

Embolia xilematica: cause e conseguenze

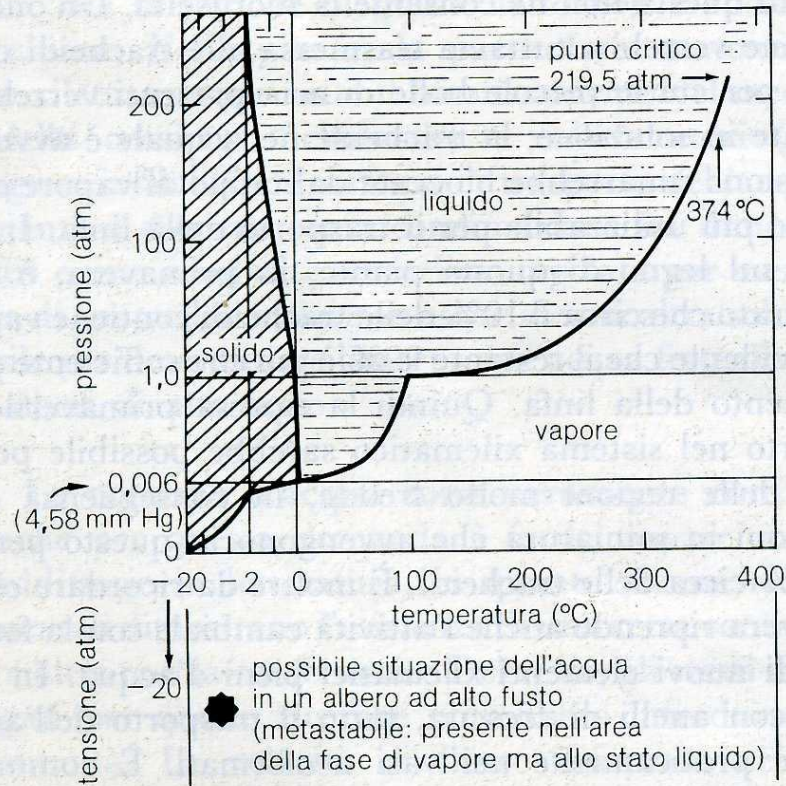


Figura 4.15. *Diagramma di fase dell'acqua. Le scale sono state modificate in modo rilevante per poter mettere meglio in evidenza la forma delle curve in corrispondenza a valori di temperatura intorno a 0°C e a temperature e pressioni molto elevate. È da rilevare che le pressioni negative devono produrre sempre alla fine acqua allo stato di vapore, condizione nella quale non possono essere mantenute pressioni negative. Ciononostante l'acqua si trova nelle piante sotto tensione.*

L'acqua nella linfa xilematica è in uno stato metastabile, grazie all'assenza di siti di nucleazione



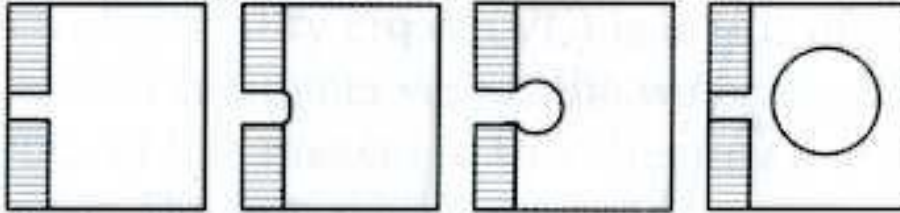
«Supercooling»
dell'acqua: quando pura e
priva di siti di nucleazione
(e.g. bolle d'aria), può
permanere in fase liquida
fino a -48°C



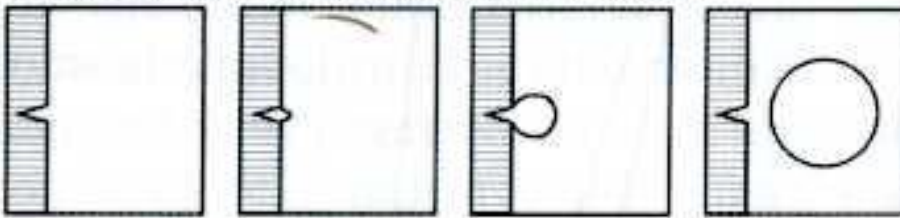
INCREASING TENSION →

▨ WALL □ AIR □ WATER

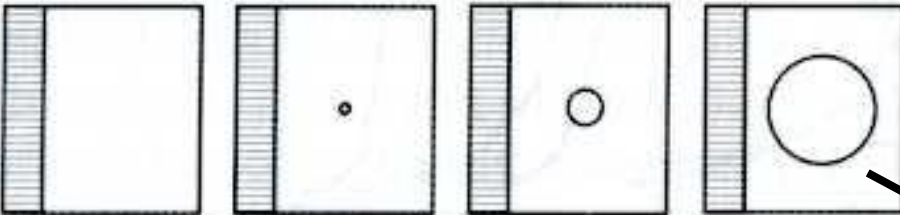
Air Seeding through pore



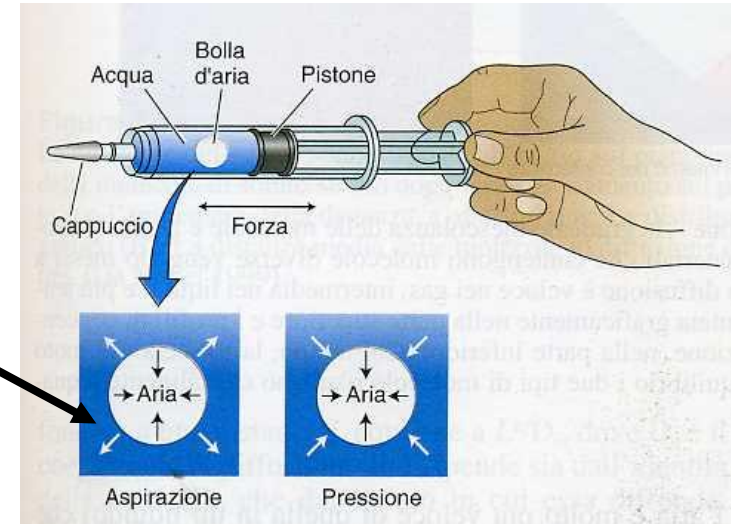
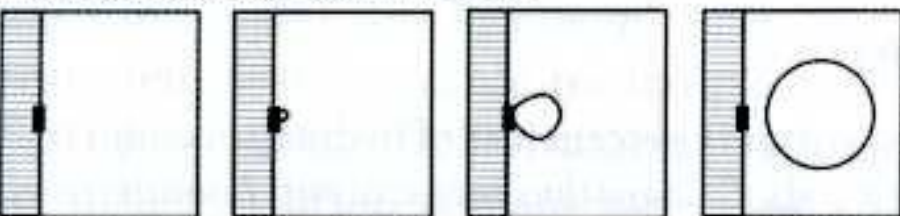
Air Seeding through hydrophobic crack



Homogeneous nucleation



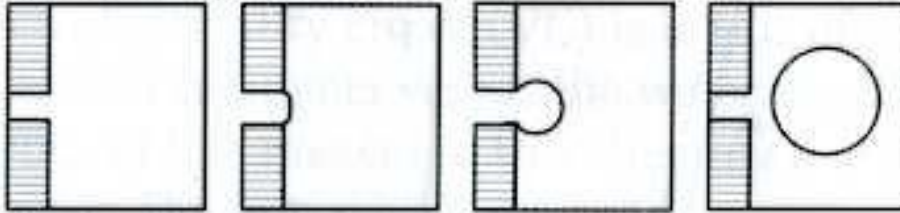
Hydrophobic adhesion failure



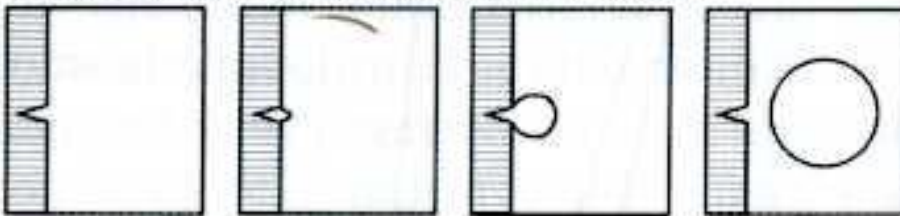
INCREASING TENSION →

▨ WALL □ AIR □ WATER

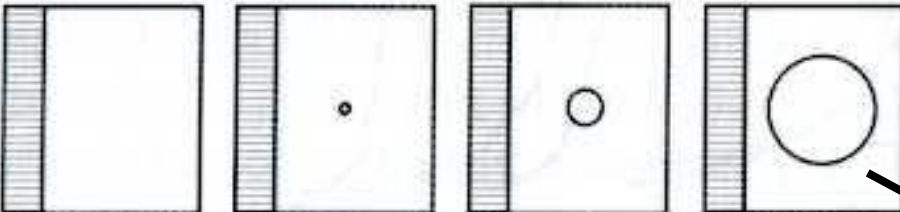
Air Seeding through pore



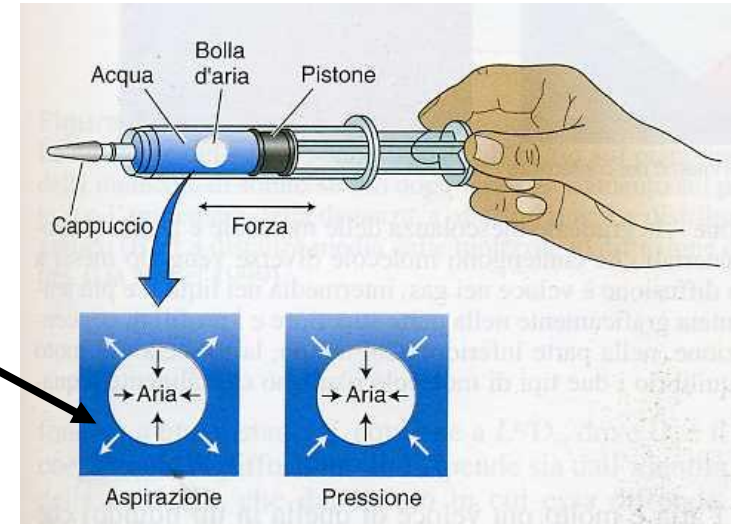
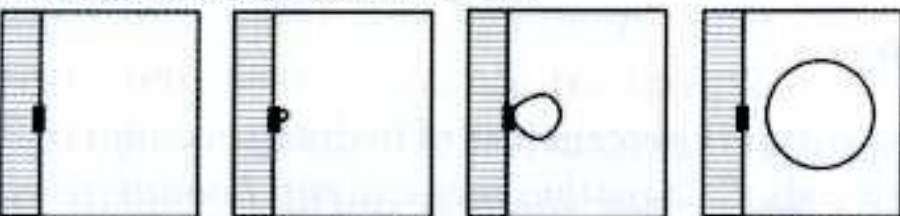
Air Seeding through hydrophobic crack

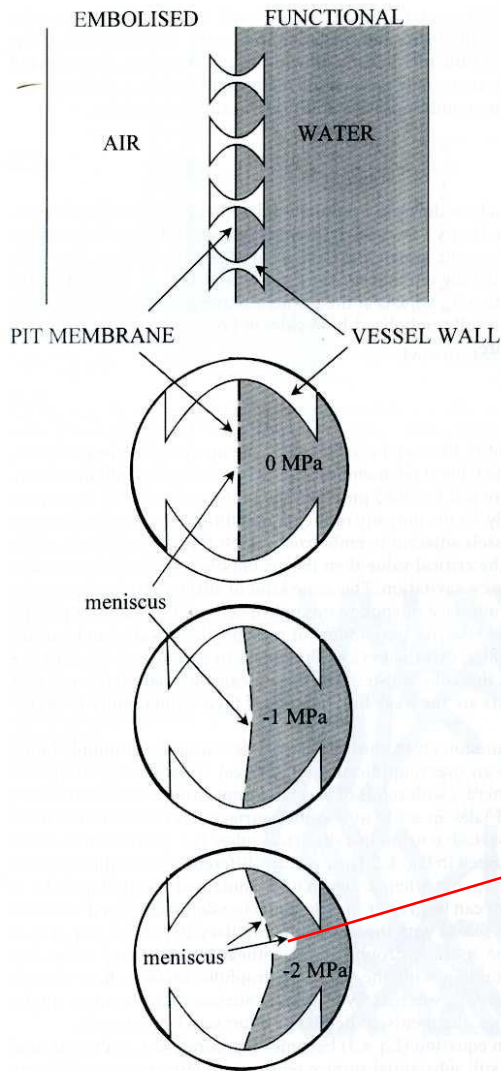


Homogeneous nucleation



Hydrophobic adhesion failure

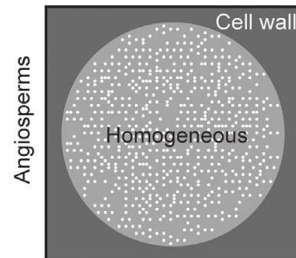
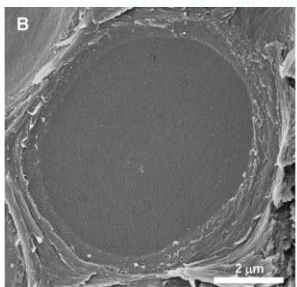




