

# SOIL-ROOT INTERACTIONS

LBRES2106

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 @guillaumelobet

# ABOUT THE COURSE

- Course material is online:
  -  <http://bit.ly/LBRES2106>
- Collaborative summary
  - everybody can take notes in a Google Doc
  - I will correct the summary after each course
  -  <http://bit.ly/LBRES2106-summary>
- Course evaluation:
  -  <http://bit.ly/LBRES2106-eval>

# COURSE OVERVIEW

- Introduction
  - Interactions
  - Plants vs animals
  - Some basics about the soil
- Root systems architecture
- Roots and water uptake
  - How do root architecture shape the water uptake?
  - How do the water content shape the root architecture?

■■■ Press "o" for overview | ↗ Press "f" for full screen

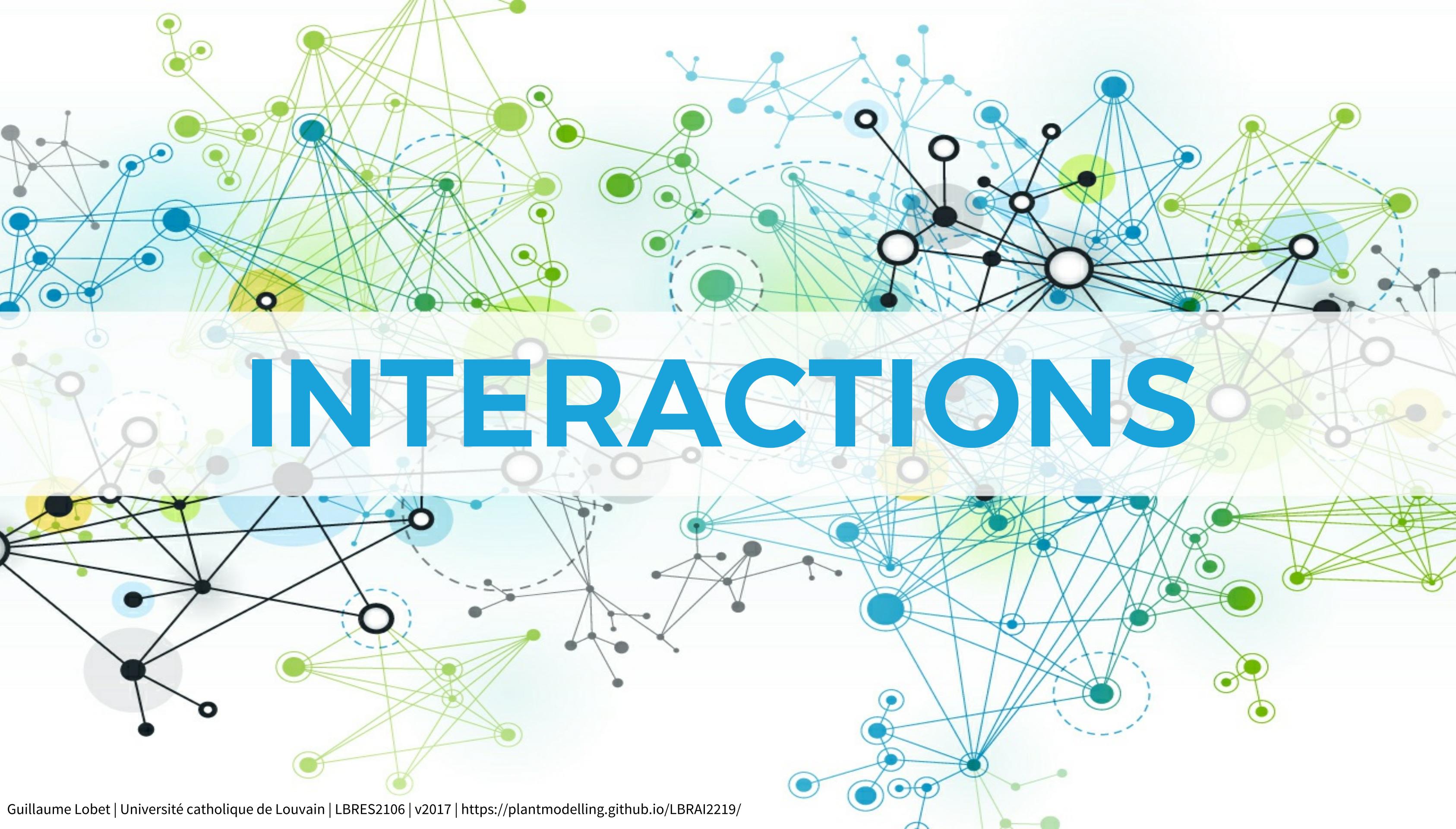
# INTRODUCTION

About interactions, soil and animals

⬇ Press down for details



# INTERACTIONS



# *INTERACTION CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS*

- Interactions between compartments of the system

$$\text{Plant}_t = f(\text{Plant}_{t-1}, \text{Soil}_t, \dots)$$

$$\text{Soil}_t = f(\text{Soil}_{t-1}, \text{Plant}_t, \dots)$$

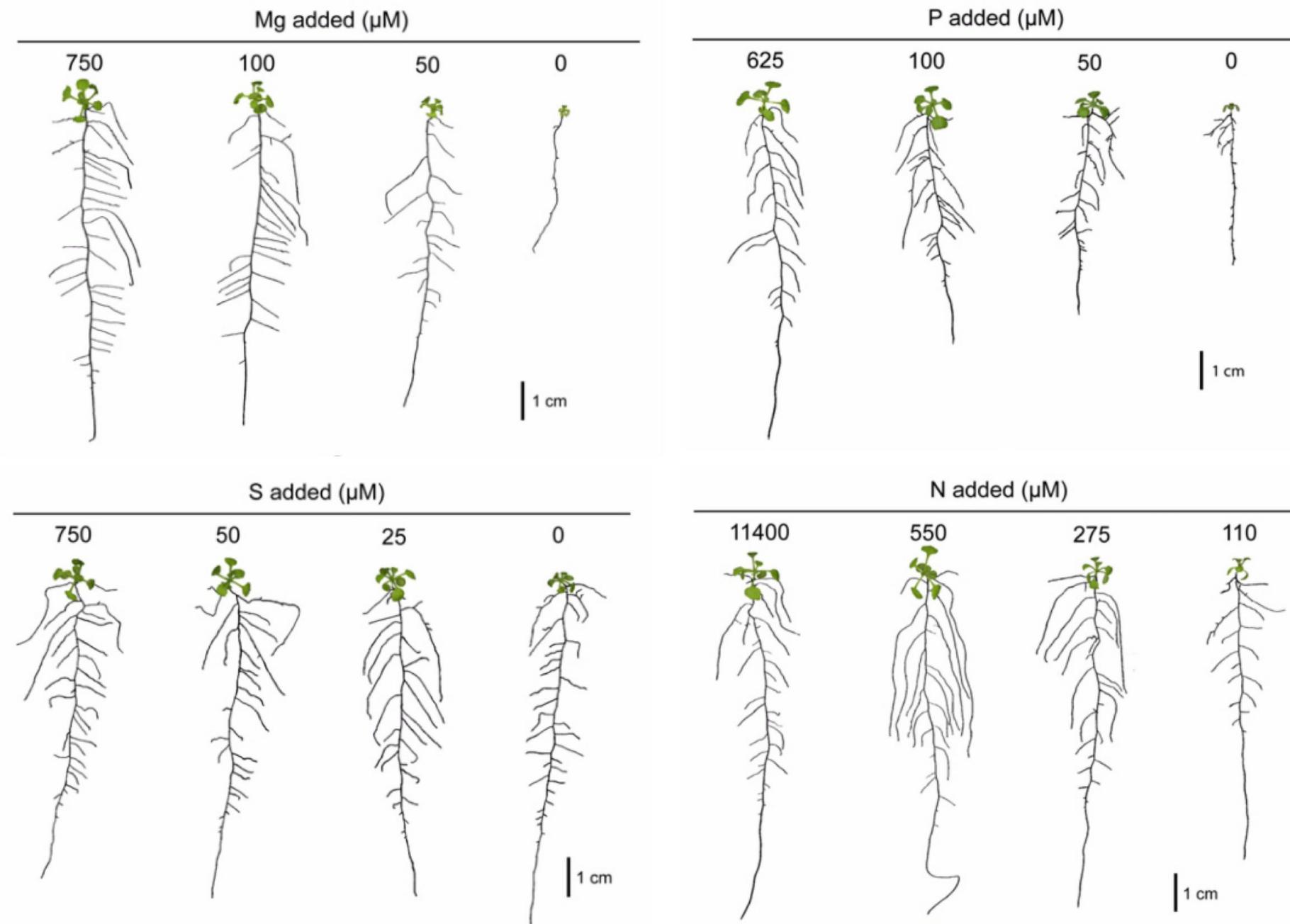
- Interactions between function of the system

- local supply in N → ramification → local K uptake

- Non-additivity of single (or multiple factors)

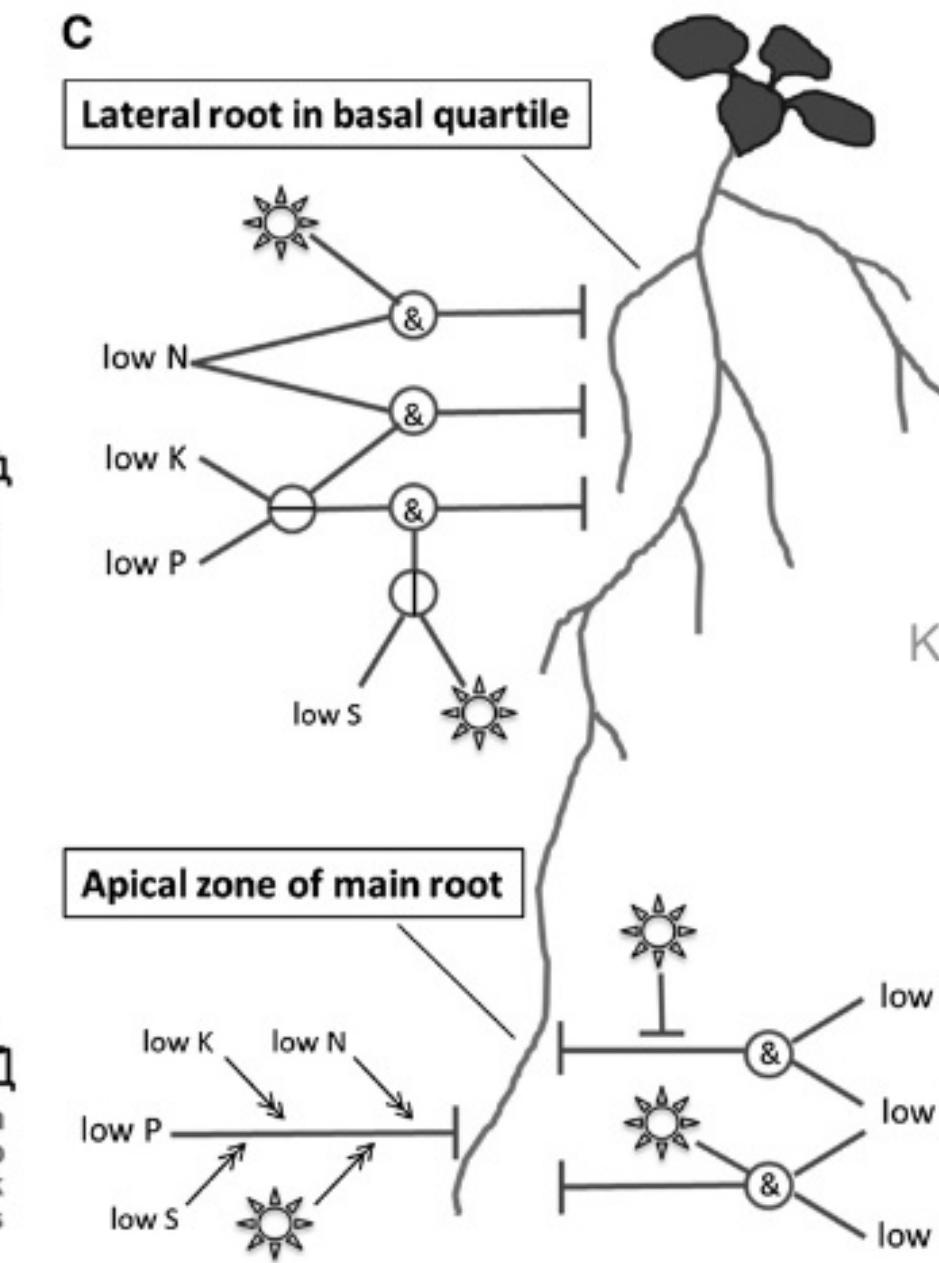
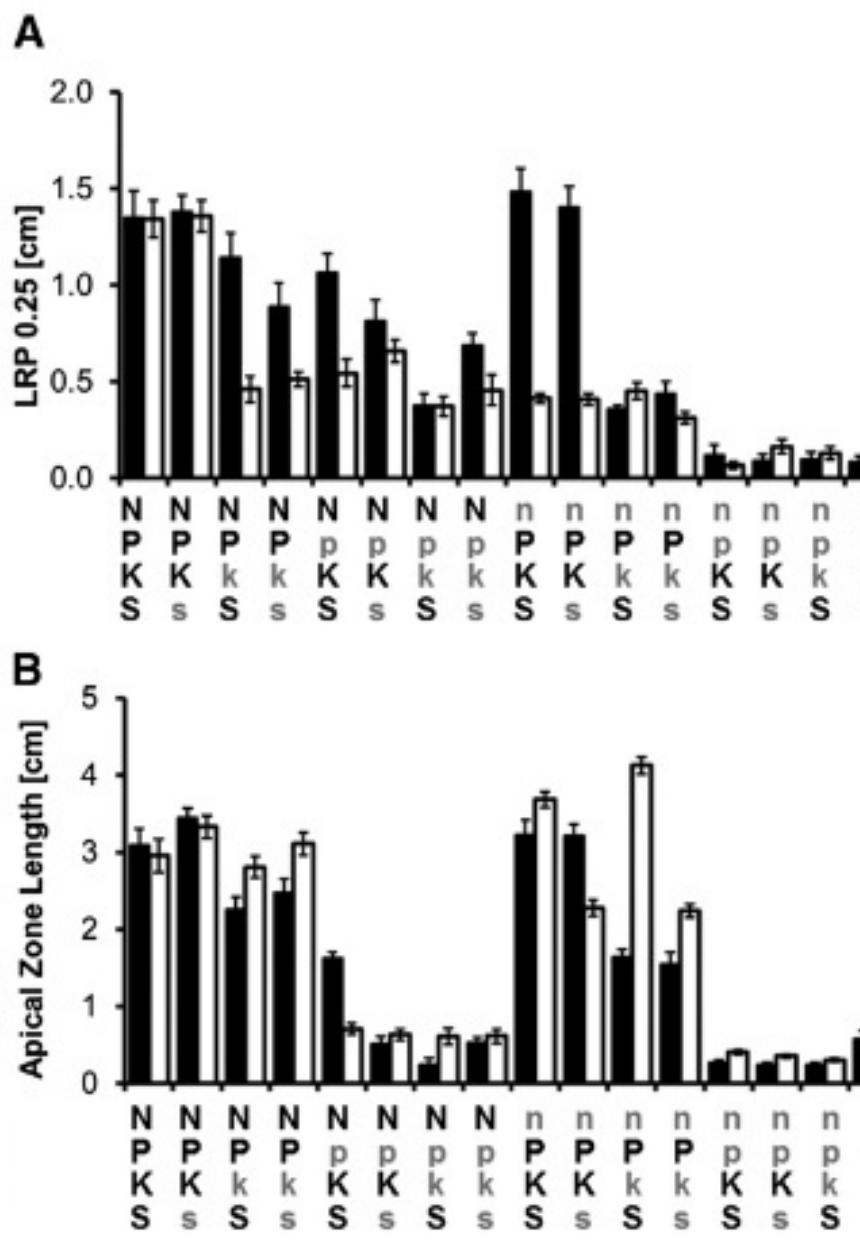
- effect of new dose of a given factor is variable between dose, species, developmental stages, ...
  - effect depend on the environment

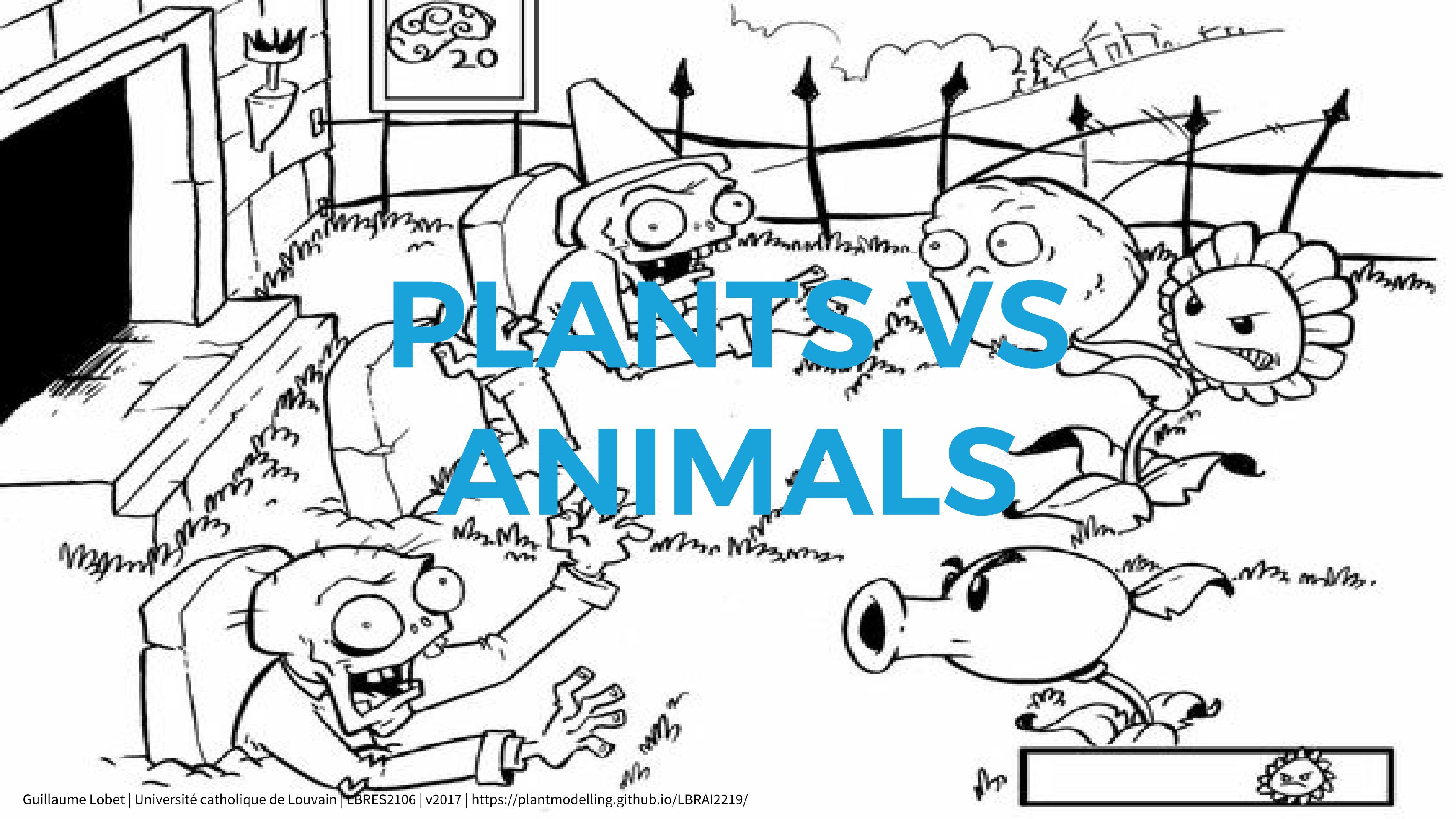
# EXAMPLE OF EFFECT OF SINGLE NUTRIENT SUPPLY ON ROOT ARCHITECTURE



Gruber, B.D. et al. (2013)  
Plasticity of the *Arabidopsis*  
root system under nutrient  
deficiencies. *Plant Physiol.*  
163, 161–179

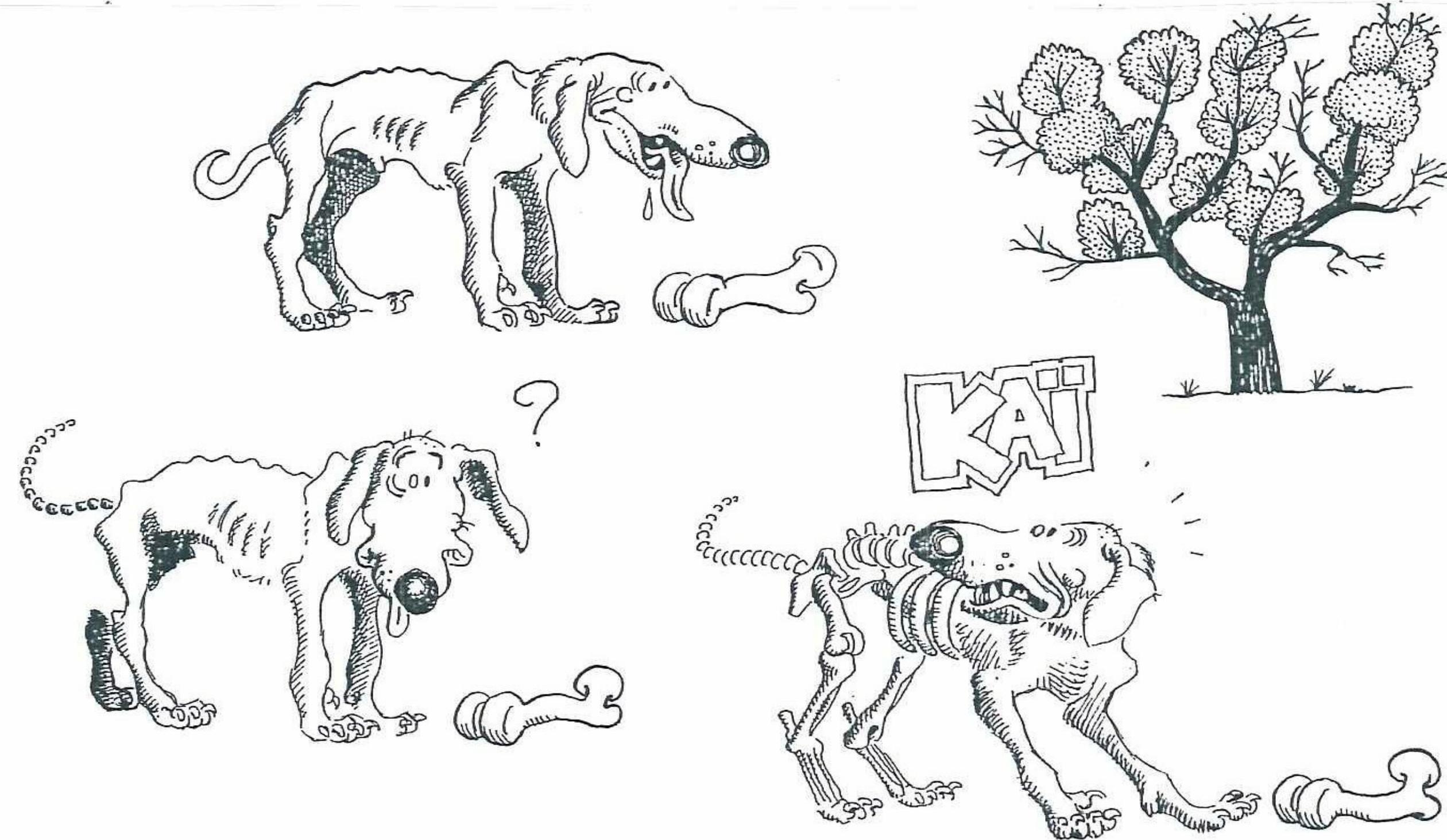
# EXAMPLE OF MULTIPLE NUTRIENT SUPPLY ON ROOT ARCHITECTURE





# PLANTS VS ANIMALS

	<b>Plants</b>	<b>Animals</b>
<b>Food source</b>	Autotroph	Heterotroph
<b>Access to food</b>	Have to grow more to reach food source	Move to food source
<b>Growth</b>	Potentially unlimited	Limited
<b>Environment</b>	Highly heterogeneous	Mostly homogeneous
<b>Death</b>	Can partially die	Die



*Fig. 43. Deux manières de mourir.* La possibilité qu'ont les plantes coloniaires d'être à la fois mortes et vivantes est illustrée ici par un chêne-liège, dessiné un an après un incendie (Roger Prodon, communication personnelle). Transposé à l'animal, ce comportement est évidemment grotesque.

