

Uptake kinetics across the leaf cuticle

Properties and Functions of the Green Skin

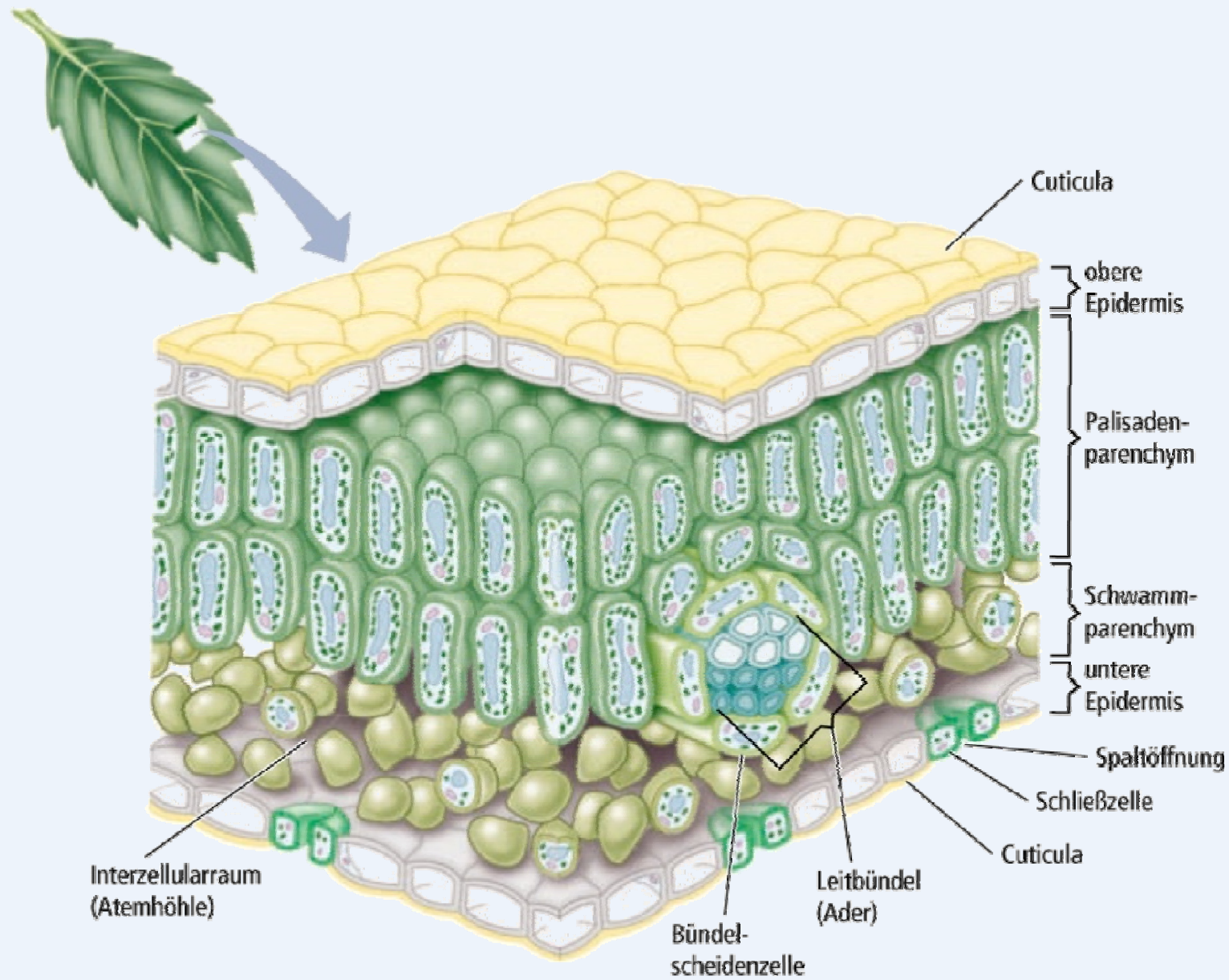
Markus Riederer

University of Würzburg, Germany

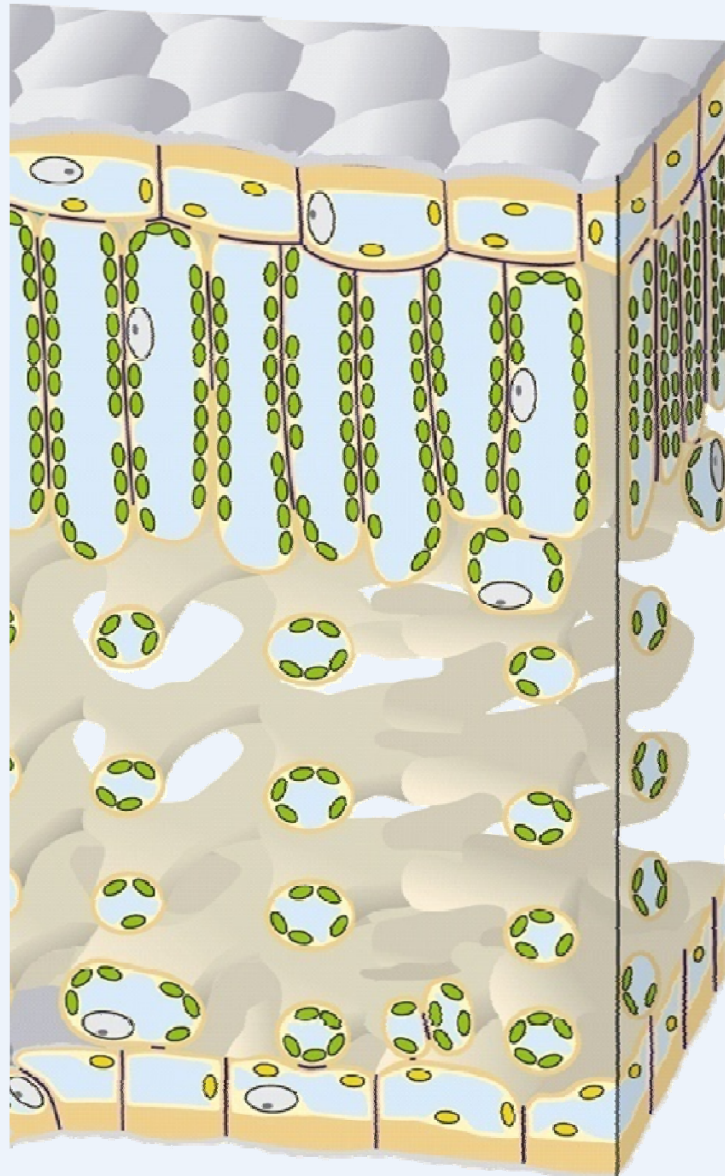
Email: riederer@uni-wuerzburg.de





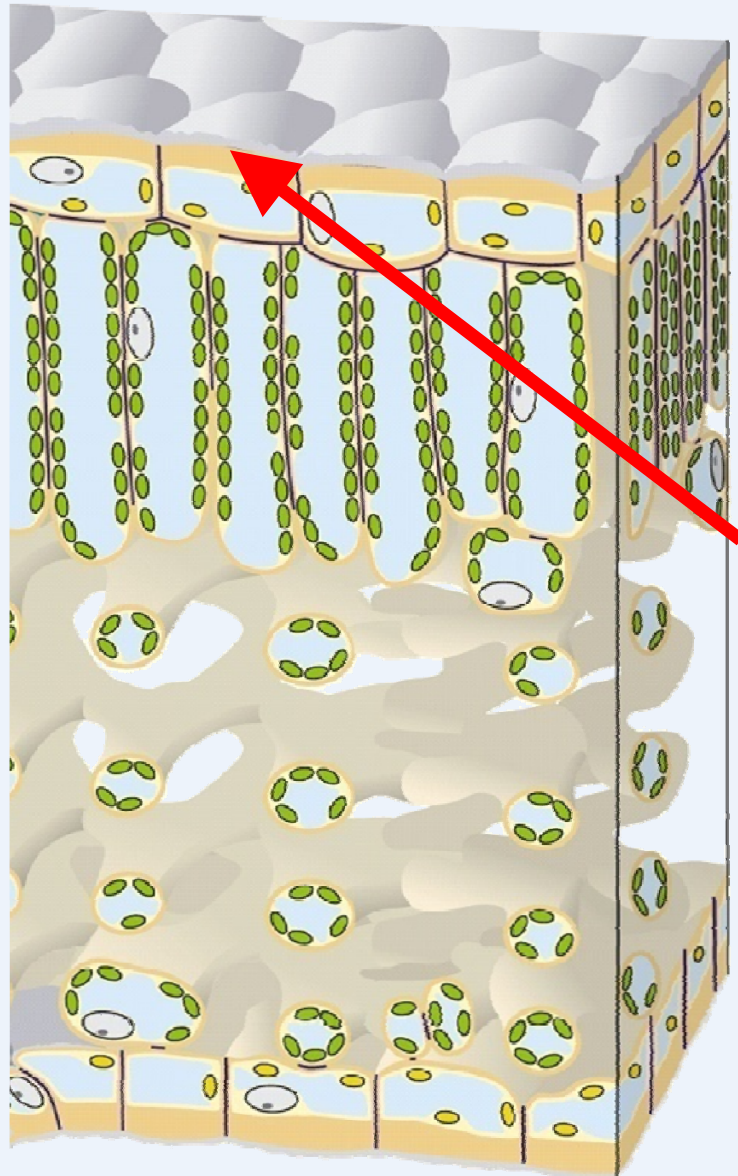


The Skin of Plants



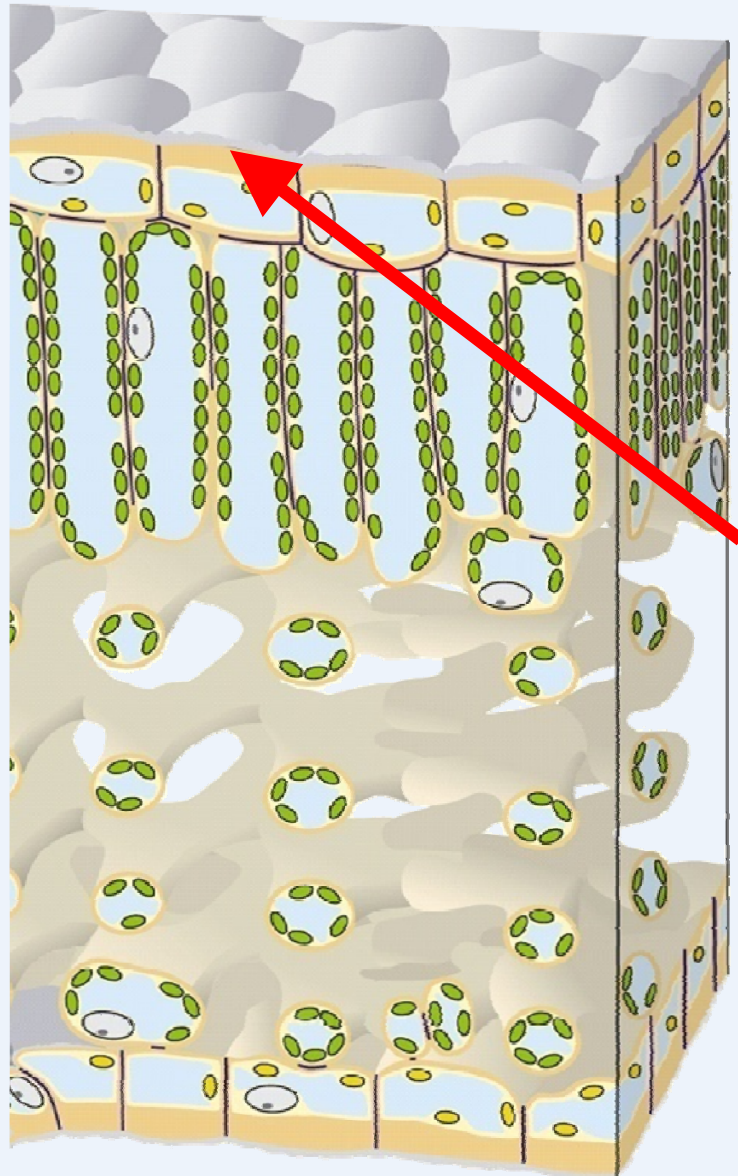
← Epidermis

Cuticle – the Skin of Plants



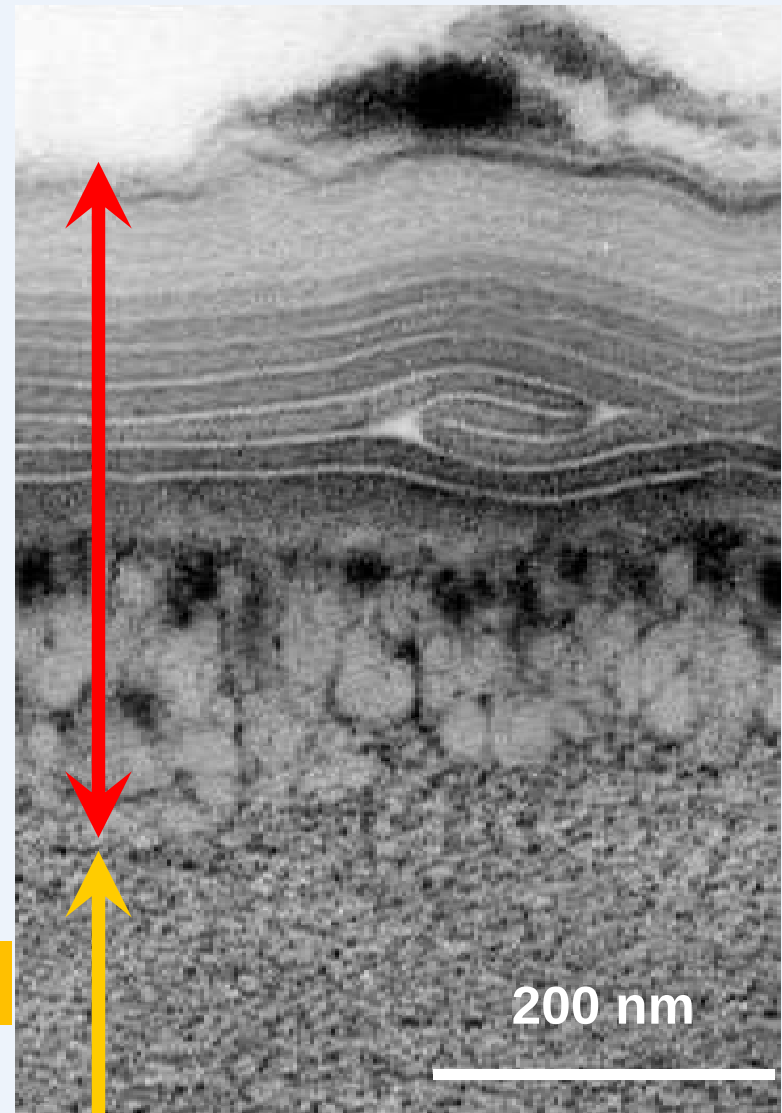
Cuticle

Cuticle – the Skin of Plants



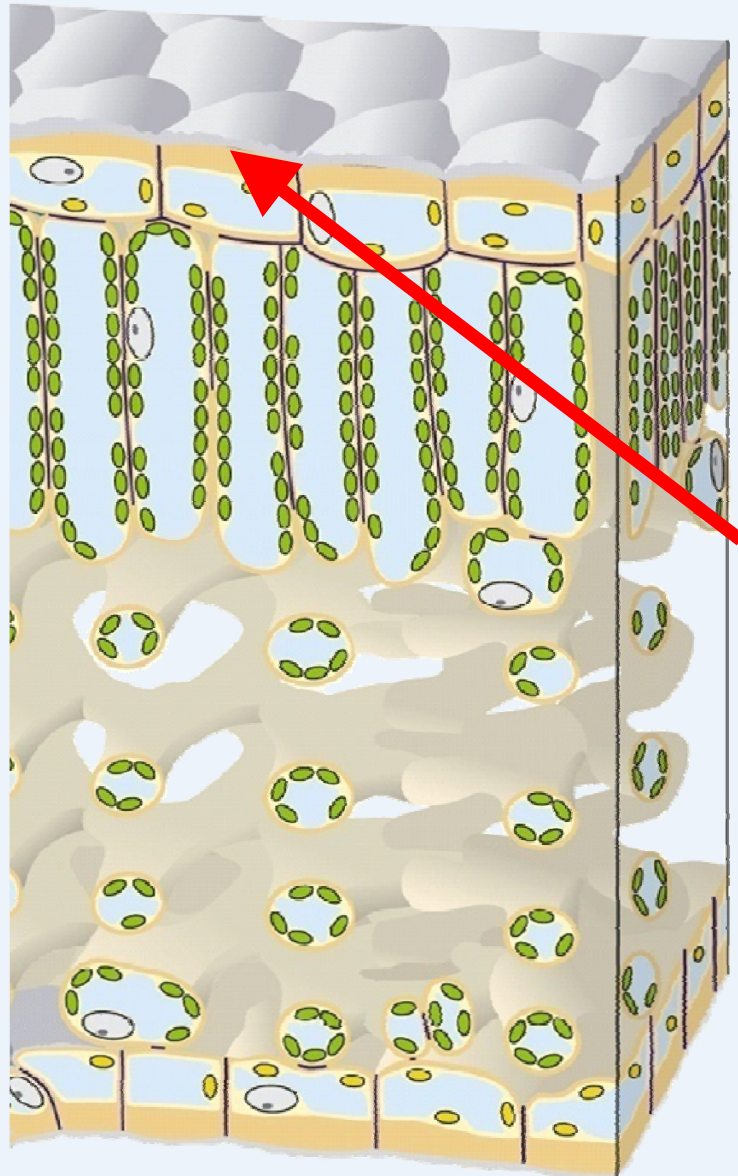
Cuticle

Cell wall



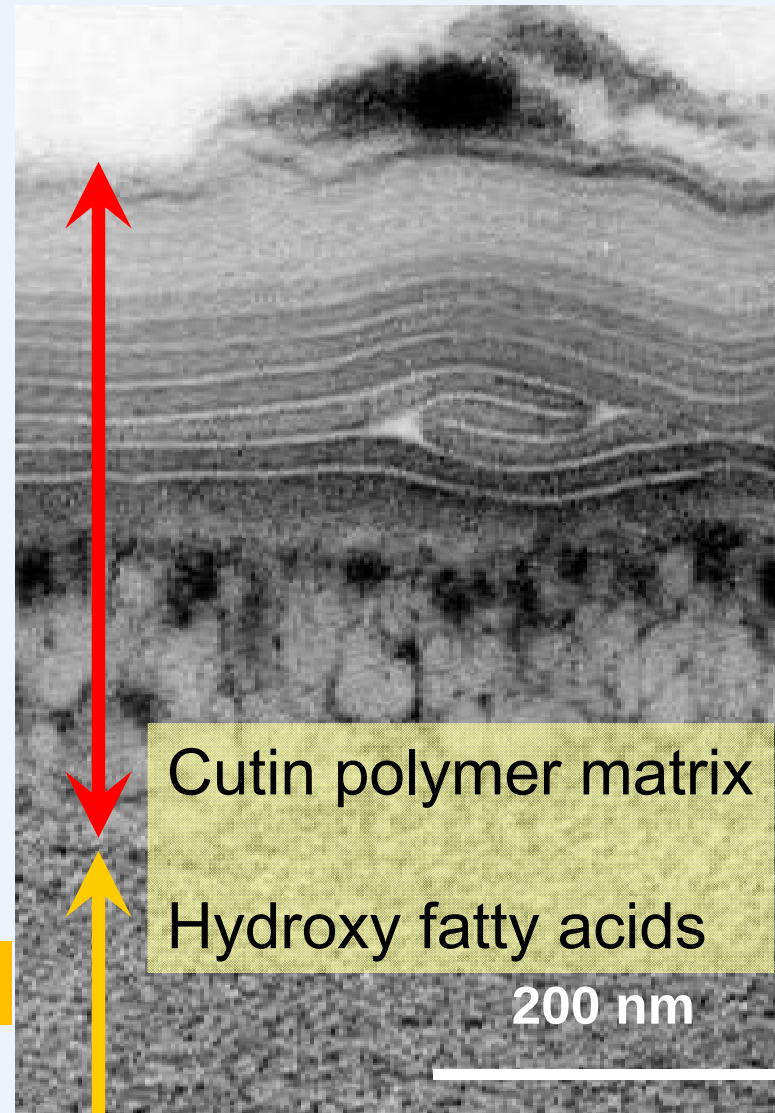
200 nm

