B. Embryonic Day 9: the neural plate and optic stalk

By e9, the neural plate has differentiated, the optic stalks have begun to evaginate, and the rostral end of the embryo has begun to bend ‘ventrally’, forming the head fold (compare the left side of the embryo in the schematic drawing on the next page with the schematic drawings for e8 on the preceding page). In other words, the U-shaped longitudinal axis characteristic of the egg cylinder stage (e8) is converted to an S-shaped longitudinal axis on e9. Histological sections through the e9 rat embryo are thus unusually difficult to interpret (and to prepare). As a guide, we have included a schematic drawing with aligned midsagittal and dorsal views, along with two photomicrographs/drawings of longitudinal (sagittal) sections through e9 embryos of slightly different ages, and three photomicrographs/drawings of transverse sections through two different embryos.
e9 transverse

0.25 mm