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gem·mule  (jěm y l)

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n.

1. A small gemma or similar structure, especially a reproductive structure in certain sponges that remains dormant for some time and later develops into a new individual.
2. A hypothetical particle in the theory of pangenesis, postulated to be produced by cells and to be responsible for transmitting traits from parent to offspring.

[French, from Latin *gemma*, diminutive of *gemma*, bud; see **gemh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

gem'mu·lif er·ous (jěm'y -lĭf ər-əs) *adj.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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