



# CINÉTICA E REGULAÇÃO ENZIMÁTICA | ENZYMOLOGY IN EVOLUTION STUDIES

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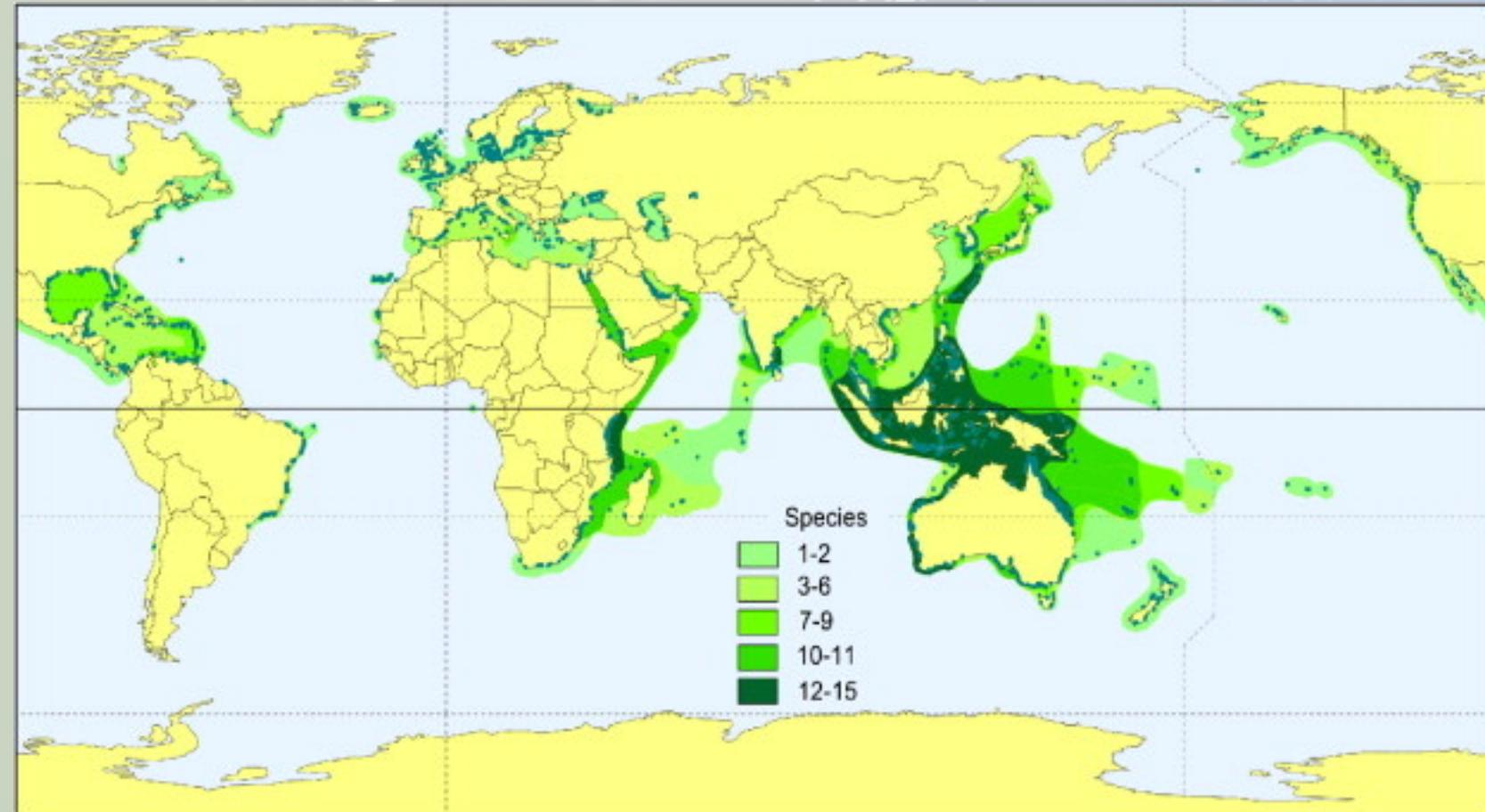
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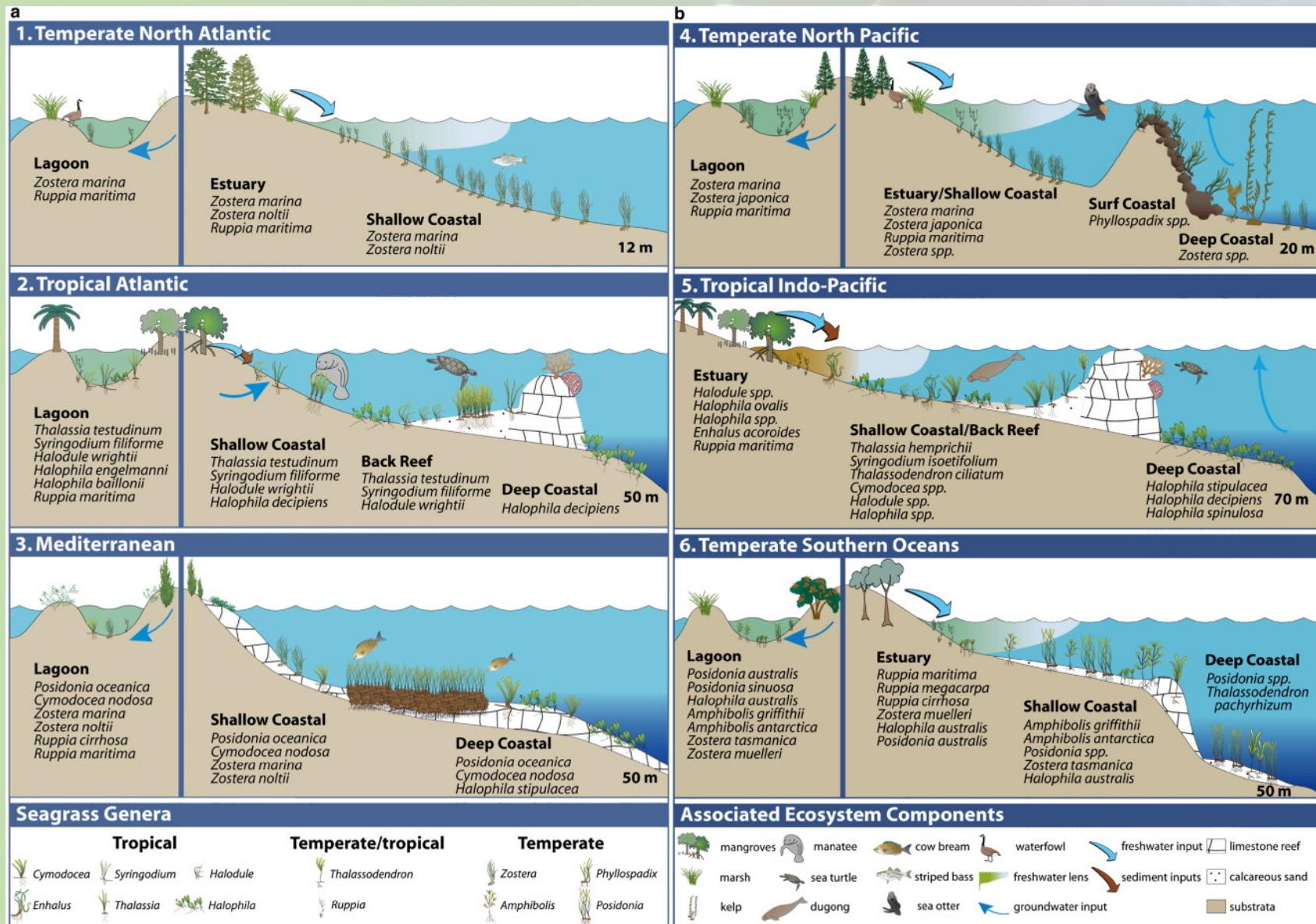
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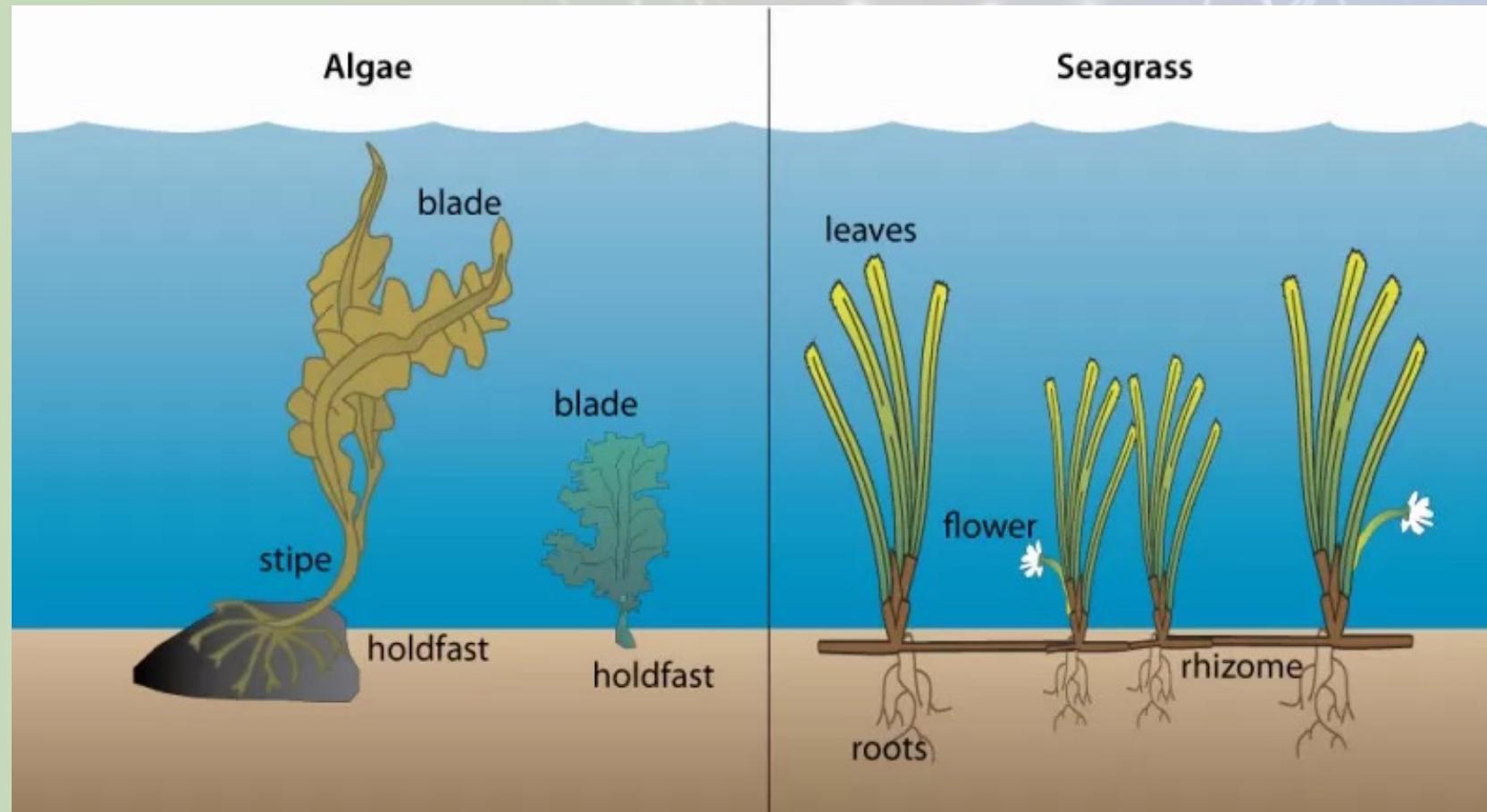
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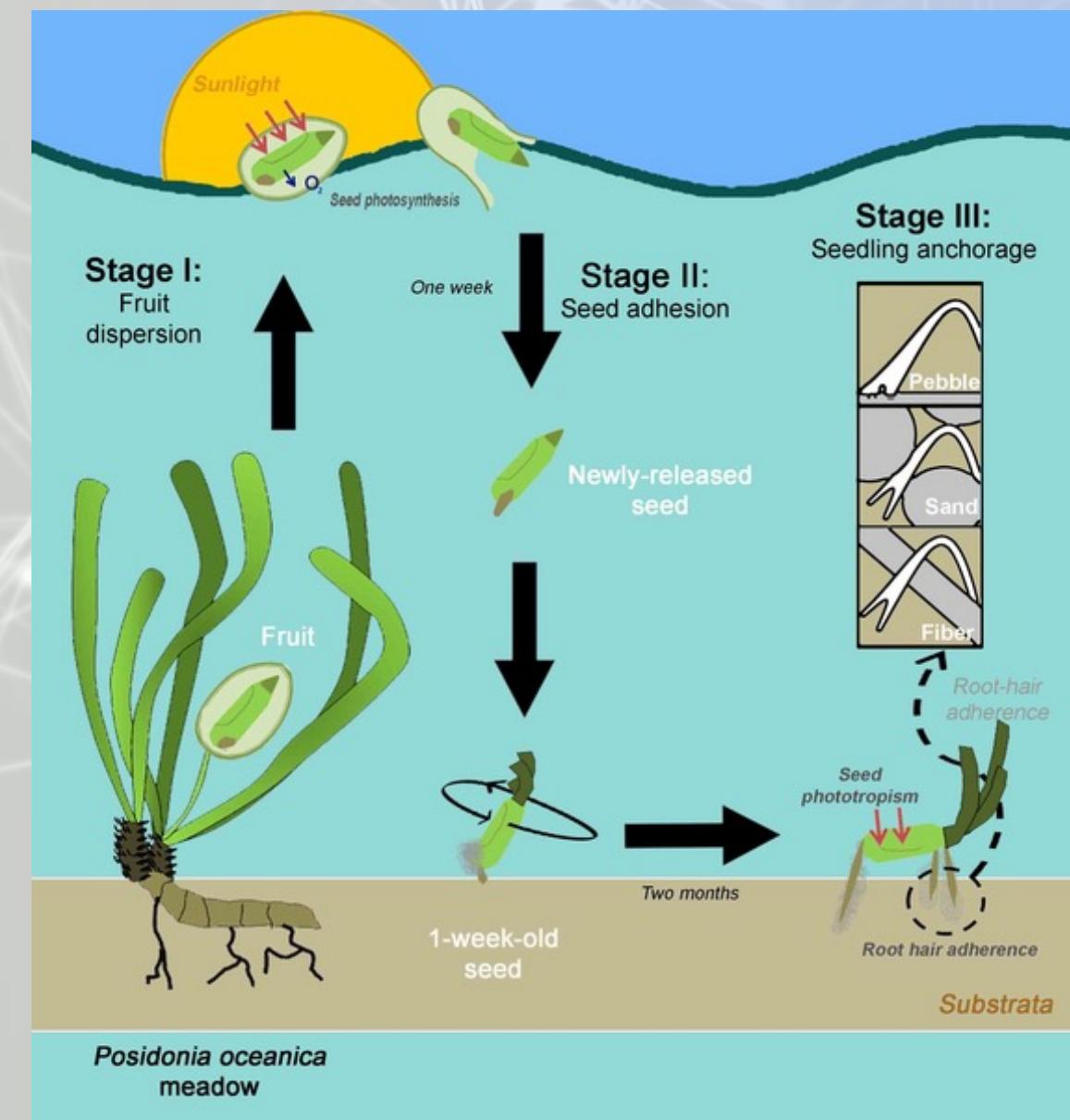
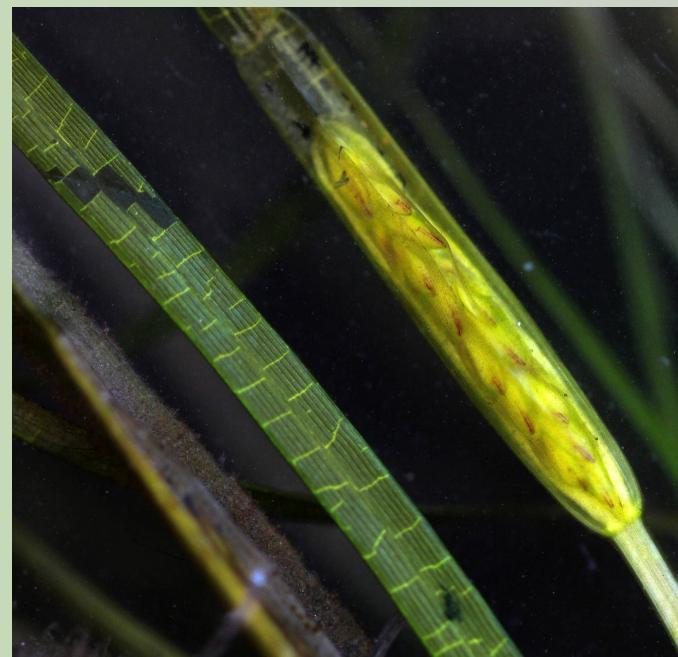
Global seagrass distribution and diversity: A bioregional model