Cuticle – the Skin of Plants



Cuticle

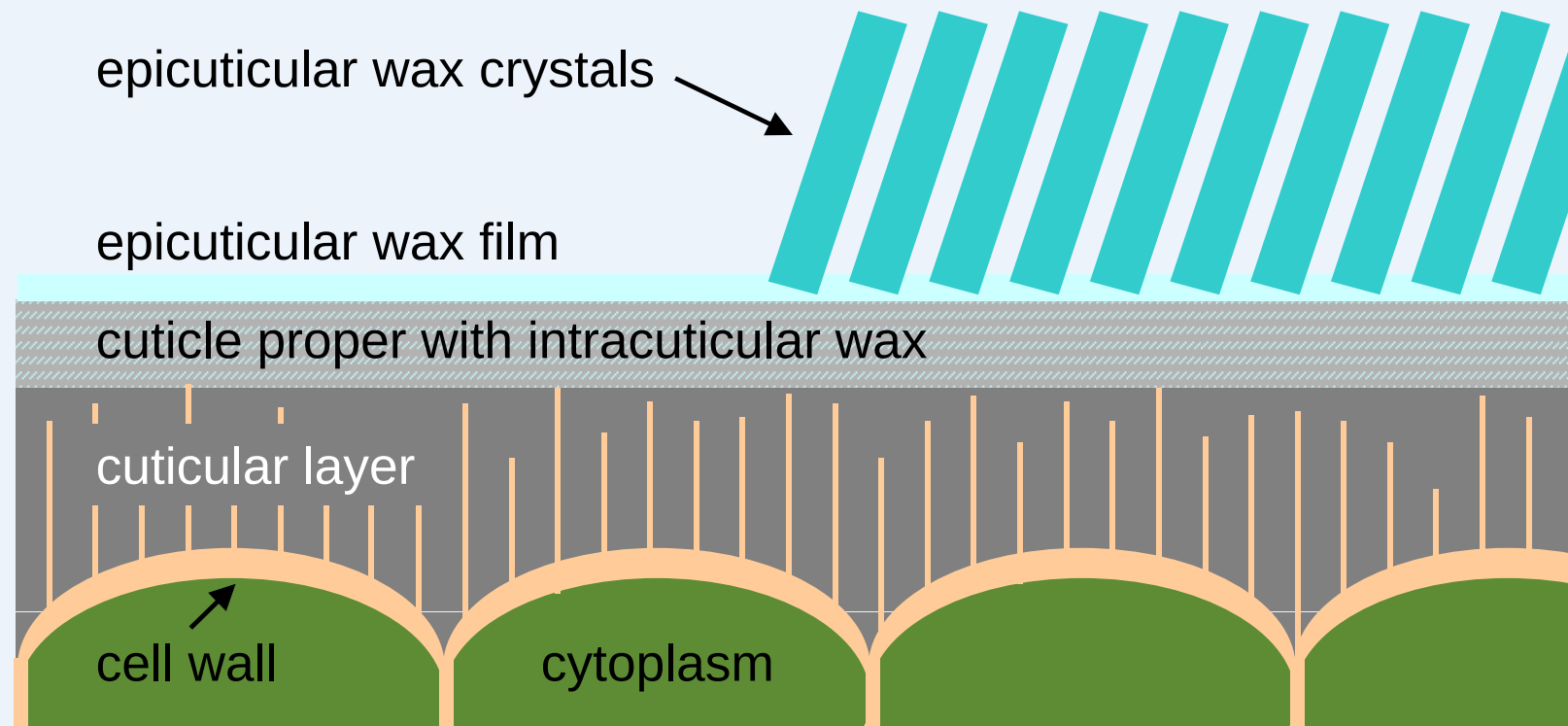
Cell wall

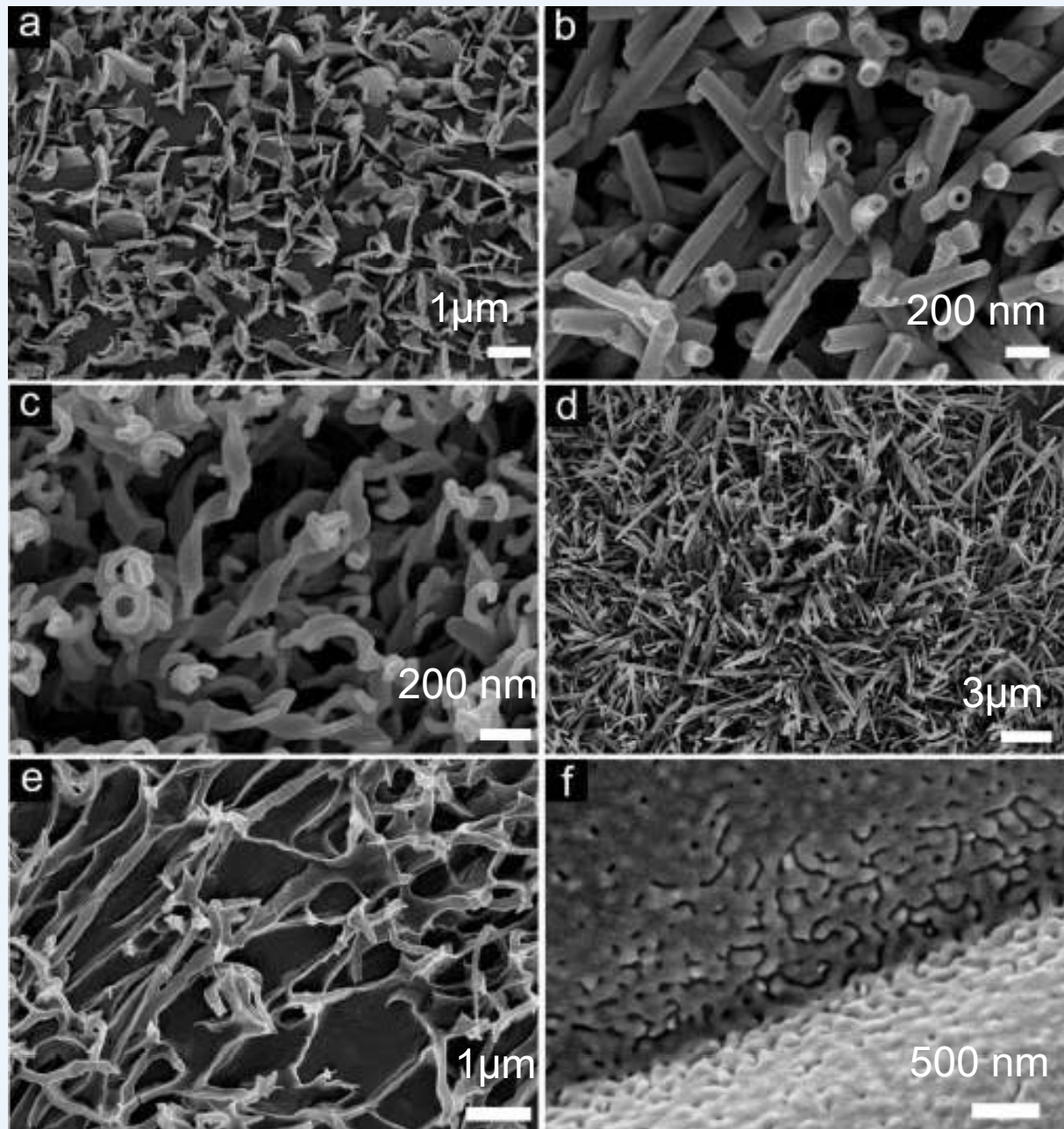


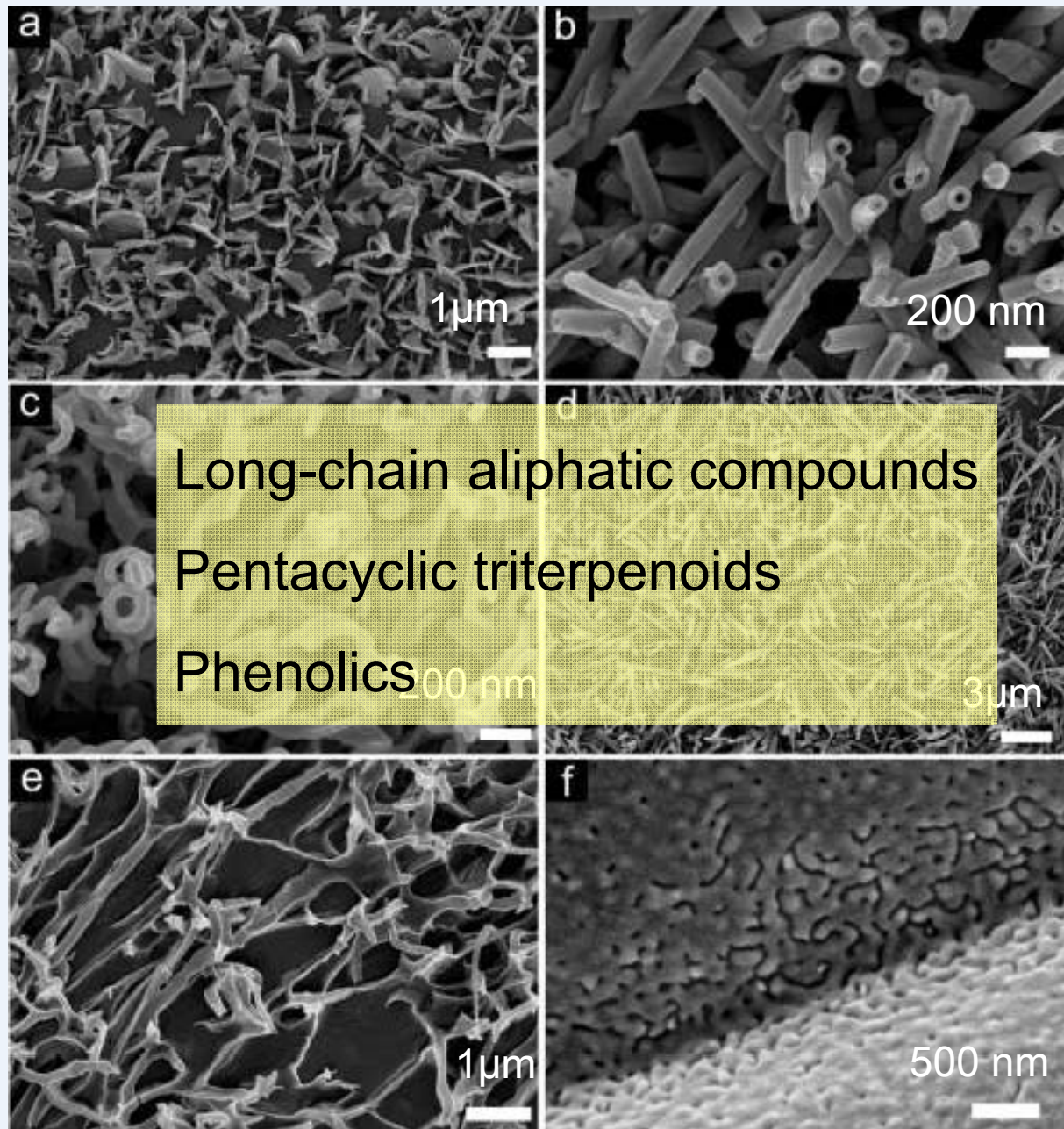
Cutin polymer matrix

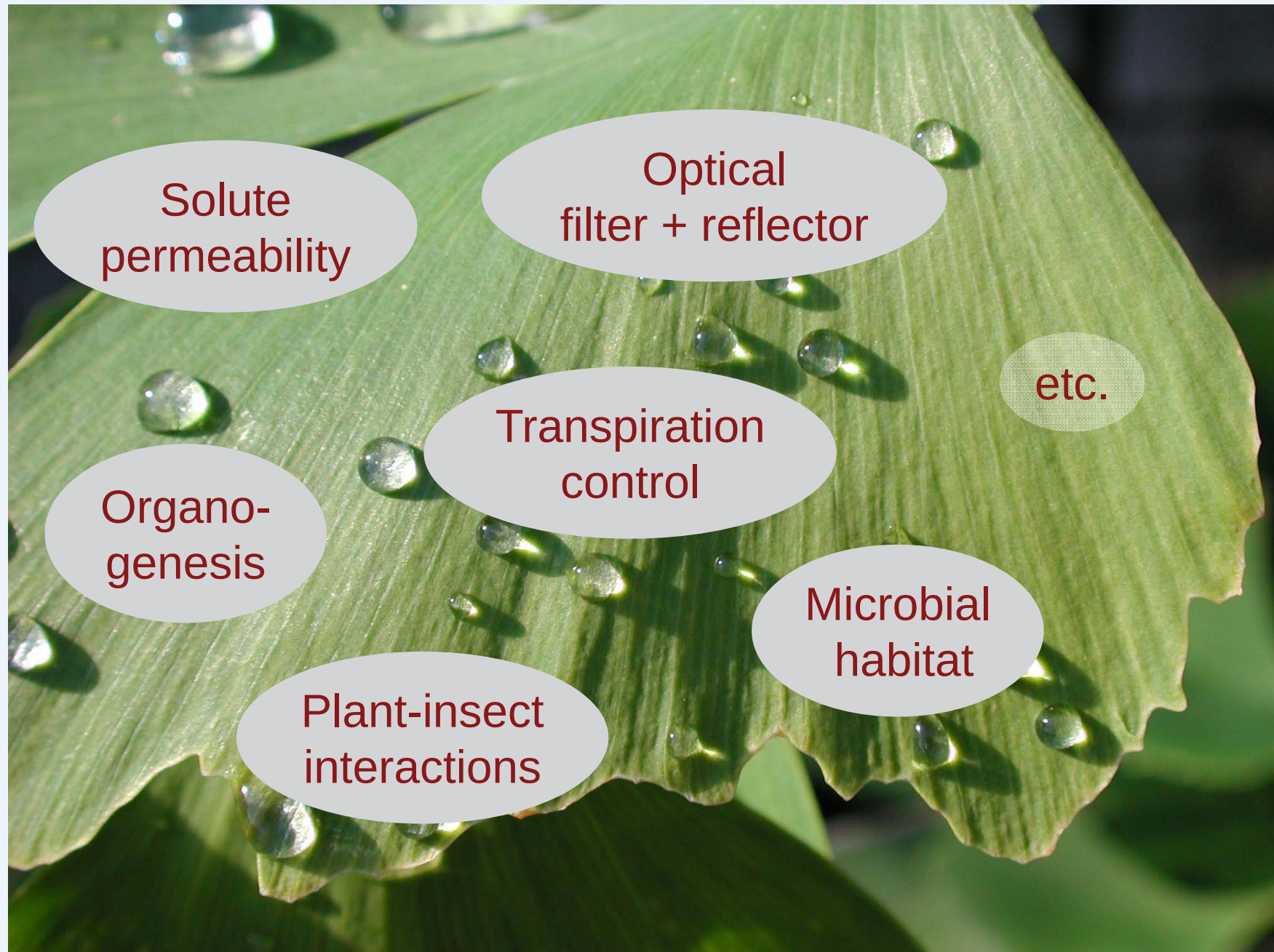
Hydroxy fatty acids

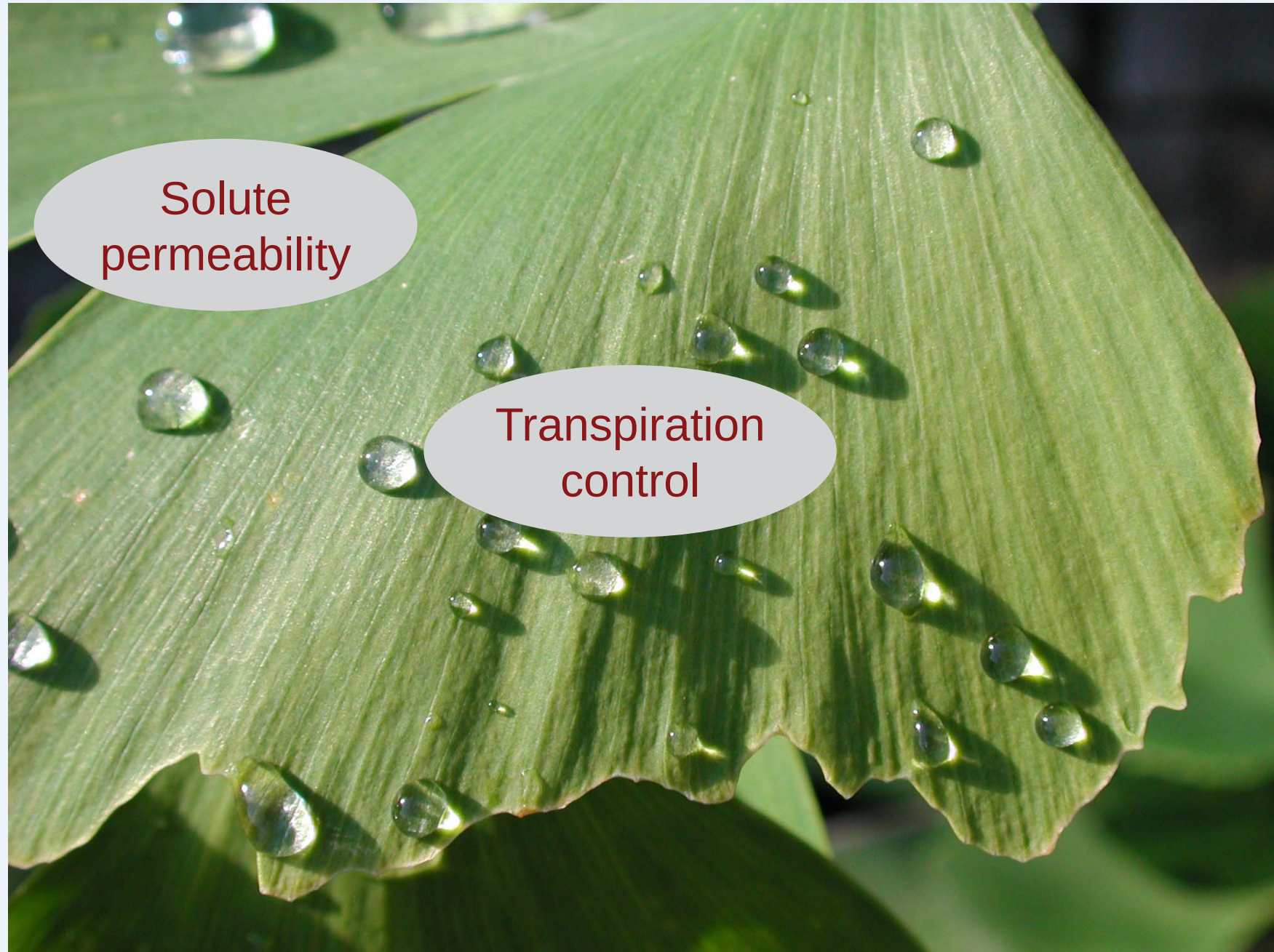
200 nm











Solute
permeability

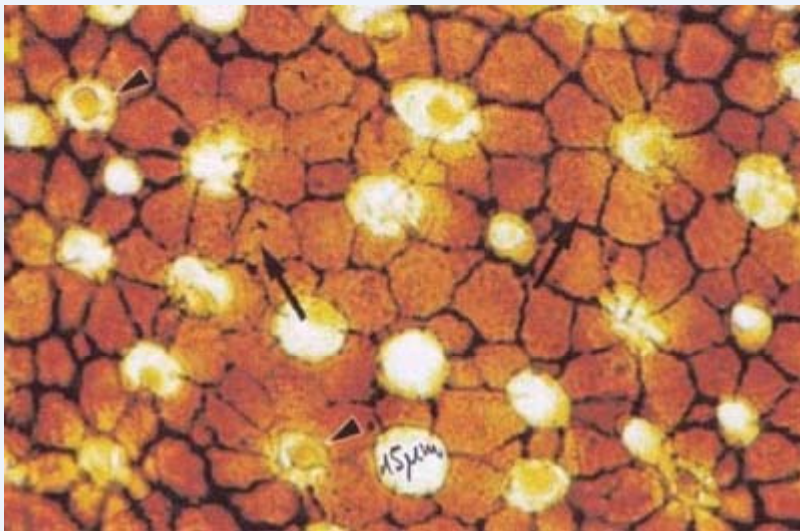
Transpiration
control

Colonisation of continents

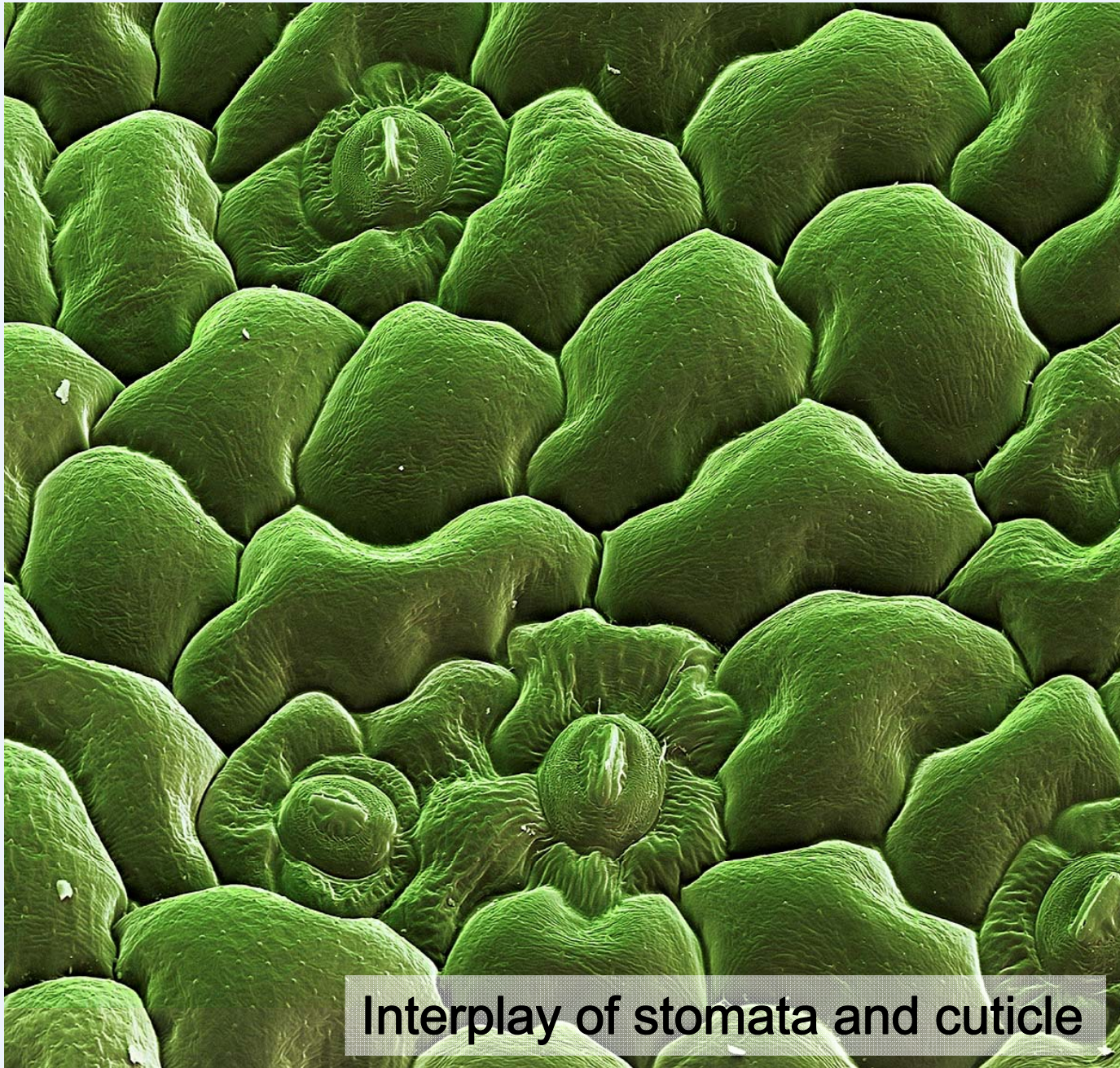


450 million years bp

Fossile cuticles
starting from Silurian
< 440 Ma



A stoma of *Aglaophaton major* with the two kidney-shaped guard cells from Early Devonian



