

Supplementary materials

S.1 Experimental Methods

S.1.1 Tissue Imaging

Live imaging of larvaceans. Four different larvacean species (*Bathochordaeus mcnutti*, *Bathochordaeus stygius*, *Fritillaria* sp., *Mesochordaeus erythrocephala*) were collected at water depths ranging from 55 m to 330 m in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary using acrylic detritus and suction samplers with remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) Ventana and Doc Ricketts as part of RVs Rachel Carson and Western Flyer cruises in May and October 2016, June 2018, and July 2021. Collected larvaceans were kept in seawater at 4°C for a maximum of 48 h before imaging analysis was conducted. For imaging, animals were placed in 10 cm petri dishes filled with seawater at 4°C that was regularly refreshed. The internal ciliated ducts were observed using phase contrast microscopy with 20x and 40x objectives. High-speed video microscopy was performed using either a Sony 4K Handycam FDR-AX700 or an SC1 camera (Edgertronic, CA, USA) mounted each with a custom optical adapter to the C-port or the eyepiece holder of the microscope. Ciliary beat frequency was measured from the videos using the kymograph plugin in ImageJ [1] which visualizes the number of beat cycles per second. Metachronal wave length and direction of propagation was derived from subsequent frames in high-speed video recordings as well as spacing and slope of the stripe pattern in kymographs. Flow was visualized by adding 1 to 10 μm sized glass microspheres (Dantec Dynamics, NY, USA) and 1 to 2 μm polymer microspheres (Cospheric, CA, USA) as tracer particles to the seawater. Fluid flow velocity magnitudes were measured from particle trajectories using the Trackmate plugin in ImageJ [2]. As the high density of cilia in the larvacean ciliated duct obscured the direct imaging of tracer particles, or prevented their passage, the fluid velocity magnitude within the duct was estimated from the flux in the funnel just outside the duct.

Immunofluorescence (IF) imaging of larvaceans. Animals were fixed in 4 percent paraformaldehyde in seawater for 24 h at 4°C, then washed 3x for 10-30 min in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and stored in PBS at 4°C until IF staining. For IF staining, the samples were incubated with primary monoclonal antibodies against α -acetylated tubulin (to stain cilia; T6793, Sigma-Aldrich, MI, USA) in PBS for 24 h at room temperature, followed by 24 h of incubation in anti-mouse secondary antibody (Invitrogen, CA, USA), phalloidin (to stain F-actin), and DAPI (to stain nuclei) in PBS at room temperature. For IF imaging, tissues were mounted in a custom-made glass-bottom petridish and imaged with a Zeiss LSM 710 laser scanning confocal microscope using a 40x or 63x objective.

IF imaging of *Euprymna scolopes* Animals were cultured and samples were prepared and imaged using IF staining, laser scanning confocal microscopy, and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) as described previously [3].

S.1.2 Image Analysis

Measurement of duct lumen diameter and cilia-to-lumen ratio. Duct lumen (DL) diameter H and cilia-to-lumen ratio h/H were determined from own imaging data (Fig. 1, Extended Data Fig. 1 and 4) and micrographs found in literature (Supplementary Table 1). Two different methods were used for quantitative image analysis, depending on cilia orientation (Extended Data Fig. 3A). In perpendicularly ciliated ducts, which are typically carpets (Extended Data Fig. 3B, left) and only rarely present as highly occluded ducts (Extended Data Fig. 3B, right), h/H was determined as the ciliary layer height h divided by DL diameter H . To quantify H , we identified images that showed the duct in its full width or cross-section and directly measured the diameter. To quantify h , we identified images that showed close-ups of the ciliated carpet in cross-sectional or 3D perspective and we measured cilia length. Given H and h , the cilia-

to-lumen ratio h/H is determined straightforwardly. Since perpendicularly ciliated ducts are assumed to line both “floor” and “ceiling” of the ciliated lumen, h corresponds to twice the cilia length.

In longitudinally ciliated ducts, which are typically flames (Extended Data Fig. 3C, right) and only rarely feature sparsely ciliated designs (Extended Data Fig. 3C, left), the cilia are aligned longitudinally to the DL, and hence cilia density across the channel determines the cilia-to-lumen ratio, rather than cilia length. Thus, h/H was determined from the summed cross-sectional area of all cilia divided by the total cross-sectional area of the DL. For this, cross-sectional images of the duct were identified and thresholded to generate a binary image with cilia cross-sections indicated by white pixels and “empty” lumen by black pixels. Then, h/H was computed by dividing the cilia cross-sectional area (white pixels) by the total cross-sectional area of the DL (black and white pixels) and taking the square root.

Animal phyla excluded from the analysis. As indicated in Supplementary Table 1, phyla were excluded if literature suggested (1) absence of ducts with motile cilia (*e.g.*, Arthropoda, Orthonectida, Placozoa, Tardigrada, Xenacoelomorpha), (2) absence of any motile cilia (*e.g.*, Nematoda, Nematomorpha), or (3) ciliated duct geometries that could not be accurately described with parameters h and H (*e.g.*, Porifera).

Classification using machine learning. We conducted machine learning using the Decision Tree function with cross-validation in the Classification Learning App in Matlab (Mathworks, MA, USA). Five morphometric parameters (duct diameter and length, cilia length and orientation, and cilia-to-lumen ratio) were used to predict bulk transport versus filtration/valve function, where known (Supplementary Table 1). Results are shown in Fig. 2A and S1A.

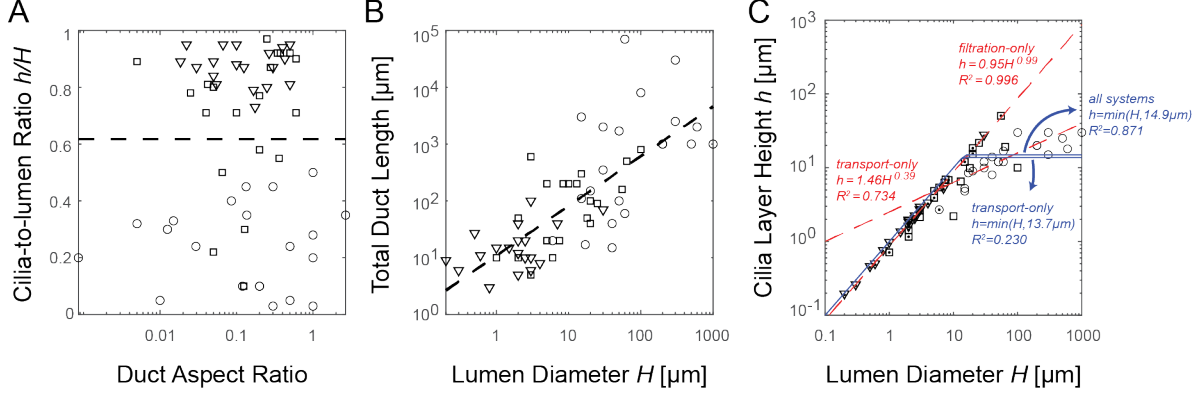


Figure S1: Relationship of other morphometric parameters. **A**, cilia-to-lumen ratio h/H versus the duct aspect ratio – lumen diameter H over total duct length with machine learning classification line overlaid. **B**, total duct length versus lumen diameter H in log-log scale with a power law fit overlaid. **C**, different least-squares fits of cilia layer height h as a function of lumen diameter H . The symbols follow that of Fig. 2: \circ for ciliated ducts with confirmed transport/mixing function, ∇ for filtration, and \square for unknown function.