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**SEAGRASSES ARE ANGIOSPERMS  
VASCULAR PLANTS  
PRODUCE FLOWERS, FRUITS AND SEEDS**





*Zostera noltii*



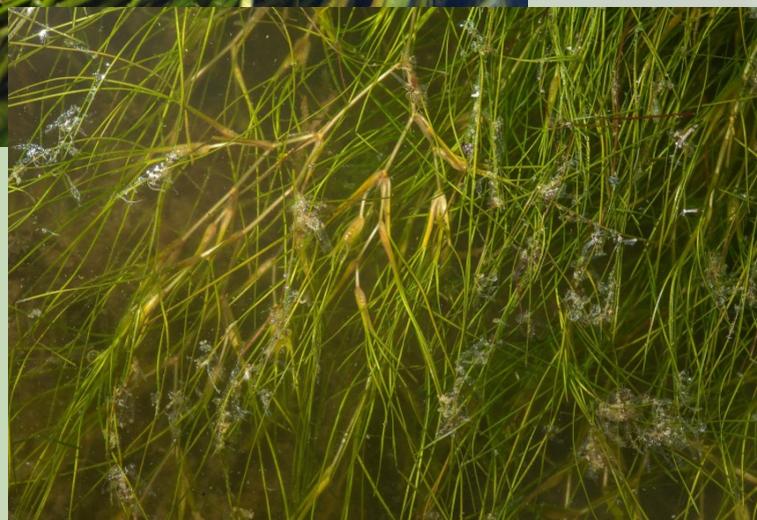
*Zostera marina*



*Cymodocea nodosa*



*Posidonia oceanica*

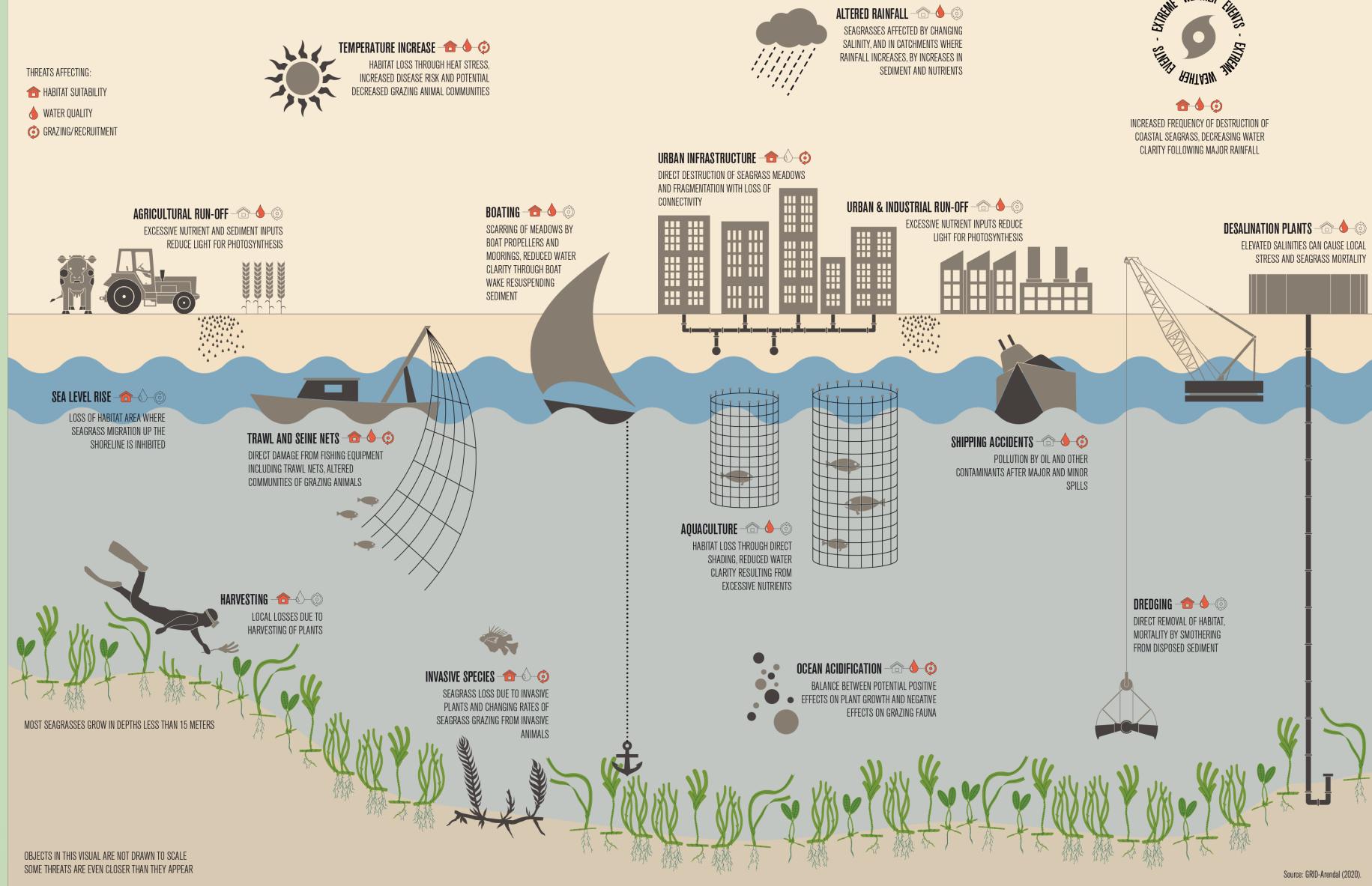


*Ruppia maritima*

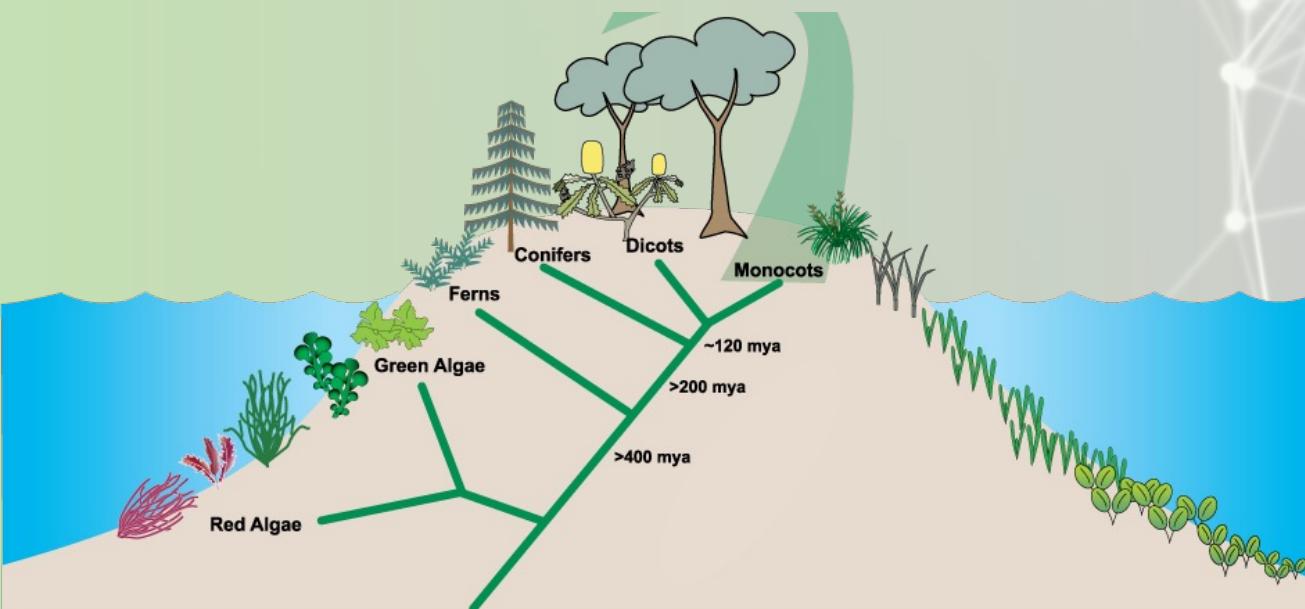


*Halophila ovalis*

## THREATS TO SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS



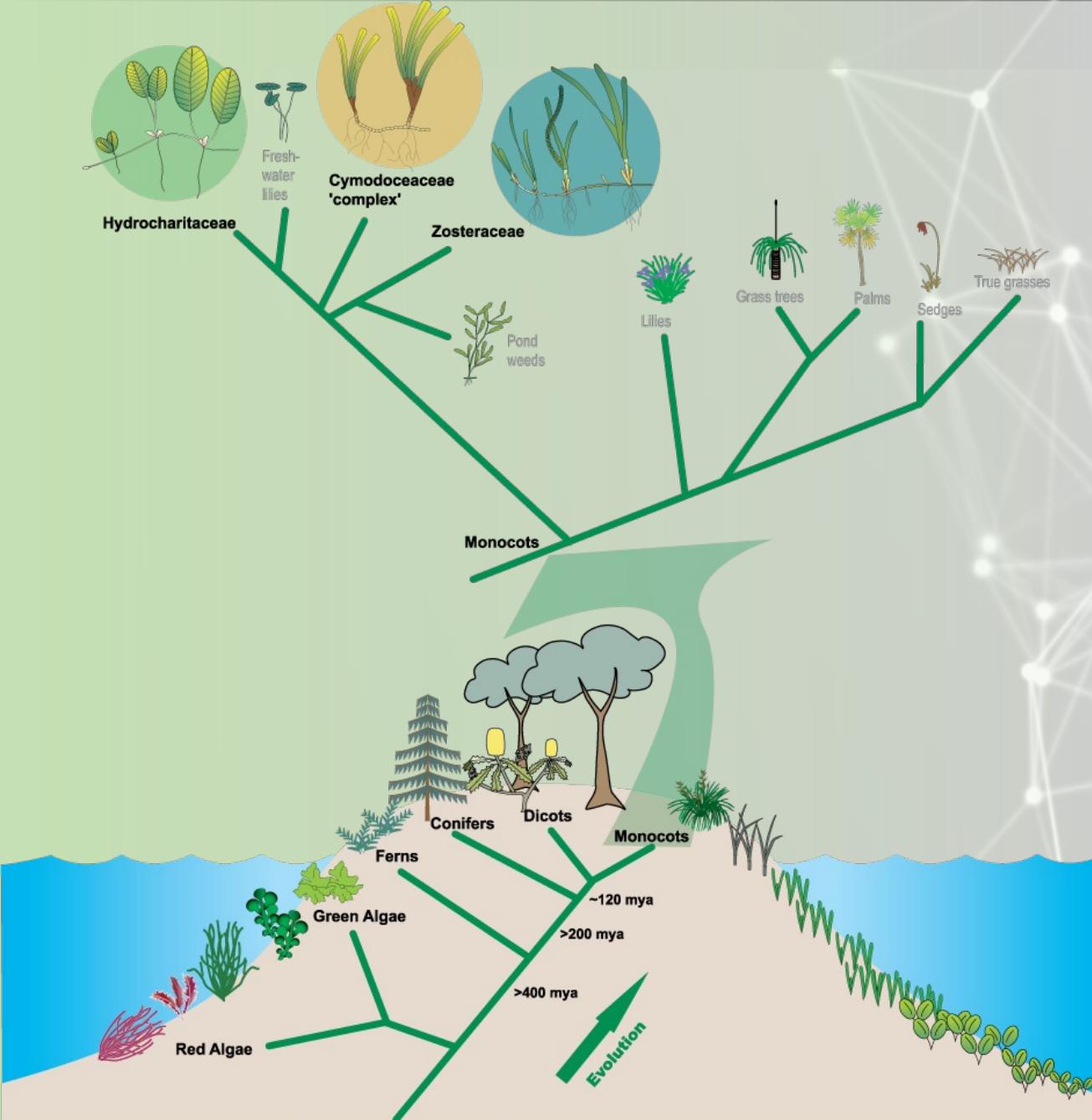
Source: GRID-Arendal (2020).



## HOW DID SEAGRASSES EVOLVE?

HYPOTHESIS 1 – FROM ALGAE AT AN  
INTERMEDIATE STEP BEFORE THE EVOLUTION  
TO TERRESTRIAL VASCULAR PLANTS?

HYPOTHESIS 2 – FROM TERRESTRIAL VASCULAR  
PLANTS?



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## LETTER

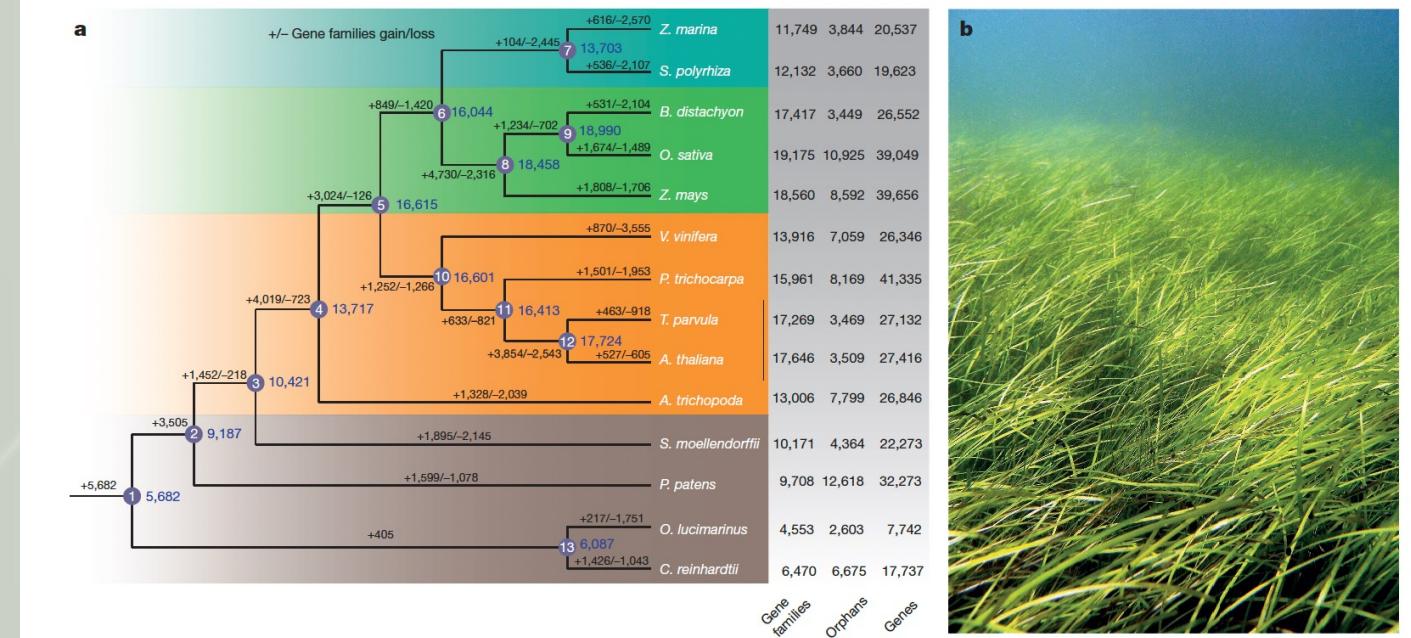
OPEN

doi:10.1038/nature16548

The seagrass *Zostera marina*, or eelgrass, is widely distributed throughout the Northern Hemisphere. It is therefore of considerable ecological importance but — as with other seagrasses — its coastal habitats are among the world's most threatened ecosystems. Jeanine Olsen and colleagues report the whole-genome sequence of *Zostera*. Their analyses provide insights into the evolutionary changes associated with the '**back to the sea'** reverse evolutionary trajectory that has occurred in this angiosperm lineage.