Interplay of stomata and cuticle

Resistance model of plant transpiration

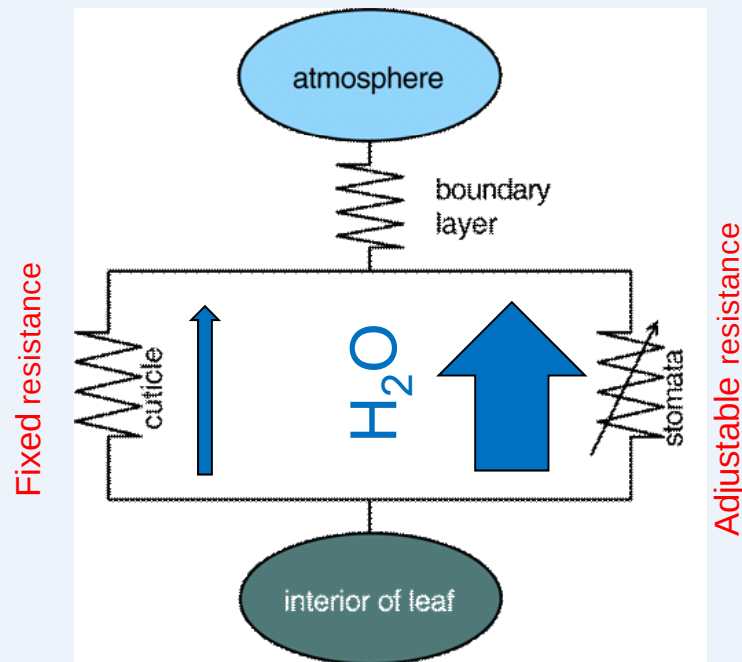


Fig. 1. No drought stress
in light

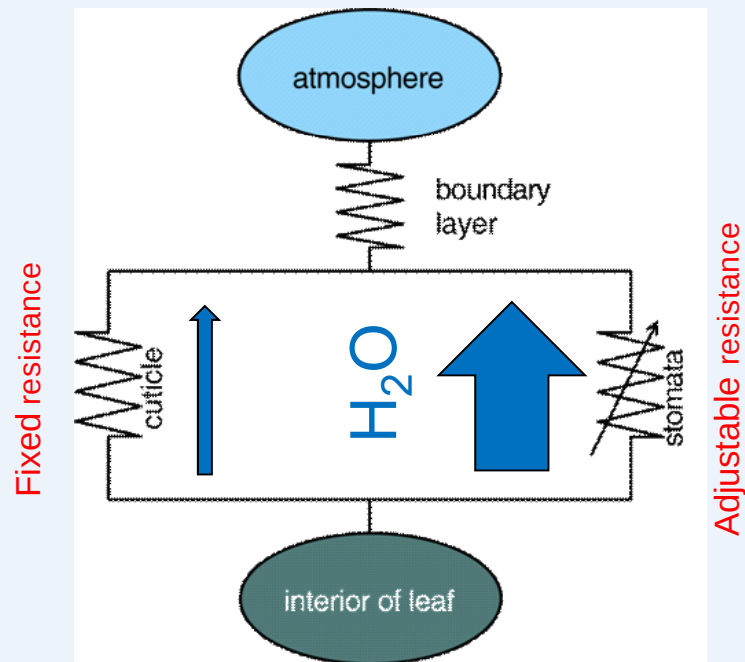


Fig. 1. No drought stress
in light

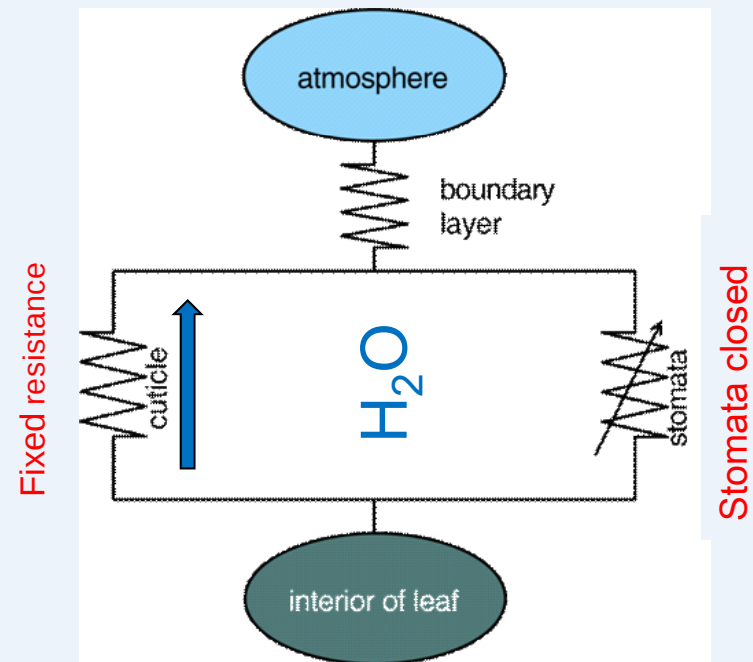
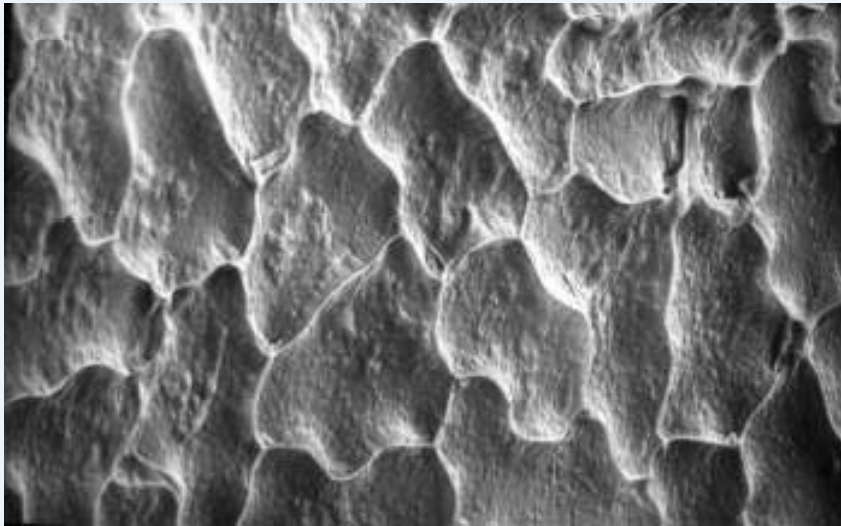
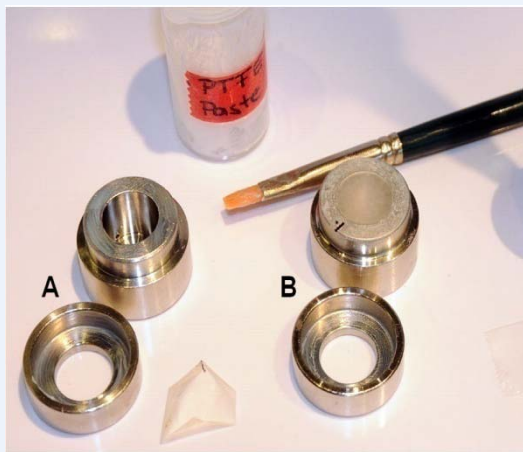


Fig. 2. Drought stress
or in darkness

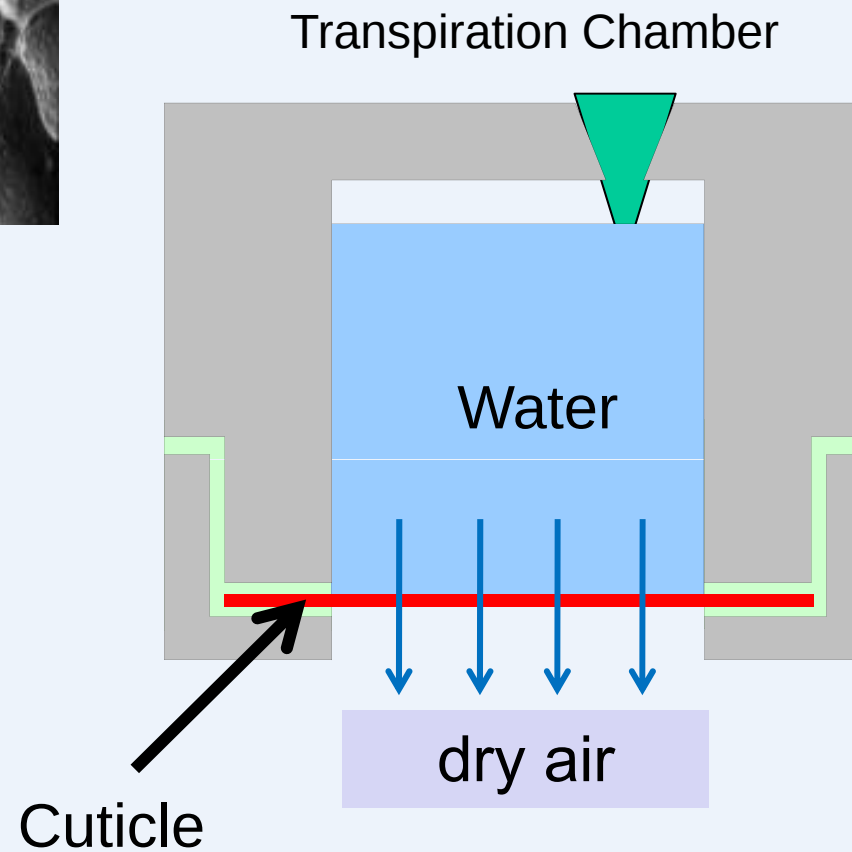
Transpiration control by stomata is possible only if residual (= cuticular) water loss is by orders of magnitude lower than stomatal conductance

