Microscopic Study of Nervous Tissue

Experiment 8 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To recognise nervous tissue in prepared histological sections.

Principle

Tissue identification links cell form and tissue arrangement to function. Neurons have a cell body and processes; glial cells support neuronal structure and activity.

Requirements

- Authenticated prepared slides
- Compound microscope and labelled drawing sheet

Procedure

1. Survey

Focus at low power and identify a representative intact region.

2. Examine

Locate neuron cell bodies, nuclei and visible processes in a prepared section; distinguish smaller glial nuclei where possible.

3. Compare

Compare the assigned section with another tissue type and note the differences.

4. Draw

Draw a representative field and label: Neuron soma, nucleus, visible processes and surrounding glial nuclei.

5. Interpret

Relate the observed structure to reception, processing and transmission of information.

Observations and Record

Feature	Observation
Slide / stain / magnification	_____
Cell shape / nuclei	_____
Tissue arrangement / matrix	_____
Diagnostic feature	_____
Structure-function link	_____

Result

The section was recognised as _____ because _____. Magnification: _____.

Precautions

- Start at low power before using higher magnification.
- Do not confuse folds, tears or stain deposits with cell structures.
- Record what is visible rather than copying an atlas drawing as an observation.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. What is the main identifying pattern?

Neurons have a cell body and processes; glial cells support neuronal structure and activity.

2. How does structure relate to function?

Reception, processing and transmission of information.

3. Why compare slides?

Comparison reveals which features distinguish one tissue from another.

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