

A Reproductive Tale

By Mr. Otterspoor

It was a long time ago...actually it was yesterday when a certain bearded biology teacher was working in his laboratory. It was getting rather late when he decided that it might be easier to complete his work if there was a second copy of himself. It just happened that at that very moment he was grading a lab report... a Hydra lab report. Focusing all of his biological powers he commanded a second smaller version of himself into being. Usually this form of reproduction, called _____, is when a smaller version of the adult grows attached to the parent. Obviously there was no exchange of genetic information. There was also no union of eggs and sperm, called _____ to create the offspring. That would make this a form of _____ reproduction. When plants, rather than biology teachers, use this method to reproduce it is called _____ reproduction. Plants are capable of reproducing through many of their structures. African violets are able to reproduce through their _____. Potato plants are able to reproduce through their _____. Spider plants are able to reproduce through their fleshy horizontal _____.

While we are on the subject of plant reproduction why don't we discuss their life cycle. Many plants switch between a stage where they have a _____ number, or half the regular number, of chromosomes. This stage of their life cycle is called the _____ stage. When two gametes combine and go through a series of _____ divisions they form a _____ that has a _____ number of chromosomes. This switching is called the _____. The _____ are plants that have specialized reproductive structures called _____. The purpose of these structures is to facilitate _____, which is the kind of reproduction that involves the exchange and recombination of genes. The afore mentioned reproductive structures are made up

of male and female structures. The male structures are collectively called the _____ and are made up of a long thin _____ that supports the _____ producing _____. The female parts are collectively called the _____. They are made up of a sticky pollen catcher called the _____ which is supported by a hollow _____ which then connects to the _____. It is in this structure that the _____ are stored.

Surrounding the reproductive structures there are a series of delicate brightly colored sweet smelling _____. The function of these structures is to attract _____. When a pollen grain lands on the sticky catcher part the first nuclei forms a _____. Then the other two nuclei travel down to the storage area where a _____ takes place. One of the nuclei combines with the egg and the other nuclei combine to form the future food source for the developing embryo called the _____. Once fertilization takes place the ovary begins to swell. This swollen ovary eventually becomes recognizable as a _____. Meanwhile the embryo finds itself protected inside a _____.

How was that for a not so quick side conversation? When we last saw that bearded biology teacher he was in the process of growing a second version of himself. Realizing how much stranger he would look with a second person growing out of his hip our protagonist decides to pursue other options. Perhaps he could cut himself into several pieces, each of which would then _____ their missing pieces. This method of reproduction is called _____. Organisms such as sea stars and planaria utilize this method of reproduction. Luckily there were no machetes to be found...

alternation of generations

angiosperms

anther

asexual

budding

diploid

double fertilization

endosperm

fertilization

filament

flowers

fragmentation

fruit

gametophyte

haploid

leaves

mitotic

ovary

ovules

petals

pistil

pollen

pollen tube

pollinators

regenerate

roots

seed

sexual reproduction

sporophyte

stamen

stems

stigma

style

vegetative