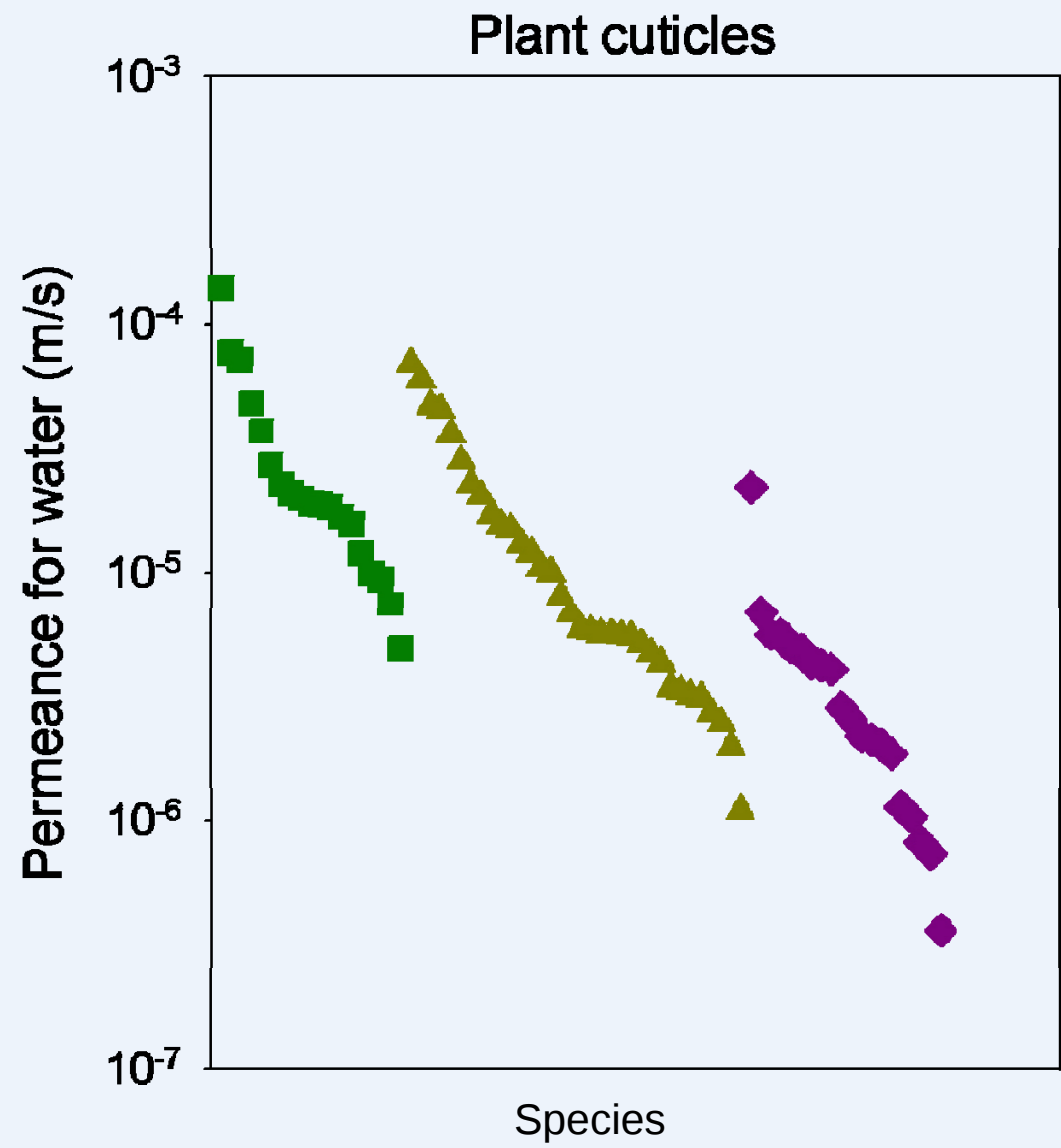


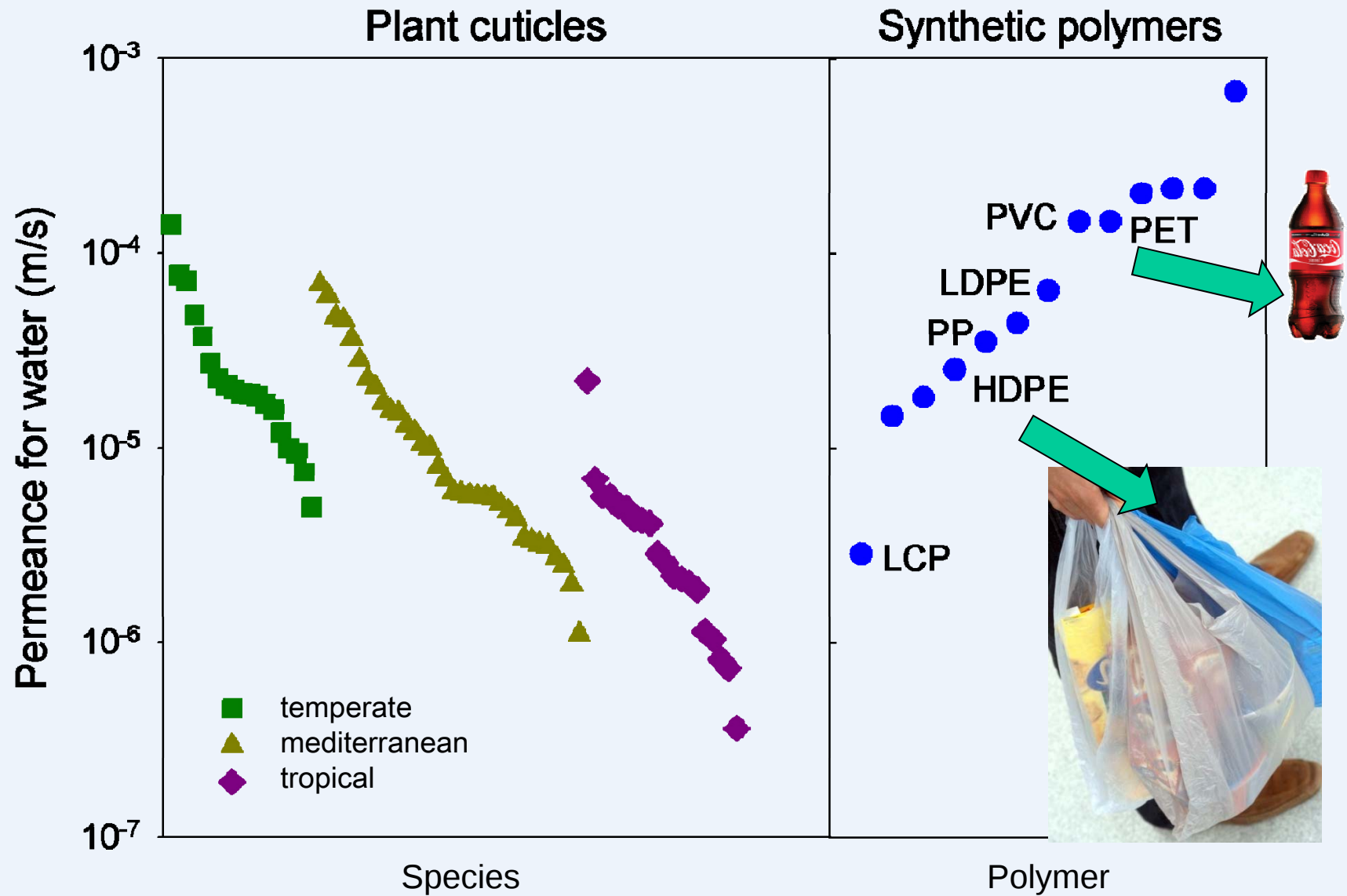
Citrus aurantium
Isolated Leaf Cuticle
100 nm – 20 μ m



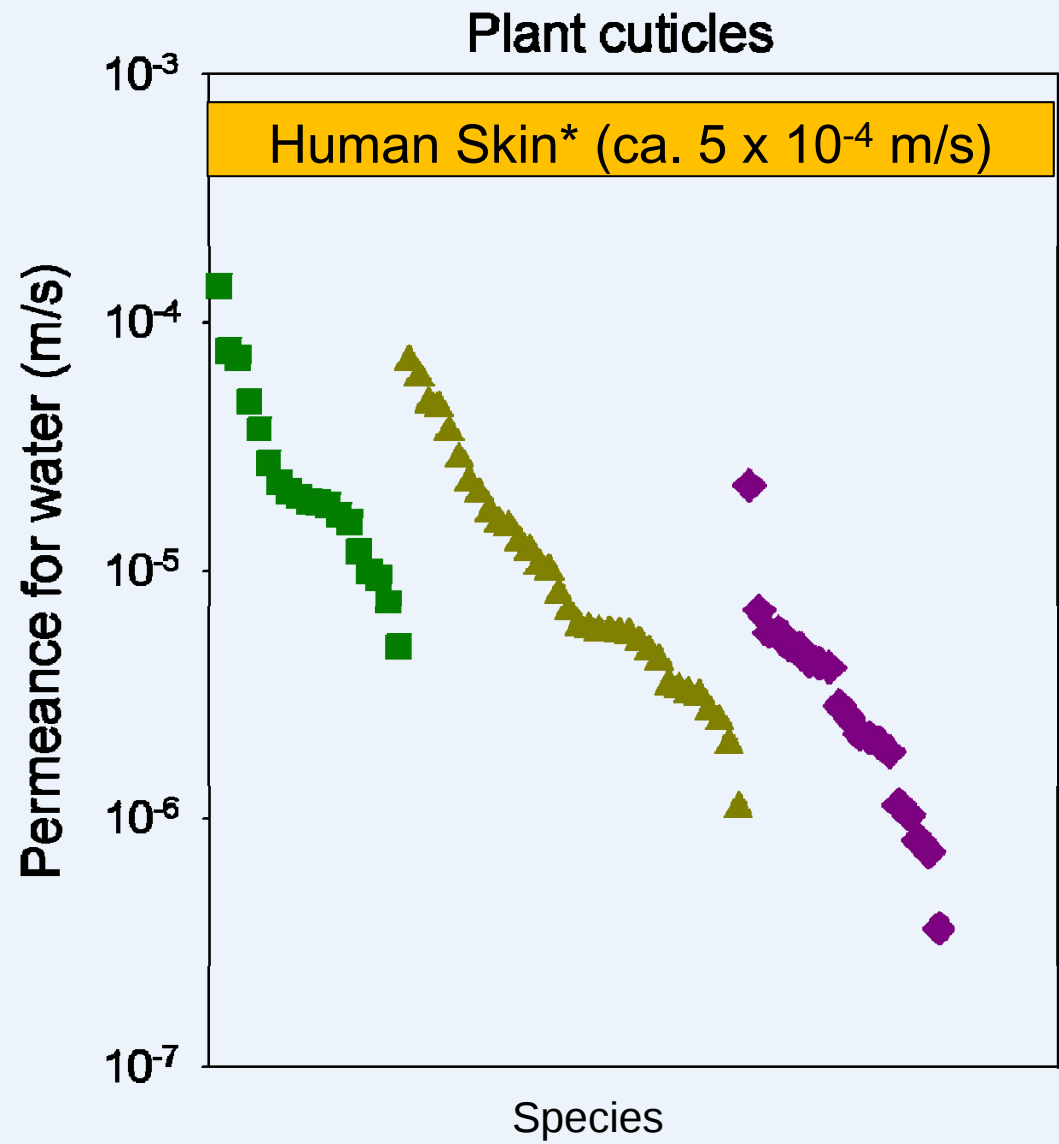
Cuticular water permeability





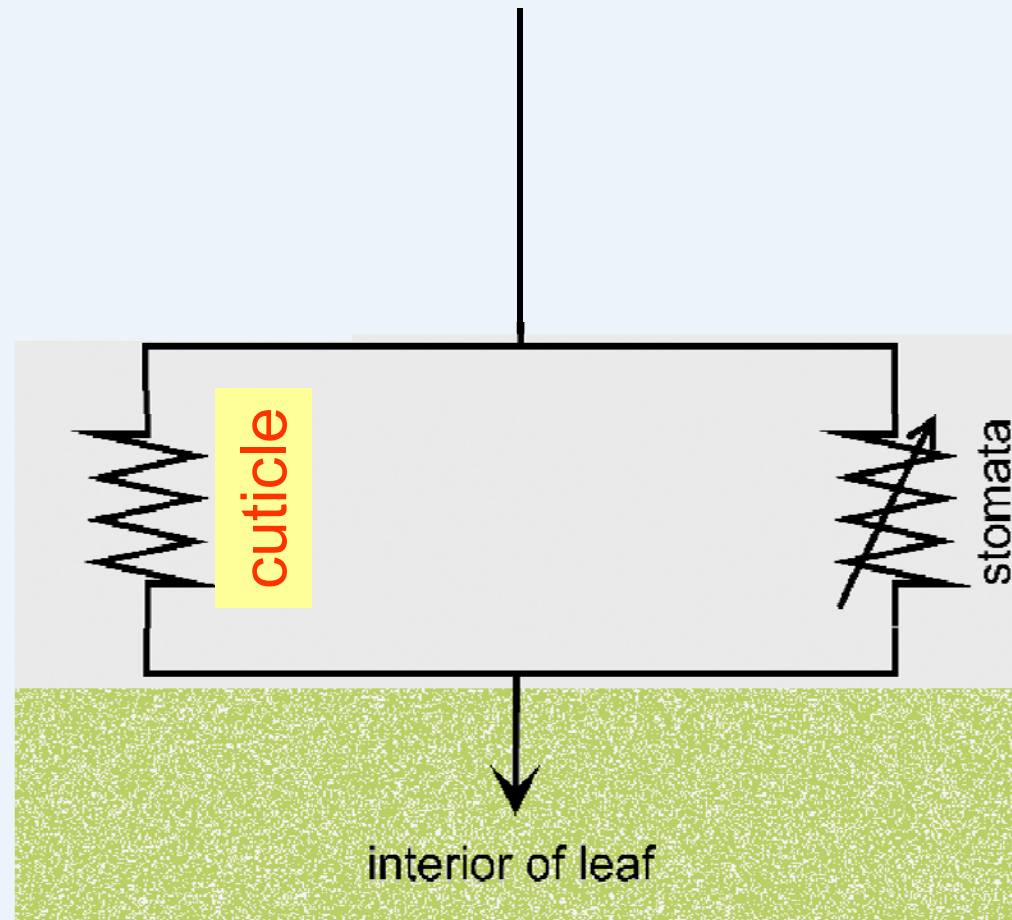


Highly efficient transpiration barrier

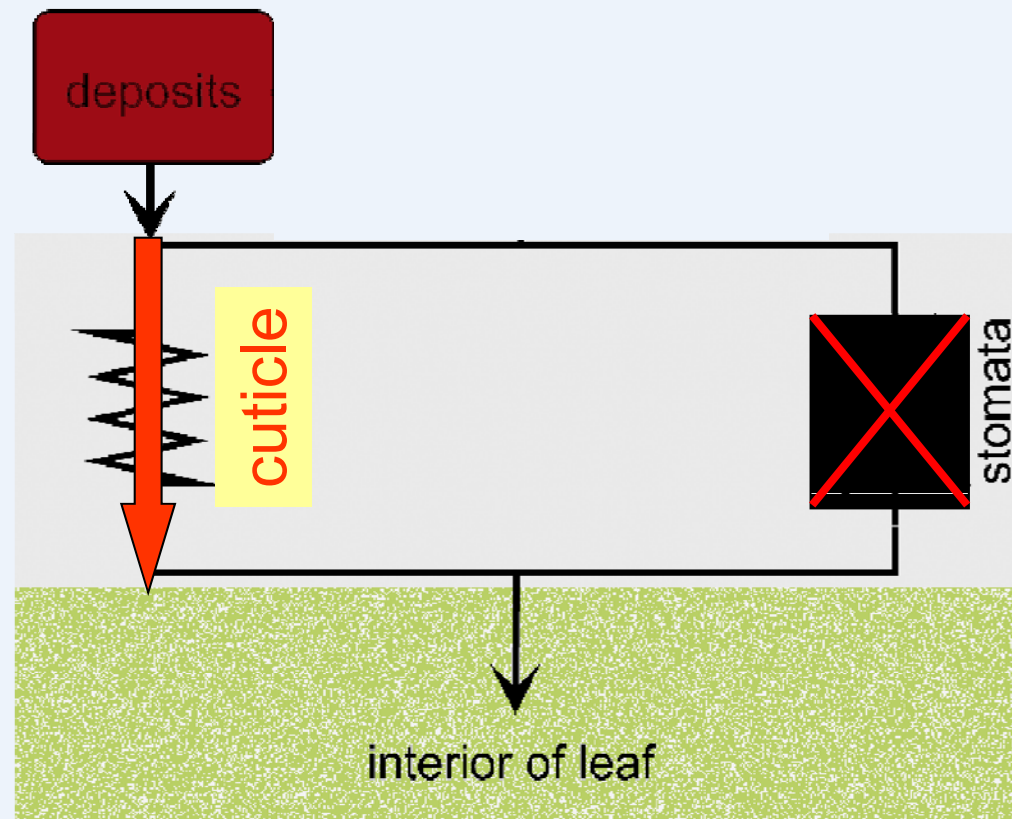


Cuticular permeation of
neutral lipophilic compounds
(e.g. pesticides, pollutants,
plant metabolites)

