

# Appendix D

## Supplementary Evidence Concerning the Male Clitoris

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The concept of a male clitoris is sure to be surprising to many readers. Therefore, as an elucidative aid, this appendix is devoted to Josephine Lowndes Sevely's explanations on the topic from her book, *Eve's Secrets* (excerpted from pages 16-22). Keep in mind that her book, subtitled, *A New Theory of Female Sexuality*, was concerned almost exclusively with female sexual anatomy. Her discovery of the male clitoris came about as a result of her seven-year Harvard-approved investigation into the similarities of the female and male genitalia. Sevely's text begins below:

### The Lowndes Crowns Theory

[Italian anatomist Gabriel] Fallopio [1523-1562] is credited with the first fully detailed description of the clitoris. He was the first to dissect its deeper internal structure—a part of the female anatomy unknown to scientists before him. In the process of making this important discovery, however, he made the error of assuming, and providing a basis for others to assume, that the clitoris was a miniature penis. The curious historical fact is that this belief came about not through valid scientific research, but as a result of an ingrained male perspective that viewed the female as inferior [the penis being so big, and the female clitoris so small] and an unquestioning acceptance of incorrect translations.

Even more curious is the fact that the erroneous nature of the penis/clitoris idea could have gone undetected for so many centuries. As I propose to show, an argument can be made on the basis of a reevaluation of existing anatomical facts to convincingly demonstrate that the old inadequate notion should be replaced by a new, much more plausible concept.

The new theory advanced here proposes that the clitoral tip and the penile glans are *not* counterparts of each other; the true counterparts are the female tip and the tip of a male structure *inside* the penis. The male structure is the part that

fills with blood and brings about erection, a capsule-like part called the corpora cavernosa, meaning literally “cavernous bodies.” It can now be stated with some certainty that the true counterpart of the female clitoris is not the penis but rather this internal part of the penis that can only be called—and that I now identify as—the male clitoris. The tips of the male and female clitorises are the Lowndes crowns, named by the author who identified the correct homology, in the tradition of anatomical parts being named by the person who makes the discovery.

Many people may be surprised to learn that the female clitoris has deeper structures under the skin. These deeper structures are the organ’s two leglike parts that run along the lower part of the pubic bones at either side of the lower vagina between the inner thighs. Simple names exist for all the parts of the clitoris: they are the crown (the tip); the corpus (the body); and the crura (the legs). The crown is the part most familiar to us; indeed, along with its covering fold, it is usually thought of as the clitoris, as if it represented all of it. If the covering fold is drawn back, the crown is easily visible—a highly sensitive tip of flesh about the size of a small pea.

The corpus (or body), on the other hand, is not visible, but it can be felt with the fingertips just under the surface of the skin. It is usually about a quarter of an inch in diameter and somewhere less than an inch in length.

The crura (or legs), since they are internal structures, are not visible either; nor can they be easily felt. The two crura taper; in thickness, each one is somewhat less than the width of a little finger....The shape in nature that most closely resembles it is the seed of a maple tree.