Total duct length and duct aspect ratio. We visualize the relationship between cilia-to-lumen ratio h/H and lumen diameter H to the other recorded morphometric parameter total duct length. In Fig. S1A, we see that adding duct length information in the form of a dimensionless duct aspect ratio (total duct length over lumen diameter) does not reveal any additional relationship other than what is revealed by the classification using h/H alone discussed above. We believe this is because there is a simple, albeit noisy, correlation between duct length and lumen diameter, as shown by the power law fit line in Fig. S1B ($\log(L) = 0.87 \log(H) + 1.04$, $R^2 = 0.568$).

Least-square fitting of cilia layer height as a function of lumen diameter. We show in Fig. S1C different least squares fits for cilia layer height h as a function of lumen diameter H using all surveyed systems. If there exists a universal limit on how long cilia can grow, h should follow the functional form of $\min(h_{max}, H)$, since presumably cilia longer than lumen diameter will bend or buckle. Using all surveyed data together, this model gives a fit with $h_{max} = 14.9$ [μm] with $R^2 = 0.8709$. However, this high coefficient of determination is misleading: If we

only look at ducts with known bulk transport function, such a model can only produce a fit with $R^2 = 0.2303$ with $h_{max} = 13.7 [\mu\text{m}]$! However, using simple power-law fit commonly used for scaling-law analysis in biology, we can reach a fit of $R^2 = 0.7342$ with $h = 1.458H^{0.393}$ for bulk transport ducts and $R^2 = 0.9956$ with $h = 0.946H^{0.985}$ for ducts with known filtration functions (compared to $R^2 = 0.9804$ using $h = \min(27.0[\mu\text{m}], H)$). Therefore, we conclude that there exists a non-trivial relation that prompt cilia to growth to particular fraction of their ciliated ducts, and use our mathematical model to explore if there is a selection for pumping efficiency based on flow physics in addition to phylogenetic constraints. Trend lines discussed here are labeled in Fig. S1C.

S.2 Physics-based Modeling of Ciliary Ducts

We start by solving the Stokes' equation for u_z^l in the central free lumen

$$\frac{\mu}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r \frac{\partial u_z^l(r)}{\partial r} \right] = \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq r \leq a. \quad (1)$$

with finite velocity $u_z^l(0)$ at the center $r = 0$ and matching velocity at $r = a$,

$$u_z^l(a) = \varphi u_z^c(a), \quad (2)$$

where φ is the isotropic fluid fraction inside the porous layer. Here, we assumed that the downstream velocity of the solids (cilia motion averaged over beat cycles) inside the porous ciliary layer is zero at leading order, similar to the infinitesimal analysis of channel flow with passive porosity in [4]. This assumption is also consistent with the notion that f_c is the pressure gradient generated by the cycle-averaged ciliary forces pointing downstream in a confined pipe [5]. The analytical solution to Eq. (1) subject to the boundary condition in (2) is given by

$$u_z^l(r) = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \frac{1}{4\mu} (a^2 - r^2) + \varphi u_z^c(a), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq r \leq a. \quad (3)$$

The shear stress at the interface $r = a$ when approached from the free lumen side is given by

$$\sigma_{z,f}(a) = \mu \frac{\partial u_z^l}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=a} = \frac{a}{2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}. \quad (4)$$

By continuity $\sigma_{z,p}(a) = \varphi \sigma_{z,f}(a)$ of shear stress $\sigma_{z,p}$ and $\sigma_{z,f}$ at $r = a$ [4, 6], we get

$$\mu \frac{\partial u_z^c}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=a} = \varphi \frac{a}{2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}. \quad (5)$$

The Brinkman equation in the ciliary layer is given by

$$\frac{\mu}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r \frac{\partial u_z^c(r)}{\partial r} \right] = \varphi \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + K_c u_z^c(r) + f_c, \quad \text{for } a \leq r \leq R, \quad (6)$$

subject to (5) and the no-slip boundary condition at the duct wall $u_z^c(R) = 0$. The analytical solution of (6) is given by

$$u_z^c(r) = \left[2 \left(I_1(\hat{a}) K_0(\hat{R}) + K_1(\hat{a}) I_0(\hat{R}) \right) \right]^{-1} \left[2(\tilde{f} - \delta p) \left[I_1(\hat{a}) \left(K_0(\hat{R}) - K_0(\hat{r}) \right) + K_1(\hat{a}) \left(I_0(\hat{R}) - I_0(\hat{r}) \right) \right] - \hat{a} \delta p \left[I_0(\hat{R}) K_0(\hat{r}) - I_0(\hat{r}) K_0(\hat{R}) \right] \right], \quad \text{for } a \leq r \leq R, \quad (7)$$

where $(\hat{\cdot}) = \sqrt{\frac{K_c}{\mu}}(\cdot)$, $\delta p = \frac{\varphi}{K_c} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}$, $\tilde{f} = \frac{f_c}{K_c}$, and $I(\cdot)$, $K(\cdot)$ are modified Bessel functions of order (\cdot) .

Note that since Equation (7) is linear in δp and \tilde{f} , we only need to compute solution $U_c = u_z(\tilde{f} = 1, \delta p = 0)$ and $U_p = u_z(\tilde{f} = 0, \delta p = 1)$ and obtain $u_z(\tilde{f}, \delta p) = \tilde{f} U_c + \delta p U_p$.

It is interesting to note that for $\partial p / \partial z = 0$, u_z becomes independent of a as $R \rightarrow \infty$. In other words, at zero adverse pressure, the cilia driven flow speed becomes independent of h/H for large H . This trend dictates the existence of an optimal efficiency at small adverse pressure because the amount of active material increases with higher h/H .