General resistance model of leaf uptake

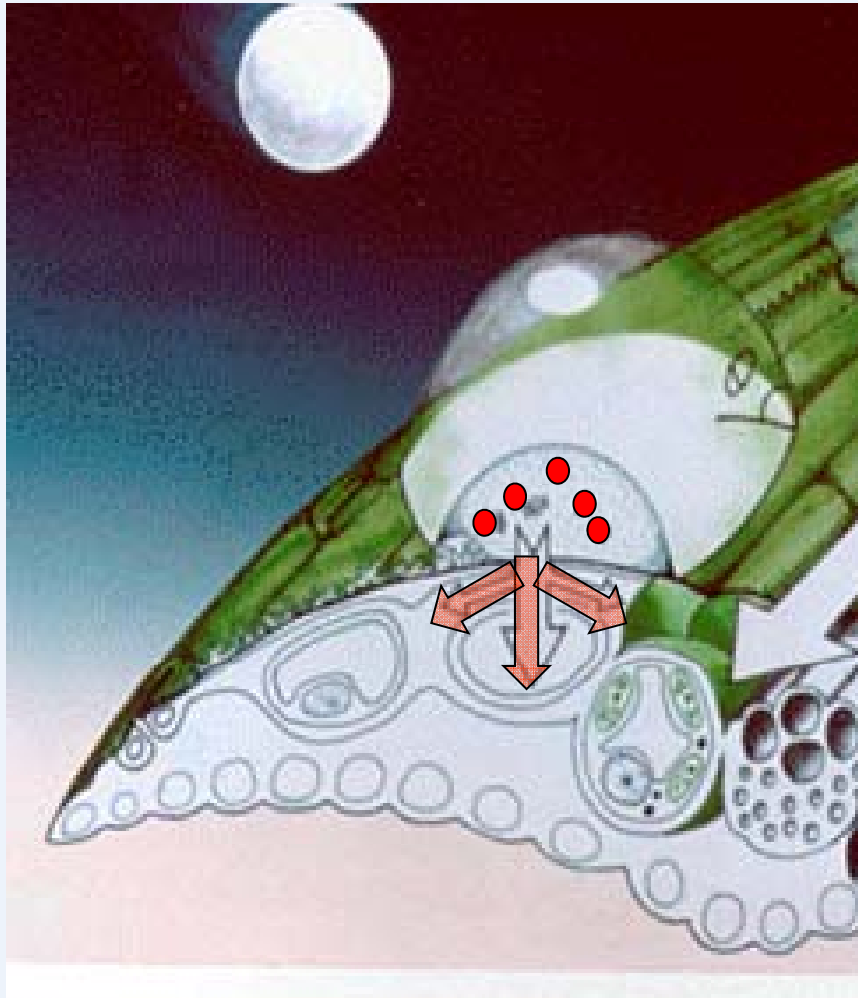


Pathways for foliar uptake of non-volatile active ingredients of agrochemicals

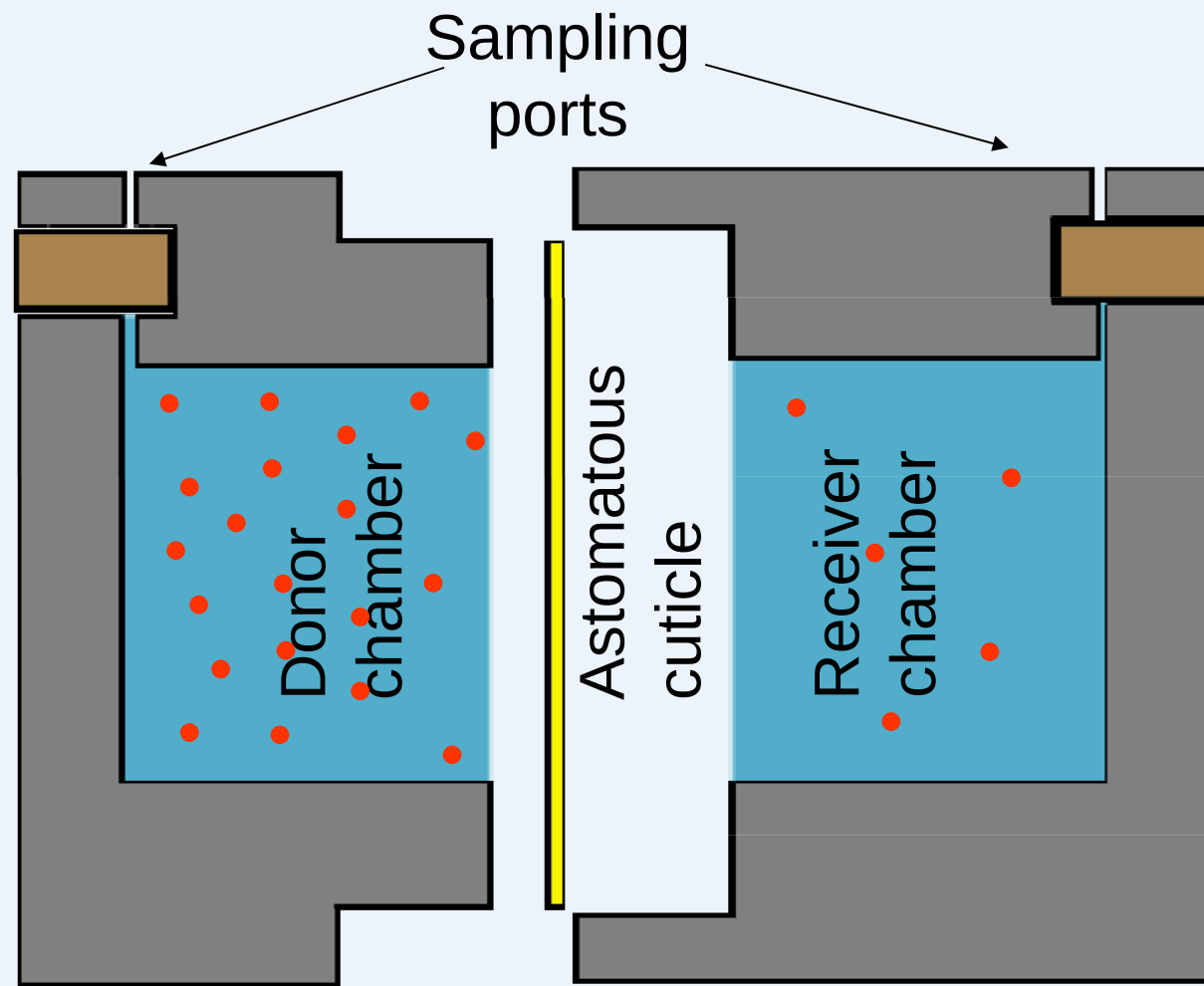




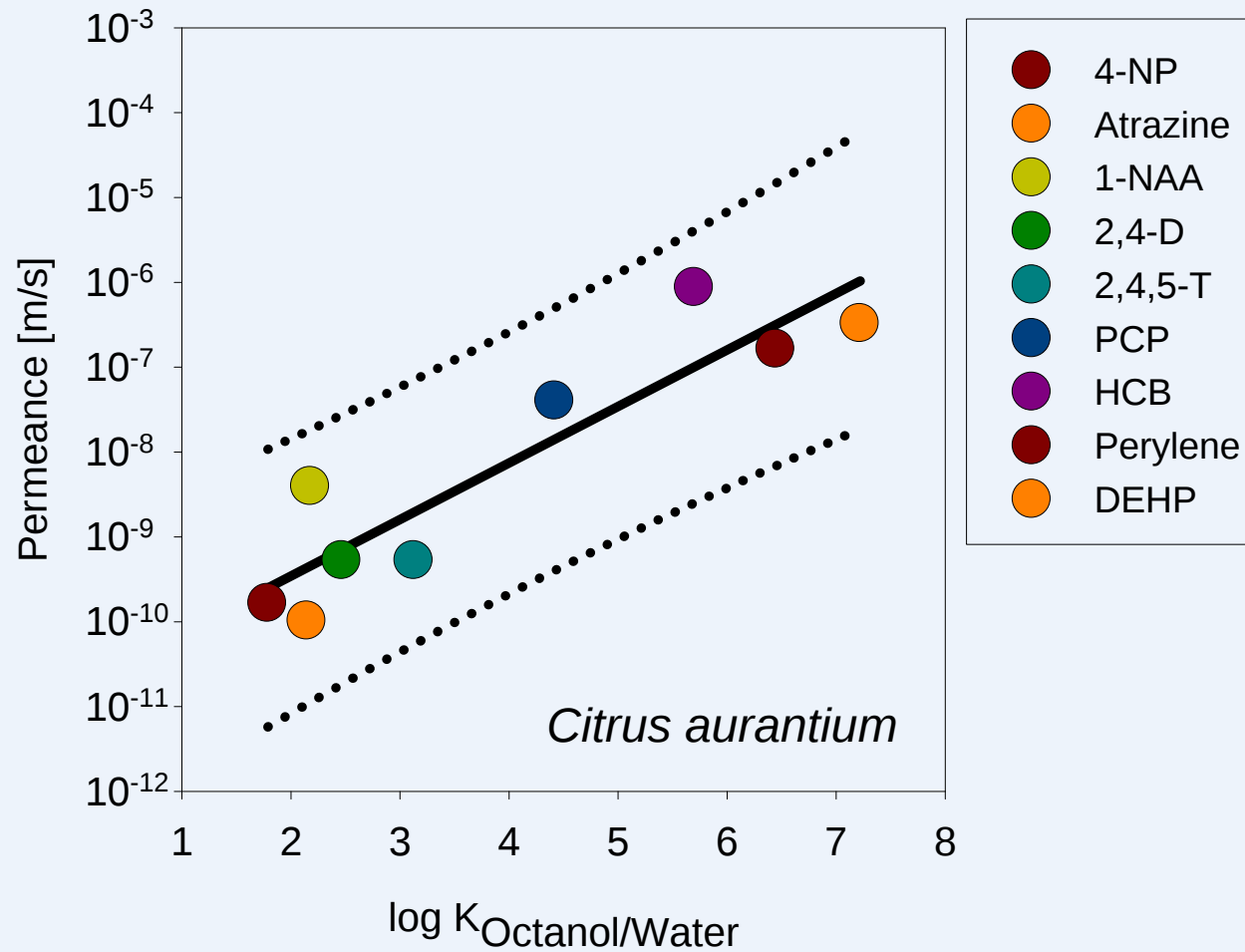
Pesticide
uptake



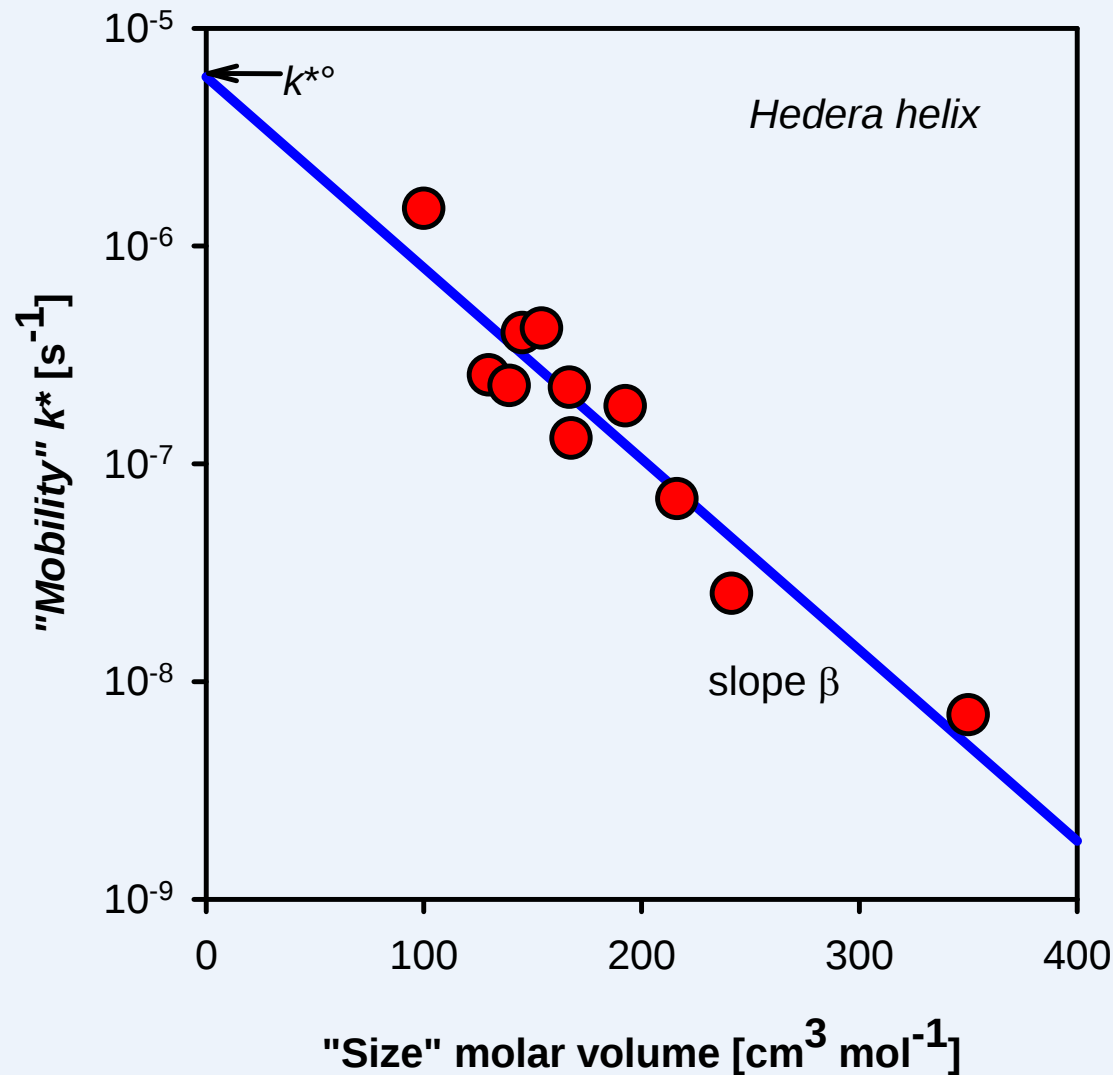
Pesticide
uptake



Effect of lipophilicity on permeability



Effect of molecular size on mobility

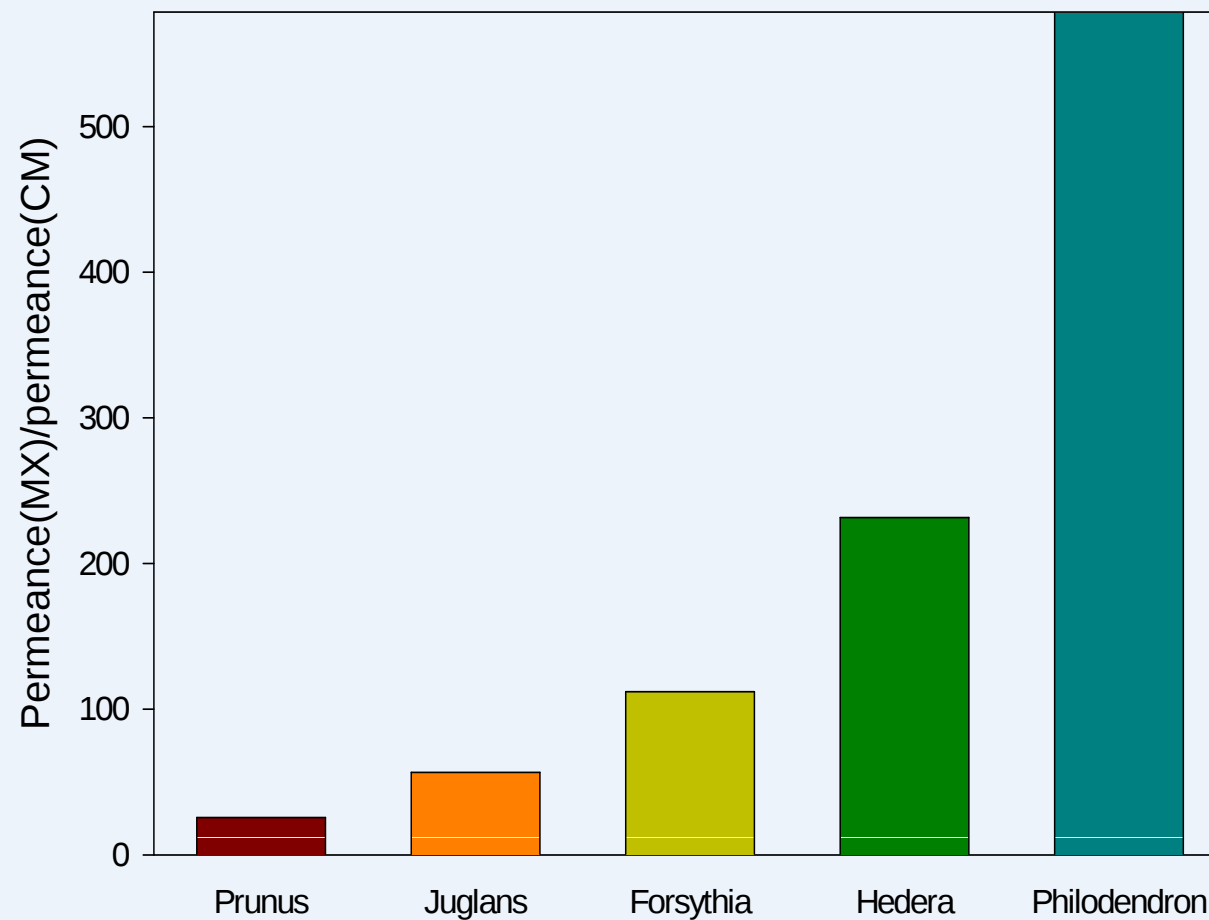


Steep size
selectivity

For lipophilics:
solution-diffusion membrane

What makes up
the cuticular resistance?

Effect of wax extraction on water permeability

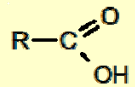


Waxes make up the barrier

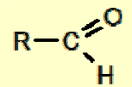
But: amount of waxes has no influence

=>Composition of cuticular waxes?

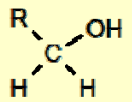
Cuticular waxes are complex mixtures
(up to 150 compounds per species)



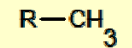
Alkanoic acids



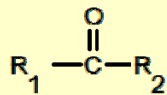
Alkanals



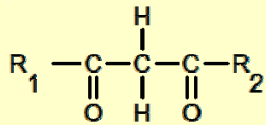
1-Alkanols



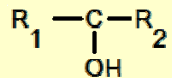
Alkanes; Alkenes



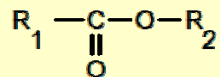
Ketones



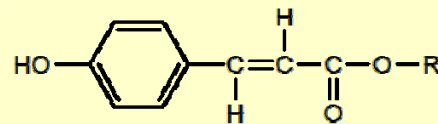
β -Diketones



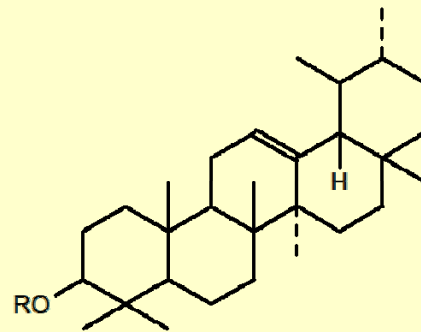
Secondary alkanols



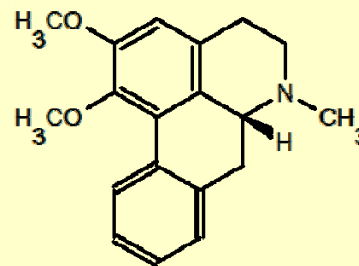
Alkyl esters



Aromatic esters



**Triterpenoids and Derivatives
(e. g. α -Amyrin)**



**Alkaloids
(e. g. Nuciferin)**

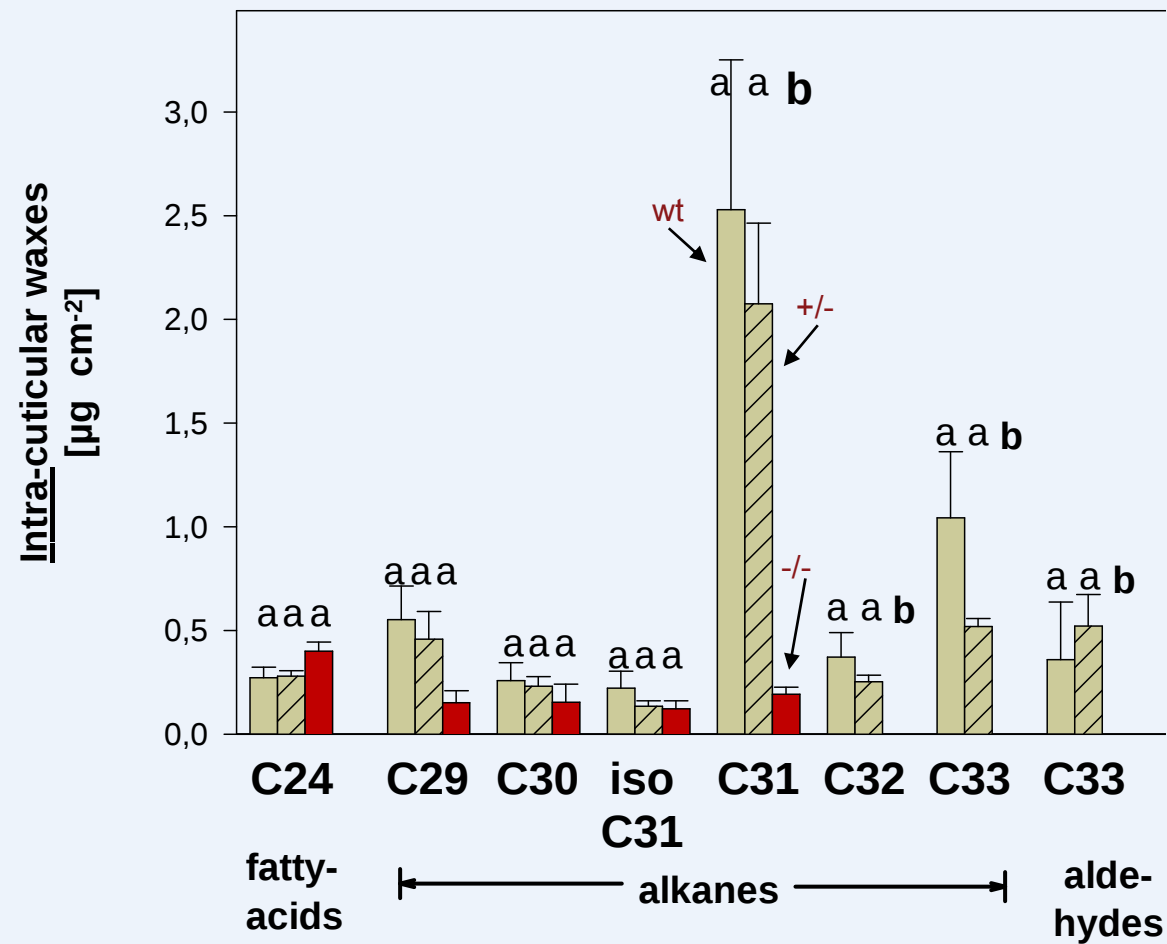
Model organism for molecular studies: tomato
Wax biosynthesis => function