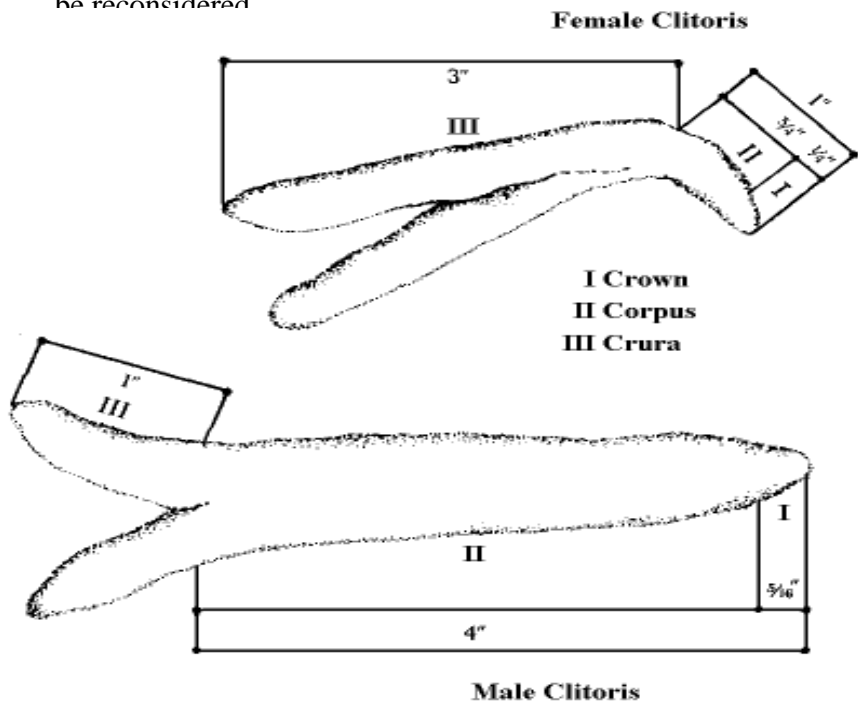


The idea of a male clitoris is startling to most people. Understandably, the visible parts of the male sexual organs are much more familiar than those inside the penis. For instance, just about everyone knows about the shaft of the penis, the foreskin, the glans, and the urethral opening through which both sexual fluids and urine are passed; but perhaps less well known is the

body of tissue that surrounds the male urethra, called the spongiosum. And although everyone knows that the penis gets erect because it fills with blood, up to now very few have known about the part into which the blood flows, which is the male clitoris.

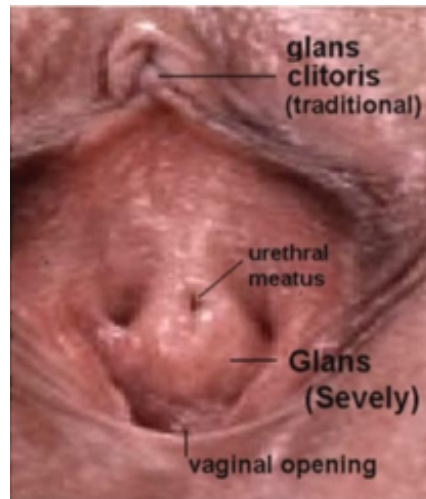
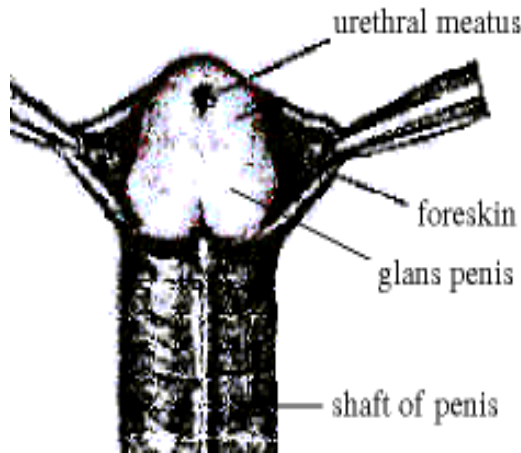
The following illustrations of life-size [reduced for this publication] schematic models of the male and female clitoris make it clear that the male and female organs are very much alike; like the female, the male clitoris contains two crura, a corpus, and a crown (see Figure below).

The two organs are also fairly close in size. A careful measure of the [specimens'] overall length shows five inches for the male and four inches for the female, making a 5:4 ratio. Since on the average men weigh approximately 160 pounds and women 128, one would expect such a difference to be reflected in the sizes of the parts that make up these weights, and the 5:4 ratio is exactly in line. On reflection, therefore, the traditional premise that the sexual parts of men and women are vastly different in size must be reconsidered.



The female clitoris has a *short* body that splits in two to form the long, separated legs, while the male clitoris has a *long* body that splits into two to form only very short, separated legs. But this difference is one of organization, not of substance. The female and male clitorises are composed of basically the same erectile substance.

...If the tip of the female clitoris is not the counterpart of the penile glans, is there another female part that *is*? There is indeed, and the part can be easily located and observed. If the inner folds (the labia minora) are spread apart, the opening of the urethra [urethral meatus] becomes clearly visible...The [urethral] meatus is surrounded by a relatively prominent area shaped like an acorn.... [This] area... has heretofore been left unnamed. This acorn-shaped prominence is the woman's glans.



(These two figures were not in *Eve's Secrets*' presentation.)

Close-up photo of female vulva showing location of true female glans per Sevely.

[*Author's Comment:* The above drawing of the penis and close-up photo of the female genitalia illustrate that the male and female glans have a similar appearance and that both are perforated by, and surround, the urethral meatus. Since the urethral meatus of both genitalia are obvious homologues, it seems logical that the tissue housing them are also homologous. If the female glans (pictured above) is the true homologue to the male glans, then the female clitoris is not the homologue to the male glans, as traditionally believed. Thus, Sevely's Lowndes crown theory deserves serious consideration and in all probability will be later affirmed as true.]