

Advances in the study of intraclonal variation in *Gracilaria chilensis* (Rhodophyta)

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Abstract

The search for causes of intra-clonal variation in *G. chilensis* has lead to studying the effects of physiological and development factors, pathogenic infections, genetic instability and sporeling coalescence on this response. Results suggest intra-clonal variation is a frequent process that could explain morphological variation among thalli, physiological variation among ramets and local population variation. Intra-clonal variation, in addition, has significant importance with respect to strain selection of economically important seaweeds.