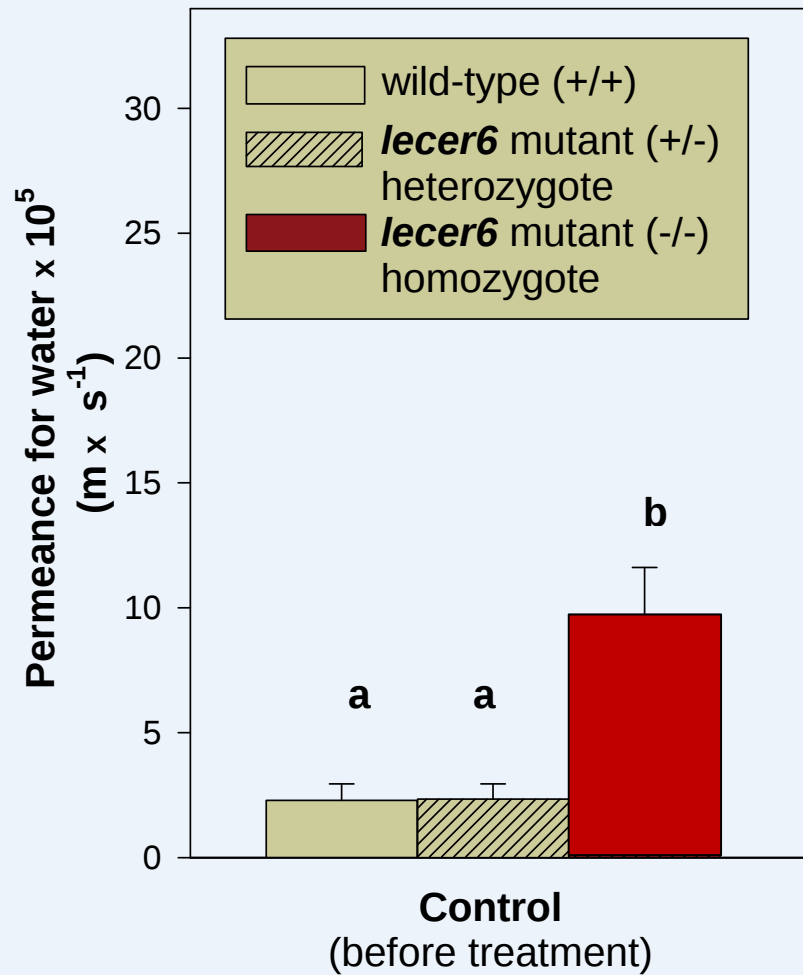
wild type



VLCFA-elongase
deficient mutant



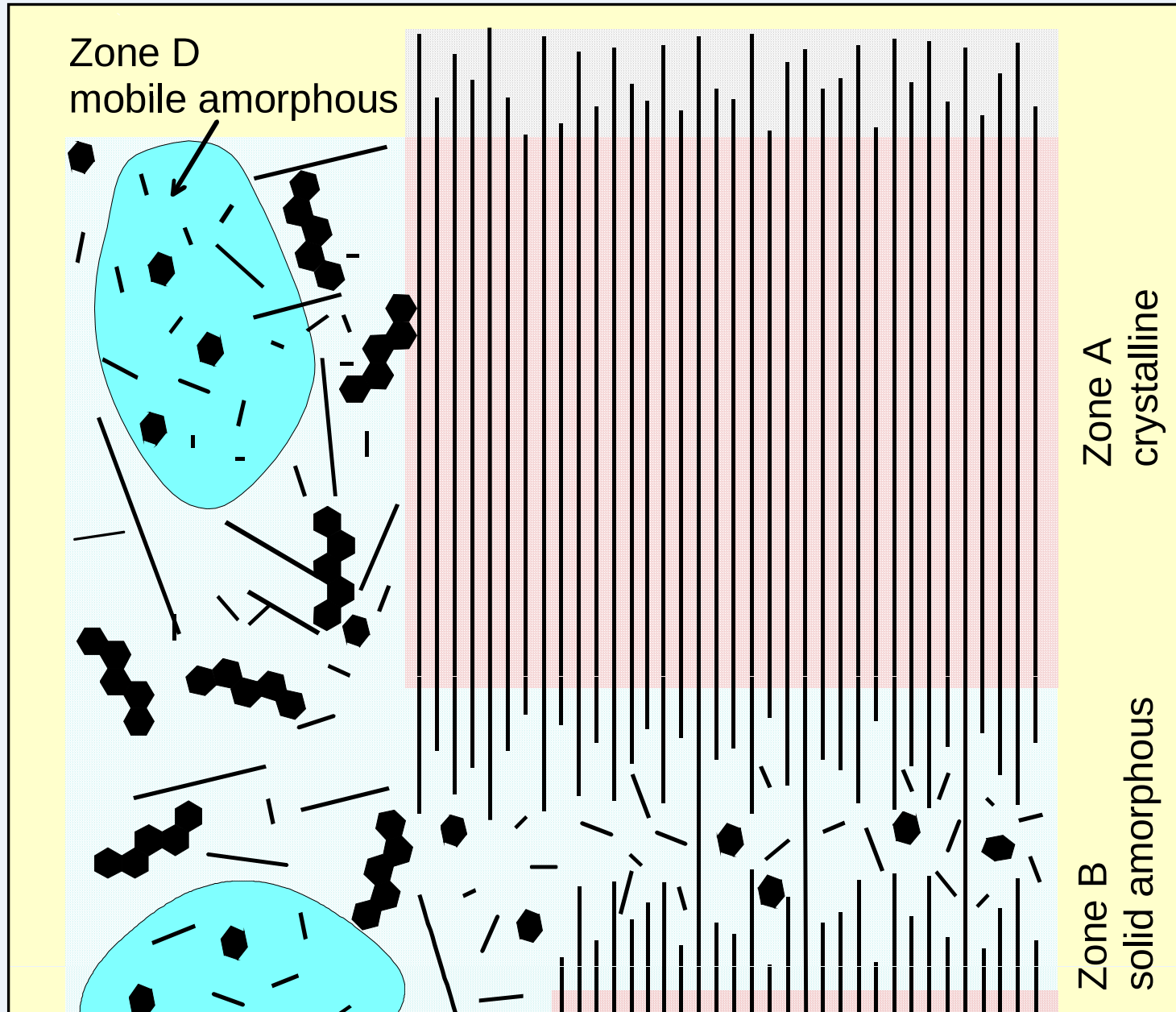


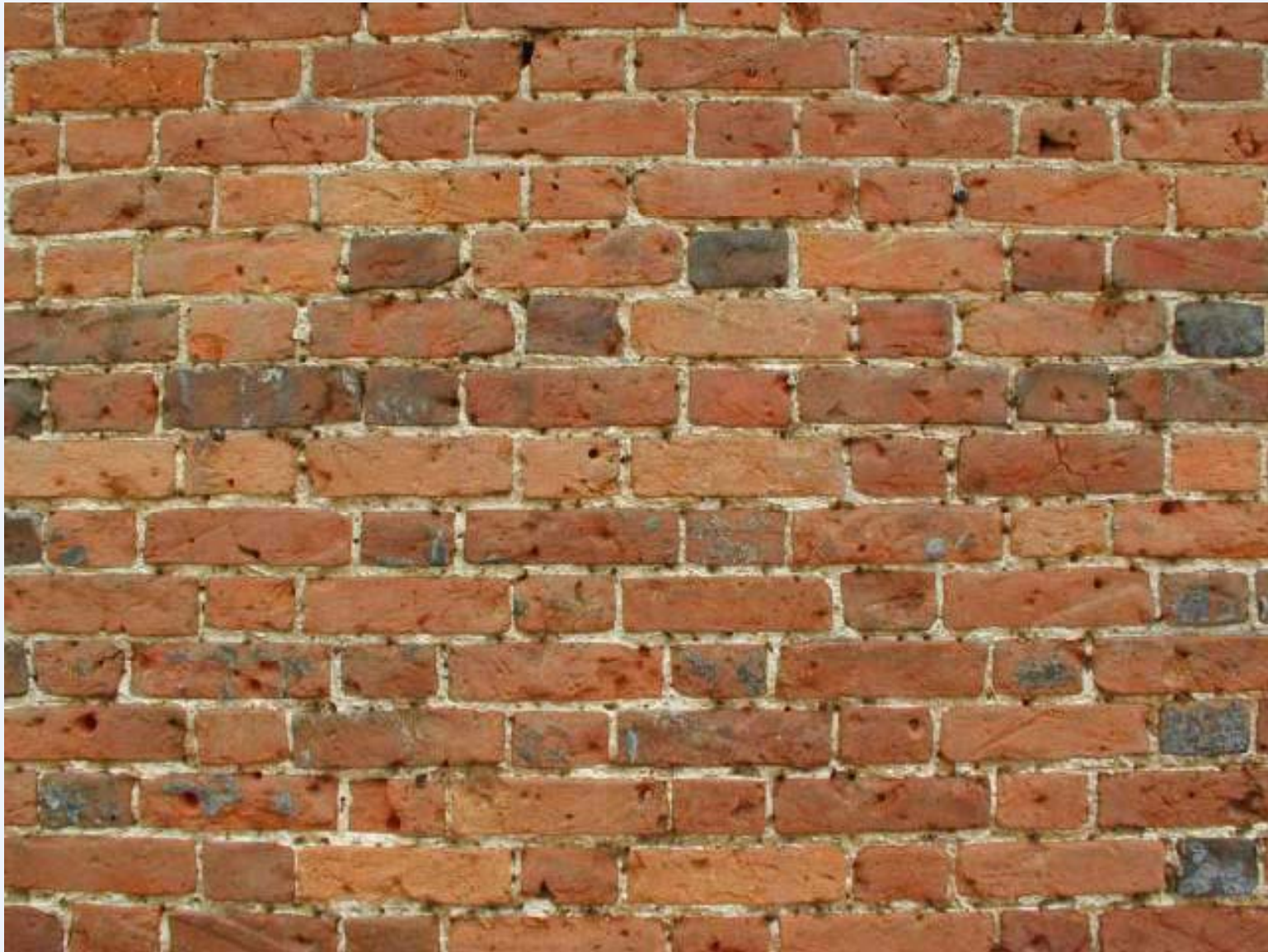


wax chemistry
has effect on
water permeability

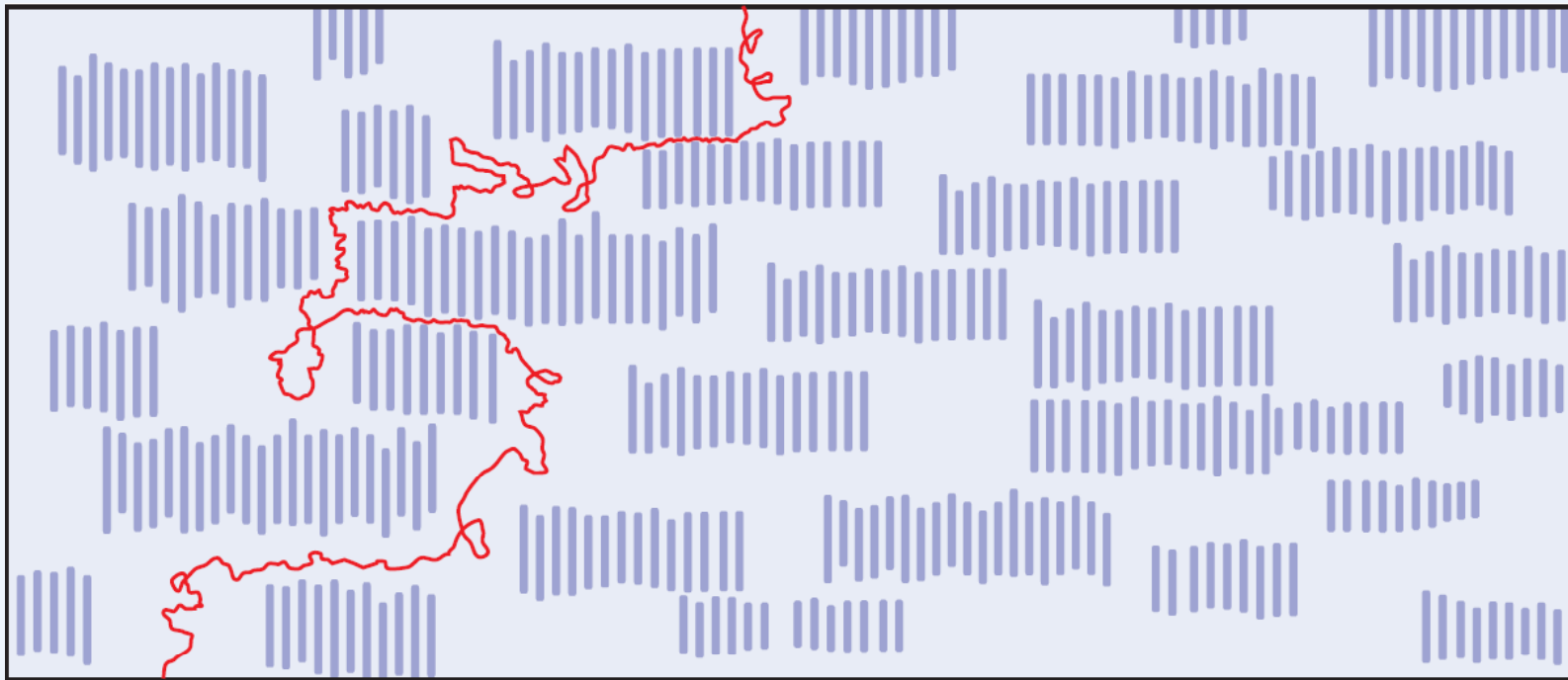
Structure of waxes on molecular scale?

- solid state NMR,
- ATR-Fourrier Transform Infrared spectroscopy

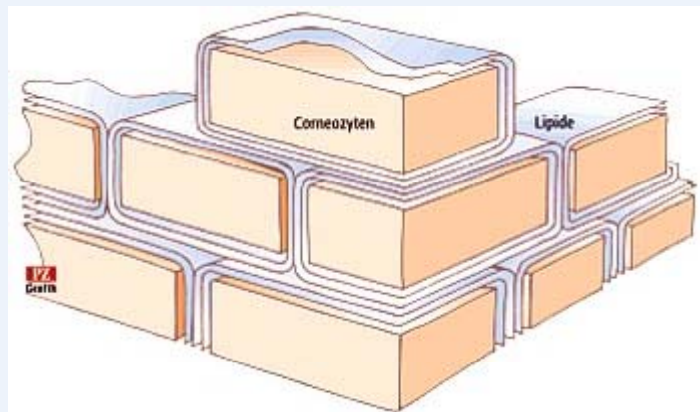




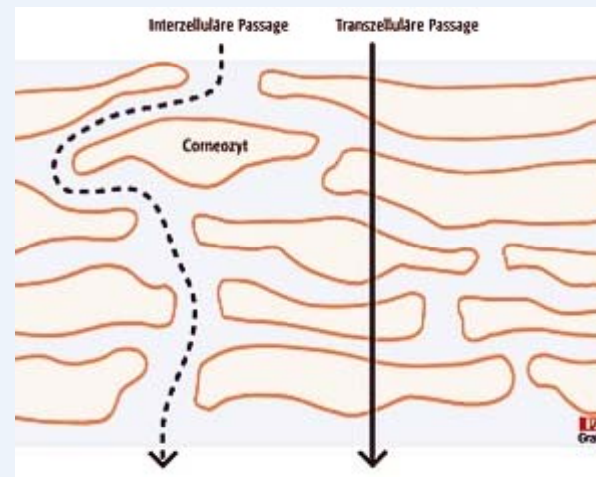
„Bricks“ are excluded from diffusion
„Mortar“ only is accessible



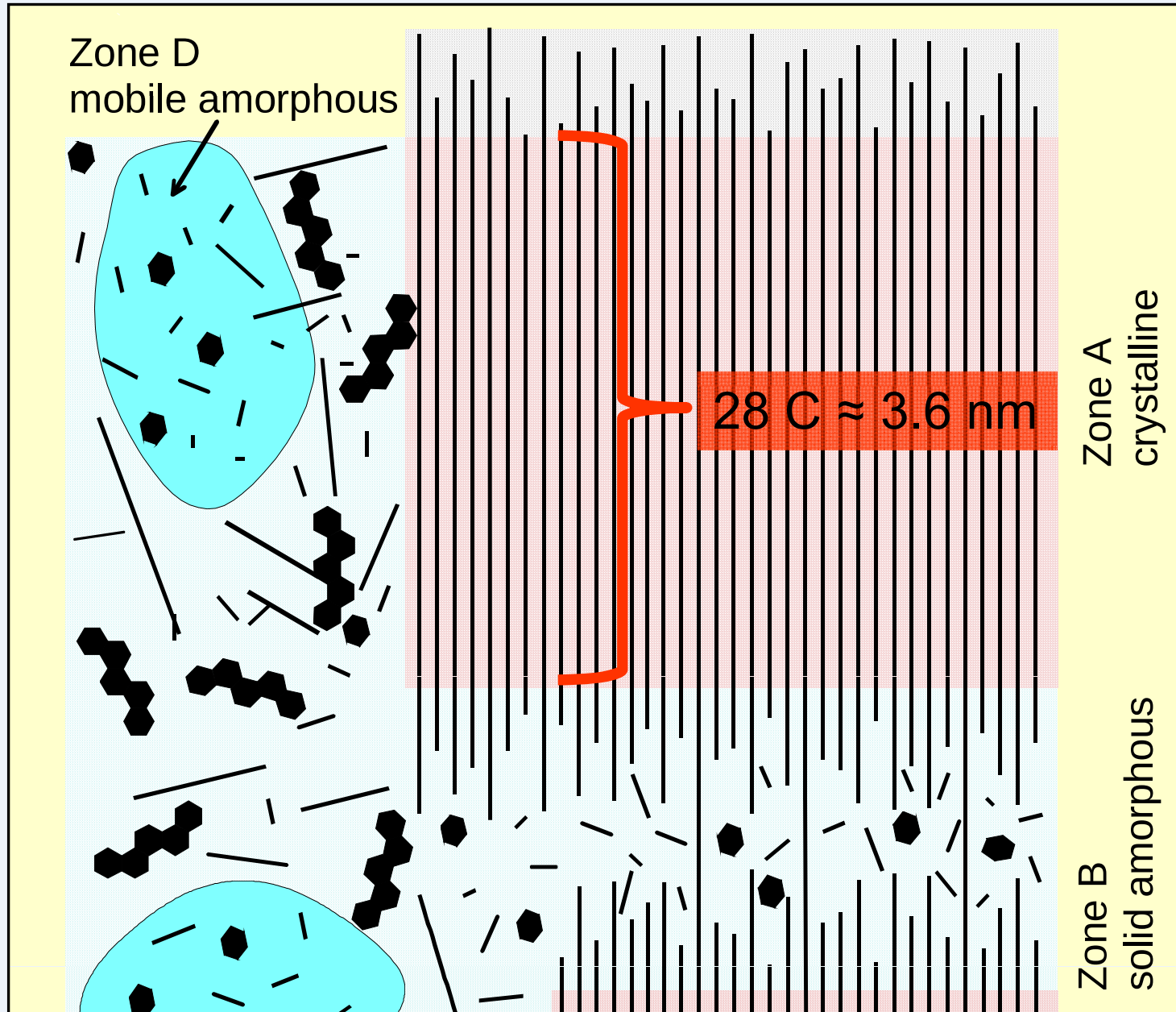
Diffusion path is tortuous and long
=> very low diffusion coefficients in the wax ($10^{-20} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$)



