

Erobringen af landjorden: Hvornår, hvilke organismer? Hvad ved vi (læs: tror vi at vide) om de første landplanter?

Øjvind Moestrup,
Biologisk Institut, KU

At livet opstod i havet, er biologer generelt enige om. De første prokaryote organismer antages at været udviklet for 3.5-4 milliarder år siden, dvs flere milliarder år før de, måske, 2 milliarder år gamle eukaryoter. Blandt prokaryoterne blev cyanobakterier (blågrønner) en afgørende faktor for jordens fremtidige udvikling, da de producerede ilt i forbindelse med den fotosyntese, som formodes at være udviklet i deres celler. Da ilten spredtes til atmosfæren, resulterede det efterhånden i dannelse af et ozonlag omkring jordkloden, hvilket muliggjorde at organismene kunne forlade det vandige miljø, spredes til selve landjorden uden at blive dræbt af ødelæggende stråling fra verdensrummet, og i løbet af årmillionerne udvikle sig til de komplekse planter og dyr, der nu konkurrerer om pladsen og ressourcerne på landjorden.

De biologistuderende på KU har hidtil fået at vide at landjorden blevet erobret for ca 500 millioner år siden, og at landplanterne indfandt sig ret hurtigt. Nyere undersøgelser tyder imidlertid på at ozonlaget var på plads langt tidligere end hidtil antaget, for måske 2 milliarder år siden, og det åbner mulighed for at både pro- og eukaryoter etablerede sig på landjorden langt tidligere end hidtil antaget. De ældste kendte fossile karplanter er 4-500 millioner år gamle, og der har i godt 100 år været enighed om at de var efterkommere af grønner, som er en meget gammel algegruppe. I 1980'erne fandt man den udviklingslinie blandt grønnerne, som antages at have givet ophav til landplanterne, og som siden udviklede sig til mosser og karplanter. Hvordan udviklingen skete i detaljer, har der imidlertid ikke været synderlig enighed om, vi mangler mellemformer mellem de mest komplekse grønner og de mest primitive karplanter. Nye studier af evolutionen af cellevægge kombineret med morfologiske og fysiologiske observationer (Harholt et al. 2016) har nu bidraget til forståelsen af hvordan de første landplanter kan have set ud, og jeg vil i foredraget diskutere hvad der efter vores opfattelse er det mest sandsynlige scenario vedrørende erobringen af landjorden. Hvorfor var det grønnerne, som vandt konkurrencen og udvikledes til mosser og karplanter, der fandtes jo også andre algegrupper for 1-2 milliarder år siden, og hvad dokumentation har vi for teorierne?

Opinion

Why Plants Were Terrestrial from the Beginning

Jesper Harholt,¹ Øjvind Moestrup,² and Peter Ulvskov^{3,*}

The current hypothesis is that land plants originated from a charophycean green alga and that a prominent feature for adaptation to land was their development of alternating life cycles. Our work on cell wall evolution and morphological and physiological observations in the charophycean green algae challenged us to reassess how land plants became terrestrial. Our hypothesis is simple in that the charophycean green algae ancestors were already living on land and had been doing so for some time before the emergence of land plants. The evolution of alternate life cycles merely made the ancestral land plants evolutionarily successful and had nothing to do with terrestrialization *per se*.

History behind the Current Hypothesis of Land Plant Terrestrialization

It is proven beyond reasonable doubt that embryophytes originated from charophytes (see Glossary), but as to which order of the charophytes is the closest ancestor to embryophytes is the center of some debate. Recent analyses have put either the Coleochaetophyceae or the Zygnematiophyceae as closest extant cousins to the embryophytes, followed by Charophyceae, Klebsormidiophyceae, and then Chlorokybophyceae and Mesostigmatoophyceae as the ancestral node (Box 1) [1–3].

How the charophytes evolved into embryophytes capable of surviving the terrestrial habitat, on the premise that embryophytes evolved from a freshwater charophyte, has not been discussed. One of the problems in acquiring additional data for this crucial event in the history of the Earth is that the fossil record is generally poor: only single-celled spores remain from that period [4]. There is an abundance of fossils in the records starting from around 400 mya [4], but, at that

Trends

Recent phylogenetic analyses have placed the ancestor of land plants close to a common ancestor between Zygnematiaceae and Coleochaetaceae. Both orders contain species living in, or displaying the capability to live in, terrestrial habitats.

Terrestrialization is not a unique trait for charophytes evolutionarily close to plants. Less advanced classes, such as Klebsormidiophyceae and Chlorokybophyceae, also contain terrestrial species.

Novel analyses of both advanced and basal charophyte locomotory, transcriptions, and genomes have revealed a range of terrestrial adaptations that are analogous to what is observed in land plants.

Trends in Plant Science

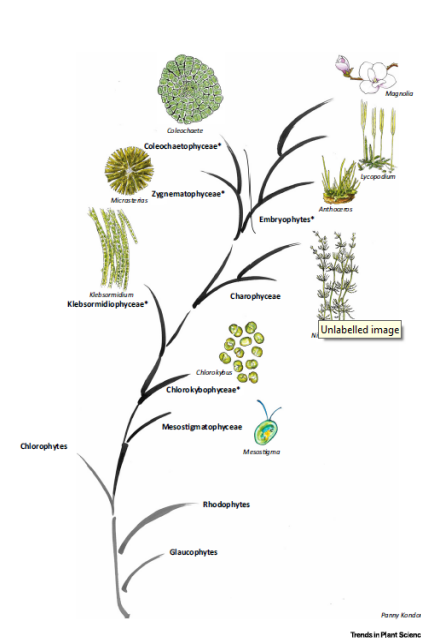


Figure 1. Evolution of the Green Plant Lineage. Classes with terrestrial or facultative terrestrial species are indicated with an asterisk [2]. Modified from [1].

ycles, have been discussed and long work of Stewart and Malby, 3 embryophytes, uniting them in eostigmatoophyceae and Chlorokybophytes. They are considered the

appointed different orders of the i consensus is that the either the m with assigning the ancestor to production, and lack of genetic data, creating missing links with f from the interesting time period

A in Chlorokybus indicates a later

©2015,11.010

¹Carlsberg Laboratory, 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark
²Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, 2100 Copenhagen O, Denmark
³Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen, 1871 Frederiksberg, Denmark

*Correspondence: Ulvskov@plen.ku.dk (P. Ulvskov)

