

TABLE I. — Number of nuclei counted at different stages during early development of *Drosophila melanogaster* embryo.

	Stage	(2^{n-1})	Actual counts, whole egg (blastoderm from st.11 on)	Yolk nuclei	Pole cells
	1	1	1, all eggs		
	2	2	2, all eggs		
	3	4	4, all eggs		
	4	8	8, all eggs		
	5	16	16, all eggs		
	6	32	32, 32, 31, 31, 30		
	7	64	64, 64, 63, 61, 59		
	8	128	128, 126, 124, 122, 121		
	9	256	(256), 256, 251, 248, 238		
	10	512	502, 476, 471, 446, 438	114, 111, 103, 89	12, 15, 16, 18
Blas- toderm }	11	(750)	(718) 697	168, 168	19, 16
	12	(1500)	(1640, 1360)	124, 128	18
	13	(3000)	(3250, 3180)	150, 150	35, 24
	14	(6000)	(6350, 5740, 5600, 5540, 4650)	200, 195, 174, 160, 143	44, 41, 36, 22

From st.1 to st.8, nuclei can be counted accurately in *in toto* preparations of eggs. At st.9 and st.10, counts become difficult because of superposition of nuclei in optical axis. At st.11 to st.14, only estimates can be made by counting nuclei in a given area and multiplying this with the calculated total surface of the egg. Yolk nuclei can be counted approximately. Pole cell counts are not highly reliable, since it is often difficult to distinguish pole cell nuclei from blastodermal nuclei in preparations. Numbers obtained by estimation in brackets.