## The genome of the seagrass *Zostera marina* reveals angiosperm adaptation to the sea

Jeanine L. Olsen<sup>1\*</sup>, Pierre Rouzé<sup>2</sup>, Bram Verhels<sup>1</sup>, Yao-Cheng Lin<sup>2</sup>, Till Bayer<sup>3</sup>, Jonas Collen<sup>4</sup>, Emanuela Dattolo<sup>5</sup>, Emanuele De Paoli<sup>6</sup>, Simon Dittami<sup>4</sup>, Florian Maumus<sup>7</sup>, Gurvan Michel<sup>4</sup>, Anna Kersting<sup>8,9</sup>, Chiara Lauritano<sup>5</sup>, Rolf Lohaus<sup>2</sup>, Mats Töpel<sup>10</sup>, Thierry Tonon<sup>8</sup>, Kevin Vanneste<sup>2</sup>, Mojgan Amirebrahimi<sup>11</sup>, Janina Brakel<sup>1</sup>, Christoffer Boström<sup>12</sup>, Mansi Chovatia<sup>11</sup>, Jane Grimwood<sup>11,13</sup>, Jerry W. Jenkins<sup>11,13</sup>, Alexander Jueterbock<sup>14</sup>, Amy Mraz<sup>15</sup>, Wytze T. Stam<sup>1</sup>, Hope Tice<sup>11</sup>, Erich Bornberg-Bauer<sup>8</sup>, Pamela J. Green<sup>16</sup>, Gareth A. Pearson<sup>17</sup>, Gabriele Procaccini<sup>8\*</sup>, Carlos M. Duarte<sup>18</sup>, Jeremy Schmutz<sup>11,13</sup>, Thorsten B. H. Reusch<sup>3,19\*</sup> & Yves Van de Peer<sup>2,20,21\*</sup>