S.3 Effective parameter selection

Setting lower limit of the cilia solid fraction φ_c in the ciliary carpet layer. We seek an estimate of the cilia solid fraction φ_c within the ciliary carpet layer. Since the cilium diameter and inter-cilium spacing are roughly equal (about $0.2 \mu\text{m}$), in a uniformly-covered ciliated tissue, the expected cilia density should be about $\varphi_c = 0.5^2 \equiv 25\%$. However, many ciliary carpets contain both ciliated and non-ciliated cells, such that the tissue-level coverage fraction of ciliated cells is much less than 100%. In mouse trachea, the ciliated cell coverage can be as low as 37% [7], and amphibian ciliated skin exhibits a 50% ciliated cell coverage [8]. Additionally, individual ciliated cells can have partial ciliation, such as in ependymal epithelia in mammalian brain ventricles where the ciliated area overall approaches only 32% of total surface [9, Fig. 3]. Thus, the overall cilia density, accounting for this heterogeneity in surface coverage is far less than 25%. For example, a tissue with 30%–50% coverage fraction, at 25% cilia density within the covered patches would have an overall cilia density of about 7.5%–12.5%. Thus, we used $\varphi_{c,min} = 10\%$ as a lower bound for our cilia solid fraction (see Fig. 3E of the main text). Together with the ansatz $\varphi_c = h/H$ for observed ciliary flame systems, we use a softplus function $0.1 \log(1 + \exp(10(h/H - \varphi_{c,min}))) + \varphi_{c,min}$ to represent φ_c for all values of h/H regardless of the ciliated duct type.

Setting dimensional scale of the active force density f . To calibrate the correct order of magnitude for f , we used measurements of pumping performance in the ciliary flames that connect the peritoneal cavity to the vasculature and filter lymphatic in the toad *Bufo marinus* and *Bufo bufo* [10, 11]. This filtration system consists of 600–800 ciliated flames. Flames exhibit circular and elliptical apertures between 7–40 μm in diameter [10]. Although openings as large as 100 μm were reported, many larger flames appeared to have flap covers that would reduce their “hydrodynamic” diameter [10, Fig.4]. No clear length was visible or reported in

[10], but similar ciliary flames have lengths of at least $30\ \mu\text{m}$ [11, Fig. 7c]. By measuring the pressure difference between the peritoneal and the blood compartment, the authors of [10] reported a maximum flow rate of $0.5 \pm 0.03\ \text{ml/hr}$, a flow rate of $0.17\ \text{ml/hr}$ at about $200\ \text{Pa}$, and a maximum pressure of $310 \pm 20\ \text{Pa}$ (see [10, Fig. 12]). A summary of these measurements is given in Table S2. As a side note, in our survey of ciliated organs in Fig. 2 of the main text, we used a specific *Bufo marinus* funnel of $H = 7\ \mu\text{m}$ and $h/H = 0.73$ shown in [10, Fig. 11] due to its clear visualization of cilia density. To calibrate our model and estimate the force density, we considered in the context of our model the specific example of a ciliated flame of average lumen diameter $15\ \mu\text{m}$ and length $100\ \mu\text{m}$. We used the measured cilia-to-lumen ratio of $h/H = 0.73$ and the parameter values $\kappa/\mu = 1\ \mu\text{m}^{-2}$ and $\mu = 10^{-3}\ \text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ corresponding to the viscosity of water. Our model predicted that this funnel matches the maximum pressure of about $300\ \text{Pa}$ observed in [10] if we set the active force density to $f = 15\ \text{pN}/\mu\text{m}^3$. This value is well within the mechanical capability of cilia averaged over a stroke cycle, given that the internal motors of a single respiratory cilium can generate about $60\ \text{pN}$ of force during its effective stroke at the tip, implying a force density of nearly $200\ \text{pN}/\mu\text{m}^3$ for a $200\ \text{nm}$ wide, $10\ \mu\text{m}$ long cilium [12]. To further verify the validity of the estimate of $f = 15\ \text{pN}/\mu\text{m}^3$ for flames of dimensions $100\ \mu\text{m} \times 15\ \mu\text{m}$ and $h/H = 0.73$, we calculated that a total of 800 such flames produce a flow rate of about $0.16\ \text{ml/hr}$ against $200\ \text{Pa}$ of pressure with a maximum attainable flow rate of about $0.46\ \text{ml/hr}$, which are very close to the experimentally reported flow rates. A comparison of experimental data and our model predictions are available in Table. S2. As noted in § S.2, because the final flow field solution depends linearly on the ratio f_c/K_c , any choice of force density scale f independent of h/H and H will not alter the optimality trends computed by our method. Therefore, it is also sensible to consider flow speed/rate derived using our model with other values of f , where the effective forward pressure gradient generated by cilia activity is known to be different, possibly due to changes in unmodeled, microscopic details of the cilia

Filter Type (organism)	Sustainable Pressure [kPa]	Total Filtration Rate [mL/hr]	Unit Size (L x Ø) [µm]	Unit Volume [µL]	Number of Units Required	Total Volume [µL]
Blood-pressure-based Filter (Human kidney glomeruli)	5–10	7500	N/A	0.006	1,000,000	6,000
Cilia-powered Filter (<i>B. marinus</i> peritoneal flame)	0.29–0.33	0.17 @ 200 Pa	unknown x 7–40	unknown	600–800	unknown
Cilia-powered Filter (simulated)	0.3	0.16 @ 200 Pa	100 x 15	0.00002	800	0.01
Larvacean Ciliated Funnel (<i>Bathochordaeus</i> sp.)	0.2	0.4 @ 100 Pa	160 x 55	0.0004	N/A	N/A
Cilia-powered “human kidney”	10	7500 @ 5 kPa	8000 x 55	0.02	20,000,000	400,000

Table S2: Pumping characteristics of observed and simulated filtration systems. We list the structural and functional parameters found in literature (black) and derived based on our model (blue). Data for human kidney glomeruli are approximated from [13, 14]. Data from the cilia powered peritoneal filtration in *Bufo marinus* are based on [10]. In all simulations, we used $f = 15 \text{ pN}/\mu\text{m}^3$, $\kappa/\mu = 1 \mu\text{m}^{-2}$, and $\mu = 10^{-3} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$.

coordination or beat waveforms.