Francis Hallé, Eloge de la plante



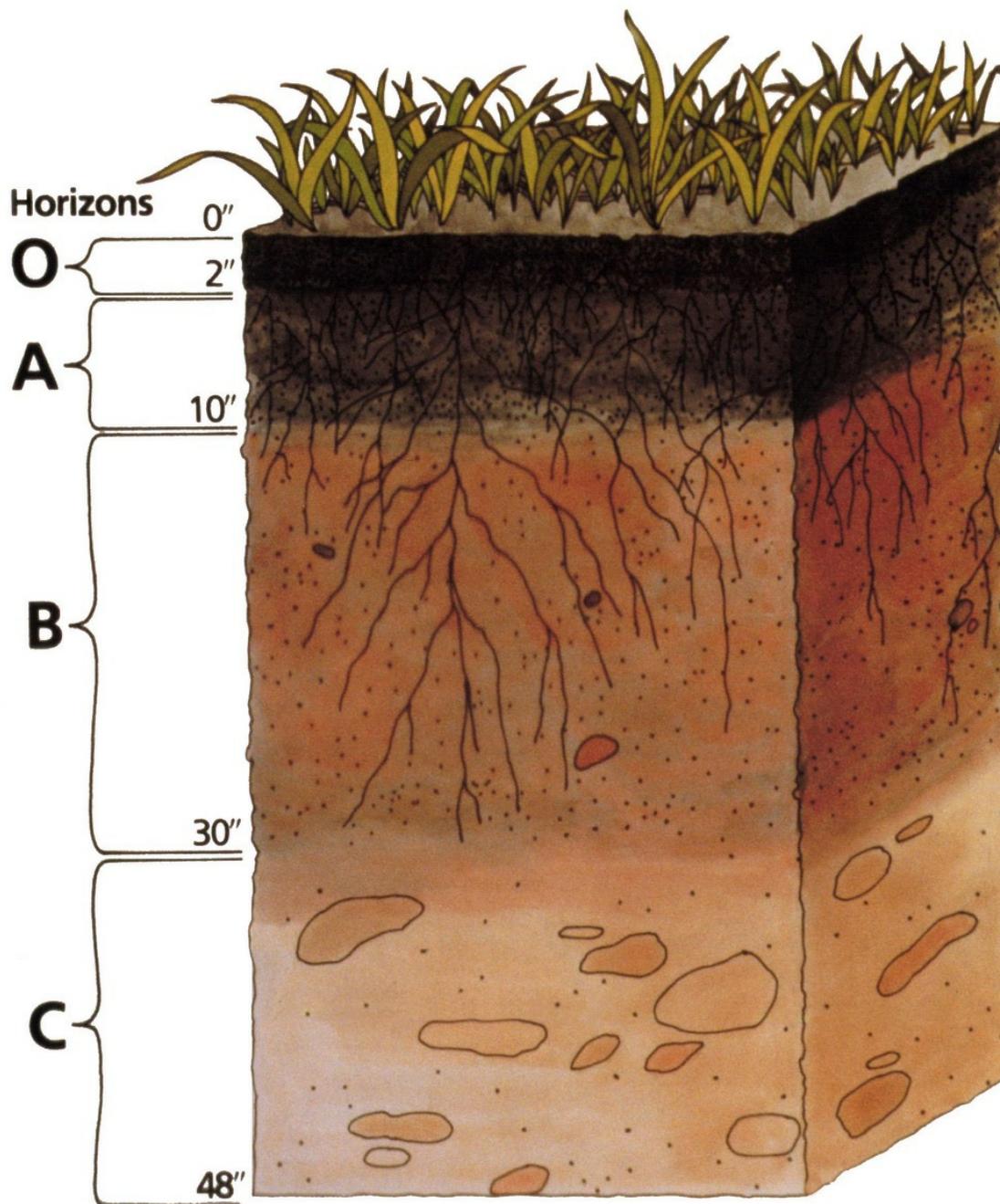
# SPACE HETEROGENEITY: SOIL VS ATMOSPHERE

# SOME BASICS ABOUT THE SOIL

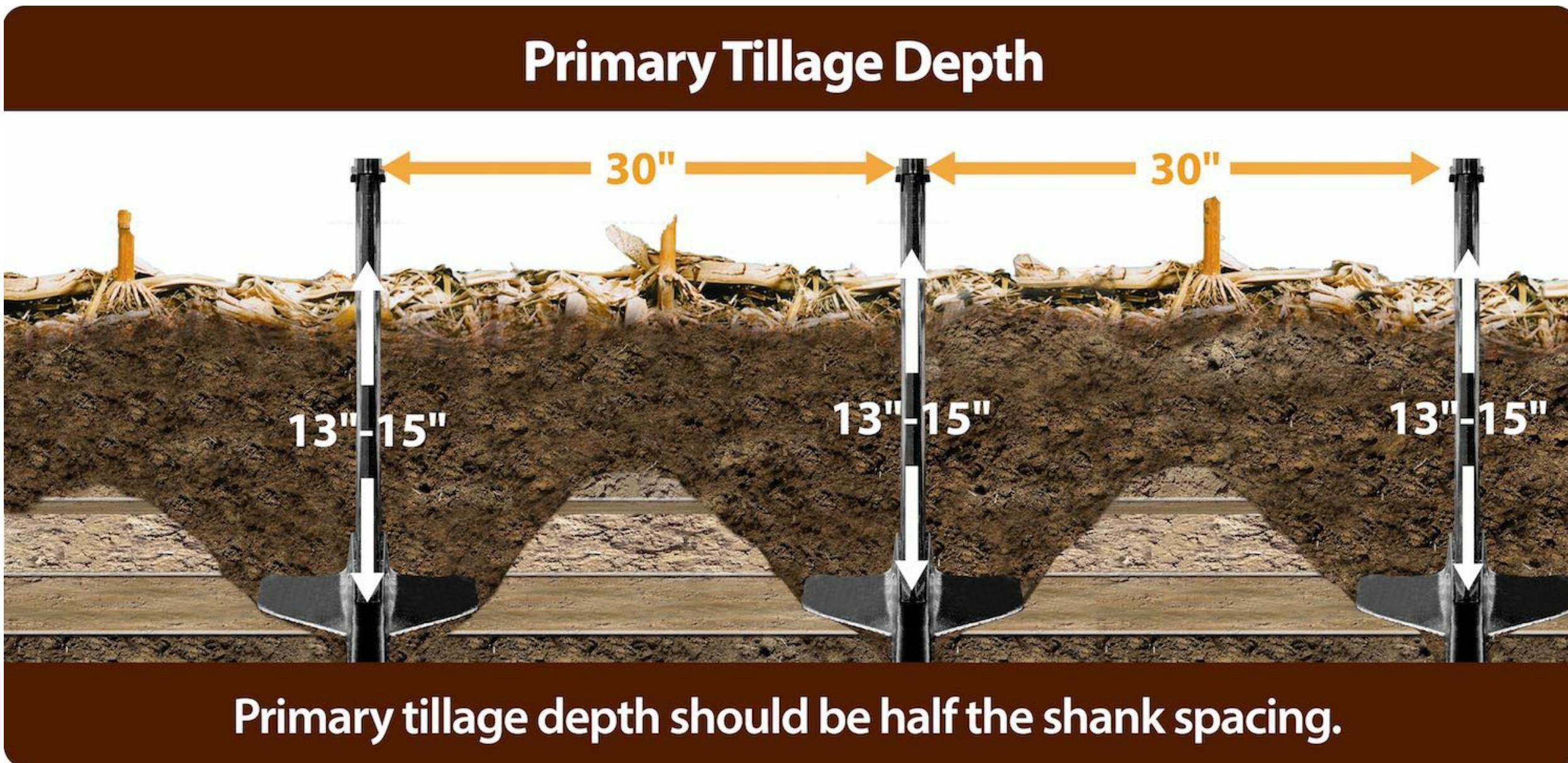


100  $\mu$ m

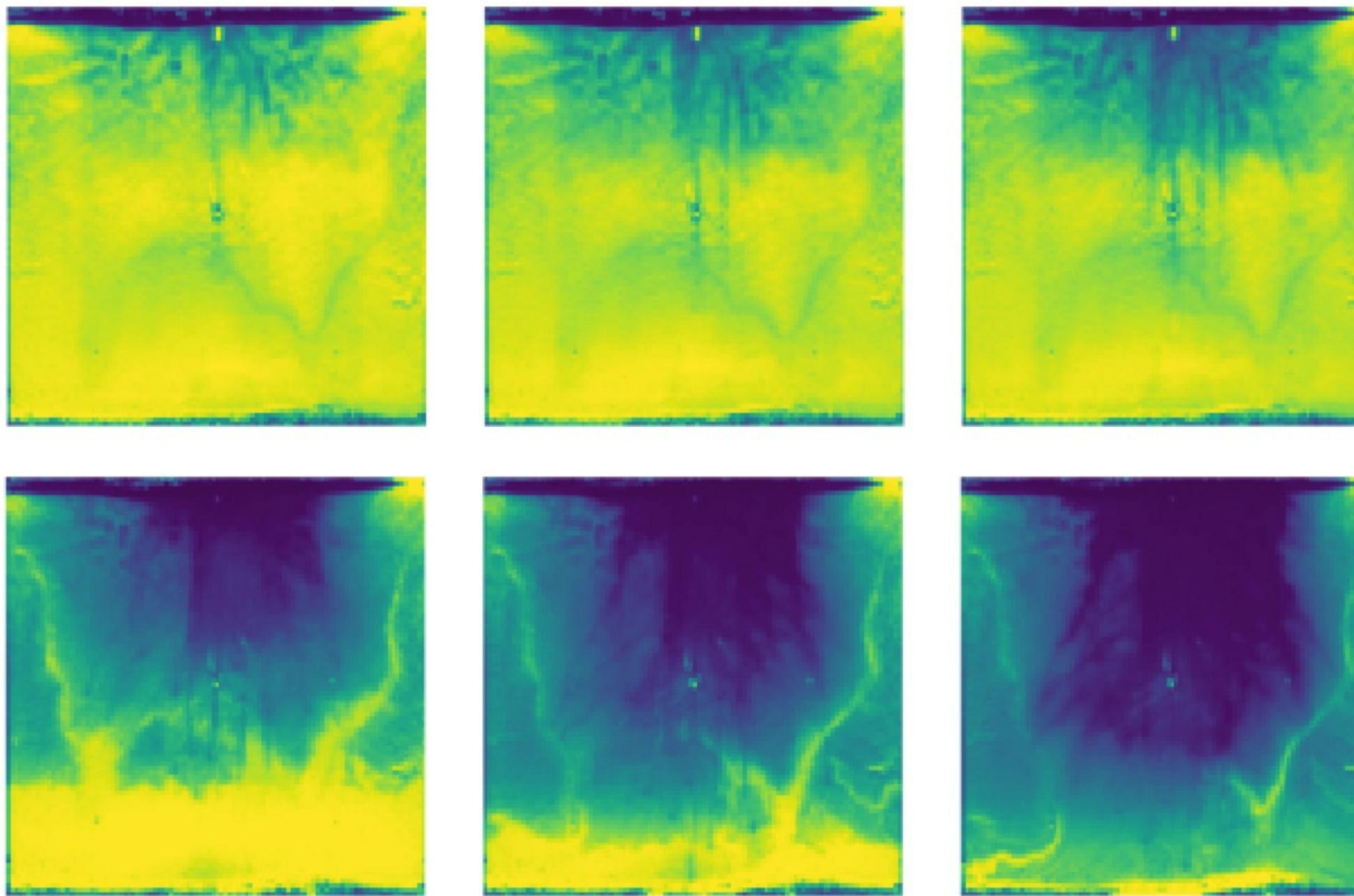
# VERTICAL HETEROGENEITY IN THE SOIL



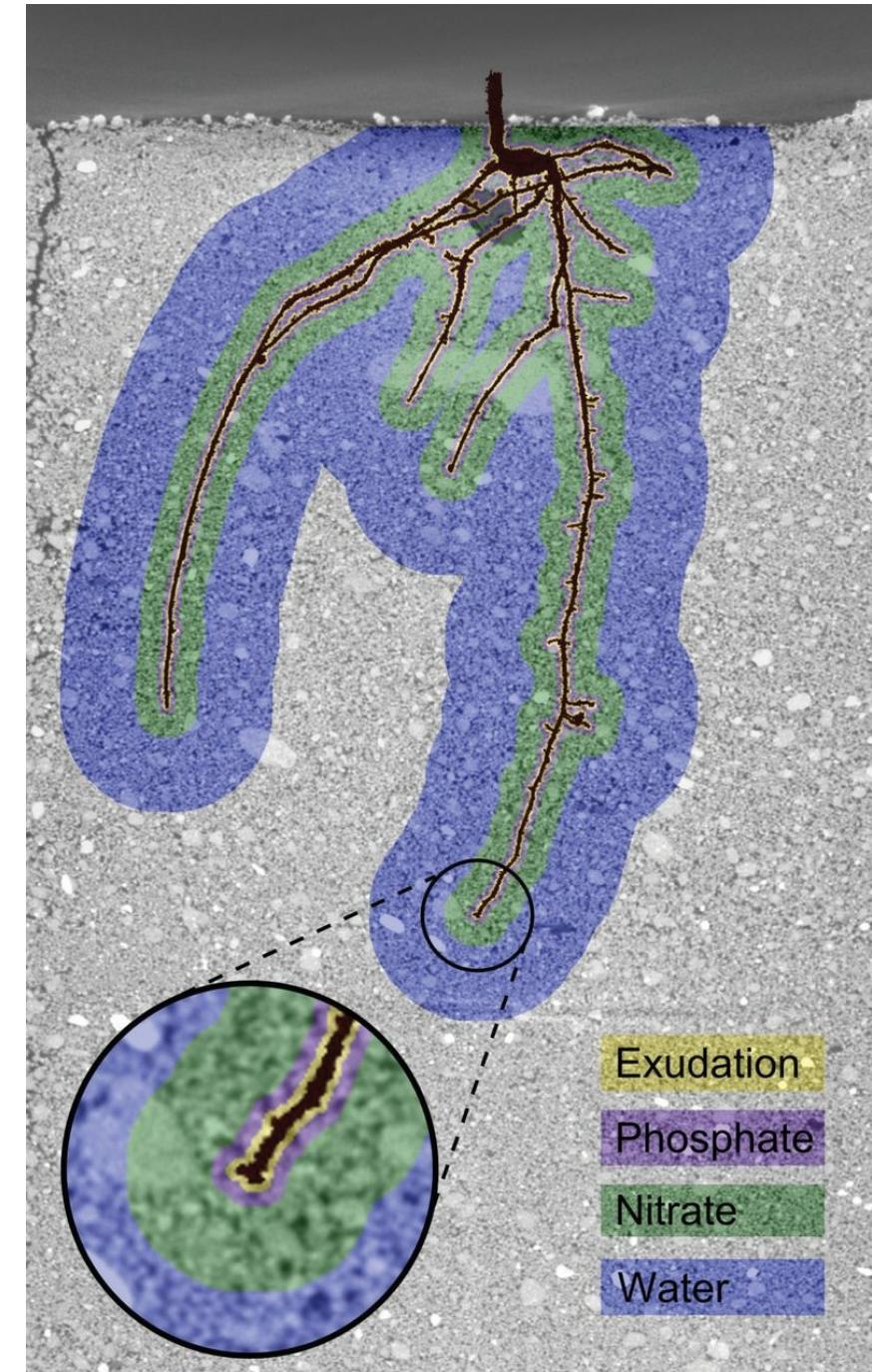
# HORIZONTAL HETEROGENEITY IN THE SOIL



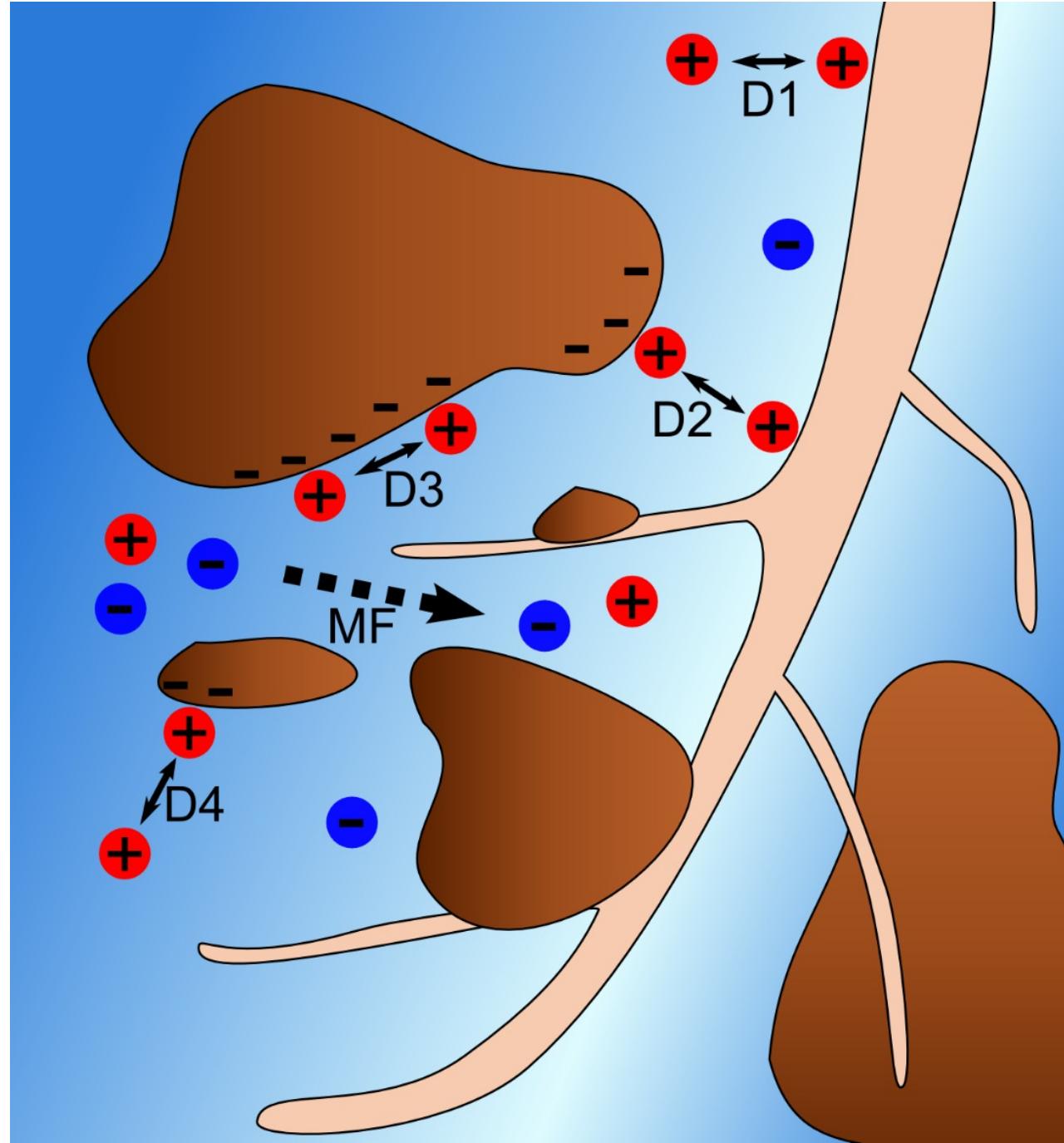
# TIME HETEROGENEITY IN THE SOIL



# ROOT ENVIRONMENT = RHIZOSPHERE



# ION MOVEMENT IN THE SOILS



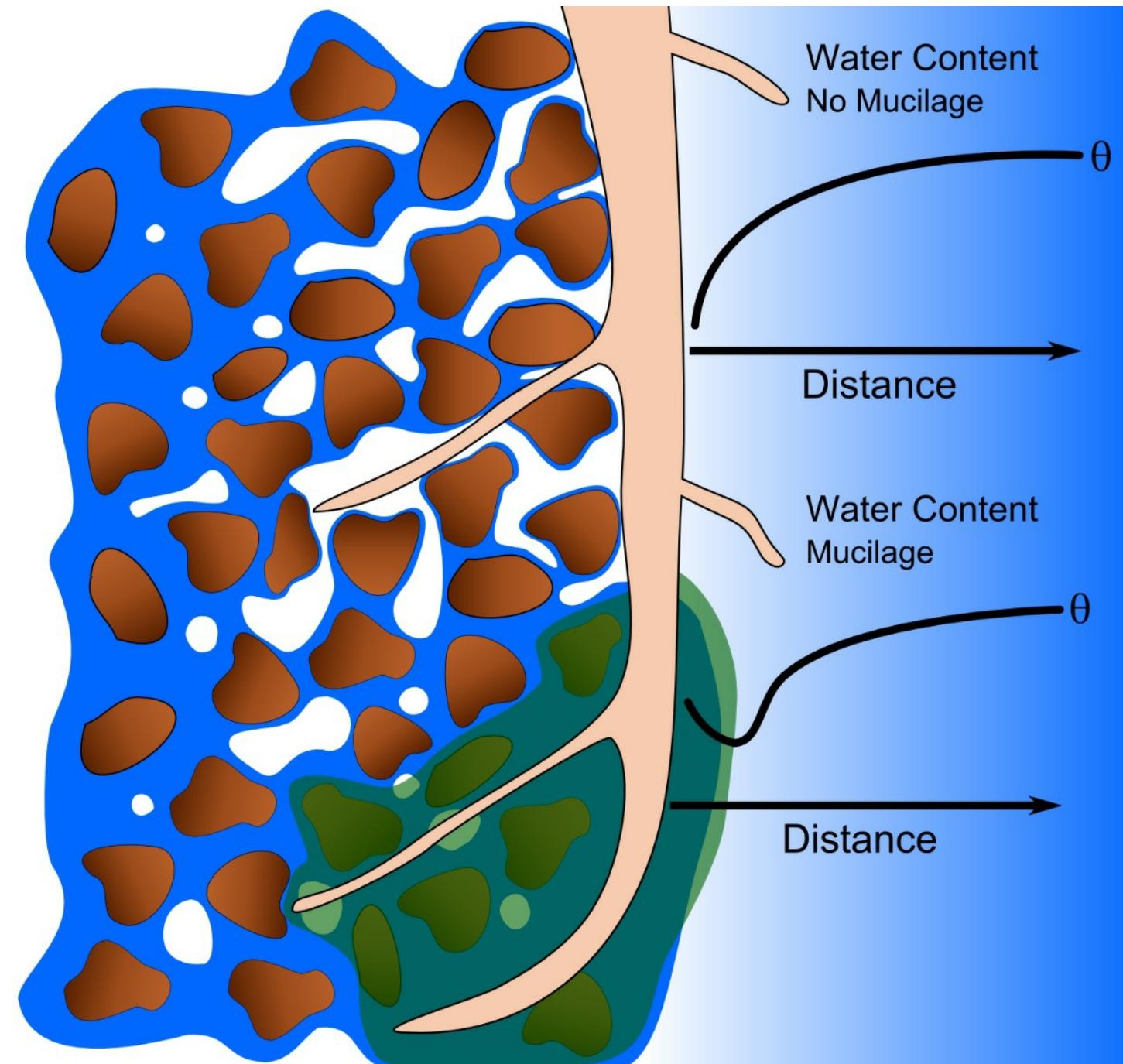
Ions can diffuse from:

solution to root (D1),  
particle surface to root (D2),  
exchange sites on particle (D3),  
or from particle to solution (D4).

