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Echinoderm model systems, homology, and phylogenetic inference: Comment and reply to Paul (2021)

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Understanding the phylogenetic relationship among derivedblastozoans has been a goal of researchers since phylogeneticmethodologies were first applied to Paleozoic echinoderms.Paul (2021) proposed a new “pan-dichoporites”group to circumscribe early Paleozoic blastozoans. Unfortunately,this work includes many inaccuracies, non-reproducibleanalyses, and nonstandard method choices that confuserather than advance the understanding of echinodermpaleobiology. Herein, we focus on key aspects of philosophy,methodology, and data reproducibility the publication ofPaul (2021) raises that need to be addressed and consideredby echinoderm researchers as they assess the concept ofpan-dichoporite echinoderms.

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