## LETTER

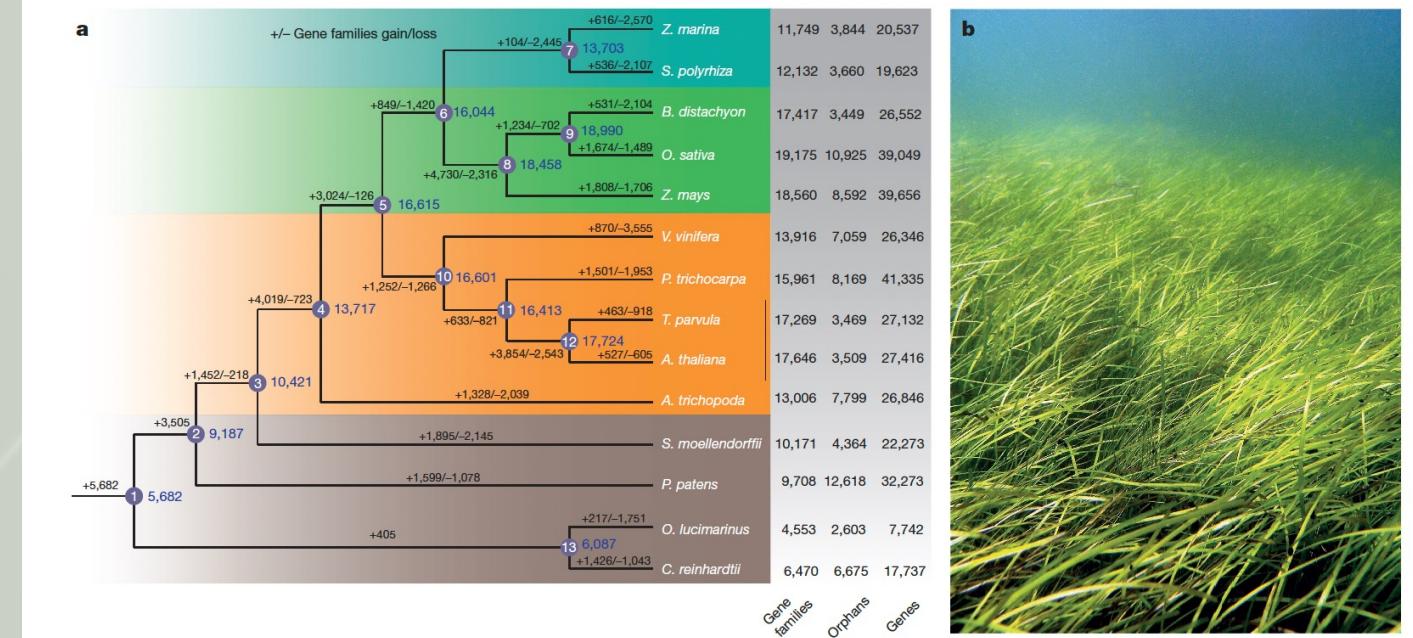
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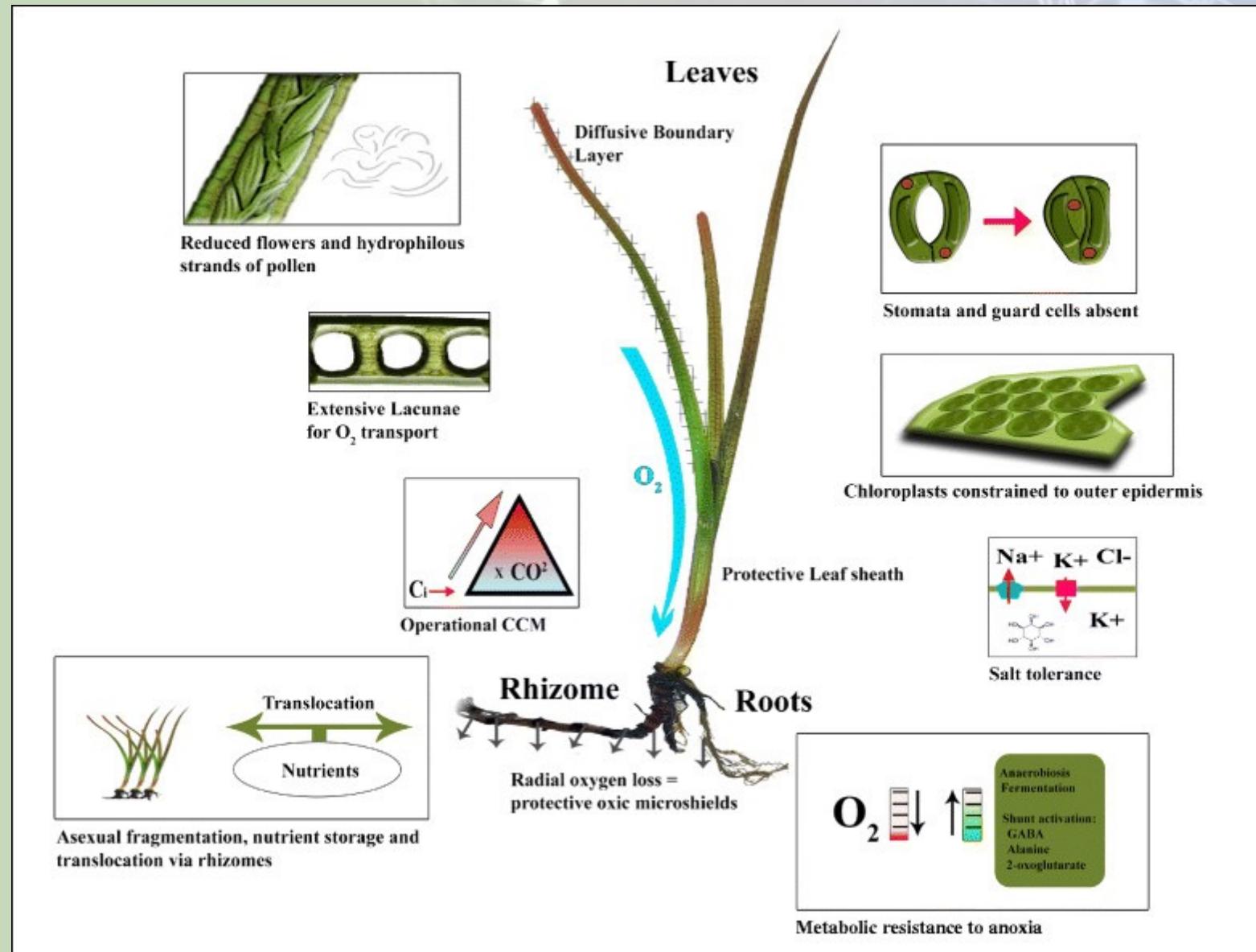
Key angiosperm innovations that were **lost** include the **entire repertoire of stomatal genes, genes involved in the synthesis of terpenoids and ethylene signaling, and genes for ultraviolet protection and phytochromes for far-red sensing.** Seagrasses have also regained functions enabling them to adjust to full salinity. Their cell walls contain all of the polysaccharides typical of land plants, but also contain polyanionic, low-methylated pectins and sulfated galactans, a feature shared with the cell walls of all macroalgae and that is important for ion homeostasis, nutrient uptake and O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> exchange through leaf epidermal cells.

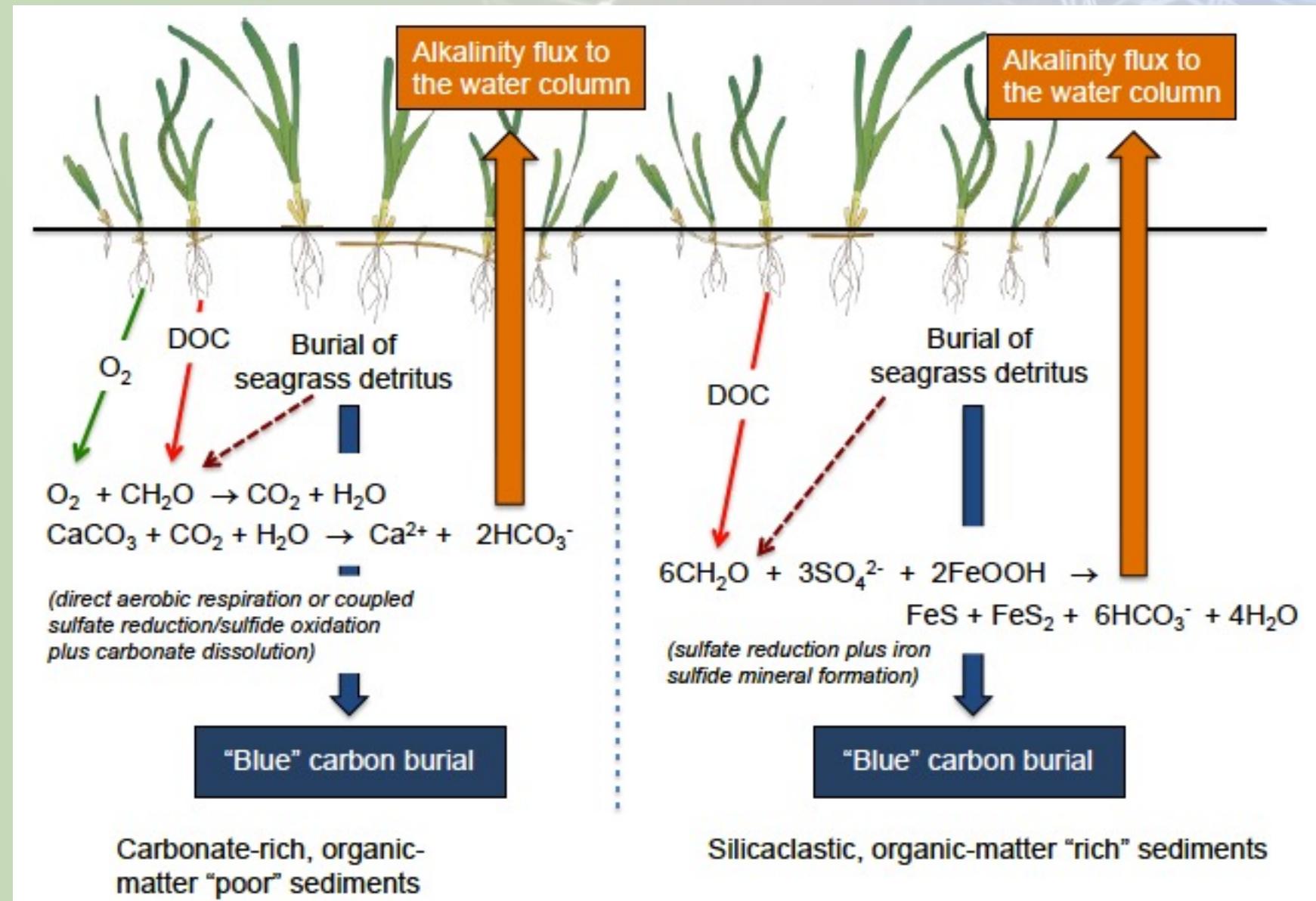
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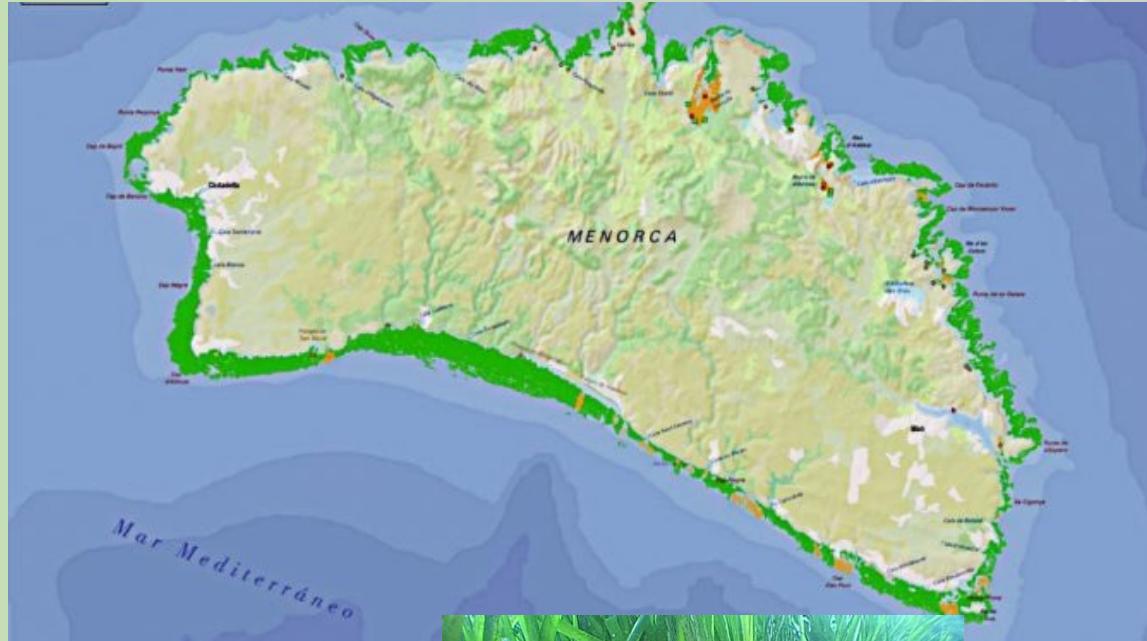
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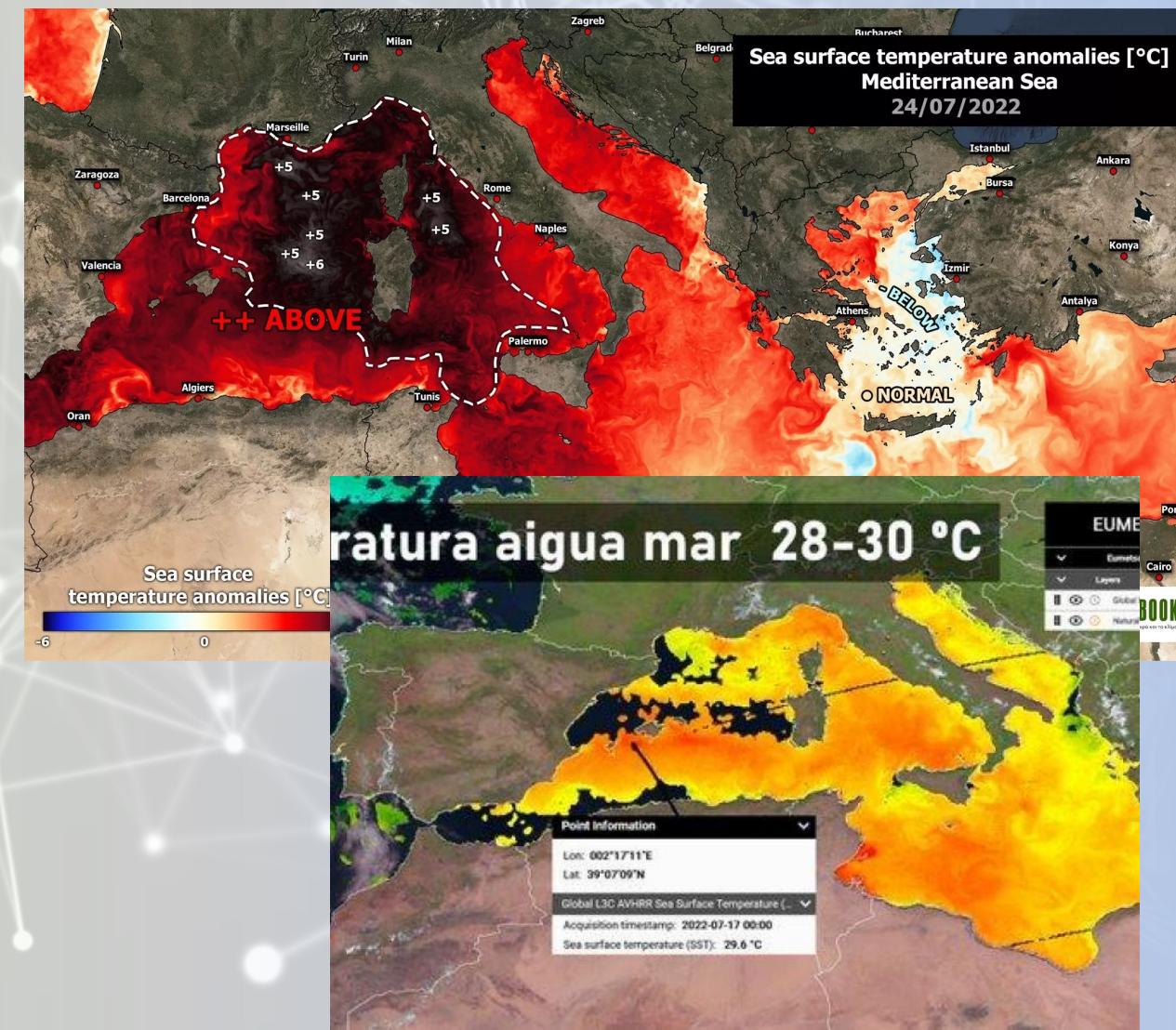


