



Robert H. Whittaker

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Vegetation gradients

Environmental
tolerance determines
distribution

Great Smoky Mountains

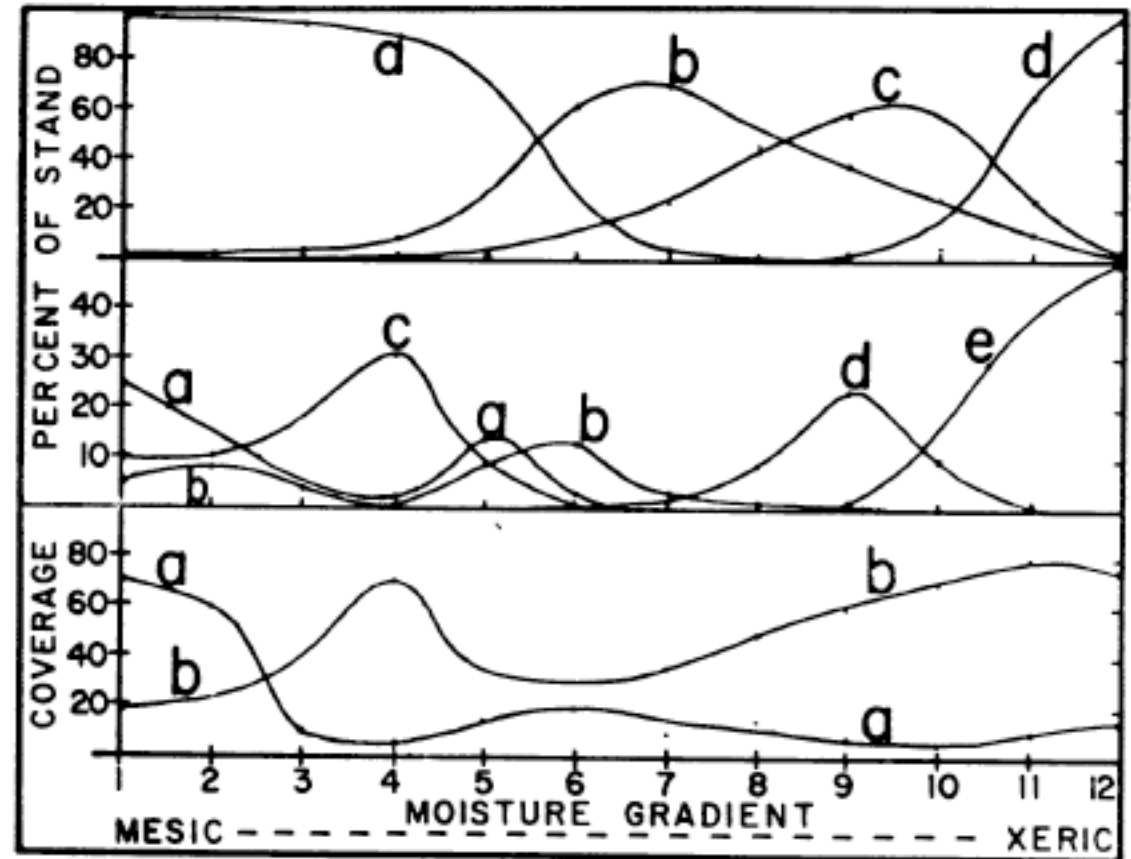
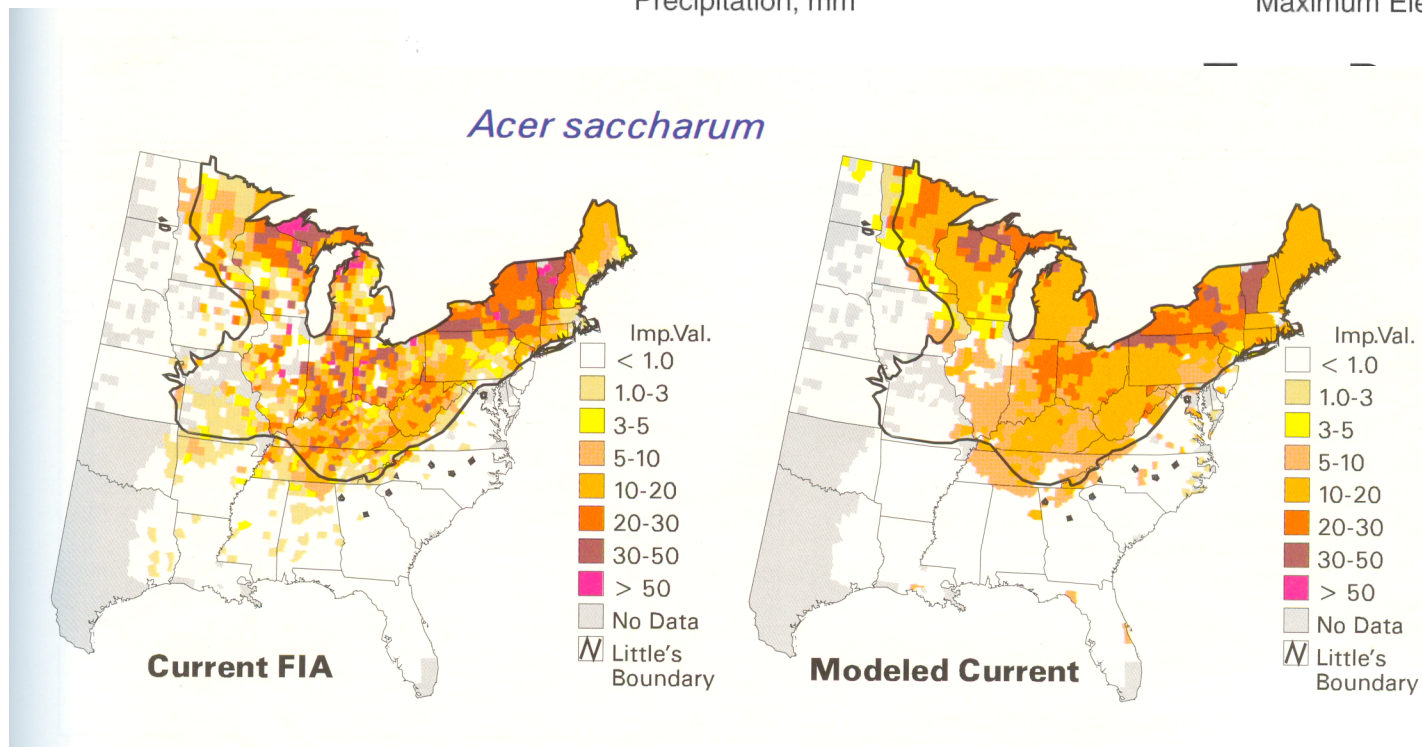
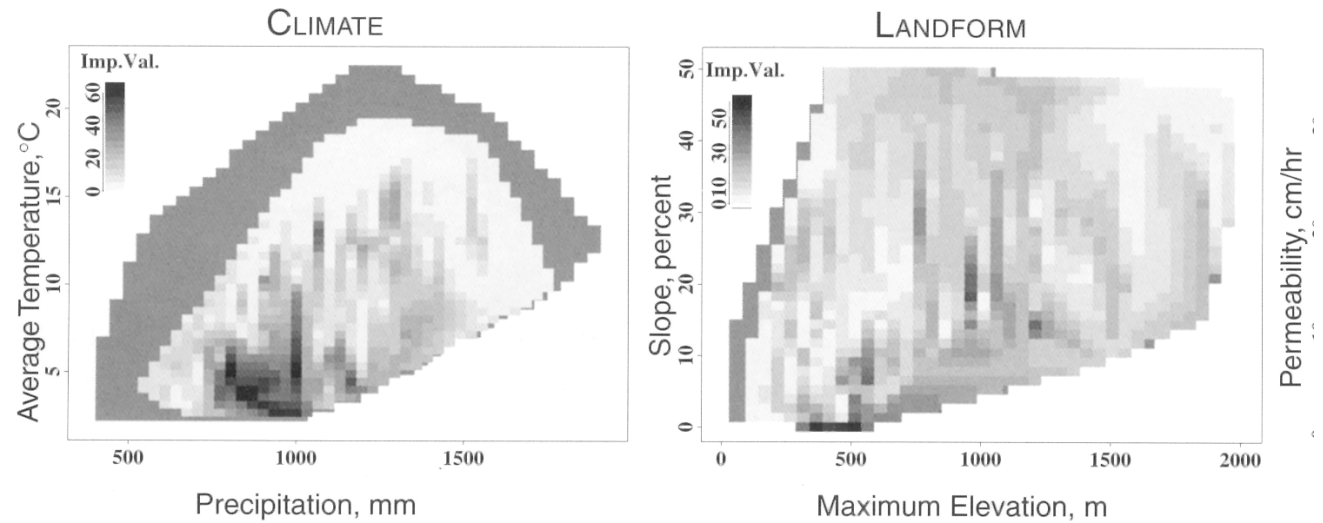