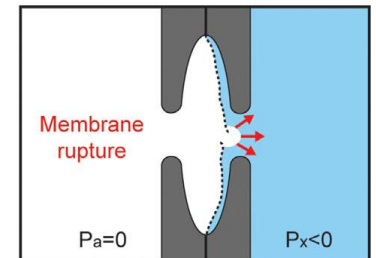
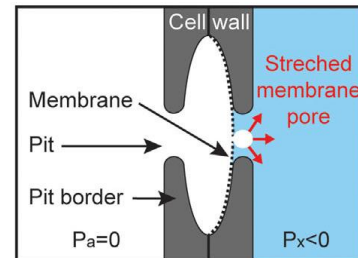
A livello dell'interfaccia aria-acqua agisce una pressione pari a $-2T/r$

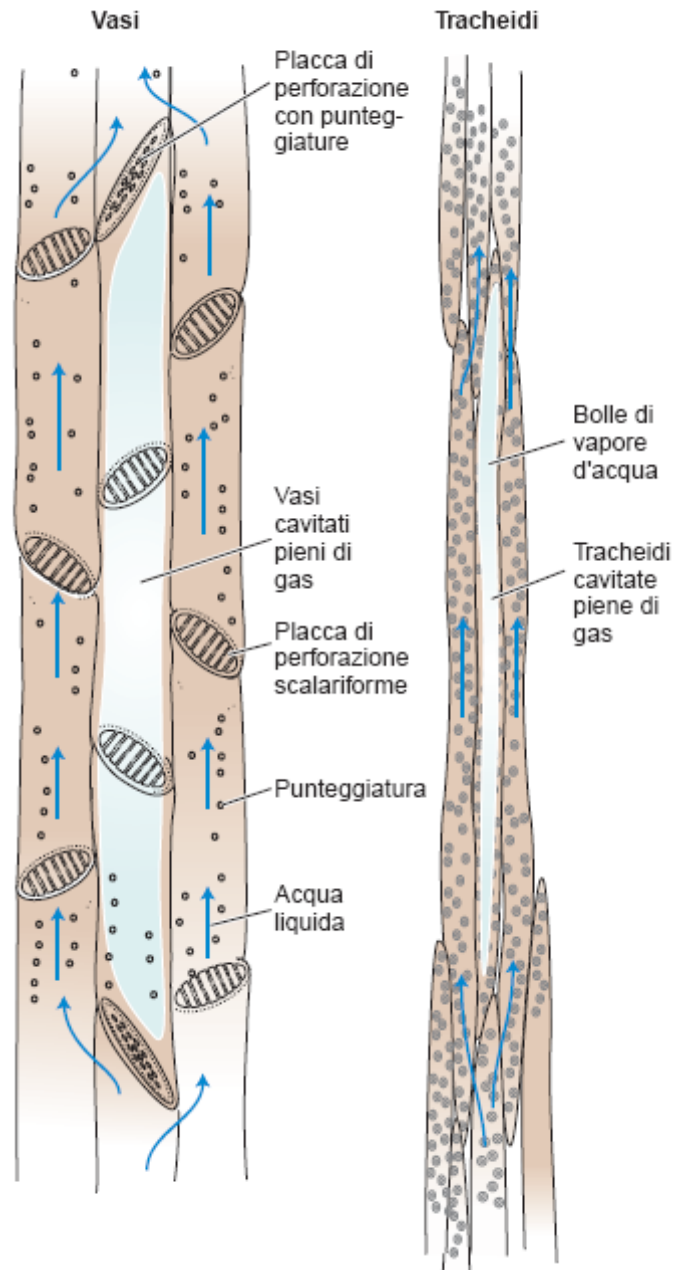
r = raggio del poro più grande nella membrana della punteggiatura

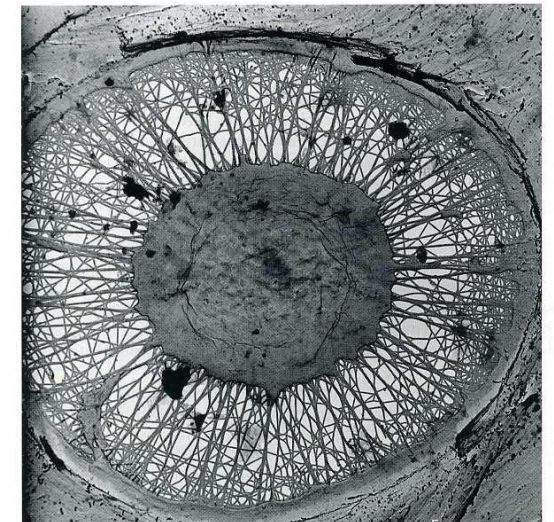
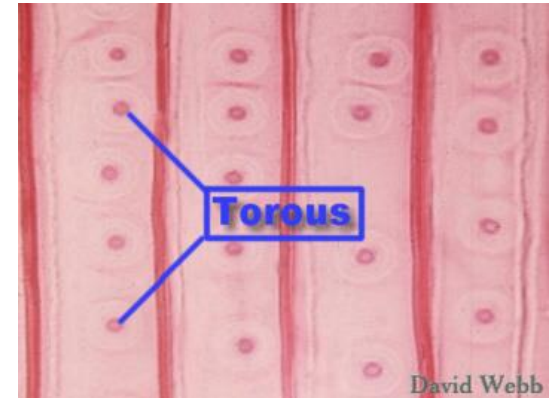
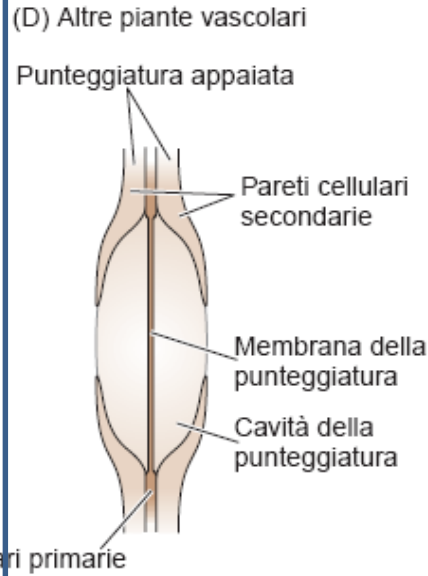
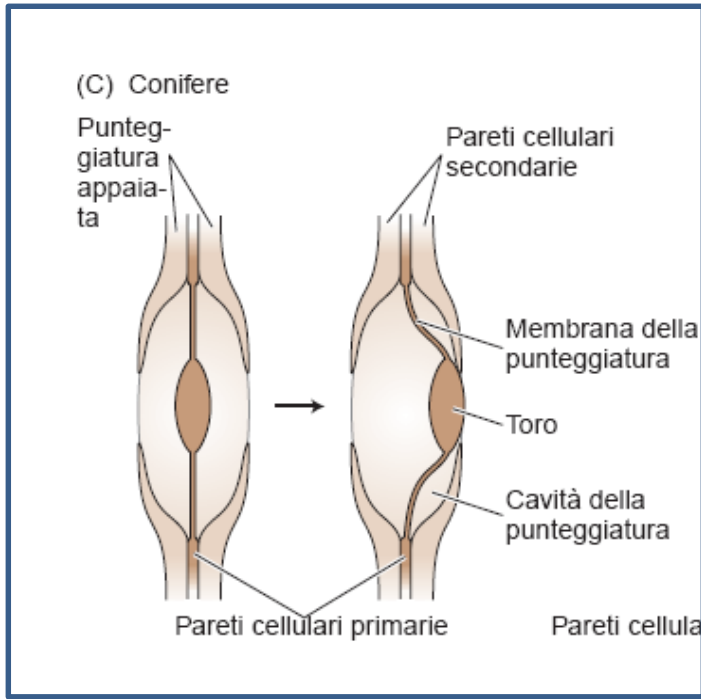
Se $P_{\text{xilema}} < -2T/r$, la bolla entra nel vaso funzionante!



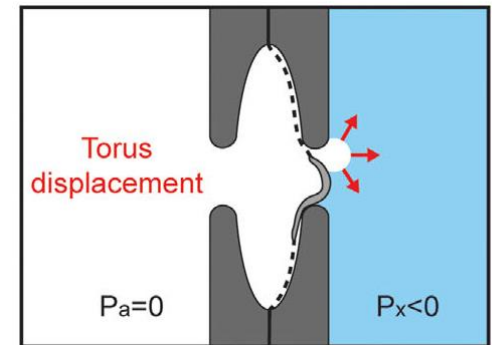
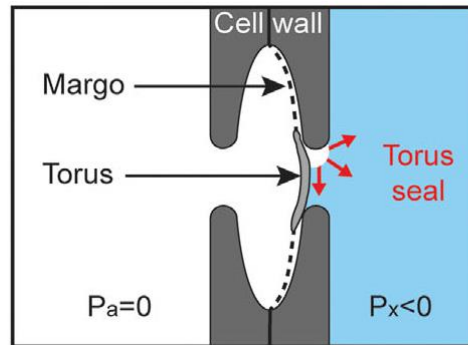
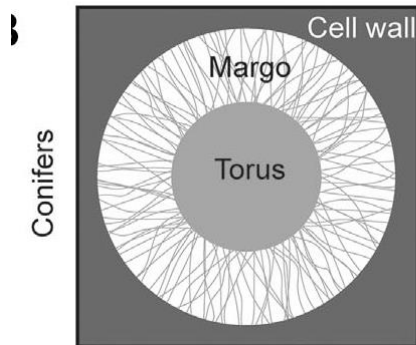
Air seeding







Air seeding nelle conifere



Come si quantifica il livello di embolia xilematica?