Effect of changing the effective Brinkman coefficient $K_c = \kappa\varphi_c$. Since the Brinkman drag coefficient is fundamentally empirical for geometrically complex systems [15, 16], we assumed for simplicity that κ is of the same order as the fluid viscosity throughout the main text of our study. However, since $\sqrt{\mu/\kappa}$ can also be interpreted as an effective pore size for the porous layer [17], it is interesting to see how changing κ would affect the results of our optimization algorithm (Supplementary Algorithm S1). In Fig. S2, we show that increasing the relative value of κ/μ (decreasing the effective pore size) decreases the lumen diameters that maximize the pumping efficiency E . Importantly, all values of κ produce the same relationship between the value of adverse pressure gradient dp/dz and cilia-to-lumen ratio h/H , implying that different values of κ would only move the most efficient designs (solid white lines in Fig. 4B or solid black lines in Fig. 4C-D) laterally in the $(H, h/H)$ morphospace; see Fig. S2B. This effect adds another reason why some of the biological ciliated ducts deviates laterally from the most ef-

Algorithm S1 Evaluating performance of duct designs on the morphospace $(H, h/H)$ and identifying optimal duct designs that maximize efficiency E under adverse pressure.

Require: list of ciliated duct morphological parameters:

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     $(H, h/H)$  // morphospace formed by lumen diameters and cilia-to-lumen ratios
     $\mu, f, \varphi_c(H, h/H)$  // fix viscosity, active force scale and forms for cilia solid fraction.
1: for  $\kappa/\mu = 0.1, 1, 10$  do
2:   Pre-compute the following and store each as a matrix over the morphospace  $(H, h/H)$ :
       $U_c \equiv U_z(H, h/H)$  for  $f = 1, dp/dz = 0$  // flow velocity due to unit cilia activity
       $U_p \equiv U_z(H, h/H)$  for  $f = 0, dp/dz = 1$  // flow driven by unit adverse pressure
       $A_c \equiv \frac{1}{4}\pi\varphi_c H^2(1 - (1 - h/H)^2)$  // total ciliated area per cross section
3:   Compute maximum possible pressure and flow rate generation over  $(H, h/H)$ :
       $Q^* \equiv \frac{1}{4}\pi H^2 U_c$  // Maximum flow rate occurs when adverse pressure is absent.
       $dp/dz^* \equiv -f \cdot U_c/U_p$  // Maximum pressure is generated when net flow is zero.
4:   Initialize null relative efficiency score over the entire morphospace  $(H, h/H)$ :
       $E_{\text{rel}} \equiv \text{zeros}(H, h/H)$ 
5:   for  $dp/dz = 10^{-10}, \dots, 10^2 [\text{Pa}/\mu\text{m}]$  do
6:      $U = f \cdot U_c + dp/dz \cdot U_p$  // Compute average flow speed at given adverse pressure.
7:     if  $\max(U) < 0$  then
8:       break // Quit if no design parameters can pump at this  $dp/dz$ .
9:      $E = Q/A_c = \frac{1}{4}\pi H^2 U/A_c$  // Compute efficiency at given adverse pressure.
10:    Identify optimal designs at given  $dp/dz$ :
       $[E^\dagger, (H, h/H)^\dagger] = \mathbf{max}(E)$  // Find design parameters that maximize efficiency
       $E_{\text{rel}} = \mathbf{max}(E_{\text{rel}}, E/E^\dagger)$  // Accumulate relative efficiency score
      return  $(H, h/H)^\dagger$  // Return optimal design parameters as function of  $dp/dz$ .
return  $Q^*, dp/dz^*, E_{\text{rel}}$  // Return quantities as function of  $\kappa/\mu$ .

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efficient line obtained for the value $\kappa/\mu = 1[\mu\text{m}^{-2}]$ (Fig. S3A); they could be more efficient for a different value of effective pore size. Lastly, because predicted h/H remain invariant for all choices of κ , the log-log slope between the cilia layer height h and lumen diameter H for the most efficient systems is also invariant with respect to κ ; we show the computed result for $\kappa/\mu = 1[\mu\text{m}^{-2}]$ in Fig. S3B. Note that for most lumen diameter values, the predicted slope is comparable to the power law fits of $0.393 \approx 0.4$ shown in Figure 2 and 4 as red dashed lines.

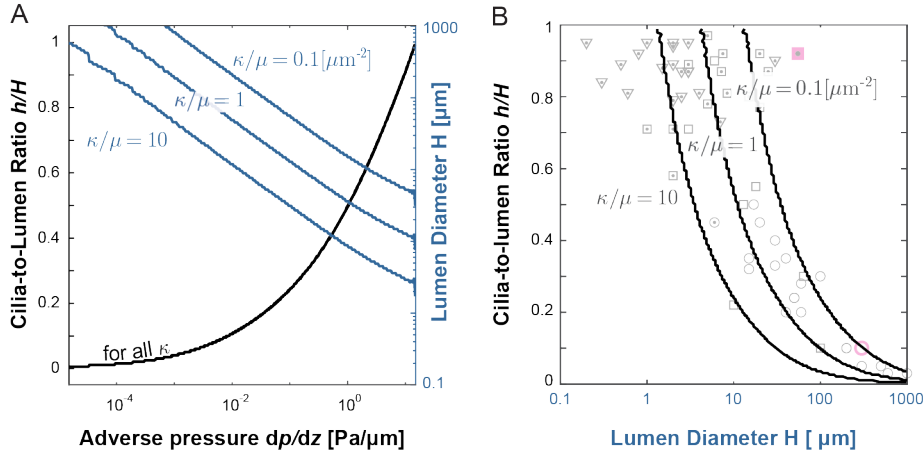


Figure S2: **Effect of Brinkman coefficient κ on morphology of most efficient designs.** **A.** Result of our optimization (Algorithm S1) for different values of κ while maintaining all other parameters fixed. The most efficient designs have smaller lumen diameter H at a higher hydraulic resistance coefficient κ/μ , but the optimal cilia-to-lumen ratio h/H do not change. **B.** In morphospace, the most efficient designs shift only horizontally for different values of κ . This provides an additional explanation for the lateral spread of the biological data points. Here $\mu = 10^{-3}$ [Pa·s] and $f = 15$ [pN/ μ m³].

