

An Egg in Another Egg?

written by Hazrul | 07/06/2023



Have you ever found an egg within another egg like this?

Recently, I discovered a little white egg nestled inside an ordinary-sized egg. It consisted of a

thick, translucent gel-like fluid contained within a soft double membrane. There was no sign of yolk, but a close examination revealed an embryonic structure within the content.



This phenomenon is called [counter-peristaltic contraction](#). Under normal circumstances, a hen releases an oocyte into the oviduct every 18-26 hours. The oocyte travels down the oviduct and takes up to 25 hours to gradually form into an egg.

Once the egg is laid, a subsequent oocyte is released. However, sometimes a second [oocyte](#) is released by the [ovary](#) before the first egg has completed its journey through the [oviduct](#). The release of a second oocyte causes a contraction that forces the first oocyte back up to the top of the oviduct. This oocyte then attaches to the newly released oocyte and travels back down the oviduct, where [albumen](#) and a shell deposit over both oocytes, forming a hard-shelled egg. The first oocyte remains in the egg as a partially developed egg.

This egg-in-an-egg phenomenon is not wildly uncommon, but it generally involves two fully formed eggs- making this sight quite a rare one!

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