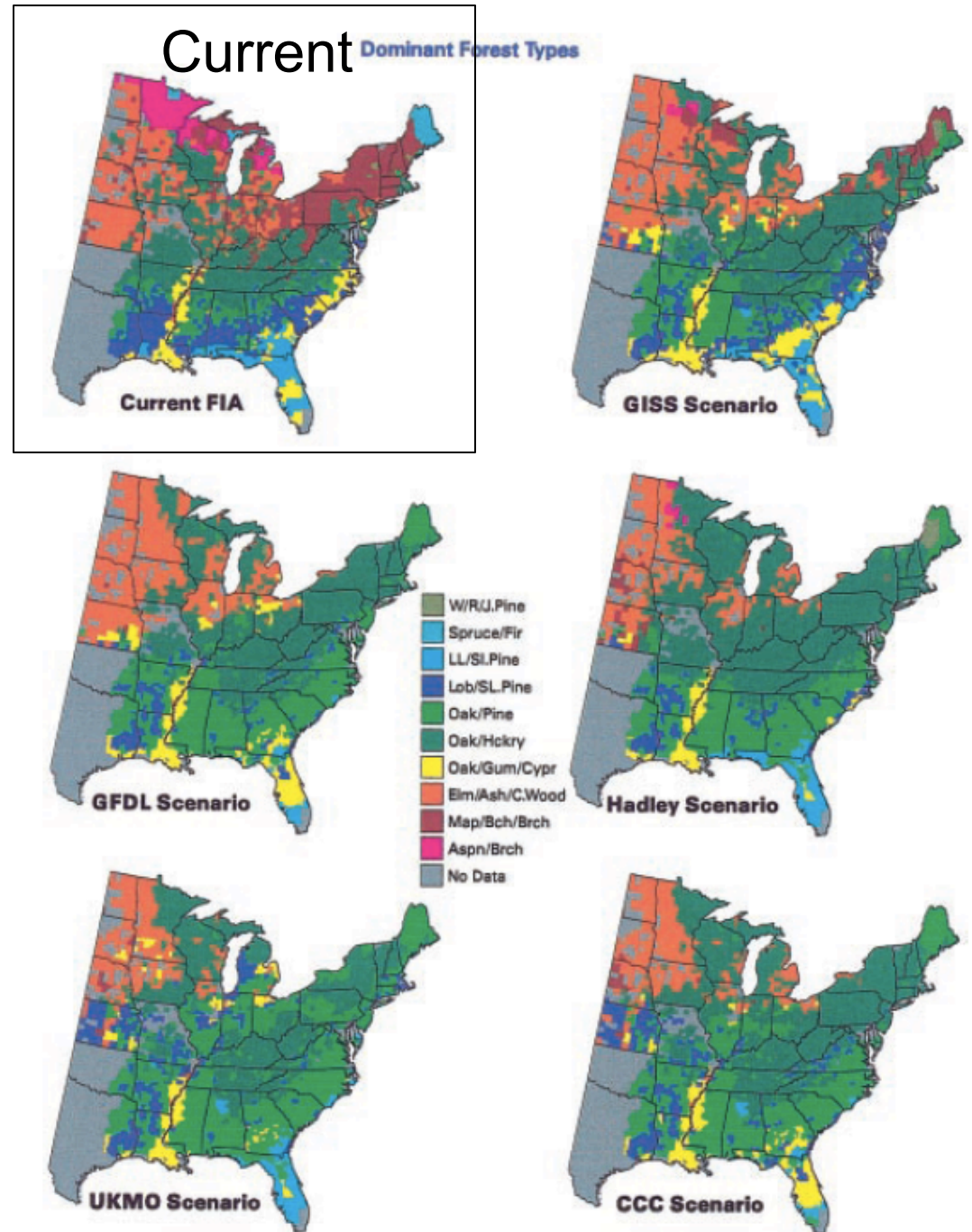
FIG. 4. Transect of the moisture gradient, 3500-4500 ft. Top—curves for tree classes; a, mesic; b, submesic; c, subxeric; d, xeric. Note expansion of mesic stands, compared with Figs. 2 and 3. Middle—curves for tree species: a, *Tilia heterophylla*; b, *Halesia monticola* (both the preceding are bimodal, with populations on each side of the mode of *Tsuga*); c, *Tsuga canadensis*; d, *Quercus alba*; e, *Pinus pungens*. Bottom—curves for undergrowth coverages: a, herbs; b, shrubs.

Iverson and Prasad 1998, Distributions of 80 sp. of trees



Iverson and Prasad 2001

Potential forest change
under alternative
climate change
scenarios based on
species specific
tolerance and
environmental optima.



Crozier 2003

Range change in *Atalopedes campestris*

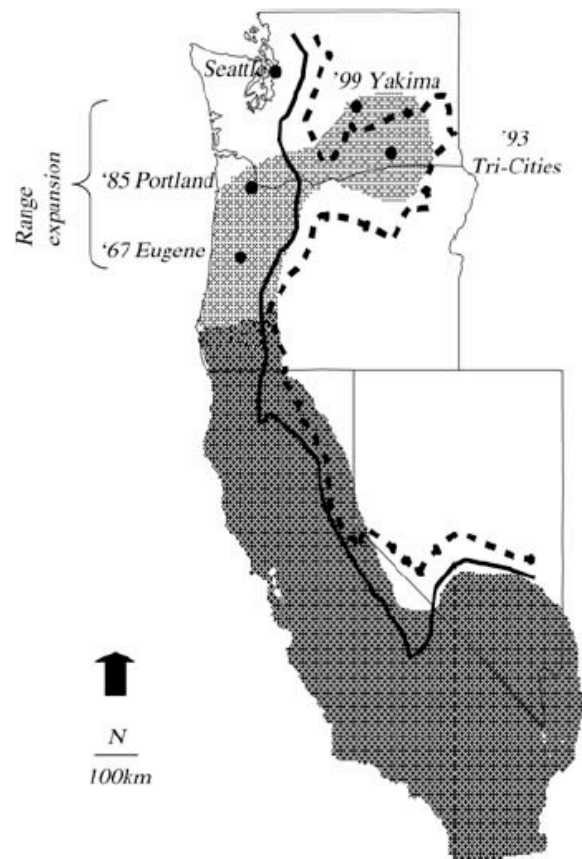


Fig. 1 Overwintering range of *Atalopedes campestris* (shaded) in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nevada from Opler (1999), modified to include the western range expansion (lighter shading). Colonization dates of *A. campestris* by four cities in Oregon and Washington show the chronology of the range expansion. Contour lines represent the January average minimum -4°C isotherm from 1950–1959 (solid) and 1990–1998 (dotted) (NCDC 2000)