S.4 Quantitative comparison of excretory organs

Flame cells serve as a basic filtration unit in many mm-scale organisms, but are markedly absent in larger organisms, (except during some stages of development) [18]. Filtration in larger organisms, the human kidney for example, leverages the blood pressure generated by a muscular heart. We propose that the lack of filtration by ciliary flames in larger animals might be (partly) due to the unfavorable scaling of pressure and flow generation in flame-based filtration compared to blood pressure-based filtration, as the following example illustrates. In humans, the filtration pressure provided by the capillary blood pressure is on the order of 5 – 10 kPa [13]. The average filtration rate of the kidney is ca. 180 liters of blood per day, which, considering nearly 1,000,000 filtration units (glomeruli) [14], indicates a filtration rate of 7.5 μ l/hr per glomerulus. Given an average glomerular volume of $6 \cdot 10^6$ μ m³, the total space taken up by the filtration units is ca. 6 ml [14]. The larvacean’s ciliated funnel, the largest ciliary pump

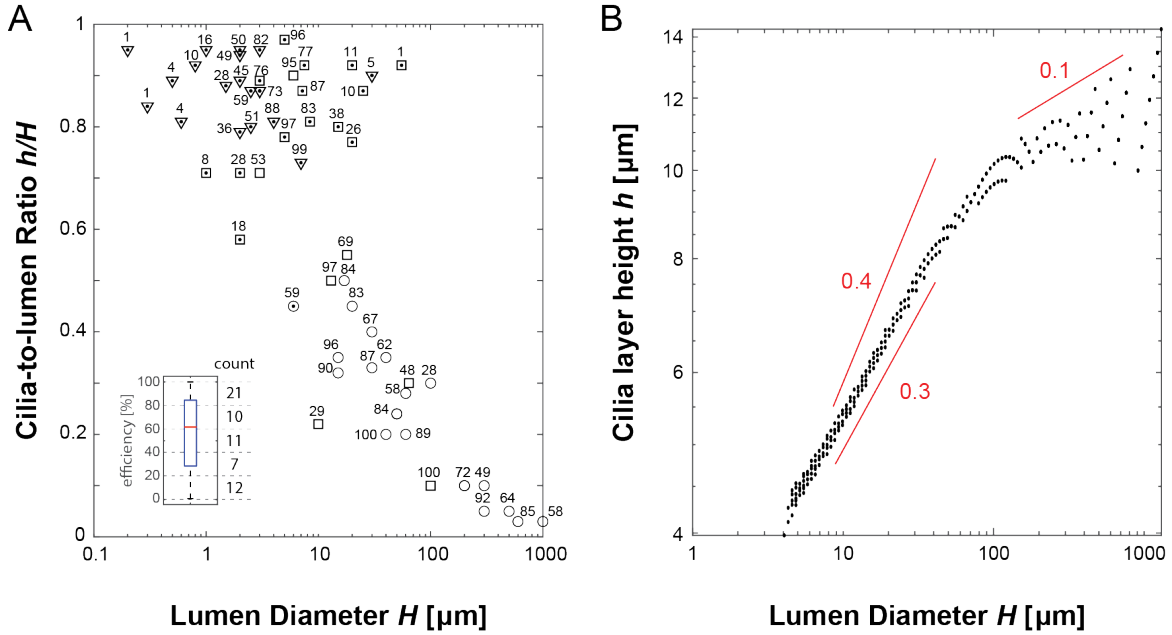


Figure S3: **Predicted efficiency assuming $\kappa/\mu = 1[\mu m^2]$.** **A.** We show the maximum relative efficiency produced by our optimization algorithm at the exact point of morphospace associated with each reported data points. Inset shows the box plot (median indicated in red, box marks the 25th to 75th percentile, and whisker shows the full range) and histogram bin count of the shown efficiency values. **B.** The log-log slope of the computed most efficient systems is between 0.3 and 0.4 for lumen diameter below 100 [μm], and drops to around 0.1 for larger lumen diameters. These slope is invariant with respect to the specific parameter choices. Here $\mu = 10^{-3}$ [Pa·s] and $f = 15$ [pN/μm³].

found in our survey, can efficiently pump 0.4 μl/hr of fluid against 0.6 Pa/μm of pressure gradient (Fig. 4A). This means that the parallel operation of ca. 20 such funnels, each with more than 8 mm in length, can produce comparable a flow rate ($20 \times 0.4 = 8$ μl/hr) at the minimum 5 kPa pressure drop observed across the glomerular filtration barrier. Assuming biologically feasible, such funnel would be able to sustain a maximum pressure at nearly 10 kPa without flow. Using the lumen diameter $H = 55$ μm as a lower bound, the resulting tissue volume that replaces a single glomerulus would measure 0.02 μl, which leads to about 0.4 liters if these funnels were to replace the operation of all 6 ml of glomerular volume in an entire kidney. This example demonstrates the unfavorable scaling of cilia-based filtration to larger body sizes and

their higher filtration rate demands.