Ions can also travel with water to  
the root surface through the  
process of mass flow (MF).

York et al. (2016)

# WATER MOVEMENT IN THE SOILS

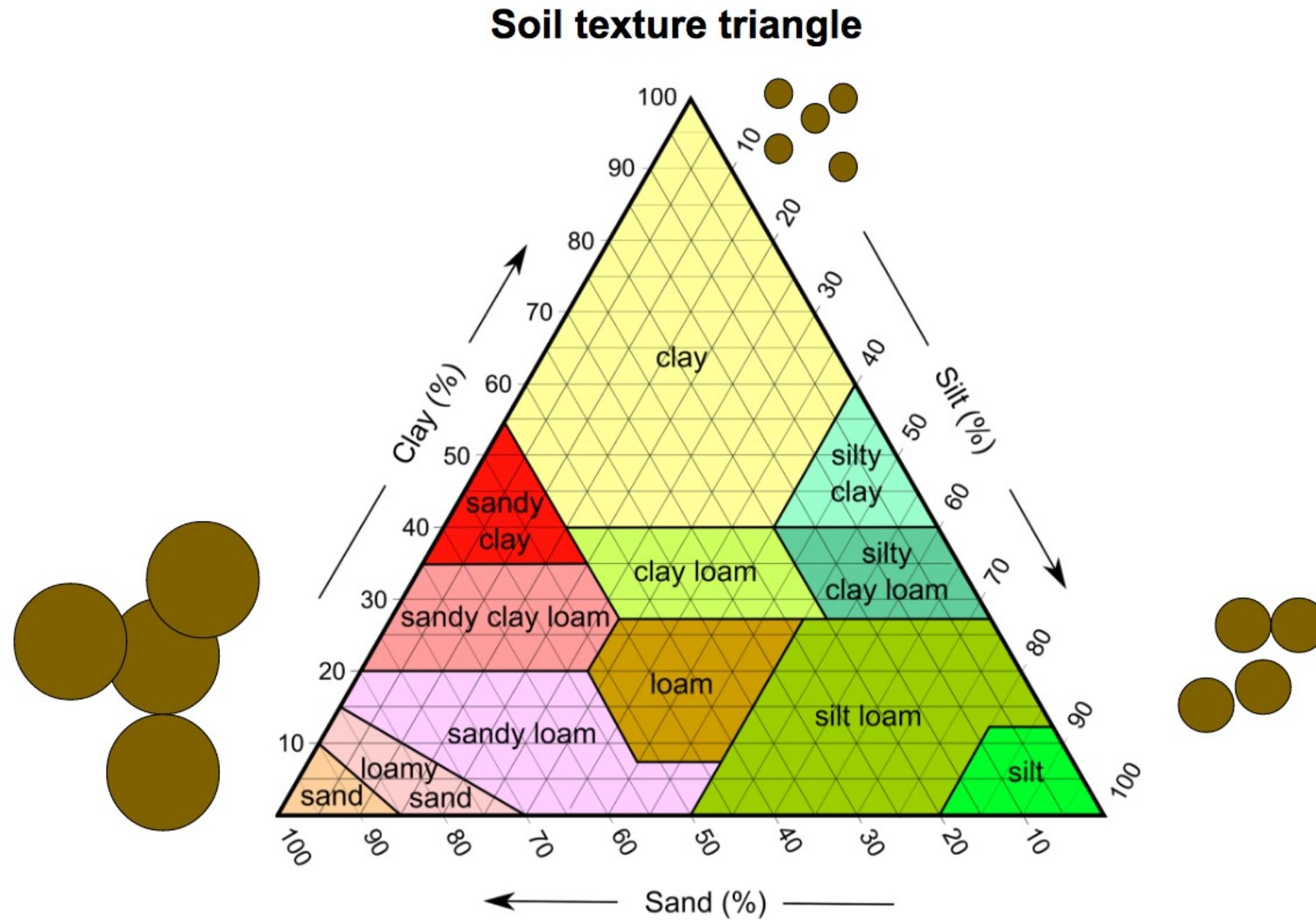


Waters is taken out from pore spaces between particles first, and as more water is extracted the remaining water is more and more difficult to extract. The remaining water clings in thin films to soil particles and is not available for root uptake.

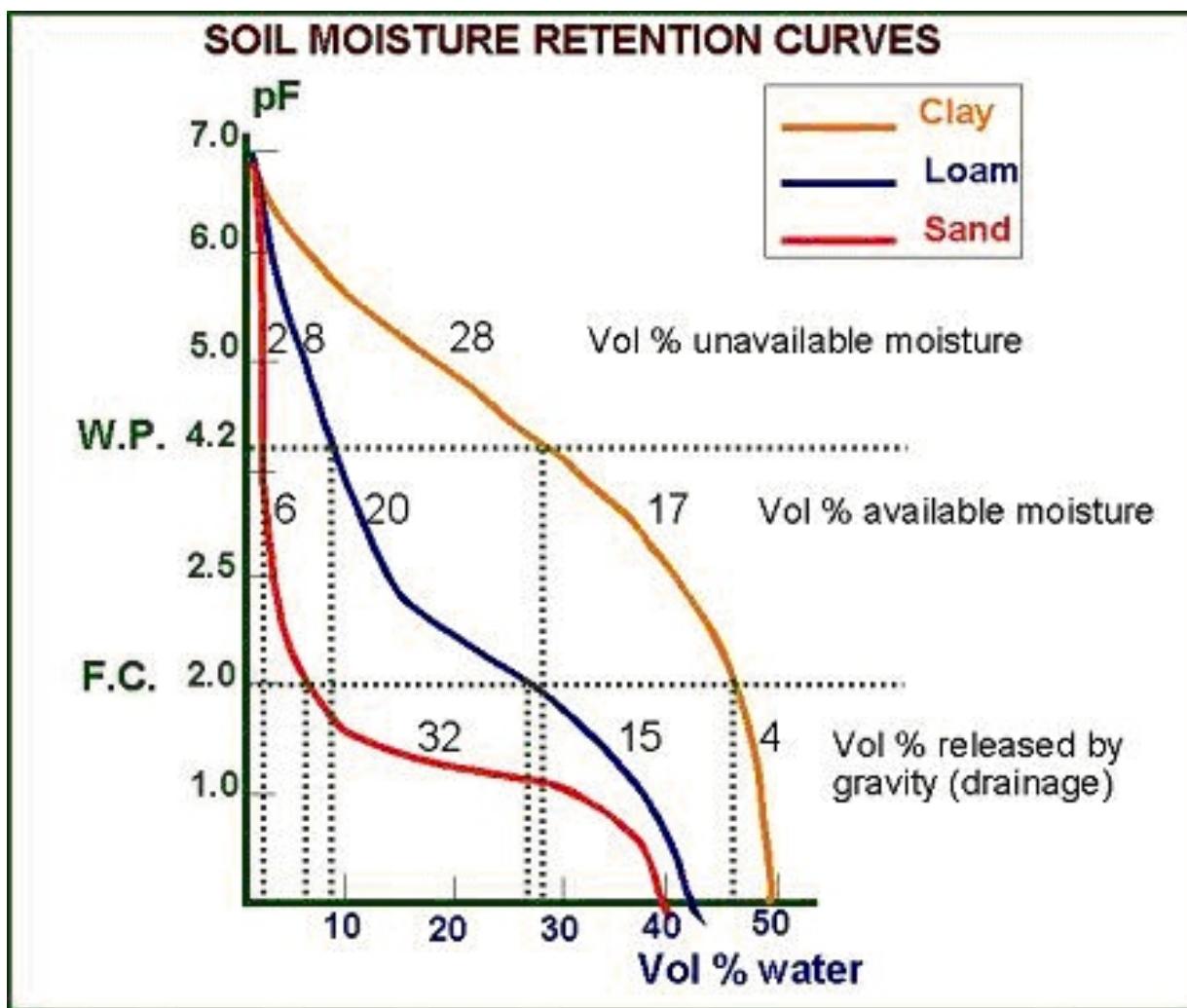
Mucilage exuded by roots may help keep the roots hydrated with better access to water.

York et al. (2016)

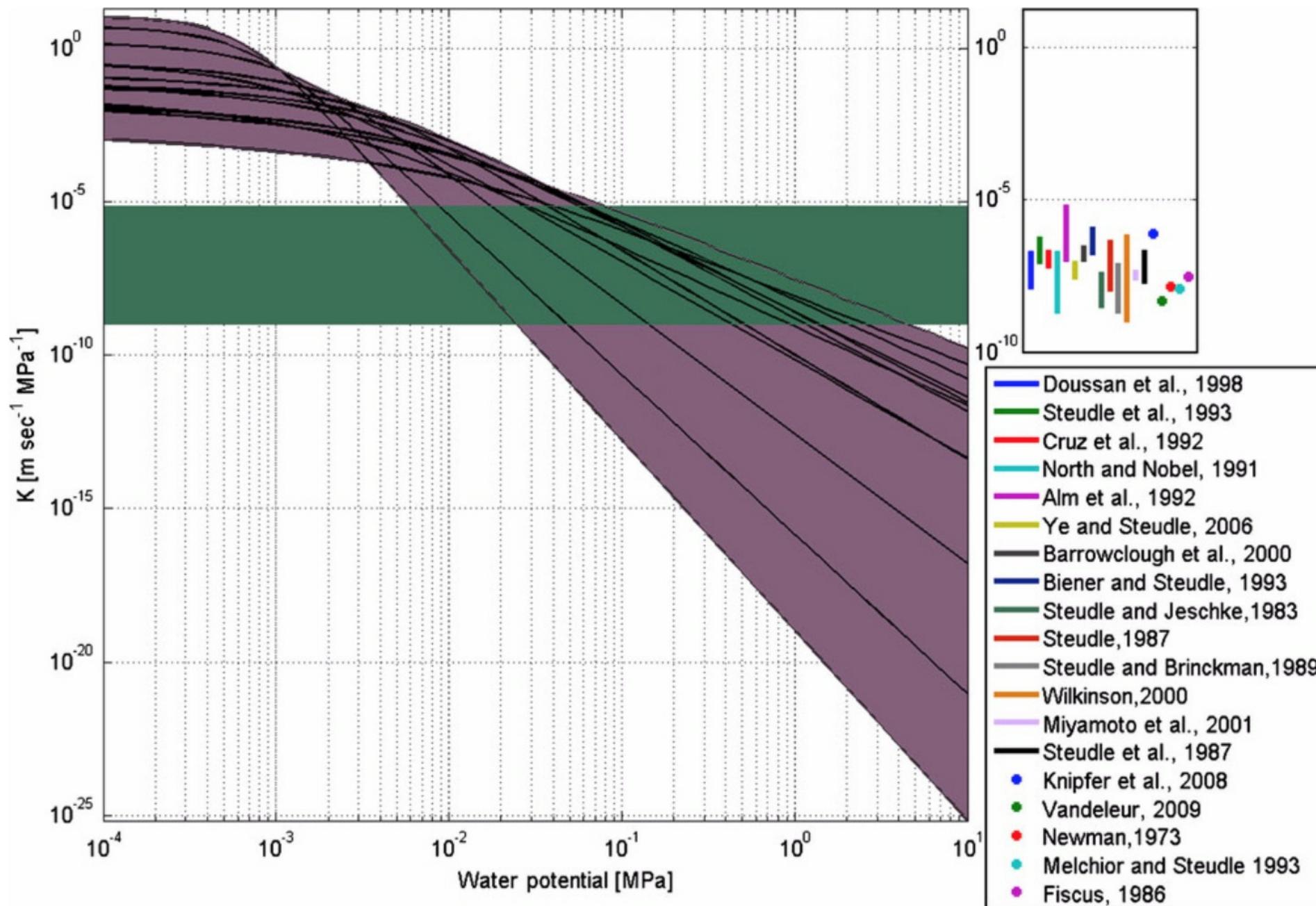
# THE SOIL IS COMPLEX MEDIUM



# SOIL RETENTION CURVE



# SOIL CONDUCTIVITY CURVE



Draye, X. et al. (2010)  
Model-assisted  
integration of  
physiological and  
environmental  
constraints affecting the  
dynamic and spatial  
patterns of root water  
uptake from soils. J.  
Exp. Bot. 61, 2145–  
2155

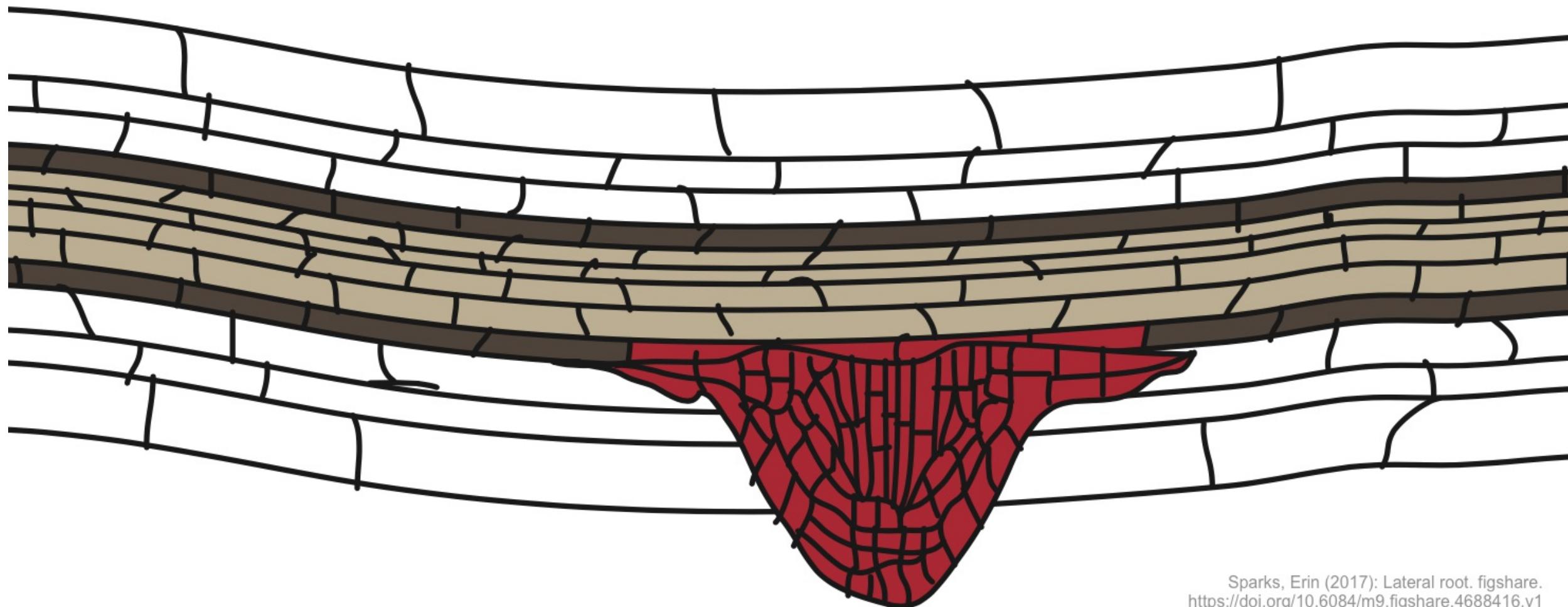
# **SOIL IS:**

- complex media
  - different particule sizes
  - different physico-chemical properties
- highly heterogeneous
  - vertically
  - horizontaly
  - in time
- non linear behaviour

# ROOT SYSTEMS

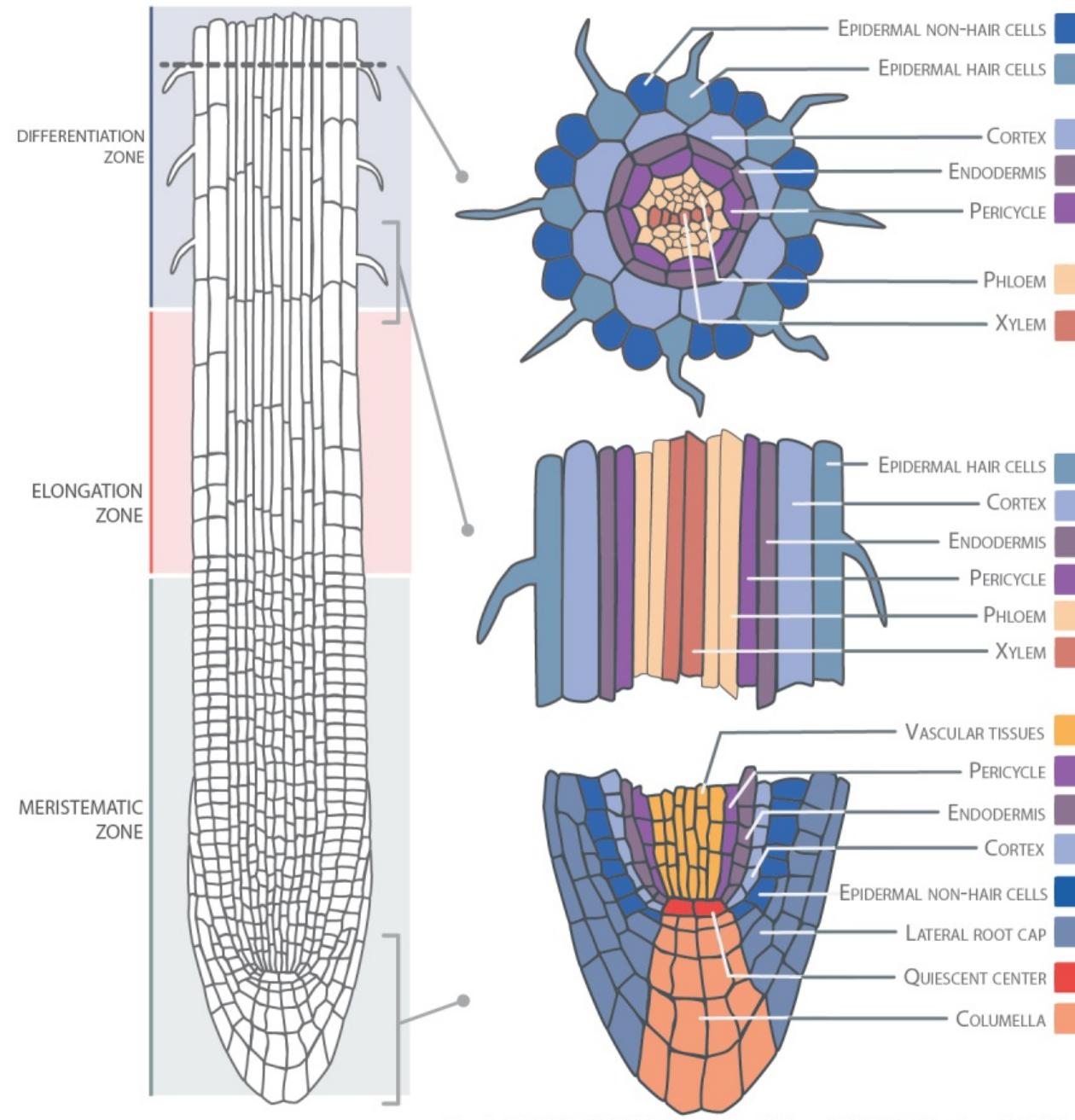
Different types of root systems and how they are built