# Seagrasses Photosynthetic Adaptations









# WHY?



## ***Posidonia oceanica* massive death 2022**

**The lack of stomata makes these plants' leaf temperature prone to water temperature.**

**Increase temperature reduces CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution in seawater, reducing its availability for photosynthesis.**



# The trajectory in catalytic evolution of Rubisco in *Posidonia* seagrass species differs from terrestrial plants

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C.I. and J.G. conceived the study. S.C.-B. and S.W. measured the Rubisco biochemistry and S.C.-B. carried out the rest of experiments, analyzed the data, and produced the figures with help from all authors. T.R. performed the rbcL sequencing and O.S. collected the Australian *Posidonia* species. S.C.-B. drafted the manuscript with editing contributions from all authors.

The author responsible for distribution of materials integral to the findings presented in this article in accordance with the policy described in the Instructions for Authors (<https://academic.oup.com/plphys/pages/general-instructions>) is: Sebastià Capó-Bauçà ([sebastia.capo@uib.cat](mailto:sebastia.capo@uib.cat)).

## Abstract

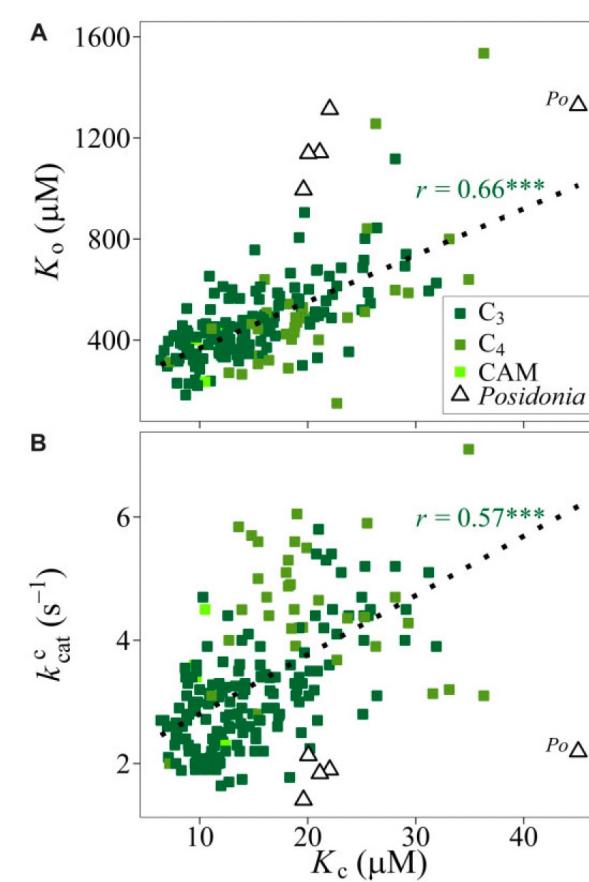
The CO<sub>2</sub>-fixing enzyme Ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase (Rubisco) links the inorganic and organic phases of the global carbon cycle. In aquatic systems, the catalytic adaptation of algae Rubiscos has been more expansive and followed an evolutionary pathway that appears distinct to terrestrial plant Rubisco. Here, we extend this survey to differing seagrass species of the genus *Posidonia* to reveal how their disjunctive geographical distribution and diverged phylogeny, along with their CO<sub>2</sub> concentrating mechanisms (CCMs) effectiveness, have impacted their Rubisco kinetic properties. The Rubisco from *Posidonia* species showed lower carboxylation efficiencies and lower sensitivity to O<sub>2</sub> inhibition than those measured for terrestrial C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub>-plant Rubiscos. Compared with the Australian *Posidonia* species, Rubisco from the Mediterranean *Posidonia oceanica* had 1.5–2-fold lower carboxylation and oxygenation efficiencies, coinciding with effective CCMs and five Rubisco large subunit amino acid substitutions. Among the Australian *Posidonia* species, CCM effectiveness was higher in *Posidonia sinuosa* and lower in the deep-living *Posidonia angustifolia*, likely related to the 20%–35% lower Rubisco carboxylation efficiency in *P. sinuosa* and the two-fold higher Rubisco content in *P. angustifolia*. Our results suggest that the catalytic evolution of *Posidonia* Rubisco has been impacted by the low CO<sub>2</sub> availability and gas exchange properties of marine environments, but with contrasting Rubisco kinetics according to the time of diversification among the species. As a result, the relationships between maximum carboxylation rate and CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> affinities of *Posidonia* Rubiscos follow an alternative path to that characteristic of terrestrial angiosperm Rubiscos.

The genus *Posidonia* is one of the most relevant genera among seagrasses and contains relevant species in terms of biomass and carbon sequestration capacity (Duarte and Chiscano, 1999), being distributed in **seven species along the Australian coastlines** and a single *Posidonia oceanica* species endemic to the Mediterranean Sea (Campey et al., 2000).

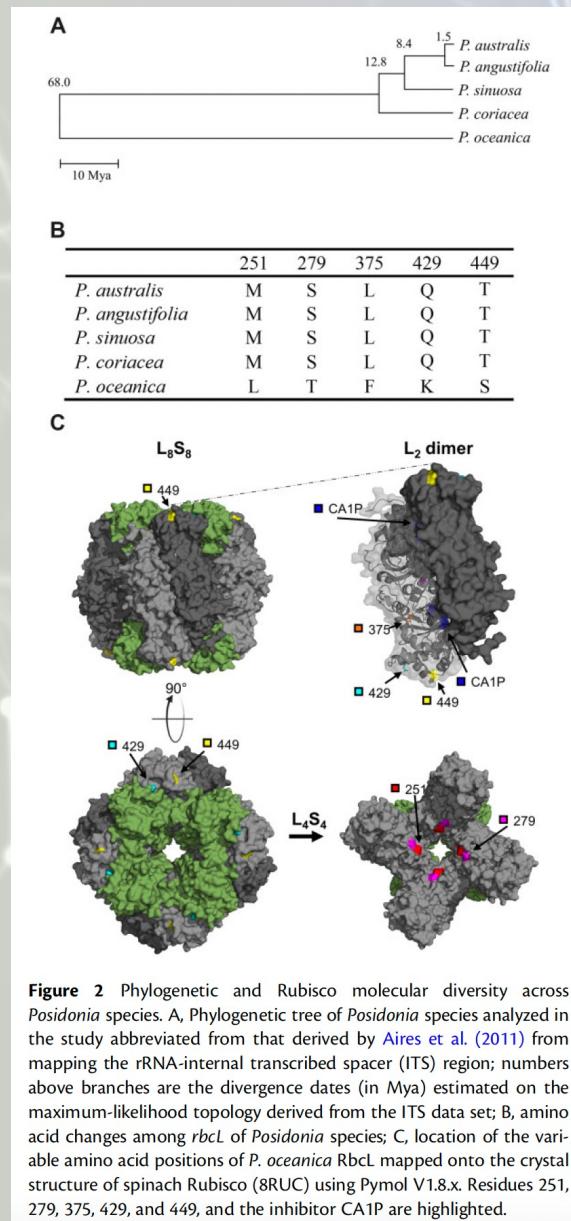
This **disjunct species distribution suggests there may have been a loss of *Posidonia* species from those that originally connected the Mediterranean and Australian populations during Pangea** (Larkum et al., 2006).