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Supplementary Table 1

Index	Phylum	Clade	Common Name	Sub-Group(s)	Species	Cilia Type: Internal motile cilia IC, External motile cilia EC, Flagellated Sperm S	Organ	Function	References consulted	H [μm]	h*2πH ² (where applicable)	h/H	References consulted	Cilia length [μm]	References consulted	Duct length [μm]	References consulted	Initial Packed Density (0-1)	Additional comments
1	Annelida	Trochozoa	Ringed or Segmented	Polychaete worm	<i>Aelosoma benedicti</i>	IC	Proximal nephridial duct	Presumed excretion/ultrafiltration	Burke 1994	1	0.5	0.71	Burke 1994, Fig.4	NA		10	estimate of lower limit (10x of diameter) since Burke 1984 calls the duct "long without crosswells"		
2	Annelida	Trochozoa	Ringed or Segmented	Polychaete worm	<i>Nereis virens</i>	IC	Ciliated funnel parallel to protonephridia	Potential uptake of gametes from coelom	Bartolomeus 1998	20	0.84	0.92	Bartolomeus 1998, Fig.6B	15	Bartolomeus 1998, Fig.7B and Fig.1E (schematic)	40		0.84	
3	Annelida	Trochozoa	Ringed or Segmented	Polychaete worm	<i>Nereis virens</i>	IC	Duct of protonephridia in adults	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Bartolomeus 1998	2	0.8	0.89	Bartolomeus 1998, Fig.4G	20	Bartolomeus 1998, Fig.1E (schematic)	40		0.8	
4	Annelida	Trochozoa	Ringed or Segmented	Polychaete worm	<i>Nereis virens</i>	IC	Foregut	Transport of food particles and mucus	Purschke & Tzeftzi 1992	20	0.2	0.45	Purschke & Tzeftzi 1992, Fig.4A	10	Purschke & Tzeftzi 1992, Fig.4A	150		0.5	
5	Annelida	Trochozoa	Ringed or Segmented	Polychaete worm	<i>Thalassoma thalassum</i>	IC	Terminal cell of larvae (head kidney)	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration/absorption	Kato 2011	1.5	0.78	0.88	Kato 2011, Fig. 3C text	15	Kato 2011, Fig. 3C text	15		0.78	
6	Brachiopoda	Trochozoa	Lampshells	Lingula animal	IC	Ciliated internal epithelium of the mantle	Transport of particles and mucus	Westbrook 1988, Westbrook 1989, Fig.3, also cited in Gruhl 2009	500	0.05	0.05	Westbrook 1988, Plate 1A; Forchell 2012	13	Westbrook 1988 Text, Plate 1A; Forchell 2012	1000		0.5	estimated from Gendel 2018	
7	Bryozoa	Spiralia		Phylactolaemata	IC	Ciliated trunk coelom	Presumably nutrient transport (since lack of blood vessels)	Gruhl 2009	10	0.05	0.22	Gruhl 2009, Fig. 4F	3	Gruhl 2009, Fig. 3B	200		0.5	estimated entire length of animal, see Gruhl 2009, Fig.1A	
8	Bryozoa	Spiralia		Phylactolaemata	IC	Forked canal with a sort of flame cell	Has been suggested to serve for filtering since no excretory organs are known in Bryozoa	Gruhl 2009	5	0.95	0.97	Gruhl 2009, Fig. 2B, 4C,D	10	Gruhl 2009, Fig. 4C,D	20		0.95	estimated forked canal length; Gruhl 2009 2A	
9	Cephalochordata	Chordata		Lancelets	<i>Branchiostoma virginiae</i> , <i>Branchiostoma lanceolatum</i>	IC	Hatschek's nephridium - filtration cells (cyclopoidocytes)	Aiding ultrafiltration of the filtering has been proposed (there is ultrafiltration via diaphragms and blood pressure as well) but the cellular structure suggests otherwise - maybe pumping plus absorption (flagellum is surrounded by microvilli)	Ruppert 1996	2	0.34	0.58	Ruppert 1996, Fig. 7	10	Brandenburg 1961, Fig. 25	10		0.34	
10	Cephalochordata	Chordata		Lancelets	<i>Branchiostoma virginiae</i>	IC	Intestine and colon	Transport of food particles and mucus		200		0.10	Bluw 1974, Fig.3A (based on cilia length = 10μm Kurata 2009, Fig.1A; Perez 2000, Fig.3 and Perez 2001 Fig.2F	10	Bluw 1974, Fig.3A ; Kurata 2009, Fig.1A	1000		0.5	estimated from He 2018
11	Chaetognaths	Chaetognaths	Arrow worms	Spadella cephalopores	IC	Intestine	Transport of particles and mucus	Perez 2000	15	0.1	0.32		NA		3000		0.5	estimated from Perez 2001, Fig. 2B	
12	Cnidaria	Cnidaria		Ocyropsids	<i>Acrostylos ambloinensis</i>	IC	Gastrovascular cavity / gut: Polyps are long and tubular and are interconnected by horizontal tubules or stolons which form transverse diaphragms	Transport/mixing, possibly of cells	Hamata 2013, Fig. 6	600		0.03	Hamata 2013, Fig. 7	10	Hamata 2013, Fig.4E	2000		0.5	at least; estimated from Hamata 2013, Fig. 3
13	Cranialia	Chordata		Amphibian-Cephalian	<i>Geotrypetes seraphini</i>	IC	Neck segment of mesonephros	Presumed: excretion/ultrafiltration	Meiberg 2004, Fig. 5, 8	15	0.64	0.80	Meiberg 2004, Fig. 8A	20.00	Estimated from Meiberg 2004, Fig. 8A	300		0.64	
14	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (human)	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	IC	Small airways (Specifically, the epithelial ducts)	Transports mucus to the respiratory tree (Mucociliary clearance)	Bustamante-Marin 2017	50.00		0.24	Flores-Delgado 2015, Fig.1 and 2	6.00	Flores-Delgado 2015, Fig.1	1700		0.5	Weibel 1963
15	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (human)	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	IC	Fallopian Tube	Transport of oocytes	Raidt 2015	60.00		0.20	Raidt 2015, Fig. 4 (cilia length); Patek 1974, Varga 2018, Fig. 2 D, (directional)	6.00	Raidt 2015, Fig. 4	7000		0.5	7-11cm; Han 2020
16	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (human)	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	IC	Tubule of bronchial submucosal gland	Transport mucus	Meyrick 1969	30		0.40	Meyrick 1969, text and table (cilia length / diameter)	6	Meyrick 1969	350		0.5	Meyrick 1969, text and table
17	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (human)	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	IC	Brain ventricle cilia (ependymal cells)	Transport / mixing		1000		0.03	Zhuravlova 2018, Worthington 1963	13	Jimenez 2014; Dempsey 1976	1000		0.5	Zhuravlova 2018