⬇ Press down for details



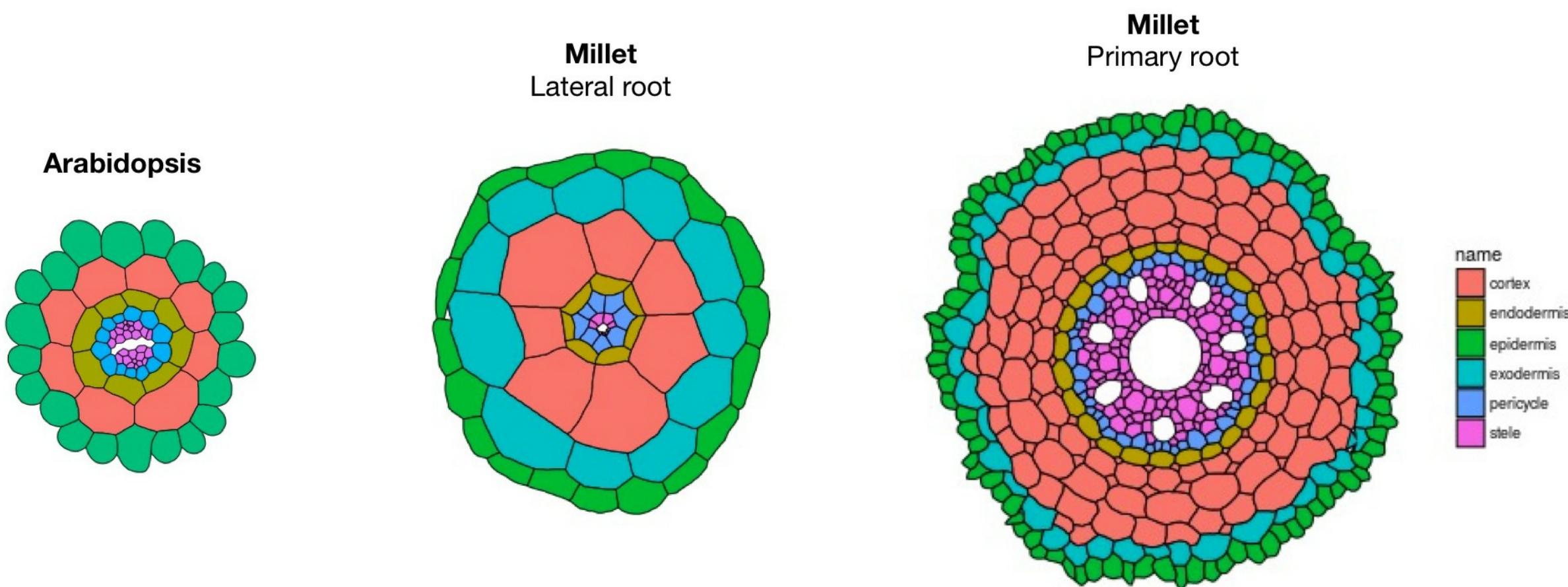
Sparks, Erin (2017): Lateral root. figshare.  
<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4688416.v1>

# ROOT HAVE SIMPLE RADIAL AND AXIAL ANATOMY

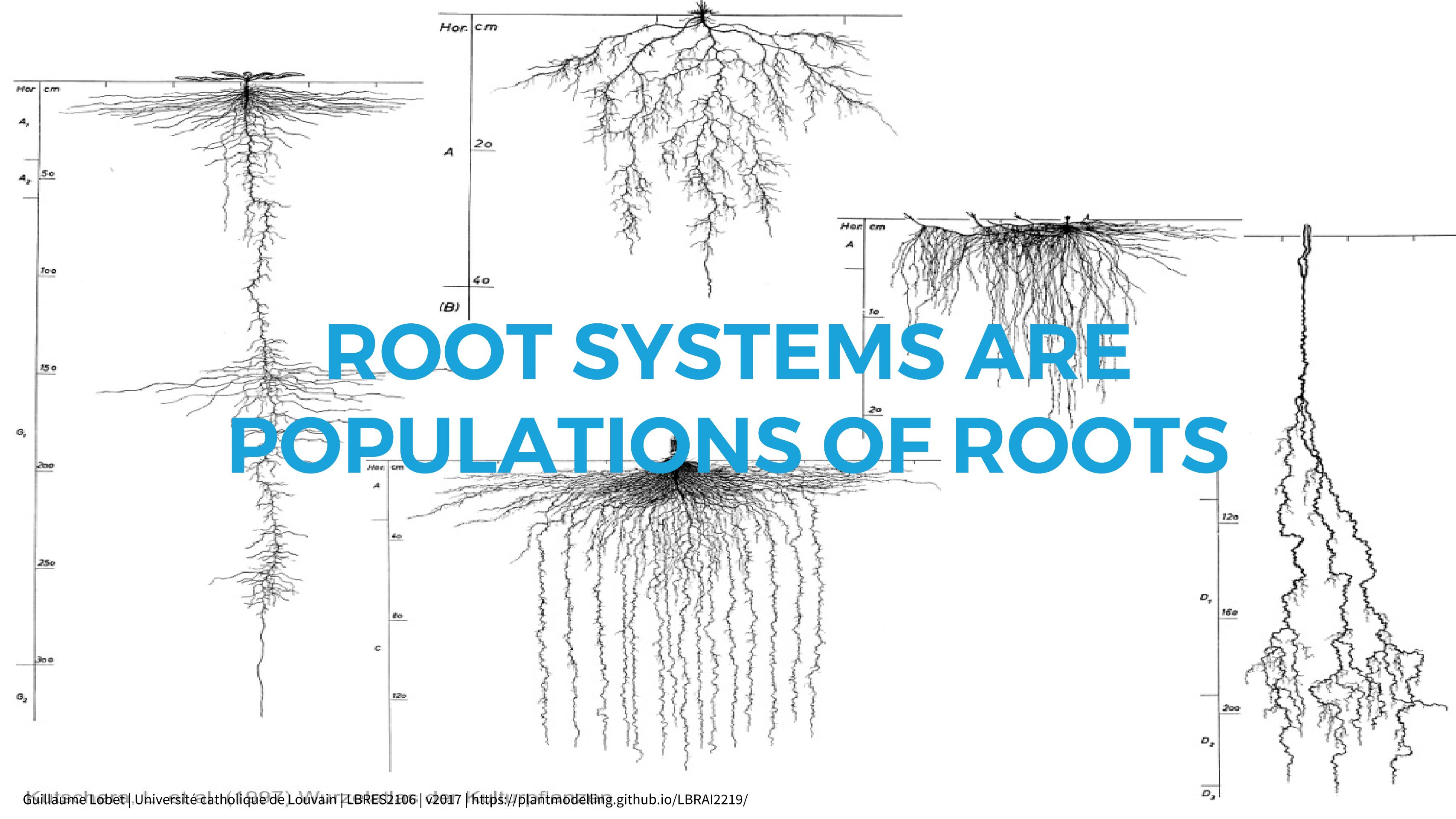


Bouché, Frédéric (2017) figshare (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4688752.v1>)

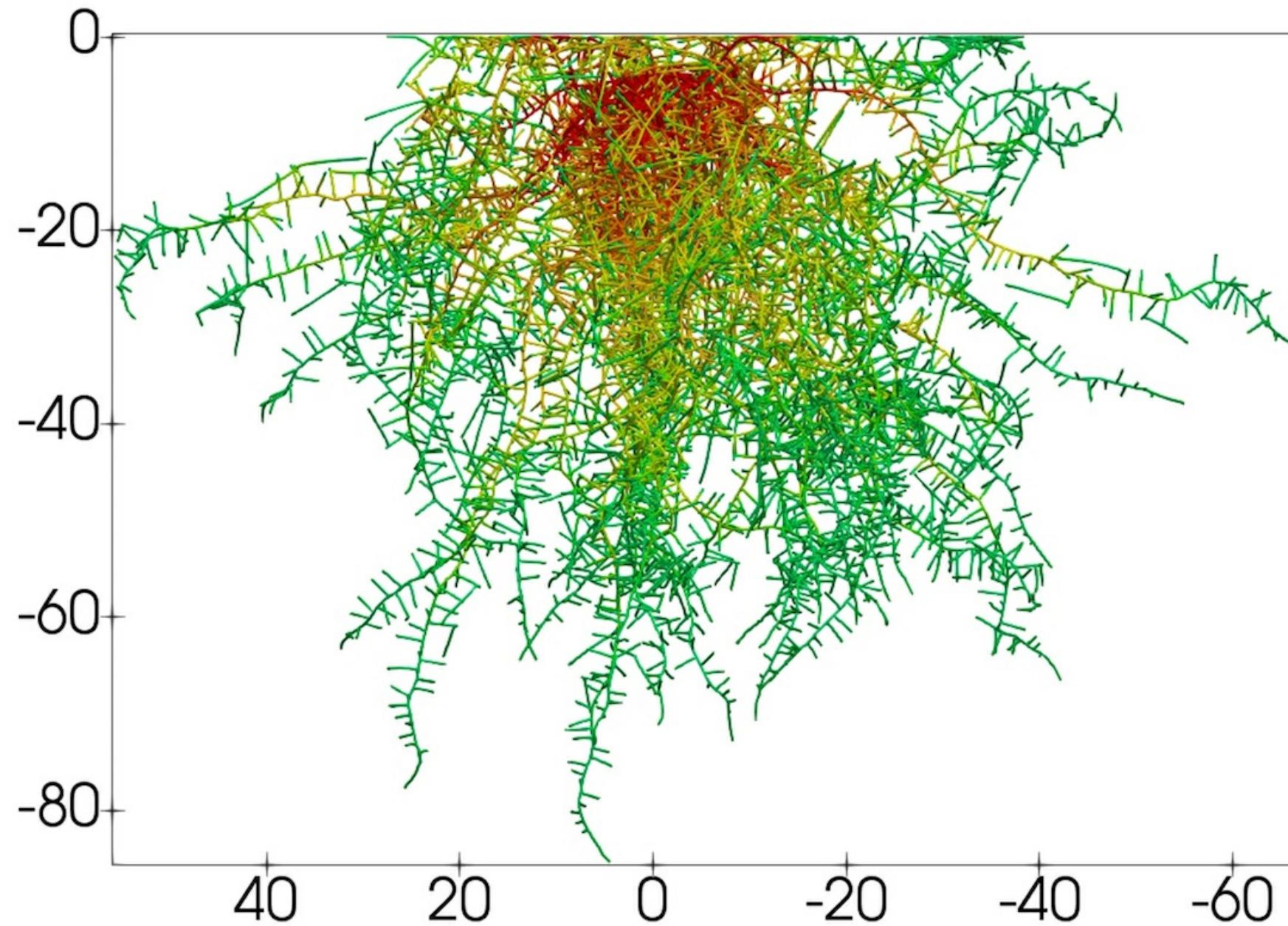
# THE ROOT RADIAL ANATOMY IS RELATIVELY CONSERVED ACCROSS SPECIES



# ROOT SYSTEMS ARE POPULATIONS OF ROOTS

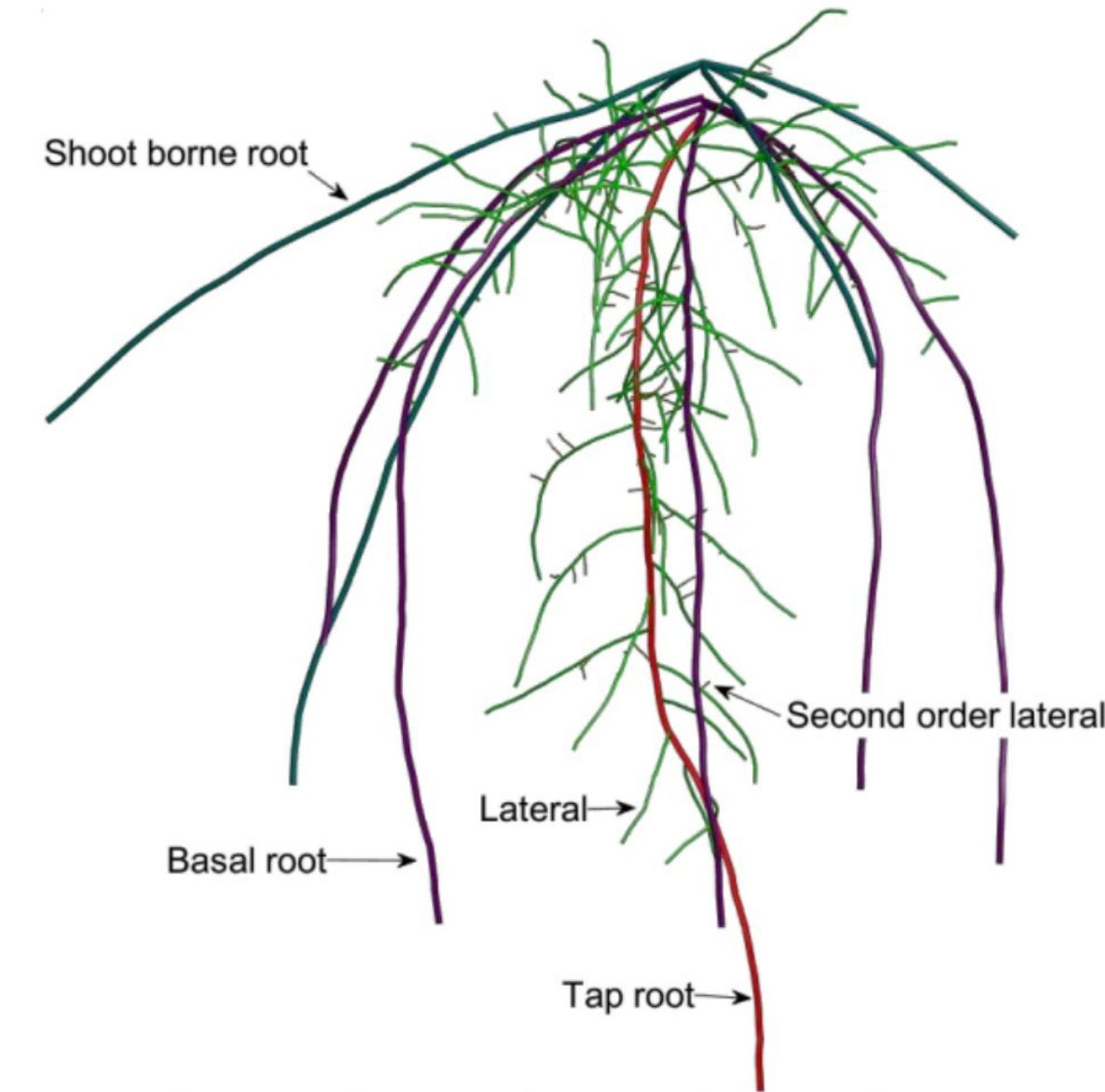
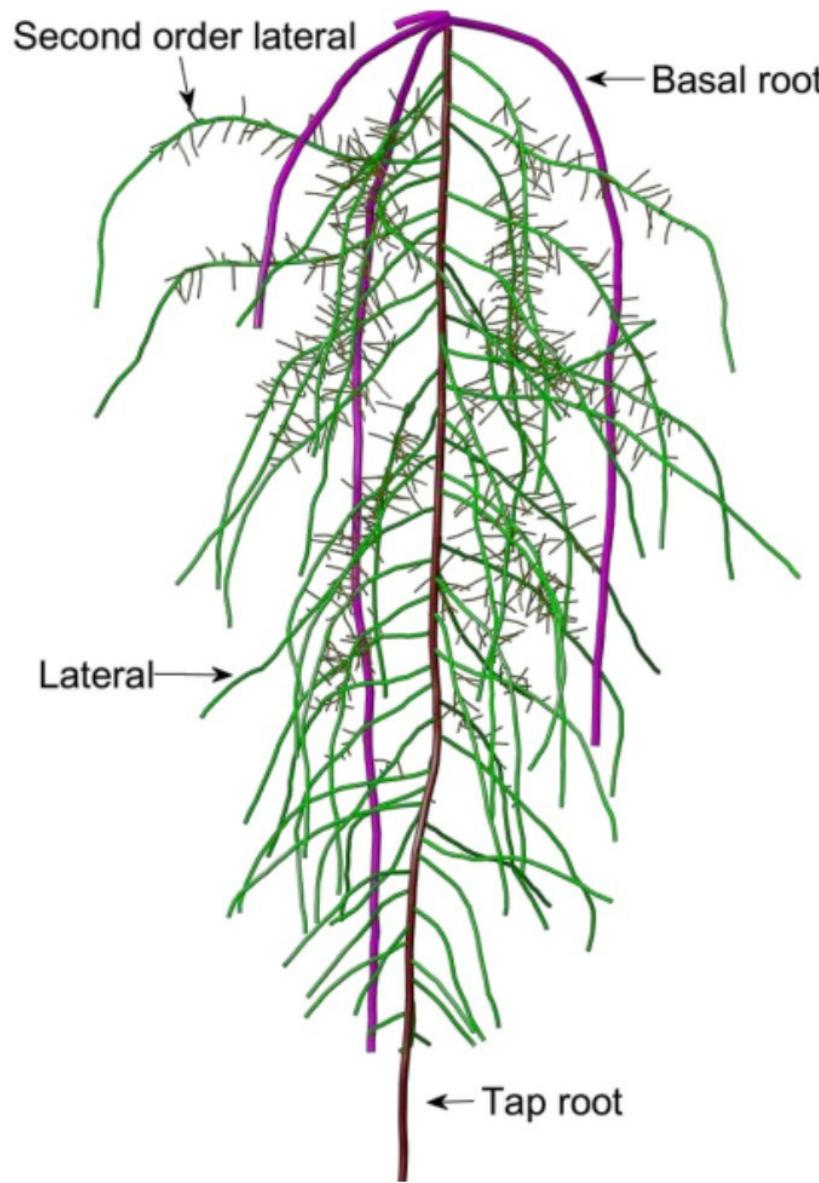


# ROOT AGE DISTRIBUTION IN CRYPSIS ACULEATA



Zörner, et al (2017): *Crypsis aculeata* - CRootBox parameter file. figshare. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4828945.v1>

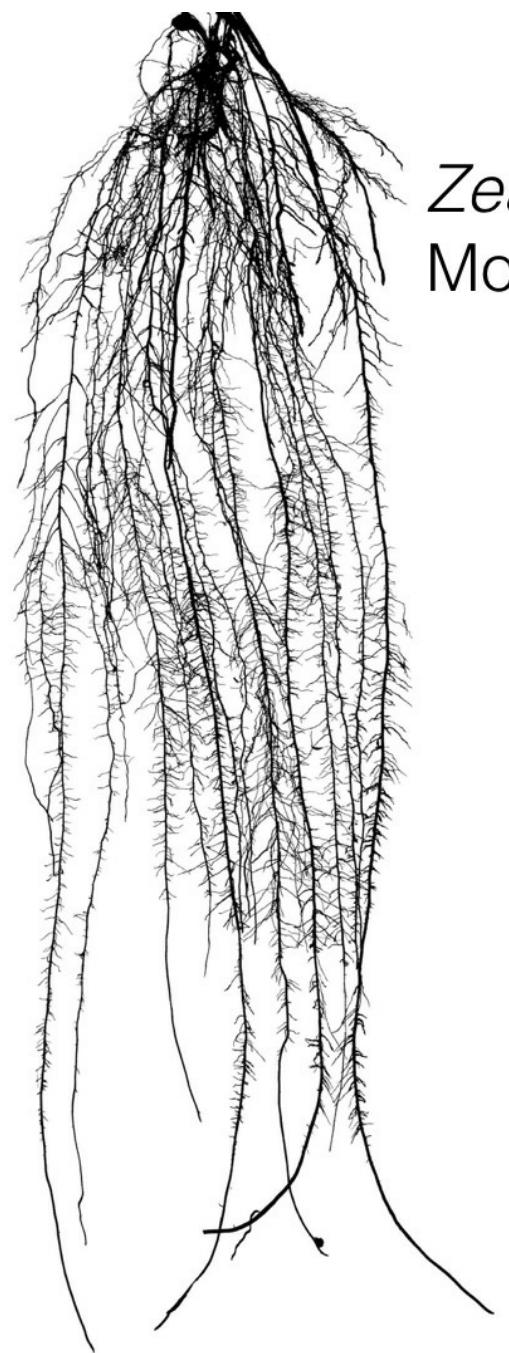
# ROOT NOMENCLATURE



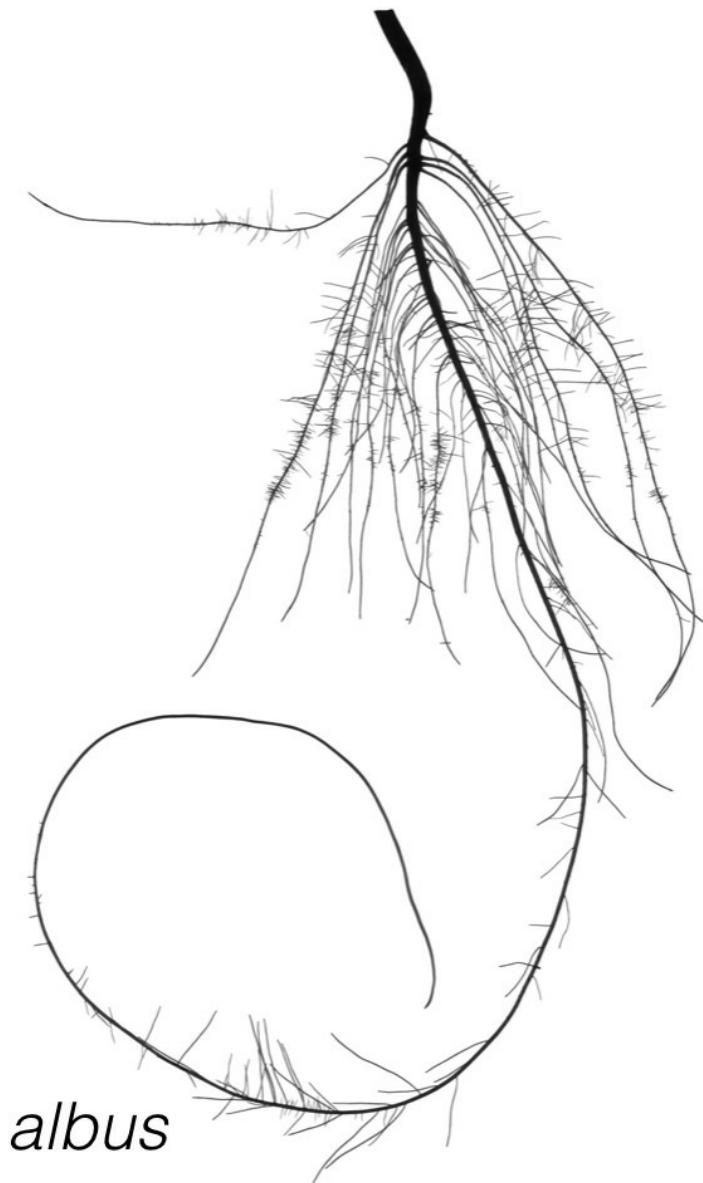
# MONOCOTS VS DICOTS

	Monocot	Dicot
Type	fasciculated	herring-bone
Seminars	yes	no
Adventitious roots	yes	(yes)
Secondary growth	no	yes