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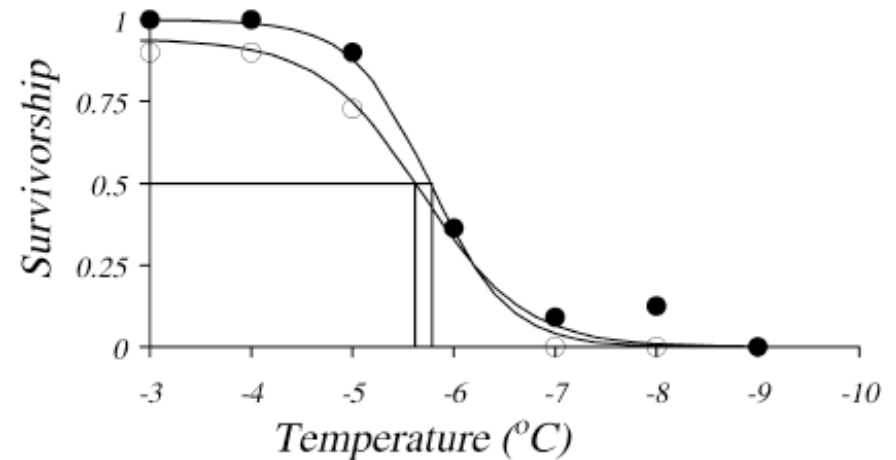
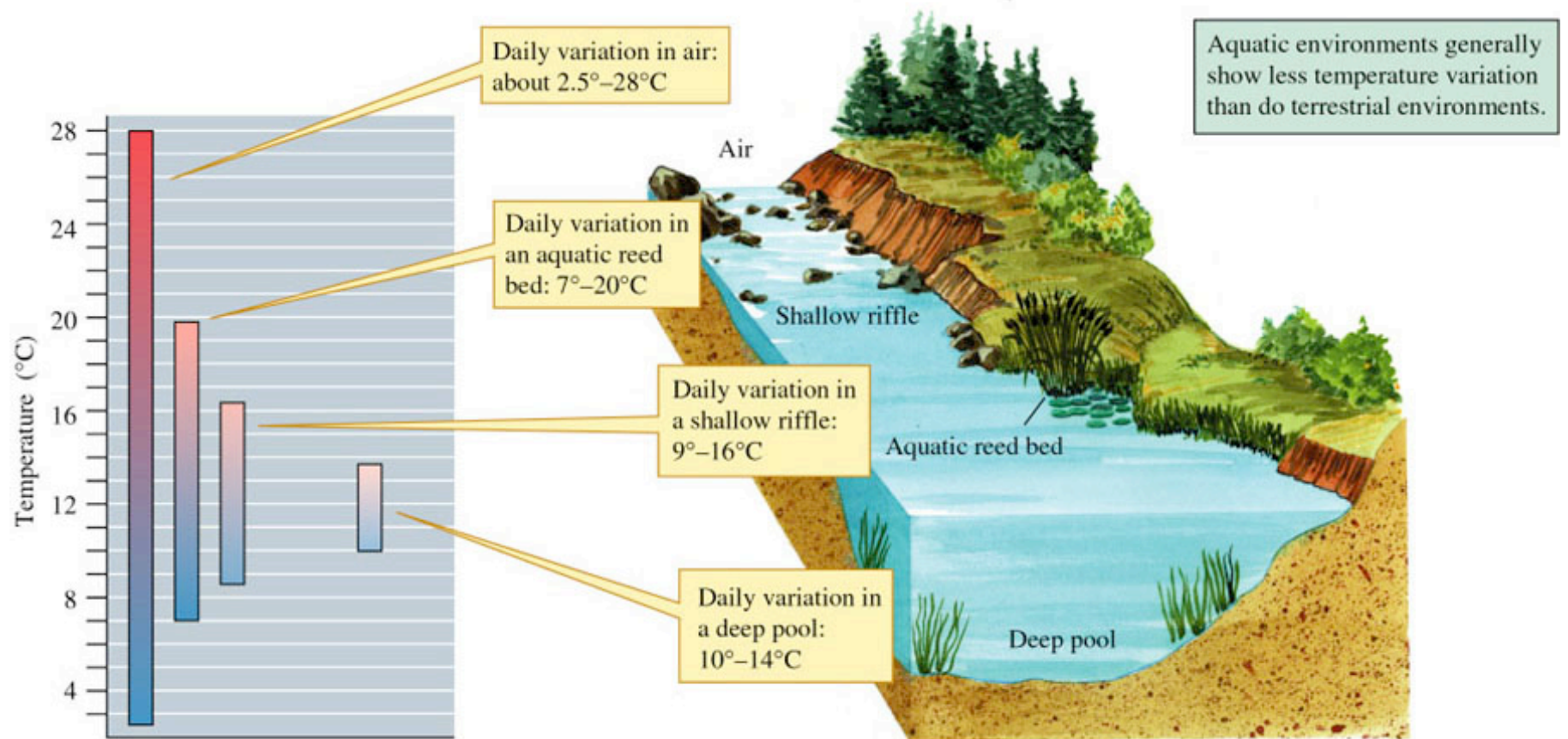


Fig. 3 Lethal temperature for 50% of the sample (LT_{50}) for Californian (open circles) and Washingtonian (closed circles) thir instar larvae with a hyperbolic tangent curve fit. Estimated LT_{50} is -5.6°C (Calif.), and -5.8°C (Wash.) (drop-down lines). The difference between populations is not significant ($P > 0.05$)