18	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (human)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	IC	Brain ventricle cilia (ependymal cilia)	Transport of cerebrospinal fluid and possibly astrocytes	Faubel 2016	####		0.10	Xiong 2014, Fig. 1A	10.00	Xiong 2014, Fig.2B	1000		0.5	Xiong 2014, Fig.1A
19	Cranialia	Chordata		Mammals (mouse)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	IC	Efferent ductules (male reproductive ducts)	Transport of sperm cells; stirring	Lee 2020; Hess 2015	####		0.30	average from Lambert 2009 and Yiu 2019, Movie S3, Fig. 1	17.00	Yuan 2019, Fig.4A and text	8000		0.5	Lambert 2009
20	Cranialia	Chordata		Amphibians (Toad)	<i>Rhinella marina</i> (Bull. marina)	IC	Kidney, peritoneal funnels (connects coelom to nephros)	Blood volume/osmoregulator regulator: Filters particles and pumps protein-rich peritoneal fluid back into the kidney blood vasculature	Morris 1981	7.00	0.73	0.85	Morris 1981, Fig. 11	10.00	estimated from Morris 1981 Fig. 10	40		0.73	Pressure generated in peritoneal funnels, 300 Pascals (Morris 1981)
21	Cranialia	Chordata		Amphibians (Toad)	<i>Bufo bufo</i> / <i>viridis</i>	IC	Kidney, neck segment of the mesonephros	Presumed: excretion/ultrafiltration	Meiberg 1997, 2001	25.00		0.76	Meiberg 1997, Fig.7C	10.00	Meiberg 1997, Fig. 7C	90		0.76	
22	Cranialia	Chordata		Amphibians (Toad)	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	IC	Uterus folds	Presumably transport of mucus	Sharaf 2013	30.00		0.33	Sharaf 2013, Fig. 4D	5.00	Sharaf 2013, Fig. 4D	2000		0.5	at least; Sharaf 2013, Fig. 4C
23	Cranialia	Chordata		Reptile (Lizard)	<i>Podarcis</i> sp.	IC	Urinary bladder stalk	Unknown - possibly transport of highly viscous or uncoordinated urine, out of bladder stalk (Bolton & Beuchat 2011)	Bolton & Beuchat 1991	64.00		0.30	Rheubert 2014, Fig. 6.3 (duct diameter); Bolton & Beuchat 1991, Fig. 1 (cilia)	10.00	estimated from Bolton & Beuchat 1991, Fig. 1	500		0.5	Rheubert 2014, Fig.6.3
24	Cranialia	Chordata		Osteichthyes (Bony Fish)	<i>Danio rerio</i> (Zebrafish)	IC	Pronephros proximal tubule of metanephros	Unknown- Presumed: ultrafiltration	Zhang 2012, Ot 2016, Delaval 2011	3	0.8	0.89	Ot 2016, Fig. 3A-D; Lee 2015, Fig. 4G	9	Kramer-Zucker 2005 Fig.19 and Table	600		0.8	Vasilev 2012, Fig.1G and text
25	Cranialia	Chordata		Osteichthyes (Bony Fish)	<i>Danio rerio</i> (Zebrafish)	IC	Olfactory pit cilia	Generating flow to nose for chemical sensing	Reiten 2017	60		0.28	Reiten 2017, Fig. 1A	9	Reiten 2017, text	60		0.5	circulate; Reiten 2017, Fig.1A
26	Ctenophora	Ctenophora	Comb jellies		<i>Beroë abyssinica</i>	IC	Endodermis (gastrovascular) canal	Absorption and transport of food	Presnell 2016, Norekian 2019, Tamm 2014, Germ 2016	300		0.05	Presnell 2016, Movie S4	8	Cilia length ~6-10μm, Presnell 2016, Movie S4	3000		0.5	estimate from Presnell2016 Fig.1
27	Cycliophora	Spiralia			<i>Symbion pandora</i>	IC	Intestine	Probably absorption and transport	Neves 2009	2	0.5	0.71	Neves 2009, Fig. 5, 4D	NA		50		0.5	extremely crude estimate from Neves 2009 Fig.4A
28	Dicymida	Spiralia	Rhombzoa		<i>Dicyma aculecephalum</i>	IC	Um Cavity in Larvae	Unknown. Hypothesis: Pump fluid to exchange with outside? Furuya 1997	Bresciani 1967, Matsubara 1976	3	0.5	0.71	Furuya 1997, Fig. 10	2	estimated from Matsubara 1976 Fig.8E, text; Bresciani 1967 Fig.1 & Fig.4	5		0.5	estimated from drawings in Furuya 1999
29	Echinodermata	Ambulacraria	Echinoderms	Sea Urchin/Sea Star (Echinoid)	<i>Hemicentrotus pulcherrimus</i> , <i>Strongylocentrotus pallidus</i>	IC	Pore canals	Hypothesis: In relaxed state, pumping of fluid inwards, transport of particles outside (bi-directional transport)	Tamori 1996, Margulies 1990, 1991, 1996	13.00	0.25	0.50	Tamori 1996; Fig. 7a and text	12	Tamori 1996, Fig. 8	200		0.5	Tamori 1996, Fig.5
30	Echinodermata	Ambulacraria	Echinoderms	Sea Urchin	<i>Hemicentrotus pulcherrimus</i>	IC	Pore canals	Hypothesis: in contracted state, maintain hydrostatic pressure for tube test; ultrafiltration	Tamori 1996	8.40	0.65	0.81	Tamori 1996	12	Tamori 1996, Fig. 8	200		0.65	Tamori 1996, Fig.5
31	Enterozoa	Spiralia	Goblet worms		<i>Loxostomopsis</i>	IC	Exostoma	Presumably transport	Schwaha 2010	15		0.35	Schwaha 2010, Fig.4c	3.3	Schwaha 2010, Fig. 4c	110		0.5	Schwaha 2010, Fig.1c
32	Enterozoa	Spiralia	Goblet worms		<i>Loxostomopsis</i> , <i>Umatella gracilis</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Schwaha 2010; Kuemmel 1982	2.5	0.75	0.87	Schwaha 2010, Fig. 3e and f (H); Kuemmel 1982, Fig.10, (b, c)	20	Schwaha 2010, Fig. 3e and f	20		0.75	length of filtration zone (estimated from diameter/length ratio in Kuemmel Fig.8)
33	Gastrotrocha	Spiralia	Hairyback		<i>Chaetostoma maximus</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Kienke 2008; Fontaneto 2015	0.5	0.8	0.89	Kienke 2008, Fontaneto 2015 Fig.1.30 B	27	Kienke 2008, text and Fig.9b	27		0.8	No evidence of cilia style ducts except potentially in pharynx of Dendrodoxys pharyngalis but no imaging data is available (Kienke 2018)
34	Gnathostomulida	Gnathifera	Jaw worms		<i>Gnathostomula paradoxa</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Blood volume/osmoregulator regulator: Filters particles and pumps protein-rich peritoneal fluid back into the kidney blood vasculature	Lammert 1985	0.6	0.65	0.81	Lammert 1985, Fig. 2C	11	Lammert 1985, text	11		0.65	No evidence of perinephridial ciliated ducts in this phylum
35	Hemichordata	Ambulacraria	Acorn worm		<i>Meiodoniscus psammophilus</i>	IC	Mid gut	Transport of food	Worsaae 2012	50		0.24	Worsaae 2012, Fig. 5A, Movie S2	6	Worsaae 2012, Fig. 5A; Movie S2	100		0.5	No evidence of longitudinally ciliated ducts in this phylum except potentially the ciliated canal and hyaline in the larvae but imaging data of cilia are not available (Ruppert 1996)