# MONOCOTS VS DICOTS



*Zea mays*  
Monocot



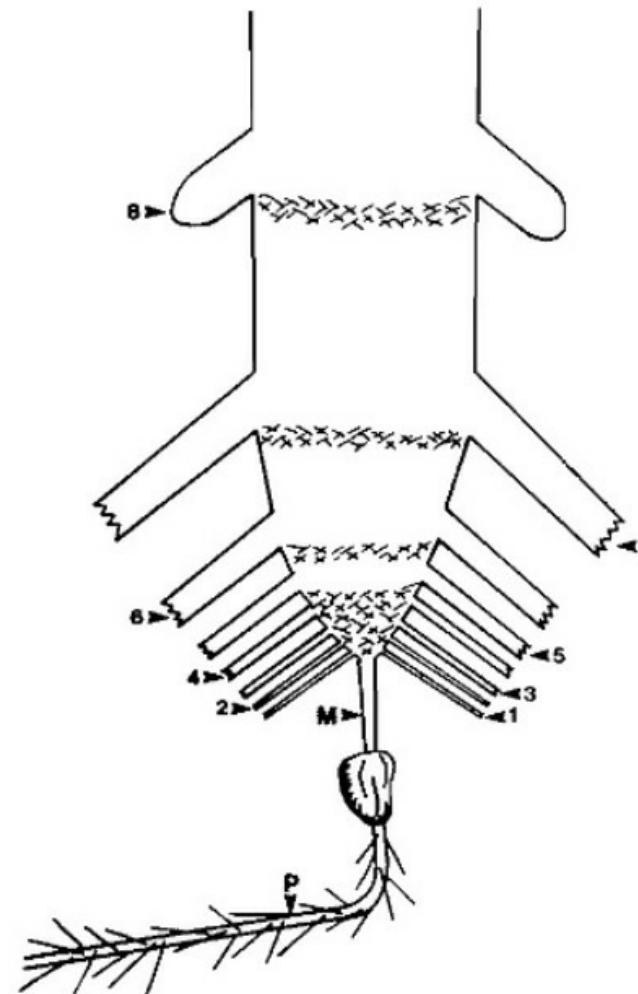
*Lupinus albus*  
Dicot

# **COMPLEX ROOT ARCHITECTURE ARISE FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF SIMPLE PROCESSES**

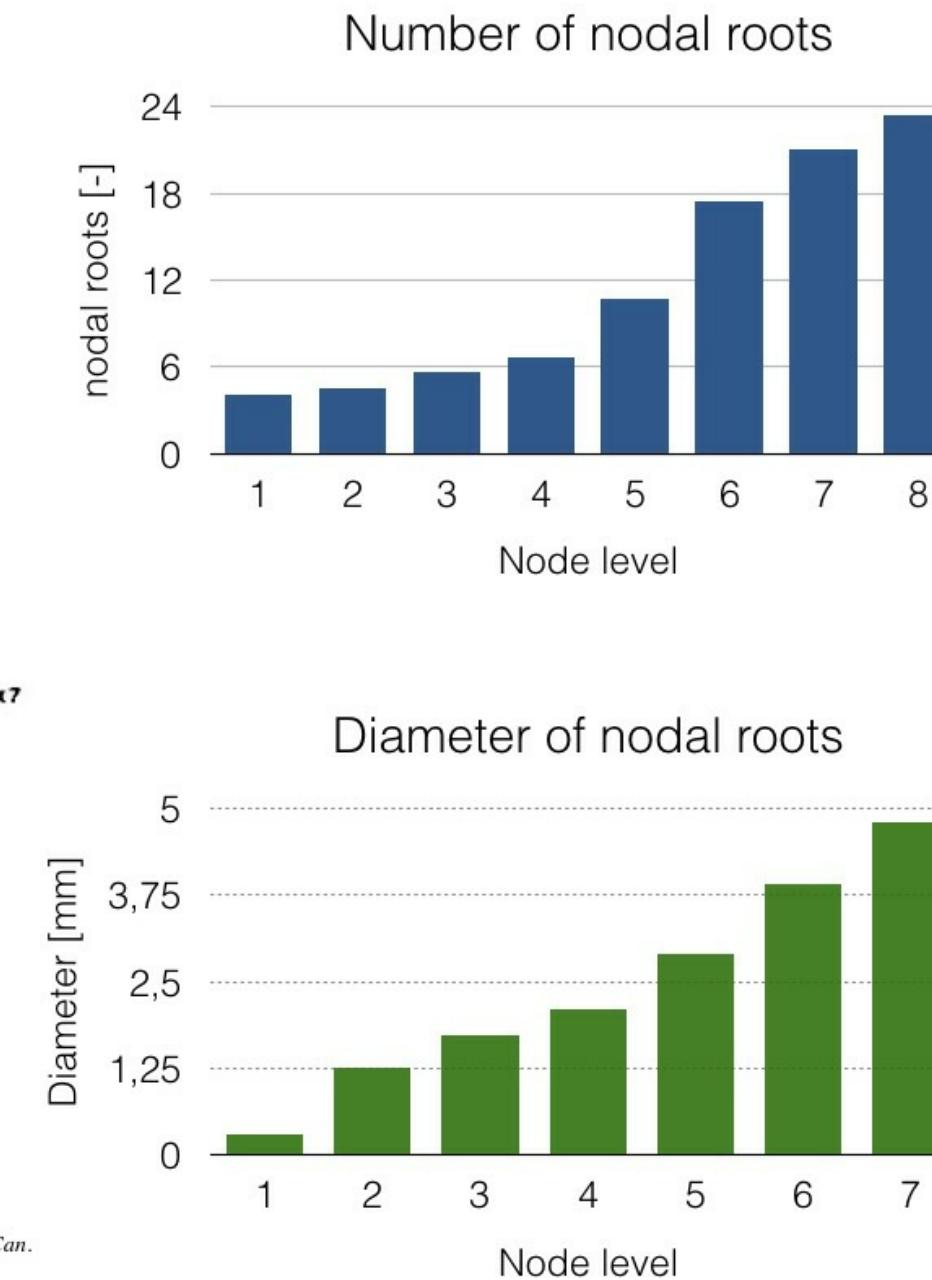
1. Root production
2. Root axial growth
3. Root tropisms
4. Root branching

# ROOT PRODUCTION

# IN MONOCOTS, ROOT PRODUCTION (ORDER 0) DEPEND ON THE NODE /TILLER FORMATION

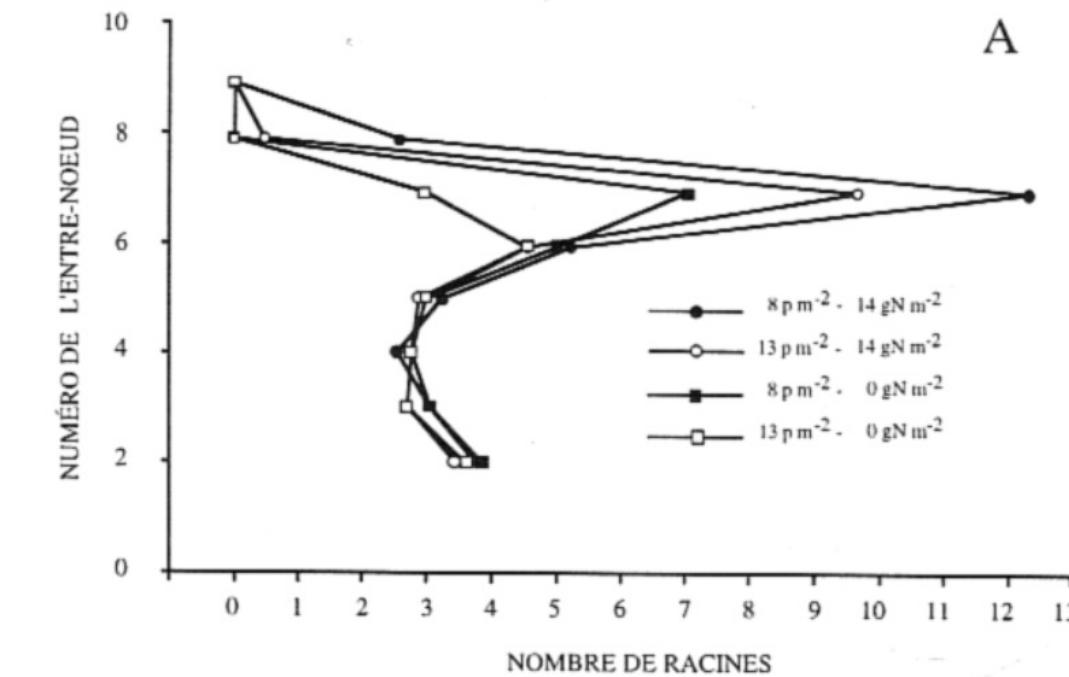
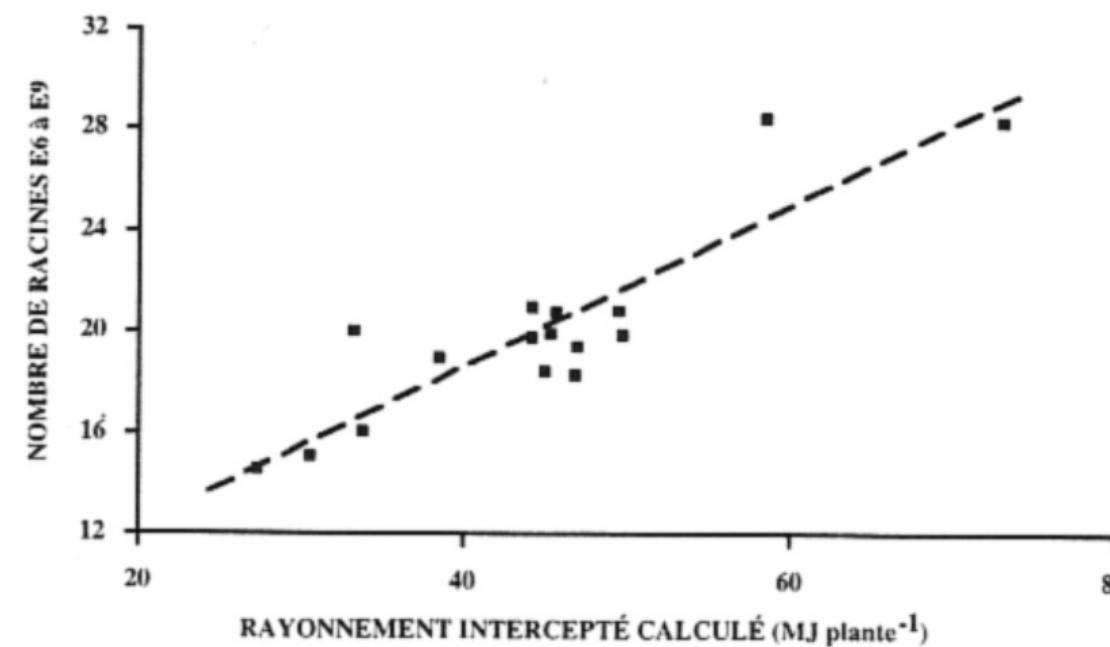


Hoppe, D.C. et al. (1986) The nodal roots of *Zea*: their development in relation to structural features of the stem. *Can. J. Bot.* 64, 2524–2537



# ROOT PRODUCTION = F(ENVIRONMENT)

Light interception, temperature, soil strength,  
nutrients, ...

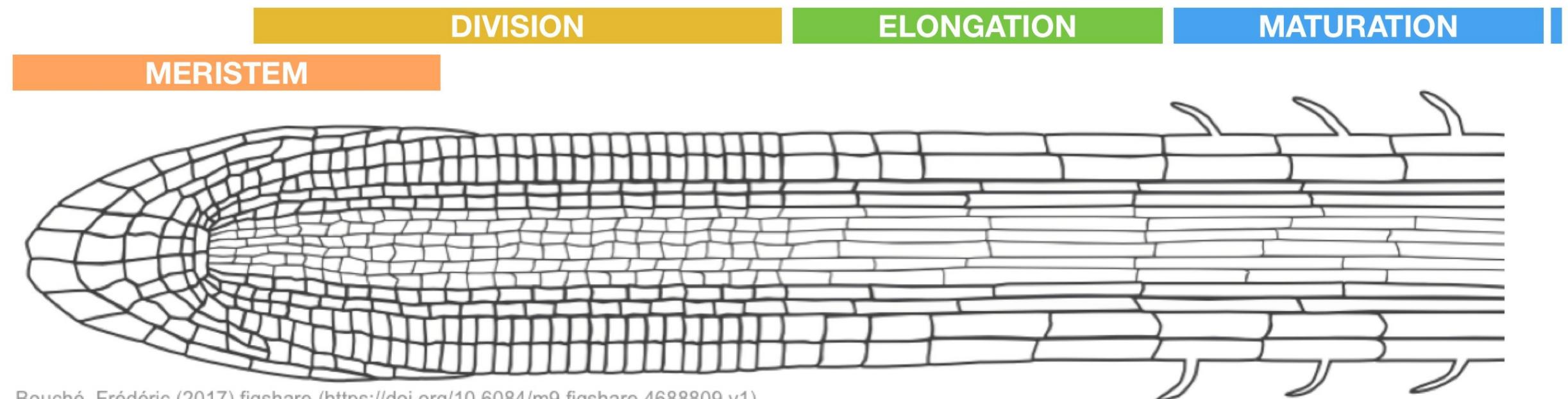


# GROWTH

# AXIAL GROWTH

Simple process at the single root scale:

1. Cells production
2. Cells division
3. Cells elongation



Bouché, Frédéric (2017) figshare (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4688809.v1>)

## Root Growth

Playback isn't supported on this device.



0:00 / 0:51



# THE MERISTEM IS REGION OF IMPORTANT METABOLIC ACTIVITY

- Water uptake
- Carbon consumption
- Exudation
- ...

GFP - Growing root tip with dividing cells - mitosis ➔

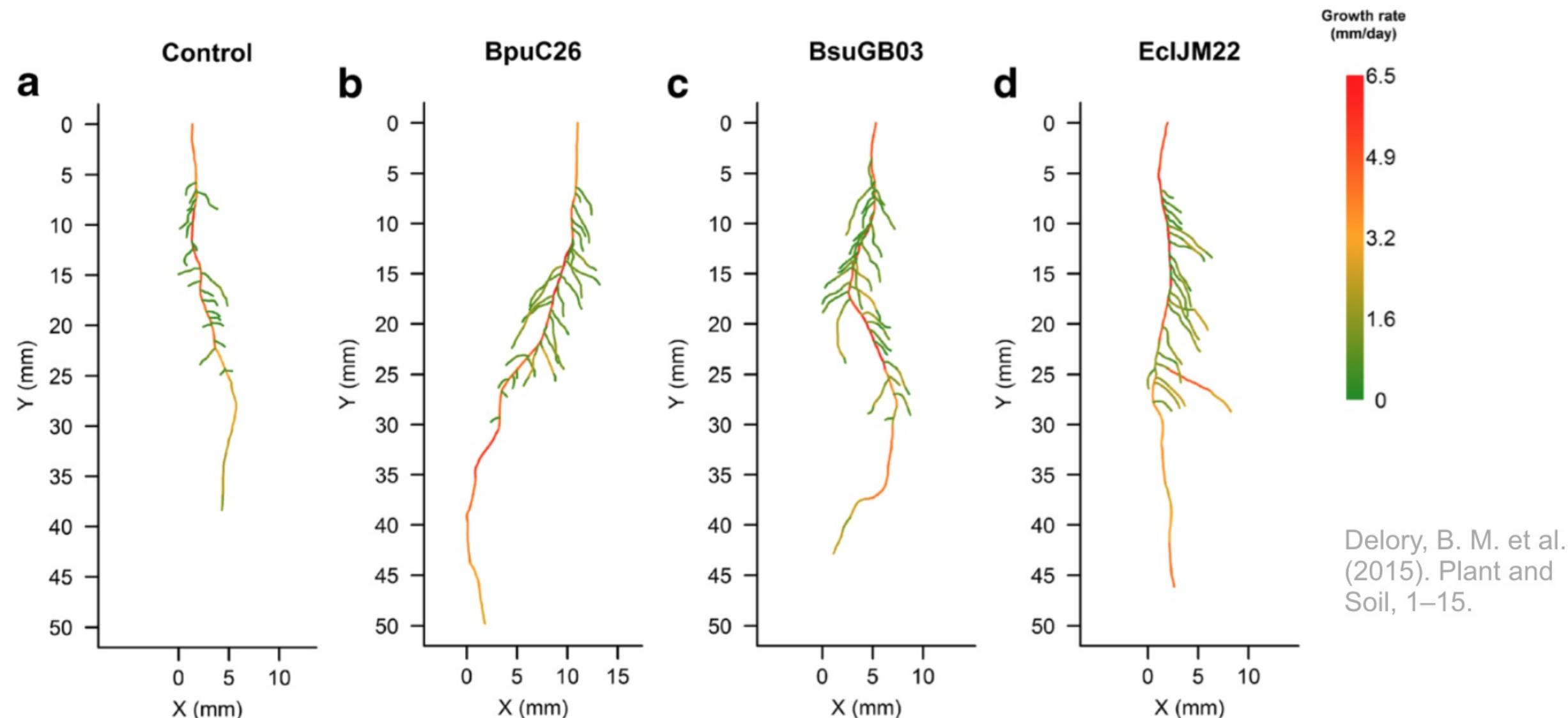
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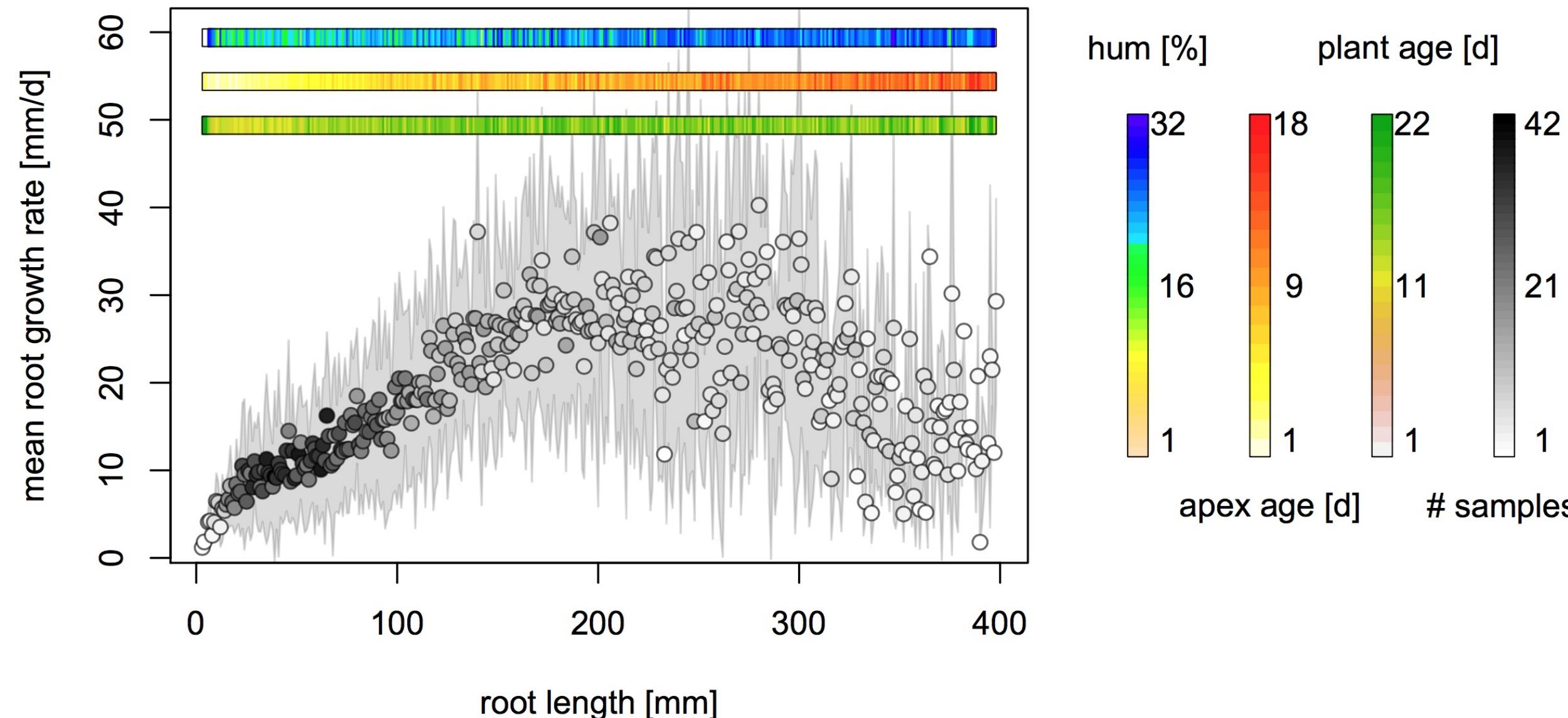
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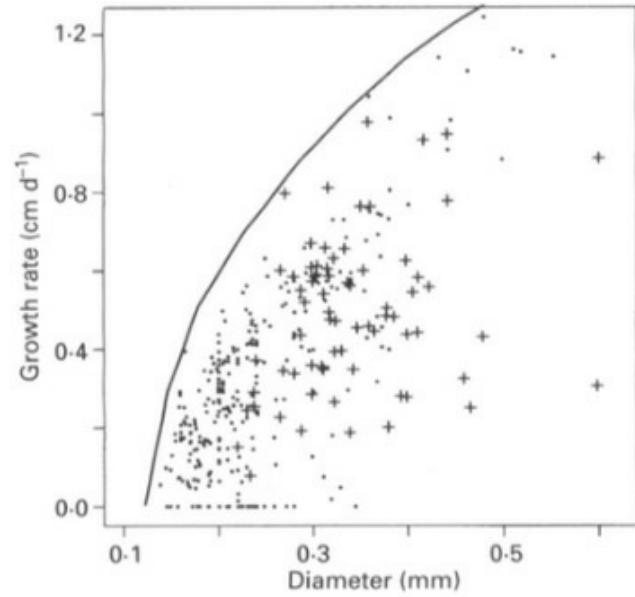
# GROWTH RATE IS NOT ALWAYS CONSTANT