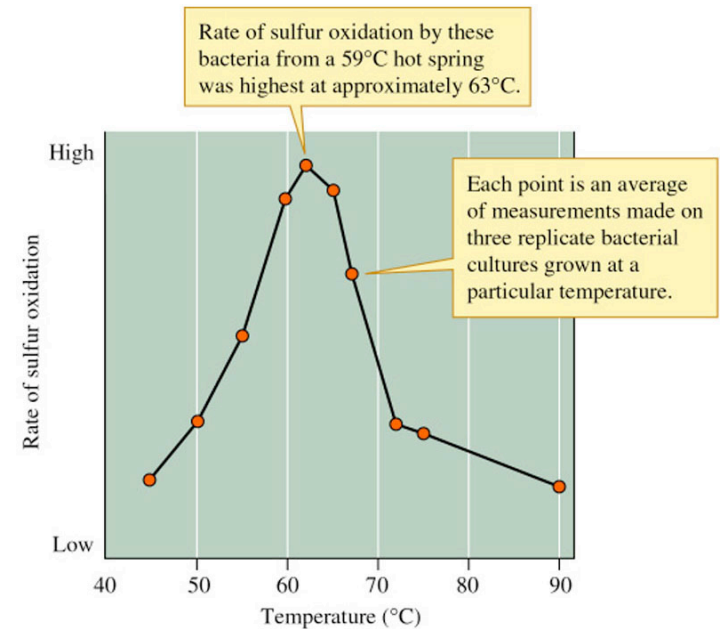
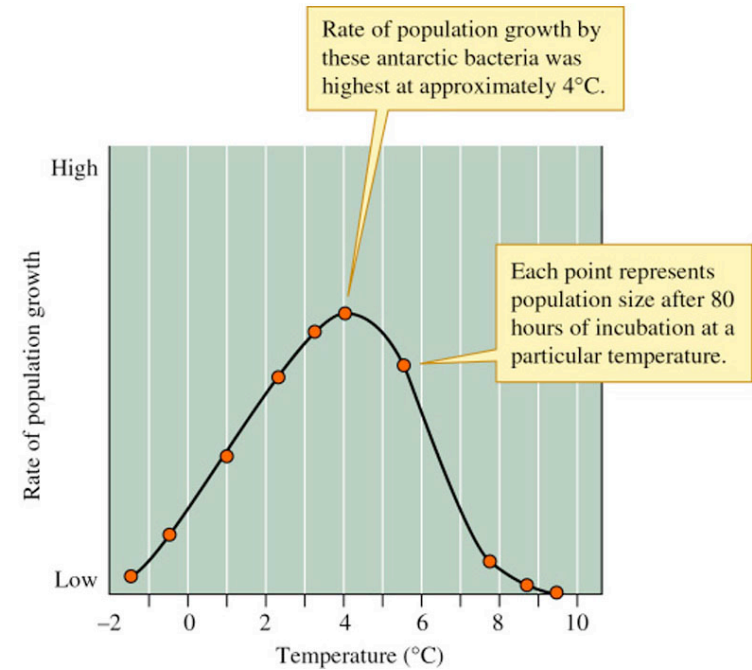
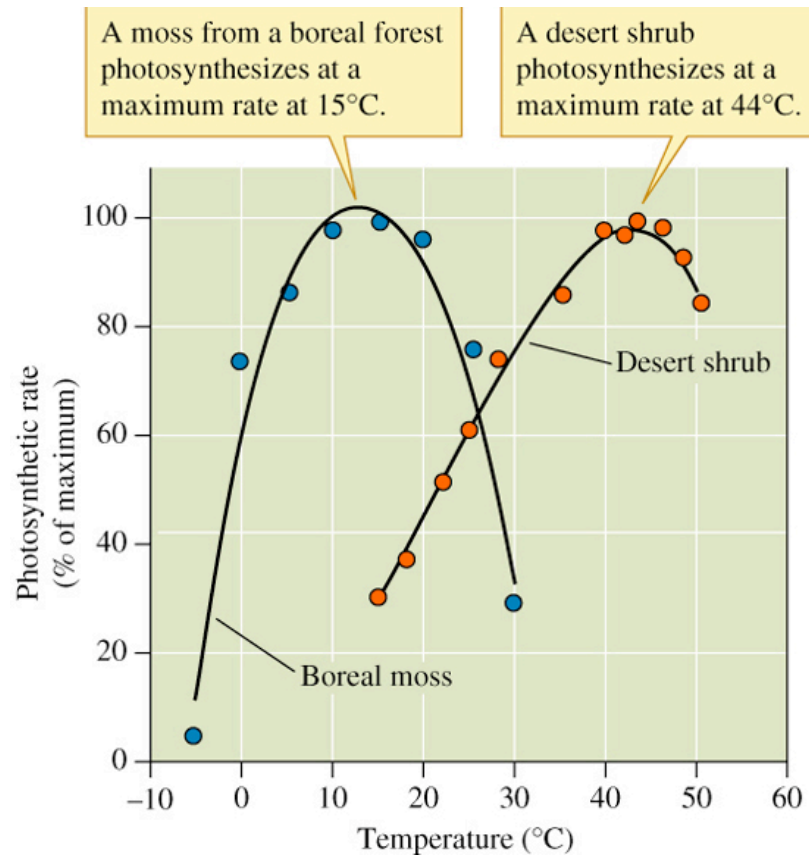
What is microclimate?



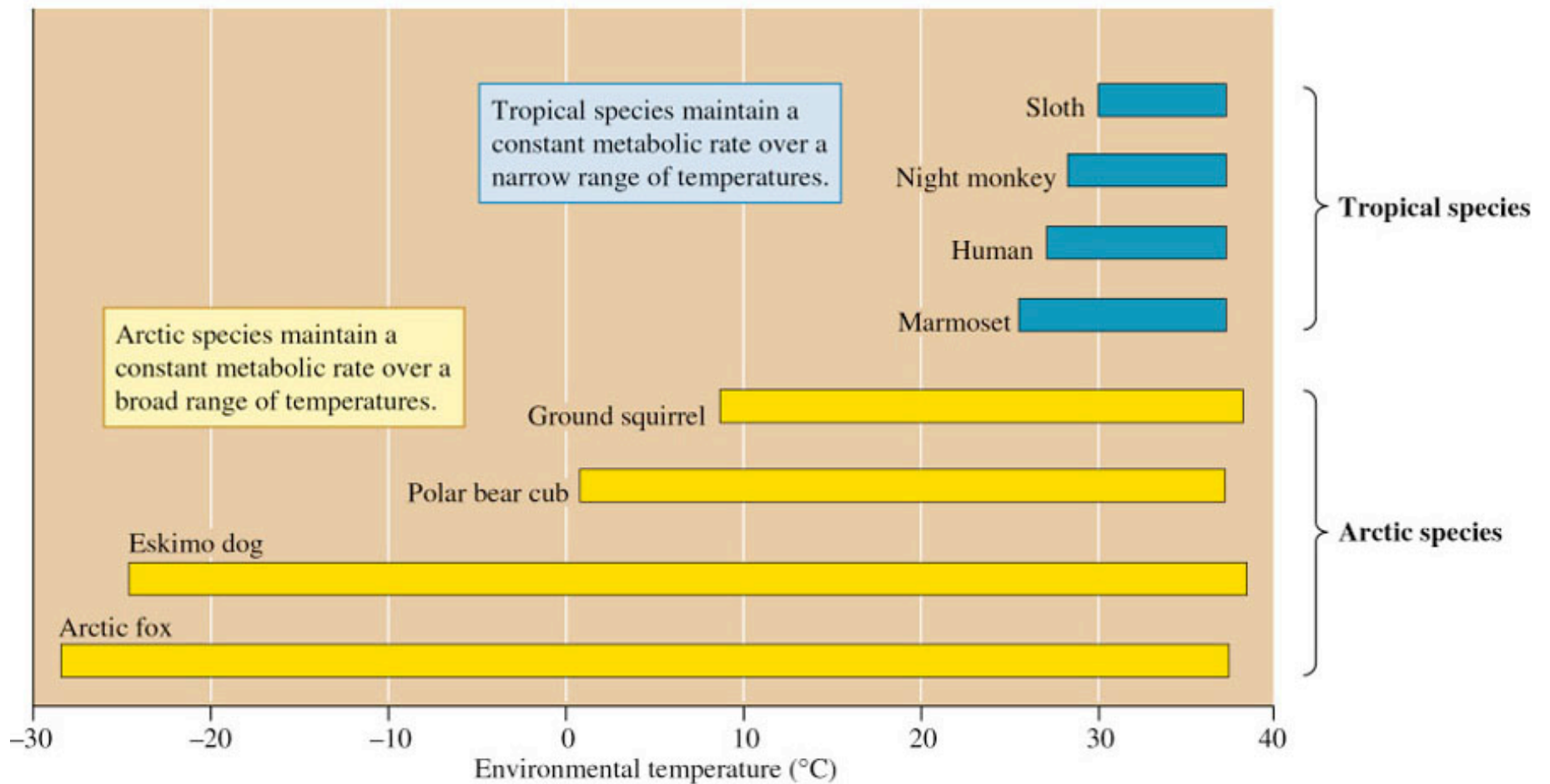
Stream microclimates



Temperature optima in ectotherms



Evolution of thermal tolerance homeotherms



What is this range of temperatures called?