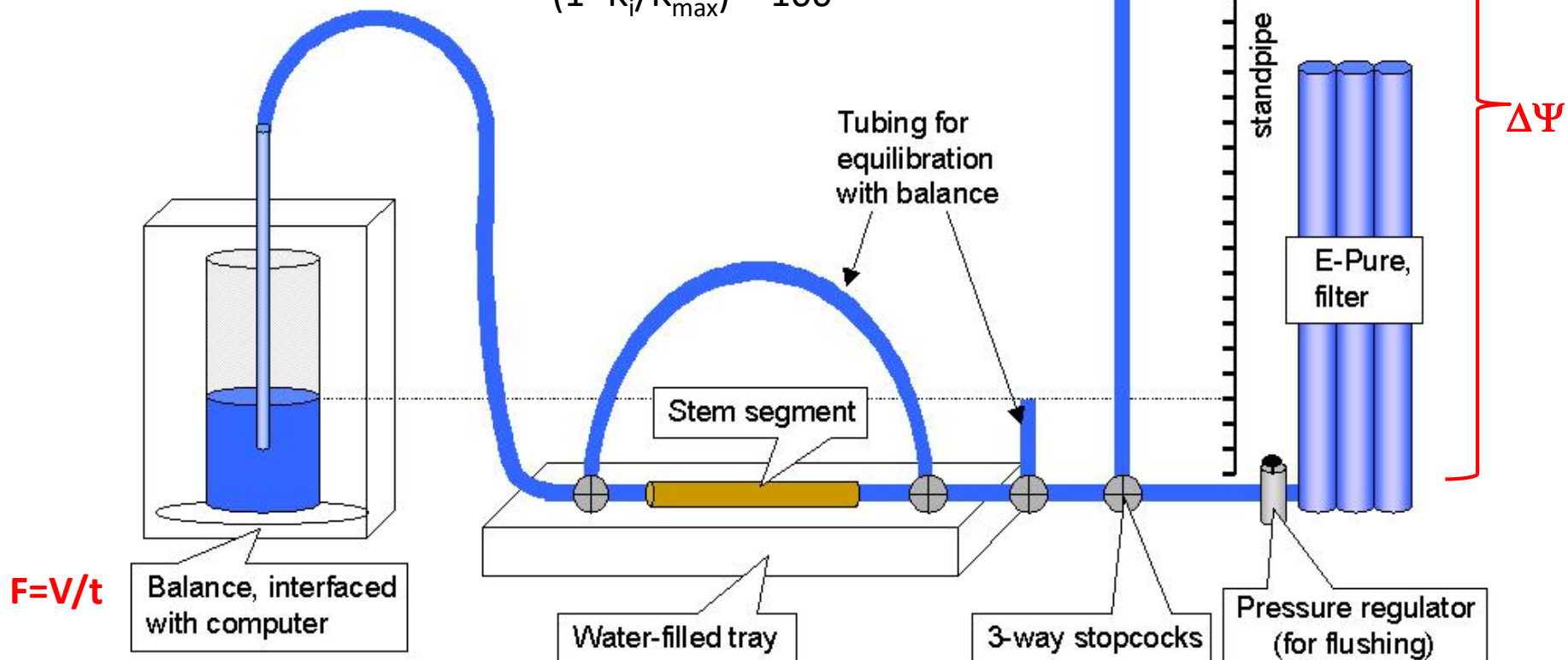
$$k = F * L / \Delta\Psi$$

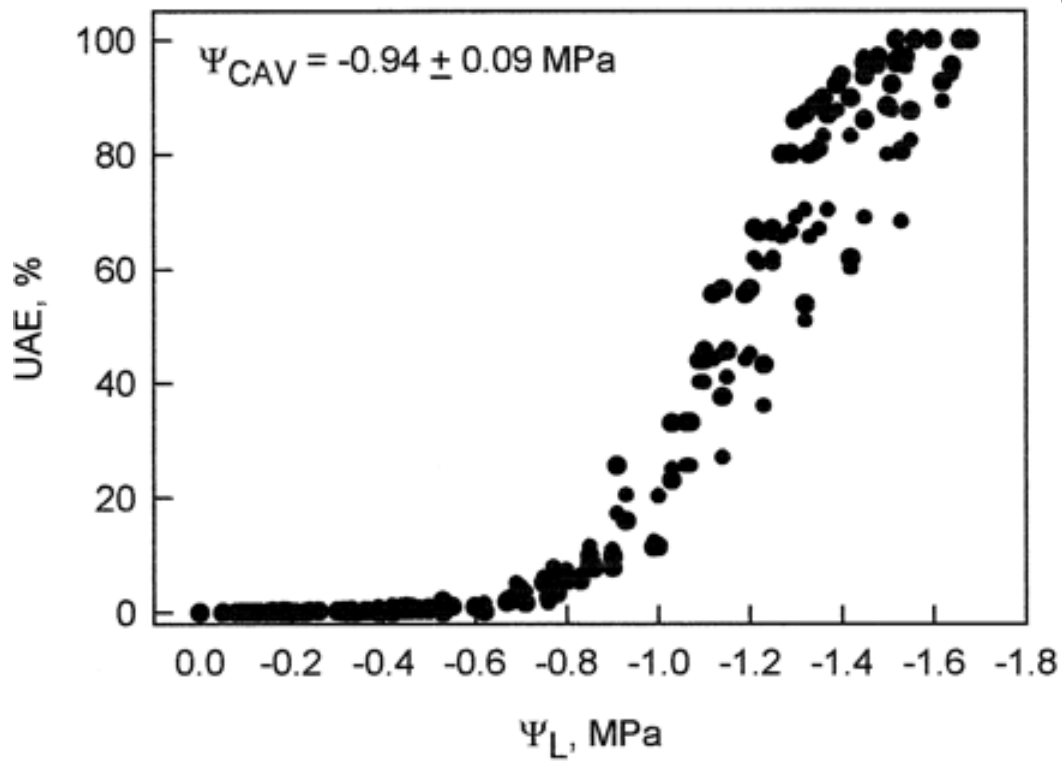
Metodo idraulico

Our Conductivity Apparatus:

- 1) equilibrate with balance, measure background flow
- 2) measure pressure-driven flow
- 3) repeat step 1

$$\text{Percent loss conductivity} = (1 - K_i / K_{\max}) * 100$$





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWLOEoZh09w>

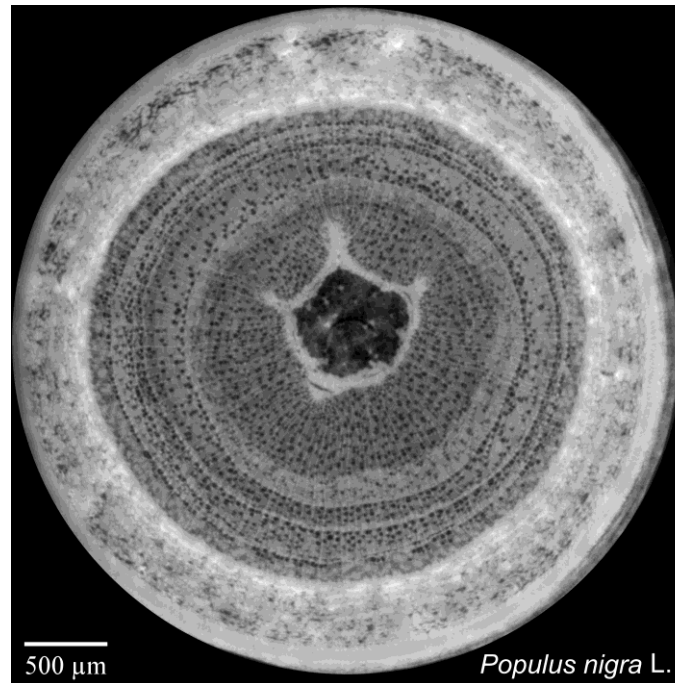
Microtomografia a raggi X



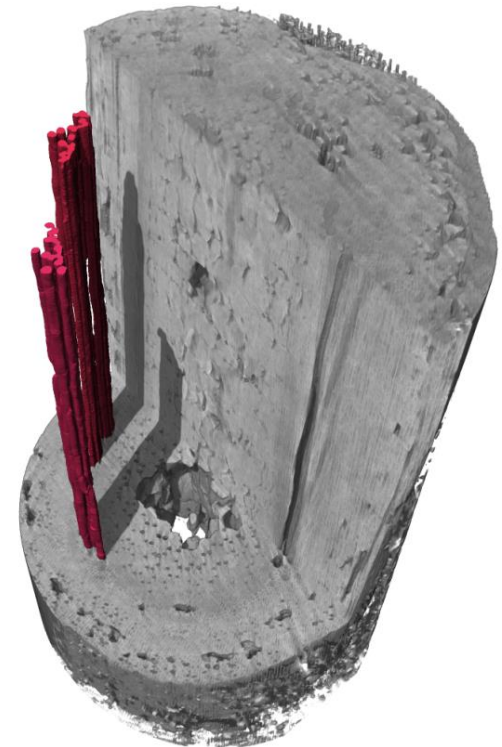
Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste



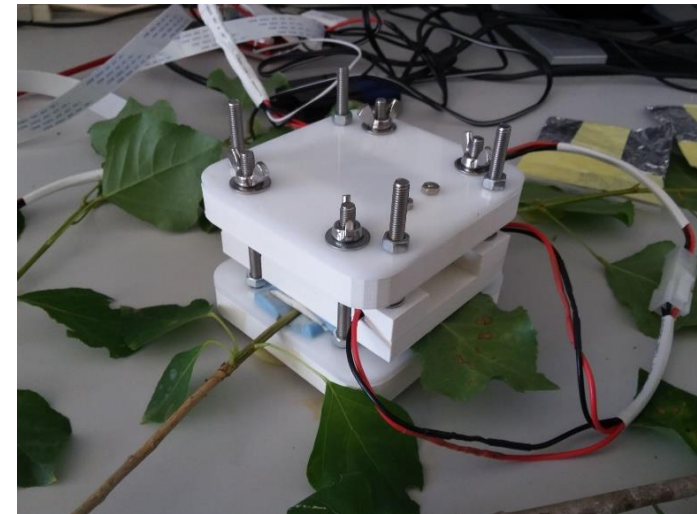
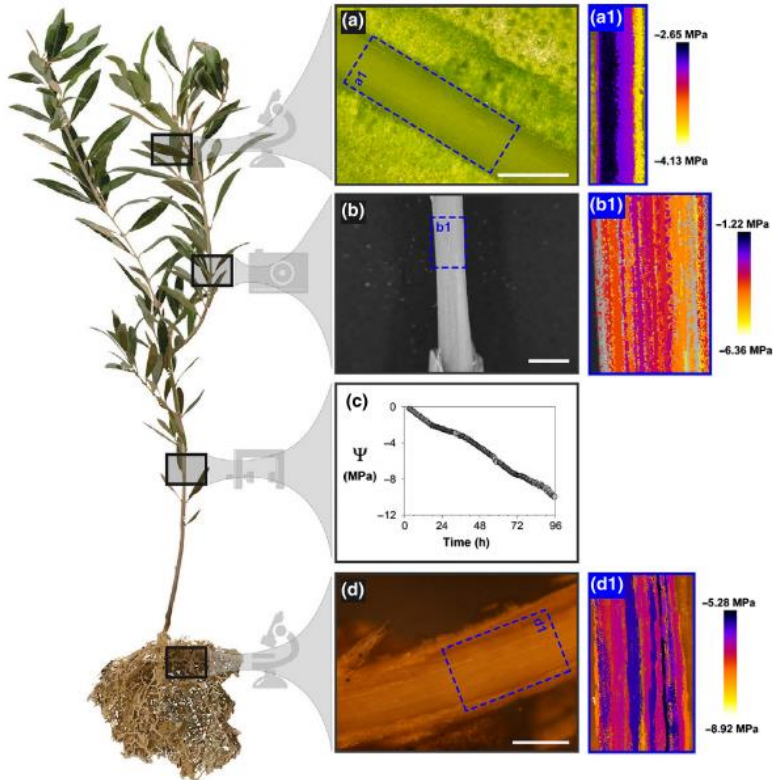
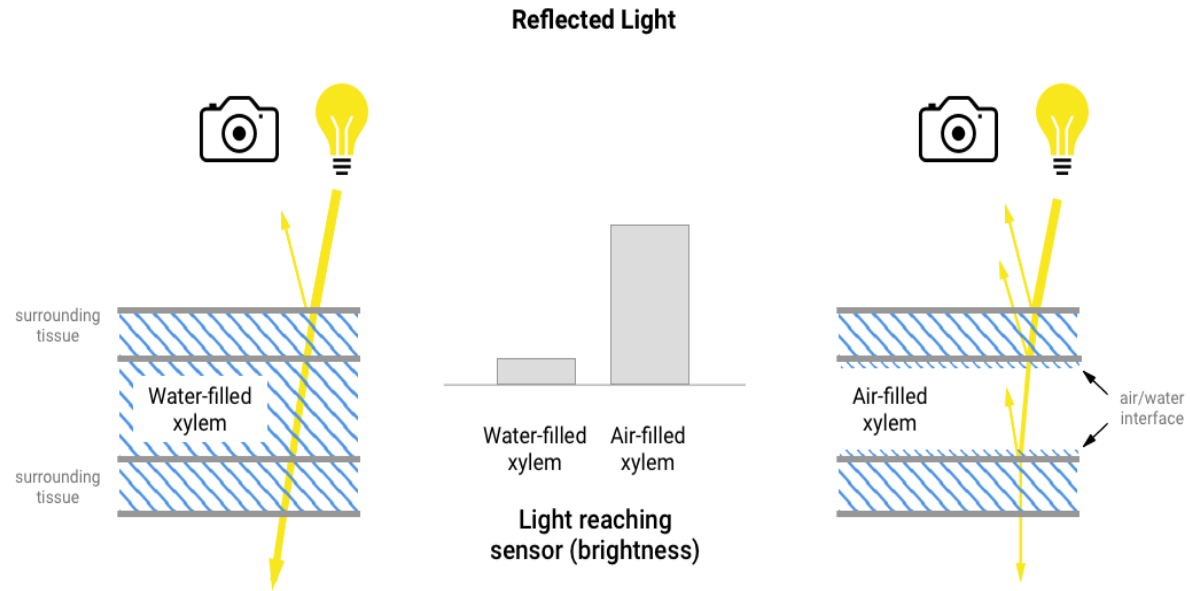
Ricostruzione 2D



