos);

Observer information (name, address, contact information, date of observation).

Field Diagnosis: Complete description of the gross [lesion](#) and a preliminary diagnosis of the disease condition or suspected disease name.

Histopathology Description: description given for each of three tissue areas.

Coenenchyme

Polyp

Skeleton

Morphologic Diagnosis:

Description of tissue lesions using consensus coral histopathology terms.

Recommendations: specific sampling, sectioning, staining or amplification suggestions.