Heat balance equation

$$H_S = H_m \pm H_{cd} \pm H_{cv} \pm H_r - H_e$$

H_S = Total heat stored in an organism

H_m = Gained via **metabolism**

H_{cd} = Gained / lost via **conduction**

H_{cv} = Gained / lost via **convection**

H_r = Gained / lost via electromagnetic **radiation**

H_e = Lost via **evaporation**

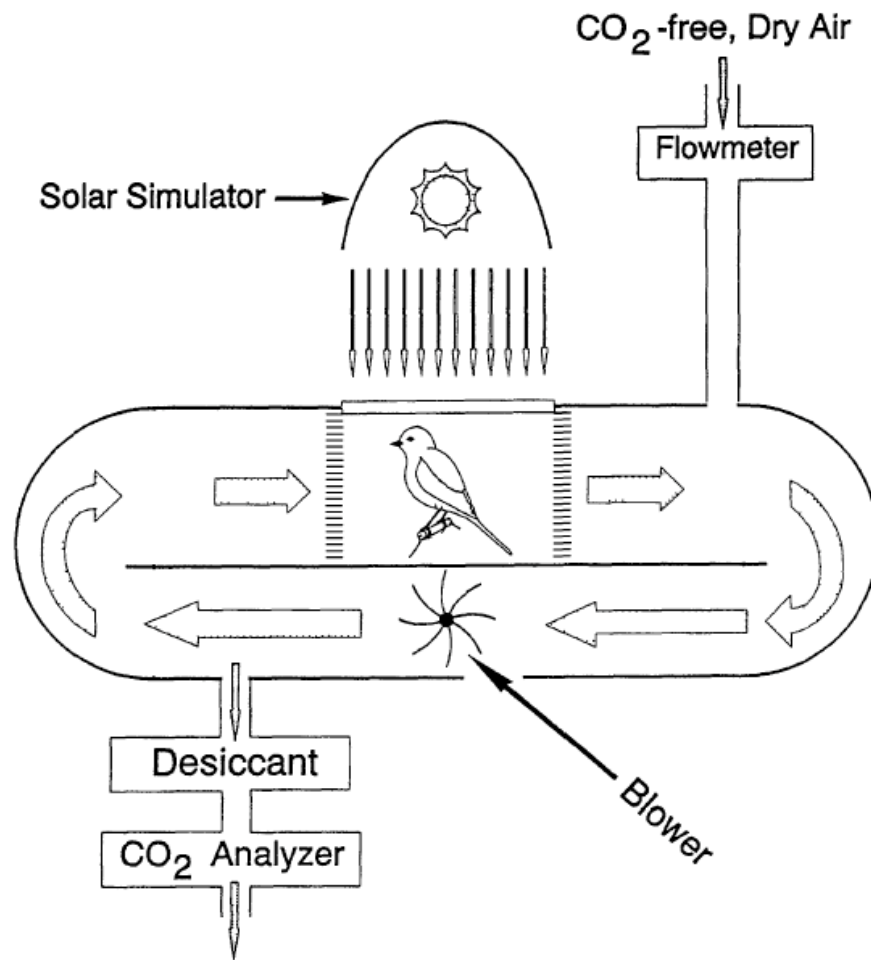


FIG. 1. Wind tunnel metabolic chamber used to vary the radiative and convective environment and measure Verdin metabolic responses.

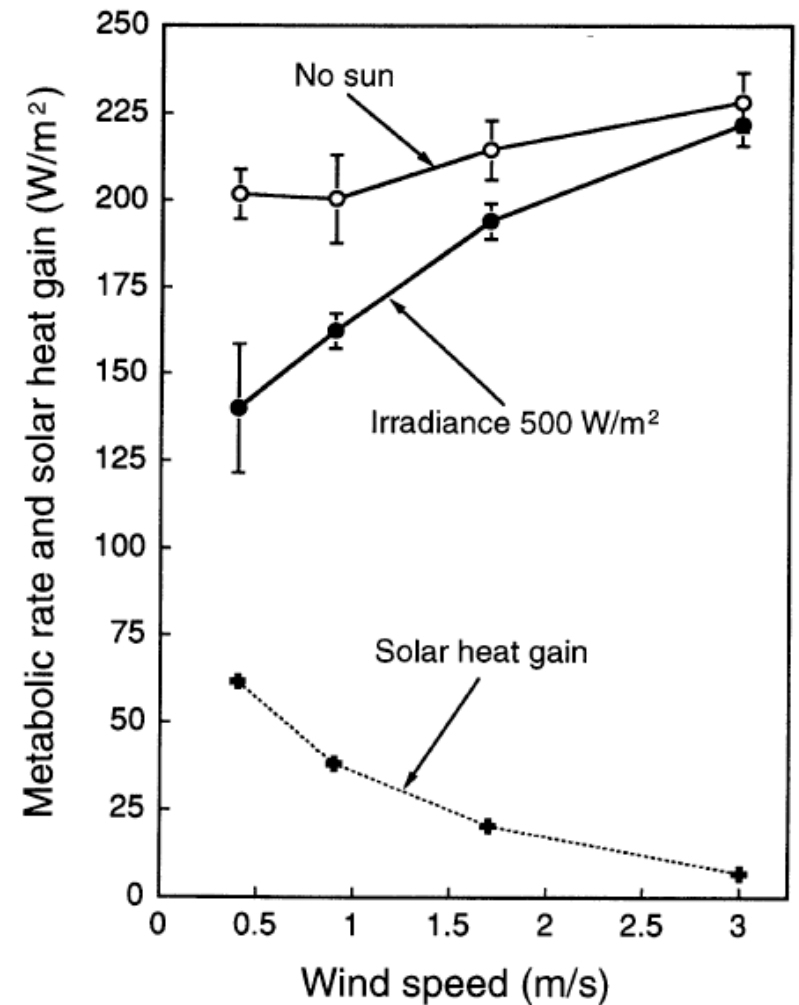
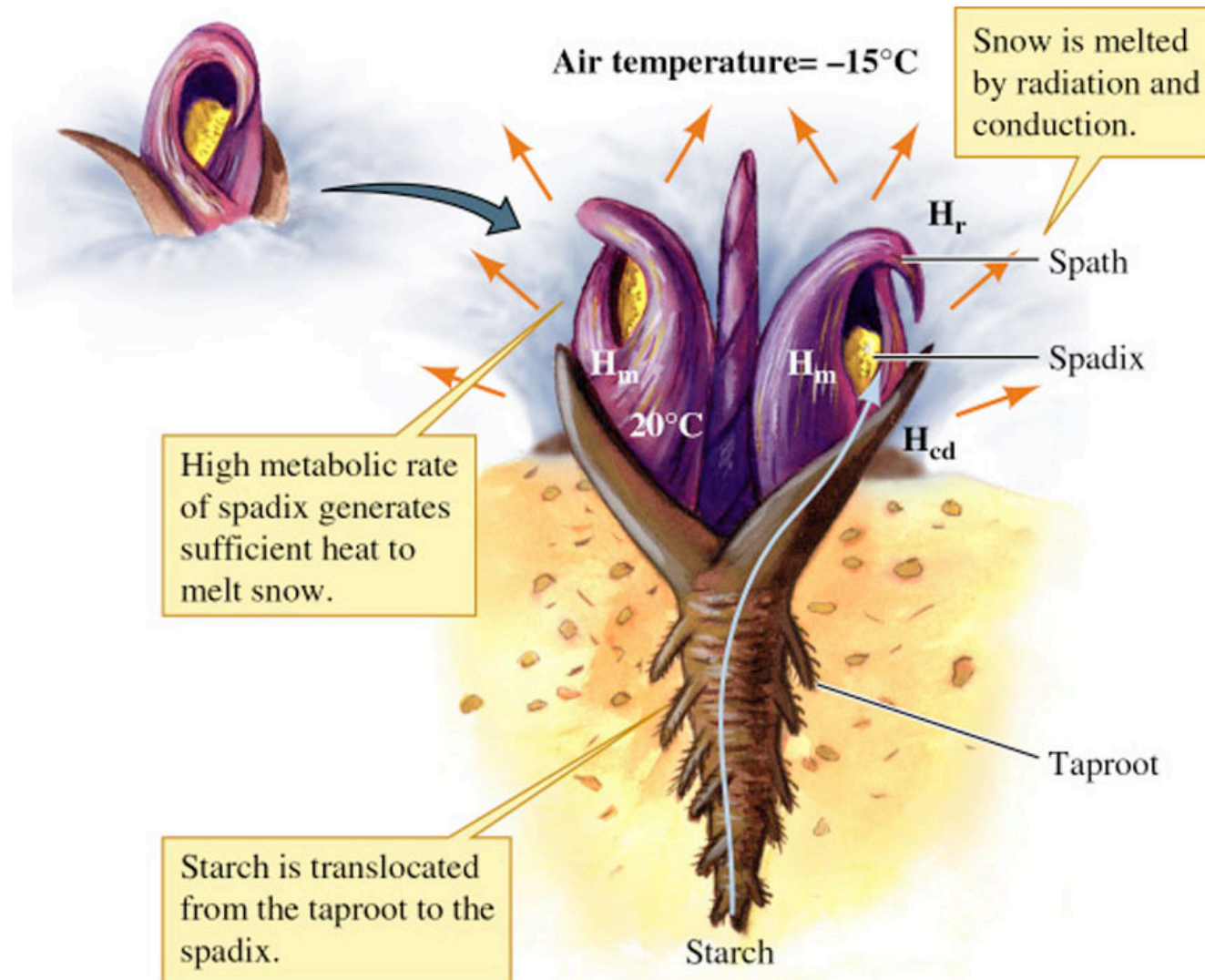


