

Brief Note on Sea Grasses

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Commentary

Seagrasses are the only flowering plants which grow in marine surroundings. There are about 60 species of completely marine seagrasses which belong to four families (Posidoniaceae, Zosteraceae, Hydrocharitaceae and Cymodoceaceae), all in the order Alismatales (in the class of monocotyledons). Seagrasses evolved from terrestrial plants which recolonised the ocean 70 to 100 million years ago [1]. The name seagrass stems from the numerous species with long and narrow leaves, which grow by rhizome extension and frequently spread across large "meadows" suggesting a grass-like appearance; numerous species superficially act as terrestrial grasses of the family Poaceae. Like all autotrophic plants, seagrasses photosynthesize, in the submerged photic zone, and most do in shallow and retired littoral waters anchored in beach or silt bottoms. Most species suffer submarine pollination and complete their life cycle aquatic. While it was preliminarily believed this pollination was carried out without pollinators and purely by ocean current drift, this has been shown to be false for at least one species, *Thalassia testudinum*, which carries out a mixed biotic-abiotic strategy [2]. Crustaceans (similar as crabs, Majid zoae, *Thalassinidea* zoaea) and syllid polychaete worm naiads have both been plant with pollen grains, the former producing nutritional mucigenous clumps of pollen to attract and stick to them rather than of quercus as terrestrial flowers do.

Seagrasses form thick aquatic seagrass meadows which are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. They serve as important carbon sinks and give territories and food for a diversity of marine life like that of coral reefs. Seagrasses are a paraphyletic group of marine angiosperms which evolved in a relict three to four times from land plants back to the ocean [3]. The ensuing characteristics can be used to define a seagrass species. It lives in an estuarine or in the marine terrain, and nowhere differently. The pollination takes place aquatic with technical pollen. The seeds which are dispersed by both biotic and abiotic agents are produced aquatic. The seagrass species have specialized leaves with a reduced cuticle, an epidermis which lacks stomata and is the main photosynthetic towel. The rhizome or underground stem is important in anchoring. The roots can live in an anoxic terrain and depend on oxygen transport from the leaves and rhizomes but are also important in the nutrient transfer processes.

Seagrasses profoundly impact the physical, chemical, and natural surroundings of littoral waters. Though seagrasses give inestimable ecosystem services by acting as parentage and nursery ground for a variety of organisms and promote marketable fisheries, numerous aspects of their physiology aren't well delved. Several studies have indicated that seagrass niche is declining worldwide [4]. Ten seagrass species are at elevated threat of extermination (14 of all seagrass species) with three species qualifying as risked. Seagrass loss and declination of seagrass biodiversity will have serious impacts for marine biodiversity and the mortal population that depends upon the coffer and ecosystem services that seagrasses give. Seagrasses form important littoral ecosystems. The worldwide venturing of these ocean meadows, which give food and niche for numerous marine species, prompts the need for protection and understanding of these precious coffer. Recent sequencing of the genomes of *Zostera marina* and *Zostera muelleri* has given a better understanding of angiosperm

adaptation to the ocean [5]. During the evolutionary step back to the ocean, different genes have been lost (e.g., stomatal genes) or have been reduced (e.g., genes involved in the conflation of terpenoids) and others have been recaptured, similar as in genes involved in sulfation. Genome information has shown further that adaptation to the marine niche was fulfilled by radical changes in cell wall composition. However, the cell walls of seagrasses aren't well understood. In addition to the ancestral traits of land plants one would anticipate niche-driven adaptation process to the new terrain characterized by multiple abiotic (high quantities of swab) and biotic (different seagrass scrape and bacterial colonization) stressors. The cell walls of seagrasses feel intricate combinations of features known from both angiosperm land plants and marine macroalgae with new structural rudiments.

Acknowledgment

None

Conflict of Interest

None

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