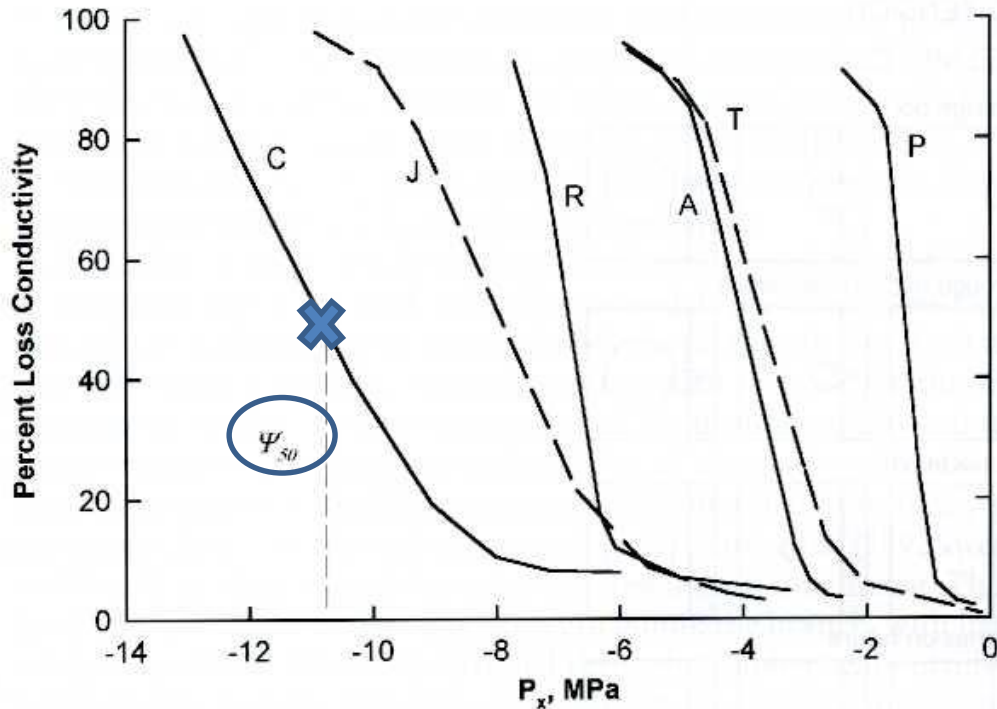
Ricostruzione 3D



Metodo ottico per la quantificazione dell'embolia xilematica



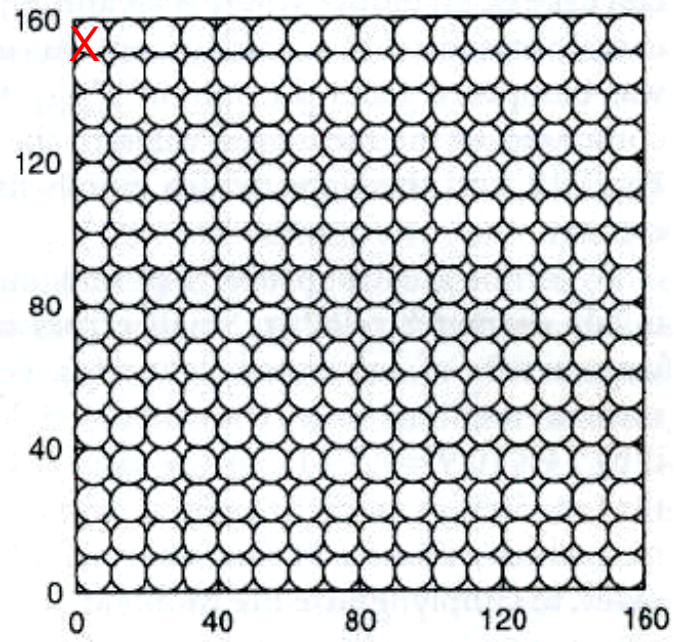
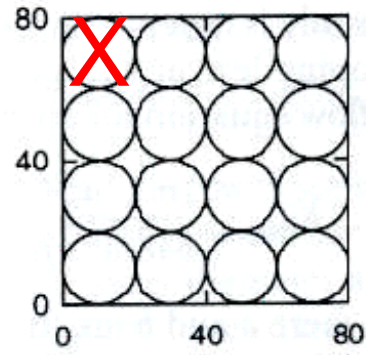
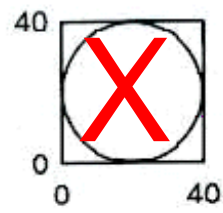
Curve di vulnerabilità all'embolia xilematica



P_{50} o Ψ_{50} = potenziale dell'acqua che induce il 50% di perdita di conduttività idraulica xilematica

Fig. 4.5. Vulnerability curves for various species. y-Axis is percent loss of hydraulic conductivity induced by the xylem pressure, P_x , shown on the x-axis. C *Ceanothus megacarpus*; J *Juniperus virginiana*; R *Rhizophora mangle*; A *Acer saccharum*; T *Thuja occidentalis*; P *Populus deltoids*. Only the trend-lines are plotted. Individual points have very high standard deviations when PLC is between 20 and 80%. The points are excluded to make the trends clearer. (Adapted from Tyree et al. 1994)

Relazione tra diametro dei vasi xilematici e vulnerabilità all'embolia?



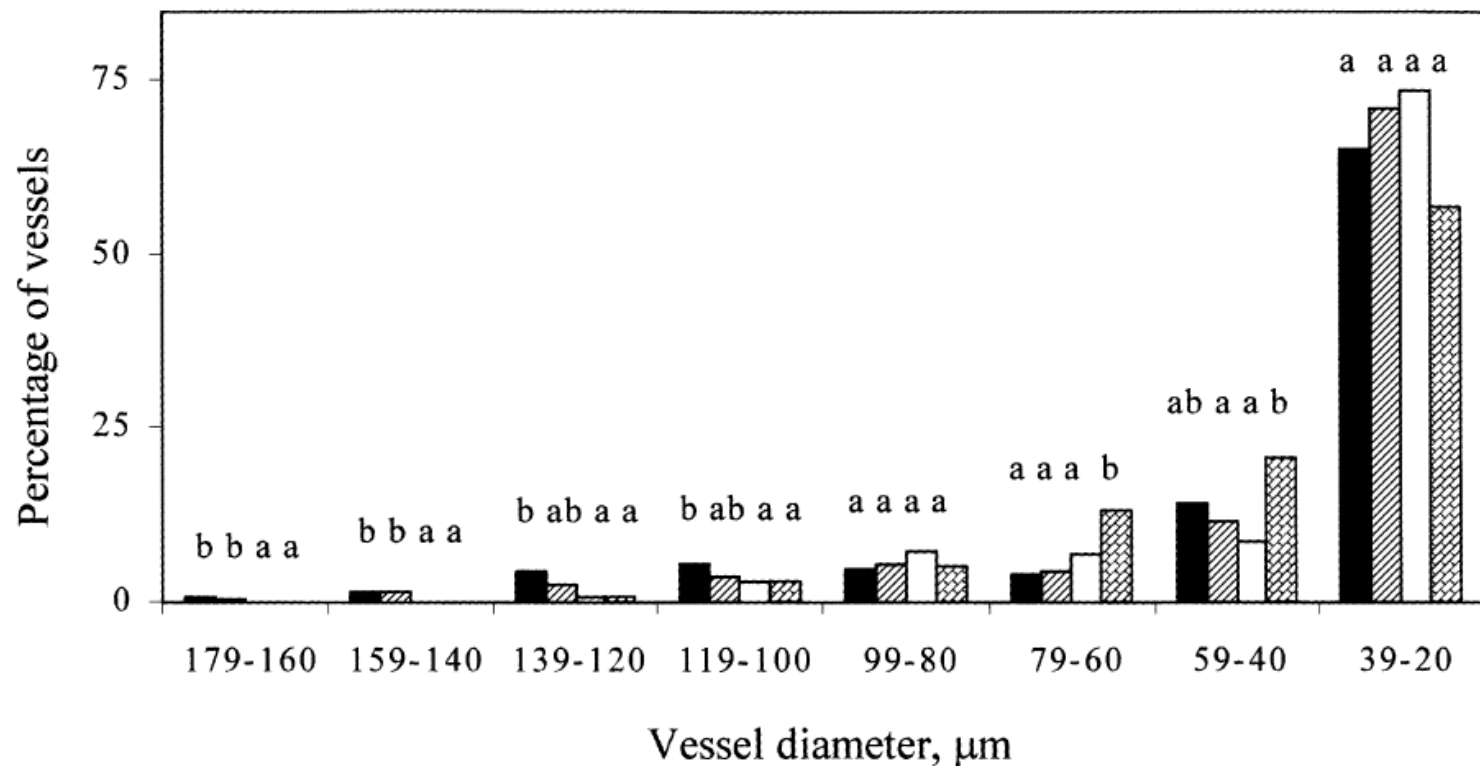
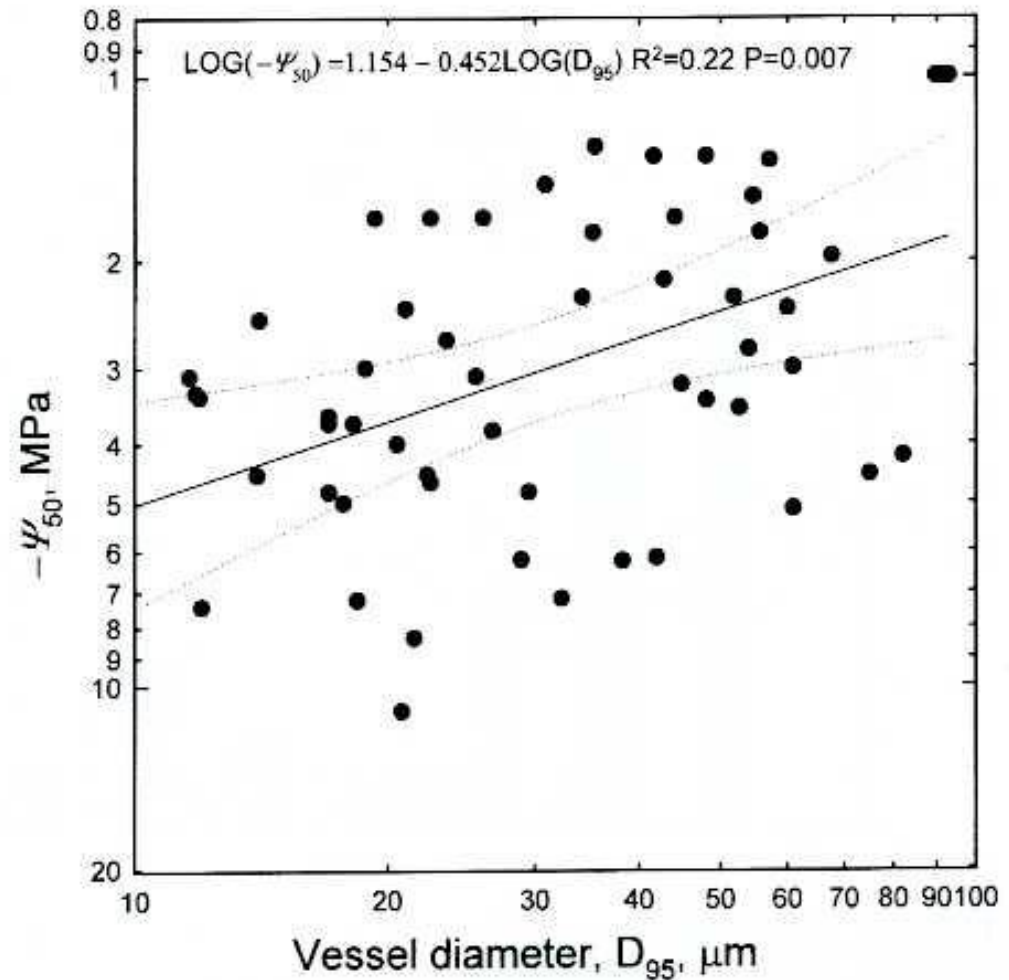


Fig. 1. Distribution of third year ring vessels (in diametric classes of 20 μm) from *U. minor* trees with high (■; n = 3), medium (▨; n = 2) and low (□; n = 2) susceptibility to DED, and from low susceptibility *U. minor* × *U. pumila* trees (▩; n = 2). Groups with a different letter differed significantly ($p \leq 0.05$, LSD)

Evidenza sperimentale della (debole) relazione tra diametro dei vasi xilematici e vulnerabilità all'embolia

Fig. 4.14. A log-log plot of xylem tension ($= -\Psi_{50}$) causing 50% loss hydraulic conductance in stems versus the mean vessel diameter of the vessels that account for 95% of the hydraulic conductance (D_{95}). Each point represents a different species



