Fig. 1. Sheets of ribosome tetrameres in an oocyte of *Gerris najas* (imago). The ribosomes are well preserved after embedding in Micropal, but other structures are not. To obtain all information about the ultrastructure, it is necessary to embed ovaries also in epon-araldite mixtures* and in a low viscosity epoxy resin medium*; $\times$ 78,750.

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Ribosome Crystals in the Oocyte of Gerris najas (Heteroptera)

Won Chul Choi and Walter Nagl
Fachbereich Biologie, Universität Kaiserslautern
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Ribosome Tetramers, Oogenesis, Insects, Gerris

Oocytes of the pond skater, Gerris najas, display ribosome tetramers that are arranged in the form of sheets in the vicinity of the nucleus. This is the first finding of ribosome crystals in an insect and suggests that ribosome crystallization may be a common phenomenon of cells that are inactive in protein synthesis.

Crystallization of ribosomes has been reported to occur in chick embryogenesis under certain conditions as cooling of the fertilized or cleaving egg1-3. Other authors found ribosome crystals in chick down feathers during their differentiation4,5. Recently, similar structures have been observed in early oogenetic stages of a lizard6. An investigation of the differentiation of trophocytes and oocytes in Gerris now revealed the crystallization of ribosomes in certain stages of oogenesis also in an insect.

Fig. 1 see Plate on page 136 b.

Request for reprints should be sent to Prof. Dr. W. Nagl, Department of Biology, The University, P.O. Box 3049, D-6750 Kaiserslautern.

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