**Within these phylogenetically separate clades of *Posidonia* species it is unclear the extent to which growth habitat differences within and between both geographical locations have impacted the adaptative evolution of their CCM and Rubisco.**

Here, we **examine the ecophysiology and Rubisco biochemistry at 25 °C among the Mediterranean *P. oceanica* and four distinct lineages of *Posidonia* species from the seven morphologically described species found in Australia** (Aires et al., 2011).



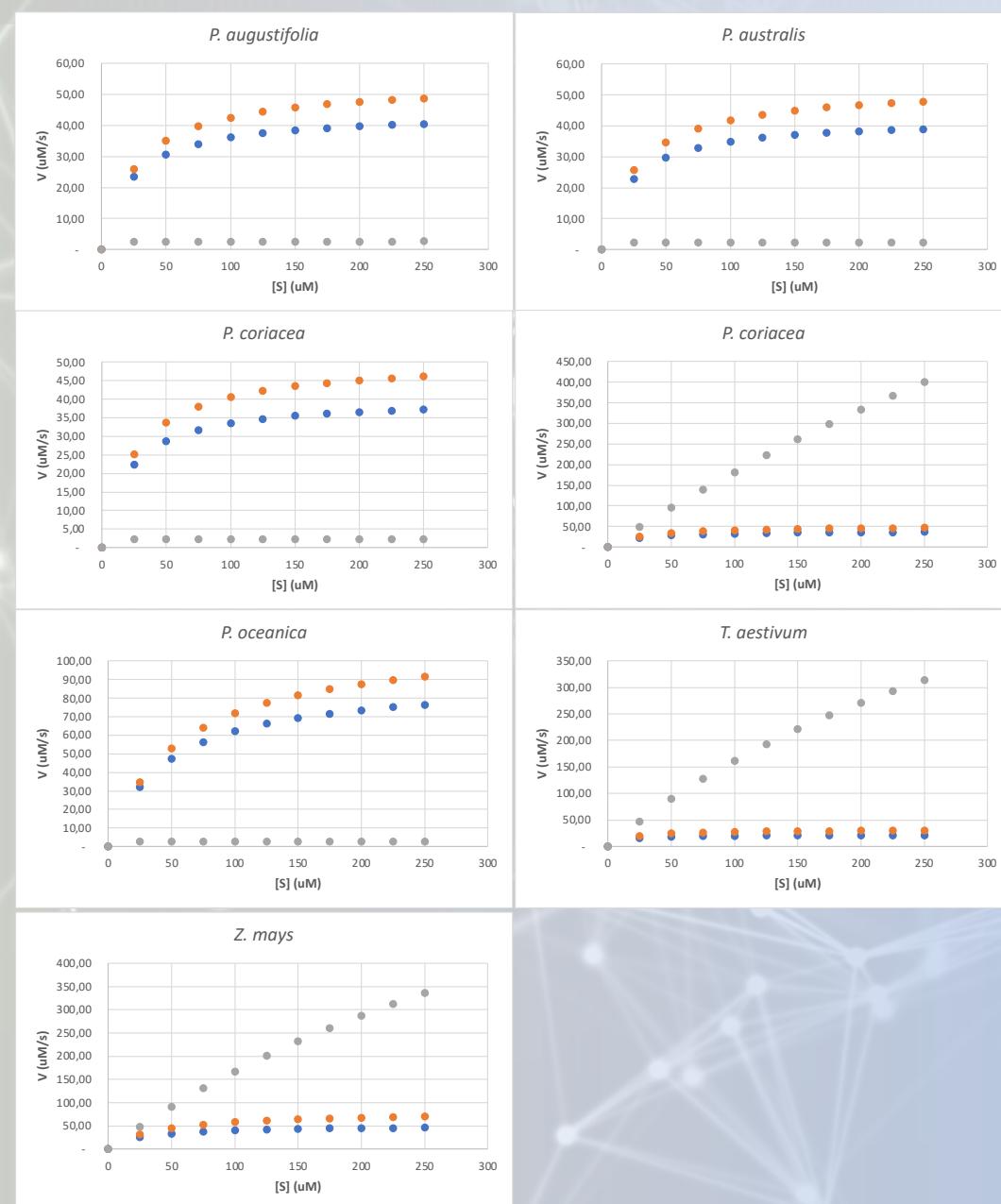
**Figure 1** Diversity in the catalytic properties of *Posidonia* Rubisco relative to C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and CAM plants. A, Correlation between the Michaelis–Menten constant for CO<sub>2</sub> ( $K_c$ ) and the Michaelis–Menten constant for O<sub>2</sub> ( $K_o$ ); (B) and between  $K_c$  and the maximum carboxylation rate ( $k_{\text{cat}}^c$ ). Empty triangles are the species of *Posidonia* measured in this study ( $n = 5$ ) and Po indicates the Mediterranean endemic *P. oceanica*. Light and dark green squares belongs to terrestrial plants compiled by Iñiguez et al. (2020) ( $n = 178$  in A and 203 in B).  $r$  is the reported Pearson's regression coefficient of terrestrial plants and asterisks show the significance of the correlation test (\*\* $P < 0.001$ ).



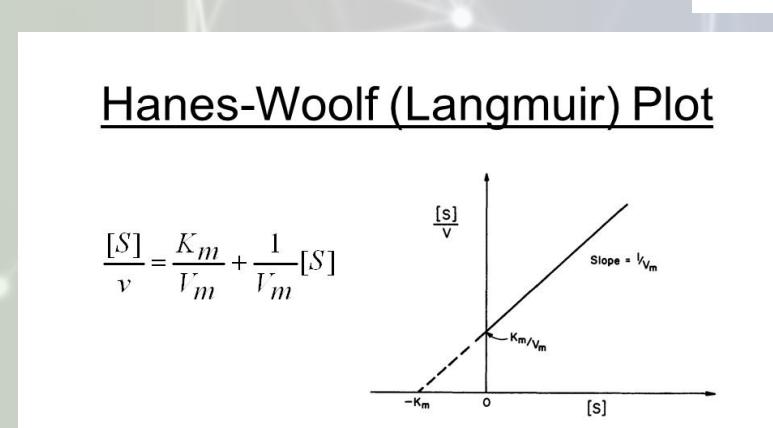
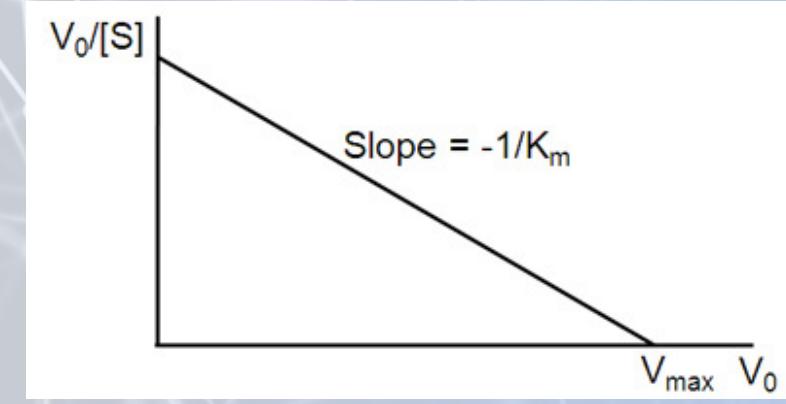
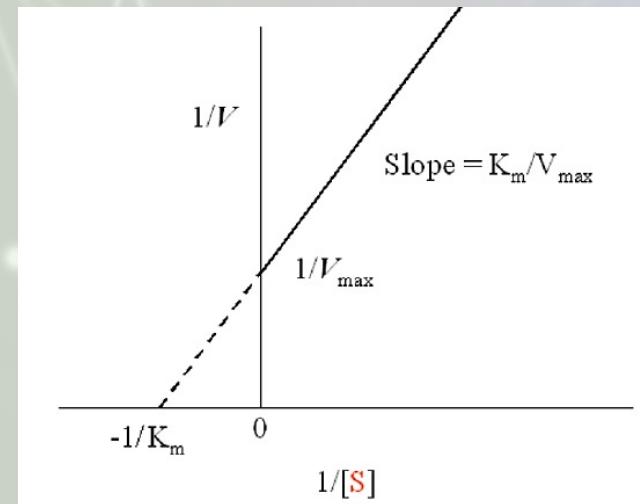
**Figure 2** Phylogenetic and Rubisco molecular diversity across *Posidonia* species. A, Phylogenetic tree of *Posidonia* species analyzed in this study abbreviated from that derived by Aires et al. (2011) from mapping the rRNA-internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region; numbers above branches are the divergence dates (in Mya) estimated on the maximum-likelihood topology derived from the ITS data set; B, amino acid changes among *rbcL* of *Posidonia* species; C, location of the variable amino acid positions of *P. oceanica* RbcL mapped onto the crystal structure of spinach Rubisco (8RUC) using Pymol V1.8.x. Residues 251, 279, 375, 429, and 449, and the inhibitor CA1P are highlighted.

# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters

[S] $\mu\text{M}$	<i>P. augustifolia</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>
<b>v (Carboxylase) <math>\mu\text{M}/\text{s}</math></b>							
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	23,40	22,89	22,28	21,97	32,14	15,56	25,15
50	30,56	29,68	28,67	28,16	47,37	18,43	33,60
75	34,02	32,93	31,70	31,08	56,25	19,64	37,84
100	36,07	34,85	33,47	32,78	62,07	20,31	40,38
125	37,41	36,11	34,63	33,89	66,18	20,73	42,08
150	38,37	37,00	35,45	34,67	69,23	21,02	43,30
175	39,09	37,66	36,06	35,25	71,59	21,23	44,21
200	39,64	38,17	36,53	35,70	73,47	21,39	44,92
225	40,08	38,58	36,90	36,06	75,00	21,52	45,49
250	40,44	38,92	37,21	36,35	76,27	21,62	45,95
<b>v (Carboxylase+Oxygenase) <math>\mu\text{M}/\text{s}</math></b>							
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	25,96	25,68	25,20	25,35	34,57	19,59	31,03
50	35,06	34,55	33,69	33,95	52,83	24,36	44,99
75	39,71	39,05	37,95	38,28	64,12	26,51	52,93
100	42,52	41,77	40,51	40,89	71,79	27,73	58,06
125	44,41	43,59	42,22	42,63	77,35	28,53	61,63
150	45,76	44,90	43,44	43,88	81,55	29,08	64,27
175	46,78	45,88	44,36	44,82	84,85	29,49	66,30
200	47,58	46,64	45,08	45,55	87,50	29,80	67,91
225	48,21	47,26	45,65	46,13	89,68	30,05	69,22
250	48,74	47,76	46,11	46,61	91,50	30,25	70,30
<b>v (Oxygenase) <math>\mu\text{M}/\text{s}</math></b>							
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2,49	2,18	2,18	48,77	2,52	47,20	47,67
50	2,56	2,23	2,23	95,22	2,59	89,41	91,10
75	2,58	2,25	2,24	139,49	2,61	127,36	130,83
100	2,59	2,26	2,25	181,74	2,62	161,69	167,32
125	2,60	2,26	2,26	222,10	2,63	192,87	200,94
150	2,60	2,27	2,26	260,70	2,63	221,33	232,02
175	2,61	2,27	2,26	297,65	2,64	247,40	260,84
200	2,61	2,27	2,27	333,05	2,64	271,38	287,64
225	2,61	2,27	2,27	367,01	2,64	293,51	312,62
250	2,61	2,27	2,27	399,60	2,64	313,99	335,96