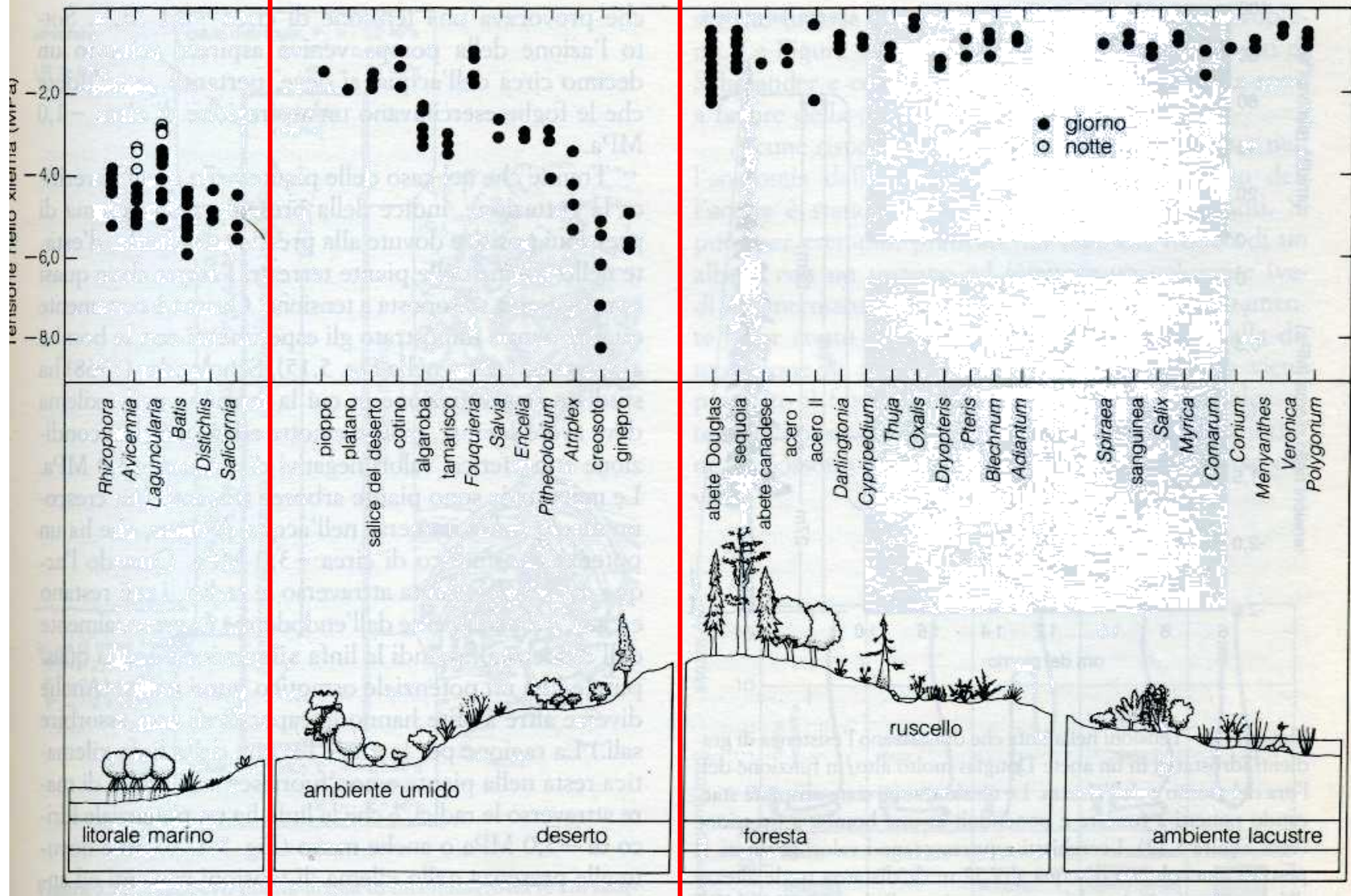
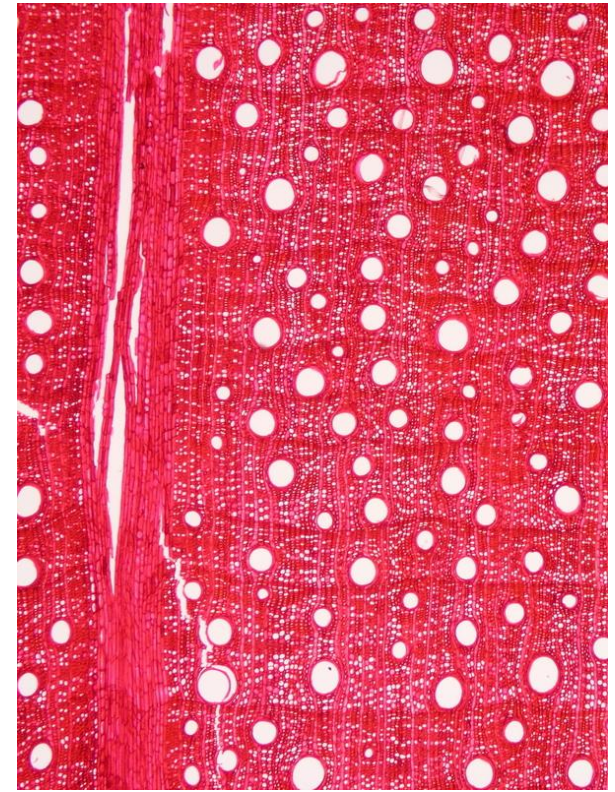
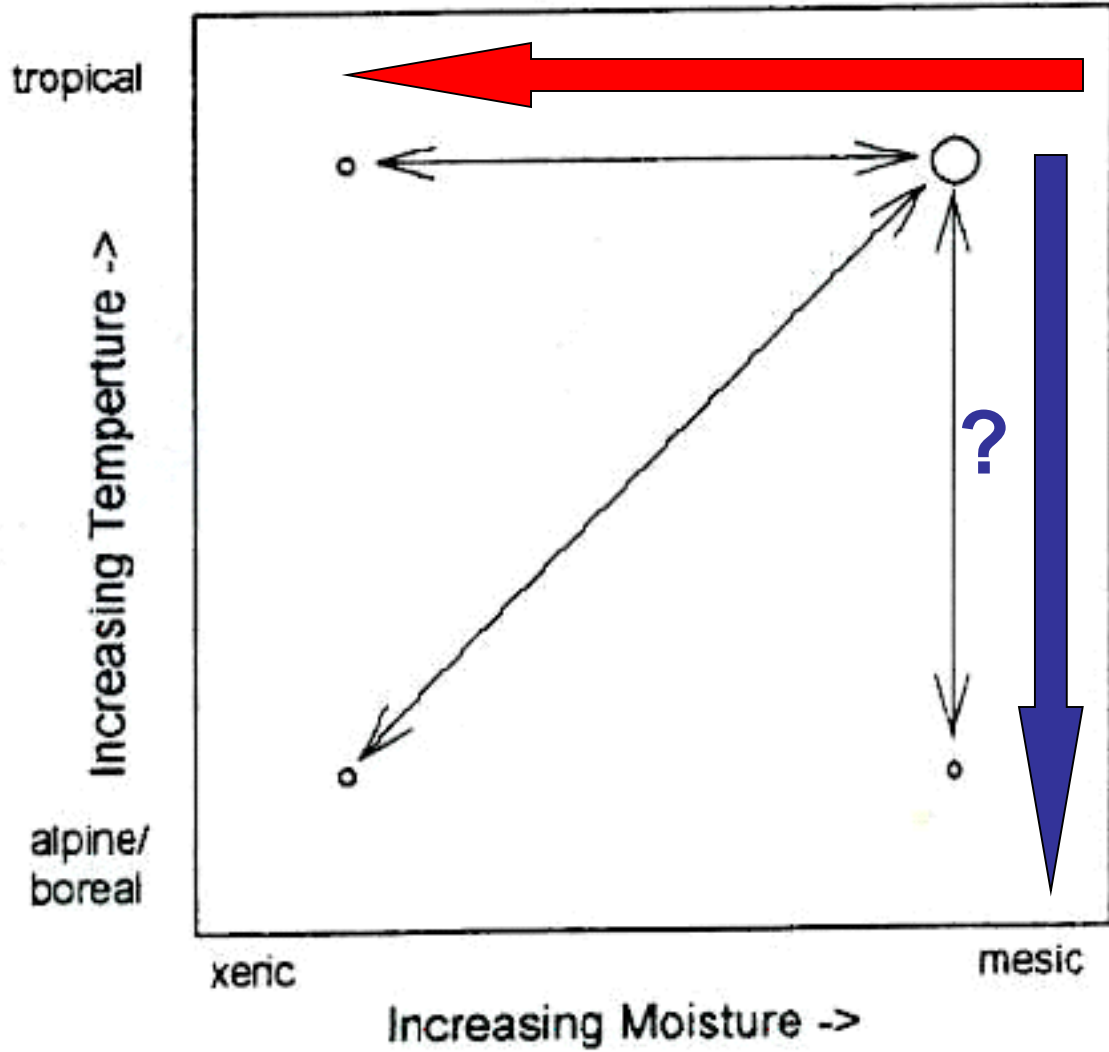
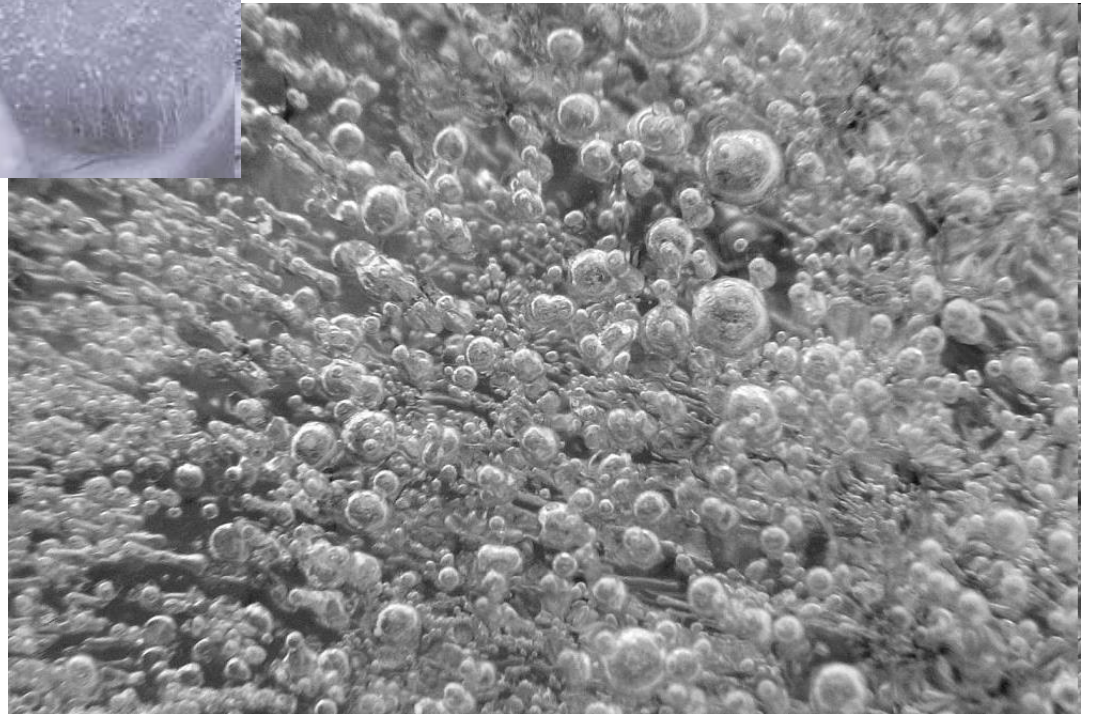


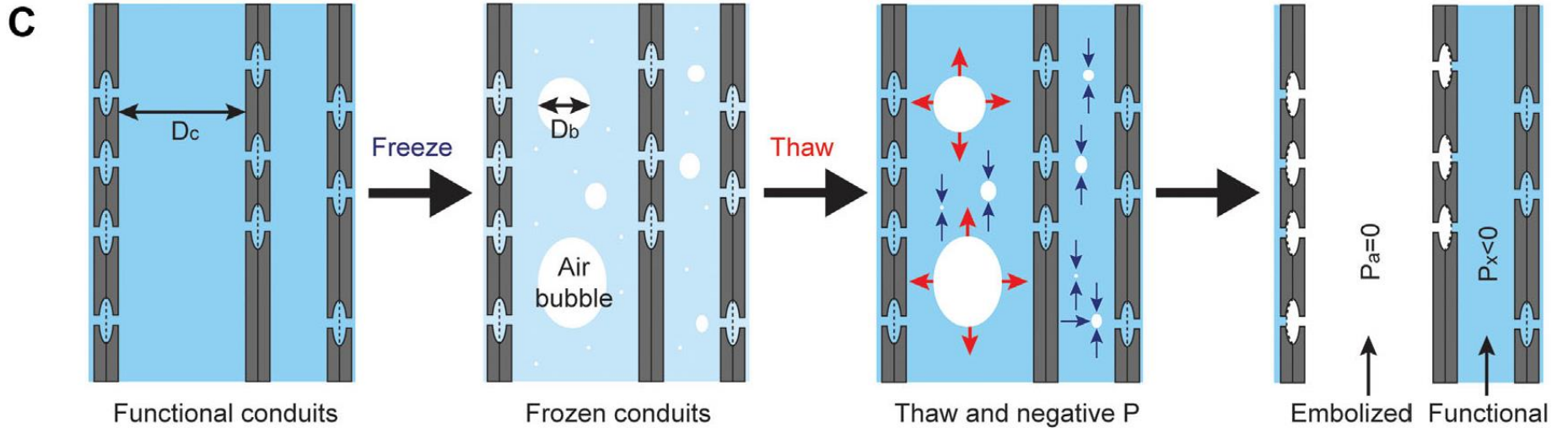
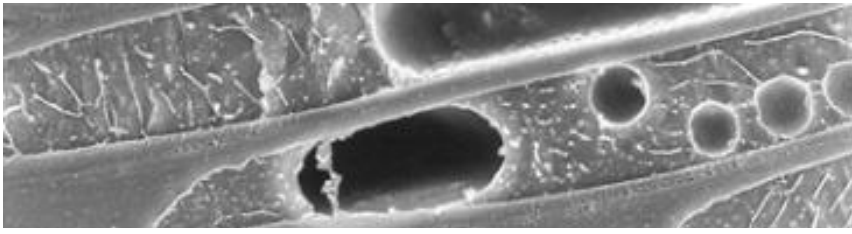
Figura 5.15 Le tensioni nella linfa di diverse angiosperme, conifere e felci. La maggior parte delle misure sono state effettuate con una bomba a pressione di giorno ed in piena luce solare. I valori misurati di notte, probabilmente, sono in tutti i casi diversi decimi di megapascal più alti (meno negativi). (Da Scholander et al., 1965; usato su autorizzazione.)