SC thickness ca. 20 μm



corneocyte thickness ca 0.1 - 2 μm



Manipulating crystallinity

„Penetration enhancers“

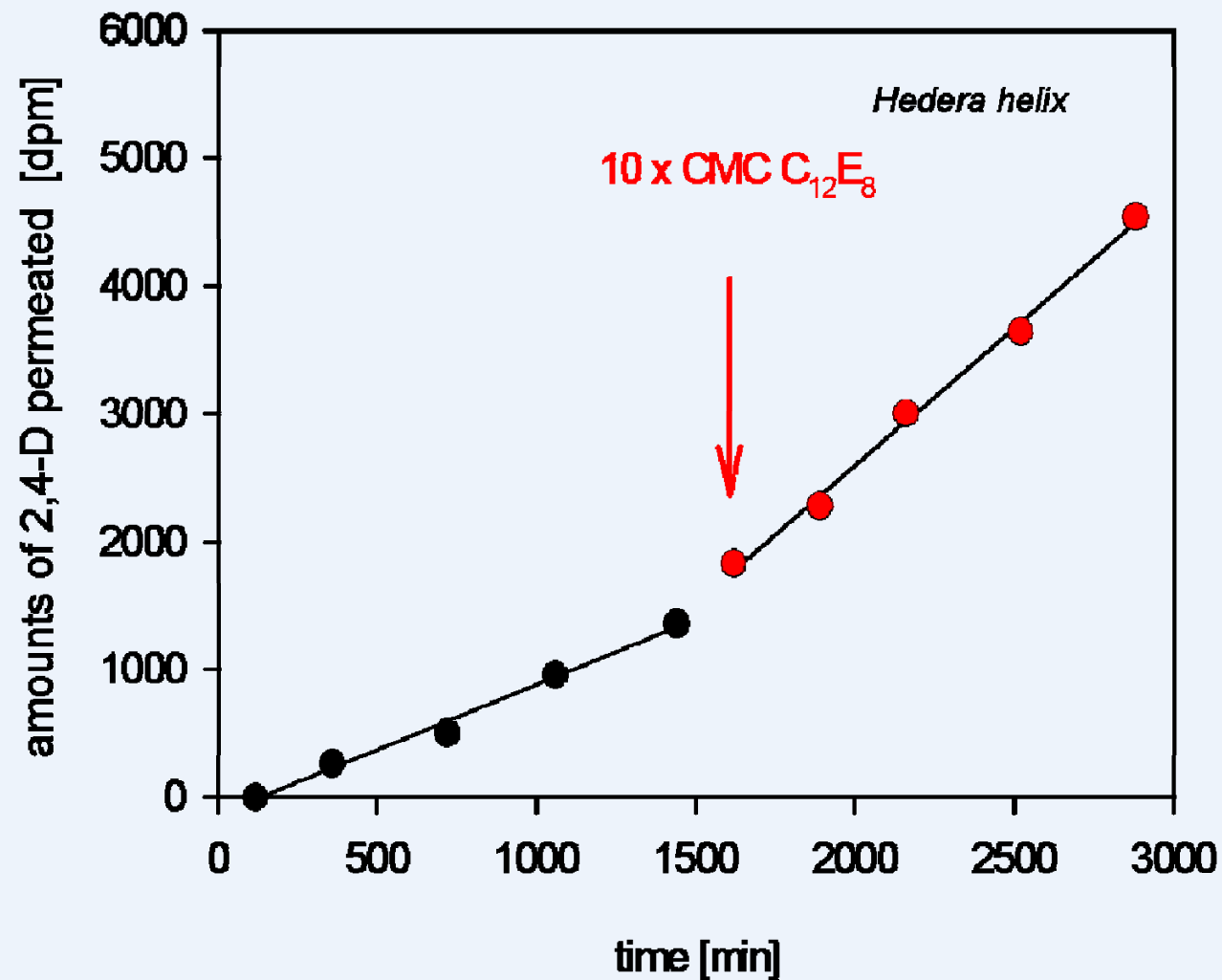
Me-oleate

Alcohol ethoxylates

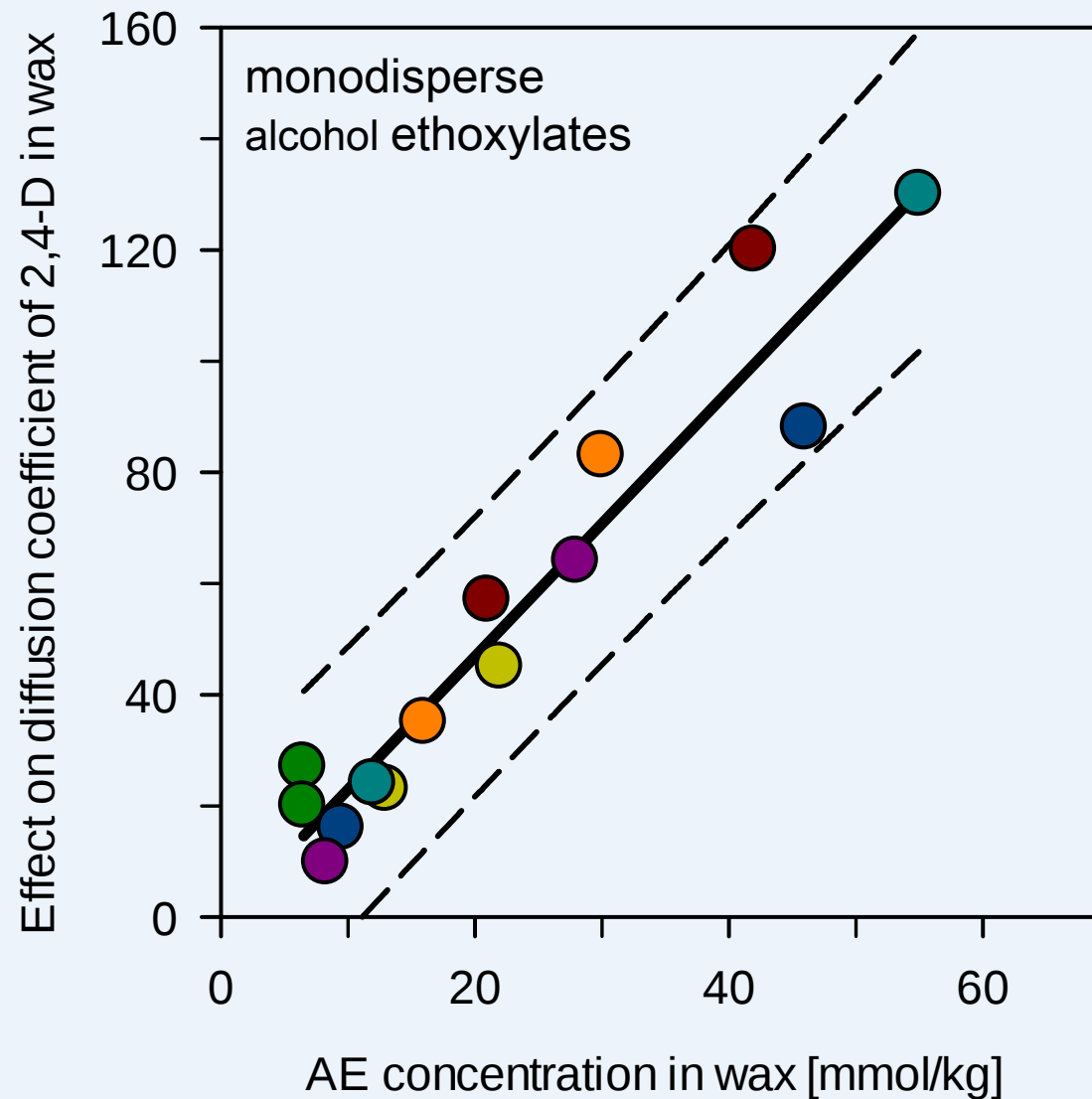


Pentaethylene glycol monododecyl ether
C12E5

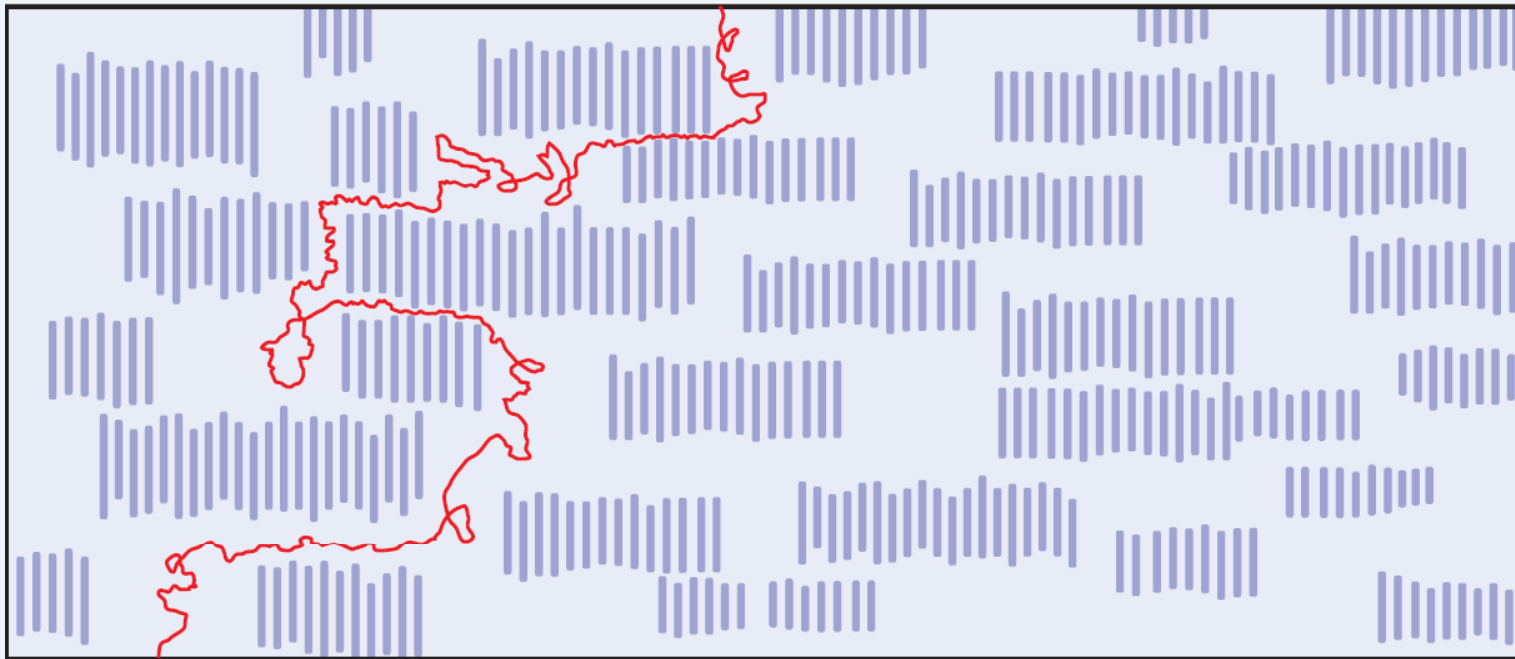
Effect of an alcohol ethoxylate on 2,4-D permeability



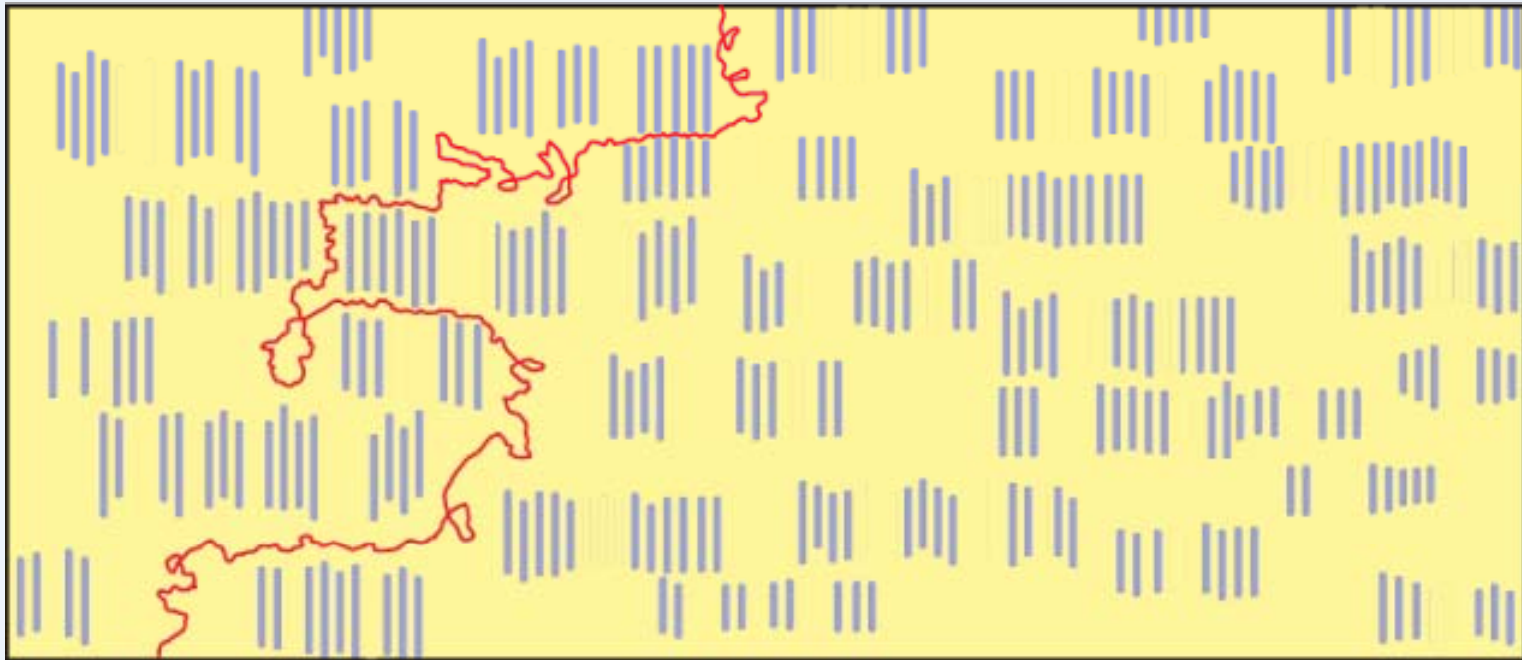
Effect of alcohol ethoxylates on 2,4-D diffusion coefficient



Native structure of wax barrier



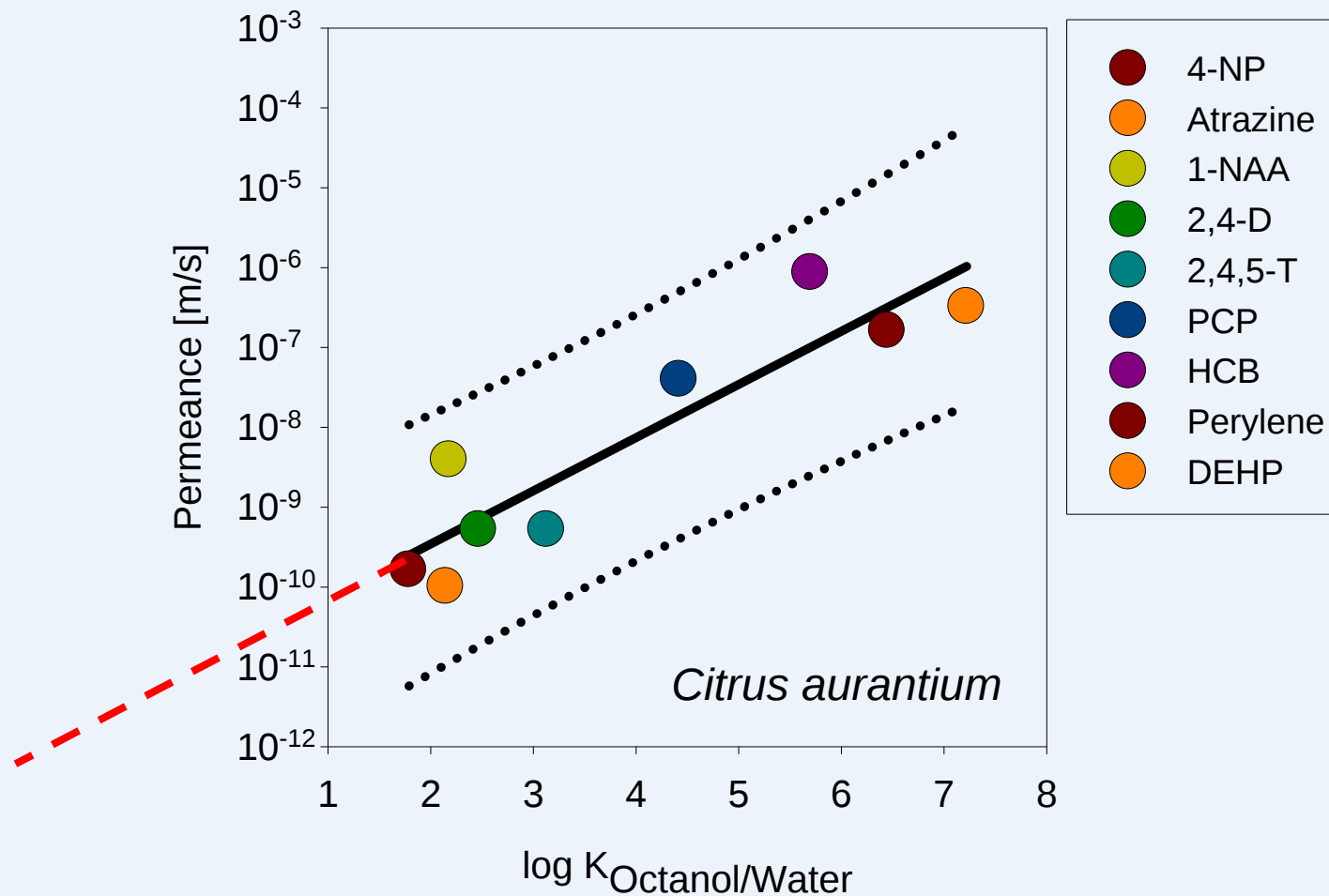
With plasticizer



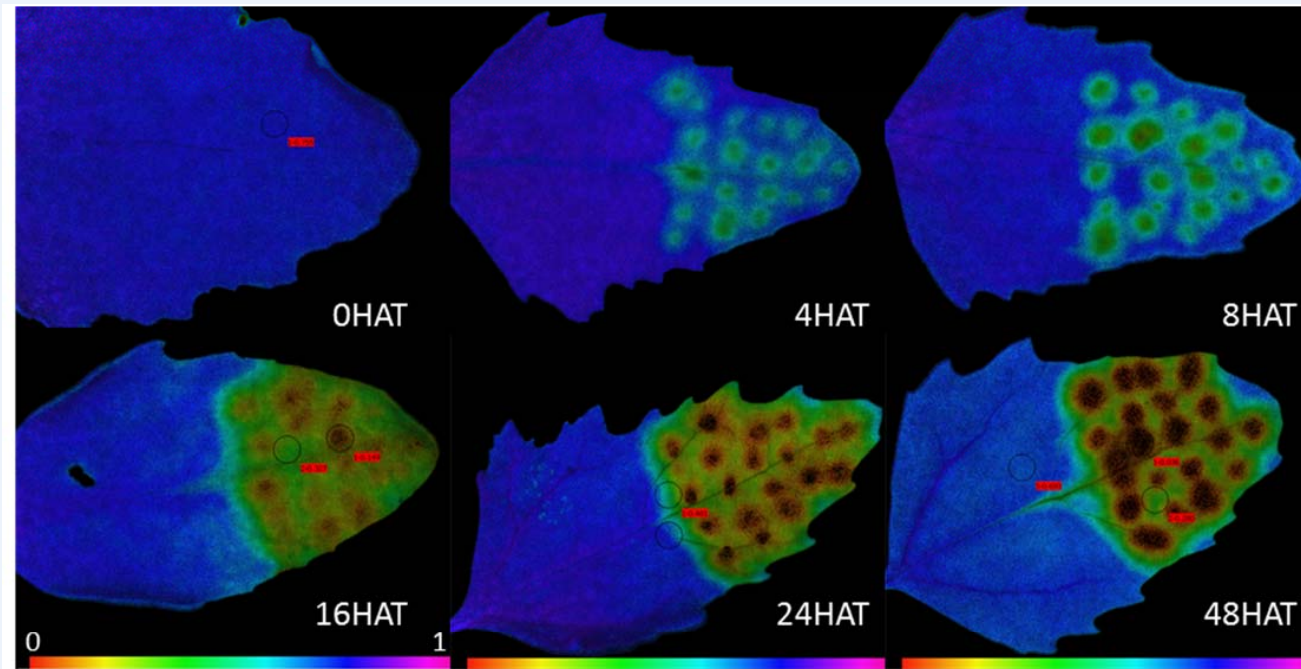
Penetration of polar compounds

(solution-diffusion?)

