

Seeing Spindles

Animal cell division



Inoué's animal research focused on sea urchins

These drawings show Inoué's studies of the mitotic spindle during cell division. He used birefringence, so he mainly saw mitotic spindles and less of other cell elements. These drawings depart from classical drawings of cell division in several ways: First, the nucleus, chromosomes, and cell membranes are in grey to highlight the mitotic spindles. Second, centrioles and centromeres were not visible in Inoué's images, so they are not drawn. Third, the phases that were of particular importance for Inoué are drawn in more detail.

Plant cell division



Illustrations by
Lucie Laplane