FIG. 4. Metabolic rates of Verdins as a function of wind speed in the presence and absence of simulated solar radiation at an air temperature of 15°C. Values are means and 95% confidence intervals with $n = 7$ at 0.4 m/s and $n = 8$ at all other wind speeds.

Metabolic thermoregulation in verdins (*Aureparus flaviceps*)
 Wolf and Walsberg, 1996

Not all plants are ectotherms: *Symplocarpus foetidus*



Thermoregulation by environmental manipulation Fungus-growing termites (*Macrotermes bellicosus*)

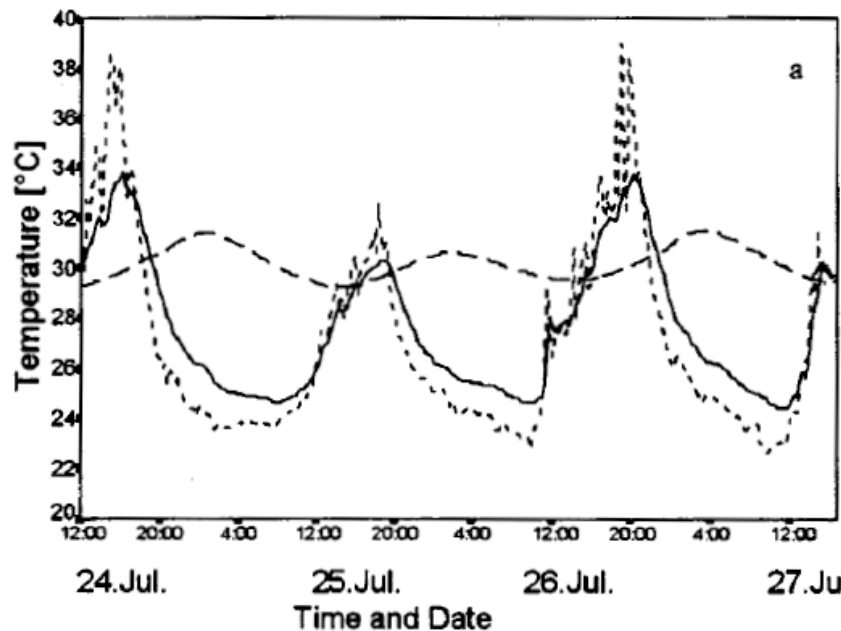
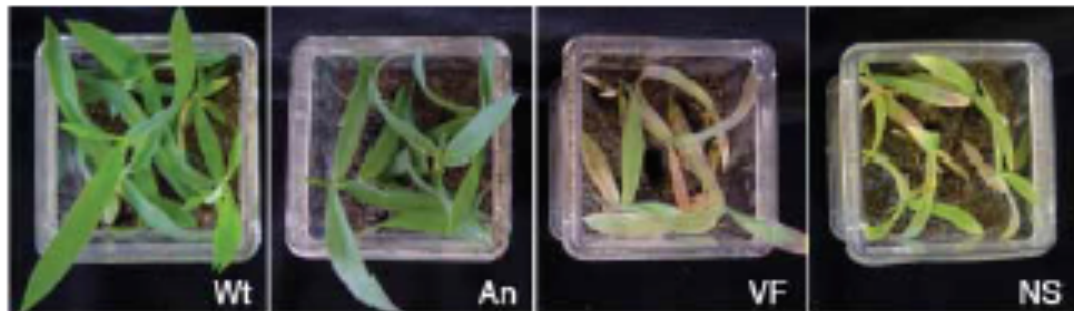


Figure 3. Continuous temperature measurements over the course of four days in and at a typical mound of the shrub savanna (S5-c; a) and gallery forest (R5-c; b). Temperature of the air: - - -; air channel: —; fungus garden: — — —.