Embolia da gelo... come avviene?





Venturas et al. 2017

$$P_b = (2T/r) + P_x$$

Dove:

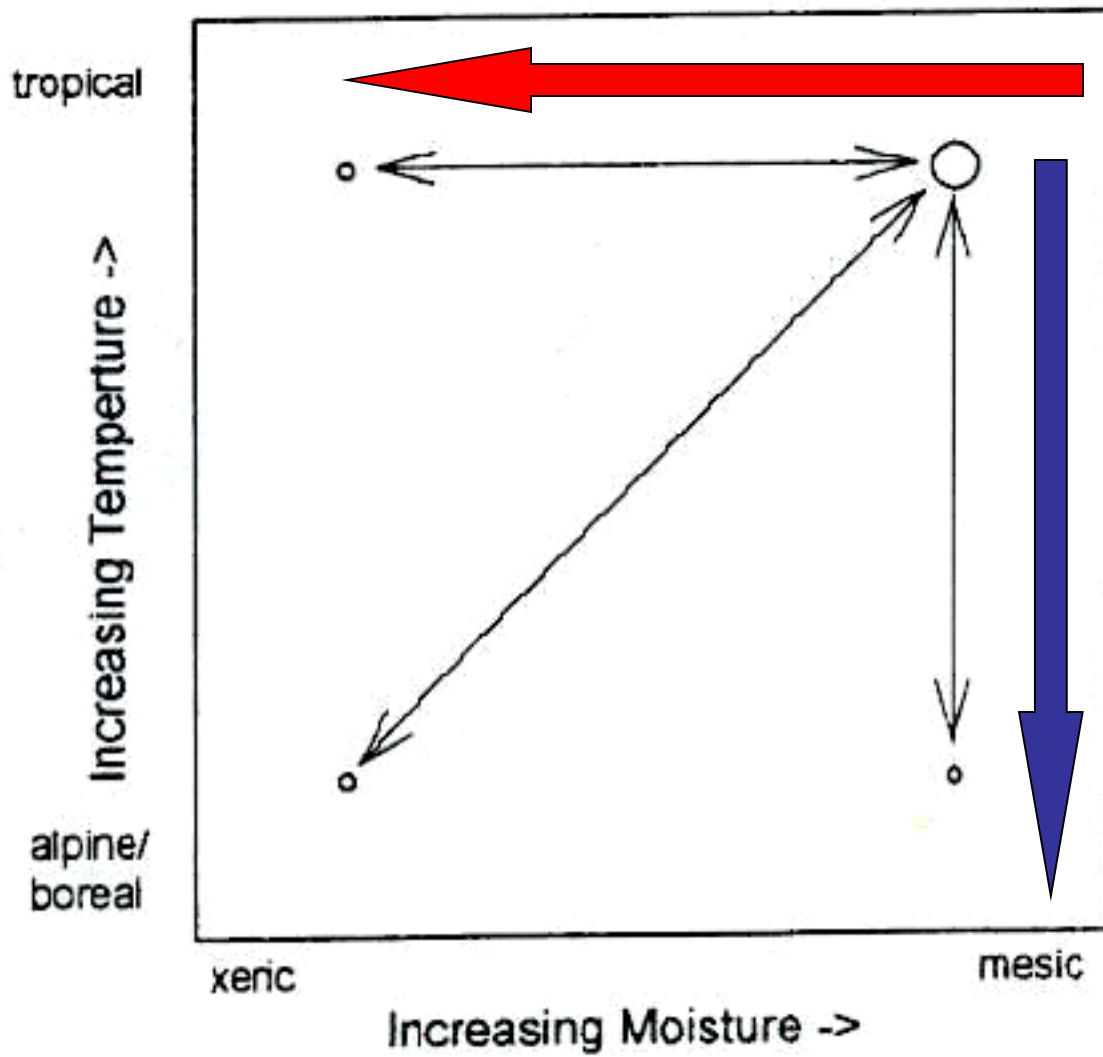
P_b = pressione della bolla, T = tensione superficiale dell'acqua, r = raggio della bolla, P_x = pressione xilematica al disgelo

Perché la bolla si dissolva si deve avere $P_x > P_b - (2T/r)$

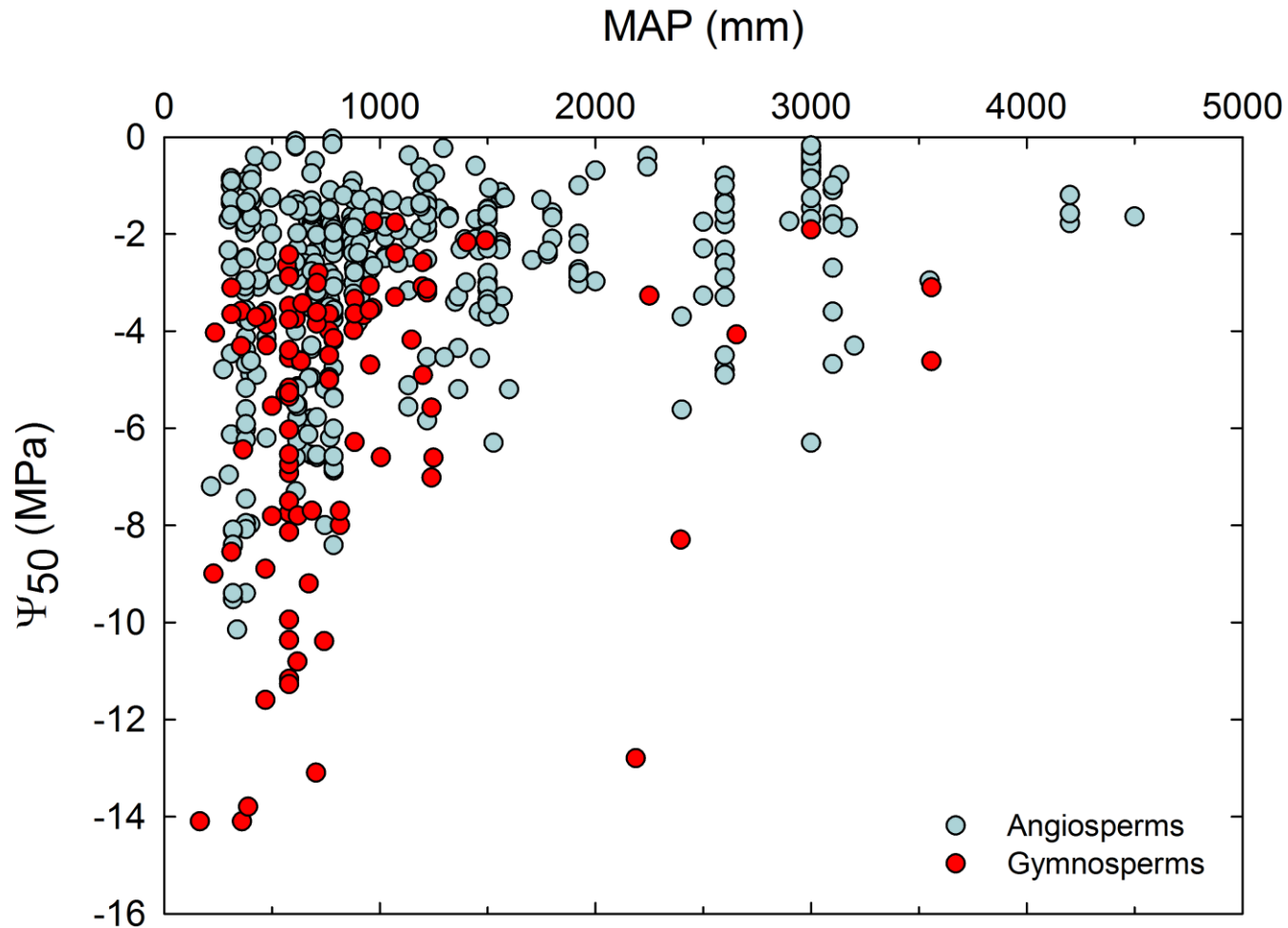
Quindi, si avrà embolia per $P_x \leq P_b - (2T/r)$

La vulnerabilità all'embolia da gelo aumenta al diminuire di P_x e all'aumentare di r (che dipende almeno in parte dal diametro dei condotti xilematici)

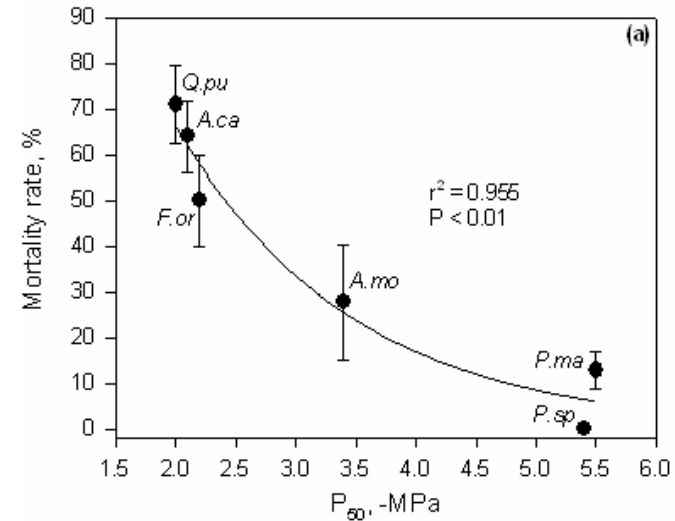
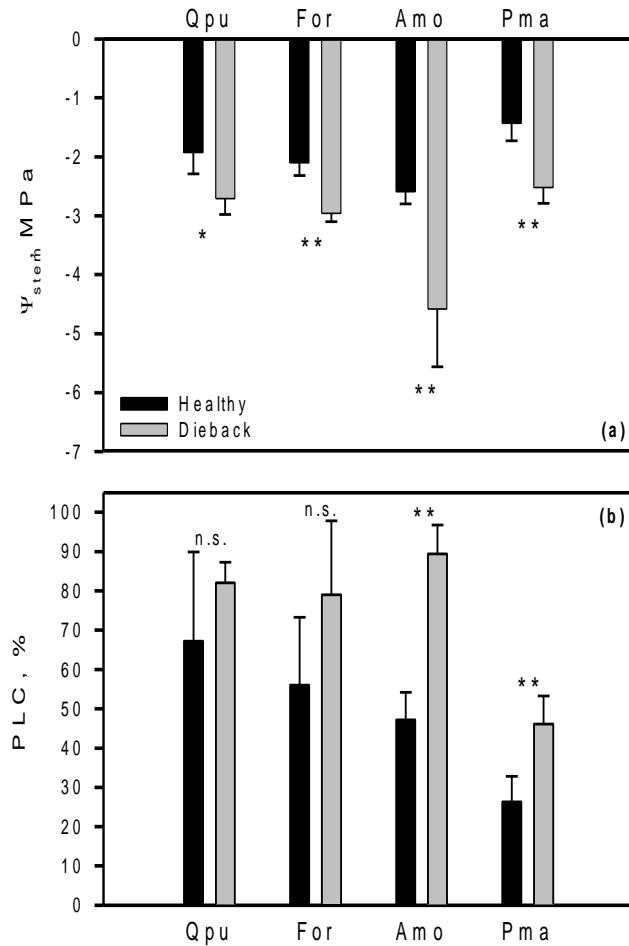




Vulnerabilità all'embolia xilematica:
relazioni con resistenza allo stress idrico e meccanismi di difesa/riparazione



