

Evolution of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism and related traits

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A survival strategy can hardly be reduced to a particular trait or key adaptation but instead has been moulded by natural selection from a suite of traits ancestral to the respective lineage. Traits as complex as Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) that presumably evolved over a long time period are associated with other traits that collectively determine the fitness of a plant with CAM.

We investigated the expression of CAM, the degree of succulence and the cuticular conductance as well as the bioclimatic niche of Aeonieae (Crassulaceae), a species-rich lineage of the Canary Islands. The results of this study will be presented.

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