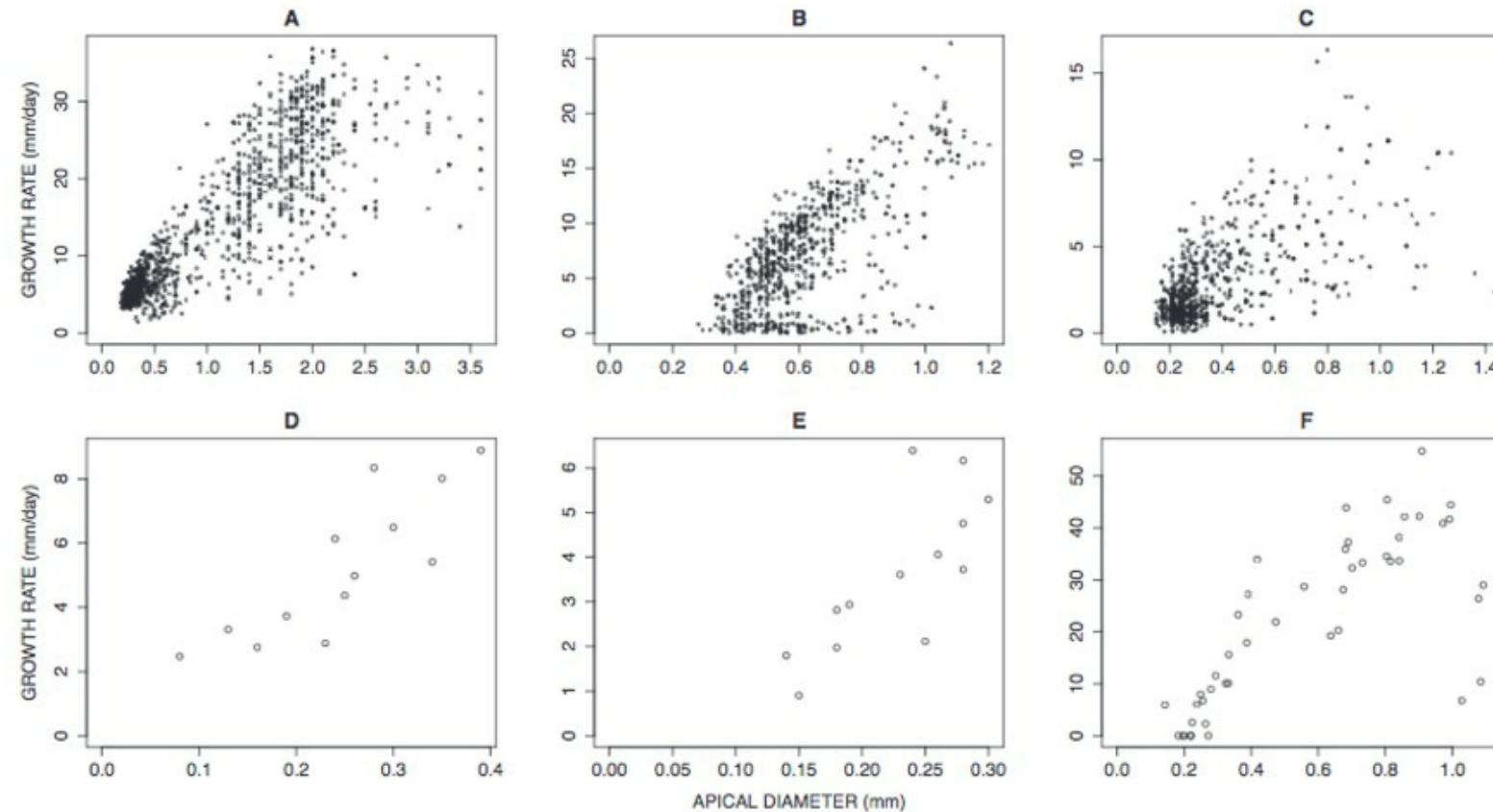
# GROWTH RATE IS NOT ALWAYS CONSTANT



# GROWTH AS A FUNCTION OF DIAMETER ?



**Figure 4.** Relationship between apical diameter and growth rate. The hand-drawn line (upper limit of the scatter plot) illustrates a potential growth rate allowed by a given diameter (see the text). Young roots are highlighted (+). These points present the growth during the first 2 d after emergence.



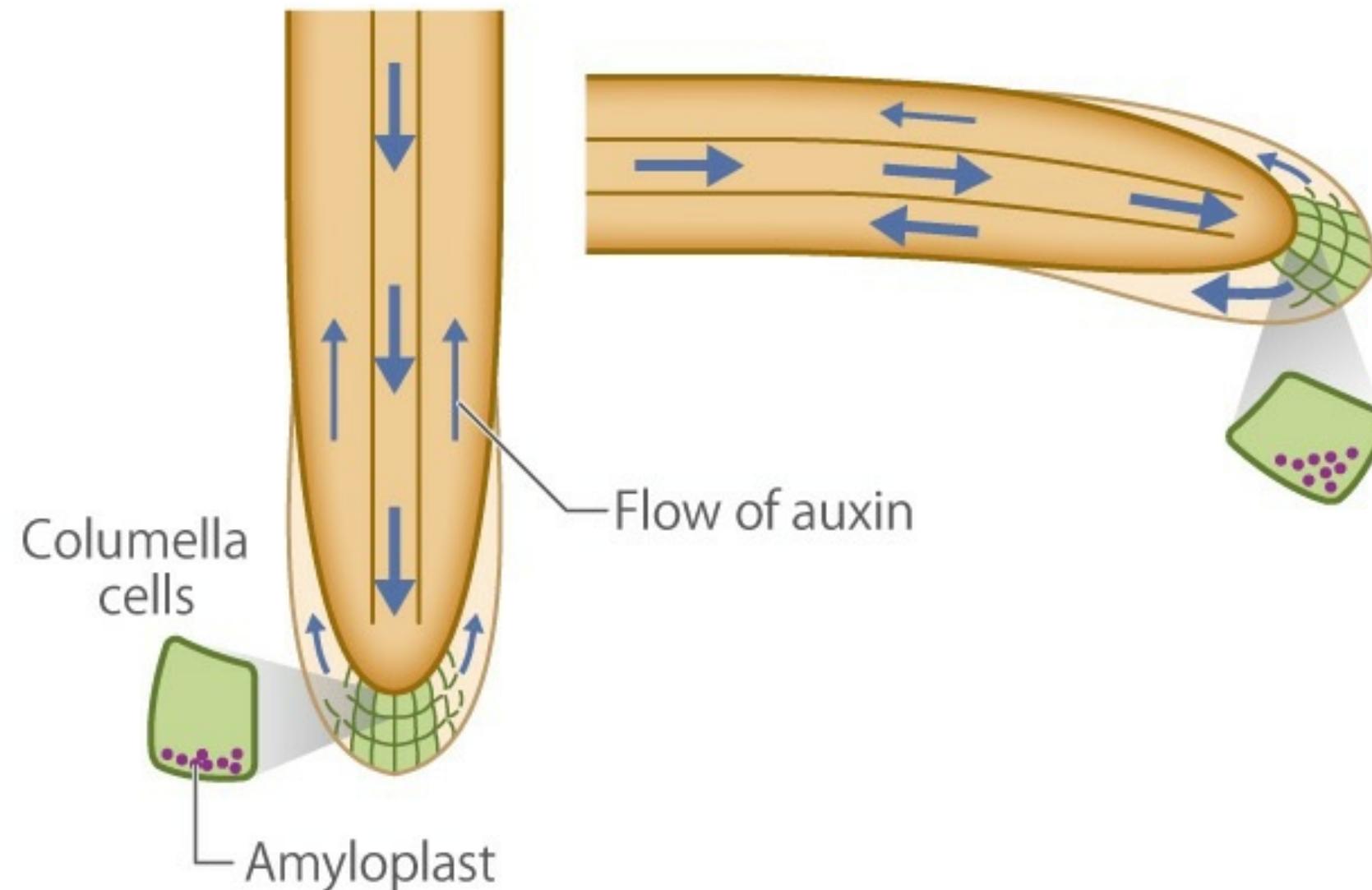
**Fig. 1.** Relationships between apical diameter and growth rate for the 6 different species. (A) *Musa*, (B) *Pisum sativum*, (C) *Prunus persica*, (D) *Teucrium botrys*, (E) *Thlaspi perfoliata*, (F) *Zea mays*.

**Pages, L.** (1995). Growth patterns of the lateral roots of young oak (*Quercus robur*) tree seedlings Relationship with apical diameter. *New Phytol.* **130**: 503–509.

**Pagès, L., Bécel, C., Boukrim, H., Moreau, D., Nguyen, C., and Voisin, A.-S.** (2013). Calibration and evaluation of ArchiSimple, a simple model of root system architecture. *Ecol. Modell.* **290**: 76–84.

# TROPISMS

# TROPISMS = GROWTH RE-DIRECTION

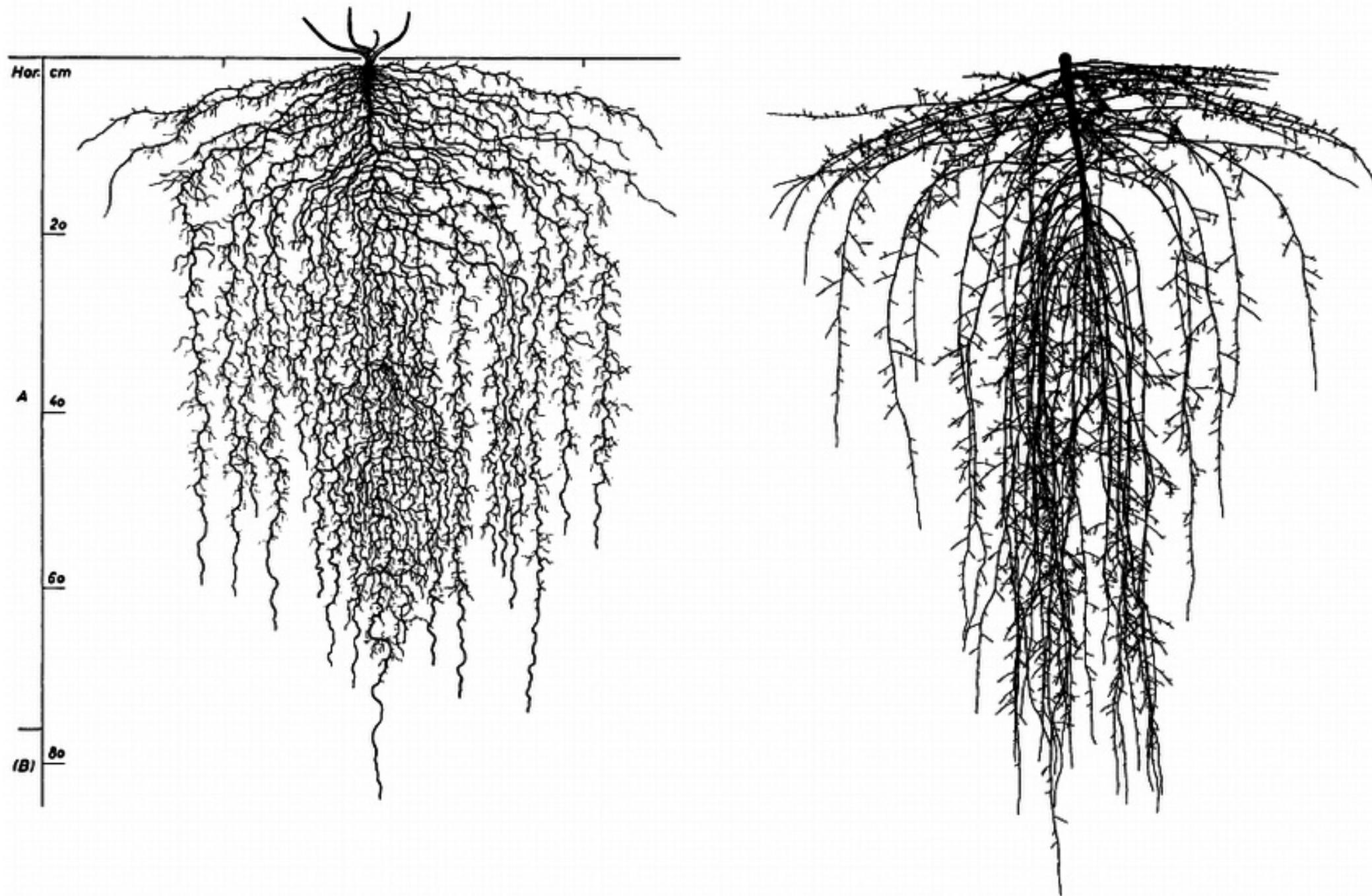


© CSLS/The University of Tokyo

# DIFFERENT TYPE OF TROPISMS IN ROOTS

- **Gravitropism**
  - toward the center of the Earth
- **Chemiotropism**
  - toward an increasing concentration in a specific nutrient
- **Hydrotropism**
  - toward increasing water potential values
- **Tropisms change with**
  - root types
  - root ages
  - environment conditions
  -

# GRAVITROPISM = F(ROOT AGE)



# GRAVITROPISM = F(SOIL TEMP)

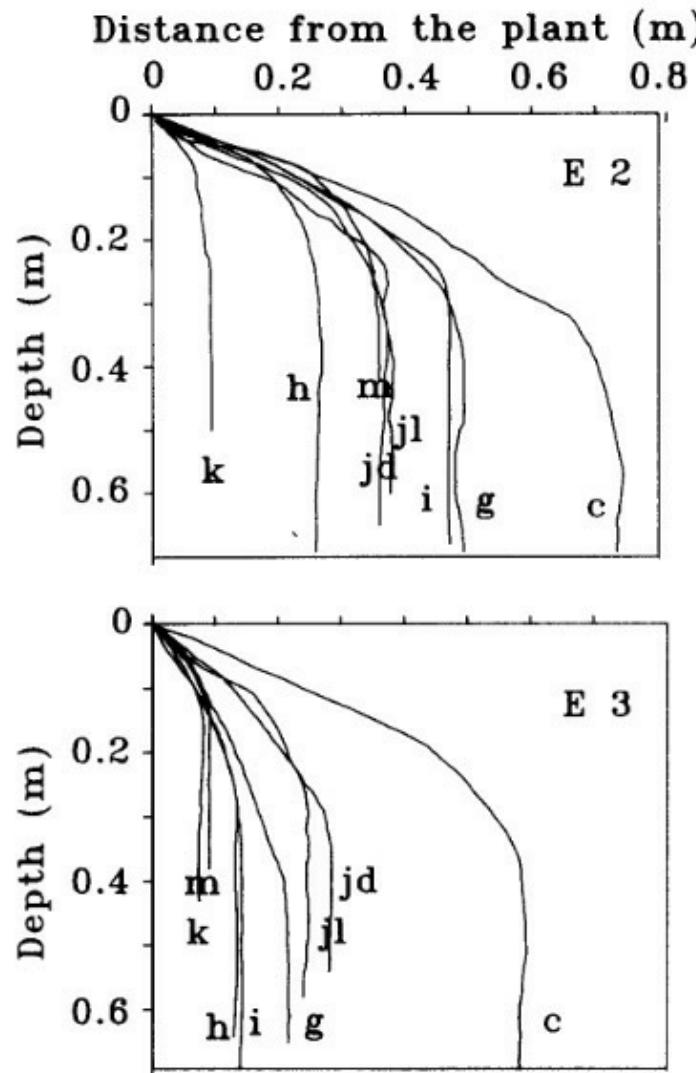


Fig. 3. Mean trajectories of E2 and E3 roots in the 8 treatments. Labels of treatments as in Table 1.

Tardieu, F. et al. (1991)  
Plant Soil 131, 207–214

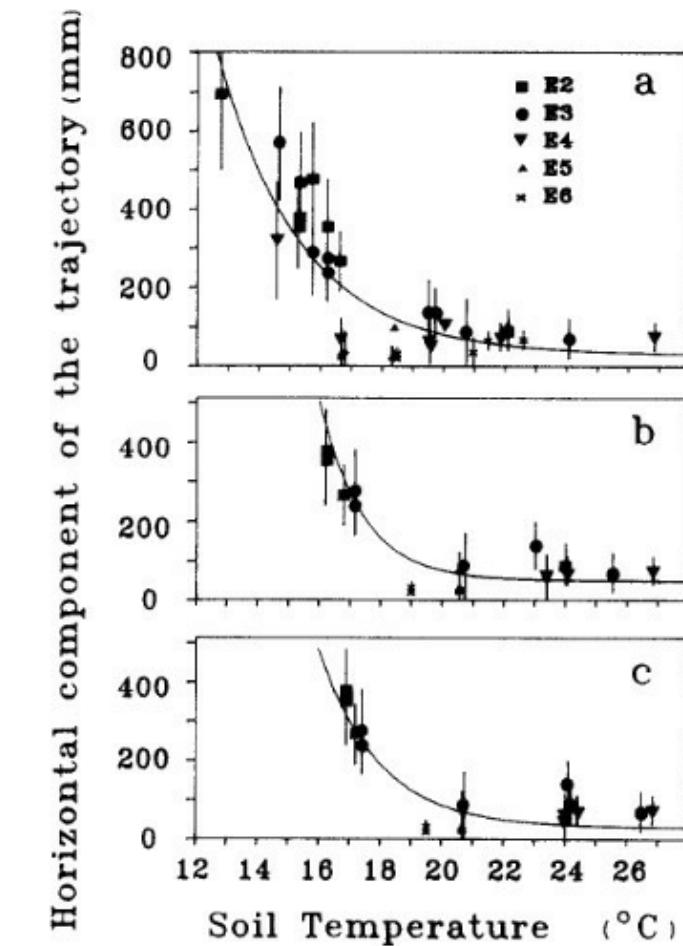
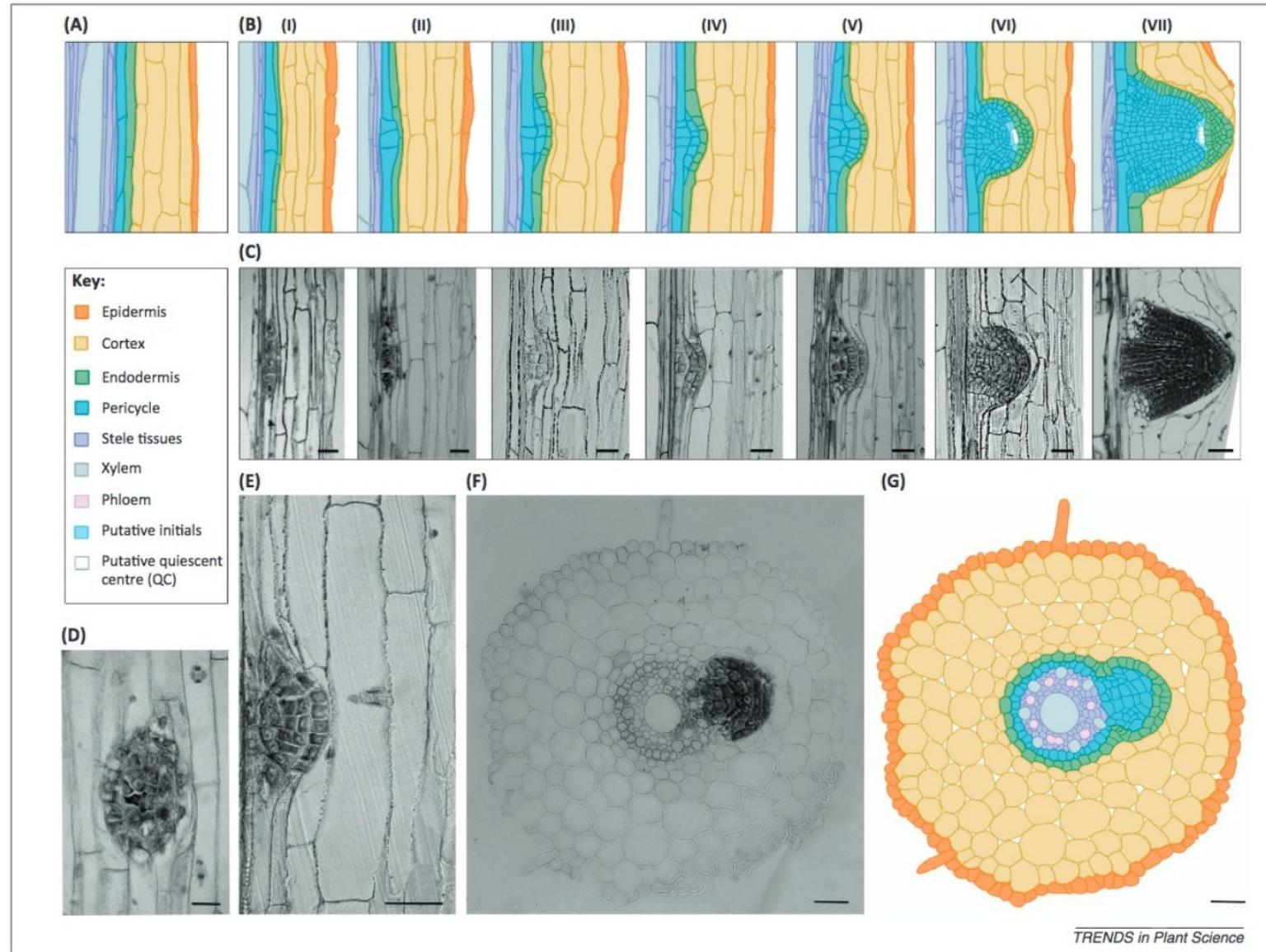


Fig. 4. Relationship between the soil temperature and the horizontal distance travelled by the root apex in the 0–0.40 m layer. ( $x_{40}$ ), for all the studied internodes in the 8 treatments. a: soil temperature at the 100-mm depth at the meteorological station; b and c: soil temperatures measured at the 100- and the 25-mm depth, respectively. The latter were measured in Grignon in 1989 only.  
Equations of the fitted curves: a:  $x_{40} = \exp(-0.368 T + 11.29) + 30$ ; b:  $x_{40} = \exp(-0.718 T + 17.60) + 30$ ; c:  $x_{40} = \exp(-0.518 T + 14.40) + 30$ .