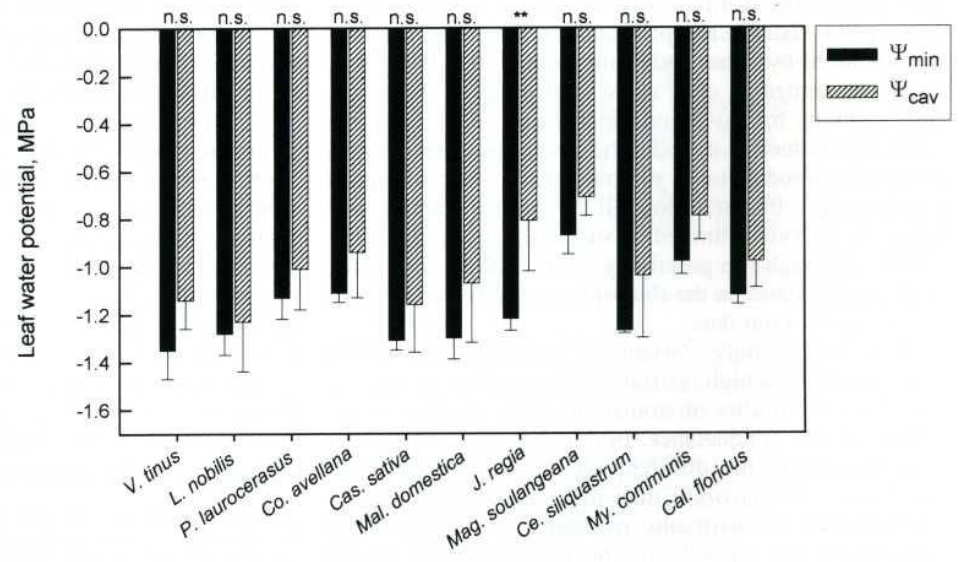
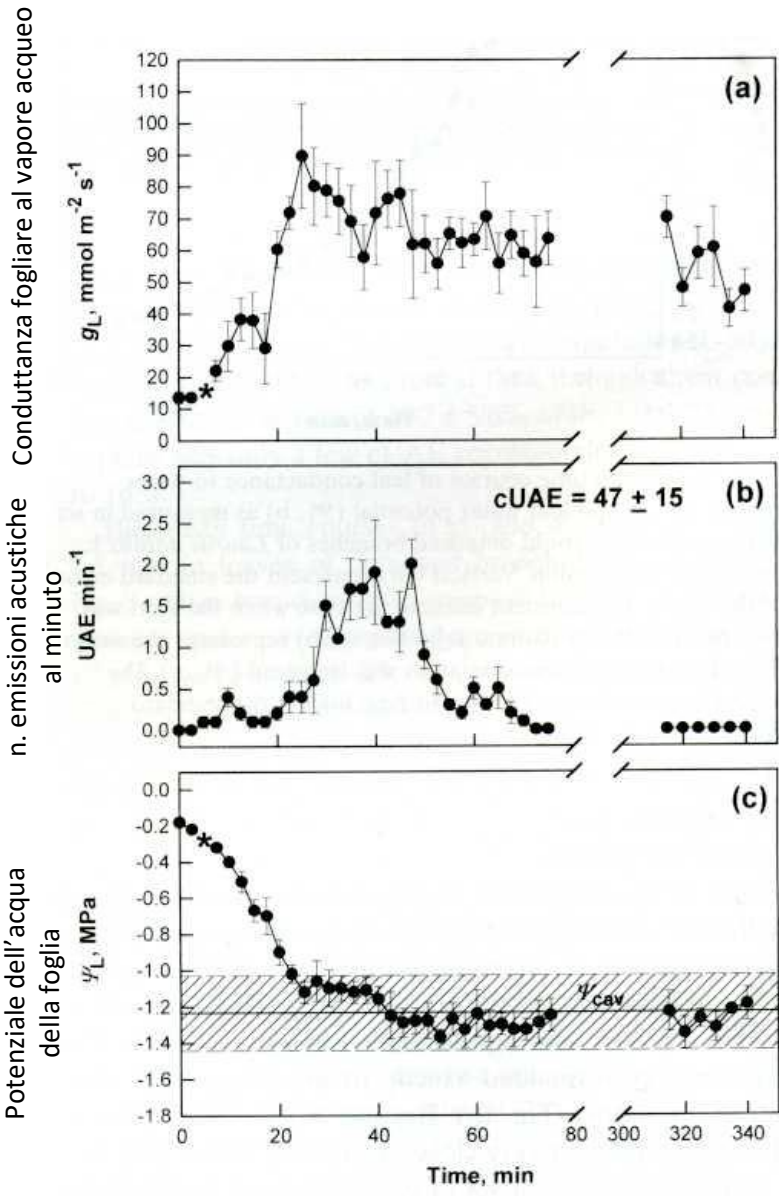
Choat et al. 2012



Il disseccamento parziale o totale della pianta sottoposta a stress idrico è spesso dovuto al «fallimento idraulico» (hydraulic failure), dovuto alla massiva formazione di emboli. Il trasporto dell'acqua in tali condizioni compromette irreversibilmente il trasporto dell'acqua nello xilema e il rifornimento di acqua nelle porzioni più distali.

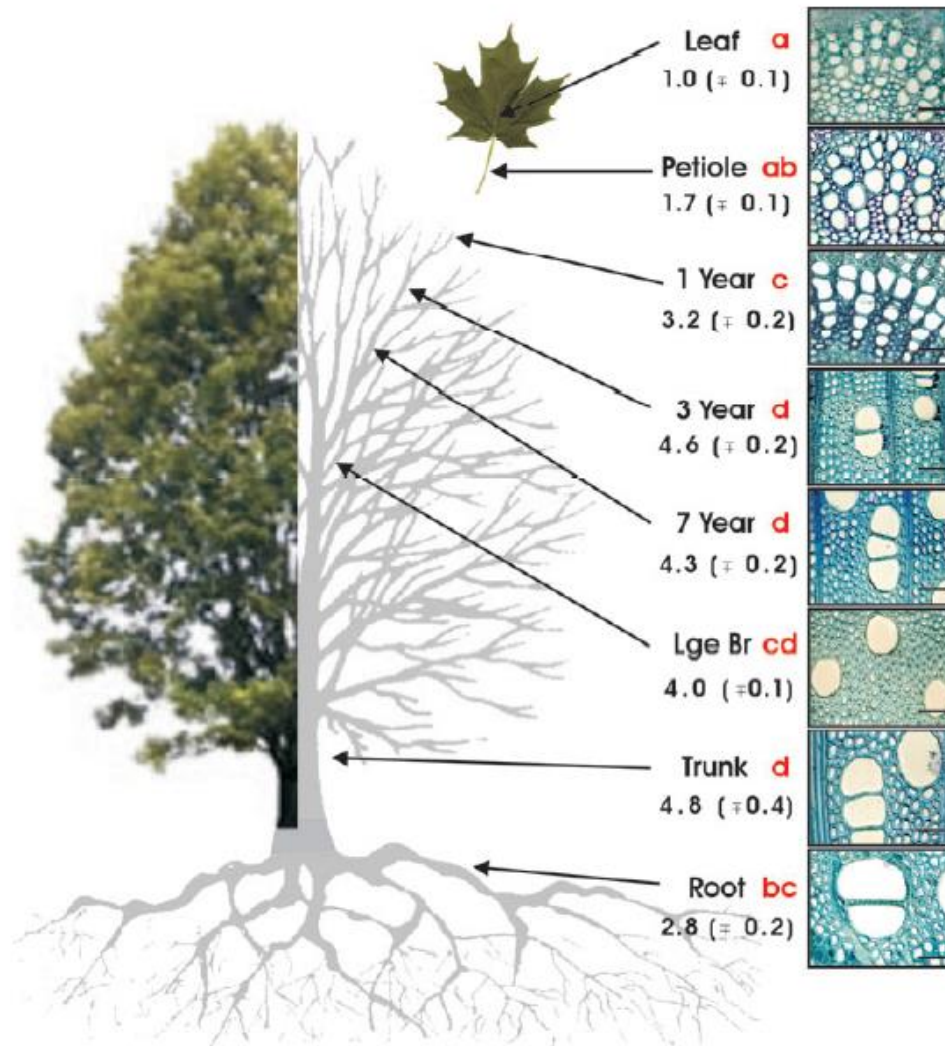
Nelle angiosperme, solitamente, una PLC superiore all'80-90% nella porzione di fusto/ramo porta al suo disseccamento. Nelle gimnosperme, tale soglia è inferiore (50%).

Meccanismi di difesa - I. Controllo stomatico della tensione xilematica



Meccanismi di difesa - II. 'Fusibili' idraulici (ovvero, la coda della lucertola...)

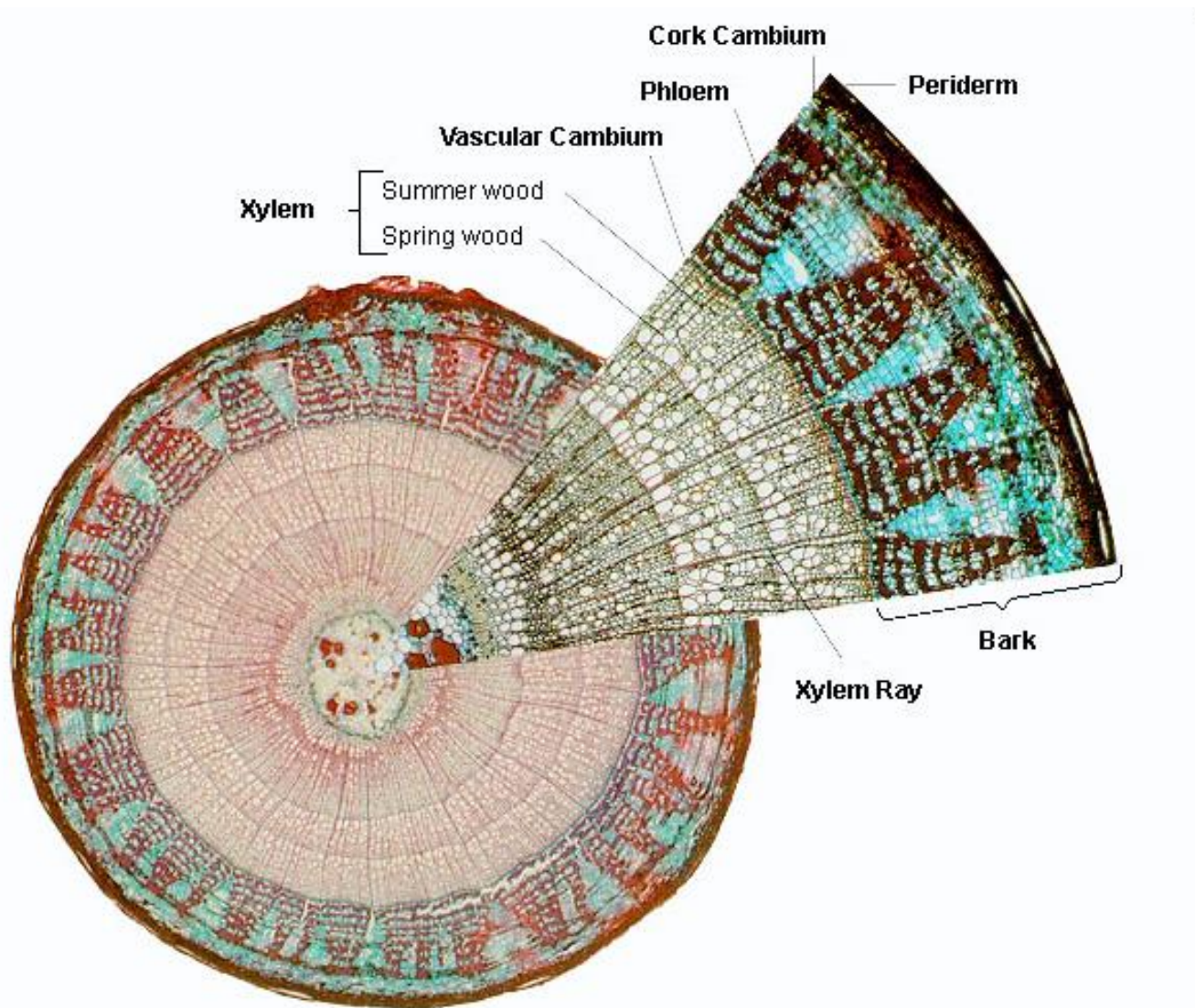
Meccanismo che permette di proteggere dal disseccamento le porzioni della pianta (come il fusto) che rappresentano un maggiore investimento in energia metabolica (maggiori stock di carbonio)