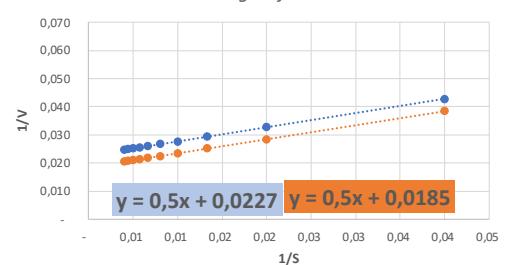


[S] $\mu\text{M}$	<i>P. augustifolia</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>
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225	40,08	38,58	36,90	36,06	75,00	21,52	45,49
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<b>v (Carboxylase+Oxygenase) <math>\mu\text{M/s}</math></b>							
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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250	48,74	47,76	46,11	46,61	91,50	30,25	70,30
<b>v (Oxygenase) <math>\mu\text{M/s}</math></b>							
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2,49	2,18	2,18	48,77	2,52	47,20	47,67
50	2,56	2,23	2,23	95,22	2,59	89,41	91,10
75	2,58	2,25	2,24	139,49	2,61	127,36	130,83
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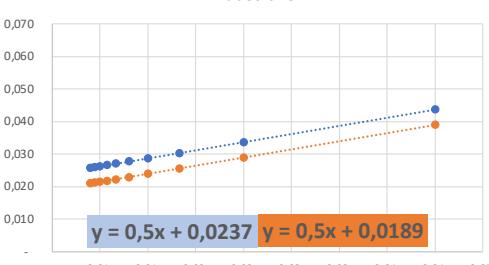


# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Lineweaver-Burke

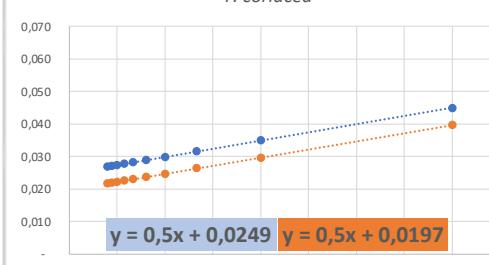
*P. augustifolia*



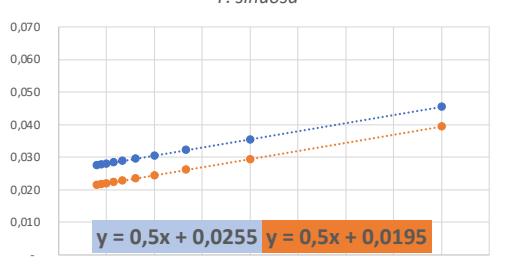
*P. australis*



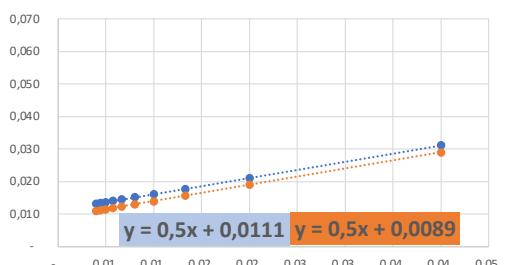
*P. coriacea*



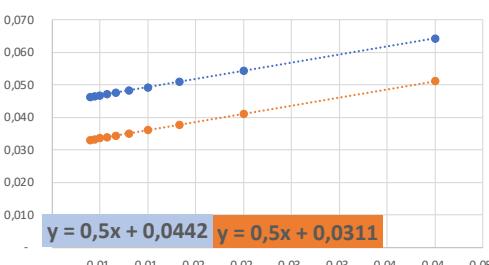
*P. sinuosa*



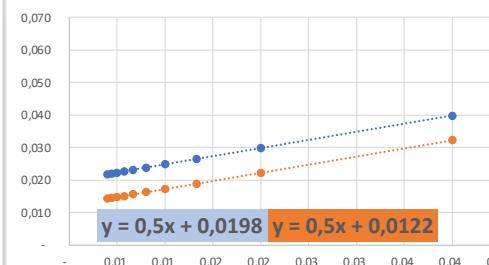
*P. oceanica*



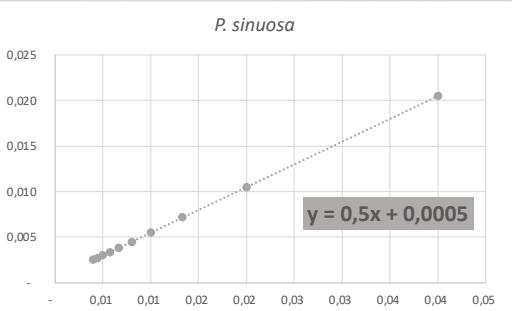
*T. aestivum*



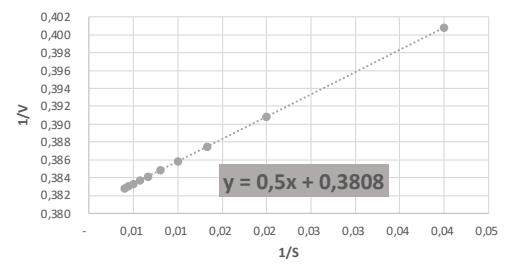
*Z. mays*



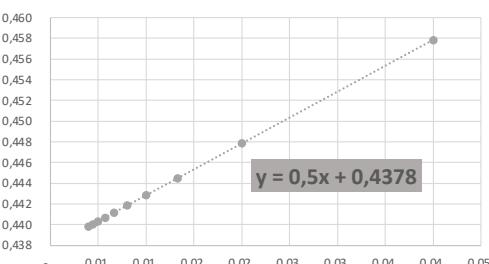
*P. sinuosa*



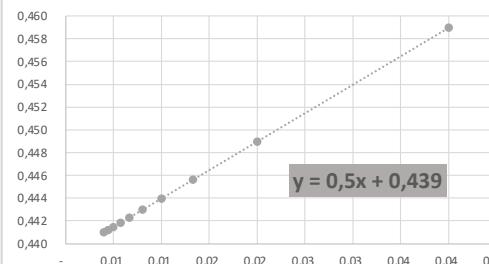
*P. augustifolia*



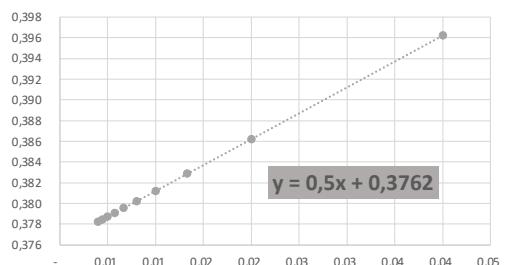
*P. australis*



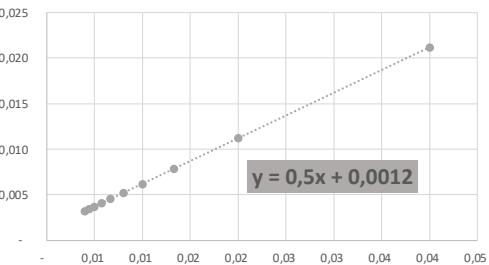
*P. coriacea*



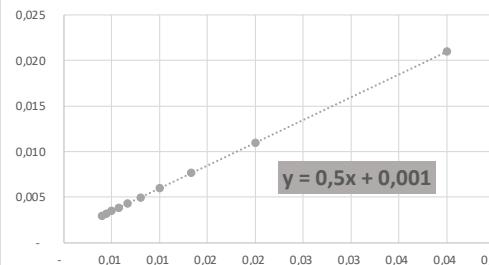
*P. oceanica*



*T. aestivum*

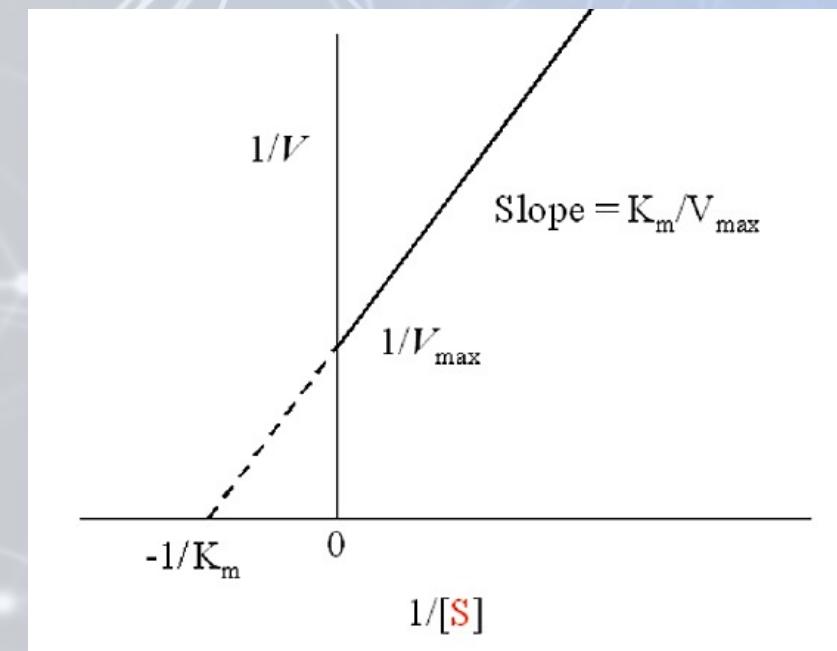


*Z. mays*

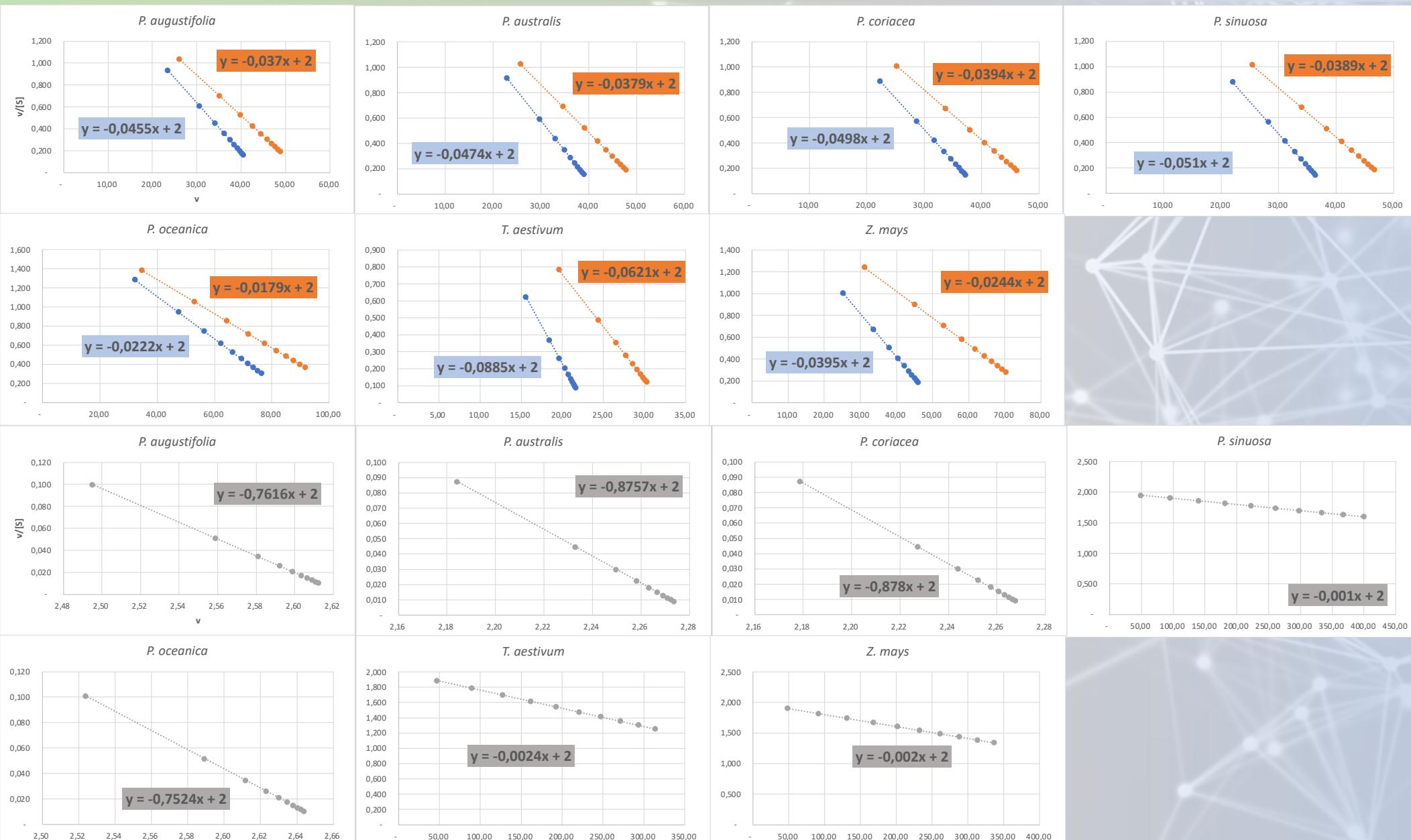


# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Lineweaver-Burke

	<i>P. augustifolia</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>
Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,31	25,25
Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,62	50,51
Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00