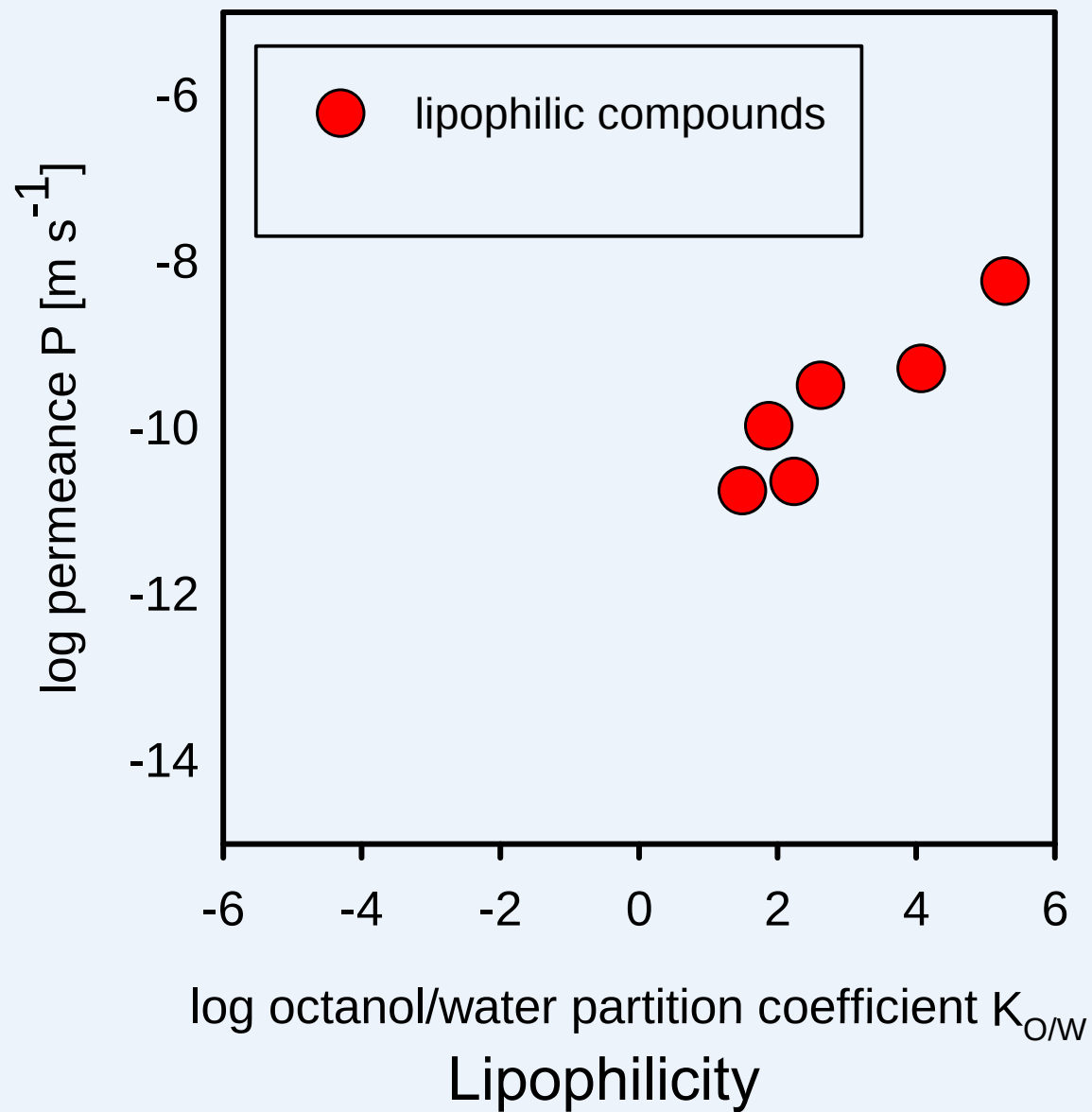
Effect of lipophilicity on permeability

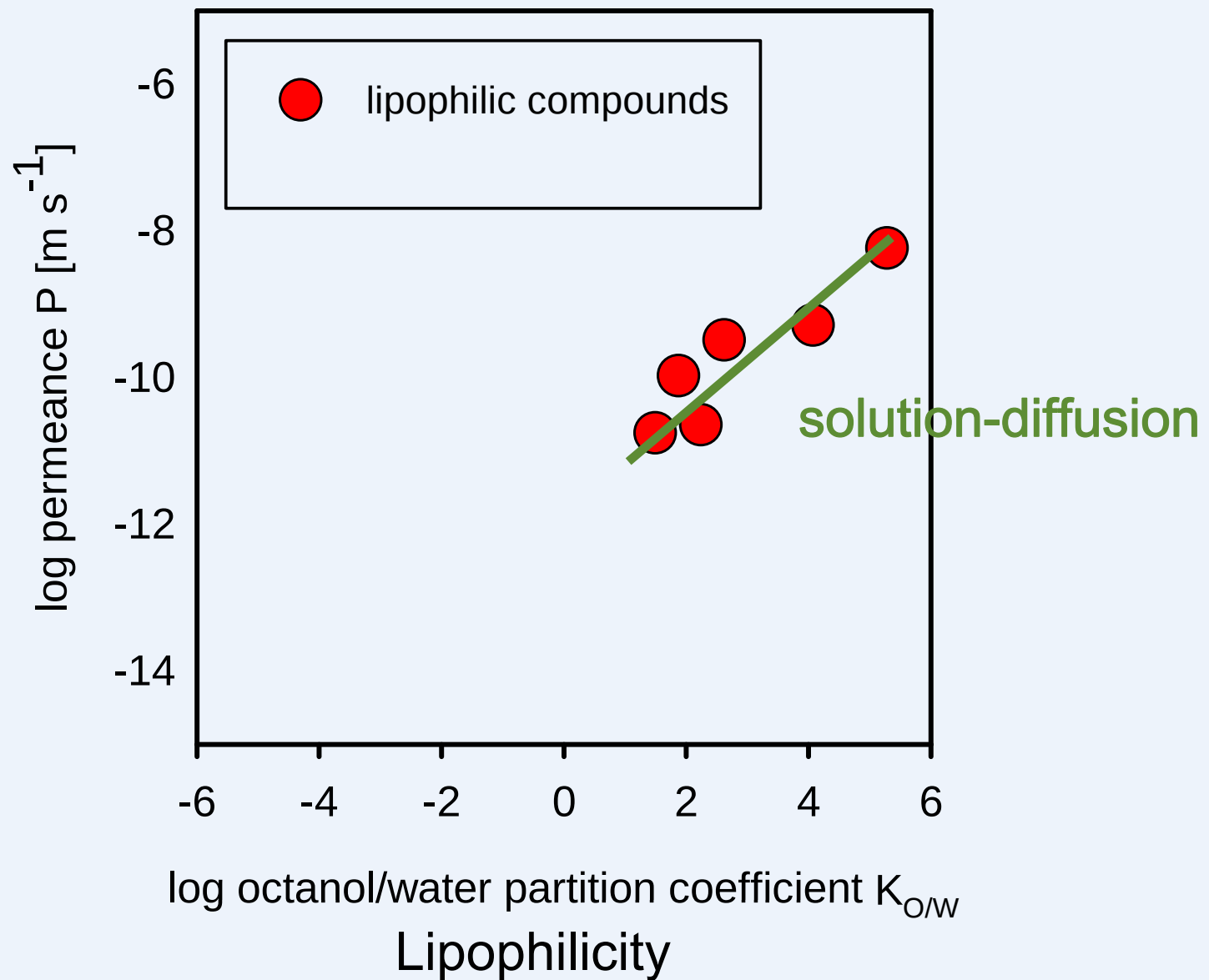


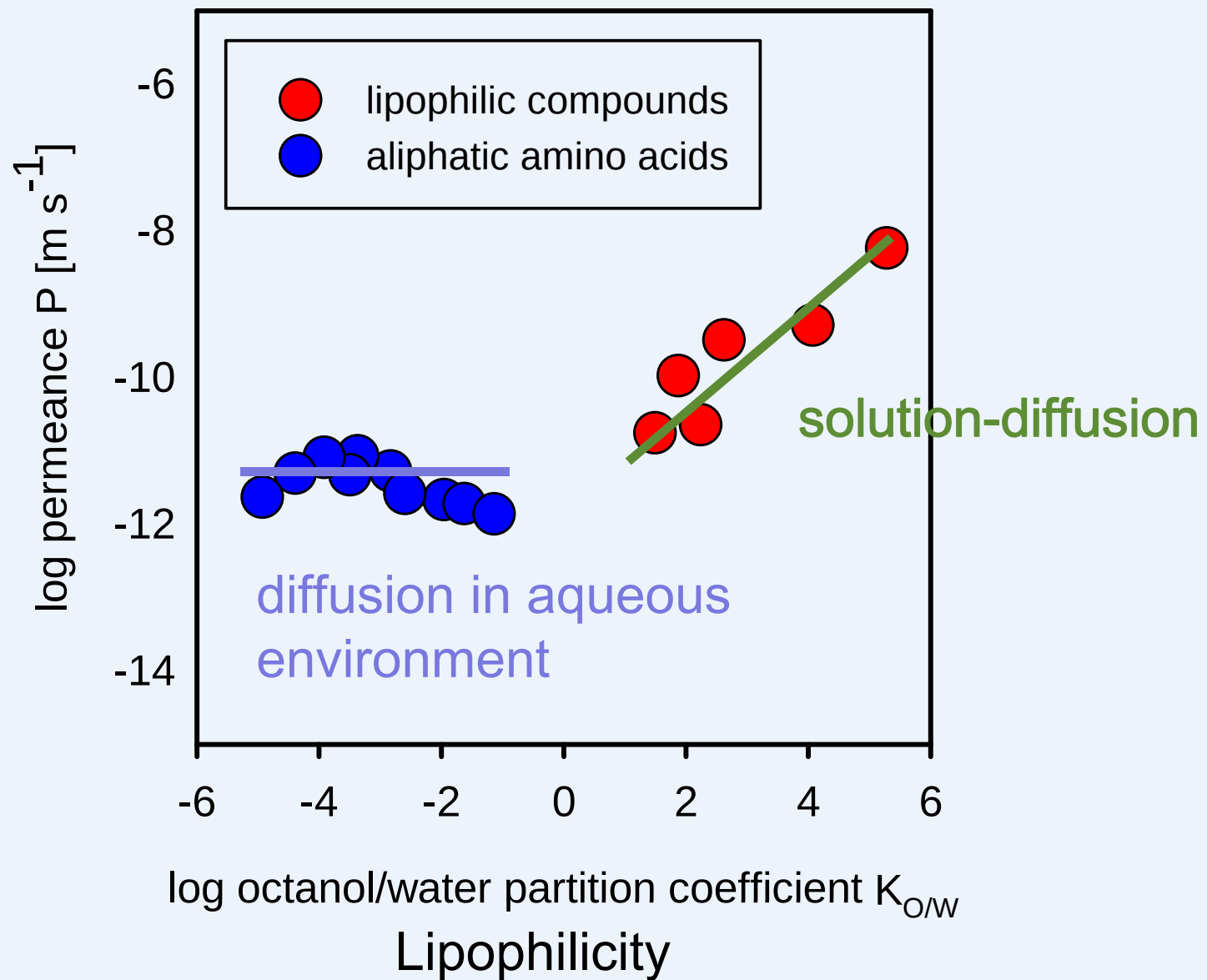
Chenopodium album + Bentazon



Energetic Yield of Photosystem II
(HAT, hours after treatment)

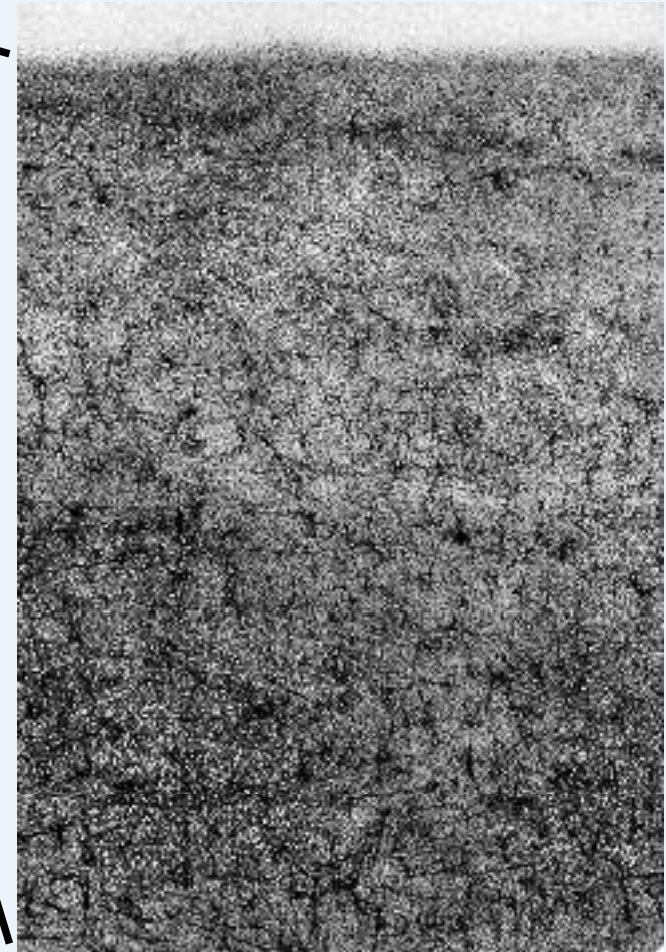
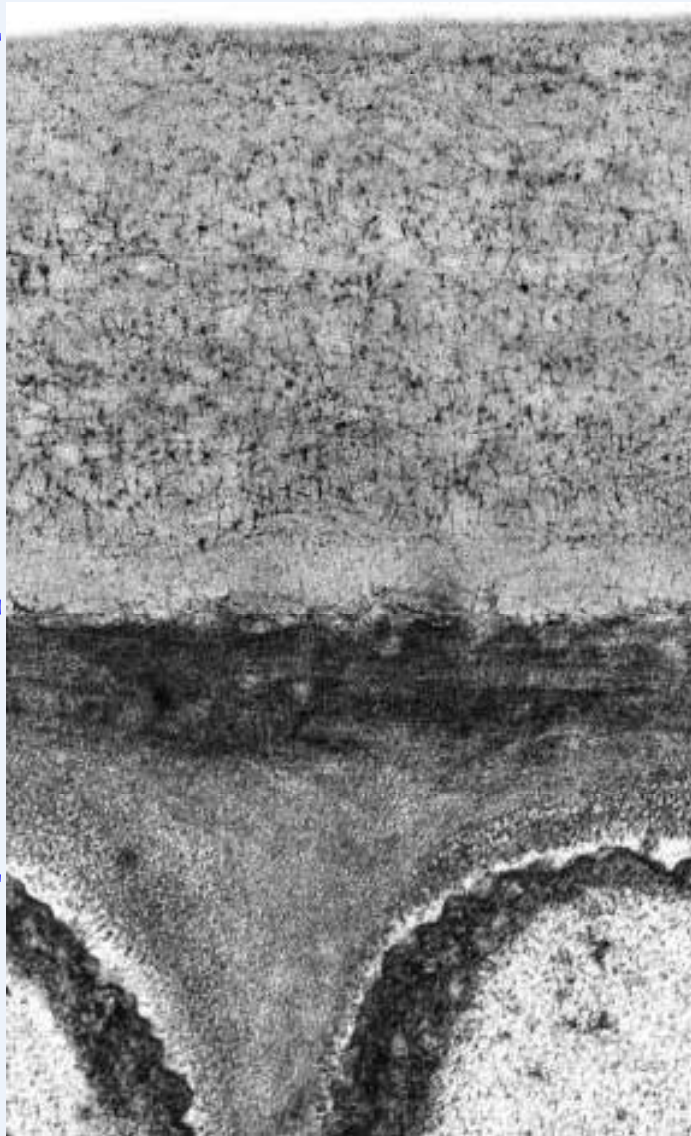




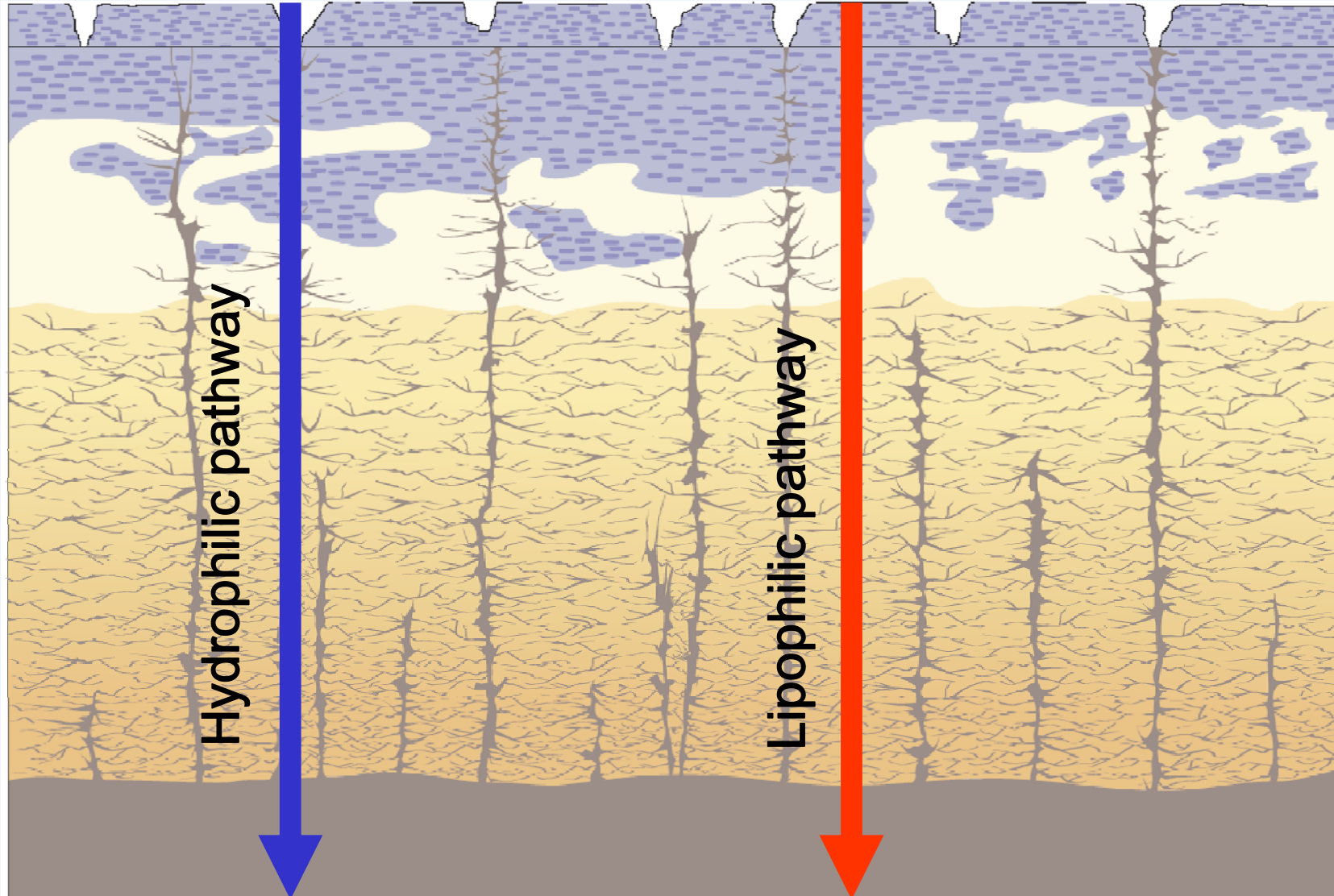


cuticle

cell wall



Ilex europaea
leaf cuticle





State of Bavaria



Dr. Katja Arand



Dr. Markus Burghardt



Dr. Ulrich Hildebrandt



Dr. Jana Leide



Dr. Michael Riedel



Dr. Anna Smirnova