# ROOT BRANCHING

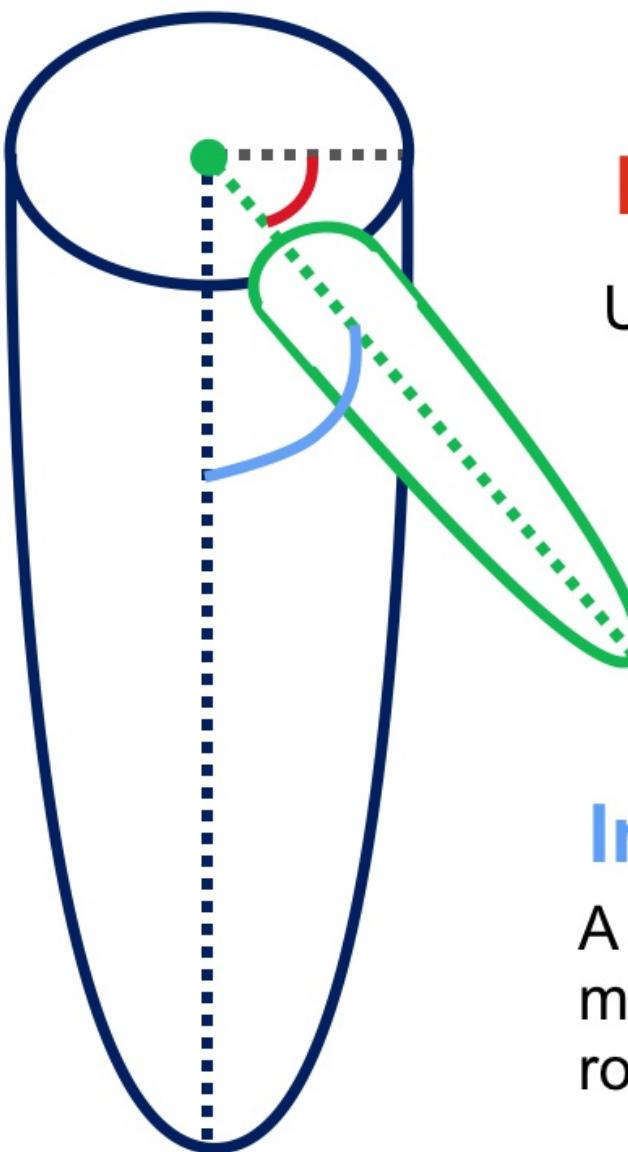
# BRANCHING



**Figure 1.** Lateral root development in barley. **(A)** Illustration of a longitudinal section showing the typical tissue organisation of cereal roots. The number of cortex layers that have to be penetrated by the developing meristem is much larger than in *Arabidopsis*. **(B)** Succession of morphological stages during lateral root development and emergence (arbitrary stages). **(C)** Original toluidine blue stained sections used for illustrations in **(B)**. **(D)** Periclinal and **(E)** anticlinal longitudinal sections of the growing lateral roots. The sections show an extensive cortical region around the primordium where divisions are taking place. **(F)** Radial tissue organisation of cereal roots (toluidine blue staining). **(G)** Illustration of the section in **(F)** to highlight the deformation of the cortex that occurs during lateral root penetration. (Scale bars = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Orman-Ligeza, B. et al. (2013) Post-embryonic root organogenesis in cereals: branching out from model plants. *Trends Plant Sci.*

# LATERAL ROOTS EMERGE WITH A GIVEN ANGLE

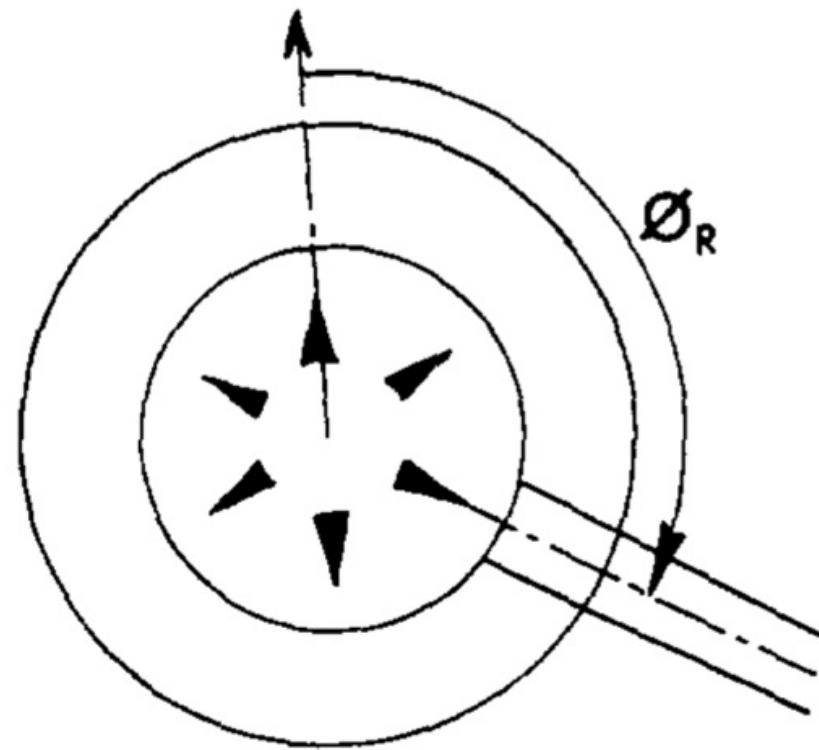


**Radial angle**

Uncommon metric

**Insertion angle**

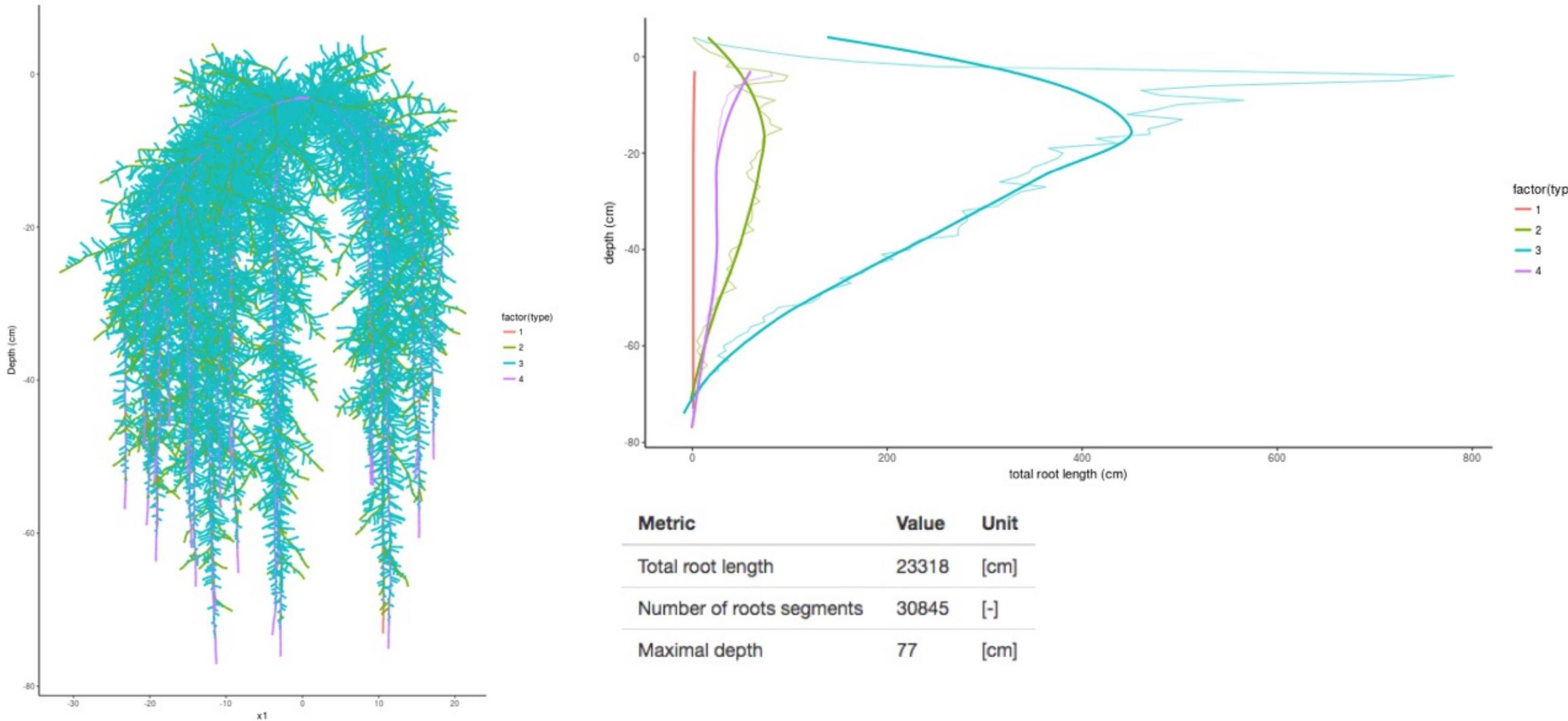
A very common  
metric retrieved from  
root images



$X = 6$

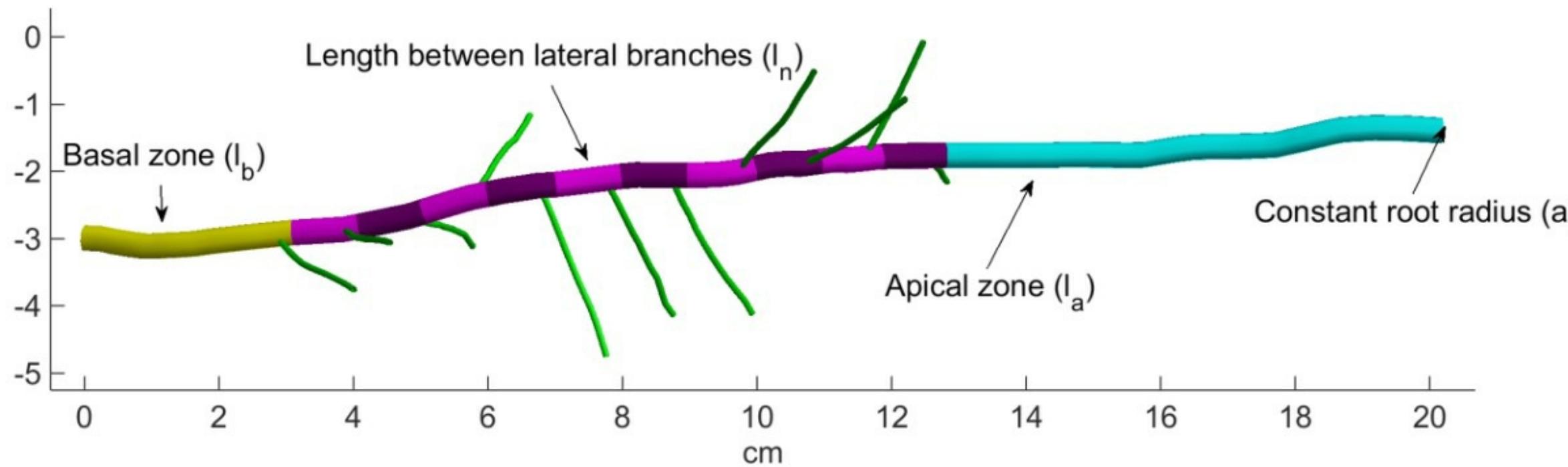
[Pagès, L. et al. \(1989\). Plant and Soil, 119\(1\), 147–154.](#)

# LATERAL ROOTS REPRESENT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL ROOT SYSTEM



# THE PARENT ROOT CAN BE DIVIDED IN DIFFERENT REGIONS

- Basal zone
- Branched zone
- Apical zone



# Maize root growth in aeroponic setup



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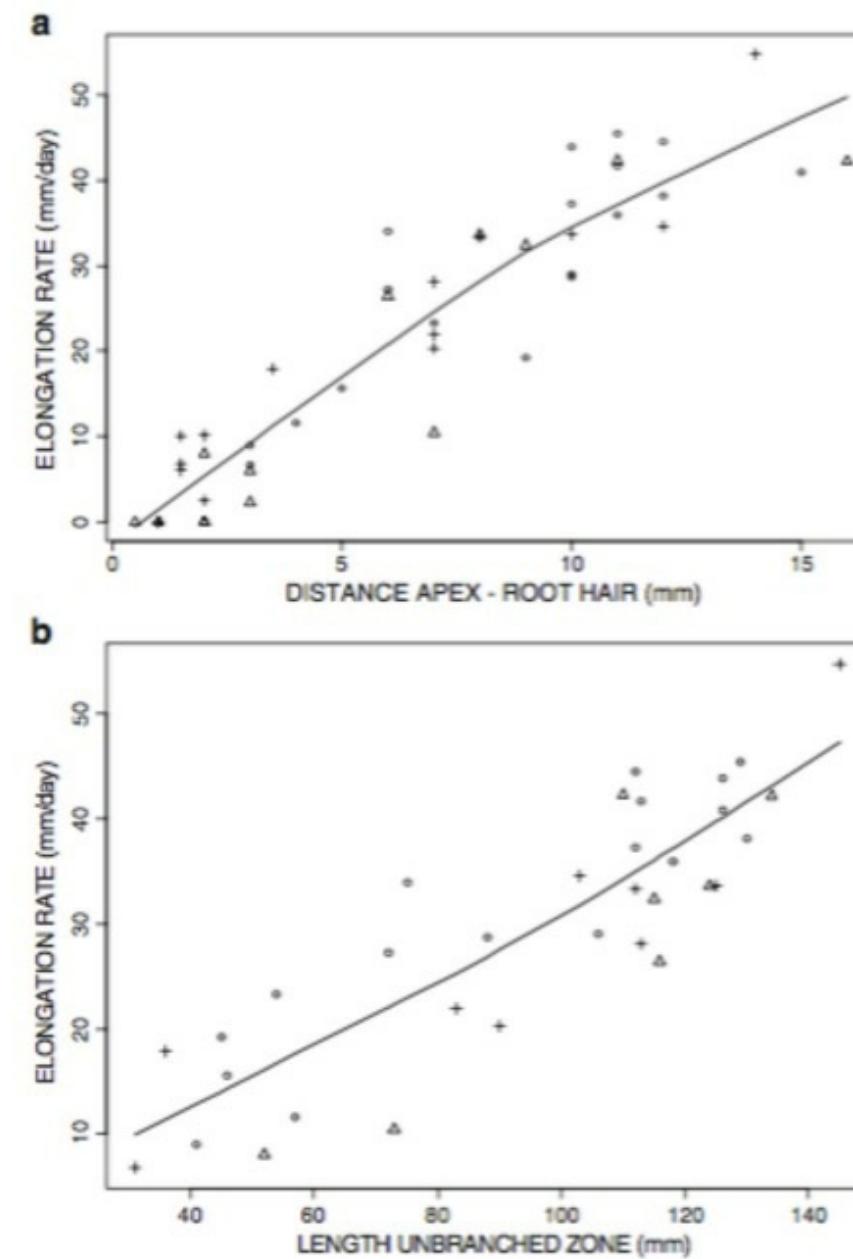


# LAUZ = F(GROWTH)

## LAUZ = Length of Apical Unbranched Zone

**Fig. 2** Relationships between indicators and elongation rate, presented in two examples. **a** Elongation rate versus distance from the apex to the nearest root hair at least 0.2 mm long ( $L_{\text{hair}}$ ); **b** Elongation rate versus length of the unbranched zone ( $L_{\text{unb}}$ ). Each point represents a root measured in a root box. Symbols indicate substrates (circles: nylon mesh; triangles: peat/vermiculite; plus: peat/sand). The curves represent the trends, as evaluated by a local regression smoother (lowess)

**Pagès, L., Serra, V., Draye, X., Doussan, C., and Pierret, A.** (2010). Estimating root elongation rates from morphological measurements of the root tip. *Plant Soil* **328**: 35–44.



# INTEGRATIONS

# DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

- Dicots

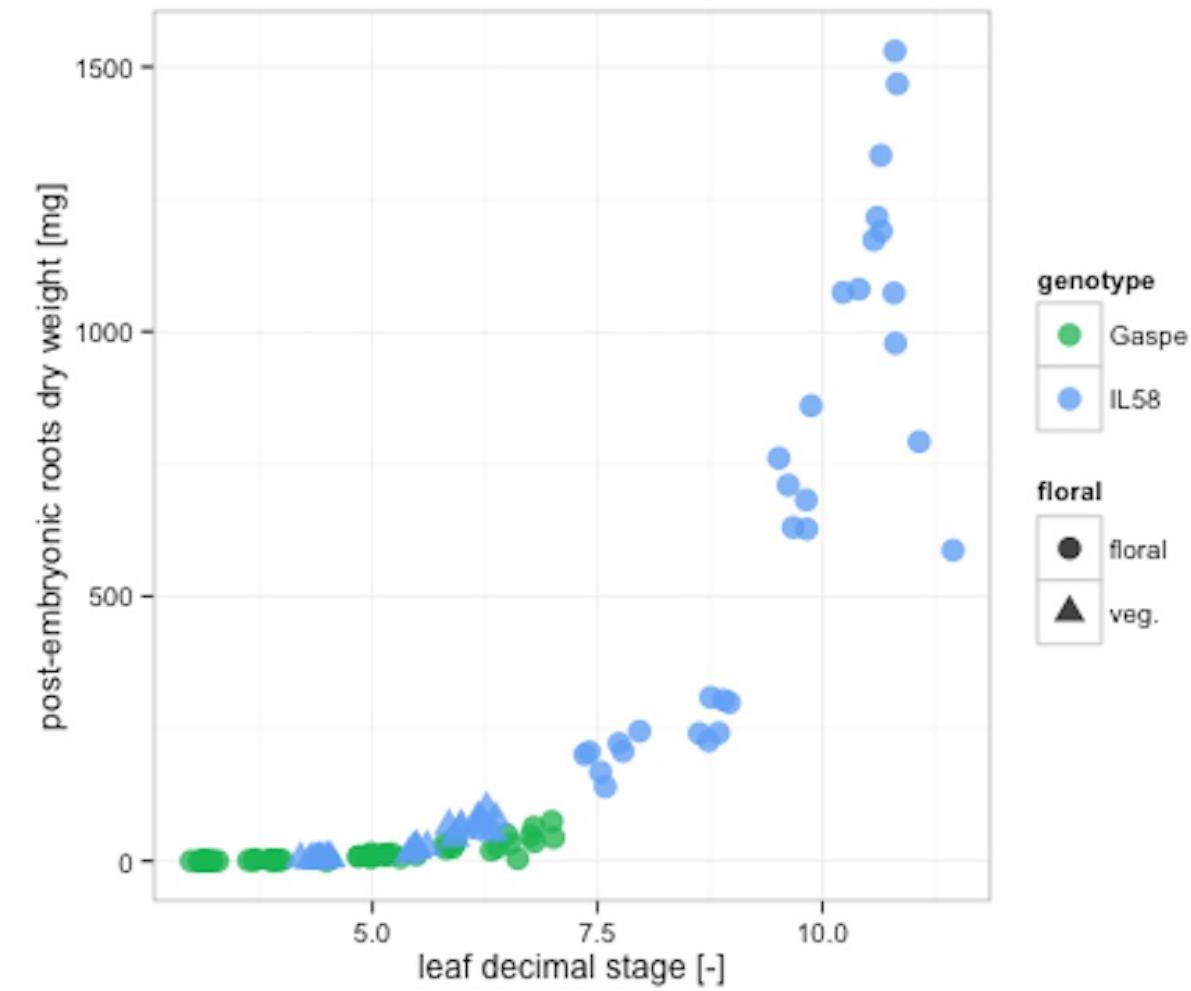
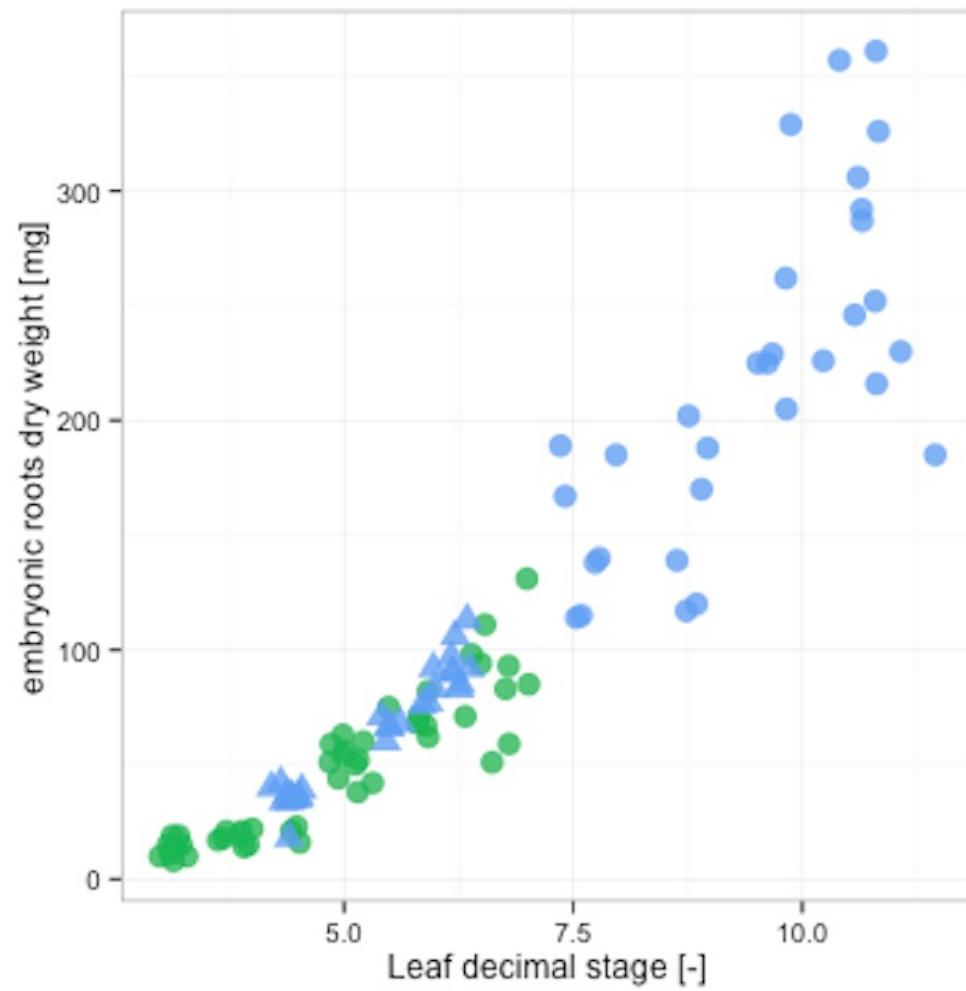
- [x,y] exploration -> lateral roots
- [z] exploration -> primary axis
- secondary growth -> large number of laterals
- Axes stop growing -> stay alive