36	Kinorhyncha	Scalidophora	Mud dragons		<i>Pycnophyes kielensis</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Neuhau 1988	2	0.9	0.95	Neuhau 1988, Fig.4C, 5C	20	Neuhau 1988, estimated from Fig.1A	20		0.9	No evidence of perinephridial ciliated ducts in this phylum
37	Loricifera	Scalidophora	Brush heads		<i>Amoritoricus elegans</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Neuhau 2007	0.2		0.95	(1 cilium) Neuhau 2007, Fig. 4B	9	Neuhau 2007, Fig. 3A and text	9		0	No evidence of perinephridial ciliated ducts in this phylum
38	Micrognathozoa	Gnathifera			<i>Limnognathia maerski</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Kristensen 2000	0.3	0.7	0.84	Kristensen 2000, Fig.30 & 31 (average of 4 Terminal cells)	6	Kristensen 2000, Fig. 30	6		0.7	No evidence of perinephridial ciliated ducts in this phylum
39	Mollusca	Trochozoa	Mollusks		<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	IC	Lateral Gill Cilia	Fluid pumping for filter feeding (particles of 4um or more)	Riisgaard 1996, 2015	40		0.36	Riisgaard 2015, Fig.4c; Riisgaard 1996 Fig.2	15	Riisgaard 2015, text	15		0.5	width of ridge; Riisgaard 2015, text
40	Mollusca	Trochozoa	Mollusks		<i>Babaii squid</i>	IC	Proximal ciliated duct that leads to mantle in left corner	Potentially interaction with symbionts	Essock-Burns 2020	18		0.55	Essock-Burns 2020	5	Essock-Burns 2020	50		0.5	Essock-Burns 2020 Fig. 2A
41	Mollusca	Trochozoa	Mollusks		<i>Babaii squid</i>	IC	Boilerneck of ciliated duct that leads to mantle in left corner	Potentially interaction with symbionts	Essock-Burns 2020	6		0.90	Essock-Burns 2020	3	Essock-Burns 2020	10		0.5	Essock-Burns 2020 Fig. 3A/B
42	Mollusca	Trochozoa	Mollusks		<i>Chiton</i>	IC	Ciliary flame of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Baumeier 2011	4	0.65	0.81	Baumeier 2011, Fig.6D	8	Baumeier 2011, Fig.6D	8		0.65	Baumeier 2011, Fig.6D
43	Mollusca	Trochozoa	Mollusks		<i>Leiodontoloma cornuata</i>	IC	Reneckerian duct of metanephridia	Unknown	Baumeier 2012	6	0.61	0.78	Baumeier 2012, Fig.9C	NA		200		0.61	
44	Nemertea	Trochozoa	Ribbon worms		<i>Lineus viridis</i> , <i>Carinoma muriei</i>	IC	Terminal cells of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Bartolomeus 1985, 2014	1	0.9	0.95	Bartolomeus 1985, Fig. 30; Bartolomeus 2014, Fig.2B	15	Bartolomeus 2014 text	15		0.9	No evidence of cilia style ducts
45	Oryzophora	Panarthropoda	Velvet worms		<i>Oligopeltus decoratus</i> , <i>Eurozetes exilis</i>	IC	Oviduct	Probably oocyte and embryo transport	Brodmann 2001, Curach 1999	100		0.10	estimated from Curach 1999, Fig. 1	NA		800		0.5	Brodmann 2001, text
46	Oryzophora	Panarthropoda	Velvet worms		<i>Phoronis muelleri</i> (larvae)	IC	Nephrostome of metanephridium	Probably absorption and transport	Storch 1978, Mayer 2006	20	0.6	0.77	Storch 1978, Fig.4; Mayer 2006, Fig.18	NA		100		0.6	Mayer 2009, Fig.10B
47	Phoronida	Trochozoa	Horseshoe worm		<i>Phoronis muelleri</i> (larvae)	IC	Protonephridial duct	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Bartolomeus 1989	3	0.75	0.87	Bartolomeus 1989, Fig.1B and 2	10	Bartolomeus 1989, Fig.1B and 2; Hay-Schmidt 1987 Fig.18	100		0.5	Hay-Schmidt 1987 text
48	Phoronida	Trochozoa	Horseshoe worm		<i>Actinotrocha vancouverensis</i> (larvae)	IC	Midgut	Food transport	Temereva 2010	40		0.20	Temereva 2010, Fig. 2	4	Temereva 2010, Fig. 2	40		0.75	
49	Platyhelminthes	Spiralia	Flatworm		<i>Anticostipha</i> sp.	IC	Terminal cephalopod ductule of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Rohde 1992, McKenna 1968	2.00	0.88	0.94	Rohde 1992, Fig.13 &14; McKenna 1968, Fig. 2	5	McKenna 1968, Fig.1 and text	5		0.88	No evidence of cilia style ducts
50	Platyhelminthes	Spiralia	Flatworm		<i>Anticostipha</i> sp.	IC	Distal collecting duct of protonephridia	Transport	Rohde 1992, McKenna 1968	6.00	0.2	0.45	Rohde 1992, Fig.14B1; McKenna 1968, Fig.5 and 19	5	McKenna 1968, Fig.1 and text	20		0.2	McKenna Fig.1
51	Platyhelminthes	Spiralia	Flatworm		<i>Schmidtea mediterranea</i>	IC	Terminal cell of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Vu 2015	3.00	0.75	0.87	Vu 2015, Fig.4D and Fig.1B	10	Rink 2011, Fig.1D & 2D	10		0.75	Rink 2011, Fig.1D & 2D
52	Platyhelminthes	Spiralia	Flatworm		<i>Taenia solium</i>	IC	Terminal cell of protonephridia	Excretion/ Ultrafiltration	Valverde-Isla 2011	3.00	0.8	0.95	Valverde-Isla 2011, Fig.20 & 5C	4.00	Valverde-Isla 2011, Fig.20	8		0.9	Valverde-Isla 2011, Fig.20
53	Priapulida	Scalidophora	Penis worms		<i>Mecynoprius flemingii</i>	IC	Protonephridia with multiple terminal cells	Ultrafiltration for osmolar balance	Storch 1989	2.5	0.64	0.80	Storch 1989, Fig. 26-17	10	estimated from Storch 1989, Fig. 31	10		0.64	No evidence of perinephridial ciliated ducts in this phylum
54	Rotifera	Gnathifera	Wheel animals		<i>Habrotrocha rosea</i>	IC	Terminal cell of protonephridia	Ultrafiltration for osmolar balance	Schramm 1978	0.8	0.85	0.92	Schramm 1978, Fig.2d	3	Schramm 1978, Fig.2a and text	3		0.85	
55	Rotifera	Gnathifera	Wheel animals		<i>Asplanchna</i>	IC	Terminal cell of protonephridia	Ultrafiltration for osmolar balance	Warner 1969	2	0.62	0.79	Warner 1969, Fig.6 and 9	12	Warner 1969, text	12		0.62	
56	Rotifera	Gnathifera	Wheel animals		<i>Brachionus calyciflorus</i>	IC	Stomach	Excretion, Absorption	Yu 1973, Ma 2022	17		0.50	Ma 2022, Fig.2a	5	Ma 2022, Fig.2a	17		0.5	Ma 2022, Fig.2a
57	Unchordata	Chordata		Larvacean (tunicates)	<i>Bathochordaeus stylus</i>	IC	Esophagus	Transport of food particles	Data in this manuscript	300		0.10	Data in this manuscript	15	Data in this manuscript	2500		0.5	Data in this manuscript
58	Unchordata	Chordata</																	

[illegible]

Reference list for survey of analyzed ciliated ducts (in alphabetic order)

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