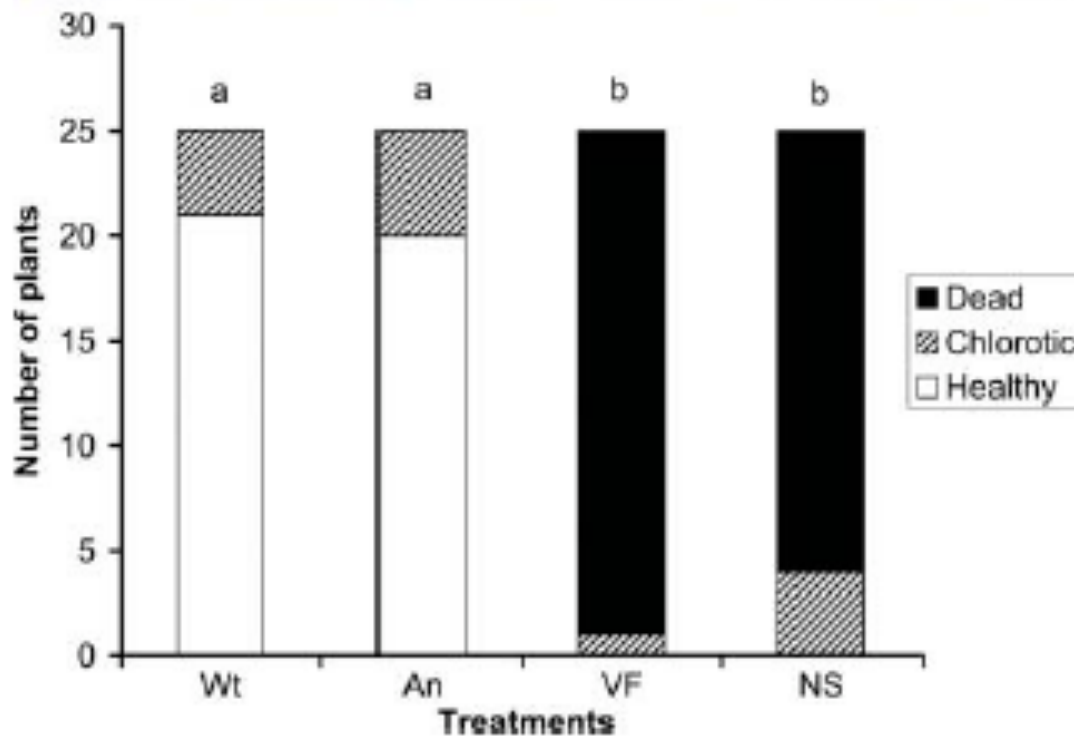
Korb and Linsenmair, 1998

Thermal tolerance - a virus in a fungus in a plant



Dichanthelium

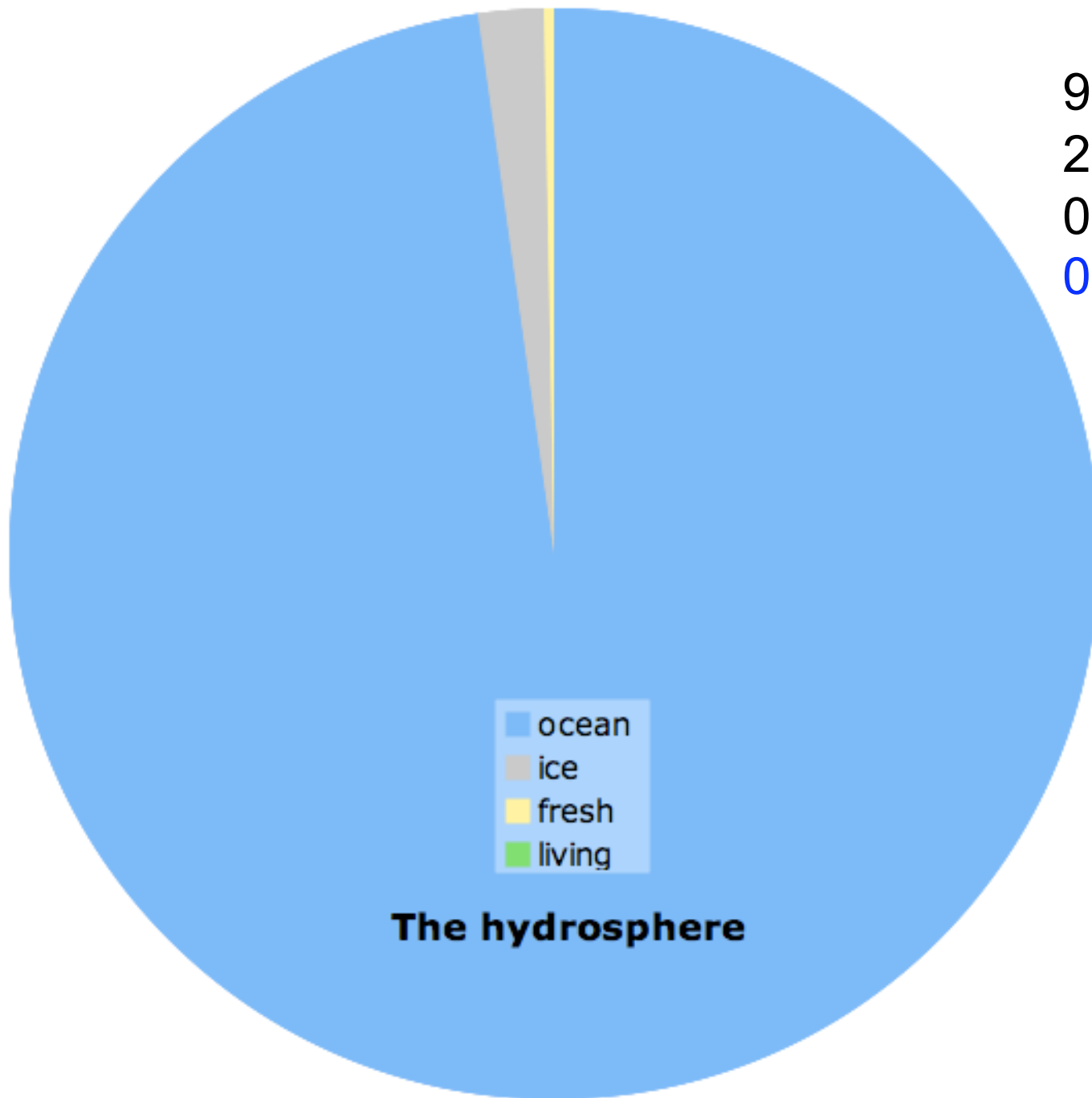
(a tropical grass)



Soil heated to 65 C
10 hrs per day

That is HOT!

Marquez et al. 2007 *Science*

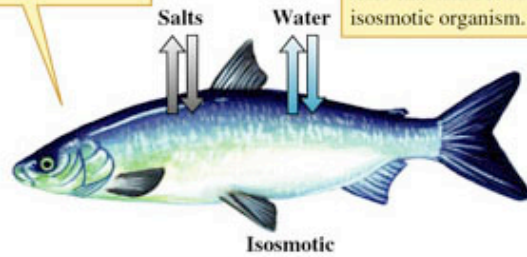


97.7% Oceans
2% Ice
0.02% Fresh
0.00002% Living

The hydrosphere

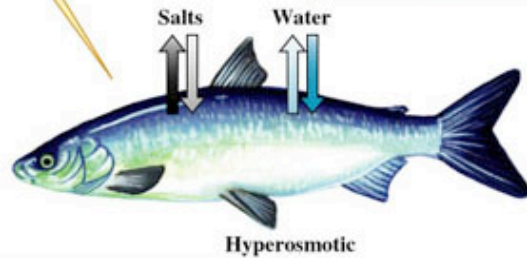
Water Travels on Gradients

In an isosmotic aquatic organism, internal concentrations of water and salt equal their concentrations in the environment.



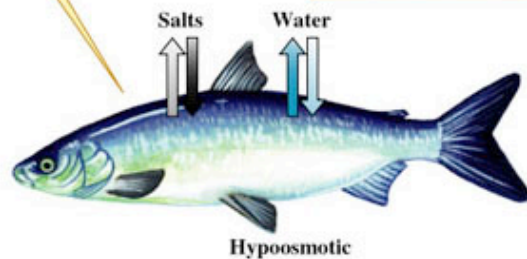
Salts and water diffuse at approximately equal rates into and out of an isosmotic organism.

Compared to the environment, a hyperosmotic aquatic organism has a lower internal concentration of water and a higher internal concentration of salts.



Salts diffuse out of a hyperosmotic organism at a higher rate, while water diffuses in at a higher rate.

Compared to the environment, a hypoosmotic aquatic organism has a higher internal concentration of water and a lower internal concentration of salts.