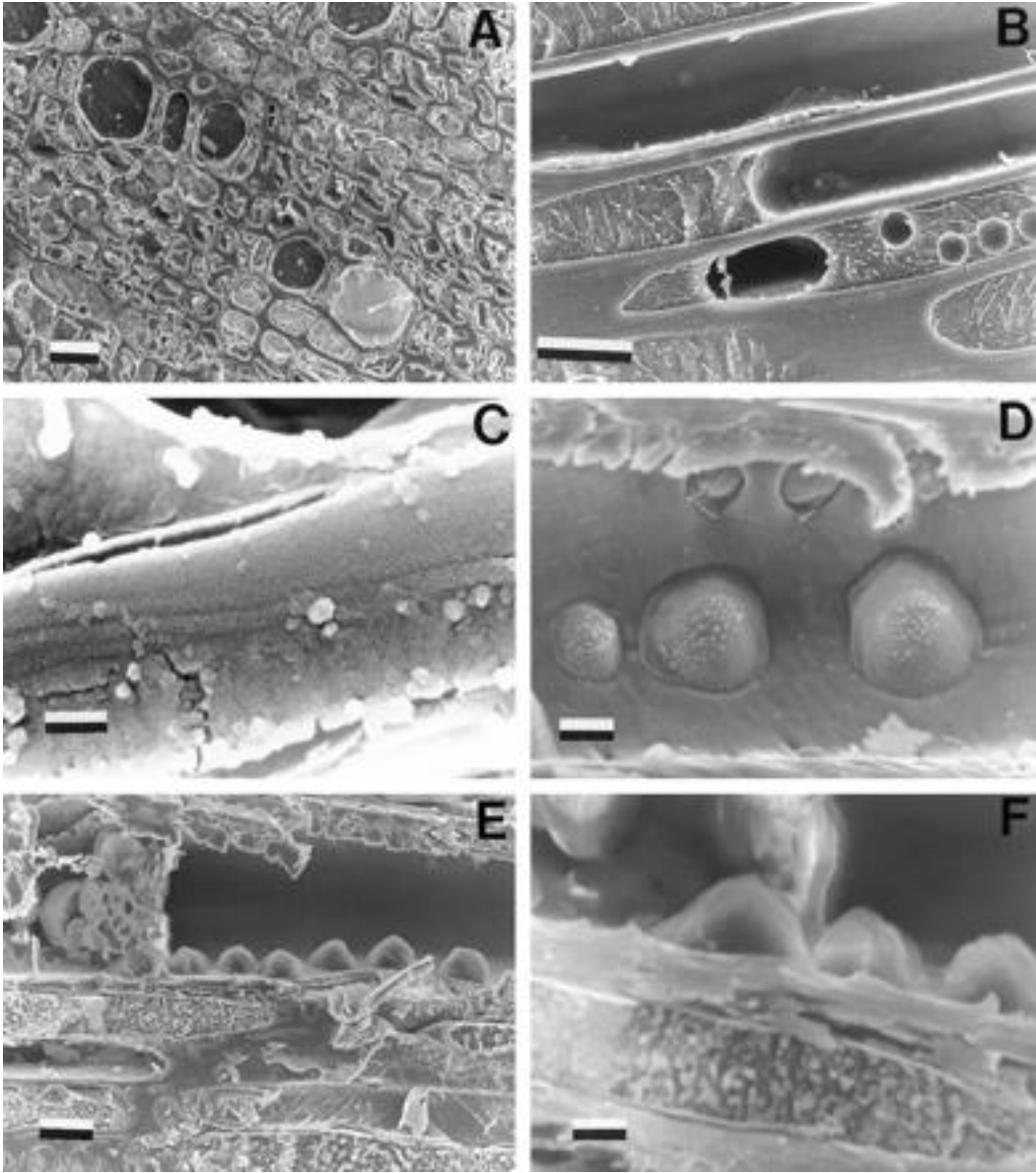
Sacrificare le foglie o ridurre la conduttività idraulica comporta una riduzione della domanda traspirante e può difendere il resto della pianta dall'eccessivo stress idrico.

Figure 1. Mean air seeding threshold (P_a , MPa) in current year xylem from different regions of mature sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) trees. Measurements in petioles and primary leaf veins represent the P_a of multiple vessels. In all other regions, measurements were made on individual xylem vessels. Letters following measurements indicate homogenous groups ($P < 0.05$, Tukey HSD unequal n). Images show transverse sections of xylem tissue stained with 0.01% toluidine blue. All images were taken at 400 \times magnification and scale bars = 50 μ m. For measurements of P_a , the numbers of samples for each region are as follows: leaf veins, $n = 9$; petioles, $n = 14$; 1 years, $n = 19$; 3 years, $n = 12$; 7 years, $n = 11$; large branches, $n = 4$; trunk, $n = 5$; roots, $n = 7$.

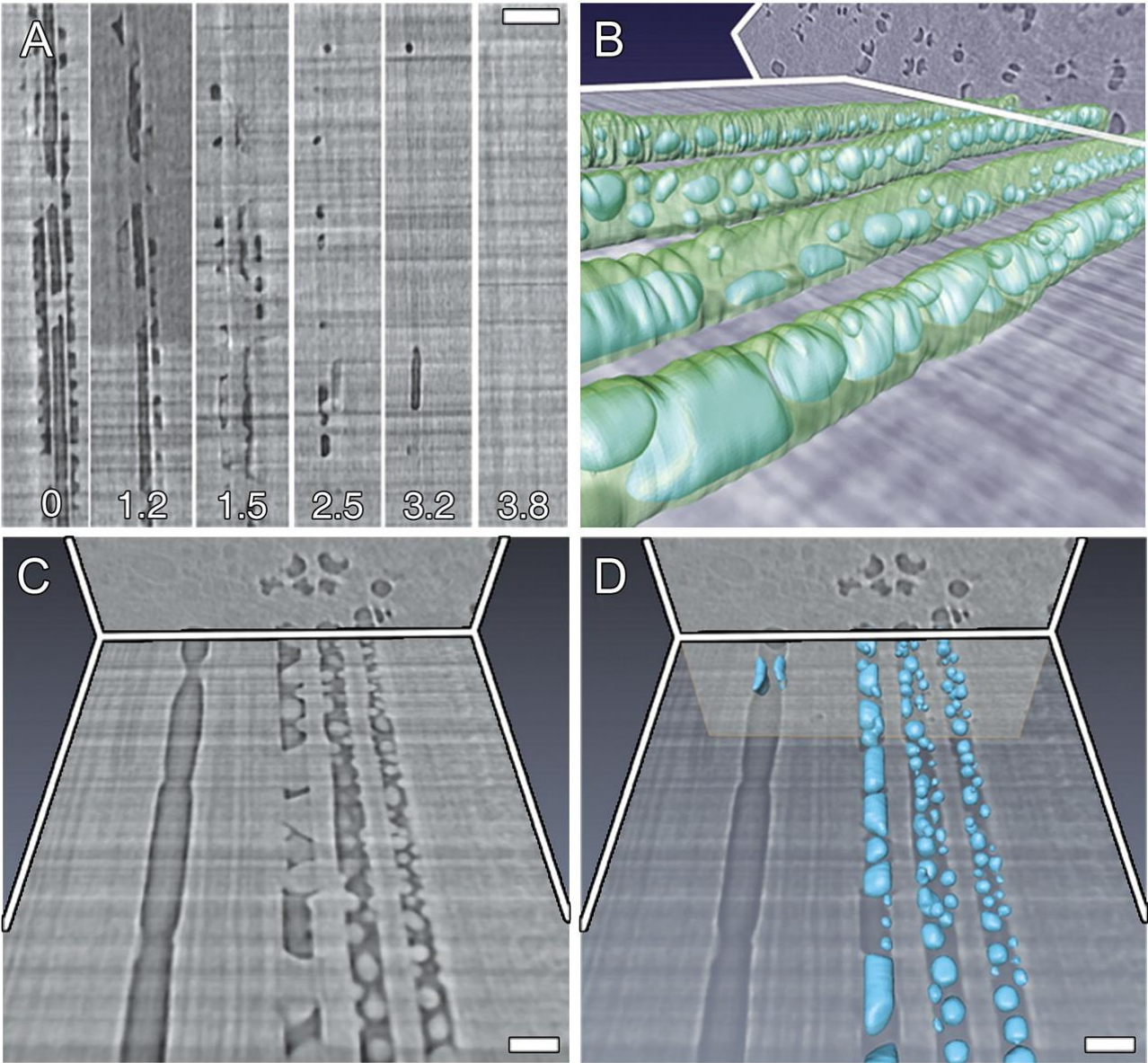
Meccanismi di difesa - III. Produzione continua o stagionale di nuovi vasi



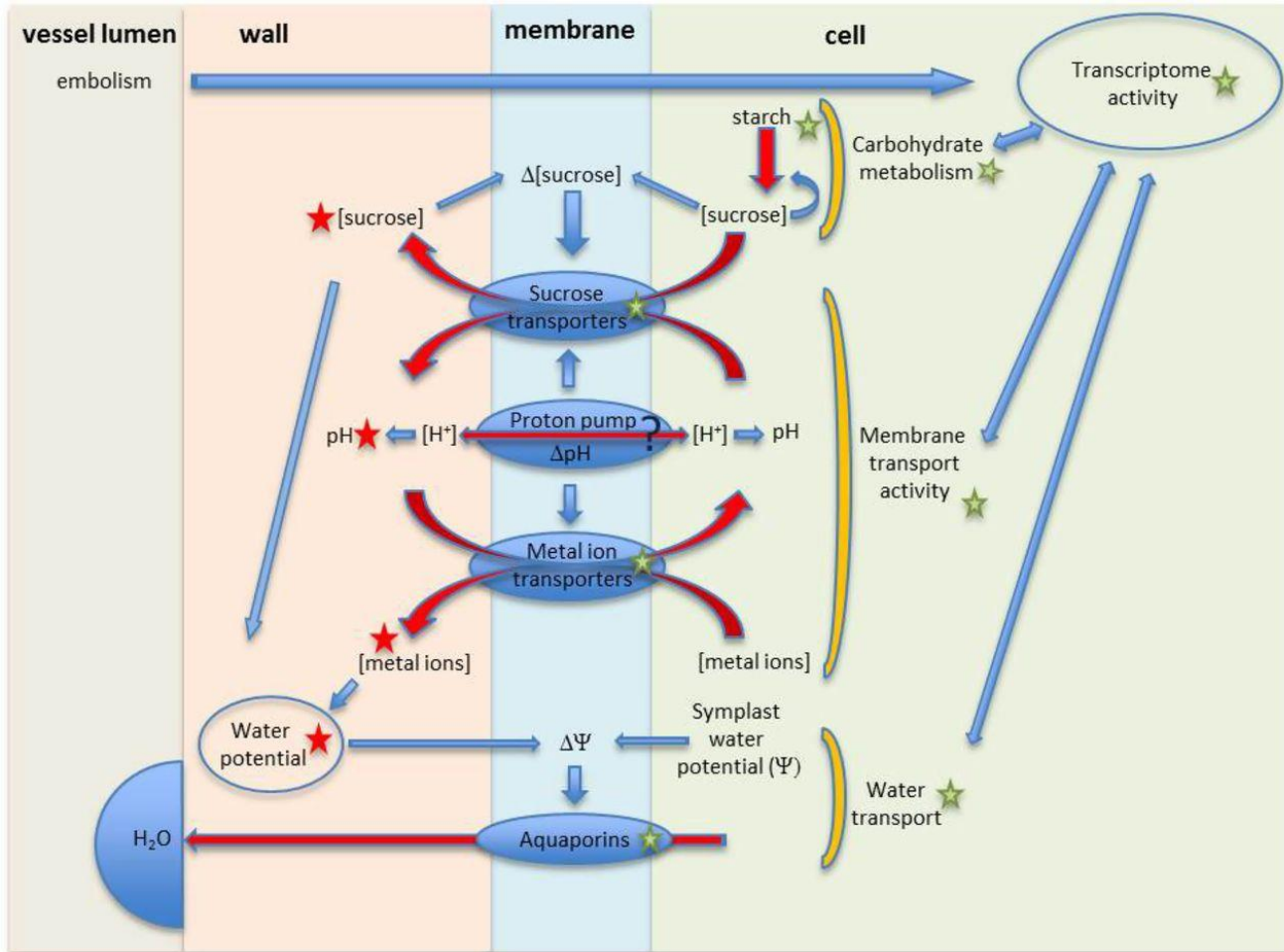
Meccanismi di difesa - IV. Riparazione dei vasi embolizzati ('refilling' xilematico)



Meccanismi di difesa - IV. Riparazione dei vasi embolizzati ('refilling' xilematico)



Meccanismi di difesa - IV. Riparazione dei vasi embolizzati ('refilling' xilematico)



- È un processo osmotico: acqua richiamata dal parenchima ai condotti xilematici embolizzati
- A differenza dell'embolia (processo istantaneo), è un processo più lento (da minuti a ore)
- Costi energetici!

Riparazione tramite pressione radicale