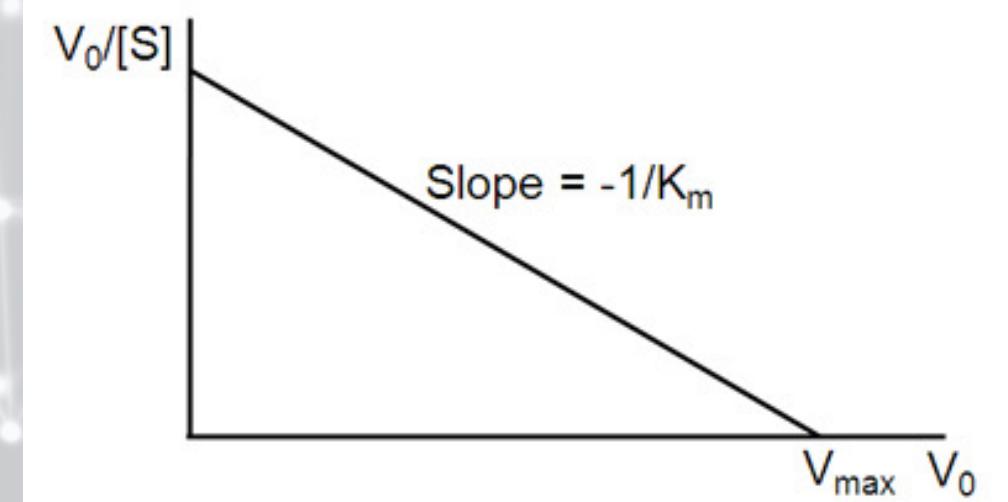


# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Eadie-Hofstee

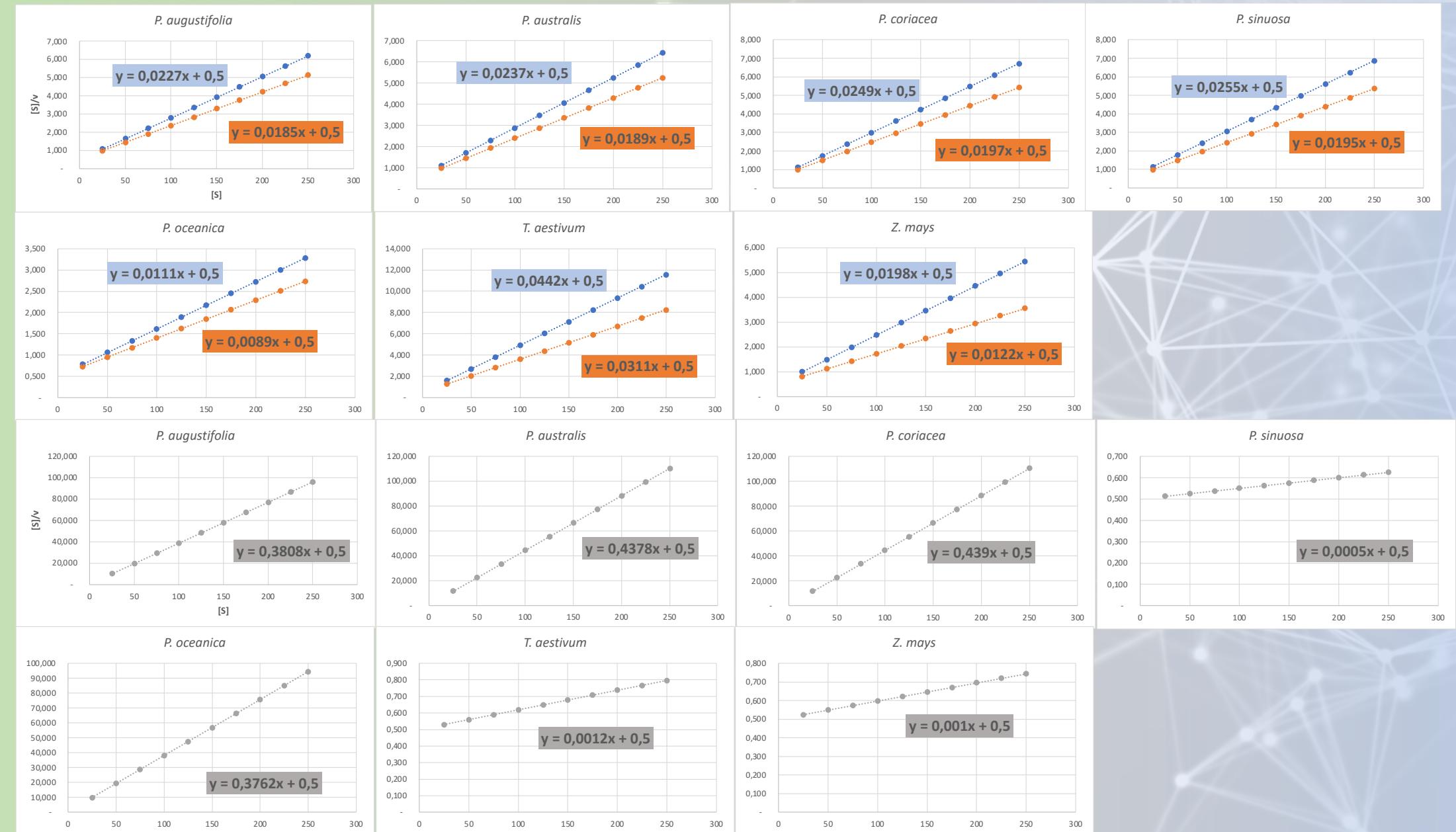


# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Eadie–Hofstee

	<i>P. augustifolia</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>
Km (c)	21,98	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,30	25,32
Km (c+o)	27,03	26,39	25,38	25,71	55,87	16,10	40,98
Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
Vmax (c)	43,96	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,60	50,63
Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,77	50,76	51,41	111,73	32,21	81,97
Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00



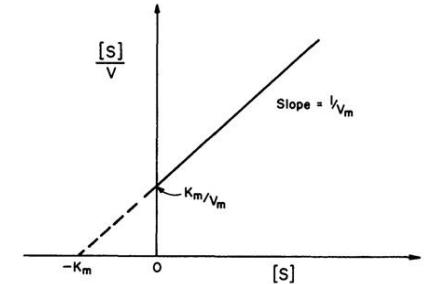
# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Hanes-Woolf



	<i>P. augustifolia</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>
Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	22,22	45,05	11,31	25,25
Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	44,44	90,09	22,62	50,51
Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00

## Hanes-Woolf (Langmuir) Plot

$$\frac{[S]}{v} = \frac{K_m}{V_m} + \frac{1}{V_m}[S]$$



# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Hanes-Woolf

	<i>P. augustifol.</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>	
MM	Km (c)	22,00	21,10	20,10	19,60	45,00	11,30	25,30
	Km (c+o)	27,00	26,40	25,40	25,70	56,00	16,10	40,90
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	995,00	1,33	422,00	512,00
	Vmax (c)	44,00	42,20	40,20	39,20	90,00	22,60	50,60
	Vmax (c+o)	54,00	52,80	50,80	51,40	112,00	32,20	81,80
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	1 990,00	2,66	844,00	1 024,00
	Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,31	25,25
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
	Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,62	50,51
LB	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00
	Km (c)	21,98	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,30	25,32
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,39	25,38	25,71	55,87	16,10	40,98
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
EH	Vmax (c)	43,96	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,60	50,63
	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,77	50,76	51,41	111,73	32,21	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00
	Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	22,22	45,05	11,31	25,25
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
HW	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
	Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	44,44	90,09	22,62	50,51
	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00

Lower Km(carboxylase) than *Z. mays* (C4) -> Higher affinity to CO<sub>2</sub>.

Higher Vmax than C3 and lower than C4.

# Rubisco Kinetic Parameters - Hanes-Woolf

	<i>P. augustifol.</i>	<i>P. australis</i>	<i>P. coriacea</i>	<i>P. sinuosa</i>	<i>P. oceanica</i>	<i>T. aestivum</i>	<i>Z. mays</i>	
MM	Km (c)	22,00	21,10	20,10	19,60	45,00	11,30	25,30
	Km (c+o)	27,00	26,40	25,40	25,70	56,00	16,10	40,90
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	995,00	1,33	422,00	512,00
	Vmax (c)	44,00	42,20	40,20	39,20	90,00	22,60	50,60
	Vmax (c+o)	54,00	52,80	50,80	51,40	112,00	32,20	81,80
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	1 990,00	2,66	844,00	1 024,00
	Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,31	25,25
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
	Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,62	50,51
LB	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00
	Km (c)	21,98	21,10	20,08	19,61	45,05	11,30	25,32
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,39	25,38	25,71	55,87	16,10	40,98
	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
EH	Vmax (c)	43,96	42,19	40,16	39,22	90,09	22,60	50,63
	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,77	50,76	51,41	111,73	32,21	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00
	Km (c)	22,03	21,10	20,08	22,22	45,05	11,31	25,25
	Km (c+o)	27,03	26,46	25,38	25,64	56,18	16,08	40,98
HW	Km (o)	1,31	1,14	1,14	1 000,00	1,33	416,67	500,00
	Vmax (c)	44,05	42,19	40,16	44,44	90,09	22,62	50,51
	Vmax (c+o)	54,05	52,91	50,76	51,28	112,36	32,15	81,97
	Vmax (o)	2,63	2,28	2,28	2 000,00	2,66	833,33	1 000,00

Lower Km(oxygenase) than *Z. mays* (C4) -> Higher affinity to O<sub>2</sub>.

Very low Vmax compared to C3 or C4.

This study revealed differences in the kinetic evolution of Rubisco among *Posidonia* species consistent with their disjunct geographic distribution and phylogenetic divergence, leading to five unique amino acid substitutions in the *RbcL* of *P. oceanica* that possibly account for its two-fold poorer Rubisco CO<sub>2</sub>-affinity.

Among Australian *Posidonia* species, we can attribute some of the Rubisco kinetics and quantity variation with differences in their CCM efficiency, as the 40% slower *kcat c* and 20%–35% lower carboxylation efficiency in *P. sinuosa* or the two-fold higher Rubisco content in the deep-living *P. angustifolia*.

Nevertheless, the distinctly slower *kcat c*, lower CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> affinities, and lower carboxylation efficiency shared by *Posidonia* Rubiscos compared with those of their distant terrestrial angiosperm relatives show how the enzyme in these seagrasses have clearly followed an alternative pathway in their kinetic evolution.

However, further refined experiments are needed to accurately map evidence of correlations in the adaptive evolution of *Posidonia* Rubisco kinetics and their photosynthetic adaptation. Such analyses necessitate an assessment of the contrasting temperature, nutrient, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and irradiance characteristics of the habitats of each species, as well as an appreciation of their adaptive Rubisco temperature kinetic response and intracellular O<sub>2</sub> concentration.