- Monocots

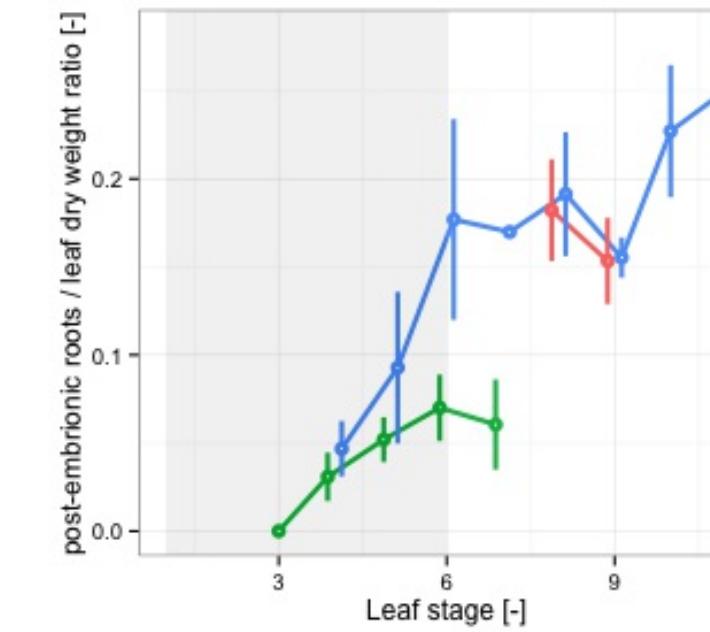
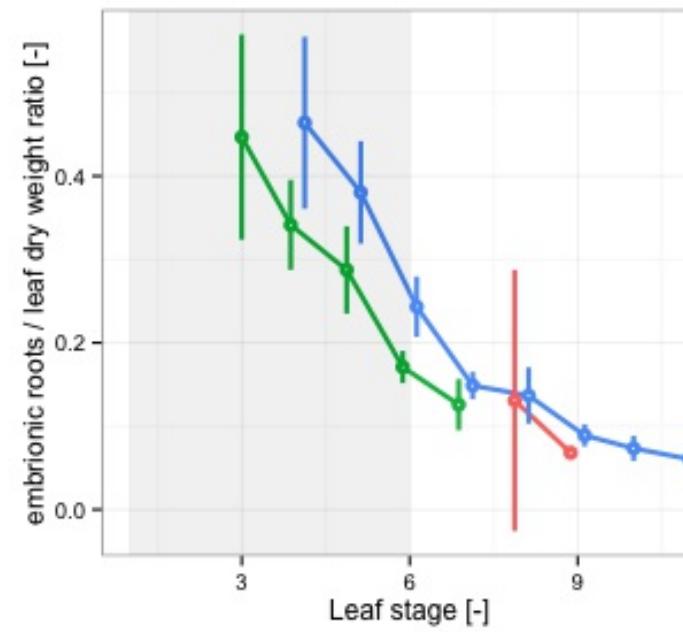
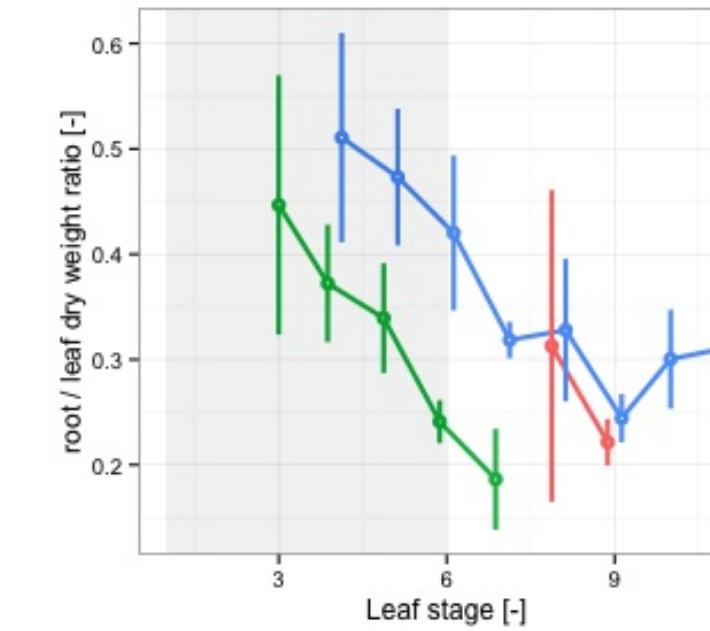
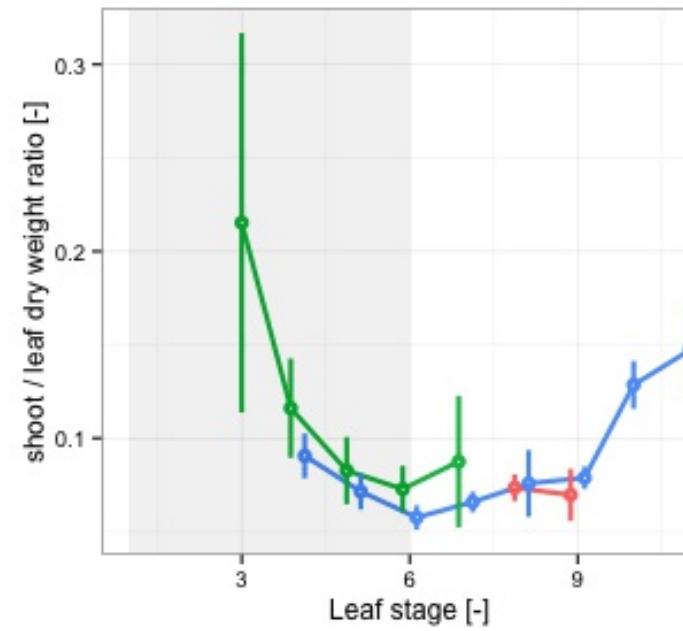
- [x,y,z] exploration -> primary axis (nodals)
- no secondary growth -> limited number of laterals
- Axes stop growing -> reduce the branching region
- post-embryonic root system much more important
- nodal root production stops at flowering

# ROOT HAVE A COST

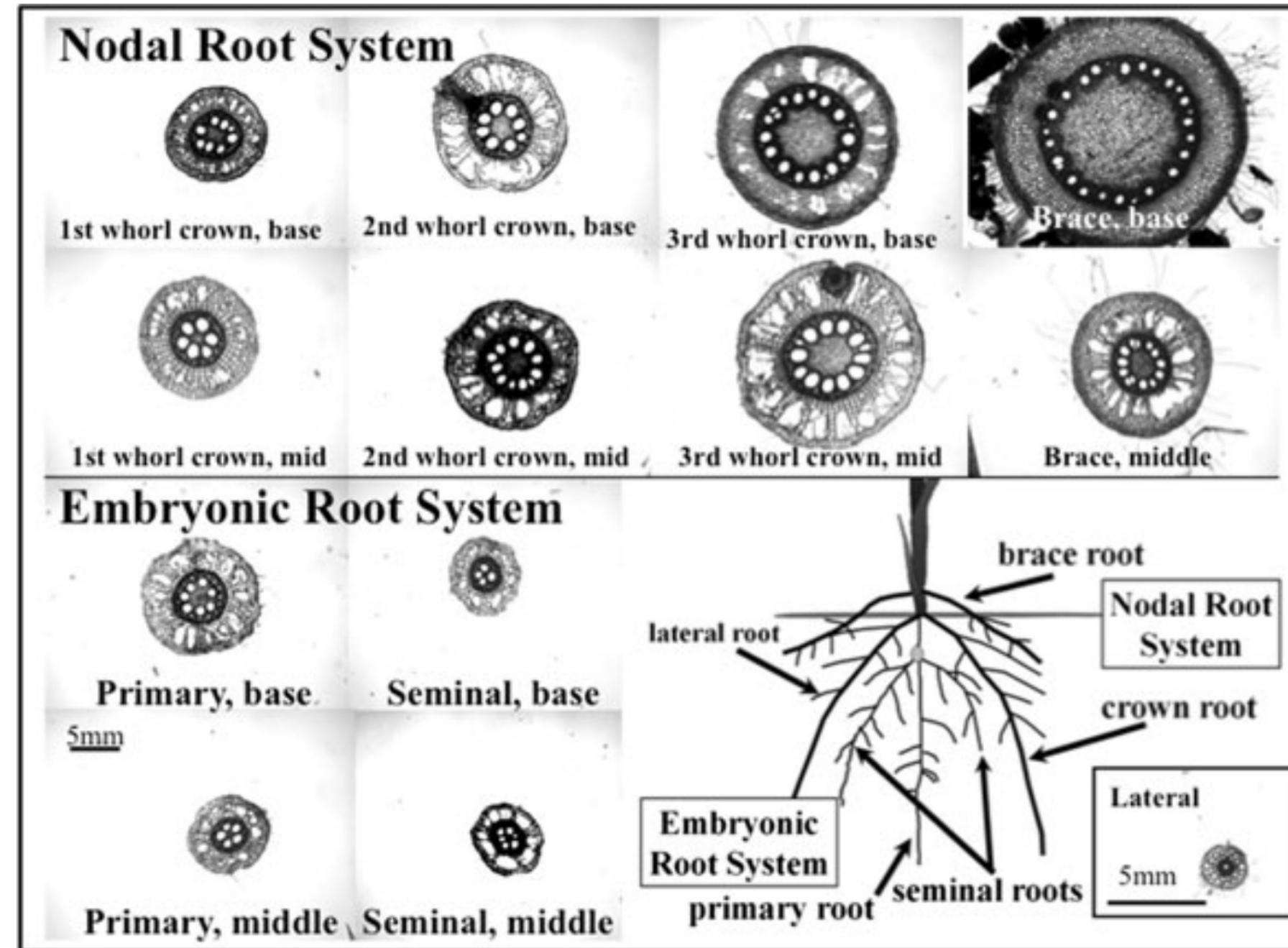
- Different costs:
  - production
  - maintenance
  - exudation



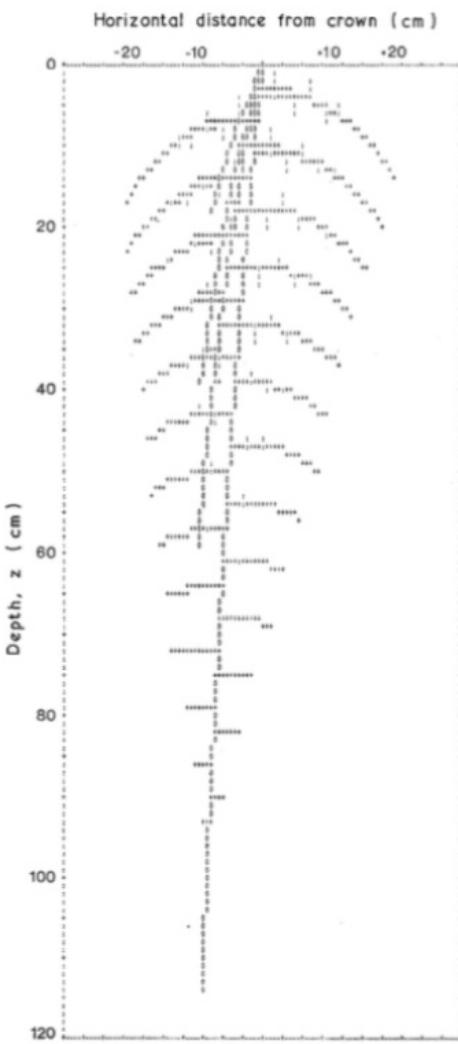
# ROOT / SHOOT ALLOCATION



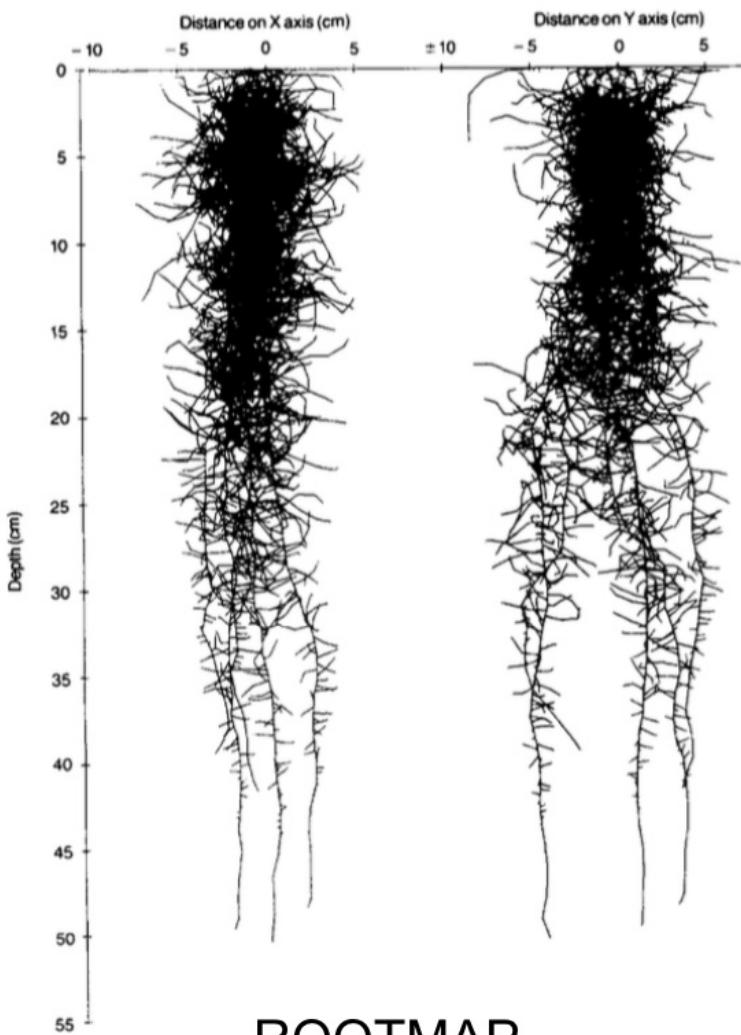
# REDUCING MAINTENANCE COST -> AERENCHYMA



# MODELLING ROOT SYSTEM ARCHITECTURES - 1



Lungley, D. R. (1973). Plant and Soil, 38(1), 145–159.



ROOTMAP

Diggle, A. J. (1988). Plant and Soil, 105(2), 169–178



Pagès, L., Jordan, M. O., & Picard, D. (1989). Plant and Soil, 119(1), 147–154

# MODELLING ROOT SYSTEM ARCHITECTURES - 2



SIMROOT

Lynch, J. P. et al (1997).  
SimRoot: Plant and Soil,  
188(1), 139–151.

ROOTTYP

Pagès, L. et al. (2004).  
Plant and Soil, 258, 103–  
119.

ROOTBOX

Leitner, D. et al. (2010).  
Plant and Soil, 332, 117–  
192.

# TRY OUT THE MODEL

## CRootBox

This app displays the capabilities of the CRootBox model.  
Choose a dataset, unleash CRootBox, then try changing the parameters.

Daniel Leitner, Guillaume Lobet, Magdalena Landl, Mirjam Zorner, Shehan Morandage, Trung Hieu Mai, Cheng Sheng, Jan Vanderborght, Andrea Schepf

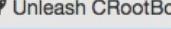
Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH

### 1. Load parameter set

1. Select root system dataset  
Crypsis aculeata

Simultaneous modeling of transient three-dimensional root growth and soil water flow  
Clausnitzer V, Hopmans J W  
Plant and Soil, 164, 299-314, 1994  
[View paper](#)

Black and white root system



### 2. Update parameters

2. Select root type  
Type0

Select parameter to change  
Length of basal zone [cm]

Parameter mean:  
0 6.6 13.2

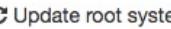
Parameter deviation [%]:  
0 25 50

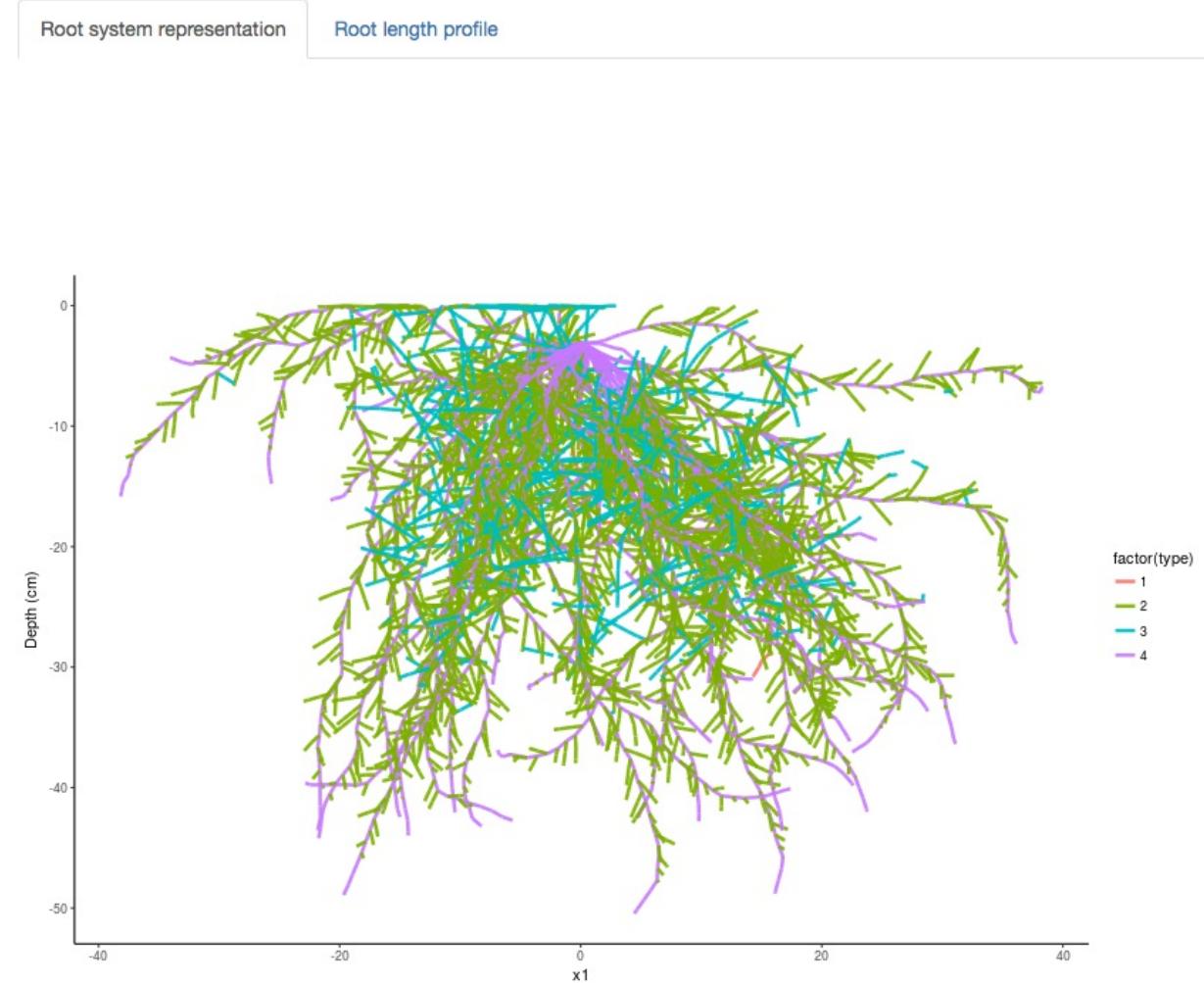
Length of basal zone [cm]  
Length of the unbranched basal zone of the root

3. Select plant parameter to change  
Planting depth [cm]

Parameter value:  
0 3 6

Planting depth [cm]  
The depth, in cm, at which the seed is placed in the soil



<https://bit.ly/crootbox>

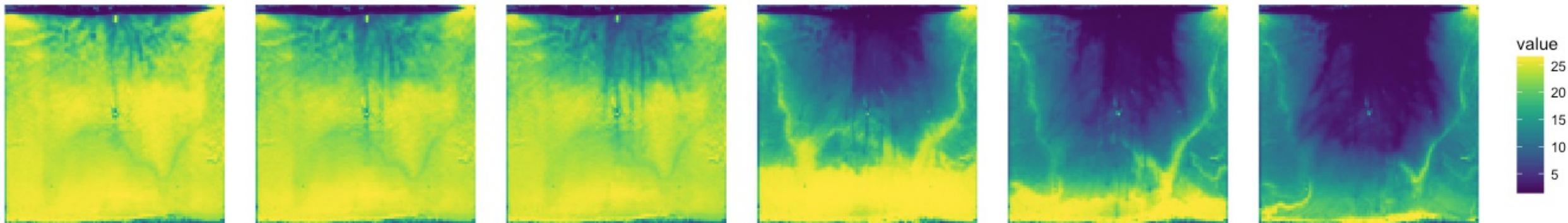
# EXERCICES

1. Choose a plant species
2. Maxime exploration and reduce cost
3. Maxime uptake of a top-layer, immobile ressource
4. Maxime uptake of a mobile ressource

# HOW DO ROOT ARCHITECTURE SHAPE WATER UPTAKE?

About root hydraulic architecture, root density profile  
and drought

⬇ Press down for details



# ROOT PROCESS AND WATER UPTAKE

Root process	Type of response	Duration		
		hour	day	month
• Formation of apoplastic barriers • Xylem differentiation • Aquaporin expression • Secondary growth • Embolism formation/repair	stepwise		—	—
	stepwise		—	—
	On/off		—	—
	Linear		—	—
	On/off		—	—
• Root system architecture/growth • Decay of root cortex • Mucilage production	Exponential		—	—
	Linear		—	—
	On/off		—	—

Plant hydraulic properties

Rhizosphere hydraulic properties

Vetterlein, D. and Doussan, C. (2016) Plant Soil

## WATER FLOW TROUGH THE ROOT CYLINDER

# THREE PATHWAYS

- Apoplastic pathway
  - mass movement
  - water potential differences
  - high transpiration (day)
- Symplastic pathway
  - diffusion
  - osmotic differences
  - low transpiration (night)
- Transcellular pathway



# **HOW DO WATER UPTAKE AFFECT ROOT ARCHITECTURE?**

# **HYDRO-PATTERNING**