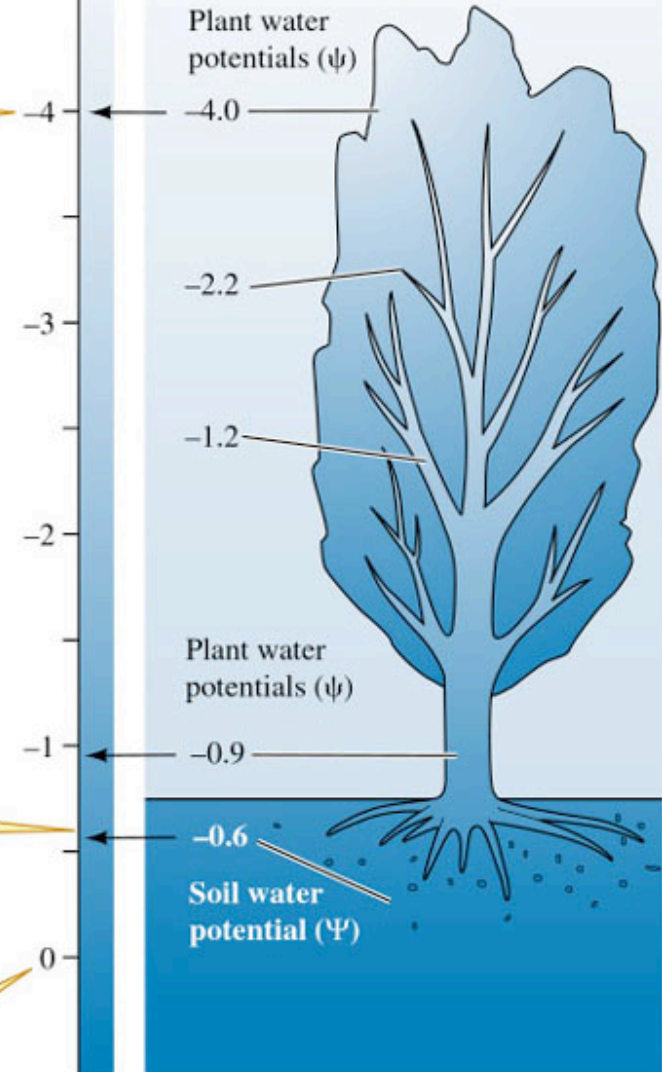
Salts diffuse into a hypoosmotic organism at a higher rate, while water diffuses out at a higher rate.

Water potential

-100 ← Dry air $\psi = -100$

Dry air has the lowest water potential.

Water potential at the top of the plant is lower (more negative).



Water potential of the soil is higher (less negative).

Water potential of pure water.

Water movement from soil to plant

$$\Psi_{\text{plant}} = \Psi_{\text{solute}} + \Psi_{\text{matric}} + \Psi_{\text{pressure}}$$

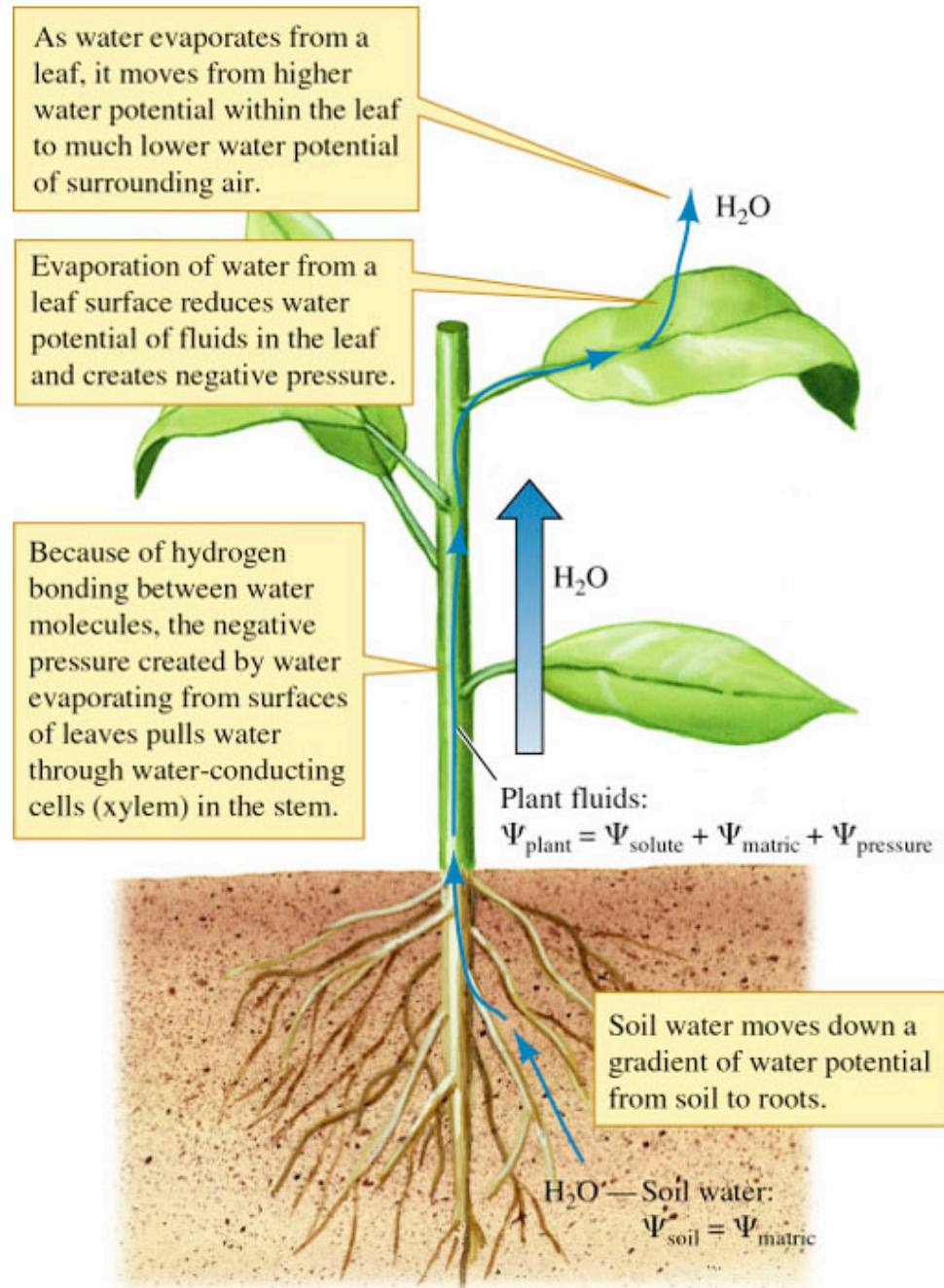
$$\Psi_{\text{soil}} \approx \Psi_{\text{matric}}$$

Water potentials are **NEGATIVE** and water flows from less negative to more negative potential.

Ψ_{matric} represents water's tendency to adhere to surfaces.

Ψ_{pressure} is the reduction in water potential due to negative pressure created by water evaporating from leaves.

As long as $\Psi_{\text{plant}} < \Psi_{\text{soil}}$, water flows from the soil to the plant.



In plants, water flows in a continuous stream from root to leaf

Plant

$$W_{ip} = W_r + W_a - W_t - W_s$$

W_{ip} = Internal water

W_r = Root uptake

W_a = Absorbed (air)

W_t = Transpiration

W_s = Secretions

Animal

$$W_{ia} = W_d + W_f + W_a - W_e - W_s$$

W_{ia} = Internal water

W_d = Drinking

W_f = Food (as source)

W_a = Absorbed (air)

W_e = Evaporation

W_s = Secretion / Excretion

Water budgets in plants and animals.